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Our Lady of Lourdes



Feastday — February 11th

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President's Message

This is a very special year in many ways. It is a Leap year. It is a Presidential election year. It is a Jubilee year which the Church celebrates every 25 years as a way of remembering that our calendar and our lives as Christians revolves around the coming of Christ into the world.

Msgr. Naes writes about the four distinct groups of society; Children, Teenagers, Adults and Senior Citizens. He speaks of the role of government in solving the needs of each group.

Every Presidential Candidate offers his own solutions to the problems of all four groups. There are differences, but upon one thing we all need to agree and remember we are a nation under God and His Providence and our need to pray, as did our founding fathers who called upon Divine Wisdom to guide them, is important.

With prayer we can face the new millennium with renewed hope.

Fraternally,
Mary Ann Mahoney
President

Lent

SAINT PROCOPIUS ABBEY

5601 College Road • Lisle, Illinois 60532-2599

November 22, 1999

Elsie T. Malec
and Members
Czech Catholic Union
5349 Dolloff Road
Cleveland, OH 44127

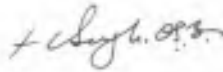
Dear Elsie and Members,

Thank you very much for your offering of \$60.00 for Masses to be celebrated for your living and deceased members. Please be assured that we shall be offering them as you have requested.

On behalf of the monastic community I also wish to convey our sincerest gratitude to Society #117 of the Czech Catholic Union for your thoughtful Thanksgiving gift of \$100.00. It is very kind of you to remember us.

May I wish all of you a most Blessed Thanksgiving and promise a continued remembrance in our prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Hugh R. Anderson, O.S.B.
Abbot



(630) 969-6410 * FAX: (630) 969-6426

The 40 days of fasting, almsgiving, and penance beginning on Ash Wednesday which Catholics call Lent existed in something like its present form by the 7th century. The name of the season comes from the Anglo Saxon *lencden*, for springtime, or the lengthening of the days. For the Church Lent has traditionally meant an intensification, for the baptized and especially for those approaching Baptism, of appreciation and understanding of the Redemption, and a renewal of faith. For the faithful, there has often been a greater emphasis on sin, death, and penance, especially fasting and sacrifice. Catholics still "give up things" for Lent — candy or alcohol or movies or television — but the Church encourages this sort of sacrifice only in the sense of constructive mortification: that is, as aids to remembering that we need nothing except God. The Church enthusiastically recommends positive Lenten practices such as daily Mass, and prayer, almsgiving, and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

MAY CHRISTMAS 1999 BE FOR EVERYONE A FEAST FILLED WITH LIGHT, THE PRELUDE TO AN ESPECIALLY DEEP EXPERIENCE OF GRACE AND DIVINE MERCY, WHICH WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR ON THE DAY OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, 6 JANUARY 2001.

LET ALL THE FAITHFUL WELCOME THE INVITATION OF THE ANGELS WHO CEASELESSLY PROCLAIM: "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG MEN WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED" (LUKE 2:14).

THUS THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WILL BE THE PULSING HEART OF THE HOLY YEAR, BRINGING TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH AN INFUSION OF THE COPIOUS GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT FOR A NEW EVANGELIZATION.

POPE JOHN PAUL II
Bull of Indiction of the
Great Jubilee of the Year 2000

Cleveland, Ohio

NATIONALITIES GROUP HONOR CCU PRESIDENT

Mary Ann Mahoney, President of the Czech Catholic Union, is to be commended on the award bestowed on her recently. Mary Ann was honored by the American Nationalities Movement on December 19, 1999 at a luncheon held at the Hofbrau Haus, Cleveland, Ohio. The plaque that she received reads. "In recognition of her magnificent lifetime achievements in perpetuating the custom and traditions of her Czech Heritage and Czech Community. Her dedicated service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars; her diligent and loyal support of the goals of the Movement." Mary Ann is very active in many ethnic groups and veterans groups. She is Recording Secretary of St. Joseph Society #156; Treasurer of District Alliance of Czech Catholics and Hospital treat chairman for the Military Order of the Cooties of the V.F.W. and serves on many committees and volunteers much of her free time in serving the community with leadership. Mary Ann is also a wife to Thomas Mahoney and a mother to Karla Mahoney. They both support Mary Ann in her endeavors.



