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Interview with Astronaut Jerry Linenger

Msgr. Franci Petric editor of *Druzina* Catholic magazine in Slovenia, interviewed Dr. Linenger in June as part of the 50th anniversary of *Druzina*, at Sveta Gora at Gorica. By the courtesy of Dr. Edi Gobec, it was translated into Slovenian and was published. Here is the English translation as sent by Msgr. Petric:



Q. – Dr. Linenger, as we Slovenians with whom you share your roots contemplate your unique accomplishments in space, Yuri Gagarin's anecdote inevitably comes to mind. When asked about his experience in space, he responded that God was nowhere to be seen. What were your own feelings up there?

A. – When looking down at earth from the heavens – there was no doubt, absolutely none, that it was the work of our Creator. God is everywhere. I might add that my Russian crewmates had some religious icons with them, and I feel they felt the same way that I did.

Q. – Your book, *Off the Planet*, is full of suspense, as you vividly describe adventures that very few, if any, persons have been experienced. Why did you decide to write this book?

A. – Mainly, so that I could leave something behind for my children; so that they know what their dad stood for, what I sacrificed, and what I believe in. I keep a chest for each of my four children. In each one is a copy of the book inscribed with a very personal note to them. It is my way of being able to leave something behind for them...

Q. – Among the questions I should ask is also the classical one, Why did you become an astronaut and how is it possible to become an astronaut? What would be your advice to the youngsters who look at the astronauts with such great admiration?

A. – Basically, I always wanted to be an astronaut – starting when I was a child of 14 and watching human beings up on the moon. I said, Wow! I want to do that someday.

To any youngster: just study hard, give it your best – and somehow things fall

into place. If you are serious about going to space – I would recommend taking plenty of math and science courses in school.

Q. – It is well known that we newsmen are usually very curious people. Does it seem to you that curiosity is also one of the essential traits which a person must have in order to be enticed into space adventures such as yours? What else is needed?

A. – Curiosity is a great motivator – and is probably the characteristic that dominates my personality. Go out there and explore. Try new things. Other good traits to have are self discipline, the ability to finish what you start, and of course, good health and eyesight. When things get rough, as they did throughout my mission on Mir, faith in your own abilities and faith in God help you get through the days.

Q. – Knowledge which you so ardently accumulated by studying medicine and so many other fields, was probably very helpful to you. You yourself also discuss in your book the psychic and physical condition which is indispensable for an astronaut. Was religion, too, helpful in the preparation and execution of such an exceptional feat as your space flight?

A. – My faith was very important to me. Also knowing that people back on earth were praying for me,

pulling for me, keeping me in their thoughts. I actually had a tape of a Mass that was offered up for me in Florida just before my launch. I was able to play the tape every Sunday morning and in a sense “go to church.” What better place? Up in the heavens, close to God, and celebrating Mass. I am a very fortunate person...

Q. – In the years when you were getting ready for your calling as an astronaut, you were also establishing your family. Your writing reflects a very great love for your wife and children. Whence this exemplary dedication? What does the family and parenting mean to you? Your book also contains letters which you wrote from space to your son John. What did you wish to particularly impress by such communication?

A. – You know, even after all of my great adventures off the planet – I realize more than ever that the most important thing in life is family. You do not need to blast off in a rocket in order to participate in the greatest thrill in life: watching your own children progress.

As far as the letters to my son: to be honest, there were times that I was not sure that I would be making it back home (during the onboard fire for example). I wanted my boy to know what I thought of him, that I love
(Continued on page 6)

Titanic on Their Turf

When your “office” consists of airports and cell phones, it's nice to have a chance to work from home for a change. Cleveland brothers Tom and Paul Zaller, who respectively manage and stage the worldwide production of *Titanic: The Exhibition*, had that opportunity this year, but they didn't have much time to kick back and relax.

Titanic: The Exhibition ends its six-month run at the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland on September 15. More than 300,000 visitors had toured the 14,000-square foot presentation of the doomed ship's artifacts and memorabilia. Tom Zaller, vice president of production for Clear Channel Exhibitions, which mounts the traveling exhibit in conjunction with RMS Titanic Inc., the U.S. firm that salvages and displays artifacts from the *Titanic*, says preparing a site for several thousand people to walk in the door “totally consumes our lives. I once put in a 40-hour-nonstop shift.”

“It's not a business for lazy people. You have to love it,” adds Paul of Hughie's Audio Visual. The company, with locations in Cleveland and Pittsburgh, handles the lighting, rigging and staging for the *Titanic* exhibit as well as other large productions, including *The Magic of David Copperfield*.

Two of a family of six children raised in University Heights, the men cut their

production teeth as boys hanging around their father's workplaces. Leonard Zaller, who died of colon cancer in 1990 at 61, was a pioneer in video production. His company, Midwest Teleproductions, created the first on-site big-screen TV images inside the Richfield Coliseum (which was razed in 1999), as well as all the on-screen character generation for Indians games inside the old Municipal Stadium. “Len's kids” were allowed on the scene, “mainly tripping over chords and breaking things,” notes Paul with a chuckle.

Their enthusiasm for the production world never waned. “Looking back, that really did help shape our futures,” Tom recalls.

Although their work takes them around the world, the brothers remain fans of their hometown turf. Paul lives in Bainbridge Township and Tom makes his home in Chagrin Falls; both are raising young families. Their mother, Anne Marie, and most of the immediate family also live in Northeast Ohio. Paul most appreciates Cleveland's diversity, and Tom concurs, adding a ski-buff's qualifier: “If Cleveland had mountains, it'd be perfect.”

--Marsha McGregor
Plain Dealer
Sunday Magazine

Tom and Paul's grandparents were well known owners of Collinwood Baking Co. on Waterloo Rd., and members of St. Mary parish.



Paul (left) and Tom Zaller pose with *Titanic* poster



Embroidering at Julie and Kristen's birthday party on August 31 at Flis' back yard, are, left to right, Rachael, Katie, and Jenny; bottom row: Julie, Kristen, Sarah, and Ashley.

100 WORDS MORE OR LESS

by **JOHN MERCINA**

9/11/01

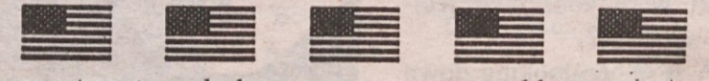
The tragedy surrounding above date will forever be remembered in the history of our country. Chances are that every one of us remembers exactly what we were doing at the moment we heard about the attack on our homeland.

and yet finest hour. It was a new beginning for all of us living, with God's name on the lips, on signs and in our hearts more during the last year than in our entire life prior to above date. In the year that followed, the America that we love, the freedoms and rights that we took for granted, took on an extra meaning. It has not been "business as usual." The tragedy has changed us. The flag, the prayer, the small acts of charity take on a new meaning for us. For a brief moment, we may have gotten closer with our families and we are more caring and neighborly.

Depending on our age, above date was added to the remembrance of the date of Pearl Harbor and the killing of JFK. We paused and cried and took a deep breath. As sad as above day was, it was also a day of heroes - the heroism of firemen and policemen, iron workers and ordinary citizens in the wreckage at Ground Zero; the countless stories of human kindness and caring at the site of the Pentagon attack; the heroes on United Flight 93 and their struggle that will possibly never be fully known.

On September 11, let us stop for a brief moment and reflect on the fact that WE ARE AMERICANS AND PROUD OF IT and we will defend our God-given rights and with God's help we will triumph over evil.

It was America's saddest



compartment and he was telling me that he made the trip to Zurich primarily for business. I said what kind of business. At that point he said he goes there for Swiss watches. He was one smart cookie for he got through customs without declaring them. He raised his trousers up near his knees and there he had fastened with rubber bands loads of Swiss watches I said how come no leather watch band on the watches. He said he got them right from the factory and ordered them without leather or metal bands since they would not be able to go around his leg. But with rubber bands which he attached, he could slip loads of the watches on his leg. When he walked, you could be rest assured he had a 21 jewel movement. He smiled and said leather watch straps as well as metal expanding bands can be obtained through the PX (Post Exchange) for almost nothing. At that time when going through customs, they did not frisk you down like they do today and so he was able to bring the watches back, duty free. I guess as an officer he had his own way of getting things done, one way or another.

gent would not just go down and let someone in the supply room to pick up their laundry at all hours of the day and night like Ray did.

Sgt. Frank Sarratore, the happy Italian, was glad I was back and said he was planning a final leave for us before we would be heading home. He knew one of the Senior NCO's who had a converted jeep as his private auto and the sergeant would loan it to Frank for the trip for a few bucks. I myself saw the jeep from time to time on post and it was really an odd looking home-made jeep because it looked like no two pieces of plywood matched. It had wooden sides so it would be enclosed during the cold winter. I told Frank that I had my doubts for if it ran like it looked, we would be lucky to get it outside the front gates. Frank says don't worry Ray if it breaks down I know a little bit about fixing cars. I said Frank, if you know as much about fixing cars like you knew how to order spaghetti in France, we are in for some bad times. "Have faith Ray", he says. "In the meantime try to get as many German marks and American dollars as possible."

Well, I am coming to the end of this week's column so will say good night for now. May the Good Lord bless and watch over all of you. In the meantime God will you put some additional scotch tape on that jeep.

Well, on April 15, 1950, I was back in Karlsruhe well rested up. The guys were glad to see me back for they said they could not get their laundry out of Supply, only on certain hours for Sfc. Vincent and the Supply Ser-

Secret Garden of Embroidery

by **RUDY FLIS**

Have you ever seen the movie "Back to the Secret Garden?" I have. It was just this past Friday night. It is a "For kids movie."

I don't think my mental powers are overpowering, or I could not have sat through such a movie as I did Friday night - and I did enjoy watching the movie. It was nice and easy, a happy movie with an ending for a kid.

Now understand, I didn't go out and rent this movie. It was more or less forced on me. Here is how it happened.

My two granddaughters, Katie, age eight, and Ashley, who is six-years-old, were our wards for a Friday evening. They know some evenings Grandma and Grandpa are like in slow-motion - not an interesting speed for youngsters, so they bring their own entertainment, like a movie we can all watch or sleep through.

When they arrived Friday night they went into our living room to say hello to their Grandma who was embroidering, something they had not seen before. They stayed by their

Grandma, captivated with her embroidery. "Would you like to try embroidering?" she asked.

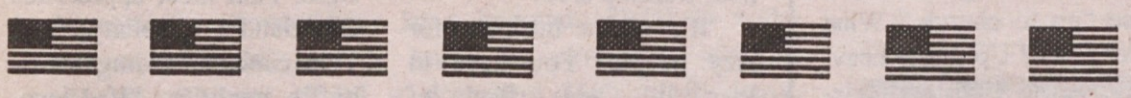
Their answer was a strong nod.

In slow motion Grandma got out of her chair and came back with two wooden hoops, cloth with pattern and thread and needles, still in slow motion.

The girls listened to their Grandma's instructions and they proceeded for the rest of the evening. I could not stand all the noise caused by embroidering, so I put in the movie "Back to the Secret Garden" into the tape player attached to the TV. Thus began my exciting Friday evening.

Our granddaughters came over the next night for a birthday party and brought along their embroidery. The other granddaughters showed the same interest and had a little social in our back yard - embroidering.

My wife, Therese, says, "The mental hoops she used when very young were much better than the wooden hoops used today." It doesn't seem to bother the granddaughters nor does the fact that when Grandma taught them, she was in slow motion.



Mlakar Takes Train Down Memory Lane

by **RAY MLAKAR**

First, my joke for the week. A woman died and went to heaven. St. Peter said to her, "Hold on, before you enter the Kingdom of Heaven, can you tell me God's first name." She thought about it for a moment and then said, "Andy." St. Peter was astonished and asked, "How did you come up with a name like Andy?" "Well, the woman replied, "We sing it in church all the time. Andy walks with me, Andy he talks with me, Andy tells me I am his own."

Well, happy to say we packed up from Grafenwohr and convoyed back to Karlsruhe. Yep, home at last for only after having been back in the Kaserne, did we realize the true comforts of home. Yep, hot water when you turned the faucet on and no more immersion heaters shoved into a 32 gallon garbage can to heat the water. Guess we never realize what

we have until we have to do without. All the soldiers gladly slipped back into the same routine. I was happy because I felt that even though the Battalion would be going back to Grafenwohr again next year, I was going to miss it for I would be ready to go back stateside for discharge.

Well, soon it would be 1950 and thought it best that I take another leave for God only knows that I deserved it after living in Tent City in Grafenwohr and decided to go to Switzerland for they had a special seven day tour through the USO that was quite reasonable, but then any tour given to the soldiers through the USO was always at rock bottom prices.

I went by train all the way and that in itself was a treat for this was no cattle car. All coaches had individual compartments where up to four people could be seated. The USO gave us a tour guide showing days and times that we had to be at certain train

stations for the next ride to a new village-town in Switzerland. It goes without saying that truly this was the land of milk and honey.

Looking through my Army Album and the photos, I had a copy of the travel agenda. On April 8, 1950, the first day, I was in Basle, Switzerland, and on 9 and 10 April moved on to Berne and Lucerne, then on to Lugano and Zurich and then and then to Basle for the train ride back to Army camp at Karlsruhe.

Going from one location to another meant a new hotel each night. Ray was living high on the hog. While there, I bought quite a few souvenirs, namely, lace for my sister's up-coming wedding. Regardless if we were soldiers, we all had to go through customs and pay a tariff on the things we bought, but in the long run, it was not that much tariff.

While on the train there was a young 2nd Lt. Army Officer riding in the same

Life in the Refugee Camps

by ANTON ZAKELJ
translated and edited
by JOHN ZAKELJ

(Continued)

Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1946
(in the Liechtenstein camp
near Judenburg, Austria)

I awoke at 4 a.m., but didn't get out of bed until 6:30. At 7 I went to Mass. Bishop Rozman is predicting that we will all return home to Slovenia this year. Maybe. But I doubt it.

Cilka's brother-in-law Mire returned from Feldkirchen and Spittal with 10 shirts which he had obtained through bartering, and a sweater which he got for me for 70 shillings. Clothes are still in very short supply, and many of us have only what we carried with us when we left Slovenia.

Mire says he heard that my youngest brother Janko returned home safely from Russia. Three years ago, while we were under German occupation, Janko was forced to join the German army and was sent with them to Russia. We were worried he might never return.

Wednesday, Jan. 2, 1946

The local newspaper reports that there are 60,000 - 70,000 Chetniks in Serbia who are preparing for a spring revolution against the communists. We don't know whether such reports are really true.

If we have to stay in the refugee camp for another six months, and if I can get a job, I will marry Cilka. She has become very impatient because I continue to delay our wedding plans. She is beginning to wonder if I really want to get married. But I tell her that it makes no sense to start a family when we have nothing.

Thursday, Jan. 3, 1946

Our refugee camps are run by UNRRA, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Today, UNRRA handed out new and used clothing, all American. Four of the men in our group go out into the woods to cut firewood. They were especially in need of some new clothing, and they each received a coat, overalls, a shirt and gloves.

Saturday, Jan. 5, 1946

This morning it was 5°F.

I cut firewood for the kitchen all morning.

Tomorrow is the holy day of the Three Kings, also called the Epiphany. This evening, as we usually did back home on the evening of this holy day, we formed a procession around our barracks, sprinkled holy water and prayed all three decades of the rosary. (In Slovenia, we repeated this three times each year - on Christmas eve, New Year's eve, and on the eve of the Epiphany).

Sunday, Jan. 6, 1946

At 11 a.m., we went to a solemn high Mass in Judenburg. This afternoon, we watched people ice skating on the frozen Mura River.

Monday, Jan. 7, 1946

I cut firewood for the kitchen all day.

In the afternoon, UNRRA gave me a new green overcoat and a pair of overalls. The overalls are so large they look like a clown costume. My sister Mici got a blue coat that is too small for her. Mici got overalls, but Cilka didn't get anything.

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1946

Cilka wrote her first letter home since we left Slovenia. Mail service is finally becoming available again.

I helped my sister Mici exchange her coat for a larger one.

We hear that Chetniks murdered the mayor of our home town of Ziri. (This report turned out to be false.)

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 1946

I helped another member of our group with a clothing exchange. Now almost all of us in our barracks are wearing the same green overcoats with huge collars and yellow trim on the left sleeve.

