

POSEL

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CZECH CATHOLIC UNION

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ELLIS ISLAND — 1892-1992

Main building, Ellis Island, 1905. Currently undergoing major restoration, Ellis Island was the primary point for 17 million immigrants to the United States. With their descendants, they account for almost half of the present U.S. population. Ellis Island is scheduled to reopen to the public in 1989 and will include a major museum.

CREDIT: National Park Service

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NATIONAL SALUTE TO THE FLAG

"I pledge allegiance to
the Flag of the United
States of America and to
the Republic for which it
stands, One Nation under
God, indivisible, with Lib-
erty and Justice for all."

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PRAYER TO ST. ANNE

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you, and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I cast myself at your feet and humbly beg you to take the present affair which I recommend to you under your special protection.

ELLIS ISLAND AMERICAN IMMIGRANT WALL OF HONOR

Our ancestors risked everything they had to come to this country. We are a nation of immigrants and for many millions of us, the corridors of Ellis Island meant a new beginning. The arrival, efforts and achievements of these immigrants changed the face of America forever. From their pioneering spirits, the world's most powerful and productive nation emerged.

The largest wave of immigrants came to our shores through Ellis Island. They came in the early years of this century, carrying their meager belongings and their hopes and dreams for a new and better life.

As their ships dropped anchor in upper New York Bay, the sight of the Statue of Liberty brought tears to the eyes of these immigrants. But, it was a copper domed red brick building on Ellis Island that opened the doors for the immigrants and decided the future for more than 100 million Americans today. Ellis Island was, for most, the gateway to America.

Through the years, Ellis Island grew as dramatically as the nation. Its land area expanded from three acres of slush, sand and oyster shells to 27 man-made acres, housing 33 buildings. The land-fill was provided from the ballast of the very same ships that brought the immigrants and from the excavated materials removed from the New York subway tunnels during its construction.

Ellis Island is located just a few hundred yards north of Liberty Island in New York Harbor. It stands as a constant reminder of our young nation's immigrant saga. From 1892 to 1954, 17 million people were processed by the officials of Ellis, the first Federal Immigration Station in this country. Today, they and their descendants account for almost half of the U.S. population. More than 40% of today's Americans can trace their roots to Ellis Island.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, in conjunction with the National Park Service, began painstaking full-scale restoration of Ellis Island in 1984. The work is centered on the 100,000 square foot historic Main Building located on the northern half of the island. More than 250 construction workers are involved in the largest restoration of its kind in the history of the United States.

The Ellis Island restoration will cost \$140 million dollars — all being raised from private donations. To date, Americans have responded enthusiastically and generously. The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foun-

ation reports that another \$14 million is needed to complete the job.

When completed in 1989, the Main Building will reopen as a 100,000 square foot major museum chronicling the fascinating history of American immigration. Every visitor to the Ellis Island Museum will find an exhibit of particular interest and profound emotional impact. But, among all the exhibits, there is one that will bring the deepest personal satisfaction — **THE AMERICAN IMMIGRANT WALL OF HONOR.**

Located in a prominent portion at the Ellis Island Museum, this unique area will be devoted to an exhibit of names — of all origins — a tapestry of ethnicity - the names of our ancestors, all representing those individual family heritages central to the history of America. It will be a collective display made up of individual gifts of remembrance and devotion.

It is a marvelous opportunity for the sons and daughters of our immigrant heritage to honor their forefathers. It is an opportunity to place the name of an immigrant ancestor or an individual's family name on public display, for posterity, at a National monument, regardless of their ancestor's port of entry.

With a contribution of \$100 or more, donors can place a name of their choice on **THE AMERICAN IMMIGRANT WALL OF HONOR.** Contributions of \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000 will receive special places of honor.

In addition, this name will be entered, together with a country of origin and the name of the donor, in a computer register located at Ellis Island. Donors will also receive an Official Certificate honoring their ancestor.

Those families who join **THE AMERICAN IMMIGRANT WALL OF HONOR** will have their name displayed for millions of visitors to see. Children in years to come will be proud to find the name of their grandparent or great-grandparent recorded with the others who came and built America.

The Wall of Honor will be closed to applications after December of this year, but before that happens, we urge our members to send the names of their ancestors as they would like them to appear on the Honor Roll...along with their contributions made payable to "Ellis Island" to the Czech Catholic Union Home Office, who will in turn forward it to the Ellis Island Foundation.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

We hear that two of the officers of St. Ludmilla Society #2 of the Czech Catholic Union; Edward Babor, vice president, and Patricia Babor, trustee, also served as officials at the recent Czechoslovak Festival held at Bohemian Hall in Long Island, New York.



CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA



We at St. Mary's are pleased to present our member, Bessie Dohnalek, who was presented her matured endowment check. Bessie reached the age of 96 years on June 20, 1988.

She was born in Cedar Rapids June 20, 1892, the daughter of Albert and Anna Dvorak. She was a life-long member of St. Wenceslaus parish, in which church she was married to August Dohnalek on June 23, 1914. He was an officer of the Iowa State Savings Bank. They attended many functions and loved to go dancing. With her pleasing personality and natural ability she was able to manage the many dinners and other activities for the benefit of the parish. She was chosen for several years to be president of the Sanctuary Guild. Her favorite hobbies were crocheting, sewing and reading.

Mr. Dohnalek passed away twenty-eight years ago. She took care of him through several years of illness, also an uncle who needed care. She was employed in the drapery department of a leading furniture company. She was able to live alone and keep up her home until age 94, when she became a resident of Heritage Acres Nursing Home. She has a son, Donald, of Glenview, IL, and a daughter, Leona Stepanek, of Cedar Rapids. She is the proud grandmother of ten grandchildren and great grandmother of six. May God bless her and grant her many more years.

Marcella Krauel, president

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA



Mrs. Marie Wiltman, the oldest member of St. Ann Society #16, Pittsburgh, Pa., celebrated her 96th birthday in May. Her certificate became a matured endowment at this time.

On May 19, 1988 the officers of St. Ann Society #16 visited Mrs. Wiltman at her home to congratulate her and honor her on this special occasion. She was presented with her matured endowment check from the Czech Catholic Union and also a birthday cake and corsage from St. Ann Society. Her daughter, Beatrice Howard was present to join in the celebration.

During our visit Mrs. Wiltman talked about the past which brought back many happy memories. She spoke about her mother, Anna Knize, who had been a member and recording secretary of St. Ann Society for many years.

Mrs. Wiltman was born and raised on the North Side of Pittsburgh and still lives in the same general area. She married John Wiltman at St. Wenceslaus Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., in September 1912. After many years of marriage, Mrs. Wiltman is now a widow. Four children were born to them, John Robert, Beatrice Howard, and the late Marie Jost. She has 11 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

On Memorial Day her whole family attended a birthday dinner in her honor at the Shannopin Country Club, Ben Avon, Pa. She was happy and proud to have her family present for this celebration. I'm sure the feeling was mutual.

The officers and members of St. Ann Society #16 extend their best wishes to her and pray that God blesses her with continued good health.

Note: On behalf of her mother, Beatrice thanked us for honoring her mother and expressed her appreciation to the Czech Catholic Union.

Olga T. Jahn,
Secretary-Treasurer



CLEVELAND, OHIO



On Sunday June 19th Stan and Angela Hronek celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Michaels' Church and a reception at Ceska Sin Karlin. They were married in Holy Trinity Parish. The Hronek family immigrated to Cleveland from Pechova Lhota in the Pisek area of South Bohemia as did our former beloved national vice-president Charles J. Hronek. Stanley has been a past officer in St. Stephen's Lodge #166. Both Stan and Angela are Czech Catholic Union members as are their four children and three of their grandchildren. May they have many years of health and happiness together. MNOGAJA LETA !!

* * *

Best wishes to St. Joseph member Brother Milan Busta who has retired from the Savings & Loan industry after a long and distinguished career. He and his wife Jeanne, and sons, Michael, Paul, and William, now reside in Westlake, Ohio. Milan along with his three sons are all members of St. Joseph Society #156.

* * *

Congratulations to Sonja Marie Hrabik on her recent marriage. Sonja is a member of St. Joseph Society #156.

* * *

St. Joseph Society #156, Czech Catholic Union had graciously invited the officers and members of the Cleveland Federated Societies to join with them and participate in their Annual Communion Breakfast which was held on Sunday, March 13, 1988 at the 11:00 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church followed by a breakfast in Our Lady of Lourdes school hall. Main speaker at the breakfast was Probate Court Judge Francis Talty.



Clarence and Christine Lehky celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 18, 1988. The couple marked the day with a Mass at 5:30 P.M. at Assumption Church, Broadview Hts., Ohio, followed by a reception at Pipers III in Broadview Heights.

They were married at Our Lady of Lourdes Church June 18, 1938. The couple have four sons and six grandchildren.

Christine and the six grandchildren are members of St. Elizabeth Society #10.



