An Overview of Our 90 Years of Fraternal Service

by Daniel F. Tanzone

This year our organization celebrates its 90th anniversary. From very humble beginnings nine decades ago, the Slovak Catholic Sokol has grown and prospered because of dedicated individuals who have championed its high ideals.

The beginnings of our organization can be traced to the desire of a group of young Slovak immigrants in New Jersey who longed to establish a gymnastic and athletic society where like-minded Slovak immigrants could find a social outlet, financial security and a sense of unity in their newly adopted home, the United States of America.

Between 1880 and 1918 more than 600,000 Slovaks left their ancestral homeland of Slovakia, then a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, to seek a new life in America. Most of these individuals stayed in America yet wanted to continue to promote their Slovak language and identity in their new home. Several Slovak fraternals had already been established in the United States in the final years of the nineteenth century, however most did not have an extensive athletic and gymnastic heritage.

The Sokol movement had been established in Prague in the middle of the nineteenth century to promote physical fitness among its members. This movement became pan-Slav in its philosophy and practically every Slav nation had promoted the Sokol movement by the end of the nineteenth century. It proved not only a wonderful movement for youth but it likewise promoted a sense of pan-Slavism in opposition to Hapsburg rule.

The Sokol movement came to America in the middle of the nineteenth century with the early Czech immigrants. In 1865 the first Czech Sokol organiza-
Nation” was selected by the delegates as our motto reflecting the Catholic faith of our members. The traditional slogan of the Sokol movement, “A Sound Mind in a Sound Body” was likewise chosen by the delegates of our first convention. The name of the organization selected was the Roman and Greek Catholic Gymnastic Slovak Union Sokol. Not only were Roman Catholics welcomed among the ranks of the membership, a number of Byzantine Catholics or Greek Catholics as they were known then were among the pioneer members. The name remained until 1933 when our name was shortened to Slovak Catholic Sokol.

At this first convention, Matthew Husy was elected as our first supreme president and the total assets of the organization amounted to $5.65.

On Dec. 2, 1906 the second convention was held in Hibernia, near Rockaway, N.J. At this convention, the Rev. Victor Zarek was chosen as our first supreme chaplain.

By the time of our third convention in May 1908, a number of Sokol lodges had been established not only in New Jersey but in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and as far west as Illinois. At the convention, held in Bridgeport, Conn. on May 28, it was voted that women were welcome as members of the organization. Up until now, only males were accepted as members and their lodges were known as Assemblies. Lodges for women would be know as Wreaths. The women of Bridgeport were the first to apply for membership and thus Wreath 1 was accepted as the first women’s lodge. Wreath 2 was founded that same year in Passaic, N.J.

Andrew Zitnay was elected supreme president at this convention.

By 1910, the organization grew to number a total of 2,210 members with total assets of $3,493.69.

From June 10-13, 1912 our fifth convention was convened in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Gustav Kosik of Wallington, N.J. was elected as our third supreme president. At this convention the office of supreme ladies vice president was established. Maria Davala Bichrest was elected as our first supreme ladies vice president. The same convention elected a second woman as a director. Anna Plutinsky Nemec of Chicago was elected as a supreme auditor. The two were the first Sokolky to serve in our Supreme Assembly.

The need for communication among the growing membership was quite evident. Initially, Katolicky Sokol (Catholic Falcon) appeared as a supplement to Slovak v Amerike the oldest independent Slovak newspaper in America established in 1889. The first supplement appeared on Jan. 1, 1910 continuing for more than a year. On April 15, 1911 the first issue of Katolicky Sokol appeared and this was the beginning of our official publication. At the sixth convention in 1915 in Passaic, it was officially chosen as our official publication. The first editor was the Rev. Francis Skutil, pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Boonton, N.J. with the Rev. Joseph Dulik, then pastor of Holy Family Parish in Brooklyn, N.Y. as the assistant editor. From its beginnings nearly 85 years ago, our publication has served as the major source of communication among our members.

