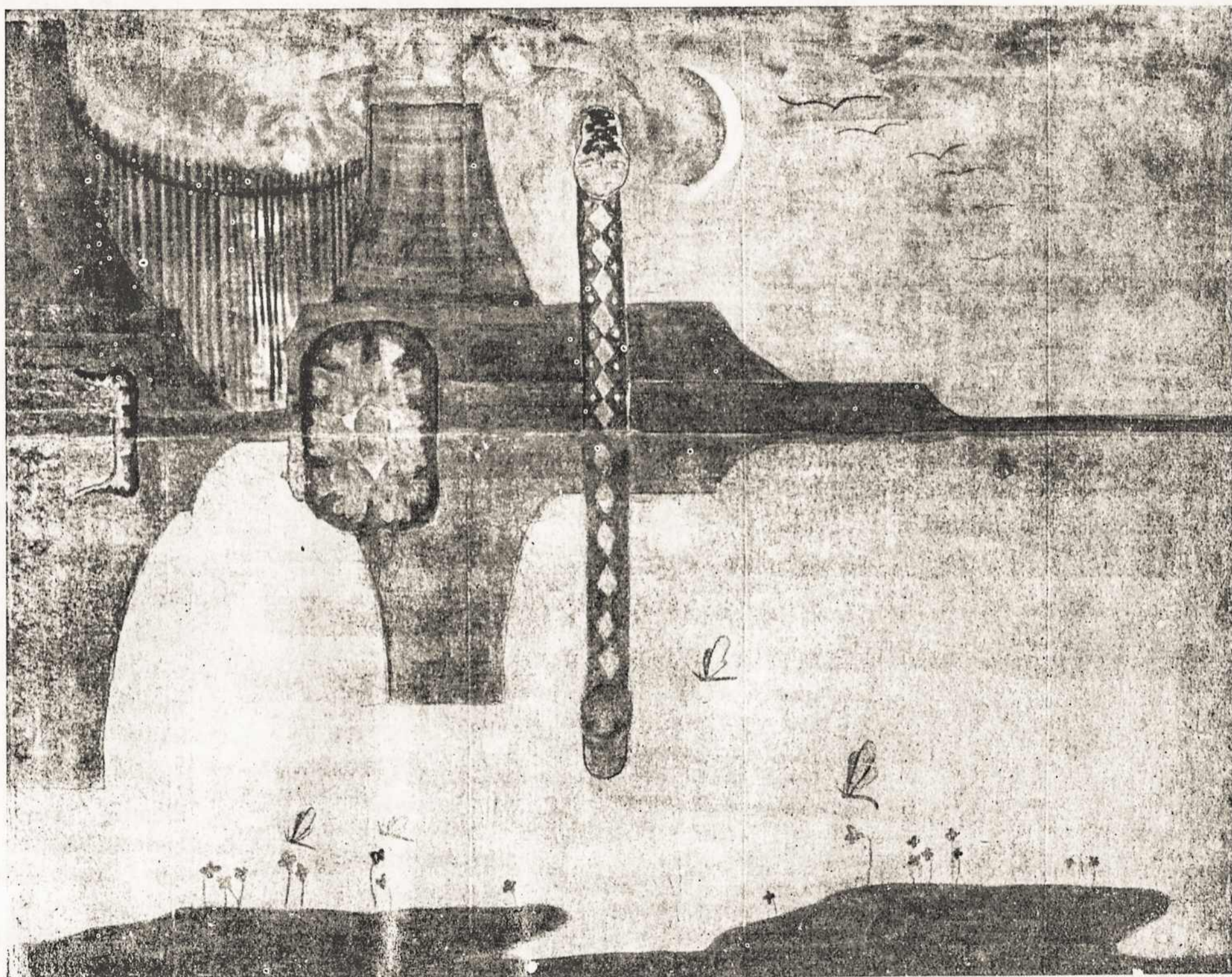


the KNIGHT **VYTTIS** 1987

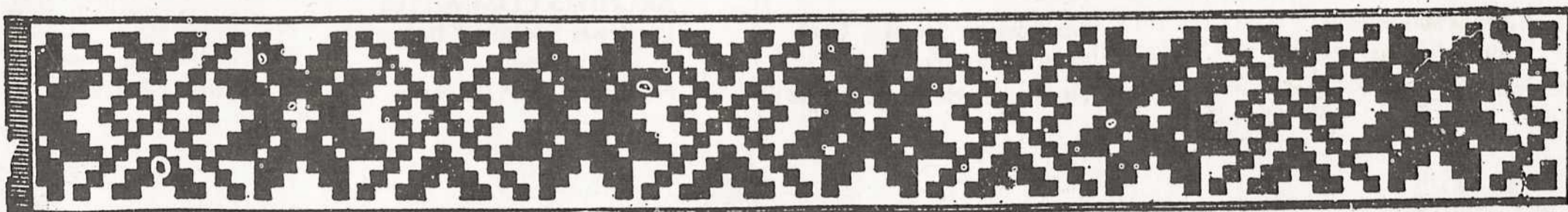
PUBLISHED BY THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

VOL. 73; NO. 4

APRIL - BALANDIS



The Fortress, 1909 (Ciurlionis)



SUPREME COUNCIL
OFFICERS.

Bishop Vincentas Brizgys
Hon. Spiritual Advisor
2701 W. 68th St
Chicago, IL 60629

Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis OP
Spir. Adv.

Providence College
Providence, R.I. 02918

Frank Petrauskas, President
201 Bennington Dr.
Syracuse, NY 13205

Dr. Algirdas Budreckis, 1st VP
147 Clay St.
Quincy, MA 02170

Frank Peterson, 2nd VP
256 Sea Hill Rd.
North Branford, CT 06471

Mary Ann Lepera, 3rd VP
117 Boulder Rd.
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Mary Juzenas, Rec. Sec'y
4613 W. 102nd St.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Mary R. Kober, Fin. Sec'y
2 Bayview Avenue
Port Washington, NY 11050

Mrs. Alphonse Trainis, Treas.
111 Old Towne Road
Cheshire, CT 06410

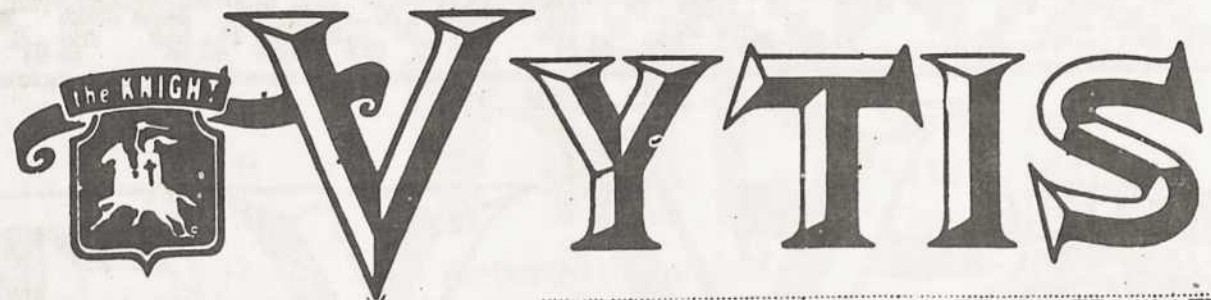
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

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
Jonas Adomenas
69 Irving Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11237



VYTIS is published monthly Oct. thru May, by-monthly July-August and Sept.-Oct. by the KNIGHTS of LITHUANIA. Subscription \$10.00 per year. Second class postage paid at Chicago, IL. Business address: 5112 S. Mayfield Ave. Chicago, IL 60638. All correspondence should reach the Editors by the FIRST of THE MONTH - two months in advance of issue. The Editors assume no obligation to return any material or photos not solicited.

Publication No. 663680

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.
So. 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, Crm.
362 Webster Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920
Ray Vanagas
Paul Binkis
Albert C. Jaritis
Rita Sheyokas
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
Needham, MA 02.92

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Antanas J. Mazeika Hon.
11440 First St., East Cmn.
Treasure Island, FL 33706

Stanley Vaitkus, Exec. Cmn.
518 Hialeah Ct.
Vandalia, OH 45377

Phyllis Grendal, Sec'y
915 E. 4th St.
So. Boston, MA 02127

Eleanore Laurin
Helen Shields
Rev. Albert J. Contons

LITH. LANGUAGE PROP.
Apolonia Ziausys
4 Bartlett Street
Amsterdam, NY 12010

LCRA COORDINATOR
Joni Reinhart
205 N. Brd. Mt. Ave.
Frackville, PA 17931

Lithuania 1387:

There are few contemporary accounts of the formal conversion of Lithuania in 1387. The chronicles of the Teutonic Knights, usually a rich though biased source, are reticent. We have to rely almost exclusively on the Polish historian and chronicler, canon Jan Dlugosz for details regarding the baptism. But even Polish historians are critical of Dlugosz's accuracy (after all he wrote 80 years later). Moreover, though the tutor of St. Casimir, he hated the Jagiellonians and loathed Lithuanians in general.

According to Jan Dlugosz: *"In 1387 Jogaila accompanied by his wife Jadwiga, archbishop Bodzant of Gniezno, many Polish magnates and priests came to Vilnius to baptize his countrymen. He called together his brother dukes and high nobles and bent them to the one and true Christian faith. Jogaila ordered that the Holy Fire (sventoji ugnis) burning in Zinycia in Vilnius be extinguished, that the holy shrines, idols, and altars where sacrifices were made, be destroyed. The holy groves (alkos and gojus) be cut down, and the snakes and serpents kept in the homes be destroyed. During this destruction, wails and lamentations were heard everywhere yet no one dared to oppose the king's orders."*



Algirdas Budreckis

From the outset, clearly three errors: Jadwiga and Bodzant were not in attendance, there were no pagan idols in Vilnius.

By the end of 1386 King Jogaila returned to Lithuania with the Mazovian dukes, Polish magnates and priests, as well as a good size retinue of soldiers to protect him against possible assault by Teutonic Knights or even pagan Lithuanians. After all Jogaila was a cautious man. An important conference of Lithuanian dukes and boyars was held in Vilnius. The major boyars were invited to Vilnius with their families. After the conference regarding the christianization, the following decree was declared in Jogaila's name: *"We decided that all Lithuanians, of both sexes, of various stations, orders and degrees, living in our Lithuanian and Ruthenian lands of state, regardless of what faith they were hitherto, to be drawn to the Catholic faith and show obedience to the Holy Roman Church!"*

This decree did not affect all of Lithuania. It was directed to those lands which were under the direct federal rule of Jogaila and Samogitia. One problem was that the pagans of Samogitia were under temporary occupation by the Teutonic Knights. The other con-

The Formal Baptism

sideration was that the subjects of other duchies and were Orthodox Christians and not affected by the decree.

It was foreseen that the Lithuanians might resist the new religion. Therefore force was resorted to. The Grand Duke Jogaila in another decree declared that if anyone resisted accepting the new faith, he would be forced to by "corporal punishment."

Another problem obviously was one of communication. There were comparatively few priests in Lithuania, and the visiting Polish priests and monks did not speak the language. The Lithuanian dukes had to explain and translate as best as they could. Often subject Byelorussians were called to act as translators. Fra. Kozlowski in 1434 at Jogaila's funeral attested that Jogaila translated into Lithuanian "Tev Musu" and "Tikiu i Dieva Teva" and explained the prayers. As a result some Polish sources credit Jogaila with having made the first Lithuanian translation of the Pater Noster. This is an obvious exaggeration, because Jogaila was illiterate his entire life. There were Catholic churches and monasteries in Vilnius, Lyda and elsewhere with competent translators. The emphasis should be placed that Jogaila

and Vytautas preached these prayers to their subjects and made them learn them.

At the official baptisms in Vilnius appeared the Polish guests and soldiers. Of course, all of the important Lithuanians were there, several of Jogaila's brothers (Skirgaila, Vladimir, Kaributas), Vytautas, Lithuanian lords.

The boyars and their families were baptized first. Each person was baptized separately.

The Lithuanian historian Albertas Vijukas Kojalavicius in the first volume of his history (*Historiae Lithuaniae pars prior (1), 1650, pp 396-397*) wrote that the Eternal Fire, which was constantly tended by the druids (zyniai) on the banks of the Nevezys River was extinguished, the idols overthrown, the sacred groves cut down, and all manner of sources of Samogitian faith destroyed, while their gods remained still and did not punish the transgressors for their sacrilege, the people took notice at first and then quickly concluded that their gods are empty names, and finally they began to desparage what they had worshipped for a long time.

A similar event occurred in the capital. All of the inhabitants of Vilnius were called together, according to the sources. They were explained why they should give up the ancient pagan religion. The dumbfounded Lithuanians were saddened hearing this demand from their rulers. It seemed a sin against the memory of their ancestors. They also feared the wrath of the pagan gods. The preachers of the new religion assaulted the pagan holy places, the alkos and gojus. Everywhere the Holy Flame was doused, the holy oaks were cut down near Vilnius castle, and in Lukiskes the sacred serpents (zalciai) were killed.

