



VASARIS —  
FEBRUARY 1979

2



# VYTYIS

• 1979 •  
The Knights  
of Lithuania



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# POPE JOHN PAUL II

## OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR SUPREME



*Pope John Paul II*

The minds and hearts of all Catholics, of all Christians, of all peoples on the earth were surprised when a non-Italian Pope was elected to rule the Church of Christ. Within a week or two of his installation, the surprise turned into deep satisfaction and delight. The Polish people were surprised, pleased and proud. We, Lithuanians, share the same feelings.

Karol Wojtyla was born in 1920 in Wadowice near Cracow in Poland of a poor family; his father was a foundry worker. Karol was nineteen when World War II broke out and Hitler's armies invaded his country. His high school years were difficult and he had to work his way through college. He had a job in a chemical factory. Aside of his studies and his job, he found time to have some fun by joining a dramatic group. He thought he would like to be an actor some day. But that was not to be. He felt a deeper urge to a nobler calling and decided that the priesthood would be his role in life.

After completing his studies at the Major Seminary at Cracow, he was ordained in 1946. He was sent to Rome to continue his studies at the internationally famous "Angelicum" university, conducted by the Dominican Fathers. He specialized in philosophy and wrote a dissertation on: "The Problem of Faith in Saint John of the Cross". He then returned to Poland. but did not put aside his books. He went on to receive

a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Cracow in 1948.

The studious and brilliant Father Wojtyla was assigned to a parish (St. Florian's) and was appointed chaplain to the university students. Noticing his zealous work among the students and his constant inclination to further studies, the Archbishop of Cracow made arrangements for Father Wojtyla to study for a second doctorate, this time in theology. He terminated his studies in 1953, presenting as his doctoral thesis: "An assessment of the possibility of erecting a Christian ethic on the principles of Max Scheler".

Appointed professor of moral theology, he spent the next four years teaching.

In 1958 he was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Cracow. Upon the death of Bishop Eugeneusz Baziak, he became Metropolitan Archbishop.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Wojtyla kept on writing books and magazine articles. In 1960 his most popular work appeared: "On Love and Responsibility" in which he stressed equality in marriage and equality in the duties of motherhood and fatherhood.

During the meetings of the Second Vatican Council, because of his learning and insights, and, also, because of his skill in presenting his Polish brother Bishops' ideas in perfect Latin, Archbishop Wojtyla was the usual spokesman for the Polish Hierarchy. He was named Cardinal Archbishop in June of 1967 and was assigned important positions on various Vatican Commissions: Sacraments and Worship, the Clergy and Catholic Education. In spite of his many duties as member of these curial commissions, he found time to write another philosophical book: "The Individual and the Deed", published in Cracow in 1969. This book is being translated into English and will have the title: "The Individual Acting".

During these years he was not forgetful of the religious conditions in his native land. He courageously demanded freedom of conscience and freedom of religious expression, but, in his wisdom, did not agree that a policy of harsh condemnation of atheism was the best way to resolve the religious issue in Soviet dominated countries. Cardinal Wojtyla believed in the necessity of maintaining a dialogue with the Marxist government in such a way that non-socialist ideas could be discussed and debated with socialist thinkers. In his Epiphany sermon on



January 6th, 1976, Cardinal Wojtyla declared: "It cannot happen that one group... however well deserving... should impose on the whole people an ideology, an opinion, contrary to the convictions of the majority! We make up Poland, all of us, believers and non-believers. The principle of freedom of conscience and religion must be interpreted completely. This truth of the freedom of conscience and worship is proclaimed by everyone: from the Second Vatican Council to the Charter of Human Rights established by the U.N. And even the Helsinki Conference recognized that it is the inviolable right of the human person".

Perhaps, the most recent and the most graphic example of the character, energy and wisdom of Pope John Paul II was the erection of the Catholic church in 1977 in Nowa Huta. Government city planners decided to build a socialist city, a workers utopian suburban center in the outskirts of Cracow with modern housing, schools, cultural centers, hospitals, parks and recreational fields... but with no church. In spite of government opposition and obstructionism of every kind, Catholics under the leadership of their indomitable and patient Cardinal raised the money, obtained construction materials and even volunteered the labor needed to accomplish the task. Now, Masses are offered day and night in this modern church built to resemble Noah's Ark.

Pope John Paul II is the Holy Father of all Christendom, but his remarks and actions have shown that he has a truly warm spot in his heart for

Lithuania. His greeting to Lithuanians in Lithuanian during the installation Mass: "Mano broliai lietuviai, būkite laimingi. Būkite ištikimi Kristui"... My brother Lithuanians, be happy, be faithful to Christ", thrilled millions of Lithuanians who heard it over television and radio. Of course, it was not heard over Lithuanian television, but people in the Western part of Lithuania were able to get it over a foreign TV channel. In his first press conference the Pope told Vatican Lithuanian Radio correspondent Miss Armonaitė and Mr. Lozoraitis that "half my heart is in Lithuania".

On another occasion, when asked whether there were Lithuanian roots in his family background, he replied: "I do not deny this..."

Furthermore, after the installation Mass at a reception for Polish pilgrims and visitors to Rome (according to Father Robert Wolongevich of Framingham, Mass.) the Pope again exchanged greetings in Lithuanian. Father Wolongevich was seated about four places from the aisle. As the Holy Father was passing by Fr. Wolongevich shouted out: "Šventas Tėve!" The Holy Father stopped and turned around toward him. Father added: "Garbė Jėzui Kristui!" to which the Pope replied: "Per amžius. Amen", and came over to shake Father's hand, it was this same Father Wolongevich who was seen over world television waving the huge Lithuanian flag in St. Peter's Square, the flag he borrowed from Saint Peter's Lithuanian Parish School in So. Boston, Mass., where he was born.



*His Holiness, Pope John Paul II greeting Msgr. A. Backis, after Msgr. Backis thanked the Holy Father for greeting the Lithuanian people in Lithuanian.*



A few days later, "Osservatore Romano", the Vatican daily newspaper, carried a story and pictures of Pope John Paul's visit to the Lithuanian Chapel of our Lady of Vilnius in Rome. He showed great interest in the artwork and the history of the painting, which he knows so well. He spent several minutes in prayer at that Lithuanian shrine.

There is no doubt that we have a Holy Father with a warm spot in his heart for Lithuanians.

According to Monsignor Ladas Tulaba, Rector of Saint Casimir's Seminary in Rome, the Pope's family name may be of Lithuanian origin and in the distant past his family had ties with the Sapieha family. Lithuanian history mentions a Princess Saphieha whose generous donations financed the construction of Saint Michael's Church in Vilnius. And there was a Cardinal Sapieha, who was Archbishop of Cracow during the years of union of Poland and Lithuania.

The new Pope has raised the hopes of the Lithuanian people. They now have a concerned, understanding and powerful intercessor in their struggle for the rights of conscience and the Faith. As we look hopefully into the future, we may expect, one day, to have a Lithuanian Cardinal. Lithuanians have requested this many times in the past, but up to now the time was not right. This may change. The process of the beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis

will almost surely be hastened. We may live to see the day, when we can venerate "Saint" George together with Saint Casimir.

Then, too, it seems that it will not be too difficult to settle the matter of the Lithuanians in the Suvalkai triangle in Poland, who are pleading to be able to celebrate the liturgy in their own vernacular, in Lithuanian.

Our greatest concern, our greatest hope is that Pope John Paul II succeed in lessening the religious persecution in Poland, in Lithuania, in all countries... for all religious groups. He is Vicar of Christ for all peoples in the world. He sees it his mission to work for the good of all. Our task is to be ever loyal to him... as our Spiritual Advisor SUPREME... and to pray for him, not so much that the Holy Spirit be with him as he guides the Church, but that the Holy Spirit enlighten the minds of those who are blind to the Truth, that they may see that Christ's way, which Pope John Paul II is pointing out is the only way to the salvation of all the world — both believers and non-believers.

"Būkime ištikimi Kristui!"

Fr. A. A. Jurgelaitis, O.P.  
Spiritual Advisor  
Supreme Council

## TO THE GRAY TIDE

translated by

— Elena Virvytė

Antonia M. Wackell

Milky foam on the billows float,  
Graytide, I am here!  
While yet the sea has not turned red,  
Carry me from here.

Guide me to your lofty castle  
Of amber fragrance.  
There before the hearthstone embers  
Hearts will be refreshed.

Surging walls of greenish billows,  
Foaming into swans  
To entice with greenish kerchiefs  
The deaf great giants.

Deaf to the songs from our motherland  
Castle of ambers,  
Blowing hearths of the water nymphs  
In the sisters' place.





# LITHUANIA

Walter Devanas

To the average American, the country of Lithuania is unknown. That small nation pinched between Russia and the Baltic sea was forced into the Soviet Union at the end of the Second World War. On our maps, and in our history and geography books the borders of Lithuania have faded, swallowed by the U.S.S.R. However, the determination of the Lithuanian people to be free and independent has never waned. Stories of the strong will of those people after more than 30 years of subjugation still reaches our ears: demonstrations by the youth in the city of Kaunas, desperate escapes by ship and airplane, and most of all by the voices of the hundreds of Lithuanian expatriate colonies around the world singing out to keep alive the culture and traditions of their lost homeland.

Lithuania's grand history is almost lost except to scholars and patriots of the country. In the 11th century the Lithuanians stopped the westward advance of the Mongol Hordes. In 1410, the Lithuanians led the Poles in defeating the advancing German army of Teutonic knights. At the turn of the 15th century, Lithuania's borders reached to the outskirts of Moscow and laid as far south as the Black sea. Since the days of King Jogaila (1400) many of the Polish rulers were descendents of Lithuanians.

Lithuania became a democracy along the lines of our American government in 1918. Even the liberty bell of that small nation is an exact replica of America's bell.



ADOMAS VARNAS

Ir šviesa ir tiesa mūs žingsnius telydi!

The origin of the Lithuanian language is lost in antiquity. Except for some borrowed words, the language is not at all like Polish or Russian. It is unique. Not in any sense can the Lithuanians be equated with the Slavs; the history, culture and language are far too separate.

Some of us can recognize some Lithuanian names that have become part of the culture of the free,

world. Names like: John Butkus, John Gielgud, and Prince Radziwill. We can also recognize original Lithuanian first names like Jonas, Vito or Witowt (from Vytautas) and Algis.

To this day the government of the United States has not recognized the annexation of Lithuania into the U.S.S.R.

The fight for the freedom of Lithuania continues!



# LIETUVOS TRISPALVĖ VĒLIAVA



*This photo reproduced from a special calendar, circa 1930, produced by Laukžemis Press.*

Iš viso pasaulio įvairiomis spalvomis mirguliuojančių vėliavų, lietuvių širdį ypatingai šiltai suvirpina Lietuvos trispalvė. Senesniems čia gimusiems lietuviams, tur būt, pirmą sykį teko sutikti Lietuvos vėliavą prisegtą virš rašomos lentos šeštadieninėje mokykloje arba pamatyti atvaizduotą sieniniuose kalendoriuose savo namuose. Supažindinimo būdu buvo aiškinama, kad ši vėliava atstovauja visai lietuvių tautai, kad ji yra lietuvių tautinė vėliava. Tikrenybėje tai neatitiko griežtą tiesą. Vartydami istorijos lapus ir skaitydami praeities aprašymus, niekur neužtinkame aiškių įrodymų, kad Lietuva bet kada turėjus atskirą tautinę vėliavą.

Iki XV-tojo šimtmečio mažai tėra žinių apie Lietuvos vėliavas. Vienu tarpu Lietuvos vėliava buvusi raudona su baltu Vyčiu arba Gedimino stulpais. Po Liublino unijos, vėliavoje pasirodė ir lenkų erelis. Su trečiu Lietuvos - Lenkijos karalystės padalinimu (1795), beveik visa Lietuva pateko rusų imperijai ir Lietuvai buvo uždrausta turėti savitą vėliavą.