For the first time in our organization’s history, the annual meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Orlando, Fla. In March 1995. During the annual meeting sessions, our directors had the opportunity to participate in the 45th annual Florida Slovak Day at The Slovak Garden in nearby Winter Park, Fla. Well-known Slovak fraternalist Andrew F. Hudak, Jr., second from the left, is shown welcoming our directors to The Slovak Garden for the festivities. Brother Hudak serves as the president of this well-known facility, which is a home for American Slovaks.

During the pilgrimage of Faith and Heritage sponsored by the Slovak Catholic Federation at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. in April 1992, a number of our directors had the opportunity to greet the Holy Father’s personal representative in the United States, Archbishop Agostino Caccavallin. Shown on the above photo with the Papal Nuncio, center; are l-r, Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec; Sokol Protector Bishop Joseph V. Adamec; Archbishop Caccavallin; Supreme President George J. Kostelnik and Supreme Ladies Vice President Sue Ann M. Seich.
The organization continued to show signs of growth. By the time of the seventh convention in 1918, our membership stood at 13,463 and for the first time our assets exceeded $100,000.

During World War I, many of our members enlisted in the U.S. armed forces and some served with the Czecho-Slovak legions, which fought on the allied side against the Axis powers to gain independence for the Slovaks and Czechs.

At the eighth convention, the death benefit had been set at a minimum of $250. Certificates were issued in this amount or for $500, $750 or $1,000 as the death benefit. The death benefit for children, who had been first accepted as our members in 1910, was $300. The gymnastic and athletic program of our organization was entrusted to the Supreme Technical Assembly, today known as the Supreme Physical Fitness Board.

With a great love for gymnastic and athletic competition, our track and field competitions crowned with a Slet exhibition began in the earliest years of our organization. Initially, they were held locally in our various Groups which had been established in 1910. The desire for a national Slet was ever on the mind of our pioneer members. The first national Slet of our organization was held in 1912 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. hosted by Group 7. Since then, our Slets have been a major highlight of our gymnastic program.

By the close of the 1920's, the need for expansion was ever present. The membership and assets continued to grow and the need for a new modern home office building was evident. The 10th convention in 1927 voted to erect a new home office building in Passaic. The new home office was blessed and dedicated on July 4, 1930 by Monsignor Stephen J. Krasula, P.A. on the occasion of our organization's 25th anniversary.

These years also saw our organization's dedication to various charitable projects. The 10th convention voted $10,000 to the Matica Skolska project of the Slovak Catholic Federation. This project sought to build institutions of higher education for the children of Slovak immigrants in America. This project saw the construction of Benedictine High School in Cleveland for boys and the First Slovak Girls Academy, now known as St. Cyril Academy, for girls in Danville, Pa. This donation was considered a huge sum of money in those days and this first gesture began a rich legacy of fraternal benevolence on the part of our organization during these past 90 years.

In 1929, a team of our Sokol members participated in the All-Orol Slet in Prague, Czecho-Slovakia. Our team brought home many prizes including the 1st place award, a bronze statue of St. Wenceslaus which continues to grace the board of directors room at our home office.

Even with the depression, our organization continued to show signs of growth. During these years, our membership grew to 40,000 and for the first time our assets exceeded the $1 million mark.

In 1935, a huge celebration marked our 30th anniversary with an athletic competition and exhibition featuring more than 1,000 Sokol athletes. During the
late 1930’s, our organization hosted several delegations of the Matica Slovenska, Slovakia’s most prominent cultural organization.

Just before the outbreak of World War II, our 14th convention was held in July 1941 in Philadelphia, Pa. The membership exceeded the 43,000 mark for the first time.

During World War II, more than 4,000 of our young Sokols and Sokolky served in the defense of our country. A total of 214 made the supreme sacrifice. Our members gave full support to the bond drive to assist the war effort and two ambulances were donated by our organization to the U.S. Army. No Slets or conventions were held during the war years and our national basketball tournaments were no longer held. In 1946 our first national bowling tournament was held.

