

# Posel

*česká katolická jednota*

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*Jefferson Memorial - Flowering Cherry Trees  
at the Tidal Basin, Washington, DC*

# POSEL

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## President's Message

Dear Members and Friends -

As many of you know, the Czech Catholic Union (CCU Life) holds a national convention every four years where we discuss and make decisions regarding the governance and future of our organization. With the States that we do business in watching us closer, the convention has become a very important event. Some of the most important items that we do at the convention are the election of our National Board of Directors and Officers, update our official bylaws and provide information to our delegates to take back to their societies regarding financial and fraternal operations.

Our home office staff and the Board of Directors have been preparing for this event for quite a while already and much more time will be needed as the event draws closer. There has been information in past issues of the POSEL and more deadlines, etc. will be in this and future issues.

We still need additional delegates to fill the needs of the convention. Please consider being part of the convention. The delegates represent their society in determining the future of the CCU. We look forward to this event which will not be all work. We set aside time for good fellowship and getting to know each other better.

Aside from the convention, one of the primary important part of our business is premium income. The income derived from policy sales is of primary concern to us. New sales of policies and our annuity CD's generate profits which increase our surplus which ultimately could lead to increased dividends. Each year we declare our dividends and I am sure we all would appreciate our policies to increase even more than they have in the past. To have bigger dividends, we need a bigger surplus, and to have a bigger surplus we need more premium income. We are a strong organization financially so it is worth your investment in our future.

Our life insurance for members and their families remains a benefit that we offer at affordable rates and our Annuity CD's offer some of the best rates available. We urge you to review your current policies and contact the home office to learn how affordable our insurance rates are. If the opportunity arises, mention the CCU Life products to your friends and relatives. Remember you do NOT have to be Czech or Catholic to join our family.

In closing I would like to wish all of you a Happy and Blessed Easter and hope you all enjoy a good piece of Sekanice with your Easter meal.

Fraternally,  
Robert L. Cermak  
President

## Dear Friends,

My earliest memories of being in church are of the Holy Week services. I especially remember Holy Thursday night. Beautiful music, flowers, incense, and the procession with the Blessed Sacrament not only touch all of the senses, but engulf the participants in beauty and mystery.

Many years later and now as a priest, I find myself reflecting more on the foot washing ceremony at the Holy Thursday celebration. I contemplate our Lord humbling himself and washing the feet of his closest companions. And they themselves were humbled by this simple, genuine gesture. For me, the foot washing captures the dynamic of the relationship of pastor and parishioner. It is the faith and commitment of the people that inspire and motivate me in my priesthood. Washing the feet is a gesture of admiration, respect and gratitude. I get a bit emotional just writing about it!

Though they are not holy days of obligation, I hope that everyone will be able to participate in the Holy Week services Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Be engulfed by the beauty and mystery of the celebrations. Be motivated to respond to Christ's love even more with your commitment to imitate Him and serve Him in others.

Easter Blessings!  
Fr. Joseph Callahan

## In Appreciation

Czech School, Cedar Rapids, IA - "We very much appreciate your patience in accepting this delayed note of thanks. As we reflect on an active and busy Czech School & Adult Czech Language 2017, we wish to thank you, very much, for your generosity and kindness. Your contribution received last June is very much appreciated. We look forward to begin meeting soon to plan for 2018 and the 149th consecutive year of Czech School in Cedar Rapids. Thank you again and all the very BEST!"

Sincerely, Julie Wiedner  
Secretary, Czech School Board



## Cherry Blossom Trees and Festival.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from the mayor of Tokyo to the city of Washington DC. In a simple ceremony on March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Herron Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first two trees from Japan on the north bank of the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park. In 1915, the U.S. Government sent a gift of flowering dogwood trees to the people of Japan. In 1981, the cycle of giving came full circle. Japanese horticulturists were given cuttings from the trees to replace some cherry trees in Japan which had been destroyed in a flood.

Today the festival runs from March 20-April 15, and welcomes more than 1.5 million people to the city.



# The Seating Arrangement of the Last Supper and Why Da Vinci Got it Wrong

With Easter fast approaching, Christians are reminded to reflect upon the events of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, with the significance of the Last Supper indubitably brings to mind Leonardo Da Vinci's epic mural painting (1498) of the same name. There has been much speculation over the significance of the seating arrangement, including who attended and many myths associated with the painting have risen. Thus it is important to remember that Da Vinci's painting is meant as an artist's portrayal of Jesus' last meal and not of a historically accurate composition.

According to the four canonical Gospels, the Last Supper took place at the end of the week. The traditional seating of guests at a Passover meal would not have been at a long table with the host, Jesus at the center as Da Vinci depicted. Actually, Jesus and His Apostles would not have sat on chairs at a table at all. They would have been reclined on the grounds or on mats and pillows, leaning on their left elbow allowing them to eat with their right hand. Their legs would have been stretched out behind them. In typical fashion at the time, the table, called a triclinium, would have been U-shaped with the participants lying on one side on the outside of the table allowing the inside of the table to be open for servers. As the host of the feast, Jesus would have been seated second to the left, with the guest of honor on his left (Judas), and a trusted confidant to his right (John). The seating would continue

with the most important guests continuing to be seated on the left, progressing around the table, with the least important sitting on the far right. The servant would occupy the last position closest to the door for quick access to more food. In Jesus' last meal, that seat though was thought to have been occupied by Peter instead. Why then would Jesus' betrayer be the guest of honor while His trusted apostle Peter be seated at the lowest seat?

Peter's place at the lowest setting would certainly correlate with scripture. It would then also have been Peter's duty to wash the guest's feet, but in yet another lesson on humility, Jesus

took Peter's place and washed the feet of His disciples. Scripture goes on to tell us that John the beloved was seated to Jesus' right as John leaned on the chest of Jesus to ask of the identity of the betrayer (John 13.25). Judas was seated to the left of Jesus, as they both ate from the same bowl (Matthew 26.23). The Gospel of John suggests that Peter was across from John, as he had to signal to John to ask Jesus who would betray Him (John 13.24). Jesus also feeds Judas the "sop" which was dipped bread held exclusively for the guest of honor. Did Jesus do this in one last effort for Judas to contemplate betraying Him? Or did He Place Judas near so that he could discretely say to him "What you are to do, do quickly." (John 13.27)?

