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VYTIS

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'VYTIS' STAFF

Loretta I. Stukas, Editor
1467 Force Drive
Mountainside, N. J. 07092

Josephine Zukas,
Council News Editor
9 Charles Street
Port Washington, N.Y.

Anthony Yuknis, Asst. Ed.
Mary Kober, Asst. C. News Ed.
Rita Ochs, Layout Ed.
Balys Vyliaudas, Lithuanian Ed.
Marilyn Kareiva, Mailing
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A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR...

THE WORLD IS MINE

Today upon a bus I saw a girl with golden hair
She seemed so gay, I envied her, and wish
that I were half so fair;

I watched her as she rose to leave, and saw her hobble
down the aisle.

She had one leg and wore a crutch, but as she passed
- a smile.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine;
I have two legs - The world is mine.

Later on I bought some sweets. The boy who sold
them had such charm,

I thought I'd stop and talk awhile. If I were late,
t'would do no harm.

And as we talked he said, "Thank you, sir, You've
really been so kind.

It's nice to talk to folks like you because, you see,
I'm blind".

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine;
I have two eyes - The world is mine.

Later, walking down the street, I met a boy with eyes
so blue.

But he stood and watched the others play; it seemed
he knew not what to do.

I paused, and then I said, "Why don't you join the
others, dear?"

But he looked straight ahead without a word, and
then I knew, he couldn't hear.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine;
I have two ears - The world is mine.

Two legs to take me where I go,
Two eyes to see the sunset's glow,
Two ears to hear all I should know,
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine;
I'm blest, indeed, The world is mine.

ŠEŠIASDEŠIMT METŲ LIETUVOS VYČIŲ VEIKLAI

Čia perspausdiname vedamąjį, kuris tilpo "Draugo" dienraštyje, prieš 60-tąjį Lietuvos Vyčių visuotinį seimą. Norime tai atsidėkoti "Draugo" redakcijai, o taip pat suteikti progą tiems kurie dar neskaitė šį vedamąjį, su jo turiniu susipažinti.

Prieš šešiasdešimts metų lietuvių vybe susirūpinusių tuometinių veikėjų buvo įsteigta lietuvių katalikų jaunimo organizacija. Pradžioje ji pavadinta Lietuvos Sakalais, vėliau pavadinimas pakeistas prasmingesniu Lietuvos Vyčių vardu. Oficiali Lietuvos Vyčių įsteigimo data yra 1913 m. balandžio 27 d., bet lietuviškas jaunimas jau buvo pradėjęs organizuotis anksčiau. Susirinkime Lawrence, Mass., mieste buvo tik patvirtinti šios organizacijos įstatai, nustatyti tikslai ir numatyti veiklos būdai. Užtat šie metai Lietuvos Vyčiams yra gražios ir vaisingos veiklos prisiminimas, kuris bus išryškintas šiemetiniame Vyčių seime, įvyksiančiame Brocktone rugpiučio 16-19 dienomis.

Žvelgiant į Lietuvos Vyčių praeitį, ryškėja jų krikščioniškas ir tautinis idealizmas. Jeigu pradžioje jie labiau rūpinosi savo tautiniu išsilaikymu ir tautine veikla neseniai iš tėvynės atvykusio jaunimo tarpe, tai, organizacijai sustiprėjus, Lietuvos Vyčiai dalyvavo



a.a. Kun. Jutkevičius apdovanoja Kard. Cushing L.V. "Lietuvos Draugo" Medalium.

visuose to meto svarbiausiuose Amerikos lietuvių ir besikuriančios Lietuvos valstybės reikaluose. Jie atvira širdimi pasisakė už paramą iš karo griuvėsių kylančiai ir savo nepriklausomybę ginančiai Lietuvai. Vyčiai buvo pirmose eilėse Tautos Fondo, renkančio aukas savo už laisvę kovojantiems broliams paremti. Vėliau jie ėmėsi iniciatyvos čia gimusius ar jaunus atvykusius Amerikos lietuvius tautiniais ryšiais surišti su nepriklausomos Lietuvos jaunimu - ateitininkais ir pavasarininkais.

Gal tas Vyčių veiklos išsiplėtimas silpnino pačios organizacijos vidinį pajėgumą, bet jie atliko istorinės reikšmės darbą savo senajai tėvynei laisvę atstatant ir Amerikos jaunimui su ja jungiantis. Apie tą laiką, tai yra apie 1920 m., Lietuvos Vyčiai buvo pasiekę aukščiausio savo išaugimo laipsnio, kai jie galėjo skaičiuoti daugiau kaip

šimtą kuopų ir apie 4600 narių. Bet vėliau visų tautinių išėivijos organizacijų likiminis kelias palietė ir Vyčius - nuo 1925 m. organizacija pradėjo silpnėti. Sakom, tik silpnėti, nes ji nesunoko ir dar dabar savo veikla gyvai reiškiasi Amerikos lietuvių tarpe.

Lietuvos Vyčių susilpnėjimo priežasčių reikia ieškoti ne tik nutautimo raidoje, bet ir kai kurių jaunųjų veikėjų išijungimu į mišraus jaunimo katalikų organizacijas, ypač parapines. Tai prisidėjo prie jų skaičiaus mažėjimo, ypač vėliau išsisklaidžius po didmiesčius ar karo metu patekus į fronto linijas. Tačiau ši veikli ir naši jaunimo organizacija neišleido iš akių savo tikslo - jungtis savo tarpe, bendrauti, jei ne kalba, tai bent bendrais savo kilmės interesais, rūpintis naujųjų lietuvių kartu tautiniu išsilaikymu ir tautinės dvasios pajautimu.

Kai pasaulyje iškilo naujos jėgos ir praūžusio karo padariniai, kai daugelis tautų ir žmonių buvo pavergti arba liko benamiais, Vyčių



L.V. Jaunieji Šokėjai scenoje Čikagoje.



L.V. Ekskursijos dalyviai pas lietuvius Argentinoje, 1972 m.

organizacija pajuto atsakomybę ir pareigą dalyvauti viešojoje šio krašto politikoje. Jie ruošė viešąją visuomenės nuomonę palankiau žvelgti į pavergtą savo tėvų ir protėvių kraštą ir jo žmonėms bent mėginti sudaryti geresnes gyvenimo sąlygas.

Jei šiandien kai kuriais požiūriais ir sekama propagandinėje srityje Vyčių veiklos metodais, tai tik sekama, nes Vyčiai pirmieji pradėjo laiškais kongresmanams, senatoriams, įtakingiems vyriausybės žmonėms, didiesiems ir mažesniems laikraščiams raštais ir laiškais įtaigoti, nušviesdami pavergtos Lietuvos ir kitų kraštų žmonių padėtį ir kančias, reikalaudami visais galimais būdais pavergtiesiems padėti. Čia neužmirštas yra Vyčių dvasios vadovas ir šios veiklos įkvėpėjas, per anksti atsiskyręs iš šio pasaulio, kunigas J. Jutt-Jutkevičius. Neužmirštini ir daugelio kitų vardai, šiuo atžvilgiu atlikę neįkainojamos vertės misiją, vykdytą savo šimtais tūkstančių laiškų.

Kad Lietuvos Vyčiai savo surinktais pinigais nupirko auksinį kardą ir 1927 m. jį įteikė Lietuvos

laisvės kovų vadui gen. Žukauskui, tai atžymėtinas jų prisirišimo prie savo tautos simbolis. Bet už auksą vertesni ir istorijoje ryškesnėmis raidėmis bus atžymėti Lietuvos Vyčių žygiai, garsinant Lietuvą ir vedant už jos laisvę neatlaidžią kovą šio meto paveikiausiu būdu.

Šis jubiliejinis Vyčių seimas, organizacijai išgyvenus jau kapą metų, turės progą seimo atstovams bent trumpai priminti praeitį, kad joje pati organizacija rastų paskatų ateičiai. Seimas turės kreipti žvilgsnį ir į dabartį, kuri jau nebėra tokia pat, kokia ji buvo prieš kelias dešimtis metų. Tai jau nauja dabartis tiek narių, tiek siekiamų tikslų, tiek ir priemonių pasirinkimo atžvilgiu. Ir tai turi būti peržvelgta atidžiai ir atvirai, nes organizacija negyvena tik praeitimi, negali džiaugtis tik buvusiais laimėjimais, o turi ryžtis darbui dabartyje, turi pritaikyti turimas jėgas dabarties tikrovėje siekti krikščioniškų ir tautinių tikslų. O šiuo metu dar ir tų tikslų, kurių siekia pavergtieji, būtent skelbti šiame demokratiname krašte laisvę prieš prievartą ir tautų pavergtimą. To laukia iš Lietuvos Vyčių

kraštas, kenčias komunizmo vergiją dar didesnę, negu caristinėje Rusijos vergijoje kentėjo jų tėvai ar seneliai.

Prieš keletą metų seime Chicagoj vienas Vyčių vadovų išsireiškė, kad Vyčių organizacinis veidas yra pasikeitęs, pasikeitusi ir organizacijos sudėtis, bet nėra pasikeitusi vyčių širdis. Ir šiame seime gal kuris vadų galės pareikšti daugumos vardu, kad vyčių širdis nėra pasikeitusi nei jubiliejų švenčiančios organizacijos, nei savo uždavinių, nei meilės lietuvių, nei pagaliau laisvės savo tėvų žemei troškimų atžvilgiu. Jei ta lietuviška širdis plaks kartu su kitomis jautriai savo tautos reikalus išgyvenančiomis širdimis, tai ir jubiliejinis seimas lengvai ras naujų priemonių dabartyje atlikti krikščionišką, lietuvišką, žmogišką misiją.

