

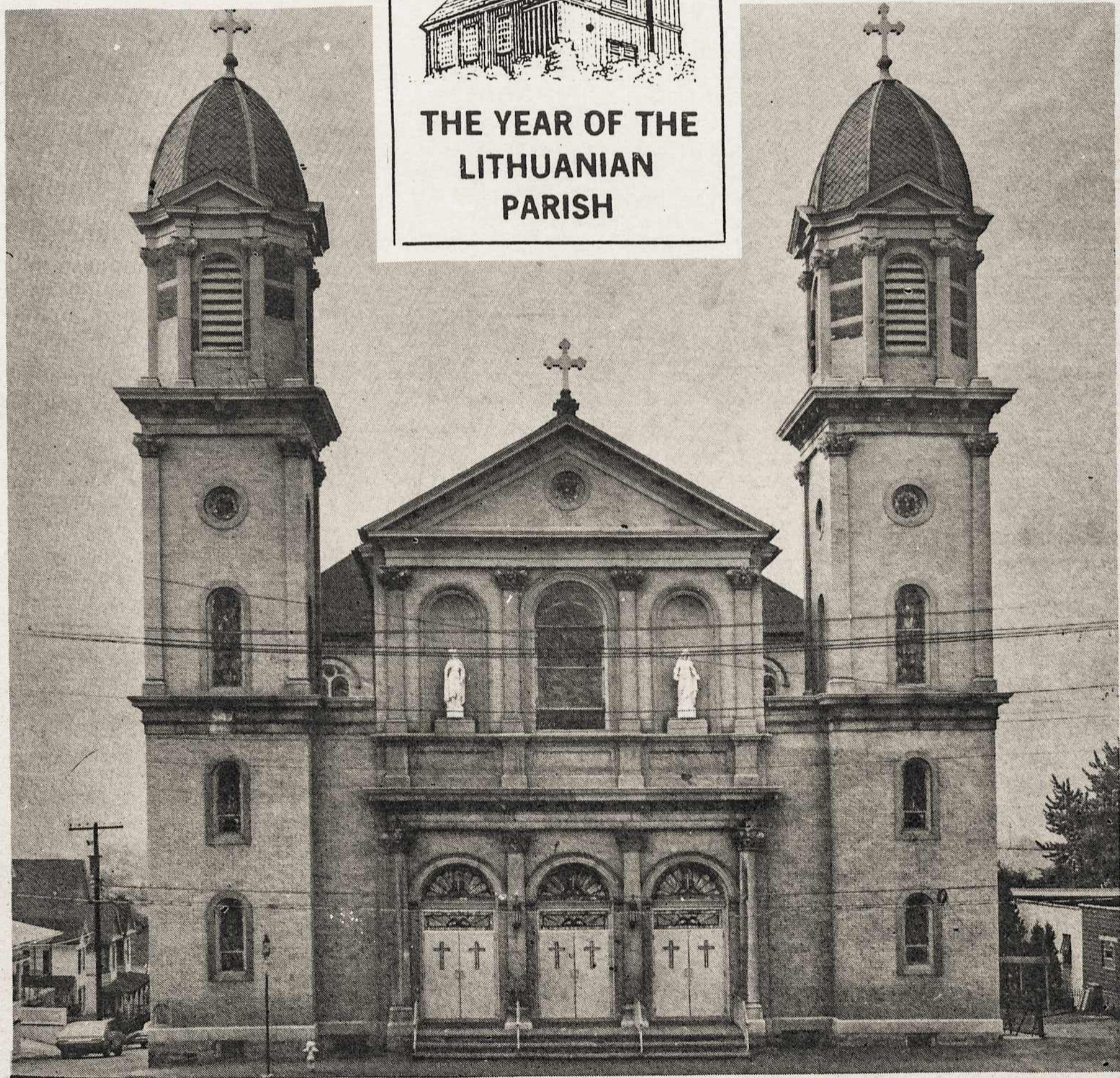
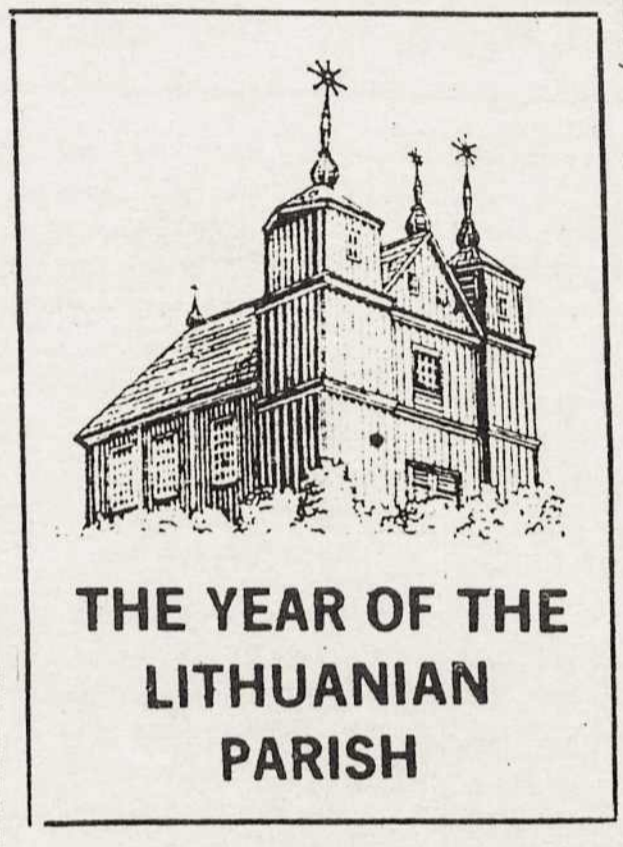
# the KNIGHT **VYTIS**

1982

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**THE KNIGHTS  
OF LITHUANIA**

Vol. 68 No. 6

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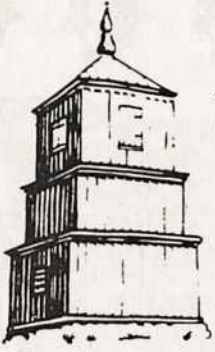
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## Year of the Lithuanian Parish

### A Proposal for K. of L. Action

Father Anthony  
Jurgelaitis, O.P.

Leave it to one of our newer K. of L. members to come up with a vigorous plan to renew and strengthen the ideals of our organization - "Dievui ir Tevynei".

During the past ten years or so, religious and cultural leaders among our people had been noticing and discussing a serious and growing problem among Lithuanians in the United States, namely: the number of Lithuanian parishes has been decreasing and their influence diminishing, as the older generation passed away and younger people moved out to the suburbs, as a shortage of Lithuanian priestly vocations developed. These reasons forced several Lithuanian parishes to close and there are many others which are barely surviving.

While many observers were sadly wringing their hands and awaiting the worst, Aloyzas Astravas (C-17, South Boston) rolled up his sleeves for action in an outstanding K. of L. way. "We won't wait," he thought, for our parishes to die, "we'll renew our efforts to strengthen and preserve them." He began speaking with one American Lithuanian leader after another. He had this problem brought up at the highest levels of the Lithuanian Community of the United States, Inc., he spoke to the American Lithuanian Catholic Priests' League, he addressed our last national Convention in Scranton, Pa., he wrote articles in the Lithuanian press. His K. of L. convention address was printed in the January, 1982, issue of VYTIS,

In a word, Aloyzas Astravas sharpened the focus of American Catholic Lithuanians and others on that problem with its far reaching consequences.

As a result of his efforts a unified statement was issued by our Honorary Member, Bishop Vincencas Brizgys, and the presidents of the Lithuanian Community, Inc., the American Lithuanian Catholic Priests' League, the American Lithuanian Catholic Federation, the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, the American Lithuanian Catholic Women's League, the "Ateitininkai" Federation and Lithuanian Catholic Services, proclaiming 1982 as the Year of the Lithuanian Parish and providing general guidelines for its observance and promising the appointment of a central committee to set up a specific plan of action. As of this writing the committee has not yet been designated or announced.

However ... leave it to another K. of L.'er, a veteran member, to develop a plan of specific actions, thoroughly in keeping with our K. of L. motto and spirit, which can put us on the road to renewal of Christian and family life in our parishes, where we meet to pray, to foster our Lithuanian spirit and further our K. of L. ideals.

This Knights of Lithuania leader is also from C-17, So. Boston, Honorary Member, who just happens to be president of the organization most concerned with Lithuanian parish survival in the United States.

Yes, we are speaking of our former Spiritual Advisor for many years, Father Albert Contons.

Father Contons carefully read the letter of the Lithuanian Bishops calling for a renewal of Catholic life in Soviet occupied Lithuania as a preparation for the 500th anniversary of Saint Casimir's death in 1984.

In their letter the Lithuanian Bishops pointed out the urgent need for chastity among young people and fidelity to God's law in family life, for sobriety in their country,

where alcoholism is a frightfully growing condition, for a greater love and devotion to Mary, Mother of God, Mother of the Church, Mother of Mercy. They placed this entire renewal effort under the protection of Our Lady of the Dawn Gate and Our Lady of Siluva.

The Lithuanian Bishops reasoned that only in this way would the celebration of the Saint Casimir Anniversary be sincere, meaningful and spiritually effective. Father Contons realized that our efforts at parish renewal ought to go hand in hand with the efforts of our brother and sister Catholics in Lithuania. Our efforts will encourage and give moral support to the persecuted Church of Lithuania. Their efforts in working positively and prayerfully for the Faith in their country would be an inspiration for us.

Father Contons plan is this: a rededication of the families in our Lithuanian parishes to Mary, Mother of Mercy, Our Lady of the Dawn Gate in Vilnius, the centuries old center of Lithuanian pilgrimage and prayer, and to Our Lady of Siluva, where Mary revealed her concern for parish life and through her intercession brought about a renewal of Catholic life in all of Lithuania.

Furthermore, recalling that Mary appeared in Fatima in 1917, urging all Catholics to pray the Rosary for the conversion of Russia and in atonement for the sins of the world and, in addition, to consecrate themselves to her Immaculate Heart, he included these actions in his Lithuanian Parish renewal.

Since prayer is not only a church function, but also, a family necessity, Father Contons plan includes visits by parish priests to the homes of the parishioners, where two or three neighboring families would get together for a Mass celebration or prayer meeting, where the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary would be made.

As a visible sign and reminder to the families consecrated to Mary and dedicated to renew Christian community living, each family



would have a color foto of the famous painting of Our Lady of the Dawn Gate in Vilnius and a specially prepared leaflet containing appropriate prayers helpful in continuing Christian family togetherness and parish community.

In developing and implementing his plan, Father Contons looks beyond his own Saint Peter's Parish, So. Boston. He has taken steps to make the fotograph and leaflet available to any Lithuanian parish wishing to adopt them.

We Knights of Lithuania, have councils in about 50 parishes in the United States, in almost half of the total number. We are close to our pastors. We can (and ought) to discuss how we can help in the renewal of our own parishes. We could discuss this plan with out pastors. The above presented idea may not work in your parish; your pastor may take a different approach. However, this plan of Father Contons could become a K. of L. contribution to the Year of the Lithuanian Parish, the implementation of the Scranton Convention Resolution, which reads:

"Be it resolved that the Knights of Lithuania support the aims of the Year of the Lithuanian Parish ... AT EVERY LEVEL ... and BE INVOLVED in its implementation and that the President in consultation with the Spiritual Advisor appoint an AD HOC committee for the Year of the Lithuanian Parish."

As you are aware, this committee has been at work, not only within the K. of L., but also reaching out to all parishes, beyond our organization.

The American Lithuanian Catholic Priests' League will inform and suggest this project to all Lithuanian pastors. This article is an "alert" to all Knights of Lithuania, so that when we are invited by our parish priests to participate and cooperate, we will be informed and ready - and even eager - to do our share in this vital task of Lithuanian Catholic Parish Renewal in the United States.

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



Dear Editor,

May the Lord be praised! Scranton is becoming more and more a Lithuanian metropolis! In the University of Scranton our Lithuanian language is more than welcome. Ronnie Davidson of the Continuing Education Program considers it her privilege to include it in their curriculum.

In August, the Jesuits were most cordial to us as a group when the Knights chose the University of K. of L. Convention. Their chapel and buildings were open for our convenience. The Lithuanian language was heard all over their campus for the entire week.

After the Knights of Lithuania had their Christmas performance in the Everhart Museum in Nay Aug Park, Sister Mary Reap, IHM, of Marywood College, invited our group to participate in their Global Awareness Program, February 21st. The nations represented were: Chinese, Indian, South American, German, and Lithuanian. The program took place in Nazareth Hall Dining room where ethnic foods were brought in by the representing nations.

Our Lithuanian Knights (and Ladies) were really outstanding in their colorful Lithuanian national costumes. Besides my 20 children, there were at least 30 adults represented. We were the most photographed group. Sister Mary Reap was so impressed that she extended her invitation to have us come each year for their Global Awareness Program.

The next morning, Marnie Rees called to ask me if the K. of L. would be willing to fill the showcase at the Memorial Library in Central City for 2 weeks in June, and then show slides and have a program open to the public. Naturally, we were only too happy to cooperate. God is really hearing the prayers of the Lithuanian people! The love and acceptance extended to us in unbelievable!



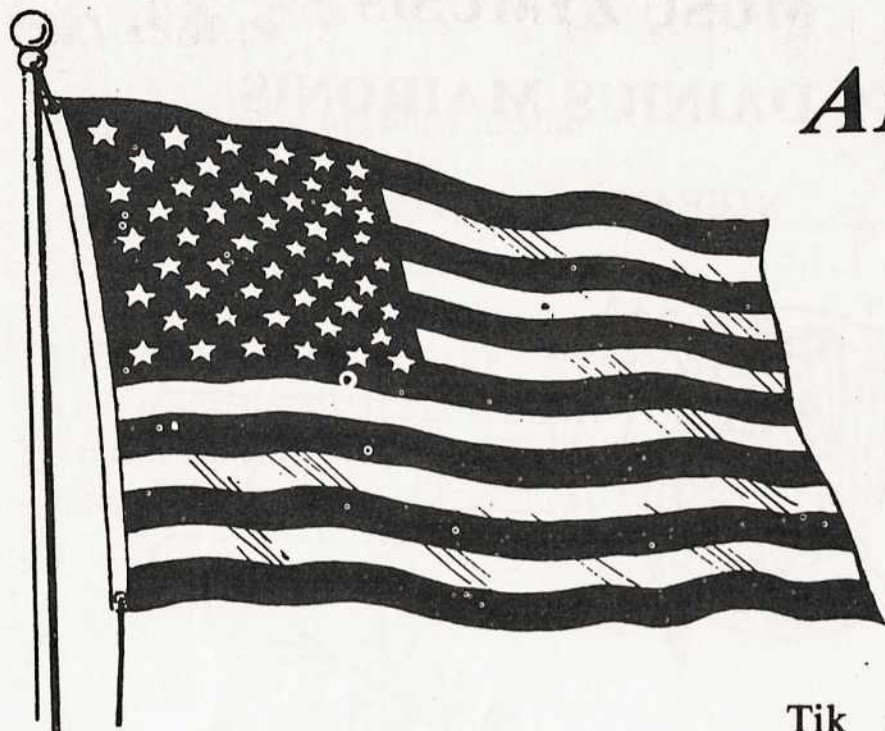
The Scranton news media publishes all our articles. In fact, some of them call to ask if a reporter can come to interview us and take pictures, as they did before Christmas.

Let us continue to pray that God may use us as His instruments to bring peace and brotherhood to the entire world, that love and humility replace prejudice and pride in the hearts of all people. Asking God to bless each and everyone of you, I am, in Jesus Crucified,

Sister Virginia C.J.C.  
St. Mary's Villa,  
Elmhurst, PA 18416







# AMERIKOS TAUTOS ŠVENTĖ

Liepos 4-ji.

Kiekviena Amerikos tautinė šventė primena, kad Amerikas ir Marijos vardai yra artimai susiję. Persikelkime porą šimtmečių atgal. Kristupas Columbus, atradęs šią šalį, savo laivą pavadino Marijos vardu. Pirmoji Amerikos kolonija pavadinta Marijos žeme — Maryland, net didžioji, Mississippi upė irgi buvusi pavadinta Marijos vardu.

Tik pagalvok apie katedras, bazilikas, bažnyčias, mokyklas, ligonines, šventoves ir net miestus pavadintais Marijos vardais.

Todėl nestebėtina, kad Amerikos vyskupai susirinkę 1846 metais Baltimorėje, pasirinko Mariją dangiškąją krašto globėja, o 1914 metais pradėjo statyti dižniulę šventovę Marijos garbei, krašto sostinėje — Washingtone, kuri buvo dedikuota 1959 metais. Ten randasi ir lietuvių koplyčia.

Tikima, kad Marijos globoje Amerika buvo apsaugota nuo karo sunaikinimų ir ją globojo per 200 metų. Šiais laikais, kada pavojų daug, mes ir toliau prašome Jos dangiškosios globos, kad Ji saugotų ir apgintų nuo priešų iš vidaus ir iš kitur, kurie nori šį laisvės kraštą sunaikinti.

Amerika ir toliau patirs gausių Dievo malonių, jei žmonės pasilikis ištikimi Dievui ir Jo dieviškajai Motinai Marijai.

