

Za Boha a Národ



For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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Slovak Catholic Sokol 69th International Bowling Tournament combined with Greek Catholic Union's 79th Bowling Tournament held in Wickliffe, Ohio

Lilly, Pa. Assembly 79 takes men's title while GCU Michigan bowlers take women's title

Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award goes to Michael T. Matras of Assembly 25 in Perryopolis, Pa.



This year's bowling competition opened on Friday, May 15 with the presidents of the Greek Catholic Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol rolling out the ceremonial first balls of the competition. Supreme President Larry M. Glugosh and George N. Juba, president of the Greek Catholic Union are shown above opening this year's tournament.

The 69th International Slovak Catholic Sokol and 79th Greek Catholic Union held a combined bowling Tournament, the weekend of May 15th through the 17th at Freeway Lanes in Wickliffe, Ohio.

The recently renovated Radisson Inn in Eastlake, Ohio was the host hotel for the 2015 bowling tournament. The bowling lanes and Radisson Hotel were located in an eastern suburb of Cleveland, Ohio just a few miles from Lake Erie contributing to the seasonably cool weather and occasionally damp weather for the kegler event.

The two fraternal organizations combined with 35 Men's Teams and 18 Women's Teams, for a total of 212 bowlers. On Friday evening from 6 until 7:15 p.m., the bowlers were treated to a hospitality dinner that included grilled chicken, meatballs, pasta, white sauce/red sauce, salad and soft drinks, allowing ample time to eat and socialize prior to start of the tournament. The annual sporting event began with the playing of the National Anthems of the United States and Canada. Supreme President Larry M. Glugosh welcomed all of the bowlers to the Freeway Lanes in Wickliffe, Ohio. George N. Juba, the Supreme President of the Greek Catholic Union also welcomed all of the bowlers from both societies. Edward D. Moeller, The Supreme Director of

Sports and Athletics and Christie Petty, Fraternal Director from the Greek Catholic Union coordinated the lane assignments for all 53 teams. Two other members of the Greek Catholic Union helped with the combined bowling tournament, Gregory N. Vladika, National Vice President and Basil M. Wahal, Communications Director.

All of the bowlers received a gift from both fraternal societies that included a coffee travel mug, bowling shoes carry bag, deck of cards and box of dice. The Friday Team Bowling began at 7:30 p.m. as Supreme Presidents, Larry M. Glugosh and George N. Juba both rolled out the ceremonial first balls of the tournament.

When the Team Bowling concluded on Friday evening, the Slovak Catholic Sokol Team from Assembly 79, Lilly, Pa., placed first with a score of 2,828, led by Gary Risko who rolled a 795 including handicap. The other team members included Brian Risko who rolled a 772, Francis Risko who rolled a 644 and Jeremy Glass who rolled a 617, with handicaps. In second place was the GCU Club Lane which finished

with a 2,734, led by John Bost who rolled an 805, with a 3 pin handicap. Joe Willson rolled a 671, Charles Robinson rolled a 648 and Michael Patak finished

with a 610. Geo Lawn Service, from the GCU finished in third place with 2,732, just two pins behind the 2nd place club. Steven Romanchak led his team with a 766, Wayne Newmyer rolled a 736, George Romanchak finished with a 627, and Ian Paul rolled a 603.

The Women's Division, Dad's Daughters from the GCU finished with a 2,144, led by Laura Anderson-Messer who rolled a 581. Cindy Anderson rolled a 578, Mary Anderson-MacGil rolled a 551 and Theresa Manspeaker finished with a 434, and all scores included handicaps. In second place with a total score of 2,133, a mixed team of SCS

and GCU led by Bonnie Ciresi who finished with a 574. Jean Karafa rolled a 545, Deb Selip rolled a 520 and Dianna Simpson rolled a 494. In Third Place the Team of, Just Friends from the GCU was led by Michelle Davis who rolled a 585, and Maria Marks followed closely with a 574. Linda Bartek rolled a 516 and Barbara Rush rolled a 446.

On Saturday morning, all of the bowlers returned to the Freeway Lanes for the Doubles and Singles competition. In the Men's Division, the dynamic duo of Ed Elnikar and Clarence "Buffalo" Checkton from

Perryopolis, Pa., each rolled three excellent games and beat the second place team by fifty pins. Ed Elnikar rolled a 236-210-222 with an 87 pin handicap and Clarence Checkton rolled a 279-209-180 and an 81 pin handicap. The second place team from Lilly finished with a 1,454. Brian Risko led the doubles competition with a 212-232-268 and a 21 pin handicap and Gary Risko rolled a 256-199-206 plus a 60 pin handicap. The third place team from Barberton/Canton, Oh. finished with a 1,394, led by Marty Underation who

(Continued on page 2)



Michael T. Matras, well-known Perryopolis, Pa. Sokol activist, was presented with the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award during the awards banquet of the 69th International Bowling Tournament held in Wickliffe, Oh. on May 16. Brother Matras is shown above flanked by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics Edward D. Moeller and Supreme President Larry M. Glugosh.



Members of the First Place Women's Division Dad's Daughters GCU team from Michigan included, l-r, Laura Anderson-Messer, Cindy Anderson, Mary Anderson-MacGil and Teresa Manspeaker.

Story & Photos by
James C. Matlon
Supreme Assistant Director
of Sports and Athletics

Slovak Catholic Sokol 69th International Bowling Tournament

(Continued from page 1)

rolled a 169-268-268 plus a handicap of 108. Joe Burfield rolled a 160-200-170 plus a 51 pin handicap. In fourth place from the Greek Catholic Union and St. Claire Shores, Michigan, Frank Johnson rolled a 199-264-225 plus a 57 pin handicap and Charles Johnson rolled a 153-196-183, plus 87 pin handicap.

In the Women's Division, the dynamic duo of Karen Bakita and Carol Macko from Barberton, Oh. finished in first place with a combined total of 1,207 including handicap. Carol Macko led her duo with scores of 205-186-159, plus an 84 pin handicap and teammate Karen Bakita rolled a 124-185-171, plus a 94 pin handicap. Laura Anderson-Messer and Mary Anderson-MacGil from Fenton and Redford Michigan, from the Greek Catholic Union, finished in second place with a 1,179. Mary Anderson-MacGil rolled a 188-155-228 and Laura Anderson-Messer rolled a 176-131-125. In third place with a 1,145, Karen Adamcik and Cheryl Fisher, members of the GCU from West Mifflin and Munhall Pa. Cheryl Fisher rolled a 201-161-161 and Karen Adamcik rolled a 122-188-168. In fourth place members of the GCU, Cindy Anderson from Lowell, Michigan and Carole Barnett from Naperville, Ill., rolled a combined 1,133. Cindy Anderson rolled a 180-153-171 and Carole Barnett rolled a 144-156-167, which was 17 pins better than the fifth place team.

In the Men's Singles Division, two GCU member Matthew Niskach from Coropolis, Pa. and Michael Cimperman from Brecksville, Oh., both rolled a 763. Matthew Niskach rolled a 201-267-268 plus a 27 pin handicap and Michael Cimperman rolled a 213-217-219 and 114 pin handicap. In third Place Dave Iskra, Jr. from Wilkes-Barre, Pa. rolled a 218-223-202 plus a 114 pin handicap. Mark Brooks from Homestead, Pa rolled a 224-

246-214 plus a 63 pin handicap to finish with a 747, just 10 pins behind third place. Mark Matras from Perryopolis, Pa. finished in 5th place rolling a 247-212-203, finishing up with a 743. Rich Underation from Barberton, Oh. finished with a 738, and his three games: 200-189-181, which was good enough for sixth Place.

In the Women's Singles Division, Barbara Rushe from Whitaker, Pa and a member of the GCU, finished in first place with a 623. Barbara rolled a 169-161-191 plus a 102 pin handicap, 13 pins ahead of second place Daria Shierly from Endwell, N.Y. and a member of the GCU who rolled a 159-169-171. Karen Adamcik from West Mifflin, Pa. and a member of the GCU and Marianne Nali from Ambridge, Pa. and a member of the SCS both rolled a 593 to end in a tie for third place. Karen Adamcik rolled a 202-170-137 plus a 84 pin handicap and Marianne Nalli, rolled a 179-161-160, plus a 93 pin handicap.

In the Men's Division for All-Events, Michael Cimperman a member of the GCU from Brecksville, Oh, finished in first place with a 2,243; Team-635, Doubles -617, Singles-649, and a handicap of 342. Brian Risko from Lilly, Pa, finished with a 2,233; Team-751-Doubles-712 and a 707 in singles plus a handicap of 63. Marty Underation of Barberton, Oh. rolled a 600 in Team, 705 in Doubles and 570 in Singles plus a handicap of 324, to finish with a total of 2,199. Gary Risko from Lilly, Pa finished in fourth place with a 2,158, including; Team- 735, Doubles- 661 and Singles- 582 and a handicap of 180.

In the Women's Division for All-Events, Cindy Anderson from Howell, Michigan and a member of the GCU, placed first with a total of 1,751: Team - 497, Doubles - 504 and Singles-507, plus a handicap of 243. Dorothy Bakalar from Johnson City, N.Y. and a member of the GCU finished with a 1,728: Team -

407, Doubles-540, Singles 475, plus a 306 pin handicap. Amy Shorthall from West Mifflin, Pa. and a member of the GCU rolled a 1,697, with a zero handicap: Team -540, Doubles-612 and Singles 545.

The final awards recognition is for the best Scratch Bowlers at the 69th International SCS Bowling Tournament and the 79th International GCU Tournament. High Game: Brian Risko, Lilly, Pa. rolled a 290 in Team and Mary Anderson-MacGil from Redford, Michigan rolled a 228 in Doubles. The High Series: John Bost from West Mifflin, Pa. and a member of the GCU rolled an 802 for Team and Amy Shorthall also from West Mifflin, Pa. and a GCU Member rolled a 612 in Doubles. Best Scratch All-Events: Brian Risko from Lilly, Pa. finished with a 2,170 and Amy Shorthall from West Mifflin rolled a 1,697.

After the bowlers finished with doubles and singles on Saturday afternoon, they headed back to the Radisson Hotel to rest and relax before the Divine Liturgy to be celebrated at 4 p.m. The Reverend Richard J. Plishka celebrated the Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy (Holy Mass) for all of the bowlers and guests to fulfill the Sunday Obligation. The Divine Liturgy celebrated the anniversary of the Fathers of the First Nicean Council that was held in AD 325.

The bowling banquet was held at the Radisson Hotel beginning at 6 p.m. with a happy hour for the 225 participants and guests. Edward D. Moeller, our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, gave the opening remarks and Robert Sufliata from the GCU, offered the invocation. Christie Petty, Fraternal Director of the Greek Catholic Union, also welcomed all of the bowlers and participants and expressed her regrets for having to leave early since she was driving to Danville, Pa. for the Byzantine Catholic Family Days at Knoebels Park in Elysburg, Pennsylvania



Well-known Perryopolis, Pa. Sokol activist, Michael T. Matras, right center, was awarded the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award at this year's 69th International Bowling Tournament in Wickliffe, Oh. Brother Mike is shown with fellow Perryopolis keepers from Assembly 25 including, l-r, his sons, Mark and Mikey and Ryan Morrison.



This year's bowling tournament was unique in that the traditional Saturday evening Mass celebrated to satisfy the Sunday obligation was offered in the Byzantine Rite of the Church. The Rev. Richard J. Plishka, a priest of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma, is shown above celebrating the liturgy.

beginning Sunday morning. The bowling banquet was served family style with salad and rolls followed by breaded tilapia, sliced pork loin with mushrooms and gravy, roasted potatoes and green beans. After the meal, George N. Juba, President/CEO of the Greek Catholic Union welcomed all of the bowlers and guests from both fraternals to the inaugural combined bowling tournament as both societies have promoted this annual event for six plus decades. Larry M. Glugosh, Supreme President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, also gave greetings from the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors to all bowling participants and guests and hopefully this will be the beginning of many annual combined bowling tournaments for the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the Greek Catholic Union. James C. Matlon, Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics introduced all of the National and Supreme Officers in attendance at the bowling banquet. Edward D. Moeller revealed the current unofficial leaders for each division including the top three Teams, Doubles, Singles and All Events for the Men's Division and Women's Division.

The final event of the evening was the announcement of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award presented each year to a member

of our organization who has been very active at the Assembly, Group and National levels promoting and participating in the International Bowling Tournaments. Michael T. Matras, from Assembly 25, Perryopolis, Pa. was the recipient of the 2015 Frank S. Petruff Award. Michael was very surprised to have his name announced as the 2015 recipient, and he thanked the members and Supreme Officers who have been involved in the bowling tournaments for the past 69 years. Michael T. Matras also thanked all the previous winners, including those in attendance for the 2015 tournament. Brother Matras is proud to represent this great fraternal for the past 60 plus years and pledged to continue active involvement in all aspects of the organization. Previous winners in attendance included: Joseph V. Gebura, Richard Underation, Anthony J. Glodava, Walt Kazmierczak, Paul Awramko, and Albert J. Pogorelec. The rest of the evening was spent socializing between fellow members of our society and members of the Greek Catholic Union, enjoying the Ohio hospitality.

On Sunday morning the bowlers and guests headed home trying to beat the rain that was predicted for the greater Cleveland area. All were looking forward to the 2016 Bowling Tournament.

Zdar Boh!



Brother Michael T. Matras of Group 6 of Perryopolis, Pa., fifth from the left, who was presented the Frank S. Petuff Memorial Sports Award at our 69th International Bowling Tournament on May 16, is shown with past recipients, and supreme officers, including l-r, Supreme President Larry M. Glugosh, Joseph V. Gebura, Group 5; Anthony Glodava, Group 1; Albert J. Pogorelec, Group 1; Walter Kazmierczak, Group 12; Richard Underation, Group 5; Paul Awramko, Group 1; and Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics Edward D. Moeller.

From the Desk of the Supreme Secretary

My Fraternal View

by Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.



CELEBRATING SOKOL FRATERNALISM AT ITS BEST

As we begin the summer season, it is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for all the benefits we have received through our membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol. In our last issue, we presented the smiling faces of the 76 young members who were awarded scholarship grants in 2015. Since 1972, 2,114 members have received a total of \$1,471,000 in scholarships in support of higher education. This certainly is an enviable record for our organization. I pray that our 2015 recipients will achieve their education goals and become successful, contributing members of society. Hopefully, later in life they will recall the assistance that the Slovak Catholic Sokol provided in their quest for a good education. Then when they start their own families hopefully, they will enroll their own children in our organization to enjoy the benefits of Sokol benevolence. Again, our best wishes and congratulations go out to our 2015 scholarship recipients.

