

Za Boha a Národ



For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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Slovak Catholic Sokol 71st International Bowling Tournament combined with Greek Catholic Union's 81st Bowling Tournament held in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Group 7 team made up of bowlers from Wilkes-Barre, Pa. takes Men's Team Title while bowlers from Barberton, Oh. capture Women's Team Title Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award goes to Christine M. Sofranko of Wreath 85 in McKees Rocks, Pa.



Christine M. Sofranko, who was the recipient of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award at this year's bowling tournament in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. is shown above flanked by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath.

eat for all because it overlapped the 1st and 2nd squads of bowlers who were able to partake in a shared fellowship. The annual sporting event began with the playing of the National Anthem. Supreme President Michael J. Horvath opened the tournament with some welcoming and encouraging comments wishing everyone a safe and "good luck" weekend. Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon also welcomed everyone to Chacko's Family Bowling Lanes in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania commenting "good luck" to all. James C. Matlon, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics from the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Basil Wahal, Communications Director from the Greek Catholic Union and Stephanie Yackovich, Membership and Community Relations Manager also from the Greek Catholic Union, coordinated the lanes, hotel reservations and banquet facilities for the weekend.

All of the bowlers received a souvenir wine topper from both fraternal societies. The Friday Team Bowling began at 7:30 p.m. with Supreme Presidents, Michael J. Horvath and George Juba rolling out the ceremonial first ball.

When the Team Bowling concluded on Friday evening, the Slovak Catholic Sokol Teams took first and third places.

Members from Group 7 Bowlers placed first with a score of 3,071 led by Charles Tokach who rolled an 808, with handicap. In second place was the GCU Team who finished with a 3,053 led by Matt Basl who rolled an 834, with handicap. Another Sokol team, Perry Sokols, finished in third place with 3,038. Craig Kordich led his team with a 902 score with handicap. A new division, the Scratch Team Division, made its debut as an event this year.

The Scratch Team winners are: in first place from Wilkes-Barre the Group 7 Bowlers with a scratch

score of 2,609 led by Joseph Hvozdo-
dovic, Jr. with a score of 761. In
second place from the GCU was
the Club Lanes Bowlers with a
scratch score of 2,565 led by James
A. Asmonga with a score of 702.
And in third place, also from the
GCU, was the Run Rats with a
scratch score of 2,552 led by John
W. Niskach with a score of 678.

The Women's Division, the

Barberton Bowlers from Barber-
ton, OH finished with a 2,551 led
by Karen Bakita who rolled a 721
with handicap. In second place
with a total score of 2,419 was the
Mixed-Up Team, SCS/SCU, led by
Christine M. Sofranko who fin-
ished with a 651 handicap. In third
place with a total of 2,404 the Team
Dad's Daughters, SCS/GCU, was

(Continued on page 3)



Members of the first place men's division team from Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. with a score of 3,071, led by Charles Tokach, second from the left, are shown above. Team members with him include, from the left, Robert Palchanis, Jr., Jeff Jacobs and Joseph Hvozdovic, Jr.



Members of the first place women's division team from Wreath 103 in Barberton, Oh. are shown above. Led by Karen Bakita, third from the left, finished with a score of 2,551. Members of the team with Karen, include l-r, Carol Macko, Rose Bakita and Nancy Cassisi who is a member of Assembly 79 in Lilly, Pa.

The 71st International Slovak Catholic Sokol and 81st Greek Catholic Union held a combined bowling tournament, the weekend of May 19th through the 21st at Chacko's Family Bowling Lanes in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The Holiday Inn and the Best Western both located in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania were the host hotels for the 2017 International Bowling Tournament. The lanes were located just a few miles from the Best Western Hotel contributing to the keglar event.

The two combined fraternal organizations had 25 Men's and 15 Women's Teams, with a total of 163 bowlers. On Friday evening from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m., the bowlers were treated to a hospitality dinner that included fried chicken, baked chicken, salad, coleslaw, sausage with peppers and onions, ziti, rolls/butter and cupcakes. This was a perfect time to

Story & Photos by
Julie M. Laury
Member of the Supreme
Physical Fitness Board

Promoting fraternal outreach

At Canton, Ohio Assembly 180 we are proud to Make a Difference

At birth, my parents and grandparents started me in the Sokol way of life by enrolling me in Assembly 180. Today, 63 years later,



I couldn't be prouder to be a Sokol. Yes, I am proud to be a Supreme Auditor of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and I try to represent the membership well at all functions I attend. Yes, I am proud to be a member of Group 5, "Jan Holly" of Cleveland where I served as Sports Director for several years. But I couldn't be prouder than to be President of Assembly 180 in Canton, Ohio for over 35 years.

We are a small but mighty Assembly and I challenge all Assemblies and Wreaths to exhibit your Sokol spirit in the same way as Assembly 180 does. Having lost four of our very active members over the last few years, we now have just 11 members who regularly attend our lodge meeting and participate in our various fraternal activities. They include individuals 80+ to 20 years of age. And while we wish we had many more of our younger

members with us at our meetings, we can always count on Doug Hudnick to represent our youth.

I write this the Thursday before Memorial Day, just returning home from a local cemetery where 11 of us placed flags on the graves of more than 700 war veterans as a sign that they have not been forgotten and their contributions to our American way of life. This activity was a Make a Difference Day effort of Assembly 180.

I share with you other activities which Assembly 180 involves itself in the best traditions of fraternal outreach and service:

- * Adopting numerous individuals and providing them wrapped Christmas presents.

- * Providing six large boxes of school supplies to a local women's shelter.

- * Providing 10 Turkeys to our local Catholic parish for their annual Thanksgiving dinner.

- * Providing for and cooking dinner at a local Ronald McDonald House.

- * Providing supplies to Hammer and Nails, a non-profit organization which repairs houses for the less fortunate, including building many wheelchair ramps.

- * Making blankets and providing them to a local children's hos-



Members of Assembly 180 hosted their 2017 Make a Difference Day project by placing flags on more than 700 graves in anticipation of the Memorial Day observance at a local cemetery in Canton, Oh.

pital or a local church.

- * Process cancelled stamps and send them to the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pa. who collect them.

- * Process greeting cards and send them to St. Jude's Research Hospital.

- * Donate five to six boxes of food regularly to our local food pantry.

- * Other outreach projects of our

Assembly in the past have included coupons for the military, supplying laundry supplies to the less fortunate, and providing food and other supplies for the Humane Society.

Providing service and outreach should be a priority of each of our organization's Assemblies and Wreaths. It's what being a fraternalist is all about. I appeal to all of our Sokol lodges to make an effort in and assist the lives of others. While

some of our lodges may not have a lot of active members, it doesn't take much to make a difference by organizing a project at each meeting. As a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol we are believers in service and outreach summed up in the high ideals of the fraternal benefit system.

Zdar Boh!

James F. Knis

Supreme Auditor and proud president of Assembly 180

Andrew Pulver Soloist at New York Slovak Folk Festival



Our very gifted and talented young Sokol of Assembly 182 in New York City was a featured soloist at this year's 4th annual Slovak Children's Folklore Festival held at St. John Nepomucene Social Hall in New York on Sunday, May 21. Hosted by the Slovak American Cultural Center, the festival featured youngsters celebrating the music, dance and folk traditions of Slovakia. Andrew, a tenor offered a number of beloved Slovak folk songs at the festival. A member of several area theater companies, he has sung at New York's famed Metropolitan Opera. The 15-year-old singer hails from the Ferencko family, a well-known New York area Slovak cultural and fraternal family. Congratulating Andrew on the photo are, from the left, his mom Tanya Ferencko Pulver, Father Richard D. Baker, pastor of the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and our Sokol chaplain of Group 1 and his grandmother, Ann Ferencko. More folk festival photos on page 11.

Miroslav Lajcak elected President of United Nations Assembly

On May 31, the United Nations General Assembly elected by acclamation Slovakia's Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak as president of its upcoming 72nd session and General Assembly. Following his election at United Nations headquarters in New York, Minister Lajcak outlined the priorities for his tenure: people, peace and prevention; migration; sustainable development goals; climate action; and human rights, which would guide his work as an over arching principle. In 2016, Minister Lajcak was a candidate for the position of Secretary General of the United Nations. The world body, founded in San Francisco in 1945, currently includes 192 member nations.

A native of Poprad, located in northeastern Slovakia, Minister Lajcak was born there March 20, 1963. He studied law at Comenius University in Bratislava and international relations at the former Moscow State Institute. He began his diplomatic career in 1988 in the then Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry. After the fall of Communism in 1989, he was assigned to Czechoslovakia's Embassy in Moscow. Following the peaceful division of Czechoslovakia and the independence of Slovakia in 1993, he served in its foreign ministry. He subsequently served as Slovakia's ambassador to Japan and later Yugoslavia. For several years he served as the United Nations top representative



Minister Lajcak flanked by Joe and Albina Senko.

during the conflict in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. On January 26, 2009, President Ivan Gasparovic named him Slovakia's 13th Minister of European and Foreign Affairs. During his years of very effective diplomatic efforts, Minister Lajcak won the respect and esteem of United Nations diplomats worldwide. He has visited the Unit-

ed States on numerous occasions and has taken a keen interest in the American Slovak community. He participated in the annual New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festivals held at the PNC Arts Center in Holmdel, N.J. in 2013 and 2014. He is married to the former Jarmila Lajcakova-Hargasova.

Following Minister Lajcak's

(Continued on page 8)



Slovak Catholic Sokol 71st International Bowling Tournament combined with Greek Catholic Union's 81st Bowling Tournament

(Continued from page 1)

Iskra, Sr. Tony rolled a 224-196-236 with a scratch score of 656 and Dave rolled a 206-258-211 with a scratch score of 675 for a total of 1,331.

In the Women's Division the dynamic duo of Karen Bakita and Carol Macko bowled a combined score of 1,351 ahead of second place team from Wilkes-Barre, PA. Amy Degnan-Blasco and Bernadette Jacob who bowled a score of 1,300 combined points. Karen rolled 198-202-192 with a 132 handicap while Carol bowled a 167-146-170 with a 144 handicap. Second place winners Amy Degnan-Blasco bowled a 158-123-148 with a 144 handicap while Bernadette bowled a 215-232-166 with a 114 pin handicap. In third place the duo from the GCU was Laura Anderson-Messer and Mary Anderson-Mac Gillis for a total score of 1,259. Laura rolled 209-137-157 with a 150 handicap while Mary rolled a 94-189-197 with a 126 pin handicap.

The Ladies' Doubles Scratch games were a close one. Only 33 pins separated the first and second places. In first place, with a combined scratch score of 1,075, the leaders were Karen Bakita and Carol Macko. Karen bowled a 198-202-192 with a scratch score of 592 and Carol rolled a 167-146-170 for a scratch score of 483. In second place, Amy bowled 158-123-148 with a scratch score of 429 and Bernadette rolled 215-232-166 with a scratch score of 613.

In the Men's Singles Division, Sokol members swept the competition. The Chacko's Family Bowling Lanes were no challenge for Matt Hoenninger from the GCU who scored 848. Matt bowled 254-204-258 with a 132 pin handicap. With a mere 23 pin difference, Tom Hoenninger, GCU, placed second with a score of 825. Tom rolled 257-236-257 with a 75 handicap. Third place honors goes to Dave Iskra, Sr., SCS, with a score of 813. Dave bowled 140-245-200 with a 228 pin handicap.

