



Doma in po svetu

— PREGLED NAJVAŽNEJŠIH DOGODKOV —

ZDA se pripravljajo na neposredne stike s PLO — Izraelci ogorčeni — Temeljita sprememba v dosedanji ameriški politiki

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Preteklo sredo je predsednik Reagan presenetil ameriško in svetovno javnost z odločitvijo, da bodo ZDA prvič odprle »dialog« s predstavniki Palestinske osvobodilne organizacije (PLO). Odločitev, ki predstavlja temeljit preobrat v dosedanjem ameriškem stališču, je bila pravi šok za Izraelce, v ameriški judovski skupnosti pa ni čutili tolikšnega odpora.

Do tega zasuka v ameriški politiki do PLO in dejansko do Izraela je prišlo zaradi izjav na tiskovni konferenci v sredo Jasirja Arafata, voditelja PLO. S svojimi izjavami na tej tiskovni konferenci je Arafat dovolj jasno odklonil vsakršni terorizem ter priznal izrecno pravico Izraela do obstoja. S temi besedami je Arafat v Reaganovem mnenju izpolnil pogoje, ki jih je bila natančno postavila ameriška vlada in ki jih Arafat ni izpolnil v njegovem govoru na zasedanju Združenih narodov v Ženevi pretekli tork.

Ko so bili v Beli hiši in State Departmentu obveščeni o Arafatovih izjavah na tiskovni konferenci, je Reagan pooblastil državnega sekretarja Georgea Shultza, naj vzpostavi dialog s PLO. Odloženo je bilo, da bodo prvi stiki preko ameriškega veleposlanika v Tuniziji Roberta H. Pelletreauxa. Kot kaže, bo do prvega neposrednega stika prišlo že danes. PLO ima namreč svoj glavni urad ravno v Tuniziji. Pelletreau je že telefonično uradno obvestil PLO predstavnike, da je njih organizacija izpolnila pogoje za neposreden dialog z ZDA.

Včeraj je Reagan dejal, da bodo ZDA kljub stikom s PLO ostale zveste Izraelu in da bodo ZDA še garantirale izraelsko varnost. Novoizvoljeni predsednik George Bush je dejal, da soglašajo z odločitvijo glede stikov s PLO. Ameriški dialog s PLO tudi ne pomeni, poudarjajo v Beli hiši in State Departmentu, da ZDA sprejemajo PLO gledanje do Izraela ali zahteve PLO za ustanovitev neodvisne palestinske države.

Spremembo v ameriški politiki do PLO pozdravljajo voditelji vseh zahodnoevropskih držav. Tudi mnoge arabske države so sprejele Reaganov ukrep z odobravanjem. Kar ni znano, je to, ali bo ameriški dialog s PLO pozitivno vplival na prizadevanja za izpustitev ameriških državljanov, ki jih držijo kot talci muslimanski skrajneži v Libanonu.

Uradna izraelska reakcija do stikov med ZDA in PLO je bila odklonilna. Izraelski predstavniki so pa previdni v njihovih izjavah, kajti ne želijo ogroziti še vedno tesnih odnosov z ZDA, od katere gospodarske in vojaške pomoči je Izrael v ključni meri odvisen. Ker je prišla Reaganova odločitev tako nenapovedana, so predstavniki judovskih organizacij v ZDA malce zmedeni, v večini pa Reagana ne kritizirajo. Mnogi ameriški Judje so zadnji čas sicer razočarani do Izraela, deloma zaradi krutega obnašanja izraelskih vojakov na Zahodnem bregu in v Gazi, deloma pa zaradi političnega spora v Izraelu glede zahteve skrajnih verskih strank o tem, kdo je pravzaprav pravi Jud in ima pravico do izraelskega državljanstva. Mnogi ameriški Judje, posebej tisti, ki niso religiozni, bi bili v Izraelu nekako nezaželeni.

Opazovalci razmer na Srednjem vzhodu poudarjajo, da sama PLO ni znotraj enotna in da vsi palestinski aktivisti ne smatrajo Arafata za njihovega pravega voditelja. Tako so odnosi med Arafatom in voditeljem

Sirijo Hafezom Assadom zelo slabi, skrajneži med Palestinci pa bodo morda skušali povzročiti krvave teroristične izpade, da bo ameriška pobuda propadla. V State Departmentu pravijo, da bo šlo v srečanjih s predstavniki PLO predvsem za izmenjavo mnenj in nikakor ne za kakšno ločeno pogajanja brez navzočnosti in kaj šele na škodo Izraela. Izraelsko stališče ostane, da je PLO teroristična organizacija in da ne bo med Izraelom in PLO nikoli nobenega uradnega stika.

Tuji reševalci že zapuščajo Armenijo — V zadnjih dneh najdenih le nekaj preživelih žrtev potresa — Slabo organizirano reševanje

SPITAK, ZSSR — Mnogi reševalci, ki so prišli iz tujine v Armenijo, da bi pomagali pri odkrivanju in reševanju preživelih žrtev katastrofalnega potresa, ki je prizadel to južno sovjetsko republiko, sedaj zapuščajo ZSSR. Možnosti, da bi našli preživele žrtve, skoro ni več, pravijo. Sovjeti menda namestijo enostavno porušiti do tal mesto Spitak, ki je bilo najbolj prizadeto. Težave imajo, ker preživeli občani mesta nočejo zapustiti zato, ker še niso našli trupel svojih družinskih članov. Sovjetski zdravstveni delavci pa se bojijo, da bodo izbruhnile epidemije v prizadetih krajih, ker ni urejenih stanovanjskih razmer, kanalizacije ipd.

Tako reševalski strokovnjaki, ki so prišli iz tujine, kot tuji novinarji in Sovjeti sami, močno kritizirajo slabo organiziranost reševalnih akcij. Tako nesposobnega ravnanja s strani sovjetskih oblasti tuji opazovalci niso pričakovali. Slaba stran človeške narave se je tudi pokazala, kot povsod po svetu po takih nesrečah. Sovjeti pravijo, da so aretirali 179 oseb, ki so plenili po porušeni poslopjih in kradli pakete pomoči, poslane iz tujine.

Izjave glede števila žrtev se še vedno skoro dnevno spreminjajo. Sedaj govorijo Sovjeti, da je bilo ubitih v potresu 55.000 ljudi, 500.000 ljudi je pa ostalo brez strehe.

— Kratke vesti —

San Diego, Kalif. — Sinoči je manjši potres prestrašil prebivalce Kalifornije od San Diega do okolice Los Angelesa. Potres je imel moč 4,8 po Richterjevi lestvici in ni povzročil večje škode.

Washington, D.C. — Novoizvoljeni predsednik George Bush je izbral 55-letnega kongresnika Jacka Kempa za člana svoje vlade. Kemp, ki je bil letos med neuspešnimi republikanskimi predsedniškimi kandidati, bo vodil tajništvo za stanovanjsko politiko in mestni razvoj. Kemp je konservativec.

Toronto, Ont. — Kanadsko vrhovno sodišče je proglasilo za protiustavno quebeški pokrajinski zakon, ki zahteva, da morajo biti napisi za javnost izključno v francoskem jeziku. Sodišče je izreklo mnenje, da pokrajina Quebec lahko zahteva uporabo francoskega jezika, nima pa pravice, da bi svojim državljanom prepovedala uporabo tudi drugih jezikov.

Moskva, ZSSR — Novi načelnik sovjetskega generalštaba je 49-letni Mihail Mojsejev, ki je torej prvi vodilni vojaški častnik sovjetskih oboroženih sil, ki ni služil v drugi svetovni vojni.

Stockholm, Šve. — V priporu je 41-letni Christer Petersson, ki je osumljen, da je 28. februarja 1986 ubil večkratnega predsednika švedske vlade Oloma Palmeja. Palme je bil ustreljen na stockholmski ulici.

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Povečana izdaja —

Današnja Ameriška Domovina obsega 24 strani, to po zahtevi naših naročnikov in prijateljev, ki vam preko našega lista voščijo lepe božične in novoletne praznike. Hvala vam! Božične oglase bomo sprejemali do četrtek, 22. dec., dopoldne. Prihodnji teden bo A.D. redno izšla, le da bomo petkovo številko natisnili in dostavili pošti že v četrtek zvečer, 22. decembra. Tako upamo, da jo bodo mnogi prejeli že pred Božičem.

Grdina-Cosic pogrebi zavod —

Grdinov pogrebni zavod, steber naše clevelandske slovenske naselbine že 85 let, se je združil s pogrebim zavodom, ki ga vodi Dan Cosic. Tako bo podjetje odslej Grdina-Cosic pogrebni zavod. G. Cosic je slovensko-srbskega rodu, živel je v šentklerski naselbini in delal pred leti v Grdinovem zavodu. Sedaj lastuje dva pogrebna zavoda na zahodni strani Clevelanda. Združitve pomeni izboljšanje storitev, Grdinov zavod na 1053 E. 62 St. bo posodobljen, pri pogrebnem zavodu na Lake Shore Blvd. bo pa povečan parkirni prostor. Ga. Tonia Grdina Hinkle in g. Cosic omenjata možnost, da bo njih podjetje prevzelo tudi druge pogrebne zavode v bodoče. Ga. Grdina Hinkle in g. Cosic sta naša stara znanca in njunemu novemu, združenemu podjetju želimo veliko uspeha.

Božični oglasi —

Naročila za božične oglase v našem listu bomo sprejemali do 10. dop. v četrtek, 22. dec. Za podrobnosti, kličite našo pisarno na 431-0628.

Novi grobovi

Virginia Susko

Umrli je Virginia Susko, roj. Fackelman, prej por. Smelko, žena Charlesa, mati Johna R. Smelko in Eugenea S. Smelko, 6-krat stara mati, sestra Therese Peitl, Johna, Josepha, Martina, Rose Tomšic in Verne Schoen, teta in prateta. Pogreb bo iz Fortunovega zavoda, 5316 Fleet Ave., jutri, v soboto, v cerkev Our Lady of Lourdes dop. ob 9.30 in od tam na pokopališče Sv. Križa. Na mrtvaškem odru bo danes pop. od 2. do 4. in zv. od 7. do 9.

George F. Braidic

Umrli je 45 let stari George F. Braidic z Mentorja, O., prej živeč v Euclidu, mož Karen, roj. Poch, oče Lorne in Marthe, očim Lare Vidmar, brat Jamesa, sin že pok. Georgea in Frances. Pogreb bo danes, v petek, s sv. mašo v cerkvi sv. Janeza Vianneyja v Mentorju.

Resolucija —

Jutri dopoldne ob 10. uri so vabljeni predstavniki slovenskih organizacij in posamezniki, ki bi radi podpisali resolucijo solidarnosti s slovenskim narodom, o kateri smo precej obširno poročali pretekli petek.

Seja —

Kr. št. 2 PSA ima redno sejo v sredo, 21. dec., ob 1. pop. v Slov. nar. domu na St. Clair Ave. Članice lepo vabljene, da se seje udeležijo.

V Rožmanov sklad —

V spomin na nedavno umrlega koroškega rojaka Josepha Ferra, so darovali za študente v Mohorjevih domovih sledeči: po \$20 družina Antona Lavriša ter g. in ga. Frank P. Kastigar; po \$10 g. in ga. John M. Petrič, g. in ga. Frank A. Mlinar, ga. Frances Kosem, ga. Paula Adamič. Lepo se darovalcem zahvaljuje poverjenik Mohorjeve J. Prosen.

Spominski dar —

Frank Novak, Willoughby, O., je daroval \$15 v tiskovni sklad Ameriške Domovine v spomin žene Ann Novak. Hvala lepa!

Božični darovi našemu listu —

Društvo sv. Ane št. 4 ADZ je darovala \$100 v podporo Ameriški Domovini.

Štajerski klub je prav tako poklonil \$100 našemu listu.

Slovenska pristava je prispevala \$50.

American Slovene Club je darovala \$50.

Podružnica št. 10 SZZ je prav tako naš sklad obogatila s \$50.

Frančiškani pri cerkvi Sv. Terezije v Johnstownu, Pa., so poklonili \$36.

Društvo Martha Washington št. 38 ADZ je pa darovalo \$25.

Vsem društvom in drugim organizacijam, ki so nam na ta način izkazali naklonjenost in podporo, se iskreno zahvaljujemo!

Korotanovo silvestrovanje —

Pevski zbor Korotan priredi Silvestrovanje z večerjo in plesom v soboto, 31. dec., v Slov. narodnem domu na Holmes Ave. Za ples in zabavo bo igral Alpski sekstet. Za vstopnice kličite Vido Gregorc na 381-3850.

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Božja ljubezen

*Ljubezen božja se je razodela,
po njej izpolnjena je davna želja,
zavriskaj stvarstvo z radostjo veselja,
saj Luč rešenja srca je objela.*

*Nocoj med nas nebeški Gost prihaja,
le hlevček borni toplo ga sprejema,
iz njega večno sonce nam odseva,
in z upanjem najdražjim nas navdaja.*

*S ponižnostjo pastircev ga sprejmimo,
posvetimo vse naše mu življenje,
vse sončne dni, zaton in vse trpljenje,
za Njega kakor baklje naj gorimo.*

*O Dete rajsko, luč, ki v temo seva —
razdvojen svet v ljubezni skupaj druží,
v molitvi, delu, naj le Tebi služi,
in večno slavo Bogu naj prepeva.*

Lojze Bajc

Božično vprašanje

Prvi božič: Učlovečeni Bog, tisočletja pričakovani in zaželeni Odrešenik, z Marijo in Jožefom v hlevu, v jaslih povit leži in peščica neukih pastirjev ga občuduje.

V Jeruzalemu kralj Herod, krvoločno buden v strahu za svojo pozicijo, vedno pripravljen vsakogar, ki se mu zdi nevaren, takoj spraviti s poti, poleg njega službeni zastopniki izvoljenega božjega ljudstva ljubosumno zaverovani v napačno podobo Mesije, ki ga pričakujejo.

Dve skupini, dve liniji, ostro ločeni in nespravljlivo si nasprotni. Vmes pa množica, indiferentna, vtopljena v ničnosti vsakdanjosti in v plitve užitke brez visokih ciljev, iz strahu pred voditelji, učitelji in vladarji brez lastnega mnjenja.

Ta trodelnost se nadaljuje. Danes je Kristus v svoji Cerkvi, v kraljestvu božjem na zemlji, ki nadaljuje Odrešenikovo delo v vseh generacijah in med vsemi narodi, da bi po Njem vsi prišli do spoznanja resnice in se zveličali. Z njim in ob njem množica zvestih, verujočih, ki vanj v vsem zaupajo in ga ljubijo in po svojih močeh in v mejah svojega poklica širijo in utrjujejo božje kraljestvo. Danes je ostro ločena in vidna četa brezboštva, ki sovraži Kristusa v njegovi Cerkvi in podira, kolikor ji Bog dopušča, njegovo kraljestvo. Danes je nova doba mučencev; Herod se je razdivjal; mučenje ne samo telesa, ampak tudi duha se izvaja po znanstvenih metodah.

Vmes so nevtranci, nezainteresirani, v materialno plat življenja zagledani, votle duše, cisterne brez vode, suhi



Pevski zbor »Slovenska pesem«, Chicago, Ill., s pevovodjem p. dr. Vendelinom Špendovom

FRANČIŠKAN IN KULTURNI DELAVEC

dr. p. Vendelin Špendov

CHICAGO, Ill. - V praznikih imamo lepo navado, da voščimo svojim prijateljem srečo in vse dobro. Nikakor ne smemo pozabiti in smo tudi dolžni voščiti vsem tistim, ki delajo za splošno dobro po slovenskih farah, pa najsibo v dobrobit verskega ali družabnega življenja.