I made a list of other clothing needed by each member in our group. Many people are not pleased with what they received in this latest distribution. They think it wasn't done fairly. But we really needed new clothes. Some members of our group were so desperate, they had gone to Wolfberg, where they got pieces of cloth from burned military uniforms. They sewed clothes for themselves out of those pieces.

There are no reports in the newspapers about what happened to Domobranec generals Rupnik, Nedič and Pavelič. We fear that the British have sent them back to be executed in Yugoslavia.

(To Be Continued)

Blessing of Chapel in St. Vitus Village

Sunday, September 8th, which is the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be exactly one year from the date of the blessing of St. Vitus Village by Bishop Anthony Pilla.

This year we have asked Bishop Edward Pevec to come to St. Vitus on Sunday, September 8th for the blessing of the new chapel in St. Vitus Village.

On this date there will be only one morning Mass at 10 a.m. We ask all parishioners to plan to come to the blessing Mass and ceremony of the new chapel.

--St. Vitus Church Bulletin

Spaghetti Dinner

St. Mary's (Collinwood) Holy Name Society will sponsor a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Sept. 7th at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Tickets may be purchased in the rectory office, from Holy Name members, and at the school doors the evening of the dinner.

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ASK THE TRAVEL EXPERT

Question: Since 9/11 security has increased at the Canadian/U.S. border. What can we do to make this crossing less stressful?

Answer: As you near the border shut off your radio or CD player, remove any headphones and turn off your cell phone. Take off non-prescription sunglasses so the border guards can see your face clearly. Have your proof of citizenship available in case it is needed. Be very polite and answer all questions without asking for explanation. Definitely do not make any jokes about Canada, guns, drugs, French accents, tobacco, or alcohol.

Question: How can you determine the denomination of a slot or video poker machine or Black Jack table?

Answer: Instead of looking at the front of the machine, you can simply look at the color of the candle (two-colored light) on the top of the machine. The top of the candle is always white and used to call a slot attendant for service. The lower light denotes the denomination: red for 5 cents, yellow for 25 cents, gold for 50 cents, and blue for \$1.

Casinos often color-code the Black Jack table signs to match the denominations of their chips. White chips are \$1, red are \$5, green are \$25, and black are \$100.

Question: What items do you consider essential for personal protection when traveling?


Answer: Dr. Terry Riley, psychologist and travel security authority recommends: "A flashlight to help in an emergency evacuation. A smoke detector to sound in case of a fire. Duct tape to seal a hotel room against smoke intrusion. A portable door stop to jam a hotel door shut. A cellular phone to reach help."

Question: My family is planning a trip to Japan. What travel tips can you give?

Answer: You need to be aware that in Japan there are no train porters to carry your luggage, no checked luggage, and little overhead space for carry-on luggage. You will also encounter stairs in most train stations, which means your luggage wheels are no help. With this in mind it is possible to ship your luggage through "takkyu-beno" a baggage forwarding service.

If traveling in summer remember to pack an umbrella and breathable clothing, because of the high humidity. Also remember to bring thick socks because you will be expected to take off your shoes when entering temples and the floors are often cold.

You can take the guesswork out of travel by consulting the experienced agents at Euclid Travel. Just give them a call at 216-261-1050.



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'Don't Tell Mom'

by JOE GLINSEK

(Continued from last week)

One of the stupid things we played at was making carbide "bombs" at our clubhouse cave in the vacant lot. Calcium carbide mixed with small amounts of water produces the acetylene gas that fueled railroad lanterns. Since the NYCRR property was our second home, it was easy to find bits of carbide. The gas is flammable, and under pressure, quite explosive. We put the mixture in a jar lid on the ground and covered it tightly with a metal bucket jammed into the clay and topped it with a heavy rock. Woolen yarn made the best wicks, and a long wet string trailed from a puddle of gasoline surrounding the bucket, and back to our cave. The gas collected inside the bucket and when we thought it had enough pressure, we lit a match to the string. A loud "boom" took the bucket skyward and left a small "foxhole" in the dirt. Safe in our cave, there were no injuries.

Chewing "black gum" was an occasional summer treat for little boys. In our neighborhood and for many blocks around, all the streets were paved with red bricks laid on a bed of packed sand. Hot tar was poured into the chinks between the bricks until it overflowed. The roads were maintained about every other year, and men filled the spots where the tar was worn away or had been peeled off for "chewing gum." Drawn by the smell of hot tar on a sweltering summer day, we watched the men making repairs. After they left, we were fastidious enough to chew only the fresh clean tar. There is a roof being repaired somewhere in my neighborhood and from where I sit and write today, the smell of steaming hot tar brings back a very pleasant memory.

Halloween was different when I was a kid, and the "games" were a bit more serious. There were no "treats," only "tricks." In-

stead of collecting candy, boys were committing various acts of mayhem. Not only kids our age, but boys ranging into their 20's who were capable of some unusual pranks. One such, was lifting an old Ford and gently tipping it on its side to rest on the owners grass. Other than displacing its fluids, the cars were seldom damaged, but the hapless owner needed the help of all his neighbors to right the car in the morning. Since outhouses were obsolete, this became a favorite trick of the older "boys."

I was 12 before being allowed to join kids my age for a bit of harmless fun on this night when everyone expected to be annoyed. Preparation for Halloween was done several days before when I visited the Katz brothers at their store on E. 152nd St. We were on good terms and they would put aside a banana stalk for me. Bananas were delivered on a large stalk, just as they grew. It was hung on a sturdy hook and the grocer cut off a bunch to sell as needed. When all the bananas were removed, the remaining stalk was a tapered flexible bat with a "whippy" heft that's hard to describe. It was the tool of choice for bangin' porches.

Slamming the stalk on a front porch did no real damage to the wooden floor, but it caused terrible rattles and shudders throughout the house - the noise was remarkable. As we ran off, lights came on and the man of the house rushed to the door. As if it wasn't enough to scare the occupants out of their wits, we elaborated on this simple trick to make it a little nastier. Certain perpetual grumps were marked for this special treatment. They screamed if you set foot on their grass, and would confiscate any balls that flew into their yard. These curmudgeons were singled out for special treatment on Halloween. What we did was tame compared to the tricks that were played on them by the older boys.

Nobody picked up after loose dogs and horses, and it was easy to find a recent offering. In a brown paper bag, this gift was left on the porch and the bag set aflame. Banging the porch was sure to bring the old grouch running to the door and he instinctively stomped out the fire with the inevitable results. What a thrill to exact this sweet revenge and view the outcome from the hidden safety of bushes across the street. This was about as nasty as we got and it did no real harm. Does mental anguish and a smelly shoe qualify as "real harm?"

In retrospect, another prank could have been very serious, even fatal, but the possibility never occurred to us at the time. There was a street lamp on the corner of Holmes Avenue across from an alley, where the light was dappled by many trees and bushes that gave us shadows and cover. By stuffing an old pair of pants and a shirt with rags, we made a reasonable likeness of a man. In the moving shadows of light where we pulled this trick, it could look very convincing.

Attaching a rope to the light pole with a couple of loose turns and tying the other end to one arm of the stuffed dummy, we led another rope from the opposite arm to our hiding place in the alley, leaving our "victim" in a shadowed spot on the street. Traffic was light at this hour and we had ample time to set the scene before waiting for a car to come by. Just before the headlights reached the dummy, a sharp tug on the rope would stand the "man" directly in the path of the car. While the driver was reacting, swerving, screeching his brakes and recovering from near heart failure, we had enough time to get our rope and dummy and escape down the alley. We thought this was a brilliant trick at the time; now I know otherwise.

I'm sure there were many more "Don't tell Mom's" but I choose to "take the fifth" and will decline to testify until I confer with my lawyers.

News from the Euclid Slovenian Pensioners

Hello from the Euclid Pensioners. With summer almost a memory, it's time to look ahead to our fall and winter activities.

Mark your calendars. The Pensioners are holding their annual Poor Man's Reverse Raffle on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at the Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, starting at 1 p.m. This is the Pensioners' only fundraiser and everyone, members and non-members alike, are invited to participate. Tickets are only \$10 and entitle the bearer to a lunch, beverage, unlimited beer, and a chance to win the grand prize of \$500 along with other prizes. In addition, there will be sideboards for those looking to win even more. For tickets call our Treasurer, Vida Strukel, at 440-943-0512. Only 200 tickets will be sold, so get yours as soon as possible. Don't wait and be disappointed to find that all tickets are gone.

Christmas items on sale in July? Yes, I saw a holiday display right after the Fourth of July. Remembering Christmas also brings to mind the Euclid Pensioners Christmas Dinner and Dance on Wednesday, Dec. 4, starting at 1 p.m. A full course dinner will be prepared by James Catering, noted for delicious meals, with music following by Al Battistelli. All this for only

\$14. Call Treasurer Vida Strukel for tickets.

Telephone calls and answering machines, necessities of modern living, but sometimes so aggravating. Have you ever called someone for the first time, got their answering machine, and then heard a message not in their voice but in some robotic, generic sound that came with the answering machine?

"We are not a-vail-a-ble now. Please call back again."

My first thought: did I get the right number? So, I try calling again, getting the same generic message, so I probably have the right number, but I'm still not 100% sure. Should I leave a message since this may not be the right number? Should I leave a name and phone number which might get to the wrong person? Hopefully, someday everyone will have in the message on their answering machine something that identifies the person, even something as simple as their first name. Then one can confidently and safely leave a message, name, and phone number.

Don't forget our Poor Man's Reverse Raffle in October. Remember that only 200 tickets will be sold, so purchase yours today.

--Patricia A. Habat,
Recording Secretary

Summer Veggie Pasta Sauce

This is something I threw together once, and got rave reviews so I added it to my collection. It's best at the height of summer, when zucchini, eggplant and tomatoes are all fresh and in season. It also freezes well, for a taste of summer all year round.

Ingredients:

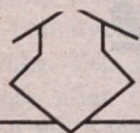
- Olive oil
- 4+ cloves of garlic
- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 sweet peppers (red, green), julienned
- 2 medium zucchini, sliced
- 1 medium eggplant, cubed
- 1-2 quarts of marinara sauce

Directions:

Sauté the onion and garlic (as much as you like) in the olive oil in a Dutch oven. Add the peppers and sauté until they are soft. Add the zucchini and sauté until they are soft (and if you have fresh tomatoes, you can quarter or slice them and add them at this point). Add the eggplant and cook for a while. When all the veggies have gotten soft, add the marinara sauce and simmer for an hour or so. Serve over pasta. Toasted pine nuts on top are good, as well as parmesan or mozzarella cheese.

--Kim Ann Kaifesh
Our Family and Friends Recipes

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Remembering St. Lawrence's Msgr. Oman

News from Slovenia

Msgr. John J. Oman was pastor of St. Lawrence Church in the Newburgh area of Cleveland from 1915 to 1962. St. Lawrence parish celebrates its 100th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 22 with a Mass and banquet.

John J. Oman, one of a family of 11 children, was born on May 22, 1879 in Bockway, Minnesota, one of the very first Slovenian settlements. His parents, Simon Oman and Theresa, nee Legat, were pioneer immigrants from Slovenia.

As a young lad, John Oman attended the parish church with his parents. Even though Mass was not offered every Sunday for lack of priests, the family attended church regularly, and with the others, recited the rosary and participated in the prayers, devotions and spiritual exercises.

At the age of seven, he began his formal education in the public school at Brockway. Since all the pupils were Catholic, religion was also included in the school curriculum. John Oman was forced to leave school after the fifth grade because his elder brother left home to seek employment and he being the next eldest boy, had to assume his farm chores. The heavy manual work was not easy for a young boy. Forests had to be cleared to make way for new farm land.

As the other children in the family grew older and were able to assist with the farm chores, young John, now 16, left home in search of employment. He was hired as a water boy at the locomotive works in the railroad yards for 50 cents a day. Since his board cost him 35 cents daily, there remained little for his other needs. Later he became a lumberjack in northern Minnesota. There he received a dollar a day for 10 hours of hard labor. After a brief interim, he left the forest work and traveled north to Eveleth, Minnesota. At that time it was a small community of some 100 people. He became a fireman in a mine power plant and later an engineer, earning \$60 a month.

After three-and-a-half years he left Eveleth and returned to his home. Near St. Cloud he found work as a steam engineer in the municipal power plant. One day a young man who was studying for the priesthood, came to visit the plant. John Oman asked him what type of work he did. The seminarian informed him that he was studying for the priesthood. In that moment of conversation, a vocation was born. The idea occurred to

him that he, too, wished to become a priest.

Upon completing his night shift, he boarded the morning train and arrived at St. John's Monastery, where he met the rector, Father Bruno, who inquired: "What do you wish?" - "I'd like to enroll in your school." The rector replied: "You are somewhat late for this term - it is already the month of November. How old are you?" Oman replied, "22." Further questioning by Father Bruno, "What would you like to be?" Young John told him of his desire to become a priest, providing that he was not too old. The Fathers accepted John Oman and gave him the special help and encouragement he needed.

At this very time Monsignor Bartholomew Ponikvar, the pastor of St. Vitus Church in Cleveland, was seeking the help of a priest who could speak the Slovenian language since the number of immigrants was increasing so rapidly. Both Bishop Farrelly and Monsignor Ponikvar extended Father Oman an invitation to come to Cleveland. He accepted and three days after his ordination, he left his home in Minnesota to become the new assistant at St. Vitus Church where he remained for three years and seven months.

Following the death of Father Lavric, the pastor of St. Lawrence Church, Father Oman was appointed to the pastorate on September 2, 1915, where he served the parishioners for 47 years.

In 1936, Bishop Rozman conferred upon Father Oman the title of honorary Canon of the Saint Nicholas Cathedral in Ljubljana in recognition of the many notable contributions he had made on behalf of the Slovenian people, both in America and abroad. Archbishop Joseph Schrembs officiated at the investiture ceremonies of Canon Oman.

In 1946, when the communists took over Yugoslavia, Canon Oman helped organize the League of Catholic Slovenian-Americans who were pledged to aid the Slovenian refugees fleeing from communism. He assisted an organization which is currently working for the cause of Bishop Baraga's canonization. He will also be remembered for his weekly column in the Ameriška Domovina.

Among other diocesan appointments he was a member of the Advisory Board for the Diocesan Cemeteries and acted for some time as a prosynodal examiner.



His fruitful labors for the Church were recognized by the late Holy Father Pope Pius XII, who honored him with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. On June 7, 1949 the Most Rev. Edward F. Hoban, Archbishop - Bishop of Cleveland, invested him in the robes of a Domestic Prelate.

It would hardly be possible to enumerate all of Monsignor Oman's many accomplishments in this brief biography. In his humility, he would never boast of his numerous achievements. The present buildings, which were erected in the years of his administration, he would credit not to himself, but he would say, "These are the products of a people's faith, love and generosity."

Monsignor Oman retired from St. Lawrence Church in June, 1962 and returned to Minnesota where he spent the remaining years of his retirement. He died on March 14, 1966. The funeral Mass was held in St. Stephen's Church and he is buried in St. Stephen's Cemetery in Minnesota.

Thanks to Rev. Victor Cimperman

More Tourists

A total of 1.19 million guests visited Slovenian tourist destinations this year through July, up two percent from last year.

Croatia, Slovenian PM's to Finally Meet

As the tension in relations between Slovenia and Croatia failed to fade away despite a seeming end to incidents in the Piran Bay, Slovenian and Croatian Prime Ministers, Janez Drnovsek and Ivica Racan concluded after a number of phone conversations that they would meet next week to address the issue. The purpose of the meeting is to put an end to tensions and incidents, and to come to an agreement on the possibilities for a long-term solution to unresolved border issues.

Food Processor

A major food processing company, set to employ 2,500 workers is to emerge in Slovenia later this year, as shareholders of three firms, Perutnina Ptuj, Jata and Kmetijski Kombinat Ptuj, all approved that Jata and KKP are to merge with Perutnina Ptuj after being given the green light by the anti-trust office.

Roman Glaser, chief executive of Perutnina Ptuj, suggested the merger will be an opportunity for the company to become a role model for the country's agriculture and food processing sector which aims to keep its competitive edge within the European market.

Thanks to Phil Hrvatin for these news items.

