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President's Message

Dear Members & Friends - Hopefully Spring is just around the corner and we will soon be enjoying the sight of tulips and the smell of hyacinths. Spring flowers are always such a joy to see because we know the summer months are soon to follow.

Since we are still in the early months of 2017, we should take time to review savings for retirement or our grandchildren's college funds. Interest rates are at historical lows and it is difficult for anyone to save for the future. Now is the time to look at what CCU Life has to offer - especially if you are already a member. If you are a member, our 6-month liquid annuity CD's are paying 2 1/2%. If you are not a member, CCU Life is still offering 1 1/2%. How does one become a member? Purchase a life insurance policy. In the long run, the extra 1% earned on the annuity CD will pay for the insurance. Our insurance rates are very competitive especially for the young. Our Single Premium rates are listed elsewhere in this issue. With this in mind, members (and potential members) should thoroughly examine the benefits of establishing a savings plan with CCU Life which include competitive rates of return, deferred interest and the option of withdrawing principal or interest without penalty or service charge. Call us at the Home Office if you have questions or need an application.

I want to wish each of you a happy and blessed Easter and hope you enjoy a good piece of Sekanice with your Easter dinner.

Fraternally,
Robert L. Cermak

Dear Friends,

I don't think that anyone could ever lose the wonder of experiencing the change of seasons; especially from winter to spring. The mystery of Easter is reflected around us: from the death of winter to the new life of spring. Once again this year, we are invited to be "swept up" by the manifestation of God's presence and power in creation.

Pope Francis has given the church a wonderful encyclical about creation and the environment called *Laudato Si'* (*Praise to You My Lord ... On the Care of our Common Home*). The title quotes St. Francis of Assisi, whose name the Holy Father took when he assumed the papacy; *Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.*

Extensive, the document presents global warming as the crisis of our time. In the interrelatedness of creation, it is the poor who suffer the most, as developing countries experience more natural disasters. The pope invites us to be aware of the issue and to develop a spirituality based on the "Gospel of creation." He invites us to combat excessive consumerism that leads to waste and thus affects the environment.

Saint Francis, the Holy Father says, *faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. "Through the greatness and the beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker" (Wis 13:5); indeed, "his eternal power and divinity have been made known through his works since the creation of the world" (Rom 1:20). ... Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.*

If you are looking for reading material this spring and summer, consider this Pope Francis' document. While it treats a very serious subject, I find it very practical as well as inspiring.

May God bless you and yours this Easter season!

Fr. Joseph Callahan

PICTURE ON FRONT COVER

St. Joseph Church is a beautiful Prague baroque church in Mala Strana (Lesser Town) near the Charles Bridge. The church with a dome and a monumental facade in the Dutch style was built in 1686-1692 by the architect Abraham Parigi by the Convent of Barefoot Carmelite Nuns. Above the entrance is a relief of the Habsburg eagle (double headed eagle) with the letter "L", for Emperor Leopold under whose reign the church was built. The painting of the "Saint Family" at the main altar is the work of famous baroque master Petr Brandl.

*"Dear St. Joseph,
teach us to listen
to the voice of God
in our lives,
to be open to Jesus' presence
in our families,
and to always welcome
His love
into our hearts."*

*Exterior of
St. Joseph
Church*



Cleveland, Ohio

St. Joseph Society #156 held its annual Christmas party at their December meeting on December 11, 2016. Nomination of officers was held along with gift exchange and lunch. Entertainment was provided by Fred Malec.



St. Joseph Society #156 held its January meeting on January 8, 2017. The officers were sworn in by member, Judge Ralph Perk. Afterwards a lunch of jaternice and kolbassi and kraut was served. Entertainment again was provided by Fred Malec.



Cleveland, Ohio

On January 16, 2017, our Financial Advisor and long-time member Phil Hrvatin, had the pleasure to meet with Dr. Bozo Cerar, Slovenian Ambassador to the United States and also Counselor Borot Zunic at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington D.C.

The next day Phil met with other departmental executives and attended the 2017 Inaugural Gala held by Sister Cities International in honor of First Lady, Melania Trump.

The ambassador was very pleased with the support provided by Cleveland area community leaders.



PHOTO: Left to Right Slovenian Embassy Counselor Borut Zunic, Slovenian Ambassador Dr. Bozo Cerar, KSKJ Chairman Rudy Krasovec, Jen Mravle, KSKJ Home Office executive staff Tony Mravle Jr. and Czech Catholic Union member and Financial Advisor Phil Hrvatin.

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Kathryn Bischof, a life-long member of the Czech Catholic Union, has earned the Gold Girl Scout Award. The Gold Girl Scout Award represents the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn. She has earned this award by taking part in many Scout activities, earning certain badges and accomplishing an activity that would continue on for a good length of time. She helped revitalize the Strongsville Backyard Preserve by woodchipping the trails and marking the trails with a new set of blazes.