The Men's Single Scratch winners were: in first place was Tom

Hoenninger, GCU, rolled a 257-236-257 with a scratch score of 750 with a 75 handicap. In second place was Joseph Hvozdozovic, Jr., SCS, with a 247-236-239 with a scratch score of 722 with a handicap of 30.

In the Women's Singles Division, Karen Bakita, SCS, placed first with a score of 669. Karen's games consisted of 194-170-173 with a handicap of 132. Second place went Dorothy Bakalar from the GCU, who bowled a 658. Dorothy bowled 172 - 188- 163 with a 135 handicap. In third place, Laura Anderson-Messer, GCU, total score was 650. Laura bowled a 194-175-131 with a 150 pin handicap.

In the Women's Single Scratch Division, from the GCU, Melanie Basl took first place with a score of 576. She rolled 214-186-176 with a 75 pin handicap. From the SCS, Karen Bakita took second place with a scratch score of 537 only 39 pins behind her competitor. Karen rolled 194-170-131 with a 36 handicap.

In the Men's Division for All-Events, Terry Lindner from the GCU earned first place honors with a total of 2,479: Team- 685, Doubles - 685, Singles- 578, plus a handicap of 531. Matt Basl, also from the GCU, placed second with a score of 2414: Team- 585, Doubles- 565 and Singles- 517, plus a handicap of 747. Third place goes to Dave Iskra, Jr. with a final score of 2377: Team-570, Doubles -538, and Singles - 585, plus a handicap of 684.

In the Men's All-Events Scratch Division, in first place from the GCU is John Niskach with a total of 2,085: Team-678, Doubles-687 and Singles-720 with a handicap of 153. From the SCS, in second place is Joseph Hvozdozovic, Jr., SCS, with a total of 2,064: Team-761, Doubles- 581 and Singles-722 with a handicap of 90.

In the Women's Division for All-Events, Karen Bakita from Barberton, Ohio and a member of the SCS placed first with a score of 2,114: Team- 589, Doubles-592 and Singles-537, plus a handicap of 396. Sokol member, Carol Macko earned second place

award with a total score of 1,938: Team-520, Doubles-483 and Singles-503, plus a handicap of 432. In third place, Laura Anderson-Messer from the GCU scored a 1,926: Team-473, Doubles-503 and Singles-500, plus a handicap of 450.

In the Women's All-Events Scratch Division, in first place from the GCU was Melanie Basl with a total of 1,741: Team-524, Doubles-641 and Singles-576 with a handicap of 108. From the SCS, in second place was Karen Bakita with a total of 1,718: Team-589, Doubles- 592 and Singles-537 with a handicap of 396.

The final awards recognition is for the best Scratch Bowlers at the 71st SCS Bowling Tournament and the 81st GCU Bowling Tournament. There was a tie in the Men's Division for High Game with a score of 287; from Perryopolis, PA, SCS, Clarence Checton and Craig Kordish from the SCS were the winners. For the Women's Division for High Game, from the GCU, Jean Karafka from Strongsville, Ohio scored a 278. The High Series Men's Division: Joseph Hvozdozovic, Jr., SCS, from Wilkes-Barre PA rolled a 761 in Team. The Women's High Series Division winner from Munhall, PA, Melanie Basl from the GCU scored 641.

On Saturday, our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic celebrated Mass at 4:15 p.m., for the bowlers and guests at Genetti's Hotel.

After Mass, cocktails and appetizers were served to the bowlers prior to the banquet. The bowling banquet buffet included carved roast beef, Dijon pork tenderloin, chicken marsala, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, rolls/butter and dessert. Following dinner, James C. Matlon, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics announced the current unofficial leaders for each division including the top three leaders including handicap and scratch for Team, Doubles, Singles, and All Events for the Men's Division and Women's Division

The final event of the evening was the announcement of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award presented each year to a member of our organization who has been very active at the Assembly/Wreath, Group and National level promoting and participating in the International Bowling Tournaments. Christine M. Sofranko from Moon Township, PA and a member Wreath 85, McKees Rocks, PA was the recipient of the 2017 Frank S. Petruff Award. Christine, taken by surprise, was speechless and incredibly humbled to be awarded this honor. Previous winners who attended the 2017 Bowling Tournament included: Michael T. Matras, Anthony J. Glodava, Walt Kazmierczak, and Honorary Supreme Officer Andrew "Butch" Hvozdozovic.

From the desk of the Supreme Secretary

Freedom is not Free

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

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and allowing enough time to spend with family and friends. It is during this time where we can look around and truly be thankful for what we have in life and the freedom we possess. But this freedom that we have should not be taken for granted. One adage that was instilled in me at a young age is, "Freedom is not free." There are men and women, both past and present that have sacrificed for each and every one of us. It is these individuals who need to be remembered and respected.

As many of you know, June 14th is an important day for us at the Slovak Catholic Sokol. It is, of course, Flag Day, and we not only celebrate it annually on this day, but we try to celebrate it in our daily lives. Flag Day allows us the opportunity to show our respect for our Nation's Colors. It is more than just a piece of fabric; it represents freedom and our right to enjoy it. Honoring our flag and our nation is something we should do on a daily basis. When reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, we are not only honoring this enduring symbol of our nation, but also honoring the brave men and women who fight for our freedom. I urge all our members to take some time out of your day to honor our flag, because in doing so, you also honor our veterans.

In our last issue of the Falcon, we were fortunate to see the smiling faces of our 2017 Scholarship Recipients. On behalf of our Organization and our Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate all our winners. We hope that you continue to make us all proud and continue to be wonderful ambassadors of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

It seems that a great time was had by all at our 71st International Bowling Tournament held at Chacko's Lanes in Wilkes-Barre, PA on May 19-20. We were once again joined by our fraternal brother organization, Greek Catholic Union, and all feedback has been positive. Congratulations to all our winners and we look forward to seeing you next year! I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate, Christine M. Sofranko of Wreath 85 on receiving the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award. Christine is most deserving of this tribute as she has been a loyal attendee for many Bowling Tournaments. She also works tirelessly at both the local and national levels of the Organization. Congratulations again and all the very best to you Sister Sofranko!

On an exciting note, my beautiful wife Maggie and I are extremely proud to announce the birth of our first child. Reid Thomas Pogorelec was born 8lb 13oz on May 16, 2017. Mommy and Reid are both doing great and we are beyond excited with our new addition. Reid is looking forward to meeting everyone and being part of the Sokol Family!

With that being said, I would like to wish all our Sokol Dads a Happy Father's Day, as we celebrate on Sunday, June 18th. Happy Father's Day Dad! Until next time, may God bless you all!

Zdar Boh!



Popular Group 9 Sokol kglers who enjoyed this year's tournament included from the left, Brian Risko, Corey Shedlock and Gary Risko. They enjoy membership in Assembly 79 in Lilly, Pa.

The rest of the evening was spent socializing between fellow members of our society and members of the Greek Catholic Union. On Sunday morning the bowlers and guests headed home and looking forward to the 2018

Bowling Tournament in beautiful Las Vegas.
Zdar Boh!

Julie M. Laury
Member of the Supreme
Physical Fitness Board



Preparing to roll out the first balls of this year's bowling tournament are George N. Juba, president and CEO of the Greek Catholic Union and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath.



REFLECTOR ...

Jotings from Sokol and Slovak life

American Slovak Zemplin Club's picnic on July 16 in Cleveland

Cleveland's American Slovak Zemplin Club will host their traditional Slovak Day Picnic on Sunday, July 16 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Slovak Sokol Camp located at 2069 Royalwood Road, Broadview Hts. (between State and Broadview Road) in Broadview Heights, Oh.

Traditional Slovak culinary specialties along with American picnic favorites will be featured throughout the day. Home baked Slovak pastries and kolace will be available for sale. Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided by the ever-popular Johnny Pastirik Band. The popular imported Slovak beer, Zlaty Bazant will be available. A variety of games and activities for children and adults will be featured. An enjoyable afternoon celebrating our rich Slovak heritage is assured. Admission is free.

The club's president and our Sokol, George Camy extends a cordial invitation to area Sokols and Sokolky to come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and camaraderie supporting the American Slovak Zemplin Club which has been active in the Cleveland area since its founding in 1941. For additional information on this year's picnic call George Camy at tel. 440 885-5702.

125th anniversary of the Zenska Jednota set for Cleveland in July

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, or Zenska Jednota as it is commonly known from its Slovak title, with headquarters in Beachwood, Oh. will celebrate its 125th anniversary the weekend of July 29-30 in Cleveland. Festivities include a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on Saturday at 4 p.m. followed by a festive banquet that evening at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center. An open house will be featured on Sunday, July 30 at the organization's home office in Beachwood, Oh.

The organization was founded under the leadership of Anna Hurban, a 35-year-old immigrant mother from Gbely in western Slovakia. With the spiritual support of the Rev. Stephen Furdek, she called a meeting for January 1, 1892 at St. Ladislaus Church Hall in Cleveland, inviting eight other immigrant women to consider organizing a fraternal benefit society for Slovak women. At the time, there were no fraternals accepting both men and women as members. Therefore, Anna Hurban envisioned a great Slovak fraternal benefit society for women. The outcome of that January 1, 1892 meeting saw the establishment of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union. Its early lodges reflected the demographic interest of Slovak immigrant women in the new Slovak fraternal. Its first three lodges included Branch 1, Cleveland, Oh.; Branch 2, Yonkers, N.Y., and Branch 3, Minneapolis, Minn. Hundreds of local lodges followed in all parts of the northeast and midwest. In 1968, the name of the organization was changed from "Union" to "Association."

Over the past 125 years, the Zenska Jednota has enjoyed tremendous growth and expansion. Today it counts 115,000 members with assets approaching 1 billion dollars. It has enjoyed an enviable history of fraternal outreach and assistance to those in need in the best traditions of fraternalism. It has also championed the promotion of our rich Slovak heritage, especially giving strong support to the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak League of America

The Slovak Catholic Sokol has enjoyed a close collaboration with the Zenska Jednota over the years, sharing numerous projects of fraternal outreach promoting our Catholic faith and Slovak heritage. From 1960 until 1985, the official publication of the organization, Fraternally Yours, Zenska Jednota was printed in our former Slovak Catholic Sokol Printery in Passaic, N.J.

On the occasion of this fraternal milestone in the life of the Zenska Jednota, we extend warm fraternal wishes to the organization's esteemed national president, Attorney Cynthia M. Maleski, who also happens

to be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol; as well as the board of directors and the entire membership. May God continue to bless the work of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in the years ahead reflecting the high ideals and tenets of the fraternal benefit system in general and of Slovak fraternalism in particular.

44th Summer Festival set for July 8 in Danville, Pa.

The Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius will host their 44th annual Summer Festival on Saturday, July 8 on the spacious grounds of their Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, Pa. Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. The festival will feature a large Flea Market, a silent auction, home-made baked goods, handcrafted items, a book store and religious and Slovak articles. There will be a variety of ethnic foods such as Holupky, Halusky and Potato Pancakes as well as traditional American picnic favorites such as hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, ice cream and much more. There will be a variety of games for children and adults plus special attractions like a petting zoo, raffles and bingo.

The Summer Festival has been a blessed opportunity for the Sisters to keep in touch with former students, their parents, and family members; to reconnect with friends they've made over the years, and to make new friends. The day never seems long enough for visiting with friends old and new.

Bus parking is available. The festival will take place rain or shine, and will close with Mass celebrated at 5 p.m. to satisfy the Sunday obligation. Tours of the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius will also be available. The revered Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, containing the largest collection of Slovakiana in the U.S., is located here. For additional information on this year's festival, please call: Sister Barbara Sable at: 570 275-3581, Ext. 302. We hope that many of our members will avail themselves of the opportunity to celebrate an enjoyable summer afternoon.

The Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius were founded in 1909 in Scranton, Pa. by the Rev. Matthew Jankola, who served as the second supreme chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Generations of Sokol members were taught by the Sisters in parochial school located in the northeast and the midwest.

Annual Pierogi-Pirohy Fest set for July 28-30 in Whiting, Ind.

Continuing in a time-honored Midwest Slavic tradition, this year's annual Pierogi-Pirohy Fest is scheduled for the weekend of July 28-30 in downtown Whiting, Ind. This community, rich in Slavic traditions, is located just about a 20-minute drive from Chicago. The festival celebrates the pan-Slavic love of the culinary speciality, Pierogi in Polish, Pirohy in Slovak. The popular summer festival, which attracts more than 200,000 visitors each year, is presented by the Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce. This year's festival opens on Friday, July 28 at 11 a.m. and concludes at 10 p.m. Saturday's hours are also 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday's hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival is quite a unique experience, jam packed with street vendors selling food, drinks and fun novelty items such as t-shirts, along with imported arts and crafts from Poland and Slovakia. There is a Polka Dance Off contest judged by Mr. Pierogi and Ms. Paczki. Entertainment is provided daily and include presentations by a number of Polish and several colorfully attired Slovak folk ensembles from various parts of the midwest and Canada. The dancers perform from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday and from 12 noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday. For additional information visit www.pierogifest.net or call 800 659-0292.



The Word of God...

Gospel for the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ - June 18th

John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the Jewish crowds:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Jesus said to them,

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life,

and I will raise him on the last day.

For my flesh is true food,

and my blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me

and I have life because of the Father,

so also the one who feeds on me

will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven.

Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died,

whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel for the Twelfth Sunday of the Year - June 25th

Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus said to the Twelve:

"Fear no one.

Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known.

What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light;

what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul;

rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy

both soul and body in Gehenna.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?

Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge.

Even all the hairs of your head are counted.

So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Everyone who acknowledges me before others

I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.

But whoever denies me before others,

I will deny before my heavenly Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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E-MAIL	- Sokol205@aol.com
WEB SITE	- www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

Sokol Calendar

SAT. JUNE 17

■ 6th annual Simply Slavic Fest, celebrating the heritage, culture and cuisine, of the family of Slavic nations, in downtown Youngstown, Oh. from 12 noon to 6 p.m., for information call Loretta Ekoniak at 330 549-3760.

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.

JUNE 23-24

■ Quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

JUNE 23-25

■ 30th S.C.S. International Softball Tournament at Kirby Park Fields, with participants housed at the Best Western Genetti Hotel, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., for information, call James C. Matlon at 973 647-8551.

SUN. JUNE 25

■ Assembly 9 annual meeting in the Holy Name of Jesus School meeting room, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. beginning at 1 p.m.

■ Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands meeting in the social hall of Christ the Saviour Cathedral, Johnstown, Pa. beginning at 2 p.m.

■ Assembly 163 semi-annual meeting at Dorothy's Place in Donora, Pa. beginning at 1 p.m., light refreshments will be served during the meeting; for information call Financial Secretary Theresa Gardner at 724 263-7289.

■ Annual Slovak Day Picnic hosted by the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club at the Slovak Sokol Camp, 2069 Royalwood Rd., between State and Broadview Rd., Broad-

view Heights, Oh., 12 noon to 8 p.m., Slovak culinary specialties, imported Slovak beer, homemade pastries and music for dancing and listening pleasure, admission \$4.00 at the gate; for information contact Milan Kobulsky at 330 239-2256.

THURS. JUNE 29

■ Assembly 9 patronal feast day observance honoring SS. Peter and Paul beginning with 7:30 a.m. Mass at the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. followed by breakfast at the cost of \$5.00, for information call John Tkacik at 203 336-9703.

SAT. JULY 8

■ 44th annual Summer Festival hosted by the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius at their Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, Pa. beginning at 10:30 a.m. concluding with Mass at 5 p.m. to satisfy the Sunday obligation in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius; hand-reflected items, flea market, homemade baked goods, ethnic food, entertainment for children, for information call Sister Barbara Sable at tel. 570 275-3581, ext.302.

SUN. JULY 9

■ Annual Golf Tournament hosted by Assembly 59 at the Hollenback Golf Course, North Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. beginning at 9 a.m.; Captain and Crew are \$40 per person, refreshments follow at the North End Slovak Citizens Club; for information contact Butch Hvozdic at 570 825-3584 or Nancy Fedor 570 826-0752.

JULY 12-16

■ 48th International Slet at the State University of New York at Brockport, N.Y.

SUN. JULY 16

■ Slovak Day Picnic hosted by the American Slovak Zemplin Club of Cleveland at the Slovak Sokol Camp, 2069 Royalwood Rd., Broadview Heights, Oh., noon to 8 p.m. free admission.

■ 44th annual Gary, Indiana Slovak Day at the Salvatorian Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, 5755 Pennsylvania St. (Broadway), Merrillville, Ind. beginning with Mass at 10:30 a.m., luncheon to follow with cultural program beginning at 1 p.m.; for information call Betty Yurechko at tel. 219 795-1518 or visit www.facebook.com/SlovakDay-Celebration.

THURS. JULY 20

■ 94th annual American Slovak Day of Western Pennsylvania at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa. beginning at 12:30 p.m. with children's games and treats; Mass at 4 p.m., Slovak folk entertainment at 5 p.m.; for information contact Sue Ondrejco at sue.ondrejco@gmail.com or tel. 412 421-1204.

JULY 28-30

■ Annual Pierogi-Pirohy Fest, hosted by the Whiting Rboertsdale Chamber of Commerce in downtown Whiting, Ind. featuring Polish and Slovak folk ensembles, culinary specialties, games and exhibits, Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for additional information visit www.pierogifest.net or call toll free 800 659-0292.

SUN. JULY 30

■ 87th annual Milwaukee Slovak American Day at Croatian Park, 9140 South 76th St., Franklin, Wis. beginning with Mass at 12 noon; cultural program at 2:30 p.m. featuring our Group 4 Slovak Catholic Sokol drillers and the Tatra Slovak Dancers; traditional Slovak culinary favorites along with American picnic favorites; homemade bakery; for information call Betty Valent at 414 425-6137.

AUG. 12-13

■ Annual Holy Dormition Pilgrimage hosted by the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate at their monastery in Sloatsburg, N.Y.

SUN. AUG. 13

■ Annual Marian Slovak Day Pilgrimage hosted by New York-New Jersey area Slovak societies at the Salesian Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians, Filors Lane, West Haverstraw, N.Y., confessions at 10 a.m., concelebrated Slovak liturgy at 11 a.m. followed by a luncheon and Marian devotions beginning at 2:30 p.m.

(Continued on page 7)

Places to stay for parents and friends during the 48th Slet in the SUNY Brockport area

by Julie A. Laury

Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board

As you are making your plans for attending this year's 2017 Slet at Suny Brockport University in New York make sure that you book your rooms now. The rooms are ready for you to reserve for 4 days and 4 nights – July 12-15 at the beautiful Hampton Inn Brockport. It is so easy to reserve your room. Just call 1-585-391-6747 (Hampton Inn Brockport) and tell them you would like to reserve your room with the Slovak Catholic Sokols. There are only 30 rooms so book early. Here is some information on the **Hampton Inn Brockport:**

*Hotel rating: a wonderful 9.1

*Phone number: 1-585-391-6747

*Address: Hampton Inn Brockport, 4873 Lake Road, Brockport, NY, 14420, USA

*Rate: \$109 plus tax for Wednesday/Thursday nights AND \$125 plus tax for Friday/Saturday nights.

*Book rooms until April 11th. After April 11th the rooms will be released.

*Rooms come with a king bed or 2 double beds – first come first serve with the 2 double beds.

*FREE: breakfast, WiFi, toiletries, cable TV, cancellation-no repayment needed, parking

*The hotel has: an **indoor pool, fitness center**, 24 hour business center

*It is **only minutes away** from Suny Brockport University

Things to do around the Hampton Inn Brockport

*It is 22 minutes drive from Greater Rochester International Airport.

*It is approximately 13 miles from Hamlin Beach State Park on Lake Ontario.

*It is a 20 minute drive from the hotel to downtown Rochester (shopping and dining)

*It is 19 miles away from the National Museum of Play

*Minutes away from the Victorian Village on the Erie Canal

*Minutes away from the Brockport Community Museum – Museum without walls

*Visit the Sweden Town Park for a great place to have a picnic, play a pick up baseball or soccer

game, or just walk the walking trails. Included are skate park, playground, pavilion and rest-rooms.

There are also two other hotels within the same area. Rooms are not locked in so if you choose to use either of these hotels, please call early for room availabilities, pricing, and amenities. Here are the names and phone numbers of the other hotels that are in close proximity to the Suny Brockport University as well.

*Econo Lodge Brockport:

Hotel rating 6.3 Pleasant
6575 4th Section Rd., Brockport, NY 14420

*29 rooms held under Slovak Catholic Sokol until June 1. You must **call** to make reservations
* minutes away from Brockport University

* no pool, free breakfast and WiFi, non-smoking rooms
phone number: 585-637-3157

Pricing: 2 beds \$108.30 per night, \$379.96 per 4 nights, 1 bed \$97.00 per night, \$387.56 per 4 nights

*Dollinger's Inn & Suites:

Hotel rating 9.3 Wonderful
4908 Lake Rd. S, Brockport, NY 14420

phone number: 585-391-8147
Pricing: All rooms reserved have 2 double beds \$102 per night, \$480 per 4 nights

Wed/Thurs \$110 per night, Fri/Sat \$130 per night

*minutes away from Brockport University

*no pool, free breakfast and WiFi, non-smoking rooms, pet friendly, small fitness, refrigerator, microwave

* Only 20 rooms will be held under Slovak Catholic Sokols until June 12. You must **call** to make reservations.

This is a fantastic event that you won't want to miss. Everyone enjoys watching their child, as well as his/her teammates, compete for the International Slet Flag. There are so many memories that are made throughout the course of the week. Don't miss out. Book your rooms early and enjoy your vacation.

Thank you and Zdar Boh!

Za Boha a Národ  For God and Nation
Slovak Catholic Falcon
SLOVENSKÝ KATOLICKÝ SOKOL
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OUR NEXT ISSUE IS JUNE 28TH

In keeping with our bi-weekly publishing schedule, the next issue of the *Slovak Catholic Falcon* will be that of Wednesday, June 28th. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Thursday, June 22nd. View *e-Falcon* on our website: www.slovakcatholicssokol.org. Thanking you for your continued cooperation in this matter, I remain Zdar Boh!
- Daniel F. Tanzone, Editor

IMPORTANT 2017 INTERNATIONAL SLET INFORMATION

Slet information is now accessible on our website at
www.slovakcatholicssokol.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
password: sokoldrills

Monsignor John J. Bendik celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood in Pittston, Pa.

Our well-known Group 7 Sokol, Monsignor John J. Bendik, pastor of the Parish Community of St. John the Evangelist in Pittston, Pa.



celebrated his Golden Sacro-dotal Jubilee on Sunday, May 28. He was principal celebrant of a Golden Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving in St. John the Evangelist Church at 3 p.m. He has been our Sokol since birth having been enrolled in Assembly 71 in Edwardsville, Pa. His family has been active in our organization for generations, several serving as officers in Assembly 71.

