



Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský katolícky sokol

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Prajeme Vám požehnané a veselé Vianoce!

Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

Is it beginning to look like Christmas? When this Christmas song was written back in 1951



and sung by Bing Crosby; Christmas had a quite different look, feel, smells, and sounds to the season. Maybe, it was because I was just beginning to understand what

Christmas was about, it surely was different than today. Then maybe it is the memories of Christmas and how it used to be with the family and friends who made those formative years a joy.

Whatever it was, there is one part of Christmas that remains the same no matter what changes are made in culture and society to make Christmas different year after year. The one constant of Christmas is the Advent season that leads up to the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Without Jesus there would be no Christmas to celebrate and how our lives would be missing its meaning Joy and Peace to the World and Mankind.

Our Slovak culture and traditions make Christmas and the season even more memorable because they were passed down from our ancestors years ago in Slovakia. These simple Christmas traditions were to bring Christ into our lives and celebrate His birth. Starting with the four weeks of Advent we hear each week how to prepare for Christmas. Then our Vilia, the Christmas Eve dinner, to midnight Mass, to Christmas Day our simple Slovak traditions brought out and helped brighten the meaning of the family celebrating Christ's birth and being together as one.

Today Christmas begins some-

time before or after Halloween. Yes, that is the way of the world, and most of us are numb by the time Christmas Day arrives. Even with this extra time it seems there is not enough time to get everything done. How do we return to the simple days, so Christmas Day is what it is to be, the day to bring Christ into our lives? Looking for this answer, it is up to each of us to decide how we mesh our simple Slovak Christmas traditions and modern lifestyles together to put the light of Christmas in our and our families lives.

This Christmas when we gather as one family let us remember something that also binds us together as one, our Society, the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Then we can ask ourselves does everyone belong to this family? If we find someone is not a member, we should help them become a member, to help with this you can contact our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, or our Director of Sales Albert J. Suess, Jr. F.I.C. for Christmas help. A membership in our Society is the perfect Christmas gift since it provides a lifetime of financial security.

Let us try to make this Christmas of 2021 the best ever. On behalf of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme Assembly and my family, Suzanne, Heather, Jennifer, Carl, Kelci, Megan, James, Jonathan, Seamus, and Andrew we all wish all Slovak Catholic Sokol members their families and our friends a very Blessed and Merry Christmas, Vesele Vianoce, and best wishes for a Happy New Year, Šťastný Nový Rok 2022.

Stay Safe and Healthy,
And with, God's Blessings to All!
Zdar Boh!

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From the desk of the Supreme Secretary**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

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



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving Holiday last week. After taking last year off due to the pandemic, we were able to get the Family together and had a wonderful time. While it is sometimes hard with the kids, we did our best to be safe and urge all our members to continue to stay vigilant against Covid-19. It is important to get on with our lives and enjoy our time with Family, but we can also do this carefully and safely.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas. This special time of year offers us the chance to observe and celebrate with the most important people in our lives. It is a time, first and foremost, to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Remembering the true meaning and significance of Christmas is sometimes overlooked amid all that is going on in our lives during this busy time. We need to remind ourselves that Christmas is about the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and not just another day off or holiday.

I would like to thank our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, our Board of Directors, our Supreme Physical Fitness Board and all our Supreme Officers for their dedication to the organization over the past year. I would also like to thank our Group Officers, Assembly Officers, and Wreath Officers for their continued efforts in promoting our wonderful Society. A fraternal benefit society like ours

is really an extension of our own family. It is what our founders had in mind in 1905 and it is what our organization has become. Over the years, generations of our members have instilled in us a true family atmosphere at all our fraternal events. We not only provide outstanding financial security with our insurance and annuity products, but we also offer so many fraternal benefits geared to our members. I know that the past two years were different than what we are used to with limited facetime between members, but many of you still found time to promote our fine organization. I ask you to continue your efforts and look for ways to not only increase membership, but to increase participation and frequency of your activities. It is who we are and what we do!

I know that many of our Groups have had or are having their Annual Meetings. I urge all the Groups to submit the minutes of the meeting so the rest of the membership can see all the good you do. A lot of times, many Groups piggyback off some of the wonderful ideas that come forward during these meetings.

In conclusion, I would like to recognize the people that make the Slovak Catholic Sokol go. The Home Office Staff and our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, rarely get the recognition they deserve. These past two years have been challenging to say the least, but you have endured and worked tirelessly for the organization. Thank you for all your hard work and Merry Christmas to you and your families!

On behalf of my beautiful wife, Maggie, my Sons, Reid and Cole, my entire Family, the Board of Directors, and our Home Office, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! Peace be with you and Zdar Boh!

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

Sokol Calendar

◆ **ST. NICHOLAS "MIKULÁŠ" PARTY** to be held at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th St. & 1st Ave., New York, NY in the school gym on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5** at 1 p.m. Reservations: Marika Hricova 347-277-6433 or Fr. Stefan Chanas at Rectory 212-734-4613.

◆ **SOKOL CLUB and ASSEMBLY 16 EXECUTIVE MEETING** will be held on **DECEMBER 10** at the Serbian Club, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA at 5:30 p.m. to be followed by **GENERAL MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS and CHRISTMAS PARTY** through 8:30 p.m.

◆ **CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE SLOVAK GARDEN** will be held on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11** in the Great Hall of The Slovak Garden, located at 3110 Howell Branch Road #100 in Winter Park, FL beginning at 2 p.m. Cost per person is \$20.00. For reservations call: 407-677-6894, slovakgarden@centurylink.net.

◆ **ASSEMBLY 163 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12** at Dorothy's Place, Donora, PA beginning at 1 p.m. In conjunction with the meeting, the Children's Christmas Party will be held. Contact Terri at 929-8675 if you plan to attend.

◆ **VILIA DINNER (ŠTEDRÁ VEČERA) DECEMBER 19** at 1 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th St. & 1st Ave., New York, NY. Children up to 12 free, 12 years and older \$5, adults \$10. For tickets contact the parish office 212-734-4613 or Maria Bozekova 347-612-1934.

HOLIDAY HOME OFFICE CLOSINGS

In observance of Christmas, the **Home Office will be closed** for business on **Friday, December 24th**. Likewise, to commemorate the New Year's observance, the Home Office will be closed for business on **Friday, December 31st, 2021**.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATE

The next issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon will be that of **JANUARY 1, 2022**. **DEADLINE** for all photos and information for this issue will be **DECEMBER 22, 2021**.

**Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic**

CHRISTMAS INSPIRES HOPE

Like most people, Christmas evokes all kinds of emotions for us. There is grief of loved ones lost during Christmases past and anxiety about how to handle difficult relationships at family get-togethers. There is stress when we add yet another item to our ever-expanding holiday to-do list. And there is the sense of wonder when we drive through town and gaze up at all the lights and wreaths reminding me to hold on to the magical feeling we felt as a young child on Christmas morning.



Most of all, though, Christmas inspires hope. The symbols and stories surrounding the birth of Jesus whisper into our ear, "Don't give up.

Keep going." Here are just a few of the ways Christmas teaches us lessons of hope and fills us with optimism.

1) Follow the North Star

An epiphany refers to a sudden realization about the meaning of something. It usually feels inspired – from an intuitive place that is charged with wisdom. For Christians, the Epiphany is associated with the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus. They were guided by the Star of Bethlehem that heralded the newborn king of the Jews. The Epiphany teaches us to trust our North Star, the voice inside of us that is guided by the Spirit and will direct us to goodness and truth. The story of the Magi inspires hope that if we follow our epiphanies, we will, like the Wise Men, arrive at the place we were meant to be.

2) Believe

If you watch the Macy's Parade on Thanksgiving morning, you'll see the unmistakable backdrop with the word "Believe." Christmas is about believing in things that defy logic: the Son of God being born to a virgin in a stable filled with farm animals. This holy season prompts us to become childlike in our faith: to think with our hearts rather than our brains, to embrace a world beyond our own, trusting that God is with us every day. Christmas inspires faith – in God and in His goodness, truth, and beauty that are very real but not always visible.

