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President's Message

Dear Members & Friends -

It is hard to believe that another year will be closing upon us. It has been a good year at CCU Life. Dividends will be mailed soon and we made it through another State of Ohio audit. We are looking forward to 2018 in which our 43rd Convention will be held. Many of our members will be participating as delegates and committee members. All of you should consider joining us during the Convention (September 30-October 2). Some days will be fun and some days will be business. The business days will insure that CCU Life continues on for many years. Our main concern is new members. As I have stressed in previous articles, it is imperative to add new members and increase our own policies. CCU Life offers a complete portfolio of quality and affordable programs to meet your financial needs. CCU Life consistently demonstrates financial stability and responsibility through prudent and experienced management of our assets. Profits are returned to members through annual dividends. Our rates are affordable and compare favorably with commercial insurance companies. CCU Life has no stockholders - it is owned and operated for the benefit of members and their families. Our members receive courteous and efficient service. Let's make 2018 a great year by purchasing an insurance policy or investing in an annuity CD.

In the meantime, enjoy the November/December holidays. Salute your veterans and current military members on Veterans Day. Celebrate Thanksgiving with family and a good turkey dinner. Observe Christmas by going to Mass and exchanging gifts with family and friends, but don't forget the real reason for the season - the birth of our Lord.

Thank you for your support during 2017 and if you need help from any of us, do not hesitate to call us during normal business hours.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Fraternally,
Robert L. Cermak
President

FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Emanuel, “God is with us.” That is what a couple in my parish named their newly born son. They had waited 15 long years since the birth of their first and truly see this new life as a concrete sign that “God is with us.” Now walking, he has been to Mass every Sunday of his young life. It gives me pride to know that the church and community are like a second home to him. And he is truly a reminder of God’s presence.

Annual celebrations of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year present us with the opportunity to reflect and celebrate on how God has manifested Himself over the past year. Like the above-mentioned couple, we can all identify many, many blessings. And thank God for them. In many ways, though, it has been a difficult year. Hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes around the globe and here in the United States dominated the news. We are reminded of how fragile and precious life is. We pause and reflect upon what our priorities in life should be, on what is really important. And we celebrate how charity, acts of kindness, and solidarity remind the suffering that “God is with us.”

Other crises are “man-made.” We witnessed yet more senseless terrorist attacks. The alarming threat of a nuclear war looms over us. We are shocked by thousands of refugees fleeing oppression and often being denied safe-haven in other countries or dying as they flee. The ugly face of racism has shown its face here in our country.

We are people of faith, courage, strength, and charity. May our lives help others to recognize and celebrate Emanuel, “God is with us.”

May God bless you and yours this Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s.

Fr. Joseph H. Callahan

THE CHARLES BRIDGE

Continued from September-October issue

The date construction began was incorrect in the last issue. Construction began in 1357

Statues on the south side of the bridge



1. St. Ives



2. Statue of Saints (left to right) Margaret, Barbara, Elizabeth



3. Statue of the Pietà (Lamentation of Christ)



4. Statue of St. Joseph



5. Statue of St. Francis Xavier

6. Statue of St. Christopher



7. Statue of St. Francis Borgia





8. Statue of St. Ludmila



9. Statue of St. Francis of Assisi

10. Statue of (left to right) Saints Vincent Ferrer and Procopius



11. Statue of St. Nicholas of Tolentino



12. Statue of St. Luthgard (Dream of St. Luthgard)



13. Statue of St. Adalbert

14. Statue of Saints (left to right) St. John of Matha and St. Felix of Valois — standing above enslaved Christians



15. Statue of St. Wenceslaus



New York, New York



Apologies are sent out to the Fascett Janos family.

In the September-October issue, there was an error. Newest member of St. Ludmila Society #2, pictured here again, is Trevor Vaughn Fascett Janos.

Cleveland, Ohio

Congratulations are sent out to Edward and Helen Bartkiewicz who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 16, surrounded by friends and family, including 6 children and their spouses, 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

They met at The Rollercade through a mutual friend in the early 40's. When Ed joined the U.S. Army Rangers during WWII, Helen worked at National Carloading and later for Cleveland Public Schools as a satellite chef/manager until her retirement. After his Army service, Ed worked in the tool and die industry at E W Ferry Screw Products in Brook Park, Ohio. Married Sept. 13, 1947 at St. Procop Parish (Cleveland), all their children attended school there. They both remained active members until it closed in 2009. They are currently members of St. Anthony Padua (Parma), where a mass of thanksgiving was celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017.

Many of the family members are members of St. Ann Society #11 of the Czech Catholic Union.

Best wishes are sent to the happy couple!!!

Submitted by Marjorie Juba (Daughter)



Cleveland, Ohio



In 1990 or 1991 the Posel published an article about an organization that matched people in the Czech Republic with people in the US to facilitate the exchange of ideas. I was always interested in my Czech heritage so I responded immediately. I soon began corresponding with Radka in Prague. Radka was a stay at home mom at the time. She responded to the organization so that she could keep using her English skills while she was out of the workforce. From the very first letter we both knew it was a perfect match. At first we wrote letters on paper and waited a month or more for it to be delivered. Seeing the Czech stamps in my mailbox was a thrill and I read every letter many, many times. It was a dream come true for me to visit Radka at her home in 1994. The picture of Radka's children and I was published in the Posel shortly after that trip. I was able to visit Radka a few more times in the Czech Republic. Soon our letters were replaced by email, then Skype and now WhatsApp. When Martin, her oldest son, was married in May I saw pictures and video of the wedding almost instantly. Our communication methods changed and allowed us to share more of our day to day lives. As we both had young children by this point we were unable to travel anymore.

