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the KNIGHT

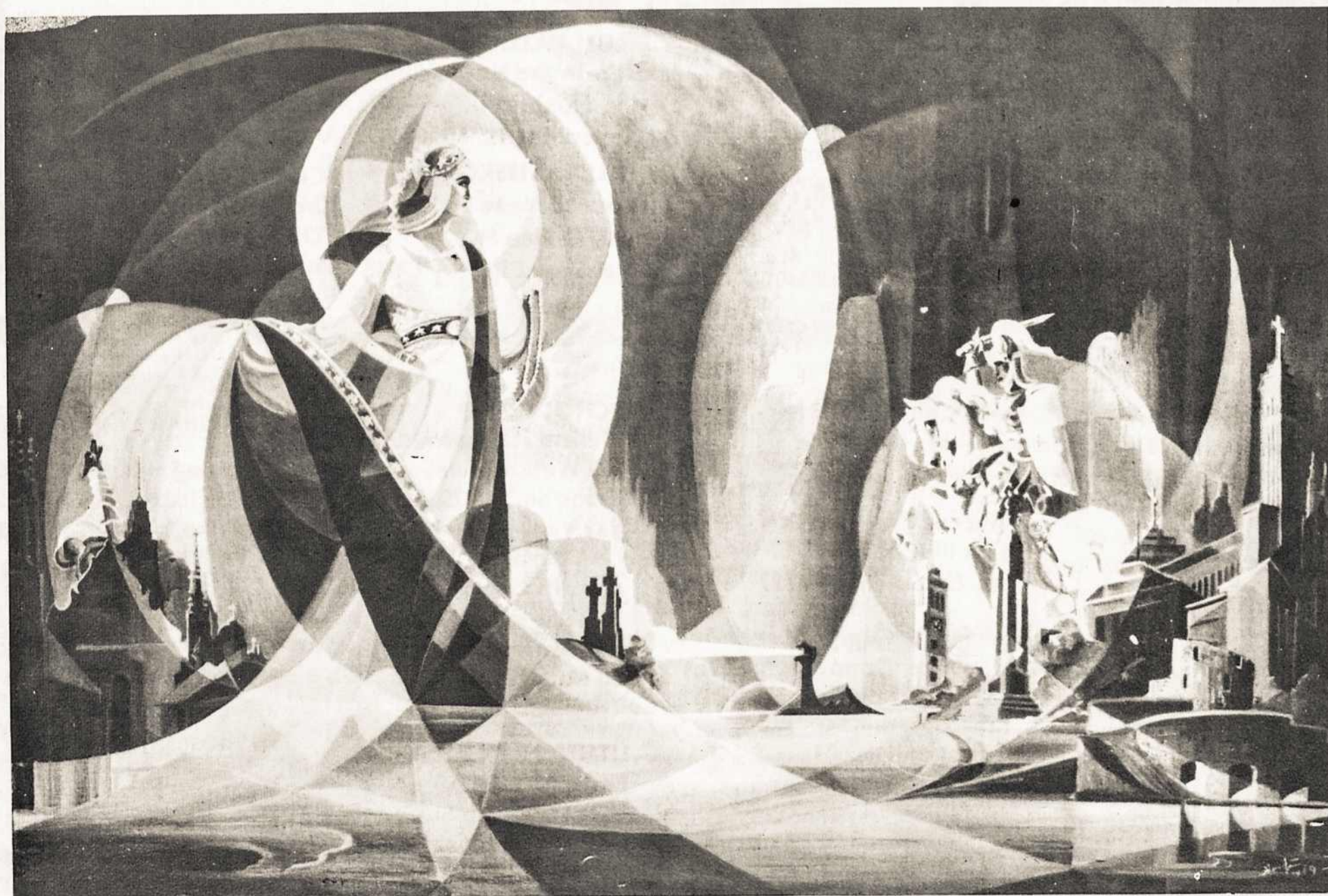
VYTIS

• 1987 •

The Knights
of Lithuania

VOL. 73; NO. 5

MAY – GEGUŽĖ



Marijos žemė - Mary's Land

Painting by Jurgis Juodis



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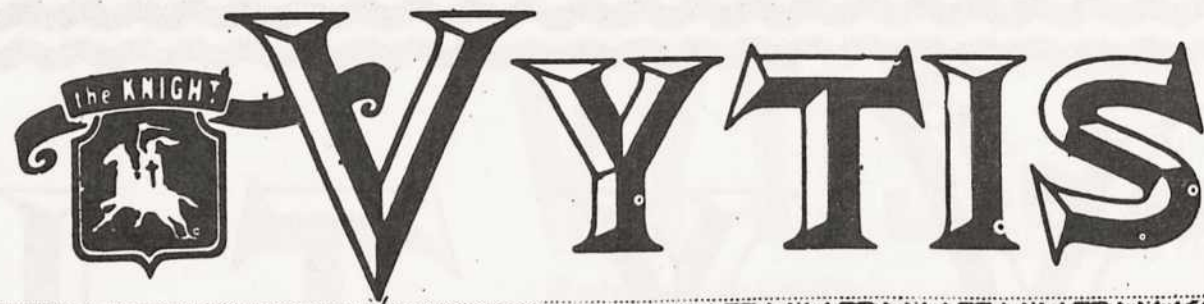
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Lithuania 1387:

The Baptism Continues

Algirdas Budreckis



Having christianized Vilnius and its environs, Jogaila traveled throughout Lithuania. In each locale, the same apostolic scene was repeated as in Vilnius. Everywhere holy groves were cut down, crosses erected, chapels founded, and new decrees issued. The christianizing journey took several months.

The first christianization was limited to the Lithuanian highland (Aukštaitijai) with a population of 300,000. It should be remembered that not all of these people were affected. The rulers wanted an official baptism in the regions of pagan religious centers. Jogaila and his christianizers (krikstytojai) visited Asmena, Lyda, Kreva, Eisiskes, Merkine, Gardinas and other towns. The first churches were built in the Vilnius area, but beyond Ukmerge there were no churches. Not even Kaunas had a church erected.

Based on the chronicles of Jan Dlugosz, Jerome of Prague, and Maciej Strykowski, our first Lithuanian historian Albertas Kojalavicius has left us an account of

the continued christianization of Lithuania (*Historiae Lithuaniae pars altera (II)*, 669, pp 92-95), to wit:

"...finally inviting all pagans to a conference, the people chose an elder man, who in the name of the common people was to appeal to the rulers — Until now we worshipped the old deities, who, as holinesses, were worshipped by our forbearers. Perhaps we behaved more haughtily than our station required, as the rulers' subjects. Without doubt, the gods should have been more respected than the rulers. Afterwards, when we saw that our gods, whom we so highly esteemed, when injured by your commands, did nothing to protect themselves, because without any doubt, they are either weaklings or completely powerless, it is our wish to join your divinity, which is more powerful and in the future we will worship him. Received by the rulers (Jogaila and Vytautas), the old spokewman urged the others not to waste time, but to do as they promised. Thus, they flocked to hear talks about God and to learn the truths of the

religion. During the sermon by Rev. Mikolaj Venzik of the Teaching Order (Dominicans — A.B.), in plain view of the rulers, an unpleasant incident occurred. As the preacher from his pulpit explained the creation of the world, one old man shouted:

"Men, believe me! What this young man is saying, without doubt, is a lie. How can he know all of this, when, I having lived so many years, nearly a hundred, cannot remember anything resembling what he says?"

As Kojalavicius explains, the entire sermon would have been flopped, had not the king used his influence to support the priest's words. In a pleasant manner, he approached that feisty old-timer, and the others, explaining that holy speakers through the sermon do not speak about what they saw with their own eyes, or had experienced in their own life, but what occurred through the Almighty and True God many centuries ago, what they took from the knowledge of the ancestors, from old, old written sources, especially from divine books. After continuous long work, the ignorance of the people was overcome, and those who had the capacity to understand were enlightened about the basic tenets of Christian teaching and to the great joy of Jogaila and Vytautas, they were baptized in the Catholic faith.

Without doubt it was difficult for a simple people who had to give up the faith of their ancestors, which each had received from childhood along with his sustenance. The respect and fear of the ancient gods had been ingrained in the hearts and minds of the Lithuanian peasants and had grown throughout their years of maturing. It could not be rooted out of the hearts of the uneducated by force alone.

Satisfied with a superficial conversion, King Jogaila returned to Poland and Queen Jadwiga in mid-summer, 1387.

Other socio-political and legal factors worked to cement the conversion to Catholicism.

600TH JUBILEE FESTIVITIES SCHEDULED IN LITHUANIA

*To our dear brothers and sisters in
Christ in Lithuania,*

*Miles may separate us, thoughts and
spirits do not. Throughout all your
celebrations, large or small, and for
eternity, we, Knights of Lithuania,
will remain spiritually joined to you
in prayer. Together we will struggle
against all attempts to make us stray
from the teachings of Christ.*

MAY	24	Kaunas Archcathedral
JUNE	7	Telsiai Cathedral
JUNE	28	Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Vilnius
JULY	8	Zemaiciai Kalvarija
AUGUST	1	Panevezys Cathedral
AUGUST	15	Krekenava
AUGUST	16	Pivasiunai
AUGUST	20	Kaisiadorys Cathedral
SEPT	13	Siluva
NOV	22	Ausros Vartai, Vilnius

LITHUANIAN CATHOLICS DECLARE DAYS OF PRAYER FOR IMPRISONED PRIESTS AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

In defiance of Soviet authorities, Catholics in Lithuania declared May 23-31 days of prayer for imprisoned priests and other prisoners of conscience.

There are at least 36 Lithuanian prisoners known to be serving terms of imprisonment or exile for defending human rights under Soviet and International Law. Among them are Rev. Alfonse Svarinskas, Rev. Sigitas Tamkevicius, and Fr. Jonas-Kastytis Matulonis.

In 12/86 when many Soviet dissidents were

being released from labor camp, Fr. Tamkevicius and Fr. Svarinskas were taken to Kaunas and interrogated. They were returned, however, to their prison cells because they refused to sign confessions of guilt.

It has been reported that other prisoners of conscience also had been taken from camps to urban holding cells. They, likewise, were returned to camp for refusing to sign documents asking for pardons, thus admitting guilt.

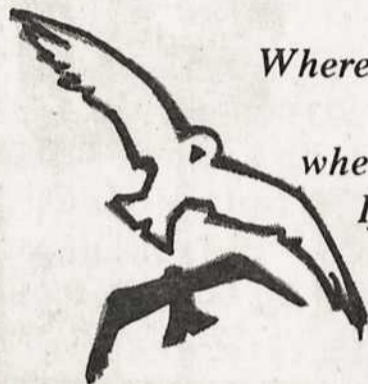
AUSTRALIAN AND GERMAN BISHOPS EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH LITHUANIAN CHRISTIANS

On March 26th, German Catholic bishops issued a statement expressing their solidarity with their Lithuanian brothers and sisters in Christ. They called upon Soviet authorities, during this anniversary year of Lithuania's Christianity to return the Cathedral of Vilnius, the Church of St. Casimir, and the Queen of Peace Church to Lithuanian faithful. They also called upon the Soviet Union, in keeping with the Helsinki Accords to honor the rights of all Lithuanians to religious freedom.

The Australian Bishops Conference convened in May. At this conference, they too expressed their solidarity with the believers in Lithuania. They expressed their concern regarding the exile of Bishop Steponavicius, the imprisonment of Frs. Svarinskas, Tamkevicius and Matulionis, and all other Lithuanian prisoners of conscience. They too called upon Soviet authorities to honor the rights of Lithuanian Christians guaranteed them by international agreements and the Soviet constitution.

COME HOLY SPIRIT!

Shed a Ray of Light Divine!



*Where can I go from your spirit?
From your presence
where can I flee?
If I go up to the heavens,
you are there.
Ps. 139:7-8*

Baptism is our birth to the life of God. In baptism the Holy Spirit grants us sanctifying grace and the rudiments of the virtues of faith, hope and love. From baptism we endeavor to understand the deepest meaning and purpose of our being. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit - wisdom, knowledge, understanding, fortitude, counsel, piety and fear of the Lord - a living Christian spirit begins to grow in us. We become Christians "after the heart of God".

Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding in Cana. He turned water into wine, symbolically revealing the meaning of his mission. The Holy Spirit, sent by the Father and Jesus, changes the insipid waters of our everyday lives into choice wine.

In our lives, we actually witness how the person, who is obedient to the Holy Spirit, knows how to prevent the increase of evil and enmity, shares his wholehearted goodness and warmth, finds peaceful and refreshing solutions toward brotherly relations among people. Jesus said, "Who believes...from within him rivers of living water shall flow."

The Holy Spirit is like fire. He can be flaming, warming, enlightening, inspiring. But He can also be barely smoldering, hidden, as smoldering coals buried under ashes. This does not depend on the Holy Spirit; but it depends on our openness to the Spirit, our cooperation with Him.

We are true Christians in the degree that we cooperate with the Holy Spirit. If our cooperation is alive and enthusiastic, we are Christians of living spirit. If our spirituality is only weak and rudimentary, we are imperfect, weak, lifeless Christians. He who loses sanctifying grace loses the love of God, hope, and possibly even faith.

The work of the Holy Spirit in us is hindered by our laziness and our materialism, our avoidance of effort and our love of comfort and convenience, our fear of involvement, lack of determination in struggle with the evil in ourselves. Honesty and resoluteness are prerequisites for the awesome and sanctifying gifts of the Holy Spirit to work in us.

During this year of the Jubilee of the Baptism of Lithuania, we invite all the faithful and all who are sensitive to the will of God to learn to lead their lives in this living Christian spirit. We invite you from now on to show, by your lives, a spirit of kindness toward God's created nature, your family, your surroundings, your community of the faithful, your country. May prayer and salvation lift us in spirit, may our conscientiousness, resourcefulness, generosity, responsibility be visible in everything we do.