3) Say Yes

Perhaps the greatest story of courage ever told was Mary's three-word response to the angel Gabriel when he explained to her that she would bear the Son of God. "Let it be," she said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord." With great humility, she opens herself to God's will and submits to His plan, even though she knows none of the details. By uttering her Fiat (Latin for "Let it

be") she initiates the Christmas story and the arrival of God into human history. Mary's response also generates hope for all believers – that by saying yes to God we participate in the Christian story and find meaning that sustains us.

4) Talk to Your Angels

The angel Gabriel may not appear to us as vividly as he did to Mary, but we are all surrounded by angels that we can call on for guidance and assistance whenever we need it. Like an inspired GPS system, they help navigate the way, getting us from Point A to Point B, if we choose to access their help. Christmas reminds us of the active presence of angels in our lives. They sit at the top of decorated trees as beacons of hope sending the message that we are not alone.

5) Embrace Your Royalty

Purple or violet has traditionally been the color of Advent. It symbolizes an anticipation of the coming King, as well as royalty and nobility. The first candle of the Advent Wreath is the Candle of Hope, representing the arrival of something new and profound. Advent teaches us to anticipate the good things that we can't see and to remember the presence of the royal King in our lives, who bestows upon us gifts beyond measure. As sons and daughters of the King, we are part of the royal family. We can embrace our nobility and wear purple year-round.

6) Consider the Evergreen

Evergreens decorate our homes and churches during Christmas, reminding us of the promise of everlasting life and our ability to weather hardship. The evergreen remains unchanged through the seasons, inspiring a message of hope to persevere through adversity. The Christmas tree is a symbol of Christ, the miracle of Christmas, and God's gift of life. The green boughs on a Christmas wreath or a garland point us the perennially freshness of life -- that even when we feel as though our world is growing stale, there is always an element of newness and rebirth.

7) Persist in Darkness

Light shines brightest in darkness. That's the heart of the Christmas story, an overriding message of hope that is articulated beautifully in the lyrics of "O Holy Night": "O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Savior's birth." God didn't come into our world at high noon. He entered our lives in darkness -- showing us the way to light, guiding us towards love, and demonstrating how to overcome shadows and blackness. Christmas teaches us that even when things seem dark, we can trust the everlasting light.

WREATH 93 MEMBERS VISIT RETZER NATURE CENTER

What a beautiful day to spend some time together with our Sokol Family. On November 6, 2021, members from Wreath 93 gathered for Science Fest at the Retzer Nature Center in Waukeasha, WI. We enjoyed our time on the nature walk, learning about recycling, watching a planetarium show, and also a fire and ice show that Carissa got to participate in. We ended the day with a picnic lunch. We are looking forward to more fun events.

— Lisa Hoeck



\$62,000 IN S.C.S. SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE MEMBERS IN 2022

We are pleased to announce that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will make available a total of \$62,000 in scholarship grants to eligible members in 2022. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2022 grant; however, per Convention mandate - a student may receive a maximum of two (2) Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grant awards and a maximum of one (1) in each of the other categories.



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

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

College scholarship eligibility requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND

- Both parents must be members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol
- Must be majoring in liberal arts, the sciences, pre-law, pre-medical or business curriculum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (3 grants in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to the applicant that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)

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

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

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

Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Vice-President
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee
vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org
(412)881-3506

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 31, 2022

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

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP- TIPS FOR SUCCESS

I just wanted to take a moment to highlight the recent changes made to the Slovak Catholic College Scholarship Program. We will continue to use a completely on-line process as we have had few issues with the process over the past several seasons. With the help of our technical webmaster, we have redesigned the application process and you should find it to be much more user friendly. You will find the on-line application on our website at www.slovakcatholicssokol.org beginning December 1, 2021.

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

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

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

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

1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE APPLICATION

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

2. INCLUDE ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION- I.E. PHOTO; TRANSCRIPT; ESSAY

Start the process for requesting your transcript NOW. I have found that sometimes this is the hold up for some applicants.

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

3. SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED ELEMENTS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE

The application is clear and I just want to prevent a waste of your time and energy. Failure to include/complete any of the above items will result in the application being disqualified. To be honest, it is not easy for our committee when we need to disqualify applicants for simple yet important missing requirements.

Lastly, apply for all college scholarships for which you qualify in order to give yourself the best chance at receiving

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GROUP 6

The annual meeting of Group 6 "Msgr. Andrej Hlinka" was held on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Hoss' Steak & Seafood Restaurant, Belle Vernon, PA. Meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by President Anna Mae Warnick. She welcomed everyone and thanked the members for attending. She led the group in "Grace" before lunch.

At 1:45 p.m. the business meeting was called to order with President Warnick once again thanking everyone for attending. A possible banquet was discussed and suggestions to get more members involved. She also stated that all paperwork and work was being completed and also was taken care of in 2020 during the Covid pandemic.

Treasurer, Mary Ann Erdley reviewed the checking account transactions and balance remaining. Anna Mae Warnick requested suggestions for the spring 2022 meeting.

Secretary, Terri Gardner will check on available restaurants that can accommodate the meeting.

At 2:25 the meeting was adjourned with a motion from Dorothy Rudinec, and seconded by Dave Gardner.

Zdar Boh!

Terri Gardner, Secretary

GREAT GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

CHECK OUT THE NEW SOKOL WEAR!

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

slovakcatholicssokol.org

and selecting the link
"New Sokol Wear".

Clothing items will be shipped directly to your door!

something. There were several applicants who limited themselves to a particular scholarship. Competition was fierce for the larger \$ scholarships, but there seems to be more opportunity with the other scholarship offerings.

Not every applicant receives a scholarship every time they apply. If you have not received one in the past, I encourage you to apply again this year. Before submitting your application- take some time to review the bullet points above in order to assure that your application will be included for consideration.

Good luck and Zdar Boh!

Edward D. Moeller

Supreme Vice President

Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee

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

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$500.00 grants to one young Sokol or Sokolka in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. These 18 Grants are available to any qualified Sokol member currently attending a Catholic High School.

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

APPLICATION

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

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

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2022** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @

www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

DISQUALIFICATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

RETURN OF GRANT

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

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

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

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

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

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

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

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

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2021-2022 school year.

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

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2022. Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANTS

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

APPLICATION

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2022** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @ www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

DISQUALIFICATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

RETURN OF GRANT

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

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

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

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

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

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

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

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

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

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

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

If yes, what year? _____

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

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

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

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2021-2022 school year.

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

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2022. Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055

DRIVE TO 50 SALES CAMPAIGN

CELEBRATING THE 50TH INTERNATIONAL SLET

The Slovak Catholic Sokol will be reaching a significant milestone within the SOKOL World – We will be hosting and presenting our 50th 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. 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

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 1.25% • 2 YEAR 1.75% • 3 YEAR 2.00% 2.10% 2.20% • 5 YEAR 2.50% • 7 YEAR 2.75%

• SPA Single Premium immediate Annuity

3.00% – 10 Years % Greater • 2.75% Less than 10 Years



CHRISTMAS IN SLOVAKIA



Christmas is probably the most magical season of the year. Slovaks love Christmas and it is the main feast celebrated there. What does Christmas in Slovakia look like? Which traditions do Slovaks still follow and which were practiced by their ancestors?

Christmas season starts with Advent. As a majority of Slovaks belong to the Roman Catholic church, many Christmas traditions are related to religious celebrations. It is also a time of cleaning, baking, shopping for presents and decorating the Christmas tree. Christmas markets are organized in the bigger cities and streets shine bright with dazzling lights.

