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LAPKRITIS - NOVEMBER 1979

VOL. 65 - No. 9

Holy Father Pope John Paul II at the elevation of
his Holy Mass at 5 Holy Martyrs Parish Church,
Chicago
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 **V Y T I S**

• 1979 •

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LAPKRITIS - NOVEMBER

the KNIGHT
VYTIS

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K of L-ers REFLECT ON THE AMERICAN VISIT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

by Loretta Stukas & others

Perhaps no event of the past few decades has had a more profound emotional and religious effect on American Christians as the recent visit of our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. He reached out to — and touched the young, the old, the handicapped . . . the rich and the poor . . . the priests, religious and laity. He visited America's bustling metropolises, its rural countrysides, and its decaying slums. Everywhere, he left an indelible mark, inspiring all who saw or heard him to draw closer to God, to ponder their priorities, and to rise above the day-to-day troubles, worries, disappointments.

For Lithuanian-Americans, his visit was especially meaningful. As Americans, we shared the joy of our fellow citizens in welcoming the Vicar of Christ to "America the Beautiful" . . . as Lithuanians, we experienced a special closeness, because of the Holy Father's history of expressed care and concern for our less fortunate brothers and sisters of the suffering church in Lithuania.

K of L-ers were part of most of the audiences greeting the Pope as he traveled through the country. To try to capture at least a few moments from the various Papal appearances, we contacted K of L-ers who participated and asked that they share a few of their experiences with our readers.

BOSTON

Massachusetts Lithuanians, led primarily by K of L-ers from C-1, Brockton, and C-17, C-17 Srs., and C-17 Jrs., South Boston, elected to greet the Holy Father in South Boston, along his route to the Boston Commons for Mass.

Choosing a prominent site on the Papal Motorcade route, over 200 Lithuanians, primarily from the K of L and from St. Peter's Lithuanian Church in South Boston, gathered early, and lined up on both sides of the street.

That the group was noticed there is no doubt! Ladies and children were dressed in Lithuanian costume, the street was lined with colorful flowers, and attendees carried Lithuanian and Papal Flags, banners and signs stating "Lithuanians Love the Pope" and "Garbė Jėzui Kristui" . . . The Parish CYO Band was also present, to provide music as the motorcade passed.

Although the sight of the Pope was brief — it was a moment that will be remembered for a lifetime! The pouring rain was hardly noticed!

After the entourage passed, Lithuanians gathered at St. Peter's Hall to warm up and exchange excitement and impressions.

At the Mass at the Boston Commons, C-17 Juniors President Adele Martus was among those privileged to receive Holy Communion from the Holy Father's own hand! Adele, we trust, will share her experiences with other Juniors in a later issue of VYTIS.

Bostonian Lithuanians also greeted Pope John Paul II in writing, sending hundreds of letters of greeting and affection to him, via the Cardinal's residence in Boston.

Sincerest thanks to Father A. Jurgelaitis for sharing this information with our readers.

New York

Your editor was most fortunate to receive a ticket to the Papal Mass at Yankee Stadium, a ticket to an experience of a lifetime.

Yankee Stadium, in the Bronx, N.Y., was never known as a place of sedate meditation or organized quiet. But the solemnity of this occasion brought its own reward!

Arriving several hours early with other parishioners of New Jersey Lithuanian parishes, we were instantly struck by the courtesy and orderliness of the crowd of some 80,000, and even of the "hawkers" selling photos, banners and other memorabilia of the Papal Visit. Strangers smiled at one another, helped each other, and quietly but excitedly filed to their assigned places. The presence of so many of "New York's Finest", — the police — also silently told of the awesomeness of the occasion.

As the moment of the Holy Father's arrival drew near, excitement grew in intensity, and exploded into applause and cheers as Pope John Paul II entered the stadium. As he circled the stadium in his specially built "Pope-mobile", offering gestures of friendship, love and caring, to his cheering public, one could not help but feel the presence of a person truly a Vicar of Christ, sent by God with a mission of bringing calm and peace to a world wracked with turmoil and unrest. At once, he could be anyone's dear father, benevolent uncle, kindly pastor or dearest friend.

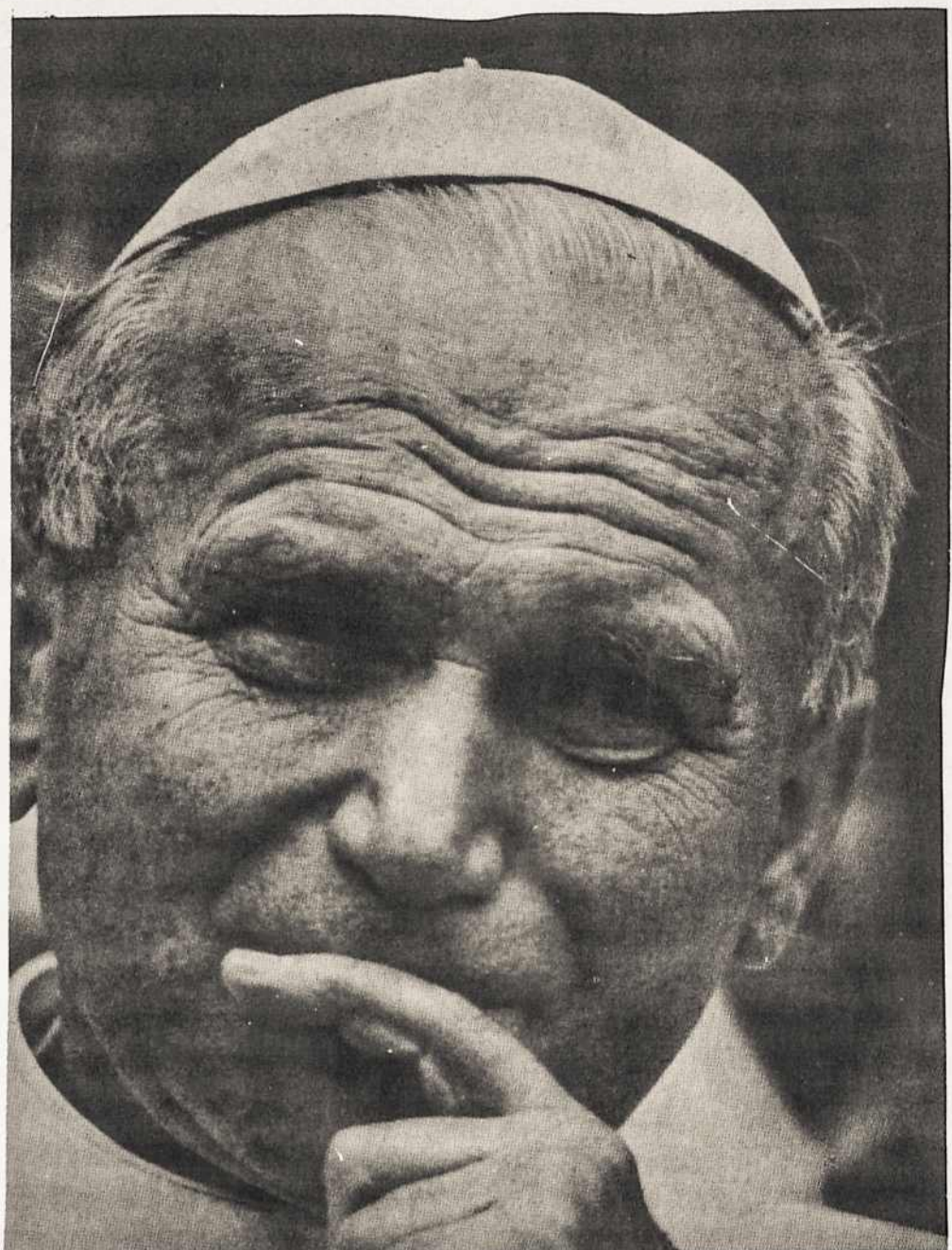
Cheers turned into subdued reverence as Mass began, at the great altar, set in the center of the field, in full view of all attending.

During his homily, Pope John Paul II stressed the importance of using America's great wealth and resources nationally and personally to assist those less fortunate. He greeted Americans warmly and urged them to stay close to Christ.

About 150 people received Holy Communion directly from the Holy Father. Others received from priests dispatched very efficiently to all sections of the stadium. Among the priests distributing Communion were K of L-ers Rev. Dominic Pocius (C-90) and Rev. Al Matulis (C-67).

The Mass was accented by the beautiful singing of the choir, made up of select members of various parish choirs of the area. K of L-er Genevieve Mazur, C-90 WAS PART OF THE GROUP, AND Alice Maleski was one of the organists. The congregation joined in singing parts of the Mass, making the service one of full participation.

After Mass, the Pope again circled the field, again accompanied by enthusiastic cheers and shouts of "Long Live the Pope". The visit ended with a silent prayer and more choruses of "Holy God We Praise Thy



Joannes Paulus pp II

Name", and the crowd filed out as quietly as they had arrived — but much richer for the experience.

The entire experience left your editor awed by the magnitude of the event, and proud to be Catholic and American, for the beauty and tasteful organization of the event.

On Wednesday in N.Y., the Pope visited with Catholic teenagers in Madison Square Garden — and many C-110 Juniors were in the audience.

The Holy Father's farewell (to N.Y.) visit at Shea Stadium, Brooklyn, New York, included special prayers and hymns, including the Lourdes Pilgrim Hymn sung in several languages. Soloists Astra Butkus and Irene Stankunas Silva, dressed in National Costume, sang a verse of the hymn in Lithuanian.

The audience awaiting the Pope at Shea were literally soaked from the day's pouring rain. But as the Pontiff stepped from his limousine onto the field, almost instantly the rain stopped, the sky turned blue, and the sun began to shine. All present were awed! As newscasters reported, "... we're not saying it was a miracle ... but we're not saying it wasn't!"

Philadelphia

Numerous C-3 members were in the congregation for the Papal Mass on the Mall in downtown Philadelphia. Two people were especially moved as they attended. Joe Yanulaitis and Helen Shields had just returned from a visit to Lithuania, where their relatives and friends asked countless questions about the Holy Father and expressed their almost impossible longing to see him for themselves. For Helen and Joe, it was as if they represented the faithful they had just left behind in Lithuania. They offered prayers in their own and their relatives names, and vowed to someday share this rare experience with them.

Chicago

Chicago Lithuanians could be found at all points of the Papal tour through the "Windy City". K of L-er Wally Tenclinger (C-36) and countless Brighton Parkers participated in the Mass at Five Holy Martyrs Church, and stood along his route through their neighborhood. In Marquette Park ("Lithuanian Plaza"), Lithuanians lined the route, dressed in Lithuanian costume, and again greeted the Pope as he passed. Chicago Lithuanians, through Cardinal Cody, presented the Holy Father with a gift — an amber-studded

picture of Our Lady of Vilnius. Bishop Brizgys had the opportunity to visit with the Holy Father in a small group, and shares some of his experiences in Lithuanian, elsewhere in this issue.

During the Papal Mass at Grant Park, Pope John Paul II greeted Lithuanians with a special message, as printed on this issue's cover. Ann Marie & George Kassel (C-36 & C-36/112 Jrs.), Terry Strolia (C-36), Julie Zakarka (C-112) and others were seen or heard on TV or radio coverage of the event.

Ann Marie Kassel shares her impressions of her participation in the visit as follows:

The K of L Choir was invited by Rev. Zakarauskas, pastor of Nativity BVM Parish, to join with his choir in singing part of the pre-Mass program at Grant Park on the day of the Papal Mass there. Various other ethnic groups — German, Vietnamese, Mexican, African, Polish, etc. also participated, each in national costume, each singing hymns in their own language.

Some 21 K of L-ers participated with members of the Dainava, Šiauliai, Chicago Opera Chorus and the Nativity Choir. Scheduled to sing 3 Lithuanian Hymns at noon, we arrived at 10:00 P.M. and were amazed at the crowds already there.



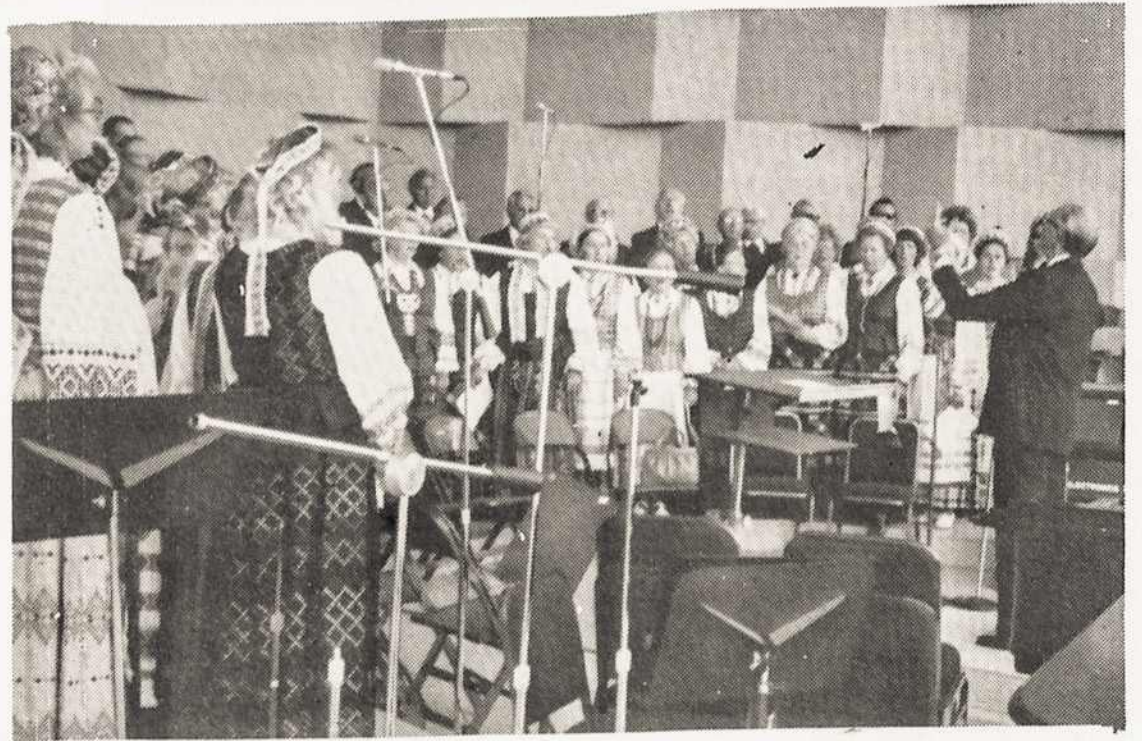
A crowd of 1 1/2 million at the Papal Mass at Grant Park





In preparation for the event, we were reminded that this was a true pilgrimage, and we should be prepared for some suffering — a long day of standing, walking, lack of food. But for us, nothing could be more important than being at Grant Park that day!

After singing, the excitement began building as the time for the Papal arrival approached. The 1 1/2 million people waited patiently without any of the usual "mob scene" behavior. The people surged forward as the Holy Father began Mass. Imagine our joy when the began his homily with "Sveikiname brolius lietuvius" . . . After asking Lithuanians to be especially loyal to Mary and their fatherland, Pope John Paul II spoke to Chicagoans about unity with all Christians and all peoples. Many of our Lithuanian priests were privileged to be among the 600 priests distributing Holy Communion. Because we were part of the performing group, we were all able to receive Communion near the altar.



Everyone went home uplifted, with thoughts about our Holy Father and our participation in the Missionary Church. We heard many comments from other participants that Pope John Paul II is a shepherd to all Christians, and has truly been sent to us at this time for a special purpose.