This summer Radka and her youngest son came to the US for the first time. We had not seen each other in 19 years but it was as if no time at all had passed. We had a wonderful visit and have grown even closer over time. We have the same interests, hobbies and values. Many people have even said we look alike. We vowed we will not let so much time pass before our next visit.

Radka's son and my son began texting each other prior to their arrival. By the time they met they were like old friends. These boys will never write letters but they text each other frequently. Radka and I were encouraged to see the next generation continuing our friendship. We are hopeful that our sons will be lifelong friends too.

Thank you to the Czech Catholic Union for publishing that article all those years ago. It was life changing for me.

Michelle Glotzbach
St. Ann Society #11

Cleveland, Ohio

St. Joseph Society #156 meetings are at the Home Office. All members are welcome to attend.

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Regular meeting, Memorial Service for deceased members of St. Joseph's Society and light luncheon beginning at 1:00 pm.

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Regular meeting at 1:00 pm, election of officers and adult Christmas party with optional \$10 gift exchange.

Sunday, January 14, 2018

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 Kocub at 216-883-4760. For luncheon reservations call Jane at 216-341-0444.

There is no meeting in February 2018

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Annual Communion Breakfast. Celebration of Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes at 10:00 am followed by breakfast. 50 year members will be honored.

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In Appreciation...

St. Ann Society #11, Cleveland, Ohio - "Thank you for the high school grant. I am currently a senior at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, and am grateful for the opportunity to receive a Catholic education. The rigor and curriculum has greatly helped me prepare for college and adulthood, while keeping me focused on God. I appreciate your generous grant that helped make this experience possible."

Sincerely, Nicholas Glotzbach

Society #145, Cleveland, Ohio - "As my twin daughters enter into their last year of high school, I am so appreciative of your financial support. Thank you for being instrumental in the Catholic education both Mary and Clare have received these past four years. Your high school grant money has been a tremendous blessing!!! God Bless the Czech Catholic Union!!!!"

Sincerely, Janette Fiala
(mother of Mary & Sin Clare)

Society #145, Cleveland, Ohio - "I would like to thank the CCU Life Czech Catholic Union for the 2017 college grant that I received. I am putting it to good use as it helped me pay for my books and tuition this semester at Saint Xavier University. I will be studying communication sciences and disorders to become a speech pathologist. It is very much appreciated."

Thanks again, Nicole Fleck



St. Joseph Society #156, Cleveland, Ohio - Thank you for the high school scholarship. I am going to be a freshman at Trinity High School. I am very excited that I got this opportunity."

Thanks, John Hoelter

St. Joseph Society #156, Cleveland, Ohio - "We wanted to express our thanks as well. It was such a pleasant surprise to find out about the High School Scholarship. I had been a recipient a long time ago of a College scholarship and am so glad the program has continued."

Sincerely, Megan Hronek Hoelter

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At the Executive Board Meeting held on April 29, 2017, Policy No. GV 109 was approved:

Delegates of Convention

As written in

Czech Catholic Union, Articles of Incorporation Constitution and By-Laws,
Revised August 26, 2014

And stated in part:

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Article 1

Section 1 Delegates

Reference the above in Constitution & By-Laws and ADD the following paragraph:

...When Subordinate Societies, joint or otherwise fail to elect sufficient delegates and or alternate for the quadrennial session of the regular convention, the Executive Committee will assign sufficient delegates for the Subordinate Societies to be represented.

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Stamp Korner



Czech Republic
6 Crowns = 30¢



130 years of Czech Postal Bank
20 Crowns = \$1.00



Old Fashioned Pork Casserole

- 1/2 lb. margarine
- 2 (27 oz.) cans sauerkraut
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 (7 oz) can sliced mushrooms, drained
- 4 large potatoes, sliced
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- salt and pepper to taste
- 8 pork chops
- 3 Tbsp. caraway seed
- 1 onion, chopped

Melt margarine in a large frying pan. Drain sauerkraut and squeeze until dry. Add to skillet with the onion, mushrooms, sugar, salt and pepper. Fry until light brown. Place mixture into a 9 x 13-inch baking dish and set aside. Fry pork chops until brown on both sides and arrange over sauerkraut layer. Sprinkle with caraway seed, chopped onion, salt and pepper. Fry potato slices in pan. Layer over pork chops. Cover and bake in 350° oven for 1 hour or until tender.

Roast Goose

- 1 8 pound goose
- salt to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 2 cups water

Clean and wash goose. Sprinkle with salt and caraway seeds inside and outside. Pour 1 cup into a roasting pan, put in goose, breast side down; cover and roast in a 375° oven for 1 1/2 hours. Turn goose and roast uncovered for 1 hour longer. During the roasting, pierce skin several times. Skim off fat and add water as needed. Serves 6 to 8.