May 15th the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) dedicated its new modern national office on Rockside, Road in Independence, Ohio. The Czech Catholic Union was pleased and honored to be invited to attend. Above are some of the Czech Catholic Union members who were present, Brothers Fred Malec, Thomas Mahoney, Joseph Kocab, and Edward Potokar. May the Jednota have many years of success and prosperity in its new headquarters.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Ann Society #11 lost a devoted and zealous trustee and member, Cecelia Ferko who was called to her eternal reward on July 8, 1988. Mass of the Resurrection was concelebrated on Monday, July 11th at St. Procop Church, Cleveland, Ohio by Reverend Fathers John Anzel, Mark Peyton and James Vesely.

During his homily Father Anzel lauded Sister Cecelia for her dedication to St. Procop Parish and for her many acts of charity and kindness to her neighbors and many friends.

The officers and members of St. Ann Society #11 and also the officers of the Czech Catholic Union extend their sympathy to her daughters; Mrs. Jerry (Barbara) Bellisario, Mrs. Robert (Virginia) Stecky, Teresa, Mrs. John (Christine) Carroll; her seven grandchildren and her sister Florence Sorcek, (who are all members of the Czech Catholic Union).

May Our Lord grant this faithful, gentle, and kindly fraternalist eternal rest.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Sister Ferko loved the Czech Catholic Union so much that she personally signed up and paid for all of her grandchildren's Single Premium policies. Can all of our grandmother's say the same?

* * *

Czech Catholic Union member Harry Wm. Mack, passed away July 2, 1988 at St. Lukes Hospital.

He was one of the principal founders of Independence Bank, Independence, Ohio, in the late 1970s and led the institution through its first eight years. He was chairman of the board and president of the bank, which has made a name in helping small and moderate-sized businesses throughout Northeast Ohio. He spent 33 years in the profession and taught at the American Institute of Banking in Cleveland for several years.

A 1948 graduate of Benedictine High School, Mr. Mack earned a bachelor's degree in business in 1953 from what is now Cleveland State University. After a two-year stint in the Army, he began his banking career at Cleveland Trust Co., now AmeriTrust where he became a loan officer before moving up to a vice presidency.

He joined Midwest Bank & Trust Co. as executive president in 1974 and later was named president. Mr. Mack left Midwest in 1977 and with a group of local investors formed Independence Bank.

Mr. Mack was involved in a number of civic activities and was board member of the Federal Reserve Bank, Independent State Bank of Ohio, and Community Bankers Association of Ohio. He also was active with St. Pius X Church and Benedictine and Chanel High Schools.

Mr. Mack is survived by his wife, Rosemary, four-sons, Christopher, Brian, Allan, David and three daughters, Ellen Sheridan, Loren McKeon, and Lynn, who are all members of the Czech Catholic Union. Services were held at St. Pius X Church, Bedford, Ohio.

The Cleveland Community was saddened June 12th as the last Mass was said at Holy Family Bohemian Parish. It is being closed due to the changed nature of the neighborhood. At one time it was the heart of the beautiful Czech neighborhood called "Corlett" and "Mount Pleasant". At one time we had two Czech Catholic Union lodges there, St. Anthony for the men and St. Elizabeth for the women. JAK TEN CAS UTIKA!

* * *

CONVERSION NEWS — "Prez Sez"

The national office was overwhelmed with applications from our paid-up members who took advantage of the new and cheaper insurance rates and increased their insurance coverage. This conversion plan was possible only because of the excellent financial condition of the Czech Catholic Union. How about each member who converted get a new member as a thanks to the Czech Catholic Union? Our rates and plans are comparable to any fraternal insurance company and better in the long run than any commercial insurance company. Even though the campaign is officially ended we will accept policy conversions through August 1st for our tardy members. Contact your local lodge officers or the national office for applications, rate tables, and commission rates for selling insurance. My own \$1,000.00 Czech Catholic Union policy taken out by my parents is now worth \$4,800.00. What other insurance company can do the same?

* * *

We welcome to our employ at the national office Leonore (Koberna) Geller who took the place of our dear retired Anna Menich. Leonore is a member of both St. Joseph Society #156 and Sacred Heart of Mary Society #101, and is active at St. John Nepomucene Parish where she is President of the Altar Society and President of the 1988 St. Wenceslaus Day Committee.

The feast of St. Wenceslaus will be celebrated in Cleveland, Ohio on October 2nd with a Mass, Banquet, and Dance. All area Czech Catholic Union members are urged to attend.