Švęsdami Amerikos Nepriklausomybės šventę ir reikšdami dėkingumą už daug ką, bet ypatingai už laisvę ir kartu trokštame, kad ji ir toliau pasiliktų laisvės švyturiu visam pasauliui, o ypač pavergtiems vilties šaltiniu.

Minėdame Amerikos laisvės gimtadienio sukaktį, mes prisimenanme ir kitą kraštą Lietuvą Marijos Žemę, kuri šiuo metu neša sunkų vergijos kryžių. Nepaliaudami į Ją kreipiamės, kad, Jai užtariante, būtų sutrumpintos vergovės dienos ir sugražinta laisvė.

V.K.

## PASKUTINIS BIRŽELIS

(Eilėraštis skirtas raudonojo teroro  
į Sibirą trėmimo aukoms pagerbti)

Birutė Pūkelevičiūtė



Sudiev, paskutini tėvynės birželi, -  
Buvai tu, kaip niekad - auksinis ir žalias!  
Toli pasiliko, lyg sapnas pranyko  
Geltoni, žali ir raudoni vainikai.

Sudievu, sudievu, žydėjimui pievų,  
Kvepėjimui ievų - sudievu, sudievu.

Sukilėlio dalią ir knygnešio dalią  
Tiktai išrinktieji pakelti tegali -  
Už raidę ir žodį, už maldą ir raštą,  
Palikom skausmuos savo gimtąjį kraštą.

Sudievu, sudievu, žydėjimui pievų,  
Kvepėjimui ievų - sudievu, sudievu.

Kur ašara krenta, ten paukštė pragysta,  
O kraujo lašai, kaip bijūnai pražįsta.  
Mus grūdino Kražiūos, Giedraičiuos, Pilėnuos,  
Kad būtų lietuvis taip tvirtas kaip plienas.

Sudievu, sudievu, žydėjimui pievų,  
Kvepėjimui ievų - sudievu, sudievu.

Padvelk mums, birželi, bent vėju tėvynės;  
Buvai mums, birželi, deja, paskutinis.  
Žydėkite tiems, kur gimtinėj paliko,  
Geltoni, žali ir raudoni vainikai.

Sudievu, sudievu, žydėjimui pievų,  
Kvepėjimui ievų - sudievu, sudievu.

Poema laimėjusi Lietuvių Gydytojų  
Korporacijos \$500.00 premiją, 1972





Šiomet birželio 28 d. sueina 50 metų nuo mūsų dainiaus ir Lietuvos atgimimo žadintojo prelado Jono Mačiulio - Maironio mirties. Didžiausias lietuvių poetas Maironis gimė 1862 m. lapkričio 2 d. Bernotų vienkiemyje, Raseinių apskr., Betygalos parap.

Turėdamas teologijos doktoratą jis profesoriavo Petrapilio dvasinėje akademijoje, o vėliau Vytauto Didžiojo Universitete, Kaune. Be to ilgą laiką buvo Kauno Metropolijos Kunigų Seminarijos rektorium ir Kauno Metropolitinės kapitulos prelatu.

Prelato Jono Mačiulio - Maironio nuopelnai tautai ir bažnyčiai yra nepaprastai dideli ir svarbūs. Jis visa širdimi mylėjo Lietuvą ir jos garbei sukūrė daugybę nepakeičiamų kūrinių, kuriais stiprino ir žadino tautą nepriklausomam gyvenimui.

Daugeliui jo eilėraščių žymūs Lietuvos kompozitoriai sukūrė muziką giesmėms ir dainoms, kurias ir dabar giedame mūsų bažnyčiose, bei dainuojame lietuvių tarpe.

Jo pirmasis kūrinių rinkinys "Pavasario balsai" buvo išleistas 1895 m. Tilžėje, kuriame tilpo 45 eilėraščiai. Tame leidinyje randama dauguma garsiausių jo eilėraščių kaip: Miškas užia (tai yra jo pirmasis eilėraštis parašytas 1885 metais), Užtrauksim naują giesmę, Ten kur Nemunas banguoja, Kur lygūs laukai, Oi neverk motušėle, Užmigo žemė, Marija, Marija ir daug kitų.

## MŪSŲ ŽYMUSIS DAINIUS MAIRONIS

STEFANIJA RAŠTIKIENĖ



Sekantis jo leidinys buvo išleistas 1905 m. Peterburge su puikiais ir aukštos poetinės vertės eilėraščiais kaip: Trakų pilis, Vilnius, Kur bėga Šešupė, Eina garsas ir kiti. Kaune, 1913 m. vel buvo išleista kitas leidinys su 20 naujų kūrinių. Sekančiame leidinyje, kuris buvo išleistas 1920 m. Tilžėje, randame daug populiarių eilėraščių: Lietuva brangi, Pirmyn į kovą, Lietuva - didvyrių žemė, Jūratė ir Kastytis ir kiti patriotiniai kūriniai. Šeštasis jo leidimas pavadintas "Maironio Raštai" išleista Kaune 1930 m. Su pomirtiniu Maironio poezijos leidiniu norėta pasirodyti 1905 m., bet Sovietų Sąjungos okupacija sutrukdė pilną išleidimą. Kiti leidiniai buvo išleisti 1941 ir 1944 m. Be to 1947 m. Wuerzburge, Bavarijoj išleista 10-toji laida.

Maironio Baladės išleistos Amerikoj 1966 m., o Lietuvoje 1976 m. atspausdinta paskutinė Maironio Pavasario balsai.

Maironio poezijoje išreikšta daug skausmo ir meilės dėl vargų užgulusių tėvynę bei jos sūnų didvyriškumą ir tikejimą.



## PAVASARIS

Pavasario saulė prašvito meiliai  
Ir juokiasi, širdį vilioja,  
Iškilo į dangų aukštai vieversiai,  
Čyrena, sparneliais plasnoja.

Taip giedra ir linksma! Tiek šviečia vilties!  
Vien meilę norėtum dainuoti,  
Apimti pasaulį, priglaust prie širdies,  
Su meile saldžiai pabučiuoti!



## MARIJA, MARIJA

Marija, Marija,  
Skaisčiausia lelija,  
Tu švieti aukštai danguje!  
Palengvink vergiją  
Pagelbėk žmoniją,  
Ją gelbėk nuo priešų baisaus.

Mes klystantys žmonės,  
Maldaujam malonės,  
Marija, maldų neatmesk!  
Tarp verkiančių marių,  
Šių žemiškų karių,  
Nupuolančius stiprink ir vesk.

Mus puolančius  
gelbėk

## MANO GIMTINĖ

Ten kur Nemunas banguoja  
Tarp kalnų, laukų,  
Broliai vargdieniai dejuoja  
Nuo senų laikų.

Girios užė ten minėjo  
Praeities laikus,  
Kad lietuvis netikėjo,  
Jog belaisvis bus.

## MIŠKAS ŪŽIA

Miškas ūžia, verkia, gaudžia;  
Vėjas žalią medį laužo;  
Nuliūdimas širdį spaudžia,  
Lyg, kad replėmis ją gnaužia.

Miškas verkia didžiagirių:  
Baisūs kirviai jas išskynė;  
Verkia Lietuva didvyrių:  
Jų neprikelia tėvynė.

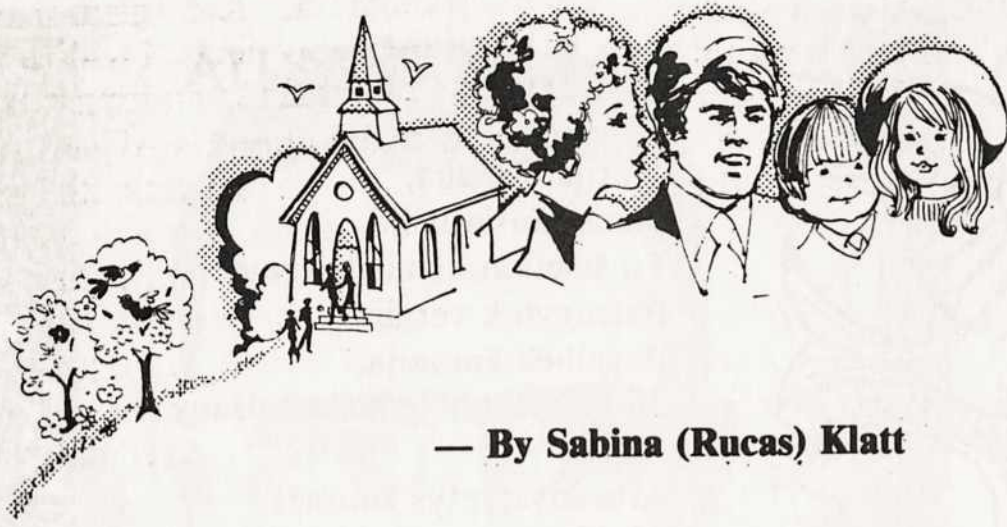
*Spausdinti tik po  
mano mirties!*

Skausmo Skundas.

Mė tatai, kad tavo, tavo vienas tikslai  
Nuo jaunųjų dienų aš mylėjau karštai,  
Kad tau iškveptas, amėinas giesmes po kojų  
Iki šiol nemilsdamas klojau ir kloju,  
Kad kai pranašas tau atgimimą skelbiau  
Jis už savo gyvybę pamilęs labiau!..  
O, už tai tavo priešai manęs nepamigo  
Ir į aukštą angą, dantis grierdami bėgo!  
Deja, ten už angstus, už galingą, angą  
Nuo juokotos laikų nesunku pirkti draugų:  
Nebusmoki, kad lig šioliai, ten viskas venale  
Bet gi duota pakampinę šmeiškams visagalio!..  
Ir šitai, kaip kareivis nelygioj kovoj,  
Be garbės ir be vardo tėvynėj laisvoj  
Iš perblokitas vi vienas!... O mano tėvynė?  
Gint ji savo sumus kitados garbės gynė!  
Bet dabas be garbės, be sūstinės palė  
Nien tik partijų partijoms dirva plati.  
1927 VIII, 22

Maironio eilėraščio „Skausmo skundas“ autografas (kiek sumažintas).  
Viršuj, kairėj, užrašyta: „Spausdinti tik po mano mirties!“





— By Sabina (Rucas) Klatt

## I REMEMBER PAPA

I remember Papa, "Antanas Rucas, born in Panėvezys, Lithuania. He was called by God, 21 years ago, but still there are all the fond memories left behind. I was loved so very much. Being the baby in the family, I was very special and spoiled. Papa used to tell me those wonderful bedtime stories. Stories about enchanting — loving Lithuania. These were the times, I would wait for. He would tuck me in and the stories would begin.

I loved how he told me about the wolves that prowled around the lands of Lithuania. Can you hear the wolves howling, the wind blowing, the night sounds and a strange stillness all about? They were such a menace, stalking in the night looking for his next prey so he can get his belly full of food. Yes, he was a hunter at night.

"After the night episodes the sky begins to get lighter and the sun starts peeking out. What do we hear? Why it's the cuckoo birds — making their fantastic sounds. Can you imagine how all the different birds are flying around and the beautiful sounds they are making? Oh how clear and sharp the roosters crowing — the cows, mooing — horses naying - lambs — baa baa. yes, the sounds are full of happiness. You are breathing the clean air as you watch and hear everyone singing while working in the fields. How happy they could be because they didn't make this a chore of labor but made it — a happy occasion of love. The happiness and laughter of all. Even in the old

fashioned kitchen with the big fireplace where the cooking was done, sounds of chit-chatting while the big meals were made and afterwards eaten. Families were so close and loving," he would say.

Papa always wanted me to know and love Lithuania as Mama and he did. He would also tell me about Mama's homeland. I remember Mama — Tekla (Dobrovolskis) Rucas born in the village of Prilguva, district of Kretinga. Being so young my first loves were about the animals in Lithuania. Papa told me how the storks would come by Mama's home every year. Mama's



parents and brothers would put a big wheel in the tree near their home. The pair of storks would be there year after year. When they would come back you could hear those bills clicking together - click, click, click. It seemed like they were saying, "we are home". It was a thrilling time for the family. The children were told not to bother or scare them. They were part of their family. The storks would get busy and get their next ready. Once a big wind came and their nest fell out of

the tree, the storks came looking for help. They were walking by the house and clicking their bills. The family noticed the trouble and put the nest up. Immediately, the storks repaired the nest. Of course, it was an honor for everyone that the storks lived there. Many people wanted the storks to be by their place.

Papa mentioned how Mama worked in the fields there — The sounds cutting the hay and women tying it in bundles. Those were days filled with hard work but they found time to be happy. The fields were filled with songs of happiness as they worked. Mama was also an adventurer. Where in the city could something like this happen? Mama would climb a high tree and give a "pamoksla" on religion. Many children would love to listen to what Mama would say. Oh, I hear sounds of a squirrel in trouble. Yes, Mama ran after the little thing until she was able to catch him and bring him in the house. Her Mom gave her a spanking for catching it and told her never to do that again.

What excitement they had growing up in Lithuania. Mama and Papa did grow up in different parts of Lithuania but, all in all, their life styles were so similar. Papa mentioned what they did get together and enjoyed the food at the "kaimynas." Oh, how they sang and danced as they knew their heavy work was done.

Also, they did remember God on His day. They loved to go to Church and pray devoutly. Their churches were not a block away, it was quite a



## I Remember Papa



distance. And Mama with her singing lessons, to go home, she would take a short cut through the cemetery. Yes, through the cemetery. You could imagine the sounds and movements you see when you're young.

As I grew older, Papa would tell me tales of the history of Lithuania. Those I loved, as I knew that my parents loved their homeland. I felt I would drift into a hypnotic trance, which I lived those moments in that country and thoughts still remain so very vivid to this day. I imagine it as though I have experienced all. My Papa was a very good storyteller

even though he had glamorized some of the happenings. I realize today that Lithuania is no longer free but it is to be appreciated and enjoyed as it was at that time that my parents lived there. I get a heavy feeling over my heart with the fact that Lithuania, my parents love, is under Russian regime. We must love Lithuania with all of our hearts and never give up but recognizing that She is and always will be the greatest land. At times when I am completely relaxed I find myself drifting into thoughts — reliving my experience of the past. Can you blame me for always “remembering Papa.”



## Entertaining The President “The Man Who Came To Dinner” by Mirga Kerbelis Bablin

Memories of my childhood are replete with fond recollections of summer vacations at my Aunt Rimkunas' farm in Hoosick Falls, N.Y., family trips to relatives in the big city complete with excursions to Rockaway Beach and Coney Island, our “four K's” orchestra composed of the Kline brothers, brother Val and myself, Sunday church picnics, fireworks on our front porch on the Fourth of July and countless other events.

Perhaps, the most unforgettable memory was when we entertained a head of state in the dining room of our big, two-family house on East Main Street.

Father Joseph Zidanavičius was the founder and the first pastor of St. Casimir's Church in Amsterdam. A Lithuanian historian, composer, writer and superb intellectual, he was known in literary circles as “Seirijū Jūozas”. He was also my father's mentor.

Dad was a pseudo-lawyer in our church community although he actually was a realtor. One of his

favorite stories to us was how he approached Father Z. for possible financial aid to go to law school prior to his marriage to my mother. “I'll give you money to go to be a priest but not a lawyer,” was the reply. This did not dampen my father's enthusiasm and interest in the law as he assisted many an immigrant in their pursuit of naturalization papers and he was an eloquent public speaker.

In those early days of emergence of the St. Casimer parish community, we sometimes acquired the distinction of being a kind of “first family” in our ethnic circle. This was in no small measure due to my father's great friendship with Father Zidanavičius. Also, my parents were involved in parish activities and we children attended St. Casimer's School. For this distinction, we were awarded the honor of having a head of state to dinner.

I recall sometime in the late 1930's a slight, very dignified, mild-mannered gentleman with a neatly-trimmed moustache, accompanied by Police Detective Anthony Grebb acting as bodyguard, and various other Amsterdam Lithuanian notables including our venerable Father Zidanavičius, came to our house for dinner.



For days prior to that event, the flurry of activity in our household and that of our neighbors, the Stankevičius', was something to behold. Mrs. Anna Stankevičius, skilled in the fine art of Lithuanian cuisine, was pressed into service to help my mother prepare such delicacies and gourmet ethnic delights as several varieties of “vir-tiniu” and “kugelis” with sour cream.

I recall helping to set the table with my girl friend, Jo Stankevičius, although we were not included in the list of dinner participants. I did arrange to get more than a glimpse and a handshake from Antanas Smetona, President of Lithuania.





## KITI METAI — KITI LAPAI

STASYS VAIČAITIS

**Ed's Note:** In this story, Stasys Vaicaitis captures the spirit of a time long ago which many of us remember fondly. Written in the Lithuanian-American dialect of the early 20th century, it is a warm, delightful accounting in which Mr. Vaicaitis recalls his youth in a truthful manner. So — READ — REMEMBER — LAUGH — WEEP.

Buvo tai karšta liepos mėnesio diena. Pabaigėm vakarienę ir tuojau galėsiu bėgti laukan vėl bovytis su badėm. Turiu dar biskį pamašyti mamai susitvarkyti kičinė.