Slovaks also celebrate the St. Nicholas' day on December 6th, or as they call him, Mikuláš. He comes in the evening of the December 5th and gives presents to well behaved children. Children clean their boots and place them near the door or in the window for Mikuláš to fill them with sweets and fruit.

Christmas Eve is the most important day of the Christmas season. It is called "Štedrý deň" (translated as the Generous Day) and its actual evening is called "Štedrý večer" (translated as the Generous Evening). The Christmas season is called "Vianoce". If you want to wish Merry Christmas to your Slovak friends, remember the phrase "Veselé Vianoce."

Traditional dinner for Christmas Eve is fish (usually a carp). During the day, people cook supper and decorate the Christmas tree. The Christmas tree is kept until January 6th, which is the Feast of the Three Kings, also called Epiphany. The religious tradition dictates to fast throughout the Christmas Day.

It's not Santa who brings the presents on Christmas Eve in Slovakia. It's Baby Jesus! The tradition is that the children leave the room when Baby Jesus comes with the presents. When the gifts are placed under the Christmas tree, someone rings the bell. That's the cue children are waiting for. They dash to the Christmas tree to open the presents. Majority of Slovak families open their presents after the main Christmas meal.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Christmas supper varies between regions. In general, it has lots of courses including a fish, a potato salad and a sauerkraut soup – kapustnica. In some regions, kapustnica is replaced by a mushroom soup – hubová polievka. Poppy seed dumplings ("makové opekanec" or "bobálky"), cookies, gingerbreads, poppy and walnut rolls, vanilla crescents or some with walnuts and apricot jam cannot be missing. are served as a dessert.

Once dinner has been eaten and presents opened, people usually visit their close family or neighbors and exchange small gifts. Many people attend the Midnight Mass which is the busiest church service of the year.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AT THE CHRISTMAS TABLE

Money or carp scale – placed under the table cloth to multiply family wealth (ka-ching!)

Garlic – to ensure good health for the family – each family member should eat a clove

Honey – to ensure goodness and abundance (so everyone is nice and good and there is plenty of everything) – either eaten on thin wafers (oplatky) or, what's interesting, the head of the family makes a honey cross on the forehead of each family member

Apple – to be cut horizontally in two halves – if the seeds form a star, it symbolizes happiness and good health for the family. If they form a cross, this means problems, illness or even death.

Nuts – to be thrown in each corner of the room or at least to be eaten during the Christmas dinner to ensure the abundance

One extra plate – you need to be prepared for an unexpected guest as a symbol of mercy and fellowship. It is also interpreted as a plate for deceased family members.

December 25th and 26th are much quieter and are spent with the closest family. December 26th is also the day when St. Stephen is celebrated.

TRADITIONS FROM THE PAST

A female stranger could not enter the house as it would bring bad luck.

If family needed to borrow something on this day, it was a bad sign as well.

Everyone tried to have their behavior under control on the Christmas day as it was believed that the way one behaves on this day, they will behave so the following year.

Who sneezed in the morning of the Christmas Day, would live up to high age.

If you broke something on this day, the shatters would bring bad luck.

One could not hang the freshly washed clothes on this day to dry, as the one to whom it belonged would die.

The Christmas cookies and bread had to be baked before the sunrise and once the dough was prepared, women touched the fruit trees with the hands that prepared the dough to make sure they will bring plenty of fruits.

Figurines (or rather voodoo dolls) of domestic animals were made from water and flour in order to make them prosper the year after (the tradition of baking ginger breads in shape of different animals is believed to be inherited from this custom).

You could not sweep the house because if you did, you would also sweep away dead souls from the house.

A chain was placed around the legs of the table to ensure family unity.



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GROUP 5

The 2021 annual meeting of Group 5 "Jan Holly" was held on Sunday, October 10, 2021 utilizing Zoom meeting technology. The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by the President, Kathy Figard. Treasurer Karen Hutnick led the group in an opening prayer.

President Figard welcomed all members and thanked them for taking the time to join the zoom meeting for what she hoped would be a successful meeting. She indicated that Treasurer Report, semi-annual minutes, officers' reports and listing of deceased members in the past year were e-mailed to everyone. All committee business will just be brought to the floor directly for discussion and disposition.

The roll call of officers was then taken by Secretary Sue Blosser. A total of 12 active officers were on-line including President Kathy Figard, Vice President Marty Zemanek, Secretary Sue Blosser, Treasurer Karen Hutnick, Sports Director Andy Lipovsky, Asst. Sports Director Helen Zemanek, Physical Directress Jayme Blosser, Asst. Physical Directress Nicole Leslie, Physical Fitness Board Members Julie Laury, Rose Croy, Logan Laury and John Moynihan. There are currently 2 open positions that are on the agenda to be discussed during the meeting. Nine members were attending as delegates: John Underation, Frank Laury, Joe Moynihan, Sue Moynihan, Erica Leslie, Joe Underation, David Underation, Jim Knis, and Michelle Knis. A total of 21 Group 5 members were in attendance on the zoom meeting.

The semi-annual minutes were distributed to all via email. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written by Jayme Blosser, seconded by Jim Knis. No further discussion ensued.

Motion approved.

Officer's reports were the next order of business. A motion was made by Sue Blosser and seconded by Helen Zemanek to accept all officers' reports as one. Motion approved.

President: Kathy Figard reported she setup the semi-annual meetings as a zoom call for April 11 2021, however was unable to attend the meeting due to her father-in-law's passing a few days prior to the meeting and was in PA attending the funeral. She thanked the secretary Sue Blosser for chairing the meeting. She also coordinated with the secretary the annual meeting date and time and then scheduled the zoom call. *Vice-President:* Marty Zemanek had nothing to report, due to cancelled events because of Covid, however he did attend the Sokol Family Fest in PA and attended the semi-annual group meeting. *Secretary:* Sue Blosser reported she had submitted the minutes from the 2021 semi-annual meeting to the Home Office as well as sent notices to board members and the Falcon to notify members of the semi-annual and annual zoom meetings. *Treasurer:* Karen Hutnick had deposited all checks received and paid two expenses. She also reported an issue with the bank statement showing the debit card was used for invalid charges, after investigation the bank credited back the amounts. She also reported the Home Office inadvertently sent the group assessments to Wreath 111 treasurer and not her; those quarterly amounts were credited back to the group from Wreath 111 Treasurer. The home office now has the correct information. *Sports Director:* Verbally reported that due to Covid no activities were held this year. *Assistant Sports Director:* Helen Zemanek nothing to report due to cancelled events from Covid, however she did attend the Sokol Family Fest in PA and attended the semi-annual group meeting. *Physical Directress:* Jayme Blosser reported she was in contact with the Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, throughout the year and attend-

ed the zoom meeting regarding the clinic and Slet. She also sent a Group 5 Facebook notice advertising the Slet in 2022. *Assistant Physical Directress:* Nicole Leslie reported attending the semi-annual meeting. *Physical Fitness Board Member:* Rose Croy reported that she attended both the Group 5 annual and semi-annual meeting via zoom, and would co-ordinate the Calendar Lottery fundraiser if held in 2022. *Physical Fitness Board Members:* Julie Laury and Logan Laury reported due to Covid little activity was held, however both attended the Semi Annual meeting and attended the Sokol Camp at SNPJ in Enon Valley PA. *Physical Fitness Board Member:* John Moynihan attended the semiannual meeting via zoom and attended the entire weekend of the Sokol family Fest in Enon Valley PA with his family.

OLD BUSINESS

Brother John Underation recapped the Sokol Family Camp held at SNPJ in Enon Valley PA. He reported the camp went very well and the Supreme Physical Fitness Board did a great job setting everything up and it was well received by all who attended. Sister Julie Laury added that the camp had good representation from Group 5 whether it was for the day or all weekend. She stated it was a lot of fun although it rained it was still nice to spend time with others. There were lots of activities and a good fraternal time. Brother Jim Knis added the camp was well planned with activities, crafts, and didn't even notice it rained. He felt that those attended came away with new friends. He also complimented Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift and Supreme Assistant Physical Directress, Nancy Kopolinski, for their work done on the success of the camp. Brother Frank Laury, Supreme Assistant Sports Director said there was lots of preplanning by the Supreme Physical Director, John Underation and the entire Supreme Physical Fitness Board which made the event so successful.

