









GARSAS - Lithuania's U.S. Alliance of America

English Section

Can the Church in Occupied Lithuania Survive?

The faithful in Lithuania suffer humiliation, loss of their jobs, imprisonment and exile for practicing their beliefs. Put yourself in their places. Would you remain true to your faith?

Stasys Adriejus, a respected teacher, attended Easter services. He was fired and now works as a mailman. Would you have gone to Easter Mass?

Zenonas Mistautas, an engineering student and sole support of his parents, was deprived of his income and diploma for refusing to lecture on atheism. He was forced into military service. Would you have given that lecture?

Leonas Risinas, a grade-school student, was ridiculed for his beliefs by his teacher. Some students, goaded by his teacher, tormented him and eventually beat him so severely that he was hospitalized. Would you have encouraged your son to practice his faith?

Several little children in the town of Zarasai received First Communion. The next day they were taken from class and threatened by teachers and soldiers. They were kept after school without lunch or supper. Their parents weren't notified of their whereabouts. How much can children bear for their faith? Would you have let your child receive Communion?

Lithuanian priests and bishops have been murdered, exiled and imprisoned for trying to keep the faith alive. Convents have ceased to exist; anyone suspected of being a nun is harassed, publicly humiliated, and denied permission to work.

Archbishop Reinyis died in a Russian prison of Vladimir. Bishop Borisevicius was shot to death. Bishop Ramanauskas spent 13 years in a Russian slave labor camp and died shortly after his release.

Bishop Steponavičius has been exiled to a rural village after much suffering. Archbishop Skvireckas and Podolskis died in exile. Bishop Brizgys still lives in exile. After two long prison terms which destroyed his health, Bishop Matulionis died in exile outside his diocese.

Father Prosperas Bubny was arrested while preparing children for confirmation. The students were terrorized into signing accusations against him. He was imprisoned.

Father Juozas Zdebekis was arrested and imprisoned for teaching catechism. Over 2,000 of the faithful dared to sign a letter protesting his arrest. Would you have dared to sign it?

Marytė Medauskaitė, a typist; Monika Gavėnaitė, employed at a publishing house; Aldona Matusevičiūtė, a kindergarten teacher; all were recently forced to resign their positions because they were

suspected of being nuns. To be denied the right to work in Lithuania is tantamount to starvation. Those who aid them are themselves subject to harassment and prison.

In 1940 Lithuania had 1,450 priests. Less than half are left. Because of Soviet government repression, only a handful of new priests are ordained yearly; 25 to 30 die. Of 85 convents, none remain. All have been banned by the Communists. Can the Church survive the loss of its religious leaders and teachers?

Meanwhile churches and shrines are desecrated, sacred vessels stolen and sold to Museums of Atheism, religious books confiscated. How much longer can the work of God go on? We may hold the answer.

Lithuanians are astounded that Catholics in the Free World fail to speak out. The Communists rely on our silent resignation to carry out their repressions.

(Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid)

Knights of Lithuania 63rd National Convention

Dayton, Ohio. — The 63rd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania (Lietuvos Vyčiai) took place at Stouffer's Dayton Plaza Hotel, August 25-29, hosted by Council 96, Ohio.

Judy Petrokas, President. Anthony Miner, National President, was absent due to illness. Joseph White of South Boston, was elected presidium chairman. At the hotel, an exhibit of photos of Lithuanians imprisoned by Soviets and relevant material was viewed also by many non-Lithuanians, hotel guests and participants in another convention there.

At the opening session, Joseph White extended greetings from Mayor James H. McGee, who was at a Conference of

Mayors. Among the scheduled speakers at different sessions were: John D. Yeck, an authority in advertising, communication and public relations, gave good advice. Congressman Charles W. Whalen of Ohio and Dr. Kazys Bobelis of Chicago, National President of the Lithuanian American Council, discussed Lithuania and the United States and International Diplomacy; Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P., of Rhode Island, K of L Spiritual Advisor, spoke on "The Church — before and after the Ecumenical Council" followed by controversial questions from Mary Ann Blum and from Helen Kulber.

Vytautas Radzivas, C-41, Brooklyn-Queens, reported on the Lithuanian Youth Congress which he and his wife Birutė, attended (the K of L had contributed \$300 towards expenses to South America) and urged that participation in the next one be planned ahead; Joseph Boley-Bulevicius, C-41, presented a program in memory of Rev. John Jutt-Jutkevicius, who until his untimely death five years ago, worked avidly in the Lithuanian Affairs department of the K of L which he had organized; Rev. Casimir Pugevicius reported on the recent 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, attended by K of L members from many cities.

Archbishop Bernardin — Keynote Speaker

Archbishop Joseph J. Bernardin, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference, was the keynote speaker at the banquet and ball in the grand ballroom of the hotel on August 29th. He is very familiar with the situation in Lithuania. Rev. Vaclav

was Katarakis took this opportunity to publicly thank Archbishop Bernardin also for giving the sermon at mass earlier at the Holy Cross Church of which he is pastor. Simas Kudirka accepted the K of L "Friend of Lithuania" award in behalf of Sergei Adomovich Kovalev, who, after a closed trial in Vilnius, is serving 7 years in a "corrective labor colony for especially dangerous state criminals" Camp VS 389/36 at Perm, 700 miles southeast of Moscow. Among other so-called dissident actions, Mr. Kovalev, 44 year-old Russian biologist, was punished for working on the "Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church". Rev. Pugevicius gave instant translation of Mr. Kudirka's acceptance speech. This segment of the program and an interview with and photo of Simas Kudirka was published the next day in the Dayton Daily News.

