



*Za Boha a národ*

*For God and Nation*

# Slovak Catholic Falcon

*SLOVENSKÝ KATOLÍCKY SOKOL*

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*Happy  
Easter*

*In this season  
of new beginnings,  
new hopes and  
new joys...*

*Wishing for you  
every happiness,  
prosperity and continued success!*

*Radostné a požehnané veľkonočné sviatky  
všetkým našim členom a priateľom!*

## Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

*Šťastnú Velkú Noc! Happy Easter!*

Attending the Triduum services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday prepared us For Easter Sunday, when we rejoice "Alleluia, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ has Risen from the Dead".



This simple message renews our Christian faith and lives of joy and hope; just as spring breaths life back into nature and the beauty of the world is reviled in all its glory.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and were able to celebrate it with family and friends and enjoy the rich Slovak Easter customs and traditions again, since Easter 2020 we had to face the restrictions in place due to the COVID virus. Thanks to the Corona vaccines my family was able to be together to celebrate and enjoy our Easter dinner this year.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors held their first 2021 Quarterly meeting on March 19-20, 2021 via a Zoom conference call. The Board reviewed all the reports of 2020, heard from our professional advisors on the Society's 2020 performance, and approved plans for 2021. The Slovak Catholic Sokol had a good income year, a high investment rating, reduced some expenses, most because of 2020 restrictions a solvency rate of 108%, and fraternal leaders that keeps on creating events for membership involvement. On the other side there are trends we have to realize to keep the Society strong; look for higher return on investments, adjust interest so the Society does not just break even, recognize how the closing of lodges is changing the Society and the things that are beyond the Society's control but inherent to the life insurance industry. The Board of Directors will continue to improve and grow the Society's future.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme Physical Fitness Board has worked extremely hard to organize fraternal activities as the world prepares to re-open social gatherings. With the Board of Directors decision to cancel the 2021 International Bowling Tournament, and the postponing the 50th International Slet until 2022, the Fitness Board made the announcement of the "Sokol Familyfest" to be held July 15 -18, 2021 at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, PA. Check out this fraternal activity and I hope to see many of you at this event. If you cannot make the

Familyfest, then I'll see you at the International Golf Tournament in August.

Now that it is April and spring is here and we are getting our COVID vaccines now is the time for the Wreaths, Assemblies and Groups to start making their arrangements to hold their 2020 Annual meetings. Once you decide on the date for the meeting send in the information to our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. so he can publish it in the Falcon for the membership to read. It is important that we hold these annual meetings for our membership's benefit.

Our Society is blessed to have had and have dedicated leaders. These members who do more than their share of work for the Society and its members and who do it sometimes quietly behind the scenes. Many of these members are worthy of being recognized as a true fraternalist and nominated for the fraternalist of the year and then being selected as the Slovak Catholic Sokol's (FOTY) Fraternalist of the Year. It is with deep sorrow that I write the Slovak Catholic Sokol 2020 Fraternalist of the Year, Nancy J. Fedor of Assembly 59, Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, PA died on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at the University Of Pennsylvania Hospital, in Philadelphia, PA. I have known, Sister Nancy many decades, from grade school, as parishioners at Sacred Heart Slovak Parish in Wilkes-Barre, then when our children attended Sacred Heart Slovak School and getting her involved with Assembly 59 and then Group 7. She was always there to help and be involved. Her life was for her daughters, her faith, the Sokol and many other causes. How she was able to do 48 hours of work in 24 hours was one of her special gifts. She did not wait to be asked to get involved, she just said, "how can I help" or "I will do this". I would like to tell you more but you see why she was our 2020 Fraternalist of the Year. When our Society loses a member like Nancy we can only hope another member is there to fill the shoes, since it is becoming harder to find them today. May her soul Rest In Peace and her work done here be remembered.

Our Drive to 50 Membership Campaign is still happening and the results so far are fair. This Campaign is designed to help Groups with fraternal expenses. If any Assembly, Wreath or Group has any questions contact our Director of Sales or Supreme secretary for assistance.

Enjoy the warmer weather and the sunshine of Spring. Stay safe and healthy. With God's Blessings to All! Zdar Boh!

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*From the desk of the Supreme Secretary***HOPE**

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



Beyond the darkest tunnel,  
It's shining 'round the bend.  
There is no light so bright as HOPE—  
It is **How Our Problems End.**

Embrace the awesome power  
And peace that it can lend.  
Believe it and receive HOPE—  
It is **How Our Problems End.**

Do not give up—give all to God,  
And know that He will send  
The way to cope, the gift of HOPE—  
He's **How Our Problems End.**

- Lisa O. Engelhardt

Greetings from the Home Office! It looks as though the bitterly cold temperatures are behind us as we transition into the months of April and May. As the temperatures increase, so are the daily vaccinations that will hopefully pave our way out of this pandemic. It is still of utmost importance that we abide by the recommendations of health officials. We will continue to endure.

I thought the above prayer, which I heard for the first-time last week, was so fitting during these times we are living. This was a favorite prayer of our 2020 Fraternalist of the Year, Nancy Fedor, of Assembly 59 and Group 7. Unfortunately, Nancy passed away unexpectedly on March 13, 2021. Nancy always brought a smile to my face on our monthly phone calls. I am sure she had that same effect on many people. Her service to the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the void that is left are too large to put into words. She will be greatly missed. Let us all honor her by keeping our **HOPE** up.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the fraternal world will be celebrating a very important day that does so much in our communities. Join Hands Day is an opportunity for active fraternalists to enhance our image in our local communities. In 2000, America's Fraternal Benefit Societies along with Points of

Light Foundation, created the Join Hands Day as a way for the youth and adults to work together as volunteers. It is a day of community service that specifically targets and develops relationships between young people and adults through neighborhood volunteering. Many communities across the world use this day as a building block to start the communication process between the young and old. This year, of course, will be slightly different as we will need to look for ways to help virtually. Another option is safely donating your time for a food bank or volunteer organization. In next month's issue, we will post some photos of what we decided to do for a local organization that is near and dear to our hearts. Since its inception, Join Hands Day has enjoyed the support and participation of many members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. I hope that many of our Groups and Lodges plan to participate in this fine day. It offers the opportunity for the community to learn what a fraternal is all about. Remember, Join Hands Day should not only be celebrated one day a year, but all year. This is what we do and who we are as Sokols.

The Board of Directors Meeting was held via virtually on March 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a productive meeting and I urge all our members to read the reports of our Officers in this issue and the coming issues. The minutes of that meeting will be in the next issue of the Falcon.

Finally, allow me to take this opportunity to wish all our members and families a blessed and joyous Easter. On behalf of my beautiful wife, Maggie, our sons, Reid Thomas and Cole William, and our entire family, may you and yours enjoy a wonderful Easter! God Bless!

Until next time, stay safe, stay strong, and STAY POSITIVE! Zdar Boh!



## CANCELLATION OF THE 2021 S.C.S. BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The 2021 Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament scheduled for the weekend of May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Cleveland, Ohio has been cancelled for the health and safety of our members due to the recent resurgence of Covid-19 Pandemic, continued social restrictions at the hotels, bowling lanes and limited availability of vaccines. Please stay safe. — **James Matlon**, *Director of Sports and Athletics*

## SOKOL CALENDAR

**GROUP 5** will hold its semi-annual group meeting virtually, due to Covid restrictions. The Zoom meeting will be held on April 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Invites to the Zoom meeting will be coming soon to only the members who were invited to the annual virtual meeting. If any other group 5 member would like to be included on the meetings please send a request to either Kathy Figard at [linus50@aol.com](mailto:linus50@aol.com) or Sue Blosser at [sueb7433@gmail.com](mailto:sueb7433@gmail.com). We will be happy to add you to the Group 5 virtual meetings. Any questions please call Sue at 770-853-7257. Respectfully submitted, **Sue Blosser**, *Secretary Group 5*

**ASSEMBLY 86 OF PORT GRIFFITH, PA** will host a Mass for its deceased members on Sunday, April 18 at the Church of St. John the Evangelist. 35 William St., Pittston, PA beginning at 11:30 a.m. Members and family invited to attend. Zdar Boh!

- Stephen Vitek

### JOIN THE WALKING PROGRAM TODAY!

For more information contact  
**Martin Degnan** at  
[mcoach1986@aol.com](mailto:mcoach1986@aol.com)



## SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATE

The next issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon will be that of MAY 1, 2021. **DEADLINE** for all photos and information for this issue will be **APRIL 22, 2021.**

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,  
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdo vic

## CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

As Jesus' body was being taken down from the cross and being prepared for burial, what might Jesus say to us about his experience? I believe he might say the following:



"I went through all of that because you are worth it. You are worth living for. You are worth dying for. In your darkest nights, in your deepest depression, remember that God thought you were worth his life. You are loved that much. You matter that much. 'Greater love no one has than to lay down your life for your friends.'

"I did not die so that you could live in guilt and self-recrimination. I died to set you free from sin and guilt. I am not honored by your shame. I am honored by your using your life to make life better for others. I did not come into the world to condemn the world, but to save it. I am glorified by your creating something beautiful with your life.

"I went through all of that pain and degradation – the beating, the spitting, the taunting, the nailing, the stabbing, the ridicule and the rejection – to model to you how to handle the misfortunes and tragedies of life. There will be people who will hurt you in life. There will be people in your life who will betray you as Judas betrayed me. There will be people in your life who will abandon you as Peter and the other apostles abandoned me. Your friends are not always the ones you think are your friends.

"Yet, while some people let me down, surprising people stepped forward. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, people who had formerly come to me only secretly, or by night, now came out into the light. Therefore do not let the unfairness and injustices in your life turn you bitter or cynical. There will be angels on your path as well. There will be a Simon of

Cyrene to help you carry your cross. There will be friends like the Beloved Disciple and the women who stayed with me all the way to the cross.

"And if you feel that no one understands you, or cares about you, remember that my mother is now your mother. Her mothering spirit will be with you throughout your life, and, when you breathe your last breath, she will hold you in her arms, and lead you to my arms.

"So, endure your crosses bravely. If others nail you with false accusations, when people misjudge you, when your goodness is rewarded with meanness, do not focus on life's harshness, but focus on your God. You will not be abandoned, and, as I arose above the cruelty, so will you.

"So, let go of your anger and bitterness, and hold onto your God. And I will take you off your cross. I will call you out of your grave. I will share my life with you forever."

I hope you will use this little meditation helpful. Suffering is a mystery for all of us. Jesus who seemed so much like God in his goodness to others seemed so inadequate at protecting himself. He who cared for others was not cared for by others. He who cured others was brutalized by others. He who raised the dead, joined the dead.

Suddenly, the resurrection changes all that. At Easter the power of the risen Lord is manifest! The rock, meant to seal the tomb, is pushed aside like a pebble. Guards, meant to ensure that his body was not stolen, are helpless to contain his body, now risen. In death, he looked like the most abject of us. Now he looks like God in glory. He who would not call a legion of angels to save himself from death, is now escorted to life by angels. The circle is now complete. Just as angels heralded his birth in Bethlehem, so now angels herald his re-birth in Jerusalem.