Į sukaktuvinį Lietuvos Vyčių seimą šio krašto lietuviai, kurie bent kiek plačiau žino apie jų buvusius darbus, žiūri su viltimi, kad ši organizacija iš savo tiesaus kelio nepasuks, o vyčiai ir toliau savo pastangomis jungs Amerikos lietuvius ir kurs naują kartą lietuvišką ateitį.

Pr. Gr.
(DRAUGAS)



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THE LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE, AS HEARD BY FOREIGN "EARS"

There is no doubt that the Lithuanian language is one of the oldest in the Indo-European group of languages... When Erasmus Rask, Danish philologist, heard the Lithuanian language for the first time, he was astonished to hear the supposedly dead languages - Latin and Gothic, burst up in living reality. He thought at first that it was a dialect of the Sanskrit - the ancient language of India. Some said it was more like ancient Greek than Greek itself.

The nearest relative of the Lithuanian language is Lettish, the official language of the Latvian nation. The two languages together form the Baltic Linguistic Group, so called because of their proximity to the Baltic Sea. Several hundred years ago, there were more Baltic languages akin to Lithuanian and Lettish, which disappeared in the course of time. The most important ones, which are now extinct, were Old Prussian and Courish.

Professor Benjamin Dwight, in his book "Modern Philology" writes: "Lithuanian is a language of great value to the philologist. It is the most antique in its form of all living languages of the world, and most akin in its substance and spirit to the primeval Sanskrit. It is at the same time so much like the Latin and the Greek, as to occupy the ear of the etymologist in the place of the interpreter, with its face fixed on Latin and its hand pointing backward to the Sanskrit".

Stephen Graham has said: "Lithuanian is one of the oldest languages in the world, perhaps the mother tongue of aboriginal Europe".

The invaluable service of the Lithuanian language to philologists was recognized very early by the renowned philosopher, Immanuel Kant, who was born in the Prussian part of Lithuania - Lithuania Minor, and acquired a knowledge of the language. In his preface to a Lithuanian grammar



he wrote as follows: "Lithuanian, having a royal character, deserves the protection of the State. She must be preserved, for her tongue possesses the key which opens all the enigmas not only of philology but also of history". This statement was scientifically supported and confirmed by the great philo-

logist Schleicher in his work on that language.

The eminent French author Reclus, in his monumental "Geographie Universelle" says: "If the value of a nation in the whole of humanity were to be measured by the beauty of its language, the Lithuanians should rank FIRST among the inhabitants of Europe... and if the soul of a nation is revealed in its songs, then the Lithuanians deserve to be classified as the most harmless, peaceful race in the world".

Age Meyer Benedictsen, noted Danish writer, in his book - "The Awakening of a Nation" states: "It is simply a treat for a philologist to hear Lithuanian spoken - something like what it must be for an artist to visit the art treasures of Rome".

Earl J. Harrison, British author and diplomat writes: "The Lithuanians are not Slavs, but of the same Indo-European stock as the Letts or Latvians, and their language, which is similar to Lettish, is one of the oldest in Europe. Slav and German borrowings no more make it Slav or German, than our own Greek and Latin borrowings would make English Latin or Greek.

Vendreys, in his book "Language", declares: "As a rule, languages that do not travel, are conservative. Those spoken within definitely defined limited areas, far from cosmopolitan centers and the great routes of communication, are often remarkably archaic in character. Lithuanian, for example, the rural language of a forest region cut off from the great European nations is the oldest of all the Indo-European languages".

APPARITION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

by Rev. Stasys Yla

(CREATING AN UNUSUAL SITUATION were the reports about the apparition of the Blessed Virgin behind the Iron Curtain, in occupied Lithuania, one of the three Baltic States situated in north-eastern Europe. The Blessed Virgin appeared to a young peasant girl on July 13, 1962, near the town of Skiemonys. - Ed.).

News of the events at Skiemonys reached the outer world in various ways: through scant reports in the communist press, by way of letters reaching the free world, still more by eyewitness reports of travelers returning to the Western world.

The first public reaction appeared in the official communist organ, *Tiesa* (The Truth). Correspondent V. Miniotas related the events at Skiemonys, leveling accusations at the Rev. A. Papucka, pastor of the Skiemonys parish, as having fabricated the story.

Later the personal account of Roma Macvyte, the visionary, became known. Her account of the vision was written and rewritten and quickly spread throughout Lithuania, and soon reached the free world.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER the first report of the apparition, people began coming to Skiemonys from everywhere, even from the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Latvia. "It is always full of people there: they come on foot, by auto, even from afar" (from a letter). "Larger and smaller groups, sometime even huge crowds, pray and sing at the site of the apparition" (also told in a letter). "It was a quiet evening, so we heard even from 2 kilometers (more than a mile - Ed.) away the people singing and praying" (from another letter).

Confessions are heard for days on end and also at night at the Skiemonys church. There are many conversions. Many sick people have been cured, some even of tuberculosis of the bone and other serious illnesses. "Our (Virgin) Mary has already helped many - some have regained their eyesight, others the use of their hands" (from still another letter).

Devotion to the Virgin of the apparition is spontaneous, neither encouraged nor forbidden by Church authorities. Last summer the Soviet regime tried, unsuccessfully, to halt the ceaseless flow of pilgrims.

A hymn to the Skiemonys Virgin was composed and is being sung throughout the country. A Lithuanian artist constructed an altar with the Virgin's image which the local atheistic youth tried to



Roma Macvyte.

destroy, even to burn, but their efforts were in vain and the image was spared.

During the two years since the apparition it was possible to gather more information, and to compare and verify it.

THE NATURE OF THE APPARITION

THE APPARITION took place in a meadow on the outskirts of the village of Janonys, now part of a sovietized collective farm. The first appearance was on Friday, July 13, 1962, at 11 P.M. The Virgin appeared to Roma Pranciska Macvyte, 18, as she was walking through a field of clover to tend to a cow.

In the dark of night, she saw a sudden, strange light. As Roma approached the light she perceived an

altar similar to the main altar in her parish church, on which stood two rows of candles, five to a row.

THE VIRGIN, dressed in white with a blue sash, stood on the altar, arms upraised, similarly to a priest when he celebrates Mass. Above Mary's head the sky was dark, lit only by a myriad of bright, twinkling stars. The Virgin's long blonde hair, like spun gold, hung loosely over her shoulders, cascading down to her feet.

The place at which the Virgin appeared was 46 steps away from the farm well. The Macvytis home stands about 100 paces from the well. The Virgin stood facing the home, her back toward the farm of a neighbor, Peter Sadunas.

This first appearance lasted five to ten minutes. It appears that Roma at that time did not speak to the Virgin and the Virgin in turn did not say anything to her.

THE SECOND APPARITION took place at the same hour on Saturday night. On the advice of her mother and a neighbor, Mrs. Duntiene, this time Roma went to the meadow with a rosary in her hands. Halfway there she became very frightened, stopped at the well, and suddenly saw the Virgin Mary. The girl fell to her knees and slowly drew closer to the Virgin.

This time the Virgin was standing not on an altar but on a large table covered with a linen cloth embroidered with little crosses. The Virgin was dressed as before, her hair was the same length, but with a crown as if of thorns on her head. The Virgin's arms were folded and she held lilies pressed against her breast in the fold of her left arm.

She appeared to be about 5'3", slightly taller than the girl. The Virgin's voice was moderately low, very beautiful and gentle. Roma could not look into the Virgin's eyes because the light was too intense. She looked only at Mary's face and lips.



The Church and belltower of Skiemonys

THE VIRGIN SPEAKS

HAVING APPROACHED the Virgin on her knees the girl stood up to kiss Mary's feet. She put her lips to the spot where the Virgin's feet could have been, covered by her long gown. Roma said she felt that she was kissing the hem of the gown. The girl then knelt again, began weeping, and timidly asked the Virgin Mary:

"Blessed Virgin, why have you appeared to me this second time? Why did you not show yourself to priests, bishops and pious people instead of to me, an insignificant particle of dust?"

The Virgin answered, "virgin lily, you have deserved it".

The girl then pleaded, "Holy Mary, save mankind from destruction and from the plagues".

THE VIRGIN REPLIED, "I will save mankind from destruction when the world will become prayerful. But you I have saved from death, for you would have died this month. Before Friday, the feast of St. Jacob, go to confession, because that would have been the day of your death. Ask the people not to eat meat on Fridays".

The Virgin continued, "Ask those who believe my words, when you tell them, to say one prayer. Don't mention them to nonbelievers".

All the while, the Virgin wept, with large, golden tear drops glistening as they rolled down her cheeks onto her gown. Golden clover blossoms were blooming around the table. (The clover in the meadow had already been cut and stacked to dry).

ROMA THEN ASKED the Virgin for at least one of her tears and that she leave the golden clover blooming. But the Virgin answered, "The clover and the tears are not a miracle. But I will perform an even greater miracle when men will begin to pray - the whole world will sparkle and gleam".

All this while the girl had been weeping. The Virgin then spoke, "Don't weep, go and enjoy yourself with the other young people, as you did before, only do so becomingly. And now, go home, waken your brother, sister and parents, and after saying a prayer, tell them what you have seen. I wish you long life and happiness".

At this, Roma asked, "When will you come again?"

And the Virgin answered her, "I will not appear here again. I will next appear in Egypt with two angels. If anyone should try to harm you in any way whatsoever, come and pray at this place. I will always comfort you".

After these words the Virgin raised her hands above the girl's head and vanished, though it seemed to Roma that the Virgin had come closer to her.

THE FIRST PERSON to whom the girl told the story that same night were her parents and her sister Ann. As the Virgin had asked, they all prayed before Roma related what she had seen. Her brother Bronius was away at the time. When he returned

home, Roma told him about what she had seen, after first saying a prayer.

The Biliunases, a neighboring family, had seen the strange light in the meadow that night, but had no inkling of what had transpired.