Writing in German, the Polish historian Jacob Caro gave the following account of the baptism of Vilnius: "It was pitiful to look at the mass of people, assembled in Vilnius on February 17, 1387. Namely: It was a Sunday, the priests read the same gospel that was read during the coronation. Snow



covered the land, trees and hills... Suddenly bells rang, the singing of hymns broke the silence. First came the king with the dukes and boyars; then came the bishop with the gold-lined clothes and pointed hat, with a twisted staff in his hand. Behind were the lines of monks and priests. The procession ascended the mount, surrounded the deity (Perkunas' site). The Franciscans grabbed axes and buckets of water; they bashed and chopped the wooden deity, extinguished the Holy Fire, which had been faithfully tended for generations. The old oaks toppled, covering the age-old magic. Perkunas, where is your thunder? Holy Fire,

Linycia, why don't you avenge the desacracion of your altars?" (See Jacob Caro, *Geschichte Polens*, Vol. III, Gotha, 1869, mp. 35)

The assembled pagans cried, wailed. Yet no one resisted and when they saw that the pagan gods did not resist and let themselves be destroyed, they recovered from their fear and the pagan mob, listening to the will of the grand duke, agreed to be baptized. The priests began to explain the Christian dogma. Since there were few priests who understood Lithuanian, the dukes explained and translated as best they could. After a short catechization, the priests began to baptize the assembled.

The townsfolk and the ordinary people were baptized differently. They were taught the tenets of faith and the king, as godfather passed out woolen shirts and other clothing articles, brought from Poland. Used to linens and furs, the Lithuanian peasants were impressed by Polish woolen garments of white (to signify purity). With lightening speed news traveled about the woolen gifts as gifts of baptism. Everyone wanted them. Many appeared who wanted to be baptized several times to receive the baptismal gift. It is recorded that one Lithuanian was baptized 21 times and received 21 shirts! When on the 21st time he received a torn shirt, he complained, that on 20 occasions he had received wholesome shirts.

The simple folk swarmed in such numbers that the small handful of Polish missionary priests could not fulfill their tasks.

And so a new method of christianization was introduced in this medieval period. There were so many men and women that they had to be divided into groups and taken to the Neris River in batches. The sign of the cross made over the waders, a brief prayer recited, and in place of the pagan name christian one was proclaimed. The first batch was baptized Peter, the second - Paul, the third - John, the fourth - Jacob, the fifth - Stanislaw, etc. The groups of women emerging from the Neris were collectively called: Katrina, Margarita, Darata, etc.

I Met a Saint

by

Fr. Joseph Mačiulionis, MIC

FROM THE MARIAN
MARCH 1966



Archbishop George Matulaitis

I Study His Personality

Shortly after this memorable event I was appointed secretary to the Archbishop on his many visits to the Lithuanian churches in our country. On those journeys and during his preaching in the churches I began to study this great personality and to imbibe some of his rich Marian spirit. He had much to give indeed. The Archbishop frequently spoke of Christ, the Sacraments and Mary with a great deal of enthusiasm. I recall his last sermon I heard in the Queen of the Angels Church, Brooklyn, N.Y. where he compared Saint Francis to a locomotive drawing a long load of cars. But to me Archbishop Matulaitis was another Saint Francis for he, too, drew many hearts to Christ, the Sacraments, to the Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

That was 40 years ago. New York welcomed a distinguished visitor and a great builder of the Marian spirit in the person of Archbishop George Matulaitis, Superior General of the Marian Fathers. About five hundred admirers gathered at the Hotel Astoria on that memorable day, June 6, 1926, to welcome and to pay tribute to one who not only saved the Congregation of Marian Fathers from complete extinction, but also labored successfully to form an independent Ecclesiastical Province in Lithuania in 1926. When at the end of the banquet the Archbishop spoke he made us all feel that he loved our country very dearly. He, too, was dedicated to promote the honor of the Lady of the Immaculate Conception to whom this country has been dedicated by the American Hierarchy. With Saint Peter we all could have said: "It is good to be here."

One day I had served the Archbishop's Mass and was having breakfast with him when he asked me: "Where would you like to study next year?" "I would like to go to Rome," I replied. Then he said: "Get ready and come to Rome in October." For this favor I have been always very grateful to the Superior General. I had hope then while in Rome to continue to study the Archbishop's saintly personality. But my desire was unfulfilled.

Sudden Sorrow

We, students of the Marian College in Rome, were saying our noonday prayers in the chapel when the Superior read the telegram that Archbishop George Matulaitis had died (January 27, 1927) in Lithuania. We all felt a tremendous and irreplaceable loss in our hearts. We had only one

consolation: that his good work and his rich Marian spirit would never die and that we must all work to continue to build the Marian spirit to which the Archbishop's whole life had been dedicated.

Cause of Beatification

It was with great joy that the followers of Archbishop Matulaitis received the good news on the Feast of the Ascension, 1953, in Rome the Cause of Beatification of Archbishop Matulaitis had begun. The progress of the Cause has been slow, but successful. After 22 witnesses had made their depositions and the censors of the writings of the Archbishop had completed their work, a book of about 600 pages has been compiled and published which gives very much hope that the next two steps of proving his heroic virtues and the required miracles will come perhaps much more rapidly.

There are many persons working and interested in the Cause of Beatification of Archbishop Matulaitis. Here in America and in Ro-



me many are engaged in the promotion of his Cause of Beatification. During the Holy Year (1950) when I labored in Rome and while attending many Beatification and Canonization ceremonies I always prayed for the success of the Cause of Archbishop Matulaitis.

When His Cause Will Be Completed

I predict that during the coming Holy Year (1975) the Cause of Archbishop Matulaitis will be com-

pleted and a large group of his admirers will go to Rome for his Beatification just as the Archbishop was welcomed in New York in 1926. Our prayers for the success of his Cause of Beatification can help to speed up the process.

If Archbishop Matulaitis should eventually attain the honors of Beatification, this would help very much indeed to extend the Marian spirit beyond the present limits and into new regions of conquest for the Lady of the Immaculate Conception whom Archbishop Matulaitis served so loyally.

ARCHBISHOP GEORGE MATULAITIS

By Fr. Stasys Yla

ENGLISH TRANSLATION NOW AVAILABLE.

Anticipating the forthcoming Beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis, and convinced that his life and work should be better known the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Putnam, Connecticut have recently edited and published a translation of the late Fr. Stasys Yla's excellent biography of Archbishop Matulaitis.

The translation was done by Msgr. Francis Pranckus, who is also Spiritual Advisor for

The cover, as illustrated here, was designed by Sr. Mercedes, CSC.

Reading this biography one will see not only the gradual development of this great and gifted man of faith but also be acquainted with the vividly painted context of Lithuania's struggle towards religious and cultural independence.

Because similar struggles are going on at the present time in various parts of the world, the person and achievement of Archbishop Matulaitis is able to speak convincingly to his contemporaries seeking religious freedom.



**Archbishop
George Matulaitis**

Cost: \$4.00

Mail orders to:

Immaculate Conception
Convent
Route 21
Putnam, CT
06260

ETHNICITY

Bonus or Hinderance?

By Rev. William Wolkovitch

OBJECTIVE ELEMENTS OF ETHNICITY

There are objective aspects that one can rather easily notice. There are also subjective elements that are at the core of ethnicity. Objective, identifiable factors include:

1. Dress
2. Food
3. Customs
4. Religion
5. Residence
6. Language
7. Biological makeup

DRESS

On any day of the year in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts you can observe dark-faced women students, garbed in gracious, full-length gowns, i.e. saris characteristic of India. In my hometown of Hudson, Massachusetts women in all-black dress are quickly recognized as Portugese immigrants in mourning. Yet, dress in this country is seldom a key element in ethnicity. For the most part, you cannot tell a person's heritage by his or her clothing.

FOOD

Food - as for food, let's say that on a regular basis one heartily eats "kugelis" (potato pudding) and chunks of fresh kielbasa (it has to be freshly ground and grayish, otherwise it's Polish!). Yet such a one's ethnicity may scarcely go beyond, and therefore is quite shallow. Someone else may reach a serious level of ethnicity, while being far removed from grandmother's cooking, and perhaps seldom, if ever, enjoy those tasty old-fashioned dishes.

CUSTOMS

Of course, customs are helpful in sustaining ethnicity. But what about people whose parents have been deceased for a long time - people who live removed from any ethnic surrounding? Obtaining Christmas Eve wafers to share with a friend or two is, for many people the sole example of clinging to ethnic customs.

RELIGION

One who grows up in an isolated colony of Roman Catholics, easily holds to the view that religion and ethnicity are inseparably intertwined. In a heavily Irish Catholic area, such as Boston or Philadelphia, it is nearly impossible to think of an Irish person who is other than Catholic.

So it was a jarring experience for me in Ayer, Massachusetts to meet an Irishman with a sharp ethnic awareness who happened to be a bonafide Protestant! In 1981 at the history conference of the Association of Baltic Studies at St. Paul, Minnesota, I felt the same novelty in meeting, for the first time in my life, a Lithuanian emigree-professor who happened to be of Lutheran faith. Religion and ethnicity are in fact separable. A particular religion is not essential to ethnicity.

RESIDENCE

The leading export of Ireland is jokingly said to be Irish people themselves. Most of the Irish-born live somewhere other than Ireland. Or consider a group called Germans from Russia. Large numbers migrated in the latter 18th and early 19th century to settle on farms in southern Russia.

When conditions become favorable, they emigrated to the United States, settling in the plains from Texas to the Dakotas. Meanwhile, they zealously held to their ethnicity, though they had not lived in Germany for many generations. (Lawrence Welk is one of them.) At the same time there must be an existing homeland to which to relate one's roots. As succeeding generations are removed from a particular country, it becomes increasingly difficult to sustain ethnicity. For instance, Italians don't connect themselves to the ancient, vanished Roman Empire.

LANGUAGE

Tongue is clearly a mark of ethnicity. But if a gifted person speaks several languages, you cannot immediately discover the speaker's ethnicity. Then too, thousands do not speak the language of their ethnicity. While attending a wedding in North Dakota some six years ago, I was intrigued to learn that probably as many as half the residents of the state are third and fourth generation Norwegians, possessed of a lingering ethnic sense, yet without the language.

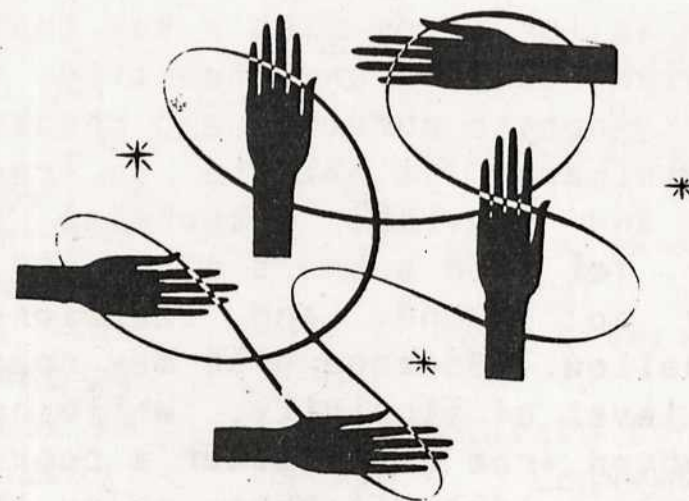
The Irish, most of them whom lack an ability to speak Gaelic, present a unique case. To preserve their Irishness they use English, as they cling to their history and literature. Language, nevertheless, is intimately woven into a person's emotions and habit of thinking. No wonder that the language-retention controversy raged for so long in the history of the Knights of Lithuania. There simply are no resources to provide extensive translations of Lithuanian writings. The non-reader therefore is cut off almost entirely from the history and literature of one's ethnicity.

BIOLOGICAL MAKEUP AND ETHNIC 'PURITY'

Finally we come to biological makeup. Is ethnicity somehow inseparably linked to one's physical being? Here we come up against a puzzling phenomenon. There are some diseases that seem to have a

geographical-genetic link. It is mostly East European Jews who suffer from Tay-Sachs disease; it is mostly U.S. and African Blacks whom sickle-cell anemia attacks; and it is mostly people of Mediterranean origin, such as Blacks, Sicilians and Greeks, whom Thalessemia strikes. Even so, one cannot draw any clear cut conclusions. It remains true though that for the most part a disease can indiscriminately afflict people of all ethnic groups. As to one's genetic package, sometimes we hear it said: "I am pure Lithuanian", "pure" this or that. Here I simply suggest caution, and a dose of humility. For one thing, isn't it a violation of basic manners to boast of being 'pure' this or that in the presence of people of mixed ethnic heritage? Though without unkind intent, doesn't the speaker imply that others are some sort of inferior mongrels? History, too, recommends modesty. Consider what affects ancestry: intermarriage, illicit liaisons, rape, servitude, adoption. One wonders how accurately it is possible to trace one's purity of pedigree through the mists of past centuries.

In summary, as to objective aspects of ethnicity, we can admit that all the seven elements that I have described are important factors contributory to ethnicity. Unquestionably, one must acknowledge the primacy of language. Even so, one cannot easily prove that any of these components are absolutely essential



WE GET LETTERS

I am somewhat elated or chagrined (I really don't know!) to find my poem *One Little Red Rose* published in your column from Council 109, Great Neck, NY as "appearing under Dear Abby column with author unknown... was found very touching by some of our members and we would like to share it with our friends".

I think, perhaps, that this ought to be set straight for the sake of the record
Fr. John J. Tomalonis

FOR THE RECORD

Fr. Tomalonis' poems have been published through Vantage Press, Inc., 516 W. 34th St, NY, NY 10001 for the past 13 years.

The poem, *One Little Red Rose*, published in the January 1987 VYTIS is from *New Voices in American Poetry-1978*, pgs 1168-1169.

Fr. Tomalonis is a former resident of New Philadelphia, PA. His present address is P.O. Box 218, Somerville, NJ 08876.

A PROFILE IN COURAGE

'Twas on the Ides of March in eighty-six;
I saw your profile on a Group Pix!
Sixty-five years ago; back in twenty-one;
You stood supreme as my number one.
A First Communion class's life had begun:
Laddies, numbered thirty-two, for one;
Lassies, pretty as ever, one-score, one.
A young devout pastor, old organist glum.
A rare record of many defunct in an old album;
But, a profile in courage was Mother's son.

