

GARSAS • Lithuanian U.S. Alliance of America

English Section

THE CHURCH IN LITHUANIA — 1981

Sermon by Msgr. John Balkūnas, P.A., LCA Spiritual Adviser, February 15, 1981, St. John's Church, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida

Holy Father Appeals

For the forty-first time, we Americans of Lithuanian descent gather here in prayer to plead to God for justice, peace and freedom in Occupied Lithuania.

Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, in his New Year's message listed a number of political and social situations which threaten freedom in the world. "The freedom of nations is wounded when small nations are forced to align themselves with large ones in order to ensure their right to independent existence or to survival," he said in an apparent referendum to Soviet bloc countries like his native Poland.

"There is no true freedom, which is the foundation of peace, when all powers are concentrated in the hands of a single class, a single race or a single group or when the common good is merged with the interest of a single party that is identified with the state," Pope John Paul added. In this message he spoke on war and arms. The Pope devoted a lengthy section of his message to religious freedom, calling it "the basis of all freedoms." In closing the message, Pope John Paul said that the world must not "accept violence as the way to peace."

Why did He Speak on this Subject?

Because the world situation is not improving but rather deteriorating. Today we are commemorating the sixty-third anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Lithuania and the Forty-first year of occupation of Free Lithuania by the hordes of Soviet Union.

Indeed, the inhumanity of man to man stands at its peak in human relationship between nations. New nations were born and older ones annihilated or subjugated. The Church again went underground in one-third of the world. Peace never reigned in the world for the past seventy years. One hundred and

twenty million people died from communistic persecution. The Church is coming out of the catacombs, and the silent Church is demanding its rights. Now we hear of a dissident Church.

What is a Dissident Church?

A Church that is tolerated, open for services, but under surveillance of the state. From the very first day restricted and supervised by the state. The Soviet regime in Lithuania has sought to bring the Catholic Church under the state control, a policy that was bound to be vigorously opposed by a Church that in the past has maintained independence from the state or has even dominated the state. Deep roots in history and culture of the people, the tradition of the universal Church, and its ties with the Vatican have sustained Catholicism in Lithuania despite the comprehensive attack on it by the state.

Church Under Communism

The Church under communism in occupied Lithuania is ANEMIC. Lithuania of Four Million inhabitants is 75% practicing Catholics. Before World War I she had 6 Archdioceses and dioceses with 12 Archbishops and Bishops, 1450 priests, 717 Churches, 4 seminaries with 549 seminarians, 37 religious orders and congregations, 85 monasteries and convents, 71 schools, 20 orphan asylums, 2 hospitals, 25 homes for the aged, 32 Catholic newspapers and magazines and 7 publishing houses. And now? Six dioceses, but only 4 bishops, about 700 priests, 628 parish churches (95 are without pastors), one seminary with only 60 seminarians. All monasteries and convents closed, no schools or institutions of any kind. Bishops, priests and nuns martyred. No wonder the Church went underground. Children forbidden to be instructed. No Catholic Press, all Catholic life smattered away. All in the name of science, progress, freedom of conscience,

but a heavy burden of communism. And this is called "a better way of life" by Parade Magazine of St. Petersburg Times, January 18, 1981, issue. What a mockery of Freedom!

Reds Continue Suppression

Soviet courts are issuing severe sentences to dissidents as authorities keep up a drive that has imprisoned more than 200 dissidents in the past 15 months, according to Amnesty International. Sentences of up to 15 years of combined imprisonment and internal exile have been imposed for convictions of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda, said Amnesty, an independent organization monitoring the international human rights situation.

Especially hard hit are "members of unofficial groups trying to monitor Soviet observance of human rights agreements reached at the 1975 Helsinki Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe; national rights campaigners in the non-Russian Soviet republics, including Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians and Armenians; and religious

THE BALTIC REPUBLICS: US POLICY

Background: The United States does not recognize the forcible and unlawful incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the USSR in 1930. As a corollary of this non-recognition policy, we recognize and continue to deal with diplomatic representatives of the last three independent Baltic governments. The Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian Charges d'Affaires in the US enjoy full diplomatic privileges and immunities. Their role is to uphold the ideal of a free Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

The Helsinki Final Act: On December 15, 1980, the Deputy Chairman of the US delegation to the Madrid review meeting of the Conference of European Security and Cooperation made the following statement on the Helsinki Final Act:

"I would not be true to 40 years of bipartisan and principled US policy if I did not mention one special case. The United States does not recognize the illegal incorporation, by force of arms, of the States of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia by the Soviet Union. I would also recall the statement in Principle IV (territorial integrity of states) that no occupation or acquisition of territory in contravention of international law will be recognized as legal. And I would reiterate my government's consistent interpretation that this provision is applicable to the Baltic States."

