

# Posel

*Česká Katolická Jednota*

SUMMER 2026

VOL. CIV NO. 2



# POSEL

ISSN: 1077-5374  
(USPS 439480)

*Published Quarterly by*  
**CZECH CATHOLIC UNION**  
**CCU LIFE**  
5349 Dolloff Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44127

**POSTMASTER:**  
*Send address changes to*  
Posel, 5349 Dolloff Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44127

*The Official Publication of*  
*the Czech Catholic Union*  
*CCU Life*  
*Úřední Casopis Česká*  
*Katolická Jednota*

Call (216) 341-0444  
Fax (216) 341-0711  
email: [insurance@czechccu.org](mailto:insurance@czechccu.org)  
website: [www.czechccu.org](http://www.czechccu.org)

## *President*



**THERESA AVENI**  
8082 Chardon Road, Kirtland, OH 44094



## *Vice President*

**AUDREY SCHMIDT**  
6556 Hunt Circle, Mayfield Village, OH 44143

## *Secretary*

**JANE M. MILCZEWSKI**  
8704 Broadview Rd., Broadview Hts., OH 44147

## *Directors*

**CYNTHIA KVETON**  
4029 Holly Hills, St. Louis, MO 63116

**MARYANN LANGEVIN**  
33429 Crestwell, Sterling Heights, MI 48310

**KARLA MAHONEY**  
209 Gould Avenue, Bedford, OH 44146

**ALLEN PERK**  
107 Autumn Rush Court, Gahanna, OH 43230

**RICHARD PROSPAL**  
312 Nancy Circle, Brunswick, OH 44212

## *Past President*

**ROBERT L. CERMAK**  
3633 Wynde Tree Drive, Seven Hills, OH 44131

## *Chaplain*

**REV. JOSEPH CALLAHAN**  
*Our Lady of Lourdes Parish*  
3395 East 53rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44127

## *Actuary*

**MILLER & NEWBERG INC.**  
7304 W. 130th Street, Suite 370, Overland Park, KS 66213

## *Editor*

**JANE M. MILCZEWSKI**  
5349 Dolloff Road, Cleveland, OH 44127



## KEY MOMENTS IN U.S HISTORY

- 1776 – Declaration of Independence – Formal declaration of the 13 colonies as independent states
- 1863 – Emancipation Proclamation – President Lincoln’s order freed enslaved people in Confederate states, transforming the Civil War’s moral purpose
- 1865 – End of Civil War – Setting the stage for Reconstruction
- 1868 – 14th Amendment – Guaranteed equal protection under the law
- 1917- U.S. Entry in to World War I – Marked the nation’s first major role in a global conflict, shaping its international identity
- 1920 – 19th Amendment – Ratified granting women the right to vote
- 1941 – Pearl Harbor Attack – Led to U.S. entry into World War II
- 1945 – End of World War II – Victory over AXIS powers and beginning of Cold War Era
- 1963 – March on Washington -Massive civil rights demonstration where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech
- 1965 – Voting Rights Act – Banned discriminatory voting practices
- 1969 – Apollo II Moon Landing – First human on the Moon, symbolizing American technological achievements
- 2001 – September 11 – Attacks left a deep wound across the country, reshaping daily life and national policy
- 2020 – Year of Reckoning and Response – Public health crisis changed how people moved throughout the world
- 2026 – 250th Anniversary – This Celebration invites reflection, not only on the past, but the present, showing what the country continues to mean to the world



# KEY HAPPENINGS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC

- 1918 – Formation of Czechoslovakia – After the collapse of Austria-Hungary, the Czechs and Slovaks declared independence on October 28, 1918, creating the First Czechoslovak Republic under President Tomas Masaryk.
- 1920 – Constitution and Little Entente – Czechoslovakia adopted a constitution and the Little Entente, with Yugoslavia and Romania, was formed to counter Hungarian and Austro-Hungarian influence.
- 1938 – Munich Agreement – Britain, France and Italy forced Czechoslovakia to cede the Sudetenland to Nazi Germany, marking the start of the country's dismemberment.
- 1939- German and Slovak Occupation – Germany occupied Bohemia and Moravia; Slovakia became a puppet state of Hungary.
- 1945 – Liberation and Government-in-Exile – Czechoslovak forces fought alongside the Allies.
- 1948 – Communist Coup d'Etat – The Communist Party, backed by the USSR, seized power, establishing the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.
- 1968 – Prague Spring – Alexander Dubcek introduced reforms toward liberalization and decentralization, but was overthrown by Soviet-led invasion.
- 1989 – Velvet Revolution – Nonviolent protests led to the collapse of communist rule; the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic became the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.
- 1990 – First Free Elections – The first multiparty elections were held, marking the transition to democracy.
- 1992 – Dissolution of Czechoslovakia – The federation was dissolved, with the Czech Republic and Slovakia becoming independent states.
- 1993 – Velvet Divorce – On January 1, 1993, the Czech Republic and Slovakia peacefully split.
- 2009 – Lisbon Treaty Ratification – The Czech Republic ratified the European Union's Lisbon Treaty, deepening its integration with the EU.
- 2015 – Refugee Policy Stance – The Czech Republic announced opposition to EU refugee quotas, reflecting its cautious approach to migration.
- 2024 – Continued EU and Global Engagement – The Czech Republic reaffirmed its role in EU institutions, NATO and global diplomacy, balancing sovereignty with integration.



## CLEVELAND, OHIO



Maggie Koch

Maggie Koch, a member of St. Joseph Society #156 since birth, was named a Hoban Academic Knight for Quarter 4 at Archbishop Hoban High School. Academic Knights excel in scholarship. They also demonstrate leadership, service to the Hoban family, service to the community, Christian values and good character. Maggie

is the daughter of Kurt & Molly Koch and great granddaughter of Elsie & Fred Malec.