* * *

We received news that a young couple 24 and 28 years old, graduates of Prague's University are interested in corresponding with both young and old Czech countrypeople to find out more about life in the U.S.A. If any member wishes to correspond with them their address is as follows:

Renata and Zdenek Harapes
CSSR 1126/2
Mlade Boleslav
Czechoslovakia

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Two of our members celebrated happy wedding anniversaries in 1987. Marie Skach, with her husband Joseph, celebrated their 54th anniversary on September 9, 1987. Also present at this celebration were four of Marie Skach's sisters — Betty Uhlik of our Society #3, and Mildred Simpson, Rose Cada, and Marcella Vasko, the latter three sisters being members of St. Ann Society #18, Czech Catholic Union. Congratulations to you, Marie and Joseph Skach.



We congratulate Frank and Elsie Nevsimal on their 52nd Wedding Anniversary. Elsie is president of St. Ann Society #117.

The Mile-Stone Silver Anniversary of our member, Rita A. Phillips, also was celebrated in 1987, along with her husband, our member, Robert E. Phillips, as well as their sons (both members) Robert John and Jeffrey Phillips. Robert John received his Masters Degree from N.I.U. in Political Science, and he is continuing at N.I.U., working towards his PhD. Jeffrey Phillips received Associate Degree at S.I.U., and is continuing for a B.A. in Automotive Engineering. Again, our congratulations to all!

Warm fraternal greetings to all our Czech Catholic members and their families.

Fraternally,

Anna J. Scarnavack, Recording Secretary
Society #3

* * *

St. Ann Society #117 beseeches Mary the Queen of May to watch over Agnes and Joseph Bukovsky who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 22nd of May 1988 at Mass at St. Barbara's Church in Brookfield, Illinois. The officers and members congratulate Agnes and Joseph and wish them happiness.

Peter Nevsimal, grandson of Elsie and Frank Nevsimal, graduated this Spring, 1988 from Schaumburg High School and will be entering Nilis College, which is affiliated with Loyola University. Peter is a member of St. Ann Society #117 of Chicago.

* * *

Margaret Ann Barica, member of St. Ann Society #117, is being a very busy and proud mother. On May 6, her daughter Michele Barica graduated from the University of Miami, in Miami, Florida with a "Masters in Music" Education. She received her Bachelor's degree in Music at Florida State University in Tallahassee in 1986. Her son, Daniel Barica who received his Bachelor's degree at the University of South Florida will receive his "Master's Degree" in "Landscape Architecture" from the University of Georgia in June, 1988. Another daughter, Holly Barica graduated April 29th, with a Nursing degree from Broward Community College. She is a graduate of Nova University. We congratulate our member on the success of her children and wish them continued success throughout their future years.

Margaret Ann Barica, is the granddaughter of Anna Radous who had been a Director of the Czech Catholic Union for many years. Mrs. Radous formed a new lodge in 1922-1923, the Little Flower of Jesus, #116 which consisted of mostly very young girls in their teens and early twenties. The Little Flower Society has since merged with the St. Ann Society #117.

Our president of St Ann Society #117 Elsie Nevsimal, was one of the original members of Society #116 and a niece of Anna Radous.

* * *

Anna Marie Drazin graduated from Lourdes High School with honors and is attending Morton College.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Charlotte Gerber, member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Society #74, enrolled her granddaughter, Laura Turner in the Czech Catholic Union, under the Single Premium Whole Life Plan. She also wrote a little note saying: "I have long enjoyed reading your newsletter and I hope in time Laura will come to appreciate reading about her heritage whenever a newsletter arrives".

Thank you, Charlotte for your confidence in the Czech Catholic Union and your words of appreciation for our publication the "Posel".



WHAT DOES YOUR NAME MEAN IN CZECH / CECH

We thought it would be interesting to interpret the surnames of some of our members from Czech to English.

We learned that in Czech, as in English, very often a family name would derive its surname based upon some physical characteristic or vocation.

We hope you find these translations interesting.

Bilek - The white of an egg	Pokorny - Humble
Cech - Guild, corporation	Pospisil - Hurried
Cisar - Emperor	Radek - Row, line
Cermak - Robin	Remar - Saddle maker
Cisek - A finch	Riha - To burp
Divoky - Wild and Crazy	Ruzicka - Little rose
Forman - Driver	Rybak - Fisherman
Halda - A heap	Salat - Salad
Holecck - Dreary	Salat - Radiate, glow
Holub - Pigeon	Sedlak - Farmer
Jerabek - Grouse	Syrový - Raw
Koňcourek - Tom-Cat	Sklenicka - Small glass
Kohout - Rooster	Skrivanek - Skylark
Kostka - Dice	Sladek - Brewer
Kral - King	Slama - Straw
Krejci - Tailor	Sokol - Falcon
Kroupa - Barley	Stanek - Little tent
Kuchar - Cook	Stodola - Barn
Maly - Small	Strnad - Bunting
Micek - Small ball	Suchy - Dry
Mikulas - Nicholas	Svoboda - Freedom
Nemec - German	Teply - Warm
Novak - Newman	Tesar - Carpenter
Novotny - Newman	Thusty - Thick
Novy - New	Uvadec - Usher
Opatrny - Cautious	Vacek - Purse
Panek - Little gentleman	Vana - Tub
Panos - Page	Vanek - Breeze
Paseka - Clearing	Veverka - Squirrel
Patek - Friday	Vrba - Willow
Patach - Heel	Zahradnik - Gardener
Pavlicek - Little Paul	Zeleny - Green
Pavoucek - Small spider	Zeman - Farmer