New Honorary Members

Professor Alexander Aleksis, C-7, Waterbury, Conn., Honorary Member and Chairman of the K of L Honorary Membership Committee, presented medals to Rita Pinkus, C-26, Worcester, Mass, and Loretta Stukas, formerly Miss Kassel, C-36, Chicago, now with C-29, Newark, N.J., who were raised to status of "Honorary Members". For many years Mrs. Jack Stukas had been editor of "Vytis" (The Knight), the K of L illustrated magazine with English and Lithuanian text, published ten times annually. Rosemarie Klatt, C-36, Chicago, received the \$1,000 Scholarship Award, presented by Anthony Mažeika, President C-41 and Secretary-Treasurer of the K of L Scholarship Committee. Singing of the Star Spangled Banner and "Lietuva, Tėvyne mūsų", the Lithuanian National Anthem, as two life-size bronzed figures — the Statue of Liberty and the Lithuanian Freedom Statue with their flags at either end of the dais were spotlighted — and the invocation by Rev. Pugevicius preceded the banquet. Later, after the charming and capable Convention Chairman and Mistress of Ceremonies, Elinor Sluzas, thanked the Honored Guests, the 300 delegates, members and guests present — inviting them to remain for the dance — the formal segment was closed with a prayer by Rev. W. Karaveckas, C-19, Pittsburgh, Pa., and the singing of the "Vyčių Himnas", accompanied by the composer, Prof. Aleksis, and "God Bless America".

Approximately 50 Junior Council members attended their own special sessions and joined the adults at other events.

Masses, Social Events

Besides the usual organizational sessions, masses were offered each day for special intentions — in memory of Rev. John Jutt and all deceased members; for the Suffering Faithful in Lithuania, and on Sunday, a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Holy Cross Church ("Lithuanian" is also engraved on the 1914 cornerstone of the church and 3 typical Lithuanian wooden crosses are in the church garden).

Social evening events included a dinner — theatre party at Memorial Hall where the Kenley Players, starring James Coco and Dody Goodman, presented "George Washington Slept Here"; Pioneer Night at Eintracht Park — many wore old-time costumes (the Sons of Legion, a youth military contingent in uniform, raised the

"...There is no good reason why we should fear the future, but there is every reason why we should face it seriously, neither hiding from ourselves the gravity of the problems before us nor fearing to approach these problems with the unbending, unflinching purpose to solve them right..."

Theodore Roosevelt

Arthritis Fondation Urges Attention to Child Health

"As children return to school, it is a good time to assist parents and teachers in making sure that preventive health programs include awareness about symptoms of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis", Dr. Warren A. Katz, President of

American and Lithuanian flags and did a precision drill); a life-like Abraham Lincoln, impersonated by John Campbell of Lynchburg, Virginia, recited "The Gettysburg Address" to background music of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"; Barstukių Iškilmės, Lithuanian Festival at the new Lithuanian Hall where the "Vejeliai" dancers performed, unusual slides of Lithuania were shown, and various Lithuanistica and folk crafts were displayed and demonstrated.

Hearty and delicious meals were prepared and served by C-96 at these events. The farewell luncheon buffet prepared by Mary Lucas of Mari-Lu Catering, assisted by council members, actually was a feast of beautifully decorated and tempting foods.

The 1976 K of L Convention was enjoyable as well as productive — mainly due to the work and good planning of Dayton Council 96. The atmosphere and service in the new Stouffer's Dayton Plaza Hotel helped immensely. H.V.K.

the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation urged recently. "Children should be taught to report any changes in their body's functioning to their parents". "For example", he stated, "pains in the knees merit medical attention. It might just be growing pains, but it could also be arthritis — America's number one crippling disease".

The Foundation reports that at least a quarter of a Million American children have juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA). "Too often", Dr. Katz continues "early symptoms mimic other childhood ailments, thus delaying proper treatment. JRA can make a child sick all over, bringing a fever, rash, joint damage, and even affecting the eyes and heart". To prevent such a tragedy, the continuing care of a qualified physician, preferably a rheumatologist, is advised, he said.

For advice on physicians, or clinics, and to learn about JRA a call or letter to the Arthritis Foundation will bring the information. For a free pamphlet entitled "Arthritis In Children" write to:

The Arthritis Foundation Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Northeastern Division P.O. Box 5010 Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18710 Call toll free. Telephone 1-800 322-9040.

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Rheumatoid Arthritis, one of the most serious forms of America's number one crippling disease can strike even in childhood with devastating effects. Find out the symptoms in The Arthritis Foundation's leaflet "Arthritis in Children". It's free from the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter — call toll free on the Arthritis Hot Line — 1-800-322-9040.

Retirement-wise, here's a wise investment. U.S. Series H Savings Bonds. Unlike Series E Savings Bonds, H Bonds pay out their interest every six months. So if you buy one H Bond a month from January through June, you can get an interest check every month from July through the next ten years. Another nice feature is that you can exchange your Series E Bonds for H Bonds without having to pay tax on the accumulated interest until the H Bonds finally mature. So, retirement-wise, tax-wise, investment-wise, remember two words to the wise: H Bonds. Ask about them at your bank. Now the H Bond interest rate averages 6% per year when held to maturity of 10 years. Lost, stolen, or destroyed H Bonds can be replaced if records are provided. H Bonds are redeemable after six months, by application through your bank. Take stock in America. 200 years at the same location.





