



Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský katolícky sokol

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May the new year bless you with
health and happiness!



Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

Šťastný nový rok! Happy New Year! I extend best wishes to our Sokol family and friends for a very prosperous 2023 that brings good health to all.



I hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed Christmas with your family and friends as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season until the Epiphany, the twelve days of Christmas.

As, I reflect on 2022, it was a year we experienced both good and bad moments. The good were the beginning of getting back to normal and the bad were the loved ones we lost, let us remember them, the Ukraine war, let us pray for Peace, and the unexpected inflation that economist have many theories on, let us learn to live with the new economy.

It takes an exceptional team to weather the storms of business and the Sokol has a talented team, led by

our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and the dedicated Home Office staff. It is them that keeps the Slovak Catholic Sokol operating efficiently and financially sound. I Thank You for all your hard work in 2022 and know you will do the same in 2023. At the 4th Quarter Board of Directors meeting December 4-5, 2022, the Board heard from our investment advisors from PNC explain what is happening in both the fixed and equities markets. They see some more rate hikes in 2023 to control inflation. The rate hikes will affect all fraternal annuity business since the annuity rates also will increase. The Board is examining options to keep the Sokol competitive and a have balanced product business portfolio.

The Board heard from the members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board who gave the dates of the 2023 Sokol Fraternal activities. They presented the timeline of the 50th International Slet at Kutztown University, July12-15, 2023. I want to remind every Group to give monthly

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Slovak Catholic Sokol Public Group



The Board of Directors 4th Quarter Meeting was held on December 4th and 5th 2022. Sitting (l-r): Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec; Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic; Supreme President Michael J. Horvath. Standing: Supreme Vice President, Edward D. Moeller; Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift; Chairperson of Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek; General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr.; Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon; Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis and Supreme Physical Director, Marty Degnan.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY
SCOTT T. POGORELEC, F.I.C.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and friends a happy and healthy New Year 2023! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.



The beginning of a new year is always an opportunity to think positively and set our priorities for the year ahead. If you made

any of the traditional New Year's resolutions (exercise more, do more around the house, save more money, etc.), I hope that you are staying strong and are still faithful to them. If I may, I would like to add one more resolution to your list. Get involved in our activities.

Not many institutions can boast of more than a century of success with outstanding fraternal and sporting activities, along with our stable financial strength. It was on July 4, 1905, that a group of young Slovak immigrants met in Passaic, NJ and established our great organization. We have been able to sustain our strength due to a membership that has always remained active. We need our membership, especially our youngsters, to stay engaged. Try to make a commitment this year to get more involved in your local Assembly/Wreath and/or Group. Local level functions are the cornerstone of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. It is through these events that our message is delivered to our current members and potential members.

On the national side, 2023 happens to be an especially important year. The most significant activities will be our 50th International Slet in Kutztown, PA and our 34th Quadrennial Convention which will convene in the electric city, Scranton, PA from August 5th-8th. The duly elected delegates will set the course for our organization for the next four years. The delegates will evaluate reports and elect qualified individuals to serve our membership in the years ahead. While we will be working hard, our delegates will

also have an opportunity for fraternalism and Sokol fellowship in the lovely city of Scranton. We will be collaborating closely with our host, Group 7, to make this Convention memorable for all.

In the upcoming weeks, our Assemblies and Wreaths will receive the Official Convention Delegate Forms indicating the number of representatives they are permitted to send to the Convention. I hope that our local Assemblies and Wreaths have been meeting to discuss the Convention and will elect their representatives for this important event. The completed Delegate Forms must be submitted to the Home Office by the deadline date of March 31, 2023. Eligibility to serve as a delegate is clearly explained in SECTION 2.1(a-m) of our Constitution and Bylaws. In addition to the lodge delegates, there are several Group Officers eligible to serve as delegates at the Convention. I urge all our potential delegates to take this job seriously as many important decisions will be made that will mold our organization for the next 118 years. While our organization has enjoyed a wonderful past, each of us needs to work together so that our future will continue to bring success.

During this time of year, we should also look at our individual life insurance needs as well as that of our family. Life insurance can be a financial blessing in the event of a lost loved one. The purchase of it can mean saving your home, sending your kids to college, or preserving the quality of life of your family. If your children do not have policies yet, it is wonderful time to get them one. Since premiums are based on age, the younger the child is, the lower the premium will be. In addition to the financial protection, the child enrolled by their parent or grandparent will enjoy the many benefits our society offers such as our sporting activities and our scholarship grants. I would also like to remind everyone that we are amid our Drive to 50 Campaign that will conclude prior to our 50th International Slet. Please check our website under "Contact Us" for details and get

SUPREME PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD 2023 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PITTSBURGH, PA

The annual meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board is scheduled for the weekend of January 13th-14th, 2023 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The meeting opens on Friday evening and continues all day Saturday.

The most important discussion for the weekend will be communication with all of our active Groups to increase the number of participants at the 50th International Slet that will be held at Kutztown University from July 12-16, 2023.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board welcomes any input from Group, Assembly/Wreath Officers or individual members, who have recommendations to help promote our sporting and fraternal programs. Please submit your recommendations to my attention by January 7th, 2023:

jamesmatlon@optonline.net

Zdar Boh!

James C. Matlon

Supreme Director of Sports & Athletics

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATE

The next issue of the SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON will be that of FEBRUARY 1, 2023. DEADLINE for all photos and information for this issue will be JANUARY 22, 2023.

The next SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL NEWSLETTER will be posted on our website on JANUARY 15, 2023.

those referral cards in! If you have any questions, please contact our Home Office and we would be glad to assist you!