„Staniuk, kai suplasi dišius, nusiprausk kojas viedre nusišluostyk š—tuo abrūsu ir gražiai persirenk čystom drapanom. Eisim pas Juodžius į šermenis.”

„Į šermenis?!” — nuslopintu ūpu sau patylom pakartojau.

„Ar turiu eiti, mama?” — nedrąsiai kreipiausi į mamą. — „Aš taip labai nelaikinu eiti į šermenis. Ten būna pilna vienų moterų ir didelis susigrūdimas pruntineje, kur pašarvotas nabašninkas. O kai šueina tiek žmonių į stubą, pasidaro tvanku ir dušnu. Tų bobų gi verkimas ir šnypštimas į skepetukes tikrai nepakenčiamas!”

„Nieko, nieko, Staniuk, būsi man badė. Naktį prisibijau viena vaikščioti strytais. Ir nekalbėk taip negražiai apie moteris.”

„Bet, mama, aš mažiukas ir negaliu daug ką daryti. Bisaidis, aš pramisinau Vincukui, Jonui ir kitiems boisams, spešly Antanukui, mano geriausia badei, kad pavalgęs sugrįšiu papleiyt su jais. Jūs sakėte, kad galėsiu.”

„Žinau, vaikelį, bet buvau pamirčus apie Juodienės vyrą, kurį pereitą nedėlia četverge sukolicėjo mainose. Užvakar seredoj jis numirė ošpitolėje. Kokia negaliestinga smertis! Nabagė Juodienė liko viena su pulku siretukų. Gaila. Reikia užjausti ir paguosti. Aplankysim ir papoteriausim už Juodžių dėdės dūšią.”

Mums visi suaugusieji buvo dėdės ir tetos, ar giminiavosi ar ne.

Nujausdamas, kad neišsisuksiu, nusiploviau kojas, purvinas nuo kastymo be čeverykų visą dieną. Paskui priėjęs prie sinkos nusiprausiau rankas iki alkunių, veidą ir kaklą.

„Nepamiršk ir už ausų,” — mama priminė išeidama iš kuknios.

Del viso ko, dar suvilgiau plaukus ir traijinau gražiai juos sušukuoti . . . bet veltui. Mama kasmet vasarai nukirpdavo plaukus su kliperiais beveik plikai. — Bus vėsiau, — sakydavo.

Nubėgęs į savo ruimą, užsivilkau naujai suprosytais marškiniais, užsimoviau bažnytinem kelnėm, susiradau šystas, juodas iki keliu pančiakas, patikrinęs ar kulnuose nėra pranešiotų skylių ir apsiaviau aukštaauliais šiūtais su guzikais. O su tais guzikais būdavo didelis trabelis, spešly jeigu skubini. Tikrai, ne fanės! Patraiyk kukučiu užkabinti guziką ir nepametęs ištraukti per skylutę. Brac, ne zzy! Paskučiausiai, užsirišau naktaizą, mamos numegztą dėl mano berdės.

„Aš jau redi, mama!”

„Gerai, staniuk, Aš tuoj. Eik, spakainiai pasėdek ant porčių iki ateisiu.”

\* \* \*



Šermenyse jau buvo suėję desetkas moterų. Įeję, atsiklaupėm prie grabo ir papoteriavome. Užnugaryje buvo girdėti bobų šnabždesiai, kas mes tokie, koks aš geras boisas, kaip moku burdingieriams parnešti mėsos ir nesumilijęs pasakyti bučeriui ką ant kieno knygutės užrašyti, kaip aš daug paaugęs, kaip mama gerai atrodo, tik gerokai nutukus ir taip toliau. Atsistoję, priėjom prie staluko ir pabučiavome ten esanti kryžių. Tyliai susiradom du drėslus ir atsisėdom. Mama linktelėjo vienai kitai pažįstamai susiedkai.

Man šermenys — ne naujiena. Visos viena kitai panašios. Juodžių dėdė guli grabe aprengtas nauju siūtu ir spindinčiais šiūtais. Atrodo čystai išpraustas, apskustais ir gražiai sušukuotas. Lyg gyvas ir visai padabnas į pikčerį ant sienos. Įkyri musė, įlėkus iš lauko, pakartotinai grįžta ir vis nutūpia ant nabašninko nosies, pasisukinėja apie lūpas ir po ūsus, išvaikščioja skruostus ir išuosto blakstienas, bet dėdė guli ramiai ir nė krust. Sudėtos rankos apvyniotos ražančiumi. Ant piršto užmautas šliūbinis žiedas. Pasieniais užversta

kvietkais su dideliais ribiniais. Prie grabo ant padlagų sustatytos baltos beskės pilnos rožių, chrizantemų ir lelijų. Prie galvos, šalia grabo, stalukas su degančia žvake ir kryžiumi, kurį gaubia rūkstančių smilkalų dūmai ir slopinantis jų kvapas. Nuo lubų laisvai leidžiasi lengvos gazos, praskirtos per vidurį ir prisegtos grabo galuose. Prie nabašninko galvos ir kojų stovi augštos žvakidės su linkstančiomis nuo karšio žvakėmis. Vis reikia jas atitiest. Varstant išorines duris, vėjo gūsis pailgina liepsnas ir palenkia gazų link. Tikėjausi, bet kuriuo kartu pamatyti gaisrą ir rūpėjo kaip reikėtų prasiskverbti pro šias moteris ir kuo greičiau iš čia išsprukti į lauką.

Aštuntą dziedoriaus atėjo prabaščius. Moteris aprimo ir užviešpatavo pagarbi tylą. Kunigas atsiklaupęs garsiai sukalbėjo rožinį, kurio „Sveika Marijoms“ visi atsakinėjom. Našlė Juodienė sėdėjo prie staluko ir linguodama poteriovo. Pabaigus maldas ir kunigui išėjus, Juodienė ėmė jaudintis ir pradėjo gaudžiai, nesuvaldomai, ir garsiai verkti, triūkčiodama ir užsikirsdama. Gailu buvo klausyti jos širdgelos ir

raudos. Prisiminė visą šliūbinį gyvenimą, sunkias ir linksmas valandas, džiaugsmo ir liudėsio dienas; prislegtą širdimi skelbė nykią ir vargingą ateitį.

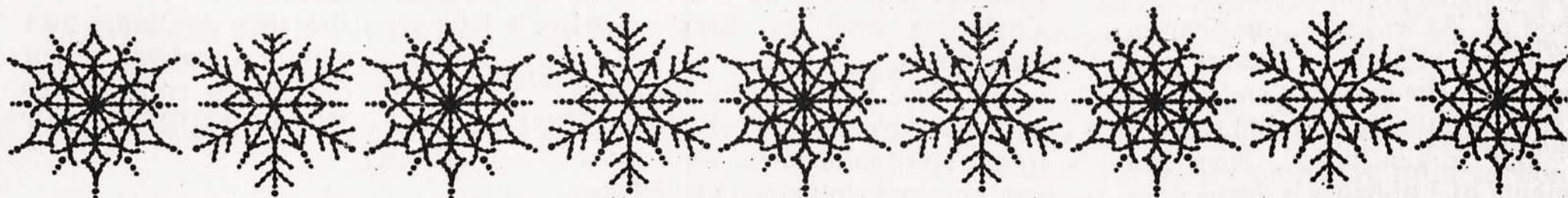
„Sakyk, kalbėk, mielasis Joneli, ką man daryti? Duok man rodą, brangusis balandėli, kaip man vienai nešti sunkųjį kryželį? Vaikeliai, paimkite tėtės rankelę, prikeltite iš šilko grabelio ir prašykite, maldaukite, kad nepaliktų mūsų vienu.“

Penketas siratukų, glausdamies prie mamos, tyliai stovi ir gailiai ašaroja. Mažiausias trejų metų boisukas tupi prie mamos kojų ir, neatitraukdamas akių nuo amžinai užmigusio papės, žiūri ir žiūri. Skausmas suspaude širdį ir suvirpino gailėsčio stygą. Nepajėgdamas ilgiau išturėti, ėmiau ir aš tyliai verkti.

\* \* \*

Tą vakarą, atsiklaupęs prie lovos, sukalbėjau karštą poterėlį už savo papę, kad Dievulis malonėtų visad saugoti jį nuo panašios nelaimės mainose.

Stasys Vaičaitis, kp. — 144



## MIDNIGHT

*translated by*

Antonia M. Wackell

There is one only special hour  
Within the night,  
When to the heaven's clustered stars  
You softly pray.

And the scintillating heaven  
Is so brilliant,  
That, it seems, you have all the stars  
Within your heart.

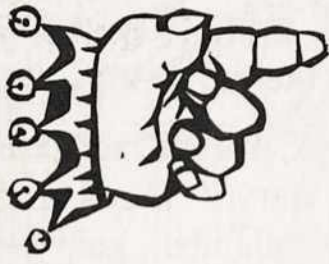
All reality—only one  
The sky's blue dome—  
And you yourself in its blue depth  
Have been engulfed.

No more are there sacred prayers  
Nor sinfulness:  
Soon as the heart will voice its song,  
Then heaven gains.

—V. Mykolaitis - Putinas



# CONVENTION NEWS...



**"Before You Act,  
T H I N K !"**

I once had a sign printed in bold type with the words in the title above. I suppose that the ridiculous spelling of the word "THINK" was to show what will happen, if we do **not** think, before we act. I would like to inform you that I **DID** think, before I wrote that title. And my thoughts were: if I misspell that word, readers will notice and read what I have to say. So, if you are reading this article, my thinking is paying off.

Thinking before acting is as necessary in organizational matters as it is in our personal activities. Thinking before meeting at our National Conventions is most important, if we want to see good results.

Host Council 25 has been hard at work for months. The Supreme Council has made an on site visit. Initial plans have been approved. Our 69th Convention will be soon upon us. As we know, our Conventions are important because only they make the decisions and policies that insure the growth and strength of our organization. Since the Knights of Lithuania is democratic, it is open to the ideas of every member. It is the duty of the elected delegates to bring your ideas and suggestions to the Convention for discussion, debate and appropriate action for the advancement of the entire organization.

The Supreme Council is entrusted with the preparation of the agenda for the Convention. This means carefully examining past activities and investigating what can and ought to be done to keep the Knights of Lithuania vital and forward moving year by year. One way in which the Supreme Council does this is by planning the Convention Panels.

At its last meeting (in March) the Supreme Council determined that K of L participation in the Year of the Lithuanian Parish is the most pressing concern. Thus, one Convention Panel will be devoted to this project. Specific answers will be sought in answer to the question: What can K of L Councils do to help revitalize and reinvigorate our Lithuanian parishes? To prepare for this panel the A.L.R.C. Priests' League will be requested to include this item in their agenda at their Convention which will be held in Cleveland just before ours.

We fully recognize that the pastor has the responsibility for the well-being of the parish under his care. But we, too, have a responsibility to cooperate in the spread of the Kingdom of God in our community. What we are seeking are specifics: how we can best do our job as Catholics and as Knights of Lithuania.

We K of L'ers have a long and commendable history of closeness to our spiritual leaders. We want to continue and strengthen that 69 year old tradition. The Convention Panel will be an excellent opportunity to do that. So, as preparation for the Convention, Councils are urged to "think" about this and provide your delegates with your ideas.

Lithuanian newspapers have reported that a Central Committee for the Year of the Lithuanian Parish has been formed in Cleveland. We shall invite members of this committee to present their proposals.

The second Convention Panel approved by the Supreme Council is one with a mystifying title. The delegates and alternates will pause

at some point in the Convention agenda to take a careful look at themselves as Knights of Lithuania. They will look at the present reality of the organization to discover what needs immediate attention. By the way, the title of this panel will be "WHAT MORE/WHAT BETTER?" These four words will serve as a mental spotlight to help us see the way we should go in the year or two ahead. The results of this panel are intended to be a document of members concerns for the good of the entire organization. This "document of members concerns" with specific proposals and suggestions will be entrusted to the Supreme Council for attention and implementation. This panel will be members' input for a brighter future of the K of L. It will not, however, take the place of the customary Resolutions Committee.

The word INPUT suggests a term used by computer programmers — GIGO, which is an abbreviation for "Garbage in, garbage out." We look for INPUT, but not garbage, from all members, who are sincere and eager to see practical and worthwhile improvements in the month by month activities of the Knights of Lithuania.

Now is the time to think over (spelled it right this time), talk about and write down your council proposals for WHAT MORE/WHAT BETTER?

The third panel approved was the Lithuanian Affairs Panel. Jack Stukas, Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, and his associates are planning to take a closer look at the basic K of L activity to make it more effective and far reaching.

This article is a poor substitute for a personal letter to each K of L'er from the Supreme Council, politely requesting your attention to these vital K of L matters. However, this article is a personal message, a personal invitation to make your suggestions known to the Supreme Council for a better K of L.

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





**Lithuanian Men's Octet of Cleveland  
In Concert At The Knights Of  
Lithuania 69th National Convention  
In Cleveland, Ohio  
Friday, August 6, 1982**

The Octet was founded in 1960 for the purpose of cultivating light and entertaining Lithuanian songs and soon became very popular. During the 21 years of its existence, the Octet gave over 200 concerts, at almost all Lithuanian settlements in North America. In many instances, they have been invited for a repeat performance.

The Octet released two record albums containing a total of 30 songs. The Octet has also performed at festivities of major importance such as the 25th Anniversary of the Lithuanian World Association in New York, and in 1973, they participated at a Song Marathon at which they sang continuously one hundred different songs for seven solid hours. In 1976, they were invited to the 25th Literary Award Presentation by the Lithuanian Daily DRAUGAS in Chicago. In the Summer of 1980, they participated with enormous success at the International Cultural Festival in Winnipeg, Canada. During the festival, the Octet performed five

times daily for a full week and its appearance was met every single time with enormous applause and ovations. The Octet also had the pleasure of performing for the Knights of Lithuania in 1963 at the K of L 50th Anniversary Banquet in Boston.

Prof. Vladas Jokubenas, Critic and indisputable authority in the field of music, has expressed his opinion as the genre of the Octet's repertoire in these words: "This musical ensemble takes a position in between the so-called 'light' and the 'entertainment' music.....each of the performers is a fairly good individual soloist. However, they can sound like an evenly balanced and well-harmonized choir."

"An enchanting playful mood charms the listener, because one does not have to concentrate very deeply" writes a concert goer after one performance at Dainava. "The Octet's lively singing moves even a most indifferent and skeptical listener."

The Octet offers a wide selection of Lithuanian folk songs, entertaining melodies, as well as popular American songs from musicals and movies. All songs are performed in the Lithuanian language.

Members of the Octet are: Macys Aukstuolis, Raimondas Butkus, Algis Gylys, Gytis Motiejunas, Mindaugas Motiejunas, Romas Zyule, Vladas Ziedonis, and Soloist, Irene Grigaliunaite. The Octet Musical Director and Accompanist is Rytas Babickas.



# 1982 M. SAUSIO MEN.

## 'THE UNKNOWN WAR' STIRS PROTESTS

Rev. Joseph Prunskis and Antanas Adomenas of the Lithuanian American Council, Inc. are waging a public campaign to counter the National Education Association's (NEA) endorsement of a 20-hour documentary film, called the *Unknown War*, depicting the post-World War II annexations as "liberations" of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the rest of Eastern Europe. The film is produced by Soviet film-makers in Moscow.

While many educational groups have been approached for similar endorsements, only the NEA has succumbed. However, it is the largest teacher's union.

Albert Shanker, President of the American Federation of Teachers, rejected Moscow's agents when approached to endorse *The Unknown War*, saying that it did not contain a balanced view of historical events in East Europe.

The AFT-AFL-CIO informed American ethnic groups that both teacher's associations were told to either accept the "historical facts" in the scenes of Red Army "liberation" or forget about cooperation with Soviet film makers. The NEA accepted. And now Gov. James Thompson's Special Assistant of Ethnic Affairs, Matilda Jakubowski, is being stonewalled by the NEA( as are Evanston Teachers Association President Bob Roth, Polish American Congress president Aloysius Mazewski and people like ourselves.

A REPRINT FROM

# LIETUVIU DIENOS LITHUANIAN DAYS

Besides protests from outraged Americans with roots in Eastern Europe, a member of the Illinois Commission of Human Rights personally called on NEA in Washington only to be told that once NEA takes a public position, it does not retract.

The "documentary" presents the exact opposite of historical facts on Eastern Europe. The film claims, for example, that "land reclamation" is being performed in the annexation of eastern Poland by the Red Army. The Russian troops are also shown "liberating" the Baltic Republics and other stock Soviet propaganda scenes reappear in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the rest of East Europe. This film, entitled, *The Unknown War*, opens in the 1930s claiming "improvements" in the Ukraine at a time of mass resistance and starvation of 10 million Ukrainians and ends 20 reels later, in 1945, without a word of historical accuracy on how Moscow achieved hegemony over half of Europe.

Prunskis and Adomenas contend that "without an historical perspective of how Moscow gained hegemony in East Europe, today's events become confusing at best. We ask the Tribune to publicly air our concern and outrage of the NEA policy at a time when the people of East Europe need every bit of accurate portrayal in the face of Moscow's propaganda triumph of quietly enlisting the aid of the National Education Association in its disinformation program of events labeled historical truth."



