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BALANDIS — APRIL

the KNIGHT **VYTYTIS**

•1977•
The Knights
of Lithuania

XXX



"He is Risen" - (Photo - R. Kisielius)

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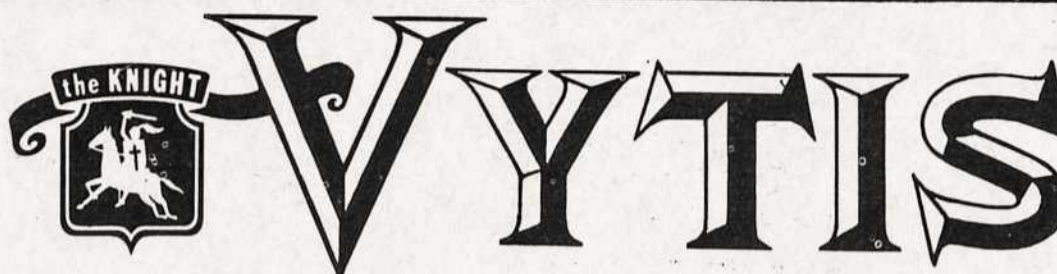
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CONTENTS — TURINYS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. He Arose from the Dead... | Rev. A. Jurgelaitis, OP |
| 5. Velykiniai Papročiai | |
| 6. Velyku Rytas | A. Jasmantas |
| 7. Convention Rap 1977 | |
| 8. The Church and Human Rights | Most Rev. J. Bernadin |
| 11. New Books | |
| 12. Prisimenant L. Vyciu Praeiti ir Dabarti | Senelis |
| 13. Lithuanians in the News | ed. P. & M. Skabeikis |
| 15. Ilgiausiu Metu, Sr. Francesca | A. Aleliunas |
| 16. Juniors Corner | ed. A. M. Kassel |
| 18. K of L Calendar | |
| 19. Vyciai Veikia / Council Activities | ed. J. Zukas |
| 32. National Conventic. Schedule | |

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HE AROSE FROM THE DEAD, AS HE FORETOLD

In the whole history of the universe embracing three or four or five billion nineteen hundred and seventy seven years (give or take a thousand or two) there has been one, only one case of a person three days dead in a tomb who rose again, returned to life through his own power: Jesus of Nazareth, Christ Our Lord.

Although no one was privileged to see the actual resurrection, there were many trustworthy witnesses who saw the Master die on a cross on the Hill of Skulls and then, a few days or weeks later, saw Him walking about, talking and teaching, eating and drinking.

One good witness was Saint Peter who wrote in a letter: "Let us give thanks to the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ! ...He gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from the dead".

Another witness was Saint Paul who wrote: "And now I want to remind you, brothers, of the Good News... which is of the greatest importance: that Christ died for our sins... that he was buried and raised to life on the third day... that he appeared to Peter, and then to all twelve apostles... Last of all, he appeared also to me".

The death and resurrection of Christ is the Good News first announced by all the Apostles to all who would listen; later, this same Good News would be preached to all the world by the Catholic Church.

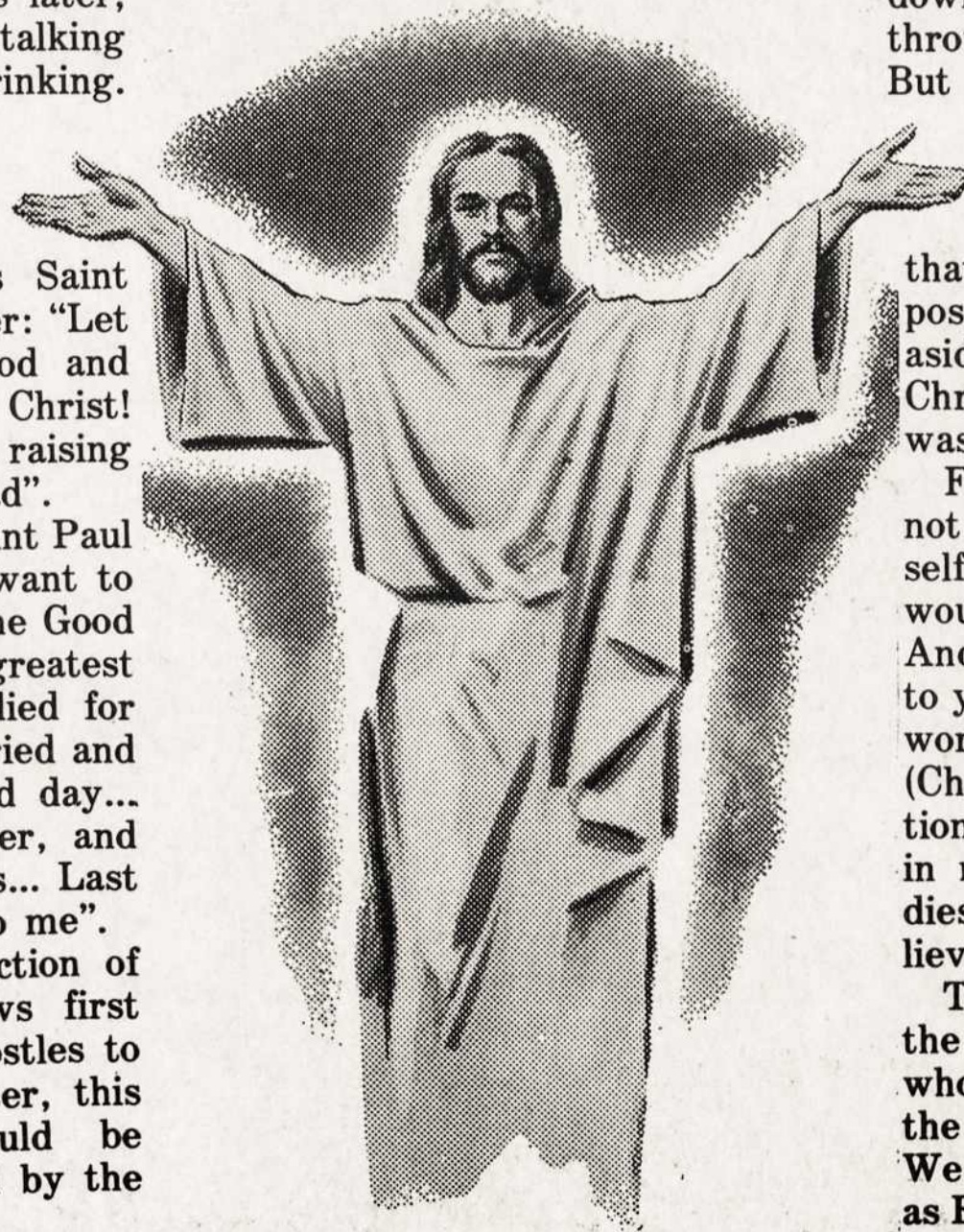
The celebration of the Resurrection of Christ has been and is now the most solemn of all Solemnities of the Church. That is why the liturgy of Holy Week and Easter Sunday is the climax of Christian praise and thanksgiving, the culmination of every Christian's faith and hope and love.

For many of us, who are young at heart, Christmas may be a more joyous day than Easter. We all do experience the very real joys of giving and receiving at Christmas-

time. But in reality Resurrection Sunday should be a day of greater joy and wider meaning.

When we delve more deeply into the meaning of the Solemnity of the Resurrection, our Catholic Faith becomes stronger, our efforts to live up to that Faith are encouraged and we gain many enlightening insights into God's plans for mankind and for us. Let's do so here and now.

The Resurrection underlines and proves that Jesus Christ was man AND God. No human being can lay down his life and take it up again through merely human powers. But Jesus of Nazareth did just



that. Therefore, he must have possessed the Divine Power to put aside the stringent laws of death. Christ had this power, because He was GOD AND MAN.

Furthermore, Christ Our Lord, not only rose from the dead Himself, but promised that all men would arise from the dead one day. And this promise He makes to us, to you and me. These are Christ's words recorded by Saint John (Chapter 11): "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die".

The doctrine that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became man, who died and rose again in glory is the very foundation of our Faith. We who have the unique God-Man as Founder of our Catholic Church

possess the certainty that our Church is one and holy, because Christ was one with God and holy. And because God is everywhere by His Power and Presence, His Church is meant to be universal, that is Catholic, a Church for all peoples and for all times.

The Resurrection of Christ gives us insights, also, into the everywhere present malady of man: sinfulness. Christ's victory over death was also a victory over sin. His Resurrection shows that His death on the Cross was not in vain. He died to reconcile His Father with a sinful humanity and to make all mankind friends with God again. God the Father, by raising His Son from death to glory, manifested His pleasure and acceptance of Christ's Sacrifice of Love which was offered specifically to liberate mankind from the slavery of sin.

Thus, we have gained two insights into the Resurrection: Christ is the Conqueror of death (we shall rise again) and Christ is

the Deliverer from sin (we have been reconciled with our Father in Heaven).

A third insight (with some practical, personal implications) is this: By His Resurrection Jesus Christ made it possible for us to keep in personal contact with Him as God-Man. Christ is living. The Founder of our Church, our religious Leader, is alive. He still teaches us, He inspires us to think His thoughts, to go His way, to live His life. He does all this through those Sacred Signs that "accomplish what they signify" - the Sacraments.

If the sign is a washing, the accomplishment is a spiritual purification; if the sign is an anointing with Chrism, the accomplishment is a strengthening of the soul by the Holy Spirit and a maturity in the Faith; if the sign is a contrite confession and the priestly words: "I absolve you from your sins", the reality is a Divine Pardon of the guilt of sin; if the sign is bread,

wine and the words of consecration: "This is my Body". "This is my Blood", the reality is Jesus Christ, truly, sacramentally present and living among us as God-Man.

No matter what doctrine of our Faith we choose to think about, we will always be led back to the Resurrection and our firm belief in the Resurrection will keep us unswerving in our loyalty to the Risen Christ.

May the glorious Risen Christ whose triumphant Solemnity we Knights of Lithuania celebrate this Easter give added strength to our Faith and inspire us with unflinching loyalty to Him and His Church.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen!
Christ is with us still.
Alleluia!

Fr. Anthony A. Jurgelaitis, O.P.
Spiritual Adviser, S.C.



Happy Easter...

JOHN and BERTHA STOSKUS
C-103 Providence, R.I.

See you at the 64th National Convention

VELYKINIAI PAPROČIAI IR TRADICIJOS

Iš visų religinių švenčių gal daugiausia papročių ir tradicijų turi Velykų šventė. Vienur liko daugiau, kitur mažiau jos tiesioginio religinio elemento. Įsigalėjus krikščionybei, senojo tikėjimo įtaka tautosakoje sumažėjo, kitur tos senosios religijos žymės sumišo su krikščionybe. Tačiau nemaža jų, šiek tiek pakitę, išliko iki mūsų laikų. Iš jų mes ir patiriame, kokios mūsų senolių buvo pažiūros į aplinkinį pasaulį ir pomirtinį žmogaus gyvenimą. Visa tai atsispindi papročiuose ir tradicijose.

Su Velykų švente yra susiję pusiau religiniai, pusiau liaudiški papročiai. Gavėnia - ilgas ir gana nuobodus laikotarpis. Pusiaugavėnyje kaimo šeiminkės kepavo tam tikras bandeles, kurių kiekviena reikšdavo kokį nors daiktą: plūgą, arklą, botagą ar patį artoją.

Velykiniai papročiai prasideda Verbų dieną. Iš pat ryto tėvas kelia vaikus ir plaka kadugio šakele sakydamas: "Ne aš plaku, verba plaka — tolei muš, kolei suluš". Verbų sekmadienį po pamaldų ir kiti, jauni ir seni, to paties susilaukia. O kai kur verbomis smarkiai užkirsdavo per galvas tiems, kurie tą rytą buvo likę namie. Bažnyčios įtakoje verbos primena palmes, kurias klojo minia Kristui po kojomis, įžengiant į Jeruzalę. Pašventintos palmės nuveja piktaşias dvasias.

Nuo senų laikų vanduo ir ugnis buvo visokio apšalymo sim-

bolis, ji turi nepaprastos galios. Didįjį Šeštadienį bažnyčioje pašventintu vandeniu būdavo šlakstomi visi namų kampai. Šeimos nariai tuo vandeniu plaunasi, geria ir gydosisi nuo ligų. Tą dieną patartina įlisti į upę ar tvenkinį arba ratų pravėžoje pasivolioti. O Verbų rytą, niekam nematant, prieš saulės tekėjimą taip pat labai sveika esą pasimaudyti.

Didįjį Šeštadienį atgabenta iš bažnyčios ugnis būdavo apnešama apie trobesius, kad tais metais jie būtų apsaugoti nuo gaisro ir griaustinio. Tos ugnelės niekam nereikia skolinti, nes tada ji pasidaro nebešventa. Tą dieną dzūkai namų nevala, nedulkina, kad Kristui akių neprikrestų, taip pat vengia ir bet kokių sunkesnių darbų, nes gali didelės nesėkmės

susilaukti. Juk didysis valymas ir švarinimasis atliekamas D. Ketvirtadienį.

Velykų rytą visų pakili nuotaika. Tą rytą ir saulė tekėdama džiaugiasi, kad prisikėlė Kristus. Ji įvairiomis spalvomis mainosi, kyla aukštyn, žemyn, ritinėjasi. Žmonės keldavosi anksti jos pasižiūrėti. Jau Velykų naktį ir ryte vaikai ir suaugę vyrai linksmi vaikšto po kaimą, sveikina šeiminkus, sakydami oracijas ir kartodami giesmę: "Iš džiaugsmo stojos linksmybė". Jie gaudavo už tai kiaušinių. Vaikštininkai buvo vadinami "lalauninkai".

