ABOUT NOVI GLAS

Novi Glas is the official publication of C.S.U.F., the Croatian and Slovenian United Foundation, an independent parishioners' association at the Church of the Nativity Parish in San Francisco. Issued bi-monthly, its main purpose is to keep the Croatian and Slovenian parishioners informed about the activities of C.S.U.F. and other relevant events of this community, as well as to promote communal cohesiveness especially at present when the membership is declining. The newsletter also serves as a link to those members who are unable to come to the Nativity often.

Novi Glas developed to meet the needs of the community when the Church of the Nativity was closed in the mid-nineties. At first it served in support of the effort many parishioners made to have the church reopened. After the church reopened in 1996, this newsletter continued its role to support the church and act on behalf of the Croatian and Slovenian community, in sum, to fulfill the goals of the C.S.U.F. it serves.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF PROCESSIONS?

It is believed that the processions in Christian worship began during the time of Emperor Constantine. In Jerusalem they were observed even earlier. Today we walk in a procession on various worshiping occasions, such as Palm Sunday, Ascension Day, entering the church before the Mass, and many other occasions for a special purpose. A funeral is also a procession, and so is bringing the gifts to the altar during the Mass.

A procession is a reminder that our life on earth is a journey, a walk toward the final destination because our place on earth is not permanent. On this journey we are not alone. God is both our companion as well as the final destination of our quest. All together we are a traveling Holy Church in search of a future final place. Pilgrimages also remind us of this fact and as such have a special meaning in our Christian lives.

There is another vivid characteristic of a procession – the cross at its head. The cross reminds us that we as Christians should follow Christ and emulate His virtues. Christ is our companion on earth fulfilling His promise to be with us “every day until the end of days.” (Mt.28.20)

Abstracted from Ognjisce 6/2009

CSUF News and announcements

July 19
CSUF General Membership Meeting was held in the Church Hall after the Morning Mass.

Aug. 16
A Mass, sponsored by CSUF, was celebrated for recovery and healing of Rico Brandi by visiting priest Fr. Miran Zvanut. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Brandi family.

Aug. 23
CSUF monthly Board meeting

Sept. 13
Grandparents Day. Please join us on this very special day at the 9:30 Mass and for the reception in the Hall after the Mass.

Slowind Concert at Nativity. Slowind is internationally renown wind quintet from Slovenia. Their music is extraordinary. We are pleased they’ll perform for us again. More information forthcoming.

Contact France Rode (650) 867-7110 <francero.de@hotmail.com>

Nov. 7
Martinovanje Celebration. This delightful annual event will take place in the Church Hall after the late afternoon Mass as usual. Frances Chilcoat is the organizer. The Bajuk Trio Band will entertain. Please keep your calendars reserved!

Fall 2009
Club Slovenia is planning to offer a Slovene language class for beginners. For more information please see the www.club slovenia.com website, or write to Christopher Shobar <chobar@shobar.com> or Mia Rode <mrode@stanford.edu>

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Ivo Ravnik

Just like every other season, Summer Season, with all the pleasant times it evokes, is too quickly coming to an end. This summer I visited the Slovenian Publishing House in Celovec, Austria, where I met up with a few friends, all members of the Gallus Singing Group that came to sing for us in 1996, when our Nativity church was still closed. One of the more memorable part of their visit in San Francisco was that at the end of their concert at St. Mary’s Cathedral, they made a direct appeal to Archbishop Levada by dedicating their last song to him with the plea that he reopen Nativity Parish. Apparently it did not hurt!

In one of their office these wise words were tacked to the wall for all to ponder and for me to copy. This was originally an Old English Prayer, Author Unknown. I hope you will take pleasure in reading it and enjoy the remaining days of Summer.

Take time for work, it is the price of success.
Take time for meditation, it is the source of strength.
Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul.
Take time for dreams, this is the way to the stars.
Take time for kindness, this is the door to happiness.
Take time to love and be loved, this is the true joy of life.
Take time for play, it is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time for reading, it is the foundation of wisdom.

FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION AT NATIVITY, JUNE 21, 2009

The young readers on Father’s Day, from left to right: Jessica and Isabel Lehane, Grace Simenc, Victoria Plut

server Martin Plut,
server Peter Bacich,
Fr. Tad Winnicki,
Fr. Jerko Ban,
Fr. Ante Jurich,
seminarian Tom Martin.