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

On Sunday, April 10th Saint Anne's Society #5 had a Mass for living and deceased members of our society. The Mass was held in the chapel of Kundig Center and was celebrated by Father McCormick of Holy Redeemer parish in Detroit.

We counted a total of twenty-six members present, among them, Czech Catholic Union Director Marie Konicek (from northern Michigan), Elizabeth Cubr, Eleanore Cubr, Dorothy Crechiolo (whose twin daughters Karen and Kristi are members), Margaret Wawro and many others.

A luncheon was served following the Mass and it was decided that another Mass will be offered in October. Hopefully, the word will spread to other members and we can look forward to an increase in attendance, along with an increase in membership. It should be noted that our Mass and refreshments were shared with the residents of Kundig Center, a senior citizens home operated by the Archdiocese of Detroit.



OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Chrissy McCollum made her first Holy Communion on Sunday May 1, 1988. She is a member of St. Patrick Church, but it was in combination with St. Frances Cabrini Church, at 1:00 P.M. There were 40 who made their Communion on that afternoon. Father Astuto of St. Patrick and Father Salanitro of Cabrini officiated at the special 1:00 P.M. Mass. Chrissy is the daughter of Bill and Patricia McCollum.

Chrissy has been a member of St. Ludmila Lodge #46 since a baby. She is eight years old. Mother, Pat is secretary, uncle Mike Webb is president and grand-ma Stella Webb is treasurer of the society.

Congratulations to Chrissy.

Stella Webb Society #46

* * *

Congratulations to Stella and Herschel Webb on the occasion of their 44th Wedding Anniversary!!

* * *

We extend our sympathy to Marie Halac, former officer of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society #36 whose husband Frank passed away on March 7, 1988.

* * *

Our sympathy to the family of Katherine Cimburek who passed away in March at the age of 92.

* * *

Sympathy also to the families of Kathryn Feder who died at the age of 84, and Mary Merwald who died at the age of 91.

CLEVELAND, OHIO



Melissa Grzelecki, a June 1988 graduate of Cuyahoga Heights High School, will attend Baldwin-Wallace College and major in Psychology.

Her achievements while in High School are as follows:

Track 10; Choir 10-11; Band 11-12; Spanish Club; National Honor Society 11-12; Vice-President 12; Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Awards in Spanish 9; Business 9; English 10; participation in Ohio State Tests of Scholastic Achievement American History 11; Spanish 1 9; Inland Conference Choral Festival 11; Inland Conference Band Festival 12; Presidential Academic Fitness Award; Brooklyn Heights Men's Service Club Scholarship; Five Year Mathematics Award.

Melissa is a member of St. Joseph Society #156.

* * *

The Cleveland District Alliance of Czech Catholics held their 67th Annual "Czech Catholic Day" on Sunday July 17th. The Concelebrated Czech Mass was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, East 55th and Hamm Avenue at 11:00 A.M., followed by a Dinner, Dance, and Folk Dance Presentations at Czech Karlin Hall, 5304 Fleet Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

Emil Hronek and the Karlin Brass Band played for dancing, and there were performances by Folk Dance groups; "Travnica" Slovak Ensemble, Sokol Greater Cleveland Czech Folk Dancers, and Metamora, Ohio Moravian Dancers.

The Cleveland District Alliance of Czech Catholics has been in existence since 1917 and is the coordinating unit of all Czech Catholic activity in the Greater Cleveland Area. It is made up of individual members plus representatives of all Czech Catholic Parishes and Organizations.

Vaclav Hyvnar of University Heights, is president of the National Alliance of Czech Catholics as well as the president of the Cleveland District Alliance of Czech Catholics. Treasurer is Frank Soukup of Maple Heights.

Thanks and Zdar Buh,
Joseph A. Kocab,
Publicity 883-4760

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

On September 10, 1988, St. Ann Society #18 will celebrate its 100 year anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving and a Banquet at Our Lady of the Mount Parish, Cicero, Illinois.