Brother Jim Knis reported on the National Golf Tournament that was held with 2 other fraternal groups. He complimented the banquet, picnic style, with a food truck that was well received by all who attended. Brother Joe Underation announced that Ed Baker was the Petruff Award Winner for 2021. Brother Frank complimented the Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec for giving a nice tribute to recently deceased Group 5 member Martin Underation at the banquet. Marty and Ed had been golf partners for many years and will truly be missed at future Golf Tournaments. Brother Frank also encouraged getting more younger golfers to the National Tournament for its continued success. Brother Frank also reported the following upcoming events:

Mini clinic January 14-16, 2022 in Pittsburgh at the Doubletree
National Bowling Tournament – May 13-14 at Brookpark Lanes in Cleveland, OH

50th Anniversary Slet – July 13-17 – Kutztown, PA

National Golf Tournament – August 12-14 – Treasure Lake

Brother Frank concluded in saying Group 5 needs to be more proactive in getting the bowling and golf started back. We need help from all the Physical Fitness board to make this happen, not just the sports director.

COMMITTEES

Stipends

A motion was made by Jim Knis, seconded by Julie Laury to suspend the stipends for the 2021 year except for the President, Secretary and Treasurer, at which they are to be given half the salary. After discussion stating since COVID cancelled most events and activities, the only officers that work throughout the

(Continued on page 19)

HAPPY LITURGICAL NEW YEAR!

By Janice Matlon, Physical Fitness Board Member

I've always loved calendars, schedules, and routines. Some of my earliest memories are of how I learned a song in preschool about all of the months of the year and how I would sing many nursery songs in the same order every day on the way home from my grandma's house. My parents affectionately called me their "calendar girl" because I would love flipping all of the monthly calendars on the first of each month and would always be the one to remember and look forward to opening Advent calendars each day. Even now, coworkers and friends know that they can rely on me for accurate dates in what I refer to as my "mental calendar," since I often have the next six months or so memorized out of necessity so that I can coordinate all of my commitments.

However, does memorizing calendars really matter all that much in life? No, not with calendars accessible anytime on our phones. More importantly, the liturgical calendar should be taking a more prominent role in our lives as Catholics. This is something I recently heard a deacon say when speaking about some of the details of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and it really made me stop and think about what this would look like. Firstly, for me personally, I know that holidays really do not mean much unless they are grounded in our faith to begin with. Controversially, for example, it is one reason that Thanksgiving is kind of just a fun day off during which it would be cool to see family if possible. In contrast, Easter is my favorite holiday in large part because it is the holiest day in our liturgical year, and the Triduum Mass and rituals leading up to Easter Sunday become more powerful to me year after year.

Aside from the important holy days, how do we then make the liturgical calendar come alive in our everyday lives? Well, I think the easiest way to do this is to focus on each season. Here in Advent, which begins our liturgical year, we should be reflecting more about the positive changes and resolutions we

want to see within ourselves in order to prepare our hearts for celebrating Christmas and also for preparing for Jesus's second coming. This would take on far more meaning than seeing the number 2022 appear in the date, which is when the secular world calls upon us to make resolutions. Then, we can celebrate the Christmas season to its fullest through the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on January 9 this year. We then enter ordinary time through March 1, and within this time period we can self-evaluate about how we are doing towards some of the resolutions and habits we intended on beginning in Advent. March 2-April 13 marks Lent this year with its solemn days of fasting, almsgiving, and extra prayers on which many people already know to focus. Then, I think it would be incredibly cool for as many Catholics as possible to experience Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday by going to church each day because I think it sets us up for complete praise and joy throughout the Easter season which concludes with

Pentecost on June 5. I was able to do that last year when the pandemic led to fewer outside events in life, and I was so incredibly grateful to experience the Triduum to its fullest.

Finally, what do we do from June 6 through the end of the liturgical year during this large chunk of ordinary time? There are a few options that come to mind. One is to look up which memorial and optional memorial days there are to celebrate the saints and to take 5-10 minutes to read about their lives. Another is to take up a new prayer habit or service commitment in the summer and see if you can sustain it through the fall. A final suggestion is to perhaps try going to daily Mass or Adoration once a week if your parish offers it. However you choose to integrate the liturgical calendar into your everyday lives, I hope it proves to be a fruitful time in which you feel yourself living out your faith more strongly than ever before. Happy liturgical new year and many blessings on your efforts!



Our 2020 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year, Nancy Fedor was remembered on November 5, 2021 by the Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., members of Group 7 and her family at a dinner in her honor at the Wyoming Valley Country Club in Hanover Township, PA. Sadly, Nancy passed away unexpectedly on March 13, 2021. Always on our minds, forever in our hearts. Pictured: 1st row – Fr. Richard Cirba, Kelly Palchanis, Heather Horvath, Audrey Graham, Gary Blasco, and Amy Blasco. 2nd row – Leo Fedor, Nancy's brother; Sue Horvath, Peggy Fedor, Nancy's Sister-in law; Renee L. Pizzella, Nancy's Daughter; Pam Lipski, Terri Palchanis, Cathy Graham, and Supreme President Michael Horvath. 3rd row – Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec, Frank Lipski, Clarence Ozgo, Robert Palchanis, member Supreme Physical Fitness Board; Tony Rasimas, Bob Palchanis, Dawn Palchanis, Kim Graham, Dave Domzalski and Martin Degnan, member Supreme Physical Fitness Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY AS OF 06/30/21

ASSETS	2021-Q2	2020-Q2			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 5,003,362	2,676,681	Capital Gains	540,728	(99,315)
Investments - Bonds & Bills	85,469,213	73,775,859	Miscellaneous Income	18,156	29,046
Investments - Stocks	14,735,338	9,582,474	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 12,825,912	4,839,212
First Mortgage Loans	592,851	593,659			
Loans on Certificates	279,521	251,195	EXPENSES	2021-Q2	2020-Q2
Accrued Interest Receivable	803,105	829,062	Death Benefit Claims Paid	1,126,370	838,900
Sokol Building/Land	319,533	323,271	Interest Expense	21,709	25,062
Accounts Receivable	35,835	18,100	Fraternal Expenses	297,431	145,820
Due From Groups	-	4,697	General Expenses	446,146	529,155
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 107,238,758	88,054,998	Employee Retirement Expenses	176,018	179,800
			Commissions	266,715	192,600
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	2021-Q2	2020-Q2	Annuity Benefits	1,427,271	1,327,400
Life Reserves	\$ 87,252,585	70,059,082	Taxes & Fees	11,300	22,931
Asset Valuation Reserve	2,327,244	435,947	Reserve Increase	9,094,495	1,618,000
Interest Maintenance Reserve	250,082	199,725	Cash Surrenders	153,748	195,600
Reserve for Supplemental			TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 13,021,203	5,075,268
Contracts	2,942,936	2,560,356	TOTAL INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (195,291)	(236,056)
Reserve Emp. Retirement Plan	4,801,045	4,803,267			
Reserve for Convention	90,000	30,000			
Claims Payable	490,290	534,950			
Conversion - Canadian Currency	3,847	3,801			
Accounts Payable	10,000	183,400			
Sokol Secure Fund	945,603	1,069,140			
Mary Jane Rich Scholarship Fund	85,000	85,000			
Emil Slavik Scholarship Fund	100,000	100,000			
Dr's Lesko Medical					
Scholarship Fund	20,000	20,000			
Yencha Memorial Scholarship	23,400	20,700			
Krista L Glugosh Memorial					
Scholarship Fund	24,000	24,000			
Dividend Payable	50,000	50,000			
Advance Premiums	65,656 1	18,599			
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 99,481,688	80,297,967			
Undistributed Funds - Sokol	\$ 7,757,070	7,757,031			
TOTAL LIABILITIES & SURPLUS	\$ 107,238,758	88,054,998			

ZDAR BOH!

