

Za Boha a Národ



For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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NUMBER 5115

Introducing the Recipients of Our 2018 Slovak Catholic Sokol College, High School and Grade School Scholarship Grants Grants of \$1,000 each to recipients of our College Scholarships



Suzanne Bilicska
North Arlington, NJ
Caldwell University
Group 1, Wreath 1
Passaic, NJ



Kevin Matlon
Whippany, NJ
Misericordia University
Group 1, Assembly-24
Boonton, NJ



Marc Farrell
Parsippany, NJ
Virginia Tech
Group 1, Assembly 1
Passaic, NJ



Milan Spisek
Easton, CT
Southern Connecticut State
Group 1, Assembly 219
Yonkers, NY



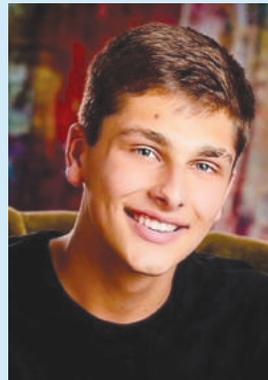
Makenzie Cyr
Douglas, MA
Stonehill College
Group 3, Wreath 18
East Douglas, MA



Ashley Gresian
Douglas, MA
Endicott College
Group 3, Wreath 18
East Douglas, MA



Alexandra Janssen
Madison, WI
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Group 4, Wreath 93
Milwaukee, WI



Jeremy Struckel
Barberton, OH
Ohio State University
Group 5, Assembly 167
Barberton, OH



Samantha Chaudhari
Venetia, PA
University of Pittsburgh
Group 6, Wreath 15
Perryopolis, PA

This year marks the 46th anniversary of the first presentation of scholarship grants to our deserving young members in support of their quest for a good education. From our earliest years, the Slovak Catholic Sokol has promoted education among our youth. Since 1972, a total of \$1,616,250 in scholarship grants have been awarded to 2,309 of our members, certainly an enviable record. This year, we are pleased to introduce the recipients of our 2018 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Grants. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes to out to all of them. Happy future and Zdar Boh!

2018 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

Grants of \$1,000 each to recipients of our College Scholarships



Julie Ann Silinskie
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Kings College
Group 7, Assembly 86
Port Griffith, PA



Abigail Harvey
Lilly, PA
Duquesne University
Group 9, Assembly 79
Lilly, PA



Quinn Haldeman
Perkasie, PA
Moravian College
Group 10, Assembly 78
Bethlehem, PA



Rowan Haldeman
Perkasie, PA
DeSales University
Group 10, Assembly 78
Bethlehem, PA



Luke Matlon
Bloomington, MN
University of Minnesota Duluth
Group 11, Assembly 34
Minneapolis, MN



William Griffith
Reading, PA
Albright College
Group 12, Assembly 261
Reading, PA



Carly Jablonski
Reading, PA
Albright College
Group 12, Wreath 155
Reading, PA



Hannah Jozwiak
Moon Township, PA
Slippery Rock University
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA



Amanda Mondik
Royal Palm Beach, FL
Palm Beach State College
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA



Kristen Mondik
N. Palm Beach, FL
Florida State University
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA



Francesca Yanosick
Moon Township, PA
Duquesne University
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA



Maria Gonda
Canfield, OH
Youngstown State University
Group 17, Wreath 54
Youngstown, OH



Rachel Bettencourt
Mississauga, ON
Ryerson University
Group 19, Assembly 227
Toronto – ON, CN



Anne Marie Wasilewski
Mississauga, ON
York University
Group 19, Assembly 227
Toronto – ON, CN



Michael Wasilewski
Mississauga, ON
Sheridan College
Group 19, Assembly 227
Toronto – ON, CN

**THEODORE & MARY
JANE RICH MEMORIAL**
Scholarship Winner
Grant of \$2,500



Jessica Walsh
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Temple University
Group 7, Assembly 86
Port Griffith, PA

**EMIL SLAVIK
MEMORIAL**
Scholarship Winner
Grant of \$2,000



Codie Piotrowski
Pittsburgh, PA
Robert Morris University
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA

**KRISTA GLUGOSH
MEMORIAL**
Scholarship Winner
Grant of \$1,000



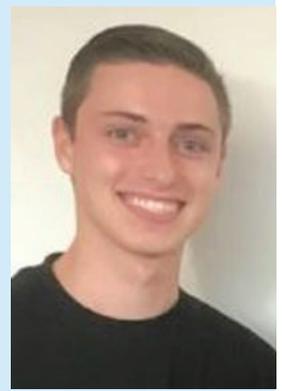
Alyssa Peretin
South Fork, PA
Penn State University
Group 9, Assembly 82
Dunlo, PA

**THE DOCTOR'S LESKO
MEDICAL MEMORIAL
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**
Scholarship Winner
Grant of \$1,000



Hope Brock
Somerset, PA
Juniata College
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA

**THE YENCHA
SCHOLARSHIP GRANT**
Scholarship Winner
Grant of \$1,000



Nicholas Allardyce
Pittston, PA
Penn State University
Group 7, Assembly 86
Port Griffith, PA

**RECIPIENTS OF 2018 ABBOT
JEROME M. KOVAL. O.S.B.**
Memorial Catholic High School Grant of \$500 each

**SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT**
Scholarship Winner Grant of \$1,000



Victoria Zakovic
Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Group 1, Assembly 182
New York, NY



William Patrick Lamotte
La Salle Institute
Group 2, Assembly 9
Bridgeport, CT



Sean Hergan Joyce
Mount Saint Joseph High School
Group 7, Assembly 59
Wilkes-Barre, PA



Megan McDonald
South Milwaukee, WI
LaCrosse University
Group 4, Wreath 93
Milwaukee, WI



Chloe Seiler
Finleyville, PA
University of Pittsburgh
- Greensburg
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA



Maria Lynn Traglia
Allentown Central Catholic
High School
Group 7, Assembly 86
Port Griffith, PA



Anna E. Sherman
Cardinal O'Hara High School
Group 12, Assembly 186
Drexel Hill, PA



Stephen J. Sherman
Cardinal O'Hara High School
Group 12, Assembly 186
Drexel Hill, PA



Carolyn Halgas
St. John Paul the Great Catholic
High School
Group 12, Wreath 13
Philadelphia, PA



Stephen Babik
Ursuline High School
Group 17, Assembly 108
Youngstown, OH

Message from our Supreme President

by Michael J. Horvath

The summer of 2018 started as it does every year on our national holiday "Memorial Day". Memorial Day is not only the start of summer, it is the day we remember everyone who has served in the military service of the United States and especially

those who died preserving our freedom while serving. I thank all who served and also remember in prayer those who died. This year is the 75th year of D-Day and all one has to do is visit Normandy and the cemeteries of the fallen to know of the horrors and sacrifices of war. I had the privilege of visiting Normandy and will remember what I saw and the feelings of sorrow and sadness as I walked the beaches of war and the U.S. and Canadian cemeteries. Let us never forget!

The 72nd International Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling Tournament was held on May 21-22, 2018 at the Orleans Bowling Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. The tournament was held in conjunction with the Greek Catholic Union's (GCU) 82nd annual Tournament. Bowlers from both societies enjoyed the friendly competition as they have done for the past three tournaments.

Following the team competition and the banquet I had the privilege of awarding the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award to our bowler, golfer and fraternal leader for Group 19, Toronto, Canada, and its President Chet Dziuba. Congratulations to Chet and thank you for all you do for the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Thank you to our Director of Sports and Athletics, Brother James C. Matlon for the work he and his staff did to make the tournament a success.

45th Gary, Indiana Slovak Day set for Sunday, July 15

Continuing in a summer tradition spanning more than four decades, all is in readiness for this year's exciting 45th annual Slovak Day in the four-county Diocese of Gary in northwest Indiana set for Sunday, July 15. This year's observance will be held at the popular Saviorian Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa located at 5755 Pennsylvania Street (Boardway) in Merrillville, Ind. The shrine serves as a Mission House for priests conducted by the Society of the Divine Savior.

Festivities begin with Mass in the shrine church at 10:30 a.m. with priests of Slovak ancestry from the diocese as well as from neighboring dioceses concelebrating. Following the liturgy, a delicious luncheon featuring traditional Slovak culinary specialties will be enjoyed. A cash bar will be available throughout the afternoon. A

On May 31, 2018 I attended the 100th Anniversary celebration of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement held at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The Pittsburgh Agreement was the official international agreement that created the country of Czechoslovakia. For 75 years Czechoslovakia existed and in 1993 the two separated and established the independent nations of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic.

This year, 2018, both nations have enjoyed 25 years of independence and self rule.

There were close to 400 in attendance at the event with several speakers from both nations expressing their appreciation to the leaders who signed the Pittsburgh Agreement. I had the chance to speak to the speakers and informed them that Slovak Catholic Sokol took care and safe guarded the original document by storing it in our vault at the home office in Passaic, NJ. This was unknown to many of them and they thanked us for what we did.

Last weekend June 1 -2, 2018 I attended the 2nd annual Slovak Catholic Sokol members' reunion at Rocky Gap Casino in Flintstone, Maryland. It was not the best weekend as we know but the weather did not stop those that attended from having a good time. Thank you goes out to our Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins and Assistant Physical Directress, Katie Swift for organizing the fun fill reunion for us to enjoy.

I want to wish all fathers and Happy Father's Day. I hope you enjoyed the day with your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren since they are the ones to tell you how much you are loved and appreciated.

On July 4, 2018 our great Soci-

(Continued on page 6)

95th Pittsburgh Slovak Day at Kennywood Park on July 19

All is in readiness for this year's exciting 95th Annual Slovak Day of Western Pennsylvania set for Thursday, July 19, 2018 at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA. It will be an exciting day for Americans of Slovak descent to celebrate their heritage with each other while enjoying colorful displays, authentic costumes, a Slovak liturgy, spectacular Slovak Folk Dance performances, scrumptious Slovak food, special children's activities as well as foot-tapping music for dancing. These combine to build a treasure chest of memories—many to be remembered and still more waiting to be created.

A highlight of Slovak Day is the celebration of the Slovak Liturgy in the Main Pavilion directly behind "Garfield's Revenge" at 4:00 p.m. priests of Slovak ancestry from the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Altoona-Johnstown will concelebrate the liturgy. Immediately following Mass will be the vibrant repertoire of Slovak music, songs and dances presented by the "Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble" (PAS) and the "Pittsburgh Slovaksians".

Tantalize your taste buds at the Slovak Kitchen where you will be able to enjoy holubky (stuffed cabbage), halusky (sweet cabbage and noodles), pirohy and klobasy. Your sweet tooth can be satisfied with the homemade favorite—cerezgi and Paska. Enjoy this delicious dinner or ala-carte foods and relax amid the echoes of Slovakia, as the strolling musicians play all of the "Slovak favorites". Food will be served in Pavilion #4 behind the ride "Garfield's Revenge" from 12:30 p.m. until the food is sold out.

In Pavilion #3 you will be able to see an exhibit "Slovak Wood Craft Shop" prepared by the "PAS" Jr. and Maly Ensembles. The exhibit will include Slovak heirlooms of folk treasures that show the incredible skill and artistry found in the Slovak villages. In the Main Pavilion #5 there will be Slovak Cultural Displays provided by the Slovak Fraternals.

A special youth area will feature activities just for children. The children's program will include games and treats beginning at 12:30 p.m. by the Main Pavilion. Every child participating in these activities will receive a free treat. From 1 to 4 p.m., one can sit back and enjoy the music or kick up your heels dancing, grab a partner and twirl to traditional Slovak music of the George Batyi Ensemble at the Kitchen Pavilion.

For a day to remember, join all Slovaks on Thursday, July 19 at Kennywood Park. The cost of tickets are \$26 for Fun Day General Admission, \$15 for those 55 years of age and over, plus a coupon will be available for those 70 years and over to be paid at the gate for \$11.00 + tax. Tickets and coupons are available by contacting Sue Ondrejco at (412) 421-1204 or Mary Lou Wagner at (412) 462-1957. For general information about this year's 95th Slovak Day contact Chairwoman Mary Lou at (412) 462-1957.

