



Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

SLOVENSKÝ KATOLÍCKY SOKOL

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NUMBER 5124



*Happy
Valentine's Day*

Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath



The record breaking weather is continuing from the deep freeze Polar Vortex that most of us experienced at the end of January to the sunny late spring temperature at the beginning of February shows how change happens and how we can adjust to the extremes.

I think the furry rodent; Punxsutawney Phil might have gotten it right this year since he saw his shadow. No matter what the weather is get out and enjoy the outdoors.

Our Supreme Secretary, Scott T.

Pogorelec, F.I.C. and I attended the annual Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting which was held January 18 – 20, 2019 in Moon Township, PA. This annual meeting gives the whole Supreme Physical Fitness Board the opportunity to review the plans for the year, prepare the schedule, assign Board responsibilities, and clear up issues that still need to be addressed. With the 49th International Slet taking place July 17 – 21, 2019 at SUNY Brockport, Brockport, NY there is much more the Board has to go over so all things run smoothly during the Slet.

I ask all Groups to promote the Slet to their members, so just like the weather; the 49th International Slet will experience record breaking participation. If any Group needs assistance with promoting the Slet to their members contact any member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board for guidance and suggestions.

Again this year, the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the Greek Catholic Union, (GCU), will be sponsoring the 2019 bowling and golf tournaments for our members. This year the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Jednota, will be joining us for the bowling tournament. With the three fraternal coming together it will make for a very exciting and competitive bowling tournament. I want to remind all Sokol members to return their bowling and golf registrations forms in early this year since the Falcon now is a monthly publication. Early registration will assure you of participating

in the bowling and or golf tournaments.

If my calculations are correct and you are reading the Falcon today, today is February 14, Valentine's Day. I extend best wish for a Happy Valentine's Day to all of our members. May you enjoy this day of love and do something special not only for those you love but for someone who may need a special expression of kindness so they know they are also loved. Also, the Church celebrates the feast day of Saints Cyril and Methodius, our patron Saints on February 14. This is a tribute to their profound love of their Christian faith and the desire to evangelize Eastern Europe and the world. May you remember Sts. Cyril and Methodius and celebrate the day for them.

The 2020 Committee is continuing to work on its mission and is preparing its final report that will be presented to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors at their first 2019 quarterly meeting in March. The 2020 Committee is doing an excellent job in researching information and discussing the issues relating to the structure and the governance of our Society. The 2020 Committee's final report will be presented at the 33rd Quadrennial Convention in August 2019.

With the 33rd Quadrennial Convention 6 months away, I remind all Assemblies and Wreaths to hold their meetings to elect their delegates. It is important to have a diverse representation of members that cross all ages, gender and experiences to be a delegate and participate in the Convention. It is through being a delegate and participation in the Convention that will set the Slovak Catholic Sokol apart from other fraternal benefit Societies and will ensure our growth and success. Be a delegate!

I remind all members the Slovak Catholic Sokol 2019 Scholarship Grants are again available this year. The Scholarships are part of our member benefits and open to all members that qualify for a specific scholarship. This year there is a total of \$63,000 in scholarship available to members. The scholarship applications are in the Falcon and on the Society's website un-

(Continued on page 6)

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Slovak Catholic Sokol

*From the desk of the Supreme Secretary***PLAN AHEAD**

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



"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

Proverbs 19:21

Brrr! I hope everyone is getting through this winter as best as possible. With the cold temperatures outside, and us inside, it allows us to look forward to our busy spring/summer fraternal programs here at the Slovak Catholic Sokol. I think we can all agree that we are ready for the spring season!



In preparation for our 2019 Fraternal Events, I had the pleasure of attending our Physical Fitness Board Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA on January 18th-19th. Our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, and I were honored to be there sharing in the energy and excitement of the meeting. Many thoughts and ideas were exchanged and I commend our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, and our entire Physical Fitness Board on a well-run and efficient meeting. 2019 is sure to be an exciting year of activities!

With that being said, we need the cooperation and passion of our Members. As many of you know, hosting our fraternal activities are both time consuming and costly. To justify these programs, we need to have the full and enthusiastic cooperation at our Groups, Assemblies, and Wreaths. We need your help to promote our various athletic programs within your own local Assembly or Wreath. Our local branches are the heart and soul of our fine Organization. Active and vibrant lodges are imperative to facilitate interest at our national events and are the cornerstone to the fraternal benefit system. Please take the time to attend a Lodge or Group meeting and promote these wonderful activities. Let's take a look at what is on the calendar!

For our loyal Sokol keglers, we have announced that our 73rd International Bowling Tournament will be held on May 17th-18th in Pittsburgh, PA at Noble Manor Lanes. I hope our devout regulars and many new faces will join us as we celebrate this great weekend.

For those looking for a quick getaway, join some of our fellow Sokols at Rocky Gap in Flintstone, MD on May 31st-June 1st for our always enjoyable "Sokol Reunion". The

spirit of fraternalism is always at a high at this fun event!

Of course, the highlight of our programs in 2019 will be our 49th International Slet at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY, July 17th-21st. The closing Exhibition is scheduled for Saturday, July 20th. The Slet is a unique experience for our young members that supply them with memories and friendships that last a lifetime. Our Physical Fitness Board is hard at work to ensure that a safe and enjoyable time will be had by all. If you have the time, please try to make it to the Saturday Exhibition to see all the hard work our athletes have put in over the past two years. You will not regret it!

As the calendar turns to August, the delegates of the 33rd Quadrennial Convention will be meeting in Cleveland, OH at the Cleveland Airport Marriott from August 3rd-7th. This is obviously the most important event for our Society as we deliberate and mold our Organization for the next four years and beyond. By now, our Group, Assembly, and Wreath representatives have received the delegate registration forms. I urge all our potential delegates to get the forms into the Home Office by March 31, 2019. The Verification and Eligibility Committee will not accept registration forms after that date. We hope to see you there!

August will also give our avid Sokol golfers a chance to polish off their clubs and join us for the 64th International Golf Tournament held at Seven Oaks Country Club and Black Hawk Golf Course in Beaver, PA from August 16th-18th. Seven Oaks Country Club is the home of the Greek Catholic Union and we are looking forward to a large number of participants. We hope to see both old and new faces on the links!

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

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day, especially my two Valentines, Maggie and Reid Thomas! Until next time, stay warm and Zdar Boh!

**HOME OFFICE CLOSING**

In observance of Presidents Day, the Home Office will be closed on Monday, February 18. The home office will re-open for business on Tuesday, February 19. Regular office hours are Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

In keeping with our monthly publishing schedule of the Slovak Catholic Falcon, the next issue will be that of Wednesday, March 13. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Monday, March 4.

If you are part of an inactive Group or a Group who has not attended the Slet for a few years, there is still time to register. If you, your child, or grandchild would like to compete this summer, please contact Kathleen S. Watkins at kathyw323@gmail.com for information.

ANNOUNCING NEW SOKOL APPAREL

HOODIES, T-SHIRTS AND GOLF SHIRTS are now available on line. Order yours today by simply going to our website

slovakcatholicsokol.org

and selecting the link

"New Sokol Wear".

Clothing items will be shipped directly to your door!

SOKOL CALENDAR



SUN.FEB.17

■ Patron Saints Celebration & Fundraiser of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Clifton, N.J., Mass at 12 noon in church followed by reception at 2 p.m. and dancing at the Royal Manor, 454 Midland Ave., Garfield, N.J., Tickets: adults \$75.00; \$35.00 (children ages 5-14). For reservations call tel. 973 546-4390.

■ 14th annual Sokol Children's Bowlingfest hosted by Group 1 at the Garden Palace Bowling Lanes, 42 Lakewood Ave., Clifton, N.J. from 2-4 p.m., free of charge with refreshments.

THURS.FEB.21

■ Group 7 officers meeting at the North End Slovak Citizens Club, North Main St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m.

SAT.FEB.23

■ 26th annual Slovak Ball hosted by the Slovak American Cultural Center at the Royal Manor in Garfield, N.J.

SAT.MARCH 2

■ 67th annual Florida Slovak Day at The Slovak Garden, 3110 Howell Branch Rd. #100, Winter Park, Fla. 32792 beginning at 12 noon, Slovak luncheon at 1 p.m. featuring culinary specialties, open bar and cultural program, prepay by Feb. 26, \$30.00; \$35.00 at the door; for reservations call tel. 407 677-6894; email: slovakgarden@centurylink.net or www.slovak-garden.com.

SUN.MARCH 3

■ Annual meeting of The Slovak Garden, A Home for American Slovaks, beginning with Mass at 10 a.m. with registration beginning at 11 a.m. and sessions at 1 p.m., 3110 Howell Branch Rd.#100, Winter Park, Fla.

MON.MARCH 4

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

MARCH 13-16

■ Annual audit of the S.C.S. Supreme Auditors for the year 2018 at the Home Office, Passaic, N.J.

MARCH 22-23

■ Quarterly Meeting of the S.C.S. Board of Directors at the Cleveland Airport Marriot, 4277 W 150th St., Cleveland, OH.

SUN.MARCH 24

■ Assembly 182 patronal feast of St. Joseph observance at St. John Nepomucene Church, corner 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City beginning with Slovak Mass at 10:15 a.m. followed by luncheon and fraternal program in the parish social hall; free of charge for all Sokol members.

■ Annual senior co-ed bowling tournament hosted by Group 1 at Paul's Bowling Academy, 377 Crooks Ave., Paterson, N.J. beginning at 1 p.m.

MON. APRIL 1

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

APRIL 1-2

■ Meeting of the national board of the Slovak Catholic Federation at Slovak Catholic Sokol headquarters in Passaic, N.J.

SUN.APRIL 7

■ Annual Spaghetti Dinner hosted by Group 1 at SS.Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J. beginning at 4 p.m.; adults \$8.00, seniors \$7.00, children ages 6-12 \$5.00, children under age 6 are welcome free of charge.

SAT. APRIL 13

■ 29th annual Slovak Mass & Easter Customs Breakfast hosted by Prince of Peace Parish at St. Adalbert Church, 160 South 15th St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa., 10:45 a.m. Slovak Rosary, Slovak Mass at 11 a.m. with breakfast to follow at the Prince of Peace Parish Center, 81 South 13th St., South Side; free admission, donations welcome; for more information call (412) 657-6364.