Until next time, have a blessed and healthy New Year, stay warm, and may God bless you!

Stay safe, stay strong,
and STAY POSITIVE!
Zdar Boh!

**Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic**
WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY
JANUARY 18-25, 2023

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began in 1908 as the Octave of Christian Unity and focused on prayer for church unity. The dates of the week were proposed by Father Paul Wattson, cofounder of the Graymoor Franciscan Friars.



He conceived of the week beginning on the Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter, 18 January, and concluding with the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on 25 January. (After Vatican II the Confession of Peter was removed from the General Roman Calendar. It continues to be observed by Anglican churches.)

Pope Pius X officially blessed the concept, and Benedict XV “encouraged its observance throughout the entire Roman Catholic Church.” For a while, the observance was renamed the “Chair of Unity Octave” by Wattson, in order to emphasize the relationship between Christian unity and the Petrine See.

Protestant leaders in the mid-1920s also proposed an annual octave of prayer for unity amongst Christians, leading up to Pentecost Sunday (the traditional commemoration of the establishment of the Church).

Abbé Paul Couturier of Lyons, France, who has been called the father of spiritual ecumenism, had a slightly different approach from that of Father Wattson, a convert to Roman Catholicism from Anglicanism. He advocated prayer for the unity of the Church as Christ wills it, and in accordance with the means he wills, thereby enabling other Christians with differing views of the Petrine ministry to join in the prayer. In 1935, he proposed naming the observance “Universal Week of Prayer for Christian Unity”, a proposal accepted by the Catholic Church in 1966. Father Couturier’s message influenced a Sardinian nun, Blessed Sister Maria Gabriella of Unity, whose deep, prayerful, sacrificial devotion to the cause of unity is held up by Rome as an example to be followed.

In 1941, the Faith and Order Conference changed the date for observing the week of unity prayer to that observed by Catholics. In 1948, with the founding of the World Council of Churches, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity became increasingly recognised by different churches throughout the world.

In 1958, the French Catholic group Unité Chrétienne and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches (a body which includes, among others, most of the world’s Orthodox churches as well as many Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Reformed, United and Independent churches) begin co-operative preparation of materials for the Week of Prayer. The year 1968 saw the first official use of materials prepared jointly by the Faith and Order Commission and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, representing the entire Catholic Church. Collaboration and cooperation between these two organizations has increased steadily since, resulting recently in joint publications in the same format.

**POPE DISCUSSES WAR IN UKRAINE
WITH SLOVAK PRESIDENT**



Pope Francis greets Zuzana Caputova (Vatican Media)

On Saturday, December 11, Pope Francis received in audience the President of Slovakia Zuzana Čaputová.

A statement issued by the Holy See Press Office after the meeting said the two leaders held “cordial” talks which focused on the bilateral relations existing between the Holy See and the Slovak Republic, as well as the role of the Church in the Slovak society.

The Pope and the President also discussed the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its worldwide impact.

“The war in Ukraine and its regional and international impact were discussed in depth, with a focus on the humanitarian situation, the reception of refugees and the socio-economic crisis,” according to the statement.



SAVE THE DATE

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
34th QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 5th - 8th, 2023

AT THE

**HILTON SCRANTON &
CONFERENCE CENTER**
Scranton, PA

In the Southern Hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate the week of prayer, for example around Pentecost (as originally suggested by the Faith and Order movement in 1926, and Pope Leo XIII in 1894), which is also a symbolic date for the unity of the church.

FRIENDSGIVING SOCIAL FOR GROUP 4 MEMBERS



On November 22, 2022, Group 4 members gathered for a Friendsgiving social at Hales Corners Library in Hales Corners, WI. A delicious pot luck was served with a large variety of foods and desserts. The kids kept busy with board games, art projects and thanksgiving themed word searches, coloring sheets and trivia, while the adults got caught up on all the news and had a brief meeting. It was great to see the next generation of Sokol present with all the little ones there. A big thank you to all those that came out to share the evening with Sokol friends. We look forward to many more get-togethers! Zdar Boh. – **Lisa Hoeck**

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC FALCON

At the group presidents' meeting, all group presidents were tasked with three goals. One is to gather emails for people who may not be getting the electronic Falcon or other correspondence. If you are not receiving the monthly Falcon or Newsletter and you are not receiving emails regarding upcoming events, reach out to your group president. If your "older" parents, grandparents, aunts, or uncles do not have email, call 1-800- 886-7656 and ask to have the information mailed to them.

The 50th Slet is coming up. It is going to be a big year for Sokols! You don't want to miss the important information.

– **Kathleen Shoberg Watkins**



Sokol Calendar

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SLOVAK CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (WPSCA) at 7 p.m. at St. Bernard Church, Clairvaux Hall, 311 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA. Bishop Larry Kulick of the Greensburg Diocese will be the featured speaker. The meeting is open to the public. All are invited.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

SLOVAK BALL celebrating the 30th anniversary of Slovak independence at The Royal Manor in Garfield, NJ starting 7 p.m. until 2 a.m. featuring double platinum folklore artist Štefan Štec from Slovakia. Music by Express Band. Black tie. Tickets information:

SLOVAKAMERICANCC.ORG



76TH INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT MAY 13TH - 14TH 2022 AT THE BROOKGATE LANES, CLEVELAND, OHIO



Assembly 36, Detroit, Michigan Sokol Don Papcun was the recipient of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award. He is shown with Sokol Officers and past recipients of the award. From the left: Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon, past recipient Clarence Checkton, Edith Babik, Don Papcun, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath and Gary Pitonak.



