



Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

SLOVENSKÝ KATOLÍCKY SOKOL

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*MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR*



Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath



2018 is coming to a close, but before it does, we will celebrate the joyous celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus on Christmas Day.

All through the Advent Season the message we hear is one of preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ. While we are preparing for Christmas Day, we open our hearts and rejoice this happy and merry time of the year that is to come in many ways.

The lead up to Christmas Day is a little hectic and we wonder if we can get everything done. Somehow it happens! We found the extra hour in a day and the extra day in the week to make sure all is ready for Christmas Eve Vilija and Christmas Day. It truly is amazing and magical. I now know how Santa Clause is able to do everything he does on Christmas Eve. I do believe!

Our rich Slovak customs and traditions make preparing for Christmas even more special with the decorating of our homes and Christmas tree. Then there is the baking of the delicious Christmas kocky, and the singing of Christmas carols, that never get old no matter how many times they are sung.

Advent and Christmas is also the time

of the year that gives us to opportunity to do something good for others, since it is the season of giving. The simplest way to show you care is to call or send Christmas Cards to family and friends to let them know you are thinking of them and they are very important to you. Then if we have the ability, do charitable acts, since there are many that are not able to enjoy Christmas properly. We must remember saying "it is better to give than receive". This will bring more joy and happiness to all.

Not everything at Christmas will be joyful, those empty seats and missing faces will bring thoughts of sorrow and Christmas' past. However the joy in knowing they are celebrating the best Christmas they ever did in Heaven with family and friends will help restore the Christmas spirit in us.

As you continue to prepare for Christmas 2018 with the remaining days that are left, the Horvath family, myself, my wife Suzanne, our daughters, Heather, Megan and Jennifer and their families and the extended family send our best Christmas greetings and wishes all Slovak Catholic Sokol members and friends may all have a very Blessed and Joyous Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Veselé Vianoce!
Šťastný Nový Rok!
Zdar Boh!

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SOKOL CALENDAR



MON. DEC. 31

■ SILVESTER STEAK FRY is scheduled from 5-7 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and advanced ticket sales only. Reservations: Pam, tel. 440 245-5146.

■ New Year's Eve celebration - Silvestrovska zabava hosted by the Domovina Slovak Society at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J. beginning at 7 p.m., \$50.00 per person adults, \$10.00 children free of charge to age 18; for reservations call Slavka at tel 201 694-3735.

SAT. JAN. 12

■ Assembly 16 meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St.,

South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 12 noon followed by the annual meeting.

FRI. JAN. 18

■ 46th annual March for Life in opposition to abortion in Washington, D.C., buses from Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton, Pa. call Theresa Kluchinski at the Ladies Pa. Slovak Catholic Union, tel 888 834-6614; from Cleveland, Oh. call Kelly at the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association tel 800 464-4642, ext. 1051 or email Kelly at fcsla.org.

THUR. FEB. 4

■ Assembly 59 annual meeting at the North End Slovak Citizens Club, 617 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. beginning at 7:30

(Continued on page 3)

From the desk of the Supreme Secretary

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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



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

John 1:14

I would first like to take this opportunity to wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas. This special time of year offers us the chance to observe and celebrate with the most important people in our lives. It is a time, first and foremost, to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Remembering the true meaning and significance of Christmas is sometimes overlooked



amid all that is going on in our lives during this busy time. We need to remind ourselves that Christmas is about the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and not just another day off or holiday.

Christmas is also a wonderful time for our most respected Family traditions. We of Slovak ancestry have so many beautiful traditions related to the celebration of Christmas. When I sit down to break bread with my Family this Christmas, the sharing of the traditional Oplatky will absolutely be part of our feast. It has been part of our lives for as long as I can remember and will continue to be during this wonderful time of the year. I hope that many of our members will continue to promote these traditions because they truly do enhance our celebration of the Christmas season.

I would like to thank our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, our Board of Directors, and all our Supreme Officers for their

dedication to the organization over the past year. I would also like to thank our Group Officers, Assembly Officers, and Wreath Officers for their continued efforts in promoting our wonderful Society. A fraternal benefit society like ours is really an extension of our own family. It is what our founders had in mind in 1905 and it is what our organization has become. Over the years, generations of our members have instilled in us a true family atmosphere at all of our fraternal events. We not only provide outstanding financial security with our insurance and annuity products, but we also offer so many fraternal benefits geared to our members. I ask you to continue your efforts and look for ways to not only increase membership, but to increase participation and frequency of your activities. It is who we are and what we do!

As the New Year approaches, it is a wonderful time to examine your insurance needs as well as the needs of your family and friends. If you are unsure of things, please take the time to look at our WIN/WIN Promotion in this issue or our website. Today, we have qualified life insurance and annuity representatives that can assist our existing and potential members in selecting the financial protection to help protect their future. You can help strengthen our wonderful organization while also protecting your family and friends. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the Home Office or our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, and we would be glad to assist you.

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

SOKOL CALENDAR

(Continued from page 2)

p.m.. Events for the upcoming year will be discussed. All members of Assembly 59 are welcome. Refreshments will be served. For further information call Secretary Renee Pizzella at 570 954-6480.

SAT.FEB.9

■ Assembly 11 annual meeting at 9024 Del Prado Drive, Palos Hills, Ill. beginning at 1 p.m., refreshments will be served; call 708 598-1468.

SOKOL HANGOUT

Peek-n- Peak Resort
December 26-27

Join me on the slopes, in the pub, or at the pool. Call to book a room. Bring your family and enjoy a few days of skiing or tubing. Text me if you can make it – 412-225-8233.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Kathleen S. Watkins
Supreme Physical Directress

HOLIDAY HOME OFFICE CLOSINGS

In observance of Christmas, the Home Office will be closed for business on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25. Likewise, to commemorate the New Year's observance, the Home Office will be closed for business on Monday, December 31, 2018 and Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

will be the 2018 Annual Review published on Monday, December 31. In keeping with our monthly publishing schedule of the Slovak Catholic Falcon, the next issue will be that of Wednesday, January 16, 2019. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Wednesday, January 7, 2019.

SAVE THE DATE

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL 33rd QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 3 – 7, 2019

AT THE

CLEVELAND AIRPORT MARRIOTT

4277 W 150th St., Cleveland, OH 44135

(216) 252-5333 – www.marriott.com

2018 Christmas Greeting from our Protector

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

VESELÉ VIANOCE A VEELMI ŠĚASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK!

We read in the Bible, "In the countryside close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night. An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them.



They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' Now it happened that when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see

this event which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds said to them. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

Lk 2:8-12;15-19

This event, the birth of Jesus Christ, renews in us the love of God made incarnate in His Son. Like the angels, we are His messengers here on earth proclaiming God's "Good News" of His Love in our daily lives.

St. Paul shows us three ways that we can love one another during Christmas time and throughout the year. We are to encourage them, help them with their burdens, and be a role model of forgiveness.

In his letter to the Thessalonians, we read that we are to "encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (1Thes 5:11) Leo Buscaglia once said, "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

In St. Paul's letter to the Galatians, he writes: "Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal 6:2) We are called to show them God's Love by helping them through times of crisis. Sometimes a simple prayer is all we have to offer. "Heavenly Father, thank You for being our everlasting source of strength during our trials and tribulations. Even when our hearts are broken, You provide a hope that tomorrow will be better. You are with me and my loved ones always." ~ Anonymous

St. Paul also writes that we should be "bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (Col 3:13). When we forgive others we give them an example of how they should forgive, just like Christ dying on the Cross for us. "Forgiveness is the final form of Love." Reinhold Niebuhr

By opening our hearts, as the shepherds did who bravely followed their simple faith, we too can follow our faith bravely. At this time, let us look to the crib and pray to truly follow this mystery of LOVE.

PEACE,
Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic

ARE YOU READY?

So here we are. Almost Christmas. Most of us have spent the last several weeks getting ready. Trees bought and decorated. Gifts bought and wrapped. Holiday parties. Family gatherings. Cookies left out for Santa. Cards and letters sent far and wide. All wonderful.

