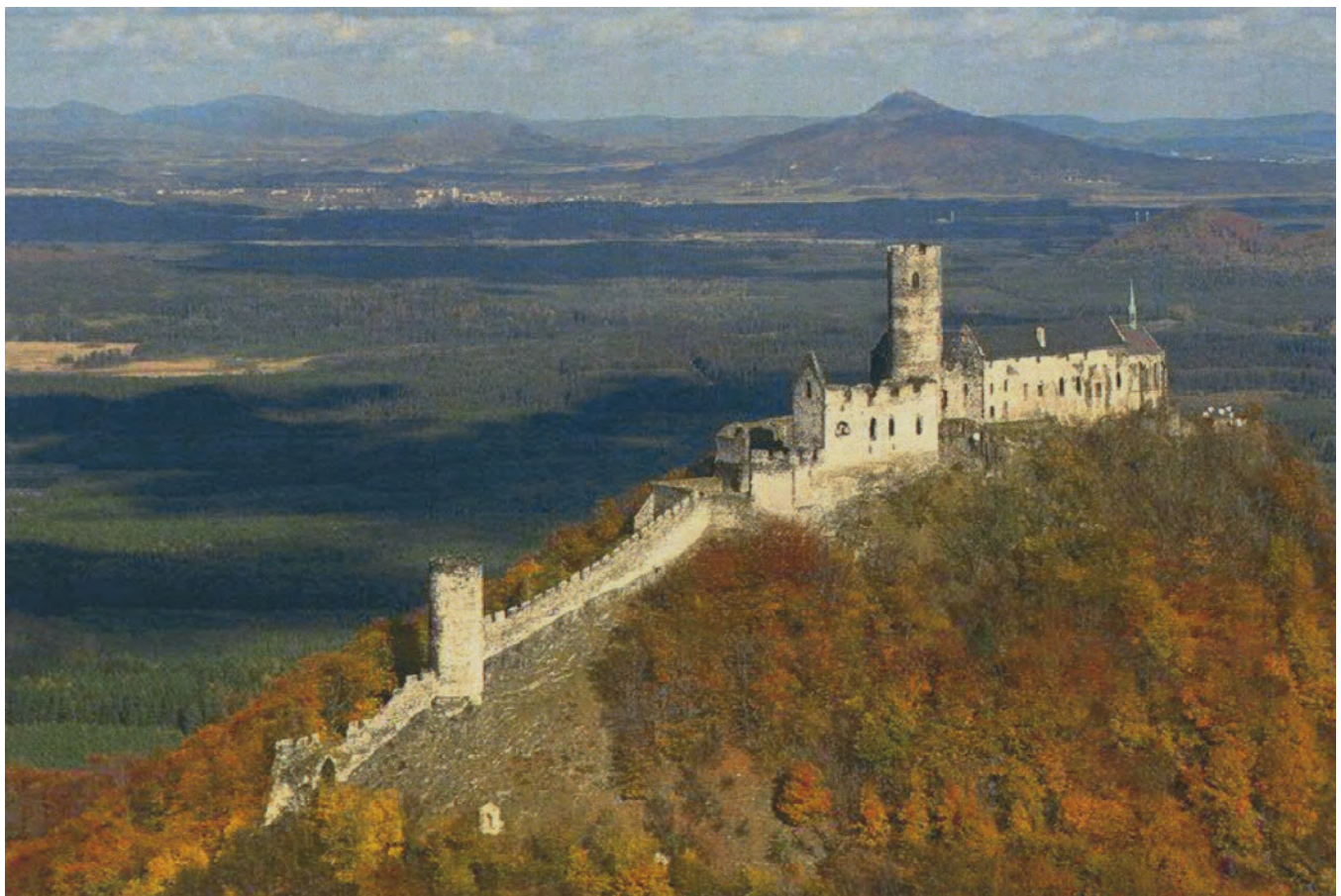


# Posel

*Česká Katolická Jednota*

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2023

VOL. CI NO. 4



## BEZDEZ CASTLE

# POSEL

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Honoring all who  
have served and who  
are serving

Thank you to all  
Veterans

All gave some, Some gave all





A Message from the Chaplain :

As I write this, two wars are raging; and our government is at a standstill. By the time you read this, things may be even worse. Besides our personal struggles, this is the context for our end of year celebrations. The sentiments of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years invite us to be grateful and to trust, to hope, and think clearly. Also, these celebrations invite us to dream. Our dream comes from that cold, star-lit night in Bethlehem and the birth of a child - always a miracle - but this birth, this miracle offers us a vision of a world of harmony and peace. Jesus was born in the area where so many innocent people are dying. The message is clear, but hearts are so hard. Why can't people get along? Why can't we all see the greater, common good? There are more questions than answers.

May the Prince of Peace enlighten all hearts to appreciate the grandeur of our God and value and dignity of every human person.

*Christmas blessings!*  
*Fr. Joseph H. Callahan*

## COVER STORY



Bezdez Castle is a Gothic castle located in the Liberec Region of the Czech Republic. Erected between 1260 and 1280 on the hill of Velky Bezdez, 1,982 feet above sea level, it became the landmark of the local landscape. The castle complex was completed during the reign of Wenceslaus II, who used the local forests for hunting and relaxation. In 1627 the complex was rebuilt into a monastery. The complex was used for religious purposes until 1785, when the monastery was dissolved. The castle slowly became dilapidated. A chapel in the castle remains as one of the best preserved areas of the castle today.

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## Donations made at Executive Committee Meeting September 13, 2023

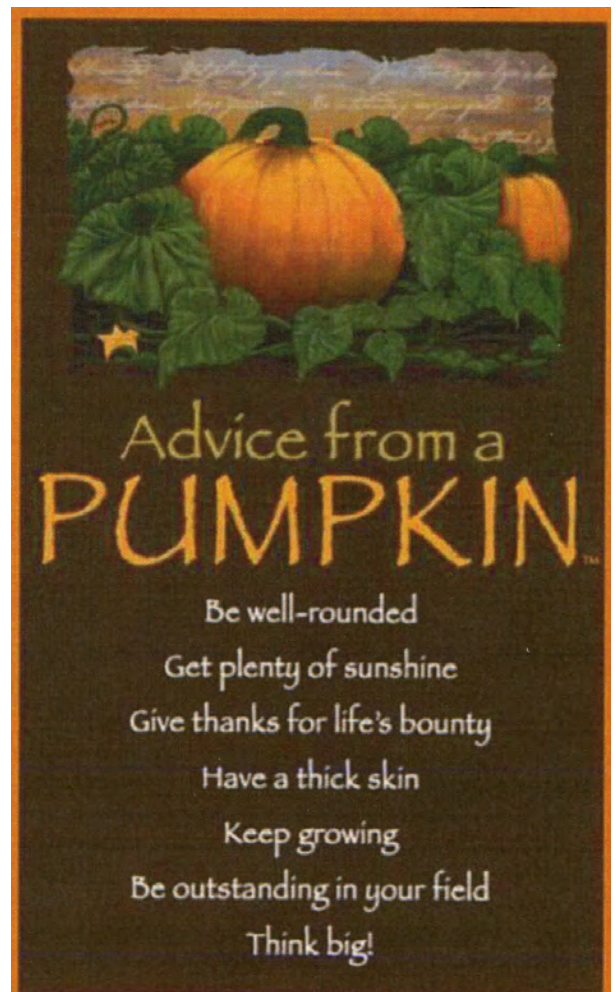
Benedictine High School, Cleveland, OH  
Cedar Rapids Czech School, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Czech Cultural Garden, Cleveland, OH  
Czech Mission - Rev. Dusan Hladik, Brookfield, IL  
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School, Chardon, OH  
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish - Rev. Joseph Callahan, Cleveland, OH  
St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, OH  
St. John Nepomuk, St. Louis, MO  
St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, IL  
Velehrad California Czech Catholic Mission (VCCCM), Placentia, CA



# SCARECROWS



The scarecrow has been around for thousands of years. In the U.S. immigrant German farmers made human looking scarecrows called bootzamon, which later changed to bogeyman. They were dressed in old clothes with a large red handkerchief around their necks. Pilgrim families took turns guarding their fields against birds and animals, but as Americans expanded west, they invented new kinds of nonhuman scarecrows like wooden and straw figures. Today some farmers use reflective ribbons tied to plants or automatic noise guns powered by propane gas.