From the desk of the Supreme Secretary

REMEMBER OUR HEROES

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

I trust that everyone is enjoying the warmer temperatures and spending quality time with family and friends. The beginning of summer allows us to plan our schedule of vacations, sporting events, barbecues, etc. The summer months also provide us with a couple days to honor our current and past servicemen and servicewomen. Unfortunately, too many of us often gloss over these important days to pay our respect to those that fight for our freedom. It is understood that we all have so much going on in our lives, but to take the time to



remember and honor our troops is so important. Monday, May 28th was one of those special days as we celebrated Memorial Day. It is a day set aside to recognize those men and women that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. As members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, we appreciate those that have sacrificed and I urge all our members to pay your respects to our current soldiers and veterans alike. A simple "thank you" can go a long way.

Another important day happens tomorrow. As many of you know, June 14th is a day that we take seriously here at the Slovak Catholic Sokol. It is, of course, Flag Day, and we not only celebrate it annually on this day, but we try to celebrate it in our daily lives. Here is what Flag Day means to Retired Chief Master Sgt. Scott Hubbart:

"June 14th, set aside to honor another veteran - a faithful comrade who has accompanied each of us - every service member before us, to battlefields and stations in virtually every corner of the globe. For more than two centuries this veteran has always been there with us - always faithful and this vet is always ready for a parade. Our friend was there out at the cemetery last Monday when we were too busy. Not to fret, he was present and accounted for standing tall on Armed Forces Day as well. In fact, our friend is always there, and in fact, often overlooked and taken for granted."

"Of course, I am speaking of Old Glory, our flag. Always faithful and decked out in full glorious parade dress uniform! Our friend has guided and comforted countless numbers of our comrades in arms through the best and the worst of times. No doubt each of us can recall an example of our friend being present which might evoke strong emotions in each of us - perhaps in a parade, at a funeral for a loved one, on the battlefield, on the tail of a plane, or over an embassy in a foreign land. Our friend is always there and loves to be on parade! So, I ask you, on June 14, on Flag Day, hoist Old Glory up, salute, and give our good friend the respect and recognition he deserves."

Wow, wonderful words! I urge all of our members to take them to heart.

In this issue we are fortunate to see the smiling faces of our 2018 Scholarship Recipients. On behalf of our Organization and our Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate all our winners. We hope that you continue to make us all proud and continue to be wonderful ambassadors of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

It seems that a great time was had by all at our 72nd International Bowling Tournament held at Orleans Lanes in Las Vegas, NV on May 21-22. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate, Chet Dziuba of S-227, Toronto, CN on receiving the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award. Chet is truly a deserving recipient who has attended many S.C.S. Bowling and Golf Tournaments. Brother Dziuba also serves as the Group 19 President. He works tirelessly at the local level and is a fixture at our national events. Congratulations again Brother Chet! Well-deserved!

In conclusion, I would like to wish all of our Sokol Dads a Happy Father's Day, as we celebrate on Sunday, June 17th. Happy Father's Day Dad! Until next time, may God bless you all!
Zdar Boh!

June

The month of June comes from the Roman, or Julian, calendar. June was initially named Junius. The name either comes from the Roman goddess Juno, wife of Jupiter, or from the word "juniores", the Latin word for "younger ones". In the early Roman calendar June only had 29 days. It was Julius Caesar who added the additional day giving June 30 days.



June is the first month of the summer season.

June in the Northern Hemisphere is similar to the month of December in the Southern Hemisphere. It is known as a great month to get married. The longest day of the year occurs on either June 21st or 22nd.

Several countries celebrate their flag days during this month including the United States, Sweden, Denmark, Romania, and Argentina.

Symbols of June: birthstone – pearl; flower – rose; Zodiac signs – Gemini and Cancer.

Rev. George J. Torok, C.O. to note 60th anniversary of Priestly ordination

The Very Rev. George J. Torok, C.O., noted media evangelizer and well-known Slovak missionary within the American Slovak community, will observe the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Sunday, July 1.



Father Torok will be principal celebrant of a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, located at 120 Kings Highway in Tappan, N.Y. A reception in his honor will follow the liturgy in the parish hall. Father George, as he is affectionately known, founded the New York Congregation Oratory of St. Philip Neri on the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, June 29, 2007. Members of the New York Oratory staff four parishes in the Archdiocese of New York and provide ministry to the Slovak speaking faithful in parishes in New York City, Clifton, N.J. and Trenton, N.J.

A native of Zilina in western Slovakia, he was born there Oct. 15, 1931 and entered the Salesians of St. John Bosco as a young man in 1948. In 1950, he was imprisoned with other seminarians and priests and interned in a labor camp. He was subsequently released with several other young seminarians, only to learn that the secret police sought his whereabouts. Through an underground resistance, he was able to escape from the then Czechoslovakia across the Morava River and into Austria. He continued his journey with other seminarians south with-

out passports and finally arrived in Rome. He continued his studies in the Eternal City and was ordained a priest on July 1, 1958 in Bollengo, Italy by Bishop Paolo Rostagno. As a young priest, Father George became fascinated with the camera and the media.

He arrived in New York City in 1968 and began assisting at St. John Nepomucene Parish. He subsequently organized Hallel Communications, a center for the promotion and production of religious films in Sparkhill, N.Y. During these years, he also began providing ministry at area Slovak parishes. Under his leadership, the Oratory of St. Philip Neri was founded in 2007 and today includes six priests from Slovakia.

Throughout his ministry among us, Father George has been active in the American Slovak community. He is our Sokol of Assembly 182 and enjoys membership in the First Catholic Slovak Union. He has been a long-time supporter of the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation over the years. Those who would like to send Father a note of congratulations, write: Rev. George J. Torok, C.O., Hallel Communications, 175 Route 340, Sparkill, N.Y. 10976.

His many friends and admirers take this opportunity to extend prayerful best wishes to him at this time as he celebrates this milestone in his very fruitful priestly ministry among us. We pray that God will continue to bless him with good health and happiness in the years ahead as he beautifully mirrors the very best of our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith. Ad multos annos and Zdar Boh!

Slovak Catholic Sokol 31st International Softball Tournament

The annual international Softball Tournament is scheduled for the weekend of July 13th through the 15th. The site for the event will be Kirby Park Fields located at 280 Market Street, Kingston, Pa. The tournament headquarters



will be at the Genetti Hotel in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania located just minutes from the fields.

We will continue with the Men's competition in 2018 and allow each group to submit up to four (4) teams. If we have enough interest we will add in the Women's division. If you do not have a team and want to play in the 2018 softball tournament, please contact me directly.

Competition begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 14th and will continue throughout the day. We will utilize up to three fields throughout the day with the semi-final and final games scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Every team will play at least three games at the 2018 softball tournament.

Rooms have been reserved at the **Genetti Hotel & Conference Center**; however, you must contact me at (973) 647-8551 to secure your team's lodging before June 22nd. The hotel is located at 77 Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. The telephone number at the hotel is (570) 825-6477. As in the past, the Supreme Assembly managed by the Tournament Director will cover the cost of the rooms (4 participants per room). Plans are in the works to have a Saturday evening buffet dinner and arrangements will be made to have a Holy Mass of Obligation for Sunday held at Kirby Park on Saturday afternoon.

More information can be found on the Slovak Catholic Sokol website. All tournament entry forms must be mailed to me with the entry fee per team, **no later than June 25th**. Please make your checks payable to:

Slovak Catholic Sokol
- Sports Account
6 Academy Drive East
Whippany, NJ 07981

This year the cost of each team's entry is \$400.00 before the deadline date and \$450.00 per team after the June 25th date.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me directly on my cell phone (973) 647- 8551. Looking forward to seeing you in Wilkes-Barre!

Zdar Boh!

James C. Matlon
Supreme Director
of Sports and Athletics

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain

June: The Month Dedicated To The Sacred Heart Of Jesus

by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic

The Catholic Church loves to celebrate. We celebrate feast days and solemnities, holy days and sacraments.



The Church encourages private celebrations; the celebration of one's baptism day, for instance. Each month is dedicated to particular devotions, and June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This dedication has its origin in the appearances of Christ made to St. Mary Margaret Alacoque, a French religious sister.

After joining the Visitation Convent at Paray-le-Monial in 1671, she began in 1673 to receive visions revealing the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was rebuffed by her superior and by theologians for a time, about the validity of the visions, but remained humble, obedient, and charitable to those who persecuted her until the truth of the mission given to her by Our Lord convinced those who opposed her.

The task given her by Christ, who called her the Beloved Disciple of the Sacred Heart, was to teach and encourage devotion to His Sacred Heart. It was based on this Christy inspiration that St. Margaret Mary was moved to establish the Holy

Hour and Sacred Heart Devotion in the modern form. Prior to this time, there was a devotion to the love of Jesus and to the wounded Heart of Christ, but not established as the devotion is today. The practice encouraged by the saintly woman, at the guidance of Christ, included the Holy Hour on Thursdays, to share in the mortal sadness He endured when abandoned by His Apostles in His Agony, and to receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of every month. Additionally, He appointed through St. Margaret Mary for the Friday after the octave of the feast of Corpus Christi to be the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.

Margaret Mary was canonized in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV and then in 1928, Pope Pius IX reiterated in his encyclical *Miserentissimus Redemptor* the value of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart.

If you have young children or grandchildren, a great way to introduce them to this devotion is through a fun craft and prayer. CatholicMom.org has a great idea for just this. If you've got older kids, Christina Mead has a lovely reflection on the Sacred Heart for teens. Perhaps you can enter into this reflection around a campfire or fire pit this month.

There are many similar suggestions online; find one that's right for you and your family, and entrust them to the care of the Sacred Heart this month.

Msgr. John J. Demkovich celebrates 53rd anniversary of priestly ordination

Monsignor John J. Demkovich, retired long-time pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Parish in Passaic, N.J. and former resident for more than six years at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. celebrated the 53rd anniversary of his priestly ordination on May 29.



A native of New Brunswick, N.J., he was born there September 3, 1933, son of the late John and Ida Segi Demkovich. Following studies at Theological College of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., he was ordained a priest of the Paterson Diocese on May 29, 1965 by the Most Rev. James T. Navagh, then Bishop of Paterson at the Cathedral.

Following assignments at parishes in Morristown, Passaic and Den-ville, N.J., he was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Slovak Parish in Passaic, N.J. on December 14, 1971, where he remained as pastor for the next 40 years, retiring as pastor in September 2011. At the recommendation of Bishop Frank J. Rodimer, Pope St. John Paul II

named him as Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor in 1989. Since his retirement as pastor, he has been a resident until recently at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. where he has provided Slovak ministry in the parish.

Monsignor Demkovich has been active in American Slovak life throughout his priesthood. He serves as chaplain of Assembly 1 and Wreath 2 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in Passaic, N.J. and has enjoyed membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol for many years. In addition, he has been a strong supporter of the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation. He was among the original organizers of the annual New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival and participated at many of the annual celebrations of Slovak pride in the Garden State over the years.

We extend our prayerful congratulations and fraternal best wishes to him at this time as he celebrates this milestone in his holy priesthood. We pray that God will continue to bless "Father John" as he is affectionately known, with good health as he continues to mirror the Gospel of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in his life. He is currently a resident at Merry Heart Nursing Home, 200 Route 10, West Succasunna, N.J. 07876.



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Sokol Calendar

SAT.JUNE 16

■ 7th annual Simply Slavic Fest, celebrating the heritage, culture and cuisine of the family of Slavic nations in the Mahoning valley of Ohio, Federal Plaza East in downtown Youngstown, Oh. from 12 noon to 11 p.m., live music, folk dance performances, home-made food, beer garden, baking contest, children's learning areas, educational exhibits, Ecumenical Prayer Service and parade of Flags, Kolace Queen/King contest, a Vatra or traditional Slavic bonfire, after dark with live music; admission \$4.00, for information call tel.330 503-9874, web: www.simplyslavic.org

SUN.JUNE 17

■ Assembly 163 semi-annual meeting at Dorothy's Place, Donora, Pa. beginning at 1 p.m., light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the business meeting; for information call Financial Secretary Theresa Gardner at 724 263-7289.

SUN.JUNE 24

■ Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands meeting at the Am-Slo Club, Johnstown, Pa., 2-4 p.m.

THURS.JUNE 28

■ Assembly 9 of Bridgeport, Conn. patronal feast day observance beginning with Mass at 7:30 a.m. for the living and deceased members at the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. followed by breakfast.

