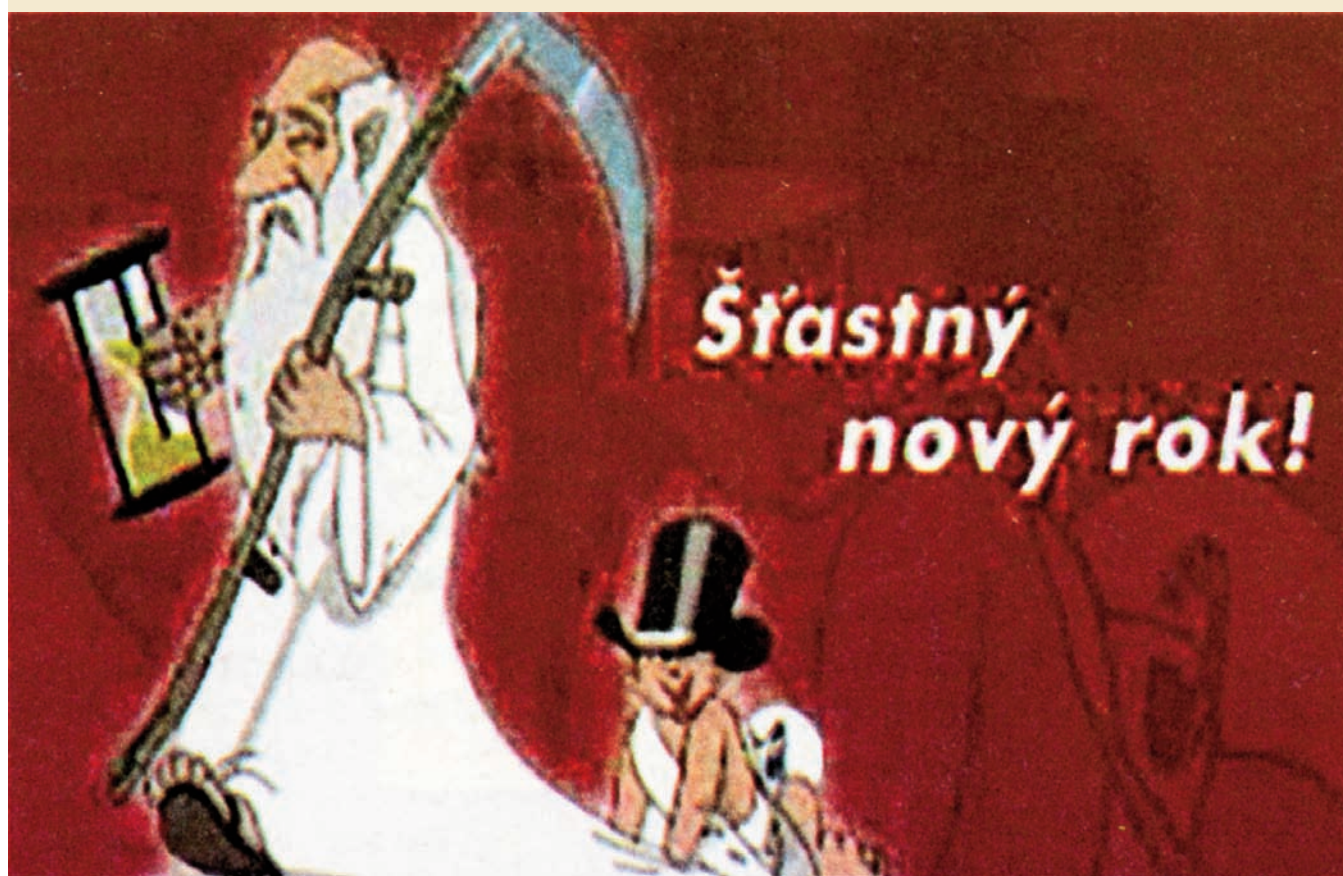


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President's Message

Dear Members & Friends - The holidays are coming to a close and many of us are making New Year Resolutions. Most of us think about making resolutions to lose weight, clean our closets, or save money. One way we can do several of these is to think about buying life insurance to protect our families in case of sudden death. The average family spends approximately \$10,000 for a traditional funeral.

Many people have insurance through their employer. However, if the company shuts down, you leave their employment or the employer terminates that benefit, you have no coverage.

Life insurance funds are tax free to beneficiaries. Many people are not aware of this benefit. Where else can you get benefits like this that are tax free and continue to increase in value? CCU Life has one of the best rates for single premium policies. If you have any questions or need an application with rates, please call the Home Office during normal business hours.

For those of you who have some money left after the holidays, consider our 6-month Annuity CD's which are paying great rates compared to other financial institutions.

Hope everyone has a happy and healthy New Year.

Fraternally,
Robert L. Cermak

Cleveland, Ohio

St. Joseph Society #156 meetings start at 1:00 PM and are held at the Czech Catholic Union building, 5349 Dolloff Road in Cleveland. All members are welcome to attend.

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Installation of officers beginning at 1:00 PM followed by musical entertainment and a luncheon of jaternice (liver sausage), kielbasa and sauerkraut. To order jaternice to take home for your freezer, call Joe Kocab at 216-883-4760. For luncheon reservations call Jane at 216-341-0444.

There is no meeting in February 2017.

Sunday, March 19, 2017

Annual Communion Breakfast. Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 10:00 AM, followed by breakfast. 50 year members will be honored. PLEASE CALL HOME OFFICE AT 216-341-0444 FOR RESERVATION BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH.

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Condolences are sent to the family of Rita Kourey, a member of St. Ann Society #11. Rita passed away on September 24. She was a member of the Czech Catholic Union for 75 years and became vice-president of Society #11 in 2003. She also helped with the card parties held at the Home Office years ago. "Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her."

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St. Joseph Society #156 held its Annual Memorial Service for deceased members at the monthly meeting held on Sunday, November 13, 2016. The service was conducted by Secretary Audrey Schmidt. As each member's name was read, a candle was illuminated and a white rose was placed in a vase in their memory. President Bob Cermak tolled a bell for each departed member: Caroline Ferek, Emil Hronek, James Hronek, Robert Pelc, Charles Suk and Mary Ann Vitt.



The Czech Catholic Union was saddened to hear of the passing of Albert R. Amigoni recently. Al came on board with the CCU prior to the last convention in 2014 and graciously accepted the position of Assistant Treasurer at that time. He also served as our Legal Counsel. During his time at the CCU he was of great assistance to us in the Main Office. Al was a quiet man but maintained extremely high ethical standards. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, three daughters and one granddaughter. He will be greatly missed.



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New York, New York

St. Ludmila Society #2 - Congratulations to members Pat & Ed Babor who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Oct. 8, 2016.

To mark this happy occasion, the couple attended the 12 noon Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Astoria where Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese was the celebrant.

During the Mass, Pat & Ed once again renewed their wedding vows.

Immediately following Mass, all proceeded to Manducatis Rustica Ristorante in Long Island City where they were joined by family and friends for a great afternoon of music, food and fellowship. Most of the original wedding party were there.

St. Ludmila Society congratulates the happy couple and wishes them many more years of happiness.