Czech Christmas Roll

- 1 cup butter at room temperature
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 (3-1/2 oz.) can flaked coconut (1 cup)
- 1 (12 oz.) jar apricot preserves
- 10 red candied cherries, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Beat butter until creamy. Mix in sour cream and salt. Add flour 1 cup at a time. Chill dough in refrigerator for 4 hours, or overnight.

Combine rest of ingredients. Preheat oven to 350. Cut dough into 4 equal parts. Roll each part out on waxed paper into 9x12 rectangle. Spread 1/4 filling on each roll to 2 inch plain pastry on long sides.

Roll jelly roll fashion on long sides toward empty pastry. Repeat with other 3 rolls.

Bake 45 minutes on greased baking sheet until gold in color. Transfer to cutting board while warm and slice 1/4 inch thick slices with electric knife.

Handle with care, these are very delicate and will crumble easily. Sift small amount confectioners sugar over all.

Makes 80 slices. These stay 3-4 months in freezer.

Chocolate Egg Nog

- 6 eggs
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 4 cups 2% chocolate milk, divided
- 3 cups chocolate ice cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- Optional toppings: whipped cream, ground nutmeg and/or chocolate curls

In a heavy saucepan, whisk eggs and sugar until blended; stir in 2 cups chocolate milk. Cook and stir over medium heat for 12-15 minutes or until mixture is just thick enough to coat a spoon and a thermometer reads at least 160°. Do not allow to boil. Immediately transfer to large bowl.

Stir in the ice cream, vanilla and nutmeg until blended. Add remaining chocolate milk. In a small bowl, beat cream until soft peaks form; stir into eggnog mixture. Transfer to a pitcher.

Refrigerate, covered, until cold.

Stir just before serving. If desired, serve with toppings.

Makes: 12 servings (2/3 cup each)

Noel Spritzer

- 2 cups chilled dry white wine, (or non alcoholic wine or apple juice)
- 1 cup chilled cranberry-apple juice drink
- 1 cup chilled sparkling water
- Apple slices, if desired
- Fresh mint, if desired
- Mix wine, juice drink and sparkling water.
- Serve over ice. Garnish with apple slices and mint.

Fact and Fiction



I figured that at age seven it was inevitable for my son to begin having doubts about Santa Claus. Sure enough, one day he said, "Mom, I know something about Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy."

Taking a deep breath, I asked him, "What is that?" he replied, "They're all nocturnal."

Life Insurance and Annuities - Who is your beneficiary?

It is not uncommon to meet a client who has life insurance and/or an annuity as part of their overall net worth. This is even the case regardless of the client's age, marital status or net worth.

Life insurance is a great way to create cash flow upon a person's death to pay final bills and expenses of a funeral. Plus, whole life insurance builds a cash value that can be accessed during a person's life for his or her needs. Lastly, at least in Ohio, unless you are extraordinarily wealthy, life insurance benefits are not subject to estate tax upon distribution.

Many clients also purchase an annuity during their lifetime. There are many types of annuities, each with their own features. Many annuities are similar to a certificate of deposit, in that you may be offered a better interest rate than keeping your funds in a checking account. However, you will not be able to access your funds for a certain period of time (known as the "surrender period") or you will be subject to a penalty. Every annuity's surrender period is a different length of time.

If you have life insurance and/or an annuity as an asset, it is very important to confirm that you have a beneficiary listed. The beneficiary has no current ownership in your life insurance or annuity, but will receive that asset upon your death. For instance, if I have a CCU Life insurance policy and I name my sister as beneficiary, then the Czech Catholic Union has to pay my sister the death benefit upon presentation of a death certificate.

But, if there is no beneficiary listed for either life insurance or an annuity, then the death benefits must be paid to a representative of your estate. What this means is that the Probate Court will need to be involved with the transfer of this asset. Each state has its own Probate Court rules and regulations and in some jurisdictions the probate process is easier than in others. It will save your beneficiaries a lot of time and aggravation to name a beneficiary now.

Please be advised that Christina M. Hronek is licensed to practice in the State of Ohio only. The laws of your state as they relate to life insurance and/or annuities and probate may be different. This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

Christina M. Hronek
HRONEK LAW, LLC

****As of June 26, 2017, please be advised
my address is changing****

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Cat)

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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.



Czech to English Shopping

Co toto stojí?	tso to-to sto-ye?	How much does this cost?
Chtel(a) bych...	khtyell(a) bikh...	I would like...
Mate...?	maa-te...?	Do you have...?
Jenom se divam.	ye-nom se dyee-wahm	I'm just looking.
Berete kreditni karty?	be-re-te kred-it nyee karti	Do you take credit cards?
V kolik otevirate/zavirate?	v kolik o-te-vee-ruh-te/za vee rah-te?	What time do You open/close?
tento	ten-to	this one
tamten	tam-ten	that one
drahy	dra-hee	expensive
levny	lev-nee	cheap
velikost	vel-ik-ost	size
bily	bee-lee	white
cerny	cher-nee	black
cervený	cher-ven-ee	red
zlutý	zhlu-tee	yellow
zelený	zel-en-ee	green
modry	mod-ree	blue
hnedy	hnyed-ee	brown

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Why Money Is Green

Why don't ATMs spew purple bills? Because of long-lasting dye. When paper notes were introduced in 1929, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing opted to use green ink because the color was relatively high in its resistance to chemical and physical changes. Also, at the time green pigment was available in large quantities for quick printing.