Tiktai Didžiajame Vilniaus Seime (1905.XII.4-6), prasidėjus laisvės atžaloms vystytis ir stipriau prigyti, tarp kitų svarbių darbų, buvo imtasi rimtai rūpintis lietuviška vėliava. Dr. Basanavičius patiekė atgaivinti laiko dulkėmis apneštą senąją raudonos spalvos Lietuvos vėliavą. Tačiau, tuo metu revoliucionieriai prieš carą telkdami po savo raudona vėliava pradėjo veržtis į viešumą ir stiprėti. Daug kam raudona vėliava atgimstančiai Lietuvai rodėsi nepartina ir nepriimtina. Vėliavos klausimas augo neatidėliotinu svarbumu ir tolydiniai darėsi opesnis. Itin svarbu buvo sugalvoti tikrai tautinę vėliavą, kuri jungtų visus lietuvius į vieningą darbą dėl Lietuvos laisvės ir nepriklausomybės. Per I-mąjį Didįjį Karą, rusams pasitraukus iš Lietuvos, jų vietą užėmė vokiečiai 1915 metais. Šis antrasis įsibrovėlis buvo nekvies-

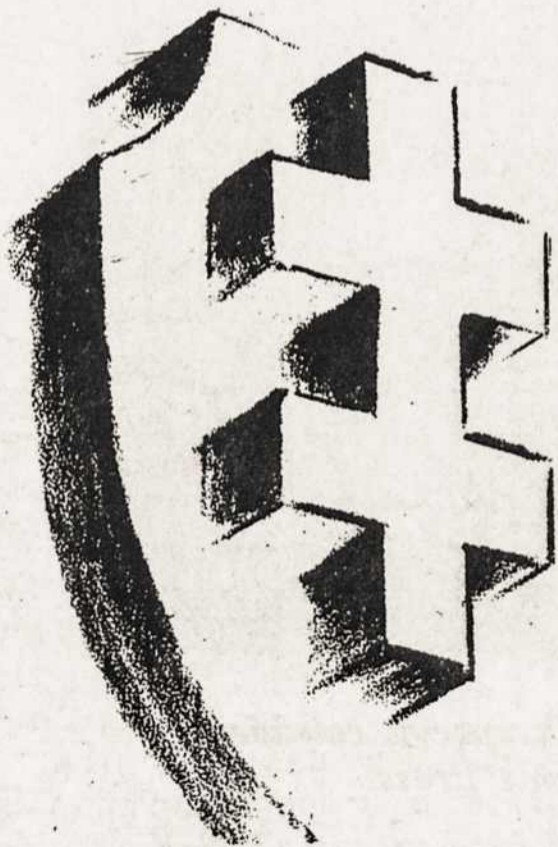


tas svečias. Jis taipgi engė, spaudė lietuvius ir varžė tautinę veiklą, tačiau pradėtojo nepriklausomybės siekimo nepajėgė užgniaužti. Slapčia ir neretai viešai buvo imtasi vis dažniau ir drąsiau puoselėti svajojamos laisvės daigus ir raginti kitus prisidėti prie ryžtingo darbo. Neatlyžo ir tautinės vėliavos suprojektavimo pastangos. Viename patriotų susirinkime Vilniuje 1917 metais, dr. Basanavičius vėl siūlo priimti seną tradicinę raudoną Lietuvos vėliavą. Ir ši syki pasiūlymas lieka nepriimtas, nors dėl kitos priežasties. Buvo išryškinta, kad raudonoji vėliava tikrenybėje niekad nebuvo vartota kaip tautinė vėliava, o tik kaip valstybinė. Dabartinis spaudžiantis reikalas buvo sugalvoti grynai tautinę vėliavą. Prieita sutarimo, kad tautinėje vėliavoje turi reikštis tautos atspindys ir kad joje derėtų atsižymėti spalvos, kurios dažniausiai užtinkamos liaudies darbuose, jos audiniuose, juostose ir kituose kūrinuose. Pasirodė, kad lietuvių audėjų daugiausia mėgstamos spalvos buvo raudona ir žalia. Taigi, bent šios dvi spalvos turėtų atspindėti tautos vėliavoje. Nors pagaliau sutarta dėl tautiškų raudonos ir žalios spalvų, vėliavos klausimas vis likosi neužbaigtas. Dabar atsirado pageidaujančių, kad vėliavoje būtų ne dvi, o trys spalvos; šalia raudonos ir žalios surasti ir trečią spalvą. Vietoj spartaus ilgai užtrukusio darbo užbaigimo, iškilo naujas trukdymas ir kliūtis. Nelengva buvo surasti visiems priimtina trečią spalvą.

Iki šiol, XIX-tojo šimtmečio pabaigoje, įvairiose vietovėse būta atskirų lietuviškų draugijų ir vietnetų vartojusių trispalvės vėliavas. Daug kur su žalia ir balta buvo vartojama raudona spalva, kaip tai Mažojoje Lietuvoje ir Rusijoje. JAV-bėse pačioj pradžioj buvo tenkinamasi dviem spalvom, paprastai balta ir mėlyna, o tik žymiai vėliau, šalia žalios, baltos, raudonos, užtinkama kitų trijų spalvų derinių: raudona, geltona,

mėlyna, raudona, balta, mėlyna ir kt. Iš viso pirmą sykį pasirodo raudona, žalia, geltona derinys šv. Jono Nepomuceno draugijos vėliavoje, Baltimore, MD, 1912 metais. Neapsiėjo ir Lietuvos Vyčiai neatkreipę dėmesio į būsimos laisvos Lietuvos tautinę vėliavą. Skaitydami seimų protokolus, randame, kad antrajame seime (1914.VII.7-9) Brocktone, MA buvo nustatyta, kad Lietuvos spalvos turėtų būti žalia, raudona ir geltona, remiantis Vilniaus vaivadijos senoviška spalva, kuri buvusi raudona ir, kad žalia ir geltona yra lietuvių labiausiai mėgstamos spalvos. Kokią įtaką sudarė JAV-bių lietuviai ir Vyčiai šio klausimo galutiniam išrišimui, nėra duomenų. Žinoma tiek, kad Amerikos lietuviai dalyvavo su Lietuvos lietuviais konferencijose Šveicarijoje ir kad JAV lietuvių atstovai 1916 buvo nuvykę į Vilnių ir tarėsi su vietiniais lietuviais įvairiausiais tautiniais klausimais, kurių tarpe labai galimai ir vėliavos klausimas buvo įpintas.

Tautinės vėliavos klausimas dar nebuvo išrištas prasidedant Vilniaus Konferencijai (1917.IX.17-23). Reikalas buvo laikomas tiek svarbus, kad buvo sudaryta atskira komisija iš dr. J. Basanavičiaus, dail. A. Žmuidzinavičiaus ir T.



Daugirdo, kuriai buvo pavesta galutinai nustatyti lietuviškai vėliavai spalvas. Po įvairių svarstymų, siūlymų ir projektų, buvo nutarta priimti sekantį spalvų derinį, remiantis gamtiškais veiksniais: viršuje — raudona spalva žyminti tekančią saulę; viduryje — geltona spalva primenanti geltonuojančius rugių laukus; apačioje — žalia spalva reiškianti žalias pievas ir laukus. Visgi, Konferencija nesijautė pajėgi klausimą užbaigti. Tai buvo palikta Valstybės Tarybai, kuri priėmė suprojektuotą trijų spalvų vėliavą susidedančią iš vienodo pločio horizontalių juostų: viršuje geltona, viduryje žalia ir apačioje raudona. Ši vėliava buvo įrašyta į Lietuvos Respublikos Konstituciją, tačiau ne kaip tautinė vėliava, o vien tik kaip valstybinė vėliava. Ilgainiui žmonės ėmė laikyti trispalvę tautinę, o valstybinę skaitė raudonąją vėliavą su Vyčiu ir Gedimino stulpais, kurią naudojo Karo Muziejus ir tam tikrais atvejais Respublikos prezidentas. Lietuvos trispalvė iškiliai, laisvai ir drąsiai pirmą sykį vėjo pagauta išsilygino ir gyvai suplevėsavo virš Valstybės Tarybos rūmų 1918.XI.11, I-mojo Pasaulinio Karo paliaubų dieną.

Šiandien Lietuvoj vietoj gražios trispalvės tematomą svetimą raudona su kūju ir pjautuvu vėliava, kurios plakantis šešėlis gaubia geltonus javų laukus, žalius miškus ir raudonu krauju aplaistytus didvyrių kapus. Suspaustoje baimėje ji laiko sukaustyta lietuvių spurdančią širdį, nepalaužiamą valią ir neramią dvasią. Parblokšta tauta alsuoja ir, pasitikėdama Dievo Apvaizda, laukia auštančio laisvės ryto kada aukštai ant Gedimino pilies vėl išvys didingai, švitėjančiai plazdančią geltoną, žalią ir raudoną Lietuvos trispalvę. Mums dera savo įmanomomis pastangomis, darbais ir maldomis vytiškai prisidėti prie tos išsiilgtos dienos pagreitinimo.

Stasys P. Vaičaitis  
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# EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND THE LITHUANIAN SHRINE BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK.....

Walt Svekla  
Scholarship Chairman

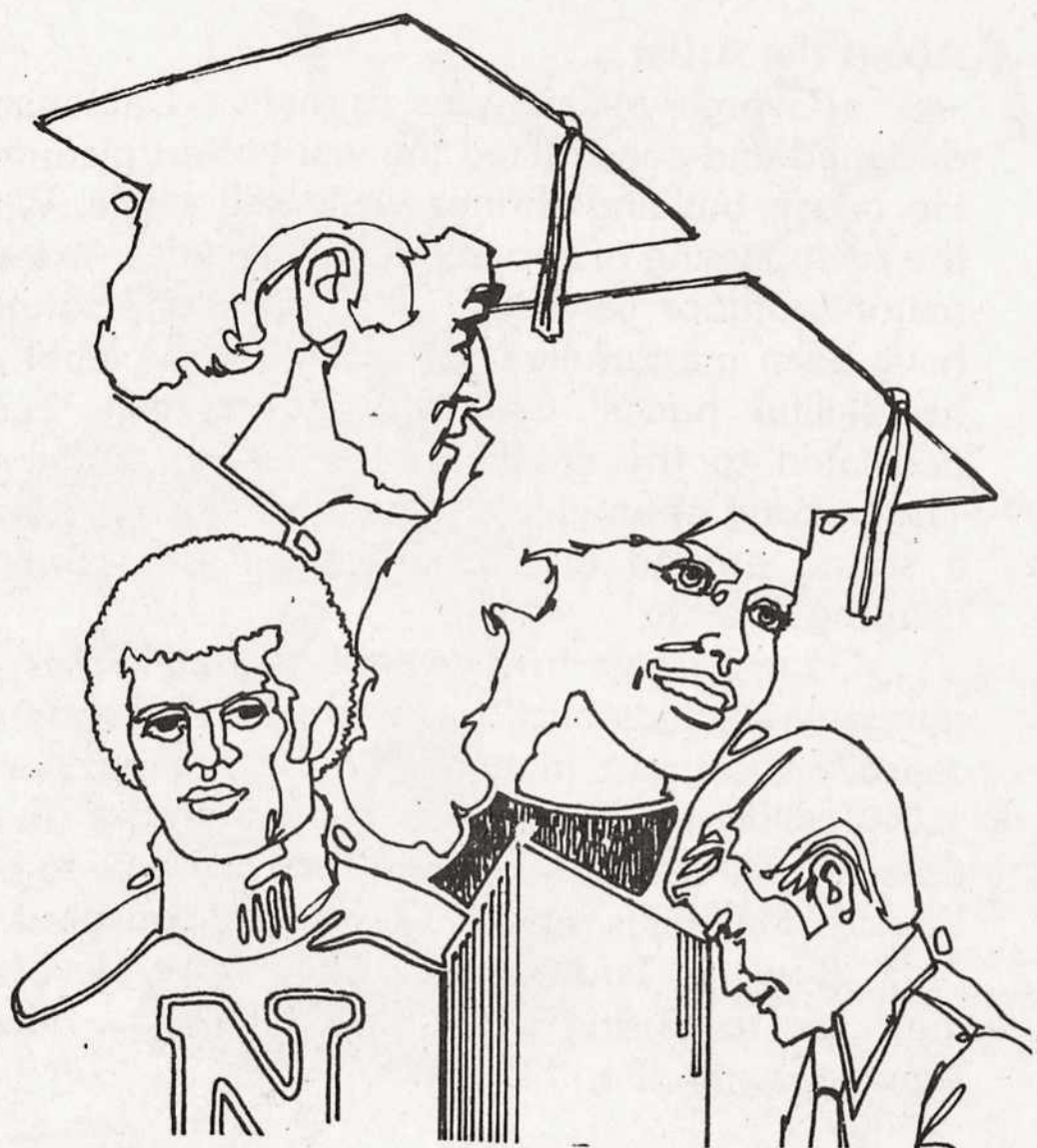
Have you ever admired a majestic, delicately carved authentic Lithuanian chapel shrine or way-side cross and said to yourself, "Wow! Would I love to have that in my back yard!" Well, the K of L Scholarship Committee is giving each K of L District, Council, Member or friend of the K of L a chance to own his very own authentic major Lithuanian shrine made especially for the K of L Scholarship Committee and thus being "an original" and the only one of this type in the world.