New York, New York

As we enter the New Year, we are happy to add new members - Lisa Speranza, Jill Neary & Dolores Ashdown to our society. WELCOME!

Sadly, we note the passing of long time Society friend Vaclav Sedlacek at the age of 96. Vaclav left Czechoslovakia in 1951 after death threats from the communist government. He arrived in the United States a year later and settled in the Czech enclave on the east side of Manhattan. He was extremely active in Czech Catholic circles and was entirely responsible for the establishment of a Czech Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Astoria. He was awarded the "Shining Star Award" by the catholic migration office of the dioceses of Brooklyn & Queens in 2013 for his service to the Czech & Slovak community. As mentioned, Vaclav & his family were not members of St. Ludmila or Czech Catholic Union, but were extremely active and generous supporters. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

We extend the good wishes of a Happy, Healthy & Blessed 2017 to our members and their families.

Ed Babor, St. Ludmila Society #2 New York, NY

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Celebrate Your Family

All of us have a lot of connections because of our families, a lot of family ties. We probably wouldn't mind breaking a few of them, but they're too strong. Family ties are like pit bulls. Once they get a grip on you, it's hard to tear them loose!

At the same time, some ties are worth all the trouble. These bind people into family, but never restrict them. The first tie is trust. Suspicion cripples a family. Trust heals. The more families learn to trust one another, the more they learn to let one another take good risks that allow them to grow. Trusting is acting like God acts. Didn't God trust human families enough to take the risk of putting Jesus into one?

The second tie is sacrifice. Sacrifice is often the only kind of glue that can hold a family together. In today's

world, sacrifice means living a simple lifestyle, not putting a lot of stock in possessions. It means keeping things in perspective.

The final tie is care. Like trust, care is risky business. Care in a family means putting other people first. Families who care for each other don't worry about whether the other person deserves care. They are simply aware that others need their care. Any family needs to know how to give and receive care.

Combined these ties don't bind up people into a "perfect" family, only into a compassionate one. These ties don't wrap a family all up in itself. Instead, they let us look out, beyond the family of birth, to others who need our trust, sacrifice and care - to others who are part of our greater family, the family of God.

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Good Luck Poem

The Hedgehog ("Jezek") is another symbol of good luck in Czech culture. This cute critter, with its silvery needles, has inspired an ancient good luck poem:

*The Hedgehog brings
Much luck to you.
In all you wish
In all you do.
Just pet him gently
Every day.
And all good things
Will come your way.*



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A Word from Pope Francis

"Let us remember...

key words for living in peace and joy in the family: 'may I,' 'thank you,' and 'sorry.' In our family, when we are not intrusive and ask 'may I,' in our family when we are not selfish and learn to say 'thank you,' and when in a family one realizes he has done something wrong and knows how to say 'sorry,' in that family there is peace and joy. Let us remember these words."

—Angelus, December, 2013

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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.



Czech Catholic Union Convention 2018

The quadrennial convention of the Czech Catholic Union will be held September 30, October 1 & 2, 2018. The elected executive positions of CCU that are open for reelection include: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and 5 directors. The term of these offices is four (4) years.

Per CCU's Constitution and By-Laws, these positions are elected by delegate vote. Each Society within Czech Catholic Union is entitled to one (1) delegate per 100 members along with one (1) alternate. These delegates/alternate must be appointed by December 2017. Most Societies along with Czech Catholic Union provide a stipend to assist the delegate with travel expenses.

A Nominating Committee will be selected in January 2018. It will be the duties of this committee to present a slate of officers for the convention.

Czech Catholic Union has been a stable, resourceful fraternal organization for over 137 years. This sound financial organization offers fair/comparable insurance rates, a liquid CD annuity, and has paid dividends to its members for the past 75 years. We all want CCU to continue to grow and prosper.

This is the beginning process in preparation for the 2018 Convention. It takes MANY volunteers to have a successful convention. Won't you be one of them? We welcome any and all questions in this initial process. No inquiry is trivial or meaningless. Please call or email me with your questions.

Audrey Schmidt
Committee Chairman
440-442-7068 (HOME)
216-341-0444 (OFFICE)
Email: babahunt2110@gmail.com

Privacy Commitment to Our Members

Provisions of the Gramm-Leach Bliley Act of 1999, also called the Financial Services Modernization Act, require every financial institution to annually notify all customers, in writing, of that organization's privacy policy. The purpose of the privacy provision of this act is to curtail the ability of third parties to obtain nonpublic personal information regarding individuals who purchase financial products and services from financial institutions.

You have elected to join the Czech Catholic Union Fraternal Insurance and have provided them with certain nonpublic personal information such as name, age, residence, marital status, and Social Security Number.

As a fraternal benefit society, we are dedicated to the protection of our members' privacy. The Czech Catholic Union has no affil-

iated financial institutions or third party nonaffiliates that have access to your nonpublic personal information, except pursuant to your written authorization.

Czech Catholic Union does not sell lists of member names or addresses to any vendor of goods or services. Should we need to retain any other organization to assist us with our operations, that organization will be required to comply with the same privacy standards as the Czech Catholic Union.

This privacy policy extends to nonpublic personal information of former members who no longer have insurance coverage with the Czech Catholic Union.

Access to members records is limited to employees who work on your member files. However, if required by civil or criminal litigation or audit to disclose information on your records, we must comply.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

We ask all our members to kindly check their certificates to check whether they have the correct beneficiary designated and also check the spelling of their name.

The State of Ohio also requires us to have the actual address of all our members on file for audit purposes. For convenience of correspondence it is also good to have an e-mail address. If any of the above information needs to be corrected, please contact the home office at 216-341-0444 or insurance@czechccu.org

Thank you for your cooperation.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Name

Old Address State Zip

New Address State Zip

Society No.

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

In Appreciation

St. Ann Society #3, Chicago, IL - "Greetings! Our daughter, Melissa David, recently graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Master of Arts degree in Applied Social Psychology. Melissa was fortunate to be a College Grant Recipient for the past 5 school years. (3 undergrad, 2 post grad) The scholarship dollars you awarded to Melissa helped her to purchase text books and cover online access fees



for each of her school years. The day following her graduation, she was offered her first job in the career and field of her choice as Research Associate in a jury consulting firm in Beverly Hills, CA. She is hoping to become a Lead Consultant and eventually open her own consulting firm in the future. We want to thank you with deep gratitude for the Society of members who approve and award the scholarship monies to help support Melissa in her education."

Sincerely, Rich and Karen David

St. Ludmila Society #7, St. Louis, MO - "Mr. Cermak, I must thank you once again for the continued support of the Czech Catholic Union and for your exceptional generosity this year. God continues to bless me by placing good men and women like you in my life. My studies in Rome entail a few more costs than studying in the States, but God has provided for me in my need and I am thankful for your cooperation in His plan. May God continue to bless and keep you. Please be assured of my prayers for you. Praise God for men like you."

Yours in Christ Jesus, Andrew Auer

St. Joseph Society #156, Cleveland, OH - "Thank you very much for the peace lily. Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers."