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EXAMPLE:	\$5,000 Face/5-Pay	\$5,000 Face/10-Pay
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Age 0 Male	\$126.36/Year 1 \$164.10/Years 2-5	\$81.97/Year 1 \$106.45/Years 2-10
Age 25 Female	\$196.94/Year 1 \$268.75/Years 2-5	\$126.63/Year 1 \$164.45/Years 2-10
Age 25 Male	\$225.65/Year 1 \$293.05/Years 2-5	\$137.02/Year 1 \$177.95/Years 2-10
Age 50 Female	\$383.84/Year 1 \$498.50/Years 2-5	\$225.57/Year 1 \$292.95/Years 2-10
Age 50 Male	\$406.44/Year 1 \$527.85/Years 2-5	\$238.51/Year 1 \$309.75/Years 2-10

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*Reminder... Our "Tell a Family Member/Tell a Friend" continues. If a member chooses not to take part in this offer, we encourage you to pass it on. In doing so, you are able to receive \$25 for referring, as long as the individual referred completes the application process.*

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- ◇ 4.25% for members only for the first year
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- ◇ Minimum to open account \$1,000
- ◇ After the 1<sup>st</sup> year the interest rate will revert to the prevailing rate at that time

### **2 Year Annuity**

#### **Effective 1/1/23**

- ◇ 3.5% for members only with a 3% guarantee
- ◇ 2-year penalty
- ◇ Must be an insurance member to open annuity accounts
- ◇ Minimum to open account \$1,000
- ◇ Additional deposits can be made in increments of \$25 or greater

### **5 Year Annuity**

#### **Effective 1/1/2023**

- ◇ 4% for members only with 3% guarantee
- ◇ 5-year penalty
- ◇ Must be an insurance member to open annuity accounts
- ◇ Minimum to open account \$1,000
- ◇ Additional deposits can be made in increments of \$25 or greater

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# Saluting *Neighborhood News* founder Vaclav Psenicka...

By Ellen Psenicka

With the celebration this year of the 100th anniversary of the founding of *The Neighborhood News*, we thought it was time for our readers to get to know the man who started it all - Vaclav Psenicka - a Czech immigrant who knew nothing about running a newspaper when he first set foot on American soil in 1905, but his savvy business sense, keen intellect, innate curiosity and knowledge of the human condition would serve him well in the years to come.

Much of this article will be in Mr. Psenicka's own words, taken from the unpublished autobiography he completed in 1962.

## Early years in Czechoslovakia

Vaclav Psenicka was born in 1886 in the small village of Kamenec, midway between Prague and Pilsen in Czechoslovakia, to poor but hard-working parents, the eldest of their five children.

In the early years his father worked in the coal mines as did most of the men in the village, which meant hard work and not much money.

In describing the home where the family lived, Vaclav recalls: "The big front room served as the bedroom for all of my family; the only heat came from the cast iron wood stove when Mom cooked." He says that his parents' deprivation, self-denial and backbreaking work, however, were not enough to always have food on the table.

"I'll never forget the scene I witnessed coming home for my vacation from school. I saw four kids tucking at Mom's apron, anxiety and pleading in their eyes: 'Mom, we are hungry, so hungry! Can't we have a piece of bread, just an itty bitty piece? We are so hungry.'"

Young Vaclav cried when he remembered that heart-breaking scene, and years later he blessed America that gave him the opportunity to send home a few dollars each week. That pittance meant so much to them, where hunger was the rule, not the exception.

When he had finished his regular schooling at age 11, the family had moved from Kamenec to Radnice, three miles south of Kamenec, and then to Hostomice, a town on the fringe of the Sudetenland. The principal at his school in Hostomice and Vaclav's father informed the young man that, due to his excellent grades, he should pursue his studies and insisted he enter an advanced level school to become a priest or a doctor or get a degree as an engineer, architect or professor. The principal had secured financial aid for young Vaclav so his studies would not be a burden on his family.

Thus, in September, 1898, he entered school in Louny, and spent the next four years engrossed in studies of literature, French and philosophy, physics and mathematics and received excellent grades. However, his last year in advanced studies he failed to pass his final examination (blaming a disagreement with the teacher who administered the test), lost his financial aid and was made to repeat his final year.

That fall he returned to class. "For three months Father struggled to keep me going, then gave up. Higher education was for the rich or the humble and I wasn't either."

He vowed one day to get to America, "that paradise on earth," where his two best friends, Frank and Oscar, had recently traveled by steamship to Baltimore. They wrote Vaclav that some nice people there had told them about a Reverend Vanik, who ran a Czech paper in town and had a habit of aiding stranded immigrants.

The Reverend put Frank and Oscar to work on his

newspaper in Baltimore, one as a typesetter and the other as an assistant editor.

A telegram from the Miller Steamship Company soon arrived in Hostomice informing Vaclav that a prepaid passage to Baltimore, Maryland was waiting for him in their office from Frank and Oscar. His spirits "rose to the heavens."

## Coming to America

"On May 12, 1905, the prodigal son left for America. Father went with me to the station, while Mother cried silently at home for her firstborn whom she was never to see again.

When Vaclav arrived in Baltimore he was in for a surprise. Rev. Vanik told him his friends were in Cleveland, where Vanik had gotten them a job on a newspaper called *American*, the only Czech daily between New York and Chicago. So Rev. Vanik bought Vaclav a ticket on the B&O Railroad, stuck a couple bucks in his hand and the next day he reached Oscar's home on South Wilson Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Soon he was also working for *American*.

His job at the newspaper was to solicit subscriptions in the St. Wenceslaus, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. John Nepomucene parishes, all in the southeast area of Cleveland. He earned \$5.00 a week; one dollar went to his parents in Czechoslovakia, the rest he kept for himself. Six months later he got a 50-cent raise, but he wanted to be able to send more back to his family, so he also washed windows downtown and painted barns in the country until 1907. Then Oscar got him a job at the *Volnost* as a typesetter.

*Volnost* was another Czech newspaper housed on Pisek St. in Cleveland, and had but four pages which were filled with ads sold on a yearly basis. But Vaclav enjoyed his work there. "It took time and lots of hard pulling to start that press rolling," Vaclav recalled, "but once on, it was all so thrilling."

Pisek St. was the center of a thriving Czech settlement in Cleveland, which began at E. 20 St., and gradually pushed along Woodland, Pittsburgh, Broadway and toward the southeast to Wilson, Union and Fleet. Perun Hall near the paper's headquarters was the Czech settlement's cultural center.



This is the intersection of Broadway and E. 55 St., facing south, the way it looked in the early 1900s when young Vaclav came to Cleveland.

His wage at the *Volnost* was \$2.50 a week. In addition to his salary as a teacher in a Bohemian Sunday School, he made \$4.00 altogether. Vaclav rented a room on Croton St. from a Civil War veteran's widow for \$1.00 a week and saved on carfare since the place was close to his job. "I still could send a dollar home by living on beer and free sandwiches," he wrote.

By 1908 he was also doing writing for the paper, expecting to get the job of editor, and covered various theatrical productions, clubs, singing societies and picnics. He also found time to take classes to learn English and practice his "accent," which gave him a lot of trouble.

In 1914 Vaclav was back at *American*. World War I had begun, touched off by the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo, and Europe was in flames. Facto-

ries, which operated with skeleton crews or were idle before the war now changed over to make ammunition.



Vaclav tried his hand at farming after going on strike at *American* when he was refused a raise.

Vaclav had since married, had greater responsibilities and was desperate to earn a bigger salary and send more of it home to Czechoslovakia, since the death of his father. When his boss refused to give him a raise at *American*, Vaclav went on strike and spent the next three years trying to make money farming, on land and a run-down house he had bought in Maple Heights.



Vaclav farmed the fields at this Maple Heights property he and his wife called home for many years before moving to Streetsboro.

After three long years suffering the trials and tribulations of farming and adding a living room and bedroom to his home in Maple Heights, Vaclav was working for the *Svat*, a Czech daily in Cleveland, but after a few months he resigned and went back to the *American*, as a self-employed, one-man advertising agency. "I bought one or two pages from the *American* for a fair price and resold it to my merchants."

"The *American*'s 25th anniversary issue proved I could get ads. Out of 20 pages of solid advertising, I brought in 19 1/2. With the Tin Lizzy (car) I now had, I was able to cover a wider territory and I was elated - a poor country boy who made good in the big city..." Vaclav was about to strike out on his own.

## The *Neighborhood News* is born

"September 26th is a day I bless; in 1923 *The Neighborhood News* was born. MY weekly paper.

"I started *The Neighborhood News* in order to become my own boss, to tell the truth, no matter who gets hurt, and by helping others help myself. I considered it a noble way to make money. I came from the ranks of common men. In my editorials, I meant to educate these ranks, to widen their horizons, to appease their hunger for spiritual advancement.