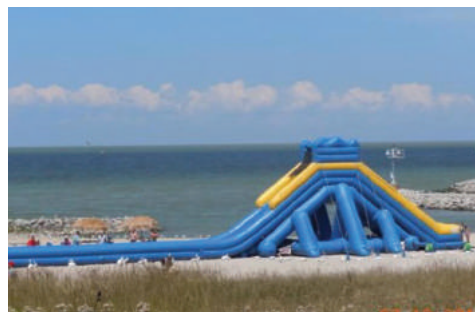
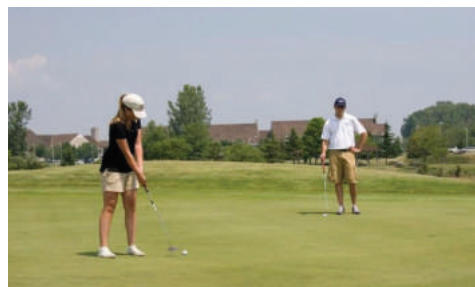
SUN.APRIL 14

■ Traditional Easter Egg Hunt for children hosted by Assembly 25 and Wreath 15 on the grounds of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, Perryopolis, Pa. from 1-3 p.m., prizes, refreshments and a visit by the Easter Bunny, all Sokol members are welcome; an enjoyable afternoon is assured.

SUN.APRIL 28

■ Final Spring Fling benefit in support of the School Sisters of St. Francis at Mount Assisi Convent, 934 Forest Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 12 noon to 5 p.m., for information call tel. 412 761-6004.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?



One idea that was discussed during the Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting held in January in Pittsburgh, PA, was a family weekend during this summer. Possibly in June. Would anyone be interested in going somewhere like Maumee Bay in Ohio? They have lots of activities for families. There is also an over 21 "establishment" and a golf course! Google Maumee Bay. If you are interested, contact Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen S. Watkins at kathyw323@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at Slovak Catholic Sokol Public Group and respond to her post.

JOIN THE WALKING PROGRAM TODAY!

For more information contact

Katie Swift at
katie70@aol.com



Find us on Facebook:

Slovak Catholic Sokol Public Group

Get quick updates on the latest events going on in our organization

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic

Prayerful Reflection and Request

By the glory of your Cross, Lord, help our nation overcome the bias that divides us, the mistrust bred by bigotry, and the pain that comes of prejudice - and let us



never for a moment pretend to love you and at the same time ignore, mistreat or abandon our neighbor, brothers and sisters all, near and far, one family of humanity in you, our Lord and God...

From the depths of your love, Lord, help me overcome my prejudice, my bias and my bigotry, my narrow-minded thinking and rash judgments- and help me overcome the temptation to think that none of these faults are mine...

With the grace of your mercy, Lord, help me overcome my selfishness, my jealousy and greed, my pride and self-importance, my careless disregard of others' needs- and help me overcome the thought that I'm above all such things...

With the power of your Spirit, Lord, help me overcome my laziness, my lust-

ful thoughts and longings, my apathy and envy and my ungoverned appetites- and help me overcome the self-evaluation in which none of this applies to me...

With the justice of your word, Lord, help me overcome my tendencies to stretch the truth, to cheat and lie, to take what isn't mine, to deny what's due to others- and help me overcome the notion that I'm above such inclinations...

With the power of your grace, Lord, help me overcome my fears, my worries and anxieties, my doubts and my uncertainties, my lack of trust in you and others- and help me overcome the thought that weakness is my lot...

With the strength of your arm, Lord, help me overcome what keeps me down, what holds me back, what slows me up, what locks me in- and help me overcome the inertia that holds me captive in its grip...

With all you have to offer, Lord, help me overcome what keeps me from your presence and from prayer, from your mercy and compassion, from your love, your peace and joy...
Amen

GROUP 4 ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019

Members of Group 4, Slovak Catholic Sokol, under the Patronage of Bishop Stefan Moyzes, are hereby notified that our **ANNUAL MEETING** will take place on **Sunday, April 7** at Ascension Franklin Hospital Campus located at 10101 S. 27th Street, Franklin, WI 53132.

The meeting will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at 12:45 for all. The meeting will continue afterward until concluded. Please mail the Group 4 delegation forms and lunch fee of \$15 for all delegates to Lisa Hoeck at N30W23072 Pineview Circle, Pewaukee, WI 53072. All checks should be made payable to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Group 4 specifying Wreath/Assembly by March 17.

Group Officers; please notify me prior to March 17th if you are unable to attend the annual meeting.

All Wreaths and Assemblies are urged to attend this meeting so that we may be able to address your concerns and hear your new ideas.

Zdar Boh!

Julie Ann Dobbs, Group 4 Secretary
5314 Agatha Turn, Racine, WI 53402
Tel.: 1-262-681-1720
Email: Jdobbs2@wi.rr.com

Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meets in Pittsburgh, PA



Members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board met for their annual meeting January, 18-20 at the Homewood Suites Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pa. Members shown, include from the left, Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics Frank P. Laury, III, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Physical Director John M. Underation, Members Kevin J. Matlon, Nancy Kropolinsky, and Julie M. Laury, Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen S. Watkins, Supreme Assistant Physical Directress Katie Swift, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon, Member Martin Degnan and Supreme Assistant Physical Director Dusan Dorich.

2019 INTERNATIONAL SOKOL EVENTS

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

MAY 17-18, 2019

Noble Manor Lanes, Pittsburgh, PA

SOKOL REUNION

MAY 31-JUNE 1

Flinstone, MD

SLET

JULY 17-21, 2019

SUNY Brockport, Brockport, NY

CONVENTION

AUGUST 3-7

Cleveland Airport Marriot
Cleveland, OH

GOLF

AUGUST 16-18, 2019

Seven Oaks Country Club
and Black Hawk Golf Course
Beaver, PA

LODGE JOTTINGS

EGYPT, PA, ASSEMBLY 255

The semi-annual meeting of our Assembly will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, February 24 at 4137 Wilson St. in Whitehall, PA.

At this meeting we will discuss the election of delegates to the upcoming 33rd S.C.S. Convention scheduled for August 3-7 in Cleveland, Oh.

Zdar Boh!

Respectfully Submitted,

Bernard Kuchera, President

LORAIN, OH, WREATH 111

After a cold winter season in Lorain, I would like to welcome our members in the coming spring season. I welcome them back and ask them to join us for our monthly meetings. Our meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at the American Slovak Club located at 2915 Broadway Avenue in Lorain. Our meetings and socializing begin at 6:30 p.m. An enjoyable evening is always assured.

Our Monday, March 11 meeting will be devoted to the discussion of our upcoming bowling tournament.

On Monday, April 8 our meeting will be devoted to World Health Day.

Our Monday, May 13 our meeting will celebrate a Happy Mothers Day.

On June 10, we will enjoy our traditional "indoor picnic" with all the fixins.

We do not meet during the months of July and August. We resume our fall schedule on Monday, September 9, when we celebrate our Wreath's patronal feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Our October 14 meeting will be devoted to an evening celebrating the Columbus Day observance.

Our November 11 meeting will honor all our Veterans, both living and deceased.

And finally our traditional Christmas gathering celebrating Christ's birth will be held on December 9. So mark your calendars and plan to join us for our monthly evenings devoted to traditional Sokol fraternalism at it best. This year our lodge celebrates its 98th anniversary. We were founded in 1921 at the former Holy Trinity Slovak Parish. I look forward to seeing a good turnout of Sokols and Sokolky, young and old alike at these gatherings. New members are always welcome.

Zdar Boh!

Helen M. Zemanek, President

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATES

PUBLICATION DATE	ARTICLE DEADLINE
March 13, 2019	March 4, 2019
April 17, 2019	April 8, 2019
May 15, 2019	May 6, 2019
June 19, 2019	June 10, 2019
July 17, 2018	July 8, 2019
August 14, 2019	August 5, 2019
September 18, 2019	September 9, 2019
October 16, 2019	October 7, 2019
November 13, 2019	November 4, 2019
December 18, 2019	December 9, 2019

Message from our Supreme President

(Continued from page 2)

der Scholarship Grants. The website scholarship applications make it easy for members to apply, complete the application on line and submit. If any member has questions concerning the scholarships or the application process please contact our Supreme Vice President, Edward D. Moeller, vp@slovakcatholicssokol.org for assistance.

I read two articles published by the American Fraternal Alliance, (AFA), to share with you. The first is an analysis of who is purchasing life insurance in 2019. Nothing is surprising here; more individuals over the age of 45 will purchase more life insurance than those under 45. The second is life insurance purchases will increase by 3% in 2019 over 2018. These two simple predictions are interesting and should be our guiding light for a successful year of growth for our Society this year.

Let us work together to make 2019 the best year of increasing membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol and break our record and surpass the experts predictions.

Any member needing help to recommend a family member or friend to become a Slovak Catholic Sokol member and purchase a life insurance or annuity product reach out and call our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C., 855-874-9179, or our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., 800-886-7656.

With God's Blessings to All!

Zdar Boh!

SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 13, 2019



ST. ADALBERT CHURCH

160 So.15th Street, South Side
Pittsburgh, PA

10:45 a.m. – Recitation of Rosary (in Slovak)

11:00 a.m. – Slovak Mass

PRINCE OF PEACE PARISH CENTER

81 South 13th Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA

** SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS **

paska (sweet bread) • sunka (ham)
sirek (egg cheese) • chren (beets & horseradish)

- 12 Noon –**
- * Homemade Baked Goods
 - * Craft Demonstrations
 - * Cultural Displays
 - * Imported Slovak gifts
 - * Slovak "Auction" /Raffle



ADMISSION FREE

Donations Gratefully Accepted

For more information call (412) 657-6364

PRESIDENTS' DAY FACTS

⇒ Presidents' Day falls on the third Monday in February in the United States. It is also known as Washington's Birthday, after George Washington, the first president of the United States. The day is meant to celebrate George Washington and all the presidents of the U.S. It became a federal holiday in 1879. Although there was an attempt in 1968 to officially call the third Monday in February Presidents' Day, it failed. It eventually came to pass that in 1971. Still many states choose to call this day Presidents' Day instead of Washington's Birthday. Some states also celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday at this time as well.

⇒ Presidents' Day/Washington's Birthday is a federal holiday in the United States. Even though G. Washington's birthday was February 22nd, the day is officially celebrated on the third Monday in February.

⇒ In the 1700s, George Washington's birthday was celebrated while he was still alive, and many in the U.S. took part in the festivities. He was born in 1732 and died in 1799.