The Cermak Family

St. Joseph Society #156, Cleveland, OH - "Thank you for publishing the 1944 picture of the bowling team which includes my father who was in his early 40's at the time. Also in the picture who has not been identified is my father's nephew, Leonard Kocour (deceased). Leonard is in the first row, the last person on the left. Leonard was the son of Frank and Bertha Kocour who were parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes church. Frank owned and operated a flower shop on Dolloff Road, just a few doors from your office. Leonard's sisters, Betty and Mary Lou, live in Westlake, Ohio."

Sincerely, Albert F. Hanzlick

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we look into 2017, we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. All time is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchase it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak - every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours each day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it only on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in doing God's work in our corners of the world. Faith lived in action is powerful; remember our actions always speak louder than our WORDS.

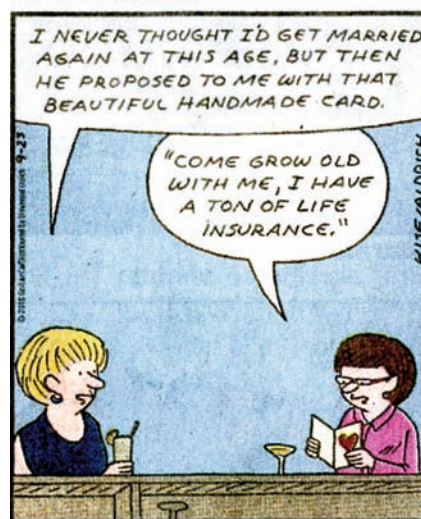
The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute of 2017 count?

FCSLA



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Real Life Adventures | Wise & Aldrich





CZECH DILLED POTATO AND EGG SOUP

- 6 medium potatoes, pared and cubed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Water to cover
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 pint dairy sour cream
- 6 to 8 eggs
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped dill (or more)

Boil potatoes in salted water to cover (about 6 cups) until tender. Meanwhile, blend flour and 1/2 cup water to a smooth paste; mix with sour cream. Slowly stir mixture into undrained potatoes and re-turn to boil over medium heat; cook 5 minutes. Reduce heat to a simmer. Add eggs, slowly and one at a time so as not to break yolks. Poach eggs in simmering soup for 5 minutes. Add chopped dill and correct seasoning if necessary.

Serves 6-8.

CARAWAY BREAD

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 2 tablespoons caraway seed
- 1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 1/3 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 cups milk

Cream butter. Add sugar, well beaten eggs, caraway seed and vanilla. beat well. Sift together the flour, salt and baking powder. Add alternately with the milk. Pour into greased tin 8" x 16". Sprinkle top with 2 tablespoons sugar. Bake in a preheated oven for 35 to 40 minutes at 375° F.

SCALLOPED PINEAPPLE

- 3 eggs, well beaten
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 cups fresh bread crumbs.
- 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, cut into squares

Combine all ingredients. Stir well. Pour into lightly greased 10x8x2 inch baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

A Blessing for Families

*We bless your name, O Lord,
For sending your own incarnate Son
to become part of a family, so that, as he lived his
life,
he would experience its worries and joys.
We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over this family,
so that in the strength of your grace
its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

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Another List of New Year's Resolutions?

1. Do a better job of setting priorities and recognizing the right of every other person to set his own priorities. From a CCU Life perspective, however, try to find time for this organization if you wish to go on as a member (unless you are already giving more than your share).

2. Recognize that we are all unique individuals. We are the result of our own "wiring" and the sum total of our life experiences.

3. Thus, we do not see a complex problem from exactly the same perspective as everyone else. We won't always agree. Not even usually. Listening to each other and trying to see things from someone else's point of view is desirable.

4. Resolve that disagreeing does not have to be taken personally.

6. When someone stands up in a meeting and disagrees, don't just automatically say, "Sit down, you're rocking the boat."

7. Recognize why disagreement in a meeting feels so uncomfortable. Were you too controlled as a child? Were you expected to be perfect and have never quite got past it? Or, do you fear that personal undercurrents in the course of this difference of opinion will only worsen?

8. Forgive yourself for not being perfect. Forgive others, too.

9. Disagreeing needs to result in eventual agreement on how to go about dealing with a problem; or at least, compromise.

10. Resolve to prefer a more conciliatory, collaborative approach to problem solving; it is not weakness, nor is it guaranteed to lead us down the path to oblivion. Failure to resolve issues in a better way may in fact lead us down that path.

Sokol St. Louis

HOW LONG WILL MY ASSETS BE IN PROBATE?

The Probate Process

The probate process is used to verify a Last Will and Testament and to assure that the estate assets are distributed according to the terms of the Will. Once completed, the estate is closed and probate is complete, but how long does that take? Unfortunately, the answer is: it depends.

Probate is necessary because it gives a person the legal authority to deal with the assets of the deceased. This person is called the Executor or the Administrator of the estate. The Executor assures that all assets are distributed according to a Will or Ohio law, but any outstanding claims, such as taxes or unpaid bills, must first be settled.

The process occurs in Probate Court in the county where the decedent resided. The Judge supervises the Executor as he or she performs the tasks of settling the estate, including all land, personal possessions, bank accounts and other assets. Once all claims are met, assets are distributed and probate is complete.

How Long Does Probate Take?

There are many factors that impact how long probate will take. In Ohio, estates valued at \$35,000 or less are usually settled within a few months. For larger estates, probate can last more than a year. Factors that can impact the time needed to complete the probate process are:

Complexity. Situations in which the deceased had several different types of assets, out of state property, difficult to sell real estate, business ownership and unusual assets such as artwork, will increase the complexity of the probate and the time needed to complete it.

Challenges to the Will. If heirs, beneficiaries or those who thought they would be beneficiaries object to the legality of the Will or its terms, probate cannot be completed until these issues are resolved. Further, if the heirs or beneficiaries cannot be located, the probate process will be extended.

Notification of Creditors. If a Creditor has filed a claim against the decedent's assets, then the Executor must determine which claims are valid, invalid or already settled and take appropriate action. The number of creditors and the validity of the claims, and whether there are sufficient assets to pay these claims, will impact the probate process.

Generally, straightforward probate cases take about nine months to complete in Ohio, but when other problems arise, the probate process can easily take over a year.

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Note: Christina is the legal counsel for the Czech Catholic Union and has graciously offered to extend a 10% discount to any of our members who mention this article.

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Correction/Clarification:

In the November-December 2016 Posel, there were two mistakes that need to be explained. On Page 12, the poem is titled "Safely Home" not "Safety Home" and on Page 13, the last sentence in the "Interesting facts about Veteran's Day" should read, "There are approximately 23.2 million veterans in the United States that the holiday honors."

Sorry for the errors!!!

SMILE OF THE DAY

A physician, an engineer and a lawyer were arguing about whose profession was the oldest. The surgeon announced, "Remember how God removed a rib from Adam to create Eve? Obviously, medicine is the oldest profession."

The engineer replied, "But before that, God created the heavens and the earth from chaos, in less than a week. You have to admit that was a remarkable feat of engineering, and that makes engineering an older profession than medicine."

The lawyer smirked, and said, "Who do you think created the chaos?"