Value of nonrecognition: It has been made clear to us repeatedly in the years since 1940 that many people in the Baltic States look to our non-recognition policy as a reminder that we have not forgotten them and as a symbol of hope for the future. We feel that in the era following the Helsinki Final Act—with heightened interest in human rights worldwide—our Baltic policy remains relevant and important to overall US policy interests.

Baltic diplomatic missions: The Baltic legations in the United States remain important

believers, particularly Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists, Pentecostals and Russian Orthodox believers," said Amnesty in a press released statement in January by its New York office.

We Must Help

This is a battle which cannot be won by the people of Lithuania alone. As members of the Mystical Body of Christ, we must make this struggle of the Church as our struggle — and we must help. HOW CAN WE HELP?

First, we must pray. Our prayers and sacrifices are a most effective way to aid in this struggle. Second, we must inform. The people of Lithuania themselves speaking to us through the underground press have asked their brethren to make their plight known throughout the world. Relay information to your friends and neighbors, clergy and elected officials, and news media. Finally, write encouraging letters to Prisoners of Conscience in any language. Write to Soviet officials asking them to honor the religious rights of their citizens and to live up to their commitments in Helsinki accords. Our United States government is doing this.

We are grateful to the Vatican Radio, Radio Liberty, and the Voice of America for their encouraging broadcasts. Support your Catholic Press that lately is greatly helpful in bringing the world's attention to the real situation of the Catholic Church behind the Iron Curtain.

Thank you for your prayers today. God bless you.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 7, 1981

Dear Mr. Chargé d'Affaires:

On behalf of the government and people of the United States, I take pleasure in extending to you and the Lithuanian people warm greetings and best wishes on the occasion of the sixty-third anniversary of the proclamation of Lithuanian independence.

We are reminded on this anniversary of the deep commitment of Lithuanians everywhere to the preservation of their national and religious heritage. It is with respect that I acknowledge the devotion of those persons of Lithuanian heritage in the United States and elsewhere to the principles of self-determination, liberty and independence.

Sincerely,



Dr. S. A. Backis,
Chargé d'Affaires of Lithuania,
Lithuanian Legation,
2622 16th St., NW,
Washington, D.C.

Greetings of US Secretary of State Alexander Haig to Chage d'Affaires of Lithuania Dr. Stasys Backis on the occasion of Lithuania's Independence Day.

A PRAYER FOR LITHUANIA

The opening prayer, recited by the Rev. Fr. Leonard Andriekus, OFM, in the U.S. House of Representatives on February 18, 1981 before the House commemorated Lithuanian Independence Day

Eternal God, Father of nations and source of compassion, justice and strength, we humbly bow our heads before your Majesty.

Praised be your Name for the benefits, showered upon this great Nation and its leaders, so ardently working for a better world.

You have inspired them to be compassionate to the Lithuanian people, who have been suffering oppression on the shores of

Baltic sea for over forty years.

Lord, praised be your Name for inspiring the House of Representatives to commemorate the independence of Lithuania and giving to its people the hope to be free again.

Finally, we ask you to protect The United States of America as a fortress of justice and strength — to your glory and to the joy of all freedom loving humanity.

Amen

U.S. SCORES DENIAL OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO LITHUANIANS

One of the main victims of Soviet-style "detente" has been fascinated and candor on the part of the Western powers concerning the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States and Moscow's oppressive policies there. Therefore, the statement of Marilyn Haft, U.S. Alternate Representative to the U.N. General Assembly Third Committee, on October 14, is doubly welcome. Excerpts from the statement follow:

"My delegation was particularly interested yesterday to learn that the Soviet Union has at long last discovered article I of the International Human Rights Covenants, which declare that "all peoples have the right of self-determination." The Soviet speakers have expressed a heartwarming concern about the welfare of people they claim are denied the right to self-determination. If they were still alive, the thousands of

tic republics must obtain Soviet visas. However, the need to deal with the Soviets on specific topics does not in our view detract from the integrity of our nonrecognition policy.

