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Convention Issue

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

RUGSEJIS - SPALIS



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
73rd NATIONAL CONVENTION
 August 6 through 10, 1986
 Allentown, Pennsylvania

the KNIGHT

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1986
 The Knights
 of Lithuania



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Chicago, IL 60629

Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis OP
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117 Boulder Rd.
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Mary R. Kober, Fin. Sec'y
2 Bayview Avenue
Port Washington, NY 11050

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111 Old Towne Road
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DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

MAMD
Algerd Brazis
8022 W. 85th Pl.
Justice, IL 60458

MCD
Frances R. Petkus
800 Haldeman Ave.
Dayton, OH 45404

NED
Albert Jaritis
75 Gates Street
So. Boston, MA 02127

MAD
Larry Janonis
2124 Ellis Ave.
Bronx, NY 10462



VYTIS

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VYTIS STAFF

BERNICE AVIZA
Editor in Chief
6 Tremont St.
Albany, NY 12205

RUTH KAZLAUSKAS
Liths in the News Editor
554 Roxbury
Naperville, IL 60565

HELEN CHESKO
Council News Editor
1000 E. Pine St.
Mahanoy City, PA 17948

POLLY ZIAUSYS
Lithuanian Editor
4 Bartlett St.
Amsterdam, NY 12010

SCOTTIE ZUKAS
Circulation Manager
5112 S. Mayfield
Chicago, IL 60638

Mary Kincius Trustee
2461 W. 45th Place
Chicago, IL 60632

Vincent Gray Trustee
4251 Bluestone Rd. S.
Euclid, OH 44121

Saulius V. Kuprys, Legal Adv.
Henehan, Donovan, Issacson
135 So. LaSalle St.
Rm. 3905
Chicago, IL 60603

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Anna Klizas Wargo
125 S. Morris
St. Clair, PA 17970

RITUAL
Magdalena Smailis, Crm.
8099 Kenmore
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

SCHOLARSHIP
William Piacentini, Chrm.
362 Webster Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920
Ray Vanagas
Paul Binkis
Albert C. Jaritis
Rita Shevokas
Clemencine Miller, Treas.
80 Cottage St.
Trumbull, CT 06611

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS:
Evelyn Ozelis
2533 West 45th St.
Chicago, IL 60632
Casimir Yanish

LITHUANIAN CULTURAL
Regina Kot
RD 5
Amsterdam, NY 12010

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE
Longinas Svelnis, Chairman
43 Gage Street
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Antanas J. Mazeika Hon.
11440 First St., East Cmn.
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915 E. 4th St.
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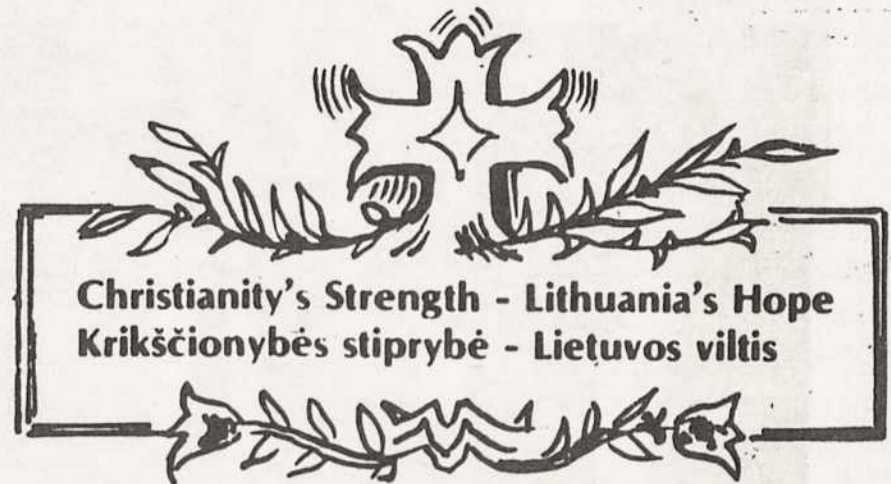
Eleanore Laurin
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LITH. LANGUAGE PROP.
Apolonia Ziausys
4 Bartlett Street
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LCRA COORDINATOR
Joni Reinhart
205 N. Brd. Mt. Ave.
Frackville, PA 17931



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 73rd NATIONAL CONVENTION



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August 6 through 10, 1986
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Allentown, Pennsylvania

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1986 NATIONAL CONVENTION
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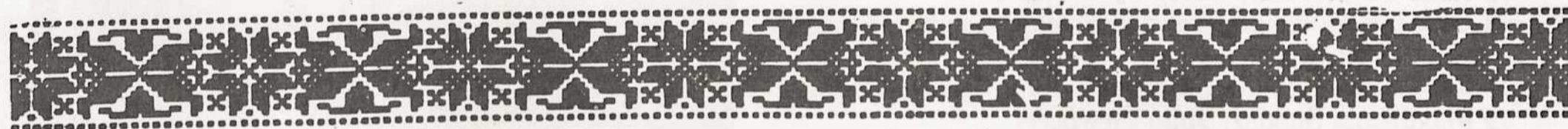
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 150 Leo M. Srubas - Anita Strumillos
 152 Alice K. Graff, Joseph Allen, Irene Allen, Agnes M. Dunn, Peter Dykovitz, Bill Newalis, Joe Allen



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For Lithuanian Catholics throughout
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Rev. Fabijonas Kireilis

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By Sr. Francesca Walls

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Sr. Mary Ruth, C.J.C., Superior General

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DRAUGAS
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DARBININKAS
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LIETUVIŲ DIENOS
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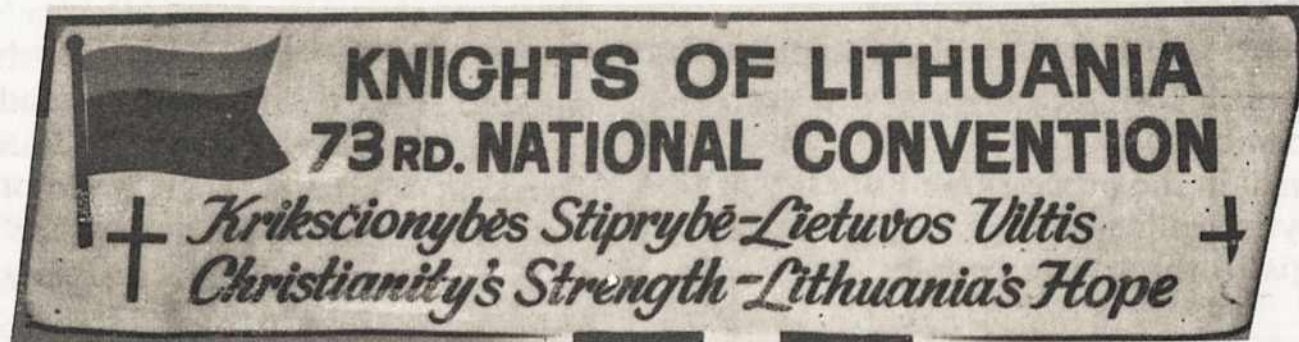
ITT SPEEDMAIL

BISHOP WELSH
202 NORTH 17TH STREET
PO BOX F
ALLENTOWN-PENN18105

ZCZC MAL301 ROB532 GRV0942 RCV072 21229
UINX CO IUVS 094
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THE HOLY FATHER WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE KNIGHTS OF LITHANIA ARE ASSEMBLED FOR THEIR SEVENTY THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION TAKING PLACE IN ALLENTOWN AND HE WISHES TO OFFER HIS CORDIAL GREETINGS TO ALL THOSE PRESENT STOP HIS HOLINESS IS AWARE OF THE WORTHY IDEALS OF THIS ORGANIZATION WHICH ARE WELL EXPRESSED IN THE MOTTO 'FOR GOD AND COUNTRY' STOP WITH THE ASSURANCE OF HIS PRAYERS THE HOLY FATHER WILLING IMPARTS TO THE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR FAMILIAES THE REQUESTED APOSTOLIC BLESSING
CARDINAL CASAROLI

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
73RD NATIONAL CONVENTION
STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION REPORT



*As presented by Frank M. Petrauskas,
 National President August 7, 1986*

I am submitting to the delegates of the 73rd National Convention a condensed report of all Officers, District Presidents, and Committee Chairmen for the 1985-86 term. The full officer reports are available for your taking.

Spiritual Advisor

As per usual Father Anthony Jurgelaitis did an excellent job. He attended 2 Supreme Council meetings and missed the 3rd because he was hospitalized.

He worked on a new missal for our Conventions. It will be much improved over our old missal. He offered Masses for all of our dearly departed Knights. He participated in doings with the New England District and the Providence council.

President

President Frank Petrauskas organized and presided at 3 meetings of the Supreme Council. He spoke at many District and Council affairs. He spoke in all four Districts.

Frank worked with Attorney Saulius Kuprys to correct the K of L tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service. He accepted the resignation of Alexander Domanskis as Legal Advisor and appointed Saulius Kuprys in his place.

Frank sent letters of greetings to other Lithuanian organizations when important meetings or Conventions were scheduled. He sent out 2 general letters to all councils and districts and many letters to various individuals.

Frank attended and participated in Lithuanian Day at Moosic, Pa.; Lithuanian Day at Auriesville Shrine, N.Y.; "Day of Prayer" at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. He also attended and presented a gift to Jack and Loretta Stukas who received special honors from Pope John Paul II.

First Vice President

Membership Vice President Algirdas Budreckis went about his duties with his usual vim and vigor. He made many contacts concerning the forming of junior councils and regular councils and he followed that up by sending out materials to all contacts. We were successful in forming new councils. C-151 Austin, TX was reorganized October 2, 1985. Over the winter C-24 Chicago and C-45 Scranton were organized and in the spring C-136 Albany, NY was organized. Al conducted the membership drive and he will present the awards at this convention.

Al wrote two articles for the Vytis and he was active in both the Boston council and the New England District. He also assisted your President and others when called upon.

Second Vice President

Juniors Vice President Maryte Lepera was deeply involved with her duties. She heads the Youth Task Force and is hard at work raising funds to send one or two youths to Australia in 1987 for the World Youth Congress.

Maryte has planned a full and exciting Juniors Convention in which she will be busy the next few days.

Third Vice President

Seniors Vice President Elsie Kosminsky's duties have been few as we have only two Senior Councils. I decided to assign her more duties. I appointed her to be my liaison with the National Convention Committee. I also appointed her to serve on the 75th Jubilee Committee. She is serving well on both committees.

Hopefully we will correct the Third Vice President situation at this Convention.

Recording Secretary

Secretary Mary Juzenas attended all Supreme Council meetings and discharged her duties in a most professional manner. She recorded the minutes and sent them out to all the necessary peoples. She handled a lot of correspondence and was a big help to your President plus she executed her duties on the council and district levels. Mary was busy.

Financial Secretary

Financial Secretary Helen Skudra has just completed her third year in office and it has been a very busy year. We have increased our membership to 4,374. Helen has worked along with each council in the processing of dues. She also has worked on the Vytis mailing list to eliminate duplication and sending the Vytis to the wrong people.

Treasurer

Treasurer Teresa Trainis was her usual efficient self. She handled our monies in a very professional manner and she kept your President informed on all money transactions. She will give her full report later in this Convention.

Trustees

Trustees Frank Peterson and Paul Strolia have performed their duties to the best of their abilities. They will audit the financial records and report their findings to this Convention.

Legal Advisor

We began this term with Alexander Domanskis as our Legal Advisor. Due to other commitments he was unable to serve so I appointed Saulius Kuprys as his replacement. Saulius has been doing a good job on our tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service both for the K of L and the K of L Foundation.

Vytis Editor

Bernice Aviza took over as Editor in September and in the beginning the sailing was a little rough for the good ship Vytis what with sickness and some time spent in the hospital by our editor. The early issues were late but by spring Bernice had the problem pretty much corrected. There still is room for some improvement.

Bernice is working hard at the job and she hopes to add new features in the future. She has an able crew who gives her much assistance. I look for much improvement in the future.

Lithuanian Affairs Committee

The new chairman this year was Nancy Miro. She published the Bulletin along with her assistant John Marcinauskas.

Nancy was able to arrange with Congressman Don Ritter to receive our Friend of Lithuania award at this Convention.

Please continue to send her clippings for the Bulletin.

Mid-America District

Under the leadership of President Algerd Brazis the Mid-America District was a beehive of activity. They held 4 District meetings along with their normal annual events and social events. The K of L Choir and the K of L Dancers were active throughout the year. With the reorganizing of C-24 the District now has 10 councils and 1 Junior council.

Mid-Atlantic District

President Larry Janonis reports a lot of activity in his district. He chaired 3 meetings and each was well attended. The District celebrated its 70th anniversary with a Dinner Dance at Maspeth. There were other events also.

There are now 25 councils which include the new councils, C-45 Scranton and C-136 Albany.

Mid-Central District

This is a fast moving District with President Fran Petkus leading the way. They had a lot of activity throughout the year along with their 2 meetings. Both meetings were held in DuBois. The first was the Fall Convention-Pilgrimage and the second was the spring Convention-Mid-West Bowling Tournament. Both were highly successful.

The District has nine active councils.

New England District

President Albert Jaritis reports a lot of activity. The fall Convention was held in Norwood and the spring Convention in Providence. The speakers were Marian Skabeikis and Father Anthony Jurgelaitis. Father William Wolkovich received his 4th degree. There was much more activity throughout the year.

There are 14 active councils in the District.

Lithuanian Cultural Committee

Chairman Regina Kot had a productive year. She contacted nearly all councils. She wrote 4 articles for the Vytis and she mailed out cultural readings to each council.

Regina also was very active with her local council and the district.

Ritual Committee

Chairman Magdalena Smailis reports that when going from one degree to another that only the points between those two degrees be given. It is not necessary to list points for degrees already received. Magdalena and her committee have approved a number of candidates for the Fourth Degree which will be received at this convention.

Public Relations Committee

Chairman Anna Klizas Wargo has been busy sending news releases to all Lithuanian newspapers, English newspapers, radio stations and television stations. She covered the wrap-up of our 85 convention and she publicized our 86 convention plus many events in between.

Scholarship Committee

Chairman William Piacentini reports that all payments were made to the 1985 scholarship winners. All were successful in their studies. Applicants for this year's awards have been processed.

Some committee members' term of office expires this year.

Honorary Membership Committee

Chairman Anthony Mazeika reports that his committee will bestow Honorary Membership upon our esteemed Supreme Council Spiritual Advisor, Father Anthony Jurgelaitis. We are most happy for Father.

Archives Committee

Chairman Larry Svelnis and his committee have been busy with the 7 boxes of materials which they received from Chicago. Most of it has been sorted, labeled and placed in the Archives.

Lithuanian Language Propagation

Chairman Edmund Vaiciulis did not send in a report.

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid

Chairman Joni Reinhart being new on the job didn't let that bother her. She sent many letters and made contacts asking for donations. She was successful with a total of \$3,136.17 by press time. She will accept donations during the convention.

K of L History

Helen Shields, History Fund Chairman is still accepting contributions and Father William Wolkovich is still writing up our history which will be published in our anniversary year. A copy of our 75 year history really is a must for each K of L'er because you and I are very much a part of that history.

Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation has been officially cleared by the Internal Revenue Service. We could like to see more contributions to the Foundation from both individuals and councils. By doing so your contributions will bear much fruit in the future.

Statue of Liberty Project

In the last few committees I was asking you to contribute but in this committee I'm going to thank you for contributing. We did a good job. We exceeded our pledge of \$5,000.00.

Mary York our "Liberty Lady" would like us to go even higher so you will see her during the convention at her table. Go over and say "hello" to Mary.

There will be a more detailed report later in this convention.

Day of Prayer

Day of Prayer at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown was a great success. The Vyciai were there in large numbers and we were responsible for that success. I hope this becomes an annual affair.

600th Lithuanian Christianization Jubilee

The committees working on this project have been very busy. Our own Loretta Stukas is in charge of the Commemorative Medallion. If you haven't ordered any please do so during the convention. They are beautiful.

Father Jurgelaitis will conduct a panel on the 600th Jubilee at the Friday morning session.

75th Jubilee Committee

In 2 years we will be 75 years old. I asked each District President to select 2 people from the district and send the names to me. I then appointed Loretta Stukas to chair the committee. They will be responsible to plan some event or events appropriate for our 75th celebration.

The committee members are:

NED	- Joseph White	MCD	- Frances Petkus
	Mary Martus		Eleanor Sluzas
MAD	- Larry Janonis	MAMD	- Mary Kincius
	Elsie Kosmisky		Evelyn Ozelis

Conclusion

It took me a week of evenings to write this report. I went through all of my minutes, reports and letters trying not to omit anything of importance. If I did omit anything of importance then I apologize. I'm sorry, it was not done intentionally.

I want to thank my Supreme Council people for all of their help and assistance and for their cooperation which permitted us to work together in good harmony. I also want to thank others whom I called upon from time to time for assistance. Especially I want to thank my wife Irene who did a lot of typing and editing for me. And I want to thank you my dear delegates for electing me to the Presidency.

It has been a good year, we've had a lot of accomplishments, we've been successful. Yes there is more we could have done but I believe in being practical. If you push people too hard then they soon lose interest in the organization. I believe in doing things in a more relaxed manner so as your work is more enjoyable. If the atmosphere is pleasant then the work is pleasant.

Let us work together and let us play together during this convention in good harmony. If we do we will accomplish much. We are one big family, not always happy but nevertheless a family who has a strong love and respect for each other. Please get involved with the convention proceedings and have yourself a good convention.

Sirdingai aciu.