Feastday February 11.

Ghoulash: Not Your Ordinary Stew

Goulash has quite a history, and the stuff really is Hungarian (gulyas).

Magyar shepherds in the ninth century created the dish to provide a portable, nutritious meal. They slow-cooked cut-up meats with onions and anything else they might add to the flavor. They waited until the liquid from the cooked onions had been absorbed before drying the goulash in the sun. Once in the field, they reconstituted the goulash with water, probably from streams.

The ingredients that go into today's version prized by Hungarians hasn't changed much: A rich meat stew with lots of paprika and sweet red pepper to add depth and flavor to the pot. Many Hungarians spoon it over cooked, buttered noodles.

Over the centuries, other people have laid claim to the dish. Some recipes call for beef, some for pork, a couple for venison. (No one makes chicken goulash, perhaps because chicken doesn't require the long, slow cooking of lesser cuts of meat.)

The Czechs and Serbs have their own versions of goulash. So do Transylvanians. And in this melting pot of a country, we make Hoosier Goulash and Tex-Mex Goulash. There is even hamburger goulash and goulash soup (a matter of chopping everything small enough to fit on a soup spoon and adding liquid).

MUSHROOM GHOUFLASH

1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 lrg. yellow onions, thinly sliced
3/4 lb. button mushrooms, rinsed and roughly chopped (include stems)
2 Tbsp. flour whisked into 1 1/4 cups whole milk
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. freshly ground pepper
1 lb. cooked spaetzle or noodles, or 6 slices buttered toast (for serving)
Dill pickles (for serving; optional)

1. In 6-quart pot, heat oil. Add onions and cook on low until translucent, 15 to 20 minutes.

2. Add mushrooms. Pour in flour-milk mixture. Sprinkle on salt and pepper.

3. Cover pot and simmer for 1 1/2 hours. Spoon over hot spaetzle, noodles or toast. Serve with big dill pickles.

Yield: 4 to 6 servings.

SEGEDIN GOULASH Segedinsky Gulas

1 1/2 pounds fresh pork shoulder, cubed
1 medium onion, chopped
2 tablespoons shortening

1/4 teaspoon paprika
1/2 teaspoon caraway seeds
salt to taste
1 cup water
1/2 pound sauerkraut
3 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons lard
1 cup sour cream

Fry onion in shortening. Add meat, paprika, caraway seeds, and salt. Brown well. Add 1/2 cup water, cover and simmer for 45 minutes. Add two-thirds of the sauerkraut and simmer for 30 minutes. Brown flour in lard, stirring well, and add to meat with the remaining water; simmer for 5 minutes. Add sour cream and the remaining sauerkraut. Bring to a boil and serve. Serves 4 to 6.

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February Holiday

Throughout the Czech Republic there comes a celebration which remains from the oldest of times: První Jarní "Matejska" (The First Spring Pilgrimage of St. Matthew). Celebrated on St. Matthew's Day, February 24th, in current times it has the look of a country fair. Originally it began as a wake or pilgrimage to St. Matthew's Church in Prague. A traditional Czech proverb about this day is "Na Svateho Mateje hloupy sedlak coneseje", translating word for word to "On St. Matthew's only the dumb farmer is now sowing." This proverb is a reminder that this is the starting date of a farmer's work in the fields. This is probably the reason why the St. Matthew's Pilgrimage is known as the "First Spring." Traditionally the end of the fair is March 21st. In Prague, the Matejska was held at the site of the soccer stadium in a quarter of Prague known as Dejvice. After some years the city fathers determined that this place would be used for building a new area of the Czech Technical University of Prague and now the fair is held in Prague's Park of Culture and Relaxation. The performers include jugglers, clown acts, and folk singers. Many of the vendors still sell hand-made wares from countryside artisans.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All members should check that they have their insurance certificates. They are a couple pages thick. In order for any changes to be made (beneficiary and/or name), or to make a death claim, the certificate must be sent to the Home Office with the proper forms.

February Birthdays

February 4th - Charles Lindbergh, he was the first man to make a solo plane flight across the Atlantic Ocean

February 5th - Hank Aaron, this famous athlete broke Babe Ruth's lifetime home run record

February 11th - Thomas Edison, the light bulb and the phonograph are two of his many inventions

February 12th - Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President found on pennies and \$5 bills

February 22nd - George Washington, our 1st President and our nation's capitol is named after him

February 23rd - Georg Friedrich Handel, a German composer who lived in England and composed the famous "Hallelujah Chorus"

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St. Valentine's Day



On February 14 around the year 278A.D., Valentine, a holy priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II, was executed.

Under the rule of Claudius the Cruel, Rome was involved in many unpopular and bloody campaigns. The emperor had to maintain a strong army, but was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. Claudius believed that

Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families.

To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Valentine was arrested and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. The sentence was carried out on February 14, on or about the year 270 A.D.

Legend also has it that while in jail, St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine."

For his great service, Valentine was named a saint after his death.

In truth, the exact origins and identity of St. Valentine are unclear. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "At least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, are mentioned in the early martyrologies

under the date of 14 February." One was a priest in Rome, the second one was a bishop of Interamna (now Terni, Italy) and the third St. Valentine was a martyr in the Roman province of Africa.

Legends vary on how the martyr's name became connected with romance. The date of his death may have become mingled with the Feast of Lupercalia, a pagan festival of love. On these occasions, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius decided to put an end to the Feast of Lupercalia, and he declared that February 14 be celebrated as St Valentine's Day.

Gradually, February 14 became a date for exchanging love messages, poems and simple gifts such as flowers.

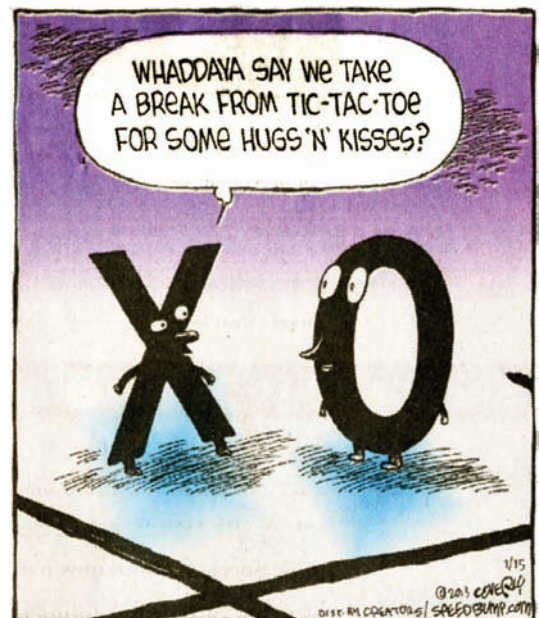
St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses.