Kako bi le slovenske fare obstojale brez požrtvovalnih laikov, kako bi obstojale brez dobrih in narodno zavednih duhovnikov, kulturna društva in slovenske šole pa brez staršev in učiteljev? Nemogoče!

Narod ima v tradiciji, da že stoletja najbolj zaupa in spoštuje duhovnike. Tako je bilo v domovini, tako je izven nje. Iz ljudstva za ljudstvo! Vera in Cerkev nas združujeta v verovanju in v narodni zavesti. Naša fara sv. Štefana je skozi 30 let — le z malim presledkom — imela za kaplana in pozneje za župnika dobrega in glasbeno zelo nadarjenega p. Vendelina, skladatelja, dirigenta, zborovodja. Že nekaj časa je on gvardijan v Lemontu.

Slovensko-ameriški radio klub v Chicagu je 22. oktobra 1988 priredil vsakoletni Slovenski dan pod predsedstvom mladega Vinka Riglerja z lepim uspehom. Med programom je vodja odbora izročil zaslužnemu p. Vendelinu spominsko plaketo in se mu v imenu faranov zahvalil za njegovo veliko delo. V nagovoru je g.

Rigler lepo orisal življenjsko pot p. Vendelina, zato njegove besede posredujemo vsem bralcem Ameriške Domovine:

P. Vendelin Špendov OFM, STL., MusD, s krstnim imenom Franc, je bil rojen 1. oktobra 1921 v Spodnji Dobravi na Gorenjskem v Sloveniji. Oče Anton je bil lastnik srednjega posestva, poleg tega pa dolgoletni župan in polnih 70 let organist na Dobravi, mati Ivana rojena Kos pa je doma gospodinjala.

Frančiškanski habit je prejel v Kamniku 1. septembra 1939, leto dni zatem je istotam naredil prve zaobljube. Nato je študiral teologijo na ljubljanski univerzi in se ob prelomu leta 1945 umaknil najprej na Koroško, kjer je 2. avgusta 1945 v Beljaku naredil slovesne zaobljube. Potem se je preko Brennerja in Južne Tirolske prebil do Rima, kjer je na frančiškanski papeški univerzi dokončal študij teologije in bil tam posvečen v duhovnika 20. decembra 1947.

Nadaljeval je višji teološki študij na isti univerzi in ga zaključil z licenciatom (angl. = M.A. degree). Nato je prišel v Lemont, kjer je bil nekaj časa profesor teologije. Ker je obojne glasbene izobrazbe prejel že doma in se je z njo vedno ukvarjal, je postal študent glasbe na univerzi DePaul v Chicagu in se preselil k Sv. Štefanu, kjer je istočasno deloval kot kaplan. Že v ta čas

sega njegovo skladateljsko in zborovodsko delo. Študij glasbe je končal l. 1956 z »M.A.«.

Leta 1968 ga je Kustodija poslala na višji študij glasbe v Rim, ki ga je na papeškem inštitutu Musica Sacra l. 1971 zaključil s prejemom doktorata. Kot doktorsko delo je predložil disertacijo z naslovom »Slovenska orgelska glasba 20. stoletja«.

Po doktoratu se je vrnil v Slovenijo, kjer je bil v frančiškanski cerkvi v Ljubljani regens chori in tajnik provinc. Jeseni leta 1973 se je vrnil v Ameriko in bil najprej kaplan pri Sv. Juriju v South Chicagu do l. 1981, ko je prišel za župnika k Sv. Štefanu. Tam je ostal do l. 1986, ko je bil izvoljen za gvardijana v Lemontu.

Njegovo delovanje bi lahko razdelili na dušnopastirsko in glasbeno. O prvem pač ni treba govoriti, saj so ga povsod, kjer je služboval, ohranili v najlepšem spominu.

Njegovo glasbeno delovanje bi spet lahko razdelili na pedagoško in ustvarjalno. Tudi tukaj o prvem ni treba govoriti, dovolj je prisluhniti kakemu koncertu zbora »Slovenska pesem«, ki se je izoblikoval na njegovo pobudo in mu je on umetniški vodja od začetka.

Kot skladatelj se ne omejuje le na cerkveno glasbo, ampak napiše tudi marsikak posvetnega. Loteva se tudi večjih oblik, kot so kantate in spevigre. V svojih skladateljskih prijemih je moderen, vendar so njegove skladbe oblikovane tako, da jih je prijetno peti in prijetno poslušati. To se je pokazalo predvsem pri oblikovanju bogoslužnih besedil po II. vatikanskem cerkvenem zboru, ki so v Sloveniji dočakala več ponatisov in še zdaj po njih povprašujejo. Marsikatera njegova skladba je prešla tudi v ljudsko petje. Če pa ljudsko petje sprejme neko delo, potem to pomeni, da zna njegov avtor res zadeti tipičen melos naroda, iz katerega izhaja čeprav sklada moderno.

P. Vendelin, sprejmite za božične praznike voščilo in zahvalo od vseh vaših nekdanjih faranov pri Sv. Štefanu in srečno, uspehov polno novo leto 1989! Najlepši pozdrav!

Prijatelji

Škof Gregorij Rožman

oblaki, ki jih veter žene, kakor se o njih sveto pismo izraža. V kratkih užitkih si tešijo notranji nemir in skušajo napolniti praznoto življenja z rečmi, ki občutek praznine le še stopnjujejo.

A ta vmesna skupina je tista, ki olajšuje božjim sovražnikom napredovanje vedno širših plasti človeštva. Niso brez krivde, kakor si domišljajo, da stoje izven sporov in onstran skupin, taborov ali kakor že imenujejo Kristusovo linijo in brezbožniško črto. Tej sredni skupini je Kristus dejal: »Kdor ni z menoj, je zoper mene, in kdor ne zbira z menoj, raztresa«. Sodba Gospodova je jasna. Nihče, ki hoče ostati na sredi med Kristusom in sovražniki božjimi, se ne bo rešil.

Kje stojim? To je božično vprašanje. Nanj je treba, da si vsak sam odgovori. Nobeden odgovoru ne uide, enkrat bo moral odgovoriti, pa bi moglo biti prepozno.

Božična želja: Odkrito, pogumno si odgovorimo na to božično vprašanje in brez obotavljanja se podajmo z betlehemijskimi pastirji k jaslicam, k tabernaklju in ostanimo ob Odrešeniku do konca. Linija Kristusova ima nezmotljivo obljubo končne zmage. Doživel pa jo bo tisti, ki bo ob svoji zadnji uri odšel v večni mir in v veselje Gospodovo.

Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

788. Meditacija jezuita Kosa »Kraljestvu

nebeškega Očeta — Prvo mesto« je bila deloma objavljena v MSIP št. 782 in 784. Danes jo končujemo:

V zgoraj ugotovljeni perspektivi lahko uvidimo vrednost teh dejanj, tudi če ljudje okrog nas in v svetu te vrednosti ne znajo ceniti. V tej zvezi si moramo Jezusove besede dobesedno vtisniti v srce: »Bogatite se z bogastvom v nebesih... Srce je vedno tam, kjer je njegovo bogastvo.« (Mat 6:20-21). Včasih namreč nehamo z dobrim delom, ker zanj ne žanjemo primerne odobravanja. Čeprav je Bog ustvaril svet tako, da postane vsako dobro delo hvalevredno, nam ljudem večkrat manjka pravi uvid v to čudovito stvarstvo; še češče nam sebičnost slepi oči in maši ušesa. Nepriznanje boli, ker se nekaj, kar bi se v stvarstvu moralo dogajati, ne dogaja; toda »mi vemo, da v vseh stvareh Bog s tistimi, ki ga ljubijo, sodeluje, da se ustvari dobro« (Rim 8:28). Tudi sredi čustva nepriznanja.

Misijonsko sodelovanje

v MZA je kakor potovanje v kraje neznane bodočnosti, vendar polno skritega pričakovanja in neke vrste vesele napetosti — potovanje v bodočnost, ki jo preveva Gospodova obljuba: v skladu z našo prizadevnostjo za Njegovo Kraljestvo se nam bo vse drugo navrglo. Kjer Bog napolni jerbase, je obilica osrečujoča. Celo stvarstvo razodeva božjo darežljivost. Četrto prošnjo »Očenaša« lahko razumemo tudi tako, da si želimo, da nam dobri Bog pripravi in »odreže« kruh, ki bo bolj teknil kot še tako velika pojedina brez Boga. Gospodova obljuba je v skladu z našo prizadevnostjo; v zavesti resničnosti priznava sv. Pavel: »Večje delovanje

sem razvil kot vsi ostali apostoli«, priznava pa tudi, »čeprav ga dejansko ne morem takšno kot je pripisati sebi — Gospodova milost mi je namreč pomagala delovati« (1 Kor).

Gospodova milost nam daje pobudo za so-delovanje; Gospodova milost nam pomaga so-delovati; Gospodova milost nas na svoj nevidni, a tem bolj učinkoviti način vzpodbuja k zmeraj bolj zrelemu so-delovanju; »Kristus nadzoruje Svoje Telo in ga hrani tja do zadnjih sklepov in mišic, da more rasti tako kot si njegovo rast zamišlja Bog.« (Kol, 2, 19). Že takozvano navadno krščansko življenje je na tej ravni nevsakdanjosti; toliko bolj velja to za krščansko življenje v misijonsko-zavestnih razsežnostih. Pravzaprav bi nas moralo prevevati neke vrste praznično razpoloženje, kadar delamo v okviru MZA. Gospod nam je bolj blizu kot pa če bi se Ga hoteli dotakniti s stegneno roko.

O, da bi nikdar ne ostali v adventni coni vere, ki jo je njen glasnik sv. Janez Krstnik za zmeraj takole označil: »Med vami stoji Nekdo, ki ga ne poznate.« (Jan 1:26). *Konec*

Za božične praznike je duhovni vodja MZA

pripravil tole božično pismo, datirano z Božičem 1988 in razposlano iz Scarborough:

»Dragi sodelavci, prijatelji in dobrotniki MZA in Misijonov!

Bližajo se božični prazniki in v duhu bi radi po sklepu Marijinega leta pohiteli k vsakemu posebej, da se primerno zahvalimo za Vašo prisotnost v misijonskem sodelovanju MZA. Že dolga leta Boga hvalimo za slehernega sodelavca in pionirko, ki deli z našimi

napori in načrti mnoge žrtve v pomoč ubogim, bolnim, nepoučenim po širnem misijonskem svetu.

V 'Misijonskih srečanjih in pomenkih' iz tedna v teden ob petkih v clevelandski 'Ameriški Domovini' drug drugega srečujemo. Mnogi nimajo tega časopisa. Drugi ga redno prebirajo in na najrazličnejša poročila od časa do časa reagirajo ter pošljejo svojo pomoč za vse ali kakega posameznika, ki za kaj nujnega prosi.

Tudi letos smo doživljali blagoslov najrazličnejših misijonskih prireditev.

MZA Cleveland je imela v postu misijonsko kosilo pri sv. Vidu in v juliju piknik v Genèvi. MZA Milwaukee je doživela običajni julijski piknik v Triglavskem parku in 'prodajo peciva' v jeseni. MZA Joliet je izvedla dvojno 'prodajo peciva'. MZA Gilbert je priredila Misijonsko nedeljo na Aurori. MZA New York je imela letos Misijonsko slovesnost v oktobru. MZA Bridgeport-Fairfield je po Telovski procesiji napravila banket v pomoč našim misijonarjem. MZA Maidstone-Detroit je izvedla letošnji misijonski piknik zelo uspešno v septembru.

Poverjenika iz Montereyja in Lethbrida sta poslali zbrano letno pomoč, došlo od rojakov v Kaliforniji in Alberti. Tudi Minneapolis je ravnokar poslal nabirko iz Minnesote.

Številni posamezniki

iz ranih koncev Združenih držav in Kanade so poslali bogoslovne vzdrževalnine za formacijo in vzgojo domače duhovščine v misijonih.

Vrsta naših misijonarjev in misijonark je bila letos na dopustu v domovini. Nekaj jih je tudi na naš kontinent prihitelo za kratek obisk.

(dalje na str. 4)



Ponovna pomlad v Mariboru

CLEVELAND, O. — V soboto, 19. novembra 1988, so v Mariboru proslavili 70-letnico bojev za severno mejo in sicer ob navzočnosti vseh dobro čutečih Slovencev. Pri vsem je bila poudarjena izredna vloga gen. Rudolfa Maistra. Čast sem imel, da sem ob svojem nedavnem obisku rodne domovine bil navzoč tudi jaz.

Izšel je tudi obširen Maistrov Zbornik; boj za Maribor, 1918-1919. Izdana je bila še pesmarica: Rudolf Maister-Vojanov, pesmi.

Med slovesnostmi so generala Maistra predstavili kot vojaka, pesnika, avtorja zgodovinskih člankov, slikarja, zbiralca knjig, mentorja mladih in organizatorja kulturnega, a še zlasti literarnega življenja v Mariboru. Predstavili so ga tudi kot pomembnega moža, ki je v prevratnem času 1918-1920 odigral nadvse pomembno vlogo v Mariboru in na slovenskem Štajerskem, posegel pa je tudi na Koroško.

Čas je dozorel za Maistrov Zbornik. Že leta 1958 je bil predviden izid knjige o boju za severno slovensko mejo na mariborskem koncu, knjiga je bila že natisnjena, potem pa je oblast ugotovila, da je bolje, če Zbornika ni. In tako Zbornik ni izšel. Bile so tudi pregrade med borci prve svetovne vojne in druge svetovne vojne. Sedaj se je politično vodstvo le ogrelo za spomenik generalu Maistru, da bi poravnali dolg izpred tridesetih let; natisnili so tudi Zbornik. Tako je ta del zgodovine dobil primerno mesto, Majstrovi borci zasluženo priznanje, Maribor s svojo Štajersko pa svojo identiteto.

Zbornik je nastal v spomin vsem, ki so se v usodnih dneh 1918-1919 borili za slovenski Maribor in slovensko Štajersko, in tudi tistim domačim Nemcem, ki so se za svoj Maribor borili zato, ker so bili tu doma. Uredniški odbor za Zbornik je vodil Janez J. Švajncar, ki je sicer nečak pisatelja Ksaverja Meška. Zbornik je posvečen tudi miru in temu, da bi sosednji narodi živeli drug ob drugem v spoštovanju in da je le sosed, ne vrag, mejaš.

Še marsikaj bi sodilo v Zbornik, a ni bilo zapisano ali je prispelo prepozno, ko je bila knjiga že v tisku. Zapis o Sv. Lenartu v Slovenskih Goricah v prevratnih časih bi namreč sodil v Zbornik, kar meni tudi urednik Švajncar.

Dr. Milanu Gorišku kot kapetanu v Maistrovih vrstah, prosvetnemu in društvenemu slovenskemu mentorju, starosti Sokola mariborske župe, bom posvetil nekaj prostora. Dr. Gorišek je sodeloval z gen. Maistrom pri osvoboditvi Maribora. Šele ko je bila severna meja že zasigurana, se Gorišek kot komandant nastani s slovenskimi domobranci v šoli Sv. Lenarta. Ustanovi prvi slovenski narodni odbor v župnišču, v prisotnosti dekana Janžekoviča in nadučitelja Kopiča. Na tem sestanku tudi določijo Kopiča kot prvega slovenskega župana. V Lenartu je bil Gorišek slovenski prebuditelj že v letih pred prvo svetovno vojno, ko leta 1908 organizira Sokola kot protitež nemškemu življu, in kot advokat uveljavlja slovenske vloge na sodišču. Bil je tudi predsednik slovenske hranilnice in posojilnice pri Lenartu in kot tak je denarno izdatno pomagal gen. Maistru v kočljivem času.