Scott T. Pogorelec, FIC
Supreme Secretary
Slovak Catholic Sokol

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME	2021-Q2	2020-Q2
Investment Income	\$ 1,596,184	1,621,245
Amortization of IMR	16,890	13,393
Dividends on Stocks	158,296	172,830
Interest on Mortgages	1,081	7,710
Interest on Certificate Loans	8,903	8,624
Sale of Cookbooks	365	186
Rent Received - Sokol Building	54,943	28,300
Life Premium Income	1,145,443	1,183,493
Annuity Income	9,284,923	1,873,700
Scholarship Income	-	-

2022 NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT
CLEVELAND, OH
FRIDAY, MAY 13 & SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

A JOINT FRATERNAL EVENT FOR
FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS MEMBERS

Brookgate Lanes
14950 SNOW ROAD
BROOK PARK, OH
216-676-4325

LODGING
CROWNE PLAZA
7230 Engle Road
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
440-243-4040

Block Code:
SNB

SCAN TO BOOK A RESERVATION



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

December, 2021



Father Christmas

Santa Claus has had many names during his long life, among them Father Christmas. This name was used at the turn of the century in many European countries. Calling him Father Christmas suggests a certain benign familiarity people felt towards this kind and elegant old man. And indeed, early illustrations depict Santa as a thin and well dressed bearded figure who embodies generosity and wisdom.

There are many customs and traditions associated with Father Christmas. Some say he would enter the home through a door or window left open for the visit. He would trim the tree and bring gifts of gingerbread and other sweets for the children.

Father Christmas revealed a selfless love exemplifying the true meaning of Christmas.



Slovak Words=Slovenské slova

By Dr. Michael Kopanic

Surprise your parents and grandparents by wishing them *Veselé Vianoce*, Merry Christmas, in Slovak. It would mean a whole lot to them.

Merry Christmas = *Veselé Vianoce* [ve-sell-leh vyah-knowts-saah]

Baby Jesus = *Ježiško* [Yeah-zheesh-kow]

ANGEL = *Anjelový strom* [Awn-yell]

TREE = *strom* [strom, with a trilled "r"]

HOLIDAY = *sviatok* [svyaw-toke]

WISH = *vinš* [veensh]

GIFT = *dar* [daar]

NEW YEAR = *Nový rok* [Know-vee roke]



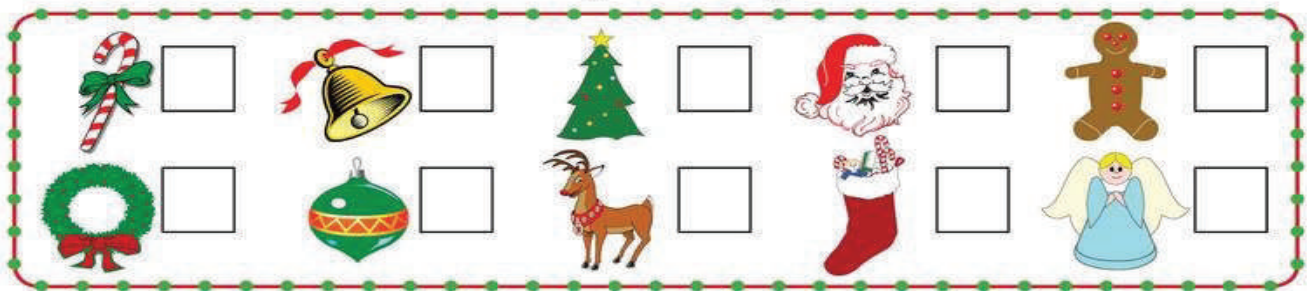
KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

December, 2021

Name: _____

Christmas I Spy

How many can you find:





KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik "

December, 2021



Christmas Eve in Slovakia



Slovakians celebrate Christmas Eve, which they call Generous Evening, by decorating the Christmas tree and sitting down to a Christmas Eve feast. An extra place is set at the table as a symbol of welcome to those who have nobody to share Christmas with. The breaking and sharing of wafers, which may be flavored with honey and sprinkled with nuts, precedes dinner. Traditionally, due to Catholic tradition, people in Slovakia would fast for Christmas Eve, but in order to make sure that children are satisfied and get to bed before opening presents, dinner is often served at a regular time.

Several courses may be served for the dinner, including cabbage soup as a starter.

The Christmas carp is an important component to Slovakia's Christmas Eve dinner. Many families keep the carp alive in the bathtub until it is ready to be cooked. More than one adult remembers being a child and playing with the family's Christmas carp. After the fish is killed and cleaned, it is marinated in milk and cut, rather than lengthwise, from the spine to the belly to create horseshoe-like shapes, thought to bring good fortune.

Ježiško, Baby Jesus, brings presents to children and places them under the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. The counterpart to [Santa Claus](#) in Slovakia is Father Frost or Dedo Mráz. But St. Mikulas can also visit children, who leave their shoes on the doorstep to be filled with treats, on St. Nicholas' Day on December 5.

Carol singers who go from door to door expect to be rewarded for their music with pastries and sweets. Like in other cultures, baking begins early in the Christmas season in Slovakia so that a constant supply of cakes and cookies is available for carolers and non-carolers alike, and to give as gifts or share with friends.

Midnight mass may be attended the night of Christmas Eve, and the family will spend the next two days together, enjoying leftovers, visiting relatives, and resting before returning to work.

Because in pagan times, this period of the winter was associated with the solstice, superstitions and beliefs pervade the Christmas holidays. These superstitions vary from family to family and are taken in the good fun today, but the idea that the carp's scales bring good luck and the presence of garlic on the Christmas table ensures the health, and safety from evil spirits, are a part of the fun and continuity of the Christmas tradition.



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GROUP 5

(Continued from page 13)

year should get some compensation. The following amounts will be paid out: President \$65, Secretary \$55 and Treasurer \$62.50. Motion passed.

Resolutions

Frank Laury wants to remember recently deceased Group 5 Physical Director, Steve Underation, for all his years of service to the organization.

Grievances/New Motions/Petitions

Karen Hutnick suggested that attendees make a donation to their local food pantry or St. Vincent de Paul Society. Normally donations would be brought to the meeting for host city to contribute locally. Kathy Figard commented that donations, either through service or monetarily, could/should be made throughout the year by local Assembles and Wreaths which would support the fraternal mission.

A motion by Kathy Figard, seconded by John Underation to donate \$200 for the S.C.S. Scholarship fund in the name of Steve Underation. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

John Underation updated everyone on the upcoming 50th Anniversary Slet. Stating everything is in order for July 13-17, 2022 in Kutztown. He wants to make the 50th anniversary special especially with our Group. We need good communication to get a lot of people from the past involved and want to see 40-50 competitors representing Group 5. John also stated that the Supreme Physical Fitness board is bringing back the Friday Zoom Happy Hours and other events to get more involvement. Jayme Blosser has communicated with the woman's side of Group 5 in getting some of the older members involved, she will open up a Group 5 Facebook page for further information on the upcoming Slet for all that are interested. Several members spoke on getting past participants to compete and will connect with them. Brother John said the Boys drills are done and the women's drill are almost complete. It was also stated that the 30 and over age group will be introduced this Slet and drilling will be optional for those competing in that age group.

A lengthy discussion on when the next meeting will be held was the next order of business. Before or after Easter were the discussions and whether it could be coordinated with the Group 5 bowling tournament and whether it had to be on a Sunday instead of Saturday. Joe Underation will check on getting Charger Lanes for the group bowling. He will aim for the Sunday after Easter. It was suggested to look at Saturday vs Sunday dates. It was also reminded that the format is a 4-person team for bowling. Depending on the Covid situation the semiannual meeting could be held along with the bowling or a Zoom meeting would be a back-up plan.