HLASY NARODA

## WHY DO WE CALL IT...

A "BUCK"? Because in the 1700s, trappers could sell a single buckskin for one dollar.

THE "FUZZ"? Because London bobbies once wore fuzzy helmets.

THE "LIMELIGHT"? Because theater spotlights used to burn lime to create light.

## Everybody, somebody, anybody, and nobody.

This is the story of four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's

job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. Consequently, it wound up that Nobody told Anybody, so Everybody blamed Somebody.

## Blind, Blonde & Brave

A blind man walks into a bar, taps the man next to him, and says,

"Hey wanna hear a blonde joke?"

The man says back to the blind man, "Look buddy, I'm blonde. The man behind me is a 400-pound professional wrestler and he is blonde. The bouncer is blonde. The man sitting over to your left is also blonde. Still wanna tell that blonde joke?"

The blind man is silent for a moment and then says, "Nah, I wouldn't want to have to explain it five times."

# Convention Souvenir Program

Dear Members & Friends -

The 43rd General Quadrennial Convention of the Czech Catholic Union will be held in Cleveland September 29th-October 2nd, 2018. The celebration will begin with the St. Wenceslaus Day Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church and dinner at Bohemian National Hall on Saturday, September 29th. On Sunday we will have registration and a President's Reception. Monday will be our Fun Day with the entire day being spent touring Amish country south of Cleveland. On Tuesday, we will begin with Mass and then the officers and delegates will meet to mark the 139th anniversary of the founding of the Czech Catholic Union and set our course for the next four years. The day will end with a banquet at the Knights of Columbus Grand Ballroom in Garfield Heights, Ohio.

To commemorate this event, we will publish a Souvenir Program Book, which is presented to all our delegates, friends and sponsors throughout the United States. We are inviting you to be a part of this book by having your greetings, business ad, congratulatory message, or in memoriam appear in it and show your proud Czech heritage.

Sponsorship levels are Platinum, Diamond, Gold and Silver as detailed on the form below.

Please consider being a part of the Czech Catholic Union's Souvenir Program Book by completing the form below. A separate form should be completed for each sponsorship and returned to our office by July 1, 2018 with your payment.

Thank you very much for helping to make the 43rd General Convention a success. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call the Home Office during regular business hours. Thank you.

The Convention Committee

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## CZECH CATHOLIC UNION 2018 Convention Sponsorship

Platinum	Diamond	Gold	Silver
Half Page 4 1/2" x 3 3/4"	Quarter Page 4 1/2" x 1 7/8"	Eighth page 2 1/4" x 1 7/8"	1 Line
\$100	\$50	\$25	\$10

Plus Business Ad \$25.00 per Ad	Business Ad: Send photo ready artwork
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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
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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



## Safekeeping your Important Documents

I am hoping that most of you reading this already have prepared (and signed) a Will, Power of Attorney and maybe even a Trust. document. A question I always get from my clients is: now what do I do with these documents? If you are having the same questions, this article is for you.

Before we get to the subject of storing, there are certain people who need to be given a copy of these documents. First, the healthcare power of attorney and living will should be given to your primary care physician. At your next office visit, bring these documents and have your doctor's office make a copy for your chart. That way if there is an emergency, your doctor will have your power of attorney's contact information. Next, give your financial power of attorney to your accountant, financial planner and local bank branch. Because of the prevalence of fraud and elder financial abuse, it is very difficult for a power of attorney to act on your behalf unless you physically give your power of attorney to the bank or financial planner.

Now, on to safe keeping. My preference is to keep your documents in your possession, in a safe place, in your house. The perfect location would be a fireproof/water proof lockable safe or other type of box. Then you would tell your Power of Attorney, Trustee or Executor how to get into this safe or box when needed (and maybe even provide them with a key). The advantage to having documents at home is that they can be accessed on the weekend and at night, when other places are closed.

Keep in mind that it is possible to record or deposit any type of estate planning document you have, either with your county recorder or with your local probate court.

However, in the event you update your document, it would need to be re-recorded or re-deposited. It may be easy to forget to do this.

Another option is a safe deposit box. These used to be very popular, but not as of late. First, not all bank branches have safe deposit boxes and there is typically a fee to maintain one. Next, you cannot simply give another person the key and expect they can access it. If you want someone else to access this box, you have to list this person as a co-owner on the box. This is a step that is often forgotten and thus the box cannot even be opened when needed.

So, make sure to give these documents to these important people and then keep them in a safe place!

*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 this subject may be different. This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.*

Christina M. Hronek

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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.



We are still looking for delegates for the upcoming Convention in September-October 2018. Please call the Home Office if you are interested.

**DEADLINE IS MAY 1, 2018.**

• • • • •

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The article in the January-February 2018 Posel titled, It's not the number of candles, was from an interview with actor Ted Danson.

Sorry for his name being omitted.

## Dividends

All the 2017 Dividends have been mailed out. We are asking our members if they know of the whereabouts of the members listed below. Thank you for your help!!!

NAME	SOCIETY	LAST KNOWN CITY, STATE
Jason Berger	7	Las Vegas, NV
Dawn McSheehy (Beard)	156	Jacksonville, FL
Mary A. Brown	3	St. Louis, MO
Anonette Cirino	1	Huntersville, NC
Michael Gierut	1	Huntersville, NC
Victoria Goldrick	156	Mayfield Heights, OH
Helen Herman	5	Racine, WI
Julia Mate	18	Harvard, IL
Daniel Murray	145	Palatine, IL
Marilyn Pock	3	Racine, WI
Thomas Soukup	145	Round Rock, TX



## VELIKONOCNI BERANEK Z PESKOTEVEHO TESTA

(EASTER LAMB SPONGE DOUGH)

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

5 egg yolks

1 tsp. Vanilla

Rind and juice from 1/2 lemon

2 cups cake flour

1 bitter almond (if available)

5 egg whites

Fat and bread crumbs for lamb form

Beat sugar, yolks and grated lemon rind to a foam.