The 1950’s saw a revival in interest in our organization with highly successful Slets and conventions held in various parts of the country. The long-awaited 50th anniversary of our organization was slated for July 1955 in conjunction with our 17th national convention held in New York City. The golden jubilee festivities were held the weekend of July 14-16, 1955 in Passaic. A huge parade took place on July 16 with Frances Petrucci Marcincak gracing the festivities as Sokol Queen. Thousands braved the intense heat and enjoyed the festivities. A Pontifical Mass and banquet was celebrated on July 17. The goal of achieving the 50,000 mark in membership was realized that year.

During the 1950’s continued interest in our bowling and golf programs developed. Through the efforts of Supreme Sports Director Frank S. Petrucci, our bowling tournaments grew in the number of participants and our golf tournaments were established. To recall the many contributions to our athletic program made by Brother Petrucci, the Frank S. Petrucci Memorial Sports Award was established following his untimely death. Each year, an individual in both bowling and golf is recognized for his or her contributions to this sport and is awarded the Frank Petrucci Memorial Sports Award.

In 1959, our organization hosted its first nocturnal Slet exhibition in Reading, Pa. This Slet tradition continues to this day. At the Reading convention, which followed the Slet, our assets stood at a new high of $15 million.

Because of the excellent financial condition of our organization, the first dividend was declared in 1962 and paid out to all members the following year. Since 1963, a total of 32 dividends have been paid out to our members. To date, a total of more than $13.5 million has been paid out in Sokol dividends to the membership, certainly an enviable record for a fraternal of our size.

In 1963, Slovaks throughout the world observed the 11th centenary of the missionary efforts of SS. Cyril and Methodius. It was in 863 A.D. that the Apostles of the Slavs began their evangelization among the

![History was made on June 24 when Slovakia’s first president, Michal Kovac was welcomed at a gala dinner hosted by the Slovak League of America at Mt. Airy Lodge in Mt. Pocono, Pa. Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec is shown above making a presentation to President Kovac during the historic gathering. Others on the photo include from the left, Supreme President George J. Kostelnik and his lovely wife, Barbara; Mrs. Emilia Kovac, wife of the Slovak president; President Kovac, Brother Pogorelec and his lovely wife, Anne and Editor Daniel F. Tanzone, who served as toastmaster at the gala dinner.](image)

![Slovakia’s newest Archbishop, Alojz Tkac of Kosice is shown on the above photo with some of our prominent officers and members during a recent visit to the 1992 New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival at the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel, N.J. On March 31, 1995, the Holy Father raised the status of the Diocese of Kosice in Eastern Slovakia to that of an Archdiocese and named Bishop Tkac its first Archbishop. Shown on the photo, l-r: Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec, Eileen S. Wilson, president of Group 2; Archbishop Tkac and Supreme Treasurer John J. Pavlica.](image)
ancestors of the Slovaks. Celebrations were held throughout the United States. Our organization hosted its celebration during our 19th convention in Youngstown, Oh. in July 1963. A Pontifical Mass was celebrated to mark the anniversary and Bishop Andrew G. Grutka of Gary, Ind. preached a festive homily. The bishop headed a drive to establish a new spiritual center of the Slovak nation in the Eternal City. The outcome of this project saw the dedication of the Slovak Institute of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome on Sept. 15, 1963. Our 19th convention voted a donation of $50,000 for his project. Over the years, our organization has given strong support to the work of the Institute, now known as the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius. It was the first time that the Slovaks had a center in Rome and the mission of the Ustav, as the Institute is often referred to, was vital because of the communist oppression of the Church in Slovakia.

A special highlight of the 21st Slet, which was held in conjunction with the 1963 convention, was the visit of the Attorney General of the United States, the Hon. Robert F. Kennedy. The Attorney General brought greetings to our organization from his brother, President John F. Kennedy.

A project of special interest to our Sokolky was realized in 1964, when the first edition of a very popular Slovak Catholic Sokol Cook Book appeared. Currently, our cook book is in its fourth edition.

The 60th anniversary celebration held in Passaic was highlighted by the naming of Sokol Square in downtown Passaic as a tribute to our organization. The issuance of the Sokol commemorative stamp in 1965 added to the celebration of this milestone in our organization's history.