And here we are. In this place. Together with family and friends and neighbors. Which is as it should be. Together we sing the familiar carols. We light and hold our candles. We retell that age old story.

Silent Night. Holy Night. Wondrous star led thy light. With the angels let us sing. All beautiful. Take it in. But here's the thing. For all our preparation and for all the beauty around us I can't help but wonder if there is something more. Something we miss in all of our other planning and preparation. All of our decorations and gift giving. So much of what we spend time and energy and money on seems to have little to do with that simple, provocative, age old story we read together each year.

A story so familiar we almost know it by heart. Gentle Mary. Stoic Joseph. Shepherds in the field abiding. Angels from the realms of glory.

A story so layered over by tradition and Christmas card images and soften by the glow of candles that the meaning and the challenge the story presents gets lost in the pageantry of our celebration. You know the story, but maybe you miss the tension. Here it is. Caesar Augustus. Roman Emperor. Self proclaimed Son of God on one side. Jesus. Born in Bethlehem. Laid in a manger. Gospel proclaimed Son of God on the other side. King Herod in his palace and on his throne in Jerusalem.

Or, Mary and Joseph making their way from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The Roman legions who patrol countryside and streets to impose their peace. Or, the heavenly hosts with their proclamation of Peace on Earth. God's good will to all. As we hear the story we are left to ask ourselves and then to decide.

What is this story really trying to say? Which side of the story will we chose as our own to guide and direct our living? And, because the Bible is never just about then, but also about now.

And, never just about them, but also about you and me. And because I believe there is something more to Christmas than Santa and reindeer. I wonder...

What does all this mean for us today?

What does all this mean for you today?

With the world as it is?

With your life as it is?

So if any of this, on some level, rings true or tugs at your heart, let me ask. With everything else already neatly in place...

If there is something in this story about Peace on Earth which weaves itself around some deep longing within you, how is it you are going to get ready for that kind of Christmas?

If there is something in this story about everyone having a place and not just the rich and the powerful and something in the story which brings into focus how you imagine life and world might be. Should be. How is it you are going to get ready that kind of Christmas?

(Continued on page 16)



Edith M. Babik Honored as our 2018 S.C.S. Fraternalist of the Year at a dinner held in Youngstown, Oh. on Nov.9

Group 17 fraternalists gathered on Friday evening, November 9 at Michael Alberini's Restaurant in Youngstown, Oh. to enjoy a dinner honoring one of their own, Edith M. Babik who was honored



Our 2018 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year, Edith M. Babik proudly displays the plaque she received at the dinner given in her honor on November 9.

Supreme President Michael J. Horvath then presented her with the commemorative plaque and check for \$200 as a small token of our organization's gratitude for her fine fraternal spirit and efforts. Also offering remarks were her daughter, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Nancy Kropolinsky, Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen S. Watkins and Chairperson of Supreme Auditors and president of Group 17, James G. Jerek. Other Supreme Officers in attendance included Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics Frank P. Laury and his wife, Member of the Supreme Physical fitness Board Julie M. Laury.

In her response, Sister Babik expressed thanks and gratitude to the Slovak Catholic Sokol for this honor and indicated that her efforts have been a labor of love in the best traditions of Sokol fraternalism. Her wonderful example has prompted her three daughters, granddaughter and great-grandson to be active in our organization which she first encountered in 1954 when she was enrolled as a Sokol member by her late spouse, William B. Babik. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Sister Edie on this well-deserved tribute. While in fact an octogenarian, her spirit and efforts are an inspiration to all and certainly belie her years. She often notes that her fraternal activities keep her young. God bless you Edie and Zdar Boh!

as our 2018 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year. Edie, as she is affectionately known, has been active in our organization for many years. For the past 20 years, she has served as president of one of our most active lodges, Wreath 54 in Youngstown, Oh. In addition, she has served in various capacities within Group 17, "Rev. Francis Skutil." There is hardly a Sokol fraternal or sporting activity which does not have the wholehearted support of Sister Edie. She has been a regular at our international bowling and golf tournaments. At our 49th International Golf Tournament in 2004, she was awarded the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award.

At the dinner, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. recalled Edie's many activities and fraternal example which she has exhibited for more than a half century.



Edie Babik, our 2018 Fraternalist of the Year is shown on the photo with members of the Supreme Assembly who were present at her dinner. Shown with her from the left, Julie M. and Frank M. Laury, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board and Assistant Sports Director, respectively, her daughter, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Nancy Kropolinsky, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen S. Watkins and Chairperson of Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek.



Our 2018 Fraternalist of the Year, Edie Babik is shown above flanked by Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath.

Slovakia's New Ambassador Welcomed at Dinner held at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C.



Slovakia's new ambassador to the United States, Ivan Korcok was welcomed by the American Slovak community at a dinner he hosted on the evening of November 16 at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. Earlier in the day, Mikulas Dzurinda, who served as Slovakia's Prime Minister from 1998 to 2006 presented the annual Czech and Slovak Lecture at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in downtown Washington. Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath represented our organization at

the gathering. In the top photo, Brother Pogorelec is shown offering remarks at the dinner while in the lower photo, former Prime Minister Dzurinda, center and Ambassador Korcok and his wife, Monica, are shown with some of the assembled Slovak fraternal dinner guests.

Prior to his appointment to Washington on September 1, Ambassador Korcok was the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. He is a native of Banska Bystrica in central Slovakia. He and his wife, Monica are the parents of two sons.

Walking Program

I hope everyone is ready and excited for the Christmas Season. As the year comes to an end, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happiest of New Years. It is that time of the year to send me your year-end totals. Please feel free to email me, message me or send these to me via mail.

I have a new address. The Marine

Corps has moved us again! We enjoyed our three years in Virginia and being close to 'home' in Pittsburgh but with a promotion comes a move. This time we hit the jackpot of duty stations and are stationed in Stuttgart, Germany! This place is great and the adventures are endless but there is no place like America. We will enjoy our time and travels here but we miss being so

Lodge Jottings

CHICAGO, ILL Assembly 11

The annual meeting of our Assembly, under the spiritual patronage of SS. Cyril and Methodius, will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 9 at the home of Financial and Recording Secretary, Therese M. Buc, 9024 Del Prado Drive in Palos Hills, Ill.

All members are urged to attend this very important meeting. After Assembly officers present their reports, we will have election of Assembly Officers, election of delegates to SCS Group 4 annual meeting as well as the election of delegates to the upcoming 33rd SCS quadrennial Convention scheduled for August 3-7 in Cleveland, Oh. Most importantly, there will be discussion on the future of Assembly 11.

In past years, Assembly 11 has hosted the 100th Anniversary celebrations of Slovak Catholic Sokol Assembly 11, Wreath 9 as well as Group 4. At each of these celebrations, we were pleased to greet anywhere from 60 to 120 Assembly 11 members. We urgently invite the members who showed interest in these celebrations to join us at this year's annual meeting.

Remember, the date is Saturday, February 9 at my house in Palos Hills. Please call me at 708 598-1468 if you plan to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Looking forward to a good turnout at our annual meeting and extending warm fraternal wishes to our members for a Happy New Year filled with God's blessings and good health, may I remain

Zdar Boh!

Therese M. Buc

Financial & Recording Secretary

close to family and friends.

Our new address is:

Katie Swift

CMR 447 Box 126

APO AE 09020

There is NO EXTRA postage required. This address works as if you are sending mail within the US. Just one stamp and drop it in the mail to me.

If you are a new member and would like to join, we would love to have you. Just send me your name, address, email and your year-end totals via mail, email, or messenger. I can't wait to see your totals!!! Zdar Boh!

Katie Swift

Supreme Assistant Physical Directress

\$63,000 in S.C.S. Scholarship Grants Available to Eligible Members in 2018

by Edward D. Moeller, *Supreme Vice President*

We are pleased to announce that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will make available a total of \$63,000 in **scholarship grants** to eligible members in 2019. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2019 grant; however, per Convention mandate - a student may receive a maximum of two (2) Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grant awards in each category.