Add grated almond, lemon juice, beaten egg whites and sifted flour. Mix lightly, pour into a greased bread crumb sprinkled lamb form. Bake at medium heat to golden brown. Remove baked lamb, use raisins for eyes. Tie a ribbon around the neck. The lamb can be iced with topping made of 1 egg white, 1/2 cup of powdered sugar and 1 tbsp. of lemon juice.

## EASTER PIE

2 (9 inch) unbaked pie crusts

1 Pound cubed ham

3 Pounds ricotta cheese, drained

1 1/2 cups shredded Romano cheese

6 Eggs, beaten

1 Teaspoon chopped parsley, or to taste

Salt and ground black pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Fit crusts into bottoms of (2) 9-inch pie dishes.

Cook and stir ham in a skilled over medium heat until lightly browned, about 10 minutes. Drain grease and set ham aside to cool. Stir ricotta cheese, Romano cheese, eggs, parsley, salt, and black pepper together in a bowl until well mixed. Add ham to the mixture and stir to combine. Pour half the filling into each pie crust. Bake pies in preheated oven until filling set and lightly browned, 35 to 40 minutes.

## ROLLED ROAST BEEF

2 1/4 pounds beef tenderloin

Salt and pepper to taste

1 pound finely chopped beef

1/3 pound bacon, cut into small pieces

1/4 cup onion

Parsley

4 eggs

1/2 cup cream

Breadcrumbs

4 hard boiled eggs

3/4 cup butter

1 cup stock

1/4 cup flour

Cut the meat lengthwise to obtain a flat piece, pound it thin. Rub with salt and pepper. Fry out the bacon and remove from pan. Saute the onion in the bacon fat until tender. Add bacon and onion to the chopped beef. Beat the eggs and milk. Add this to the beef mixture, mix well. If it is thin, add some breadcrumbs. Spread the meat with the stuffing mixture. Place the hardboiled eggs along the center and roll the meat up tightly. Tie firmly with thread. Melt butter in a pan and brown the meat on all sides. Add the stock and roast in the oven until tender. Remove the meat from the pan and mix in the flour, scraping the bottom to get the pieces up. Add stock and cook until gravy thickens. Serve the meat and gravy with knedlicky, rice or potatoes.

## ZALNOKA

1/2 cup sauerkraut

1 cup water

1/4 cup flour

1 1/2 cups milk

6 cracked eggs

Boil sauerkraut and water together for 10 minutes. Add flour to milk and mix well. Slowly add to boiling kraut, keep stirring until thickened and consistency of medium gravy (if too thick, add a little more milk). Turn heat to low and carefully add eggs, but do not stir. Cook until eggs are hard boiled. Place in serving bowl, top with dabs of butter and pepper. Serve over cooked potatoes, add a vegetable and slices of cheese.

Makes a good lenten meal!!!

## BOHEMIAN CHOLLA (SABBATH TWISTS)

8 c. flour

2 c. hot water

2 T. vegetable oil

1 level T. salt

1 T. sugar

1 oz. yeast

1/4 c. lukewarm water

2 eggs

Pour hot water over salt, sugar and oil in mixing bowl; when lukewarm, add yeast dissolved in lukewarm water. Add beaten eggs and flour gradually; mix and stir. Then knead until smooth and elastic.

Cover, set aside in a warm place to rise double its bulk. Turn half of the dough (for one loaf) on board; cut into four equal parts; roll each 1 1/2 inches thick, twisting into a braid. Fasten ends well and place in floured bread pan. Cut remaining 1/4 part into three portions. Roll each portion 1/2 inch thick. Braid and place on top of braid in pan. Allow to rise until double in bulk. Brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with poppy seed. Bake at 375° for 45 minutes to 1 hour. Cool in draft to form hard crust. Makes two loaves.



# Czech Catholic Union 43rd Quadrennial Convention

*Saturday, September 28, 2018 thru Tuesday, October 2, 2018*

Holiday Inn, Independence, OH  
Knights of Columbus Hall,  
Garfield Heights, OH

## Schedule of Events

Saturday, September 28	St. Wenceslaus Day Mass & Dinner	Optional
	Mass @ St. John Nepomucene	4:00 pm
	Pork, Sauerkraut, dumpling dinner with music @ Bohemian National Hall	6:00 pm
Sunday September 29	Convention Registration @ Holiday Inn, Independence	Mandatory 4:00 pm
Monday, October 1	Excursion Day to Amish Country	Optional
	Depart Holiday Inn	7:00 am
	Visit Behalt Amish Mennonite Heritage Center with a guided history tour	
	Followed by Heini's Cheese including factory tour with samples	
	Enjoy a hearty lunch and tour in an Amish Home	
Tuesday, October 2	The afternoon includes a visit to Coblentz Chocolates, Carlisle Bakery and Breitenbach Winery followed by a guided tour of Mister Carver, Mooney Warther's Museum.	
	Depart for home	7:00 pm
	Arrive @ Holiday Inn, Independence	
	Knights of Columbus Hall	Required Attendance 8:00 am
	Mass	9:00 am
Tuesday, October 2	Meetings begin	
	Knights of Columbus Hall	Optional 6:00 pm
	Banquet	



**March 17**

Everybody gets to be Irish for the day, but St. Patrick was NOT!!! He was born in Wales or Scotland, according to scholars. At age 16, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish raiders and sold as a slave. He herded sheep, learned the language and got to know the people. At age 22, he escaped to an English monastery and became a man of God, before returning to Ireland to preach to the Irish people in their native Gaelic.

According to myth, the saint drove all the snakes out of Ireland, but actually there were never any snakes to begin with because of the chilly climate. The story is an allegory of Patrick bringing Christianity to Ireland, thus driving out the "evil" pagans.