VIII a. po Kr. pradėta šventinti bažnyčioje sunėsti velykiniai valgiai. Pirmiausia buvo šventinama avinėlio mėsa, nes tai Kristaus simbolis, turįs ryšio su žydų "pascha". Kiek vėliau ir vieta



užėmė kumpis, zuikis, kiaušiniai ir kt. Vaikams Velykų zuikutis labiau patiko negu avinėlis, todėl ir dabar jis daugiau visur mėgiamas.

Jau nuo senų laikų Velykų simboliu laikomas kiaušinis. Mat, buvo įsitikinta - kaip iš negyvo išsiritą gyvybę, taip iš negyvo kaipo išėjo Kristus. Kiaušinių dažymo paprotys, kilęs Europoje, yra labai senas. Jo pėdsakų aptikta net IV a. po Kr. Vokietijoje, prie Vormso, viename kapinyne buvo rasta mergaitės kape du išmarginti žąsies kiaušiniai. Vėliau ir kitur aptikta pėdsakų, liudijančių kiaušinių marginimo paprotį. Lietuvoje margučio vardas pirmą kartą paminėtas XVI a. viename M. Mažvydo rašte, kur

jis, vietoj kiaušinio dovanojęs lietuvišką knygą.

Kaip dabar, taip ir seniau Velykų rytą pusryčiai pradėdami "susidaužymu" kiaušiniais. Bet senovėje dar būta ir kito papročio, kai visa šeima atsikąsdami dalindavosi vienu ir tuo pačiu velykiniu kiaušiniu.

Neužmiršta ir mirusiųjų vėlių. Jos išeinančios iš skaistyklos ir vaikšto po pasaulį. Velykų rytą reikia po stalą nupilti tris šaukštus valgio toms vėlėms, kurių niekas neprisimena. O kapinėse ant vaikų kapų reikia padėti kiaušinių, nes aniems jų neatneša Velykinė (Velykų bobutė) ir nepradžiugina, kaip gyvuosius, kurie prie savo lovyčių tą rytą randa margučių ar kitokių dovanė-

lių.

Antra Velykų diena - pramogų diena. Jaunimas supasi su puoklėse, žaidžia margučiais, kaip ir pirmąją dieną.

Atvėlykis ir visa savaitė po Velykų viduramžiais buvo vadinama "Velykų juokai", nes tą savaitę kunigai, savo pamoksluose irgi reikšdavo džiaugsmą, Kristui prisikėlus, pasakodavo linksmus anekdotus, juokingus nuotykius, įpindami į juos ir religines tiesas. Tačiau XVIII a. šis paprotys buvo uždraustas.

Taip apytikriai atspindi mūsų liaudies kūryboj, apeiginėse tradicijose Velykos - didžiausia ir seniausia bažnytinė šventė krikščionijoje.

"Draugas".



Velykų rytas

Ak rytmečiai,
Ak rytmečiai tie tolimieji,
Kada plačiai
Kaip vandenys giesmė laukus užlieja
Ir bokšte prikėlia ošimą ilgą ilgą;
Kai pirmutinė smilga
Nedrasiai stiebias pažiūrėti,
Kaip mūs laukų grumsteliai žiburėti —
Ne, ne! kaip paauksuotos tavo rankos žvilga.

Ir Tu eini,
Tu, Užmirštasis, tris kartus eini.
O gluosnių pumpurai raini,
Plaukuoti tarsi kirmelaitės
Ant Tavo tako susiraite
Ir nusizeminę vis renkasi prie kojų,
Lyg prieš savaitę
Mes palmių Tau su mirtom nebūtum klojė.

O šiandien vėl Tu mus kvieti.
Pagruodžiu dunda žingsniai mūs kieti.
Jau tuoj, jau tuoj prinokusiom su diršėm
Ir mes nusvirsim —
Visi mes paskutinio vėjo pakąsti
Nusvirsim prieš Tave, auksinis Tu Kviety!

Ak rytmečiai,
Ak rytmečiai tie tolimieji,
Kada plačiai
Lyg vandenys giesmė laukus užlieja
Ir bokšte prikėlia ošimą ilgą ilgą,
Tada ir mes lyg pirmutinė smilga
Nedrasiai stiebiames pasižiūrėti —
Ne, ne! kaip paauksuotos tavo rankos žvilga.

ANTANAS JASMANTAS

DO YOU KNOW?

...St. Casimir's parish is the only Lithuanian parish in the State of R.I. Parishioners of St. Casimir's built a new church during the depression, without any financial loans from any banking institutions. This was done by cash donations, and personal loans from the parishioners.

...R.I., is the state with the longest name - "State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations".

...R.I.'s State Capitol dome is the second largest of the four famous unsupported marble domes in the world. Standing atop the dome, is the statue of the INDEPENDENT MAN. The Independent Man is 14 feet high; weighs 500 pounds, and made of Bronze and Gold Leaf.

...Providence was founded in 1636 by Roger Williams.

...The Gaspee was burned in Narragansett Bay in 1772.

...In 1774 R.I. prohibited the importation of slaves.

...R.I. became the 13th state when it ratified the United States Constitution on May 29, 1790.

...1776 R.I. declared her independence from England.

...America's first industry the SLATER MILL was built in 1793 by Samuel Slater in Pawtucket, R.I.

...C-103 and the Lithuanian Community of R.I., are awaiting your visit to R.I. in August of 1977.

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"THE CHURCH AND HUMAN RIGHTS"

ADDRESS TO THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

Most Reverend Joseph L. Bernardin
Archbishop of Cincinnati

Dayton, Ohio
August 28, 1976

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the city of Dayton and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for this sixty-third annual convention of the Knights of Lithuania. I know something of the background and purpose of your organization: how it seeks to preserve all that is best in Lithuanian culture and traditions among Lithuanian immigrants and their descendants; how it has acted as a bond between Lithuanians and the Roman Catholic Church.

Ethnic groups have been a major part of the American story throughout the history of this country. Today we see a new importance accorded ethnic traditions in the surge of awareness sometimes called the "New Ethnicity". Many of the themes running through this movement of ethnic groups - themes such as the affirmation that the better one appreciates one's own roots, the more tolerant he or she should be of others - are ideas that are necessary for the health of a pluralistic society like our own.

During this Bicentennial year of 1976 much thought and consideration have been given to our pluralism and our purpose as a nation, to what our history has been and what our future should be. Catholics, like others, have taken part in this process of celebration, commemoration and reflection. One principal way in which the bishops of the United States have tried to foster substantive reflection and understanding of some key dimensions of our social life has been through the program of hearings and discussion across the nation called "Liberty and Justice For All". Through this program, involving seven public hearings and several hundred diocesan and parish discussions, the bishops have been trying to feel the pulse of their own people on questions about family and neighborhood life, on race and ethnicity, on national and international issues. In this process they have tried to foster an understanding of Catholic social teaching on these same topics.

There has been a Lithuanian presence in this program. Your organization was represented in the planning of the "Liberty and Justice For All" program, and your concerns and those of other ethnics

were set forth by Father Casimir Pugevicius at the Newark hearing in December. In addition, at a special hearing on "Global Justice and Peace", held in July at Maryknoll, New York, one of the principal witnesses on the day dedicated to human rights was Mr. Simas Kudirka, who is here today to accept your "Friend of Lithuania" award on behalf of Sergei Kovalev. Mr. Kudirka spoke on the theme of the situation of human rights in the Soviet Union and brought to the attention of all several specific cases in a moving and eloquent testimony.

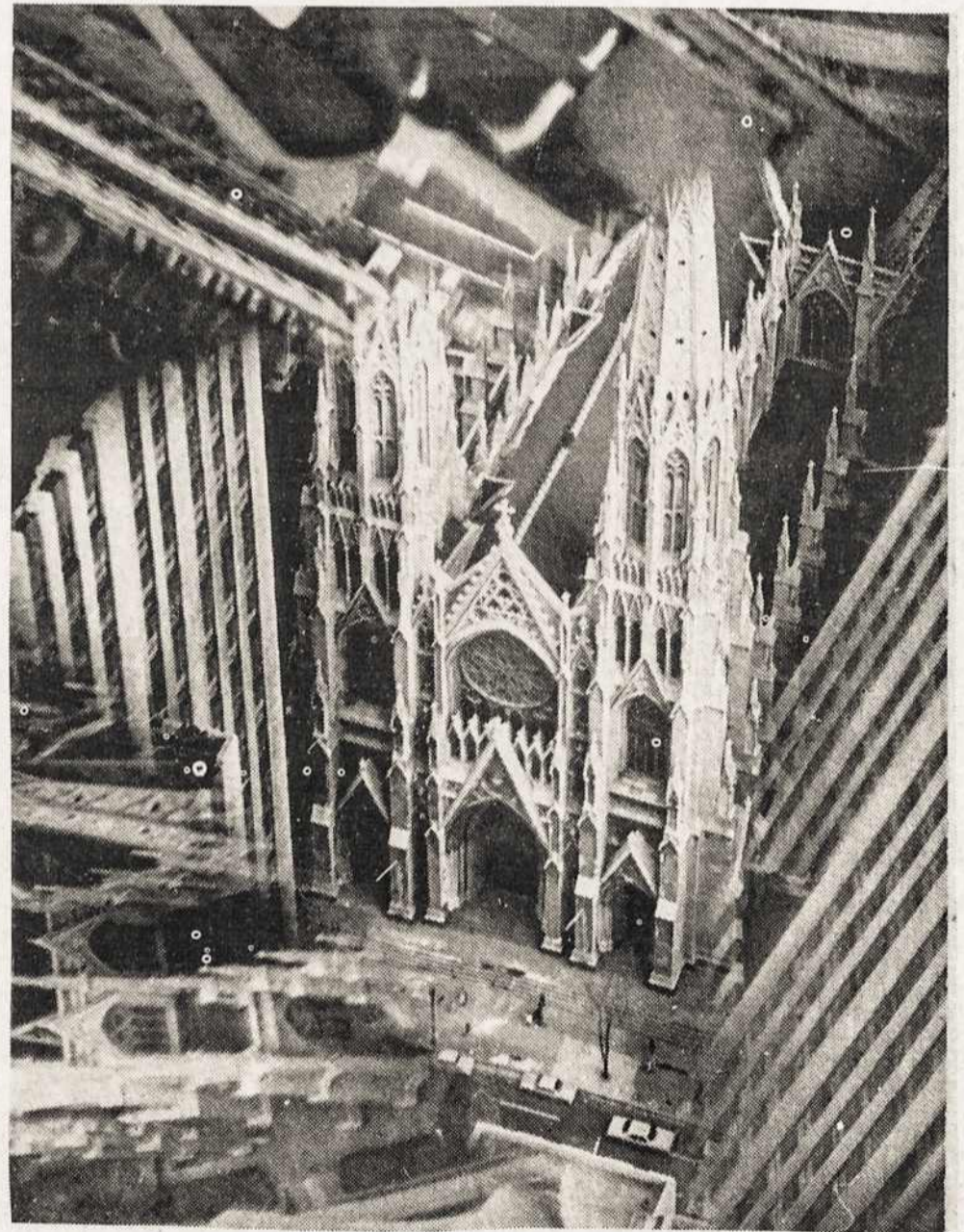


Photo - R. Kisielius

What I wish to do in these remarks today is to continue the discussion about the concerns of the Church in the United States regarding the situation of human rights in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. As you know, this is not the first time I have spoken on this topic; some time ago I specifically brought the plight of Lithuanians and others in the Soviet Union to the attention of a major segment of the Jewish community in America. In addition, the United States Catholic Conference has a continuing interest in human rights questions in Eastern Europe. In May of this year Bishop Rausch, the General Secretary of the USCC, made a formal intervention with Secretary of State Kissinger, regarding the situation of human rights in Czechoslovakia. Bishop Rausch and I traveled to Poland this spring to express our solidarity with the Church in Poland. At another level, the Office of International Justice and Peace at the USCC has made formal inquiry of the Yugoslavian Embassy in Washington regarding reports of increased harassment of the Catholics in that country. Such efforts, I can assure you, will continue as part of the larger effort of the Church in the United States to make human rights considerations a serious and significant dimension of the foreign policy of this nation.

It is about the rationale and significance of such a human rights program in the Church that I wish to speak today. In doing so, I shall take as my principal text the statement on "Human Rights and Reconciliation" of the 1974 Synod of Bishops in Rome. In that message the bishops of the Synod, representing the Church around the world, joined with Pope Paul VI in affirming that the Church "believes firmly that the promotion of human rights is required by the Gospel and is central to her ministry" (HUMAN RIGHTS AND RECONCILIATION, 1974). My principal point today is to illustrate why such a ministry of human rights in international relations can make a substantial difference for people around the world.

To demonstrate the significance of this ministry of human rights, we need to go to Pope John XXIII's best known statement, *PACEM IN TERRIS*. A principal point which Pope John made was that there is a structural gap in the modern world between the kinds of transnational problems facing the international community and the limited structure of public authority embodied in the traditional nation state. In brief, today's problems require types of action which states either cannot produce or do not choose to carry out on a sustained basis. The protection of human rights on an international basis is one of these transnational issues. A universal standard for human rights exists in the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights; governments regularly assert the priority of human rights issues in their foreign policy; but the practice of states in the face of known violations of human rights is so often marked by selective concern, sporadic action, and often simply silence.