Gorišek je povabil Maistra v Lenart na posvečenje novih znovov. Ob tej priložnosti napiše Maister sledeče verze:

Tvoj prednik šel je v vojni grom.

Ti groma brani nas in dom.

In tvoj domači mladi glas naj nam varuje trs in klas.

Te verze sem posredoval, ker niso bile vključene v knjigi izbranih Maistrovih pesmi. Gen. Maister je večkrat preživljal svoj oddih v Goriškovi vili v Zavrhu. O Zavrhu je zložil več pesmi, med katerimi je najbolj znana seveda Završki fantje. Prav je, da se spominjamo svojih načelnih ljudi!

Franček Toplak



V BLAG SPOMIN

OB 31. OBLETNICI, ODKAR JE UMRL NAŠ LJUBLJENI OCE IN STARI OCE

Anton Grdina

ki je zaspal v Gospodu 1. decembra 1957.

*Leto za letom se v večnost izliva,
težke ločitve spomin se budi;
ljubezen do Tebe pa vedno je živa,
v vsem našem življenju kot lučka gori.*

Žalujoča: DRUŽINA

Cleveland, Ohio, 16. decembra 1988.



V BLAG SPOMIN

SEDEMNAJSTE OBLETNICE,
ODKAR NAS JE ZAPUSTIL
NAS LJUBLJENI STRIC
IN BRAT

Joseph J. Miklaučič

(IZ NEWBURGHA)

ki je umrl 10. decembra 1971.

Gospod, daruj mu mir,
naj večna luč mu sveti,
ker si dobrote vir,
uživa raj naj sveti.

Žalujoči:

ANN SNYDER — roj. Miklaučič —
nečakinja
nečaki in nečakinje tu in v Sloveniji.
Cleveland, O., 16. dec. 1988.



KOLIKO JE BONČEV? Veliko, če gledamo sliko, ki nam jo je posredoval naš naročnik John Bonca, ki živi na zahodni strani Clevelanda. Dne 18. septembra letos se je namreč zbralo v restavraciji hotela Bellvue v Ljubljani-Šiški okrog 90 članov te rodbine, ki sega nazaj po že raziskanih dokumentih v Sloveniji do l. 1740. Za iskanje korenin svoje rodbine se je zanimal Jean Gaston Bonca, sicer rojen v Franciji, zadnjih 25 let pa živi z družino v Ameriki, v mestu Alpharetta, Georgia. Med ameriškimi Slovenci se mnogi zanimajo za iskanje rodbinskih korenin, redko so pa, ki so tako vztrajni kot omenjeni g. J.G. Bonca. Eden takih je, kot vedo bralci angleškega dela Ameriške Domovine, velik dobrotnik našega lista dr. John Nielson.

Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

(Nadaljevanje s str. 3)

Te tedne bomo razpošiljali misijonskim pionirjem letno pomoč MZA v Vašem imenu. Vsak bo dobil nekaj od zbrane za vse v letu 1988 in kar je kdo za posameznika posebej poslal, bo k tej vsoti dodano.

Nekaj naših sodelavcev in sodelavk je spet odšlo v večnost. Drugi so slavili častitljive obletnice rojstva ali poroke. Med njimi blagajnik Rudi Knez svojo sedemdesetletnico. Spomnimo se ob takih prilikah naših misijonarjev s kakim darom.

Naj naš letošnji Božič, praznik Gospodovega Rojstva, najde pri jaslicah povezane v molitvi, s toplimi željami, da bi drug drugemu še mnoga leta dajali dober zgled v misijon-

skem sodelovanju. Sam se Vas vseh dnevno spominjam v sv. mašah in molitvah.

Blagoslovljene božične praznike in božje varstvo v novem letu, ki naj bo uspešno, zdravo in zadovoljno! V molitvah in misijonskih žrtvah ostanimo povezani!

Lepo Vas vse pozdravlja in vse dobro želi Vaš vdani in hvaležni
Fr. Charles A. Wolbang, CM«

P.S. — Darove lahko celo leto pošiljate na MZA krajevnim sodelavcem ali na moj naslov v Scarborough, ki je vedno tedensko objavljeno v MSIP v petkovi Ameriški Domovini.

Pri glavnem blagajniku MZA
Rudiju Knezu smo naro-

čili že prvih 81 čekov za celo vrsto naših misijonarjev in misijonark. Te dneve z blagajnikom clevelandskega odseka MZA Štefanom Maroltom to že urejata. V Slonokoščeno obalo so spet razposlali iz MZA Joliet iz vsote, ki se je letos pri njih nabrala iz prodaj peciva. Predsednica Marija Jeretina je odposlala MZA Božično pismo s čeki naslednjim: sestri dr. Anici Starman, sr. Hermini Nemšak, sr. Branki Kladnik in sr. Bernardeti Jurkovič, vsaki po \$500, in misijonarju Pavlu Bajcu \$660 za vse in ostalo za sv. maše. Skupaj vsem poslano \$2660.

Darovali so v Clevelandu: Ivanka in Leopold Pretnar za bogoslovsko vzdrževalnino \$300; Joseph in Barbara Magajna za bogoslovce \$500, za vse \$500 in za sv. maše 50 dolarjev. Neimenovana za tri cele bogoslovke vzdrževalnine za kandidate v Afriki \$3000; Agnes Leskovec in ga. Zupančič za bogoslovsko vzdrževalnino \$250. Za sv. maše gđ. Angela Gospodarič iz Kalifornije \$75 in ga. Tillie Špehar iz Clevelanda \$100. Vsem — Milijonkrat BOG POVRNI!

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Meeting

P.S.W.A. No. 2 will meet on Wednesday, December 21 at 1 p.m. at St. Clair Slovenian National Home. We ask all members to please attend.

—Justine Girdo

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IN MEMORY OF

OUR MOTHER, GRAND-
MOTHER AND GREAT-
GRANDMOTHER



Josephine Stanic

who died Dec. 19, 1986.

Your memory to us is a keepsake,
With which we will never part.
Though God has you in His keeping,
We always have you in our hearts.

Sadly missed by:

Tony and Don — Sons
Daughters-in-law
Grandchildren and
Great-grandchildren

V BLAG SPOMIN

NAŠEGA LJUBLJENEGA
OČETA, STAREGA OČETA
IN BRATA



Anton Stanic

Izdihnil je svojo blago dušo
dne 25. februarja 1979.

Sonce naj na trato sije,
kjer počivaš dragi Ti.
Duša pa naj uživa,
tam v srečni večnosti.

Žalujejo:

Sinova — Tony in Don
snahi, vnuki, vnukinja
in ostalo sorodstvo.

Euclid, O., 16. decembra 1988.

Vesela božične praznike
in srečno novo leto



Prišel je čas okrog Božiča

Advent

Novo cerkveno leto se začne z adventom, to je časom priprave na Božič. V tem času nas Cerkev kliče k pokori. V hramu božjem izražajo pokorno spokorna vijolična barva, opuščanje slave pri maši in molčanje orgel. Često se srečujemo v mašnih berilih z Janezom Krstnikom, mašni spevi nas pa kličejo k pokori.

Na drugi strani pa je ta čas poln veselja ob pričakovanju prihajajočega Odršenika. Pogosto omenjajo mašna besedila veseli dogodek, ko je Gospodov angel Mariji oznanil čudovito skrivnost uveličanja božjega Sina.

Zornice

Verni Slovenci preživijo advent z nekim svetim spoštovanjem. Vse, karkoli bi motilo adventnega duha, mora izostati. Tako mora utihniti vsako vasovanje, fantovsko petje in vriskanje na vasi. Še veliko bolj pa morajo docela prenehati veselice, godba in ples ne samo doma, marveč tudi po gostilnah.

Advent je vernim Slovencem svet čas. Ponekod si nad mizo izpod stropa obesijo iz smrečja ali tisja spleten in z modrimi trakovi okrašen adventni venec, da jih spominja svetosti tega časa. Nanj pritrjujejo štiri sveče, ki jih na adventne nedelje prižigajo: na prvo nedeljo eno, vsako drugo po eno več.

Sicer pa advent povsod posvečujejo s pogostejšo molitvijo in z udeležbo pri zornicah. Zgodaj zjutraj, še v trdi temi, zapuste ljudje domove ter pohite s svetilko ali baklo v rokah po zasneženih poteh v cerkev k »zornim« ali »svitnim« mašam.

Stara navada je, da je treba iti za advent k spovedi. To dolžnost radi opravijo še tako trdi očanci. Ob misli na očiščenje duše je pot k zornicam lepa in osrečujoča.

Ko se oglasi v cerkvi adventna pesem »Vi, oblaki, ga rosite!«, je srce zajeto v skrivnostni božji svet tako zelo, da ga napolni čista sreča do dna.

Adventni večeri

Tudi adventni večeri potekajo v zbranosti in lepi družinski pobožnosti. Ob teh večerih moli družina skupaj rožni venec. Oče ali mati ali tudi kdo drug sname molek s stene in vsa družina kleče zmoli vsaj venca del rožnega venca.

Na Štajerskem in v Prekmurju se ljudje kaj radi zbirajo po hišah, vsak večer v drugi, in si pomagajo luščiti bučno seme, koruzo in fižol ali tolči orehe. Pri delu si pripovedujejo razne zgodbe in pojo pesmi. Po delu prinese gospodar na mizo kruha in vrč vina. Vsakdo si lahko po mili volji postreže.

Adventne večere navdaja z veseljem priprava na Božič. V tem času spletajo vence za božični okras.

Miklavžev večer

Sveti Miklavž je znan kot svetnik, ki obdaruje otroke. Ponekod je navada, da Miklavž še nekaj večerov pred svojim godom otrokom meče orehe, lešnike in fige ob večerih skozi na hitro odprta vrata. Na večer pred svojim godom pa pride Miklavž sam in prinese darove. Pride v spremstvu angelov in parkljev. Pridni dobe darove, poredni pa repo in korenje.

Ponekod že ves teden pred njegovim godom parklji strašijo otroke, drugod Miklavž na večer pred svojim godom nasuje v nastavljene peharje darov.

Ponekod Miklavž kliče otroke predse in jih izprašuje molitve ali celo kake uganke. Če znajo molitve in krščanske nauke, je dobro; če pa ne, jih izroči parklju.

Delanje »Betlehema«

Že v adventu si dekleta nakupijo več vrst barvnega papirja in začno čimprej rezljati in zvijati cvetke. Spletajo jih v venec, brez katerega ponekod sploh ni Božiča. Prav tako pridno vežejo prtiče za božični okras za pod jaslce. Med tem delom pojejo adventne pesmi. Večinoma ga opravljajo ob večerih doma, še rajši pa se jih

po več zbere kod drugod, kjer so dekleta posebno izurjena in obenem dobre pevke. Tam je potem zvrhana mera veselja in židane volje.

V veseli družbi pripravlja vsako dekle zase, za svoj dom po več vencev. Enega za »bogca«, to je za okoli križa v kotu nad mizo, nekaj za okoli svetih podob po stenah. Najbolj skrbno pripravijo tako imenovanega »duha«. Ta mora viseti nad mizo za božične praznike.

Poleg »roč« pripravljajo dekleta za Božič tudi posebne prtiče za na mizo in za pod jaslce.

Pripravljanje jaslíc

Oče, stric ali starejši brat dela jaslce. Brez njih si slovenskega Božiča skorajda misliti ne moremo. Prevladujejo (dalje na str. 6)

Vesela božične praznike
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AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA
DECEMBER 16, 1988

Čas okrog Božiča

(nadaljevanje s str. 5)

predvsem kotne jaslice s slovenskim pokrajinskim značajem. So pa tudi namizne jaslice: na mizi ali na predalniku.

Pri jaslicah je glavna skrb vedno hlevček. V planinskih krajih je često podoben planinskim stajam, tudi ograja je planinska, narejena iz cepljenega lesa s pošev nabitimi oblikovci. V ravninskih krajih pa je pogosto podoben zidanemu hlevu z dvema oknomi spredaj in z enim zadaj.

Sveta Družina, angel z glorio, pastirji in živina so izrezani iz lesa ali iz papirja. Pastirji imajo pogosto domačo planinsko nošo in so tudi lepo pisano pobarvani.

Izpod hriba radi napeljejo strugo z mlinom, stopami ali pa naredijo virček, vodnjak. Ozadje je modro, z zvezdami posuto nebo ali tudi obrisi mesta Betlehema.

Tisti, ki dela jaslice, mora otrokom vedno sproti razlagati svete zgodbe, skrivnosti Gospodovega uveličanja.

Marijino popotovanje

Do pred nedavnim so v Sloveniji devet dni pred Božičem »nosili Marijo«, v spomin, kako sta šla Marija in Jožef v Betlehem in tam iskala prenočišča. Popotovanje so navadno vodila vaška dekleta in žene. Ponekod je ta navada še danes.

Že v začetku adventa dekleta po žrebu določijo devet hiš v vasi, kjer naj bi to leto Marija devet dni pred Božičem prenočevala. V vasi si izberejo najlepši Marijin kip in določijo deklet ali več deklet, ki bodo Marijo nosile. Po tem dogovoru začne dekleta odbranih hiš delati »rože«, papirnato in povoščeno cvetje za pletenje venčev.

Ko se deveti dan pred svetim večerom zmrača, se vsa soseska, staro in mlado, žene in dekleta, pa tudi možje in fantje, zbere v hiši, kjer bodo Marijo »posodili«. Tam že čaka njen kip, ves v cvetju in lučkah.

Ko zazvoni »večno luč«, zmoli kak očanec angelsko česčenje, vsi poljubijo Marijin kip, zapojejo in s prižganimi svečami v rokah se uvrste v procesijo. Sprejemi v hišah, kjer bo Marija prenočevala, in slovesa so naravnost obredna: z določenim besedilom in določenimi pesmimi.

Sveti večer

Bolj kot kdajkoli v letu nam je na ta večer domača streha, pa naj je še tako preprosta in uboga, nadvse ljuba in draga. Ta večer se spet vse zbere doma, da v miru in ob domačih običajih doživi svetost božičnih skrivnosti.

Brž ko pade prvi mrak, mati slovesno pripravi družinsko mizo. Pregrne jo z belim prtom in položi nanj božični kruh. Potem zbere oče okrog sebe vso družino. Eden izmed otrok vzame posodico z blagoslovljeno vodo, oče pa ponvi-

(dalje na str. 7)

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IN SREČNO NOVO LETO!**

**Družina Ivan,
Paula in Peter
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IN
VSEM NJENIM NAROČNIKOM
SVOJIM ČLANOM, PRIJATELJEM
IN PODPORNIKOM

ŽELI

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Čas okrog Božiča
(nadaljevanje s str. 6)

co z žerjavico, na katero polaga kadilo. Obhodijo vse hlevske, kletne in hišne prostore, jih pokrope in pokade. Med obhodom molijo rožni venec. Slednjič pridejo v hišo, kjer jih čaka gospodinja. Oče vošči vsem blagoslovljene praznike in odmoli rožni venec.