Excerpts from the fifth letter of Lithuanian bishops and diocesan administrators to the faithful celebrating 600 years of Christianity in Lithuania.

Pentecost 1987

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600TH JUBILEE
OF
LITHUANIA'S CHRISTIANITY
OBSERVED IN
PHILADELPHIA

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The 600th Anniversary of Lithuania's Christianity was observed on March 1st in Philadelphia at St. Casimir's Church.

Bishop Louis DeSimone, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, was principal celebrant and homilist. A wayside shrine, donated by C-3, was installed in St. Casimir's and blessed by Bishop DeSimone.

A luncheon followed Holy Mass. Loretta Stukas, former National K of L president, was guest speaker. Walter Mameniskas, C-3, served as master of ceremonies.



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600TH JUBILEE
OF
LITHUANIA'S CHRISTIANITY
TO BE OBSERVED IN
BALTIMORE

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Holy Mass in observance of Lithuania's Christianity Jubilee is to be held June 14th at St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore, MD.

The main celebrant will be Baltimore's Archbishop William Bordon.

**Lithuania,
In the spirit
of Christian
spirit and love,
We join our
hearts with yours
to spread
the message
of the Lord!**

*Loretta Stukas was guest
speaker at the luncheon*



Bishop Louis DeSimone, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, was celebrant and homilist. The Wayside Shrine donated by Council 3 was installed in St. Casimir's by Father Wassel and blessed by Bishop DeSimone before Mass



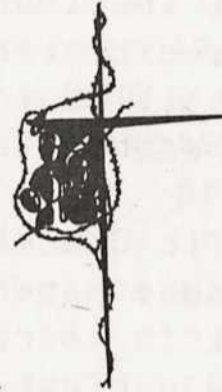
Joseph Drumstas, president C-3; HM Helen Shields; Bishop DeSimone; Loretta Stukas; Walter Mameniskas, master of ceremonies; Rev. Eugene Wassel, pastor St. Casimir and spiritual advisor C-3

L.C.R.A. REPORT

Please remember our brothers and sisters in Lithuania during this special Jubilee Year. We have read that the faithful in Lithuania have declared special days of prayer for imprisoned clergy, Fr. Alphonse Svarinskas, Fr. Sigitas Tamkevicius, Fr. Jonas-Kastytis Matulionis, and other prisoners of conscience. In doing this, they risked a great deal - their jobs, their children's education, their future. The risk we offer in return is a donation to our organization's Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid Fund.

The Knights have traditionally been very generous in supporting this endeavor. Take the time now and send a to help your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Joni Reinhart
LCRA Coordinator



**FROM YOU
THROUGH US
TO THEM...**

When The Church Is Ruled By An Atheist...

By Msgr. Joseph Prunskis

What happens when the Church is ruled by an atheist? We can judge from the situation in Lithuania, which the Soviet Union occupied by force and fraud. Lithuania is the only Catholic country in the Soviet empire. A special official Petras Anilonis, who is an atheist, has been assigned by Moscoe to regulate ecclesiastical affairs.

On December 10, 1987, Mr. Anilonis published a set of regulations concerning the Church in Lithuania in "Tiesa" (No. 283), which is the official organ of the Communist party and of the Lithuanian puppet government. He proclaimed that believers have freedom to worship and that non-believers (i.e. atheists) have freedom to disseminate anti-religious propaganda. Understandably, believers do not have the freedom to spread their faith and ideals.

Church buildings and items necessary for worship are now considered to be properties of the state. Churches constructed in the past, by the people, have been confiscated, and rent is required for their use. Numerous churches have been converted into museums, storage rooms, movie theatres, concert halls, and dance halls.

The religious community cannot own buses or trucks. Permission for repair of churches or parish buildings must be obtained in advance. The Church was separated from the state and educational institutions. In practice, however, the state has not separated itself from the Church and exerts strict controls over ecclesiastical activities, including transfer of priests. Special permission must be granted to organize production of candles, rosaries, scapulars, etc.

The number of students in seminaries is restricted. The only seminary currently functioning in the city of Kaunas is permitted to accept approximately thirty new seminarians each year. Three other seminaries have been closed by the Moscow-controlled government. Priests are forbidden to impose payments of any sort on families of church members.

Ecclesiastical associations are not allowed to conduct religious or other meetings of children, youth, or women; organize groups and outings; establish libraries and sports arenas as well as children's playgrounds, or teach religion to children and teenagers. Only parents are allowed to teach religion to their children, and only to their children.

Special permission is required from the local administrative committee (which is, understandably, controlled by the atheists) to organize processions,

stage religious ceremonies outdoors as well as in private dwellings of believers. Priests cannot make annual visits to their parishioners' homes, visits that were traditional at Christmas time. The churches can be closed if signatures for any petitions are solicited in them. Atheistically-controlled local councils of the so-called representatives of the people have the right to control how ecclesiastical institutions observe religious state-dictated regulations, and how they are entitled to make decisions regarding adherence to all such regulations.

"The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania" is an underground paper secretly published for the past 15 years in spite of grave danger to the publish-

ers of being placed in slave labor camps. This paper informs us about many priests who are fined for teaching religion to children (even in church), for erecting Christmas trees in churches or in church enclosures, and for conducting retreats outdoors for young people.

"The Chronicle" also informs us about students who are forbidden to continue their studies as a result of partaking in church activities or for writing letters to prisoners of conscience. Some teachers and public officials lose their positions for taking part in religious activities. In many instances, students or state officials have been prohibited from taking part in religious funerals.

SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST LITHUANIA'S JUBILEE

1. Publication of several major atheist texts to fortify the anti-religious campaign in Lithuania.
2. Radio Vatican attacked by Soviet authorities for fostering religious extremism. Pope, clergy slandered.
3. Catholic activists in Lithuania are the target of KGB campaign. From 5/86-10/86 about 60 individuals, mostly in Kaunas, were interrogated; their homes were searched, often without official sanction. They were 'blackmailed' by KGB to force confess to crimes such as holding meet-
Many religious books, writings were confiscated. Algirdas Patackas, former University professor was arrested. (He was released in 2/87).
4. 6/86 Petras Anilionis, Commissioner of Religious Affairs in Lithuania, summons meeting of the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference to issue warnings that Jubilee solemnities may be cancelled by government order.
5. Commissioner Anilionis complained of Lithuanian Christianity Jubilee Committee, led by Bishop Juozas Preikšas, requests for impossible things, i.e., return of the Cathedral of Vilnius, Church of St. Casimir, Queen of Peace Church. Anilionis stated the demands would not be satisfied and if the Committee continued along its 'extremist' path, the commemoration would be forbidden and the committee dissolved.
6. Lithuanian Bishops' Conference warned not to invite church dignitaries from the West.
7. Travel to Lithuania totally banned during the month of June.
8. Local Communist Party press issues series of articles emphasizing the incompatibility of religious beliefs with the Communist Party and the Komsomol, or Young Communist League. (Soviet Klaipeda (4/15/86)-Noise, Lies and the Commandments of God).
9. Official press prints 2 articles written by Petras Anilionis, Commissioner for Religious Affairs in Lithuania warning that a) all infractions of the regulations on religious associations will be prosecuted; this could lead to the closing of churches in which violations occur; b) 12/86 - that the government has the right to regulate religious ceremonies. Religious rituals must be carried out only in churches - no outdoor pilgrimages, processions are allowed.

NIJOLE SADUNAITE DEFIER OF ATHEISM

Nijole Sadunaite's life is a living example of what it means to live under atheism. She has lived under it almost her entire life. She was 2 years old when Lithuania was absorbed into the Soviet Union; she was 3 years old when the mass deportations occurred in June 1941.

The fruits of atheism, as Nijole describes them, are: "If there is no God, anything goes!" It is to her faith and the faith of her family, friends and religious teachers (Bishop Vincentas Borisevicius, Petras Paulaitis) that Nijole credits her ability and courage

On April 2, 1987, in Vilnius, Nijole was taken into custody by Soviet authorities. After interrogation, however, she was released.

Authorities issued her new registration papers. She was informed that she was still subject to criminal prosecution for evading administrative surveillance for the past few years. Nijole had been in hiding for the past 5 years to avoid a second jail term on fabricated charges. Soviet law dictates that released political prisoners must periodically register their residence and workplace with local authorities. Those who fail to do so, are often exposed to possible charges of 'parasitism' or administrative fines.



Nijole Sadunaite **A RADIANCE IN THE GULAG: THE CATHOLIC WITNESS OF NIJOLE SADUNAITE**

In 1975, a thirty-seven-year-old Lithuanian woman was sentenced to three years of hard labor and three additional years of exile in Siberia for helping to circulate copies of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. Her crime was to be devoted to the Catholic Church and to attempt to spread the truth about the sufferings of Catholics under the Communist regime. During her lengthy interrogation, imprisonment and exile, the masters of the Gulag continuously attempted to break her spirit and



get her to betray her Faith and her fellow Catholics. Despite six years of harassment, persecution, and illness, she did not break. Since her release, she has been shadowed constantly by the KGB, yet she continues to aid the Church by disseminating the Truth, including all the details of her trial which the government tried for ten years to suppress. Smuggled out of Lithuania, this is the story of a woman feared by the KGB—the story of Nijole Sadunaite. Includes photographs.

*c130pp. Coming in March, 1987.
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A SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF A SPECIAL EVENT



**O Marija,
Karaliene taikos,
melski už mus!**

DEAREST WORD IS MOTHER

The grandest word is God.
 The deepest word is Soul.
 The longest work is Eternity.
 The swiftest word is Time.
 The nearest word is Now.
 The darkest word is Sin.
 The meanest word is Hypocrisy.
 The brightest work is Truth.
 The strongest word is Right.
 The truest word is Love.
 The sweetest word is Home.
 And the dearest word is M O T H E R!

(Sunday bulletin, St. George's Church)
(Albany, New York)

A LITTLE STORY

Submitted by
Sabina Klatt

This is a story about four people named EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY and NOBODY.

There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was sure that SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did it.

Now SOMEBODY got angry about that because it was EVERYBODY'S job. EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it.

It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done!

We Get Letters...

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

First of all, I am an American of Lithuanian descent. I joined the Knights of Lithuania seven or eight years ago, shortly after the Anthracite Council 144 was formed. Due to the fact that the Lithuanian parish schools are in the process of becoming extinct and the shortage of Lithuanian priests, especially in my area, non-Lithuanian speaking priests are serving our parishes. The Lithuanian word is seldom heard.

Also most of our parents and grandparents are gone. There really is no one to converse with in Lithuanian.

I'm proud to say that I speak, read, and write fluently in Lithuanian. So in order to preserve all this, I read Lithuanian newspapers, books and everything that is available.

Sometimes I feel a strong desire to speak out in Lithuanian. This only happens when I attend Knights of Lithuania affairs, such as church devotions. At these times Lithuanian hymns are sung. It also happens when participating at get-togethers and meetings when we belt out our Lithuanian folk songs.

After these occasions, I seem to feel some relief of tensions, which had been locked inside of me.

The K of L motto is "For God and Country". It serves not only as an inspiration to us, but in practicing it we gain not only worldly benefits, but also spiritual benefits. It also makes us better Americans and loyal Lithuanians. "Lai Ilgai Gyvuoja Vyciai!"

By Maryte Pieri
Anthracite Council 144



Rally for Soviet Christians Held in Washington

A rally for Solidarity with Persecuted Christians in the USSR took place on May 1 on the steps of the nation's Capitol. It was planned to coincide with the Soviet Union's traditional May Day celebration.

It was sponsored by a broad-based interfaith group, Coalition for Solidarity with Christians in the USSR. Catholics are represented in the Coalition by Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid.

The Congressional Human Rights Caucus also co-sponsored the rally. Several congressmen addressed the rally. Among them were Sen. Pete Wilson, R-CA, and Rep. Frank Wolf, R-VA. Rep. Wolf noted that the House of Representatives had, on April 30, voted unanimously to prohibit for import to the U.S. any goods made by slave labor in the USSR. Petitions with over 40,000 signatures asking Pres. Reagan to urge the Soviet Union to release imprisoned believers.

An 'Adopt a Prisoner Campaign' was launched at the rally to ensure that every known Soviet Christian prisoner will have prayer and advocacy support.

Doubts were expressed at the rally about Gorbachev's 'glasnost' campaign. Fr. Pugevicius stated that the glasnost campaign bodes no good for democracy and that Gorbachev seems to be putting more pressure on Soviet believers.

K of L Calendar



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

=====

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

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

- 12-13 New Jersey Ethnic Festival
Liberty State Park
Jersey City, NJ
- 18 600TH JUBILEE
LITHUANIAN CHRISTIANITY
Allentown, PA
- 25-27 Mid-Central District
Meeting & Pilgrimage
Hosts C-96, Dayton
- 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

=====

October 30 - November 2
 Stratton Strech Weekender
 Stratton, Vermont
 Sponsored by C-110
 Maspeth, New York

=====

**74TH KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA NATIONAL CONVENTION
IN THE "HEART OF AMERICA"
KANSAS CITY, KA**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WED, JULY 29: Registration
Pre-Convention
Activities:
1:30 PM Truman's Hometown Tour
1:30 PM Heart of America Tour

THURS, JULY 30: Registration all day
MORNING: Supreme Council Meeting
Noon Opening Mass
2:00 PM 1st Plenary Session
(Business, greetings)
EVENING: Social-Get-Together
at the famous
"Gold Buffet"

FRIDAY, JULY 31: Registration all day
9:00 AM 2nd Plenary Session
Panel Discussion
Spiritual Reflections
on the Jubilee Year
NOON: Holy Mass for the
Suffering Church in
Lithuania
2:00 PM 3rd Plenary Session
Panel Discussion
EVENING: Lithuanian Heritage
Night at the historical
Folly Theatre
Wine & Cheese Reception

SAT, AUG 1: Registration all day
9:00 AM 4th Plenary Session
Business, resolutions,
nominations
NOON: Holy Mass for our
deceased members
2:00 PM 5th Plenary Session
Elections
EVENING: Banquet and Dance

SUN, AUG 2: Convention Closing Mass
4th Degree Bestowed
Convention Photo
Farewell Brunch

REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Applications received after July 7 will be assessed an additional \$10.00 for each adult; \$5.00 for each Junior.