Respectfully submitted,

-Frank Petrauskas, National President

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SUPREME COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE BOARD



1986-1987 Supreme Council and Executive Board

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Rev. Anthony J. Jurgelaitis
C-103, Providence

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Frank Petrauskas
C-140, Syracuse

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Dr. Algirdas Budreckis
C-17, South Boston

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C-36, Chicago

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Larry Janonis
C-12, New York

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

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C-96, Dayton

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Albert Jaritis
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LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS

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Casimir Yanish
C-74, Scranton

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Regina Kot
C-100, Amsterdam

RITUAL

Magdalena Smailis, Chrmn.
C-79, Southfield, MI
Rita Pinkus
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C-103, Providence
Clemencine Miller
C-141, Bridgeport
Paul Binkis, Jr.
C-112, Chicago
Gloria Dauchess
C-144, Anthracite
Rita Shevokas
C-144, Anthracite
Sr. Alverna Walls, O.S.F.
C-19, Pittsburgh

LCRA COORDINATOR

Joni Reinhart
C-144, Anthracite

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Antanas J. Mazeika
C-147, St. Petersburg

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anna Klizas Wargo
C-144, Anthracite

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE

Apolonia Ziausys
C-100, Amsterdam

VYTIS EDITOR

Bernice Aviza
C-100, Amsterdam

RESOLUTIONS

NUTARIMAI

The following resolutions were all approved by the convention delegates.

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania since its inception has maintained a tradition of filial esteem and loyal obedience to the Vicar of Christ;

BE IT RESOLVED that the 73rd National Convention gathered in Allentown, Pennsylvania send an expression of the above-mentioned sentiments to the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II in gratitude for his blessing, and further,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania pledge special prayers for His Holiness' health and well-being.

* * *

WHEREAS the 600th Anniversary of the Christianization of Lithuania will be celebrated in 1987 by Lithuanians around the world;

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania has traditionally fostered a deep understanding and zealous practice of the Catholic faith;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania 73rd National Convention encourage its members and councils to take an active part in celebrating this great Anniversary in their local areas.

* * *

WHEREAS Soviet authorities have deprived the Catholic believers in Lithuania of the Cathedral Church in Vilnius and have converted the Church of St. Casimir into an atheistic museum and seized the Queen of Peace Church in Klaipėda, which was built with the hands and funds of Lithuanian Catholics;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania at their 73rd National Convention, held in Allentown, Pennsylvania, write to the Soviet Ambassador to the United States urging that these religious institutions be returned to the faithful of Lithuania on the occasion of their Christianity Jubilee in 1987, in compliance with the Soviet constitutional declaration of freedom of religion.

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčiai nuo savo įsikūrimo pradžios išlaikė tradicinę pagarbą, atsidavimą bei nuolankumą Kristui;

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 73-ias Visuotinas Seimas, susirinkęs Allentown, Pennsylvania, išreikštų virš minėtus jausmus Šventam Tėvui, Popiežiui Jonui Pauliui II-jam dėkingumą už jo palaiminimą ir

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai prižada melstis už Jo Šventenybės sveikatą ir gerovę.

* * *

KADANGI 1987 metais viso pasaulio lietuviai švęs Lietuvos krikščionybės priėmimo 600 metų sukaktį;

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčiai turi gilų supratimą ir yra karšto tikėjimo katalikai;

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 73-ias Visuotinas Seimas paragintų savo narius ir kuopas aktyviai dalyvauti švenčian šią sukaktį savo vietovėse.

* * *

KADANGI Sovietų valdžia pasisavino iš Lietuvos katalikų Vilniaus Katedrą, pavertė Šv. Kazimiero bažnyčią į ateistinį muziejų ir

KADANGI Marijos Taikos Karalienės bažnyčia Klaipėdoje, buvo pastatyta Lietuvos katalikų lėšomis, bei jėgomis, bet Sovietų valdžios pasisavinta

NUTARTA Lietuvos Vyčių 73-iaame Visuotino Seimo Suvažiavime Allentown, Pennsylvania, rašyti Sovietų Ambasadoriui — Jungtinėm Amerikos Valstybėm ir reikalauti, kad tos religinės institucijos, būtų grąžintos Lietuvos tikintiesiems jų Krikščionybės Jubilėjaus proga 1987 metais ir laikytis Sovietų konstitucijos taisyklių kuriose skelbiama religijos laisvė.

WHEREAS Lithuanians throughout the world will be celebrating the 600th Anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania in 1987;

WHEREAS the culmination of this Jubilee will be a Papal Mass held in the Vatican on June 14, 1987;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania be encouraged to join in a pilgrimage to the Holy City for this event as a sign of Lithuanian Christian Solidarity.

* * *

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania at its 71st National Convention in 1984 "adopted" the Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome, and voted to offer financial and moral support for its apostolic activities;

WHEREAS an opportunity to render such support has been proposed, namely to participate in the restoration of the building by furnishing all, or part, of a room;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania pledge to equip one room at the cost of \$1450.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an initial amount of \$600.00 be given at this time and that individual members and councils be encouraged to contribute toward completing this pledge within a year.

* * *

WHEREAS Karl Linnas, an American citizen of Estonian descent, has undergone investigation for alleged Nazi war crimes by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Special Investigations (OSI), and has been stripped of his citizenship, and

WHEREAS the OSI has relied upon less-than-convincing information provided by the Soviet KGB during his trial without full benefit of American due process, and

WHEREAS Karl Linnas faces deportation to Soviet-occupied Estonia as early as October 7, 1986, in violation of the U.S. non-recognition of Soviet illegal occupation of the Baltic States; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the 73rd National Convention strongly urge President Ronald Reagan, U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese and U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz to prevent the deportation of Karl Linnas.

* * *

WHEREAS Draugas has generously printed news of the Knights of Lithuania weekly in the Vyčių Veikla column,

BE IT RESOLVED that this Convention body express its sincerest appreciation to Draugas for this act of cooperation and generosity.

KADANGI 1987-tais metais viso pasaulio lietuviai švęs Lietuvos Krikščionybės priėmimo 600 metų sukaktį,

KADANGI pats svarbiausias šio jubiliejaus įvykis bus Švento Tėvo Mišios, kurios bus laikomos Vatikane 1987 metais birželio mėn. 14 d.

NUSPĖSTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai būtų paraginti, jungtis į Švento Miesto maldininkų kelionę, tuo parodydami savo lietuvišką, krikščionybės vienybę.

* * *

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčiai 71-me Visuotiname Suvažiavime 1984-tais metais „išūnijo“ Šv. Kazimiero Pontificalinę Kolegiją Roooje ir nubalsavo pasiūlyti savo pinigine ir moralinę paramą jos apaštališkam veikimui;

KADANGI Pastato pagerinimui buvo pasiūlyta tokia gaimybė būtent: pilnu ar dalinu kambario apstatymu,

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai pasižada 1450.00 dol. vieno kambario įrengimui.

NUTARTA, kad pirmoji 600.00 dol. suma būtų duota dabar, kad pavieniai nariai ir kuopos būtų paragintos aukoti, kad tas pažadas būtų išpildytas laike vienų metų.

* * *

KADANGI Karl Linnas, estų kilmės Amerikos pilietis yra Teisingumo Departamento (OSI) Specialių Tyrimų Skyriaus tardomas ir jam buvo atimta Amerikos pilietybė ir

KADANGI jo teisme OSI rėmėsi sunkiai įtikinamomis žiniomis kurios buvo parūpintos sovietų KGB, be pilnos Amerikos Konstitucinės teisės (American due process) panaudojimo ir

KADANGI Karl Linnui grėšia deportacija į Sovietų okupuotą Estiją, apie šių metų spalio mėn. 7 dieną, tuo nusižengiama JAV neteisėtam Sovietų Pabaltijos Valstybių okupacijos nepripažinimui,

NUTARTA, kad 73-ias Visuotinas Seimas griežtai reikalautų Prezidentą Ronald Reagan, Valstybės Prokurorą Edwin Meese ir Valstybės Sekretorių George Schultz, kad Karl Linno deportacija būtų sustabdyta.

* * *

KADANGI DRAUGO Dienraštis dosniai spausdina Lietuvos Vyčių savaitines žinias, Vyčių Veiklos skyriuje,

NUTARTA, kad šis Seimas išreikštų nuoširdžiausį įvertinimą „DRAUGAS“ dienraščiui už jo dosnų bendradarbiavimą.

WHEREAS fifty years ago in 1936, five members of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary left Lithuania to travel to the United States to assist the work of the Marian Fathers in Thompson, Connecticut with their work in the American Lithuanian community;

WHEREAS these Sisters successfully founded a convent of their community here in America;

WHEREAS the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have during the past fifty years cared for the elderly and incapacitated, have broadened their branches to other parts of North America, have established child care centers for our youth, and have conducted an apostolate in publishing Lithuanian religious and cultural books and magazines;

WHEREAS, the Sisters' work and sacrifices have brought benefits to Lithuanians and Americans of Lithuanian descent including the Knights of Lithuania;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania National Convention, convened in Allentown, Pennsylvania, send its congratulations and best wishes to the Sisters on this occasion.

BE IT FURTHERRESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania send a donation of \$50.00 to the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception to assist them in their present efforts to improve their buildings and grounds.

* * *

WHEREAS the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture is observing its 20th Anniversary in 1986,

WHEREAS, as part of this celebration the Balzekas Museum will create a "Time Capsule" to be opened on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence in 2018,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania send to the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture a copy of its Constitution, a Convention issue of the VYTIS symbolic of our activities, and an official Knights of Lithuania pin to be placed in this Time Capsule.

* * *

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania plans to celebrate its 75th — Diamond Jubilee in 1988, and

WHEREAS this Jubilee should be celebrated appropriately on the Council, District and National levels,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Supreme Council host the 75th National Convention as its major activity of this most important anniversary.

KADANGI prieš 50 metų 1936-tais, penkios Nekaltai Pradėtosios Švč. Mergelės Marijos seserys atvyko iš Lietuvos į Ameriką talkinti Tėvams Marijonams Thompson, Conn. išlaikyti lietufybę Amerikos Lietuvių bendruomenėje,

KADANGI tos seserys, čia Amerikoje sėkmingai įkūrė vienuolyną savo bendruomenėje,

KADANGI Nekaltai Pradėtosios Švč. Mergelės Marijos seserys per paskutinius 50 metų rūpinosi senais ir bejėgiais, išplėtė savo šakas į kitas Šiaurės Amerikos dalis, įkūrė vaikų globos centrus mūsų jaunimui ir vedė apaštalavimo ir lietuviškų religinių ir kultūrinių knygų ir žurnalų leidimą;

KADANGI seserų darbas ir pasiaukojimas atnešė naudos lietuviams ir lietuvių kilmės amerikiečiams įskaitant ir Lietuvos Vyčius;

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai, Nekaltai Pradėtosios Švč. Mergelės Marijos seserims nusiųstų 50.00 dolerių auką, jų nuosavybės pagerinimui.

* * *

KADANGI 1986-tais metais Balzeko Lietuvių Kultūros Muziejus švenčia savo 20-ties metų Jubiliejų,

KADANGI Balzeko Muziejaus minėjimo dalyje bus sukurta „Laiko Kapsulė“ kuri bus atidaryta 2018-tais metais, Lietuvos Nepriklausomybės Atstatymo 100-jo Jubiliejaus proga.

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai, nusiųstų Balzeko Lietuvių Kultūros Muziejui savo Konstitucijos nuorašą, VYTIS žurnalo Visuotino Seimo leidinį, kaip simbolį iš mūsų veiklos ir Lietuvos Vyčių oficialų ženklelį, kurie būtų įdėti į „Laiko Kapsulę“.

* * *

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčiai 1988 metais planuoja švęsti savo 75-tą Deimantinį Jubiliejų, ir

KADANGI tas Jubiliejus turi būti atitinkamai švenčiamas kuopos, apygardos ir visuotinu mastu,

NUTARTA, kad 75-to Visuotino Suvažiavimo rengėjai bus Centro Valdyba, kaip pagrindinė jėga tame svarbiame Jubiliejuje.

WHEREAS this 73rd National Convention has resolved that the Supreme Council host the 75th National Convention in 1988;

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania Constitution, article 9, section 2, states "The Convention chooses the site for the next Convention";

BE IT RESOLVED that Article 9, Section 2 of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution be suspended for this one occasion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Supreme Council, together with the 75th Jubilee Committee be empowered to select an appropriate site for the 75th National Convention as soon as possible and announce it through the VYTIS.

* * *

WHEREAS, under Article XI, Section 3 of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution, the duties of the Vice Presidents are described as follows:

"The Vice Presidents substitute for the President when necessary. The First Vice President directs the membership drive, strives to inject new strength in the weaker councils and organize new ones. The Second Vice President is in charge of the Juniors, tries to expand their activities and organize new Junior branches. The Third Vice President directs the organizing and the activities of the Seniors";

WHEREAS, there remain only two Senior Councils of the Knights of Lithuania;

WHEREAS, the Knights of Lithuania have become more actively involved in large projects of civic, national and religious natures, on national and international levels, which has increased the responsibilities of the National President;

BE IT RESOLVED that the duties of the Vice Presidents be changed as follows:

"The First Vice President is Special Assistant to the President, assisting the President in organizing and implementing special projects and events. The Second Vice President directs the membership drive, strives to inject new strength in the weaker councils and organize new ones, as well as directs the organizing and activities of the Seniors. The Third Vice President is in charge of the Juniors, tries to expand their activities and organize new Junior branches."

* * *

BE IT RESOLVED that the 73rd National Convention elevate to Honorary Membership the Reverend Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P. of Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island and member of Council 103, whose candidacy to this honor was approved by the 72nd National Convention at New Haven, Connecticut.

KADANGI šis 73-ias Visuotinas Seimas nutarė, kad 1988-tais metais 75-to Visuotino Suvažiavimo šeimininkais būtų Centro Valdyba,

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčių Konstitucijos 9 straipsnis 2-me skyriuje sako, kad: „Dabartinis Suvažiavimas parenka vietovę ateinančiam Suvažiavimui“.

NUTARTA, kad Centro Valdyba kartu su 75-tuoju Jubiliejaus Komitetu būtų įgaliota parinkti tinkamą vietovę 75-tam Visuotinam Suvažiavimui kaip galima greičiau ir tai paskelbti VYTIS žurnale.

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčių Konstitucijoje 9-tame straipsnyje, 3-iaame paragrafe, Vice Pirmininko pareigos apibūdintos taip: „Vice Pirmininkas reikalui esant pavaduoja Centro Valdybos Pirmininką, Pirmas Vice Pirmininkas vadovauja narių verbavimo vajui, stengiasi įskiepyti naujos jėgos silpniesiems kuopoms ir organizuoja naujas. Antras Vice Pirmininkas vadovauja Jauniesiems Vyčiams, stengiasi išvystyti jų veiklą ir organizuoja naujas Jaunųjų Vyčių kuopas. Trečias Vice Pirmininkas vadovauja seniorų organizavime ir jų veiklai.“

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčių yra tik dvi Seniorų kuopos, ir

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčiai įsijungė į didelius visuomeninio, tautinio ir religinio pobūdžio projektus, tautinio ir tarptautinio lygio, kas padidino Centro Valdybos Pirmininko atsakomybę;

NUTARTA, kad Vice Pirmininkų pareigos būtų pakeistos taip:

„Pirmasis Vice Pirmininkas yra specialus Centro Valdybos Pirmininko pavaduotojas, kuris padeda Pirmininkui organizuoti ir įvykdyti ypatingus projektus. Antras Vice Pirmininkas vadovauja narių verbavimo vajui, stengiasi įskiepyti naujų jėgų silpniesiems kuopoms ir organizuoja naujas, taip pat vadovauja seniorų organizavime ir veikloje. Trečias Vice Pirmininkas vadovauja Jauniesiems Vyčiams, stengiasi išvystyti jų veiklą ir organizuoja naujas Jaunųjų Vyčių kuopas.“

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčių Garbės Narių Komisija prašo, kad 73-iasis Seimas, pakeltų į Garbės Narius, 72-rame Seime užgirtą kandidatą, Kunigą Antaną Jurgelaitį;

NUTARTA, kad 73-čiasis Visuotinas Seimas Kunigą Antaną Jurgelaitį O.P. Providence Kolegijos, Providence Rhode Island, 103Ččios kuopos narij, pakeltų į Garbės Narius, kurio kandidatūra, buvo patvirtinta 72-ro Visuotino Seimo New Haven, Connecticut.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 73rd National Convention approve the candidacy for elevation to Honorary Membership during the 73th National Convention in 1987 of MONSIGNOR ALGIMANTAS BARTKUS of Anthracite Council 144, Saint Clair, Pennsylvania, for his tireless and selfless work on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania both in this country and abroad.

* * *

WHEREAS BENEDICT KARKLIUS has established the Alice Karklius Memorial Scholarship with a \$12,500 donation to the Knights of Lithuania Foundatinn, Inc. and has promised to donate another like sum next year, so that the interest can be used for the Scholarship, and

WHEREAS Mr. Karklius has also donated \$2000 to be used for the first ALICE KARKLIUS Scholarship,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania 73rd National Convention, gathered in Allentown, Pennsylvania, express its heartfelt thanks to Mr. Karklius for his generous investment in the future of the Knights of Lithuania organization and especially in its youth.

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Lithuanian Affairs Committee to defend the rights of Lithuania and the Lithuanian people in non-Lithuanian communities and government circles;

WHEREAS, only one person was traditionally elected to this committee, even though this vitally important work requires the dedicated attention of several individuals;

WHEREAS, the Knights of Lithuania Constitution does not specify the number of members for this committee;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lithuanian Affairs Committee be expanded to three elected members, one of whom will be elected as Chair.

* * *

WHEREAS operating expenses of the Knights of Lithuania have been increasing annually;

WHEREAS the cost of dues has not changed for over nine years;

WHEREAS the income from dues is not sufficient to cover normal operating expenses;

BE IT RESOLVED that full membership dues be raised to \$10.00 annually.

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčių Garbės Narių Komisija prašė, kad 73-iasis Seimas užgirtų PRELATĄ ALGIMANTĄ BARTKŪ iš Anthracite 144-tos kuopos, Saint Clair, Pennsylvania, kaipo kandidatą į Garbės Narius už jo nepailstamumą per ilgus metus garbingai besidarbuojant Lietuvos Vyčių organizacijos gerovei,

NUTARTA, kad 73-čiasis Visuotinas Seimas užgirtų Prelato Algimanto Bartkaus iš Anthracite Saint Clair, Pennsylvania 144-tos kuopos nario kandidatūrą pakelimui į Garbės Narius, laike 74-to Visuotino Suvažiacimo 1987-tais metais už jo nepailstamumą, per ilgus metus garbingai besidarbuojant Lietuvos Vyčių organizacijos gerovei šiame krašte ir užsienyje.