⇒ George Washington was president for two terms, from 1789 to 1793, and 1793 to 1797.

⇒ George Washington had important military roles prior to becoming president. Under his leadership, the American Continental Army defeated the British in 1783. Many believe he is the most important politician in American history.

⇒ George Washington is featured on the quarter dollar coin and the one dollar bill.

Since 1888, George Washington's Farewell Address has been read in the senate on February 22nd of most years.

⇒ Some spell it President's Day and some spell it Presidents' Day. Presidents' Day refers to more than one president while President's Day refers to one President. The difference in spelling may be because some celebrate George Washington alone on this day and others celebrate George and Abraham Lincoln, while some may be celebrating all presidents.

⇒ Even though it is a federal holiday, each state is free to call it what they choose and how to celebrate.

⇒ There were four presidents born in February including George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, William Harrison and Ronald Reagan. Most celebrate Presidents' Day in honor of the first two.



41st SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation

The 41st Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is underway. Funds raised go to the Bishop Grutka Fund, which is used to support the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius to assist with its day to day operations. The College is the residence of priests from Slovakia who are sent to Rome by their bishops for graduate studies. After receiving their degrees, these priests return to their dioceses to work as seminary teachers, Tribunal officials, and in other ministries.

Last year's appeal raised \$32,698.81 from 181 donors. After just one month, 45 donors have contributed \$2,985.00 to the 2019 Appeal. The vast majority of these 45 donations were made because of a direct mailing sent to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors. Information has already been sent to parishes that take up a special collection for the Appeal. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2019 Appeal may do so by filling out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. All donors receive an acknowledgement for their gift. Thank you for your goodness and generosity. Donations received after November 30, 2019 will be credited toward the 2020 Appeal.

The Slovak Catholic Federation, founded in 1911, brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.



41ST ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS APPEAL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In Memory of _____ Amount \$ _____

Please make checks payable to
Slovak Catholic Federation
and mail to:

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta
Vice President, Slovak Catholic Federation
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
120 Jefferson Street
Swedesburg, PA 19405

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

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$500.00 grants to one young Sokol or Sokolka in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. These 19 Grants are available to any qualified Sokol member currently attending a Catholic High School.

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

APPLICATION

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

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

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2019** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @

www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

DISQUALIFICATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

RETURN OF GRANT

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

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

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

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

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

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

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

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

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

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

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____

(yes/no)

If yes, please indicate Grade School or High School. What year? _____

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

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

Catholic High School, verify that _____

(Name of student)
is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2019-2020 school year.

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

*Deadline for receipt of this application is **MARCH 31, 2019**. Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055*

Slovak Catholic Sokol Catholic Grade School School Grants

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$250.00 Grants to our young Sokols and Sokolky in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. Two grants each per Group are available to any qualified Sokol member entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2 through 8).

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

APPLICATION

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2019** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @

www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

DISQUALIFICATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

RETURN OF GRANT

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

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

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

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

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

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

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

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

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

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

If yes, what year? _____

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

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

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

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2019-2020 school year.

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

*Deadline for receipt of this application is **MARCH 31, 2019.** Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055*

\$63,000 in S.C.S. Scholarship Grants Available to Eligible Members in 2019

by Edward D. Moeller, *Supreme Vice President*

We are pleased to announce that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will make available a total of \$63,000 in **scholarship grants** to eligible members in 2019. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2019 grant; however, per Convention mandate - a student may receive a maximum of two (2) Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grant awards in each category.



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

one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, one The Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, one Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, one Yencha Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 and three Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.

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

College scholarship eligibility requirements:

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL (a total of 30, \$1,000 grants will be awarded)

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

THEODORE AND MARY JANE RICH (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

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

EMIL SLAVIK (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Both parents must be members

of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

- Must be majoring in liberal arts, the sciences, pre-law, pre-medical or business curriculum.

THE DOCTORS' LESKO MEDICAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

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

KRISTA L. GLUGOSH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

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

THE YENCHA SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Majoring in Liberal Arts Curriculum

Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship (3 grants in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to the applicant that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)

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

The process of applying for any of the above college level scholarships is completely on-line. Applications and instructions are **ONLY** available on our website @ www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

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

Edward D. Moeller

Supreme Vice-President

Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee

vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org

(412)881-3506

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 31, 2019

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

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP – TIPS FOR SUCCESS

I just wanted to take a moment to highlight the recent changes made to the Slovak Catholic College Scholarship Program. We will continue to use a completely on-line process as we have had few issues with the process over the past several seasons. With the help of our technical webmaster, we have redesigned the application process and you should find it to be much more user friendly. You will find the on-line application on our website at www.slovak-catholicsokol.org beginning November 1, 2018.

To be best prepared for this process a successful applicant should:

- Review the application on-line for required content and gather prior to beginning to complete the form
- Be prepared to attach both your essay (in PDF or Word format) and a color head and shoulders picture of yourself (in .jpeg format).

Please note, you may want to print a copy for your records prior to submitting. All applicants will receive automatic confirmation that their e-mail has been received.

It really isn't that difficult to qualify for one of our many college scholarships. With now four years of the new College Scholarship Application process behind us, it is clear that there are a few ways to assure that your application will be reviewed.

1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE APPLICATION.

For example- if something does not apply to you- say N/A. If you are fully independent from your parents- as in, you are not claimed by them on their tax return, you should indicate that in the space asking for total parent income. Leaving this blank does not tell the whole story.

2. INCLUDE ALL REQUIREMENTS

FOR THE APPLICATION- i.e. photo; transcript; essay Start the process for requesting your transcript NOW. I have found that sometimes this is the hold up for some applicants.

- **Transcripts-** please note that "official transcript" means that you have requested it from your University or College and that it has been sent directly to me in a sealed envelope. We have not been as strict in the past on this issue, but began holding each applicant to this requirement last season and will continue to do so moving forward.

3. SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED ELEMENTS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE.

The application is clear and I just want to prevent a waste of your time and energy.

Failure to include/complete any of the above items will result in the application being disqualified. To be honest, it is not easy for our committee when we need to disqualify applicants for simple yet important missing requirements.

Lastly, apply for all college scholarships for which you qualify in order to give yourself the best chance at receiving something. There were several applicants who limited themselves to a particular scholarship. Competition was fierce for the larger \$ scholarships, but there seems to be more opportunity with the other scholarship offerings.

Not every applicant receives a scholarship every time they apply. If you have not received one in the past, I encourage you to apply again this year. Before submitting your application- take some time to review the bullet points above in order to assure that your application will be included for consideration. Good luck and Zdar Boh! – **Edward D. Moeller**, *Supreme Vice President; Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee*

MINUTES OF WREATH 54 ANNUAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 27, 2019 IN YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Call to Order and Welcome: President Edith Babik
Opening Prayer: Edith Babik
Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Nancy Kropolinsky
 Roll Call of Officers and Members: Edith Babik noted the following present: Edith Babik- President, Patty Gordulic- Vice President, Mary Olexa- Financial Secretary, Carol Gonda- Treasurer, Judy Babik – Auditor, Elaine Kana- Auditor, Virginia Bartos- Member, Loretta G. Smith – Member, Nancy Kropolinsky- Member.

Acceptance of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes: Judy Babik- recapped notes and made a motion to accept as minutes, seconded by Mary Olexa.

Activity Reports:

Financial Secretary: No activity reported to date.

Treasurer: Officers Salaries were reported with no change. Donated monies to Slovak Fest. Donated to Our Lady of Sorrows Christmas fund.

Communications: Thank you from Fr. Jerek, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, was received for Christmas fund donation. Nancy Kropolinsky offered new 2019 Slovak Magnets to all present.

Old Business: Donation was made in honor and memory of Anne Adams in the form of a devotional candle. She was a life-long member and recording secretary of Wreath 54.

Christmas Party: Judy Babik reported on the Christmas party. 24 children were in attendance from Wreath 54. Names and photos were submitted for reimbursement.

New Business: Loretta G. Smith led the nominations Committee and the following officers for 2019 were elected: President: Edith Babik – nominated by Judy Babik, Seconded by Loretta Smith; Vice-President: Virginia Bartos- nominated by Loretta Smith, Second by Nancy Kropolinsky; Financial Secretary: Mary Olexa- nominated by Edith Babik, Second by Virginia Bartos; Recording Secretary: Nancy Kropolinsky- nominated by Carol Gonda, Second by Elaine Kana; Treasurer: Carol Gonda- nominated by Patty Gordulic, Second by Loretta G. Smith; Auditor: Judy Babik- nominated by Nancy Kropolinsky, Second by Mary Olexa; Auditor: Elaine Kana- nominated by Patty Gordulic, Second by Loretta G. Smith; Sergeant at Arms: Loretta G. Smith- nominated by Virginia Bartos, Second by Nancy Kropolinsky.

Convention: Financial Secretary, Mary Olexa reviewed qualifications to attend the 2019 Convention. Official Delegate Forms were distributed and need to be completed by subsequent meeting.

2019 Activities: Encouragement to participate in International events was provided by President Edith Babik.

New Motions: Judy Babik made a motion to continue donating to the Slovak Fest, seconded by Patty Gordulic.

Next Meeting Date: To be determined but prior to March 31, 2019.

Adjournment: Loretta G. Smith, made a motion to adjourn, second by Nancy Kropolinsky.

Closing Prayer: Edith Babik

Nancy Kropolinsky, Recording Secretary



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

February, 2019

Holiday Stories



Presidents Day

Story by Andrew Frinkle



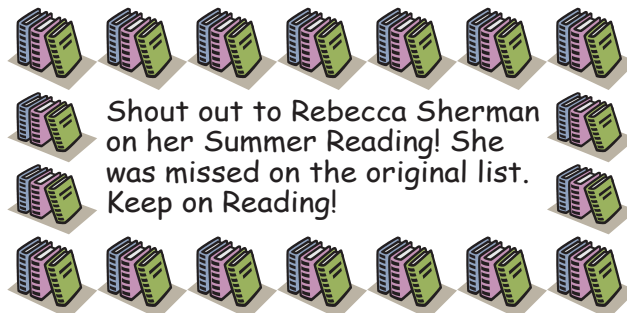
Presidents Day is on the third Monday in February. This day celebrates the great leaders of our country.

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are two of our most popular presidents. They were both born in February. Their birthdays are right around this holiday. You might recognize their faces from money or from monuments in Washington D.C.