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NATIONAL ATLAS OF SLOVENIA

"It is indeed impressive when a country that is smaller than Lake Ontario and has about two million people - fewer than many U.S. cities - can put out a national atlas as well presented as this one." The Library Journal, June, 2002

This is a great reference book for students of all ages and a captivating portrait of Slovenia to share with friends or give as a gift. It was produced by a team of geographers, historians and social scientists to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Slovenia's independence. Chapters address geography, cartography and terrain as well as landscapes, colonization and settlements, population trends, emigration and Slovenian communities abroad, economy, infrastructure and environment. The atlas has 106 maps, including historic drawings of Slovenian towns and regions, 76 color photographs and 24 tables and graphs in its nearly two hundred pages. Cloth-bound edition - \$70.00 (ISBN - 961-209-213-3); special numbered leather-bound collector's edition - \$100.00 (ISBN - 961-209-215-X). Also available in Slovenian (ISBN- 961-209-226-5).

This book is imported by **Books of Slovenia**, a division of **Delphi Associates**. To order, please send a check or purchase order to Delphi Associates at 453 Rialto Avenue, Venice, CA 90291. Prices include shipping and handling. Please allow several weeks for delivery. For information or a catalogue call (310) 392 4843 or email BooksofSlovenia@attbi.com.

Astronaut Linenger (Continued from page 1)

him, and would always be watching over him no matter what.

Q. - We laymen imagine that space flights are the most carefully programmed activities in the world. Yet, while you were in touch with a different way of thinking in Russia and then during your adventure on Mir you were also confronted by various human errors, shortcomings, and difficulties. Did you think about various human frailties, shortcomings, prejudices, or downright viciousness while in space? What could be done to combat them?

A. - Yes, we do have our frailties - but I can tell you, God gave us two great blessings that allow us to overcome any difficulty: the ability to adapt and change, and the ability to rise to any occasion, given a passion for what you are doing. I learned a lot about my frailties up there - I have never felt so isolated and cut off in my life - but I also learned that there is something within each of us that allows us to overcome any obstacle, any hardship...

Q. - What was the hardest thing for you in space? Was it loneliness or something else?

A. - Just being away from other people. I will never take my family, friends, colleagues for granted again. None of us should.

Q. - More than once you faced the danger of imminent death (e.g., during the fire on Mir). In your book you mention how by being exposed to such dangers you have learned things about human nature that you would otherwise never notice. How do you look at this today? Is death the end or the beginning?

A. - In my case, when faced with death, I more or less accepted it and said to myself: this is what it is like for us all. At some point we take our last breath, and move on to another life. It was okay with me to leave this world. The only regret that I had was that I had not left behind enough for the people I love, for example, I wished that I had written down something to my son John to let him know how much I love him.

I suggest that everyone gets their house in order along these lines: never be afraid to let your loved ones know how much you cherish them, care for them...

Q. - While you were in space you directed much of your attention to the surface of the Earth. What were your thoughts and feelings then? While looking at the part of Europe around the Alps and

the Adriatic Sea, did your thoughts wander to your grandmother and grandfather?

A. - Slovenia from space, as well as from the ground, is one incredibly beautiful place. The Adriatic is deep blue, the Alps were covered in snow - what a very special place.

When flying over it I would often think to myself: This is where my roots are, my place on earth... I also thought: I hope the people down there appreciate how good they have it. What a spot!

Q. - When asked by Oprah Winfrey what was the greatest event in your life, you responded that it was the birth of your son. How do you look at life, creation, love?

A. - Nothing greater on earth or in space than God's gift to us - life. Cherish it.

Q. - It is nice everywhere, but nowhere as nice as at home. - This is what you wrote toward the end of your book. What does an astronaut do when he is again back on the planet? What is your life like today? Would you like to participate in another space flight?

A. - Some say that you must be bored now, but really the opposite is true: I have learned to better appreciate life on earth - simple things like the fresh air, green grass, birds singing. All of our blessings, and we often just take them for granted.

At this point in my life - with four young children - I decided that space flight is probably not the best thing to do. Maybe when I am 77, as John Glenn was when he returned to space, I might reconsider.

Q. - From Dr. Edward Gobetz's introduction to your book we learn that you were very close to your grandmother Frances Do-

bravec Pusavc. What drew you to her? Do you think that you inherited or learned some of your traits from her?

A. - My grandmother was one of the most remarkable people I have ever met. She sailed for America as a girl, taught herself English, and raised a great family. Hey, she was an explorer, an adventurer herself. I am just following in her footsteps.

Q. - You like Michigan. That's where Frederic Baraga, who continues to be well known in Slovenia, was active as a missionary and bishop. Is this name known to you?

A. - Yes, I have been to some of the sites that Fr. Baraga visited. In fact, in northern Michigan, I was able to visit a church erected by the (immigrant) Slovenian community long ago...

Q. - You have already visited Slovenia and we hope you will come again, especially now when we Slovenians are learning more about you and increasingly admire you thanks to the Slovenian translation of your fascinating book. You conclude with the observation that there are almost no limits to what a person can accomplish. At the time when this interview will be published, our paper will also introduce newly ordained Slovenian priests. What are your suggestions and wishes for these young people and for young people in general?

A. - Leave something behind for others. Make your life count for something, and count your blessings every day. If you are having a bad day and have a frown on your face - just take a deep breath of air, appreciate the carefree existence that we have on earth, count your blessings, and - get a smile on your face.

Very nice talking with you Msgr. Say hello to all of my friends in Slovenia.

Recalling Lake Bled

Editor,

On Tuesday, August 27 my granddaughter Laura who is a Senior at Xavier University, called to tell me to turn on TLC (The Learning Channel). Their feature at 3 that day was a wedding at Lake Bled, Slovenia.

I was able to see the ceremony which was conducted in English, after which the couple together pulled on the rope and rang the bell. The commentator spoke of the castle - evidently there was a dinner

there, but I missed that part.

They showed the groom carrying his bride up the 99 steps. It would have been beautiful to see the entire program. Their cameras panned across to the castle and it was picture-postcard perfect.

Laura was with me and eight other family members when we visited Slovenia five years ago. This brought back pleasant memories of that trip.

--Stephanie Polutnik
Lorain, OH

"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent vice of socialism is the equal sharing of misery."
-Sir Winston Churchill

(Thanks to David Modic for this quote)

Coming Events

Sunday, Sept. 8

St. Vitus Altar Society dinner.

Sunday, Sept. 15

Wine festival (Vinska Trgatev) featuring Veseli Godci Ansambel, at Slovenska Pristava.

Sunday, Sept. 15

Collinwood Slovenian Home, 15810 Holmes Ave., Cleveland honors musician Norm Kobal as Man of Year. Festivities and continuous music from 3 to 11 p.m. in both halls. All entertainment free of charge.

Friday, Sept. 20

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 to 11:30 featuring Bob Kravos.

Saturday, Sept. 21

Bishop Baraga Association Slovenian Mass at St. Ignatius Church in Houghton, MI, 7 p.m. with reception in church hall.

Sunday, Sept. 22

Bishop Baraga Association Mass, 4 p.m. at St. Ignatius Church in Houghton, Mich. Banquet after Mass at MTU University Center, Memorial Union Ballroom, 1400 Townsend Dr., Houghton.

Sunday, Sept. 22

St. Lawrence Church, 3547 E. 80th St., Newburgh, Cleveland, concludes 100th year anniversary with Mass celebrated by Bishop Anthony Pilla, Bishop A. Edward Pevec, and Bishop Roger Gries. A dinner follows at Slovenian National Home on E. 80th St. For information call parish office at (216) 341-0496.

Sunday, Sept. 22

Wine Festival sponsored by Slovenian Cultural Society at Triglav Park in Wind Lake, WI.

Friday, Sept. 27

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 to 11:30 featuring Frank Morvacik.

Saturday, Sept. 28

St. Clair Rifle and Hunting Club, 6599 Ravenna Rd., Concord, OH, Clambake on club grounds. All welcome.

Saturday, Sept. 28

Newburgh Slovenian Home Wine and Cheese Festival from 6 to 10 p.m. Music by Al Battistelli. Admission \$12.

Friday, Oct. 4

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 to 11:30 featuring Wayne Tomsic.

Saturday, Oct. 5

Slovenian men's chorus Fantje na Vasi 25th Anniversary concert, 7 p.m. in St. Clair Slovenian National Home. Dance to follow featuring Veseli godci orchestra

Friday, Oct. 11

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 to 11:30 featuring Frank Morvacik.

Saturday, Oct. 12

Concert by Slovenian singer Ivan Hudnik from Ljubljana in St. Mary's Church, 7 p.m. Free will offering. Reception to follow in the school hall.

Sunday, Oct. 13

Koline dinner at Slovenska Pristava sponsored by Retirees of Slovenska Pristava.

Friday, Oct. 18

Dance at West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 to 11:30 featuring Fred Ziwich.

Saturday, Oct. 19

Concert by 45 member mixed chorus from the diocesan Classical Gymnasium of St. Stanislaus from Sentvid, Slovenia in St. Mary's Church at 7 p.m. Free will offering. Reception to follow.

Saturday, Oct. 19

St. Cyril (NY), Holy Cross (CT) organizing grape festival in Fairfield, CT. Mass 4:30 p.m., singing by Al Barbarino, dinner 6 p.m., & wine tasting. Dance 7 p.m. Adem Barthalt Band. Info Ivan Kamin 718 424-2711, Fr. Milan Dimic 203 372-4595, Ernest Lagoja 203 734-7439.

Sunday, Oct. 20

Christ the King KSKJ Lodge No. 226 and Sacred Heart of Jesus KSKJ Lodge No. 172 matching funds benefit dinner for St. Vitus School. Serving 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All welcome.

Sunday, Oct. 20

St. Mary's (Collinwood) Alumni Annual Banquet following 12 noon Mass in school auditorium. Forty-six singers from Slovenia will sing at Mass. Speakers will be collectors and historians Tim and Mary Louise Daly.

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Bill Tofant, Policeman, War Hero



Bill Tofant returns to Italy, as a U.S. paratrooper.

William J. Tofant, 90, a Cleveland policeman who used his skills to capture war criminals and enemy agents as an Army counterintelligence officer during World War II, died Monday, Aug. 26, 2002 at the Slovene Home for the Aged.

Tofant was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division in December, 1944 when he found lodging with a group of other soldiers in a clean and comfortable hotel in the Belgian city of Bastogne. They were suddenly evicted when the German Luftwaffe hit the hotel in a massive bombing raid during the Battle of the Bulge. Tofant had survived combat in Normandy and later saw action in the Ardennes and the Rhineland. He was shot in the Netherlands.

Before he returned from Europe, he and other airborne agents captured high-ranking Nazis as well as Adolf Hitler's chauffeur. He was awarded a Bronze Star, the Belgium Croix de Guerre and a Purple Heart.

Tofant was born in Trieste, Italy, but was a Cleveland resident virtually all of his life. He served as a bat boy for major league players including Babe Ruth when the Indians played in League Park. In 1991 he returned to the now barren park to participate in a ceremony with Bob Feller and other former players. Tofant, who graduated from East Technical High School, also played second base for the famed Cleveland Rosenblums sandlot team.

In 1937 Safety Director Eliot Ness swore Tofant in to

the Cleveland Police Department. Tofant was a traffic lieutenant when he retired in 1972. He then worked in the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department.

He continued to follow sports and enjoyed growing more than 100 rose bushes and tomatoes at his home in Cleveland.

Tofant is survived by his wife, Ellen; daughter Ellen Luckwitz of Warren; son, Anthony Abiecunas of Euclid; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a sister.

Services were at the Jakubs & Son Funeral Home, 936 E. 185 St., Cleveland.

—Richard M. Peery
The Plain Dealer

VERA M. SEBENIK

Vera M. Sebenik, 93, of Boulder, CO died August 26, 2002.

Born Aug. 29, 1908 in Cleveland, OH, she had resided in Boulder the past 4½ years, moving from Cleveland. She graduated from Longwood High School in Cleveland and worked for Richmond Bros. as a seamstress for 15 years. She later learned the Stock Market and worked for Goodbody Brokerage House in Cleveland. Her family says, "Playing the stock market was her passion."

She, along with her husband, Frank, were the former owners of the Eddy Road Grocery and Frank's Grocery in Cleveland.

Vera belonged to the Catholic Daughters of America, the Slovenian National Benefit Society, and AMLA Lodge #4.

She is survived by son Roger (Betty) of Boulder, CO; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one brother, Stan Laurich of Cleveland. Vera was preceded in death by her husband; her son Allan; her parents, Frank and Agnes Melle Laurich; and brother Frank "Grange" Laurich.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 31 at Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Boulder CO. Services concluded with burial at All Souls Cemetery in Cleveland.

Contributions to Hospice of Boulder County, 2594 Trail Ridge Dr., East, Suite A, Lafayette, CO 80026

MILDRED R. ROME

Mildred R. Rome, 79, resident of Cleveland, died Aug. 24, 2002 at Euclid General Hospital.

Mildred was the daughter of the late Ivana (nee Lukan) and Egidij Rome; sister of Edward and Stanley Rome, and aunt, great-aunt and great-great-aunt to many.

Funeral Mass was on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at St. Paul's Church in Euclid with burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Friends were received at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home, 17010 Lake Shore Blvd., Cleveland.

ALBIN JANEZICH

Funeral services were held Monday, August 12th for Albin "Beanie" Janezich, 79, at St. William Church.

Albin passed away at his home in Euclid on Thursday, Aug. 8th.

Mr. Janezich was born in Chisholm, Minnesota to Frank and Margaret (nee Sterle) (both deceased.) He was a graduate of Chisholm High School.

Albin was a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army in WWII and served as a Medical Corpsman in the Southern Philippines and the Western Pacific. He received many medals and three bronze stars.

In 1949 he married Carolyn (nee Zaller), his wife of 53 years. They had a son, Glenn Alan, now of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Albin is survived by step brothers John, Louie and Joe Skubic; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by brothers Frank, Edward, Stanley and Robert Janezich; sister Rose Tonko and stepfather John Skubic.

Mr. Janezich was employed as a tool and die maker for Addressograph Multigraph Corp., for 42 years. He retired at age 67.

Albin was a member of Euclid Vets Club, AFU, SNPJ, and St. William Church.

Donations in his memory to American Lung Association, 1621 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 44115.

Zele Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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SHA Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following residents of the Slovene Home for the Aged who were born in the month of September:

9-04 – Rose Werlich, 81, born in Cleveland.

9-11 – Frances Jakubcin, 91, born in Cleveland.

9-11 – Josephine Luchka, 89, born in Newburg Hts., OH.

9-18 – Veronica Braidech, 93, born in Cleveland.

9-20 – William Tushar, 83, born in Pennsylvania

9-23 – Rose Steele, 98, born in Cleveland

9-26 – Mary Urbanic, 94, born in Cleveland.

In Memory

Dr. Edward and Milena Gobetz of Willoughby Hills, Ohio donated \$30.00 to the American Home in memory of Alice Opalich. They stated, "She was a great lady."

Many thanks for your very generous donation and kind words.

Donation

A big thank you to St. Mary's Alumni Association for their generous donation of \$50.00. President Charles Pezdirtz, writes, "Enclosed please find a check for \$50.00 to your outstanding publication. Keep up the good work; best wishes."

In Loving Remembrance of the 13th Anniversary to Beloved Husband

Frank Slejko



Sept. 1, 1989

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8 Blessing of St. Vitus Village Chapel

The last member of a life-long family belonging to a Cleveland Catholic parish passed away quietly into the night in the early 1990's after living eight plus decades in this same neighborhood. She had lived on a quiet city street lined primarily with bungalow houses and weeping linden trees, occasionally mixed with a few two-story houses.

A 10-minute walk away from Bonna Avenue another life-long parishioner had recently passed away. Like his contemporary, he, too, had resided his entire life, more than seven decades, in the St. Clair neighborhood, originally considered in the 1800's as the "outskirts" of Cleveland, a farmland past East 55th Street and St. Clair Avenue. Then came the flood of immigrants and their offspring, who eventually changed forever the shape of Cleveland's history.

Angela Perusek and Joseph Smole would never have envisioned what was about to occur in the mid and late 1990's, a change that at first was gradual and then suddenly, with a transformation of the street corners of Lausche Avenue, Norwood Roads and East 61st Street. At one time only a vision was discussed, then vision gave way to reality with all the trappings of long hours and hard work, and finally, hope for this near northeast neighborhood in Cleveland that a

gas explosion and time had been slowly passing.

