



WE HONOR  
ST. CASIMIR

1984



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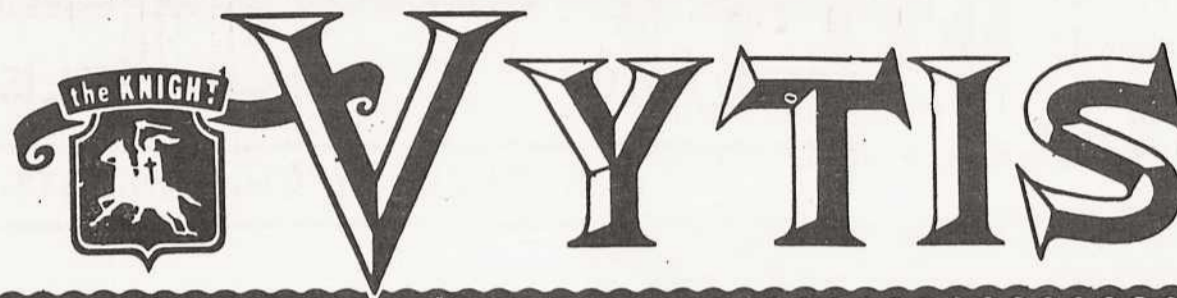
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## COMMEMORATING THE 500th ANNIVERSARY OF ST. CASIMIR AT THE VATICAN

By Loretta I. Stukas

To Lithuanians throughout the world, the weekend of March 3 and 4, 1984, was perhaps the most important weekend of our lifetime, for it was then that the Holy Father showed his true love and concern for the Lithuanian People and their patron, St. Casimir.

To celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the death of St. Casimir, the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, granted the Lithuanians a private audience on Saturday, March 3, 1984, and a Papal Mass on the actual Feast, March 4, 1984. With these events, the Holy Father emphasized the importance of St. Casimir as the patron saint of all Lithuanians and showed his great concern for today's struggling church in Lithuania.

Those of us privileged to attend the events feel singularly blessed! The Memories and feelings we experienced can hardly be expressed in words but should and must be shared. To that goal, following is one pilgrim's brief account of this historic event.

### Preparations

About 1000 or more Lithuanian pilgrims gathered in Rome for Jubilee activities. The number included about 500 from the USA, 200 from Germany, 200 from Canada, and many from France, England, Belgium, Poland and elsewhere. Pilgrims began arriving a week or so before the festivities and participated in a preliminary program that included Holy Year Masses in the Basilicas of St. John Lateran and St. Mary Maggiore and miscellaneous tours of Rome; the Vatican, and surrounding cities. The Lithuanian College of St



Procession into Mass at St. John Lateran Basilica. Bishop Deksnys carries the cross, Msgr. Tulaba follows - at right.



Lithuanian Mass at St. John Lateran Basilica



Casimir entertained visitors at an Open House, committee members and organization representatives held meetings to smooth out last minute wrinkles, and pilgrims went shopping, got acquainted with each other, or just relaxed in anticipation.

#### The audience

On Saturday, Mar. 3, all roads led to the Vatican for the private audience with the Holy Father. About 1000 people gathered at the Hall of Benediction, in the Vatican compound. Along the entry aisle of the Hall, the front row was reserved for those bearing gifts, either personal or organizational. Ladies in Lithuanian Costume were also provided places in the front row. Priests and Sisters were provided special sections at the head of the Hall, as was the „Grandinele” Dance and Song Ensemble of Cleveland who were to lead the singing of hymns during the audience.

The “Grandinele” sang several Lithuanian hymns and songs in preparation for the appearance of the Holy Father . . . and perhaps to control the excitement of anticipation. The Holy Father arrived as the crowd sang “Sveika Marija”, (Hail Mary), a popular Lithuanian and Polish hymn. As Pope John Paul II entered, those along the entry route enthusiastically reached out to him, presenting gifts, clasping his hand, kissing his ring. He accommodated as many as possible, with a kindly word, a fatherly smile, a gentle touch of the hand or cheek.

It was my privilege to be in that first row also and to present a gift in the name of the Knights of Lithuania — a beautiful folk art picture made of straw, depicting a maiden in Lithuanian costume, kneeling before a Lithuanian cross, her shackled hands in chains. The gift was the work of Mrs. Aldona Sarieneliene of E. Hartford, CT. The Holy Father smiled gently as he touched the picture and clasped my arm in



Lithuanian Clergy at St. Mary Maggiore Basilica



At Vatican Radio - Father V, Kazlauskas greets Loretta Stukas



Swiss Guard of the Vatican leads the

gratitude. It was a moment to remember forever.

After the Holy Father reached and settled into the throne at the head of the hall, Bishop Vincentas Brizgys of Chicago greeted him in English, expressing in the name of all Lithuanians, our love, devotion, and loyalty.

The Holy Father responded in ENGLISH, THEN IN Lithuanian. He urged all to continue our devotion to St. Casimir, to foster in our families and youth the appreciation of our culture and language, to remain close to Christ and His Church, and to pray for our suffering kin in Lithuania. He complimented the organizations who have adopted St. Casimir as their patron, specifically mentioning the Knights of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Scouts, the Sisters of St. Casimir, the Marian Fathers, and the Lithuanian Fran-



**Seminarian Michael Jones and Father Peter Stravinskas at Papal Audience**

ciscan Fathers. He especially urged us to pray for more vocations among our youth.

The congregation prayed the "Our Father" together in Lithuanian, and the "Grandinele" sang a hymn — "Težydi Vėliai Lietuva" (May Lithuania Blossom Again). The Holy

Father posed for a photo with all the gathered priests and then departed, again extending his hand and love to all along the exit route. All felt they had been in the presence of true Holiness . . . and had no doubts that this was truly God's Chosen "Vicar of Christ."



**Loretta Stukas presents gift from the Knights of Lithuania organization to the Holy Father**

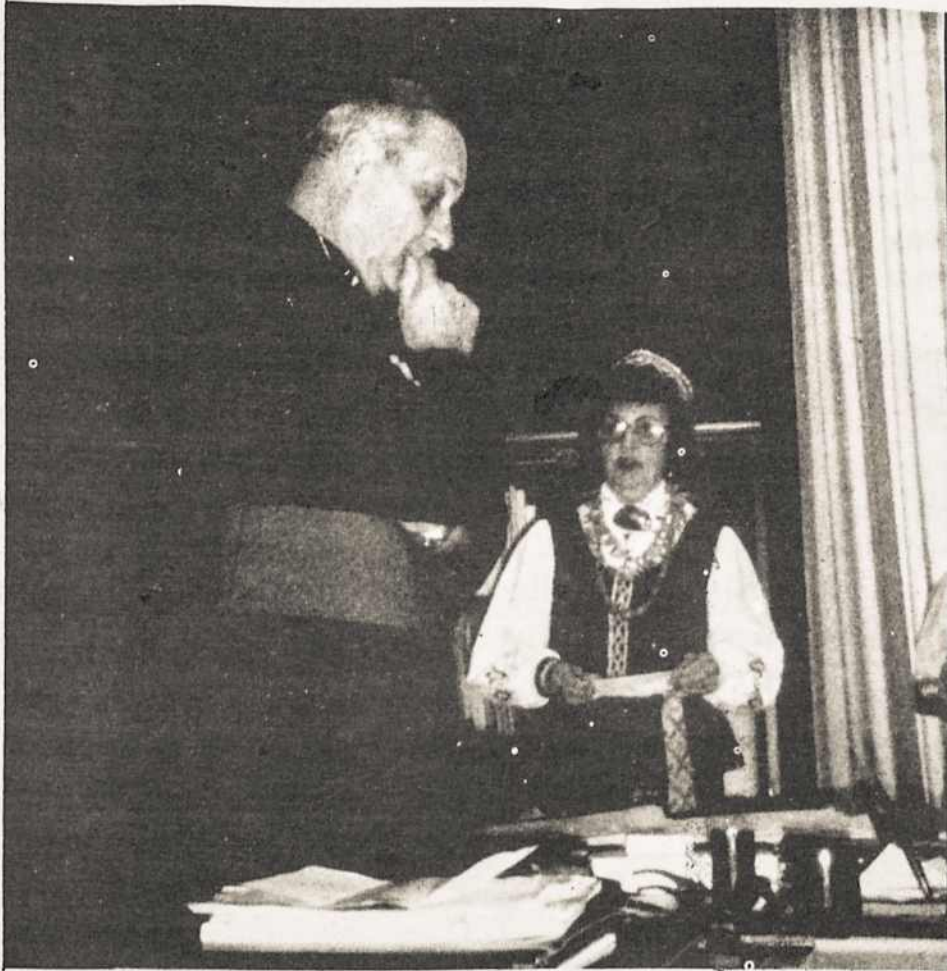
**A gift for an Archbishop**

After the audience, a delegation of Knights of Lithuania visited our American-born Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkus, who is currently Governor of Vatican City. We presented him with several gifts, the principal one being a hand-carved crosier

designed and made especially for him. The gift was the work of K of L artist George Mikalauskas of C-96, Dayton, OH. It was hand-carved of American Walnut, symbolizing the Archbishop's homeland, the staff symbolized the pillars of Rome. The top of the crosier was a crown of thorns encircling the Lithuanian

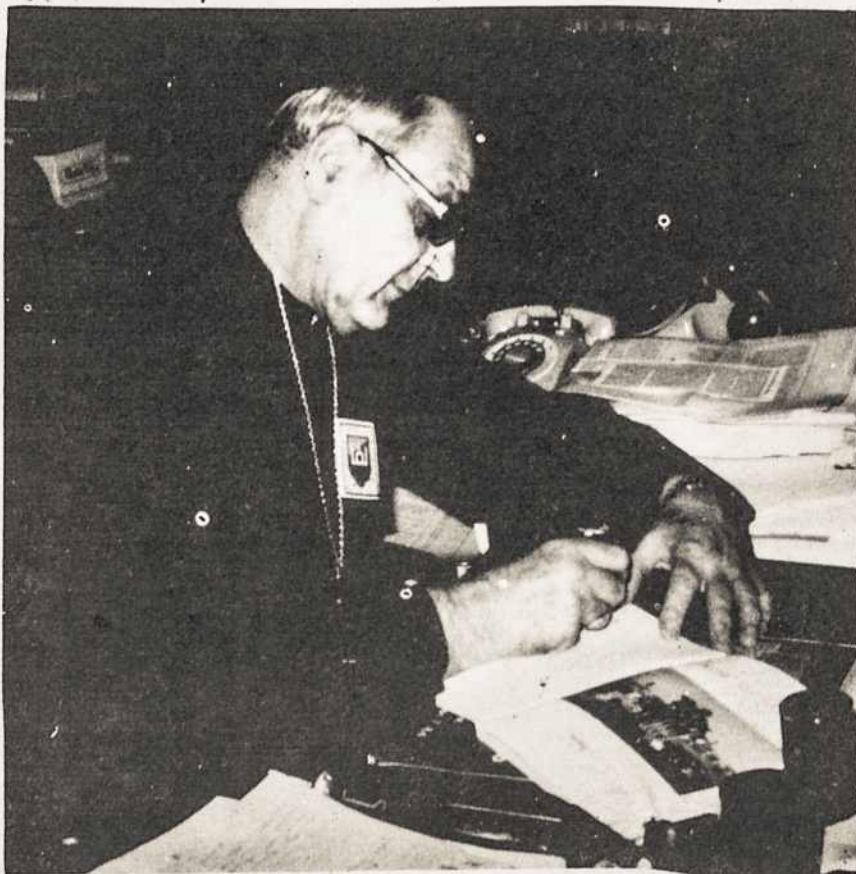
"Rūpintojėlis" - The Pensive Christ. The inscription read:

'To Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkus, We will always walk with you. Knights of Lithuania Year of St. Casimir. The Archbishop was visibly moved by our gift and expression of love and support, and responded warmly, talking about his



Loretta Stukas presents crosier to Archbishop Marcinkus

Archbishop Marcinkus accepts crosier



He writes a "Thank You" note

*To George Mikalauskas -*

*This book is not as good as the beautiful carving but at least it strives to represent the "beautiful" - "Walking together" is what the people of God do!*

*God bless & thankie.*

*P. Marcinkus*

*March 3, 1984*

*1st Vespers of St. Casimir*

love of his Lithuanian roots and heritage. We chatted, took pictures and enjoyed the company of this very warm, down-to-earth, and intelligent man. Before we parted company, others presented Archbishop with small gifts and he gave all of us souvenir Holy Year cards and pictures of the Holy Father and urged us to pray for the Holy Father.



**GEORGE MIKALAUSKAS**, maker of shrines, woodcarver and artisan, is a native Daytonian and a lifetime member of Holy Cross Church.

More than ~~thirty~~ <sup>thirty</sup> major shrines stand in the free world as the result of his work.

Numerous carvings, crosses and other Lithuanian art objects proclaim his excellence.

His work on the crozier reflected his



George Mikalauskas working on crossier



deep, religious commitment and his love for Lithuania.

He has been an active member of Council 96 for thirty-five years. He received his fourth degree medal at the National Convention held in Syracuse, N.Y.

### The Papal Mass

The climax of the weekend, of course, was the Papal Mass. After a week of clouds and rain, the sun shone brightly in Rome and guided us all back to St. Peter's Basilica for the Papal Mass. An estimated 20,000 people filled the Basilica for the event.

Included among the guests invited by the Holy Father were bishops from over 13 countries, the Diplomatic Corps of the Vatican, and many other dignitaries. The European bishops were especially invited as a sign that Lithuania, too, belongs culturally, religiously and LEGALLY with the free, christian nations of Europe.

The main altar was decorated beautifully with white lilies and a touch of the Lithuanian yellow, green and red. Lithuanians were assigned special places in the front of the Basilica. An Honor Guard of 50 representatives of various organizations, sat near the altar. K of L 1st Vice-President Elsie Kosmisky and her husband Clem were among that group.

The Mass was celebrated by the Holy Father in Latin, with prayers, readings in various languages and hymns in Latin and Lithuanian. The Lithuanian bishops concelebrated the Mass, and Lithuanian priests were seated nearby the altar.

General Chairman of the St. Casimir Committee Vytautas Volertas read the first reading in Lithuanian, and this was perhaps the first time in history the Lithuanian word was officially used in St. Peter's



Basilica. Mr. Kazys Lozeraitis of Vatican Radio read the second reading in Italian.

The Prayer of the Faithful was again read in many languages. The first was English, read by Knights of Lithuania 2nd V. P. Elinor Sluzas. Other prayers were read in Lithuanian, Polish, Hungarian, Spanish,

and Italian.

The Holy Father's sermon was in Italian. It was considered one of his strongest politically, speaking out in favor of Lithuania's freedom. He said that "Lithuania must be allowed to take its rightful place among the free Christian nations of the world. Besides extolling the virtues of St.



Casimir and relating his life to ours, the Holy Father praised the faithful in Lithuania and thanked her priests for guiding the Lithuanian people to salvation despite so many severe obstacles.

A most impressive offertory procession included 12 Lithuanians, representing the Knights of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Scouts, the Ateitininkai, the Lithuanian youth, Lithuanians of the USA, Canada and Germany, and Lithuanian Sisters. Seminarians led the procession, carrying large loaves of bread, that were subsequently blessed by the Holy Father and sent to the poor.

Vytautas Viduragis representing the Scouts (and also a K of L member from C-133, California), and I carried a large piece of Amber, a gift to the Holy Father from the Catholic resistance movement of Lithuania. Other gifts included the Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania, an amber rosary, a Lithuanian shrine, a basket of flowers, and a wood-inlay picture of Vilnius Cathedral.