The first of our traditional sporting events of the season, our 69th International Bowling Tournament was enjoyed by many of our members in Wickliffe, Oh. Congratulations go out to all the team and individual winners of the tournament. Best wishes go out to Brother Michael T. Matras of Perryopolis, Pa. who was awarded the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award. Brother Matras has been a mover and doer of Sokol activities all his life. His many efforts have contributed to the steady growth and vitality of our Perryopolis lodges as well as in Group 6. He is a model fraternalist and sportsman who inherited a love for our organization from his own father. He has successfully passed on the same enthusiasm to his sons and their young families. His many friends throughout the organization join him in celebrating this well-deserved honor. We might consider referring to the Matras clan as "lifers" who from generation to generation have enjoyed their membership and celebrate what it means to be a Sokol. Congratulations Brother Mike!

In the coming weeks and months we will host a number of events which truly showcase our organization at its best. I hope that many of you will have the opportunity to participate either as a competitor or observer. I was hoping that many of our softball enthusiasts would participate in our 28th International Softball Tournament scheduled for Canton, Oh., the weekend of June 26-28, however, I have been informed by our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics that this tournament will not be held which is very disappointing.

The premier and oldest sporting event in the life of our organization, our Slet will be staged July 14-18 at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pa. This year's 47th International Slet will see our youth from the U.S. and Canada display their very best in gymnastics, calisthenics and track and field. The Slet has been the signature sporting event in the life of our organization from its earliest years. From 1905 until 1912, Slets were held locally in various American cities. In the summer of 1912, our first Slet was held on the national level in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. It was the first time that Sokols from various communities in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and as far away as Illinois competed at a Slet together. And the rest is history. I

know our Supreme Physical Fitness Board as well as the Physical Fitness staffs of our Groups have been working hard to insure the success of this summer's Slet. Why not come out and spend an enjoyable summer evening on Friday, July 17 witnessing the gala closing exhibition of the 47th Slet. Festivities begin at 4:15 p.m. in the university stadium. So why not mark your calendars and plan to join us on July 17th as we cheer on our Sokol athletes as they conclude our 47th Slet. There's a great deal of history in our Slet traditions, enjoyed by generations of Slovak Catholic Sokol members over these past 103 years since that first Slet in 1912 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

And in addition, we will host our 32nd Quadrennial Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa., August 1-5. Western Pennsylvania has always been a stronghold of our organization over the years. We are pleased to return and enjoy some traditional Pittsburgh Sokol hospitality and fellowship from our Group 14 members. Several of our National Conventions have been held in Pittsburgh. Our 13th National Convention was held there in 1936. In 1983, we returned for our 24th National Convention. And finally our 31st National Convention was held there in 2011. We are pleased to return for this summer's 32nd Convention. The facilities and amenities offered to us at The DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Green Tree are top notch and we look forward to an exciting and enjoyable Convention.

Our summer fraternal program concludes with our 60th International Golf Tournament, scheduled for August 14-16 at the Mountain Valley resort in Barnesville, Pa. I hope that you will have the opportunity to join us at one or more of these outstanding sporting and fraternal events which celebrates the Slovak Catholic Sokol at its best.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind our members that we celebrate Flag Day on June 14th. This year we celebrate the 238th birthday of the Stars and Stripes, the great symbol of our democracy. Adopted by the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777, the flag symbolizes the aspirations, struggles, sacrifices and achievements of our ancestors. It is interesting to note that the first item purchased by our Sokol founders in 1905 was an American Flag. As immigrants in a strange new land, they were grateful to Almighty God that they were able to begin a new life for themselves and their families in America. While they were proud Slovaks, they wanted to let their neighbors know that they were also patriotic Americans as well. Fraternalists have always had a close association with the Flag Day observance. So let's proudly display Old Glory in our homes, our schools and our places of business and remember also to pause sometime during the day on June 14th and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which transcends age, race, religion, national origin, political and geographic differences.

Finally, my best wishes go out to all our Sokol Dads as we observe their special day of the year on Sunday June 21. A happy Father's Day to all and God bless you and your families.

Until next time, have a great week, good health to all and peace be with you. Zdar Boh!

Club at the American Sokol Camp, 2069 Royalwood Rd., Broadview Heights, Oh. from 12 noon to 8 p.m., ethnic food, entertainment, music by the Anthony Culkar Band, \$4.00 admission at the gate.

TUES. JUNE 30

■ Assembly 9 patronal feast day observance beginning with Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. at 7:30 a.m., breakfast will follow; for reservations call Tom Marticek (203)375-0762.

■ Concert of the Slovak children's choir Pro Musica - Magnolia, sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association at Synod Hall, Craig St., in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7:30 p.m., tickets adults \$20.00, \$7.00 children.

SAT. JULY 11

■ 42nd annual Summer Festival hosted by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius at their Motherhouse grounds, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, Pa. beginning at 10:30 a.m. concluding with Mass at 5 p.m. in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius; for information call (570)275-3581, ext.302.

THURS. JULY 16

■ 92nd annual Pittsburgh Slovak Day observance at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa. beginning with children's games and treats at 12:30 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m. followed by cultural program, music for dancing begins a 6 p.m.

SUN. JULY 19

■ 77th annual Slovak Day observance hosted by the Canadian Slovak League in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, beginning with Mass at 11 a.m., Slovak culinary specialties, cultural program and music for dancing and listening pleasure.

■ 42nd annual Slovak Day celebration of the Diocese of Gary at the Salvatorian Shrine, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville, Ind. beginning with Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by luncheon and cultural program, for information call Betty Yurechko (219)795-1518.

SUN. JULY 26

■ 85th annual Slovak American Day hosted by the Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee, at Croatian Park, 9140 South 76th St., Franklin, Wis. beginning with Mass celebrated at 12 noon, cultural program featuring Group 4 Sokol drillers begins at 2:30 p.m., Slovak culinary specialties, games for children, free admission, for information call Betty Valent (414)4251-6137.

Sokol Calendar

SAT. JUNE 6

■ Annual picnic hosted by the Slovak American Society of Washington at Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, Va. from 12 noon to 5 p.m., food and beverages, \$20.00 for individuals, \$25.00 for couples; www.dcslovak.org.

SUN. JUNE 7

■ Assembly 163 semi-annual meeting at Dorothy's Place, Donora, Pa. beginning at 1 p.m., discussion of upcoming 32nd national convention

will be on the meeting agenda.

SAT. JUNE 13

■ Quarterly meeting of the S.C.S. Board of Directors via conference call beginning at 10 a.m.

■ Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland benefit all you can eat supper at Scoreboards Sports Bar & Grill, 10333 Northfield Rd., Northfield, Oh., 7 - 9 p.m., \$20.00 per person, for reservations call Milan (216)235-7466 or Tom (440)655-8244.

SUN. JUNE 14

■ Assembly 162 meeting at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 235 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J. beginning at 12:30 p.m.

■ Annual Slovak picnic hosted by the St. Joseph's Society at Monsignor Michael Komar Hall, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Tremley Point section of Linden, N.J. from 1-7 p.m., traditional Slovak specialties along with American picnic favorites; entertainment; tickets \$20.00 for adults, children 6-12 years of age \$10.00, to age 5, free of charge, open bar; for reservations and additional information call Peter (908)494-

4533, Pavol (908)327-5877, Martin (908)313-3659.

SAT. JUNE 20

■ Annual Simply Slavic Festival in downtown Youngstown, Oh. beginning at 12 noon, for information call Loretta Ekoniak (330)549-3760.

SUN. JUNE 28

■ Meeting of the Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands in the social hall of Christ the Savior Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Cathedral, 300 Garfield St., Johnstown, Pa. beginning at 2 p.m., new members are welcome.

■ Annual Slovak Day Picnic hosted by the Cleveland Slovak Radio

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS JUNE 17TH

In keeping with our bi-weekly publishing schedule, the next issue of the *Slovak Catholic Falcon* will be that of Wednesday, June 17th. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Thursday, June 11th. View *e-Falcon* on our website: www.slovakcatholicssokol.org. Thanking you for your continued cooperation in this matter, I remain Zdar Boh!

Daniel F. Tanzone
Editor



REFLECTOR ...

Jotings from Sokol and Slovak life

Michael J. Krajsa honored for excellence in teaching

Well-known American Slovak activist and educator, Michael J. Krajsa of Coopersburg Pa. was recently honored with the Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching. Michael is an instructor in marketing and management at Penn State Lehigh Valley. He was presented with the 2015



George W. Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching on April 15, during a luncheon at University Park, Pa. He was one of six Penn State faculty members to receive this award. The award is named after Penn State's seventh president, and honors excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level.

"Michael is a remarkable person, exceptional teacher, outstanding colleague and impressive proponent of all the best in Penn State's undergraduate mission," said Kenneth Thigpen, director of academic affairs at Penn State Lehigh Valley. Thigpen went on to say "He works extremely hard and yet is easily available to students as teacher, mentor, and adviser. He is a successful advocate for all the modern literacies that we value at Penn State.

Krajsa is currently in his 13th year of teaching and his seventh year at Penn State Lehigh Valley. He also is a partner in HALCYON Strategic Marketing Consulting. Most recently before joining Penn State Lehigh Valley, Michael was Founding Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the Kutztown University Innovation Center. He brought this rich experience to Penn State, where he has continued to foster an entrepreneurial environment for the students. His passion for community development was indicated early on in his career, back in 1980, when he ran for a U.S. Congressional set. He also had a distinguished career as a business professional and publisher of a regional magazine and a national cultural magazine. Michael received his M.A. in planning, public administration, and business from Penn State University. He was awarded his undergraduate degree in biology from The Catholic University of America.

Colleagues say Krajsa is a "passionate" educator who motivates his students to engage life and become global citizens. He credits his educational accomplishments as the result of a team of administrators, faculty, staff and business colleagues working to provide an environment where "innovative and experiential programs" can develop and grow. Michael replaces the traditional "three Rs of education" with rigor, relevance, and relationships.

In 2005, The Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) awarded Krajsa the Teaching Excellence Award for Region 2. Out of seven regional awardees, ACBSP then selected him as The 2005 International Winner for Teaching Excellence, Innovation, Creativity, and Community Involvement.

Michael has been active in the work of the First Catholic Slovak Union all his life. His late paternal grandfather served as a national officer and his father, the late Joseph C. Krajsa served for more than a quarter century as the editor of Jednota, the official publication of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Middletown, Pa. He is a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and over the years, he has promoted the work of both the Slovak League of America and the Slovak Catholic Federation. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Mike on this well-deserved honor. He has always been a mover and shaker in the community and is a credit to our Slovak heritage.

Our thanks to Teresa Ivanec, editor of Jednota, for sharing this story with our readers.

A celebration of Slavic culture and heritage set for Johnstown, Pa.

All is in readiness for this year's Slavic Festival scheduled for the Heritage Discovery Center in Johnstown, Pa. on Saturday, September 19. The center is located at 6th Ave. and Broad St. in the historic Cambria City section of the city, home to a family of Slavic groups who first settled in the city more than 125 years ago just after the Johnstown Flood of 1889. Beginning in the early 1880s until the 1920s, thousands of Slovak, Polish, Croatian, Carpatho-Rusyn, Slovenian and Ukrainian immigrants settled here and found abundant employment in the area's thriving mills and mines. These groups created a rich network of churches, social clubs and fraternal societies in support of their way of life and culture. 1920 census indicates that 25 percent of the population of the city were of Slavic ancestry. The city weathered tough economic times in the 1970s and 1980s with many forced to leave the community. Today, many young people want to learn more about their ethnic heritage and the culture and history of their Slavic ancestors.

The goal of the Johnstown Slavic Festival Committee is to create a new program that educates residents of the Johnstown region about their heritage. The plan is to present authentic music, dance, folk art and culinary traditions of the various Slavic groups. Children's learning areas, educational speakers, exhibits, hands on workshops and ethnic vendors will be featured at the festival. A full day of entertainment and education will be on display at the festival which begins at 12 noon and continues until midnight in the Heritage Discovery Center parking lots. Admission to the festival is free of charge with ample parking available.

Johnstown has enjoyed an organized Slovak presence since the late 1880s when local mutual benefit societies were organized. In 1891, the Slovak parish of St. Stephen, then a part of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was established to serve the Slovak community. It was the first Slovak parish established in western Pennsylvania. The founding of St. Stephen's Parish pre-dates the establishment of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. It was truly the pioneer among the Catholic parishes of Slavonic origin in the diocese. At one time, it was the largest Slovak parish in America with a parochial school enrolled more than 750 students. From 1894 until his death in 1948, Father Martvon, known as "Iron John" served the Slovak community. He was active in the Slovak community nationwide as well. In 1890, he was among the founders of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Cleveland. He also helped to organize the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in 1892 as well.

St. Stephen's produced many vocations to the priesthood and religious life in its early years. Among the priestly vocations were the founder and first Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Benedictine Abbey in Cleveland. Rev. Gregory (John) Vaniscak was the founder of the Cleveland Slovak abbey and the Rev. Stanislaus (Francis) Gmuca was elected as the first Slovak Abbot in the United States in 1934. Two other parishes were established to serve Johnstown's Slovak community, SS. Peter and Paul in the Woodvale section of the city in 1918 and St. Francis of Assisi in 1922. SS. Peter and Paul Parish was closed in 2005 and St. Stephen's serves as the site of the Parish of the Resurrection which was formed through the merger of five parishes in the Cambria city section of the city. St. Francis of Assisi remains an active parish.

Some of the oldest lodges of our Slovak fraternals have their beginnings in Johnstown. Over the years, various Slovak cultural and social institutions were established. One of the most important of these was the First Catholic Slovak Band Hall which has enjoyed a prominent role in the life of the Johnstown Slovak community. Local lodges of the Slovak Cath-

(Continued on page 7)



The Word of God ...

Gospel for the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ - June 7th

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Mark

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, eat the Passover with my disciples?'" Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the City, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a Cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the Covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen. I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel for the 11th Sunday of the Year - June 14st

Mark 4:26-34

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Mark

Jesus said to the crowds: "This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow; he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Preparing for the 47th Slet

Individual Drills

by Denise DiMartino

Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board

Our 47th International Slet, scheduled for Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pa. is just about six weeks away. We hope that our young people who plan to compete are practicing for the big competition. One of the competitions that happens during the Slet is Individual Drills. I offer some tips below to keep in mind which you are practicing in order to do your best.



Individual drill differs from team drill because during individual drill, each girl can add her own "flare" to the drill. Remember for team drill, you are trying to look uniformed - Individual Drill is your time to stand out. You shouldn't be changing the drill, but feel free to accentuate moves more than they would for team drill. Remember the following:

* Always look presentable for the judges during team drill. You should wear a plain t-shirt and shorts, no jewelry and you should pull your hair back out of your face. The judges will deduct if you look "unkempt."