Supreme President Mike Horvath, GCU National President George Juba, Bill Gemoll and Adam Digon



Perryopolis, PA team included, I-r, Clarence "Buffalo" Checkton, Alan Novotney, Craig Kordich and Bernie Seruga



Heather's Heroes from Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, PA, I-r, Heather Horvath, Kelly Palchanis, Amy Degnan-Blasco and Bernardette Jacob



Tribute to Tirpak team from Group 7, I-r, Gary Blasco, Jeff Jacob, Dave Iskra, Jr. and Tony Rasimas



Barberton OH Bowlers, I-r, Karen Bakita, Carol Macko, Diana Brashear and Jean Karaffa



The 4 Hoseman team from Group 7, I-r, Jeremy Francis, Justin Francis, David Iskra, Jr. and Marty Degnan

2022 INTERNATIONAL CLINIC

JULY 14TH - 17TH, 2022 AT THE KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY, KUTZTOWN, PA



2022 INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 12TH- 14TH, 2022 AT HTE REASURE LAKE GOLF RESORT, DUBOIS, PA



Recipient of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Award Linda S. Frank with past recipients of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Award. From the left: Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Secretary, Edward Baker, Loretta Smith, Linda S. Frank, John Hornacek, Robert Palchanis, Jr., Thomas Muldoon, Jr. and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath.



Steven Pogorelec, Sr., Steven Pogorelec, Jr., Eddie Bajus and Supreme Secretary, Scott Pogorelec



Kevin Matlon, Jeremy Francis, David Iskra



Carol and Cathy Macko, Kelsey and Janice Karaffa



Frank Laury IV, Andy Underation, Joshua Smith, Kerry Underation-Smith



Stephen and Stephanie Skorupka, John Tutko, Dusan Dorich



(L-R) Adam and Nick Macurak, Chet Dziuba, Derek Loehle



Albert Suess, Jr., Clarence Checton, James Hudzik

Message from our Supreme President

(Continued from page 2)

updates to the Board so they can plan a great Slet.

In addition to the International Bowling Tournament, May 19-20, 2023, in Buffalo, NY, the International Golf Tournament, August 18-20, 2023, in Canfield, OH the Society will fit in its 34th Quadrennial Convention, August 5-8 at the Scranton Hilton in Scranton, PA. I cannot believe four years have gone by already from the 33rd Convention in Cleveland, OH. So, as you can see it will be a very busy year.

Not only will we be busy, but every

Assembly, Wreath and Group will be busy with holding the necessary meetings and meeting the Deadlines associated with the Slet and Convention. I urge all to review our Bylaws to prepare for the Convention.

The Governance Committee will be meeting in person, January 20 – 22, 2023 to bring together their thoughts on the various fraternal they are examining and start preparing their recommendations. If any Assembly, Wreath, Group, or members has any suggestions let the Committee know your thoughts. You can send your recommendations to the

Home Office. The Home Office will then forward the correspondence to the Committee for their review.

This year 2023, the Slovak Catholic Sokol will be in existence for 118 years, I ask all of us to do our best to make it a great one by increasing our membership and participation in our Fraternal activities.

Once again, Happy New Year!
Stay Safe and Healthy!
With God's Blessings to All!
Zdar Boh!

CONGRATULATIONS

to Wreath 15, Perryopolis, PA member, Kelly Demski, on her new position at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN. Kelly is the daughter of our well-known Sokol, Clarence "Buffalo" Checton.



As Public Affairs Associate, Kelly is responsible for managing and overseeing several areas within the Office of Public Affairs and Communications, including charitable contributions, the public affairs database, Teachers as Scholars program, media relations, and the department budgets. She provides executive level support to the Associate Vice President for Public Affairs, Assistant Vice President of News and Media Relations and the staff within the Office of Public Affairs.

Kelly joined the Public Affairs team in October of 2022 after returning to the South Bend area from an eight-year adventure in Maryland. Her professional background is in healthcare, education, and fitness management with previous careers locally at Culver Academies and Northwest Health (formerly IU Health LaPorte Hospital).

Originally from southwest Pennsylvania, Kelly earned her bachelor's degree in athletic training from California University of Pennsylvania and her master's degree in education from Western Michigan University.

Kelly resides in South Bend, IN with her husband, Gary.

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 116 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:

Slovak Catholic Sokol
P.O.Box 899
205 Madison Street
Passaic, NJ 07055

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

\$63,000 IN S.C.S. SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE MEMBERS IN 2023

We are pleased to announce that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will make available a total of \$63,000 in scholarship grants to eligible members in 2023. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2023 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 four 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 (4 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, 2023**

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.slovakcatholic-sokol.org beginning December 1, 2022.



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, 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 several seasons 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 to give yourself the best chance at receiving something. There were several applicants who limited themselves to a

WALKING PROGRAM

1. The purpose of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Walking Program is to promote a heart-healthy lifestyle. By exercising, each Walker will reach milestones to be eligible for awards. The pursuit of reaching the milestones leads to a healthier way of life.
2. To be eligible for participation, a Walker of any age, must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.
3. A member can start the program at any time during the year. The final Tally Sheet for that year must be submitted no later than January 31 of the following year.
4. Miles walked can be sent to the coordinator monthly, quarterly or at the end of the year. Information should include total miles walked and location/setting.
5. Mileage from each year will determine the prize awarded. Every Walker will receive an award.
6. Awards will be given for each milestone achieved by the 100's and will be determined by the coordinator.
7. Awards will be given in March of the following year.
8. Coordinator contact information: Nancy Kropolinsky, Supreme Assistant Physical Directress, 1853 Wingate Rd. Youngstown, Ohio 44514; kropolinsky Nancy@gmail.com; 330-727-2487.