SAT. JUNE 30

■ 2nd Quarter S.C.S. Board of Directors Meeting by a conference call.

JULY 1-6

■ 6th International All-Sokol Slet celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first All-Sokol Slet and the establishment of the first Republic of Czechoslovakia in Prague, Czech Republic.

WED.JULY 4

■ Independence Day Barbecue at The Slovak Garden, a Home for American Slovaks, Inc., 3110 Howell Branch Rd.#100, Winter Park, Fla., 2-4 p.m., \$20.00 per person at the door, tel. 407 677-6894 or email: slovakgarden@centurylink.net

JULY 13-15

■ 31st International Softball Tournament in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

SAT.JULY 14

■ 45th annual Summer Festival hosted by the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius at their Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart, Railroad St., Danville, Pa., beginning at 10:30 a.m. concluding Mass to satisfy the Sunday obligation in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius at 5 p.m. for additional information call Sister Barbara Sable at tel 570 275-3581, ext. 302.

SUN.JULY 15

■ 45th annual Slovak Day observance of the Diocese of Gary, Ind. at the Salvatorian Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, 5755 Pennsylvania St.(Broadway) Merrillville, Ind. beginning with Mass at 10:30 a.m. with cultural program and luncheon to follow.

THURS.JULY 19

■ 95th annual American Slovak Day of Western Pennsylvania at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa. beginning at 12:30 p.m. with children's games and treats, Mass at 4 p.m., Slovak folk entertainment at 5 p.m.; for information contact Sue Ondrejco at sue.ndrejco@gmail.com or tel 412 421-1204.

JULY 26-29

■ Supreme Clinic - Kurz in preparation for our 49th International Slet at SUNY - Brockport, New York.

SUN.JULY 29

■ 88th annual Milwaukee area Slovak American Day at Croatian Park, 9140 South 76th St., Franklin, Wis. beginning with Mass celebrated at 12 noon with cultural program beginning at 2 p.m. featuring our Group 4 drillers, the Tatra Slovak Dancers and the Fujara musician Bob Rychlik; for information call Betty Valent at tel. 414 425-6137.

AUGUST 10-12

■ 63rd International Golf Tournament at Oak Tree Country Club, West Middlesex, Pennsylvania.

SUN.AUG.19

■ Annual Family Day Picnic hosted by Assembly 34 & Wreath 47 on the grounds of SS. Cyril and Methodius School, 1315 2nd Street, N.E., Minneapolis, Minn. from 1 to 4 p.m., games for children, food and refreshments.

AUG.24-26

■ 28th annual Slovak Festival hosted by SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish "Celebrating a Century of Slovak Catholic Tradition in the Detroit Area" on the parish grounds 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Mich 48314, Friday: 6-11 p.m., Saturday noon - 11 p.m., Sunday Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m., festivities follow to 9 p.m., for information call tel 586-727-6911 or www.adoremy-lord.com.

SEPT.5-7

■ 132nd annual meeting of the American Fraternal Alliance, the trade association of fraternal benefit societies in the U.S. and Canada at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center, Minneapolis, Minn.

FRI. SEPT.14

■ 15th edition of BrewNost, the Midwest's premier international beer festival, featuring the brews of Slovakia and the Czech Republic hosted by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1400 Inspiration Place, SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 6:30 - 10 p.m., tickets available at NCSML.org/brewnost.

MON. SEPT.10

■ Wreath 111 patronal feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the American Slovak Home 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6:30 p.m.

SEPT.19-20

■ 2018 Biennial Convocation of the Conference of Slovak Clergy at the Holiday Inn, Boardman, Oh.; for information contact Msgr. Robert J. Siffirin, V.G. at tel.330 743-2308.

SUN. SEPT. 23

■ 41st annual New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival at the Middlesex

SEZ YOU... Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Pogorelec:

Thank you and the Board of Directors of our Slovak Catholic Sokol for the donation of \$200.00 to the Chair in Slovak History & Culture at the University of Ottawa. I truly appreciate this gift because it demonstrates the continuing support of the Slovak community in the United States for the only such Chair in the Western World.

By the way, if the home office or any of your local Assemblies or Wreaths would like to have me present a lecture on Slovak history and culture, I would be delighted to do so. Zdar Boh!

Yours Sincerely,
M. Mark Stolarik
*Professor & Chairholder,
Chair in Slovak History
& Culture,
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ont. Canada*

Lodge Jottings

**ASSEMBLY 59
WILKES-BARRE, PA**

Assembly 59 will hold their annual Golf Tournament on July 8th at Hollenback Golf Course. Shot gun start will be at 9 a.m. Captain and Crew, \$40 per person.

Following the tournament, refreshments will be served at the North End Slovak Citizens Club, 635 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre.

Anyone interested in signing up, please contact Butch at 570-825-3584.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS JULY 18

In keeping with our monthly publishing schedule of the Slovak Catholic Falcon, the next issue will be that of Wednesday, July 18. With this issue, we introduce our new magazine format as per the decision of the Board of Directors. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Monday, July 9.

County Fairgrounds, 655 Cranbury Rd., East Brunswick, N.J. beginning at 10 a.m.

■ The annual benefit "Fall Feast" in support of St. Andrew Svorad Benedictine Abbey of Cleveland at The American Croatian Lodge, 3490 Lakeshore Blvd., Eastlake, Oh. beginning with Mass at 1 p.m. followed by hors d'oeuvres & refreshments at 2 p.m. followed by dinner, dancing, Slovak Auction, Live Auction and fun festivities for the whole family, for details contact Debbie First at First@CBHS.EDU

MON.OCT.8

■ Wreath 111 meeting and social "Happy Halloween" at the American Slovak Home, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6:30 p.m.

SUN.NOV.4

■ 28th annual Slovak Heritage Festival at the University of Pittsburgh, hosted by Slovak Studies Program

At 76th Slovak Bowling Congress

33rd SCS All Events Bowling Sweepstakes goes to Jay Barna of Pittsburgh, Pa.



Our well-known Pittsburgh area Sokol keglar, Jay Barna was the winner of the 33rd annual Slovak Catholic Sokol All-Events Wrist Watch Bowling Sweepstakes at this year's 76th annual Slovak Bowling Congress of America(SBC) tournament held at Freeway Bowling Lanes in Warren, Oh. This year's competition, billed as America's oldest Slovak bowling tournament, was staged weekends beginning March 25 thru April 29. Jay, a long-time member and activist of Assembly 16 in Pittsburgh, has been a veteran of the past SBC bowling tournaments over the years. Jay's winning score at this year's competition was 2015. His actual score was 1646 plus 369 handicap pins over the nine game total. Brother Jay was among the five Sokol bowlers from Pennsylvania and Ohio who competed at this year's tournament.

The Slovak Bowling Congress was established in 1939 and is certified by the United States Bowling Congress. The annual competition has been held weekends since its inception. Our SCS All-Events Sweepstakes has been a part of the annual competition since 1986. The sweepstakes were approved by the SCS Board of Directors at the recommendation of the late Dr. Stephen J. Hletko of Chicago, a former sports director of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and a founding member of the Slo-

vak Bowling Congress. Winner of this year's Stephen J. Hletko Award was Rick Parschen of Cleveland, Oh. Other sweepstakes and awards garnered at this year's competition included the Tony Slanina-Ikey Straka Memorial Trophy-Team Actual + \$100 won by O'Malley's Bowling Shop #4 of Warren, Oh. with a score of 3547(1260-1137-1150) and the John Zolna Memorial Award - High Game Actual won by Rob Mosley of Warren, Oh. with a score of 300. The USBC Awards included: the 300 score of Rob Mosley and Nick Krucke; the 800 Award won by Rick Parschen, Chuck Williams III, Rich Speicher and Marc Stock; as well as the 299 score of Rich Busch, Brandon Smith, Chris Leduc, Mark Stock, Eric Bator, Mark Frazier and Rico Lopez.

Next year's 77th annual Slovak Bowling Congress of America tournament is scheduled for the spring of 2019 at Stonehedge Bowling Lanes in Akron, Oh.

Again, our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Brother Jay Barna. As well, a sincere thank you to all our Sokol bowlers who participated in this year's competition.

For information on the Slovak Bowling Congress, contact the Secretary, Joe M. Harkulich, 1414 Bedford Road SE, Masury, OH 44438, tel. 330 448-8630. Sokols who serve on the SBC Advisory Board of the SBC include our Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon and Richard Underman.

2018 SCS ALL-EVENTS SWEEPSTAKES PARTICIPANTS

Name	City	Score
Jay Barna	Pittsburgh, Pa.	2015
Ryan Trifiletti	Lorain, Oh.	1977
Luis Palos	Lorain, Oh.	1948
Frank Hrusovsky	Cleveland, Oh.	1826
Norm Harms	Pittsburgh, Pa.	1772

*Congratulations to all our Sokol participants.
Zdar Boh!*

Message from our Supreme President

(Continued from page 4)
ety will be starting its 113th year of providing its members with financial security. I want all to think about the founders of our society who had a vision, took a chance and laid the foundation for our Organization. It is to their credit and all of the leaders who served the Organization since 1905 that we are able to celebrate our 113th year. While you are celebrating the

Fourth of July with your family and friends and thinking of our 113 years in existence think about your financial security and does it meet your future needs. If you see a gap or a problem call the home office or our Director of Sales and Marketing to ask them to help you secure your future.

*With God's Blessings to All,
Zdar Boh!*

and the Pitt Students Slovak Club, in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, Pa. 1 to 5 p.m., displays, lectures, entertainment and traditional Slovak cuisine; free admission and free parking.

MON.NOV.12

■ Wreath 111 meeting and social

"Let's Give Thanks" at the American Slovak Home, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6:30 p.m.

MON.DEC.10

■ Wreath 111 meeting and annual Christmas dinner at the American Slovak Home, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6 p.m.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

Catholic Grade School Grants of \$250 each



John P. Zakovic
St. Aidan School
Group 1, Assembly 182
New York, NY



Sophia Zakovic
Kellenberg Memorial School
Group 1, Assembly 182
New York, NY



Roland Joseph Wilson
St. Martha Catholic School
Group 2, Assembly 9
Bridgeport, CT



Lorelei Katlynn Wilson
St. Martha Catholic School
Group 2, Assembly 9
Bridgeport, CT



Emily K. Johnson
Our Lady of the Valley School
Group 3, Wreath 18
East Douglas, MA



Natalie E. Johnson
Our Lady of the Valley School
Group 3, Wreath 18
East Douglas, MA



Annalise Romine
St. Leonard Catholic School
Group 4, Wreath 93
Milwaukee, WI



Kennedy Macko
St. Francis De Sales
Group 5, Assembly 167
Barberton, OH



Anne J. Sejba
St. Hilary School
Group 5, Assembly 167
Barberton, OH



Margaret Sejba
St. Hilary School
Group 5, Assembly 167
Barberton, OH



Grace Mangan
Wyoming Area Catholic School
Group 7, Assembly 59
Wilkes-Barre, PA



Luke Silinskie
Wyoming Area Catholic School
Group 7, Assembly 86
Port Griffith, PA



Colin Baker
St. Ignatius Loyola
Regional School
Group 12, Assembly 261
Reading, PA



Andrew McVicker
Holy Family Catholic School
Group 12, Assembly 48
Philadelphia, PA



Rebecca A. Sherman
St. Dorothy School
Group 12, Assembly 186
Drexel Hill, PA

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS
Catholic Grade School Grants of \$250 each



Samuel A. Macurak
St. Elizabeth Elementary School
Group 14, Assembly 16
Pittsburgh, PA



Stephen R. Franke
Christ the Divine Teacher
Catholic Academy
Group 17, Assembly 108
Youngstown, OH



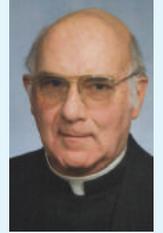
Nolan Joseph Murphy, born January 12, 2018 is the son of Kevin and Susan Leso Murphy of Marlton, N.J. He was enrolled as a member of Assembly 48 in Philadelphia, Pa.

REFLECTOR...

Jotings from Sokol and Slovak life

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION FOR GROUP 2 CHAPLAIN, REV. A. LEO SPODNIK

Father A. Leo Spodnik, a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn. noted a unique milestone in his priestly ministry. On May 27, he celebrated the 70th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. A member of Assembly 9 in his native Bridgeport, he currently serves as chaplain of Group 2.