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____
COUNCIL #, CITY _____
NUMBER OF PEOPLE REGISTERING _____
FAMILY MEMBER NAMES _____

ADULT REGISTRATION:

\$125.00 X _____ = \$ _____
of people Total

JUNIOR REGISTRATION:

\$ 95.00 X _____ = \$ _____
of people Total

RESERVE _____ for TRUMAN'S HOME-
of people
TOWN TOUR (Wed, July 29, 1:30 PM)
@ \$12.50 per person.

RESERVE _____ for HEART OF AMER-
of people
ICA TOUR (Wed, July 29, 1:30 PM)
@ \$12.50 per person.

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

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



JUNIORS CORNER



C-96 JUNIORS

In February, C-96 Juniors held a very successful bake sale. Junior advisors Chris and Joe Fletcher guided them in all the things that needed to be done. They learned how to find out who will bake what, what things have to be picked up, to make posters, set up tables, and much more. In the end they enjoyed the support of their council members and friends. Learning and fun can go hand in hand.

C-100 JUNIORS

In March, C-100 held its traditional St. Casimir's commemoration. Holy Mass was held at St. Casimir's Church, followed by a brunch. At this event, C-100 Juniors, Charles and Daniel Jasewicz received their 1st Degree. Judianne Nikstenas, Kristin Olechowski, Joseph Kot, Kenneth Jasewicz and Richard Jasewicz received their 2nd Degree. C-100 Juniors will be helping Ed Baranauskas at the Festival of Nations in Schenectady during the month of May.



C-100 Juniors, Charles and Daniel Jasewicz receive their First Degree

C-112 JUNIORS

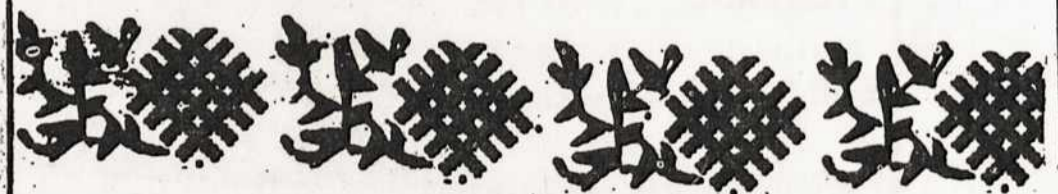
When C-112 hosted the annual Mid-America District's St. Casimir's Day they asked the Juniors to help. The Juniors volunteered to help with the serving of the food and clearing of tables. Over 150 people attended. Despite the hard work they were enthusiastic and cheerful.

C-144 JUNIORS

The C-144 Juniors contributed their talents to C-144's 10th anniversary commemoration. They enacted a skit illustrating prime events in their council's history. Although Msgr. Bartkus, Dr. Jack Stukas, Loretta Stukas, and Joe Yanalaitis did appear somewhat younger and slightly different, the K of L spirit was truly portrayed. The youngsters also sang and danced to entertain the guests. They are directed by Rita Shevokas and other members who wish to see the Lithuanian language and heritage continued.

JUNIOR CONVENTION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY JULY 30	Trip to Worlds of Fun
FRIDAY JULY 31	Trip to Oceans of Fun
SATURDAY AUGUST 1	Junior Convention Business Session



ETHNICITY

Bonus or Hinderance?

By Rev. William Wolkovitch

Turning to subjective aspects of ethnicity, let me suggest three:

- ...Awareness
- ...Acceptance
- ...Expression

AWARENESS

Ethnic awareness varies in depth. One might have a blurred or vague sense, or even no such awareness at all. I know a Dr. Deborah Dennis who grew up in the Cleveland suburb of Fairview Park with practically no concept of ethnicity. Only in New York City, when she was doing her residency was she confronted with the realization that many people everyone to have a heightened awareness of ethnicity. One day she met a Jewish colleague with a non-Jewish sounding name, though bearing typical Jewish features. In their conversation he happened to ask who her roommate was. The dialogue went on something like this,

"My roommate is Anne Lynch."

"Oh, she's Irish."

"Is she?"

"Well, what does she look like?"

"She has red hair and freckles."

"Well of course, she's Irish; she's just as Irish, as I am Jewish."

"Oh, are you Jewish?"

Then the inquirer became angry, accusing the woman of making fun of him. He mistakenly thought she was pretending not to know that he was Jewish. Deborah Dennis was brought up in such a way as to pay no attention to surnames or external features. She simply regarded everyone she met as a fellow human being. Though her lack of awareness about ethnicity startled me, I have learned since then that there are people in some parts of the country, who have grown up in a homogeneous neighborhood, and honestly have experienced no ethni-

city around them. While ethnicity can be a major part of a healthy self-image, still it is not essential to that image.

The majority of people, probably a vast majority, do have some sense of ethnicity. But there is not necessarily a uniform awareness throughout a person's life. The quality of ethnicity

changes from child, to adolescent, to adult. At first it is merely a sense of separateness. Later this sense may lead to inquiry about what makes one different. Finally one may invest time and effort in learning about one's roots, and in seriously appreciating them.

In 1963 scholars Nathan Glazier and Patrick Moynihan published a study called *Beyond the Melting Pot*. They examined the five principal ethnic groups of New York City - Blacks, Jews, Irish, Italians and Puerto Ricans. One of their expert conclusions was that almost everyone at one time or another in one's lifetime averts to one's ethnicity. This is true even of third and fourth generations.

(Incidentally, the accepted way of designation is this. One born here of foreign-born parents is called second generation. So if your parents or grandparents came from Lithuania, that makes you either second or third generation Lithuanians).

To illustrate the Glazier-Moynihan finding, I recall an elderly priest named Lamontagne in upper Manhattan whom I once visited. He told me a charming story of meeting a second-generation Irish person, who remarked about the priest's last name, obviously of French-Canadian derivation. On hearing the priest's surname, the Irishman promptly responded: "Oh, you're French." The priest responded, "I am not! I'm American! Our family has lived in the

U.S. for five generations, My grandfather's grandfather came from Canada, and settled in Massachusetts. Can you make that claim?" This story prompted me to ask the priest, "Have you or anyone in your family ever considered changing your surname?" But the priest shot back "Why should we? We are proud of it!"

ACCEPTANCE

Besides awareness, there is the element of acceptance. One conceivably can be quite knowledgeable about one's ethnic roots in an academic or theoretical way, but resist accepting and acknowledging such a heritage. It is no surprise that some people try to conceal their ethnicity, or deny it outrightly. In past generations people willingly or reluctantly hid their ethnic origin for many reasons: out of shame, in order to get a job, or for the sake of assuming another. One must deliberately and consciously choose to be Lithuanian or whatever ethnicity.

EXPRESSION

Acceptance leads to many selective ways of expression, the third subjective element of ethnicity, such as the place one chooses to live. One sees examples of this in Putnam, Connecticut, where a half dozen families have built homes in order to be near that bastion of Lithuanianism in the east - the quarters of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. The climate of St. Petersburg, Florida has naturally evolved into a similar drawing card, creating a Lithuanian environment. By far the most ambitious enterprise has appeared in the midwest on vacated seminary property. Investors hope that the extensive acreage of the new Lithuanian center in Lemont, Illinois will be a magnet, with its offer of proposed condominiums, concert hall, recreation areas, convenience stores, etc.

In more than a few instances, those entering professional life have chosen to write their master's or doctoral dissertations on Lithuanian themes. Some

professionals, such as lawyers and doctors, have elected to practice their profession among Lithuanians. Still others hold local, regional, and national office in organizations of their own ethnic heritage. Larger numbers wear ethnic insignia on festive occasions, such as this convention. They decorate their homes with amber, woven hangings, wood carvings - art forms that speak of Lithuania. Their bookshelves house the few available English works such as: *Encyclopedia Lituanica*, Antanas Kucas' *Lithuanians in America*, one of Algirdas Budreckis' writings, or one of Algimantas Kezys' photo albums. The obvious example of ethnic expression is the activity of the line of longtime, hardcore members of the Knights of Lithuania, with whom I have become extensively acquainted these past few years in researching and writing your association history.

How to Love Everyone in Today's World

Thomas Artz, C.S.S.R.

LIGUORI
PUBLICATIONS

It often seems easier to love God than to love God's creatures. God is all-good and all-powerful. He is the Supreme Being who watches over us from heaven. Surely someone so great is easily lovable. Loving our neighbor is different. Our neighbors are human beings. They are family members, friends, and relatives. They are the people we work with and the people we meet on the street. They are the people who live near us and the people who go to our church. They can be good or bad, but we still have to love them because they are creatures of God made in his own image and likeness. It is God who dwells in each of our neighbors. Because of this, they must all be loved.

LITHUANIAN *in the* NEWS

Edited by RUTH KAZLAUSKAS

Chicago Holds Weekend Commemoration of Lithuania's 600th Christianity Jubilee

Lithuanians in the metropolitan Chicago area participated in a religious weekend March 14th and 15th commemorating the 600th anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania.

The theme for the weekend was "Christian teaching on family, youth, lay apostolate and ethnicity." Concurrent sessions in English and Lithuanian began on Saturday, March 14th, at Immaculate Conception parish in Chicago, and ended on Sunday, March 15th at Nativity B.V.M. parish in Chicago.

Included in the presentation team were K of L members EVELYN OZELIS, national Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, MARY KINCIUS, president of C-36, REV. TONY MARKUS, SALLY DAULYS, SAULIUS KUPRYS, REV. IGNAS URBONAS, to name a few. REV. JOHN KUZINSKAS is pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish where an Ecumenical Prayer Service was held on Saturday. Sunday afternoon's sessions began with a special Mass and Sermon by REV. ANTHONY ZAKARAUSKAS, pastor of Nativity B.V.M. Parish.



Ann Jillian's Faith Gives Her Courage to Endure

For actress ANN JILLIAN a prayer engraved outside her parish church changed the way she looked upon everything when at age 35 she learned she had cancer and faced surgical removal of both breasts, reports "The Long Island Catholic."

In an interview with Franciscan Father Jack Wintz in St. Anthony Messenger magazine she said that her faith saw her through the surgery and follow-up chemotherapy. The interview was featured in the November issue of the magazine, published in Cincinnati by the Franciscan Friars.

The prayer at her parish church, St. Francis de Sales in Sherman Oaks, CA, said that God either "will shield you from suffering, or he will give you unflinching strength to bear it."

C-147's Victoria Jacobson Arranges Impressive February 16th

St. Petersburg, FL residents and visitors of Lithuanian descent joined in celebrating a special Mass on February 15th marking their 10th annual observance of Lithuanian Independence Day, notes the "St. Petersburg Times." The Mass took place at St. John's Roman Catholic Church, St. Petersburg Beach. Women and children in native Lithuanian costume took part in the processional.

What should be reported is that VICTORIA T. JACOBSON, member of C-147, St. Petersburg, arranged this impressive Lithuanian Independence Day commemoration beginning with a concelebrated Mass at St. John's Church. Principal celebrant was REV. ANTHONY ZAKARAUSKAS, C-112 Chicago, Spiritual Advisor to the Mid-America District and pastor of Nativity B.V.M. Church, assisted by MSGR. JOHN BALKUNAS, REV. V. DABUSIS, REV. FRANK KELPSAS, Chaplain at Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago, and REV. GASIUNAS.

An inspiring homily was given by Father Zakarauskas. ALGERD BRAZIS, C-112, president of the Mid-America District, sang during the Mass which was attended by approximately 2,000 people. Three television stations covered the event and carried interviews with Father Zakarauskas.

After the commemorative services, Victoria Jacobson invited about 90 guests to the Brown Derby restaurant for lunch, covering all of the expense herself. HARRY PETRAITIS, C-147, formerly of Chicago, served as master of ceremonies for a special commemorative program during the luncheon. Speakers included Father Zakarauskas, Father Kelpsas, and DR. K. BOBELIS, president of the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania. Among the guests in attendance were C-112 Chicago members ALDONA BRAZIS, ESTELLE ROGERS, VIOLA MANN, ELEANOR KASPUTIS and PETER BURNS.

Amsterdam Recorder's Editor Urges All Citizens to Recognize Grim Realities of Soviet Policies

C-100, Amsterdam, N.Y., commemorated the 69th anniversary of Lithuania's independence on Saturday, February 14th, beginning with Mass at St. Casimir's Church, celebrated by REV. ROBERT K. BALTCH, spiritual advisor to C-100, followed by a dinner at the social center. Entertainment was provided by the Lazdynas dancers.



C-147 Victoria Jacobson

Through Victoria's efforts, Lithuanian Flag raising ceremonies were held on February 16th in St. Petersburg, Gulfport, and Treasure Island in recognition of Lithuanian Independence Day.

Victoria is also well known in Washington, D.C., where, through her contacts with Congressman Tip O'Neal, she was instrumental in obtaining a Captive Nations Building in Washington to be completed in 1990. She is president of the Captive Nations committee of the St. Petersburg area, very actively promoting the plight of captive nations by arranging programs and demonstrations annually in the third week of July.

American born, Victoria is outstanding among Lithuanian-Americans. Her patriotism and zeal in matters regarding Lithuanian Affairs is to be commended.

Toastmistress MIRGA BABLIN introduced Congressman SAMUEL S. STRATTON, recipient of the K of L Rev. John Jutt award. Principal speaker was DR. JACK J. STUKAS, past national president and former National Affairs and Cultural Committee chairman. Other speakers included FRANK PETRAUSKAS, National

President, and Amsterdam MAYOR MARIO VILLA.

Proclamations were read from Gov. Mario Cuomo and Mayor Mario Villa naming February 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day in the state of New York and the City of Amsterdam.

