

muže'

ČESKÁ KATOLICKÁ JEDNOTA

POSEL



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Merry Christmas

Happy New Year



Veselé Vánoce

Stastný Nový Rok

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President's Message

I attended the National Fraternal Congress in Arlington, VA September 14-18, 1999. During the 113th annual meeting of the NFCA, fraternalists learned that the NFCA had met its commitment of America Promise in Volunteerism and Financial contributions. The member societies increased their volunteer hours directed toward youth by 13 million hours and these financial contributors of youth programs by more than \$10.8 million in 1997-98.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of a major new initiative by the NFCA. Together with the points of light foundation and local volunteer centers across the nation. They are coordinating a "National Day of Service" June 17, 2000. The day is intended to serve as a catalyst for people joining together to address serious problems through volunteer service.

In 1998, member societies devoted more than 72 million volunteer hours to community service and dispersed nearly \$250 million in charitable and benevolent contributions. This outreach makes the fraternal benefit system one of the leading grassroots volunteer organization in the nation.

Let us keep track of all our volunteer acts and hours to help swell these figures. Submit them to the home office to be counted.

I want to wish all of our members and their families, a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous and Healthy New Millennium.

Fraternally,
Mary Ann Mahoney

Christmas, 1999

Dear Members of the Czech Catholic Union:

St. Luke records that "she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7)

Once again, according to human calculation, we celebrate the birth of the Incarnate Word, the Son of God who came to embrace and save all people. This year we approach a new century, a new millennium. Jesus still reaches out to the world across these many years offering peace and salvation to all.

Like Bethlehem of old, the world today seems more intent on material things, on celebrating a calendar millennium, worried perhaps of what it will bring - a Y2K problem that might disrupt or deprive us of our comfortable, "room in the inn."

So many of us of the Czech Catholic Union have witnessed in our life time the terrible results of the world not providing "a room in the inn" for the only one who can bring peace and salvation. We gratefully thank God for our faith, for the opportunity even in an imperfect way of making "room in the inn" of our souls and giving meaning to our life.

May the feast of Our Lord's coming among us bring us and our families a renewed sense of security and peace in an uncertain and dangerous world. May we through our lives and prayers help the world around us to finally "make room in the inn" and accept the fact that centuries and millennia are not just calendar events but a reminder of that special time in human history when the Son of God came to dwell among us in Bethlehem so long ago.

May the peace of Christ abide with us each day of our lives.

Sincerely,

+ *Daniel W. Kucera*

Most Reverend Daniel W. Kucera, OSB
Chaplain



CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP PETER ESTERKA!!!!



Auxiliary Bishop of
Brno, Czech Republic

CONGRATULATIONS to Msgr. Peter Esterka, Director of the California Czech Catholic Mission, who was named Auxiliary Bishop of Brno, Czech Republic by Pope John Paul II. After consecration September 11, 1999, he will still reside in Los Angeles and be in charge of Czech emigrants living abroad covering Canada, The U.S.A., Oceania, Europe, and South America. Msgr. Esterka escaped the Communist dominated Czechoslovakia at 19 years of age. He was educated at the Nepomucenum Pontifical College in Rome, Italy (our favorite charity).

He served as a young priest in Texas and taught for several years at St. Catherine College in Minnesota. He is an American citizen and a retired Lt. Colonel in the Air Force. He served as National Chaplain of our fellow Czech Catholic Fraternal, Catholic Workman (Katolicky Delnik), New Prague, Minnesota. God bless him in his very difficult assignment.



Coat of Arms



Collage of the Brno Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul and the Church from Bishop Esterka's hometown, dedicated to St. Wenceslaus

JUST A REMINDER

This message is to remind all Czech Catholic Union members to check the beneficiary on their certificates. If you still have a mother, father, husband or wife who is deceased, now is the time to make changes. If you need a "Change of Beneficiary" form, you can either get one from your society officers or you can call the Main Office and we will be glad to send you a form. Another reminder, if you have grown children who are not living at home or are married, let us know their addresses so that they can receive the "POSEL".

I would like to wish all the Officers & Member of the Czech Catholic Union a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy & Happy New Year "2000".

Fraternally,
Elsie T. Malec
Secretary-Treasurer

Prayer of Pope John Paul II for the celebration of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000

Praise and glory to you, Most Holy Trinity, you alone are God most high!

By your grace, O Father, may the Jubilee Year be a time of deep conversion and of joyful return to you. May it be a time of reconciliation between people, and of peace restored among nations, a time when swords are beaten into plowshares and the clash of arms gives way to songs of peace.

Father, grant that we may live this Jubilee Year docile to the voice of the Spirit, faithful to the way of Christ, diligent in listening to your Word and in approaching the wellsprings of grace.

The Vatican logo for the Great Jubilee was designed by a 22 year old Italian art student. The blue circular field represents the universe. Upon it is inscribed a cross, which upholds humanity, gathered in the five continents, which are represented by the doves in five colors. The words, in Latin, echo the theme of the Jubilee: "Christ yesterday, today and forever."