A native of Bridgeport, he was born there son of the late John G. and Maria Burcik Spodnik on June 5, 1922. His grandparents were natives of the Spis region of Slovakia. Father Leo was raised in the former St. John Nepomucene Slovak Parish there and was graduated from its grammar school. He was a 1936 graduate of Warren Harding High School. Discerning a priestly vocation, he entered St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield and pursued his philosophical studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and completed his theological studies at Theological College at The Catholic University of America. He was ordained a priest on May 27, 1948 at what is today the Cathedral of St. Augustine in Bridgeport by Bishop Henry J. O'Brien. He celebrated his first Mass at the Church of St. John Nepomucene in Bridgeport on May 30, 1948.

Following ordination, he served in a number of parishes as a parochial vicar, including the former Sacred Heart Slovak Parish in Torrington. In 1971, he was the founding pastor of St. Leo the Great Parish in Waterbury. Under his leadership a new parish plant was completed. After serving 20 years at St. Leo's, Father Spodnik was named pastor of the former Sacred Heart Slovak Parish in Torrington in 1991. During his ministry there, a complete restoration of the church was completed and re-dedicated in 1994 and stands as a monument to his great artistic and liturgical sense. He retired as pastor of the parish in July 1997. Following his retirement, he continued assisting at Connecticut parishes until recently.

Father Leo has been a member of Assembly 9 since his boyhood days and hails from a pioneer Group 2 Sokol family. His late father, John was an active Sokol and served for many years as an officer of Assembly 9. On the occasion of his ordination in 1948, Assembly 9 presented Father Leo with a chalice which he has used throughout his priesthood. In 1993, he was honored as the fraternalist of the year at the annual St. Martin Day celebration hosted by Group 2, "Rev. Stephen Panik." An avid traveler, Father Leo has visited Slovakia on several occasions, including the 1986 tour hosted by our organization. Active in the American Slovak community, he also supports the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Celebrating seven decades in the priesthood is truly a unique privilege and blessing. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Father Leo at this time. We thank him for his years of faithful priestly ministry in the best traditions of our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith. May God continue to bless him with good health and happiness in the years ahead. Ad multos annos and Zdar Boh!

45TH SUMMER FESTIVAL SET FOR JULY 14 IN DANVILLE, PA

The Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius extend a cordial invitation to Sokol members and their friends to join them at their 45th annual Summer Festival scheduled for Saturday, July 14 at their Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart, located at Railroad Street in Danville, Pa. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. and last until 5 p.m.

The festival will feature a large Flea Market, a silent auction, home-made baked goods, handcrafted items, a book store, Sisters' artwork, and religious articles. There will be a variety of ethnic foods such as Halupky, Halusky, and Zemiakove placky (Potato Pancakes), as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream and much more. There will be a variety of games for children and adults plus special attractions like raffles, and bingo.

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.

Tours of the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius as well as Jankola Library which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary will be available.

Bus parking is available. The festival will take place rain or shine, and will close with a Mass to satisfy the Sunday obligation in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius at 5 p.m.

Milwaukee Slovak Day set for July 29

Continuing in a fine cultural tradition of the Milwaukee area Slovak community, this year's 88th annual Slovak American Day is scheduled for Sunday, July 29 at Croatian Park located at 9140 South 76th Street in Franklin, Wis. Festivities begin with Mass celebrated out of doors at 12 noon.

The cultural program in the scenic and spacious park begins at 2 p.m. and will feature among others the talent of our Group 4 Sokol drillers of Wreath 93 as well as the Tatra Slovak Dancers who will present the music and dance traditions of the various regions of Slovakia. A new feature this year will pres-

ent the talent of the internationally renowned Fujara musician Bob Rychnik. Live music for dancing and listening pleasure will be enjoyed until 6 p.m. Children's games and activities will be available throughout the afternoon. Traditional Slovak culinary specialties along with popular American picnic favorites will be available throughout the day. Homemade Slovak pastries as well as an imported beer from Slovakia will also be featured. An enjoyable afternoon is assured. For additional information on this year's Slovak Day observance call our Wreath 93 Sokolka, Betty Valent at tel. 414 425-6137.

Children are qucik

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: Correct. Now, class, who discovered America?

Class: Maria.

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: HJJKLMNO.

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Donald: Yesterday you said it is H to O.

Teacher: John, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your borther's. Did you copy his?

John: No, it is the same dog.

Teacher: What do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

Student: A teacher.

Teacher: Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

Simon: No sir, I don't have to, My mom is a good cook.

SISTERS OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS
VILLA SACRED HEART
DANVILLE PA

Summer Festival
Saturday
July 14 2018
10:30 am - 5:00 pm

fun food baked goods dinner
games flea market

Saturday Mass for Sunday 5pm Basilica

Ashley Hess was named a National High School Tennis All-American

Patti Gorsuch, the director of athletics at the Academy of the Holy Angels in Demarest, NJ, has announced that Ashley Hess was named a National High School Tennis All-American. Hess is being honored for excellence on the tennis court and within the classroom, where she maintains a top grade point average.



This season, Hess won the large school first singles Bergen County Championship and was an individual finalist in the state tournament, where she was the #2 seed. In October 2017, she was named The Record's Female Athlete of the Week. She plays for AHA Tennis Coach Jessica Leto.

"One of the main reasons I chose tennis as my sport is because of the individual responsibility," the Cedar Grove resident explained. "I love tennis because I have total control over how I practice, perform, and handle myself on the court. Win or lose, only I know whether I gave it my all and what I can do to improve."

Hess noted, "Natural talent can only take you so far in tennis. It takes a lot of hard work to compete at a high level! During the summer, I play three to six hours of tennis every day, and I play between one-and-a-half to two hours every night during the school year. During high school season, I often practice for up to two hours more after my matches."

This dedicated athlete's love for her sport began early. Her mother had played tennis in high school, and the family enjoyed following the pros. Together, they regularly attended the U.S. Open in New York.

"I would always be in awe of

the power, movement, and coordination of the professionals," Hess recalled.

She started taking tennis lessons at age four. A few years later, Hess gave up her basketball, ballet, and piano lessons to concentrate on competitive tennis.

"While I always loved being active and participating in sports in general, I was always happiest when I was playing tennis, and I found that I was the most motivated to improve my tennis game."

Although Hess just completed an outstanding season, she said she was surprised to hear about her honor from the National High School Tennis All-American Foundation.

"Mrs. Gorsuch emailed me during the school day that she had some important news to share, and I honestly had no idea what it was about. It feels amazing to receive such an honor!"

Ashley Hess is the Granddaughter of our former General Counsel and Honorary Supreme Officer, John D. Pogorelec, Sr., Esq. and a niece of our General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. She is a member of Assembly 162 in Clifton, N.J.



Dear Mr. Moeller,
I would like to thank the Slovak Catholic Sokol for their generosity and support in my education. I have received my letter regarding my selection to receive the 2018 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship. – Milan Spisek, Easton, CT

Mr. Moeller,
Thank you so much for awarding my son, William Griffith, a Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship this year! I cannot tell you how much we appreciate the scholarship. Thank you again. – Lynn and William Griffith, Reading, PA

Dear Mr. Moeller,
Thank you so much for the Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship. I am very thankful as this will be helpful in assisting with my college expenses. Sincerely, Alyssa Peretin, South Fork, PA

Dear Mr. Moeller,
It is with deep gratitude that I express my heartfelt thanks to you, the selection committee, and the Slovak Catholic Sokol organization, for the \$1,000 scholarship to help me continue my college education toward my degree in business/human resources. I am very grateful, and will continue to work and study hard until that goal is achieved. Thank you again, and God bless. Zdar Boh! Sincerely, Nicholas Beblar, Johnstown, PA

Centennial of the Pittsburgh Agreement Held at the Heinz History Center



Representatives from all walks of American Slovak life participated in the history-making festivities surrounding the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31 at the Heinz History Center. This agreement, signed by Thomas G. Masaryk with representatives of the American Slovak and Czech communities on May 31, 1918 was a major document in the creation of the first republic of Czechoslovakia on October 28, 1918. The agreement defined the role of the Slovaks in the newly proposed state which had the blessing of President Woodrow Wilson. The original spelling of the new republic included the "hyphen" to express the duality of the state. Unfortunately none of the promises made to the Slovaks were fulfilled. In 1923, with the adoption of a new constitution, even the spelling of the state without the hyphen emerged and initiated a strong centralized government and the beginning of the period of "Czechoslovakism." In the top photo, Slovakia's Ambassador to the United States Peter Kmec, second from the left, a speaker at the event, is shown with Slovak fraternal leaders, 1-3, Andrew M. Rajec, national president of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Cynthia M. Maleski, national president of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and our Supreme President Michael J. Horvath. In the lower photo, Brother Horvath is shown with his lovely wife, Suzanne and daughter Heather.

Rev. John T. Connolly Celebrates 40th Sacerdotal Jubilee



Father John T. Connolly, pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. was honored on May 13 on the occasion of his 40th anniversary of priestly ordination. He was principal celebrant of a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a reception given in his honor in the church hall. Father Connolly, who has been pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius since 2010, shown third from the right, poses with some of the Sokol members who participated in his celebration, including, 1-3, our General Counsel and president of Group 1, Attorney John D. Pogorelec, Jr., his parents, Honorary Supreme Officer, Attorney John D. Pogorelec and his lovely wife, Phyllis; Anthony Glodava, parish trustee and John D. Termyna, trustee-emeritus of the parish.

The New York Oratory of St. Philip Neri cordially invites you to join us as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of

Fr. George J. Torok

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will take place at four o'clock in the afternoon at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Tappan, NY Reception immediately following in the Parish Hall

JULY 1 2018



FIND US ON Facebook

Slovak Catholic Sokol





KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

June, 2018

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



If you love to read.....this is just the program for you. From June 13th-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:

Edward Moeller- 2821 Waterman Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15227. If you prefer to do it on-line...you can e-mail it to me at vp@slovakcatholicssokol.org

Father's Day Crossword Puzzle

Across

2. Dad drives me to school in his _____.
4. My dad goes to _____ every day from 9am to 5pm.
6. My dad loves to watch _____ on TV.
8. I love my daddy and my daddy _____ me.
9. My dad's mom is my _____.

Down

1. My dad's dad is my _____.
3. When I misbehave my dad _____ me.
5. If I am in danger my father will _____ me.
7. When we watch TV my daddy hogs the _____.
9. My father likes to work out at the _____.
10. Another name for father.

myunentitledlife.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Alexander Roman	6/5
Timothy Romagnoli	6/7
John Yanosick	6/17
Abram Wadle	6/18
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

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 otcov [Den ot -tsov] (soft "n")

Happy Fathers' Day = Šťastný deň otcov [Shtyawst-nee Den ot -tsov]



What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...

Analyst: April 2018 Inflation Highest since Late 2012

Slovakia in April 2018 saw its highest level of year-on-year inflation since December 2012, UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia analyst Lubomir Korsnak noted in a commentary on fresh data released by the Statistics Office.

The Statistics Office earlier in the day reported that consumer prices in April rose by 0.6 percent m-o-m and by 2.9 percent y-o-y.

"Despite the first signs of a gradual cooling down posted by household consumption, inflation demand pressure flared up to the full in April," said Korsnak, pointing out that food prices went up by 0.3 percent on a monthly basis, while their y-o-y growth accelerated from 5.7 percent to 5.8 percent.

"We expect inflation to culminate in April-June close to 3 percent, driven mainly by growing fuel prices, reacting to more expensive oil and a weaker euro. On the other hand, the relatively early beginning of warm weather (an extremely warm April) could accelerate a seasonal drop in the prices of some fruit and vegetables. We expect that the traditional May seasonal price increase could be more moderate than usual, while a fall in the prices of seasonal food could be seen as early as in June," said Korsnak.

A slowdown in food price growth on a yearly basis could be posted in late 2018, due to the strong base effect of milk and egg prices.

"We still expect that demand inflation will grow faster than overall inflation, being pulled up by strengthening demand pressure in the economy on the back of dynamic salary growth," said Korsnak.

Meanwhile, Slovenska sporitelna analyst Katarina Muchova pointed to the fact that inflation in April was driven by growing prices of food, services and transport.