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

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

College scholarship eligibility requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Both parents must be members

of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

- Must be majoring in liberal arts, the sciences, pre-law, pre-medical or business curriculum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship (3 grants in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to the applicant that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)

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

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

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

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

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 31, 2019

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

Slovak Catholic Sokol Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grant

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$500.00 grants to one young Sokol or Sokolka in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. These 19 Grants are available to any qualified Sokol member currently attending a Catholic High School.

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

APPLICATION

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

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

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2019** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @

www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

DISQUALIFICATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

RETURN OF GRANT

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



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

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

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

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

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

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

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

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2019-2020 school year.

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

**Deadline for receipt of this application is MARCH 31, 2019. Return completed application to:
 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055**

Slovak Catholic Sokol Catholic Grade School School Grants

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

APPLICATION

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2019** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @

www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

DISQUALIFICATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

RETURN OF GRANT

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



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

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

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

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

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

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

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

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

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

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

If yes, what year? _____

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

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

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

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2019-2020 school year.

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

*Deadline for receipt of this application is **MARCH 31, 2019.** Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055*

**SUPREME PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD
2019 ANNUAL MEETING
WILL BE HELD IN PITTSBURGH, PA**

The annual meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board is scheduled for the weekend of January 18-20, 2019 at the Homewood Suites Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The meeting opens on Friday evening and continues all day Saturday. The most important discussion for the weekend will be to help all of the active Groups increase the number of participants at the 49th International Slet that will be held at SUNY Brockport from July 17th–21st.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board welcomes any input from Group, Assembly/Wreath Officers or individual members, who have recommendations to help promote our sporting and fraternal programs. Please submit your recommendations to the home office prior to January 11th, 2019 addressed to: Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Secretary, P.O. Box 899, 205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055.

Zdar Boh!
James C. Matlon
Supreme Director of Sports & Athletics

**SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIP – TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

I just wanted to take a moment to highlight the recent changes made to the Slovak Catholic College Scholarship Program. We will continue to use a completely on-line process as we have had few issues with the process over the past several seasons. With the help of our technical webmaster, we have redesigned the application process and you should find it to be much more user friendly. You will find the on-line application on our website at www.slovak-catholicssokol.org beginning November 1, 2018.

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

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

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

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

1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE APPLICATION.

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

2. INCLUDE ALL REQUIREMENTS

FOR THE APPLICATION- i.e. photo; transcript; essay Start the process for requesting your transcript NOW. I have found that sometimes this is the hold up for some applicants.

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

3. SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED ELEMENTS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE.

The application is clear and I just want to prevent a waste of your time and energy.

Failure to include/complete any of the above items will result in the application being disqualified. To be honest, it is not easy for our committee when we need to disqualify applicants for simple yet important missing requirements.

Lastly, apply for all college scholarships for which you qualify in order to give yourself the best chance at receiving something. There were several applicants who limited themselves to a particular scholarship. Competition was fierce for the larger \$ scholarships, but there seems to be more opportunity with the other scholarship offerings.

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

Edward D. Moeller, *Supreme Vice President
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee*



A CENTURY OF SLOVAK CATHOLIC TRADITION IN THE DETROIT AREA SS. CYRIL AND METHDIUS PARISH IN STERLING HEIGHTS, MICH. MARKS ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY AT FESTIVE LITURGY AND CULTURAL PROGRAM

SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Sterling Heights, Mich. celebrated its centennial on Saturday, September 22 with an impressive liturgy and cultural program. The Most Rev. Robert Fisher, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, was principal celebrant of the Mass of Thanksgiving with the Most Rev. Milan Lach, S.J., Byzantine Catholic Eparch of Parma, Oh., the Rev. Libor Marek, pastor of the parish, priest-sons of the parish as well as area priests and deacons participating. The capacity-filled church included many former parishioners of the parish which was originally located on Detroit's east side. Also participating

were Slovak Dominican Sisters from Oxford, Mich. who formerly staffed both SS. Cyril and Methodius grade school and the St. Cyril High School.

Following the festive liturgy, a cultural reception and dinner was held at the Macedonian Cultural Center. The cultural program included the artistry of the well-known Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble, which was founded in the parish and the Tri-City Plus Band. A wonderful time was had by all. Many Sokols and Sokolky from Group 16 enjoyed the festivities.

On Sunday, November 18, the concluding centennial year Mass of the par-

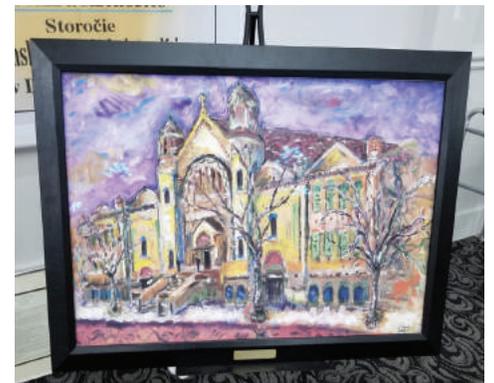
ish was celebrated with the Archbishop of Detroit, the Most Rev. Allen Vigeron as principal celebrant. Following the liturgy as wonderful reception was enjoyed by all. Group 16 and Assembly 36 were founded in the parish and continued their activities there. Group 16 members from across the Detroit area recalled the rich Slovak cultural and religious traditions of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish.



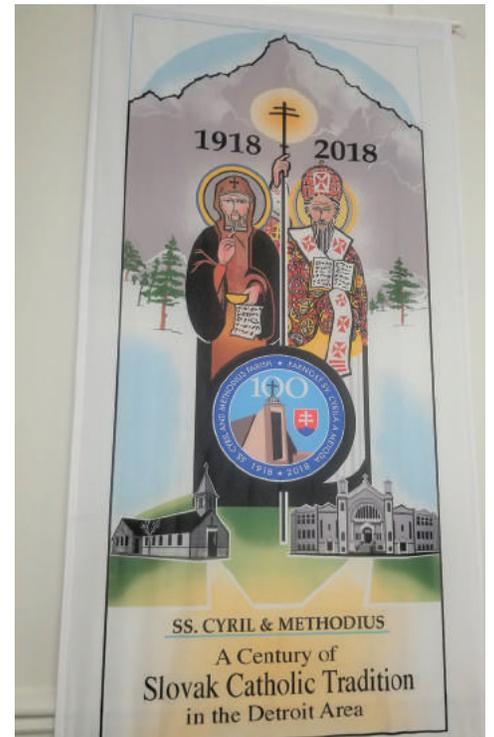
Group 16 officers who enjoyed the centennial festivities are shown with the pastor of the parish, the Rev. Libor Marek, second from the right, include, l-r, Mark Papcun, vice president; LaVerne Eland, treasurer and president, Andrea Ames Papcun. Father Marek serves as chaplain of Group 16 and is a member of Assembly 36.



The well-known Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble entertained with the music and dance traditions of the various regions of Slovakia.



A painting of the original church and school on Detroit's east side was displayed.



The centennial year banner.



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

December, 2018



Saint Nicholas

In some Slovakian towns and villages, St. Nicholas, or *Svaty*

Mikuláš arrives in a horse drawn coach, along with an angel and the devil who rattles a chain. Waiting children fill the streets with singing and dancing. St. Nicholas has a present for each child. In some villages he visits each home. On St. Nicholas Eve all the children carefully polish their boots to leave on the windowsill or at the doorstep. In the morning they hope to find a nice surprise and not the dreaded coal. Some schools have a special "Mikul Mail," where children exchange greetings and small presents. There are small gifts for the teachers, too.

European Traditions that have made their way Into the American holidays

Candy Canes

These are really candy croziers (bishops staff), which are shaped like a shepherd's hook, one of St. Nicholas' symbols. All bishop's carry staffs, hooked at the top like a shepherd's crook, showing they are the shepherds who care for, or tend, their people.