Pictured are the City of Cleveland Council President Michael D. Polensek, State of Ohio Auditor James Petro, U.S. Senator George Voinovich and Mary Ann Mahoney



We welcome Nathan Richard Thomas, great grandson of the Voracek's, to the Czech Catholic Union St. Joseph Society #156. Nathan was born September 11, 1999. He joins his aunts, uncles and cousins, also his mom as members. Home is Toledo, Ohio, so that means great grandma Margaret Voracek can't spoil him, but his very first Christmas Eve was spent at her house. (We are sure that great grandma will do her best to spoil this little boy from afar.)



Mary Ann Svoboda celebrated her 80th birthday on January 18, 2000. She has been a lifelong member of the Czech Catholic Union and serves as Recording Secretary for St. Elizabeth Society #10.

Mary Ann and her husband George (deceased) raised four sons in Independence, Ohio, all of which are current members also. During the years her sons were growing, she served as a PTU President for St. Michael's School, as a Den Mother when the boys were in Cub Scouts, and as a chauffeur to hundreds of Little League baseball games.

For a number of years, Mary Ann was the chief cook for Society Card Parties. Though the years slow everyone down, Mary Ann still stays in touch with lodge members in her role as secretary. We wish her all of God's blessings, and many more years of wonderful memories.

Cleveland, Ohio



St. Joseph Society #156 extends congratulations to its member Dana Ann Hokr. Dana Ann, daughter of Dana and the late Joseph Hokr was married to Robert Lee Wood June 26, 1999 in Middleburg Hts., Ohio. Their reception was held at Camp Corde in Parma, Ohio. Dana is a Social Worker at Cuyahoga County Dept. of Childrens & Family Services and her husband Robert is a Dry Wall Contractor. We wish this young couple many years of wedded bliss and wish them much happiness as they settle in their new environment in Wellington, Ohio.

On October 30, 1999, Milan Hokr and Cynthia Bates were married at St. Ignatius Antioch Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Milan is the son of Dana and the late Joseph Hokr. He attended Griswold High School and has a degree in Marketing from John Carroll University. His bride is a graduate of the University of Akron BSN Nursing and is a registered nurse at the Cleveland Clinic. Milan is employed by M.A. Hanna Rubber as a regional account manager. This young couple will reside in Brunswick, Ohio. We extend our good wishes and hope they will celebrate many happy years together.

Milan, like his sister Dana, is a member of St. Joseph Society #156.



Bohemian National Hall

Bohemian National Hall, the home of Sokol Greater Cleveland is located at 4939 Broadway Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. It was built in 1897 in a transitional style between Romanesque Revival and Second Renaissance Revival. When built it was the largest and most well-known hall serving the Czech community of Cleveland. It is a significant social and cultural center of one of the largest Slavic ethnic groups in the United States. The building is listed on the national Register of Historic Places and also with The Cleveland Landmark Commission. It was purchased in 1975 by Sokol Greater Cleveland and restored and renovated by member volunteers.

Cleveland, Ohio

St. Joseph Society #156

At our December meeting we re-elected all of our officers and honored our deceased members for 1999: James G. Rebeta, John Huncharik, Marie Vohryzka, Ralph Perk, Sr., John Bednarski, Charles Tramba, James Clark, Edward Kozelka, Terry Soukup, Robert Makovicka, and Paul Veselsky. Our sympathy once again to the families involved.

At our January meeting Judge Ralph Perk Jr. installed the officers and we had our usual Jaternice luncheon. History was made when brother Phil Hrvatin videotaped the proceedings. We wonder what our founders 101 years ago would have thought?

Our annual Card Party will be held at the Czech Catholic Union Building on Sunday, February 13, 2000 at 1:00 p.m.. All local Czech Catholic Union members are naturally welcome. Proceeds will be used for our usual charities: Nepomucenum College in Rome, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Czech Radio, etc. March 12, 2000 we will honor our patron St. Joseph with a communion breakfast at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Mass is at 11:00 a.m. Please make reservations and be guests of St. Joseph lodge at 216-341-0444.

All Czech Catholic Union members are reminded to support the District Alliance of Czech Catholics Card Party at Czech Karlin Hall, 5304 Fleet Avenue at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, 2000. Their favorite charity is the Czech Pontifical College Nepomucenum in Rome.