The scene was somber, yet, still a great joy;
As brother Stanley held a candle, as a boy.
Eleven years old, ere a man, with life didn't toy.
His eagle eyes looked far, far, far ahead.
Perfect ears, like oars, shaped a shrewd head.
Lips slightly firm; mouth shut, as for dread.
Such noble features stood out, as a young gazelle;
Gazing into life's future: fate's fires of hell!
"The child is father of the man," a poet once said
His nickname "Hogan" is now fifteen years dead.

Compliments of Fr. Tomalonis, below are two other samples of his poems from the collection, *New Voices In American Poetry - 1986*. A third poem will appear in the May issue of VYTIS.

THE IMMORTAL CHALLENGER TEN

When I behold seven immortal heroes' eyes,
The Majesty of their Creator in them lies.
The beauty of their noble souls none denies;
While they reach hopefully for God's skies.
The conquest of space their only, grand prize!
Alas! Their reach fell too short amid cries.

The long delay, lift-off came all too slow;
"Safety first" with strictest caution follow.
A cruel destiny was in the hands of fate below;
As a perfect lift-off soon became a fiery glow.
The windows of whose souls closed with a halo;
Opening up "the Gates of Heaven" heroes know.

Life on earth was all too short, men sigh;
Through their eyes of Faith each aimed high.
They yearned for Perfection of God on High;
This glorious goal was made on their last try.
At the blink of the eye, They saw God eye-to-eye;
The Immortal Challenger Ten cannot deny!

At age fourteen, you didn't stand much of a chance;
When you saw love of labor at a mere glance.
Scampering up a moving boxcar of purest sand;
Losing your grip, and a job at another's command.
Your leg was crushed under rolling steel wheels;
'Twas a pity! Your screamin, painful squeals.
A right leg lost to cruel fate, forever too late;
One slip too many; and, a case lost to debate!
Gladly, you won many a battle with a spirited leg;
Ofttimes fortune sailed; never had you to beg.
A true athlete of valor as a competitive champion;
Nerves of steel, while Lady Fortune reigned mean.
A success in life's business; many hearts had won;
The touch of Midas's had shown in everything done.
Love of life blended with much compassion for the poor;
'Twas your legacy in life to its utmost, full store.
In the prime of life, you frowned on worldly success;
Your secret being, being God-loving, no less.
Your high-school days groomed you for life's contest;
As a manager, you kicked football field goals best!

LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA
Amerikos Lietuvių Romos Katalikų Kunigų Vienybė



CATHOLIC LITHUANIA — 600 YEARS
Philip Skabeikis

PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Philip Skabeikis. *Catholic Lithuania - 600 Years*. Brooklyn, NY: Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests' League, 1987. 24 pp. Concise historical summary of the evolution of Lithuanian Catholicism from pagan times to present. For distribution and educational use. Cost: \$1.00, special discount prices for larger orders, i.e. \$25.00 per 100. Orders with check (US dollars only) made payable to Lithuanian R.C. Priests' League should be sent to Lithuanian R.C. Priests' League, 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn NY 11207.

PRACTICAL LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSE

AUGUST 16-23

**CAMP DAINAVA
 MANCHESTER, MICHIGAN**

**FOR
 BEGINNERS,
 INTERMEDIATE BEGINNERS,
 AND ADVANCED STUDENTS**

The emphasis and goal of this course will be to teach the enrolled students a large, practical vocabulary. These words will then be used in 500 to 600 grammatically correct sentences.

Language lessons will take place each morning. The afternoons and evenings will be filled with Lithuanian folk dance lessons, songs and cultural programs all conducted in the Lithuanian language.

The entire family can vacation at Camp Dainava. The price for the 1-week course is \$90., including room & board per person. The cost for children is less. There are family rates.

Those interested are urged to register as soon as possible. There is a \$5.00 registration fee.

BRONIUS KROKYS
 1124 Hedgerow La.
 Philadelphia, PA 19115
 (215) 671-0397

* Note: For students from Pennsylvania only, arrangements can be made for the course to run from August 17-24. (Due to the annual Pennsylvania Lithuanian Day)





OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS



ATSIŠAUKIMAS

Broliai ir Sesės Vyčiai!

Lietuvių spaudoje pilna skelbimų apie keliones į Romą, į didįjį LIETUVOS KRIKŠTO 600 METŲ SUKAKTIES MINĖJIMĄ. Visi rengėjai, įskaitant ir Lietuvos Vyčių organizacija, stengiasi, kad keli tūkstančiai lietuvių iš laisvojo pasaulio dalyvautų iškilmėse Šv. Petro Bazilikoje.

Lietuvos Vyčių Centro Valdyba laiko prasminga ir gera, kad tą pačią dieną, sekmadienį, 1987 m. birželio 28 d., Lietuvos Vyčių skyriai visose lietuvių

parapijose imtųsi iniciatyvos, kad būtų iškilmingos pamaldos, kad šalia išsiriaviavusių vyčių būtų sukviesti visi parapijiečiai prisidėti prie tų jubiliejinių pamaldų savo kolonijoje.

Jeigu visi susieitume ir visi drauge melstumės, tai būtų besimeldžianti lietuvių tauta, dėkojanti už krikštą, prašanti naujų malonių sunkiuose varguose. Ir koks būtų ispūdis visiems, kitų tautybių žmonėms. Visi matytų, kaip lietuviai organizuoti, kaip brangina savo tradicijas, kaip brangina savo tikėjimą!

Lietuvos Vyčių Centro Valdyba

AN APPEAL

Fellow Knights and Ladies!

The Lithuanian press is filled with announcements about the journeys to Rome to the great CELEBRATION of the 600TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIANITY in LITHUANIA. All of the organizers of the Christianity Jubilee, including the Knights of Lithuania, are making a great effort to assemble several thousand Lithuanians from the free world in St. Peter's Basilica for the pontifical celebration.

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania believes that it would be meaningful and good if on that same Sun-

day, June 28, 1987, the various councils of the Knights of Lithuania in the numerous Lithuanian parishes took the initiative to attend a Jubilee Mass at a body, calling upon other parishioners as well to participate in the services.

If we all gathered together to pray, it would demonstrate a praying Lithuanian people, grateful for their Baptism, beseeching new graces during these trying times. These widespread Jubilee Masses would create an impression on the other nationalities. All would see how organized the Lithuanians are, how they value their traditions and how they cherish their faith!

*Supreme Council
Knights of Lithuania*



DONATIONS TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

AUGUST 1986 - MARCH 15, 1987



Clemincine Miller
Secretary/Treasurer
Scholarship Committee

Donations to the Scholarship Committee are always welcomed. They will be acknowledged and printed in the VYTIS. They should be mailed to Scholarship Committee Treasurer, Clemincine Miller, 80 Cottage St, Trumbull, CT 06611.

Mid-America District	\$100.00	Helen V. Kulber	
Council 3, Philadelphia		*I.M.O. Pauline Lukoscvicus, C41	10.00
*In Memory of Larry Janonis	25.00	*I.M.O. Casimir Tumasonis, C41	10.00
Council 3, Philadelphia		*I.M.O. Anthony Barris, C110	10.00
*In Memory of Annette Zulicki	25.00	*I.M.O. Lottie Ulrich, C41	10.00
Council 25, Cleveland	100.00	*I.M.O. Mary Kizis	10.00
Council 36, Chicago	200.00	*I.M.O. Mecys Razgaitis	10.00
Council 41, Brooklyn		Adona and Paul Keaney, C-17	20.00
*In Memory of Larry Janonis	10.00	Mary York, C-12	5.00
Council 74, Scranton		Magdalen Cronin, C-50	3.00
*In Memory of Larry Janonis	25.00	Mary D. Geipel, C-50	5.00
Council 100, Amsterdam		Bernice Aviza, C-100	25.00
*In Memory of Larry Janonis	10.00	Lungis Svelnis, C-27	41.50
Council 100, Juniors-Amsterdam		Regina Kot, C-100	10.00
*In Memory of Larry Janonis	5.00	Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	5.00
Knights of Lithuania Foundation	20.75	Ann Wargo, C-144	10.00
1986 National Convention		Helen Chesko, C-144	20.00
Greetings (Donor Unknown)	25.00	Rita Pinkus, C-26	10.00
Adelaide E. Novak		Al Wesey, C-109	20.00
*In Memory of Clemens Novak	20.00	Estelle Rogers, C-112	20.00
Anthony & Ann Radzeyich	25.00	Stella McLeod, C-149	10.00
*In Memory of Larry Janonis	10.00	Helen Shields, C-3	10.00
*In Memory of Sally Barnauskas	10.00	Joseph Sobel	10.00
Genevieve Gobis	10.00	Amber Keenan	10.00
*In Memory of Larry Janonis	10.00	Frances Rauba, C-144	10.00
Beatrice Hoff, C-41		Louis Stukas, C-29	10.00
*In Memory of Larry Janonis	10.00	Mr. & Mrs. I. Hobitz, C-7 B	20.00
Eugenia Karpis, C-41		Magdalena Smailis, C-79	10.00
*In Memory of Larry Janonis	10.00	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Petrauskas, C-140	20.00
Helen V. Kulber, C-41		Olympia Zelinski, C-144	10.00
*In Memory of Larry Janonis	10.00	Jewel Ushka	10.00
Ann Mitchel Matalevicius		Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Banditelli, C-144	20.00
*In Memory of John Matulevičius	25.00	Sabina Klatt	20.00
Frances Petkus, C-96		Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kassel	25.00
*In Memory of Al Monkevičius	10.00	Ann Supernavage	10.00
Ann M. Huffstutler, C-74		(Name not published)	20.00
*In Memory of Her Mother			
Ann Kubelis	55.00	TOTAL	\$1,209.50

K OF L CALENDAR

MAY

- 31 600TH JUBILEE
LITHUANIA'S CHRISTIANITY
Our Lady of the Island Shrine
C-152 PILGRIMAGE
Eastport, L.I.
- 31 600TH JUBILEE
LITHUANIA'S CHRISTIANITY
(New Jersey Joint Celebration)
Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
Newark, NJ

JUNE

- 6 Supreme Council Meeting
- 7 Mid-Atlantic District Meeting
Our Lady of Vilnius Church
Hosts C-12, New York
- 13 Day of Prayer for Lithuania
Our Lady of Czechochowa Shrine
Doylestown, PA
- 14 St. Mary's Villa Annual Picnic
Elmhurst, PA

June 21-July 5
CAMP DAINAVA

- 27 Lithuanian Day
Marquette Park, Chicago
- 28 600TH ANNIVERSARY
LITHUANIA'S CHRISTIANITY
Pontifical Mass
The Vatican-Rome
Vilnius, Lithuania
- 28 600TH JUBILEE
LITHUANIAN CHRISTIANITY
National Shrine of the
Immaculate Conception
Washington, DC



JULY

- 10-12 Lithuanian Days
Brighton Park, Chicago
- 12 Franciscan Fathers Picnic
Kennebunkport, Maine
-
- 12-25 Camp Ausra Elmhurst, PA
-
- 26 Sisters of the Immaculate
Conception Picnic
Putnam, CT

=====

JULY 29 - AUGUST 2
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
74TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
HOST: C-150, KANSAS CITY, KS

=====

AUGUST

- 2-15 Camp Neringa
-
- 16 73rd Annual Lithuanian Day
Rocky Glen Park, Moosic, PA
- 23 Annual Pilgrimage for the
Suffering Church in Lithuania
North American Martyrs Shrine
Auriesville, NY

SEPTEMBER

- 5-6 Jersey City International Folk
Festival Liberty State Park
- 18 600TH JUBILEE
LITHUANIAN CHRISTIANITY
Allentown, PA
- 26 C-52 GOLDEN JUBILEE
Holy Mass, Dinner & Dance
St. Peter & Paul's Church
Elizabeth, NJ

OCTOBER

- 4 600TH JUBILEE
LITHUANIAN CHRISTIANITY
Boston, MA
- 17 C-29 Annual Dinner Dance
Holy Trinity Parish Hall
Newark, New Jersey

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.
 234 SUNLIT DRIVE
 WATCHUNG, NEW JERSEY 07060

I hereby donate to the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. the sum of \$ _____
 (Minimum - \$100.00)

I have included the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. in my Last Will and Testament.

Please send me more information about the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

COUNCIL _____

Please make all checks payable to:
 KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIAN FOUNDATION, INC.

Note: The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation, chartered in the State of Illinois.



CONVENTION PROGRAM BOOK...

The Convention Committee of the Knights of Lithuania 74th National Convention asks your support by placing an ad in the Convention Souvenir Program Book

FULL PAGE.....\$75.00
 HALF PAGE.....\$45.00
 QUARTER PAGE.....\$25.00
 PATRON.....\$10.00

Make checks payable to:
 KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, C-150

Mail to:
 DONNA ASHLEY
 2219 ORVILLE AVENUE
 KANSAS CITY, KS 66102

Deadline for ads is July 1, 1987



ORDER YOUR MEDALLION NOW!



JUBILEE MEDALLION

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION ORDER FORM

3" Medallions:

- _____ Antique Bronze (\$30.00)
- _____ Silver Plated (\$35.00)
- _____ Gold Plated (\$40.00)
- _____ Fine(.999) Silver (\$200.00)
- _____ (while supply lasts)

1 1/2" Medallions:

- _____ Fine(.999) Silver (\$50.00)
- _____ Bronze (\$15.00)
- _____ 12" Bronze Galvano Plaques (\$430 each,
 - _____ Obverse Side (3 rulers)
 - _____ Reverse Side (Cathedral)

Amt. Enclosed: _____ (Add \$2 per 3", \$1 per 1 1/2" for mailing expenses.)