Gift-giving in secret, during the night

Stockings are filled while children are sleeping. Nicholas did his gift giving secretly, under cover of darkness. He didn't want to be seen and recognized as he wanted those he helped to give thanks to God.

Christmas stockings by the fireplace

In the story of Nicholas rescuing the poor maidens from being sold into slavery, the gold money, tossed in through the window, is said to have landed in stockings left to dry before the fire.



Merry
Christmas



JESUS
is the reason for the season!
Merry Christmas!





KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

December, 2018

Christmas Activities For Kids

MAKE CHRISTMAS COOKIES
 MAKE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
 GO CAROLING
 VISIT A LOCAL NURSING HOME
 DECORATE CHRISTMAS TREE
 VOLUNTEER TO FEED HOMELESS
 SHOP FOR NEEDY IN THE COMMUNITY

MyKidsGuide.com

Christmas Word Search

HOLLY
 REINDEER
 SANTA
 GIFTS
 STOCKING
 MISTLETOE
 FAMILY

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

SLOVAK WORDS = SLOVENSKÉ SLOVÁ

By Dr. Michael Kopanic

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS = *Veselé Vianoce* [ve-selle vyah-knowts-saah]

BABY JESUS = *Ježiško* [Yeah-zheesh-kow]

ANGEL = *anjel* [Awn-yell]

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

HOLIDAY = *sviatok* [svyaw-toke]

WISH = *vinš* [veensh]

GIFT = *dar* [daar]

NEW YEAR = *Nový rok* [know-vee roke]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Katrina Diaz 12/5
 Cole Baker 12/12
 Dominic Roman 12/15
 Aiden James McCoy 12/15
 Riana Hoeck 12/24
 Jenna Olexa 12/29

What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...

PEOPLE LOSE CONTROL OVER THEIR PERSONAL DATA

Although loss of control over personal data has an impact on the majority of people in Europe, as many as 49 percent of Slovaks have no idea where in the on-line world their personal data are stored, according to the results of a survey published by Kaspersky Lab.

The figure is even more alarming for the whole of Europe with 64 percent of Europeans not having this information. The survey also showed that 17 percent of Slovak parents don't know what personal data their children share on-line, while the Europe-wide figure is even 39 percent.

Some 80 percent of Slovaks (88 percent of Europeans) are interested in whether their data were used in an unlawful manner. Meanwhile, 67 percent of Slovaks (57 percent of Europeans) would be startled if their personal financial data were hacked. Only 31 percent of Slovak respondents trust large companies to take care of their data, while 27 percent of Slovaks believe that their personal data are safe on websites of social media.

Despite these findings, consumers do not take necessary steps to protect their data and a disquietingly high percentage of people fail to take even simple steps. One in six (16 percent) of Slovak internet users fail to secure their wifi network with a password, 28 percent of Slovaks have never updated protection of their wifi routers and 30 percent fail to protect their devices by using security software.

Firms and consumers take at least some measures to protect their data, however, their behaviour can result in the fact they're doing it in vain. Firms that thoroughly protect their personal data have no chance to prevent users from acting irresponsibly if they, for example, use the same password for several accounts, share passwords with other persons, use simple passwords or neglect protection of routers they use.

LAJCAK FAVORITE AMONGNG POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Had a presidential election taken place in November, the highest number of people would have voted for Foreign Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak, who would have garnered 32.3 percent, TASR learnt from Focus agency, which carried out the poll on a sample of 1,012 respondents between November 10-14.

Next came scientist Robert Mistrik (11.7 percent) and Supreme Court judge Stefan Harabin (10 percent). The presidential election will be held in the spring. The official candidates aren't yet known.

Leader of the coalition Most-Hid party Bela Bugar would have gained 9.2 percent, followed by chairman of the far-right LSNS party Marian Kotleba with 8.9 percent, Ordinary People (OLaNO) parliamentary caucus head Veronika Remisova on 7.9 percent, and Frantisek Miklosko on 6.3 percent.

Zuzana Caputova would have been selected by 4.1 percent of the people polled, Eduard Chmelar by 3.3 percent, and We Are Family MP Milan Krajniak by 3 percent. No other potential candidate would have garnered more than 1-percent support.

BOOK ON MURDERED KUCIAK AND KUSNIROVA PUBLISHED

Publishing house Ringier Axel Springer is releasing a book about murdered investigative journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kusnirova entitled 'Silenced'.

The book contains a comprehensive view of the lives of the murdered couple as well as an overview of Kuciak's work as a journalist, including his unfinished article on links between the Italian Mafia and top politics in Slovakia.

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

"The book is our way of commemorating Jan and Martina. In this way we want to bring their story closer to everyone who comes into contact with this book," said Ringier Axel Springer CEO Milan Dubec.

In its more than 300 pages the book includes testimonies of families, friends, teachers and colleagues. The text was compiled by reporters from Aktuality.sk news website, for which Kuciak worked, in cooperation with foreign journalists.

In addition to Kuciak's work and the couple's personal life, the book also describes the February night on which Kuciak

(Continued on page 15)



Christmas Markets in Bratislava Old Town are organized from November 23, 2018 till December 22, 2018. There are four main venues in the Old Town (Stare mesto): Hlavne Namestie - the Main Square, Frantiskanske Namestie Square, Primacialne Namestie Square and Hviezdoslavovo Namestie Square. Dni Vianoc (Christmas Days) market is organized by the Incheba fairs company.

Group 1 Hosts Annual Meeting in Clifton, N.J.



On Sunday, November 18, Group 1 "Msgr. Stephen Krasula" hosted its annual meeting at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. The program opened with the Rev. Richard D. Baker, Chaplain of Group 1 and pastor of the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John the Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini in New York, celebrating Mass for the living and deceased members of the Group. Father Baker is shown above with some of the delegates at the conclusion of the liturgy. Hosting this year's annual meeting was Assembly 1 and Wreath 2 of Passaic, N.J. with local set-up by Assembly 162 of Clifton, N.J. – *photo by Louis Smeriglio*

News and Views from Slovakia...

(Continued from page 14)

and Kusirova were slain as well as the course of the ongoing investigation.

All profits from the book will be used to boost the content of *Aktuality.sk*.

SLOVAK GOVERNMENT READY TO SUPPORT KIA'S INVESTMENT IN 4.0 INDUSTRY

The Slovak Government is ready to support Kia Motors Slovakia's investments in the field of 4.0 industry and in cars with alternative fuels, Economy Minister Peter Ziga said following his meeting with Kia's president and chief executive officer Dae Sik Kim on Wednesday, November 21.

According to Ziga, Kia Motors Slovakia with its supplier network is one of the pillars of the Slovak economy and one of its most important employers. "The Government praises the contribution of this significant investment and is ready to discuss supporting Kia's further activities, including investment in development, added value and increased competitiveness," said Ziga.

Dae Sik Kim appreciated a possibility to hold personal talks with the economy minister on the current situation in Kia Motors Slovakia. "This year we introduced three new bodywork versions of the Kia

Ceed model in order to ensure our competitiveness in Europe. We also discussed the challenges that the automotive industry in Slovakia is currently facing, as well as technologies of the future, alternative drives and automation and robotisation of production," he said.

Kia Motors Slovakia is continuing its investment activities also this year, planning to invest almost 200 million Euro (\$229 million) in total. "In addition to investments related to launching production of new models, it has opened its own health-care centre directly in the plant's premises. Employees can fully use modern devices to prevent occupational diseases. We plan to continue investing also after 2019 and develop our activities in Slovakia, as well as in Europe," stated Kia's spokesman Jozef Bace.

Kia Motors Slovakia is the only Kia Motors Corporation production plant in Europe. It was built between 2004 and 2006. The production of cars as well as engines was launched in December 2006. The carmaker currently employs more than 3,800 people in Slovakia. Since it has launched production in Slovakia, it has built more than 3.1 million cars and 4.7 million engines.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Group 17, "Rev. Francis Skutil"

The annual meeting of Group 17 was held on Sunday, Nov. 4 at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Youngstown, Oh. The meeting opened with Mass celebrated at 11 a.m. at S. Matthias Church by the pastor, the Rev. John M. Jerek.