Elsie Malec, a member of St. Joseph Society #156 since birth, graduates from Waterford High School on May 24, 2026. She is the daughter of Jason & Trisha Malec and great-granddaughter of Fred & Elsie Malec. During high school Elsie was a member of National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. She was a part of Spanish Club, Key Club, and Pep Club. Elsie was on the Yearbook staff, a student aid, and participated in her senior class play. She played basketball for 4 years, volleyball for 4 years, and track for 2 years. She was the starting point guard on the Girls Basketball team that won Ohio's D6 state championship in 2025, and the D7 state-runners up team in 2024. She has won all-conference honors for basketball, and all-district awards in volleyball and basketball. In addition to her pursuits in school, she was actively involved in the community. Elsie is an Auxiliary member of American Legion Post 389 in Beverly, Ohio, and supports many of their annual events. She has also volunteered at Fraternal Order of Eagles Post 3665 in Beverly, Ohio. Her future plans are to attend Marietta College to further her academic and athletic careers. She will be studying Health Sciences and play on the Women's Basketball team.



## GROWING

"I'm leaving now to slay the foe – Fight the battles, high and low. I'm leaving Mother, hear me go! Please wish me luck today. I've grown my wings, I want to fly. Seize my victories where they lie. I'm going, Mom, but please don't cry – Just let me find my way. I want to see and touch and hear, Though there are dangers, there are fears. I'll smile my smiles and dry my tears – Please let me speak my say. I'm off to find my world, my dreams, Carve my niche, sew my seams, Remember, as I sail my streams – I'll love you, all the way."

Brooke Mueller

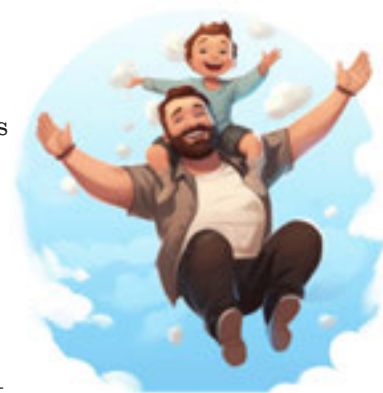
(from Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul)

## WHAT IS A DAD?

A dad is someone  
who wants to catch  
you before  
you fall, but instead  
picks you up, brushes  
you off  
and lets you try  
again.

A dad is someone  
who wants to keep  
you from  
making mistakes but  
instead lets you find your  
own way, even though his heart breaks in silence  
when you get hurt.

A dad is someone who holds you when you cry,  
scolds you when you break the rules, shines  
with pride when you succeed and has faith in  
you even when you fail.



**JULY 4, 1776**



Salmon, crab, oyster and turtle soup were favorites of George Washington and John Adams. A popular meal consisted of: peas, boiled new potatoes and cornmeal hotcakes. Those from the south, like James Madison, preferred a dish consisting of: pork, peas and rice, called Hoppin John.

Americans' love for alcohol and sweet things – John Adams – Hard cider; George Washington – Beer; Thomas Jefferson – Champagne. Alexander Hamilton once ordered more than 100 bottles of wine and 7 bowls of spiked punch for a party.

Thomas Jefferson is credited with bringing ice cream to the States, which was considered a delicacy reserved for only the upper class at the time. Jefferson and Hamilton were noted ice cream fans. Washington had a love for his wife's homemade cakes. His favorite was her "Great Cake", a spiced dessert filled with fruit, nuts and alcohol.

---

## **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

President Woodrow Wilson signed the "Organic Act" Creating the National Park Service on August 25, 1916. Before this, there was no single agency designated to manage all of the various federal parklands as some were administered by the Department of the Interior, the War Department and the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. Today there are over 400 units in the National Park System, all committed to the same goal as stated by the Organic Act, to "...promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations... which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."



## BASILICA OF ST. PROCOPIUS (BAZILIKA DVATEHO PROKOPA)

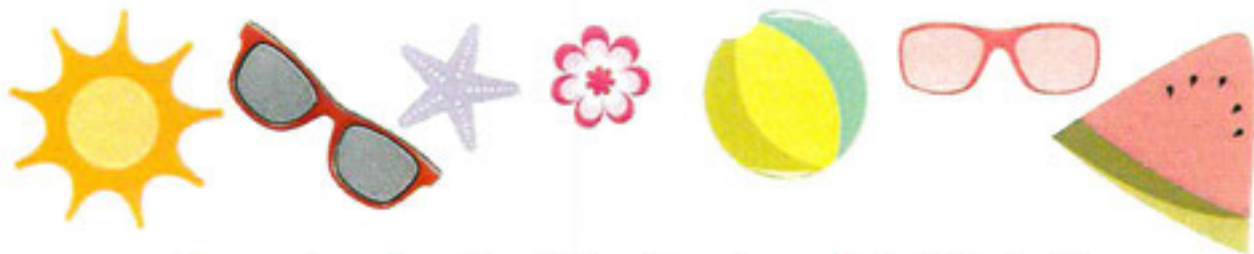


Feast Day July 4



Located in the town of Trebic in the Vysocina Region in Western Moravia, Czech Republic, this Basilica was built on the site of the original Virgin Mary's Chapel of the Benedictine Monastery in 1240-1260. The Basilica is an UNESCO site (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).





## *Czech Catholic Union/CCU Life*

### ***Offering Protection for the Whole Family!!!***

A financially stable fraternal organization dedicated to providing Life Insurance and Annuity/IRA products.