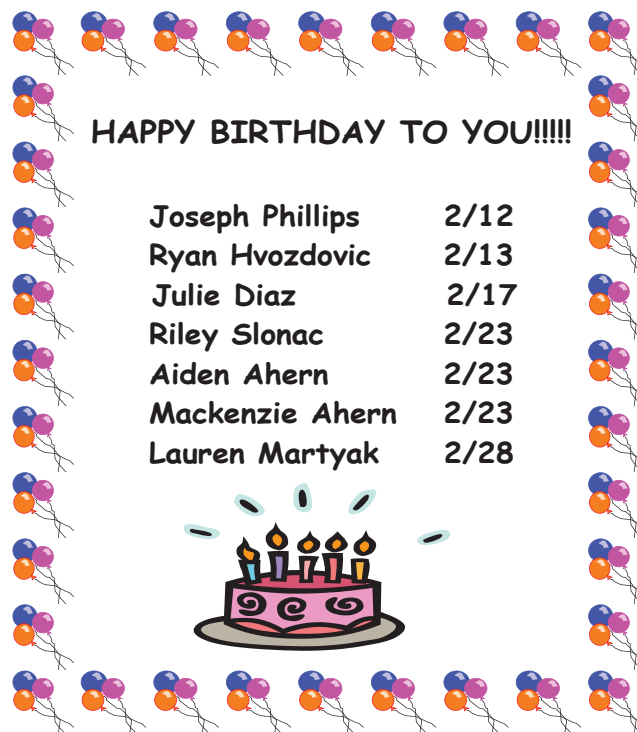
Presidents Day celebrates not just these presidents, but all of them. They have a difficult job! They have to make very hard choices for our country. On this day, we honor them and the work they do for us.

Holiday Reading Comprehension Stories

www.HaveFunTeaching.com



Shout out to Rebecca Sherman on her Summer Reading! She was missed on the original list. Keep on Reading!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Joseph Phillips	2/12
Ryan Hvozdovic	2/13
Julie Diaz	2/17
Riley Slonac	2/23
Aiden Ahern	2/23
Mackenzie Ahern	2/23
Lauren Martyak	2/28





KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

February, 2019

ACROSS

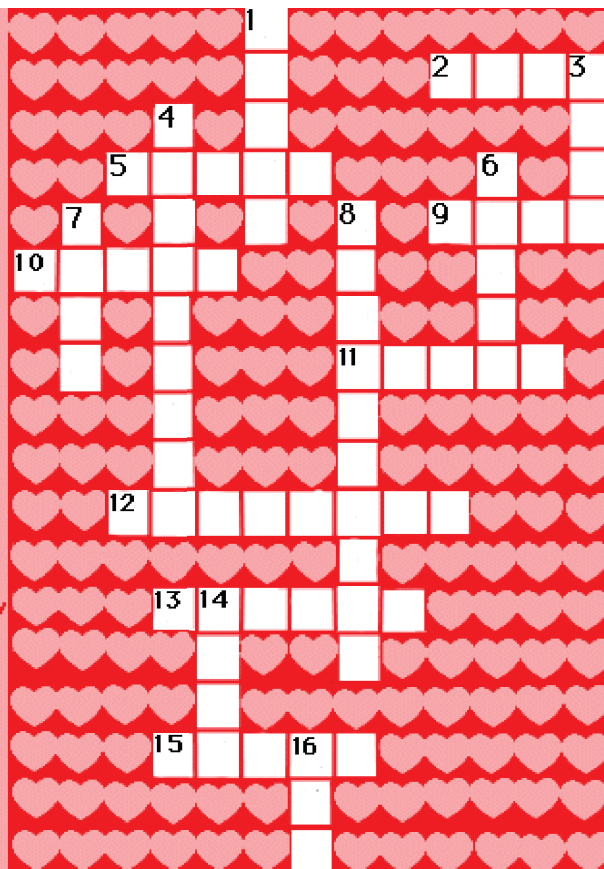
2. White and red mixed
5. Many classrooms have a Valentine _____
9. _____ and kisses
10. A dozen _____
11. Chocolate _____
12. _____ 14th
13. A rose is a _____
15. A Valentine shape

DOWN

1. A Valentine color
3. Sealed with a _____
4. Would you be my _____ ?
6. Carries his bow and arrow
7. Wrote me a love _____
8. A box of _____
14. My true _____
16. A Valentine color



www.robinsfyi.com



Valentine's Day Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters L O V E. Don't guess - use logic.



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland**News and Views
from Slovakia...****PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SET FOR MARCH 16**

The first round of this year's presidential election will be held on March 16, Parliamentary Chair Andrej Danko (Slovak National Party/SNS) announced on January 10.

A possible second round, if the head of state isn't elected in the first one, is slated to take place on March 30.

More than a dozen people officially intend to join the contest for the Presidential Palace at the present moment, including, for example, Parliamentary Vice-chair Bela Bugar (Most-Hid), scientist Robert Mistrik (supported by SaS and Together), security analyst Juraj Zabožník, political analyst Eduard Chmelar, lawyer and activist Zuzana Caputova (Progressive Slovakia), Milan Krajniak (We Are Family), witness of ex-president Michal Kováč's son's kidnapping Oskar Fegyveres, head of the far-right LSNS Marian Kotleba, former parliamentary veteran Frantisek Miklosko, Robert Svec (Slovak Revival Movement), entrepreneur Bohumila Tauchmannova, Supreme Court judge Stefan Harabin, and dramatist and fashion TV director Gabriela Drobova. Incumbent President Andrej Kiska has chosen not to run for re-election.

54% OF STAFF IN NEED OF NEW QUALIFICATION BY 2022

Analytical thinking and innovation are set to become the most demanding skills on the labour market in the next years, TASR has learnt from Slovenska sporitelna analyst Lenka Buchlakova.

Referring to an analysis of the World Economic Forum, Buchlakova said that 54 percent of current staff will need to take up a requalification course by 2022.

"The labour market in global terms, but also that in Slovakia will gradually require more skills in the areas of technology and programming. A demand for IT specialists is growing. However, employers will also require creativity, originality and critical thinking from employees," said Buchlakova, adding that flexibility and comprehensive problem solving skills are becoming more and more important.

The analysis further anticipates that the companies will carry out around half of all requalification courses needed for the employees via company's internal departments. According to Buchlakova, the training courses "will significantly boost the qualification of firms and improve the results of their employees". The analysts added that full-time jobs will become less popular and will be replaced by the system of hiring temporary employees or self-employed persons.

**PELLEGRINI: GOVERNMENT WANTS TO SUBMIT
LAWS RELATED TO BREXIT IN MID-FEBRUARY**

In the event of a no-deal Brexit, the Slovak Government will submit all necessary legislative changes by February 15, while at the same time requesting Parliament for a fast-track legislative procedure, TASR learnt from Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini

(Smer-SD) after a meeting of an inter-departmental co-ordination group for Brexit on Monday.

Pellegrini stated that on February 15 all draft laws that will need to be amended will be on the desk. "We're ready for all the alternatives and we'll adopt really sufficiently in advance such legislation that will respond in detail to what is going to happen in reality," he said, adding that Slovakia will be ready for the most up-to-date situation. The Government will adopt a comprehensive document next week on Wednesday (January 30) that will talk about all the areas of life in Slovakia that can be affected by Brexit.

Pellegrini has confirmed that Slovakia will make all the necessary changes to ensure that British citizens living, working and studying in Slovakia will have the same rights as before. "Slovakia will make all necessary legislative and administrative-technical changes to ensure that British citizens living, working and studying in Slovakia before the Brexit date will enjoy rights similar to those of EU citizens, as Slovak citizens living, working and studying [in the UK] will be provided by the British Government

(Continued on page 15)



The Courtyard of Europe is the name for the unique architectural work of the architects from the Atelier Europe in Komárno. The buildings represent historical architecture typical for particular parts of Europe. The historical centre of Komárno, a town situated in the south of Slovakia, on the bank of the river Danube, and the Courtyard of Europe are linked by entrance gates: the gate of St. Stephen, the gate of Belo IV, and the gate of Maria Theresa. The gate of Mathew I. opens from the side of the inner park of the Zichy Palace. Mathew I was the best-known king in our history, who was closely emotionally connected with the town of Komárno. This gate is one of the landmarks of the Courtyard. With its shape and colors, it reminds the buildings built during the reign of Mathew I. In the middle of the square stands a functional copy of the original well which used to stand in the main square, in front of the Town Hall until 1878.

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

News and Views from Slovakia...

(Continued from page 14)

and its bodies,” stated the premier, adding that this statement will be officially communicated to UK representatives so that they can fulfil their commitment to Slovak citizens.

Pellegrini pointed out that if the UK leaves the EU without an agreement, Slovakia, according to him, doesn't have an agreement on social security with the United Kingdom. “In the field of social services, we're ready to adopt by the date when the United Kingdom leaves some laws that will guarantee the social security of citizens, will recognise their years of work and other social security issues,” he said.

ANALYSTS: LABOR MARKET COULD GRADUALLY LOOSEN UP IN 2019

According to analysts, the shortage of labor should be among the main topics even in 2019.

An expected slowdown in economic growth will gradually mitigate employers' demand for labor, said the analysts. “The labor market will loosen up, especially in the east and south of central Slovakia, while mild (temporary) growth in unemployment can't be excluded in 2020,” assumes analyst from UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia Lubomir Korsnak, adding that the west of the country will still experience a lack of available labour, which, according to him, employers will resolve partly by importing labour from abroad. The number of foreigners working in Slovakia could gradually stabilise this year and especially next year, said Korsnak.

The analysts think that the shortage of labor should force salaries to grow. Analyst from Postova banka Lucia Dovalova said that nominal growth in salaries could exceed 6 percent and thus grow at approximately the same rate as in 2018. According to Korsnak, the announced salary increase of 10 percent in the public sector as of January 2019 should accelerate growth to 7 percent.

“Salaries will be forced up especially in sectors that feel a lack of qualified labour, said Dovalova, adding that real salaries should also grow in 2019, albeit at a slower rate than nominal ones.

TASR RELEASES 'HEIRLOOM' PHOTO SET OF SLOVAKIA'S WONDERS

Slovakia's natural treasures have been included in a unique photo set created by The News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR) entitled 'Heirloom'. The series is also devoted to bird's eye views of towns, buildings and transport infrastructure. The series of 30 reports further includes photos of the wonders of nature, fields and pastures taken from the air.