Annuity CD Special

This Offer Ends December 31, 2017

Any new Annuity CD of \$5,000 or more (maximum \$100,000) will earn an extra 1/2% bonus for the first 6 months with a 2 year maturity. After the first 6 months, the rate will return to 2 1/2% for members and 1 1/2% for non-members. After that, rates are subject to change. If you already have an Annuity CD, with CCU Life, or if this is your first Annuity CD, you will need to fill out the application on the next page and return it to us with your check, within the above-mentioned time frame. Applications received from the 1st thru the 15th of the month will be effective the 1st of the following month.

Our annuity CD's are a great place to earn a higher return without having to claim interest each year as income. They are tax deferred until distribution. CCU Life is not a bank, but a very solvent fra-



ternal insurance organization. Therefore, there is no FDIC insurance but your investment is backed by our surplus and investments which have grown to over \$19 million. CCU Life's solvency ratio is 117%, one of the most solvent insurance companies in our industry. CCU Life has been in business for over 138 years.

We hope many of you will take advantage of this great offer. If you are not a current member and would like to become one in order to earn the higher rate, just call the Main Office for an application, or print one from our website (www.czechccu.org). If you have any questions about this offer or any of our other products, please call the Main Office during normal business hours (9AM-2PM, Monday-Thursday). For application, call the Main Office or see July-August Posel.

All Saints' Day November 1

This day has been associated in Czech legend with ghosts and wayward souls. In ancient times, when death entered a peasant's house, all doors and windows were opened at the moment of passing. Mirrors were turned to the wall so that the soul would not be captured in the room. The last rite included a funeral banquet. The vigil lasted until the burial in order to protect the dead soul from evil spirits. Later, these pagan customs were Christianized and people were encouraged to pray and light candles instead of conjuring up spirits. The candles were to symbolize the eternal light for which the soul yearns.

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FUN WITH THE SAINTS

Do You Know: Who Is The Patron Saint

Of RTA Garagemen:	St. Barnabas
Of Jewelers:	St. Bede
Of Mortgage Payers:	St. Bernadette
Of Causeway Users:	St. Bridget
Of Sweater Makers:	St. Casimir
Of Ballroom Dancers:	St. Catherine of Aragon
Of Campers:	St. Colman
Of Shoppers:	St. Frances De Sales
Of Wimps:	St. Francis of Assisi
Of Bald People:	St. Hedwig
Of Boaters:	St. Joan of Arc
Of Chocolate Milk Drinkers:	St. John Bosco
Of Weight Watchers:	St. Josephat
Of Pool Players:	St. Julie Billiard
Of Lost Boys:	St. Ladislaus
Of Travel Agents:	St. Martin of Tours
Of Lawyers:	Our Lady of Good Counsel
Of Candy Makers:	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Of Gas Pumpers:	St. Phillip
Of Macho Police:	St. Procop

• • • • •

All Souls Day in the Czech Republic November 2

Every year, All Souls Day in the Czech Republic is connected with the remembrance of our relatives and friends that are deceased.

Dusicky - or "Souls" - as it is called in Czech is an annual pilgrimage that has taken place since pagan times. People travel to the cemeteries of their most beloved.

Olsany Cemetery - Olsanske hrbitovy

The Olsany Cemetery was created in 1680 to accommodate plague victims who died en masse in Prague in 1680 and needed to be buried quickly. In 1787, when the plague again struck the city, Emperor Joseph II banned the burial of bodies within Prague city limits and Olsany Cemetery was declared the central graveyard for hygiene purposes.



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Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard,
but always near,
still loved, still missed
and very dear.

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.