Until now.

By July 2000 tons of dirt had been moved around to create St. Vitus Mountain rather than the first concentrated new permanent housing project in the St. Clair Avenue neighborhood in over 50 years. With the patience of Job of the Old Testament, the dirt would finally give way to pieces and parts of lumber, concrete, steel, and other materials. Eventually the pieces and parts became the elegant lady on the street corners dubbed "St. Vitus Village."

And what a lady she became. A new three-story 33 suite European Renaissance style architectural masterpiece. The new building was a blending with the old while at the same time creating a new definition of what housing could be like in Cleveland; and elsewhere in northeast Ohio. St. Vitus Parish did not talk about "Church in the City." It set out to recreate and redefine Church in the City with a highly viable and visible model for others to copy and provide dignity where until recently there was a lot of talk but little action. Good intentions and words are fine, but results are better. In the end the wait was worth the effort. Thanksgiving 2001 had the first resident move into this new facility with the last of the 33 suites to be

occupied by Thanksgiving 2002.

On Sept. 8 the final conclusion for the St. Vitus Village project will occur with the blessing and dedication of the Chapel inside St. Vitus Village. This will occur on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, one year after the new facility was blessed and witnessed by hundreds of people. The street name changed from Glass to Lausche. Since that time Frank J. Lausche has been looking down from above and is pleased.

The Chapel inside St. Vitus Village will be dedicated as "St. Mary's Chapel." The significance of this event is the culmination of incorporating religious artifacts from former St. Vitus Convent (tabernacle, altar, pews, stain glass windows, statues, cross, etc.) to St. Vitus Village and integrating with new lighting, tiles, providing the means for this area to become a powerhouse of prayer and a well used parish resource.

There will be one parish Mass at 10 a.m. on Sept. 8. Principal celebrant will be Auxiliary Bishop A. Edward Pevec, recently retired from the Diocese of Cleveland and former pastor at St. Vitus. Bishop Pevec will also bless the chapel.

--Stane Kuhar



Saving Slovenia's Brown Bears

Recently the European Commission approved EUR 72 million for 70 new projects designed for nature protections in the EU and candidate-countries, including Slovenia, where the brown bear population is to continue being protected.

Besides the European Commission's allocated funds, the project will be co-financed by the Slovenian Government. The entire project is worth a little over EUR 600,000. Explaining the decision to back the project, the European Commission said it wished to protect "one of the biggest populations of brown bears in Europe." The recipient of the funds will be the Slovenian Forestry Institute, which will try to improve public attitudes to bears up until 2005.

Years ago the brown bear inhabited the entire European area while today it is present in very few places due to population expansion. The number of brown bears in Slovenia is estimated to be around 450 to 550.

In Slovenia, the Dinaric brown bear population represents the westernmost part of

the entire brown bear area in Central Europe, while bears migrating from Slovenia northwards and westwards are the only potential source for natural resettlement of the Alps.

In Slovenia, the bear population has been preserved due to suitable living environment — extensive, dense forests on the diverse and complex terrain of the high Karst, and also due to people's inclination to preserve this animal species.

In times when, in other parts of Europe, the bear was pursued as a harmful beast and bounties were given for their heads, in Slovenian territory, it was protected to some extent. Namely, since 1890 the bear was protected as a very precious species of wild game in forest estates in the southwestern part of Slovenia and the neighboring Gorski Kotar in Croatia.

Up to the 1950's the bear was not hunted. The number of bears grew steeply particularly after 1960 when the population reached from 450 to 550 animals who live in over 530,000 hectares in the high Karst forests.

Norm Kobal Saluted by Collinwood Home

Norm Kobal is one of Cleveland-style polka musician's most formidable talents. A schooled musician transcending musical styles, he has devoted the majority of his musical efforts over 50 years to his first love, polkas and waltzes.

Raised in Girard, Ohio, among a musical family, Norm mastered the trumpet, banjo and guitar before settling on tenor saxophone, clarinet and flute as his primary instruments. Norm joined Jack Persin and the Jolly Jesters in 1944 and recorded with his father's band, Stan Kobal and the Airliners in 1947.

Earning his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from Youngstown State University, Norm taught in the Lakeview and the Girard school system, at Strouss Music Center and at Youngstown State University. Broadening his experience, Norm spent seven years with Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, directed and played jazz concerts, was guest with the W. D. Packard concert band, logged three years with the 702nd Air Force Band in Omaha and performed with Greek, Italian,

Country, and Broadway show groups.

Over the years Norm backed luminaries such as Al Martino, Jerry Vale, Wayne Newton, Sergio Franchi, and Robert Goulet. But he was also inspired by the likes of Johnny Pecon, Lou Trebar, and Eddie Platt.

Norm was irresistibly drawn to Slovenian polka music. Since 1956, he has manned the woodwind spot with his own bands, and Del Sinchak, Trontel-Zagger, Miskulin-Trebar, Eddie Kenik, Joe Luzar, Ray Polantz, Dave Wretchscho, Tony Klepec, Jeff Pecon, Johnny Vadnal, Eddie Rodick, Frank Spetich, George Staiduhar, Wojtilas and currently Bob Kravos and the "Boys in the Band." Featured are Bob Kravos on accordion, vocals and keyboard, Denny Bucar on bass and vocals, Johnny Gerl on drums and vocals, and Frank Okiki on guitar, banjo and vocals.

Available to all who call, regardless of age or stature, Norm has played with virtually every Cleveland-style band of note in the Greater Cleveland and Penn-Ohio areas.

Highly sought for recording sessions, Norm has amassed a personal discography comprising two great all-time Cleveland style hits, "My Alice Waltz," and "I Want To Call You Sweetheart." He innovated the use of flute in Cleveland-style music. He played on Walter Ostanek's three grammy-winning albums, and one of his own compositions including a Polka Hall of Fame inductee, Emily's Waltz. He played on nearly 100 recordings with a host of Cleveland-style polka bands.

Norm was P.O.P.P.'s Man of the Year in 1992, Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame Musician of the Year in 1992, Sideman of the Year in 1995-96, and was awarded Lifetime Achievement in 1996.

Much like the pioneers he worshipped as a young man, Norm has become a Cleveland-style legend in his own right with talented musicians throughout the country emulating his techniques and style.

Norm has aptly been described as the "Benny Goodman of Cleveland-Style Music."

Collinwood Slovenian Home

15810 Holmes Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio
216-681-6649

is proud to honor musician

NORM KOBAL

as their 2002 Man of the Year
on Sunday, September 15, 2002

Join in the festivities for Norm with continuous music
from 3:00-11:00 PM in both the upper and lower halls.
PRESENTATION AT 9:00 PM WITH YOUR
MASTERS OF CEREMONIES
TONY PETKOVSEK AND DENNY BUCAR
CONTINUOUS MUSIC ALL DAY WITH....

The Buttonaires perform outside in the tent starting at noon

Dancing in the upstairs hall starting at 3:00 PM with:
Ron Likovic • Tony Fortuna • Joey Tomsick
Eddie Rodick • Jeff Pecon • Bob Kravos

For the button box enthusiasts, dancing in the
lower hall starting at 3:30 PM with the following:
Magic Buttons • Button Box Connection
Northern Ohio Players • Mahoning Valley B. Box Club
and that fun bunch...Zeke and Charlie!

ALL ENTERTAINMENT IS FREE OF CHARGE!

Bands subject to change



– Vesti iz Slovenije –

V Sloveniji začeli novo šolsko leto – Manj osnovnošolcev, več gimnazijcev

V ponedeljek se je za 176.437 osnovnošolcev, nekaj manj kot 107.000 dijakov in več kot 30.000 učiteljev začelo šolsko leto 2002-2003. V osnovnošolske klopi je prvič sedlo 12.700 učencev osemletne osnovne šole, v 1. razred devetletke pa je prišlo 9992 šestletnih prvošolčkov. Slovenija namreč prehaja tekom leto od osemletne na devetletno osnovno šolo. V osnovnih šolah je približno 4000 manj učencev kot lani, srednješolcev pa je za 3459 več.

Letošnje šolsko leto je zadnje pred tistim prelomnim v zgodovini slovenskega šolstva, ko bodo vse osnovne šole po zakonu uvedle program devetke v 1. in 7. razredu. Osemletka bo počasi usihala do šolskega leta 2008-2009, ko bo v vseh osnovnih šolah le še devetletni program.

V gimnazije se vsako leto vpiše več dijakov, letos že 38 odstotkov vseh srednješolcev. Nekaj manj, 33 odstotkov, je dijakov srednjih tehniških in strokovnih šol, 22 odstotkov se jih bo šolalo v srednjih poklicnih šolah, vse manj pa jih je v nižjih poklicnih šolah (4 odstotki) in v programih dualnega poklicnega sistema, po katerem se izobražujejo v šoli in pri delodajalcu (3 odstotki).

Dvournno sporočilo iz Washingtona

Na vprašanje, ali bo morebitna zavrnitev dvostranskega sporazuma z ZDA (o nedotakljivosti ameriških vojakov pred Mednarodnim kazenskim sodiščem) vplivala na ameriško odločitev pri odločanju o povabilu kandidatki v NATO, je pomočnica ameriškega državnega sekretarja za evropske in evrazijske zadeve Elizabeth Jones na videokonferenci (Ljubljana–Washington) slovenskim novinarjem dejala, da ZDA kot ena

od mnogih zaveznic ne odloča sama, ali bo kandidatka povabljen v NATO. "Ali bo država kandidatka za članstvo v NATO podpisala dvostranski sporazum ali ne, dejansko nima pomena, pomembno pa je pri odločanju v ameriškem kongresu, saj mora ta potrditi članstvo novih držav; to ni pogoj, je pa politični faktor v ZDA," je pojasnila.

Znosna inflacija – brezposelnost 5,9%

Cene življenjskih potrebščin so se avgusta povečale za 0,1 odstotka, letošnja inflacija je 5,3-odstotna, primerjava avgust 2001/avgust 2002 pa pokaže 7,3-odstotno inflacijo. Če ne bi bile storitve dražje za odstotek (zlasti zaradi 20-odstotne podražitve avtomobilskega zavarovanja in za 1,2 odstotka dražjih finančnih storitev), bi imeli avgusta v Sloveniji deflacijo 0,2 odstotka.

Po mednarodnih standardih je bila stopnja brezposelnosti v Sloveniji v drugem četrtletju 2002, 5,9-odstotna (1.994.000 prebivalcev, od teh 1.018.000 žensk, 981.000 aktivnih prebivalcev, 58.000 brezposelnih, od teh 28.000 žensk, neaktivnih 707.000 prebivalcev, od teh 418.000 žensk).

Priznanje Darji Gačnik iz New Yorka

Darjo Gačnik, direktorico slovenskega turističnega urada za ZDA in Kanado s sedežem v New Yorku, je ameriška turistična evija Travel Agent uvrstila med 100 najuspešnejših žensk v ameriškem turizmu. Od Evropejk je na seznamu le še direktorica belgijskega turističnega urada v ZDA. "Slovenija je še vedno majhna in neznana država za večino Američanov in to, da so me izbrali, pomeni, da smo v zadnjih desetih letih dosegli napredek, kar pa brez podpore iz Slovenije ne bi bilo možno," je izjavila Gačnikova.



VPLIVNA SENATORJA OBISKALA SLOVENIJO – Kakor smo poročali pretekli teden, sta bila na obisku v Sloveniji dva vplivna člana zveznega senata, ki sta izrazila močno podporo Sloveniji, posebej v zvezni z njenim verjetnim povabilu k članstvu v NATU. Na fotografiji je na levi sen. Fred Thompson, republikanec iz Tennesseeja, ki se bo upokojil letos ter se vrnil v filmsko kariero, na desni je pa sen. John McCain, nekdanji republikanski predsedniški kandidat, ki predstavlja državo Arizona in je bil za časa vietnamske vojne več let ujetnik v Severnem Vietnamu ter hudo mučen zaradi svoje upornosti.

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Kosilo to nedeljo—

To nedeljo ste vabljeni na letno kosilo Oltarnega društva pri Sv. Vidu. Serviranje bo od 11.30 do 1. pop. v farnem avditoriju. Kosilo stane \$10 za odrasle in \$5 za otroka. Pridite!

Blagoslovitev kapele—

To nedeljo bo škof Edward Pevec blagoslovil kapelo in zapečatil vogelni kamen St. Vitus Village. Edina maša ta dan bo ob 10. dop., sledila bo blagoslovitev.

Novi grobovi

Albina Mrsnik

Umrla je 95 let stara Albina Mrsnik, rojena Renko, vdova po Johnu, mati Johna in Rosemary Toth, 5-krat stara mati, 7-krat prastara mati, sestra že pok. Paula. Pogreb bo danes, v četrtek, v oskrbi Želetovega zavoda s sv. mašo ob 10h v cerkvi sv. Vida in nato pokopom na pokopališču Vseh svetnikov v Northfieldu, O. Družina priporoča darove v pokojničin spomin župniji sv. Vida, 6019 Lausche Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103 ali Slovenskemu narodnemu domu, 6409 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103.

Vera M. Sebenik

Dne 26. avgusta je umrla 93 let stara Vera M. Sebenik iz Boulderja, Colo., rojena Laurich 29. avgusta 1908 v Clevelandu, vdova po Franku, mati Rogerja in že pok. Allana, 3-krat stara mati, 4-krat prastara mati, sestra Stanleyja in že pok. Franka, zaposlena kot šivilja 15 let pri Richman Bros., z možem sta pred mnogimi leti lastovala in vodila Eddy Road Grocery in Frank's Grocery v Clevelandu. Pogrebni obredi so bili v Boulderju, truplo pa je bilo pokopano na Vernih duš pokopališču na Chardonu, O.

Mary K. Sezon

Dne 2. septembra je v University bolnišnici v Clevelandu umrla 91 let stara Mary K. Sezon iz Geneve, O., rojena Kukovic v Sloveniji, v ZDA prišla l. 1927, od l. 1939 živeča v Genevi, kjer je s možem (u. 1994) od l. 1950 do svoje smrti lastovala in vodila Eddie's Grill in Dairy Queen v Geneva-on-the-Lake, mati sina Eddija in hčerke Rose Marie ter stara mati. Pogreb bo jutri, v petek, v Genevi.

Spominska sv. maša—

To nedeljo bo v cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete ob 10h dop. sv. maša za gen. Leona Rupnika, poveljnika domobranske vojske, ki ga je usmrtil po vojni komunistični režim. Tabor DSPB vabi rojake, da se sv. maše udeležijo.

Pričetek Slov. šole—

Slovenska šola pri Sv. Vidu bo pričela z novim šolskim letom v soboto, 21. septembra, dop. ob 10h, to v farni šoli na Lausche Ave. Starši sedanjih učencev in še posebno starši tistih, ki bodo prvič šolo obiskovali letos so vabljeni na sestanek z učiteljstvom, ki bo v ponedeljek, 16. sept., zv. ob 7h, to v društveni sobi zraven avditorija. Na tem sestanku bo tudi potekalo registriranje učencev za letošnje leto.

Krofi in rezanci—

Oltarno društvo sv. Vida bo imelo prodajo krofov in rezancev v soboto, 14. septembra, v društveni sobi, ob običajnem dopoldanskem času. Pridite in pokupite!

Dimitrij Rupel pride—

Slovenski zunanji minister Dimitrij Rupel bo prišel v Cleveland 15. septembra, le za nekaj ur. Naslednji dan ima pač govor v Združenih narodih. Več prihodnjic.

Sodelovanje FOV s kanadsko univerzo

Kranj – Fakulteta za organizacijske vede iz Kranja bo v prihodnje tesneje sodelovala s kanadsko univerzo Western Ontario. To zagotavlja pogodba o izmenjavi študentov, ki sta jo pretekli četrtek podpisala dekan FOV dr. Jože Florjančič in dekan omenjene kanadske univerze dr. Brian Timney.

Na univerzi Western Ontario, ki sodi med pet najvišje rangiranih univerz v Kanadi, študira veliko otrok kanadskih Slovencev, zato ima izmenjava študentov še toliko večji pomen. Podobne izmenjave študentov in druge oblike sodelovanja ima fakulteta iz Kranja že vpejlane z nekaterimi drugimi tujimi univerzami ali fakultetami.