“We managed to take pictures of interesting locations where the borders of three countries – Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine – meet. Apart from Poloniny National Park, we also captured Starina water reservoir and Slovakia's easternmost village of Nova Sedlica. We even had to land for some moments, as taking photos in border areas is subject to special regulations, and it's necessary to have a flight permit,” said TASR Photo Desk head Michal Svitok, who took the pictures.

The five-part series contains a total of 120 photoreports and almost 900 pictures taken from an ultra-light aircraft across Slovakia.

LAJCAK: BREXIT MEASURES SHOULD BE APPROVED BY HOUSE IN MARCH

Measures aimed at mitigating the effects of Brexit, a.k.a. Lex Brexit, should be approved by Parliament as early as in March, stated Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak (a Smer-SD nominee) after a Cabinet session on January 30th, adding that the measures in question should be submitted to Parliament by mid-February.

A document with 23 measures that should get Slovakia ready for the event of a no-deal Brexit was negotiated and approved by the Government earlier on January 30th.

“The [measures] concern the status of our citizens in Britain and their social rights, they concern transport, especially road and air transport. They also focus on economic co-operation and businessmen as well as on co-operation in the field of justice, security, defence and foreign affairs,” said the head of Slovak diplomacy.

Lajcak further said that the UK is leaving the EU on March 29 either with or without a deal. He pointed out that there is no majority in the British Parliament to approve the deal negotiated with the Union, so a no-deal Brexit is getting more real every day. Slovakia has to be ready for this alternative, said Lajcak.

VOLKSWAGEN TO CUT STAFF IN SLOVAKIA FOR FIRST TIME

Volkswagen's business in Slovakia, the country's biggest car plant and largest private sector employer, plans to reduce staff this year for the first time since 2009. The business will return some 500 workers it had borrowed from the Hungarian unit of premium brand Audi in 2016, reduce the number of contractors and will not extend expiring fixed-term contracts.

Volkswagen Slovakia will also reduce the number of production shifts that make higher-end SUVs as well as cheaper small family cars including the Volkswagen e-up!, the only electric car currently made in Slovakia.

Volkswagen said the move was part of a drive to increase efficiencies by 30 percent by 2025, as it strives to fund a costly shift to electric and self-driving vehicles.

Slovakia's smallest automaker Kia will also reduce staff this year, the first time since launching in the country in 2006. It will cut 27 staff as of February due to a 35-percent slump in demand for diesel engines made at its factory outside Zilina, northern Slovakia. Its car production this year is expected to match last year's 333,000 vehicles.

The auto industry accounts for 13 percent of Slovakia's gross domestic product, which is expected to grow 4.3 percent this year before slowing, and for 35 percent of its exports.

PSA Group and Jaguar Land Rover see their output rising this year in Slovakia.

STATS OFFICE: INFLATION IN SLOVAKIA AT 1.9 PERCENT IN DECEMBER

Year-on-year inflation in Slovakia amounted to 1.9 percent in December 2018, with core inflation standing at 1.8 percent and net inflation at 2 percent.

In December 2018, month-on-month cumulative inflation was negatively influenced by core inflation by 0.31 percentage points (p.p.), while regulated prices had an impact of 0.18 p.p., and indirect taxes had no effect on cumulative inflation.

Food prices influenced core inflation by 0.02 p.p., and net inflation had a negative impact of 0.33 p.p. on core inflation.

THE SOKOL WIN - WIN LEAD PROGRAM BENEFITING MEMBERS

Program Runs - August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019

The Slovak Catholic Sokol for over 113 years has provided our members with sound financial protection and outstanding fraternal benefits. The Society is introducing a program that will benefit our existing and potential members.

As a proud existing member of the SOKOL it is quite easy to expound upon and share the qualities of membership. Not everyone is born a salesman or comfortable selling life insurance or annuities. Today, we have qualified life insurance and annuity representatives that can assist our existing and potential members in selecting the financial protection to help protect their future.

THE PROCESS

Share with a relative or a friend the qualities of membership with the SOKOL. Our fraternal programs, benefits and financial products (life insurance & Annuities).

Complete and submit the MEMBERSHIP REFERRAL CARD to the Sales Office.

An Authorized SOKOL Agent will contact and provide professional advice to place the individual into the right solution.

If your referral purchases a SOKOL Life Insurance or Annuity you earn \$10.00. In addition, for every qualified referral, your name is entered in the \$50 gift card semi-annual drawing and the end of campaign's grand prize of \$250.

AVAILABILITY

A supply of SOKOL WIN - WIN Lead Cards will be available to all Assembly/Wreath Presidents for distribution.

Assembly/Wreath Presidents and other Assembly/Wreath Officers are asked to distribute SOKOL WIN - WIN Lead Cards to existing Members who want to recommend someone to become an insured Benefit Member.

Making it easy - SOKOL WIN - WIN Lead Cards are available for completion and submitting on the SOKOL Web Site www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

Mail completed Referral Lead Cards to the Sales & Marketing Office.

The Assembly/Wreath that has the largest number of new Members referred through this program will be awarded \$500 and will receive recognition in the FALCON, on the SOKOL website and the 2019 National Convention.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL - Member Referral Card

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: ____ - ____ - ____ Email: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female Age: ____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

RECOMMENDER INFORMATION Assembly/Wreath: ____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: ____ - ____ - ____

Interest:

☐ Life Insurance

☐ Annuity

EVERYONE WHO WINS!

The New Member

*(Financial
Protection &
Fraternal Benefits)*

The Recommender

(\$10 - \$50 - \$250)

**The
Assembly/Wreath-**

(\$500)

**New Members +
New Sales = Fiscal
Strength**

Slovak Catholic SOKOL

Sales & Marketing

2403 Sidney Street

Suite 200

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

855-874-9179

sales@slovakcatholicsokol.org

www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

Introducing our newest members



Lovely twins, Madelyn and Mariella Fareri, daughters of N. Fareri and Krystina Busemi Fareri of Trenton, N.J. were enrolled as members of Assembly 162 in Clifton, N.J.



Sadie F. Marych, born February 8, 2018, is the daughter of William C. and Kate DePruspo Marych of Severna Park, Md. She was enrolled as a member of Wreath 13 in Philadelphia, Pa.



Kai Jordan Kalinowski, born March 22, 2018, is the son of Steve and Dayna Bost Kalinowski of Plum, Pa. He was enrolled as a member of Assembly 16 in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Parker Mae Macurak, born November 15, 2018, is the daughter of Scott Andrew and Laura Butler Macurak of Acworth, Ga. She was enrolled as a member of Wreath 22 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Pre-Lenten "Fasiangy" in Milwaukee on March 2

Assembly 20 of the Slovak League of America in cooperation with local Slovak fraternal lodges of Milwaukee, will host the traditional pre-Lenten Slovak celebration of "Fasiangy" on Saturday, March 2. The celebration will be held in the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 1800 South 92nd Street in West Allis, Wis. beginning at 5 p.m.

A cordial invitation goes out to members of Wreath 93 to join us for an entertaining and enjoyable evening before the beginning of Lent, a tradition of the Milwaukee Slovak community spanning nearly three-quarters of a century.

Traditional Slovak culinary specialties and bakery will be available throughout the evening. A live band will provide music for dancing and listening pleasure. A highlight of the evening will be a performance by the popular Tatra Slovak Dancers at 6:30 p.m. Donation is \$5.00. An enjoyable evening is assured. For additional information contact our Sokolka, Betty at tel. 414 425-6137 or Ellen at 262 893-7483.

SAVE THE DATE

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL 33rd QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 3 – 7, 2019

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SS. Cyril and Methodius nudge Valentine off the calendar

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

Until the post-Vatican II changes in the liturgical calendar went into effect in 1969, Feb. 14 was the day on which the third century bishop, Valentine, was commemorated. During the liturgical efforts of the late 1960s, efforts were made to place the celebration of a saint's feast as close as possible to the date of his/her death.



Because St. Cyril's death occurred Feb. 14, 869, the feast he shares with his brother, Methodius, (formerly marked on July 7) has been celebrated as a memorial on Feb. 14.

The mission and ministry of Cyril and Methodius is both timely and relevant in our day. They were instrumental in introducing the liturgy in the vernacular 1,100 years ahead of the rest of the Church. They might be described as one of "the best kept secrets" in the Church. They are revered by both the Eastern and Western traditions of the Church.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit - and despite much persecution and misunderstanding - they forged ahead in their time to "do things that had never been done before."

Undoubtedly, the ninth century brothers - apostles to the Slavs could not have imagined that more than 11 centuries later, the faithful would look to them as models and mentors. As we minister in this millennium, it is well for those involved in Church ministry to reflect on their ministry and adapt these observations to our present situation.

Cyril and Methodius left the comfort and the academic setting to which they were accustomed, and responded to an appeal of Prince Rastislav to Emperor Michael to "send missionaries who will teach the Gospel in a language our people will understand."

Rather than imposing Greek culture on their neighbors to the north, Cyril set himself to the task of creating a language so that they might proclaim the Word. He began by making Scriptures and the liturgical books available to the residents of what was then known as "Great Moravia." In fact, the first words he penned in this newly created language were: "In the beginning was the Word."

This language was known as the Glagolitic (from glagol, to speak) and evolved into what is still known as the Cyrillic alphabet used in Russia and other Slavic nations.

These brother-missionaries observed and adapted the culture of the Slavs to Christianity. In other words, they not only baptized individuals they had instructed in the faith; they also "baptized" and Christianized the culture of their converts. Unique to their mission also was the



Sts. Cyril & Methodius
Brothers & Missionaries
Memorial - 14 February

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Group 17, "Rev. Francis Skutil"

The annual meeting of Group 17 was held on Sunday, Nov. 4 at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Youngstown, Oh. The meeting opened with Mass celebrated at 11 a.m. at St. Matthias Church by the pastor, the Rev. John M. Jerek.

Group 17 President James G. Jerek called the meeting to order with the opening prayer led by Sister Edie Babik followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Brother Glen Kramer. The roll call was read by Sister Carol Gonda and indicated that all officers were present with the exception of Candice Krakovich and Sue Babik. The minutes of 2017 annual meeting were accepted.

The reports of the officers followed. The president indicated that he had an active fraternal year. His report was approved on a motion by Brother Ken Hlebovy, seconded by Brother Tim Shirilla.

The vice president, Brother Glen Kramer then presented his report. He indicated that he fulfilled all the duties of the office. The report was accepted on a motion by Sister Loretta Smith, seconded by Sister Edie Babik.