A. M. K.



All photos on this page by J. Janula

Washington, D. C.

Knights of Lithuanian National President Philip Skabeikis and his wife Marian, editor of the Lithuanian Affairs Bulletin "Lithuanian Lifeline" attended the White House Reception for Pope John Paul II on Saturday October 6, at President and Mrs. Carter's invitation.

Other K of L-ers in attendance were Rev. Casimir Pugevičius, Lithuanian Affairs Chariman and Dr. Leonas Kriaučeliūnas, Vice-president and K of L representative to the Lithuanian American Council Executive Board.

Phil reported the group's awe, with the feeling of the American spirit wedded with a heavenly spirit during this visit of the Holy Father on White House grounds.

Of the Pope himself, Phil felt he seemed to be a poet, philosopher and pastor all in one. When he spoke, in very intelligible English, his message was profound, and his manner such that he had his audience in the palm of his hand.

The crowd in Washington, although much more reserved than those elsewhere, was nonetheless deeply moved.

As the Holy Father moved through the crowd, a press of humanity reached out to touch or at least greet this remarkable man. All attending could not help but feel a renewed religious spirit, and a sense of pride in their country for inviting Pope John Paul II.

We cannot report on the Pope's visit without mention of an outstanding Lithuanian-American in his entourage. Bishop Marcinkus, formerly of Cicero, Ill., was always a few steps in front of the Pontiff — clearing the way for him, trying (aganist all odds) to keep him on schedule, and carefully guarding him. It was the Bishop who arranged the trip's scheduling, and saw it to fruition!



Natl. President P. Skabeikis (foreground) at Papal Reception at the White House.

This has been but a snapshot report of an unforgettable week! All should agree that whoever saw the Holy Father and felt his presence in person, on TV, or from media reports cannot deny that Pope John Paul II is truly a very special Man of God!

Ed. note My sincerest thanks to all who helped me hurriedly to prepare this story, with their information, impressions, photos. Special thanks go to Bishop V. Brizgys, Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P., Rev. Peter Cinikas, MIC, Ann Marie Kassel, Phil Skabeikis, Helen Shields and John Janula. More news and photos will appear in future issues as they become available



ŠVENTA TĒVA, SUSITIKUS

Vyskupui Vincentui Brizgiui buvo susidariusi proga dalyvauti Šv. Tėvo apsilankymo proga suruoštose iškilmėse. Šiame pasikalbėjime jis išreiškia savo įspūdžius VYTIES redaktorei.

Ar Chicagoje susitikote su P. Jonu Paulium II?

Buvau komitete sutikti Šventąjį Tėvą, taigi teko būti kartu su tais, kurie pasitiko Šventąjį Tėvą prie orlaivio atvykusį į Chicagą. Tą patį vakarą dalyvavau Šv. Vardo Katedroje, kur Šventasis Tėvas kalbėjo kunigams ir seselėms vienuolėms, paskui kartu su kitais dalyvavau Šv. Petro bažnyčioje, kur Šv. Tėvas kalbėjo kunigams ir broliams vienuoliams.

Sekančią dieną — penktadienį dalyvavau Quigley South seminarijoje Amerikos vyskupų sesijoje ir pietuose kartu su Šv. Tėvu ir visais vyskupais. Paskui koncertavau šv. Mišias Grant Parke, o po to buvau J.E. kardinolo J. P. Cody pakviestas su mažu būreliu dalyvauti jo rezidencijoje vakarienėje.

Ar teko Chicagoje kalbėtis su Šventuoju Tėvu?

Tokiomis progomis ir tokioje pilnoje programoje paprastai ne vieta ir ne laikas kuriam nors vienam asmeniui kalbėtis su taip aukštu svečiu. Man tačiau teko trumpai asmeniškai pasikalbėti.

Ar Šventasis Tėvas parodė kokio nors dėmesio Chicagos lietuviams, ar turėjo progos matyti kurias nors lietuvių institucijas?

Su Šventuoju Tėvu tik apie tai ir kalbėjausi.

Programa buvo tokia, kad Šventasis Tėvas neamte Chicagoje nė žymesnių bažnyčių ar institucijų, nematė kunigų seminarijų, neužsuko pravažiuoti pro ukrainiečių katalikų katedrą, nes tvarkantieji Chicagos programą neturėjo laiko patenkinti tuos prašymus. Šventasis Tėvas pats man užsiminė apie lietuvių grupę laukusią Marquette Parke California gatvėje ir teiravosi apie ten esančias institucijas. Ta proga painformavau apie Marijos mokyklą — Maria High School, apie Švento Kryžiaus ligoninę.

Ar Šventojo Tėvo pasveikinimas lietuviams Grant Park mišių pradžioje buvo jo paties ar kieno kito iniciatyva?

Esu liudininkas, kad tai įvyko paties Šventojo Tėvo iniciatyva. Jis pavedė kitiems tik parašyti lietuviškai jo paties žodžius.

Ar Šventasis Tėvas kalba lietuviškai?

Nekalba. Šia proga pareikšiu savo asmeninę nuomonę, kad gandas būk Šventojo Tėvo motina buvusi lietuvė ar nors lietuvių kilmės, vargiai turi pagrindo. Šventojo Tėvo motina Emilija Mrovzkowska — mokytoja — gimė toje pat pietinės Lenkijos apylinkėje kur ir pats Karol Woityla — P. Jonas Paulius II.



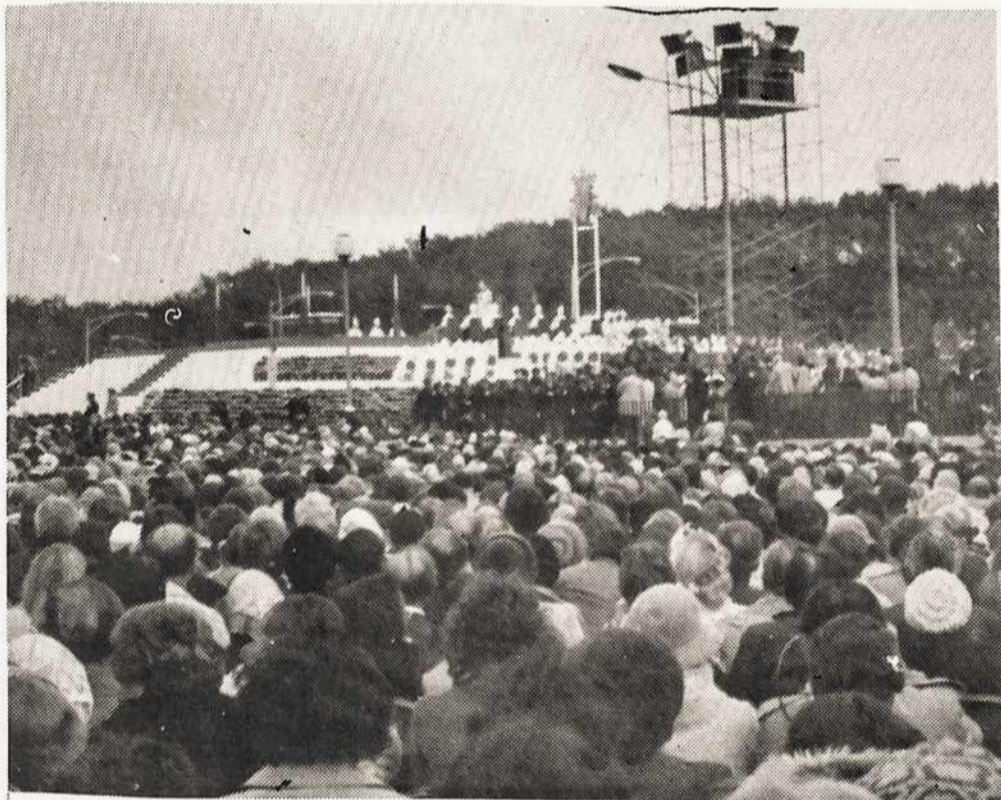
**Šv. Tėvas tarp lietuvių Chicagos Marquette Parke
Foto L. Meilus**

Ar Šventasis Tėvas davė patarimų Amerikos lietuviams, kaip geriau praktikuoti savo tikėjimą?

Šventasis Tėvas kalbėjo ne atskiroms grupėms, o visiems Amerikos katalikams, arba kaikada visiems žmonėms. Manau, kad šios jo kalbos bus Amerikoje išleistos visos viename leidinyje. Be abejo, tokį leidinį įsigytų daugelis ir nekatalikų, o katalikams reiktų labiau negu kitiems tokį leidinį turėti ir gerai įsiskaityti. Jo keli žodžiai lietuviams yra labai turiningi: būti ištikimais Kristui, Bažnyčiai, savos tautos kilnioms tradicijoms, būti vertais Šv. Marijos globos.

Ar Šventasis Tėvas davė kokių patarimų liečiančių Bažnyčią Lietuvoje?

Šventasis Tėvas lankė Amerikos katalikus. Kas sekėte jo dienas ir kalbas Amerikoje, tai pastebėjote, kad kokioms nors privačioms audiencijoms, grupėms, ar asmenims nebuvo nė laiko nė progų.



Šv. Tėvo Mišios Grant Parke

Foto J. Janula



Minios laukia Šv. Tėvo - 67th ir California gatvė, Chicagoje, prie Maria Aušt. Mokyklos. Priekyje sėdi Lietuvos konsulė J. Daužvardienė (3-čia nuo dešinės) ir kiti lietuviai

Kokių įspūdžių paliko Šventasis Tėvas Chicagos lietuviams?

Jeigu kas imtų apklausinėti pavienius sutinkamus lietuvius, galėtų išgirsti visokių atsakymų, kaip ir iš kitų gyventojų. Vieni iš viso buvo priešingi jo lankymuisi Amerikoje, kiti net kovojo prieš tai, kam leidžiama Popiežiui ir miniai rinktis ne privačiose vietose maldai, kiti nepatenkinti, kad nepravažiavo pro jų bažnyčią, kad nesustojo ten, kur žmonės laukė (o pats mačiau, kad minios buvo nuo aerodromo iki miesto, miesto gatvėse visur, kur tik Šventasis Tėvas važiavo, kad pro visus lėtai pravažiuoti, sustovinėti, reiktų bent savaitės laiko). Bendras tačiau įspūdis net ir nekatalikų yra toks, kad žmonės patys neranda žodžių, kaip savo įspūdžius išreikšti.

ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

FOR

DECEASED MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

AND

Kof L BENEFACTOR - DAN KURAITIS

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 25, 1979

**11:15 A.M. Mass, Immaculate Conception Church
44th and So. California, Chicago**

**Program and luncheon following at
Diamondhead Restaurant**

400 metų VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETUI



Šių metų spalio 30 dieną Vilniaus Universitetas švenčia savo veiklos 400 metų sukaktį. Tai neeilinė sukaktis ne tik išgyvento amžiaus, bet ir didžios reikšmės atžvilgiais. Šis įvykis praturtins ir papuoš lietuvišką gyvenimą Vilniaus Universiteto dvasia. Vilniaus Universiteto vardas ir jo garsas plačiai skambės tėvynėje ir užsieniuose gyvenančių lietuvių tarpe. Ši centrinė lietuvių mokslo įstaiga per ilgus metus vaidino pagrindinį Lietuvos kultūrinio gyvenimo vaidmenį ir lėmė tautos politinę kryptį tragingose aplinkybėse. Jis yra tautinės garbės ir mūsų intelektualinio subrendimo akivaizdi išraiška. Per 400 metų jis švietė Lietuvai ygdamas inteligentų kartų kartas ir vadovaudamas visam tautos švietimo darbui.

Vilniaus Universiteto dramatiška istorija sutampa su visos Lietuvos istorija. Turbūt nė vienas Vakarų Europos universitetų nėra išgyvenęs tokių sukrėtimų ir gyvybinių pavojų kaip mūsų. Tuo jis yra mums dar savesnis, brangesnis ir reikšmingesnis.

Vilniaus Universiteto kilmė glūdi audringo šešioliktojo amžiaus Lietuvos gyvenimo procese. Išorinės kovos dėl tautinės egzistencijos ir vidaus nesantaika tarp katalikų ir protestantų stūmė kraštą į pražūtį. Kovai prieš protestantizmą 1569 metais, Lietuvoje buvo įkurdinti jėzuitai, kurie tuojau pradėjo steigti mokyklas ir šviesti jaunimą katalikiška dvasia. Tuo siekė užkirsti kelią protestantizmo plitimui.

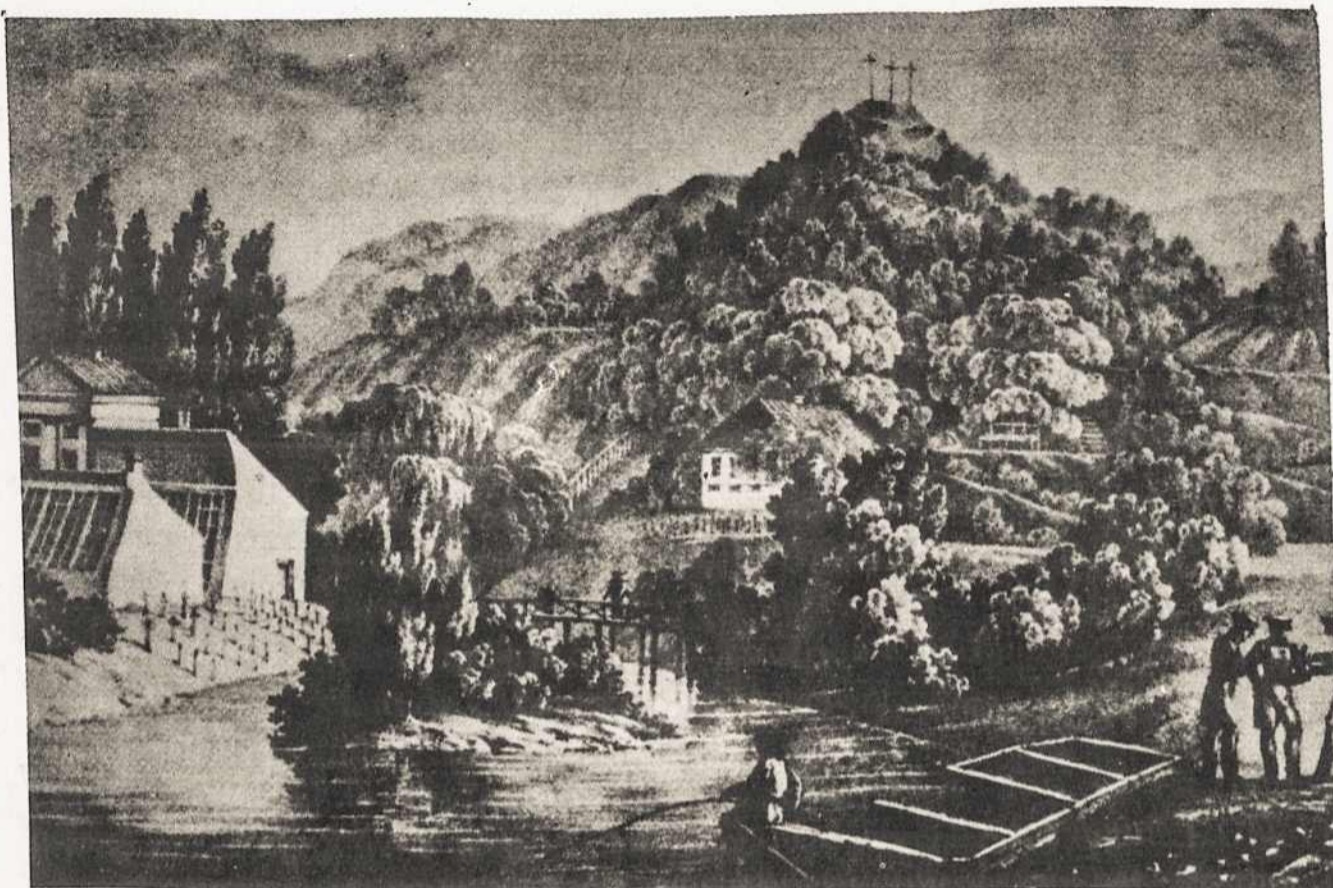
Tais pačiais 1569 metais, jie įsteigė Vilniuje pirmąją kolegiją — vidurinę mokyklą. Per 10 metų ši kolegija išleido geroką jaunuolių skaičių, paruoštą aukštajam mokslui eiti. Karalius Steponas Baroas 1579 m. balandžio 1 dieną, aktu leido jėzuitams atidaryti Vilniaus Akademiją — aukštojo mokslo įstaiga, kuriai popiežius Grigalius XIII (13) 1579 metais spalio m. 30 dieną aktu suteikė visas vakarų Europos universitetų tises ir privilegijas. Taip prieš 400 metų gimė Vilniaus Universitetas, seniausias rytų Europoje. Čia verta paminėti, kad Tartu Universitetas Estijoje

įsteigtas 1632 metais, Turka Universitetas, Suomijoje — 1640 m., o Maskvos Universitetas, tik 1755 metais.