All Czech Catholic Union members are invited to attend this gala celebration. Kindly address all inquires to: Mr. Stan Zach, Recording Secretary, St. Ann Society #18, 5031 South Leamington Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60638.

In checking over the roll of St Ann Society #18, it has come to our attention that two of our lady members have been with St. Ann Society a total of 100 years together. Lillian Luznicky, 92 years young has been a member for 47 years and Emily Smat, 91 years young has been a member for 53 years. We wish these ladies many more happy years.

Barbara Zach, Treasurer Soc. #18

* * *

Congratulations to Ann Bertram and her husband John who recently celebrated their 67th Wedding Anniversary on May 28, 1988, also to Ann who celebrated her 91st birthday on July 9, 1988.

* * *

Member Adeline Kolar will celebrate her 75th birthday in August 1988. Congratulations and best wishes to both of these members of St. Ludmilla Society #27, Czech Catholic Union.



CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY

Please check your policy, as we remind you periodically, to see that you have designated your proper beneficiary.

If there is a need to change your beneficiary or your name, contact your local Society's secretary, as she has the correct "Change of Beneficiary" form for your convenience.

Every month the national office receives death claims that cannot be paid immediately, due to the policy holder not having the proper beneficiary.

We pride ourselves on paying claims within seven days if all documents are completed properly.

* * *

POINTS TO PONDER

It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in not having a goal to reach. It isn't a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled, but it is a calamity not to dream. It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure, but low aim is sin.

BLESSED AGNES OF BOHEMIA

Msgr. Jaroslav Polc
Lateran Pontifical University
Rome, Italy

Some Council Fathers expressed during the Second Vatican Council an opinion that candidates for Canonization should be persons whose personal example has some meaning for people of our time. In fact a great number of recently beatified or canonized saints are not figures of a remote past. Why then to canonize someone who lived seven centuries ago like Blessed Agnes of Bohemia? Does she have any appeal to our time? She did not even die a martyr as other saints who lived in Bohemia as St. Wenceslaus, St. Ludmila, St. Adalbert and St. John Nepomucene.

Blessed Agnes differs, indeed, from all Bohemian Saints. Much more is known about her than about others. She was born in 1211 as daughter of the first hereditary king of Bohemia Premysl Otakar I and his second wife, a Hungarian princess Cunegunda. The Czech reigning family already had among its members two saints: St. Wenceslaus and St. Ludmila. But there were more Saints on her mother's side and both were living in her time: St. Hedwig, the duchess of Silesia was Agnes' aunt and St. Elisabeth of Thuringia her first cousin. As a three year old girl Agnes was betrothed to one of the sons of St. Hedwig and spent two years in the Silesian Cistercian monastery of Trzebnica. There a daughter of St. Hedwig, Gertrude, a nun, taught little Agnes her first prayers and the rudiments of faith. When six years old, Agnes was sent after the death of her fiance in 1217 to the monastery of Doksany, near Prague, founded for nuns of the Premonstratensian Order by Agnes' grandmother in order to learn to read. The Morgan Pierpont Library in New York owns a precious manuscript containing the Office of Our Lady and other prayers, which was identified in 1937 as prayerbook of little Agnes and remained in her possession for many years.

In 1219 Agnes became fiancee of Henry VII, the son of Emperor Frederick II. She was sent to Vienna to learn manners at the court of the Duke of Austria Leopold VI. This engagement broke off when Leopold succeeded through political intrigues to engage his daughter to the son of the emperor.

Agnes lived an austere life in Vienna, and decided for the love of God not to marry. Another suitor appeared: the nineteen year old King of England Henry III, but there followed no formal engagement. Finally the emperor himself, after the death of his second wife Jolanda in 1228, asked Premysl Otakar I, for the hand of Agnes. After Otakar's death, he asked once again her brother King Wenceslas I for her hand. This time Agnes, already eighteen years old, turned to Pope Gregory IX for help and with his approval turned down the offer of the emperor.

Her decision made a deep impression all over Europe. Then she decided to follow in the footsteps of her cousin St. Elisabeth, whose process of canonization was then in course, by founding with the help of her mother and her brother King Wenceslas in Prague a hospital for the poor, abandoned, and sick. She also founded a confraternity, later an Order of the

Crucifers with the Red Star, to care for them.