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### FROM THE EDITOR:

#### TO ALL LITHUANIANS:

*The above article speaks of a matter that should be of grave concern to all of us. It is bad enough that Lithuania has been removed from maps in he United States. Now, the National Education Association has this Moscow-produced film,*

*Thousands of letters should go out immediately to President Reagan, Aleksander Haigh, Senators, Congressman and media. The address of the NEA is as follows:  
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION 1201 16th St. N.W. Washington, D.C.*





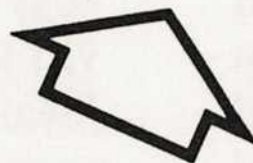
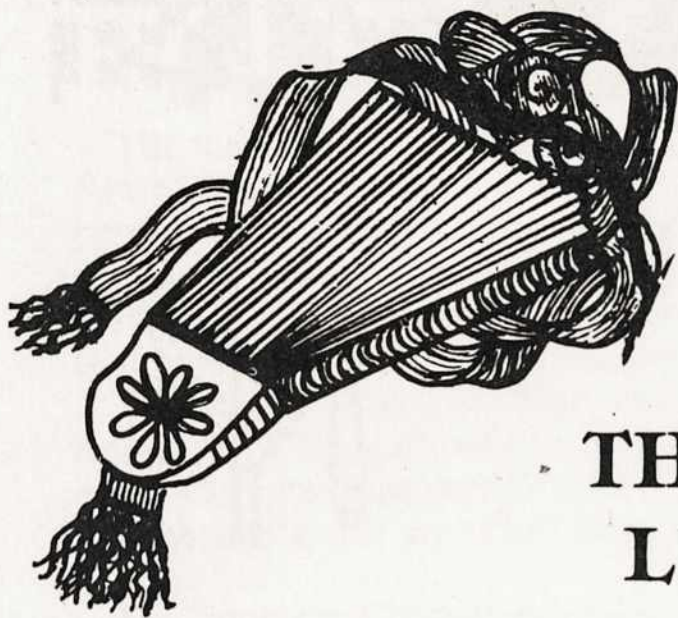
# Anthracite Council 144

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

## THE 68TH ANNUAL LITHUANIAN DAY

Lakewood Park  
Barnesville, Pa.

Sunday  
August 15

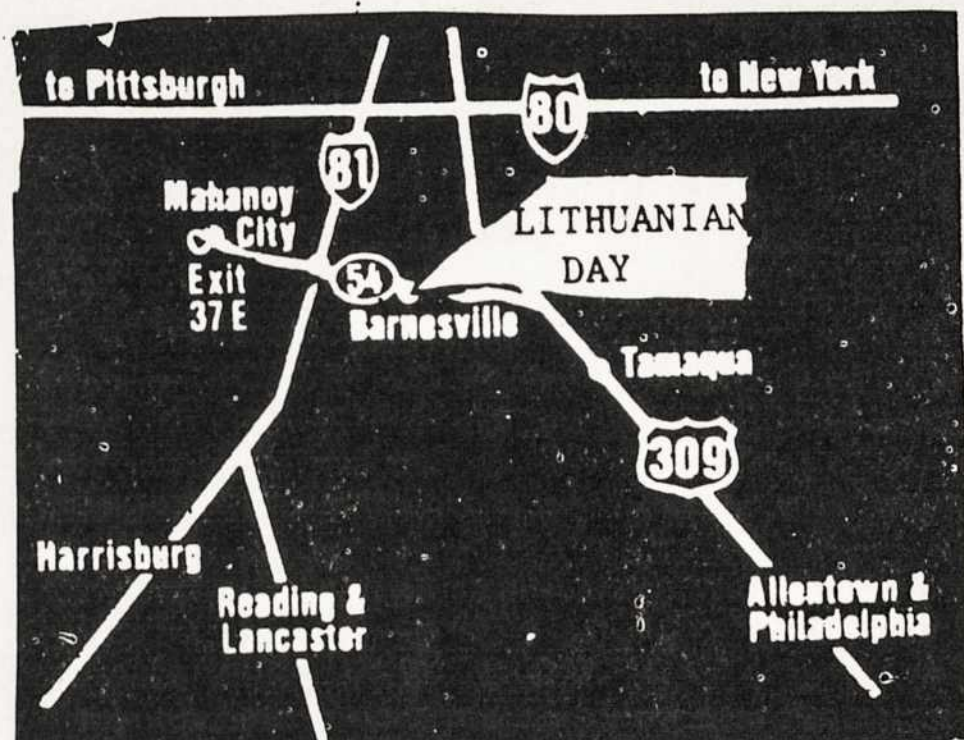


### LITHUANIAN DAY BANQUET

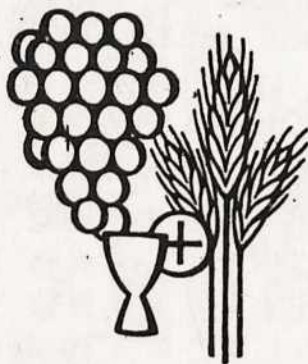
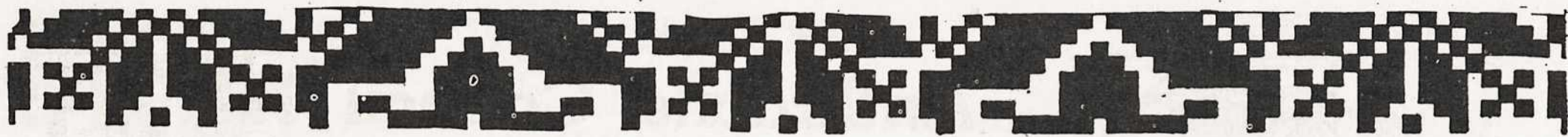
August 14 1982  
Annunciation Hall  
Frackville

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edmund Carlitus, Chairman  
RD Ringtown, PA 17967  
Telephone: 717 - 889-3839

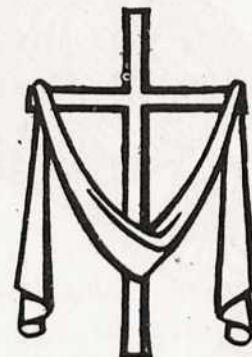






# OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

## OFFICIAL NEWS



LIETUVOS VYČIŲ MALDOS

Dieve, mūsų Viešpatie, stiprink vyčių dvasią ir šarvok ją vyčio dorybėmis. Leisk gerbti ir mylėti tėvų žemę, kelti jos kultūrą. Padėk mums ištikimai tarnauti kraštui, kuriame esame gimę, ir garbingai kovoti už Tavo Bažnyčią, jai aukotis ir jai gyventi. Per Kristų, mūsų Viešpatį. Amen.

### PRIESAIKA (Centro Valdybos)

Dievo ir visų –šventųjų vardu, seimo dalyvių akyvaizdaije, iškilmingai prisiekiu kaip pirmininkas (raštininkas, išdininkas) uoliai vykdyti Lietuvos Vyčių įstatus, vesti organizaciją išganingais tikėjimo ir lietuviybės keliais ir auklėti Lietuvos vyčiuose stiprius kūnu ir dvasia Jungtinių Valstybių piliečius. Taip man, Dieve, padėk!



### NARIO PRIESAIKA

Aš, N.N., perskaitęs (čiusi) ir apsvarstęs (čiusi) Lietuvos Vyčių organizacijos konstituciją, Dievo vardu, mielu noru stoju į organizaciją ir pasižadau laikytis ir vykdyti jos įstatus, visur ir visada drąsiai stoti už savo tikėjimą, už Ameriką ir savo tautos reikalus.

### KETVIRTO LAIPSNIŲ VYČIŲ PRIESAIKA (MALDA)

Viešpatie, priimk mūsų vytiškas širdis, mūsų gerus troškimus ir pasyrižimus Tavo garbei ir mūsų krašto ir tėvynės naudai.

Šventasis Kazimierai, mūsų Globėjau, saugok ir vesk mus kilniais organizacinio veikimo keliais.

Mes norime įdiegti pirmiausia į savo sielą šūkį Dievui ir Tėvynei. bet norėtumėm, kad ir visi kiti mūsų broliai ir sesės degtų tais pačiais idealais. Tegul taip įvyksta.

### MALDA PRIEŠ SUSIRINKIMĄ

Viešpatie, laimink mus ir tuos darbus, kuriuos apsvarstę nutarsim vykdyti. Per Kristų mūsų Viešpatį. Amen.

### MALDA PO SUSIRINKIMO

Ačiū Tau, Viešpatie, už malonę, kad šiandien galėjome susirinkti ir vyčių dvasioje praleisti šią valandą. Per Kristų, mūsų Viešpatį. Amen.

### MALDA Į ŠV. KAZIMIERĄ

Šventasis Kazimierai Lietuvos Vyčių Globėjau! Vadovauk mūsų kovai už tautą ir Bažnyčią. Padėk mums ištesėti tai, ką pasiryžome. Per Kristų mūsų Viešpatį. Amen.



## Official News

### South Boston Councils Merged

The members of Council 17 and Council 17 Seniors, South Boston, MA, have indicated their desire to become one Council, Council 17. This desire for a merger was expressed via a written opinion solicited from each member of both Councils. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of unification.

Therefore, effective immediately, South Boston Knights of Lithuania will be represented by Council 17 only. Current members of C-17 Seniors will become members of C-17, and C-17 Seniors' will no longer exist.

The Supreme Council expresses best wishes for continued success to the newly unified Council 17 of South Boston, MA.

### Knights Of Lithuania Archives Committee — Material For Archives

The Knights of Lithuania Archives Committee has completed painting and outfitting the Archives Room and now is accepting material from members, past members and relatives, items accumulated which have bearing on Lithuanian Activity and History. The Committee requests that the Knights of Lithuania National Convention Committees furnish one complete set of Official Letters, badges, program book, pictures, newspaper releases, prior, during and after the Convention. In addition the Supreme Council and District Secretary's minutes, books, letters, also letters from invited guests, speakers and Public Officials.

The mailing address:

Knights of Lithuania Archives  
c/o ALKA  
P. O. Box 608  
Putnam, Ct. 06260

Longinas Svelnis  
Knights of Lithuania  
Archives Chrmn.

### New Addition To The Vytis Staff

We welcome VIDA GECAS, age 17, to our staff. She will be working on paste-up and layout. Vida graduated from high school this month and will attend the University of Dayton this coming year. She will major in Communication Arts.

Vida is the immediate Past President of C-96 Juniors. She has been active with the Knights of Lithuania for ten years. Many of the skits, poems and plays that were performed by C-96 Jrs. were written by Vida.

Her ability to speak, read and write Lithuanian will be a great asset to her work on VYTIS. Poetry, written by Vida, has already been published in VYTIS.

We are happy to have such a talented, young lady join us in our work.

### East St. Louis, Council 40, Reorganized

A most hearty welcome is extended to our new members on the "banks of the Mississippi"...in East St. Louis, Ill., in the Reorganized Council 40.

On Sunday, April 25, a Knights of Lithuania delegation consisting of National President Loretta Stukas, National Financial Secretary Ann Marie Kassel, National Trustee Paul Binkis, and National Public Relations Chairman and IID Treasurer Irene Sankus, visited the beautiful Immaculate Conception Church, East St. Louis, Ill., at the invitation of Mrs. Agota Tickus. They were met by a very enthusiastic and hospitable group of Lithuanian-Americans, anxious to learn more about the Knights of Lithuania organization.

As a result of the meeting, Council 40 was officially reorganized and new members from that community were received into the organization. The new members, under the leadership of pro/tem president Joseph Dorris, have vowed to sign up more members and look forward to involving themselves fully in the life and activities of the Knights of Lithuania. The new council is part of the Illinois-Indiana District.

Following the meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Tickus, organizers of the meeting, treated the K of L visitors to a delicious dinner and a most interesting tour of the nearby shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Ill.

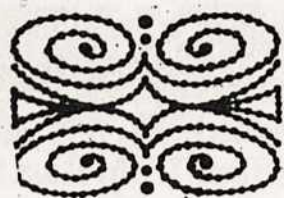
Sincerest thanks go out to Mr. & Mrs. Tickus, to Rev. V. Balciunas, acting pastor of Immaculate Conception, and to all the attendees of the meeting for their friendship and hospitality, and a warm welcome to the new members.

Loretta Stukas, President



ALDONA RYAN, Editor meets with VIDA GECAS, new layout and paste-up assistant for VYTIS





## TAUTINIŲ PARAPIJŲ SVARBA

Tautinių parapijų svarba nėra vien siauras mūsų vienu įsitikinimas ar išvedžiojimas. 1981 sausio 15 d. Amerikos Katalikų Vyskupų padalinio, NATIONAL CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE leidžiamas žurnalas *Origins*, Nr. 15, patalpino sausio 4 d. paskelbtą Amerikos Katalikų Vyskupų Tarybos Socialinei Gerovei ir Pasaulio Taikai pareiškimą tautybių ir tautinių parapijų reikalui. Jis pavadintas: *Beyond the Melting Pot: Cultural Pluralism in the United States*. Pareiškimas ilgokas, bet jį skaitome su nuostaba — su nuostaba todėl, kad jame atsispindi didelė pagarba tautiškumui, rūpestis tautinių vertybių išlaikymu ir skatinimas parapijoms gyvai į šį išlaikymą įsijungti. Jau pačioje pradžioje pastebima, kad “Istorija parodė, kad absoliutus visų tautybių vienoje valstybėje sulydinimas yra lygiai tiek pat žalingas, kaip žalingas yra toks pats procesas tarp įvairių tautų... Visos tautinės grupės yra bendro Amerikos gyvenimo dalis ir bet kokios pastangos jų buvimą užslopinti ar atmesti, slaptai ar viešai, yra nepriimtinas grįžimas į ‘čiabuviškumą’ ir ‘etnocentriškumą’.

Pareiškimas ilgas — jis apžvelgia visų pirma ateivių—imigrantų kultūrinį ir dvasinį įnašą, jų pastangas savo tautinei tapatybei išlaikyti bei šių visų įvairių kultūrų įtaką Amerikos gyvenimui. Šių skirtumų nereikia nei bijoti nei vengti, nes per kiekvieną iš jų pasireiškia žmogaus sielos siekimai ir troškimai bei pagrindinis žmogiškasis didingumas. “Pasaulis yra sklidinasis Dievo didybe”. “Didelę dalį šios didybės randame mus supančios kūrinijos įvairume; įvairume, kuriam ir mes patys priklausome. Taip kaip gamta skiriasi savo įvairumu, taip ir žmonija išreiškia Kūrėjo rankos mostą įvairiaspalviu atskirų ir savitų piešinių reginiu”.

Šioje dvasioje pareiškimas kviečia Amerikos Bažnyčią, per parapijas, šias mintis įgyvendinti ir dabartinėje kasdienybėje įprasminti.

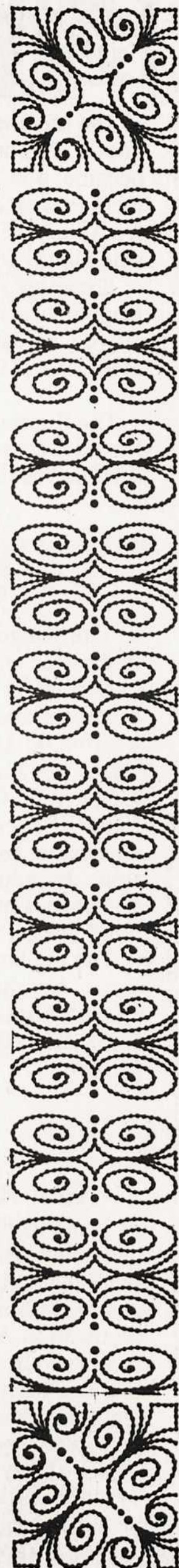
“Parapijos neturi bijoti tapti kultūriniais ir dvasiniais centrais ir dabartiniam Evangelijos skelbime panaudoti tautinius papročius ir tradicijas. Tai gali dažnai statyti specialius kalbų reikalavimus mokyme ir maldoje. Pastoracinis neįautrumas, šiuo atžvilgiu gali atstumti ir pačius pamaldžiausius.

“Bažnytinės organizacijos, tiek vietinės, tiek valstybinėje plotmėje, turėtų skatinti kuo plačiau pasinaudoti tuo daugeliu galimybių, kurias mums šiame krašte siūlo Dievo vaikų tautinis įvairumas.

“Katalikiškos mokyklos ir katalikiškas auklėjimas turi kuo geriau supažindinti katalikus su kultūrinėmis vertybėmis, kurias randame gausiose Bažnyčios tradicijose. Tai neturėtų ribotis vien tik istorine studija, bet privalėtų ieškoti ryšio su dabartiniu tautiniu apsireiškimu.

“Krikščioniškos šeimos gyvenime randame retą galimybę perduoti augančiam jaunimui žmogiško įvairumo vertybių supratimą ir įvertinimą.

“Skatiname visus amerikiečius priimti religinio ir kultūrinio pluralizmo faktą ne kaip istorinę keistenybę ar sentimentalią kelionę į praeitį, bet kaip iššaukiantį, gyvastingą ir našų mūsų dabartinės bendruomenės apsireiškimą. Amerikanizacija nereikalauja savo kultūrinio lobyno išsižadėti, bet ragina jį daugiau vertinti ir branginti.”





