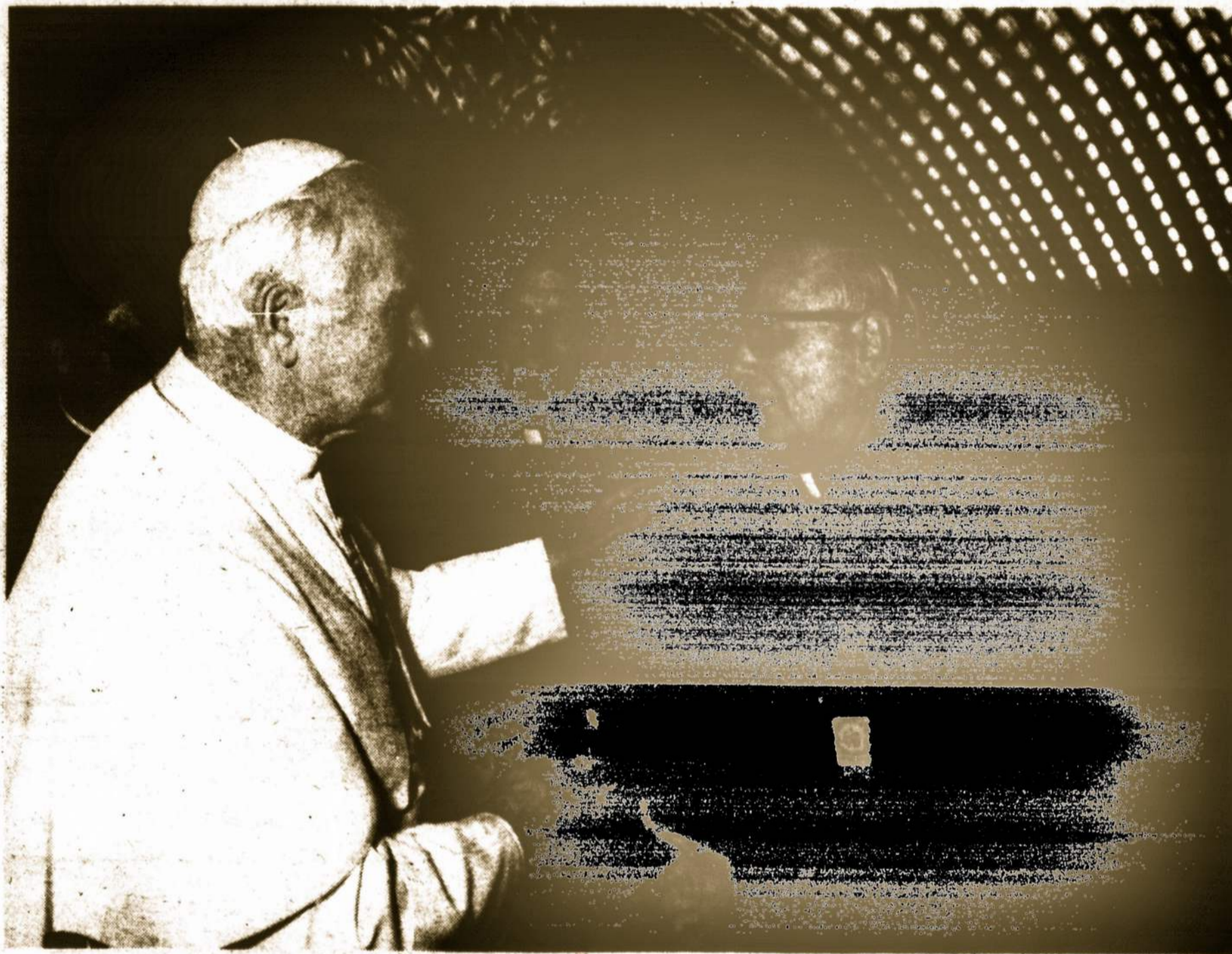


# GARSAS

No. 7

September, 1987

Vol. 70



Monsignor Frank L. Yashkas, Spiritual Advisor of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance is shown during a private audience with Pope John Paul II. To the left of Msgr. is Rev. Peter Alisauskas, pastor of St. Casimir's Church, Pittston, and to the left of the Holy Father, the Most Rev. Paul Baltakis, O.F.M., Titular Bishop of Egara for the Spiritual Assistance of Lithuanian Catholics living outside Lithuania. Msgr. Yashkas organized the trip which took the group to such places as Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis, Castle Saint Angelo and St. Mary Major Basilica.

On Saturday, June 27, 1987, the Holy Father received in audience a large group of Lithuanian Pilgrims on the occasion of the sixth centenary of the "Baptism" of Lithuania and the Beatification of the Servant of God, Jurgis Matulaitis. Parts of that address are quoted directly: *Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*It gives me great joy to greet you today. Lithuanian brothers and sisters who have come from various parts of the world with your pastors and led by Bishop Paulius Baltakis, to celebrate the Sixth Centenary of the "Baptism" of your beloved nation. Your presence here in Rome is an eloquent sign to the church and to the world: a sign*

*of your fidelity to your cherished homeland—a land all too often beset by trials and sufferings; a sign of your profound attachment to the faith which your forefathers received six centuries ago; a sign of your love for the Catholic Church and for the Successor of Peter, who is the visible source of unity for all God's people.*

*On this occasion the Church in Lithuania, represented here by Bishop Antanas Vaicius and a group of eight priests, gives thanks to God for the gift of the "Baptism." Baptism is a gift for which all believers are called to rejoice, not only for themselves but also for others, as Saint Paul says: "I am*

*glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me" (Phil 2:17-18). It is our unity in the body of Christ that enables us to rejoice in the marvelous gift of salvation in Jesus Christ offered to us and to all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.*

*For each one of you, the Six Hundredth Anniversary of the "Baptism" of Lithuania constitutes an urgent call for your own spiritual renewal. It is your task to give life now to the grace of your "Baptism." The Jubilee observance, in fact, will be fruitful to the extent that each person is converted to a more convinced life of faith in Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

*This is an appropriate time for you to renew and give new life to the beautiful Christian traditions of your people; to give rightful expression to the artistic, cultural and religious sensitivity that you have inherited. Preserve and integrate into your lives the traditional customs of family and social life, and pass them on to your children.*

*Likewise, this Jubilee Year is a time for ever more intense spiritual solidarity with the church in your land of origin. Continue to express your support and encouragement to your brothers and sisters living there, especially to those who suffer for reasons of religious conscience. In this way, the truth of the words of St. Paul will increasingly become a part of their spiritual experience: "For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too" (2 Cor 1:5). They look to you with confidence, knowing that they are sustained by your prayer.*

*By a providential coincidence the Sixth Centenary of the "Baptism" of your nation is taking place during the Marian Year. A strong devotion to the Mother of God has always been at the heart of your nation's Christian life. The great St. Casimir was deeply devoted to the Blessed Virgin, as was Jurgis Matulaitis. The bond of love that unites the Lithuanian people with Mary, the Mother of the Redeemer is not only a tender expression of deep faith and spiritual energy. It is also a commitment, an act of consecration, an entrusting of the entire nation to the Mother of God so that she may watch over the progress of the land and its*

*(Continued on Page 2)*



## Florence Eckert / Apple Orchard Adventures

As the sun shines through to warm the crisp, cool, autumn air, your mind begins to wander to the country. You don't know exactly why, but it just seems natural to want to take a leisurely drive through the countryside. I guess perhaps you are unconsciously aware that all of the nice summer drives are coming to an end and the heavy snows of winter will make driving an unpleasant task to be undertaken only when absolutely necessary.

The youngsters happily slip into their jeans and walking shoes, grab an extra jacket for the cooler country air and head for the shed to get a few bushel baskets. Even though you haven't mentioned it, they're quite sure there'll be some apple picking along the way. Some how one doesn't just go for a ride in the country in the fall without stopping to pick apples.