Group 17 President James G. Jerek called the meeting to order with the opening prayer led by Sister Edie Babik followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Brother Glen Kramer. The roll call was read by Sister Carol Gonda and indicated that all officers were present with the exception of Candice Krakovich and Sue Babik. The minutes of 2017 annual meeting were accepted.

The reports of the officers followed. The president indicated that he had an active fraternal year. His report was approved on a motion by Brother Ken Hlebovy, seconded by Brother Tim Shirilla.

The vice president, Brother Glen Kramer then presented his report. He indicated that he fulfilled all the duties of the office. The report was accepted on a motion by Sister Loretta Smith, seconded by Sister Edie Babik.

The secretary, Sister Carol Gonda then presented her report. She indicated that all the duties of the office had been fulfilled. The report was accepted on a motion by Sister Elaine Kana, seconded by Sister Virginia Bartos.

The report of the treasurer was presented by Brother Tim Shirilla. He indicated that all the duties of the office had been carried out. The report was approved on a motion by Sister Nancy Kropolinsky, seconded by Sister Patty Gordulic.

The auditors, Brother Glen Hlebovy, and Sisters Mary Olexa and Edie Babik reported that they found all the books in order. Their report was accepted on a motion by Sister Nancy Kropolinsky, seconded by Brother John Jerek.

The Physical Fitness Board then presented their report. They indicated that they attended all activities hosted by Group 17 as well as the international golf tournament and the weekend at Rocky Glen Resort. Their report was accepted on a motion by Sister Patty Gordulic, seconded by Sister Mary Olexa.

President Jerek called on the Sports Director, Sister Judy Babik for her report. She too participated in all the sporting and fraternal activities hosted by the Group. She announced all the sporting events scheduled for 2019.

Under Old Business, President Jerek

(Continued on page 16)

**Wishing all our Members and Friends
a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy,
Healthy, Grace-Filled New Year
from the Home Office Staff**



Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary



Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C.
*Director of Sales
& Marketing*



Daniel F. Tanzone
Editorial Consultant



Clarissa Serrano
*Secretary to the
Supreme Secretary*



Livia Karak
Editorial Staff



Melanie M. Sasiela
Bookkeeper



Lorrie Pinck
Clerical Staff



Kelly D. Movilla
Clerical Staff



Elzbieta A. Mas
Clerical Staff



Frank Revisore
Custodian

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

(Continued from page 4)

If there is something in this story about God with us which rings true; which tugs at your spirit.

God with us.

Not God over us.

Not God judging us.

Not God condemning us.

God with us in this wonderful, complex, sorrowful, joyful thing we call life.

God with you and me.

God with us and them.

God here.

God now.

Just as you are.

Just as we are.

Just as they are.

So, if there is something about this story...Something about Christmas. Which is about more than trees and gifts and carols and cards. Then let me ask... What are you doing to get ready for that kind of Christmas?

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
of Group 17, "Rev. Francis Skutil"**

(Continued from page 15)

asked for a report on the children's Christmas party held in 2017 and plans for this year's event scheduled for December 2. He indicated that the Group had one scholarship recipient for 2018, Maria Gonda. Congratulations and best wishes go out to Sister Edith M. Babik on her selection as 2018 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year. He reminded the delegates that the 33rd quadrennial convention was set for August 3-6, 2019 and hoped that all Group 17 lodges would be represented.

Regarding the children's Christmas party, it was agreed that the Group and the Assembly and Wreaths would help with the costs. On a motion by Sister Nancy Kropolinsky, seconded by Sister Mary Olexa, \$100 was donated to our Sokol Museum fund in memory of Brother Polchak, who had been active in the Group until his death in 2017.

With no further business, the 2018 annual meeting was adjourned by on a motion by Brother Ken Hlebovy, seconded by Sister Virginia Bartos. A closing prayer for our deceased members brought the meeting to a close. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Gonda, Group 17 Secretary

THE SLOVAK 'BOUNTIFUL EVENING'

While most Catholics consider the Christmas feast the singular most enriching event in the Church year, for Slovak Catholics, Christmas centers around the celebration of "Stedry Vecer" the bountiful evening, the Christmas eve Supper.

Many of the Slovak Christmas traditions, have been brought to America by generations of immigrants from Slovakia over the past more than 125 years. Many of these traditions continue to be cultivated by their descendants in Slovak American homes.

The Christmas eve supper, which begins with the appearance of the first star, is filled with benevolence and mystery. With roots in the Passover supper of the Old Testament, the meal is filled with ritual and meaning. Each of the various regions of Slovakia have particular culinary specialities.

In some localities, it is the custom to set the table cloth over clean straw; in others straw is laid upon the floor. This reminds the family that the Christchild was bedded upon straw in a manger.

The father and mother come to the table with a lighted candle, carrying holy water and honey. Reaching their places, good wishes and greetings are extended, offering a kind of festive toast. The candle, which gives light and warmth, is the symbol of Christ, the light of the world.

Before serving the meal, the mother sprinkles holy water on the table and the rest of the house, that the blessing of God might rest on them. The father takes a little honey and makes a small sign of the cross on the foreheads of all present. It reminds all to keep Christ in our thoughts and to live and work so that harmony and pleasant fellowship might sweeten our lives.

The meal begins with the Oplatky, unleavened wafers imprinted with the scenes of the holy birth. Slovaks and Poles alike share this tradition. With snowbound conditions common on both sides of the Tatra Mountains, the Oplatky were blessed by the village priest so that if the faithful were not able to make it to church for Midnight Mass, this symbol of Christ and the Eucharist might serve as their Christmas eve spiritual nourishment.

A soup of tart quality is now enjoyed. The soup is made of sauerkraut brine and dried mushrooms. It continues the Old Testament Exodus theme of recalling the bitterness of life without Christ.

Fish is generally enjoyed, since Catholics in eastern Europe continue to observe a strict fast and abstinence on the vigil of Christmas. Next comes "opekance-pupacky-bobalky" much like tiny biscuits made of yeast-leavened dough, sweetened with honey and sprinkled with a pleasant preparation of poppyseed. The use of poppyseed recalls a pagan tradition in which poppyseed was strewn at the portal in order that the evil spirits might be occupied with picking up each morsel and thus would not enter the house.

Other foods eaten include dried prunes, pears, apples, nuts and St. John's bread "Carob." A potato pancake type of speciality known as "Lokse" is also enjoyed. The meal concludes with traditional Slovakian pastries, known as "Kolace" or strudel-like rolls made with walnuts, poppyseed, lekvar(prune) or cheese. Red wine completes the evening's feasting.

In addition to a place for every member of the family, a place is left vacant for the welcome traveler. In the rural villages of Slovakia, a shepherd would call from house to house making his Christmas wish or "Vins" to all in the household:

*On this glorious feast
of the birthday of Christ our Lord,*

*I wish you from God, good health,
happiness and abundant blessings.*

*May it be yours to enjoy
comfort from your children,
salvation for your soul,
the kingdom of heaven after death,
and for the family's welfare may
you have whatever you ask of God.*

The music and joyous spirit of the Slovak people adds much to the celebration of a truly "bountiful evening"! - **Daniel F. Tanzone**

REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL AS OF 09/30/2018

(Continued from page 17)

Medical Exams Allowance	1,768
Reserve Increase	1,025,358
Payments-Suppl. Contracts	30,048
State Insurance Dept. Lic./Fee	8,978
Dividends & Expenses	37,500
Bank Charges - Bond Account	117,368
Dues & Subscription	3,065
Donations & Contributions	5,151
Clinic (Kurz)	31,272
National Bowling Tournament	6,087
National Golf Tournament	9,343
Other Coaching, Insurance	3,797
Convention Expenses	67,500
SKS 2020 Committee	1,937
Group Assessments Paid	36,025
Commission Expense	263,330
Annuity Commissions	71,552
Advertising/Promotions	5,421
Marketing Expense	8,312
Agency Expense	20,687
Board of Directors Expense	13,711
Physical Fitness Board Expense	11,856
Miscellaneous Expense	4,826
Scholarship Expense	41,078
Supreme Officers Insurance Bond	2,051
Fraternal Congress Expense	15,782
Local Fees/ Rebates	8,941
Interest Expense	6,206
Secure Fund Interest	<u>19,599</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 7,566,181</u>
TOTAL INCOME (LOSS)	<u>\$ 397,377</u>

ZDAR BOH!
Scott T. Pogorelec, FIC
Supreme Secretary
Slovak Catholic Sokol

THE SOKOL WIN - WIN LEAD PROGRAM BENEFITING MEMBERS

Program Runs - August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019

The Slovak Catholic Sokol for over 113 years has provided our members with sound financial protection and outstanding fraternal benefits. The Society is introducing a program that will benefit our existing and potential members.