"I was a Czech by birth and proud of Czech history. WE gave the world Jan Hus, who was burned at the stake trying to return the Church to the principles of true Christianity. WE gave the world Jan Chelcicky, the Czech Thomas Jefferson, long before 1776. WE gave the world Jan Zizka, who was unequalled in defensive warfare. And above all, WE gave the world Charles University in Prague in 1405, the first after the Sorbonne in Paris.

"The Czechs have something to be proud of and I was going to let everyone know. Those punks who had thrown

**Editors Note:** The following two pages is an article from the *Neighborhood News*. This is a publication distributed in Southeast Cleveland, Ohio, which is where the CCU Home Office is located.



## ... as his newspaper celebrates its 100th anniversary year

horse dung at me on Petrie St. in Cleveland when I first arrived in 1905, and shouted "Greenhorn" at me, what did they pride themselves with? They had to be told. It seemed funny to me that Americans, who consider all men equal, should belittle others to put themselves on top. The News had to be in English - the only language they would understand.

"The first issue was composed, written and set entirely by myself. By any comparison, it was lousy. Its English was poor with poor makeup, but I printed 20,000 copies and engaged Moulton, the best distributing company in town, to get it on the streets every Thursday. That was what the merchants wanted. As to my English? Ninety percent of my readers talked English a good deal worse than I. Had I used good English, nobody would have understood it."

Subsequent issues, set up and printed by the Press & Plate Co., a union shop downtown, showed improvements and increased advertising for the fledgling newspaper. Vaclav had only \$1000 with which to start his *Neighborhood News*, but the profit from the October, November and December 1923 issues far exceeded his hopes and expectations.

The first employee of the newspaper was a young man hired as editor who had two years of journalism at Ohio State University, Mr. Speers. "He made my publication a paper to be proud of - both morally and financially. I myself liked to read his column called 'For Men Only,' and trust I was not the only one. Speers died of leukemia very prematurely."

Miss Pauline Kves followed Speers. She was 19, and did all the editorial work in addition to keeping the books. She, too, had her own column and called it "Window Shopping." That column made the Broadway merchants change their window displays twice a month and that was progress!



Lieutenant J.J. Masek

flabby and dared him to fight me. He did. In three seconds I was on the floor at his feet. I still don't know how he did it, but I did not dare him again.

"He loved the job. I paid him \$20 a week, but I'm sure he'd have worked just for the glory of it. He did, for several years, helping Pauline with news from the suburbs. To prove to me that editors are not an expense - as I often said they were - Jim would get legal notices from Cuyahoga Heights, where he lives, and holiday greeting ads from the mayors and shopkeepers in Garfield Heights, Valley View and others.

"I was now well on my way to the upper strata of human society had I kept the money I was making. But I had no use for buried treasure, for idle money or idle men. Like all building and savings men, I considered real estate the best investment. To own a piece of America was the best proof of good citizenship."

Prices in Maple Heights were going sky high in the mid-1920's, and Vaclav wanted to buy land he could afford with a future somewhere else closely. Looking over the map of counties neighboring Cuyahoga, he noticed that Rt. 14, between Ravenna and Summit counties, wasn't paved, with a stretch of about 10 miles being pure wilderness. "Some day this will be paved and I'll double my money," Vaclav deduced.

So he bought 87 acres on Page Rd., near Streetsboro, for \$25 an acre, \$500 down and the balance in two years. Over time he also bought land in Edinburgh, more land in Maple Heights and in Streetsboro, where he would build his "castle" home on Rt. 14 and Diagonal Rd.

And then in 1929, "Black Friday" hit Wall Street and so began the Great Depression. "Three years passed, but my newspaper went on, limping a bit, but netting enough to meet my payments."

He had by now moved to Streetsboro and became a "publisher-farmer," getting up at 4 a.m., plowing with his tractor until 8 a.m., and then driving 27 miles to Cleveland to work on the "News." He then drove back to his home and plowed until dusk. That's the way he spent the summer of 1930.

"When I was in Cleveland working on my paper things weren't bad. I had lunch at the Bohemian Gardens with my fellow Philosophers Club members - Dr. Kieger, Dr. Zeleznik, Joseph and Mrs. Hodous, the insurance people, F.J. Vlcek, a tool manufacturer, one or two lawyers and real estate men. Then Mrs. Seiler sold the Garden and I lunched at Linkas restaurant for 15 years. They had but one menu for each day of the week - and boiled spare ribs, Hungarian goulash and spaghetti were always there. The food was well cooked and promptly served.

"Mr. Linkas called me Jimmy, I called him Jim. There were only three businessmen I addressed as Mister. Kresge's manager Herb Davis, Newberry's Mr. Robinson and Fisher's Mr. Rosenberg. I had respect for them. They were all nice people and used lots of space in my paper. They were my basic advertisers."

Karlin, the Czech settlement around St. John Nepomucene Church on Fleet Ave., adjoined Polish "Warszawa," around St. Stanislaus Church on E. 65 St. It was a compact unit, stretching from Erie Crossing on Broadway, to Harvard Ave., and from Skinner Ave. (E. 57 St.) and Fleet to E. 78th St. off Union, about 50,000 or 60,000 people. Warsaw and the Pyramid Savings took care of their surplus money. William Schmidt, a building contractor, headed the former, Ben S. Stefanski the latter.

### Third Federal Affairs New Record



For the first time in its history The Third Federal Savings was first among all savings and loan mortgage lenders in Cuyahoga County. The most recent statistics released of mortgages filed for the month of April indicate that this progressive savings institution located at 7007 Broadway, was credited with 124 individual mortgage loans for a total of \$641,280.00.

This article appeared on the front page of *The Neighborhood News* on Aug. 15, 1946.

Polish daily run by the Kurdziel family. "All of them had their own printshops and could undersell me. Their costs were lower than mine, but I had a bigger circulation than all of them put together."

Many of "the boys" helping Vaclav solicit ads for *The Neighborhood News* tried starting their own weeklies. Some lasted two, three weeks, some a couple of months, and one two years. In the end they all left their printer and distributing company with unpaid bills and went under.

They explained their failure with a question: "How could one compete with a guy who calls every merchant in his territory by his first name?"

But in the same token, Vaclav said he wasn't a very sociable person. "I didn't use my personal charm like Joe Cook from the *Polish Daily* did. I was selling my paper, not myself. And if I flattered a man, like I flattered Ben S.

Stefanski, in the privacy of his office, it was but acknowledgment of his success, a mere tribute to a financial genius, as Ben really was. In that success my paper had a share and I was proud of it."

The paper prospered and soon *The Neighborhood News* publisher would have another reason to be thankful. Vaclav and Masha's first son, named after his father, but like his father known as the Americanized "Jim," was born in their Streetsboro home on June 16, 1932.

"It was a boy - along, skinny, all bones, hardly an flesh, 7 1/2 lb. baby boy, my baby boy. The nurse attending the birth commented, 'For a minute I thought that he was having the baby,' she said, patting me on the back."

The years passed and Jim began working for his dad at the paper selling advertising, while getting his journalism degree from Kent State in 1955. And in 1957, after a two-year stint as an officer in the U.S. Navy stationed on Guam, he returned home and joined his father at the paper full time.

Jim worked hard and saved his money for the next four years, and approached his dad about buying the newspaper from him.

"I had run the N.N. for 37 years," Vaclav wrote. "Before that I was in the harness for 14 years. I was getting tired and wanted to take it easy. In January, 1961, Jim took over my desk and I became a golden ager."

Vaclav Psenicka passed away in 1964, leaving it to future generations of Psenickas to keep *The Neighborhood News* alive and well as it soon will begin its second 100 years of serving the southeast community.



Jim and his dad shared a love of deep sea fishing and are shown here with their catch in the Florida Keys after Vaclav's retirement from the N.N.

(Editor's Note: We want to give our readers a snapshot look at some of the stories *The Neighborhood News* published in the early years of its life. So in our next three issues, leading up to the paper's 100th Anniversary, we will do just that! Look for N.N. stories from the 1920s through the 1950s beginning in next Wednesday's edition.)



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### **Annuity/IRA Products**

Annuity  
Traditional IRA  
Roth IRA



**For information and rates,  
contact our office  
at (216) 341-0444.**



## CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph Society #156 monthly meetings held at the Home Office started in October.

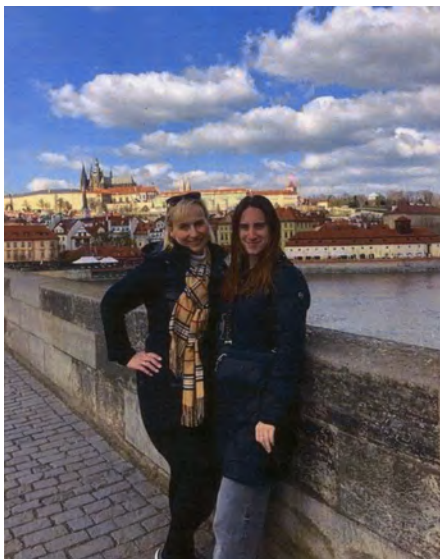
**Sunday, December 10, 2023:** Meeting starts at 1:00 PM with nomination and election of officers along with adult Christmas party. Optional \$10 gift exchange.