ELECTIONS

The next order of business was to fill the open positions.

Physical Director: John Underation nominated David Underation as interim Physical Director, seconded by Andy Lipovsky. David accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected.

Assistant Physical Director: nominated Daniel Underation by Frank Laury, seconded by Julie Laury. Daniel was not present at the meeting but has stated he will accept the position if nominated. Daniel was unanimously elected.

Sports Director: Andy Lipovsky has resigned from the position stating he has a new job and will be unable to fulfill the duties.

THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS IN SLOVAKIA

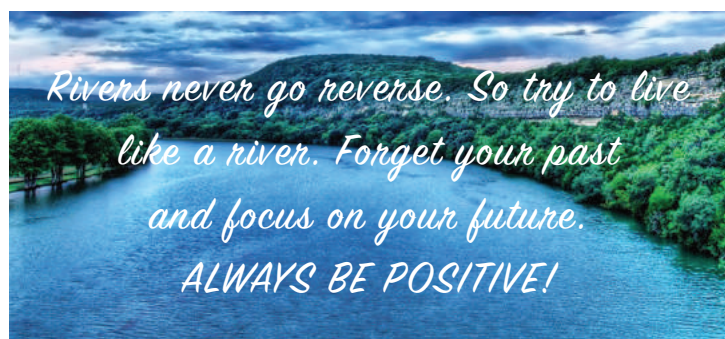
To give and not to expect anything in return is the meaning of Saint Nicholas Day (Sv. Mikuláš) which is celebrated in Slovakia on December 6. Children especially

look forward to the morning of December 6th as they can find sweets and fruits in their boots that they carefully polish the evening before and then place under the window.



Many events take place in Slovakia in connection with St. Nicholas Day, mostly featuring cultural programs. People wear costumes of St. Nicholas and hand out packages with sweet treats to children.

The day commemorates Bishop Nicholas who was born in Asia Minor at the beginning of the 4th century as a child of wealthy parents. As an adult, he served in Turkey as a bishop, allegedly against the will of his father. He became well-known for his generosity. Bishop Nicholas helped the poor, the ill and those suffering without expecting any credit for it.



Frank Laury nominated Joe Underation, seconded by Jayme Blosser. Joe accepted the position and was unanimously elected.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Rose Croy put together a list of deceased group 5 members from 2021. Sister Kathy pointed out there were 42 members on the list, 11 of them were over 90 years old with the oldest being 99. There was a moment of silence for the deceased members and a prayer was led by Karen Hutnick.

With no further business, Kathy reminded everyone that communication between officers would be key for events this year. All agreed to help in any way especially with new officers.

The oath of office was presided over by Kathy Figard to Joe Underation and David Underation. Daniel Underation would be sworn in sometime in the future as he was not present at the meeting.

The day's activities ended with a prayer by Karen Hutnick. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Jim Knis, seconded by Rose Croy.

Zdar Boh!
Respectfully submitted,
Sue Blosser, Group 5 Secretary

OBITUARIES

BERNARD J. NOVABILSKI

August 1, 1935 ~ October 21, 2021

Bernard J. Novabilski, 86, of Old Forge, passed away peacefully Thursday, October 21, 2021, at his home.



Born on August 1, 1935, in Port Griffith, PA, Bernie was the son of the late Joseph and Zofia Kovalcik Novabilski.

Bernie was a graduate of Jenkins Twp. High School and Wilkes-Barre Business College.

Prior to his retirement, Bernie was a postal clerk for the United States Postal Service and his first few years of service was handling mail on an RPO railroad car.

He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston, PA.

Bernie proudly served his country in the United States Air Force during the Korean War.

He was a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Assembly 86, in Port Griffith, where he served as the president. He was also a member of the American Legion, Old Forge; the VFW, Wyoming; and the AMVETS, Dupont.

In addition to his parents, Bernie was preceded in death by his wife, JoAnn Ezzo Novabilski; son, John J. Novabilski; brothers, William, Francis and Joseph; and sisters, Mary, Julia, Sophie and Theresa.

Surviving are his son, Dr. Bernard A. Novabilski and his wife, Dr. Paula Novabilski, Collegeville; grandchildren, Sierra and Brandon Novabilski; daughter-in-law, Karen Novabilski, Bowie, Md.; sister, Margaret Piskorik, Green Castle; companion, Mary Anne Keating, Kingston; and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, October 29 in St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 William St., Pittston, PA. Interment followed in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Schooley Street, Exeter, PA where military honors were conducted by the AMVETS Honor Guard of Greater Pittston.

YOUR BENEFICIARIES

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



Now that Christmas is upon us, it's not too late to find a perfect gift for that special loved one. It's a gift that will last a lifetime. It cannot be lost, stolen, broken or squandered away. It is economical, worth something immediately and appreciates in value over the years.

Of course it is a Slovak Catholic Sokol life insurance policy or annuity plan. By providing your child, grandchild or other members of your family and friends with a Sokol insurance policy, you have a number of advantages which should be considered. It is first and foremost a lifetime of insurance protection at a cost that can never be replicated. It also creates a cash value account that may be used for future college expenses or some other of life's emergencies. And, you will have also protected that loved one's insurability which means that no matter what happens to their health in the future, they will always be insured under the policy you purchased for them.

Another important fact about life insurance is that it is the cornerstone of any financial plan. By purchasing a policy today when rates are low, you will have started that special child or grandchild off on the right road to financial success.

And in addition, the Slovak Catholic Sokol offers a number of fraternal benefits. Our athletic and gymnastic programs emphasize our belief in both physical and mental health, as well as our commitment to our fraternal way of life. Each year, our organization provides scholarship grants to our members. As a firm believer in the Catholic school system, we provide grants to students attending Catholic grade school and high school. We also offer a generous number of college scholarships as well.

So why not purchase that life insurance policy or annuity plan now so that the new year can start that loved one on the road to financial success. Give a call to our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, Jr. F.I.C. at tel. 1 855-874-9179 or 412 381-5431 who will provide you with all the rates and applications or see your local Assembly or Wreath officers or give us a call at the home office at 1 800 886-7656. While a Sokol life insurance policy makes a wonderful Christmas gift, it also serves as the perfect birthday gift, first Holy Communion, Confirmation or graduation gift as well. Think about it and start that favorite loved one on the road to financial success.

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION

Thank you to the Home Office and all the Assemblies, Groups, Wreaths, and Members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol who donated to the 43rd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. The final totals will not be known for a few weeks, but as of November 19, 2021, the Appeal has received \$25,730.49 from 215 donors. Money raised goes to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations.

A solicitation for the 44th Annual Appeal is being prepared and will be mailed sometime in January. This mailing is sent to members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, Branches and Districts of Slovak Catholic fraternal societies, and previous donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you everyone for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone wishing to donate to the 2022 Appeal is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mail 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. The 44th Annual Appeal runs from December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2022. Gifts received after November 30, 2022 will be credited toward the 2023 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. Hvozdo, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Penndel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.