Make checks payable to "LITHUANIAN CHRISTIANITY JUBILEE, INC."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send orders to: Mrs. Loretta I. Stukas, 234 Sunlit Dr., Watchung, NJ 07060 USA

LCRA REPORT

Since the National Convention the total of donations to the LCRA Fund has been \$832.10.

We are lagging behind the amount we collected in previous years. Our brothers and sisters in Lithuania need our moral and financial support. Please remember them during this special year!

Joni Reinhart
LCRA Coordinator

BALYS GAJAUSKAS
Prisoner of Conscience

Balys Gajauskas, age 60, is now in his 35th year in Soviet labor camps. His prison doors have not yet been opened in Gorbachev's new *glasnost*.

A leader in the fight for a free Lithuania and noted as unofficial historian of the Lithuanian movement for independence, Balys Gajauskas' only crime is his love of truth and country.

Despite having served 25 years in prison, in 1973, Gajauskas again became actively involved in the Lithuanian nationalist movement. While Gajauskas sought to preserve truth and provide accurate information to the West and his countrymen he was subjected to harassment, his writings and possessions confiscated. In 1977, Gajauskas was resented to 10 years in special regime camp and 5 years internal exile. For the last 6 months, according to his relatives, no one has received any letters from him and there has been no news regarding his state of health.

15th ANNIVERSARY

CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHUANIA

March 19th marked the 15th anniversary of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. The event was marked by a Congressional reception in Washington. A Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Peter's Church preceded the event.

The principal celebrant was Bishop Thomas Lyons, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington.

Rev. J. Bryan Hehir
U.S. Catholic Conference
Secretary for Social Development & World Peace

"The *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* is one of the classical documents of the human rights struggle in the world"

Bernard Cardinal Law
Archbishop of Boston

To turn a deaf ear to the *Chronicle*, and to the Persecuted Catholics for whom it speaks, to ignore them in our prayers, our pastoral pronouncements and the media, would be to lay ourselves open to indictment later on before the tribunal of history.

JEWISH CONGRESSMAN TO FORM RELIGIOUS RIGHTS CAUCUS

Rep. John Miller (R-Wash) during the Congressional reception marking the *Chronicle's* anniversary said the work of the *Chronicle* has prompted him to begin organizing his colleagues to promote religious liberty in Lithuania.

Miller is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations. Miller and several of his colleagues briefed a congressional delegation going to the Soviet Union during Congress' Easter break. The delegation was lead by House Speaker Jim Wright, (D-Texas). The delegation was scheduled to

discuss Soviet-American relations with Soviet officials. Religious repression in Lithuania "should be part" of the discussion stated Miller.

Rep. Miller was a co-sponsor of the reception. He was joined at the reception by Reps. Robert Doman, R-CA, Mel Levine-D-CA, Edward Feighan, D-OH.

U.S. SUPPORTS LITHUANIA'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Baltic States and Ukraine

*invites you to
a Celebration and
Commemoration of*

LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

When: Wednesday, February 25, 1987 -- 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Where: 2168 R.H.O.B. -- Rayburn Gold Room
Who: Members and appropriate staff (no R.S.V.P. necessary)

On February 25, the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on the Baltic States and Ukraine hosted a commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day.



THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 9, 1987

Dear Mr. Charge d'Affaires:

On behalf of the Government and people of the United States, I have the honor to convey to you our greetings and sincere good wishes on the occasion of the anniversary of Lithuanian independence.

Our history stands as vivid testimony that America is firmly committed to national independence and self determination for all people. We support and share in Lithuania's desire once again to determine its own destiny. Our commitment to Lithuania's struggle has not been weakened by the decades of opposition and illegal occupation. On the contrary, the courage and determination of the Lithuanian people, steadfast in the face of overwhelming opposition, are an eternal inspiration for us all.

Sincerely yours,

George P. Shultz

Dr. Stasys A. Backis,
Charge d'Affaires of Lithuania.

Rep. Don Ritter (PA)

...It is worthwhile to ponder the current conditions within Lithuania through the spectacle of the new Soviet leader's (Mr. Gorbachev) glasnost or openness campaign... Has glasnost reached Lithuania?... Mr. (Balys) Gajauskas...now, in his 35th year in Soviet labor camps, is one individual whose prison doors have been closed to glasnost. ...Openness is something necessary in a 'closed' society. I urge the Soviets to free their entire society and grant the peoples they have oppressed for so many years the right to self-determination.



Rep. Martin Russo (IL)

The Lithuanians only solace in the face of these (Soviet) indignities and injustices is the support of all free nations for their continuing determination to be free...The Lithuanian people...are a reminder of the indomitability of the human spirit which struggles for liberty and justice even under the oppressive yoke of an unyielding totalitarian government.

Rep. Mary Rose Oakar (OH)

It is very, very important that he (Mr. Gorbachev) understand that oppression of any sort is something that is not only against our (American) own national values, but also international values.

Rep. Constance Morella (MD)

Let all Americans show compassion to the Lithuanians in hope that some day they will be allowed to realize their God-given rights...By adopting this resolution the House (of Representatives) will bring attention and recognition to this important day and what it means as a symbol for freedom.

FEBRUARY 16 IN RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island history was made with the passage in the Rhode Island General Assembly of H-5338, an act which sets aside the 16th of February of every year as a day to be known as Lithuanian Independence Day.

The act was introduced on February 4 by Representatives Rene M. Lafayette and was referred to the House Committee on Special Legislation.

At the hearing by the Committee held on February 11, Representative Lafayette testified in support of the proposed legislation. Also testifying was Representative Gaetano D. Parella and Victor G. Mathieu. Attending and giving support to the cause were Vytautas Sakalys, E. Ruth Savickaite-Krecioch, A. Beatrice Savickaite-Mathieu and Dr. Antanas Valiuskis of Draugas.

After Speaker Smith convened the House of Representatives, he called upon Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis to lead the members in prayer. H-5338 was duly reported and on motion by Rep. Lafayette, seconded by Joseph Casinelli and Helen McDermott, the act was unanimously adopted. Over fifty Lithuanians attended the session.

Following the enactment, the act was whizzed over to the Rhode Island Senate and was approved with no dissenting votes upon the motion of Senator Maryellen Goodwin.

In the House Lounge the proclamation by Governor of the State of Rhode Island urging citizens of the state to join in the observance of the independence of Lithuania on February 16 was proudly read by Raymond Gallison Jr., chairman of the Rhode Is-



Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis delivers invocation at session of R.I. House of Representatives



Lithuanian ladies and Fr. Gedvila are present at R.I. Legislative Session which passed permanent Lithuanian Independence Day legislation



The proclamation of the Governor of Rhode Island is read by the head of the R.I. Heritage Commission, Raymond Gallison (Gelezinis), while Fr. Jurgelaitis, V. Kiela, E. Ruth Krecioch, Dr. Danute Katelyte-DeCesare, Rep. Rene Lafayette, Rep. Helen McDermott, C. Valiuskis and Fr. Gedvila look on.



Fr. Gedvila is surrounded by Lithuanian ladies who hosted reception for members of the R.I. House of Representatives. (L-R) E. Ruth Krecioch, S. Sakalys, C. Valiuskis, I. Landanski, A. Beatrice Mathieu, Fr. Gedvila, E. Tribuisis, B. Stoskus, M. Traskauskas, B. Cunningham and V. Kiela

land Heritage Commission. Chairman Gallison presented the proclamation to Dr. Danute Katelyte-DeCesare, member of the Lithuanian Heritage Commission of Rhode Island.

=====
Lithuanian
Independence Day
1988
=====

Passed by the
House of Representatives
February 24, 1987
Designating

February 16, 1988

as Lithuanian
Independence Day

=====
SEEK
PERMANENT LEGISLATION

Annual observance of Lithuanian Independence Day is now mandated by law in three states. They are: Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island
What state will be next?

For information regarding how you can help your state legislature pass permanent legislation regarding the observance of Lithuanian Independence Day contact our National Lithuanian Affairs Committee Chairman, Evelyn Ozelis.

CATHERINE'S DAYS AT CAMP

By Catherine Skabeikis
Age 7, C-41 Jrs.

We went swimming and slept outside. We had marshmallows. We had a dance two times and we had cabin time. Camp was fun and I made a lot of friends, so did one of my friends. My counselor, Stefa, liked me a lot and I liked her. My art teacher Irene was nice. I liked her, and she liked me. That was Neringa, now Camp Ausra.

I liked Ausra and I made friends there too. One was my best one. She liked me and I liked her. Ausra was fun too. The camp was the best one, and that was Camp Ausra.

NERINGA - A GREAT CAMP

By Joseph Kot
C-100 Juniors

There are many summer camps available. The one thing that they all have in common is that my parents want to send me to all of them. Really, I don't care much to go to these camps. After all, it is my vacation and I'd rather do what I want to do with it. Summer goes fast enough as it is! I don't need to be kept busy. There is however one camp that I love to go to - Camp Neringa near East Brattleboro, Vt. I've spent two weeks there for each of the last 4 years. The first year, I didn't want to go when my parents took me; but then two weeks later, I didn't

want to leave. Now I look forward to returning to Neringa each year. Frankly, now I wouldn't miss it for anything. There are many things which keep me coming back - the lodgings, the swimming hole, and the program which includes many activities, such as sports, culture, dancing, songs, arts and crafts, and hiking. The campmates are fantastic. They are all very friendly. The Sisters and the counselors are great too. Everyone loves it there and they keep coming back year after year, just like me. Doesn't that tell you something?

KRISTEN'S FIRST TIME
AT CAMP

Kristen Fuerst
Schenectady, NY

I liked Camp Neringa a lot. It was fun living in a cabin. I met a lot of people from all over the USA. I learned some Lithuanian words and dances. I was sad to leave because I met so many friends.

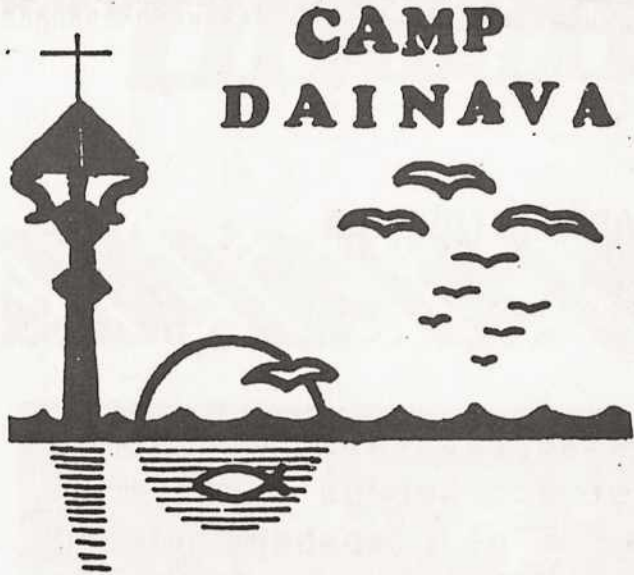


MY REPORT ABOUT CAMP

By Matthew Skabeikis
Age 10, C-41 Jrs.

I went to Camp Ausra and Camp Neringa. They were different than each other. Neringa was bigger and had more kids. Sometimes the camps did the same things as each other and sometimes we did different things. Both camps had capture the flag and both camps has flag raising and lowering. Both camps went swimming. Ausra had a pool. Neringa had a lake. At each camp the food was different also. At Neringa we went hiking and swimming, played

games and all kinds of things. At Ausra, we went to a water slide, played games and went swimming. They both had Sports Day. They both had good food, and I had a great time at both camps. At Neringa we slept out over night next to a fire. At Ausra, we all had a great time going to the water slide. It took us long trips to get to both camps. But it was worth it. Both camps had bonfires. And I had a great time at both camps.



CAMP DAINAVA

Manchester, MI

JUNE 21 - JULY 5

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Weekly fee is \$125 per camper

Send in registration form for each child with:

Deposit Fee \$25.00

To: LITHUANIAN HERITAGE
CAMP
% Mrs. J. Damusis
Director
13255 Oak Ridge La.
Lockport, IL 60441
(312) 460-8001

Camp Aušra



Elmhurst, PA

JULY 12-25
For children 8-16

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Weekly fee is \$85 per camper

Send in registration form for each child with:

Deposit Fee \$10.00

To: CAMP AUSRA
ST. MARY'S VILLA
ELMHURST, PA 18416

NERINGA

RFD.4, BOX 134C, WEST BRATTLEBORO, VT, 05301



E. Brattleboro, VT

AUGUST 2-15
For Children 7-16

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Weekly fee is \$90 per camper

Send in registration form for each child with:

Deposit Fee	\$40.00
Registration Fee:	\$15.00
	\$55.00

To: NERINGA
ICC
RTE 21
PUTNAM, CT 06260

Take advantage of an exceptional summer opportunity.
Get acquainted with your ethnic heritage.

=====

REGISTRATION FORM

Child's Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Home Telephone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Father's Name _____ Business Phone _____

Mother's Name _____ Business Phone _____

Has child attended camp before _____

=====



Annie Morgalis, Pennsylvania's Lithuanian commissioner, explains straw weaving to campers at Ausros Vartu Stovykla.

AUSROS VARTU STOVYKLA

Last year C-144 successfully sponsored a day camp held at St. George's Grove in Brandonville, PA. K of L members pooled their expertise in Lithuanian culture to present the program.

The activities developed camaraderie and Lithuanian identity. 5-year old Joe Shamonsky of New Philadelphia explained "Right now I'm half Lithuanian -- when I get as old as my dad, I'll be all Lithuanian." Children learned about the contributions of Lithuanian Americans in the development of our country, Lithuanian folk crafts - wood carving, weaving, straw ornament making, Lithuanian language, songs and dances. At the end of the program a *lauzas* (bonfire) was held with parents and friends attending.