# AMERIKOS LIETUVIŲ TARYBA

2606 W. 63rd ST. CHICAGO, ILL., 60629 PHONE 778-6900 / 778-6901

## PRANEŠIMAS

(Visoms Amerikos lietuvių organizacijoms)

1983 m. liepos mėnesį sueis 50 metų nuo mūsų tautos didvyrių Dariaus ir Girėno transatlantinio skridimo ir jų tragiško žuvimo. Ši svarbi sukaktis turės būti kuo iškilmingiau atžymėta.

Kadangi Steponas Darius ir Stasys Girėnas kartu buvo ir Amerikos piliečiai, tai Amerikos Lietuvių Taryba jau praeitais metais pradėjo žygius, kad JAV paštas išleistų specialų pašto ženklą šiam įvykiui atžymėti. Paprastai JAV pašto ženklų išlaidimo planas yra sudaromas apie 18 mėnesių iš anksto. 1982 metų planas jau yra užpildytas, ir kaip tik šiais mėnesiais sudaromas planas 1983-oms metams.

Amerikos Lietuvių Taryba prašo visas Amerikos lietuvių organizacijas ir draugijas, Dariaus ir Girėno ženklo išleidimo reikalu kuo skubiau siųsti laiškus šiuo adresu:

The Honorable William F. Bolger  
Postmaster General of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20260

Laiškuose turėtų būti pabrėžta Dariaus ir Girėno žygio reikšmė Amerikai ir lietuvių tautai. Prašyti, kad JAV paštas tokį ženklą, skirtą jų žygiui paminėti, išleistų 1983 metais.

Jei kurios organizacijos pageidautų, Amerikos Lietuvių Taryba gali paruošti tokių laiškų pavyzdžius. Labai svarbu, kad tokie laišakai į Vašingtoną būtų kuo skubiau pasiųsti.

AMERIKOS LIETUVIŲ TARYBA



## — Our Lady of Siluva —



*A Reprint*



**“KEEPING THE FAITH”** did not come easy for Lithuanians. Though they had become Catholic about 1251, when the wave of Protestantism swept over Europe three hundred years later their nobles first became Lutherans in 1532, only to accept Calvinism in 1551. The peasants remained Catholic.

**THE LITTLE TOWN** of Siluva built its first Catholic church in 1457 and named it in honor of the Nativity of Mary. September 8, Our Lady's birthday, became a festival day in Siluva and people from all over the country flocked there. On their coming to power, the Calvinists appropriated everything Catholic. By 1570, there was no longer a Catholic church in Siluva. The last pastor, before leaving, buried a favorite image of the Madonna and Child, a few vestments and some important documents in a metal-covered oak chest, about a half mile from his church, near a huge rock.

**IN 1588** a new statute was passed, giving Catholics the right to repossess churches and properties unjustly taken from them, but documents had to be produced to prove ownership. In Siluva, no such documents could be produced.

**ON A HOT** summer day in 1608, a group of children, playing around a huge rock in Siluva, saw a beautiful weeping lady, with a child in her arms, standing on the rock. One of the children reported this to the Calvinist teacher, who claimed it was the devil trying to draw people away from Calvinism. The rumor of the apparition spread, and on the next day many people came to the rock of the apparition, where the Calvinist teacher berated them for listening to the tales of children. As he was speaking, the same weeping lady with the child in her arms again appeared, frightening everyone. In spite of his fright, the Calvinist teacher asked the lady, “Why are you weeping?” In sad tones the lady answered, “Formerly in this place my Son was adored and honored, but now all that the people do is seed and cultivate the land.” With this, the lady vanished. Whatever the Calvinists said to the contrary, the

people, led by a blind old man, believed it was the Blessed Virgin with her Son in her arms.

**REPOSSESSING** the property where the apparitions took place was impossible without documents. When the same old blind man, who had been so convinced the apparition was the Virgin and Child, heard this, he recalled the actions of the last Catholic pastor. Asked if he knew the location of the buried treasure, he was taken to the vicinity of the rock of the apparitions, where his blindness left him. Now, able to see, he pointed out the place to dig, and the treasure was recovered.

**AFTER TEN YEARS** of court battles, the Tribunal at Vilnius decided in favor of the Catholics in 1622. The Calvinists had to return all they had appropriated. Two years later the new pastor built a church, which soon proved too small for all the people who came to render homage to the Mother of God. A much larger church was built, which served its purpose for 140 years. A new stone church in the style of the renaissance was built in 1786.

**WHAT OF THE ROCK** of the apparitions? With the influx of pilgrims to Siluva, the Bishop had a small chapel built around the rock in 1663. A larger chapel was built in 1818, and a more elaborate one completed in 1924. A marble statue of the Virgin, “Health of the Sick,” was placed on the rock itself and crowned in 1886.

**THE IMAGE** of the Madonna and Child (a replica of St. Luke's Madonna and Child) had remained intact in its burial place. On its rediscovery it was later placed in the church of Siluva, where many favors were attributed to it.

**THE LOCAL** Bishops approved the cult, and Pius VI in 1775 gave it his approval.

**FOR A FEW** brief years, 1918-1940, Lithuania was independent, during which time the devotion to Our Lady of Siluva flourished. In spite of Russian occupation, before that time, from 1795 to the end of World War I, and again by the Soviets from 1940 to the present time, pilgrims still defy government regulations and harassment to visit their shrine of Our Lady of Siluva.

From Ann Voveris - C-17



### ATTENTION PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRPERSONS!!!

So that a report can be prepared for the National Convention, all public relations people including “Vytis” correspondents, Lithuanian and English publicity chairpersons are requested to submit a report of their activities during the past K of L year. Our K of L year ends on June 30th, so please send a report covering your work

for your district or council before July 25th! Your cooperation will be appreciated.

*Irene K. Sankus, National Public Relations Officer*

10221 S. Komensky Ave.  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453



# LANGUAGE LORE

## Understanding the Lithuanian Language IV

By Dr. Algirdas Budreckis



The Lithuanian language is very literal-minded. By being literal, we mean that the Lithuanian mind adheres to fact or to the ordinary construction or primary meaning of a term or expression. This literalness is due to the fact that Lithuanian is an ancient language free from undue embellishment and prone to the expression of the complete thought.

To a primitive person it makes no sense to say: "Yesterday, I dug!" (*vakar aš kasiau!*). The primitive person would immediately ask: "Where did you dig? With what did you dig? What did you dig?" This is literalness. So it is with the Lithuanian language (and native psychology as well). The thought has to be completed and carried out to its logical end. There can be no dangling participles or understatements in Lithuanian.

"Last summer the family went to Europe" — *Pernai šeima nuvyko į Europą* is an incomplete thought to the Lithuanian mind. The mode of going would have to be expressed. The Lithuanian would also inquire: "Whose family?" Thus, the Lithuanian inquirer would be satisfied if you stated: "Last summer my (my sister's, his, your) family (sailed, drove, flew, rode on horseback, went on foot) to Europe" — *Pernai mano (mano sesers, jo, Jūsų) šeima (nuplaukė, nuvažiavo, nuskrido, nujojo, nuėjo) į Europą.*

Because of this preciseness, the Lithuanian language has hundreds of verbs to express motion:

To go: *eiti, vykti, kakti, takinti*, etc., to move: *judėti, krutėti, stumti*, etc.

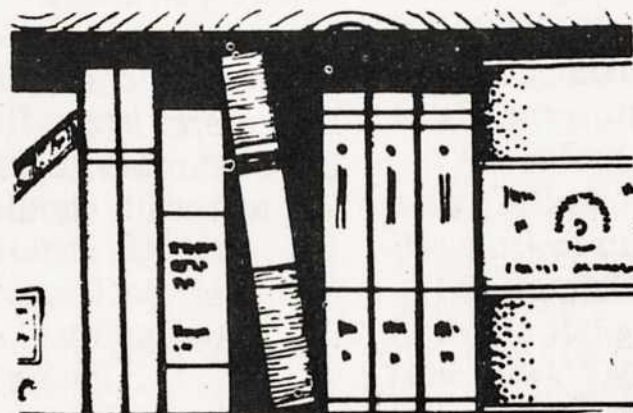
To flee: *bėgti, dumti, lėkti*, etc.

Literalness requires the exact or precise word for the distinct action: *žmogus valgo* (man eats); *gyvulys*

*žvėris ėda* (the animal or beast devours); *paukštis lesa* (the bird nibbles or pecks), *žiurkė graužia* (the rat gnaws). Man, bees and sheep die (*žmogus, bitės, avys miršta*), but animals perish (*gyvuliai stimpa, dvėsta, gaišta*), while plants shrivel away (*augalai nudžiūva* or *nudžiūna*).

Literalness is often expressed in Lithuanian compound words, words formed by joining two words. Thus an owl is an animal who eats mice (*pelėda*), an anteater is a *skruzdėlėdis* (*skruzdėl + ėdis*). A carnivore (meat-eater) is a *mėsėdis*. Certain nouns indicate being led by someone. The noun agent of *vesti* (to lead or to conduct) is *vadas*. Many nouns are compounded with the ending *-vedys, -vedis* (leader or conductor): *karvedys* (war leader) — military leader, *laužavedys* — campfire leader, *chorvedys* — choirleader. However, a leader indicates a person in charge in its **literal sense**. For this reason, an early form of manual or textbook — *rankvedis* was rejected. *Rankvedis* was copied from the Russian "rukovod", however, since it applied to an inanimate object — a manual — it was rejected by the Lithuanian. Literally, *rankvedis* in Lithuanian means "one who leads by hand". And how can a book lead you by the hand?

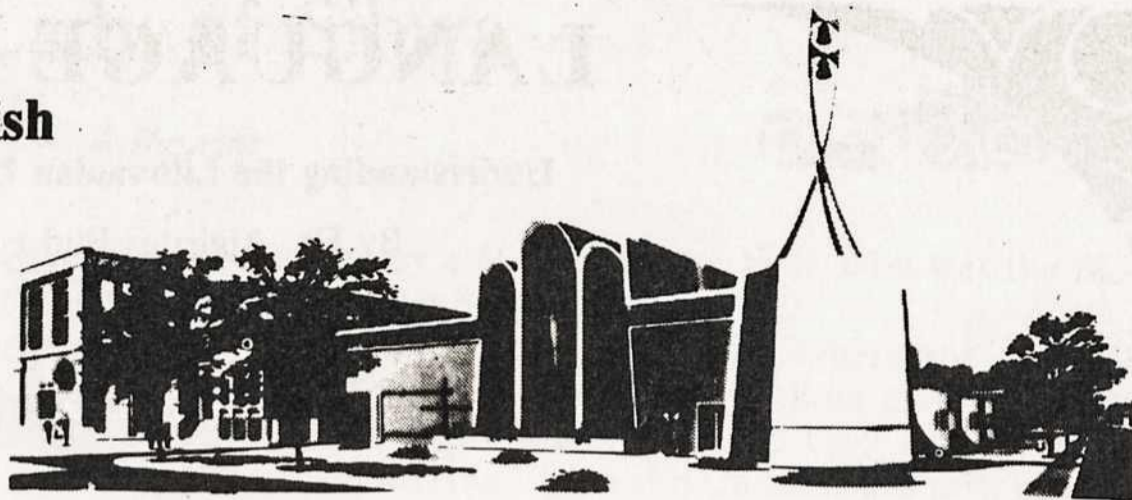
Literalness also applies to adjectives. The Standard Lithuanian word for gray is *pilkas*. Yet, one must be careful in choosing the precise "gray" in Lithuanian: *pilka spalva* (gray color), *žila barzda* (gray beard), *šyvas arklys* (gray horse), *širmas zuikis* (gray hare), *širvas arklys* (gray horse), *šėmas jautis* (gray ox) and *šėma karvė* (gray cow).





## The Year Of The Lithuanian Parish

**Anna Klizas Wargo,  
Cultural Chairman**



This Year of the Lithuanian Parish, as we ponder on how we can preserve our Lithuanian churches, let us look back on the early days when many of these parishes were founded.

The early Lithuanian-Americans, our parents and grandparents, came to this land of golden opportunity to better their lives. As with all other ethnic groups, they stayed together in their communities. Most important to all these people were their churches. Here they were able to worship God in their own way. This was the place they had their baptisms, weddings and funerals. It was the central point of their social lives. Each wanted their very own church.

There was very little money in those days but they build their churches with hard labor and much love. They had no architect but somehow they drew up plans for an edifice. The men built it themselves.

Here in the Anthracite Coal Region of Pennsylvania, which is known as the cradle of Lithuanianism, these ancestors of ours

worked long and hard in the coal mines. When their regular work day was done, they had dinner with their families and then went to work on the church. Lumber was often obtained for practically nothing at the Railroad Yards from old box-cars. Some mortgaged their homes so they could obtain needed materials. They put their hearts and souls into the building of their churches. Finally, they had their own Lithuanian church.

The women of the parish often made the Priest's vestments. All the altar linens were hand made. Gardens furnished the beautiful altar flowers all summer. When they jarred their garden foods, much of it went to the Parish Priest.

All summer long, the younger men of the Parish picked coal so there would be heat in the winter. What a labor of love it was for everyone! Their church was a little bit of Lithuania in this new land.

Our churches are part of our heritage, and the way our forefathers built their churches, we must preserve them. Many of our Lithuanian Parishes have already faded away. We must not allow this to happen to any others.

As long as there are Lithuanian churches anywhere in the world, Lithuanism will not die. Much of our rich culture is deeply rooted in the Lithuanian Catholic Church.

Let us all, as Knights of Lithuania, do everything in our power to preserve and protect our churches. Many of our beautiful customs are very closely correlated with the church. We must not lose these. Let us make this "Year of the Lithuanian Parish" not just for this year but for all the years to come.

### Thoughts

Lithuania across the sea,  
Waiting and waiting to be free.  
Years of tyranny present and past,  
God, how much longer can this last?

Your suffering has not been in vain,  
Dear God, please let freedom reign.  
My love for you is very strong.  
How can I help right the wrong?

Pray every day my sisters and brothers,  
Spread the word to all the others.  
You are on my mind night and day,  
There are so many thoughts I have to say.

Our history and culture is alive,  
And only through us, will survive.  
Reach for your roots, go to see  
Where you come from, you and me.

Lithuanian children, do not forget,  
Listen and learn, till your duties are met,  
Love your heritage, treat it with pride,  
We will walk shoulder to shoulder and side by side.

Mary Ann Lepera  
Knights of Lithuania Council 3



# COOK'S CORNER

By Mary Lucas



## Bacon & Egg Brunch

This is an easy dish to serve at your Council's Communion Breakfast. Add a fruit cup, lots of Coffee and assorted coffeecakes.

2 Lbs. Bacon cut into 1/2 inch pieces, fried and drained

10 Slices white bread, cubed

3/4 Lb. mild cheddar cheese, grated

6 Eggs

2 Cups milk

1 Can cream of mushroom soup

Whip eggs in a bowl until frothy, Add milk, soup, bread cubes, cheese and bacon. Mix well and let set overnight in refrigerator.

Bake at 250 degrees for 1 1/2 hours until lightly browned. Cut into squares and serve. Makes 15 servings.

## Basic Coffee Cake Dough

2 oz. fresh yeast

1 t salt

1/2 C sugar

1 C lukewarm milk

1/2 t grated lemon rind

3 whole eggs or 6 egg yolks

4-5 C flour

1/2 C soft butter

Cream the yeast with salt and sugar until syrup forms. Add lukewarm milk, vanilla and lemon rind. Beat in the eggs. Add enough flour to make a medium soft dough. Work in the soft butter.

Knead in bowl for 10 minutes, adding more flour if necessary. When dough has been kneaded enough, it will be shiny and elastic and have small blisters. Let rise in greased bowl in a warm place until doubled in bulk. Keep covered with a light cloth.

Remove from bowl and divide dough in half. On floured cloth with covered and floured rolling pin, roll dough into a quarter inch thick rectangle. Spread with filling and roll up Jelly Roll fashion. Pinch ends together. Let rise again until doubled on a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30-40 minutes till browned.

Repeat with second half of dough.

Remove from oven and let cool. Drizzle with a runny confectioner's sugar and water icing. Decorate with walnuts or pecans and Maraschino cherries.

### Suggested fillings

Apricot, prune, almond or poppy seed. These fillings can be purchased in Supermarkets. (Solo label).



## A Book Review

### Meditations On Liberty From Lithuanian Prisoners

"Love Your Homeland not in word alone, but in deed..."

The real worth of every nation and state consists not of its lands, not of its wealth, but first and foremost of its people..."

So wrote Aidas, a prisoner of Kazachstan labor camp twenty-seven years ago.

The dreams, longings and hopes of Aidas and other prisoners are collected in a book, dated February 16, 1955, entitled "An Infant Born in Bondage". These epigrams from captured Lithuanian resistance fighters on the occasion of Lithuanian Independence Day, are addressed to their Lithuanian sisters, also serving long terms in Soviet labor camps for partisan activity.