The procession proceeded through the entire Basilica and ended at the main altar before the Holy Father. Each pair knelt before the Holy Father, explained the gift they carried and received a blessing. The Holy Father extended his blessings not only on us but on our families, friends and organizations. That was indeed a moment to be treasured forever.

All Lithuanian priests present joined with the Holy Father in receiving Holy Communion and then distributed Holy Communion to the congregation. 70 members of the Lithuanian congregation (including 15 K of L members) plus the offertory procession participants and the readers were privileged to receive Holy Communion directly from the hands of the Holy Father.

The main parts of the Mass were sung in Latin by the Sistine Men's and Boys' Choir, but the congrega-



2nd V.P. Elinor Sluzas reading the Prayers of the Faithful in English



Offeratory Procession during Papal Mass

tion also sang traditional Lithuanian hymns at appropriate times. The hymns, led by the "Grandinele" Ensemble, included "Pulkim ant Keliu," "Prieš Tavo Altorių," "Jėzau Pas Mane Ateiki", and "Marija,

At the end of Mass, the Holy Father spoke in Lithuanian, expressing his love and concern for the suffering Church in Lithuania, and urging all of us to remain true to our faith and to our Lithuanian culture.

He closed quoting words from the Lithuanian hymn "Marija, Marija" which beg Our Lady to intercede for the suffering and persecuted.

After Mass, the Holy Father came to an area behind the main altar where he blessed the sick — several people in wheel chairs, a blind woman, and others. We of the procession were seated there also and were privileged to again greet the Holy Father and again to be blessed by him.

Following the ceremonies in the Basilica, the Holy Father appeared on a balcony over St. Peter's Square for his customary Sunday noon-time blessing to the throngs filling the Square. Again, he spoke in Italian, English and Lithuanian, and again he quoted the words of "Marija, Marija."

We learned that the entire Papal Mass has televised live over Italian TV. Besides showing the Papal Mass, the TV program include scenes of Lithuania, and commentary about the life of St. Casimir.

We also learned that the Holy Father was extremely moved by the Mass and the Lithuanian participation in it, and is now even more firm in his resolve to help the Lithuanian cause.

The five Lithuanian bishops from the free world present were invited to lunch with His Holiness on Monday, as a token of His Holiness' high regard for Lithuanians.

#### A farewell banquet

The week's festivities closed with a gala banquet at the Sheraton Roma Hotel, attended by over 700 Lithuanians from around the world. Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council members served as Hostesses at the Banquet. The "Grandinėle" Ensemble entertained guests with their beautiful Lithuanian dances, guests mingled with old and new friends, and the events of the extraordinary week came to a close!

To all pilgrims attending, this



Scene during the Papal Mass

week's experience was at once humbling and exhilarating, and one that should surely touch all our lives. We were in the presence of true holiness, our patron saint, St. Casimir, was honored in the best possible way, and our cause, to help the suffering Church in Lithuania, received visible support from the Highest authority in the Catholic Church.

### KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA PARTICIPATION IN THE ST. CASIMIR JUBILEE IN ROME

... Some Statistics ...

Attending were ...

— approximately 200 members, from all parts of the USA

— representatives from all 4 Districts, plus California

— representatives from 25 Councils

— 5 Honorary Members, namely Archbishop Charles Salatka, Bishop Vincas Brizgys, Rev. Albert Contons, Anthony J. Mazeika, Loretta I.

Stukas

— 6 Supreme Council Officers — President L. Stukas, 1st V. P. E. Kosmisky, 2nd V. P. E. Sluzas, Rec. Sec'y N. Miro, Cultural Chrmn. A. Wargo, PR Chrm. M. A. Lepera. Also, Vytis Staff member H. Chesko, Scholarship Comm. member R. Shervokas.

— At the Audience:

— Gifts were presented to the Holy Father by —

President Loretta Stukas, in the name of the K of L — a Straw Picture of a Lithuanian Cross, with a Lithuanian girl praying before it, her hands shackled with chains.

Mr. & Mrs. Bumila (C-1) — a Gold St. Casimir Medal.

Annie Morgalis (C-144) — a Lithuanian Easter Egg

At the Mass

— Loretta Stukas participated in the Offertory Procession

— Elsie and Klem Kosmisky represented the K of L, being seated with other dignitaries from other organizations.

— Elinor Sluzas read the First Prayer of the Faithful in English.

— Of the 70 Lithuanians privileged to receive Holy Communion from the hands of the Holy Father, 15 were K of L members. Those members were selected to represent the Supreme Council, and all Districts. They were:

Ann Adomaitis, John Antanavich, Helen Chesko, Mary Ann Lepera, Thomas Lepera, Bernice Mikatavage, Nancy Miro, Annie Morgalis, Andy Rozger, Rita Shervokas, Nellie Skabeikis, Teresa Trainis, Eleanor Vaicaitis, Anna Wargo, Joseph White.

## ŠVENTO KAZIMIERO JUBILIEJAUS IŠKILMĖS ROMOJE

Loreta Stukienė

Švento Kazimiero Jubiliejaus savaitgalis kovo 3-4 dienomis Romoje buvo vienas iš svarbiausių įvykių lietuvių religiniam gyvenime.

Šventasis Tėvas, Jonas Paulius II-asis suteiktose lietuviams privačiose audiencijose, bei atlaikytose Šv. Mišiose, Šv. Petro Bazilikoje minint šv. Kazimiero 500 metų mirties sukaktį, parodė visam pasauliui jo reikšmę lietuvių gyvenime ir didelį susirūpinimą kenčiančiai Lietuvos bažnyčiai.

Iš viso lietuvių maldininkų Romoje buvo susirinkę apie tūkstantį — 500 iš J. A. V., po 200 iš Vokietijos ir iš Kanados o likusieji iš įvairių pasaulio kraštų. Savaitėje prieš iškilmes buvo įvairių įvykių. Buvo laikomos Šventųjų Metų Mišios Šv. Jono Laterano ir Šv. Marijos Maggiore bazilikose. Be to, pasisvečiavimas Šv. Kazimiero Kolegijoje ir kitų įvairių tursitinių išvažiavimų.

Kovo 3 d. šeštadienį visi keliai vedė lietuvius maldininkus į Vatikaną, kur Palaiminimų salėje, virš tūkstantis lietuvių susirinko audiencijai su popiežium. Pirmoji eilė per visą salę buvo paskirta, tiems kurie norėjo įteikti popiežiui dovanas ir taip pat moterims su tautiniais

rūbais. Kunigai ir vienuolės sėdėjo salės priekyje. Salėje išsirikiavęs buvo ir Grandinėlės ansamblis iš Clevelando. Jis ir prieš popiežiaus audienciją pagrojo keletą lietuviškų melodijų savo liaudies instrumentais bei pagiedojo. Visiems begiedant „Sveika Marija“ pasirodė Šv. Tėvas. Eidamas per salę laimino visus o žmonės džiugiai sveikino jį ir kas galėjo, įteikė jam dovanas, privačiai ar organizacijų vardu. Man buvo nepaprastai malonu įteikti jam Lietuvos Vyčių dovaną — gražų paveikslą, padarytą iš šiaudelių, vaizduojantį lietuvišką kryžių o prieš kryžių, su grandinėmis surištą rankomis klūpančią lietuvaitę, kuri sukūrė Aldona Semininkienė iš Hartfordo. Vyskupas Brizgys jautriu žodžiu pasveikino popiežių visų lietuvių vardu anglų kalboje, išreikšdamas mūsų visų meilę, pamaldumą ir ištikimybę Šventajam Sostui. Popiežius atsakė angliškai ir lietuviškai, ragindamas visus dar uoliau melstis į Šv. Kazimierą ir padidinti mūsų pastangas, ugdant lietuvišką kultūrą ir kalbą šeimose ir



Arkivyskupas Marcinkus su vyčiais

lietuviško jaunimo tarpe, bei likti ištikimais Kristui ir jo Bažnyčiai ir melstis už kenčiančią Bažnyčią Lietuvoje. Jis specialiai sveikino tas organizacijas, kurios yra pasirinkusios Šv. Kazimierą savo globėju, ypatingai minėjo Lietuvos Vyčius, lietuvius skautus, seseles kazimierietes, kunigus Marijonus ir Prancišonus. Po to visi maldininkai sukalbėjo „Tėve mūsų“ o Grandinėle pagiedojo „Težydi vėliai Lietuva“. Lietuviai vyskupai ir kunigai turėjo progos nusifotografuoti su Šv. Tėvu po to apleisdamas salę vėl laimino ir sveikino visus.

Po audiencijos Lietuvos vyčiai aplankė mūsų mielą Amerikos lietuvių arkivyskupą Paulių Marcinkų, kuris yra Vatikano miesto galva. Mes jam įteikėm gražią dovaną — iš medžio išdrožtą vyskupišką lazda, kurią išdrožė vytis Jurgis Mikalauskas iš Dayton'o, Ohio 96-tos kuopos. Virš lazdos puošė lietuviškas rūpintojėlis su erškėčių vainiku, kaipo ženklą mūsų pagarbos ir meilės. Arkivyskupas buvo labai sužavėtas dovana bei sveikinimais. Malonu buvo išgirsti jį su pasididžiavimu kalbant apie savo lietuvišką kilmę, kalbą ir kultūrą.

Prašvito sekmadienio rytas ir šilta Romos saulė lydėjo mus visus vėl į Vatikaną — didžiulį Šv. Petro baziliką. Skubinom visi užimti mums paskirtas vietas ir laukti Šv. Mišių šv. Kazimiero garbei. Bazilikoje susirinko daug tūkstančių žmonių, jų tarpe popiežiaus pakviestų vyskupų iš visos Europos Diplomatinės Tarnybos narių ir kitų. Lietuviams buvo paskirtos specialios vietos. 50 organizacijų atstovų sėdėjo visai arti prie altoriaus priekio. Baltos lelijos ir lietuviškos spalvos didingai puošė altorių. Šv. Kazimiero Komiteto pirmininkas pradėjo skaitinius lietuviškai o toliau sekė itališkai, kuriuos skaitė K. Lozoraitis. Popiežius sakydamas pamokslą itališkai pabrėžė apie Lietuvos teisę būti Europos krikščioniškų tautų tarpe.

Tikinčiųjų maldos buvo



**Arkivyskupas Marcinkus**

skaitomos įvairiomis kalbomis. Vyčių vicepirmininkė Elinora Služienė pradėjo maldas angliškai, toliau sekė maldos lietuvių, vokiečių, vengrų, lenkų ir kitomis kalbomis.

Didelį įspūdį padarė Aukojimo dovanų procesija, kurioje dalyvavo 12 lietuvių ir eilė Vatikano paskirtų

asmenų. Lietuviai ir lietuvaitės pasipuošę tautiniais rūbais nešė simbolines dovanas Šv. Tėvui. Pirmoji dovana — gintaro gabalas, kuris įtvirtintas į medinį pedestalą, su užrašu — „Lietuvos tikinčiųjų dovana“. Šį gintarą atsiuntė Lietuvių Katalikų Bažnyčios Kronikos. Sekanti dovana buvo Lietuvos Katalikų Bažnyčios Kronikos komplektas — toliau sekė — gintarinis rožančius, kurį iš Lietuvos slaptai atsiuntė seselės vienuolės. Buvo nešama lietuviškų kryžių, Vilniaus katedros paveikslas ir gėlės. Man asmeniškai atstovaujant Lietuvos Vyčių organizaciją teko su L. Skautų atstovu Vytautu Vidugiriu nešti gintaro gabalą.

Kiekvienas procesijos dalyvis atsiklaupė prie Šv. Tėvo, paaiškino dovanos reikšmę, trumpai pasikalbėjo su Šv. Tėvu ir gavo jo palaiminimą sau, savo šeimoms draugams bei organizacijom. Čia buvo tikrai atmintinas momentas — pajutome kad buvom su šventuoju.

Visi lietuviai kunigai priėmė komuniją kartu su popiežium. Jis padalijo komuniją kokiai 70 lietuvių jų tarpe buvo maldų skaitytojai ir procesijos dalyviai. Bazilikoje kokiai



100 kunigų išėjo dalyti komunijos, iš jų kokia 50 buvo lietuviai.

Mišių metu Vatikano choras giedojo mišias, o Grandinėle su lietuvių minia pagiedojo keturias lietuviškas giesmes.

Po mišių Šv. Tėvas vėl prabilo lietuviškai išreiškdamas savo meilę ir rūpestį kenčiantiems Lietuvoje. ir ragindamas būti ištikimiems savo tikėjimui. Jis baigė kalbą žodžiais paimtais iš giesmės „Marija, Marija.“ Dar kartą Šv. Tėvas pasirodė balkone virš Bazilikos didžiai miniai ir prabilo lietuviškai vėl kartodamas lietuviškos giesmės žodžius „Marija, Marija“.

Iškilmės buvo transliuojamos per Vatikano radiją į Lietuvą, bei italų televizijoje. Televizijos programoje taip pat rodė Vilniaus vaizdus ir kalbėjo apie Šv. Kazimiero gyvenimą. Taip pat italų spauda parodė daug dėmesio pamaldoms ir audiencijai.

Šv. Tėvas buvo nepaprastai sužavėtas mišiomis, ir lietuvių dalyvavimu. Padėkos ženklų, jis pakvietė lietuvius vyskopus pietums.

Sekmadienio vakare didžiulis banketas užbaigė savaitgalio įvykius. Grandinėle gražiai pasirodė su savo šokiais ir dainomis, o svečiai atsisveikino su senais ir naujais draugais.

Galima būtų daug papasakoti, kas įvyko per tas dvi dienas, bet trūksta žodžių pilnai išreikšti dalyvių jausmus ir didį džiaugsmą Šventojo Tėvo nepaprasta meile ir dėmesiu lietuviams. Dalyvauti tuose nepakartojamuose įvykiuose tikrai buvo Dievo dovana už kurią būsim visados dėkingi.

## REFLECTIONS OF ROME

by

Nancy Pawasauskas Miro

Have you ever had a dream that was so vivid that when you awoke, you weren't sure if it was real or if it



Dovanų aukojimo procesija



Suzanna ir Antanas Mazeika

was only a dream?

In the days and weeks since my return from Rome, I often have to ask myself, "Was it a dream? Or did I really experience that week?"

I distinctly remember my first night in Rome, standing on the steps in front of the Trevi Fountain, unable to believe that I was really standing on the same spot I had seen in so many movies and photos. And I was so serious when I threw my three

coins over my shoulder into the fountain, so that, as the legend goes, I might one day return to Rome.

Perhaps because I was a student of Latin, I was more sensitive to Rome's architectural ruins than the average tourist. When we visited the Roman Forum, I could almost see Caesar standing there, delivering his speeches. I could almost hear the echo of the orations of Cicero. At the ruins of the Coliseum, I could hear

Christi" (The Body of Christ) and to answer "Amen" and then to receive the host from him — all this happened in seconds, yet will be remembered by me for my lifetime. I am still, several weeks later, in a state of euphoria, not quite able to understand why I was chosen to receive such attention from the Holy Father but so very glad that I was.

The week of February 26 through March 5, 1984 will always be special for me. It was a dream come true.

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE ST. CASIMIR CELEBRATION IN ROME

### Mary Ann Lepera

As I reflect on the magnitude of the commemoration of the 500th year of the death of St. Casimir Lithuania's Patron Saint, I thank God for bestowing this recognition upon the worldwide Lithuanian community.

Knights of Lithuania was well represented by about 200 people, among over a total of 500 pilgrims staying at the Sheraton Roma in Rome.

