

*Za Boha a Národ*



*For God and Nation*

# Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL – MEMBERSHIP 30,000 – HOME OFFICE: 205 MADISON STREET, PASSAIC, N.J. 07055 – [www.slovakcatholicsokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org)

Periodical Postage Paid at original entry of Passaic, N.J., 07055 and additional mailing offices

VOLUME CVI

PASSAIC, N.J., FEBRUARY 22, 2017

NUMBER 5089

## Site of our 48th International Slet in Brockport, N.Y.



The Supreme Physical Fitness Board at its recent annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio announced that all is in readiness for this summer's exciting 48th International Slet. This year's competition will be held on the scenic campus of the State University of New York at Brockport, located just outside Rochester, N.Y., July 12-16. The spacious campus provides all the facilities necessary for an outstanding and enjoyable Slet experience. Young people interested in participating should contact their Group Physical Fitness Board for all the necessary details. Our organization's first Slet on a national basis was held in the summer of 1912 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. This year we celebrate the 105th anniversary of our Slet tradition.

### Slovak Catholic Sokol 2017 Sporting Activities

The following are the events, locations and dates for our 2017 International Sokol sporting program. They are subject to change based on unforeseen circumstances.

EVENT	HOST CITY	DATES
International Basketball and Volleyball Tournament	Akron, Oh. St. Vincent/St. Mary High School	March 17-19
71st International Bowling Tournament	Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Chacko's Bowling Center	May 19-21
30th International Softball Tournament	Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Kirby Park Fields	June 23-25
48th International Slet	Brockport, N.Y. SUNY Brockport	July 12-16
62nd International Golf Tournament	DuBois, Pa. Treasure Lake Golf Courses	August 18-20



## At Chacko's Family Bowling Center

### 71st International Bowling Tournament set for May 19-20 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

by James C. Matlon

*Supreme Director of Sports & Athletics*

All is in readiness for one of our organization's most popular sporting events, our 71st International Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling Tournament. This year's competition is scheduled for the weekend of May 19-20 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The competition will take place on the top-notch lanes of the Chacko's Family Bowling Center located at 195 North Wilkes-Barre Boulevard in Wilkes-Barre. Slovak Catholic Sokol bowlers will once again join our fraternal brothers and sisters of the Greek Catholic Union for the combined tournament. This year's competition will be the third year in a row with the Greek Catholic Union. Application deadline for this year's bowling tournament is Monday, April 17th.

For lodging, bowlers and guests will have two hotels to choose from for the 2017 tournament in Wilkes-Barre including: The Best Western Genetti Hotel, located six miles from the bowling lanes, at 77 East Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701 or The Holiday Inn, located four miles from the bowling lanes, 600 Wildflower Drive, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702.

The traditional hospitality night scheduled for Friday, May 19 will be served at the Chacko's Family Bowling Center beginning at 7 p.m. and concluding at 9 p.m. This will afford both the 5:30 p.m. and the 8:30 p.m. squads an opportunity to relax,

socialize and enjoy the hospitality food. The first squad of Double and Singles events will begin on Saturday morning, May 20 at 9 a.m. with the second squad set to play at 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdiv, pastor of the Parish of the Epiphany in Sayre, Pa., will celebrate Mass late Saturday afternoon at The Best Western Genetti Hotel. This Mass satisfies the Sunday obligation. After the liturgy, a cocktail reception will be enjoyed, followed by the gala Slovak Catholic Sokol/Greek Catholic Union Bowling Banquet at 6 p.m. Hosting this year's bowling tournament will be Group 7 "Rev. Joseph Murgas" of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Over the years, our organization has hosted numerous bowling tournaments in Wilkes-Barre and this year's competition looks to be the best ever!

An enjoyable fraternal competition in the best traditions of Sokol good sportsmanship and camaraderie is assured. If there are any questions, feel free to contact me at email at [jmatlon@slovakcatholicsokol.org](mailto:jmatlon@slovakcatholicsokol.org) or call or text me at my cell phone: 973 647-8551. See you in Wilkes-Barre and Zdar Boh!



## From the desk of the Supreme Secretary

### Looking Ahead

by Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.

*"Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you." Proverbs 4:25*

As we currently try to weather this winter as best we can, I know that all of us are looking forward to the warmth of spring. We have enjoyed a relatively mild winter here in New Jersey, but the snow storm a couple weeks ago certainly did present some difficulties. During these cold months, as we enjoy our "indoor" activities, it allows us to look forward to our busy spring/summer fraternal programs here at the Slovak Catholic Sokol.



For many years, our Society has been the envy of many other fraternal benefit societies. When viewing our Slet or another fraternal activity, other fraternalists compliment our organization on our young people's interest and enthusiasm. But as many of you know, we can always do better. Our Board of Directors, Physical Fitness Board, local Group and Assembly/Wreath leaders, and our entire organization need to come together and find ways to not only continue our wonderful activities, but to increase the levels of participation. As we have said for years, our fraternal programs our second to none, but hopefully, the best is yet to come! Let us take a look at what our busy spring and summer season has in store for us so everyone can lock these events into their schedules!

We have announced that our 71st International Bowling Tournament will be held on May 19th-21st in Wilkes-Barre, PA at Chacko's Family Bowling Center. We will once again be joined by our brother fraternal, the Greek Catholic Union, in a joint effort to provide the best of fraternalism and sportsmanship to our keggers. I hope our devout regulars and many new faces will join us as we celebrate this great weekend.

For our softball enthusiasts, this year's tournament will mark the 30th International Softball Tournament! I can remember fondly the very first tournament in 1988 held at Kirby Park in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Once again, we will be back in Wilkes-Barre, PA on June 23rd-25th to compete at this great event. For the second year in a row, the tournament will be Co-Ed and should allow our competitors to enjoy a day in the sun. If any Group does not have enough to fill an entire team, we encourage each Group to send as many individuals as you can and we will gladly find everyone a spot!

Of course, the highlight of our programs in 2017 will be our 48th International Slet at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY, July 15th-16th. The closing Exhibition is scheduled for Saturday, July 15th. The Slet is a unique experience for our young members that supply them with memories and friendships that last a lifetime. Our Physical Fitness Board is hard at work to ensure that a safe and enjoyable time will be had by all. If you have the time, please try to make it to the Saturday Exhibition to see all the hard work our athletes have put in over the past two years. You will not regret it!

August will also give our avid golfers a chance to polish off their clubs and join us for the 62nd International Golf Tournament held at beautiful Treasure Lake Golf Resort in Dubois, PA on August 18th-20th. The Tournament will once again be held jointly with the Greek Catholic Union, which will surely increase the participation level and the tournament field. We hope to see both old and new faces on the links!

So as you can see, we have a busy year ahead of us. Mark your calendars and make it a point to be a part of these wonderful activities. If anyone has any questions regarding our sports programs, please contact our Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, at 973-647-8551 or email him at [jmatlon@slovakcatholicsokol.org](mailto:jmatlon@slovakcatholicsokol.org). You can also give me a call at the Home Office or email me at [scott@slovakcatholicsokol.org](mailto:scott@slovakcatholicsokol.org), and I will be glad to assist you.

Until next time, have a wonderful week and Zdar Boh!

### Group 1 Spaghetti Supper on March 26

Group 1, "Msgr. Stephen Krasula" will host its Annual Spaghetti Supper on Sunday, March 26 beginning at 4 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Hall located at 218 Ackerman Avenue in Clifton, N.J. The meal will feature spaghetti, meat balls and all the trimmings. Tickets available at the door for the annual benefit include \$8.00 for adults, \$7.00 for seniors and \$5.00 for children ages 6-12. Children under the age of 6 are welcome free of charge. There will be raffles and other entertainment. An enjoyable afternoon is assured. The supper is a wonderful opportunity for Group 1 members from our various Assemblies and Wreaths to get together to celebrate traditional Sokol fellowship and camaraderie. We hope to see a good turnout at this year's supper.

Zdar Boh!

Eric Topczij, chairperson

### Summer Slovak language scholarship available

For the twelfth consecutive year, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association is offering a scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Slovakia's capital city of Bratislava from August 6 to August 26, 2017. The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will award \$3,000 from the Professor Stephanie Husek Scholarship Fund to cover transportation, tuition, and room and board to the successful candidate.

Applicants must meet the following requirements: 1) Must be a full time college student, 2) Must be of Slovak heritage, 3) Must not have previously attended the program, 4) Must apply to Comenius University for acceptance, 5) Must be willing to attend Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association events when requested to discuss the program.

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and enhance their Slovak language competency as well as increase their knowledge of Slovak literature and culture. For additional information on this summer's program or for an application, contact Joseph T. Senko, the Honorary Slovak Consul in Pennsylvania at [jtsenko@aol.com](mailto:jtsenko@aol.com), tel. 412 531-2990 or 412 956-6000. Completed applications must be received by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association on or before April 15, 2017, at WPSCA, Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. More information can be found at: <http://staryweb.fphil.uniba.sk/index.php?id=899>.

### Group 1 Sokol Children's Bowlingfest

Group 1 will host its 12th annual Sokol Children's Bowlingfest and youth conference on Sunday, March 5 at the Garden Palace Bowling Lanes located at 42 Lakeview Avenue in Clifton, N.J. from 2 to 4 p.m. Junior Sokol members to age 14 from our various Group 1 lodges are invited to participate in an afternoon of traditional Sokol camaraderie and fellowship. Following the action on the bowling lanes, pizza and refreshments will be enjoyed by all. Parents and grandparents of the youngsters are invited to join us for this annual children's fraternal event. The Bowlingfest is free of charge to all members. An enjoyable afternoon is assured. We hope to see youngsters from all our Group 1 Assemblies and Wreaths.

Zdar Boh!

Eric Topczij

Group 1 Sports Director



## Happy 95th Birthday!



Well-known Slovak cultural, journalistic and fraternal activist, John A. Holy of Pompton Plains, N.J. celebrated his 95th birthday on February 8. He is shown above being congratulated by Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. A native of Nova Bana in western Slovakia, he emigrated to the United States in 1949 and settled in New Jersey. He has enjoyed a close collaboration with our organization over the years. In 1951, he began his employment at our home office serving as the Slovak editor of our publication, remaining until 1954. In 1970, he returned to serve as our organization's underwriter, remaining until his retirement in 1981. Since then, he served as the national secretary of the Slovak League of America, retiring in 2008. He continues to do archival work in the office of the Slovak League which is located in our headquarters building. He currently comes to the home office on the average of three days a week filled with determination, energy and enthusiasm of an individual many years younger. Brother John became our Sokol members more than 65 years ago. He served for many years as the financial secretary of our former Assembly 282 in Passaic, representing this lodge at numerous Sokol conventions. He currently serves as the Honorary Vice President of Assembly 182 in New York City at St. John Nepomucene Parish where he and his wife of 55 years, Nina have been active for many years. He continues his efforts on behalf of the annual New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival and contributes articles to the American Slovak press. There is hardly a Slovak project or cause which does not have the wholehearted support of Brother John. His many friends, admirers and fellow fraternalists extend best wishes to him as he celebrates his 95th birthday, a milestone in his long and fruitful life. May God continue to bless him with good health and happiness on the road to his 100th. Zdar Boh!

### OUR NEXT ISSUE IS MARCH 8TH

In keeping with our biweekly publishing schedule, the next issue of the *Slovak Catholic Falcon* will be that of Wednesday, March 8th. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Thursday, March 2nd. View *e-Falcon* on our website: [www.slovakcatholicsokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org). Thanking you for your continued cooperation in this matter, I remain Zdar Boh! - Daniel F. Tanzzone, Editor

### IMPORTANT 2017 INTERNATIONAL SLET INFORMATION

Slet information is now accessible on our website at [www.slovakcatholicsokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org) under Sports Programs

You can access general rules and regulations, qualification times and distances for track, track records, volleyball information, gymnastics qualifiers, hotel info, pin trading information and much more!

You can also access videos of the drills at [scsdrills@gmail.com](mailto:scsdrills@gmail.com) password: sokoldrills



## Group 4 Annual Meeting set for Sunday, March 26 in Franklin, Wis.

Members of Group 4, under the patronage of Bishop Stefan Moyzes, will host its annual meeting on Sunday, March 26 at the Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare Franklin Facility, located at 10101 South 27th Street in Franklin, Wis.

The meeting will begin at 12 noon and lunch will be served immediately. Following our luncheon, the annual meeting will be called to order. The meeting will conclude with a performance by our Group 4 drillers who have prepared themselves for competition at this summer's Slet scheduled for Brockport, N.Y. The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00 per person. Lodge secretaries are asked to return their lunch payment, made payable to Slovak Catholic Sokol Group 4, along with the completed delegate forms before the deadline date of February 28 to the Group Secretary, Jennifer Romine, 7683 West Coventry Drive, Franklin, WI 53132. This is necessary to guarantee our luncheon arrangement.

Group officers are asked to notify me prior if they are unable to attend the annual meeting. Those who would like to join us sooner, many of us will attend the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Church of St. Stephen, 1441 West Oakwood Road in Oak Creek, WI 53254 (414 762-0552). The church is located about a mile from the meeting place. This is optional, however we would love to see all our delegates present if possible, continuing in the strong faith traditions of our organization.

We hope to see every Assembly and Wreath of Group 4 represented at the annual meeting. As per our bylaws, each Wreath and Assembly should send two delegates to attend the annual meeting. Input from our members is vital to the formation of our Slovak Catholic Sokol Group 4 participation and activities. We look forward to hearing our delegates' ideas and seeing their faces. A pleasant afternoon of traditional Group 4 Sokol fellowship is assured. We look forward to a great year ahead. Our drillers look forward to their competition at the 48th International Slet scheduled for July 12-16 at the State University of New York at Brockport, N.Y.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Looking forward to seeing a good turnout at our annual meeting, may I remain

Zdar Boh!  
Jennifer Romine  
Group 4 President

## Sokol Calendar



### SAT.FEB.27

■ 24th annual Slovak Ball hosted by the Slovak American Cultural Center of New York at The Royal Manor, Garfield, N.J. beginning with reception and dinner at 7 p.m., music by Express, black tie, for reservations call Zuzana Krcmar at tel. 973 357-1209, slovakamerica@gmail.com.