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Sharon Jahn, member of St. Ann Society #16, had the honor of being accepted to the Carnegie Mellon University Pre College Program with a major in music this summer. She attended this camp for six weeks, beginning the last week in June and ending the second week in August. The music program was organized like a college semester. Classes included music theory, solfege, eurhythmics, jazz improvisation, jazz ensemble, wind ensemble, chamber music, and music technology. Her performances included clarinet trio, woodwind quintet, wind ensemble and choir as well as being a featured soloist in the jazz ensemble.

Sharon is a senior at James Wood high School, Winchester, Virginia and will graduate next year. Her grade point average is 3.90 and her class rank is 5th in a class of 369. She hopes to attend Duquesne University and major in music therapy.

Sharon is the daughter of Jeff and Cathy Jahn and the granddaughter of George and Olga Jahn.

Congratulations, Sharon! Keep up the good work and good luck as you pursue your career in music.



Violet Soukup, Financial Secretary for St. Ann Society #16, is now living in a personal care home. For anyone interested in getting in touch with her, the address is Windsor Place, Room 102, One Windsor Way, PA 15237. Best wishes to you Violet.



Also, Lil Mayernik, President of St. Ann # 16, has been hospitalized and is undergoing tests. We hope she will be home soon and on her way to recovery.



Cicero, Illinois

Our Lady of the Mount Society #143

Dolores Jacklin, President of Our Lady of the Mount Society #143 wrote to the editor of the POSEL about her mother, Clara Kalka and her mother's sister Rose Horacek.

Clara Kalka celebrated her 96th birthday on August 10, 1999.

Clara Kalka was born in Chicago, August 10, 1903 to Katerina and Francis Horacek. She was baptized at St. Ludmilla Parish and belonged to St. Ann Society at that Parish. She worked at Western Electric as a young woman and was happy to be a homemaker after her marriage to Lawrence Kalka August 28, 1926. They moved to Berwyn, Illinois where they raised their three daughters. She attended the Czech Catholic Union Convention in St. Louis, Missouri as a delegate representing Our Lady of the Mount Society #143. Clara Kalka has been residing at St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville for the past three years.

Rose Horacek was born in Chicago, July 4, 1899, married Ferdinand Svoboda and later moved to Berwyn. She also began as a member of St. Anne Society at St. Ludmilla Parish. She celebrated her 100th birthday on July 4, 1999. She died in Longmont, Colorado on July 20, 1999.

Clara Kalka never served as an office of the CCU, but I can recall the meeting I attended with her when Loretta Moravecek was asking for someone to take the office of President. With a little prodding from mom, I volunteered and here I am quite a few years later doing what I can to keep things going.

The officers and members of Our Lady of the Mount Society #143 wish to extend best wishes to Clara Kalka and hope that she can continue to enjoy her family and friends for many more years. Deepest sympathy is offered to Clara and her family on the loss of her sister Rose Horacek. May she rest in peace.

Clara Kalka (standing)
Rose Horacek (seated)



Cleveland, Ohio



HAPPY 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Daniel & Deborah Malec, of Waterford, Ohio, celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary with a surprise party given by their children, Ernest & Amanda Malec, on Saturday, October 23, 1999. They also had a telephone call from their other son, Staff Sgt. Jason S. Malec, who is stationed at the Aviano Air Force Base in Aviano, Italy. In addition to their children, they have three grandchildren, Rebecca, Hillary, and Cody. They and all their children & grandchildren are members of St. Joseph Society #156 in Cleveland, Ohio.



Matthew, Kathryn and Mark

St. Joseph Society #156 welcomes Kathryn Lynn Bischof as the newest member of this society. Kathryn Lynn was born April 26, 1999 and joins her two brothers Matthew and Mark and her parents Patty and Steve as a member of the Czech Catholic Union. Her grandparents, Bill & Linda Hronek are lifetime members. Congratulations to the Hronek-Bischof families on their 100% membership.

Congratulations to St. Joseph Society #156 member, Michael Mahnke, who was named a National Merit Semifinalist.

He joins only 16,000 other semifinalists across the country, or one half of the top 1 percent of high school students in the nation. Michael Mahnke and the other semifinalists have the opportunity to continue in the competition for the Merit Scholarship awards worth more than \$28 million.

To become a National Merit Finalist, students must have an outstanding academic record, be endorsed and recommended by their school principals and submit SAT scores that confirm their earlier qualifying test performance. A detailed scholarship application also must be completed, which includes a student self-descriptive essay, as well as the semifinalists participation and leadership in school and community activities.

Continued success is wished to Michael Mahnke from the members of St. Joseph Society and congratulations to his proud family, who are also members of St. Joseph Society.

St. Louis, Missouri

Congratulations Sister Dolores Tringl on you Golden Jubilee.

50 years ago, I knew God wanted me to be a Sister and that the only kind of Sister I wanted to be was a Victory Noll sister! While my dream has been realized already for 50 years, the desire is still there and grows more intensely with each new day. Why do I have all this enthusiasm with me? Because Victory Noll sisters minister to God's poor, they live a simple life style, they are very friendly, happy and hospitable, their ministry is non-institutional, they love life, and above all, they want to do God's will for them! That's what I wanted 50 years ago. That's what I received, and that's what I hope to live in the future, I'm grateful to God for the gift of being a Victory Noll Sister.