L. S.

Delo fax, 23. avg. 2002

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Predsedniška kandidatka SDS in NSi Barbara Brezigar Slovincem po svetu

Dragi rojaki, gotovo se še spominjate tistih poletnih dni izred dvanajstih let, ko je težkih domačih in mednarodnih razmerah dozorila samostojna slovenska država in z njo demokratična ureditev. Nikoli poprej v zgodovini Slovenciloma in po svetu nismo bili tako prežeti z voljo, da sami zagospodarimo v voji domovini in da si redimo svoj skupni domiko, da se bomo vsi kupaj v njem dobro potili.

V Sloveniji smo se tarat dobro zavedali, kakodragocena je bila pri resničevanju te zamislaša pomoč, veselili smo Vasih dejanj za samojno Slovenijo na raznih koncih sveta, z avdušenjem smo sprejeli sporočila Vaše podore od Argentine do družbenih držav in Kanade, od Avstralije do ropskih mest. Zdaj imajo svojo državo z deokratično ureditvijo in inim gospodarstvom.

Slovenija je v tem čaveliko dosegla in veljanajuspešnejšo državo toimenovane tranzicijske postkomunistične Evrope, v kratkem času bo ša država del Evropskeze. Integracija v to odio družbo evropskih odov nam bo veliko

prinesla, zlasti na gospodarskem področju, hkratis tem pa nas čakajo novi izzivi, še posebej pri ohranjanju naše kulturne dediščine.

S skupnimi močmi smo veliko dosegli, veliko pa je še zmeraj stvari, s katerimi nismo zadovoljni, ne mi v Sloveniji, kakortudi ne Vi, ki spremljate dogajanja v svoji stari domovini. Eni in drugi smo si v tistem prelomnem času nove razmere v lastni državi predstavljali veliko bolj pravno in politično urejene, kot v resnici so, prepričani smo bili, da bo to država ne samo blaginje, ampak tudi solidarnosti, da bo v njej vladala popolna toleranca do ljudi različnih nazorov in prepričanij.

Te in marsikateredruge stvari se niso, ali se, bolje rečeno, še niso uresničile. Nezadovoljstvo z doseženim, kakortudi nezadovoljstvo z razmerami v družbi in političnim vodenjem države, hkratipa prepričanje, da je stvari mogoče spreminjati na bolje, to je legitimno načelo demokracije. Brez tovrstnega nezadovoljstva in brez predlogov za drugačne rešitve ni ustvarjalnosti in napredka.

In prav iz takšnega nezadovoljstva, iz želje, da

bi bile življenjske razmere za ljudi v Sloveniji drugačne in boljše, iz prepričanja, da skupaj zmoremo ustvariti strpnjšo in hitreje razvijajočo se Slovenijo, sem se na pobudo široke skupine izobražencev odločila, da bom na letošnjih jesenskih volitvah kandidirala za predsednico Republike Slovenije.

V to kandidaturo sem se podala kot neodvisna kandidatka, javnosti sem sporočila, da bom nastopila s podporo najmanj 5.000 podpisov volivcev, kakor to določa zakon, povabila pa sem tudi vse parlamentarne in zunajparlamentarne stranke, da mojo kandidaturo podprejo, če se strinjajo z mojim programom. Doselej sem dobila izrecno podporo dveh opozicijskih strank, Socialdemokratske stranke Slovenije in Nove Slovenije.

Za kaj se zavzemam?

Za pravno in socialno državo, enakost pred zakonom, poštenje in medsebojno razumevanje,

za uspešno gospodarstvo,

za moderno, vsem dostopno zdravstvo in šolstvo,

za razcvet kulture in znanosti,

za življenje v miru in toleranci.

Zavedam se, da te reči niso lahko uresničljive. S položaja Predsednice Republike, če bom izvoljena, tudi ne bom mogla sprejemati konkretnih odločitev, kajti takšne omejitve določa Ustava, ki jo hočem brezpogojno spoštovati.

Želim pa v Sloveniji ustvariti odprto in tolerantno vzdušje, ki bo odpravilo nepotrebne napetosti, politično prepirljivost in zdraharstvo, ki bo slovensko družbo usmerilo k toleranci, ustvarjalnosti in enakopravnosti za vse. Pa tudi ozračje za povezanost slovenskih ljudi vsega sveta.

Moje poklicne izkušnje so doma v pravosodju. Delam kot vrhovna državna tožilka, v vladi dr. Andreja Bajuka pa sem vodila ministrstvo za pravosodje. Pravo je področje, kjer se soočajo in celo spopadajo interesi državljanov, seveda pa pogosto tudi interesi političnih in gospodarskih skupin. Zato iz svojih izkušenj dobro vem, kaj

(dalje na str. 16)

Maratonsko plavanje Martina Strela se konča te dni

Človek proti Mississippiju

Nič več ni orjaških jezov, zaradi katerih je bilo treba sestopati na kopno - Usta izgubila okus

◇

(Ur. AD: To poročilo je bilo objavljeno v Delu z dne 21. avgusta. V kolikor še vem, naj bi Martin Strel svoj podvig končal prav jutri, 7. septembra.

V skupini Martina Strela, ki zdaj 48. dan plava po Mississippiju, vlada skupinski duh, duh tovarštva. Vsi za enega, neomajno proti rekordu. Človek proti mogočnemu Mississippiju. Razen edinega plačanega v skupini, ameriškega organizatorja Guya Haglunda, so vsi, z ameriški kajakaši vred, sami prostovoljci, naravnani na isti cilj. Po St. Louisu jim je nakonjena tudi reka: ne le da je čistejša, ker ob njej vi več velikih mest, tudi hitrejša je.

Te dni se je spremljevalna družčina z užitkom okopala. Nič več ni orjaških jezov, pred katerimi je bilo treba sestopiti na kopno - to je vzelo precej časa in Martin ima glede na prvotni načrt še zmeraj dan zaostanka. Računa, da ga bo še ta teden nadomestil, malo tudi s pomočjo teke, ki se je iz skoraj stoječe lenobe prelevila v živahno in hitrejšo.

Zdaj preplava od 42 do 48 milj na dan, redno po dvanajst ur na dan. Z ladjo, ki jih je nekaj časa spremljala, da bi se Martin lahko okrepljal kar "na vodi", je bilo toliko težav, da jo je sklenil odsloviti. Dan po nevihti s streljo jo je čez noč do tri četrtine zalila voda, pod vodo so bili motorji in ponovno usposobljenje za plovbo je bila zahtevna operacija.

Po Memphisu naj bi

spremistvo dobilo 30-metrsko jahto. Reka se v teh krajih razširi na eno do tri milj z brezdanzimi rokavi, dda je kot morje in ni več mogoče plavati na obalo za kosilo.

Mediji so veliko poročali o strelji, ki je pred tednom dni treščila v neposredno bližino svojega soimenjaka. Zadel je železno bojo, ki označuje plovno pot ladij. Prestrasila je tudi Martinove spremljevalce v kajakih, Martin jo je čutil po vsem telesu, vrglo ga je iz vode in malo omamilo, a zavesti ni izgubil. Plavanje pa je bilo treba pretrgati in počakati, da nevihta mine.

Za njimi je ljubezniv sprejem v mestu Marka Twaina Hannibal (zvezna država Missouri), kjer so domačini pričakali plavalčev skupino v oblačilih Huckleberryja Finna in Toma Sawyerja. Da ne govorimo o sprejemu v St. Louisu z županom na čelu pod tristometrskim betonskim obokom ob reki, skozi katerega se vidi mestne nebotičnike.

Zdravje - brez pripomb

Martin je robustnega zdravja, težave ima le z levo roko, ki jo težko dviguje. Mar po 48 dneh v vodi ni do kraja izčrpan? "Dvanajst ur plavanja na dan je zanj tako kot meni kuhanje," je optimističen Martinov kuhar Pavle Martonoš. "Dosegel bo, kar se je namenil!"

In stotič ponovljeno vprašanje, kaj ga žene, da premaguje vse te napore? Rekord. Biti prvi

(dalje na str. 16)



Martin Strel je v Združenih državah Amerike ob plavanju celotne dolžine reke Mississippi deležen precejšnje pozornosti javnosti.

Polka, holivudske zvezde, Jože, Joe, jednota

Joe Valenčič iz Clevelanda, Slovenija, o Američanih čez teden, ki so za vikend Slovenci – Tonight bomo imeli lotsi pipi prišli! – Ni poceni čarterskih poletov, ni pogostih obiskov domovine, "izgubljenega raja"

piše TANJA JAKLIČ

Joe Valenčič je ameriški Slovenec, ki je pred leti osupnil z odkritji slovenskih filmskih zvezd v Hollywoodu. Leta in leta je namreč v ameriškem filmskem svetu lovil svoje rojake in nam predstavil njihova imena, kot so Frank Gorshin, Micky Dolenz, Zalla Zorano idr.

Aktivni član slovenske skupnosti v Clevelandu ve veliko povedati o "slovenstvu za vikend, odpadanju črk v priimkih, slovenščini, ki je mešanica z angleščino, in nostalgiji. Veliki nostalgiji naših ljudi onstran luže. Ravno danes (*mišljen je 18. avgust, op. ur. AD*) se udeležuje kongresa največje slovenske organizacije v ZDA. Prišel je v Las Vegas, da bi sodeloval pri pomembnih odločitvah, ki zadevajo slovenske izseljence, pravi. To možnost ima le enkrat na štiri leta.

Gospod Valenčič, v Sloveniji ste bili nazadnje pred dobrim mesecem dni kot gost in predavatelj Seminarja slovenskega jezika, literature in kulture. Potem pa se vam je mudilo domov, v Cleveland. Rekli ste, da gre za polko ...

Pripravljaj sem odprtje prenovljenega muzeja slovensko-ameriške glasbe Cleveland Polka Hall of Fame. To je, kot vemo, edini slovenski glasbeni muzej na svetu in predstavlja t. i. slovensko-ameriško polko, slog ameriške narodnozabavne glasbe. Gre za izredno priljubljeno zvrst, razvila pa se je iz slovenskih pesmi, ki so jih izseljenci sestavljali iz različnih ritmov ameriške glasbe. Nekaj so vzeli iz džez, countryja, nekaj iz ves-terna ali latina.

Danes tej mešanici pravimo cleveland-style polka in je stara približno sto let. Največji hit je bila desetletje po drugi svetovni vojni. Ko so si Američani zaželeli zabavo, so navili polko in zvezdnika Franka Yankovica, ki je takrat dosegal milijonsko prodajo.

Res, Amerika je nekaj let plesala na slovenske pesmi, ki so bile seveda amerikanizirane in prevedene v angleščino. Po mojih podatkih je vsaj deset orkestrorv snemalo te uspešnice.

Če pa se povrnem k našemu muzeju – otvoritev smo imeli, prišlo je devetsto ljubiteljev polke, ki so osem ur uživali v njenih ritmih. V muzeju sem pripravil tudi posebno razstavo o dosedanjih nagrajencih. Člani naše ustanove namreč vsako leto izberejo najboljšo ploščo, orkester, trgovino in glasbenika.

Imamo trgovino z največjo zbirko cedejev s polkami, med našimi strankami je tudi ljubljanski Nuk, med nagrajenci pa Lojze Slak in Slavko Avsenik.

Potem nas Američani poznajo po polki?

Ali ni to lepo, da nas poznajo po veseli glasbi? To je slovensko darilo Ameriki in njeni kulturi. Če vprašaš povprečnega Američana, po čem pozna razne evropske narode, bo odgovarjal z negativ-

nim prizvokom ...

Se Slovenci v Ameriki veliko zabavajo skupaj?

Veliko in pogosto. Včasih imamo po dve, tri prireditve na dan. Najprej je kulturni program, potem sledi ples, večerja, klobase in pečenke. Vsak slovenski dom, in tega ima skoraj vsaka malo večja slovenska naselbina, ima svojo gostilno zaprtega ali odprtega tipa. Pogovarjamo pa se v slovenščini ali angleščini ali mešanici.

Dobro, da ste me spomnili. Po otvoritvi muzeja smo imeli tudi Slovenefest v Pennsilvaniji. To je največja slovenska zabava, ki traja štiri dni, privabi približno pet tisoč gostov in se dogaja v letovišču Slovenske narodne podporne jednote, ki je največja slovenska organizacija v ZDA. Vsako poletno nedeljo so tudi pikniki po večjih mestih, pa konvencija SNPJ, ki bo letos v Las Vegasu in upam, da se je bom udeležil.

Kaj pravzaprav pomeni jednota in od kod ta beseda?

Hja, Slovenci nismo poznali podobne organizacije, zato smo si besedo sposodili kar od Čehov in tako kopirali tudi njihovo organizacijo.

Nam lahko orišete "institucionalni okvir slovenske manjšine" v Clevelandu?

Cleveland je največje središče Slovakov, Madžarov in Slovencev v ZDA. Po številčnosti smo največji; imamo deset slovenskih narodnih domov, pet župnij, tri rekreacijske centre in vsaj sto različnih društev, klubov in pevskih zborov. Imamo tudi dve slovenski šoli in otroški zborček. Med ustanovami sta največja Slovensko-ameriški glasbeni muzej in slovenska čitalnica, ki šteje že 95 let.

Povsod so slovenske trgovine, lekarne, mesnice, ki prodajajo domače jedi, kot so klobase, suhi želodci, krvavice, potice, štrudlji, šarklji, pa izdelki iz Slovenije (vina).



– JOSEPH "JOE" VALENČIČ –

Skoraj vsak vikend imamo ples, koncerte, poleti piknike, ob nedeljah pa obvezno slovenske maše. Imamo svoje časopise, radijske oddaje ...

Zanimivo je, da mlajši od šestdeset let ne govorijo slovensko, ampak tu in tam izgovorijo še kakšno slovensko besedo, stavek ali pregovor. Prve generacije izseljencev je povezovala slovenščina, v zadnjih petdesetih letih pa nas povezuje glasba, še najbolj polka.

Za nas je Slovenija ostala idealna podoba domovine, korenin, tradicije. Američani nas poznajo po delavnosti, poštenju, varčnosti, poznajo pa nas tudi po glasbi in plesih.

To ste opisali nekako poetično, toda ali ni po svoje tudi žalostno, kako slabo se ohranja med vsemi temi Slovenci in poudarjeno slovenskostjo slovenščina?

Mi ljudi ne presojava po tem, kako dobro govorijo slovensko. Poznam kar nekaj izseljencev, ki so zelo zavedni Slovenci, pa materinščine sploh ne uporabljajo. Ko so bili naši starši odrezani od domovine, se je sloven-

ščina razvijala v okvirih angleškega jezika.

Dostikrat so nam iz Slovenije očitali, da smo nemarno popackali ali celo pokvarili naš skupni jezik, sam pa menim, da gre za nekakšno evolucijo jezika, ki je bila nujna in poštena. Pač, nove besede smo prilagodili angleščini. Tudi nekaj izrazov še vedno laže povemo v angleščini. Opazil sem, da tudi Slovenci v Avstraliji uporabljajo podobno mešanico jezikov kot mi v ZDA, čeprav med sabo nismo imeli nobenih stikov.

Verjetno je na to "packanje" vplival tudi sodoben življenjski ritem ...

Mladi z družinami nimajo dovolj časa, da bi delovali v društvih, zborih in drugih organiziranih delih slovenske skupnosti. Pač živijo svoje življenje. Drugače je z upokojenci, ki jih na stara leta zalije val nostalgije in se začno izjemno zanimati za slovenske zadeve.

Novo dejstvo pa so tudi precej redki obiski domovine. Zakaj, boste vprašali? V sedemdesetih so izseljenci v domovino pripeljali poceni čarterski leti, zdaj pa je popolnoma drugače. Letalske povezave so zapletene, do Brnika moraš zamenjati dve, tri letala, vozovnice so drage, mladi niti nimajo stikov s sorodniki v domovini. Kot pa vemo, novih slovenskih izseljencev v Ameriki pravzaprav ni.

Nam lahko poveste nekaj v mešanem jeziku?

Tonight bomo imeli lotsi pipi prišli. Bom si

(dalje na str. 12)

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Intervju z Joe Valenčičem

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 11)

kupil rostbeef sendvič in bomo imeli good time.

Je lahko biti Slovenec v Ameriki?