JUNIOR FUND RAISER

Please support our Junior Knights of Lithuania. They have available a gold, sparkling, 3-dimensional Vytis ornament. It can be hung anywhere. It brings the Lithuanian spirit to a sparkling vitality.



Lithuanians in The News

Edited by RUTH KAZLAUSKAS



Frank Anoris, C-10, Named "Elk of the Year"

FRANK ANORIS, member of C-10, Athol-Gardner, Mass., has been named "Elk of the Year" by the Athol-Orange Lodge of Elks, according to the Athol Daily News.

Frank was presented a citation and pin from the Grand Lodge of Elks and a commemorative plaque from the Athol-Orange Lodge by Exalted Ruler Alfred Savoy at the Lodge's recent anniversary party.

Frank is a longtime member of C-10. He has hosted K of L gatherings at his cottage on White's Pond for cook-outs, swimming, boating, fishing, etc.

ELK OF THE YEAR - Frank Anoris

American-Lithuanians Honored for Their Contributions to Sports in Lithuania

The Mid-America District commemorated the 69th anniversary of Lithuania's Independence with their 27th annual "Memories of Lithuania" banquet on Sunday, February 8th at the Martinique Grand Ballroom in Evergreen Park, Ill.

The award of distinction was presented to the American-Lithuanians whose contributions and performances helped to secure Lithuania's victory in the European Basketball Tournament of 1937, and who also competed on behalf of Lithuania in the 1938 Olympics. Of special note were the contributions of player-coach KONSTANT J. SAVICKUS, president of C-5 Chicago.

Among the honored guests were EDWARD "MOOSE" KRAUSE, former athletic director of Notre Dame; VACLOVAS KLEIZA, Consul General of Lithuania in Chicago, and State Senator FRANK SAVICKUS.



Lithuanian-American athletes present at banquet (L-R) Harry Petraitis (C-112), Edward (Moose) Krause (C-112), Victor Zamzinaitis, Emma Zemaitis-LaFour, Konstant J. Savickus (C-5), Walter Budrunas, Zenonas Puzinauskas

Vytas Virkau - Distinguished Bookplate Designer

Bookplate designer VYTAS O. VIRKAU, associate professor of art at North Central College, Naperville, Illinois, exhibited a selection of his works in the gallery of Oesterle Library at the College during the month of February.

Ex libris - from the library - has become the synonym for bookplates which are affixed to the inside cover of books to identify their owners. They may be created for a person, institution, library, international organizations and exhibits, notes "The Naperville Sun."

Virkau, who joined the college faculty last spring, following 24 years at George Williams College, became the first American to have his bookplates accepted for exhibition at international congresses in 1974. Lithuanian born, Virkau studied in Germany and the United States and was primarily interested in painting and printmaking, when he became fascinated with the design of bookplates in 1970. He has since done considerable research in London and Paris to develop and refine his techniques in the production of these highly-detailed, minute pieces.

Virkau's bookplates have been exhibited in Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Sweden, Yugoslavia, and the United States. His personal concerns for nature are reflected in each of his works. There are no two bookplates alike. Each is designed for a specific person, each contains a separate spiritual identity.

In addition to bookplates, a number of his acrylic paintings were also on exhibit at North Central College. Included in the exhibit were selections from Virkau's highly-acclaimed quilt series, which stems from the American folk tradition of the quilt.

REV. JUOZAS DOMEIKA, retired, of Tuscon, Arizona, is making a name for himself in state art circles as an established painter, notes "The Observer" Chicago, Ill.

He has received numerous prizes at state and local exhibitions. Being unable to use his right hand, he has learned to work with his left. One of his paintings was presented to the White House for which he received a warm letter from President Reagan.



Vytas Virkau, with a sample of his bookplates

Another Lithuanian Enters the Realm of Noted Artists



Lithuanian's Value for Quality

Reason For Successful Business

An emphasis on quality has enabled the Automatic Die Casting Specialties, Inc., to prosper and grow the past 25 years, says its board chairman VICTOR RAUCKIS, St. Clair Shores, Mich.

A Lithuanian immigrant who came to America appreciative of the opportunity to work and live in freedom, he has built up his company to the point now that it has factories in Detroit, Fraser and St. Clair Shores.

The company turns out such automotive parts as luggage rack components, door pull handles, wheel component parts, lamp housings, and hood moldings, for General Motors, Ford and Chrysler plus other firms.

Rauckis, 62, was born in Lithuania in the era between World War I and World War II when Lithuania was an independent country, notes the "Macomb Daily," St. Clair Shores. He was a prisoner of war in the World War II years when Germany and the Soviet Union overran Lithuania. He came to the United States by way of Canada in the postwar years.

Japanese Consulate to Lithuania Honored

This little-known story is not about a Lithuanian in the News, but rather, it's about a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania, as told in the "Parade Magazine."

In the summer of 1940, Senpo Sugihara was running a small Japanese consulate in Kaunas, Lithuania. Each day, hundreds of Jews besieged the consulate, begging for visas that would permit them to flee east to Siberia. Sugihara wired his foreign office in Tokyo of the situation explaining that if the refugees were not granted visas, the advancing Germans would surely capture and kill them. From Tokyo, Sugihara received orders to issue no visas and to close the consulate.

Certain his career as a diplomat would be finished if he violated orders, Sugihara nevertheless issued more than 5000 transit visas before taking off for Berlin. Those visas permitted thousands of Jews to escape the Nazi blitzkrieg and make their way by rail to the Far East.



His technical education led to jobs in the industry and he used the family's savings to begin Automatic Die Casting 25 years ago. The company's gains have been generally put back into the firm for its growth and development.

"When I was a prisoner of war, I decided that if I ever got out, I'd work hard to make something out of life," he explained.

He succeeded.



*Senpo Sugihara
in later years*



*Senpo Sugihara with family in
Lithuania, 1940 when he foiled
Nazis*

Sugihara spent the rest of the war working in Japanese consulates in Berlin and Bucharest.

The Japanese have produced an hour-long TV film on Senpo Sugihara's humanitarian accomplishments, while the Israelis have planted a grove of trees in memory of his kindness. And before he died, Sugihara became the first Japanese to be recognized as a "Righteous Gentile" by the executives of the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem.

Lithuanian Survivor of Pearl Harbor Attack Returns to Site



Joseph Tiskus, Sr.

JOSEPH TISKUS, Sr., (Tickus), a long time member of C-50, New Haven, Conn., returned to the scene of the crime, 45 years later.

Tiskus was in the Navy and stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, the day it was bombed by the Japanese. He went back to reminisce a bit at a national convention of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Tiskus was on weekend leave in Honolulu when he heard the explosions and saw smoke rising from across the island. He returned to the base in time to see planes circling no more than 100 feet overhead.

He retired from the Navy in 1953 without any regrets. He has been president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association's Connecticut chapter since the early 1950s.

A note from GEORGE KISIELIUS, C-50, New Haven, Conn. - "How many remember that during the attack Pearl Harbor was commanded by Admiral AL BAKUTIS who grew up in Brockton, Mass.?"

Who Was in Command

During Pearl Harbor Attack?



IN MEMORIAM
Please remember in
your prayers...



ALFRED SHULSKI
Member C-110, Maspeth
Died March 19, 1987

PETER A. GIEKETIS
Member C-149, Saginaw
Died December 20, 1986

CLEM KOSMISKY
Member C-144, Anthracite
Died March 26, 1987

ANTHONY J. SOCKEL
Member C-63, Lehigh Valley
Died March 9, 1987

ALVENA WILKAS
Member C-141, Bridgeport
Died March 21, 1987

ANNA GALENAS
Member C-74, Scranton
Died March 17, 1987

PETER ZUPKO
Member C-12, New York
Died March 1, 1987

CHARLES BUDRIS SR.
Member C-109, Great Neck
Died March 1987.

EDWARD ZAKRZEWSKI
Member C-30, Westfield
Died January 18, 1987

NELLIE J. WASKA
Member C-116, Worcester

JOHN KRUIK
Member C-50, New Haven
Died February 28, 1987

C-5 President Honored

After 50 years our Council President, Konnie Savickus, was acclaimed as the individual responsible for Lithuania winning the European Basketball Championship in 1935-1936. From 1935 to 1936 he travelled through Lithuania training and giving ideas to Lithuania's team.

In Kaunas, the state Sport Director V. Augustauskas had recognized him with that honor at a farewell banquet.

At the Vyciai banquet in February 1987, before a sell-out crowd of 400 he gave the following address in commemoration of all American-Lithuanians who visited Lithuania.

Ernie Sutkus



Konnie J. Savickus

Address by Konnie Savickus at Memories of Lithuania Banquet

AMERICAN-LITHUANIAN ATHLETES

— 50 YEARS AGO —

BASKETBALL CHAMPION OF EUROPE IN 1937 AND 1939

In 1935 Basketball was a new born sport in Europe, and Latvia was the European Champion. They beat Lithuania 131 to 10. That same year Lithuanian Athletes from Chicago arrived in Kaunas to participate in that country's Olympiad. The Latvian team showed no desire to play the American-Liths in Basketball.

The Chicago Athletes were Peter Barskis, Ben Budrick, Ed Krause, John Knash, Konnie Savickus, Michael Lucas, Charles Shedwill, Anthony Lauritis, Julius Petrolaitis, Victor Yanzanitis, and Emma Shemaitis. They competed in track, swimming, boxing, and basketball — and left an excellent impression of their ability, friendliness, and appreciation, with their countrymen, all within a period of three weeks.

Nine of the Athletes returned to Chicago. Konnie Savickus, an attorney offered his services as an instructor to Director of Sport V. Augustauskas — to remain in Lithuania for one year to teach basketball and swimming throughout the country. John Knash also agreed to remain and teach boxing and Basketball in Klaipėda. With this new training, basketball grew like a mushroom in Lithuania. When Lithuania played Latvia, the score was 31 to 10 — a moral victory for the Liths, indicating evident progress.

Director V. Augustauskas asked Savickus how the team could be improved for the European games in Riga. The answer was, "Get two players from the Knights of Lithuania league in Chicago to join and we'd have a chance to win the European Championship." Savickus wrote to five of the athletes who had been in Kaunas — none of them could return without losing their job, since the 1929 Depression had ruined the American economy. Finally he found Frank Talzunas and Phil Krause.

Lithuania did win the 1937 European Championship defeating Italy, then Estonia, Latvia, Poland (with 3 Americans on its team), France, Egypt, and Czechoslovakia. The people throughout Lithuania were overjoyed. They couldn't believe their small country could possibly win the Championship. Talzunas was rated the most valuable player of the tournament. When the team returned to Lithuania there were crowds along the railroad tracks to greet them, and at every station people showered the players with flowers and expressions of joy. In Kaunas there was an open auto parade — it was an unexpected and very happy holiday. One Official did sum up the event, stating — We greeted Darius and Girėnas with tears of sorrow, today we greet you with tears of Joy!

After this Championship it was simple for Savickus to get instructors to come to Lithuania: such as Anthony Giedraitis, Joseph Jurgėla, and Walter Budrūnas who was an All-American from Marquette University. Frank Lubin of the U.S. Olympic team came to Kaunas in 1938 to teach basketball.

In the meantime, in 1937 sixteen athletes from Kaunas visited several cities in the United States — Chicago, Detroit, Scranton, Pittsburgh, Newark; to establish a greater friendship between our two countries. Director Vytautas Augustauskas was in charge of the group.

Then in 1938 more American-Lithuanian athletes visited Kaunas to compete in the Lithuanian Olympics. There were 24 of them. Those from Chicago were John Avelis, Frank Alis, Joe Beinor, Florence Blozis, Herbert Budrick, Vince Peculis, Al Kumskis, Harry Petraitis, Michael Ruzgis, and John Tenzie. Konnie Savickus was requested to

teach swimming this time; and 22 new records were set by the Kaunas swimmers. After the Olympic games Michael Ruzgis remained to teach basketball. The highlight of the Olympic games was basketball, a game between the American-Liths and the Lithuanian team. The latter won 44 to 24 — it must be remembered the Lith team had the following players: W. Budrunas, Frank Lubin, Joseph Jurgėla, Phil Krause, Konnie Savickus, A. Andrusis, Leonas Baltrūnas, and Z. Puzinauskas.

To add culture and charm to the Olympic games of 1938 the Pirmyn Choir of Chicago also arrived in Kaunas with its Opera star Algird Brazis and Director Kazys Steponavičius. The Choir traveled throughout Lithuania and endeared themselves with songs for their countrymen.

At the farewell Banquet in 1938 to Dr. K. J. Savickus, Director of Sport V. Augustauskas stated, "We know what Dr. Savickus is to Basketball here... It is to his credit alone that Lithuania was crowned Champion of Europe. He was really the first to teach that fine sport in Lithuania so he deserves that honor" — It must be added that Dr. Savickus was also our first swimming instructor. Today we can boast of our accomplishments because of his splendid instruction."

In 1939 the European Basketball games for the Championship were held in Kaunas. All countries showed greater interest in this sport because of its public popularity and player development. Lithuania had 14 players on its team... Budrunas (an All-American), Lubin (an Olympic team member), Phil Krause of DePaul U., Jurgėla, Ruzgis (3 from the K of Ls); Baltrūnas, Mazeika, Andrusis, Norkus, Puzinauskas, Petrauskas, and Sliupas. With this strong team, the second win of European Championship for Lithuania was assured. The entire country did rejoice again for its name was recorded once more in the Sport History of Europe.

The happiness of Lithuania as Basketball Champion was a short one — Russia, by a sheer overwhelming force took over the government and the Lithuanian people in 1940. At present, even in conquest, basketball is popular in Lithuania and it has developed terrific players whom Russia exploits as its own, in present day tours of Europe and the United States.