* You need to know the drill inside and out. You will not be able to watch the girl next to you.

* Practice in front of a mirror, so you can watch yourself and correct any mistakes. Have your friends or family pretend to be judges and practice drilling in front of them. This might make you less nervous, when you do compete.

* Most importantly, "SMILE". You want to show the judges how much you enjoy doing the drills. Facial expressions can add that little extra to a performance.

The members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board look forward to seeing all our enthusiastic competitors at the Slet. See you soon, so keep up the good work and practice, practice, practice! Zdar Boh!

Convention Choir Forming

This is a call to all delegates who will be attending the 32nd National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, August 1-5, 2015 at The Doubletree by Hilton Pittsburgh Green Tree. We know that where there are Slovaks, there is singing. We are hoping to put together a choir for the Official "Opening Mass" of the Convention. The music will be congregational in nature, a mix of English and Slovak Hymns, most of which have been sung at previous Convention Masses. The choir will assemble in the choir loft of St. Paul's Cathedral, and it would help if we had an idea as to how many we could expect. Therefore please before July 18th email our Supreme Chaplain, Father Hvozdovic at ahvoz87@gmail.com if you wish to be a part of this choir.

Lodge Jottings

BRIDGEPORT, CONN. Assembly 9

On Tuesday, June 30, we will host our traditional patronal feast day observance honoring SS. Peter and Paul. Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Stratford for our living and deceased members. Following the liturgy we are hoping to go to breakfast. In order to make the necessary arrangement, those interested in joining us for the breakfast, please call Tom Marticek at tel. (203)375-0762. An enjoyable time is assured.

Our lodge had its beginnings when a group of young Slovak immigrants organized a social society in September 1904. In September 1906, this group of 28 Slovak immigrant men was accepted as Assembly 9 of the recently established Slovak Catholic Sokol. Our founders chose SS. Peter and Paul as patrons of the Assembly. And the rest is history. We have enjoyed an active role in promoting the high ideals of Sokol fraternalism and have supported many outreach projects within the Slovak community.

Looking forward to seeing a good turnout at our annual meeting as well as our patronal feast day observance, may I remain

Zdar Boh!

Henry J. Zack

Financial Secretary

CLIFTON, NJ Assembly 162

Our next monthly meeting of our Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, June 14 in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall beginning at 12:30 p.m. All members are invited to join us.

We have a busy fraternal and sporting season ahead for our Assembly. On our meeting agenda will be a recap of the 69th International Bowling Tournament held in Wickliffe, Oh. where a number of our members participated. Our youngsters will compete at the 47th International Slet scheduled for Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pa., July 14-18. Several of our members also expect to participate in our organizations' 60th International Golf Tournament scheduled for August 14-16 in Barnesville, Pa. The most important gathering of the summer will be our organization's 32nd quadrennial convention in Pittsburgh. Input from our lodge will insure the continued success of our organization.

At the conclusion of the meeting we will have our traditional raffle drawing. So we look forward to seeing a good turnout at our meeting, celebrating Sokol fellowship and fraternalism.

Zdar Boh!

John D. Pogorelec, Jr.

President

David Bulwin

Recording Secretary

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain

St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church

by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic

The Holy Patriarch Saint Joseph was appointed by God to be the guardian and protector of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He is also a model for us of fatherhood and faithfulness.



His obedience of faith was manifested, as the Gospel tells us, after an angel of God revealed to him that it was through the Holy Spirit that the child had been conceived in Mary. When Joseph awoke, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home" without hesitation or objection. (Matthew 1:20) When Herod sought to kill the infant Jesus, Saint Joseph obediently took him and the Blessed Mother to safety. (Matthew 2:13-14) As Pope Saint John Paul II pointed out in Redemptoris

Custos, "already at the beginning of redemption, after Mary, we find the model of obedience made incarnate in Saint Joseph, the man known for having faithfully carried out God's commands."

As head of the Holy Family, he is the model for every Catholic home. Pope Francis, early in his pontificate, emphasized the saint's importance, inserting a petition in each Eucharistic prayer to the man who became a spiritual father to Jesus. In an unofficial — but very real — way, Joseph is the patron saint of the family as domestic church, just as he is of the Universal Church.

The "domestic church" refers to the spiritual life of the Christian family who incorporates prayers, traditions, and religious instruction as the center of the Catholic hearth and home. The domestic church, as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI describes in a 2012 letter, is "a place of formation in faith and prayer, a seedbed of vocations, the natural school of virtues and ethical values, and the primary living cell of society."

Appointed by God to protect Jesus and Mary, so now Saint Joseph is the protector of the Universal Church, considered the family of God in this world. We are the members of the family of God because we have God the Father as our adoptive father through the filiation we receive at baptism. The foster-father of the Son of God is also a father to us through baptism. Joseph's paternal protection of the Lord Jesus continues even from Heaven, as he watches over Christ's Mystical Body on earth. He is the icon on earth of a loving and caring father, modeled after God our Father. Saint James reminds us "Every best gift, and every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no change, nor shadow of alteration" (James 1:17).

For this reason, Saint Joseph has long been honored as the Patron Saint of the Universal Church. On December 8, 1870, when Blessed Pope Pius IX declared Joseph Patron of the Universal Church, he also raised his feast day of March 19 to the highest liturgical rank in the universal calendar of the Church. This occurred at a difficult time for the Church when he wrote: "Because of this sublime dignity which God conferred on his most faithful servant, the Church has always most highly honored and praised blessed Joseph next to his spouse, the Virgin Mother of God, and has besought his intercession in times of trouble."

85th Annual Milwaukee American Slovak Day set for Sunday, July 26

Continuing a cultural span of 85 years, the Milwaukee area Slovak community gathers once again to celebrate its heritage and culture on Sunday, July 26. The Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee will host its 85th annual American Slovak Day at the Croatian Park, located at 9140 South 76th Street in Franklin, Wis. This year's celebration of Slovak pride begins with an outdoor Mass celebrated at 12 noon. Celebrant of the liturgy will be the Rev. John J. Jamnicky, pastor of St. Raphael the Archangel Church in Old Mill Creek, Ill. This parish borders Wisconsin and is the most northerly parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Father Jamnicky is well-known and active in the area's Slovak community.

The cultural program begins at 2:30 p.m. which will feature a celebration of Slovak music and dance traditions at its best. Our Group 4 Sokol drillers from Wreath 93 will

perform drills from our 47th International Slet. Our drillers are under the direction of Lisa Hoecck and Bill Gemoll, Group 4 Physical Director and Physical Director, respectively. Attired in their colorful costumes, a spirited display of Slovak music and dance will be presented by the ever-popular Tatra Slovak Dancers. This traditional folk ensemble will present dance routines from the various regions of Slovakia. The Tatra Slovak Dancers are under the direction of Andy Tiarks and Patty Bier-Jankowski, youth directors.

Throughout the afternoon, traditional Slovak culinary specialties along with traditional American picnic favorites will be available. Homemade Slovak pastries as well as imported Slovak beer will also be featured. Hmade imported Slovak and Czech ornaments, jewelry, crafts and artifacts will be available for sale. Complimentary

(Continued on page 6)

Za Boha a Národ For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

SLOVENSKÝ KATOLICKÝ SOKOL

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Places to stay near Slippery Rock University, site of our 47th International Slet

All is in readiness for this summer's exciting 47th International Slet. This year's competition will be held July 14-18 at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pa. Our Slet is a wonderful opportunity for many family and friends of our Slet competitors to join them. Many out-of-town Sokol members will join our athletes at this summer's competition. Many of our Sokol families make the Slet week a part of their traditional summer vacation.

I have listed a number of hotels which are nearby Slippery Rock University along with their rates and amenities. Each hotel listed below includes an indoor pool and complimentary breakfast. All of the pools were approximately the same size. When I visited each hotel a few years ago, they all appeared very clean and the staff was friendly and courteous. In my opinion, I believe that the Best Western offers the best deal, since it is significantly cheaper than the other hotels and offers the same amenities.

I suggest that you make early reservations. Call the hotel you are interested in and ask them to set aside a block of rooms for your group. If you are a AAA member, you may be able to get a better rate. Some of the hotels will provide a discount if you mention that you are going to Slippery Rock University for a competition.

Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott (This hotel is closest to the university, but it is the most expensive),

1000 University Parkway
Slippery Rock, Pa. 16057
tel. 724-406-0535

Amenities include: heated indoor

pool, fitness center, complimentary breakfast.

There is a block of 10 rooms being held until April 29th. The group rate is \$139.00 plus tax. Please reference the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

All hotels listed below are about 12 minutes traveling distance from the campus. They are near Grove City Outlets and Volant Amish Country. There is also a Hampton Inn, but it is completely booked.

Best Western

1924 Leesburg Road
Grove City, Pa. 16127
tel. 724-748-5836

Amenities include: heated indoor pool, fitness center and complimentary breakfast.

Holiday Inn Express Suites

21 Holiday Boulevard
Grove City, Pa. 16237
tel. 724-748-5514

Amenities include: heated indoor pool and hot tub, fitness center and complimentary breakfast.

Comfort Inn

118 Garrett Drive
Grove City, Pa. 16227
tel. 724-748-1005

Amenities include: heated indoor pool, fitness center and complimentary breakfast.

There is a block of 25 rooms being held until April 29th. The group rate is \$100.00 plus tax. Please reference the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Make your plans now and be assured of a memorable Slet experience with your children and friends. See you in Slippery Rock, PA. in July.

Zdar Boh!
Kathleen S. Watkins
Supreme Physical Directress

Softball Tournament Canceled

Due to a lack of teams registering, this year's 28th annual International Softball Tournament, scheduled for the weekend of June 26-28 in Canton, Ohio has been cancelled. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Edward D. Moeller
*Supreme Director
of Sports & Athletics*

U.S. Bishops announce schedule for fourth annual Fortnight for Freedom

Threats to religious freedom continue to emerge, making it more urgent for people of faith to take action to defend the full realm of religious practice, said Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore. Speaking during a May 28 webinar announcing the fourth annual Fortnight for Freedom, Archbishop Lori called on Catholics to learn about the importance of religious liberty throughout the history of the United States and to actively promote free religious practice during the two-week period beginning June 21. This year's fortnight observance will open with Mass at 10:45 a.m. (EDT) June 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore. It closes with Mass at noon (EDT), July 4 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. "Religious freedom is not something that stands alone. It's not simply a legal question for the Church. It pertains very much to the new evangelization," Archbishop Lori explained. This year's fortnight observance theme is the "Freedom to Bear Witness" stemming from the Gospel message that Jesus came to the world to bear witness to the truth, explained Hillary Bymes, assistant general counsel for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, who joined the archbishop during the webinar. She said dozens of local events in dioceses across the country are planned, including prayer services, discussions and charitable works. -CNS

Did You Know....

With the exception of a resolution under Public Law establishing rules of conduct and honor for the flag, Congress has not passed any significant legislation governing the U.S. flag since 1818.

By Executive Order, in 1912, President Taft fixed the proportions of the flag, and the position and size of the 48 stars. Other Executive Orders have been issued since 1912, but not until the administration of Eisenhower, when Alaska and then Hawaii were admitted as states, has the design been altered by Executive Order or Act of Congress.

Honor the flag by letting it wave this Flag Day, June 14.



Gymnastics Competition set for our 47th International Slet

The Members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board are busy getting prepared for our upcoming 47th International Slet, scheduled for July 14-18 at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pa. This year the gymnastics competition at the Slet will be held on Wednesday, July 15 at Steve Heasley's Butler Gymnastics Club, located only 20 minutes from the Slippery Rock campus. Because of several new and exciting schedule changes that are still being worked out, the gymnastics portion of this year's International Slet is tentatively scheduled to have a 7 p.m. start on July 15th. The address of Steve Heasley's Butler Gymnastics is: Steve Heasley's Butler Gymnastics, 560 Evans City Road in Butler, Pa. 16001. The owner, Steve Heasley and his daughter, Michelle, did an amazing job with our gymnastics competition at our 46th International Slet held in 2011 and they are very excited to be hosting our gymnastics competition again at our 47th Slet.

A reminder to our competitors, please make sure you have received the new changes to the rules and regulations. The qualifiers are mostly the same but there are a

few new first timers. I ask that our competitors have ordered our new uniform leotards for female competition. The new leotard will be a tank style leotard.

Anyone who needs a copy of the rules and regulations, qualifiers or information on our new leotards, kindly contact me as soon as possible. My email is Katie70@aol.com.

I hope that all of our young people are working hard preparing themselves for Slet competition as at the same time having fun as we enjoy our wonderful spring season. Our International Slet is always an exciting and enjoyable event in the life of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The event is always amazing and even though it takes a lot of preparation and hard work, at the end of the day, the Slet participants love it and everyone cherishes their memories of a unique and wonderful week. I look forward to meeting and greeting all our 47th Slet competitors, both veterans as well as first-timers. Meeting new people is always enjoyable. See you in just a few weeks.

Zdar Boh!
Katie Swift
*Supreme Assistant
Physical Directress*

85th Annual Milwaukee American Slovak Day set for Sunday, July 26

(Continued from page 5)

golf cart transportation is available at the park for the "Young at Heart." There is free admission to the park with plenty of parking available. Raffle tickets will also be featured. For additional information on this year's America Slovak Day call our Milwaukee Wreath 93 Sokolka, Betty Valent at tel. (414)425-

6137 or Ralph at (262)893-2972. Our Sokol Wreath 93 has been a member of the Federated Slovak Societies for many years and has supported their various cultural and civic activities. We hope that many of our Group 4 Sokols and Sokolky will turn out for this year's celebration of Slovak pride in the greater Milwaukee area and Chicago.

Slovak Catholic Sokol Sports Program

Join us for fraternalism, friendly competition, and unique Sokol experiences in these exciting opportunities.

**International Slet: July 14-18, 2015,
Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA**

The highlight of the year for our youth members!!! After months of practicing drills, marching, track, gymnastics, volleyball skills... this is the culminating event to showcase their hard work. New this year: Soccer and Basketball Shoot Out competition. It's a week of fraternalism, competition, and all out Sokol Spirit. Youth 8 years and older are encouraged to participate. The children stay in a college dorm supervised 24/7 and meet many new friends. If you have a youth interested, please contact your local Sokol branch.

**International Golf Tournament, August 14-16, 2015,
Mountain Valley, Barnesville, PA**

This weekend can't be beat. Filled with 2 full 18-hole golf games, a banquet, award ceremony, and prizes, a weekend of fraternalism for golf enthusiasts is sure to be rewarding. Reservations are due July 8, 2015.