Didžiosios Lietuvos Kunigaikštijos laikais, maždaug iki (XVII) septynioliktojo amžiaus vidurio, Universitetas augo ir klestėjo. Jo garsas plačiai skambėjo Rytų Europoje. Jį lankė įvairių tautų studentai. Dėstomoji lotynų kalba iš tikrųjų darė jį tarptautiniu universitetu, tačiau ir specifiniai lietuvių reikalai nebuvo pamiršti.

Vėliau Universitetas išgyveno labai sunkius laikus. 1655-62 metais rusai nusiaubė miestą, o 1702-11 metais — švedai. Tuo metu ištikęs maras Lietuvoje sunaikino daugybę gyventojų ir įstumė visą kraštą į didžio skurdo nelaimę. Universiteto veikla ir lygis susmuko ir nebegalėjo daugiau atsigauti. Juo labiau padėtis susikomplicavo, kai 1795 metais rusai okupavo visą Lietuvą ir pats universitetas pateko į jų malonę.

1803 metais, balandžio 4 dieną, Rusijos caras Aleksandras Pirmasis, Vilniaus Universitetą pavadino im-



Universiteto Botanikos sodas

peratorišku universitetu, kuris, deja neilgai galėjo veikti. Po 1831 metų sukilimo Lietuvoje Rusijos vyriausybė pradėjo šį universitetą siaurinti — mažinti fakultetų skaičių, o 1842 metais visai jį uždarė. Gausią biblioteką ir kitą turtą perdavė Rusijos universitetams. Okupuota Lietuva pasiliko be savo aukštosios mokyklos, o nuo 1864 metų ir be savos spaudos. Tai buvo toki okupanto smūgiai Lietuvai, kokių civilizotas pasaulis iki tol dar nebuvo girdėjęs.

Pirmojo pasaulinio karo metu, kada Lietuva buvo okupuota vokiečių karinių pajėgų, buvo susidariusios sąlygos Vilniaus Universitetui atgaivinti. Tuo pasinaudodama Lietuvos Taryba buvo nutarusi Universitetą atidaryti 1918 metais, tačiau bolševikų ir lenkų karinės avantūros sutrukdė tai įvykdyti.

Nuo 1920 iki 1939 metų pabaigos, tai yra lenkų okupaciniais metais, Vilniaus Universitetas veikė Stepono Batoro vardu ir tarnavo išimtinai lenkų šovinistinės politikos tikslams.

Sovietų Rusija, antrą kartą okupavusi Lietuvą 1944 m., Vilniaus Universitetą pavadino seno komunisto V. Kapsuko vardu ir jį pavertė marksistinio mokslo centru

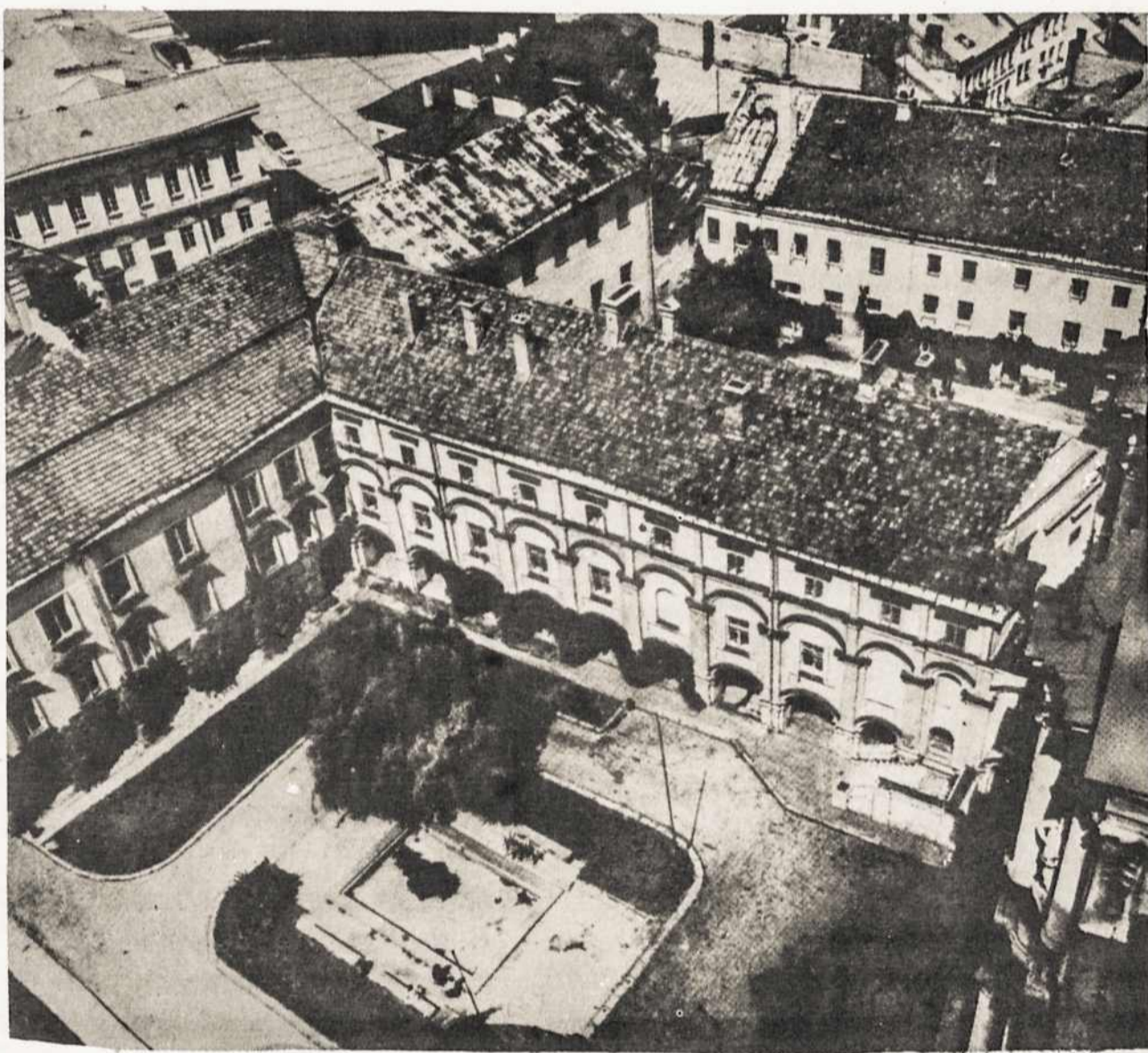
Lietuvoje. Nežiūrint primestų okupacinių ir ideologinių varžtų, Universitetas lietuvių pastangomis ir pasiaukojimu gerokai išaugo ir virto tautinės kultūros ir mokslo centru.

Šiuo metu Vilniaus Universitete

dirba 86 profesoriai, 589 docentai, ir 419 lektorių. Universitetas yra pajėgus apimti 70 psecializacijų. Lankytojų patogumui čia veikia dieniniai, vakariniai ir neakivaizdiniai kursai. Iš viso universitetą šiuo metu lanko 16,000 studentų. Bibliotekoje jau dabar yra sukaupta apie 3.5 milijono leidinių.

400 metų Universiteto sukakčiai paminėti Lietuvoje yra leidžiama trijų tomų išsami Universiteto istorija.

Minėdami Vilniaus Universiteto keturių šimtmečių sukaktį, prisimename jo tragingą praeitį ir vaidintą vaidmenį tautos gyvenime, kad mūsų kartų kartos žinotų kaip lietuviai kovojo dėl laisvės, dėl mokslo ir dėl tautinės kultūros išlaikymo. Nežiūrint į tai, kaip mūsų kaimynai bevadintų Lietuvos universitetą — imperatorišku, Stepono Batoro ar V. Kapsuko vardais — jis visada pasiliks mums Vilniaus Universitetas, Lietuvos Mokslo ir Kultūros negęstantis švyturys.



Universiteto kiemai iš varpinės

Thanksgiving

THINKING BEFORE FEASTING

As every school child used to know, it was Governor William Bradford who proclaimed the first Thanksgiving Day at Plymouth, Mass. in 1621. During the following years this beautiful idea spread and was adopted in various other areas of the English Colonies. George Washington made it an official holiday in 1789. As the years went on, it seemed to lose its lustre and in many places it was forgotten. Sarah J. Hale, a newspaperwoman, noticed this and started a campaign to make Thanksgiving Day an official and universal holiday. Her goal was reached, when President Abraham Lincoln issued a Proclamation in 1863 ordering that this Day of Thanks be observed in all the States of the Union and that it be celebrated on the last Thursday of November. This went on until President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 changed the date to the third Thursday of the month. Two years later Congress decided that Thanksgiving Day should be observed on the fourth Thursday of November. And so it has been up to the present.



So much for history.

Much more important than the history is the spirit of this meaningful civil holiday.

Because of the fact that each one of us is constantly receiving favors and good things, material and spiritual, from others, our thanksgiving should be constant and sincere. And because the Supreme Giver of all good things never tires of heaping upon us abundant blessings and favors, we should not grow weary of showing our gratitude to Him, not only on official Thanksgiving Day, but every day.



Perhaps, we who live in cities have lost the original spirit of thanks that the Colonial farmers had, when they gathered to render thanks for the harvest and for God's plentiful gifts from the earth by preparing and enjoying a sumptuous meal. We do not sense the day to day dependence of the farmer upon God, the provider of sun and rain, of heat and cold, as the early Pilgrims did. Too much rain or not enough sun, too much cold or not enough warmth could ruin the crops and threaten them with hunger. So we can understand the joy and

gratitude of the Pilgrims for the bountiful harvest that year.

In our times, when Christmas becomes Santa Season, and Easter is Bunny Time, and Thanksgiving Day is called "Turkey Day," we sense that something has gone seriously wrong with our society. Should we get excited and festive about Santa or Bunny or Turkey?

The committed Christian smiles painfully upon seeing the topsyturviness of naming holidays in such a way. The pain comes from seeing something grand and meaningful made crass and senseless by commercialism.

What does the Christian Catholic do to celebrate a civic and popular holiday?

He delves into the core of the holiday by cracking away the material shell to search for the



deeper meaning. He or she wisely seeks meaning and acts in accord with the spirit of the holiday.

So, for us, Thanksgiving Day is a day of "Thanks be to God," not only for the harvest, that is, for material things, but also, for the spiritual things as well, especially for those spiritual blessings that come to us directly from God: His Word, His Holy Sacraments, His guidance through His Church. If we look at it this way, we shall find that we have much more to be thankful for than the Pilgrims did.

Sometimes, we fail to realize that thanksgiving is a duty, and not just a matter of politeness. It is a matter of justice. Whenever we receive a gift, any gift, from anyone, we enter an obligation to be grateful and to show it. We OWE it to the giver to



say, "Thank You." This is true both towards God and towards men.

If we neglect our gratitude, we find ourselves in debt, and like a debt, it must be repaid some day.

But thanksgiving is not only an obligation, it is a joy that comes from knowing that we are just and fair to one another. The giver finds joy in giving, the receiver in saying, "Thanks." That kind of joy is a sign of charity, the noblest of virtues. In giving gifts or receiving them gratefully the spirit of love is multiplied. This is true whether we speak of human love or divine love. Proving love through thanks is part of what Christian Life is about.

Thank God...

for being God,
for being Goodness,
for being Good...
to us,
to our families & friends,
to all the world!

Fr. A. A. Jurgelaitis, O.P.



K of L Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 3-4 ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NATIONS, Syracuse, N.Y. C-140 participating
- 3 C-12, New York 65th ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE, Our Lady of Vilnius Rev. G. Gurinkas Parish Hall, New York, N.Y.
- 10 C-141, Bridgeport, AMBER BALL, Bridgeport, Conn.
- 17 C-17 and C-17SR. So. Boston, NOVEMBERFEST, So. Boston Lithaunian Citizen's Club., So Boston, Mass.
- 24 C-29, Southfield, 20th ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE, Ray Dunham Hall, Southfield, Mich.

DECEMBER

- 24 C-12 10th ANNUAL HOSPITALITY, after 8:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, Our Lady of Vilnius Church, Rev. Gurinkas Hall, Broome St., New York City. K of L Visitors to New York welcome.

AUGUST

- 6-10 67th NATIONAL CONVENTION, Boston Plaza Hotel, Park Square, Boston, Mass. C-17 and C-17SR., Hosts



Lithuanians in The

NEWS

edited by RUTA KAZLAUSKAS
2453 W. 45 Pl.
Chicago, IL. 60632

In the news again, Cicero's BISHOP PAUL C. MARCINKUS in Chicago for Preparation of Pope John Paul II's visit in October. Bishop Marcinkus is considered one of the most influential members of the Vatican City; he is top official of the Vatican Bank. Although the adulation of Chicago's Polish community is focused mainly on the Pope, part of the spotlight shines on Bishop Marcinkus. He still has strong ties to Chicago and usually visits twice a year - at Christmas and in May, the month in which he was ordained here 32 years ago. His sister and a brother live in the city and another brother lives in West Frankfort, Ill.



Bishop Paul C. Marcinkus, right, representing Pope John Paul, and Father Robert Lynch, left, coordinator for the U.S. bishops, met at Holy Name Cathedral recently to discuss details of a visit to Chicago by the Pontiff with Chicago archdiocesan coordinator, Msgr. Richard Rosemeyer, center.