If you haven't taken your family apple picking, place it high on your list of things to do together next year. Tomato pick-

ing can be fun, but climbing trees is much more exciting. As you drive along, there is so much to observe. Some how the youngsters never tire of seeing the cows lazily grazing on grass. If they're close to the fence, take the time to pull off the road and let them get the thrill of being close up to the cattle.

If it's early fall, you'll be sure to bring along your color film to catch Mother Nature at her best. Once again, stop long enough to let the kids pick some of the beautifully colored leaves. A few weeks later, pumpkins are plentiful and the farmers have a few roadside stands where you can select any size or shape pumpkin you want. Indian corn and corn stalks are plentiful for decorating also.

You turn off the main road and follow the signs to the orchard fields. The narrow winding road is always good for a few thrills. If you are lucky, you make it to the top without meeting a car on its way down. If

you're not so lucky, you hold your breath as both cars try to pass side by side keeping all eight wheels on the road.

Once you reach the orchard you're greeted by the farmer who seems to remember all of you from year to year. He advises you where the best pickings are for the type apples you're after, gives you a ladder, and you're on your way. It doesn't take the little ones long to pile out of the car, run out to the fields and make friends with a few of the other youngsters.

Now the fun begins. Dad positions the ladder and a coin is flipped to see who gets to be the first one to climb to the top branches. The first basket is the most difficult to fill, the reason being obvious. Instead of hand to basket, everyone seems to be working hand to mouth. Eventually the baskets begin to receive more than the tummies, with everyone doing his share. It doesn't take you long to learn that standing underneath a tree

where someone is picking can be dangerous. Once you feel that solid apple strike you on top of the head, you stay on the outer edges of the tree that is being picked.

As you carry your overflowing baskets back to your car, you are met by the farmer who checks you out. After a friendly bit of chit-chat, you pile the brood into the car to head for home. As the farmer waves good-bye, he says, "Good health and good luck until I see you next year." Driving away from that narrow country road you can't help wondering why all of the people of the world can't be like this farmer. Always warm and friendly, never envious or wanting. Perhaps it's because he's so close to nature and we're so far removed. It might be that we should visit the country more often. Maybe plant a few apple trees ourselves. Well, we have the long cold winter to think it over. In the meantime, boy these apples taste delicious!

## A First-Person Reaction to Beatification Rite in Rome

*Editor's note: Sister Virginia Vytelle who contributes articles on the history of Lithuania and who has written the book, "Praise the Lord All Ye Nations," is a member of the community of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified, Elmhurst, PA.*

*She has the following comments regarding her visit to Rome to witness the beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis, a relative:*

On June 17, 1987, with 7 members of my religious community I had the privilege of joining a tour of Italy and, at the same time, to attend the beatifi-

cation of Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis along with the celebration of the 600 Jubilee of Lithuania's Christianization.

I have never been in Rome before, nor have I ever attended a Papal Mass. I have never witnessed the process of beatification wherein a person is called "blessed." It was all new to me therefore it was breathtaking.

A thrilling moment ensued when, during the Mass, John Paul II declared Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis "blessed." Thunderous applause filled the basilica as the church bells rang out to proclaim the joyous moment.

I learned later that the Pope had timed the declaration of blessedness to coincide with the ringing of the bells at St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Lithuania. The people of that nation, though not permitted to go to Rome, were able to be united in heart and mind to the celebration occurring at St. Peter's Basilica.

The celebration of the 600 Jubilee of Lithuania's Christianization and the beatification services in Rome have ended. The tourists from various coun-

tries returned to their homes. The memory of the grace-filled experience will linger.

During the celebration more Christians are being made aware that a Church of Martyrs still exists, that long-suffering and endurance are the marks of a nation that has borne and is still experiencing persecution for her faith and for her identity as a people. The truth of Lithuania's heroic life-and-death struggle to retain her faith in God will be made known to everyone.

## Pope's Comments at Ceremony

*(From Page 1)*  
*people along the path of history.*

*It is for that reason that in the Prayer for the Marian Year I wished explicitly to place the entire nation under her Protection:*

*To you, Mother of Christians, we entrust in a special way the peoples who are celebrating during this Marian Year, the Sixth Centenary ... of their acceptance of the Gospel*

*Turn towards them your loving glance; give strength to those who are suffering for the faith.*

*Finally, I assure you all of a special place in my heart and prayers. Take my greetings to your loved ones and tell them of the Pope's closeness to them. In the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ I impart to you all my Apostolic Blessing.*

### GARSAS

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## Searching for early Lithuanians

The Genealogy Department of the Balzekas Museum is searching for names of Lithuanians who arrived in the U.S. before World War I. Our purpose is two-fold.

First of all we want to establish an archive for the collection of materials pertaining to the early immigrants for the research use of future genealogists and historians. Winning independence in Lithuania in 1918 resulted in many changes. Not only did the early struggle result in the loss or destruction of many important records, but in many cases family names were changed. Today, information about the roots of the Lithuanian immigrant exists only in the memories of their descendents. It is important to document this information now or an important period of Lithuanian ancestry will be lost forever.

Secondly, we want to compile a book containing the names of these early immigrants; a published collection of our first families. In doing genealogy research, many letters we have received reveal story-like facts about the emigration experience. However brief, we wish to include these stories. We want the combined contents of this book to capture these real life stories about the "Lithuanian Pioneers."

Please submit the name of any Lithuanian you know who arrived here before World War I to 6500 Pulaski Rd., Chicago IL 60629. You will receive a questionnaire which, upon completion, will become a permanent record in the Museum's genealogy file.

(Reprinted from the Lithuanian Museum Review.)

## Important dates in the life of Our Holy Father

Significant dates in the life of Pope John Paul II:

**May 18, 1920** — Karol Joseph Wojtyla born in Wadowice, Poland.

**June 20, 1920** — Baptized. **1929** — His mother Emilia (nee Krezorowska) dies while delivering a stillborn daughter.

**1932** — His brother Edmund, 15 years Karol's senior and a medical intern, dies of scarlet fever contracted from a patient.

**1937** — He and his father, also named Karol, move to Krakow; enrolls in department of philosophy, Jagiellonian University; joins the "Rhapsodic Theatre."

**Sept. 1, 1939** — Nazis invade Poland; occupation forces university and theater to go underground; while studying underground becomes stone cutter and assistant shotfirer in quarry.

**1941** — Father, who was a

retired administrative officer and recruiter for the Polish army, dies; works in Solvay chemical plant unloading lime from railroad hoppers; tends boilers on night shift; active in UNIA (Christian underground), helps Jews secure refuge.

**1942** — Begins studies for priesthood in Krakow's underground seminary.

**1944** — Disappears from job in Solvay; his name appears on Nazi's blacklist; he and other seminarians hide in home of Archbishop Adam Stefan Sapieha.

**Nov. 1, 1946** — Ordained a priest; sent to Angelicum University in Rome.

**1948** — Earns doctorate in ethics; returns to Poland to parish work, deacon in Neigowic, later pastor of St. Florian's in Krakow.

**1949** — Earns second doctorate since Adrian VI (1522-23), the

(Continued on Page 5)

## The Double Name

### —a Clarification

The Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints had officially determined the name of Blessed George to be Matulaitis — Matulewicz.

The surname Matulaitis is very common in Lithuania, especially in the southern part of the country. The origin of this name Matas (Matthew) in its diminutive, affectionate form is Matulis. When the slavonic ending is added, it reads Matulevicius (Matulewicz - in Polish).

George's surname is recorded in the baptismal register as Matulaitis. This was the name he used throughout his elementary and high school years at Mariampole. When George was accepted to the diocesan seminary in Kielce, Poland, he was enrolled under the name Matulewicz. This was the name that George used for the remainder of his life. He never changed it. George always remained Lithuanian.