## WALK WITH CHRIST

As part of our "Walk with Christ" program initiated by Janice Matton, Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, I started listening to the Bible on my way to and from work. One passage that stuck with me throughout the day was Matthew 6:22-24 that says, "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness..."

We certainly have had our share of darkness with a year full of the negative effects of COVID-19: isolation, fear, uncertainty, doubt and even death. However, Newton's Third Law of Motion states "for every action (force) in nature there is an equal and opposite reaction." One year ago, a deadly virus threatened our souls, today we are looking forward to the vaccine to minimize the spread. Where we felt isolated, we now can look forward to connecting with others; fear is turning into hope; uncertainty is evolving into confidence knowing that we can overcome; doubt is being replaced by courage; and death as always, is transforming into life.

It is easier said than done- to always look at the positive side of things, especially when you become surrounded by darkness. However, this is the time for our eyes to shine to help us see through the darkness.

The Jed Foundation offers tips to bring positivity to your life and our Sokol events are avenues to help us remain positive:

1. Surround yourself with positive people- July 15- 18, 2021 is the perfect time to be surrounded by positive people at the SNPJ Family Event.

2. Find areas in your life that bring you joy- Sokol Happy Hour, local group events and picnics, and International Golf Tournament, August 6-8 can certainly bring out smiles!

3. Find ways to give to others, help others, be compassionate and kind-

Several local groups are initiating food drives and events to help the elderly. Initiate a similar event within your local group.

4. Make a mental list of all the things going well in your life- Remind yourself you are part of a heritage focused, faith based and health-oriented organization whose slogan is to foster "a sound mind in a sound body".

This Easter and throughout the remainder of 2021, may our eyes be the light to shine through the darkness.

I look forward to seeing everyone IN PERSON this summer. May God Bless you and Happy Easter!!

Zdar Boh!

Nancy Kropolinsky, Supreme Assistant Physical Directress

## REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2020 PRESENTED AT THE FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD MARCH 18-10, 2021 – ZOOM CALL

### REPORT OF THE SUPREME CHAPLAIN

Pochvalen bud' Pan Jezis Kristus!

Oslavujte prvé štvorročné stretnutie;

In Compliance with Section 4.0 article (h) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my report of activities for the calendar year 2020.

The duties, obligations and responsibilities of the Office of the Supreme Chaplain are clearly spelled out in the Bylaws. I tried to the best of my ability to fulfill them.

Following is a listing and brief explanation of my activities:

On Monday, March 16, 2020 our lives changed dramatically as the official notice was declared of the Global Coronavirus Pandemic. This forced our Supreme President and Supreme Secretary to make the decision that the 1st Quarterly meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors be a conference call meeting. The remainder of the year proved no difference with the exception that the remainder Quarterly meetings called for by the Supreme President were held via ZOOM. I participated in all 4 Quarterly meetings.

As National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I conducted the Spring Board of Directors meeting via conference call, and the Fall meeting via ZOOM.

I offered the opening prayer for the meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board ZOOM meeting on June 13, 2020, as well as the opening prayer for the ZOOM Clinic meeting held by the SPFB on July 12, 2020.

As per the Duties of the Supreme Chaplain, Section 4.0 (d) I followed through, to the best my ability, inviting our Group Chaplains to submit articles for publication in the Slovak Catholic Falcon, as they wish, concerning matters of our Catholic Faith, or any other topic they choose to share with our membership for publication.

I submitted ELEVEN reflections for publication in The Falcon, which I trust all found to be informative.

I sincerely wish to thank my mom for her love and support over this past year. To the parishioners of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA for their patience and understanding during my absence from the parish in order for me to fulfill my duties as Supreme Chaplain.

I am most appreciative to our Supreme President, Mr. Michael Horvath for his encouragement and support, along with our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, FIC for his time, energy, and dedication to the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and his support shown to me.

I pray that we commit ourselves to do our part to live our organization's slogan, "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body", and we defend our organization's motto, "For God and Nation".

As we begin our 116th year we can be very proud of our impressive past, may we commit ourselves to assure a promising future.

JDAR BOH!

**Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F.**

*Supreme Chaplain*

### REPORT OF THE SUPREME PRESIDENT

Pochvalen bud' Pan Jezis Kristus!

In compliance with Section 3.2 Article (f) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my 2020 annual report to the Board of Directors and members for their review. Section 4.1 of the Constitution and Bylaws list the duties, obligations, and responsibilities of the Supreme President.

As I begin this report please take a moment to remember and pray for our Slovak Catholic Sokol members, family members, and friends who have died in 2020, especially for those who died because of COVID. May their memories remain with us and their souls rest in eternal peace!

This past year, 2020, started with excitement and a very positive attitude with all the Supreme officers, since there were new members of the Supreme Assembly just beginning their four-year term and were eager to get started. Then there are the other Supreme Officers who would be starting their final four-year term who are interested in continuing to give guidance and direction for the further success of the Society over the next four years and beyond.

With 2020 being the first year of the four-year term after the 33rd Convention that was held August 4-7, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio, our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and I were starting to make plans on projects we wanted to do over the next four years to improve the Society's overall operations, increase our sales and membership, and improve the bottom line. We also were looking at ways for the Supreme Assembly to be more involved in the Society's business. We had great thoughts on how to do this over the next four years.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board was very enthusiastic about the next four years since there was some new leadership and younger members on the Board, but mostly since they would be making plans for a historic milestone in the annals of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. They were looking to make plans for a great celebration, the 50th International Slet, a Slet like no other. The Board realized the 50th Slet needed to be something spectacular not only for its special meaning but for the fact the Slovak Catholic Sokol is the only Society still hosting and can organize this fraternal activity for its members, ever since the first Slet held in 1912 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Another challenge that was before the Board, the need to consider what future Slets would be like and how to increase member participation in future Slets. They also needed to look at our other fraternal activities and examine ways to increase the participation in them to secure their future.

Starting 2020, I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board's annual meeting held on January 17 -19, 2020 in Pittsburgh, PA. The Board saw some members end their terms, which is always a sad time, but then the joy of the members accepting new leadership roles and the new members joining the Board for the first time. Everyone saw the excitement and the willingness to start the planning and organizing of our fraternal activities for the next four years.

Then as I was heading home after the meeting, I heard for the first time the reports of a virus that was causing an outbreak in the United States and around the world. As information updated daily in January and February the virus was given its name, COVID-19. During this time our Supreme Secretary and I communicated with each other on how the virus could affect our Society and what options we had to mitigate our exposure, and risks, this includes our fraternal activities. We decided to continue operations as normal and assess the situation as more information was made available.

Then the Black Swan finally surfaced in March and all 2020 plans would have to be reexamined and operations analyzed. As the seriousness of the virus's destruction became apparent and

(Continued on page 6)



## REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS

(Continued from page 5)

the situation got its classification as a pandemic, and the panic, restrictions, and lockdowns started the Society had to make its adjustments. The Supreme Secretary and I decided to hold the 1st 2020 Quarterly meeting via a conference call, which I Chaired on March 20-21, 2020. The decision was based on the restrictions placed on our advisors not able to attend in person because of their corporate policies and our wanting to protect the health of the Supreme Officers. This not being the only consideration but for and including the travel restrictions being implemented.

I chaired the rest of the 2020 Quarterly Board of Directors meetings, on June 24, 2020, September 17, 2020, and December 11, 2020, all of which were conducted via Zoom. The Board adjusted to conducting the required meetings via zoom but all would say there is the need to have in-person meetings where we can have face-to-face conversations to have a better exchange of understanding the reports, and providing our comments, thoughts, and ideas. At these meetings, the Board made difficult decisions as they involved the Society's fraternal activities. The Board first decided to cancel the 74th International Bowling Tournament in May 2020 in Cleveland, Ohio, then to cancel the Clinic set for July 2020 at Kutztown University, and finally the 65th International Golf Tournament in August 2020 in DuBois, PA. This was a great disappointment for the Society, the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, who put a lot of time and effort in planning these fraternal activities, and our members, who were looking towards participating in them.

Not letting the year just wither away the Supreme Physical Fitness Board went into action to come up with ways and activities to keep the membership involved with fraternal activities. As the restrictions were being eased information on various activities was put on the Society's website, Facebook page, and in the Falcon on these unique activities. Members who participated in them were asked to send in photos of them in these activities so they could be shared with the rest of the membership. One such activity was the Golf week; members were invited to do some type of golfing activity during the week the International Golf Tournament was to be held. This ended up be a success. Then the Board organized first Friday happy hours where members can get on Zoom with other members to chat and socialize with a favorite libation. The participation in the first Friday happy hours has grown over the month as did the duration. Not just an hour anymore.

During the months after the Supreme Physical Fitness Board's annual meeting, I kept in contact with our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, our Supreme Physical Fitness Director, John M. Underation, and Katie Swift, who is residing in Germany, to be updated on the restrictions in place, how they impact our activities and the plans for the future.

Thank you to the Supreme Physical Fitness Board for keeping our members involved with Sokol fraternal activities in 2020. You showed everyone the Society can do more and the Supreme Officers do more than the normal yearly duties and activities.

Not only were the fraternal sporting activities postponed so was our Fraternalist of Year (FOTY) celebration as were the annual Group, Assembly, and Wreath meetings. These activities were rescheduled for March and April of 2021.

Our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and I stayed in communication with each other as we normally did in the past, talking once or twice a week or more on how to continue to do business as normal, the steps needed to protect the Home Office

staff, home office operations, the financial situation, the membership, our leases, and mortgages and other issues brought on by the restrictions and lockdowns. These calls helped us solve many if not all of the problems the Society faced in 2020.

I want to thank our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., the Home Office staff, our Editor, and staff for their ability to work through and adjust to the working conditions they all faced during 2020. We owe you our sincere Thank you.

2020 should have been a year that we would have seen a downturn in business since our business requires face-to-face interaction. This was not the case and for the first time, the assets of the Slovak Catholic Sokol neared \$100,000,000 (one hundred million) dollars. These assets fluctuate with the value of our stocks and bonds and the business brought in and the payments that are made change monthly. The results are the Society had a good year. Our appreciation for the good business the Society enjoyed in 2020 is accredited to our Supreme Secretary and Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, Jr. F.I.C.; thank you both for helping the Society reach this milestone.

During 2020 many of the Supreme Officers participated in business webinars that were being offered by PNC Bank, the American Fraternal Alliance (AFA), and other institutions. This allowed the Supreme Officers the opportunity to stay current with understanding the changes in business, the economy, and investing. I would like to thank all the Supreme Officers for the work they did in fulfilling their duties as required in normal times but especially during this past year. Your dedication is appreciated by all members.