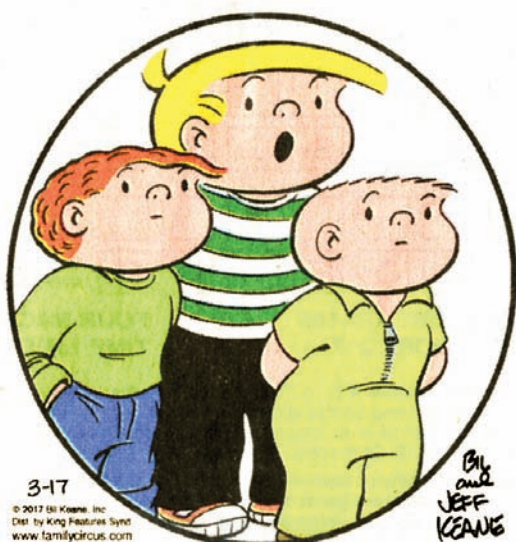
A shamrock is not a four-leaf clover. It is actually a three-leaf plant St. Patrick used to explain the Holy Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to the pagan Irish.

Green is associated with Ireland and St. Patrick, but for many years blue was the color connected to the religious icon. Green was considered unlucky and its thought that it gradually became the color of the day because Ireland is known as the Emerald Island.

FACT: There are 4 cities in the U.S. named Shamrock. They are in West Virginia, Texas, Oklahoma and Indiana

National Slovak Society

## **Family Circus | Bil Keane**



3-17

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www.familycircus.com

**"Why doesn't St. Patrick bring us stuff on his day like Santa does?"**

## **St. Joseph's Day (Den Svateho Josefa), March 19**



In the Czech Republic, every day is someone's name day. It is a reason to celebrate and maybe receive a small gift. Because one of the most common Czech male names is Joseph, that name day has become a celebration for everyone. St. Joseph is the patron saint of workers and of a happy death. Czechs think red every year on March 19th, always a communal day, an occasion for fun and gaiety. The village of Josefov at one time had at least one person named Joseph in every house. The Czech tradition required musicians of the town to visit each home occupied by a named Joseph.

## **PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH**

O St. Joseph! Always be our protector.  
May your inner spirit of peace, of silence,  
Of good work, and of prayer for the cause of  
The Holy Church always be an inspiration to us  
And bring us joy in union with your blessed  
Spouse, our most sweet and gentle and  
Immaculate Mother, and in the strong yet  
Tender love of Jesus, the glorious and  
Immortal King of all ages and peoples.

Amen

***Happy Feastday  
To all Josephs  
And Josephines!***





Born 480 AD in Italy. After founding 12 communities of monks in Italy, he wrote "The Rule," a simple set of guidelines for how the life of a monk should be lived.

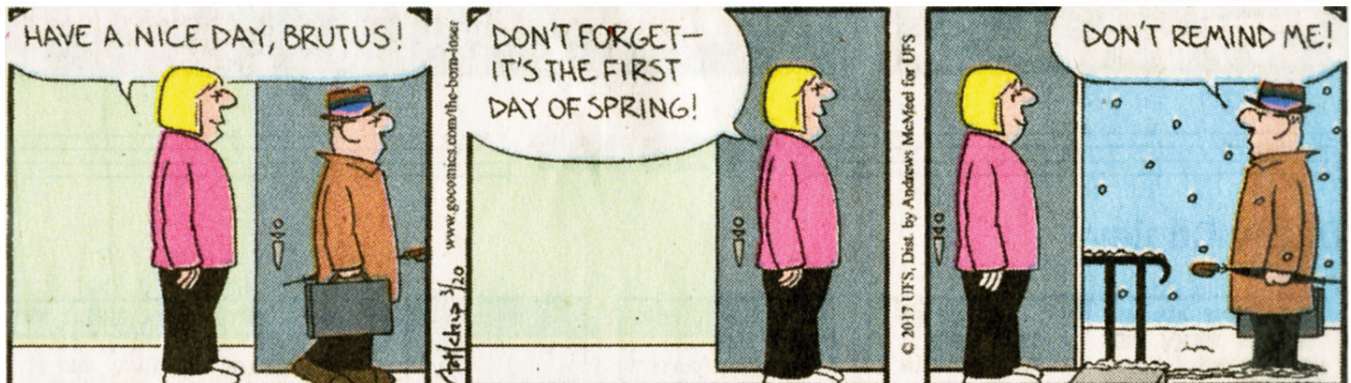
Benedict died in 543 AD in Italy. He is the patron saint of Europe.

St. Benedict's feast day is March 21.

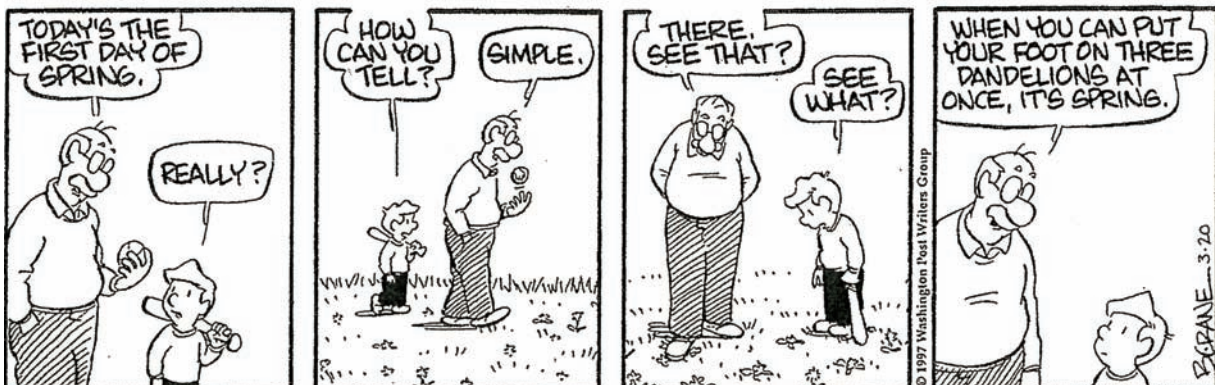
## Spring in the Czech Republic



## Born Loser



## Pickles | Brian Crane







## CZECH AMERICAN PIONEER

The Czech pioneer who settled in America in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries was at home a deeply religious man. Religion was an integral part of his life, clearly woven into the pattern of his daily existence.