V zvezi z večernim družinskim bogoslužjem je tudi posebna večerja. Ta je navadno po kajenju in kropjenju in po mnogih krajih docela določena, zares obredna. Navadno je prav preprosta. Potem se družina zbere okrog jaslic in tam poje božične pesmi in moli.

Največje veselje svete noči je polnočnica. Vse, staro in mlado, hoče k njej. Za polnočnico si že davno prej pripravijo bakle. Kako dobro uro pred polnočjo se oglasi pri fari veliki zvon. Tedaj po domovih in selih vse oživi. Z vseh strani se prično zgrinjati skupine s plamenicami v rokah.

Ko v zvoniku slovesno pritrkava pred polnočno mašo, je oltar ves v lučih, pripravljen za službo božjo. Opolnoči pristopi duhovnik v najlepšem oblačilu. Orgle zadone, ljudje pa zapoje skrivnostno lepo »Sveto noč«. Ko mašnik prebere evangelij o Kristusovem rojstvu, je božična skrivnost dosegla svoj vrh. Verniki v duhu spremljajo Marijo in Jožefa na poti v Betlehem. Potem sledijo druge božične pesmi, tako mehke in čustvene.

Tudi od polnočnice grede si ljudje prižgo bakle. Pri župniji in pri vseh podružnicah pritrkava, kar še bolj dviga prazničnost. Ko hite polnočničarji domov, je Betlehem po hišah razsvetljen in tudi vse lučke pri jaslicah in na smrekah gore. Radostnih obrazov in razigranih src se vračajo v tople in razsvetljene domove. Gospodinja jim navadno pripravi kaj za pod zob, ponekod potico, drugod celo koline.

Sveti dan

Dan Kristusovega rojstva je našemu ljudstvu nad vse svet. To pove že samo ime: sveti dan. Doma je vse izredno praznično. Pri živini opravljajo na deželi le najnujnejše. Še za kuho si večidel pripravijo že prejšnji dan, da je na sveti dan čim manj opravka.

Včasih so na ta dan peli samo svete pesmi. Na to so zlasti strogo pazili stari ljudje. In na sveti dan ni smel nihče nikamor. Edina izjema so bili koledniki. Hodili so na sveti večer, na sveti dan in po Božiču do sv. Treh kraljev od hiše do hiše, prepevali predvsem svete pesmi, voščili k prazniku ali k novemu letu in prosili darov.

Prirejeno po dr. M. Turnšku
Naša luč, dec. 1968



Vesele Božične Praznike
in srečno novo leto

Polno zdravja vsem prijateljem in znancem
želi

Olga Mauser z otroci,

Sylvia, Irene, Darinka, Garth in
vnukinja Emily.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR



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A BLESSED AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

LJUBKA ŠORLI:

*Sveti večer
na Tolminskem*

Močan jesenski veter je zaloputnil z vrati, da se je stresla kuhinja. Babica, ki se je kretala okoli štedilnika in pripravljala večerjo, se je skoraj ustrašila. Ozrla se je: ni vedela, da je Tomažek smuknil ven in pustil vrata priprta.

»Le kam je že spet izginil?« se je vprašala. Pustila je delo, da pogleda za Tomažkom. Komaj pa se je obrnila, je že prišel v kuhinjo. Oči so mu nenavadno veselo žarele. Za hrbtom je nekaj skrival.

»Kaj pa imaš?« ga je vprašala babica.

Ni ji odgovoril takoj. Le nepopisna sreča mu je sijala z obraza.

»No, povej, Tomažek!« je ljubeznivo prigovarjala babica. »Ali mi prav nič ne zaupajš?«

Tedaj se je deček ojunačil: babici lahko zaupa, da. Ona ne bo nikomur povedala.

»Mah sem prinesel,« je tiho začel.

»Mah?« se je začudila babica. »Čemu ti bo?«

»O, babica,« je vzkliknil skrivnostno Tomažek, »jaz že dolgo vse vem!«

»Pa kaj veš?« je bila babica še bolj začudena.

»Da ponekod o Božiču delajo jaslice...«

»Jaslice? Pa kdo ti je to povedal?«

»Sosedov Stanko,« je hitel. »Pri njih jih naredijo vsako leto. In tudi vem, zakaj jih postavljajo. Vse vem, babica. In Stanko je rekel, da jih bom letos lahko prišel pogledat. Samo jaz. Drugim ne smem povedati. In tudi pastirčka mi bo dal in ovčko. Tudi jaz jih bom naredil. Zato sem prinesel danes mah...«

»Jaslice boš naredil? Pa zdaj, Tomažek? Saj so še trije meseci do Božiča!« je ganjena pripomnila babica. Solze so ji stopile v oči, a jih je pred Tomažkom prikrila.

»Vem, babica. Za zdaj sem prinesel samo mah, naredil jih bom pozneje.«

»Poslušaj, Tomažek! Rekel si, da ti bo dal Stanko pastirčka in ovčko. To vendar ni dovolj. Za jaslice je treba več pastirčkov in ovčk predvsem pa Jezuščka in Marijo in Jožefa pa hlevček tudi. Ti vsega tega nimaš. In ti tudi veš, da bi očku in mami to ne bilo prav...«

»Saj bom jaslice skril! Samo ti in jaz bova vedela zanje!« je deček skušal prepričati babico.

»Tomažek, ne misli več na to. Dobro veš, da jaslic ne smeš narediti. Saj jih pojdeš pogledat k Stanku.«

Tomažek je povsod glavico in žalostno zajokal.

»Pa pusti, da shranim vsaj mah, babica, igral se bom z njim!«

Babica je stopila k njemu in
(dalje na str. 9)

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IN SREČNO NOVO LETO

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IN ZNANCEM**

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Vesele, miru polne božične praznike ter sreče,
zdravja in uspehov polno novo leto želi vsem

Družina Matija Lončar

VESELE BOŽIČNE PRAZNIKE
IN SREČNO NOVO LETO



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Euclid, Ohio

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in srečno novo leto*

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VESELE PRAZNIKE — HAPPY HOLIDAYS

SVETI VEČER NA TOLMINSKEM

(nadaljevanje s str. 8)

ga nežno poljubila:

»Igraš se lahko z njim, a samo na dvorišču. Zdaj ga pa daj meni. K večerji bo treba.«

Tomažek ji je zaupno izročil mah. Vedel je, da bo babica držala besedo.

Približali so se božični prazniki. Zapadel je sneg. Tomažek je bil že dalj časa nekam nemiren in zamišljen. Nič več ga ni mikala šola, še sneg ne. Najrajši je bil doma, da se je z babico pogovarjal o jaslicah, saj je samo ona vedela za njegovo skrivnost.

Dan pred Božičem je prišel k njemu Stanko, da bi se šla sankat na bližnji breg. A Tomažku se ni ljubilo. Na vse kaj drugega je mislil, kakor na sneg.

»Ali ste že postavili jaslice?« ga je tiho vprašal.

»Da, že! Ali hočeš, da jih greva pogledat zdaj?«

»Pojdiva, pojdiva!« je prosil Tomažek.

In sta šla. Sanke sta peljala s seboj.

Stankova mama je ravno jemala potico iz pečice. Ko je zagledala dečka, ju je presenečena vprašala:

»Ali se nista šla sankat?«

»Ne, mamica. Tomažek bi tako rad pogledal naše jaslice,« je pojasnil Stanko. »Ali sme?«

»Seveda sme. Kar v sobo pojdiva, saj sta očka in Majda že notri. Tudi jaz pridem.«

V sobi je bilo še svetlo. Tomažek se je približal jaslicam. Ni mogel odvrniti pogleda od njih. Kakor da ne vidi in ne sliši nič. Stopila je v sobo tudi Stankova mama. Tedaj se je oglasila Majda:

»Prižgimo svečke, da bo Tomažek vesel. On še nikoli ni videl jaslic!«

»In še oknice bom zaprl, da bo lepše!« je pristavil očka.

Tomažek je strmел. Kaj tako lepega je mogoče videti samo v sanjah. Niti dihati si ni upal.

Kar samo je privrelo iz src: »Sveta noč, blažena noč...«

Tomažek je bil ves zbezan: pogledoval je zdaj tega zdaj onega. Še nikoli ni slišal tako lepe pesmi. Kakor da bi peli sami angeli. On pa ne zna. Še moliti ne zna... Babica ga ne sme učiti. Tudi v cerkev ga ne sme peljati... In tako lepo je v cerkvi! Samo enkrat je skrivaj pogledal noter... Potem pa je bil doma tako kregan...

V grlu ga je nekaj stisnilo. Sam ni vedel, kdaj so se mu po licih ulile solze.

Stanko je med petjem večkrat pogledal Tomažka. Zasmilil se mu je. Ko so odpeli, je stopil k mami in ji nekaj pošepetal na uho. Nato je šel k jaslicam, vzel najlepšega pastirčka in nakodrano ovčko ter ju potisnil Tomažku v žep. Stankova mamica pa je medtem izginila v kuhinjo, a se je takoj vrnila. Približala se je

(dalje na str. 10)

VESELE BOŽIČNE PRAZNIKE IN
SREČNO NOVO LETO ŽELIMO VSEM,
PRIJATELJEM IN ZNANCEM.



Pavle, Cilka, Miha, Tomaž, Marta, in Pavli KOŠIR



*Vesele božične praznike
in srečno novo leto!*

Joseph and Anna Lah, Sr.

15620 Huntmere Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44110

VESELE BOŽIČNE PRAZNIKE

in

SREČNO NOVO LETO

želita

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Ivan in Tončka Berkopec

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*Vesel Božič in
Srečno Novo Leto
želijo*

Srečko, Helena, Tomaž, Andrej in Monika Gaser

Richmond Heights, Ohio



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of the
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SOCIETY HOME**
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*Wishes Everyone the
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and a prosperous New Year.*

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*

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**Mrs. Dorothy
URBANCICH**

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and Happy New Year*

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AMERISKA DOMOVINA
DECEMBER 16, 1988

SVETI VEČER NA TOLMINSKEM

(nadaljevanje s str. 9)

Tomažku in mu stisnila v dru-
gi žep kos potice.

»Tomažek,« je rekla, »do-
mov boš moral. Ali hočeš ti
pogasiti svečke pri jaslicah?»

»Rad!« je veselo pokimal.

In druga za drugo so svečke
ugašale.

V sobi je bila tema. Prižgali
so luč. Tudi zunaj je bila že
tema.

Tomažka sta spremila do-
mov Stanko in Majda. Kakor
v snu je hodil. Še govoriti si ni
upal, da ne bi zabrisal podobe,
ki jo je gledal prek očmi. Na
pragu sta se Stanko in Majda
poslovlila. Tomažek je stekel v
kuhinjo, ker je vedel, da dobi
tam svojo dobro babico. Saj ji
je bil Tomažek povedal, kam
gre, vendar jo je začelo skrbeti,
ker ga tako dolgo ni bilo
domov. Zato ga je nestrpnost
pričakovala.

»O, babica, kako je bilo
lepo!« jo je veselo pozdravil.

In začel je pripovedovati
vse, kar je doživel.

Babica še do besede ni pri-
šla. Ganjena ga je poslušala,
pri tem pa mislila na srečo
božičnega večera minulih let.
Zdaj vsega tega ni... Božič je
delaven dan in jaslice samo še
spomin...

»Kaj pa ti gleda iz žepa, To-
mažek?« je vprašala, ko je de-
ček končal svoje pripovedova-
nje.

Tomažek je potipal v žep in
ves srečen izvlekel iz njega pa-
stirčka in ovčko. »To mi je go-
tovo Stanko dal. Saj mi je ob-
ljubil. Kako sta lepa, kajne?«

»Prav res sta lepa!« je bila
babica srečna z njim.

»Kaj imaš pa v drugem
žepu?«

Tomažek je potipal še v dru-
gi žep. »O, potica! To mi je pa
dala prav gotovo Stankova
mama. Babica, tebi jo dam!«

»Hvala, Tomažek!« se je
ona nasmehnila skozi solze, pa
se je hitro obrnila v stran, da
bi ji deček ne videl v oči. Poti-
ce pa se tisti večer ni dotakni-
la.

»Jutri, na božični dan, jo
bova skupaj pojedla!« je v mi-
slih sklenila.

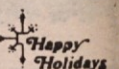
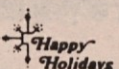
»Babica, je boječe zaprosil
Tomažek, »jaz bi tako rad šel
spat. Nič ne bom večerjal.
Bom pa jutri več jedel. Ko pri-
deta domov očka in mamica,
bom že spal; ti pa jima reci, da
sem bil truden. In ko boš pisa-
la teti, ji ne smeš nič povedati,
veš. Ona je drugačna kakor ti.
Smejala bi se...«

Babica je v srcu zbolelo.
Molčala je, saj je vedela, da
govori deček resnico.

Tomažek je zaspal. V sa-
njah je zopet gledal jaslice in
tudi pel je in molil...

Pod vzglavnikom pa sta
spala ob njem pastirček in
ovčka...

Ameriška Domovina
je Vaš list!



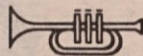
*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

Robert and Elaine Debevec

6995 Lake Road West
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*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*

Dusan, Mary, Martin, Verica & Vera Marsic

Eastlake, Ohio

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from the

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zaupanje, priporočamo se na bodoče.*

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AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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Slovenian Sausages — \$2.79 lb.

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— R E P A —

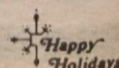
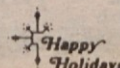
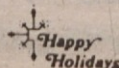
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želim

obilo božičnega miru
in blagoslovljeno novo leto 1989

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Otmar Mauser:

Matevžev zadnji božič

Matevž je iz vasi zavil po kolo-
vozu med zamrznjene njive.
Dve uri hoda si je prihranil po
tej bližnici do sosednje vasi.
Nešteto krat jo je že prehodil in
vedel je, čigava je ta ali ona
njiva, čigavi pašniki in kozolci.
Križ ob poti ne daleč iz
vasi, star in preperel, ga je po-
zdravil in Krist na njem se je še
globlje sklonil nad kolovoz.
Njive so bile puste in prazne,
brez vonja zlahtnih sokov in
sadov. Le nekaj gomil, v kate-
rih je zimovala repa, je še spo-
minjalo na čas žetve, na škr-
jančke in drdranje voz, ki so
vozili pridelke domov. Kozolci
so stali prazni in osamljeni.
Nekaj premraženih in lačnih
vran je posedalo na strehi in
njih krakanje je bilo ob sivem
dnevju še žalostnejše. Matevž
jih je gledal, kakor so se ena za
drugo spustile z utrujenimi za-
malhi proti smrekovi gmajni,
ki se je vlekla čez obzorje kot
temna proga. Tja za njimi je
hitel Matevž. Ne bi rad, da bi
ga lovila noč sredi te praznote.
Mraz je in po snegu diši, hoje
pa še dobre štiri ure za stare
Matevževe noge.

Hvala Bogu, pri Sočanu se
je najedel tople juhe, tako da

mraza še ni čutil. Sočanka pa
mu je odrezala kos božične po-
tice in nekaj slanine na pot.

»Sveti večer je danes. Da ne
boste lačni hodili po svetu,« je
rekla, ko mu je oboje tlačila v
malho.

Dobri ljudje so Solčanovi.
Daj jim Bog svoj blagoslov!
Revežu pomagajo.

Matevž je modroval in sam s
seboj govoril. Pretehtaval je
gospodarje in njihove grunte,
bajtarje, ki so svojo revščino
vselej delili z njim in tudi go-
spoda se je spomnil, ki ga je
zjutraj srečal. To mora biti
novi kaplan, o katerem mu je
pravil bajtar Urh. Mlad je še.
Prijazen pa je. Matevža je na-
prej pozdravil. Njega, ki ga še
psi ne objajajo.