As we end 2020, we hope all will change for the better and not having to look back but never forget what kind of year it was the focus is now on 2021. We all must maintain a positive attitude that our lives will improve, and our Society will stay on the path it had in one of its worst years and 2021 we will continue to improve, grow, have our fraternal activity, become financially stronger, and continue providing financial security to our current and future members.

I finish by giving thanks to my wife, Suzanne, and the rest of the family for the support they have given me this past year to help me fulfill my duties as the President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Thank You.

With God's Blessings to All, Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,

**Michael J. Horvath**

*Supreme President*

### REPORT OF THE SUPREME VICE PRESIDENT

The following report for 2020 is submitted to the Board of Directors as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Due to COVID-19 unfortunately almost all of the fraternal activities had to be cancelled. However, the Board of Directors kept busy by continuing the Quarterly Meetings. I participated in our Quarterly meetings either by phone conference or on Zoom calls. These meetings were held on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup>, September 17<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup>. Many good ideas were discussed while the Board worked with our Supreme Secretary and our Financial Advisors as to how we will continue through the pandemic. In March of each year the Board of Directors would normally have the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Board of Directors Meeting.

This was temporarily postponed hoping that the Board of Directors would have an opportunity to discuss this at a later time in person. Since there seemed to be no end to the pandemic, the Board decided to call the meeting at the third quarter meeting held in September. The minutes of that meeting was printed in the November issue of the Falcon.

#### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The Scholarship Committee met via a Zoom call on May 16, 2020. The members of the committee were as follows: Michael J. Horvath, Supreme President, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Secretary, Katie Swift Supreme Physical Fitness Directress and John Underation, Supreme Physical Director. The winner's photos appeared in the July 2020 issue of the Falcon. There were 30 Slovak Catholic Sokol College Grant winners, 2 Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Grants, 2 Emil Slavik Memorial Grants, 1 Doctor Lesko Medical Grant, 1 Krista Glugosh Memorial Grant, 1 Yenchu Family Grant and 3 Museum Memorial Grants awarded totaling \$44,000. In addition, 9 Slovak Catholic Sokol Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grant Recipients totaling \$4,500. Lastly 11 Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grant Recipients received a total of \$2,750. In total the committee awarded \$51,250 to well deserving youth of our organization. A special thank you to PNC Bank for the gracious donation towards our Memorial Scholarship grants.

#### OTHER FRATERNAL COMMITTEES

I currently serve as a Board of Director to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance. Although in person meetings and the Annual Meeting were cancelled, I did participate in numerous phone meetings. In addition, I currently sit as a Board of Director on the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association. Those meetings were also handled via Zoom calls.

#### KIDS KORNER

As Supreme Vice President, I continue to provide the Kids Korner in the Falcon Newspaper monthly expanding most months to three pages. I try to provide interesting monthly facts suitable for children along with various puzzles and games. In the summer in conjunction with the Kids Korner is a Summer Reading program also.

#### CONCLUSION

Finally, I have remained diligent in my efforts to increase our membership by enrolling new members throughout the year. In 2020, I have enrolled 6 new members for a total of \$95,000 in insurance. I look forward to another successful year in our organization.

Zdar Boh!

**Edward D. Moeller**

*Supreme Vice President*

### REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY

Slavna Rocna Schodza!

In compliance with Section 4.3, Article (n) page 26 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my written Annual Report for the year 2020 to the Supreme Board of Directors.

My duties, obligations, and responsibilities as the Supreme Secretary are clearly listed in our Bylaws and I have performed these duties for the past year to the best of my ability. I wish to report that all decisions made by the Board of Directors and any City, State or Federal mandates, have been executed as required.

This past year our organization celebrated its 115th Anniversary as a fraternal benefit society and it was an enduring year for everyone. We were struck with a pandemic that rattled our world and pulled at the fabric of our Society and how we like to operate. But I think you will find that we have "endured" and are prepared

for the years ahead. I would like to thank our Board of Directors, especially our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, for his hard work and support over this trying year.

After reviewing all the financial reports which will be presented to this Annual Meeting, I am certain that you will concur with me that our organization, like others, has experienced and endured another year filled with challenges and uncertainties. The Society continues to remain financially strong even after providing numerous fraternal benefits and services to our members.

#### HOME OFFICE EFFICIENCY

The Home Office staff continues to be one of our most valuable assets. This past year has been anything but normal for them and they have continued to show their loyalty and commitment to the organization. I would also like to recognize Albert J. Suess, F.I.C., for all his hard work while serving as our Director of Sales. Through his efforts, along with our Home Office Staff, we have made great strides in our sales department.

As in previous years, the Home Office continues to make every effort possible to provide courteous and efficient service as needed. The employees are constantly updating and requesting information on behalf of our members. Along with our software provider, the Home Office staff has gone through extensive training in getting information to our members and agents in a quick and efficient manner. With all the technological advances in our world today, our staff has implemented changes to make items more accessible and the changes have proven to be successful. The extensive training that our Staff has gone through this year and previous years proved to be most helpful during this pandemic.

During the past year, we have consistently updated the hardware and software used in our Editorial Department and have made upgrades to our Sokol Website. We look forward to releasing the new design of our Sokol Website later this year. We have also made significant inroads in the ever-changing world of social media as we look to engage all members of our Society. I would like to thank Livia Karak and Louie Smeriglio for all their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank our former Editor and Honorary Supreme Officer, Daniel F. Tanzone, for his guidance and assistance throughout the year.

New rules and regulations on both the state and federal level continue to emerge. The reporting process to all the life insurance related agencies and State Insurance Departments is an important task, but necessary to protect our fine organization. The Home Office Staff and Board of Directors have done a great job meeting all the requirements and making the necessary changes to operate in an efficient manner.

Looking ahead to the future, I am confident that with the support of our Supreme Officers, Director of Sales, and our members, we will continue to make prudent decisions to meet all challenges that may come our way.

#### STATISTICS

The amount of Premium Income received during the year was \$13,625,000 of which \$2,325,000 was for life insurance premiums and \$11,300,000 was received as annuity premiums. This total was the highest amount received in our Society's history. The face amount of insurance written totaled \$8,900,000 and the total amount of insurance in force was \$239,425,000. The Society has 27,263 members with 29,725 certificates in force and 84 Assemblies/Wreaths. Assets as of 12/31/2020 were \$97,542,000 and the Unassigned Funds total \$7,330,000. The Solvency ratio is a financially strong 109%.

#### COMMENTS

This was a hard year for the "Fraternal" side of our organization as we were forced to cancel our cherished sporting events due to

(Continued on page 8)



## REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS

(Continued from page 7)

the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Supreme Physical Fitness Board was forced to think outside the box and try to bring the virtual world to our members. I think we can all agree that they succeeded with flying colors. I would like to commend our entire Supreme Physical Fitness Board, especially our Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, for their hard work in turning a tough situation into memories for our members. Hopefully, as restrictions get lifted in 2021, our Board will be prepared to resume our beloved events.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer my prayers and support for all that have been directly impacted or who have lost loved ones to this pandemic. I would also like to thank our front-line workers who have braved enormous challenges and danger in keeping us safe, healthy, and fed during this time.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere fraternal thanks and gratitude to our Directors, Honorary Supreme Officers, and all members of the Supreme Assembly for their support and cooperation throughout the year, especially once again our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath. Your passion and love for the Slovak Catholic Sokol is very much appreciated. To all our Group, Assembly, and Wreath Officers, again I say "thank you" for all your hard work and dedication. And finally, I would like to thank all our loyal members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. This has truly been a trying year for us all and I pray that normalcy will set in during 2021.

### CONCLUSION

As the Slovak Catholic Sokol begins its 116<sup>th</sup> year as a Fraternal Benefit Society, the administrators of our organization will face numerous challenges concerning the life insurance industry. I have the utmost confidence in our Supreme Board of Directors and our professionals that the membership of our fine organization will always come first.

In closing it is very important to me to thank my Wife, Maggie, my Sons, Reid Thomas and Cole William, and my entire Family. Thank you for all the love, patience, and support you have given me and for always being there to provide inspiration.

God Bless our Board of Directors, all our Members and the Slovak Catholic Sokol! Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.**  
*Supreme Secretary*

### REPORT OF THE SUPREME TREASURER

I hereby submit my Annual Report for the year 2020 to the Supreme Board of Directors in compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

The duties, obligations, and responsibilities of the Supreme Treasurer are spelled out in our Bylaws and I have worked to the best of my abilities to perform them in my first year as Supreme Treasurer. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank all of the delegates for giving me this opportunity to serve as Supreme Treasurer.

As with all other Supreme Board of Directors, I was limited in my travel and activities as they were restricted or cancelled by COVID. But rest assured that I conducted all business that needed to be done, including several meetings by Zoom and numerous phone calls.

I started the year by obtaining the records, bank state-

ments, etc. so I could get off and running and be able to conduct the business as needed as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum. During the course of the year, I processed all donations to the Museum Account and reported those donations on a Quarterly basis in the Slovak Catholic Falcon.

On March 12-13, 2020, I assisted with the 2019 Annual Audit conducted at the home office in Passaic, NJ.

Prior to our first Board of Directors meeting, as Chairperson of the Budget Committee, I had several conversations with the Supreme Secretary, Supreme President, and Supreme Auditor regarding the 2020 Proposed Budget in order to present it for approval at that first meeting.

On March 20-21, 2020, I attended my first Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom. I presented the Slovak Catholic Sokol Annual Budget for discussion and approval. It should be noted the Board of Directors normally started this meeting by conducting the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Board of Directors Annual Meeting, but the decision was made to delay the Museum meeting until we could meet in person later in the year.

On June 24, 2020, I attended the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting, which again was held via Zoom.

In July, I submitted the required Annual Report to the State of New Jersey for the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum. I also processed the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Scholarships to the three very deserving recipients.

Prior to the Third Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting, discussions were held, and it was determined that an in person Slovak Catholic Sokols Museum Annual Meeting was not going to be possible in 2020. So, on September 17, 2020, we decided to move ahead with this meeting as a Zoom conference. At the conclusion of the Museum Meeting, I attended the Third Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting for the year.

On December 11, 2020, I attended our final Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting for the year which, as was the others, conducted via Zoom.

Other Sokol activities included my duties as President of Assembly 180 in Canton, Ohio. Despite, COVID we were able to hold several of our meeting during the year. I participated in our philanthropic projects including school supplies for the needy, supplying turkeys for the underprivileged, and the purchasing and wrapping of Christmas presents for the underprivileged.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow Board Members, especially our Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec, for his management of the office through this year of COVID, and those on the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, James Matlon, Katie Swift and John Underation for all their efforts dealing with activities, both the regular events as well as the online activities. Some may think there is less work when there are less people coming into the office or events are being cancelled. But during this year full of constant change related to COVID, there were many challenges they faced prior to activities in determining how to proceed if possible. Then when an activity was cancelled, on how to proceed from there.