Beautifully said Sister Dolores - many fulfilling years ahead.

While I am at it, here is my Christmas greeting.

Warm Holiday greeting from St. Louis.

May the Infant Jesus bring with His coming many graces and blessings to us that we may continue to do His will.

Merry Christmas

St. Ludmila Society #7

Pauline Kveton

Treasurer-Financial Sec'y.



An "Angel" Makes Another Flight to Aid the Holy Family Home for Cancer Patients

Lu Hromadka has raised nearly \$400,000.00 for the Holy Family Home for terminal cancer patient in Parma, Ohio over 33 years. Lu Hromadka has organized fun-raising dinners for the Dominican nuns who minister to dying cancer patients. These Sisters consider Lu Hromadka their special angel. He is one of their best supporters.

The Holy Family Home is one of seven similar homes across the county run by the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer. There is no cost to the patients or their families. Lu Hromadka is the president of the Czech Guild and has been an unabashed cheerleader for the nuns and their work.

The "Night in Bohemia" held each year for the benefit of the Holy Family Home contributes to the funds raised to help the less fortunate. This year's donations amounted to about \$28,000. The entertainment by local professional musicians and singers is a donation of their time and talent.

Lu Hromadka needs to be commended for all the devotion and concern shown to the Sisters at the Holy Family Home. He is a member of St. Joseph Society #156 and its members are proud to have an unselfish member as Lu on their membership list.



From Lillian Kopecky, Director and officer of St. Mary Society #119 Cedar Rapids, IA...

"Thank you for the lovely surprise of a basket of green plants. I'm getting along very well. Healing up slowly but very good. I am back to volunteering at the Museum and the gift shop at Mercy Medical Center. A big thank you to all the board members for their get well wishes."

From Sister Celine Laketek, O.S.B., Sacred Heart Monastery, Lisle, IL....

"I am a regular reader of each issue of the POSEL. Thank you for making the POSEL available to our Benedictine Community. We thoroughly enjoy Czech food and Czech music."

From Mary E. Callaghan, Business Manager, Nazareth Academy, LaGrange Park, IL....

"Thank you for your generous contribution of \$200.00 towards the education of Daniel Polcyn at Nazareth Academy. I have made a note of the award on his billing statement."

From Keven Krajnak, Society #145, Cleveland, OH...

"Thank you for the recent grant which you gave me for the University of Dayton. I appreciate the generosity that you have shown me in the past years at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School and now at the University of Dayton. I intend to make good use of this grant by continuing to work hard at my studies at UD this school year."

From Michael Bieschke, St. Ann Society #117, Niles, Illinois...

"I would like to extend my gratitude to the Czech Catholic Union. Your grant will help me with my high school education at Notre Dame High School. This encourages me to study harder and strive for excellence. When I entered school as a freshman, my academic attitude was that every class was going to be a challenge. Now as a sophomore, I enter school with the attitude that these challenges can be conquered. Thank you for your generosity."

From Norman and Shelley Polcyn, St. Ann Society #117, Chicago, IL ...

"We would like to express our appreciation to you for granting \$200.00 towards our son's tuition at Nazareth Academy in LaGrange Park, IL. We felt it was important for our son to get a good education at a great school and we want to thank you for helping us, as every little bit counts!"

St. Mary Society #119 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Jeanne Brincks of Dallas, Texas, a member of St. Mary Society underwent a very serious procedure recently. She experienced an injury to her brain which caused her painful migraine headaches. After her surgery, she suffered problems with her eye nearest the surgery. Now, she's thankful for the miracle that saved her life. The members of St. Mary Society wish Jean complete recovery.

Jeanne Brincks' mother, Rose Kopecky, is a new member of St. Mary Society #119. Rose has been St. Wenceslaus Church historian for many years and has been very busy editing the St. Wenceslaus Quasquecentennial Edition of the Parish. St. Wenceslaus Parish will have a celebration and liturgy presided over by Archbishop Jerome Hanus, after which the parish buildings and real estate will be put up for sale.

● ● ●

Sincere sympathy is wished to our members, Jan Wessel, Nancy Wilderson, and Rita Tomanek and Blanche Svoboda on the passing of their husband and father George Svoboda. May he enjoy eternal happiness with the Lord.

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Rose Kopecky sent information about the history of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. It will be celebrating 125 years of being an integral part of the Czech community in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The original church was built in 1874 with the pastor and parishioners furnishing the material and labor. The church was very important to the early immigrants who came from Bohemia, Poland and Lithuania and who saw it as a so-called entry port into American Society. It met their needs as far as church, school and social life was concerned.

The present church of St. Wenceslaus was built in 1904 at a cost of \$33,000. The church has preserved its walls, painted murals depicting Bohemian legends and famous shrines. A number of windows contain imported Bohemian glass. It is considered a Czech National Parish and is the only one in the Cedar Rapids Diocese.