At least two principal factors weigh against individual states giving sustained, systematic and substantial priority to human rights concerns. The first is the doctrine of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states. This has been used to place stringent limits on how states would address each other in the face of human rights violations. A second factor has been the way states regularly weigh the human rights issue against other perceived interests of an economic, political or strategic nature in the foreign policy equation. A combination of these two reasons has been used often in U.S. explanations of its limited or passive policy on human rights. The tone and specific points of Secretary Kissinger's speech at the meeting of the Organization of American States in Santiago in July pledge the United States to an aggressive stance on human rights. Many are watching closely to see if performance will match this statement of policy. The way in which additional military commitments to Chile were hastened through the policy process by the State Department just before the Santiago speech leaves the interested observer with continuing skepticism about this proposed new stance.

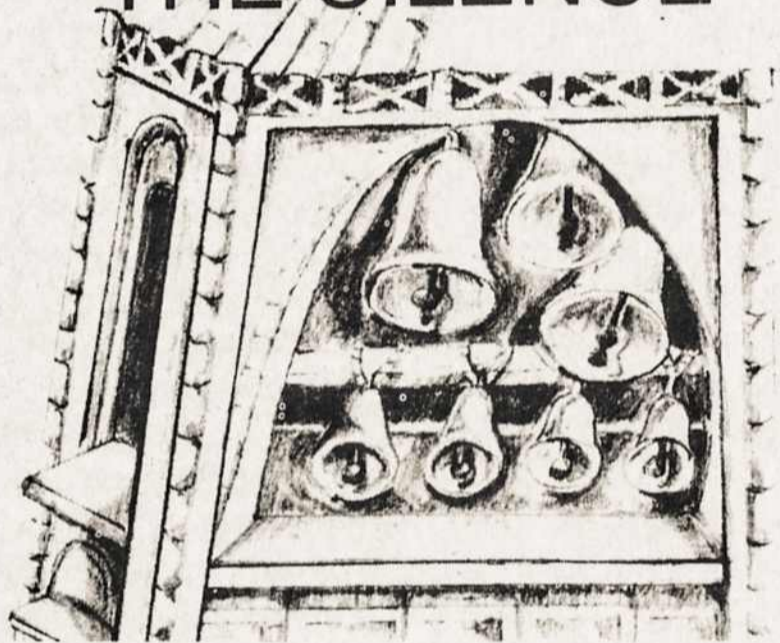
A reserved skepticism, however, is an inadequate and unbecoming posture for the Church. If governments are to move systematically and effectively on human rights questions, it will happen because their citizenry will not stand for less than sustained concern and action. The other dimensions of the foreign policy equation - the economic, political and strategic interests - all have constituencies who are interested parties. That is to say, a constituency is guaranteed for these issues because some groups have an interest at stake or something to gain from these concerns. It is naive to think that human rights concerns will be weighed effectively against these other considerations simply because of the intrinsic merits of human dignity and human rights. Effective consideration of human rights requires that there be a human rights constituency in each nation.

The Catholic Church is uniquely suited to be a significant voice in such a human rights constituency. Doctrinally, a belief in the unique dignity of the human person and a conviction that human dignity finds expression and protection in rights and duties is the foundation of all Catholic social teaching. Organizationally, the Church is one of the oldest and most widely represented international communities in the world; it provides a natural transnational constituency to stand for and speak for the transnational issue of human rights in the policies of states. In almost every nation the Church is a significant national institution; it can and should make its presence felt, in accord with differing circumstances, on the human rights issues.

There is hardly a place in the world where the need for this to be done is more significant than in the United States. We cannot ignore or avoid the scope and extent of U.S. power and influence in the world,

politically, economically and militarily. In their 1973 statement on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations' Declaration on Human Rights, the bishops of the United States said: "Internationally, the pervasive presence of American power creates a responsibility of using that power in the service of human rights" (TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.N. DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, 1973). In some countries of the world the Church cannot speak of the human rights question; in other countries it can do so only at great risk. Here we have both a heavy responsibility and a democratic process that invites our voice. We have no excuse for silence.

NOW IS THE TIME TO END THE SILENCE



As the bishops heard at the Maryknoll meeting on "Global Justice and Peace", the need to speak to the human rights issue can be measured by the way such rights are today still substantially violated. The violations run across the political spectrum, from countries on the left to countries on the right. The cases include both U.S. adversaries and allies. Faced with this reality, it is important to stress that the United States is not simply an impartial, uninvolved observer. When we fail to speak because our strategic or corporate interests are at stake, when we bargain away the human rights issue on the balance of power chessboard, then we are part of the human rights problem. We are not omnipotent, but we cannot claim we are impartial or impotent either. We have a measure of influence on human rights questions in the world; how we use that influence is not simply a tactical or technical issue but also a moral issue of the first order.

In no area of the world is the human rights question more complicated than in countries under Soviet control. The complexity is not about whether viola-

tions occur, but about the response which will be most effective from the Church, from other groups and from other governments. In the West today the power of Solzhenitsyn's pen combined with the process of detente has aroused new interest in the human rights issue in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The issues involved in a sustained human rights strategy to support the people of Lithuania and others in similar situations are complex.

On the one hand, everyone wants to do what is reasonably possible to keep the nuclear peace between East and West; from this desire arises the movement of cooperation known as detente. At the same time, it is too high a price to buy cooperation at the cost of silence on human rights. Since the stakes between East and West are so high, there will be a continuing temptation to push the human rights issue off the agenda of concerns. This will hardly be done explicitly, but rather by stressing how little anyone outside the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe can do.

Yet we have towering voices like Solzhenitsyn and Amalrik, as well as voices closer to home like Simas Kudirka, and Bishop Brizgys and Sister Marguerite with whom I met last fall, reminding us that we have not done all we can do. In spite of the complexity of the issues, I do not think we can ignore the voices which call us to symbolic and substantive solidarity with Catholics and others in Communist countries who suffer human rights violations.

What can be done? I claim no special insights, but I would suggest some diverse forms of action. One capacity the Church has is to be a network of communication in the world. The remarkable journal, *CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHUANIA*, published under the most dangerous and difficult circumstances, provides a flow of information to the outside world which should be heeded. Whether it is a matter of Church policy toward Lithuania or governmental policy, we should act in light of the facts. Journals like the *Chronicle* provide us with facts which must be considered by us all. A second form of Church assistance can be financial; it is my view that we should do more in this regard.

Governments now have a new mechanism of influence available with the signing of the Helsinki Accords. As you know, there has been substantial debate about the utility and value of these measures. Whatever the relative merits of signing these Accords were, they are now operative and should be used by the signers to call each other to account. U.S. policy toward Eastern Europe should be evaluated in part by the letter and spirit of what was pledged by East and West in the Helsinki agreement. An example of an issue which could be raised with the Soviet Union is the unconscionable increase on import duties imposed on relief packages and personal gifts to Lithuanians. I am told the duty is sometimes 900% of the value of the gift. Such action does not contribute to the increased international cooperation

pledged by the Soviets at Helsinki.

It would be possible to go on citing specific actions which governments, non-governmental groups and others can undertake to raise the level of respect for human rights in the international community, but I wish to focus my closing remarks on a less technical theme. The significance of the Catholic Church for those who suffer daily deprivation of human rights in Lithuania and other places around the globe cannot be measured solely in terms of the laws and policies we support or any influence we might have with governments.

People who suffer injustice, and are often cut off from contact with others, want more than anything else an assurance that they will not be forgotten. Their psychological need is a guarantee that the world will not simply go about its daily business oblivious to their fate.

The community of the universal Church should be a sign of hope and a source of support for people in these situations. The doctrine of Catholic teaching which describes the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ has immense significance in this regard. St. Paul stated the case better than anyone else:

For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ... And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it.

(I Corinthians: 12:12, 26)

These words state the content of our faith; we cannot forget those who suffer for the faith without denying the faith itself. Moreover, we do not simply believe this doctrine of the Mystical Body as a

memorized truth. We celebrate and reaffirm our unity in the Mystical Body of Christ daily in the Eucharist. Because of what we believe as Catholics and because of what we do each day in the Eucharist, we are pledged not to forget those members of the Body who suffer around the world. Our belief must take visible shape in action: in advocacy for human rights, in material assistance, in continuing communication and concern for our brothers and sisters in Lithuania. I have come here today to say that their plight will be a continuing concern for me personally and I am sure for the Church in the United States.



Archbishop Joseph Bernardin

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PRISIMENANT L. VYČIŲ PRAEITĮ IR DABARTĮ

Perskaitęs L. Vyčių istoriją, sužinojau, kaip jie darbavosi senesniuose laikuose ir aukojosi savo organizacijos, tėvynės Lietuvos, lietuviybės ir savos kalbos labui. Rinko aukas, leido Vytį ir kitus raštus.

Būtų naudinga, kad visi vyčiai, o juo labiau jų vadovai perskaitytų šią istoriją, parašytą abiem kalbom. Mūsų organizacijos vardas jau neskamba po visas lietuvių apylinkes bei jų parapijas kaip kitados. Kiek mums yra žinoma ir girdima, tai tik Chicagos vyčiai ir kiek rytinėse valstybėse veikia. Mažai girdimas Detroitas kur veikia net trys L. Vyčių kuopos. Apie jas tiek maža žinelių, kad atrodo, jau jų ten nebėra. Broliai ir sesės, vyčiai ir vytės, jeigu mes neparąšysime žinelių, tai mūsų lietuviškoji visuomenė pamans, jog L. Vyčiai yra mirštanti organizacija. Taip nėra, ji tik neturi tokių vadų, kokius L. Vyčiai senesniuose laikuose turėjo. Net J.E. vyskupas Vincentas Brizgys ir L. Vyčių organizacijos garbės narys, štai kaip įvertino vyčius: "Nėra jokios kitos laisvame pasaulyje lietuvių organizacijos, kuri būtų tiek padariusi Lietuvos ir lietuvių vardo gynimui, kiek vyčiai. Lietuvos reikalų sekcijos vadovybėje per paskutinius 10 metų parašė per 200,000 laiškų. Per spaudą tie laiškai pasiekė ne tik 160 milijonų amerikiečių, bet visą pasaulį. Šia savo veikla ir jos rezultatais, L. Vyčiai užėmė vieną svarbiausių mūsų politinio veikimo ir kovos veiksmų vietą. Seniau mes žinojome, kas mūsų organizacijoje yra vadai, veikėjai ir darbuotojai bei kas su jais atsitinka - suseraga, numiršta ir t.t. Matydavome juos spaudoje ir jų paveikslais papuoštą "Vytį" ir kitus mūsų laikraščius. Štai čia duosiu pavyzdį, kaip vienas L. Vyčių seimas, berods 1954 m. prie Mykolo Norkūno paminklo pasižadėjo: "Brangusis Tėve, mes, L. Vyčiai, Tavo garbingos organizacijos nariai, pasižadame iki mirties pasilikti uoliais katalikais ir gerais lietuviais, dirbti su lietuviais, ugdyti savyje lietuvišką dvasią, branginti, mylėti ir vis daugiau ir daugiau vartoti lietuvių kalbą, lietuvišką dainą bei užlaikyti lietuviškus papročius. Mes pasižadame vis didesniu uolumu skleisti vyčių idėjas po visą Ameriką. Mes pasižadame nie-

kuomet neišsižadėti taip brangių lietuviybės principų.

Brangusis Tėve, pareikšdami šiuos pažadus, prie Tavo kapo, mes neabejojame, kad Dievui padedant, juos ištikimai išpildysime".

Gražus pasižadėjimas, bet jis ne visų vyčių yra pildomas, ypatingai lietuvių kalbos, lietuviškų pavardžių, lietuviškų papročių atžvilgiu. Būtų labai gražu kalbėtis lietuviškai savo tarpe ir susirinkimuose bei seimuose. Tiesa, Amerikos didieji universitetai pradėjo dėstyti lietuvių kalbą, kas turėtų paskatinti ir vyčius prabilti lietuviškai.

Kodėl mes, L. Vyčiai, bijome į savo organą "Vytį", daugiau rašyti lietuviškai. Kiek yra žinoma, L. Vyčių organizacijoje yra aukšto mokslo žmonių, bet apie juos maža kas žinoma. Mieli vyčiai ir vytės, pasižadėkime daugiau pasirūpinti lietuviškais reikalais. Tegu "Vytis" išsina ne tik gražiuose viršeliuose, bet gražiuose lietuviškuose žodžiuose.

Senelis



to all

K of L members and their families

MAY YOU ENJOY THE
Blessings of Easter

Supreme Council Officers and the "VYTIS" Staff

LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS

EDITED BY MARIAN AND PHIL SKABEIKIS

SISTER VIRGINIA MARIE HONORED AS AUTHOR

A special TEA hosting Sister Virginia Marie Vytell at the Albright Memorial Library took place Feb. 10, 1977 to present her newly published book on Lithuania, "Praise the Lord, All You Nations". The response of the people in Scranton was overwhelming. According to Marni Rees, the Chairlady for the occasion, the crowd has never been so large. Rev. Michael Ozalas, the pastor of St. Joseph's Lithuanian Parish, and his assistant, Rev. Albert Brogus, as well as Rev. Clement Kasinskas, a Passionist from St. Ann's Monastery, deserve much credit for their part in advertising the event.