44TH ANNUAL SS. 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, Our Lady of Grace Church, 225 Bellevue Avenue, Penndel, PA 19047-4052

IN MEMORIAM

OCTOBER 2021

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 11	Joseph Klotnia, Dayton, OH	86	July 16, 2021
Assembly 11	Martin J. Zaruba, Frisco, TX	80	October 10, 2021
Assembly 11	Bradley A. Schostok, Libertyville, IL	59	October 12, 2021
Assembly 25	Michael A. Petrus, Smock, PA	71	August 31, 2021
Assembly 25	Brett A. Doerfler, Charleroi, PA	32	October 16, 2021
Assembly 59	Barbara J. Taylor, Philadelphia, PA	71	October 20, 2021
Assembly 86	Bernard J. Novabilski, Old Forge, PA	86	October 21, 2021
Assembly 162	Blasé Lorenc, Little Falls, NJ	93	April 17, 2021
Assembly 167	Irene Buehrle, Uniontown, OH	93	October 2, 2021
Assembly 214	Dr. John Pastorek, Oregon, OH	76	June 2, 2017
Assembly 295	Geraldine Richards, Huntsville, AL	82	September 26, 2021
Assembly 312	Helen Tomko, Convent Station, NJ	103	October 19, 2021
Wreath 14	Margaret M. Rodish, Pittsburgh, PA	87	September 18, 2021
Wreath 14	John Fecko, Johnstown, PA	95	October 14, 2021
Wreath 22	Irene Fidago, Bethel Park, PA	95	October 3, 2021
Wreath 34	Philip Oravec, Parma, OH	61	October 5, 2021
Wreath 54	Justina C. Sova, North Lima, OH	93	September 26, 2021
Wreath 85	Richard W. Ray, Ambridge, PA	70	June 8, 2021
Wreath 85	Eric James Vicente, Conway, PA	45	October 4, 2021
Wreath 86	Dorothy B. Pukas, Torrington, CT	95	October 7, 2021
Wreath 93	Betty Dahlen, Westby, WI	66	September 25, 2021
Wreath 93	Ligna Hang, Manitowoc, WI	50	October 17, 2021

SLOVAK HERITAGE PROGRAMS IN MT. LEBANON, PA

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will once again present the SLOVAK HERITAGE PROGRAMS on the first Monday evening of each month, starting at 7.00 p.m. at the Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, Mt. Lebanon, PA. It is free for both members and non-members. You could also attend these programs through ZOOM. More details on WPSCA Facebook page.

DECEMBER 6, 2021 – SHOW-N-TELL

Because of the popularity of these program in prior years, bring your memorabilia from Slovakia – photos, books, souvenir, etc. St. Nicholas will be visiting before the Show-n-Tell.

JANUARY 3, 2022– STUDY AND TRAVEL IN SLOVAKIA

Andrew Stefanik, one of WPSCA 2020 scholarship winners, will share his experience during his stay in Slovakia.

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

ANDY WARHOL: FROM NOWHERE TO NEW YORK

Don Warhola, nephew of the famed artist with Slovak roots, Andy Warhol, will speak about the early life of his uncle and how his Slovak heritage influenced his art.

MARCH 7, 2022 – SLOVAK STUDIES PROGRAM

Renata Kamenarova, the recently appointed Director of the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh, will discuss the various programs presently available and future programs.

SLOVENSKÉ VIANOČNÉ RECEPTY

LINECKÉ KOLIEČKA

600 g múka hladká
300 g maslo
200 g cukor práškový
1 bal prášok kypriaci do pečiva
1 bal cukor vanilkový
2 ks nastrúhaný varený žltok
2 ks vajcia
štipka sol'



Postup

Všetky suroviny zmiešame a vymiesime hladké cesto, ktoré dáme do chladničky na 2 hodiny. Cesto rozdelíme na 3 kusy a rozvalkáme na hrúbku 4 milimetre. Dáme na plech a pečieme 12 minút v predhriatej rúre na 165 stupňov Celzia (330 F). Vychladnuté zlepíme lekvárom a poprášime vanilkovým cukrom.

MEDVEDIE LABKY

325 hladká múka
200 g práškový cukor
200 g masla
2 ks malé vajce
60 g mleté orechy
25 g kakao
trochu kypriaci prášok



Postup

Všetky suroviny zmiešame na nelepivé tuhé cesto, naplníme formičky a dáme piecť do predhriatej rúry na 150-180 stupňov C. Pečieme asi 10 minút. Z formičiek vyklápame ešte za horúca a hneď obalujeme v práškovom cukre.

VANILKOVÉ ROŽTEKY

170 g hladká múka
110 g maslo
40 g práškový cukor
50 g mleté orechy
1 balíček vanilkový cukor
práškový a vanilkový cukor na obal'ovanie



Postup

Zo surovín vypracujeme cesto, ktoré zabalíme a odložíme na dve hodiny do chladničky. Potom cesto vyberieme a rukami postupne z neho odoberáme kúsky, z ktorých urobíme rožteky, ktoré ukladáme na plech vystlaný papierom na pečenie. Pečieme ich vo vyhriatej rúre pri teplote 150°C (300 F) asi 12 minút. Po upečení ich hneď obalíme v zmesi práškového a vanilkového cukru.

MEDOVNÍČKY

280 g hladká múka
140 g práškový cukor
70 g mleté orechy
3 ks vajce
80 g zmäknuté maslo
1 kávová lyžička mletá škoricu
1 kávová lyžička sóda bikarbóna

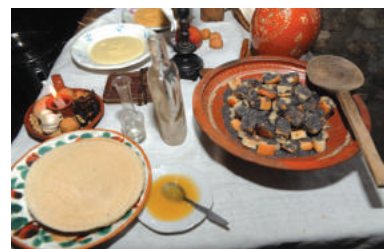


Postup

Do misy nasypeme múku, sódu bikarbónu, práškový cukor, mleté orechy, pridáme med, dve vajčka, zmäknuté maslo a mletú škoricu. Rukami spracujeme tuhšie cesto, ktoré uložíme na hodinu do chladničky. Rúru medzitým vyhrejeme na 180°C (360 F) a plechy vystelieme papierom na pečenie. Z cesta tvarujeme guľky, ktoré potrieme rozšľahaným vajíčkom a pečieme cca 15 minút. Upečené medovníčky sú mäkké a krásne voňavé.

ŠTEDROVEČERNÝ STÔL
SYMBOLIZOVAL HOJNOSŤ

Počas štedrej večere sa pod biely ľanový obrus sa kladli peniaze alebo hrst' ovsu či jačmeňa, aby sa v budúcom roku rozhojnili. Na tento deň sa aj v časoch biedy odkladala ušetrená múka, cukor, strukoviny, mak, sušené ovocie, lekvár, med, masť na vyprážanie šišiek aj sladké víno. Večera mala obsahovať aspoň deväťero jedál. Ak bolo jedla dostatok, rodinu čakal priaznivý rok.



Cez deň sa nejedlo nič, alebo len málo, pretože až do Druhého vatikánskeho koncilu v roku 1965 platil na Štedrý deň prísny pôst. Deťom rodičia za sebazaprenie sľubovali, že večervidia zlatú hviezdu, krokvu alebo prasiatko. Pôstny obed zvyčajne tvorili zemiaky bez masťi s riedkou nevarenou kapustnicou.

Výber štedrovečerných jedál ovplyvňoval charakter krajiny. Jedálne lístky sa rôznili v horských a nížinatých oblastiach, v ovocinárskych, vinohradníckych a pastierskych regiónoch, v meste a na dedine. K viac-menej univerzálnym jedlám patrili oblátky s medom, kapustnica, zemiaky, varený hrach, fazuľa, opekance, rezance či iné cestoviny a kompót zo sušených sliviek.

S rôznymi druhmi cestovín boli spojené mnohé povere. Varili sa rezance, pirohy, šúl'ance, halušky a najmä opekance, nazývané aj pupáky alebo bobalky. Veľké pirohy a šúl'ance symbolizovali napríklad veľké obilné klasy. Vodu z opekančov vylievali pod ovocné stromy, aby dobre rodili. Do tradičnej kapustnice sa pridávali sušené hriby a slivky, nie mäso, pretože aj večera mala byť napriek hojnosti pôstna. Z toho istého dôvodu sa v katolíckom prostredí rozšírilo podávanie ryby.