### In the Beatification

#### Documents

During the process leading to beatification all George's writings (letters, manuscripts, documents) reveal that when George received the Order of priesthood in St. Petersburg, his name was *Matulewicz*. This name was also used while he was professor at the Theological Academy at St. Petersburg. Pope Benedict XV named him Bishop of Vilnius

under this name. Still with this same name and with the title of Apostolic Visitator, Pius XI sent him to Lithuania as his personal envoy. All of George's letters and reports written in Latin sent to the Holy See were signed *Georgius Matulewicz*. This is how he signed all his writings and letters to Poles. In writing to Lithuanians, in some instances, his signature was *Jurgis Matulevicius* (or *Matulevicius*). As Bishop of Vilnius, in letters to his friends, he signed them *+Jurgis, Vyskupas* (Bishop George) or *+Jerzy, Biskup* (Bishop George). In all his writings not one letter or document signed by him is signed *Matulaitis*.

Since all his known official documents are signed in Polish as *Matulewicz* and in Lithuanian *Matulevicius*, the Sacred Congregation for the causes of Saints at first decided that all the beautification documents and decrees use the two names *Matulewicz* — *Matulevicius*. However, when the baptismal certificate was presented to them — which records the family name Matulaitis — it was finally decided that the official name by

**GEORGE MATULAITIS**  
**— MATULEWICZ.**

(Translated and adapted from an article by Fr. Joseph Vaisnora MIC — printed in *Laivas* (a Lithuanian Journal) Nov.-Dec. 1986, Jan.-Feb. 1987.)

## Days of Prayer Important in Lithuania

Catholics in Lithuania have declared May 23-31 as days of prayer for imprisoned priests and other "prisoners of conscience," according to reliable sources from Lithuania. They have appealed to religious believers in the West to join them in a display of Christian solidarity. Two of the three imprisoned Lithuanian priests, Fathers Svarinskas and Tamkevicius have been returned to labor camp after refusing to sign confessions of guilt. Father Tamkevicius had been brought to Vilnius from Perm labor

camp twice, but was returned to Camp 385-3-5, in Mordovia. Father Tamkevicius was reportedly returned to his original place of imprisonment in the Perm region.

Ten former Lithuanian "prisoners of conscience" recently issued an appeal to Mikhail Gorbachev requesting the release of the three imprisoned priests and other "prisoners of conscience." Among them are Nijole Sadunaite, Mecislovas Jurevicius, Julius Sasnauskas, Jadvyga Bieliauskiene, Antanas Terleckas, Vytautas Skuodis, and Algirdas Statkevicius.

(Reprinted from *Elta*, July, 1987)



# ROME CELEBRATES LITHUANIAN

*Mary, "the memory of the church"*

In announcing the Marian Year, Pope John Paul II termed Our Lady, "the memory of the church," because, he said, "the church learns from you, Mary, that to be a mother means to preserve and meditate in your heart, the affairs of men and of people; the glorious events and the painful events."

Speaking of these events, the Holy Father mentioned a centenary. "Among so many events of the year 1987, we wish to recall to the memory of the church the 600th anniversary of the 'Baptism of Lithuania,' drawing near to our brothers and sisters who have preserved for so many centuries united to Christ in the faith of the Church."

The "baptism" of Lithuania was late compared to most of the other Baltic regions. It was not until the second millenium that missionaries first reached Lithuania but it was another 200 years before the Christian faith took hold in Lithuania.

In the year 1250-1251, the Lithuanian Grand Duke Mindaugas decided to receive his baptism, Pope Innocent IV was overjoyed and offered Mindaugas the Royal crown. In 1253 the coronation took place and the Diocese of Lithuania was erected with the confirmation of its first Bishop and a new cathedral church was built in Vilnius.

However, all this joy was short lived when the Pagan Dukes fearing too much intrusion from the Military Order of Latvia, who helped bring about this Christianization, resisted and even went so far as to assassinate King Mindaugas and his family in the year 1263.

Over a century later, Jogaila, then Grand Duke of Lithuania

## *LCA Members from Many Towns in U.S.A. Attend*

married Medwig, reigning Queen of Poland. He was baptized and in 1386 became King of Poland.

Upon his return to Lithuania he founded the diocese of Vilnius and initiated the baptism of all his subjects thus ensuring the spreading of Catholicism.

On this 600th celebration of the Christianization of Lithuania we pay tribute to a very strong willed nation whose people suffered many years to exercise their God given rights and who continue that suffering to this day.



Lined up in front of the bus that will take them to New York City to board their flight for Rome are: Front row kneeling from left to right: Patrick Ansilio, Eleanor Wanyo, Mrs. Helen Ansilio, Mary Visniackas, and Mary Waiksnis. Standing left to right: Dr. Vincent A. Drapiewski, Mrs. Patricia Mack, Attorney Thomas E. Mack, President Lithuanian Catholic Alliance; Msgr. Frank L. Yashkas, Spiritual Advisor Lithuanian Catholic Alliance; Reverend Peter J. Alisaukas, Bertha Revitt, Mary Anne Revitt, Anthony Snipas, Anna Moses, Ann Waiksnis and Marts driver, Willard Sterling. Additional passengers to board at another station were Frank J. Katilus, Vice President Lithuanian Catholic Alliance and Mildred Cusick.