This beautiful Sorrowful Mother shrine, featured on the Vytis Cover, is the work of George Mikalauskas of Council 96, Dayton, Ohio. I met George and his lovely wife, Fran, this past August at the Syracuse National Convention. They were there to enjoy the Convention but George came speci-

fically to receive his 4th Degree which was bestowed on him at the Sunday Convention Mass. It was just coincidental that their daughter, Mary Agnes, had applied for a K of L Scholarship to be awarded at this Convention. At the Convention Banquet, I was very happy to announce that Mary Agnes was one of the four scholarship recipients. I was later told that as I was reading some excerpts from Mary Agnes' application, George's eyes filled with tears of happiness because he had remembered those words when Mary Agnes had written them and asked her father how it sounded. In Mary Agnes' absence, George accepted the initial scholarship check and it was very evident that he was moved and honored that his daughter had been selected. Later that evening after the dinner and speeches, George and Fran approached me to extend their appreciation to Scholarship Committee for selecting their daughter. Because of his elation, George proposed a suggestion to increase donations to the Scholarship Fund so that more significant monetary sums could be awarded to future recipients. His idea was very simple but extremely generous. He just stated, "I will build a Lithuanian shrine and turn it over to the Scholarship Committee." He also stated that the Committee would be free to use it in the most beneficial manner for the Scholarship Fund.

After the Convention, George kept true to his word and started the construction of the shrine. Several telephone calls between Dayton, Ohio and Cherry Hill, N.J. during the next few months, kept me apprised of his progress. It has now been completed and George will hold it until the new owner is selected.

That, in a nutshell, dear readers, is the happy tale of how the Scholarship Committee obtained this work of art and if you read on, you will learn more about the shrine itself, more about the artist, and finally how Lady Luck (is she Lithuanian?)





might help you become the proud owner of this beautiful shrine to place on your property or to donate to your church or your community as a remembrance of yourself or in memory of a deceased loved one.

#### About the Shrine.....

The artist has named it the "Sorrowful Mother Shrine". This theme is carried out with the plaque within the chapel area and the teardrops on either side and the sad flowers depicted on the shrine and in the fence. The half-moon and the tear-drop design attest to its true Lithuanian authenticity. It is over ten feet tall and the fence surrounding the shrine is approximately five feet square. The four posts are three feet high and the fence is two feet high. The shrine is constructed of western cedar, hemlock fir, redwood and pine. The cross on top is made of hand-hammered brass. The base and the posts are made of fabricated steel and the entire structure can be erected or disassembled very easily. Because of the artist's design, no wood is buried in the ground which would be susceptible to



rot and decay. Truly, this is an exquisite creation and will provide a source of constant pride for the owner and a thing of beauty for a lifetime.



#### About the Artist.....

George Mikalauskas, a native Daytonian, designed and constructed the work of art pictured. He began building shrines while still single. With the swift passing of two and a half decades, sixteen major (outdoor yard size) and four small shrines have been masterfully constructed by the labor of his skillful hands. Countless hours have been dedicated to the creation of a lasting devotion. The buzzing of an electric saw is often as common a sound around his woodshop as the morning chirping of birds.

George's past involvement in the Knights of Lithuania extends back to 1949 when he enthusiastically took part in many of the organization's activities. He continued to participate in the club's doings, and in 1958, George met his wife-to-be, Frances Machutas, at the Cleveland sponsored K of L Bowling Tournament. They have devoted their life to raising three lovely children, Mary Agnes, George II and Elena.



Presently employed as a machine-repairman, Mr. Mikalauskas' only hobby is building shrines. It was through the guidance of Father Walter Katariskis which encouraged George to plan authentic Lithuanian designs as possible.

When confronted with the question why he continues to work endlessly on the wooden sculptures, George replied, "I do this not only for the love of God, but to promote the everlasting Lithuanian heritage."

#### About the Fund-Raising Program.....

The Scholarship Committee, in establishing this fund-raising project in connection with the Scholarship Shrine, is urging all Districts, Councils and Members who have so generously supported the Scholarship Fund in the past to continue their generous support, especially this year. Furthermore, the Committee has decided that the recipient of this shrine will be selected from a group composed of Districts/Councils who donate a minimum of \$25 to the Scholarship Fund and individuals (whether K of L members or not) who donate at least \$10. The Committee feels that these amounts are reasonable and would allow the maximum participation of all K of L members and Councils. Hopefully, those Districts/Councils that had made it a custom to donate \$50 or \$100

yearly to the Fund would continue this very generous tradition and, if possible, increase their donation by \$25. Likewise, the same concept would apply to those individuals who have made yearly donations of \$10 or more. An extra \$5 or \$10 per person will greatly help to build up our cash reserve. To be perfectly sincere, the Scholarship Committee anticipates that those Councils and individuals who have not donated in the past, for whatever reason, might locate some money that will help them kill two birds with one stone — support our very worthwhile K of L Scholarship Fund and possibly become the proud owner of this spectacular chapel shrine.

This specific program will run from January 1, 1979 thru the National Convention in August, where the winner will be selected at the Convention Banquet along with the 1979 K of L Scholarship recipient.

All donations should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Anthony M. Miner, 33 Bruce St., Grafton, MA 01519, and just a reminder for those interested in applying for the 1979 award, applications can be obtained from the Scholarship Chairman: Mr. Walter D. Svekla, 44 Clemson Road, Cherry Hills, N.J. 08034.

GOOD LUCK! And May the Force (and the Sorrowful Mother Shrine) be with you!

*We get letters...*

Parent-Teacher Association  
P.S. 90 - Queens  
86-44 109th Street  
Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11418

December 9, 1978

Dear Mrs. Stukas,

On behalf of our membership I want to thank you for providing us with the English Language instructions for making Lithuanian Straw Ornaments. My teaching efforts have been so successful that I will be conducting classes and workshops regularly from now until Christmas at Public School 90-Queens.

Please convey our gratitude to the Knights of Lithuania for producing such a useful article in reprint form. Having such clear instructions so available has made it easier for all of us who teach this national folk craft to reach more people.

Sincerely,

Patricia G. Sidas  
Public School 90-Queens  
Parent - Teacher Association





## A TINY COPPER MONUMENT

The penny, the lowliest coin of our monetary system, passes unnoticed and unheralded by the average American citizen. But, our penny has quite a story.

If asked, Mr. Average American would probably say that the penny was cast to honor the memory of a great man, one of our nation's most illustrious presidents, Abraham Lincoln. And he would be right.

But if the penny could speak for itself it would add more, much more to that reply. It would take us back many years into the past and across a wide ocean to a land washed by the white-capped waves of the Baltic Sea.

And here, just a few short years after the tragic assassination of "Honest Abe", its story would begin in the village of Siauliai, Lithuania where on June 12, 1871, Victor D. Baranauskas, the designer of our Lincoln penny, first saw the light of day. His father was a skilled engraver and maker of seals. From his father young Victor learned all the skills and secrets of a difficult trade. At the age of sixteen he was already established in his own shop and his fame was spreading throughout the countryside. Somewhat later he transferred his business to the thriving metropolis of Kaunas.

In Kaunas Victor's reputation grew by leaps and bounds. His amazing skill became the envy of his competitors and led him into serious trouble, which caused him to flee the country.

Someone, whether from jealousy or misguided patriotic zeal, informed the Russian police that young Baranauskas was a skilled counterfeiter and forger. Since, the Russian governors of Lithuania had no proof of counterfeiting and forgery, they did not arrest Baranauskas. Instead, in an attempt to catch him with the goods, a watch

was maintained night and day.

One day, unknown to Baranauskas, two members of the secret police entered his shop and inquired about some work. They showed him the signature of a famous government official and asked him to make an engraving of it. So well did the young artist perform the work that the police had difficulty distinguishing the facsimile from the original. This was all the "proof" they needed. They declared young Baranauskas a forger.

Exile to Siberia and its dreaded labor camps threatened to cut short his career.

Baranauskas fled the country. In 1890 he came to New York where he found work in a medal engraving shop. He worked by day and studied by night. Here he changed his name to Brenner.

Baranauskas was commissioned to make a cut of Beethoven for a New York Musical Society medal. The critics lavished praise on his work. His feet were firmly planted on the first rung of the ladder to success.

In 1898 he went to Paris where for three years he studied at the famous Academie Julian. At the

Paris World's Fair in 1900 his exhibits took the highest honors. In 1901 and 1904 at the Buffalo and St. Louis expositions he again took the highest honors.

In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt, the famed colonel of the "Roughriders", visited Baranauskas' studio to pose for a Panama Canal medal. A bronze plaque of Lincoln on the studio wall so captivated the president, that he immediately commissioned Baranauskas to make a similar one for a new U.S. penny.

In 1909 the new U.S. penny was released. It was the first coin bearing the image of an American president. Art critics raved over the beauty of the new one cent piece. And truly, it was an outstanding piece of work worthy of praise.

Quite a furor was raised, however, because Baranauskas had signed his work with his initials. They were to be found on the opposite side of the coin. So great was the public's reaction that after a week orders were issued to remove the initials and to recall all coins already cast from that mold. To this day the coin remains a collectors item.

Lincoln and Baranauskas - two great lovers of freedom. The one a president famed for freeing the slaves, the other a great artist, who fled persecution and in the freedom of our land rose to fame and fortune.

We Americans of Lithuanian descent can rightfully be proud of Baranauskas and his achievements. His monument, the U.S. penny, is a significant Lithuanian contribution to our American culture.

(Prepared by the 63rd National Convention Committee C-96, Dayton).





# Lithuanians in The

# NEWS

EDITED BY MARIAN AND PHIL SKABEIKIS



DR. EDWARD J. KUCHINSKAS, professor of biochemistry in the School of Graduate Studies' College of Medicine at the State University of New York's Downstate Medical Center has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Research Foundation. The new director is presently the chairman of the Joint Committee on Procedures, vice Chairman of the University Awards Committee and a member of the Joint Awards Council. He is also on the Committee on Research of the faculty Senate of SUNY, and holds several other positions of honor.

Dr. Kuchinskas, who received his doctor of philosophy degree from Cornell University Medical College in 1954, is currently principal investigator on a grant from Bristol — Meyers Company. A member of the American Society of Biological Chemists, the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Harvey Society, the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine and the New York Academy of Sciences, he is the author or co-author of some 50 publications. Dr. Kuchinskas, his wife Jean and son Stephen are members of C-110, Maspeth, NY.

UNDA-USA, the Catholic Association for Broadcasters presented one of its top network entertainment programming awards to CBS for "THE DEFECTION OF SIMAS KUDIRKA". The Gabriel Awards, as they are called, "honor persons in the broadcast industry whose work creatively treats issues concerning human values".