»No, očka, kako gre« ga je
nagovoril.

Matevž se smehlja in od

mraza vlažne oči so mu postale
še bolj vlažne.

»O, ja, še so dobri ljudje na
svetu, še. Bog bodi zahvaljen
za to. Dobra beseda je včasih
boljša kot kos kruha. Prav res
da.« Pa še praznike mu je vo-
ščil. Prav tako kot bi se pozna-
la že nekaj let.

Matevž v svojem modrova-
nju ni opazil, da je pričelo na-
rahlje snežiti. Šele, ko mu je
nekaj snežink sedlo na obraz,
se je ozrl okrog.

»No, lepa reč. Vse do sedaj
je prizanašal, ravno ko sem se
jaz spustil na pot, mora pa za-
četi. Kar podzivat se moram,
da mu uidem.«

S hitrejšimi koraki se je po-
gnal proti vetru, ki je ostajal
nekje za gmajnam. Vse v de-
belejših kosmih je snežilo in
po zmrznjenih kepah zemlje je
že ležala tenka, bela odeja.
Tudi veter je postajal ostrejši
in Matevž je čutil strupeno
sapo v ušesih. Prsti na roki, v

(dalje na str. 12)



Župnija

Marija Pomagaj

vošči vsem bralcem Ameriške Domovine
vesele božične praznike in
blagoslova v novem letu.

ROJAKOM VOŠČI VESELE BOŽIČNE
PRAZNIKE IN SREČNO NOVO LETO
Anthony Klemenčič,
B.Sc., LL.B.

SLOVENSKI ODVETNIK
332 Browns Line,
Toronto M8W 3T6 Tel.: 251-5281

Matevžev zadnji božič

(nadaljevanje s str. 11)

kateri je držal palico, so mu dreveneli, oči so se mu kar naprej solzile.

»Bog se me usmili, če ne pridem do noči v vas. Saj je tako, kot bi se vsi peklenščki spustili na zemljo.«

In res je snežilo vse močneje. Snežinke so divje plesale v vetru in pred Matevževimi očmi je zgedalo, kot bi se ogromna bela zavesa spustila od neba do zemlje. Kolovoz je izginil v belini in Matevž je nekajkrat zašel na njivo.

»Še zgubil se bom v tej belini, sveti križ božji.« Matevža je zares skrbelo. Snega je bilo domala že do gležnjev, kar ga je tudi pri hoji pričelo ovirati. Utrujenost se ga je lotevala, v kolenih je začutil čudno slabost. V grlu ga je jelo dušiti, prsa so postajala tesna in boleča.

Globoko dihajoč je obstal. Vse okrog njega divji ples snežink in med belimi štrenami se je že ponujal prvi mrak.

»Bog se usmili, zašel sem. S kolovoza sem zašel.« Zastonj je Matevž napenjal oči. Belina je zakrivala vse. Pognal se je naprej. Noge so mu postale težke in okorne. Na čelu se je nabiral sneg. Šel je levo in desno, da bi našel kolovoz, pa kolovoza ni bilo.

»Da bi vsaj do gozda prišel, vsaj do gozda.« Opletal je in se opotekal. Brez cilja se mu je zdela pot.

»O, Bog, imej usmiljenje z beračem. Danes na sam sveti večer, ko si prišel na svet učiti o ljubezni, se spomni moje bede in mojega trpljenja v tej uri. In ti, Mati božja, sveta Porodnica, prosi zame, da najdem pot v bližnjo vas.«

Matevž je obupaval. Čutil je, kako ga zapuščajo moči in da ne bo mogel več dolgo kljubovati vremenu. Z izbuljenimi očmi in na pol mrtev se je vlekel naprej v metež. Mrak se je zgostil in noč se je kradla od vsepovsod prihuljeno kot tat.

Matevž se je zgrudil v sneg. Prsa so mu burno dvigala in padala, v sencih mu je kljuvalo, po hrbtu ga je vroče in mrzlo spreletavalo. Prstov na rokah ni več čutil, ko je zagrebel z njimi v sneg.

»Konec,« je pomislil Matevž. »Konec moje poti. Tu sredi njiv, v snegu... naprej moram,« se je ustrašil svojih misli. »Naprej... naprej...«

Iskal je palico, ki mu je pri padcu padla iz rok, grebel je z rokami po snegu, toda palice ni mogel najti. Brez nje se je dvignil z zadnjimi močmi in se opotekal naprej. Po ušesih mu je zvonilo, iz sapnika mu je hreščajoče piskalo. Lovil je sopo s široko odprtimi usti, telo se mu je treslo od napora, noge so mu klečale v kolenih. Z rokami, stegnjenimi predse, je iskal v temo kot slepec.

»Jezus, Marija, Jožef, stojte mi ob strani v moji smrtni uri,« je jecljal in hlupal Matevž.

Kar se mu je zdelo, da vidi luč. Svojim očem ni mogel ver-

jeti. Čisto majhna, trepetajoča luč.

»Blede se mi,« je Matevž pomislil na smrt. Toda skozi bele zavesne snega in skozi noč je res utripala drobna lučka.

»Je luč, je, ne blede se mi.« Čudna moč je prišla v njegove ude in z novo silo se je pognal za lučjo.

Kmalu je v temi videl obris majhne poljske kapelice. Privlekel se je do vhoda, ki je bil ograjen z nizko ograjico. V kapeli pa je stal kip Marijin z Detetom v naročju. Droben plamenček je gorel v kozarcu pred njenimi nogami.

»O, Marija, Marija!...« Matevž je padel na obraz in zajokal. Ni videl, kako dolgo je tako ležal pred kapelico. Ko je dvignil obraz, se mu je zdelo, da ga Marija vabi k sebi, da se mu Otrok prijazno smehlja. Zavlekel se je v kapelico.

»Tule ob tvoje noge se bom stisnil in počakal jutra. Na sam sveti večer bom s teboj in Novorojenčkom.«

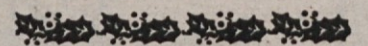
Cez Matevžev obraz je sinilo nekaj kakor svetla zarja. Prijetna toplota ga je objela in zdelo se mu je, da se je božja Mati sklonila prav do njega in mu pokazala drobceno Dete. Glavica se mu je svetila v žarki svetlobi, njegov obrazek je bil tako mil in dobrotan, da je Matevževa roka nehote šla čez njegova rožnata lička in ga pobožala.

»Pridi k meni, ki si utrujen in izmučen. Odpočij se in ogrej tu pri meni!«

Matevževe ustnice so zao-krožene v blažen smehlaj. Oči mirno zro v Dete in obraz mu je svetel kakor jutranja zarja pomladnega dne, ki mora priti.

Tako ga je našel čez dva dni Boštetov, ki je šel po repo v kopo.

*Božja Beseda
(jan. 1959)*



»POMIŽJEKI« ZA BOŽIČ V HALOZAH

Kdor je bral Meškove spise, bo vedel, kaj je »sveti post«. To je dan pred Božičem. Z njim je bilo nekdanj združene veliko poezije.

Na sveti post spečejo po vseh Halozah po tri poprtnike, ki jim pravijo »pomižjeki«. Ponekod jih napolnijo s suhihmi hruškami in jabolčnimi krhlji. Na vrh tretjega pomižjeka prilepí gospodinja še manjši kolaček.

Na sveti post se vsi postijo do enajstih. Dó te ure so še vsi tešči, vsi trije pomižjeki pa morajo biti takrat pečeni. Preden se lotijo Haložani druge jedi ta dan, se najprej odteščajó s požirkom žganja in pri-grizkom česna. Imajo vero, da bi utegnili brez tega jed škodovati.

Ko ugotovijo, da so pomižjeki pečeni, se vsedejo okoli

mize za obed, ki sestoji iz samih postnih jedi, mora jih pa biti devet, vsaka različna od prejšnje. Na primer: gobova juha, hruškova juha, suhe kuhane slive in jabolka, repa, krompir, kostanj, fižol, juha iz sliv in — pomižjek. Zaenkrat samo prvi od treh.

Med to pojedino imajo otroci posebne naloge. Morajo se odtrgati od mize in teči v drvarnico po drva, ki jih prinesejo v kuhinjo. Nato pa hitro nazaj k mizi! Če je otrok večje število, nastane huda tekma, ker vsak hoče biti prvi spet nazaj pri mizi. Komur se posreči, da je ostale prekosil v hitrosti, dobi priznanje in sloves, da bo vse naslednje leto najurnejši.

Popoldne poteka v zadnjih pripravah za veliki praznik. Ko se zmračí, vzame gospodar posodo z blagoslovljeno vodo in gre kropiti po vsej hiši, gospodarskih poslopij in tudi po polju. Gospodinja mu sledi s kajenjem, za njo pa otroci. Vsi molijo rožni venec. Nato se vrnejo v hišo in se zberejo okoli drevesca, ki ga okrase z vsem mogočim, in tudi jaslice si napravijo. Tako poteče čas do polnočnice.

Po mnogih krajih v Halozah in okolici ne čakajo z božičevanjem do zadnjih dni. Razni obredi in priprave se začno že z adventom. V Ptujju je nekdanj veljal za nekaj prvi božični, ali vsaj predbožični praznik god sv. Barbare, 4. decembra. Na ta dan so ptujška dekleta narezala vejic s sadnih dreves — sliv, češenj in višenj — in jih položila na toplem kraju v posodo z vodo. Ker so kmetice v okolici poznale te običaje mestnih deklet, so prinašale take vejice tudi na trg.

Zdaj je bilo treba čakati, koliko teh vejic se bo do božičnega večera razcvetelo. Če bi se nobena, je bilo jasno, da v Ptujju naslednje leto ne bo nobene — poroke. Pravijo pa, da so se vedno vse vejice razcvetele, zato so se ptujška dekleta tako hitro možila, da jih je sproti zmanjkovalo.

Toda tudi otroci so imeli na Barbarino svoj dan in temu primeren posel. Dečki šolarji so vstali že ob treh ali štirih zjutraj ter hodili pod okna odraslih fantov »Barbare voščiti«. Voščila so se glasila tako in podobno:

*»Bog vam daj dosti sreče,
vse se naj vam dobro steče:
naj piščeta dobe kobile,
koklre kup telet zredile,
krave naj dobe žrebeta,
koze vržejo praseta... itd.*

Za voščila so prejemale razne darove, dostikrat v denarju, ki so si ga nekateri kar precej nabrali.

Na Barbarino je veljal tudi za ženske poseben predpis. Nobena ni smela ta dan v mlin. Še blizu ni smela, kajšele, da bi kaj prinesla ali odnesla. Če bi se katera spozabila, gorje mlinarju! Vse naslednje leto bo imel nesrečo in bo vse polomil, česar se bo lotil...

Pač poezija iz časov, ki niso poznali radia in televizije in nič vedeli o sodobnem božičevanju...

Božična simfonija

Ti daleč boš, jaz sama bom na sveti večer:
nad hlevcem zvezda bo svetila,
neskončna pesem zganila bo vsemir,
blestela angelcem se bodo krila...
Ograde in bori in skale
šepet svoj v pesem bodo izlile,
se s spevi angelov združile...
Valovi bodo se umirili
in sladke strune morje bo ubralo,
da slajše Detece bi božje spalo...;
bom zate Ga miru prosila,
bom sama Detece molila...
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AMERI

AMERISKA DOMOVINA

SLOVENIAN MORNING NEWSPAPER

AMERISKA DOMOVINA, DECEMBER 16, 1988

Slovenian Exhibit at Chicago S&I



The 47th annual "Christmas Around the World" Festival will be featured Nov. 25 through Jan. 2 at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.

Forty-three ethnic groups will be represented in this year's Yuletide gala highlighted by a forest of Christmas trees, creches, free weekend theater performances, International Buffets, choral and instrumental groups, Christmas Storyhours, a Christmas Shoppe and an International Cafe. New additions to the 1988 celebration are exhibi-

tions of collectible toys and 15 life-size Santas from around the world.

In the photo is Slovenia representative, Rev. Vendelin Spendov of Lemont, Illinois shown preparing for the upcoming festivities.

The Museum is located at 57th St. and Lake Shore Dr. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Admission and parking are free. The Museum is handicapped accessible and open every day of the year except Christmas day.

Greetings from Rome



The following letter was received from Father Frank Godic, a native Cleveland from the St. Vitus area, who is studying at the Institute for Continuing Theological Education in Rome, Italy.

The Institute for Continuing Theological Education is going quite well. I am learning new and wonderful things, and am being reminded of so much I might have forgotten since seminary days. We are in session every weekday morning and afternoon, studying Liturgy, Scripture, Theology, and Canon Law.

The experience of Rome and the Vatican is not to be discounted. So much history is present here. The history of Rome is fascinating enough; the presence of the early

Church makes it so much more meaningful. A city sanctified by the blood of martyrs!

As the center of Christendom, the Vatican is home to our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. I have had the privilege of assisting at various ceremonies he's held.

Small world, isn't it? The two nuns directing the Motherhouse for the Sisters of Notre Dame are Saint Alexis Nursing grads — Sister Mary Neil and Sister Mary Joanita.

A high point in October was a retreat in Assisi (Italy). I prayed for all of you. God bless; we'll meet again in December.

Father Frank Godic
St. Alexis Chaplain
Cleveland, Ohio

Miracle at St. Victor's

by Vince Gostilna

"Just a week before Christmas," muttered the aging priest to himself. He was in the middle of preparing the Christmas Mass schedule as he reflected on the coming holiday.

There were a hundred details to work on, the weary pastor, Fr. Bartholemew Bogdan, his wrinkled face etched with the lines of passing time, thought back on his 40 years at St. Victor.

The parish, founded by immigrant Slavs who came to America before the turn of the century, was still a vibrant parish in the 1980s. Of course the congregation's size had diminished somewhat since many had saved a portion of their meager earnings for a home in the suburbs.

Those who chose to stay on at St. Victor's, however, were an energetic and hardy lot. They attended religious services frequently and partook in parish life with a fervor. And those who had left, returned to attend Masses on Christmas and Easter and filled the venerable Gothic house of worship.

Some came to again see the life-sized figures that comprised the nativity scene within the church. The crib set was more than 40 years old, having been donated by returning war veterans in thanksgiving for their life having been spared in the field of battle on foreign soil.

It was at this point that Fr. Bart became uneasy and somewhat edgy. How would he explain to his flock that the statue of St. Joseph was gone from the creche — stolen from the church courtyard where it had been set to dry after undergoing a new coat of brown paint. Who took it and why was still a mystery to Fr. Bogdan and the local police.

"First things first," he reminded himself. "I must get all those cassocks and surplices mended, as there's no money for new ones. 'I'll take them to Tony Yarch, the little, balding tailor whose shop was directly across the street from St. Victor's.'"

Hurriedly he went into the sacristy and gathered the altar boys' garb under his arm and moved with dispatch to the tailor.

Now Tony was busy pressing suits, and was whistling an old Slovenian tune when the aging cleric entered his shop. "Hello, Tony, how are you today," inquired Fr. Bogdan.

"Swell, Bart" answered the man behind the pressing machine.

Tony was a good man, Fr. Bart would often say to parishioners who pointed an accusing finger at the diminutive tailor. Tony had attended church services regularly before his wife's death 20 years ago. But since then he had lapsed in his Mass attendance and was one of those "inactive" parishioners who probably would never again be seen in St. Victor's church until he was carried there by six pallbearers.