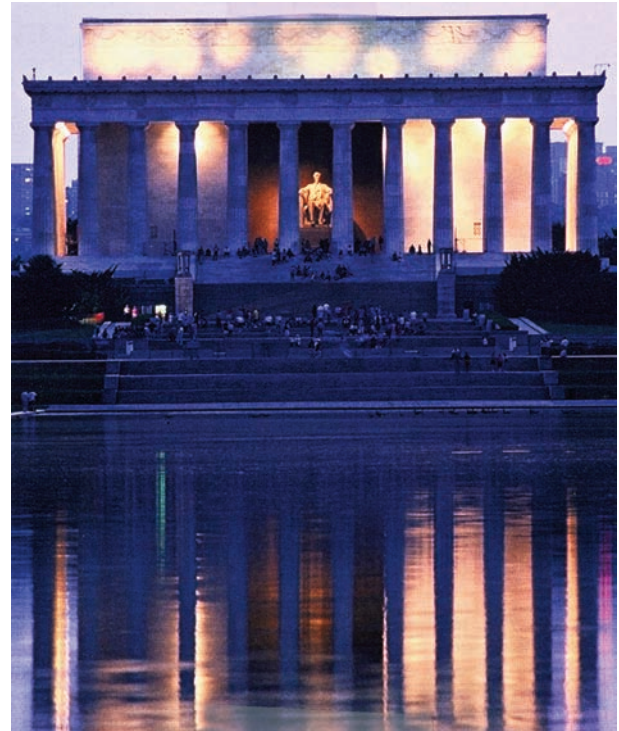
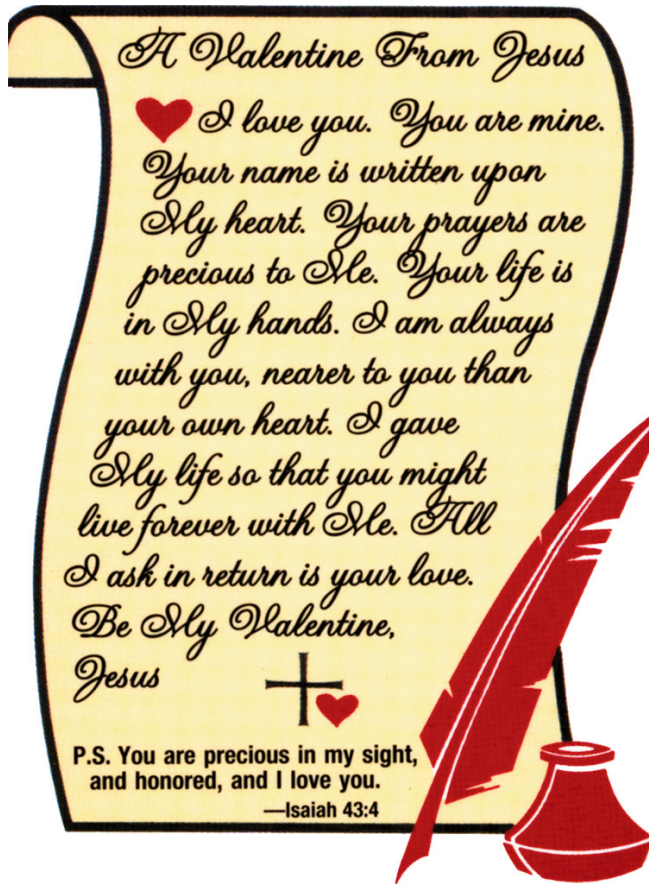
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Last Valentine's Day, little Isaac was in a relative's wedding. As he was coming down the aisle, he would stop every few feet, put his hands up like claws and roar. The crowd was near tears from laughing but Isaac couldn't understand why. When asked what he was doing, he said, "I was being the ring bear."

Speed Bump | Dave Coverly





Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.

Abraham Lincoln

• • • • •

Did You Know?

“O.K.” was first popularized in an 1840 Presidential campaign. Back then, everyone seemed to have a nickname and when Martin Van Buren ran for President, he was nicknamed “Old Kinderhook” after his birthplace in Columbia County, New York. His New York City supporters formed a club in his honor called The O.K. Club, and “O.K.” became a rallying cry for their candidate. Van Buren lost, but “O.K.” won and it is the most widely used word in America.

Executive Speechwriter Newsletter



In the words of George Washington, June 29, 1788:

“No one can rejoice more than I do at every step the people of this great Country take to preserve the Union, establish good order and government, and to render the Nation happy at home and respectable abroad. No Country upon Earth ever had it more in its power to

attain these blessings than United America. Wondrously strange then, and much to be regretted indeed would it be, were we to neglect the means, and to depart from the road which Providence has pointed us to, so plainly; I cannot believe it will ever come to pass. The great Governor of the Universe has led us too long and too far on the road to happiness and glory, to forsake us in the midst of it. By folly and improper conduct, proceeding from a variety of causes, we may now and then get bewildered; but I hope and trust that there is good sense and virtue enough left to recover the right path before we shall be entirely lost.”



CCU Life Liquid Annuity CD's

CCU Life is proud to offer our Liquid Annuity CD

- Your money is tied up for only 6 months
- Members (who own insurance policies) are paid 2 1/2%
- Non-members (no insurance policy) are paid 1 1/2%

Rates are subject to change, but you will be notified

Rates are much better than your local bank or credit union due to our good investments and low expenses

Call the Home Office during normal business hours with any questions at (216-341-0444)

Fasiangy

Fasiangy is the final celebration before the fasting and gravenes of Lent. Fasiangy evolved during the Middle Ages and became a celebration of costumed parades, singing and dancing. This release of energy prepared people for the forty days of fasting which began on Ash Wednesday.



Fasiangy celebrations usually lasted from the Sunday before Lent until Tuesday midnight, but sometimes they extended well into Ash Wednesday morning. At midnight, marking the end of Fasiangy, a symbolic burial ceremony for the contrabass was performed, because music had to cease for Lent.



It may seem that Fasiangy was a time of great foolishness, but it served a purpose by allowing village people and townsfolk to have fun and enjoy themselves before the somber season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday is March 1, 2017

• • • • •

Karel Capek was a significant Czech prose writer, playwright, journalist, poet, translator, art critic and philosopher. He was born in Male Svatonovice on January 9, 1890. Karel liked to travel, therefore, he wrote several travel books and essays. He is considered one of the first Czech writers who succeeded abroad. On January 21, 1934, he signed the challenge of writers, artists and scientists to help children suffering a hardship because of the economic crisis. Later in 1934, he signed the protest of Czechoslovak writers against the organized fascist riots. At the time of the menacing Nazi occupation, he became one of the most important Anti-Nazi writers. Karel was twice nominated for the Nobel Prize in literature.



Karel Capek died from pneumonia on December 25, 1938 in Prague.

S.P.J.S.T.

Zdislava Berka

Also, Zdislava of Lemberk (born in 1220) in Krizanov, Moravia was a very devout child who at a young age ran away into the forest with the intention of living a hermit's life of prayer and solitude. She was forcibly returned by her family and made to live a normal childhood. Zdislava learned from her mother the arts of healing with both herbs and prayers. Her family arranged for her to marry Bohemian Lord Havel of Lemberk. Their marriage is said to have been a challenge for them both. She raised four children in the castle of Lemberk, but her care extended to all the needy of the land. She became known as a great healer and a source of comfort for those fleeing the Tartar invasions from the East. (The well from which she drew healing water still exists.) Zdislava found a Dominican convent in Turnov, Czech Republic, where she worked for the rest of her life. St. Zdislava died in 1252 and is buried in the church she built, now called the Church of Sts. Laurence and Zdislava in the Czech village of Jablonne v Podjestedi.