GIST-February 1981

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1981 CONVENTION

Plans are proceeding for our Convention to be held in Rochester, New York, on July 12-13-14, 1981.

It may seem too early to be making plans for the Convention, which is approximately four months away, but time will quickly pass.

Besides the election of officers, one of the most important functions of the Convention is the procedure to amend the Constitution and By-Laws. According to Section 2, it is as follows:

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by any benefit member in good standing at a regular lodge meeting. Propose amendments shall be forwarded to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee not later than ninety days before the Convention and they shall have same published

in the official publication not later than 30 days before the Convention. The Board of Directors shall also have authority to propose amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws upon notice to all members by publishing same in the official publication not later than thirty days prior to the Convention.

(a) Proposed amendments not in violation of state laws shall be read at the Convention for consideration and shall require a two thirds vote for adoption of any amendment to the Charter or Articles of Incorporation or Constitution, and a majority vote for adoption of an amendment to the By-Laws, of the total number of participating officers, directors, and delegates, provided the delegates elected by the members shall have not less than two-thirds of the votes at the Convention.

KNOX MINE DISASTER — 22 YEARS AGO

January 22 marked the 22nd anniversary of the Knox Mine Disaster which took place in Port Griffith. Father Emil Husack, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Port Griffith, celebrated the annual Mass of Requiem for the twelve miners with memorial services following the Mass.

On that fateful Thursday, January 22, 1959, work began as usual in the Knox Mines. At about 11 a.m., Joe Stella, an inspector with Pennsylvania Coal Company, just happened to be making periodic inspections of the Knox Mine workings on that particular day.

While down in the mine, Joe got word to clear himself and his men of the mine. They proceeded through the main tunnel until about 1 p.m., when water blocked their path, forcing them to backtrack and attempt escape through the river slope.

The pressure at this point, however, was too great to go on. Joe Stella knew now that the only safe means of escape was through the old Eagle Air Shaft. Also with Joe's men was the group of Myron Thomas, a foreman for Knox. They both agreed to attempt the Eagle Air Shaft escape and started toward it.

Myron's men led the way, but got separated from Joe's group due to commotion caused by the noise of crashing ice and subsiding earth. When Joe's group finally reached the Eagle Shaft, Myron's group was not there.

Apparently, they missed the turnoff for the Eagle Shaft and continued on down the tunnel. At about 4 p.m., most of Joe's men had climbed the 40 ft. Eagle Shaft, by rope, to rescue teams waiting above.

Joe Stella and two of his men went back into the mine to look for Myron's group, but they were forced back. Meanwhile, Myron's group had ventured on down the tunnel into the Ewen Colliery workings located somewhere between the Water Street Bridge and the Fort Jenkins Bridge. They eventually hit a dead end and they were forced back toward the Eagle shaft. At about 6:30 p.m., search parties found Myron's group and helped them out through the Eagle Shaft.

Al Smelster was the last man out of the Knox Mine alive.

Smelster was an underground hoisting engineer at the time. He went down into the mines on the river slope to tell his men to evacuate. As they started up the slope, water began pouring into it. Al was a member of Myron's group of six men, who soon met up with Joe's group.

He said, "Water chased us all around the mines until we eventually found a high spot." At about 7 p.m., after being trapped for almost 8 hours in the Knox Mines, a rescue team eventually found them and helped them climb out of the old Eagle Shaft by rope. "From there we were taken to Pittston Hospital by ambulance," he said.

Joseph Stefanides, brother of trapped miner Daniel Stefanides, recalls: "We worked

together. I got hurt on December 8th right where the water broke through so I was in the hospital with a fractured skull and a concussion of the brain when the disaster occurred. My brother was one of the men trapped down in the Knox Mine."

"The hole remained open for about two weeks," said Joe Stella, and he added, "it was maybe 150 feet wide at the surface of the water. They pushed large gondola cars into the hole but they were just sucked down like little match boxes. They finally had to dam off the river to one side of an island and fill in the hole with 1200 yards of concrete."

The Knox Mine disaster was certainly one of the worst disasters to ever hit this area. Through some people may someday forget it, the families and friends of those involved will never forget.

Al Smelster, one of the survivors,



The scene at the Knox Mine shaft 22 years ago will never be forgotten by many of the area residents. Above some of the railroad cars which were used to try to block up the cave-in and stop the river water from rushing into the mine.

is a member of St. Casimir's Church, Pittston; Dominic Kovaleski and Herman Zelonis, who lost their lives in the tragedy, were also members of St. Casimir's.