# KNYGOS / BOOKS

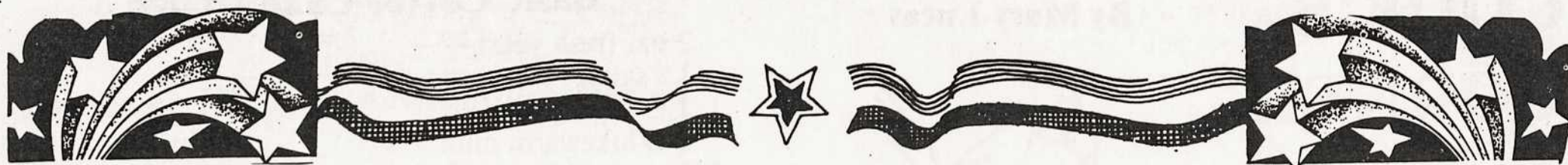


The book is softcover, 99 pages. A copy of the inlaid wood original adorns the cover of "An Infant Born in Bondage". It contains the complete text of the Lithuanian original along with a Lithuanian transcription and English translation.

"An Infant Born in Bondage", published by Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, was financed by Sophie Brazauskas of Los Angeles.

The book is available for \$7.00 from Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, New York 11207.





# LITHUANIANIAN *in the NEWS*

Edited by RUTH KAZLAUSKAS



On July 18, 1933, a tiny single engine plane called "Lituanica" took off at dawn from Floyd Bennett Airfield in New York with CAPTAIN STEPHEN DARIUS and LT. STANLEY GIRENAS at the controls. The flight that both men had planned for many, many months was now a reality. It was the start of a flight that was to be the longest "non-stop" flight on record.

It ended in tragedy and death for two brave flyers whose aim to cement friendly relations between the United States and the land of their fathers, Lithuania. Their flight ended in Soldan, Germany — a mass of wreckage strewn all about the nearby forest. Adolph Hitler was ascending into great power at that time and unverified accounts place the blame for the crash upon Nazi Military Defenses then built in Germany.

The ill-fated crash fired the imagination of the entire population of Lithuania and Darius and Girenas became national heroes in every Lithuanian community throughout the world. The Nazis placed their bodies in coffins and had them flown to Kaunas where a state of mourning was proclaimed.

In Chicago, a street in heavily populated Bridgeport was rededicated "Lituanica" in honor of the fallen heroes. A monument was erected in the Lithuanian community of Marquette Park on Chicago's southwest side. The odd shaped pyramid of granite rises some 25 feet from ground level. It represents a "half wing," a symbol of the crash in Soldan, Germany.

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of their tragic flight, a request is being made to the Postmaster General of the United States for the issuance of a postage stamp in their honor in 1983. In addition, in July of 1983 the Darius-Girenas American Legion Post in Chicago will hold colorful memorial services at the monument built in their honor in Marquette Park.

The Darius-Girenas American Legion Post derived its name from these two outstanding heroes who gave their lives to better the relations of the United States and Lithuania. The 50th Anniversary of the Post will be celebrated on Friday, October 8, 1982, at a dinner-dance to be held at the Mayfield Banquet Hall in Chicago. Co-chairmen for this event are JOHN L. PAUKSTIS, World War II veteran, Past Commander



of the Post and President of C-36, Chicago, and BRUCE NEBERIEZA, Viet Nam veteran. Past Commander of the Post and member of C-36.



An article in the New York Daily News, April 8, 1982, tells of GAYLE SABONAITIS of Worcester, Mass., who has lived in darkness and silence since she was a teenager. But she talks with the tips of her fingers to a world that knows nothing of her handicaps.

Each evening, she crawls to a corner of her apartment house basement where she taps the Morse code key of a ham radio set. It is a medium in which she is an expert, even though she cannot see, cannot hear, cannot walk. She holds a full-time job, writes poetry, regularly reads



13 Braille magazines, talks music and sports and recently earned the highest ham radio license granted by the Federal Communications Commission.

She has been blind since she was 1, deaf since 15. Progressively, she has lost her equilibrium so she must crawl or glide about in a wheelchair. Her senses have been taken away by a relentless and incurable nervous disorder, which has baffled her doctors. Yet, at age 38, Gayle challenges her surroundings with the faculties she has left.

Earning her novice license as a ham radio operator 11 years ago was a struggle. Since she cannot hear, she uses a transducer to understand the dots and dashes. This is a loudspeaker with a piece of plastic the size of half a Ping-Pong ball glued onto it. She places her left hand on the ball and reads the incoming code by feeling the vibrations.

Any person she's in contact with has no conception that she's deaf and blind. She sounds and seems the same as any other person. Tapping away at 28 words a minute, Gayle chats on the air for about three hours each evening with her radio friends throughout New England.

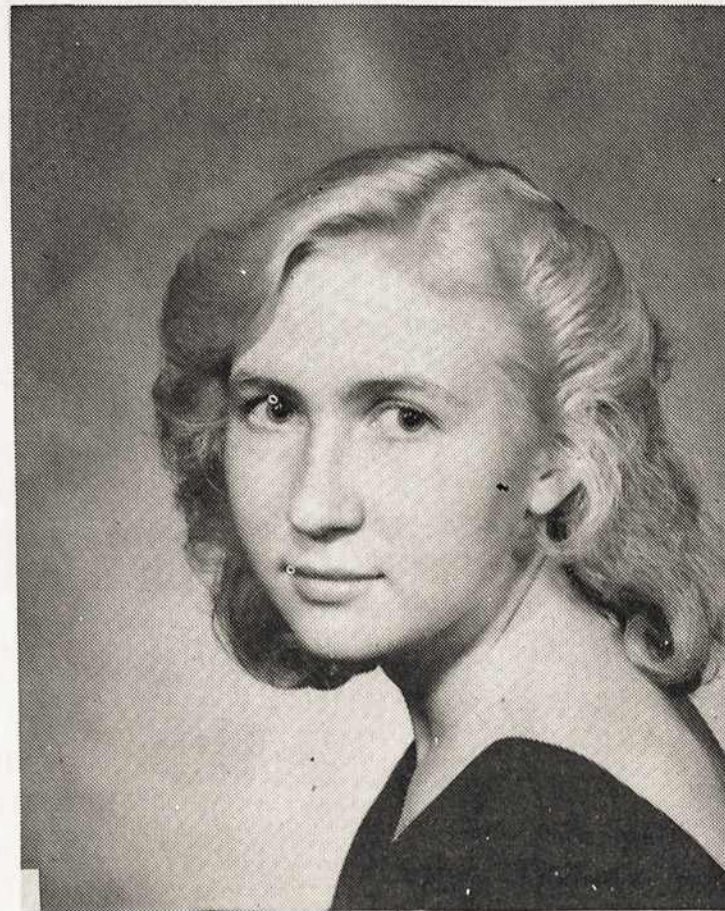


"Is Lithuania Extant? (Still existing) Its Consul in Chicago Certainly Thinks So," is the title of an article featured in the Wall Street Journal, March 10, 1982, which states "Perhaps the most anomalous (deviating from the regular arrangement, general rule or usual method) foreign mission here is the Lithuanian consulate general which represents a country that doesn't exactly exist. JOSEPHINE DAUZVARDIS, the honorary consul, naturally insists that her country deserves recognition. And the U.S. government, formally, concurs. In practice, the U.S. and most nations accept the fact that Lithuania has been part of the Soviet Union since World War II."

"Nevertheless, Mrs. Dauzvardis still transacts business on behalf of a government-in-exile in Rome, which continues to issue passports. A sprightly grandmother, she took over as consul 10 years ago on the death of her husband, who had held the post since 1937."

"Mrs. Dauzvardis, who works out of her house on Chicago's southwest side, inveighs (verbally attacks) against the Soviet occupation of the Lithuania and the 'puppet regime' there, with which she has no contact. As is true of Latvia and Estonia, Lithuania's fellow Baltic states, the costs of maintaining 'free' Lithuanian missions are paid by the U.S. from gold-bullion reserves frozen after the Second World War. But those reserves are dwindling, and no one will say how much gold is left."

"Even when the gold runs out, Mrs. Dauzvardis says Lithuanian-Americans will keep the mission open as a gesture of defiance against Moscow. 'We're a thorn in their side,' she says."



*Barbara Romanauskas*

Following a traditional club program that has been in existence for over 20 years, the Scranton Business and Professional Women's Club honored seven outstanding young women from local high schools at the annual "Girl of the Year" program, which was held March 31 in St. Mary's Center, Scranton, Pa.

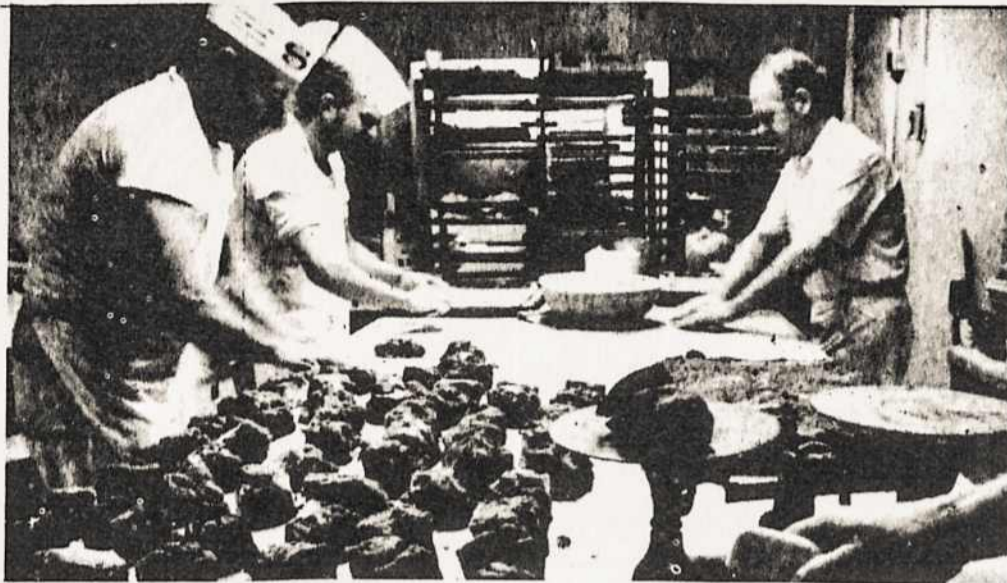
Among the honored students was BARBARA ROMANAUSKAS, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Romanauskas, members of C-74, Scranton. Barbara, a senior at Scranton Preparatory School, represented that school for "Girl of the Year." She is member of the Honor Society, is listed in "Who's Who of American High School Students" and the Society of Distinguished American High School Students. She is a member of the Track and Field Teams and is tri-captain of the Cross Country Club.

Barbara is also active in civic and church affairs and plans to enter the University of Scranton next year as a nursing major.



Remember when a loaf of fresh-baked bread cost a dime, a dozen cookies cost 19 cents and a loaf cake cost 29cents? Those days were brought back to Boston, Mass., by a Dorchester baker who rolled back prices on one item a day to 1941 levels in commemoration of National Retail Bakers Week, according to the Boston Globe. JOE SVELNIS, owner of the Avenue Bakery at 988 Dorchester Ave., wanted to say thanks — to the neighborhood, the housewives, and the kids. He also wanted to give recognition to the staff — the bakers who come in at 4 a.m., the cake decorators whose artistry goes unsigned, and the women at the counters.





*Joe Svelnis (left) and staff of the Avenue Bakery making pastry*

Joe grew up in South Boston and started with his father, Jasper, when he was 9 years old. Svelnis and Sons, a Lithuanian bakery, was on I Street. Joe's job as a child was to bring 14 bushel baskets of coke from the cellar to feed the brick oven, which was a lot of hard work.

The prices were rolled back to 1941 levels because Joe went to work that year as a trainee at the Avenue Bakery. He chose to apprentice there instead of with his father because he wanted more varied experience. When he left there he spent four years in the service. Upon his return he opened his own shop in Newton and one in Roslindale. He stills owns the Roslindale shop and bought the Avenue Bakery four years ago.



*Emilie Krustapentus*

EMILIE KRUSTAPENTUS, daughter of JOHN and STEPHANIE KRUSTAPENTUS of Athol, Mass., recently completed a two-year stint as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand. The 29-year old teacher of English returned home for a few months to visit her parents and friends. In April she headed back to Bangkok where she is working with other volunteers at the British Council, a cultural and educational institute sponsored by the British government, bringing up-to-date ideas in teaching methodology to Thai teachers of

English who come to the city from "upcountry" areas for a nine-week training program.

Following her graduation from Petersham's Maria Assumpta Academy in 1970, Emilie developed her credentials as a teacher by studying for a bachelor's degree at Annhurst College, Woodstock, Conn., and obtaining a master of arts in teaching at Assumption College Worcester.

She taught in the adult education program at the Army Education Center, Fort Devens, before applying to join the Peace Corps. She chose Asia over Africa and Latin America, and was assigned to Thailand. She has visited Burma, Malaysia and Singapore. In joining the Peace Corps, Emilie was realizing a longtime desire to teach in another culture.

Her father, John Krustapentus, is a licensed realtor and owner of the Krustapentus Real Estate Co. located in Athol. Her mother, Stephanie (Watkevich) Krustapentus is a practicing attorney-at-law with offices presently in Gardner, Mass. Both are members of St Francis Parish in Athol.



Early last year an article appeared in the Asbury Park (N.J.) Press regarding GREGORY J. PLUNGES, who is the librarian for the Monmouth County Historical Association. He was researching an early association membership badge when a numismatically important fact surfaced. Tucked away in the association's basement stack of old correspondence and meeting notes was an abundance of written evidence showing that the designer of the dies for the badge was none other than VICTOR D. BRENNER, the man who was to become nationally recognized for designing the Lincoln penny.

Victor D. Brenner was born in 1871 in the town of Shavli, Lithuania. His real name was VIKTORAS BARNAUSKAS. He arrived in 1890, continued to perfect his die cutting and engraving skills, and went to school at night to further his general education. In time, his skills were to attract the attention of not only the art world and major newspapers of the day, but even President Teddy Roosevelt, who sat for him for Roosevelt's portrait on the Panama Canal medal.

Plunges made the discovery in response to an inquiry from Glenn B. Smedley, public relations officer of the American Numismatic Association, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Smedley was doing basic research on Brenner's works and came upon some information that indeed the great sculptor Brenner had completed a medal for the Monmouth group. Plunges' efforts confirmed the suspicion.

The badge, or medal, has a real beauty to it from the standpoint of being unique in design, historic in importance and charmingly direct and simple in legend. In preparing what has turned out to be a real scholarly and ongoing effort on the works of Brenner, Smedley is beginning to put into focus a new awareness of Brenner's enormous outpouring of numismatic works, numbering about 200 individual pieces.

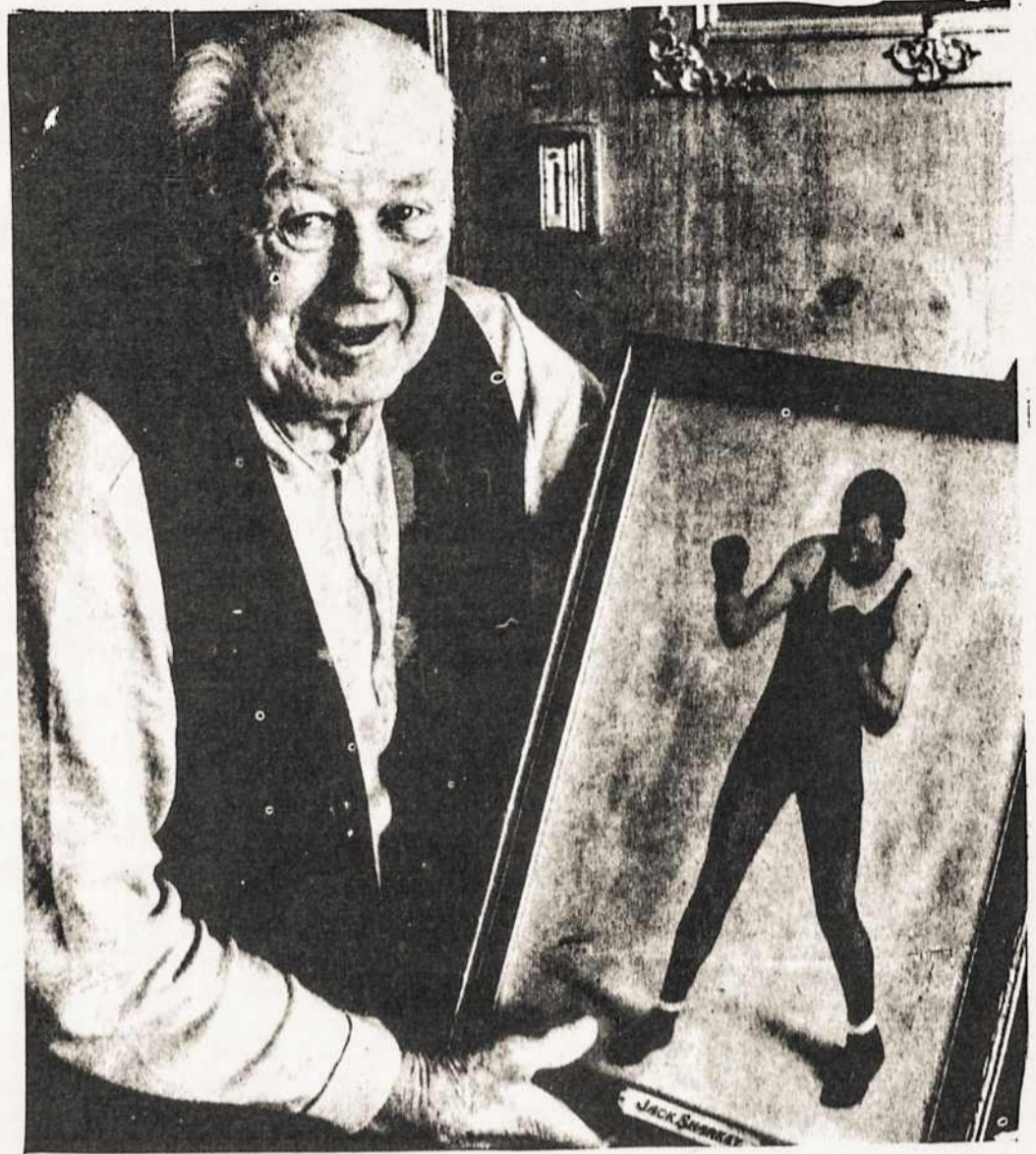


**JACK SHARKEY**, son of a Lithuanian immigrant, was featured recently in the Boston Sunday Globe. Considered "The bad boy of boxing," at 79, the 1932-33 titleholder has outlasted most of his pugilistic contemporaries. Unlike many fighters, Sharkey saved his \$1 million-plus earnings and lives in comfort.