Attending the TEA were the two blood sisters of the author, Sister Ludwin from Brockton, and Sister Marie Celine from Norwood, Massachusetts; the Mayor of Scranton, Hon. Eugene Peters, the Lithuanian historian and diplomat; Professor Bronis Kaslas; and the short story writer of Lithuanian folktales, Liudas Dovydenas. Program participants included Sister Marie Annunciata, Superior General of the Poor Sisters of Jesus Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother, who spoke on the need of the Christians of the world to recognize Lithuania's enslaved condition and to unite for her freedom so that she, too, may "Praise the Lord", and Rev. Clement Kasinskas, who explained the meaning of the wayside crosses and the white knight on the cover of the book.

Marianne McTighe, librarian from the University of Scranton, emphasized the importance of ethnic revival in the United States and the need for Lithuanians to learn their history and culture which is vividly presented in the book, PRAISE THE LORD, ALL YOU NATIONS.

Sister Virginia Marie received a bouquet of red roses from the Superior General as a token of love and gratitude from her Community, a citation from Marywood College from the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and a genuine pewter cross with a Passionist sign from the Passionists of St. Ann's Monastery. She also received a subscription to the VYTIS from Eva Kazokas, president of the K of L, C-74, Scranton.

Many books were autographed by the author and orders were taken. The Sisters of Jesus Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother are deeply grateful to all who planned the TEA and attended the joyous event.



Pictured is Eva Kazokas presenting a copy of VYTIS to Sister Virginia Marie.

Reverend Dr. Antanas Juška, Vicar of St. Anthony's parish in Cicero, Illinois, died on January 23 in Chicago. Reverend Juška was born on May 13, 1913 in the Lithuanian village of Gelazius. He taught in the boy's Gimnazia of Panevėžys and entered the Kaunas seminary in 1933. He was ordained in 1940 after completion of a course of study at Vytautas the Great University. He came to America in 1948.

A staunch supporter of the Lithuanian cause, Reverend Juška was active in Balfas, Ateitininkų Sendraugių Sąjunga and Lietuvių Bendruomenė.

The Lithuanian Opera Company of Chicago presented two full production performances of Charles Gounod's setting of William Shakespeare's immortal love story, ROMEO AND JULIET.

Ričardas Daunoras, Lithuanian bass now living in Paris, has been included on the roster of international operatic names at the Le Theatre Royal de la Monnaie and will be singing the role of the King of Egypt in a new production of Verdi's AIDA.



February 16, 1977.

Mrs. Alphonse Trainis, National Financial Sec'y., Charles Daugiello, Bridgeport Mayor John Mandonici, George Radzwillas, President C-141, Rev. Francis J. Pranckus.

FEB. 16 PROCLAMATION IN BRIDGEPORT

A delegation of Lithuanians (all C-141 members) were present in the office of Bridgeport, Conn.'s Mayor, John Mandonici, when he signed the annual proclamation of Lithuanian Independence Day. George Radzwillas, C-141 President, brought with him the Lithuanian flag, with the thought in mind ... "to have the flag raised and fly over City Hall on Feb. 16". The Mayor's aides suggested that since the day was not for "flag raising", that they show the Mayor the Lithuanian flag. Pictured with the flag are, l. to r.: Teresa Trainis, National Financial Secretary; Charles Daugiello, Bridgeport Mayor John Mandonici; George Radzwillas, C-141 President, and Rev. Francis J. Pranckus.

On Saturday February 19, the story of Nijolė Sadūnaitė and the CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHUANIA, came to New York City's cable Television. The program, funded by the Pro Ecclesia Foundation, featured two prominent activists from the New York area, Knights of Lithuania National Lithuanian Affairs Chairman Rev. Casimir Pugevičius and Daiva Kezys, English director of LAISVĖS ŽIBURYS, a New York Lithuanian-English Radio program.

Their appearance on this program was arranged by Kęstutis Miklas, President of BATUN, the Baltic Appeal to the United Nations.

Ms. Sadūnaitė was arrested and after an extensive trial was incarcerated in a Soviet labor camp on June 20, 1975 for her role in preparing the CHRONICLE for publication and smuggling to the free world.

The program has attracted much attention since its airing.

St. Joseph's Lithuanian Parish in Sao Paulo, Brazil, recently commemorated forty years of providing for the needs of Sao Paulo and its Lithuanian Catholic population. Founded February 16, 1936 St. Joseph's was the first Lithuanian parish in South America. Prelatus Pijus Ragazinskas served as pastor there for some thirty-five years. The current pastor and assistant are, respectively, Reverend Juozas Seškevičius and Reverend Feliksas Jokobauskas.

The February issue of the noted art journal, AMERICAN ARTIST, marked the publications fortieth anniversary. The issue featured some of the more than 1700 artists that have been featured in its history. Included were three Lithuanians, V. K. Jonynas, Robertas Kaupelis and Paulius Puzinas.

"Somber meal traditional in Lithuanian Christmas" was the title of a feature article in the December 9, 1976 issue of THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL. The article by the newspaper's food editor Helen A. Wilber, summarized a Lecture - Demonstration given by Sr. Palmira of Putnam, Connecticut at Sprague Mansion describing the Kūčios celebration. The photo accompanying the article featured K of L's Helen Seraichekas of Narragansett, R.I. and C-103 Junior Karen Caughlin. The event had been sponsored by the Lithuanian Ethnic Heritage Committee of the Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission, which the K of L was instrumental in creating.

Adolfas Campe, distinguished citizen of Waterbury Connecticut, was made Honorary Mayor of Waterbury in commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day. The WATERBURY-AMERICAN on February 16, 1977, carried a photo of Mr. Campe with his two grandchildren and their mother in Lithuanian costume in the Mayor's office.

Noted California Lithuanian composer Bronius Budriūnas has announced the publication of a new sonata for the piano subtitled "Mano Tėvynė". The sonata's four movements are subtitled I "The Ruins of the Castle of Trakai" II "Storm Clouds over Kaunas" III "Baltic Shores" and IV "A Bonfire (Laužas) by the Nemunas announces the arrival of Spring".

To secure a copy of this new opus write BBKL Fondas, 2620 Griffith Park Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90039.

Ilgiausiu metu, SISTER FRANCESCA!

Never have the strains of *Ilgiausiu Metu* been sung with such feeling as they were at the recent banquet honoring Sister Mary Francesca's fiftieth year in the service of the Lord. Council 19 hosted a dinner for Sister at the Yorkshire Inn recently, and in the standing-room-only crowd, besides Council 19 members were representatives of the Saturday Lithuanian classes and Sister's many friends.

As the main speaker of the evening, Father Walter Karaveckas so aptly recognized Sister Francesca's dedication not only to her religious order and her professional duties, but also her unwavering dedication to things Lithuanian, be they social, cultural, or religious. It was so fitting that Council 19 President Vito Yucius present to Sister the Lithuanian Presidents' Medal for very few have done more for Lithuanian causes. Margaret Tur-

ner presented Sister with a Money Tree in appreciation of Sister's efforts in teaching the Saturday Lithuanian classes. The gift to Sister from Council 19 was presented by Anne Aleliunas.

It has been the good fortune of Council 19 to have Sister Francesca as a member for the past five years. With endless patience Sister has taught us the fine art of making Lithuanian straw ornaments, has shared her techniques of Easter egg designs, and has sponsored craft classes for us. When the Council sponsored a decorated Lithuanian tree for display in Downtown Pittsburgh, the number of ornaments that Sister made was in the hundreds. Attendance is always good at Sister's gourmet dinners, and there have been quite a few. As Vice-President for the last three years, Sister has certainly earned her points for

Outside the organization, we

have had our lives enriched through knowing Sister personally. Those of us with daughters at the Academy learned first hand of Sister's talents in the Home Ec department and of her patience in teaching. Many were the singers invited to join Sister's choral group in the Christmas presentation of *United We Sing* at Carnegie Music Hall. How many pairs of shoes Sister has worn out teaching dancing for the Folk Festivals, we'll never know.

We have counted our blessings in knowing Sister. We can only hope that she will be blessed with a return of the graces she has so generously given others. With uncommon humility she has lived a life of inspiration to us all. For those fifty years in the Lord's service, it can be truly said: "Well done, good and faithful Servant".

Anne Aleliunas



Vito Yucius presents the Presidents' Medal to Sister Francesca while Father Karaveckas looks on.



Sister Francesca receives C 19's gift from Anne Aleliunas while Sister Virginia looks on.

JUNIORS CORNER

(ed. by A. M. Kassel)

CONVENTION '77

Juniors who will be attending the National Knights of Lithuania Convention in Providence, Rhode Island, will be able to participate in all of the activities for the special registration of \$25.

Included in the activities will be Thursday's Brunch and Cultural Evening, Friday's Boat Ride, Saturday's Banquet, and Sunday's Farewell Luncheon. There will be other special Junior activities to be announced later.

Don't miss your chance to apply for a Conventionship Award. Contact Ann Marie Kassel, 11129 Highridge, Westchester, Ill. 60153, for more information.



C-103 Junior Officers: (Hosts to the Junior Nat'l. Convention) Karen Coughlin, Corresponding Secretary; Joseph Kairys, Treasurer; Marcella Krecioch, President; Rev. V. Martinkus, Spiritual Director; Rimās Saulenas, Vice President; Ann Krecioch, Recording Secretary; Andrew Kairys, Sgt-at-Arms.

HOW IS YOUR LITHUANIAN?

If you're going to the seashore during Spring vacation, here are some words to help you —

paglūdimys	- beach
bangos	- waves
vandenynas	- ocean
sala	- island
ežeras	- lake
saulė	- sun
kopos	- sand-dune
smėlio tvirtovė	- sand fort
smėlio pilis	- sand castle
kastuvėlis	- shovel
paglūdimio žaislas	- beach toy
paglūdimio kėdė	- beach chair
paglūdimio sargas	- lifeguard
lentų takas	- boardwalk
skėtis	- umbrella
tilvikas	- sandpiper
persirengimo namas	- bathhouse

vasarnamis	- summer cottage
valtis	- rowboat
inkaras	- anchor
irklas	- oar
jūros kiautas	- sea shell
jūros žvaigždė	- starfish
krevetė	- shrimp
kuoja	- minnow
austrė	- oyster
jūros vėžys	- lobster
krabas	- crab
moliuskas	- clam
dvigeldė kriauklė	- mussel
jūrų žolės, dambliai	- seaweed
žuvėdra	- sea gull

JRS. C-100 AMSTERDAM

Junior counselor Mrs. Kot, asked Lisa Saikal, president, to start the meeting. Rima Hartvigas, secretary read the minutes. Father Baltch showed pictures of the old Vilnius and the new section Lazdynai. He also asked us a few questions on the history of Lithuania.

Mr. Anthony Radzevich, president of Council 100, was our guest. He gave us a talk on wood carving, showing us different kinds of wood, etc. We all received a block of wood and he told us he would come to our next meeting to see how we made out in our first attempt at carving. His talk was very good and we wish to thank him for giving us the desire to try our luck at it.

Mrs. Kot read an article on the different trees in Lithuania and what the peoples' beliefs were about them.

Mrs. Kot and Miss Gobis treated us to punch and cookies.



C-100 Jrs.

First row: Michael Mikolaitis, V.P.; Joseph Rimkunas, Tim Saikal, Gene Gobis, Alan Drenzek, Treas.; Rev. Robert K. Baltch.

Second row: Bill Saikal, Jr. Counselor Regina Kot, Rima Hartvigas, Sec.; Mary Rimkunas, correspondent; Lisa Saikal, president; Gerry Drenzek, Sgt. at arms.

C-100 Jrs. President Anthony Radzevich showing one of his wood carvings. Clockwise: Jr. Counselor Regina Kot, A. Radzevich, Rima Hartvigas and the back of Mary Rimkunas.



JRS. C-36-112 CHICAGO

Miss Cecilia Matul came to our December meeting to teach us how to make Lithuanian Christmas Ornaments. She asked for volunteers to help assist her in showing us how to make the many interesting patterns of the straw ornaments. We truly enjoyed the December meeting which included

election of officers, the ornament demonstration and ended with our Christmas Party. At the party the members entertained each other with their many talents. Mr. Faustas Strolia accompanied many of the acts and entertained with song and dance. We would also like to thank the Chicago Lithuanian

Women's Club for their generous donation of \$100 to our Junior Council.

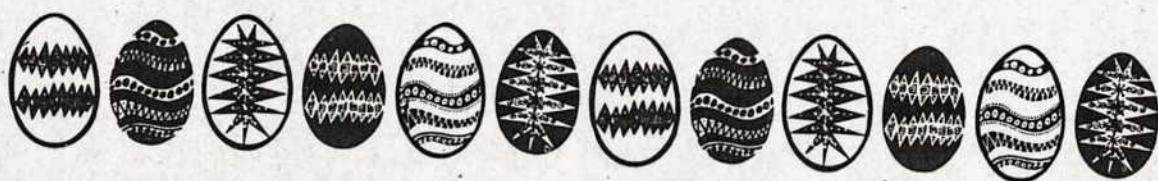
At the January meeting, Mrs. Kassel and Mrs. Strolia helped the new officers assume their responsibilities. They discussed future activities. We had an ice skating party in January at the Chalet in Willow Springs. All those who attended had a most enjoyable time and we are looking forward to our next social outing.

Our February meeting was devoted to the theme of Lithuanian Independence Day. Mrs. Kassel and Mrs. Strolia read some articles explaining February 16. We ended the meeting with each of us taking turns signing the proclamation, imitating the original signing. Mrs. Kilkus and Mrs. Klatt helped prepare refreshments after our meeting.