Veterans Day November 11

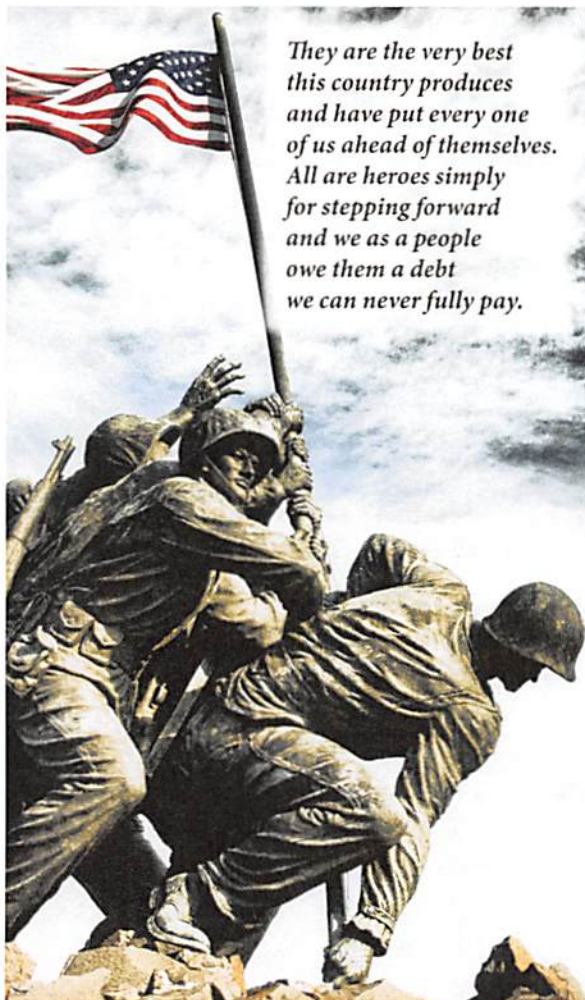


Dear Veterans, Those of us who have not served will never fully understand the sacrifices you've made both in times of peace and war.

We will never fully understand what you were required to do or how you were able to do it. We will never fully understand the depth of your scars.

But what we can offer you is this: We See You and We Send You love that is patient, gentle and healing. With Blessings and Gratitude, we ask that you Remember You are Loved.

Anonymous



*They are the very best
this country produces
and have put every one
of us ahead of themselves.
All are heroes simply
for stepping forward
and we as a people
owe them a debt
we can never fully pay.*

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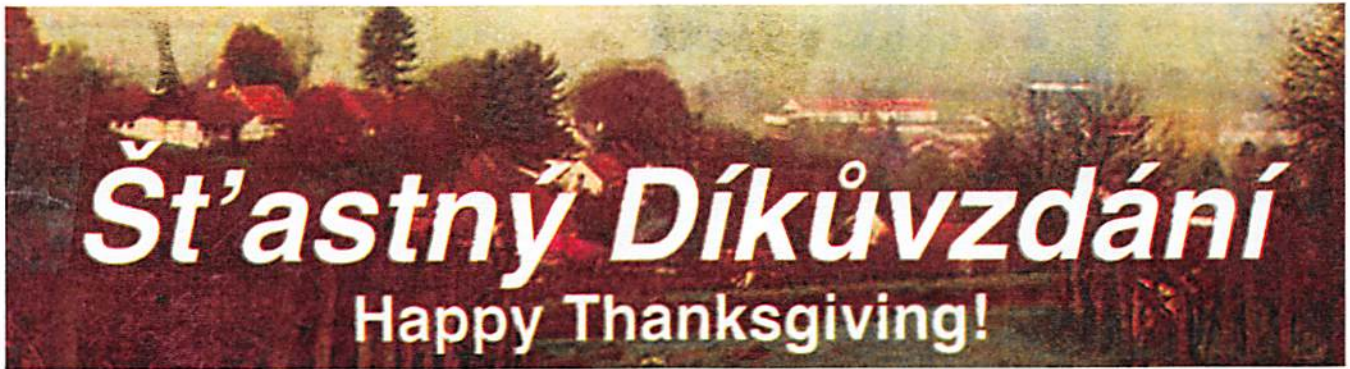
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Robert L. Gernak Robert L. Gernak, President Date: 9-12-2017

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 3 of 4) PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com



Mayflower Presidents

In 1602, 102 brave men, women, and children crossed the Atlantic Ocean on a ship called the Mayflower. They sailed into what is now the harbor at Plymouth, Massachusetts, never dreaming their descendants would be future presidents and statesmen.

Today, the Mayflower Society and other genealogy groups estimate over a million Americans may be related to one of the Mayflower pilgrims. Among identified descendants are eight U.S. Presidents:

President John Adams - Descended from John Alden and Priscilla Mullins

President John Quincy Adams - Descended from John Alden

President Zachary Taylor - Descended from William Brewster and Isaac Allerton

President and General Ulysses S. Grant - Descended from Richard Warren

President James A. Garfield - Descended from John Billington

President Franklin D. Roosevelt - Descended from Richard Warren, Isaac Allerton, Degory Priest, Francis Cooke, and John Howland

President George H.W. Bush - Descended from Francis Cooke

President George W. Bush - Descended from Francis Cook, Henry Sampson, and John Howland

CSA

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Czech Blessing

May you always have kolaches,
 May you sing when things are dark.
 May you polka with abandon,
 May sweet music fill your heart.
 May the fruit of all your labors,
 Keep your mind and body strong.
 May you raise a glass to honor,
 Days to come and days long gone.
 May you know that time brings roses,
 May your laughter fill the hall.
 May the good Lord bless and keep you,
 And bring joy to one and all.

Sokol Minnesota



Lord, Thank you for the many blessings You bestow on us and the gifts You give us, which we may share with others. A gift of a meal, a gift of friendship and a gift of peace are among the things that You have given us which we may give to others.

Free Range | Bill Whitehead





The colorful turkeys we drew in kindergarten don't resemble the fowl on our modern Thanksgiving tables. Our popular idea of what a turkey looks like seems to be stuck in the past, and entirely based on elementary school history books filled with pictures of smiling pilgrims and fluffy black turkeys showing off a peacock-like display of tail feathers.