UNITED SLOVAK SOCIETIES OFFER SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS IN LORAIN, OH

The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, Ohio will again make available non-renewable, \$1,000.00 scholarship awards, to eligible high school seniors who will graduate in 2023. Applicants must maintain a GPA of 3.5 or better and enjoy membership of at least 5 years in any of the local Slovak Fraternal Lodges in Lorain.

The lodges include Wreath 111 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, First Catholic Slovak Union, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and the National Slovak Society. To obtain rules and an application, please visit www.americanslovakclub.com or contact the scholarship coordinator, Sue Naelitz, at snaelitz@hotmail.com. Deadline for applications is May 30, 2023.



Find us on Facebook:

Slovak Catholic Sokol
Public Group

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 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 19 Grants are available to any qualified Sokol member currently attending a Catholic High School.

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

APPLICATION

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

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

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2023** 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 2022-2023 school year.

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

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2023. 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, 2023** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

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

DISQUALIFICATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

RETURN OF GRANT

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



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

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

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

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

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

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

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

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

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

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

If yes, what year? _____

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

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

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

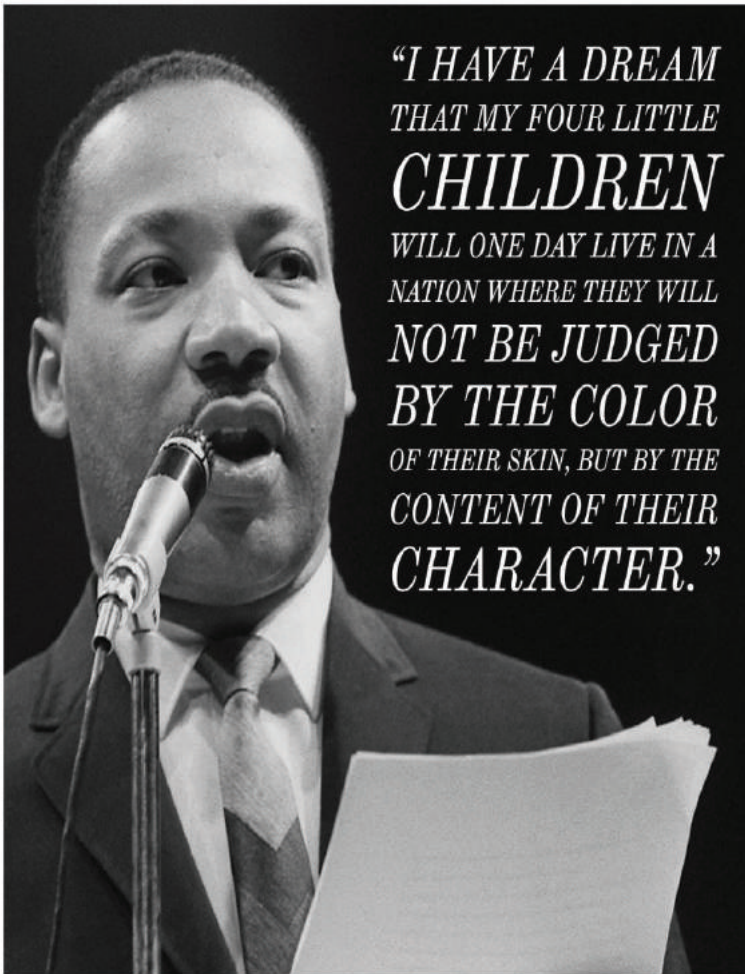
is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2022-2023 school year.

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

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2023. Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055**



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - January 2023



Christmas Thank Yous

Just a friendly reminder to all you kids, don't forget to write/send your Christmas thank you cards! In my immediate family, thank yous are reserved for times when gifts are opened without the giver being present. If we are all together during gift opening....a verbal thank you is all that it takes. But if a Grandma or Great Aunt gives a gift through the mail or some other way...a thank you card is always in order. If you can Facetime with them showing the gift you received or take a picture with the gift to add in your Thank you card, they would love it. I know that on occasion, time gets away from us and our good intentions are forgotten. Don't delay...crank out those cards now so that you don't offend the gift giver.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Harper Toth 1/21





KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - January 2023



Martin Luther King Jr.