Jacki and Gigi Maluska



C-36-112 Jrs.
C. Matul demonstrates Lithuanian ornaments.



APRIL

- 3 C-29, Newark, ANNUAL CAKE SALE, Benefit Holy Trinity Church
 20 IID "BURN THE MORTGAGE" COCKTAIL PARTY, K of L Bldg., Chicago, Ill.
 23 C-79, Southfield, "MILLIONAIRE'S PARTY", Divine Providence Cultural Center, Southfield, Mich.
 30 C-135, Ansonia, SPRING DANCE, St. Anthony Hall, Ansonia, Conn.

MAY

- 1 NED SPRING CONVENTION, Athol, Mass. C-10, Hosts
 20-22 MIDWEST BOWLING TOURNAMENT, C-25, Cleveland, Hosts. Holiday Inn, 28500 Euclid Ave., Wickliff, Ohio
 21 MAD TESTIMONIAL DINNER-DANCE for LORETTA STUKAS, Holy Trinity Hall, Newark, N.J.
 22 MAD SPRING CONVENTION, Holy Trinity Hall, Newark, N.J.
 22 NED ANNUAL HOLY HOUR, 3:00 P.M., St. Michael's Church, Beverly Farms, Mass., Rev. A. Contons, Homilist
 22 Nativity BVM Parish GOLDEN JUBILEE, Martinique Restaurant, Chicago, Ill.

JUNE

- 5 IID "BURN THE MORTGAGE" PICNIC, K of L Bldg., Chicago, Ill.
 24-26 NED ANNUAL RETREAT, Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, Me.

JULY

- 4 IID ANNUAL PICNIC, K of L Bldg., Chicago, Ill.
 17 NED FAMILY PICNIC, Lithuanian Grove, Hinds Pond, Gardner, Mass.

AUGUST

- 14 63rd ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA LITHUANIAN DAY, Lakewood Park, Pa., Hosts - Anthracite Council 144
 17-21 64th NATIONAL K OF L CONVENTION, Marriott Inn Providence, Providence, R.I., C-103, Providence, Hosts

SEPTEMBER

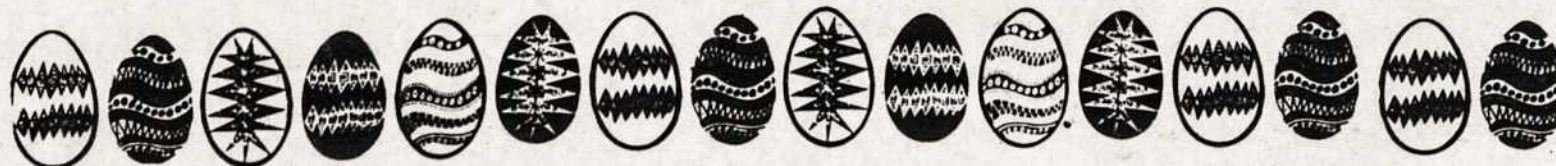
- 25 NED FALL CONVENTION, Bridgeport, Conn., C-141 Hosts

OCTOBER

- 16 NED CULTURE FESTIVAL, Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, Mass.

NOVEMBER

- 12 C-12, New York, TESTIMONIAL DINNER for Albert Monckawitch
 13 C-79, Southfield, FALL FESTIVAL





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

MID-ATLANTIC

DISTRICT



C-100 - AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

The January meeting was opened with prayers by Rev. Anthony Grigaitis. He expressed his thanks to all for the many Christmas remembrances and wished us well for the new year.

Pres. Anthony Radzevich advised that Isabelle McKinley will be the Public Relations Director for the Mid-Atlantic Dist. He also welcomed Sadie Allen, the newest member to join the organization. Her husband, Louis, also became a member but was unable to attend.

The final summation of the Christmas Banquet was given by Mrs. Sadie Karbus, chairlady of the event. Regina Kot read an article on the beliefs of our ancient ancestors regarding the spirit relationship with the trees.

At the conclusion of the meeting,

refreshments were served by Annacetta Guzielek, Mildred Botaitis, Jean Maldutis, Edna Stokna, and Mildred & John Whelly.

On Feb. 7 council members and guests gathered at the St. Casimir's Social Center to see two films from Lithuania. One film covered the life and works of the artist and musician, Čiurlionis, whose 100th anniversary was observed in 1975. The other film was based on the Song & Dance Festival which took place in Vilnius, Lithuania in 1975.

The regular February meeting was opened with prayers by Rev. Vacys Sirka, chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital. Our president welcomed new members, Mr. & Mrs. Leo Dansevitch. The minutes were read by Secy. Mrs. Nellie Liberis and the financial report given by Treas. Mrs. Sophie Olbie. Miss Mary Stanionis, Ritual Chairlady, explained the point system requirements for attaining degrees in the organization. Co-chairlady of the Cultural Committee, Mrs. Regina Kot, read an article on the Lithuanian language, its similarity to Sanskrit, making it one of the oldest living languages.

Final arrangements were discussed regarding the 59th Com-

memoration of Lithuania's Independence. Gene Gobis was general chairlady, and Father Baltch in charge of the program. The balance of a very capable committee consisted of Regina Kot, Polly Ziausys, Ann Czerw, Sophie Olbie, Ginny Valikonis, Regina Hartvigas, Bill Liberis and Joseph Shatas. The Lazdynas Dance Group, Lithuanian folk dancers from Rochester, N.Y. under the direction of Mrs. Jadvyga Regina, performed at the dinner and program held on Feb. 12 at the Social Center. The guest speaker, National Spiritual Adviser Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P., Providence College, R.I., celebrated the 5 p.m. Mass at St. Casimir's Church.

Mrs. Edna Stokna, chairlady of the Annual Communion Brunch, announced the event taking place on Mar. 6 at the Tower Inn immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Casimir's Church. Mrs. Jean Maldutis and Mrs. Helen Augun served on the committee.

Rev. Robert K. Baltch, who celebrated his birthday on Feb. 17, was presented with a card and a poem written by Mrs. Polly Ziausys.

Refreshments were served at

the church's rectory. A large cake, baked by Mrs. Ann Radzevich, was brought out to celebrate Rev. Baltch's birthday. Birthday greetings were also expressed to Mrs. Polly Ziausys whose birthday fell on Feb. 9. Members of the refreshment committee were Mrs. Josephine Redding, Mrs. Ann Radzevich, Mrs. Ann Love, Mrs. Virginia Valikonis, Mrs. Frances DiBart and Mrs. Polly Ziausys.

Many wonderful things have happened to Ginny & Joe Valikonis. Ginny's Daughter, Linda, who resides in Florida, had a daughter, Sasha, on Dec. 12. Congratulations to the grandparents, Ginny & Joe!

Danny Kabasin graduated from Union College in January and is leaving Amsterdam for Rochester where he accepted a position with General Motors. The very best to you, Danny; we certainly will miss you as our organist.

Smile & Sparkle

C-142 - WASHINGTON, D.C.

To celebrate the first anniversary of our council, a Lithuanian Mass was offered at St. Dominic's Church by our spiritual adviser, Father Thomas Ziuraitis, on Nov. 14, at 2 p.m. This was followed by a luncheon at which Lithuanian delicacies were served. Mrs. Bertha Stann was in charge of refreshments and her mother, Mrs. Connie Zebris, prepared the delicious repast. Mr. Philip Skabeikis, 2nd Vice Pres. of the Supreme Council, of Richmond Hill, N.Y., was also present, as well as his wife, Mrs. Marion Skabeikis, Vice Pres. of the Mid-Atlantic Dist. and her brother, Bill Sidtis, Junior Chairman. Five new members were officially received into the Council and a Junior Council was formed under the chairmanship of Ms. Donna Stein.

On Dec. 14, a Christmas Party was held at the Economist Club. Mr. Joseph Chaplick and Ms. Donna Stein were co-chairmen. Donna Stein sent out the invitations and provided the delicious refreshments, and Joe Chaplick played Santa Claus.

M.A.S.

C-12 - NEW YORK, N.Y.

On Christmas Eve our council sponsored their Annual Community Endeavor for the 7th consecutive year. At this time we gratefully expressed our appreciation to the parishioners and visitors for their attendance at the Christmas Eve Mass, by providing a Lithuanian Hospitality Hour in Our Lady of Vilnius Church auditorium. It was our pleasure to serve coffee and assorted homemade cake and holiday cookies to over 50 people. As usual, everyone had a relaxed opportunity to wish a Merry Christmas to one another before traveling home.

Chairman Mary York and Pastor Peter Kmita extend a heartfelt thank-you to the arrangements committee for their services and support. Serving this year were John Antanovich, Ann Garbincius, Barbara & Michael Kartanowicz, Agnes Krauss, Joseph Kscenaitis, Helen Matthews, Ellen Muske, Millie Pietz and Jovita Sleder.

To honor the ending of the USA Bicentennial Year, C-12 presented to visitors at the Hospitality Hour a gift memento, consisting of The Christopher News Notes on "1776-1976 The Past, The Present, The Promise" and a Bicentennial Pen with an imprint inspirational message of "Recall our heritage, Reaffirm basic values, Plan for a meaningful future".

Mary York was honored at a luncheon on Oct. 25, sponsored by the Jersey Journal, as "Woman of Achievement" of Hudson County, N.J. Mary and eleven other women in the County received medallions and certificates for outstanding public service. Our council is very proud to have Mary as a member, and we all congratulate her on this well deserved honor.

Ann Marie Waskiewicz, daughter of Betty & Lee Waskiewicz and granddaughter of Mrs. Anna Kscenaitis, all members of our council, has won a Regents Alternate Scholarship and a Nursing Scholarship. She plans to attend Mt. Vernon Nursing School after

graduation from St. Nicholas of Tolentine H.S.

We welcome four new members into our midst, Dale Bulevicius of Brooklyn, Vincent W. Gendrusas of Staten Island, and Dorothy & Vincent Mascola. Vincent is the Eucharistic Minister of Our Lady of Vilnius Church in New York.

C-12 hosted the annual St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast of the Mid-Atlantic District on Mar. 13 and our own council's annual commemoration on the same day. The 11 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of Vilnius Church was followed by breakfast and the District Meeting in the afternoon.

Long range plans include a testimonial dinner and dance honoring Albert (Monk) Monckawitch on Nov. 12. Al has been an active and participating member of our council for 40 years. Better mark that date on your calendar. There will be big doings at Our Lady of Vilnius Church hall, and we are sure you won't want to miss it.

A happy and healthy year to everyone.

J.J.

C-144,

"ANTHRACITE COUNCIL", PA.

Two years ago, a dream was born at St. Casimir Church, St. Clair, when a handful of second and first generation Americans of Lithuanian descent gathered for a Lithuanian Mass. They felt that their proud Lithuanian heritage was dying in Scheuylkill County and something had to be done. Something was done! They banded together and called themselves the Lithuanian ethnic group. They decided to design a float for the Greater Pottsville Winter Carnival Parade. With the assistance of all the local Lithuanian clergy, enough money was collected to build this float. Through the group's efforts and hard work, a beautiful Lithuanian float was entered in this parade. The float, decorated in beautiful yellow, green and red, included a small Lithuanian pavillion with VYTIS shields, and

ladies in lovely Lithuanian costumes. After passing before over 10,000 spectators, it won the Queen's Trophy.

The group sponsored a program by the "Malūnas" Folk Dancers and for the first time the Lithuanian Folk Dance was introduced to Sch. Co. They then assisted the priests at the Annual Lithuanian Day.

As the Bi-Centennial year approached and the membership grew, the group was named the Sch. Co. Lithuanian Bi-Centennial Group.

On Feb. 16, they prepared a beautiful cultural display at Boscor's, the area's largest department store in the area. It was a tremendous success and the beautiful amber and linens, dolls, wayside crosses thrilled thousand of Lithuanians and non-Lithuanians. At last, Sch. Co. was beginning to really know what a Lithuanian is and what a proud heritage we have.

In May, at the Pottsville Downtown Fair, again a Lithuanian display was presented to many thousands of viewers. A Bi-Centennial float "Heritage 76" was built showing facets of the Lithuanian heritage. It was entered in 10 parades and won a prize or honorable mention in each.

Once again, the group assisted in Lithuanian Day and those attending remarked that it was the best program ever. The year was closed with a Lithuanian Christmas party.

Now the membership had grown to 53 members, and the group decided to join the Knights of Lithuania and become a part of a national organization. This is how Anthracite C-144 became a reality. Sincerest thanks to Joe Yanulaitis of C-3, Philadelphia, for his help in bringing the group into the Knights of Lithuania.

Officers chosen were those who held the reins the past two years and worked so hard to keep the Lithuanian spirit alive:

President - Mrs. Alphonsus Mikatavage (Bernice) - Miners-



C-144 Newly Installed Officers, l. to r.: Natalie Yurickones, Fin. Sec'y; Anna Klizas Wargo, Corres. Sec'y; Joseph Martunas, Vice-Pres.; Bernice Mikatavage, Pres.; Rev. Al Bartkus, Spir. Adv.; Nell Klizas, Treasurer.