But early North Americans would see today's turkeys as gargantuan, pale mutants in comparison to the wild turkeys they knew.

The modern domesticated turkey has its roots in southern Mexico, with the first evidence of domesticated birds popping up in the archaeological record between 200 B.C. and 500 A.D. Early European settlers would have seen the turkey as a common North American bird.

Like wild turkeys today, these birds were dark in color, sporting barred white feathers with a green and bronze iridescent sheen. They were sleek and quick, and could fly short distances when they needed to.

Run the clock forward and generations of breeding domesticated turkeys have produced birds that are twice as big and stark white. Because of their oversized, heavy breasts they cannot fly. Many commercially raised turkeys on industrial farms cannot even mate properly, leaving the turkey industry almost completely dependent on artificial insemination.

Why have we seen such changes? Consumer demand and technological innovation.

Turkeys with large breast and thigh muscles are prized by farmers because they're the most valuable parts of the bird at sale. Birds that presented these traits were selected to breed by farmers, increasing the size of birds through generations.

The color of the birds changed too -- dark colored pin feathers left over from plucking are far less desirable to the consumer than a clean stretch of pink skin. Technological advances have allowed for generations of turkeys to be bred larger at a faster rate.

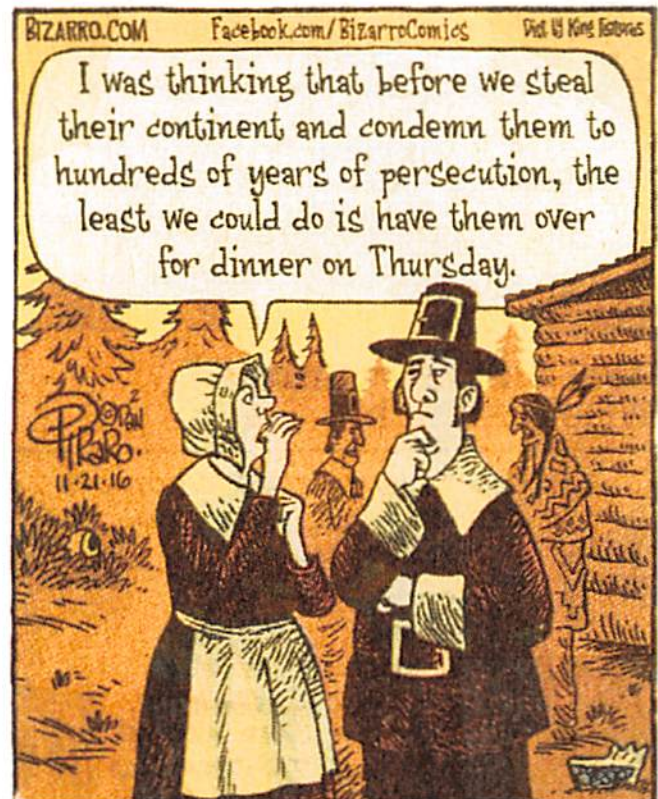
The average turkey today grows to be twice as heavy as a turkey in 1960, and in half the time. Your store-bought Thanksgiving turkey may not look it, but it's a genetically engineered modern marvel.



MAY YOU NEVER FORGET WHAT IS WORTH REMEMBERING, NOR EVER REMEMBER WHAT IS BEST FORGOTTEN.

Blessing

Bizarro | Dan Piraro



The Blessing

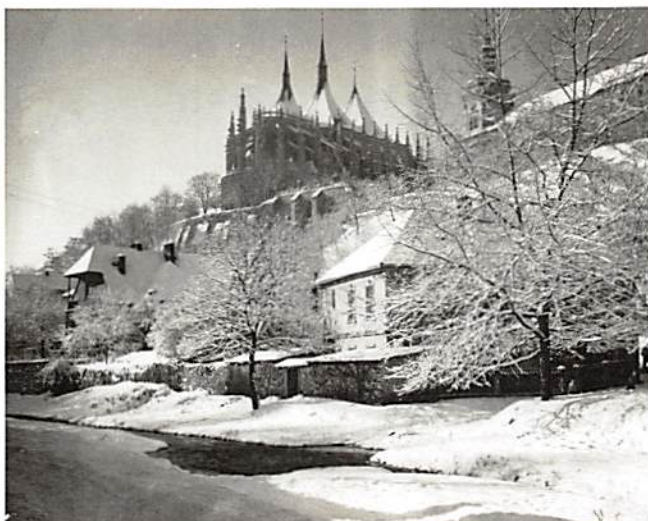
Joan invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six year old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," Joan answered.

The girl thought for a minute, then bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

St. Barbara's Church



Winter scene of St. Barbara's Church located in Kutna Hora, Czech Republic.

St. Barbara was born in and also died in Turkey. Her feastday is December 4.



Front view of St. Barbara's Church

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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.