For the Restoration of Things Lost or Stolen

O blessed St. Anthony! The grace of God has made you a powerful advocate in all necessities and a patron for the restoration of things lost or stolen. To you I turn today with childlike love and heartfelt confidence. Oh, how many thousands have you miraculously aided in the recovery of lost goods! You are the counselor of the erring, the comforter of the afflicted, the healer of the sick, the resurrector of the dead, the deliverer of the captive, the refuge of the afflicted. To you do I hasten, O blessed St. Anthony! Help me in my present affliction. I commend what I have lost to your care, in the secure hope that you will restore it to me if it be for the greater glory of God and the spiritual benefit of my soul, that I may praise and thank you, in time and eternity, for your glorious intercession in my behalf. Amen.



Congratulations to Michael D. Pokorny on his recent election to Councilman at Large in Parma Hts., Ohio. Michael is an attorney and legal counsel to the Cuyahoga County Health Department. He is the husband to Christine and they have three children, Alison, a sophomore at Ohio State University; Jason, a junior at St. Ignatius High School and Michael Francis, a student at Holy Family Parochial School, Parma, Ohio. Michael has chaired the Vision 2000 at Holy Family Parish and has been president of the Parish Council. Christine is the President of Holy Family P.T.U. and provides the food needed for the Holy Family Day Care Center.

The entire family are members of the Czech Catholic Union and are dedicated to their church, family and community. The members and officers of Sacred Heart of Mary Society #101 are very proud to have Michael be one of their members. He was enrolled by his maternal grandmother Barbara Houdek, who was the Financial Secretary of this society for over twenty-five years. Through her example, the tradition of participating in fraternal work has been carried on by her family members. We wish Michael D. Pokorny much success in his new position on the City Council of Parma Hts., Ohio.

Fleeting Petition

One Sunday in a Midwest city, a young child was acting up during Sunday Mass. The child's parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally, the stern-looking father picked the child up and walked out of the church. Just before they reached the foyer, the tyke called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

Pittsburgh, PA

The officers and members of St. Ann Society #16 are sad to report the passing of Violet Soukup on January 18, 2000. She was the Financial Secretary of this Society for a number of years and attended many Czech Catholic Union conventions. The last one held in Cleveland 1998.

Violet is survived by her 2 grandchildren, the children of her late daughter, Patricia Baughman.

May she experience the peace and joy of the Risen Lord.

Cudahy, Wisconsin

Frances Plevak, President of St. Ann Society #105, Cudahy, Wisconsin passed away January 3, 2000. She was a dedicated member of the Czech Catholic Union having attended many of the conventions with her sister, Mary Stica. We express our deepest sympathy to her family who are members of St. Ann Society #105 and her sister. May she rest in peace!

Stamp Corner . . .



1848 Revolution
150th Anniversary
15 Crowns=.45



Prague City of Towers
15 Crowns=.45



Work of Frantisek Hudecek
in National Gallery
26 Crowns=.78

Life Begins at 80

by Frank Laubach

I have good news for you. The first 80 years are the hardest. The second 80 are a succession of birthday parties.

Once you reach 80, everyone wants to carry your baggage and help you up the steps. If you forget your name or anybody else's name, or an appointment, or your own telephone number, or promise to be three places at the same time, or can't remember how many grandchildren you have, you need only explain that you are 80.

Being 80 is a lot better than being 70. At 70, people are mad at you for everything. At 80, you have a perfect excuse, no matter what you do. If you act foolishly, it's your second childhood. Everybody is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain.

Being 70 is no fun at all. At that age, they expect you to retire to a house in Florida and complain about your arthritis, and you ask everybody to stop mumbling because you can't understand them. (Actually, your hearing is about 50 percent gone.)

If you survive until you are 80, everybody is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived so long. Actually, they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly.

So, please, folks, try to make it to 80. It's the best time of life. People forgive you for anything. If you ask me, life begins at 80!!

Pen Pals Wanted!

Dear friends,

We got your address from the American Czech Center in Pilsen. We are 12-15 years old and we attend the 7th, 8th and 9th grades at the Masaryk Basic School in Horni Briza in the Czech Republic.

Horni Briza is a small town near Pilsen. Pilsen is the biggest city in western Bohemia. Our town is known for ceramic production. Our school is big and modern with a new gym hall and an athletic stadium. Many pupils like sports and games. We like pop music and collecting things. Most of us like learning English and would like to find pen friends about 12 - 17 years old in America.

Please write to us and give our address to schools in your town.

Sincerely,

Pupils of Masaryk's Basic School in
Horni Briza

OUR ADDRESS IS:

Masarykova ZS

Horni Briza

330 12

CZECH REPUBLIC (EUROPE)

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

CORRECTION . . .