Ne, sploh ni lahko, ampak moji sorodniki mi večkrat povejo, da niti v Sloveniji ni lahko biti Slovenec. Mi smo po svoje bolj Američani in ne toliko Slovenci v eksilu. Ljubimo svoj narod, kot vi, vendar je naš prvi jezik angleščina.

ZDA je dežela narodov, samo Cleveland jih premore več kot sto. Korenin se vsi zavedamo, seveda pa je najbolj pomembno, da imajo tudi mladi stike z domovino. Sam se spomnim, da sem imel samo pet let, ko sem užival na počitnicah v Sloveniji, učil sem se jezika, zanimal sem se za Slovence.

Jasno je, da imamo veliko slovenskih šol tudi v Torontu, Clevelandu, Pittsburghu, vendar tja ne greš, ker te silijo, ampak ker in če sam tako hočeš. Spomnim se nekaterih slovenskih družin, ki so doma prepovedale angleščino in ameriško zabavno glasbo. Izsiljevali so slovenščino in kaj so s tem dosegli? Njihovih otrok danes ne vidiš med slovensko skupnostjo

Poznal sem tudi družine, ki so se hitro preoblikovale v "prave" Američane; "pravi" so hoteli biti za službo, za ugled, za preživetje. Moj stari oče si je najprej prepisal priimek iz Valenčič v Walencich, da bi zvenelo bolj nemško ali avstrij-

ska. Moj oče je čez leta vrnil V namesto W, jaz pa sem na koncu izpustil še črko h.

Pri nas se je tako z vsako generacijo spreminila črka in zdaj je priimek skorajda tak kot v originalu. Naši soimenjaki se zdaj v Ameriki pišejo Wallencheck ali Valencheck.

Spominjam se nekega Debeveca, ki je svoj priimek zavil po francosko in postal De Bevec, neki Oblak po Irsko v O'Block, ker je bilo v Ameriki tako pač laže.

Poznam veliko starejših ljudi, ki so izgubljeni, saj jim starši niso nič povedali o rojstnem kraju, od kod izvirajo, in zdaj sami s težavo iščejo sorodnike. Sam se dobro spomnim sošolke, ki se je vedno norčevala iz naše zavedne slovenske družine. Pisala se je Pelegrini, oče je bil asimilirani Italijan. Ko sem jo čez leta vprašal po maminem priimku, je rekla, da se je pisala Zagar. Rekel sem, da je to slovensko ime, pa me je hotela prepričati, da je nemško. Ne, sem vztrajal, tvoja mati je Slovenka iz družine Žagar.

Kako je z najboljšim slovenskim pekom v Clevelandu?

Med Slovenci imamo tudi adaptirane Slovence. To so ljudje drugih narodnosti, ki so se znašli med nami, so aktivni v naših društvih in šolah, med nami jim je všeč, čeprav s slovenstvom nimajo nič.

Federacija slovenskih domov v Clevelandu vsako leto podeljuje nagrado Slovenec. Slovenka leta in zgodilo se je, da jo je že dobil Neslovenec.

A to sploh ni nikakršen problem, še veseli smo, da se drugi tudi zanimajo za nas. Povem vam, da ima najboljšo slovensko pekarno v Clevelandu Poljak, ki se je učil pri slovenskem peku in zdaj sam peče izvrstne potice, štruklje, šarklje, zavitke ...

Njegova hči je včasih pela v slovenskem otroškem zboru in je bila izvoljena za miss Slovenije v Clevelandu. Si predstavljate, slovenska miss s priimkom Wojtyla!

Ko sva govorila po telefonu, vas je mama poklicala z imenom Jože, čeprav sama ni govorila slovensko.

Hm, moja mati je stara 92 let in nikoli si ni odpustila, da je zapustila domovino in svojo mater. V Ameriko je prišla z očetom, ki je s svojimi starši že pred tem živel v ZDA in se je pač tja vrnil po srečanju in poroki z mamo.

V naši družini je Slovenija pomenila hm ... izgubljeni raj? Ne, bolj občutek, da smo od nekod drugod, da so naše korenine drugje, da moramo to zavest ohranjati in gojiti tudi v Ameriki.

Ampak ob vsem skupaj je bilo pomembno biti Američan, se naučiti angleško, da so te sprejeli, da si napredoval v službi ... Tako smo bili in smo še Američani čez teden in Slovenci - za vikend.

(KONEC)

NEDELO

18. avg. 2002

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Od Ljudske kuhinje do Šentjošta

(Dne 22. avgusta je bil v AD objavljen članek "Streli na Streliški in prva vaška straža v Sloveniji". Na ta članek se je odzval v časopisu Demokracija v Ljubljani primorski Slovenec Pavel Ferluga, doma iz Komna. Naša naročnica je omenjeno pismo g. Ferluge posredovala za objavo v AD. Pismo sledi v celoti. Naročnici se za uslugo zahvaljujem. Ur. AD

◇

Od Ljudske kuhinje do Šentjošta

Do tega razmišljanja sem prišel na podlagi članka, ki se je pojavil v sobotni prilogi *Dela*, dne 13. julija 2002, izpod peresa Mihe Nagliča, pod naslovom "Streli na Streliški in prva vaška straža v Sloveniji".

Ker se je v zadnjem času le začelo jasneje govoriti o naši polpretekli zgodovini in se počasi (prepočasi, a vztrajno) odpirajo vprašanja o nepojasnjenih dogodkih, ki so botrovali katastrofi slovenske državljanske vojne in posledičnega holokavsta po zaslugi komunistične revolucije, se morajo s temi problemi ukvarjati tudi glasila, ki so notorično na strani revolucije in njenih posledic, skritih na temni strani me-seca.

Ker se neresnice ne da več učinkovito prikrivati z lažnim diktatorskim poučevanjem, indoktrinacija pa počasi blede, se tudi v neuki množici pojavljajo problematična vprašanja, ki terjajo jasne in razumljive odgovore. Tega se zavedajo tudi nosilci "revolucionarnih vrednot" kontinuitete.

Marsičesa se ne da več zamolčati in resnica prihaja na dan, čeprav napol tajinstveno, ker je v ljudeh še vedno pričujoč strah, tisti prepotreben strah, ki ga ustvarja vsak

totalitarizem za vzdrževanje oblasti.

Tudi naši komunisti se zavedajo, da zgodovinskih nečednosti ne morejo več prikrivati s parolo "ne ozirajmo se na preteklost, ampak glejmo le v bodočnost". Vsak narod, in to je naravno, ne more mimo brskanja v lastno preteklost (tudi s preštevanjem kosti), ker je to nujna podlaga za nadgradnjo boljše prihodnosti.

Ovrednotiti mora nujno vse, kar je doživljal v zgodovini, in vse to položiti na primerjalno "zgodovinsko tehtnico" za vrednostno in verodostojno selekcijo. Saj venomer ponavljamo, da nas mora zgodovina učiti, da ne bomo zašli v iste napake preteklosti.

Ker so naši revolucionarji v kaši, se ne morejo več izogniti tistim nesrečnim nemim vprašanjem, ki jih postavljajo kosti pobitih, raztresene po celotnem slovenskem ozemlju. Na srečo sta sedanja arheološka znanost in sodna medicina na takem znanstvenem vrhuncu, da ni mogoče prikriti ne starost ne spola ne načina usmrtitve žrtev, prav tako ne datuma po-bojev...

Tem raziskavam bi morali slediti izsledki za sodni pregon organizatorjev in materialnih storilcev zločinov, in sicer za potrebe obvezne obsodbe in posledične ustrezne kazni. Tu pa pride v upoštevanje sodna in policijska strokovnost, ki pa žal, tako izgleda, nima zadostnega strokovnega in ne obvlada niti tistega nujno potrebnega elementarnega proceduralnega znanja.

Tu se vse zatakne, posebno pri proceduri, ki je s sprenevedanjem negotovana v nedogled. Dobro je namreč znano, da velika večina sodnikov in sodnih "izvedencev in

(dalje na str. 14)

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SVAK Lojze SAKSIDA z družino

V Sloveniji nečak Igor z družino, nečakinji Nataša
in Andreja z družinama

V Franciji nečak Miki z ženo Barbaro

In vsi ostali sorodniki v Ameriki in Sloveniji

In dobri prijatelj Branko Bezjak

Bodo morali kulturnozgodovinske objekte obnoviti z "darovi uboge vdove"?

Nekateri kulturnozgodovinski spomeniki (počasi) spet prihajajo v last Cerkve – Kakšne namene ima z njimi in kaj se je v stavbah dogajalo do zdaj?

Cerkev nima natančnih podatkov, za koliko kulturnozgodovinskih objektov se poteguje v svojih denacionalizacijskih zahtevkih. Janez Gril, tiskovni predstavnik Cerkve, pravi, da postopke vodijo posamezne škofije, župnije in redovne skupnosti, posebne službe, ki bi vodila evidenco, pa nimajo. In še to: glavni poudarek v denacionalizacijskih zahtevah niso bile stavbe, temveč zemljiške površine, gozdovi, kmetijska zemljišča. Večinoma ti postopki do danes še niso dokončani, v zadnjem letu pa sploh ni bilo opaziti posebnega napredka.



Tako so različni objekti obstali na različnih mestih proceduralnih zank. Med pravnoformalno (in obnovitveno) dokončno urejenimi Janez Gril izpostavlja le Zavod sv. Stanislava, kjer že devet let deluje škofijska gimnazija. Čeprav površine okoli stavbe še niso dokončno pridobljene in v zgradbi potekajo zadnja obnovitvena dela, je zavod po Grilovem mnenju zgleden primer povezovanja izvorne funkcije – gimnazije in študentskega doma s kulturno dejavnostjo.

Stavbo je namreč Cerkve dobila v obupnem stanju razpadle vojašnice, obnovo je skoraj stodontno financirala škofija in se krepko zadolžila v upanju, da bo iz preostalih virov – pridobljenih gozdov in drugih zemljišč – prišlo dovolj denarja za vračanje kreditov.

Gimnazija je obnovljena, vendar ne v celoti, v zgradbi pa izvajajo še galerijsko dejavnost, tod deluje glasbeni oddelek z orglarsko šolo, pevskimi zbori, zasebna arhivska zbirka zelo pomembnih besedel idr.

Leta 1901 ustanovljeni zavod (po naročilu škofa Jegliča) je imel sprva status zasebne šole s pravico javnosti, po vojni so v njem najprej organizirali center iz tujine vrnjenih domobrancev, potem pa ga je "zavzela" JLA.

Stiški samostan, Dom sv. Jožefa in drugi

Drugi primer podobnega delovanja je Stiški samostan; po vojni je v njem zaživela gimnazija, menda tudi kmečka zadruga, samostan je prostore odkupil še pred zakonom o denacionalizaci-

In kako je še z nekaterimi večjimi kulturnozgodovinskimi objekti, ki jih Cerkev zahteva v svojo last?

V Baragovem semenišču (danes si ga delijo Pionirski dom, Festivalna dvorana, Akademski kolegij in Mladinsko gledališče, zgrajen pa je bil po Plečnikovih načrtih in poznejših spremembah Antona Suhadolca kot semenišče, po vojni spremenjeno v internat) si Cerkev želi urediti študentski dom, razpis za študentske sobe bo sklenjen skupaj s SOU, zato za sprejem ne bo odločala verska pripadnost, pravi Gril (podobno naj bi bilo v novem krilu študentskega doma Zavoda sv. Stanislava).

Za Križanke se poteguje red križnikov, ki pa je s Festivalom Ljubljana že podpisal dogovor, da poletno gledališče nadaljuje svojo dejavnost.

Za Stiški dvorec, kjer je zdaj Akademija za glasbo, se ljubljanska nadškofija z Univerzo v Ljubljani dogovarja za rešitev, ki bi bila sprejemljiva za obe strani (tudi sicer je bilo doslej že veliko prebivalcev v tej stavbi na stičišču Starega in Gornjega trga, ki so jo postavili stiški opati kot svojo rezidenco leta 1677; od sodnikov, strokovne šole, banske uprave ...).

Blejski otok "stoji", Goričane prazne

Postopek za denacionalizacijo Blejskega oto-

ka še ni končan, zato tudi ni mogoče ničesar povedati o Muzeju simbolov (v katerem naj bi bili razstavljeni ključni dokumenti slovenstva, od Brižinskih spomenikov do listine o samostojnosti), pravi Gril.

Zamisel je še živa, pričakujejo podporo vseh strani, saj gre konec koncev za slovensko zgodovino, v kateri ima posebno mesto tudi mikrolokacija bodočega muzeja.

Velja spomniti, da je to edini slovenski otok (170 metrov dolg in približno devetdeset širok, nad gladino pa se dviga do dvajset metrov), na njem stojijo stavbe (cerkva z zvonikom, kaplanija, proštija in mala puščavnica).

Zgodovinsko ozadje je burno: blejsko posest je 1004. leta cesar Henrik II. podaril briksenškemu škofom, pozneje pa je del posesti pripadel v upravljanje otoškemu proštu. Po vojni so se na otoku vrstili najemniki, s poddržavljanjem otoka na njem ni bilo ne maš ne porok, od leta 1985 so bili dovoljeni trije obredi na leto, od leta 1990 pa je bila cerkev prepuščena blejskemu župnijskemu uradu.

Zadnja odločitev v zvezi z denacionalizacijo je bila lani oktobra, ko je kulturno ministrstvo izdalo odločbo, da bi bila blejski župniji vrnjena le cerkev Marijinega vnebovetja z zvonikom, otok pa ne.

Potem ko je Etnografski muzej zapustil prostore v gradu Goričane, je postopek denacionalizacije dolgo miroval, kajti državno pravobranilstvo je sprožilo upravni spor in zahteva oceno sedanje

vrednosti gradu v primerjavi s tisto ob nacionalizaciji.

Ljubljanska nadškofija je grad dobila v posest pred dobrimi nekaj tedni in je do dokončne odločitve tudi njegov skrbnik. Po Grilovem mnenju za nove dejavnosti ne bo težav.

"Glavna skrb Cerkve je oznanjevanje vere v širokem smislu, ki vključuje tudi versko izobraževanje in duhovnost. Lakota po duhovnosti, ki presega vsakdanji direndaj, je v današnjih časih velika in na naši strani bomo omogočili srečanje z njo čim širšemu krogu ljudi."

Med počitnicami je veliko duhovne ponudbe v neprimernih prostorih. Tu Gril vidi možnost za centre, ki bi lahko nastali v podobnem ambientu, kot je grad Goričane. Obenem je prepričan, da bodo Goričane tudi v prihodnje odprte za kulturne potrebe lokalne skupnosti.

Ta baročni dvorec ima ima za sabo kar nekaj "nezvestih" gospodarjev. Zgrajen v 17. stoletju je bil do nacionalizacije poletna rezidenca ljubljanskih škofov, leta 1964 so tam odprli Muzej neevropskih kultur, kot oddelek Etnografskega muzeja, obiskovalci pa so tja prihajali do leta 1988, ko se je zrušil stolp in so ugotovili, da se stavba seseda.

Bivši gospodarji brez vizije

V razvpitem dvorcu Betnava se njegovi novi lastniki še niso odločili, za katero dejavnosti so prostori najprimernejši. Graščina je menda v pisnih virih omenjana že od leta 1319, med njenimi lastniki se omenjajo ogrski Szekelyji in Herbersteini.

Baročno zasnovano je grad dobil v štiridesetih letih 19. stoletja, leta 1863 je prešel v last družine Brandis in prek nje v last mariborske škofije, ki jo je uporabljala kot letno rezidenco škofov in upravni sedež posesti.

Po vojni ga je v upravljanje dobil mariborski Agrokombinat in v zadnjih petdesetih letih se je dogajalo marsikaj; rušili, dozidavali so ga kljub protestom spomeniškovarstvene in konservatorske stroke – silos, skladišča, pomožne stavbe.