As the week progressed our numbers also increased, to over a 1000 religious pilgrims. The beauty and mystery of Rome can only be surpassed by the purpose of our journey, to honor the Lithuanian patron saint of Lithuania and Lithuanians. Our week began with enthusiasm, as our transport buses escorted us to the "Basilica of Saint Giovanni".

A Lithuanian Mass and the singing of Lithuanian hymns set the mood for a religious and cultural experience. A perfect union of Lithuanian people was formed and included many pilgrim priests who concelebrated this mass.

The opportunity to worship with



Nancy Miro, Elinor Sluzas, Anna Wargo; Archbishop Marcinkus,

Loretta Stukas, Elsie Kosmisky, and Mary Ann Lepera



Loretta Stukas, Frances Bumilla and Mary Ann Lepera with Italian ladies

our pilgrim priests and the opportunity to be with them during many times of the day, intensified the bond we, as Lithuanians, shared.

Later in the week, a mass was celebrated at the Basilica Saint Maria. This mass, the Very Reverend Bishop Brizgys was the main celebrant and was concelebrated with 8 priests. Part of the text of His homily was that he said, "You will be among the blessed of all the world. Be apostles of St. Casimir. We need holy families as in the time of St. Casimir".

On March 3, 1984, we were received in private audience with our Holy Father Pope John Paul.

As the Holy Father approached the Holy Seat from the back of the Papal Audience Hall, the whole structure was illuminated, sounds of joy and tears of anticipation were only some of the feelings that were felt.

As the Holy Father approached and seemed to be within several feet of where I stood, all I could say was "MY GOD." His face was distinct, he

was smiling, his eyes bright, his hair so white and, his hand extending to as many people possible. I wondered is this real? A straw-painting depicting a young woman with chains, hanging from her wrists, reaching upward to a way-side shrine was presented to our Holy Father by our National Supreme COUNCIL President, Loretta Stukas.

The inscription read — "Our Holy Father Pope John Paul II with filial love and devotion — Knights of Lithuania U.S.A. year of St. Casimir 1984.

This painting was designed by Aldona Saimininkiene of East Hartford Ct. U.S.A.

After greeting, being greeted, and receiving many gifts, the Holy Father made His way to where he would sit and talk to us in Lithuanian and in English.

The Holy Father spoke of the devotion to St. Casimir by the Lithuanian and Polish people. He said, that Lithuanians have retained their culture and heritage from the mother-land.

He praised the work of Lithuanian organizations such as the Knights of Lithuania.

A moment in time, to be forever remembered.

On March 4, 1984 Sunday, the day that our beloved St. Casimir died 500 years ago was the day the Lithuanians shared sorrow and hope.

We were transported by bus to the Basilica of St. Peter for a Mass that was celebrated by our Holy Father. Our pilgrims were personally escorted to the front of the basilica. The Holy Father granted us on this day a mass, a day to be remembered by Lithuanians forever.

Around the altar was a double row of fresh lilies and other colorful flowers.

Among the dignitary Bishops and Archbishops present for the mass and throughout the week were: Archbishop P. Marcinkus, Archbishop J. Bulaitis, Archbishop



**Elinor Sluzas, Loretta Stukas, and Mary Ann Lepera**



C. Salatka, Bishop Brizgys and Bishop A. Deknys.

The honored clergy sat in the first 3 rows, and I would guess that their numbers would be about 100. Our pilgrims sat on either side directly behind them. This alone was an honor to be so near the princes of the church.

Bishops and Archbishops from many European countries were invited by the Pope to participate and be present for this mass.

To the left were 70 people that were to receive communion from the Pope. To the right sat dignitaries from Lithuanian organizations.

The Knights of Lithuania had delegates appointed to both communion and dignitary areas.

Our Supreme Council President Loretta Stukas represented the Knights of Lithuania when she took part during the presentation of the gifts. She knelt before our Holy Father who blessed her, her family and her friends.

The mass was a blend of Latin, English and Lithuanian languages. Mrs. Elinor Sluzas read the English prayers of the Faithful.

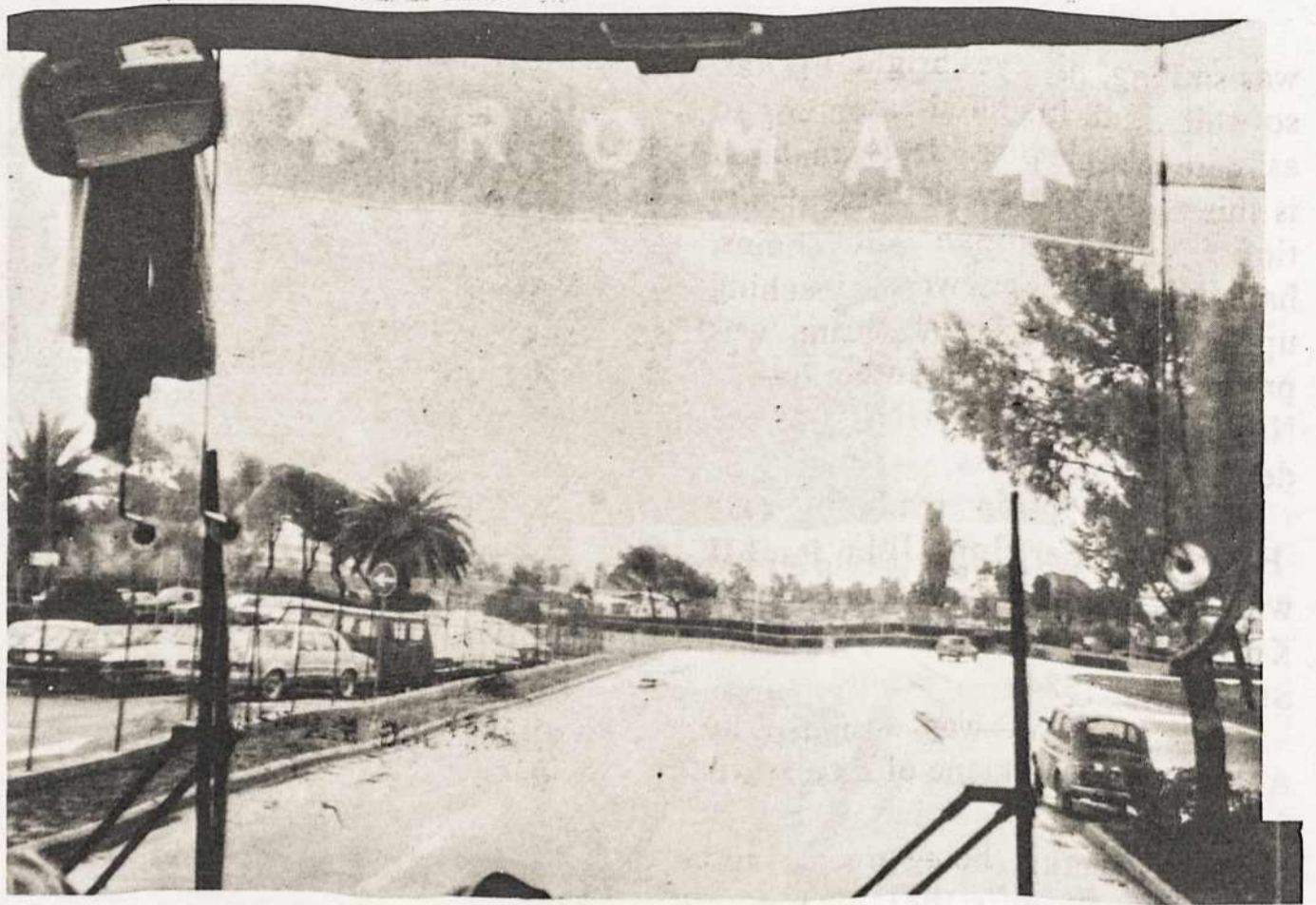
Each person received a specially printed book to celebrate this mass. Pictures of the hill of crosses and the tomb of St. Casimir were printed within.

Our day and our trip was complete. Our journey accomplished. Our prayers have been answered, as we said good-bye to Rome.

the roar of the spectators and I could hear the screams of those Christians sacrificed by the Romans to provide entertainment for the people. Was it my overactive imagination? Or was the past just waiting for someone to remember it?

Having absolutely no artistic ability myself, I was completely awed by the magnificent works of Michelangelo. The *Pieta*, so protected now in St. Peter's Basilica, is an example. That a mortal man could, out of a hunk of cold marble, create figures so full of emotion and so lifelike that you almost expect the Blessed Mother to take a breath or shed a tear, is awesome. To see the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, and to understand that it was created over a 3 year period with Michelangelo laying flat on his back on a scaffolding, that he was commissioned to create the ceiling against his will, even spending several months in prison until he agreed to the commission, is to understand a true artist. How many of us would strive for perfection in completing a job we never wanted to do in the first place? Each section of the ceiling is a masterpiece — a truly remarkable work of art — created by an artist who considered painting beneath him — that the only true artist was the sculptor. Seeing these works of art in person left me feeling a sincere admiration and a new respect for Michelangelo.

The highlights of the pilgrimage have to be the times that were spent in the presence of the Holy Father. Can anyone truly ever be the same after being touched by him? The actual audience falls into that "dream" category I referred to earlier. If I didn't have a picture to prove that I met him, held his hand, and looked into his eyes, I would think it was a dream. For although I was standing in a crowd with 50 other people pressing around me, when he greeted me, I became, at that moment, the only person in the room. His presence and his aura completely



overwhelmed me and, if he spoke, I couldn't tell you what he said. When he looked into my eyes, I felt as if he was looking into my soul. Never before have I been so moved and, at the time, I thought I would never have an experience greater than that.

Little did I know, that the next day, Sunday, at the Mass celebrated by the Holy Father in honor of the

500th anniversary of the death of St. Casimir, would I again experience a closeness with the Holy Father, in a most personal way. For I was privileged to be one of the communicants to receive from the hand of the Holy Father. Nothing could have prepared me for that experience. To stand before him, and to have him say in Latin "Corpu



## IMPRESSIONS OF DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP

By Elinor Sluzas  
Supreme Council  
Second Vice President

Rome the eternal city!

The Coliseum was a reminder of a time long ago when the early Christians went to their death rather than deny Christ. Today, the magnificent Cathedrals and Basilicas of Rome stand as monuments to those "unknown soldiers of Christ" who, above life itself, stood steadfast in their faith.

In contrast, on Via Casalmonferrato is the Pontifical College of St. Casimir, a modest complex which houses equally dedicated Christians. Many of their comrades died for their faith . . . some are suffering and dying today. Not in Rome . . . but in Lithuania.

I had the privilege to visit with the Lithuanian Bishops and priests of the College and others from many parts of the world who came to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the death of St. Casimir. You can rest assured that the Lithuanian Catholic Church in exile is in extremely capable hands. We have leaders of the church who are truly "MEN OF GOD".

\* **Fr. Algimantas Bartkus** was the first to greet us in Rome. His enthusiasm engulfed us all and we wanted to help in any way we could. Six months ago, Father Al came from Frackville, Pa. where he was Pastor and Spiritual Advisor to Council 144 of the Knights of Lithuania. Their loss is Rome's gain. His ability to "take charge" of a given situation and see it to its finish, will lead him far. He is a dynamo in every sense of the word!

\* **Msgr. Ladas Tulaba**, Rector of the Lithuanian College. With a firm yet gentle hand, he kept order in what could have been chaos with such a



Archbishop Charles Salatka, Bishop Vincentas Brizgys with Holy Father

### Procession at Papal Mass

grand undertaking as the 500th Celebration of St. Casimir. He is a dear and cherished friend of the Knights of Lithuania. Supreme Council Officers, Loretta Stukas, Elsie Kosmiskie, Mary Ann Lepera, Nancy Miro, Anne Wargo and I, will be forever grateful to him for the great privilege to actively participate in the Pontifical Mass at St. Peters Basilica on Sunday March 4, 1984.

\* **Msgr. Audrys J. Bačkis**, Vatican Under Secretary of the Council for Public Affairs of the Church. His commitment is in the service of the Holy Father. He is a man of great dignity and his very presence draws one's attention like a magnet. We strongly feel that our Heavenly Father has chosen him for a very special mission in this life.

\* **Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkas**, Pro President, Pontifical Commission for the State of Vatican City. We visited him in his office and presented him with a hand carved Crosier, a gift from the Knights of Lithuania. He greeted us warmly and made us feel like long lost friends from home. Today, I want to reiterate the inscription on the gold band which encircles the Crosier . . . "WE WILL ALWAYS WALK WITH YOU".

\* **Bishop Vincentas Brizgys** of Chicago and Honorary Member of the Knights of Lithuania is a very special father to us! His concern and love for everyone is the visible force behind his immense popularity. With great admiration and love, we wish him long life!

\* **Bishop Antanas Deksnyis** of Rome is Bishop for Lithuanians in Western Europe. With his warm hand-clasp and friendly smile, he put all of us at ease and made us feel that we were at home. He is a man of compassion and great dedication. A number of years ago, he visited us in Dayton, Ohio and we have never forgotten this gracious prince of the church.

\* **Archbishop Charles A. Salatka**, Archbishop of Oklahoma City and Honorary Member of the Knights of Lithuania. Even with all of his clerical functions and so far removed from the Lithuanian mainstream, the Archbishop came to Rome. He expressed, with enthusiasm, his pride in his Lithuanian heritage and what a privilege it was to be a part of this great St. Casimir Celebration. We enjoyed being with him and hope that we will be blessed with his presence more often.



\* **Archbishop J. Bulaitis**, London, England. I was introduced to the Archbishop by Bishop Deksnyš when he said "I would like for you to meet my boss." After a hearty handshake, a few words of greeting which ended with a robust laugh, I knew that there was nothing to be nervous about. Here was a man of God and of the people. We talked for a few minutes and as I walked away, I knew that I had another friend. If you're ever in London, call him and say "Hello" . . . you'll be glad you did.

\* **Msgr. Anthony Janušas**, Rome. A man of many talents. He is entrusted with innumerable responsibilities for the Lithuanian College of St. Casimir. It seems that everyone who needs something calls him. Lithuanians around the world know Father Anthony.

\* **Fr. Albert Contons**, President Lithuanian Priests League and Honorary Member of the Knights of Lithuania. Father is a very busy, yet gracious, man. He always has time to share a few minutes with anyone, whether it be to give his advice or just listen. The Knights of Lithuania are

very fortunate to have such a dedicated person as an Honorary Member and leader.

\* **Fr. Peter Stravinskis**, Catholic League's East Coast Director is affable, with quick wit and charm. He is an extraordinary young man with strong convictions. If you ever have the opportunity to hear him speak . . . take it. You will not forget it. He is a man for our time.

\* **Fr. Casimir Pugevicius**, Director of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. Member C-110 of the Knights of Lithuania. Even though there are many tasks which cross his desk each day that need attention, he always has time for one more. When the St. Casimir Celebration was in the planning stages, Fr. Pugevicius was a part of it. When challenges are to be met and work to be done, he is there.

\* **Fr. V. Kazlauskas** of the Vatican Radio Station escorted us through the facilities and explained the various departments and functions of each area. Father broadcasts on a regular basis to our brothers and sisters in Lithuania. We were impressed with his genuine pride in what he was doing.

With tears in my eyes and a lump in my throat I watched more than one hundred Lithuanian priests (many of whom were American and some were Knights of Lithuania members) walk in procession with the Holy Father Pope John Paul II. They were involved in the numerous religious ceremonies of the week . . . but the highlight was the Pontifical Mass on Sunday March 4, when some concelebrated with the Holy Father and many of them distributed Holy Communion.