#### **Life Insurance Products**

Ordinary Whole Life  
Single Premium Whole Life  
Single Premium Whole Life - 1 Pay  
5 Year Payment Whole Life  
10 Year Payment Whole Life  
20 Year Payment Whole Life  
Final Expense (adult only)  
10 & 20 Year Term Life (adult only)  
Youth Savings Plan – Ages 18-21-25 (youth only)

#### **Annuity/IRA Products**

Annuity  
Traditional IRA  
Roth IRA

**Contact the Home Office for  
Information on all our products.**



## CLEVELAND, OHIO

CONGRATULATIONS ARE SENT TO OUR  
CHAPLAIN, FATHER JOSEPH CALLAHAN,  
ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS  
ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD ON  
JUNE 7, 2026



CELEBRATION WAS HELD AT  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH  
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026

# Hronek Law



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

440.546.5290  
Christina@Hronek-Law.com  
6940 South Edgerton Road  
Brecksville Ohio 44141

PERSONALIZED ATTENTION  
FOR YOUR LEGAL NEEDS

- Wills & Trusts
- Power of Attorney
- Estates & Probate
- Deeds
- Sale By Owner Transactions

Hronek-Law.com

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



## 50 YEAR PIN MEMBERS

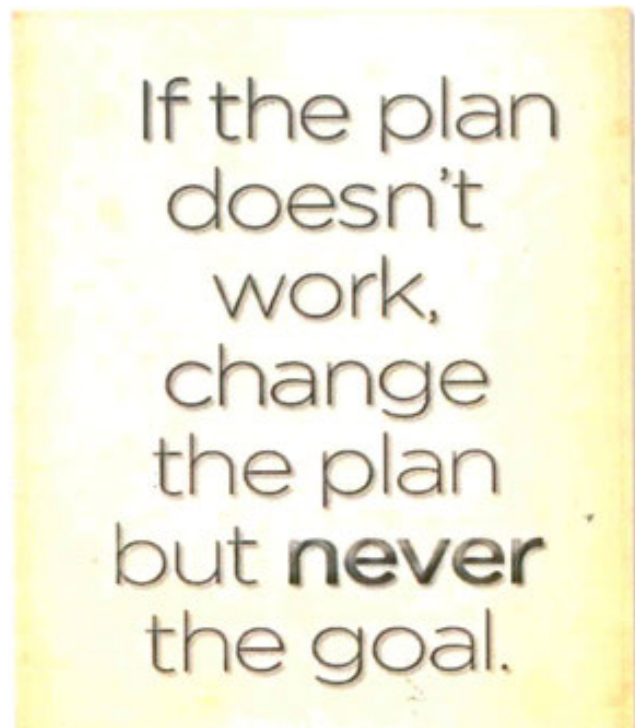
### SOCIETY NO.

|     |                  |
|-----|------------------|
| 1   | Patricia Biscan  |
| 7   | Laura Beckley    |
| 11  | Lorna Black      |
| 11  | Lisa Hanna       |
| 11  | Denise Saczawa   |
| 16  | Valerie Baughman |
| 46  | Daniel Kessler   |
| 117 | Robert Spear     |
| 119 | Brian Freeberg   |
| 156 | Joshua Dlouhy    |
| 156 | James Lynch      |
| 156 | Karen Veselsky   |

Pins were mailed to these members in late March.

## HUMOR FROM THE PULPIT

A man suffered a serious heart attack and had open heart bypass surgery. He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at a Catholic hospital. As he was recovering, a nun asked him questions regarding how he was going to pay for his treatment. She asked if he had health insurance. He replied, in a raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked if he had money in the bank .. He replied, "No money in the bank." The nun asked, "Do you have a relative who could help you?" He said, "I only have a spinster sister, who is a nun." The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God." The patient replied, "Well then, send the bill to my brother-in-law."



## SENT IN FROM A MEMBER –

### *Czech Forty-Eighters and the America They Made*

In the spring of 1848, a young Czech law student in Vienna watched the city erupt. Barricades went up in the streets. The Austrian chancellor Prince Metternich, the architect of conservative European order for thirty years, fled the country in disguise. From Paris to Budapest to Prague to Berlin, the old world seemed to be coming apart at its seams.

By autumn of that year, it was over. The old world had held. The armies came back, the arrests began, and the people who had stood on those barricades faced a simple choice: prison, or flight. The ones who ran became the Forty-Eighters. And a remarkable number of them ended up in America.

#### *What Bohemia Was*

To understand why they left, you have to understand what they were leaving.

Bohemia in 1848 was a kingdom in name, a province in practice, and a nation in aspiration.

It had been absorbed into the Habsburg Austrian Empire in 1526, and after a failed Protestant rebellion in 1620, crushed at the Battle of White Mountain outside Prague. It had been fully subordinated to Vienna. The Czech language was driven out of schools and government. German became the language of administration, of law, of advancement. The Czech nobility was dispersed or extinguished. What survived was a peasantry, a folk culture, and a memory.

The early 19th century brought what historians call the Czech National Awakening, a slow, deliberate effort by scholars, writers, clergy, and teachers to revive the Czech language, document Czech history, and build a Czech cultural identity that could sustain a political claim. It was cultural work done under surveillance, in a state that permitted theater and folk gatherings but crushed any hint of organized political opposition. By 1848, a generation had grown up inside that tension. They knew who they were. They had been told, their whole lives, that it did not matter.

#### *The Spring of Nations*

The trigger came from Paris. In February 1848, the French monarchy fell. News of it spread across Europe like a fire finding dry timber. Within weeks, uprisings had broken out in Vienna, Budapest, Berlin, Milan, and Prague.

In Prague, students and educated professionals - the petty bourgeoisie of the city and the lesser towns - had been building pressure for years. They wanted constitutional reforms. They wanted ... ; - linguistic equality for Czech speakers. They wanted representative institutions. They wanted; in the language of the day ... freedom!

On March 11, 1848, a mass meeting gathered at the St. Vaclav's Baths in Prague and drafted a petition to the Emperor. The crowd was young, mostly Czech-speaking, mostly middle and lowermiddle class.