(dalje na str. 14)

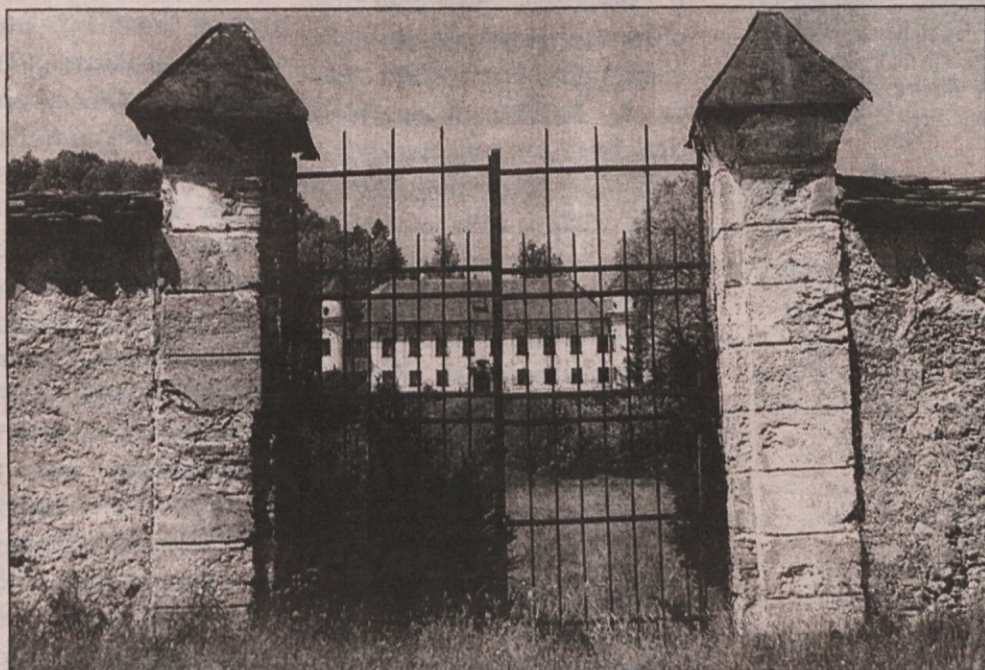


Foto Jure Erzen

Grad Goričane – Grad je ljubljanska nadškofija dobila v posest pred dobrimi desetimi dnevi in je do dokončne odločitve njegov skrbnik.

Od Ljudske kuhinje do Šentjošta

(NADALJEVANJE S STR. 12)

strokovnjakov" izhaja iz revolucionarne boljševisistične šole in oni ne premorejo drugačnega pojmovanja prava kot tistega, ki jim ga je lahko dala Kardeljeva univerza.

Tu je nepotrebno razlagati, kako pravna je bila SRS v Jugoslaviji. Še danes velja pravilo (sicer ne napisano, a striktno upoštevano), da mora biti komunist "pravno" zaščiteno proti pregonu zaradi kaznivega dejanja vojnega in povojnega genocidnega zločinstva (primer so umrli in še živéči hierarhi revolucije in njihovi podložniki).

Njihova imena vsi poznamo, a moramo molčati, da si ne nakoplujemo tožbe zaradi razžaljenja njihove, s krvjo umazane, revolucionarne "časti". Moramo tudi sprejemati njihova imena na šolah, ulicah, trgih idr. ter gledati njihove kovinske in kamnite pošasti v spomenikih in reliefih in nemočno prenašati privilegije njihovih bioloških in ideoloških potomcev.

Vse to se dogaja v sedanjih slovenski demokraciji, ki hoče v EZ in NATO brez predhodne sterilizacije notranjih političnih struktur.

Pa je le treba vso to umazanijo nekako prikriti in jo zaviti v znosnejšo razlago, da ne bi preveč izstopala iz konteksta vojnih in povojnih hudodelcev. Tu je nujno potrebno vključiti tudi določene osebnosti, ki so bile žrtve omenjenih nečednosti in bi pri razkrivanju in obelodanitvi preverjenih in dokumentirano dokazanih dejstev bile rehabilitirane ter bi tako naložile dodatno breme povojnim "osvoboditeljem".

Zaradi tega se pojavljajo članki, kot omenjeni v *Delu*. Tam se predstavlja ubogi slovenski javnosti lik dr. Lamberta Ehrlicha z vso njegovo duhovnoznanstveno veličino in pritlehnega zločinca "Pepeta" brez vsake moralno-etične vrednote, človeka na ravni nagonskega, od človeka zdresiranega psa, za edino zmožno delo - ubijanje. In to je počenjal res mojstrsko.

V članku je celo poudarjeno, da sta bila dva uboja (Natlačenov in Ehr-

lichov) njegovi prestižni likvidaciji kot prav avtorski deli (kakšen "prestiž" ima lahko likvidacija-zločin, je zame uganka). Bralec lahko tam z lahkoto zazna podzavestni užitek in občudovanje "heroja Pepeta" od strani avtorja članka.

Z omenjanjem opisa teh dveh, žrtve in gnusnega zločinca, v Enciklopediji Slovenije pa članek le potrjuje analize časnikarja Iva Žajdele, ki to "monumentalno" delo nazorno prikazuje v nič kaj lepi luči, izrazito pristranski in eklatantno ideološki.

Enciklopedije so ponavadi prestižnega pomena za izdajatelja in državo, v našem primeru pa ni razloga za ponos - to celo avtor članka v bistvu potrjuje, ko citira omembo te ogabne osebnosti kot "narodnega heroja" s sliko in člankom v primerjavi z geslom, ki govori o Ehrlichu.

Članek upravičeno poudarja, da je bil dr. L. Ehrlich velika osebnost in vrhunski strokovnjak na več področjih, a ne pozabi pripisati, da je bil "tragična osebnost, obsedena od antikomunizma". Tu bi moral povedati, da biti antikomunist je vrlina kot biti antinacifašist.

Ko omenja uboj dr. Marka Natlačena (prvo prestižno-umetniško avtorsko delo Pepeta), ne pozabi povedati, da so Italijani ubili 24 talcev (zato Ulica talcev).

V BLAG SPOMIN

16. OBLETNICE



FRANK ORAZEM

Umrli dne 14. sept. 1986.

*Že 16 let Te zemlja krije,
v temnem grobu mirno spiš.
Srce Tvoje več ne bije,
bolečin več ne trpiš.*

*Nam pa žalost srca trga,
rosijo solze nam oči.*

*Dom je prazen in otožen,
odkar Te več med nami ni.*

Žalujoci:

Družina in prijatelji.

Cleveland, Ohio, 5. sept. 2002.

Ergo: indoktrinirani povojni slovenski bralec tega članka bo takoj "spoznal", da je bil Natlačev kriv za smrt talcev, ne pa heroj Pepe. Tudi o Ehrlichu bo sklepal, da je bil sam kriv svoje smrti, ker je bil "obseden od antikomunizma" in je celo zaprosil okupatorja za pomoč s spiskom 32 ugodnih slovenskih žrtev Vosa, da bi se lahko sami branili pred komunističnim terorjem, izvajanim ne nad okupatorjem, ampak nad nemočnimi idejnimi nasprotniki lastnega naroda.

Ne bom posebej analiziral nadaljevanja članka o upravičeni ustanovitvi "vaških straž" in vzporednem komentiranju dvojnega miselnega učinka. V zadnjem odstavku pa pisec lepo zaključuje, da do poenotenja teh pogledov najbrž ne bomo nikoli prišli, razlike bodo ostale.

In tu nadaljuje z mislijo, da bi se morali spoznati ter kulturno in civilizirano razpravljati, brez zmerjanja in pobijanja. Jaz bom pripomnil, da so te lepe misli izrečene ne samo prepozno (moralne bi biti izrečene v letu 1941 brez revolucije), ampak celo zavajajoče, da bi ja ne prišlo do obsodbe revolucije in preteklega zločinskega polstoletnega režima, katerega nasledniki še vedno izvajajo lastno samovoljo.

Sam članek potrjuje dejstvo, da je s pobijanjem začela samo ena stran, še preden je lahko druga stran sploh zavedala grozot, ki jih bo revolucija še prinesla. Ali se še lahko kdo čudi, da so se takemu nasilju uprli poskusili organizirati obrambo prosvetljeni intelektualci, kot so bili to dr. L. Ehrlich in dr. M. Natlačev ter njima podobni pobiti domoljubi?

Še vedno velja načelo, da je vzrok vedno pred reakcijo. Da do katere koli reakcije pride, mora najprej biti vzrok. Revolucija, pod krinko lažne narodne obrambe, je neizpodbitno bila (poleg okupatorja) vzrok za od-

Prijatelj's Pharmacy
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IZDAJAMO TUDI ZDRAVILA
ZARAČUN POMOČI
DRŽAVE OHIO - AID FOR
THE AGED PRESCRIPTIONS

Vračanje kulturnozgodovinskih objektov Slovenski cerkvi

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 13)

Prelomnica je leto 1986, ko je Betnavo kupilo podjetje Lipa iz Ajdovščine. Njihova obnova se je zaradi denacionalizacijskega zahtevka ustavila leta 1993, mariborska škofija pa jo je po dolgoletnih denacionalizacijskih zapletih dobila v svojo last julija 2000.

Zdaj je že nekaj časa jasno, da Cerkev objektov ne dobiva v odličnem, še v zadovoljivem stanju ne. Vendar Gril slabó vzdrževanje razlaga tudi drugače. "Menjali so se gos-

por zmernejšega dela slovenskega življa ter posledičnega holokavsta in katastrofalnih posledic, ki nas še danes pestijo.

Taki članki so spretni manevri, res mojstrsko pripravljene za večino slovenskih še indoktriniranih bralcev, kjer so vrline še vedno v "revolucionarnih vrednotah", ne pa v moralno-etičnih načelih zahodne civilizacije. Te psihološke hibe, zaradi povojnega usmerjenega izobraževanja, se pripadniki komunistične ideologije dobro zavedajo in spretno poslužujejo, saj je to njihov največji uspeh v obvladovanju miselne usmerjenosti nekritične mase.

Tudi namig člankarja, kot ironija zgodovine, da naj bi bili Ehrlichovo vizijo svobodne Slovenije uresničili dediči iz vrst reformiranih komunistov pri *Novi reviji* in Društvu slovenskih pisateljev, kot neposredni dediči ubijalcev, je, po mojem mnenju, skrajno žaljiv, ker delu le-teh, ki so bili najbolj zaslužni pri Demosovi osamosvojitvi Slovenije, s Pučnikom in drugimi nekomunisti na čelu, ne moremo prilepiti etikete komunizma.

Res pa je, da so komunisti s sekretarjem na čelu prevzeli oblast, zaradi Demosove naivnosti (podobne Kocbekovi). Prav ti so pa zares reformirani komunisti z omenjenim poreklom, z razliko, da niso zaslužni za udejanjenje Ehrlichovega političnega testamenta, ampak za destabilizacijo države, ki bi morala biti odsev tega testamenta, kar pa

(dalje na str. 15)

podarji, ki z njimi niso vedeli kaj početi, zato so jih pustili propadati. Zdaj ti objekti najprej pomenijo veliko breme za Cerkev, breme, da jih obnovimo. To počnemo večinomoma iz darov vernikov (ali kot se Gril slikovito izrazi s svetopisemsko besedno zvezo - z "darovi uboge vdove"), računamo pa tudi na pomoč države ali dohodke iz drugega premoženja."

Izračuna, koliko bodo potrebovali za skupno obnovo vseh objektov, ni in ga ne more biti do prve strokovne ocene obstoječega, še prej seveda pridobljenega premoženja.

Kako gospodari Cerkev

Večina cerkev, resda z darovi vernikov, je vzorno obnovljenih, mnoge od njih so največji kulturni spomeniki v Sloveniji.

"Tudi v teh primerih se vidi, da si jih ne lastimo zase, da nikomur ne zapiramo vrat, le tatovom, ki lahko naredijo veliko škodo," še pravi Gril.

Splošno navodilo duhovnikom, da morajo skrbeti za sakralne objekte, pa seveda ni edino, s čimer ti razpolagajo. Cerkev ima v svojih strukturah gradbene odbore, strokovnjake, ki jih škofije pošiljajo, da presojo gradbene načrte in procedure obnove. Svoj del dodaja tudi država - včasih v obliki financ, spet drugič z institucijami kot skrbniki kulturne dediščine.

In ko že govorimo o kulturi in Cerkvi, se zastavlja vprašanje, katera umetnost še sodi v cerkveni ambient. Pred leti je namreč razburila vest o prireditvi modne revije v cerkvi na Celjskem. Grilov odgovor je nedvoumen:

"Cerkve so v osnovi namenjene bogoslužju. Ali vsemu, kar je povezano z namembnostjo sakralnega prostora. Ni težav, če so v cerkvi koncerti glasbe, ki tja sodijo, vendar ne smejo postati koncertne dvorane. Naše edino pravilo je, da so dostopne vsakomur, zato morajo biti te prireditve brezplačne."

Tanja Jaklič

Delo, 7. avg. 2002

Dr. JOŽE PLUT, prvi vojaški vikar v Slovenski vojski

Ne verjamejo mi, da sem duhovnik

piše NATAŠA MEDVEŠČEK

Vojaškega vikarja, dr. Jožeta Pluta, pri delu vodi prepričanje, da mora biti dober vojaški duhovnik tudi dober vojak. Sam je zato takšen po srcu in duši. V zadnjih letih rajne Jugoslavije je svoj dolg najprej odslužil v domovini v Bosni in se nekaj let zatem kot edini duhovnik udeležil osamosvojitvene vojne za Slovenijo. Iz tistega obdobja izhaja njegova prva izkušnja maševanja med vojaki v gozdu in tiha želja, da bi postal vojaški duhovnik, druge se vrstijo od lani, ko je uradno zasedel to mesto na obrambnem ministrstvu. Od nekdanj je prepričan, da velike sanje lahko na različne načine postanejo resničnost, če si le dovolj prizadevamo zanje. Morda si je ravno zato na novomašno podobico kot vodilo za svoj poklic zapisal: Varujte mir, pa bo Bog ljubezni in miru z vami.



Doma je v Valični vasi pri Zagradcu na Dolenjskem. Takoj pove, da se kraj ponaša z bogato zgodovino iz časov Ilirov, Keltov, Rimljanov in bojev proti Turkom. Izhaja iz družine petih otrok. Osnovno šolo je obiskoval v Zagradcu in Žužemberku, nato srednjo versko v Vipavi in se nazadnje sredi osemdesetih let vpisal na ljubljansko teološko fakulteto.

Pravi župnik le 18 mesecev

"V gimnazijo sem odhajal s toliko denarja, kot je stala povratna vozovnica. Če se je vmes podražil avtobus, sem bil v težavah," se spominja in nadaljuje: "Zatem sem šel k vojakom v Sarajevu. Tam sem bil tudi zaprt, ker sem bil pri velikonočni spovedi in maši, medtem ko smo s smučarke olimpijske proge na Bjelašnici odstranjevali kamenje. Olimpijske igre so leta 1984 tudi zaradi našega dela tako dobro uspele.

Še pred začetkom akademskega leta sem se vrnil domov in začel kot bogoslovec študirati teo-

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(NADALJEVANJE s str. 14)

po njihovi zaslugi zagotoviti. Še marsikaj bi se dalo iz članka izluščiti. Vsekakor je Miha Naglič dober ideološki psiholog, ki si zasluži odlikovanje za oviranje uradne obsodbe partije in njenega zločinskega delovanja v revolucionarni NOB.

(KONEC)

logijo. To je bil sad prvih resnih odločitev za duhovnika, ki so v meni že dolgo zorele, še najbolj morda ravno med služenjem vojaškega rokka. Takrat sem sanjal, da bom župnik v razgibani podeželski župniji.

Leta 1988 sem diplomiral in bil 29. junija 1989 posvečen v duhovnika. Morda se sliši malo hecno, a v svoji karieri sem bil pravi župnik le 18 mesecev v Mokronogu, kamor sem prišel s triletne kaplanske službe v ljubljanski stolnici in enoletne v Stari Loki pri Škofji Loki.

Prijatelj mladih

V Zavodu svetega Stanislava v Šentvidu pri Ljubljani je še pred štiri leti učil verouk in bil duhovni vodja v dijaškem in študentskem domu. Med mladimi je postal hitro priljubljen, še zlasti menda zato, ker jih ni obremenjeval z zanje nepotrebni stvarmi in ne prestanto spraševal, kdaj so bili nazadnje pri maši. Še več, v družinski zidnici doma na Dolenjskem jim je prirejal brezalkoholne zabave.