We are very proud of all of the dedicated Lithuanian clergy who work so diligently to keep us together as a Catholic Lithuanian Family. We, in turn, must give of ourselves to insure the success of their work and the future of our children.

The Lithuanian College in Rome needs our help, also. They are so far away from us . . . their Lithuanian family! Let us not forget them. They live with great faith and dignity, content in their humble surroundings.

Can we be content . . . we who have so much?

Will we share . . . with those who truly do God's work on earth?

For your information:  
Pontifical College Lituano of St. Casimir  
V. Casalmonferrato, 20  
I — 00182 Roma  
ITALY



**Father Algimantas Bartkus**

## C-144 — ANTHRACITE COUNCIL ROME PILGRIMAGE

February 26 was a beautiful day, and 138 Pilgrims from Knights of Lithuanian Council 144 of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, boarded three buses to Kennedy Airport in New York on the first leg of their journey to Rome for the Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Death of St. Casimir. To begin this pilgrimage, Spiritual Advisor Joseph Shelonis, Father Daniel Yenushosky, Father Gerald Gobitas and Father Matthew Jarasunas led their groups in a Novena to St. Casimir and the recitation of the Most Holy Rosary.

Upon arrival in New York, unanticipated seating problems necessitated a long wait. After what seemed an endless delay, we were on our way.

On arrival in Rome on Monday, we were greeted by our former Spiritual Advisor Father Al Bartkus, now ProRector of the Lithuanian College. After checking in at the Sheraton Roma, a brief rest and dinner, we toured Rome by night. We took in the sights and threw our coins in the Trevi Fountain.

The next morning we were bused to the Basilica of San Giovanni for a beautiful Lithuanian Mass with Lithuanian hymns. Here we were met by Father Al Bartkus. In procession with the bishops and clergy, we went in procession through the Holy Door to start the pilgrimage. When Mass was over, we toured Ancient Rome with stops at Basilica S. Paolo and the Coliseum. What a thrill it was to stand where perhaps some 2,000 years ago St. Peter stood. In our imagination we could see the torturing of the Christians, the fights of the Gladiators, the Chariot Races at the Circus Maximus, and Roman Centurians riding through ancient Rome.



**Anthracite Council members in Lithuanian dress anticipating the arrival of Pope on March 3**



**Sincere thanks to Rev. Algimantas Bartkus, Pro Rector Lithuanian College in Rome. for memorable**

In the afternoon, some went to the Catacombs while others went shopping or visited St. Peter's where they saw the impressive Lithuanian Chapel.

On Wednesday, some went to Florence and some to Assisi. All were impressed by the beauty, the history, the art and the holiness of their choice.

Thursday's Mass at the Basilica of S. Maria Maggiore was again impressive. We were so proud when our Spiritual Advisor Father Shelonis gave one of the readings. How honored we were having our present and former spiritual advisors and our priest members participate in

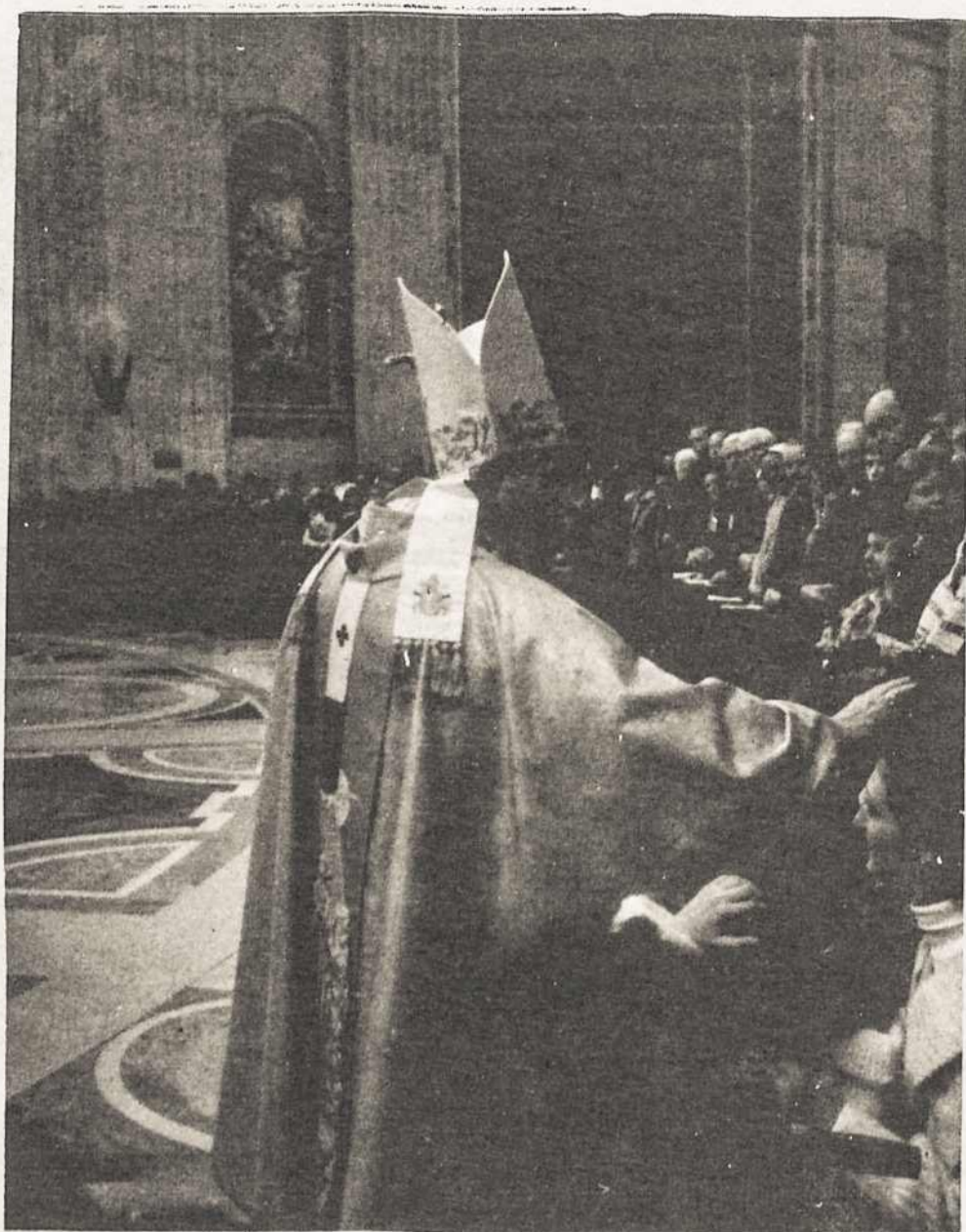
**Lithuanian Pilgrimage to Rome for St. Casimir's Jubilee from 138 Anthracite pilgrims**

the Mass.

This was followed by a tour of the Vatican Museums. It was an unforgettable experience. When we stood beneath Michelangelo's Ceiling in the Sistine Chapel, we were overcome by the wonder of it all.

Our afternoon was completed with a visit to Open House at the Lithuanian College. Our hosts were most cordial. We enjoyed the delicacies prepared by the nuns. In the Chapel we prayed to Our Lady of Fatima which the Blue Army intended for Lithuania that this gracious Lady will one day be at home in Lithuania.

Friday, most of our members



toured Naples, Sorrento and Pompeii — tired, but happy to have visited a cameo factory, seen the ruins of Pompeii, shopped in Sorrento.

Saturday morning we prepared for our audience with the Holy Father. Those of us who had Lithuanian costumes wore them and were privileged to have aisle seats. What a thrilling experience that was! You could sense the holiness in him. When he touched us, it was a moment never to be forgotten. Many of us had photos taken with the Holy Father. Our National President Loretta Stukas presented the Holy Father with a beautiful straw picture from the Knights of Lithuania. During his address, Pope John Paul II complimented the Knights of Lithuania. That was another proud moment.

After the audience, some of us were privileged to meet with Archbishop Marcinkus in his office. President Stukas presented him with a hand-carved crozier from the

Knights. Archbishop Marcinkus was visibly touched, and his acceptance thank you was another proud moment for all K of L'ers.

That afternoon at the Basilica of Santa Croce, we were fortunate to witness the ordination of two Lithuanian priests. I am sure St. Casimir looked down on us all with great favor.

In the evening we were taken to a Supper Show at the Restaurant Fantasia de Trastevere. The show was entertaining and the singing lively.

What a glorious day was Sunday! Dressed in our Lithuanian costumes, we went to St. Peter's Basilica for the St. Casimir's Mass, celebrated by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Over 1,000 Lithuanians from all over the world — except Lithuania — were there. Our council was honored to have the following members receive Holy Communion from His Holiness: Helen Chesko, Vytis Coun-

cil News Editor; Anna Klizas Wargo, National Cultural Chairman; Annie Morgalis, Lithuanian Commissioner of Pennsylvania on Governor's Ethnic Heritage Commission; Rita Shevokas, National Scholarship Committee Member; Bernice Mikatavage, First President Anthracite Council; Eleanor Vaicaitis, Pilgrimage Coordinator. National First Vice President Elsie Kosmisky and her husband Clem were seated with the honor guests. When our National President Stukas presented her Offertory Gift, the Holy Father told her that he blesses all her organization.

As we listened to the Holy Father's address in Lithuanian, our hearts were saddened because our brothers and sisters in Lithuania could not be present, but happy to be in St. Peter's for the Papal Mass honoring St. Casimir. Later in his public audience in St. Peter's Square, His Holiness commended the Lithuanians. With great pride, we heard him once again mention the Knights of Lithuania to the thousands assembled.

The day continued with a trip to Tivoli and a farewell banquet attended by 700 Lithuanians. As a climax to an unforgettable day, we enjoyed the dancing of the Grandinèle Dancers from Cleveland who also as a choir sang the Lithuanian hymns at St. Peter's.

We regretted saying "Su Diev" to Father Al, but we left with many new and happy memories.

Monday, we boarded the buses for the airport. On arrival in New York, we were bused to our home destination.

The Papal Audience, the St. Casimir's Papal Mass, the Holy Year Indulgence will be treasured memories. St. Casimir, our beloved Patron, will look down on the land of our forefathers and one day lead them again to freedom.

Anna Klizas Wargo

## MESSAGE OF JOHN PAUL II TO THE LITHUANIAN BISHOPS

*On Friday, 2 March, the Holy Father sent his Excellency Mons. Liudas Povilonis, President of the Lithuanian Episcopal Conference, a telegram on the occasion of the solemn Mass concelebrated by the Lithuanian bishops in the cathedral of Vilnius on Saturday afternoon, 3 March, for the commemoration of the fifth centenary of the death of St. Casimir.*

*Following is the text of the telegram.*

Learning with great joy that tomorrow, Saturday, the Lithuanian Episcopate will begin the commemorative celebrations of the fifth centenary of the death of St. Casimir with a solemn concelebration of Holy Mass at Vilnius, near the relics of the glorious Patron of Lithuania, I cordially renew the expression of the spiritual communion and the solidarity of the Church of Rome and the entire Church with your Catholic community. The same deep sentiments will be expressed also on Sunday, 4 March, during the Holy Mass which I will concelebrate in the Vatican Basilica with representatives of the Episcopates of Europe and through which all those present will feel united in a special way with the Lithuanian faithful, to whom go my thoughts and my words. As a pledge of abundant heavenly graces to those who will participate tomorrow in the ceremony scheduled

in Vilnius and to those in Lithuania who will want to be spiritually associated, I heartily send a special Apostolic Blessing through the ministry of my venerated brothers in the Episcopate concelebrating there.

IOANNES PAULUS PP. II

## HOLY FATHER'S HOMILY

*On Sunday, 4 March, John Paul II presided at a Holy Mass in the Vatican Basilica, concelebrated by fourteen bishops representing the European Episcopal Conferences, to commemorate the fifth centenary of the death of St. Casimir, Patron of Lithuania. Also present at the Mass was a large number of Lithuanian faithful from all over the world.*

*Following is the text of the homily delivered by the Holy Father during the Liturgy of the Word.*

1. "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy" (Lev 19:2).

With these words from the first reading of today's Liturgy, together with you, brothers and sisters, I turn my thoughts and heart towards the tomb of *St. Casimir at Vilnius*.

This year marks five centuries since those relics, dear to the entire Church, were deposited among the People of God of his native land. For five centuries St. Casimir, Patron of Lithuania, has remained in the midst of that people with all the heritage of his holiness, he has



Holy Father with Bishop Vincentas Brizgys Msgr. John Balkunas and Bishop Antanas Deksnys

remained as a witness to the mystery of the Redemption and as a sign of that hope in which we have been saved (cf. Rom 8:24).

For five centuries he has spoken to his countrymen and, at the same time, his brothers and sisters in the grace of faith and of holy Baptism: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy".

### St. Casimir jubilee

2. Yesterday the Church in Lithuania began the jubilee for the five-hundredth anniversary of St. Casimir's death with a solemn concelebration by the Lithuanian Episcopate at Vilnius at the tomb of the Saint.

We wish to inaugurate this jubilee here also, in St. Peter's Basilica, which is the visible centre of the Church's unity. In this way the entire universal Church manifests its Catholic unity with the Church in Lithuania which is gathered around the five centuries' tradition of St. Casimir. It can even be said that the entire universal Church, together with the Bishop of Rome, Successor of Peter, is making a spiritual pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Vilnius, where the Holy Patron of Lithuania rests.

It is a pilgrimage of faith and of love, which joins and unites us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, as adopted children of the Father, as witnesses of the same truth — the truth which sets man free in the power of the strengthening Spirit.

### Of royal birth

3. The memory of St. Casimir is dear to the sons and daughters of that land, which once developed under the Grand Dukes of the House of the Gediminas and under the sceptre of the Jagiellonians. I myself cannot think without deep emotion in my heart of the fact that this Saint was born in the royal castle of Krakow in the year 1458, and was the son of the great Casimir Jagiello, King of Poland and Grand duke of Lithuania, and that his mother was Elizabeth (of the Hapsburg family), called "mother of the king".

Casimir inherited his name from his father. And he was a descendant of that great house to which Lithuania owes its Baptism in 1386 (therefore, almost 600 years ago).

How eloquent it is that from the heritage of that Baptism such a mature fruit of sanctity grew in such a short time!

How eloquent it is that in the same place in which the forebears received that historic Baptism — at Vilnius — a saint was buried almost a century later!

In him was reconfirmed that vocation to holiness which is shared by all the People of God and, over the generations, has spread to all of St. Casimir's countrymen. In Lithuania, in Poland and also among the other

Christian nations, there are those who receive the name of Casimir in holy Baptism, that he may be their guide and example along the way of Christian life.

### Lived twenty-six years

4. Casimir's earthly life was short: twenty-six years. At the same time, it may be said in the words of Scripture that this life of brief duration "attained perfection in a short time" (Wis 4:13).

In fact, the measure of human life is moral maturity, and above all the degree of love for God and for one's neighbour with which one succeeds in filling all the days of one's existence.

The readings from today's Liturgy speak to us of this: the Psalmist, St. Paul in his Letter to the Philippians and, finally, St. John in his Gospel.

With certainty one can say about Casimir, from the House of the Jagiellonians: behold him "who walks blamelessly and does justice; who slanders not with his tongue" (Ps 14 [15]:2), pointing out in this way the great sincerity of his life. In the spirit of this sincerity, he did not hesitate even to influence his father the king, as the chronicles attest, when he was asked the reasons for justice in regard to his subjects.