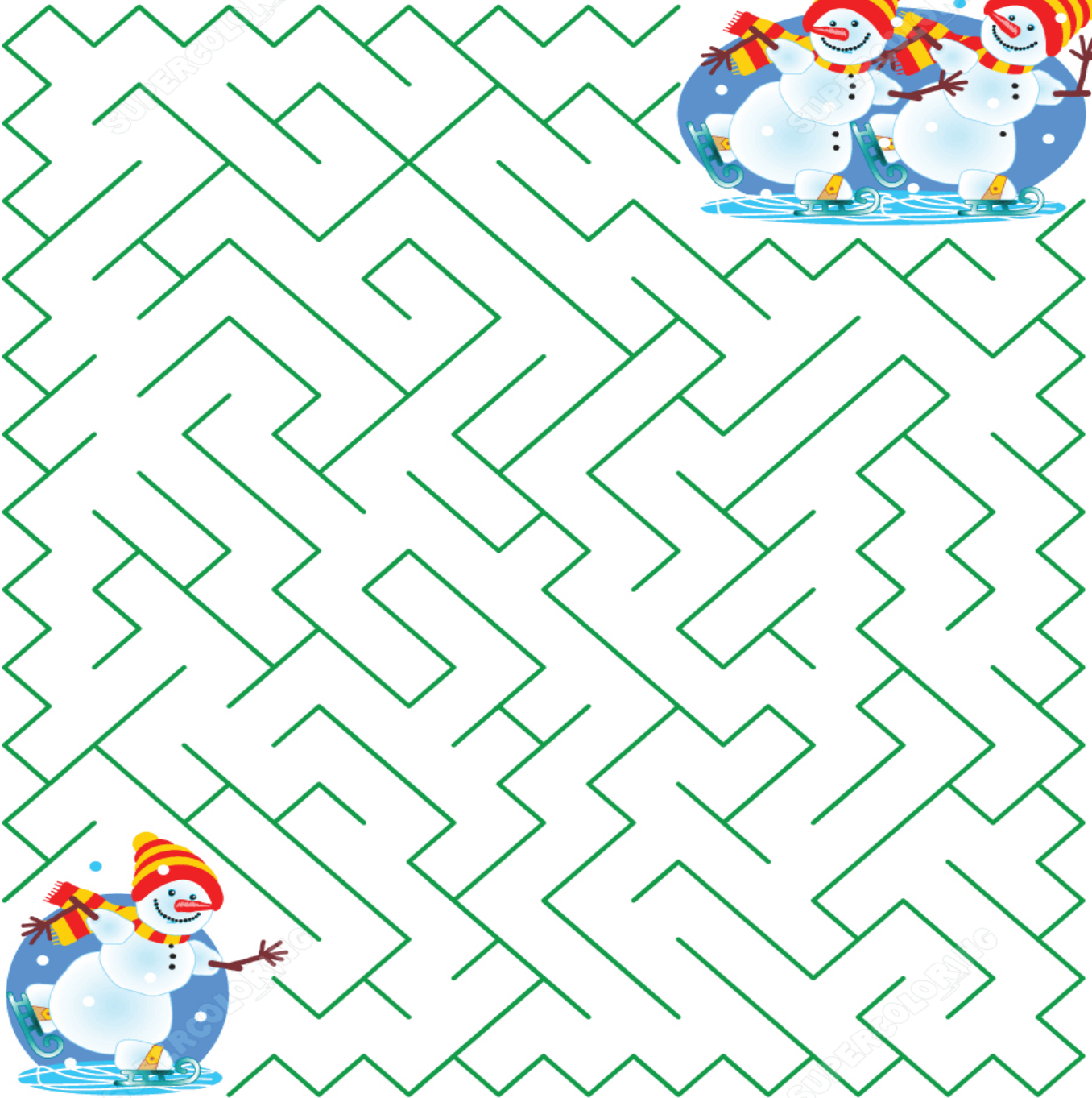
- Alabama
- Assassination
- Brotherhood
- Change
- Civil rights
- Dream
- Equality
- Freedom
- Georgia
- Integration
- January
- Justice
- Minister
- Nobel
- Nonviolence
- Peace
- Rosa Parks
- Segregation
- Speech

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



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - January 2023

HAPPY ☆ NEW ☆ YEAR



NEW YEAR'S FACTS & TRADITIONS

The first New Year's celebration dates back 4,000 years. Julius Caesar, the emperor of Rome, was the first to declare January 1st a national holiday. He named the month after Janus, the Roman god of doors and gates. Janus had two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. Caesar felt that a month named after this god would be fitting.

About 1 million people gather in New York City's Times Square to watch the ball drop. The Times Square New Year's Eve ball drop came about because of a ban on fireworks. The first ball in 1907 was 700 pounds and was lit with 100 25-watt lights. Today, it is covered in 2,688 crystals, is lit by 32,000 LED lights, weighs 11,875 pounds and is 12 feet in diameter.

The annual tradition of gathering in Times Square for New Year's started as a party to celebrate the opening of the New York Times building in 1904. Over 200,000 people attended. Wartime restrictions put the tradition on pause in 1942 and 1943. Times Square revelers observed a moment of silence at midnight instead.

Confetti may not be a new concept, but in 2015 "wish-fetti" became a part of the tradition. People write their wishes for the new year and submit them to the Wish Wall in Times Square (or online) and those wishes are turned into the confetti that falls over the crowd at midnight.

Fireworks originated centuries ago and are believed to have been invented by the Chinese. They are said to chase away evil spirits and bring good luck, making them a perfect way to begin a new year!

Champagne production skyrocketed from 300,000 to 20 million bottles per year between 1800 and 1850, as the world started ordering more for ship christenings and New Year's celebrations.

Kissing someone at midnight is said to come from the idea that doing so will prevent loneliness during the coming year and ward off evil spirits.

Ancient Romans are credited with the kissing tradition because of their Saturnalia festival. It was a celebration honoring Saturn, the god of time.

The island nation Kiribati in the Central Pacific is the first location to ring in the new year each year.

Celebrating the first baby of the New Year has been a symbol of the holiday since around 600 B.C., starting in ancient Greece when an infant was paraded around in a basket in celebration of Dionysus, the god of fertility (and wine). The baby represents a rebirth.

The song that's traditionally sung at midnight on New Year's Eve is called Auld Lang Syne. Its title means "times gone by." The song is an old Scottish tune. But, a Canadian bandleader named Guy Lombardo is responsible for making it a New Year's tradition. He performed the song at midnight at a New Year's Eve party in New York City in 1929. It was eventually broadcasted on the radio and TV stations around North America for New Year's.

GROUP 16, ASSEMBLY 36 HELPED TO SUPPLY ESSENTIALS TO NEEDY FAMILIES



For most of us, we don't have to worry about our next meal. By the Grace of God, we are able to supply our family with the necessary needs of each day. However, some are not as fortunate. In today's economy, it is harder for some to have food on the table. Especially during the holidays, it is hard to face that situation. Many have to request assistance.