As a proud existing member of the SOKOL it is quite easy to expound upon and share the qualities of membership. Not everyone is born a salesman or comfortable selling life insurance or annuities. Today, we have qualified life insurance and annuity representatives that can assist our existing and potential members in selecting the financial protection to help protect their future.

THE PROCESS

Share with a relative or a friend the qualities of membership with the SOKOL. Our fraternal programs, benefits and financial products (life insurance & Annuities).

Complete and submit the MEMBERSHIP REFERRAL CARD to the Sales Office.

An Authorized SOKOL Agent will contact and provide professional advice to place the individual into the right solution.

If your referral purchases a SOKOL Life Insurance or Annuity you earn \$10.00. In addition, for every qualified referral, your name is entered in the \$50 gift card semi-annual drawing and the end of campaign's grand prize of \$250.

AVAILABILITY

A supply of SOKOL WIN - WIN Lead Cards will be available to all Assembly/Wreath Presidents for distribution.

Assembly/Wreath Presidents and other Assembly/Wreath Officers are asked to distribute SOKOL WIN - WIN Lead Cards to existing Members who want to recommend someone to become an insured Benefit Member.

Making it easy - SOKOL WIN - WIN Lead Cards are available for completion and submitting on the SOKOL Web Site www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

Mail completed Referral Lead Cards to the Sales & Marketing Office.

The Assembly/Wreath that has the largest number of new Members referred through this program will be awarded \$500 and will receive recognition in the FALCON, on the SOKOL website and the 2019 National Convention.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL - Member Referral Card

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: ____ - ____ - ____ Email: _____

Gender: Male Female Age: ____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Interest:
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Insurance
<input type="checkbox"/> Annuity

RECOMMENDER INFORMATION Assembly/Wreath: ____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: ____ - ____ - ____

EVERYONE WHO WINS!

The New Member
(Financial Protection & Fraternal Benefits)

The Recommender
(\$10 - \$50 - \$250)

The Assembly/Wreath-
(\$500)

New Members + New Sales = Fiscal Strength

Slovak Catholic SOKOL
Sales & Marketing
2403 Sidney Street
Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
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O B I T U A R I E S

Former Supreme Treasurer George W. Hizny passes away at age 94 in Scranton, Pa.

George W. Hizny passed away peacefully on November 12 at the Jewish Home in Scranton, Pa. He was 94.

A native of Port Griffith, Pa., he was born there January 20, 1924, son of the late Valent Hizny and the former Maria Kovalcik. He was a life-long member and former officer of our Sokol Assembly 86 in Port Griffith, Pa. He was a life-long active member of the former St. John the Baptist Slovak Parish in Pittston, Pa.



Brother George was a 1950 graduate of the University of Scranton, using the GI Bill to earn a degree in accounting. He also attended the University of Maine under the World War II Army Specialized Training Program. He was the widower of the former Theresa Russin whom he married in 1951. She passed away in 1983.

He was employed by Suburban Propane for 35 years and was a retired Justice of the Peace, notary public and insurance agent. In World War II, Brother George served his country as a combat infantryman in Europe with the 104th Infantry Regiment of the 26th Infantry Division under General George Patton's 3rd Army. He received a number of decorations for bravery, including the Bronze Star and the French Croix De Guerre.

Upon his return to civilian life, Brother George became active in numerous charitable and fraternal organizations. In Assembly 86, he served as financial secretary for more than 40 years. He represented his lodge at numerous national conventions. He was first elected as a Supreme Auditor at the 25th national convention in Reading, Pa. in 1987. He was subsequently re-elected to this position at the 26th national convention in 1991. He was elected Supreme Treasurer at the 27th national convention in Orlando, Fla. in 1995 and was re-elected to this position at the 28th national convention and continued as Supreme Treasurer until 2003. In addition, he was active in the work of Group 7 "Rev. Joseph Murgas" for many years. In 2005, Brother George was selected as our Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year.

Always proud of his Slovak heritage, he was also active in the work of the Slovak

League of America, where he served as a national auditor. In 1994, the Eastern District of the Slovak League honored him as their Man of the Year. He was also active in the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He also served in the American Legion Post 938, Jenkins Township as its secretary/treasurer and chaplain for over 25 years.

In addition to his wife and parents, Brother George was preceded in death by five brothers, Frank, William, Joseph, Jacob and Bernard and four sisters, Mary Pagorek,

Anna, Julie and Helen.

He is survived by his seven children, four daughters and three sons, his daughters, Joan(John) Portelli, Annette(Herb) Fisher, Christine(Michael) Iannuzzi and Dr. Cathleen(Dr. Timothy) Dougherty; his sons, Robert(Joan) Hizny, George(Debbie)Hizny and William(Sheri) Hizny, 18 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral arrangements were handled by the Bednarski funeral Home in Wyoming, Pa. The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Pittston on November 17. Interment followed in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton where military honors were accorded by the United States Army.

May our Brother Sokol, who so beautifully mirrored our fraternal way of life and was a credit to our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith, now rest in peace.

In Memoriam



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

OCTOBER 2018

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 1	Robert J. Stolarik, Passaic, NJ	89	September 26, 2018
Assembly 9	Edward William Agvent, Bridgeport, CT	90	September 27, 2018
Assembly 9	Dr. Edward M. Luchansky, Bridgeport, CT	77	September 3, 2018
Assembly 11	Andrew Organiscak Jr., Chicago, IL	97	September 8, 2018
Assembly 11	Raymond Knizner, Chicago, IL	87	September 17, 2018
Assembly 11	Christa L. Krasneck, Chicago, IL	49	October 12, 2018
Assembly 25	Edward Rabatin, Perryopolis, PA	94	September 21, 2018
Assembly 34	Steven E. Stepanek, Minneapolis, MN	92	October 6, 2018
Assembly 36	Sonia Millemet, Detroit, MI	89	September 12, 2018
Assembly 69	Mary Warnick, Smock, PA	94	September 26, 2018
Assembly 13	Steven P. Shamik, Nanticoke, PA	93	July 10, 2018
Assembly 219	George M. Galik, Yonkers, NY	91	November 29, 2017
Assembly 224	William Tobey, Jersey City, NJ	81	September 27, 2018
Assembly 261	Christopher J. Stofko, Reading, PA	37	August 21, 2018
Assembly 295	Anna K. Capristo, Duquesne, PA	86	October 15, 2018
Assembly 312	Helen Wisniewski, Passaic, NJ	89	October 28, 2018
Wreath 1	Marjorie K. Mischik, Bridgeport, CT	84	October 20, 2006
Wreath 15	Joseph R. Hunchuck, Perryopolis, PA	87	October 27, 2012
Wreath 21	Marjorie Rooney, Superior, WI	96	September 30, 2018
Wreath 39	Margaret E. Zaprzalka, Bridgeport, CT	92	February 19, 2010
Wreath 69	Gregory Jandura, Niagara Falls, NY	71	August 14, 2018
Wreath 81	Bernadette Beda, Whiting, IN	93	November 1, 2018
Wreath 85	Thomas Zon, Mc Kees Rocks, PA	73	October 5, 2018
Wreath 85	Jeffrey Alan Farland, Mc Kees Rocks, PA	48	October 17, 2018
Wreath 85	Terrance J. Benko, Mc Kees Rocks, PA	52	July 23, 2018
Wreath 93	Zoua Vang, Milwaukee, WI	72	September 27, 2018
Wreath 93	Boua Lor Vang, Milwaukee, WI	58	September 24, 2018
Wreath 147	Mary Yench, Larksville, PA	91	October 12, 2018
Wreath 168	Ann Marie Kachaluba, New York, NY	72	October 12, 2018

TRADITIONAL SLOVAK CHRISTMAS RECIPES

BOBALKY

- 2 cups whole milk
- 1/2 cups unsalted butter
- 7-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 envelopes active dry yeast, 0.25 ounce packets
- 2 whole large eggs
- 2 Tablespoons hot water
- Honey for drizzling
- Poppy seeds for sprinkling



Heat milk and butter over low heat in a saucepan. Heat it just enough to melt butter then remove the pan from the heat and set aside.