Zdar Boh,  
**James F. Knis**  
*Supreme Treasurer*

(Continued in the next issue)



## SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION

Thank you everyone who supported last year's Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. It is with great pleasure to announce that 199 donors gave \$38,360.58 last year. Here is a breakdown of donors and the amount given:

Parish Collections.....	13	\$17,508.58
Slovak Fraternal Organizations (including Home Office donations) .....	63	\$10,375.00
Clergy of Slovak heritage .....	30	\$ 2,685.00
Individual Donations .....	93	\$ 7,792.00

A direct mailing for the 2021 Appeal was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors. Your support is needed each year because money collected in the Appeal goes to help pay for the operating costs of the Pontifical College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome, the residence of priests from Slovakia selected by their bishops to undertake graduate studies.

As of March 22, 2021, \$13,156.50 has been received from 138 donors. The following Slovak Catholic Sokol Assemblies, Groups and Wreaths have already sent in their donations: Assembly 24, Assembly 34, Assembly 48, Assembly 71, Assembly 78, Assembly 162, Assembly 180, Group 6, Group 12, Wreath 15, and Wreath 81. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2021 Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill 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. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2021 will be credited toward the 2022 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation 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.

### 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **Slovak Catholic Federation** and mail to: Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President Slovak Catholic Federation, 120 Jefferson Street, Swedesburg, PA 19405

## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Following up on the success of the 2020 Committee that was assembled for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Quadrennial Convention held August 4, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio, I call on all Slovak Catholic Sokol members who would like to serve on the Governance Committee at the 34<sup>th</sup> Convention to be held in 2023 to send to me their Letter of Interest.

The Governance Committee responsibilities will be to analyze the Society, see how it compares to other fraternal in structure, and recommend any changes, if necessary, to the Delegates of the 34<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention.

In your letter of interest, list your employment, Slovak Catholic Sokol biography and a statement on why you want to serve on the Governance Committee.

All Letters of Interest must be addressed to the President and received at the Home Office by July 31, 2021.

All questions regarding the Governance Committee should be sent to me at [mhorvath@slovakcatholic-sokol.org](mailto:mhorvath@slovakcatholic-sokol.org). Zdar Boh! – **Michael J. Horvath, President**

## SOKOL FAMILYFEST Pricing & Reservations

**WHEN**  
July 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 2021

**WHERE**  
**SNPJ Recreation**  
270 Martin Rd. Enon Valley, PA 16120

**Reservation Phone Number –**  
**724-336-5180**

- Reserve by May 15, 2021.
- Cabins & Camper Hookups limited, order soon.
- NO pets allowed

**WILL NEED CREDIT CARD TO RESERVE – Will not charge until last day of event at checkout. Any adjustments and credits from Sokol will be made before checkout.**

**WEB ADDRESS –**  
**WWW.SNPJREC.COM**

### ALL AGES EVENT

**RV / CAMPER HOOK UP  
– 3 DAY PRICE**  
**\$75**

**CABINS – 3 DAY PRICE**  
2 Bedroom Upper  
Site - **\$294**  
2 Bedroom Lower  
Site - **\$266**  
1 Bedroom Lower  
Site - **\$192**

**TENT CAMPING**  
At this point due to COVID, the tent camping area is not available because of the community bathhouse. In the next few months, this option may become available. We will communicate if the tent camping opens up. The daily price would be \$15.

**DAILY MEAL PLAN – 3  
MEALS PER DAY**  
**\$30 PER DAY**

Please contact John Underation with any questions. 330-607-2477

# DRIVE TO 50 SALES CAMPAIGN

## CELEBRATING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SLET

The Slovak Catholic Sokol will be reaching a significant milestone within the SOKOL World – We will be hosting and presenting our 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet (Gymnastic and Track and Field Meet).

To help celebrate this Golden Occasion we have created the DRIVE TO 50 Sales CAMPAIGN. This campaign is designed to benefit and reward our membership, our groups, and recommenders.

## BENEFITING MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH

For more than 115 years our society has provided our members with sound financial protection and outstanding fraternal benefits. As proud members of the SOKOL it is quite easy to expound upon and share the qualities of membership. This is an excellent opportunity to share our excellent offerings with friends and family and get rewarded for it.

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.

A supply of SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards will be available to all Group/Assembly/Wreath Officers for distribution. Officers are asked to distribute SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards to existing Members who want to recommend someone to become an insured Benefit Member. SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards are also available for completion and submitting on the SOKOL Web Site [www.scslife.org](http://www.scslife.org). Mail all completed Referral Lead Cards to the Sales & Marketing Office:

**Slovak Catholic SOKOL**  
**Sales & Marketing**  
 2403 Sidney Street, Suite 200,  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
 Phone: 412-381-5431  
 Fax: 412-742-4638  
 Toll-Free: 1-855-874-9179  
[www.scslife.org](http://www.scslife.org)

## DRIVE TO 50 DETAILS

### RECOMMENDER REWARDS

- \$10 Referral Fee for each recommendation that results in a sale.
- Qualifies for a semi-annual drawing for an opportunity to win a \$50 gift card.
- Qualify for a \$250 grand prize drawing at the end of the campaign.

### GROUP REWARDS

Awards to qualifying Groups based on the following levels resulting from sales of new life insurance and annuity certificates issued:

- 10 New Certificates (policies):  
\$250 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses
- 25 New Certificates (policies):  
\$500 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses
- 50 New Certificates (policies):  
\$1,000 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses



## DRIVE TO 50 CAMPAIGN - 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

## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

### LEGACY LIFE INSURANCE PLANS

#### PERMANENT PLANS

WHOLE LIFE • SINGLE PREMIUM LIFE • 20 PAYMENT LIFE

#### TERM PLANS

TERM to AGE 30 • 10 YEAR TERM • 20 YEAR TERM

### VANTAGE COLLECTION of ANNUITY PRODUCTS

1 YEAR • 2 YEAR • 3 YEAR • 5 YEAR • 7 YEAR

2.00%      2.25%      2.40% - 2.50% - 2.60%      3.00%      3.25%

• SPIA Single Premium Immediate Annuity

3.50% - 10 Years % Greater • 2.75% Less than 10 Years



# ONE SLOVAK FAMILY: EXPANDING SLOVAK CITIZENSHIP

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.



Slovak and Canadian Americans trace our roots to our ancestors' homeland of Slovakia and some of us prize our Slovak background. We value our traditions and culture, love our unique Slovak foods, and wish to retain our ties with Slovakia. We feel Slovak as part of our being. But when

we travel to Slovakia, or do business there, we are officially considered to be "foreigners."

Global Slovakia wants to change that status. It has launched a movement entitled "One Slovak Family" for those who wish to recover their rights of citizenship, and/or facilitate the process of obtaining dual citizenship based on Slovak ancestry. But the broader aim is to reconnect with our Slovak roots and tap the talent which has left their family's original homeland.

Since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, one-third of Slovaks have emigrated abroad, and that trend has continued since the Velvet Revolution of 1989. Emigration from Slovakia has ranked among the highest of any peoples worldwide, second only to the Irish. Many "hyphenated" Slovaks are scattered throughout the world - in the USA, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and many other countries around the globe (2 million in just the USA have Slovak roots!).

Some of Slovakia's best and most talented people have settled abroad, and continue to do so because of higher wages and the perception of less opportunity in Slovakia. Over the course of history, many factors have contributed to the straining of ties with our original homeland: poverty, wars, onerous military drafts, Magyarization, Czechization, anti-immigration laws, totalitarian governments, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and time itself.

Most other countries (for instance, Czech Republic, Poland, Ireland, Italy, etc.) make it relatively easy for the descendants of emigrants to return to their family's homeland, and to obtain citizenship. Unfortunately, Slovakia does not rank among them and it "makes it needlessly hard for her sons and daughters to come home."

Slovakia needs to grow as a country and now faces a declining birth rate; the Slovak population could decline by as much as 30% given current trends. Thus Slovakia must gain more citizens in order to even maintain its population at today's count. By extending Slovak citizenship to Slovak descendants, it would help unite our nation. When we grow in population size, we also grow in influence and gain more political and economic sway around the world.

In summary, "One Slovak Family" aims to reconnect Slovaks abroad with their homeland and reunite the Slovak family. As a starting point, it is lobbying so that the Slovak government will rewrite legislation on the conditions for becoming a Slovak citizen. It also aims to harness the full power and influence of the larger Slovak community in the world and facilitate its connections with the homeland. Success in this endeavor might achieve the following goals:

Slovakia will gain representatives around the world.

Emigrants will champion the interests of their homeland abroad.

They will publicize and raise awareness of the country's opportunities in powerful places, circles, and through networks.

They will make it easier for Slovak delegations, leaderships and businesses to engage and bridge build with native communities abroad.

Slovak citizenship would also provide holders with all the rights and benefits of EU membership, including the right to attend universities in the EU, facilitate business dealings, etc.

"Slovakia can only benefit from uniting its population: we are ONE SLOVAK FAMILY." Join the effort and visit the website: Join us to learn more: [www.oneslovakfamily.com](http://www.oneslovakfamily.com)

## THE TEAM

Here is a list of the leading personalities on the "One Slovak Family" Team.

**Dr. Zuzana Palovic**, the founder of the non-governmental organization, Global Slovakia and author.

**Parviz Malakouti-Fitzgerald**, an American-born immigration attorney of Slovak/European and Iranian heritage.

**Samuel Ďurovčík**, a native of Bratislava, is a student at Masaryk University's Faculty of Law in Brno, Czech Republic, specializing in Administrative and Citizenship Law.

**Professor Martin Javor** is a Slovak historian and associate professor of history at the University of Prešov. He is also the director of the Museum of Emigration to North America – Kasigarda, located in Eastern Slovakia.

**Professor Michael Kopanic** is an Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Maryland Global Campus, formerly UMUC. A specialist on Slovak history, he has spent his academic career learning, teaching, and writing about history, culture, and the Slovak language.



## SLOVAK CITIZENSHIP FOR SLOVAKS LIVING ABROAD

An article by Investment Migration Insider, from the pens of "One Slovak Family" members Samuel Durovcik and Parviz Malakouti, Immigration Lawyer. It explains how many Slovak and Canadian-Americans and others with Slovak ancestors might become citizens.

### Slovakia to Grant Citizenship by Descent up to 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation: 800,000 Americans Could Qualify

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Slovakia's cabinet approved their proposed amendment to the Citizenship Act (no. 40/1993), finally addressing a sensitive issue in the small Central European country

of restoring former Slovak and Czechoslovak citizens who were stripped of their citizenship in 2011.

Embedded in this proposed amendment lies a little-regarded provision which may have a big impact on the castle-dotted country of four and a half million, as well as the greater European migration community. The bill includes an offer of citizenship by descent up to the third generation (great-grandchildren) of former Czechoslovak and Slovak citizens.

The offer of citizenship has no Slovak language proficiency requirement, nor any history or cultural familiarity test. It is currently undetermined whether the applicant will have to be present in Slovakia to apply.