● ● ●

*Think of the hopes that lie before you,
Not the waste that lies behind;
Think of the treasures you have gathered,
Not the ones you've failed to find;
Think of the service you may render,
Not of serving self alone;
Think of the happiness of others,
And in this you'll find your own!*

- Robert E. Farley

Iowa Fraternal Congress of America

Lillian Kopecky, Director of the Czech Catholic Union and Treasurer of St. Mary Society #119, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, represented the Czech Catholic Union at the Iowa Fraternal Congress held August, 1999.

I attended the first day of the Iowa Fraternal Congress in Des Moines, Iowa with two delegates from C.S.A. I was happy to go with someone who had attended in the past to take me under their wings and show me the "ropes".

After registering the meeting was called to order with the roll call and seating of the delegates. There are 25 Societies that belong to the Iowa Chapter, an increase of five since 1998.

Our first speaker was Terri Vaughn, Iowa Insurance Commissioner. She talked about the new trends in the industry such as merging of Corporations in order to give better advantages to clients. She mentioned that banks and insurance companies were "bucking each other". Vera Wilt from the Chicago area was a surprise speaker. She is a member of the Czech Catholic Union. She was the first woman elected president of the National C.S.A. She spoke about societies not doing enough to attract young people. She feels that our younger generation wants a "meaning" to whatever they do. Some work is being done to develop programs for this purpose that could work for individual societies. Our last speaker was Joe Batten, quite a Dynamic person, who felt that the word "growth" was all that needed to be said:

- G** Goals, vision and dreams
- R** Realistic of strength
- O** Openness and vulnerability
- W** Sense of wonder
- T** Tough minded expectations
- H** Hopes

He explained each of these words as he spoke and he has followed his own advice to be successful.

Note: The Czech Catholic Union wishes to extend its gratitude to Lillian Kopecky for the good job she did in representing us at this meeting and wish her continued good health.



St. Ann Society #117 Chicago, IL

The members of St. Ann Society #117 are to be commended on the prompt payment of their dues to the Home Office. It is very important that we continue to support all the efforts of the society and the Home Office to keep communications open to the members of St. Ann Society #117.

The Home Office would like to inform the members of this society that their funds accumulated in the treasury of St. Ann Society have been put to good use. Here is a list of charitable organi-

zations that have benefited from St. Ann Society #117 funds. Fraternalism is shown to these organizations by your generous donations.

Make a Wish	\$100.00
St. Procopius Abbey	100.00
Misericordia Heart of Mary	100.00
N.F.C.A.Flood Relief	100.00
St. Procopius - Mass for	
Emily Prusa	15.00
Mass for Lillian Saindon	15.00
St. Jude's Children Ranch	100.00
	\$530.00

Some of the members from St. Ann Society #117 Czech Catholic Union have sent notes of gratitude to the Home Office for their 1999 Certificates of Endorsement.

Jo Lepka - "Cordial thanks for sending me Certificate Endorsement 1999."

Anna Dytrych - "Received my rider. Thank you. Happy Holidays!"

Beatrice Baranowski - "Thank you for the addition to my policy. I appreciate it very much. Wishing you continued success. God bless you."

Mae Kunich - "Dear Fellow Members, Thank you for the rider and I congratulate you on such fine investments that our small certificate is worth so much and we are so solvent. I also read the Czech magazine from cover to cover and pass it on to friends who also enjoy it. I truly am happy to be a member. God bless you all."

Editor's Note: If any one of the members of St. Ann Society #117, Chicago, IL have a question or need some information about their certificates, please feel free to contact the officers at the main office. They will be happy to help you and answer you questions.

NACC Pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year 2000

The National Alliance of Czech Catholics is sponsoring a pilgrimage to Rome, in commemoration and celebration of the Holy Year 2000. The dates of the pilgrimage are March 27 - April 5, 2000. The tour will also include visits to other notable pilgrimage sites in Italy, Austria and Germany. During the 3 day pilgrimage program in Rome, in Christian solidarity, we will join our brothers and sisters from the Czech Republic.

Per requests from participants, we have been able to include an add-on to the original tour upon its return from Rome back to Prague. This tour which is optional will include visits to various pilgrimage sites in the Czech and Moravian regions of the Czech Republic.

Each participant has an option to choose which tour they would like. Either the tour which was originally offered, March 27 - April, 2000 or the one with the add-on March 27 - April 12, 2000.

For any further information, please contact the office of the National Alliance of Czech Catholics, 2340 S. 61st Avenue, Cicero, IL 60804.

Czech Prodigy

The Czech piano prodigy Lukas Vondracek began studying piano at the age of 2. At the age of four, he had already made his first public performance. His first CD was released in 1998. Now 12, Vondracek has studied at the Higher Academy of Music in Vienna, and is currently a student at the Czech Republic's Ostrava University. He has played with many noted symphonic orchestras, including the State Philharmonic Orchestras of Ostrava and Brno. Vondracek has performed works by Czech composers Novak and Martinu as well as favorites by Bach, Beethoven and Chopin.