Walking Program

This is an ongoing program that compiles all the miles you walk (and new this year, bike) and awards your physical fitness with prizes. It's for all ages!!!! The only thing you have to do is walk or bike, fill in the sheet (or email it) with your recorded miles, and be proud of yourself for having a sound mind in a sound body. Contact Katie Swift, Supreme Assistant Physical Directress to sign up.

Contact your local officers or www.slovakcatholicssokol.org for more information and registration forms.

As per our Organization's Bylaws

Donation Requests for Consideration at the 32nd National Convention

In order to insure that our members and delegates to our upcoming 32nd National Convention, scheduled for August 1 - August 5, 2015 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, understand the procedure for donation requests at the Convention, I refer to page 15, Section 2.2(c) of our Bylaws. This section states: "The Petitions and Donations Committee shall consist of the Supreme Chaplain, Supreme President, and Supreme Secretary. Donations shall be limited to a maximum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to any one church, religious organization, social or cultural association, with a total donation limit of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00).

Petitions and requests for donations must be submitted in writing and mailed to my attention at the Home Office, 205 Madison St., P.O. Box 899, Passaic, NJ 07055 no later than one (1) month prior to the Convention. No Faxed copies or E-mails will be accepted. This year's deadline for submitting all petitions and donation requests is Monday, June 29, 2015. No petition or donation request will be accepted from the Convention floor. The Committee shall submit a written report to the Convention.

I hope that all members and delegates fully understand our Bylaws related to petitions and donations. Our Bylaws clearly state our official policy and therefore serve as our guide in all our Convention deliberations and decisions. I bring this important issue to your attention so that we all have sufficient time to submit any petition or donation request to be considered by the Committee and delegates of the 32nd National Convention. I appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this important matter.

Zdar Boh!
Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary

VANTAGE 1 ANNUITY – ENHANCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

For a number of years the investment climate has had its ups and downs. Everyone is waiting and expecting the interest earning rates to increase, it just has not happened. Without a crystal ball or being able to predict the future no one is sure when these changes will occur. Our current short-termed annuity plans the Vantage 1, Vantage 2 and Vantage 3 are designed for this purpose. These plans are for the individual looking for a solid short-term investment alternative that affords them the flexibility to make financial decisions without a long term commitment and crediting an excellent interest rate.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol is making a change to further enhance the Vantage 1 Annuity, it is designed and tailored primarily for the individual that is not quite sure what investment vehicle is right during these low interest rate times, is undecided what length of time they want to invest, waiting for the stock market to take-off, or looking for a good short-term investment alternative with numerous options and flexibilities.

With this in mind, the enhanced version of the Vantage 1 Annuity now includes a "30-Day Window", which starts on the anniversary date of the annuity certificate. During this period the annuitant/owner can exercise a number of options that meets their investment needs. Annually prior to the certificate anniversary date, a notice is sent to the annuitant/owner that presents each of the available options, which consists of the following: 1) continue as a Vantage 1 earning the guaranteed credited interest rate declared at that time for the upcoming year; 2) withdrawing a portion of the certificate amount and continuing

the certificate earning the guaranteed credited interest rate declared at that time for the upcoming year; or 3) transfer all or specified portion of the total deposit to a new annuity contract with the Slovak Catholic Sokol or another financial institution.

Not only will you find the Vantage 1 Annuity Plan competitive, but also it outperforms the current short-term market offerings and is tax deferred. The Vantage 1 is currently earning a yield of 1.25% APY.

Vantage 1 Features:

The Vantage 1 Annuity is tax-deferred annuity, with a minimum guaranteed interest rate of 1%. What makes this annuity special is a unique feature, the "30 Day Window", that allows the certificate holder to notify the Slovak Catholic Sokol of their intentions to withdraw their deposit and interest earned, penalty free, at the end of each certificate anniversary date. This option is available for the life of the annuity certificate. Any withdrawal made outside the timeframe of the "30-Day Window" and exceeds the annual 10% annual withdrawal will result in a penalty charge as follows:

During	1st year –	6%
	2nd year –	5%
	3rd year –	4%
	4th year –	3%
	5th year –	2%

As with our entire Vantage Collection of Annuity Plans the Slovak Catholic Sokol allows a 10% penalty free withdrawal, annually after the first year. However, the 10% free withdrawal may be subject to IRS penalty.

Vantage Annuity Plans Features

Tax-Deferred Earnings

Earnings grow tax-free until a

withdrawal occurs. Due to the power of compound tax-deferred growth, your retirement savings will accumulate quicker compared to a fully taxable account.

Cost

With all of our Annuity plans your investment can grow rapidly since there are no initial service, contract, transaction or premium fees. Every dollar you pay in premiums goes directly into your annuity's cash value and earns interest immediately.

Safety

Your annuity deposits are protected by the total resources of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Information regarding the solvency can be readily verified by our financial statements filed with the New Jersey Insurance Department. These financial statements are accompanied by the required Actuarial Certification and Opinion of an independent Certified Public Accountant.

Early Withdrawal

Each of the Vantage Collection of Annuity Products has a 10% penalty free withdrawal feature after the first anniversary year.

Guaranteed Income Option

Each of the Vantage Plans has an option that allows the Annuitant at any time to settle/annuitize the contract. When the annuity contract is settled/annuitized a guaranteed payment is established pays a specified periodic distribution or for a lifetime of income.

The settlement options available are: • Life Only, • Specified Period, • Life and Period Certain and • Payments for Life for both situations on a single individual or as a joint and survivor.

From the Supreme Physical Fitness Board

Fraternal Caring and Sharing

The upcoming 47th International Slet to be held July 14-18, 2015 in Slippery Rock, Pa. is fast approaching. By this time, Group participants should be practicing and preparing for this exciting event. The Slet is not only an opportunity to display our talents,



but also, it is a time to share and expand our Slovak Catholic Sokol ideals and values. In the spirit of Sokol fraternalism, the Supreme Physical Fitness Board is asking each Group to make a monetary donation to the North Butler County Feed My Sheep Cupboard. The food cupboard, located in downtown Slippery Rock, employs a staff of two and serves about 180 low income individuals and families in need a month. Donations generated from individuals,

Wreaths and Assemblies are encouraged. Please make checks payable to North Butler County Feed My Sheep Cupboard and mail to Nancy Kropolinsky, 874 Bears Den Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44511 no later than June 30, 2015. The combined donation will be presented during the Opening Ceremonies of the Slet. Two years ago, \$1,162.00 was collected and donated to the food cupboard. I would like to challenge us all to increase this year's donation and I look forward to hearing from all 19 Groups. I am proud to represent the Slovak Catholic Sokol in this fraternal endeavor.

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

— Nelson Mandela

Zdar Boh!

Nancy Kropolinsky

Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member

A celebration of Slavic culture and heritage set for Johnstown, Pa.

(Continued from page 4)

olic Sokol have been active in the Johnstown area from our earliest years. In June 1910, Johnstown hosted our organization's 4th national convention, its largest to date. It was at this historic convention that the delegates voted to establish an official publication, *Katolicky Sokol* whose first issue was published on April 15, 1911. Our Slovak Catholic Falcon has been printed continuously over the past 104 years. On September 11, 1911, Group 9 under the patronage of SS. Cyril and Methodius was founded. For more than a century, Group 9 has been active in promoting the high ideals of Sokol fraternalism. The Group has hosted a number of international Sokol events, including our 24th Slet in 1969 as well as bowling and golf tournaments.

Johnstown is also the seat of the

Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of America, many of whose members' ancestors were natives of Slovakia. The diocese's Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer and its social hall has hosted many Slavic gatherings over the years. There are also Byzantine Catholic parishes in the city, whose members' ancestral roots can be traced to Slovakia. In recent years, an important organization the Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands, has been active in promoting the rich culture and heritage of Slovakia.

So for an enjoyable encounter with the rich culture, heritage, history and cuisine of the family of Slavic nations, mark your calendar and plan to participate in this year's exciting Johnstown Slavic Festival on Saturday, September 19.

Lucina Folklore Ensemble benefit in Northfield, Oh.

The Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland has enjoyed a wonderful reputation of celebrating the music, song and dance traditions of Slovakia for many years now. They have performed at numerous celebrations throughout the northeast as well as Canada and Slovakia. A special benefit supper in support of their activities will be held on Saturday, June 13 at Scoreboards Sports Bar & Grill, located at 10333 Northfield Road in Northfield, Oh. 44067 from 7 to 9 p.m. The menu will include All you can eat: BBQ Wings & Garlic Wings, Pasta with meat sauce, Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Veggie trays, chips & pretzels, Cheese & Crackers, beer, wine, soda and coffee.

There will also be raffle baskets and sideboards as well. An enjoyable evening is assured. Advance sale tickets are only \$20.00 per person. Reservations may be made with any of the following: Milan, (216)235-7466; Jennifer (440)439-4119; Tom (440)668-7797 or Christine at (440)655-8244.

The Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland is grateful for the support given their cultural efforts by Sokol members over the years. We hope that many area Sokols and Sokolky will turnout in support of this fine group at their benefit supper on June 13. The ensemble beautifully promotes our rich Slovak heritage and traditions.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL ANNUITY RATES

EFFECTIVE SINCE: JULY 1, 2012

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>MINIMUM GUARANTEE</u>
VANTAGE 1	1.25%	1.00%
VANTAGE 2	1.50%	1.00%
VANTAGE 3	2.25%	1.00%
VANTAGE 5	3.25%	2.00%
VANTAGE 7	3.50%	2.00%

SINGLE PREMIUM IMMEDIATE ANNUITY

SPIA

5 THROUGH 9 YEARS	2.75%
10 YEARS OR MORE	3.50%

NO LONGER OFFERED
EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 31, 2011

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>MINIMUM GUARANTEE</u>
FLEXIBLE	3.00%	3.00%
SINGLE PREMIUM	3.00%	3.00%



42nd Summer Festival set for July 11 at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, Pa.

The 42nd annual Summer Festival, sponsored by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, will be held on Saturday, July 11. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. on the grounds of their Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart on Railroad Street.

The festival will feature a large Flea Market, a silent auction, home-made Paska and other baked goods, handcrafted items, a book store, and Religious and Slovak articles. There will be a variety of ethnic foods such as Holubky and Halusky, as well as traditional American picnic favorites, including hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, ice cream and much more. There will be a variety of games for children and adults plus special attractions like ponies, a "Bounce House," raffles and bingo. An enjoyable afternoon is assured for every member of the family.

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

Bus parking is available. The Festival will take place rain or

shine, and will close with the celebration of Mass to satisfy the Sunday obligation at 5 p.m. in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius. For more information, please call Sister Barbara Sable at 570-275-3581, Ext.302.

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius were founded in the Scranton Diocese by Father Matthew Jankola who served as the second Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The community received official papal approbation in 1909. In 1919 the Sisters moved to the Harrisburg Diocese and established their Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart. In 1968 the Jankola Library and Slovak Archives was established as the largest depository of Slovakianna in the country. Over the years, the Sisters have taught many Sokols and Sokolky in parish schools in the northeast and midwest. The Sisters look forward to meeting and greeting them at this year's festival. For the past 106 years, the Cyrilites, as the Sisters are often known, continue to beautifully reflect their congregation's motto "Thy Kingdom Come" in their present works of education, evangelization, elder care and ecumenism. They deserve our continued prayers and support.



Preparing the many treats to be enjoyed at this summer's festival on July 11 in Danville, Pa. are, l-r, our Whiting, Ind., Wreath 81 Sokolka, Sister Bridgid Fasiang, Sister Joanne Marie Schutz, Sister Carol Ann Terlicher and Sister Denise Marie Fallat.



Busily preparing for this year's Summer Festival in Danville, are from the left Sister Kate Morris, Sister Madonna Figura, a volunteer and Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, a former general superior of the Sisters.

Scholarship available to study in Slovakia

For the tenth consecutive year, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) and the Stephanie Husek Scholarship Fund is offering a scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program (SAS) at Comenius University located in Slovakia's capital city of Bratislava. The course runs from August 2 to August 22, 2015. The WPSCA will award a grant of \$2,500 to cover transportation, tuition, room and board to the successful candidate. Applicants must meet the following requirements: must be a full time college student, must be of Slovak heritage, must not have previously attended the program, must apply to Comenius University for acceptance, and must be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the program.



The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and enhance their knowledge of Slovak as well as increase their knowledge of Slovak literature and culture. For information on this summer's grant, contact Joseph T. Senko at (412)531-2990 or (412)956-6000.

Fraternalist of the Year for NJ & NY members

The New Jersey - New York Fraternal Alliance, which represents fraternalists in both the Garden and Empire States will host its traditional Fraternalist of the Year program. Any member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol residing in either New Jersey or New York may be considered for this program. Consideration may be given any individual member who through example and accomplishment provides outstanding volunteer service in their local community. They are individuals who beautifully mirror traditional fraternal outreach in their parish, their local community center or other outreach venues in which they are active.

Any Sokol member of either New Jersey or New York may nominate an individual who in their estimation is worthy of recognition. A nomination form is available by contacting our Editor Daniel F. Tanzone at the home office. Deadline for the completed application is September 1, 2015. The individual selected as the 2015 Fraternalist of the Year will be honored during the annual meeting of the New Jersey - New York Fraternal Alliance scheduled for October 8-9 in Atlantic City, N.J. Members of the Fraternalist of the Year Award Committee include Frederick M. Durso, Theresa M. Kluchinski and Charlotte L. Androckitis.

The Story of Betsy Ross



Betsy Ross presenting the first American flag to General George Washington, by Edward Percy Moran.

Who designed the original "Stars and Stripes" Flag of the United States is a point never definitely confirmed. Was it Betsy Ross, expert Philadelphia needlewoman, or New Jersey's Congressman Francis Hopkinson, or some other colonial ancestor? The traditional story that Betsy Ross, or Elizabeth Griscom Ross Ashburn Claypoole, designed the original flag in 1776 has caught the popular fancy but no official record substantiates the story.

Some historians claim that in June, 1776, General George Washington, Robert Morris, and Betsy's uncle, George Ross, went to her Arch Street, Philadelphia upholstery shop. The men told her they were members of a congressional committee. They showed her a rough design of a stars and stripes flag. They asked her if she would make

the emblem. She said yes and recommended making the stars five-pointed instead of six. The change was approved. George Washington drew another design. Betsy Ross sewed the emblem and on June 14, 1777, Congress adopted it as the official United States flag.

That is the Betsy Ross story as it is related. However, some sources claim there is no official record of a congressional flag committee. The only documentary evidence naming Mrs. Ross is said to be a voucher, dated May 29, 1777, showing that she was paid 14 pounds and some shillings for flags she made for "the Pennsylvania navy."