She was beatified on August 28, 1907 by Pope Pius X and canonized on May 2, 1995 by Pope John Paul II in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

As the saint of difficult marriages, Zdislava's feast day is January 4.



The Blue Skirt Waltz

The song we know as the Blue Skirt Waltz was composed in the early 1940's as Cervena Sukynka or Red Skirt Waltz by Vaclav Blaha. Blaha, a well loved Czech composer and trumpeter, based the melody on the traditional folk songs he loved. The lyrics he wrote to it were about a school-girl and her favorite red skirt. He released the song in 1943 and it became very popular. In 1948, the American musician Frankie Yankovic was reviewing a catalog of Bohemian music and came across the Red Skirt Waltz. This was the only song in the catalog that he liked. Frankie changed the tune slightly, then he and music publisher John Mills recruited Mitchell Parish to write new lyrics to the song. Parish changed the skirt from being red to being blue and created the story of a night of dancing and romance. Frankie recorded the song for Columbia Records in 1949 and it became a huge hit, going to gold status very quickly. Besides Frankie Yankovic the song has been covered by Hank Thompson, Jimmy Sturr, Guy Lombardo, The Lawrence Welk Orchestra, and many, many others.

BLUE SKIRT WALTZ

I wandered alone one night,
till I heard an orchestra play
I met you where lights were bright,
and people were care-free and gay
You were the beautiful lady in blue,
I was in heaven just waltzing with you
You thrilled me with strange delight,
then softly you stole away

Chorus:

I dream of that night with you,
Lady when first we met.
We danced in a world of blue,
How can my heart forget
Blue were the skies, and blue were your eyes,
just like the blue skirt you wore
Come back blue lady, come back,
Don't be blue any more

You left and you went away,
Knowing that I love you,
Why would you not with me stay,
My dear lady in blue?
Sad is this day 'cause you're far away
Wearing that blue skirt you wore.
Come back blue lady, come back,
Don't be blue any more.
Chorus



RED SKIRT WALTZ

When I was a little girl
And I was going to school,
Always my mother,
was dressing me.
It had to be the red skirt,
I couldn't go to school without it.
Today I have one just like that
And I like to wear it the most.

Chorus:

That red skirt,
I like the most out of all,
Tonight I will put it on,
If you, lad, will come to us.
Nicely lined skirt,
Embroidered with folds.
Don't let the love between us fade away.

CERVENA SUKYNKA

Kdyz byla jsem malicka
A do skoly chodivala,
Vzdy mne moje maticka
Do saticek oblekala.
Cervena sukynka musela byt,
Bez ni se do skoly nedalo jit.
Dnes takovou zase mam
Aznejradsi ji nosivam.
R.:

Tu cervenou sukynku,
Nejradsi ze vseh mam.
Dnes vecer ji obleknu,
A prijdes chlapce k nam.
Sukynku pekne lemovanou,
Zdobenou faldickama.
At nikdy neuvadne
Laska mezi nama.

Source: Czech Slavnosti

Polka Humor



Stamp Korner



5 Crowns = .25
Hraci Korta
(Card Game)



12 Crowns - .60
Jaroslav Panuska
(1872-1958)



Jaroslav, Panuska, Czechoslovakian visual artist known for his paintings and sculptures.

DANCING BOOSTS MEMORY

REGULARLY hitting the dance floor can reduce your chance of developing degenerative diseases like dementia and Alzheimer's in later life, experts say.

Dancing forces the brain to regularly rewire neural pathways, especially in the areas responsible for mental skills and long-term memory- in other words, strengthening parts of the brain that are used to remember complicated steps.

Dr. Becca Rodriguez, an osteopathic physician for the San Diego Ballet, says dance can stimulate muscle memory cells, called B cells.

"These cells are activated with repetition of activity or motions, and help our bodies to remember certain movements for choreography," she says.

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ANNOUNCING

CONGRATULATIONS to William Daniels, winner of our \$50 drawing. His name was drawn from all the names we had from our Summer Special. William is the grandson of John Vrana.

A Lord's Prayer for Justice

Ronald Rolheiser

Our Father ... who always stands with the weak, the powerless, the poor, the abandoned, the sick, the aged, the very young, the unborn, and those who, by victim of circumstance, bear the heat of the day.

Who art in heaven ... where everything will be reversed, where the first will be last and the last will be first, but where all will be well and every manner of being will be well.

Hallowed be thy name ... may we always acknowledge your holiness, respecting that your ways are not our ways, your standards are not our standards. May the reverence we give your name pull us out of selfishness that prevents us from seeing the pain of our neighbor.

Your kingdom come ... help us to create a world where, beyond our own needs and hurts, we will do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly with you and each other.

Your will be done ... open our freedom to let you in so that the complete mutuality that characterizes your life might flow through our veins and thus the life that we help generate may radiate your equal love for all and your special love for the poor.

On earth as in heaven ... may the work of our hands, the temples and structures we build in this world, reflect the temple and the structure of your glory so that the joy, graciousness, tenderness, and justice of heaven will show forth within all of our structures on earth.

Give ... life and love to us and help us to see always everything as a gift. Help us to know that nothing comes to us by right and that we must give because we have been given to. Help us realize that we must give to the poor, not because they need it, but because our own health depends upon our giving to them.

Us ... the truly plural us. Give not just to our own but to everyone, including those who are very different than the narrow us. Give your gifts to all of us equally.

This day ... not tomorrow. Do not let us push things off into some indefinite future so that we can continue to live justified lives in the face of injustice because we can make good excuses for our inactivity.

Our daily bread ... so that each person in the world may have enough food, enough clean water, enough clean air, adequate health care, and sufficient access to education so as to have the sustenance for a healthy life. Teach us to give from our sustenance and not just from our surplus.

And forgive us our trespasses ... forgive us our blindness towards our neighbor, our obsessive self-preoccupation, our racism, our sexism, and our incurable propensity to worry only about ourselves and our own. Forgive us our capacity to watch the evening news and do nothing about it.

As we forgive those who trespass against us ... help us to forgive those who victimize us. Help us to mellow out in spirit, to not grow bitter with age, to forgive the imperfect parents and systems that wounded, cursed, and ignored us.

And do not put us to the test ... do not judge us only by whether we have fed the hungry, given clothing to the naked, visited the sick, or tried to mend the systems that victimized the poor. Spare us this test for none of us can stand before this gospel scrutiny. Give us, instead, more days to mend our ways, our selfishness, and our systems.

But deliver us from evil ... that is, from the blindness that lets us continue to participate in anonymous systems within which we need not see who gets less as we get more.

Amen.

• • • • •

PRAYERS IN CZECH

Otce nas (Our Father)

Otce nas, jenz jsi v nebesich,
posvet se jmeno tve;
prijd kralovstvi tve,
bud vule tva,
jako v nebi, tak i na zemi.
Chleb nas vezdejsi dej nam dnes,
a otpust nam nase viny,
jakoz i my odpoustime nasim vinnikum.
A ne uvod nas v pokuseni,
ale zbav nas od zleho.
Amen.