The secretary, Sister Carol Gonda then presented her report. She indicated that all the duties of the office had been fulfilled. The report was accepted on a motion by Sister Elaine Kana, seconded by Sister Virginia Bartos.

The report of the treasurer was presented by Brother Tim Shirilla. He indicated that all the duties of the office had been carried out. The report was approved on a motion by Sister Nancy Kropolinsky, seconded by Sister Patty Gordulic.

The auditors, Brother Glen Hlebovy, and Sisters Mary Olexa and Edie Babik reported that they found all the books in order. Their report was accepted on a motion by Sister Nancy Kropolinsky, seconded by Brother John Jerek.

The Physical Fitness Board then presented their report. They indicated that they attended all activities hosted by Group 17 as well as the international golf tournament and the weekend at Rocky Glen Resort. Their report was accepted on a motion by Sister Patty Gordulic, seconded by Sister Mary Olexa.

President Jerek called on the Sports Director, Sister Judy Babik for her report. She too participated in all the sporting and fraternal activities hosted by the Group. She announced all the sporting events scheduled for 2019.

Under Old Business, President Jerek asked for a report on the children's Christmas party held in 2017 and plans for this year's event scheduled for December 2. He indicated that the Group had one scholarship recipient for 2018, Maria Gonda. Congratulations and best wishes go out to Sister Edith M. Babik on her selection as 2018 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year. He reminded the delegates that the 33rd quadrennial convention was set for August 3-6, 2019 and hoped that all Group 17 lodges would be represented.

Regarding the children's Christmas party, it was agreed that the Group and the Assembly and Wreaths would help with the costs. On a motion by Sister Nancy Kropolinsky, seconded by Sister Mary Olexa, \$100 was donated to our Sokol Museum fund in memory of Brother Polchak, who had been active in the Group until his death in 2017.

With no further business, the 2018 annual meeting was adjourned by on a motion by Brother Ken Hlebovy, seconded by Sister Virginia Bartos. A closing prayer for our deceased members brought the meeting to a close. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Gonda, Group 17 Secretary

In Memoriam

*Slovak Catholic Sokol extends sincere sympathy
to the bereaved families of deceased members*

NOVEMBER 2018

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 1	Charles J. Richnavsky, Passaic, NJ	87	November 24, 2018
Assembly 10	Albert A. Scovera, Farrell, PA	99	October 29, 2018
Assembly 11	John Gala, Chicago, IL	83	November 12, 2018
Assembly 11	Anna M. Koval, Chicago, IL	90	August 28, 2018
Assembly 16	Stanley Pijanowski, Pittsburgh, PA	77	November 8, 2018
Assembly 48	Denise A. Hearn, Philadelphia, PA	60	April 23, 2018
Assembly 59	Nancy Abdo, Wilkes-Barre, PA	94	October 27, 2018
Assembly 59	John Joseph Ivan, Wilkes-Barre, PA	94	November 22, 2018
Assembly 78	Frances Uhrich, Bethlehem, PA	90	November 20, 2018
Assembly 79	Michael Francis Slebodnick, Lilly, PA	77	November 1, 2018
Assembly 86	Andrew John Bednar, Port Griffith, PA	87	November 2, 2018
Assembly 108	Joseph P. Adams, Youngstown, OH	85	November 14, 2018
Assembly 108	John Polak, Youngstown, OH	71	November 25, 2018
Assembly 108	Charles J. Klesch, Youngstown, OH	83	October 25, 2018
Assembly 162	Elizabeth Sohayda, Clifton, NJ	93	October 8, 2018
Assembly 162	Christopher Orosz, Clifton, NJ	55	October 3, 2018
Assembly 162	Johanna Glodava, Clifton, NJ	81	August 13, 2018
Assembly 162	Albert Sova, Clifton, NJ	87	October 1, 2018
Assembly 162	Albert J. Kvortek, Clifton, NJ	81	September 8, 2018
Assembly 179	Vilma O. Noonan, North Braddock, PA	95	April 24, 2018
Assembly 182	Margaret E. Portela, New York, NY	83	November 14, 2018
Assembly 188	George J. Demetriades, Lansford, PA	80	March 3, 2009
Assembly 312	Mary Ann Svetz, Passaic, NJ	72	September 18, 2018
Wreath 11	James R. Patka, Johnstown, NY	70	April 3, 2018
Wreath 11	Edward Patka, Johnstown, NY	71	March 9, 2018
Wreath 14	Francis G. Ozog, Johnstown, PA	79	October 25, 2018
Wreath 15	Mary F. Matyk, Perryopolis, PA	98	October 27, 2018
Wreath 39	Nadia A. Tavella, Bridgeport, CT	73	October 4, 2018
Wreath 39	Mary Cornell, Bridgeport, CT	84	September 5, 2018
Wreath 54	Joanne N. Vranches, Youngstown, OH	75	October 29, 2018
Wreath 54	Florence A. Brennen, Youngstown, OH	93	November 13, 2018
Wreath 54	Anne J. Adams, Youngstown, OH	86	November 10, 2018
Wreath 86	Anna T. Pace, Torrington, CT	86	November 7, 2018
Wreath 93	Jeffrey S. Klotz, Milwaukee, WI	61	October 5, 2018
Wreath 107	Helen Shirilla, Youngstown, OH	91	September 29, 2015
Wreath 153	Andrew Matea, Parma, OH	85	August 28, 2018
Wreath 157	Virginia M. Stianchie, Nesquehoning, PA	82	November 20, 2018

DECEMBER 2018

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 11	Anna Seasock, Chicago, IL	96	November 30, 2018
Assembly 11	Margaret Hemmerich, Chicago, IL	86	December 1, 2018
Assembly 11	Betty Donald, Chicago, IL	81	December 15, 2018
Assembly 25	Steve Bankovich, Perryopolis, PA	89	November 30, 2018
Assembly 39	Emma Dulesky, Bellaire, OH	84	November 28, 2018
Assembly 78	Theresa J. Groeller, Bethlehem, PA	92	October 18, 2018
Assembly 78	Patricia Ann Leperi, Bethlehem, PA	85	November 19, 2018

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OBITUARIES

Margaret M. Azzari, was past Assembly 295 officer

Margaret M. Azzari, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother passed away peacefully on November 18, 2018 in Jefferson Hills, Pa. She was 88.

A native of Scranton, Pa., she was born there March 31, 1930 daughter of the late Mary and John Benish. She married Peter J. Azzari in 1955. She was active in St. Paulinus Parish in Clairton, Pa. for many years where she served as a lector for 35 years. She was an active member of Assembly 295 in Duquesne, Pa. and an active Sokolka all her life participating in various sporting and fraternal activities within Group 14. She was a past vice-president of Assembly 295 and was active in the area's Slovak community.

Survivors include her four daughters, Tina(Michael)Quinn, Corrine(Carl)Hancock, Marcia(Fred)Bercik, and Annette Azzari, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; a brother as well as by numerous nieces and nephews. The Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated for Sister Azzari on November 26, 2018 in Holy Spirit Church in West Mifflin, Pa. Entombment followed.

May our Sister Margaret, who so beautifully mirrored our fraternal way of life and our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith, now rest in peace. She will be sorely missed.

— Mary M. Cmar

YOUR BENEFICIARIES

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



OBITUARIES

Sister M. Cabrini Steber, SS.C.M. devoted Cyrilite laid to rest at 92

Sister M. Cabrini Steber, (Mary Steber) passed away peacefully at Emmanuel Center, Danville, Pa. on Wednesday, December 19. A native of Coxeville, Pa., she was born there March 25, 1927, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Kotch) Steber. She attended Coxeville Public School, Beaver



Meadows and St. Joseph School in Hazleton. She graduated from St. Cyril Academy, Danville and entered the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius on September 11, 1945. On August 13, 1946, she was received as a novice. Sister Cabrini was

professed on August 11, 1948. She received her undergraduate degree in education from Marywood University in Scranton and a Master's degree from Scranton University, also in education.

For over forty years, Sister Cabrini taught in parish schools in Pennsylvania, South Carolina and New York, serving as principal/local coordinator for twenty-one years. Among her assignments was as principal at the former Most Holy Trinity School in Yonkers, N.Y. where our editor served with her on the faculty. Later Sister served in various capacities at Maria Hall and Maria Joseph Manor, Danville, among them, as receptionist, appointment escort, resident visitor and Coordinator of Volunteers.

The key to understanding Sister Cabrini's success as a religious lies in her desire to be loving to everyone she met. Sister Cabrini was universally known for her kind demeanor and perpetual smile. Wherever she ministered she was much loved, especially at Maria Joseph where she spent her last years in ministry and later as a resident herself. Though always pleasant, she had to deal with serious illness. She contracted Guillain-Barre disease when she was missioned at St. John the Baptist School in Pittston, Pa. Paralyzed from the waist down, she prayed for a miracle to Sister Maria Kaupas, S.C.S., foundress of the Sisters of Saint Casimir. She recovered and spent the rest of her life in fruitful ministry.

Sister was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Joseph, Andrew,

Aloysius and Daniel. She is survived by two nieces and two nephews. Transferal and recitation of the Rosary took place on December 22 at Maria Hall in Danville followed by a Wake Service. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at Maria Hall by the Maria Hall chaplain, the Rev. Gerard Heintzelman. Concelebrating were the Rev. Lawrence Nwabueze, O.P., Dayton, Oh., the Rev. John Cryiac, MSFS and the Rev. Augustine Joseph MSFS, both of Danville. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery.

Sister Cabrini was a devoted and dynamic educator, administrator and all-round people person as a consecrated religious. She beautifully mirrored our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith. May she now rest in peace.

Donations in memory of Sister Cabrini can be made to the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821.

Announcing 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 newly developed Memorial Scholarship fund? Your donation will assure that an annual scholarship be given out to a college age student who best exemplifies the meaning of fraternalism and volunteerism. Here's how it works:

Send a check or money order to the Memorial Scholarship Fund clearly indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at <http://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm> or simply send your donation to: **Dennis J. Zifcak, SCS Museum Treasurer, 33 Pinecrest Rd., Uxbridge, MA 01569**

Your bequest will be recognized in the Falcon as well as permanently added to the Memorial Scholarship Donation Log which will be kept at the Sokol Museum.

Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will be able to award at least two \$1,000 scholarships annually.