A native of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., he was born there son of the late John and Helen Sterbinsky Bendik. He was raised in Larksville, Pa. and was a vocation from the former St. Anthony of Padua Slovak Parish there. He received his early education in Kingston public schools and graduated from the former West Central Catholic High School in 1959.

Discerning a priestly vocation, he pursued his preparatory studies at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind. In 2000, the St. Meinrad Alumni Association awarded him its Distinguished Alumnus Award in tribute to his continued commitment to his alma mater.

Monsignor Bendik was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Scranton on May 27, 1967 by the Most Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, sixth bishop of Scranton, at the Church of the Nativity in Scranton. He celebrated his first solemn Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Slovak Church in Larksville, Pa.

His first priestly assignment was

at the Parish Community of St. Matthew in East Stroudsburg, Pa. In addition to his parochial duties at the parish, he ministered to the students at East Stroudsburg College (now East Stroudsburg University) and also taught at Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg. In 1970. He was named the first full-time campus minister in the Scranton Diocese to serve the East Stroudsburg college students. He remained in this position until 1981 when he was assigned as student chaplain at College Misericordia (now Misericordia University) in Dallas, Pa.

Monsignor Bendik was named to his first pastorate at Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit in 1986. During his tenure there, a second worship site, the Church of St. Benedict was built in 1991 and subsequently became a separate parish.

Following sabbatical studies at St. Meinrad School of Theology in 1995, he was assigned as interim pastor of the Church of St. Mary of Czestochowa in Moosic, Pa. On July 8, 1996, he became pastor of the Parish Community of St. Casimir, St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph in Pittston. In 2005, he assumed the pastorate of nearby St. John the Baptist Slovak Parish.

Serving as pastor of the four diverse parish communities, Monsignor Bendik in 2008 successfully shepherded the combining of the congregations into one vibrant faith community - St. John the Evangelist Parish.

During his long tenure in Pittston, he spearheaded the establishment of several parish ministries that have become a paradigm for service to the community, especially the underprivileged.

In recognition of his very fruitful priestly ministry, Pope St. John Paul II named him a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor

in July 1990.

Over the years, Monsignor Bendik has served in various capacities within the Diocese of Scranton including that of a diocesan consultant, former member and president of the Council of Priests, Commission on Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Relations, and member of the board of the Office for the Continuing Education of Priests, and currently serves as president of the Presbyteral Council. He also served as the first chair of the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

In addition to his parochial duties, our jubilarian serves on the Board of Trustees of Misericordia University, the Board of Regents of the University of Scranton, the Board of Trustees of St. Meinrad School of Theology and the Greater Pittston Ministerium. He was a member and former president of the Abington Ecumenical Ministerium, Inc. and was a founding member of the National Association of Diocesan Directors of Campus Ministry.

In addition to our organization, Monsignor Bendik actively supports the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Monsignor Bendik on the occasion of his Golden Sacro-dotal Jubilee. He has been a shining example of the very best of priestly leadership among us. He beautifully mirrors the highest ideals of our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith. May God continue to bless him with good health and happiness in the years ahead. God Bless you, ad multos annos and Zdar Boh!

Do Honor Dad's Day

The Ancient Egyptians believed that disrespect to a father was one of the seven deadly sins.

The Bible says, "Honor thy father...."

Mrs. John Dodd of Spokane, Wash. said in 1910, "I believe young people are still fundamentally appreciative of the role their fathers play in their lives, and Father's Day gives them a real opportunity to express their feelings."

To that end, Mrs. Dodd persuaded the ministers of Spokane to preach a Father's Day message in June, which they did on the third Sunday. Orator William Jennings Bryan, the YMCA, presidents Coolidge and Wilson, and others heartily endorsed setting aside a day to honor fathers.

In 1972, Congressional resolution and residential proclamation declared Father's Day a national holiday.

Today, according to research done by the Father's Day Council, 95% of Americans observe it. In addition, dads actually do better in the receiving department than they do at Christmas. They average 2 1/2 gifts. Over 120 million greeting cards go to fathers each year while short and long-distance telephone calls are up.

Father's Day has caught on

Monsignor Larry J. Kulick Celebrates Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination



Our Silver Jubilarian, Monsignor Larry J. Kulick, Jr. is shown with his parents, Larry J. Sr. and Myrna Dolores Coleman Kulick at a reception in Crabtree, Pa. after a Mass on May 21 at St. James Parish in New Alexandria, Pa.

NEW ALEXANDRIA, Pa. — Msgr. Larry J. Kulick Jr., who is active in Slovak cultural and fraternal organizations in the Diocese of Greensburg and nationally, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his priestly ordination with a Mass May 21 at St. James Parish, New Alexandria, Pa., where he serves as pastor.

Msgr. Kulick, vicar general of the Diocese of Greensburg, was the celebrant and homilist for the Mass, which was attended by three bishops: Greensburg Bishop Edward C. Malesic, Bishop Emeritus Lawrence E. Brandt of Greensburg and Erie Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, former pastor of St. James Parish and former vicar general of the Diocese of Greensburg.

The Mass was followed by a reception.

Msgr. Kulick was born in Leechburg in 1966 to Larry J. Sr. and Myrna Dolores Coleman Kulick. The family was parishioners of the former St. Martha Parish, a Slovak parish that was later suppressed with two other parishes when Christ the King Parish was formed in Leechburg.

Msgr. Kulick graduated from St. Joseph High School, Natrona Heights, in 1984. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, in 1988. He attended Saint Vincent Seminary and received a master's degree in systemic theology in 1991 and a master of divinity degree in 1992. Msgr. Kulick earned a licentiate in canon law in 2012 from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Msgr. Kulick was ordained a priest May 16, 1992, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, by Bishop Anthony G. Bosco.

Msgr. Kulick's pastoral appointments have been: parochial vicar, Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg (1992-95) and Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin (1995-97); pastor, Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, Kent (1997-2002), St. Joseph Parish, New Kensington (2002-08); and St. James Parish, New Alexandria (2012-present).

His diocesan appointments have been: Priests' Council; consultant on priestly vocations (1999-2004); Board of Consultants; co-director of vocations (2004-08); director of clergy vocations and episcopal master of ceremonies (2008-10); co-director, Office for Clergy Vocations (2010-12); co-director of the permanent diaconate (2012); co-episcopal master of ceremonies (2010-12); acting chancellor (2012-13); and vicar general and moderator of the curia (2012-present).

He received the title of monsignor by virtue of his office as vicar general on May 21, 2014.

Msgr. Kulick is chaplain of the George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies' Association and the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

His family ancestry is rooted in the villages of Nova Bystrica and Stara Bystrica in northwest Slovakia.

Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Monsignor Kulick who beautifully mirrors the very best traditions of our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith. Ad multos, gloriosque annos and Zdar Boh! (Our thanks to Jerry Zufelt, managing director of the Office for Communications of the Diocese of Greensburg for sharing this story with our readers.)

overseas, too, with over sixty other countries celebrating the holiday.

So remember your Dad this June 18. If you can, do his chores and run his errands for once. And let him decide what he wants to do with his day - even if it's just relaxing.

HAPPY
FATHERS
DAY

Lithograph of Patrons



During a recent visit to Villa Sacred Heart, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pa., Conventual Franciscan Father Adam Keltos donated a beautiful lithograph of Saints Cyril and Methodius by Czech artist Jano Kohler. The lithograph of the community's patrons and the Apostles of the Slavs, was given in honor of his mother, Anna S. Keltos; his sister, Sister Louis Keltos, SS.C.M.; and his cousin, Sister Isidore Tomascak, SS.C.M. The Keltos family has its roots in Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish in Binghamton, N.Y. Shown in the photo: Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M., General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius; and the Rev. Adam Keltos, O.F.M., Conv.

87th Annual Milwaukee Slovak Day set for July 30 at the Croatian Park

The Milwaukee area will host its traditional American Slovak Day observance on Sunday, July 30 at Croatian Park, 9140 South 76th Street in Franklin, Wis. Hosted by the Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee, this year's event marks its 87th anniversary, ranking then as one of the oldest Slovak Day observances in the country.

Continuing its long-standing tradition, Slovak Day begins with an outdoor Mass celebrated at 12 noon in the scenic and spacious park. Celebrant of the liturgy will be the Rev. John J. Jamnicky, pastor of St. Raphael the Archangel Parish in Old Mill Creek, Ill. This parish which borders Wisconsin is the most northerly parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Father Jamnicky is a popular and well-known priest in the area's Slovak community.

The cultural program begins at 2:30 p.m. and features an array of entertainment for every member of the family. The program will feature our Group 4 Sokol drillers from Milwaukee's Wreath 93 and the Tatra Slovak Dancers who

will present the music, song and dance traditions of the various regions of Slovakia. Live music for dancing and listening pleasure will be enjoyed until 6 p.m. Children's games and activities will be available throughout the afternoon.

Traditional Slovak culinary specialties along with popular American picnic favorites will be available throughout the day. Homemade Slovak pastries as well as imported beer from Slovakia will be featured. Imported handmade ornaments, jewelry and crafts from Slovakia and the Czech Republic will be available for sale. There is free admission and plenty of parking available. Complimentary golf cart transportation is available at the park for the "Young at Heart." For additional information on this year's American Slovak Day Picnic, call our Wreath 93 Sokolka, Betty Valent at tel. 414 425-6137. We hope that many Group 4 members will celebrate our rich heritage at this year's American Slovak Day. An enjoyable afternoon is assured.

Slovak U.S.A.

As a project for the Slovak Catholic Federation, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School in Cleveland is trying to assemble an on-line guide of *Places of Slovak Interest* around the United States. Please send him information about anything connected to Slovak history or culture in your city or state (excluding Cleveland, OH) at gerard@cbhs.edu

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

Sokol Calendar

(Continued from page 5)

■ 12th annual Mahoning Valley Sokol Fest hosted by Our Lady of Sorrows Parish on the grounds of St. Matthias Church grounds, 2800 Shady Run Rd., Youngstown, Oh., 12 noon to 8 p.m.; for information contact Loretta Ekoniak at tel. 330 549-3760 or loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com.

AUG.25-27

■ 27th annual Slovak Festival hosted by SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish, 41233 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights, Mich. 48314, Friday: 6-11 p.m., Saturday: 12 noon - 11 p.m., Sunday: 12 noon - 9 p.m. for additional information call 586 726-6911 or www.adoremylord.com.

SUN.AUG.27

■ Summer Festival hosted by SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish on the parish grounds, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J., 1-7 p.m.

SEPT.7-9

■ 131st annual meeting of the American Fraternal Alliance at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass, Phoenix, Ariz.

SAT. SEPT.9

■ 42nd annual Sokol Golf Open benefit hosted by Assembly 28 at Blissful Meadows Golf Course, East Douglas, Mass.

SEPT.15-17

■ Group Presidents meeting in Cleveland, Oh.

SEPT.17-19

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

Assembly 59 Golf Tournament set for July 9 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Continuing in a fine fraternal sporting tradition spanning many years now, Assembly 59 of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. will again host its annual Golf Tournament on Sunday, July 9. This year's competition will be staged at the scenic Hollenback Golf Course, located at North Washington Street in Wilkes-Barre beginning at 9 a.m. Assembly 59 Sokols and Sokolky are cordially invited to join us for an enjoyable golf outing.

Captain and Crew are \$40 per person. Refreshments will follow the action on the greens at the North End Slovak Citizens Club located on North Main Street in Wilkes-Barre. Deadline for entry

is Sunday, July 2. For reservations and additional information contact our Honorary Supreme Officer Andrew J. "Butch" Hvozdic at tel. 570 825-3584 or Nancy Fedor at 570 826-0752. Come join us for an enjoyable fraternal afternoon of Sokol fellowship and good sportsmanship.