OBSERVANCE OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY



American Lithuanians of various organizations joined together to observe the 63rd anniversary of Lithuanian Independence Day Monday, Feb. 16, in memory of the generation of Lithuanian freedom fighters and partisans who fought seeking freedom from tyranny and to defend Lithuanian national aspirations and national self-determination.

In recognition of the historic day, Mayor Thomas V. McLaughlin called on residents of Wilkes-Barre to join friends and neighbors of Lithuanian ancestry in marking this historic observance.

With the mayor, seated, from left, are John Timalonis, financial secretary of the Taurus Club; Nellie T. Bayoras, Knights of Lithuania chairman of Lithuanian Affairs and president, District 7, Lithuanian Alliance; Mayor McLaughlin; Rev. Peter J. Alisauskas, pastor, St. Casimir's Church, Pittston, and spiritual advisor, Knights of Lithuania, Council 143; Charles Liscosky, executive director, Lithuanian Catholic Alliance.

Standing, Leon Butsavage, president, Knights of Lithuania, Council 143; Michael Sendrick, director, Taurus Club; Len Pallis, Lithuanian RC Alliance, Robert Prawdzik, Wilkes-Barre

City Councilman; Professor V. Romanas, Lithuanian Alliance of America, District 7.

Seeking freedom from tyranny, Mayor McLoughlin pointed out, the Lithuanian people proclaimed their independence on February 16, 1918. Though their quest was later crushed and today Lithuania is a part of the Soviet Union, he noted, Americans of Lithuanian descent each year commemorate the anniversary. Since the thought of liberty still soars in hearts and minds of all Lithuanian descendants, the mayor continued, Americans and all freedom-loving peoples throughout the world join in their aspirations for freedom.

In keeping with the observance a special radio program was aired over radio station WILK Sunday at 10 p.m. Participating in the program were Msgr. Anthony J. Norkunas, Congressman James Nelligan, Paul Skiptunas, Pallis, Liscosky, Prof. Romanas. The program was under the direction of Ms. Bayoras and was dedicated to the people of Lithuania.

On February 16, under auspices of the Knights of Lithuania, Council 143, special flag raising ceremonies have been held on the lawn at Luzerne County Courthouse at 10 a.m. Rev. Father Alisauskas and former Congressman Raphael Musto participated along with members of various Lithuanian organizations, county and governmental officials. Chairman for this event was Ms. Bayoras. Prawdzik was coordinator.

WEEKEND RETREATS

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Joseph Convent, St. Mary's, Pa., are sponsoring "Search" weekends at the convent March 13-15 and June 12-14. During these retreat weekends, single women

AUŠRA (THE DAWN), NO. 20

RECENT ARRESTS IN LITHUANIA

Additional information on the recently arrested Lithuanian patriots: Antanas Terleckas (October 30, 1979), Julius Sasnauskas (December, 1979), Vytautas Skuodis, and Povilas Pečeliūnas (both on January 9, 1980).

Terleckas has declared more than once that "he had his generation would not experience the joy of liberty—only the future generations will enjoy it." This idealist has sacrificed himself for the well-being of his country and his nation.

Julius Sasnauskas has just turned twenty. During his high school years in Vilnius, he was in close touch with Viktoras Petkus and Antanas Terleckas. He also had a talent for literature. For his "Lithuanian spirit," he was expelled from high school and drafted into the army. Back from the army, he tried to enroll in the Kaunas Theological Seminary, but was barred from it. He was also barred from other universities and special schools, because "this youth was already entered in the lists of individuals marked for destruction." Today, he is in the KGB cells.

Vytautas Skuodis, born in

OBITUARIES

Stanley J. Blockis

Stanley J. Blockis, 80, of 11 1/2 Stark St., Pittston, was dead on February 14 in the afternoon at Pittston Hospital. He had been stricken at home a short time earlier.

Born in Lithuania, he came to this country, to the Pittston area 72 years ago. He was a son of the late Joseph and Catherine (Kudirka) Blockis. Mr. Blockis was a retired employee of Radio City Shopping Center, Pittston. He was a member of St. Casimir's Church, Pittston, and the Holy Name Society.

Surviving are his wife, the former Mary Marcincavage; daughter, Mrs. Ann Terrana, Pittston; three grandchildren and a step-brother, Stanley Marcavage, Pittston. A son Joseph, died last month in Woodbridge, Va.

