

# In memory - former president Michal Kovac

## UPF Slovakia mourns the loss of a great friend and supporter

Bratislava, Slovakia, 5. October 2016



in London. President Kovac never hesitated to help in urgent matters. So he wrote a letter to the French President to lift the Schengen ban. He sent an appeal to the President of Kazakhstan in favour of an unjustly incarcerated Russian missionary. When he was attacked by the media for his support or attendance, he responded calmly: "I am a Catholic, and a Catholic I shall stay. But as a president it was and is my duty to treat all citizens equally and show care and respect to everyone." Despite repeated criticism by some tabloids he did not hesitate to speak at UPF conferences in the Slovak capital, be it about the economic crisis or on moral issues. Sometimes he just sat in the audience and took the microphone to contribute to the debate. "Since the office of his foundation is located near to my apartment, I could pay numerous visits there," recalls UPF Secretary General Milos Klas the pleasant meetings.

By Barbara Grabner

**O**n October 5, 2016 the first President of the independent Slovak Republic passed away at the age of 86 years after suffering from Parkinson's disease. "We shall remember him as a great friend and supporter as well as an outstanding figure of our young nation. We have been in contact for many years until he was physically too ill," says UPF Secretary General Milos Klas. Just to mention some of the cordial meetings and official events:

In 2005 President Kovac attended the inauguration of the national branch of

UPF which was held in the splendid settings of the Slovak National Theatre. At that time he was awarded a medal for "Good Governance" since he had shown courage and wisdom in many critical situations during his term. He welcomed True Mother at Bratislava airport during her World Tour in 2006. In 2007 he attended a local UPF event at the 30th anniversary of the founding of the opposition platform Charta 77. In 2007 he travelled with his wife and son to attend the 25th founding anniversary of The Washington Times. There the couple received the certificate of Ambassador for Peace. One year later he attended the Global Peace Festival



"I brought the president gifts such as the autobiography of Reverend Moon or the Divine Principle book. One of the last meetings occurred when I delivered a memorial plate on his 80th birthday."