Group 16, Assembly 36 /DETROIT took on the challenge this season. Members Stephen and Paula Papcun volunteered to be co-chairs of this project. Contact was made with SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish of Sterling Heights, MI. To keep the privacy of the families, Pastor Libor Marek and Office Manager Sandi Brady selected the needy families. Assembly 36 took on four baskets..... feeding a family of 2, 4, 5 and 7 individuals. We wanted to supply the essentials to make a meal we all expect for the holidays. Stuffing, gravy, yams, potato mixes, canned vegetables, dessert mixes were included in the boxes. To complete the basket, a gift certificate was included for the family to purchase a turkey or ham, along with other perishable items. They also included some Slovak Catholic Sokol items like pens, key rings, hats and letter openers.

On December 20th, Sokol member Stephen Papcun took the baskets to the Church. Father Libor accepted the baskets in the name of the needy families. Father read Scripture about Jesus feeding the masses and blessed the basket with Holy Water. SS. Cyril and Methodius expressed their thanks and appreciation for all the time and effort supplied by Assembly 36.

As the saying goes...."It is always..... better to give than receive"!!!

Andrea Ames Papcun
Group 16 President
Detroit/Rosford

GROUP 14 BRINGS CHRISTMAS JOY TO ITS MEMBERS

Several members of Group 14 delivered some Christmas cheer to some senior members. Partyline Catering, owned by Sue Meder, a Sokol member, prepared delicious dinners for 31 of our members. The dinner consisted of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, and a roll. Added to each dinner was a Christmas bag with a handmade card, a mug full of candy, and a bag of cookies. The mugs were custom-made with the saying, "Smile – someone is thinking of you". We wanted to remind our senior members that they are still thought of often. The dinner delivery crew included: Arlene and Eddie Most, Cindy and Rich Walkowiak, Julie and Jordan Kotvas, Becky and Bridget DiRenna, Kathy Shoberg, Bryce Watkins, Janice Moeller, Paige Gasiorowski, Hayden Schanck, and Julia Mazurkiewicz.

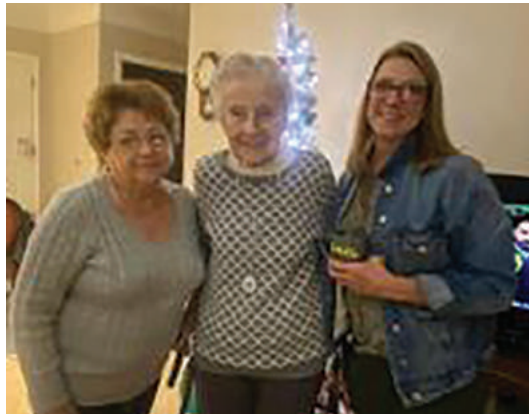
2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Giving to others brings so much joy to both the giver and the receiver. We all enjoyed visiting with our senior members and seeing the joy on their faces when they realized someone was thinking of them.

– Kathleen Watkins, Group 14 President





IN MEMORIAM

NOVEMBER 2022

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 11	Larry R. McKinnon, Hamburg, IL	79	September 3, 2022
Assembly 16	James W. Krausslach, Pittsburgh, PA	70	October 28, 2022
Assembly 25	Raymond Giambattista, Fayette City, PA	74	November 28, 2022
Assembly 59	Leonard J. Palenchar, Kingston, PA	87	October 7, 2022
Assembly 59	Joseph Kovalick, Wilkes-Barre, PA	75	November 1, 2022
Assembly 78	John Lipovsky, Allentown, PA	81	September , 2022
Assembly 79	Susan P. Hritz, Altoona, PA	63	November 6, 2022
Assembly 104	James Lisiak, McKees Rocks, PA	90	November 7, 2022
Assembly 162	John J. Van Havere, Lawrenceville, NJ	90	November 3, 2022
Assembly 185	Mary L. Kicinski, Dallas, TX	90	October 1, 2022
Assembly 185	Thomas Pado, Endwell, NY	67	November 25, 2022
Assembly 188	Bernadine A. Suda, Hazleton, PA	84	September 29, 2022
Assembly 261	Martin E. Detweiler, Lady Lake, FL	87	April 20, 2022
Assembly 295	Elizabeth M. Hock, West Mifflin, PA	98	January 16, 2022
Wreath 11	Robert Hanyak, Charlotte, NC	84	November 16, 2022
Wreath 15	Joyce E. Lynch, Perryopolis, PA	75	November 5, 2022
Wreath 15	Carol Ann Dale, Perryopolis, PA	70	November 28, 2022
Wreath 34	Frank Verbiak, N. Almsted, OH	94	October 12, 2022
Wreath 34	Mary Szucs, Novelty, OH	84	November 22, 2022
Wreath 81	Patricia Chilla, Whiting, IN	82	January 31, 2022
Wreath 155	Frances Detweiler, Lady Lake, FL	88	April 18, 2022

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION 2023 “DOBRY PASTIER” – GOOD SHEPHERD

The Slovak Catholic Federation is accepting articles for its 2023 edition of the “Dobry Pastier” Good Shepherd.

The Good Shepherd is a collection of literary articles submitted by contributing authors on all things Slovak, Catholic, faith, cultural and heritage, the arts, and personal essays or other topics the writer wishes to share with the readers. The Good Shepherd also serves as the only source for contact information for the Church in Slovakia, and those Slovak clergy and religious in the United States, as well as religious congregations, and places of worship. The articles come from authors in the United States, Slovakia and the Slovak Diaspora from around the world.