The Croatian and Slovenian United Foundation, an independent parishioners’ association at the Church of the Nativity, San Francisco, as our parish church and act on behalf of the Croatian and Slovenian community at the Church of the Nativity in San Francisco. It was incorporated as a California Nonprofit Religious Corporation in 1999 and has California tax exempt status. The primary purpose of C.S.U.F. is to retain and maintain the Church of the Nativity, San Francisco, as our parish church and a permanent place of worship for the Croatian and Slovenian Catholics in the San Francisco Bay Area. This purpose includes seeking ways to keep the Nativity Church vibrant and viable. For other goals, as specified in the Foundation’s By-laws, please see the President’s Column in the April 2009 issue of Novi Glas, or “CSUF Web Home” at http://www.noviglas.com.

NOVI GLAS
The New Voice of CSUF
San Francisco, August 2009

This newsletter is published by C.S.U.F., the Croatian and Slovenian United Foundation, at the Church of the Nativity.
ANNA CRNUGELJ FABIAN  
June 15, 1911 - June 22, 2009

Anna Crnugelj was born June 15, 1911 in Grabrovec, Slovenia, a village of 27 homes. Her father, Martin, died one month before she was born. After her birth, Anna, her mother, Marija Starha Crnugelj, and Anna’s older sister moved from the Crnugelj house in Grabrovec to the Starha homestead in Dragomlj vas. When Anna was 2 years old, her mother left her and her 6-year-old sister in the care of Anna’s grandmother in Dragomlj vas. Anna’s mother went to America, remarried, had four more girls and eventually moved to S.F.

Anna, from age 6 to 12, attended school in Sudor, walking barefooted ½ hour each way. From age 12 to 14, she attended school once a week for 3 hours.

She worked in the fields, tended animals, and helped plant and harvest vegetables and fruit.

When on a trip to Metlika (10-11 years old) to purchase material for her confirmation dress, her eyes fell upon Joseph Fabian (16-17), her future husband, who was working in the doorway to his family’s wagon wheel shop. Their next meeting was to be in America about 9 years later when Joe visited the home of Anna’s remarried mother the day after Anna arrived from America.

The water from the well beside the house in her village was not fit for consumption and was used solely for the animals. A well just outside of the village provided drinking water. In her younger years, Anna was unable to lift the water filled jug to her head. She resorted to carrying it in her arms, close to her body. By the time she reached home, she’d be drenched from the water sloshing back and forth in the jug. She was quite proud of herself when at age 15 she was able to lift the jug and carry it home balanced on her head. When that was dry, the family loaded a horse-drawn wagon with barrels and made the hour trek through Metlika to the Kolpa River to collect water from a hillside spring as it ran into the Kolpa.

May was her favorite month of the year. She remembered the mlaj, a Maypole – decorated with flowers and garlands, which was erected in every village. On their walk to church, they would look around to see which village had the tallest and most beautiful mlaj. Every night during May, people would gather at the village center where there was a kape, or small open-air chapel decorated in honor of Mary. They would pray the Rosary and sing the beautiful hymns in her honor. At the end of the month, each village had an auction to sell their mlaj/tree. Villagers donated meat, bread and other goods for the auction, money collected of which would be used for village improvements.

At age 17, she packed her few belongings in a basket and carried the basket on her head and walked to Metlika where she took a job as a maid. Within one month, she became so homesick that she left her job and returned to Dragomlj vas, at which time she and her family started planning for her trip to America.

Sponsored by a neighbor from her birth village (Matt Vukinich), but then living in America, Anna borrowed $320 on the Crnugelj land and set off at age 19 for America. She boarded a ship in Havre, France and spent a week crossing the Atlantic, arriving at her wicker suitcase and food from home—klobasa and chunk of smoked meat.

She recalled arriving at Ellis Island and seeing the Statue of Liberty. She remained on the island for 5 days, then boarded a train for a weeklong trip to Oakland, CA. A ferryboat took her to S.F. where, in September 1930, her mother, whom she hadn’t seen in 17 years, met her.