New this year - A potluck luncheon. We are asking attendees to bring a side dish (please inform the Home Office of dish you are bringing).

Reservations are required by December 1st. Please call the Home Office at 216-341-0444.

**Sunday, January 14, 2024:** Meeting starts at 1:00 PM with installation of officers. Our butcher has closed, so at this time not sure if we will have jaternice (working on it). Kielbasa and sauerkraut will be served. Reservations are required by January 5th. Please call the Home Office at 216-341-0444.

**Sunday, March 10, 2024:** Annual Communion Brunch. Celebration of Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish at 10:00 AM followed by brunch at CCU Home Office (across the street from the church). PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN CHURCH PARKING LOT. Reservations are required by March 1st. Please call the Home Office at 216-341-0444. 50-year members will be honored.



## CLEVELAND, OHIO

Jean Mix (Society #10) is pictured with her daughter, Lauren. The Mix Family traveled to Prague at the beginning of April. It was a wonderful trip back to a beautiful city that their relatives came from. While there, they shopped at the Easter markets, enjoyed traditional Czech food and toured the Prague Castle. Their trip connected them with their heritage and was a wonderful experience.



## CLEVELAND, OHIO

"Czech Cultural Garden located on East Blvd, just south of St. Clair appreciates the support by CCU! The Garden represents our culture to people of all backgrounds and is open year round, even in the winter! Thank you CCU for your recent donation."

Paul Burik for the Czech Cultural Garden





## CLEVELAND, OHIO

Steve and Bea (Society 156) Krajnak visited Prague as part of a Viking cruise on the Danube River in April. We visited the Prague Castle as highlighted in The J/F/M issue of the POSEL. While it was chilly at that time, no snow as noted in the Posel picture. We witnessed the changing of the guard at the gates to the Castle Complex - not quite as ceremonial as that at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington or Buckingham Palace. Unfortunately we were not able to tour the inside of St. Vitus Cathedral as we were there on Holy Thursday and the Cathedral was closed until the late afternoon. People were already lining up 2 hours before the church was scheduled to open. We were able to visit many other churches on our stops in Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Passau, and Prague. Many of them were dedicated to Saint Stephen, King and patron saint of Hungary who helped the spread of Christianity in the region. We had a little more free time in Prague and were able to seek out some things of the local cuisine rather than shipboard dining. Enjoyed the trip, but after 12 days, we were ready to come home.



## CLEVELAND, OHIO

Bob and Kathy Cermak, members of St. Joseph Society #156 attended the Party at the Pavilion on September 14, 2023. This event was held at St. Monica Church located in Garfield Hts., Ohio (not too far from the Home Office). Reverend John J. Mullee, pastor of St. Monica is also pictured.

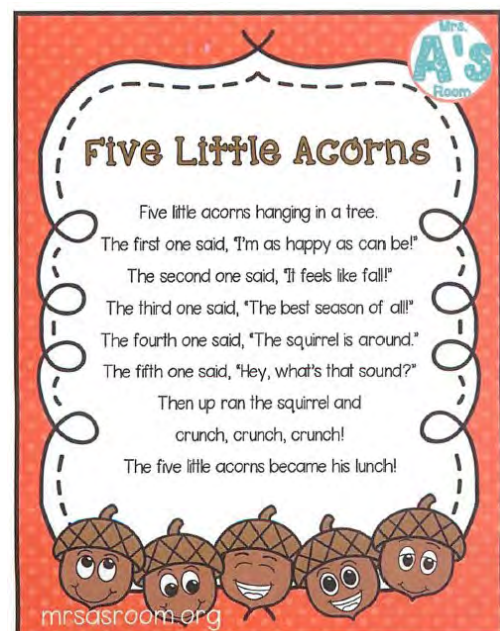


## CARDINAL NEWMAN

John Henry Newman (February 21, 1801 - August 11, 1890) was an English theologian, scholar and poet, who was first an Anglican priest and later a Catholic priest and cardinal.



May He support us all the day long,  
Till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,  
And the busy world is hushed  
And the fever of life is over  
And our work is done.  
Then in His mercy  
May He give us safe lodging,  
Holy rest and peace at last.  
Cardinal Newman





## CLEVELAND, OHIO

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES CELEBRATION - CONTINUED

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Cleveland, Ohio celebrated 140 years on Sunday, June 25, 2023.

Bishop Edward Malesic celebrated the bilingual (English and Spanish) Mass. The five concelebrants were: Father Callahan, Msgr. Richard Antall (pastor of nearby Holy Name Parish), Father Robert Jasany (pastor of nearby St. John Nepomucene Parish), Father Tom Mahoney (senior priest-retired who once served as parish administrator) and Father Hernandez Argueta (priest from El Salvador who served with Father Callahan at the diocesan mission in El Salvador).

Bishop Malesic stated: "This parish is a beacon of light and hope on Cleveland's Southeast Side. Today, we remember the past, celebrate the present and have hope for the future of God's people here in Southeast Cleveland."

The bishop noted that Our Lady of Lourdes was founded as a Bohemian parish in 1883 primarily to serve the growing Czech and Slovak population in the area. Over the years, demographics changed and a number of Hispanics from places like Venezuela, El Salvador, Puerto Rico and Mexico began settling in the area. Today, the parish has a robust Hispanic congregation and celebrates Mass in Spanish every Sunday in addition to the regular masses in English. Father Callahan is fluent in Spanish.

"But a parish is much more than its buildings. It is a gathering of people. As beautiful as this church may be, what we really need is people with hearts made beautiful for God. The beauty of this church is really found in you," he told the congregation.

The bishop said a parish has three main purposes: a community of people who gather to worship God, a community of people who evangelize by proclaiming the faith as Jesus revealed it to us and a community of service to each other and our neighbors. Worshipping God is at the heart of what we do, the bishop explained, pointing out the sacraments that are celebrated in parishes. He encouraged everyone to be an evangelist, to share the good news and to tell everyone about Jesus.

The bishop added, "A watered-down faith is of no use to us. Be Catholic to the core and let the world know that you are ready to welcome all who want to come to the same faith as you. Living the faith is something best done together. Worship, proclaim, serve. Never stop being that place of hope where Jesus is at the center of all that you do."

Regarding service, the bishop said we gather together in a parish to find strength in each other. Caring for those in need, giving food to the hungry, making donations to the poor, fighting for what is right, defending the lives of the unborn, opposing what is wrong, welcoming the stranger, opposing racism and being like the Good Samaritan who cared for the suffering man he met along the road.

Father Callahan translated the bishop's remarks into Spanish and added a few closing remarks, thanking the bishop for his interest and support of the parish.





## OTOVICE

Otovice is a municipality and village in Nachod District in the Hradec Kralove Region of the Czech Republic. The main landmark of Otovice is the Church of St. Barbara. The church was built in 1725-1727. It has been protected as a national cultural monument since 2022.

In the Czech Republic, St. Barbara's Day, December 4, is the start of the Christmas calendar.



## CAN YOU IDENTIFY ME?

This picture was in the last issue of the Posel, asking if anyone could identify an approximate year. The office received feedback from two individuals. The car is from the late 1930's. The picture was taken some time between 1946-1949.



## ST. MARTIN

The feast of St. Martin, November 11th, in the Czech Republic is an age old tradition to celebrate the completion of crop seeding among the Slavic people. The feast celebrates good food and drink. The tradition is to roast a corn-fed goose and open bottles of young wine. The wines are fresh and young because they have only been fermenting for a few weeks.



St. Martin was a Roman soldier, but found military life incompatible with his beliefs, so he became a monk. He lived a modest and quiet life. St. Martin is the patron saint of beggars, winemakers, geese and soldiers.

## ROTUNDA OF ST. MARTIN ROTUNDA SV. MARTINA

The rotunda of St. Martin is the largest preserved rotunda in Prague. It was built in the second half of the 11th century. It has escaped demolition several times in its history. During the Thirty Years War the rotunda was used as a gunpowder store. A cannonball is still embedded in the rotunda as a reminder of the Prussian rampage in 1757. In 1875, it was purchased and restored. The internal diameter of the rotunda is approximately 21 feet. The walls are approximately 3 feet thick. The rotunda is now used for religious purposes.