Above all, Casimir was the disciple and follower of Jesus Christ and he could repeat about himself the words of the Apostle: "I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth and I may be in him" (Phil 3:8-9). This great desire consumed his soul like an interior flame.

He was like that Gospel "athlete" who "pushes on to what is ahead . . . runs toward the prize . . ." (cf. Phil 3:13, 14). In fact, Casimir has remained in the memory of those who came after him as a zealous ascetic, who is satisfied with little, but demanding with himself.

### He lived in love

5. The way of holiness by which his young soul approached God in Jesus Christ had its principal source in love. Casimir lived Christ's commandment of love as a substantial nourishment for his thoughts, feelings and works. This "living in love" he learned daily from the Divine Teacher, who says: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Live on in my love. You will live in my love if you keep my commandments, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and live in his love" (Jn 15:9-11).

Casimir, then, lived in the love of Christ, Son of God, becoming an always more perfect "friend" of his Teacher. He became ever more firm in that choice and in that solid structure about which the Teacher himself speaks to the Apostles: "It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit . . . so that all you ask

the Father in my name he will give to you" (Jn 15:16).

In this way, therefore, Casimir appears before us — on the basis of the Liturgical readings — as a *man of prayer, a man of works born from love, a true witness of Christ's Gospel!*

### Defender of the poor

6. "This I command you, that you love one another" (Jn 15:12-17), says the Master; and the disciple and follower tries to manifest this love throughout his life. Since he was the son of the king, he found a special manifestation of this mutual love *in humble service to others*, especially the poor, the sick, the needy.

Here is what we read in this regard in the description of his life written by an author who was almost his contemporary: "He defended and embraced as his own the causes of the poor and the miserable so that he was called by the people the defender of the poor. And although he was the son of the king and noble by the dignity of his birth, he never acted superior to any person, either in manner or conversation, regardless of how humble and of what low condition" (Liturgy of the Hours).

He always kept before his eyes the image of Christ, who washed the disciples' feet, and the words: "But if I washed your feet — I who am Teacher and Lord — then you must wash each other's feet" (Jn 13:14).

### In the bond of faith

7. It is *with such a heritage of holiness* that Casimir, son of the king, has remained among the People of God of his land, Patron of Lithuania.

And today, therefore, our hearts and our thoughts are turned in a special way to that land and to that people. We embrace with love all the sons and daughters of Lithuania who — geographically projected toward the East — for six centuries have been bound *with the bond* of faith and Catholic unity to the See of St. Peter in Rome.

In thought and prayer I want to reach each one of the sons and daughters of that nation:

*You, beloved brothers in the episcopate* who, with the solicitude of the Good Shepherd, must guide the Lithuanian people in the midst of so many obstacles along the way of salvation, comforted by the luminous, and often heroic, witness of fidelity to and love for Christ and for the Church given by so many pastors of souls in your homeland.

*You priests*, zealous and faithful "ministers of Christ and administrators of the mystery of God" (1 Cor 4:1): may the light of your faith, tempered by the fire of many trials shared with your faithful, always shine before men. I recall with special affection the elderly and sick priests who work tirelessly in the Lord's vineyard until their last

breath.

*You persons consecrated to God* through the profession of the evangelical counsels: may you build up the Body of Christ with the witness of your total donation to God and with your silent, often hidden, life, but one which is fruitful in works of charity.

*You seminarians*: may you be able to answer the call of the Lord with generosity, with courage and with perseverance, overcoming all difficulties.

I embrace all *Christian families* so that, in a world which ignores religious values, they may be able to communicate to their children precious goods: the faith received in Baptism, the virtues which are the foundation of man's true dignity, the beautiful Christian traditions which for centuries have permeated the culture of the Lithuanian nation.

I remember especially *you young people*, so that you may follow the example of St. Casimir in fidelity to God and in sanctity of life.

Finally, my prayer and yours becomes an entreaty for the *sick*, for those who are *sorely tried*, for all those who *live the spirit of the Beatitudes*:

"Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven" (Mt 5:11).

### Grace of fidelity

8. "*The one People of God is accordingly present* in all the nations of the earth, since its citizens, who are taken from all nations, are of a kingdom whose nature is not earthly but heavenly . . .

"In virtue of this catholicity *each part* contributes its own gifts to other parts and to the whole Church, so that the whole and each of the parts are strengthened . . ." (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 13).

The Church in the land of Lithuania! Today the See of St. Peter celebrates with gratitude that special gift which the People of God of your land has given to the spiritual unity of the Church. That gift is *St. Casimir!*

*The Church in the land of Lithuania!*

*You are present* in the spiritual unity of the Catholic Church through this gift and through all the heritage of faith, hope and love which during the course of five centuries — and especially in the modern era — has developed around St. Casimir, Patron of Lithuania.

O Church! So near, and yet so far, you are dear to all the Churches in the universal community of the one Catholic Church. And dear too is that people which preserves so tenaciously the relics and spiritual heritage of St. Casimir.

Kneeling before the remains of St. Casimir in a spirit of trust, we turn to the Mother of Mercy in the Aurora Gate of Vilnius and, united with the same concern, we cry out to her with the same hope and with the same love which burned for her in St. Casimir's heart:

*"Spes nostra, salve!*

*Ad Te clamamus!*

*Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, Mater Misericordiae!"*

Dear Lithuanian brothers and sisters, in conclusion I want to address — in your mother tongue — those of you here present, as well as those who are in Lithuania.

Celebrating in Rome, centre of Catholicity, the fifth centenary of St. Casimir's death, we gather in spirit before the tomb of the Patron of Lithuania at Vilnius. before our eyes appears the figure of the young saint, example of a life of prayer, of works inspired by charity, of witness to Christ and of a very special love for Mary Most Holy. He is a gift from God to all the Church, but in a special way for the nation with whose destiny his life became entwined



Archbishop Salatka and Bishop Brizgys

and in which the heritage of his sanctity remains alive.

Present today in the prayer of the Church of Rome is the Church in Lithuania, all that nation so dear to our hearts, for centuries faithful to the Apostolic See in the communion of faith.

Let us recall the bishops of Lithuania, the priests, the seminarians, the persons consecrated to God, and the young people of whom St. Casimir is a special patron. In the communion of charity with all the Lithuanian brothers and sisters in their homeland, above all those who are suffering for the faith, let us implore from God for everyone the grace of fidelity to Christ.

Let us place the joys and the sorrows of the Lithuanian Church, together with our love and our hope, at the feet of the Mother of Mercy at the Aurora Gate:

"Mary, Mary, most pure lily,

Enlighten us from heaven on high.

Lighten our burden of slavery, come help mankind . . .

because you can ask anything of God".



## COMMEMORATION

Patron of Lithuania, a land that we love.  
Patron of all Vyčiai, he guides from above.  
A 500th commemoration to him in this year,  
Joy in our hearts, and, in our eyes, a tear.

500 years since St. Casimir's death.  
500 years since He breathed his last breath.  
The Lord called him to his heavenly throne.  
He watches, protects from his heavenly home.

A plan was in action to commemorate,  
Lithuanians would gather on that date.  
World Lithuanians have heard the call,  
We were received by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul.

Lithuanian pilgrims a thousand or more  
Traveled to Rome in March "84".  
Our spirits lifted, our hopes high,  
Lithuania will survive! And never die.

Three Lithuanian generations touched each other.  
A common goal made us sister and brother,  
Golden memories were brought home,  
Of our Lithuanian pilgrimage to Rome.

Marytė Lepera Council 3



## LANGUAGE LORE: THE LITHUANIAN VERB PART II

Algirdas Budreckis

Verbs of the Second Conjugation have a soft consonant before the ending (tikiu, noriu, turiu). The reader will notice that all tenses of the Second Conjugation are composed of the same parts as verbs of the First Conjugation. Only the endings of the Present Tense are different: u, i, i, ime, ite, i. Let us look at tikėti (believe), norėti (want) and turėti (have).

The Present Tense		
(aš) tikiu	noriu	turiu
(tu) tiki	nori	turi
(jis) tiki	nori	turi
<b>Plural</b>		
(mes) tikime	norime	turime
(jūs) tikite	norite	turite
(jie) tiki	nori	turi
<b>The Past Tense</b>		
<b>Singular</b>		
tikėjau	norėjau	turėjau
tikėjai	norėjai	turėjai
tikėjo	norėjo	turėjo
<b>Plural</b>		
tikėjome	norėjome	turėjome
tikėjote	norėjote	turėjote
tikėjo	norėjo	turėjo

Frequentative Past Tense		
<b>Singular</b>		
tikėdavau	norėdavau	turėdavau
tikėdavai	norėdavai	turėdavai
tikėdavo	norėdavo	turėdavo
<b>Plural</b>		
tikėdavome	norėdavome	turėdavome
tikėdavote	norėdavote	turėdavote
tikėdavo	norėdavo	turėdavo

Future Tense		
<b>Singular</b>		
tikėsiu	norėsiu	turėsiu
tikėsi	norėsi	turėsi
tikės	norės	turės
<b>Plural</b>		
tikėsime	norėsime	turėsime
tikėsite	norėsite	turėsite
tikės	norės	turės

The reader will find the third person (both singular and plural being the same) Second Conjugation of basic verbs in their four tenses.

English	Infinitive	Present
admire	gèrėtis	gèrisi
believe	tikėti	tiki
hear	girdėti	girdi
hope	tikėtis	tikisi
desire	norėti	nori
be able	galėti	gali
regret	gailėtis	gailisi
rest	pasilsėti	pasilsi
sit	sėdėti	sėdi
wish	linkėti	linki
watch	sergėti	sergi
love	mylėti	myli
<b>Past</b>		
<b>Future</b>		
<b>Frequentative</b>		
gèrėjosi	gèrėdavosi	gèrėsis
tikėjo	tikėdavo	tikės
girdėjo	girdėdavo	girdės
tikėjosi	tikėdavosi	tikėsis
norėjo	norėdavo	norės
galėjo, galėdavo	galės	
gailėjosi	gailėdavosi	gailėsis
pasilsėjo	pasilsėdavo	pasilsės
sėdėjo	sėdėdavo	sėdės
linkėjo	linkėdavo	linkės
sergėjo	sergėdavo	sergės
mylėjo	mylėdavo	mylės

Second Conjugation verbs usually have the suffix -ėti in the infinitive.

Frequentative Past Tense	
<b>Singular</b>	
kalbėdavau	veikdavau
kalbėdavai	veikdavai
kalbėdavo	veikdavo
<b>Plural</b>	
kalbėdavome	veikdavome
kalbėdavote	veikdavote
kalbėdavo	veikdavo

Future Tense	
<b>Singular</b>	
kalbėsiu	veiksiu
kalbėsi	veiksi
kalbės	veiks
<b>Plural</b>	
kalbėsime	veiksime
kalbėsite	veiksite
kalbės	veiks

You will note that there are two kinds of verbs of the first conjugation. Some have a hard consonant before the ending (kalbu), the others take a soft consonant by inserting an „i” between the consonant and end vowel (veikiu). The first person (I) of the present tense has the ending „u,” the second person (thou) „i”, and the third

person (he, she, it) „a”. The plural number is formed by taking the third person plural (they) which has the same form as the third person singular and adding -me to the first person plural (we) and -te to the second person plural (you). The first person of the Past Tense has the ending -au, and the second -ai and -ei (if a consonant before the



## THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Joninès — June 24)

Anna Klizas Wargo, Cultural  
Chairman

Summer began in Lithuania on the Eve of the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

On St. John's Eve, girls and women went out to collect herbs and wild flowers. It was believed these herbs had the power to heal sicknesses, to bring luck and to predict the future if picked at this time. These wild herbs and flowers (e.g. St. John's wort, camomile, wild roses) were called kupolės.

Girls wove the flowers into wreaths which they placed on their heads or on the heads of their beaux. Some wreaths were used for magic spells. These were made in complete silence. Seven or nine different plants were used and these had to be gathered in seven or nine different fields or meadows. The girls, standing with their backs toward a tree, threw the wreaths over their heads. The number of times it took for a wreath to land on a branch represented the number of years it would take the thrower to get married. Sometimes they gave the wreaths the names of girls and boys and threw them into a lake or stream. If two wreaths named after opposite sexes touched, they foretold future marriages.



In Lithuania Minor, the head of the household sent the girls to gather flowers from the fields. A single flower for each person in the family was placed behind a beam in the farmhouse. The time it took each flower to wither was regarded as a clue to that person's length of life. The remaining flowers, tied into a kupolė, were set on a high pole near the gate through which the sheaves of harvested rye were brought into the farmyard. Some of these flowers were placed in the barn, under the harvested crop, as a protection against mice. The remainder were used for medicinal purposes.

Bonfires were lit on hills, or pots of tar were raised on long poles, so that the flame could be seen from afar. It was believed that, by shed-

ding light on the crops, they would be protected from harm. Weeds were pulled from out the fields and thrown into the fire so that they would all disappear. The ashes and charcoal were spread on the fields while firebrands were stuck into the rye bed. Cattle were driven over the burned out firesite to guarantee their health. Fire was held to have both cleansing and healing powers. Young people walked and danced around the fire. They jumped over it singly or in pairs. Those that jumped in pairs, forecast a soon to be held wedding if they managed not to lose hand contact.

A wide spread custom was to go bathing before dawn. The water was said to have great healing power during the early morning of St. John's Day. Before sunrise, the sick and the healthy bathed in streams, lakes and springs, then washed themselves with dew from the meadow. The former was to get well and the latter to stay well.

Having stayed up the night through, people watched the sun "arise and dress" in multicolored clothes. For this occasion, they sang folk songs honoring the kupoliai.

Here in the United States, the early Lithuanian Americans celebrated the Feast of St. John the Baptist with picnics and games. Many of our Lithuanian mothers and grandmothers poured the whiskey over the Rutai at this time. This was used for medicinal purposes all year round.

## NAZI HUNTING — WITH GUIDANCE FROM THE KGB

### REPRINT FROM THE WASHINGTON TIMES

By PATRICK BUCHANAN

In its publicized campaign to run down Nazi war criminals, who lied their way into the United States, the Department of Justice has apparently not been above fraternal collaboration with the KGB. Evidence is accumulating that this devil's bargain — between federal prosecutors and Soviet secret police — may have produced more than one horrible miscarriage of justice.

A pending case is that of John Demjanjuk, 63-year-old worker at the Ford Motor Co. plant outside Cleveland. Stripped of his citizenship, his reputation, his savings, Mr. Demjanjuk faces deportation to Israel for war crimes against European Jews.

According to the Office of Special Investigations at Justice, Mr. Demjanjuk was known at the Treblinka death camp as "Ivan the Terrible," the guard who personally operated the gas chambers. If true, and proven, Mr. Demjanjuk deserves what is coming.

According to his attorney, John J. Gill, however, with whom this writer spoke Monday, Mr. Demjanjuk was a Ukrainian soldier, wounded and captured by the Germans in the Crimea and forced into a labor gang building barracks for construction workers. He was never at Treblinka, Mr. Gill contends. The "eyewitnesses" who identified him as Ivan the Terrible did so from a photostat of a Treblinka I.D. card that appears a patent forgery produced by the KGB. One official expert on Nazi records, who has seen hundreds of documents from Treblinka, claims never to have seen one similar to that produced from the official records of the U.S.S.R. Mr. Demjanjuk's hearing, in two months, should bring the national press.

What causes concern over the Demjanjuk case is not only the pivotal supporting role of the KGB; it is the less-than-unblemished record of the Nazi-hunting OSI.