Perhaps it is more befitting that the origin of the American Stars and Stripes remain indefinite - somewhere in the realm of colonial history.

Scenes of the Easter Egg Hunt & Party Hosted by Assembly 25 and Wreath 15

Slovak Catholic Sokol Pavilion + Perropolis, Pa. + Sunday, April 12



Celebrating Father Richard D. Baker's 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood

Saint Malachy's - The Actors' Chapel + New York City + Sunday, May 10

A very popular New York priest and chaplain of Group 1 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Father Richard D. Baker was honored on Sunday, May 10 at a celebration on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. A packed congregation turned out for the 11 a.m. Liturgy at the Church of Saint Malachy - The Actors' Chapel located in the heart of New York's Theatre District. Father Baker has been pastor of this unique parish for the past 12 years. He was honored at a reception following the liturgy in the parish social center.

A native of Suffern in New York's Rockland County, Father Baker was born there on June 1, 1963, son of the late Virgil D. Baker and the former Mary Blasko. He completed his studies for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Seminary - Dunwoodie in Yonkers, N.Y. He was ordained a priest on May 12, 1990 by Cardinal John O'Connor at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral. For the first five years of his priesthood, he served as Parochial Vicar at St. Philip Neri Parish in the Bronx. He then pursued graduate studies in music at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was awarded a M.A. in Sacred Music at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music. He returned to St. Joseph's Seminary where he served as a Professor of Liturgy and Liturgical Music, and was named Music Commissioner of the Archdiocese of New York. During his years at Dunwoodie, Father Baker served as a weekend associate at Most Holy Trinity Slovak Parish in Yonkers. In 2003, he was named pastor of St. Malachy's - The Actors' Chapel in Manhattan. He served as a member of the advisory board and chaplain at St.

Brigid's School of Art and Music in Manhattan's East Village and was a founder of the Cathedral of St. Patrick Young Singers. Over the years, Father Baker has provided invaluable and creative service to the liturgical life of the Church of New York. During his years at St. Malachy's he welcomed numerous artists and vocal groups from Slovakia who concertized at the historic church which is home to New York's theatre community.

Throughout his priesthood, Father Baker has been active in the Slovak community. In 2004, he led a pilgrimage to Slovakia, visiting his maternal grandparents' native village of Starina, located in north-east Slovakia near the Polish border. Upon entry in the village, some elderly residents, upon welcoming him inquired about the names of his ancestors. Father Baker noted that he was descended from the Palko and Blasko family. These "babky" recalled the family name and noted that the members of the Palko and Blasko family were Greek Catholic and worshiped in the village church. They noted that this family had left the village for America more than a century ago. This visit left an indelible mark on Father Baker's appreciation for his heritage. In addition to the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Father Baker is also active in the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Members of the Slovak community are ever grateful to Father Baker for his very fruitful priestly ministry among us in the best traditions of our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith. Our congratulations and prayerful best wishes go out to him on this milestone in his priesthood. Ad multos, gloriosque annos and Zdar Boh!



Our jubilarian, Father Richard D. Baker is shown with members of the Blasko family who were present at St. Malachy's for his jubilee Mass and reception. Editor Daniel F. Tanzone, far left, is also shown with family members including, l-r, Chris and Robert Baker, Father's brother; Teri Blasko and Jeff Durstewitz. In the foreground is "Molly", a feline resident at St. Malachy's.





KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

June, 2015

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



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

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

Non-Readers

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

Early Readers (sounding out most words)

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

Intermediate Readers

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

Advanced Readers (100+ pages each)

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

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

Julie Ann Dobbs- 5314 Agatha Turn, Racine, WI 53402. If you prefer to do it on-line...you can e-mail it to me at vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org

FLAG DAY
secret code

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

J BKNDRN YKKNRJYEON AG AON
PKYR GP AON CEJAND TAYANT
GP YUNLJOY YED AG AON INBCMKJO
PGL SGJOO JA TAYEDT GEN EYAJGE
CEDNL RGD JEDJXTJMKN SJAQ
KJMNLA F YED TCTAJON PGL YK

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

- Joshua Wood 6/2
- Benjamin Burton 6/4
- Alexander Roman 6/5
- Timothy Romagnoli 6/7
- Samuel Mathias 6/15
- Sarah Bioni 6/16
- John Yanosick 6/17
- Abram Wadle 6/18
- Phillip Yuhas 6/19
- Daniel Fesko 6/20
- Skylar Manyak 6/25
- Noah Romine 6/27
- Audrey Peretin 6/28
- Aiden Raechel 6/28



Slovak Words=Slovenské slová

By Dr. Michael Kopanic

Detský kútik [dyet-ski] [koo-teek] = Kid's corner

Slovenské slová [Slow-ven-skeh slow-vaah]

flag - vlajka [vly -kah]
banner - zástava [zaah-sta-va]

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

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

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

Happy Fathers' Day = Šťastný deň otcov [Shtyawst-]

What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...

Two young scientists succeed at Science Fair in Pittsburgh

Two young Slovak students, Martin Holicky and Daniel Zvara, have succeeded in the 2015 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), the largest international science competition of secondary school students, which was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., May 10-15.

The two students competed with approximately 1,700 finalists from all over the world.

Martin Holicky of Bratislava was awarded third place for developing a system of domestic diagnosis of chronic kidney disease in the category of built-in systems. Daniel Zvara from Zilina ended up third in the category of systemic applications and also won special fourth place awarded by the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE) for his project involving mapping and navigation in 3D space.

"The results fill us with utmost pride. Young talented scientists from Slovakia have been proving for a number of years now that they deserve a place in the history of the Intel ISEF competition of young researchers," said Pavel Svoboda of Intel, which has supported the fair since 1997.

According to Svoboda, the participation in this competition opens doors to prestigious universities for its finalists, it creates invaluable contacts with Nobel Prize laureates and gives the students an opportunity to consult their work with top scientists.

Svoboda at the same time pointed to last year's winner of first place in the competition from Slovakia - Michaela Brchnelova, who will soon begin studying at a prestigious university in the Netherlands. He added that an asteroid was named after the young student.

Analysts pleasantly surprised by industrial production in March

The figures posted by Slovak industry in March represented a pleasant surprise, as the industry resumed double-digit growth for the first time since December 2013, TASR learned on May 12.

The Slovak Statistics Office reported earlier in the day that the industrial production index rose by 104 percent in March on the year. The developments were spurred on especially by industrial production (a rise of 10.9 percent), mining and quarrying (8.4 percent), and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning (6.4 percent).

"What's positive is that the growth of industry in March took place in all sectors," said UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia analyst Lubomir Korsnak.

A month-on-month drop in production was only observed by the producers of consumer electronics, but even they saw an annual increase. "For the first time since the crisis broke out, we could see an annual growth in production in all sectors of industry," said Korsnak.

He added that figures from what has elapsed this year so far indicate that Slovak industry is recovering again following a weaker second half of 2014.

Stats Office: Slovak GDP rose 3.1 percent, year-on-year in first quarter

Slovakia's GDP went up 3.1 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of this year, according to a preliminary estimate released by the Statistics Office on May 13.

Based on the data, the country's GDP rose 2.9 percent year-on-year when seasonal effects were taken into consideration. In addition, the figure was up 0.8 percent when compared to the fourth quarter of 2014.

In absolute figures, GDP amounted to \$20 billion in the first quarter of 2015, which was a hike of 2.7 percent on an annual basis.

In addition, overall employment over the first three

months of the year reached 2.2 million individuals and compared with the same period last year it was up 1.8 percent, when seasonal effects were considered, the figure went up 1.7 percent year-on-year, and 0.2 percent quarter-on-quarter.

Volkswagen Slovakia launches production of new Audi Q7

Production was launched at a new Audi Q7 body shop at Volkswagen Slovakia's plant in Bratislava on May 15, with Prime Minister Robert Fico present at the ceremonial event, TASR learned on the same day.

"The investment that we're witnessing today is the largest one in the 24-year history of Volkswagen in Slovakia, and this is also a reason why Slovakia can enjoy exceptional economic results at the moment," said Fico. The investment totalled approximately \$630 million.

According to the chairman of the board at Volkswagen Slovakia, Albrecht Reimold, the new body shop serves for manufacturing bodywork of the Audi Q7 model with the assistance of nearly a thousand robots employing the most up-to-date technological standards. Meanwhile, more than 1,000 highly qualified workers are attending to the robots, making sure that they operate without a hitch.

Reimold added that the launch of the new body shop is a step forward for the plant. He went on to emphasize that thanks to the employment of the most up-to-date robot technology its production of light structures and highly-qualified staff Volkswagen Slovakia ranks among the top players in the automotive industry globally.

Since it was founded in 1991, Volkswagen Slovakia has manufactured over 4 million vehicles. The company is one of the biggest exporters, investors and employers in the private sector in Slovakia, providing work to some 9,900 employees. At its plant in Bratislava the carmaker produces the Toureg, Audi Q7, Volkswagen Up!, Skoda Citigo, and SEAT Mii models, as well as gearboxes and bodies for the Porsche Cayenne. At its plant in Martin (Zilina region) it focuses on the manufacture of components for chassis and gearboxes in Kosice it prepares its cars for export to Russia and in Stupava (Bratislava region) it produces devices used in car manufacture.

Parliament okays minimum pension

Pensioners in Slovakia will be entitled to receive a minimum guaranteed pension, according to an amendment to the Social Insurance Act that had been drafted by the Labor, Social Affairs and the Family Ministry and was greenlighted by parliament on May 13.

Based on the bill, all pensioners who have paid social insurance contributions for at least 30 years will qualify for a minimum pension that will amount to \$325.00 per month. The pension will be progressively higher with each additional year of payments into the social insurance system. Consequently, people who reach retirement age and have paid the respective contributions for at least 40 years will be entitled to a minimum pension of \$375.00 per month.

The new regulations will apply to regular and early pensions, as well as to disability pensions. The Labor Ministry has worked out that the measure should concern 75,392 pensioners next year. Ministry officials at the same time contend that pensioners will no longer need support in the form of subsistence benefits.

In addition, the minimum pension should be valorized just like the subsistence benefit - always as of January 1. If

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

a person has paid the contributions to the system for at least 30 years a coefficient according which his or her minimum pension should be calculated was set for 1.36 times the subsistence benefit.

Based on the number of people involved, the ministry calculated that about \$20 million will have to be paid out for the minimum pension in 2016, while it will be \$40 million in 2017. The amendment, which was first heared as the part of the 15 Measures introduced last year by Premier Robert Fico, will come into effect as of July 1.

(Continued on page 17)



Liptovsky Mikulas is a picturesque town in northwest Slovakia on the banks of the Vah River. It is located in the Liptov region within the Liptov Basin near the Low Tatras and Tatra mountains. It was formerly known as Liptovsky Svätý Mikulás (Liptovsky Saint Nicholas) before the advent of Communism in 1948. The town was part of old Hungary until 1918. First written mention of the town occurred in the royal deed of King Ladislaus IV in 1286. Its main church, dedicated to Saint Nicholas, is the oldest structure in the town dating from 1299. It was noted for its craftsmen and the guilds they formed. Its oldest guild dating to 1508 was that of the shoemakers. Other guilds included black smiths, tailors, furriers, hatters and butchers. The legendary Slovak "Robin Hood", Juraj Janosik was sentenced and executed here in 1713. In the 19th century Liptovsky Mikulas was a center of the Slovak national movement which sought to oppose the magyarization of Hungary. The leader of the Slovak national revival, Ľudovít Štúr, publicly revealed a document titled "The demands of the Slovak nation" in 1848 in Liptovsky Mikulas. Today the population of the town is about 35,000. The area is presently a popular tourist attraction in winter due to its location close to Slovakia's biggest ski resort, Jasna and in summer especially since 2004 when the new aquapark Tatralandia was opened.

47th International Slet Schedule

Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, Pa.

July 13 - July 18, 2015

(Tentative - Subject to Change)

MONDAY, JULY 13

TIME	EVENT	PLACE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
11:00AM - 1:00PM	Arrival of Supreme Physical Fitness Board	WATSON HALL	3:45PM - 4:45PM	Volleyball Championship Game	MORROW FIELD HOUSE
1:00PM - 6:00PM	Work Detail	PLACES VARY	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Dinner	BOOZEL DINING HALL
6:00PM	Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting	WATSON HALL	6:30PM - 10:30PM	Track and Field	UNIVERSITY STADIUM

TUESDAY, JULY 14

TIME	EVENT	PLACE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
8:00AM - 11:00AM	Registration	WATSON HALL	7:30AM - 8:15AM	Breakfast	BOOZEL DINING HALL
9:00AM - 10:00AM	Judges Meeting	WATSON HALL	8:30AM - 11:00AM	Track and Field Finals	UNIVERSITY STADIUM
10:00AM - 6:00PM	Individual Drill Competition	VINCENT SCIENCE CENTER (Rooms 205, 305, 308, & 310)	11:00AM - 11:30PM	Closing Ceremony Rehearsal	UNIVERSITY STADIUM
12:00PM - 1:00PM	Lunch	BOOZEL DINING HALL	12:00PM - 1:00PM	Lunch	BOOZEL DINING HALL
1:00PM - 2:00PM	Supreme Physical Fitness Board, Directors Directresses, Sports Directors and Chaperones Meeting	WATSON HALL	1:15PM - 3:15PM	Closing Ceremony Rehearsal	UNIVERSITY STADIUM
5:00PM - 6:00PM	Dinner	BOOZEL DINING HALL	4:15PM - 7:30PM	Closing Ceremony - March Mass Gymnastics Exhibition Drill Exhibition Awards Extinguishing the Torch	UNIVERSITY STADIUM (RISLEY HALL IF RAINING)
6:30PM - 8:00PM	Group Pictures Mass Grand March Opening Ceremonies and Mass Lighting of the Torch Announcement of individual drill finalists	UNIVERSITY STADIUM (FIELD HOUSE IF RAINING)	7:45PM - 11:30PM	Picnic Dinner / Dance	GRASS TEX (back of Field House)
8:45PM - 10:45PM	Volleyball (13 and over) Soccer and Basketball Contests (12 and under)	FIELD HOUSE GRASS TEX (back of Field House)			

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
7:30AM - 8:15AM	Breakfast	BOOZEL DINING HALL
8:30AM - 12:00PM	Track and Field	UNIVERSITY STADIUM
12:00PM - 1:00PM	Lunch	BOOZEL DINING HALL
1:15PM - 1:30PM	Junior Individual Drill Finalists Competition (This is only for the finalists)	MORROW FIELD HOUSE (DANCE STUDIO)
1:30PM - 4:30PM	Senior Drill Competition Junior Individual Drill Finalists perform Junior Individual Drill Winners Announced	MORROW FIELD HOUSE
5:00PM - 6:00PM	Dinner	BOOZEL DINING HALL
6:00PM	Bus leaves for gymnastics	FRONT OF DORM B
7:00PM - 9:30PM	Gymnastics	BUTLER GYMNASISTICS
7:00PM - 10:00PM	Games for non-gymnasts	TBA