Cicero, Illinois "Service to the Lord"

Judith Fierst (nee Baur), a member of St. Ann Society #3, has recently celebrated her 35th Wedding Anniversary. For the last 25 years, she has been in charge of the music ministry at SS Peter & Paul Parish in Marzeppa, MN. She has played and continues to play the organ and piano as well as direct the adult choir for Sunday masses, funerals and weddings. This information comes from her husband, Ted Fierst. The Czech Catholic Union would like to congratulate this dedicated and happy couple on their anniversary and wish them many more happy years. To Judith, congratulations on the fraternal works performed through your Music Ministry. May God continue to bless you and inspire you in all your good works.



ČESKÉ VÁNOCE

**Josef Lada
(1887-1957)**

The unchangeable pictures of Czech painter and illustrator JOSEF LADA are already known to generations of readers from the cradle to adulthood. His pictures portray the lovely Czech countryside in the four seasons, in the daytime and at night. He inhabited his pictures with children, old folks, cutely personified animals and fairy tale figures.

Born into a poor family of a country cobbler in the village of Hrusice, near Prague, he lived a happy childhood which became a life-long theme for him. He not only illustrated children's books, but also illustrated Jaroslav Hasek's *The Good Soldier Schweik* as well as contributing to numerous Czech and foreign humoristic periodicals.

Stamp Corner . . .



Christmas Stamp
Crib from Dinotice
3 Crowns = .09



Frantisek Palacky
Czech Historian
1798-1876
4.60 Crowns = .15



Czech Republic
Member of Nato
4.60 Crowns = .15



Emma Destinn
Czech Actress
1878-1930
8 Crowns = .24



CHRISTMAS CAROL HAS SPECIAL MEANING

One English Christmas carol well-known worldwide today is, however, more than a repetitious tune with pretty phrases and strange gifts. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is a song with different levels of meaning.

From 1558 to 1829, the Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. During this period, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as a catechism song for young Catholics. The hidden meanings of the song's gifts were intended to help the children remember lessons of their faith. Instead of referring to an earthly suitor, the "true love" mentioned in the song refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents is symbolic of every baptized person. The "partridge in a pear tree" is Jesus Christ. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings. The meaning of the other symbols are:

Two turtle doves - the Old and New Testaments;
Three French hens - Faith, Hope and Charity;
Four calling birds - the four Gospels;
Five golden rings - the first five books of the Old Testament, which give the history of man's fall from grace;
Six geese a-laying - the six days of creation;
Seven swans a-swimming - seven gifts of the Holy Spirit;
Eight maids a-milking - the eight Beatitudes;
Nine ladies dancing - nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
Ten lords a-leaping - the Ten Commandments;
Eleven pipers piping - the eleven faithful disciples;
Twelve drummers drumming - the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed (cf. Newsletter of the Catholic Medical Mission Board, December 1988).

PAGEANT INFORMATION

Young ladies between the ages of 16 and 26
Who are proud of their Czech, Slovak or Moravian Heritage
The Buckeye State is looking for "you" to participate in the

Miss Ohio Czech-Slovak USA Pageant

Which will be held June 24th and June 25th, 2000
In Youngstown, Ohio

Sponsored by the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley

There will be four categories of competition:
private interview, talent, kroj (costume) and on stage interview

The Ohio Queen will receive over \$1,500.00 in prizes, which will include a savings bond jeweled crown, custom designed sash, crown pin, floral bouquet, all expense paid trip to Wilber, Nebraska for the National USA Competition held August 5th and 6th, 2000

The Runner Up will receive a floral bouquet, engraved award, and savings bond
The Talent Winner and Kroj Winner will each receive an engraved award and cash award

For application and information contact:

Barbara Koeser
Ohio Director
Miss Czech-Slovak USA Pageant
50 Hall Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

CZECH LANDS OBSERVE COLORFUL CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

The first phase of winter in the Czech lands begins on the feast of St. Martin, November 11th. St. Martin was a bishop and a popular Czech saying is "Svaty Martin přijel na bílém koni" (St. Martin comes on a white horse). This agrees with the fact that there is usually snow on the ground by this time.

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Christmas season begins with the first day of advent and the lighting of the advent candles. In some parts of the Czech lands, children would hang stocking at the window on Sv. Ondrej (St. Andrew) eve November 30, and the next morning, the stockings would be filled with apples and nuts.

Feast of Sv. Mikulas (St. Nicholas)

The second phase of winter begins on the feast of Sv. Mikulas (St. Nicholas) December 6th. There is a long history about Sv. Mikulas that may be told at another time. Many churches in Europe are dedicated to Sv. Mikulas, possibly the finest being in Praha's Mala Strana with a second majestic one just off Praha's Starometske Namesti.

It is believed that Sv. Mikulas descends from the heavens on the golden cord accompanied by an anđel (angel) dressed in white. They are awaited on earth by the cert (devil) carrying a rattling chain. The trio begin their rounds visiting homes where there are children. Sv. Mikulas, very reverent and imposing in his bishop's robes and long white beard, questions each child about his or her behavior during the past year and his or her readiness for the birthday of Jesulatko (Jesus). If he is not pleased by the answers or has a bad report about that child beforehand, he turns and points to the devil who comes forward with a rattling chain to present the child with a gift of a lump of coal. Usually, the frightened child will cry, beg forgiveness and promise to do better which prompts St. Nicholas to reconsider and points to the angel who then gives the penitent child a small treat. Throughout the country, especially in the rural areas, many trios of Sv. Mikulas, anđel and cert are interviewing children in this old and traditional way.