* * *

KADANGI Benedict Karklius yra įsteigęs Alice Karklius Memorialinę Stipendiją su 12,500 dolerių auka, Lietuvos Vyčių Fondui ir yra pažadėjęs paaugoti panašią sumą ateinančiais metais, taip, kad pelnas (palūkanos) galėtų būti panaudotos stipendijai ir

KADANGI ponas Karklius taip pat paaugėjo \$2000.00 dol. pirmai Alice Karklius stipendijai,

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 73-iasis Visuotinas Seimas, susirinkęs Allentown, Pennsylvania, išreikštų savo nuoširdžią padėką ponui Karkliui už jo įdėtą dosnų kapitalą į Lietuvos Vyčių Organizacijos ateitį ypatingai į jos jaunimą.

KADANGI Lietuviškų Reikalų Komiteto pareiga yra ginti Lietuvos ir jos žmonių teises nelietuviškose visuomenėse ir valdžios sluoksniuose;

KADANGI tik vienas asmuo pagal tradiciją buvo išrinktas tam komitetui, nežiūrint, kad gyvybinei svarbus darbas reikalauja kelių pasišventusių asmenų dėmesio;

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčių Konstitucija tiksliai neapibrėžia to komiteto narių skaičių,

NUTARTA, kad Lietuviškų Reikalų Komitetas būtų papildytas iki trijų išrinktų narių, iš kurių vienas būtų išrinktas Pirmininku.

* * *

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčių veikimo išlaidos kasmet didėja,

KADANGI virš devynių metų nario mokestis nepasikeitė,

KADANGI nario mokesčio pajamos nėra pakankamos padengti normalias veikimo išlaidas;

NUTARTA, kad pilnas nario mokestis būtų pakeltas iki (10.00) dešimts dolerių metams.

WHEREAS the 73rd National Convention was hosted by the Supreme Council and a duly-selected ad hoc Convention Committee chaired by Helen Shields, and

WHEREAS the 73rd National Convention has been acclaimed as very successful,

BE IT RESOLVED that this Convention extend its warmest congratulations and thanks to the Supreme Council and Convention Committee and especially to Helen Shields for her self-sacrificing dedication.

* * *

WHEREAS the members of Council 63, Lehigh Valley have most generously given of their time and effort in assisting the Supreme Council in the preparation and happy results of the 73rd National Convention;

WHEREAS they have shown the delegates and guests a truly Lithuanian hospitality;

BE IT RESOLVED that the 73rd National Convention express to all members of Council 63 its sincerest gratitude.

* * *

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania 73rd National Convention express the gratitude of its members to the outgoing Supreme Council for its praiseworthy service to the organization and to the ideals of the Knights of Lithuania.

* * *

WHEREAS the Presidium and Committees of the 73rd National Convention have demonstrated great aptitude and flexibility in conducting this Convention;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Convention express its gratitude and praise for their beneficial guidance in the conduct of all business.

KADANGI 73-čio Visuotino Seimo šeiminkai buvo Centro Valdyba su prideramai parinkta Seimo Komiteto Pirmininke Helen Shields ir

KADANGI 73-čias Visuotinas Seimas pasireiškė, kaip labai gerai pasisekęs,

NUTARTA, kad šis Seimas išreikštų savo širdingą padėką ir sveikinimus Centro Valdybai, Seimo Komitetui ir ypatingai Helen Shields už jos pasišventimą.

* * *

KADANGI Lehigh Valley 63-čios kuopos nariai dosniai pašventė savo laiką ir pastangas padėdami Centro Valdybai pasiruošti, kad 73-čias Visuotinas Seimas laimingai pavyktų.

KADANGI jie savo delegatams ir svečiams parodė tikrą lietuvišką vaišingumą;

NUTARTA, kad 73-čias Visuotinas Seimas išreikštų visiems 63-čios kuopos nariams nuoširdžiausią padėką.

* * *

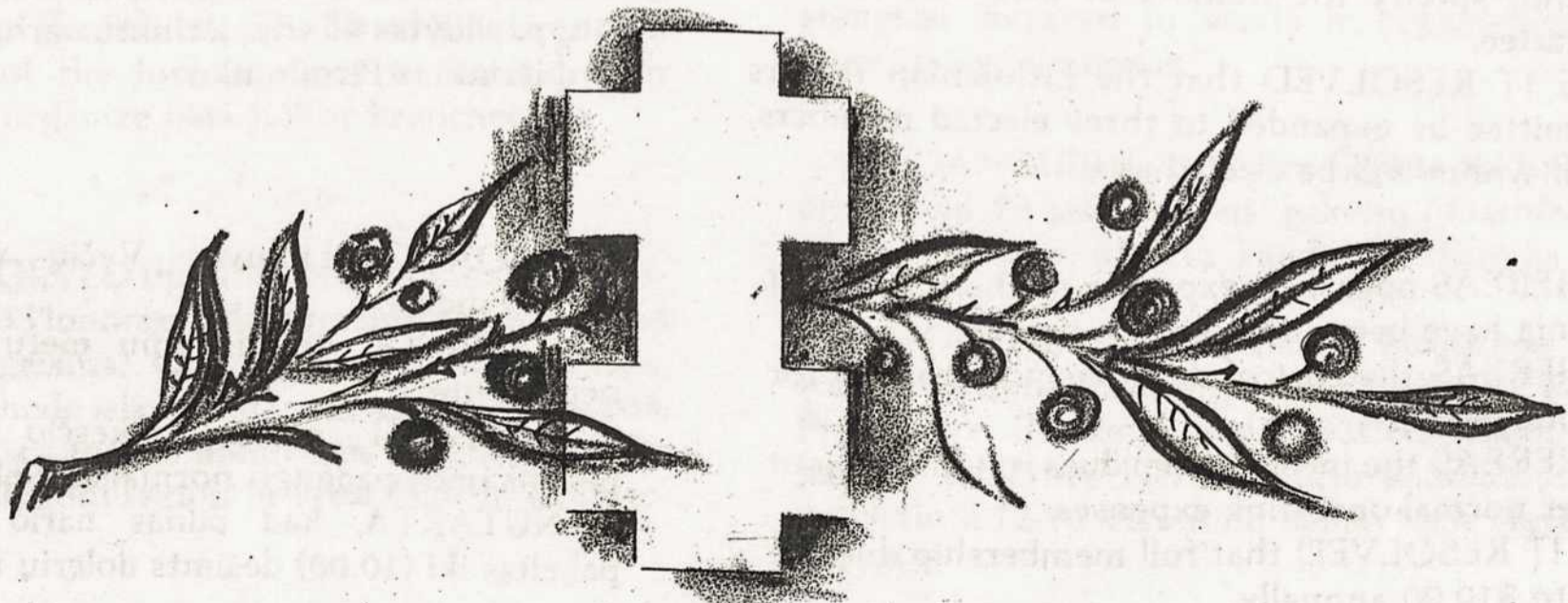
NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 73-čias Visuotinas Seimas pareikštų savo narių dėkingumą, išeinančiai Centro Valdybai už neįkainojamą paslaugą organizacijai ir Lietuvos Vyčių idealams.

* * *

KADANGI 73-čiojo Visuotino Seimo Prezidiumas ir Komitetai parodė gabų ir lankstų to Seimo pravedimą;

NUTARTA, kad šis Seimas išreikštų savo dėkingumą ir pagyrimą už jų naudingą vadovavimą pravedant visą darbotvarkę.

Vertė Apolonija Žiaušienė



Pre-Convention Activity:
**Tour of Allentown-
 Wednesday, August 6th**



*Tour guide, C-63, Bob Klova
 with Bus Driver, George*

On Wednesday, early arrivals to the National Convention took a bus tour of Allentown and his immediate surrounding area. The host of the bus tour was C-63 member and Allentown resident, Bob Klova. He arrived at the hotel with a "spanking" new bus and a most gracious chauffeur—George.

We were informed that Allentown was settled in the early 1700's by English, Scotch, Irish and German immigrants. Central and East Europeans settled in Allentown after World War II. Allentown and the Lehigh Valley are not known for its quantity of Lithuanian immigrants - only its quality.

It was originally an agricultural community focusing on potatoes. There is still quite a bit of farming done in the area. We particularly noticed fields of sunflowers on our tour.

Allentown has a multi-service industry base. Mack Truck has a large plant there. The Bull Dog tack pin included in our courtesy bags came from them.

Touring Knights noticed the beautifully manicured lawns of the city parks. In fact, our longtime French "Ami de Lituanie", Vic Mathieu of C-103, Providence, said he did not see one lawn in Allentown that needed mowing. Bob Klova, our Allentown informant told us that Allentown had been blessed with a generous civic-minded philanthropist - Gen. Trexler. The General donated the interest on certain investments to maintain the city park system. This interest amounts to nearly \$ one million annually.

The highlight of our tour of Allentown was a tour of Stroh Brewery - the home of Stroh, Schlitz and Schaefer beers. It is the third largest brewery in the nation. The grounds cover over 149 acres of land which are watched over and protected by the Statue of the Patron Saint of Brewers, King Gambrinas. His Statue is mounted near the building entrance in order to better maintain his vigil and welcome all visitors to Stroh.

Our Stroh hostess, Bernadette, took us through the brewery explaining

Stroh's pride in their method of "fire-brewing" in copper kettles which produces a more natural home-brewed taste. The kettles are maintained at 2000 degrees. Stroh performs approximately 250 quality tests on samples to insure its consumers get their values worth.

At the end of the tour we were received in the Strohaus to sample some of the brew. Everyone enjoyed the taste-testing.

From this vastly automated atmosphere we travelled to the Haines Mill Museum. This old-fashioned grist mill dates to the 18th century, explained Lehigh Historical Society's representative, Susan Dominick. However, the mill's current machinery apparatus is early 20th century. The mill had produced grain primarily for animal feed or heavier flour products such as pretzels. Susan demonstrated the workings of the mill's grain scales by attempting to weigh Larry Svelnis and Andrew Rogers.

We left the mill and continued along the avenues of Allentown. Bob Klova told us that Allentown possessed some fine medical doctors. Allentown's medical center performs the 2nd largest number of heart transplants in the nation.

At Stroh Brewery they had served us samples, when we arrived at the Fish Hatchery we discovered we were going to "treat" the fish. We all were supplied with small bags of food for the fish. Despite the fact that we all fed them,



Stroh Hostess, Bernadette offers samples to K of L visitors



Lehigh Historical Society representative, Susan Dominick, weighs in Larry Svelnis, C-17 and Andrew Rogers, C-19

they were still hungry. Sabina Klatt and Fran Petkus thought they had not fed the poor fish in weeks because the fish jumped with super exhilaration at the single drop of food into the water. The hatchery was established in 1883 and was one of the main suppliers of fish for eastern Pennsylvania. It currently is the home for young brook, brown and rainbow trout fingerlings received from state hatcheries. They are raised in Allentown until they reach maturity.

Before our tour ended we stopped at Allentown's exquisite rosegardens. The gazebos and blossoms added a touch of romantic nostalgia to our trip.

Our tour concluded with a verbal guide to wining and dining in Allentown by our guide, Bob Klova.



Sabina Klatt treats fish to Lithuanian goodies

Ethnicity - Bonus or Hinderance

Fr. William Wolkovitch, Spiritual Advisor of C-27 Norwood, MA, and also the author-to-be of the Knights of Lithuania History, presented to the first session of the National Convention a treatise entitled, "Ethnicity - Bonus or Hinderance?"

In the 1980's, noted Fr. Wolkovitch, there signs of ethnicity all around us. Ethnicity receives attention from politicians seeking "ethnic" votes. In the private and community sectors of our community, lectures, books, newsletters often focus on ethnic groups and the history of their immigration to America. And most profoundly ethnicity greatly touches our religious life. Fr. Wolkovitch noted this fact by mentioning that in New England there are 18 Lithuanian parishes, and in Pennsylvania there are 40.

Although ethnicity is very commonly spoken about, it is difficult to define. What causes one to develop a feeling of separateness from others, and a sense of belonging to one particular group.

In a review of ethnicity, Fr. Wolkovitch stated that there are objective and subjective elements. Objective elements which people often use to identify ethnicity are 1) dress; 2) food; 3) customs; 4) religion; 5) residence; 6) language and 7) biological makeup.

Although these factors are frequently used, they are not absolute and essential in the assignment of ethnicity. Many ethnic groups have emigrated to the United States. As succeeding generations become further removed from their particular country of origin, such objective factors do not always distinguish ethnicity.

Among the subjective aspects of ethnicity, Fr. Wolkovitch mentioned awareness, acceptance and expression. The majority of people possess some sense of ethnicity. However the degree of their ethnic awareness varies greatly. Even within individual persons the quality of ethnic awareness changes during their lifespan. At first one may merely have a sense of separateness. This can lead to inquiry about what makes one different, and then we might often invest time and effort to learn about our roots. Later one may often develop serious appreciation and active involvement. One's acceptance of his ethnicity is also a factor. One must deliberately and consciously choose to be Lithuanian, or whatever ethnicity one purports to be.

How does one express the acceptance of one's ethnicity? The awareness of one's ethnicity? Expression is another subjective element of ethnicity. The wearing of ethnic insignias, involvement in ethnic organizations, the ethnic decoration of our homes are all exam-

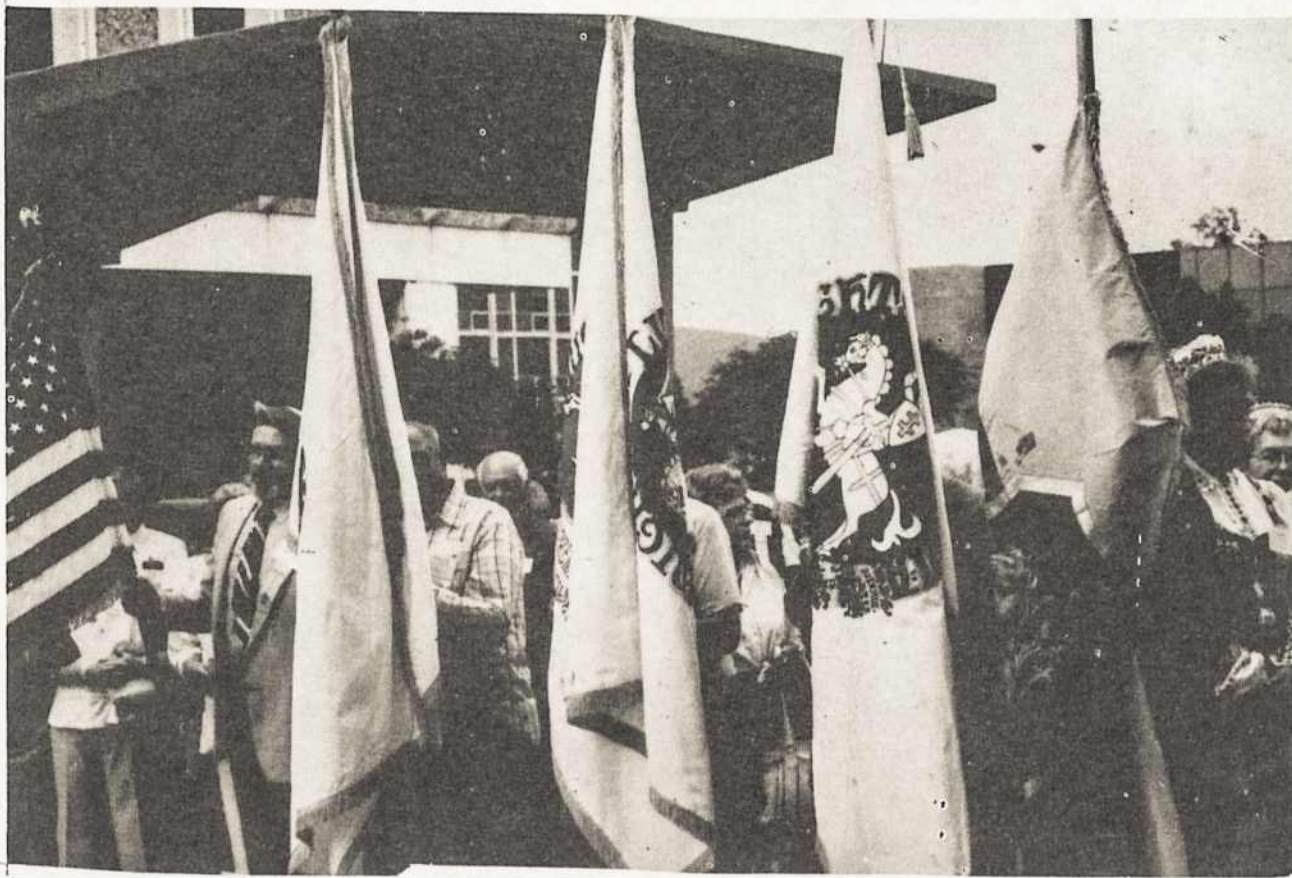
ples of ethnicity expression. The activity of the line of longtime, hardcore members of the Knights of Lithuania is also an expression of ethnicity.

Such a sense of ethnicity appears to be of worthwhile value and a value to cherish. However, ethnicity can also prove ugly through misuse...in the arrogant belief that one ethnic group is superior to all others. This leads to mistrust, prejudice and hatred.

The origin of most American ethnic parishes were plagued with misunderstandings and rivalries. In South Africa today, much violence and maiming exist because of ethnic tribal rivalries. Today America's melting-pot image has been mostly replaced with one of a multi-colored tapestry. Ethnic pluralism can be beneficial if used maturely.

Expression of one's ethnicity should never interfere with one's higher duty to the Gospel command of neighborly love and concern. A wholesome appreciation of one's heritage should make a person more sensitive to ethnic differences. In conclusion, Fr. Wolkovitch challenged the members of the Knights of Lithuania as followers of Christ, to assess their experience of ethnicity. Has it been a bonus or a hinderance? Have we, individually, or as a group been guilty of committing some of the evils of ethnicity, or also, have had such evils committed against us?