Chicago Catholic photo

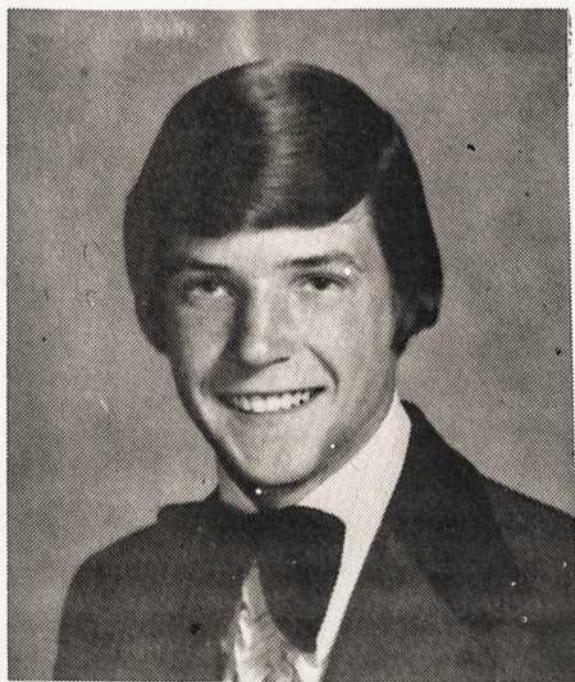
The fifth annual Festival of Nations was held at the Schenectady Museum on May 19, 1979 where for the first time Lithuanians participated. The Lithuanian pavilion offered examples of traditional cuisine, while an exhibit inside the museum featured examples of Lithuanian crafts of weaving and wood carving, as well as amber. In recognition of the International Year of the Child, Lithuanian song and dance instructions were provided for the younger children. The Cultural Committee of C-100 - Amsterdam, N.Y., was contacted to assist with the exhibition. Contributing to the success of the festival were: Ed Baranauskas, Lithuanian Affairs Chairman; Bernice Aviza, Co-Chairman; Polly Ziausys and Regina Kot, Cultural Chairmen; and Helen Saunders of Schenectady as Chairman.



Seated, Regina Kot; Standing, left to right, Polly Ziausys, Bernice Aviza and Helen Saunders.



A Lithuanian wayside cross has added an ethnic touch to the scribes private room at Chicago's White Sox Park. The cross was presented to Bill Veeck, owner of the Sox, by members of the Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce during the organization's sponsoring of "Lithuanian Day at White Sox Park." Taking part in the presentation were (left to right) Raymond Wertelka, Vice-President; Petras Vilkelis, Honorary Member; and Vincent Samaska, founder and chairman, and President of C-36.



RAY STUKAS, a senior at Columbia University, was featured in the Elizabeth, N.J., Daily Journal, September 11, 1979. Ray is the starting wide receiver on the football team and is considered an excellent athlete who gives 100 percent effort. He is majoring in environmental science and hopefully by spring, he'll have a job with the Environmental Protection Agency. Ray will be leaving Columbia with a fine education and an illustrious athletic career, but he'll also be leaving a lot of people who think a great deal of him. Ray is the nephew of Dr. Jack Stukas, H.M.



On the walls of the Museum of Contemporary Art in September were 118 pictures taken by JONAS DOVYDENAS as part of a survey conducted by the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Dovydenas is a free-lance photographer who specializes in ethnic themes. The exhibit which is entitled "Inside Our Homes, Outside Our Windows" was covered by both the Chicago Sun Times and the Chicago Tribune and was given excellent reviews. Dovydenas' Lithuanian heritage was emphasized.

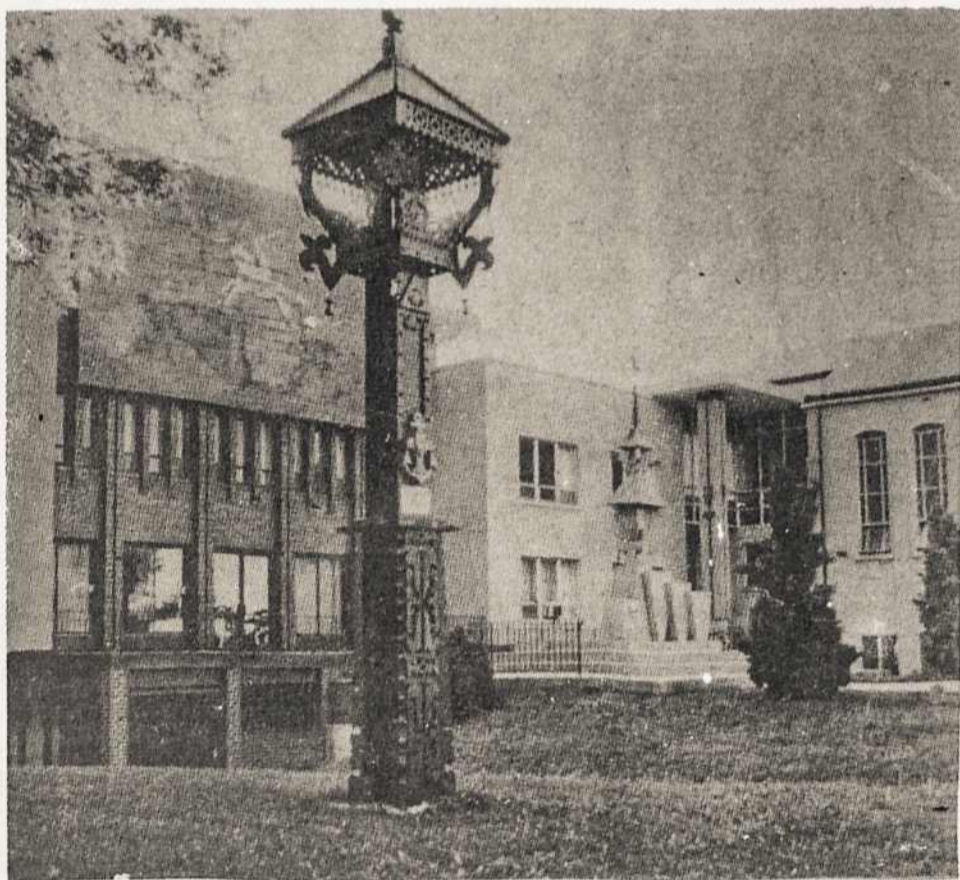


65th ANNUAL LITHUANIAN DAY in Pennsylvania. I.tor. Natl. K of L President Philip Skabeikis, Msgr. Joseph Neverauskas, Edward Mezvinsky, Human Rts. Committee, Stanley Gecys, Pres. Lith. Community, Anne Klizas Wargo, Pres. C-144, Bernice Mikatavay, Chairman 65th Lithuanian Day

KAZYS SKIRPA, former Prime Minister of Lithuania for six weeks in 1941, died August 18, 1979 at the age of 84. He took office shortly after German forces invaded the Soviet Union, was deposed and later imprisoned by the Germans. He survived World War II and came to the United States in 1949, where he worked for the Library of Congress until retiring in 1965.



The Southtown Economist Newspapers, Chicago, on September 18, 1979, featured an article about Marquette Park resident ANTANAS PASKOCIMAS. A retired draftsman, Antanas turns blocks of redwood and walnut into intricately carved crosses that are replicas of the wayside shrines which used to stand in Lithuania. Examples of his delicate handiwork stand at the Lithuanian Youth Center and at a youth camp in Michigan. He plans to exhibit his almost lost art at universities and hopes his work will spark student interest in Lithuania's past history and its present plight.



A sample of Mr. Paskocimas at the Lithuanian Youth Center in Chicago



The finals of the U.S. Open were held at Flushing Meadow, New York, in September. Two native New Yorkers, VITAS GERULAITIS and John McEnroe, competed valiantly to the finish, the championship being won by McEnroe. Even though Gerulaitis was defeated, Lithuanians all over the world are very proud of their tennis champ, Vitas, who ranks fourth in the world.



DR. ANTON LIPSKIS exhibited his art works at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago from September 9 through October 9, 1979. Born in Lithuania, Dr. Lipskis received his early education in Lithuania and later studied medicine in Heidelberg, Germany. He is currently on the staff of the LaGrange Memorial Hospital. Dr. Lipskis attended classes at the American Academy of Art and works in oils and clay ceramic figurines. When he was a member of the Physicians Art Association he participated in many of its art exhibits and won various awards for his work. The exhibits were held every five years at the American Medical Association convention in Chicago.

OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS

Reminder To All Financial Secretaries

Membership dues for 1980 are due on or before January 1, 1980. Council Financial Secretaries should begin collecting dues immediately. Dues should be collected for the full year. All checks should be made payable to the Knights of Lithuania.

To insure that members receive the VYTIS promptly, please include members' addresses with the dues. ALL dues and ALL address changes should be sent to:

Ann Marie Kassel
National Financial Secretary
7336-2 Winthrop Way
Downers Grove, Il 60515

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid

During a meeting of Italians held recently in the United States, the President of this ethnic group, Mr. Volpe posed three important questions to each of the delegates present. These three basic questions were: Who are we? (Kas mes esame?); Where are we? (Kur mes esame?); What are we? (Kas mes esame?). In the Vytis articles to come, we will bring these points into focus for us, the Lithuanians. It is vital to put these questions into perspective as they are part and parcel of the basic roots that make up our ethnic character.

Our brother and sister Lithuanians struggle daily for their Christian survival. How committed are we to help them in their struggle "to make sure we are not deceived?" We are too well aware of the situation in Catholic Lithuania today. Let us not become lax in our duties to help our Lithuanian family in Lithuania. Therefore we need your tax deductible contributions. Whatever you can give, give. Become an active participant in aiding the Catholic Church in Lithuania. Make checks payable to: "L.C.R.A." and send your contributions to:

William A. Sidtis
(Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aide Chairman)
59-44 57th Road
Maspeth, New York 11378

WE NEED YOUR HELP

This year, The National Cultural Committee will be compiling a list of sources to locate Lithuanian books, material, arts, crafts, etc., that we hope all members will be able to use throughout the U.S.

Many of you have asked where to find some type of cultural information. Perhaps through a cooperative effort we can collect names and addresses in a single source. We hope those of you who have someone in your area who can teach Lithuanian arts and crafts will let us know so that Councils can exchange information for the benefit of all.

Send your information to the National Cultural Chairman:

Mrs. Theresa Strolia
15325 Sequoia
Oak Forest, Il 60452

SING ALONG WITH VYCIAI

Prepared by Faustas Strolia, the new Knights of Lithuania songbook contains words and music for over 50 songs.

The book is a MUST for all those interested in the folk-songs of Lithuania.

Cost \$1.00. Please contact:

Mrs. Theresa Strolia
15325 Sequoia
Oak Forest, Il 60452

PLAYWAY TO LITHUANIAN

We still have available the Lithuanian language instruction records CHILDRENS PLAYWAY TO LITHUANIAN. The set consists of 2 records that can be played at either 33 or 45 RPM, together with booklets giving the Lithuanian and English text of the recordings. Price per set is \$2.00 postpaid. Send your orders to:

Mrs. Theresa Strolia
15325 Sequoia
Oak Forest, Il 60452

Boston in '80

The 1980 National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, its 67th, will be held in Boston, Massachusetts August 6-10, hosted by Council 17-17Srs. Chairman will be Albert Jaritis with Joseph White as Co-Chairman. Convention headquarters will be the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Watch for further details as they are announced.

Matulaitis Petitions

The collection of signatures for the beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis is an ongoing K of L project. The petitions presented to Rev. Joseph Dambrasukas during the National Convention was only a first installment. Let's make the second even greater.

Officers' Rostors

Council and District elections of officers must be held in either September or October and a complete list of every officer and Committee Chairman and addresses, must be forwarded to the National Recording Secretary:

Ann K. Wargo
125 S. Morris Street
St. Clair, PA 17970

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDANCE

On October 1st, National President P. Skabeikis received a summarized telephoned preview of President Carter's Oct. 1st speech on Soviet troops in Cuba, from the White House office of Ethnic Affairs. The White House representative assured him that the many letters and telegrams received from the Knights of Lithuania members across the country concerning Lithuanian Prisoners of Conscience and relations with the Soviet Union, were appreciated and had received the attention of the President and his staff.

* * *

The Knights of Lithuania, via President P. Skabeikis, sent a telegram to the Pope through the Vatican Observer in New York, in response to the Papal Address at the UN on Oct. 2nd.

The text read as follows:

"Your message to the General Assembly of the United Nations has brought us hope. Your reaffirmation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should remind the conscience of the world body that each man, woman and child should be free to pursue his chosen belief while maintaining his full rights of citizenship. We pray with you that the time will soon come when all men shall have freedom of conscience without fear of reprisal in any form. We thank you for your strong moral leadership both for ourselves and for our brother and sister Lithuanians who cannot now exercise this right."

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I'd like to take this opportunity to once again thank the delegates at the 66th National Convention for re-electing me to a second term as your National President.

Our organization continues to grow in scope and stature exerting influence on the entire Lithuanian American community. With growth come new responsibilities and challenges. I am fully aware that these challenges and responsibilities fall first to the President and the Supreme Council. It is this group of people, your elected leaders, that must grapple with the mechanics of running the organization as well as making initial determinations of policy as the need arises, and later to refer to the National Convention for consideration. The Supreme Council is acting and making decisions in the interest of each and every K of L member. It cannot and

must not do so in a vacuum. This is where the responsibilities and challenges become shared. Your national officers must be able to count on the cooperation of District and Council officers, as well as every individual member. They must have the benefit of "feedback." You can provide this "feedback" by working to strengthen your own Council and District by being as active as your personal circumstances permit, supporting your elected Council and District personnel and most importantly, speaking out and letting your opinions be known. Once abrogated, these rights and responsibilities are won back at considerable expense.

Your National officers have pledged you their best efforts. Please pledge them yours in return.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING

Transfiguration Church Hall Maspeth, NY

September 22, 1979 Hosts: C-110, Maspeth

Supreme Council Appointments

The Supreme Council approved the appointment of THERESA STROLIA, C-36, as National Cultural Chairman for the 1979-80 year, as this position was not filled during the National Convention.

Implementing a 1974 Convention Resolution to expand the National Lithuanian Affairs Committee by the addition of two assistant co-Chairmen, Rev. C. Pugevicius submitted the names of Marian Skabeikis, C-110 and Joseph Simanis, C-142, to serve as Bulletin Editor and Washington D.C. Liaison, respectively. Both appointments were approved.

The Lithuanian American Council (ALTas), an umbrella organization of Lithuanian groups, is pledged to work for the independence of Lithuania and fight for her rights in the political arena. As a constituent organization, the K of L annually appoints three representatives to the Council.

At its September 22 meeting, the Supreme Council reappointed Dr. Leonas Kriauceliunas and Irene Sankus, and appointed Leonard Simutis, Jr. All three are members of C-112, Chicago. The Supreme Council urged that all K of L representatives to other organizations maintain close contact with the President and that the K of L become a more vocal participant. The Supreme Council also reaffirmed its belief that cooperation is desirable between all Lithuanian organizations with common goals especially in the political arena.

Junior Program

The Supreme Council also gave its unanimous approval to the sponsorship of a K of L Camp (Stovykla) at Dainava Camp in Michigan during the summer of 1980. General Chairman of the project will be Theresa Strolia, C-36 in cooperation with Juniors Vice-President Susan Bumila, C-1. All Districts and Councils, especially those who maintain Junior groups should look for additional information as released.

Convention Resolutions

President Skabeikis reported that all Convention resolutions had been acted upon or were in the process of implementation.

The Resolution regarding a Membership Drive on the college campuses of several major cities received con-

siderable discussion as to method of implementation. It was agreed that any effort would naturally rely heavily upon local K of L cooperation, where a council exists. Membership Vice President John Adomenas was asked to contact the Washington D.C. Council to discuss a Pilot Project at the University of Maryland Campus and to repeat at other campuses if successful.

Another Resolution concerned writing of a volume containing biographies of K of L leaders and founder Mykos Norkunas. The SC discussed in general the need for an official historian and noted the approaching 70th Anniversary of the K of L in 1983 and its Diamond Jubilee in 1988. At earlier meetings this year, the National Trustees were asked to include in their duties a search for a historian, who might be qualified to research and author an updated K of L history, which by definition would implement the Resolution.