The wealthy stayed away. The workers were barely represented. But the petition went out, and for a few extraordinary weeks, it seemed like it might mean something.

The Czech leader Frantisek Palacky convened the first Pan-Slavic Congress in Prague in early June, an attempt to build a Slavic political counter-weight to German nationalist pressure that was simultaneously pushing to absorb Bohemia into a unified German state. Czechs did not want to be German. They wanted to be Czech, inside a reformed Habsburg empire that would respect their language and their autonomy.

It was a reasonable position, argued carefully by serious men. It lasted about two weeks.

Prague was the first victory of counter-revolution in the Austrian Empire. The armies learned there that the barricades could be broken.

On June 12, 1848, a religious procession in Prague turned into a confrontation with Habsburg troops.

Barricades went up across the city. Students fortified themselves in the old university buildings. Street fighting lasted five days. On the very first day, a stray bullet killed the wife of the Habsburg commanding general, Prince Windischgratz, as she watched from a window. The general, already inclined toward force, now had a personal reason.

By June 17, Prague had been shelled into submission. Forty-three insurgents were killed. The National Committee was dissolved. A state of siege was declared and held for five years. Czech

hopes for autonomy within the empire were, as one historian put it, ended for the foreseeable future.

The arrests began.

### *Who They Were*

The Forty-Eighters were not peasants or miners. They were, almost without exception, educated men from the professional and intellectual classes: law students, journalists, doctors, teachers, minor clergy, and merchants' sons. They had been shaped by the National Awakening. They had read the Enlightenment philosophers. They had believed, with the particular conviction of educated young people, that the arc of history bent toward justice and that they were on the right side of it. They were also, many of them, Freethinkers. They were skeptics about organized religion, influenced by post-revolutionary French republicanism more than by American constitutional tradition. This would sometimes put them at odds with the more religiously conservative immigrant communities they landed among in America, and with American Protestant nativism more broadly. But it also made them natural allies of the abolitionist movement, which drew heavily on Enlightenment moral reasoning.

The charges against them varied. High treason was common. Participation in the June uprising. Publishing seditious material. Organizing banned associations: The punishments ranged from fines and imprisonment to death sentences, some carried out and some commuted. For those who could move fast enough, exile was the alternative.

Some went to London. Some went to Paris. Some went to Switzerland.

But America had something the others did not: distance, and land, and a government that had been founded, in theory, on exactly the ideas that had gotten these men arrested.

### *The Atlantic Crossing*

They arrived in New York exhausted, often broke, frequently with warrants still active in the country they had left. The first wave landed between 1848 and 1852. By the late 1850s, an estimated 20,000 Bohemians lived in the United States. It was a small number by the standards of later Czech immigration, but extraordinarily influential given who they were.

Chicago became the largest Czech settlement, connected to the rest of the country by rail.

Milwaukee drew a significant community, partly because its German-speaking population was itself heavily shaped by Forty-Eighters from the German states, and the political culture was congenial. St. Louis, Cleveland, and New York all had Czech colonies by 1870. Texas had received its first Czech settlement even before the revolution, near Cat Spring in Austin County around 1850. They did not assimilate quietly. Wherever a community of any size formed, newspapers "followed almost immediately. The Czech immigrant press was established faster and more thoroughly than almost any other immigrant group's. Fraternal organizations, libraries, theatrical societies, and Sokol gymnastic clubs appeared within years of the first settlers.

### *The Abolitionist Connection*

The connection between Czech Forty-Eighters and American abolitionism was not accidental. It was ideological, and it was immediate.

These were men who had fought, at real personal cost, against a system of arbitrary authority that denied people their rights on the basis of who they were born. They arrived in a country engaged in an agonizing argument about whether one category of human beings could be owned by another. The answer seemed obvious to them.

August Bondi, a Czech Jewish Forty-Eighter who had been at the barricades in Vienna, settled in Kansas in the 1850s and joined John Brown's antislavery guerrilla forces. He was one of Brown's most trusted men, present at several of the most dangerous confrontations of the Bleeding Kansas period. Isidor Bush, another Czech Jewish Forty-Eighter, settled in St. Louis and became one of Missouri's leading abolitionist voices, using his newspaper and his political connections to push against slavery in a border state where the question was genuinely contested and genuinely dangerous. Vojta Naprstek, the Milwaukee hardware merchant and newspaper publisher we have profiled in a previous dispatch, moved in abolitionist circles throughout his American years and carried the experience home to Prague when he returned in 1857. These were not outliers. The pattern was consistent enough that scholars have noted it as a defining characteristic of Czech Forty-Eighter political life in America: they arrived as opponents of one form of tyranny and recognized another immediately upon landing.

### ***What They Built***

The first Czech-language newspapers in the United States were founded by Forty-Eighters. The first Czech Catholic parish in Cleveland was established by a Czech patriot who had been sentenced to prison after the 1848 uprising and came to America under amnesty. The Slovanska Lipa cultural associations that spread to every significant Czech settlement were modeled on the patriotic organization of the same name established in Prague during the revolutionary year itself.

By the time of the Civil War, Czech immigrants were fighting for the Union in significant numbers. They had, after all, already fought once for the idea that a people had the right to govern themselves.

Anthony Dignowity, a Czech immigrant physician in Texas, published *Bohemia under Austrian Despotism* in 1859. It was the first English-language book explaining the Czech situation under Habsburg rule to an American readership. He was trying to make Americans understand what he had come from, and why it mattered.

Adolph Sabath, born in southern Bohemia in 1866, came to America as a teenager and eventually served 44 consecutive years as a Democratic U.S. Representative from Illinois which was a record at the time. He introduced the first workmen's compensation bill in Congress, the first old-age pension plan, and was a consistent advocate for civil rights and immigration reform. The son of a Bohemian village, shaped by what that village had lived through.