St. Nicholas Day

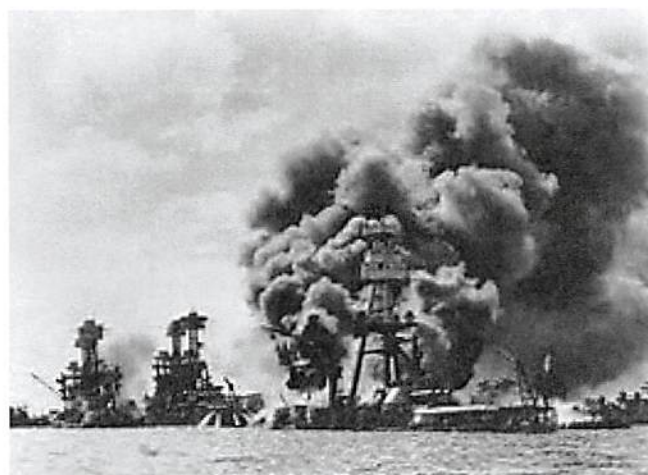
Traditionally, the Czech Christmas season begins on St. Nicholas Eve, the night of December 5th. Great anticipation awaits the arrival of St. Nicholas by the children. Traditionally, St. Nicholas gave small gifts of fruits, nuts, perniks (gingerbread cookies baked in intricately carved wood forms of molds) and candy. Many times pieces of coal, onions or potatoes were also given to the children who were naughty. Today, many Americans of Czech descent hang their stockings up on St. Nicholas Eve.



St. Nicholas Church in Prague, Czech Republic.

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Remembrance



This United States Navy photo shows three United States battleships hit during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. From left, they are the USS West Virginia, USS Tennessee and USS Arizona

Immaculate Conception December 8



Blessed Art Thou, O Virgin Mary,
By The Lord, The Most High God,
Above All Women, Upon the Earth.



Festive Flower

December 12 is **National Poinsettia Day!** Plant the seeds of knowledge with these floral facts.

- Red is the traditional holiday color, but there are more than 100 varieties of poinsettia. New hues this year from horticulture supplier C. Raker & Sons include Gold Rush and Christmas Beauty Marble
- In Mexico, poinsettias aren't just for Christmas - they're grown year-round and can be as tall as 16 feet.
- Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not poisonous.

OTCE NAS

CZECH SONG SUNG IN CHURCH

Otce Nas vsylys nas, zachovej nam narod nas.
Zustan s nami do skonani, Otce vsylys nas.
V Uzkosti Sve k Tobe volame, ruce svoje k nebi
zvedame.

Neopustej nasi drahou vlast, vroucne Tebe zadame.
(Repeat: Otce Nas)

Maria Maticko, narod cesky Mocne chran
Zustan Matkou lidu svemu, nad nim drz svou dlan.
Vzpomen jak te lid nas v lasce mnel, vsyval Te a vrouc-
ne pisne pel.

Pro tu lasku, odpust mnohy hrich, neopust nas v dobach
zlych.

(Repeat Maria Maticko)

Knize nas, shledni k nam, zahynouti nedej nam.
Chran nam v miru, zem i viru, Svaty Vaclave.
Tisic let jsi chranil narod svuj, prosime i dal ho
opatruj,

Vire sve a vlasti verny lid, at je stasten, at ma
klid.

(Repeat Knize nas)

OTCE NAS

(ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

Our Father hear us, save your people.
Stay with us til the end of time. Father hear us.
In agony we call upon you, our hands lifted heavenward.
Don't abandon your loving people. Tenderly we beg
you.

Our Mother, Maria, strongly protect your Czech
people.

Remain the Mother of your people, over us extend your
hand.

Remember how your people have loved you, prayed
and lovingly sang songs to you.

Because of this love forgive our many sins, don't aban-
don us in evil times.

Our Prince, gather us, don't let us perish.

Saint Vaclav protect us on earth in peace and faith.

You protected your people a thousand years, we
beg you to continue your protection.

The people are faithful to their beliefs and country.
Let there be happiness. Let there be peace.

Family Circus | Bil Keane



"Putting Baby Jesus
in swaddling clothes
was the first Christmas
present wrapping."

Prayer to the Virgin of Guadalupe

*O Mother of the True God and Mother of the Church,
grant peace, justice and prosperity to our people;
for we entrust to your care all that we have and all that we are.*

Our Lady and Mother, hold us always with your loving hand.

Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, intercede with the Lord that he may instill a hunger for holiness in the whole people of God.

Grant to our homes the grace of loving and respecting life in its beginnings with the same love with which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God.

Mother of Fair Love, protect our families and bless the upbringing of our children.

Our hope, look upon us with compassion, teach us to go continually to Jesus and, if we fail, help us to rise again.

*Most holy Mother, with our hearts free from evil and hatred, we will be able to bring to all true joy and true peace, which come to us from your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Pope St. John Paul II, 1979
Feast Day is December 12.



Nativity set

St. Francis of Assisi, in 1223, celebrated Christmas by arranging a manger filled with hay in a hilltop cave in Greccio. Men, women, and children from the area also came to celebrate. Some of Francis' brothers and local villagers portrayed Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. Animals were part of the scene as well.

The Incarnation - Christmas, when God became one of us - was a very important part of Francis' spirituality. He wanted everyone to understand the importance of Christmas as deeply as he did so he re-created Bethlehem using real people, a real manger, a real ox and ass, and real shepherds.

Thus began the tradition of the crib scene or creche, the French word for cradle.