Kathryn is a senior at Strongsville High School and is a member of the Key Club, National Honor Society and plays in the Symphony Orchestra.

Kathryn, along with her brothers, Matthew, Mark and Patrick, are the children of Steve and Patty Bischof. Her proud grandparents are Bill and Linda Hronek of Seven Hills, Ohio. All are members of St. Joseph Society #156.

K Narozeninam!!! - Happy Birthday!!!



Past President and current Director, Joseph Kocab, will celebrate his 85th birthday on March 8, 2017. The members of the Czech Catholic Union hopes he has a great birthday and many more to come!!!



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Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Blessed Virgin Mary Society #119 held their Christmas Party on December 4th where dividends were distributed and the business meeting was conducted. Refreshments were provided by the officers. We wish to thank the Czech Catholic Union for the annual increase in our insurance policies.

Our sympathy is extended to Judy Block and Marlene Dostal on the passing of their family members.

The Czech School was held this past summer at St. Ludmila's Parish Center providing children with the knowledge of the Czech language and culture. The children received a tour of St. Wenceslaus Church, learned to dance the polka, and also learned to make kolaches.

In October, Cedar Rapids was again hit by flooding. Since the city was much better prepared this time, as compared to the flood in 2008, damage was much less. Both St. Patrick and St. Wenceslaus parishes moved services to other parishes and no damage was reported to the churches. The Czech Museum worked with local contractors and volunteers to prevent damage there also. Despite all these efforts, the city still suffered \$12 million dollars in damages. Best wishes to all the members of the Czech Catholic Union during 2017.

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.

We just had a death claim and the beneficiary was deceased a long time ago.

Cedar Rapids, IA



Condolences are sent to the family of Lillian Kopecky, age 97, who died at her home, December 6, 2016, following a short illness.

Lillian is survived by her daughter, Judi Jacobs (Tom), of Sun Prairie Wisconsin; granddaughters, Rachel Jacobs, of Lexington, Kentucky, and Jenni Jacobs-Subramanian (Sankar), of Palatine, Illinois; great granddaughter, Anya; sister, Frances Doran (Don), of Carpentersville, Illinois and one niece and two nephews.

Lillian was a member of Saint Matthew's Catholic Church. Always very proud of her Czech heritage, she belonged to numerous Czech organizations in Cedar Rapids. She was a member of Saint Mary's Society 119, Czech Catholic Union and served as treasurer for many years. Lillian was also a member of the National Board of Directors of the Czech Catholic Union, Cleveland, Ohio for more than 30 years. She was a member of the Federation of Czech Groups and served as treasurer for several years. She was a Cedar Rapids Czech School for Children Board Member. Lillian volunteered at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library and was a member of the Museum Guild.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.



In Appreciation...

In Appreciation

Blessed Virgin Mary Society #119, Cedar Rapids, IA - "Dear Mr. Cermak, You make Rockhurst High School an exceptional place of formation for young "men for others." During this special season of giving, I am grateful for your kindness. With your generous gift, we were able to help a family to keep their son at Rockhurst High School who otherwise might not have been able to make the tuition investment. Your thoughtfulness allowed them to give the gift of Catholic education, animated by the Jesuit Vision. Thank you for keeping Rockhurst High School a vibrant educational asset for families in Kansas City."

Faithfully yours,
Rockhurst High School, Laurence W. Freeman
Chief Advancement Officer

Society #145, Cleveland, OH - "Thank you for last year's High School and College Grant money extended to my daughters, Antonia, SinClare and Mary, Catholic education expenses. I am embarrassed that I have reached the New Year without extending my gratitude

to the Czech Catholic Union. It is through your continued support to your members that my husband and I are able to send 4 of our 5 children to Catholic institutions. We are so grateful for your generosity. May God bless Czech Catholic Union in its continued endeavors and May God bless you!!!"

Thank you, Janette Fiala

St. Joseph Society #156, Cleveland, OH - "Thank you so much for your generous gift of money towards my sophomore year at Magnificat High School. I truly appreciate it."

Sincerely, Natalie Novak



The Annual
ANNOUNCEMENT Meeting of the
Czech Catholic
Union will be held

on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at the home
office on Dolloff Road in Cleveland, Ohio. Meeting
will begin at 1:00 pm. All members are welcome.
Please call the home office if you plan to attend.