The simple and abiding faith of the Czech found an outlet in his constant stream of appeals for success in daily toil at the shop, the field, or the home. This consecration of each day's work was attested by the cobbler, smithy, or carpenter. It was realized in the field by the farmer who stopped to pray the Angelus and recite a prayer at even-tide before returning home with his plow and oxen. It expressed itself in the cottage as the housewife marked a cross on each loaf of bread she put in the oven and blessed the food she gathered for the family table. It was loudly proclaimed in the school by the recitation of children's prayer or religious song, opening and closing each day's session.

The Czech had many communal devotions. These accompanied the liturgical calendar and the seasons of the natural year and constituted moments of relief from an otherwise weary life. Though cold and deep snows often restricted the Czech's devotion to the town church and home at Christmas, spring and summer opened an opportunity for outdoor religious festivals, which drew the entire countryside together.

Bathing on Good Friday before sun-up in the nearby creek or river insured good health for the year. Farmers also swam their horses during the day and poured water on the stock to keep it strong and sound. On Easter Sunday afternoon children in some areas made rounds of town and village in much the same manner of American boys and girls at Halloween.

## Easter Traditions

### Easter Eggs and Kraslice

Kraslice is the Czech name for the hand-painted and decorated Easter eggs that girls create to give to boys on Easter Monday. There are very elaborate egg decorating skills which take much training to acquire. A variety of materials are used to make these eggs unique, including straw, watercolor, bee's wax, onion peels and stickers. Geometric patterns are very common

as well as snowflake and flower patterns. A national Easter egg contest is held in Prague and other Czech cities each year.

### Pussywillows

These twigs are thought to bring youthfulness and health to any girl who is lightly whipped with one. The pomlázka is the braided whip made from pussywillow twigs that is used on Easter

Monday. The tradition began in pagan times and was meant to chase away bad luck, evil spirits, and illness. Boys would chase girls with the whip and lightly tap them for eggs. Girls would then hand over a painted egg and tie a ribbon on the whip. The tradition still lives today, but men and boys can expect money and plum brandy instead of painted eggs.



. . . . .

## Czech Pernik Cookies

Homemade Czech gingerbread cookies, or perník, are a part of most family Easter celebrations. Milder and less sweet than gingerbread from other places, cookie bakers spend many hours decorating these cookies with beautiful, delicate white-icing piping. Cookies can be in the shape of doves, eggs and rabbits. The recipe is the same as Christmas cookies, but the shapes and icing patterns differ.

The capital city of Prague is a well-known source for these kinds of cookies, especially for visitors. In addition, the city of Pardubice is also a famous spot specializing in highly intricate cookie designs. Even the train station has a shop to sell them.

### DEKORATIVNI PERNICKY

(Gingerbread Cookies)

2 1/3 cups flour

1 1/4 cups sugar

8 tsp. Gingerbread Spice

1/2 tsp. Baking soda

2 tablespoons honey, heated to lukewarm

2 eggs, lightly beaten

1 tablespoon rum

1 teaspoon grated lemon peel

1 egg, lightly beaten

Sift all dry ingredients onto a pastry board. Add the remaining ingredients except single egg and work into a firm dough. Let stand overnight in a cool place. Next day, roll out 1/4 inch thick. Cut out shapes. Brush with remaining egg. Place on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper and bake in a preheated 325 degree oven for 20 to 30 minutes. Decorate as desired.

## HOW RABBITS BECAME AN EASTER SYMBOL



Rabbits are a sign of new life, a powerful Easter metaphor. Several factors contribute to rabbits being seen as an Easter symbol: They are extremely fertile animals, potent signs of abundant new life; they

sometimes represent the moon, which related to Easter's date being set by the moon; and, rabbits burrow underground, which is likened to Jesus in the tomb.

The connection also has pagan roots. According to pagan history, rabbits were the favorite animal of the goddess of spring, Eastre, who was thought to have placed eggs in the tall grass at the start of spring, and to have used rabbits to deliver the eggs to children.

When the German people came to the United States, they brought with them a legend of a poor woman who loved to surprise children. With no money to buy gifts, she colored eggs in rainbow colors and hid them in nests made of grass and sticks. Just as the children approached the nests, a rabbit hopped away. The children then believed that the rabbit had left the eggs as an Easter surprise.

Catholic Digest

## The Legend of the Donkey

About the time that Jesus was born, there was a little donkey that fell into a deep pit and, because he was quite old, the owner decided the best thing to do was to just bury him. Knowing this would be difficult and time consuming, he enlisted the help of several friends and neighbors.

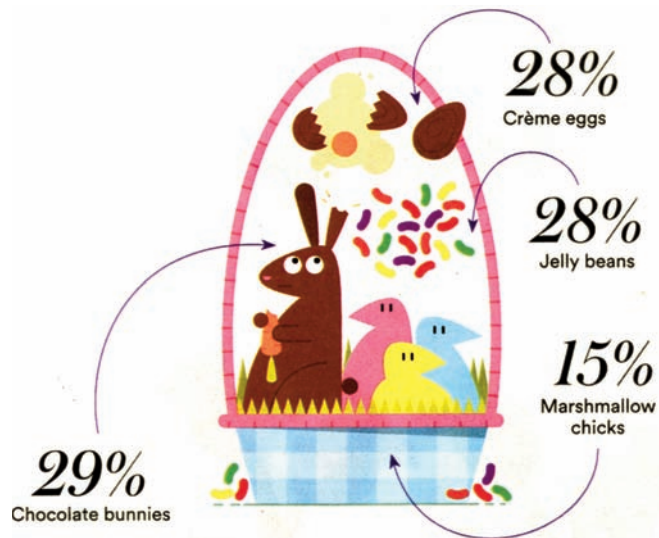


They proceeded to dig up dirt, shovel by shovel, and toss it into the pit onto the donkey. Each time, the donkey would bray "hee-haw" very loudly and shake off the dirt. The owner and his friends kept up their task and, being very determined, the donkey did as well. Soon the donkey had shaken off so much dirt he was able to walk out of what was to have been his grave.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, he was riding on this same little donkey. As Jesus walked to the cross, the donkey followed Him and watched from afar as He suffered on the cross before He died. After watching the torture Jesus was enduring, the donkey could watch no more so he turned his back on the cross that held Jesus. As he did, the shadow of the cross fell upon his back and his shoulders, and unto this day some breeds of donkeys have a cross mark on their backs.