Zdar Boh!
Renee Pizzella
Assembly 59 Secretary



Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Villa Sacred Heart
Danville PA 17821

2017 Summer Festival

fun food games
flea market
baked goods

Saturday July 8th

10:30 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday Mass for Sunday

Local SOKOL Golf Tournament

SLOVAK CATHOLIC

Assembly 261

Wreath 155

SOKOL
Reading, PA

◆ Saturday, July 15th, 2017

◆ 1 p.m. Shotgun Start

◆ The Manor Golf Club

• Food • Drinks • Prizes • Cash Prizes •
All Included!
Scramble Format with "3" Flights!

• \$ 70.00 per golfer •
Sign your foursome up now!
All entries must be received by July 1st
Hole Sponsors (\$40 per hole) and volunteers needed!

Questions or Payment:

- Call the Club at (610) 375-4500 •
- Registration and Payments can also be mailed or submitted to your bartender at the Sokol Club •

Foursome SignUp Sheet (threesomes and pairs also welcome)

Name	Email or Phone
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Please mail completed foursome sign up sheet, along with payment (\$70/golfer) to:

The Reading Sokol
Attn: Paul Keturakis
411 Crestmont Street
Reading, PA 19611

Make Checks Payable to:
Slovak Catholic Sokol

Lucky Lindy Welcomed Home

Exactly 90 years ago, Charles A. Lindbergh got a hero's welcome in Washington on June 11, 1927 following his triumphant transatlantic flight three weeks before. The young aviator was greeted in the nation's capital by President Calvin Coolidge who presented him with the first Distinguished Flying Cross.



Down to the sea with nips

Old seafaring men used to say: "If a ship doesn't have a taste of wine, she'll have her taste of blood." Thus, the custom of christening a new vessel by breaking a bottle of champagne on her bow.

Had bath, no phones

Since the bathtub was invented in 1850 and the telephone in 1875, do you realize that if you were alive in 1850 you could have taken a bath for 25 years without that telephone bothering you?

AMERICAN SLOVAK ZEMPLIN CLUB
SPONSOR

SLOVAK PICNIC

SUNDAY JULY. 16. 2017.
Noon until 8 PM

SLOVAK SOKOL CAMP
2069 ROYALWOOD ROAD
(BETWEEN STATE AND BROADVIEW RD.)
BROADVIEW HTS.

SLOVAK FOOD, PASTRIES, PIVO/ BEER, MUSIC & DANCING

INFORMATION: 440/885-5702 440/888-7028 440/238-4177
216/759-8684 330/239-2256 440/237-9012

Music by Johnny Pastirik Band

Free Admission, ***** Admission is free

Our 2017 Fraternalist of the Year Program Celebrates Volunteerism and Outreach

Life insurance protection can be purchased from either a commercial insurance company or a fraternal benefit society. Both provide financial security for individuals and their families. Rates may vary and plans may differ. However, the two institutions are worlds apart in reality. Founded after the American Civil War, fraternalists offer an important extra not found in commercial suppliers - a vision and history of service and outreach to the community. It's what being a member of a fraternal is all about. In communities all across the country in organizations, in churches and educational institutions, the presence of fraternalists makes the world of difference. Fraternalists are movers and shakers in their communities, they champion the cause of those in need and provide solutions to many of the challenges of contemporary society. They are committed to ideals and pleased to serve others with a spirit of giving and sharing. Such individuals often do so quietly without much acclaim.

We are blessed that many such individuals are members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Each year we take the opportunity to single out a member of our organization and honor that individual as our Fraternalist of the Year. We have been doing so since 1985. There are numerous Sokols and Sokolkys who are worthy of such recognition. Well, now is the time to look among our ranks and find an individual to be honored as our 2017 Fraternalist of the Year.

Fraternalism is unique and has played an important role in American life. The first fraternalists were organized just prior to the Civil War. With the arrival of various immigrant groups in the latter decades of the nineteenth century, new organizations reflected this diversity in American society. Slovak fraternalists were among them. Our own organization was founded in 1905. All of these fraternalists had the important component of charitable outreach as their mainstay. For the past

112 years, members of our organization have mirrored such a philosophy.

Each year at this time, we ask the membership to take the time to nominate an individual member who in their estimation serves as a role model and mentor for others and is worthy of recognition. There are many such individuals out there and they should be recognized. So at your next lodge or Group meeting, discussion of the Fraternalist of the Year project should be on the meeting agenda and an individual should be nominated.

This year's honoree will be presented with an appropriate plaque along with a gift of \$200.00 as a small token of our gratitude for his or her efforts in promoting volunteerism and outreach. In addition, the presentation of the Fraternalist of the Year plaque will be presented at a dinner hosted by our organization for the honoree's family and friends. In addition, our honoree will then be submitted to the American Fraternal Alliance for consideration in its 2017 Fraternalist of the Year program.

Our organization contains 19 Groups. This year's effort is to have at least one nominee for Fraternalist of the Year from each Group. There certainly are individuals in each of them deserving of fraternal recognition.

Last year's nominee was Mary Ann Naple of Group 14, Pittsburgh, Pa., a well-known and respected life-long Sokol activist. Any individual member, local Assembly, Wreath or Group may nominate an individual for consideration. A special nomination form is available from the home office. Contact Editor Daniel F. Tanzone, who coordinates the program at the home office at tel. 800 886-7656. A recent photo of the nominee should also be included along with the completed nomination form. Deadline for receipt of the completed nomination form is Friday, July 7, 2017.



Caring and Sharing Project of Our 48th International Slet

In just a few months, we will gather together to enjoy our organization's 48th International Slet at SUNY Brockport, N.Y. In the best traditions of fraternal outreach, the Supreme Physical Fitness Board decided to participate in a philanthropic project or a 'good deed.' We would like the youngsters who will compete at the Slet to participate. Sometimes it is difficult to get them involved by bringing canned goods for a local food pantry. Because canned goods can be difficult to pack, we have decided to pursue a different route. This year, we have decided to participate in an organization known as the Crayon Initiative. This organization that takes used, unused, broken and old crayons and melts them down to become new crayons. They are then donated to children's hospitals.

We encourage all our Slet participants to bring along all the crayons they have laying around the house. This is an opportunity to put those old crayons to new use. Complete details of this project may be found on this page. We thank our Slet participants in advance as we promote fraternal outreach.

Zdar Boh!
Katie Swift
 Supreme Assistant
 Physical Directress

RECYCLING UNWANTED CRAYONS INTO UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

DO YOU HAVE USED, BROKEN CRAYONS THAT ARE HEADED FOR THE TRASH? WE CAN DO SOMETHING GREAT WITH THEM!

Color us excited about our partnership with The Crayon Initiative. The Crayon Initiative is a unique charitable organization that takes unwanted or used crayons and remanufactures them to donate to children's hospitals. Drop off your crayons and donations at Camp Argo to support this great cause.

How does it work?

Collect used or unwanted crayons from restaurants, schools, and homes.

Send collected crayons to The Crayon Initiative for processing.

Donate remanufactured crayons to children's hospitals.

Give us your crayons and give back!

Learn more at www.thecrayoninitiative.org or email us at campargorachel@gmail.com

Proudly Supported by

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



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 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:

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 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)

Miroslav Lajcak elected President of United Nations Assembly

(Continued from page 2)

election, Slovakia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Frantisek Ruzicka hosted a reception in his honor at the Slovak Mission to the UN in Manhattan. Minister Lajcak is shown on page 2 on the photo at the reception with well-known American Slovak cultural, fraternal and civic activists, Joseph T. Senko and his wife, Albina of Pittsburgh. Brother Senko,

who is our Sokol of Assembly 16 in Pittsburgh, serves as the Honorary Slovak Consul for the State of Pennsylvania.

Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Minister Miroslav Lajcak on his election to serve as president of the 72nd annual session of the 192-member United Nations which begins with the General Assembly in September. He brings his Slovak God-given talents in service to all mankind. Zdar Boh!



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

ANNOUNCING THE KIDS' CORNER SUMMER READING PROGRAM!!!!



If you love to read.....this is just the program for you. From June 13th-August 26th keep track of the name and author of each book that you read, and have your parents verify each with a signature. If you are not reading on your own yet, it is perfectly OK to have a parent, grandparent, babysitter....etc. read to you. Try to read books that not only interest you, but challenge you as well. I will need the completed reading lists returned to me no later than **September 15th**. Include your name, address, Group number and age so that I can recognize you in the paper.

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

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

Non-Readers

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

Early Readers (sounding out most words)

- Level 1 8 books
- Level 2 16 books
- Level 3 24 or more books

Intermediate Readers

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

Advanced Readers (100+ pages each)

- Level 1 4 books
- Level 2 8 books
- Level 3 12 or more books

Please send your completed reading lists to:

FATHER'S DAY GIFT IDEA

POPSICLE STICK PENCIL HOLDER

Make this in the person's favorite colors.

Materials: Approximately 22 Popsicle sticks, container, paint (Optional)

Take the paper label off the container.

Line up a Popsicle stick, straight up and down, so that the bottom of the stick is just touching the bottom of the container and the top of the stick goes just over the top of the container.

Glue in place. Glue another Popsicle stick next to the first one-- then repeat until you have glued on Popsicle sticks all the way around.

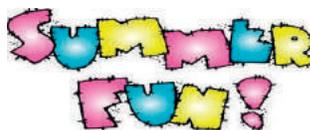
Leave natural or paint the Popsicle sticks; use any color except green if you'll be painting on green leaves.

Let paint dry.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

- Alexander Roman 6/5
- Timothy Romagnoli 6/7
- John Yanosick 6/17
- Abram Wadle 6/18
- Daniel Fesko 6/20
- Skylar Manyak 6/25
- Noah Romine 6/27
- Audrey Peretin 6/28
- Aiden Raechel 6/28



Slovak Words=Slovenské slová

By Dr. Michael Kopanic

flag - vlajka [vly -kah]

banner - zástava [zaah-sta-va]

Flag Day - Deň vlajky [Den vly - kee] (soft "n")

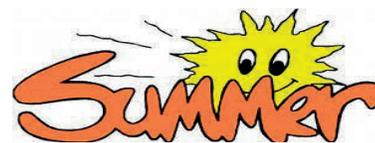
patriotic - vlastenecký [vlas-teh-net-skee]

Fathers' Day - Deň otcov [Den ot - tsow] (soft "n")

Happy Fathers' Day = Šťastný deň otcov [Shtyawst-nee Den ot - tsow]

KOOL-AID PAINTING

Sprinkle unsweetened Kool-Aid on a piece a paper. Have the children move a piece of ice over the Kool-Aid. Watch as the Kool-Aid turns to liquid and makes a yummy smelling picture.



What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...



US ambassador presents awards for human rights and transparency

Upholding human rights is one of the United States Government's top priorities worldwide, U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Adam Sterling said at the 6th annual human rights awards reception on May 23.

The ambassador at the ceremony presented three annual human rights awards: the Human Rights Defender award, the Transparency Award, and the Women of Courage Award.

A civic initiative called Forgotten Slovakia, which aims to pursue activities against fascism, various forms of extremism and violence, received the Human Rights Defender Award. Apart from the initiative's efforts to raise public awareness about the dangers posed by extremism, the US Embassy also recognized its work as an opportunity for local residents to share their views.