In a large mixing bowl combine dry ingredients (flour through yeast). Add milk and butter to the dry ingredients. Then add eggs. Mix well and knead till dough is no longer sticky. Cover the bowl and let the dough rest for 10 minutes. Punch it down and let it rise till doubled in size.

Preheat oven to 400 F. Pull off dough into walnut-sized pieces. Roll into balls and place the balls on sheet pans lined with parchment paper.

Bake at 400 F for 12-15 minutes. Remove pans from the oven and put baked balls into a colander. Pour a small amount of hot water over the balls then put them in a large bowl. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle with poppy seeds as desired. Toss and serve.

SAUERKRAUT SOUP – KAPUSTNICA

- 32 oz. Sauerkraut, chopped
- 2 1/2 qts Chicken broth
- Black peppercorns (to taste)
- 4 Bay leaves
- Salt to taste
- 2 cups dried mushrooms
- 3/4 lb Hungarian style dry paprika sausage
- 3/4 lb smoked ham
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp sweet Hungarian paprika
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sour cream



Add first six ingredients to a pot and bring to a boil. Add sausage and whole piece of ham. Let simmer over medium heat for an hour and a half. After an hour and a half, remove the meat and set aside. Remove the bay leaves and discard.

Fry the onion until clear, then sprinkle with flour and paprika while stirring for one minute. Gradually stir in the water with a fork to prevent lumps from forming. Bring this mixture to a boil and allow it to thicken. Once thickened, add to the soup pot.

Cube ham and sausage and stir into the soup pot once again. Bring to a boil and cook everything for another 10 minutes.

ORECHOVNIK (SLOVAK NUT ROLL)

FOR THE DOUGH:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 egg yolks, beaten (set aside the egg whites)
- 1/2 cup butter (1 stick)
- 1/2 cup cold milk
- 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 1 package dry yeast



FOR THE NUT FILLING:

- 3/4 lb ground walnuts (about 3 cups whole walnuts)
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar

FOR ASSEMBLY:

- 2 egg whites (saved from dough)
- 2-3 drops vanilla, divided
- 1/2 cup applesauce
- 1/4 cup milk

In a small bowl, mix the vanilla and milk together then dissolve yeast in the mixture. Sift the flour, sugar and salt into a large bowl. Cut the butter into the dry ingredients (like you would for a pie crust) until the dough resembles a coarse meal. Add the beaten egg yolks (setting aside the egg whites, covered, in the refrigerator) and the yeast mixture. Mix together briefly with a wooden spoon, then knead with your hands against the sides of the bowl until everything is blended together and the dough is no longer very sticky. Alternatively, you can use an electric mixer with a dough hook. Form the dough into a ball, cover in plastic wrap, and refrigerate overnight.

When you are ready to put together the nut rolls, prepare the filling: mix together the ground walnuts, sugar, and brown sugar. Divide evenly into two bowls and set aside.

Remove your dough from the refrigerator; divide in half and place on a floured work surface. One at a time, roll out each piece of dough to a 14" x 13" rectangle. Turn the dough so that one of the longer edges is facing you. Mix your reserved egg whites with a drop of vanilla. Using a pastry brush or your fingers, brush some of the egg white mixture over the top of the dough. Then smear about 1/4 cup applesauce (or a little less) over the dough to keep the nut roll moist. Sprinkle one of the bowls of nut filling over the dough, leaving about a 1-inch margin on each side of the rectangle but the far end, where you can leave a little less room (about 1/2-inch margin).

Start rolling the dough away from you, into a spiral, keeping the spiral firm and tight. When you've made several turns, fold the 1-inch side margins inward, and then continue to roll all the way up, pinching the seam once rolled. Place the nut roll, seam down, on a parchment-lined or lightly greased baking sheet. Using a pastry brush or your fingers, use just enough milk combined with a drop or two of vanilla to brush the top of the rolls (this will make the rolls nice and shiny). Repeat the process with remaining dough.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Let the rolls rise for 30 minutes, then bake for 30-35 minutes until the rolls are a deep tan color. To serve, cut the nut rolls crosswise into slices.

HISTÓRIA VIANOČNEJ POHLADNICE



Vianočná pohľadnica z roku 1843.

Prvé blahoprajné lístky k Vianociam, predchodcovia dnešných obľúbených pohľadníc, sa objavili v roku 1841 v Škótsku. Zdobil ich nápis Prijemné sviatky a vytlačila ich tlačiareň Charlesa Drummonda v Edinburgu. Tieto pozdravy sa posielali v zalepených obálkach.

Myšlienku rozvinul obchodník Henry Cole z Londýna, ktorému sa nechcelo vypisovať zákazníkom a partnerom dlhé vianočné blahoprajné listy. Poprosil preto priateľa maliara Johna Hersleya, aby mu namaloval obrázok k Vianociam. Ten dal vytlačiť na papier a vo vyzdobených obálkach ho posielal priateľom. Táto pohľadnica sa stala hitom Vianoc 1843.

Zvyk posielat k Vianociam pohľadnice čoskoro prenikol do Ruska, Francúzska, Nemecka a ďalších krajín. V druhej polovici 19. storočia sa pohľadnice posielali často vyzdobené gorálkami, kúskami pestrofarebných tkanín, perím, sklenenými črepinkami a podobne. K zasneženým krajinkám, chalúpkam a vyzdobeným vianočným stromčekom pribudli neskôr duchovné a kresťanské motívy, betlehemy, jasličky, vyobrazenia anjelov, malého Ježiša v náručí Panny Márie a podobne.

Na území Slovenska sa ešte okolo roku 1900 predávali pohľadnice s textom v nemčine. Po roku 1918 ich nahradili vianočné pozdravy s českými a slovenskými nápismi, ktoré si získali veľkú obľubu verejnosti a vyhľadávali ich aj zberatelia.



VIANOČNÉ ZVYKY NA SLOVENSKU

ŠUPINY Z KAPRA, ALEBO PENIAZE – vložili sa pod obrus na štedrovečernom stole a mali zabezpečiť, aby sa peniaze v rodine počas nasledujúceho roka rozmnožili a pribudlo ich. Mnoho ľudí si šupinu následne dáva do peňaženky.

CESNAK – symbol zdravia – mal zabezpečiť pevné zdravie celej rodiny počas nasledujúceho roka.

MED – tento tradičný sladký produkt mal v návaznosti na svoju chuť zabezpečiť dobrotu, hojnosť, či príjemnosť. Zabezpečovať mal to, aby ste celý budúci rok boli dobrí a milí. Mnoho rodín si ešte pred štedrou večerou robí z medu krížik na čelo, čo symbolizuje požehnanie v spojitosti s dobrotou.