### SAT.MARCH 4

■ 65th annual Florida Slovak Day at The Slovak Garden, a Home for American Slovaks, Inc., 3110 Howell Branch Rd., #100, Winter

Park, Fla. beginning at 12 noon, luncheon featuring Slovak culinary specialties, live music and cultural program, prepaid before Feb. 26 \$25.00 at the door \$30.00, children age 10 and under \$10.00; for reservations call tel 407 677-6894, email: slovakgarden@centurylink.net or www.slovak-garden.com.

■ The \$100 Club, a night out of dinner, drinks, dancing, and prizes as a benefit supporting youth activities hosted by Group 14 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning with cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. with game time beginning at 8 p.m., \$100 a couple; for reservations call Carmella Marzec 412 414-9249.

### SUN.MARCH 5

■ 12th annual Sokol Children's Bowlingfest hosted by Group 1 at the Garden Palace Bowling Lanes, 42 Lakewood Ave., Clifton, N.J. 2 to 4 p.m., free of charge with re-

freshments.

■ Annual convention of The Slovak Garden, a Home for American Slovaks, Inc. at 3110 Howell Branch Rd., Winter Park, Fla. beginning with Mass in Slovak at 10 a.m., registration, meeting and luncheon and cultural program to follow; advance reservations \$25.00, at the door \$30.00, call tel.407 677-6894.

### MON.MARCH 6

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

### SAT.MARCH 11

■ 15th Annual Benedictine High School Blue & White Crystal Gala benefit at The Westin Cleveland Downtown, 777 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, Oh., cocktails and Silent Auction at 5:30 p.m., dinner, program, Live Auction and Fund-A-Need at 7:30 p.m., open bar, complimentary valet parking, \$150 per person, \$150 Sponsor a Monk; register on line at WWW.CBHS.EDU for reservations, information visit cbhs.edu or contact Debbie First at first@cbhs.edu.

### SUN.MARCH 12

■ Annual Lenten Mass and breakfast hosted by Assembly 25 and Wreath 15 beginning with Mass at 8 a.m. at the Church of St. John the Baptist followed by breakfast at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, Peryopolis, Pa.

■ Slovak Independence day observance hosted by Assembly 1 of the Slovak League of America at St. John Nepomucene Parish, 411 East 66th St., New York City, Slovak Mass at 10:30 a.m. with luncheon and fraternal program beginning at 1 p.m.

### MARCH 17-19

■ International Men's and Women's Basketball and Volleyball Tournament at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, Akron, Oh.

### SUN.MARCH 19

■ Patronal feast of St. Joseph observance hosted by Assembly 182 at St. John Nepomucene Parish, 411 East 66th, New York City, beginning with Slovak Mass at 10:30 a.m. in church followed by luncheon and fraternal program at 1 p.m. in the church hall; free of charge for all members.

### MARCH 21-23

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

### MARCH 24-25

■ 1st Quarterly Meeting of the S.C.S. Board of Directors at the Home Office in Passaic, N.J.

### SUN.MARCH 26

■ Spaghetti Dinner hosted by Group 1 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J. beginning at 4 (Continued on page 5)

## Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain

## Questions And Answers to clarify why we do what we do as Roman Catholics during Lent

by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdzovic

**Q. Why do we say that there are forty days of Lent? When you count all the days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, there are 46.**

A. It might be more accurate to say that there is the "forty day fast within Lent." Historically, Lent has varied from a week to three weeks to the present configuration of 46 days. The forty day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the Time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence.

**Q. So does that mean that when we give something up for Lent, such as candy, we can have it on Sundays?**

A. Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole Time of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience.

**Q. I understand that all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat, but I'm not sure what is classified as meat. Does meat include chicken and dairy products?**

A. Abstinence laws consider that meat comes only from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep or pigs, all of which live on land. Birds are also considered meat. Abstinence does not include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Thus, such foods as chicken broth, consomme, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are technically not forbidden. However, moral theologians have traditionally taught that we should abstain from all animal-

derived products (except foods such as gelatin, butter, cheese and eggs, which do not have any meat taste). Fish are a different category of animal. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, (cold-blooded animals) and shellfish are permitted.

**Q. I've noticed that restaurants and grocery stores advertise specials on expensive types of fish and seafood on Fridays during Lent. Some of my Catholic friends take advantage of these deals, but somehow I don't feel right treating myself to the lobster special on Fridays during Lent.**

A. While fish, lobster and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer.

**Q. I understand that Catholics ages 18 to 59 should fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, but what exactly are the rules for these fasts?**

A. Fasting on these days means we can have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, but combined they should be less than a full meal. Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals.

**Q. Are there exemptions other than for age from the requirement to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?**

A. Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.



Find us on  
**Facebook**



**Slovak Catholic Sokol**





## REFLECTOR...

### Jotings from Sokol and Slovak life

#### Slovak Independence Program on March 12 in New York City

On Sunday, March 12, Assembly 1 of the Slovak League of America in cooperation with Assembly 182 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Branches 45 and 716 of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Branch 2 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, will host the traditional Slovak Independence Program at the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Cabrini. The program begins with Mass celebrated at 10:30 a.m. in the church located at the corner of First Avenue and East 66th Street. The independence day program will begin in the social hall located at 406 East 67th Street at 1 p.m.

The observance celebrates the 24th anniversary of the independence of the present Slovak Republic. It also recalls the March 14, 1939 declaration of the Slovak autonomist parliament. While the first republic was unfortunately associated with Germany, nevertheless it was officially recognized by a total of 28 other states including the Holy See. At the conclusion of World War II, Slovakia was again incorporated into Czechoslovakia, against the will of the majority of the Slovak people. With advent of Communism in 1948, the question of Slovak independence had to wait until it fell in 1989 and then during the summer of 1992, the Slovaks and Czechs agreed to peacefully separate in what has been referred to as "the Velvet Revolution" which led to the "Velvet Divorce." Then on January 1, 1993, Slovakia and the Czech declared their independence.

The guest speaker at this year's Slovak independence observance will be Dr. Mikulas Halko of Mt. Kisco, N.Y. Dr. Halko, who is our Sokol member, serves as the National First Vice President of the Slovak League of America is a respected Slovak author and cultural leader. Serving as the master of ceremonies will be Dr. Larry Korcek, president of Assembly 182 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The program will include a musical interlude. A luncheon featuring Slovak culinary specialties will be served. Area Sokols and Sokolky are invited to participate in this cultural afternoon.

#### 12th Annual Consular Tour to Slovakia set for July 29-Aug. 11

Slovak Honorary Consul and our Sokol of Assembly 16, Joseph T. Senko and his Slovak born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia, July 29 - August 11. The tour includes history-rich cities including the nation's capital, Bratislava, the Marian Shrine at Sastin, Skalica, Trencin, Bojnice, Rajecke Teplice, Cicmany, the High Tatras, the Marian Shrine at Levoca, Kezmarok, Zdiar, Stara Lubovna, Kosice, Budejov, Jedlinka and Presov. As you travel through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit relatives of family towns and villages for an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of the tour.

What makes this tour unique is that it includes a tour of two castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings, rafting on the Dunajec river, which forms the northern boundary between Slovakia and Poland, as well as a welcome reception with the mayor of Presov. Presov is the Sister City of Pittsburgh.

At no extra cost, Joe and Albina have included a tour of the imperial capital of Vienna and Poland. While in Poland we will visit the famous Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Zakopane and Krakow, including tour of Auschwitz and the Wieliczka salt mine.

The total price for this complete tour is just \$3,798 per person based on double occupancy. The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two delicious meals daily, four-star hotels, air conditioned bus with English speaking professional guides and more. For a copy of a detailed itinerary, contact Joseph Senko at jsenko@aol.com or tel. 412 956-6000. Make one of your new year's resolutions plans to visit the historic

and scenic land of your ancestors. Today Slovakia, located in the very heart of Europe, offers so much history, art, culture and scenic beauty. Join veteran travelers and Slovak fraternal activists, Joe and Albina Senko for this once in a lifetime tour.

#### 75th Annual Slovak Bowling Congress tournament set

Continuing in a fine sporting tradition spanning more than three-quarters of a century, the Slovak Bowling Congress of America (SBC) is pleased to announce its 75th Annual Slovak Bowling Tournament which is set for weekends beginning April 8 thru May 7, 2017, excluding the Easter weekend of April 15-16, on the well-conditioned lanes at Bill White's Twin Star Lanes located at 2245 St. Route 59 in Kent, Oh. This tournament is certified by the United States Bowling Congress.

An entry of more than 700 bowlers from 160 cities of the United States and Canada is expected. Bowlers will compete for a prize fund in excess of \$20,000. Estimated first place prizes include: \$1,500 team, \$1,000 Doubles, \$600 Singles and \$500 all events. The entry fee is \$18.00 per bowler per event; \$5.00 in all events. Past Slovak Bowling Congress of America tournaments have enjoyed to date 13,770 teams, 33,468 doubles, 77,835 singles and 56,506 all-events. To date, all time prize payouts have totalled \$932,862.01. In addition to the championship awards, several SBC Tournament Awards will be featured including the Slovak Catholic Sokol All-Events award and the Dr. Stephen J. Hletko HDPC Series Team Award, named or one of the Slovak Bowling Congress of America founders and former Sokol supreme officer. Over the years, many Sokol members have been active in the SBC. Currently our Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon and Honorary Supreme Officer Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C. serve on the Advisory Board of the SBC. The first SBC tournament was held in the spring of 1939. Tournament action was suspended during World War II and resumed play in 1947.

For entries contact Joseph M. Harkulich, SBC Secretary, 1414 Bedford Road SE, Masury, Oh. 44438, tel. 330 673-1800. John M. Golias currently serves as the president of the Slovak Bowling Congress of America. March 1 is the deadline for reserved entries while March 15 is the deadline for all entries. Lodging for out-of-town bowlers is available at area facilities including Holiday Inn Express, tel. 330 673-9200; Comfort Inn & Suites, 330 673-1888; Hampton Inn Kent, 330 673-8555; or Days Inn, 330 677-9400. This year, the Slovak Bowling Congress looks forward to seeing many Sokol members from various communities compete at this year's historic 75th tournament. Keglars can be assured of good sportsmanship, Slovak fellowship and camaraderie much in evidence.

#### 65th Florida Slovak Day set for March 4 in Winter Park, Fla.

Continuing in a fine cultural tradition spanning more than six decades, The Slovak Garden, billed as "A Home for American Slovaks," will host its 65th annual Florida Slovak Day on Saturday, March 4 at its cultural center located at 3110 Howell Branch Road in Winter Park, just outside Orlando, Fla. The annual event is an opportunity to celebrate our Slovak culture and heritage in the Sunshine State. The event is an opportunity for the ever-growing Florida Slovak community, as well as the many snow birds from north of the Mason Dixon Line to celebrate fellowship and camaraderie. Today, Florida ranks third in population with over 20 million residents. No doubt an increasing number who are of Slovak ancestry.

This year's Slovak Day will be held in the cul-

(Continued from page 11)



## The Word of God...

### Gospel for the Eighth Sunday of the Year - February 26th

Mt 6:24-34

Jesus said to his disciples:

*"No one can serve two masters.*

*He will either hate one and love the other;*

*or be devoted to one and despise the other.*

*You cannot serve God and mammon.*

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life,*

*what you will eat or drink,*

*or about your body; what you will wear.*

*Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?*

*Look at the birds in the sky;*

*they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns,*

*yet your heavenly Father feeds them.*

*Are not you more important than they?*

*Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?*

*Why are you anxious about clothes?*

*Learn from the way the wild flowers grow.*

*They do not work or spin.*

*But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them.*

*If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?*

*So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?'*

*or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?'*

*All these things the pagans seek.*

*Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.*

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,*

*and all these things will be given you besides.*

*Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.*

*Sufficient for a day is its own evil."*

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent- March 5th

Mt 4:1-11

*At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.*

*He fasted for forty days and forty nights,*

*and afterwards he was hungry.*

*The tempter approached and said to him,*

*"If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."*

*He said in reply,*

*"It is written:*

*One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."*

*Then the devil took him to the holy city,*

*and made him stand on the parapet of the temple,*

*and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.*

*For it is written:*

*He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."*

*Jesus answered him,*

*"Again it is written,*

*You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."*

*Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain,*

*and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence,*

*and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you,*

*if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."*

*At this, Jesus said to him,*

*"Get away, Satan!*

*It is written:*

*The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."*

*Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.*

The Gospel of the Lord.



## Lodge Jottings

### NEW YORK, NY Assembly 182

The annual meeting of our lodge is scheduled for Sunday, March 19 at St. John Nepomucene Parish located at the corner of First Avenue and East 66th Street in Manhattan. In conjunction with the annual meeting, we will observe our traditional celebration of our patron, St. Joseph on his actual feast. Our program begins with attendance at the 10:30 a.m. Mass in church which will be celebrated by our pastor, the Rev. Richard D. Baker. Father Baker, who serves as chaplain of Group 1 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, will celebrate the liturgy for the living and deceased members of Assembly 182. Following the liturgy, we will gather in the social hall of the parish where our annual meeting will be called to order followed by our patronal feast day program and luncheon. All members are cordially invited to join us for this annual fraternal celebration. Our Sister Sokolky of Wreath 168 are likewise invited to join us. At the celebration, we will honor all the Josephs and Josephines among us.

Looking ahead, our Assembly will host an exciting Spring Disco Dance Celebration on Saturday, April 22 in St. John Nepomucene Social Hall beginning at 7 p.m. The Rado Lesay Ensemble will provide the music. The evening includes a reception and dinner. Tickets are \$45.00 in advance or \$60.00 at the door. For reservations call Anna Korcak at 201 670 8162 or Jozef Bodo at 917 748-5384. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

In 2016, we enjoyed active par-

ticipation in various Sokol and Slovak gatherings in the parish as well as in the New York area. We assisted at the annual St. Nicholas Day observance in which our junior Sokol members participated. And is our tradition, our officers and members also assisted in preparing the annual Vilija celebration of the parish. We were also actively supported the annual New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival at its new site in Windsor, N.J. We likewise financially supported the work of the Slovak League of America and the annual appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Our meeting agenda will include the reports of officers and plans for our various 2017 fraternal activities will be finalized. Election of officers will be held.