Lithuanian American Congress

The 9th LAC will take place on October 13-14, 1979 in Cleveland, Ohio. This Congress, convened every 5 years by the Lithuanian American Council ALT, is an expression to the world of the unified fight to free Lithuania in the free world political arena. As a constituent organization of ALT, the K of L is entitled to 6 delegates to this Congress. The following were selected to attend in this capacity: Philip Skabeikis, Stanley Vaitkus, Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, Loretta Stukas, Leonard Simutis, Jr. and Alexander Pakaniskis, Jr.

1980 Convention

As the 66th National Convention closed, the 1980 Convention site had not been selected. As Trustees had previously been given the task of researching future sites, Helen Shields HM submitted a detailed plan for a SC sponsored Convention to be held at Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson, CT, in the event that no other formal bid materialized.

Albert Jaritis, NED President, did present such a bid on behalf of the South Boston K of L Councils 17-17Srs. The bid was accepted unanimously. Proposed dates depending on available hotel space will be July 30th - August 3, or August 6 - 10th, 1980. Look for specifics in this and future VYTIS issues.

Public Relations

After formal business a Round Robin discussion was conducted on the "Public Relations of the K of L." The topic was first approached by newly elected National Public Relations Chairman Irene Sankus who outlined her plans for the year. The discussion that followed highlighted examples of how our past failures to report on our own activities in the Lithuanian Press had allowed misinformation on our progress and policies to sometimes run rampant. The need to correct this generally poor situation was agreed upon by the entire Board.

Attending the meeting were:

Spiritual Advisor	- Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis
President	- Philip Skabeikis
I Vice President	- Susan Bumila
II Vice President	- John Adomenas
III Vice President	- Stanley Vaitkus

Rec. Secretary	- Anna Wargo
Fin. Secretary	- Ann Marie Kassel
Treasurer	- Teresa Trainis
Cultural Chairman	- Theresa Strolia
Public Relations	- Irene Sankus
Lithuanian Affairs	- Rev. Casimir Pugevicius
VYTIS Editor	- Loretta Stukas
NED President	- Albert Jaritis
MAD President	- Larry Janonis
LCRA Coordinator	- William Sidtis
World Lith Youth	
Congress Liaison	- Ann Marie Statkus

It was encouraging to note that Ms. Bumila, Mr. Sidtis and Ms. Statkus are all recent K of L Scholarship recipients.

Philip Skabeikis

PASAULIO KATALIKIŲ MOTERŲ ORGANIZACIJŲ UNIJA

Lietuvės katalikės įeiname į Pasaulio Katalikių Moterų Organizacijų Uniją (World Union of Catholic Women Organizations — WUCWO). Unijos Centro valdyboje turime mes savo delegatę Birutę Šlepetytę-Venskuvienę, gyvenančią Paryžiuje, Prancūzijoje. Ji yra žmogaus Teisių Komisijos Unijoje pirmininkė.

Reikalinga jai piniginė parama ir katalikių moterų didelis skaičius, kad sudaryt jai stiprų užnugarį; nes ji atstovauja visą lietuvių tautą. Unijai priklauso 67 valstybių bei kraštų katalikės. Unija turi 36 milijonus katalikių. Lietuvės įrašytos į Uniją, kaip atskira tauta, kai pavyzdžiui Amerikoje gyvenančios katalikės lenkės, vokietės, prancūzės ir kitos eina bendru Amerikos katalikių vardu.

Mūsų delegatės išlaidos yra šios: nario mokestis Unijai \$180.00, kelionės į Unijos tarptautinius kongresus, kurie įvyksta įvairiuose kontinentuose. Šių metų vasario mėn. pradžioje įvyko Indijoje, Bangaloro mieste;

šaukiamos konferencijos (workshops) tam tikrais klausimais išsiaiškinti, numatytame Europos mieste, ar net kitame kontinente;

Biuletenio išleidimui;

Norima išleisti knygą apie lietuvių katalikių moterų veiklą.

Mūsų delegatė turi progos iškelt pasaulinėje arenoje Lietuvos krašto kančias — vergiją, tikinčiųjų persekiojimą.

Mums lietuviams didelė garbė ir nauda turėt savo delegatę Unijoje. Unijos delegatės, suvažiavusios į savo kongresus, svarsto Katalikų Bažnyčios rūpesčiais: bedievybės plitimu, moralės smukimu, žmogaus teisių nepripažinimu. Alkoholizmo bei narkotikų plitimas ir legalizuotų abortų vyravimas. Mūsų delegatė B. Venskuvienė iškelia ir Lietuvos padėtį.

Mes lietuvių katalikės baurimės šių dienų ateistiniu materialistiniu pasauliu, kuris naikina aukštesnes žmogaus vertybes, todėl, sesės vytytės, paremkime savo delegatę maža savo auka, kad Pasaulio Katalikių Moterų Organizacijų Unijos delegatės pasiryžtų sukurti geresnį pasaulį, kuriame vyrautų krikščioniški principai.

Džiugu, kad sesės vytytės savo seime priėmėte mano kvietimą prisidėti prie ateitininkų, lietuvių delegatės išlaikymui Katalikių Moterų Unijoje. Auka 1 dol. metams. Kas gali, aukoja daugiau, nes šis postas yra svarbus. Jei vytytė priklauso ir Katalikių Moterų S-gai ar ateitininkams, aukoja tik 1 dol.: vyčių kuopos vardu, ar Moterų S-gos. Surinktas aukas siųst savo kuopos vardu pridėdant aukotojų sąrašą. Aukos siunčiamos PLKos Fondo pirm.

Mrs. Marija Lūšys

72 Congress Str.

Braintree, Mass., 02184

Tepadeda Dievas mums sukurti gražesnį pasaulį.

PLKos įgaliotinė Em. Vilimaite

THOUGHTS AT Thanksgiving

To add a personal touch to our Thanksgiving issue we asked some members...

"In this world of rising inflation, world crises, changing morals, human rights violations, etc., what will you be especially thankful to God for, as you celebrate Thanksgiving Day, 1979?"



...for my Dominican training, my priestly vocation, which enables me to thank God daily in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the name of the People of God for all His blessings.

**Fr. A. A. Jurgelaitis, O.P.
S. C. Spiritual Advisor**

I am most thankful that I have retained my faith in God and my Country.

**Mary York
C-12, Manhattan, N.Y.**

...kad galejau pasidaryti 103 kuopos nare.

**Sophia Sakalys
C-103, Providence, R.I.**

...for the food we share with our families and friends.

**Ann Statkus
C-1, Brockton, Mass.**

...for the abundance we enjoy in the U.S.A. and for the fundamental freedoms that are enjoyed by all.

**Bill and Brone Wisniauskas, C-10
Athol, Mass.**

I am most grateful that I live in a country where I can openly pursue my religious feelings; can practice my ethnic heritage without any fear of reprisal; can in some small way speak out for human rights and in most respects live my life as I want to.

If we all join in prayer this Thanksgiving Day that we would return to our old moral standards, that in time all the world will know peace and the human rights violations would cease — that our beloved land of our forefathers would again know freedom; I am sure that **SOMEONE** in that vast Heaven will hear us and if we continue to assert ourselves in this way, these things will come to pass.

**Anna Klizas Wargo
C-144, Schuylkill County, Pa.**

...for my Catholic Lithuanian parents.

**Rev. Albin Janiunas
C-78, Lawrence, Mass**



...for being in a country
where we have religious
freedom.

Eve K. Ball
C-17 SR, South Boston, Mass.

...for a beautiful family life. Both my daughter and son and the grandchildren are the best in the world. We are blessed with grandsons who are excellent scholars and very good boys. Also, I have a wonderful husband and after thirty-nine years we are still on a perpetual honeymoon.

Blanche Genaitis
C-10, Athol, Mass.

This Thanksgiving, I am thankful for the Pope's safe visit here, for my parents and family, and for the good weather this year. I am especially thankful to be graduating from grammar school this year.

John Strolia
C-36/112 Juniors, Chicago, Ill.

... I am thankful for the new school year, and the skating parties we have. I'm glad for accomplishing some of my goals this year. I am thankful for being Lithuanian.

Matt Strolia
C-36/112 Juniors, Chicago, Ill.

Thanks for the food, thanks that we're alive. After visiting my relatives in Lithuania, I'm thankful that I live in the United States.

Edward Skripata
C-29 Juniors, Newark, N.J.

...for the many new K of L members we have.

Bette Ciuryla
C-103, Providence, R.I.

...for living in the United States, a free country. I hope and pray our brothers in Lithuania will some day enjoy this privilege in a free Lithuania.

Irene Tamulevich, Pres.
C-116, Worcester, Mass.

...for the strides of unity among people of all nations to show one another love by words and deeds.

Fran. Bumila
C-1, Brockton, Mass.

...for being a Catholic and of Lithuanian descent and for all the freedoms that we enjoy here in the USA.

Margaret Picard and Nellie Ruggles
C-145, Holyoke, Mass.

...for an excellent recovery from a heart attack and for being a Catholic and on good terms with God (I hope). Some day, some time, the end will come and there is faith that God will "take me aboard" when that day does come. And for an excellent wife and children, plus the many friends I have come to know.

A. Gudczauskas
C-103, Providence, R.I.

...for living in America where
we can have Thanksgiving.

Doris Fralick
C-1, Brockton, Mass.

...for my family, health
and religious freedom.

Aldonna Keaney
C-17, South Boston, Mass.



I'm thankful to have had the once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of the religious program when Pope John Paul II visited Chicago.

Ann Marie Kassel
C-36, Chicago, Ill.

...for all graces I receive, for family, health and friends, and for freedom in worshipping God.

Pauline Rogers
C-10, Athol, Mass.

...for the privilege of being both Catholic and Lithuanian.

Adele Martus
C-17, South Boston, Mass.

...for all He has given me: such good health and other things.

Tena Shatos

...for all the graces He has given me to practise my religion.

Patricia Akule
C-17, South Boston, Mass.

...for letting me wish that all loved ones are together in this time of sharing.

Susan Bumila
C-1, Brockton, Mass.

...for being patient with mankind in spite of its sins.

Francis A. Degutis
C-26, Worcester, Mass.

...for a new Pope who is aware of the problems of persecuted Lithuania. Possibly, through his endeavors Lithuania may get a Cardinal.

V. A. Kapiskas
C-103, Providence, R.I.



Supreme Council Officers
and the "VYTIS" Staff

ELIZABETH PAURAZAS R.I.P.

In many traditions, Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Special services and prayers headline the observance, and people prepare in various ways for Easter. For Elizabeth Paurazas, it also meant various preparations at home. But the Man Upstairs had other plans for her on That Day of Apr. 8. Instead, He called her to "His Home." It happened suddenly. Everyone, of course, met the news of her death with shock and disbelief.

Elizabeth Paurazas was a member of the Knights of Lithuania Council 79 since its reorganization about 20 years ago. Since then, she never gave herself a chance to experience an empty-hand syndrome. Starting as a very young girl she had a yen for activity.

Her main role consisted of helping others, and that is how over the years Elizabeth was considered one of the most influential workers in the Lithuanian colony. Anytime, anywhere, if anyone needed assistance she would help, in compliance. Never did she give a NO for an answer. If she did not have the right answer or the particular information, she would research and follow it through. Elizabeth was very conscientious of her duties, and a devoted Knight. Although she did not hold office in the K of L, she could move "mountains" behind the scenes. A great supporter on various projects she worked on Family Day picnics, festivals, selling raffle, bake sales, and many others too numerous to mention.

As a Rosary Chairperson, Elizabeth devoted much time on the phone contacting members to attend the rosaries during funerals. For St. Casimir's Day she, alone, contacted members via the Rosary Chain and would get 30 to 40 Knights to attend



this or any other occasion.

Assured, intelligent and full of drive, she drove herself many a time mercilessly, tending to other organizational duties. She was president of the American-Lithuanian Catholic Women's Alliance, Chapter 54; founder and vice-president of the Detroit Lithuanian Organization Center in Detroit, and a longtime volunteer member of the Michigan Commission of Immigration.

She was also instrumental in obtaining state and local proclamations in observance of Lithuania's Republic on Feb. 16 each year. And, always intent to learn, she stayed abreast with Lith. News, and especially found the VYTIS very interesting and informative.

Elizabeth sat on the board of directors of the American Lithuanian Catholic Federation and the American Lithuanian National Council in Chicago. She was president of the United Lithuanian Relief (BALF) Fund Inc. of Detroit, and a member of the Divine Providence Lithuanian Catholic Church Council.

Her accomplishments in the Lithuanian community would fill volumes of books. And that is why she has a place of history in the Lietuviska Enciklopedija. Although an American-born, she was a typical

Lithuanian. Elizabeth Paurazas could fondly be termed "Mrs. Lithuania."

In particular, she was a firm proponent of the Knights of Lithuania's motto - Dievui ir Tevynei. Elizabeth was a Fourth Degree member, and also served as a delegate at District and National K of L conventions.

There were many times that we were not in full agreement. To some, she was labeled as "old-fashioned" and in some ways may have been unrealistic in this fast, changing world. But her virtues were of charity and honesty. She made her point by reflecting to the heart of the problem, offering a logical solution that was presented with organized, well prepared statements.

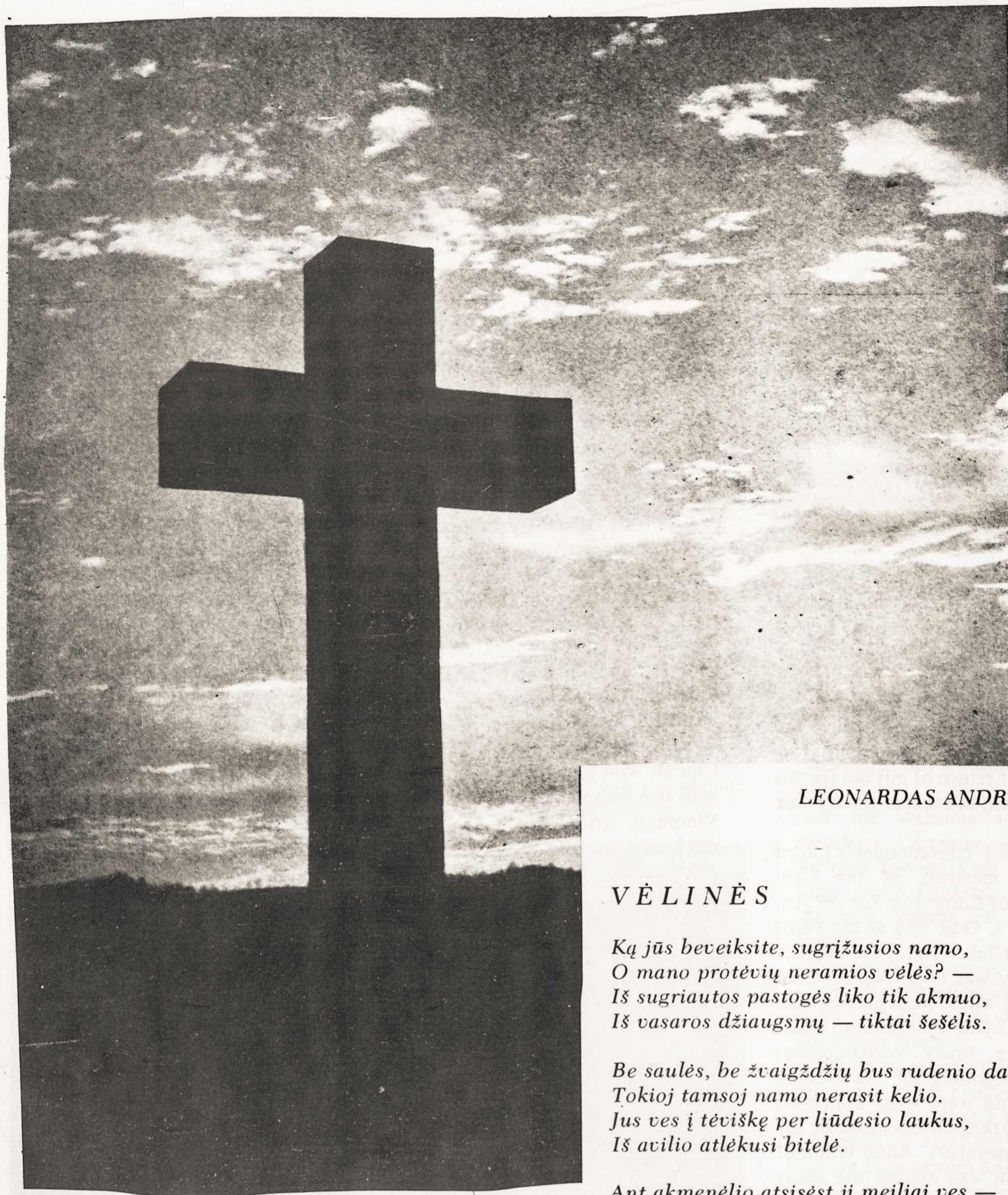
If ever a person lived to the fullest, she did. Not one to complain, although hospitalized 10 months ago for a serious illness, she was getting ready to embark with all enthusiasm on one of her favorite projects - Archdiocesan Development Fund (ADF), which was kicked off on Apr. 27. The theme this year was "Touch a Life."