Buried February 17 with a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Casimir's Church. Interment in the parish cemetery.

Mr. Blockis was a member of LCA Lodge 7, Pittston.

will reflect on the three vocations in life — marriage, single life and religious life. If interested, please contact Sr. M. Laura Vallimont, OSB, 303 Church Street, St. Mary's, Pa. 15857 or call (814) 834-2267 for reservations.

DOCUMENT NO. 26 OF THE LITHUANIAN HELSINKI GROUP

To: The Government of the USSR

Copies to: International Amnesty Organization, Editors of the daily Tiesa, Andrei Sakharov, The USSR Academy of Sciences.

At the 16th World Congress of Philosophers in 1978 in Duesseldorf, it was emphasized that spiritual blindness is by far more dangerous than the physical one and that at present it has reached epidemic proportions and represents a threat to society.

The correctness of this view was clearly confirmed by the treatment of the most famous defender of human rights in the Soviet Union—Andrei Sakharov, academician and Nobel Laure-

ate, who was arrested several days ago and exiled from Moscow to Gorky.

We were not surprised by this. Promethean individuals (and A. Sakharov is worthy of that name) were hated and chained to the "rocks" in all centuries. After all, is history aware of a single humanitarian giant whose activity was not impeded by the always numerous spiritual pygmies, who almost constantly have held the levers of power in their hands?

Who is A. Sakharov? First of all, he is a man who seeks liberty as the right to act on behalf of the good and a creator of a genuine peace and culture. He is one of the brightest beacons in the darkness of the 20th century, a man of heroic fortitude in his adherence to principles, courageous and steadfast in the life-and-death clash with the red middle ages and their inhumanity. His insight is deeper than that of other scientists, not only in physics but also in matters affecting society. Therefore, he is one of a few individuals who can lead the campaign to save perishing humanity. A. Sakharov's exiling where his activity will be chained, represents a great loss to all the people and nations of the world. The attempt to silence him at a time when the world crisis is constantly deepening is a crime against humanity.

In our view, disrespect for such individuals as Andrei Sakharov is tantamount to disrespect not only for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and for the obligations freely assumed at Helsinki, but also for the international pacts relating to human rights which were ratified by the USSR Supreme Soviet and have acquired juridical validity in the Soviet Union.

This is why we protest against the repression of Andrei Sakharov. And this is why we believe that the USSR government should demonstrate wisdom by returning Sakharov to Moscow.

Furthering Members of the Lithuanian Public Group for the Implementation of the Helsinki Agreements:

Ona Lukauskaitė-Poškiene,
writer
Bronius Laurinavičius,
Priest
Mečislovas Jurevičius,
worker
Algirdas Statkevičius,
physician-psychiatrist

January 23, 1980 (From Aušra (The Dawn), No. 20, January, 1980).

a son of poor peasants, was fighting against the Soviet system, Pečeliūnas replied that he was fighting "not against a system, but against injustice." He categorically rejected the KGB offer to collaborate as the only way to avoid prison.

"The arrest of the four defenders of human rights in Vilnius shows that in its efforts to suppress the national rebirth of the nations oppressed by the USSR, Soviet imperialism does not stop short of any means... Methods of physical genocide... are used to suppress national movements." Terleckas, Sasnauskas, Skuodis, and Pečeliūnas today face a "threat of physical destruction." They need effective international assistance. "We also ask the citizens of Lithuania to grant these martyrs and their families all possible help. We ask the faculty of Vilnius University, not to be indifferent to this painful fact."