THURSDAY, JULY 16

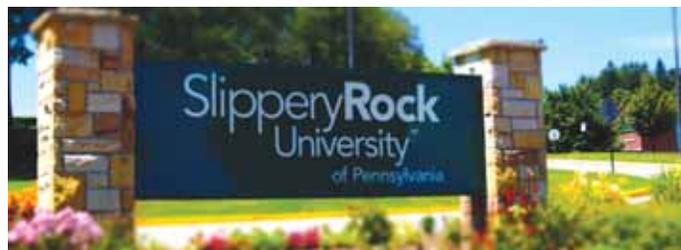
TIME	EVENT	PLACE
7:30AM - 8:00AM	Breakfast	BOOZEL DINING HALL
8:30AM - 11:45AM	Track and Field	UNIVERSITY STADIUM
12:00PM - 1:00PM	Lunch	BOOZEL DINING HALL
1:15PM - 1:30PM	Senior Individual Drill Finalist Competition (This is only for the finalists)	MORROW FIELD HOUSE (DANCE STUDIO)
1:30PM - 3:45PM	Junior Drill Team Competition Senior Individual Drill Finalist Perform Senior Individual Drill Winners Announced	MORROW FIELD HOUSE

FRIDAY, JULY 17

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
7:30AM - 8:15AM	Breakfast	BOOZEL DINING HALL
8:30AM - 11:00AM	Track and Field Finals	UNIVERSITY STADIUM
11:00AM - 11:30PM	Closing Ceremony Rehearsal	UNIVERSITY STADIUM
12:00PM - 1:00PM	Lunch	BOOZEL DINING HALL
1:15PM - 3:15PM	Closing Ceremony Rehearsal	UNIVERSITY STADIUM
4:15PM - 7:30PM	Closing Ceremony - March Mass Gymnastics Exhibition Drill Exhibition Awards Extinguishing the Torch	UNIVERSITY STADIUM (RISLEY HALL IF RAINING)
7:45PM - 11:30PM	Picnic Dinner / Dance	GRASS TEX (back of Field House)

SATURDAY, JULY 18

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
7:30AM - 8:30AM	Breakfast	BOOZEL DINING HALL
8:30AM	Departure	FRONT OF DORM B



GROUPS – ASSEMBLIES - WREATHS

Many of our assemblies, wreaths and groups today have their funds in checking accounts, money market accounts, bank certificate of deposit (cd) and/or savings accounts which are currently earning little or no interest. For the past several years and into the near future these financial vehicles have and will continue earn very low interest rates.

Within the last couple of years the Slovak Catholic Sokol (Sokol) created the SOKOL SECURE FUND as a benefit program that offers groups, assemblies, wreaths, churches or associations that are non-for-profit and affiliated with the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The SOKOL SECURE FUND that is combination of a CD, money market fund and saving fund. The major difference that separates our fund from what banks and other financial institutions offer is the flexibility to add funds at any time, withdrawal funds without penalty and earn an outstanding and hard to beat 2.5% APY. In the event that interest rate should rise the SOKOL

SECURE FUND can increase per the approval by the Board of Directors, whereas with a Bank CD the interest rate remains the same through the term of the CD contract period.

SOKOL SECURE FUND out performs Bank CD's

Bank CD interest rates obviously range differently between banking institutions and regions of the country. Recent rate numbers in the Pittsburgh region show that a 1-year CD earns .05%, a 2-year earns 1%. To earn an interest rate anywhere near 2% financial institutions will require you to tie your money up for at least 4 years. If an emergency occurs and the need to access these funds prior to the end of your CD term, be prepared to pay an early withdrawal fee. With a Sokol Secure Fund there is not a withdrawal fee. The only requirement is to maintain a balance of \$4,000. Following are two charts that compare the growing power of the SOKOL SECURE FUND as compared to a Bank CD and Money Market Account:

The SOKOL SECURE FUND

This benefit is titled SOKOL SECURE FUND, it is designed specifically for Not-For-Profit Corporations with an Internal Revenue Service designation of 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(8) and cannot be used as an individual account. Currently this benefit is only available to Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths, churches or associations that are non-for-profit and affiliated with the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

How to open a SOKOL SECURE FUND

All that is required is to complete an application (SS0911 Application for Sokol Secure Fund) and a minimum deposit of \$5,000.

Flexibility of Fund

Since this benefit is structured to be flexible, additional deposits can be made at any time providing the minimum deposit is at least \$100. The SOKOL SECURE FUND includes the following features: No Loading Fees, No Withdrawal Penalties, High Liquidity and a Competitive Interest Rate of 2.5% APY.

For administrative purposes, fund withdrawals are restricted to no more than four times a year, however, remember there are no penalties on any withdrawal of funds. The minimum amount for a withdrawal is \$250.00. Once the fund is established, a minimum balance of \$4,000 must be maintained

The interest rate is determined

Plan Features

- o No Loading Fees
- o No Withdrawal Penalties
- o High Liquidity
- o Competitive Interest Rate
- o Flexibility

Minimum Withdrawn - \$250.00

Premium Deposit Options - Flexible

Minimum Initial Deposit - \$5,000

Minimum Balance - \$4,000

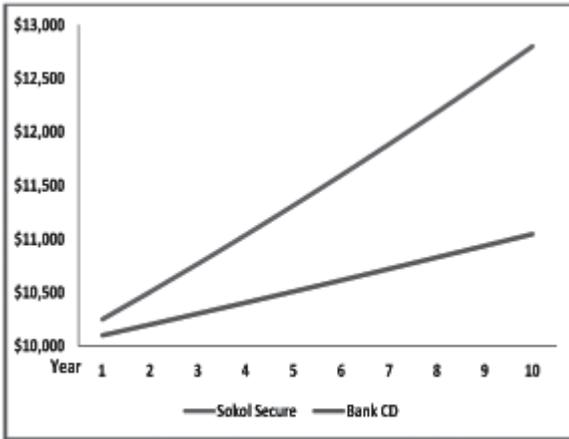
Guaranteed Minimum Interest Rate - 1% APY

Surrender Period & Charges - None

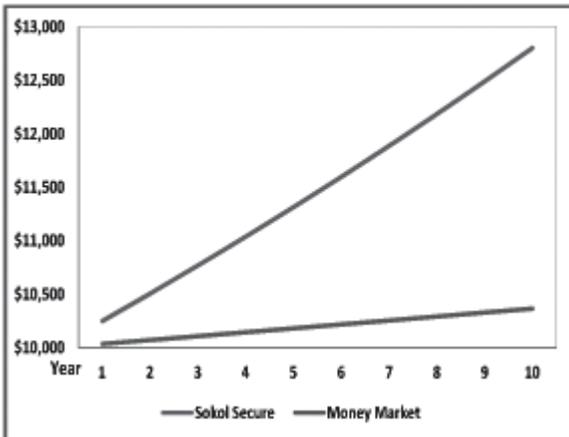
Underwriting - Slovak Catholic Sokol Group, Assembly, Wreath, churches or associates with an affiliation with the Slovak Catholic Sokol that are Internal Revenue Service designation of 501(c) (3) or 501(c).

For additional information or for SOKOL SECURE FUND Application and SOKOL SECURE FUND Withdrawal Form, please contact the Home Office at 800-886-7656 or the Sales and Marketing Office at 855-874-9179.

SOKOL SECURE FUND – Bank CD:



SOKOL SECURE FUND - Money Market Account:



An opportunity to recognize leadership among us

Our 2015 Fraternalist of the Year Program Salutes Volunteerism and Outreach

Service and outreach are two words which beautifully describe what a fraternalist is all about. For the past 110 years, our organization has championed the cause of fraternalism among our members. Serving the needs of our members as well as their local parishes and communities has been the hallmark of Slovak Catholic Sokol fraternalism over the years. Since 1985, our organization has recognized fraternal leadership among us by selecting an individual member who mirrors the high ideals of the fraternal benefit system. Fraternalism is unique and has served an important purpose in American life. The first fraternalism were organized just prior to the Civil War. These organizations were founded to serve their fellow members as well as the communities in which they were active. Over the decades, fraternal organizations have been an important component of the charitable outreach network in our country ever since. Fraternalism, as non-governmental organizations, provide invaluable service to others.

For the past 30 years, individual members of our organization have been chosen as our Fraternalist of the Year in recognition of all the good they accomplish on behalf of others. Over the years, those chosen for this award have reflected a variety of outreach efforts which have been a credit not only to them individually but to the Slovak Catho-

lic Sokol in general. Past honorees have come from all parts of the United States and Canada as well. Our organization would not enjoy our current success without the hard work and dedication of many members in our many Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths. There our such individuals out there who deserve to be recognized. Often they are the quiet, behind the scenes individuals who make things happen. These doers need to be recognized!

Each year then, we ask the membership to take the time to nominate an individual member who in their estimation serves as a wonderful role model and is deserving of being selected as our 2015 Fraternalist of the Year. At your next lodge or Group meeting, discussion of this program should be on the meeting agenda. Discuss individuals who deserve recognition.

This year's honoree will be presented with an appropriate plaque along with a gift of \$200.00 as a small token of our gratitude for his or her efforts in promoting volunteerism and outreach. In addition, the individual selected as our fraternalist of the year is then recommended for consideration to the American Fraternal Alliance for consideration in their 2015 Fraternalist of the Year program. The American Fraternal Alliance is the trade organization which represents more than nine million fraternalists in 70 member societies in the

United States and Canada, including our own. Three individuals are then selected from among individuals nominated from participating fraternal benefit societies for recognition. One winner and two runners-up will be honored at the 129th annual meeting of the American Fraternal Alliance scheduled for September 10-12 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Therefore, now is the time to think about who among us is deserving of recognition? Last year's nominee was our Honorary Supreme Officer Roger J. Manyak of East Douglas, Mass. who has been a model fraternal leader in our organization for most of his life. Brother Roger was certainly worthy of this recognition. There are other individual Sokol members who are movers and shakers among us who should be considered as our Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year for 2015. Any individual member, local Assembly, Wreath or Group may nominate an individual for consideration. A special nomination form is available from the home office. Contact Editor Daniel F. Tanzone, who coordinates the program, at the home office at 800 886-7656 for a copy. A recent photo of the nominee should also be included along with the completed nomination form. Deadline for receipt of the nomination form is Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

Visit Slovakia - "The Old Country"

Remember how your parents or grandparents often referred to their homeland or birthplace as "the old country." Well now is the time for you and your family to go to Slovakia and visit the ancestral homeland and villages of your family. There is so much beauty and history in Slovakia, now that it is a free and prosperous country in the very heart of Europe. Over the years, the Slovaks have struggled to seek their own self-determination, something denied them for so many centuries during the years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, when they were one of the subject peoples of the Hapsburgs. Well, now Slovakia is a modern state with all the conveniences and "creature comforts" which we Americans demand.

Make it a point to speak with your family and friends and plan to join Kay and Jim Bench as they host the 18th annual Youngstown, Ohio - Spisska Nova Ves, Slovakia Sister Cities Tour, scheduled for July 13-27, 2015. Jim and Kay are seasoned travelers with the expertise and experience to see that your once in a lifetime visit to Slovakia will be memorable and enjoyable.

You'll see the sparkling new capital of Slovakia, Bratislava located on the Danube River. The city has been restored in recent years and offers a wonderful opportunity to visit its majestic historic castle, long the symbol of Bratislava for centuries; its many palaces, the historic Cathedral of St. Martin as well as other churches; museums and centers of the arts. You will enjoy many colorful and entertaining folk groups who present the rich music and dance traditions of the various regions of Slovakia. You will visit Litmanova, where there have been documented

apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary appearing to three school children in the 1990s. Throughout your stay, you will enjoy traditional Slovak food, attend several kolibas (shepherd huts), enjoy shopping for the country's many arts and crafts and its world-famous crystal and pottery. You will go whitewater rafting on the Dunajec River, which forms the natural border between Poland and Slovakia, visit villages such as Cicmania where you will see decorated homes, visit historic Tichy Potok, stay in the beautiful spa in Sliac and enjoy the thermal waters, indoor and outdoor pools and other amenities. You'll have the opportunity to visit relatives and enjoy a luncheon reception with Youngstown's Sister City, Spisska Nova Ves in the heart of the Spis region. There are many other activities and cities too numerous to mention in this short article. English-speaking tour guides and air conditioned buses are employed throughout the tour.

Jim and Kay Bench are our Sokol members in Perryopolis, Pa. They have hosted many tours and look forward to welcoming a good number of Sokol members on their 2015 tour to Slovakia. For additional information and details feel free to contact Jim Bench, cell phone: 724-858-5843, e-mail jimbench@yahoo.com or Kay Bench, cell phone 724-771-7900.

Travel arrangements are made through Adventure International Travel Service of Lakewood, Oh. Contact Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171 or 800 542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174. E-mail Paul@advintravel.com. So mark your calendars and inquire about the details of this unforgettable visit to "The Old Country!"