## NATIONAL HOMEMADE BREAD DAY – November 17

2650 BC - Archaeologists found evidence of Egyptians harvesting grain, likely for bread.

79 AD - Mt. Vesuvius erupted, preserving the Roman city of Pompeii, which had 33 bakeries.

1300 AD - The writings of Indo-Persian poet, Amir Khusrau, contained the first reference to bread.

1928 - Otto Frederick Rohwedder invented a machine to slice bread.

### BOHEMIAN RYE BREAD

3 c. lukewarm water

2 t. sugar

1 pkg. dry yeast

4 c. rye flour

5 c. white flour

1 T. salt

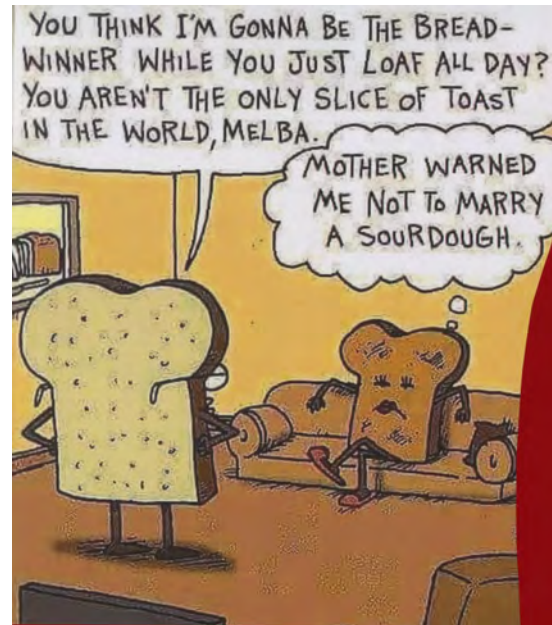
1 T. caraway seed

Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water. Mix, let rise 20 minutes. Add flour, salt, caraway seed and 2 T. of melted lard. Knead for 15 minutes. Cover. Let rise for 1 hour. Turn out on floured board. Cut into 3 parts, shape in round loaves.

Place in floured 9 in. pans. Let rise 20 minutes.

Before baking, brush loaves with warm water. Bake 1 hour at 350.

Remove from pans and rub with butter.



### 1943



In 1943, Norman Rockwell based his Four Freedoms paintings on FDR's 1941 address to Congress. The four are: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom From Fear and Freedom From Want.

After appearing in the Saturday Evening Post, an exhibition of the paintings traveled to 16 cities and was viewed by more than a million people, raising \$133 million in war bonds and stamps.



"OUR PROBLEMS ARE MAN-MADE, THEREFORE THEY MAY BE SOLVED BY MAN. AND MAN CAN BE AS BIG AS HE WANTS. NO PROBLEM OF HUMAN DESTINY IS BEYOND HUMAN BEINGS."

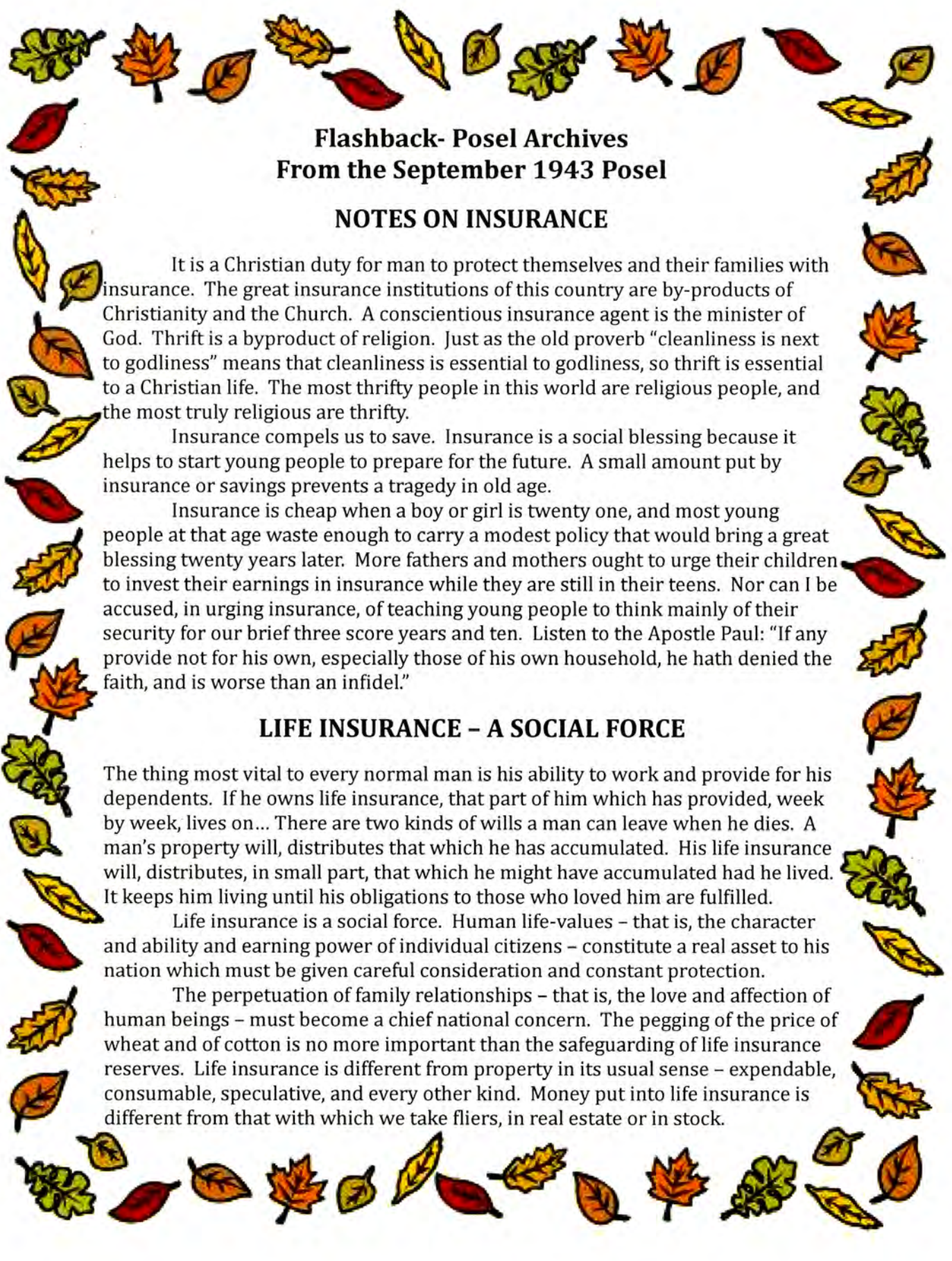
- John F. Kennedy

IF YOU FIND MISTAKES IN THIS PUBLICATION, PLEASE CONSIDER THAT THEY ARE THERE FOR A PURPOSE.



WE PUBLISH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, AND SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MISTAKES!!!





## **Flashback- Posel Archives**

### **From the September 1943 Posel**

#### **NOTES ON INSURANCE**

It is a Christian duty for man to protect themselves and their families with insurance. The great insurance institutions of this country are by-products of Christianity and the Church. A conscientious insurance agent is the minister of God. Thrift is a byproduct of religion. Just as the old proverb "cleanliness is next to godliness" means that cleanliness is essential to godliness, so thrift is essential to a Christian life. The most thrifty people in this world are religious people, and the most truly religious are thrifty.

Insurance compels us to save. Insurance is a social blessing because it helps to start young people to prepare for the future. A small amount put by insurance or savings prevents a tragedy in old age.

Insurance is cheap when a boy or girl is twenty one, and most young people at that age waste enough to carry a modest policy that would bring a great blessing twenty years later. More fathers and mothers ought to urge their children to invest their earnings in insurance while they are still in their teens. Nor can I be accused, in urging insurance, of teaching young people to think mainly of their security for our brief three score years and ten. Listen to the Apostle Paul: "If any provide not for his own, especially those of his own household, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

#### **LIFE INSURANCE – A SOCIAL FORCE**

The thing most vital to every normal man is his ability to work and provide for his dependents. If he owns life insurance, that part of him which has provided, week by week, lives on... There are two kinds of wills a man can leave when he dies. A man's property will, distributes that which he has accumulated. His life insurance will, distributes, in small part, that which he might have accumulated had he lived. It keeps him living until his obligations to those who loved him are fulfilled.

Life insurance is a social force. Human life-values – that is, the character and ability and earning power of individual citizens – constitute a real asset to his nation which must be given careful consideration and constant protection.

The perpetuation of family relationships – that is, the love and affection of human beings – must become a chief national concern. The pegging of the price of wheat and of cotton is no more important than the safeguarding of life insurance reserves. Life insurance is different from property in its usual sense – expendable, consumable, speculative, and every other kind. Money put into life insurance is different from that with which we take fliers, in real estate or in stock.