One addition to Roma Macvyte's account has to do not with the apparition, but with the cult that sprang up. Eleven days after the second apparition, on July 25, two women from the village came with their daughters to the site of the apparition to pray. Mrs. Macvys and her daughter Ann, Roma's sister, went with them.

Out of fear, or perhaps to remain unnoticed, the women hid behind a stack of clover close to the hallowed site. After praying, they came out from behind the stack and saw a light in the spot where the apparition had appeared. It was a bright light, like that of several searchlights shining up from the ground.

Ann quickly ran home to relate what they had seen. Mr. Macvys hurried out and saw the now waning light. When Roma, the visionary, came later the light had already faded away.

HOW MUCH TO BELIEVE?

IN DETERMINING the credibility of the events what should be of the greatest concern are the accounts of the witnesses. The most important witness, naturally, is the visionary herself. According to accounts from Lithuania, after questioning and investigation by many lay people and priests, Roma was found to be a healthy, normal girl.

Roma had not been conspicuously pious or prayerful before the vision; neither was she overly sentimental about religious matters. She was a practicing Catholic but not outstandingly so. She has remained the same and does not advertise herself as the visionary.

When asked about the vision Roma answers quietly and always states the same facts. She was interrogated, threatened and forbidden to speak about the vision by the communists, but she has no fear of them and continues to repeat what she saw and heard.

SHE WAS QUESTIONED by Church authorities, it seems, about three weeks after the apparition. The questioning lasted from 10:30 in the morning to 4 in the afternoon. The girl's behavior during this time was calm, happy and sincere. According to the published reports, she gave her account with a clear mind, of her own free will and with a pure heart.

The girl's personality and behavior, both before and after the vision, thus leave no doubt as to the truth of her account. Her motives for relating the events are entirely religious.

Another very important question is: are there any discrepancies in Roma's accounts, especially in her report of the Virgin's words, or ideas which are not in keeping with the Faith and its spirit? It seems the answer is no, none are discernible.

THE REASON AND MEANING OF THE APPARITION

THE EVENTS evoke another question, perhaps the most important one: what could have been the Virgin's intention, reason and meaning for appearing?

We do not find a direct answer in the actual apparition. The answer cannot be found even in the Virgin Mary's words. However, we can search for an indirect answer in the signs and her words.

One sign seems to be symbolic. The Virgin appeared the first time in the setting of a church altar, the second time on a table such as would be found in a home.

ON THE ALTAR she appeared as in prayer (Orante), in a pose similar to that pictured in iconography, with arms upraised and spread, like a priest during Mass. In the second appearance, on a "family" table, Mary's arms were folded, as she is represented in pictures of the Immaculate Conception. In this latter position she also held the symbol of virginity - white lilies. Then, too, Mary was silent on the altar, but spoke from the family table.

(The difference in appearance of the Virgin Mary in the two apparitions, once in a setting of a church altar and once on a plain table, may have another, more universal significance. It would not be too unusual to read into this change of appearance a symbolism of the liturgical reform now in process in the Church.

(The accustomed setting of the church altar is now ceding its duty to the plain table situated in the midst of the people.

(Foreshadowing changes in the life of the eternal Church by changes in apparitions is not unusual. In Lourdes, for instance, the Virgin Mary appeared as a representation of the newly-proclaimed dogma of the Immaculate Conception, appearing to Bernadette in that image. It is imaginable, therefore, that this time the Virgin Mary may be foreshadowing the liturgical change. - Ed.).

These significant symbolic differences in the two apparitions are worth noting. It would seem that the Virgin Mary wishes to remain praying (Orante), and honored on church altars as well as in the heart of the family. It is very possible that worship in churches will continue to be banned in many countries in the future, and the practice of religion may have to be carried on there more and more in private homes, in the family circle.

ON THE PRIVATE FAMILY TABLE Mary presented herself as the Immaculate Virgin, adorned with white lilies, as she had been customarily portrayed in Lithuania. Mary not only holds the lilies pressed to herself, but even addresses the visionary as "virgin lily".

On the church altar the Virgin prays - intercedes for mankind - albeit wordlessly; she does not preach

or teach. Teaching is her Son's and His chosen disciples' privilege. In the home setting she speaks and teaches; she is the Virgin and the Mother-Teacher.

Two other things were especially emphasized in the apparitions, bearing in mind the present-day laxity in fasting and praying. The Virgin's first appearance at Skiemonys was on a Friday, and Fridays were mentioned during her second appearance. The Virgin urged the visionary to go to confession on Friday (before the feast of St. Jacob), and told her to ask the people to fast on Fridays. She also spoke about vocal prayer in private and personal worship. Mary twice mentioned, "Ask all who believe to say one little prayer".

ALSO WORTHY OF NOTE is the association of this personal prayer with talking about the Virgin. To receive the good news one must prepare properly for it by prayer, spiritual concentration and open-mindedness.

The third matter, significant for its universality, is that of saving the world. Mary promises to save humanity when men return to prayer. (This condition is similar to that of Fatima). At another time the Virgin repeats, "I will perform a greater miracle when people begin to pray".

From this we can conclude that the purpose of Mary's appearances was to awaken the faith and piety of mankind so that God would protect mankind from doom.

SIMILARITIES TO APPEARANCE OF OUR LADY AT ŠILUVA

The recent appearance of the Virgin has similarities with that which took place at Siluva.

(THE FIRST APPARITION of the Virgin Mary in Lithuania was in 1608, in the fields on the outskirts of the small town of Šiluva, where she appeared to four children and two representatives of the Calvinists (a catechist and the principal of the Calvinist high school). This was the first known apparition of the Virgin Mary in Europe. - Ed.).

In both cases the Virgin appeared in the fields, away from the noise and traffic. In the case of Siluva the fields were the property of the Church, and some important church articles were hidden by a stone near the site. At Skiemonys the land had at one time been donated for building a church but war had interfered with the plans.

Both times, in Siluva in the 17th century and at Skiemonys recently, Mary appeared with long, loose-hanging hair, as is customarily worn by girls in Lithuania.

THE VIRGIN'S SADNESS and tears attract our attention in both instances. At Siluva, when the Virgin was asked the reason for her weeping, she answered: "My Son was once honored here, but now this place is being plowed and seeded". Truly, the majority of people had at that time turned away from Christ and placed all importance on lands and material riches. As a matter of fact, some feudal lords

had gone so far as to deny the divinity of Christ.

The situation today seems to be even worse. Not only certain groups, but the whole nation is in danger of losing the Faith, and with it the basis or morality. And this time Mary's tears appeared especially large to the visionary, and the Virgin's head was crowned as if with a wreath of thorns.

Thus, Mary appears to the Lithuanian nation - and perhaps to all mankind - for the second time as the Sorrowful Virgin. The Virgin appeared twice as weeping, evidently from suffering - motherly, but perhaps more accurate, womanly. She wishes to help her Son by healing the wounds of the members of His Mystical Body. At Siluva she came to be known as the "Health of the Sick" because of the many physical and spiritual cures effected through her intercession. At Skiemonys the Virgin now does the same.



Lithuanian wayside cross near
Skiejonys

JOY AND PERSONAL HAPPINESS

THE BLESSED VIRGIN spoke notable words to all the people it seems, through the visionary who had been spared from death:

"Do not weep, go and enjoy yourself with the others, as you did before, only do so becomingly".

To some of the faithful "joy" seems to imply something forbidden and incompatible with the spirit of Christ. Yet, Mary's Son preached about a full life, about a wedding feast, about creatures that live with worry. So life isn't only a cross to bear, but also flowers of blossoming happiness to enjoy.

(The Virgin Mary's words about joy do not necessarily indicate something quite different from the

religious attitude. This is not the case, especially if we take into consideration the situation brought about by communist persecution. The onerous feeling of depression in the country caused by the shortage of food, the constant fear of arrest and deportation, the persecution of conscience and prohibition of religious practice - changing Sunday into a workday, for instance - all put the whole religious society under a dark veil. Under these circumstances Mary's words, "Do not weep, go and enjoy yourself with the others", may have deep and active religious significance. - Ed.).

EPILOGUE

THESE COMMENTS and interpretations are entirely personal, to be accepted or rejected, according to each individual's reasoning. Apparitions are not dogmatic matters of faith for the Catholic. It would not even be binding if the Church authorities permitted the building of a church at Skiemonys in honor of the Virgin of the apparition. Each individual is free to follow the cult or not.

If there is no formal duty to accept and believe in the apparition, there is nevertheless a moral obligation not to deny, belittle or ridicule the event. Contrariwise, it must be further studied and regarded seriously and respectfully.

That the event was of deep significance is evident in Lithuania, as has been expressed by various people, including students of such subjects. Obviously, there still are negative reactions from the communists: the latest news (March 25) on the subject from Lithuania said: "People are still coming to Skiemonys. The girl (Roma) has been sent away to school".

ACCORDING TO CODED letters received in this country, "school" would mean prison or some other form of banishment. It is possible, however, that the visionary has been isolated in the mildest form - sent to some state boarding school.

Visionary Roma Macvyte is a representative of today's youth which endures and will further have to endure many trials. Especially great trials await young Roma, on whom all eyes, of the faithful and atheists alike, are turned. In view of this, one man who recently returned from a visit to Lithuania asked in a letter. "I want to ask you personally, as well as our Sisters, to pray for Roma Macvys - Mary's visionary".

LATEST NEWS

THIS PAST SUMMER the communists plowed and seeded the site of the apparition. The faithful, however, carefully noted the landmarks and measurements of the locale. On the second anniversary of the apparition, July 13 and 14 this year, about 4,000 persons made the pilgrimage from all parts of Lithuania.

The local inhabitants were forbidden to show up at the site under threat of a 50-ruble fine. By 11 o'clock of the first evening a five-meter ring of votive candles had been formed, with a statue of Mary in the center. Around it were banked bouquets of flowers, among them "great lilies", called "queens" in Lithuania (which can be bought in Vilnius or Kaunas for three rubles a bloom).