One recalls, for example, OSI's airtight case against Frank Walus, said to be the notorious Gestapo trooper who was the beast of Kielce, Poland. According to a dozen "eyewitnesses," produced by the OSI here and in Israel, Mr. Walus took a personal hand in atrocities committed against Jewish men, women and children in his hometown in Poland. Stripped of his savings and citizenship, Mr. Walus was fingered personally as a war criminal by famed Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal; was the target of a press witchhunt . . . "Nazi Jew Killer Living on SW Side," screamed one headline in the *Chicago Daily News*; was subjected to the almost un-

American courtroom behavior of federal Judge Julius Hoffman.

Convicted of war crimes, Mr. Walus eventually saw his case quietly thrown out — after six years — when his attorney, travelling to Germany, proved: (a) At age 17, Frank Walus had been taken from Poland to Germany as a farm laborer. (b) That he had never been back to Poland during the war. (c) That at 5 feet 4 inches he was 2 inches too short for the Gestapo. (d) That, as a Pole, he did not even qualify for the all-German elite SS unit to which he was supposed to belong. (e) That the eyewitnesses remembered him as "Frank Walus," even though Mr. Walus, who was born Franciszek, did not change his first name to Frank until he arrived in the United States.

Two months ago, New Jersey federal Judge Dickison Debevoise threw out another of the OSI's cases, this one against 67-year-old Juozas Kungys, a naturalized citizen who had been a Lithuanian resistance fighter against the Nazis. Soviet witnesses upon whom OSI relied to portray Mr. Kungys as a war criminal, were, the judge declared, themselves potential war criminals under the control of the KGB, whose testimony had been "prepared" by the KGB.

According to veteran Washington journalist Warren Rogers, there have been other cases where Justice was provided with KGB fabrications and forgeries, to destroy staunch anti-communist emigres from Eastern Europe by smearing them as war criminals:

"Two famous cases that never went anywhere involved the Ukrainian dissident hero Valentyn Moroz, now in U.S. asylum after long imprisonment and torture in the Soviet Union, and George Shimko, another Ukrainian refugee who became a member of the Canadian parliament. At the time the KGB said they were war criminals, Moroz was 11 years old and Shimko was 8."

From *Izvestia* of last February, we know the Soviet motivation in having "collaborated" with Justice against Mr. Jungys et al.

"The question is not one of vengeance, because our people were never vengeful," *Izvestia* quoted a Soviet official, explaining why "evidence and material concerning 140 war criminals" was provided to "organs of justice of the U.S.A."

"The purpose of those who search out former Nazis, traitors and persons who have committed war crimes is for the defense of our state interest and for justice. **The main purpose is for the state interest . . .** (Emphasis added).

If incriminating evidence acquired by FBI agents before an exact warrant has been obtained automatically "tainted," why is not any evidence produced by the Soviet KGB against naturalized American citizens who are sworn enemies of the Soviet state not equally considered "tainted" by the U.S. Department of Justice?

# OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

We are proud to announce another very special project, a ceramic statue of St. Casimir, being made available in limited quantities, to commemorate this Anniversary. The One-of-a-kind statue, produced specially for the Knights, was copied from a wooden statue which was hand-carved in Europe. Special molds were built for the explicit use of the K of L, and each individual piece is painted by hand.

Three types of statues are available. One is multi-colored, painted in life-like colors of red, gold and silver, and costs \$16.00. Another is white, trimmed in gold and costs \$14.00. The third is a wood-tone, glazed, and is available for the cost of \$12.00. Postage and packing are included in the price.

To obtain a statue, send your order with a check made out to KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, to Mr. Tom Bruzga, R.D. 3, DuBois, PA 15801.

Allow several weeks for delivery, as the statues are made to order, not mass-produced.



## K of L Calendar OF EVENTS

### JUNE

17 FATHER'S DAY

### JULY

4 MAMD Annual K of L DAY PICNIC at Kof L Building and gardens in Chicago

### AUGUST

23rd-26th

NATIONAL CONVENTION in Chicago hosted by C36

### SEPTEMBER

30 NED CONVENTION in Lawrence, MA hosted by C78

**IN MEMORIAM**  
Please remember in  
your prayers...

### JOSEPH BALUKONIS

Member of C-116  
Worchester, MA  
Died in March 1984

### ANNA STRIPEIKIS

Member of C-110  
Maspeth, N.Y.  
Died on March 28, 1984

### ANTHONY MARGOSIAN

Member of C-26  
Worchester, MA  
Died on April 26, 1984

## COOK'S CORNER

Mary Lucas, H. M.

With the fresh new crop of rhubarb coming into the markets, try this tangy dessert.

### RHUBARB PIE

Line bottom of pie pan with pie dough.  
Beat together — 2 large eggs and 2 T. milk.  
Mix together:

1-1/2 C. sugar

3 T. flour

1/2 t. nutmeg

3 C. rhubarb

Add to egg and milk mixture.

Fill pie pan with above mixture.

Dot with butter.

Cover with lattice strips of pie dough.

Bake until nicely browned at 400 degrees for 50 TO 60 minutes.



## AMSTERDAM JUNIORS, COUNCIL 100

## JUNIOR NEWS

We have been meeting once a month since September. Our new officers are: President — Joseph Nikstenas, Vice-President — Judianne Nikstenas, Secretary — Kristin Olechowski, Treasurer — Kenneth Jasewicz, city — Kristin Risch, Sgt.-at-Arms — Joseph Kot and Richard Jasewicz.

We had some interesting meetings where we made straw Christmas ornaments, a masquerade Halloween party, group bowling and roller skating. We learned about the Christmas wafers, plotkeles. Father Baltch gave us some and we broke the wafers

with each other and wished each one a Merry Christmas (Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų). A number of us participated in the 500th anniversary of St. Casimir's death and glorification. Our parish was crowded and Bishop Howard Hubbard celebrated the mass. Our junior council was represented by Kristin Olechowski and Ken Jasewicz. Joe Nikstenas was with the Boy Scouts and Kristin Risch was an acolyte. All our other members were either with the religion class or altar boys.

Ken and Richard Jasewicz headed the 50-50 raffle. Everyone of us helped. Mrs. Gertrude Saikal, mother of John and former members

Lisa, Bill and Tim (all are in college) drew the lucky winner — Virginia Valikonis. We were able to send a \$25.00 donation to the Scholarship Fund.

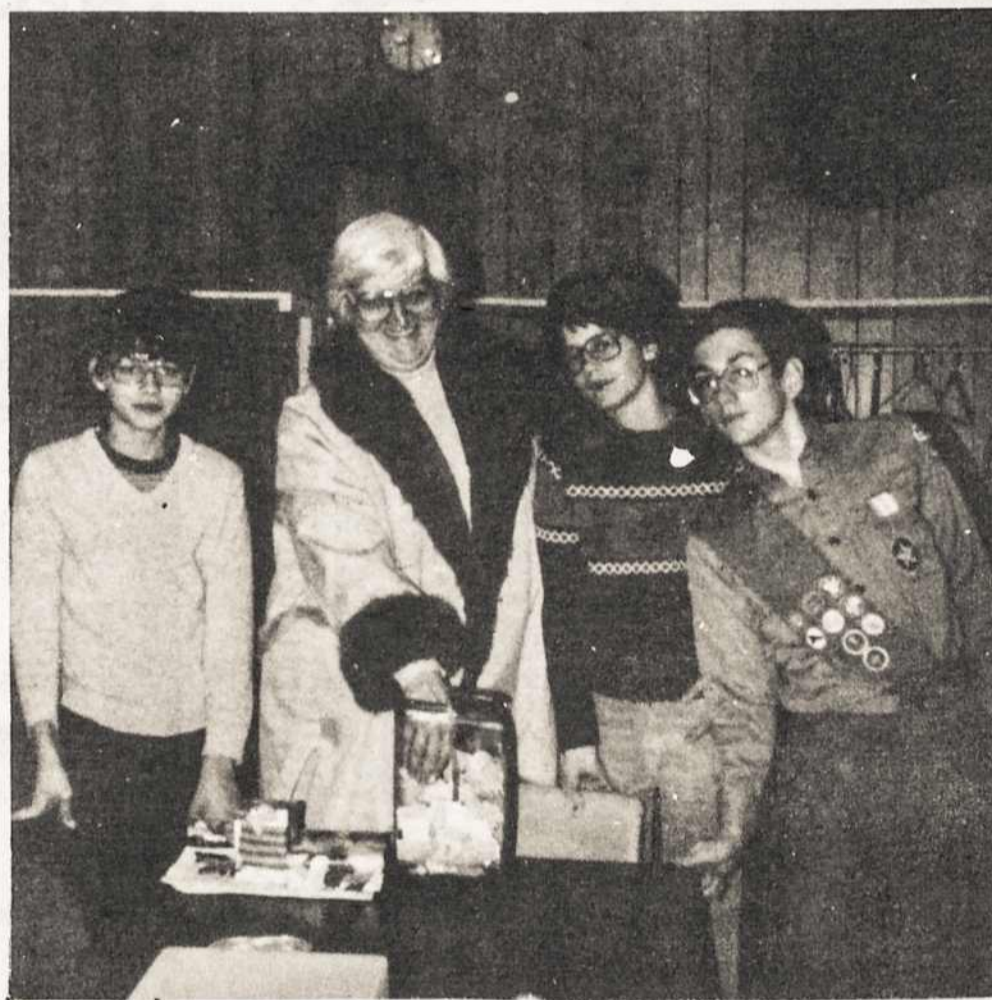
We learned about the American Lithuanian flyers, Darius and Girėnas. Father Baltch talked to us about St. Casimir and gave us booklets of St. Casimir's life.

Last month we scratched designs on onion-dyed eggs. Our counselor, Mrs. Regina Kot, was unable to be with us for this because she was sick with the flu. Gene Gobis, her assistant, and Mrs. Beatrice Jasewicz, took over for Mrs. Kot.

The Amsterdam Juniors



Joe Nikstenas (President of C-100 Juniors) and John Saikal - breaking the plotkele



Joe Nikstenas (President of C-100 Juniors) and John Saikal - breaking the plotkele



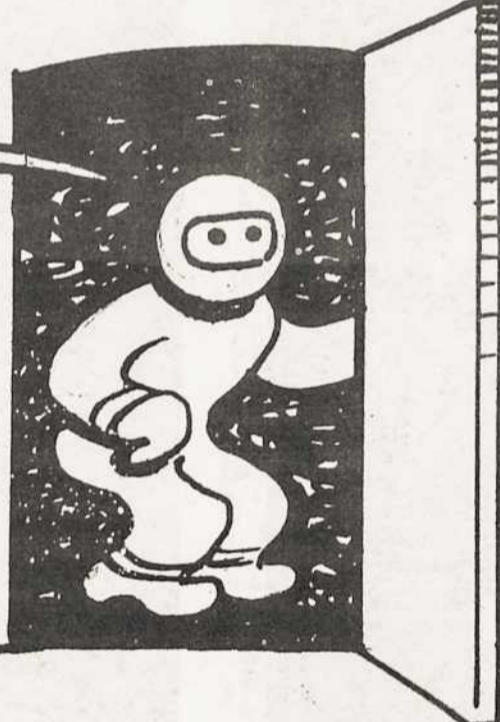
# THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 71 ST NAT'L CONVENTION AUGUST 23<sup>TO</sup>26

TO THE  
CONRAD  
HILTON  
HOTEL  
720 S. MICHIGAN  
CHICAGO, IL 60605  
TEL: 312-922-4400

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ABOARD!

DELEGATES

GUESTS



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CO-CHAIRPERSONS:  
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4428 So. California Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60632  
Phone 523-0546

*Knights of Lithuania*

**Spiritual Advisor**  
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**Council No. 36**

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Vince Samaska (PR)  
Lillian Paukstis (V)  
Peter Maleta

**Ritual**  
Ann Marie Kassel

**Spring Dance**  
Edward Valskis

**Annual Day of Prayer**  
Rev. Fabian Kireilis  
Rev. Peter Cibulskis, MIC  
Sr. M. Margaret, SSC

**Annual Roast**  
Ray Wertelka

**Sports Activities**  
Bruno Trapikas

**Legislation**  
Joseph Kulys  
Robert Counsell  
Joseph Bobikiewicz  
Ken Kaval

**Ways and Means**  
Walter Tenclinger  
Walter Kalvaitis  
Don Forsberg  
Mary Kincius  
Dave Gaidas  
William Balis  
Bernice Zemgulis  
Evelyn Ozelis  
Sabina Klatt

**Registration**  
Ann Wickey

"Let's extend our hands in unity....."

Since 1915, Council 36 of the Knights of Lithuania, has provided many valuable and enduring services for "God and Country".

As you know, our Council has been selected to "host" the 71st National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania in Chicago on August 22-26, 1984. Conrad Hilton Hotel will serve as Convention Headquarters since we expect hundreds of delegates and guests from all parts of the United States and Chicago, to be in attendance.

"SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOK"

We need YOUR help! We are inviting all District and Council Presidents, Officers, Members and Friends to support us by placing an Ad or Greeting in the 71st National Convention "Souvenir Program-Ad Book" to help defray the cost of the many expenses which we will incur as hosts!

Suggested Rates for the Souvenir Program Book -(Deadline July 15, 1984)

Full Page.....	\$75.00
Half Page.....	\$45.00
Quarter Page.....	\$30.00
Well Wisher.....	\$ 5.00

Our membership is blessed with great talent and dedicated workers, who will "rise" to this great challenge.....and enormous responsibility, to put together the greatest Convention in its long and glorious history!

Let's continue to work for the freedom of Lithuania and to preserve the Catholic/Lithuanian heritage for our future generations, in our schools, churches and parish communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to an early reply.

Sincerely,

*John L. Paukstis*

John L. Paukstis  
Convention Chairman

JLP:me



**THE KNIGHTS of LITHUANIA**  
**71st NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOK**  
**CONRAD HILTON HOTEL — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**  
**AUGUST 22nd thru 26th, 1984**

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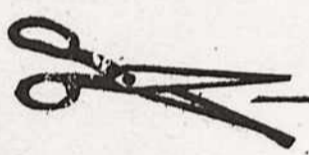
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AUGUST 23-25, 1984

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# LITHUANIAN *in the* NEWS

Edited by RUTH KAZLAUSKAS



Bernice Aviza and Kathy Petrauskas

"The Knickerbocker News," Albany, N.Y., featured an article about the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration last February at the Hibernian Center in Albany. The program was sponsored by St. George's Church in Albany. BERNICE AVIZA, C-100, Amsterdam, N.Y., and chairlady of the Mid-Atlantic District Lithuanian Affairs Committee, served as mistress of ceremonies. Among the speakers were Assemblyman Richard J. Conners, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, and Albany Mayor Thomas Whalen III. KATHY PETRAUSKAS, C-140, Syracuse, N.Y., daughter of FRANK PETRAUSKAS, Supreme Council 3rd Vice President, was also a guest speaker and presented a film, "Prisonland," which portrayed the life of persecuted Christians behind the Iron Curtain.

An accomplished musician, Kathy plays the piano, organ, flute and violin. She also sings with the Albany Pro Musica, a professional group of the A Cappella Tradition, and is a member of the Contemporary Music Group of the Church of St. Vincent de Paul in Albany. Kathy is a graduate of the State University at Albany and works for the State in Promotion and Public Affairs.

\* \* \*

The cover of "The Needlework Times," Nov./Dec. 1983 issue, featured a manikin dressed in Lithuanian costume.

An NC Photo from UPI was featured in many newspapers nationwide. LORETTA STUKAS, National President, is pictured in Lithuanian costume presenting her gift to Pope John Paul II during the commemorative Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome marking the 500th anniversary of the death of St. Casimir on March 4th.