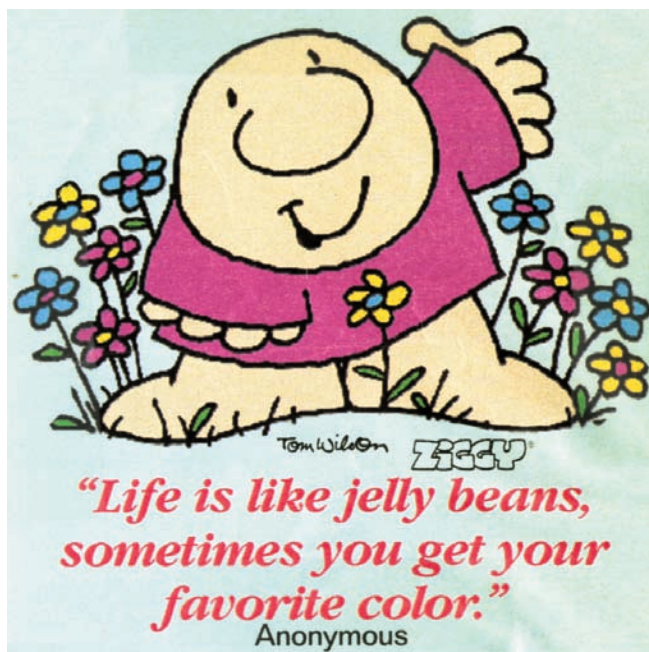
SPJST

## What's your favorite Easter candy?



## What's in your Easter basket?

WHEN IT COMES TO EASTER BASKETS, CANDY AND CHOCOLATE ARE THE POPULAR TREATS. GROWN-UPS GET IN ON THE SWEETS, TOO: 81 PERCENT OF PARENTS ADMIT TO SNEAKING A PIECE (OR TWO) FROM THEIR KIDS.





## St. Louis, Missouri

### *With Sympathy*



Pauline Sedlak  
Kveton  
1920-2017

St. Ludmila Society #7, St. Louis Missouri, is saddened to report the death of one of our oldest members, Pauline Kveton, at age 97.

Pauline died peacefully at home on December 21, 2017 surrounded by loving family members. Her funeral Mass was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on December 28, 2017, where she had been a lifelong member. (Her parents, Frank and Marie Sedlak, were charter members of the parish founded in 1914).

Pauline married William Kveton (1911-2000) in 1946 and together they raised 4 children. Proud of their Czech heritage, they ensured that the Bohemian customs and recipes brought by their parents to America would be passed through the generations. Pauline's love and legacy lives on through 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Pauline and her sister, Louise Sedlak, became active in the Czech Catholic Union in the 1960s. Both served as local and national officers or directors, and chaired the St. Louis conventions. Pauline served as Second Vice President until 2006. She cherished the many friendships that she had developed through the Czech Catholic Union.

Our sincerest thanks to all who expressed their sympathy to our family on our mother's death. The flowers and cards are gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.

Kveton Family

## Chicago, Illinois



Our Lady of the Mount Society #143 member, June Jaros, passed away at the age of 91 on February 9, 2017. She was a Czech Catholic Union member for 56 years. The picture below is June and Frank Jaros on their 50th wedding anniversary. The prayer of St. Francis was given out at her request at her

memorial. June's maiden name was Stastny. The family was reminded in the November-December Posel that stastny means happy, so they now trust that June is truly "happy" in heaven.



### *Prayer of St. Francis*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.



O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen



Condolences are sent from all the members of the Czech Catholic Union to the families of June Jaros and Pauline Kveton!!!

### **REMINDER**

St. Joseph Society Annual Communion Breakfast

**Sunday, March 11, 2018** Celebration of Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes at 10:00 a.m. followed by breakfast. **Please call the home office at 216-341-0444 for reservations before Thursday, March 8, 2018.** 50 year members will be honored.



## Cleveland, Ohio ANNOUNCEMENT

At the regular meeting of St. Joseph Society #156 on Sunday, January 14, 2018, the members present unanimously voted to increase the society dues to \$5.00 per member per year beginning 2019. These dues are used to supplement the cost of the Communion Breakfast, Christmas party, jaternice luncheon, printing of dividends and the Posel, along with postage for all and Masses for our deceased members. Just like at home, costs have continued to increase for the society so they had to be offset by increased dues. The dues for children up to age 18 will remain the same.

Note: St. Joseph Society dues have not been raised in 34 years!!!

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St. Joseph Society #156 held its Annual Jaternice luncheon with their monthly meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at the Home Office. Officers, same as before, were sworn in by Director, Anita Schafer. Jaternice, smoked kielbasa and kraut were served with music accompaniment. A nice size crowd seemed to enjoy the afternoon.