"Say, Tony, mend these, will you?"

"Sure, Bart, I'll work on them today and you can pick them up tomorrow."

The priest again dashed back to the rectory and called long distance to Washington Square in New York City. "Hello, Monumental Works, I'd like to speak to Mr. Petosky. Mr. Petosky? It's only one week before Christmas and I still have not received the replacement statue."

The reply was brief, apologetic, and disappointing. There had been a mix-up in his order and it would be impossible to ship a statue within the next few weeks.

The next day, his spirits sagging from the bad news, Fr. Bart again returned to the little tailor shop to pick up the mended surplices and cassocks.

Burdened and beset with the problem of no St. Joseph statue for the crib scene at midnight Mass, he told his old friend Tony of his problem.

Tony just shook his head when he heard the whole story and mumbled, "I'm sorry to hear that, Bart, but what can you do?"

The day before Christmas arrived much too soon and the small loyal cadre of war veterans arrived to set up the crib scene with the life-size figures. The pastor sadly informed them of the stolen St. Joseph statue.

It was just a matter of time before the tragedy of the missing statue became known to all the parishioners. It seems that bad news spreads like wildfire.

That night, Christmas eve, the choir began their traditional singing of Slovenian and English carols. Father Bart quickly attired himself in the Mass vestments and vowed to himself he would not look at the crib, so dismayed was he about the missing statue.

As the altar boys and he proceeded into the sanctuary, he heard that filled church buzz with excitement. All their eyes were on the crib scene and

despite his intention not to look, Fr. Bart cast a quick glance and lo and behold, there was a St. Joseph figure, kneeling next to the manger and child.

"Is it a miracle?" Fr. Bart gasped aloud.

Slowly, Fr. Bart's tired, old eyes focused closer on the St. Joseph statue. Tears began forming in his eyes as he realized that kneeling in the crib scene, dressed in brown, custom-made long robes, was his friend, Tony the tailor.

To this day, the parishioners of St. Victor's fondly recall the time when their current usher and Holy Name member took it upon himself to ease the burden of his friend, Fr. Bart, and delight his fellow parishioners during Midnight Mass at St. Victor church.

Travel News from William Jenko

Editor:

This month, December of 1988 marks the 23rd anniversary of a survey trip to this area sponsored by my employer, IBM, which resulted in us being transferred from a New York location to Raleigh, N.C. Originally from Cleveland; my wife and I have moved a total of 19 times during our 48 years of marriage!

Now, having been retired from IBM, it would be difficult to re-locate again and detach us from friends, clubs and other social activities. We do get to visit Cleveland twice a year to see a daughter in Chesterland, Ohio and also to dance to the wonderful polka bands in the Cleveland area.

October 5th marked 48 years of marriage and we spent two wonderful evenings at the Dubrovnik Gardens in Mentor to celebrate with family and friends.

Mary, my wife, has a mother in Cleveland who attained the Centenarian (100) years of age on Dec. 8th. I believe that back in those days in Europe birthdays were not precisely recorded but rather associated with feast days, December 8 being that of the Immaculate Conception.

The tornado which passed through Raleigh at 1:15 a.m. on November 28 left us, thankfully, unscathed. In fact we were made aware of its occurrence by an early morning call from our daughter in Ohio. We were awakened by the intensity of the thunderstorm only, but did not sense the presence of a tornado.

Sincerely,
William J. Jenko
Raleigh, N.C.

Košnik, Logar are St. Vitus Honorees

by Dan J. Postotnik

At an Appreciation Dinner for Summer Festival workers and other parish volunteers held in the auditorium on Friday, Nov. 18, two very active members of St. Vitus Parish in Cleveland were honored for their outstanding work. They are Amalija Košnik, the widow of former organist Martin Košnik, and James Logar. Father Joseph Božnar, pastor, made the beautiful plaque presentations.

Mrs. Amalija Košnik, 1026 E. 61 St., Cleveland, has been singing with the Slovenian Church Choir "Lira" for about 32 years. She also enthusiastically leads the singing at the daily 7:30 a.m. Mass, and we have heard her lovely soprano voice on many other occasions.

Mrs. Košnik is a member of the St. Vitus Legion of Mary, a past member of the Mothers Club, and an active member of the Altar and Rosary Society. And for the past several years has been its president, capably directing its many activities.

James Logar of Karl Drive, Richmond Heights, Ohio was born and lived in the St. Vitus area for a good portion of his life, and was a faithful Mass server in his younger years. He has continued as an active member of the parish. Jim was elected parish councilman for many years, has served as an usher for decades, and in recent years was promoted to Eucharistic Minister. As far back as I can remember he has served as co-chairman and

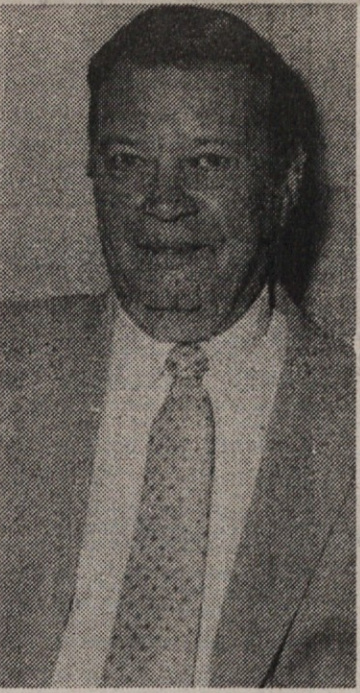


Amalija Košnik

chairman of Summer and Fall Festivals. And in 1949 he was one of the organizers of the St. Vitus Catholic War Veterans, Post 1655. In between times, he unobtrusively helps at various tasks.

Several years ago Jim had a brush with death, but the doctors did a good job of fixing his heart, and now, he is as good as new.

We congratulate Amalija Košnik and James Logar for the honors which they have received, and we thank them for all they have done for St. Vitus parish!



James Logar

Catherine Marie Leben makes debut

Catherine Marie Leben was born recently to Frank and Margaret Leben of Sayle Dr., Willoughby Hills, Ohio. The baby weighed 7 lbs., 11 ozs. She has brothers Christopher, 5, and Stephen, 2.

They are the grandchildren of Mrs. Marija Leben who is grandmother of nine.

by Stane J. Kuhar
Within a short two weeks we will again celebrate one of the most important holy days established by the Christian world around the fourth century. Christmas.

Even in those countries where Christmas, the birth of Christ, is not acknowledged as a holy day or the prominent religion is not based in the Christian world, a day of celebration is practiced. Therefore this day is universally recognized as a significant event that did alter the course of mankind although we may tend to downplay its true meaning; and expect an exchange of goods even though its importance is to give.

For those of us who are of Slovenian descent this day marks a striking contrast with those Slovenians living in Slovenia as the government still does not acknowledge this day as either a holy day or holiday as does almost the entire world. Despite all the talk by many public figures in Slovenia, we in North and South America, and other parts of the world where there are people of Slovene descent, see the current government devoid of moral leadership and not making freedom a reality in Slovenia under their control.

The birth of Christ did signal to mankind that man is to be free and live in peace with one another. But that man is also to see his own limitations and realize that the saving grace received from God will enable man to clearly recognize we are to contribute, and not control, to one another. This reality has not yet come about even after almost 2,000 years since the birth of Christ.

I have often been asked by many people what should Christmas be to us. My response has pretty much remained the same: give of yourself some part that is important to you.

What does this mean?

Make a donation to your parish. Give food to a Food Bank. Take the time to bundle and pack clothing for the needy to the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

But above all else do something that will benefit someone else besides yourself. If you do not then the purpose and meaning of Christmas is not yet clear to you.

Christmas is not a once-a-year event but a glowing reminder that as much as possible we should try to contribute to others within our own limitations and resources.

As that wonderful day draws closer to one another we

should try to reflect on the true meaning of Christ's birth.

To all the readership of this newspaper may you experience again the joy felt on this

special day and pray for one another so that we are guided to truly serve one another.

Vesele božičnje praznike in srečno novo leto!!

Grdina - Cosic Funeral Home Merger



Terry Hinkle and wife, Tonia Grdina, shake hands with Dan Cosic on their merger agreement. In the background is a painting of Anton Grdina by Bozidar Jakac.

The 85-year-old Grdina Funeral Home proudly announces a merger with the funeral business of licensed funeral director, Dan Cosic. The two funeral homes at 17010 Lake Shore Blvd. and at 1053 East 62nd Street will be operated as "Grdina-Cosic Funeral Home," with plans for remodeling at the St. Clair location, future expansion and the possible acquisition of other east side funeral home locations.

The Grdina Funeral Home, a prominent force in the Cleveland area funeral industry for eight decades, is presently one of the busiest funeral homes serving the east

side of Cleveland. A merger will increase the size of the professional staff and allow Grdina-Cosic Funeral Home to better serve its families with the personal attention that is a Grdina trademark.

Dan Cosic, born in the St. Clair neighborhood, currently owns two funeral homes on the west side of Cleveland. Dan's interest in the funeral business was fostered as a young man by Anthony Grdina, the son of Grdina Funeral Home founder, Anton Grdina. "We will work together to provide dignified funeral services, while channeling more resources into pre-need planning and counseling services," said Tonia Grdina.

Events

Sunday, Dec. 18

Christmas Party for the Youth members of KSKJ lodges St. Lawrence No. 63, St. Joseph No. 146, and St. Anne No. 150 at the Slovenian Hall on E. 80th at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 31

Korotan Singing Society "Silvestrovanje" with dinner at 7 p.m. at the Slovenian Home on Holmes Ave.

Saturday, Dec. 31

Newburgh Slovenian National Home, E. 80th St. New Year's Eve sit down dinner includes bottle. \$50 per couple. For tickets call 676-6824, 341-7540 or 641-9072.

1989

Sunday, June 25

Ohio Federation KSKJ Day and Picnic at St. Joseph Grove on White Rd., Willoughby Hills, Ohio. Music by Button Box Players.

December Printing Schedule:

The Amerišks Domovina newspaper will be printed every Tuesday and Friday in December with the exception of Tuesday, Dec. 27 when there will be no paper because of the Christmas holiday.

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We thank you for your understanding and support in our joint effort to assist the American Home newspaper. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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2 egg whites
3/4 cup sugar
Dash salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 package (7 oz.) shredded coconut
Green food coloring (optional)

Preheat oven to 325°F. Line 2 cookie sheets with foil or parchment paper. In medium bowl mix egg whites, sugar, salt and vanilla. Add flour and stir until well blended. Fold in coconut and food coloring. Drop dough by teaspoonfuls about 1 inch apart onto prepared cookie sheets. Bake 15 to 20 minutes until light brown. Cool on cookie sheets. Peel foil from cookies. Makes about 28 cookies, about 60 calories each.



MARGOT KIDDER'S
HONEY DATE BARS

3/4 cup honey
2 eggs
3 tablespoons vegetable shortening
1 cup pitted dates
2/3 cup nuts
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease an 8-inch square baking pan. In blender container combine honey, eggs and shortening. Blend until smooth. With motor running gradually add dates. When thoroughly chopped, add nuts and blend 1 or 2 seconds more. In medium mixer combine flour, baking powder and salt. Stir honey mixture into dry ingredients until combined. Pour in prepared pan. Bake 30 minutes until top is golden brown. Cut in 2 1/2 x 1-inch bars. Dip cut sides in confectioners' sugar. Makes 24, about 120 calories each.



JEAN STAPLETON'S
NUT FINGERS

3/4 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon water
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups finely chopped black walnuts or pecans
About 1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, for coating

Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease 2 large cookie sheets. In large bowl cream butter or margarine and 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar until light and fluffy. Add 1 cup flour and baking powder; beat until well mixed. Add remaining flour, water and vanilla and mix well. Dough should be stiff. Stir in nuts. Pinch off small pieces of dough and form into finger shapes. Place on cookie sheets. Bake 10 to 12 minutes until light golden. Immediately roll in confectioners' sugar. Cool on wire rack and roll again in remaining sugar. Makes 8 dozen, about 55 calories each.



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Christ's birth and Slovenian Heritage

By James V. Debevec

How can the meaning behind the song, "Silent Night" be united with the characteristics of the Slovenian identity?

On Friday, December 9, the Slovenian American Heritage Foundation, under the presidency of Dr. Karl Bonutti held their annual get-together with Bishop A. Edward Pevec at his residence at Borromeo College in Wickliffe, Ohio to observe the St. Nicholas tradition of gift-giving and good fellowship.

Last year over 350 persons attended, but last Friday, probably due to the sudden snow storm that day and the rush of the Christmas season, slightly more than 250 came.

The evening began with an organ recital at 6:30 p.m. by Michael Denea, a senior law student at Case Western Reserve University.

During the Mass at 7:00 p.m. The Glasbena Matica chorus under the direction of Marija Ashamala outdid themselves with beautiful singing during the Mass accompanied by

Reginald Resnik on piano. John Srsen led the popular Fantje na Vasi, men's singing group.

Main offertory gift bearers carrying the hosts and water and wine were James and Madeline Debevec. They were followed by numerous persons representing organizations or individuals with gifts for the bishop.

During the offertory, \$350 was collected by ushers Edmund Turk and Gene Drobnic which was turned over to Bishop Pevec's favorite charity, Catholic Hunger and Shelter Fund. Those wishing to give to this fund may send a check to the bishop at Borromeo College, 28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, OH 44092.

After the Mass, everyone was treated to a delightful Christmas concert by Glasbena Matica featuring small groups, then the entire ensemble. It was truly outstanding.

Joining in the spirit of the occasion, the Fantje na Vasi sang

in Latin a 16th century song titled, "Ecce Quomodo Moritur" by Jakob Petelin Gallus, a mid-16th century composer who wrote numerous religious melodies. It is Gallus' most famous work and Fantje's director John Srsen said the words were translated into Slovenian and roughly speaking, a few lines mean, "See how the Man suffers, carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders. But he'll live forever." It's a very difficult number to sing and was originally sung by Fantje na Vasi five years ago as an octet but the members liked the challenge and now it is sung as a choir number.

The evening ended with the combined choruses and everyone in attendance singing "Silent Night."

But during his homily Bishop Pevec spoke a masterpiece. It was like a well thought-out plot to a novel. He began with a comment on the Christmas season song, "Silent Night" talking about the period of time around Christ's birth.

The bishop spoke about John the Baptist of whom the people asked, "Who are you?" Bishop Pevec said prophets were often misunderstood and frequently put to death.

From there he spoke about his Slovenian background and stated he was "Proud of his Slovenian heritage," and how he enjoyed being here once again with all his friends.

Just about this time most of us were wondering if the good bishop was just meandering with his thoughts darting from 2,000 years ago to the present, and then back again.

But he tied it all together perfectly with a big bow ribbon when he answered the question proposed to John the Baptist of "Who are you?" Because the question can be asked of us today, "Who Are We?"

The answer goes back to the birth of Jesus secondly to our Slovenian ancestors. And the answer thirdly falls on our shoulders.

A new religion was born with the birth of Christ. Our Slovenian traditions were begun by our Slovenian ancestors. And we here in the chapel on that snowy evening were the benefits of both occurrences because we have used our gained knowledge and heritage background to begin a new Slovenian tradition. And that custom is all of us coming together in harmony at Mass followed with good Slovenian fellowship and food. In reality, it all began with "Silent Night, Holy Night."

The evening concluded with four members of the Heritage Foundation being given mementos in recognition of their years of dedicated service to the organization. They are James Logar, Sophie and Anne Opeka, and Dr. Rudolph M. Susel.