Under normal circumstances, Slovakia offers an enviable passport with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 181 countries, as well as residency and work authorization throughout the European Union (EU).

A parliamentary vote in Bratislava is expected by the end of March and the amendment is expected to be handily approved.

While detailed information regarding this expected citizenship expansion has yet to proliferate greatly throughout the international migration services industry, some ethnic Slovaks in the United States are watching closely and wading into the political discussion from across the Atlantic.

Leading the way in advocating for this bill's passage on behalf of the Slovak diaspora is "One Slovak Family." This group is comprised of Slovak professionals (including the authors of this article) who have galvanized to unite the Slovak diaspora and advocate for the passage of this proposed citizenship amendment.

One Slovak Family's leadership core of immigration experts and university professors have been in dialogue with allies in the Slovak government, news media, and Slovak cultural organizations with a stake in the proposed legislation.

Ethnic Slovaks worldwide have also organized themselves into a Facebook group called "Slovak Living Abroad Certificate & Slovak Citizenship" to share information on this exciting development.

### **Slovakia for Business?**

Since the 2000s, Slovakia has been known as the "Central European Tiger" thanks to restriction-loosening reforms that have helped attract foreign investment and complete its transition to a functioning, free-market democracy. Many foreign firms have established branches in Slovakia and the last three years, in particular, have seen Slovakia enjoy a slow but steadily growing buzz among those in the "digital nomad" community exploring options for foreign incorporation. In big business, the automotive industry, in particular, is credited with driving much of Slovakia's recent economic growth.

As governments around Europe look for new ways to stimulate business growth, which has been hampered by the pandemic, more nations are experimenting with new solutions such as liberalizing descent-based migration and courting the fast-expanding "digital nomad" community. Slovakia estimates that about one million Slovaks and their descendants live outside of Slovakia. Attracting even a fraction back to Slovakia could prove crucial in helping the region economically.

### **The Upshot for Migration Professionals**

With an estimated 800,000 members, the United States has the largest Slovak diaspora in the world by far, followed by the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, and Canada. We predict that interest will continue to be most keen amongst Slovaks from non-EU states, (including the newly-single UK) who desire ultimate freedom of movement and to stay in Slovakia and the EU.

Migration professionals should now add Slovakia to the list of countries to screen clients for when exploring options for a coveted second passport. Extra attention should be given when screening individuals from the Slovak-dense American states of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Due to the generous extension of eligibility to the third-generation descendant, potential applicants may earn eligibility through any one of up to fourteen direct ascendants. Given that even a single Czechoslovak or Slovak great-grandparent could be a qualifying relative, these authors conservatively predict that at least 20% of future qualifying applicants will not be aware of their eligibility. Migration professionals should be prepared for a number of these clients to initially present as potential investment or employment-based migration prospects.

Determining finer points of eligibility will require a delicate legal analysis due to the last 110 tumultuous years in the region including a split from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, two world wars, communist dictatorship, and partition from big brother Czechia.

After the parliamentary vote in March, we will analyze the citizenship amendment in its final form and publish a follow-up article for our readers.

## **SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION 60<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2021 – DANVILLE, PA**

As the National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F., hereby call for the 60<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation. All members and current National Officers are to note the following dates and location for the Convention. The Convention dates will be: Sunday, September 26 to Tuesday, September 28, 2021 in Danville, PA. The National Secretary, Dolores Evanko will be your contact person for delegate registration and detail information for the Convention. The Convention will officially open with Mass to be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021 at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville, PA. The Celebrant will be the Right Rev. Gary, Hoover, OSB, Abbot of Saint Andrews Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. Abbot Gary also serves as the Moderator of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The homily for the Mass will be given by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F., National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Following the Mass a Banquet will be held. Working Sessions for the Convention will be on Monday, September 27 and Tuesday, September 28 till all business is completed.

**What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland****News and Views  
from Slovakia...****FORMER PG DOBROSLAV TRNKA INELIGIBLE  
FOR ENTRY INTO UNITED STATES**

The US Department of State on Thursday banned former Slovak prosecutor-general Dobroslav Trnka and his son Jakub from entering the United States, the reason being their involvement in significant corruption, according to the website of the US State Department.

The ban on entry for Trnka was decided directly by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who was appointed by new President Joe Biden. He explained his decision with credible information indicating that Trnka had been involved in significant corruption.

"In his official capacity as the prosecutor-general of Slovakia, Trnka was involved in corrupt acts that undermined the rule of law and the Slovak public's faith in their government's democratic institutions, officials, and public processes," reads Blinken's statement.

Blinken stressed that the decision in question had been issued solely on the basis of the US Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programmes Appropriations Act. This step does not seek to prejudice or influence ongoing or future Slovak legal proceedings involving Trnka. Foreign officials and their family members who are publicly designated by the US Secretary of State as directly or indirectly involved in corruption lose their right to enter the United States.

In addition to the designation of former prosecutor-general Trnka, the state secretary also publicly designated his son, Jakub Trnka.

Blinken stressed that this designation reaffirms U.S. commitment to combating corruption in Slovakia. The United States continues to stand with the people of Slovakia in their fight against corruption. According to him, the US State Department will continue to use these authorities to promote accountability for corrupt actors in this region and globally.

**SLOVAK PM AT EU SUMMIT RAISED CRITICAL  
COVID SITUATION IN SLOVAKIA**

The critical situation in Slovakia with COVID-19, the planned introduction of COVID certificates, introduction of stricter border checks and European defence were among issues debated by EU leaders during a video summit on Thursday and Friday, the Slovak Government Office's press department told TASR.

Slovak Prime Minister Igor Matovic asked other EU-member countries to help Slovakia by lending it vaccines or sending medical personnel. At the same time, he thanked all countries that have already demonstrated solidarity with Slovakia.

"The serious situation in Slovakia is due to the spread of a more infectious British mutation, against which even a hard lockdown isn't effective enough. Vaccination is the hope. So, we must make the authorization process concerning new vaccines via EMA more effective, apart from speeding up the production and distribution of efficient vaccines," said Matovic.

Slovakia and other countries also achieved a commitment of all leaders in continuing to find a European consensus on the introduction of COVID-19 certificates.

"These certificates won't only serve for the vaccinated. They'll also contain information on recovery from COVID-19 and performed tests. It isn't an instrument for discrimination, but one for the removal of bureaucracy in showing compliance with various measures," said Matovic.

As for border checks, partly due to Slovakia's pressure, the EU leaders agreed that these measures must take into account proportionality and non-discrimination, while allowing smooth flow of goods and proper functioning of the single market, stated the Slovak Government Office's press department.

**POPE INTENDS TO VISIT SLOVAKIA,  
ACCEPTED CAPUTOVA'S INVITATION**

Pope Francis intends to arrive in Slovakia and the visit to Bratislava could take place alongside the Eucharistic Congress in Budapest set to take place in September, TASR learnt on Monday, March 8.

The pope said this at a press conference held on the same day on board the plane on his return from his visit to Iraq.

The report was taken note on Monday by Slovak President Zuzana Caputova, who invited the Pope to Slovakia during her visit to the Vatican in December last year. "I'm very pleased that we'll be able to welcome the Holy Father in Slovakia, his visit will certainly be a symbol of hope we so desperately need," said Caputova in a statement provided to TASR by her spokesman Martin Strizinec.

After the meeting in December, the president said that Pope Francis had accepted her invitation, but would see how the situation in the world would allow him to come. The Slovak president brought to Francis four big Advent wreaths produced in a sheltered workshop by people from a disadvantaged environment. Caputova also gave him an image of Our Lady. Apart from that, she brought 10,000 PCR tests for coronavirus.

Pope Francis plans to attend the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress that will take place on Sunday, September 12, at 11 a.m. on Heroes' Square in the capital of Hungary.

**CAPUTOVA COMMEMORATES COVID-19 VICTIMS  
AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE**

President Zuzana Caputova paid tribute to the memory of the Slovak victims of the COVID-19 pandemic on Friday, March 5. The commemoration took place at the Presidential Palace with soldiers of the Guard of Honor and Military Music of the Slovak Armed Forces in attendance.

"It will be exactly one year tomorrow that the occurrence of novel coronavirus was confirmed in Slovakia. On the eve of this sad anniversary, I wanted to commemorate all the victims who have died in Slovakia as a result of this disease," said the head of state, adding that she wants to express her sincere condolences to the bereaved.

Caputova stressed on this occasion that the novel coronavirus pandemic is one of the biggest problems humanity is facing today, and the only thing that can help is personal responsibility. "That's why I want to ask everyone for it again," said the president.

Together with the soldiers, she lit seven candles in front of the Presidential Palace in memory of more than seven thousand victims. "Let the light we've lit today not only symbolize the memory of those who left us early, but also be the hope we all need so much," added the head of state.

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



## ECOLOGY CENTRE IN CUNOVO TO BRING EDUCATIONAL AND INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

A biotope pond capable of self-cleaning, a rescue station for injured animals as well as other experiential and interactive elements in the form of a wooden track over a wetland, an interactive wall and a "barefoot" adventure trail, these are parts of a revitalised garden behind the future multifunctional supra-regional environmental education centre in the Bratislava borough of Cunovo, TASR learned from spokeswoman for Bratislava self-governing region (BSK) Lucia Forman on Friday, March 5.

The new green centre is to be set up as part of a project of supra-regional co-operation between Bratislava region and partners on the Austrian and Hungarian sides. It is to be built in a reconstructed manor house and granary listed as a national cultural monument. Bratislava region will restore the manor house together with Austria, the second stage of the project is the revitalisation of the garden, in which the region is to participate together with Hungary.

An introductory meeting of all project partners took place at the end of February, Bratislava region, as the lead partner of the project, plans several of them during the project implementation. The reason is to ensure the co-ordination of project activities or project outputs.

The cross-border co-operation between Slovakia and Hungary is focused on several activities in Bratislava region and around Zitny ostrov area on the Hungarian side. It aims to systematically increase the environmental awareness of the lay and professional public and the responsibility for the natural wealth of the area and its protection. The project of this cross-border co-operation will last two years and the total budget amounts to 1.95 million.

## HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FROM DENMARK AND BELGIUM TO COME TO HELP SLOVAKIA

Health professionals from Denmark and Belgium will arrive in Slovakia on Friday to help the country deal with the critical situation in the health-care sector, Health Ministry State Secretary Peter Stachura announced on Thursday, March 11.

"There should be eight health professionals from Denmark (three doctors and five nurses) and three health professionals from Belgium (two doctors and one nurse). All of them will work at the F.D. Roosevelt Faculty Hospital in Banska Bystrica," said Stachura, adding that the Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Ward can make use of at least four extra beds thanks to their help.

According to Stachura, the situation in hospitals is bad due to the coronavirus pandemic, with still more beds being occupied. Transporting patients is ever more demanding. "It's not always possible to move patients successfully. We usually manage to move three to four out of 15 patients," said the state secretary, adding that willingness to move among patients is very limited.