By 1967, the assets grew to an all-time high of over $22 million.

Prominent Sokols are shown on the above photo with Slovakia’s first Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Branslav Lichardus during the pilgrimage of the Eastern Region of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Shown on the photo are: Dr. Mary Z. Gasparik, Medical Examiner; John J. Pavlica, Supreme Treasurer; Paul J. Hackash, Member of the Supreme Court and President of the Eastern Region of the Federation; Steven M. Pogorelec, our Supreme Secretary; Msgr. Francis J. Beeda, our Supreme Chaplain; Ambassador Lichardus; Eileen S. Wilson, President of Group 2; George J. Kostelnik, our Supreme President; Daniel F. Tanzone, our Editor and Dorothy E. Singlar, our Supreme Auditor.

Members of the New Motions Committee which met at the home office in April to prepare recommendations for our 27th national convention are shown on the above photo. Shown on the photo from the left are, Rosemary Matthews, Yonkers, N.Y.; Cyril Krcmarik, Owosso, Mich., chairperson; and Eleanor E. Venit, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Standing 1-3, Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.; Joseph M. Oros, Reading, Pa.; George Vanish, Youngstown, Oh. and Supreme President George J. Kostelnik.
On Sept. 22, 1970, the last founder of our organization, Andrew Klukosovsky of Clifton, N.J. passed away.

In 1971, our very popular Slovak-English Dictionary edited by Joseph Konus was published.

The 25th Slet and 21st convention was held in Bethlehem, Pa. hosted by Group 10 in July 1971. At this convention, the delegates voted to establish a scholarship program to assist our young people. In support of our youth, the delegates also adopted a resolution permitting members at age 18 to serve as delegates to our national conventions.

In 1972, following the ravages of Hurricane Agnes, our organization established a fund to assist our members affected by this natural disaster. More than $67,000 was raised and presented to our members.

That same year, the first recipients of our Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Grants were announced. Since then, a total of 612 young members have been awarded a total of $467,000 in scholarship grants to assist them with college expenses. Later in 1991 a program to assist our young members who attend Catholic high school was inaugurated.

In 1976 our organization was active in a number of bicentennial celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of the United States. Our organization joined other Slovak fraternals in the Slovak American Bicentennial Commission which staged a huge celebration in Dearborn, Mich. and also participated in the colorful bicentennial celebration hosted by the Slovak League of America in Philadelphia, Pa.

In 1980, our organization celebrated its 75th anniversary. Special celebrations were hosted by our various groups. The main celebration was held in Passaic the weekend of July 4-6, 1980. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by our Sokol Protector, Bishop Andrew G. Grutka at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Clifton, N.J. A gala banquet was held later that evening at the Marriott Hotel in Saddle Brook, N.J. A beautiful monument to our Sokol founders was unveiled at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Saddle Brook, N.J. on that occasion.

To coincide with the 80th anniversary of our organization, a multi-million dollar project to complete restore our home office building began in the fall of 1984. It was the first major renovation of the home office since its construction in 1930. The renovation was competed in time for the anniversary celebrations in 1985.

Slovaks throughout the world rejoiced in May 1985 when the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II named Archbishop Jozef Tomko, an old friend of our organization, to the College of Cardinals. Cardinal Tomko was named head of the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples, the missionary arm of the Church. Cardinal Tomko visited our home office in April 1981 and has been a friend of many of our officers and members. In later years, the Cardinal Tomko Mission Fund was established by his many Slovak fraternal friends in America to assist the Cardinal in the work of evangelization.

The joy of our 80th anniversary was dampened with the death of two of our supreme presidents in 1985. John F. Pitek of Pittsburgh, who had been elected to the office at our 31st convention in Pittsburgh in 1983 passed away on June 4, 1985. He was succeeded by
Vice President John J. Klimchak. President Klimchak, also of Pittsburgh, was known and loved in all parts of Sokoldom. He presided over our highly successful 32nd Slet in Worcester, Mass. hosted by Group 2 in early August. On Aug. 15, he suffered a heart attack. Brother Klimchak passed away on Sept. 23, 1985. Brother Klimchak was succeeded by Steve J. Hruska of Youngstown, Oh. who had been appointed vice president following the death of President Pitek.

