

THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CROATIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate St. Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, IN, as it celebrates its 85th anniversary as a parish this Sunday, September 28, 1997. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Father Benedict J. Benakovic, parish pastor, on this special occasion. The 85th anniversary festivities will begin with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. at the church, celebrated by the Most Reverend Dale J. Melczek, Bishop of Gary. After the service, a banquet will be held at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, IN.

I would also like to commend the members of the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council for the work they have put forth in the planning of this momentous event. Members of the 1997 parish council include: Fred Benich, John Benich, Frank Bestich, Peter Bianco, Francis X. Coman, Mary Coman, Charles Doherty, Antoinette Dorochoff, George Flores, Irene Flores, Charlene Gyurko, Mary Horan, Patricia Howorth, Sophia Kruzic, Jasmine Kuyachich, Mary Mandly, Richard Mandly, Ann C. Marlow, Marta McCobb, Karl Metz, Marie Michalak, Marian Nicksich, Peter Podnar, Ann Wozniak, Charles Yelusich, and Paul Yurkas.

The founding of St. Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church began in 1906 with the arrival of Croatian immigrants to the growing city of Gary, IN. A mixture of small business owners and steel workers, the immigrants immediately experienced prejudices and a language barrier. To foster a sense of belonging and community, they colonized and sought a parish of their own, where the church services would be spoken in their native language. With a large donation from the Gary Land Co., a Croatian Catholic church, called Holy Trinity, was built in 1913.

Holy Trinity Church, which would later be named St. Joseph the Worker, prospered over the years with the hard work of its clergy and parishioners. Shortly after the church's founding, Rev. Charles Jesih of Croatia began St. Joseph's expansion when he founded a parochial school for the education of the parish's youth. In 1919, a three-room school opened in the church hall, and, in 1921, a convent was completed to accommodate the nuns who taught at the school. With the onset of the Depression, the parish encountered problems of debt and the relocation of parishioners to the Glen Park area of Gary. By the 1940's, it had become apparent that the church would need to relocate, and in spite of the debt incurred during the Depression, construction of a new church, school, and convent was completed in 1945. As the parish continued to grow, it was determined in 1950 that an even larger church would be needed to accommodate new parishioners of different nationalities. Under the leadership of Father Venceslav Ardas, funds were secured from individual parishioners and church organizations for the construction of what would become a beautiful Romanesque style church. The church was completed in 1956, and consecrated St. Joseph the Worker in May of that year.

Since its founding, St. Joseph the Worker has continued to celebrate its Croatian heritage as an integral part of parish religious and social life. Over the years, ties to Croatia were maintained with the dedicated service of Croatian-born pastors, the preservation of masses in the Croatian language, and a concern for events transpiring in the homeland. With the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, St. Joseph the Worker parishioners eagerly joined Croatians throughout the world in providing humanitarian aid to victims of the war-torn region. In the early 1990's, the parish celebrated both the recognition of Croatia as an independent nation and the visit of Cardinal Franjo Kuharic, Archbishop of Zagreb. The founding of such social organizations as the Croatian Catholic Union and the American Croatians United also contributed to the preservation of the Croatian heritage in the Gary community. Through the dedication of St. Joseph parishioners, these organizations sponsored numerous festivals and projects, which have served to introduce traditional Croatian food, music, and customs to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Joseph the Worker parish on the 85th anniversary of its founding. As someone of Croatian descent, I commend the leadership that past and present parishioners and clergy have displayed in preserving their ethnicity while faithfully fulfilling the ideals of their Catholic religion. I wish St. Joseph the Worker parish continued prosperity and many blessings for a bright future.

ON INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO MAKE NONREFUNDABLE PERSONAL CREDITS CREDITABLE AND THE STANDARD DEDUCTION AND THE DEDUCTION FOR PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS DEDUCTIBLE FOR AMT PURPOSES

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to make good on a promise we made the American people. The recently enacted Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 promised American families both an education and a family credit. Unfortunately for many American families these credits will turn out to be phantom credits.

Many average families will be thrown into the alternative minimum tax [AMT] simply because they take advantage of the new child and education credits. This happens because individuals pay the greater of regular tax reduced by nonrefundable credits or the AMT not reduced by refundable credits. And because both the family and the education credit are added back for purposes of the AMT, families with children are more likely to be thrown into the AMT simply by using these credits. In the case of families with three or more children young enough to be eligible for the family credit, the bill permits the family credit against the employee share of FICA so that the minimum tax is no longer a problem for those families. However, it will be an unpleasant surprise for many others.

In 2002, 2 million families will be thrown into the AMT because of the family credit alone. For example:

A single mother with two children in daycare with \$51,400 in gross income would lose all of her child credit plus \$141 of her dependent care credit in the year 2000 because she gets thrown into the AMT.

A two-parent family with three children, including one college freshman and \$67,000 in gross income would lose \$1,477 of their \$2,500 combined family and HOPE scholarship credit because they get thrown into the AMT.

A two-parent family with two children in college and \$64,100 in income would lose \$723 of their Hope scholarship credit because they get thrown into the AMT.

This simply makes no sense. Therefore, today I am introducing legislation which would make nonrefundable personal credits, including the dependent care, child and education credits, creditable and the standard deduction and personal exemptions deductible for AMT purposes.

The AMT was meant to assure that sophisticated taxpayers couldn't zero out their taxes. It was never intended that your children would throw you into the AMT. I would urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation and keep our promises to the American people.

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would express the sense of the House that the country ought to give itself a pat on the back for its progress in recycling. I am joined in this effort by Mr. PORTER, Mr. GEJDENSON, and Mr. GILCHREST and I am proud to have them as partners in this worthy effort.

This resolution would suggest that the House believes it appropriate that a national celebration of America Recycles Day be designated. This would be a day to celebrate the progress the country has made in establishing and integrating recycling programs in each state, in hundreds of cities, in thousands of communities.

Whether it be the simple act of depositing an old Coke can in an aluminum recycling bin, or meticulously separating brown glass from green glass from clear glass and hauling them all down to the city recycling center, it is clear that Americans have learned that recycling is a valuable means of conserving resources, saving money, and keeping our environment clean.

When you look at the trash that we generate in a year's time—208 million tons worth—it is clear that it is incumbent on us to use less, recycle more and find new ways of managing our finite resources. The numerous recycling programs throughout the country are dedicated to this cause and each person who recycles ought to be commended for their dedication to a cleaner, safer environment.

The resolution I introduce today with my colleagues will hopefully be a catalyst for more Americans to recycle and continue this positive and simple means to a better future.