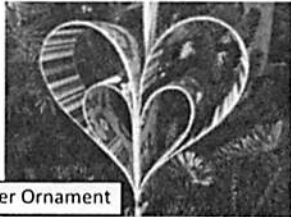
Christmas Crib in the Church of the Assumption, in Usti nad Labem, Czech Republic.

Czech Christmas Ornaments

The Czech Republic is the source of many traditional arts and crafts, including stunning glass work, wood carving, crystal beadwork, ceramics and cornhusk crafts. Woodblock printing, textiles, ironwork, and hand-dipped candles all are traditional Czech arts as well, going back centuries in the self-sufficient, historic region.



Corn Husks



Paper Ornament

The area includes folk art destinations Bohemia and Moravia, the latter famed for its paper and glass stars, many of which are modeled as Christmas ornaments.

Texas Czech Heritage Society

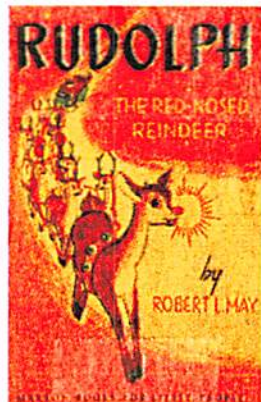
Holiday Music



Until about 800 years ago, people did not sing many religious songs. Most Christian music was serious and sung in Latin. Then some Catholic Church leaders, such as St. Francis of Assisi began urging people to sing joyful religious songs in their own languages. The Catholic Church began putting on religious plays with music. Much of that music, such as "The First Noel," is still popular today. Until about the 1500s, most winter holiday music written in Europe was about the birth of Christ. Some holiday songs were also written about feasting and celebrating.

In the mid-1800s, an Anglican priest translated more than 400 hymns into English and changed the music to make them easier to sing. Many of these hymns are sung as Christmas carols today. They include "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "Good King Wenceslaus" and "Good Christian Men, Rejoice." The words to the much-loved carol "Silent Night" were written by Joseph Mohr, an Austrian Catholic priest, in 1816. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was written in 1939 by Bob May, an ad writer for a department store, Montgomery Ward. Composer Jay Livingston and writer Ray Evans wrote "Silver Bells" in 1951 for a movie starring comedian Bob Hope.

Fun Fact: According to the Guinness Book of World Records, "White Christmas" is the biggest-selling holiday song of all time.



Why is Jesus Better than Santa Claus?

Santa lives at the North Pole ... **JESUS is everywhere.**
 Santa rides in a sleigh ... **JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.**

Santa comes but once a year ... **JESUS is an ever present help.**

Santa fills your stockings with goodies ... **JESUS supplies all your needs.**

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited ... **JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.**

You have to wait in line to see Santa ... **JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.**

Santa lets you sit on his lap ... **JESUS lets you rest in His arms.**

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?" ... **JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too.**

He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly ... **JESUS has a heart full of love.**

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO ... **JESUS offers health, help and hope.**

Santa says "You better not cry" ... **JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."**

Santa's little helpers make toys ... **JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.**

Santa may make you chuckle but ... **JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.**

While Santa puts gifts under your tree ... **JESUS became our gift and died on a tree.**

We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas.

JESUS is still the reason for the season.

Yes, JESUS is better, He is even better than Santa Claus.

Merry CHRISTmas!

-Author unknown



Vesele Vanoce Stastny Novy Rok



Merry Christmas Happy New Year

May you be blessed with the peaceful spirit of Christmas now and throughout the year

from the Officers, Directors and Staff of the Czech Catholic Union



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.



**The Candy Cane:
A Symbol of Christ**

Candy canes are a colorful and popular part of the Christmas observance. We can learn about their origin and how they serve as a symbol of Christ:

The hard candy reminds us that Jesus is our ROCK, strong and dependable (Psalm 31:3).

Peppermint flavor recalls the gift of spices from the wise men (Matthew 2:11).

White stands for Jesus as the holy, sinless Son of God (John 1:7).

Red represents God's love for us, so great that He sent His son to save us, and for Jesus' love in giving His life for us on the cross on which He died (John 19:1-30).

The cane is shaped like a staff used by shepherds - Jesus is our Good Shepherd and we are His flock (John 10: 1-18, 27-30).

The cane can also form the letter J - Jesus, our Savior (Matthew 1:21).

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
Helen Pluhacek	Omaha, NE	St. Ludmila	46	12-01-1935	01-11-2015	95
Rita Healy	Cleveland, OH	Home Office	145	12-01-1942	05-27-2017	93
Maria Davies	Cleveland, OH	St. Elizabeth	10	05-01-1966	06-17-2017	51
Adeline Richards	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	1	02-01-1940	07-19-2017	93
Monica Westell	Chicago, IL	St. Ann	117	05-01-1951	06-26-2017	84
James Wichita	Omaha, NE	St. Ludmila	46	10-01-1948	07-26-2017	82
Jeanne Zobl	Cedar Rapids, IA	Blessed Virgin Mary	119	06-01-1995	08-26-2017	92

TOTAL DEATH CLAIMS PAID IN 2017 \$240,483



Bůh se stal člověkem
God Became Man