

A publication of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland

St. Mary's Assumption Eastern Rite Catholic Church - Part 2 *by Yvonne Dornic*

In the last edition of HLAS, we highlighted the unique history of St. Mary's Assumption Byzantine Catholic Church and its founder and leader, Reverend Ivan Dornic, an immigrant from Czechoslovakia. For over Thirty-five years Father Dornic has fostered a community of faith and heritage in the historic church and historic village where he has begun expanding the property and launching a series of events celebrating the culture and history of Eastern Europe. In this addition we explore Father Dornic's vision for the expansion of the church and the beautiful, wooded property including the creation of a historic village.

First, however, let's explore how a single immigrant from Czechoslovakia has accomplished so much in his life and how he came to be leader that can actually turn this dream a reality.

Ethnic Pride: Father Dornic has never lost his love for and pride in his home country and neighboring Slavic countries and cultures. Throughout his life and considerable life experiences, Father Dornic gave birth to the following entities and programs:

- Ethnic American News was a publication started by father Dornic and was unique in that it strived to reach out and include many Slavic Communities news and interests into one Newspaper.
- Polka Mass TV Program – While in the Pittsburgh area, Father envisioned and launched a popular televised "Polka Mass" which incorporated two of his passions, his religion and his ethnic pride. This was truly groundbreaking in the mid '70s. Demonstrating once again that he was ahead of his time, Father Dornic had his daughter Yvonne serve as alter girl for the service decades before the Archdiocese accepted females in this role.
- University of Pittsburgh Slavic Studies – When Father Dornic was asked to join the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh, the Slavic Studies program was in its infancy with only Russian language being offered. Father Dornic pushed to have the program include Slovak and Polish among other Slavic languages and cultural studies. Today the University of Pittsburgh is recognized world-wide as having one of the finest and most comprehensive Slavic Studies program in the world. It is one of only twenty doctoral programs in Slavic Studies in the U.S. In both the undergraduate and graduate areas, the Slavic

Department currently teaches courses in Russian, Polish, B/C/S (Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian), Slovak, and Ukrainian.

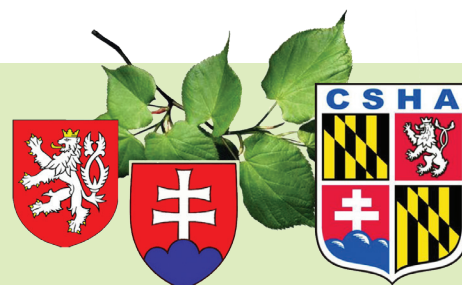
- National Slavic Convention – Shortly after being relocated to Baltimore, Father organized the First National Slavic Convention at Baltimore's Convention Center. It was an overwhelming success and was attended by over one thousand delegates and Slavic leaders from around the United States.
- Slavic Radio Program – In conjunction with the National Slavic Convention Father Dornic also launched a Slavic Radio program in Baltimore which remained popular for many years.
- National Slavic Museum – In June of 2013, the National Slavic Museum in Baltimore was dedicated and attended by representatives from embassies of many Slavic Countries.



Fr. Dornic and his daughters: Yvonne, Corina, and Tania at Shady Grove Park's Slovak Heritage Day

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

In the fall semester we will continue our regular weekly schedule. Classes will be held virtually. Beginners or fluent speakers are welcome to join us regardless of where they live.

- Czech Classes are held from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm on Friday evenings.
 - Slovak Classes are held on Sunday mornings.
- You can enroll at any time. Check CSHA's web and Facebook pages for details and schedule or email us at info@cshamaryland.org.

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

These events will be hopefully coming back in the fall.

ADULT LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CSHA is one of the few organizations in the USA that offers language instruction for adults. Beginning, intermediate and advanced classes are offered virtually even during the summer. Please check the registration form insert for information on fall classes. They are held on Saturday mornings. To register or ask questions, please contact Lois Hybl at 410-243-1710 or e-mail: LHybl@verizon.net.

HERITAGE SINGERS

When it is safe to resume, rehearsals will be announced on our web and Facebook page.

HLAS - If you have any suggestions or comments or want to contribute to the Hlas by writing an article, email us at info@cshamaryland.org.

CSHA ONLINE - For more information about any of these activities or to register for classes, you can contact CSHA at: info@cshamaryland.org. CSHA's Communication Committee will respond to answer your questions and provide information, and we are eager to hear your ideas and suggestions. Also, please check our website www.cshamaryland.org and follow us on Facebook at [Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Baltimore](https://www.facebook.com/CzechandSlovakHeritageAssociationofBaltimore).