### ***The Long Echo***

The Forty-Eighters were the first significant Czech immigrant wave, but not the last. The much larger wave came in the 1880s through 1920s, when economic migration, farmers and industrial laborers seeking land and wages, brought hundreds of thousands more. Those later arrivals built the peanut farms of Virginia's New Bohemia, went down into the coal mines of West Virginia and Harlan County, and blew glass in the factories of the Ohio River valley.

But the Forty-Eighters set the terms. They established the press, the fraternal organizations, the political culture, and the expectation that Czech immigrants in America would be engaged citizens rather than passive laborers. They carried with them a very specific education: the experience of having believed completely in a cause, having fought for it openly, and having watched it fail - and then having crossed an ocean to try again somewhere else.

They were, almost to a man, people who knew exactly what they had lost and had decided it was worth losing for the sake of what they had tried to do. That is a particular kind of person. America got a lot of them in the fall of 1848, and was, on balance, better for it.

They knew exactly what they had lost. And had decided it was worth it for the sake of what they had tried to do.



---

**ST. WENCESLAUS DAY CELEBRATION**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026**  
**ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE**  
**CALL THE RECTORY FOR**  
**INFORMATION AT: 216-641-8444**

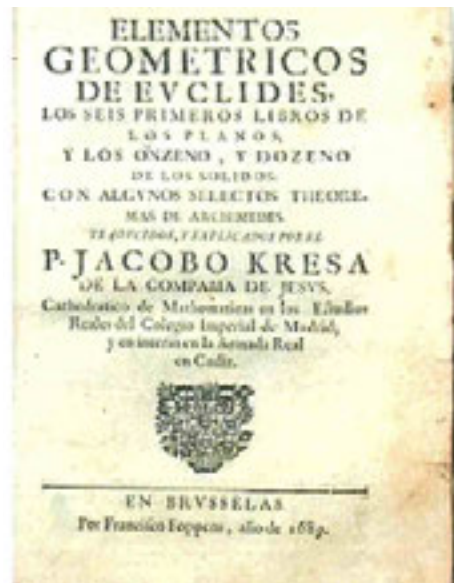


## JAKUB KRESA

Born on July 19, 1648 in a small village in Prostějov District of the Olomouc Region in the Czech Republic about 125 miles east of Prague, Jakub was one of the most important Czech mathematicians of the Baroque era. Being



able to speak fluent Hebrew, German, Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese along with Czech, Jakub studied mathematics and theology. He was ordained a priest in 1680. In 1681 Jakub started to teach Hebrew at the University of Olomouc. There he was entrusted with diplomatic tasks. In 1684 Jakub became head of the Department of Mathematics at Charles University and also preached at the St. Salvador Church, both in Prague. In 1686 Jakub relocated to Spain. While teaching there, in order to make the study of mathematics easier for the Spanish students, he translated the 8 books of Euclid's Elements into Spanish. This brought him great recognition, being dubbed the Euclid of the West. In 1700 Jakub returned to Prague. He obtained a doctorate in theology at Charles University. While teaching theology there and privately teaching mathematics, Jakub was acquiring mathematical apparatus for the Department of Mathematics. He was engaged in arithmetic, fractions, logarithms, trigonometry, astronomy and algebra, as well as military architecture. Many of Jakub Kresa's works have been published. Jakub Kresa passed away on July 28, 1715.



Cover of Kresa's Spanish translation of Euclid's Elements.

## KLOBUKY

This is a municipality and village in Kladno District in the Central Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic. Located about 21 miles northwest of Prague, it is a flat agricultural landscape. The first written mention of Klobuky is from 1226. The name of the village was probably derived from its ancient founder named Klobuk or Klobouk (which is the Czech word for "hat or "helmet").

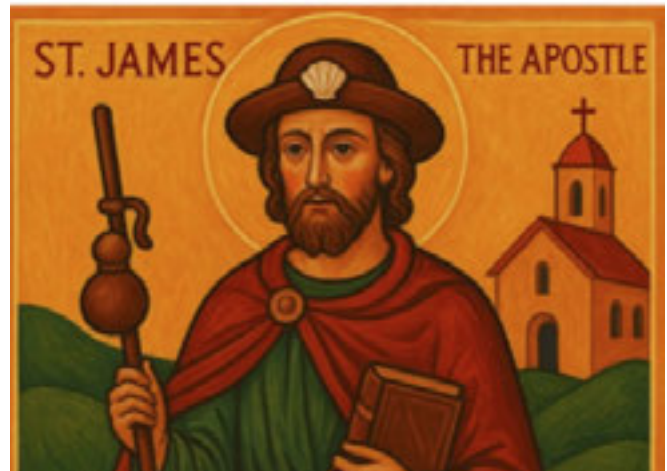


The major sight here is an alleged prehistoric menhir with a height of 10.8 feet, making it the tallest in the Czech Republic. It is an upright, lonely standing stone, called Kamenny pastyr (stone shepherd) or Kamenny muz (stone man), in a field northwest of the village.



## BASILICA OF ST. JAMES (BAZILIKA SVATEHO JAKUBA)

Located in Prague's Old Town, close to the Old Town Square, the basilica forms a unique architectural compound including the basilica, the monastery of the Minorites and a school building. Originally founded in 1232, but was destroyed by fire in 1686 by the invading French. It was rebuilt to its current style in the 18th century. It is one of the largest churches in Prague.