It was to her mother’s house at 665 Arkansas St. that Joseph Fabian came the day after he was newly arrived from Dragomlj vas. Joseph and Anna married in the Church of the Nativity on July 8, 1933, with Father Turk officiating. They had 3 girls, Joan (Curtis), Diane (Brayhney) and Janet. Janet, who passed away in 2011 in Rochester, NH, was an exceptional child who was lovingly and tenderly cared for by Anna and Joe.

Her home and garden at 534 Utah St. were her castle. Like her husband, she had an inborn love of the land and she remembered her and Joe singing together the old Slovenian folk songs as they worked side by side in their garden. She and Joseph were married 44 years when he passed away in 1977. At her funeral Mass, at which Fr. Tad Wimnick officiated, our choir sang the songs so loved by Anna, and her sons-in-law, Stuart and Dennis, related fond memories of her. At the gravesite, daughters Joan and Diane sprinkled onto the lowered casket, soil from Anna’s and Joe’s birth villages Grabrovec and Metlika.

Anna and Joe were very active in the Slovenian community and instilled in their daughters and their families the love and pride of their Slovenian heritage.

Anna was a member of Nativity Parish for 79 years and for many years sang in the choir. She leaves 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Joann Curtis, Diane Brayhney and families

FR. MIRAN ZVANUT

Our Nativity community had the pleasure of meeting Fr. Miran Zvanut on Sunday, Aug. 16 when he came to celebrate the 9:30 Mass. We found him a wonderful person and a most gracious guest. He visited the Bay Area briefly to explore the possibility to continue his studies here and stopped by the University of San Francisco, Santa Clara University and Graduate Theological Union.

Born and growing up in a small village of Lozice in Vipava Valley, Slovenia, he followed his father’s footsteps when he enrolled in Wood Science studies (lesovstvo) at the University in Ljubljana. Upon completing the Wood Science he began to study Pharmaceutics full time and Theology part time, seeking true calling in life. He ultimately decided on the spiritual path. Although he previously often thought about the calling of the cloth, he did not feel capable and worthy of it. “If God is calling me,” he finally told himself, “I will also help me develop the gifts necessary for such a commitment.”

After two years of study at the Faculty of Theology in Ljubljana, Fr. Zvanut entered the Jesuits novitiate in Maribor. After finishing the novitiate, he went to Rome, Italy to work with Fr. Mark Rupnik and subsequently to Dublin, Ireland to study Theology and Philosophy. He was ordained as a priest in 2006. On this occasion he adopted for his motto Christ’s words “I am the vine and you are the branches,” for he grew up in a wine country and thus felt connected with the vine all his life.

Fr. Zvanut’s first post as a priest was in Dravje parish near Ljubljana, where he still serves today and works a great deal with youth. Because he plans to continue his formal studies next year, he is currently looking into academic institutions and meeting with faculty representatives concerning his specialty Spirituality of the Body with emphases on sports.

We hope the Man Above will decide that the Bay Area is indeed a great place for Fr. Zvanut’s studies, and will give us a chance to count our lucky stars to have him close buy for a year, or two, or more. In any event, we were truly delighted to get to know him and wish him much success in his endeavor.

CSUF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Jozzi Plut

The meeting, held in the Church Hall on July 19, 2009, was a brief overview of the CSUF Mission Statement given by Ante Vrcic and other board members. A quick financial report was provided by Mira Palhinich. Jozzi Plut put forth an appeal for more and regular participation by the youth of the parish, especially at our upcoming event “Grandparents Day”. Martin Junkar spoke about the newly-introduced Novi Glas on the Web and invited the readers to check it out. Ivo Rasmik made closing remarks.

We thank everyone who attended the meeting.

NOVI GLAS ON THE WEB

Those of you who missed the announcement of Novi Glas on the Web in the June issue, please check it out at http://www.noviglas.com. Here you will find a list of all issues published in the electronic form to-date, along with a paragraph on the purpose of this newsletter and the mission of CSUF that is publishing it.

The Web edition of Novi Glas is a counterpart of the paper edition. Furthermore, it brings the text and the pictures for which there is occasionally no space left on the paper.

Novi Glas on the Web brings many advantages – It is indeed a great place for Fr. Zvanut’s studies, and will give us a chance to count our lucky stars to have him close buy for a year, or two, or more. In any event, we were truly delighted to get to know him and wish him much success in his endeavor. If you wish to communicate with us you may take the chance to count our lucky stars to have him close buy for a year, or two, or more.