SEPTEMBER 2021

CSHA Annual Picnic - September 12th, 2021 from 12 to 5PM. See more in the article on page 3

OCTOBER 2021

34rd Annual CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL - October 24th, 2021, noon to 6PM, American Legion Hall, 125 York Rd, Baltimore, MD 21204. The location and time have been reserved and preparations are on the way to organize live festival again. We hope to see you there.

DECEMBER 2021

MIKULÁŠSKÁ - date is still to be selected, but we truly hope Mikuláš, Čert and Anděl will make in person appearance this year.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - St. Wenceslaus Church in Eastern Baltimore and selection of Christmas Carols. We cannot wait to sing together live again.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES FUNDRAISER - If you are interested in delicious homemade cookies, get involved. Volunteers will be needed to bake and help with distribution. The donations go a long way, helping us to provide events for you or help support our language schools. We really need your help if we should be able to organize this successful event again. Thank you.

JANUARY 2022

GENERAL MEETING - TBD.

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Events - TBD
Festival - Zuzana Justinova
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Governance - Gregg Iskra

President's message:

Dear members,
I tried to include something positive in my messages over the last year and half and it has not always been easy. We have been through a rough time. As the pandemic is winding down and things are steadily getting better, I am happy to finally spread some good news from the CSHA.

Let me start with an announcement I am very excited about. At our last meeting, the CSHA board decided to proceed with preparations for the Czech and Slovak Festival this year. After a long period of limitations imposed on all in-person events, we are thrilled to be able to host your favorite festival once again. The annual festival will be held on Sunday, October 24, 2021 and I cannot wait to see you all there. You can look forward to the music by Pajtasi, traditional meals, pastries, beer and more. The event will again take place at the American Legion Hall in Towson, MD.

I hope you all made exciting plans for this summer and will be able to reconnect with family and friends. We all deserve to slow down, enjoy some sunshine, and relax a little. Our children have been through a challenging school year and their summer break is well-deserved too. I am delighted that our family will finally be able to go to the Czech Republic this summer and visit our families and friends after three long years. We will mostly explore

Moravia, but we plan to venture to Brno and Prague. Our kids just cannot wait to see their grandparents and to eat a lot of strudel, kolache, and "rohliky".

I promise to bring you the latest news from Central Europe and tell you about our trip at the CSHA Annual Picnic that is planned for Sunday, September 12. We call it "a member-appreciation picnic" as it seeks to bring the CSHA community together and is free for members. The picnic will take place at a new location this year, the Maryland State Game & Fish Protective Association in White Marsh, MD. The Association's Hall has both indoor and outdoor seating with a playground and is suitable for all ages. Please plan to attend, so we can thank you-our members-for your continued support.

As the preparations for the picnic and the festival are underway, we hope that you will consider volunteering at these events. We need and always appreciate any help we can get, but most importantly, come to spend some fun time with your friends, old and new.

Se srdecnym pozdravem,



Petr Justin - CSHA president

CSHA Annual Picnic 2021

by Zuzana Justinova

We are cordially inviting you to the CSHA Annual Picnic that will take place on Sunday, September 12, 2021 from 12 pm to 5 pm. This year's picnic will be held at the club of the Maryland State Game & Fish Protective Association in Perry Hall/ White Marsh area (8735 Honeygo Boulevard, Perry Hall, MD 21128). You can look forward to burgers and hot dogs provided by the CSHA along with non-alcoholic drinks. We would like everyone to bring a dish, snacks or drinks to share. Alcoholic beverages are allowed, and we will have beer for sale. The club has plenty of inside and outside seating and we will hold the picnic rain or shine. There is a playground for children and volleyball net. We will have games ready for our young visitors. If you play an instrument, please bring it for a sing-along. Regulations regarding pandemic in place at the time will be observed and non-vaccinated visitors are encouraged to wear mask indoors. We hope many of you will join us to celebrate the end of summer and meet friends, old and new.

This event is free for members and a donation of \$10 per person is expected from non-members. In August, please check out our website www.cshamaryland.org or Facebook page for Eventbrite invitation or let us know you are coming at the email address info@cshamaryland.org. We would like to estimate number of guests.

You can find more information about the location at the following link: <https://www.msgfpa.org/contact-information.html>

Directions (Club has ample parking in front of the hall):

From the Beltway (I-695): Take exit 31C from I-695 N. Continue onto MD-43 E/White Marsh Blvd. Use two left lanes to turn left onto Honeygo Blvd. Turn right to the Association's entrance at Dove Dr (right after Joppa View Elementary).