BOHEMIAN STYLE ROAST BEEF

Roast beef is best when a large piece of meat is used - - but four pounds is usually plenty. Wash, pound, and salt beef from the leg or rib. Cut 2 to 4 ounces of bacon into thin strips and weave into top layer of meat. Saute finely chopped onions, two chopped carrots, and if you have, finely chopped parsley root or celery root. Add one bay leaf, 7 whole peppers 3 pieces of whole allspice and 2 pinches of thyme. When this mixture is light brown, sear meat on all sides to hold juice. Add water and cover and simmer until meat is tender or place meat in a roasting pan in the oven. The oven should be hot (400 degrees) at first, after a while it should be lowered to about 300 degrees so that meat will be tender. While the meat is simmering or roasting, turn and baste occasionally. Hot water may be added from time to time. When meat is done cut in thin slices and serve on warm platter. Let juice from meat cook until water is mostly evaporated and fat remains. Strain and serve with dumplings, rice or potatoes. If thicker gravy is desired, add 2 tablespoons flour to 1/2 cup water and blend thoroughly with juice. Cook slowly for 8 minutes. Strain and serve. Mushrooms or 2 tablespoons wine may be added to roast also.

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UHLIRINA - POTATO AND DUMPLING CASSEROLE

6 medium potatoes, peeled and cut in large cubes
Salt

Place in a large pot. Add enough water to cover potatoes. Cover and cook.

Prepare dumplings:

2 1/4 c. flour

2 1/2 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. salt

2 eggs

1 c. lukewarm milk

1 slice toasted white bread, cubed

Sift together dry ingredients. Beat eggs in milk and add to dry ingredients. Mix lightly and add bread cubes and a little more flour to make the dough slightly stiffer. Let dough stand for several minutes. When potatoes are almost done, drop dumpling dough by large tablespoonful into the boiling potatoes. Cover and cook 5 to 6 minutes. Drain with the lid on. Pour melted butter or margarine over the dumplings and potatoes to serve.

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PLECOVNIK (HAM YEAST BREAD)

2 pkg. active dry yeast

1/4 c. warm water

2 Tbsp. sugar

1 c. mashed boiled potatoes with 1/2 c. warm water

1 c. milk

1/4 c. oil

6 c. flour

2 tsp. salt

2 c. chopped boiled ham, diced or Uzena (smoked meat)

Dissolve yeast in warm water and 1 tablespoon sugar. Combine water, potato, 1 tablespoon sugar, salt and oil. Add to the yeast. Stir in 2 1/2 cup flour and beat well. Let batter rise in warm place until bubbly, about 40 to 50 minutes. Then add the diced ham. Work in flour one cup at a time. Turn out on lightly floured surface. Knead for about 5 minutes, place in greased bowl and grease top. Let rise in warm place until doubled in bulk. Punch down, turn on flour board or surface. Then shape into two 9 x 5-inch loaf pans that have been greased. Let rise until double its bulk and bake in oven at 375° for 40 minutes, depending on your oven. Brush top with warm water or melted butter.

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FUDGE SAUERKRAUT CAKE

2/3 cup butter

1 1/2 cups sugar

3 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 1/4 cups flour

1/2 cup cocoa

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon baking soda

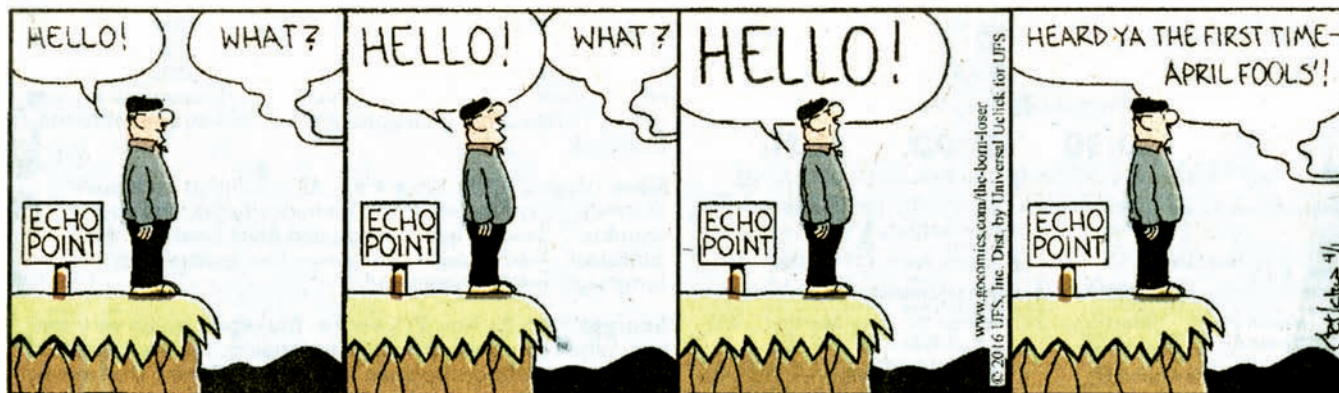
1/4 teaspoon salt

1 cup water

2/3 cup rinsed, drained and chopped sauerkraut

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour 2 (8 x 8-inch) baking pans or 2 (8-inch) layer pans.

Cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Sift together flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add to creamed mixture alternately with water. Stir in sauerkraut. Pour into prepared pans. Bake for 30 minutes, or until done. Serves 12 to 18.



Death And Taxes. What Is The Myth, What Is The Reality?

When I meet with clients to discuss their estate planning or when counseling a family after the passing of a loved one, the topic of taxes normally arises. Most clients assume that there will be a huge tax bill that needs to be paid, however, many clients are pleasantly surprised by their actual tax burden (or lack thereof).

The tax that strikes the most fear in people's hearts is the estate tax (i.e. the death tax). Over the past 20 years the number of estates that pay this tax has fallen dramatically. In fact, about 99.8% of estates pay NO estate taxes. Why? First, Ohio abolished its estate tax in 2013, and Ohio does not have an inheritance tax, which would be a tax on individuals receiving the monies. Next, the Federal government has set the estate tax exemption amount to \$5.45 million, per person. What this means is that if you pass with total assets less than \$5.45 million, you will pay no federal estate tax.

Another potential tax facing a family is capital gains. However, again, the capital gains tax is mostly all bark and no bite. First, capital gains are typically only imposed upon real estate and stock or brokerage accounts. Capital gains is a calculation whereby you take the current value of the asset and subtract from it what the asset was purchased for. As an example, if your home is worth \$150,000 and you purchased it for \$50,000, you have a capital gain of \$100,000. If you decide to give this property to your child sometime before your death (possibly to avoid probate or a Medicaid spenddown), your child will have to pay a capital gains tax on that \$100,000 when he or she ultimately sells it. However, if your child inherits the property upon your death, then the IRS wipes out the gain and no tax will be due (provided the property is sold relatively quickly).

The last tax that actually could be a detriment to your heirs is the income tax waiting to be paid on any tax deferred accounts. These types of account are usually a 401(k), traditional IRA or some annuities. When the holder passes, the income tax that you have been avoiding all these years will now come due. However, there are several good options that your beneficiaries may choose to minimize the taxes paid. But, in order to take advantage of these options, either an individual or a qualified trust must be made the beneficiary.

So, I'm sorry to tell you that in many cases the tax man (or woman!) may not come a calling upon your death. However, it is still a good idea to consult a qualified estate planning attorney or certified public accountant to discuss your particular estate in more detail.

Please be advised that this article is meant to target Ohio residents only. If you live outside Ohio, your state may have its own estate and/or inheritance tax. Please contact an attorney in your area.

This article is for informational purposes only and does not seek to confer legal advice.

Christina M. Hronek

Attorney at Law

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www.hronek-law.com

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.



**Continuation from
January-February Posel**

The Rest of the Laws of Ultimate Reality

Law of Biomechanics:

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Law of the Theater:

At any event, the people whose seats are farthest from the aisle arrive last.

The Starbucks Law:

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

Murphy's Law of Lockers:

If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Law of Physical Surfaces:

The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug.

Law of Logical Argument:

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

Brown's Law of Physical Appearance:

If the shoe fits, it's ugly.

Oliver's Law of Public Speaking:

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy:

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

Doctors' Law:

If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick!

STILL LOOKING FOR SOME OF OUR MEMBERS -

NAME	SOCIETY	LAST KNOWN
Michael Amerla	156	Avon Lake, OH
James Collins	117	Palos Hts, IL
John Collins	117	Palos Hts, IL
Victoria Goldrick	156	Mayfield Hts, OH
Kara Lundy	16	Millvale, PA
Luke Oleksiak	10	Willoughby, OH
Matthew Oleksiak	10	Willoughby, OH
Andrea Schminkey	119	Cedar Rapids, IA
Codie Schminkey	119	Cedar Rapids, IA
Shayna Schminkey	119	Cedar Rapids, IA

**CZECH CATHOLIC UNION
CONVENTION 2018
SEPTEMBER 30,
OCTOBER 1 & 2, 2018**

A Nominating Committee will be selected to present the slate of officers.

Delegates will elect the following positions:

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
and 5 Directors

The number of delegates a Society is entitled to send to the convention will be posted in a future issue of the POSEL.

Please call or email me with your inquiries.

Audrey Schmidt

Committee Chairman

440-442-7068 (Home)

216-341-0444 (Office)

Email: babahunt21102@gmail.com

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?		
<hr/>		
Name		
<hr/>		
Old Address	State	Zip
<hr/>		
New Address	State	Zip
<hr/>		
Society No.		
<hr/>		
Mail to CZECH CATHOLIC UNION 5349 Dolloff Road Cleveland, Ohio 44127		



Why does the entire world celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

March 17 is a special day for people of Irish heritage and other celebrants across the globe. Each year, millions of people pay homage to St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, with parades, parties and religious services. Celebrations occur even though many celebrants may know little about this legendary saint.