OPENING PARADE AND FLAG RAISING



A colorful parade of Knights launches the 73rd National Convention

The 73rd National Knights of Lithuania Convention was launched with a parade from Convention headquarters at the Allentown Hilton, down Hamilton Street Mall, to Allentown's City Hall. We were a colorful spectrum in our national dress, and waving of American and Lithuanian flags. At City Hall a flag raising ceremony was held. Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus gave the invocation. Mayor Joseph S. Daddona told the Knights of Lithuania that Allentown was proud to be the Knights of

Lithuania convention site. He read the proclamation declaring August 7 through August 10 to be Knights of Lithuania National Convention weekend in Allentown. Following the proclamation Mayor Daddona presented our National President Frank Petrauskas with a key to the city. President Petrauskas thanked Mayor Daddona for Allentown's hospitality and explained a bit of the history of the Knights of Lithuania and the purpose of our organization. Mayor Daddona was



*I'm a young American.
proud of my heritage*

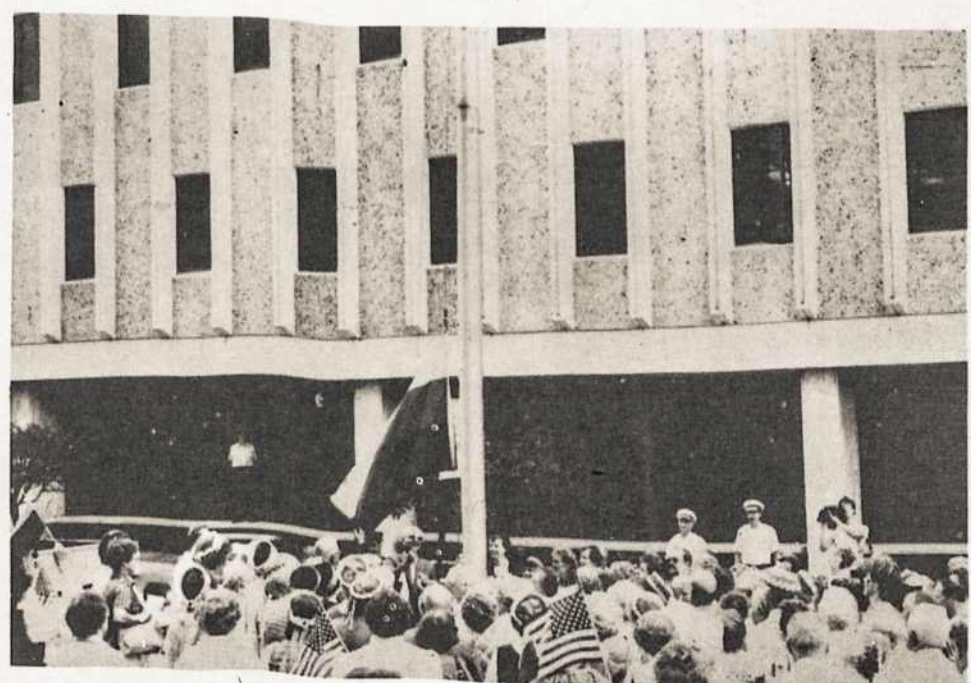
then properly outfitted with a tri-color Lithuanian beret for the occasion.

The event closed with the singing of the American and Lithuanian National Anthems. Buses then transported us to the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena where the opening Mass of the Convention was held.

The launching of the Knights of Lithuania Convention was televised by TV channels WFMZ (#69) and WNEP (#2). The Allentown Morning Call also featured the event

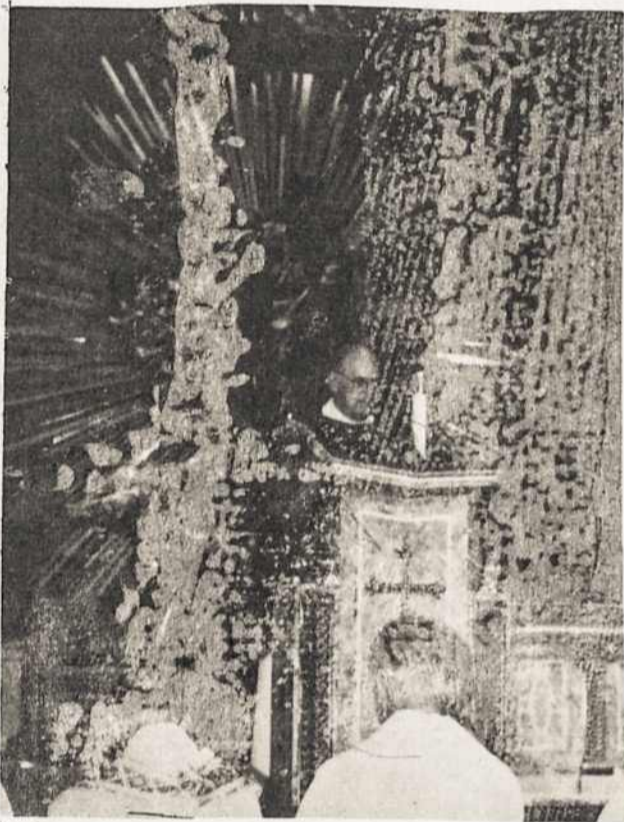
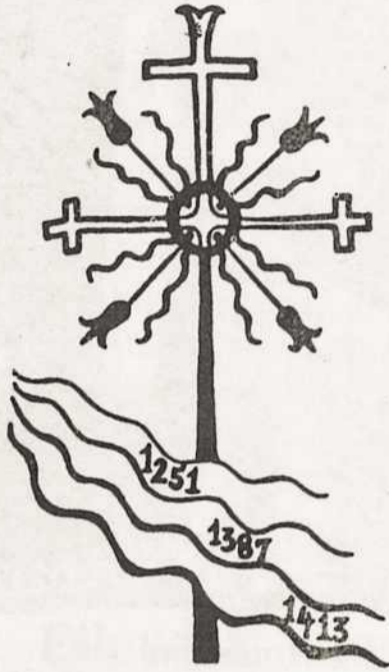


Mayor Joseph Daddona reads proclamation to start K of L weekend in Allentown.

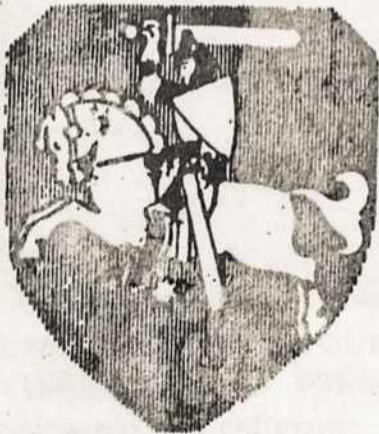


The Lithuanian tri-color is raised to fly proudly in Allentown's skies.

Lietuvos Vyčių Seimo Mišios



Fr. Jurgelaitis, our National Spiritual Advisor rouses our faith consciousness



Convention Opening Mass



Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priest League members concelebrate Holy Mass to open the 73rd National K of L Convention

The opening Mass of the 73rd Knights of Lithuania National Convention was held at Noon in the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown.

Bishop Paulius Baltakis served as principal celebrant. He was assisted by Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis, our National Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Albert Contons, the President of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests' League of America, Fr. Peter Stravinskas, of the Catholic League for Civil Rights and twenty members of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests' League of America.

During this year of 'faith consciousness' we have prayed to the Holy Spirit to help make us more aware of our faith and our responsibilities as followers of Christ. We offered this Mass in thanks to and in honor of the Holy Spirit for the support and spiritual aid he gave us this past year, and continue to seek his blessings to allow our hearts to open up wider, to fill us more fully with God's love in order that our faith be able to shine brilliantly through us.

The Scriptural readings for the day were uttered by John Tamasauskas, C-12. Fr. Albert Contons read the Gospel, and Fr. Jurgelaitis preached the homily and led us in reflection upon the Word of God.

"Why do we do things for God?" asked Fr. Jurgelaitis. "What is our motivation?" These questions can be answered simply - we are God's, God is ours. Our Lord, by His own will, gave Himself to us. Likewise the Knights of Lithuania is God's also. In fact God can be referred to as a Knight of Lithuania. But most simply this can be expressed in the fact that we are God's children and upon his children, God has bestowed a very precious inheritance—our faith.

Our lifetime is a continuous period of faith development. From infancy, to adulthood we strive to learn how to make our faith spontaneous, for it to overflow with exuberance from deep within our bodies. This is the responsibility we inherited from our baptismal pledge to the Lord. God knew we would need help and He sent us the best of all things, His best communicator and teacher, the Holy Spirit. The knowledge and love we receive through the helping hand of the Holy Spirit strengthens us and enhances our faith so that we can overcome sin.

During the offertory, we offered the traditional gifts of bread and wine, and also ourselves. We committed ourselves in prayer and deed to become more faith conscious.



We are God's; God is Ours

With the voices of innocent children of God, we sang praise and thanks to the Holy Spirit and to the Lord, our newly recognized members of the Knights of Lithuania. The Cathedral's chambers were soon filled with vibrant and harmonious sounds of the Knights

of Lithuania expression of joy. Our choir was enhanced by the fervent voice of soloist, Ben Upanavage. The warmth of God's sunny love could be felt upon us as we left the Cathedral refreshed, renewed and prepared to face the challenge of our convention.



The K of L are led in Prayerful expression of Christian solidarity with their brethren in Lithuania

Friday, August 11

Holy Mass Offered In Prayerful Expression of Our Solidarity With The Suffering Church And Believers In Lithuania:

On Friday, Holy Mass was held in the hotel. The sacrifice of the Mass was offered for the suffering church in Lithuania. The principal celebrant was Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis, our National Spiritual Advisor. Concelebrating with him were Fr. Albin Janiunas, H.M., Fr. Louis Zaremba, Fr. Albert Contons, Fr. John Mikaljunas, Fr. William Wolkovich, and Fr. John Rikteraitis. Srs. Alverna and Francesca served as our reader and organist.

In his homily, Fr. Jurgelaitis focused on the mysterious ways our Lord often does things and our commitment to serve the Lord without question. Yes, it is difficult to understand God's reasoning for permitting some of the atrocious evils that surround us, explained Father. We often wonder about the Lord's reasoning when we look at our own Lithuanian people who have suffered so much. We don't know how long or how much more they will have to suffer. Yet, our lives continue; their lives continue. We don't understand the reason for their suffering. Somehow, in expression of our faith, we submit to God's will. And today, at this Mass, we offer their sufferings, their sacrifices, their persecution and our lives, ourselves and our prayers so that we all can grow in strength, and remain faithful to the Lord. We pray to the Holy Spirit that during this year of "faith consciousness" that he help make our faith more real, and allow us never to forget the commitment we made to God in our baptism.

This Mass was also in observance of St. Dominic's feastday. Fr. Jurgelaitis cited circumstances from St. Dominic's life to illustrate the zeal needed to serve God. Throughout his life, St. Dominic had a dream, explained Father. It was to give his life for the missions. He wanted to travel to various sections of Europe, to bring the Good News, the Word of God to others, as he had to the

Albigenses. St. Dominic was never able physically to realize this dream. He had to remain behind to tend the concerns of his own immediate community. He was needed there, and although he wished to go and travel, he submitted to the Lord's will and remained behind. He sent his followers to those remote parts of Europe, including regions near Lithuania, to spread the glory of God's word.

The effects of St. Dominic's missionary zeal were felt through the work of his followers - even in Lithuania. We find in the words of Gediminas, in a letter to the Pope, a request for the Pope to send him men of the Franciscan, and of the DOMINICAN orders to preach to the Lithuanian people. Perhaps Gediminas thought, as Mindaugas thought, that by becoming Christian, he could repel the hordes of Teutonic Knights from overcoming Lithuania.

St. Dominic felt duty bound to the Lord's command to help his fellow man. We, too, are bound to pray for our brothers and sisters in Lithuania, and throughout the world. One way we can help them is through prayer. We can also help them by letting others know about their plight and encouraging other people to pray. Letter writing helps. Through our efforts, a few years ago, the bishops of the United States proclaimed a day of prayer for Lithuania in all American dioceses. We have to, we must, continue to work on their behalf. We must give them the moral support they need. Our efforts are felt; the Lord has let the Lithuanian people know that they are not alone. And they do know. This has been directly expressed in the Chronicle.

Each Chronicle that comes to our country is really a gift from Catholic Lithuania. It is a precious spiritual gift—a gift of their example of living the faith in the face of adversity. The words they use to defend the Lord, the words school children use in rebuttal to school authorities who harass them, the words of prayer written from prisoners of conscience are "gems of faith" and illustrate an example of baptismal living. They are evidence of the faith consciousness that our brothers and sisters in Lithuania possess.



A Wayside Cross - an expression of prayer and sacrifice from the hands of suffering Lithuania



Sr. Alverna leads us in songs of commitment to our faith



The Chronicle - a source of the example and strength in our life of faith

We have a lot to gain from their example of Christian obedience. Though we live in a free world, we also live in a world of catastrophe—of worldliness, secularism, disobedience and dissent. As Lithuanians benefit from our prayers, and our works of charity toward them,

we, too, can benefit from their prayers and their actions. Together all of us can support one another as we attempt to do God's will and to follow his command, to remain conscious of our faith even in the face of adversity.

Following this discussion of the Word of God, gifts, symbolic of our faith and representative of the Lord's presence within our Lithuanian heritage were offered before the Table of the Lord. They included:

A Wayside Cross, an example of the handwork of Lithuanians.

Through their hands Lithuanians express that faith which we want to be more proud of in our actions, our prayers and our sacrifices.

Rupintejelis, 'The Pensive Christ', one of the most picturesque of the wooden handwork of Lithuanians. Pensive Christs are seen all over Lithuania. Christ sitting down, holding his hand, worrying with grave concern, and praying. This faith symbol also reminds us to be pensive, reflective, remembering our commitment to God.

The Chronicle of the Catholic Church is Lithuania.

The Chronicle serves as a source of example and strength in our life of faith. Reflections upon the sufferings of Christ and our brothers and sisters in Lithuania can give us strength to be the staunch believer, the Christian, the follower, the lover of Christ that we want to be.

The offerings of the sacrifice itself—the Chalice and Sacred Hosts

It is said that the one host is made of many grains of wheat and the wine is made from many grapes. This is another symbol that brings out the point of Christian community. All God's children, all God's people, united with Him are like the components of the host and the wine.

As we sang our traditional Lithuanian hymns, our minds were joined in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Lithuania, and with believers throughout the world, in a unified commitment to be aware of our faith and to serve the Lord with fidelity and Christian obedience.

Saturday, August 9

Holy Mass Observed Memory Of

Deceased Members Of The Knights Of Lithuania

On Saturday, Holy Mass took place at Noon at the hotel. It honored the deceased members of the Knights of Lithuania.

Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis served as principal celebrant. He was assisted by Fr. Albin Janiunas, H.M., (Spiritual Advisor, C-78, Lawrence, MA) and Fr. John Mikaljunas (Spiritual Advisor, C-72, Binghamton, NY). Sister _____ of the Sisters of St. Casimir, read the scriptural passages for the day's liturgy.

"How many Vyciu have we prayed for during the years since our organization was established in 1913?", asked Fr. Jurgelaitis, wonderingly, "...From the very first one to the most last, the most recent."

There have been many, but our united prayer, at this Mass, explained Father, will be extensive and effective enough to reach every single one of them.

Lithuanians have traditionally fostered respect of the dead. This part of our religious heritage extends back to our pagan beginnings. Our people, our grandparents have long observed many customs and devotions which relate to the deceased.

One of the best possible ways to remember those who have died, however, is by offering the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass for their intentions. It is a tremendous sacrifice because it is Jesus Christ who is the victim - the gift that we offer to God, the Father.

We can be assured that some of our departed Knights of Lithuania are definitely and firmly with God, the Almighty, in Heaven. Others may remain "close" to Him in Purgatory. They are there until they attain full purity, the necessary qualification for entrance to Heaven. The factor explains the urgency of our prayers at mass today-to help them achieve full purity.

Fr. Jurgelaitis spoke to us regarding our feelings of sadness when a person dies and of the the effect memories of our departed have upon us. During the course of the year, Father commented that he had said over 65 special Masses for individual departed Knights. And always, when information is provided, he sends letters of sympathy to family members. A tremendous comfort and consolation to all of us and to individual families in these moments of sadness is

that in the reality of our faith, these individuals are not dead - they are alive with Christ, with God. Their physical departure from this earth is a reality, but spiritually, they will never be gone, never forgotten.

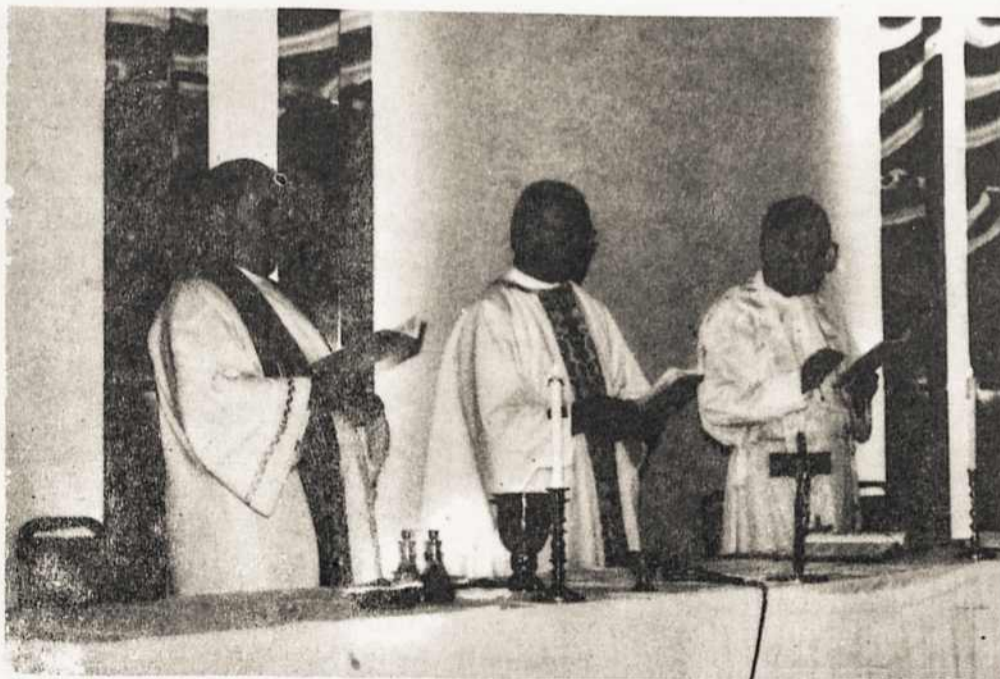
The death of friends and family members can become a beauty and a joy when we pray on their behalf. Our act of charity on their half is both blessed and pleasing to God. Spiritual grace is bestowed upon us from Our Lord in Heaven for these acts. At this Mass today, a spirit of unity binds us all - Our Lord, our deceased and ourselves.