Anyone wishing to submit an article for publication can submit their articles to Sister Barbara Sable, SSCM, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821 or barbarasable@hotmail.com. The Deadline for submitting an article is June 30, 2023. The articles submitted need to be double spaced typed in doc format and in Times New Roma font.

Any questions regarding the Good Shepherd, the articles, etc. can be sent to Michael Horvath, msjhm185@aol.com, Chairperson, Slovak Catholic Federation Communications Committee.

PREZIDENTKE ČAPUTOVEJ V USA UDELILI CENU ZA DEMOKRACIU MADELEINE ALBRIGHTOVEJ

Demokracia je len taká silná, aká silná je naša každodenná angažovanosť v nej – trpí, keď ju nebránime. 13. decembra to prostredníctvom videoodkazu uviedla



slovenská prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová pri prevzatí Ceny za demokraciu Madeleine Albrightovej, ktorú jej udelil americký Národný demokratický inštitút (NDI).

Slovenskej prezidentke ocenenie venovala filipínska novinárka a laureátka Nobelovej ceny za mier Maria Ressaová. Čaputová sa na podujatí vo Washingtone nemohla zúčastniť osobne. Cenu za ňu preto prevzal veľvyslanec SR v USA Radovan Javorčík.

Prezidentka Čaputová dostala Cenu za demokraciu Madeleine Albrightovej za jej neochvejný záväzok zotrvať pri ochrane demokracie na Slovensku, v Európe a na celom svete, napísal NDI na Twitteri.

Cenu za demokraciu si vo Washingtone v utorok večer miestneho času prevzali aj moldavská prezidentka Maia Sanduová a litovská premiérka Ingrida Šimonyté. Ocenený bol aj ukrajinský prezident Volodymyr Zelenskyj, ktorý sa prítomným prihovril prostredníctvom videoodkazu.

Výročný galavečer amerického Národného demokratického inštitútu sa uskutočnil v National Portrait Gallery vo Washingtone. Cena za demokraciu nesie od tohto roka meno bývalej americkej ministerky zahraničných vecí Madeleine Albrightovej. – TASR

ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!

Odzvonilo anonymným **hejterom**... - pravda.sk

Kuracie **stripsy** v praclíkovej **kruste** s medovo-horčicovým **dipom**... - varecha.sk

Mali veľké plány a **expandovali**. - sme.sk

Je to pre nás veľká **satisfakcia**... - pravda.sk

Keď Matia Lenická pred pár rokmi urobila verejný **coming-out**, vzala tým vietor z plachiet mnohým jej **hejterom**.

- sme.sk

Toto je 15 slovenských **bestsellerov** - pravda.sk

...toto sú **TOP looky** týždňa. - pravda.sk

Na Filipínach **expirovalo** 44 miliónov dávok vakcíny proti ochoreniu Covid-19. - sme.sk

MICHAELA MUSILOVA: ŽENA Z MARSU

Príbeh slovenskej vedkyne, marsonautky a astrobiologičky

Michaely Musilovej od publicistky a moderátorky Lucie Lackovičovej prináša pohľad na zložitú cestu mladej ženy za svojimi snami. Kniha opisuje náročné štúdium na prestížnych zahraničných univerzitách, expedície a výskum, prácu pre NASA či stretnutia s mnohými inšpiratívnymi ľuďmi z celého sveta.

Spoznáte zákulisie a extrémne podmienky vedeckých expedícií a simulovaných misí na Mars. Počas nich hrozili viaceré život ohrozujúce situácie, no ich výsledky môžu mať obrovský celosvetový význam pri osídľovaní iných planét. Michaela sa zdôverí aj s detailmi zo súkromia či prekážkami, ktoré musela v živote prekonať a ktoré ju formovali.

Kniha je tak zároveň povzbudením dievčat a žien, ktoré sa rozhodujú pre kariéru vo vedeckom svete. Súčasne však kladie mnohé otázky o diskriminácii a tvrdej konkurencii v tomto prostredí. Ak si chcete zakúpiť knihu s podpisom autorky, pošlite jej email na michaela@michaelamusilova.com.



PÁPEŽ FRANTIŠEK PRIJAL PREZIDENTKU ČAPUTOVÚ

Pápež František prijal 11. decembra na audiencii vo Vatikáne prezidentku SR Zuzanu Čaputovú so sprievodom. Audiencia v Sále bibliotéky Apoštolského paláca, kde pápež zvyčajne prijíma hlavy štátov, trvala 45 minút. Prezidentka označila stretnutie za ľudsky blízke a dodala, že rozhovor s pápežom bol hlboký a inšpiratívny.

Prezidentka uviedla, že pápež má Slovensko veľmi rád a ďakuje za dni strávené na Slovensku minulý rok, ktoré boli preňho – podľa jeho slov – veľkým povzbudením.

„Žijeme ťažké časy a lepšie cez ne prejdeme, keď všetci tí, ktorí to cítia rovnako, budú otvorení spolupráci a porozumeniu. Keď sa nebudeme uzatvárať do našich názorových svetov, keď sa nebudeme navzájom povyšovať, ale napriek odlišnosti rešpektovať. Vždy máme voľbu, ako sa zachovať. Ako vo svojom dnešnom odkaze pre Slovensko povedal Svätý Otec: jednota je dôležitejšia než konflikt,“ uviedla prezidentka SR.

Podľa nej prostredníctvom myšlienky, že „sme rôzni, ale všetci sme bratia a sestry“, pápež pozýva k solidarite a spolupráci.

Svätý Otec ppobudsol v súkromnom rozhovore s prezidentkou Čaputovou pol hodiny. Nasledovalo predstavenie členov delegácie so spoločnou fotografiou a výmena darov.