From I-95: Take exit 67 from I-95 N. Turn right onto White Marsh Blvd. Turn right onto Honeygo Blvd to your destination. Turn right to the Association's entrance at Dove Dr (right after Joppa View Elementary School).



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From Immigrant to Entrepreneur. Having grown up under communist rule, Father Dornic had an engrained appreciation for the freedoms and opportunities his new adopted country offered him. With quite the entrepreneurial spirit and fearless heart he pursued many business opportunities including the formation of a newspaper discussed earlier, a franchise with Pizza Hut and the purchase of an amusement park. Yes, an amusement park! In 1968 he purchased Shady Grove Park, a 32-acre amusement Park near Uniontown Pennsylvania. The Park had many rides including a rollercoaster, rockets, tilt-a-world and children's rides. It also contained many event pavilions, game booths, a skating rink and even boasted one of the largest pools in the mid-Atlantic region. So, you may wonder how a Priest from Monongahela (Near Pittsburgh) who also taught Slavic Studies at the University of Pittsburgh was able to purchase and run an amusement park. That is where his wife Ann and five children come in. Every summer after school ended the family would move into a home at the Park and spend the summer running the Park with Father Dornic serving as the visionary and driving force. Among many other events, the Park held a Slovak Heritage Festival every year and crowned a "Miss Slovakia". Another pageant was "Miss Shady Grove Park" who's winner earned an opportunity to enter the Miss Teenage America in Fort-Worth Texas. In fact, Pani Ann accompanied Miss Shady Grove Park to Forth Worth one year as her Chaperone to compete for Miss Teenage America. A diverse array of musical performers was also a staple at the park. Some Slavic and some more American. One year the Park even hosted The Hagar Brothers from the then popular show "He Haw". Yes, of course that was Father Dornic's idea!

The Good Sheppard: Father Dornic is also passionate about taking care of his flock. Ever since his ordination into the Priesthood in 1957 Father Dornic has cared for the welfare of his congregation and his community far beyond their spiritual needs. From baptisms to burials and every stage in between Father Dornic has provided spiritual guidance, employment, housing, counseling, and even financial support to those in need. A few of his many passions and accomplishments include:

- Lemko Housing was established as a retirement community in the Fells Point area of Baltimore for an aging Slavic Community in need of affordable housing.
- Tatry Housing was formed as a non-profit organization to provide housing for low-income individuals and families and has several properties in Baltimore City which became home to immigrants arriving to the US as well as individuals suffering from a disability or alcohol and/or drug addiction. Many individuals that Father took into a Tatry property were previously homeless. Father Dornic was often their last resort. He has often remarked "If I don't take them in and care for them, who will?"
- St. John's Assisted Living was established when Father Dornic purchased the former YMCA building on Patterson Park Avenue for the church to create a much-needed nursing home for his

parishioners and the community. It was a godsend to many who needed special care in their later years and highly valued the religious services in the chapel as well as Slavic speaking nurses and caregivers.

- Immigration Support – Father Dornic sponsored and helped many of immigrants and their families.

St. Mary's Assumption Eastern Rite Catholic Church – The Next Chapter With that background in mind, it may not be so surprising that Father Dornic was also the vision and force behind saving a 100-year-old historic church by overcoming obstacle after obstacle, bringing craftsman from Europe to carefully dismantle it board by board and reconstructing it into a vibrant new church on a beautiful, wooded property miles down the road. Much of this history was detailed in the last edition of HLAS. (If you haven't read it...we encourage you to get a copy and read the fascinating history of the "Little Church in Woods").

Since its reconstruction 30 years ago the Church has built a Church Hall and picnic grounds. But the most exciting developments have happened in the last 5 years with the addition of a Slavic Heritage Festival, A Festival of Lights and Christmas Bazaar, the addition of an events building and event lawn for Weddings and special events and the expansion of the Historic Village.

Slavic Heritage Festival: In 2017 the church started a Slavic Heritage Festival dedicated to celebrating all Slavic Countries and Cultures. The vision for this event is to promote Slavic unity by bringing together people from all thirteen Slavic Nations in a celebration of their heritage and culture. Its aim is also to introduce non-Slavic participants to the beauties and charms of the Slavic culture. The festival features authentic Slavic food, dance performances, live music, raffle prizes, beer, wine spirits, crafts vendors, and children's



Slavic Heritage Festival



Slavic Heritage Festival

area! The festival kicks off each year with an Opening Ceremony including a parade of Flags of each Slavic Country.