"The price growth in services continues to reflect an improving situation on the labor market, which helps to increase the disposable incomes of households," said Muchova, adding that the April figures indicate that average inflation for 2018 could end up higher than the figure estimated by Slovenska sporitelna bank (2.2 percent).

Poll: Kiska, Pellegrini and Danko Viewed as Most Trustworthy Politicians

A poll conducted by Focus agency in April has shown that people in Slovakia have the most trust in President Andrej Kiska (46.2 percent), Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini (34.7 percent) and Parliamentary Chairman and Slovak National Party (SNS) leader Andrej Danko (31.2 percent).

The agency assessed the degree of trust and mistrust in selected politicians – the most senior constitutional officials and the chairs of political parties that have long exceeded the threshold required for seats in parliament.

Chairmen of Opposition parties Freedom and Solidarity/SaS Richard Sulik (26.6 percent) and Most-Hid Bela Bugár (25.9 percent) also finished ahead of Smer-SD leader and former prime minister Robert Fico on 23.1 percent.

They were followed by Opposition OĽaNO leader Igor Matovic (23 percent) and chairman of the extra-parliamentary Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) Alojz Hlina (17.2 percent). Leader of the far-right LSNS Marian Kotleba enjoys the confidence of only 13.9 percent of Slovaks, and he's also viewed as the most untrustworthy politician, with 83.5 percent of the respondents expressing mistrust in him.

Trust in politicians has fallen since the previous survey, with none of the aforementioned figures being trusted by more people than in January. Meanwhile, none of the politicians enjoys the trust of more than 50 percent of the respondents. Andrej Kiska, Bela Bugár, Boris Kollar and Robert Fico suffered the deepest falls, with people's trust in each of them going down by 7 percent when compared to the Janu-

ary poll.

The Focus survey was carried out between April 24-30 on a sample of 1,005 respondents. Those polled were asked the following question: "To what degree do you trust or mistrust the following politicians?"

Kiska Won't Run in Presidential Election, But Not Leaving Politics

Slovak President Andrej Kiska announced that he will not run in next year's presidential election, but he isn't planning to pull out of political life completely, either.

He said that his decision was influenced by several factors. "I've never hidden the fact that family life is very important to me," stated Kiska, adding that last year's events reminded him that time spent with the family is irreplaceable and that the family should not be set aside. Kiska admitted that he's sometimes gone to the edge of his powers while carrying out his mandate. He gave the example of his decisions concerning the appointment of Constitutional Court judges and the recent reconstruction of the Government.

"I think it's right if citizens choose a president who won't have born the burden of struggles that I have, and, therefore, Slovakia will elect its president without my involvement," stated Kiska.

Nevertheless, Kiska doesn't consider the political struggle that he began with his entry into politics to be over. He'll think over how to use the trust of a large section of the public in the best way in order to contribute towards the beginning of a new political era in Slovakia. "Slovakia needs a self-confident head of state that will not be afraid to stand up for the values of a modern and free democratic country," stressed the president.

The presidential race is slated for the spring of 2019. Parliamentary political parties Smer-SD, the Slovak National Party (SNS), Most-Hid, Freedom and Solidarity (SaS) OĽaNO and We Are Family haven't yet presented their presidential candidates. Most of them are considering potential names, while some have already made the decision and will present their candidate soon.

Radovan Zsuzsik, who has already announced his candidacy, intends to vie for votes as a civic candidate. Security analyst Juraj Zabožnjik and political analyst Eduard Chmelar have also expressed interest in the presidential post. Supreme Court judge Stefan Harabin has declared his preliminary interest, as well. Financier Imrich Beres announced his intention to join the 2019 presidential race, but he looks set to give up his candidacy.

Unemployment Rate in Slovakia Down to 5.42 percent in April

The unemployment rate in Slovakia in April stood at 5.42 percent, down by 0.13 percentage points (p.p.) month-on-month and by 2.32 p.p. year-on-year, TASR learned from the latest data released by the Labor, Social Affairs and the Family Center (UPSVaR) on Friday.

The number of jobseekers immediately able to take up a job was 149,611 in April, a decrease of 4,243 individuals m-o-m and of 29.13 percent y-o-y. The total number of jobseekers reached 183,518 in the fourth month of 2018, going down by 2.26 percent m-o-m and by 26.22 percent y-o-y. "As for the unemployment rate calculated from the total number of jobseekers, it also posted a decline in April, namely to 6.65 percent, which was a total of 183,518 people," said Labour, Social Affairs and the Family Cen-

(Continued on page 13)

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

SPIŠSKÁ SOBOTA – A HISTORIC SLOVAK TOWN



Spišská Sobota is a historic Slovak town located in the northeastern part of Poprad above the Poprad river. The first written mention of Spišská Sobota is from 1256 as a border village, but it likely existed before this date. In 1271, Spišská Sobota was granted city privileges. In 1567 the city was given the right to host a fair. Spišská Sobota was the center of the shopping, bohemianism, business, trade and cultural guilds. Due to its geography the settlement developed into a market town. After the arrival of German colonists it competed with trade centers such as Spiš, Levoča and Kežmarok. Spišská Sobota has a well-preserved historical center, which was included as part of the town's monument reserve in 1950. The historic architecture of Spišská Sobota includes Gothic and Renaissance-style squares and baroque houses. Significant historical structures include the Church of St. George, (originally built in a Neoromanian style in 1273, but rebuilt in 1464 in a Gothic style) featuring late Gothic altars and the altar of 1516; Workshop by Master of Paul of Levoča; the early 16th century Chapel of St. Anne; a Renaissance bell tower from 1598 and the Evangelical Classical church built in 1777.

News and Views from Slovakia...

(Continued from page 12)

tre (UPSvAR) general director Marian Valentovic at a press conference in Bratislava on Friday. The figure declined by 0.12 p.p. m-o-m and by 2.48 p.p. y-o-y.

All eight Slovak regions recorded cuts in their unemployment rates in April, with Banska Bystrica region seeing the most significant drop. The unemployment rate declined in 62 districts, while 14 districts posted growth in unemployment, and the unemployment rate remained unchanged in three. The highest figure was recorded in Rimavska Sobota district (17.96 percent) and the lowest in Tmava district (1.96 percent).

Slovakia and Indiana Ink Memo on Deeper Economic Cooperation

Economy Minister Peter Ziga (Smer-SD) and Governor of the US state of Indiana Eric Holcomb have signed a memorandum on deeper economic cooperation.

The meeting, which took place on Monday, May 21 in Bratislava, was also attended by Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD).

According to Ziga, Slovakia has been cooperating with Indiana's National Guard for years, and there has been mutual interest in deepening cooperation beyond the sphere of defence.

The economy minister sees great potential for cooperation mainly in the field of innovative technologies. "Such cooperation will offer new interesting opportunities for both Slovak and American companies," said Ziga, adding that significant intersections also include the automotive industry as well as the diversification of energy sources.

With its population of 6.6 million people, Indiana is similar to Slovakia, not only in terms of population, but also in the structure of the economy, said Stano. The automotive and mechanical engineering industries have a strong position in this pro-export-oriented American state.

A large community of Slovaks lives in Indiana, while the state's capital of Indianapolis is home to a Slovak honorary consulate headed by Stevo Zlatos, added the ministry spokesman.

Special Prosecutor's Office Presses Charges against Antonino V.

A prosecutor of the Special Prosecutor's Office on Thursday (May 17) filed an indictment against an Italian entrepreneur operating in eastern Slovakia, for legal purposes identified only as Antonino V., at the Specialised Criminal Court in Pezinok (Bratislava region), TASR was told by Special Prosecutor's Office spokesperson Jana Tokolyova on Friday.

The prosecutor pressed charges against the Italian regarding the attempted crime of damaging the financial interests of the European community and for attempted subsidy fraud.

According to Tokolyova, the charges concern an attempt to elicit EU funds totalling almost \$130,000 from the Agricultural Payment Agency (PPA) through a company called Bio-Finis, where Antonino V. was an authorised representative. He allegedly engaged in deception when declaring obligations related to the terms of providing support to farmers.

"If the subsidy had been granted, PPA would have incurred total damages of \$130,000, of which a portion would have been provided from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and from the European Agricultural Rural Development Fund – almost \$120,000, while over \$12,000 would have come from Slovakia's state budget," said Tokolyova.

[Antonino V., who is being prosecuted for drug-related crimes in Italy, was extradited to his native country on May 22. Investigative journalist Jan Kuciak wrote about the activities and contacts of the businessman in Slovakia shortly before he was murdered. – ed. note]

US Military Experts to Provide Training in Slovakia

A team of American military experts will come to Slovakia in the summer in order to provide training and consultation to the Slovak Armed Forces, with the Cabinet approving a proposal to this effect on May 23.

The objective of the Civil Affairs team's presence in Slovakia is to increase mutual interoperability as well as develop military capabilities within the Slovak Armed Forces, stated Defence Minister Peter Gajdos (Slovak National Party). The team will feature a maximum of four members of the US Armed Forces and a maximum of two pieces of military equipment.

The Civil Affairs team will be based in Martin (Zilina region) as of July 1 for a period of 18 months. All of the costs related to the presence of the team in Slovakia will be paid by the USA.

Flag Day – June 14th



The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a school-teacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New



Officers and Members of Group 7 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. recently gathered at Little Flower Manor in Wilkes-Barre to honor Msgr. Francis J. Beeda for his 81st birthday. The Group also met in May for Join Hands Day and the Group officers met at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Dallas, Pa. to spruce up the monument of Rev. Joseph Murgas.



York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which

he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.



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Slovak Catholic Sokol



WREATH 93 CELEBRATED ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

March 4 marked the day Wreath 93 celebrated its 100th Anniversary. The gathering took place at Knights of Columbus in South Milwaukee, Wis. where many Wreath 93 members gathered to celebrate this great occasion. The hall was filled with memorabilia, banners and beautiful centerpieces created by Vice President, Nancy Hoeck, plus a "100" balloon.

President of Wreath 93, Caroline Gemoll, opened the afternoon with a welcome and President of Group 4, Jennifer Romine, followed with a prayer. A delicious buffet lunch was served.

Following lunch and fraternalism, financial Secretary, Patty Osterbrink presented a beautifully written history of Wreath 93. Jennifer Romine then introduced the children of Wreath 93 who actively presented drill and track uniforms worn from members of Wreath 93. Vice President, Suzie Zeman re-

searched the history behind the uniforms and the dates they were worn.

The children and even some adults were then able to enjoy dancing to the beats of the music, Directress, Tricia Radtke, put together. She even had limbo, the hokey poky, the chicken, and of course some polkas. It was great to gather members of all ages on the dance floor.

A slide show of the past 100 years was then presented. Patty Osterbrink spent many hours creating this masterpiece that was well enjoyed by all as when the photos came up, you could hear the laughs and ahhs as others were remembering the past.

The afternoon concluded with dessert, a presentation of the S.C.S. 50 and 75 year pins and more fraternalism. It was a celebration that many looked forward to, enjoyed and were happy to be part of. Congratulations to Wreath 93 on their 100 years of fraternalism with the Slovak Catholic Sokol.



Wreath 93 Officers

Brad Hoeck, Noah Romine, Suzie Zeman, Caroline Gemoll, Nancy Hoeck, Patty Osterbrink, Tricia Radtke, Lisa Hoeck



The young children of Wreath 93 twirled and walked around to showcase past uniforms worn by members throughout the years as Jennifer Romine, Grp 4 president, described the uniform and the dates they were worn.



The Evica Clan



Obituaries...

Senior Monk at St. Andrew Abbey

Rev. Placid Pientek, O.S.B. laid to rest at 99 in Cleveland, Oh.



Father Placid (Francis) Pientek, O.S.B. was not only the oldest member of St. Andrew Svorad Benedictine Abbey in Cleveland, Oh. he was also the oldest Benedictine monk in of the American-Cassinese congregation of monasteries in the United States. He passed away peacefully on May 6 at the Regina Healthcare center at the age of 99.

A native New Yorker, he was born in the shadow of Wall Street on July 26, 1918, son of Slovak immigrant parents, Ignatius and Helen (Jakubjak) Pientek. He was raised in St. John Nepomucene Slovak Parish. The pastor, the late Monsignor Stephen J. Krasula, P.A., seeing him as a potential vocation, suggested to him in 8th grade that he consider attending Benedictine High School in Cleveland that the Slovak Benedictines opened in 1927. At the time of his death, Father Placid was the oldest alumnus of Benedictine High School.