Although St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a festivity filled with clovers, frosty mugs of beer, green clothing, and lively music, the day was once a religious feast day honoring the man many credit with bringing Christianity to Ireland.

St. Patrick was born in Britain circa AD 387. Many are surprised to learn he was not Irish. In fact, St. Patrick first spent time in Ireland when he was captured by Irish pagans as a teen and taken to their country as a slave. After six years working as a shepherd, Patrick became familiar with the customs and spirit of the Irish and "found God." He was able to eventually escape his imprisonment, vowing to one day return to Ireland as a free man.

Patrick was schooled at monasteries and was ordained a priest and later became a bishop. Under Pope Celestine

I, he was commissioned to become an apostle to Ireland and spread the news of God and Christianity.

St. Patrick spent many years evangelizing in the northern half of Ireland and converted thousands of people from paganism to Christianity. According to legend, St. Patrick used the three-leaf clover to explain the Holy Trinity to the Irish. Patrick's efforts to drive out the pagans became an allegory in which he drove "snakes" out of Ireland.

Although green has become the primary color of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, and green remains widely associated with Ireland, during the 18th century, the Order of St. Patrick, an Anglo-Irish chivalric order, adopted blue as its official color. That led to blue being associated with St. Patrick. However, "wearing of the green" eventually fell back into favor, and the color green and an association with St. Patrick's Day grew during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Although St. Patrick's Day originated as a religious celebration in honor of a man who brought Christianity to Ireland, it has since become a larger representation of Irish pride and culture.



May God
grant you always...
A sunbeam to
warm you,
a moonbeam to
charm
you, a sheltering
Angel
so nothing can
harm you.
Laughter to cheer
you.
Faithful friends
near you.
And whenever you
pray,
Heaven to hear
you."
-An Irish blessing

This poll reveals the truth
about Easter eating habits.

43%
Love Peeps



72%
Eat the dyed Easter eggs
(they're not just for decoration)



FAVORITE JELLY BEANS

1. Red (cherry)
2. Black (licorice)
3. Pink (strawberry)

89%
Eat the ears first



Easter Fun

Easter is the second most important candy eating occasion of the year for Americans. Ninety million chocolate Easter bunnies are produced each year.

The most popular non-chocolate Easter candy are marshmallow peeps shaped like chicks, as well as, marshmallow bunnies and eggs. In 1953 it took 27 hours to create a marshmallow peep. Today it takes six minutes. Yellow peeps are the most popular followed by pink, lavender, blue, and white.

Jellybeans did not become a real Easter tradition until the 1930's. They were probably first made in America by Boston candy maker, William Schrafft, who ran advertisements urging people to send jellybeans to soldiers fighting in the Civil War.

The History of the St. Joseph Table

The St. Joseph Table is an old Sicilian tradition that dates back to the Middle Ages. Centuries ago, during a severe drought, famine struck the people of Sicily and, without any crops growing, many people died of hunger. Relying on their faith, the poor people prayed to St. Joseph, their patron saint, for relief from the famine. Their prayers were answered and the famine came to an end. To show their gratitude, the people prepared a table with a special assortment of foods. This feast became known as The St. Joseph Table or, in Italian, "Tavola di San Giuseppe."

Since the feast falls during the Lenten Season, meatless dishes are prepared. Pasta dishes, fish, and frittatas (omelets filled with various vegetables) are served. Breads, cakes and pastries baked in symbolic Christian shapes are prepared for the table.

Traditionally, visitors to the St. Joseph Table are given a holy card and a fava bean. The fava bean is considered "lucky" because during the drought, the fava thrived while other crops failed to grow. According to legend, if you keep a fava bean in your home, you will never go hungry.

The feast is alternatively a source of petition and thanksgiving. People who feel their prayers have been answered use this festivity to show their thanks. The St. Joseph Table serves as a reminder for people to share their good fortune with those less fortunate.

St. Joseph

Pray for us!

Happy Feastday to all Josephs and Josephines!