This year marks the 94th anniversary of the founding of our Assembly. It was in the spring of 1923 that a group of young Slovak men gathered at St. John Nepomucene Parish to establish a new lodge of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The founders selected St. Joseph as patron of the lodge. For nearly 70 years, our lodge has hosted a patronal feast day observance. We look forward to continued cooperation with local lodges of our brother and sister Slovak fraternal in promoting various cultural and religious activities.

So come join us for our annual meeting and patronal feastday observance. An enjoyable fraternal afternoon is assured.

Zdar Boh!

**Anna Korcak**

*Financial Secretary*

### PERRYOPOLIS, PA Assembly 25 Wreath 15

Continuing in a fine fraternal tradition spanning many years, both our lodges will host our annual Lenten Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, March 12. We will attend the 8 a.m. Mass at the Church of St. John the Baptist which will be celebrated for the living and deceased members of both our lodges. The liturgy will be celebrated by our pastor, the Rev. Anthony Ditto. Immediately following the Mass, we will gather at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club where breakfast will be served. Members of both lodges are invited to join us.

This year our Assembly, under the patronage of SS. Cyril and Methodius, observes its 109th anniversary. It was on July 5, 1908 that a group of 20 young Slovaks gathered to organize a gymnastic and sporting lodge of the recently established Slovak Catholic Sokol which had been founded in 1905. Since then, for more than a century our Assembly has been active in the promotion of various sporting and gymnastic activities.

Two years later, a group of Slovak women gathered on February 10, 1910 and established Wreath 15 under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We look forward to an active year ahead as we participate in various Sokol sporting and fraternal events. We hope to see a good turnout at our upcoming Lenten Mass and Breakfast. Zdar Boh!

**Michael T. Matras**

### PITTSBURGH, PA Wreath 22

The next meeting of our Wreath, under the spiritual patronage of St. Cecilia, is scheduled

for Monday, March 6 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall, located at 2912 East Carson Street, South Side beginning at 7 p.m. All Wreath members are invited to attend. An enjoyable evening is assured.

Our meeting agenda will include both some old issues as well as new issues regarding our fraternal program ahead. To those who missed our previous meeting, we had the sad passing of a fellow and beloved Sokol Sister, Helen M. Klimchak at the age of 94. Sister Klimchak was very dear to all of us at Wreath 22. She hailed from a well-known Sokol family and served as a past president of Wreath 22. She was beautiful both inside and out and we all had the greatest pleasure of knowing and working alongside her at many former Sokol activities. I had the pleasure of growing up with her and having a great role model to look up to. Please keep her family in your prayers today. She was and always will be a Sokol sister and mother to us all! May she rest in peace.

Looking forward to seeing a good turnout at our upcoming meeting and with fraternal best wishes, may I remain

Zdar Boh!

**Carmella(Suess) Marzec**  
*President*

## Sokol Calendar

(Continued from page 3)

p.m.

■ Annual meeting of Group 4 at the Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare Franklin Facility, 10101 South 27th St., Frankline, Wis. beginning at 12 noon. Lunch will be served.

### SAT. APRIL 1

■ Mount Assisi Academy Preschool Tea & Fashion Show benefit, at Mount Assisi Convent, 934 Forest Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 11 a.m. for information call 412 761-6004.

### SUN. APRIL 2

■ Annual Meeting of Group 3, "Rev. Edmund Mochak" at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall, Route 16, Douglas, Mass. beginning at 10 a.m.

### MON. APRIL 3

■ Lecture "Slovak Wedding Customs and Cookies," hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association at Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pittsburgh Pa. beginning at 7 p.m. free of charge.

### SAT. APRIL 8

■ 7th Wine Tasting hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association at Sonoma Grille, 947 Penn Ave., downtown Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 1 p.m. \$35 for members, \$40 for guests; for reservations, contact Joe at jtsenok@aol.com or tel. 412 956-6000.

■ Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast at Prince of Peace Parish beginning with Mass at 11 a.m. at the Church of St. Adalbert, South 15th St. followed by the breakfast at the parish center, 81 South 13th St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa., free admission for additional information call Connie Zatek 412 657-6364.

### APRIL 8-9

■ Opening of the 75th annual Slovak National Bowling Tournament hosted by the Slovak Bowling Congress of America at Bill White's Twin Star Lanes, 2245 St. Rt. 59, Kent, Oh. 44240, weekends thru May 7, for information call Joe M. Harkulich 330 448-8630.

### SAT. APRIL 22

■ Spring Disco Night hosted by Assembly 182 in St. John Nepomucene Social Hall, 406 East 67th St., New York, N.Y. beginning at 7 p.m., reception and dinner as well as the musical talent of the Rado Lesay ensemble; advance reservations \$45.00 per person or \$60.00 at

the door; for reservations call Anna Korcak 201 670-8162, Jozef Bodo at 917 748-5384 or Maja Bozekova 347 612-1934.

### SUN. APRIL 23

■ Annual Patronal feast of St. George hosted by Assembly 34 beginning with 9 a.m. Mass at the Church of SS. Cyril and Methodius, 1315 Second St. N.E., Minneapolis, Minn., breakfast to follow in the Father George Dargay Memorial Hall, free of charge.

### SUN. APRIL 30

■ Spring Festival hosted by the School Sisters of St. Francis at Mount Assisi Convent, 934 Forest Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 12 - 5 p.m., for information call 412 761-6004.

### MON. MAY 1

■ Lecture and demonstration on making authentic Slovak Bryndzovce Halusky, hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association at Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m., free of charge.

### SAT. MAY 13

■ Mothers and Fathers Day luncheon hosted by The Slovak Garden featuring Slovak culinary specialties in the cultural center, 3110 Howell Branch Rd. #100, Winter Park, Fla., 1 to 4 p.m., for reservations call 407 677-6894.

### MON. JUNE 5

■ Lecture "Eastern Slovak Village Culture and Traditions" by Emma Moser at Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m., free of charge.

### JUNE 22-25

■ 24th Slet and Festival hosted by The American Sokol, Iowa Sports Center, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for information tel. 708 255-5397, www.american-sokol.org.

### SEPT. 17-19

■ 59th national convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation in Youngstown, Oh. beginning with a consecrated Mass celebrated in the Cathedral of St. Columba followed by the convention banquet at the Basilica of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

### OCT. 17-21

■ 516th Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Cultural Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Pittsburgh International Airport; for information contact PaulMCzech@comcast.net.

## Keep Your Slovak Catholic Sokol Home Office Numbers Handy

<b>TOLL FREE NUMBER</b>	- 1-800-886-7656
<b>HOME OFFICE</b>	- (973) 777-2605 or 777-2606
<b>DIRECTOR OF SALES</b>	- 1-855-874-9179 or (412) 381-5431
<b>UNDERWRITING</b>	- (973) 777-4704
<b>EDITOR</b>	- (973) 777-4010
<b>FAX NUMBER</b>	- (973) 779-8245
<b>E-MAIL</b>	- Sokol205@aol.com
<b>WEB SITE</b>	- www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

*Za Boha a Národ*  *For God and Nation*  
**Slovak Catholic Falcon**  
SLOVENSKÝ KATOLICKÝ SOKOL  
ISSN: 0897-8107

Established April 15, 1911  
Official Publication of the Slovak Catholic Sokol  
Issued Bi-Weekly

**Daniel F. Tanzzone, Editor**  
Editorial office: (973) 777-4010

Annual Subscription Rates  
United States \$40.00 - All others countries \$45.00

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Slovak Catholic Falcon,  
P.O. Box 899, 205 Madison Street,  
Passaic, New Jersey 07055

Member of the Catholic Press  
Association and the Slovak Newspapermen's  
Association of America

Proprietor and Publisher  
**SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL**  
P.O. Box 899  
205 Madison Street, Passaic, N.J. 07055  
Home Office: (973) 777-2605-06  
WEB SITE - www.slovakcatholicsokol.org



## Held in Stratford, Conn.

### Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Group 2, "Rev. Stephen Panik"

The annual meeting of Group 2, "Rev. Stephen Panik" was held on Sunday, September 25, 2016 in Stratford, Conn. The meeting opened with the officers and delegates attending the 11 a.m. Mass celebrated for the living and deceased members of Group 2 at Holy Name of Jesus Church by the Rev. Robert Crofut. Following the liturgy, the delegates then gathered at The Blue Goose Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by the President, Eileen S. Wilson. Joseph Goda offered the opening prayer in Slovak followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Secretary, John Tkacik then read the roll call of officers and delegates. A total of 22 delegates represented the following lodges: Wreath 1 and Wreath 39 of Bridgeport; Wreath 86 of Torrington; and Assembly 9 of Bridgeport. Assemblies 23 and 33 were not represented. Each of the delegates brought along donations for the Care and Share project. The items will be donated to a local food bank. The minutes of the 2015 annual meeting, scribed by the former secretary Darlene Knapik-Musial, were approved on a motion by Al Neudeck and seconded by Judy Nist.

The officers' reports were submitted to President Eileen S. Wilson and accepted collectively by the delegation. Wreath and Assembly reports were submitted to the Secretary John Tkacik and were also accepted collectively by the delegation.

In observance of the annual Make a Difference Day in October, Group 2 along with its affiliated lodges will be making donations to the food pantry of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Bridgeport. The food pantry has seen an increase in demand for its services over the past few years and the pastor, the Rev. Joseph Karcinski has tried to keep up with the needs of his community.

The 34th annual St. Martin's Day Celebration hosted by Group 2 is scheduled for Sunday, November 20, 2016. The celebration opens with Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church followed by the luncheon and fraternal program at The Blue Goose Restaurant in Stratford. An enjoyable afternoon is assured.

#### Committee Reports

**RESOLUTIONS:** Chaired by Anne Marie Neudeck.

1) Thank you to the men and women of the Armed Forces who have previously or are currently protecting our country.

2) Thank you to the Rev. Robert Crofut, celebrant of the annual meeting Mass.

3) Thank you to all the delegates for their donations for the Care and Share Project.

4) Thank you to Wreaths 1 and 39 as well as Assembly 9 of Bridgeport for hosting this year's annual meeting.

5) Thank you to President Eileen S. Wilson for all her hard work and leadership during the past year.

6) Thank you to The Blue Goose Restaurant for a delicious meal.

7) Thank you to the delegates for serving on the various committees.

8) Resolved that we continue to pray for all our ill and deceased members.

**NEW MOTIONS:** Chaired by Thomas Marticek.

1) Recommend a stipend of \$25.00 to the Rev. Andrew Marus, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

2) Recommend a donation of \$100.00 to Holy Name of Jesus Parish for church maintenance.

3) Dispense with the officers and wreath and assembly reports to shorten the meeting time.

4) Recommend that Group 2 host a bowling tournament in the spring of 2017 to be chaired by Robert Sheehy and Larry Wells.

5) Recommend that we look into a possible excursion to a Connecticut casino.

**REQUEST & GRIEVANCES:** Chaired by Larry Wells.

1) No motions made.

**SALARIES & BONDS:** Chaired by Judy Nist.

1) Motion made to keep the salaries of the officers the same. Several officers donated their salaries back to the Group 2 treasury. Thank you - Pan Boh Zaplat!

**AUDITING:** Chaired by Judy Salamon.

1) The committee reviewed the books, bank statements, receipts, and other records provided by the Treasurer, Kevin Sabovik. All were found to be in order and accurate. The treasurer was commended on a job well done. On a motion by Mary Ann Wells, seconded by Barbara Sheehy, the report of the treasurer was accepted.

With no further business, on a motion by Robert Sheehy, seconded by James Iancale, the annual meeting was adjourned. A closing prayer was then led by John Golias. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,  
**John Tkacik**  
Group 2 Secretary

### Opportunity: Still Yours

Some maintain that opportunity knocks only once, the inference being that you only have one chance for fame and fortune.

Others maintain that opportunity knocks more than once. Obviously, they infer that you have more than one chance to attain your goal.

However, Napoleon disagreed

with both groups. He once stated: "I make my own opportunity." His inference was faith in his own ability and the courage to begin.

Do you have faith in your ability? Do you have the courage to begin?

If not, better listen up for opportunity's knock and prepare while you listen.

# The \$100 Club

## March 4th @ The Slovak Catholic Sokol Club

**Come out for a night of Dinner, Drinks, Dancing, Prizes and Help Support a Good Cause!**

### All Proceeds go towards GROUP 14 & The CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY!

## Ticket Price for Game & Dinner for 2 - \$100

Each ticket gets 1 number which will be randomly picked for a chance to win!

Prizes are:  
4 - \$50 Winners  
9 - \$100 Winners and the

## Grand Prize

The last 3 remaining numbers will get a chance to split the \$3000 prize and each person leaves with \$1000  
OR  
will they want to continue pulling the numbers until only 1 number is left and ONLY ONE WINS \$3000

**Ticket Includes:**  
6:00 pm: Cocktail Hour  
7:00 pm: Dinner Buffet for 2  
8:00 pm: Game Time

Ticket includes Beer, Wine, Pop, Coffee/Tea  
Cash Bar for Mixers is also available

**Meal:**  
Conrad's Marinated Fried Chicken  
Eggplant Parmesan  
Stuffed Cabbage  
Potato Salad  
Linguini Salad  
Garden Salad  
Rolls & Butter  
Dessert

**For Tickets or Information**  
Call Carmella at 412-414-9249 or email at [suesscm@gmail.com](mailto:suesscm@gmail.com)

# GCU & SCS 2017 NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

## CHACKO'S FAMILY BOWLING CENTER

**Friday - Saturday, May 19 - 20, 2017**  
**Deadline to make hotel reservations is Friday, April 14, 2017**  
Not in a League? Just Bowl for Fun?  
JOIN US!  
Details to follow!

Applications are now available on our web site: [www.slovakcatholicsokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org)

**Best Western**

0.6 miles from lanes  
77 E Market Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701  
570-823-6152  
Mention SCS or GCU for Bowling rate  
\$99 per room, per night plus tax

**Holiday Inn**

4.1 miles from the lanes  
600 Wildflower Drive  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702  
570-822-2011  
Mention SCS or NBT for a rate of  
\$109 per room, per night plus tax

195 Wilkes-Barre Blvd  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702  
570-208-2695  
[www.chackosfamilybowlingcenter.com](http://www.chackosfamilybowlingcenter.com)



## Co-Ed VOLLEYBALL

### Volleyball Rules and Regulations for upcoming 2017 International Slet

The last two International Slets have included the return of Volleyball in a Co-Ed format. It really was a hit both years, especially last Slet when it came down to the final match. We had a total of 7 Groups participate in Volleyball last Slet and we are hoping to have a large turnout again. After modifying the point system we found it to be successful in speeding up the tournament time while keeping it full of energy and excitement.