Of special note is the editorial written in Amsterdam's "The Recorder" on February 13th by Editor Mel Provost -

"Much is written these days about the seeming liberalization of some aspects of the Soviet government...

"The headlines will mean little, however to people of Lithuanian descent and others of the

Baltic and Eastern European nations dominated by modern Russia. These people know the bitterest truth about occupation and subjugation by Soviet forces...

"In the hearts and minds of Lithuanians, their country exists; their independence day is marked in sadness and anger and with little realistic hope for change soon. It is marked with pride also, however, and determination to keep the ideal alive that lived in fact only briefly...

"All citizens should take at least a moment to recognize not only the heroism of Lithuania's resistance and dreams, but the grim realities of Soviet policies that remain as repressive today as they were under Stalin."

A Story Worth Repeating - Who Designed the Lincoln Penny

A story worth repeating - Born in the Russian province of Lithuania in 1871 (Littleton Coin Company publication), VICTOR D. BRENNER gained fame at an early age for his artistic skills. However, some jealous fellow artisans spread false rumors that Brenner was engaged in counterfeiting. Though lacking evidence, the courts sentenced him to prison in Siberia.

Brenner, not wishing a life in prison for a crime he didn't commit, escaped and fled to America, where his career as an artist flourished. In 1909, the 100th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, Brenner was commissioned by President Theodore Roosevelt to re-design the U.S. Cent. And though no circulating coin had ever pictured a specific individual, Brenner's design was a bust of Lincoln. On the reverse were stalks of wheat.

Initially the Lincoln Cent was very popular, but there was a great public outcry regarding the designer's initials, which many people thought

VICTOR D.
BRENNER.

Lithuanian immigrant, in 1909 was commissioned to redesign the U.S. penny.



were rare to prominent. Shortly into the year, coinage was halted and the initials were removed (in 1918 they were put back, but in such a way they can hardly be seen at all without magnification). So Victor David Brenner never has received the credit he deserved, for designing the longest-running series in U.S. coinage history.

C-133 Charles Stancavage Graduates From Executive Program of Stanford University

CHARLES J. STANCAVAGE, member of 'C-133, Los Angeles, formerly of Minersville, PA, recently completed the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, Executive Program, at Palo Alto, CA. The Stanford University program annually accepts only 185 applicants from a worldwide list of applicants.

Charles is Vice President with Security Federal Savings and Loan in Garden Grove, CA. He resides in Anaheim Hills with his wife Helen and son Edward.



Sabonis - World's Best!

A very few American professional stars excepted, the best basketball player in the world is probably a seven-foot-three Lithuanian named ARVYDAS SABONIS, who is, at twenty-one, the center and the backbone of an excellent Soviet National team that has won virtually every international amateur tournament it has entered in the past three years. (Bridges, Sept. 1986)

Because the Soviet Union boycotted the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, most American fans have had little opportunity to see just how good Sabonis is. The few Americans who have seen Sabonis play in recent years, mostly professional scouts and college coaches, recount feats of agility and marksmanship that sound all but superhuman.

Pete Newell, the director of player personnel for the Golden State Warriors of the National Basketball Association, and a man widely respected for his acute evaluations of the skills at the center position, is lavish in his praise of Sabonis, stating that he could conceivably become the greatest player in the game. He has tremendous hands and a physique made to order for basketball.

What makes Arvydas Sabonis a remarkable player among the "Russians" is his ability to play an American game like an American.



Arvydas Sabonis

Another Good Lithuanian Basketball Player

The Soviet National Basketball team traveled the U.S. last fall. Its tour began in Albany, NY on October 28th with a contest against the Continental Basketball Association's All-Star Team.

The general public, of course, was anxious to see the star Soviet player, Lithuanian Arvidas Sabonis. At 5 PM the night before the game, Soviet officials announced Sabonis would be a no-show. Official explanation for Sabonis' failure to arrive was a 'hurt heel' he had suffered during a recent game. Local Albany newspapers, however, reported that it was also known that the Soviets were wary of the Portland Trailblazers choice of Sabonis on the first round of the 1985 NBA draft.

Adding to the disappointment, the Soviets brought only 8 players of their team. (The team roster is listed with this article).

Nevertheless, the star of the Albany game turned out to be another Lithuanian Sharunas Marchulenis plays guard on the Soviet team. His agility and speed allowed the Soviet team to win by a score of 76-72.

During intermission and at the game's end, Ed Baranauskas, C-100, his wife, Fr. Matthew Cyvas and myself were able to take some snapshots of Marchulenis and say a few words. We found him to be extremely friendly and to like American soft drinks.

The game had been officially announced by the media, just 2 weeks prior. Ed Baranauskas and myself took to the phones and typewriter informing every newspaper, radio, TV and other media representatives correcting Russian-vs-Soviet terminology and identifying Sabonis nationality. The night of the game we arrived early, hoping to watch the Soviet team warm up. Unfortunately, the team arrived late. However we took advantage of the time to speak to the various media representatives covering the event. Press tables had been lined up along one side of the court. We started at either end, reclarifying Russian/Soviet terminology and identifying the specific nationalities of the various Soviet team members. We also informed them of the history of basketball's popularity in Lithuania.



Sharunas Marchulenis Agile Guard

**SOVIET UNION
NATIONAL BASKETBALL
TEAM ROSTER**

NAME	POS	HGT	AGE	CLUB
Sergey Babenko	F	6-9	25	Donetsk Shakhter
Aleksandr Belostenny	C	7-0	27	Kiev Ska
Sergey Grishaev	F	6-10	25	Leningrad Spartek
Vladas Khomichus	G	6-3	27	Kaunas Zhalgiris
Rimas Kurtinaitis	F	6-8	26	Kaunas Zhalgiris
Sharunas Marchulenis	G	6-4	22	Vilnius Statiba
Igor Miglinieks	F	6-6	22	Moscow Cska
Arvidas Sabonis	C	7-2	22	Kaunas Zhalgiris
Sergey Tarakanov	F	6-6	28	Moscow Cska
Valery Tikhonenko	F	6-9	22	Moscow Cska
Vladimir Tkachenko	C	7-2	29	Moscow Cska
Aleksandr Volkov	F	6-8	22	Kiev Stroitel

ALTERNATES:

Kheino Enden	F	6-6	27	Moscow Cska
Valery Goborov	C	6-10	20	Moscow Cska
Tiit Sokk	G	6-3	22	Tallin
Andris Yakobsons	G	6-5	25	Riga Vef
Victor Zharkov	G	6-5	23	Leningrad Spartek
Yury Zhukanenko	F	6-6	22	Alma Ata Ska

HEAD COACH: Armand Kraulin

ASST COACH: Valery Miloserdov



Marchulenis prepares for usccessful foul shot



Madona Žemaičių Kalvarijos bažnyčioje

Žemės plote ir žmonių skaičiuje niekur kitur Dievo Motina nėra tiek kartų apsireiškusi ir stebuklų padariusi, kiek Lietuvoje, todėl neveltui mūsų auksaburniai kalbėtojai ne kartą mums yra priminę, kad **LIETUVA YRA MARIJOS ŽEMĖ...**

Lietuvos derlinga žemelė ašaromis aplaistyta netiktai nekaltai Lietuvos žiaurių priešų kankinamų lietuvių, bet ir Dievo Motinos Marijos.

Dievo Motina Marija su Sūnum rankose pasirodė galią verkdama Šiluvoje ant akmens.

Pažaisly su ašaromis žadėjo užtarti visus pas savo visagalintį ir maloningą Sūnų.

Girkalnyje, kad ir didelės šviesos spindėjime, bet ašarotais skruostais prižadėjo savo globą ir palaimą.

Žemaičių Kalvarijoje sopulingomis akimis žiūrėdama į kenčiančius ir verkiančius prakalbėjo — melskitės prie mano gailestingo Sūnaus, o aš jus visuomet užtarsiu.

Mėtelių Kryžiuose (ant Dusės kranto, prie šaltinėlio) verkdama Dievo Motina su kudikėliu prašė

LIETUVA YRA

MARIJOS

ŽEMĖ

piemenėlių melstis ir visus raginti garbinti Jos Sūnų. Toje vietoje 19-to šimtmečio pabaigoje buvo pastatyta medinė koplyčia, kur kiekvienais metais per Sekmines, Petrines ir Šv. Aktovą susirinkdavo iš visos Dzūkijos, Gudijos ir Mozūrijos tūkstančiai maldininkų, daugybė

kunigų, o neretai ir Seinų bei Mariampolės vyskupai. Rusams okupavus Lietuvą, ši Šventovė visiškai sunaikinta. Koplyčia nugriauta, šaltinėlis užpiltas šiukšlėmis ir okupantų griežtai uždrausta ten betkam viešai melstis.

Vilniaus Aušros Vartų Dievo Motinos paveikslas daug kartų išgelbėjo Lietuvos Sostinę nuo priešų puolimų. Ir daugybei ligonių, sergančių neišgydomoms ligoms, gražino sveikatą. Bet Aušros Vartų Marijos paveikslas turi skirtingą pradžią nuo kitų Dievo Motinos stebuklingų šventovių.

XVI šimtetyje Vilniaus miesto sienoje prie vartų, ant 8-ių ąžuolinių lentų, nežinomas menininkas nupiešė Marijos paveikslą su vainikų karūną ant galvos. XVII šimtetyje buvo apvilta Vilniaus auksakalvių nukaltu sidabrinu rūbu. O XVIII šimtetyje paveikslas apstatytas akmenine koplyčia.

Dabar į Aušros Vartų koplyčią įeinama per siauros gatvelės vartus

— arką, po dešine aukštais laiptais (nes apačioje Šv. Teresės bažnyčia). Koplyčioje tarp altoriaus ir sienų gal sutilptų 50—100 stačių žmonių. Viršuje altoriaus paveikslas ant

ąžuolinių lentų apvilktas sidabrinu rūbu, su dviem vainikais ant galvos, kaklas papuoštas keliom eilėm gražių gintarų ir raudonų karolių. Aplink altorių siena pripildyta tikinčiųjų, kurie apturėjo Marijos malonės Votų Širdimis, dėkonių užrašais, šoninės sienos lig lango užpildyta tikinčiųjų ir malonės gavių padėkų užrašais.

Aušros Vartų paveikslas yra vienintelis visame pasaulyje su dviem vainikais-karūnom, taip pat retas Marijos paveikslas be Kudikėlio. Viršutinių vainikų paveikslas buvo papuoštas 19-to šimtmečio pabaigoje. Daug kur lenkai giriasi ir nemažai lietuvių linkę tikėti kad lenkai apvainikavo 1927 metais. Bet tai netiesa, nes mano žinioje yra paveikslas iš 20-to šimtmečio pradžios, ir turiu 1914 metais Seirijų bažnyčioje gautą nuo Kapucino T. Kazimiero alumininį medalikėlį, kur abu paveiksmai turi du vainikus-karūnas. Būtų įdomų, jei kas žino, kad parašytų kada Aušros Vartų paveikslas buvo antrą kartą apvainikuotas.

A SLOVAK PRIEST'S MOTHER



You are Heaven's gift to earth come down;
The pride and joy of each village and town.
Your joyful spirit of love is like God's alone;
You're the Slovak beauty all men own!
After our Creator, you're life's only dearest.
You gave me earthly life to its fullest.
As a beacon light shines in a fierce tempest,
You protect life amidst suffering and unrest.

God's most precious "Gift of Life" you gave me;
While caressing me so motherly and tenderly.
You nourished a wee infant with such generosity;
Instilling into my heart a soul of celerity.
A true Slovak spirit formed in silent holiness;
Sharing a dauntless hero's courage, not weakness.
I yearned for God's love amid our nation's distress;
I found joy, peace and happiness in my priestess.

As mentioned in last month's VYTIS, another sample of Fr. John Tomalonis' poems would be presented. Most appropriate for the month of May, its title is "A Slovak Priest's Mother".

It is taken from the collection, *New Voices in American Poetry-1986*.

You sacrificed your life as Jesus' Mother Mary;
Still imitating her Divine Son, though often weary.
Dearest Mother Helen, you shared the Cross heavy;
Uplifting my soul's burdens on plains and prairie.
Slovakia's culture you cherish for "God and Country":
A true Prophetess standing solemnly, yet humbly.
On your eighty-fifth birthday, I adore you most sincerely;
May God reward you both in time and eternity.

MOCIUTE SENELIU PRIEGLAUDOJE

Slauge, ka tu matai, kokios tavo mintys?
Ziuredama i mane, ka tu galvoji?
Ar matai sena moteri, uzsispyrusia,
susirauksia pikciurna? Nelabai
ismintinga, nepastovia savo ipratimuose,
issiblaskiusia svajojanciomis akimis,
kuriai seiles ir maistas krinta is
burnos? Kuri nieko neprataria, kai
slauge garsiai saukia: "Bent truputi
pasisteng". Tau rodos, kad as nekreipiu
demosio i tuos, kurie mane priziuri.
Nuolat pametu kojine ar bata, sutinku ar
ne, pasiduodu slauges valiai. Nors kuna
skausmai kankina einu
i vonia maudytis. Paziurek slauge, ka tu
matai? Atmerk savo akis, nes tamsta
manes nepazysti ir nematai.

Cia, ramiai sededama, as tau pasakysiu,
kas esu. Mintimis, prisimenu savo
jaunystes dienas, kaip zaidziant pievose,
sirdi dziugino pavasario vejai. As

The author of the following monologue is unknown. It is however known that the person was a resident of a Nursing Home. Our National Trustee, Vince Gray, C-25, thought it would be appealing to the readers of VYTIS as many of us have friends or relatives in a similar situation.

puosiausi, pris jaunuolius, taip kaip it
tu, buvau grazi, linksma ir gal
ismintingesne uz tave. Kaip as buvau
tavo metu, daug, daugiau gerbiau
senesnius zmones. Mano vaikai (turejau
tris), mane apleido... Jie augina nauja
karta, savo vaikus, svarbesniais
reikalais uzsieme mane uzmirso. As
atsimenu pergyventus metus ir tu laiku
meile. Skaiscia, be pavydo, tikra is
sirdies gilumos meile.