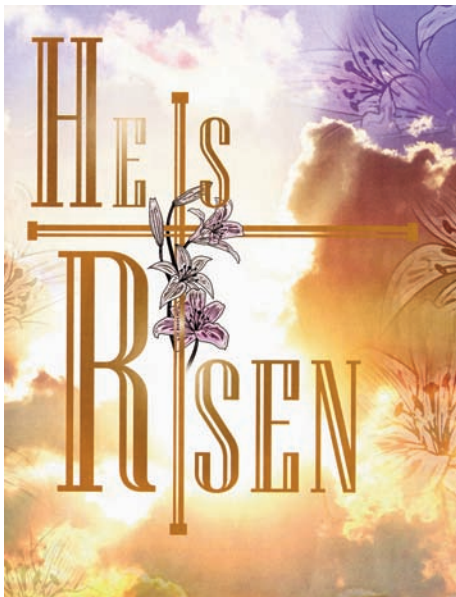
Saint Joseph

March 19, is the day that honors Saint Joseph, the carpenter from Nazareth, who was chosen to be the husband of the Virgin Mary. It is the custom to set up a "Saint Joseph's table." Townspeople load a large table with food, preparing special desserts, fruits and wine. They welcome everyone to the table....Not only people of our country honor the "Carpenter" from Nazareth - In Italy people wear something red on St. Joseph's Day just as the Irish wear something green on St. Patrick's Day...



Easter Sunday

This is our faith! Christ loved us so much that he gave us the gift of the Eucharist, he died for us, he rose for us, and he continues to guide us through his Holy Spirit. And nothing on this earth can separate us from this magnificent love. When we really believe this, we will live differently. We will really be Easter people.



PRAYER TO THE RISEN CHRIST

*Heavenly Father and God of mercy,
we no longer look
for Jesus among the dead,
for He is alive
and has become the Lord of life.
From the waters of death
you raise us with Him
and renew your gift of life within us.
Increase in our minds and hearts
the risen life
we share with Christ
and help us to grow as your people
toward the fullness of eternal life with you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

AMEN.

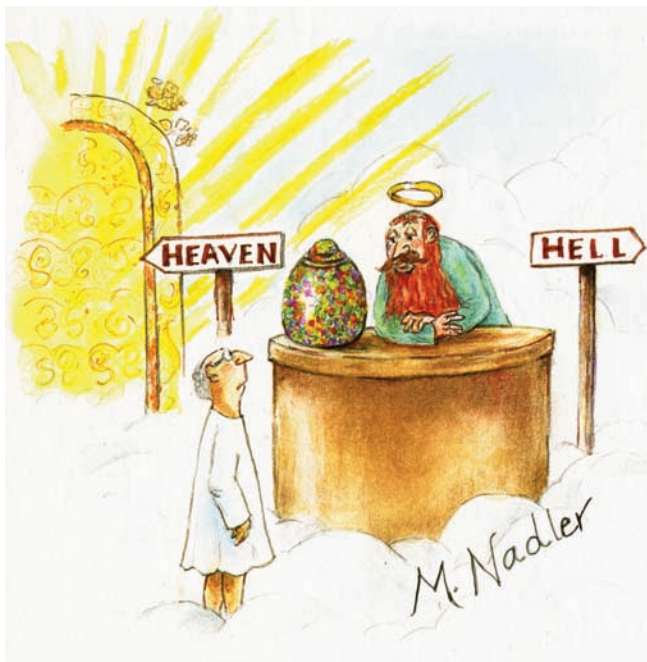
The Blessing of Easter Baskets



The blessing of the Easter Basket has been a cherished Catholic ritual for centuries among the families of Eastern European origin and adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom. On Holy Sat-

urday, families prepare their Easter Baskets to be later blessed at church. After Easter Sunday's Resurrection Mass, the family and guests would share this blessed fare and exchange good wishes.

The Christian significance of Easter is symbolized in the foods used for the Holiday feast. Baskets are lined with a white cloth and decorated with ribbons and greenery to symbolize Spring, renewal, and the Resurrection. Traditionally, the baskets would include: decorated hard-boiled eggs (representing Christ's Resurrection), lamb-shaped butter or sugar (representing Christ as the "Lamb of God"), bread (symbolic of Jesus as the "Bread of Life"), ham (symbolic of great joy and abundance), sausage (symbolic of God's favor and generosity), smoked bacon (symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy), some prefer lamb (representing Christ as the "Lamb of God"), salt (symbolic of prosperity and justice and to remind us "You are the salt of the earth"), cheese (symbolizes the moderation Christians should have at all times), horseradish & pepper (symbolic of the Passion of Christ and the bitter herbs of the Passover). A white candle is often inserted into the basket to represent Christ as the "Light of the World." Lastly, the basket is covered with linen symbolizing the covering of Christ's shroud.



"New system: Guess how many jelly beans."

BUNNY TAIL BONBONS

1 1/2 (4-oz.) white chocolate baking bars, melted according to package directions

1 (8-oz.) package cream cheese, softened

3/4 cup crushed coconut cookies

1 tablespoon coconut rum or water

1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

Parchment paper

1 1/2 cups shredded coconut



Beat chocolate and cream cheese at medium speed with a heavy-duty electric stand mixer until smooth. Add cookies and next 2 ingredients, beating just until blended. Spread in a parchment paper-lined 9-inch pie plate; cover and chill 2 hours.