St. Mary Society #119 wishes to correct any misconception which may have arose in regard to our write up in the last issue of the "Posel".

It is not the church and properties which are to be sold but the Quasquicentennial Memory Book of the history of St. Wenceslaus Parish which will be available for sale next summer.

Our St. Mary members, Lillian Kopecky and Rose Kopecky, were privileged to be Eucharistic Gift Bearers at the Quasquicentennial Mass November 7, 1999.

Congratulations are extended to Patricia Ruzicka Beer. Patricia was honored at the Quasquicentennial Celebration at St. Wenceslaus Church. Archbishop Hanus presented Pat with the Papal Blessing for 51 years of music ministry at St. Wenceslaus. Pat has been a lifelong member of St. Wenceslaus and is a member of St. Mary Society #119. Pat started playing the organ at the age of 12 and was taught by Sister Mary Sylvester when the church had the grade and high schools. May Patricia continue to praise her God through her music.



Myrtle Ruzicka, a member of St. Mary Society #119 was taken to her eternal reward. Services were held at St. Wenceslaus Church. Sincere sympathy is extended to her husband, Joseph. Myrtle and Joseph celebrated their 70th Wedding anniversary. Sympathy is also extended to her daughter, and 4 sons, to many relatives and friends. May Myrtle enjoy peace and happiness in her eternal reward.

Good health is wished to Robert Mistele who has been hospitalized recently. We wish him a complete recovery.

Cicero, Illinois

The Mothers' Club of St. Procopius Abbey honored their moderator of 19 years, Father Stanley Vesely. Father Stanley was among the first alumni to be inducted in the Benedictine University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997.

The officers of the Mothers' Club are very active members and officers of the Czech Catholic Union: Loretta Moravecek, president; Ida Moravecek, treasurer; Betty Trodden, secretary; and Barbara Zach, membership chairman.



Loretta, Ida and Barbara are members and officers of St. Ann Society #18 and Betty Trodden is a member and officer of Our Lady of the Mount Society #143. These ladies are very dedicated and great supporters of St. Procopius. They honored Father Stanley for all his hard work and involvement with the abbey and its schools for over 70 years. Because of his great interest in the student athletics, Benedictine University named the varsity baseball field after him in 1994.

Congratulations to Father Stanley on his retirement. May God bless him in all his future years!

Gratitude takes three forms: a feeling in the heart, an expression in words, and a giving in return.

Author Unknown



Cleveland, Ohio

St. Joseph Society #156 held their annual Children's Christmas Party at Ceska Sin Karlin Hall. This annual party is always a great favorite with the membership's juvenile group. The children are treated to hot dogs, potato chips, ice cream, pop and candy. After all their tummies are filled Santa Claus arrived with his jingle bells and many HO HO HO's. As each child's name is called they have their few choice moments with Santa and receive a \$2.00 Bill, popcorn ball and a bag of goodies. The crowd of approximately 100 children enjoyed watching cartoons and happy to welcome the visitor from the North Pole. Elsie Malec and her crew of workers did a great job of planning this party and keeping everyone happy. Each year St. Joseph Society #156 hosts this Christmas celebration and the members are looking forward to another gathering next year.



Cleveland, Ohio

The annual meeting of St. Joseph Society #156 was held on January 9, 1999 at the Czech Catholic Union Building. The annual installation of officers was held after the business meeting. The Honorable Judge Ralph J. Perk, a member of St. Joseph Society gave the oath of office to the newly elected officers: Joseph A. Kocab, President; Charles Kahoun, Vice President; Mary Ann Mahoney, Secretary; Elsie T. Malec, Financial Secretary; Margaret Voracek, Treasurer; Lillian Gluvna, Guard; Thomas Mahoney, Trustee and Albert Pokorny, Trustee. The annual Jaternice Dinner — Liver sausage was served after the meeting to all the members that attended the meeting. The spirit of fraternalism and brotherhood was emphasized by the President Joseph Kocab. All had a great time at this annual event.





Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; he shall delight exceedingly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the righteous shall be blessed. Glory and wealth shall be in his house; and his justice remaineth for ever and ever. (*Ps. 111.*)

Pope John Paul II offered an apology for the Catholic Church's treatment of 15th-century Czech priest and theologian John Hus, who was burned at the stake as a heretic.

"Today, on the eve of the great jubilee, I feel the need to express deep regret for the cruel death inflicted on John Hus and for the consequent wound of conflict and division which was thus imposed on the minds and hearts of the Bohemian people," he said.