Dabar pasenus, jauciu, kad ir ganta
priesinga mano prigiaciai. Mano kunas
sudribes, pavarges, rauksletas. Kur

seniau buvo sirdis, dabar yra akmuo.
Taciau, siame sename kune tebegyvena
jauna mergaite. As prisimenu anu laiku
džiaugsmus ir mielai pergyvenu savo
praeti. As prisimenu visu tuos metus,
kuriu rodos, nebuvo tiek daug, bet
praslinko taip greitai...ir suprantu, kad
viskas siame pasaulyje
turi baigtis.

Atmerk akis, slaugytoja, ir pazveik.
As neuzsipyrusi sena moteris...Paziurek
geriau ir tik tada, tikrai mane pamatysi
.....

Vere Vincas Grazulis

KALBĖKIME LIETUVIŠKAI

LET'S SPEAK LITHUANIAN

By Apolonija (Polly) Ziausys

Ar zinote uogu pavadinima?
Do you know the names for berries?

Blackberry - gervuoge (bramble)
Black currant - juodasis serbentas
Bog whortelberry - girtuokle
(Great Bilberry)
Blueberry - melyne
Cherry - vysnia
Cranberry - spanguole
Garden stawberry. - braske
Gooseberry - agrasta
Raspberry - aviete
Red whortelberry - brukne
(Cowberry)
Wild strawberry - zemuoge

Ar zinote grybu pavadinima?
Do you know the names for mushrooms?

Cep (King Boletus) - baravykas
Lepiota - kiauliabude
Butter mushroom - kazlekas
Bolet - lepsis
Fly agaric - musmiris
Brown hypholoma - nemune, kelmute
Trichaloma - paliepe
Field agaric, champignon - pievagrybis
Red Head Boletus - raudonikis
Loctar (Orange agaric) - rudmese
Russulus - umede
Yellow Chantharelle - voveruska
Verdete - zaliuoke

Daugelio Lietuvoje auganciu grybu pavadinimu daryba it motivacija yra gana aiski. Pav: Kelmuciai - auga ant kelmu, paliepes - po liepomis, pievagrybiai - pievose, zaliuokes - zalios, baltikai - balti, rudmese - mesa ruda, musmires - muses mirsta ir t.t.

Graziausias grybas yra raudonikis. Grybautojai ji vadina dar ir kitais vardais kaip: raudonvirsis, raudonlepis, raudongalvis, raudongrybis. Mokslininkai tyrinejantys grybus raudonikiui turi kitus vardus. Jiems raudonikis-baravykas raudonvirsis. Baravyko raudonvirsiu gimine yra karaliska.

Pirmoje gretoje grybu karalius - baravykas, salia raudonvirsis, lepse (paberze), kazlekas, geltonasis baravykas rudakepuris, zalsvasis (samaninis) baravykas, silbaravykis, baravykas pa-

azuolis. Toliau eina - tamprusis, smiltyninis, paalksninis, aitrusis baravykas.

Koks miskas tokia raudonikio kepure. Graziausias yra drebulynu raudonikis, ant auksto koto pasistiebes ryskiai raudona ar oranzine kepure uzsidejes is toli matysi jo raudona galva. Pusyno raudonikis-storutelis, su saules pabukinta skrybele, berzyno raudonikis - grybas riteris su kietu vario salmu, dzniausiai savo jaunesniu broliu kariu lydimas.

Azuolyno raudonikis daug kuklesnes spalvos - pilkos arba rusvos, kaip ir po azuolais augancio baravyko. Graziausias eglynelo baravykas-sveikas, drutas, raudonas, lyg ziburys. Cia dregmes daugiau, saule nesvilina. Egluciu sakos gryba uzdengia. Kartais randama net virs 10 raudonikiu seimynele, suaugusi i viena kupeta.

PATARLES

Kepure nusiimk ne raudongrybis,
o zmogus esi (Take off your cap,
you are a man, not a raudonikis
mushroom)

Istyzes, kaip lepse
(Good for nothing)

Tevas raudonikis, mocia raudonikis,
vaikia raudonikiukai (taip snekama
apie sveika, graziai augancia seima)
(Father raudonikis, mother raudon-
ike, children raudonikiukai-spoken
about a healthy, beautifully, growing
family)

Vyčiai Veikia Council Activities

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

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

The Knights of Lithuania, Mid-Atlantic District each year has three district conventions: March, June and October. The March convention is combined with communion breakfast in honor of St. Casimir, our patron saint.

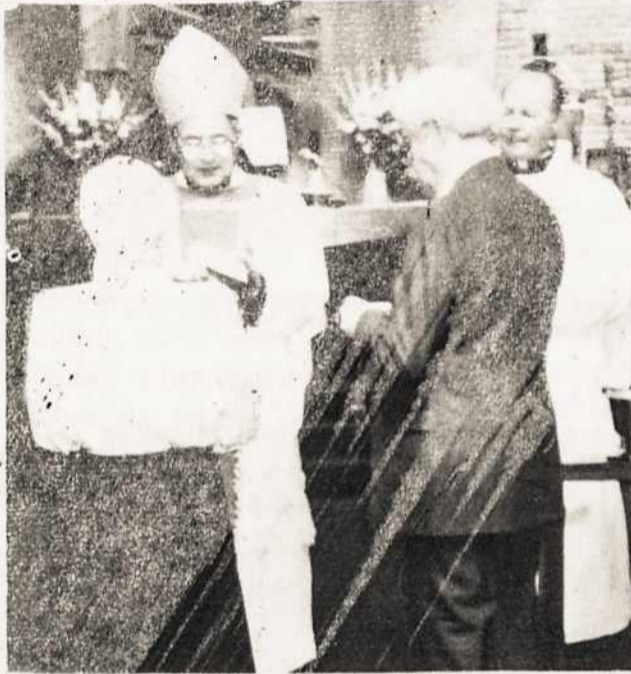
On March 8, The convention took place at Transfiguration parish in Maspeth hosted by Council 110, John Adomenas, president.

About 300 of us gathered in a beautifully decorated church whose altars were literally drowning in flowers. We came from far and near, as near as Manhattan and as far as Amsterdam. The flags of our councils proudly took their place on the right side of the altar.

The pastor of the parish and also MAD spiritual advisor Rev. Msgr. Frank Bulovas proclaimed his joy at our great showing and also thanked His Excellency Bishop Paulius Baltakis OFM for his attendance. Before the Mass, Bishop Baltakis in a most moving ceremony presented the Fourth Degree to Council 110 member Adele Dauzickas.

The Mass, together with Bishop Baltakis, was concelebrated by Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, Msgr. Frank Bulovas, Rev. Vytautas Palubinskas, Rev. Stasys Raila and Rev. Daniel Staniskis.

In his well-researched and prepared sermon, Bishop Baltakis explained to us what sort of an example St. Casimir should be for us. "Like St. Casimir," the Bishop told us, "so each of us God has assigned a



Adele Dauzickas received Fourth Degree from Bishop Baltakis witnessed by John Adomenas and Msgr. Frank Bulovas.

special goal which is assigned to each of us personally. We each have to perform this special task during our life. Let us fulfill them faithfully."

During the offertory, the Knights attired in national costumes brought the gifts to the altar. The choir was augmented by a talented tenor B. Aponavicius. The Mass ended with the singing of the Vyčių Himnas.



Msgr. Bulovas, Bishop Baltakis MAD Pres. John Adomenas

After Mass, in the church hall all were greeted by John Adomenas who introduced the guests of honor and invited all to partake of the delicious meal. Here, once again we were entertained by the beautiful voice of Mr. Aponavicius.

Presentation of gifts at MAD Convention March 8 in Maspeth — Msgr. Al Bartkus, Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Msgr. Frank Bulovas.



The main speaker was Bishop Baltakis. He talked about the tasks performed by Blessed Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis who never wavered in his duties, trusting in the God-given graces, not his own mentality or power. HM Elena Saulyte paid a beautiful tribute to our late president Larry Janonis. "Today," Helen spoke, "for many of us, for the first time and for us old-timers, the first time in many years that another person and another voice calls the Mid-Atlantic District meeting to order."

Ritual Chairman Jovita Sleder presented 27 third degree medals to well-deserving candidates, among them Rev. Vytautas Palubinskas, spiritual advisor Council 12 in Manhattan. His fellow council members gave him a grand ovation.

MAD is known for its generosity. We raised over \$9,000 for the renovation of the Statue of Liberty. Many councils have adopted parishes in Lithuania which they support both spiritually and materially. About ten councils made pledges to renovate one room each at the Lithuanian College in Rome. At \$1450 per room, we have to give ourselves a pat on the back for showing how to work for "God and Country." The Rector of the College Msgr. Baltkus thanked us for our donations in the name of our "adopted child — the college." Funds were also voted for the scholarship fund, chronicles and other Lithuanian affairs.

The mandate committee announced that there were 200 delegates present and 13 councils were represented. At present the district has over 2400 members and is continually growing in councils and membership.

After the meeting, the socializing began. We had a most delicious meal of "dešros su kopūstais" and tried our luck in a huge lottery. But all good things end much too quickly since many of us had a long trip home.



Sr. Angela receives her 3rd Degree



C-29, Ralph Radish says its worth all the work

A most sincere "ačiū labai" should be expressed to Msgr. Frank Bulovas and Rev. Stasys Raila who welcomed most graciously the huge crowd of Knights.

Our dear Bishop Baltakis, who even though he had thousands of duties to perform, found time enough to spend a few hours with us. I suspect it could be because he is a long-time member of C-110 that urged him to address us not only once but twice — in Lithuanian in church and in English in the hall. Many of us will see this dear person soon again at the celebration of Lithuania's 600 years of Christianization at Rome in June.

With the sudden and unexpected death of Larry Janonis, a new and difficult responsibility was placed on



MAD Ritual Chairman Jovita Sleder conducts ceremony with assistance of C-29 Rita Sussko



Rev. Vytautas Palubinskas, pastor of Ausros Varu Parish Manhattan and spiritual advisor of C-12 getting pinned with Third Degree by Rita Sussko and Joe Sleder of the ritual committee

the shoulders of John Adomenas. This was his first performance as MAD president. John, we are proud of your efforts and wish you the choicest of God's blessings.

It is only fitting that I should end with the words of Elena Saulyte from her tribute to Larry Janonis. "The Lord's calling of Larry Janonis left a void in our organization and particularly our district. We may flounder for a while but those of us who have the same interests, concerns and dedication to the Knights of Lithuania organization can pay our respects, our tribute, not only to Larry, but all those dedicated K of L'ers who have gone to eternal rest by making a firm determination to do just a little more than we did in the past."

Calia Bulvicius

**BISHOP PAULIUS BALTAKIS TALK
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
MID - ATLANTIC CONVENTION, MASPETH, NY**

Once again I would like to sincerely thank John Adomenas for inviting me to this Mid-Atlantic District St. Casimir Communion Breakfast, and for the opportunity to address you. This happy occasion is a bit saddened since we no longer have our long-time Mid Atlantic president Larry Janonis with us. My condolences to his wife Jean. May God grant him eternal rest.

Since this year marks the six-hundredth anniversary of Lithuania's Christianization, and since the Knights of Lithuania are so deeply involved in the commemoration of this event — in the preparation of the Jubilee Medal, excursions to Rome, and in other ways, I want to express my deep gratitude to you and to say a few words about the Servant of God, Archbishop George Matulaitis, whose beatification will crown the upcoming ceremonies in Rome.

Speaking of Rome, let me tell you a little story about the Holy Father. Paul Antanaitis, Mary Shalins' nephew, was in Rome not too long ago. He had the opportunity to get close to the Pope at an audience, and he called out "Garbė Jezui Kristui!" The Holy Father stopped, turned around and asked him if he was Lithuanian. Paul replied that he was, and added that he planned to visit Lithuania soon. The Pope then asked if Paul ever consumed any alcohol. When he again replied in the affirmative, the Holy Father said "Then have one for me in Lithuania."

When commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Archbishop George's death in nineteen seventy-seven, Pope Paul the Sixth said: "Do not forget this spiritual giant. We believe that he will be acclaimed not only in heaven, but also here on earth."

Today, we are proud and happy that the Holy Father's words have been fulfilled, and in three months Archbishop George will be honored, not only by us Lithuanians, but by the whole Catholic world. On June the twenty-eighth, in the course of the ceremonies celebrating six hundred years of Lithuanian Christianity, Pope John Paul will declare Archbishop George "blessed".

In the archbishop's diary we read: "Once again we look more deeply at our lives... Lord, what an impossibility. So many imperfections, mistakes... I would be overcome by despair if I did not believe in Your mercy."

He became a saint by trying conscientiously to fulfill His God-given duties, trusting in God's grace rather than in his own strength and wisdom.

The saints are not given to us so that we can simply place them on a pedestal, but for their example and intercession to help us to be full and true Christians, each one striving as best he can to be perfect in his state of life and professional responsibilities.

The future archbishop was born on April 13, (eighteen hundred and seventy-one) 1871, the youngest of eight children, in Lithuania's Suvalkija district. His father died when young George was only four years old, and his mother died two years later in eighteen eighty-one. An orphan's lot is not an easy one, and it became even more painful when he contracted tuberculosis at the age of eleven, the disease afflicted him for the rest of his life, more than once bringing him almost to the point of death.

Thanks to his cousin John, who was a teacher, young George was accepted at the seminary in Kielco, and from there, due to his unusual abilities, he was sent by the bishop to the Theological academy in St. Petersburg in eighteen ninety-five, where he received his master's degree in theology, finishing first in his class.

After his ordination, Father George returned to Kielco in eighteen ninety-eight, but further problems with his tuberculosis forced him to move to a healthier climate. He went to Friburg, Switzerland, in eighteen ninety nine, helping a local pastor and pursuing further studies at the university there, using the assumed name "Montvydas" to avoid being recognized by the Russians.