The faithful prayed and sang hymns the entire night. For once the communists were afraid to send the police to disperse the throng, but it is thought that secret agents were present to check on the pilgrims present.

THE VISIONARY'S PARENTS were absent, having been ordered to meet with no one and to allow no one to enter their home. They lead a hard life. The communist officials had harrassed them and taken them to Vilnius for questioning. They had been offered improved living conditions if only they would deny their daughter's recounting of the apparition. The family rejected the communist-offered bribes.

ROMA HERSELF had been interrogated and medically examined in Vilnius. Although she was found to be a perfectly normal young girl, in good health, it was officially announced that she was "not fully matured".

Roma was then sent to Kaunas, where she was admitted to the Horticultural School after passing the entrance examinations. Here she was vehemently urged to deny the apparition. When she repeatedly refused, she was dropped from the school's roster, but was not permitted to return home and is presently living with a family in Kaunas.

These latest events were reported by a woman who returned from Lithuania in mid-July and herself had been among the pilgrims at the site of the apparition this summer.

(The MARIAN, Nov. 1964)



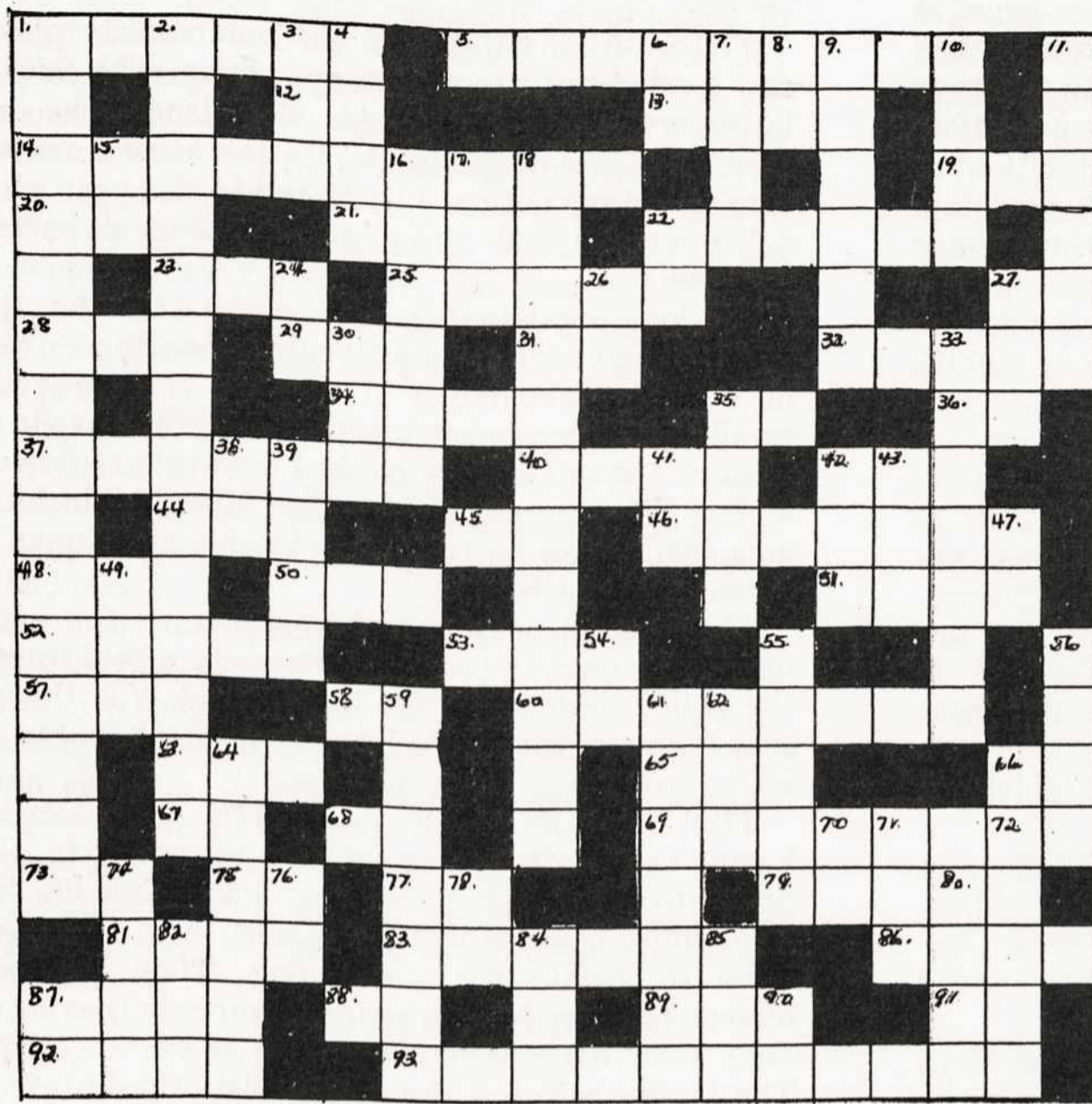
May your NEW YEAR be

HAPPY - HEALTHY - FRUITFUL

VYTIS STAFF and SUPREME COUNCIL



K OF L CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD CLUES ACROSS

1. Animal in Gediminas' dream (Lith.)
5. "Friend of Lithuania" recipient
12. No (Lith.)
13. Gasoline to a Car
14. "Lietuva"
19. Relative
21. Contraction
22. Cold (Lith.)
23. From (Lith.)
24. Belonging to
25. Amphibians
27. Laugh
28. Three
29. Government Agency
31. Spanish (Lith.)
32. Lithuanian Soprano
34. Sole
35. Street (abbr.)
36. Like
37. Lithuanian president
40. Halt
42. ".... kur Nemunas banguoja"
44. Turf
45. Public School (abbr.)

46. Lithuanian Seaman of Nov. 1970
48. International Telephone and Telegraph (abbr.)
50. Tint
51. Žalčių Karalienė in Lithuanian Myth
52. Fates to die
53. Mischevious One
57. Japanese currency
58. Arba (Eng.)
60. Father of Vytautas
63. Until (Lith.)
65. Truck
66. Yes (Sp.)
67. Alcoholics Anonymous (abbr.)
68. Prie (Eng.)
69. Eradicate
72. You (Lith.)
73. South America (abbr.)
75. United States (abbr.)
77. Stop and
79. Soul (Lith.)
81. Walker's Aid
83. Algirdas' Sister-in-Law
86. Flow
87. Latvian Capital
88. Same as 66 Across and 70 Down

89. Picnic guest
91. C-133 Hometown
92. March 15th -
93. One, Two, Three (Lith.)

DOWN

1. Lithuania's greatest Monarch (Lith.)
2. Two neighbors of Lithuania, one ancient and one contemporary
3. Ona (Eng.)
4. Sėkla (Eng.)
6. Belonging to
7. Maiden's Flower (Lith.)
8. Personal pronoun
9. Town in Lithuania
10. What kind of? (Lith.)
11. Author Kudirka's first name
15. Elvira Madigan (initials)
16. Mother (Lith.)
17. one (It.)
18. Lithuanian Composer
22. Social Security (abbr.)
26. Deportee (abbr.)
27. Possessive pronoun
30. Good (Fr.)
33. Lithuanian Musical Instrument
35. What the spider did
38. Toward
39. Handicap
41. Alright (slang)
42. Kravatte
43. Unit of Work
47. Diphthong
49. Human digit
54. Paulius Evanauskas (initials)
55. Body (Lith.)
56. Thanks (Lith.)
59. Colors of Spectrum (abbr.)
61. Sanctus (Lith.)
62. Resin
64. Lithuanian City
66. Table (Lith.)
70. See 88 Across
71. Snakelike fish
74. LSD (slang)
76. 54 Down's Brother Simonas' initials
78. "Kas Subatos Vakareli"
80. Day or Tiger
82. Era
84. Symbolic Herb
85. Finish
90. Same as 72 Across

(Prepared by Philip & Marian Skabeikis).

Answers On Page 17.

OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

60TH NATIONAL CONVENTION DONATIONS - CORRECTED

Councils 17 and 17 Seniors, Boston, Mass.	100.00
Antanas Buknis, C-25 Seniors, Cleve. O.	125.00
John Antanovich, Brooklyn, N.Y.	17.00
Dr. & Mrs. J. J. Stukas	13.00
Council 96, Dayton, Ohio (Mary Lukas)	10.00
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Howard Beaudette, C-10, Gardner, Mass.	10.00
Frank Vaškas, C-29, Newark, N.J.	5.00
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Longinas Švelnis, C-17 Seniors, Boston, Mass.	10.00
Prof. Alexander Aleksis, C-7, Waterbury, Conn.	30.00
Irene Sankus, C-112, Chicago, Ill.	10.00
Anna Mae Uznis, Dearborn, Mich.	10.00

MEMORIAL DONATIONS, IN MEMORY OF ALBERT A. KASSEL

Mr. & Mrs. August Stukes	\$10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stukes	10.00
Dr. & Mrs. Jack Stukas	10.00
Louis Stukas	10.00

FROM THE CONVENTION PROGRAM BOOK CHAIRMAN:

Again I would like to thank all the Program Book advertisers. We are very sorry that there were no winners in the "Ad" promotion.

We have a number of Program Books available. If you would like a copy, address your request to: Robert S. Dillis, 86 Manners Ave., Brockton, Mass. 02401. The cost is \$2.00, make checks payable to Knights of Lithuania, Council #1.