A widower, Sharkey lives by himself in a white frame house in the southern New Hampshire town of Epping, which has fond memories for him. He goes fishing in summer, but in March he mainly ventures out only to Bea's Lunch. At home he watches television and exercises what he calls his "retentive and tenacious" memory. He can recall voyages 60 years ago in the Navy — to Oslo, Algiers and the Panama Canal Zone. He has picked up smatterings of six languages and surprises visitors by addressing them in the tongue of their ethnic heritage.

"I've led 19,000 lives," Sharkey says. he has been a laborer, sailor, saloon-keeper, entertainer of World War II troops, fight referee and fisherman. In a career spanning 55 fights from 1924-1936 (37 wins; 13 losses; 5 draws), he was one of the most talented boxers to come out of Boston.

Sharkey was born Joseph Paul Cukoschay, and raised in a mixed neighborhood of Slavs, Poles, Jews and Italians in Binghamton, N.Y., where his parents settled after emigrating to Brockton. One of his uncles was a bishop of Lithuania.



*Jack Sharkey shows a picture of himself as a young man*



#### IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers...

#### **Dr. VYTAS BALCIUNAS**

Husband of Theresa Balciunas,  
President of C-36  
Kenosha, Wisconsin  
Died April 17, 1982

#### **VINCAS NORKAITIS**

Member of C-36  
Chicago, IL  
Died May 8, 1982

#### **ANTHONY BUKNIS**

Member of C-25  
Cleveland, Ohio



## **K of L Calendar**

### AUGUST

5-8 NATIONAL CONVENTION  
at Harley Hotel In  
Cleveland East,  
C-25 Hosts

15 ANNUAL LITHUANIAN DAY  
in Lakewood Park,  
Barnesville, PA

### OCTOBER

9 C-29 NEWARK - ANNUAL  
DINNER and DANCE  
at Holy Trinity Hall,  
Newark, N.J.



# Junior News

## Junior Knights — Frackville — Council 144

The Junior Knights of Frackville of Council 144, newly-formed in November of 1981, includes 21 members from grades three through eight. The officers are Paula Cahill, President; Danielle Yanchulis, Vice President; Mimi Leschik, Secretary and Donna Gurka, Treasurer. Meetings are held every two weeks and open with a prayer followed by the singing of the Lithuanian Hymns.

A cultural program is planned for each meeting. Recently, Mrs. Annie Morgalis and Mrs. Bernice Mikitavage along with their Minersville Juniors taught us the art of etching designs on onion skin colored eggs.

The group performed at the commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day program at Annunciation BVM Hall by reciting poems and singing Lithuanian songs. At the MAD St. Casimir's Day Mass several Juniors performed a liturgical dance in sign language to the "Teve Musu" and participated in the Offertory Procession. Before

the meeting our group sang several Lithuanian songs, danced, recited several poems, and explained the symbolism of the Lithuanian colors of the flag. In May, we sang and danced for the cancer telethon at the Fairlane Village Mall.

Our meetings are followed by a social hour with refreshments and attendance awards. The group has gone bowling several times. A hike is planned for May and a trip to Great Adventure in June.

Sisters Verna and Angela of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified, Brockton, are our Junior Counsellors. We, as a group, appreciate the time and effort the Sisters extend in our behalf. We also appreciate the support of our pastor, Rev. A. Bartkus.

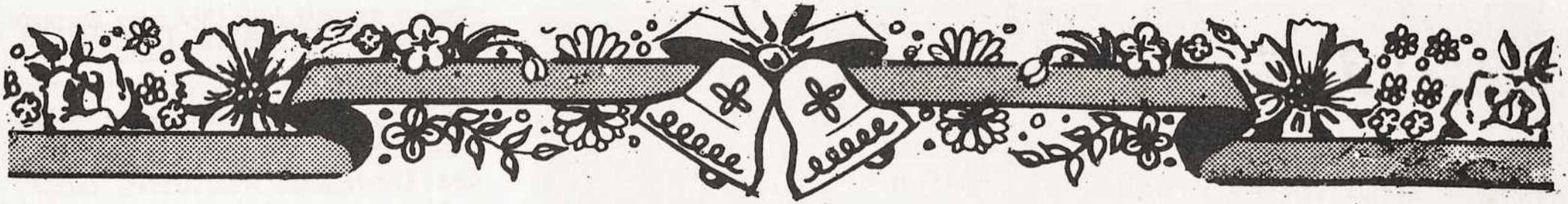
Mimi Leschik, Secretary.



C-96 JUNIORS and ALUMNI participate in Independence Day celebration at Holy Cross Church in Dayton, Ohio. Front row l. to r. James Pacovsky, Eric Geiger, Christa Zinkwitz, Molly Geiger, Tim Pacovsky, Joe Keivel, Steve Keivel, Nathan Bucmys and Aaron

Geiger. Back row l. to r. Annamarie Sluzas, Frank Ambrose, Catherine Shepherd, Brian Fletcher, Irene Gecas, Annette Sheherd, Rita Gecas, Vida Gecas, Kathy Sinkwitz, Mary Agnes Mikalauskas, Barbara Lastoskie, Joyce Zinkwits, Marilyn Lastoskie, George Mikalauskas, Elean Mikalauskas, Michael Lastoskie and Mike Stoffel





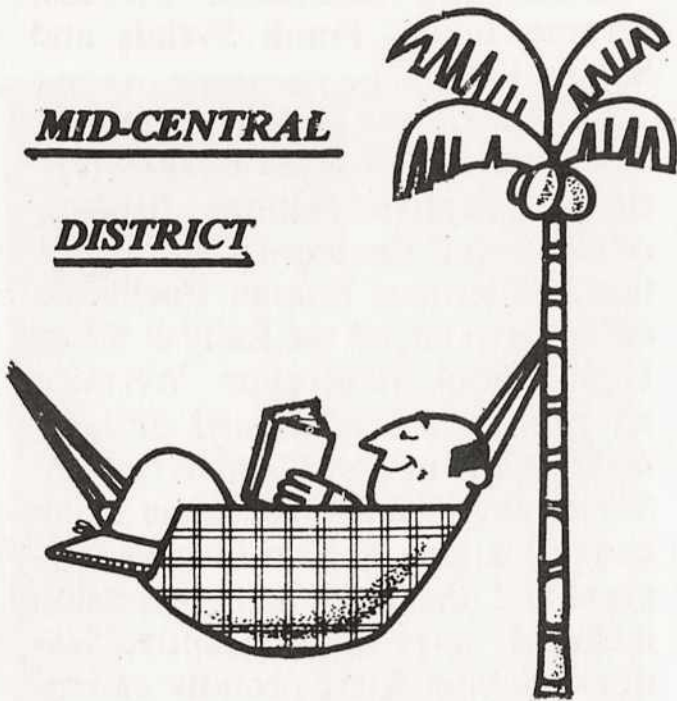
# Vyčiai Veikia Council Activities

Edited by HELEN CHESKO, 1000 E. Pine St., Mahanoy City, PA 17948



MID-CENTRAL

DISTRICT



A welcome addition to our Lithuanian Club in Du Bois was a framed picture of Gediminas, compliments of some of our K of L members. It hangs conspicuously in the entrance for all to see. Little by little, our good members are seeing to it that the community is made aware of the fact that we are of Lithuanian heritage and very proud of it.

It was good to see our loyal member, John "Ozzie" Abromovich up and around. He was hospitalized again for a time in the Geisinger Medical Center. We all

hope that was the end of your problems, Oz.

Thanks to "Scubby" and Dick Radzavich and others, our trip to the MCD meeting and Mid-West bowling tournament was made much easier on the purse strings. Under their leadership, tickets were sold based on the Pennsylvania lottery number drawn each Saturday. In ten weeks we raised \$900 to defray our expenses.

Hopefully, Council 86 will have three teams represented in the tournament. Thanks again to the IID for sponsoring this year's event.

Tomas

## C-86 — Du Bois

Recently, a letter was sent by Bishop Brizgys to the Bishop of Erie asking for consideration for a collection for Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. The letter was forwarded to our St. Joseph Church with our bishop's noted approval. Even though we are not strictly a Lithuanian parish, the collection amounted to \$1200. Also the Erie Diocese was committed to matching funds. For the first time in many years, the sum of \$2400 was sent to help the Lithuanian cause. This is a fine example of what can be accomplished with a little extra effort on our part. Our thanks to Father Cici for his help and support and to our fine parishioners, many of whom are not of Lithuanian heritage. Council 86 donated \$100 in addition to our personal contributions.



Wedding cake made by Food Editor Mary Lucas for wedding of Dianne Kavalauskas C-96 and Ken Magill





*Happy Wedding Day - Jim Kavatauskas, daughter, Dianne, and Joan Kavalauskas all members of C-96 in Dayton, Ohio*

#### **C-102 — Detroit**

Once again, the favorite season of many is upon us — Spring. I'm sure no one will miss the snow; we had so much of it this year.

Our council hosted the St. Casimir Day celebration this year with Mass at St. Anthony's followed by a delicious dinner in our newly enlarged and redecorated hall. Carl Gobis was presented his Third Degree during the festivities. Edna Klucens and Maryanne Guerriero hosted the dinner. President Grazina Vaskelyis and Donna Bunikis handled the religious aspects. Committee members were Frank Bunikis, Joe Guerriero, Gena and Gus Baibak and the Klucen Boys. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Babonis, pastor of St. Anthony. Thanks to Councils 79 and 139 for helping make this occasion a success.

Vytalia and Grazina Vaskelys attended the Lithuanian Freedom Ceremony in Southfield at Divine Providence Church. They also journeyed to Cleveland for the Supreme Council meeting. Vytalia is on the Scholarship Committee. C-102 is looking forward to the National Convention.

Once again, Ann Uznis is spending the winter with her brother and family in the Kat Key Islands of the

Bahamas. The vacation also included a Caribbean Cruise. Bob Boris and Vytalia chose Florida to get away from our hard winter. Not everyone chose the warm sunny climate for a vacation. Jeff and Margie Krieg along with their daughter, our members from California, spent two weeks visiting Margie's parents, Frank and Donna Bunikis. Terry and Ray Medonis and Chuck and Jodie Step chose Northern Michigan for cross country skiing. Terry and Ray were also presented with their third grandson.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Evelyn Galinason on the accidental death of her brother Frank. Frank was shot during a robbery while on duty as a security guard. Frank was a Friday night spectator at our bowling league. May his soul rest in peace.

Meriute



#### **ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT**

Congratulations to Joann Zelvis who received her First Degree at the C-112 meeting.

No, you didn't imagine it! It was Anna Marie and Georgianna Kassel on television, Channel 11, Telethon Pledge Night on March 11. They took pledges on the phone from 5 to 11 p.m. Keep up the good work girls.

The IID Rummage Sale on March 20 was a success. Workers from our council were Kazimiera Petrulis, Jerome Janus, Frank Svelnis and Sabina Klatt.

March 21 was a very important day. President Ronald Reagan asked all Captive Nations to help Afghanistan, the latest Captive Nation. Alderman Roman Puchenski asked us to attend the Rally at Shurz High School Auditorium. We must all protest the continued enslavement of the newest Captive Nation. Soviet aggression must come to an end. American Legion Flag Bearers presented the US Flag. procession included flags of all Captive Nations. Sabina Klatt proudly carried the Lithuanian Flag. Sabina also directed the choir composed of a group of women dressed in various ethnic costumes in the singing of the National Anthem. Wanda Urbonienė of C-112 was one of the honor guards. Vince Samaska, Vice President of Captive Nations Committee, read the proclamation. Thanks to all who attended. The event was shown on TV news.

Perhaps, you are wondering who won the attendance award at our March meeting. Vince Samaska won the beautiful wallet. You know, Vince, we're really proud of you.

Under the direction of Fausta Strolia, the Knights of Lithuania Choir participated in the "Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ" at St. John Fisher Church. It was an outstanding rendition.

Sisters of St. Francis supper held on April 4 was a success. Sabina Klatt, Auxiliary President, would like to say a special thanks to Rev. J. Savukynas C-112 for a job well



done as our MC and thanks to all who attended. The K of L dancers, under the direction of Frank Zapolia, put on a great performance. Aciu labai.

Irene Norushis' mother is in Michael Reese Hospital after a hip operation. We wish her Mom a speedy recovery.

Get well wishes to Adele Gabaliene, President of Chicago Seniors; also to Stephanie Uginchus, President of Cicero C-14. They shared the same room at Holy Cross Hospital.

Sabina Klatt



*C-36 Presentation of Awards at St. Casimer's Day event. l. to r. Vincent Samaska, IID Pres., Emilija Pakalniskis C-112, award recipient, John Paukstis, Prse. of C-36, Most Rev. Vincentas Brizgys, Stephanie Uginchus, Pres. of C-14, Cicero, Paul Binkus, Pres. C-112, Ruth Kazlauskas, award recipient and Irene Norushis, Chairlady.*



*New Choir Pres. Sabina Klatt presents Past Pres. Estelle Rogers with a corsage at their Benefit Dinner-Dance*



*ABOVE: Ritual Team presented 1st and 2nd degrees to: (seated) Stella Raudis of Chicago Srs., Wanda Urbonas C-112, Ona Sliteris C-112, JoAnne Zelvis C-36, (standing) Mildred Rochkes C-112, Maria Deksnis, C-112, LaVerne Wopereis C-112, Mary and Aleq Mathes C-112, and IID Ritual Co-Chairman Ruth Dagis. Photo: Jean Janula*



*AT LEFT: Farewell Party for Florida Retirees Harry and Emily Petraitis. Also standing are Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas and Algerd Brazis*





### MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

#### **C-100 — Amsterdam**

Members of Council 100 attended the 10:30 Mass at St. Casimir's church on Sunday, March 7. Rev. Robert K. Baltch was the celebrant and homilist. Joseph Shatas was worship leader. A luncheon followed at Smeaton House, Route 5. President Anthony J. Radzevich hosted the event, and the invocation was given by the Rev. Anthony Grigaitis.

Father Baltch was the key speaker. He briefly commented on St. Casimir. He also spoke on his February visit to the Holy Land.

Miss Mary Stanionis, Ritual Chairman, announced that five members qualified for the First Degree and three for the Second Degree. Father Baltch presented the

First Degree to Bernice Aviza of Albany, Matthew La Torre, Walter Sargalis, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Wilkevitch. Recipients of the Second Degree were Leo Druziak, Beatrice Jasewicz and Edward Wolan.

President Radzevich extended birthday greetings to Mr. La Torre and Mr. Wilkevitch who celebrated birthdays on March 7.

Gene Gobis, Vice President, read correspondence from Congressman Samuel S. Stratton stating that he had participated in the observance of the anniversary of Lithuanian independence in the House of Representatives on February 23.

Arrangements for the luncheon were chaired by Miss Stanionis with a committee of Betty Kuzmich, Judy Kastraveckas and Helen Wojcik.

At the April meeting in St. Casimir's Social Center, the opening prayer was given by Rev. Anthony Grigaitis. Gene Gobis read correspondence from Congressman Stratton with reference to the commemorative stamp of Darius and Girenas. The US Postal Service advised Mr. Stratton that the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee did not adopt the suggestion. Congressman Stratton stated that the request can be resubmitted.

Cultural Co-chairman Regina Kot read an article from Lithuanian Days magazine about "The Unknown War," a very controversial movie produced in Moscow on the view of the war from the Soviet side. Everyone was urged to write against the showing of the film.

Lithuanian Affairs Chairman Ed Baranauskas chaired the Lithuanina portion of the Festival of Nations at the Schenectady Museum on May 15.

Bernice Aviza, MAD Lithuanian Affairs Chairman and C-100 delegate, reported on the highlights of the MAD meeting on March 14. A new Junior Council was formed in Frackville, and she commended their performance. Sister Mary Angela, a former teacher in Amsterdam, and Sister Mary Verna serve as their counsellors.