## ROAST HARE WITH SOURCREAM ZJIC NA SMETANE

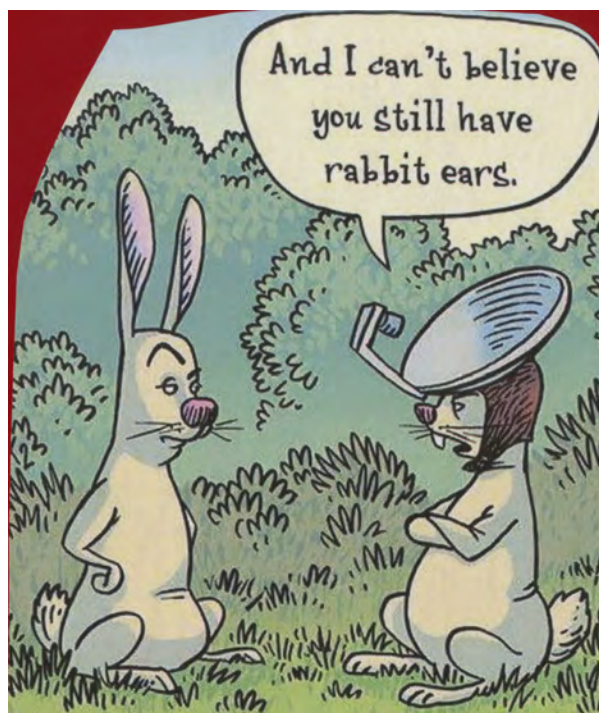
1 Hare rump salt to taste	4 all spice
4 oz. bacon, cut in 1/2 inch strips	1 bay leaf
1 c. diced vegetables (your choice)	dash of thyme
1 large onion, chopped	strip of lemon peel
1/2 c. butter	2 T. flour
1 1/2 c. water	2 c. sour cream
8 peppercorns	lemon juice to taste

## PICKLED FISH SULC

3 c. water  
 1. 1/2 c. vinegar  
 2. 1/2 T. salt  
 2 T. sugar  
 1 small onion, sliced  
 1/8 tsp. of pepper  
 1 bay leaf  
 4 all spice

Bring all ingredients to a boil. Add enough fish, any kind, cut up to be covered with solution. Bring to boil again. Set aside to cool. Refrigerate.

Remove membranes from hare, clean and salt. Fry bacon. Fry vegetables and onion in butter. Add hare and brown on both sides. Pour in water, spices and lemon peel. Roast in 325 degree oven until tender (about 1 1/2 hours). Remove meat from pan. Mix flour with sour cream, add to pan and blend well. Simmer gravy for 5 minutes. Run through a sieve. Add lemon juice. Serves 4 to 6



SELLING OF CARP FOR THE CHRISTMAS  
DINNER JOSEF LADA (CZECH ARTIST)



Translation: Flaje Waterworks (located in North Bohemian region of the Czech Republic)

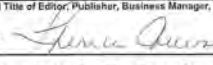


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## STASTNY DIKUVZDANI



### FLASHBACK FROM THE 1950's

We are thankful for our great country and the position of Leadership God has granted us. As American gentlemen, we can best express our gratitude by our constant defense of our nation and its defenders. Grateful also are we for our fine young men and women, the Youth of America, whom we shall encourage and support so that they too will join us in our thanks to God for our rich heritage. In doing these things we should not neglect to be thankful for our large membership and fervently hope that more will join our efforts for God and Country. For all these things and many more, I feel sure that Fraternalists everywhere join me in a devout Thanksgiving.





## The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Invites You to Kick Off Your Holiday Celebrations in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Experience a delightful market with local handcrafted items, delicious treats, entertainment, and activities for people of all ages. The Old World Christmas Market, inspired by traditional European markets, is an enchanted celebration of culture, community, and holiday cheer. It is free for the entire weekend, including admission to all NCSML galleries.

Traditional European Christmas Markets are typically found outside in the town square, so initially NCSML's was outside — in Czech Village, in the parking lot, and on the lawn by the river. It was lovely. However, it was very cold and sometimes muddy. After a few years of trying it outside, the event moved indoors and was expanded into the galleries with even more activities for families to enjoy!

As the museum confirms its final plans, please check our website ([ncsml.org](http://ncsml.org)) for additional vendors, activities, and updated schedules. One thing's for sure: Saturday hours will be extended, and all admission fees waived during the celebration.



New this year is a pop-up restaurant featuring authentic Czech and Slovak foods (opens at 11 a.m. on both days). As always, Old World Christmas Market features:

- Wreath Raffle (Winners drawn on Sunday at 3 p.m.)
- Cookie Walk (Saturday at 9:30 a.m. – noon, as supplies last)
- Kolache Café
- Live Entertainment
- Visits from Svatý Mikuláš
- Photo Ops in front of the tree (Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
- Family-Friendly Crafts both days. Come make paper doll finger puppets featuring Czech and Slovak fairy tale characters in kroje. Cut out and color pre-made puppets or design your own and have fun making up stories with them! No one is too young or too old to enjoy!



### Vendors at the 2023 Old World Christmas Market

The vendor marketplace at OWCM is full of artisan vendors who are chosen based on quality and craftsmanship. No mass-manufactured products or name brands are allowed. If you're looking for unique gifts, you'll be in the right place. A sampling of the 2023 vendors:

CR Beads	Hue Hill	Pasta of the Prairie
Czech Heritage Foundation	Lori Ann's Candies	Pickle Creek Herbs
Wreath Raffle	Midwest Basket Guild	The Barkery LLC
Echoes of the East	Myrtle Tyrtle	The Crafty Needle
(shown in photo)	Creation — Sewing and Craft Business	The Wright Touch Catering Company

### The Museum Store: A Family Tradition

Finish your shopping extravaganza in our award-winning museum store, where you can find everything from pickle ornaments to history books. The Museum Store's famous annual ornament sale will be happening during OWCM.

The store offers a wide variety of items that will appeal to visitors whether or not they have Czech or Slovak heritage. Though it is perceived as a high-end museum store, the inventory features a wide variety of price points.

NCSML's eighth annual limited edition 2023 collector's ornament has been delivered and is in stock. The store is celebrating another year of its custom-designed collector's ornament by the Czech-American Master Folk Artist, Marj Nejd. Inspired by the beauty of the traditional folk designs, Marj has created yet another stunning ornament to add to existing collections — or to begin NEW collections.

#### MASTER CZECH FOLK ARTIST MARJ NEJD

The Christmas season is a very special time at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, but one of the true heroes of the holiday is Master Czech Folk Artist Marj Nejd. Year round, Marj donates her precious time and extensive talent to hand paint personal messages on mouth-blown glass ornaments sold in the Museum Store.







#### THE TREE IN ROZEK GRAND HALL

Standing guard over Rozek Grand Hall is a 13.5-foot-tall Christmas tree decorated with more than 1,500 ornaments. Most are hand-made and have special meanings drawn from Christianity and Czech folklore.

The Angel represents the angel who appeared before Mary, announcing that she would be the mother of Jesus. Strung popcorn signifies the rope Joseph held as he led the donkey to Bethlehem. Walnuts represent the gifts from the Three Wise Men. Oranges are a special fruit only available during the Christmas season. Wheat is a symbol of life, prosperity, and nourishment.

Cloth at the base of the tree represents Jesus' swaddling clothes. Apples remind us of Adam and Eve, or are decorated with raisins on toothpicks to look like a hedgehog. A White Dove is placed near the top of the tree to evoke peace. Carrots are often given to a new wife to bring good luck in the kitchen. Mushrooms are considered to be lucky and mean good fortune is at hand. Pine cones and evergreen trees symbolize eternal life. Moravian stars signify the beginning of Advent.

#### Totally Free Admission to All Museum Galleries

Don't miss the one-of-a-kind exhibition of priceless antique and modern garnets from the National Museum in Prague: *Brilliant Bohemian Garnets*. This exhibit is only making one stop in America, and that's in Iowa. Once it returns to the Czech Republic, it will become part of Prague's permanent exhibit.

**Sanctuary:** a series of paintings on wood panels inspired by Slovak folk art patterns. Artist Zuzka Vaclavik is a dual citizen of the United States and Slovakia. She grew up in Germany, where she took art lessons from a Czech painter. Vaclavik has exhibited her work in New York, California, Cambodia, Germany, Austria, and across the United States.

#### Noah Breuer — Reclamation:

Through research trips to his family company's archive of fabric samples and designs held at The Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, artist Noah Breuer has amassed a rich collection of primary source material in the form of digital scans depicting designs, and printed fabric and letters of correspondence. He creates an array of printed works that not only tell his family's story of persecution and emigration, but also raise questions about labor, authorship, and appropriation.