Finishing his studies with a doctorate, he returned to Kielco, where he was appointed vice-rector, but within a few months his recurring medical problems forced him to leave again, and he went to Warsaw's hospital for the poor, where he was found near death by the Duchess Platerytė. Under her care he quickly recovered, and he stayed there for a time, teaching at the girls' school.

His experiences with the poor and with students (who seemed especially lost and abandoned), and with clergy who seemed unaware of what Christianity demanded of them, as well as how to meet people's spiritual and social needs, became issues that would not let the young priest rest. He decided to take action.

With the help of Father Jarra, he established a Catholic students association — "Atgimimas" (Rebirth) — and with Msgr. Golbinski he founded the Christian Workers' Union, which quickly grew to fifty thousand members, a virtual army opposing atheistic communism.

The Church's hierarchy, delighted with Father George's success in organizing the students and workers, established the first sociology department in all of Russia at the St. Petersburg Theological Academy and appointed Fr. George as a professor. Many of his former students became famous sociologists and according to the testimony of Msgr. Kurpavičius, the land reform bill later passed in independent Lithuania would have been an impossibility without the assistance and urging of Archbishop Matulaitis.

Being a person of insight and wisdom, Father George quickly grasped that the Lithuanian nation could be delivered from Russian imperialism and the rising tide of atheistic materialism only by well organized and dedicated apostles, he left his professorship and came to the aid of the dying monasteries.

"In our time, and in the Church's current situation," he wrote, "it is not sufficient to have ordinary hired workers, but we need instead true apostles... who give of themselves, full of spirit."

Father George began his recognition and updating of religious orders with the Marian Fathers. At the time only one seventy-year-old priest remained in the order. Receiving a dispensation from Rome, enabling him to omit going through the years of the novitiate, Father George joined the order himself and in twenty years the Marian Fathers were alive and well in Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, and America. He established a congregation to care for the elderly — you may be personally acquainted with the Immaculate Conception Sisters in Putnam, Conn. He revitalized eighteen other religious congregations, adapting their rules to current Canon Law and the requirements of the times.

Father George was unable to follow-up and continue his work with the reformed religious orders because he was forced to undertake the most difficult task of his life — the leadership of the disintegrating diocese of Vilnius in the midst of the constantly changing civil government and national and political intrigues. He referred to his six years as a bishop as his "Way of the Cross" and told his friends "God is punishing me in Vilnius."

Despite various difficulties, Archbishop Matulaitis managed to re-establish order in the parishes (which had not been visited by a bishop for over sixty years), to purge the seminary of undue Polish chauvinism, and to breathe life back into the convents and monasteries.

After the Poles occupied Vilnius, he persuaded the Holy Father Pius the eleventh that further work for him in Vilnius would not be possible. The Holy Father granted his request, but at the same time he assigned two new tasks to the archbishop. He was given the diplomatic title of Apostolic Visitor to Lithuania, and given the charge of establishing an independent Lithuanian ecclesiastical province, as well as providing a concordat, or treaty, between the independent Lithuanian state and the Vatican.

The first task was completed successfully. After nine months and much tactful work, the independent ecclesiastical province for Lithuania was established on April fourth, nineteen twenty-six, setting up the archdiocese of Kaunas and four other dioceses.

He was unable to complete the second assignment — the concordat with the Vatican — because the Good Lord called his faithful servant home early in the morning of January twenty-seventh, nineteen twenty-seven. An appendix operation had been delayed too long. The archbishop died peacefully, a holy death, with a smile on his lips.

During his life Archbishop George had not forgotten the Lithuanians in America. After resurrecting the Marian Fathers, in nineteen thirteen he came to the United States with two of his new priests, Felix Kudirka and Julius Kasaka, and there he established the first Marian house in the U.S.A. at St. Michael's parish in Chicago. During his stay in America he visited ninety Lithuanian parishes. After returning to Lithuania he wrote: "Observing the American Lithuanians, subconscious worry surfaces: What will happen with the younger generation? Will it disappear into the American-English sea, and lose their ethnic identity?"

The Marian Fathers established in America by Archbishop George are still concerned with the spiritual and national life of Lithuanians today, serving in numerous parishes, operating a high school in Marianapolis, and publishing *Draugas*, the only Lithuanian daily paper in the free world.

Archbishop Matulaitis was a man ahead of his time, a leader with vision. Many of his ideas were not understood until the time of Vatican Two, forty years after his death. Speaking at the funeral of the archbishop, Antanas Smetona, then president of independent Lithuania, said that "Archbishop George was a great man and therefore a great creator, and the scope of his creativity was far-ranging. Therefore not everyone immediately grasped his vision. He looked at the world from a godly perspective."

In nineteen thirty-four the archbishop's remains were transferred from the crypt at Kaunas cathedral to Mariampolis. When the casket was opened, although his garments were damp due to the spring flood of the Nemunas River in nineteen thirty-one — which reached the cathedral's basement — his body was incorrupt after seven years.

Archbishop George's canonization process was begun in nineteen fifty three, and thanks to the favor of our present Holy Father, Pope John Paul the Second, this process was accelerated in order to make it possible for Archbishop George to be declared "blessed" at the same time as the ceremonies commemorating six hundred years of Lithuanian Christianity.

Through the intercession of Archbishop Matulaitis more than a thousand spiritual and physical favors have been recorded. One case of cancer recovery is officially recognized by the Church as a miracle, a cure for which medical science has no explanation.

Once Archbishop George is proclaimed "blessed", little further work will be required for his cause. We will need only one additional miracle, officially recognized as such by the Church, for him to be proclaimed a saint.

As we study Archbishop George's life, let us follow his example in fulfilling our duties according to our state in life. Let us ask for his intercession as we travel life's road, and pray that we will soon acclaim him not only as blessed, but as a saint!

Thank you for your attention, and I hope to see you all in Rome.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY JANONIS

BY HELEN SHIELDS

Just a little less than 4 months ago, our Mid Atlantic District and the whole Knights of Lithuania organization was shocked and numbed as the news spread of the loss of our well known member, Larry Janonis. The Lord chose to call him suddenly and all of us left behind, although we accepted the fact, talked of how it happened, informed others--kept repeating to each other -- sometimes over and over -- I just can't believe it! Whether it is joy or sorrow -- it

takes time for a sudden happening to sink in, to comprehend, to acknowledge, to accept. Today for many of us, for the first time, and for us old timers the first time in many years, that we have another person and another voice call the Mid-Atlantic District meeting to order. Larry was drawn to the K. of L. as a young fellow, who had a keen interest in sports. He joined to play with American Lithuanian fellows who were on the K. of L. Basketball Team.



We can pay our respects to Larry... by making a firm determination to do just a little more than we did in the past

However, he was not one of those when initial interests wane, to drop out and not to be heard of again. In this case, his interests grew and he had the desire to learn more and grow with the organization of which he was a member. As one who knew Larry for more than 35 years, we had many occasions to work together on numerous committees on the district and national levels and during the last 17 years that I was in New York, working on the council level also.

Many of us here probably knew him as District President or National Presidium Chairman, but through the years Larry exercised many and various jobs in the organization such as Sports Chairman, National Vice President in charge of membership, 50th Jubilee Committee member, Bowling League Chairman, and chairman or member of District fund raising such as picnics, dances, dinners, testimonials, festivals, etc., etc. Much too numerous to mention.

His ties and feelings for the organization were so strong that many times K of L activities took priority in planning his personnel leisure time. Such was his concern to contribute his efforts to the Knights of Lithuania organization. Many times a number of us heard him refer to the K of L as family, since being from



Larry Janonis with C-12 Pres. Ed Cook, Ellen Muske, her daughter, Joe Boley, Alice Zupko and Millie Pietz



a small family, he felt the friendships he had developed with K of L members both close by and throughout the United States had enriched him considerably.

Not everything always went smoothly. At times things went awry or unforeseen problems arose. Larry was one to be diplomatic, seek compromise, smooth over the rough spots - whatever could be done to present the Knights of Lithuania in the best possible way. The Lord's calling of Larry has left a void in our organization and particularly our District. We may flounder for a

while, but those of us who have the same interests, concerns and dedication to the Knights of Lithuania organization, can pay our respects, our tribute, not only to Larry, but all those dedicated K of L'ers who have gone to eternal rest by making a firm determination to do just, a little more than we did in the past. With God's help and St. Casimir's guidance, we will succeed in our endeavors to strengthen our ranks as we reach for the goals and work for the ideals of the Knights of Lithuania organization.

C-29 NEWARK

On March 8, a group of our members journeyed to Maspeth to attend the Mid-Atlantic District meeting hosted by Council 110. They enjoyed the trip and the hospitality of Council 110. The highlight of the day for our members was to witness five of our members receiving their Third Degrees. Congratulations to Danguole Didzbalis, Nellie Necheporuk, Jennie Miklasavige, Emelia Sadonis and Ralph Radisch. Keep up the good work!

Our annual Communion Breakfast in honor of St. Casimir was held on March 15. The celebration started with a solemn Mass at Holy Trinity Church. Father Walter Jaskevicius of Fordham University was the principal celebrant. The offertory procession was very impressive. President Kazys Sipaila led the procession carrying a picture of St. Casimir; Danguole Didzbalis, the lily, symbol of virtue; Bernard Skripata, the cross, symbolic of the undying loyalty of St. Casimir to Christ and his church; Adele Urbanas, the crown of thorns, symbolizing his keen sense of justice, sympathy for the poor and oppressed, and duty first to Christ the King. The wine, water and hosts were carried by Adele Matthews and John Adomenas. The ladies were dressed in their Lithuanian costumes while the men wore their "juostas."

Immediately following Mass, we assembled in the parish hall where a delicious luncheon was served us. We were very fortunate to have Rev. Peter Stravinskas, our new pastor, as our speaker. He gave a most interesting talk on the history of Lithuanian Christianity, and we



C-29 Members receive their 3rd Degree Emelia Sadonis, Nellie Necheporuk, Jennie Miklasavige, Danguole Didzbalis



all feel very fortunate to have him as our new pastor.

Rita Sussko chaired this affair, and we want to thank her and her committee for a job well done.

Condolences to the family of Rose Basil who passed away on March 21. A large group of our members gathered at the wake where President Sipaila led us in the K of L ritual. We will miss Rose and pray for her eternal rest.

Eve Coll



C-46 FOREST CITY

We elected Stasia Wallace to be in charge of our Sunshine Club. Stasia can think of numerous fund-raisers that we can use at our meetings.

Alice Punter, Adele Armstrong and Charles Cyzeski were our committee for the annual St. Casimir's Mass. Our spiritual advisor Father Sitko celebrated an especially appropriate Mass in honor of St. Casimir on March 8. The church was beautifully decorated in Lithuanian splendor with many gifts presented at the offertory. Our K of L members were dressed in their ethnic clothes.

Lithuanian hymns were sung by the choir with K of L members and the congregation joining them.

Blanche Motsko

C-109 GREAT NECK

Our drive for new members is richly paying off. This past month we added seven new members. We welcome you with open arms to Council 109. A hearty "Hello Dere" to Albert & Theresa Bolton, Arthur & Adele Nelson, John Blecka of California, Charles C. & Stephanie Budris, formerly of Great Neck, now residing in New Hampshire.

Hail to a record-breaking attendance at our recent meeting with a pizza social as bait. It was a tremendous success with fun for all who attended. Mary Wesey snapped many hilarious shots of members devouring the heavenly pizza with great relish.

In commemoration of the 69th anniversary of Lithuanian independence, a program and social was held by the Great Neck Lithuanian Community which consists of many of our K of L members. Father Dunne, our parish priest, donated the use of our parish club house for the affair. Despite adverse weather conditions, bitter cold and snow, a surprising crowd attended. The atmosphere was dramatic and contributions of \$700 were made to the Lithuanian Freedom Fund.

Get well wishes to our sick list of Stanley Blecka and Jack Malis who recently underwent surgery. Our deepest condolences to Bertha Saltanis who recently lost her mother. May she have eternal peace.

We all are eagerly anticipating our communion brunch which promises to outshine previous years. Then, looking forward to our "hot dog" meeting, may the crowds turn out!

"Gypsy"

C-110 MASPETH

In honor of Saint Casimir a Holy Mass was read prior to the Knights of Lithuania Mid-Atlantic District Mini-Convention at Transfiguration Church in Maspeth, hosted by Council 110.

The hearts of those who attended the Mass were swelled with pride when they saw the MAD, Council 110, plus the American and Lithuanian flags carried down the aisle of the church. Most Reverend Paulius Baltakis OFM, Titular Bishop of Egara, was the principal celebrant with six priests assisting. Msgr. Frank Bulovas, pastor, gave the homily. The Mass ended with the singing of the Vyciu and Marija, Marija hymns.

The communion luncheon was held in the church hall. The festive tables covered with blue and decorated with colorful flowers greeted K of L members. Bishop Baltakis was the guest of honor at the luncheon. He gave a discourse on the forthcoming Beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis. Shortly thereafter, Ben Aponavicius sang a few songs as part of the afternoon's entertainment.

After the luncheon was completed, the MAD meeting commenced with President John Adomenas chairing the meeting. This MAD Mini-convention was one of the largest with 13 councils represented and 232 delegates and guests. Council 110 boasts 100 members in attendance bringing the grand total to 332.

By hosting this meeting, Council 110 leadership aims are to help build the Knights of Lithuania, share the knowledge and traditions of our common

heritage and always work to strengthen Lithuanian identity.

After the business of the convention was completed, supper was served. During the serving, a raffle of 66 gifts was held. Our leadership has the quality that transforms good intentions into positive action as exemplified by Helen Matulionis, our Lithuanian affairs chairperson and John Adomenas, president. A pat on the back is in order for Helen Matulionis who organized the church ceremony and communion luncheon; John Adomenas and Fran Migilore, cultural chairman, for the successful convention. Let's not forget Ann Adomenas, First Vice President Anthony Yakaitis, Mary Johnson and her kitchen crew, and all the waiters and waitresses, too many to list.