The pope's words came on December 17 to an international John Hus conference.

Czech I is a textbook with standard Czech dialect. The text is spiral bound with 67 pages of drill, grammar and vocabulary. The authors of the textbook are Brad Masek and Thadious Polasek. The authors' purpose was to design a textbook for distance learning via the internet.

The presentation of Czech grammar has been restructured changing the traditional approach to the study of verbs, singular and plural of nouns and adjectives, and presenting vocabulary. The present, past and future of the verbs are given simultaneously for rapid learning of the language. Vocabulary is presented to validate the dialects Czech students hear their parents and grandparents speak. Some experiences of Czech immigrants are presented in a bilingual format at the end of the text to honor our forefathers' brave efforts of settlement.

For more information about the new textbook or Czech via distance learning on the internet, contact Yemen Publishing at Route 4 Box 79, Schulenburg, TX 78956.

CZECH ST. PATRICK'S DAY

A big Czech celebration is the 19th of March, the day of Sv. Josef (St. Joseph). In the Catholic calendar each day is assigned the name of some holy man or woman. During the early Christianization of Europe the saints' names on this calendar were used to name a child. Naming a child by the calendar is no longer common but throughout Europe your "name day" is still celebrated with all the gusto of a birthday. This habit and the specific spread of the name Josef is a gift from reCatholicisation under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In general, the name Joseph is most common in the lands which made up the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. Many of the emperors have this name, as a last name too! It now goes without the "St." and is not an official holiday but, because the name "Josef" is one of the most common male names in former Czecho-Slovakia, it has become a habit to celebrate "Joseph's Day". Celebrating this day is comparable to an unofficial St. Patrick's Day for Czechs. It is usually celebrated, even at work, from morning to evening by drinking much pivo, slivovice, and other concoctions containing alcohol and by early evening, all the overcelebrated people are crawling home in a Czech parody of a "St. Patrick's Day Parade".



Member Honored

The National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame applauded Phil Hrvatin, saxophone player for the Joey Tomsick Polka Band with an award as a Sideman of the Year 1999.

Phil Hrvatin and family are members of the Czech Catholic Union Society #145.

Phil Hrvatin also is a financial advisor and broker for the Czech Catholic Union. This energetic young man has been a great asset to the cultural-heritage community that he services. This event was capped by a Meet the Winners Dance and Reception at the Marriott Hotel at Key Center in downtown Cleveland, attended by many well-wishers for the benefit of the Polka Foundation. Congratulations Phil!

Editor's Note: Phil is the Czech Catholic Union's photographer extraordinaire!!!

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Almighty Ruler of the Universe, you guide everything in wisdom and love. Accept the prayers we offer for our beloved nation, the United States of America; by the prudence of our leaders, and the fidelity of our citizens, may justice and harmony prevail in our civil life, and may there dawn an era of permanent prosperity and peace for all the world. Amen.

The Czech and Slovak Cotillion Ball

The 29th Cotillion Ball of Czech and Slovaks will take place at St. Michael's Woodside Center, 5025 East Mill Road, Broadview Hts., Ohio on Saturday, April 8, 2000.



A social hour at 6 o'clock will be followed by a formal dinner. Make your reservations with the Czech Catholic Union Home Office 216-341-0444 for this very exciting evening where debutantes will be introduced and presented by their parents. Young ladies of Czech and Slovak background will be competing for scholarship awards. The committee of the Cotillion Ball cordially invites you to join us on this festive occasion.

DISTINGUISHED CZECH-AMERICAN HONORED

Every year on October 28, the anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918, the Czech President awards state decorations. This year three Czech-Americans were among recipients of the Medal of Merit. One of the recipients was Father Vojtech Vit.

Father Vojtech Vit regularly serves mass in the Czech Language at Holy Mountain Church in Chicago. A member of the Benedictine Monastery of St. Adalbert in Prague's Brevnov. Vit left Czechoslovakia in 1946. He studied theology in Belgium, and worked for six years as a missionary and teacher in the Belgian Congo before coming to Chicago in 1961. In addition to his work as a priest, he also served as a leader in several Czech-American Catholic organizations, and still helps Czechs in need in his community. He is also the publisher and editor of "Hlas Naroda," the oldest existing biweekly Czech publication in the U.S.A. At a 1976 meeting with the leader of the Czech Catholic Church, Cardinal Tomasek, in Rome, Father Vit was encouraged not to cease publication of "Hlas Naroda" because of the Communists, who would be happy to see a free Czech publication disappear, according to Father Vit. He received the decoration with modesty: "I do not have any special merits; there is nothing to gain by boasting", he says. Father Vit will retire soon to the Czech Republic to the Czech Benedictine Abbey of Brevnov in Prague. Best wishes and congratulations to our beloved Pater Vit who is a member of the Czech Catholic Union and chaplain of St. Vojtech Society #167 of Cicero, Illinois. May he have a long and pleasant retirement!