On Sept. 2, 1985, our supreme chaplain, the Rev. Andrew M. Blasko died suddenly in New London, Oh. He was succeeded by the Rev. Jerome J. Pavlik, O.F.M.

The 80th anniversary celebration, delayed because of the deaths of our supreme presidents and supreme chaplain, was finally scheduled for the weekend of Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 1985. A feature of the jubilee year was the issuance of a very generous double dividend. A highlight of the jubilee celebration was the address given at the festive banquet at the Marriott Hotel in Saddle Brook, N.J. by New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean. The governor lauded the strong spirit of volunteerism and benevolence which have been a hallmark of Sokol fraternalism during the previous eight decades.

That year, our organization began its promotion of the Fraternalist of the Year program of the National Fraternal Congress of America. Each year since 1985, an individual member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol is selected as our Fraternalist of the Year. In 1986, our organization joined the representatives of the nation’s fraternal benefit societies, in the observance of the 100th anniversary of the National Fraternal Congress of America. The centennial observance, held in our nation’s capital, was highlighted by the address given by President Ronald Reagan. President Reagan praised the role of America’s fraternals in promoting volunteerism and benevolence in the private sector.

Over the years, a number of our Sokol directors and members have been active in the work of the National Fraternal Congress, which currently represents 97 fraternal benefit societies and more than 10 million members. Our former Supreme Secretary Tibor T. Kovalovsky served as a director of this important body and some of our directors, namely, Dr. Mary Z. Gasparik, Attorney John D. Pogorelec, George J. Kostelnik, Daniel F. Tuzone and the late John C. Sciranka served as presidents of some of the important congress sections. This year, our Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and Supreme Ladies Vice President Sue Ann M. Seich will become presidents of important sections of the National Fraternal Congress.

Within the network of the State Congresses, a number of Sokol members have served as president. George J. Kostelnik served as president of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress, Tibor T. Kovalovsky was president of both the New York and New Jersey Fraternal Congresses; Amalia T. Burian was president of the Wisconsin Fraternal Congress and Cyril Krcmarik was president of the Michigan Fraternal Congress. Also, Steve J. Hruska was president of the Ohio Fraternal Congress and currently, Daniel F. Tuzone serves as president of the New York Fraternal Congress. Brother Tuzone also served as president of the New England Fraternal Congress.

The centennial of the Statue of Liberty, one of America’s most cherished monuments, was observed in 1986. Our organization made a generous donation.
to the project which included the restoration of Ellis Island, where more than 12 million immigrants, including nearly a half million Slovaks, passed on their way to a new life in America. That year, the first Ellis Island Medals of Honor were presented to outstanding individuals from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. The awards program is sponsored by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. Several Slovak Americans, including the late Bishop Andrew G. Gurtka, Elizabeth Lipovsky, Sister M. Martina Tybor, SS.C.M. and Joseph C. Krajsa were among those honored. Our editor, Daniel F. Tanzone serves as a director of N.E.C.O.

1986 saw the revival of our national basketball tournaments. These tournaments had their beginnings in the 1930’s and unfortunately ceased with the outbreak of World War II. The first revived basketball and volleyball tournament was held in Pittsburgh in 1986.

In 1987 a substantial donation was given to the new headquarters building of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops in Washington, D.C. Together with four other Slovak Catholic fraternals, the Justice and Peace Wing of the headquarters building was dedicated to Bishop Andrew G. Gurtka, a noted member of the American hierarchy who had been very active in Slovak American life.

In 1988, the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Slovak Institute of SS. Cyril and Methodius was observed in Rome. A delegation from our organization joined more than 700 Slovaks who had traveled to the Eternal City for the festivities. A private audience with Pope John Paul II several of our officers were presented the Holy Father.

In 1988, the first meeting of the Group presidents was held at our home office in Passaic, N.J.