**Peanuts** | Charles M. Schulz



## THE BURNING OF THE WITCHES, APRIL 30

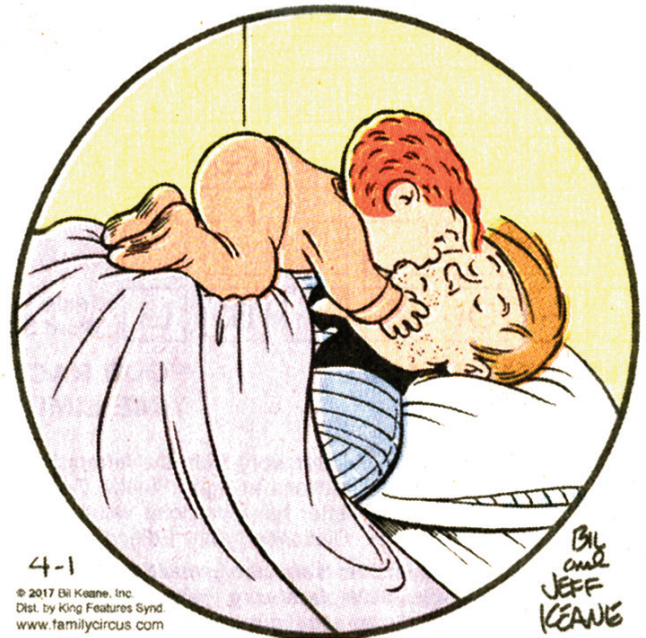
The tradition of the Burning of the Witches originated as a pagan ritual in pre-Christian times. The old



belief was that as the weather warmed, the powers of the winter witch were diminished. By burning in effigy a witch figure, it was believed that the cold weather could be eradicated much more quickly. They build a figure of the witch by tying two large sticks together, dressing that with old clothing and stuffing the clothes with straw. A stuffed head with a hat could be placed on top. As the witch burns, it is hoped, so does the

last of winter's chill. Once a bonfire is going, people will roast sausages, drink beer, play musical instruments, sing and dance.

**Family Circus** | Bil Keane



"Let me know when you're awake, Daddy. I've got an April Fool to tell you."

# BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

## 4th Century

The present day Czech Republic was populated by Celts and it was the Celtic Boii tribe who gave the country its Latin name, Boiohaemum (Bohemia).

## 6th Century

The first Slavs travel from the east to the Prague area.

## 7th Century

According to legend a princess named Libuse married a ploughman and founds the Premysl dynasty. She prophesies that a great city will rise above the banks of the Vitava.

## 10th Century

Vaclav I, misleadingly later to be called the Good King Wenceslas in the Christmas carol, is murdered by his brother Boleslav. He becomes the country's patron saint and his feast day is celebrated on 28 Sept.

## 14th Century

In 1346 Charles IV is crowned King of Bohemia, and in 1348 he founds Charles University in Prague, the first university in the Holy Roman Empire. Prague becomes the largest city in Europe, with 40,000-50,000 inhabitants.

## 16th Century

In 1526 The Hapsburg Duke Ferdinand I is elected as King of Bohemia. The dynasty will rule the Czech lands until 1918.

## 20th Century

**28 Oct., 1918** Following the defeat of Germany and Austria, the Empire dissolves into several national states and, Czechoslovakia finally becomes an independent republic, Tomas Masaryk becomes its first president.

**15 Mar., 1939** The Wehrmacht invades and turns the Czech lands and Moravia into a protectorate, while Slovakia becomes an independent fascist state.

**5 May, 1945** The Prague Uprising, Five thousand die in four days of fierce fighting as the Czechs fight the Nazis for the City. Prague is finally liberated by the Soviets.

**Feb., 1948** Assisted by the Soviet Army, the Czech Community party takes power. The country will remain under the Soviet sphere of influence until 1989.

**Prague Spring 1968** Communist Party chairman Alexander Dubcek makes efforts to establish "Socialism with a human face." This includes releasing political prisoners and relaxing press censorship. His liberal ideals are brutally repressed by the invasion of Warsaw pact troops on the night of **20 Aug., 1968**. In protest at the invasion 21 year old philosophy student, Jan Palach sets himself alight on the steps of the National Museum.

**19 Nov., 1989** The Velvet Revolution 200,000 people demand democracy in a demonstration in Wences-

las Square. As crowds swell, the government gives in, and in 1990 former dissident Vaclav Havel is elected head of state.

**31 Dec., 1992 – 1 Jan., 1993** Dubbed the Velvet Divorce, Czechoslovakia divides into two independent states, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

## 21st Century

**Aug., 2002** Floods devastate the country and cause chaos and millions of crowns of damage as the Vitava rises.

**1 May, 2004** The Czech Republic joins the European Union.

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2018 is a significant year for the Czechs. This year is the 100 year Anniversary since the foundation of Czechoslovakia (October 1918), 50 years since "Prague Spring" and the Soviet invasion (August 1968) and 25 years since the formation of the current Czech Republic and Slovakia (January 1993). The Czech Cultural Garden located in University Circle in Cleveland, Ohio is asking for volunteers to help upgrade the garden for special events planned to be held there throughout the year. If any of our members are interested in helping out, please call: Paul Burik at 440-934-4420.





## St. Klement Maria Hofbauer

This saint was born December 1751 in Tasovice, Czech Republic. He was a Moravian hermit and later a priest. He worked mostly in foreign countries. St. Clement died March 15, 1820 in Vienna, Austria.

His feast day is March 15.



## St. Jan Sarkander

This saint was born on December 20, 1576 in Moravia. He is the patron of Moravia and Silesia, the patron of priests and the patron of confessors. Jan died due to injuries caused during interrogation on March 17, 1620, when he refused to reveal a confessed secret.

His feast day is March 17.



## National Museum - Wenceslas Square

The National Museum as an institution was founded in 1818. It was a private scientific organization called "**The Patriotic Museum Institute in Bohemia.**" The founders were two Enlightenment aristocrats Kaspar Maria Count of Sternberg and Frantisek Antonin Count of Kolowrat - Libstein. It was built as an important symbol of the Czech nation struggling for independence at the time. It focused on natural sciences and history. The institute was renamed "The Museum of the Czech Kingdom" in 1854.

The place became too small so a new building was to be built at the top of Wenceslas Square.