Below are the rules for the tournament and follow the Current National Federation (High School Rules), which govern play.

Below is the list of the key rules to note.

1. There are a maximum of 6 players on court at one time (three men and three women).
2. A team may play with no fewer than 5 players.
3. If a team plays with 5 players then 3 of those 5 must be female.
4. Net Height is 8 feet.
5. If a team is not there at game time, the first game of the set will be forfeited. After twenty minutes the entire match will be forfeited.
6. Substitutions may be made anytime the ball is not in play, but must stay in rotation.
7. There will be allowed 2 timeouts per game for 30 seconds.
8. Any unsportsmanlike conduct will result in a loss of a point and side out for the first offense. The second offense will result in removal of that game.
9. Ball may hit net on serve and is live ball if goes over to other side.
10. Teams change courts and serve at end of each game.
11. A girl must hit the ball at least once before it goes over the net unless there are less than 3 total hits.

12. A player may not attack or block the ball directly off the serve.

13. A player rotating off the front row must wait three rotations before returning to the front row.

14. If a bad pass is out of bounds and goes forward beyond the poles on the side lines, it cannot be put back into play. It will be called out of bounds.

15. Scoring will be rally scoring the best out of 3 games. The first 2 games will play to 15 win by 2 and if needed a third game will be a first to 10 sudden death which means you do not have to win by 2. First to 10 wins. In the Championship game, it will be 3 games if needed. All championship games must be won by 2 points. The first 2 games will be played to 25 rally scoring and the final to 15 win by 2.

16. When we set up the brackets, the previous year Champions and Runner's up will be seeded at opposite ends of brackets. If there is an odd number of teams and we need to give a team a bye, it will be given to the last Slet Champion. If they do not have a team, then it will be given to the Runner up.

17. Depending on the amount of teams we have, will determine weather we decide to play round robin, double elimination or single elimination. Determined by the fitness board at Slet.

The tournament has been received well and at times gets a little intense, but as I have stated before we want to maintain an atmosphere that is good-natured at all times, promotes fraternalism and sets a good example for the upcoming youth.

Zdar Boh!

**Frank P. Laury III**  
Assistant Director  
of Sports and Athletics

### Slovak Catholic Federation 59th National Convention September 17-19, 2017 Youngstown, Ohio

As the National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I the Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, V.F. hereby call for the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation. All members and current National Officers are to note the following dates and location for the quadrennial Convention. The Convention dates will be: Sunday, September 17 to Tuesday, September 19, 2017 in Youngstown, Ohio. The National Secretary, Dolores M. Evanko will be your contact person for delegate registration and detail information for the Convention. The Convention will officially open with Mass to be celebrated on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at



the Cathedral of St. Columba, 159 West Rayen Avenue, Youngstown, Oh. The principal celebrant will be the Right Rev. Gary A. Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, Oh. Abbot Gary also serves as the Moderator of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The homily will be given by the Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, V.F., National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Following the liturgy, a banquet will be held at the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Youngstown, Oh. Working sessions for the 59th Convention will be on Monday, September 18 and Tuesday, September 19 until all business has been completed.

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

## Slovak Catholic Sokol Catholic Grade School Grants

As a fraternal benefit, 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 each per Group are available to any qualified Sokol member entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2 through 8).

#### Eligibility

- 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.**
- One parent must be a S.C.S. member.
- 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, 2017** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph. Application is also available on the Internet @

[www.slovakcatholicsokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.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 2017-2018 school year.

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

**Deadline for receipt of this application is March 31, 2017.**

Return completed application to:

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



***An outstanding fraternal benefit*****\$63,000 in S.C.S. Scholarship Grants Available to Eligible Members in 2017**

by **Edward D. Moeller**  
*Supreme Vice President*

We are pleased to announce that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will make available a total of \$63,000 in **scholarship grants** to eligible members in 2017. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2017 grant; however, per Convention mandate - a student may receive a maximum of two (2) Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grant awards in each category.



A total of 30 Slovak Catholic Sokol college grants of \$1,000 each, two Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,500 each, two Emil Slavik Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, one The Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, one Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 and three Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarship2 in the amount of \$1000.

**With one application you may apply for all college scholarship grants for which you are eligible. Note that only one grant per applicant will be awarded.**

**College scholarship eligibility requirements:****Slovak Catholic Sokol (a total of 30, \$1000 grants will be awarded)**

- Must have a minimum of \$3,000 permanent Life Insurance Coverage
- Must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for at least five years.
- Must have completed one semester of undergraduate studies as a FULL TIME student at an accredited college, university or professional school, or be enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program.
- Must have an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.5 or better
- One parent must be a Slovak Catholic Sokol member
- Essay- "How has being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol influenced my life?"

**Theodore and Mary Jane Rich (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2500 will be awarded)**

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- One parent must be of Slovak Ancestry
- Must be majoring in medical curriculum

**Emil Slavik (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2000 will be awarded)**

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Both parents must be members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol
- Must be majoring in liberal arts, the sciences, pre-law, pre-medical or business curriculum.

**The Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship (1 grant in the amount of \$1000 will be awarded)**

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Majoring in Nursing or Medical curriculum
- One parent must be of Slovak Ancestry

**Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship (1 grant in the amount of \$1000 will be awarded)**

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Majoring in curriculum with a focus in computer graphics, design or layout

**Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship (3 grants in the amount of \$1000 will be awarded to the applicant that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)**

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
- Essay- "Describe the one volunteer experience that made the biggest personal impact on you- how/why".

The process of applying for any of the above college lev-

(Continued on page 13)

**SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL**

*A tradition of providing sound financial protection and benefits to our members*

**ANNUITY RATES**

EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 1, 2017

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>MINIMUM GUARANTEE</u>
VANTAGE 1	1.35%	1.00%
VANTAGE 2	1.50%	1.00%
VANTAGE 3	2.15%	1.00%
VANTAGE 5	3.00%	2.00%
VANTAGE 7	3.25%	2.00%

**SINGLE PREMIUM IMMEDIATE ANNUITY – SPIA**

5 THROUGH 9 YEARS	2.75%
10 YEARS OR MORE	3.50%

**NO LONGER OFFERED EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 31, 2011**

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>MINIMUM GUARANTEE</u>
FLEXIBLE	3.00%	3.00%
SINGLE PREMIUM	3.00%	3.00%

**Our Ever-Popular, 304-Page  
 Sokol Cook Book  
 is Now in its Fourth Edition**



**Just \$15.50 which includes postage and handling  
 Sokol Assemblies and Wreaths can order a case of  
 12 cook books for just \$170.00 – Place your order today!**

**Make check or money order payable to:**

**Slovak Catholic Sokol  
 P.O. Box 899 – 205 Madison Street  
 Passaic, N.J. 07055**

*(Canadian orders kindly add an additional \$15.00 for postage)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF BOOKS \_\_\_\_\_

*(Effective January 1, 2015)*



## Fašiangy in Slovakia

Carnival, called Fašiangy in Slovakia, is the time between Epiphany and the movable Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

The roots of this tradition go back to Slavonic pagan predecessors of today's Slovaks. In villages, Fašiangy was marked by processions with masks or "carolers" walking around local houses, while in larger towns, this time of year meant balls and dance events.

The end of Fašiangy depends on the date of Easter – a movable feast depending on the first full moon after the beginning of astronomical spring, falling on any Sunday between the end of March to the end of April. This year Easter is on April 16.

The word Fašiangy comes from the old Germanic word "vast-schanc", meaning "Ausschank des Fastentrunks", or pouring of the fasting drink. Pouring the fasting drink symbolized the beginning of the 40 days of fasting during Lent, the time preceding Easter. This fasting was very strictly observed in the past, and so the last days of Fašiangy – in some places called "ostatky" (the remaining, last days), were a time of exuberant entertainment. From the era of Great Moravia (9th-10th century), it was also called "mjasopust", meaning letting go of a lot of meat.

Depending on the year, Fašiangy can be short or long. People joked that during a short Carnival, even ugly girls were able to marry, which is connected to the predominate farming culture. Although farmers

were in this period already preparing for spring chores, there was still not much to do, and as the processing of feathers and spinning were usually done, this was an ideal time for weddings. Then, weddings lasted for days and were a feast not just for family, but for the whole village. If a young man failed to marry during this brief period of time, he often had to wait a whole long year.

In a pre-Christian context and in the area of central Europe, Fašiangy was rather aimed at inviting spring with various magic rituals.

Slavs, in those pagan and early-Christian times, used to celebrate this period also as "maslenice" (maslo means butter) which suggests that many substantial meals, rich in calories, were eaten. Slovaks' ancestors ate modest meals but during Fašiangy, before fasting, they ate plenty of rich food. Traditional dishes were fánky (sweet squares filled with curd, jam, or walnuts), šišky (filled doughnuts), pampúchy (fried cakes), záviný (strudels) and various delicacies – products of pig-killing which usually also took place at this time of year.

After the introduction of Christianity, Fašiangy got a facelift; with rounds of masked villagers remaining as the only fragment. Masks are now mostly for fun, but in the past masks had a ritual meaning: those used for Carnival mostly represented animals and looked ghostly – Turon (a bovine-like personage), bear or wolf – the more frightening, the better. Their role was to deter demons and evil ghosts.



Burying the double bass in Poprad. (Source: TASR)



Fašiangy in Cierny in Central Slovakia.

In the first half of the 20th century, the dressing up started including a soldier with a sable, on which farmers' wives skewered donated meals. Each village had its own traditional well-wishing poems and masks inviting the inhabitants in each yard to dance. There was a local entertainer in each procession who managed it. Fašiangy culminated at a joint village event in a local pub where a feast was organised from the collected meals, with a hoedown. The "burial of the double bass", involving people dressed as priest, organ-player, gravedigger, the instrument on a hearse and granny-weepers, symbolised that the merry time was over and in order to become more introspective for Lent.

Currently, these traditions are being revived around Slovakia, more in the countryside than in cities (where balls have been preserved as a tradition, though). From villages, towns and cities in western Slovakia, through north and south all the way to the very east, the end of Fašiangy was marked by traditional processions, pig-killings and feasts, with some being more of a masked Carnival (e.g. on ice, in Prešov), and some of the traditional procession with re-enactment of old habits (in Čhtelnica, Poprad, Prešov, Rimavská Sobota and elsewhere). In still others, like ski resort Plešty-Krompach and Levoca, there were cooking contests of traditional Fašiangy cakes called pankušky.

In the past, traditions of folk celebrations of Fašiangy virtually perished in the regions of Gemer and Malohont in south-eastern Slovakia, according to Stanislava Zvarová, a folklore specialist of the Gemer-Malohont Educational and Cultural Centre in Rimavská Sobota. However, folklore ensembles have still preserved them and currently they are even being revived again in villages and becoming more popular. "Fašiangy was more generally the time of fun and relaxation, as people still had some supplies of food, and a time of merriment and joy, Zvarová said. "Moreover, masks helped hide people's identity, so even those who tended to be more serious during the rest of the year let it all hang out, sang and danced."

## Restoration of Zobor monastery ruins to advance this year



The Zobor Beautification Fellowship, armed with a subsidy of \$8,000 from the Nitra city council, is planning to make progress in reconstructing the ruins of the first monastery on the territory of present-day Slovakia, which is located on Zobor hill near Nitra, and to make the monastery's church accessible to the public this year, fellowship head Jan Kratochvíl has told TASR.

"We managed to finish the work on the construction details concerning the ruins of the monastery's Church of St. Joseph in 2016. Parts of the ruins above ground have been preserved. We plan to place an altar table and a statue of St. Andrew Svorad who resided in the monastery, in April 2017. The premises will then be made accessible to the public," said Kratochvíl.

The Zobor Beautification Fellowship has been active in striving to restore the monastery for years. It has been decided that the restoration would be completed in six stages concluding in 2024. Cost of the project will be more than \$1 million.

There is historical evidence of the existence of the Benedictine monastery of St. Hippolytus on

Zobor hill dating back to the year 880 A.D. and the site is also known as the place of origin of the oldest written documents in Slovakia - the Acts of Zobor (1111-1113).

Zobor Abbey served as a key center of the spiritual, legal and cultural life in the early Kingdom of Hungary until it was transferred with all its property to the Nitra diocese by the Pope in 1468.

The monastery was then deserted for 150 years until the arrival of Camaldolese monks who built the church dedicated to St. Joseph in the late 17th century. The most notable figures of this era included the legendary 'Flying Monk' Cyprian, who allegedly constructed mechanical wings that he actually used for flying, and Friar Romuald Hadbavny, a distinguished linguist, who was the first person to translate the bible into Slovak almost three centuries ago, even before the language was first codified by Anton Bernolák in 1787.

In the early 11th century, the hermit, St. Andrew Svorad entered the monastery of St. Hippolytus on mount Zobor. St. Andrew Svorad is the patron of the Benedictine Abbey in Cleveland founded by Slovak Benedictines in 1922.

## Be Winter Wise: Exercise

Hibernation is for bears. It can be heart hazard for humans.

In fact, physical inactivity - especially coupled with extra eating during winter holiday months - can lead to obesity and high blood cholesterol, which are risk factors for heart disease.

So one word of winter wisdom: Exercise.

Exercise alone can't prevent or cure a heart attack or stroke. But it can help reduce your risk of developing them and improve your chance of surviving them. It can help decrease your blood pressure, weight and triglyceride level. And it can increase your level of high density lipoproteins, known as "good" cholesterol, which carry cholesterol out of blood vessels.

Exercise also helps you feel, look and work better. It improves your circulation and your ability to breathe. And you fight better the anxiety, stress and depression related to winter weather and holidays.

These are some of the reasons why the American Heart Association suggests you exercise aerobi-

cally at least 30 to 60 minutes three times a week. Your workout should be at moderate intensity over a continuous period, though levels vary according to condition and health.

Indoors or outdoors, cold or hot, don't forget these American Heart Association tips:

- \* Work out only when you feel well.

- \* Wait at least two hours after eating before exercising hard.