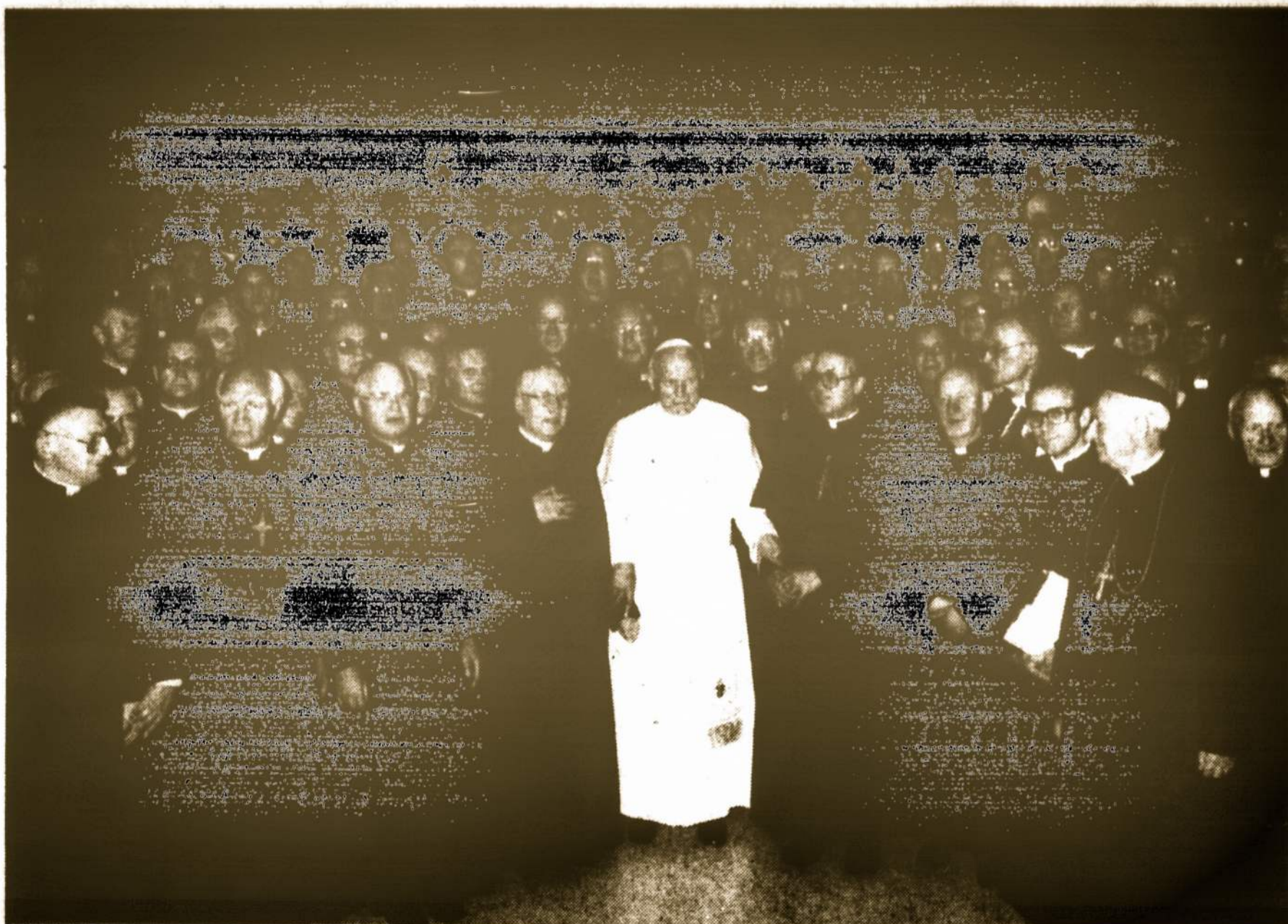


Shown boarding the bus for New York City and the first leg of their journey to Rome and the Beatification ceremonies are: Left to right: Msgr. Frank L. Yashkas, Spiritual Advisor of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance; Attorney Thomas E. Mack, President Lithuanian Catholic Alliance; Reverend Peter J. Alisaukas, Pastor, St. Casimir's Church, Pittston, Pa.; and Mrs. Patricia Mack, wife of President Mack and member of the Benevolent Committee of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance.



# THE 600TH YEAR OF CHRISTIANITY

## *Pope speaks of 'Baptism' of Lithuania*



Gathered around the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, are members of the clergy from all parts of the world who came to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Christianization of Lithuania and the beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis. To the immediate left of the Holy Father is Bishop Pual A. Baltakis, O.F.M., D.D., Spiritual Advisor of all Lithuanians living outside Lithuania. Standing to the immediate right of the Holy Father is Bishop Antanas Vaicius, the only Lithuanian Bishop permitted to leave Lithuania to attend the ceremonies in Rome. Among the other clergy can be seen Father Peter Alisauskas of Pittston, second from the last head on the extreme left of the photo to the rear. Also in the last row, a bit to the right of Father Pete, can be seen Msgr. Frank Yashkas, Spiritual Advisor of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance.

### **Pope—Philosopher, Teacher, Author** *(From Page 3)*

abolish that department at Jagiellonian University; serves as student chaplain; joins faculty.

1953—Becomes professor of moral theology before Communists abolish that department at Jagiellonian University; serves as student chaplain; joins faculty.

1953—Becomes professor of moral theology at the major seminary at Krakow.

1954—Becomes professor of ethics, Catholic University, Lublin; later named chairman of philosophy department.

1959 — Named to Polish Academy of Sciences in recognition of his work in philosophy.

Sept. 28, 1958 — Ordained auxiliary bishop of Krakow.

1962 — Named vicar capitular (head of a diocese when a see is vacant, in this case because of dispute with Polish government) of diocese.

Jan. 13, 1964 — Appointed archbishop when Communist government lifts ban on such appointments.

1962-65 — Attends all sessions of the Second Vatican Council; contributes to conciliar

documents: *Lumen Gentium*, the Constitution of the Church; *Gaudium et Spes*, the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, the Declaration on Religious Freedom, and the *Decree on the Instrument of Social Communication*.

June 26, 1967 — Inducted into the College of Cardinals.

1972 — His book, "Foundations of Renewal," reflecting his efforts to educate the people of his archdiocese on Vatican II, published.

Oct. 16, 1978 — Elected pope, the 263rd successor to St. Peter, the first non-Italian pope since Adrian VI (1522-23), the first Polish pope, youngest since Pius IX (1846-78).

Jan. 24, 1979 — Meets with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Jan. 25, 1979 — Begins trip to Mexico that marks the beginning of his world travels, the most extensive in the history of the papacy.

1979 — "Easter Vigil and Other Poems" published in English. This was among philosophical

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## **Celebration in Lithuania Hampered by Restrictions**

Festive observations of the 600th anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania were scheduled this June and July throughout Lithuania and in the Vatican City. The Soviet authorities were doing their utmost to restrict the observances, while proclaiming to the world that religious believers in Lithuania enjoyed full rights.

Travel to Lithuania was banned in June for the month-long duration of the commemoration events. The authorities warned the Lithuanian Bishops not to invite church dignitaries from the West. These were two of the many attempts to isolate Lithuania from the outside world — "glasnost" in reverse. It was reported, however, that Bishop A. Vaicius and eight priests would be allowed to come to the

Vatican from Lithuania for the festivities.

The Communist-controlled press in Lithuania greeted the anniversary with a barrage of articles denigrating Christianity. Worried about possible public demonstrations in connection with the festivities, the authorities kept issuing warnings and threats to the Lithuanian Catholics.

Festivities in the capital city of Vilnius were timed to coincide with observances at the Vatican. The beatification of Jurgis Matulaitis (1871-1927), former archbishop of Vilnius, was scheduled as part of the solemnities. Special Masses marking the anniversary were also scheduled in North and South America, Australia, and Europe, where many Lithuanians reside.

*(Reprinted from Elta, July, 1987)*





Dr. Vincent Drapiewski and Mrs. Patricia Mack pause for a photo with a group of young Lithuanians in the native dress of Lithuania.



President Thomas Mack poses in St. Peter's Square with a young girl in Lithuanian dress carrying a flag of crosses.



Enjoying a triple decker ice cream and bubbly water at an outdoor cafe near the Vatican are Sister Mary Ann George, SCC, from Williamsport; Anthony Snipas, Lithuanian Catholic Alliance member, and Sister Immaculata, SCC, New Jersey. Both Sisters are stationed in the Sisters of Christian Charity Main Convent in Rome.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 1987

It is a pleasure to send warmest greetings to the Lithuanian American community of Metropolitan Washington as you join with Christians around the world in celebrating the 600th anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania.

I join you in commemorating the momentous events of 1387 when the Lithuanian rulers, Jogaila and Vytautas, introduced Christianity to the Lithuanian people. It is well to recall that, before 1387, the Lithuanian people had stubbornly resisted for 150 years the imposition of Christianity by foreign invaders and that they renounced paganism only at the behest of their own leaders. This tenacity made Lithuania the last pagan nation in Europe — and today makes it an outpost of Roman Catholicism in the lands ruled by the Soviet Union.

Just as Lithuanian pagans resisted the marauding Teutonic Knights in centuries past, so today Lithuanian Catholics steadfastly resist attempts by the Soviet government to forcibly impose atheism, the state religion. Systematic discrimination by Soviet officials against believers has served only to unite the Catholic clergy and laity, who gather petitions of protest containing hundreds of thousands of signatures, document instances of religious persecution in underground journals, and openly defy state decrees that seek to limit their religious rights. The Catholic clergy of Lithuania continue to faithfully execute their pastoral duties even though they are painfully aware of the imprisonment or exile of their most prominent members and are themselves subjected to an unending stream of harassment and abuse.

The current plight of the Church in Lithuania makes this celebration of the 600th anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania a solemn one. But the events of the past are also a source of inspiration for the future. They remind us that the will of the Lithuanian people will not be broken by a foreign ideology that is forcibly imposed.

Nancy joins me in wishing you a truly memorable celebration. Our prayers are especially with you this day. *Telaimina Jus Dievas.*

*Ronald Reagan*

*Pope's Early Years Filled with Activity (From Page 5)*

and literary works he wrote in the 1950s. Also published in New York was "Sign of Contradiction," the meditations from the personal retreat he conducted for Pope Paul VI.