Vytiškai, Bob Dillis

"HERE AND THERE"

By Helen V. Kulber,
National Chairman Public Relations

Paul Balukas sent a letter of appreciation for supplying him with Lithuanian material for his "heritage" project at Fort Hamilton H.S. His 14 year old sister, Jean, will defend her twice-won Women's Billiards Championship in Los Angeles in February 1974. She occasionally performs at Mike Asch's, Elizabeth, N.J., as well as at her father's Ovington Cue Lounge in Brooklyn... My daughter, Aldona Viola, and I were ABC/Eyewitness News Election Reporters on the N.Y. run-off and election via the League of Women Voters... My addenda to Mary Eileen Wilemaitis' inspiring letter (VYTIS Nov. 1973 p. 32) - several simple ways of "becoming informed and actively participate in government" are: 1) join the League of Women Voters in your city if only for the enlightening literature announcements mailed to your home and much more obtainable at LWV offices. These cover federal, state and city subjects of consequence to men, women and children. The International Relations Department is most interesting (I am chairman of my branch). 2) join the United Nations Association in your city. 3) subscribe to United Baltic Appeal - BATUN bulletins which cover current items pertaining to Baltic States. 4) join the Heritage Groups Division -- its publication, "GOP Nationalities News" reports on ethnic personalities and activities. 5) contact local political clubs for info on "Courses in Politics" which are given occasionally. 6) cooperate or participate with other Lithuanian (Baltic) Captive Nations organizations as well as the K of L - at commemorations, rallies, etc... every head counts in impressing the news media. For details write or call me (212) 238-3884.

As P.R. chairman (3rd year) of the UNA of Brooklyn, I attended the reception and ceremony at Rockefeller Center in observance of United Nations Day last October. Mr. Bradford Morse (US Mission to the UN) promised me an appointment when things are less hectic because of the Mid-East war. I spoke with many and had a few words with a person from the USSR Mission. At another meeting and cocktails, I had discussions with the UNA representatives from Canada and Finland. The same evening, in another room at Carnegie International center where the Women's Council was meeting, I picked up the Jan-

Feb-Mar 1973 issue of RCDA (Religion in Communist Dominated Areas) that contains the full English translation of the "Statement from Believers in the Ceikiniai Parish", Ignalina Raion, Lithuanian SSR (signed by 1,709) to the Secretary General of the CC/CPSU (copies to 8 Chairmen, Commissioners in USSR and Lithuania) dated Sept. 5, 1972 re: Religious Freedom on Soviet Terms. I spoke with Blahoslav S. Hruby, editor, who was at that meeting... Presented the book "Day of Shame" in behalf of the K of L to the Donnell Library. Mrs. Galia Zilionis, in the Foreign Language Department, showed me their copy which was set aside for reviewing. I left ours there so one would be in circulation immediately. Beautiful books are available on art, architecture, graphics, photos - published in Lithuania SSR - they have text in Lithuanian, Russian and English. I wish the "Lietuvis Dailininkas Iševijoje (Lithuanian Artists In Exile)", purchased at the Youth Center in Chicago, also had English text!.. BATUN member, Juta Virkmaa, Special Projects Editor for Family Circle magazine, placed the Lithuanian/Polish straw Christmas ornaments in the December issue... The Lithuanian flag windshield sticker with LITHUANIA printed above it, issued by Junior C-90, Kearney (price \$1.00) and the bumper sticker with SVEIKAS printed on the tricolor, issued by Ed and Mae Stanulis, Newark, N.J., provide good advertising for Lithuania.

LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID

Soliciting contributions is not a pleasant task. I am well aware of the numerous solicitations our members receive from worth-while charities. To the K of L member, the first and foremost causes to help are those of our own organization, be they on a national, district or council level. In addition we most certainly owe an obligation to support the needs of our own parish.

However, the K of L heart is big, and we do find the means to help other worthy causes. This is well evidenced by the total of \$965.81 dollars contributed by the Knights of Lithuania to the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid for all the years since our inception into the LCRA program. Through the efforts of Mr. Anthony Miner, first K of L Coordinator, LCRA also received an additional \$382.31.

This wonderful aid all began at Our National Convention held at Kennebunkport, Maine. LCRA needs your continued help. Therefore, I sincerely request your continued support of LCRA in your prayers, and with whatever financial assistance you may render it.

John A. Stoskus
K of L - LCRA Coordinator

WANTED



NEW MEMBERS

REWARD

to be given at

National Convention

The K of L Membership Drive is now in full swing... The K of L needs YOU to find new and worth-while members.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT! Start with your own backyard - your brothers, sisters, mother, father, in-laws, relatives and neighbors - who you're sure are eligible. (If you're NOT sure, check them out). And don't forget to button-hole that former member... whose membership may have lapsed for a year or more, due to carelessness or what-have-you.

Potential members are EVERYWHERE... Be a good "sleuth"... don't let them slip through your fingers. Talk K of L, and sign them up! New members are the life-blood of our organization, so do your part... Remember, "United we stand, divided we fall!"

Albert Ozalis
Membership Vice-President

LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS



LITHUANIAN PATRIOT HONORED

A testimonial and dinner in honor of Dr. Domas Jasaitis, Lithuanian patriot and humanitarian, on his 75th birthday was sponsored by several Lithuanian Catholic academic, medical and youth societies at Annunciation Parish Hall. Dr. Jasaitis, long-time member of "Ateitininkai", is shown accepting congratulations and a K of L pin. L to R: Antanina Binkins, Anthony Mazeika, Dr. Jasaitis and Helen Kulber. Several years ago, he was an honored guest and speaker at a K of L and Ateitininkai St. Casimir Communion Brunch in Brooklyn.

(Photo - Charles Binkins)



Pictured at the birthday celebration for Dr. Jasaitis are (seated, R. to L.): Dr. Joseph K. Valiunas, his son-in-law and President of the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania (VLIKas), and some of K of L, C-41, members present - Joseph Laucka, Voice of America, Washington, D.C.; Rev. Stasys Raila, Secretary - Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid; Msgr. John Balkunas, P.A., President - Lithuanian Priests' League, (standing) Helen V. Kulber - National Chairman, K of L Public Relations, and Anthony Mazeika, President, C-41 New York. Mr. Laucka was commentator for the testimonial and entertainment program.

(Photo - Charles Binkins)



**HERE'S HOPING 1974-
BRINGS YOU ALL THE
LUCK IN THE WORLD**

JOHN EVANS

**Council 112
Chicago, Ill.**



The New England District sponsored its third TV Mass in Boston, Mass. on Sunday, Nov. 11, 1973 at the R.K.O. General Building over WNAC-TV Channel 7, at 9:15 A.M. The celebrant was Rev. Albert Contons, National Spiritual Director and Pastor of St. Margaret's Church, Beverly Farms, Mass. The St. Casimir's Church choir from Brockton under the direction of Julius Gaidelis did an excellent job singing Lithuanian hymns, and the women, dressed in native costumes, lent color to the event. The choir has been invited to sing at the Holy Cross Cathedral on Christmas Day by Cardinal Hum-

LITHUANIAN T.V. MASS

berto Madieros. No doubt this invite is in recognition of a job well done.

Fr. Contons' homily dealt with the suffering church in Lithuania under Soviet domination. He stated that Christians there have endured a persecution bitter as any in history. This persecution has now taken a more subtle form, and he proceeded to give concrete examples.

Not only is the church suffering, but it is being silenced because the Soviets know the relevance of religion to human life. A totalitarian regime cannot co-exist with a religious spirit among its people.

He raised the questions "The Church in Lithuania is by force a Church in Silence. But what about us in the free world?" "How often are our voices raised to protest the persecution of our fellow Christians?" "What is the news media

doing to bring the plight of Lithuanians struggling for basic human rights into public awareness?" Ending this forceful and dynamic paragraph, Fr. Contons states "Have we in America become a Church of Silence, not by force, but by our own forgetfulness of our brothers, by our own free choice?"

His homily ended with the expression of hope in Christ, because through him the oppressed will find justice and freedom. "We pray with earnest hearts that he will soon bring salvation to those who eagerly await him".

N.E.D. Pres. Albert Jaritis wishes to thank all who participated in making this event a success.

Joseph White
(District Chairman of
Public Relations)

JAUNYSTĖ NĖRA LAIKOTARPIS, KURIS NEPALIKTŲ PĖDSAKŲ

Gediminas Janula

Nuženk, Galybe, iš Dangaus,
Sustiprink jauną Vyčių dvasią,
Mes už teisybę stosim drąsiai
Tėvynę ginti kuo narsiau.

Iš Vyčių Himno.

Kilnų Lietuvos Vyčių Himną iš-
mokė mane laisvoje Lietuvoje v.s.
j. Balkus, įsijungus man į katalikų
skautų gretas. Vyčių Himnas buvo
tapęs "Šarūno" Dr-vės Himnu.
Himno frazės:

- Ei, Vyčiai, gyvenam Tautai
ir Bažnyčiai! . . .

Mums viską davė Lietuva, va-
duosim galva ją sava. -

įkvėpė mums entuziazmo lietuviš-
kame darbe. Daugumas iš mūsų sa-
vo akimis matėme skaudžias žaiz-
das, karo ir žiaurių atėjūnų pa-
darytas Lietuvai. Tik tokiose apy-
stovose mes, jaunoji karta, drą-

siai sakėme: Tėvynę vaduosim gal-
va sava. Šis himnas tiko laisvę
išsikovojusios Lietuvos veidui. Ti-
ko ir mūsų ryžtui ir norams bu-
dėti visur ir visada, kad Lietuvos
laisvės žlugdytojais nesusuktų nau-
jų lizdų tėvynėje. Jaunose dienose
mano širdin išmigęs Vyčių himnas
pasiliko iki šios dienos gyvas įkvė-
pimo šaltinis. Man jis buvo švie-
sus švyturys, tikras kelrodis, kaip
reikia dirbti ir formuoti ateitį.