Slovenská prezidentka sa následne v priestoroch Štátneho sekretariátu stretla s vatikánskym sekretárom pre vzťahy so štátmi a medzinárodnými organizáciami Paulom Richardom Gallagherom. Hovorili o bilaterálnych vzťahoch medzi Svätou stolicou a Slovenskou republikou a o úlohe cirkvi v spoločnosti.

SLOVENSKÝ PLES V GARFIELD, NJ

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko vás srdečne pozýva na Slovenský ples v sobotu 11. februára 2023 v The Royal Manor v Garfield, NJ. Spoločenský "black tie" večer sa začne koktailom o 7.00 hod. večer, po ktorom bude nasledovať večera. "Premium open bar" bude otvorený celú noc. Bude losovaná aj tombola. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny umelec Štefan Štec zo Slovenska. Hrať bude skupina Expres. Lístky si môžete zakúpiť do 6. januára výlučne online na webovej stránke: SlovakAmericanCC.ORG

KÚTIK HUMORU

Pýta sa Árpi Deža:

- *Odkiaľ máš také pekné hodinky?*
- *Od sestry. - informuje Dežo.*
- *Od akej sestry? Veď ty žiadnu nemáš!*
- *Nemám! Ale je to na nich napísané...*

- Tak čo, poslúchli ste môj pokyn a spávali ste pri otvorenom okne?

- *Áno, pán doktor.*
- *A čo, zmizla tá bronchyitída?*
- *Nie, pán doktor... bronchyitídu mám stále, ale zato mi zmizli televízor, mobil a rádio...*

Po Tichom oceáne sa plaví loď. Jeden z pasažierov ukazuje na otrhaného muža, ktorý poskakuje na neďalekom ostrove a máva rukami. Pýta sa kapitána:

- *Kto to je?*
- *Netuším, ale kedykoľvek tadiaľto ideme tak má obrovskú radosť...*

AKO TO UROBIŤ, ABY VÁS ĽUDIA NEOTRAVOVALI SO ŽENBOU: *Staré tety ma po svadobných obradoch štuchali do rebier a vraveli:*

"Je rad na tebe."

Prestali, keď som im to isté urobil po pohrebe.

Na ulici plače malý chlapec. Policajt sa pýta:

- *Čo sa ti stalo?*
- *Stratil som sa!*
- *A svoju adresu poznáš?*
- *Poznám... JozkoNovak@gmail.com*



KRÁTKE SPRÁVY ZO SLOVENSKA



Časopis Forbes zaradil prezidentku SR Zuzanu Čaputovú medzi 100 najvplyvnejších žien sveta. Do rebríčka ju americký časopis zaradil už štvrtý rok po sebe. Umiestnila sa v rebríčku časopisu na 87 mieste. Najvplyvnejšou ženou je podľa Forbesu predsedníčka Európskej komisie Ursula von der Leyenová, nasleduje prezidentka Európskej centrálnej banky Christine Lagardová a americká viceprezidentka Kamala Harrisová.

Minister zahraničných vecí Rastislav Káčer 8. decembra spolu s ministrom obrany Jaroslavom Naďom a ministrom hospodárstva Karlom Hirmanom navštívil Kyjev. Káčer Ukrajinu uistil o pokračujúcej politickej, diplomatickej, vojenskej, finančnej aj humanitárnej podpore zo strany Slovenska. Ministrov ukrajinský prezident Volodymyr Zelenskij, prvý podpredseda Najvyššej rady Ukrajiny Oleksandr Kornienko, pričom rokovali tiež s ukrajinským premiérom Denisom Šmyhalom a svojimi rezortnými partnermi. „Do Kyjeva sme nepišli s prázdnyimi rukami. Chceme, aby Ukrajina vydržala počas nadchádzajúceho zimného obdobia, preto jej Slovensko poskytne generátory, teplovzdušné ohrievače, ako aj materiál na opravu poškodenej energetickej infraštruktúry, tiež prikrývky, vankúše či lekárničky,“ povedal Káčer. Slovensko, ktoré patrí medzi najväčších poskytovateľov pomoci Ukrajine, je pripravené pomáhať aj pri obnove zničených miest a rekonštrukcii fabrick, teplární či dopravnej infraštruktúry.

Slovenský astrofotograf Tomáš Slovinský z Košíc opäť upútal pozornosť amerického Národného úradu pre letectvo a vesmír (NASA). Jeho najnovšia fotografia s názvom Spln Mesiaca a Marsu, ktorú zachytil v metropole východu, bola vo štvrtok 15. decembra zaradená ako Astronomická snímka dňa NASA. V poradí už piaty raz za sebou americký Národný úrad pre letectvo a vesmír vybral za snímku dňa fotografiu slovenského astrofotografa Tomáša Slovinského.



Národná rada (NR) SR vyslovila 16. decembra nedôveru vláde Eduarda Hegera (OL'ANO). Za pád vlády hlasovalo 78 zo 102 prítomných poslancov, proti boli 20, zdržali sa dvaja a dvaja nehlasovali. Ešte pred hlasovaním opustili sálu poslanci OL'ANO. Prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová odvolala vládu Eduarda Hegera a zároveň ju v zmysle Ústavy SR dočasne poverila vykonávaním funkcie v obmedzenom rozsahu. Predseda parlamentu Boris Kollár (Sme rodina) a premiér Heger sa následne stretli s prezidentkou. Kollár avizoval, že politické strany sa budú musieť dohodnúť na predčasných voľbách. Konať by sa podľa neho mali najneskôr v júni, ešte lepší termín vidí v máji.



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