Members of the Lithuanian National Movement

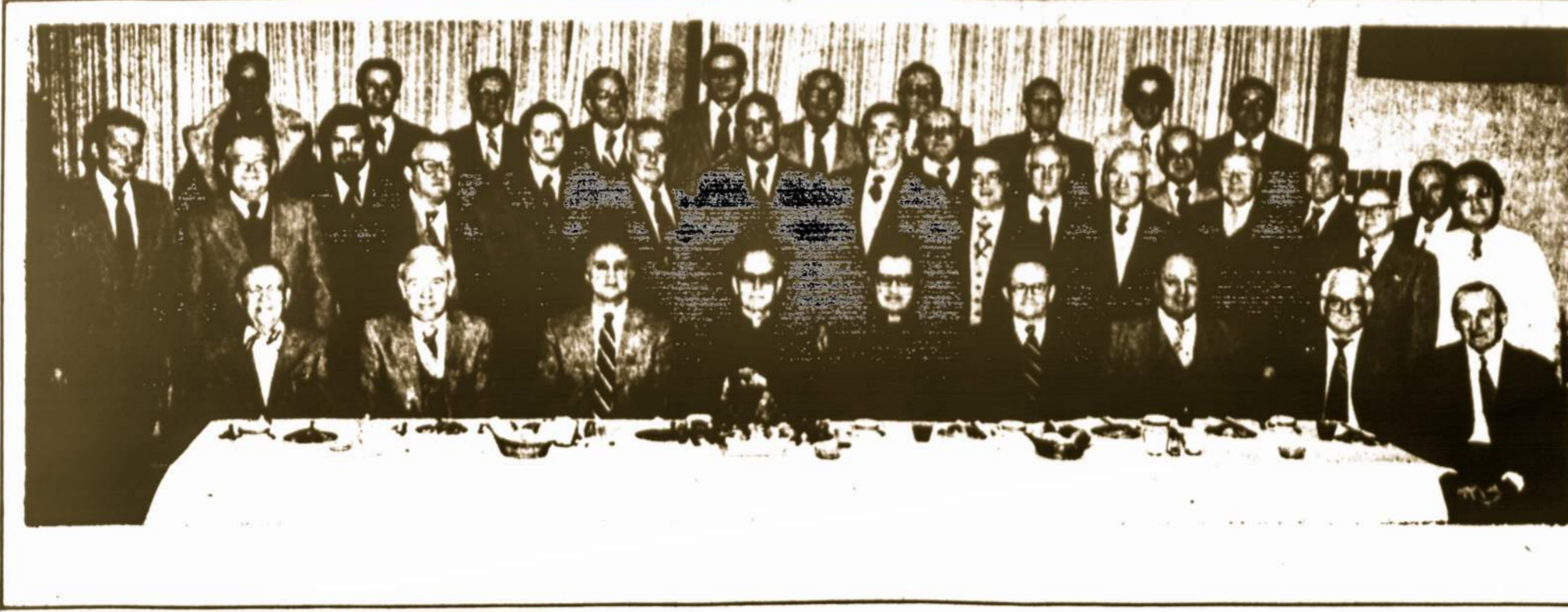
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Užsakymus siųsti: "Garsas", P.O. Box 32 (71-73 So. Washington Str.), Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18703



Officers of the Holy Name Society of St. Casimir's Church, Pittston, were invested January 11. All officers and trustees were unanimously reelected for the ensuing year. A catered breakfast was served immediately after the Mass. Seated, from left, George Nagy treasurer and captain of ushers; Frank Keder, recording secretary, Onofrio "Pep" Orlando, president; Rev. Peter J. Alisauskas, pastor and moderator, who gave remarks and offered benediction; Rev. Joseph Sibilano, OSJ, invocation, Peter Menchinsky, vice president; Leo Butsavage, first vice president; Joseph Rinkavage, financial secretary; Joseph Valvonas, trustee. Standing, trustees: Albert Bartush, Cas. Kizis, Sr., Larry Burdette, Al Chepalis, Stanley Abromavage, Ralph Tribendis, co-captain of ushers; Albert Savakinas, John Kwasiak, William Carey, Albert Kishkis, Raymond Saunders.

WYOMING KLONIO ŽINIOS

MELTING POT HAS GROWN COLD Lithuanian studies in Scranton, Pa.

A committee of U.S. Bishops has published a 4,500 word statement calling on Americans to welcome ethnic diversity and to unite in efforts to eliminate ethnic prejudice from national life.

"We urge all Americans to accept the fact of religious and cultural-pluralism not as a historic oddity or a sentimental journey into the past, but as a vital, fruitful and challenging phenomenon of our society," the bishops said in their statement, issued Jan. 4.

"Americanization does not call for the abandonment of cultural differences but for their wider appreciation," said the statement, published by the bishops' Committee on Social Development and World Peace.

The statement, titled "Cultural Pluralism in the United

States," was developed in response to a request by delegates to the 1976 bicentennial Call to Action conference sponsored by the bishops in Detroit that the hierarchy give greater attention to America's ethnic riches and cultural diversity.

A subcommittee headed by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana of Ogdensburg, N.Y., wrote the statement.