St. James Feast Day July 25



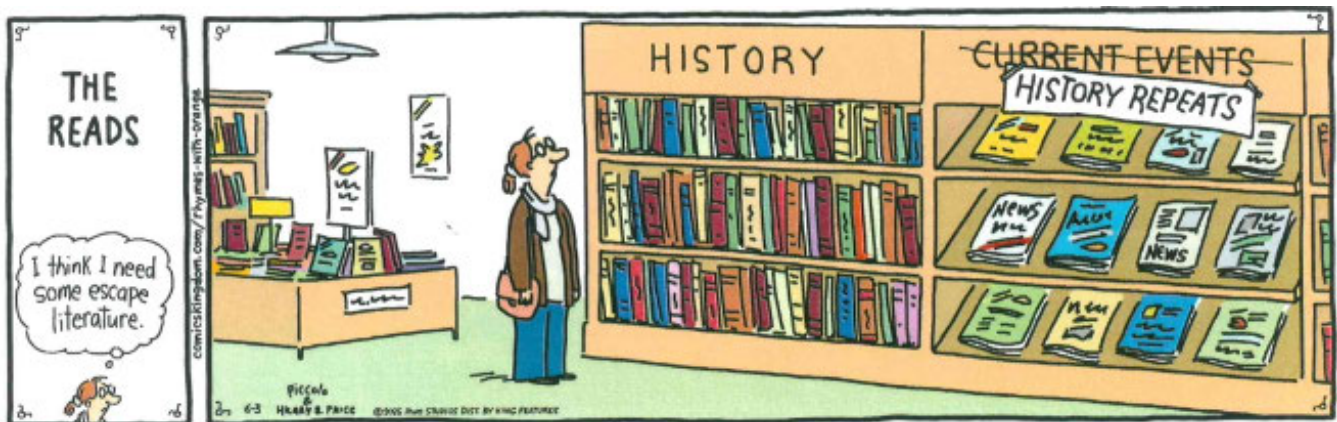
## FLASHBACK FOTO

SENT IN FROM OUR MEMBER, CHRISTINE  
(MOUDRY) ERNAT FROM SOCIETY #143



## THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Described by the institute itself, “is the world’s largest museum, education and research complex”, the founding donor of the Institution was an English chemist and mineralogist named James Smithson, who had never even visited America. Born in 1765, James never married and had no children. He passed away in 1829, leaving a will that stated if his nephew, who inherited his estate, passed away without heirs, the money was to go to the United States, “to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institute, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.” Smithson’s nephew passed away in 1835 without any children, leaving Smithson’s estate to the United States. The Smithsonian Institution was created on August 10, 1846 by the United States Congress.



## DIVOKA SARKA (WILD SARKA)

This is a Nature Reserve on the northwestern outskirts of Prague. A gorge in the area is named after the female warrior Sarka, who according to Ancient Bohemian Legends, threw herself to her death from its cliffs after betraying her lover, Ctirad, during the Maidens' War.



## MAIDENS' WAR

The Maidens' War (Divci Valka) is a legendary tale in Bohemian tradition, first recorded in the 12th century about an uprising of women against men.



**LABOR** is one of the greatest elements of society – the great substantial interest on which we all stand. No feudal service or predial toll ... but labor, intelligent, manly, independent, thinking and acting for itself, earning its own wages, accumulating those wages into capital, educating childhood, maintaining worship, claiming the right of the elective franchise and helping to uphold the great fabric of the state – that is American Labor; and all my sympathies are with it, and my voice, 'til I am dumb, will be for it.

Daniel Webster

## GRANDPARENTS ARE THE FOOTSTEPS TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS.





## SHOPSKA SALAD (SOOPSKY SALAT)

English cucumber, tomatoes, yellow banana pepper, yellow onion, sunflower or canola oil, white wine vinegar and feta cheese. Chop onion finely. Cut other vegetables in ¼ inch cubes. Mix in bowl. Drizzle with oil and vinegar. Top with crumbled cheese. May be chilled, but set out a short time before serving.

Editor's Note: This salad comes from the Balkan peninsula, the location of former Yugoslavia.

## SAUSAGE & BARLEY CASSEROLE (KLOBASOVO JECNY NAKYP)

1 lb. pork sausage  
¼ c. onion  
½ c. celery  
1 c. barley  
1 can mushroom soup  
½ c. water

Fry pork sausage, pouring off grease. Saute onion and celery in same pan in A little of the grease. Parboil barley. Mix all together in casserole dish. Bake at 350 degrees 30 minutes.

## FUN FACT OF THE DAY

A single lead pencil, if used in its entirety to draw a single straight line, could continue for about 30 miles before running out. It will also write the equivalent of about 35,000 to 45,000 words.



## CHERRY DUMPLINGS (TRESNOVE KNEDLIKY)

1 can 14 ½ oz. pitted tart cherries, undrained  
1 c. sugar, divided  
½ c. water  
1 c. flour  
1 t. baking powder  
½ t. grated lemon zest  
Dash salt  
1/3 c. milk  
3 T. butter, melted

In large saucepan, combine cherries with juice, ¾ c. sugar and water. Bring to boil. Reduce heat. Cover and simmer. In small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, lemon zest, salt and remaining sugar. Stir in milk and butter, till moistened. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto simmering cherry mixture. Cover. Simmer for 20 minutes or until inserted toothpick comes out clean. DO NOT lift cover while simmering.

## NATIONAL CHERRY DAY

This day is celebrated on July 16th. Cherries have been a staple for centuries. From the Roman Empire to the Chinese dynasties, the little red fruits have been on the plate of millions and came to America by ship with early settlers in the 1600s. Modern-day cherry production in the U.S. began in 1852 in the state of Michigan. Cherry Facts: average cherry tree has 7,000 cherries; Two main types – sweet or tart; Michigan is the Cherry capital; pits contain toxins; more than 1,000 varieties, but only 20% are used for Commercial purposes.