March 4, 1979 — *Redemptor Hominis* (On redemption and the dignity of the human race), his first encyclical, is issued.

Sept. 26 to Oct. 25, 1980 — Presided over his first Synod of bishops and the fifth Synod assembly, under the theme, "The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World."

Nov. 30, 1980 — *Dives in Misericordia* (On the Mercy of God), his second encyclical, is issued.

May 13, 1981 — Escapes death when shot by Mehmet Ali

Agca in St. Peter's Square. (Spends 77 days in Gemelli Hospital.)

Sept. 14, 1981 — *Laborem Exercens* (On Human Work), his third encyclical.

October 1981 — Resumes public appearances.

Nov. 13, 1981 — Urges in an address to those attending the 21st conference of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization to eliminate "absolute poverty ... a condition in which life is so limited by lack of food, malnutrition, illiteracy, high infant mortality and low life-expectancy as to be beneath any rational definition of human decency."

*(Next Month: The Pope of the Eighties continues his work.)*

**Australian seeks brother-in-law**

Board member, George Sadauskas received a letter from Vincas Kalidinskas of Brisbane, Old Australia, seeking help in locating his brother-in-law, Vytas Slapkauskas, who migrated to Canada in 1947-48. He would be approximately 65 years old and his last known address was Merryville, Penn-

sylvania. Vincas notes that Vytas' wife is coming from Lithuania to vacation in Australia for some time, and they are very anxious to locate him. If you have any information on the whereabouts of Vytas, write to Vincas Kalidinskas, 33 Arcola Street, Aspery 4034, Brisbane, Old Australia.



# Scranton Diocese To Note 600th Jubilee of Christianity In Lithuania

A meeting was held at Holy Trinity Church Hall on Tuesday, August 25, 1987, at 7:00 p.m. of all Pastors of the Lithuanian parishes in the Diocese of Scranton. Plans were made for the celebration of the 600th Anniversary of the Christianization of Lithuania. The Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D., Bishop of Scranton will be the principal Celebrant of the Mass to be held at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, Pennsylvania on Sunday, November 1, 1987, at 3:00 p.m. The pastors of the Lithuanian parishes in the Diocese will be Concelebrants at the Mass.

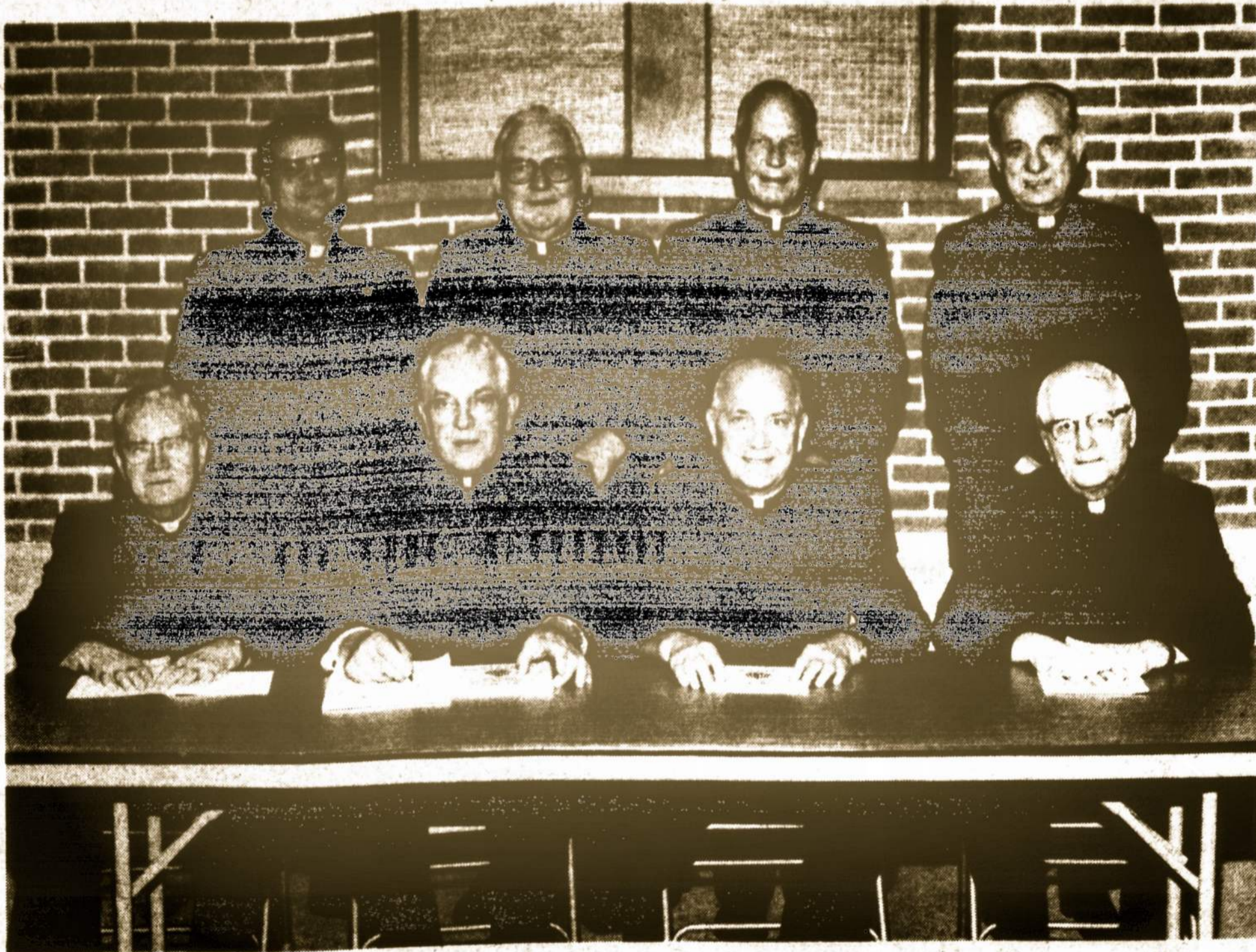
All Choir members from every Lithuanian parish had their first practice at Holy Trinity Church, located at 416 E. South Street, Wilkes-Barre, on Thursday evening September 17, 1987.

The Altar Boys from the parishes will take part in the Procession to the Cathedral. The Knights of Lithuania have been invited to take part also. Men and women having the Lithuanian costume are asked to wear the costume at the Mass.

The Reverend John E. Rikteraitis, pastor of St. Andrew's Church, New Britain, Connecticut, will preach the homily.

A Dinner-Dance will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Convention Hall located at 1073 Oak Street, Pittston Twp., Pa. Tickets for the Dinner-Dance may be obtained from any pastor of the Lithuanian parishes listed above. All are invited to join in this great celebration, and we ask your prayers for the people of Lithuania.

**600th Jubilee, Nov. 1**  
**Mass at 3 p.m.**  
**St. Peter's Cathedral**  
**Scranton, Pa.**  
**Dinner-Dance at 6 p.m.**  
**Convention Hall**  
**Pittston, Pa.**



Left to right seated: Monsignor Michael C. Ozalas; Monsignor Anthony J. Norkunas; Monsignor William J. Pakutka; Monsignor Frank L. Yashkas. Standing, left to right: Rev. Thomas R. Hudak; Rev. John J. Kazlauskas; Rev. Peter J. Alisauskas; Rev. Joseph J. Lasky. Absent were Rev. Leonard M. Butcavage; Rev. Edward L. Fundalewicz; Rev. Peter P. Madus; Rev. Joseph S. Sitko; Rev. Francis P. Skiba.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

June 14, 1987, marks the 46th anniversary of the start of mass deportations and the Genocide of the Lithuanian people by the Soviet Union.