Her last fulfillment was serving as hostess for the K of L meeting in April, just a few days before she died. She never realized that this was her last obligation.

Elizabeth gave... and she was given. Her funeral procession stretched for blocks, and people came by hundreds to pay their respects. She is survived by two sons, Stanley and David; a sister, Ann Paurazas of Chicago, and three grandchildren.

Affectionately, Elizabeth went to HIS HOME in tribute that she richly deserved.

by Sophie Zager



LEONARDAS ANDRIEKUS

VĒLINĒS

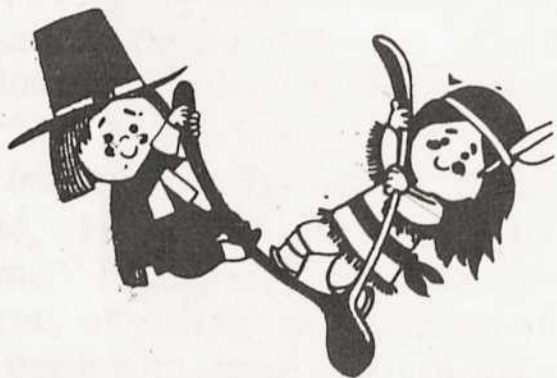
*Kā jūs beveiksite, sugrižusios namo,
O mano protēvių neramios vēlēs? —
Iš sugriautos pastogēs liko tik akmuo,
Iš vasaros džiaugsmų — tikai šešēlis.*

*Be saulēs, be žvaigždzių bus rudenio dangus —
Tokioj tamsoj namo nerasiť kelio.
Jus ves į tēviškę per liūdesio laukus,
Iš avilio atlēkusi bitelē.*

*Ant akmenēlio atsisēst ji meiliai ves —
Stebēsītēs, kodēl taip aklinaĩ sutemo —
Ir jūsu ašaras, brangiausias lauktuves,
Sugers dejuodama gimtoji zemē.*

Vyčiai Veikia Council Activities

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



ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

To the many, many K of L members and friends who attended the 66th Nat'l Convention, hosted by the Ill-Ind Dist., we extend our appreciation and sincerely hope that one and all had a great time in Chicago. We enjoyed hosting the Convention and are looking forward to the return of our old friends and new acquaintances to our fair city!

The K of L conventioners joined with the members of the Lith. Chamber of Commerce for the Annual K of L Golf Day at the Palos Country Club. The lone out-of-town entry was Chip Newberry of Southfield, Mich. who, golfing with Rudy Stachyra, shot a most creditable score. Many conventioners joined the golfers for the evening banquet and were most impressed with the arrangements made by the Chamber members. Anne White of So. Boston was among the many prize winners.

The Dist. is grateful to the many, many members who actively participated in the Convention. Only through the efforts of the various chairmen and chairladies and the

working members of each committee was the Convention as successful as it was!

Through the efforts of the K of L Bldg. Trustees, Managers, the So. Pacific Nite committee and our IID Pres. Al Brazis and his wife Aldona, the K of L building was never in greater shape and truly a south-pacific wonder

All of the events — from the Pre-Convention activities — to the Lithuanian Folk Fair with performances by the K of L Dancers — to the Lith. South Pacific evening — to the Welcoming Luncheon — to the gala Banquet and Ball — to the Farewell Luncheon — and to the beautiful, beautiful services of the Closing Mass at Nativity BVM Church with a concelebrated Mass with two bishops, Nevin Hayes and Vincentas Brizgys, and absolutely glorious singing of the parish choir directed by Mr. Linas — were

tremendous with an over-capacity attendance at all events. The committee and workers hope that everyone attending enjoyed the Convention.

There were also other activities in the IID. The Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce sponsored the 2nd Annual Lithuanian Day at White Sox Park with Vince Samaska again in charge of this most colorful and fun day with Lith. dancing, singing, floats, etc. Al Brazis did a superb job of singing the American and Lithuanian Anthems.

The Chicago Chapter of ALTAS commemorated the June tragedies with a flag-raising ceremony and presented a floral tribute. Religious services were held at Nativity BVM Church and Lith. Lutheran Home Church. A new member of the Chicago ALTAS Board is Stephanie Jonutis.



At the Natl. Convention, Rev. A. Zakarauskas, Al Brazis, Frank Savickas

IID Board Pres. Frank Zapolis and his wife, Eleanore, celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary with a super party held in the Grand Ballroom of the Martinique.

Another special event was held at the Martinique, and that was the Diamond Birthday Party of Lith. Consul Josephine Dausvardis, sponsored by the Chicago Lith. Women's Club. Many K of L members were in attendance to help "A favorite" celebrate this special occasion.

Helping to raise funds for the Lith. Youth Congress was the K of L Choir and the C36-112 Jrs. who performed at the special Lith. Day picnic in Brookfield.

The Women's Guild of the Lith. Museum held their Annual Fashion Show and, again, it was a delight to attend. Congratulations to Adele Zunas who served as Mistress-of-Ceremonies.

Congratulations to Attorney Konnie Savickas, the first life-time member of the K of L, on his appointment as the Head of Ordinance Enforcement for the city of Chicago. Konnie has worked in the Corporation Council offices for 30 years and is most deserving of his most recent promotion.

Another congrats goes to Vince Samaska who began the 1980 bowling season with a 220 average and a high game of 277. (That's scratch folks!) Wonder what his average is now?

In the midst of preparations for the Nat'l Convention, the IID held its annual July 4 Lith. Day picnic at the K of L Bldg and gardens. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed the socializing in addition to working "for the cause". Co-chairman Juozas Laurinaitis and Harry Petraitis and their committee are to be congratulated.

The Captive Nations Commemoration was again held in Chicago's Daley Plaza and as usual the K of L

colors, courtesy of Sgt-at-Arms Jerome Jankus, were present along with many K of L members. The preparations were handled capably by Sabina Klatt, while the other IID Civic Affairs Chmn Vince Samaska was in Lithuania visiting with his mother, sister and family.

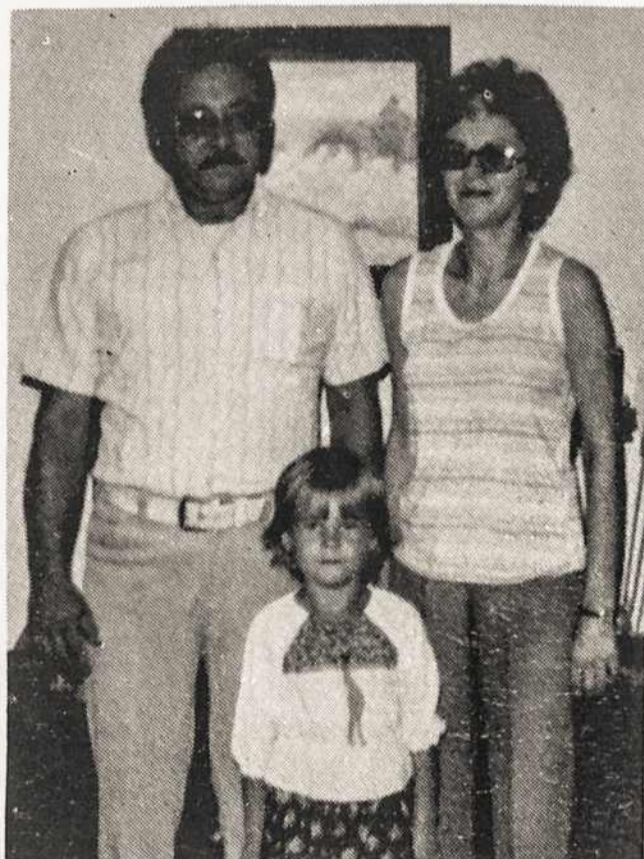
Out-going president and C112 member Pranas Povilaitis chaired the Lith. World Catholic Congress held at the Jesuit Center. Elected to serve on the new Board was K of L member Dr. Joseph Jerome.

Again, to all who attended the 66th National Convention in Chicago, a big Thank You!

LT 99

C-36 - CHICAGO, ILL.

This has been quite an active summer. Lithuanian Day on June 23 at White Sox Park was well represented by our members. Unfortunately, the day was quite cold and the White Sox lost, but everyone had a good time. Bill Veeck, owner of the White Sox, was given a Lithuanian cross in honor of the occasion.



IID-ers, Algis and Helen Shudra with daughter Paula

On June 24 we held a membership drive and petition signing for the Beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis before and after Masses at Immaculate Conception Church. Rev. Dambrauskas, MIC, gave an inspiring talk about Archbishop George. Many signatures were obtained. Thanks to all who donated their time and contributed delicious baked goods for the free "coffee/and" in the parish hall.

The IID July 4 Picnic was a huge success, thanks to the good weather and the help of all who donated their services. Vince's kugele, as usual, was a sell-out.

Some of our council members attended the Captive Nations Day rally on July 21 at the Civic Center. Jerome Jankus was our official flag bearer.

July 29 was a very special day, the 75th birthday celebration of our beloved Consul General, the Honorable Josephine Dausvardis, which was sponsored by the Lithuanian Women's Club at the Martinique. It was very impressive to see so many turn out for this joyous occasion.

A big welcome to our new members, Zuzana Jalosinskas, Jadvyga Tamasevicius, Dr. Aldona Rugis, John Paukstis, and John & Marcella Simutis of Carmichael, Calif.

Vincas Norkaitis is his old self again after spending several weeks in the hospital. You can't keep a good man down.

All of us were a little apprehensive when Vince Samaska informed us he was going to visit his mother in Lithuania in July, but he returned safe and sound with lots of pictures.

Our council members were extremely happy to meet so many K of L'ers from all over the country, and sincerely hope they had a great time at the Chicago Convention. Hopefully, we'll all meet again next year.

Ruta

C-112 - CHICAGO, ILL.

Our summer meeting schedule was changed due to the Natl. Convention. No meeting was held in June, but a special meeting was called in July for the benefit of those attending the Convention and representing our council. This year, the first in many, we had a full delegation of 17, and several of our members served on the Conv. presidium committees: Nominating - H.M. Eleanore Laurin, Mandate - Monica Kasper and Sophie Nieminski, and the all important Resolutions Committee had the capable Alex Pakalniskis Jr. as our rep.

As usual, our council members were prominent during the Annual IID's July 4 Lith. Day Picnic. In addition to the regular IID workers - Al B, Irene, Al & Julie, Gerry, Eleanore, Estelle, Ruth & Al, Gerrie & Al, Sophie, Monica, Harry & Emily, others that assisted were Ellie Kasputis, Prudy Bickus, Dell Zunas, Al Raubiskis, Stephanie Mlodzik, Eddie Krivickas and Kazys Rozanskis. Other members of our council did their share, also, for the benefit of the Dist. and the K of L Bldg.

Our condolences to Emilija Pakalniskis on the death of her brother in Lithuania, and to Mary Dauginas on the death of her mother.

Board meetings were held in August at the Dagis' Oak Lawn residence, and in September at Dolores Wainauskis' new condo. Both meetings were well attended and many plans were formulated for the coming months. The September meeting included post-convention conversations and the viewing of convention photos.

Many council members attended our summer outing at "Braewood," courtesy of the Zakarka's and the Dagis'. It was a full day of fun and frolic in the sun.

The Annual IID Golf Day was again held in conjunction with the Lith. Chamber of Commerce, and the K of L winners were our council members Estelle Rogers and Vyto Shukis.

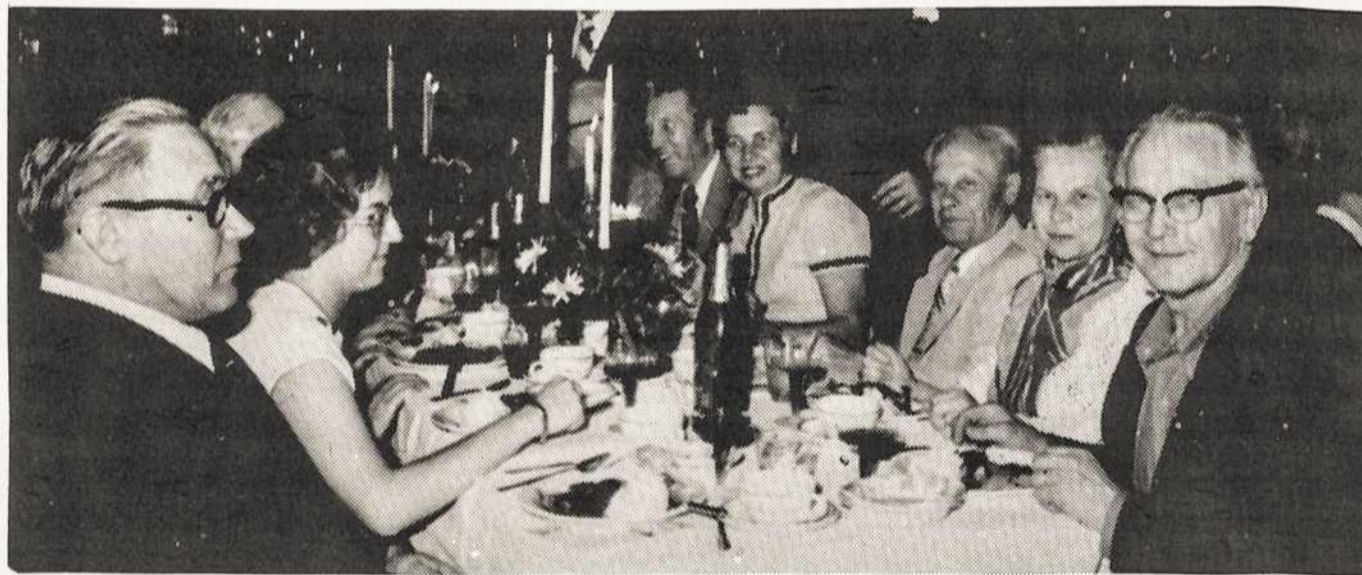
Our council was well represented on the 66th Natl. Conv. Committee with many of our members serving as chairmen, namely: Lith. Consul Josephine Dauzvardis, Hon Chmn; Al Brazis, Gen. Chmn; Irene Sankus, Co-chmn & Ad Book; Gerry Mack, Regr.; Monica Kasper & Sophie Nieminski, Pro-Convention; Al Mockus, Folk Fair; Estelle Rogers, So. Pacific Nite; the Zakarka's and the Petraitis', Farewell Luncheon; Gerrie Mockus & Ruth Dagis, Secy.'s; Emilija Pakalniskis, Lith. Publ.; Al Dagis, Parade Marshall; Paul Binkus, Transportation; and Alex

Pakalniskis Jr., assistant to one and all. In addition, many of our members worked on the various committees and, in general, assisted whenever necessary.