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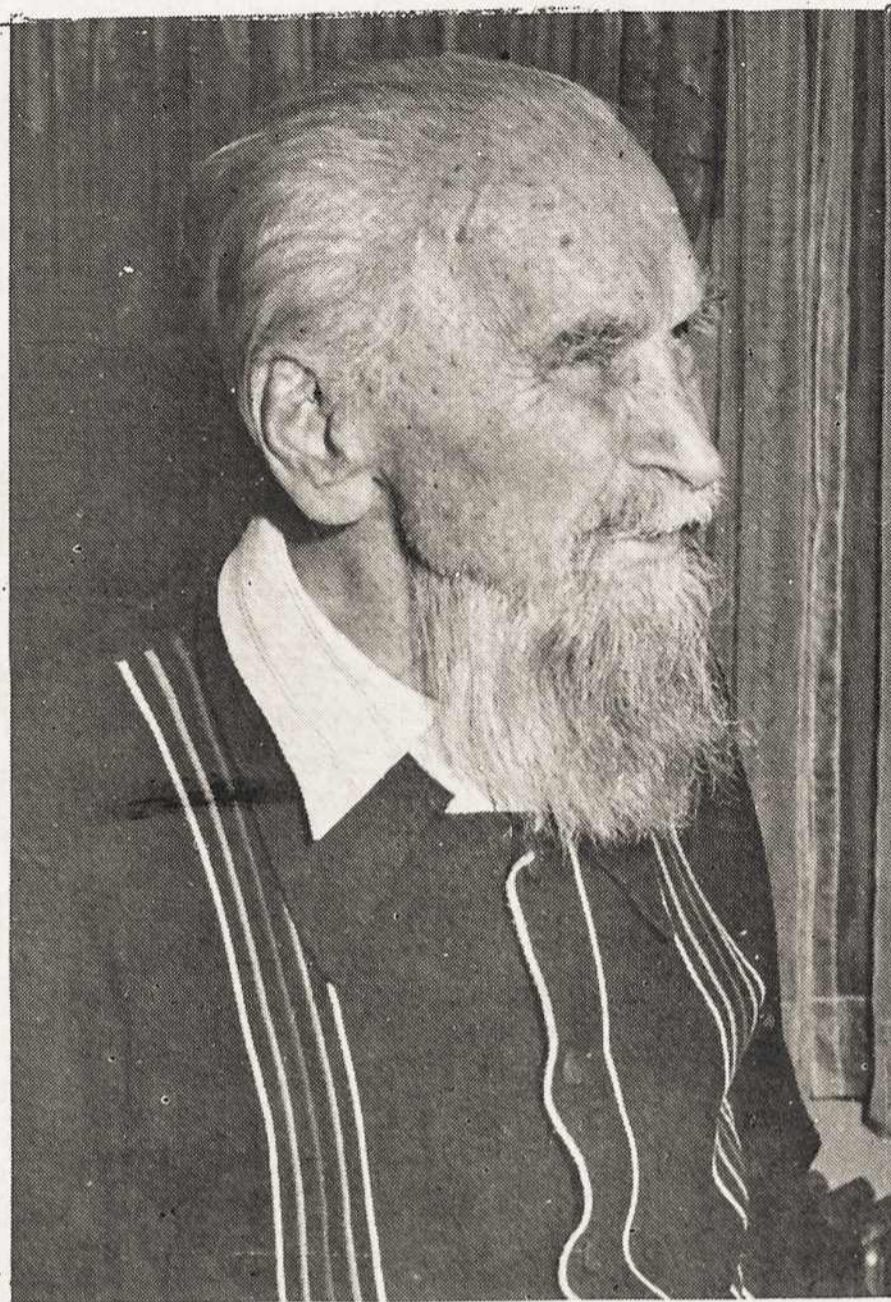
ALPHONSUS KAULAKIS, organizer of the Lithuanian Council of Miami, died recently in Miami at the age of 80. A native of Lithuania, Mr. Kaulakis emigrated to Chicago in 1912 where he published a neighborhood newspaper and owned and operated the Progress printing Co. In recent years, he cultivated citrus groves.

Mr. Kaulakis worked with Cesar Lamonica in developing a repertoire of Lithuanian music presented at the Miami bandshell every Feb. 16 to mark Lithuanian Independence Day. He also helped to form the Miami Chapter of the Lithuanian Alliance of America, was the Director of the Miami Lithuanian American Citizens Club, and was a member of United Lithuanian Relief.

\*\*\*

New York Lithuanians recently mourned the passing of DR. BRONISLAVAS RADZIVANAS, physician and radiologist, born in Vidiskiai, Lithuania. A graduate of the University of Kaunas Medical School, he engaged in private and municipal practice both in Lithuania and in Germany. He emigrated to New York in 1949. He quickly became an activist in many professional, political and fraternal organizations. He leaves his wife Apolonija, his son Vytautas and daughter-in-law Birute, and two grandsons. Vyt and Birute are active members of C-41, Brooklyn.





*ADOMAS VARNAS loves to paint, and on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 1979, he began his second hundred years of doing what he loves best. Born Jan. 1, 1879 in Lithuania, Mr. Varnas came to Chicago in 1949 and still resides there with his wife. He credits his longevity to moderation, plenty of interests, a balanced diet, a good wife, and walking. During his lifetime, Mr. Varnas has produced more than 2000 oil paintings and over 500 graphic works. We congratulate Adomas Varnas on his 100th Birthday and his many interesting works of art and wish him a most sincere "ILGIAUSIU METU".*

*(Photo — P. Maleta)*

\*\*\*

Former Director of "Lithuanian Melodies", a Detroit - based Lithuanian radio program, RALPH VALATKA, died at the age of 62 in Detroit. A member of C-79, Mr. Valatka was born in Pennsylvania, and was an active participant in Lithuanian activities.



FR. ALPHONSAS BABONAS, former Spiritual Advisor of C-79, Detroit, has been appointed Pastor of St. Anthony's Lithuanian parish in Detroit, MI. He was formerly Divine Providence Church in Southfield, MI.

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Honorary Member BOB BORIS, C-102, Detroit recently became Vice President of the Lithuanian Catholic Federation during its recent Convention. Mr. Boris is a past National President of the Knights of Lithuania.

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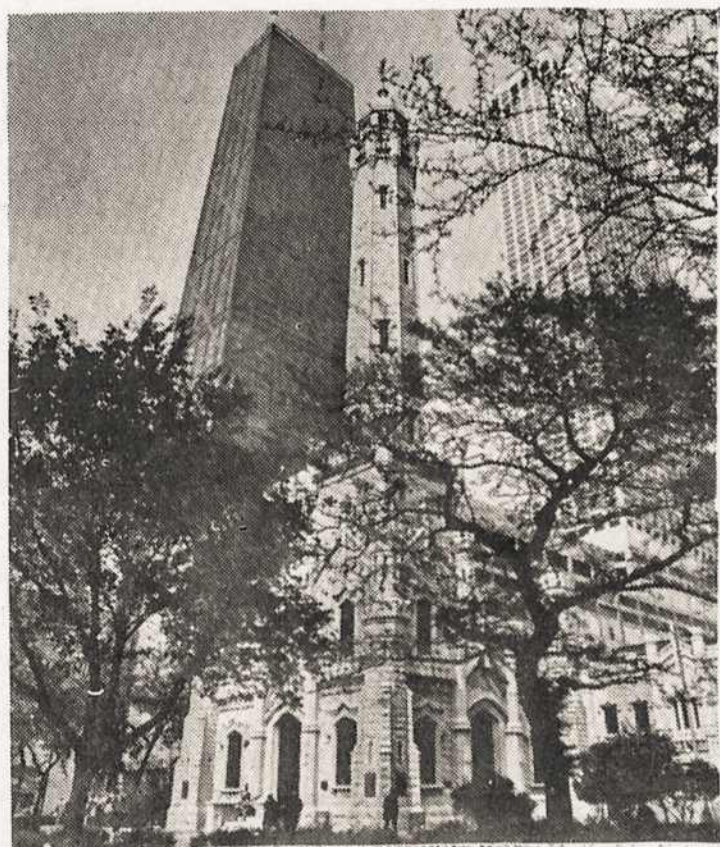
THE BALZEKAS MUSEUM OF LITHUANIAN CULTURE recently presented an exhibit by the Lithuanian American Women Artists Association. On exhibit were the works of designers and sculptors, weavers, printers and painters, graphic artists and ceramics.

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A Lithuanian - born nutrition author, VIKTORAS KULVINSKAS, who advocates eating chlorophyll-rich foods for nutritional healing, headed a three-day seminar in Miami sponsored by Alternatives, a Miami-based monthly magazine. Mr. Kulvinskas is the co-founder of the Hippocrates Health Institute in Boston.

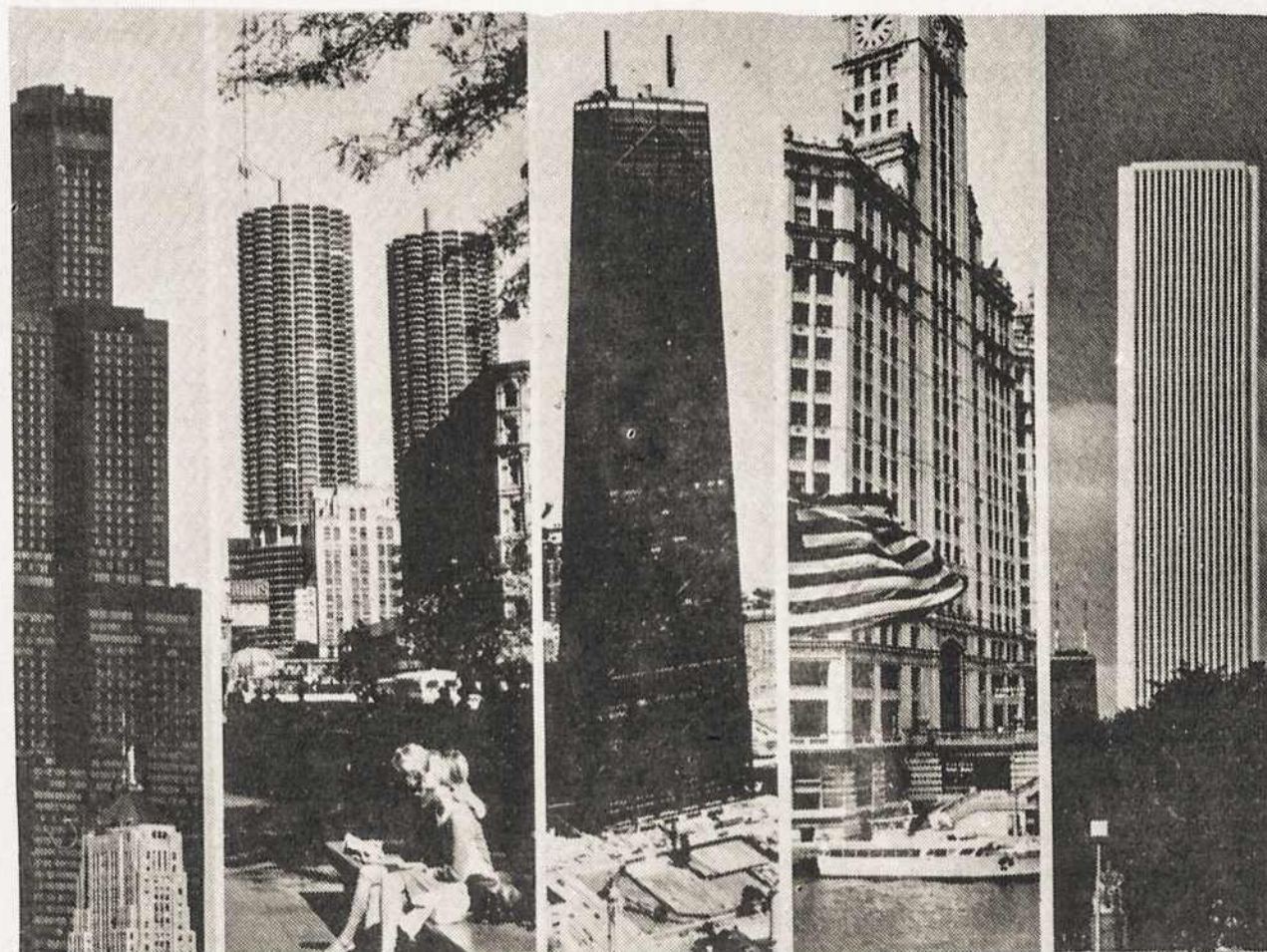


**SNEAK  
A  
PEEK  
AT THE  
1979 CONVENTION CITY,  
CHICAGO, ILL.**



Chicago's famous Water Tower, one of the few buildings to survive the great Chicago Fire of 1871, is an interesting contrast to the sleek modern 100-story John Hancock Center which rises behind it (left) and the new Water Tower Place (right) which combines a shopping mall, Ritz-Carlton Hotel and luxury condominiums on Chicago's Magnificent Mile along North Michigan Avenue.

(Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau Photo)



Chicago is rapidly becoming known as the world capital of modern architecture. Five fine examples are pictured (l-r): Sears Tower, world's tallest buildings rising 110 stories (1,454 feet); the twin towers of Marina City, a tightly unified complex housing apartments, garages, restaurants, office buildings and more; the John Hancock Center, world's fifth tallest building at 100 stories (1,107 feet); the Wrigley Building with one of the Chicago River sightseeing boats in the foreground; and the Standard Oil Building, world's fourth tallest building and the tallest marble-faced building in the world.

(Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau Photo)

**REMEMBER THE DATES — AUGUST 16 — 19, 1979**



## "PRAY FOR LITHUANIA'S FREEDOM"

Aldona Ryan

Seven years ago, the Lithuanians of Dayton, Ohio formed a new committee called the "Lithuanian Cultural Council of Holy Cross Church". The work of this committee was to foster and to promote the heritage and traditions of the Lithuanian people.

While all Lithuanians in the area are considered to be members of this committee, the real work is done by approximately 25 people. Currently, all are members of Council #96.

The efforts of the Lithuanian Cultural Council of Holy Cross Church have resulted in a staggering array of successful activities. Participation in International Festivals, displays, Independence Day Celebrations, Captive Nations Day Commemorations and numerous exhibits are examples.

One year, a billboard on I-75 proclaimed "Freedom for Lithuania" to all who travelled north or south through Ohio.

The purchase, sale and distribution of books, amber, wood carvings, weavings, and ruta plants is a continuous program.

Publicity about Lithuania through radio, public service television, and newspapers has been a regular feature whenever an opportunity was glimpsed.

A dance group, "The Vėjeliai" was organized. Famous Lithuanians were invited to come to Dayton and receptions were given for them.

In 1979, the committee will be using another new tactic. Using the small profits from the 1978 International Festival, they will combine Publicity, Religion, Lithuanian Affairs, and Lithuanian Culture by paying for an ad in the Catholic Telegraph Register.

This weekly newspaper of the

Cincinnati Diocese covers many square miles and is read by half a million Catholics in Ohio and Kentucky.

This tiny ad will simply state, "PRAY FOR LITHUANIA'S FREEDOM". It will appear 52 times and will be in bold type.

We are such a small group! WE FEEL WE NEED HELP. We are working at complete capacity now.

Perhaps other people in our area will get the message. God is our best ally.



*This billboard appeared inside the city limits in Dayton, Ohio at Interstate 75 and Stanley Ave. during the month of February 1975.*

### IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers...

**FRANK SUETTA**  
Member, C-74  
Scranton, Pa.  
died Sept. 29, 1978

**MARY SRUPSA**  
Member, C-36  
Chicago, Ill.  
died Dec. 15, 1978

**CHARLES I. ZIOBO**  
Member, C-141  
Bridgeport, Conn.  
died Nov. 15, 1978

**RALPH VALATKA, SR.**  
Member, C-79  
Southfield, Mich.  
died

**AL LAIBINAS**  
Member, C-74  
Scranton, Pa.  
died Dec. 8, 1978

**TEKLA STROGA**  
Member, C-36  
Chicago, Ill.  
died Dec. 18, 1978

**VYTAUTAS BICKUS**  
Member, C-112  
Chicago, Ill.  
died Dec. 22, 1978





# JUNIOR NEWS

## JRS. C-110 MASPETH

On Sunday December 10, members of Council 110 JRS. attended the annual Kūčios hosted by Council 110 Regulars. At Mass, before the Kūčios, Marija Stungurys and Bill Sidtis brought up the offertory gifts. At the Kūčios we read passages, taken from the Chronicles, on how Lithuanians are persecuted for celebrating Christmas. The readings were read in Lithuanian

by our counselor Bill Sidtis and Mark Adomitis, and in English by Leo and Marija Stungurys. In attendance were Mark Adomitis, Diane Kichinski, Leo and Marija Stungurys. At the Kūčios we sold the handmade crafts and held a raffle. The profits will go to send us to this year's convention in Chicago.

Leo Stungurys

## JRS. C-96 DAYTON

Thanks to Chris Mantz, on October 21, we had our annual election dinner at Noble Roman's Restaurant. Afterwards we were invited to Mary Lou and Walter Lastoskie's house for dessert and the election itself. Our new officers are: President: Shannon Grantham, Vice Pres.: Joey Mantz, Secretary: Vida Gecas, Treasurer: Michael Lastoskie, Sgt-at-Arms: Elaine Mikalauskas and Marilyn Lastoskie, Vytis Correspondent: Irena Gecas, Awards Chairman: Ann August and Irena Gecas, Lithuanian Affairs: Vida Gecas and Shannon Grantham, Cultural Chairman: Elaine Mikalauskas and Jamie Pacovsky. Our new advisors are Chris Mantz and Rita Ambrose. We hope we will have a good year with the new officers. We thank the Lastoskies for having us over.

Through careful planning and workshops we successfully put on a country store, November 11 and 12. We all worked hard and made most of the crafts ourselves. With the help of the senior council we had a profitable sale. We truly thank them for their help and support.

We are yet looking forward to our Christmas party.

Irena Gečas



Members of Council 110 JRS. show John Adomenas one of their items.



# Vyčiai Veikia Council Activities

EDITED BY MRS. JOSEPHINE ZUKAS, 9 CHARLES STREET, PORT WASHINGTON, L.I., N.Y. 11050



## NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

### C-141 - BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

Human Rights Day was celebrated Sunday, December 10, 1978, with a program supporting the dissidents of Russia and its suppressed nations at the Bridgeport Jewish Community Center. The Bridgeport Knights of Lithuania, C-141, the Bridgeport American Lithuanian Community (Lietuvių Bendruomenė), The Ukrainian Congress Community and the United Jewish Council were the sponsoring members of the program. Some 200 guests attended to hear Dr. Martin Abend, Professor of Political Geography at New Jersey State College and Commentator for WNEW TV Channel. Before the program, water and rye bread were served as symbols of the Coalition's determination to fight for the freedom of the suppressed peoples in the USSR. Our Council members, Teresa Trainis and Gintara Ivaska offered the guests these symbols, bread and water.

Dr. Abend told your correspondent that there does exist a list of all the names of the Lithuanians who were deported to Siberia in the years 1939 to 1942 and even during the later years. He failed to mention where it would be avail-

able. The Helsinki Monitors which include the Baltic nations are a beneficent facet and act as a pipeline of information concerning the violations of Human Rights in the USSR and elsewhere, Dr. Abend responded to Roma Hayda's question on the effectiveness of the monitoring committee. He said they in turn report the violations to the Western world and pressure thus can be applied on the Communists. Dr. Abend was very disturbed over the signing of the Helsinki Accord on Human Rights. First, it made the Russians look respectable and Dr. Abend maintains that the Communists are innate liars. Secondly, the signing of the Accord by former President Ford, permitted the USSR to retain as their rightful and de jure possessions, the lands of the Baltic nations "unless these peoples determine by peaceful means to renounce the USSR". Thus no war, no revolution, no violence by any guerilla groups, no protests are allowed to these peoples by the Helsinki Accord.

President Carter, Dr. Abend reported, agrees fully with the Helsinki signing. The President is "highly principled and wishes to further Human Rights for all peoples everywhere". Yet he maintains that we have to be realistic about implementing Human Rights. His modus vivendi is that since the American people will not tolerate another war, he is forced to act out a charade whereby there is an exchange of cultural activities. We send them our various artists and they offer the Bolshoi Dancers. However, we Americans do much more! We send the Russians our advanced computer systems, our wheat, our

industrial goods because it is expedient to do so and big business profits by these sales. The American media continues to support this arrangement. Dr. Abend told us that he is violently opposed to such contradictory pacifications. Soviets, he said, think in terms of nuclear war. Americans think of peace. The Chinese Reds call the Russians outright liars and the Americans incomprehensible.

A local newspaper correspondent asked, "What can we do to advance Human Rights in the USSR and elsewhere?" Dr. Abend reminded us of Solzhenitzyn's response to a similar question: "All this will not promote relations with the USSR. Because a few renowned famous people are allowed to leave Russia does not mean that the Soviet policy is to allow all dissidents to leave". We know better. The Russian prisons are bulging with dissidents. Their hospitals and concentration camps too.

We must continue to advance and support Human Rights everywhere. It is a real moral issue which fights EVIL in the world. Human Rights are necessary for freedom of expression. Life is not life without it. Humaneness includes Human Rights. We must resort to persuasion, protests, the Helsinki Monitors to protect Human Rights. Dr. Abend advised all to write to their Representatives and Senators in this respect. Also, he urged us to write to the dissidents themselves. "Make your voice for freedom heard by all who seek their rightful human rights!" There is power in opposition. We must say to the dissidents and the suppressed peoples, "We can't free you, but our hearts are with you! You are not forgotten!" Indeed not!



At the conclusion of Dr. Abend's speech, an honorary Peace Award was bestowed by Rev. Gerald Floyd to the Helsinki Monitoring Committee in Kiev, Moscow, Tbilisi, Vilnius, Yerevan in the USSR. In conjunction with the above program for Human Rights for Soviet Citizens, there was a display of official Soviet Government Anti-religious posters in the Sacred Heart University Library for one week.

It would be informative to hear what other communities have done during the Human Rights Week.

Rev. Francis J. Pranckus,  
Chaplain of Bridgeport  
Council 141

#### C-10 - ATHOL-GARDNER, MASS.

The following slate of officers were elected at the October meeting held in the St. Francis Rectory: Spiritual Advisor Rev. Justin Steponaitis, Pres. William Wisnaukas, Vice Pres. Howard Beaudette, Treas. Nellie Melaika, Rec. Secy. Charles Genaitis, Fin. Secy. & Coucil photographer Leonard Davidonis, Telephone Chm. Blanche Genaitis, Cultural Chm. Bernice Wisnaukas, Membership Chm. Pauline Rogers, Lith. Affairs Chm. Mickalina Marsh. Following the meeting, Father treated the group to lunch. Thank you, Father. Both local papers carried write-ups on our elections.

Blanche & Charlie Genaitis spent a month visiting their daughter and family in the state of Washington. They also took a course in ceramics at Mt. Wachusett Community College in Gardner, Mass.

Our council hosted, with Father Steponaitis, the annual Christmas party for the 30 altar boys of the parish. After an afternoon of bowling at Dargelis Alleys, the boys were presented with gifts from our council members. The group then enjoyed their own party at

Denney's Den. After a delicious dinner, all enjoyed a gab-fest.

Condolences are extended to Tony Miner and his dad on the recent death of their sister and daughter, Mary Miner.

The council is busy preparing for the annual Lithuanian Independence Day Program.

Member of the month: We introduce an old stand-by of our council, Lennie Davidonis. Lennie was born and raised in Athol. After graduating from Athol H.S., he began his employment at the Union Twist Drill Co. as a draftsman where he has been a faithful and devoted employee. Len is a member of the Athol Camera Club and is our council's photographer. He is a member of SPEEDX, a world-wide short-wave radio organization and is also a citizen's band radio operator with the handle "Web Foot". The name implies his interest in and enjoyment of snowshoeing. Len also is a member of the Carbide Engineers Assoc., the Lithuanian Club in Gardner, and last, but by no means least, our K of L organization. We of C-10 wish Lennie the best in all his endeavors.

Vincukas

#### C-135 - ANSONIA, CONN.

Following a pot luck supper on Nov. 1, elections were held. Council officers for the year 79 include: Pres. John Sabulis (John was our first president when the council was originated); Vice Pres. Albert Shurkis; Secy. Ann Barauskas; Treas. Mildred Driznus; Fin. Secy. Ann Sabulis; Publicity, Stanley A. Twerian; Cultural Chm. Dorothy Martin; Ritual Chm. Alphonse Barauskas; Sgt-at-Arms Lillian Chaplik; Trustees, 1 year - Ruth Tyson, 2 years 8 Leon Barauskas, and 3 years - Anthony Chepulis. Good luck to all.

John Sebulis spent a few weeks at Griffin Hospital early this Fall, but it wasn't his kind of fun. He would rather be out meeting old

friends, and making new ones, so he left. We're glad you did John. Helen Uskevich never missed any of our affairs, but lately, because of a cervical problem, cannot attend. Helen, we all wish you well and hope to see you soon. We were sorry to hear of the death of Janet Brainard's mother, Tillie Wailonis, who passed away last August. Your prayers are asked for the repose of her soul. John Ellis, practicing his role as a stunt man for an up-coming movie, hurt his back and was out of circulation for a few weeks, but is back with us again. Anthony Chepulis spent three days in the hospital. After his tour, satisfied that everything was being run right, he gave his final approval and left.

Our former pastor, Father Paul Sabulis, is a patient at Monsignor Bojonowski Manor in New Britain, and is progressing rapidly after an automobile accident. Father Paul's car was demolished, and he receive many broken bones. Ambulance drivers rushed him to Waterbury Hosp., but was then transferred to Yale New Haven Hosp., where he made medical history by responding to all the endeavors of the attending physicians. He is allowed visitors and many people from our parish have spent some time with him. The Manor, inside and out, is beautiful, but the therapy sessions are strenuous. Father is working hard, and it is showing in his physical build-up. Visitors help by encouraging him to try even harder. Good luck, Father, we are all pulling for you.