And so it was on a warm late summer afternoon in 1932 that 14-year-

old Francis Pientek arrived in Cleveland's St. Andrew's Priory beginning a fruitful career of nearly 86 years as a real "Man of Benedictine." That young man became the highly esteemed Father Placid.

After high school, young Francis began preparations to enter the Benedictine Order by attending St. Procopius College in Lisle, Ill. He formerly entered the community of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in 1938. Completing his novitiate training at St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, Kan. and received the religious name Placid, who was one of the first two disciples of St. Benedict. He received an undergraduate degree in Latin and returned to the abbey to complete his theological studies. On September 23, 1944, he was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of St. John by the Most Rev. Edward F. Hoban, Archbishop-Bishop of Cleveland. He returned to New York where he celebrated his first solemn Mass at the Church of St. John Nepomucene on October 1, 1944.

Following ordination, Father Placid joined the faculty of Benedictine High School as a teacher of Latin and religion as a coach of tennis and bas-

ketball. In 1952, he pursued graduate studies at the International College of San Anselmo in Rome. At the abbey and high school, he served in a number of positions. In 1966, he was named the second-in-command as Prior of the abbey. Under his leadership, he headed committees which inaugurated several capitol campaigns at the high school and school. For many years, he assisted in ministry at several Cleveland parishes. He remained active in ministry for many decades until taking up residence at the Regina Healthcare Center several years ago.

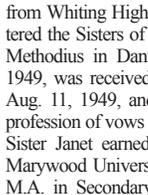
Father Placid has always been active in the American Slovak community. He is our long-time member of Assembly 303, located at the abbey. In addition, he enjoyed membership in the First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated for Father Placid in the Abbey Church on Friday evening, May 11 with the Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, O.S.B. as principal celebrant. Concelebrants included retired Cleveland Auxiliary and former St. Andrew Abbot, Bishop Roger W. Gries, O.S.B., retired auxiliary bishop of Cleveland as well as fellow Benedictines and area priests concelebrating. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery.

May the priestly soul of Father Placid, who provided outstanding priestly ministry in the best traditions of the followers of St. Benedict and our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith, now enjoy the beatific vision. May he rest in peace. Donations in his memory may be made to St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, 10510 Buckeye Rd., Cleveland OH 44104-3725.

Sister Janet Matlak, laid to rest at the age of 90 in Danville, Pa.

Sister Janet Matlak, 90, died on May 12, 2018, at Emmanuel Center, Danville. Sister was born in Chicago, IL, on Jan. 14, 1928, the daughter of the late Vincent and Sophie (Zmuran) Matlak. She attended Immaculate Conception School in Whiting, IN, and graduated from Whiting High School. She entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville on Feb. 2, 1949, was received as a novice on Aug. 11, 1949, and made her first profession of vows on Aug. 9, 1951. Sister Janet earned her B.A. from Marywood University, Scranton, an M.A. in Secondary Education and Administration from Villanova University, Villanova, and did graduate studies at St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO. Sister Janet also studied Formative Spirituality at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.



Sister Janet taught on the elementary level in parish schools in Perth Amboy NJ, and Bloomsburg PA. In 1959, she joined two other Sisters at the inception of Andean High School, a co-institutional school in the Diocese of Gary, IN. She spent 17 years at Andean, serving as Guidance Counselor, Theology teacher, and in the administrative positions

of Assistant Principal for Girls and Associate Principal. In 1976, Sister Janet assumed an administrative post in the Diocese of Gary Catholic Schools System where she became Assistant Superintendent in charge of Supervision, Curriculum and other related areas.

Upon her return to the Motherhouse in Danville, PA, Sister taught at St. Cyril Academy for one year and performed clerical duties at St. Methodius Convent. She was then missioned to Villa St. Cyril, Highland Park, IL. From 1988-1992, Sister Janet served on the SSCM Leadership Team. From 1992-2002 Sister Janet was the Director of Admissions at Maria Joseph Manor and continued to minister there in various capacities until 2012. She then became a resident visitor until her retirement to Emmanuel Center.

Sister Janet is survived by two nieces and two nephews and their families.

Transferal and recitation of the Rosary took place on May 18 at Maria Hall in Danville followed by a Wake Service. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Maria Hall by Maria Hall chaplain Reverend Gerard Heintzelman, with concelebrants Monsignor Robert Lawrence and Reverend John Cyniac. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery.

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

Detroit Area Slovaks celebrate centennial

This year, SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Parish of Sterling Heights, Mich. celebrates its 100th anniversary. A host of year-long festivities have been planned and present and former parishioners are invited to join in the fun. The annual parish festival is scheduled for the weekend of August 24, 25 and 26 on the parish grounds located at 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Mich. 48314. The theme of this year's festival, "A Century of Slovak Catholic Tradition in the Detroit Area." Festival hours include: Friday: 6-11 p.m., Saturday, noon - 11 p.m. and Sunday: 11: a.m. - 9 p.m. A festive Slovak liturgy will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday.

A festival program book will be published. Artwork for the program book must be in Pdf format and received not later than July 31, 2018. To purchase an ad speak with Frances Schena, email: francesschena@att.net. Congratulatory banners are also available. Contact Frances Schena. A centennial blue or clear glass Bohemian crystal Rosary, made in Italy is available. For information also contact Frances.

Group 16 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, as well as Assembly 36 have been a part of parish life over the past century. John Fournier, chairperson of the 100th anniversary committee is available for any questions on the centennial year program at j4nier58@gmail.com. Zdar Boh!

Rev. Libor Marek, Pastor

July 5th is Ss. Cyril and Methodius Day in Slovakia



A statue of the Saints Cyril and Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs, in Nitra. (Photo by TASR)

Saints Cyril and Methodius Day in Slovakia always falls on July 5th each year and celebrates the two Byzantine brothers Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius for their spreading of the Christian faith and transcribing religious texts from Greek into Old Slavonic.

People will take the day to reflect on great things these two brothers did to spread the word of

Christianity. This day is a national holiday with most government and business offices closed.

Back in 860 the two brothers went to spread the Christian faith to the Ukraine, Bulgaria and Slavic lands area. They also translated Greek religious texts into Old Slavonic and are recognized as the originators of the Cyrillic alphabet named after Cyril. They arrived in Slovakia in 863.

YOUR BENEFICIARIES

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

Announcing the Memorial Scholarship Fund!!!



In Memory of...

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
SCS Museum Treasurer
33 Pinecrest Rd.
Uxbridge, MA 01569

- Your bequest will be recognized in the *Falcon* as well as permanently added to the Memorial Scholarship Donation Log which will be kept at the Sokol Museum.
- Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will be able to award at least two \$1,000 scholarships annually. 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.

Donations to the 2018 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal may be sent at any time during the year

**Donations made to the 39th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation in 2017
in Support of the Ministry of the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome
and religious communities of men and women in Slovakia**

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN, PA	
St. John Fisher Church, North Catasauqua	\$103.00
DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN, PA	
Our Lady of the Aleghenies, Lilly	\$529.00
SS. Cyril and Methodius, Windber.....	42.00
	\$571.00
ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT, MI	
SS. Cyril and Methodius, Sterling Heights.....	\$500.00
	\$500.00
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG, PA	
St. Florian Church, United.....	\$100.00
	\$100.00
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK, NY	
United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Manhattan	\$1,387.00
	\$1,387.00
DIOCESE OF PATERSON, NJ	
SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Clifton.....	\$1,105.00
Sacred Heart Church, Rockaway.....	428.00
	\$1,533.00
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON, PA	
Diocese of Scranton.....	\$10,235.39
Church of the Epiphany, Sayre.....	2,070.00
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre	100.00
SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Hazleton.....	435.00
	\$12,840.39
DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE, OH	
Corpus Christi Church, Caldwell	\$75.00
	\$75.00
DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN, OH	
Christ Our Savior Church, Struthers.....	\$730.00
Holy Name of Jesus Church, Youngstown.....	425.00
SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Youngstown.....	307.00
St. Matthias Church, Youngstown.....	642.00
	\$2,104.00
OUTSIDE THE U.S.	
ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO, ONTARIO	
SS. Cyril and Methodius, Mississauga, Ont.(U.S.dollars).....	\$950.00
	\$950.00
RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES	
School Sisters of St. Francis, Pittsburgh, Pa.....	\$100.00
Benedictine Order of Cleveland, Cleveland, Oh.....	100.00
	\$200.00
SLOVAK CATHOLIC FRATERNALS	
Slovak Catholic Sokol	
Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.....	\$100.00
Assembly 34, Minneapolis, Minn.....	100.00
Assembly 136, Nanticoke, Pa.....	25.00
Assembly 182, New York, N.Y.....	100.00
Assembly 261, Reading, Pa.....	50.00
Wreath 11, Johnstown, N.Y.....	100.00
Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.....	100.00
Wreath 147, Larksville, Pa.....	25.00
Group 1, "Msgr. Stephen Krasula," Passaic, N.J.....	100.00
Group 7, "Rev. Joseph Murgas," Wilkes-Barre, Pa.....	100.00
Group 9, "SS. Cyril and Methodius," Johnstown, Pa.....	100.00
Group 12, "Rev. Anton Bernolak," Philadelphia, Pa.....	100.00
Group 18, "Rev. Joseph Martinec" Lansford, Pa.....	100.00
Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, Torrington, Conn.....	25.00
71st International Bowling Tournament.....	240.00
Board of Directors, Passaic, N.J.....	300.00
	\$1,665.00
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association	
St. Mary's Society, Branch 2, Yonkers, N.Y.....	\$100.00
Branch 10, Cleveland, Oh.....	100.00
Branch 86, Dallas, Pa.....	35.00
Branch 107, McKeesport, Pa.....	200.00
St. Elizabeth Society, Branch 202, Campbell, Oh.....	100.00
Branch 301, Canton, Pa.....	25.00
Branch 408, Westlake, Oh.....	100.00
Branch 475, Bedford, Oh.....	150.00
Branch 615, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.....	100.00
Board of Directors, Beachwood, Oh.....	1,250.00
	\$2,160.00

First Catholic Slovak Union	
Branch 3, Minneapolis, Minn.....	\$100.00
Branch 19, Bridgeport, Conn.....	150.00
Branch 55, Philadelphia, Pa.....	10.00
Branch 85, Blakely, Pa.....	100.00
Branch 112, Mahanoy, Pa.....	25.00
Branch 153, Chicago, Ill.....	100.00
Branch 166, Binghamton, N.Y.....	50.00
Branch 200, Ford City, Pa.....	25.00
Branch 259, Struthers, Oh.....	50.00
Branch 276, McKeesport, Pa.....	100.00
Branch 382, Scranton, Pa.....	175.00
Branch 450, Parma Heights, Oh.....	100.00
Branch 493, Louisville, Ky.....	25.00
Branch 682, Youngstown, Oh.....	50.00
Branch 796, Egypt, Pa.....	50.00
Branch 857, Levittown, Pa.....	50.00
Msgr. Stephen Krasula District #16, New York, N.Y.....	50.00
Board of Directors, Independence, Oh.....	1,000.00
	\$2,210.00
Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union	
Branch 24, Windber, Pa.....	\$100.00
Branch 52, Braddock, Pa.....	40.00
Branch 64, Pittsburgh, Pa.....	50.00
Branch 90 Laurel Run, Pa.....	25.00
Branch 213, Laurel Run, Pa.....	25.00
Rev. Alexander Dianiska District, Wyoming, Pa.....	25.00
Board of Directors, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.....	500.00
	\$765.00

CLERGY

Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, Hollidaysburg, PA.....	\$ 300.00
In Memory of John Bacik, Jr., Alice P. Bacik and John Bacik III by Rev. Lawrence Bacik, Galesburg, MI.....	50.00
Rev. Leonard M. Bacik, Cleveland, OH.....	50.00
Rev. Richard A. Bay, Newfoundland, NJ.....	25.00
Rev. Sylvester J. Bendzella, Northern Cambria, PA.....	100.00
Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Chaback, Northampton, PA.....	250.00
Rev. Vladimir Chripko, C.O., Tappan, NY.....	50.00
Rev. Ralph Coletta, Bath, OH.....	50.00
Rev. Msgr. Thomas A. Derzack, Walnutport, PA.....	100.00
Rev. Michael S. Drevitch, Wilkes-Barre, PA.....	100.00
Rev. Damian J. Ference, Wickliffe, OH.....	100.00
Rev. Stephen J. Gergel, Kingsland, GA.....	15.00
Rev. John Gonchar, OFM, Pittsburgh, PA.....	25.00
Rev. David J. Halaiko, Akron, OH.....	25.00
Rev. Andrew Hvozdozovic, Sayre, PA.....	100.00
Rev. John Jerek, Youngstown, OH.....	50.00
Rev. Joel M. Kovanis, Sun City Center, FL.....	25.00
Rev. Msgr. Robert Kozel, Bethlehem, PA.....	200.00
Rev. John M. Kumse, Cleveland, OH.....	100.00
Rev. Joseph Kumath, Lakeville, CT.....	50.00
Rev. Ronald Kurzawa, Livonia, MI.....	25.00
Rev. Jerome Lajak, Avon, OH.....	100.00
Rev. Edward S. Litavec, Elizabeth, PA.....	100.00
Rev. Joseph J. Matthey, Dunmore, PA.....	25.00
Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, Philadelphia, PA.....	300.00
Rev. Steven M. Palsa, McKeesport, PA.....	100.00
Rev. J.H. Piskura, Westlake, OH.....	100.00
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Rev. Gary Yanus, Lakewood, OH.....	25.00
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Rev. Kenneth Zigmund, Lisle, IL.....	25.00

Liza Zurovchak, Atlanta, GA..... 75.00
 \$ 6,240.00

The final account of the 2017 Slovak Catholic Federation Saints Cyril and Methodius Annual Appeal is \$36,553.39.