Many of our members were unofficial greeters and guides to the many out-of-town guests and friends. Several groups enjoyed dinner at Richard Shlaustas' DiamondHead Restaurant; the Zakarka's entertained the Amsterdam delegation; and Dolores Wainauskis, the fellows from New Jersey.

The annual "Our Lady of Siluva" procession and services were held in Nativity BVM Church and a large contingent of K of L members, along with our colors, were present, headed by council Pres. Al Zakarka.

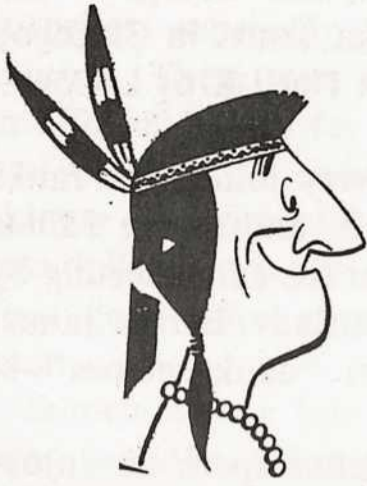
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K of L-ers at Nativity BVM Parish Banquet



Chicago & Detroit K of L-ers at Chicago's "Lietuvos Aidai" Banquet



MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

With one of the rainiest summers in some time now passing on, the council will be settling in for fall and winter activities. However, the weather did not slow us down totally. Stefanjia Rastikis has taken on the busy task of Lithuanian Affairs Chmn for the MCD. Through the encouragement of Stefanjia, those of us who did write to President Carter and Dr. Z. Brzezinski, all received replies. Returned registered mail to Nijole Sadunaite and Viktoras Petkus will have to be checked into for authenticity of their signing the postal cards.

Our Cultural Chmn Ada Sinkwitz has been busy giving egg and straw demonstrations for various groups in the area. At many of these gatherings, the talented Cecelia Lisankis has entertained with her accordion. Aldona Ryan has been a guest at various functions giving talks on Lithuania, her people and plight.

Dayton has a local TV program in the mornings appropriately titled "Daytime Dayton". The program covers a variety of topics. Through the implementation of Aldona Ryan as our parish's Cultural Chmn, a "Geguzine" was held, live on TV, in June on the church grounds. Mother Nature held off her rains and the food prepared by the Knights and parishioners was a tremendous success. It was a

memorable occasion for our local Lithuanian community.

Under the "tender loving care" of Chris Mantz, Rita Ambrose, John & Joyce Berczelly, Harley Karns and Sue Smiley, our Jrs. spent a fun-filled camping weekend June 29-July 1 at Lake St. Mary's. In spite of the rain, a good time was had by all. Word got back to the council that following Mass, Chris was stopped by a local parishioner complimenting the behavior of our young people in church.

Joe & Aldona Ryan, Stefanjia Rastikis, Joe & Eleanor Mantz, George & Frances Mikalauskas, Eloise Berczelly, and Fran & Jr. Knight Tom Petkus participated in Dayton's annual recognition of Captive Nations Week on July 15. This year the host nation was Ireland. It is too bad more Knights and parishioners didn't participate, as the Mass and homily were most impressive.

Heading for Chicago as delegates to the Nat'l Convention Aug. 16-20 were Eloise Berczelly, Eleanor Mantz, Fran Petkus and HM Stanley Vaitkus. Aldona Ryan represented the MCD. Guests from the council were Kitty & Lou Prasmantas, George & Frances Mikalauskas, Joe Ryan, Ed Sluzas, Michael F. Petkus, Mike Takarsky, Steponas Bucmys, Helen Vaitkus, and John & Joyce Berczelly. Tom Petkus and Elena Mikalauskas were our Jr. Knight's delegates. Overall, the Convention for our delegates was very disappointing. Four Resolutions were proposed by our council and three went down in defeat in a very discouraging manner. It does tend to make one feel let down. The sessions were real eye openers; but then, there is next year to prepare for. To the I-I Dist. we do thank you for the fine time we had. Socially, the Convention was a success for us. Aciu labai!

Special congratulations go to our

Fourth Degree Recipients, John A. Berczelly, Kitty Prasmantas and Helen Vaitkus. Fran Petkus very gratefully accepted the Honorary membership posthumously bestowed to her late husband, Mike P. Petkus. We were so pleased for our own George Mikalauskas on the response received for his hand-crafted Lithuanian Shrine which was donated to the Nat'l Scholarship Comm. Sister Francesca's handmade Lithuanian doll, also donated to the committee, was beautiful.

Congratulations to Stanley Vaitkus on his new position as Nat'l 3rd Vice Pres. in charge of Seniors. Fran Petkus will continue her work on the Nat'l Ritual Comm. Stan recently received another honor in the Cincinnati diocese. He is a Lay Distributor at St. Christopher's in Vandalia.

Six of our members visited the graves of out-of-town deceased members of Aug. 26, as part of our yearly project. With Joe Mantz driving, Eleanor & Chris Mantz, Bea Noreikas, Eloise Berczelly and Fran Petkus kept things moving with a steady flow of conversation. They traveled over ninety miles to visit our two members.

C-79 - SOUTHFIELD, MICH.

The sound of the school bell is behind us, and vacations are over. We can say it was a nice summer. We were fortunate because we were not busy going out on Rosary Chain calls. Hope it stays that way.

The first meeting following the summer recess was held Sept. 5. Various reports on the Nat'l K of L Convention were given by our delegates, Violet & Joseph Panavas, Magdalena Smailis, Ann Kratage, Bertha Janus, Stella Hotra, and Sophie Zager. Congratulations to Stella Hotra & Bertha Janus who received their Fourth Degrees dur-

ing the Conv. Mass. Sophie Zager emerged as the S.C. Ritual Chairperson who, along with Frances Petkus of Dayton, and Rita Pinkus of Worcester, will issue the processing of your degrees in the coming year.

One illustrious event of the Convention was the announcement of the Honorary Award to be presented to our member, Anthony Dainus, next year at the 67th Convention. He was named candidate last year in Syracuse, but, unfortunately, his name was inadvertently omitted for the '79 award.

Belated congratulations to Charlie Milius who received his American citizenship during welcoming ceremonies to 1100 people by Mayor Coleman Young. Charlie was a native of Montreal. Lady Luck dealt a good hand to Charlie during the Mid-West Bowling Tournament in Dayton. He won the 50-50 at the banquet's drawing.

All kinds of trips ensued for some of our members. Vicki Chepelonis took her second trip to Lithuania, and also toured Zurich, Lucerne, Munich, Black Forest, and parts of Austria.

Our "Galloping Grandma" Bertha Janus had hardly unpacked her suitcases, to be ready to go elsewhere. She drove to Cleveland to visit her relatives; sailed the splendors of Georgian Bay with son-in-law and daughter, Nancy & family; attended the Moteru Sajunga Conv. and the K of L Nat'l Conv., both held in Chicago; then accompanied Marcella Rufus with a Senior Group to Mackinaw Island in Upper Michigan.

When the Zagers spotted real fuschia hanging baskets as they embarked on the "Love Boat," the Island Princess at San Francisco, they knew that "we finally realized our long-awaited trip and dream to see Alaska." They enjoyed scenic tours and stopovers in Ketchikan,

Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Sitka and "breathtaking" Inner Passage. The Zagers reached back into history going by train along the Klondike Trail during the gold rush of 1898. Another highlight featured a beautiful sunset at approx. midnight in Juneau.

Enjoying another sort of train trip were Stella & Walter Hotra who took a mini-vacation to Toronto to celebrate their wedding anniversary on Oct. 13. Ilgiausu Metu!

Betty & Frank Petroski also travelled by rail to California where they visited with daughter, Bette. Coming home they decided to fly "the friendly skies" and took a plane back.

Phyllis & Emil Byville are happy grandparents for the first time. Son William and wife Loie are the proud parents of a fine boy named Keith. Our condolences to Phyllis upon the loss of her brother-in-law Ben on May 4. He is the beloved husband of her sister, Ruth. Sincere sympathy to her.

Labai aciu to those 3 Great Gents, George Kase, Walter Hotra and Frank Zager, who "chauffered" the



C-79 Southfield, Mich. members pausing during Nat'l Chicago Convention: newly-elected Nat'l Ritual Chmn. Sophie Zager, and 4th Degree recipients Stella Hotra and Bertha Janus.

ladies. Frank handled the driving at the Mid-West Bowling & MCD meeting in Dayton, George at the Moteru Sajunga Conv. in Chicago, and Walter the Nat'l K of L Conv. in Chicago.

Chip Newberry joined the ranks of our council, and Nellie Milius was installed at the June meeting by our Ritual Chairlady, Bertha Janus. We wish them "dauk sekmes" in our council.

Eleanor Mickey spent an enjoyable vacation in Amsterdam, N.Y., and toured other parts of the Mohawk Valley during Labor Day week.

Condolences to the Mickey family upon the death of our member Joseph Mickey. He is the dear father of Jeanine Mittelstaedt. Eternal peace to him.

Frank Zager who spent 46 years with the Ford Motor Co. was remembered with a "surprise" retirement party on Sept. 2. He would like to say "Thank You" to all council members who attended the memorable party. May he enjoy many years of successful retirement.



**MID-ATLANTIC
DISTRICT**

C-12 - NEW YORK, N.Y.

This little piece isn't meant to be a travelogue, even if our group did tour many European countries and their cities. Rather it's an alert for any good K of L'er who might plan to visit those areas. Except for Scotland and Ireland, inflation has already gone through the roof. Continental entrepreneurs have many

Soffi

surprises, especially for American tourists. There were such outrages as fifteen dollars for a hamburger and a soft drink, eight dollars for a skimpy sandwich plus an additional two dollars for a cup of coffee, and four dollars for a small bottle of beer.

Somehow our bus always managed to make a stop at some roadside stand far removed from any competition. Since these merchants had a built-in monopoly, they charged whatever they thought the traffic would bear. There was never a printed price list.

Our tour did have one outstanding redeeming feature. That was the papal audience in Vatican City. In our traveling group we had with us Rev. Mitchell Cieslik, pastor of Assumption parish in Grafton, Ohio, and a personal friend of the pontiff. They had met in Poland in 1942 when Fr. Cieslik was ordained in that country's underground seminary, and the present pope was just starting his studies in the same institution. We assumed we had an inside track in meeting the pope. Not so. Since there were roughly 50,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square at the time, our people were engulfed in this mass of humanity. Even the wish to visit the Lithuanian shrine in the basement of St. Peter's went by the boards. This was the eternal tribute to our Blessed Mother that we dedicated almost ten years ago.

Every conceivable vantage point was simply overcrowded, and we were considerably behind schedule in what we had planned to do. We did learn later that Fr. Cieslik presented John Paul II with a crucifix more than 600 years old, and the Holy Father gave his blessing not only to those present but also to our families back home.

This will be my last contribution to the Vytis magazine. The pneumonia contracted in England is

still with me and even hitting a typewriter key is a major effort. There have been reverses in other areas, too, which makes it imperative for me to seek a prolonged rest.

Fortunately, our council is rich in writing talent and whoever my successor will be will most certainly show an improvement over the incumbent. In ringing down the curtain, I cannot improve the one-liner used by the theatrical people for many years, "Thanks for the memory."

Jim Sabal - "The Vet"

C-100-Amsterdam, N.Y.

An exceptionally large assemblage of K of L'ers attended the May meeting. The outstanding feature was that a number of our male members, Rev. Robert K. Baltch, Ed & Bill Liberis, Charles Karbus, Tony Radzevich, Joseph Shatas and Ed Wolan, planned the refreshments - wine and cheese. Very tasty fellows! LIETUVISKAI.. Labai skanu!

Pres. Tony Radzevich brought the meeting to order, prayers were offered by Father Grigaitis, minutes were read by Nellie Liberis, and various officers and committee chairmen gave their reports. Nat'l Pres. Phil Skabeikis' letter was read.

Jack Sweet's sister, Ann Tighe (our long distance member from

N.J.), sent an article to Gene Gobis from the May 7 issue of the Asbury Park Press, titled, "Expelled Lithuanian Says Dissidents Growing in Soviet Union," by Fred Foy. This was about Romas Giedra, a 34-year old Lithuanian who spent 5 years as a political prisoner in a labor camp. Ed Baranauskas thought it a most enlightening article and would call one of the local "speak up" shows to talk about Giedra.

Our St. Casimir's Church celebrated its 75th anniversary on June 10. Bishop Howard Hubbard was the celebrant of the Mass. The Vilija Quartet under the direction of Louis Stukas provided the entertainment at the dinner which followed the church services. They were also heard during the Offetory of the Mass. Many of our members actively participated on the various committees. Willard Kensell was chairman; Evelyn Rimkunas, co-chairman; Sophie Olbie, treas.; Nellie Liberis, secy.; and Sadie Karbus headed the publicity committee.

Our annual outing at Dr. & Mrs. Adam Kindar's summer home took place June 17. Sophie Olbie and Gene Gobis were co-chairladies, and Mary Stanionis, Betty Kuzmich, Helen Wojcik, Judy Kastravickas, Jack & Mary Sweet, Peter & Charlotte Sargalis, Willard & Jennie Kensell, and our Pres. Tony Radzevich and wife, Ann, were on the committee.



"Vilija" Quartet and director Lou Stukas

Our meeting date of May 14 was also the wedding anniversary of Birute Ralys and husband, Stanley. Pres. Radzevich extended congratulatory greetings on behalf of the council.

Many members attended the Memorial Day services at St. Casimir's cemetery on May 28. Our council and Nat'l trustee Isabelle McKinley and husband Milton from Ridgefield, N.J. were in attendance. Council member and 3rd Ward Supervisor Joseph Valikonis was the speaker for the occasion. We were very proud of Joe. His message touched everyone present.

Co-chairladies of our cultural committee, Regina Kot and Polly Ziausys, were really putting Lithuania on the map! They had a program on Lithuania at the Second Presbyterian Church's Meals for the Elderly and also in Fort Plain, N.Y. Pres. Radzevich spoke at the Meals for the Elderly at the Mount Carmel Church.

SMILE & SPARKLE

C-110 - MASPETH, N.Y.

At the Natl. Convention held in Chicago, 20 Regulars and 4 Juniors represented our council. We heartily congratulate and extend best wishes to our members elected to the Supreme Council, Pres. Philip Skabeikis; 2nd Vice Pres. in Charge of Membership, John Adomenas; Chmn. Lith. Affairs, Rev. Casimir Pugevicius; and Bill Sidtis, Lith. Catholic Religious Aid Coordinator.