Dr. Karl Bonutti lists the group's activities for the year.



Msgr. Louis B. Baznik assists Bishop Pevec at Mass.



Ann Opeka was Master of Ceremonies.



Fr. James L. Caddy, rector-president of Borromeo College talks about the school's achievements.



Bishop Edward Pevec receives offertory gifts from Emilee Jenko and Gene Drobnic.

(Photos by Tony Grdina)



Marija Ashamala leads Glasbena Matica chorus



Dr. Karl Bonutti, left, president of the Slovenian American Heritage Foundation, offers congratulations to three hard-working individuals who received special recognition. They are Ann Opeka, Sophie Opeka, and Jim Logar.



Marie Pivik offers gifts to Bishop Pevec.

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Yugoslav Bank, diplomat charged for money laundering

A federal grand jury in Philadelphia indicted the American unit of a Yugoslavian bank and a Yugoslavian diplomat for conspiring to illegally launder about \$1.5 million in U.S. currency.

Named in the 21-count indictment were LBS Bank of New York Inc., a unit of the Yugoslavian bank **Ljubljanska Banka**, and Bahrudin Bijedic, Yugoslavia's consul-general in Chicago. Also named in the indictment were Vinko Mir, chairman of LBS Bank, and three other men. None of the defendants could be reached for comment.

At a press conference in Philadelphia, William von Raab, commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service, said there wasn't evidence that the Yugoslavian government was involved in illegal activities. An undercover investigation is continuing, prosecutors said.

According to the indictment, the defendants on several occasions received U.S. currency from undercover U.S. agents. The defendants believed the funds were derived from illegal activity, including illegal transfers of high technology abroad, prosecutors said.

The defendants illegally transported the money to foreign banks in Yugoslavia and elsewhere and then had it transferred back to the U.S., concealing the true source of the funds, prosecutors said.

The defendants kept 6% to 7% of the laundered funds as payment, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said the defendants were in the process of being arrested and faced possible prison terms and fines as great as \$5 million.

(From Wall Street Journal
Reports)

Buran Touchdown

Editor:

I hope all Americans viewed or read about with great pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment, the touchdown of *Buran*, the Soviet space shuttle, on the 2.7-mile Soviet Central Asia airstrip after its three-plus hours unmanned maiden flight on November 15.

All Americans should be overjoyed with this mission because only with the United States' supply of knowledge, technology, raw materials, parts, credits, loans, and cash to the Soviet Union was it able to build and fly such a sophisticated machine.

Are Americans supposed to believe that the Soviet economy, which can't produce the food or even toilet paper for its own citizens, could, without United States' assistance, develop such an advanced spacecraft? Ha, ha.

Joseph Ogrinc
Bratenahl, Ohio

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Father Charles J. Strellick, Executive Director

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Revival of the Accordion seen in contemporary music

by Barbara Jepson
The Wall Street Journal
New York — "The accordion is the Zelig of musical instruments," says Guy Klucvsek. "When you play with strings, it sounds like a violin. When you play with reeds, it blends with the saxophones."

Mr. Klucvsek, who gets around his 4 1/2-octave "free bass" with the agility of a Horowitz, is one of today's leading accordion virtuosos. Of course, the very notion of an accordion virtuoso might seem odd. To some, the instrument is extricably linked with the "Beer Barrel Polka" and "The Lawrence Welk Show"; to others, it evokes the comic antics of Weird Al Yankovic. And all of us have encountered the typical squeeze-boxer at weddings, who drowns out everyone else with loud wheezes.

But these days, the accordion's reputation is on the rise. One reason is the growing use of the instrument on albums by rock stars such as Paul Simon and Bruce Springsteen. Another is the burgeoning audience for various accordion-flavored ethnic musics: the spicy soundtrack for "The Big Easy" won new converts to Cajun and zydeco; Tex-Mex and Nuevo Tango have their own popular

proponents. Finally, there are trailblazing virtuosos such as Mr. Klucvsek, who is expanding the instrument's parameters via his performances, commissions and compositions.

The 41-year-old musician has performed works by contemporary composers such as David Del Tredici and by art rockers such as John Zorn. After avoiding the polka like the plague for more than a decade, he decided to take a fresh look at the genre. In November he played "Polka From the Fringe" with his band at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival.

At his request, 30 "downtown" composers wrote short works using the traditional, two-step polka as a takeoff point. There's an atonal, Third Viennese School version by Rolf Groesbeck; rock-influenced hybrids such as Bobby Previte's "Nova Scotia Polka," with its ear-catching tempo changes; and parodies such as Christian Marclay's "Ping Pong Polka," a pastiche of dance clichés with an electronic overlay. "You could party to many of the works," says Mr. Klucvsek, "but there's some 3 against 2 that would throw your legs off."

The dark-haired musician grew up in a hotbed of Slovenian polka activity in western Pennsylvania. He began studying the accordion around the age of seven and formed his own band in high school. "We played Slovenian polkas and arrangements of the song, 'Sixteen Candles,'" he says.

It wasn't until he began pursuing music school catalogs that he realized his accordion ardor wasn't universal. "There was nothing under 'A' in their list of instruments," recalls Mr. Klucvsek, a stocky, bespectacled man who looks more like an accountant than a musician. "They all started with the bassoon." So he got his master's in composition, studying with electronic music pioneer Morton Subotnick at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alas, by the time Mr. Klucvsek started looking for bookings and commissions, the instrument's popularity was on the wane. During the mid-1960s, American teenagers had transferred their attention to the electric guitar; in their minds, the accordion was inextricably linked with the hokiness of Welk's "champagne music." Sales plummeted in the little Italian town of Castelfidardo, long the accordion-making capital of the world. Competition from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and China added to the economic woes, and many Italian companies consolidated or went out of business.

Today, while U.S. imports remain paltry compared with the late 1960s, when some 300,000 units were brought in annually, the downtrend has been reversed. Castiglione Accordion & Distributing Co. in Detroit, the largest U.S. importer/distributor, reports "A 40% increase in sales during the last year alone," according to its president, John Castiglione. Alex Carozza of Alex Musical Instruments Inc. in New York says accordions accounted for 35% of his business last year, up from 10% in 1980.

The main surge has occurred in accordions with Midi attachments — a more expressive alternative that allows touch sensitivity as well as syn-

thesized sounds — and in concertinas or button accordions geared to the amateur that sell for \$300 to \$2,000. Top-notch instruments by leading manufacturers run between \$5,000 to \$12,000. (Mr. Klucvsek plays Giulietti or Titano piano accordions with the more flexible, more difficult free bass rather than the traditional Stradella bass with its preset chords designed mainly for accompaniment.)

The musician has had his own quiet growth as well. Three years ago, he had to supplement his musical earnings with office temp work as a word processor. Now he tours with Relache, the Philadelphia-based contemporary music ensemble, and last summer, he appeared at Lincoln Center's "Big Squeeze" Festival.

But solo opportunities remain limited because composers have not taken an ongoing interest in the instrument, which was developed during the 1820s. Although Tchaikovsky wrote an accordion part in his Suite No. 2 and American composers such as Virgil Thomson tackled the

instrument during the 1950s, the classical repertoire remains pretty thin. Mr. Klucvsek, who lives on Staten Island with his wife and an extremely affectionate calico kitten, has added to it with his large-scale works for multiple accordions that create rippling walls of sound.

Still, a lot remains to be done. "We need more works by composers of stature," Mr. Klucvsek declares.

"We need manufacturers who will quit worrying about whether their left-hand bass system is better than someone else's and standardize the instrument. We need more good teachers — right now, there are only a half a dozen who can play the free bass with ease."

Over the years, however, he has learned to be patient. "The only reason I've accomplished anything is because I'm stubborn," he maintains. "I didn't keep at it out of any vision for the instrument, but to satisfy my own needs. So I just kept hanging out, doing my work, and fashions changed."

Thank You St. Nicholas



The St. Vitus Slovenian Language School wishes to express its thanks to the patron saint of children and good people, Sv. Miklavz (St. Nicholas) for visiting the many children and people this past Sunday, Dec. 4 at St. Vitus Auditorium.

A deep note of thanks and appreciation to all the parents, and friends of the Slovenian School, for preparing so well and giving a very generous gift of culture to many young children. Your work is noticed by many.

A special thank you to *American Home*, Dr. Milan Pavlovic, Tony Petkovsek,

and WJW-TV8 for promoting the event as an important part of the Slovenian culture. Portions of the program will be televised on WJW-TV8 during the 6:00 p.m. news program on December 19.

A reminder to this reading audience that many people have enabled the Slovenian culture to remain alive due to the efforts over the past 40 years of such institutions such as the Slovenian Language Schools at either St. Vitus or St. Mary's (Collinwood).

As Sv. Miklavz reminds us at this time in the year we are to be giving with our talents.

Slovenian Village Restaurant Family News

Anna and Joe Leben, owners of the Slovenian Village Restaurant, 6415 St. Clair Ave., are proud to announce the engagement of Anna's daughter, **Natalie Gjerek**, to **David Wisnieski**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin and Elsie Wisnieski.

The couple became engaged June 8, 1988 and the wedding has been set for September 2, 1989.

Joseph Gjerek, Jr., son of Anna Leben has completed infantry training in the Airborne Division of the Army at Fort Benning, Georgia.

His family and friends are anxiously awaiting his arrival



home for the holidays. Congratulations to all!



St. Joseph/Villa Angela to be under guidance of Ursuline Sisters

Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, Diocesan Secretary for Education, announced the decision to delegate the administration of the merging Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School to the Ursuline Community of Cleveland during meetings at both schools on Monday, Dec. 5th.

"This means the principal of the future school will be an Ursuline nun, and the Ursuline Community along with the Diocesan Education Office will appoint its administration," said Sister Christine.

Sister Margaret Mary Lyons, OSU, present principal of Villa Angela has been named by Sister Rose Angela, OSU,

General Superior of the Ursuline Nuns to be the first Administrator of the merged school when it opens. The Diocesan Education Office has confirmed this appointment.

The planning and implementation process for VA/SJH, is scheduled to take two school years, 1988-89 and 1989-90). The scheduled opening of the new school could begin as early as the 1990-91 school year, but the planning process may call for a delay or a phasing in stages.

The choice of a site for the new merged school will be studied by a sub-committee with recommendations made to Sr. Christine.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Joseph, Jr., Natalie, Joe and Anna Leben and Anthony

Slovenian Village Restaurant

6415 St. Clair Ave. 881-6620

Our annual meeting and the election of officers for the year 1989, drew a record attendance.

The following officers were elected: Antoinette Krajc, president; Irene Toth, 1st vice president; Angela Bolha, 2nd vice president; Ann Mack, recording secretary; Stanley Frank, financial secretary; auditors, Jewel Karpinski, Frances Kotnik, and Mary Turk. Appointees were Edward Karnak, planning chairman; kitchen hostesses, Mary Primozic, and Frances Karnak, Bingo Chairman, Phil Curtis.

Our sincere thanks to all of the outgoing staff members, and especially to our outgoing president, Margaret Kaus for her many years at the helm of our St. Clair Club. Due to her

AMLA Lodge 12 Meets Dec. 18

AMLA Lodge Ribnica No. 12 will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m. at the home of President Louis Silc, 30417 Oakdale Rd., off E. 305 St., Willowick, O.

Election of officers and lodge representatives will take place in addition to other important business matters to be voted upon by the membership.

A special door prize will be awarded to each new member attending the meeting for the first time. A Christmas Social will follow serving the usual ethnic food and refreshments.

To all our ailing and disabled brothers and sisters, we send lots of get well wishes. To the families of those of our members who have gone before us, our thoughtful prayers.

We hope to see many of our members present and extend to each and everyone of you the gifts of a blessed Christmas.

Fraternally,
Carole Czeck,
Secretary



involvement in a number of other organizations, she feels the need for some temporary relief. We know that she will be available to advise and assist us when needed or called upon.

We extend our welcome to our newly elected president, Antoinette Krajc. Although new to this position, with the support of her staff and members, she will adjust quickly and do fine.

We welcome the other newly elected officers. Vice president, Angela Bolha, is capable and is also fluent in both English and Slovenian. Ann Mack has been temporarily filling in for our ailing recording secretary, and will now become the duly elected. Our thanks to the other officers who accepted nominations to continue for another year. Special thanks to Irene Toth for continuing with the duties of "Sunshine Lady."

Special thanks to Edward Karnak and his committee for the excellent job done in 1988. This committee plans our tours, meeting speakers, dinners, etc. We are happy that they will continue in that capacity for another year.

Our most sincere thanks and appreciation to the Slovenian National Home Board of Directors for their continued support and sponsorship of our Club. It is worthy to note that this sponsorship has continued since the club's beginning in July of 1962. Almost 27 years! They deserve our full support in all of their undertakings.

Our sincere thanks also to the staff of the American Home paper for accepting and publishing our monthly articles. It has helped make our readers aware of our activities, and has inspired some to join us. Currently we are 200 plus in number.

In my last month's report, I failed to mention that we had invited Margaret Baznik,

manager of the newly opened St. Clair Health Center, to speak at our October meeting. Marge is a charming and very friendly young lady, whose radiant smile quickly put one at ease. She told us that the Center, located in the Slovenian National Home building, is prepared to provide qualified medical service for the residents of the area. Two of the three doctors on the staff, among other languages, speak Slovak, Croatian, and Slovenian.

Marge readily answered the many questions, and before leaving, extended an open invitation to all to stop in at the Center. You can expect a warm welcome even if stopping in just to ask a question or to get a free blood pressure test. Thank you Marge for your friendly and informative introduction to the new Medical Center.

During this season of *Peace and Good Will* it would be nice if each one of us would remember our ailing members, and especially those who are confined in nursing homes. Members Mary Frank, Andrew Kavchnik, and Agnes Kosec are in the Manor Care Nursing Home, at 16101 Lake Shore Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44110. Frances Phillips, Louis Prijatelj, Jane Lube, and Mary Jeraj are in the Slovene Home for the Aged, at 18621 Neff Road, Cleveland, 44119.

Julia Kamber is at the Euclid Family House, 1 Gateway Drive, Euclid, 44119. A card of cheer, I am sure would be most welcome. When signing your card, indicate that you are a member of the St. Clair Pensioners Club.

As we come to the end of the year 1988, I personally wish to extend sincere Seasons Greetings to all of our readers. May you have a Happy, Healthy, and Holy Christmas, and may the year 1989 be kind to you all!

Stanley J. Frank
Secretary

JOSEPH S. GERICH, JR.

Joseph S. Gerich, Jr., 44, of Mentor died suddenly on Thursday, Dec. 8th at Parma Community Hospital.

He was the husband of Andrea L. (nee Starc); the father of Julie, Joseph S. III and Benjamin; the son of Veronica (nee Kolaric) and the late Joseph S. Gerich, Sr.; and the brother of Stanley, Matthew and Steve.

He was a member of the St. Vitus Lodge No. 25 of the KSKJ. From 1962 until 1966, he served in the Navy. For the past three years he has been employed as a machine repairman at the Chevrolet Plant in Parma.

He was born in Yugoslavia in 1944 and came to the United States in 1952, settling in Cleveland with his family. In 1976 he moved to Euclid, where he lived for five years. In 1981 he settled in Mentor.

The Funeral Mass was Monday, December 12th at St. Mary Church at 9:30 a.m. Interment was at All Souls Cemetery. Grdina Funeral Home, 17010 Lake Shore Blvd., handled the funeral arrangements.