The Government asked for foreign help for this reason. Poland and Germany lent a helping hand to Slovakia in this regard with five patients being treated in Polish hospitals and three in German facilities. However, the priority is for Slovak patients not to be transported abroad, said Stachura, admitting that patients' relatives are often unwilling to see them moved.

The state secretary said that all the transfers of patients abroad were successful. One patient in Germany has already been disconnected from artificial lung ventilation. However, moving patients is demanding also in terms of bureaucracy.

Stachura characterised current developments in the health-care sector as slightly positive, with the figures topping out or

dropping moderately. He believes that the situation in anaesthesiology and intensive care wards will be stabilised in two weeks.

## EEA AND NORWAY'S GRANTS TO SERVE FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF BECKOV CASTLE



Over 800,000 euro from grants from the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway, administered by the Investment and Regional Development Ministry, will be spent on reconstructing Beckov Castle (Trencin region).

"Grants from the EEA and Norway play a significant role in preserving and restoring our cultural heritage. I'm pleased that the famous Beckov Castle will now be reconstructed. The construction and restoration work, as well as equipment for planned cultural, educational and social activities at the castle will be covered from a grant amounting to 809,000 euro. This reconstruction will allow the castle to be open to the public all year round and will have a very positive impact on developing tourism in the region," stated Vice-premier Veronika Remisova.

The reconstruction project obtained a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (EEA) and from Slovakia's state budget within the Culture programme. The municipality succeeded with the project application within the call 'Entrepreneurship in Culture, Cultural Heritage and Cultural Cooperation,' the aim of which is to support the renewal and revitalisation of cultural heritage sites for its repeated or further use and to support their business potential. The project is being implemented by the municipality of Beckov, and its partners are the Association of Historical Towns and Villages, a secondary school in Nove Mesto nad Vahom and a Norwegian university.

## PRESIDENT ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF HEALTH MINISTER KRAJCI, APPOINTS HEGER

President Zuzana Caputova on Friday, March 12 accepted the resignation of Health Minister Marek Krajci (OLANO) and at the same time commissioned Finance Minister Eduard Heger (OLANO) to take up the post on a temporary basis.

Krajci announced his resignation on Thursday after two minor coalition parties SaS and For the People conditioned their staying in the Government by his removal.

Prime Minister Igor Matovic (OLANO) originally said that Krajci would resign later, after the start of an inoculation campaign with the Sputnik V vaccine. Following further pressure within the coalition, Krajci on Friday said that he'd resign later on the same day, so that he wouldn't be used as a pretext for a government break-up.



# KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - April 2021

## Easter Word Search

w b s i n  
 b t u k u i i  
 l a i n c u n h d  
 o s b n i z r d l  
 g y k b y h n u n a x  
 e d e a m c c o h m y  
 c n t r t k i o o b l  
 c a s n l t l e s y q  
 b c u i a i q p l v a  
 v h n c d k r x o p j  
 g a a n i n s r c  
 v y s n p g i f t  
 i g p g l h s  
 e i f



eggs  
 bunny  
 rabbit  
 chick

spring  
 April  
 Sunday  
 basket

hunt  
 candy  
 vacation  
 lamb

gift  
 sun  
 duckling  
 holiday





## KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - April 2021



### HAPPY EARTH DAY



Earth Day is on April 22nd of every year. The holiday was created to show appreciation for our planet and the environment.



Earth Day was started in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin. He was determined to convince the government that the planet was at risk after a massive oil spill in Santa Monica California. It is now celebrated all over the globe.



Around the world countries celebrate Earth Day by planting trees, painting murals, having park, beach and other clean-ups.



Earth Day is an important holiday to save the ONE Earth we have and love.



# EARTH DAY WORD SEARCH FREE PRINTABLE WORKSHEET



### Earth Day Word Search



O Z O N E C Y P L A S T I C S  
W E C C L I M A T E Z O Z P E  
E N E O L E N C V R I X A O N  
N V A M A E W E R E C Y C L E  
A I N P L S A T I C O G N L R  
A R D O Z O Y N Y A S E Y U G  
C O N S E R V A T I O N O T Y  
A N A T U R E O X R E G E I O  
N M T P R O T E C T S Y Z O B  
S E R E R E D U C E G Y S N O  
C N O V A I O W L S A Y C E T  
A T R E E N L A S L Y R N A T  
E O E P L A N T S E A A T T L  
V O L U N T E E R V A N Q H E  
P L A N E T E R E U S E D I S

AIR  
APRIL  
BOTTLES  
CANS  
CLEAN  
CLIMATE  
COMPOST

CONSERVATION  
EARTH  
ENERGY  
ENVIRONMENT  
LAND  
NATURE  
OCEAN

OXYGEN  
OZONE  
PLANET  
PLANTS  
PLASTIC  
POLLUTION  
PROTECT

RECYCLE  
REDUCE  
REUSE  
TREE  
VOLUNTEER  
WATER

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## KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - April 2021

### Easter Fun Facts

The idea of the Easter Bunny originated in Germany

The idea of the Easter Bunny was brought to the US by German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania Dutch Country in the 1700s.

The traditional word for painting Easter eggs is called pysanka.

Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon on the Spring Equinox between March 22nd and April 25th.

Easter is the Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his promise of eternal life.

Everyday 5 million marshmallow chicks and bunnies are made to prepare for Easter.

The largest Easter Egg Hunt happened at Cypress Gardens Adventure Park in Winter Haven Florida. The hunt consisted of 501,000 Easter Eggs!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!**

Chase Seifert 4/11  
Carissa Hoeck 4/13  
Colton Seifert 4/15



## FAVORITE EASTER RECIPES

### SYREK

18 eggs  
1 quart milk  
pinch of salt, dash of pepper

Pour above ingredients into bowl and mix well, cook slowly in a double boiler, stirring constantly, slowly, so that the mixture will not scorch. Pour mixture into a linen towel or cheese cloth, squeeze liquid out and tie tightly. Hang and let this drain for a few hours. When completely drained, place in refrigerator.

### PASKA - EASTER BREAD

#### Basic dough: 1 cake yeast

2 tablespoons lukewarm water  
1 cup boiling milk  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
1/4 cup butter  
3 cups flour, sifted

#### Cheese dough:

1/2 lb. dry cottage cheese  
1 cake yeast  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1/2 stick butter(melted)  
1/4 cup raisins(seedless)  
1/2 cup milk  
4 egg yolks  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 1/2 - 3 cups sifted flour or enough to make a soft dough  
1/2 cup sugar

Basic dough: crumble yeast in water and set aside for five minutes. Pour boiling milk over butter and salt. Cool to lukewarm. Add yeast mixture. Add half the flour and beat until smooth. Add remaining flour and knead until smooth. Let rise until doubled in bulk. Divide dough in half.

Cheese dough: Soften yeast in lukewarm milk to which 1 tablespoon sugar has been added and let stand 5 minutes. Put cheese through strainer to remove lumps, add melted butter and yeast mixture, then add the unbeaten egg yolks, remaining sugar, salt, flour and raisins and knead as for bread. Set aside and let rise for about 1 hour or until doubled in bulk. Divide this dough in half.

Roll basic dough to a 10-inch circle, punch a small hole in the center, then take one half the cheese dough and shape into a roll, place same in center of basic dough so that edges of basic dough may be completely folded over the cheese roll to the punched out center hole. Do not flour board or dough.

Place in 10-inch tube pan. Set in a warm place and let rise until doubled in bulk. Brush with beaten yolk of an egg. Clip top of Paska with scissors to make thorns. Bake 1 hour at 375degreesF. Makes two Paskas.

### CHREN, or Beets with Horseradish

8 cans whole beets, drained  
3 bottles horseradish (Do not use creamed horseradish)

Grind beets using fine grinder attachment. The juice can be saved for soup. Add horseradish to beets; mix well. Refrigerate. An empty horseradish jar (washed, label removed and dipped in boiling water to sterilize it) can be filled with the mixture and placed in the Easter basket. The jar's cap can be disguised with aluminum foil, thus hiding any advertisement.

### KOLACE (Nut and poppyseed)

8 egg yolks  
8 cups flour  
1/2 pound butter  
1 cake yeast  
1 cup sugar  
2 cups scalded milk  
4 tablespoons shortening

Beat eggs and sugar. Melt butter and shortening in hot milk, saving 1/2 cup for the yeast. Dissolve yeast in lukewarm milk and let stand for a few minutes. Combine both mixtures in a large bowl.

Add flour and mix well with hands until dough leaves the hands. Refrigerate overnight. In the morning, divide the dough into eight balls and let rise for one hour. Roll out on floured boards and spread with filling. Roll up gently, tucking in ends. Bake at 350 F degrees until brown, about 45 minutes. Brush tops of rolls, prior to putting into oven with an egg-milk mixture. Doing so produces beautifully browned, shiny rolls.

#### Nut Filling

1 pound ground walnuts  
1/2 cup milk  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1/4 cup honey (optional)

Combine sugar and nuts. Beat eggs and add to mixture. Add honey and milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly. Bring to boil. Remove from stove, let cool. Roll out dough to 1/4 inch thick, brush with butter, place filling on dough and roll up. Bake

#### Poppyseed Filling

1 pound ground poppyseed  
1/4 cup honey  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons melted butter  
1/4 cup milk

Combine sugar with poppyseed. Add melted butter. Then add honey and milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally until blended. Cool and spread over dough that has been rolled out to 1/4 inch thickness and brushed with butter. Roll up and bake.



In Slovakia, Easter Monday is celebrated by boys chasing girls around with a switch made from willow branches(korbace) and pouring buckets of cold water on them. In gratitude, the girls rewarded the boys by giving them beautiful hand-decorated Easter eggs, chocolates, liquor or even money. The tradition of sibacka(switching) and polievacka(watering) is all done in good sport. The point was not to cause harm to the girls but rather that the tradition kept the girls beautiful and "springy" for the whole year.





## OBITUARIES

### NANCY J. FEDOR (1950 – 2021)

Longtime Group 7 Sokol activist Nancy Fedor of Hudson, PA passed into Eternal Life unexpectedly Saturday, March 13 morning in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, following a recent illness. She was 71 years old.



Born January 24, 1950 in Wilkes-Barre, PA, Nancy was the daughter to the late Leo D. and Jean (Kopacz) Fedor Sr. Educated in Plains schools, Nancy was a member of the 1967 Graduating Class of the former Plains Memorial High School. Nancy later furthered her education by attending the Bradford Beauty Academy. Nancy loved cutting hair, and up until two weeks ago

continued giving haircuts to family, friends, nursing home patients (Pre-Covid), and her favorite client; her brother, Leo, "Butchie."

Until her retirement, Nancy had been employed for decades by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections as the Mailroom Supervisor at the State Correctional Institution Dallas. While at SCI Dallas, Nancy was actively engaged in implementing employee fundraisers and events such as the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. After her retirement, Nancy spent several years as both a library and kindergarten aide in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, at both the Leo E. Solomon Plains Memorial Complex and Daniel J. Flood Elementary School, where she brought so much love and joy to children and staff.