C-144 Honored Guests at Inaugural Communion Breakfast, l. to r. Joseph Yanulaitis, Installation Officer (Hon. Member, C-3, Philadelphia), Rev. Joseph Neverauskas, C-144 member (Shenandoah, Pa.), Mrs. Loretta Stukas who presented charter (VYTIS Ed., Hon. Member, C-29, Newark), Dr. Jack J. Stukas, Guest Speaker (Past Nat'l. Pres., Hon. Member, C-29 Newark), Bernard Terway, Master of Ceremonies (C-144 member, St. Clair, Pa.), Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, Celebrant and Homilist (K of L Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, C-29, Newark, member).

ville; Vice-President - Joseph Martunas - Seltzer; Secretary - Anna Klizas Wargo - St. Clair; Treasurer - Nell Klizas - St. Clair; Financial Secretary - Natalie Yurickones - St. Clair; Spiritual Director - Rev. Al. Bartkus - St. Clair.

The installation of officers was held at St. Casimir's on Mar. 6 with a special Mass to St. Casimir and a

Communion Breakfast, chaired by Mrs. Sara Beckett, Pottsville. Dr. Jack Stukas, past National K of L President, was guest speaker for the event. Loretta Stukas, VYTIS Editor, presented the council with its official charter.

It is the prayerful wish of Council 144 that we can keep our Lithuanian spirit alive and growing.

Anna Klizas Wargo

C-90 - KEARNY, N.J.

On Feb. 13, 1977, our council sponsored a Lithuanian Independence Day commemoration. We had a Mass in Lithuanian, a flag-raising at the Kearny Town Hall and a program in the afternoon at the L.C.C.C.

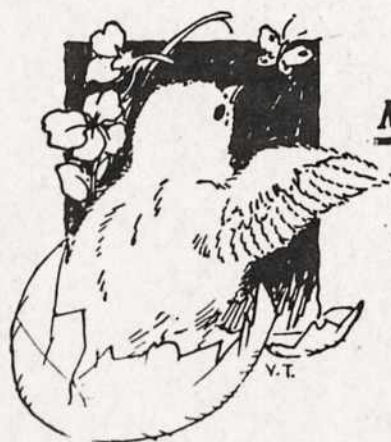
Our guest speakers for the afternoon were Mr. Joseph Melynis who spoke in Lithuanian and Loretta Stukas who presented her slides and talk on Lithuania today. Her program was very well received and we all came away much richer in knowledge and love of our ancestral home. Many thanks to our committee for not only preparing and baking the refreshments but also for serving the guests.

We of C-90 are proud of our Vice-President Bill Shergalis, who was recently installed as president of the Nutley School Administrators Assoc. Bill is Vice-Principal of Franklin School in Nutley, N.J. He was born and raised in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and was a parishioner of Holy Trinity Lithuanian Church there. Bill has been a resident of New Jersey since 1955. He is married and the father of 8 children. Good Luck, Bill.

Our council has another member who has distinguished herself in the art of decorating Lithuanian Easter eggs. Ann Klem will be featured in the "Creative Arts" magazine, the Easter issue. Her beautiful etched eggs will be

shown and the art of etching explained. We are proud of you, Ann. Keep up the wonderful work for Lithuanian culture.

"Zmon"



MID-CENTRAL

DISTRICT

C-79 - SOUTHFIELD, MICH.

Echoes of Auld Lang Syne were pretty well in the fading stage when we assembled for our first meeting of the New Year on Jan. 5. It was nice to see Ann & Ralph Valatka who were not at our meetings for some time. We hope to see them come around more often. An "unknown" visitor at our meeting was one from the Artic region. Nevertheless, those who came did not mind the frigid weather. We had plenty of interesting discussions and loads of new activities in the making. There was hot coffee and cake afterwards, served by our hosts Marge & Chester Nashlon. Recently our husband-wife team have rendered some nice socials following the business meetings. There are other couples (and ladies, too) who can spend a few hours working on these events

and enjoying themselves at the same time, as well as earning points.

Ritual Chairlady Bertha Janus finalized a report of members who will receive their third and fourth degrees. There are quite a number of back-up members qualified for the first and second degrees but they do not come for initiations, although they have been notified. Several members inquired how one can acquire points toward their degrees. Well, C-79 can offer a veritable "smorgasbord" of things in which you can involve yourself: K of L Sunday Coffee Hour, Family Day Picnic, Fall Festival, Church Activities, Lith. Affairs, Membership Drives, taking Council Offices, - the list goes on and on. So let's pitch in and become active.

One person who is not sittin' and rockin' is Julia Medinis. Although a Senior Citizen, she plunges into various activities. Julia served as an aide in the Swine Flu Program. She lent her ray of sunshine entertaining in a nursing home, was a Santa's helper at Cobo Hall Christmas display, participated in "Haney's People" TV panel, and was among hostesses at the Shriners Convention in Cobo Hall. The latest chapter involves Julia learning to play the guitar (yes, you read it right) to participate in the Sr. Citizen's Orchestra during Senior Citizen's Day at the State Fair. During our Fall Festival she was a good helping hand during



EASTER GREETINGS



To all my
K of L
Friends

**ANNIE MITCHELL
MATULEVICH
Honorary Member**



...so happy to be back!

**COUNCIL 82
GARY, INDIANA**

the Bake Sale and in the kitchen. She serves as president of the Moterų Sąjunga. Our felicitations for her many contributions, and our sincere hope is that Julia stays healthy and continues her good work.

Several '79ers played good Samaritans during the Christmas season. In his New Year's Day homily our pastor, Fr. V. Krisciunevicius, likened the Vyčiai to the Three Kings. He stated that our church was blessed by receiving many gifts from very generous people. Agatha Joy donated the new tabernacle, Adele Bagdon & Joseph Thomas donated the beautiful chalice and ciborium depicting the Last Supper, and the K of L donated the Instinction Set. Although not a member of C-79, Betty Wesley (Visiliauskas) donated the new white cross in memory of her deceased husband Stanley, C-139. The cross hangs above our tabernacle which was designed and made by Mr. Jonynas. Special thanks was extended by Fr. Kristy to all, and also to Charles Step for the new '77 calendars.

During our January meeting a suggestion was made to research the Centennial Library in Dearborn as to whether there are any Lithuanian books therein. The library is well-known over the country.

A lot of enthusiasm floated around for our "Millionaire's Party" scheduled for Apr. 23. A reminder, too, that members should start making saleable items for our Fall Festival to be held Nov. 13. There are a lot of clever fingers. We will also need many helpers for the various booths, the bake sale, in the kitchen, and other posts. We hope you take heed NOW!

Get well wishes go to Ann Dalton and "Bingo" Albina Stanulis who were both hospitalized, and to Gerri Chaps, a speedy recovery, following some health problems.

Congratulations to Carol Zager who celebrated her birthday on Jan. 21. Joining in were husband

Gerry and son Matthew. A Happy First to Danielle Lynn, youngest daughter of Sandy & Mark Zager who was 1-yr. old on Mar. 5. Also, birthday wishes to Eleanore Grasha, Vida Gogelis and Chip Newberry who celebrated a Happy 13th. Welcome into the Teen Club!

Lest we forget - have you paid your '77 dues? Why wait? Please do it now!

Sophie

C-25 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Council officers for 1977 are as follows: Spiritual Advisor Rev. Gediminas Kijauskas, Pres. Ruth Guzauskas, Vice Pres. Ben Derus, Rec. Secy. Alice Karklius, Fin. Secy. Joanna Shigo, Treas. Jim Thompson, Sgt-at-Arms Joe Laukiavich, and Sunshine Girl Connie Burns. Everyone is looking forward to a busy and active year.

The theme of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church's Fall Festival held in October was a day of Unity and Friendship of the entire parish, and it was a great success. The Festival opened with a beautiful Mass celebrated in English, Latin and Lithuanian. A very interesting program was presented featuring the CYO Chorus, the School Band, the Grandinėlė Dancers, and the Men's Choir Ramovė. To top it all off, an art exhibit displayed parishioner's art and crafts work. All the various nationalities in the parish participated and a true spirit of unity was achieved. Victor August represented our council at the Parish Meetings, and Vic & Betty, Helen & Bill Jakubs, Alvina & Pete Luiza, Ursula & Gene Kunsitis, Alice & Ben Karklius, Adele Svet, Ruth Guzauskas and Connie Burns handled the door admissions.

Chairmen of the Mid-West Bowling Tournament scheduled for May 20-22 and hosted by our council, Charles Machutas, Al Shigo and Jim Thompson, report that plans are well underway. Headquarters will be the Holiday Inn in Wickliffe, Ohio, and they are urging everyone in the District to

note these dates and to "COME ON DOWN TO CLEVELAND TOWN" for a great sports event and a week-end of fun and challenge.

We are delighted to report that Joanna Shigo is recovering ever so nicely after open-heart surgery in January. She was so pleased with all the beautiful cards received from her many friends. Joanna is hoping to receive her doctor's O.K. to bowl in the Mid-West Bowling Tournament. Good luck, Joanna!

While vacationing in San Francisco this Fall, Gene & Ursula Kunsitis and Charlie & Nelda Machutas visited former Knights, George, John & Ben Brazis now residing in Santa Rosa, Cal. The Brazis' run a men's clothing store called Saber's in the Santa Rosa Shopping Center. Their business cards and store sign feature the VYTIS - once a Knight, always a Knight!

Agnes & Bruno Bartkus also vacationing out West called every motel in Las Vegas trying to contact the Kunsitis' and Machutas', except one, the Hilton. You guessed it... the Hilton was their motel. It's a funny world!

Enjoying the leisure life is Vic August who retired in December. He is a great C.B.'er and his handle is "Cactus". Vic is looking forward to doing a lot of fishing and hunting and just plain relaxing.

Alice Karklius who took early retirement in August '75 is wondering where the day goes. She just doesn't seem to find the time to do all the things she thought she would have the time for after retirement.

Eleanor & Frank Lucas celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary on the beautiful Caribbean Island of Aruba. This is their second visit to Aruba in '76. They were joined by their son and daughter-in-law.

Helen Jakubs received a dream of a Christmas gift from husband Bill, - a trip to the Orient. They left for Hong Kong, Kyoto and Tokyo on Mar. 25.

Congratulations to Charles Ma-

chutas upon being selected Supreme Council Trustee.

Jim & Joan Thompson hosted our first bowling session and get-together of the season. Jim had high series (506), John Andrulis, high game (174), Ruth Guzauskas, high series (522) and Evelyn Andrulis, high game (171). Practice sessions were scheduled for February and March. Thank you, Joan and Jim, for your hospitality.

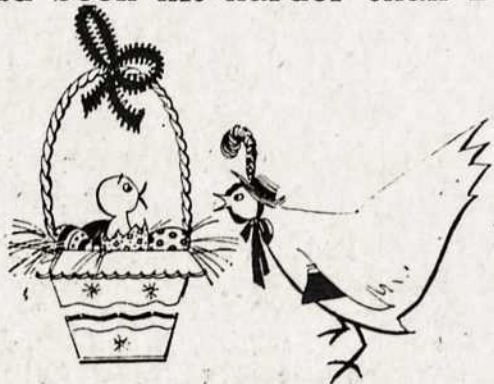
Joseph Sadauskas, Cleveland's Honorary Member, hosted a small dinner party on Jan. 15 at his daughter's home (where he now resides, in a lovely addition built just for him). Joe is as slim as a reed, but coming along very nicely. Thank you for a delightful evening, Joe.

Where oh where are our fellow Knights - Helen & John Garnis, Agnes & Bruno Bartkus, Vi & Andy Skarnus, Andrew Palzes, Nellie Arunski and Nellie Samas? We miss these smiling faces at our monthly meetings.

Urs

C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

In spite of the technology of the 70's, Mother Nature would not be outdone. She has put Dayton and many other cities in a very serious energy crunch. Businesses, retail stores and schools were shut down and many continued to be shut down for some time. Those having enough fuel, grocery stores and businesses of necessity were opened but many on limited schedules. Dayton is an industrial city, and when the many General Motor plants which supply parts for most of the auto industry throughout the country shut down, many families were affected by this crunch. We know other cities had been hit harder than Dayton



by weather problems. Do you suppose the Good Lord is trying to tell us something?

With the crunch, our bowling league was down for two Fridays in January. Judy Petrokas had to postpone dance practice for the Vejeliai Dancers until the weather warms up. The churches in Dayton were permitted to use just enough heat so as not to ruin the buildings.

Members have been on the move. Last year Polly Pietrzak did enjoy her vacation in Hawaii as did Diane Kavalauskas in December. Mike, Alice & Mary Petkus and Stan & Ida Kavy headed for Florida to beat the cold, snowy weather, but Mother Nature caught up with them for a few days. Laima Rastikis returned from a five-week trip around the world, from Australia, into the Far and Middle East, Egypt and Europe with Spain the final country before returning home. While in Rome, Laima became reacquainted with Rev. Vytautas Kazlauskas who is in charge of the Lithuanian Section of the Vatican Radio Broadcasting Station. Father Kazlauskas gave Laima and her friend a personal tour of the Vatican.

Congratulations to Joyce Berzelly upon fulfilling the requirements for Second Degree in the Knights at the Jan. 3 meeting. Mrs. Anele Petkus and Mrs. Isabel Latos were also awarded the Second Degree at the meeting.

Continued recovery wishes are sent to Ada Sinkwitz who has been in the hospital for some time. Things are going better for her now. Judy Petrokas is recuperating very nicely after recent surgery. Good to hear that our Cleveland C-25 friend, Joanne Shigo, is doing well after her recent surgery. Al, Joanne's husband, and Nellie Arunski have been keeping the Dayton council posted right along. Father Walter Katarskis is also doing well but still on limited duty.