Calling on both the church and the country at large to understand and accept cultural differences, the statement urged specific actions such as providing parish worship and religious education activities in languages other than English, teaching in Catholic schools about the church's broad range of cultural experience, including in seminary training, the history

of ethnic communities and opening leadership positions in the church "to those of all ethnic backgrounds who are canonically eligible and qualified."

"We ask that the public and private sectors give consideration to those ethnic groups who have too long been unrepresented in large and important areas of American life," the statement said.

It is the purpose and mission of the Baltic Enterprise Association to promote interest in things Lithuanian through radio broadcasts, lectures, and cultural displays.

Gintaras Karosas, head of the Baltic Enterprise Association, recently explained over the radio, that the "melting pot" in the United States has grown cold, and that ethnicity is on the move. With renewed enthusiasm, Lithuanians are studying their past as a people. They are seeking traces of their cultural heritage and learning their language.

As a result of his radio broadcasts G. Karosas has been invited by many organizations to speak of ethnicity in the United States, its importance and meaning, and especially about the Lithuanians and their Fatherland by the Baltic Sea. The questions asked by the audience were such as these: Where

REP. NELLIGAN REMEMBERS LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

On February 15th, Congressman James L. Nelligan termed Lithuanian Independence Day a reminder of both one people's search for freedom and of the brutal totalitarianism of the Soviet Union."

He noted, "the commemoration of the 63rd anniversary of Lithuanian Independence Day Feb. 16, 1918, when the 20-

member Lithuanian national Council proclaimed the nation's independence after hundreds of years of Russian domination.

"The freedom lasted until World War II and, Lithuania now is again under the domination of the Soviet Union," Nelligan added.

"Lithuanian Independence Day comes at a time when the Soviet domination of Poland once again has reminded us of the continuing threat posed by a power intolerant of even stirrings of freedom," Nelligan stated.

"While the headlines focus on Soviet tyranny in Poland and Afghanistan," he continued, "many Americans are unaware of the brutal colonial oppression in Lithuania."

can I get more information about Lithuania? What Lithuanian organizations should I join?

The questioning continued: Should we write to our Senators and Congressmen to get help for Lithuania's freedom? How can we help the political prisoners in Lithuania? Where can we learn the Lithuanian language, history, and customs? Are there any Lithuanian camp sites for children? Whom should we contact to make arrangements to visit Lithuania?

The questioning and sincere concern of the various audiences truly surprised the people and revealed that such desires, remaining deep in the Lithuanian consciousness, expressed themselves when the opportunity was available to receive answers.

As a result of this growing interest, Sister Virginia, a member of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified, has volunteered to teach Lithuanian language and culture at the University of Scranton. For registration contact Ronnie Davidson of the Office of Continuing Education, phone 961-7582. The Spring Semester will begin March 3th, Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. and continue every Wednesday for 10 weeks. Both beginners and advanced students are welcome.

Nelligan said the Soviet oppression included curbs on free speech, imprisonment of citizens for non-existent crimes, travel restrictions, harassment of those who attempt to practice their religion. "Nevertheless," Nelligan said "hope remains."

He said commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day is a "symbol of hope as well as a salute to the 1918 proclamation."

"Lithuanian Americans remind us that the peoples living in areas of Soviet domination trust us to champion their cause," the congressman said. "We must share the determination that those people shall again be free," he stated.

Nelligan will join other congressmen in speeches noting Lithuanian Independence Day on the floor of the house.

"Garse" galima įsigyti šias knygas (Lietuvių ir anglų kalbomis)

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Vytautas The Great, kan J.B. Končiaus angliškai parašyta istorinė knyga. Kaina \$2.00

Lithuanian Self-Taught, M. Variakojytės - Inkenienės paruoštas rankvedis, prisilaikant Marlborough's sistemos. Kaina \$3.50

Vidudienio Sodai, Bernardo Brazdžionio eilėraščiai. Už šį poezijos rinkinį autorius laimėjo 1958-59 metų kultūros žurnalo "Aidų" literatūros premiją. Viršelio aplanką piešė dail Telesforas Valius. Kaina \$4.00

Amerikos Lietuvių Vardynas, Jungtinių Amerikos Valstybių žinomesnių lietuvių biografinės žinios, su prof. Kazio Pakšto įvadu. 240 psl., kietais viršeliais. Kaina \$4.00