Czech Tech



This Tatra 87 has been offered by a private owner in Pennsylvania for the Czech Technology exhibit that opens this spring. The car features a rear air-cooled engine, three headlights, and a central "fin" down the rear.

A private owner in Chicago has offered the NCSML a 1929 "Czechia" or "Bohmerland." One of only three or four still in existence, this four seater sports a single cylinder, 600 cc, 16 HP engine. The motorcycle is 10 feet long and requires two gearboxes. It was made in Krasna Lipa, Czechoslovakia.

To enjoy this exhibit of Cars and Motorcycles to be shown at

the National Museum in Cedar Rapids, IA plan to make a visit to this very interesting place. The museum hours are Tuesday thru Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from Noon to 4 p.m. Your admission includes a tour of the restored 19th Century Immigrant Home, temporary exhibits and "Homelands". The museum is located at 30 16th Ave. S.W. or call for more information at 319-362-8500.

The exhibit of the Cars etc. will offer more than a sample of cars and motorcycles. There will be maps, photographs, drawings and/or models related to several other modes of transportation. Visitors will leave with a greater appreciation for the technical advancements that Czechs made over the past century.



The Legend of Saint Valentine

According to legend, the Valentine takes its name from a young Christian priest who lived in ancient Rome. Like so many of the early Christians, Valentine had been imprisoned because of his faith . . . Often and longingly he thought of his loved ones and wanted to assure them of his well-being and of his love for them . . . Beyond his cell windows, just within reach, grew a cluster of violets. He picked some of the heart-shaped leaves and pricked them with the words, "Remember your Valentine," and sent them off by a friendly dove . . . On the next day, and the next, he sent, more messages that simply said, "I love you." Thus did the Valentine have its beginning. And so it has been through the ages . . . those who love, remember . . . and send Valentines to express their love.



Memories are forget-me-nots gathered along life's way pressed close to the human heart into a perennial bouquet.

Social Security Fraud

Social Security numbers are one of the scam artist's latest targets because in stealing your number, they can assume your identity, get credit cards and loans in your name, and launch into massive shopping sprees — with the bills being sent to you. Straightening this out with creditors is a nightmarish process that can take months or even years.

Don't give your Social Security number over the phone. (A popular ruse crooks use is to call and tell you that you've won a prize but must have your Social Security number to verify identification.)

Lower your voice when reading your number in a public setting (such as a bank teller's window or at your workplace.)

Don't carry your Social Security Card in your wallet.

Don't throw documents with your number in the trash.

Christ Is The Light, Pope Reminds Czech Pilgrims

VATICAN CITY (VIS) - Pope John Paul II on December 18 received a group of pilgrims from the Czech Republic, led by President Vaclav Havel. It is his government that this year has donated the Christmas tree that adorns St. Peter's Square.

Apart from the fir which comes from the mountain of Beskydy in the region of Ostrava-Opava, "you have wished to offer other smaller fir trees" said the Holy Father, "which will be placed in various places in the Apostolic Palace and the Curia . . . Furthermore, you have brought three statues, dressed in the traditional Costume of Valassko, which have been placed next to those customarily used in the Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square.

"The Christmas tree together with the Nativity scene creates the typical Christmas atmosphere and can help us to better understand the message of salvation that Christ brought to us with His incarnation. From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross of Golgotha, He gave witness with His whole life to God's love for man. He is, in the words of John the Evangelist, 'the true light that enlightens every man'."

The Pope concluded: "As a symbol of this light, the lights on the tree shine at Christmas to reinforce our awareness of the great mystery: Present in Christ is the light that can change the heart of man."

A CZECH CITY - HRADEC KRALOVE

Hradec Kralove is one of the major and most beautiful of Czech cities. Its also being close to that of Cedar Rapids, IA. It is hard to miss once you get out of Prague in the eastern direction. You can get there in less than two hours. Generally recognized as the administrative as well as a commercial and cultural center of the whole Eastern-Bohemian area, the town will welcome you with its characteristic skyline composed of the three spires, sometimes referred to as "Little Hradcany" because of their resemblance to the Prague Castle.