## FOR THOSE WHO DON'T CARE MUCH FOR HOT WEATHER





*Dekuju*

**Jennings, Garfield Hts., OH** – “We are so grateful for your in-kind donation of playing cards & dice. Through your generosity, Jennings is able to continue the loving ministry of Jesus by providing health care and supportive services to older adults, with special concern for those with limited means. Gifts like yours help us to provide vibrant residences across Northeast Ohio with diverse activities, compassionate services and exceptional choices for everyone we serve. We are blessed to have the support of generous friends like you.”

*Gratefully, Allison Salopeck, President & CEO*

**Metro Catholic School, Cleveland, OH** – “On behalf of the students served by Metro Catholic School, thank you for your generous donation of \$200.00. Simply put, with your support, we are transforming young people's live-young people who often have the deck stacked against them and their ability to reach their God-given potential. The vision of Metro Catholic's founders is a tremendous gift to Cleveland and the animating aim of the school today: that by combining forces, we can ensure more families have access to vibrantly Catholic, academically excellent education for their children.”

*Sincerely, Kristen Gengaro, Executive Director Partnership Schools*

**The Roman Catholic Community of St. Paschal Baylon, Highland Hts., OH** – “On behalf of Saint Paschal Baylon and the students and faculty of our award-winning Catholic school, thank you for your generous sponsorship of our 17th Annual Spring Fling Festival/Parish Family Day! Your generous sponsorship will help us with the many expenses to have a successful event.” In Christ our Eucharist,  
*Very Rev. John Thomas Lane, SSS, Pastor & Provincial Superior*



Cameron Koch

**St. Joseph Society #156, Cleveland Ohio** – “Thank you for the generous college grant. I am so grateful for the financial help to attend Youngstown State University. At YSU I am involved in my civil engineering courses as well as many clubs. Thank you again.”

*Cameron Koch*

**St. Joseph Society #156, Cleveland, Ohio** – “Thank you for the generous high school grant. I am so thankful for this financial help so that I can attend Archbishop Hoban High School. At Hoban, I have been able to participate in volleyball, golf, and softball while keeping up a high grade point average. I truly appreciate your support. God Bless!”

*Love, Maggie Koch*

# A VISIT TO AMERICA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

## *Reflections from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception*

By Philip Hrvatin, CCU Life St. Joseph Lodge #156

On May 8, 2026, during a visit to Washington, D.C., I had the opportunity to spend time at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, located adjacent to the campus of The Catholic University of America.

Often referred to as “America’s Catholic Church,” the Basilica immediately leaves visitors with a sense of awe. As the largest Roman Catholic church in North America and one of the ten largest churches in the world, the Shrine stands as a spiritual home that reflects the faith, history, and cultural heritage of Catholics from around the globe.

One of the most unique aspects of the Basilica is its more than eighty chapels and oratories dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and representing many nationalities and cultures. Walking through the Shrine is like taking a pilgrimage across the world while remaining under one roof. The chapels highlight the rich traditions of African, Chinese, Czech, Filipino, German, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Polish, Slovak, Slovenian, Vietnamese, and many other communities.

During my visit, I made a special stop at the Our Lady of Hostýn Chapel, also known as the Confessional Chapel, located on the lower level near the Crypt Church. The chapel holds particular significance for the Czech Catholic community and honors devotion to Our Lady of Holy Hostýn, which traces its roots to Moravia during the Mongol invasions of 1241. According to tradition, Czech refugees prayed to the Blessed Mother for protection, and their prayers were answered.

The chapel’s artwork includes a stained-glass depiction of Our Lady of Holy Hostýn. The chapel also honors St. John Neumann and serves as the Basilica’s Confessional Chapel, welcoming visitors seeking a place for reflection and reconciliation.

*Continued to page 20*



*Continued from page 19*

After visiting the Czech Chapel, I crossed the Hall of American Saints and had the pleasure of visiting Spiritual Director Fr. Andrew Knop, OMI. During our visit, Father Andy informed me that he was born and raised in Poland. He noticed that I had purchased several San Damiano Crosses from the Basilica gift shop and kindly offered to bless



them. It was a simple but meaningful moment that added a personal spiritual connection to the visit.

The Basilica has welcomed many notable religious figures over the years, including Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II, and Mother Teresa. Yet despite its size and international importance, the Shrine remains remarkably welcoming and accessible to everyday visitors and pilgrims.

For visitors to Washington, D.C., the Basilica provides a place for prayer, reflection, and appreciation of the many cultures and traditions that together form the universal Catholic Church. My visit to the Our Lady of Hostyn Chapel served as a reminder that even within one of the world's largest churches, there are still quiet spaces that speak personally to one's own heritage and faith journey.

## CAROUSEL DAY

July 25th is Carousel Day, Honoring the first U.S. carousel patent, registered by William Schneider in 1871. Early carousel-like devices, used as training for knights, date back to 500 AD in the Byzantine Empire.

### FLYING HORSES CAROUSEL

This carousel, located in Martha's Vineyard, was built in 1876. It is the oldest platform carousel.



## FEAST OF SAINTS ANNE AND JOACHIM Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary July 26



**We do not want to lose contact with our members.  
If you move, please let us know!**

Name

Soc. No.