The week of June 14-21 saw the deportation of over 34,000 men, women and children during night raids where the population of whole villages was rounded up by the N.K.V.D. (now the K.G.B.) and their collaborators and transported in sealed cattle cars to Siberia.

Much has been written about some of the victims of the Nazis during World War II, but the American media is strangely silent about the Soviet Genocide of the Baltic and Ukrainian peoples ... it is almost as if a

conspiracy of silence has descended over the criminal acts of the Soviets and their collaborators. Actually a denial of these facts is attempted even by those who themselves have suffered a similar fate and should understand.

A good example was the refusal by ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS to air the documentary "Harvest of Despair" as being too controversial. Is the fact that the Soviets starved to death over 6 million Ukrainian men, women, and children too controversial? Since when has mass murder become a tabu subject? Only the intervention of William Buckley allowed this to be seen on PBS.

Let us lift this curtain of Si-

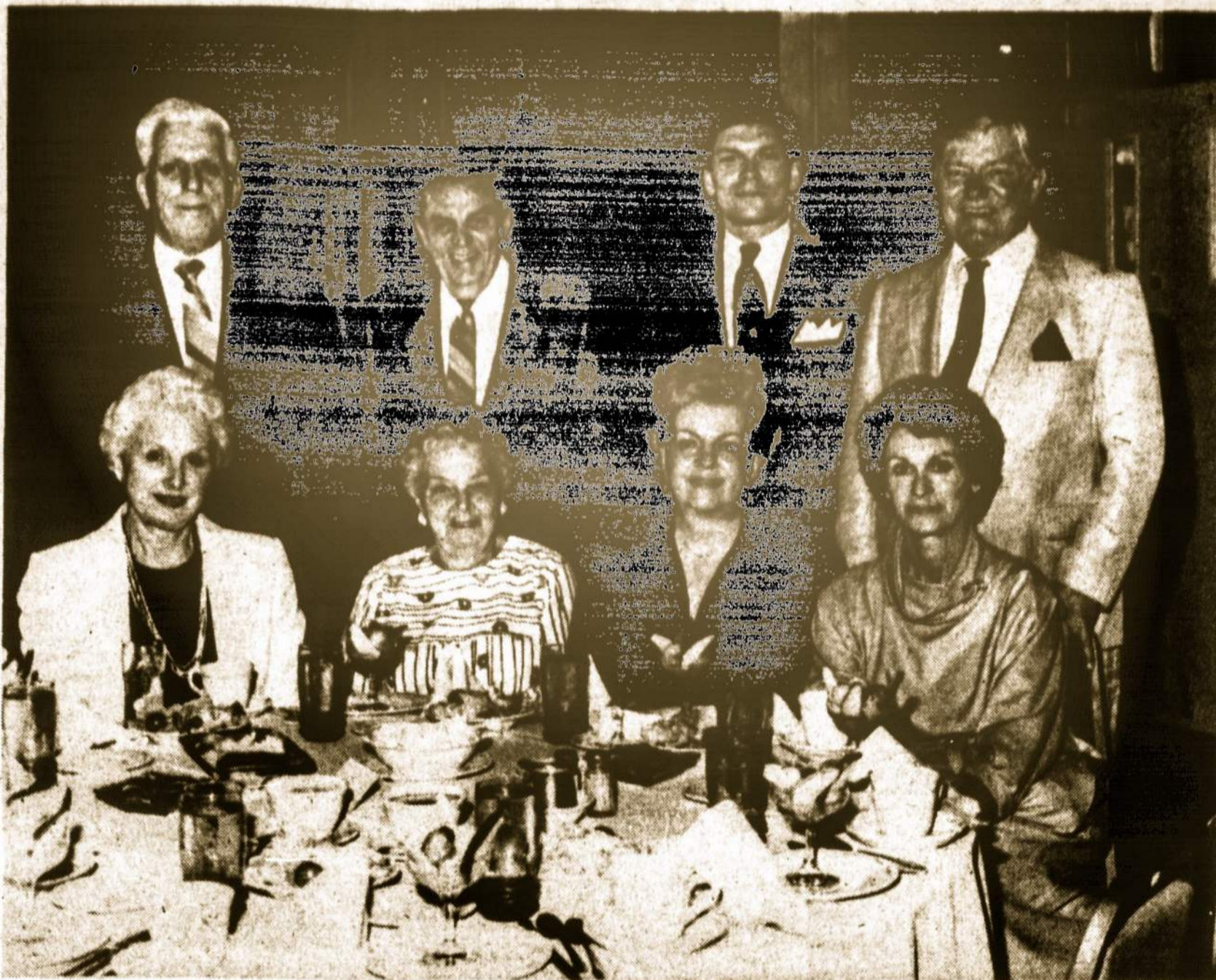
lence that has been drawn over the criminal acts of the Soviet Union for so many years. Let us not lower our legal standards, imperfect as they may be, to the level of those of a totalitarian society, where truth and justice are subordinated to the political interests of the tyrannical state. We mourn our dead and witness in horror the continuing collaboration of the U.S. Department of Justice with the K.G.B.

Let us pray for those still in exile in Siberia and hope that the day will come that their murderers and jailers will be brought to Justice!

Romas Dovydaitis, President, Lithuanian-American Community of U.S.A., RD 1, Box 273, Dalton, PA 18414



## Proclamation and Celebrations Mark Fraternal Week



Representing the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance at the Northeastern Fraternal dinner are, seated left to right: Mrs. Delores Liscosky, Mrs. Frances Katilus, Florence Eckert, English Editor, Garsas, and Mrs. Patricia Mack, Benevolent Committee; Standing left to right: Mr. Charles A. Liscosky, Executive Director and Secretary; Mr. Frank Katilus, Vice-President; Attorney Mark Mack, Youth & Membership Committee; Attorney Thomas E. Mack, President.



Pictured are Presidents of the various fraternal organizations. Seated left to right: Stephen Kavulich, President Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union; Cecilia Sarocky, President Ladies Slovak-Catholic Union; Joseph Steefka, President National Slovak Society of U.S.A., President Pa. Fraternal Congress, Board of Directors National Fraternal Congress and Principal Sepaker for the Fraternal Dinner Meeting. Standing: Bernard Golubiewski, Secretary Russian Orthodox Catholic Mutual Aid Society, President NEF; Andrew Dennis, President Russian Orthodox Catholic Mutual Aid Society; Henry J. Dende, President Polish Union of U.S.A.; Ivan Olekswyn, President Ukrainian Fraternal Association, U.S.A.; Attorney Thomas E. Mack, President Lithuanian Catholic Alliance.

The Fraternal of Northeastern Pennsylvania recently observed Fraternal Week with several activities and presentations. A Dinner Meeting was held at the Sheraton in Scranton. The Mayor of Scranton signed a Proclamation, and donations were made to the Scranton and Wilkes-Barre Soup Kitchens.

Henry Dende, Co-Chairman of the Dinner read the Proclamation of Fraternal week. He pointed out the tragedy of the loss of patriotism in our country and stressed the importance of flying the American flag. He told those present that the Fraternal donated to the two soup kitchens, St. Vincent de Paul in Wilkes-Barre and St. Francis of Assisi in Scranton, noted the Fraternal are asked to participate in many worthwhile projects such as Drug Programs and Discussions on AIDS. He called for the old fashioned way of volunteerism working its way back into the mainstream of our society.

The President of the NEF, Bernard Bolubiewski, introduced the Principal Speaker, Mr. Joseph Stefka, President of the National Slovak Society. Mr. Stefka gave a very interesting talk on the National, State, and Local aspects of the Fraternal. Speaking on the National aspects he reviewed the 1986 Tax Reform Act and spoke on the importance of maintaining our tax-exempt status. He spoke of the computer world entering the fraternal offices and suggested all fraternal check out the system of computers.