- \* Adjust to the weather. Summer can cause you to overheat, while strong winds, snow, freezing rain and cold temperatures can take away your body's heat.

- \* Slow down for hills to avoid working too hard.

- \* Be aware of symptoms such as discomfort in the upper body, bones and joints, fainting, and shortness of breath while exercising.

- \* Watch for signs of overdoing it such as inability to finish, nausea, or trouble sleeping.

- \* Start slowly and progress gradually.

In short, bundle up, but don't hibernate. Exercise for your heart's sake and to better mirror our ageless Slovak Catholic Sokol slogan of "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body."



## What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



## News and Views from Slovakia...

### Fico: election of Donald Trump great chance for Europe

The election of Donald Trump as president of the United States poses a significant opportunity for bolstering the global standing of the EU, said Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico on February 2 on his way to an informal summit EU leaders held in Malta's capital of Valletta.

"We're making a great mistake if we don't view the change in the office of president of the United States as an opportunity," said Fico.

"I think that it should lead us to greater sovereignty of opinions and considerations of how to reinforce Europe in terms of security but also to more courageous opinions on certain problems such as Syria, sanctions against Russia and the like. I hope that this will also be part of the discussions at the summit," said Fico.

Fico doesn't mind the fact that Trump is surrounded by Eurosceptics. "If this is so, let Europe say that it needs to be more courageous in articulating its opinions. We need to say to ourselves what we want and don't want. Let's not wait for what our American big brother tells us as usual. We've been in that place in the case of sanctions against Russia. I believe that Europe should have its own opinion, should speak its own mind and shouldn't be on some bandwagon of the United States," he stressed.

Therefore, Fico perceives the election of Donald Trump as an opportunity for the EU to show that it's a strong union. "Let's change the world a little as well, not just keep looking towards East and West."

The prime minister is convinced that it should be clearly stated at the summit that pursuing regime change in third countries through the use of force and without alternative solutions is dangerous. He cited Libya as an example, as 181,000 migrants have come to Europe from that country in the past year alone. "If Libya were a country today where any sort of regime existed - any kind of order - then it certainly wouldn't have been a staging area for hundreds of thousands of migrants today. So, it's good that we'll also be talking at the summit about how to aid Libya in terms of stabilizing its domestic life," he said.

Fico pointed out that Libya isn't as stable a country as Turkey, which struck a deal with the EU to stop the flow of migrants to Europe. The premier sees a solution in protecting the Schengen borders. "Some gentlemen in western Europe should have given more thought before they started to bombard Libya as to whether they also had a Plan B up their sleeves, but apparently they didn't have one. Now, all of them are whining and shouting that 181,000 migrants came from Libya in 2016, but that's not my responsibility - that's the responsibility of those who bombarded the regime in Libya out of existence," he said.

The prime minister also pointed out that former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi warned that Europe would "turn black" without cooperation. "Instead of cooperating with Gaddafi, we murdered him," he added.

Therefore, Fico welcomes Donald Trump's new strategy of not using force against foreign regimes without planning ahead for the future. "Crying over spilled milk in Libya today is completely ridiculous. If the countries that bear the largest responsibility for the situation in Libya attempt to lecture us on migration tomorrow, then they'll hear the Visegrad Four countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) speak their minds at a minimum," he stressed.

The EU leaders in the Malta Declaration approved the allocation of €220 million for cooperation with Libya on February 3. "It is the EU that is responsible for the state of this country today to a large degree. Nowadays, it serves as the staging area for migrants, who are completely openly referred to by the European Council as economic migrants," said Fico.

### SBA: Slovak banking sector's profit up year-on-year in 2016

Slovakia's banking sector posted a profit of \$800 million at the end of 2016, up by 23.8 percent, year-on-year, according to preliminary data released by the central bank (NBS) on February 6.

Meanwhile, the Slovak Banking Association (SBA) noted that a significantly positive effect for the profitability of the sector last year was provided by Visa Inc's acquisition of Visa Europe. "One-shot dividend incomes and financial operation yields also had positive effects on profitability last year," stated SBA, adding that these items increased the sector's yields by \$250 million, boosting the overall economic result by around 25 percent.

Conversely, net interest incomes fell by \$4.6 percent year-on-year due to low interest rates, while net fee and commission incomes were also down on an annual basis.

The sector's overall balance increased by 5.9 percent, year-on-year. The state of loans provided to the public rose by 13.4 percent, with corporate loans being up by 5.3 percent.

"The highest number of new and refunding housing loans ever was provided last year, an increase of more than 50 percent compared to 2015," SBA pointed out. Meanwhile, the interest rates for these loans were down to 1.86 percent on average, while the share of defaults was also down, to 4.54 percent.

### Industrial output up 3 percent, year-on-year in December 2016

Slovakia's industrial output went up by 3 percent, year-on-year in December 2016, the Slovak Statistics Office announced on February 10.

This development was influenced by hikes in electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supplies of 1.4 percent; in mining and quarrying of 7.7 percent; and in manufacturing of 1.6 percent.

Total industrial production was effected by year-on-year growth in the following sectors: in the manufacture of transport vehicles - 4.4 percent; in the production of metals and metal structures excluding machinery and equipment - 8.5 percent; in the production of foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco products - 9.7 percent; and in the production of wooden and paper products and printing - 4.4 percent.

Seasonally adjusted industrial output mounted by 0.4 percent month-on-month in December.

Twelve months into 2016, meanwhile, industrial output rose by 3.3 percent year-on-year, with increases in manufacturing of 3.5 percent and in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supplies of 2.9 percent. Conversely, output in mining and quarrying saw a decline of 3.1 percent.

### Fitch affirms Slovakia's rating at 'A+', with stable outlook

Fitch Ratings has announced that it has affirmed Slovakia's Long-Term Foreign and Local Currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDR) at 'A+' with a stable outlook.

The agency highlighted Slovakia's "robust and credible economic framework" including a solid banking sector, the country's eurozone membership and proven ability to attract foreign investment as the main drivers of the developments.

However, Fitch pointed to a relatively higher GDP volatility, which is due to Slovakia's concentration in the car industry (44 percent of industrial production and 35 percent of exports in 2016) and high external openness.

At the same time the rating was also inhibited by high net external debt, amounting to 38 percent of GDP in 2016.

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

Nonetheless, recent improvements in the current account should support a decline in net external debt, noted the agency.

Fitch foresees Slovakia's GDP growing at 3.3 percent in 2017 and 3.5 percent in 2018, while the future for 2016 stood at 3.3 percent. Investment should benefit from the recovery in EU-funded drawing, which is expected to equal to \$16.2 billion (20 percent) of GDP in 2015) over the financial period of 2014-2020, and continued foreign investment in the car industry, including a new investment by Jaguar Land Rover also Volkswagen, Peugeot-Citroen and Kia) in Slovakia should reach 150,000 vehicles annually by 2020.

Also, falling unemployment (9.0 percent in November from 10.9 percent a year ago) will support growth in households' consumption, expects Fitch.

Meanwhile, the agency expects the public administration

(Continued on page 14)



The large open-air Museum of the Slovak Village is situated on the outskirts of the northcentral city of Martin. The museum was established in the 1960s by the Slovak National Museum in Martin. Matica Slovenska, Slovakia's oldest and largest cultural organization is located in Martin. The museum presents northwestern Slovak traditional folk architecture of the rural communities in Slovakia from the 19th to the early 20th centuries. A total of 129 buildings including domestic residences, a church, a pub, a village general store, a wooden Renaissance bell tower, an elementary school and an exhibition on Romano Drom (the journey of the Gypsies). Some of these wooden structures have been moved from various Slovak regions - Orava, Liptov, Turiec and Kysuce-Podjavorníky and reconstructed in the open-air museum. Various cultural and religious events are held in the museum throughout the year and attract many tourists.



## Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast on April 8 in Pittsburgh

The annual celebration of a Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast will take place at Prince of Peace Parish on Pittsburgh's historic South Side on Saturday, April 8. It's the perfect opportunity to learn more about the rich spiritual and traditional Easter customs of Slovakia. The day begins at 10:45 a.m. at St. Adalbert's Church, 160 South 15th Street, with the recitation of the Rosary in Slovak. Mass in Slovak will follow at 11 a.m. with the Rev. John Joseph Gonchar, O.F.M. of Holy Family Friary in Bellevue, as celebrant. The liturgy will be in Slovak, however the homily will be in English.

Following the liturgy, worshippers are invited and encouraged to gather at Prince of Peace Parish Center located at 81 South 13th Street, where a delicious brunch featuring the traditional foods served on Easter Sunday in a Slovak home will be enjoyed. These specialties will include sunka(ham), paska(Easter bread)syrek(cheese) klobasy(sausage), hrin(beets and horseradish), pysanki(dyed eggs) and kolace(nut and poppyseed rolls). There is NO CHARGE for this wonderful brunch, however donations to defray the expenses are gratefully accepted.

A wonderful cultural program will be featured at this mini-heritage festival. There will be cultural displays depicting the folk culture, village life and kroj(traditional dress) of our Slovak ancestors. Select imported and handmade gift items will also be available for sale. Master folk craftsman and author, Larry Kozlowski will be on hand to discuss traditional Easter folk customs and crafts such as decorating eggs Slovak-style and the art of palm braiding. Timmy Zatek will demonstrate the age-old tradition of klobasy stuffing, along with others who labor to preserve our cultural heritage.

A Bake Sale will be featured and will include plenty of delicious favorites to satisfy every sweet tooth. Paska, along with nut and poppy-seed kolach rolls along with assorted cookies made by parish volunteers, reasonably priced, will be available for sale. Raffles will include a "Slovak Auction" and a basket brimming with traditional Easter foods, crowned with a unique hand-embroidered basket cover.



The annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast is sponsored by the Slovak Customs Group/Diversity Committee of Prince of Peace Parish. Proceeds benefit two charities in Slovakia, elderly School Sisters of St. Francis in Ruzomberok and the Barlicka Center in Presov which provides training for young adults with physical and mental disabilities, care for the elderly ill, as well as parental instruction and development for young children. Prince of Peace Parish was established twenty years ago as a result of the merger of six South Side parishes including the former St. Matthew's which was founded by Slovaks in 1903.

The Easter Customs Mass and Breakfast on Pittsburgh's historic South Side, where the first Slovaks settled in the 1880s is a great way to introduce children and grandchildren to the great cultural heritage they share as Americans of Slovak ancestry. It's also a wonderful opportunity to rekindle treasured memories, and to reach out a helping hand to others less fortunate while enjoying a relaxing and enriching afternoon.

Again the breakfast is free of charge, however donations are gratefully accepted. For more information about making a donation, or to learn how you can display your own Slovak treasures please call Connie Zatek at 412 657-6364. Doors open at the parish center at approximately at 12:15 p.m. We hope to see many Group 14 Sokol members at this year's Mass and breakfast.

### 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 J. Zifcak**  
SCS Museum Treasurer  
33 Pinecrest Rd.  
Uxbridge, MA 01569

## 65th Florida Slovak Day set for March 4 in Winter Park, Fla.

(Continued from page 4)

tural center of The Slovak Garden. Doors open at 12 noon with a luncheon featuring Slovak culinary specialties beginning at 1 p.m. A cash bar is available. A cultural program featuring Slovak music, dance and song will begin at 3 p.m. Live music for dancing and listening pleasure will be featured throughout the afternoon until 6 p.m. Tickets for this year's Slovak Day which includes the luncheon are \$25.00 per person in advance or \$30.00 at the door. Admission for Children to age 10 is \$10.00. For reservations call The Slovak Garden at tel. 407 677-6894 or email at [slovakgarden@centurylink.net](mailto:slovakgarden@centurylink.net). An enjoyable afternoon in sunny Florida is assured.

The Slovak Garden had its beginnings in 1950 when a group of Slovak fraternalists from the National Slovak Society decided to build a facility in sunny Florida where they planned to reside during their retirement years. Property was purchased and a complex of apartments along with a swimming pool was constructed in Winter Park, located today near the many family-oriented attractions such as Disney World and other popular tourist venues in Orlando, located just 15 miles away. After just two years of existence, the Slovak fraternalists decided to host a Slovak Day. Thus in March of 1952, the first Florida Slovak Day was celebrated. Held every year since, this year's 65th Slovak Day looks to be better than ever.

The complex includes an interesting and colorful Slovak museum as well as a cultural center. One bedroom efficiencies, as well as two bedroom apartments, poolside to individuals age 55 and older are available. A minimum 12-month lease is required. For information contact The Slovak Garden at the telephone and email listed above. Over the years, our Slovak fraternalists have given their full support for the efforts of The Slovak Garden. Well-known Slovak fraternalists, including a number who have been our Slovak Catholic Sokol members have served as president of The Slovak Garden, including the late Andrew F. Hudak, Jr., Justine Wesnak, Jerry J. Krupa and others. The current president is Thomas Kravets. The annual meeting of The Slovak Garden, Inc. is scheduled for Sunday, March 5 beginning with Mass celebrated at 10 a.m. with the Rev. Jozef Krajnak pastor of Holy Family Parish in Linden, N.J. officiating.

## School Sisters of St. Francis set annual Spring Festival for April 30

The School Sisters of St. Francis of Pittsburgh announce with great enthusiasm their annual Spring Festival scheduled for Sunday, April 30 at their motherhouse, Mount Assisi Convent located at 934 Forest Avenue in the Ross/Bellevue section of Pittsburgh.



Festivities begin at 12 noon and will continue until 5 p.m. An enjoyable is assured. This special day will include delicious homemade dinners, a plant sale, bake sale, bingo, great prizes, games for children along with activities for all ages and every member of the family. The Spring Festival is the principal fund-raising effort of the Sisters which support their various ministries. At the 2016 festival, a goal of \$50,000 was set to support the Sisters. To the delight of the Sisters, a total of \$54,000 was raised. The 2017 festival target is again \$50,000. With support from the many admirers of the Sisters, hopefully that goal will be achieved.

The newly elected Provincial Minister, Sister Frances Marie Duncan along with Spring Festival Coordinator, Nicole Knupsky extend a cordial invitation to Pittsburgh area Sokols and Sokolky to turn out for this year's exciting festival. Many area Sokol members are alumni of parish schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey which have been staffed by the School Sisters of St. Francis.