Zdravas Maria (Hail Mary)

Zdravas Maria, milosti plna
Pan s Tebou.
Pozehnana jsi mezi zenami
A pozehnany
Plod zivota tveho, Jezis.
Svata Maria, Matko Bozi,
Pros za nas hrisne,
Nini i v hodinu smrti nasi,
Amen.



“CZECHS AND NEBRASKA”

Taken from the book, “CZECHS AND NEBRASKA” by Dr. Vladimir Kucera, sent in my Alfred Novacek, a member of St. Lucy Society #127 in Dwight, NE.

The Czech immigrant has made himself a great asset for the development and growth of his new American adopted country through his skills, thrift, education and readiness for assimilation. When we follow the steps of Czech immigration we see that it originates from a great cultural tradition. Though the Czech immigration here was never numerically as strong as the massive immigration of Poles, Irish or Italians, to mention a few, it is nevertheless significant for this cultural maturity and the general advancement of the Czech immigrants. Throughout their history the Czechs have been known as builders, not only in the physical, but primarily in the spiritual and cultural senses of the word. It is true that the average Czech immigrant had language difficulties in his new environment, but he quickly adjusted himself to the new situation thanks to his general intelligence and ability. As an illustration of this trait, let us read the words of one Czech immigrant who reminisced about his experience of adjustment after only a few hours on American soil in the following words: “I’ve been in America a long time now,” he said, “but when I first came over I knew only two English words.” They were enough to carry me well beyond Chicago. On the steamer I heard them many times a day and soon caught on to their pronunciation. Reaching Ellis Island I was examined by an immigration officer. I asked him respectfully “All right?” to which he replied “All right.” At the barge office where some of my fellow countrymen were waiting for me, someone stepped on my foot and excused himself. “All right,” I replied much to the wonder of my companions. At the railroad station there were many trains. I showed my ticket to one of the guards and after examining it he pointed the direction in which I was to go. I started and looked back. “All right”, he said. Finally I reached Chicago. The station was crowded and I had to wait. Leaning against the back of a baggage transfer truck I suddenly heard as the warning “All right?” I jumped aside crying out “All right!” Two porters pushed a second truck where I had been standing. Whenever I found it necessary to cross the street I waited until the policeman called “All right,” and after many “All rights” finally reached the home of my uncle. After supper as we were talking in my native Czech language he asked me how I enjoyed my trip. I replied “All right” whereupon my uncle nearly fell over in amazement. Then he slapped my shoulder and said “You’re all right!”

The Laws of Ultimate Reality

Law of Mechanical Repair

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you’ll have to pee.

Law of Gravity

Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

Law of Probability

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Law of Random Numbers

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

Law of the Alibi

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

Variation Law

If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

Law of the Bath

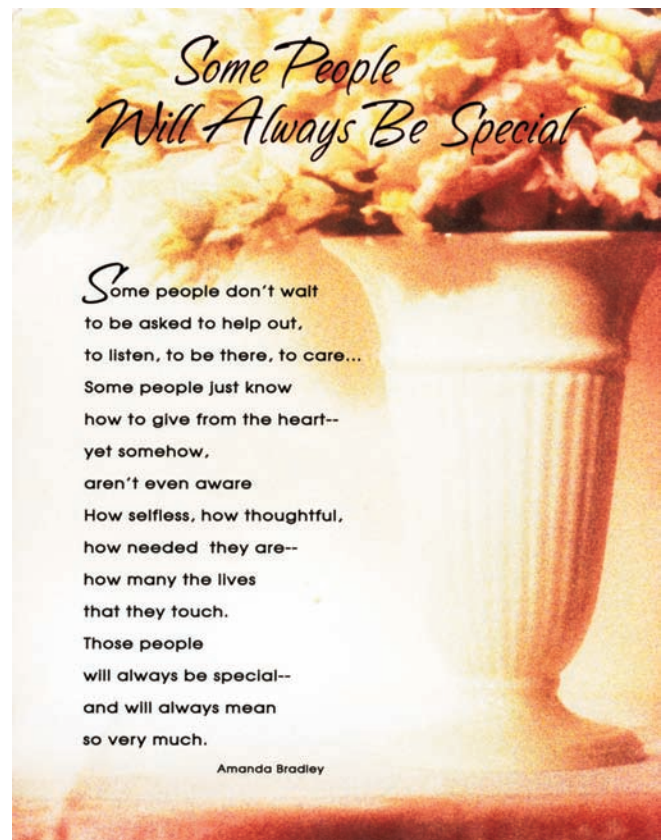
When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

Law of Close Encounters

The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don’t want to be seen with.

Law of the Result

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won’t work, it will.



CZECH CATHOLIC UNION HIGH SCHOOL GRANT

At the Executive Committee meeting held in November, 2014 the officers and directors of the Czech Catholic Union voted to establish a Renewable Grant of **\$300.00** to members who will be enrolled in the 9th grade of a CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL or are already attending a CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL during the 2017-2018, academic year. The Grant will be payable directly to the school and credited to the student's tuition.

To be eligible for this award the student must be a member for three years, having one of the following plans: Whole Life - 20 Year Payment Life - Single Premium Whole Life - 20 Year Annuity - Youth Savings with a **\$5,000.00** amount of insurance as minimum.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION TO THE CZECH CATHOLIC UNION HOME OFFICE BY JUNE 1, 2017. NO LATE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED.

Name _____ Certificate No. _____

Address _____ Society No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

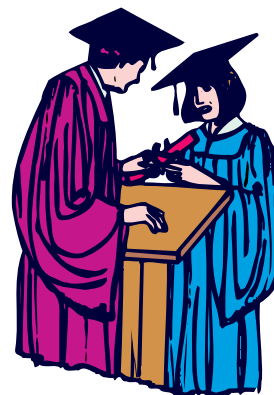
Social Security No. _____ Phone No. _____

Will attend _____ Catholic High School

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please mail this application to: CZECH CATHOLIC UNION
5349 Dolloff Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44127



*The Czech Catholic Union
Wishes to Congratulate
The Graduating Class
of 2017*

and

*Extends An Invitation
For You To Visit Or Call Us
In The Future When You Have
A Need For Life Insurance
May God Bless You!!*

*1-216-341-0444
5349 Dolloff Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44127*



CZECH CATHOLIC UNION COLLEGE GRANT

At the executive meeting held in November, 2014 the officers and directors of the Czech Catholic Union voted to establish a Renewable Grant of **\$500.00** for members who will enroll in a Catholic College or are already attending a Catholic College during the 2017-2018 academic year. The Grant will be payable directly to the college and credited to the student's tuition.

To be eligible for this award the student must be a member of the Czech Catholic Union for three years, having the following Plans: Whole Life - 20 year Payment Life - 20 year Annuity - Single Premium Whole Life - Youth Savings with a **\$5,000.00** amount of insurance as minimum.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION TO THE CZECH CATHOLIC UNION HOME OFFICE BY JUNE 1, 2017. NO LATE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED.