PAN BOH ZAPLAT! THANK YOU!

Reverend Thomas A. Nasta	Dolores M. Evanko
National First Vice President	National Secretary-Treasurer
Slovak Catholic Federation	Slovak Catholic Federation
Director of the 2017 Appeal	

Donations to the 2018 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal continue to come in. As many of you know, the funds raised in this annual Appeal are sent to the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the residence of priests from Slovakia who are sent to Rome by their bishops for graduate studies. After receiving their degrees, these priests return to their dioceses to work as seminary teachers, Tribunal officials, and in other ministries.

The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you to all who have already made their donation to the 40th Annual Appeal. If you have not already done so, please fill out your information in the box at the bottom of this article and mail it along with your check to the address listed. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated. As of May 20, the 2018 Appeal has raised \$15,121. Again, thank you for your goodness and generosity to the Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. Donations received on and after December 1, 2018 will be credited toward the 2019 Appeal.

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



40TH ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL

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 Amount \$ _____

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

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

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The Second Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol Reunion at Rocky Gap Resort and Casino in Flintstone, Maryland

The Second Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol Reunion took place June 1-3 at Rocky Gap Resort and Casino in Flintstone, Maryland. The weekend event began Friday night with participants mingling and reminiscing at the Signature Outdoor Bar and Grill. The damp weather did not deter from a friendly corn hole competition and fraternism at its best.

On Saturday, those interested gathered to hike along one of the many scenic trails located on the property. Supreme Assistant Physical Directress, Katie Swift and her husband Nathan Swift fearlessly led the hike, while others relaxed by the water, relieved stress in the jacuzzi or scheduled a massage. Several participants challenged their golf skills by playing on the Jack Nicklaus Design Golf Course, an 18-hole mountain course. The threat of rain in the afternoon did not deter participants from enjoying the surrounding amenities. Several participants delighted in a leisure afternoon having a lakeside lunch under the gazebo and kayaking along the lake. In keeping with the theme of the YOLO board, I had a hand in trying the stand up paddle board and absolutely LOVED IT! The more spirited group ventured off sightseeing to the 1812 Brewery, the only farm brewery in Allegany County. This family owned and operated craft brewery is located in a repurposed barn built in 1812.

The evening events began with a social gathering organized by Supreme Physical Directress, Kathy

Watkins and Assistant, Katie Swift. Hors D'oeuvres, drinks and mingling were enjoyed by all. A Sokol version of "To Tell the Truth" consisted of panel "experts" describing objects and participants guessing who was telling the truth. Apparently, Law Enforcement Officers are the best story tellers and educators are the worst!! All were winners and were awarded prizes.

The light number of attendees allowed opportunities for a quaint gathering and spending more time getting to know each other. I plan to make YOLO (You only live once) my mantra, living life to the fullest extent and embracing all that is around me. Thank you to Kathy Watkins and Katie Swift for organizing another successful reunion and giving time for all to enjoy each other and the beautiful surroundings.

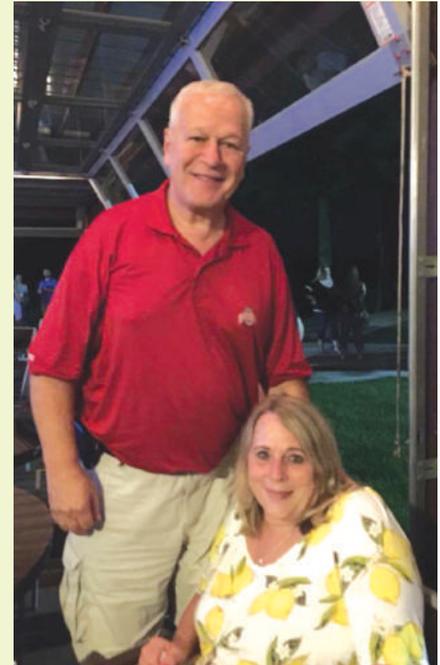
We hope to see you at the upcoming events:

July 13 - 15
International Softball Tournament
Kirby Park
Wilkes-Barre, PA

July 26-29
International Clinic
SUNY Brockport, NY

August 10-12
International Golf Tournament
Oak Tree Country Club
West Middlesex, PA

Zdar Boh!
Nancy Kropolinsky
Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member



Aká bude populácia slovenských miest o 30 rokov

Ani v jednom z 11 najväčších slovenských miest nedosahuje plodnosť hodnotu dve deti na jednu ženu. Upozornila na to vo svojej štúdií Katedra humánnej geografie a demografie Prírodovedeckej fakulty Univerzity Komenského a Výskumné demografické centrum pri Infostate. Sústredili sa takýto vývoj až do roku 2035.

Expertí sa zamerali na Bratislavu, Košice, Prešov, Žilinu, Nitrú, Banskú Bystricu, Trnavu, Trenčín, Martin, Poprad a Prievídzu. Len v hlavnom meste je aktuálne plodnosť vyššia ako v celej krajine.

Vo viac ako polovici prípadov vo všetkých mestách sa rodičmi stávajú ľudia vo veku 30 a viac rokov. Len v päťdesiatich prípadoch sú rodičia mladší ako 25 rokov. Vek rodičov od roku 1989 prudko vzrástol.

Demografi predpokladajú nárast plodnosti, no roveň nedosiahne hodnotu dve deti na jednu ženu. Hodnoty sa budú pohybovať okolo 1,6 až 1,8 dieťaťa. Hoci sa očakáva nárast plodnosti, počet narodených detí bude klesať. Žien vo veku 15 – 49 rokov bude totiž menej.

Čoraz viac detí sa rodí nezobášaným rodičom. Najvyšší počet narodených dní mimo manželstva majú Martin a Prievidza.

V najväčších mestách nastal prudký pokles sobášnosti a ich obyvatelia sa sobášia neskôr ako v menších mestách. Je prekvapujúce, že kým pred dvadsiatimi alebo aj desiatimi rokmi sa manželské páry vo veľkých mestách rozvádzali viac, v súčasnosti je táto hodnota podobná ako v ostatných mestách.

Obyvatelia týchto miest žijú výrazne dlhšie ako pred 25 rokmi. Najväčšiu mieru na náraste strednej dĺžky života má zníženie úmrtnosti ľudí vo veku 60 – 79 rokov. Prevažuje však prirodzený úbytok. Viac osôb zomiera, ako sa narodí. Odborníci tam očakávajú ďalšie zlepšovanie úmrtnostných pomerov u mužov i žien. Z hľadiska úrovne úmrtnosti zostanú pod celoslovenským priemerom.

Počet obyvateľov sa napriek tomu v mestách s výnimkou Bratislavy bude znižovať. Priemerný vek do roku 2035 narastie o 3 – 6 rokov. Zvýši sa zastúpenie seniorov nad 65 rokov, a to o jednu pätinu, v prípade Prievidze až o dve tretiny.

Sťahovaním strácajú obyvatelov všetky mestá s jednou výnimkou hlavného mesta, ktoré sa približne pred 10 rokmi dostalo do kladných čísel a získava obyvateľov zo všetkých regiónov Slovenska.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

(Pokračovanie zo str. 20)

a deväť detí.

● Úrad verejného zdravotníctva od začiatku roka zaznamenal 32 chorých na vírusovú hepatitídu E. Z toho v troch prípadoch išlo o importovanú nákazu z Ománu, Thajska a Nemecka. Najviac prípadov mal Banskobystrický kraj – 13, v Trnavskom kraji evidovali sedem prípadov, v Košickom štyri, v Bratislavskom tri, v Trenčianskom dva a v Nitrianskom, Žilinskom a Prešovskom kraji po jednom prípade. Ako faktor prenosu v piatich prípadoch zistili konzumáciu mäsových výrobkov, infekciu mohol ďalej šíriť aj nakazený človek.

● V Číne predstavili Audi Q8, ktoré sa bude vyrábať v Bratislave, popri Volkswagene Touareg, Audi Q7 a Porsche Cayenne.

● Slováci odchádzajú z miest na dediny už viac ako dvadsať rokov. Hoci stále platí, že viac Slovákov (2,9 milióna) žije v mestách než na dedinách (2,5 milióna), na vidiek sa sťahujú a z miest odchádzajú každý rok tisíce ľudí. Kým medzi rokmi 1996 a 2017 pribudlo na vidieku 201-tisíc obyvateľov, počet ľudí žijúcich v mestách klesol o 133-tisíc.

● Na Slovensku mieria nové značky. Na tento rok je ohlásených viac ako desať prestížnych mien, ako napríklad Burger King, Pizza Hut a holandská kozmetika Rituals. V roku 2017 otvorili svoje obchody na Slovensku nalsedovné známe značky: Nespresso – kaviarne, Iqos – vaporizéry, Decathlon concept store – šport, Khieľ – kozmetika, Douglas – parfumeria, Tasty Donuts&Coffee – občerstvenie, U.S. Pollo – móda, Poe Poe – rýchle občerstvenie, Kobe Steak Grill Sushi – reštaurácie, Calvin Klein Underwear – móda, Galileo – móda, Superdry – móda a Domino's Pizza – reštaurácie.

ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!

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Automobilka Jaguar Land Rover v Nitre začne výrobu v septembri



Pohľad na výstavbu závodu v Priemyselnom parku Nitra-Sever, Dolné Hony. - Autor: SITA, Martin Havran

Automobilka Jaguar Land Rover 29. mája oznámila, že 3. septembra odštartuje výrobu na Slovensku. Pôvodne investor hovoril o začiatku výroby koncom tohto roka, plány tak zjavne mierne urýchlil. Dnes už zamestnáva 1 300 ľudí a do roku 2020 bude zamestnávať približne 2800 pracovníkov a očakáva sa, že na Slovensku vytvorí nepriamo ďalších 22-tisíc pracovných miest. Automobilka tiež oznámila, že otvorila tréningovú akadémiu, do ktorej investovala 7,5 milióna eur. Prebiehať v nej budú školenia pre všetkých výrobných pracovníkov.

V nitrianskom závode sa na každé pracovné miesto vo výrobe hlási až 100 kandidátov. Na manažérske a administratívne miesta je 20 ľudí na jedno voľné miesto. Jaguar vlní

o októbri spustil masový nábor a priamo sa prihlásilo až 20-tisíc uchádzačov o prácu.

Z výrobných pásov budú ako prví schádzať luxusné SUV automobily Discovery a neskôr sa pridá aj druhý model, ktorého názov automobilka zatiaľ neprezradila. Po spustení výroby sa počíta s produkciou dosahujúcou maximálne 150-tisíc automobilov za rok. V druhej fáze počet zamestnancov stúpne na takmer 3-tisíc a kapacita závodu vzrastie na 300-tisíc osobných motorových vozidiel. V prípade záujmu zákazníkov sa môže Jaguar Land Rover na toto číslo dostať už v roku 2021.