The School Sisters of St. Francis have enjoyed a rich ministry within the American Slovak community since their arrival from Europe during the summer of 1913. Their American beginnings were at the former St. Gabriel's Slovak Parish on Pittsburgh's North Side and at St. Clement's Slovak Parish in Tarentum, Pa. They have provided outstanding educational and catechetical service in many Slovak parishes from Westfield and Webster, Mass. to Pittsburgh and Erie, Pa. Over the years, many of the Sisters were teachers to Sokols and Sokolky in many communities. The Sisters are active in the American Slovak community. They were among the founders of the Conference of Slovak Religious, an affiliate of the Slovak Catholic Federation. We pray that the School Sisters of St. Francis may be blessed with many vocations and continue to beautiful mirror the best traditions of the Poverello. Let us all assist the Sisters in their various outreach projects. Let us all consider making a direct donation to the Sisters at this time so they can reach their festival goal. Make check payable to: School Sisters of St. Francis and send same to Mount Assisi Convent, 934 Forest Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15202.



*(Editor's note: We have noticed a number of returned copies of our Falcon due to incorrect addresses of our members. We ask that when individuals move, that they complete the form below for a change of address or call the home office. We thank you for your continued cooperation)*

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON

P.O. BOX 899 • 205 MADISON STREET  
PASSAIC, N.J. 07055

☐ NEW ☐ CHANGE ☐ CANCELLATION

Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



**Find us on**  
**Facebook**



**Slovak Catholic Sokol**





## Obituaries...

### Helen M. Klimchak, life-long Pittsburgh Sokol activist laid to rest at 94

Helen M. Klimchak, formerly of Baldwin Boro, Pa. known and loved throughout our organization, passed away peacefully in Pittsburgh on Thursday, February 2. She was 94.

A native of Hrabovce in eastern Slovakia, Helen was born there January 13, 1923, daughter of the late Andrew G. Smetanka and the former Mary Mazo. She emigrated to the United States with her parents as a child, settling on Pittsburgh's North Side. She was educated locally and attended the former North Side Slovak parish of St. Gabriel. On May 10, 1947 at St. Gabriel's Church she was united in marriage to John J. Klimchak. The couple became Sokol activists in Pittsburgh. The marriage continued until Sept. 23, 1985 when her husband John, who was Supreme President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, died unexpectedly.

Helen enjoyed many years of Slovak Catholic Sokol in Wreath 22 as well as in Group 14. She represented her Wreath at numerous Sokol conventions and was known and loved throughout the organization. She was a regular at the annual Sokol children's Christmas parties hosted by Wreath 22. Her last Christmas party was in December 2015. She also served on committees over the years promoting other fraternal activities. She was active in the Western Pennsylvania Slovak community for many years and will be sorely missed.

Family, friends and fellow fraternalists paid tribute to Sister Klimchak at the Thomas J. Gmter Funeral Home on Pittsburgh's South Side. On Monday, February 6 a prayer service was held at the funeral home at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian burial celebrated at St. Albert the Great Church of



**Helen M. Klimchak  
1923 - 2017, R.I.P.**

Holy Family Parish. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery.

Sister Klimchak is survived by a daughter, Ilona and her husband Dennis Ferris, a son, John J. Klimchak and his wife, Dr. Marybeth Cline Klimchak, Jr. She was also the grandmother of Maureen (Damien) Casten, Ryan (Sandra) Ferris, Sarah Klimchak, Justin (Lori) Klimchak, Jessica Klimchak and Jennifer Klimchak; and great-grandmother of Thomas, Luke, Jacob Ferris, Jude Casten, Jackson, Noah and Aliyah Angelici. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by brothers Joseph (survived by Marie) and George (survived by Monica) Smetanka. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

May our Sister Helen, who was a life-long advocate of our Sokol way of life and beautifully mirrored our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith now rest in peace. Her long and fruitful life was an inspiration to many and she will be sorely missed. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

### Victoria H. Kurak, 82, life-long Sokolka, laid to rest in Yonkers, N.Y.



**Victoria H. Kurak  
1932-2017, R.I.P.**

Victoria H. Kurak passed away peacefully at her home in Yonkers, N.Y. on Sunday, January 22 at the age of 84.

A native of New York City, Vic-

toria was born there December 19, 1932, daughter of the late Michael and Elizabeth Rehak. She was raised in St. John Nepomucene Parish in Manhattan and was a graduate of its parochial school where her teachers were the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. In October 1957, she was united in marriage to Emil Kurak, at the Church of St. John Nepomucene presided over by the late Rev. Robert J. Tomlian in the presence of the late Monsignor Stephen J. Krasula, P.A. Her husband Emil passed away in January 2002.

Following her marriage, she joined Emil and settled in Yonkers, N.Y. In Yonkers, she became an active member of the former Parish of the Most Holy Trinity. There she raised her children and became an integral component of this faith community. She enjoyed

great devotion to our Blessed Virgin Mary. At the parish, she was active in the Trinity Parents Association and a faithful member of the Sodality of Our Lady, which continued to meet for prayer even following the close of the parish. She was a life-long member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, initially as a member of the former Wreath 25 and most recently of Wreath 168. She saw to it that her entire family became members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. With great pride in her Slovak heritage, she was an active member of the Yonkers area Slovak community.

She was pleased recently to have the opportunity to visit the parish of St. John Nepomucene in Manhattan where she was raised. She attended the first solemn Mass of the Rev. Bernardino Soukup, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal in May and the installation of the Rev. Richard D. Baker as pastor of the parish.

Throughout her life, Vicky was a firm believer in our organization's slogan of "A sound mind in a sound body." For many years, prior to her declining health, she was an avid lap swimmer and pool exerciser with her Senior group at the Yonkers Avenue pool. She could be seen walking the streets of Yonkers (with Dunkin Donuts cup in hand) to daily Mass at the chapel of St. Felix Friary, home of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, formerly the convent of Most Holy Trinity Parish and then continuing up Walnut Street to the pool. Vicky was a well-known participant as a singer and dancer in the annual Senior shows, which she thoroughly enjoyed and where she developed many lasting friendships. Vicky enjoyed traveling with her Senior group, whether it was a day trip to the NJ Playhouse, weekend trips to New England, Branson, MO., Hawaii or other destinations.

For her more than 60 years in Yonkers, Most Holy Trinity was a very special place for Vicky. She was a regular participant and active promoter of many parish activities over the years. Like many Slovak parishes, Most Holy Trinity was a family-faith experience where everyone knew each other in the practice of their faith. She was an ardent supporter of the ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and their mission. The friars took up residence in the former parish convent. She was a humble and faith-filled individual who always put the needs of others first and had an unshakeable trust in God and saw the beauty and awesomeness in all His creations.

Family, friends and fellow fraternalists gathered on January 27 for a Mass of Christian burial at the former Most Holy Trinity Church, now St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Rite Catholic Church through the kindness of its pastor, the Rev. Sunny Mathew. Celebrant of the liturgy was her husband's cousin, the Rev. Emil R. Tomaskovic, S.A., former Minister

### 39th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation

by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, V.F.

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought few possessions of monetary worth. They did however bring a strong and vibrant faith. The seeds of that faith were nurtured and blossomed under the direction of the Slovak immigrant priests who left their homeland and came to America and helped organize nearly 300 Slovak parishes in various parts of the United States and Canada. They also helped to build our great Slovak Catholic fraternalists as well as communities of men and women religious. In 1911, the Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., organized the Slovak Catholic Federation to coordinate the efforts of these institutions and to address the pastoral needs of Slovak Catholics in the United States and Canada.

In return, over the years, we have responded generously to assist the Church in Slovakia, especially following the 41-year Communist period. In 1963, we in America built the Slovak Institute of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome, today known as the Pontifical College of SS. Cyril and Methodius. For the past 39 years, the Slovak Catholic Federation has hosted its annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal to aid the priest-graduate students at the Pontifical Slovak college in Rome. These fine young priests are being called upon to be the future leaders of the Diocesan Churches in Slovakia. In addition, funds raised also benefit religious communities of men and women in Slovakia which share a counterpart in the Conference of Slovak Religious in the U.S., an affiliate of the Slovak Catholic Federation. We inaugurate the appeal in February when we observe the feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius and donations are received throughout the year.

With the closing or merging of many of our Slovak parishes, most American Catholics of Slovak ancestry no longer belong to a Slovak parish where the appeal collection was taken up. As president of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I again ask for your individual support. I am especially pleased and grateful to our Slovak Catholic Sokol Groups, Assemblies, Wreaths as well as individual

members for their past support and once again for your support of our 2017 SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal. The 2016 Appeal realized a total of \$51,385 and since its inception a total of \$2,479,067 has been raised.

Coordinator of this year's appeal is the Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President of the Slovak Catholic Federation and a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Father Nasta serves as pastor of the Parish of Our Lady of Ransom in Philadelphia and is the national chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Tax deductible donations to this year's appeal, made payable to: Slovak Catholic Federation, noting that it is earmarked for the appeal, can be sent to the National Secretary-Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation: Dolores M. Evanko, 173 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201.

Finally, in the name of the Slovak Catholic Federation, may I express thanks and gratitude to all for their support of our work. Know that you are remembered in my Masses and prayers. Thank you and may God repay your generosity - Pan Boh Zaplat!



General of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor. Concelebrating was a former pastor of Most Holy Trinity, the Rev. George Oonnoony, now pastor of the Parish of St. Patrick-St. Christopher, in Verplanck-Buchanan, N.Y. Pall bearers included nephews, Kenneth Hall, Joseph Pekarik and Anthony Pekarik, cousins-in-law William Hinz and John Pastier, grandnephew John Henry Hall and longtime family friend, Daniel F. Tanzone. Former Music Minister at Most Holy Trinity, Stephen J. Knoblock and former choir members contributed to the beauty of the liturgy. A eulogy was presented by her son by Emil J. Interment followed at St. Joseph's Cemetery. The Duchynski-Cherko

Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Sister Kurak was the devoted mother of Michael (Grace), Emil, Jr., Mary (Christopher) Merenda, and Victoria. She was the loving grandmother (baba) of Sarah and Meagan Merenda. She is also survived by her sister, Evelyn (Sam) Pittaro and nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, Emil, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Anna, Marie, Pauline and Stephanie and a brother, John.

May Victoria, who so beautifully mirrored our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith, now rest in peace. Donations in her memory may be made to the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821.



## For students currently attending a Catholic High School

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

As a fraternal benefit, 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

- 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.**
- One parent must be a S.C.S. member.
- 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, 2017** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @ [www.slovakcatholicssokol.org](http://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.

## Sokol Birthdays



#### MARCH 1

**Joseph J. Sovcik, Jr.**, Santa Fe, N.M., a member of Assembly 257, Chicago, Ill.

#### MARCH 2

**Zachary A. Banaszek**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**Christine Hill**, Watertown, Conn., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

**Anna Jurbala**, Henderson, Nev., a member of Wreath 81, Whiting, Ind.

**Joseph M. Oros**, Reading, Pa., financial secretary of Assembly 261, Reading, Pa.

**Nancy A. Ramirez**, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

#### MARCH 3

**Paul J. Hackash**, New Ringgold, Pa., President of Group 18.

**Angela P. Kurnath Hoffer**, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., a member of Assembly 162 in Clifton, N.J.

**Jillian M. Krasauskis**, Plainfield, Ill., a member of Assembly 11 Chicago, Ill.

**Ladislav Kolozi**, Woodland Park, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

**Jeffrey Mangan**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

#### MARCH 5

**Cheryl L. Chuba**, Dauphin, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**Elizabeth A. Hennis**, Bridgeview, Ill., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

#### MARCH 6

**Paula Ferrato**, Barrington, R.I., a member of Wreath 15, Perryopolis, Pa.

**Ted Grzybowski**, Clifton, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

#### MARCH 7

**Michele Banaszek**, Scranton, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**Kayla L. Troxil**, Canfield, Oh., a member of Wreath 54, Youngstown, Oh.

#### MARCH 8

**Lynn M. Flore**, West Mifflin, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

#### MARCH 9

**Cassandra Johnson**, Point Pleasant, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

**Tessie A. Oros**, Reading, Pa., a member of Wreath 155 in Reading, Pa.

**Frank J. Pavlica**, Clifton, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

#### MARCH 11

**Phyllis J. Flynn**, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

#### MARCH 12

**Livia Polanski**, Morris Plains, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

#### MARCH 13

**Lorraine King**, Bethel Park, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Allison Ianciale**, Hamden, Conn., a member of Wreath 1, Bridgeport, Conn.

**Patricia Ianciale**, Holland, Mass., a member of Wreath 1, Bridgeport, Conn.

**Jennifer M. Salt**, Belford, N.J., a member of Wreath 147, Larksville, Pa.

**John P. J. Lazor**, Minneapolis, Minn., a member of Assembly 34, Minneapolis, Minn.

#### MARCH 14

**Steven Bucko**, Oakdale, Minn., a member of Assembly 34, Minneapolis, Minn.

**Stephanie Eckenrode**, Lillz, Pa., a member of Assembly 79 in Lilly, Pa.

**Susan Noblitt**, San Diego, Ca., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

**Kristin Quigley**, Dallas, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

#### MARCH 15

**Carol Bombich**, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Christopher J. Koval**, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**David J. Marion**, Florida, N.Y., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

**Amanda Maslar**, Grosse Ile Mich., a member of Assembly 36, Detroit, Mich.

## \$63,000 in S.C.S. Scholarship Grants Available to Eligible Members in 2017

(Continued from page 8)

el scholarships is completely on-line. Applications and instructions are **ONLY** available on our website @ [www.slovakcatholicssokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicssokol.org)

Questions regarding the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Program may be directed to:

Edward D. Moeller  
Supreme Vice-President  
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee  
[vp@slovakcatholicssokol.org](mailto:vp@slovakcatholicssokol.org)  
(412)881-3506

**Deadline for submission of all scholarship applications is March 31, 2017**

In addition to our college grant program, we make available 18 Catholic High School Grants in the amount of \$500 each as well as 36 Catholic Grade School Grants in the amount of \$250 each. Please find these scholarship applications and directives in each of the issues of the *Falcon*.



(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 2017-2018 school year.