The Lithuanian names of Arvydas Sabonis, a world recognized name; Vladas Komicius, Surnas Marciulonis and Rimas Kurtinaitis are the backbone of Russia's strength in Basketball. They play with intensity. All this improvement in play dates back to fifty years ago in 1937 when the Kaunas team won its first European Championship thus inspiring the country's youth.

Our Knights of Lithuania in the United States can be proud of the part the organization played in Lithuania's progress in sport during its freedom years. Of the eleven athletes sent to Kaunas in 1935, eight were members of the K of L Basketball League, and three K of L members worked together to win the European Basketball Championship for Lithuania in 1937 and in 1939. The K of Ls declare — they will return to Lithuania... "For God and Country and Freedom!"

Knights of Lithuania 1987, Chicago, Illinois.



VELYKOS - EASTER



By Regina (Gerutis) Kot

Easter in Lithuania was the grandest holiday. But today, no one there can celebrate it in the fullest sense of the word because religious observances are banned in present day Lithuania.

Palm Sunday heralded the coming of Easter. People carried sprays of juniper and willow branches to the home to be placed in various parts of the house the blessed greenery was to protect the home from evil spirits and fire hazards. Preparations were made enthusiastically all week. Floors were waxed, curtains were starched, and, of course, the fanciest of foods were prepared for this holiest of holidays.

On Holy Thursday everyone went visiting churches. And on this day, all bells were silenced until Easter morning. The hand-bells of the altar boys were replaced by wooden rattles. This was also a day to color Easter eggs. The favorite method was tracing designs with hot wax on hard boiled eggs, then dipping them into dye. Another method was to scrape or scratch intricate designs on the already colored egg.

The blessing of water took place on Holy Saturday. And, as a final 'cleansing' to prepare oneself for Easter, every member of the family visited the *pirtis* - a steambath house. Men went first, then women and children followed. It was considered a real treat to go to the steam-bath, which was permeated by a delightful fragrance of birch twigs in the air.

Easter Sunday began with everyone attending Mass at dawn to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. They journey-

ed from afar with horses and wagons being sure to arrive on time.

Church bells started to ring as a procession three times around the church began with everyone joyfully singing the hymn "*Linksmą Dieną Mums Prasvito*" (A Happy Day Has Dawned Upon Us). High Mass followed, and then the Easter food was blessed.

The Easter breakfast table was covered by a snow-white linen tablecloth with a centerpiece of the traditional paschal lamb, adorned with a small red banner. Ham and ground horseradish, leg of veal with red lingonberries, stuffed turkey with prunes, duck with apples, suckling pig, jellied pig's knuckles (*kosalina*) and sausages made up the menu for the Easter table.

Degtine (rye or potatoe brandy) and home made wines were served. The country folk brewed beer and rye bread cider which was called *gire*, which when served would pop and bubble like champagne.

For the young people, the second day of Easter was full of merrymaking and recreation. Popular games were the rolling of Easter eggs, testing the eggs strength by striking them against one another, and swinging on swings. According to one ancient folktale, swinging helped the flax to grow better.

In some localities, it was customary on the third day of Easter to visit the village or parish cemetery and say prayers for the beloved deceased.

The Easter spirit was to be lived the entire week, with the festivities concluding on Low Sunday, affectionately called Little Easter.

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE LORE

By Apolonija (Polly) Ziausys

Lietuvių kalboje yra daug panašiai skambančių žodžių, bet jų reikšmė yra visai kitokia. Kalbėdami, dažnai, neatskiriame "obelis" - medis, nuo "obuolys" vaisius; arba "keltas" - ferryboat, nuo "kelti" - to raise, lift ir t.t.

Kelias	- way, road	Plaukai	- hair
Kelis	- knee	Plaukti	- to swim
Kelti	- raise, lift	Plaukikas	- swimmer
Keltas	- ferryboat	Plaukiojimas	- swimming
Kietas	- hard	Platina	- platinum
Ketus	- cast iron	Platinti	- to widen
Kažin	- scarcely, hardly	Platuma	- latitude
Kažkada	- once, formerly	Platumas	- width
Kažkaip	- somehow	Platus	- wide, broad
kažkas	- (apie žmogų) somebody	Plauti	- wash, rinse
	- (apie daiktą) something	Plonas	- thin, slim slender
Kažkoks	- some	Plotas	- area
Kažkur	- somewhere	Ploti	- to applaud, clap
Pirščiukas	- (siuvas) thimble	Plusti	- (lietis) to flow, rush
Pirštas	- finger	Pluta	- crust
Pirštinė	- glove	Putas	- foam; (verdant) - scum
Piktnaudžiauti	- abuse	Pūti	- rot, decay
Piktažaidė	- ulcer	Putotas	- foamy
Piktžolė	- weed	Puvimas	- rotting, decay
Piešinys	- drawing	Šukė	- fragment, shiver
Pieštukas	- pencil	Šūkis	- (lozungas) slogan
Piešti	- to draw	Šukos	- comb
Pešti	- to pull, pluck	Šuo	- dog
Peštis	- scuffle, fight	Šuniukas	- pup, puppy

Ar žinote, kad trumpiausias lietuvių kalboje žodis? yra "i" (in).
Ar žinote, kad ilgiausias? yra "pasikiškiakopūsteliaudamas"
"pa-si-kiš-ki-a-ko-pūs-tol-i-au-da-mas"

MISLĖS

Užaugo ant lauko be šaknų (akmuo)
Without roots, grows in the fields (Rock, stones)

Sidabrinis laukas, be takų (vanduo)
A silver field without any paths (water)

Be sparnų lekia, be kojų eina (debesis)
Has no wings, but flies; has no feet, but walks (clouds)

Ir laibas ir ilgas, atsitūpė žolėj - nesimato (lietus)
Lean and long, when it sits in the grass - invisible (rain)

SECOND ANNUAL
DAY OF PRAYER
 FOR
LITHUANIA



Saturday, June 13, 1987

To commemorate the 46th Anniversary of the mass arrests and deportation of the thousands of Lithuanian people from their homeland begun on June 14, 1941.

Solemn Mass – 1:00 pm

Bishop Paulius Baltakis, O.F.M.
 Main Celebrant

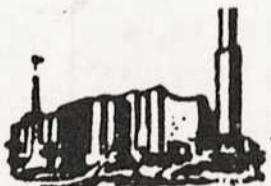
Rev. Casimir Pugevičius
 Homilist

Outdoor Procession – 3:30 pm
Devotions and Benediction

- * Exhibit of Lithuanian weavings and artwork
- * Ethnic artwork from Lithuania available for sale
- * Lithuanian food available in spacious cafeteria
- * Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid Display
- * Colorful participation of Lithuanian organizations and parishes.



Please Participate



NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA
 FERRY ROAD • DOYLESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18901

Coordinator: Father Timothy Burkauskas, O.S.P.

*Especially
Kansas City!*

1987 K. OF L. NATIONAL CONVENTION

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

"HEART OF AMERICA TOUR"

Kansas City is exactly in the middle of the continental United States. It's the Midwest's heart of trade, commerce, and arts...just about anything you can name.

The "Heart of America Tour" lets you experience a sampling of the beauty and history found in Kansas City.

- ...Tour Downtown Kansas City
 - Historical landmarks
 - Homes on National Historic Register
 - Lewis and Clark Point
 - First settlement of the Missouri and Kansas River Valley.
- ...Visit Crown Center
 - Kansas City's "City-within-a-City"
 - Ultra-modern, \$400 million complex
 - An inspiration of Hallmark Card's founder, Joyce C. Hall.
 - Lavish hotel, many restaurants
 - Indoor garden and waterfall
 - Interesting shops

- ...Visit Liberty Memorial
 - See its mourning sphinxes.
 - Our nation's tribute to the men and women who died during World War I
- ...Visit Historic Westport
 - The last outpost to the Santa Fe, California and Oregon Trails
 - Historic "Battle of Westport" site
 - Thriving, friendly 1800 community
 - Small cozy shops, good food
 - Chic evening spots.
- ...Mission Hills
 - Kansas City's elite residential area
 - A Stately old Mid-West neighborhood
 - Prestigious homes, mansions, manors
 - Fastidious landscaping
 - Fountains, statues,
 - Tree-lined streets
- ...Nelson Gallery and Atkins Museum
 - A most comprehensive art museum
 - World renowned for its collections of paintings and art treasures
- ...Country Club Plaza
 - 1st American suburban shopping center
 - World famous, Spanish architecture
 - Fine artwork, statues, fountains
 - Smart shops, unique restaurants

"TRUMAN'S HOMETOWN TOUR"

The tour allows you to travel through time, from its pioneer beginnings, through civil war battles, to the days of Truman's presidency until today as the home of the Kansas City Royals baseball team and the Kansas City Chiefs football team.

- ...Independence Square
- ...1859 Jackson County Jail
 - Marshall's home and museum
 - Stories of notorious criminals
 - Frank James, William Quantrill
 - Mementos of the past
- ...One-room schoolhouse

- ...Jackson County Courthouse
 - Where Truman began political career
 - Film of Truman's life
- ...Summer White House
 - Truman's summer home
 - 19th century Victorian home
- ...Truman Library and Museum
 - Replica of White House Oval Office
 - Collection of memorabilia
 - Historical "Dewey Wins" newspaper
 - Historical murals painted by Thomas Hart Benton
 - Gifts from foreign governments
 - Courtyard gravesite
- ...Harry S. Truman Sports Complex
 - Home of Kansas City Royals
 - Home of Kansas City Chiefs

Vyčiai Veikia



Council Activities

Edited by HELEN CHESKO

1000 E. Pine St. Mahanoy City, PA 17948

Mid-America District



Lelija

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

Our February business meeting was a bit smaller in attendance due to the absence of a number of our regulars, namely: Al & Aldona Brazis, Aldona Gyls, Ellie Kasputis and Estelle Rogers who were all enjoying a get-away in Florida. However, Sophie Nieminski, our super traveler, was in attendance, just back from spending two weeks on a farm in New Zealand and a week in California. Her tan made the rest of us look like real pale skins.

Julie Zakarka, juniors vice president, announced a new Junior Council 24 formed recently. We extend a sincere welcome to them and wish them lots of good luck. Future meetings will be held monthly.

Following the meeting we were treated to a presentation on the upcoming celebrations in Rome in honor of the Christianity Jubilee by Mary Kincius, president C-36.

Welcome Stanley and Constance Jerkins into membership in C-112.

ARDEE

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT



Nasturtė

C-149 SAGINAW, MI

Greetings from Council 149 Saginaw, Michigan! We are still holding forth as a group. Our membership is small but nevertheless together due to the efforts of our President Jack Gieketis and our founder, mentor and financial and recording secretary Stella McLeod.

Our opening prayer is said in Lithuanian. Augie Dumbra is trying to increase our knowledge of our language by giving us a list of words to memorize each month.

Council 149 is happy to welcome Kate Kotolonius and daughter Connie and Rachel and Mary Ann Jersevic into membership.

Our Kucios was held on December 9 at St. George Church with about twenty-five attending. Old traditional Lithuanian foods were served. It would be nice to see once again in Vytis some Lithuanian recipes.

Members were saddened on the loss of Peter A. Gieketis, father of our president, on December 30. May his soul rest in peace.

Catherine Lafferty

C-25 CLEVELAND

Lietuvos Vyčių 25-tos kuopos veikla-Po gražiai praėjusios 'Christmas Party', per trumpą laiką Lietuvos Vyčių 25-ta kuopa Clevelande, turėjo du gražius ir išpūdingus pasirodymus. Vasario mėn. 15 dieną, švenčiant Lietuvos nepriklausomybės 69-tą atstatymo sukaktį, Lietuvos Vyčių 25-ta kuopa, Dievo Motinos Nepaliaujamos Pagalbos parapijos svetainėje turėjo kavutę kurios pelnas eina parapijos reikalams. Kuopos narės-nariai skaniais pyragais ir kavute vaišino kelis šimtus parapijiečių ir padarė gražaus pelno parapijos naudai. O kovo mėn. 1 dieną Dievo Motinos Nepaliaujamos Pagalbos parapijos šventovėje atšventė savo globėjo Šv. Kazimiero šventę.

9:45 val. ryto, kuopos nariai-narės rinkosi prie šventovės ir organizūotai nešant Vyčių vėliava žygiavo į šventovę kur Šv.

Mišias atnašavo ir gražų žodį tarė kuopos dvasios vadas kun. kleb. G. Kijauskas, S.J. Po mišių visi nariai dalyvaujant dvasios vadui, Lietuvių namuose turejo bendrus pietus ir mėnesini susirinkimą.

Po skanių pietų ir susirinkimo, kuopos narys

M. Krivinskas parodė video juosta iš dabartinio gyvenimo Lietuvoje, o dvasios vadas kun. kleb. G. Kijauskas, S.J. tarė jautrų žodį apie amerikonių spaudoje pasirodžiusius straipsnius, kuziose žydų naikinime karo metu kaltinama visa Lietuvių tauta.

Lietuvos krikščionybės 600 metų jubiliejaus darbams remti, kuopa paaukavo 100 dol., o Dievo Motinos Napaliaujamos Pagalbos parapijos šventovės atnaujinimui 500 dol. Lietuvos Vyčių šukų dibtį Dievui ir tėvynei, vyčių 25-ta kuopa Clevelande atlieka su meile ir pasišventimu.

Edvardas Pranckus



Lietuvos Vyčių globėjo Šv. Kazimiero minėjimo metu, mišių auką dūoną ir vyną įteikia dvasios vadui Kun. kleb. G. Kijauskui, S.J iš kairės Jean Marks, kuopos pirm. Vincas Gražulis ir sekretorė Marijona Gražulienė.