Shape into 1-inch balls (about 2 tsp. per ball), and place in a single layer in a parchment paper-lined jelly-roll pan. Cover and chill 12 to 24 hours. Roll balls in coconut; chill 1 hour before serving. Refrigerate in a single layer in a container up to 1 week.

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Astronaut Gene Cernan, born March 14, 1934, was a Czecho-Slovakian. His mother's name was Rose Cihlar and her parents, Frank and Rose Cihlar both are listed as Bohemian in multiple censuses.

Astronaut Gene Cernan commanded the Apollo 17 mission to the moon (12-6-1972 to 12-19-1972). This was the first nighttime launch. Gene was the last to step off the moon's surface for the journey back home. Thus he was, as he titled his autobiography, "The last man on the moon." He often advocated for more support for future space missions, not wanting to forever be the last man on the moon. Gene Cernan passed away on January 16, 2017.

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Czech to English

Pust

velikonoce

Zeleny ctvrtek

Velky patek

Bila sobota

Hod Bozi velikonocni

vesele Velikonoce

velikonocni vajicko

kraslice

Lent, Fast

Easter

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter Day

Happy Easter

Easter egg

hand-painted Easter egg

FYI – 2017 Summer Special coming in May!!!

Spring has Sprung

Many of the Czech and Slovak traditions and customs originated in pagan times and later intertwined with Christian religious beliefs. Springtime pagan rituals usually involved some way of manipulating nature to make sure a bountiful harvest occurred.

Shrovetide usually marks the transition from winter to spring and occurs in the days leading up to Ash Wednesday. There are parties, dances, processions, and feasts leading up to a long period of fasting and reflection.

The second Sunday of Lent is referred to as "Roast Sunday" in which unripe grain ears or individual grain was used to prepare and preserve grain. After roasting, it was further treated and could be ground for flour or used for cooking in a soup.

The third Sunday of Lent was called "Sneezing Sunday" because on that day the Czechs held masses to avoid the plague. One of the first symptoms of the plague was excessive sneezing. The saying "God bless you," which we still wish a sneezing person, has its origin in the fear of the plague.

Matchmaking Sunday was the fourth Sunday in the middle of Lent. This was a time for the matchmaker to visit with the groom and the parents of the prospective bride in order to discuss courting and other matters. Special cakes were baked for the visitors.



Black or Death Sunday coincides with the fifth Sunday of Lent (often known as the Passion Sunday). The focus is to get rid of winter and welcome spring. Children of the village create a doll or puppet (Morena-old mother winter) out of rags and sticks. Singing winter carols or funeral processions songs, the children parade Morena to the river and throw her into the river, saying or singing good-bye to winter. If there was no river, the Morena was burned. On the return to the village, the children would sing springtime carols and pluck a branch from a flowering tree, bringing spring back into the village. The branch is placed into a vase of water in hopes of blooms by Easter.

The sixth Sunday of Lent is known as Flower Sunday. In many countries, palm leaves are blessed at the church; however, in the Czech Republic, pussy willows, wood, and water are taken to the church for blessings (pussy willows are one of the first bushes to bloom in the spring).

On White Sunday (The day before Easter), families are busy baking, and is considered a lucky day to plant. Farmers put ashes on their fields to ensure a good crop.

On Easter, all the fires in fireplaces are extinguished and a piece of firewood is taken to the church to be blessed at midnight. At the church, the firewood is lit from a blessed fire, brought home, and used to light all the hearths again.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

St. George Basilica and Convent

St. George Basilica and Convent are ancient Architectural Masterpieces of the Hradcany Hill. The Basilica of St. George is the best-preserved relic of Romanesque architecture not only in Prague, but in Bohemia as a whole. It was founded about 920 by Prince Vratislav I. In 973 a convent was founded in the framework of the church and the church itself was converted into a triplenaved basilica.

The facade of the church is decorated with a relief of St. George of the 18th cent. and with statues of Prince Vratislav and Princess Mlada of the 3rd quarter of the 17th century.

The Convent of St. George is the first convent to be built in Bohemia, was founded as a part of the Church of St. George in 937 by Prince Boleslav II and his sister Princess Mlada, who became its first abbess. In the Middle Ages a noteworthy scriptorium existed in the framework of the convent and numerous outstanding illuminated manuscripts, musical compositions and works of the arts and crafts originated here.

The original grave of Princess Mlada was found here in 1960 in the course of archeological research.

HLASY NARODA

St. George's Feast Day is April 23.