Stedry Den

Stedry Den, December 24th. To some families this is the most important day of the seasons. In some areas, this day is spoken of as Vanoce. Days before, much baking of traditional vanocni pecivo had begun and on this day, final preparation for the special evening meal goes on. In most homes, the immediate and close family shares this supper of hrachova polevka, bramborovy salat (usually made from a special type of potato) and kapr (a fish special to this meal). A few days before Christmas water barrels, filled with kapr, appear in town squares. Each family purchases fish for this meal and keeps them alive in the bathtub so they will be fresh when cooked and served. In most homes, children have fond memories of playing with the carp swimming around in the family bathtub. In some homes, each room in the house, as well as the barn and stable are blessed. The children see the decorated vanocni stromek (Christmas Tree) for the first time. Gifts are exchanged. Around 10 or 11 p.m. many leave for church to attend midnight Mass.

Veselé vánoce



Blessing Before the Oplatki

Lord our God, let your blessing come upon us and these gifts as we gather to celebrate the birth of your Son. Teach us to be generous hosts and faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Show us how to open our hearts and minds to those in need of our love. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Christmas 1999

What is Christmas?

Christmas is a time for meditating, for recalling that night long ago when Bethlehem cradled to its heart and gave mankind the Redeemer of the world.

Christmas should mean kind thinking, forgiveness, forgetting old cares, old grievances, fears. It should be a time for carving ideals and dreams; a time for weaving the golden threads of past blessings into a mantle of daily thanksgiving.

Christmas is a gift transcending human understanding; an angel choir echoing the song of songs; imperishable glory from the very heart of Heaven to the furthestmost part of earth.

Christmas is a boundless love melting all grief, all heartache; hope, serene and beautiful, lighting all darkness.

Christmas is Angelic Peace.

The Christmas Wafer

The word Bethlehem means "The House of Bread." The breaking of bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship. Religious family customs bring the truths of Faith into the home. One of these beautiful Christmas Eve customs is the Christmas Wafer. The thin Wafer bearing the Christmas characters is broken by the father as the head of the family and distributed to each member. With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the father breaks the Wafer and distributes it, a piece to each one at the table. While doing so he kisses each member of the family and wishes them a joyful feast. The members then greet one another in the same way.

The spiritual lesson in this age of old custom is the family, the main pillar of society. The bond of unity is the Christ-like charity that should exist amongst the members of the family. The father is the link in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ and One Church. The family joins him in this eternal procession no matter where they are. For there is a universal longing by men to be always with one another with God.

All this brings to mind clearly our charity for one another, to seek salvation together. Family customs remind us that we seek and obtain salvation with the help of others at all times.



And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

St. Matthew 2:11

THREE KINGS - JANUARY 6th

DONATIONS voted for payment at the Czech Catholic Union Directors' Meeting held in June, 1999.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church	\$200.00
National Alliance of Czech Catholic . .	100.00
Hlas Naroda	300.00
Nepomucenum College	300.00
Cedar Rapids Czech School	25.00
Cardinal Beran Czech School	25.00
St. Procopius Abbey	100.00
CSA Museum - Illinois	100.00
Czech & Slovak Museum & Library . .	300.00
Catholic Sokol Orel - Czech Republic .	100.00
Msgr. Peter Esterka	150.00
 Total	 \$1,700.00



Czech-English Vocabulary

nove koreni	allspice
mandle	almonds
anyz	anise
jablko	apple
kypici prasek	baking powder
banan	banana
testicko	batter
jelito	blood sausage
snidane	breakfast
zeli	cabbage
kmin	caraway seed
kava	coffee
kure	chicken
kachna	duck
vejce	egg
tuk	fat
karbanatek	hamburger
jaternice	liver sausage
houby	mushrooms
cibule	onion
pepr	pepper
okurka	pickle
mak	poppyseed
kralik	rabbit
smetana	sour cream
nadivka	stuffing
caj	tea
krocan	turkey
zelenina	vegetable
vino	wine
kvasnice	yeast

Did you know...

...that Prague's Charles University (founded in 1348) was the first university in Central Europe while Prague's Technical University was the first of its kind in the world?

...that the term "dollar" goes back to 1519, to the western region of the present day Czech Republic where the owner of local silver mines minted his own coins calling them "Joachimsthaler Groschen" or "Thaler" for short, which corresponds with the English "dollar"?

...that the Howitzer cannon drew its name from the Czech "Houfnice" - the multiple use weapons used by Czech warriors in the 15th century?

...that the idea of lithography - process of printing from a plain surface - was born in 1798 in Bohemia which is a part of the Czech Republic?

...that the word "ROBOT" meaning a manmade mechanical being was coined by the Czech playwright Karel Capek in his play "R.U.R." which stands for Rossum's Universal Robot?

...that Chicago Mayor Cermak, who took the assassin's bullet meant for President Roosevelt came from a family of Czech immigrants?