Gyvenant Tautai ir Dievui -
tarnaujant artimui - niekada nėra
laiko liūdesiui. Šie pastovūs prin-
cipai vedė, veda ir duok Dieve,
kad vestų ir toliau gėrio, tiesos
ir grožio keliu. Tik pavyzdinių
vadų dėka, kurie nerūkė, negėrė
ir buvo pavyzdinai darbštūs -
man teko tas kilnias idėjas perimti.

Dėl Lietuvos laisvės netekimo
netenka kaltinti šių idealistų. Lie-
tuvai jų buvo dar permaža, kad bū-
tų galėję užimti visus atsakomin-

gus Lietuvos valstybės aparato
postus. Kaip miško gaisrui sukelti
pakanka vieno degtuko, taip ir tau-
tos laisvei sunaikinti užtenka vieno
išgamos, nedoro palaidūno, kro-
niško girtuoklio, garbėtroškos ar
savanaudžio.

Prie Lietuvos Vyčių aš grei-
tai pritapau atvykęs į JAV todėl,
kad jaunose mano dienose buvo
žmogus, kuris pasėjo gerą sėklą.
Jaunystė nėra laikotarpis be pėd-
sakų. Tai turėtų suprasti kiek-
vienas vytis auklėjant jaunučius.
Organizacija sensta, kai netenka
idealo. Organizacija miršta, kai
pritrūksta jaunimo. Lietuvišką iš-
sigimą, kai vengiama kalbėti lie-
tuviškai. Lietuvos vyčiai, tad bū-
kim budrūs, kad nepasitaikytų nė
viena iš čia paminėtų klaidų, kad
nė vienai šiai klaidai nebūtų su-
teikta lengvatų. Lietuvos vyčiai
nuolaidomis negali suteršti savo
60 metų garbingos istorijos.

JUNIOR CORNER



The following is an essay by a 14 year old girl, Mary Ann Dukauskas who lives in Scranton, Pa., and is the daughter of Mr. Mrs. Clarence Dukauskas. Mary Ann has won many awards in speaking and writing. This particular essay was the winning essay in the Serra Club Poster and Essay Contest.

this certain profession. Another sign would be your capabilities in this field of work. It is important that you fulfill the requirements needed to work.

But, to me, a true vocation has much to do with your own deep innermost emotions, how you feel and what is your outlook on life. Recognizing the signs of a certain vocation depends wholly on the individual involved. From experience, I know that some people are great for matching people up with vocations as if it were a puzzle.

They say, "Oh you'll make a fine doctor, or why don't you become this of that". And then there are the parents who want their children to do what the parents want. Sometimes this works out fine, but other times it doesn't and many people are hurt.

You must look inside yourself and discover different things which will help you to pick a vocation. You must find your interest. Do you like working alone or do you have to be around a lot of people?

Do you want to get married and

have children or remain single? Do you wish to enter religious life?

You have to apply yourself and your personality to find out what you really want to do. But whatever your vocation is, what it involves must be a part of you. Whatever it offers should help you develop to even a greater extent as an individual.

You should feel free in this vocation as if it were made just for you. And in today's world the variety of professions grows greater. There are many new fields to work in.

In recognizing the signs of a vocation and finally deciding on one, you must take a clear look at yourself. I sincerely feel that since God made us all differently that we, ourselves, are the only ones who can decide on a vocation suited for us alone.

And whatever it is and if you really love your work and it is helping you to grow as a complete human being, then that is your goal in life. And you are making God, yourself, and people around you very happy.

HAPPINESS IS... CHOOSING A VOCATION

Choosing a vocation may be one of the most important events in a person's life. When choosing a vocation, a person has in mind that he or she will be dedicated to whatever the vocation involves.

A vocation in many ways is different from a job. A vocation is a commitment of oneself to a certain profession. Whereas, you can have many different jobs and not be dedicated to their causes.

When choosing a vocation, there are many factors which you must realize and understand before you can make your decision. I feel that one of the most important ones would be whether or not you like

ANSWER TO K OF L CROSSWORD

(See page 12)

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Greetings



K of L Calendar

January

- 12 – C-96, Dayton – DANCE, Lithuanian Hall, Dayton, Ohio
 19 – K of L Choir - ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER-DANCE,
 Pakstas Hall, Chicago, Illinois

February

- 10 – IID "MEMORIES OF LITHUANIA" BANQUET

March

- 3 – IID ST. CASIMIR'S DAY COMMEMORATION, Chicago Seniors,
 Hosts

May

- 18-20 – MIDWEST BOWLING TOURNAMENT, Dayton, Ohio
 - C-96 Hosts

May 30-June 1, 2

- "INTERNATIONAL A'FAIR" - Dayton Convention Center,
 Dayton, Ohio

June 28 - July 12

- K of L PILGRIMAGE/EXCURSION to Europe.

August

- 61st National Convention



VYČIAI VEIKIA



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Edited by: Mrs. J. Zukas, 9 Charles Street, Port Washington, L. I., N. Y. - 11050



C-3 - PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Gabbigail

Al Ozalis and Tony Burch didn't get a deer this year, but they had a good time trying to do so.

C-3 celebrated the Christmas Season on Dec. 8 at the Four Chefs. A good dinner, followed by a performance of "Miracle on 34th St.", and the exchange of small gifts amongst the members, was the recipe for a delightful and entertaining evening for all.

Happy Birthday to Al Ozalis celebrating on Jan. 28. Belated birthday greetings to Joe Yanulaitis (Dec. 23), and to Alberta Weigand (Dec. 22).

Best wishes to Diana & Frank DeFelice on the birth of their first child, Scott Francis, on Thanksgiving Day.

Sincere condolences to Dianne Drumstas who lost her dear father, Joseph Beletsky, on Dec. 2. May his soul rest in peace.

C-29 - NEWARK, N.J.

**METINIS POBŪVIS IR
PRANO VAŠKO
PAGERBTUVĖS**

NEWARK, N.J. Spalio mėn. 13 d. Newark, šv. Trejybės lietuvių parapijos salėje, įvyko Lietuvos

Vyčių 29-tosios kuopos metinis pobūvis - banketas, kurio metu buvo pagerbtas ir atžymėtas kuopos Garbės Narys Vytis Pranas Vaškas, sulaukęs 70 metų amžiaus. Pobūvį trumpu žodžiu atidarė rengimo komisijos pirmininkas Albinas Žukauskas. Pasveikinęs susirinkusius ir padėkojęs už gausų atsilankymą, jis pakvietė muz. Algirdą Kačanauską vadovauti šiam vakarui.

Po maldos, kurią sukalbėjo prel. kun. J. Šernius, vakaro vedėjas priminė, kad šio vakaro proga drauge yra pagerbiamas ir šios kuopos veiklusis garbės narys Pranas Vaškas, sulaukęs 70 metų savo amžiaus, ir paprašė visus pakelti taures už pagarbos nusipelnusį vyrą ir sugiedoti Ilgiausių Metų...

Jaukiai nusiteikę svečiai vaišinosi gėrimais ir šaltais bei šiltais užkandžiais, o salė skambėjo lietuviškomis dainomis. Meninę programą žavėtinai išpildė savo solistai - Liudas Stukas ir Genovaitė Mazurienė.

Sveikinamose kalbose prof. Jokūbas Stukas ir Juozas Bulevičius apibūdino Praną Vašką kaipo



C-29 - Frank Vaskas

veiklų, pasišventusį patrijotą, dirbantį mūsų tautos ir Vyčių organizacijos labui. Pranas Vaškas, šiais metais švenčias 70 metų amžiaus sukaktį, yra gimęs 1903 m. rugs. 24 d. ir visą amžių išgyvenęs Newark (N.J.). 33 metai kaip jis priklauso Lietuvos Vyčių 29-tajai kuopai. Čia jis yra ėjęs įvairias pareigas ir buvęs Centro Valdybos narys. Daug rašė angliškiems ir lietuviškiems laikraščiams, organizavo laiškų rašymą Kongreso nariams ginant Lietuvos teises į laisvą ir nepriklausomą gyvenimą ir kt. Jo darbai šią kuopą iškėlė į pirmaujančias vietas Vyčių organizacijoje.

Garbės Nario Prano Vaško atliktiems darbams atžymėti kuopos pirmininkas K. Šipaila ir sekretorė E. Radick kuopos vardu įteikė Trijų Lietuvos Prezidentų Medalį.

Pranas Vaškas, giliai sujaudintas pareikšta pagarba ir atliktų darbų įvertinimu, nuoširdžiai padėkojo visiems jį pagerbusiems ir pareiškė, kad jis jaučias garbę būti vyčiu ir tokiu liksiąs.

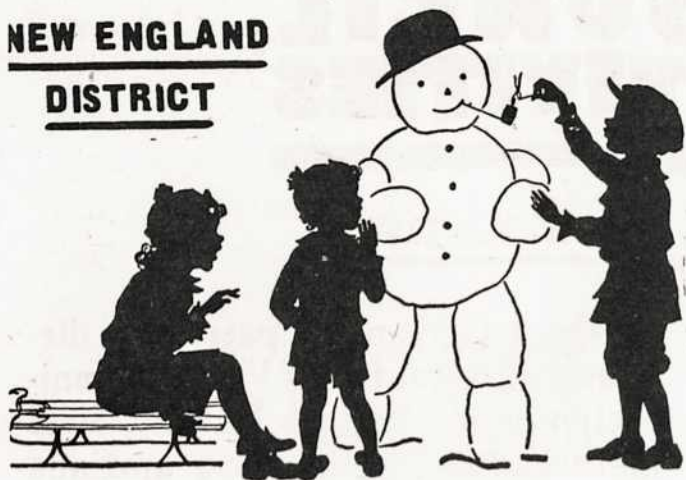
Linkime tau, Pranai, ilgo ir laimingo gyvenimo, kad galėtum ir toliau dirbti su mumis tautos laisvei ir vyčių garbei.