When she learned about the ideal of Franciscan absolute poverty, she built in Prague a monastery for the Poor Clares, and entered that Order on June 11, 1234. Soon after Pope Gregory IX named her abbess. The cofoundress of the Order St. Clare of Assisi, was then still alive, and soon entered into contact with Blessed Agnes through correspondence. Four out of five known letters of hers were addressed to Agnes. They praise Agnes' saintly life and encourage her to persevere. In the last letter, written shortly before Clare's death, the Saint of Assisi called Agnes "the half of my soul".

Blessed Agnes chose a life of utmost poverty, proper to this new Order. When it became difficult for friars to beg food not only for themselves, but also for the cloistered sisters, the Popes tried to induce the Poor Clares to accept a minimum of property to ensure in such a way their bare living. Only to the monastery of St. Clare in Assisi has been granted the so called "privilege of poverty". Blessed Agnes after some time obtained it for her own monastery from the reluctant Pope Gregory IX.

An intense prayer and love for neighbor filled her daily life in the cloister. She was helping many poor from the surplus of funds received for her monastery and in person cared for the needs of her sisters. Through her intercession her brother the king pardoned many prisoners. From her also came consolation to many afflicted persons, especially the sick. The Popes turned to her several times for help in diplomatic and political matters. Her mediation brought in 1249 to an end a fratricidal war between his brother King Wenceslas and his son Premysl Otakar II.

Already during her life she was able to read the mind of people. Many were healed through her intercession. Through her prayer her niece had been resurrected from the dead. She also predicted many events to happen, for example the death of her nephew Premysl Otakar II on the battlefield, which she witnessed on August 28, 1278 in vision.

The last years of her life were filled with an intense devotion to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and to his Sorrowful Mother. After the tragic death of Premysl Otakar II plague after plague and hunger decimated the population of Bohemia. In her monastery there was often hardly anything to give to the sisters to eat. Blessed Agnes died on March 2, 1282. Her body was buried in the Marian chapel, and she was immediately venerated as a Saint because of miraculous healings accompanying her burial.

Three decades after her death a friar collected testimonies of sisters who had lived with her and wrote her life. Later, in 1228, petitions of Queen Elisabeth of Bohemia and of representatives of the clergy and laymen were presented to Pope John XXII so that he would "place this venerable and holy treasure, dear to God, upon the candelabrum of public and universal recognition on earth, and insert this virgin into the catalogue of saints. The unfavorable political situation prompted the abbess of Poor Clares

in Prague and the Provincial of Friars Minor to repeat the petition to the successor of John XXII. After the Hussite wars, in the fifteenth century, the Poor Clares petitioned the Pope again around 1435, but the remains of Blessed Agnes, required for the process for canonization, had been well hidden in an unknown place for the sake of safety and could not be found any more. New attempts at canonization have taken place later, but for this reason (no body) always without success. Finally in 1874 Pope Pius IX confirmed the cult of Blessed Agnes, for centuries called "saint", so that she could be venerated officially. Rediscoveries of ancient documents around 1930 prompted the Archbishop of Prague Cardinal Karel Kaspar and other bishops of Czechoslovakia to file a new petition with Pope Pius XI. The Second World War interrupted these efforts again, and the course of the Cause. The new Archbishop of Prague Joseph Beran, later Cardinal, took further steps in 1947 while in Rome for resuming the case. The political situation in Czechoslovakia after 1948 interrupted the procedure again. The case was resumed again recently when numerous petitions for the canonization not only from Czechoslovakia, but also from abroad reached the Holy See. Archbishop of Prague Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek asked Pope John Paul II to resume the process. In the meantime all necessary historical documents have been collected in Rome and presented to various commissions so that there is hope that the canonization will take place in the near future.

What then, could the Blessed Agnes tell to the world of today? She must have been like another Mother Theresa of Calcutta to her time. Commemorating the 7th centennial of her death, in a letter of February 2, 1982 John Paul II wrote to Cardinal Tomasek: "... how many men feel that they are lonely, abandoned, sad and desperate, without the warmth of a light of an ideal which does not betray them. Don't they feel a need for an encounter in their life with an Agnes which would bring them peace, joy, happiness and hope?" And he added: "Agnes is not a marginal episode of your history. She represents one of the last and most beautiful flowers of the Premysl dynasty, which entered into history with Saint Wenceslas and with his grandmother Saint Ludmila, baptized by St. Methodius. These are the roots of your national culture. This is your spiritual identity. Conserve jealously this heredity and hand it down to your children! May Blessed Agnes assist you from heaven, as she has assisted the many generations before you during the agitated history of your fatherland."



Bohumil SOCHO
 Panská Komonka 71
 450 22 ZLITAVSKÝ POKOJ
 okres Jihomoravský, N. CR

A DAILY PRAYER

Almighty Father, have mercy on our physical, mental, religious and emotional needs. Judge us not for what we truly deserve but rather have compassion on our frail nature.