Joseph C. Dugan

C-144 ANTHRACITE

The tenth anniversary of Anthracite Council will be celebrated with a Mass and banquet on April 26 in Saint Francis Church in Minersville.

The resurgence of the Lithuanian ethnic spirit in Schuylkill County began in 1974 when a group gathered at Saint Casimir's Church in Saint Clair to preserve and promote their ancestral culture. Their first project was a Lithuanian float which won the Queen's Trophy in the 1975 Winter Carnival Parade in Pottsville.

In 1976, year of the US 200th anniversary, the group adopted the title of Lithuanian-American Bicentennial Committee. Their float was entered in various parades and won many prizes.

attended. We had refreshments and sang "Happy Birthday" to our beloved Ann Galenas who passed away that night. She was excited and happy. After the meeting she went home and God had interceded and took her from us to be with Him and her beloved husband and son who passed away in 1979. She was a very fine woman, hard-working and good to all. She will be missed by everyone, but we thank God to have had her for the time we did with us.

Congratulations to our newest member John Ramoska. Also congratulations to Lew Zewecki and Mary & Jerry Costella on receiving their Second Degrees.

Peg Romanauskas

C-100 AMSTERDAM

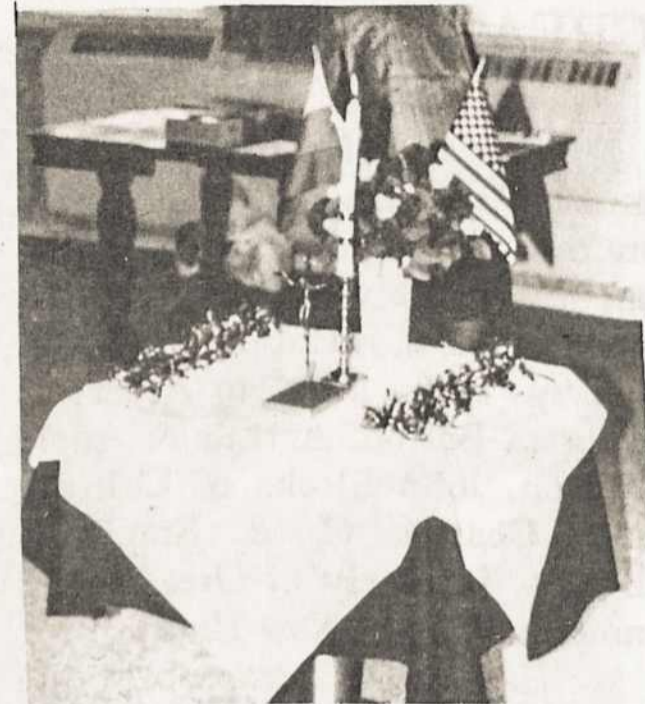
Seventy members of Council 100 attended Mass at St. Casimir's Church on March 1 where all received communion. Celebrant and homilist was our spiritual advisor, Rev. Robert K. Baltch.

A luncheon followed at the Dutchman Restaurant. Rev. Baltch gave the invocation. President Radzevich spoke briefly on St. Casimir and quoted from the Lithuanian opera, "Dux Magnus." He then introduced Betty Kuzmich who served as mistress of ceremonies. Betty researched the life of St. Casimir and spoke of the time he headed an army at the age of thirteen and was defeated. She also spoke of his devotion to the Blessed Virgin, his illness and untimely death at the age of 26.

Betty, who is also council chairman of the ritual committee, announced that four



Betty Kuzmich, C-100 Ritual Chairperson, is mistress of ceremonies at St. Casimir's Communion Brunch



C-100 Degree Table is prepared for Ritual ceremony



Rev. Baltch bestows the 2nd Degree upon Steve Raila, Kenneth Jasewicz, Adeline Raila, Aldona Abeling, Kristin Olechowski, Joseph Kot, Richard Jasewicz, Judianne Nikstenas

members, two of whom are juniors, qualified for the first degree and eight members five of whom are juniors, qualified for the second degree. In a semi-circle with lighted candles, the recipients were conferred their degrees by Father Baltch. First degrees were bestowed on Helen Zytkowski, Paul Abeling and juniors Charles & Daniel Jasewicz; second degrees Mr. & Mrs. Steve Raila, Aldona Abeling and juniors Judianne Nikstenas, Kristin Olechowski, Joseph Kot and Kenneth & Richard Jasewicz.

The centerpiece was won by Nellie Liberis. Chairing the event was Betty Kuzmich with Judy Kastraveckas and Helen Wojcik as her committee.

Representing Council 100 at the Mid-Atlantic District Convention hosted by C-100 Maspeth were Bernice Aviza, Gerard Drenzek, Regina Kot and Polly Ziausys.

SMILE & SPARKLE



C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY

Council 63 mourns the loss of Anthony Sockel who passed away on March 9. Mr. Sockel joined Anthracite Council. Fired with enthusiasm for the Knights of Lithuania, he was determined to establish a council in the Lehigh Valley. Through newspaper publicity and word of mouth, he arranged for a meeting of interested persons. Council 63 grew from these meager beginnings to today's status when the council entertained the National Convention in Allentown.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Thomas Moore. K of L members assembled for the wake service. Many members travelled to Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Tamaqua, for the committal services. Helen Chesko and All Zaldaris represented Anthracite Council.

Heartfelt condolences are extended to his widow Mary who faithfully pursued his dreams and aspirations. He will be missed by many Knights and as a memorial to its founder Anthony Sockel, C-63 will carry forth to greater heights of membership and fraternity.

C-74 SCRANTON

Being elected on publicity was an honor, but it seems the days and months have slipped by so fast.

This year started out fine with the installation of officers in January by Msgr. Michael Ozalas. Our new officers are president, Jean Kavelines; vice president, Ann Huffstatler; secretary, Mary Costelle; treasurer, Ed. Romanauskas;

financial secretary, Ann Lisowski; trustees, Dick Laske and Leo Zewicki. Committee chairpersons are Marie Laske, ritual; Casimir Yanish, Lithuanian affairs and Peg Romanauskas, publicity. After the installation, a little buffet was set up by past president Gertrude Romeika.

On February 14 the flag raising in Scranton was well attended by our members. Mayor David Wenzel, Police Chief and President of University of Scranton participated. Casimir Yanish and Dick Laske were chairpersons and did a fantastic job.

Sunday following the flag raising we held our Independence Day Mass at St. Joseph's Church. After Mass, we all left to go to St. Mary's Villa to sing for the guests. We sang a few Lithuanian songs as well as others. The guests sang along with us. We had dinner with them in the dining room.

On March 1 a Mass honoring St. Casimir was held at St. Joseph's Church. Our chairper-

son was Mrs. Romanauskas, assisted by Marie Laske, Ann Galenas, Ann Lisowski, Rose Stanches and Mary Costello. Ed Romanauskas was the lector and read one of the readings in Lithuanian. Offertory gifts were presented by Peg Romanauskas, Ann Galenas, Ann Lisowski, Marie Laske, Mary Costello, Rose Stanches and Margaret Laibinas. Jerry Costello read for the presentation of the gifts. After the Mass, we all attended a very fine breakfast at Jay's.

The following Sunday we ventured on our trip to Maspeth for the MAD Convention. Everyone was looking forward to it. All went well until we arrived at the Lincoln Tunnel. Half way through the bus just stopped, and the driver tried to no avail. Eventually we got on our way, but we had to wait for another bus from Scranton for the return journey.

On March 16 we held our monthly meeting which John Adomenas, MAD president



Council 74 Scranton presented a Lithuanian program at St. Mary's Villa, Elmhurst

In 1974, at the urging of Joseph Yanalaitis, a native of New Philadelphia who moved to Philadelphia and was an Honorary Member of Council 3, the Schuylkill group affiliated with the national Knights of Lithuania. The charter was presented by Loretta Stukas who was then editor of Vytis. The first officers were seated on March 6, 1977.

The council sponsors Lithuanian Day, a monthly Mass in Lithuanian language at our Lady of Siluva Church in Maizeville, a cultural center and museum at Frackville, Zarija Choir which performs at religious and ethnic functions, and until recently a weekly radio program.

In the first decade the council has grown to the third largest in the United States. The council plays a prominent role in district and national conventions and supports and donates to all national projects. Two Junior Knights received national scholarships. The council also has active Juniors and sponsors a Lithuanian day camp. The council is represented on the Governor's Ethnic Heritage Commission by the Lithuanian Commissioner. Members served and are serving on the Supreme Council.

Members of C-144 anticipate a gala tenth anniversary celebration with Bernice Mikatavage as chairlady, assisted by Ann Klizas Wargo and Annie Morgalis and her committee.

Anthracite Council was saddened by the death of Clem Kosmisky, a third degree member. Clem passed away on March 26 after a short illness. Father Jarasunas, spiritual advisor, and President Joseph

Yezulinas conducted the Knights Wake Ritual, with many members in attendance. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his widow Elsie who is past president of C-144 and past national vice president. Amzina atils!

**73rd Annual
Lithuanian Day
August 16**



A moment in C-144's history: The dedication of their Lithuanian Museum and Cultural Center

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in
your prayers...

REV. STANELY NORBUTAS
Member C-144, Anthracite
Died April 17, 1987

MYKQLAS KARAITIS
Member C-147, St. Petersburg
K of L Lifetime Member
Died April 23, 1987

MILDRED MITCHELL
Member C-144, Anthracite
Died April 12, 1987

JOHN BEINORIS
Member C-7, Waterbury
Died April 18, 1987

C-152 RIVERHEAD

Our February meeting was held on a beautiful day and forty-five members attended. But the story was so different for our March meeting. The day was about the worst Sunday of the season, about two inches of rain, floods on all roads, but thirty-six dedicated members showed up, all of them traveling distances of 50 to 70 miles. In spite of it all, we made the most of a bad day and enjoyed a productive meeting and lively social.

Ten of our members attended the Mid-Atlantic District meeting hosted by Council 110, Maspeth on March 8. The concelebrated Holy Mass, Bishop Paulius A. Baltakis officiating, was one of the highlights of the day. We also learned a lot more about the life of Archbishop George Matulaitis, who will become Blessed George Matulaitis in June, from the Bishop when he addressed the delegates after the luncheon. It was most interesting to hear about the activities of the various councils, their accomplishments and successes. One of the pleasures of my day was finally meeting my "boss" on this job, Helen Chesko, Council News Editor. We sincerely thank Maspeth Council for their hospitality.

Once again, our annual Communion and Brunch was a beautiful event. One hundred thirty-five members and friends attended Mass, said in the beautiful little church of St. John Evangelist, Riverhead, the oldest Catholic church in Suffolk County. Father Charles Mockevicius was the celebrant; the offertory gifts presented were the ruta, the 600th anniversary medallion and

the wayside cross; the bread and wine were offered by President John & Antoinette Saka!. Several of our members and a few friends, assisted by our guest organist, Veronica Lekstutis, sang Lithuanian hymns during the Mass, a rarity in this area and much appreciated.

Our guest speakers at the brunch were Father Mockevicius and Assemblyman Joseph Sawicki, both of whom urged us never to forget our heritage, speak up for our ideals and fight for right. Father, who is retiring in June and moving upstate, was presented with a retirement gift and wished "Ilgiausiu Metu" by all in attendance. We were honored to have our National Financial Secretary, Mary Kober, and a large group of Council 109 Great Neck members with us.

Our table decorations, an Easter basket with the beautiful colored Easter eggs inside and the door prizes were made by our Financial Secretary, Julie Lott, a lady of many talents. Thank you Julie! Your handiwork was much admired and complimented by all of us.

Florida is a very popular choice for our winter vacationers. Flo Ostroski and Alex & Mae Zipkas spent several glorious weeks there recently. Joanne White experienced the riggers of a windjammer cruise then went on a Caribbean cruise to rest up.

Plans are complete for our Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Island Shrine on May 31. Now we're praying for a beautiful day. This is a once in a lifetime occasion, this 600th anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania. Come out and give thanks for the blessing of our faith. Kvieciame visus dalyvauti.

B L

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER

One week following our most successful Lithuanian Independence Day observance, our members met again to observe the feast of St. Casimir, our patron. Following the evening Mass which was celebrated by Rev. Justin Steponaitis, we gathered at the board room for dinner.

The church was still beautifully decorated from the previous week and again Father was vested in our tri-colors. A first-class relic of St. Casimir was venerated by all. The gifts were offered by Nellie Melaika and Paula Shatas.

It was good to see Ann Ambrose and Amelia Vaitkunas at both events, feeling better after several bouts of illness and problems. St. Casimir must have been thrilled to see us all at this beautiful observance.

The Diocese of Worcester announced that it has no intention to close beautiful and active St. Francis parish as was previously rumored. It came as a relief to all persons concerned.

Brone Wisniauskas gave a class of coloring Easter eggs Lithuanian style at the Gardner Heritage Museum along with an Easter display. The director asked Bill & Brone to prepare and present a Lithuanian Christmas extravaganza at the museum in December along with a class in ornaments, food demonstration and Christmas display.

Vincukas



President Bill Wisniauskas welcomes Robert and Kathryn Paliulis into membership in Council 10



Alex Kuzmeskas provided accompaniment on piano for C-100 Carol Sing

C-50 NEW HAVEN

The 600th Anniversary of Lithuanian Christianity was celebrated in New Haven at St. Casimir's Church on March 8. Marion & Robert Morcus served as general chairmen and were assisted by Isabel & Frank Peterson, Ann & Anthony Kordorsky, Ann Meskins and Theresa Strimaitis. Rev. Albert Karalis, pastor of St. Casimir's and spiritual advisor, was honorary chairman.

Solemn Mass was celebrated by Father Karalis, assisted by Rev. Kenneth Bonadies and Deacon Kenneth Brown. Mr. Morkevicius was Lithuanian

moderator and Anthony Capelli altar attendant.