IN MEMORIAM

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

APRIL 2015

Assembly/Wreath	Member	Age	Date of Death
Assembly 11	Steven Schlenker, Chicago, IL	95	February 3, 2015
Assembly 11	Mary Marcelle, Chicago, IL	89	March 28, 2015
Assembly 11	Andrew Bizub, Chicago, IL	89	March 10, 2015
Assembly 11	John S. Palenik, Chicago, IL	87	February 1, 2013
Assembly 16	Stephen J. Birek, Pittsburgh, PA	94	April 4, 2015
Assembly 23	John R. Dubeyel, Torrington, CT	88	March 25, 2015
Assembly 28	Stella Kinghorn, East Douglas, MA	91	February 6, 2015
Assembly 36	Sister M. Virginia Berak, Detroit, MI	92	April 14, 2015
Assembly 48	Alexander Scherneck, Philadelphia, PA	87	April 11, 2015
Assembly 59	Bernadine Hutz, Wilkes-Barre, PA	84	March 28, 2015
Assembly 71	Christopher Tomasura, Edwardsville, PA	49	March 27, 2015
Assembly 72	Anna Kathryn Harakal, Catasauqua, PA	89	March 20, 2015
Assembly 78	Charles Bednarik, Bethlehem, PA	89	March 21, 2015
Assembly 82	John L. Podrebarac, Dunlo, PA	72	March 27, 2015
Assembly 108	Donald Hutira, Youngstown, OH	84	December 7, 2014
Assembly 113	Louis Hodal, Kenosha, WI	88	April 10, 2015
Assembly 162	Steve P. Gaba, Clifton, NJ	90	March 14, 2015
Assembly 179	Geraldine Novatry, North Braddock, PA	86	February 5, 2015
Assembly 312	Mary Huss, Passaic, NJ	97	March 15, 2015
Assembly 312	Mary Koveleskie, Passaic, NJ	81	August 17, 2013
Assembly 312	Robert G. Gandy, Passaic, NJ	79	March 30, 2015
Assembly 312	William Bolecek, Passaic, NJ	100	March 19, 2015
Assembly 312	Kevin Nahay, Passaic, NJ	59	April 15, 2015
Wreath 2	Helen Halupka, Passaic, NJ	93	March 17, 2015
Wreath 15	Eleanor Petterson, Perryopolis, PA	89	February 6, 2013
Wreath 34	Mary Ann Fristik, Cleveland, OH	94	April 2, 2015
Wreath 47	Patricia A. Krasky, Minneapolis, MN	86	April 1, 2015
Wreath 54	Gertrude Edwards, Youngstown, OH	66	March 13, 2015
Wreath 85	Andrew Paul Borov, McKees Rocks, PA	85	April 2, 2015
Wreath 93	Viola L. Prohl, Milwaukee, WI	90	March 17, 2015
Wreath 107	Agnes S. Filip, Youngstown, OH	86	March 6, 2015

Youth Awards for New Jersey - New York members

The New Jersey - New York Fraternal Alliance (NJNYFA), which represents fraternalists in both the Garden and Empire states will offer its 2015 Youth Volunteer Awards. One of the most important fraternal programs offered by the New Jersey - New York Fraternal Alliance is its Youth Volunteer Award Program. Each year, the NJNYFA chooses deserving young students from a member society, based on their volunteer achievements with their society as well as the community at large. Any member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol residing in either New Jersey or New York may apply for this award. Many of our young people are actively engaged in volunteer and service projects in their school, their parish or their community and should consider making application for the 2015 Youth Volunteer Awards Program.

Thanks to the generosity of the Recreation Farm Society, each award winner will receive \$500 with an additional \$500 award to their designated charity. The number of awards will be based upon

the proceeds realized from the convention adbook of this year's annual convention scheduled for October 2015. Members of our organization have been recipients of this award in the past.

Any member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol between the ages of 16 and 22 at the time of application may apply for the award. An application form is available by contacting Editor Daniel F. Tanzone at the home office. Judging will be done

by the Youth Volunteer Award Committee, headed by Richard Cecchi of Workmen's Benefit Fund of the USA of Farmingdale, N.Y. The award recipients will be announced at the 82nd annual convention of the New Jersey - New York Fraternal Alliance to be held at the Golden Nugget Casino Resort in Atlantic City, N.J., October 8-9, 2015. Deadline for receipt of the completed application form is September 2, 2015.

(Editor's note: We have noticed a number of returned copies of our Falcon due to incorrect addresses of our members. We ask that when individuals move, that they complete the form below for a change of address or call the home office. We thank you for your continued cooperation)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON

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In Memory of....

Announcing the Memorial Scholarship Fund!!!



Julie Ann Dobbs
Supreme Vice-President

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://slovakcatholicssokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm> or simply send your donation to:

Dennis J. Zifcak
Museum Treasurer
Memorial Scholarship Fund
205 Madison St.
Passaic, NJ 07055

- 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 \$500 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. Keep the spirit of your fellow Sokol alive by investing in a way that their fraternal dedication will not be forgotten.

Wedding Ring - Symbolic

The wedding ring was not always the symbol of marriage! According to the Sterling Silversmiths of America, at one time couples broke a piece of gold or silver and each retained half. It was the Egyptians who first used a ring. The circle symbolized eternity, so it does now, the eternity of the union.

News and Views from Slovakia...

Kiska: Slovakia never to recognize Crimea's illegal annexation

Slovakia will never recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea, Slovakia's president Andrej Kiska told a press conference after meeting Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko during his official visit to Kiev on May 20.

"We mustn't accept any political, military or economic interference in Ukraine's sovereignty," said Kiska, noting that he has a feeling that this aspect has recently been neglected.

He noted that while things have improved somewhat in eastern Ukraine's eastern border and Kiev's full control of it. The Slovak head of state also urged the EU's united and rigorous approach in this regard, noting that the possible lifting of sanctions slapped on Russia must be inextricably tied to the fulfillment of the Minsk agreements.

According to Kiska, Ukraine is set to tread the path of many difficult reforms - of the kind that

Slovakia has already been through. Whilst this is a painful process that often impacts people's standard of living, they're needed for the country's prosperity ultimately. "Ukraine will have our support in that," he added.

Kiska also pledged Slovakia's support to the EU's enlargement, adding that if Ukraine is interested in becoming an EU member and meets technical requirements, it has to have a chance of EU membership.

Turning to the liberalization of the visa regime for Ukrainians, Kiska called this a technical, not political problem. "I hope it'll be overcome post-haste and Ukraine will have a visa-free regime with EU countries," said Kiska.

He confirmed that Slovakia is ready to continue to provide reverse gas supplies to Ukraine which, as he noted, were launched at a critical time.

Survey: trends in Slovak education seen more negatively than positively

More than half of the people believe that Slovakia's education sector is at a standstill, while one third think it's heading in the wrong direction, according to a survey that TSN Slovakia conducted for a campaign entitled 'We Want to Know More about Education in Slovakia' and whose results were unveiled on May 21.

A mere 8 percent of the 1,000 people asked think that the sector is progressing.

The poll, which was conducted at the turn of April and May and focused on teaching at primary schools, revealed that the public wants change across all categories under review, said campaign team member Peter Dral.

"Measures that have been adopted so far have focused on improving school buildings or prescribing rules, but people are increasingly interested in what's actually going on at schools, how lessons are taught," said Dral.

Sedgwick: Slovak competitiveness could lie in highly educated labor

The university system, which is not geared sufficiently towards the needs of companies, as well as newest measures in the spheres of labor and taxes have worked to reduce competitiveness of Slovakia, United States Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick told TASR at the Business Service Center forum held in Bratislava on May 21.

"Slovakia has gradually been losing competitiveness in cheap labor force, which is an asset acquired by other countries. It can be competitive in highly educated labor force, though," said Sedgwick. According to the Head of US diplomacy in Slovakia, it's necessary therefore to integrate the Slovak education system with the needs of international com-

panies. "If Slovak students will be sufficiently educated for the workplace, then they'll stand a greater chance of getting a job at home," said the ambassador.

Education, Science, Research and Sports Ministry state secretary Romana Kanovska pointed out that Slovak schools already have a degree of autonomy when it comes to the creation of study programs.

"Employers can now directly enter universities and create student profiles. We expect a more intensive and effective participation on the part of employers in determining what kind of graduates they want to have on the market," Kanovska told TASR. The ministry also entertains the idea to allow companies

to intervene in the accreditation process for study programs to a significantly larger extent than ever before. "Ideally, we'd like to get to the state of affairs seen in Germany, where students do their research work in companies already during their study," she said.

The American Trade Chamber in Slovakia (AmCham) has been involved in the change of university curriculum for a long time, emphasizing that universities must be "open and closer to business."

According to AmCham executive director Jake Slegers, it was legislative measures in the field of labor and tax regulations that have worsened Slovakia's competitiveness. The country now lags behind its neighbors also due to lacking state support for new investors as well as existing ones.

"We understand that some of the measures adopted by the government might have a positive influence on state finances, but this comes at a price of losing attractiveness in comparison to neighboring countries. A lot of these measures are having an immediate impact, but many are of short-term effect and, more importantly, ill-advised, as longer-term impacts for Slovakia within the next 10-15 years haven't been taken into account," said Slegers.

One of such negative measures

is the newest regulation regarding agency employment, which has prompted some AmCham members to consider leaving Slovakia. "Because of restrictions in agency employment, they're losing the capability to produce," said the AmCham head, adding that this will cost Slovakia in terms of tax revenue.

Slegers welcomed the option to issue longer term work permits

for top notch employees from third countries. However, he finds it disadvantageous that Slovakia offers no exemptions for top notch people, who could have trained top notch employees at home and so prevent the brain drain from Slovakia. "This is extremely important in companies that have been established here and have long-term been lacking top notch employees," he added.

Analysts: GDP growth, fastest since late 2011, topped expectations

The acceleration in the growth of the Slovak economy in the first quarter of the year topped analyst expectations, coming in as tops for the past three years, TASR learned on May 13

"This is the fastest annual growth since late 2011. The pace of growth exceeded our and market expectations, which were more modest and estimated growth of 2.5 percent," said Slovenska Sportelna bank analyst Katarina Muchova in regards to the growth estimated by the State Office at 3.1 percent of GDP over the first three months of the year.

VUB bank macroeconomist Andrej Arady said that the economic growth has reached levels when jobs are added naturally. The labor market continued to grow in the first three months of the year. "The year-on-year pace in job creation dropped, but was still retained at a

decent 1.8 percent," said Arady.

Slovakia's central bank NBS analysts weighed in by saying that the figures indicate that the growth was mainly propelled by net exports, rather than the domestic economy.

"Exports got going as early as the beginning of the year, mainly thanks to carmakers. They also drew imports with them, but those rose slower than exports," said NBA, noting that the outperformance of exports laid the groundwork for a considerable acceleration in economic growth.

In terms of the domestic economy, growth in investment demand is to be expected on the back of a recovery in industrial production and a faster rise in imports of investment materials. There is a robust predictors for a rise in domestic consumption, even though they have yet to be seen in retail revenues, said the analysts.

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(Effective January 1, 2015)

11th Consular tour to Slovakia set for August 23 - September 2

Slovak Honorary Consul in Pennsylvania, Joseph T. Senko has visited Slovak 25 times since 1995, including ten tours which he has arranged and escorted. His wife, Albina, was born and raised in Slovakia. With their experience, they have created a customized tour for 2015 which will take you across Slovakia. Each night we will stay at a first class hotel. Over 270 people from the United States have enjoyed these past tours escorted by Joe and Albina Senko.

In addition to touring many his-

toric towns in Slovakia, the tour will visit famous historic sites in neighboring countries - Vienna in Austria and Budapest in Hungary. The tour will take us from west to east through Bratislava, the sparkling new and restored capital of Slovakia; Trnava, known as the "Little Rome of Slovakia" with its many important churches; Modra, famous for its pottery, where will see a demonstration in a ceramic factory; the world-famous spa town of Piešťany; historic Banská Bystrica, the majestic High Tatras, the

famous shrine town of Levoca, Bardejov which is included in the UNESCO list; Presov, the sister city of Pittsburgh; and Kosice, Slovakia's second largest city.

In addition to visiting several famous castles and museums, we will also enjoy listening to live folk music, tour many churches and enjoy topnotch dining in several typical Slovak restaurants.

Unique to this tour is: receiving a spa treatment, attending a mock Slovak wedding, several wine tastings, meeting with Slovak dignitaries and enjoying rafting on the Dunajec river which forms the natural boundary between Slovakia and Poland.

As we travel through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made to visit relatives or discover ancestral towns and villages where one can learn about one's ancestors at an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of this wonderful tour. The 11 days you will spend with us will be enjoyable, educational, pleasantly surprised at the wonderful sites and sounds which Slovakia has to offer visitors.

For a detailed itinerary and payment schedule, contact Joe Senko at tel. (412)956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com. He will provide you with a list of hotels, flight schedules, payment schedule and restrictions. Joe and Albina are veteran travelers and assure all a delightful visit to the land of our ancestors. Both are our Sokol members in Pittsburgh, Assembly 16 and Wreath 22, respectively. May your 2015 new year's resolution be to visit Slovakia.



Councillor wants Bratislava to become venue of congresses

Bratislava is planning to attract more of the so-called congress-convention tourism and provide bigger endorsement to congresses and similar events taking place in the Slovak capital. TASR learned from the head of the city's commission for tourism Sona Svorenova on May 21.

Svorenova bemoaned the fact that the so-called MICE tourism (or meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) doesn't receive systemic support from City Hall with the city then losing out on resulting revenues as a result.

"Leisure tourism is concentrated in the spring and summer. MICE is a good complement to it, as it focuses on autumn instead, or outside the top season," said Svorenova, also a city councillor.

With that in mind, Svorenova said that Bratislava stands a chance of extending its high

season by adding February, March and November to the high-season months, which are now nearly devoid of leisure tourists. "Bratislava is also well-positioned to develop this sort of tourism (i.e. MICE) thanks to its location within Europe. You can fly here from almost anywhere in Europe within two hours," she added.

In addition, Svorenova stressed the effect of MICE events to support local entrepreneurs, as the variety of events are usually attended by well-to-do people. "The average sum that a congress or convention participant spends per day has been calculated at \$450. An event lasting four days and attended by 200 visitors can add \$300,000 to the city's economy," she added. MICE tourism also serves to promote leisure tourism, as this may then prompt other people to visit the city as regular tourists.



Slavka Gonda and Janka Golias are shown above visiting Monsignor John J. Demkovich following hip replacement surgery. Slavka and Janka presented him with a fruit basket on behalf of the Slovak Society Domovina at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. The retired pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Slovak Parish in Passaic and chaplain of Assembly 1, Monsignor Demkovich has been in residence at the Clifton Slovak parish for the past four years. We extend to him our prayers and warm wishes for a speedy recovery.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND SAVE THE DATES!

August 1- 5, 2015

Groups - Assemblies - Wreaths for the

Slovak Catholic Sokol
32nd Quadrennial Convention

at the
Doubletree By Hilton
Pittsburgh - Greentree
500 Mansfield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15205



Zdar Boh!
Plan now to be there!



I AM YOUR FLAG

I was born on June 14th, 1777.
I am more than just cloth shaped into a design.
I am the refuge of the world's oppressed people.
I am the silent sentinel of Freedom.
I am the inspiration for which American patriots gave their lives and fortunes.
I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge to the bloody jungles of Vietnam.
I walk in silence with each of your honored dead, to their resting place.
Beneath the silent white crosses, row upon row,
I have flown through peace and war, strife and prosperity; and amidst it all, I have been respected.
My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation.
My white stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons.
My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.
My stars are clustered together, unify 50 states as one, for God and country.
"Old Glory" is my nickname, and proudly I wave on high.
Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and your fortunes.
Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return.
Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.
Worship eternal God and keep His commandments.
And I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind.

Author Unknown



Krátke správy zo Slovenska

(Pokračovanie zo str. 20)

Maďarsko (2,1 tisíc). Každý tretí cudzinec pracoval v Bratislave, kde je ich zamestnaných vyše 7 tisíc. Nasleduje Trnava, kde pracovalo vyše tisíc cudzincov.