IVANA PETERNELJ

Ivana Peternelj, 93, died Thursday, Dec. 8 at the Conlea Nursing Home in Geneva. She was the wife of the late Anton who died in 1942; the mother of Mrs. Frank (Ivanka) Cenkar of Geneva, Maria Salbrechter of Austria and the late Tony; the grandmother of seven; the great grandmother of four; and the sister of Maria Soklic (Yugo.), and others deceased.

She was a member of KSKJ Lodge No. 172. She was born in Slovenia in 1895 and came to the United States in 1949. She lived in Cleveland for 25 years and in Geneva for 13 years. Until her retirement in 1957 she had worked for eight years as a custodian at General Electric.

The Funeral Mass was Monday, Dec. 12 at St. Vitus

Church at 9:30 a.m. Interment at All Souls Cemetery. Friends called at the Grdina Funeral Home, 17010 Lake Shore Blvd.

FRANK J. TERCEK

Frank J. Tercek, 73, passed away in California on Sunday, December 4.

Mr. Tercek was a former resident of Euclid for 25 years. He was retired from Steel Improvement Co. where he was employed for 35 years as a hammer man.

He was the husband of Jean (nee Mihevec) who died in 1986, the father of Beverly Kravos (Willoughby Hills) and Frank Jr., Johanne Taylor, and Marian Komara (all of California). He was the grandfather of four and great-grandfather of two.

Funeral services were held at St. Mary's Church and burial in Calvary Cemetery.

JOSEPHINE J. LEVSTICK

Joseph J. Levstick, age 88, passed away at her home on Friday, December 9th.

Josephine was born in Cleveland, the daughter of John and Josephine (nee Gorjanc) (both dec.). She was a resident of Hiller Avenue, Cleveland, for 31 years.

She was employed as a bookkeeper for C. Comella Produce, a distributor at the Food Terminal at E. 40th St. and Woodland, retiring in 1973 after 36 years. She was a member of the American Slovene Club, Slovenian Women's Union Branch 50, and the Euclid Pensioners.

Jo was the sister of Helen and the following deceased: John, Edward, Joseph, Paul and Raymond.

Visitation was at Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St. Services were at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Monday, Dec. 12. Burial was in the family plot at Calvary Cemetery.

EDWARD L. PRISEL

Edward L. Prisel, 72, of Acacia Drive, Willowick, passed away in Euclid Manor Nursing Home on Sunday, December 11, after a long illness.

Edward was born in Cleveland. He served in the U.S. Army in WWII. He was retired from TRW where he was employed as a press operator.

Mr. Prisel was the husband of Sophie (nee Vivic), the brother of Marlene Palmer of California and Louis (dec.). Private funeral services were held at Zele Funeral Home, 452 E. 152 St. on Monday, Dec. 12.

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**POINSETTIAS:
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Just as the Three Kings brought gifts to the Christ Child, it is Mexican custom to present gifts at the church altar on Christmas Eve. Legend relates that a poor young girl, with no money for a gift, picked some roadside weeds which she presented lovingly on the altar. Her humble gift of weeds, offered with love and sincerity, was miraculously transformed into the Flor de la Noche Buena, the Flower of the Holy Night.

The Poinsettia, as it is known to Americans, was named after Joel Poinsett, an early US Ambassador to Mexico. He first brought the lovely red and green plant to the US in 1829. Since that time it has become a popular Christmas plant, its brilliant red flower bract symbolic of the flaming Star of Bethlehem.

With proper care the colorful poinsettia may be enjoyed many weeks and even encouraged to bloom again the following Christmas. It requires at least four hours of bright light daily and fertilizing every month until fall. The soil should be kept slightly moist, particularly during the blooming period. In early spring, the past should be cut back to a height of four inches and repotted in fresh soil. For best results, the poinsettia should be grown outdoors in full sun during the summer. To induce flowering, bring the plant indoors in September, and alternate light with at least 14 hours of complete darkness every day for six weeks. After the flower bracts have begun to develop, the plant may be kept in normal indoor conditions.

FEEDING WINTER BIRDS

At Christmastime in Sweden, a "bird tree" is set in the farmyard. It consists of a tall pole, topped with a wheel on which sheaves of corn or wheat are placed to feed the winter birds. Window sills, roofs, and garden walls all become instant feeders merely by sprinkling them with handfuls of grain.

American bird lovers can adopt this lovely custom of providing a winter feast for feathered visitors. It is best to offer food that is high in energy sources to meet the demands of cold, snowy days. A diet of sunflower and mixed birdseed, suet and kitchen fats will meet the birds' nutritional needs. But for variety they will be delighted to have cracked wheat or corn, chicken scratch, bread crumbs, chopped nuts, apples, or raisins.

Snowbird Treat is easy to prepare as a special Christmas gift for winter birds. Boil 2 cups of oatmeal in 4 cups of water. Stir in 3 1/3 cups each of additional oatmeal, farina, and corn meal or grits; 1 pound lard; and 12 ounces of peanut butter. The thick mixture may be formed into balls and refrigerated to be set out as needed.

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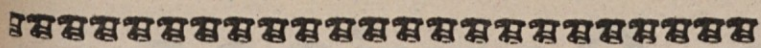
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SHA Auxiliary Members Busy Decorating

by Eleanor Pavey
Reporter

The Slovene Home for the Aged Auxiliary met on Monday, November 28, to decorate the three trees in the Solariums, the large tree in the dining room, and hang wreaths and garlands in the dining room of the Slovene Home for the Aged on Neff Rd., Cleveland.

Twenty ladies responded to the call for help. Ten were decorating while ten were busy wrapping the gifts to be presented to the residents on Saturday, December 24. A great big thank you to all.

Especially, we want to thank Gene Drobic for her efforts in securing ten new wreaths at a nominal cost which were hung in the dining room. Not to be omitted is Bertha Richter who pressed and made new bows for the wreaths and who helped Gene decorate the big tree, string the garland, and hang the new wreaths.

Space does not permit us to list all the others, but without their help we could never have completed the job that day. As it was, we came early at ten o'clock, had a break for a hot meal at a nominal fee served by the cafeteria personnel, and returned to work. Most volunteers didn't leave until three o'clock. That's dedication!

We had a short informal meeting to introduce prospective members Dorothy Elerich, Marie Gombach, Josephine Sadar and Agnes Turk. Welcome! Wasn't it a nice deed to do — Agnes Turk took notes so we were able to report to you. Members were notified that Pat Perko, dietitian at the SHA, had ordered 150 oranges for St. Nicholas Day and they were put on the breakfast trays of the residents on December 6.

A reminder for volunteers to dismantle and store the Christmas trimmings was given — therefore mark January 6 on your calendars in red ink. Come at 10 o'clock if possible. Since there will be no regular meeting until March, plans were made for doughnuts (krofe) to be ordered to be distributed to the residents on Shrove Tuesday.

We were saddened to hear that our president, Ann Ryavec's, brother passed away that morning after a long illness. Condolences to the family. A moment of silence was held in his memory.

We invite friends to become members of the Slovene Home for the Aged Auxiliary. You are NEEDED! Meetings are held the 4th Monday of the month (except January and February) at the SHA and are preceded by a luncheon served at 12:30.

We wish everyone of you a very Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for the New Year.

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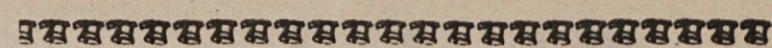
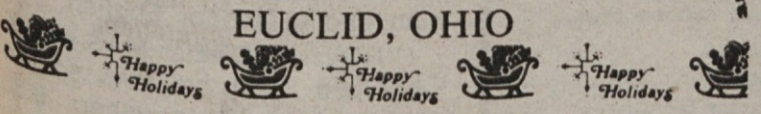
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Christmas Church Services

Christmas - Božič - 1988

St. Vitus Church

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Christmas is without doubt the most joyful time of the year. The Crib and the Tree, the lights and the music add a special glow to the season.

All these beautiful external things remain outside of us, unless their understanding and appreciation proceed from a deep sense of contentment reaching to the depths of the soul.

This true spirit of Christmas can only come about if one realizes the real message of the Feast — God become man — the birth of Jesus — God with us.

Do try to make your Christmas Christian. Come to Christmas Mass as a family and receive Our Lord in Holy Communion.

Then, will the Peace which Christ brings and His blessings last throughout the New Year.

Your priests at St. Vitus,

Father Joseph Boznar
Father William Jerse
Father Victor Cimperman

Cerkev Sv. Vida
MASSES - MAŠE

Please follow the regular weekly schedule of Masses up to Saturday morning of December 24, 1988. There will be NO Vigil Mass of Christmas at 5:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY -

12:00 Midnight Concelebrated Mass
8:00 a.m.....
9:15 a.m.....
10:30 a.m.....
12:00 noon.....
2:00 p.m.....

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO confessions in the evening, Saturday, December 24, 1988.

Confession schedule on Saturday, December 31st is as for regular Saturdays.

V soboto, na sveti večer, NE bo spovedovanja! Spovedovanje bo ob običajnem času v sredo pred Novim Letom.

NOTE: On Saturday, December 24th, there will be NO evening 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass for Christmas.

POZOR: V soboto pred Božičem NE bo sv. Maše ob 5h zvečer!

SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION
SPOVEDOVANJE

Friday, petek, 23. decembra 1988

7:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, sobota, 24. decembra 1988

7:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
11:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY -
NOVEGA LETA DAN
1989

MASSES - Maše

New Year's Day this year falls on a Sunday. Regular schedule of Masses for Sunday.

Novo leto pride na nedeljo. Mašni spored je kot ob nedeljah.

Dragi bratje in sestre!

Prazniki Gospódovega rojstva so gotovo najlepši v letu. Jaslice in božično drevesce, lučke zvonjenje in petje božičnih pesmi daje tem praznikom poseben sijaj.

Vendar so še tako lepa dejanja in stvari zgolj zunanost brez vsakega vpliva na dušo, če jih človek ne dojema in vrednoti v svojem srcu.

Pravo božično razpoloženje podoživlja samo tisti, ki pravilno razume sporočilo svete noči: Bog si privzame človeško naravo — Jezus se Rodi — Bog z nami!

Zato se potrudite, da bodo vaši prazniki res krščansko doživeti v vsakem oziru! Udeležite se prazničnega bogoslužja in prejmite Jezusa v svetem obhajilu!

Kristusov mir in njegov blagoslov naj bosta z vami v novem letu 1988!

Vaši duhovniki pri Svetem Vidu

Father Joseph Boznar
Father William Jerse
Father Victor Cimperman

Cerkev Sv. Vida
MASSES - MAŠE

Prosimo sledite do sobote
zjutraj 24. decembra 1988, spored
sv. maš v oznanilu! Večerne sv.
maše ob 5h to soboto NE bo!

SVETI DAN

12:00 Koncelebrirana polnočnica
Slovenian Mass - slovenska maša
English Mass - angleška maša
Slovenian Mass - slovenska maša
English Mass - angleška maša
Singing of the Litany of our Blessed Mother, followed by Benediction
Slovenske pete litanije Matere Božje in blagoslov z Najsvetejšim.

ST. CHRISTINE'S CHURCH

840 E. 22ND STREET
EUCLID, OHIO 44123
261-1410



IS BORN!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Holiday Greetings! The entire staff and parish of St. Christine Church wish everyone choicest blessings of the New Born Babe and that your New Year be filled with the wisdom of the Magi, the illumination of His star, and the peace which radiates from the Christ Child.

Rev. Francis R. Sterk, Pastor
Rev. Francis M. Paik, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. James M. Roach, Associate
Rev. Joseph F. Celesnik, Pastor Emeritus
Sister Gale Marn, Pastoral Minister

Church of St. Mary

Cerkev sv. Marije

CHRISTMAS — BOŽIČ 1988

Dear Parishioners,

The mystery of Christmas is so simple that even a child can understand its meaning, yet so profound that even theologians cannot grasp completely the greatness of the event. The story of the first Christmas is God's greatest love story. Because a humble virgin named Mary said 'yes' to God, the Word was made Flesh and dwells among us so that we on earth can taste immortality. It is because the loving presence of Jesus Christ is still with us that we can celebrate this great feast is a spirit of joy and wonderment. On Christmas Day, we like Mary the Mother of God, humbly bow down before the King of kings and Lord of lords and like the shepherds of Bethlehem give the new born Jesus our reverence, our prayers, and our dedicated service.

Please take the opportunity to enter more completely into the divine life of Jesus our Savior by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participating fully in the liturgies of this holy season. May the blessings of Jesus, the Prince of Peace be yours on Christmas Day and throughout the New Year 1989!

Your priests at St. Mary's
Rev. John Kumse
Rev. Joseph Lieberth

MASSES - MAŠE
BOŽIČNA VIGILIJA

5:00 p.m. Children's Mass - Otroška Maša

11:30 p.m. Christmas songs by church choir

Petje božičnih pesmi

12:00 a.m. Concelebrated Midnight Mass

Koncelebrirana polnočnica

Dragi farani!

Skrivnost Božiča je zelo preprosta, saj še otrok razume njen pomen, a vendar tako globoka, da niti teologi ne morejo temeljito dognati veličine tega dogodka. Pripoved prvega Božiča je največja Božja pripoved ljubezni, ker je ponižna devica po imenu Marija rekla 'da' Bogu. Beseda je meso postala in prebiva med nami, da mi tu na zemlji lahko okusimo večno življenje. In ker je ljubezniva navzočnost Jezusa Kristusa še vedno med nami, mi lahko praznujemo ta velik praznik v duhu radosti in veselja. Na Božični dan mi, kot Marija mati Boga, ponižno kleči pred Kraljem vseh kraljev, Gospoda vseh gospodov in kakor Betlehemiški pastirji, damo novorojenemu Jezusu naše češčenje, našo vdanost in molitev.

Vabimo Vas, poslužite se prilike, da vstopite bolj popolni v življenje Jezusa, našega Odrašenika, s spovedjo in v polnem sodelovanju bogoslužja v tem svetem času.

Naj blagoslov Jezusa, Kneza miru bo z vami na Božični dan in ob Novem letu 1989!

CHRISTMAS DAY - SVETI DAN

7:00 a.m. English Mass -Angleška Maša

8:00 a.m. Slovenian Mass -Slovenska Maša

9:15 a.m. English Mass -Angleška Maša

10:30 a.m. Slovenian Mass -Slovenska Maša

12:00 noon English Mass -Angleška Maša

2:00 p.m. Sung Litany of the Blessed Virgin

and Benediction

Pete litanije Matere Božje in Blagoslov z Najsvetejšim

SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION
Spovedovanje

WEDNESDAY, sredo 21. decembra 1988

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, petek 23. decembra 1988

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, sobota 24. decembra 1988

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

There will be NO confessions during the afternoon and evening on Christmas Eve. Confessions will be heard at the usual times on Saturday, December 31st.

V soboto popoldan in zvečer, 24. decembra NE BO Spovedovanja. Spovedovanje bo ob običajnem času v soboto pred novim letom.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - NOVEGA

LETA DAN 1989

The Mass schedule for New Year's Day will be a regular Sunday Mass schedule.

Na novega leta dan bodo sv. maše kot običajno ob nedeljah.

MASS CHANGE REMINDER

Beginning Sunday, January 8, 1989 we will have three Sunday Masses:

8:30 a.m. English, 10:00 a.m. Slovenian, and 12:00 noon English.

NOVI SPORED MAŠ. Z 8. januarjem 1989 bo novi spored nedeljskih maš in sicer:

8:30 angleška, 10:00 slovenska in 12:00 angleška.