Vmes je pisal doktorsko nalogo o duhovni oskrbi vojakov, v kateri je analiziral povojne razmere na Slovenskem in napisal nekaj tovrstnih predlogov za Slovensko vojsko. Takrat je bilo že znano, da bo postal vojaški vikar. Škofje RKC so ga v dogovoru z ministrstvom za obrambo imenovali za pripravo in vodenje pastoralnega dela med vojaki in njihovimi družinami.

"Ko sem doktoriral in se zaposlil na ministrstvu, sem moral delo z

mladimi predati drugim. Priznati moram, da mi je bilo težko, a z večino sem ohranil stike," pripoveduje duhovnik. Nečesa pa ne bo nikoli pozabil:

"Pred dvema letoma so študentje za moj rojstni dan pri minus desetih stopinjah Celzija dve uri napihovali balone in mi z njimi napolnili avtomobil. Še prej so skrivnostno dobili ključ. Cel avto so mi zavili v časopisni papir in okrasili z rdečim trakom in veliko pentljo na vrhu. Navadno se mi je zjutraj v službo mudilo, zato si lahko predstavljate nastalo sceno - oni so bili seveda na oknih in se mi naglas smejali."

Vojaka razume le vojak

Pri vojaških duhovnikih velja načelo, da v svojem poklicu ne morejo biti dobri, če niso tudi spretne vojaki. Zato je bil še pred nastopom službe na posebnem izpopolnjevanju v Angliji. "Vojaka ne moreš razumeti, če nisi s svojim obrazom ležal v blatu in znoju kot on. Odgovornosti poveljujočega ne poznaš, če nisi šel skozi podoben program. To je osnova. Ne nazadnje krogla ne vidi križa, ki ga nosimo na prsih, zato moramo poznati osnovne vojaške veščine, orientacijo in oblike pomoči," je neomajen v svojem prepričanju. Po njegovi poti morajo hoditi tudi njegovi sodelavci.

V Slovenski vojski sta trenutno zaposlena dva katoliška duhovnika, tretji prihaja ravno v teh dneh, in ena evangeličanska duhovnica. Njihovo delo je po besedah vikarja zelo razgibano in pestro, saj delujejo po vsej Sloveniji in celo pri slovenskih vojaki v tujini.

Vojaški duhovnik je, kolikor je zaradi majhnega števila to mogoče, vojakom - ne ozirajoč se na njihovo versko prepričanje ali nazor - vedno na voljo za pogovor. Spodbuja jih in nagovarja ter vceplja splošne človeške in vojaške vrednote. Če je mogoče, organizira in vodi bogoslužje po vojašnicah in na vojaških vajah. Voja-



ke in njihove družinske člane, ki to želijo, pripravljajo na zakramente in jim jih tudi deli. Lahko spremlja bolne in hospitalizirane, umrle pa cerkveno pokoplje.

Mašuje tudi pod brezo

"Mašujemo, kjer je mogoče oziroma kjer se dogovorimo. Prostor za bogoslužje je včasih obojdnica, naslednjič učilnica ali kar prostrana narava, denimo pod kakšno brezo. Ker je duhovna oskrba šele na začetku svoje poti, se še učimo medsebojnega komuniciranja in prilagajanja liniji vodenja ter poveljevanja.

Pobuda za maše je včasih naša, pogosto vojaki sami izrazijo željo, vse večkrat pa se, kar je tudi edino pravilno, oglašijo poveljniki. Skupaj se nato dogovorimo za čas in kraj. Če razumemo pravico do duhovne oskrbe kot temeljno in neodtujljivo, je jasno, da bi morala biti vojakom stalno zagotovljena, vsekakor pa vsaj ob nedeljah in praznikih ter med vojaškimi vajami ali posebno zahtevnimi nalogami," je nazadnje še povedal vojaški vikar dr. Jože Plut in sklenil pogovor:

"Pomembno je, da želiš kot človek in duhovnik deliti življenje z vojaki in jim služiti. Po tem nas bodo vedno presojali. Tisti, ki me osebno ne poznajo in me vidijo samo v civilni ali vojaški obleki, mi ne verjamejo, da sem duhovnik, dokler me ne vidijo pred oltarjem.

Najbrž res nisem čisto tipičen župnik."

(KONEC)

Tedenska rubrika "ONA"
Delo, 20. avg. 2002



V blag in nepozaben spomin

ob trinajsti obletnici smrti nam dragega moža in očeta



Williama Dreu

Umril 5. septembra 1989.

Res na svetu vse minljivo je, a spomin na Tebe dragi ne zamre.

Odšel za vedno si od nas. Vsa radost, sreča je s Teboj odšla!

In to boli, močno boli, a v naših srcih upanje budi, da le v trpljenju večna sreča dozori.

Žalujoči:
žena Katica,
sin Marjan
in ostalo sorodstvo
v Sloveniji.

Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

1443. Dvomesecnik *Misijonska Obzorja* ima zelo

lepo vsebino. Vsebuje nekaj fotografij iz misijonskega življenja in pisma le-teh. V poletju, ko pridejo misijonarji na potreben dopust, se srečajo z zaledjem in včasih je tudi to omenjeno. Katehistinja Polona je zelo na lep način opisala tako srečanje. Pri katekizmu je stavila vprašanje, kdo je misijonar.

"Misijonarji so tudi doma.

Kdo je misijonar, sem pri verouku zastavila vprašanje. Odgovori so kar deževali. Tisti otroci, ki so katerega od misijonarjev že poznali, so jih hitro našli. Drugi so povedali, da so misijonarji tisti, ki so pripravljeni iti med črnčke daleč v Afriko. Potem pa sem zastavila nepričakovano vprašanje: Kaj pa vi, ste tudi vi misijonarji? Po nekaj trenutkih tišine so skušali ugbati: smo, nismo, bomo... Kar niso se mogli odločiti. Smo torej tudi mi misijonarji?

Ko naši misijonarji prihajajo na dopust oziroma delovni obisk v domovino, nas s svojim zgledom vabijo, da tudi mi postanemo misijonarji. Tako različni so, niso popolni, a iz sebe oblikujejo podobo misijonarja-prinašalca veselega oznanila. In misijonarji smo lahko tudi mi – misijonarji dobrote in ljubezni tam, kjer živimo, delamo, se učimo ...

Tudi naši misijonarji, katerih življenje po tujih deželah na vseh kontinentih sveta pričujejo za evangelij in ljubezen, so se tudi letošnje poletje sestali na srečanju misijonarjev in vseh tistih, ki delajo za misijone v zaledju. Kar trinajst aktivnih misijonarjev in misijonark se je zbralo na srečanju 19. in 20. junija v Celju pri Sv. Jožefu. Tem so se pridružili tudi nekateri, ki so se iz misijonov že vrnili, ter sodelavci in tisti, ki bodo morda še šli izpoljnevati svoje misijonsko poslanstvo v različne dežele sveta.

Vsak misijonar je spregovoril nekaj besed o svojem delu, skrbeh, veselju... Kakšna širina je v njih! Širina pa je tudi v Cerkvi na Slovenskem, da pošilja svoje oznanjevalce po svetu. Na srečanju je vse spodbudil škof Metod Pirih, ki je odgovoren za misijonsko dejavnost v Cerkvi na Slovenskem. Predstavil je situacijo naše vernosti. Težave in upanje pri nas so popolnoma drugačne od tistih, s katerimi se srečujejo naši misijonarji. A povsod je oboje. Upanje je tisto, ki je močnejše in pot križa nas vedno vodi v veselje življenja. Tega nam je prinesel na srečanju tudi dr. Iztok Simoniti, direktor Urada za Slovence po svetu in zamejstvu, ki se je kot predstavnik slovenske civilne oblasti udeležil srečanja z misijonarji. Poudaril je, da so naši misijonarji veliki ambasadorji naše dežele v svetu, da opravljajo veliko delo in da bi si tudi od civilne družbe zaslužili več pozornosti in podpore.

Veliko je bilo izrečeno besed, najbrž pa so si vsi na srečanju zapomnili tudi marsikaj od tistega, kar je spregovoril narodni voditelj misijonov dr. Drago K. Ocvirk. Predvsem to, da na misijonu mnogo bolj pridejo v poštev odeje, kakor pa ideje, je morda spodbuda tudi vsem nam, ki delamo v zaledju. Dobro vemo, da od lepih besed in velikih obljub želodec krule. Zato je prav, da se trudimo postati opora našim misijonarjem tako s svojo molitvijo kot tudi s tistimi možnostmi in talenti, ki so nam dani, da jih lahko podarimo naprej. Torej – biti moramo tudi mi misijonarji!"

Tudi mi smo veseli, da so misijonarji lepo sprejeti, ko pridejo med svoje rojake. Za svoje delo rabijo navdušenje in to dobo, ko se vračajo, ko pripovedujejo o svojem življenju, ki je velikokrat zelo pestro in tudi težko. Če pot zanese misijonarja v naše mesto, smo ga zelo veseli, a največ smo v stiku po molitvi in ob spominu pri sv. maši.

Oglasilo se je nekaj dobrotnikov, ki so prispevali svoj dar: N. Tomc (za s. M. Pavlišič) \$100; vnuk N. Tomc (za s. Pavlišič) \$50; J. Gorenšek (v spomin + Frančka-moža) \$500; J. Mraz (za salezijance \$100, za vse \$100) \$200; M.S. Grdadolnik (za Rev. D. Lisjak) \$100; J. Prosen (v spomin pok. žene Marije) \$100; N.N. (za sv. maše) \$60; M. Coffelt (piknik Mis. krožka, Milwaukee) \$10,357.50.

Za Rev. J. Rode, Argentina: R.V. Kolarič (Rev. F.

Urbanija \$2000, za Arg. \$1000) \$3000; T.S. Kolarič \$250; Peter G. Kolarič \$300; V.G. Brown \$200; M.P. Roesmann \$500; R. Likozar \$500; T.T. Kosem \$250; M.M. Kosem \$100; B.M. Lončar \$100; A.B. Remec \$100; F.M. Mavec \$150; A.P. Mavec \$100; T.M. Štepec \$100; V.P. Meršol \$500; L. Schutte \$200.

M. Kolarič (za Rev. I. Štanta) \$50; S.J. Zorc (za s. Pavlišič) \$60; M. Vodišek (v spomin +Rev. J. Voigrin in +Minke Slak) \$40; N.N. (za mis. na Madagaskarju) \$150; J.A. Lekan (v spomin +P. Pustotnik) \$50; T.H. Gorshe (za bogosl. M. Drevenšek) \$350; J. Mraz (za Rev. P. Opeka) \$100, za Rev. T. Mavrič \$100, za Rev. L. Tomazin \$100, za vse \$100) \$400; N. Tomc (za s. Pavlišič) \$100; N.N. (za s. Pavlišič) \$100.

Ljubi Bog, ki vidiš v naša srca, daj vsem dobrotnikom svoj blagoslov, saj to je najboljšje plačilo, da prejmeš blagoslov!

Prav lep misijonski pozdrav v imenu vseh sodelujočih!

Marica Lavriša
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Barbara Brezigar

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 10)

je pravna država, oziroma, kaj bi morala biti, dobro vem, kje se križata skupno dobro, blagor republike in njenih državljanov s tistimi posamezniki ali skupinami, ki uresničiti teh visokih ciljev zaradi svojih interesov nasprotujejo.

Svoje izkušnje in svoje znanje želim ponuditi državljanom, želim pomagati ustvariti razmere, v katerih se bomo vsi počutili enakopravne in varne.

Prepričana sem, dragi rojaki po svetu, da si tudi Vi želite Slovenijo, v kateri se bo spoštovalo zakone in bo v njej cvetelo gospodarstvo, kjer bomo imeli odlično šolstvo in znanost, kjer bo slovenska kultura plodno žarišče našega skupnega življenja, prepričana sem, da se boste radi vračali v Slovenijo enakopravnih, strpnih in zadovoljnih ljudi. Takšna Slovenija bo tudi veliko bolj privlačna za gospodarske in kulturne povezave z našimi rojaki, ki živijo zunaj meja naše države.

Slovenija v teh letih ni dovolj poskrbela za plodne in privlačne stike s Slovenci po svetu. V slovensko družbeno zavest, še zlasti pa v zavesti ljudi, ki politično odločajo, še ni dovolj prodrla vednost o tem, kolikšna je Vaša navezanost na domovino.

Nihče ne živi v praznem prostoru, slehernega človeka določajo jezik, pokrajina, tradicija, vera in soljudje. In medtem, ko je nam v Sloveniji to nekaj samoumevnega, je za Vas slovenstvo nekaj,

kar se mora sredi naprov vsakdanjega življenja še dodatno potrjevati.

V Sloveniji nas ni malo, ki cenimo in globoko spoštujemo Vašo zvestobo naši skupni kulturi in skupni domovini. Veliko pa še moramo storiti, da bodo ti stiki plodnejši in v gospodarskem in kulturnem prežemanju tudi učinkoviti.

Preseči moramo naše delitve, ki jih je prineslo razburkano 20. stoletje in Slovenijo iz političnih in ekonomskih razlogov razdelilo na matično, zamejsko in zdomsko, kakor nekateri takšno stanje poimenujejo.

Dobro vem, da je Slovenija povsod tam, kjer živite Slovenci in ohranjate naš jezik, kulturo in običaje. In da čutijo do Slovenije simpatije tudi tisti potomci naših rojakov po svetu, ki so izgubili jezik, a so ohranili zanimanje in ljubezen do domovine svojih prednikov.

Prizadevala si bom, da bo naš skupen kulturni prostor postal resničnost in da se bodo razvile tudi konkretne oblike gospodarskega in znanstvenega sodelovanja med matično domovino in našimi ljudmi po svetu.

Slovenija mora postati za vse svoje državljanje, pa tudi za tiste, ki to niso, pa se čutijo z njo povezane, skupna domovina. In to ne glede na to, kje živijo, kakšni so njihovi nazori in politična prepričanja.

Na začetku 21. stoletja je prišel čas, ko moramo prenehati z delovanjem proti nekemu ali nečemu, kakor smo to počeli v nemirnem stoletju, ki je

mnoge naše ljudi zaradi ekonomskih ali političnih vzrokov prisililo, da so zapustili svoja domovanja.

Čas je, da začnemo vsi skupaj delovati za nekaj. To pa je naš skupni slovenski dom. Želim si, da Slovenci na tujem svoje domovine ne bi več videli kot dežele delitev, razhajanj in preprirov, pač pa kot domovino, dobro za vse. Da bi vsakič, ko bi pomislili nanjo, to storili z mislijo Ivana Cankarja: Domovina, ti si kakor zdravje.

Vaša Barbara Brezigar
V Ljubljani, 12. avg. 2002
Vzeto iz *Svobodne Slovenije*.
Buenos Aires, 22. avg. 2002

Martin Strel

(NADALJEVANJE s str. 10)

na svetu v svoji disciplini. In da se mu to prizna. Zapiše. Zato skrbno dokumentirajo njegov plavalni maraton za Guinnessovo knjigo rekordov.

Menda pa že razmišlja o plavanju po severnoameriških jezerih, s katerimi se zdaj z velikimi težavami spopada neka njegova sorodna duša. Martin je človek izzivov: ko premaga enega, si najde drugega. Izjemno vzdržljiv je.

Martin vstaja navsezgodaj, ves na trnih, da bi že začel ... Zajtrk v motelih, mišljen za običajne ljudi, ni primeren za športnika, ki mora premagovati tolikšne napore, zato se Martin obrača na svojega kuharja v avtodomu, ki mu zaupa.

Če odštejemo roko, gre vse po načrtu. V ušesih ima zamaške, odkar je imel z njimi težave in mu jih je pozdravila prijazna naključna znanka zdravnica. Oči ima vse-skozi zavarovane z očali, usta so izgubila okus – nič čudnega po dolgih urah v kalni vodi. Vidi pa vseeno, če že slišati ne more razločno z zamaški v ušesih. Ko je na roki enega od kajakašev opazil uro svoje hčere Nine, članice spremljevalne ekipe, ga kar ni nehal dražiti.

V vednost tistim, ki so v skrbeh za Martinovo zdravje: vsa skupina je polno zdravstveno zavarovana. Seveda to ne vključuje poklicnih maršerjev, ki bi ublažili Martinove bolečine v preutrujenih sklepkih in mišicah. Sin in hči edina vesta, koliko oče trpi.

Alenka Zgonik