As our Knightly congregation paused to reflect on the spiritual lesson presented to us by Father, the names of those Knights that had died during the past year were mentioned individually.

In their honor symbolic gifts were offered to the Lord:

—A vial of earth from Lithuania
(the region of Trakai)

This was to symbolize our natural resting place and also the unity of America with Lithuania.



Spiritually, our deceased members will never be gone, never forgotten



We hope our united prayer will be extensive and effective enough to reach every single one of our deceased

—Ruta

A symbol of innocence, of the purity that is needed to gain entrance to the Heavenly kingdom of God.

—Bread and Wine

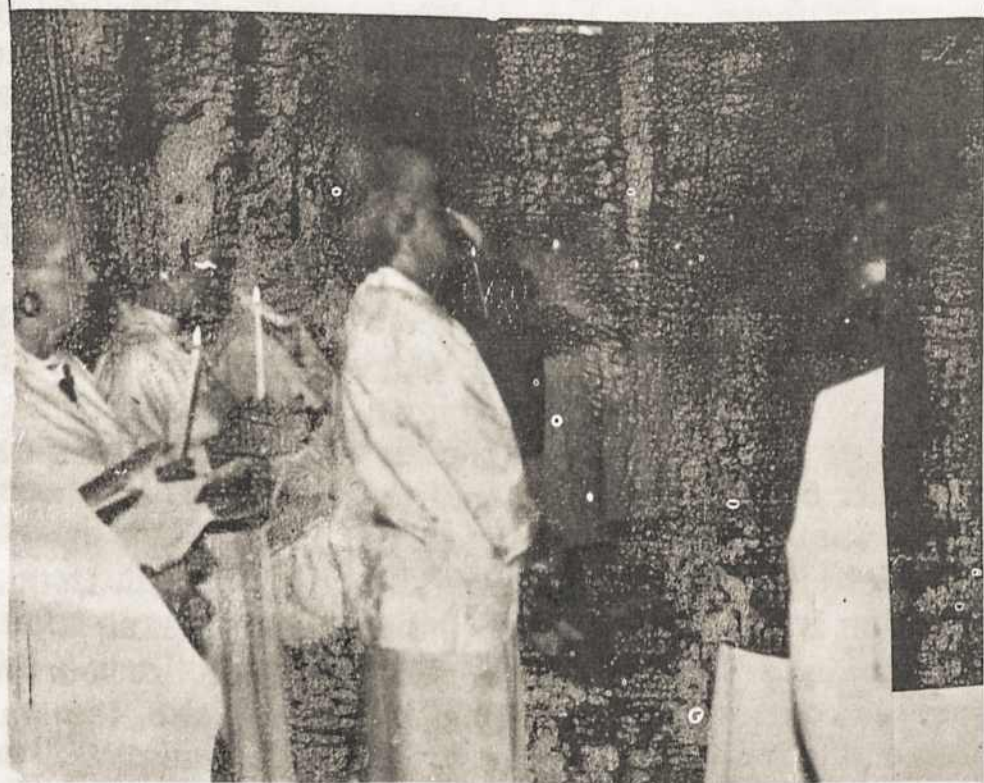
The traditional gifts symbolic of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our eternal salvation.

Through the singing of our traditional Lithuanian hymns, directed by Liudas Stukas, all the Knights of Lithuania expressed the joy of the resurrection and eternal life.



The K of L offers gifts symbolizing unity, purity and eternal salvation

Closing Mass of the Convention



National Ritual Chairperson Magdalena Smailis leads the presentation of the 4th Degree Awards



Msgr. Frank Bulovas receives his 4th Degree Medal from Bishop Baltakis

Our final Mass was held at Packer Memorial Church on the campus of Lehigh University, the alma mater of Lee Iacocca.

Bishop Paulius Baltakis, with the assistance of Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis, Fr. Albin Janiunas, Fr. John Mikaljunas, and Msgr. Frank Bulovas (Mid-Atlantic District Spiritual Advisor) bestowed the 4th Degree upon the following Knights:

1. Adele A. Martus, C-17
2. Alice Opanasets, C-17
3. Charles Kulakusky, C-26
4. Walter Brazaitis, C-29
5. Eva Coll, C-29

6. Adele Urbanas, C-29
7. Msgr. Frank Bulovas, C-109
8. Adeline Dausickas, C-110
9. Lottie Ulrich, C-110
10. Albert Matulis, C-112
11. Juozas Juska, C-112
12. Eleanor Kasputis, C-112
13. Catherine Brandt, C-140
14. Katherine Cravetts, C-140
15. Alma Linder, C-144
16. Anna Panchari, C-144
17. Eleanor Vaicaitis, C-144
18. Joseph Yezulinas, C-144
19. Anna Zaldaris, C-144
20. Ann O'Neill, C-29

Their knightly flame was passed along to the newly elected members of the Supreme Council and Executive Board who were duly sworn in and given God's blessings for a successful year of working for God and Country.

Sister _____, of the Sisters of Jesus Christ Crucified, led us in the Scriptural readings for Sunday's Mass.

Fr. Jurgelaitis, our National Spiritual Advisor, presented to the 73rd Knights of Lithuania National Convention a farewell homily. Within this homily Father also presented a final resolution



Lord, we resolve to become more aware of our faith and fulfill the commitment we made to you at our baptism more fully

- He proposed that we should resolve to become more aware of our faith and to recognize and perform more fully the commitment we made to the Lord at our baptism. We must recognize and give thanks for the many, many gifts God has given to us - especially our faith. We must do this as individuals and as the Knights of Lithuania, our organization.

"For those to whom much is given; much is also required," quoted Father, from a speech used during the presen-

tation of this year's scholarship awards. We are all obligated to keep our faith. We must strive to learn more, to understand better all peoples, all nations. We must learn to share and share generously and joyfully. We must learn to sacrifice together. Our tasks are not simple. Our struggle will be lessened if we join together and work hard to reject Satan, to be prepared to suffer for Christ.

And as we work together to achieve these goals, by the gift of God - the Holy

Spirit, we will become revitalized. Then we will celebrate and rejoice as we thank God for his eternal love and many other eternal gifts.

It was evident we were on our way to revitalization from the echos of our voices as we sang with exuberance our traditional Lithuanian hymns. And as we concluded with "Lietuva Brangi" and our own American anthem, the spirit and love of God joined us spiritually with our brothers and sisters in Lithuania, and all over the earth.



Anna Wargo offers our sacrifice to Bishop Baltakis



We must learn to sacrifice together



Frances Petkus offers our gift of thaks to God to Bishop Baltakis

Knights of Lithuania Junior Convention — 1986



At the Junior Business Session, this Task Force displayed their awareness of faith and heritage

The Junior Knights had arranged a pre-convention activity... a trip to the "Wild Water Kingdom". However due to the fact that no juniors arrived early enough to attend, it was cancelled.

On August 7th, as the convention activities of the 73rd National Knights of Lithuania Convention began, a schedule of events for Juniors was posted in the lobby. This year a new feature was added to the Junior Convention arrangements. They had a special Junior Hospitality Room. Soda, pretzels, chips and candy were stocked daily.

On Thursday afternoon a pizza/pool party was held at the hotel. It was attended by 14 Juniors. This provided a great opportunity for the Juniors to renew old friendships and make new ones.

Friday, August 8th found the Juniors at Dorney Park. There were 18 Juniors and 3 chaperones. The chaperones were Irene Sveikla, Jeanette Brower and Junior Vice-President Maryte Lepera.



Amber Keenan and Daina Budreckis get a K of L hug from Mr. Bear at Dorney Park

The business session of the Junior Convention was held the morning of Saturday, August 9. The Juniors were ready and prepared for work.

The meeting began with a prayer. Irene Strazdis, C-41, was selected to be the Junior Convention secretary.

The first item for discussion on the Junior agenda was the Youth Task Force. At the 1985 National Convention a resolution was passed which stated:

Be it resolved that a Knights of Lithuania Task Force be established to pursue the study of problems relating to younger Knights of Lithuania, as initiated by the "Youth Talks Back" panel at this year's convention, and that the aforesaid "Youth Task Force" be comprised of a majority of members under 30 years of age.

The Juniors recognized one problem. They are not getting involved enough in Lithuanian affairs and functions. Ways to resolve this problem were also discussed. Below are listed the Juniors suggestions to help them become more involved:

1. During regular council meetings, a junior should be given/assigned a task or responsibility to perform. This activity could be related to a scheduled Lithuanian affairs activity (writing letters) or cultural presentation.
2. The regular councils should present more cultural activities and invite the Juniors to participate. A slide presentation on someone's trip to Lithuania would be enjoyed by Juniors.
3. Lithuanian language should be used more at meetings. It would be relatively easy to initiate the use of simple words and phrases. If more adults spoke Lithuanian, the Juniors might catch on also.
4. When possible we should do school projects on Lithuania and Lithuanians.
5. More information needs to be told Juniors regarding the situation in Lithuania.

The Juniors also were interested in having their own newsletter.

The second topic for discussion was the Junior Knights of Lithuania participation at the 6th Worldwide Lithuanian Youth Congress. It is to be held in Australia in December 1987. During the past year the Juniors have been attempting to raise money for the trip by selling stationery. The Juniors expressed that they were willing to become more involved with fund raising for this project. Suggestions on other fund raising means were 1) Junior sponsorship of a brunch at the next national convention; and 2) some type of lottery.

The Juniors learned two new songs during their session. Juniors Kristina Balten and Alverdas Budreckis led the song presentation. The songs were "Daug, Daug Daineliu" and "Kur Ginterais Nusetas Mariu Krantis".

Mr. William Piacentini, Chairman of the National Scholarship Committee, spoke to the Juniors about how prospective college bound and trade school candidates are chosen to receive a K of L scholarship. He informed the Juniors about how to apply for a scholarship and the records they need to keep of their activities. K of L involvement is considered in the selection of scholarship winners.

On Saturday afternoon the Juniors joined the business session of the regular members. \$25.00 conventionships were awarded to Kristin Olechowski, Paula Skudra, Barbara Mickunas, Janet Pettit, Irene Stradzis, Kristine Stradzis, Andrew and Walter Svekla, Diane, Edward and John Drumstas, Alverdas Budreckis and Amber Keenan. A special surprise occurred during this session. Mrs. Frances Rauba, Council 144 agreed to sponsor a youth to go to Australia. To this wonderful K of L'er the Juniors express a special... Aciu!!! Aciu!!!

Maryte Lepera, Vice-President in charge of Juniors, also wishes to express "special thank-you's" to Barbara Mickunas, who served as her Convention Co-Chairman, and to Mrs. Julie Zakara for substituting for her daughter Maria Deksnis, 2nd Vice-President, Mid-America District.

Juniors attending the convention included:

1. Kristin Olechowski
2. John Barcinauskas
3. Paula Skudra
4. Vytas Balciunas
5. Barbara Mickunas
6. Janet Pettit
7. Irene Stradzis
8. Christine Stradzis
9. Kristina Balten
10. Andrew Sveikla
11. Walter Sveikla
12. Edward Drumstas
13. John Drumstas
14. Diana Drumstas
15. Alverdas Budreckis
16. Daina Budreckis
17. Amber Keenan



Ačiu, ačiu Juniors. We award you these conventionships for your hard work and dedication



Ačiu, ačiu, Mrs. Rauba. We thank you for your faith in us



“Personal Commitment

These words taken from a prayer smuggled out of Lithuania explain the theme of the Convention's first panel. Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P., our national spiritual advisor served as the panel coordinator.

In this year of “faith consciousness” Father said we should take some time to be a little thoughtful, to look inside and around ourselves, and to reflect on God's presence around us. What is happening in our country, our city, our state, in our town, in our schools...? Are we expressing our Christian faith vividly, vitally and vibrantly?

In the first half of the panel, Fr. Jurgelaitis presented the “catastrophes” found in today's world. Nancy Pawasauskas Miro, C-141, played the role of the devil's advocate - presenting several news items which indicate a changing sense of values in our society.

...“Explosive growth of pornography aided by courtroom decisions” (Dateline: Washington, DC):

A draft report of the Justice Department's commission on pornography shows a direct relationship between actions by the federal government and the explosive growth in pornography and obscenity in the nation. The massive report which runs to well over 1,000 pages notes that it was not until the 1950's that

Friday, August 11, 1986

Reflecting on Faith Consciousness

“Grant, O Lord, to all of us that great gift of faith, so that we look at the world, ourselves, and you, God, in the light of faith!”

the U.S. Supreme Court began to involve itself substantially on the issue of pornography and obscenity. By 1966, the report says the range of permissible regulations could properly be described as “minimal” and the phrase “utterly without redeeming social value” entered the social fabric and today is making the legal restriction of pornography and obscenity extraordinarily difficult. The report finds there is a casual relationship between pornography and the level of sexual violence, sexual coercion, and unwanted sexual aggression. A reasonable conclusion for the findings of the Meese Commission is not that society has not demanded a loosening of sexual morals but that the Supreme Court opinions, and statements by such prestigious groups as the 1970 Presidential commission on pornography and obscenity, have propelled liberty in sexual abuse into society's mainstream, contrary to the public consensus.

Looking through the eyes of faith, said Fr. Jurgelaitis, something is called for. By looking at it, by reading about it, by becoming concerned and aware. Many people go through life not seeing problems, not doing anything to correct problems. That is not living the faith or being conscious.



or Catastrophe”

...“Supreme Court's war on people” (Dateline: Washington, DC)

In response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision of June 11th, reaffirming legalized abortion the American Life League issued the following statement: “This decision simply reaffirms the Supreme Court's *war on people.*” Judy Brown, President of ALL, commented, “This decision not only rules against preborn babies, it also rules against women. The Court has clearly said it does not care about either potential victims of abortion — the baby or the mother. It is ensuring the new paramount right of doctors to exploit abortion on demand... People should realize that it is the doctors who do not want the woman with a ‘crisis pregnancy’ to know the nature of abortion or about the possible alternatives. People should know it is the doctors that do not want to protect the baby — even after liability. The Supreme Court has abdicated. It has abandoned its charge responsibility to the citizens of this country...”

...“Cardinal John Krol says the Supreme Court has expressed judicial hostility to all religions”

• On June 11 in a homily given by Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, the Cardinal stated that the Supreme Court had departed in some of its

decisions from the constitutional principle prohibiting the establishment of religion, and instead expressed judicial hostility to all religions. He said that Catholics, in addition to criticizing the secular humanism of the Court should examine our own consciousness regarding being sufficiently alert in claiming our rights. Krol also charged that the Court was ridiculous in asserting that observing a 'minute of silence' in public schools would amount to the establishment of religion. What religion can be established by a moment of silence?

Responding to these news items, Fr. Jurgelaitis said that although we have been taught to respect the Supreme Court, the 'law of the land', certainly when we find out that the Court is judicially hostile to people's rights something must be done. They are sort of teaching that religion doesn't count.

How do Catholics act in Lithuania? For them, those laws that touch upon conscience are to be disregarded - as a matter of conscience. They risk going to jail, labor camps, or psychiatric wards. True believers stand firm in their faith and state, "Let God take care of my career...if they don't let me go to the university, or tech school."

Do you see the relationship? Do you see that we, American-Lithuanians, must also join in a proper understanding of law. There comes a moment, when we must examine our consciousness, as Cardinal Krol mentioned, and make a decision through the eyes of faith...could we not write a letter, or could we not speak out. We must always be on the alert to the 'catastrophes' that are around us.

After a few comments from the floor, Fr. Jurgelaitis noted that presently President Reagan is replacing some judges on the Supreme Court. It is critical that we now face our responsibilities as citizens inspired by faith in God and our knowledge of truth, to influence the President's choice. By letter writing, by words, by example or whatever means, we must strive to ensure that the Supreme Court be a matter of right, not just legality. This is a catastrophe staring us in the face.

... "Anti-Catholicism as rooted in Church opposition to contraception" (Dateline: Washington)

There are many groups who are anti-Catholic; as stated by Fr. Richard Roach, at a February 9th Catholic League gathering in St. Paul, MN. One root of these groups being hatred of Christ — antipathy toward Christ; another being the Church's condemnation of contraception and related matters. In his talk, Fr. Roach emphasized that anti-Catholicism is helped greatly by ignorance of nominal Catholics. Two truths are needed to dispel that ignorance. First, an understanding of church authority and an understanding of why contraception is wrong.

Vatican II documents are essential for the understanding of Church authority. A great source of confusion develops when certain theologians assert that only solemnly defined teachings bind. Actually both solemnly defined and ordinary universal teachings of the Church constitute the one deposit of our faith.

Fr. Jurgelaitis stressed that there is a need to look at the teachings of the Catholic Church through the eyes of faith. Objections to the Church's teachings on contraception is a catastrophe, a prevalent problem in our lifetime. And how should we react to those that criticize our beliefs? Communists and atheists in Lithuania hate the Christians, the believers, throughout the Soviet Union. That, too is a catastrophe. We both must stand firm in our Church's beliefs and pray that the Lord gives us strength to see things as He sees them.

... "Pope John Paul II-Yes; Fr. Charles E. Curran-No" (Dateline: Rochester, NY)

So stated a recent large advertisement in the **Rochester Democrat Chronicle** - March 23, 1986; by a group of concerned Roman Catholics in Rochester. The ad went on to state since his 1968 dissent from 'humanae', Fr. Curran has repeatedly undermined Catholic teachings on faith. In his writings and lectures, he

has contradicted Church doctrine on premarital sex, masturbation, contraception, abortion, homosexuality, divorce, euthanasia and invitro fertilization. The ad called upon all Catholics to express their solidarity with the actions taken by Pope John Paul II to restore doctrine and discipline in the Catholic Church...