Lady Luck was running in favor of some of our Knights in '76. Charles Petkus won \$500 in the



Ohio State Lottery, Kitty Prasmantas won a washer-dryer set in addition to many smaller drawings, Joe Gečas won a color TV set as did Jane Petkus (Leo St.), Fran Petkus won \$100 bond at the Parish Picnic, Aldona Ryan won a side of beef, Joe Ryan won Grecian Urns at the Dayton Olympiad drawing, Jon Prasmantas won a trip for two to Las Vegas, and Elaine Pacovsky won lunch for two from a local radio station. Congratulations to all and also to those members we have not heard about.

A segment on one of our local TV stations called "Business Trend" had Charles Vangas being interviewed on Jan. 25. Joan Kavalauskas is continuing to set the pace for our women bowlers. She recently rolled a 563 series actual!

Congratulations to Joe & Aldona Ryan. Since the last column they have become proud grandparents of two boys totaling six grandchildren in all. This makes Mrs. Isabel Latos great-grandmother for the 13th time.

FBP

C-19 - PITTSBURGH, PA.

Though you seldom hear from C-19, we want to assure you that we are very much alive and active.

Those many members who made it to the Šokių Šventė in Chicago enjoyed the event so much they are already looking forward to a repeat trip.

Sincere condolences go to Anne Allalunis on the loss of her mother, to Antoinette Naujelis whose brother passed away, and to Judy Wenslovas on the loss of her

father. We promise to keep them in our prayers.

Our September meeting took place in Bridgeville. Father Alexander Ziubrys, OFM, the pastor of St. Anthony's parish invited the Knights, and after attendance at Mass, Margaret Papeika, Mary Vaglia, and Mary Dimarco served a great brunch.

The October Card Party was an outstanding success thanks to the committee of Eleanor Aleliunas, Lil Gailys, and Anne Allalunis. Cooperation from the members was so great, we're almost ready for another one.

The K of L'ers attended the All Soul's Commemoration - a Pilgrimage to St. Casimir's Cemetery and celebration of Mass by Father Karaveckas in the St. Francis Convent Chapel. It was so nice to have Sister Francesca at the organ to lead us in Lithuanian hymns.

Antoinette Naujelis and Andy Rozger are talking about their recent trips, while Mildred Chinik is busy planning her coming trip to England. Now that John Katella has taken an early retirement, we hope we'll see more of him at our activities.

A warm welcome to new members Mary Vaglia, Mary DiMarco, Lil Gailys, and David & Judy Wenslovas. David Wenslovas carries on the tradition of being a third generation Funeral Director in the Lithuanian community. We kid him about his talent of putting "new life" into our group for he and Judy have already sponsored some of our more successful events. Welcome all!

Get well wishes go to Mrs. Laura Senulis and Alyce Onaitis.

This year the Lithuanian Heritage Room at the University of Pittsburgh had a new Christmas tree decorated with real straw ornaments. It was widely acclaimed as being "artistically outstanding" with much credit going to Sister Francesca who made so many of the ornaments.

The frigid cold and snow of December didn't keep members away from the Christmas party at

St. Francis Academy where Sister M. Francesca and Sister M. Alverna were hostesses. Punch by Eleanor Aleliunas and hors d'oeuvres by Sister Francesca started the evening on a gala note and it continued with an excellent Lithuanian banquet. The lovely evening ended in song as guests sat around the specially decorated Lithuanian Christmas tree. Each one of the thirty-six guests there took home, in addition to hand-made favors and gifts, a large share of true Christmas spirit.

Vito Yucius was in charge of making plans for the Vasario 16 observance at St. Casimir's. A choral group from Cleveland was part of the program.

Sesutė



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

It was good that ethnic groups participated in our national Bicentennial celebrations. Americans who had previously been passive or embarrassed because of their parental backgrounds now became interested. This ethnic resurgence drew a full house at Wistariahurst Museum for a joyous Lietuviška Vakarėli during the holiday season, sponsored by the Lithuanians of Holyoke, Mass. and surrounding areas.

Providence intervened on this occasion by arranging to have the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) exhibiting their heritage that same day in the main hall. Utilizing this theme, easels supporting placards with graphic photos and history of Thaddeus

Kosciuszko and his ancestral home were tactfully inserted proclaiming to all that it was a LITHUANIAN who helped fight for their freedom cause in 1776.

Nearby, particular attention was given to the encased owls perched on a branch, a pair of storks and a bird in flight. With brilliant inspiration, Pranas Baltuonis of Montreal, Canada, was successful in capturing the miracles of life through the expressionism of root sculpture. Like the David and Pietas of the Renaissance era, these 20th century sculptures will also be treasured through the years to come. These pieces of art were on loan by Mr. & Mrs. Albert Laframboise and Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Ruggles, who also were chairpersons in arranging this festivity.

Of paramount interest were the acrylics, watercolors and oil paintings by Antanas Petrikonis of Chicago, Ill. A former student of art in Vilnius, Lithuania, and other European art schools, his landscapes and seascapes typical of Lithuanian vistas were a fresh innovation in this region. Outstanding with deep colors and bold strokes was "House in the Woods". The interpretation with its thatched roof, nestled among tall trees, captured the placid simplicity of secluded rural life as it may have been many years ago. This one man showing was made available by Mr. Victor Vaitkus of "Spauda" in Waterbury, Conn.

In the impressive music room of this building, the essence of nationalism allowed us to hold hands with our ancestors. Opening the program, Mrs. Joan Laframboise warmly welcomed the assemblage, and breaking precedence, reversed protocol by thanking Mrs. Marie Quirk, director of Wistariahurst Museum, for inviting Lithuanians to perform in this institution.

Reawakening the interest in Adam Mickiewicz, another illustrious LITHUANIAN, a reading from his books of "Pan Tadeusz" was given by Mrs. Clement Picard. A brief summary of Mickevicius'



NED - "Lietuviska Vakarele" held at Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke, Mass. where guests admired Lithuanian artifacts in the congested Dr. Bagg Library.

life preceded the passages of this literary verse which covered his emotion of languishing despair to return to his beloved Lithuania, also the dream Mindaugas had in the founding of Vilnius.

The excellent acoustics of this concert hall served to compliment the beautiful voices of Mrs. Irene Petkaitis of Hartford, Conn., and Dr. Isidorius Alis of Springfield, Mass. With composure characteristic of seasoned artists, the presentation and selection of music was choice. In their duets the blending of voices was magnificent. The lyrical baritone voice of Dr. Alis charmed the audience with his solo's; and a vision of loveliness, Ponia Petkaitiene swelled the pervading spirit of unity by thoughtfully including selections for the attending younger set.

Accompanist at the Steinway was Mr. George Petkaitis, a celebrity and artist in his own right. Earlier in another program Mr. Petkaitis was one of 96 "Connecticut 20th Century Pilgrims" to be honored by the American Revolution Bi-centennial Commission of Conn. Recognizing the contribution to America by her foreign-born naturalized citizens, an appropriate ceremony was held at the State Capitol in Hartford,



NED - A view from the balcony with the talented artists, including Mr. George Petkaitis at the Steinway piano.



NED - Mrs. Irene Petkaitis and Dr. Isidorius Alis performing in a duet.

Conn. on June 25, 1976. Gov. Ella Grasso presented a plaque to each honored "Pilgrim" of Conn. Mr. Petkaitis' name had been submitted by the Lithuanian Community of Greater Hartford. Selected were residents of Conn. representing 32 countries of origin and covered all economic, education and social stations of life who shared their talents for the good of their community, state and nation.

Lovingly the audience embraced these inspiring presentations and the applause established it as a triumphant success.

Margaret Picard

C-7 - WATERBURY, CONN.

Council officers for 1977 were sworn in by our chaplain, Rev. Vilciauskas, and everyone was happy to see President and Vice

President, Ron & Pamela Shortell, as our new leaders. If a council is to continue, we need the young people to show more interest. Congratulations to you both! The rest of the staff was re-elected - John Alanskas as Treas., Lillian Paulauskas as Sec. and Pat Richards as Financial Sec. The Board of Directors are Wally Blinn, Dr. W. Shukaitis, Ed White, Tom Herbert, John Blinn, Tony Alexander and James Danauskas, with Tom Kaukas as Chief Steward. Our Lithuanian Affairs and Cultural Affairs Chairpersons are Mr. & Mrs. A. Aleksis, who are the best examples of unceasing devotion to the K of L. Congrats to all!

Sadness has befallen the families of two of our Council members. Frank Shaknaitis lost his beloved wife, Nell, who was the sister of Antoinette White, also a member. Nell was a well-known and well-liked member of our council, and we all extend our deepest sympathy to both families.

On Jan. 10, the Olympian Club of Waterbury honored three outstanding persons, as they do each year, and this year Joe Samoska, Sr., a long-standing member of our council, was honored by the Club. Joe is active in parish affairs, visits patients in the hospital and convalescent homes each week,

attends all local and parish functions and is well known throughout Waterbury. Congratulations, Joe; we wish you a long, happy and healthy future!

Dot & Al Alanskas left after the Christmas Festivities for their usual 3 months in Florida. They probably wish they had stayed here because of Florida's snow and cold weather in January!

A Cruise to Bermuda & Nassau was enjoyed by the "Cruise Crowd", Ed & Antoinette White, John & Ann Cheplick, Dr. & Mrs. Shukaitis and Wally & Doris Blinn who had a most enjoyable time. In fact, Doris & Wally celebrated their 25th Anniversary on board. Congratulations!

Rev. Henry Balchunas of St. Joseph's Parish has been transferred to New Haven and a Farewell Party was given him which was attended by many of his friends and parishioners. Good luck, Father.

The first round of the K of L Bowling season was ended with Jerry Calca's team as winners. His team consists of only 3 members! Ed White and Pat Mannello and Jerry are to be congratulated; hope you are as lucky in the second round!

St. Casimir's was celebrated by our members on Mar. 4 with Mass at St. Joseph's Church and a Supper at the School Hall. Invitations were extended to other organizations and parishioners as usual. Co-Chairmen Wally Blinn and Ed White were in charge. Our Communion Suppers are much better-attended affairs, and this is the third year we have attempted this idea with much success.

Valentine's Day was celebrated by about 75 "Lithuanian Lovers" at the Clubrooms, and Ginny Macioakas and our new V.P. Pam Shortell were Co-Chairpersons and did a very fine job.

Before we know it, it will be time for our Spring Convention in Athol, Mass. It will be good to see everyone again after Winter hibernation. Hope this year will be a productive year for all councils.

Lelija

C-103 - PROVIDENCE, R.I.

TV Channels 10 and 12 filmed our Juniors presenting the Governor of R.I., J. Joseph Garrahy, with a gift from the Lithuanian Ethnic Heritage Committee, a replica of the "Rūpintojėlis". TV Channel 12 showed the presentation on three of its news programs.

Winter vacations are popular with our members. Father Martinus spent three weeks in St. Petersburg, Fla. Grace Vaitkunas visited Disneyland. Upon returning home, she entered R.I. hospital for surgery. Father Jurgelaitis, O.P., participated in the Lithuanian Independence Commemoration ceremonies in Amsterdam, N.Y. Egypt was selected as Irene Landanski's mid-winter vacation sight, with a side trip to Lisbon. Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Vaicaitis visited relatives in Pennsylvania.

In a January telephone conversation with Father Budrecki, MIC, we were informed he was awaiting readmittance to a hospital in New Jersey for another operation. A special prayer for his recovery was said by our members during our meeting led by Father Jurgelaitis.

Our first meeting of 1977 was held at the home of John & Irene Walaska. Their daughter Carole, a graduate of the University of R.I., will be married to John Rush on Aug. 13.

Father Jurgelaitis served the spiritual needs of our parish while our pastor was on vacation.

Jean Coughlin, chairperson of the Lithuanian Ethnic Heritage Committee, has joined our ranks. She is a very dynamic person and will be an asset to us.

The annual BALF Dinner gave us and our Juniors the opportunity to "watch the birdie". We had our first official pictures taken for the forthcoming National Convention. Our Juniors served at the tables. Father Martinkus is the prime mover behind this annual charity affair.

The Providence International Institute received some volunteer help from Paul Stoskus during his

winter vacation. He accompanied Laotian refugees to clinics, hospitals and schools, as a translator. While he was in military service, Paul spent a year at the State Department's School of Foreign Languages near Arlington studying the Laotian language and customs.

Ruta Krecioch and her daughters joined the Worcester Council at a ski week-end in N.H.

We have not heard from Bette Ciuryla lately, but suspect she is busy baby-sitting for her grandchild.

Biruta Cunningham's first cousin, Kazys Ciocys, died as a result of a bad fall on the ice during our worst snowstorm of this season.

Ruth and Lillian Savage live in Roxbury, Mass. and attend many of the Lithuanian events in and around Boston.

Remember Mykolas Norkunas on Founder's Day in April.

JONAS

C-26 - WORCESTER, MASS.

The wonder of winter! January's bitter cold and mounds of snow move us to bring out the old cliché in describing our New England winter: "Baby, it's cold outside!" Soon the lilies and tulips of the Easter season will have made the scene and the ice and snow will be just a memory.

Leonard & Ruth Ramsdell, Carol & Bill Grigas, Anne & Steve Walinsky, Sr., and Elly & Steve Walinsky, Jr., prepared the January pre-meeting Italian supper of wine, spaghetti and meatballs. Red and white checkered tablecloths, candlelight and soft music all contributed to the atmosphere of a continental evening. Our spiritual director, Father Benjamin Uzdavinis, MIC, got a little extra out of the evening. He won the attendance prize!