"Our efforts are aimed at expressing ourselves against all forms of hatred, intolerance, xenophobia and extremism. We want to support all human rights activists across Slovakia," said initiative founder Michal Karako. He added that the association organizes concerts and public debates focused on extremism in regions that are "forgotten by politicians," i.e. regions with high unemployment and support for extremist parties.

A Zilina-based NGO called Against Corruption received the Transparency Award in recognition of its persistence in promoting transparency and the rule of law. According to the US Embassy, the organization has provided constructive oversight of regional institutions to limit the space for unlawful conduct and wasteful spending. The most interesting activities of the association include an anti-corruption festival organized since 2014 and public debates and school talks on corruption.

The non-profit organization Fenestra received the Embassy's Women of Courage Award, in recognition of their 20 years of efforts to prevent gender-based violence in Slovakia. Founded in 1998, Fenestra was Slovakia's first NGO dedicated to assisting domestic violence victims.

"We look forward to continuing the Embassy's cooperation with civil society and Slovakia's government in efforts to promote minority rights, support rule of law reforms and government transparency, and increase transparency. Such joint coordination between governments and civil society remains key to achieving meaningful progress in human rights," stated Ambassador Sterling at the ceremony.

Lajcak: conflicts in neighborhood, events like GLOBSEC needed

The 12th annual GLOBSEC International security conference was opened in Bratislava on May 26 by Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak, who in his address noted that the event is taking place in challenging times with many armed conflicts.

"(Conflicts) aren't only taking place in distant countries, but also in our immediate neighborhood. This is why we need such an event as GLOBSEC," said Lajcak.

"Where diplomacy fails, figures from the defense industry must take the stage," said Lajcak, adding that many positive ideas could emerge at GLOBSEC.

The main topic of the conference, which ran until May 28 was 'Adapting to the Future.' GLOBSEC president Robert Vass said earlier that the forum doesn't only focus on security issues any more; its attention is being shifted in a more strategic direction. This year's conference was divided into four main areas - the fourth industrial revolution, global changes and trends, the future of the West and western institutions and globalization versus protectionism.

"GLOBSEC is like an American dream lived out in Slovakia. As a student you invent something, you began organizing it with friends, you pursue your dream, building it gradually, gaining partners, sponsors and supporters, and you eventually

get among the international political elite," said Vass.

More than 1,300 participants from 70 countries participated in the annual conference which is regarded as one of the three most important conferences of its kind in Europe.

Stats Office: Slovak population ageing; average age 40.4 in 2016

The number of marriages went up, while the divorce rate fell in 2016, plus the Slovak population is getting old, according to a report on demographic developments in Slovakia in 2016 that was released by the Statistics Office on May 25.

The average age of the population stood above 40, two years in a row, reaching 40.4 last year. Moreover, half of Slovakia's population is over 39.8.

"The age structure's development isn't positive and it clearly shows the ageing," said Statistics Office Chairman Alexander Ballek at a press conference in Bratislava earlier in the day. He added that it has been partly caused by an increase in life expectancy in the population.

According to Ballek, population ageing is among the biggest demographic challenges in society at the moment.

Furthermore, the Statistics Office reported that there were 5,435,343 Slovak citizens at the end of 2016, with 57,557 children born in the same year. The number of children born last year was 1,955 higher than in 2015. As many as 52,351 people died, representing a decrease of 1,475 people when compared to 2015.

Meanwhile, the number of marriages increased, while the divorce rate went down. "The year 2016 was exceptional in the fact that between the monitored period (2007-16), the highest number of couples got married and the least couples got divorced. Compared with 2015, the number of marriages increased by 1,122 and the number of divorces fell by 500," said Ballek.

A natural change in population stood at 5,206, posting an increase by 3,430 people compared to 2015. Slovakia acquired 3,885 people via the immigration process last year, an increase of 785 more people than the year before. The Slovak population thus grew by 9,091 people in 2016, an increase of 4,188 more people than in 2015, stated Ballek.

Member of Fifth Regiment awarded medal of Valour by US Ambassador

A member of the Special Tasks Fifth Regiment was decorated with a medal for valour by US Ambassador to Slovakia Adam Sterling in the village of Polomka (Banska Bystrica region) on June 1. TASR learned on the same day.

On the night of August 7-8, 2015, the soldier's prompt response to a determined attack on Camp Integrity in Afghanistan directly contributed to preserving the security and safety of hundreds of soldiers from a number of countries stationed there.

This extraordinary act of courage was recognized by the US ambassador at the official ceremony in Polomka, where, along with British Ambassador to Slovakia Andrew Garth, he unveiled a commemorative plaque with the names of members of American and British special forces who were deployed to occupied Slovakia during the Slovak National Uprising of 1944.

According to the US ambassador, the timing of the medal presentation on June 1 only serves to accentuate the alliance between the United States and Slovakia, which goes back a considerable period of time.

Ambassador Sterling pointed out that the purpose of the

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

Resolute Support operation is to train the Afghan armed forces to serve their own country and protect it.

The decorated soldier described what happened on the night when he earned the medal. "It was a peaceful Friday evening, when a huge explosion shook the camp. A suicide bomber blew himself up by the gate, throwing a vehicle into the air. Some five or six insurgents breached the perimeter of the Special Operations Command camp, intent on wreaking as much havoc as possible. We were outside, so we grabbed weapons, vests and helmets and instantly rushed to deal with the situation. We were only a few yards away. At that moment we didn't know how many enemies there were and what kind of force was around us. Shooting erupted inside the camp. It took the entire night, from 10 p.m. until six the next morning, for us to clear the whole camp and sound the all-clear," said the soldier, who was on his third tour of duty in Afghanistan and was the only Slovak present at the time of the attack.

(Continued on page 13)



Markusovce is a picturesque village and municipality with a population of almost 4,000 located in the heart of the Spisska Nova Ves District in the Kosice Region of central-eastern Slovakia. Markusovce was founded in the 12th century before the Tatar invasions of the region. First mention of the village dates from 1289. The village was owned by the Mariassy family beginning in the 13th century. Its castle dates from 1284 but was not used after a fire in 1773. Many members of the Mariassy family are buried in the village's Church of St. Michael. The impressive manor house of Markusovce was built in 1643 and is now a museum, together with the rococo belvedere or garden house 'Dardanely' dating from 1778 which is located on its grounds; this contains a collection of musical instruments and is frequently used for concerts.

**Scenes the 4th Annual Children's Slovak Folklore Festival
Hosted by the Slovak American Cultural Center
at St. John Nepomucene Parish Hall in New York City on Sunday, May 21**



Photos courtesy of Sabina Sabados

Sokol Birthdays

JUNE 22

Christopher J. Egan, Esq., Burlington, Mass., a member of Wreath 15, Perryopolis, Pa.

Erika K. Charbeneau, Imlay City, Mich., a member of Assembly 36, Detroit, Mich.

Christine Virginia Johnson, Oldsmar, Fla., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Dorothy Lapasnick, Dallas, Pa., president of Wreath 147, Larksville, Pa.

JUNE 23

John G. Bacha, Minneapolis, Minn., a member of Assembly 34, Minneapolis, Minn.

Audrey Filipek, Whiting, Ind., a member of Wreath 81, Whiting, Ind.

JUNE 24

Caroline E. Fossum, Pembroke, NH, a member of Assembly 24, Boonton, N.J.

Margaret Gargas, Dyer, Ind., a member of Wreath 81, Whiting, Ind.

Diane M. Kozlowski, Philadelphia, Pa., a member of Wreath 13, Philadelphia, Pa.

Scott Andrew Macurak, Roswell, Ga., a member of Assembly 16, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Michael J. Sipos, Estero, Fla., a member of Assembly 1, Passaic, N.J.

JUNE 25

Mary Ferenci, Yonkers, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Andrew B. Hovanec, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Assembly 16, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Ann Mahdavi, Tuckahoe, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

JUNE 26

Nicole Simulcik, Amherst, Oh., a member of Wreath 111, Lorain, Oh.

JUNE 27

Dr. Ronald P. Hennis, Palatine, Ill., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

Rita M. Ryan Popot, Boston, Mass., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Judy Strisko, Whiting, Ind.,

recording secretary of Wreath 81, Whiting, Ind.

JUNE 28

Stephanie Nicole Kolodziej, Lansing, Ill., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

Bryan M. Kuderna, Wana-massa, N.J., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Elizabeth Nemergut, Stratford, Conn., a member of Wreath 1, Bridgeport, Conn.

John D. Pogorelec, Esq., our Honorary Supreme Officer, and honorary president of Group 1 and Honorary President of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Christie Lynn Polchowski, Newtown, Conn., a member of Wreath 1, Bridgeport, Conn.

Melissa Shipley, Struthers, Oh., a member of Assembly 108, Youngstown, Oh.

JUNE 29

Anne Marie Trethaway, Toms River, N.J., Honorary Supreme Officer, and a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Barbara Pagani, Fallston, Pa., a member of Assembly 176, New Brighton, Pa.

James F. Sinanis, Trumbull, Conn., a member of Assembly 9, Bridgeport, Conn.

Rachel Allison Sobek, Clinton Township, Mich., a member of Assembly 36, Detroit, Mich.

Thomas K. Ward, Lockport, Ill., Honorary Slovak Consul in Chicago, a member of Assembly 257, Chicago, Ill.

JUNE 30

Adrian M. Casey, Naperville, Ill., Financial Secretary of Assembly 257, Chicago, Ill.

Joanne E. Kubasek, Yonkers, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Pauline Oros, Shillington, Pa., a member of Wreath 155, Reading, Pa.

Susan Lendacky, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Richard Palenchar, Bethlehem, Pa., a member of Assembly 78, Bethlehem, Pa.

2017 International Slet Schedule

Subject to Change

MONDAY – July 10th Board Arrival -- mid-late afternoon
TUESDAY – July 11th Meeting and preparations for the Slet begin (assigned daily responsibilities)
WEDNESDAY – July 12th

Time	Event	Place
9:00– 11:45AM	Registration Track clinic ***	Lobby of Bramley and Briggs Stadium/Track
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Harrison Dining Hall
1:00 – 1:15	Fire drill practice	Bramley and Briggs Residence Halls
1:30 – 3:00	Mass/Opening Ceremony/ Group pics	Stadium/Track
3:15 – 3:30	Drill judges meeting	4 Classrooms in Tuttle North TBD
3:30 – 5:00	Individual drills for Director/Directress and all gymnasts	4 Classrooms in Tuttle North TBD
4:15 – 5:00	Director/Directress Meeting	Bramley and Briggs Residence Halls
5:00 – 6:00	Dinner	Harrison Dining Hall
6:45 – 10:30	Senior Drills	Tuttle South Gym

THURSDAY – July 13th

7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast	Harrison Dining Hall
8:45 – 11:45	Track and Field (field events, longer runs, relays)	Stadium/Track
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Harrison Dining Hall
1:15 – 1:30	Gymnastics warm-ups	Tuttle North Gymnastics Facility
1:30 – 4:45	Gymnastics / Gymnastics awards (if time permits)	Tuttle North Gymnastics Facility
	Individual Drills for non-gymnasts Announcement of individual drill finalists	4 Classrooms in Tuttle North TBD
5:00 – 6:00	Dinner	Harrison Dining Hall
6:30 – 7:00	Individual drill finals (finalists only to perform for judges)	2 Classrooms in Tuttle North TBD
7:15 – 10:30	Junior Team Drilling Individual Drill finalists perform and winners announced	Jim and John Vlogianitis Tuttle North Gyms

FRIDAY - July 14th

7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast	Harrison Dining Hall
8:45 – 11:45	Track and Field	Stadium/Track
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Harrison Dining Hall
1:45 – 4:45	Track and Field	Stadium/Track
5:00 – 6:00	Dinner	Harrison Dining Hall
6:30 – 6:45	Volleyball warm-ups	Jim and John Vlogianitis Tuttle North Gyms
6:45 – 10:30	Volleyball competition Volleyball finals Movie night for juniors	Jim and John Vlogianitis Tuttle North Gyms Lobby of Bramley and Briggs

SATURDAY - July 15th

7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast	Harrison Dining Hall
8:45 – 11:45	Track and Field finals Exhibition practice (mass drill practice)	Stadium/Track
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Harrison Dining Hall
1:15 – 3:00	Exhibition practice	Stadium/Track
4:30 – 7:00	Mass / closing ceremony/ awards	Stadium/Track
7:30 – 11:30	Picnic dinner / dance	Seymour College Union Ballroom

SUNDAY - July 16th

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast
 8:30 onward Dismissal

*** Track clinic – members of the SPFB will be at the track to give pointers / help participants practice each track event

News and Views from Slovakia...