Stefka noted that if solvency is growing rapidly there is a chance the IRS will be asking some questions. He stated that the next five years will see many small fraternal fall by the wayside and called on all fraternal to reexamine their goals and to renew the spirit of fraternalism within the membership.



## Fraternalists Make Contribution to St. Vincent dePaul Soup Kitchen

The Fraternalists of Northeastern Pennsylvania recently presented a check to the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

This donation was made possible through the combined efforts of the Northeastern Fraternal Group and the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress that had a fund raising event at their last Annual Meeting which was held in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in the Fall of 1986.

Those Societies that are also

members of the N.E. Fraternal Group but were not represented at the presentation are: Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union; Lithuanian Catholic Alliance; Polish National Union of America and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association.

All of the above mentioned Societies are Fraternal Life Insurance Organizations with their National Officers residing in the Luzerne and Lackawanna County areas.



Pictured above are members of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance with Mayor David J. Wenzel. To the Mayor's right is Frank Katilus, Vice-President and to the left George Sadaukas, Trustee.



Pictured (left) in the presentation from left to right are: Joseph A. Zak, 1st Vice President of the Polish Union of USA; Andrew Dennis, President of the Russian Orthodox Catholic Mutual Aid Society of U.S.A.; Charlotte L. Androckitis, General Secretary of the Polish Union of USA & Secy.-Treas. of the N.E. Fraternal Group; Bernard Golubiewski, Secretary of the Russian Orthodox Catholic Mutual Aid Society of U.S.A. & President of the N.E. Fraternal Group; Sister Lucille Brislin, R.S.M., Coordinator of the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen; Kathleen O'Donnell, Volunteer at the soup kitchen; Cecelia Wysocki, Secretary-Treasurer of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union; and Milan Krupa, Secretary of the National Slovak Society of U.S.A.

## Kozerski Recently Cited by International Lions President

Immediate Past District Governor William J. Kozerski, District 14-W Lions Clubs International, Plains Lions Club, has been cited by International President Sten Akestan of Sweden, for outstanding dedicated humanitarian service. Kozerski is the son of Mary and John Kozerski, members of Lodge

212. At a recent meeting of the Plains Lions Club, Past International President Joseph L. Wroblewski, on behalf of International President Sten Akestan, made the presentation of Lions Clubs International second highest award in Lionism, the International Presidents Medal.

In making the presentation Wroblewski cited Kozerski's administrative performance as the first District Governor to District 14-W, his involvement in Club, District, State and International service. Only 300 of these awards are presented world-wide for the fiscal year 1986-87.

Kozerski presently serves as Advisor to Pennsylvania State Council of Lions Clubs, member of State International Convention Committee, Upper Valley Eye Bank, Co-Editor of Multiple Districts 14-H and 14-W quarterly publication Lionews and Board of Director of the Plains Lions Club.



## Apostolic Blessing Bestowed upon Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Liscosky



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Liscosky

## Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ansilio Note Anniversary with Trip to Rome



Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ansilio

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ansilio, 13 Thomas Lane, Kingston, returned July 2 from Rome, Italy, where they participated in the 600th year anniversary of the Christianization of Lithuania. While in Rome, they had an audience with the Holy Father.

The trip to Rome was the climax of their 50th wedding anniversary celebration which began with a Mass of Thanksgiving on June 13, 1987, at St. Mary's Annunciation Church, Kingston. Rev. Joseph Laskey officiated at the ceremony at which the couple renewed their marriage vows. A dinner reception was held immediately after the Mass at the Knights of Columbus

Home, Luzerne.

Mr. and Mrs. Ansilio were married June 12, 1937, in St. Mary's Annunciation Church, Kingston, by Rev. George Incura. Maid of honor was Anne Karalunas Straub, sister of the bride. Best man was Charles Mascari. Mrs. Ansilio is the former Helen Karalunas.

Mr. and Mrs. Ansilio had three children, two of whom are living. They are Mary Ellen Adams, Kingston, and Lawrence Ansilio of Closter, N.J. A daughter, Patricia died in 1944. They also have three grandchildren: Kelly, Jill and Richard Adams, Kingston.

Kimberly Ann Marie Pisarcik, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Pisarcik, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was recently married to Joseph D. Liscosky, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Liscosky, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Harry Lewis at which time the couple received the Apostolic Blessing of Pope John Paul II.

A reception was held at the Carriage Stop Inn in Wilkes-Barre and a rehearsal party was hosted by the parents of the groom at Patte's Sports Bar and Restaurant, Wilkes-

Barre.

Mrs. Liscosky is a graduate of Bishop Hoban High School in Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Liscosky is a graduate of Meyers High School and Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre. He is a music instructor with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

Following a wedding trip to Hawaii, the couple will reside in South Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The groom is the son of the Executive Director of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance and is also a member of the Alliance.

## Deborah Stachniewicz Weds Christopher Samley

Deborah Stachniewicz, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Stachniewicz (of Lodge No. 1), was recently married to Christopher C. Samley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Samley, Lancaster, Pa.

The Rev. Edward Sokolowski performed the double-ring ceremony at St. Mary's of Czestochowa Church in Swoyersville, Pa. Mr. George Wiliszewski, uncle of the bride, was the soloist.

An evening cocktail hour and dinner-dance reception were held at the American Legion, Wilkes-Barre.

Mrs. Samley is a graduate of Wyoming Valley West High School and Shippensburg Univer-

sity, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in journalism. She received her juris doctor degree from the Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, in June. She is associated with the law firm of Gebhardt and Smith in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, Md.

Mr. Samley is a graduate of Hempfield High School in Landisville, and Shippensburg University, where he received a bachelor of science degree in computer science. He is employed by General Electric Information Service Company, Rockville, Md.

Following a honeymoon trip to Bermuda, the couple will live in Columbia, Md.



Mr. and Mrs. Christopher C. Samley



## Obituaries

**Ona Meteloniene** Lge. 78

Anna Metalonis  
1691 Water St., Indiana, Pa.  
210 Hubert St., DuBois, Pa.  
Died: 4/25/87  
Buried: 4/28/87  
St. Joseph's Cemetery  
DuBois, Pa.

**Frank Sobers** Lge. 1

(Pranas Sabalaukas)  
5309 Harrison St.  
Hollywood Hills, Fla. 33021  
Died: 5/12/87  
Buried: 5/13/87

**Brone Smitka** Lge. 108

c/o Ruta Zujkowski  
393 Lynn St.  
Herrington Park, NJ 07640  
Died: 5/3/87

Buried: 5/7/87

Maple Grove Cemetery  
Kew Gardens, Queens, NY

**Constance Mathus** Lge. 7

86 Oxford Drive  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
Died: 5/21/87  
Buried: 5/23/87

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Cemetery

Tenafly, NJ

**Marija Svedas** Lge. 48

1516 S. 49th Ave.  
Cicero, Ill. 60650  
Died: 6/11/87  
Buried: 6/13/87  
St. Casimir's Cemetery  
Chicago, Ill.

**Mrs. Julia Spaustinaitis**  
Lge. 171

24526 Rockford  
Dearborn, Mich. 48124  
Died: 7/31/87  
Buried: 8/3/87  
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery  
Southfield, Mich.

**Mrs. Ellen Mikelonis**  
Lge. 171

40506 Newporte  
Plymouth, Mich 48170 or  
24526 Rockford, Dearborn,  
Mich.

Died: 7/27/87

Buried: 7/29/87

Mt. Olivet Cemetery  
Detroit, Mich.

**Mrs. Marcella Putinas**  
Lge. 134

121 Starling Drive  
Madina, NY 14103

### Mother of Msgr. Frank Yashkas, Spiritual Advisor of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance, Dies at 95

Agnes Yaskus, 95, other of Catholic Alliance. Msgr. Frank Yashkas, Spiritual Advisor of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance died at her residence, Little Flower Manor, Wilkes-Barre, August 18.