In 1989, the annual meeting of our Board of Directors was held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It was the first time that our directors met in Canada. Tribute was paid to our pioneer Canadian Sokols of Group 19 during the sessions. Later that year, our 34th Slet was held in Toronto, again the first time such an event was held in Canada.

The beginnings of many changes in Czecho-Slovakia occurred in 1991. On May 27, 1991, the American Consulate was re-opened in Bratislava. A delegation of Slovak American fraternal leaders under the leadership of the Slovak League of America participated in this historic event. Our well-known Sokol artist, the late Stephen J. Sroba, was commissioned to paint a portrait of the Senator Clairborne D. Pell of Rhode Island, the first Consul in Bratislava following the Second World War. The painting of Senator Pell was presented during the opening day ceremonies at the American Consulate in Bratislava in the presence of then U.S. Ambassador to Czecho-Slovakia, the Hon. Shirley Temple Black.

In February 1992, Slovakia’s highest ranking prelate, His Eminence, Jan Chryzostom Cardinal Korec, S.J., Bishop of the historic see of Nitra visited the United States. He made it a point to visit our home office during the visit on Feb. 25 as an expression of thanks to our organization for its years of support for
the Church in Slovakia, especially during the long years of communist oppression. He himself spent eight years in prison and another ten years under house arrest. Following a concelebrated Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church, His Eminence visited our home office where a special program in his honor was prepared. A luncheon in his honor followed the home office festivities.

The fall of communism in all of Eastern Europe inaugurated a new drive for independence among the various peoples of the region. Following what was known as the "Velvet Revolution" which saw the demise of communism in Czecho-Slovakia, the Czechs and Slovaks decided peacefully in 1992 to separate in a break known as the "Velvet divorce." On Jan. 1, 1993 the separation became official as Slovakia declared its independence along with the Czech Republic. A number of prominent Sokol members were in Bratislava for the historic event.

Slovakia's independence was always of interest to our members over the years. From our earliest days, our organization supported the work of the Slovak League of America, which sought to promote the self-determination of the Slovaks which were then one of the subject peoples of Austria-Hungary. That support continued over the years and more recently in addition to the support of the work of the Slovak League, our organization was among the charter members of the Slovak World Congress in 1970. In addition to these umbrella organizations, we have always been a staunch supporter of the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

At our 26th convention in New Haven, Conn. in 1991 a new chapter began in our organization's history. Under the leadership of Supreme President George J. Kostelnik and Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., a strong drive has been made to bring our organization into the 1990's. Innovation and professionalism has been the hallmark of our current Supreme Assembly.

A sad day in the life of our organization as well as the entire Slovak American community occurred on Nov. 11, 1993 with the passing of the Most Rev. Andrew G. Grutka, first bishop of Gary, Ind. and our past Sokol Protector. His funeral was held from the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary on Nov. 15. Monsignor Beeda, our supreme chaplain represented our organization at the funeral.

As we assemble for our 27th national convention, the first ever in Florida, the record of fraternalism of our organization is something to be cherished. We must look to the future for new insight and creativity as we address the challenges ahead for the fraternal benefit system. With a membership of nearly 40,000, with assets exceeding $42 million and with $82 million of insurance in force, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is proud of its past and is confident in its future. The high ideals and dedication of our pioneers must be imitated and with today's generation in mind, we look to a bright and promising future on the road to our centennial just ten short years away. May God bless our organization and may each of us re-dedicate ourselves to the spirit of fraternalism in serving the needs of our members. May we likewise continue to be examples of volunteerism in serving the needs of all Americans.

The Catholic University of America honored Cardinal Jan Chryzostom Korec, S.J. at a special university convocation in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 12, 1993 where he was presented with the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. On the occasion, a special symposium on Slovaks in America was presented at the university. Shown with Cardinal Korec at the convocation are from the left, Msgr. Francis J. Beeda, S.T.L., our supreme chaplain; Rev. Joseph A. Komonchak, Ph.D., a professor at The Catholic University; Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec; Cardinal Korec; Cardinal James A. Hickey, Archbishop of Washington and Chancellor of The Catholic University; and Msgr. Thomas V. Banick, S.T.D., president of the Slovak Catholic Federation.