JABLKO sa po večeri rozkrojilo priečne na polovicu. Ak bol jadrovník v tvare hviezdy, znamenalo to pre rodinu šťastie a zdravie, no ak bol jadrovník v tvare kríža, rodinu podľa tradície čakala choroba, alebo dokonca smrť. Jablčko sa potom rozkrojilo na toľko kúskov, koľko členov rodiny bolo pri stole, čo malo symbolizovať ucelenosť rodiny,

ORECHY sa po štedrej večrti nahádzu do každého kúta v príbytku, aby bola v dome rovnaká hojnosť ako v štedrý deň, aj počas celého roka,

JEDEN TANIER NAVYŠE – ďalší zo zvykov, ktorý dodnes dodržiava veľa ľudí. Podľa starej zvyklosti by sa mal totiž jeden tanier prestrieť aj pre náhodného hosťa. Jedná sa o symbol milosrdenstva a spolupatričnosti.

OPLÁTKY – symbolizujú, že kresťania pristupujú k svätému prijímaniu. Keďže Vianoce sú kresťanským sviatkom, telo Ježiška predstavuje práve oplátka, ktorá sa je na Štedrý deň s medom a cesnakom. Dievčatám robili rodičia krížiky na čelo, aby boli krásne a deťom, aby poslúchali.

VIANOČNÉ ŠUHAIJDY

Základ:

25 dkg čokolády na varenie
12 dkg 100% tuku

Plnka:

10 dkg 100% tuku
10 dkg orechov
25 dkg práškového cukru
1/2 dcl mlieka
1/2 dcl rumu



Najprv si pripravíme náplň: 10 dkg tuku rozpustíme v hrnci, pridáme nastrúhané orechy, cukor, mlieko, rum a 5 minút povaríme. Necháme vychladnúť.

Potom vo vodnom kúpeli rozpustíme spoločne čokoládu na varenie a tuk.

Pripravíme si papierové košíčky. Kávovou lyžičkou nalejeme do košíčka čokoládu, potom kávovú lyžičku náplne, uhladiť náplň a znova kávovú lyžičku čokolády. Ozdobíme olúpanou mandľou, orechom alebo sušeným ovocím.

TRADIČNÚ MODROTLAČ ZAPÍSAĽI DO ZOZNAMU SVETOVÉHO DEDIČSTVA UNESCO

V reprezentatívnom zozname nehmotného kultúrneho dedičstva ľudstva UNESCO má Slovensko už šiesty zápis. Stala sa ním modrotlač a jej tradícia, ktorú Slovenská republika na zápis nominovala v rámci spoločnej kandidatúry s Nemeckom, Rakúskom, Českom a Maďarskom.

O zapísaní modrotlače do prestížneho zoznamu rozhodli 28. novembra členovia Medzivládneho výboru na ochranu nehmotného kultúrneho dedičstva UNESCO počas svojho 13. zasadnutia v meste Port Louis, metropole ostrovného štátu Maurícius.

Modrotlač sa pripája k piatim slovenským prvkom, ktoré boli do svetového zoznamu zapísané v predchádzajúcich rokoch: fujara - hudobný nástroj a jeho hudba (2005), terchovská muzika (2013), gajdošská kultúra (2015), spoločne s Českou republikou bábkarstvo na Slovensku a v Česku (2016) a horehronský viachlasný spev (2017).

Modrotlač je technika farbenia látkového materiálu - indigom na modro farbenú látku zdobenú potláčaním vzorov pomocou



takzvanej "rezervy", čo je zmes zamedzujúca zafarbeniu látky v mies-te vzoru.

V slovenskej tradícii zohrala modrotlač významnú úlohu v spôsobe dekorovania látok. Na Slovensko sa táto technika dostala z Holandska a Nemecka v priebehu 18. storočia. Najskôr sa udomácnila v meštianskom prostredí. Do ľudového odevu a textilu prenikla v 19. storočí.

Keďže základným materiálom pre produkciu modrotlače je plátno, jej výroba sa spočiatku koncentrovala hlavne v oblastiach, kde bolo rozvinuté plátenníctvo vo forme domácej výroby. Najstaršia zachovaná modrotlač z územia Slovenska pochádza z roku 1783 z Kremnice a z roku 1784 z Dobšinej.

Vianočný pozdrav z Matice slovenskej

V kalendári ostal posledný list, ktorý signalizuje, že ďalší rok za sebou onedlho zatvorí dvere. Je december... Mesiac chladu a zimy, ktorý kontrastuje s teplom rodinného krbu najkrajších sviatkov roka - Vianoc. Prichádza obdobie spomalenia pracovného tempa, obdobie stabilizácie hodnôt, obdobie lásky a rodiny. December predstavuje čas, kedy si intenzívnejšie uvedomujeme čím žijeme, kým sme, čo nás robí šťastnými a kam smerujeme... Je to čas bilancii, kedy hodnotíme nielen naše pracovné výsledky, ale najmä náš osobný vklad, ktorý venujeme našim najbližším, našim rodinám, tým, ktorí nás celoročne podporujú, milujú a ktorí pre nás žijú... December dáva na vážky naše pracovné i osobné snaženia, nastavuje zrkadlo...

Azda najviac zo všetkých mesiacov roka je december mesiacom rodinným (... keď by tých mesiacov bolo počas roku viac). Mnohým z nás sa k decembru viažu tie najkrajšie vianočné spomienky. Plný stôl, voňavý stromček uprostred izby, krásne červené gule z jemného skla, oriešky, slamený koník, no najmä rodina, základ spoločnosti i šťastia: mama, otec, starí rodičia i detky - všetci pri jednom stole, plní očakávania i radosti s vnútorným presvedčením potešiť toho druhého darčekom, ktorý preň starostlivo vyberali.

Práve Vy, naši krajanovia, ste si svoje zvyky odniesli z domoviny do širšieho sveta. Vo svojich srdciach ste si niesli vlastnú identitu, v rukách remeslo a v hlavách múdry um. Z pokolenia na pokolenie ste odovzdávali najvzácnejší poklad svojim potomkom, aby ďalej hrdo šírili svoju kultúru, náboženstvo i históriu.

Milí krajanovia, je naozaj obdivuhodné, čo ste do dnešných čias zachovali... Pestujete slovenskú reč, ktorá je odrazom slovenského myslenia, pestujete slovenskú kultúru, ktorá je obrazom vyspelosti slovenského národa, zachováte kresťanské náboženstvo, ktoré je symbolom dobra Slovákov a vychovávate.... Vychováva-te ďalšiu slovenskú generáciu, ktorá zabezpečuje udržateľnosť našej svojbytnosti.

V mene Matice slovenskej Vám vyslovujeme úprimné poďakovanie. Želáme Vám pokojné a krásne Vianoce. Prežité ich s tými, ktorých milujete, s láskou, obklopení Vašimi najbližšími.

Za Maticu slovenskú - **Zuzana Pavelcová**, riaditeľka Krajanského múzea MS

ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!

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...už nie je **single!** - [pravda.sk](#)

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26. SLOVENSKÝ PLES V GARFIELD, NJ

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku usporiada v sobotu 23. februára 2019 26. Slovenský ples v The Royal Manor, 454 Midland Ave., v Garfield, NJ. O 7.00 hodine bude koktail, po ktorom bude podávaná večera. Počas večera bude hrať skupina Express a predstaví sa aj populárny spevák zo Slovenska Pavol Hammel.

Cena vstupenky je \$130.00 za osobu. Bližšie informácie a rezervácie: Zuzka, tel. číslo 973-357-1209, Tanya, tel. č. 908-377-2446, alebo na webovej stránke [SlovakAmericanCC.org](#)



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ANNUITY RATES

EFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2018

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>MINIMUM GUARANTEE</u>
VANTAGE 1	2.10%	1.00%
VANTAGE 2	2.40%	1.00%
VANTAGE 3	2.65%	1.00%
VANTAGE 5	3.00%	2.00%
VANTAGE 7	3.25%	2.00%

SINGLE PREMIUM IMMEDIATE ANNUITY – SPIA

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

NO LONGER OFFERED EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 31, 2011

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON

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