As the Festival grows, Father Dornic and the parishioners of St. Mary's hopes the festival will be supported by the churches, associations, and communities of all Slavic nations. To this date several organizations have participated including St Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Luke's Serbian Orthodox Church, and the Bulgarian Cultural Center. Performances have included Slovak, Ukrainian, Russian, Bulgarian, Serbian and Polish musicians, and dancers. Craft and food vendors have covered nearly every Slavic Country. St. Mary's also supports other organizations with their

events by posting flyers, and announcing these events in church, in the bulletin and on their website and face book page. This includes the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association Festival every October.

Unfortunately, the 2020 Festival was canceled due to the pandemic, however plans are being made for a festival this fall. The target date is Saturday October 9th. Stay tuned for more details to come.

The proceeds from this Festival will contribute to the continuation of this historic village and fulfilling Father Dornic's dream of bringing his faith and cultural history to life.

A Place of Worship and Celebration – in 2019 the property took on a bold expansion with the development of an events space to house weddings and special events. The expansion involved clearing some of the wooded area to create a wedding lawn, a new stage, and a beautiful barn-style pavilion with red metal roof. The first couple to be married in the new space was



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Expansion to host special events including a wedding of this beautiful couple

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Father's grandson Ian Peacock and his wife Holly. The second couple, his granddaughter Oona and her husband Michael! Pre-pandemic it was even selected as a venue to house the CSHA Easter event and pot-luck dinner! (Covid had other plans). The church hopes to raise money to fuel additional expansion by renting out the space for weddings and events to groups within the parish but also the neighboring communities and Mid-Atlantic region.

Future expansion of the events space includes adding on to the Pavilion and closing it in to make an elegant barn to be able to house winter events.

The Historic Village - The dream lives on: Through all the exciting additions to the church Father Dornic has not lost the dream of building an historic Village with replicas of homes and churches from Slavic Countries of Eastern Europe. The plan is to start with



buildings from Father's home village of Udol in Slovakia. In fact, during a trip to Slovakia in 2018, the Dornic's visited Udol and studied the architecture of various buildings to help make plans to fulfil this dream. In addition, they visited a historic village at the foot of the Ľubovňa Castle which is perched on a limestone cliff 711 m over Stará Ľubovňa in the north-east of Spiš. This open-air museum, Ľubovniansky skanzen, contains many houses and other buildings showing the folk architecture of the region – a few from Father Dornic's own village of Udol. The most interesting exhibit is the wooden Greek-Catholic church from Matysová, built in 1833.

As a fascinating aside: The Ľubovňa Castle actually has an interesting tie to Baltimore. Rulers met here in the past, it is the place where Polish coronation jewels were hidden and where famous adventurer, noble man and King of Madagascar, Móric Beňovský was imprisoned. A display in the castle declares Móric Beňovský the only Slovak King and describes his history. During one of his many adventures, in Paris he became a close friend of Benjamin Franklin and Kazimir (Casimir) Pulaski. In 1779 Beňovský followed Pulaski to America and offered his services in the American Revolution. When Beňovský became King of Madagascar, he brought his wife and children to Baltimore where his friend Benjamin Franklin vowed to watch after them while Beňovský was in Madagascar. In 1784 Beňovský left Baltimore on board the Intrepid provided by Baltimore businessmen Messionier and Zollikofer. Beňovský perished as Malagasy monarch in 1786 in fights with the French. His wife, Zuzana Honschová, spent the years from 1784 until her death in 1815 in Baltimore.

Fascinating right? But back to the Historic Village and the fulfillment of Father Dornic's dream....

While starting with structures from Father's homeland of Slovakia, the vision is to incorporate structures from many Slavic countries. One idea is to even involve the embassies so that they can participate and lend authenticity and resources to the project. Two things are certain, 1) Father Dornic has the will, vision, and determination to see this project through and 2) it will certainly require a lot of resources and perhaps some Divine intervention. But Father Dornic has proven to be adept at building a collation of enthusiastic and dedicated participants in his ventures. If you have ideas, pictures or would like to volunteer to be part of bringing this vision to reality, Father Dornic and the parishioners of St. Mary's welcome your input and involvement. It will undoubtedly "take a village" to create the Historic Village.

What can be envisioned can be accomplished! Father Dornic has proven this again and again throughout his life. Through his pride in his ethnicity, his faith and dedication to God, the care and well-being of his parishioners and fellow man, and his fearless entrepreneurial spirit, he has accomplished more in his life than most of us could possibly dream of. And there are many more chapters ahead!



Pictures on this page are from the visit to "Skanzen"

Online Fujara Classes

We love Slavic folk songs of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia! Sing them on line with me for 5 days in July!