Old Address

State

Zip

New Address

State

Zip

Email Address

Phone Number

Mail to Czech Catholic Union/CCU Life  
5349 Dolloff Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44127  
or email at [insurance@czechccu.org](mailto:insurance@czechccu.org)

CZECH CATHOLIC UNION/CCU LIFE  
Annual Statement  
December 31, 2025

**ASSETS**

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| BONDS OWNED                 | \$ 17,875,113        |
| PREFERRED STOCKS            | \$ 1,104,339         |
| COMMON STOCKS               | \$ 294,809           |
| REAL ESTATE                 | \$ 65,798            |
| CERTIFICATE LOANS           | \$ 46,679            |
| CASH ON HAND                | \$ 150,880           |
| ACCRUED INVESTMENT INCOME   | \$ 259,493           |
| ELECTRONIC DATA PROC. EQUIP | \$ 24,959            |
| UNCOLLECTED PREMIUMS        | \$ 1,147             |
| FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT       | \$ 4,708             |
| NONADMITTED ASSETS          | \$ (4,708)           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>\$ 19,823,217</b> |

**LIABILITIES, RESERVES & UNASSIGNED FUNDS**

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| LIFE CERT. RESERVES      | \$ 16,138,161        |
| CERTIFICATE CLAIMS       | \$ 52,899            |
| ADVANCE PREMIUMS         | \$ 520               |
| PROV. FOR REFUNDS        | \$ 125,000           |
| IMR                      | \$ 15,133            |
| ACCRUED EXPENSES         | \$ 16,646            |
| FRATERNAL FUNDS          | \$ 80,417            |
| ASSET VALUATION RESERVE  | \$ 328,653           |
| DRAFTS OUTSTANDING       | \$ 9,958             |
| DEPOSIT TYPE CONTRACTS   | \$ 124,797           |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b> | <b>\$ 16,892,184</b> |
| UNASSIGNED FUNDS         | \$ 2,931,033         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>\$ 19,823,217</b> |

**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

|                                                    |              |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| PREMIUM CONSIDERATION                              | \$ 64,245    |                     |
| NET INVESTMENT INCOME                              | \$ 993,094   |                     |
| MISCELLANEOUS INCOME                               | \$ (5,115)   |                     |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                |              | <b>\$ 992,224</b>   |
| DEATH BENEFITS                                     | \$ 106,222   |                     |
| ANNUITY BENEFITS                                   | \$ 661,616   |                     |
| CASH SURRENDERS & MATURED BENEFITS                 | \$ 70,335    |                     |
| INTEREST & ADJUSTMENTS ON CONTRACT FUNDS           | \$ 5,536     |                     |
| DECREASE IN RESERVES FOR LIFE                      | \$ (185,314) |                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       |              | <b>\$ 658,395</b>   |
| GENERAL EXPENSES                                   | \$ 346,536   |                     |
| INSURANCE TAXES, LICENSES, FEES                    | \$ 14,113    |                     |
| AGGREGATE WRITE-INS FOR DEDUCTIONS                 | \$ 5,500     |                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       |              | <b>\$ 366,149</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                              |              | <b>\$1,024,544</b>  |
| NET GAIN FROM OPERATIONS BEFORE REFUNDS TO MEMBERS |              | \$ (32,320)         |
| REFUNDS TO MEMBERS                                 |              | \$ 90,000           |
| NET GAIN FROM OPERATIONS AFTER REFUNDS TO MEMBERS  |              | \$ (122,320)        |
| NET CAPITAL GAIN                                   |              | \$ (59,641)         |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>                                  |              | <b>\$ (181,961)</b> |

**SOLVENCY RATIO 118%**

## BLACKBALLED



As early as the 17th century in the U.S., members of fraternal organizations often voted at their meeting without paper ballots. Many decisions had to be unanimous, just one “no” vote could defeat a project. A blackball box was used instead of ballots. Each person was given a random number of black and white marbles. The black marble was a “no” vote. The cover on the box was so no one could see the color marble the person dropped in the box. When the box was opened, it was easy to see the number of black marbles and if the matter being voted on was a “yes” or a “no”.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Four members and one parent of a few members contacted the Home Office identifying the name and purpose of the black box. Thank you for your response!!!

FYI – One of our members from Cedar Rapids, Iowa answered our article from the last issue about the Pinochle cards we had in the office. Twelve decks of the playing cards were mailed to her.



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!!!

### Join Us September 18!

Premier International Beer, Food, and Music  
Festival Supporting the Mission of the  
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Enter to  
win a trip  
to Prague!

#### TICKET LEVELS

|                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>VIP Admission:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5:30 p.m. Early BrewNost Entry</li><li>• Unlimited Food and Beverage Offerings</li><li>• 2026 VIP BrewNost Glass</li></ul> | <b>General Admission:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6:30 p.m. BrewNost Entry</li><li>• Unlimited Food and Beverage Offerings</li><li>• 2026 BrewNost Tasting Glass</li></ul> | <b>Designated Driver:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6:30 p.m. BrewNost Entry</li><li>• Unlimited Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverage Offerings</li><li>• 2026 BrewNost Tasting Glass</li></ul> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Visit [NCSML.org/BrewNost](https://NCSML.org/BrewNost) or scan the code to purchase tickets and for the most up-to-date details.

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2001**



**SEPTEMBER 11, 2026**



## A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Let us pray...

God of Abraham, Isaac, Moses, we cry out to you for wisdom and compassion. You led the early Jews out of slavery, to freedom.

You led the disciples of Jesus after the crucifixion to courageously preach the Gospel. Today, we seek your wisdom to preach the good news in our country. Grant wisdom and faith to our elected leaders, the-people we choose to lead our country, to make choices that are based upon your teaching. Where laws are made that go against your will, give us courage to change policy, not based upon our comfort, but upon principles taught in Scripture. We ask all this in the name of Jesus, our brother and Christ, who lives and reign with you, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

## 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:

| Member Name     | Society Number | Society Location | Date of Death | Years a Member |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Richard A. Toth | 156            | Cleveland, OH    | 2/9/2022      | 18             |
| Betty Skrha     | 10             | Cleveland, OH    | 4/11/2026     | 75             |
| Gary Kramer     | 117            | Chicago, IL      | 12/14/2025    | 59             |
| Frances White   | 143            | Cicero , IL      | 4/5/2026      | 83             |
| Yvette Roser    | 156            | Cleveland, OH    | 3/25/2026     | 40             |