In Memoriam

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ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 85	Joanne Murgala, E. Vandergrift, PA	68	April 17, 2018
Assembly 108	Richard S. Shipley Jr., Youngstown, OH	66	November 1, 2018
Assembly 108	James Pabin, Youngstown, OH	66	May 31, 2018
Assembly 108	Maria Yuricek, Youngstown, OH	90	October 22, 2018
Assembly 162	Eleanor Sutts, Clifton, NJ	78	October 7, 2003
Assembly 162	William Chepiga, Clifton, NJ	84	March 11, 2010
Assembly 188	Robert Hlavaty, Lansford, PA	74	October 8, 2018
Assembly 224	Georgianna Fallat, Jersey City, NJ	69	May 12, 2018
Assembly 261	Joseph Paul Pluta, Reading, PA	88	November 8, 2018
Assembly 295	Margaret Azzari, Duquesne, PA	88	November 18, 2018
Assembly 312	Francis F. Fuchek, Passaic, NJ	84	November 28, 2018
Assembly 312	Raymond Paul Jakub, Passaic, NJ	64	February 22, 2010
Assembly 312	Dorothy Fernandes, Passaic, NJ	72	March 11, 2018
Wreath 13	Mildred Lisiewski, Philadelphia, PA	84	October 5, 2018
Wreath 81	Andrew Bakos, Whiting, IN	89	August 3, 2018
Wreath 85	Margaret Yost, Mc Kees Rocks, PA	99	December 16, 2018
Wreath 85	Helen Fotta, Mc Kees Rocks, PA	95	November 30, 2018
Wreath 85	George R. Zelenak Sr., Mc Kees Rocks, PA	93	November 12, 2018
Wreath 93	Xee Kue, Milwaukee, WI	64	December 2, 2018
Wreath 103	Rosella Mary Macko, Barberton, OH	96	December 11, 2018
Wreath 168	Mary A. Cirner, New York, NY	90	October 7, 2010
Wreath 168	Judit Bacsane-Csiki, New York, NY	61	November 12, 2018

XOXO

FUN FACTS ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY

♥ There are various theories on the origin of Valentine's Day, but the most popular dates back to the time of the Roman Empire during the reign of Claudius II, 270 A.D. Claudius didn't want men to marry during wartime because he believed single men made better soldiers. Bishop Valentine went against his wishes and performed secret wedding ceremonies. For this, Valentine was jailed and then executed by order of the Emperor on Feb. 14. While in jail, he wrote a love note to the jailor's daughter, signing it, "From your Valentine."

♥ The ancient Romans celebrated the Feast of Lupercalia on February 14 in honor of Juno, the queen of the Roman gods and goddesses. Juno was also the goddess of women and marriage.

♥ Many believe the X symbol became synonymous with the kiss in medieval times. People who couldn't write their names signed in front of a witness with an X. The X was then kissed to show their sincerity.

♥ In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine. They would wear this name pinned onto their sleeves for one week for everyone to see. This was the origin of the expression "to wear your heart on your sleeve."

♥ In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared Feb. 14 the holiday of St. Valentine's Day.

♥ The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love.

SS. Cyril and Methodius nudge Valentine off the calendar

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fact that they prepared their followers for ordination so that subsequent generations would not be dependent on foreign missionaries.

Recognizing their long-lasting contribution to building up the Body of Christ, Pope Saint John Paul II in an apostolic letter stated "Cyril and Methodius desired to become similar in every aspect to those to whom they were bringing the Gospel; they wished to become a part of those peoples and to share their lot in everything; it was a question of a new method of catechesis... They combined respect and consideration for individual cultures with a passion for the universality of the Church, which they tirelessly strove to achieve." They further remind us that "today we can cooperate in proclaiming the kingdom or we can become the upholders of new divisions." Acclaimed as evangelizers of and by both the Eastern and Western churches, Cyril and Methodius are our intercessors in current efforts at ecumenism.

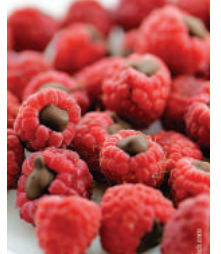
As we celebrate their feast on Feb. 14, let us invoke their intercession that they may help us to better know the Lord through prayer and Scripture, build on the similarities of other believers rather than allowing differences to continue dividing us and respond to the needs of our times with innovative enthusiasm. (Sister M. John Vianney, a Chicago native, is a former General Superior of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pa. and has been a great advocate of our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith throughout her life.)

DESERTS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

CHOCOLATE FILLED RASPBERRIES

Ingredients: 1 pint fresh raspberries, 1/4 cup milk or dark chocolate chips, 1/2 teaspoon coconut oil

Place fresh raspberries into a mini-muffin tin to help hold them for ease in filling. Heat chocolate chips and coconut oil in microwave safe bowl for 2 minutes on 50%. Stir until smooth. Pour into a zip top container and snip a tiny hole in the bottom corner of the bag. Squeeze the bag to fill each of the crevices of the raspberry with the melted chocolate. Place muffin tin in the freezer for about 15 minutes to set. Remove from the freezer and pour into an airtight, freezer-safe container and store in the freezer up to 3 months.



RASPBERRY CHEESECAKE IN A MASON JAR

Ingredients: 1 12-ounce package frozen raspberries, 3/4 cup sugar, divided 1/2 cup and 1/4 cup, 1/3 cup water, 10 Oreo cookies, without the filling, or 20 chocolate wafer cookies, 2 Tbsp melted butter, 8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature, pinch salt, 1 egg, 1/3 cup sour cream, whipped cream for topping, fresh raspberries for garnish

Raspberry sauce: Set aside 1/2 a cup of the frozen raspberries from the package. Place remaining raspberries in a medium saucepan. Add 1/2 cup sugar and 1/3 cup of water. Bring to a simmer on medium high heat, then lower the heat to maintain the simmer. Cook, whisking frequently, until the raspberries have completely broken down, about 10 minutes. Set aside to cool.



Oreo cookie crust: Grind the chocolate cookie wafers in a food processor. Place in a medium bowl and stir in the melted butter. Divide evenly among four the mason jars, packing the chocolate "crust" at the bottom of each mason jar in a layer about 1/4 to 1/3-inch thick. At this point you can put in a 350°F oven for 10 minutes to bake the crust in, which will make it easier to pour in the cheesecake filling without it mixing in with the crust.

Cream cheese filling: In a mixer, beat the cream cheese on medium speed for 4 minutes, until smooth and light. Add 1/4 cup of sugar and beat 4 minutes more. Add a pinch of salt and the egg, and beat another minute. Add the sour cream and beat another minute, until smooth. Add 1/4 cup of the cooled raspberry syrup from step one, and beat until incorporated. Layer raspberries and filling on top of crusts in mason jars: Place the reserved raspberries on top of the chocolate crusts in the mason jars in a single layer. Pour the raspberry cheesecake filling over the raspberries in the jars. Place in a roasting pan and add about an inch of boiling water to the pan to create a water bath, which will help the cheesecakes cook more evenly. Bake at 325°F for 40 minutes. Then turn off the heat in the oven and let the cheesecakes continue to gently cook in the residual heat of the oven for another 30 minutes.

Chill and top with whipped cream and raspberry sauce: Remove from oven and let cool to room temp. Chill for at least a half hour before eating. Don't worry if there are cracks on the surface of the cheesecakes. Top with the remaining raspberry sauce, whipped cream, and fresh raspberries.

PRIEMERNÝ PLAT V SR V ROKU 2018 PREKONAL HRANICU TISÍC EUR

Platy Slovákov prekonal historický mílnik. Priemerný plat bol v roku 2018 po prvýkrát vyšší, ako tisíc eur. Mzdy na Slovensku rástli pomalšie, ako tomu bolo v roku 2017. V porovnaní s predchádzajúcim obdobím to bol ruhý najvyšší rast. Ukazuje to analýza mzdového portálu Platy.sk.

Medziročne mzdy narástli v priemere o 55 eur v hrubom. V roku 2018 dosiahla priemerná mesačná základná mzda 1035 eur. Oproti roku 2017 je to nárast o 5,6 percenta. Aj keď platy stúpali o trochu menej, ako v roku 2017, v porovnaní s minulým obdobím je to druhý najrýchlejší rast.

Desať percent ľudí na Slovensku má plat nižší ako 605 eur v hrubom. Naopak, najlepšie platená desatina Slovákov zarába lepšie ako 1648 eur v hrubom.

Platy rástli medziročne najviac v Trenčianskom a Žilinskom kraji. V oboch prípadoch narástla priemerná základná mzda o 6,9 percenta. Najmenej rástli platy v Prešovskom kraji. Tento región má zároveň najnižšiu priemernú mzdu na Slovensku.

Porovnanie zamestnancov v Bratislavskom a Prešovskom kraji ukazuje obrovskú priepasť medzi platmi. Kým základný plat do 650 eur v hrubom majú v bratislavskom regióne iba zhruba tri percentá ľudí, v Prešove a okolí je to takmer 25 percent.

Najhoršie platenou pozíciou bola v minulom roku práca upratovačky. Priemerná základná mzda predstavovala 515 eur v hrubom. V kategórii najhoršie platených pozícií skončila ešte pomocná sila do kuchyne, poštový doručovateľ, opatrovateľ a osobný asistent či sanitár.

Keď sa pozrieme na najlepšie platené pozície mimo vrcholového manažmentu, tak na prvom mieste je IT povolanie. Priemerný základný plat IT architekta je 2889 eur v hrubom, čo je až o 179 percenta viac ako celoslovenská priemerná mzda. Prvú päťku najlepšie platených povolanií tvorí ešte pilot, advokát, IT projektový manažér a daňový poradca.

NA SLOVENSKU SA VYROBIL NAJVIAC ÁUT V HISTÓRII

Výroba vozidiel na Slovensku vlani podľa predbežných údajov Zväzu automobilového priemyslu (ZAP) stúpila na nový rekord. Vyrobilo sa tam viac ako 1,08 milióna áut.

Slovensko si tak v prepočte na tisíc obyvateľov udržalo postavenie svetovej jednotky vo výrobe automobilov. V minulom roku sa toto číslo vyšplhalo až na 198. V roku 2017 automobilky na Slovensku vyrobili 1,03 milióna vozidiel.

Pre tento rok ZAP odhaduje ďalší nárast produkcie automobilov, a to na 1,15 milióna vozidiel. Vlani spustil v Nitre výrobu závod britskej automobilky Jaguar Land Rover, už roky vyrábajú vozidlá továrne automobiliek Kia Motors, Volkswagen a skupiny PSA.