Name _____ Certificate No. _____

Address _____ Society No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Social Security No. _____ Phone No. _____

Will Attend _____ Catholic College _____

College Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please mail this application to: Czech Catholic Union
5349 Dolloff Road
Cleveland, OH 44127

email: insurance@czechCCU.org
website: <http://www.czechCCU.org>

CZECH CATHOLIC UNION

A LEGAL RESERVE FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETY

5349 DOLLOFF ROAD, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44127

(216) 341-0444 FAX (216) 341-0711



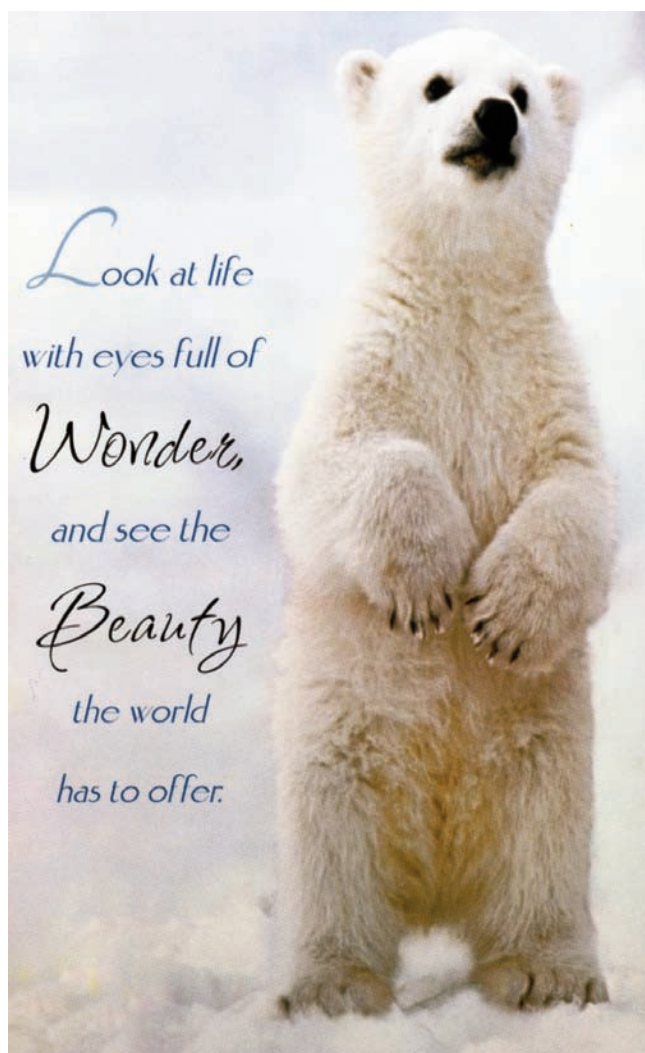
SINGLE PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE (Add \$25.00 Policy Fee)		
	Single Premiums per \$1,000	
ISSUE AGE	BAND 1 \$3,000- \$9,999	BAND 2 \$10,000- & over
0	\$94.70	\$92.20
1	\$96.78	\$94.28
2	\$99.31	\$96.81
3	\$102.08	\$99.58
4	\$105.06	\$102.56
5	\$108.20	\$105.70
6	\$111.44	\$108.94
7	\$114.80	\$112.30
8	\$118.27	\$115.77
9	\$121.86	\$119.36
10	\$125.58	\$123.08
11	\$129.42	\$126.92
12	\$133.36	\$130.86
13	\$137.39	\$134.89
14	\$141.51	\$139.01
15	\$145.71	\$143.21
16	\$149.93	\$147.43
17	\$154.20	\$151.70
18	\$158.50	\$156.00
19	\$162.91	\$160.41
20	\$167.43	\$164.93
21	\$172.10	\$169.60
22	\$176.94	\$174.44
23	\$181.94	\$179.44
24	\$187.11	\$184.61
25	\$192.45	\$189.95
26	\$197.97	\$195.47
27	\$203.65	\$201.15
28	\$209.49	\$206.99
29	\$215.54	\$213.04
30	\$221.83	\$219.33
31	\$228.35	\$225.85
32	\$235.12	\$232.62
33	\$242.13	\$239.63
34	\$249.38	\$246.88
35	\$256.87	\$254.37
36	\$264.61	\$262.11
37	\$272.57	\$270.07
38	\$280.79	\$278.29
39	\$289.23	\$286.73
40	\$297.90	\$295.40
41	\$306.82	\$304.32
42	\$315.96	\$313.46
43	\$325.33	\$322.83
44	\$334.92	\$332.42
45	\$344.70	\$342.20

SINGLE PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE		
	Single Premiums per \$1,000	
ISSUE AGE	BAND 1 \$3,000- \$9,999	BAND 2 \$10,000- & over
46	\$354.68	\$352.18
47	\$364.87	\$362.37
48	\$375.28	\$372.78
49	\$385.98	\$383.48
50	\$396.99	\$394.49
51	\$408.27	\$405.77
52	\$419.81	\$417.31
53	\$431.57	\$429.07
54	\$443.53	\$441.03
55	\$455.66	\$453.16
56	\$467.91	\$465.41
57	\$480.29	\$477.79
58	\$492.80	\$490.30
59	\$505.53	\$503.03
60	\$518.45	\$515.95
61	\$531.53	\$529.03
62	\$544.69	\$542.19
63	\$557.87	\$555.37
64	\$571.02	\$568.52
65	\$584.17	\$581.67
66	\$597.31	\$594.81
67	\$610.49	\$607.99
68	\$623.75	\$621.25
69	\$637.08	\$634.58
70	\$650.53	\$648.03
71	\$664.03	\$661.53
72	\$677.57	\$675.07
73	\$690.94	\$688.44
74	\$704.18	\$701.68
75	\$717.33	\$714.83
76	\$730.37	\$727.87
77	\$743.29	\$740.79
78	\$756.03	\$753.53
79	\$768.48	\$765.98
80	\$780.56	\$778.06
81	\$792.25	\$789.75
82	\$803.48	\$800.98
83	\$814.32	\$811.82
84	\$824.78	\$822.28
85	\$834.83	\$832.33
86	\$844.40	\$841.90
87	\$853.42	\$850.92
88	\$861.85	\$859.35
89	\$869.67	\$867.17
90	\$876.87	\$874.37



Notice To Members

A Mass for Deceased members of the Czech Catholic Union is offered periodically at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Cleveland, Ohio.



PAYMENTS OF MORTUARY DEATH CLAIMS

The Czech Catholic Union extends its sincerest sympathies to the bereaved families of the following deceased members:

Name	Location	Soc. Name	No.	Date of Issue	Date of Death	Age
Rita Kourey	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	11	03-01-1941	09-24-2016	87
Eileen Mazour	Omaha, NE	St. Ludmila	46	06-01-1961	09-09-2016	71
Mary Ann Kunderman	St. Louis, MO	St. Ludmila	7	10-01-1946	09-22-2016	87
Mary Dvorak	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	11	11-01-1971	11-05-2016	91

TOTAL DEATH CLAIMS PAID IN 2016 \$181,781.44