Albinas Žukauska



give
to the
MARCH OF DIMES
THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLISHER

**NEW ENGLAND
DISTRICT**



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT jw

The NED Executive Board held a meeting Nov. 11 at St. Peter's Chapel, So. Boston, chaired by Dist. Pres. Al Jaritis. The agenda dealt with district affairs for the coming year.

A Christmas ad in the Vytis was approved, along with a donation to the Youth Rally held in Brockton Nov. 23. The Junior Rally was under the direction of Andrew Bizinkauskas. This type of activity should be encouraged, as it brings our youth together for wholesome activities.

A leadership course to prepare members for officers' positions at all levels was discussed and a committee set up to implement it.

An Amber Day at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, N.H. is being planned for the spring. We had an excellent dedication turnout but the weather did not cooperate.

Another retreat, under the able direction of Al Akule, is planned at the beautiful Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, Me. in June.

St. Casimir's Day and Lithuanian Independence Day celebrations are being formulated. A family picnic in July is being worked on. The last two picnics have been very enjoyable.

The District Spring Convention will be held in So. Boston on April 28 hosted by C-17 Srs.

The question of scholarship funding was brought up, and a resolution for the Spring Convention was drawn, requesting a percentage of the cultural picnic net profit.

Catholic Religious Aid needs our help. It is a worthy cause and we will help.

An inter-council newsletter for the district is worthwhile and will be explored.

The cultural aspect of our organization should not be overlooked, and it is suggested that council and district committees should be in closer contact.

We thank all our good people, many who traveled long distances to attend this meeting. Councils present were Gardner/Athol, Worcester, Brockton and So. Boston.

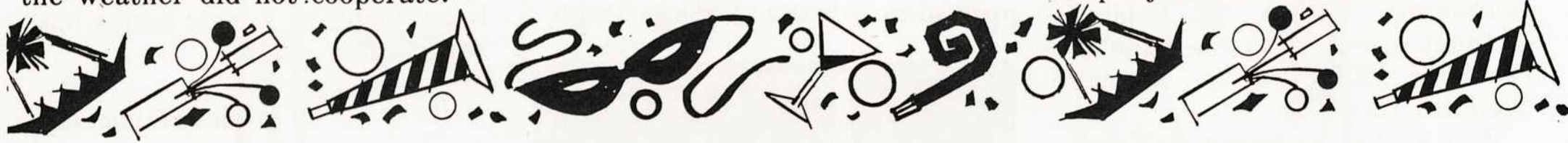
C-26 - WORCESTER, MASS.

"Dzukele"

It's the Holiday Season and all of us wish all of you a very Happy New Year! Our retiring president, Charles Lapinskas, and his board of officers, planned the traditional Christmas party (planned by the out-going board each year) with Santa Claus and all for Dec. 30. It was an excellent affair and the plans for the tiny tots took precedence over anything else.

Our spiritual director and pastor, Father Anthony J. Miciunas, M.I.C., installed the new board of officers on Dec. 8 preceding Mass. Our 1974 board is composed of: Pres. - Joseph Sakaitis; Vice Pres. - Michael Murphy; Secy. - Olga Kersis; Treas. - Joseph Zalieckas; Fin. Secy. - Rita Pinkus; Auditor - Peter Ivaska; Sgt-at-Arms - Francis Degutis; Lith. Affairs Chmn. - Alexander Kardokas.

We are grateful to Charles, our out-going president, and his first lady, Millie (his wife), who served as secretary, along with the other members of their board, for an excellent year. We had marvelous success in so many affairs which included Kielbasa suppers, Pizza suppers, out-door picnics, in-door picnics, just to mention a few. This couple just has to be called "Mr. &



Seventy-nine sends you its

best for the New Year

Council-79 Detroit, Michigan

Host in '74

Mrs. K of L" for all of their devotion to the organization.

Rita Pinkus was a patient at St. Vincent's Hospital early in December. Tony Morkunas was back at the V.A. Hospital in West Roxbury for more leg surgery. Francis Degutis suffered severe burns to his arm while at work. All of these people are recovering nicely... and the sooner the better!

Congratulations to the Hurley's on the birth of a new baby in November. Donna and child are doing nicely.

In October the Lithuanian Community of Worcester conducted a march which culminated in a Holy Hour at St. Paul's Cathedral here in Worcester. It was most successful with all the Worcester Lithuanian priests participating; our Father Miciunas was Master of Ceremonies. The participation of the Lithuanian population was impressive, indeed.

I think we can thank Emily Gudzevich for Tillie Shilale's rejoining our Council. Welcome Tillie! Thank you, Emily!

Bowling standings change rapidly, but at this writing we show Alex Pridotkas with high single and high triple, Helen Gillus and Joe White with high average.

Geriausių linkėjimų visiems Vyčiams! Iki malonaus pasimatymo įvairiuose parengimuose!

C-103 - PROVIDENCE, R.I.

J.A.S.

We fervently pray that 1974 is a most fruitful year for our organization and all its members. Linkime visiems Vyčiams Dievo palaimos Naujiems Metams.

John & Irene Walaska have re-joined C-103, and we are very pleased to welcome them back into the K of L ranks. Their daughter, Carol, is a student at the University of Rhode Island.

Our regular monthly meetings are held after the First Friday evening Mass in the parish rectory. It serves to increase the attendance at the Mass.

Our parish supper, according to

our pastor Father Vaclovas Martinkus, was a success. Regina Krecioch and her sisters, Ann, Kathy, and Marcey served the food, and Bertha Stoskus helped in the kitchen. Our council was well represented at the parish function.

On Oct. 27, C-26 in Worcester sponsored a buffet and dance at Maironis Park. C-103 was represented by John & Irene Walaska, Ruth Krecioch, John & Bertha Stoskus, and by our good friends: Mr. & Mrs. John Gervelis, Mr. & Mrs. Percy Cleall, and Kazys Navakauskas. The food was both excellent and most plentiful.

Some NED K of L's suspect our council of having shares in the Rhode Island Bus Co. Once again this fine firm provided our transportation to C-17 & C-17 Srs. jointly-sponsored "Novemberfest". Thirty of our good friends from Collyer Insulated Wire Co. in Lincoln, R.I., joined sixteen of our K of L's and parishioners at this gala event. Everyone had a most enjoyable evening, and the fine cooking of John Olewitz's aunt was highly complimented.

C-103 and St. Casimir's parish choir entertained the elderly at Matulaitis Nursing Home in Putnam, Conn. We hope to make this an annual event at Christmas-time.

Our spiritual director and pastor, Father V. Martinkus, attended the BALF Nat'l. Conv. in Cleveland, Ohio. Charitable Lithuanian causes have always been near and dear to him.

C-116 - SO. WORCESTER, MASS.

Ramblina

The following officers were elected to serve for the 1973-74 term: Pres. - Anthony Miner; 1st Vice Pres. - Mrs. Irene Adamaitis; 2nd Vice Pres. - Joan Adamaitis; Fin. Secy. - Helen Daltwas; Rec. Secy. - Dorothy Sinkavitch; Treas. - Bart March; Social Chmn. - Miss Irene Adamaitis; and Spiritual Adviser - Rev. Alphonse A. Volungis.

After an exciting summer, when some of the members traveled far and wide to exotic places such as

the Orient (Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Thailand, Japan) and others traveling back and forth to the Cape, the members settled down to a fall and winter routine. We did have a good representation at the National Convention, the Cultural Picnic at Maironis Park in September, and the District Convention in Providence.

Our bowling group meets every Friday at the alleys for some hot and heavy bowling, where we have some new champs in the offing. Dot and Bart March are in charge of the bowlers and will keep us informed.

Two members are sporting new cars - Anna Miller and Irene Adamaitis, Jr. Hope they can find the gas to keep them going.

The Council conducted a very successful Turkey Military Whist, which brought in some money to our treasury. We were also busy preparing for a Gala Christmas Party at Maironis Park on Dec. 22. The gals were dressed in their Christmas finery, - that's the night when everyone sparkled.

Hope that the New Year will find everyone happy, healthy and full of the K of L spirit!

C-135 - ANSONIA, CONN.

INO

Council officers for 1974 are: Pres. - Violet Brazitis, Vice Pres. - Al Barauskas, Secy. - Ann Barauskas, Treas. - Mildred Driznus, Fin. Secy. - Stan Twerian, Historian - Ann Sabulis, Sgt.-at-Arms - Al Jesulaitis.

In October St. Anthony's Parish held a Holy Hour with a procession. Due to the few number of youngsters who signed up to march, Father Paul asked the societies in the parish to participate. Violet Brazitis, Ann & Al Barauskas, and Sue & Al Jesulaitis represented C-135 in the procession. It was a very impressive ceremony. The altar was adorned with a beautiful display of flowers donated by Ann & Walter Arbachouskas.

In the recent elections in Ansonia held on Nov. 6, three

members of our council ran for office and came out winners. Democrat Donald Poehailos is City Treasurer; Democrat John Sabulis is Alderman representing the Third Ward; Republican Stanley A. Twerian is Alderman representing the First Ward. Two members of the parish also ran for office and were elected. Republican Paul Ciezniak is Alderman representing the Fourth Ward; and Republican Anthony Balauskas is a Selectman. Five Lithuanians as City officials in a city with a population of 21,000 is a record to be proud of, - especially when they are all members of St. Anthony's Parish.

Ann & Howard Gyba have returned from a trip to Hawaii, and their comments are summed up in one word, "FABULOUS".

Let us all make a New Year's Resolution to attend more council meetings. Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Our officers' goal is to make 1974 more productive than any year before.



ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT
Hoosier

The Annual Memorial Mass for Deceased Members was held at 10 A.M. on Nov. 18 at Immaculate Conception Church. Rev. Fabian Kerelis celebrated Mass and delivered a most appropriate sermon.