(Continued from page 10)

Fico condemns terrorist attacks in London, wants to boost security

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has condemned the June 3 terrorist attacks in London, expressing his sympathies to the families of the victims.

“Ensuring safety and security for people must be among the top priorities of European policies,” said Fico, adding that he’s prepared for a factual dialogue with partners at the European level aimed at expanding security policies that could make the defense of innocent people in European cities against terror attacks more effective.

Fico was joined by Parliamentary Chair Andrej Danko, who expressed his condolences to the families of the victims, all the bereaved and the inhabitants of London. He voiced his hope that the latest in a series of deplorable terrorist attacks against innocent people will be punished accordingly.

“I confirm that the malignant epidemic of terrorism is growing in strength and knows no bounds. It always chooses those most innocent for its victims, but humanity has managed to find a cure for every epidemic so far. In these difficult times I’m conveying solidarity,” said Danko.

Celebrate Flag Day on June 14

The History of the Flag

The United States flag is the third oldest of the national standards of the world - older than the Union Jack of Britain or the Tricolor of France.

The flag was first authorized by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777. This date is now observed as "Flag Day" throughout America.

The flag was first flown from Fort Stanwix, on the site of the present city of Rome, New York,



on August 3, 1777. It was first under fire three days later in the battle of Oriskany, August 6, 1777.

It was first decreed that there should be a star and a stripe for each state, making thirteen of both; for the states at that time had just been erected from the original thirteen colonies.

The colors of the flag may be thus explained - the red is for valor, zeal and fervency; the white for hope, purity, cleanliness of life, and rectitude of conduct; the blue, the color of heaven, for reverence to God, loyalty, sincerity, justice and truth.

The star (an ancient symbol of India, Persia and Egypt) symbolizes dominion and sovereignty, as well as lofty aspiration. The constellation of the stars within the union, one star for each state, is emblematic of our federal constitution which reserves to the states, their individual sovereignty except as to the rights delegated by them to the federal government.

The symbolism of the flag was thus interpreted by Washington: "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by the white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."

In 1795 after Vermont and Kentucky were admitted to the Union, the number of stars and stripes was increased to fifteen. As other states came into the Union it became evident there would be too many stripes. In 1818 Congress enacted that the number of stripes be reduced and restricted henceforth to thirteen, representing the thirteen original states; while a star should be added for each succeeding state. That law is the law of today.

The name "Old Glory" was given to our national flag on Au-

gust 10, 1831 by William Driver, a sea captain of Salem, Massachusetts. One legend has it that when he raised the flag on his brig, the Charles Doggett, he said: "I name thee Old Glory."

The flag was first carried in the battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777. It first flew over foreign territory January 28, 1778, at Nassau, Bahama Islands; Fort Nassau having been captured by the Americans in the course of the war for independence. The first foreign salute to the flag was rendered by the French Admiral LaMotte Piquet, off Quiberon Bay, February 13, 1778.

The United States flag is unique in the deep and noble significance of its message to the entire world - a message of national independence, of individual liberty, of idealism, of patriotism.

It symbolizes national independence and popular sovereignty. It is not the flag of a reigning family or royal house, but of more than 325 million free people welded into a nation, one and inseparable, united not only by community of interest but by vital unity of sentiment and purpose; a nation distinguished for the clear, individual conception of its citizens alike, of their duties and their privileges, their obligations and their rights.

It incarnates for all mankind the spirit of liberty and the glorious ideal of human freedom - not the freedom of unrestraint or the liberty of license - but a unique ideal of equal opportunity for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, safe-guarded by the stern and lofty principles of duty, of righteousness and of justice, and attainable by obedience to self-imposed laws.

Floating from the lofty pinnacle of American idealism, it is a beacon of enduring hope to the pressed of all lands. It floats over a wondrous assemblage of people from every racial stock of the earth whose united hearts constitute an indivisible and invincible force for the defense and succor of the down-trodden.

It embodies the essence of patriotism. Its spirit is the spirit of the American nation. Its history is the history of the American people. Emblazoned upon its folds in letters of living light are the names and fame of our heroic dead, the

fathers of the republic who offered upon its altars their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. Tales of national honor and glory cluster thickly about it. Ever victorious it has emerged triumphant from many great national conflicts. It flew at Saratoga, at Yorktown, at Gettysburg, at Manila Bay, at Chateau-Thierry, at Iwo Jima, Normandy Beaches, Ichon Landing and many others. It bears witness to the immense expansion of our national boundaries, the development of our national resources, and the splendid structure of our civilization. It prophesies the triumph of popular government, of civic and religious liberty and of national righteousness throughout the world. - *Compliments of the Knights of Columbus*

Why Ring 'Em in June...

Some say that the idea of a wedding ring for the bride goes back to the ancients, when the man used it to signify his possession and authority. Holding them to be of pagan origin, the early Christians rejected betrothals rings until 860 A.D., when church authorities accepted them in response to popular demand.

Fourth finger, left hand, for the ring, originated in the ancients too. They believed that a vein in that finger led directly to the heart.

The engagement ring, too, is a kind of wedding ring, for the word wed properly means to engage by a pledge. And if you dig into the meaning of wedlock, you'll find it has nothing to do with locks. The word in Old English was wedlac and meant a gift given as a pledge.

Good Posture For Fitness

Physical fitness begins with good posture, notes the American Chiropractic Association. And the following rules should help:

1. Stand tall. Sit tall. Walk tall.
2. Eat a well-balanced diet.
3. Get vigorous exercise daily. Walking is excellent.
4. Go outdoors each day for fresh air and sun.
5. Have health and spinal checkups at regular intervals.

CHECK YOUR POSTURE



Walk With Me, Daddy

By Helen Bush

WALK alongside me, Daddy
and hold my little hand
I have so many things to learn
that I don't yet understand
Teach me things to keep me safe
from dangers every day.
Show me how to do my best
at home, at school at play
Every child needs a gentle hand
to guide them as they grow.
So walk alongside me, Daddy.
We have a long way to go.

Follow Us On Twitter and Instagram

Many of you are already following Slovak Catholic Sokol on Facebook, but did you know we are now on Twitter and Instagram?

You can follow us for daily updates on upcoming activities and events, as well as pictures of your favorite Sokols. Feel free to forward pictures of your group activities to: kathyw323@gmail.com so that we can tweet them!

We are looking forward to gaining MANY new followers!

If you are new to Twitter and Instagram, here are some basics on how to sign up:

TWITTER

- * Upload the Twitter app on your phone or go to www.twitter.com
- * Click "Sign up for Twitter."
- * Provide basic information about yourself. ...
- * Choose your username. ...
- * Click "Create my account."
- * Search physicalfitnessboard and click follow



INSTAGRAM

- * Upload the Instagram app on your phone or go to www.instagram.com
- * Click "Sign up" and enter your e-mail
- * Create a username and password
- * Provide basic information about yourself. ...
- * Click "Create my account."
- * Search physicalfitnessboard and click follow



Zdar Boh!

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board



**Find us on
Facebook**



Slovak Catholic Sokol



Prehliadka detského slovenského folklóru v New Yorku

(Pokračovanie zo str. 16)

kum potleskom privítalo bývalú Miss Czech – Slovak Missouri Pageant (Queen 2014-2015) a zároveň Miss Czech – Slovak US Pageant (Queen 2014-2015): Morgan McMichen. Morgan svojim prejavom podnietila slovensko-americkú mládež k prechováaniu a prezentovaniu krásnych folklórnych tradícií, jazyka aj odvedu.

Najmladšia účinkujúca prehliadky, Olivia Maziarz, sa predstavila v Piešťanskom kroji, a zaspievala jej najobľúbenejšiu slovenskú pieseň: Tenká som ja,

tenučká.

Na záver program zazneli zo sláčikov Pajtášov tie najrežejšie folklórne melódie, ktoré rozťan-covali nielen účinkujúcich, ale aj publikum.

Každoročné stretávanie sa amerických Slovákov na takomto podujatí svedčí o tom, že slovenský jazyk, kultúra a tradície majú veľký potenciál pretrvávajúť aj za hranicami nášho malého domova.

Slovensko – americké kultúrne stredisko ďakuje za účasť a teší sa na piaty ročník!

- Sabina Sabados



Najmladšia účinkujúca Olivia Maziarz (na snímke vľavo) s víťazkou súťaže "Miss Czech – Slovak US" Morgan McMichen.

Zaujímavé fakty o Slovensku



Čičmany sa stali prvou rezerváciou ľudovej kultúry vo svete.



Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa bola prvou jaskyňou na svete, kde bolo zavedené elektrické osvetlenie.

Na Slovensku sa nachádza viac ako 1 300 minerálnych prameňov.

Bratislava je jediné mesto na svete, ktoré hraničí s dvoma štátmi súčasne - Maďarskom a Rakúskom.

Slovensko má najvyšší počet zámok a hradov na svete na jedného obyvateľa.

ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!

Domáce **raw** datľovo-banánové tyčinky - *varecha.sk*

... z nudného oblečenia úžasné **fashion** kúsky! - *emma.sk*

Tomu sa hovorí letný **drink**...

- *pravda.sk*

Marriott otvoril vo Schwechate **lifestylový** hotel - *trend.sk*

Postavia **bisnis** a **shopping** centrum, ...dajú mestu, **shopping** a kancelárie - *sme.sk*

Odišiel Andrej Matašík, **enfant terrible** slovenskej teológie

- *pravda.sk*

Aha, ako radikálne zmenila **imidž!** - *pluska.sk*

VIETE, ŽE...

... špenát ako väčšina listových zelenín je bohatý na vodu. Obsahuje vitamíny A, C, K a E – chráni a posilňuje funkcie kardiovaskulárnej sústavy. Podporuje prevenciu rakovinových ochorení a má priaznivé účinky na zrak.

Kúťik humoru

Vyšetrovatel sa pýta muža: - *Prečo ste nezachránili manželku, keď sa topila? - Odkiaľ som mal vedieť, že sa topila? Vrieskala ako vždy.*

„Povedzte, James, kto je tu hlupák, vy či ja?“

„Pán gróf... vy nie ste človek, ktorý by zamešnával hlupáka.“

SPOLOČENSKÉ PODUJATIA

Letný festival v Danville, PA

Sestričky Sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Danville, PA usporiadajú v sobotu 8. júla od 10.30 do 5.00 hodiny Letný festival v Materskom dome vo Villa Sacred Heart v Danville, PA. Svätá omša bude o 5.00 hodine. Počas dňa budú pre deti i dospelých pripravené rôzne aktivity. Na predaj budú slovenské a americké jedlá a koláče. Blížišie informácie o podujatí: Sestra Barbara Sable, tel. č. 570-275-3581.