St. Casimir Choir sang Latin Mass and Lithuanian hymns. Father Karalis spoke in Lithuanian and English on the early history of Lithuania leading up to her conversion in 1387.

After Mass, a triumphal march around Wooster Square Green followed with Anthony Cappelli in the lead carrying the cross. Father Karalis and Mayor Biagio Dilieto preceded the flag bearers, George Kisielus, Lithuanian flag; Al Gedrim, Knights of Lithuania banner; Michael Cappelli and Jerry Morcus, 600th Jubilee Banner. Deacon Brown carried the relic of St. Casimir. Commando Sam Meshako and the Wallingford AMVETS formed an Honor Guard of Flags. Knights of Lithuania and parishioners marched singing the national anthems.

Returning to the church hall, greetings were extended by Mayor Biagio Dilieto and Second Vice President Peterson of the Knights of Lithuania. The Rev. Kenneth Bonadies was the main speaker. He spoke humorously and interestingly on "Ethnicity." Rev. Clemente Kasinskas and Rev. Roman Golemba were honored guests.

A buffet dinner was served with Theresa Strimaitis in charge. The Amber Singers entertained with Lithuanian folk songs. St. Casimir Choir also participated. An orchestra for dancing concluded the program.

Isabel & Frank Peterson attended the commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day sponsored by the Lithuanian American Community of Connecticut at Roberts Theater in West Hartford. Per Ahlmark, leader of Sweden's liberal party, was the keynote speaker. Daiva

Mongirdaite was the soloist and Berbelis, Lithuanian Folk Dance Group, performed.

The 69th Anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence was commemorated on February 15 with Father Karalis celebrating Mass for the persecuted people in Lithuania and Siberia. After Mass a wreath was laid at the Memorial Cross to honor those who dedicated their lives for Lithuania's freedom.

Program followed in the church auditorium. J. B. Kasytis, our guest speaker from Hartford, spoke both in English and Lithuanian. Mayor Biagio Dilieto convinced us that the Lithuanian community was a vital part of New Haven. Patricia Illingworth read the proclamation by Governor O'Neil designating February 16 as the official day for Lithuanian Independence in Connecticut.

There was a good turnout of enthusiastic members at the March meeting. In the absence of President Peterson due to the death of his brother-in-law, Al Gutauskas presided. Our newest members are Sandra & Ernest George and Mary & William George. Welcome!

We were saddened by the sudden death of John Kruzik who died on February 28. We shall miss him and pray that God will keep him in his love and console his family and dear friends.

Al & Eleanor Gutauskas are hopefully penetrating the sun's rays in Florida. We wish them a happy and healthy vacation. Viola & Bill Plante recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. May God bless them with many more years of bliss.

Helen Balchus

C-103 PROVIDENCE

Forty-three members participated on March 1 in the annual Communion Breakfast that was preceded by our attendance at Mass in honor of our patron, St. Casimir. The celebrant was our pastor and NED spiritual advisor, Rev. Isadorius Gedvila. As usual, our choir added to the occasion.

A very short business meeting was chaired by President William J. Piacentini Jr. He informed the membership of the NED Holy Hour to be held in Brockton on March 29. NED President Jaritis held a board meeting on March 15 with C-103 as the host council.

Volunteers are at a premium. Nowadays members have to be begged and cajoled to assume responsibilities. Congratulations to Francis Kapiskas for undertaking the making for our parish and council a banner with a logo of the 600th Lithuanian Christianity observance. The stencil was obtained through the efforts of Agnes Waitonis who prevailed on Rev. Sister Igna from Putnam to let us borrow it. The stencil came to the sisters through the generosity of Mrs. Stasys Eiva of Brockton. Vyto Kapistas, Francis' father, is helping out on this noteworthy project. We commend Francis for his interest and concern. Little wonder that recently he was recognized by his employer and given a much higher position in his line of work. Felicitations! Our warmest and very best wishes to you, Francis.

Un qui aime les Lithuaniens

C-25 CLEVELAND

Elaborate plans to commemorate the 600th anniversary of Lithuanian Christianity and celebrate the church renovation at Our Lady of Perpetual Help are in the offing. V. Gray and E. Pranckus represented K of L at this parish meeting. Religious exercises, concerts and theatrical excerpts are to be presented at various times from May through October. All organizations will take part in events pertaining to Lithuanian culture and history. On May 24 a grand renewal celebration is to be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in the afternoon and an evening concert in the church hall.

The February meeting was held at the Lithuanian Club. A. Luiza presided. Donation was made to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Building Fund. Refreshments were served.

On February 15, C-25 hosted Koffee Klatch for the parish after Mass. Good show! Cooperation and donations were abounding.

Congratulations to our newest member, Rose Rew. She and her sister R. Guzauskas welcomed us all to her party room at the Lietuviu Sodyba Apartments after our bowling session on February 22.

St. Casimir's Day commemoration started with Mass officiated by Fr. Kijauskas and assisted by Fr. Sukackus and F. Goldikovskis at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Noon meal was served at Lithuanian Club with 55 people in attendance. Dale Yurkovic, who is studying for the priesthood, let us in prayer before the meal. Proud parents, Steve & Lil, were present. A. Luiza was in native dress which was made of fabric she brought home from Lithuania.

After the meal, M. Krivinskas ran a video cassette



C-25 participants in St. Casimir's Day Program; Seated Dale Yurkovic, Fr. Kijauskas, V. Gray; Standing D. Marks, M. Gray, J. Marks, U. Kunsitis, A. Luiza. Boy and girl are children of M. Krivinskas

tape he made of the International Dance Festival held at the Coliseum last year.

In addition, an enlightening discussion from the program "Crossfire" pertaining to the strife and persecution of Lithuania and persistent hunt for war criminals was presented. Panelists were Attorney General, civil liberatorian Senator from Washington and Tony Mazeika, Los Angeles Justice Department critic. Parts were fact, parts were fiction. Many thanks to Mike for his time and effort. Appreciated by all!

The third bowling session was held on March 29. Everyone is getting averages ready for the tournament in May. The April 12 bowling session was hosted by the Oberaitises. Good time was had by all participants. We're improving! See you in Detroit.

Dolly-O

C-79 SOUTHFIELD

Our February and March meetings were mainly devoted to discussions of ways to commemorate this year's St. Casimir's Day. After deliberation, it was decided to carry on the traditional Mass followed by a catered dinner. On Sunday, March 8, 54 members attended, including several from each of our sister Councils 102 and 139.

Before Mass, Fr. Victor Krisciunevicius, our Spiritual Advisor, with Ritual Chairlady Marianne Newberry standing by, bestowed the Third Degree on active member Richard Danielak. Congratulations, Richard!

Fr. Michael Kundrat, our retired Spiritual Advisor, blessed our meal which was tastefully

prepared. Later Rimas Bulotas had the right numbers, not for the lottery, but for the 50/50 raffle!

Our sick list, at this time, numbers Alice Burt whose California vacation was marred by illness; Dorothy Martin, our Florida member; Leo Smilgis, our Horseshoe Pitching Champ, confined in the hospital, and Lillian Stepan. After major surgery, we were happy to see Isabel Pavlichek at the February meeting.

On February 27 death took Adele Brand. Several members also lost relatives. Charles Step's sister Lillian Dean passed away in Florida. Also, Mike Vale lost a brother, Joseph Velosky, in California. We extend our condolences to all families.

Our council was represented at the February 16 commemoration of Lithuanian Independence by President Maggie Smailis, Marianne Newberry and Mary Keller. Joe & Helen Usoris are vacationing in Arizona, missing our beautiful early spring.

Did you see this writer's son-in-law, Cliff Anglewicz, on the "Yes, Michigan!" commercial - the one with the huge robot?

Bee Jay

C-96 DAYTON

At one of our recent meetings, Tina Kavy showed us TV sound slides of our community, "Old North Dayton." It was fun seeing old friends and council members Aldona Ryan, Stan Kavy and Mary Lucas. Mary was asked to speak in Lithuanian about the old immigrants who settled in this neighborhood.

Walter Lastoskie gave a report on his VLIKAS tour to Bu-

dapest and Vienna. This was the Freedom March for the Liberation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. He was impressed and had a wonderful trip.

Eleanor and Joe Mantz had a great time in London while visiting their daughter, son-in-law and family stationed there with the Army Air Force.

Fran Petkus, Stan & Helen Vaitkus, and also our Torrington CT members Pat & Tony Alexander are planning to join the K of L group to Rome for the 600th anniversary of Lithuanian Christianity. We hope you will be renewed morally, spiritually and jubilantly by the pilgrimage.

Ada Sinkwitz, Jim Kavalauskas and Polly Pietrzak were hospitalized but are now convalescing at home. Please get well soon.

Aldona Ryan hosted the World Day of Prayer at our church. About 100 people of many religious faiths attended, and it was a very impressive service. Ray Steinbrunner, Father Walter Katarskis and Elinor Sluzas were among the many speakers. Ushers were Joe Ryan and Karl Kievel. Anna Marie Sluzas Berger was the soloist with Frank Ambrose Jr. at the organ.

Congratulations to George Mikalauskas II who was graduated from the University of Dayton in December with honors and is working in Columbus.

On March 7 Fritzie Mikalauskas chaired our annual St. Casimir's observance with an impressive Lithuanian Mass. Readings were by Stefanija Rastikis and Fritzie Mikalauskas. Steponas Bucmys played the lovely St. Casimir hymns on the organ. Breakfast was enjoyed by council members at the Radison Inn.

First Lt. Vida Gecas, our K of L scholarship winner, is now

stationed in Korea with the US Army.

Congratulations to Helen & Karl Kieval who became grandparents of twin baby girls. We wish you many pleasant years of loving and sharing with your family.

Elinor Sluzas was again named honorary chairman of the Dayton International Festival to be held May 22-24 at the Convention Center.

In February our Junior Council held a very successful bake sale chaired by our junior advisors Chris and Joe Fletcher. Thanks to all members who donated and supported it.

Our new member, Theresa Summerhill (Aldona Ryan's daughter), who resides in South Carolina, was welcomed into our Dayton Council.

The Mid-Central District Meeting and Pilgrimage will be held in Dayton on September 25, 26 and 27. Please keep this date open.

HM Mary L. Lucas

C-102 DETROIT

Busy, busy are members of Council 102 getting ready for the Mid-Central District Meeting and Bowling Tournament the weekend of May 15-17. Hoping to see all there!

VP John & Donna Stanievich, Ruth Wagster, Merri & Lory Hofner, Eve & Joe Aukstakalnis-Stark and Joe & Maryanne Guerriero accepted the invitation of Sister Council 79 to attend their St. Casimir Day Mass and delicious lunch.

Council 102 snowbirds flying to Florida this winter were Helen Smolak, Bill & Edna Klucens, Ray & Terry Medonis

VIDA GECAS (C-96) SERVING THE USA, GOD, AND LITHUANIA

In June 1986, VIDA GECAS, (C-96), past VYTIS layout editor, graduated from the University of Dayton magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in international studies.

On graduation day, she was also commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. In July, she was transferred to Alabama to finish her army studies. She is now stationed in So. Korea.

Vida was a K of L Scholarship recipient. When she was awarded a full scholarship from the Army ROTC program, she returned \$800 to the K of L Scholarship Fund.

Vida has been active in the K of L since childhood. As a member of C-96 Juniors, she held many officer and chairmanship positions. She also danced with the "Vejeliai" folk dance group for more than 10 years.



and Pres. Frank & Donna Bunikis. Frank and Donna attended the Lithuanian Independence Day commemoration in Sunny Hills, Florida, a Lithuanian community.

Our February meeting was held at the home of VP John & Donna Stanievich. After a fruitful meeting, Donna served a very nice lunch.

Our Knights of Lithuania Mixed Bowling League is drawing to an end. If anyone is interested in joining us next season, please call 278-3020 for more information. The league consists of good and bad bowlers, young and old, married and single, and male and female. All in all, it's a fun league.

Deepest sympathies are extended to the family of Mrs. Simonis on her passing, to Charles Step on the passing of his sister Lillian and to Mike Vale on the passing of his brother.

Get well wishes are extended to Catherine Kurpowic of Council 139 and Andy Kurtinaitis.



LITHUANIAN INFORMATION
CENTER
5620 S CLAREMONT
CHICAGO, IL 60636

VYTIS Scottie Zukas
5112 S. Mayfield
Chicago, IL 60638
Return requested
Address Correction Requested



Mid-America District President Algerd Brazis with athletes honored at the 27th Memories of Lithuania Harry Petraitis, C-112 and Konnie Savickus, C-5



Banquet Co-Chr Irene Sankus presents commemorative medallions to "Whitey" Budrunas, with Zenonas Puzinauskas lookin on

**Mid-America District's 27th
Annual Memories of Lithuania
Banquet honored American-Lithuanian
athletes who competed
in Lithuania 50 years ago.**

C-112 CHICAGO

Our business meeting on March 17 was followed by a lavish St. Joseph's-St. Patrick's Day table with many delicious delicacies provided by our members. As usual, Chairlady Julie Zakarka did a great job of organizing and presenting this table for us which we all enjoyed so much. Speaking of Julie Zakarka, congratulations are in order as she was presented with

the Member of the Year award on St. Casimir's Day. Our "always on the spot" gracious and hard-working Julie is most deserving of this award, and we offer our sincere congratulations to her.

Our council hosted this year's St. Casimir's Day on March 8. We were blessed with a beautiful, sunny, and balmy day with approximately 150 people in attendance at the procession and brunch following. Many thanks to the committee members who worked so hard to make this day a success. Special

thanks to the Juniors who did a really magnificent job of helping with the serving of the food and clearing of tables. Their enthusiasm and cheerful attitude was noticed by all.

Congratulations to Albert Matulis and Juozas Juska who received their Fourth Degrees that day and to Aldona Gylys and Albert Cekanor who received Third Degrees.

Welcome to new members Stanley & Constance Jerkins.

ARDEE