Bratislavský závod Volkswagenu vlani vyrobil cez 400-tisíc vozidiel. Závod PSA dosiahol medziročný nárast produkcie o 5,1 percenta na rekordných 352 007 áut a s ďalším rastom počíta aj tento rok. Z výrobných liniek továrne Kia Motors zišlo 333-tisíc vozidiel.

Automobilový priemysel je hlavným ťahúňom slovenskej ekonomiky. Na celkovej priemyselnej produkcii sa podieľa takmer 47 percentami a na hrubom domácom produkte 13 percentami. V roku 2017 v tomto odvetví pracovalo takmer 155-tisíc ľudí.

NEW YORK TIMES ODPORÚČA NÁVŠTEVU VYSOKÝCH TATRIER



New York Times vo svojom výbere 52 destinácií pre rok 2019 odporúča aj Slovensko. Tentokrát sa však do výberu nedostala Bratislava, ale Vysoké Tatry, ktoré sa v rebríčku umiestnili na 19. mieste. Prvé miesto obsadilo Portoriko. Za Vysokými Tatrami skončili svetové destinácie ako New York, Hongkong, Marseille či Los Angeles. Okrem Bratislavy, na ktorú sa zameriava väčšina turistov, sú podľa denníka práve Vysoké Tatry miestom, ktoré stojí za návštevu.

Editor Evan Rail dáva do pozornosti najmä Bachledovu dolinu, stredisko Jasná, Mlynickú dolinu aj nové sedačkové lanovky v Oravskej Lesnej. „Nie je to však len o zimných športoch, sú tu skvelé podmienky na turistiku, horolezectvo, horskú cyklistiku a takisto múzeum.“

Zaujímavosťou je, že článok upriamuje pozornosť aj na metropolu východu Košice. „Za hranicami Tatier sú zas Košice: hlavné mesto regiónu, ktorého ulice hýria farbami a umením, ponúka množstvo kaviarní a reštaurácií a vďaka svojim trom univerzitám a aktívny nočný život,“ píše New York Times.

Na záver odporúča čitateľom objaviť aj krásu „nedotknutej ľudovej kultúry“ a zachovaných gotických a barokových pamiatok.

DVA ZO ŠTYROCH ZÁVODOV AUTOMOBILOVÝCH ZÁVAODOV V SR HLÁSIA ŠKRTY

Len niekoľko dní po tom, čo štyri automobilové závody na Slovensku oslavovali nový výrobný rekord s počtom takmer 1,1 milióna vozidiel, sa nad celkovým priemyslom v krajine začína zmrákať.

Dva zo štyroch automobilových závodov počas januára hlásia škrt. Kým bratislavský závod koncernu Volkswagen plánuje počas roka obmedziť výrobné zmeny, žilinská fabrika kórejskej Kie prepustí desiatky ľudí.

Sú to vôbec prvé negatívne správy z automobilových závodov v krajine. Doteraz z každého jedného z nich prichádzali najmä pozitívne informácie - či už v oblasti nových investícií alebo nových modelov.

Automobilový priemysel tvorí 13 percent hrubého domáceho produktu Slovenska. Z 80 miliárd eur HDP vlani automobilky vytvorili viac ako desať miliárd.

MRKVA JE POVAŽOVANÁ ZA NAJBOHATŠÍ ZDROJ PROVITAMÍNU A

Varená mrkva je lepšia pre náš organizmus. Lepšie sa vstrebaáva betakarotén z tepelne upravenej ako zo surovej mrkvy.



Pektín, ktorý sa nachádza v mrkve sa stará o trávenie, vyprázdňovanie a upokojuje črevný trakt.

Mrkva znižuje hladinu cholesterolu. Mrkvová šťava napomáha v liečbe tuberkulózy, migrény, infekčných ochorení, reume a pri ochoreniach kože.

Mrkvovo-jogurtový šalát

400 g mrkva
2 PL citrónová šťava
PL práškový cukor
2 ks jablko
50 g hrozienka
150 g jogurt
soľ

Mrkvu očistíme a nastrúhame na tenké rezance. Pokvapkáme citrónovou šťavou. Pridáme cukor, štipku soli a zamiešame. Jablko nakrájame na kocky, hrozienka umyjeme a necháme odkvapkať. Potom kúsky jablka aj hrozienka primiešame k mrkve. Nakoniec pridáme jogurt.

Mrkvový šalát s kyslou kapustou

300 g mrkva
200 g kyslá kapusta
100 g jablko
10 g slnečnicový olej
10 g práškový cukor
1 ks šťava z citróna
šťava z kyslej kapusty
soľ

Kapustu nakrájame nadrobno, pridáme surovú nastrúhanú mrkvu a nastrúhané jablká. Šťavu z kapusty ochutíme cukrom a citrónovou šťavou, pridáme olej a trochu osolíme. Kapustu zalejeme nálevom, premiešame a necháme uležať v chlade.

VIETE, ŽE...

...22-ročný americký hokejista Alex Tuch, najproduktívnejší hokejista klubu NHL Vegas Golden Knights, má slovenské korene? Jeho prastarí rodičia pochádzali z Holíča (dnes Trnavský kraj).

VEĽKONOČNÉ RAŇAJKY V PITTSBURGH, PA

V sobotu 13. apríla bude vo farnosti Knieža Pokoja v Pittsburgh, PA veľkonočné podujatie, ktoré farnosť usporiada už 29 rokov. Slovenská sv. omša bude v St. Adalbert Church, 160 South 15th Street. O 10.45 dopoludnia začne modlitba slovenského sv. ručenca a omša začne o 11.00 hodine. Po omši budú v Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) podávané veľkonočné raňajky (šunka, paska, syr, klobása a vajíčka). Vstup je bezplatný, usporiadatelia však budú vďační za finančné dary.

Účastníci podujatia budú mať možnosť si prezrieť výstavu o ľudových tradíciách na Slovensku. Na predaj budú výrobky dovezené zo Slovenska a ručné práce. Atraktiou bude aj ukážka pletenia palmových listov a maľovanie veľkonočných vajec. Na predaj budú makové a orechové koláče, palacinky a pečivo.

Bližšie informácie: Connie Zatek, telefónne číslo: 412-657-6364.

ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!

Zo Schwechatu sa lieta aj za ceny ako v **happy hour**... Má to však háčik... Na webe maďarských **lowcostových** aerolínií Wizz Air... - *trend.sk*

Firma, ktorá oficiálne začala podnikáť len začiatkom minulého roka, **expanduje** neuveriteľnou rýchlosťou...dodávky a výrazne **diskontné** ceny... - *trend.sk*

Pickles, to je hotová vitamínová bomba. - *pravda.sk*

...šokoval fanúšikov zmenou **imidžu**. - *sport.sk*

Nine však zlyhala **stylistka**. - *novycas.sk*

...spojený s gastróm, **eventmi** a so svadbami... - *novycas.sk*

Caroline Vreeland, **influencerka** a vnučka slávnej módnjej ikony - *pravda.sk*

Shutdown bude mať horší vplyv na ekonomiku, než sa očakávalo. - *trend.sk*

Svoj rozvíjajúci sa vzťah sa teraz rozhodli posunúť na ďalší **level**... Obaja sa venujú **start-upom**... - *novycas.sk*

Komisia začala **antitrustové** vyšetrovanie proti spoločnosti MasterCard - *hn.sk*

...odložíme ich na **finálne** dozdobenie. - *recepty.sk*

Rezerváciou **first moment** dovolenky viete ušetriť aj 40% z ceny. - *sme.sk*

KRÁTKE SPRÁVY ZO SLOVENSKA



O post prezidenta SR zabojuje 15 kandidátov. V abecednom poradí kandidujú Béla Bugár, Zuzana Čaputová, Martin Daňo, Štefan Harabin, Eduard Chmelár, Marian Kotleba, Milan Krajniak, József Menyhárt, František Mikloško, Robert Mistrík, Maroš Šefčovič, Róbert Švec, Bohumila Tauchmannová, Juraj Zábajník a Ivan Zuzula. Prvé kolo prezidentských volieb na Slovensku bude 16. marca. Prípadné druhé kolo bude 30. marca.

☆☆☆☆☆

Priemerný základný plat v SR bol v roku 2018 podľa portálu Platy.sk po prvý raz vyšší ako tisíc eur, konkrétne 1 035 eur. Oproti roku 2017 je to nárast o 5,6 percenta. Najhoršia platená desatina Slovákov má plat nižší ako 605 eur v hrubom. Naopak, najlepšie platená desatina Slovákov zarába lepšie ako 1 648 eur v hrubom, plat vyšší ako 1 251 eur má štvrtina Slovákov.

☆☆☆☆☆

Porovnanie zamestnancov v Bratislavskom a Prešovskom kraji ukazuje obrovskú priepasť medzi platmi. Kým základný plat do 650 eur v hrubom majú v bratislavskom regióne zhruba tri percentá ľudí, v Prešove a okolí je to takmer štvrtina. Ak sa pozrieme na plat nad 2-tisíc eur v hrubom, tak v Bratislavskom kraji sa k takémuto číslu na výplatnej páske dostane viac ako desatina zamestnancov. V prešovskom regióne sú to iba necelé dve percentá ľudí. Kým priemerný plat v Bratislave sa pohybuje okolo 1 336 eur, v Prešovskom kraji to je 841 eur. Priepasť oproti hlavnému mestu badať aj vo zvyšku Slovenska - v Košickom (982 eur) a Banskobystrickom kraji (878 eur).

☆☆☆☆☆

Na území Slovenska budú od 9. apríla do 15. mája cvičiť vojaci z celej Severoatlantickej aliancie (NATO). Cieľom cvičenia s označením CMX je posilnenie spolupráce pri kolektívnej obrane. Vojaci si precvičia spôsobilosti v dvoch fázach. Prvá odštartuje 9. apríla a potrvá do 8. mája. Následne sa od 9. mája bude konať záverečná časť vojenského cvičenia. Cvičenia krízového riadenia NATO s označením CMX sú cvičenia na najvyššej strategickú úroveň zamerané na skvalitnenie procesov politických konzultácií a prijímania rozhodnutí.



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VANTAGE 3	2.65%	1.00%
VANTAGE 5	3.00%	2.00%
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SINGLE PREMIUM	3.00%	3.00%

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