The Forty Years of Darkness, by Juozas Vaišnora, translated by Joseph Boley. Suppression of the Lithuanian Press and how it was regained. Price ... \$2.00

Lithuanians in America, Dr. Antanas Kučas; translated by Joseph Boley \$6.00

The Brothers Domeika, a novel, Liudas Dovydenas; translated by Milton Stark \$6.00

Day of Shame, the truth about the murderous happenings aboard the Cutter Vigilant, during the Russian-American confrontation at Martha's Vineyard. The tragedy of Simas Kudirka, by Algis Rukšėnas \$9.00

Teismas Biržely, dokumentuotai aprašoma Nijolės Sadūnaitės teismas ir kaltinimas. Parašė Jurgis Gliauda. Kaina \$2.00

Simas (The story of Seaman Simas Kudirka), by Jurgis Gliauda. Translated from Lithuanian by Kęstutis Čižėnas and J. Žemkalnis \$5.00

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LCA MEMBER'S DEATHS

Mrs. Ursula Stasewicz — Lodge 222 — 9454 Ramona St., Bellflower, Calif. 90706. Died: October 31, 1980. Buried: November 6, 1980 St. Casimir's Cemetery, Chicago, Ill.

Elena Paulikas — Lodge 265 or 222 — c/o Jonas Mikulionis, 4225 Gunther Drive., Sterling Heights, Mich., 48077. Died: December 30, 1980. Buried: January 3, 1981 St. Hedwig's Cemetery, Detroit, Mich.

Mrs. Grace Wayne — Lodge 83 — 420 Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, N.J. 08034. Died: January 3, 1981. Buried: January 6, 1981 Cathedral Cemetery, Scranton, Pa.

George Zurevičius — Lodge 30 or 222 — (George T. Zurewich), 5 San Juan Court, Berkeley Twp., N.J. Died: January 8, 1981. Buried: January 9, 1981 Ocean County Memorial Park, Toms River, N.J.

Mrs. Josephine Macukevich — Lodge 133 — 220 Quay St.,

E. Wandergrift, Pa. 15629. Died: January 10, 1981.

John Zauinis — Lodge 142 — 3452 West 54th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44102. Died: November 1, 1980. Buried: November 5, 1980 All Soul's Cemetery, Chardon, Ohio. Mr. Zauinis was Secretary of Lodge 142, Cleveland.

Joseph Gribauskas — Lodge 249 — 15 Snedeker Rd., Wheeling, W. Va. 26003. Died: January 8, 1981. Buried: January 10, 1981 Greenlawn Cemetery, Moundsville, W. Va.

FIVE PARISHES HOLD COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Representatives of five parishes met recently and formulated plans for the annual "Men's and Boys' Communion Breakfast" on Sunday, March 8. The host parish was the Holy Trinity Church, East South Street, city, where Msgr. Anthony Norkunas is pastor.

The following parishes participated: St. Mary's of the Maternity, Park Avenue; St. Joseph's Slovak, Hillside Street; St. John Byzantine Rite Catho-

lic, Wilkes-Barre Township; St. Joseph's Monastery, Wilkes-Barre Township, and Holy Trinity, East South Street.

Mass was celebrated in the Holy Trinity Church at 9 a.m., followed by a breakfast served in the church auditorium. The speaker was Edward Rutkoski, a renown athlete from the West Side, having starred in football in high school, college and with the Buffalo pros.

Members of the committee,

seated, from left: Paul Makuch, St. Joseph's Slovak; Msgr. Anthony Norkunas, pastor, Holy Trinity; Chairman Anthony Snipas, Holy Trinity; Edward Bartz, St. Mary's Maternity. Standing: Elmer Petlock, St. Joseph's Slovak; Ronald Royek, St. Mary's Maternity; Stanley Kaminski, Holy Trinity, and Joseph Patackis, St. Joseph's Monastery.



TAURAS CLUB MEETS

The Taurus Club of Luzerne County met February 3 at Alexis Restaurant, Lee Park. William Bonsavage presided.

The following were appointed chairmen of committees for the year.

Membership: Joseph Sukalowski and Leo Petrowski, Sr., Social Activities: John Timalonis and Paul Skiptunas; Public Relations: Dan Stadulis; Sergeant-At-Arms: Leo Petrowski, Jr., and Frank Nadwodney; Foreign Relations: Matt Brussock.

The annual Installation of Officers Dinner-Dance took place Saturday, Feb. 28 at Madey's Restaurant, Alden.