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 _____

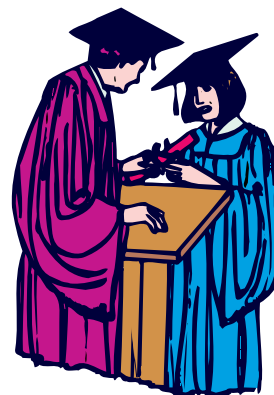
Social Security No. _____ Phone No. _____

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

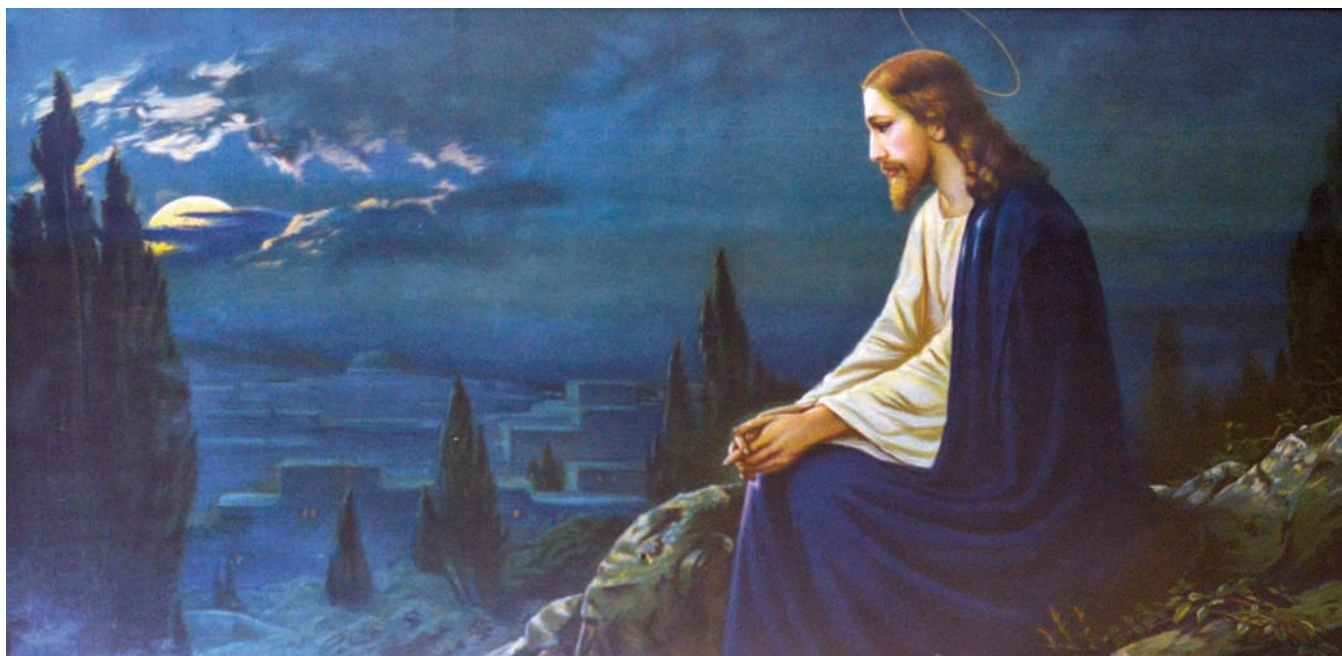
(216) 341-0444 FAX (216) 341-0711



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

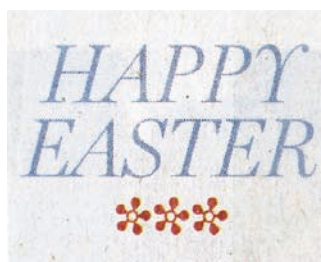
SINGLE PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE		
	Single Premiums per \$1,000	
ISSUE AGE	BAND 1 \$3,000- \$9,999	BAND 2 \$10,000- & over
46	\$354.68	\$352.18
47	\$364.87	\$362.37
48	\$375.28	\$372.78
49	\$385.98	\$383.48
50	\$396.99	\$394.49
51	\$408.27	\$405.77
52	\$419.81	\$417.31
53	\$431.57	\$429.07
54	\$443.53	\$441.03
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

PERIODICALS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH



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.



AND VESELE
VELIKONOCE
FROM THE
OFFICERS AND
STAFF OF THE
CZECH CATHOLIC
UNION!!!

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
Mary Ann Vent	Chicago, IL	Our Lady of the Mount	143	04-01-1938	05-07-2016	93
Albert Amigoni	Cleveland, OH	St. Joseph	156	07-01-2015	11-09-2016	66
Vaclav Kozumplik	Schwartz Creek, MI	St. Ann	5	05-01-1988	10-13-2016	87
Helen Lopez	Chicago, IL	St. Ann	117	11-01-1938	05-13-2014	93
Roger Spurlock	New York, NY	St. Ludmila	2	08-01-1989	12-02-2016	63

Total Death Claims Paid in 2016 \$206,573.44