Father Ray, our pastor, is a patient at Griffin Hosp. at this writing and is not allowed visitors as yet. Father, we are all praying for your speedy recovery.

A Christmas Party was held in the parish hall on Dec. 2, at no charge to the members. Guests were charged a nominal fee. Chm. Lil Twerian was assisted by Ella Ellis, Dot Martin, Al Shurkis, John



Ellis, Al Barauskas and Stan Twerian. Hors d'oeuvres, a catered dinner, dancing to the music of John Sabulis and his arrangements, a sing-along led by Lil Chaplik, and door prizes, made the party one of the best.

INO

C-26 - WORCESTER, MASS.

If you missed the October meeting, then you really missed a Lorne Greene - Jacques Cousteau - type cultural report. Read by Marion Shapiro, it was entitled, "Wildlife Natural to Lithuania", and told of things we never knew... or perhaps never thought about!

Pres. Rita Pinkus welcomed representatives from So. Boston, So. Worcester, Providence, Brockton and Westfield for the New England Dist. meeting conducted by NED Pres. Al Jaritis on Nov. 19 in our St. Casimir's parish hall. They're aiming for more "esprit de corps" in our organization here in New England, and this is the group that will do it!

Adele Degutis tells us that Alex Pridotkas' team is in first place in our council's bowling league. Others on Alex's team are Bob Krusas, Jeff Burl, Francis Degutis and Joseph Staney, Jr. Please no premature praise for this team, because we understand there is another team racing ahead, and threatening to dethrone these "Kings of the Alleys". Incidentally, the sanctity of male superiority in sports is threatened by Helen Gillus who presently holds high average, high single, and high triple for women. How about that! For men, Tony Zalieckas holds high average and high triple, while Jimmy Bender holds high single.

Father Benjamin Uzdavinis, MIC, our Spiritual Director, installed our new board of officers in a most impressive ritual the evening of our October meeting. One by one, each officer listened to the duties and requirements of his

office for the good of God and Country, "so help him God".

Be it known that henceforth all monthly meetings (second Tuesday of each month in St. Casimir's parish hall) will commence promptly at 7:30 p.m., not 8 p.m. as heretofore.

After serious appraisal of each aspect of the Oct. '78 dinner dance, Ginny Leleikis has decided that this is indeed a worthwhile social and has consented to chair a repeat of her effort for Oct. '79.

Many years ago, William Kereisis was one of our most active members. As years passed, Bill decided to let "the kids" take the reins. But, as we see him at Mass and other church services here at St. Casimir's parish, it reminds us how true it is that real commitment to the K of L is a lifetime interest.

Distance delayed the news that Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kuzmeskas are the new parents of a darling baby girl. Congratulations to the happy family!

We offer our council's condolences to Anthony Miner and the other members of his family. Tony, a member of C-116 and former Nat'l. Pres., lost his dear sister, Mary, to death last November.

February is Catholic Press Month! Books and subscriptions to newspapers and magazines are good for us individually, but they also make excellent gifts for any occasion. In making our selections, it's well to remember to support "our own". For example, there's a weekly diocesan publication for the English readers. In Chicago, the Marian Fathers publish the only Lithuanian daily paper in existence today, DRAUGAS. They also publish books and magazines in both English and Lithuanian. In Brooklyn the Franciscan Fathers publish a weekly paper, DARBININKAS, and other literature as well in both languages. We have a wealth of Catholic literature available to us. Keep these sources in mind and

support the Catholic Press. And who can forget our own one-of-its-kind, the VYTIS!

Our participation in St. Casimir's Feast Day and Lithuanian Independence Day celebrations are well under way.

Su Diev iki sekančio numerio!  
Dzūkėlė

C-103 - PROVIDENCE, R.I.

The Seniors, Regulars and Jrs. gathered at our parish on Dec. 3 for a Communion Mass, followed by brunch at the Heartstone Inn in Seekonk. We then visited the grave of our late pastor, Father John Vaitekunas. A lovely bouquet of flowers was placed on his grave and a short committal service rendered.

A Lithuanian "Šurum Burum" took place at the Lithuanian Citizen's Club on Nov. 5. Stan Koziol's One-Mån-Band from Worcester provided the dance music all afternoon. Delicious Lithuanian foods were plentiful. Our first indoor picnic was a great success.

The Smith-hill Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service was held at St. Casimir's Church on Nov. 21, the first Ecumenical Service to be held here. Our Spiritual Advisor Fr. V. Martinkus gave the welcoming address; Fr. Kelly of St. Patrick's Church led us in special prayer; Mrs. Greta O'Rourke of United Presbyterian Church sang a solo; Rev. Birger Johnson, pastor of Gloria-Dei Lutheran Church read from the Old Testament; Rev. Janet Aquavella, pastor of the United Baptist Church read the Epistle; the rev. John Watkins from United Presbyterian Church read the Gospel; Fr. A. Jurgelaitis, our Nat'l. Spiritual Director, gave the homily; Fr. V. Martinkus sang a Lithuanian hymn; "Marija, Marija" was sung by St. Casimir's Choir; Rev. Donekian, pastor of St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church gave the Benediction. A coffee hour was held in the Fr. John Vaitekunas Hall.



Fr. Martinkus and Fr. Jurgelaitis attended the funeral Mass for Mary Miner at St. Casimir's Church in Worcester, Mass. We last saw Mary at Father Martinus' feast-day celebration in October. Our sincere condolences are extended to the Miner family.

Father Jurgelaitis, John Walaska, Ruta Krecioch, and John Stoskus attended the NED Executive Board meeting in Worcester. Dist. Pres. Al Jaritis conducted a very well organized business meeting. Father Miciunas and Father Uzdavyns took an active part in our deliberations. The district officers were treated to a delicious "pot luck" supper.

The Seniors held their Christmas party Dec. 10 at Greenville Inn. John Wilkens served as maitre'd.

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Denesevich were introduced as new members at our November Sr.'s meeting. We extend a sincere welcome to Peter and Helen.

Father Edmund Budrecki, MIC, entered Day-Kimball Hosp. in Putnam, Conn. on Nov. 13. We wish him well.

Our Regular council was officially re-activated on Oct. 28. Nat'l. Pres. Philip Skabeikis sent

them a letter congratulating them on their initiative. Their '79 slate of officers is as follows: Pres. Marcy Krecioch, Vice Pres. Ann Marie Statkus, Treas. Ann Krecioch, and Secy. Kathy Krecioch. They are starting out with ten members. Donna Kairys will be the new president of the Jrs. The Regulars intend to work actively with them. We wholeheartedly welcome them into the K of L family in Providence.

J.A.S.



**ILLINOIS-INDIANA  
DISTRICT**

Our Annual Mass for deceased members and their families was held Nov. 5, a High Mass at Nativity BVM Parish Church (home of C-112). Communion gifts were presented by Georgianne Kassel, Vincent Samaska, and Albert Dagus, representing the C-36-112,

Jrs., C-36, and C-112, resp. Following Mass, all met at Sharko's West Restaurant for a delicious brunch with kugelis, compliments of the host Don Sharko. IID Pres. Al Brazis conducted the memorial program. This was also the 5th anniversary of the deaths of two staunch K of L members, Albert Kassel and John Kilkus.

IID Membership Vice Pres. Sabina Klatt took the opportunity to present the IID's membership award, a beautiful Lithuanian motif wooden wall plaque, to winner Estelle Rogers of C-112.

The Beverly Country Club was the site of Rev. Adolfas Stašys' 50th Priesthood anniversary party. Dr. Leonas Kriaučeliūnas was the M.C. and many, many K of L members were in attendance. Hostess for the K of L group was Estelle Rogers, who provided pre-dinner cocktails, snacks and entertainment at her home. Father Stašys was the former Spiritual Advisor of C-12 (Town of Lake) and is presently a member of C-36.

Holy Cross Hospital's Annual "Candlelight Ball" was held at Niko's Banquet Hall with John (Whitey) Evans as Chairman and Tony Rudis Jr. and Dr. Leonas serving on the committee. This ball provides large sums for the benefit of the hospital.

The 44th Congress of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America was held in Chicago at the I.C. Parish Halls. Among the K of L representatives were Terry Strolia, Irene Sankus, Albert Zakarka, Sabina Klatt, Jerome Jankus, Rev. Urbonas, Antanas & Stephanie Jonutis, Dr. Joseph Jerome and Honorary Member Adele Gabalas.

Congratulations to Dr. Jerome on completing several successful terms as a LRCF national board member and best wishes to our new K of L reps. on the national board — Detroiters Bob Boris C-102 and Mike Vale C-79.



*A scene from a recent banquet the K of L attended: Ken Jaksy, K of L member and Alderman of Chicago's 15th Ward with Ann Marie Kassel, Irene Sankus, Estelle Rogers, Ellie Litvinas and Aldona Gyllys. Photo Jean Janula.*



Congratulations to Building Trustee Juozas Ramanauskas of the Chicago Seniors on his recent marriage to Julia Sacauskas, a noted Lithuanian club woman. We wish them many years of happiness.

Our Chicago K of L Dance group, headed by Frank Zapolis, again presented the Lithuanian Day program at the Museum of Science & Industry's Annual "Christmas Around the World" pageant. They were joined by the C-36-112 Jr.'s and the K of L Choir.

The second Convention committee meeting was held before the holidays and the General Chairman, Al Brazis, made further appointments. All in attendance discussed ways and means of providing an entertainment and diversified program for the Convention delegates at the most nominal cost possible. Wally Tenclinger accepted the position of Cultural evening chairman with Faustas Strolia co-chairing and organizing the entertainment; Irene Sankus and Gerrie Mockus will handle the English publicity; and Julie Zakarka agreed to chair the Sunday Brunch.

Dates to Remember — Feb. 4 "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet, AND Aug. 15-19 Nat'l. Convention, Radisson-Chicago Hotel, Chicago.  
LT 9900

#### C-112 - CHICAGO, ILL.

Congratulations to council member Estelle Rogers. She was the winner of the IID's Membership Drive for 1978. Her award was a beautiful Lithuanian motif wall plaque.

The IID Annual Memorial Mass was held at our home parish, Nativity BVM, with many council members in attendance. Vice Pres. Al Dagis represented our council in presenting the Communion gifts. Donald Sharko of Sharko's West (site of the memorial brunch) joined our council on the occasion.

Nativity BVM parish held its 1st Harvest Festival and our council was well represented, not only serving on the various committees, but also in manning one of the booths. Proceeds went to the school improvement fund. Pres. Al Zakarka was the official K of L representative on the parish committee and member Ken Jaksy (Alderman of the 15th Ward) was one of the workers.

The council officers and chairmen continue to meet to plan council activities. The last meeting of the year was held in the Dagus home in Oak Lawn with Ruth and Al as our congenial hosts.

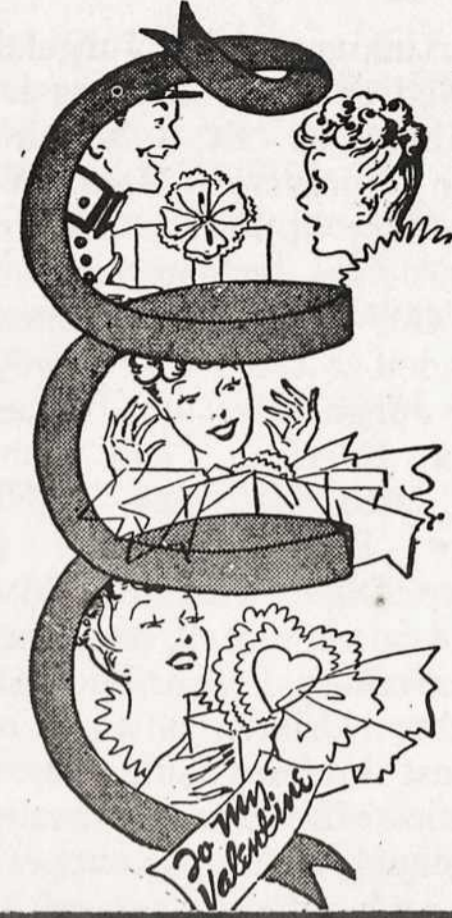
Belated wedding congratulations to Emilija & Alexandras Pakalniskis on their 33rd anniversary. Emilija is not only our council's Lithuanian correspondent, but also holds the same position in the Ill.-Ind. Dist., and is the Editor of the "Vyčių Veikla" column published weekly in DRAUGAS.