Actually, even its name will tell you a lot about it. Those of you who know some Czech might have noticed the relation between Hradec and "hrad" (meaning castle). You could come across similar names, such as Hradek or Hradiste all over the country. They imply that back in the Middle Ages there used to be a castle or a fortified settlement. The same is true about Hradec Kralove, whose population and importance grew so rapidly that in as early as 1224 it was given the status of a royal town, which makes it over 775 years old! A reminder of the town's royal status is the white two tailed lion in its coat of arm, an emblem reserved for the Czech kings and their possessions solely.

The town's name is derived from Kralova, meaning "the queen". Its modern form would be Kralovna. The name of the town would mean something as "The Queen's Hradec" or "Queen's Castle". This brings us to another important and interesting part of the town's history. There used to be a queen's castle at one time, when the king declared it a so-called dowry town, thus making it the seat of widowed queens. The most famous and beautiful one of them was Queen Elizabeth, who had the gothic cathedral built at the beginning of the 14th Century, leaving a gorgeous reminder of herself in the very heart of the town up to the present time.

Hradec Kralove is the home of a good friend of the Czech Catholic Union retired Archbishop Karel Otcenasek. This remarkable priest was imprisoned by the communists and could not function as a bishop until after the so-called "Velvet Revolution" in 1989. He is still active in promoting Christianity up to now. He visited the U.S.A. and the Czech Catholic Union a few years ago, collecting funds for the "Adelbertium" which is the religious and cultural center of the diocese. Pope John Paul II visited Hradec Kralove and Archbishop Otcenasek in connection with the 1,000th Anniversary of St. Adalbert.

Raised Doughnuts

1-1/2 cakes yeast	1-1/2 cups warm milk
1/2 cup warm water	1/4 cup sweet white wine
1/2 cup (1 stick) Oleo melted	6 cups all purpose flour
	1/2 cup sugar
3 eggs, beaten	1-1/2 t. salt

Dissolve yeast in warm water, set aside until bubbly. In a large mixing bowl, combine melted oleo, beaten eggs, lukewarm milk and wine. Mix together flour, sugar and salt and add with yeast mixture. Mix well. Cover and let rise until double. Punch down and let rise again. On a floured surface turn out dough and then roll 1 inch thick. Let stand 10 minutes and cut with doughnut cutter. Let stand again for 15 minutes. Fry on both sides. Roll in sugar if desired. Yields — 3-1/2 dozen.

Bohemian Sisky

1 large can evaporated milk	1 cake yeast
1 teaspoon salt	4 cups flour
3 Tablespoons sugar	3 egg yolks
1/4# softened butter	1 teaspoon vanilla

Add scalded milk to salt, sugar and butter. When lukewarm add yeast crumbled into bits. Add 2 cups flour and mix well. Allow to stand until light and fluffy about 1 hour. Add yolks, vanilla and remainder of flour, mixing until thoroughly blended. Set to rise until double in bulk. Roll out on lightly floured board to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut with doughnut cutter. Let rise 1/2 hour. Fry with raised side down in deep fat.



CHICKEN PAPRIKAS

1 frying chicken, cut up
1 tsp. paprika
1/4 tsp. salt
2 Tb. butter
1/2 C. chopped onion
1/4 C. chopped green pepper
1/4 C. chopped celery
1/2 tsp. parsley
2 C. chicken broth
1 Tb. paprika
3 Tb. flour
1 C. sour cream

Season chicken with salt and paprika. Brown lightly in butter in a large frying pan. Add chopped vegetables and parsley, cover, and cook slowly 5 minutes or until onion is soft. Add chicken broth, paprika and simmer covered for 30 minutes. Combine flour with sour cream until smooth. Pour over chicken and stir until sauce thickens. Do not boil sauce. Serve with sliced dumplings.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- How come you never hear about grunted employees?
- When sign makers go on strike, what is written on their picket signs?
- Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
- How can there be self-help groups?
- Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?
- Why do we play in recitals and recite in plays?
- What is the speed of dark?
- What happened to the first six (6) "Up's"?
- What is a "free gift"? Aren't all gifts free?
- If a cow laughed, would milk come out her nose?
- Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all"?
- Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called a cargo?