Bankovní analytici zvyšujú svoje odhady tohtoročného hospodárskeho rastu Slovenska. Kým v apríli ešte predpokladali, že hrubý domáci produkt Slovenska v tomto roku vzrastie o 2,6 percenta, v máji už prognózovali rast na úrovni 3 percent. Vyplyva to z májového kola pravidelného prieskumu Národnej banky Slovenska medzi analytikmi komerčných bánk.

Nad bratislavským Dunajom pribúda ďalšia časť konštrukcie nového Starého mosta. Na moste sa pracuje aj v nepriaznivom počasi. Koncom mája práce skomplikovali silné dažde, ktoré zodvihli hladinu Dunaja pri Starom moste na vyše šesť metrov a voda čiastočne zaplavila základy pilierov.

Slovenský cestovný ruch sa pomaly zviecha zo dna. Domácemu turizmu nežil minulý rok, keď na Slovensku trávilo dovolenku 3,72 milióna turistov. Oproti roku 2013 išlo o medziročný pokles o 7,9 percenta, respektíve o 330-tisíc.

Pokles turistov si mnohí spájajú hlavne so slabou zimou v minulom roku, ktorá nehrala do karát viacerým lyžiarskym strediskám. Pod nižší počet návštevníkov zo zahraničia sa podpísala aj nepriaznivá situácia na Ukrajine a kolísajúci kurz eura.

Na dostavbe III. a IV. bloku v Atómovej elektrárni Mochove (okres Levice) sa 28. mája stal smrteľný úraz. Pri zváraní v podzemí zasiahol plyn argón dvoch mužov. Jeden z nich zomrel na mieste a druhého intoxikovaného previezli do nemocnice. Išlo o zamestnancov dodávateľskej firmy, nie zamestnanca Slovenských elektrární.

Koncom mája odišlo do Afganistanu 37 príslušníkov Ozbrojených síl SR, medzi nimi je aj jedna žena. Slovenskí vojaci budú v Afganistane cvičiť afgánske špeciálne jednotky. Ich hlavnou úlohou bude pomáhať afgánskym ozbrojeným silám, ich štáбом vycvičiť svoje vojská, pomáhať im vypracovávať si svoje výcvikové programy, poskytovať im poradenstvo z hľadiska budovania štruktúr a inštitúcií afgánskych bezpečnostných zložiek. V Afganistane budú pôsobiť polroka, potom ich vystrieda ďalšia rotácia.

Letný festival v Danville, PA

42. Letný festival, ktorý usporiadajú Sestry Sv. Cyrila a Metoda, bude v sobotu 11. júla vo Villa Sacred Heart v Danville, PA. Začiatok bude o 10.30 hodine a trvať bude do 5.00 hodiny, kedy bude v Bazilike svätá omša.

Počas dňa bude Flea Market, na predaj budú knihy, ručné práce, domáce slovenské a americké jedlá a koláče. Pre deti budú pripravené rôzne hry.

Bližšie informácie: Sestra Barbara Sable, tel. č. 570-275-3581. ext. 302.



Koncert detského súboru zo Slovenska v Linden, NJ

V piatok 3. júla o 6.30 hodine bude v Msgr. Komar Hall, 2806 Parkway Ave. v Linden, NJ koncert detského speváckeho súboru Pro Musica-Magnolia zo Slovenska. Po koncerte bude nasledovať večera a bude hrať skupina Relax.

Bližšie informácie a rezervácie vstupeniiek: Adriana, tel. č.: 908-510-0547, Hanka: tel. č.: 908-494-4534.

Za Boha a Národ For God and Nation

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

Slovak Catholic Sokol

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Všetky články, príspevky a správy treba posielat' na adresu:
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205 Madison Street, Passaic, New Jersey 07055

VIETE, ŽE NA SLOVENSKU...

...je 180 hradov a 425 kaštieľov? Spišský hrad patrí medzi najväčšie v strednej Európe a bol zaradený do Zoznamu svetového dedičstva UNESCO.

...bolo už objavených viac ako 6 000 jaskýň? Ochtinská aragonitová jaskyňa je jedinou v Európe. 34 metrov vysoký kvapel v Krásnohorskej jaskyni sa svojou výškou zaradil do Guinnessovej knihy rekordov.

...je viac než 1 300 minerálnych a termálnych prameňov, ktoré využíva 21 kúpeľných rezortov?

...je najvyšší drevený oltár na svete? Dielo Majstra Pavla sa nachádza v Kostole sv. Jakuba v Levoči. Je vysoký 18,6 metra a široký a 6 metrov. Je zapísaný spolu s centrom mesta Levoča do Zoznamu svetového dedičstva UNESCO.

Ach, tá naša slovenčina!

Návrh o odhaľovaní benefitov neprešiel - *sme.sk*

Mercedes-Benz otvorí nové crashcentrum - *pravda.sk*

Štylová Helen Mirren: Svojimi outfitmi dokazuje, že vek je len číslo! - *EMMA.sk*

Slovenský startup opäť zbiera cez web desiatky tisíc dolárov - *sme.sk*

Bryndzové krokety a slaninový crumble - *Pluska.sk*

Krájajte cherry paradajky ako profesionál - *Pluska.sk*

Light penový krém s ovocím - *Pluska.sk*



V roku 1993 bola Spišská Kapitula zaradená na Zoznam svetového dedičstva UNESCO ako súčasť zápisu Spišský hrad a pamiatky okolia. Spišská Kapitula je v súčasnosti sídlom spišského biskupa a centrom spišskej diecézy. Často je označovaná aj ako malý slovenský Vatikán.

VW Slovakia spustil výrobu v novej karosárni Audi Q7

Zástupcovia Volkswagen Slovakia (VW SK) 15. mája za účasti predsedu vlády SR Roberta Fica slávnostne spustili výrobu v novej karosárni Audi Q7 v bratislavskom závode spoločnosti. Investícia dosiahla celkovú výšku približne 600 miliónov eur.

Investícia, ktorej svedkami dnes sme, je najväčšia v 24-ročnej histórii Volkswagenu na Slovensku. Aj to je určite dôvodom, pre ktorý sa dnes Slovensko môže tešiť vynikajúcim hospodárskym výsledkom," spresnil slovenský premiér.

Spustenie novej karosárne Audi Q7 je krokom do budúcnosti. S najmodernejšími spájacími a robotickými technológiami, výrobou ľahkých konštrukcií a s vysokokvalifikovanými pracovníkmi sa Volkswagen Slovakia zaraďuje na špičku automobilového priemyslu v celosvetovom meradle," povedal predseda predstavenstva VW SK Albrecht Reimold.

V novej karosárni sa podľa jeho slov realizuje výroba karosérií Audi Q7 s pomocou približne tisícok robotov s využitím najmodernejších spájacích technológií. Úroveň automatizácie dosahuje 90 %. O bezproblémové fungovanie zariadení sa stará viac ako 1000 vysokokvalifikovaných zamestnancov.

Volkswagen Slovakia vyrobil na Slovensku od roku 1991 viac ako 4 milióny vozidiel. Patrí k najväčším exportérom, investo-rom aj zamestnávateľom v súkromnom sektore na Slovensku. Zamestnáva vyše 9900 ľudí. V závode v Bratislave vyrába automobily Volkswagen Touareg, Audi Q7, Volkswagen up!, Škoda Citigo, SEAT Mii, karosérie Porsche Cayenne a prevodovky, v Martine komponenty pre podvozky a prevodovky, v Košiciach pripravuje vozidlá na export do Ruska a v Stupave produkuje zariadenia používané pri výrobe vozidiel.

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Prehliadka deského folklóru v New Yorku



Na snímke sú deti z New Jersey a New Yorku, ktoré sa prítomným predstavili ľudovými tancami a spevom.

V nedeľu 17. mája Slovensko-americké stredisko v New Yorku (SAKS) pripravilo pre slovenskú verejnosť kvalitný program, v ktorom účinkovali deti zo slovenských škôl vo vekovej skupine od 5 do 16 rokov. Predviedli zmes tancov a spevov, ktorými očarili preplnenú halu slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Na podujatí sa zúčastnilo asi 300 hostí a účinkujúcich.

Program začal o 1.00 hod.ine popoludní. Otvorila ho hlavná organizátorka programu Zuzana Maziar z Hillsboro, N.J., ktorá pri tamojšej slovenskej gréckokatolíckej farnosti vyučuje slovenčinu a súčasne zorganizovala detský folklórny súbor Snovrátko. Kaplán farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého O. Štefan Chanas mal krátky príhovor, v ktorom vyslovil vďaka usporiadateľom a učiteľkám za udržiavanie slovenských tradícií a národného povedomia v slovenských komunitách. Deti a hosti potom privítala predsedníčka SAKS-u Sabína Sabadoš a za Generálny konzulát Slovenskej republiky pozdravila prítomných Zuzana Andreánska.

Pred vystúpeniami detských súborov 13-ročný operný spevák slovenského pôvodu Andrej Pulver získal veľký potlesk po zaspievaní sentimentálnej piesne *Keby som bol vtáčkom*.

Andrej má vynikajúci hlas a spieval už aj v známej Metropolitan opere v New Yorku a v Kennedy Center vo Washingtone.

Po jeho vystúpení Saša Santiago premietol krátke video, ktorým predstavil program z práce filmového direktora a známeho hudobníka a skladateľa D. Breinera - Slovak Dances. Týmto programom propaguje slovenskú ľudovú kultúru v západnom svete a snaží sa získať spoluprácu a podporu aj v Amerike.

Nasledovalo vystúpenie detských súborov. Prvý bol Limboráčik z Českej a slovenskej školy v Astorii, N.Y. Predstavil sa tancami a spevom slovenských piesní. Nasledoval Snovrátko z Hillsboro, N.J., ktorého program „viedol“ malý chlapček. Chutne dirigoval šesť starších dievčat. Treťou skupinou bol súbor z kostola sv. Michala v Trentone, N.J., ktorý pozostával z deviatich chlapcov a sedem dievčat.

Veľký potlesk zožala aj skupina Vretienko zo slovenskej škôlky pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku, ktorú tvorilo 16 detí. Po nej mal znova vystúpenie súbor Limboráčik a po ňom skupina Lipka z Linden, N.J., zorganizovaná pri slovenskej farnosti Sv. rodiny. Lipka sa predstavila jánošíkovskými tancami s valaškami.

Program uzavrel súbor Dommovinka z Cliftonu, N.J., ktorý pobavil prítomných ľudovými piesňami a tancom.

Po skončení programu obecenstvo rozveselila na východe USA známa ľudová hudobná skupina Pajtáši, ktorá zabávala účastníkov počas bohatého občerstvenia. Dospelí účastníci hodovali v kostolnej hale a deti sa potešili dobrôtkam v dolnej kostolnej hale.

Týmto podujatím SAKS pripravil slovenskej verejnosti a detským súborom z okolia New Yorku krásne popoludnie, v ktorom vystupovalo vyše sto detí. Takto sa udržiava aj v najmladšej generácii národné povedomie a povzbudzuje vyučovanie slovenského jazyka a slovenskej kultúry. - N.H.

V New Yorku zomrel Rudolf Greguš

V sobotu 23. mája zomrel vo veku 90 rokov známy slovenský kultúrny a národný pracovník Rudolf Greguš.

Narodil sa 4. júla 1924 v New Yorku. Keď mal dva roky odišiel s matkou do rodného kraja jeho rodičov - dedinky Makov na Orave. Tam prežil študentské roky. Počas štúdiá na právnickej fakulte sa rozhodol vrátiť do USA. Najprv bol v utečeneckom tábore v Nemecku a v roku 1951 sa vrátil do Spojených štátov. Po príchode pokračoval v štúdiu na Ohio State University.

Po skončení školy sa vrátil do New Yorku, kde stretol svoju budúcu manželku Elenu, rodenú Poliakovú. Spolu vychovali dve dcéry - Ruženu a Lubu. Pracoval v New York Stock Exchange, neskôr v OSN a IBM. Po skončení ďalšieho štúdiá na Hunter College v New Yorku bol učiteľom v high school. Do dôchodku odišiel v roku 1989.

Bol aktívny v mnohých slovenských spolkoch a orga-

nizáciách a členom Farskej rady v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Okrem toho zastával aj funkciu predsedu 1. zboru Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, bol spoluzakladateľom Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska v New Yorku, Svetového kongresu Slovákov a členom hlavného súdu Jednoty. Bol dlhoročným členom 182. zboru Slovenského katolíckeho sokola.

Pravidelne prispieval do slovenských novín a časopisov. Zapájal sa aj do organizovania slovenských piknikov, zábav, púti, osláv a kultúrnych podujatí.

Posledná rozlúčka so zosnulým bola v piatok 20. mája v John Krtil Funeral Home. Pochovaný bol v sobotu 30. mája zo slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.



Krátke správy zo Slovenska



□ Bratislavský Volkswagen v otvoril novú robotickú karosáreň za 600 miliónov eur. Na tisíc robotov pripadá aj tisíc nových pracovných miest. Nové investície a viac práce sú v automobilovom priemysle momentálne typické. Popri oživení služieb to začína počítovať aj celá slovenská ekonomika, ktorá v prvom štvrtroku rástla až o 3,1 percenta, čo bolo najviac zo všetkých 19 štátov používajúcich spoločnú menu euro.

□ Letisko M. R. Štefánika v Bratislave zaznamenalo v prvom štvrtroku tohto roku najvyšší počet odbavených cestujúcich za posledné roky. Od januára do konca marca letisko odbavilo 215 419 cestujúcich, čo oproti rovnakému obdobiu minulého roka predstavuje nárast o 32 percent.

□ Slovensko môže získať megain-

vestíciu. Veľká automobilka si vyberá miesto pre svoj nový závod a v hre ostali podľa zdrojov RTVS poslední dvaja finalisti - Slovensko a Poľsko. Konečné rozhodnutie by malo padnúť v lete. Viac informácií momentálne nie je k dispozícii, ale v prípade úspechu by v novom závode našlo prácu až 8 000 ľudí. Vláda vraj momentálne pracuje na finalizácii ponuky pre automobilku, Slovensko údajne ponúklo priemyselný park v Nitre so 400-hektárovým pozemkom.

□ Na Slovensku ku koncu marca tohto roku pracovalo vyše 21,3 cudzincov. Najpočetnejšie zastúpenie na slovenskom pracovnom trhu majú občania Rumunska (5,3 tisíc). Nasledujú občania Poľska (takmer 3,2 tisíc), Česká republika (vyše 2,6 tisíc) a

(Pokračovanie na str. 19)