One Catholic University theology professor, William May, who called the Vatican's action tragic in many ways, but necessary, said that in a sense, Fr. Curran is correct about being in the mainstream. There are many theologians that hold these same positions, but this factor doesn't make these views right. Curran's emphasis on the views of the 'majority' of the Church are irrelevant. Catholic theologians who stress majority opinions should consider the consequences of 'piety by plebiscite'.

In the situation of Fr. Curran or other dissenting theologians, we are placed in a very touchy situation. It is not our position to ascribe guilt. The real factor here is dissent with the teachings of the Catholic Church. The ordinary, everyday teaching of the Church, that which has been propounded and expounded in the documents of Vatican Council and inspired by the Holy Spirit, is what we are ordered and enacted to follow. In theology, they seek out the absolute things to believe. Those which might be considered secondary are discarded. But as Catholics, we are bound to follow the whole doctrine of the Church, not just the absolutes, but also the teachings of the Pope, Cardinals and Bishops. This, too, represents a catastrophe. We must look at it and pray about it. We must seek to realize that God knows best. We cannot tell God what to do or what to teach us. Truth is not a question of majority vote. God cares for us in loving ways, caring ways, but not always telling ways. Where do we look for the final answer? In faith. Faith says that the church is the teacher. That is an attitude that can strengthen us when we are faced with a decision about following or not following, supporting, or not supporting church teachings.

"The studies of U.S. textbooks downplaying the role of religion"
(Dateline: Washington, DC)

The role of religion in American life, past and present, is largely omitted in today's school textbooks according to three recent studies. All three studies concurred that U.S. history and social science textbooks, from 1st grade through 12th grade, treat religion by simply excluding it, or by brief and simplistic reference.... If students grow up ignorant of the role of religion, religious faith and religious freedom in American life than we will have badly failed them. The absence of any mention of religion in school is as bad as giving too much emphasis to one religion or another. We are the most religious country in the modern world. But reference to this fact does not appear in our textbooks. The bottom line is that many students are graduating from high school with a distorted view of American history and are ignorant about issues of religious freedom.

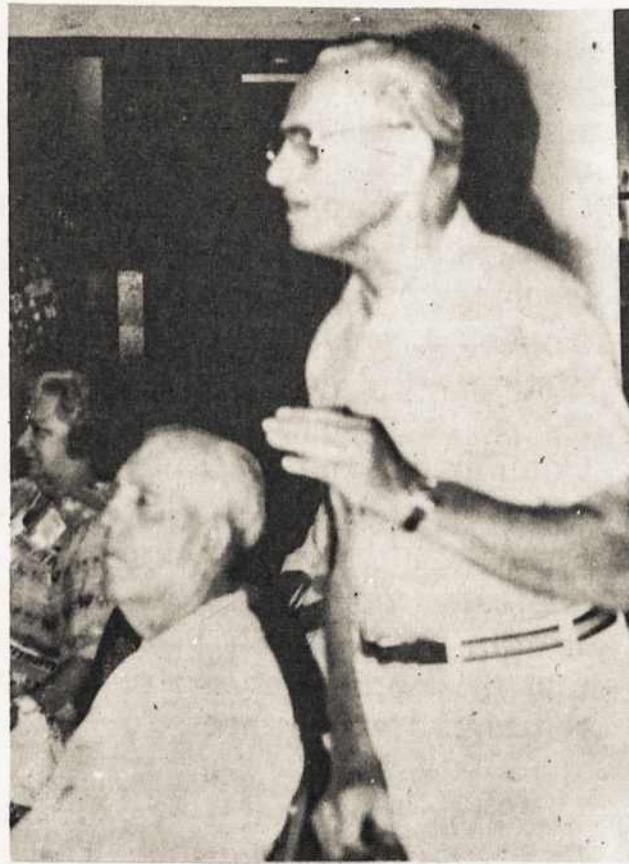
Fr. Jurgelaitis posed a question to the convention, "How many of your children, grandchildren go to school? Public school?" He asked if we were aware of what is happening. Neglect, lack of concern is an attitude which has become a worldwide catastrophe. People may not reject God to the point of being atheist, but they will come to a point where it doesn't matter. This is a catastrophe!

How do we face it! Through an awareness of our faith. When the time and opportunity presents itself in our community, we must act to return facts about religious freedom and religions role in American history to the schools of our country. Over the years we have seen freedom of religion progress toward freedom for non-religion. That non-religion seems to dominate. It's something to fight — with the weapons of faith and with the weapons of God.

Our brethren in Lithuania have resolved to do penance for sins against the faith. Why not follow their example:

... "The power of television-what thinking people have to say about that medium"

Our panel had many clippings about the effects of television upon us — providing a fascinating glimpse of people's thoughts regarding its effects. Nancy Miro commented that from her pile of clippings she concluded that it was impossible to find a child development expert who would wave compliments in televisions' directions. About the best thing they would say is that TV is a mixed blessing. Although parents develop guilt feelings about the amount of time their children spend watching TV, they also will state that TV is a convenient babysitter. Teachers are concerned about the effects of TV watching: noting that we are producing a lack of interest for reading; yet what about Sesame Street? Most Americans would not admit that Americans, on the



Casimir Yanish, C-74, expressed his concerns regarding Supreme Court interpretations of the law

average, spend more than 7 hours a day watching TV.

In 1975, the U.S Catholic Conference issued a statement that TV is the single, most formative influence shaping American lives, attitudes and values. TV molds the intelligence and character of youth, far more than schools or parents.

Would a good solution to this problem be to do without TV totally? that is what we asked. Looking through the eyes of faith, what would be the answer to this question? TV is a mixed blessing... it can be a blessing... it can be a curse. We can see the catastrophe that faces us. But if we pledge to follow our 'faith consciousness', to be aware of over indulgence, and unknowing temptations, we should suffer less from the ill-effects of TV.

What is going on around you? I'm sure you now see some of the catastrophes that face us daily!

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

The upcoming Jubilee of Lithuania's Christianization has served as the theme through out this panel. We think of the years 1251-1387-1413. The baptism of Lithuania is reflected in these important dates. How many of us remember the exact date of our baptism? Very few. But, for us, in our own lives, baptism is a million times more important than our birth dates. It really is — WHY? We can enjoy our physical life for 70, 80, maybe a 105 years, but WE ARE BAPTIZED FOR ETERNITY. After our birth, we may have the responsibility to keep our physical body together until God calls us but what is more important is what God does for us in baptism. He adopts us as His children. He calls us brother, sister... friend. This is ever so important.

Likewise as important is our response to baptism. What is the response of baptism? It is a challenge, a challenge to say — I renounce Satan and everything he stands for. At baptism we made a vow, a sacred promise... the first of several that occasionally follow in a lifetime. Others include the sacred promise of

matrimony, a vow to religious life — the priesthood. Although we made this vow through others, through our godparents we are expected to be conscious and conscientious about it. Baptism is really a challenge in us to help make our faith grow, to do all we can to cooperate with God. We must strive to make our baptism as complete, as meaningful as possible throughout our lives. Baptism does not merely touch our physical life, but reaches into life hereafter. It is of extreme importance. It is a big, big project. We know that we cannot increase faith in ourselves just as we cannot increase charity in ourselves. These are gifts of God. God has to give the increase as He gave the gift. But... we can help. That was God's plan. How do we help? By making a personal and spontaneous commitment to the Lord. If we deny our commitment, or forget it, there is no way to helping our faith grow. But when we do... we will be surprised at the things to come.

Let's look at the shape of some of the commitments that are possible in our lives. There is no absolute order to when or where Our Lord will challenge us to fulfill our commitment to him, but when we are asked we must do so with a positive readiness.

Taking a cue from our Lithuanian-American Christian heritage we are asked to respond to the Lithuanian bishops' proposals for preparing for Lithuania's Christianity Jubilee. For the first year, 1985, they proposed a year of the "Good News". They suggested to Lithuanian Catholics, and beyond them, to us, to get to know the "Good News", the Bible, the word of God. We were urged to read it day by day, week by week, as a constant step in order to grow.

Non-Catholic Christians have accused us, and with good reason, of not knowing the scriptures. Protestants outshine us in their love for the Bible. Recently I saw a sermon on T.V. The preacher was at the pulpit; he had a Bible in his hand. The individual in charge of the camera took a shot at the audience. He slowly screened by those listeners. Everyone had a Bible, an open Bible, in his or her hands... following the readings, checking as the preacher instructed them to go the Chapter 51,



Delegates reflect on how to make a personal and spontaneous commitment to the Lord

verse, psalm, etc. Is there something to be learned by us from this? What do you see in **your** churches? In regards to a Bible? We have a missalette. We know that the proper thing to do is to listen carefully to the Word of God. But it might help to follow along. Are we making an effort to take hold of the "Good News" of the Lord? Or could we all study the Word of God more attentively.

How many of us have a Bible in our homes? Almost a perfect 100%. But is your Bible, a well-thumbed Bible? Should I get to know the Bible a little better? No one will deny that we shouldn't. Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. One of the fathers of the Church once said that. If we do not possess a well thumbed Bible could it be true that we also do not know Christ that well? We should ask the Holy Spirit to move us, to prompt us to become more acquainted with the "good news", the work of God.

Another question. What percentage would you give yourself in the knowledge of faith? 90%? 70%? 99%? An honest answer to this question should flush our cheeks with a touch of flame. Why am I so ignorant in the faith? you might ask yourself. Am I too

lazy? Is the power of T.V. more powerful than the revealed Word of God? I am going along O.K. Why is it important that I become more knowledgeable? Answers to these questions might reveal that sometimes we put our pride before the Lord. If we do not take the time to read, we are not using a gift we have been given. So what, we answer. I don't need more faith, more knowledge. This is how we get ourselves into blind alleys. One cannot explicate oneself. If you don't read, if you don't make an effort to obtain a Bible, a religious book, to learn your religion... how would you get to know faith better and to love it? Simple knowledge of our faith is not sufficient. We must learn to love it and to live it. You cannot love a person unless you know him. Unless you know the Scriptures, unless you have some further growing knowledge you cannot really know and love Christ. Try it, you'll like it. It's your own faith consciousness.

Perhaps we don't say the Rosary too often to praise the Blessed Mother, for the conversion of Russia. It could mean the liberation of all the occupied and persecuted countries. But if we did try, if we did pray the Rosary a few times... then we might begin to see a

kind of little reward. This goes along with faith. Perhaps we will begin to like saying the Rosary, and the more we like it, the more we will love it. All of us are aware that breathing is a sign of life. If a person ceases breathing, one tries to revive the person with CPR. Your breath becomes the breath that maintains life within that individual. Likewise, prayer is the breath of faith that is in us. We said we are baptized, we said we have the faith and we do. As people of God we should pray as regularly as we breathe. The more frequent, the more thoughtful prayer is something that comes from a personal commitment. This is the year to think about this, and to ask the Holy Spirit to give us the courage to become personally committed to God. Prayer of petition is a beautiful thing. God loves our prayers of petition.

But prayers of petition are not the *only* kind of prayer. We should not limit our vision. The eyes of faith tell you that there is also a prayer to praise God. *Glory be to God!* That's a prayer. *Praise Now thank thee all our God!* It's a tremendous beautiful feeling and a very faithful feeling to pray or sing such thoughts. And is it not more beautiful and more effective to pray, "Lord, give *the Lord!* That's a prayer. There is also a prayer of gratitude. *Thank the Lord!*

Commemorative Medallion Report



Loretta Stukas, Chairperson of the Committee for the Commemorative Medallion for the 600th Anniversary of Lithuania's Christianity reported that a "first strike" ceremony took place at the Medallion Art Company in Danbury, CT in July. We had the pleasure of pushing the button, of seeing the dyes come down and initiating the strike into the first of our commemorative medallions. It was a very, very exciting experience.

him; Lord give her; Lord grant them" than to pray, "Lord, gimme this, gimme that"? When we forget our own particular needs and pray for others, we do as Jesus did, as Jesus does for us. Frequently, after Sunday sermons, when time permits, Fr. Jurgelaitis mentioned that he asks the congregation who he is addressing - How do you pray? How do you live from Sunday to Sunday? The reason is, to ask, do we pray only on Sunday, not on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday... There is a necessity to praise God, to thank God any time, any day. Something should be done about the in-between days, even though we worship God principally on Sundays.

We must think about attitude, about commitment - those personal and private. And also, we must think about what commitments the Knights of Lithuania can make in relationship to this year of conscious and conscientious faith that we are actively participating

What commitments can we do together in a group. During this panel we tried to arouse our commitment as individuals, to help us learn to live according to the Holy Gospel. We have stressed prayer. Bishop Baltakis and the Central Committee for the Anniversary of Lithuania's Christianization also stress prayer. We must ask the Lord to give life to our persecuted brothers and

At this time, we were also given another surprise. The Medallion Art Company presented us with four, specially made, no charge, medallions in pewter.

One of these medallions will go to Mr. Kasuba, who designed the medallion. Two, of the others, Loretta Stukas presented at the first session of the National Convention to Bishop Baltakis, and to Mr. Jonas Kavaliunas—the Chairman of the Central Committee for Lithuania's Christianity Jubilee.

Mr. Kavaliunas in acceptance of this medallion sincerely thanked the Knights of Lithuania and Loretta Stukas on behalf of the Jubilee Committee.

"Loretta Stukas was not scared, she took one of the most difficult responsibilities of the Jubilee Committee. She did a beautiful job, for as Bishop

sisters in Lithuania. We must not just do things on a material plane, such as the exhibits, the books, the plays, the poems, etc. Our efforts in promoting the sale of the medallion are helping the cause, but we must go beyond this.

Things on a spiritual plane are much more valuable. We must ask the Holy Spirit to make it possible for us to have the courage, the strength to commit ourselves to spend a definite length of time, at each meeting until at least the end of the Jubilee Year of 1987, to commit ourselves to some spiritual and/or religious topics of discussion or prayer. If we set our minds to it, we will be able to have good results.

Following this discussion on being aware of our faith comments were taken from the floor. Individuals talked about the catastrophes that they saw in their own communities. We expanded further on the Church's response to these catastrophes throughout history. The complexity of faith awareness was well demonstrated. And we realized there is no easy answer. When we deal with issues of everyday life, with issues affecting our role in the Church it is very difficult to judge right from wrong. We must therefore strive to get to know God better, to become more informed, so that we can love the Lord and his love can shine through us and especially on our brothers and sisters in Lithuania.

Baltakis has mentioned, we have the medallion almost a year ahead of time."

Mr. Kavaliunas further mentioned the contribution Jack Stukas made in this accomplishment. Jack Stukas presented to the Jubilee Committee the money that was lacking in order to begin the making of the medals.

It is also the Knights of Lithuania who have made the first arrangements for the Jubilee celebrations to be held in Rome. I don't know how to thank you for your support, said Mr. Kavaliunas, except:

"Ei vyčiai gyvenam tautai ir bažnyčiai.

Krikščionybės stiprybė Lietuvos ateitis.

Broliai ir seserės Vyčiai, jūs dirbate dėl krikščionybės Stiprybės, tuo pačiu jūs dirbate dėl Lietuvos ateities. . . ačiū labai.



Young people in Lithuania - explosive with laughter, sensitive, idealistic and rebellious. Adults are not always capable implicit in their

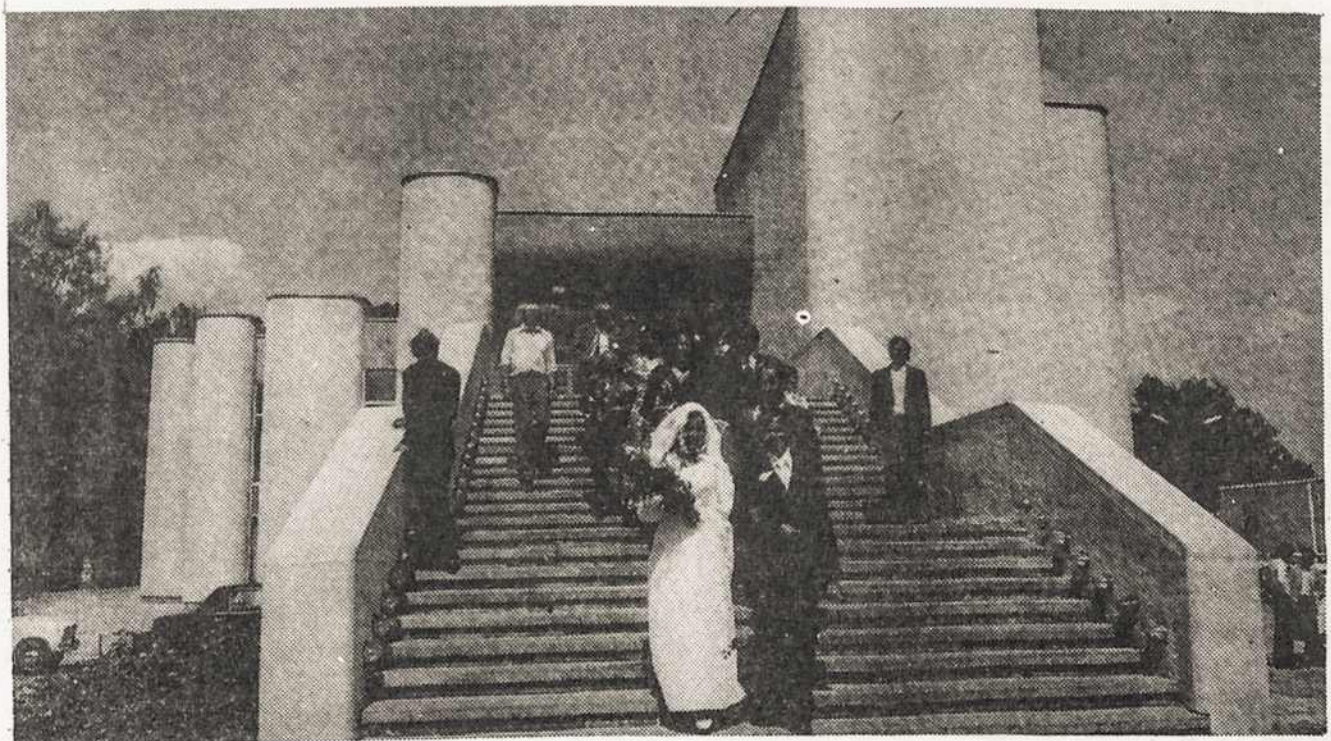
A GLIMPSE OF TODAY LITHUANIA - ITS FEELING, ITS PEOPLE

On Friday afternoon, our First Vice-President, Dr. Algirdas Budreckis conducted a panel he introduced as the "21st century Lithuanian cultural seminar". Panelists and moderators included Gintaras and Astra Karosas, of Baltic Associates and members of the "Televisios" family, Antanas, Povilonas, Grazonis, Zelonis and others.