Piknik v Cleveland, OH

Americko-slovenský klub Zemplín v Cleveland, OH usporiadava v nedeľu 16. júla v Slovak Sokol Camp, 2069 Royalwood Road, Broadview Heights, OH piknik pod názvom "Slovak Day Picnic". Začiatok bude o 12.00 hodine naobed a trvať bude do 8.00 hodiny večer. Na predaj budú tradičné slovenské a americké jedlá, domáce koláče, zákusky a slovenské pivo Zlatý Bažant. Hrať bude Johnny Pastirik Band. Pre deti a dospelých budú pripravené rôzne hry. Vstupné je bezplatné. Blížišie informácie: George Carny, tel. č. 440-885-5702.

Mariánska púť do West Haverstraw, NY

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City usporiada slovenskú púť v nedeľu 13. augusta do Marian Shrine vo West Haverstraw, New York. Spoveď bude pred slovenskou svätou omšou, ktorá bude o 11.00 hodine dopoludnia. Obed bude o 12.30 hodine. Ružencová procesia začne o 2.30 hodine. Blížišie informácie: Mária Božeková, tel. č.: 347-612-1934, Lisa Calabrese, tel. č.: 212-734-46123-

Kto má záujem na púť cestovať autobusom, ktorý bude odchádzať od kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku, má sa prihlásiť na horeuvedených telefónnych číslach. Autobus bude k dispozícii ak bude dostatočný počet záujemcov.

Na Slovensku oslávili 156. výročie prijatia Memoranda národa slovenského

Slovensko si 7. júna 2017 pripomenulo 156. výročie prijatia Memoranda národa slovenského. Poslanci v Zákone Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky (NR SR) z 20. októbra 1993 o štátnych sviatkoch, dňoch pracovného pokoja a pamätných dňoch sa na počesť prijatia výročia Memoranda národa slovenského uzniesli, že 7. jún sa stal pamätným dňom Slovenskej republiky.

Memorandum národa slovenského k Vysokému snemu krajiny uhorskej prijalo Slovenské národné zhromaždenie, ktoré sa konalo 6. až 7. júna 1861 v Turčianskom Svätom Martine. Zdôrazňovalo potrebu zabezpečiť svojbytnosť slovenského národa a jeho rovnoprávnosť v rámci Uhorska, nastolovalo požiadavku zriadiť autonómne územie - Hornouhorské slovenské okolie. Deklarovalo nároky na slovakizáciu správy, súdnictva a školstva na území (slovenského) okolia, adekvátny pomer v používaní slovenčiny a maďarčiny v úradnom styku a vo vyučovaní. Na Slovensku mala byť zriadená právnická akadémia a na pešťianskej univerzite sa mala založiť katedra slovenského jazyka. Štát mal podporovať slovenské kultúrne ustanovizne, slobodné používanie materinského jazyka a primerané zastúpenie národ-

ností v hornej snemovni.

Memorandum národa slovenského, programový dokument slovenských národných požiadaviek, ktorého hlavným osnovatelom bol Štefan Marko Daxner, sa v tom čase nepodarilo naplniť. Opierali sa oň však zakladatelia Maticy slovenskej (MS) v roku 1863 i zakladatelia Slovenskej národnej strany v roku 1871. Memorandumové požiadavky zostali základným programovým cieľom slovenských národovcov v období do vypuknutia prvej svetovej vojny, keď vrcholila maďarizácia na slovenskom území.

Druhé Memorandum národa slovenského bolo prijaté v Martine v júni 1991.

Na význam oboch Memorand národa slovenského, z roku 1861 a 1991, pre národnú a štátnu suverenitu a národnú identitu Slovákov, upozornili 2. júna 2006 v Martine účastníci seminára a slávnostného zhromaždenia MS pri príležitosti 145. výročia Memoranda národa slovenského a 15. výročia druhého memoranda.

Účastníci podujatí v roku 2006 vyzvali politikov, aby v duchu memorand "prekonali všetky stranické obmedzenia a sebecké záujmy, vniesli do politiky mravný aspekt a v záujme spoločného cieľa sa dohodli na čiastkových ústupkoch a kompromisoch". - TASR

Za Boha a Národ For God and Nation

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Prehliadka detského slovenského folklóru v New Yorku

Keď sa rozozvučali kedysi dávno zvony v nedelňajšie popoludnie, ľudia sa schádzali, zaspievali si, ba i zatancovali. V nedeľu, 21. mája sa rozozvučali zvony v priestoroch Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku. Aj tentokrát sa zišli ľudia zabaviť, zaspievať, i zatancovať si počas Prehliadky slovenského folklóru.

Slovensko - Americké Kultúrne Stredisko (S-AKS) zorganizovalo už po štvrtýkrát folklórne podujatie so zaujímavým programom zameraným na spoznávanie a prezentovanie krásy a rozmanitosti slovenskej kultúry. Program ponúkol piesne a tance z rôznych regiónov Slovenska. Navyše návštevníci podujatia si mali možnosť pochutnať na tradičných slovenských jedlách, zakúpiť si slovenské výrobky, cukrovinky a nápoje.

Jedna z najznámejších slovenských piesní „Na Kráľovej holi“ v podaní primáša ľudovej hudby Pajtáši, Branislava Briňarského, zaznela ako prvá. Po slávnostnom otvorení podujatia Zuzanou Maziar, sa ujala slova predsedníčka S-AKS, Sabina Sabados. Pozvanie prijala generálna konzulka Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku, pani Ladislava Begeč spolu s manželom. Publiku sa prihovoril aj otec Donald Baker (miestny

dekan a zástupca newyorského arcibiskupa kardinála Timothy Dolana), otec Richard D. Baker (farár spojenej farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého a sv. Františky X. Cabrini) a kaplán farnosti otec Martin Kertyš.

Mladý operný spevák slovenského pôvodu, Andrew Pulver účinkoval v programe už po tretíkrát. Predstavil sa s nádhernou slovenskou piesňou „Rodný môj kraj“ zo slovenskej opery „Keď rozkvitne máj“, ku ktorej zložil hudbu Gejza Dusík. Na klavíri ho doprevádzala jeho mama, Tanya Pulver.

Dvojicu úspešných mladých talentov slovenského pôvodu doplnila huslistka Isabella Valčuhová, ktorá získava skúsenosti a reprezentuje sa nielen v Spojených štátoch ale aj na Slovensku. Za doprovodu Pajtášov zahrala Cigánske skladby a Verbunk.

Zastúpenie slovenských škôl reprezentovala Lipka Academy z Linden, Slovenská škola pri Kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Hlas a Limboráčik zastupovali Českú a slovenskú školu v New Yorku. Lipka Academy bola založená pred štrnástimi rokmi pri Kostole sv. Rodiny v Linden, NJ. Žiaci predviedli scénu: „Ako sa Maťko z Ameriky vrátil“ a tanec Mariša.

Slovenská škola pri hostu-

júcom kostole, sv. Jána Nepomuckého sa zamerala na vzdanie vďaka rodičom, a to prostredníctvom básne od Milana Rúfusa: Modlitba za rodičov. Taktiež v ich podaní odzneli ešte kresťanské detské ukazovačky.

Detský folklórny súbor Limboráčik bol založený v roku 2003 a pôsobí v Astoria, NY. Svoje tanečné umenie predviedli v tanci Gorale, Malé hušare a Zemplinským tancom.

Spevácku zložku Českej a slovenskej školy tvorí detský spevácky zbor: Hlas. Za hudobného doprovodu Pajtášov zaspievali blok ľudových piesní (Či ne tota, A dze idžeš Helenko, A ja taká dživočka, Dunaj, Dunaj, Tancuj, tancuj). Rytmizovaním priblížili publiku pranie plátna na potoku.

Počas predstavenia sa diváci preniesli na niekoľko minút do jedného z východoslovenských regiónov - na Šariš a neskôr na Zemplín. A to prostredníctvom folklórneho súboru Limbora, ktorý na americkej pôde pôsobí už 50 rokov.

Počas prehliadky sa oslavovala nielen krásna a pestrofarebná slovenská folklórna hudba, ale aj krásy dievčat a krojov. V Spojených štátoch sa tento druh krásy oslavuje aj na súťažiach ako je Miss Czech - Slovak Pageant. Publi-

(Pokračovanie na str. 15)

Miroslava Lajčáka zvolili za predsedu Valného zhromaždenia OSN Zástupca Slovenskej republiky získal takúto vysokú pozíciu v systéme OSN prvýkrát

Zástupcovia členských štátov Organizácie Spojených národov (OSN) v stredu zvolili 31. mája v New Yorku za predsedu 72. zasadnutia Valného zhromaždenia OSN ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Miroslava Lajčáka, ktorý túto funkciu oficiálne prevezme 12. septembra a bude ju vykonávať jeden rok.

Je to po prvý raz v histórii, čo zástupca Slovenskej republiky získal takúto vysokú pozíciu v OSN. Predseda Valného zhromaždenia OSN je protokolárne najvyššia funkcia v systéme Organizácie Spojených národov, v ktorej reprezentuje všetkých 193 členských krajín.

Miroslav Lajčák preberá tento vysoký post v mimoriadne náročnom období, v ktorom medzinárodné spoločenstvo čelí neľahkým globálnym výzvam: množiacim sa konfliktom, humanitárnym krízam, rastúcej vlne extrémizmu a terorizmu, ale aj klimatickým zmenám a chudobe produkujúcim migračné vlny, ale aj nepokoje a ďalšie problémy.

Zároveň v tomto období silnejú hlasy v OSN volajúce po vnútorných reformách, ktoré by smerovali k zefektívneniu práce, vyššej transparentnosti a flexibilnejšiemu fungovaniu organizácie.

Členské štáty OSN čakajú implementáciu radu prijatých globálnych záväzkov predovšetkým rozvojovej Agendy 2030 a Parížskej klimatickej dohody. Počas 72. zasadnutia VZ OSN budú tiež pokračovať rokovania smerujúce k prijatiu globálneho kompaktu o migrácii.

“Je to česť a pocta byť zvolený do tejto vysokej funkcie. Som vďačný aj za podporu, ktorá sa mi dostala v mojej vlasti - od



Miroslav Lajčák

prezidenta, vlády aj bežných občanov - a aj za vašu dôveru, ktorú ste prejavili pri dnešnej voľbe,” povedal vo vystúpení bezprostredne po voľbe minister Lajčák.

“Ako predseda Valného zhromaždenia OSN budem dbať rovnakou mierou na všetky tri piliere, o ktoré sa táto organizácia opiera: mier, ľudské práva a udržateľný rozvoj; ako svoju osobnú prioritu vidím najmä predchádzanie konfliktom a mediáciu ako prostriedkov na udržanie mieru vo svete. Vždy som bol zástancom preventívnej diplomacie,” dodal minister, ktorý medzi svoje ďalšie ciele vo funkcii predsedu 72. VZ OSN zaradil aj hľadanie odpovedí na migráciu, reformy v systéme OSN a v neposlednom rade aj priblíženie cieľov tejto medzinárodnej organizácie viac k ľuďom.

Za najväčšiu výzvu Lajčák označil hľadanie a nachádzanie prienikov medzi rozličnými agendami tak, aby valné zhromaždenie mohlo efektívne fungovať, “aby mohlo prijímať rozhodnutia, a aby Organizácia Spojených národov bola vnímaná ako funkčná organizácia, ktorá má pre ľudí zmysel”.

- SITA