V dnešnej podobe sa začala ryba konzumovať až v minulom storočí. Dovtedy sa jedli najmä slané a údené ryby. Ryba je zároveň symbolom kresťanstva, odvodeným z doby starovekých prenasledovaní. Po rybe nasledovala v niektorých oblastiach "Ježiškova kašička", čiže krupicová kaša, ktorú jedla celá rodina z jedného veľkého taniera. Rôzne koláče a zákusky sa pridávali až neskôr – našim predkom ich nahrádzal chlieb, ktorý bol pre nich vzácnosťou.

Vianočné jedlá požívali osobitnú úctu. Zo štedrovečerného stola sa nemohlo nič vyhodiť, odkladali sa aj odrobinky.

KAPUSTNICA

1 kg kyslá kapusta
2 ks klobása
1 ks cibul'a
sušené hriby
2 PL mletá červená paprika
olej, sol', bobkov'ý list
2 PL hladká múka



Postup

Kyslú kapustu dáme variť do veľkého hrnca, pridáme klobásku a vopred namočené sušené hriby. V inej rajnici dáme na olej pokrájanú cibul'u, papriku, hladkú múku, urobíme zápražku. Klobásku vyberieme, nakrájame na kolieska. Zápražku vlejeme do uvarenej kyslej kapusty, necháme prevrieť, miešame. Klobásku pridáme do polievky, ešte prevaríme. Ochutíme soľou, ak treba.

REKORDNE VEĽA VOLNÝCH MIEST V SR NEMÁ KTO OBSADIŤ

Na akútny nedostatok pracovníkov upozorňujú zamestnávateľa. V Bratislavskom, Banskobystrickom a Košickom kraji hlásia málo IT pracovníkov, najmä programátorov či vývojárov. Trnavskí zamestnávateľa sa zase sťažujú najmä na nedostatok opravárov, skladníkov, údržbárov a predavačov v obchodných prevádzkach.

Podobná situácia je u vodičov a montážnych pracovníkov. Tí zarábajú priemerne 1 200 eur v hrubom. Slovensko tak na jednej strane eviduje vysokú nezamestnanosť, no na druhej strane sú pozície, kde doslova nikto nechce robiť.

Veľa volných miest sa nedarí obsadiť pri prácach v slabšie platených pozíciách s náročnou náplňou. Zamestnanci, ktorí odišli napríklad z gastrosektora, sa tam nechcú vrátiť. Zamestnávateľa preto musia prijať cudzincov.

Podľa poselných údajov je najhoršia situácia v segmente montážni pracovníci či operátori v strojárskych výrobných firmách. Podľa údajov chýba až 9 500 ľudí. Podobná situácia je aj v doprave, kde chýba vyše 9 100 vodičov nákladných automobilov a kamiónov. V tejto súvislosti bije na poplach aj Združenie cestných dopravcov Česmad Slovakia. Podľa neho nedostatok vodičov nákladných vozidiel môže paralyzovať hospodárstvo krajiny.

Začiatkom septembra analýza pracovného portálu ukázala, že zamestnávateľa uverejnili počas leta rekordný počet pracovných ponúk. V auguste zaznamenali takmer 29-tisíc pracovných ponúk a v septembri zamestnávateľa uverejnili viac ako 22 600 ponúk. Tohtoročný august sa dokonca dostal na druhú priečku v rebríčku mesiacov s historicky najvyšším počtom pracovných ponúk. Vlni v auguste ich bolo vyše 16-tisíc.

😞 **ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!** 😞

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...počet obetí **atakuje** 13-tisíc. - [pravda.sk](#)

KRÁTKE SPRÁVY ZO SLOVENSKA



Leto tohto roka sa z pohľadu domáceho turizmu zapíše v slovenských štatistikách ako doteraz najlepšie. Počas leta 2021 tvorili približne 80 percent návštevnosti, teda absolútnu väčšinu ubytovaných hostí na Slovensku domáci návštevníci. Celkovo 3,2 milióna nocí strávili Slováci na dovolenke na Slovensku, v prázdninových mesiacoch tohto roka sa ubytovalo v hoteloch, penziónoch či chatách 1,02 milióna domácich hostí, čo predstavuje o 16,1 percenta vyšší počet Slovákov ako v roku 2019, ktorý bol doteraz považovaný za najlepší turistický rok v histórii Slovenska. Skvelé čísla domáceho turizmu sa v roku 2021 dosiahli aj napriek pandemickým obmedzeniam, ktoré v roku 2020 neboli natoľko prísne. Vyplýva to z údajov Štatistického úradu SR. V minulom roku letná návštevnosť domácich dosiahla takmer 940-tisíc hostí, pred dvoma rokmi to bolo takmer 882-tisíc hostí.



Predseda Národnej rady SR Boris Kollár si v 28. októbri pripomenul 114. výročie tragédie v Černovej položením venca k Pamätníku černovských martýrov. K tragickému ozbrojenému stretu s 15 obeťami došlo v Černovej pri Ružomberku 27. októbra 1907. Žandári tam zasiahli proti slovenským obyvateľom obce, ktorí chceli zabrániť vysväteniu nového kostola maďarským kňazom. Deň černovskej tragédie je pamätným dňom Slovenskej republiky.



Štyria zo 16 slovenských pilotov sa už dostali do záverečnej fázy výcviku na stíhacie lietadlá F-16. Príprava prebieha v USA, celkovo má byť vycvičených 22 pilotov. Ako vysvetlil styčný dôstojník pre projekt F-16 Tomáš Novotný, ktorý školených príslušníkov Ozbrojených síl SR koordinuje z Arizony, príprave na F-16 predchádza špecializovaný kurz leteckej angličtiny, polročný výcvik na základnom vrtulovom lietadle T-6 a šesť mesiacov prípravy na prúdovom lietadle T-38. Výcvik trvá niekoľko rokov, piloti sú preto v Spojených štátoch aj so svojimi rodinami. Kontrakt na 14 stíhačiek F-16 C/D Block 70 americkej výroby v hodnote 1,6 miliardy dolárov uzavrelo Slovensko koncom roka 2018. Prvých sedem lietadiel by malo prísť do roka 2023.



Špeciálnu dvojdnú výstavu venovanú obsahu časovej schránky z Michalskej veže otvorenej po 175 rokoch pri príležitosti jej generálnej rekonštrukcie a reštaurovania sochy archanjela Michala si koncom októbra pozrelo 550 ľudí. Časová schránka ukrývala dokumenty z 18. a 19. storočia, dobové platidlá či výmenné lístky po devalvácii vtedajšej meny po štátnom bankrote, škatuľku s relikviami deviatich svätcov zatavenými v posvätnom vosku, ale tiež medené platničky, mená členov tzv. širšej i užšej mestskej rady či papier s nemeckým textom s menami zhotoviteľov krovu helmice spolu s odkazom v podobe prosby o modlitbu za ich duše z 1758, keď bola schránka vyhotovená medikováčskym majstrom Petrom Ellerom.



Slovak Catholic Sokol

205 Madison St., P.O. Box 899, Passaic, NJ • USA • 07055

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(Effective January 1, 2015)

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 the newly developed Memorial Scholarship fund? Your donation will assure that an annual scholarship be given out to a college age student who best exemplifies the meaning of fraternalism and volunteerism. Here's how it works: Send a check or money order to the Memorial Scholarship Fund clearly indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at



[http://slovakcatholicsokol.org/
members/memorialfrmframe.htm](http://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm)

or simply send your donation to: James F. Knis, SCS Museum Treasurer, 6385 Harbor Drive, N.W., Canton, OH 44718. Your bequest will be recognized in the Falcon as well as permanently added to the Memorial Scholarship Donation Log which will be kept at the Sokol Museum. Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will be able to award at least two \$1,000 scholarships annually. The hope is that the donated funds will begin a self-perpetuating interest bearing scholarship account.

Have you recently lost a loved one? You might consider earmarking donations to this fund in their memory.

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P.O. BOX 899 • 205 MADISON STREET
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