A snowy, blustery, cold-cold evening was the scene of our Christmas Party which was held at the Millionaire's Club, courtesy of Al Zakarka. The K of L group was in good voice and great spirits and enjoyed the evening as planned by one of our super hostesses, Julie Zakarka. It was pleasant way to start the holiday season, with good K of L friends, an evening of fun, frolic and dancing, and lots and lots of socializing!

Council members and friends saw in the New Year at the Svelnis' "Fireside Inn". Frank and Lorraine were delightful hosts and everyone enjoyed seeing in the New Year with K of L friends.

Council members, in addition to our own activities, are busily working on the IID's "Memories" Banquet, the July 4 Lithuanian Day, and, of course, the Nat'l. Convention, and are looking forward to meeting all friends and making new ones, too.

iks



#### MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

#### C-25 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

It's been a while — but we are back, alive and well, and raring to go! Officers for '79 are: Pres. Betty August; Vice Pres. Vic August; Rec. Secy. Alvina Luiza; Fin. Secy. Adele Svet; Treas. Jim Thompson; Trustees Frank Lucas and Ben Karklius; Connie Burns, Sunshine Girl; Peter Luiza, Lithuanian Affairs; Helen Jakubs, Cultural; Gene Kunsitis, Public Relations; Ursula Kunsitis, Ritual.

Outgoing Secretaries, Alice Karklius, Recording, and Joanna Shigo, Financial, did a fine job over the years — thanks, girls!

1978 was a "cruising" year for our council. Peter Luiza was a first-time participant on a wind-jammer cruise in New England this summer. He crewed and sailed and loved every moment. On the more luxurious side, Alice & Ben Karklius and Vic & Betty August had a great time on a So. American and Caribbean cruise in mid-October. Following right on their heels, Pete & Alvina Luiza cruised the Caribbean and are raring to go again. Their pictures looked great, just like "Love Boat".



The Jakubs, Bill, Helen & Barbara, enjoyed themselves on a combined business-pleasure trip to Atlanta and New Orleans this Fall.

A pre-Thanksgiving trip to the Grand Bahamas found Charlie & Nelda Machutas enjoying the beautiful Island, golf course and lovely weather.

A big Welcome Back Home, Mom, (Ursula Yankauskas) after a 13-week stay in the hospital.

Glad to hear Joe Laukiavich is well on the road to recovery after recent surgery. Al Shigo has a thing about hospitals — he spent a few days there again the end of November. Glad to report all is well once again.

Congratulations to Grace Derus upon receiving her Real Estate License in September. Grace is the third Real Estate Salesman in our council, joining Nelda & Charles Machutas in this honorable profession.

Elaine Stempuzis is now "Grandmother" Stempuzis. Her son, Sarunas, and his wife Ramune, presented her with granddaughter, Esthera Elena on Mar. 27. Congratulations are extended to the whole family.

Dates to keep in mind: Feb. 25 — Council-sponsored "Coffee Hour" at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Hall after the 10 A.M. Mass, and Mar. 18 — Card Party (brought back by popular demand) to be held at OLPH Hall.

Jim Thompson reports that bowling practice sessions will be held in Jan., Feb., March and April to enable non-bowling members in our council to whip into shape for the Mid-West Bowling Tournament this coming Spring.

Another member contemplating early retirement is Andy Skarnus. He and his wife, Vi, love to whip around the globe.

Missed at our meetings are Bruno & Agnes Bartkus, John & Helen Garnis, Joe & Doris Laukiavich, Andrew Palzes, Joe & Isabel Reedick, Frank & Eleanor Lucas,

Nellie & Al Samas and Andy & Vi Skarnus. Hope we will see your smiling faces in '79.

We wish all good health, happiness, and the best for 1979.

"Ursula"

#### C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

Mother Nature showered us with one of the most beautiful Fall seasons we have had in years, which brought us into the happy holiday season.

In preparation for the council's Annual Bazaar held at Dayton's Winter's Tower on Dec. 8, the following members hosted craft gatherings in their home or at the church hall... Al & Albina Wallis, Mary Lucas, Annadel & Sally Miller, Stefanija Rastikis, Ann Desko, Ada Sinkwitz, Eleanor & Chris Mantz. We thank one and all.

Our Jr. Knights, under the guidance of advisors Chris Mantz and Rita Ambrose, held their annual 'Country Store' on Nov. 11-12. With all the work they did, helped by parents and regular council members, the Jrs had to move their 'Store' from the meeting room out to the regular area of the church hall. We are very proud of them on the tremendous success of this project. Eloise Berczelly and Fran Petkus treated them to a luncheon on Nov. 4 during one of their craft class meetings.

We are pleased that Rev. Vaclovas Katarskis and Eloise Berczelly will remain on the council's Ritual staff. Chairperson of the Telephone Squad, Helen Vaitkus, has stated that the following members make up the balance of this vital committee for our council: Joyce Berczelly, Joan Kavalauskas, Eleanor Mantz, Veronica Omlor, Kitty Prasmantas, Albina Wallis and Josephine Zilinkas. Eleanor Mantz has volunteered to chair the important function of Public Relations.

We are pleased to announce that Karl & Helen Keivel have completed qualifications for the First Degree. Congratulations! A hearty welcome to rejoining member Ann Gitzinger and new members Bill Gitzinger and Cecelia Lisankis. Many happy, active years ahead!

Ray Steinbrunner very efficiently took charge this past term of our Special Dist. Fund Project. His efficiency won him the unanimous decision of council members to continue this project. Because of its tremendous success, half of the proceeds went to the MCD Treasury, with the other half going to our council's Annual Christmas Charity Project. Winners this past term from this monthly project were Mary Ann Blum, Harley Karns (3 times), Rev. V. Katarskis, Karl Keivel, Mary Lucas, Joe Mantz, Sally Miller, Fran Petkus, Judy Petrokas and Pat Smiley.

Belated congratulations to Chris Mantz who won the hanging plant, and Judy Petrokas who won the decorative table at our Sept. Card Party. Belated thanks to Charles Petkus, Joe Ryan and Joe Mantz for doing a fine job conducting the elections at our Election Night Dinner.

Back from spending the summer working in Syracuse is Michael F. Petkus. We were pleased to see Michael helping the Syracuse council with Convention chores. Of course, with Frank Petrauskas, 'adopted' brother to the Petkus', it was easy to do.

Sally & Annadel Miller, Ann Desko, Al & Albina Wallis, Steponas Bucmys, Cecelia Lisankis, Mrs. A. Seskevicius and others from the Dayton area attended the annual International Festival in Cincinnati on Nov. 18. They were most impressed with the newly formed Cincinnati Lithuanian Dance Group and seeing the Lithuanian youth taking charge of the Lithuanian Display Booths. Is there potential growth for C-134, Cincinnati?



Did you know that George Mikalauskas has designed and constructed a Lithuanian hand-crafted, solid walnut crucifix which was placed with honor above the tabernacle at Our Lady of Mercy Church? Al Wallis has donated Ruta plants which will make their way to Rochester, N.Y. via Cincinnati, Ohio.

Get well wishes are sent to Mary Lucas and also to mothers of our members, Mrs. Anna Ambrose and Mrs. E. Wilemaitis. Good to see Mrs. Marija Gudaitienė doing so well.

Our own Jim & Joan Kavalauskas chaired a most successful dance for the Lithuanian Club recently. John A. Berczelly had a First in his life recently, an airplane ride, heading for Detroit with Joyce on a business trip.

We congratulate Barbara Barrett who, after 15 years of teaching Science, will be giving this up to pursue the scholarship she received to the Univ. of Dayton to study Chemistry Engineering. This one-year program, Fast Track II, is funded by the Nat'l. Science Foundation for qualified women in the U.S.

With our new Pope, John Paul II, knowing and understanding the plight of those behind the Iron Curtain, we pray we may see some changes ahead for Lithuania and the other Captive Nations.

FBP

#### C-79 - SOUTHFIELD, MICH.

Tucked in memories, our Lith. Cultural Center was the focal spot for the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the building of the new Divine Providence Parish, which took place amid jubilation and lots of friendliness on Sept. 30. There was a good representation of our Knights.

Highlighting the evening was the presence of Rev. Fr. Michael Kundrat, former pastor of Div. Prov., whose guidance and leader-

ship prevailed during the many meetings and planning stages of the parish. Our council was instrumental in a leading role for the continuation of the church. A Building Committee was formulated and 6 members, Dr. A. Damašis, the late Ralph Valatka, Tony Dainus, Frank Zager, Jos. Chaps and the late Jos. Kazlauskas, met with John Cardinal Dearden that finally materialized in the construction of the new Parish. Consequently, there were some "diehard" believers that "it could never be done". However, loaded with determination, Frank Zager set up a parish meeting in the presence of Bishop Gumbleton that transpired to a "standing room" crowd and winged an informative and enthusiastic audience. Due to limited writing space, there were (and are) numerous people who have dedicated work, time and made monetary sacrifices.

"Amazing" was the key word as everyone admired the progress made in a span of 5 short years such as: lawn planted & land-

scaped with evergreens, trees and lovely shrubbery; rectory repainted; kitchen tiled in Cultural Center; new stoves and other equipment installed; a beautiful Social Hall built, decorated and equipped with a handsome bar, new chairs & tables, carpeting, and windows draped in silver Venetian blinds. All this was done, and our thanks goes to Mrs. Vanda Majauskas & everyone responsible for beautifying the Center. The Lith. Wayside Cross was contributed by our council Knights.

Along with everything else came a new pastor. On Jan. 1, 1975, Rev. Fr. Victor Kriščiunevičius graciously assumed duties and leadership of "his flock" at Divine Providence. Although our former pastor, Fr. Kundrat, was appointed to the small church of All Saints in Memphis, Mich., he keeps a keen interest in the stride of Div. Providence and attends many activities when he can.

Labai ačiū to others who maintain interest, give time and work, among those being Tony Dainus, G. & M. Kase, Mike Vale, Eliz.



*Two C-79 members — Stella Hotra and Elizabeth Paurazas are presented with certificates & medals for volunteer work in Lith. Community Affairs. Mrs. Hotra was honored for cultural activities, & Mrs. Paurazas for work in BALF. Awarded by — Vincas Tamošiūnas & Leonardas Šulpas of National Guard of Lithuania in Exile.*



Paurazas, Jos. Panavas, and Stella Hotra (one of the members of Liturgical Com.), as well as the K of L members of the Sunday Coffee Social.

Echoes of shock and disbelief prevailed amidst members, relatives and friends upon the sad news of the sudden death of our member Ralph Valatka, Sr., on Nov. 25. He was stricken with a massive coronary following a wedding reception. Although his wife Ann desperately tried to get him to a hospital in time, it became evident that his life ebbed away.

Ralph was a very active man. Among his main interests were music, fishing and mushroom picking. He was the director of the Lith. Melodies program which had him "going" for 30 years. Ralph headlined practically every Lith. organizational activity among which included the Am. Lith. Roman Catholic Federation, LRKSA, United Relief Fund, DLOC, Am. Lith. Journalists, and member of the Catholic War Veterans. The list is endless.

From 1943 to 1945, Ralph served with the U.S. Navy. Following WW-II, he extended necessary sponsorship in bringing the Lithuanian refugees to the U.S.

Ralph and his wife, Ann, were among a small but dedicated group of organizers who reactivated our council in 1959.

His dedication on the Planning & Building Committee of the new Divine Providence Church was among his many strong contributions. He cultivated his ideas and perseverance into what he believed. Though he will not be found in any city archives or histories, he was an "institution" in the Lithuanian Community.

As a Wayne County Insurance Benefit Supervisor, he retired after employment of 30 years. He shared his short retirement during the winter months in Florida and enjoyed the summer months in the north woods of Lake Michigan.