Having been a lifelong member of the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Roman Catholic Church until its heart-breaking closure and subsequent merger with the Parish of Saint Andre Bessette, Wilkes-Barre; Nancy practiced her faith daily. Her relationship with the Blessed Mother was devout and her daily rosary recital brought her hope, peace, and strength.

Nancy was an active member in many civic and fraternal organizations. She was a member and Treasurer of the Sacred Heart Slovak School PTA. She proudly ran the skating parties at Roller King, worked the stands at the basketball games, and organized fundraisers. Nancy was a member of the Altar & Rosary Society, the Sacred Heart Bowling League, was a collector at mass, and spent more than 20 years assisting with the parish bazaar.

Proud of her Slovak heritage, Nancy held membership and the role of Treasurer in the Slovak Catholic Sokols, Reverend Joseph Murgas Group 7. She organized activities such as the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, where she served as the Easter Bunny, Annual Christmas Party, where she served as Mrs. Claus, Bowling and Golf Tournaments, Sokol Day, International Bowling and Softball Tournaments, Eastern District Volleyball and Basketball Tournaments, organized fundraising events, took an active role in the Parent Club, organized raffle sales, prepared meals for Annual meetings, acted as

a Delegate for International Conventions, worked with headquarters and other group officers, and was a key participant in the Flag Raising Ceremony at the Courthouse. Nancy was a member and Treasurer of Assembly 59.

An active member of the North End Slovak Citizens Club, Nancy served as Vice-President of the Ladies Auxiliary. She was instrumental in refurbishing and installing the large bronze World War I marker on the front of the club, originally affixed to Sacred Heart Church, as a tribute to local families who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. Nancy was named as both the North End Slovak Citizens Club Person of the Year- the only female ever to receive such honor- and the 2020 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year for her exemplary devotion to fraternity, parish and religious activities, community activities, and amazing individuality.

Nancy's loving, considerate, selfless ways and outgoing personality were uniquely her own. Nancy will be greatly missed by her life-long friends who she enthusiastically engaged with playing cards, scrapbooking, and losing to at shuffleboard. Her passing leaves a profound and indescribable void in the lives of all those who knew her.

Nancy was preceded in death by her brothers Mr. Robert Fedor and Mr. Raymond Fedor. As Nancy reached the Gates of Heaven on the Most Glorious of all days in her Catholic faith, she left many behind to cherish the wonderful memories she gave them. Left to carry on her faith and strength in the Lord are her beloved daughters, Denise M. Balas and her fiancé, Alejandro Wickham of Sugar Notch and Dr. Renee L. Pizzella of Plains; her adoring grandchildren who meant more to her than anything on Earth, Olivia Rose Pizzella and Daniel G. Balas; her companion, Mr. Clarence Ozgo of Plains; Brother, Mr. Leo "Butch" D. Fedor Jr. and his wife, Peggy of Plains; her former husband, Frank J. Pizzella, Jr. and his wife, Carolyn of Plains; several nieces and nephews; great-nephews Tait and Teague Stahovic, who will forever be her "boys;" former co-workers, fellow parishioners, and many dear friends.

Funeral services for Nancy were conducted on Thursday, March 18. The Mass began at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish of Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church in Plains Township. Our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdevic, pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA and personal family friend, served as celebrant and homilist. Interment with the Rite of Committal followed in the Fedor family lot at Mount Olivet Roman Catholic Cemetery in Wyoming.

Nancy's family would be humbled if those desiring to make a monetary donation would kindly consider donating to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 in Nancy's memory.

### SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL 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 Memorial Scholarship fund? Send a check or money order to the Memorial Scholarship Fund indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at <http://slovakcatholiccsokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm> or send your donation to: James F. Knis, SCS Museum Treasurer, 6385 Harbor Drive, N.W., Canton, OH 44718.



## VICTORIA KWIATKOWSKI – PRIOR MULTIPLE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

### KEISER UNIVERSITY NURSING GRAD TO JOIN HOSPITAL WHERE SHE ONCE SUPPORTED DEAR FRIEND

Keiser University valedictorian Victoria Kwiatkowski will soon join the same healthcare facility she'd spent much time in as a teenager while supporting a dear friend.



"Ten years ago, I spent every second I could with my best friend while he battled leukemia at the John Hopkins All Children's Hospital, so I am beyond excited and proud that I now have the chance to care for and inspire children and their families as they did for us many years ago," said Kwiatkowski, who will join the St. Petersburg, Florida facility as a member of its Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH) team.

The academic journey leading to Kwiatkowski's nursing profession and her honor at Keiser University's Sarasota campus began at the University of Central Florida back in May 2018 when she earned degrees in both Biology and Health Science. Determined to achieve her goal of becoming a registered nurse, she subsequently enrolled in Keiser University's Nursing program and credits supporters for helping her through the challenging times.

Kwiatkowski's academic endeavors came to a culmination on February 20, 2021, when she earned her B.S. in Nursing from Keiser University at a graduation ceremony provided over by Dr. Arthur Keiser, Ph.D.

"Dr. Susan Cohen was not only my mentor throughout my first semester of nursing school, but she remained my role model throughout the entire journey, as her supportive and encouraging demeanor provided me with the confidence to pursue my love of working in newborn pediatrics. I cannot imagine what other aspect of nursing I would have chosen without her guidance, and Dr. Terri Doire was been one of the greatest cheerleaders I could have asked for, as she was the ray of sunshine and positivity we all needed," smiled Kwiatkowski.

The Keiser University clinical rotations provided valuable hands-on experiences as Kwiatkowski honed her skills and gained real-world insights relating to the profession, and the rigorous academic program left a lasting impact. "Professors Ming and Malloy regularly challenged my intelligence in a way that made me think less like a student and more like a nurse. Although my toughest classes were taken with them, I cannot thank them enough for pushing me to become a better student. I would not take any second of it back for the world," she reflected.

When asked what she'd recommend to those considering a career in the field, Kwiatkowski emphasized the importance of collaboration. "If nursing is your dream, continue to work harder and never doubt your worth. Never feel bad about asking others for help, as the nursing profession is a team collaboration to ensure things get done safely and with quality," she said. "For as long as I can remember, children have always remained the key component in my dream jobs over the years. I cannot wait to see where this journey of pediatric medicine leads me."

The Keiser University Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is offered for students beginning their first professional nursing program. Depending on the campus, students in this program of professional nursing study may attend in either the Fall/Spring semesters only or year-round, for eight semesters. Gradu-

ates will be prepared to provide compassionate, patient-centered, culturally competent nursing care to individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations in a variety of settings, using evidence-based knowledge and skills related to wellness, health promotion, illness, disease management, and end-of-life care to improve healthcare outcomes. They will practice in partnership with patients as members and leaders of interprofessional healthcare teams, utilizing the most current healthcare technologies. Successful completion of this program qualifies graduates to sit for the NCLEX-RN licensing exam.

Keiser University is a private, not-for-profit university, serving nearly 20,000 students and employing 2,900 faculty and staff members. Co-founded in 1977 by Chancellor Arthur Keiser, Ph.D., and Evelyn Keiser, the university currently offers more than 100 degrees at 21 Florida campuses, as well as online and at two international sites. Keiser University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges as a level VI institution to award certificates and degrees at the associate, baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctoral levels. For additional information regarding Keiser University, visit <http://www.keiseruniversity.edu>.

## In Memoriam

FEBRUARY 2021

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 10	Thomas P. Sefrick, Marysville, OH	79	December 23, 2020
Assembly 11	Glen Leerhoff, Mendon, IL	93	January 26, 2021
Assembly 11	Mary Jane Gromos, Joliet, IL	83	February 8, 2021
Assembly 11	Helen Milas, Palos Park, IL	103	February 10, 2021
Assembly 16	Michael Tomko, Pittsburgh, PA	94	January 25, 2021
Assembly 25	Paul Lancaster, Uniontown, PA	65	February 8, 2021
Assembly 36	Francis Maslar, Grosse Ile, MI	32	November 25, 2019
Assembly 36	Doua Xiong, Warren MI	59	January 30, 2021
Assembly 36	Steven J. Sherry, Owosso, MI	83	January 31, 2021
Assembly 36	Andrew M. Zorichak, Jr., Roseville, MI	81	February 3, 2006
Assembly 59	Elise Carey, Inkerman, PA	75	February 5, 2021
Assembly 78	Stephen M. Myirski, Bethlehem, PA	94	January 26, 2021
Assembly 85	Joseph Klimek, E. Vandergrift, PA	93	January 5, 2021
Assembly 108	Michael R. Bacha, Jr., Youngstown, OH	75	August 3, 2020
Assembly 108	Edward Yasechko, Hubbard OH	94	January 23, 2021
Assembly 162	Stella De Lotto, Ft. Lee, NJ	92	May 16, 2020
Assembly 219	Edward J. Chesney, Yonkers, NY	64	February 5, 2021
Assembly 227	Mira D. Gazo, Weston, Canada	68	January 26, 2021
Assembly 312	Joseph Kato, Knoxville, TN	90	January 16, 2021
Assembly 312	Robert A. Nichols, Westchester, PA	87	January 31, 2021
Wreath 29	Barbara Ann Kline, Mentmore, NM	71	February 2, 2017
Wreath 34	Joseph Sima, North Olmsted OH	71	January 30, 2021
Wreath 34	Rose Slavik, Lakewood, OH	93	February 9, 2021
Wreath 47	Anne Rabatin Cisek, Minnesota	89	November 30, 2018
Wreath 47	Chao Yang, Brooklyn Park, MN	84	January 23, 2021
Wreath 47	Chue Xiong, Oak Grove, MN	68	February 23, 2021
Wreath 81	Lorraine Hanusin, Highland, IN	81	February 6, 2021
Wreath 93	Raymond E. Soderberg, Nekoosa, WI	83	October 23, 2020
Wreath 153	Lawrence Hrusovsky, Ohio	83	January 1, 2021
Wreath 155	Helen Danenhowe, Leesport, PA	90	January 28, 2021
Wreath 168	Mary Dzupa, Hampton Bays, NY	96	May 21, 2015
Wreath 168	Violet Vidal, Woodbridge, NJ	93	January 9, 2021



## SLOVÁCI UŽ PRE INÉ OBČIANSTVO NEBUDÚ PRICHÁDZAŤ O SLOVENSKÝ PAS

Ľudia, ktorí prijímajú štátne občianstvo iného štátu, by už nemuseli prísť o slovenský pas. Počíta s tým novela zákona o štátnom občianstve z dielne ministerstva vnútra, ktorú schválila vláda. Slovenské štátne občianstvo by podľa návrhu mohli získať tiež bývalí občania SR, ktorí ho stratili na vlastnú žiadosť, ako aj osoby so slovenským pôvodom po jednom z rodičov, prarodičov alebo praprarodičov.