**Josef Schulz** won the architectural competition for the new building and it was built between 1885 and 1890.



The statues on the ramp of the National Museum, represent countries of the Czech Kingdom - Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, and also the main Czech rivers Vltava and Labe (Elbe). There are also mighty statues of virtues (willingness to sacrifice, enthusiasm, love of the truth and love of the past).



The museum holds a vast collection of exhibits documenting the richness of the nature, culture and history of the Czech Republic. It is the largest and oldest museum in the Czech Republic.



## 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 2018-2019, 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, 2018. 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 2018  
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 2018-2019 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, 2018. 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](mailto:insurance@czechCCU.org)  
website: <http://www.czechCCU.org>



This Texas gas station has become America's most famous Czech restaurant. Located in West, Texas, this station serves more than 600 hungry customers a day, for 29 years. The biggest selling items: kolaches, kraut and klobasniki (a kolachi cousin stuffed with tiny sausages and kraut. They even have jalapeño-stuffed klobasniki.

## STAMP KORNER



Prague - 1998 International Stamp Exhibition  
15 crowns = \$.60

Cechy (Bohem) -  
Area of Melnicko,  
Ukraine  
3 crowns - \$.15



### 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.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Annual Meeting of the Czech Catholic Union will be held

on Saturday, May 5, 2018 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.

## TO ALL MEMBERS:

Spring brings the renewing of our spirits. Easter brings the renewing of our souls. May the joy and blessings of Easter be yours today and every day throughout the year!!!

FROM THE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF  
OF THE CZECH CATHOLIC UNION



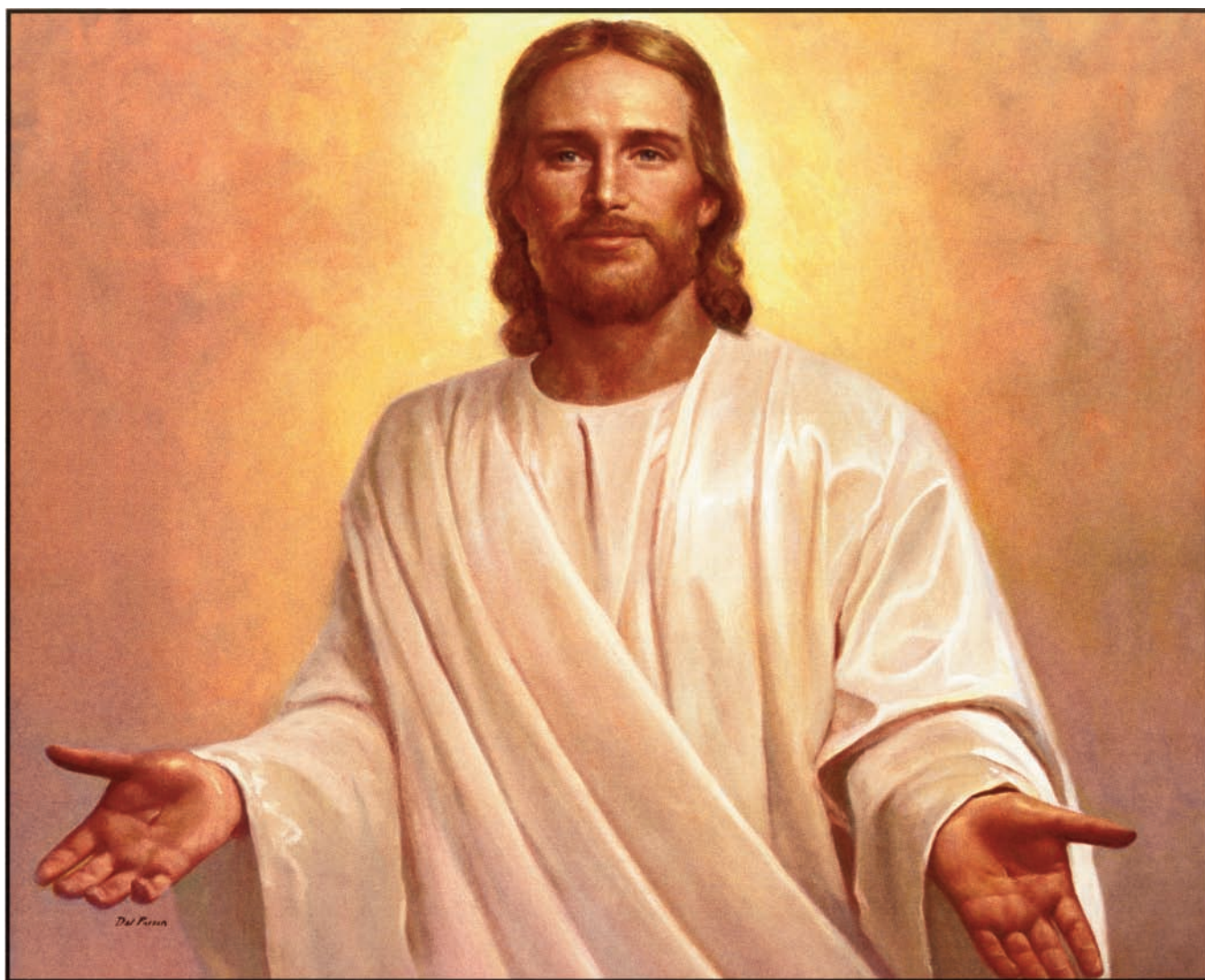
## PAYMENTS OF MORTUARY DEATH CLAIMS

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
Helene Fridrich	Cleveland, OH	St. Elizabeth	10	04-01-2017	11-11-2017	90
Frances Blum	New York, NY	St. Ludmila	2	03-01-1950	12-08-2017	85
Lillian Hlava	Chicago, IL	Our Lady of the Mount	143	03-01-1941	12-07-2017	94
June Jaros	Chicago, IL	Our Lady of the Mount	143	02-01-1961	02-09-2017	91
Agnes Fitch	New York, NY	St. Ludmila	2	03-01-1946	12-03-2017	89

TOTAL DEATH CLAIMS PAID IN 2017 \$317, 421.00

**VESELE VELIKONOCE**



**HAPPY EASTER**