\* \* \*

According to "The Advisor Newspapers", Sterling Heights, Mich., "Hello Dolly!" that irresistible story of the joy of living, opened last March for a two-weekend engagement at the Macomb Community College Center for the Performing Arts. Directing and choreographing the show was DAN YURGAITIS, a veteran of 14 years of professional theater.

\* \* \*

"The Sunday Times", Scranton, Pa., featured an article last January entitled "The Road from Vilnius — Lithuanian Brings Art to U.S.". A month before Leonid Brezhnev's 70th birthday in 1976 the artists' union in each Soviet republic was ordered to make him a present. The members of the union in Vilnius couldn't do the job in one month so they gave it to PAULIUS LUCAS LANTUCH, a non-union artist. Paulius could not be a union member because he was not a communist, even though he was a gifted artist and jewelry maker. For Brezhnev's birthday he created a brass clock to mark the centennial of the University of Vilnius. It was his farewell to the Soviet Union.

\* \* \*

Pictured in the March issue of "The Observer," published by the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America, are a delegation of Knights of Lithuania visiting ARCHBISHOP PAUL MARCINKUS, head of the Vatican City-State, during the St. Casimir commemoration in Rome on March 4th. Among those present were LORETTA STUKAS, National President, and REV. CASIMIR PUGEVICIUS, Director of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Brooklyn, N.Y.

**WILLIAM SENKUS**, C-52, Elizabeth, N.J., compiled a history of C-52 activities through the years for the commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the death of St. Casimir. The commemoration took place on March 25th at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Elizabeth, with a concelebrated Mass, followed by a luncheon.

\* \* \*

**MARY ANN VOVERIS** of Glendora, Calif. exhibited her unique sculpture, paintings and woodcuts last March in the East Gallery of Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, Calif., where she is an instructor in Art. Mary Ann is the wife of Edward and daughter-in-law of **ANN VOVERIS**, Ritual Chairman of C-17, South Boston, Mass.



**WILLIAM** and **KATHY COOK**, members of C-140, Syracuse, N.Y., were featured in the "Syracuse Herald-Journal" last March. They are pictured at the Soule Library presenting a program about life during the American Revolution. Bill works in the local history and genealogy department of the Onondaga County Library, and Kathy sews all the costumes. Bill is also doing an extensive research of the Lithuanian military, particularly the Air Force.



**Lena Valaitis**

Featured in "Neue Revue", a West German publication, was an article about a very popular West German recording artist, **LENA VALAITIS**.

\* \* \*

According to "The Plain Dealer," Cleveland, Ohio, **GRACE KUDUKIS**, one of the planners of the seventh Free World Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, is making an effort to get President and Mrs. Reagan to attend the festival.

Grace was in Rome with a group of Lithuanian dancers from Cleveland for the St. Casimir commemoration. At an audience with Pope John Paul II, she asked his blessing for the event.

She is President of the League of Women Voters in Cleveland.

\* \* \*

#### **CORRECTION**

The words to the hymn that appeared on page 29 of the March issue of VYTIS that was mailed to us by Faustas Strolia were written by Felix Breimeris of St. Petersburg Beach, Florida.

# Vyčiai Veikia Council Activities

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



## MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Last year, during our last convention of 1983, which took place last October in Manhattan, New York, it was decided to call all the conventions of 1984 in parishes dedicated to St. Casimir. We were invited by Pittston, Paterson and Philadelphia.

Sunday, March 11, found over 250 of us at St. Casimir's in Pittston. Council 143, whose president is the ever popular Anne Challen and spiritual advisor Rev. Peter Alisauskas, was our hosts. (I personally believe it is Father Pete's warm and gracious personality that makes Pittston one of the more popular places for MAD to convene.)

We were met by a group of gracious ladies dressed in Lithuanian costumes. Each guest was given a beautiful medal of St. Casimir and a painstakingly prepared booklet containing the prayers and the hymns to be used for the Mass. After a brief visit with all our pals whom we have not seen for "such a long time" (since October) we followed the flagbearers into the church.

The Mass was concelebrated by the Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton

James C. Timlin. Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis OP the spiritual advisor of the Supreme Council, was the homilist. We always enjoy Father Jurgelaitis. His sermons are always dotted with bits of tasteful humor but also deep meaning. We all were surprised when Father told us that St. Casimir might be related to him. Does not the name Jogaila (St. Casimir's grandfather; sound a bit like Jurgelaitis? But there were also serious moments.

Father reminded us that the Saint knew his priorities. At age 13, when he led an army to regain the throne of Hungary at his mother's bidding, he was soundly defeated. This was the turning point in his life. He abandoned the striving for worldly kingdoms and put all his energies toward the Heavenly Kingdom.

During the Offertory, gifts associated with St. Casimir were brought to the altar. There was a picture, crown, lily and others. It was a great idea to start with the youngest gift-bearers and end up with the older ones. It seemed to us that not just the Lithuanians were celebrating that day in Pittston. Father Peter Alisauskas, wishing to share his joy with all, had invited seminarians, fellow pastors and an assortment of other guests. The altar was engulfed in a mass of yellow, green and red hues of blossoms presented by parishioners and friends of the parish.

Bishop Timlin, enjoying this family-like celebration, expressed his sorrow. He had to leave immediately after Mass. There was a farewell party for Bishop John O'Conner, who is on his way to New York to become our spiritual leader. We in

New York, especially Council 12, the only council in the Archdiocese, love him already and thank the Holy Father for giving this holy priest to us. Did you know, he knows some Lithuanian?

Arter Mass, Larry Janonis, president of MAD, presented Bishop Timlin with a medal of St. Casimir mounted on a woodcarving with amber and Lithuanian symbols. The work was executed by New Yorker Birute Kidolis.

A beautifully executed sign welcomed all the guests in the parish hall. Soon all were feasting on a most delicious meal. At the program the main speaker was Father Anthony Jurgelaitis. Here he made us laugh again by telling us that the speech will be the same as the sermon in church for those who, after a long journey, took a nap during his sermon.

President Larry Janonis started off with the executive board reports. Among other things, he mentioned that MAD will have a seminar "Getting to Know Your Organization" in May in Easton. Our hosts will be Council 63 Lehigh Valley. In the fall we are planning a concert festival. Larry was pleased that the membership liked the yellow St. Casimir's commemorative pins. They are a gift to all from the district. He mentioned that some of them found their way to Rome where our President Loretta Stukas gave them out to the pilgrims.

According to tradition, the Third Degree is given out at St. Casimir's conventions. This year we had 50 candidates for this honor. The oldest recipient was Anna Ramanauskas, a 95-year-old Knight from Council 74 in Scranton, who joined as soon as

the Knights were organized in 1914.

Honorary Member Elena Saulyte read a telegram which she had prepared to the Holy Father. In it, Larry Janonis and all the district Knights thanked His Holiness for the special kindnesses he had shown to this organization during the celebrations in Rome.

A resolution was passed to urge the membership to write to Congress in protest against the strenuous activities of atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair to remove all religious programs from public broadcasting.

By unanimous acclamation resolutions were passed to thank Bishop Timlin, Rev. Alisauskas and the Host Council 143 for making us feel so welcome.

But this welcome was not over yet. Most delicious aromas were inviting us to buffet tables, and Father Alisauskas was urging us to "pasistiprint ant kelionės."

It was sad to take leave of such good friends, but "not to worry" soon we will meet again in Paterson. Until then, this is your MAD PR Chairmar. urging all MAD Knights to go on a diet. Vytiškai!

Dalia Bulvicius

## C-29 — NEWARK

We held our Tenth Annual Square Dance on February 4 at our Parish Hall. It was a fun-filled night with lots of happy swinging partners dancing to the music of our very own Lithuanian Cowboy, "Idaho Ed and Band." Eva Sharon chaired this affair for 10 consecutive years. We thank her and her hard-working committee for making this one a big success.

Also in February, a group of our members got together with Msgr. Scharnus and some parishioners and made plans for a visit with Governor Kean of New Jersey. They presented the Governor with a Proclamation declaring February 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day. The group enjoyed the trip. They were pleased that



National President Loretta Stukas and C-29 Newark Council members witnessed Governor Kean of New

Jersey signing Proclamation for Lithuanian Independence Day



C-29 Newark Executive Board Members at the St. Casimir's Dinner are (seated LtoR) Adeles Urbanas, Bernard Skripata, Betty Luciw, Margie Brazaitis; (standing) Viola

Skripata, Kazys Sipaila, Danguole Didzbalis, Jennie Miklasavage, Walter Brazaitis, Rita Sussko and Mary Stonis

the Governor was both receptive and sympathetic to the cause.

March 4 was the day we set aside to honor St. Casimir. In previous years, our council always honored St. Casimir by having a Mass and Communion Breakfast for all our members. This year, we felt we had to do something bigger and better. Rita Sussko, our chairlady and her committee, with the assistance of Msgr. Scharnus planned a beautiful Parish Mass followed by a Parish Communion Dinner to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Death of St. Casimir.

During Mass gifts were brought

to the altar in procession and placed before the statue of St. Casimir. The procession was led by Edward Skripata and Michael Sisak, followed by Kazys Sipaila, Brone Venckus, Danguole Didzbalis, Rose Basil, Ann Mensler, Mary Stonis and Bernard Skripata. As each gift was presented, Viola Skripata explained the significance of each. It was a beautiful and meaningful part of the Mass. Brone Venckus, Danguole Didzbalis and Victor Jakobaitis were the readers. Msgr. Scharnus was master of ceremonies at the dinner. Fr. Klem was the guest speaker. A delicious dinner was served, and a

well-earned pat on the back goes to Rita Sussko and her committee for making this an exceptionally beautiful affair.

Our regular monthly meeting was held on March 18. After all the old and new business was taken care of, we were given a real treat. Ann Klimas had just returned from the Pilgrimage to Rome. She told us about the special audience they had with the Pope and the beautiful ceremony honoring St. Casimir. She was impressed with the warm sincere welcome the Pope gave them on their arrival and his sincere participation during the entire ceremony.

Following Mrs. Klimas' talk, we were in for another treat. Viola and Bernard Skripata brought in a tape of the entire ceremony as it was presented on a broadcast of Jack Stukas Lithuanian Radio Program. It was almost like being in Rome. We listened to the Pope speak to the throngs in Lithuanian. When we heard the beautiful "Marija, Marija" sung by those in the procession, I'm sure I was not the only one that had difficulty holding back the tears. Thank you Viola and Bernard for sharing the tape with us.

Condolences to Sally Delunas and Adele Maleckas on the death of their brother John in Lithuania and to the family of Amelia Elseika, a long-time member of our council. May they rest in peace!

Eva Coll

## C-74 SCRANTON

Our council recently held a thank you celebration for Sister Virginia Vytelle of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified.

Sister Virginia has taught the girls and boys of Lithuanian heritage songs and dances of Lithuania. The group performing as the Sunbeams danced at many events including the Everhart Museum and Courthouse Square.

She taught the Lithuanian language and did a great deal to keep the culture alive for the youth.

Jean Kavelines chaired the event. Favorite Lithuanian food was served. In keeping with the Easter season, Helen Rekestis gave everyone a chocolate bunny.

Council 74 recently celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Death of St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania. A Mass was held at St. Joseph's Church with Msgr. Michael Ozalas as celebrant. Mass was followed by Communion Breakfast at Jay's. Margaret Laibinas was chairman of the event.

The members assembled for a picture in front of their ornate Lithuanian Roadside Cross. Lithuania was once known as the "Land of Crosses." Roadside shrines dotted the countryside where people could rest and pray. The carvings on



Marie Laske, president of C-74 Scranton, was recently featured as the Northeast Woman-in Scranton

the cross are reproductions of Lithuanian folk art of the 17th century and consist of the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, St. Casimir and St. George. The cross in St. Joseph's Church indicates the deep faith and pride present-day Lithuanians take in their beautiful religious customs and heritage.

Marie Laske, our president, was recently featured in Northeast Woman, a magazine of the Sunday Times. The article was headlined "Proudly Passing on Her Lithuanian Heritage."

Marie's mother, Emma Sarnowski, was a great story teller. Marie is first and foremost a spouse and parent. She is a mother of eight and a grandmother of six.

While the children were growing



Appreciation Night at C-74 Scranton honoring Sister Virginia Vytelle of

the Sisters of Jesus Crucified for perpetuating our Lithuanian heritage

in her work with the young people of the Scranton Area

up, she was active in Parent Teacher Association, Foster Parent Association of Lackawanna County and South Campus of the Lackawanna Vocational Technical School.

Marie said, "As your children get older, you also pray more. I always remember my mother with a rosary in her hands, and I am beginning to get like her."

Marie is immediate past president of the Catholic Woman's Club, a member of Pennsylvanians for Human Life, and recently joined the Holy Family Residence Guild.

Marie is an avid collector of amber. Her husband Richard bought her first necklace from a lady in Lithuania. She also makes Lithuanian straw ornaments.

"Every day, I live a full life," said Marie, "but it gets a bit confusing with the children and grandchildren. I love every minute of it."

Congratulations from all of us, President Laske.

Ruth Yanish

**MID-CENTRAL**

**DISTRICT**



## C-79 — SOUTHFIELD

Palms, pretty frocks and peppy people were evident at the annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale and Raffle. Mrs. Jadvyga Rukstele headed the pyragų table which carried a springtime flair. Ačiū to her great committee.

Colorful touches highlighted the Raffle Table with braided baskets of wine, ham, cheese and other Easter items. Among those who helped were President Maggie Smailis, Stella Hotra, Marge Nashlon and Valentina Bulota.

Council 79 made a donation of \$100 toward an issue of the Chronicles, contributed \$100 for

Divine Providence heating fuel and donated toward the Capuchins for their Coalition for Temporary Shelter.

Welcome to our new members: Grace Bridges, Frank Povilaitis, Donald & Barbara Chick and Carolyn & Theresa Marzolf. First Degrees' were presented them by Ritual Chairman Marianne Newberry at the April meeting.



M. Newberry, Ritual Chairman C-79 Southfield, presented Third Degree Certificates to Mary Keller, Monica Salas and Virginia Kirsh at St. Casimir's Brunch

Refreshments provided by Richard Danielak carried an Easter theme. Pastel-dyed eggs by Mary Keller added a festive tone.

Marie Kase gave a resume on their pilgrimage. She and her husband visited a number of beautiful and ancient churches, gothic and Renaissance buildings and historic structures. Marie revealed her fascination with umbrella trees in Rome. She also described the unusual and tedious stairs on the way to the private audience with Pope John Paul II. While acknowledging his extraordinary appearance, facial expression, tenderness and compassion, Marie indicated this occasion was most touching.

On the opposite side of the globe, Bertha Janus was in Hawaii. She saw a display of Mother Nature when Mauna Loa erupted near the spot on which she stood just two days ago.

A number of our members took a winter break in Florida. The Salas Family, accompanied by Ann Valatka, enjoyed three weeks visiting relatives and friends. Frank & Sophie Zager went on a charter flight to Indian Rock. They had a nice visit and a lovely dinner with C-79 members George & Sophie Leskosky who reside in Winter Haven. Helen & Clem Patocki visited with their niece, Dorothe Martin and her family, in St. Petersburg. Elaine Redmond and son Jay drove with them. Clem visited his brother in Fort Lauderdale.

It's a sixth grandchild for the Frank Zagers. Mark & Sandy are the happy parents of their first son. On hand to welcome the new baby were his three sisters. The future K of L Junior was born on April 9.