Súčasný zákon pripravuje o slovenské občianstvo tých ľudí, ktorí prijímajú občianstvo iného štátu. Takto on prišlo už viac ako 3500 ľudí.

V súlade s programovým vyhlásením vlády umožníme občanom Slovenskej republiky dlhodobu žijúcim na území iného štátu nadobudnúť občianstvo tohto štátu bez straty slovenského. A, samozrejme, umožníme aj tým, ktorí o občianstvo prišli, aby ho nadobudli naspäť, vyhlásil minister vnútra Roman Mikulec. Novela rozširuje aj výnimky, podľa ktorých sa nestráca občianstvo. Zároveň by bývalí občania mohli požiadať o slovenské občianstvo jednoduchšie a v riadnom konaní. Účinnosť novely zákona sa predpokladá od 1. júla 2021.

O slovenský pas by nemuseli prísť občania v prípadoch, ak ide o nadobudnutie cudzieho štátneho občianstva manžela za trvania manželstva, narodením, osvojením, alebo ak ho nadobudlo maloleté dieťa. Slovenské občianstvo by si mohli udržať aj občania, ktorí nadobudnú cudzie štátne občianstvo, „ak majú na území štátu, ktorého štátne občianstvo nadobudnú, povolený, registrovaný alebo inak evidovaný pobyt v čase nadobudnutia cudzieho občianstva najmenej päť rokov a predložia doklady preukazujúce tieto skutočnosti“. O štátne občianstvo SR by nemuselo prísť ani maloleté dieťa, ktorého rodič zostáva štátnym občanom SR.

Občania alebo bývalí občania Českej republiky by po novom nemuseli pri žiadosti o slovenské občianstvo spĺňať požiadavku ovládania slovenského jazyka. Výnimka z ovládania štátneho jazyka by sa mohla uplatňovať aj pri žiadateľoch starších ako 65 rokov a tých, ktorí vykonali jazykové skúšky zo slovenského jazyka. Vzťahovať by sa mala aj na žiadateľov, ktorí majú vydané platné osvedčenie preukazujúce postavenie Slováka žijúceho v zahraničí.

Slovenský pas strácajú ľudia na základe zákona o štátnom občianstve, ktorý prijala prvá vláda Roberta Fica (Smer-SD). Niekdajší kabinet reagoval právnou normou v roku 2010 na maďarský zákon, ktorý od roku 2011 zjednodušuje udeľovanie dvojakoého občianstva zahraničným Maďarom. Na základe súčasného zákona prichádzajú o slovenský pas tí, ktorí prijali občianstvo iného štátu. Od prijatia zákona sa objavili viaceré pokusy o zmiernenie tejto právnej normy, avšak ani jeden z nich nebol úspešný. Aktuálnou právnou normou sa zaoberal aj Ústavný súd SR, ktorý nedokázal povedať, či je alebo nie je protiústavná.

Súčasná vláda Igora Matoviča (OĽANO) sa v programovom vyhlásení zaviazala, že umožní občanom SR dlhodobu žijúcim na území iného štátu nadobudnúť občianstvo tohto štátu bez straty slovenského občianstva. – TASR

## SPOMIENKA NA MICHAELA STRANKA



Foto: Veľvyslanectvo SR, Washington, D.C.

V pondelok 1. marca si veľvyslanec Slovenskej republiky v USA Radovan Javorčík (na snímke vľavo) a generál Miroslav Korba položili v Arlington National Cemetery na pomník seržanta Michaela Stranka veniec pri príležitosti 76. výročia jeho tragickej smrti. Michael Strank, ktorý sa narodil 1. marca 1919 v Jarabine na Slovensku, mal 6 rokov keď prišiel s rodičmi do USA. Padol 1. marca 1945 po zásahu šrapnelom z americkej lode, keď do piesku kreslil náčrt novej akcie. Slávnym sa stal vďaka záberu reportéra Associated Press, Joea Rosenthala, ktorý zachytáva druhé v z t y č o v a n i e americkej vlajky na vrchu Suribači sopečného ostrova Iwo Jima (prvá vlajka vztýčená



dve hodiny predtým a pred príchodom veliteľa bola príliš malá). Dobytia ostrova, na ktorom vztýčoval túto vlajku sa nedožil. Jeho brat Peter Strank slúžil počas vojny v južnom Pacifiku na lietadlovej lodi USS Franklin.



## PÁPEŽ PRIJAL POZVANIE PREZIDENTKY SR

Pápež František má v úmysle pricestovať na Slovensko. V pondelok 8. marca to oznámil prezidentke SR Zuzane Čaputovej v reakcii na jej pozvanie z decembra minulého roka.

TASR o tom informoval hovorca hlavy štátu Martin Strižinec.

“Veľmi sa teším, že Svätého Otca budeme môcť privítať na Slovensku, jeho návšteva bude určite symbolom nádeje, ktorú tak veľmi potrebujeme,” uviedla prezidentka.

Portál Vatican News informoval, že na tlačovej konferencii počas spiatocného letu z návštevy Iraku pápež František uviedol, že má v úmysle navštíviť aj Slovensko.

Podľa portálu v odpovedi na otázku o jeho plánovaných cestách spomenul aj Bratislavu, ktorú zvažuje navštíviť popri eucharistickom kongrese v Budapešti. Portál zároveň informoval, že v hlavnom meste Maďarska sa pápež plánuje zúčastniť na záverečnej omši Medzinárodného eucharistického kongresu.

Tá je podľa Vatican News naplánovaná na nedeľu 12. septembra 2021 o 11:00 na Námestí hrdinov.

Prezidentka už po decembrovom stretnutí informovala, že pápež František pozvanie prijal, no uvidí, ako mu pricestovať dovolí situácia vo svete. Prezidentka doniesla pápežovi štyri veľké adventné sviece vyrobené v chránenej dielni ľuďmi zo znevýhodneného prostredia.

Darovala mu taktiež obraz Panny Márie, ktorá je patrónkou Slovenska. Od slovenských vedcov priniesla do Vatikánu 10-tisíc PCR testov na nový koronavírus. – TASR

## PETRŽLEN JE PLNÝ ŽIVÍN

Ak chceme jedlu dodať arómu a špecifickú chuť, často si ahneme po petržlene. Je jednoducho všestranný v kuchyni a tiež prispieva k duševnej pohode. Tento druh koreňovej zeleniny odvodňuje, vďaka vysokému obsahu draslíka – cca 100 gramov petržľenu obsahuje 1000 miligramov minerálnych látok. Na porovnanie: celozrnný chlieb obsahuje len štvrtinu z tohto množstva.



Petržlen obsahuje aj provitamín A a vitamíny B1, B2, C, E ako aj stopovými prvkami – meď, zinok a fluór. Teda skutočný výbuch živín. Za jeho úžasnú chuť sú zodpovedné éterické oleje. Siahnite radšej po petržlene s hladkými lístkami, pretože ten je bohatší na éterické oleje, ako kučeravé odrody.

Hodnotné zložky, ktoré petržlen obsahuje, neznášajú vysoké teploty, a preto by mal byť petržlen do jedla primiešavaný po varení. Aj chuť jedla je potom oveľa intenzívnejšia.



**POŽEHNANÉ VEĽKONOČNÉ SVIATKY**

## RECEPTY NA VEĽKÚ NOC

### VEĽKONOČNÁ PLNKA

Na prípravu veľkonočnej plnky budete potrebovať 500 g vareného údeného mäsa alebo šunky, zvyšok pečeného hydiny, 6 vajec, 6 žemlí, 2 lyžice masla, mäsový alebo slepačí vývar, mleté čierne korenie, 2 lyžice pažitky, lyžicu petržlenovej vňate, lyžicu jarných bylín (mladé púpavové listy, sedmokráska, medovka, bazalka), soľ a tuk na vymastenie pekáča.



Mäso pokrájame nadrobno, žemle na malé kocky a polejeme vývarom, v ktorom sme rozšľahali žĺtky a necháme nasiaknuť. Potom pridáme mäso, soľ, čierne korenie, bylinky alebo petržlenovú vňať s pažitkou a jemne vmiešame sneh z bielkov. Plnku rozložíme do vymasteného pekáča a pečieme v mierne vyhriatej rúre asi 40 minút.

### SYROVÁ ROLÁDA

350 g tvrdý syr eidam, 125 g maslo, 200 g šunka, 4 ks trojuholníky tavený syr, 2 ks vajcia uvarené natvrdo, soľ, 1 ks červená paprika, 1 ks menšia cibulka, pažitka, petržlenová vňať

Syr vložíme do mikroténového vrečka a zaviazeme. Vložíme do vriacej vody na 15 minút tak, aby bol syr ponorený. Vajcia si uvaríme natvrdo a necháme vychladnúť, očistíme a nakrájame na kocky. Plnku si pripravíme tak, že vymiešame zmäknuté maslo staveným syrom, pridáme na kocky nakrájané vajcia, salámu nakrájanú na menšie kúsky, nakrájanú cibuľku, papriku, petržlenovú vňať, červenú papriku /môže byť aj sterilizovaná/, soľ podľa chuti a jemne premiešame. Zmäknutý syr vyberieme z vody, rozvalkáme na väčšom kuse alobalu na obdĺžnik a potrieme pripravenou plnkou. Zrolujeme, zabalíme do alobalu a odložíme do chladničky, kým nestuhne. Roláda je pekná, farebná.



### VEĽKONOČNÁ PASKA

1 kg hladká múka, 700 ml mlieko, 2 ks vajce, 4 PL cukor, 1 balík vanilkový cukor, 2 sáčky sušené droždie, 1 KL soľ, 125 g maslo, 1/2 hrnčeka hrozienka, 1 ks vajce na potretie, cukor a voda na potretie

Do múky zamiešame sušené droždie, vanilkový cukor, cukor a soľ. Maslo s mliekom dáme do hrnca ohriať, kým sa maslo neroztopí. Potom ohriate mlieko s maslom a 2 žĺtky pridáme k suchým surovinám a vypracujeme cesto. Vypracované cesto necháme hodinu kysnúť. Medzitým namočíme hrozienka do horúcej vody. Po hodine vymiešame sneh z bielkov a vytlačíme vodu z hrozienok a zapracujeme do cesta. Opäť necháme kysnúť asi hodinu. Takto vykysnutú pasku preložíme na pripravený vymastený plech a necháme ešte asi 30 minút kysnúť.



Rúru predhrejeme na 200 C stupňov. Pasku potrieme rozšľahaným vajíčkom a dáme piecť. Po 5 minútach znížime teplotu na 180 stupňov a po ďalších 20 minútach na 150 stupňov. Paska sa pečie celkom hodinu, ak by sa začala pripaľovať, vrch prekryjeme alobalom. Tesne pred dopečením si zmiešame asi pol deci horúcej vody s pol deci cukru (1:1) a touto sladkou vodou potrieme upečenú pasku po vybratí z rúry.





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