Philip Skabeikis was co-chairman on the Presidium, Peter Yuskevich was Sgt. of Arms and John Adomenas a member of the Mandate Committee.

Two of our Juniors, Mark Adomaitis and Antanas Ambrosini, were awarded Conventionships for outstanding work in the Jr. council.

Of the 200 or more delegates attending the Convention, Maspeth was well represented. We are proud of their active participation in the many sessions. Bill Sidtis co-chaired the panel on "How to Keep the Lithuanian-American Youth Active."

Adele Dauzickas won the hand-crafted outdoor Lithuanian Wayside Shrine, a raffle sponsored by the Natl. Scholarship Fund.

On Sept. 5, our monthly meeting was held at the Transfiguration Parish Hall. The guest speaker was Rev. Joseph Dambrauskas, Provincial of the Marian Order, who spoke on the beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis. Our council hosted the Supreme Council Executive Board meeting on Sept. 22 in the parish hall. Our annual Dinner-Dance was held Sept 29 with very good attendance to ensure a social success. Chairlady for the evening was Ann Adomenas.

A.S.

ANTHRACITE, PA. C-144

This past summer was a very busy time for the council. In June we again participated in the Schuylkill County Arts & Ethnic Fair, and Anne Sikora and her committee did a tremendous job. As usual, the Lithuanian display was beautiful, and the Lithuanian food booth was one of the most popular at the fair.

Three of our members suffered recent losses. Theresa Vesci lost her father, Sara Beckett her husband, and Jo & Joe Walacavage their mothers. Our deepest and heartfelt sympathy go to them.

Everyone says "Aciu sirdingai" to Bernice Mikatavage for the tremendous job she did as chairman of the 65th Lithuanian Day at Barnesville in August. Bernice started working and planning in March, and she and her committee are to be commended. Despite the terrible rainy day, it was most successful. Those who attended the first celebration in 1914 were especially honored. Also, a million thanks to Anne Zaldaris and her committee, and to Father Stanley Luksys and the Tamaqua Holy Name men for Saturday night's Mass and open house. St. Peter & Paul's Church was recently built and is a beautiful church. The Mass was beautiful and everyone had a good time at the reception. Our special guests were Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Algimintas Gecys of Philadelphia.

Our especial appreciation goes to our Spiritual Advisor, Father Al Bartkus. With his assistance and that of Msgr. Neverauskas, we are able to accomplish all these things.

After Lithuanian Day, Elsie Kosmisky again was Tour Chairman, and 39 members and friends traveled to Chicago by bus to the Natl. Convention. We sang all the

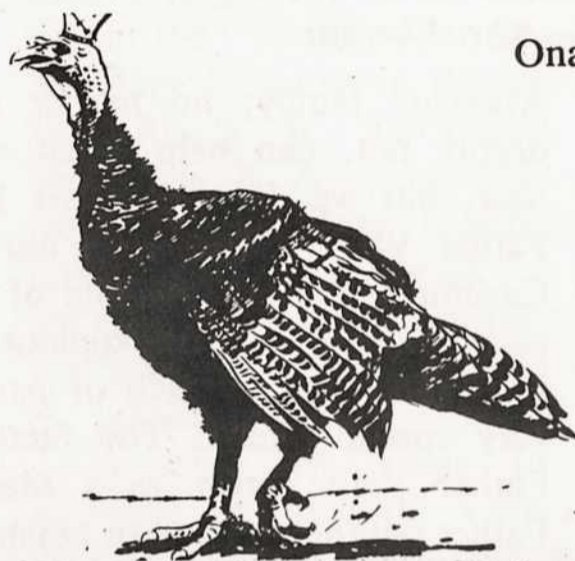


Districts meet - P. Skabeikis, M.A.D., I. Sankus, IID, Rev. Jurgelaitis, NED, W. Svekla, MAD

way from Schuylkill County to Chicago, and the bus driver said he never drove such a grand group. By the time we returned to Pennsylvania, he was saying "Gera ryta," "Aciu," etc. Elsie really deserves a big hand for the way she arranges a trip.

Special services were held Aug. 29 in Annunciation Church for the suffering church in Lithuania.

We are now looking forward to election of officers for 1980.



Ona

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-10 - Athol-Gardner, MA

Blanche & Charlie Genaitis visited with their daughter and family in Seattle, Wash. for the best part of the summer. They also traveled to Idaho on a sightseeing tip. Bea Richard vacationed in beautiful Hawaii. The Wisnauskas' visited Pennsylvania Dutch Country, and the Rodski's made several trips to Hampton. Gladys Narkevicius spent many times at the Cape. The Athol girls attended the Sister's picnic in Putnam, Conn. Lennie Davidonis was their chauffeur.

It was a beautiful summer for outings and cookouts. Many of our members held family reunions and get-togethers. The Rodski's entertained Paul Wesokes from Oregon, along with a family-&-friends-get-together in Paul's honor at their home. Our council held their annual

summer cookout at Frank Anoris' summer home on White's Pond. It was a cool day, but all had a fine time. Father Steponaitis was able to attend this year.

On a recent trip to Rome, the Perekslis' met and had the privilege to greet our great Pope. It was exciting.

Condolences are extended to Vyt Kapiskas and family of Providence, R.I., on the death of a former Gardner resident, Dot (Plona) Kapiskas, who died Aug. 1 after a long and lingering illness. Dot met Vyt at one of our winter carnivals which blossomed into a romance and later marriage. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

The Wisnauskas' remembered Brone's mother's 1st anniversary of her tragic death with a memorial Mass at St. Francis Church, Athol, on June 16, attended by relatives, friends and K of L'ers.

Gardner residents are proud of the recent appointment of Daniel Novak, Pres. of the local Lith. Club, as Senior Citizen's Director in town. Daniel is proud of his Lithuanian ancestry and lets everyone know it. Good luck, Danny!

August was a good month for mushrooms in our area. This writer, however, cautions would be pickers to be extremely cautious, or if not sure, leave them alone. (This ardent picker knows 18 varieties of edible species).

Recently the local press carried several articles pertaining to Lithuania. One such lengthy article released by A.P. dealt with the Lith. magazine "Family" that publishes love ads in one section of the magazine every month, the first in the Soviet Union. The ads are a huge success, and it was found that most of the ads were placed by women. The article stated that so many ads were placed, there is a backlog of one year before they can be published, - and that residents of

other Soviet republics were also submitting personals.

Thought for the Month: During the month of November, which includes family get-togethers on Thanksgiving Day, let's all say a special prayer of thanksgiving for having the privilege of living in the USA. Although we are witnessing shortages and rising prices for all goods and services, we are, by far, the "chosen people" and living, as it were, in the Garden of Eden.

Member of the Month: One of our newest members, Helen Simkunas, was born in Butiskis, Lithuania, came to the States prior to World War II, and has made her home in Gardner since her arrival. Widowed at an early age, she brought up her only son Tony alone; he has earned his Masters in Education. Helen is a long-time employee of Simples Time Recorder Co. She has a very comfortable home and a beautiful garden. Helen is an excellent cook, her specialties are kugele and piraga. Our entire membership wishes Helen many years of good health and happiness.

Vincukas

C-26 - WORCESTER, MASS.

Our nine delegates (Ann Bender, Ann Bucinskas, Helen Gillus, Rita Pinkus, Claire Grigaitis, Marion Shapiro, Gadamis Troupes, Ann & Steve Walinsky, Sr.) returned from the Chicago Natl. Conv. boasting a wonderful time.

Congratulations to the John Kazlauskas' and Richard Godek's. Their new babies have renewed our hopes for a Jr. Council.

The Ritual Committee (Adele Degutis and Marion Racicot) completed their research which resulted in Rita Pinkus' presenting degrees this summer. Third Degrees went to Wanda Lescord and Virginia Leleikis, and Second Degrees to

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Anton, Marion Shapiro, Lillian Bagdis, William Karas and Rasa Grigaitis. (Incidentally, Bea & Tony Anton's daughter, Rosemary, was a beautiful bride this summer. We wish the newlyweds much happiness.)

A warm and sincere welcome to Gene & Carol Borek and to Joe & Paula Bunevith who have recently transferred their K of L memberships to our council.

Ellie Walinsky's major surgery is now just so much history. She played lady-of-leisure while her family hosted (with the help of certain K of L'ers) the July shish-kabob meeting held at their West Millbury residence. Ann Morkunas is much better now following her summer hospitalization. Continued good health to both girls! The August meeting, held at the summer home in Rutland of Rita & Ted Pinkus, featured barbecued chicken. Son-in-law and daughter, Tony & Alena Birch of Philadelphia, lent their very able assistance. Grateful thanks to the Walinsky and Pinkus families for these summer treats.

Also on the not-feeling-well list were Ann & John Bender's daughter, Helen, who had been hospitalized in the spring, and Steve Walinsky, Sr. who was scheduled for autumn hospitalization. We wish them both a rapid return to good health.

Top-of-the-list for exciting vacations this year was Ann Bucinkas' trip to Ireland, and Antoinette & Joe Ivaska's trip to the Hawaiian Islands.

We miss Bill Kereisis. No matter what the weather, Bill was seen at daily Mass. He was a lifetime member of our council and its constant supporter. Bill died this summer following an illness. Teresa Adomavicius' brother, Joseph Ciginskas, died suddenly on Aug.



New Englanders go Hawaiian at Convention

l. to r. Ann Bucinkas, Helen Gillis, Ann Bender

15. Irene Tamulevich (Pres. of neighboring C-116 at Our Lady of Vilna Church) lost her mother in July. To the families of these dear departed, we offer our sincere condolences.

Many of our members lent a hand at the St. Casimir's parish picnic. The K of L bake table was staffed by Mary Duggan, Agnes Law and Marion Shapiro and was a great hit.

Francis & Edwina Ginkus were honored by their daughters, Janet and Judy, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of their wedding with a huge reception held in July at Maironis Park. Present were Tillie Aukstikalnis Zelesky, one of the bridesmaids, and Mrs. Nell Thompson who was soloist at their nuptial Mass. Charles & Adele Tagman noted their 40th wedding anniversary with a special Mass Aug. 12 in St. Casimir's Church and a celebration followed. Their little granddaughter, Caryn (daughter of Bill & Carol Grigas) was one of the guitarists at Mass. Both couples, long and active K of L'ers, have our best wishes for many happy returns!

IN MEMORIAM: Rev. A. Valentine Atkocius, MIC, died unexpectedly at Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson, Conn. on July 3. No expression of sympathy to the Marian Fathers and

Atkocius family, no matter how deeply felt, can help much right now, but we do share their loss. Father Val was a son of our St. Casimir Parish, a graduate of our parish school, and throughout the years remained to each of us our very special friend. The facts of Father Val's career as a Marian Father tell the story of an outstanding priest. God rest his precious soul.

"Dzukele"

SRS. C-103 - PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Five members of our council, Helen Seraichekas, Mildred Seraichekas, Anthony Gudaczauskas, Irene Walaska & Bette Ciuryla, were recommended to the NED Ritual Committee for the Fourth Degree.

Paul J. Stoskus received a B.A. Degree from Silliman College at Yale Univ. graduating magna cum laude. His major was in Political Science. Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy of R.I. issued a Citation to John Stoskus, commending him for his twenty-two yrs. of service to the State and Dept. of Social & Rehabilitative Services. We, too, offer our congratulations.

Dr. & Mrs. John J. Cunningham celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in July. Much continued happiness!

In August we paid our final respects to Dorothy Kapiskas, a loyal and devoted member of our council. She and Vito were co-chairmen of the Sunday brunch during the Natl. Convention in Providence. Her son Francis is a member of our regular council. The Landanski family lost their beloved spouse and father. Peter was the father of 4th Degree member Irene Landanski.

Beatrice & Victor Mathieu once again arranged for the commemoration of the "Terrible June Days" at St. Mary's Church in Bristol, R.I. The Rev.'s W. O'Connell, V. Martinkus & A. Jurgelaitis celebrated the Mass. Hundreds of non-Lithuanians heard of our people's suffering and deportation by the Soviets from the homilist Rev. A. Jurgelaitis, O.P.

On Aug. 12, seven of our members attended the Lithuanian Day festivities in Barnesville, Pa. A good time was had by John & Irene Walaska, Ed & Rita Wilkins, Rev. Jurgelaitis, Bette Ciuryla & Bertha Stoskus.

Council delegates to the Natl. Conv. in Chicago were Father Jurgelaitis, Bette Ciuryla & Bertha Stoskus. The three were house guests of Julia (Stoskus) Urba. Bette's brothers, Dr. William and Attorney Joseph Osmani, treated the Rhode Islanders to lunch and dinner during and after the Convention. Thank you, all, for your hospitality.

Katherine Krecioch and Rimas Saulenas, members of our regular council, were awarded scholarships at the Convention.

Our pastor Rev. V. Martinkus was the principal concelebrant at a funeral Mass offered in Chicago for his brother-in-law, Frank Odinas.

We extend sincere condolences to Irene Tamulevich of C-116 in Worcester who suffered the loss of her beloved mother, Marcella

Sviklas. Bertha & John Stoskus attended the funeral services held at Our Lady of Vilna Church.

Our sympathies are extended to the Marian Fathers of St. Casimir's Province on the loss of their confrere, Rev. Valentine Atkocius, MIC. Father Val played an important role as a religious in the Marian

community.

A Jubilee Mass was offered in the Chapel of the Sisters of St. Casimir in Chicago for various jubilarians. Bertha Stoskus was the guest of Sister M. Barbara, who was celebrating her 50 golden years of religious life.

J.A.S.

JUNIORS NEWS

C-36/112 Juniors, Chicago

At our first Fall meeting, we decided that since most of us want to participate in next year's Šokių Šventė, we will start rehearsing each Wednesday with the District Dance Group under the direction of Frank Zapolis.

This is the 3rd anniversary of the organizing of our Council and we'll have an anniversary party in December.

We're going to begin raising funds to go to next year's Convention in South Boston. We're going to sponsor a Bowling Party and raffle.

Elections will take place next month.

Jurgina

„AR KALBATE LIETUVIŠKAI?“

Toronte, Kanadoje, kątik išėjo iš spaudos vadovėlis, skirtas lietuviškai nemokantiems vaikams ir jaunimui, kurį parašė mokytojas A. Rinkūnas. Knyga yra pavadinta „Ar kalbate lietuviškai?“, „Lithuanian for Beginners“, 224 puslapių. Joje yra trys dalys: fonetika, skaitymai aplinkos pažinimo temomis ir žodynas (lietuviškai-angliškas ir angliška-lietuviškas).

Šalia vadovėlio yra trys darbo sąsiuviniai, kurių vieną ar du mokinys pasirenka pagal savo pajėgumą. Sąsiuvinis A skirtas vaikų darželiui — paveikslavimo knyga, sąs. B skirtas pradžios mokyklos lygio mokiniams, ir sąs. C — studentams ir suaugusiems.

Sąs. C yra dviem kalbom — lietuviškai ir angliška. Tiek pagrindinis vadovėlis tiek darbo sąsiuviniai yra gausiai iliustruoti specialiai pieštais piešiniais.

Kainos, perkant pavieniui, yra šios: vadovėlis — \$4.00, darbo sąsiuviniai B ir C — po \$2.80, darbo sąsiuvinis A — \$2.00. Pašto išlaidos į tą kainą neįeina. Perkant didesniais kiekiais duodama 15% nuolaida.

Adresai: Kanadoje — „Ar Kalbate Lietuviškai?“, 1011 College Str., Toronto, Ont., Canada, M6H 1A8, JAV valstybėse — JAV LB Švietimo Taryba.

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