Nuot. Vl. Bacevičius



Lietuvos Vyčių globėjo Šv. Kazimiero minėjimo metu, Lietuvos Vyčių 25-tos kuopos Clevelande, Šv. mišių auką neša koplytėlę - Alvina Luiza, Šv. Kazimiero paveikslą - R. Vanagas, gėlės - Ursula Kunsitis, dūoną ir vyną Gene Kunsitis, Dick ir Jean Marks ir Vincas ir Marijona Gražuliai.

Nuot. Vl. Bacevičius

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT



Konvalijos

C-29 NEWARK, NJ

Helping our Holy Trinity Church raise money to defray expenses has become a pet project for our Council. For several years now our members have participated in the Parish Pre-Lenten and Pre-Advent Pancake Dances and I wish you could see our members in action. The ladies start the activities by serving a delicious luncheon immediately after the 11 o'clock Mass and no sooner are the tables cleared and the dishes washed, in come the Pancake Crew. We have a Potato Grater and Squeezer, we have a Batter Mixer and a Team of Pancake Flippers standing by ready to flip those Pancakes all afternoon.

This year we added a new project and on Feb. 1 our members got together and served a most delicious Brunch in our Parish Hall. I am happy to report that it was a financial success as well as a relaxing social get together, no one seemed to be in any hurry to leave. Thanks to all the members who participated in any which way to make this new project a success. Special thanks to the ladies in the kitchen, without them we just wouldn't be able to have these Affairs.

We welcome two new members to our Council, Mary and Andrew Stralkers. They will be sworn in at our next Meeting and we look forward to getting to know them better.

Until the next time.

Eva Coll



Našlaitės

C-46 FOREST CITY

Our February meeting consisted mostly of selecting a committee to take care of details for the February 15 flag-raising ceremony. Charles and Frank Cyzeski were appointed.

January had a record-breaking 29-inch snow in Forest City. Our K of L'ers volunteered to assist Father Sitko, our spiritual advisor, in the snow removal for our flag-raising on the grounds of St. Anthony Church.

February 16 is set aside as a day of prayer. Traditionally that day is commemorated as Lithuanian Independence Day. World War II is sorrowfully remembered as the war that destroyed Lithuanian independence. Lithuania unsuccessfully and valiantly resisted both Nazi and Communist efforts to destroy their nation.

With temperature 15 below zero, our flag raising was held after Mass at St. Anthony's church grounds. Father Sitko

participated in our ceremony. We sang the Star Spangled Banner and our Lithuanian hymns. Many of our K of L members were present.

On February 22, the Forest City Senior Citizens sponsored their second annual carnival. This was a fun day for all ages. Many prizes were awarded. As part of the program, our K of L dressed in Lithuanian costumes and danced and sang. Mary Prezelski, Dorothy Andzulis, Frances Stungis and Frances Yaworosky represented our council.

Blanche Motsko



Alyvos

C-52 ELIZABETH NJ

Council 52 is preparing for its 50th anniversary. On Saturday, September 26th a special anniversary Mass will be held at Sts. Peter & Paul Church, in Elizabeth. A dinner and dance will follow in the parish hall. C-52 hopes many of you will join them on this happy occasion. Additional information can be obtained by writing to Annie Mitchell Matalavich, 212 Msgr. Kemezis Pl., Elizabeth, NJ 07206.

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

On February 2 we attended the Lithuanian Mass celebrated by Fr. Baltch at which the blessing of candles took place. We then met in the Social Center.

Cultural Chairman Polly Ziausys had some Lithuanian riddles for us. She and Bernice Aviza visited with Rev. Anthony Grigaitis, Rev. Petraitis and Rev. Krivickas in Putnam. Rev. Krivickas died February 9. Albany's Bishop Howard J. Hubbard celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial at the Bishop Matulaitis Nursing Home.

Fr. Baltch was honored on his forthcoming birthday on February 17 with a huge birthday cake, a special birthday song and a poem.

Welcome to our newest members Leo and Christine Tuttle III! Chris is the daughter of our member Stanley Stankes.

A special mass at St. Casimir's Church commemorating the 69th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence was celebrated on February 14. In authentic Lithuanian costumes, Apolonija Ziausys, Adeline Raila, Eleanor Olechowski and the Lazdynas Dancers of Rochester served as honor guard in the presentation of the American and Lithuanian flags, carried by Gerard Drenzek and Harold Tice. They were followed by Congressman Samuel S. Stratton, Assemblyman Paul Tonko, City Controller John H. Bintz, Guest Speaker Dr. Jack J. Stukas, National President Frank Petrauskas, and C-100 President Anthony J. Radzevich.

The celebrant of the mass and homilist was Rev. Robert K. Baltch, spiritual advisor of C-



C-100 Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration (L-R) C-100 Pres. Anthony Radzevich, Guest Speaker Jack Stukas, C-100 Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Robert Baltch, NYS Assemblyman Paul Tonko, Amsterdam City Controller John H. Bintz, Nat'l President Frank Petrasukas and C-100 Vice-President Gene Gobis

100. His sermon dealt with Lithuania, the people's desire to keep their own identity and their deep religious faith. He mentioned the forthcoming beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis. Archbishop George visited Amsterdam in 1926 and confirmed some 200 parishioners. Louise Kerbelis and her family are relatives of the Archbishop.

St. Casimir's Choir with organist John Nye sang a number of Lithuanian and English hymns during the Mass. Dr. Stukas and Mrs. Ziausys did the scripture readings. National President Petrauskas, Council President Radzevich, Adeline Raila and Eleanor Olechowski presented the offertory gifts.

At the conclusion of the church services, a group of 130 gathered in St. Casimir Social Center. During the social hour, Toastmistress Mirga Bablin introduced Congressman Samuel S. Stratton, a recipient of the Knights of Lithuania Rev. John Jutt Award. He was impressed with the religious service and agreed with Fr. Baltch that a

good Lithuanian makes a better American. He added that he will be speaking in Congress on the 69th anniversary of Lithuania's independence.

Assemblyman Paul Tonko, member of C-100, read the resolution presented to the Assembly on Lithuania's anniversary.

With the presentation of the colors, everyone stood and sang the national anthems. The invocation was by Rev. Baltch. President Radzevich welcomed guests and members.

After dinner Mrs. Bablin called on John H. Bintz, Controller of the City of Amsterdam who expressed his delight in being present and hoped that freedom for Lithuania would come soon. National President Petrauskas extended greetings on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council.

Extending greetings from the audience were County Judge Howard Aison, 4th Ward Alderman David Pietrusza, Dr. Aldona Baltch, Prof. George Gravrogkas, Vincent Jendrzej-

czak, and Mr. & Mrs. Ed Baranauskas.

Gene Gobis read proclamations from Gov. Mario Cuomo and Mayor Mario Villa, proclaiming February 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day in the State of New York and the City of Amsterdam. The Lithuanian flag flew over City Hall.

The principal speaker for the evening was Dr. Jack J. Stukas, a well-known knight. Dr. Stukas spoke of Balys Gajauskas whose birthday falls on February 26. Of his 61 years, he has spent 35 of them in Soviet prisons. Many interesting facts were brought to our attention by Dr. Stukas. He urged members to go to Rome for the 600th anniversary of Lithuania's Christianization.



Guest Speaker Jack Stukas: Balys Gajauskas needs our help!

Benediction was said by Rev. Matthew Cyvas, pastor of St. George's Church of Albany.

Lazdynas, Lithuanian folk dancers from Rochester, N.Y. under the direction of Mrs. Jadvyga Regina provided the evening's entertainment. Malūnas, The Windmill, was performed exceptionally well. The dancers wore beautiful Lithuanian costumes and were enthusiastically received by the audience. Mrs. Bablin thanked the chairman Mrs. Ziausys and her committee.

SMILE & SPARKLE

C-109 GREAT NECK

Waiting paid off and the day arrived for our annual communion brunch. Despite the adverse weather conditions with two and a half inches of rain, our anticipated attendance was there. Our honored guest from Syracuse was our National President Frank Petrauskas and his vivacious wife. His speech received much acclaim and Tony Kober was a perfect foil for the hilarious set-ups. Applause and laughter were deafening.

Our membership keeps mounting with four new members. A hearty welcome to Walter & Jean Mordes and Valerie & Vincent Dragunat.

Congratulations to Bertha & Howard Fuchs who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

We mourn the loss of our member Charles Budris who passed away in Florida. Mass was celebrated by his nephew Father William Scrill at St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck.

C-110 MASPETH, NY

On January 22, thirty hearty souls from Council 110, after attending Mass at 7:30 a.m. at Transfiguration, were waiting for transportation to Washington DC to participate in the Right to Life March. At 8:30 a.m. all keyed up and in good spirits, shepherded by John Adomenas and Helen Matulonis, they boarded the bus. The weather was overcast and bleak with predictions of heavy snow. They made a commitment and they were going to honor it.

Entering the New Jersey Turnpike, the snow began to fall. The further the bus went, the worse the weather became. When the bus reached Inter-

change 3, the bus driver suggested that we turn back. Speed on the pike was reduced to 35 miles an hour. At that speed we would miss the march.

Turn back we did and none too soon. After leaving Interchange 10, the bus became straddled on an island which was heavily covered with snow, dividing two lanes. We were stuck on this island for four and a half hours before we received assistance when a tow truck pulled the bus off the island. If nothing else was gained on this trip, at least the thirty members and their friends had an opportunity to get better acquainted.



(L-R) Al Wesey, C-109 President; Msgr. Frank Bulovas, Pastor, Transfiguration Church, Maspeth and MAD Spiritual Advisor; Jonas Adomenas, C-110 President, MAD President George Cook, C-12 President

On February 15 Knights and their friends attended Mass at Transfiguration Church with Rev. Msgr. Frank Bulovas as celebrant in commemoration of the anniversary of Lithuania's independence. The theme of Rev. Stanislaus Raila's sermon was "Help Resurrect Lithuania by Prayer and Deeds from the Russian Yoke."

A short commemorative program followed in the church hall with Helen Matulonis, chairman of the event, as mistress of ceremonies. Rev. Msgr. Bulovas gave the invocation. Al Marcel presented a proclamation from New York City Council. Paul Michael Kazas, our recording secretary,

read the proclamation which was enthusiastically received.

Sister Benedict, Holy Cross Church, Maspeth, spoke on the Lithuanian life under Russian subjugation.

Upon completion of the program, 300 persons assembled partook of the luncheon. Compliments are in order to Helen Matulonis and John Adomenas for this successful event.

Congratulations **A1 Kraujelis**, former member of this council, on your election as president of Council 147, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Council 110 hosted the Mid-Atlantic St. Casimir's annual communion and luncheon on March 8 in Transfiguration Church. Bishop Paulius Baltakis, member of Council 110, was the principal celebrant at Mass and

C-118 HAZLETON

Our new year started with our annual ethnic sale. We had a great turnout of workers who peeled, grated and stuffed three bushels of potatoes for "desros and kugelis." We also had a bake sale and sold some wonderful zucchini relish made by Val and Joe Dancho. Val chaired the sale.

A special Mass on February 16 commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day was held by Father Skitzki, our spiritual advisor, at Ss. Peter & Paul Church. Mayor John Ford of Hazleton participated in the ceremony. President John Lapinsky chaired the event. Dolores Yuscavage was in charge of refreshments which were enjoyed by a nice group of our members.

We welcomed two new members at our February meet-



(L-R) Jonas Adomenas, C-110 President, Anne Meskauskas, Maria Stungurys, Helen Matulonis, Stasia Kraujalis, Sophie Zuyus, Helen Jambor, Msgr. Frank Bulovas, (Mayor Koch's Proclamation in honor of Lithuanian Independence Day is standing in front of the wreath

guest of honor. John Adomenas warmly welcomed the visiting Knights. MAD meeting followed the luncheon. Supper was served to the departing delegates and guests.

Joseph C. Dugan



FREEDOM ANNIVERSARY - The Knights of Lithuania, C-118, sponsored a special Mass commemorating the 69th anniversary of the Independence of Lithuania for members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Lithuanian Church. Hazleton Mayor John Ford participated in the ceremony. Rev. Frank Skitzki, pastor, John Lapinsky, President C-118 at left organized the event.

ing. We are happy to have George and Irene Norris in our council.

We are glad to report that Eleanor Kassick is on the way to a speedy recovery. Andy Solonoski, grandson of Julie and

Andy, is recovering nicely from his auto accident.

Our second Mardi Gras was held on March 3. A dinner was served. Games and dancing followed. It was a night of fun.

Alma Launikonis

C-144 ANTHRACITE COUNCIL

A freedom vigil was observed in Our Lady of Siluva Church in Maizeville on February 15 in commemoration of the 69th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian independence.

Rita Shevokas coordinated the vigil. Margaret Valinsky served as lector. Gloria Dauchess presented the first reading, Psalm 126. Rev. Daniel Yenushosky read the Gospel, and John Domalakes presented the second reading, a brief history of Lithuania. Paul Domalakes read "A Prayer from Prison."

While the Zarija Choir softly sang "Lietuva Brangi," a procession with William, James and Susan Paukstis, Stacey Harvilicz of the New Philadelphia Juniors and Janet and Victoria Domalakes and Paula Dillman of the Frackville Juniors, dressed in Lithuanian costumes, carried flowers and crosses in memory of those who died in Soviet captivity and whose graves bear no flowers or crosses.

Sister Regina Sitkus presented the fourth reading which concerned Nijole Sadunaite who was arrested and sentenced to three years of hard labor and three years in exile.