Visit NCSML's permanent exhibits — *Faces of Freedom: The Czech and Slovak Journey*, and the Slegger Immigrant Home.

#### OWCM AT A GLANCE

- Sat., Dec. 2, 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 3, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Address: 1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
- Parking options: Parking garage entrance is located on 15th Ave. Free to use and handicap accessible. Outdoor parking: Next to the museum on 15th Ave. and across the street in Czech Village.
- The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is fully ADA accessible. For personal assistance before visiting, please contact Visitors Services Coordinators at 319-362-8500.



#### Beyond the Museum and Into the Neighborhoods

In conjunction with OWCM, "The District" (Czech Village and New Bohemia) will be decked out and hosting a variety of holiday-themed events. NCSML sits on the Cedar River, overlooking the Bridge of Lions, which connects Czech Village to New Bohemia (New Bo). On Friday night, December 1, The Czech Village Association will be lighting a large Christmas tree in the center of the museum's circle drive. The Royal Court will be there to grace the festivities.

Czech Village and New Bo are two thriving historic neighborhoods, full of award-winning restaurants, live music, vibrant art, culture, and fun for all ages. The "Very Cherry Art Sale" and open house will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., and the gallery will be bursting at the seams with handmade items for sale by local artists. New Bo's historic Cherry Building, housing a creative

center for both artists and entrepreneurs, is located at 329 10th Ave SE (across the river from the museum).

On the Czech Village side of the bridge, The Lion Bridge Brewing Company is hosting a workshop in their tap room from 2 to 4 p.m. Participants will make a holiday tree from clay using various hand building techniques. Add garlands, ornaments, texture, and glaze —the decorative options are endless! The projects will then be taken back to the Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio and fired in their kilns. Finished projects will be ready for pickup at ICCGS three weeks later. *For more information, go to [the-district.org](http://the-district.org).*



## LAMPLIGHTS ON THE CHARLES BRIDGE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague's public lighting went to electric power in the 1950s, but the lamps on the Charles Bridge are still powered by gas and so are over 700 other gas lamps around the city, mostly in historical destinations. The gas lamps on the bridge are usually turned on automatically as the sun sets, but not during December. Every day in December until the 23rd, a lamplighter dressed in period clothing arrives on the Charles Bridge at 4 PM to manually light up the gas lamps. This tradition is meant to bring back the romance of the 19th century, when most of Prague's public lighting had to be turned on manually every single day.



### CZECH CATHOLIC UNION/CCU LIFE HOME OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:

**Thanksgiving** Thursday, November 23rd  
Friday, November 24th  
**Christmas** Monday, December 25th  
Tuesday, December 26th  
**New Years** Monday, January 1st  
Tuesday, January 2nd

.....

### 2023 Year End Cut Off Dates for ... Annuity Distributions, Cash Surrenders And Death Claims

For the Home Office to process all distributions, surrenders and claims prior to December 31st, we must have all paperwork in the office by December 22nd. Anything received after the 22nd of December, will be paid early January.

## HRONEK LAW



**Christina M. Hronek**  
*Attorney,  
Brecksville Resident*

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Christina@Hronek-Law.com  
6940 South Edgerton Road  
Brecksville Ohio 44141

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Note: Christina, legal counsel for CCU, has graciously offered a 10% discount to any member who mentions this article.







**Benedictine High School, Cleveland, OH** – “Thank you for your generous gift. Your support of Benedictine High School continues to provide our current and future young men the opportunities, experiences, and renowned Catholic education that cannot be replicated elsewhere. Your investment plays a crucial role in helping us fulfill our mission of providing an outstanding education to the Men of Benedictine.”

*Yours in Benedictine, Mr. Chris Lorber '04, Chief Operating Officer*

**Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery, Chicago, IL** – “On behalf of the Board of Friends of Bohemian national Cemetery, we thank you for your recent 2023 donation. Since 2004, Friends of BNC has helped preserve numerous building and monuments. Your current donation will help support the rebuilding of the WWI-II monument and flagpole at the entrance of the cemetery. The repairs to this significant war monument will help keep alive the memory of these historic events and provide a reminder of the men and women who served our country. Again, thank you for your support.”

*Marjorie Sladek Stueckemann, President*

**National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, IA** – “On behalf of the board of directors, members, and staff at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, I would like to personally thank you for your contribution. Please know how much we appreciate your financial support of the museum and our programs. With your help, we will continue to offer innovative programming, new exhibits, and community events in fulfillment of our mission to preserve, present, and transcend unique stories of Czech and Slovak history and culture.”

*Sincerely, Mariah Schlueter, Membership Coordinator*

**National September 11 Memorial & Museum, New York, NY** – “On behalf of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, please accept my sincere thanks for your recent donation. Your support ensures that we can continue to serve as a beacon of hope and resilience for visitors from across the country and around the world. Your gift ensures that we can continue to fulfill our essential mission with an unwavering sense of purpose. Thank you for helping us to ‘Always Remember... Never Forget.’”

*Sincerely, Josh Cherwin, Chief Advancement Officer & Deputy Director for Institutional Advancement*

**Notre Dame Cathedral Latin Schools, Chardon, OH** – “Thank you for your gift in support of our students. How humbled and honored we are by your generosity and engagement with our mission “to educate leaders who transform the world, as Jesus did, by living the truth in love.” Your selfless generosity transforms our world on this campus. Thank you for honoring our mission. May you continue to know the blessings of our Good and Provident God.”

*With all our gratitude, Courtney (Rice '98) Bacik, Annual Giving Coordinator*

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Cleveland, OH** – “Many, many thanks for the generous donation. We will be sure that it is used for the needs of the parish. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support.”

*Sincerely, Rev. Joseph H. Callahan, Pastor*

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*Thank yous continued on page 24*



**Our Lady's Inn, St. Louis, MO** – “Thank you for your gift advancing the life-saving work of Our Lady's Inn. Each day we lift-up pregnant women in need and surround them with love and compassion. Within our home, they find safety and stability, nourishment for mind and body, and are empowered to prepare for a future filled with hope and centered in family. Thank you for believing in this work and offering women the opportunity to choose life for their unborn children.”

*Most gratefully, Peggy Forrest, President & Chief Executive Officer &  
Karen Nolkemper, Vice President-Advancement*

**Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH** – “On behalf of the monks of St. Andrew Abbey, thank you for your generous donation. We are truly blessed to have individuals like you who share our vision and actively participate in the betterment of our faith community. Your support reinforces our sense of unity and strengthens our ability to make a difference in the lives of many.”

*Peace, Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, OSB, Abbot*

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## What is ChatGPT?

*Written by: Daniel Barrera Corrales - XLN SYSTEMS*

You may have heard of the term “ChatGPT” lately and how it is capable of “doing everything”. While no program or software is close to doing everything imaginable, this specific software is being utilized at an unprecedented rate. ChatGPT (Generative Pre-Trained Transformer) is an online AI (Artificial Intelligence) tool, the use of which has exploded in recent years to assist with a variety of tasks; such as writing a term paper, writing custom computer code, composing song lyrics, writing scripts for tv shows, holding a conversation, conducting computer animation, and much more.

The vast options ChatGPT offers users are not the only reason it is popular; it is because it seemingly works. Important and lengthy tasks (term papers, song lyrics, scripts) have been trusted to ChatGPT because of its ability to compose passable work that can hold up in real world workplaces and institutions (granted with varying degrees of success).

There are many pros and cons to using AI for completing tasks; one advantage being it saves time and effort, with a con being how commonly it plagiarizes and how often it is confidently incorrect. Getting the creative juices flowing by consulting an AI tool that uses data pulled from all over the internet is one way to get the job done and quickly. On the other hand, this process involves no original thinking or composition by the user and relies on work found online and potentially twisted by AI; any work taken from ChatGPT can be considered plagiarism if the primary sources are not properly cited. Established organizations have taken measures to detect material composed by AI and act against those circumstances, however it has not yet been proven to put a stop to ChatGPT's popularity.

In less than a year since the launch of ChatGPT, its website has attained over 180 million registered user accounts and achieved over 1.43 billion monthly website views by August 2023. Furthermore, in the same month it was estimated that over 60 million requests are made to ChatGPT daily. With the attention ChatGPT is getting, it is likely that the research company that runs it, OpenAI, will expand its capabilities and tailor it to further avenues of creativity and practicality.

It can be tempting to let AI do the hard work for you; however, it is not genuine human work. Although AI can process and compose passable work quickly, it is not guaranteed that it is factually correct, plausibly reasonable, or even to be held as the pinnacle work of a person's career. AI simply mimics original human ideas and works because there is nothing like it.