...that Hollywood Oscar winning director Milos Forman ("One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest", "Amadeus" and "The People vs Larry Flynt") is Czech born?

...that the wife of the Czecho-Slovak first president Tomas Masaryk was an American? And her maiden name was Charlotte Garrigue and that she was a direct descendant of Mayflower Pilgrims.

...that the world's tennis players - Lendl, Navratilova, Mandlikova, Sukova and Novonta, to name a few, were born and raised in the Czech Republic.

...that the contact lens was invented by scientist Otto Wicherle, who resided in the Czech Republic and after 1990 became head of the Czech Academy of Sciences?

...that the founder of McDonald's was Mr. Ralph Kroc whose ancestors came to America from the heart of Europe and native country is now the Czech Republic?

...that the founder of modern genetics - Gregor Mendel - is a Moravian native as was the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud and composer Gustav Mahler?

...that the Good King Wenceslaus of the English Christmas Carol was a Czech?

...that Antonin Dvorak, a composer of the New World of Symphony, was a Czech?

Moravian Days Festival

The 60th Moravian Day Celebration sponsored by the United Moravian Societies was held on Saturday, September 25th, and Sunday, September 26th, at West Joliet Road Union Hall in Countryside, Illinois. A bus filled with 51 Cleveland Czechs left Lakefront Bus Terminal Saturday morning September 25th and traveled to the Hampton Inn in the suburb of Chicago, Illinois. The group arrived in time to attend the Saturday evening festivities. Sunday Mass was celebrated by the newly consecrated Bishop, the Very Rev. Peter Esterka. Bishop Esterka looked very regal in his red vestments and mitre. The liturgy and music were in the Czech language. Bishop Esterka encouraged all in attendance to continue in their traditions and heritage and follow in the footsteps of St. Wenceslaus the patron of Czechs.

A Dinner followed the memorable Czech Mass. The traditional dinner consisted of pork, dumplings and sauerkraut and many delicious home-made pastries. The Moravian Day Program was scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. The dance groups were very colorful in their traditional costumes and the blending of voices in song was very inspiring. The favorites of the crowd were the young folk dancers. It was refreshing to see the youth groups perform with precision and ease. They helped renew everyone's spirit and helped rekindle the memories of days gone by. Everyone seemed to reminisce about past incidents or events in their lives. It was very invigorating to share these recollections. The entertainment was appreciated and enjoyed by the group.

Everything comes to an end and so this bus load of weary travelers headed home after they stopped in the Czech section of Berwyn and Cicero, Illinois to shop at the Czech bakeries, a butcher shop and a liquor store. It seems that the items purchased cannot be bought in Cleveland. After the buyers stocked up on their favorite Czech food, bread and drink, the bus was filled with all these pungent and delicious smells.

The activities were planned for this tour by L-N Travel Inc. (Ivan Nemecek, tour escort) gave all travelers choices to participate in and made for great camaraderie among all who attended the Moravian Day Festivities.



Moravia - It's Land and People

Moravia is a land with picturesque vistas, where mountain ranges give way to river valleys with fertile plains and wooded hills pass into vast areas of meadows and groves. Moravians are a happy people; they love music, singing, dancing, and good wines; their love for their native land is reflected in the folk traditions passed on from generation to generation.

An industrious people, agriculture is a major industry, especially in South Moravia. Crops include sugar beets, wheat, rye barley, corn, and potatoes. There are vast acres of vineyards, producing many liters of wine. Heavy industry dominates in North Moravia's Silesian Basin.

Moravians are a unique people. They speak Czech, but in the Moravian way. There is a Moravia, but there are no Moravians. On the other hand, there are Moravians, but there is no Moravia. Frantisek Palacky, the national revivalist, scientist, and author stated it best back in the 16th century when he said, "I am a Czech of stock." This holds true even today - Czech is a Moravian's mother tongue, but their heart is Moravian.



Starting A Family Tree

Genealogy experts recommend gathering the following information about as many relatives and ancestors as you can: full birth name, dates of birth and death, and names of children and spouses. When possible, contact older relatives to fill in missing information. Also look for family history in family Bibles, deeds, photo albums, and even cookbooks. While it's helpful to use the Internet for its wealth of genealogy sites and research aides, it's not wise to post trees with the names of living members on the Web because criminals can learn women's maiden names, a common security password for credit cards and bank accounts.

The Power of "Thank You"

A simple "thank you" has big effects on human beings.

Experts at Prevention magazine say these words have a strong power to affect our lives for good. Thank-you power creates positive energy that flows through the body and boosts the immune system. It makes people feel good right now, and it works to keep them healthy.

In addition to saying these big little words, thanks can be demonstrated by giving an unexpected smile, a warm touch, a hug, or a note.

Expressing your gratitude softens people's hearts, eases pain and stress, and gives them incentive.

Signs That You Have Had too Much of the 90's

1. You tried to enter your password on the microwave.
2. You now think of three espressos as "getting wasted."
3. You haven't played solitaire with a real deck of cards in years.
4. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
5. You e-mail your son in his room to tell him that dinner is ready.
6. Your daughter sells Girl Scout Cookies via her web site.
7. You chat several times a day with a stranger from South Africa, but you haven't spoken to your next door neighbor yet this year.
8. Your daughter just bought a CD of all the records your college roommate used to play.
9. You check your blow dryer to see if it's Y2K compliant.
10. You check the ingredients on a can of chicken noodle soup to see if it contains echinacea.
11. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.