Are you of Czech or Slovak Heritage, and you miss those beautiful folk songs you remember hearing as a child? Or you have heard some of those melodic Slavic songs and like how they are different from other western music, deeply emotional in both sad and cheerful melodies, and would like to learn some of the best ones? Songs of each region have their own unique character, and here is the unique opportunity to learn selection of the best known songs, from your favorite chair in your house!

Classes are being offered online this year, with no expense for your travel and accommodation, and with big discount for this year as well. Last year was also virtual on Zoom, and it was very successful, in the five days of the class, we learned 15 songs and everybody loved the class. No music instrument is necessary, as I will accompany myself on guitar when I will be teaching you the song and then you will sing with me. Since it is from your home, you can join the class with your children or spouse.

The class will run every day from Monday to Friday, starting at 1 PM of USA Eastern time, and is 75 minutes long, the dates are from 7/12 to 7/16/2021 (Traditional Week 3).

Find out more and register for the class here:

Favorite folk songs of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia: <https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/bohemia-moravia-and-slovakia>

Instructor Bob Rychlik: <https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/instructors/rychlik-bob>



Czech and Slovak Recipe Corner:

by MacLean Lunko

Vlašský salát

Used as a side dish with schnitzel, or Christmas carp, *Vlašský salát* is also the most popular topping for chlebičky. This is my "Americanized" take on a Czech classic.

DIRECTIONS:

- Bring potatoes and carrots to a boil, then allow to simmer until tender, approximately 30 minutes. Drain then set aside to cool.
- Dice ham and hard boiled eggs into 1/4" pieces, dice pickles into 1/8"-1/4" pieces
- Once potatoes and carrots have cooled enough to handle with bare hands, peel potatoes, then dice potatoes and carrots into 1/4" to 3/8" pieces.
- Combine diced potatoes, carrots, ham, eggs and pickles into large mixing bowl.
- Add 1 cup of mayonnaise, mustard and paprika to bowl and mix ingredients together with a wooden spoon.
- Add additional 1/2 cup of mayonnaise if necessary. Add salt and pepper to taste, and garnish with chopped dill



INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4lb ham (baked ham is best, but deli ham will also work)
- 3 hard boiled eggs
- 2 dill pickles
- 3/4 cup cooked peas
- 2 medium (or 3 small) potatoes
- 2 medium peeled carrots
- 1 to 1-1/2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp yellow mustard (I prefer to use dry powdered mustard)
- 1 tsp hot Hungarian paprika (optional)
- salt and pepper to taste
- Fresh chopped dill to garnish

SHORTCUTS:

- Cans of diced white potatoes can be substituted for the potatoes
- Bags of frozen, peas and diced carrots can save time
- Dill relish can be substituted for pickles

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Online Adult Language Classes Have Expanded Our Reach

by Lois Hybl

There are things that students miss about not meeting in person such as donuts, our end-of-semester potlucks and more interaction between students and teachers from different classes. However, having online classes has expanded our geographic reach and our numbers, so we plan to continue online classes in for the fall semester that begins September 11.

For the regular spring semester, we had 27 students. The Czech classes and Intermediate Slovak class decided to continue for another session ending in late June with 23 enrolled. Our current students come from least seven different states. One is from Montreal, Quebec.

The Advanced Czech Conversation class has benefited from teacher Iva Zicha's parents joining in from the Czech Republic. Fran Vojik still attends online classes in spite of his move to South Carolina.

Our organization was mentioned when recent Slovak student Linda Stanko from Florida was interviewed by Peter Dlhopelec of the Slovak Spectator, an English language paper published in Bratislava. Linda recounted her trips to Slovakia to learn more about her ancestors. Linda's aunt, Susan Turmelle, was also a student. You can read the article and hear the interview at this link: <https://spectator.sme.sk/c/22668854/ancestry-search-americans-slovakia-reconnect.html>

TRAGIC TORNADO IN MORAVIA

A rare violent and deadly tornado struck several villages in the Hodonín and Břeclav districts of the South Moravian Region of the Czech Republic in the evening of Thursday, 24 June 2021, killing six people so far and injuring at least 200 others. The final number of fatalities is still unknown. It was rated as an F4 on the Fujita scale.

The tornado struck seven towns and villages and destroyed hundreds of homes. Generosity of Czechs has been amazing, large wave of solidarity included help by volunteers in damaged places as well as monetary donations. But the damage is so large, that any help is appreciated. Here is a transparent account of People in Need - S.O.S. Morava you can contribute to if you wish.

<https://www.clovekvtisni.cz/en/people-in-need-announces-a-public-fundraising-campaign-sos-moravia-7807gp>

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