Committee members for the pre-Lenten "blynų vakarienė" for our February meeting were not yet announced, but already Alex Kardokas had graciously accepted the tedious task of head potato grater.

Random thought: probably the one time this correspondent could ever oppose Dr. Stukas, our Editor's husband, is when his Seton Hall plays basketball against Worcester's Holy Cross. Not with little pride did we watch Holy Cross accept the honors of a win on Jan. 29.

On January's sick list were Mrs. Nell Thompson (Rita Pinkus' mom), Anne Buciskas and Vincent Grazulis. Sincere get well wishes for this temporarily unfortunate trio.

It pleases us to welcome our two newest members, Albin & Dorothy Seilius. Al is our parish liturgy chairman and Dorothy teaches kindergarten in our parish school.

Rita Pinkus and Ann Bender were co-chairpersons of the committee planning the St. Casimir celebration. Mass and Holy Communion at the 10 A.M. Mass on Mar. 6 was followed by breakfast in the parish hall. This is always one of the "musts" of the K of L year.

Plans were also made for the commemoration of Lithuania's Independence Day.

Active people remain just that. Helen Gillus was installed on Jan. 4 as the new president of the Lithuanian War Veterans and Women's Auxiliary. Rita Pinkus was installed as treasurer. Congratulations to both.

The May 4 military whist committee is headed by Steve Walinsky, Sr., assisted by his wife, Anne, and Mr. & Mrs. Bart March, Nancy Gorden, Peter Ivaska and Millie Lapinskas.

President Carter said, "Everyone's invited to my inauguration!" and so Charles Tagman, Sr. took him up on it. Some say, "Leave it to Beaver!" We say, "Leave it to Charlie!" Seriously, Charlie was invited and some of us spotted him on television as the camera scanned the enormous crowds.

The week of Apr. 11 has been named Lithuanian Week at the Auburn Shopping Mall. The Worcester K of L, both our own council and our friends on the hill,



C-10 - Athol-Gardner - Rev. Justin Steponaitis delivers Lithuanian Independence Day sermon at St. Francis Church in Athol, Mass.



C-10 - William Wisnauskas welcomes guests to the Feb. 16 program.



C-10 - Main speaker, Jurate Aukstikalnus, speaks to the audience.

C-116, are bound to present something spectacular which will be worthy of special reporting in a future issue.

Our council has its ambassadors. Those confined to St. Vincent Hospital have Ginny Ivaska (who holds an office position) while those at Hahnemann Hospital have Mary Doginikas (a dietician). Each girl has the very good reputation for spending her own time off in visiting the sick, to which very many of us can attest.

While we are just delighted with the council's schedule for 1977 and the resulting activities surging forth, our optimism is tempered somewhat by the observance that the same people continue to form the working committees. Don't be half-hearted in your commitment to your organization. A "PRO" doesn't PROcrastinate, and remember that it's not what you know about the K of L that counts, it's what you DO for it that does.

Mūsų dvasios vadas, Tėvelis Uždavinis, valdyba, ir visi nariai sveikina visus Vyčius su linksmom Velykom!

Iki sekančio numerio.

Dzūkelė

C-10 - ATHOL-GARDNER, MASS.

Our council again this year sponsored the annual Lithuanian Independence Day Program which was held Feb. 13 in St. Francis Church, Athol. The festivities began with High Mass celebrated by Pastor Rev. Justin Steponaitis who also gave an excellent homily on the love one should have for his heritage and the Lithuanian language. The Mass was offered for suffering Lithuania. St. Casimir's Choir of Brockton sang under the direction of director and composer, Julius Gaidelis. We wonder if ever the parishioners of St. Francis Parish heard such beautiful singing! William Wisnauskas was the lector, and Blanche & Charles Genaitis brought the gifts to the altar.

After Mass, a committee headed by Nellie Melaika served a hot

Lithuanian-style dinner to the choir and our own members. Nellie's helpers were Tina Shatos, Pauline Rodgers, Anna Beaudette, Mary Gauronsky, Clara Zetkauskas, Bernice Wisnauskas, Blanche Genaitis and Alice Perekslis.

The second portion of the Celebration began at 2 P.M. in the parish hall. The stage was decorated in the Lithuanian motif. The flags, the Gediminas gate, and the Vytis Cross were really something to see. Lennie Davidonis was our official photographer. Council Pres. William Wisnauskas greeted the guests, and Fr. Steponaitis gave the invocation, followed by the singing of the hymns.

Again this year, through the efforts of Charles Genaitis, Mayor Stephen E. Erickson issued a proclamation. Superintendent of the Athol schools, James Kelly, also issued a proclamation, read to all by Charlie Genaitis, which was read in all the Athol schools.

Mrs. Jurate Aukstikalnis of Quincy spoke on "Violations of Human Rights in Lithuania Today". Her talk was well received by the group. It was followed by a musical program presented by the Brockton Choir.

Following the program, coffee and cake was served to all. About 150 attended. The Athol, Gardner and Worcester newspapers carried articles on the affair, both before and after the event took place. A nice job well done, Vyčiai, under the general chairmanship of Rev. Justin Steponaitis.

Council members celebrated the Feast of St. Casimir, our patron, by attending Mass in a body on Mar. 5. Fr. Steponaitis celebrated the Mass, gave the homily, and led the group into church with a procession. He really does everything up nicely. Thank you, Father! After Mass, the group had supper at the Surf & Turf in Athol; arrangements were made by Lennie Davidonis. Local newspapers carried articles on the Feast Day celebration.

Steve Marcinkus of Gardner wrote a long article to the Athol



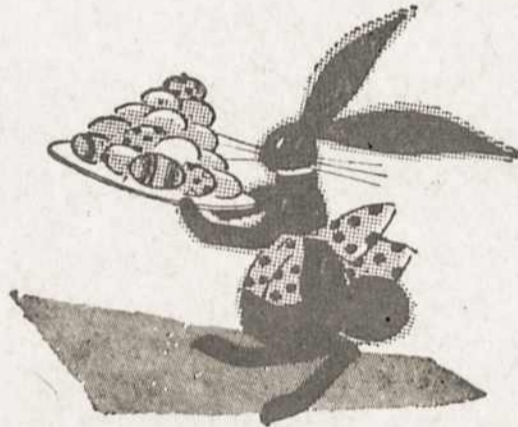
C10 - Brockton's St. Casimir's Choir with Director Julius Gaidelis

performing at the Feb. 16th Program in Athol, Mass.

Daily News on the history of Lithuania. It was well written. Bravo, Steve.

Our council is in the process of preparing for the NED Convention to be held in Athol on Apr. 24. Please reserve the date.

Vincukas



ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

President Algerd Brazis made the following committee appointments: Choir - Estelle Rogers, C-112; Ritual - Ruth Dagens, C-112; Civic Affairs - Vince Samaska, C-36; Scholarship - H. M. Eleanore Laurin, C-112; Public Relations, Estelle Rogers; Bulletin Editor - Gerrie Mockus, C-112 and Publishers - Val & Joe Stanaitis, Seniors; and Lithuanian Publicity - Emilija Pakalniskis, C-112.

The December Business meeting was well attended and many plans were formulated. Ann Marie Kassel, National 1st Vice Pres., reported on the Scranton Supreme Council meeting, and all officers and chairmen presented reports. Following the meeting, a Christmas social was enjoyed by all and ably served by Gerry Mack and Monica Kasper.

The Chicago Seniors, assisted by C-36, held a traditional and very successful "Kūčios" at the K of L Building. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the traditional Lithuanian foods, the program conducted by Seniors Spiritual Advisor Rev. Peter Cinikas, and the singing of Lithuanian Christmas carols. It was truly a wonderful annual event!

Under the direction of Choir Pres. Estelle Rogers, Director Faustas Strolia, and chairman John Auksciunas with the assistance of all of the choir members, their Annual Benefit Dance was very successful. Everyone had a delightful evening and helped the choir celebrate the 60th anniversary of its origin. Dr. Leonard Simutis, Jr. (one of the choir's former directors) and his wife,

Zita, were among the honored guests.

The IID participated in the 50th Anniversary of Archbishop Jurgis Matulevicius' death which was commemorated with a concert at Maria Auditorium with the Čiurlionis Ensemble performing. The following day, a Mass was celebrated by John Cardinal Cody, Archbishop of Chicago, and Bishop Vincentas Brizgys at Immaculate Conception Church. Among the committee members was Vince Samaska of C-36.

The K of L was represented by attendance of members and our flag bearers, Jerome Jankus,

Napoleon Sapkus, Antanas Sereika and Ed Krivickas, at the various commemorative programs for Lithuanian Independence Day. Among those events were the Lithuanian - American Council's program at Maria Auditorium, the B.P. Bendruomene's program at I.C. Parish Hall, and of course, our own "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet at the Martinique.

C-112 - CHICAGO, ILL.

Due to many pressing commitments and in order to free council officers and chairpersons for other duties, at the December Board

Meeting it was decided to hold quarterly Board meetings and regular monthly business meetings. The final Board meeting of 1976 was held at the home of Pres. Al & Gerrie Mockus. Many topics were discussed, plans were made for the coming months, and a delightful after-meeting social was served by super hostess Gerrie.

Council members and friends enjoyed a pleasant Christmas Party at the new home of Frank & Lorraine Svelnis. The setting with a woodburning fireplace and a party atmosphere started the Christmas party-time off with a bang.



Illinois-Indiana 17th Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet: (Upper Left) M-C Rev. Anthony Zakuskas leads guests in singing to Consul Josephine Dauzvardis. Looking on: Dean of the consular corps in Chicago Hon. Hugh O'Young; Bishop Vincentas Brizgys; Michael Bilandic, Mayor of Chicago; Mrs. O'Young; Peter Dauzvardis; Irene Sankus; and Alderman Roman Pucinski. (Upper right) Faustas Strolia directing the K of L Choir; (Lower left) IID Pres. Algerd Brazis and IID Secy. Irene Sankus presenting Consul Josephine Dauzvardis with her affair. (Lower right) K of L Dancers perform for the guests.

(Photos - V. Noreika)

The Svelnis' residence proved to be so popular that the council held their New Year's Eve party there also. Food was prepared and served by the council ladies, the men held forth and dispensed the liquid refreshments, and all were entertained during the evening by a sing-along, Pete Gagle's joke-telling, and a "let me entertain you" skit performed by Gerrie Mockus, Ruth Dagis, Julie Zakarka, and the "star" Al Shulicke. It's wonderful to have such talent in our group, and Al is truly a performer who is very versatile and will try anything once! Following the New Year festivities, everyone celebrated Lorraine Svelnis' birthday. Nice being a New Year baby! She was presented with a lovely amber pin as a memento.

The regular December business meeting was well attended and we all enjoyed the Christmas social prepared by Gerrie and Julie, our social ladies.

Congratulations to John (Whitey) Evans who recently won a lucky draw from a local radio station. The prize - a trip to sunny and warm California.

The choir under the leadership of their office held another successful Benefit Dance in December and many 112'ers were in attendance. Although the temperature was a frigid below zero, everyone enjoyed the choir's performance and all the festivities.

Many 112 members were among the workers for the successful "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet in February. Chairpersons John Evans and Irene Sankus and IID Pres. Al Brazis were aided by Estelle Rogers, Emilija, Alex Sr. and Alex Jr. Pakalniskis, Gerry Mack, Monica Kasper and Eleanore Laurin. Honored at the event was our own council member, the Honorable Josephine Dauzvardis, Consul General of Lithuania in Chicago.



The VYTIS Staff and Readers extend sincerest sympathy to Council News Editor **JOSEPHINE ZUKAS**, Assistant, **MARY KOBER**, and their families, on the death of their beloved father, **PAUL RUSAS**.

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JULY 23, 1977

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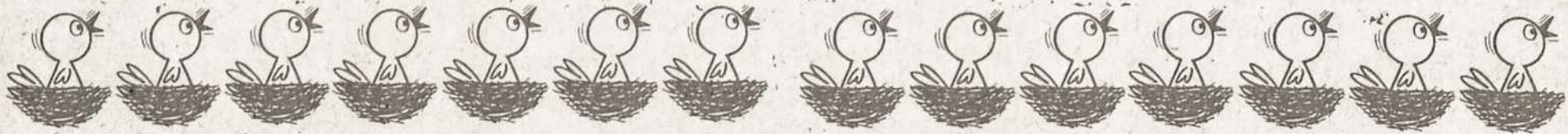
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CHICAGO ILL 60629**64TH NATIONAL KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CONVENTION****AUGUST 17 - 21, 1977****MARRIOTT INN, PROVIDENCE, R.I.****C-103, PROVIDENCE, HOSTS****TENTATIVE SCHEDULE****WEDNESDAY - August 17**All Day - Early Registration
Early-Bird Arrivals**THURSDAY - August 18**

A.M. Supreme Council Meeting

Noon Opening Concelebrated Mass at St. Casimir Church
Brunch following Mass
2:00 Opening Session

P.M. Cultural Night - "Lietuviškos Vestuvės"

FRIDAY - August 19A.M. Second Session
P.M. Third Session
Pleasure Cruise on Narragansett Bay**SATURDAY - August 20**A.M. Fourth Session
P.M. Closing Session, Election of National Officers
P.M. Gala Banquet and Dance, Marriott Inn.**SUNDAY - August 21**10:20 A.M. Concelebrated Closing Mass, St. Casimir Church
Official Photograph
"Išleistuvių Pietūs", St. Casimir's Hall