Born in Lithuania, she was a daughter of the late Aloysius and Anna Laurinaitis.

She was a member of Holy Trinity R.C. Church, Wilkes-Barre, its Altar and Rosary Society, Christian Mothers and Third Order of St. Francis. She was a member of Lodge 17, Lithuanian

Greenwood Memorial Cemetery Lower Burrell, Pa.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis, in 1928. Funeral Services were held August 22 with a Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Trinity Church, Wilkes-Barre.

Msgr. Frank L. Yashkas served as principal celebrant with Msgr. Anthony Norkunas, pastor of Holy Trinity and other clergy.

Interment was in Holy Trinity R.C. Cemetery, Wilkes-Barre Township, Pa.



Agnes Yaskus

Died: 6/6/87  
Buried: 6/10/87  
/St. John's Cemetery  
Middle Village, NY

**Mrs. Eva Davis** Lge. 183

c/o Dr. J.F. Leal  
55 Pepper Tree Drive  
Chula Vista, Calif. 92010  
Died: 8/12/87  
Buried: 8/14/87

Holy Cross Cemetery  
San Diego, Calif.

**Mrs. Anne Mary Hamm**  
Lge. 115

R.R. Box 222, N, County  
Road  
Wasing River  
Long Island, NY 11792  
Died: 8/16/87

Buried: 8/19/87  
St. John's Cemetery  
Queens, NY

**Lon Labanauskas** Lge. 100

9556 S. Avers Ave.  
Evergreen Park, Ill. 60642  
Died: 8/24/87  
Buried: 8/28/87  
St. Casimir's Cemetery  
Chicago, Ill.

**Anna Balavich** Lge. 222

3014 Guilford Ave.  
Royal Oak, Mich. 48073  
Died: 7/16/87  
Buried: 7/20/87

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery  
Southfield, Mich.

**Mrs. Rose Derwinis** Lge. 133

803 McKinley Ave.  
E. Vandergrift, Pa. 15629  
Died: 8/1/87  
Buried: 8/4/87

Greenwood Memorial Cemetery

Lower Burrell, Pa.

**Mrs. Anna Jarasunas** Lge. 8

125 E. 156th (838)  
Celveland, Ohio 44110  
Died: 5/6/87  
Buried: 5/9/87  
All Souls Cemetery  
Chardon, Ohio

**Ona Griganavicius** Lge. 142

1227 E. 61st St.  
Celveland, Ohio 44103  
Died: 4/4/87  
Buried: 4/8/87  
St. Casimir's Cemetery  
Amsterdam, N.Y.

**Mary G. Tamkus** Lge. 1

321 Rutter Ave.  
kingston, Pa. 18704  
Died: 7/3/87  
Buried: 7/6/87  
St. Casimir's Cemetery  
Muhlenberg, Pa.

**Lillian Agatha Biscus**  
Lge. 222

306 N. Hamilton Rd.  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230  
Died: 4/30/87  
Buried: 5/4/87  
St. Casimir's Cemetery  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Vytautas P. Grudzinskas**  
Lge. 265

3689 Cresthill Road  
Brighton, Mich. 48116 or  
128 Centerview  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
Died: 4/16/87  
Buried: 4/21/87  
Crestview Cemetery  
Garland Co., Ark.

**Mrs. Helen Golden** Lge. 17

86 Hillside St.  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702  
Died: 6/25/87  
Buried: 6/29/87  
Holy Trinity Cemetery  
Bear Creek, Pa.

**Michael (Pavilonis)**  
Pavilon Lge. 33

1020 W. Lawrence or  
136 S. Clinton St.  
Chicago, Ill.  
Died: 5/31/87  
Buried: 6/3/87  
St. Casimir's Cemetery  
Chicago, Ill

**Anna Mellas** Lge. 222

298 Wood Drive  
Mountaintop, Pa. 18707  
Died: 5/23/87  
Buried: 5/26/87  
St. Mary's Annunciation  
Cemetery Pringle, Pa.

### Short Notes

Get Well Wishes — to...  
... **Mrs. Albina Poska**, a director of LCA, who shattered her right wrist, which required surgery. Albina resides at 6606 South Washtenaw Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60629-1718  
... **Mrs. Mary Kozerski**, who is

recuperating from surgery. Mary resides at 35 Hilldale Street, Plains, Pa. 18705

... **George Sadauckas**, a trustee of LCA, who also underwent surgery and is now up and around. George resides at 119 South Rebecca Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18504.



## BOOKS ON LITHUANIAN HISTORY AND HERITAGE

### *Popular Lithuanian Recipes*

by Josephine Dauzvardas ----- \$6.50

### *Subatos Vakareli*

by a Lithuanian Youth Group in Germany. One hundred ten (110) songs, words and music ----- \$4.00

### *Lithuanian/English or*

*English/Lithuanian Dictionary* (30,000 words)

by V. Baravykas ----- \$8.00

### *Introduction to Modern Lithuanian*

Forty lessons for the teacher or the self-teacher

by Dambriunas, Klimas and Schmalsteig ----- \$10.00

### *Simas (The Story of Simas Kudirka)*

by Jurgis Gliauda (Translated by Kestutis Ciziunas and J. Zemkalnis) ----- \$5.00

### *Lithuanians in America*

by Dr. Antanas Kucas, translated by Joseph Boley ----- \$6.00

### *The Brothers Domeika*

by Liudas Dovydenas, translated by Milton Stark ----- \$6.00

### *Day of Shame*

The Tragedy of Simas Kudirka, by Algis Ruksenas ----- \$9.00

### *The Forty Years of Darkness*

Suppression of the Lithuanian press and

how it was regained. By Juozas Vaisnora

translated by Joseph Boley ----- \$2.00

### *Praise the Lord, All You Nations*

A religious, social and cultural history of Lithuania

by Sister Virginia Marie Vytell ----- \$9.00

### *Lithuanian Cookery*

by Izabele Sinkeviciute (328 pages) ----- \$9.00

Lithuanian Catholic Alliance

71-73 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702

## SEEKING MISSING ISSUES



Much of the history of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance can be traced through the pages of the Garsas. We have begun to preserve this history by having the Garsas put on microfilm for future generations to be able to read about the period of their ancestors.

In order to have a complete collection, we are calling on you, our members and subscribers to help us complete our collection. Due to the ravages of the "Great Flood of '72," we lost several issues. We are asking if anyone out there has any of the following issues to please send them to us in order that we might complete our sets: 1946 - 1947 - 1952 - 1953 - 1963 - 1964 - 1965 - 1966 - 1967 - 1968 - 1969.

You may send the issues to:

EDITOR, GARSAS  
71-73 S. Washington St.  
P.O. Box 32  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703

We will be happy to refund your postage.

## JOIN THE ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO EVERYONE

Obtain financial security for your family while enjoying the fraternal benefits of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance. LCA provides four different life insurance policies as well as other financial assistance for members. An alliance representative will help you select a policy that provides the best coverage for your family needs.

INTERESTED? Fill in the form below.

I'd like more information about the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance and all its benefits for members and their families.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: Charles Liscosky, Executive Director  
Lithuanian Catholic Alliance  
71-73 S. Washington St.  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

### INSURED MEMBERS OF THE LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC ALLIANCE Three Important Points Re- garding Your Policy:

1. Keep it in a safe place with other important documents.
2. Check the beneficiary. If not living, make a change. **YOUR WILL DOES NOT TAKE CARE OF THIS.**
3. Has your name been changed by marriage, Americanization or otherwise? That change must be made on your certificate (policy).

While checking your policy, check the coverage. If the policy is 20 years old or more, it is likely you will need more coverage. The old \$500 or \$1000 policy is definitely not enough coverage to meet today's expenses.

Your lodge secretary can help you with these changes or contact the Home Office.

71-73 S. Washington St.  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701



**OCTOBER**