Our hearts were saddened with the unexpected deaths of two of our very dear members. John Kilkus, a member of C-36, went to his reward on Nov. 12. Albert Kassel,

past SC Treasurer, IID and C-36 officer, passed away on Nov. 13. Our deepest condolences to both families on the loss of these two fine men.

The K of L Choir presented a concert "Laisvės Lietuvai" on Nov. 17 at the K of L Bldg. Soloist Prudencija Bičkienė, accompanied by cellist Petras Armonas, enhanced the program. Faustas Strolia, Director, and Estelle Rogers, President, along with her committee, and the Choir, provided a very enjoyable evening. We were very pleased that Bishop Brizgys, Consul General Daužvardienė, and Mr. Nainys of the Bendruomenė, were able to attend. Marcella Andrikis of Waterbury, Vyto Yucius of Pittsburgh, and others who were attending the Taryba Convention, came to hear the choir perform.

Estelle Rogers extended her appreciation to donors: John Evans of the Mazeika-Evans Funeral Home, sponsors of the concert program book; and Vyto Lisauskas, donor of Lithuanian bread for the post-concert gathering. She further extended her thanks to non-Choir members for their assistance; Monica Kasper, Irene Sankus, Helen Pius, Albina Gaidas, Shirley Pollacheck, Kazimera Petrulis and Bob Kuman.

The Choir rehearsal following the concert was truly festive, as Director Faustas Strolia and his wife, Terry, prepared a tasty repast for the members.

Our Junior Dance group was well-received at the Illinois Historical Society dinner with a standing ovation. Director Frank Zopolis is to be complimented for his efforts.

Heartiest congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Ramanauskas of the Chicago Seniors, who recently celebrated their 42nd Wedding Anniversary.

Estelle Rogers, our very capable Public Relations Chairwoman, organized a group of K of L's who attended the Dan Kuraitis Testimonial Banquet held on Nov. 4 at Stump's Pub.

The "Memories of Lithuania"

Dinner will be held at the K of L Bldg. on Feb. 10. The Seniors will host St. Casimir's Day on Mar. 3. Mass will be held at Immaculate Conception Church followed by a brunch at the K of L Bldg.

C-112 - CHICAGO, ILL. iks

Rev. John Savukynas, former IID Spiritual Advisor and a member of our council, celebrated his Dec. 6 birthday with a group of K of L friends at the Italian Village Restaurant. Many more years of happiness to our beloved Father John.

Congratulations to Algerd/Al-dona Brazis and Tony/Mary Rudis for the super Testimonial Dinner they co-chaired for Dan Kuraitis at Stump's Pub Banquet Hall. Many K of L's were present and truly enjoyed the event.

Best wishes for many more years of happiness to Lorraine and Frank Svelnis on their 5th Wedding Anniversary. They did some of their celebrating with their best man, Richard Shlaustas, at his Diamond Head Restaurant.

It was a pleasure to see Phil and Sue Krause at our last council meeting. Hope they find time to attend more K of L functions.

Condolences to John Auksciunas and his family on the death of his father in Lithuania, and to Albina Zemaitis on the death of her father.

A large amount of congratulations to K of L Choir President Estelle Rogers and her officers for the successful concert, "Freedom for Lithuania", held on Nov. 17 at the K of L Bldg. The Choir was excellent and soloist Prudencija Bickus (a member of our council) and her accompanist Petras Armonas were the crowning touch to the concert.

Grazina Vaskelis, our "member" from C-102 Detroit, joined Irene Sankus for a quickie weekend and was entertained by Ed Krivickas and Rich Shlaustas. Years ago, Chicago and Detroit became commuting cities and the close companionship between K of L members in the two cities still

exists.

Our new recording secretary, Sophie Nieminski, hosted the December Board meeting at her home in Alsip. Final plans were made for the Christmas Party and, of course, a great deal of holiday festivity enabled everyone to truly enjoy themselves.



C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

FBP

Nov. 3 saw council members gathering for the annual Election Night Dinner at Holy Cross Church Hall. Mary Lucas, Bea Noreikas, Fran Petkus, Joan Kavalasuskas and Elaine Pacovsky set a fine table with no-one leaving hungry. Mike and Charles Petkus, Joe Mantz and Sam Bakanauskas took charge of refreshments.

For the incoming officers, we wish much success for an active year ahead. To the outgoing officers, our many thanks for the hours of dedication given. The officers and committees for 1974 are as follows: Spir. Adv. - Rev. W. Katarskis; Pres. - Elinor Sluzas; 1st Vice Pres. - Eloise Berczelly assisted by Sarah Petkus; 2nd Vice Pres. - John A. Berczelly; Treas. - Sally Miller; Fin. Secy. - Frances Mikalauskas; Rec. Secy. - Frank Ambrose; Sgt-at-Arms - Stan

Kavy and Mike P. Petkus; Trustees - Mike J. Petkus and Ada Sinkwitz; Ritual - Fran Petkus; Cultural - Šarūnas Lazdinis; Vytis - F. Petkus; Condolence - Eugenia Gecas and Albina Wallis; Sports - J. A. Berczelly, Ray Gecas, C. Petkus and Julius Rastikis, Jr.; Phone Squad - Ida Kavy; Sarysis - Joe Gecas and Stan Vaitkus; Religious - Pat Zelinskas and E. Berczelly; Bulletin - Jerry and Teri Scott; Lith. Affairs - Alice Petkus and Margie Grushas; Social Chmn. - Mary Lucas; Ways & Means - Tina Kavy; By-Laws - Joe Ryan, E. Berczelly and F. Petkus.

We had the honor of our Archbishop for the Cincinnati diocese, His Excellency Joseph L. Bernardin, not only present for the Sacrament of Confirmation but also to preside at the 3 P.M. Mass on Nov. 4 at Holy Cross Church. This was our first opportunity to meet the new archbishop, and we were most thankful to have had this occasion to do so.

At the end of services, Mary Mikalauskas and Rita Gecas, attired in Lithuanian dress, upon a few words from our pastor, Rev. Walter Katarskis, presented the archbishop with a miniature Lithuanian Shrine from occupied Lithuania. The archbishop's assistant, Rev. Philip O. Seher, was presented a Lithuanian hand-woven bookmark. Their delight and surprise upon receiving these gifts was certainly felt by those present.

To Marianne Podoyak, Sally Miller, and their committee, a Big

Thank-You for the successful Holiday Bazaar that was held at the church hall on Nov. 11. Our members had their crafts and donations on display for sale. The hall had a very colorful holiday spirit about it.

Also, much thanks to Marianne, Sally, Bea Noreikas, Eugenia Gecas, Mary Lucas, Ada Sinkwitz, Stephanie Rastikis, Pat Zelinskas and Elaine Pacovsky for a most successful holiday display at the Winters Bank Tower on Nov. 27. This occasion gave Daytonians not only a chance to buy Lithuanian Christmas decorations, to which Mrs. Anele Petkus, Mrs. Isabel Latos and Mrs. Petronella Fretic donated much time, but an opportunity to purchase home-made Lithuanian baked items. Mary and Ada gave up many hours preparing extra baked goodies other than the 30 dozen grybus and 30 dozen ausukes the committee prepared.

Our Lithuanian Dance Group participated in the first Dayton Holiday Parade on Nov. 26. Attired in beautiful costumes, they joined with other nationalities on the International float. On Dec. 1-2 the group performed at the Dayton Convention Center in conjunction with the Arts and Crafts Program. Thanks must go to Joe and Aldona Ryan for making all these arrangements.

Welcome to our newest member, Audrey Bakanauskas. Many active years for you, Audrey! By being present at the election dinner, Al and Margie Grushas, Ray Gecas and Audrey received their First



**HELLO
THERE**

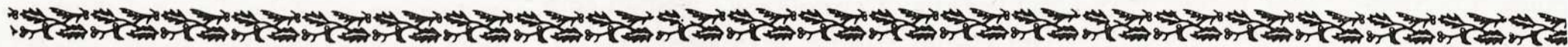


We greet the New Year with a big, wide, wonderful world of warm wishes for everyone.

COUNCIL 96 DAYTON, OHIO

Draugas
 4545 W. 63rd St.
 Chicago, Ill. 60629

Return Requested
 VYTIS
 1625 W. Marquette Road
 Chicago, Ill. 60636



Degree. Congratulations!

Good to know Mary Miller is doing well after her recent hospital stay. Fran Vangas and Eloise Berczelly, too, are recuperating nicely after recent surgeries.

C-79 - DETROIT, MICH.

Soffi



Five members of C-79 were awarded 3rd Degree medals, highlighting the Mid-Central Dist. Banquet on Oct. 14 in St. Peter's parish hall. Standing next to our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Alphonse Babonas, are Joseph Salinas, Stella Hotra, Violet Panavas, Julie Beleckas and Pat Milius. Presentations were made by the Dist. Ritual Chairman, Stanley Vaitkus, and assisted by C-79 Ritual Chairlady, Bertha Janus.



birth defects are forever. unless you help.



THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLISHER

C-102 - DETROIT, MICH.



Standing happily in front of the Lithuanian Wayside Cross of St. Peter's Church are Frank Bunikis C-102, Maggie Smailis C-79, D. Klucens C-102, Ruth Grasha and Anthony Dainus C-79. These members received their 4th Degrees during Mass at the Mid-Central Dist. Conv. held in Detroit Oct. 14. Father V. Krisciunevicius, pastor, joins the group.



At the Mid-Central District Convention, Lincoln Park, Mich. l. to r. K. Karpaviciene, C-139 President; Rev. Kundrotas; MCD President P. Luiza; Rev. J. W. Stanevich, Rev. A. Babonas, Rev. V. Krisciunevicius at the luncheon at St. Peter's Church Hall.



Some delegates to the MCD Convention. J. Sadauskas, Rose Sankal (Cleveland), A. Rozger (Pittsburgh), Catherine Kurpowic (Detroit).