In actuality this panel was a glimpse of Lithuania in 1985. It was based on edited 120 hours of video film taken by Gintaras Karosas in Lithuania. The

purpose of the panel was to show you present day Lithuania and its culture. One noticed similarities and differences between present day Lithuania and that of the past, and also with American-Lithuanian way of life in the United States.

Gintaras Karosas' 120 hours of video film were edited down to an approximate one hour presentation. It showed young people of Lithuania, struggling in an occupied country. It expressed Lithuania - its feeling and its people.



A civil marriage in Lithuania transacted in the antiseptic, atheistic mausoleum-like atmosphere "wedding palace" in Vilnius.

Thursday Evening:
Lithuanian "Vakaruškos"



Samples of C-144 Juniors high-spirited dancing

On Thursday evening a Lithuanian "Vakaruskos" was held at Nine Oaks Center in Coplay, just outside Allentown.

Anna Klizas Wargo, President, C-144; was emcee for the evening. After a short invocation by Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, a piping hot Pennsylvania-Dutch home style dinner was served to the guests. From ham to turkey, complete with all the trimmings.

Entertainment was provided by talented singers and dancers from C-144's Juniors. The 34 children ranging in ages from 4 to 15 delighted their audience. They are directed by Rita Shevokas, who also serves on our



Rita Shevokas, directs the future of the K of L - our youth.



C-144 Juniors stir remembrances of times past through their innocent voices

National Scholarship Committee. All of them proudly sang the songs of Lietuva for us. In addition their high-spirited dancing of "Suk, Suk, Rateli" and the Lithuanian "Finger Polka" encouraged members of all ages to follow them on the dance floor. The evening's music was provided by Denny Murdock and his orchestra.

During an orchestral intermission, some more mature members of C-144 demonstrated the broad spectrum of talent this council possesses. A traditional, old-fashioned Lithuanian wedding was enacted by the C-144 "players". This was complete from the

matchmaker to Wedding Day Eve through to after-the-wedding festivities. Anna Wargo narrated the event. Among the star performers were Joseph Yesuliunas, Helen Chesko, Anna Bender, Edmund and Anne Carlitus, Verna Danisavich, Helen Kratulis, Anne Sikora and Eleanor Vaicaitis. It was a noteworthy performance.

Socializing and dancing continued until late in the evening. It was rumored that the last bus returned quite late to the hotel. And its passengers still had not stopped singing. Among these late night vocalists were: John and Regina Kot, Helen Shields, Bob Klova, Bernice Aviza, Sabina Klatt, Algirdas Budreckis and others.



Prašau! Šokite! Daimuokite!



The Juniors are right. Dancing is a lot of fun



Mistress of Ceremonies, Regina Gerutis Kot National Cultural Chairperson

Mistress of ceremonies, Regina Gerutis Kot, our National Cultural Chairperson, welcomed all Knights, delegates, honored guests and friends on Thursday evening to the Knights of Lithuania annual Cultural Night.

She introduced the Lithuanian men's singing group, "DAINOS", from Philadelphia, PA. The group was formed in 1983 with the hope of developing a varied repertoire of Lithuanian music and sharing it for enjoyment with their audience. Its director is Vytas Maciunas, and the group's lovely accompanist is Anele Kaulinyte.

Mr. Maciunas led the group in an, indeed, varied musical program. Songs in the evening's selection included traditional folk songs, popular songs written by contemporary Lithuanians, and excerpts from classical operas. Among them were:

Saulėlydis Tėviškėje (Sunset in the Homeland)

Trakų Pilis (The Castle of Trakai)

Geria Broliai Alų (Brothers Drinking Beer)

Kareivių Daina (from the opera, Faustas) - (Soldiers Song)

Among these, "Geria Broliai Alų" proved to be very popular with the audience. In the second half of the program Rasa Krokyte and Vytas Maciunas sang a duet entitled "Paleisk Tėveli Lankon Žirgelį" (Father, Let the Horse Out of the Field). Soloist Rasa Krokyte sang several other pieces including "Anoj Pusej Maraliu", a Lithuanian folk song meaning "On the Other Side of the Sea".



Knights of Lithuania 73rd National Convention Cultural Night

DAINOS

presnts

an evening of Lithuanian
music



Rasa Krokyte charms her K of L audience with song



"Dainos broliai geria alų"



Director Vytas Maciunas leads "Dainos" in the evening's repertoire of Lithuanian music



Clemencine Miller, C-141, is rewarded for a "job well done":



Steve Cantons explains the charm of Lithuanian music

Also during the evening, awards were presented by Mrs. Kot to three council Cultural Committee Chairpersons who had written the best reports. She congratulated them for doing an outstanding job, not only in promoting our Lithuanian culture, but also for taking the time to document the activities of

their council. The awards were presented to:

1. Clemencine Miller, C-141, Bridgeport, CT
2. Adeline and Steve Raila, C-100, Amsterdam, NY
3. Ann Dudewicz, C-74, Scranton, PA

The evening was very enjoyable. Our performers joined in some informal singing in the hospitality room and individual room parties held later that evening.

Opening Session Invocation

*by Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P.
National Spiritual Advisor*

PRAYER OF FAITH from Lithuania

Lord, Our God and Father,
Too often
We are in the dark
We don't know where to step

Then it is...
That faith, that you, O God
Exist and lighten up the way of our
daily life.

Too often,
We are beset with difficulties,
We get tired, we grow sad

Then it is...
That faith, that you, O God
Are our Father
And Lighten the difficulties of our
daily life

Too often
We are afraid
We are surrounded by dangers

Then it is...
That you, O God,
Are at vigil beside us
And strengthen us on the way of life

Too often,
We grow angry,
We are revengeful

Then it is...
That faith, that you, O God,
Make us more patient and kind
Amidst the injustices of the world

And when joy and happiness visit us
And when the road is illuminated
And when our strength returns
Our Love is reawakened.

Then faith
That you are all good
And that all good comes from you
O God
Prompts us and encourages us
To be thankful
To love and to share
Your goodness with others

Grant, O Lord, to all
This great gift of faith
So that
We would look
At the world, at ourselves and at you
O Lord
Through the eyes of Faith.
That it would lead us
And prompt us
And urge us
All through our Daily life
All through our whole life
To wait for the day
When we shall be
In your loving embrace, O God
Amen

... We pray for the success of this convention, we ask the Holy Spirit to descend upon us and to be with us in order that all our activities, our work and intercommunications be according to God's will, according to our faith. We pray for all our members, all those who are sick, and who died during the past year. ... Hail Mary...

Saturday, August 9
**Convention Banquet
 and Ball:**



Fr. Jurgelaitis is a "jolly good fellow"

On Saturday evening, the annual Knights of Lithuania banquet took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Allentown Hilton. Al Klizas, C-63 President, served as our evening's master of ceremonies.

The evening began with the introduction of honored guests and newly elected members of the Knights of Lithuania Executive Board.

Following these formal introductions, Mr. Klizas introduced the Honorable Dave Howell, Allentown's Chief of Police. Chief Howell spoke to us on behalf of his "All-American" city of Allentown. He expressed his hope that our stay in Allentown had been pleasant. The Knights of Lithuania flag raising at City Hall, he noted, drew a great deal of attention. Allentown's citizens were proud to have us here. Chief Howell said that he did not want to be completely out done by Mayor Daddona who had presented our National President a key to the city. He,



Fran, can you dance with the two of them.

therefore, presented Al Klizas, C-63 President, an Allentown "All-American City" T-shirt. Concluding his remarks, Chief Howell welcomed the Knights of Lithuania to Allentown for any occasion.

The rest of the evening was highlighted with the presentation of the scholarship awards, the elevation of Fr. Jurgelaitis to Honorary Member, and the Presentation of the Friend of Lithuania Award to Congressman Don Ritter. To add to the festivities a representative from the Statute of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation was on hand to express her gratitude for the K of L's efforts in the renovation of the Statute of Liberty.

Our evening was finalized by frolic-ing, socializing and dancing. Joe Thomas and his band supplied the magical Lithuanian charm for those that danced to early morn. Others of us could be found in the hospitality room or other corners of the hotel partying.



"Joined in a common cause"



"Allentown - the All American City"



Playing a K of L tune



Dancing the night away



Congressman Ritter, the Knights of Lithuania are grateful to have a friend such as you. Your cause is My cause!

1986 Friend of Lithuania Award Congressman Don Ritter

**The Knights of Lithuania
express its gratitude
to a special friend**

Prior to presenting Congressman Don Ritter with the 1986 Knights of Lithuania "Friend of Lithuania" Award, National Lithuanian Affairs Committee Chairperson, Nancy Pawasauskas Miro, spoke regarding the efforts Congressman Ritter has demonstrated on behalf of Lithuania.

The primary goal of the Knights of Lithuania Lithuanian Affairs Committee is heighten the awareness of Lithuania's struggle for freedom. This task is almost overwhelming except when we receive help from our friends. We expect help from our Lithuanian brethren but when help comes from our non-Lithuanian friends, it becomes very special.

We have such a friend in Congressman Don Ritter of Pennsylvania, who has been selected to receive the 1986 Rev. John C. Jutt Friend of Lithuania Award. He joins the select group of past recipients who have also distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the Lithuanian cause. Congressman Ritter is currently serving his 4th term in the United States House of Representatives. He represents Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, the Lehigh Valley. His district is the state's 3rd largest metropolitan region and includes

Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. One of the few congressmen with a scientific background and the only one at the doctorate level Congressman Ritter makes good use of his background in various congressional committees concerned with science and technology, agriculture, energy and others.

But one of his most notable areas of expertise and activity is in the area of human rights and the cause of freedom and self esteem for communist-enslaved nations. The soul member of Congress who has had extensive exposure to Soviet society from the inside, he and his wife, Edie, lived for a year in Moscow. He speaks fluent Russian and has served as an exchange scientist at the *Vyklov* Institute of the Soviet Academy of Science. This has given him a lasting interest in U.S.-Soviet relations and a commitment to human rights. Congressman Ritter is the ranking republican on the Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe, better known as the Helsinki Commission which monitors the performance of Soviet bloc governments in human rights' areas. Congressman Ritter is also co-chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Baltic States and Ukraine. As an activist in the cause of human rights,

Congressman Ritter has especially endeared himself to the Lithuanians of this nation and to the local area. His remarks supporting Lithuania's right to self-determination appear frequently in the *Congressional Record*, as do his appeals to his fellow congressmen to support human rights causes. He is also a regular visitor and frequent speaker at local Lithuanian events—especially at commemorations of Lithuania Independence Day and the Terrible Days of June.

We are indeed grateful to have a friend such as **Don Ritter** in our court and we are honored that he has agreed to accept the well-earned honor to be our **1986 Friend of Lithuania**. We have a very special gift to present to Congressman Ritter this evening. As you know, our Lithuanian Christianity Jubilee Commemorative Medallions are available. We have had two of them framed for Congressman Ritter. They are positioned to illustrate both the observe and reverse sides of the medallion.

Congressman Ritter, on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania, I present to you the 1986 Rev. John C. Jutt "Friend of Lithuania" Award.

**Congressman Ritter's Words
In Acceptance
of the
"Friend of Lithuania"
Award**

"Your Cause is my Cause"

Ačiu, Ačiu, Sveikinu jus Vyčiai.

Greetings, Knights of Allentown and the Lehigh Valley, and all Knights of Lithuania gathered here this evening, (Congressman Ritter asks an individual to pass him a table decoration consisting of a glass decanter holding a candle).

This light that burns in this glass is like the flame that burns symbolically, like the one of the great lady who stands in New York's harbor, rejuvenated and renovated by efforts such as yours. It is like the flame that burns in the hearts of Lithuanian-Americans and Lithuanians all over the world. It is the flame of freedom.

I accept this award on behalf of the citizens of the Lehigh Valley, who have supported my efforts in Congress and the kind of efforts that you are familiar with on behalf of human rights. So many of my constituents in the Lehigh Valley have had similar experiences to yours. They are the Ukrainian-Americans, they are the Slovak-Americans, the Hungarian-Americans, the Polish-Americans, the German-Americans, the Chinese-Americans, and lately the Southeast Asian-Americans and yes, even some Afghan-Americans. Without them, without you, this award is not possible. So again, I say...*aciū, aciū, aciū, labai aciū.*

It was just last week that again we celebrated Helsinki Human Rights Day. This year was the 11th anniversary of the signing of the faithful Helsinki Accords. While I and many of my colleagues rose on the floor of the house of Representatives to express our solidarity with you and so many other



oppressed peoples, another message rang out from the halls of the Kremlin...from *Pravda*, which in Russian means truth, but in reality means exactly the opposite.

This is what *Pravda* reported on June 7, 1986:

"...Today, maybe President Reagan has the wrong name, or maybe his advisors have not explained to him that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are, of their own free will, an inalienable part of the Soviet Union and not oppressed people as they might appear, to the U.S. President from his California ranch."

Allow me to repeat *Pravda's* key statement - that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are of their own free will an inalienable part of the Soviet Union and not oppressed peoples. Ladies and gentlemen, we are struggling not only against totalitarian rule that is perhaps the most powerful military machine the world has ever known but also one that masks the truth. This statement from *Pravda* is a purposeful distortion of **objective** reality. Black is white, evil is good, terror is the people's democracy. The actual truth is, I don't have to tell you, that Lithuania and the rest of the Baltic states are *not* of their own free will a part of the Soviet Union.

Lithuania has a rich and independent heritage dating back to 1253 when Mindaugas was recognized as the first Christian king of Lithuania by Pope Innocent IV. For almost 500 years, part

of which was spent in an alliance with Poland, this tradition continued. However, when most of present day ethnic Lithuania was seceded into Russia in 1795, and through various occupations by the Russians and the Germans in years to come, Lithuanian's have fought to secure their rightful independence and self-determination. That fight continues until this very day, in fact this very moment. While Lithuanians achieved their goal in 1918, it was painfully taken away again, by the Soviets, in 1940. This was after the infamous, then secret, Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was agreed to by Hitler and Stalin. Hitler and Stalin..., those moral twins, how similar Marxism and Communism, how well they reflect the total institutional pressure of human spirit, how skilled, ideological and justified mass torture reflect terror and execution; how unparalleled in human history the concentration camp, the death camp, the gulag.

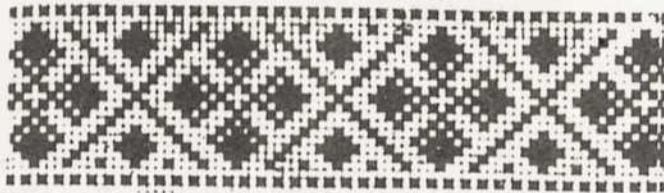
As we all know, through the ensuing World War and the peace time which has followed, peace came to the rest of the world, but peace in Lithuania was never to come again. Lithuania has not been able to achieve her rightful independence. It is that hope for independence, for greater independence, for some independence at all for the hope to see the yellow, green and red once again fly freely in the skies of Lithuania...that we gather here this evening. We come together committed

to a cause, committed to one another, committed in opposition to Soviet domination and brutality, a brutality that has continued in Lithuania now, for 40 years, for 40 long years. I think of when it all began...on that fateful night—June 14, 1941—a night engraved in the memory of, I am sure, many of you who are here today. Soviet troops forced more than 15,000 Baltic men, women and children, kicking and screaming, into railroad cattle cars and sent them off to uncertain fate, often death, in far off, in inhospitable Siberia. These were the leaders, the writers, the poets, the artists, the professionals, the business people, and their children. During the next 10 years, the Soviets eliminated more than 600,000 Baltic citizens—more than 10% of the total population of these nations. We saw the beginning of the Soviets' real aim to create a Lithuanian cast in the image of the Soviet Union. The actions taken by Soviet authorities were critical in achieving this goal to wipe out and clear the slate of all vestiges of Lithuanian independence, religion and culture.

At first, as I have already mentioned, the Soviets used deportations to the far reaches of Siberia and Gulag Archipelago. They used outright murder to achieve their goal. The method later changed to a more subtle, but yet intensive, russification campaign. Churches were closed, Christian education was stifled, Lithuanians were denied freedom of the press, citizens were prohibited from assembling together freely. Books and papers printed in the west were strictly forbidden into Lithuania in an attempt to break the Lithuanian people and erase all vestiges of their culture. Add to this a huge, Soviet directed influx of Russians and the manipulation of all schools, newspapers, radio and television by Soviet propagandists and we see the totality of the situation. However Lithuanians have vigorously resisted the stifling of their uniqueness and will not crumble to the dominance of Russian jargon and the Soviet state. The nationalization of Lithuania's industries, the collectivization of its agriculture and the sovietization of its economy have stripped Lithuania of its rightful heritage.

Yet the strong voice of Lithuanian-Americans, people like yourselves, will not allow the stripping away of that "core" Lithuanian culture and heritage.

Our last U.S. census, reported that there are over 800,000 ethnic Lithuanians living in the United States. That reminds us and encourages us that the Lithuanian heritage will not be trampled under by the Soviet boot and that the Lithuanian people are determined as ever to re-establish greater independence for Lithuania. Yes, perhaps somewhere in the distance, will come that ultimate dream of an independent, free Lithuania.



The Lithuanian heritage will not be trampled by the Soviet boot... The Lithuanian people are determined to re-establish greater independence...



Our U.S. policy must be committed to achieving that goal. During my tenure in Congress, as the ranking Republican member on the house side of the Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe, otherwise known as the Helsinki Commission, as co-chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Baltic States and Ukraine, I have along with my colleagues, steadfastly worked to bring the plight of oppressed Lithuanian people and others living under Soviet domination to the light of the American public. An example of the kind of work we're doing through the work of the Congressional Helsinki Commission, and our most recent conference in Berne, where Ambassador Michael Novack made our case, and the case of hundreds of persecuted peoples living within the Eastern wall,...made that case clear to Soviet authorities. As you might know, over 100 families were reunited and people were allowed to emigrate after that meeting. It's small...but its something.