The council approved a \$25 donation to the Lithuanian Legation and \$50 to the Scholarship Fund.

Refreshments were served by Sadie Allen, Mirga Bablin, Beatrice Jasewicz and Eleanor Olechowski. Thanks for the appetizing snacks, girls!

New Bits: The president of the American Lithuanina Club for 1982 is none other than our member Edmund Liberis. Congratulations, Ed! In January Gen and Bob Chase left for Naples, Florida, to visit for the winter months with Gen's sister, Irene Damphier. It appears they liked it so well that it may become their permanent home.

**SMILE & SPARKLE**



*Rev. Robert Baltch receives a proclamation from Frances Di Bart which states that Feb. 17th is his birthday*





## C-110 — MASPETH, LIETUVIŠKO KRYŽIAUS KOPLYTĖLĖS IŠKĖLIMO PAŠVENTINIMO AKTAS PAREIŠKIMAS

Tūkstantis devyni šimtai aštuoniasdešimt dešimtais pirmais Viešpaties Metais, rugsėjo 27 dieną, sekmadienį, Lietuvos Vyčių 110 kuopos, Atsimainymo parapijoje, Maspeth, N.H. nariai, pirmininku esant vyčiui Jonui Adomeniui, su Lietuvos jvyčiais iš Vidurio Atlanto Vyčių Apskritis suvažiavusiems, Parapijos klebonui Kun. Pranui Bulovui globojant visas iškilmes, įsijungusiems Kun. Jonui Pakalniškiui, Kun. Stasiui Railai, ir keliems šimtams svečių dalyvių su Atsimainymo Parapijos parapijiečiais, buvo pašventintas Lietuviškas Kryžius JE Vyskupui Francis Mugavero iškilmingai pasisakome, kad šiandien buvo iškeltas ir pašventintas Lietuviškas Kryžius - Koplytėlė atsiminimui Lietuvių Lietuvoje ir visame pasaulyje pasiaukojusių ir dar tebesiaukojančių už savo tikėjimo ir laisvės išlaikymą. Mes vieningai sakome, kad Kryžius - Nukryžiuotasis Kristus yra aukos ir pergalės simbolis, Kristaus meilės ženklas žmonijai.

Kryžiaus auką yra supratusi ir ją įsijautusi Lietuvių tauta, savo žemės pakeles ir sodybas papuošusi daugybe meniškų kryžių. Atneškime į šią Lietuviškumo vietovę Maspeth, dar vieną Kryžių, kaip ženklą, kad tauta dar nemirė, dar gyvuoja. Ir mes čia taip pat ryžtamės sielotis ir aukotis už Lietuvių šventas teises, be persekiojimų garbinti Dievą, kad atgautumėm pilną tautos ir valstybės laisvę.

Kai okupantai Lietuvoje verčia kryžius iš pakelių ir iš lietuviškų sodybų, mes čia, su didžia Kryžiaus meile, tikėjimu ir viltimi iškėlėme didingą Kryžių, mūsų nepalaužiamo ryžto ir Tėvynei regimą ženklą Kryžių.

Neprarasdami vilties dabartinėje Lietuvos Golgotoje ir iš Kryžiaus semdami prisikėlimo viltį, vieningai, ryžtingai, vytiškai, mes prie šio Kryžiaus raginsimės nuoširdžiai garbinti Išganytoją. Mes įvertiname ir branginame šį kraštą, kuriame gyvename, bet taip pat stengsimės laikytis gražiųjų papročių, paveldėtų iš Lietuvos tėvų, protėvių. Pagaliau Kryžius tesuteikia mums jėgų šiame krašte palaikyti lietuviškąsias parapijas savo dalyvavimu ir aukomis. Mes nepamiršime šio kryžiaus, branginsime jo grožį ir semsimės jėgų gelbėti neteisusiai persekiojamus lietuvius Lietuvoje. Viešpatie, stiprink mūsų kiekvieno širdį branginti mūsų gyslose tekantį lietuvišką kraują.

Visų Lietuvos Vyčių sutarimu ir auka šis paminklas skiriamas atsiminimui lietuvių Lietuvoje ir visame pasaulyje, pasiaukojančių už savo tikėjimo ir laisvės išlaikymą. Tai Vyčių šūkio svarbiausios dalies Dievui įvykdytas darbas. Tuo pačiu tai pasitarnauta ir antrai šūkio daliai - Tėvynei.

MASPETH, NEW YORK — On Sunday, September 27, 1981, members of the Knights of Lithuania, Council 110 of Transfiguration Church, Maspeth, N.Y., and their president Jonas Adomenas, together with Knights attending the Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention, and under the spiritual guidance of Transfiguration Church pastor Rev. F. Bulovas, Rev. J. Pakalniskis, and Rev. Stasys Raila, and in the presence of several hundred parishioners, and guests, witnessed the blessing of the Lithuanian Wayside Shrine on the grounds of Transfiguration Church, by His Excellency, Archbishop Francis Muguvaro, Archbishop of Brooklyn.

On this occasion, all present attested to the erection and dedication of this Shrine in memory of all the sacrifices made by Lithuanians in Lithuania and elsewhere in the world for the cause of their faith and the restoration of Lithuania's independence.

Together, we declare that the Cross of the Crucified Christ is the offering and symbol of Christ's love of mankind. May this newly blessed Lithuanian Shrine stand as a symbol that our Lithuanian nation has not died, declaring to the world our resolve to continue our fight against religious persecution and our dedication to the return of full freedom in Lithuania.

As the oppressors of Lithuania seek to remove and destroy Lithuanian crosses from Lithuania's countryside, may this Cross serve to strengthen our Christian faith, hope and charity; and our resolve to continue to work for God and Country.

We have not lost hope for today's suffering Lithuania, and from this Cross, we will garner hope, unity and fraternal love to continue to adore our Saviour. We will continue to love and appreciate our own nation, the United States of America, where we live, but will also foster the beautiful Lithuanian traditions passed to us by our ancestors.

Finally, may Christ grant us the strength to maintain our Lithuanian parishes with our donations and participation. We will not forget this Cross, but will value its beauty and glean from it strength to help those persecuted for their faith in Lithuania.

Lord, strengthen each of our hearts and let us appreciate the Lithuanian blood that flows in our veins. All the Knights of Lithuania join in offering this Cross as a memorial to all Lithuanians everywhere who have sacrificed, or are sacrificing themselves for the cause of their Catholic faith and their national freedom, in the true sense of our Knights of Lithuania motto — "For God and Country."





C-143 Pittston - Congratulations to our 3rd Degree recipients - Rev. Peter Alisauskas, Helen Butsavage, Marie Lauck and Anna Walatus



Helen Chesko, Aldona Ryan and Anna Klizas Wargo confer at Supreme Council Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio

### C-146 — Harrisburg

Our March meeting was well attended and was a very interesting one because Maria Guzelak demonstrated how to make margucia for Easter. Vity and Helen Grabauskas missed this meeting, but they were enjoying the sunny weather in Florida.

Our April meeting proved to be another interesting one. Mayor Steven Reed of Harrisburg appointed Bill Balchunas to the position of ombudsman, and he came to tell us what his work entails. He handles all complaints that come into the mayor's office so it is a very busy undertaking. Mr. Balchunas is Lithuanian, and we hope to have him become one of our members.

Mr. Zemaitis brought margucia which he decorated. He has an extreme talent for this art. His eggs were some of the most creative and colorful that our members ever saw.

Our get-well wishes to out to Nell Berulis, one of our most-loved and hard-working members who underwent ear surgery. She is recuperating at home after a short stay in the hospital.

Florence Haughy invited us to a Lithuanian Night on April 24 at her parish, St. Peter's Church in Columbia. About 20 of our members attended. After a dinner of fresh ham, kugel and all the beer you could drink, we were entertained by the Lithuanian dance groups from Baltimore. Aras is the name of the

adult group, and the Kalvelis group consists of high school and college age people. It was indeed a very enjoyable evening. Father Smith, pastor, added to the Lithuanian theme by dressing in our flag colors of yellow, green and red.

Helen Grabauskas

### C-147 — St. Petersburg

The 64th Anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence was observed on February 16 with our K of L members and others raising the Lithuanian flag at the Pinellas Park Library and the City Halls of Treasure Island, St. Petersburg Beach, South Pasadena and Gulfport. Each city's mayor spoke words of encouragement and hope as well as speakers from our council. At each city, we had more and more people give us their support. Once again, we owe our thanks to Victoria Jacobson through whose efforts this was made possible. Victoria supplied the five Lithuanian flags which is evidence of her love for Lithuania. Let us all pray that some time soon we will be able to raise the Flag of Freedom in Lithuania.

Before Mass on St. Casimir's Feast Day, President Anthony Mazeika presented Alena Baceviciene and Ursule Eidietiene who were installed in the Third Degree by our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Gasiunas.

First Degrees were awarded to fourteen members as follows: Jadvyga Gasiliunas, Antanas Gudonis, Ona Jacubauskiene, Mikolas Keraitis, Petronelle Keraitiene, Vytautas Lumbis, Stepas Liungys, Emilija Liungiene, Bruno Michels, Irena Racinskiene, Vladas Rackauskas, Alfa Sukys, Anele Sukiene and Dr. Aldona Valys.

Thirteen Second degree recipients were Bronius Bakas, Genovaite Bakiene, Jadvyga Baranauskiene, Antanas Grabauskas, Isabele Mikunas, Ona Navickiene, Maria Petraitiene, Justas Punkris, Marija Punkriene, Emilija Rakauskiene, Marija Slabokiene, Melvina Ugenas and Audrone Mazeikiene.



First and Second Degrees were presented at the dinner at the Lithuanian-American Club. Mr. Adolfas Paleckis received a beautiful carved shrine from our members on his 90th birthday. Ilgiausu Metu, Adolfai! Prayers, speeches and greetings were the order of the day.

Alice and Ben Karklius of Cleveland, Council 26, fulfilled their St. Casimir Day duties in Florida this year. Vic and Betty August, formerly of Cleveland C-25 were happy to have them enjoy the 80 degree winter.

Sincere apologies are extended to Victoria Jacobson who organized the Solidarity March, which was incorrectly reported in the March Vytis. Victoria made all the arrangements and personally paid the required insurance on the marchers. Many thanks, Victoria!

On March 28, Council 147 prepared and served dinner at the Lithuanian-American Hall. Since they do not have a regular cook, each organization is asked to help with dinner that is served every Sunday. Chief supervisors and cooks were Irena Racinskiene and Stase Stuikiene. Bread and pyraga bakers were Aniceta Miliauskiene and Emilija Grusiene. Kitchen helpers were Antanas Stuikys, Vladas Racauskas, Stepas Pusvaiskis, Jadvyga Baranauskiene, Marija Zigaitiene and Terese Liutkiene.

Servers were Betty August, ADele Mavickiene, Ona Galvydiene and Isabele Mikunas. Katrina Razgiene, Adolfas Paleckis, Bronius Bakas and President Anthony J. Mazeika assisted where needed. This keeps us very busy, but it is all for a good cause.

E. M. A.

**NEW ENGLAND  
DISTRICT**



## C-10 — Gardner-Athol

C-10 presents our Member of the Year — Father Steponaitis.

Our spiritual advisor and pastor of St. Francis is observing the 45th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on June 26.

Father STEponaitis was born in the village of Skaisgerai in a family of ten children. He attended schools in Sakiai and Naumiestis and was ordained by the late Bishop Karosas of Vilkaviskis in 1937. He was ordained for the See of Vilkaviskis. His first assignment was in the town of Plutiskis. A year later he was assigned to the Cathedral of Vilkaviskis. He was noted for the special attention he gave to the youth.

In 1944 he was evacuated to Germany by the retreating Germans and there was assigned to do pastoral work in Northern Germany. In 1948 he was sent to England by Bishop Vincent Podolskis. There he also was dedicated to the youth and was instrumental in forming many vocations to the priesthood.

In 1955 he was sent to Dallas, Texas, and was quickly reassigned to Worcester at Our Lady of Vilna Parish. Here he remained until 1968. He was transferred to St. Casimir's Parish in Worcester until he was appointed pastor of St. Francis Church in Athol.

Father is a devoted priest, serving both young and old. His altar boy troop is exceptional with 28 at all times. Father Stepie, as he is endearingly called, is a special friend of the K of L. I wonder if without his concern we would still be alive and an active council.

He is an ardent horticulturalist. The church grounds are really beautiful, the work and talent of Father STEponaitis. He has an active parish council and Women's Guild.

Father was instrumental in the erection of the beautiful Lithuanian Wayside Cross on the grounds of the parish. The parish hall was also renovated and carpeted.

Father has a special way with people that attracts many non-Lithuanians to his parish. He is always there to encourage us when things look grim. I hope his flock realize what a gem he is.



*Father Justin Steponaitis*

Thanks, Father, for your deep concern. May God shower his choicest blessings on you. We all wish to see your Golden Jubilee. Linkime visa gera, daug stipros sveikatos ir laimes!

Our council celebrated the Feast of St. Casimir on March 7 by attending the 10:30 Mass in St. Francis Church and receiving communion in a body. The group marched into church led by Father Steponaitis, his altar boys and acolytes. Fr. Stepie gave an appropriate sermon.

Following Mass, about 20 of us traveled to Maironis to attend St. Casimir Parish Annual Dinner with an attendance of approximately 400. Fr. Stepie gave the invocation. Following an excellent dinner, we enjoyed a program by the men's and mixed choirs and a presentation by the pupils of the school. Old acquaintances were renewed. All in all, St. Casimir must have been proud of the observance in his honor.

The Gardner News featured Brone Wisniauskas and her marguciai in the Easter section of the news on Holy Saturday. That gave the Liths great publicity.

Happy Father's Day to all dads, grandfathers and the clergy!

Vincukas



DRAUGAS  
4545 W 63RD ST  
CHICAGO, IL 60629

# VYTIS

2524 W. 45 St.  
Chicago, IL. 60632

Return Requested  
Address Correction Requested



3-10 K of Lers at Maironis Park

## C-30 — Westfield

Council 30 elected the following officers for the year: Cookie Coach, President; Nellie Lord, Vice President; Marcia Rogers, Secretary and Helen Alexik, Treasurer.

Committee Chairmen are Cookie Coach, Ritual; Benny Coach, Lithuanian Affairs; Sally Bakutis, Cultural and Louise Renaud, Scribe.

Rev. Daniel R. Foley is Spiritual Advisor.

In commemoration of the Feast of St. Casimir, the council held a covered dish supper with their favorite foods which included Lithuanina sausage, kugel, sauerkraut and other tasty dishes. Helen Alexik and Marcia Rogers chaired the committee.

A Lithuanian-English dictionary was presented to the Westfield State College Library.

On March 28, following the 10:30 Mass, the council sponsored the guest appearance of Mr. & Mrs. Tamulwich of Worcester. President Coach introduced them to those of the parish who gathered in the church parlors for the event. They have traveled extensively throughout Lithuania. A narrated slide show of Lithuania was

presented. Refreshments were served and everyone enjoyed their presentation. Beautiful linens, a wide assortment of amber, detailed wood carvings, modern wearing apparel and dolls dressed in ancient costumes were displayed.

Louise Renaud

## C-103 — Providence

Our council sponsored a Lithuanian Straw Art Workshop on March 28. This was the result of seeing an exhibit of straw art creations by Aldona Saimininkas at a recent NED convention. The gifted artist was invited to Providence to instruct us in straw art. About fifty future artists participated. Susan Gudczauskas produced a mushroom; Mary Walaska created a dancing couple in Lithuanian costume and Francis Kapiskas designed a floral. There were other compositions as well. This event was most successful.

The April meeting contained a surprise for our Spiritual Advisor Father Val Cukuras. Suddenly, "Ilgiausiu Metu" was begun as all eyes turned to Father Val. He was presented with a beautiful head of Christ done in straw art on velvet, one of Aldona Saimininkas' creations.

Our council "Regulars" successfully managed their first communion breakfast after Mass on Palm Sunday. Since every table was filled, you can imagine the gigantic task they had in preparing and serving the breakfast. The whole parish is proud of the good work of our regulars. Congratulations.

Membership in our council is increasing monthly. We welcome Rita Savickas and Drs. Thomas and Danute DeCesare.

The following were selected as delegates to the NED Convention: Bertha Stoskus, Ruth Krecioch, President Bill Piacentini, John and Irene Walaska, Fr. A. Jurgelaitis, Helen and Anthony Gudczauskas.

As in the past years, our council will take the message of the terrible days of June to the outside world. Thanks to the efforts of Vic and Bea Mathieu. We will go to St. Mary's Church in Bristol on June 12 for the afternoon Mass to be followed by a reception at the Mathieu Home for our June meeting.

A C-103 friend of Lithuania is to be presented. We cannot reveal the name of the recipient as yet.

Three K of L members deserve credit for strengthening our Lithuanian parish in a very nice way. Ruth Krecioch, Mrs. Grybas and Mrs. Tribusis spend many hours decorating the altars for Holy Week and Easter. Every parish member would benefit if each K of L'er would volunteer time and labor to some parish project during the course of the year.

During June — and always — pray for our brothers and sisters in Lithuania.

Helen Denisewich