Nová automobilka so sebou dotiahla na Slovensko aj rôznych subdodávateľov, ktorí majú v krajine pod Tatrami vytvoriť ďalších 12-tisíc pracovných miest.

Nezamestnanosť v SR by do konca roka mohla klesnúť pod 5 percent

Nezamestnanosť na Slovensku by v tomto roku mohla klesnúť pod 5 %. Očakáva to minister práce Ján Richter. Podľa neho by sa pod pokračujúci pozitívny vývoj na trhu práce mohla podpísať rastúca ekonomika, ale aj vládne opatrenia.

“Sú na to vytvorené reálne predpoklady. Aktívne opatrenia na trhu práce sú využívané a sú dobre cielene,” skonštatoval Richter.

Upozornil na to, že vo všetkých znevýhodnených kategóriách uchádzačov o zamestnanie sú zaznamenávané pozitívne výsledky. “Vo všetkých znevýhodnených okresoch je rapidný pokles evidovanej nezamestnanosti, čo je ďalší dobrý vývoj,” podotkol minister.

Ubúda tiež počet ľudí dlhodobo evidovaných na úradoch práce. V marci tohto roka v evidencii úradov práce ubudlo 1989 dlhodobo nezamestnaných ľudí. Medziročne počet týchto ľudí bez práce klesol o 47.000. “Dostali sme sa dlhodobo nezamestnanými na 43 % z celkového počtu evidovaných nezamestnaných.

Pred rokom to bolo ďaleko nad 50 %. To znamená, že aj ten pomer k celkovému počtu priznávajúcich klesá. Na základe našich nástrojov robíme všetko pre to, aby aj tí, ktorí boli dlhodobo evidovaní a majú záujem pracovať, aby prácu našli,” tvrdí Richter.

Na Slovensku je v súčasnosti 17 okresov s nezamestnanosťou pod 3 %, je však ešte stále 15 okresov s nezamestnanosťou nad 10 %. “Dôležité je ale povedať, že nad 20 % nie je nezamestnanosť v žiadnom okrese,” doplnil Richter. Nezamestnanosť nad 18 % je len v okrese Rimavská Sobota, nezamestnanosť nad 15 % však už nemá žiadny okres.

“Reálne predpokladám, že tento vývoj bude pokračovať vzhľadom k vývoju a stavu ekonomiky. Dnes sme reálne v situácii, že firmy majú už svoj biznis plán, majú objednávky zazmluvnené a budú mať záujem naplniť počty zamestnancov, aby tieto záväzky vedeli naplniť,” dodal Richter. Tiež uviedol, že začínajú fungovať aj akčné plány vlády na podporu znevýhodnených okresov. - TASR

Gymnazisti z Vranova boli úspešní na celosvetovej súťaži v USA



V máji sa uskutočnila v Novom Mexiku celosvetová súťaž autonómnych robotov RoboRave 2018.

Gymnazisti z Vranova nad Toplou Samuel Titko, Oliver Kudzia a Marek Valčo pod vedením učiteľa Jána Motešického si zmerali sily zo súpermi z celého sveta. Ich tím Boreas obsadil 4. miesto v konkurencii žiakov z 20 krajín. Celkovo sa súťaže zúčastnilo 1500 ľudí.

Žiaci vytvorili s pomocou učiteľa robota Boreasa, s ktorým súťažili v kategórii fire fighting teda hasenie ohňa. Ich úlohou bolo v čo najkratšom čase uhasiť 4 sviečky ukryté na pripravenom hracom poli. Princíp fungovania

robotu sa skrýva v LED dióde, ktorá sníma infražiarenie.

Tím sa na súťaž pripravoval približne 600 hodín. Žiaci mali na starosti základný návrh, konštrukciu robota, programovanie, zapájanie obvodov či návrh vlastných súčiastiek.

„Napriek mnohým problémom, či už technickým alebo organizačným sme radi, že sme sa umiestnili na 4. mieste, ako aj to, že sme mali možnosť vidieť nielen Nové Mexiko, ale aj New York a centrálu OSN. Je to určite nezabudnuteľný zážitok pre každého z nás a radi sme ukázali, že aj Slovensko má svoje miesto vo svete,” opísali pocity zo súťaže v USA gymnazisti.



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VOLUME CVII

PASSAIC, N.J., 13. JÚNA 2018

ČÍSLO 5115

60. výročie úmrtia Mikuláša Schneidera – Trnavského

Výzva slovenským katolíkom

V tomto roku si pripomíname 60. výročie od úmrtia nášho najväčšieho slovenského skladateľa chrámovej hudby Mikuláša Schneidera Trnavského.

Narodil sa 24. mája 1881 v Trnave a zomrel 28. mája 1958 v Bratislave. Svojou nesmierne rozsiahlou tvorbou sakrálnych skladieb, obzvlášť v žánri symfonických omší ktorých je viac než dvadsať, sa zaraďuje medzi najproduktívnejších skladateľov symfonických omší. V počte symfonických omší sa vyrovnal J. Dismas Zelenkovi a W.A. Mozartovi.

V snahe priblížiť čitateľom osobnosť Mikuláša Schneidera-Trnavského, rada by som opisala, ako jeho vnučka, niekoľko spomienok na skladateľa.

Už počas môjho detstva som počula od starého otca ako ho k hudbe viedli trnavskí jezuiti. Na konzervatóriách v Budapešti, vo Viedni a nakoniec v Prahe získal kompletné hudobné vzdelanie. V roku 1905 ukončil svoje štúdiá v Prahe absolventským koncertom výlučne z jeho tvorby v pražskom Rudolfine. Týmto sa stal najviac školeným Slovákom v klasickej hudbe.

Počas štúdií vo Viedni a v Prahe sa aktívne angažoval v slovenských krajských spolkoch. Komponoval originálne slovenské piesne, slovenské pochody, kantáty a národné orientované hymnické piesne na podporu utlačovaného slovenského ľudu.

V roku 1909 vyhral súbeh na obsadenie miesta regenschoriho v Bazilike sv. Mikuláša v Trnave. V tomto chráme a v tejto úlohe tu pracoval až do svojej smrti, teda pol storočia. Počas 50 rokov neúnavnej práce skomponoval nespočetné množstvo cirkevných skladieb, žalmov, litánií, antifónov, ofertórií, príležitostných skladieb k sviätym a 37 omší.

Jeho dielo sakrálnej hudby je monumentálne. Zahŕňa vyše 400 originálnych skladieb, čo tvorí zhruba dve tretiny celej



Mikuláš Schneider – Trnavský
1881 – 1958

jeho tvorby. Ako zakladateľ pôvodnej slovenskej duchovnej hudby zanechal nám hudobné bohatstvo, z ktorého to najkrajšie a umelecky hodnotné nie je zatiaľ sprístupnené slovenskému poslucháčovi.

V dome, kde žil môj starý otec, je teraz múzeum v Trnave – Dom hudby Mikuláša Schneidera-Trnavského. Návštevník múzea má možnosť vidieť jeho pracovňu v pôvodnom stave. V mojej pamäti navždy utkvel obraz starého otca skloneného nad písacím stolom ako je pohrúžený do komponovania nových harmónií a melódií.

Prichádza mi na um, čo sa o ňom povrávalo, že veľmi ľahko a spontánne tvoril. Vo svojich memoároch raz spomenul, že sa mu noty sypali na papier. Ktokoľvek prišiel za ním a požiadal ho o zhudobnenie textu alebo básne, skomponoval, neodmietol, pokiaľ text vyhovoval.

Stalo sa aj to, že keď ho prišli pýtať o kópie jeho skladieb a nemohol tieto skladby hneď nájsť povedal: „Počkajte napíšem vám ich znovu z pamäti“. To bol jeden z jeho kumštov.

Starý otec mal popri skladaní hudby veľa záujmov. Pekne maľoval, kreslil, ilustroval a vrezával betlehemy z dreva, napísal niekoľko básní. Bol vynikajúcim rečníkom a pútať ro-

zprával, svojim vtipom dokázal zabaviť celú spoločnosť.

V roku 1933 za objem a krásu cirkevnej hudby ktorú vytvoril, mu pápež Pius XI. udelil titul Rytiera rádu sv. Gregora Veľkého.

Prvé vydanie Jednotného katolíckeho spevníka s obsahom vyše 500 piesní vyšlo v r. 1937. Toto dielo zjednocuje Slovákov katolíkov nielen doma na Slovensku, ale aj tu v USA a v širom svete. Chráňme a udržujme toto jedinečné dielo. Mnohé iné národy niečo také nemajú. Pristupujme k nemu s úctou a zbožnosťou a odovzdajme ho ďalším generáciám. Týmto splatíme dlh skladateľovi, ktorý pred smrťou povedal: „Náď som nežil nadarmo“.

V úvode som napísala podtitul „Výzva slovenským katolíkom“. Čo s tým myslím, pripomínam Slovákom, aby sa dožadovali slovenskej hudby v slovenských kostoloch.

- Nadežda H. Halková

Krátke správy zo Slovenska



- Rakovina vo všeobecnosti patrí k ochoreniam, ktoré najčastejšie berú Slovákom život. Podľa Správa Európskej komisie o zdravotnom stave SR za rok 2017 je dôvodom takmer tretiny úmrtí. U žien je to príčina v 24 percent prípadov, u mužov dokonca v 29 percentách. Správa v tejto súvislosti konštatuje, že SR zatiaľ nemá vypracovaný národný plán boja proti rakovine, čo je nástroj, ktorý sa v iných krajinách využíva na mobilizovanie úsilia na presadzovanie väčšej prevencie, včasného zisťovania a lepšej liečby osôb s rakovinou.
- Minulý rok bolo na území Slovenska 104 451 cudzincov. Napriek tomu, že počet cudzincov, ktorí tu žijú s nejakým typom povolenia na pobyt narastá, v porovnaní s inými krajinami Európskej únie je to stále relatívne nízky počet, sú to necelé dve percentá populácie.

● Na územie Slovenskej republiky pricestuje jednotka amerických vojakov, ktorí budú plniť úlohy výcviku a poradenstva v rámci spolupráce ozbrojených síl Slovenskej republiky a Spojených štátov amerických. Skupina vojakov by mala pricestovať na prelome júna a júla tohto roka. Americkí vojaci budú pôsobiť v Martine a Slovensku by mali byť 18 mesiacov.

● Desať príslušníkov Vojenskej polície, ktorí pôsobili v oblasti Stredozemného mora, sa po úspešnom splnení úloh vrátili na Slovensko. Cieľom operácie, ktorej sa zúčastnili, je zastaviť prevádzanie ľudí z afrických štátov do Európy. Slováci od januára patrili do takzvaného „Boarding teamu“ na lodi pod nemeckým velením. Počas zásahov sa podieľali na záchrane viac ako 400 migrantov, z toho 41 žien

(Pokračovanie na str. 19)



V strede Európy, symbolicky v srdci Slovenska, sa v sobotu 19. mája 2018 vrátila do Zlatých kúpeľov v Turčianskych Tepliciach atmosféra kráľovských návštev, ktoré tieto kúpele poctili svojou prítomnosťou opakovanne. Novou dominantou Zlatých kúpeľov Turčianske Teplice sa stal luxusný a elegantný 5-hviezdičkový Hotel Royal Palace. Pôvodná budova hotela z roku 1883 niesla meno Elizabeth (Erzsébet), na počesť cisárovnej Alžbety Bavorskej, známej aj ako Sissi, ktorá kúpele navštevovala. Zrenovovaný hotel nadväzuje na kráľovskú eleganciu a luxus a túto tradíciu spája s tým najmodernejším, čo v súčasnom svete hotelierstva môže nájsť. Predstavuje jedno z najluxusnejších ubytovacích zariadení na Slovensku. Súčasťou hotela sú aj nové priestory Royal Bath, ktorého súčasťou je aj Zlatý kúpeľ s vlastným liečivým prameňom – perla medzi termálnymi prameňmi Turčianskych Teplic. Najväčším prírodným bohatstvom Turčianskych Teplic sú liečivé minerálne pramene a termálne vody, ktorých teplota sa pohybuje od 38 do 46 °C.