Through the Ad Hoc Committee we've been working to see that the U.S. policy of non-recognition remains intact. As you know the U.S. has refused to legitimize Soviet control of the Baltic states and has continued to maintain diplomatic relations with representatives of the independent republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. A few years ago we ran into a flap. The State Department was making maps and the Baltic states were not represented on those maps. We took the case to the State Department and reversed that policy.

Recently the U.S. Department of State announced that several U.S. government officials were planning to participate in the Chatauqua Conference - the Eisenhower Institute Conference on U.S.-Soviet relations, a journey in diplomacy. It is scheduled for September 15-19. What has troubled me about this meeting is that it is taking place in the Soviet occupied country of Latvia. While the American Latvian community has okayed the trip, there still remains the question as to whether such a visit could be considered "defacto" recognition of Soviet control of the Baltic states. To thwart this perception, I, along with my colleagues on the Ad Hoc Committee, have sent a letter to Secretary of State Shultz to explain his position and to issue an official protest decrying the Soviet occupation of these countries—something that in all the years since World War II has never been done.

In our own Lehigh Valley, we plan a Peace and Freedom Day Rally which is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27th in the front of the Bethlehem Plaza Mall. Our rally will be attended by hundreds of members of the various Lehigh Valley ethnic communities and will stress the importance of peace *with freedom*. This is something sorely lacking in the so-called 'mainstream' peace movement. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as can make it. We can start something new here in the Lehigh Valley—a new movement for *peace and freedom...freedom and peace*. Those of Baltic heritage know there is no real peace in Lithuania. They, and you, know that fear, oppression, torture, enslavement deny real

peace. They know that today real peace in Lithuania, or anywhere in the Soviet Union, for that matter, is forbidden. There is no peace in slavery. No, there is no actual fighting between armies, just a war led by the elite against its people.

Through remembrances like Baltic Freedom Day, Helsinki Human Rights Day and special protests on behalf of special Baltic citizens like Kaisa Randpere, the 3-year old Estonian girl who is being held as a political hostage by the Soviets, and Mart Niklus, the Estonian human rights activist...and so many other Baltic activists we can do something. Priests in Lithuania now find themselves put in prison because of their beliefs—Fr. Tamkevicius, Fr. Svarinskas, Fr. Matulionis. Their only crime is to believe in God, to care for their flock. Is that peace? Is the state

which conducts a war against people who believe in God at peace? No. We, and my colleagues, will try, in the face of great odds, in the face of an American people which finds difficulty in filtering through to the reality of the Soviet state and what it seems to export, not only to its satellites to the west of Russia, but to national entities in its own borders and to national entities far beyond its borders, stretching to Asia, to Africa, to Central America. We will continue to keep the light of freedom alive on behalf of Lithuania and others. The prospects for peace in this world only exist if peace is combined with freedom. And that is extraordinarily difficult.

Prospects for peace will remain alive as long as some nation exists whose

main entity is freedom itself. The key to bringing freedom to the Baltic people and others who share their fate—lies in your determination. It lies in your determination and the determination of free peoples who understand the struggle for peace with freedom. No elected official, such as myself, can raise the consciousness of the nation without the enthusiastic support of concerned, involved, and active citizens like you. Let me say that the dedication which comes from your hearts gives me heart to join you, and to lead you. Your cause is my cause. It is the cause of the people of the Lehigh Valley, of America, and indeed of all humanity.

Thank you for this award. I am proud to be selected as the Friend of Lithuania for 1986. I will cherish it for as long as I live.

The Honorary and Dedicated Knights of Lithuania



First Row: Anne Mitchell, Ann Bender, Fr. Janiunas, Helen Shields. Second Row: Anthony Mazeika, Larry Janonis, Phillis Grendal, Estelle Rogers, Joseph Boley, Larry Svelnis, Fr. Jurgelaitis, Kazys Sipaila, Rita Pinkus, Al Wesey



Our New Honorary Member: Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P.



During Saturday evening's banquet the Honorary Membership Committee, and all the Knights of Lithuania, rejoiced when our National Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P. was elevated to honorary member.

Fr. Jurgelaitis, very patiently and humbly listened, as Honorary Members Anthony Mazeika and Helen Shields extolled Fr. Jurgelaitis for his many years of diligent and faithful service to the Knights of Lithuania. Words could not explain how his many years of service have contributed to the betterment of our organization.

After everyone sang a round of "Laimingu metu linkime" Fr. Jurgelaitis thanked everyone sincerely. He continued on to confess that since he received the official notice that he would be receiving this honor, he had some second thoughts. He did not want to give up his 4th Degree Medal because it was the medal of St. Casimir. He did not know what was written or what design the Honorary Membership Medal bore.

However, during the reception held before the banquet, he was finally able to discover what was on the medal. To his delight, St. Casimir was right in the center of the medal.

Now, Fr. Jurgelaitis continued, since I have this St. Casimir medal, I shall wear it, use it and live up to it. I will try to live up to the confidence that the Honorary Membership Committee and the Knights of Lithuania have placed in me. I tremble a bit, when I begin to realize what this medal implies. What does it mean? You just sang to me a song which goes "long years, long years, darbingau metu" This means laborious years. That is what I have to look forward to—long, laborious years.

However the implications of this medal did not daunt Fr. Jurgelaitis. He said—I have received it, I know what it means and I deeply respect it. Thank you sincerely, deeply.

Aciu, Aciu, Aciu...I mean it.
Thank you, thank you, thank you...
I mean it.

The Knights of Lithuania Help the Statute of Liberty's Light Shine Bright!

Another feature of Saturday nights' banquet was our K of L's Lady Liberty's report of the 4-year drive to raise monies for the renovation of the Statute of Liberty. Mary York, C-12, has mainstreamed the K of L efforts. This year, during the Statute's anniversary celebration, Mary stated we have helped to preserve the meaning of liberty for future generations.

Mary York introduced Maureen Hamilton, assistant director of the Grassroots National Movement at the Statute of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation. Ms. Hamilton was escorted to the speakers' table by Edmund Cook, President, C-12.

Ms. Hamilton stated that the success of the campaign to restore and rejuvenate the Statute of Liberty has been because of groups like the Knights of Lithuania. She extended special thanks to Mary York for her dedication and arduous efforts on behalf of Lady Liberty. She invited us to visit the newly renovated Statute and the Ellis Island Museum.

Our National President Frank Petrauskas presented Ms. Hamilton with the latest installment of our raising efforts. In total the Knights of Lithuania have raised over \$7,000. This well surpassed our initial pledge of \$5,000. Ms. Hamilton gave our National President a kiss of gratitude. And as a special token to remember the Knights of Lithuania by, Mary York presented Ms. Hamilton with a piece of amber—our Lithuanian gold.



**The Knights of Lithuania have
helped to preserve the meaning of
Liberty for future generations.**



1986 National Scholarship Awards Allentown, Pennsylvania

William Piacentini
National Scholarship
Committee Chairman



Scholarship Recipient John F. Marcinauskis



Scholarship Recipient Kristin R. Oleschowski

The 28th annual scholarship awards presented by the Knights of Lithuania were announced at the National Convention's closing banquet held on August 9, 1986 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Through the efforts of hundreds of Knights and Ladies awards totalling \$6,750.00 were made to eight (8) young adult members of the Knights of Lithuania for the pursuit of their post-secondary education.

The Scholarship Committee was guided in its deliberations by the motto of the 73rd National Convention and paraphrased it for the awards ceremony to read, "YOUTH'S STRENGTH-VYCIU'S HOPE". Also this year's awards ceremony was a most auspicious one because it inaugurated the "ALICE KARKLIUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP".

Scholarship recipients were reminded during the presentation that the awards were both an honor and a responsibility. Those receiving awards are honored for their service to the Knights of Lithuania and personal accomplishments. To those to whom much is given, however, much is expected. Scholarship recipients were charged with always observing the

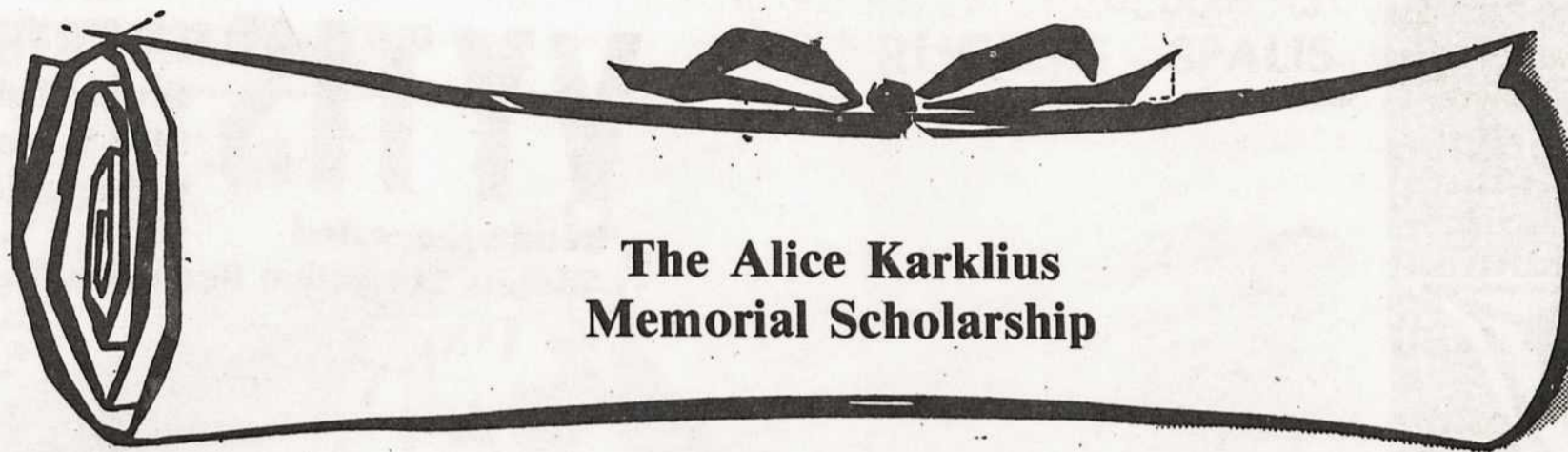
motto of the K of L - "For God and Country". In practical terms, an award winner is expected to continue to be an active member of the Knights of Lithuania and be an honor to it in future schooling, profession and life. In so doing, recipients were reminded, the sacrifices made by Vyciu to support the Scholarship Fund are repaid a thousand-fold.

For 1986, seven individuals were awarded scholarships from the regular Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund and one was awarded the first scholarship from the Alice Karklius Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Joseph E. Nikstenas of Council 100, Amsterdam, NY was awarded \$1000.00. An honor student, church acolyte, and president of his junior council. Joseph comes from an active K of L family. Joseph will attend Case Western Reserve University where he will study electrical engineering. To quote from his application, "Upon graduation from college, I will look forward to becoming a more active participant in our Amsterdam council, in Cleveland, or wherever the future takes me."

John F. Marcinauskis of Council 141, Bridgeport, CT was awarded \$750.00. Also an honor student, John is a lector and Eucharistic Minister, has studied Lithuanian and is currently a student at the University of Connecticut-Storrs where he is majoring in Psychology. To quote from his application, "My Lithuanian heritage has been an important part of my college experience. My involvement with the Knights of Lithuania and the 'Berzelis' dance group has given me a different perspective on life through my peers."

Elena Mikalauskas of Council 96, Dayton, OH was awarded \$750.00. Active in her junior council, and now her regular council, a student athlete, and an honor student, Elena is currently studying nursing at Wright State University. Commended for her scholarship by the Dean of the Nursing School, she will graduate in 1987. To quote from her application, "For now, I plan on living in the area and staying active in our council's functions. Youth are needed to keep the council alive and growing."



The Alice Karklius Memorial Scholarship

William Piacentini
National Scholarship
Committee Chairman

To paraphrase the 1986 National Convention's motto, "**CHRISTIANITY'S STRENGTH - LITHUANIA'S HOPE**", the Scholarship Committee of the Knights of Lithuania decided the motto "**YOUTH'S STRENGTH - VYCIU'S HOPE**" was appropriate because of the outstanding quality of this year's applicants. Also, this year's presentation inaugurates a new chapter in the history of the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Program. Tonight the Committee is proud to present the first **ALICE KARKLIUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**. This scholarship has been made possible because of the generosity and concern of a long-time member of the Knights of Lithuania. The individual has chosen to donate a sum of money to the Knights of Lithuania Foundation. The interest earned on this sum has been designated for annual scholarship to be awarded in memory of his wife. To initiate this scholarship the individual has also donated an additional amount of \$2,000.00. This represents the amount of the first scholarship which will be awarded this year.

Tonight's award presentation is a most auspicious event for the Scholarship Committee. Tonight, the Committee has the honor of instituting the "**ALICE KARKLIUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**". Established by her loving husband, **Benedict** the scholarship remembers a 'Lady', by her

devoted 'Knight'. This 'K of L Couple', incidentally, first met at a Knights of Lithuania function many, many years ago. Through the generosity of Mr. Karklius, their spirit of commitment to each other and their Knights of Lithuania family will be carried forth to future generations of Knights and Ladies.

The **ALICE KARKLIUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** exemplifies one couple's love for and participation in the Knights of Lithuania and its ideals. After much reflection and study, the Scholarship Committee has selected a candidate who it believes is worthy to be the first recipient of this memorial scholarship. The selection criteria included Knights of Lithuania involvement, academic qualifications, personal character, evidence of community service, financial need and definite future plans. Truly a demanding set of criteria, but a necessary one, for so honorable a scholarship.

Before naming the individual, please allow me to provide some biographical background on him. He was born of Lithuanian parents who emigrated to America. He was active in his hometown Lithuanian community throughout his youth. He has visited Lithuania. He speaks Lithuanian and Spanish fluently, was an honor student in college and currently is a graduate medical student at Brown University. He possesses a sensitive and congenial personality and

a keen appreciation of his Lithuanian heritage. He is a member of St. Casimir's Church and Council 103 of Providence (RI). He is married to a young lady who is also of Lithuanian heritage and active in the Knights of Lithuania.

In his own words he outlined his future plans:

"After completion of my training I intend to establish my family and practice in the New England area. Irregardless of where in New England I end up, I intend to be as involved as possible in the Lithuanian community nearest me. It is extremely important for me to help continue the efforts of the various Lithuanian organizations in keeping the Lithuanian language and culture alive. Having grown up in a Lithuanian home, and traveled to Lithuania, I am proud of my cultural heritage and I wish to nurture this same feeling in my children, so that they too, can pass on the flame of love for Lithuania."

The first recipient of the **ALICE KARKLIUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** is **LIUDVIKAS JAGMINAS** of Council 103, Providence, Rhode Island.

The Scholarship Committee of the Knights of Lithuania congratulates this young man and expresses its sincere appreciation to Mr. Ben Karklius for making this annual recognition of an exceptional young K of L'er possible.

**THANK YOU AND
GOD BLESS YOU!**

LITHUANIAN INFORMATION
CENTER
5620 S CLAREMONT
CHICAGO, IL 60636

VYTIS

Scottie Zukas
5112 S. Mayfield
Chicago, IL 60638

Return requested
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Helen Shields and Fr. Jurgfelaitis relax at the end of the busy convention



Fr. Janiunas, Fr. Mikalajunas and President Petrauskas - examples of faith awareness

Following the closing Mass of the Convention and Convention photos at Packer Church on the Lehigh University campus, K of L conventioners returned to the hotel for a farewell luncheon.

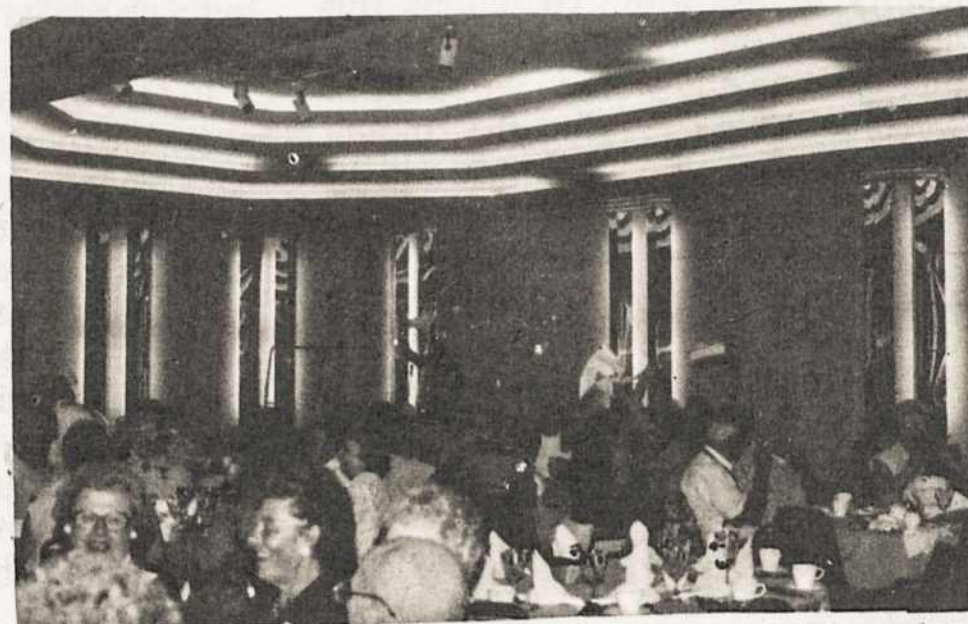
Convention Committee Chairperson Helen Shields expressed her thanks for the cooperation of all convention delegates, especially members of C-63, Lehigh Valley, C-29, Newark, C-3, Philadelphia, C-141, Bridgeport, and C-144 Anthracite.

**SEE YOU IN
KANSAS CITY
NEXT YEAR!**

It appeared that no one really wished to say farewell. Joe Thomas and his orchestra provided complimentary music for our luncheon. We lingered to his melodious tunes. Slowly, however, we were forced to bid "Sudiev" to Allentown. But our minds looked to the future—1987. We will celebrate Lithuania's Christianity Jubilee and reconvene our National Convention in Kansas City next August.



We wish you all a safe trip home



Joe Thomas helps us bid "Sudiev" to Allentown