Gerald Zager, a Lector at Divine Providence Church, did the readings at Easter Vigil Services.



Tanya Zager of C-79 at St. Casimir's Altar in Divine Providence Church



Sincere condolences to Carol Zager who lost her dear father, Edward Yurgo, on March 31. May he rest in Eternal Peace.

That is a delightful "Camaro Fever" TV commercial done by Ralph Valatka. He is the son of Ann Valatka and the late Ralph Sr. who was among the reorganizers of our council in 1959.

Julia & Carl Janson enjoyed a visit from their son who resides in California.

Congratulations to Leo Smilgis who won a neat sum in a lottery sponsored by Monaghan K of C Council. New carpeting in the Smilgis home was gained in Leo's win.

Council 79 members participated in a Corporate Mass with Msgr. Doyle Council of Knights of Columbus on April 29 at Divine Providence Church. Following Mass, everyone assembled at St. Francis Hall for Sunday Brunch.

SOFFI

## C-96 — DAYTON

Though March was a busy month for our council with many activities taking place, we looked forward to April with another full schedule. Palm Sunday weekend found our members busy with a bake sale which was most successful. Joe Mants Sr. and President Joe Mants Jr. were in charge and extend their sincere thanks to everyone who participated. Barbara Goeke was the winner of the wine and cheese basket. A planter donated by Furst Florist was won by Bob August.

Easter services were well attended in spite of the miserable rainy weather. Many thanks to the guest choir who for the second year participated in the Easter Dawn Service.

Our Founder's Day Dinner took place in the church hall on April 28 after Mass. Though attendance was small, those who came enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by Judy

Petrokas, Rita Ambrose and Michael Harley Karns. A most appropriate menu — lasagna — was served.

On this evening we had the pleasure of hearing Elinor Sluzas talk about her recent St. Casimir Pilgrimage to the Vatican in Rome. She showed many slides of the Vatican and of Rome. She also played the tapes she received of the special Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II. Elinor has her own exciting way of presenting her material, and it was a real treat for us to hear her. Labai ačiū, Elinor!

April 29 was a special day in our Diocese. Many of our parishioners attended a huge religious rally held at the University of Dayton Arena. This important event marks the end of the Holy Year of Redemption. More than 10,000 people attended. A 700-voice choir from 50 parishes presented a festival of hymns. Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago and many clergy. It was an awe-inspiring experience.

Via the grapevine . . . we hear that Susan Smiley and sister Chris Mantz enjoyed a recent trip to Las Vegas . . . Eloise Berczelly

celebrated her (65?) birthday on April 14 and says she doesn't feel any older! . . . Her family treated her to a birthday dinner.

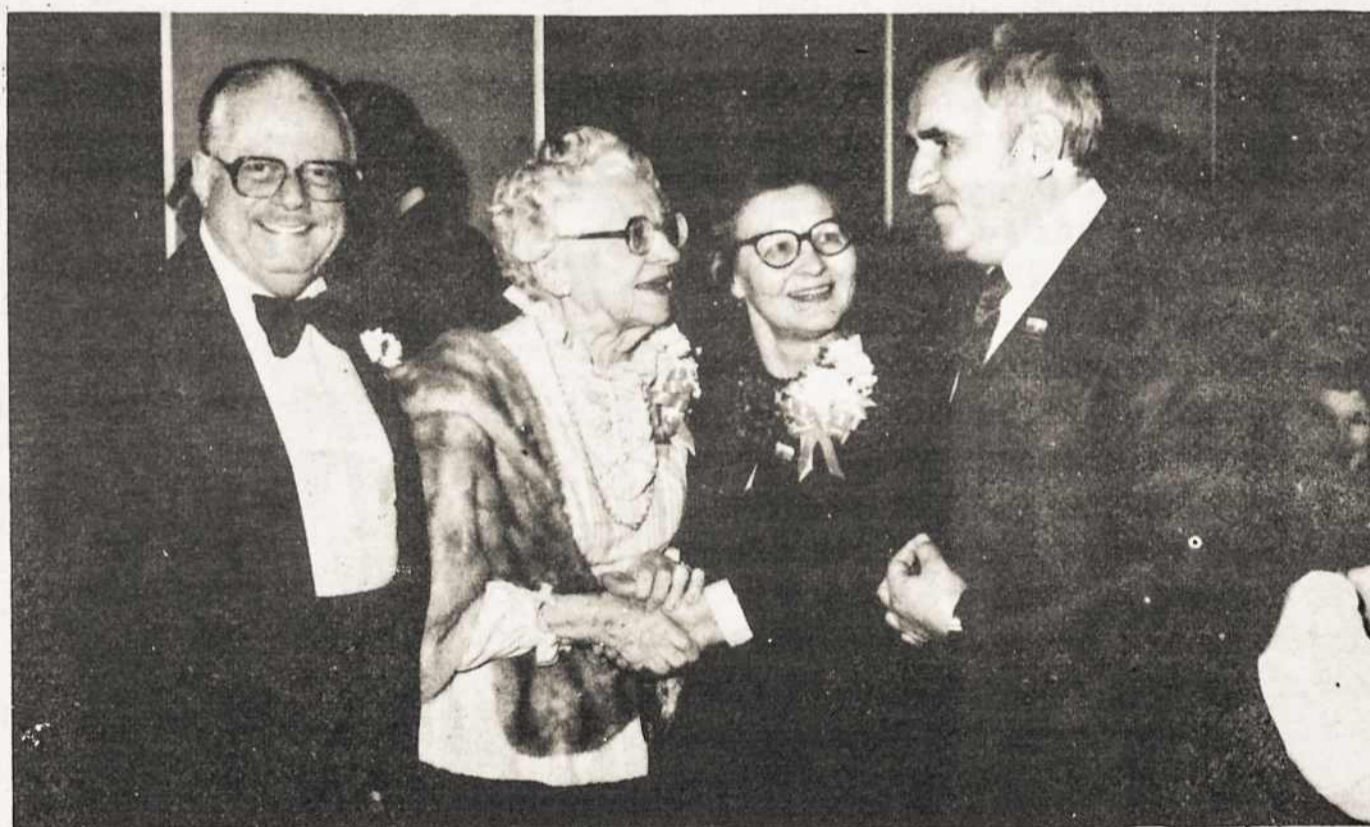
Get-well wishes are extended to Mary Lucas and Jo Zilinkas.

Cecelia Yankus



## MID-AMERICA DISTRICT

Our Semi-Annual Rummage Sale for the benefit of the K of L Building was held in March and again was a financial success due to the efforts of the Building Trustees, Al Mockus, Al Zakarka, Paul Binkis Jr., Clemente Vidzius and their very capable committee. The Trustees thank everyone for their efforts and for the many contributions to this sale.



Enjoying a recent function of the Mid-America District in Chicago are Dist. Pres. Algerd Brazis, Lith Consul General Josephine Dauzvar-

dis, Vice-Consul Mary Krauchunas, and "Margutis" Radio coordinator Petras Petrutis

The K of L Choir, under the direction of Faustas Strolia and the presidency of Sabina Klatt, performed the "Seven Last Words" at both St. John Fisher Church and St. Barnabas Church. Robert Mockus performed on the organ. Among the many talented musicians were Paul, Thomas and Mathew Strolia and Karen and Brian Tenclinger. A truly beautiful Lenten traditional!

The Choir was also featured during the St. Francis Auxiliary Banquet. Our own Sabina Klatt is the president of the auxiliary.

Under the leadership of Frank Zapolis, our K of L Dancers continue to represent us in the Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian affairs. The Dancers will be among the performing groups at the "Šokių Šventė" in Cleveland. Our K of L Choir will also be one of the groups invited to sing during the event. Everyone is urged to attend the "Šventė" in Cleveland.

Congratulations to former K of L National Scholarship recipients — Paul and Tom Strolia — on attaining membership in the National Honor Society. Both are presently attending Lewis University.

Our traditional annual K of L Day Picnic will again be held on July 4, K of L Building and Gardens. The committee will be headed by District President Algerd Brazis.

All Chicagoans are preparing to attend the National Convention this August which will be held in Chicago with the Conrad Hilton Hotel serving as Convention Headquarters. One of our district councils, C-36 of Brighton Park, will be the convention hosts. Council President John L. Paukstis and his committee are hard at work planning all of the events.

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## C-112 — CHICAGO

The April Board meeting for officers and chairpersons was hosted by Estelle Rogers. Several lively



During the 1984 St. Casimir's Day Commemorative Program, the Mid-America District "Member of the Year" Award was presented to Rev.

Ignatius Urbonas of C-82 Gary, Ind. Pictured with him are District Officers Algerd Brazis, Irene Sankus and Paul Binkis, Jr.



Pictured at the 1984 "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet are C-112 members: Johanna Danilevicius, M. Kataliene, C-112 Sp. Adv., Canon V.

Zakarauskas, C-82 Sp. Adv. Rev. Ig. Urbonas, "Vyčių Veikla" Editor Emilija Pakalniskis and Aleksandras Pakalniskis

discussions were held on important upcoming events including our council's 60th Anniversary Banquet, scheduled for October 6, K of L Building. Al Brazis will serve as chairman and the entire board as his committee.

Following our April business meeting, Social Chairlady Julie Zakarka conducted a special pre-Easter Ham Raffle. Top book sellers were Al Brazis and Bea Laurian. Cultural Chairlady had a most

interesting display of Lithuanian Easter eggs in addition to a photo display. Council President Paul Binkis Jr. and Spiritual Advisor Cannon V. Zakarauskas extended Easter greetings to all. Nativity BVM Pastor and Mid-America District Spiritual Advisor also joined us for the meeting.

Wedding congratulations and best wishes to Raphael Palubin on his recent marriage.

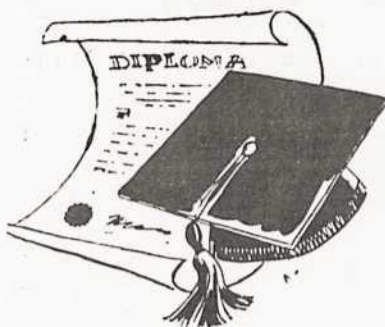
Our most talented musician

Robert Mockus gave his Senior College Recital at DePaul University which was followed by a champagne reception. Robert is also the accompanist for many of the K of L Choir performances and to the Lithuanian Opera Company of Chicago.

Our condolences to Stella Molis and family on the death of her husband Stanley who was a former C-112 president and formerly very active in the Mid-America District.

All C-112 members are looking forward to enjoying the 1984 National Convention which will be held in Chicago and hosted by our sister council of Brighton Park.

iks

NEWENGLANDDISTRICT

## C-10 — ATHOL-GARDNER

Some of our members attended the NED Spring Convention held at St. Francis in Lawrence. Thanks for the fine hospitality extended to us all. A lot was accomplished and old friendships renewed.

The welcome mat is extended to Joanna Chastney of Athol who recently rejoined our council after being away for many years. We welcome her and her many talents. Joanna has served St. Francis faithfully in about every way possible through the years. It's our gain to have you in our council.

Condolences are extended to the family of the late Phil Carter of Cranston, RI, who was an active member of C-17 Srs. for many years. His talents and Lithuanian ideals will be missed. May his soul rest in peace.

Easter Resurrection Mass and services at St. Francis were really



New England District Convention - Ansonia, Conn. - Apr. 25-26, 1964

40  
 DRAUGAS  
 4545 W. 63RD ST.  
 CHICAGO, IL 60629

**VYTIS** G. A. MACK  
 2461 W. 45th St.  
 Chicago, IL 60632

Return requested

Address Correction Requested



beautiful. We recommend all to attend them in the future and keep up the Lithuanian traditions.

The Gardner News carried a lengthy article about the St. Casimir 500th observance in Vilnius and the sad plight of religion in Lithuania today. It was an AP release.

We introduce to the readers of "Vytis" Cecilia Miskinis Maher of Gardner. She came to us last year and has proved to be an asset and dedicated member of C-10. Born in Nashua, NH, she was brought to Gardner at an early age. She was graduated from Gardner High and has held positions at Florence Stove Co. Mead Corp., Gardner State Colony and as a librarian. She is a widow; the mother of three sons, a lawyer, a school teacher and an electronics specialist and the proud grandmother of three.

Cecilia holds membership in the Gardner Golden Agers, Gardner Women's Club, American Association of Retired People and Business & Professional Women's Club.

Her hobbies include gourmet cooking, fancy quilting, needlepoint, knitting and golfing. Cecilia, we all wish you good health and many active years with our K of L.

Vincukas

## C-26 — WORCESTER

An active council boasts of much diversified talent as these random thoughts attest. The April meeting was preceded by a Lenten meal of fish prepared by Vite Ivaska assisted by his wife Ginny, his sister Adele and Ann & Steve Walinsky. The May meeting will feature beef stew to be

prepared by Joe & Antoinette Ivaska. The April first dog track jaunt to Plainfield was organized by Steve Walinsky Sr., and a like excursion is set for June.

A warm welcome to Lynne Marie Walinsky, daughter of Eleanor & Steve Walinsky. Lynne, a junior at Notre Dame Academy, is no stranger to C-26. She and her younger brother Mark have frequented K of L functions with their parents on a regular basis. Mark will join us next year.

Bowling is the sport. First half winners are as follows: Team #1 — Ann Bucinkas, Mildred Lapinkas, R. Daucunas, L. Gouin and L. Lloyd; high average, M. Abraham and H. Gillus; high triple, R. Godek and J. Ginkus; high single, M. Abraham and H. Gillus.

Parish Bishop's Fund Drive has Charles Tagman as honorary chairman and Al Seilius as advance gifts chairman.

Prayerful get-well-wishes to Bill Karrytais, Dorothy Seilius, Tillie Zelesky, Leonard & Ruth Ramsdell and Nell Thompson. Sister M. Ignata also had a couple of weeks on the sick list.

Kazys Adomavicius, president of Maironis Park, presided at Maitonis' burning-of-the-mortgage celebration on February 19. Rita & Ted Pinkus were invited to represent the council. Ann Bender is Maironis' recording secretary; Vite Ivaska is a member of the board of directors; Steve Walinsky Sr. is an auditor.

Our pastor, Father Anthony J. Miciunas MIC and his workers presented us with a memorable Saint Casimir's Day. Our spiritual direc-

tor, Father Benj. Uzdavinis MIC, celebrated the morning Mass. Bishop Timothy Harrington delivered the homily. Parish organizations with their banners participated, and the parish choir sang during Mass. Later at Maironis Park, an elegant dinner was served. The program which followed included musical selections by the parish choir, biography of St. Casimir in Lithuanian delivered by Father Justin Steponaitis, pastor of St. Francis Church in Athol. The biography in English was delivered by Father Miciunas. Eduardas Meilus was the master of ceremonies.

Nancy Gorden formerly of Worcester, now of New Jersey, spent a couple weeks here last February as guest of her niece, Mildred Lapinkas.

Charles & Mildred Lapinkas were co-chairmen for the April 13 military whist. The committee for this event included Helen Gillus, Frances Kulakusky, Ann Bucinkas, Ann & Steve Walinsky.

Betty Shimkus' mother, Mrs. Evelyn Cole, died at late winter. Frances Grigas' mother, Mrs. Katarina Grigas, died just before Easter. Rita Karpicus Margosian's husband, Anthony, died just after Easter. To the bereaved families, we offer our prayerful sympathies.

The consensus is unanimous. The Saint Casimir edition of the "Vytis" was absolutely beautiful. The editor and her staff are to be commended. Thank you for providing us with this permanent journal about our marvelous Saint!

Iki sekančio numerio, su Diev, mieli Vyčiai!

"Olga"