Lessen the burden and anxieties of our everyday living and if it is in Your will, let peace reign throughout the world beginning with husband and wife, brother and sister, nation with nation, between children and parents, relatives, friends, neighbors and enemies.

Comfort the grieving hearts of those who have lost their loved ones or who were victims of: war, untimely deaths, accidents, murder, disease, illness, old age, loneliness, suicide and kidnapping, and abuse of every conceivable nature to man as well as animals.

Let all who have passed away, and those who will die before the day is done, be reunited with their loved ones in perfect peace, harmony and joy in Your Heavenly Kingdom forever, and we ask for wisdom to conduct our lives in such a manner so to attain that same goal. . . . AMEN

Lord let this be a productive day.

Composed by:

Fran Fingerhut, Society #11



CHEESE DUMPLINGS

- 2 (12 oz.) containers of dry cottage cheese
- 4 eggs
- 1½ tbsp. salt
- 1 tbsp. sugar
- 1 medium onion, grated
- 1 small clove garlic, grated

Mix together in large bowl. Add gradually 2 to 3 cups flour and 1 teaspoon of baking powder. Mix well until mixture will be thick enough for the spoon to stand up straight in, adding more flour only if necessary. Drop by tablespoonfuls into boiling water and cook each batch for about 15 minutes. Drain well and cool slightly. May be fried in butter at this time or after completely cooled. Spoon sour cream over them when serving.

CZECH CATHOLIC UNION
 Main Office: 5349 Dolloff Road
 Cleveland, Ohio 44127
 Tel. (Area Code 216) 341-0444

**HAVE YOU CHANGED
YOUR ADDRESS?**

Name _____

Old Address _____ Zone _____ State _____

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Society _____ No. _____

Mail to CZECH CATHOLIC UNION
5349 Dolloff Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44127



NOTICE TO MEMBERS

A Mass for the Living and Deceased members of the Czech Catholic Union is offered on the First Friday of each month at St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois.

**EVERY MEMBER SECURE A NEW MEMBER
IN 1988**

PAYMENTS OF MORTUARY DEATH CLAIMS

Name	Location	Soc. Name	No.	Amt. Ins.	Add Pd. Up Ins.	Total Paid
Pauline Kirch	Detroit, MI	St. Ann	5	500.00	703.00	1,203.00
Anna Svec	Cicero, IL	Our Lady of the Mount	143	1,000.00	1,630.00	2,630.00
Mary Kothera	Cleveland, OH	Sacred Heart of Mary	101	500.00	698.00	1,198.00
Anna Gilligan	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	11	600.00	987.00	1,587.00
Josephine Grecenuk	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	11	600.00	1,015.00	1,615.00
Josefa Gottfried	St. Louis, MO	St. Ludmilla	7	576.92	835.58	1,412.50
Laura Van Bergen	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	1	1,000.00	1,630.00	2,630.00
Alzbeta Kanka	Chicago, IL	St. Ann	3	1,000.00	1,455.00	2,455.00
Helen Krisel	Chicago, IL	Espousal of the Blessed Virgin Mary	34	1,000.00	1,469.00	2,469.00
Katherine Cimburek	Omaha, NE	St. Ludmilla	46	1,000.00	1,487.00	2,487.00
Helen Paluszewski	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	1	1,000.00	1,776.00	2,776.00
Helen Paluszewski	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	1	500.00	137.00	637.00
Sylvia Tatter	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	11	494.95	892.04	1,386.99
Apolena Tupy	Cicero, IL	Our Lady of the Mount	143	1,000.00	1,186.00	2,186.00
Edward Triska	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	3,591.00	-0-	3,591.00
Edward Triska	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	1,000.00	231.00	1,231.00
Rose M. Lanik	Prague, NE	St. Ludmilla	80	600.00	862.00	1,462.00
Helen Kaderabek	Cleveland, OH	St. Elizabeth	10	500.00	603.00	1,103.00
John J. Klecan	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	500.00	555.00	1,055.00
John J. Dobransky	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	500.00	254.00	754.00
Clara Matejka	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	11	600.00	474.00	1,074.00
Clara Matejka	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	11	600.00	978.00	1,578.00
Frank Sindelar	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	500.00	638.00	1,138.00
Clara Jasinski	Cicero, IL	Our Lady of the Mount	143	1,000.00	1,790.00	2,790.00
Albina Lauerman	Detroit, MI	St. Ann	5	1,000.00	1,448.00	2,448.00