You can find more information on the topic, as well as sources for this article at  
[www.XLNsystems.com/ChatGPT](http://www.XLNsystems.com/ChatGPT)





## CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

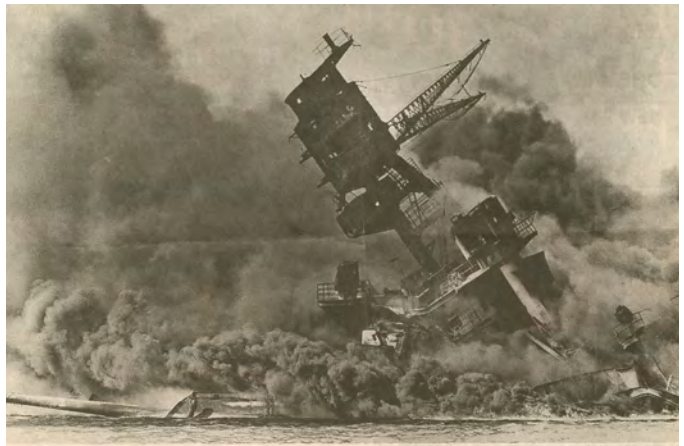
The Church of St. Nicholas is located in Belec, a village and municipality in Kladno District in the Central Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic. The Gothic church dates from the first half of the 14th century. A wooden bell tower, built in 1717, sits beside the church. The last repair on the church was in 1903-1904, but it was robbed several times and the church interior was destroyed. The church interior is now inaccessible and the overall condition is very dilapidated.



## DECEMBER 7



St. Nicholas Feast Day is December 6



Smoke rises from the battleship USS Arizona during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It took only nine minutes for the ship to sink. A memorial built in 1962 sits above the wreckage.



Czechoslovakia Stamp – Translation:  
Common Bullfinch



## REINDEER

Known in North America as caribou, reindeer are built to live in freezing Arctic regions. Their noses are adapted to warm the air they breathe before it enters their lungs. Most of their bodies, including their hooves, are covered with thick, dense fur to keep them well insulated. Reindeer were introduced to Christmas lore in 1823 with the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" also known as "The Night Before Christmas", written by Clement Clarke Moore. The famous reindeer, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen, have been called males with their antlers intact. It is more likely they are female, since male reindeer shed their antlers at the end of the mating season in early December.



### CZECH CATHOLIC UNION/CCU LIFE COLLEGE GRANT

At the Executive Committee meeting held in September 2021, the Officers and Directors of the Czech Catholic Union/CCU Life voted to expand this Grant to members attending a non-Catholic College/University as a full-time student. If attending a Catholic College/University, the member would receive \$500.00. If attending a non-Catholic College/University, the member would receive \$300. The Grant will be payable directly to the applicant.

#### ***To be eligible for this Grant, applicant***

- Must be a member in good standing of the Czech Catholic Union/CCU Life for three years
- Must be between the ages of 18 - 25
- Must have one of the following permanent plans: 5, 10, 20 Year Payment Plan – Single Premium Whole Life – Youth Savings Plan - with a minimum of **\$5,000.00** of insurance
- Must forward an official transcript from Fall 2023
- Must have at least a 2.5 GPA
- Must be working towards an undergraduate degree

Please complete application below and submit along with the transcript to the Czech Catholic Union/CCU Life Home Office no later than **January 15, 2024**.

Request for Grants must be submitted annually. The maximum of 4 grants can be applied for by a member.

***NO LATE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED.***

#### **Student Information**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Society No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **College/University Information**

College/University: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_  
Currently a (circle one): FRESHMAN SOPHOMORE JUNIOR SENIOR

Please mail this application to: Czech Catholic Union/CCU Life  
5349 Dolloff Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44127

Email: [insurance@czechccu.org](mailto:insurance@czechccu.org)  
website: [www.czechccu.org](http://www.czechccu.org)

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Feast Day December 8

## CUTOUT GINGER COOKIES CZECH PERNIK NA FIGURKY

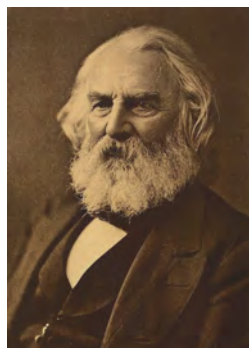
4 eggs	1 t. baking soda
1# powdered sugar	2 T. vegetable oil
4 c. flour	2 t. ginger

Beat together the eggs, sugar and oil. Sift together flour, baking soda and ginger. Mix dry ingredients gradually into egg mixture. Knead dough well. Roll out to 1/2 in. thickness on floured board. Cut into shapes with cookie cutters. Bake on greased cookie sheets at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes. Can be mixed one day, refrigerated and baked the next day.

## CZECH CHRISTMAS CARD



## CHRISTMAS BELLS



"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" is a Christmas carol based on the 1863 poem "Christmas Bells" by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. In 1872, the poem was set to music. Bing Crosby recorded the song on October 3, 1956, using verses 1, 2, 6 and 7.



### The original words of Longfellow's poem

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."



## CLEVELAND, OHIO

Some members of CCU participated in THE WALK, patterned after the BEH REPUBLIKY (Run for the Republic) held at the Czech Cultural Garden on October 28. A wreath was placed in front of the statue of Tomas Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia. Our members were: Theresa Aveni, Karla Mahoney, Jane Milczewski and Nicole Aveni.



## CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Czech Catholic Union/CCU Life participated in the Holiday Fair held at Bohemian National Hall on November 11. Two basket raffles were held and donations were collected for the two local churches, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. John Nepomucene. Congratulations go out to our two basket winners: Georgy Mindzora and Judith Doan.





## CZECH BREWERY



The Lobec Brewery received the European Heritage/Europa Nostra Award in September 2023. Located in Lobec, a town in Melnik District, the Central Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic, the brewery dates back to 1586. Czech architect, Pavel Prouza, purchased the run-down brewery in 2007 and restored the run-down building with historic value.

The heyday of the brewery was in the early 20th century. It flourished until World War II when the Communists took power and turned the brewery into a produce warehouse, tractor garage, workshops and flats. Falling into disrepair, the site changed hands several times post-communism.

The owners used it for construction material. Squatters finished the job burning up the floor planks and treating some of the premises as a toilet. Two water reservoirs survived, because they were too large to carry away.



Lobec Brewery 1920

After a lot of hard work and money well spent, Pavel Prouza opened the brewery and restaurant in 2015. Prouza describes himself as the "manager, guide, gardener, caretaker and cleaner" at the brewery a jack of all trades always on call.

The brewery offers tours, holds concerts and exhibitions.



## VESELE VANOCNI HODY

This song is reproduced from a Christmas Carol Book entitled "Koledy" (Carols) by S. Anita Smisek.



### VESELE VANOCNI HODY

Vesele vanocni hody zpivejte  
Ditky, koledy. O tom, co se v  
Skutku stalo, zeselidem  
Narodilo, Detatko.

Jehoz Panenka pocala,  
V zime, v chleve porodila,  
Polozila do jeslicek  
Obvinula do plencicek, Detatko.

### CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS BEGINS

Christmas happiness begins.  
Children, sing Christmas carols  
About what really happened;  
That a baby was born to the people.

He, Whom the virgin conceived  
And gave birth to in the stable  
At winter time, she laid in the  
Manger and wrapped in swaddling  
Clothes, Little Baby.

## CHRISTMAS STAMPS



## CZECH CHRISTMAS CARD



## EARLY VINTAGE CZECH CHRISTMAS SANTA CLAUS POSTCARD





## FLASHBACK

Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians band gave a New Year's Eve performance at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City each year from 1929 to 1959. From 1960 to 1976, they performed the show at New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Originally broadcast on radio, starting in 1954, the show also aired on TV. Their performance ended at midnight with their annual rendition of "Auld Lang Syne."

## AULD LANG SYNE

Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne.  
And auld lang syne, my dear  
And auld lang syne,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,  
And auld lang syne.



## Notice To Members

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

# PAYMENTS OF MORTUARY DEATH CLAIMS

The Czech Catholic Union/CCU Life 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
Roberta Jonke	Cleveland, OH	St. Ann	1	01/01/1994	06/21/2023	71
Robert Kocian	Detroit, MI	St. Ann	5	09/01/1942	06/20/2023	81
Lorraine Riedl	Chicago, IL	St. Ann	18	07/01/1944	12/31/2022	96
Linda Lewis	Pittsburg, PA	St. Ann	16	01/01/1957	09/11/2023	67

DEATH CLAIMS PAID IN 2023 \$21,196.92





Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Vesele Vanoce & Stasny Novy Rok