How the Infant of Prague Saved the City

For centuries the legend has been told that Prague, the capital city of the Bohemian kingdom, owes its survival to the Infant Jesus of Prague. Many believe the statuette protected the city from destruction by the Swedish armies during the tumultuous Thirty Years' War.

In August of 1639 the Swedish army had surrounded Prague and prepared to attack. The townspeople could observe the enemy soldiers from the towers of their churches and from Hradcany Hill.

The soldiers roasted the cattle they stole; the smoke threatened to engulf the town; smoke the people of Prague saw as a foretaste of the smoke that would soon rise from their homes. The red glow of the bonfires at night was a prophesy of the conflagration that would destroy their city.

Swedish armies had plundered the Czech lands for years with unprecedented cruelty; they

tortured and murdered the people and carted off immense stolen riches. So the people of Prague knew very well what was awaiting them; anticipating when the enemy mercenaries would fall on their homes to the roll of drums.

Terrified people gathered in all the Prague churches. Men, women and children knelt down and prayed imploringly for the protection of their town, for the lives of their dear ones and for their own lives.

In the Church of Our Lady Victorious, the Carmelite monks held uninterrupted services of pleading. Day and night the people prayed to the Infant of Prague to protect their city; not to let it perish.

The people of Prague waited in fear, listening to the gunshots, the drunken cries of soldiers in the streets and the rattle of drums. They expected death, camping outside their gates, to break down the city walls at any

moment.

Imagine their amazement when one morning they looked out from the castle galleries and saw that the vast army had withdrawn in the night, had simply disappeared.

They asked the prisoners, who had escaped from the retreating Swedes, why General Baner, the Swedish commander, had let slip the opportunity to conquer Prague, such a great and famous capitol. They were told that during the night of August 30th, the very day that the Swedes had planned the conquest of Prague a messenger came to the general and persuaded him to withdraw.

Again the people of Prague knelt down before the Infant Jesus of Prague; this time in gratitude. They knelt convinced that it was this holy child who brought about what they had not dared to hope for, the salvation of their homes and the protection of their lives.

Down Memory Lane . . .



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	\$267.51	\$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.
 - The full face amount is payable at death. No reduced death benefits.
 - 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.
- Issue Ages 18 thru 55
- Single Premium \$12 per \$1,000

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 _____

New Address _____ Zone _____ State _____

Society No. _____

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

Notice To Members

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



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.

*****ALL FOR ADC 110
PKG 5 SACK 33
HAVLIN ANNA # 2
30-53 29 TH ST.
LONG ISLAND NY 11101

Correction

ADDITION: The November-December issue of the "POSEL" had an article about Bishop Peter Esterka. The fact that Bishop Esterka is also a member of the Czech Catholic Union St. Vojtech Society #167, Cicero, IL was omitted. Congratulations again, Bishop Esterka.

IN MEMORIAM

The Czech Catholic Union wishes to express their sympathy to the following lodges: St. Ann Society #16, Pittsburgh, PA on the passing of their financial secretary, Violet Soukup.

St. Ann Society #105, Cudahy, WI on the loss of their president Frances Plevak. The officers and members of the Czech Catholic Union share in their loss of these officers and hope that they will be able to find someone to step up and continue the work that these two dedicated ladies performed throughout their term of office. Eternal rest grant unto them, may they rest in peace.

PAYMENTS OF MORTUARY DEATH CLAIMS

Name	Location	Soc. Name	No.	Amt. Ins.	Add. Pd. Up Ins.	Total Paid
Edward R. Kozelka	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	2,445.00	688.00	3,133.00
Lillian O'Sullivan	Protivin, IA	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	83	500.00	1,198.00	1,698.00
Robert D. Makovicka	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	2,960.00	617.00	3,577.00
Robert D. Makovicka	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	1,000.00	96.00	1,096.00
Robert D. Makovicka	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	1,632.00	115.00	1,747.00
Robert D. Makovicka	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	1,345.00	96.00	1,441.00
Donna L. Rouda	Pittsburgh, PA	St. Ann	16	500.00	683.00	1,183.00
Elsie Schlueter	St. Louis, MO	St. Ludmilla	7	1,000.00	2,503.00	3,503.00
Anna Johnson	Detroit, MI	St. Anne	5	500.00	227.00	727.00
Anna Johnson	Detroit, MI	St. Anne	5	1,415.00	300.00	1,715.00

TOTAL DEATH CLAIMS PAID IN 1999 \$147,223.00

TOTAL DEATH CLAIMS PAID TO DATE IN 2000 \$7,128.00