Seasons Greetings

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Mary Ann Mahoney, President, September 25, 1999

Instructions to Publishers

1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in item 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation (or upon the trustee is acting). Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank spaces if more space is required.
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 13c, a, and f.
4. Item 13b. Copies not Distributed must include (1) returned copies originally stated on Form 3541 and returned to the publisher; (2) unmailed returns from news agents; and (3) copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.
5. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or regular publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, in the first issue printed after October.
6. In item 14 include the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
7. Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.

PS Form 3526, September 1998 (Reverse)

Single-Premium Life Rates
(Effective April 1, 1993)
(must add \$25 policy fee)

Per \$1,000 of Insurance		
Age	Rate	Rate
0	\$52.51	\$109.70
1	\$52.51	\$113.74
2	\$53.08	\$118.01
3	\$54.81	\$122.49
4	\$56.65	\$127.22
5	\$58.60	\$132.20
6	\$60.68	\$137.43
7	\$62.91	\$142.92
8	\$65.28	\$148.66
9	\$67.81	\$154.67
10	\$70.47	\$160.95
11	\$73.29	\$167.50
12	\$76.22	\$174.33
13	\$79.24	\$181.44
14	\$82.34	\$188.84
15	\$85.49	\$196.52
16	\$88.68	\$204.47
17	\$91.93	\$212.69
18	\$95.23	\$221.18
19	\$98.64	\$229.93
20	\$102.17	\$238.93
21	\$105.85	\$248.21

Single-Premium Life Rates

Per \$1,000 of Insurance		
Age	Rate	Rate
44	\$257.77	\$529.66
45	\$267.61	\$545.65
46	\$277.75	\$561.78
47	\$288.19	\$578.08
48	\$298.96	\$594.61
49	\$310.04	\$611.37
50	\$321.45	\$628.31
51	\$333.19	\$645.36
52	\$345.24	\$662.39
53	\$357.60	\$679.26
54	\$370.24	\$695.87
55	\$383.16	\$712.16
56	\$396.37	\$728.14
57	\$409.87	\$743.83
58	\$423.70	\$759.30
59	\$437.89	\$774.59
60	\$452.45	\$789.65
61	\$467.36	\$804.41
62	\$482.60	\$818.75
63	\$498.10	\$832.54
64	\$513.80	\$845.69

Single Premium Life Plan

- This is a Single Premium Life Certificate based upon a new mortality table (1980 CSO table) because people are living longer.
- Only one premium is required.
- This certificate is fully paid up immediately and no further premiums are due.
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- Guaranteed Cash Values build up immediately.
- Annual dividends are paid and can be used to purchase additional paid up insurance, thereby increasing your coverage.
- Interest accumulation is tax deferred as insurance is one of the few tax shelters left open by the Tax Reform Act.
- Double indemnity accidental death benefit available.

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 Cleveland, Ohio 44127

HAPPY NEW YEAR

This new year is given to us uncluttered, fresh and clean. Yesterday's troubles are in the past, Tomorrow's may never be seen. God has granted us this new year to do with as we will . . . Let's fill it with kindness and happiness, love, joy and good will.



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.

Notice To Members

We ask the membership to kindly check their certificates to note whether they have the proper beneficiary designated.

PAYMENTS OF MORTUARY DEATH CLAIMS

Name	Location	Soc. Name	No.	Amt. Ins.	Add. Pd. Up Ins.	Total Paid
John Bednarski	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	947.00	247.00	1,194.00
James S. Plevak	Cudahy, WI	St. Anne	105	1,000.00	62.00	1,062.00
James S. Plevak	Cudahy, WI	St. Anne	105	2,338.00	724.00	3,062.00
Rose Przybyla	Cicero, IL	St. Anne	18	1,000.00	2,421.00	3,421.00
James E. Clark	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	500.00	1,338.00	1,838.00
Mary T. Smola	Cleveland, OH		145	2,008.00	675.00	2,683.00
Mary T. Smola	Cleveland, OH		145	1,000.00	55.00	1,055.00
Julia Kussel	Cicero, IL	Our Lady of the Mount	143	1,000.00	2,021.00	3,021.00
Lillian Dufek	Omaha, NE	St. Ludmila	46	1,000.00	2,402.00	3,402.00
Elsie M. Mastny	Cleveland, OH	St. Elizabeth	10	591.78	1,364.07	1,955.85
Eileen M. Nemecek	Cedar Rapids, IA	St. Mary	119	500.00	957.00	1,457.00
Terry J. Soukup	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	2,000.00	2,385.00	4,385.00
Margaret McCulloch	Cleveland, OH	St. Elizabeth	10	600.00	1,406.00	2,006.00
Marie Isabelle	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	11	500.00	1,201.00	1,701.00

TOTAL DEATH CLAIMS PAID TO DATE IN 1999 \$139,838.85