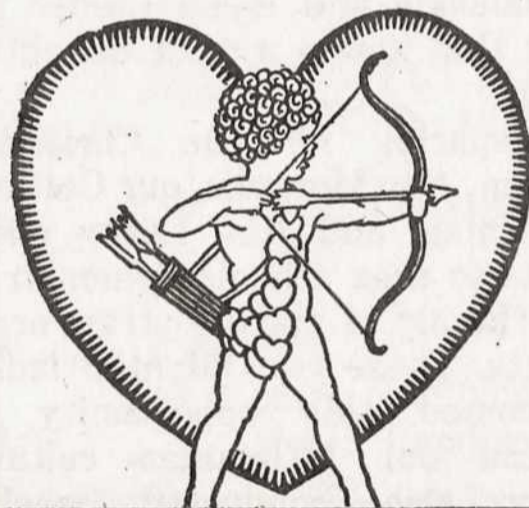
Listeners of his radio program would enjoy his wit and humor, and deep love for his Lithuanian heritage. Often he would be heard humming to the lovely tune of "Elenos" (or Elenutės) polka, whose lyrics he composed and dedicated to his beloved wife, Ann.

Somewhere... sometime... someplace, Ralph may be humming those familiar phrases and praises in appreciation of his wife's gallant deeds. May the dear Lord now give Ann the strength, faith and guidance as she takes life anew. Eternal Rest be granted unto Ralph. Our condolences to Ralph Jr. & family.

Sophie Bitner has taken up her "roots" and moved to the Dayton area to be near her daughter, Peggy and family. Daug sėkmės, and hope you keep in touch.

Congratulations to Alice Burt who has become a great-grandmother for the 12th time. She even managed to attend the christening in Wisconsin where the family clan gathered, which numbers a lot!

Soffi



**MID-ATLANTIC  
DISTRICT**

**C-3 - PHILADELPHIA, PA.**

Hi from Philadelphia! We hope, all our friends had a wonderful holiday season.

Our council has been very busy for the last few months. In October we conducted our 3rd Annual Lithuanian Bazaar. As in the past, we had a tremendous turnout. St. Casimir's Hall is being renovated,

but nobody seemed to mind with the various sales booths, the Lithuanian display, and all kinds of goodies to eat and drink. A real round of applause goes to Agnes Mickunas, our Chairlady, and an extra ačiū to our "friends of the K of L" who worked at this event.

Pres. Dianne Drumstas has been extremely busy in revamping our C-3 style. We can now boast of 14 new members since October. Since attendance at the meetings are larger in numbers, we are now holding them at the newly remodeled Lithuanian Music Hall. The Hall Association has a real Lithuanian kitchen that serves Sunday dinner. How nice for us... we've been having our dinner, conducting our meeting, and then a night cap.

In November our council participated in a Lithuanian Festival at the Lith. Music Hall. Twelve Lith. organizations were represented. Our sales booth did a tremendous business, and our K of L informational booth was equally as busy. We made some interesting friends and some very active new members. The festival lasted for three days with lots of sales, music, dancing, and visits from friends from Shenandoah, Port Carbon, Mahanoy City, Frackville, New York City, and, of course, "there is no party without MARTY" (Rusgi of Bayonne, N.J.). Next year, everyone — the ads will be out well in advance — come to Philadelphia for that weekend. Take it from Brother George and John Adomenas of Maspeth, N.Y., who'll direct you to their HOLIDAY INN.

Our December meeting was very interesting and lively. Joe Yanulaitis (Mr. Lithuanian culture) explained in detail the customs of Kūčios as well as bringing plotkėles to the new members.

See you in Scranton for St. Casimir's Day.

Joe D.



## C-144 - ANTHRACITE, PA.

Our Oct. 4 meeting was preceded by Mass celebrated in the Annunciation B.V.M. Church of Frackville by its pastor, the Rev. Algimantas Bartkus, who is also our Spiritual Advisor. Immediately following Mass, the officers for the coming year were installed during a very impressive ceremony which was written and conducted by our most capable Ritual Chm., Helen Chesko of Mahanoy City. Our sincerest best wishes for a most successful year to the following newly installed officers: Pres. Ann K. Wargo; 1st Vice Pres., membership, Elsie Kosmisky; 2nd Vice Pres., Jr. Counselors, Rita Shevokas and Tessie Balulis; Secy. Bernice Mikatavage; Treas. Evelyn Prep; Fin. Secy. Ann Marie Litkowsky; Trustees Eleanor Vaicaitis and George Bruzgas.

Congratulations were offered to the clergy, past committee chairmen, choir members and all other members of the council who contributed to the success of our many projects throughout the year.

Helen Chesko was assisted by John Koons in presenting gifts to our Spiritual Advisor and to the past officers to show our very special thanks and warmest appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

A blessing bestowed upon the new officers by Father Al concluded the ceremony, after which the membership moved on to the parish hall for its regular monthly meeting.

Elsie Kosmisky, our own tour director who arranged the transportation and other details, announced that the Baltic-American Heritage Festival at the Garden State Arts Center was attended by 50 members. Everybody was favorably impressed by the Festival and reported they were especially proud of the Lithuanian

portion of the program.

The Lithuanian Affairs Committee, chaired by Bernice Mickatavage and Ann Panchari, has been working especially hard. Members have been meeting several times a month for the primary purpose of writing letters. They have written numerous letters to prisoners of conscience, and to congressmen and committee members urging them to support our cry for human rights in Lithuania. They have also compiled a bulletin containing names and addresses of persons who could be helpful to our cause. Ann Panchari presented copies of the bulletin to the members with the urgent plea to join in the letter writing campaign. She reminded us that Dec. 10 was Human Rights Day, a special day to remember our Lithuanian Prisoners of Conscience.

Several of our members were fortunate to attend the testimonial dinner for Anthony Mazeika on Oct. 15. Stanley & Eleanor Vaicaitis, Ann Marie Litkowsky, Flo Kobaluskie and Alma Linder report that it was a most delightful affair.

Preparing for the Christmas season, Ann Morgalis, our Cultural Chairman, and Ann Lesky made visits to area schools demonstrating the art of making straw ornaments. These two talented ladies welcomed this opportunity to spread our Lithuanian culture. They also conducted weekly classes for members interested in learning how to make the Christmas ornaments.

Pres. Wargo announced that our council had been invited to participate in the Schuylkill County for the Arts Christmas Fair Dec. 17-23. Anne Morgalis was in charge of the display which featured a live tree decorated with natural straw ornaments. A table was set for "Kūčios" and an explanation of the Lithuanian Christmas customs was presented.

Our annual "Kūčios" was held in Mount Carmel Dec. 10. Valeria Delaney was chairman, with the committee consisting of Mount Carmel's members.

EV

## C-140 - SYRACUSE, N.Y.

They said it couldn't be done, but we did it. "Upstate in '78 — Syracuse" is now history. Everybody had a good time because it turned out to be a very good Convention. Our little council is now on the Lithuanian map.

Our council has a lot for which to be thankful. Many fine people came here to support us and to enjoy with us. We visited with friends from years past and made many new friendships. It was a very rewarding Convention for all concerned.

It again proved the point that an individual council can put on a Convention, and even a smaller council, providing you have some hard workers who aren't afraid to work and sacrifice. Our council is blest with a good nucleus of hard workers.

As soon as we took care of all of the Convention business, we turned our attention toward the annual Festival of Nations. This is a big weekend affair for our council. Dave Peterson was chairman this year and did a fine job.

We again sold potato pancakes and mushroom-shaped cookies. Again we were successful, as people lined up in front of our booth on both days. We could not serve them fast enough. Nine bushels of potatoes were consumed.

A beautiful sight to behold was our gang peeling and grating potatoes and mixing up the batter in Irene Petrauskas' kitchen. This is togetherness.

Our exhibit was the handiwork of Marge Migonis. She was able to get enough items from the local



people and arranged a very nice display. The theme was "Lithuania, Our Roots".

We extend a very warm welcome to two future members. Christine Marie was born to Holly & Dave Peterson and Jennifer Ann born to Chris & Jim Czyz. Both of the proud couples are members of our council.

Another warm welcome is extended to four new members, Marija Vizgaitis and her son Victor, Ann Marie Brandt, and Kathy Petrauskas. They were a big help during our Convention.

Council officers for '79 will be: Spiritual Advisor Rev. Bernard Garstka, Pres. Frank Petrauskas, Vice Pres. Joseph Marcaitis, Secy. Marge Migonis, Fin. Secy. Victor Johnson.

We give you our parting thought: A successful person is one who works today with one eye to the past and the other eye to the future.

Pusbrolis

**FLASH...**

**FLASH...**

**FLASH...**

**NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS** desiring to learn or better their knowledge of the Lithuanian Language are invited to register for a new **LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE CLASS** to be taught as part of the Adult Education Program of Linden High School.

The class, to be taught by C-79 member Danguole Didzbalis, will begin Monday, Mar. 5, and continue Monday evenings until May 14, 1979. Registration fee is \$12.00. For more information, contact Linden High School, Linden, N.J., or Mrs. D. Didzbalis, 1912 Essex Ave., Linden, N.J. 07036.

## K OF L CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

- 3 C-29, Newark, ANNUAL BARN DANCE, Holy Trinity Hall, Newark.
- 4 IID ANNUAL "MEMORIES OF LITHUANIA" DINNER DANCE, Chicago, Ill.
- 23 Čiurlionis Ensemble of Cleveland, Ohio Concert, 2:30 P.M., at Victory Theatre, Dayton, Ohio. Kankles Mass at 1:00 P.M. at Holy Cross Church.
- 25 C-25, Cleveland, COFFEE HOUR, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, after 10:00 Mass.

### MARCH

- 4 C-29, Newark, ST. CASIMIR'S DAY MASS and BREAKFAST Holy Trinity Church and Hall, Newark, N.J.
- 4 C-12 New York Communion Breakfast, Our Lady of Vilnius Church, Rev. George Gurinskas Parish Hall, New York, N.Y.
- 11 M.A.D. St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast and Meeting, St. Joseph's Church, 1627 N. Main Avenue (North) Scranton, Pa.

### MAY

- 18-20 MIDWEST BOWLING TOURNAMENT, Dayton, Ohio, C-96, Hosts.
- 19 MCD Convention, Holy Cross Church, Dayton, Ohio

### AUGUST

- 16-19 66th NATIONAL K OF L CONVENTION, Hotel Raddison-Chicago, Chicago, Ill. IID Hosts.

### NOVEMBER

- 3 C-12 New York, 65th Anniversary Dinner and Dance, Our Lady of Vilnius, Rev. George Gurinskas Parish Hall, New York, N.Y.



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DEPART	RETURN	GROUP 30	G.I.T.	CITIES AND NIGHTS
Dec. 22	Jan. 05	\$1049.00	(Apex Fare)	Vilnius 5, Warsaw 3, Leningrad 3, Moscow 2
Mar. 05	Mar. 15	\$ 779.00	\$849.00	Vilnius 5, Warsaw 2
Mar. 22	Mar. 31	\$ 849.00	\$899.00	Vilnius 5, Moscow 2, Copenhagen 1
Apr. 12	Apr. 21	\$ 849.00	\$899.00	Vilnius 5, Moscow 2, Copenhagen 1
Apr. 23	May 03	\$ 849.00	\$899.00	Vilnius 5, Warsaw 2
May 03	May 12	\$ 849.00	\$899.00	Vilnius 5, Moscow 2, Copenhagen 1
May 14	May 24	\$ 849.00	\$899.00	Vilnius 5, Warsaw 2
May 24	June 02	\$ 899.00	(Group 30 fare)	Vilnius 5, Moscow 2, Copenhagen 1
June 14	June 23	\$ 899.00	(Group 30 fare)	Vilnius 5, Moscow 2, Copenhagen 1
June 26	July 10	\$1249.00	(Super apex fare)	Vilnius 5, Warsaw 5, Kiev 3, Copenhagen 1
July 04	July 19	\$1199.00	(Super apex fare)	Vilnius 5, Riga 3, Leningrad 3, Moscow 2, Copenhagen 1
July 24	Aug. 07	\$1249.00	(Super apex fare)	Vilnius 5, Rome 5, Moscow 3
Aug. 08	Aug. 24	\$1199.00	(Super apex fare)	Vilnius 5, Riga 3, Leningrad 3, Moscow 2, Copenhagen 1
Aug. 21	Sept. 05	\$1249.00	(Super apex fare)	Vilnius 5, Warsaw 5, Kiev 3, Copenhagen 1
Sept. 06	Sept. 15	\$ 849.00	(Group 30 fare)	Vilnius 5, Moscow 2, Copenhagen 1
Sept. 20	Sept. 29	\$ 849.00	\$899.00	Vilnius 5, Moscow 2, Copenhagen 1
Oct. 15	Oct. 25	\$ 779.00	\$849.00	Vilnius 5, Warsaw 2

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