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

Deadline for receipt of this application is **March 31, 2017.**

Return completed application to:

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

# GROUPS – ASSEMBLIES - WREATHS

Many of our assemblies, wreaths and groups today have their funds in checking accounts, money market accounts, bank certificate of deposit (cd) and/or savings accounts which are currently earning little or no interest. For the past several years and into the near future these financial vehicles have and will continue earn very low interest rates.

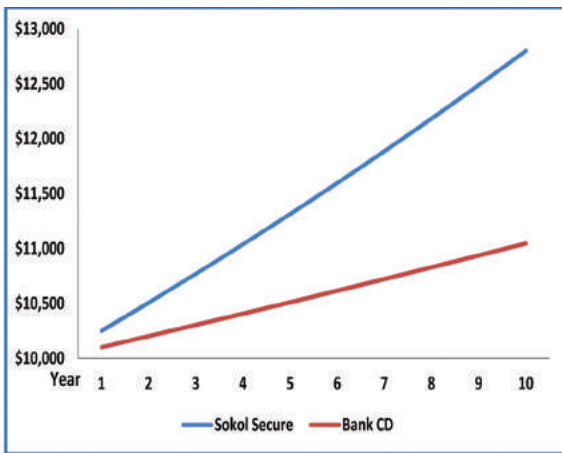
Within the last couple of years the Slovak Catholic Sokol (Sokol) created the SOKOL SECURE FUND as a benefit program that offers groups, assemblies, wreaths, churches or associations that are non-for-profit and affiliated with the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The SOKOL SECURE FUND that is combination of a CD, money market fund and saving fund. The major difference that separates our fund from what banks and other financial institutions offer is the flexibility to add funds at any time, withdrawal funds without penalty and earn an outstanding and hard to beat 2.5% APY. In the event that interest rate should rise the SOKOL

SECURE FUND can increase per the approval by the Board of Directors, whereas with a Bank CD the interest rate remains the same through the term of the CD contract period.

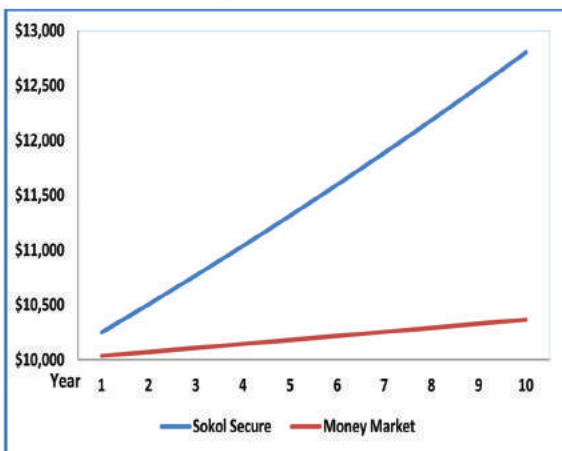
## SOKOL SECURE FUND out performs Bank CD's

Bank CD interest rates obviously range differently between banking institutions and regions of the country. Recent rate numbers in the Pittsburgh region show that a 1-year CD earns .05%, a 2-year earns 1%. To earn an interest rate anywhere near 2% financial institutions will require you to tie your money up for at least 4 years. If an emergency occurs and the need to access these funds prior to the end of your CD term, be prepared to pay an early withdrawal fee. With a Sokol Secure Fund there is not a withdrawal fee. The only requirement is to maintain a balance of \$4,000. Following are two charts that compare the growing power of the SOKOL SECURE FUND as compared to a Bank CD and Money Market Account:

SOKOL SECURE FUND – Bank CD:



SOKOL SECURE FUND - Money Market Account:



## The SOKOL SECURE FUND

This benefit is titled SOKOL SECURE FUND, it is designed specifically for Not-For-Profit Corporations with an Internal Revenue Service designation of 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(8) and cannot be used as an individual account. Currently this benefit is only available to Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths, churches or associations that are non-for-profit and affiliated with the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

## How to open a SOKOL SECURE FUND

All that is required is to complete an application (SS0911 Application for Sokol Secure Fund) and a minimum deposit of \$5,000.

## Flexibility of Fund

Since this benefit is structured to be flexible, additional deposits can be made at any time providing the minimum deposit is at least \$100. The SOKOL SECURE FUND includes the following features: No Loading Fees, No Withdrawal Penalties, High Liquidity and a Competitive Interest Rate of 2.5% APY.

For administrative purposes, fund withdrawals are restricted to no more than four times a year, however, remember there are no penalties on any withdrawal of funds. The minimum amount for a withdrawal is \$250.00. Once the fund is established, a minimum balance of \$4,000 must be maintained.

The interest rate is determined

## Plan Features

- o No Loading Fees
- o No Withdrawal Penalties
- o High Liquidity
- o Competitive Interest Rate
- o Flexibility

Minimum Withdrawal - \$250.00

Premium Deposit Options - Flexible

Minimum Initial Deposit - \$5,000

Minimum Balance - \$4,000

Guaranteed Minimum Interest Rate - 1% APY

Surrender Period & Charges - None

**Underwriting** – Slovak Catholic Sokol Group, Assembly, Wreath, churches or associates with an affiliation with the Slovak Catholic Sokol that are Internal Revenue Service designation of 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(8).

For additional information or for SOKOL SECURE FUND Application and SOKOL SECURE FUND Withdrawal Form, please contact the Home Office at 800-886-7656 or the Sales and Marketing Office at 855-874-9179.

## Are you ready to SPRING forward?

Setting the clocks forward on March 12 means it's time for a seasonal safety check too! Daylight saving time starts at 2 a.m. As you make your way around your house setting the clocks ahead do a safety check too!

Change the clocks, change the batteries!

Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors save lives...if they are powered by a fresh battery. Safety experts recommend replacing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors twice a year. Get in the habit of changing your clocks and changing batteries around!

Replace light bulbs...consider replacing conventional bulbs with energy-efficient bulbs. The EPA estimates that replacing standard bulbs with energy-efficient ones can save you over \$30 in electricity costs over their lifetime.

Check your first-aid kit and review your family emergency plan.

## Fat Tuesday Coming

The Mardi Gras was introduced to New Orleans by early French settlers. The carnival atmosphere originated in medieval France as a pre-Lenten spree before the solemn days of fasting.

On the first day, the celebration was appropriately called Fat Tuesday, a term from which the name Mardi Gras later derived. This year Mardi Gras is set for Tuesday, February 28, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.



## News and Views from Slovakia...

(Continued from page 10)

deficit to decline to 1.8 percent of GDP in 2017 and 1.0 percent in 2018 from 2.2 percent in 2016, with two main government's priorities being the construction of a Bratislava motorway bypass and of the aforementioned Jaguar Land Rover plant in Nitra.

According to Fitch, Slovakia's government debt was stabilized in 2016, at 52.5 percent of GDP, and should decline gradually to 44 percent of GDP by 2026.

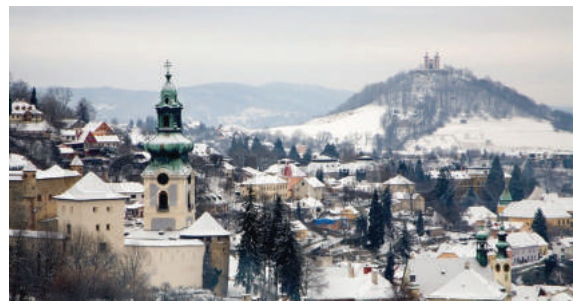
## Banska Stiavnica should form part of UNESCO's Underground Europe Route

Banska Stiavnica is likely to appear on UNESCO's new tourist map devoted to underground world heritage, TASR learned from UNESCO World Heritage Center expert for Sustainable Tourism Peter Debrine on February 8.

Slovakia should thus become a pilot country among the Visegrad Four/V4 countries (the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia) to be included in the so-called Underground Europe Route. The Underground World Heritage programs focuses on world heritage sites such as tunnels, caves and mines that are hiding the stories of people who helped to build Europe. "It's not only that these sites are nice, but they are also important for the evolution of humanity in particular," said Debrine, who is currently on a working visit to Slovakia.

The final decision of whether Banska Stiavnica will form part of UNESCO's Underground Europe Route will be made official in March after a planned meeting between Banska Stiavnica mayor Nadezda Babiakova and a UNESCO representative in France.

Meanwhile, Debrine's visit to Slovakia is mainly related to preparing for the Sustainable Tourism conference that's scheduled to take place in Bardejov in eastern Slovakia on May 4-5. The conference is set to focus on implementing the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Program in Slovakia. This program is aimed at protecting world heritage sites and improving the country's economic development.



Banska Stiavnica



## ÚPN zverejnil mená pracovníkov ŠtB v Bratislave

Ústav pamäti národa (ÚPN) zverejnil podrobnú rekonštrukciu personálneho obsadenia a organizačnej štruktúry Správy ŠtB Bratislava, súčasť Krajskej správy ZNB Bratislava, v rokoch 1975 až 1989.

ÚPN doplnil pomocou rekonštrukcie a analýzy personálnych spisov a archívnych dokumentov ďalších 1 055 mien príslušníkov ŠtB. Tí sa podľa ústavu mali podieľať v rokoch 1975 – 1989 na „boji s vonkajším a vnútorným nepriateľom, ochrane socialistickej ekonomiky“, sledovaní a odpočúvaní záujmových osôb, emigračných, nacionalistických a iných protištátnych centier a podobne. Ide o 697 nových mien oproti obdobiu pred rokom 1975.

Dáta sa tak pridali k databázam bývalého Stredoslovenského, Východoslovenského a napokon aj Západoslovenského kraja v rokoch 1966 – 1989. Celkovo ide o 4 135 mien príslušníkov ŠtB.

„Zverejnené informácie môžu slúžiť najmä obyvateľom Západného Slovenska, ktorí sa rozhodli spoznať pravdu o svojej minulosti. Platí, že dôsledky každej pokrivenej spoločnosti znášajú celé generácie. Na strane prenasledovaných sú to pocity životného sklamaní a bezmocnosti nad dovolaním sa práva a spravodlivosti. Naopak, na strane ich

prenasledovateľov (príslušníkov ŠtB) sa dostávajú pocity bezúhonnosti. Snaha o prekrúcanie faktov, relativizovanie pravdy, alebo pokusy o zneužívanie nových príležitostí. Preto je dobré, že dnes v zmysle zákona o Pamäti národa zverejňujeme ďalšie mená prenasledovateľov, ktorí sa z profesionálneho hľadiska podieľali na utrpení nevinných spoluobčanov“, uviedol predseda Správnej rady ÚPN Ondrej Krajňák.

Na webe ÚPN možno nájsť:

- organizačnú štruktúru Správy ŠtB Krajskej správy ZNB Bratislava v rokoch 1975 – 1989
- mená a priezviská jej príslušníkov a ich funkčné zaradenie, osobné evidenčné čísla

Ako ÚPN definuje, Správa ŠtB Bratislava bola výkonným útvarom československej kontrarozviedky na území Bratislavy a Západoslovenského kraja. Vykonávala činnosť kontrarozviedky (úsek boja proti vonkajšiemu nepriateľovi, vnútornému nepriateľovi, ochrana socialistickej ekonomiky...), riadila oddelenia a skupiny ŠtB v okresoch a útvary letiskovej kontroly v Bratislave – Ivánke pri Dunaji a v Piešťanoch. ŠtB realizovala spravodajské akcie proti oponentom komunistického režimu, predstaviteľom spoločenského, kultúrneho aj cirkevného života. - *Pravda.sk*

## Nové číslo vedeckej ročenky Slováci v zahraničí

Krajské múzeum Matice slovenskej počas roku 2016 pripravilo ďalší, v poradí 33. ročník vedeckej ročenky Slováci v zahraničí. V približne 140 stranách zborník prináša výsledky vedeckých výskumov, recenzie, názory a informácie odborníkov zaoberajúcich sa



životom a dielom Slovákov v zahraničí.

Zborník je členený do 4 hlavných kapitol.

Kapitolu Štúdie otvára príspevok Kataríny Mosnákové-Baglašovej, ktorá sa zaoberá detským slovenským folklórom z obce Jánošík vo Vojvodine. Štúdia prináša veľmi vzácne výsledky terénneho výskumu doplneného o výpovede informátorov.

Ďalšou v poradí je práca Patrika Šenkára, ktorá sa orientuje na vzájomné politicko-kultúrno-literárne vzťahy Slovákov a Rumunov v období dualizmu. Autor do tohto kontextu uvádza osobu novinára, „priekopníka priateľstva“ – Gustáva Augustínyho a jeho záslužnú sprostredkovateľskú činnosť v dobovom kultúrnom ovzduší.

Kapitolu uzatvára štúdia Alžbety Uhrinovej, ktorá sa zaoberá možnosťami štúdia slovenského jazyka v dnešnom Maďarsku. V úvode ponúka krátke exkurz do dejín národnostného školstva. Pokračuje prehľadom slovenského školského systému v Maďarsku. Zaoberá sa aj aktuálnymi problémami školstva a možnými prognózami jeho vývoja.

Kapitolu Pramene a materiály zastrešuje príspevok Jána Jančoviča. Autor rieši históriu osídľovania Békešskej Čaby a života Slovákov v nej.

V zborníku nájdeme aj tri recenzné príspevky (kapitola Recenzie). Prvá recenzia Claudeho Baláža hodnotí publikáciu Jeana Philippeho Namota. Autor vyjadruje svoje postoje k obsahu knihy Dejiny české a slovenské emigrácie vo Francii (1914 – 1940).

Recenzia autorky Eriky Fajnorovej reflektuje antológiu Patrika Šenkára Slovenská dol-

## V Košiciach otvorili výstavu Domov v zámorí - Slováci z východného Slovenska

Odhaduje sa, že v 19. a aj 20. storočí sa zo Slovenska do zahraničia odsťahovali dva až tri milióny Slovákov. Mnohí z nich skončili v USA. Ich osudy dokumentuje výstava Domov v zámorí - Slováci z východného Slovenska, ktorú verejnosti sprístupnila Štátna vedecká knižnica v Košiciach.

Výstava bola verejnosti sprístupnená vďaka Ľubici Poklembovej údaje a rôzne informácie o rodákoch zhromažďovala dlhé obdobie. Na výstave ich prezentovala už pred tromi rokmi, ale pre veľký záujem verejnosti ich rozšírila a prezentuje ich opäť. Sprístupnené budú do 22. marca tohto roku.