Joseph Yezulinas sang Schubert's "Ave Maria" in Lithuanian while altar boys lighted flames of freedom for each individual.

Rev. Matthew Jarasunas presided at Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Lithuanian; joined by Fathers Gobitas, Yenushosky and Zemanik. Rev. Clement Kasinskas was our guest.

The Zarija Choir, under the direction of Eleanor Vaicaitis

and accompanied by Wilhelmina Verbitsky, sang "Marija, Marija," "Siluvos Marijos," and the Lithuanian Benediction Hymns. The congregation joined the choir in "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

A dinner followed in the church hall where Father Jarasunas opened the festivities with a Lithuanian invocation. Rev. Ronald Jankaitis served as master of ceremonies. Rev. Gerald Gobitas spoke on "Our Lithuanian Christian Heritage." Benediction by Father Potts concluded the program.

Helen Labadis and Helen Chesko co-chaired the commemoration. Serving on the ticket committee were Joe & Marge Yezulinas, Alma Linder, Flo Kobluskie, Helen Kratulis, Rita Shevokas, Esther Bartashus, Marcy Kaselonis, Natalie Yurickones, Anna Zaldaris and Elsie Kosmisky.

Table decorations were by Evelyn & Victor Pre-. The following handled church and hall arrangements: Ann & Al Yockachonis, Mary & John Koons, Joseph Petrosky, John Balesky, Dennis Yezulinas and Joseph Martunas.

Mass at Annunciation BVM Church in Frackville with Rev. Gerald Gobitas as celebrant and homilist on March 1 preceded the St. Casimir Breakfast. Special gifts honoring St. Casimir were presented by the Frackville Juniors under the supervision of Suzanne Domalakes. President Joseph Yezulinas and Vice President Olympia Zelinski presented the offertory gifts. Annunciation Choir sang Lithuanian hymns.

Sister Pauline SJC read a prayer to St. Casimir in English for the invocation and closed with a prayer in Lithuanian.

William A. Gudelunas

Ph.D., our member and speaker, reminded us to assume a positive attitude toward our Lithuanian independence, to be optimistic that freedom from the Russian yoke will come, to be enthusiastic about our Lithuanian heritage and to trust in God.

Dr. Gudelunas is author of "The Lithuanians of Pennsylvania's Lower Anthracite Region: A Study in the Persistence of Ethnic Identification" in the Fall 1986 Issue of Lituanus.

The ladies of the Altar and Rosary Society served a bountiful breakfast. Elsie Kosmisky and Eleanor Vaicaitis co-chaired the breakfast.

The 73rd Annual Lithuanian Day will be held on Sunday, August 16, at Rocky Glen Park, Moosic. Council 143 Pittston and Anthracite Council 144 will co-sponsor the day. Ann Challon of C-143 and Ann Wargo of C-144 will serve as co-chairpersons. Proceeds will be donated to St. Casimir's Pontifical Lithuanian College/Seminary in Rome.

Thirty-five delegates traveled by chartered bus to Maspeth for the Mid-Atlantic St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast and meeting on March 8. Third Degrees were conferred on Sister Angela SJC, Helen Kratulis, Margaret Marousky, Eleanor Yancofski, Albert and Anna Yockachonis and Olympia Zelinski. Thanks to C-110 for a memorable St. Casimir celebration.

**73rd Annual
Lithuanian Day
August 16**



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT



Jazminai

C-7 — WATERBURY

We welcome C-7's new VYTIS correspondent. She is Virginia Kosa.

She reports that the current officers of C-7 are:

Spiritual Advisor:

Fr. Francis Karvelis;

President: Ann Cheplick;

Vice President: Alma Torre

Recording Secretary:

Dolores Jonaitis

Treasurer:

Victoria Silliman

Financial Secretary:

Virginia Kosa

Board of Directors:

Victor Vaitkus, Patricia

Richards, John Jonaitis,

Walter Blinn, Ed White,

Joan Shukaitis, and

Joseph Blinn.

Lithuanian Affairs:

Victor Vaitkus

Lithuanian Culture:

John Jonaitis

Ritual: Victoria Silliman

Vytis Correspondent:

Virginia Kosa

Trustees: Doris Blinn and

Al Kosa

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Ed Bebrin

C-17 — BOSTON

Heavy rains did not deter many of our C-17 members from attending the Lithuanian Mass in honor of St. Casimir on March 1st in St. Peter's Church. Mass was concelebrated by Pastor Rev. Albert Contons and Rev. Anthony Baltrushunas, pastor emeritus. Fr. Albert's homily in Lithuanian dealt with the 'dvasine amnezija' (the moral amnesia) of the modern world. K of L's and Boston Lithuanian Boy Scouts stood color guard. Prof. Jeronimas Kacinskas directed the parish choir.

The traditional Communion Breakfast was held in the Church Hall. A goodly number of Lithuanian friends joined Council 17 in this celebration. Eva Ball served as chairperson in charge of the ham and egg meal and hall decorations. Our hats off to the splendid ladies who worked behind the scenes in the hall kitchen to prepare the meal.

In his dual role as NED District and Council President, Al Jaritis commenced the program with his dry humor. A perennial, Tony Shalna, was called upon to emcee. He introduced the head table: Rev. A. Contons, Rev. A. Baltrushunas, Sr. M. Celestine, principal at St. Peter's School Algirdas Budreckis, National 1st Vice President

of the K of L, Laima and Ceslovas Kiliulis, Lithuanian Boy and Girl Scout leaders, Vytautas Jurgela, scoutmaster of the Lithuanian Boy Scouts of Boston, and Marie Uzdavins of the Ladies Sodality.

The guest speaker was Doris Balaconis, former junior activist in C-17. Knights of Lithuania Scholarship recipient and recent graduate of Northeastern University Law School. She spoke about what St. Casimir means to her. Although a failure in war at the age of 13, Prince Casimir devoted his life and frail energies to religion, justice and charity for the poor, and internal peace in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. It is joy to hear new and upcoming talents speak at these Communion breakfasts. Its a sure sign that the Knights are a viable organization in Boston!

Apuokas

C-10

ATHOL-GARDNER

The parishioners of St. Francis are up in arms and rightly so! With the upcoming mandatory retirement of Rev. Justin Steponaitis in September at the age of 75 and the shortage of Lithuanian priests and priests in general, the Diocese of Worcester would like to close St. Francis Parish in Athol.

A special parish meeting with Bishop Harrington is scheduled. With 450 souls in the parish and up to 1000 persons attending beautiful St. Francis on a typical weekend, Fr.

Steponaitis has made the parish a very personal parish which is very uncommon today. It would cost a million dollars to replace the property today.

We all hope that our Lithuanian Bishop Paulius Baltakis will intercede and come to our aid.

We, in the North Country, have been belted with one snow storm after another. We are paying for the almost snowless past two winters. The infamous flu did not bypass Council 10. Many members were hard hit.

We miss Amelia Vaitkunas, Ann Ambrose and Margaret Senk at our meetings. Get well soon and return to the flock.

Helen Simkunas was saddened on the recent death of her sister Ona Calkonas in Lithuania. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Helen and son Tony. May she rest in peace.

We are rightly proud of member Dick Genaitis, owner of Rite Media, who has now expanded his business to Florida and New Hampshire.

Our council again sponsored the annual Lithuanian Independence Day observance at St. Francis Church Hall on February 22.

The observance began with a Lithuanian High Mass celebrated by pastor Rev. Justin Steponaitis who also gave an appropriate sermon. The St. Casimir's Men's Choir of Worcester sang a most beautiful Mass with director Olga Kersis at the organ and Valius Rozevicius as soloist.

Following Mass, the choir, guests and K of L'ers were served a light lunch of chowder and rolls.

The festivities continued in the parish hall with President Bill Wisniauskas as master of ceremonies. Following the

singing of the national anthem, Fr. Steponaitis gave the opening prayer. Charles Genaitis read Mayor Allen Agnelli's proclamation designating February 16 as Lithuanian Day in Gardner.

Our own Leatina Kuzmeskus was the key speaker. Her theme, "My best wishes to the Lithuanian people on their Independence Day," was well given and enthusiastically received by the audience.

Superintendent of the Athol School System, Mr. Kelley and his wife were in attendance and extended best wishes reminding us that the Irish have suffered religious and political persecution.

The men's choir presented a beautiful program of Lithuanian songs. Lennie Davidonis had a display of his photography that drew a lot of interest. Bill Wisniauskas displayed photos of Lithuanian life in Gardner in years gone by.

Following the program which closed with the singing of "Marija, Marija," coffee and cake were served. The choir and K of L'ers later enjoyed an excellent hot buffet.

Congratulations to Frank Anoris who was named "Elk of the Year" by the Athol Elks. Frank was presented a citation and pen from the Grand Lodge and a commemorative plaque from the local lodge. Frank, one of our best liked members, has been an active member the past 43 years.

Best wishes go out to Rev. Albin Yankauskas, former advisor of our council, on his recent retirement. We wish you many years of good health, Father.

Bill and Brone Wisniauskas spent two weeks in the Spanish and Portuguese Riviera.

In memory of the late Pauline Rogers, our members made a donation to the Putnam Sisters and presented a chasuble to the Franciscan Fathers in Kennebunkport. Her gracious smile and gentle manner endeared her to us all. May she rest in peace.

Vincukas

C-26 WORCESTER, MA



Tulpė

Worcester's commemoration of the 69th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence took place on February 15 with Mass at St. Casimir's Church. Pastor Father Anthony Miciunas MIC was host to Bishop Timothy Harrington, Bishop of Worcester, who celebrated Mass and delivered the Homily. Truly, Bishop Harrington honored us with his presence, his warmth and understanding.

Breakfast was served in the parish hall following Mass. Council 26 and St. Casimir's Men's Club shared in preparing, serving and cost-absorbing the breakfast. Ann & Steve Walinsky Sr. were assisted by Council President Rita Pinkus, Virginia & Dwight Cummings, Frances Kulakusky, Tillie Zeleski, Marion Shapiro, Bea & Tony Anton, Carol Kardokas and Steve Walinsky, Jr.

An incredible winter of ice and snow plus an overflow of guests at Mass caused some parking problems. However, our member, Jack Kazlauskas, owner of Dirsa-Kazlauskas Funeral Home, offered use of his spacious parking lot, thus reducing the parking problem to a nice and comfy arrangement.

That afternoon at Maironis Park, the civil commemoration took place where city and state dignitaries, representatives of various organizations, Lithuanians and friends of Lithuanians, all joined in commemorating this occasion. We'll not take space for details except to say, "This was an important day!"

Warmest of welcomes to our new members - Elizabeth O'Connell, Nell & Joseph Salkaus and Edward F. Palilunas. Congratulations to Geraldine Thompson Tagman and Edward Palilunas of Northboro who are engaged to be married. More congratulations to Bill & Anne Tagman Buckley who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in February.

The jubilee prayer was read at the February meeting by Mary Ulevich, Nell Mitchell and Betty O'Donnell. Preceding the meeting was a Valentine's Day Supper. Hearts and flowers of pink and red decorated the parish hall. Committee members were Anne & Steve Walinsky Sr., Ellie & Steve Walinsky Jr. and their children Mark and Lynne, Mary Anusauskas, Mildred Lapinskas and Nell Mitchell.

Our prayerful sympathies to Ann & Alex Pridotkas and family on the death of Ann's mother, Mrs. Ursula Valaitis, in February; and to the family of the late Charles Tagman who died in February.

Charles Tagman was a past president of Council 26, a

Fourth Degree member, a former state legislator, former choir president and member, active in St. Casimir parish, owned and operated Tagman's Bakery on Providence Street for many years where his wife Adele and children Carol, Charles Jr., Janice and Martha helped prepare many a beautiful wedding cake, fancy pastry, cookies and bread. His happy-go-lucky attitude was always there, even in illness. We will miss Charlie. God rest the souls of our precious dead.

Council members serving on the board at Maironis Park include President Kazys Adomavicius, Vice President Francis A. Glodas, Recording Secretary Ann Bender, Financial Secretary Anna Kersis, Auditor Stephen Walinsky Sr., Directors WSithold Ivaska and Charles Kulakusky. All were installed by Father Miciunas at a special banquet held on February 8. Congratulations to all!

Kazys & Theresa Adomavicius escaped the winter freeze by spending a week in Aruba.

And now we have some extra-special news. Stephen Walinsky Sr. was elected president of the Lithuanian Naturalization and Social Club, Vernon Street, Worcester. Steve's honesty, integrity and ambition convince us that he will make an excellent leader. Congratulations, Steve, and very sincere good wishes as you take on this important office.

We wish good health to Adele Tagman, Bill Leseman, Ted Pinkus, Stanley Kamendulis and Mark Walinsky. May they be off the sick list quicker than quick!

Su Diev iki sekancio numerio!

"Dzukele"

C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT



Bijūnas

On Sunday, March 8, St. Casimir Church and Council 50 of the Knights of Lithuania celebrated the observance of 600 years of Lithuanian Christianity. After Mass, a procession was conducted around the Wooster Square Greene with many members attired in Lithuanian costume. The New Haven Register was on hand to record this event for the area towns.

In the church hall, Mrs. Theresa Strimaitis and her helpers served a home-cooked meal of turkey, ham, ethnic foods and desserts. Father Kenneth Bonadies of St. Ann Church, Hamden, was the principal speaker. The Amber Singers also entertained. Music was available throughout the entire day.

The invited guests were the distinguished mayor of New Haven, the Hon. Biagio DiLieto and Bill Beamish, a favorite radio personality from our popular WAVZ station.

Marion and Robert Marcus, our chairpeople for this special event, devoted much time, energy and especially devotion into making this 600th anniversary an experience that will surely be remembered for many years.

Elizabeth Gybowski