„Na prípravu boli použité dokumenty z knižného a časopiseckého fondu Štátnej vedeckej knižnice v Košiciach, vydané na Slovensku i v USA, ale aj biografické heslá z databázy Regionálnych osobností východného Slovenska. Naše bibliografické oddelenie vytvára túto databázu už od roku 1994. Biografický výskum sa zameriava na Slovákov z východného Slovenska, ktorí našli nový domov v USA, ale aj významných amerických rodákov so slovenskými koreňmi,“ povedala kurátorka výstavy Daniela Slezáková.

Výstava ponúka verejnosti písomné materiály i fotodokumentáciu približujúcu nielen osudy Slovákov v Amerike, pripomína menovite aj tých, ktorí sa v USA stali významnými a slávnymi. Patrí k nim svetoznámy maliar, grafik a dizajnér Andy Warhol, herci Paul Newman a Angelina

Jolie so svojim otcom Jonom Voightom.

Výstava pripomína tiež ďalšieho veľmi známeho Slováka. Bol ním Michael Strank, ktorý sa narodil v Jarabine v okrese Stará Ľubovňa. Jeho rodina sa v roku 1919 spolu s jednou ďalšou z Jarabiny odsťahovala do Ameriky. Michael bol počas druhej svetovej vojny seržantom armády USA a je považovaný za vojnového hrdinu. Zúčastnil sa na bitke proti Japoncom na ostrove Iwo Jima a bol to práve on, kto vztyčoval po víťazstve nad Japoncami vlajku USA. Tento moment zachytil fotograf Joe Rosenthal a fotka sa stala predlohou známeho pamätníka Marine Corps War Memorial, ktorý je najväčším bronzovým súsoším na svete.

Návštevníci výstavy sa môžu oboznámiť aj s chronologickou dokumentáciou o vystavovateľstve z východného Slovenska do USA.

Masové vystavovateľstvo spadá do obdobia rokov 1867 až 1921, kedy bieda, hlad a zlé sociálne pomery na Slovensku vyhánali Slovákov do zámoria. Prvé kolónie si vytvárali v lokalitách, kde boli bane a železiarske priemysel,“ vysvetľuje kurátorka výstavy. Prví Slováci sa sústredili v štátoch New York, New Jersey, Ohio, vo východnej Pensylvánii, v Illinois či Connecticut. V Amerike zakladali krajské spolky a vytvárali spoločenský život.

Spomína sa aj história Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Pittsburskej dohody a Svetového kongresu Slovákov.

nozemska literatúra (v teórii a praxi). Autorka približuje najmä obsahovú stránku knihy, jej členenie a predmetné zameranie. Ostatnou recenziou je príspevok Ladislava Lenovského. Hodnotí zborník z medzinárodnej vedeckej konferencie venovanej životnému jubileu etnografa Ondreja Krupu s názvom Duchovná a sociálna kultúra menšín v majoritnom prostredí. Približuje, aké príspevky zborník prináša najmä po ich obsahovej stránke. Autor si ponecháva priestor aj na vyjadrenie subjektívnych hodnotení.

Správy a informácie obsahujú príspevok Anny Kováčovej. Opisuje životné osudy hudobného skladateľa, dirigenta a zbornajstra Ondreja Francischiho, ktorý autorka obohacuje

neformálnymi informáciami z rozhovorov a spomienok.

Informačný príspevok Jána Vrtielku sa zaoberá pobytom Martina Kukučína v čilskej a argentínskej Patagónii.

Ročenku uzatvára príspevok Zuzany Pavelkovej, ktorá sa zaoberá rekapituláciou činnosti Krajského múzea Matice slovenskej počas roku 2016.

Zborník Slováci v zahraničí je pripravený dostať sa do rúk všetkým záujemcom. Zakúpiť si ho môžete na stránke www.vydavatel.sk. Taktiež ponúkame možnosť prispieť do ročenky Slováci v zahraničí č. 34 všetkým záujemcom aj v roku 2017. Pokyny pre autorov nájdete na webovej stránke Matice slovenskej. - **Zuzana Pavelková, riaditeľka Krajského múzea MS**

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

ISSN: 0897-8107

Úradný časopis  
SLOVENSKÉHO KATOLICKÉHO SOKOLA

Založený 15. apríla 1911 – Vychádza každú druhú stredu

Majiteľ a vydavateľ:  
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

Daniel F. Tanzone, redaktor  
Telefónne číslo: (973) 777-4010

Všetky články, príspevky a správy treba posielat' na adresu:  
Editor, Slovak Catholic Sokol, P.O. Box 899  
205 Madison Street, Passaic, New Jersey 07055

NAVŠTÍVTE NAŠU FACEBOOK STRÁNKU



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL



# Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

## SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON

ÚRADNÝ ČASOPIS SLOVENSKEHO KATOLÍCKEHO SOKOLA - 30 000 ČLENOV - HLAVNÁ ÚRADOVŇA: 205 MADISON STREET, PASSAIC, NJ 07055 – [www.slovakcatholicfalcon.org](http://www.slovakcatholicfalcon.org)

VOLUME CVI

PASSAIC, N.J., 22. FEBRUÁRA 2017

ČÍSLO 5089

### Ján Holý sa oslávil 95. narodeniny

Dňa 8. februára oslávil významné životné jubileum - 95. narodeniny - Ján Holý, dobre známy pracovník v kultúrnom, spolkom a politickom živote



v USA a v slovenskom exile.

Narodil sa 8. februára 1922 v Novej Bani. Po ukončení štúdií na gymnáziu v Kremnici pokračoval na univerzite v Bratislave. V rokoch 1945-1947 bol zamestnaný ako redaktor v Spravodajskej agentúre Slovenska (ZAS). Od októbra 1947 do januára 1948 bol pre "protištatnú činnosť" väznený a neskôr bol vylúčený zo Zväzu slovenských novinárov. V roku 1948 emigroval do Nemecka a od roku 1949 žije v Spojených štátoch.

Už v utečeneckom tábore v Ludwigsburgu začal svoju exilnú činnosť ako vydavateľ a redaktor Slobodného Slovenska (spolu s Františkom Vnukom). Bol spoluzakladateľom Slovenského sociálneho výboru, prostredníctvom ktorého získaval pomoc pre slovenských utečencov od slovenských organizácií v Amerike.

Do Spojených štátov prišiel v auguste 1949. Hneď po príchode sa stal členom viacerých slovenských organizácií. V roku 1970 sa bol zvolený do Výkonného výboru Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a v r. 1975 po smrti Dr. J. Pauču ho Výkonný výbor Slovenskej ligy vymenoval za generálneho tajomníka. Do tejto funkcie bol viackrát znovuzvolený. V roku 2002 ho Kongres SLvA zvolil za doživotného čestného tajomníka.

Pri zakladaní Svetového kongresu Slovákov bol predsedom prípravného výboru v New Yorku a v prvom predsedníctve SKS zastával funkciu predsedu Organizačnej komisie.

Uznanie si zaslúži aj za ochranu novín Slovákov v Amerike, ktorým v roku 1989 hrozil zánik. Ján Holý sa ujal jeho vydávania a redigovania a v tejto činnosti pokračoval až do konca roku 2008.

Prácu Jána Holého ocenili aj na Slovensku. Za jeho činnosť mu v r. 1975 minister kultúry SR udelil Poctu J. M. Hurbana. V r. 1996 dostal zlatú medailu Matice slovenskej a o rok neskôr, v r. 1997 mu vtedajší prezident SR Michal Kováč udelil štátne vyznamenanie - Rad Ľudovíta Štúra II. triedy. Vysoké ocenenie získal aj v Amerike, keď mu v r. 1998 na návrh komisie, ktorá pozostáva z predsedov americko-slovenských fraternalistických organizácií, udelili Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Ján Holý dlhé roky redigoval viaceré slovenské časopisy a niekoľko rokov bol aj redaktorom slovenskej časti týždníka Slovenský katolícky sokol. Je spoluautorom kníhy Slovenská Amerika - Slovak America, a tiež spoluredaktorom s nebohou s. Martinou Tyborovou obsiahlej knihy Slovaks in America (1977), ktorá je najväčším dosiaľ vydaným dielom o Slovákoch v Amerike. Jeho príspevky možno nájsť aj vo viacerých zborníkoch a v mnohých slovenských časopisoch vo svete i na Slovensku.

Jubilant je ženatý. Jeho manželka Nina Holá je tajomníčkou Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Vychovali dve dcéry - Luby Mason a Jane Konzelman. Obe sú aktívne v slovenskom živote. Majú tiež troch vnukov, jednu vnučku a jednu pravučku.

Ján Holý bol dlhoročným členom a tajomníkom 282. zboru Slovenského katolíckeho sokola v Passaicu, NJ a je čestný podpredseda 182. zboru v New Yorku.

Do ďalších rokov jeho plodného života mu prajeme ešte veľa síl a zdravia, aby mohol aj naďalej pokračovať v národnej práci.

### Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Na Slovensku minulý rok absolvovalo svoju dovolenku rekordne mnoho ľudí. Išlo o viac ako 4,6 milióna ľudí. Medziročne ide o nárast o viac ako 16 percent. Z celkového počtu dovolenkárov na Slovensku svoj oddych absolvovalo naviac ľudí zo Slovenska - približne tri milióny dovolenkárov. Zo zahraničia prišlo najviac hostí z Českej republiky, Španielska, Švajčiarska, Spojeného kráľovstva, USA, Číny alebo Izraela.

Z regiónov návštevníci zavítali najmä do Bratislavského a Žilinského kraja. Najdlhšie sa dovolenkári zdržali v Trenčianskom kraji - približne päť dní. Najviac rástol počet hostí v Košickom kraji, kde sa objem návštevníkov v porovnaní s predchádzajúcim rokom zvýšil o takmer 66 percent.

Tempo rastu nových objednávok v priemysle na Slovensku sa v závere roka zrýchlilo. Ako vyplýva z údajov Štatistického úradu SR, v decembri 2016 dosiahli nové objednávky v priemysle objem 3,749 mld. eur, čo je medziročný nárast o 8,6 %. V novembri nové objednávky rástli 7,5-percentným tempom.

Štyria Slováci z Trebišova boli obvinení s obchodovania s ľuďmi. Boli súčasťou medzinárodného organizovaného gangu, na jeho čele mal byť podľa polície Slováč. Na prípade obchodovania s ľuďmi pracoval spoločný slovensko-anglicko-škótsky vyšetrovací tím. Polícia doposiaľ preukázala, že členovia skupiny zľakali, prepravili a predali najmenej 12 žien z okresu Trebišov. V niektorých prípadoch malo ísť o matky maloletých detí, vydaté ženy a v jednom prípade o tehotnú ženu, ktorá porodila v Škótsku a mala byť donútená do rodného listu uviesť ako otca dieťaťa meno občana Pakistanu. Na území Škótska, Anglicka a Slovenska naďalej prebieha vyšetrovanie a odhaľujú sa ďalšie osoby, ktoré sa mali podieľať na páchaní tejto trestnej činnosti.

### Fašiangy končia pred škaredou stredou

Fašiangy (mjasopust) je obdobie od Troch kráľov až do polnoci pred škaredou - Popolcovou stredou. Potom nasleduje 40 dňový pôst (zavedený až koncom 4. storočia kresťanskou cirkvou) až do Veľkého piatku. Je to prechodné obdobie medzi zimou a jarou.

Oslavy fašiangov sa regionálne líšili, aj keď sa vyskytovali aj spoločné črty. Napríklad v regióne Liptov a v obci Čičmany sa varila praženica, na ktorú bola pozvaná celá dedina. Mláďenci najprv týždeň pred zábavou chodili po dedine a pozývali dievčatá, ale aj starších. Pri tejto obchádzke nezabudli zozbierať vajčka a slaninu. Praženicu väčšinou pripravovala richtárka, potom sa začínala zábava, na ktorej boli aj pražené šišky, karamel, závin, huspenina a ďalšie miestne špeciality. V Hontě bolo zvykom robiť pálenku. Chlapci chodili po dedine a vyberali zrno, taktiež spojené s obchádzkami za dievčatami a pýtaním slaniny, klobásy a niekde im dali aj údené mäso. Všetko sa odnieslo na priadky, kde dievčatá pripravili pohostenie. Fašiangy sa končili v utorok o polnoci.

Fašiangy v meste robili remeselnícke cechy. Teda skôr sa tam konali zábavy, ktorých hlavnými organizátormi boli tovariši. Väčšinou sa konali v dome majstra, pretože tu sa víťali noví tovariši, ktorým bolo poskytnuté krátkodobé ubytovanie. V tomto období sa zvykli stavať z učňov tovariši. Museli

však uspieť v rôznych skúškach. Napríklad v Kežmarku bolo typické kúpanie v studenej a potom teplej vode, nosenie na žrdi atď. Jednotlivé cechy konali sprievody a snažili sa o čo najväčšiu atraktivnosť. Mlynári behali na chodúloch, debnári krútili nad hlavami obručami a podobne. Remeselnícke fašiangové zvyky zanikli pred 1. svetovou vojnou.

#### Pochovanie basy

Za čias Veľkej Moravy sa na území Slovenska pre obdobie fašiangov používal názov mjasopust alebo masopust, ktorý avizoval blížiaci sa pôst. Dovtedy sa však mohlo na dedinách i v mestách piť, jesť a hodovať do sýta. Toto obdobie hojnosti reprezentoval boh plodnosti Turoň, ktorý ešte i dnes počas fašiangov vídat na niektorých dedinách.

V deň najväčšej fašiangovej zábavy, spravidla posledný deň pred škaredou - Popolcovou stredou, sa i dnes pochováva basa a prichádza 40-dňový pôst, ktorý trvá do Veľkého piatku. Je to prechodné obdobie medzi zimou a jarou.

Koniec fašiangov - pochovávanie basy vychádza z nastávajúceho pôstu, kedy boli zábavy pri muzike zakázané. Na znak toho sa predváža žartovné pochovávanie hudobného nástroja - basy, pri ktorom vystupovali postavy kňaza, kostolníka i smútiacich pozostalých. Na záver zábavy basu vynesú von zo sály, čím ju symbolicky pochovávajú.

