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 **VYTTIS**

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**1987**

**The Knights  
of Lithuania**



*Dedicated to Blessed George Mätulaitis*



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# VYTIS

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MEMORIAL  
MEDALLION AND SHRINE  
OF THE  
600TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF  
LITHUANIA'S CHRISTIANITY



BY  
HON. MEMBER, MARY L. LUCAS  
COUNCIL 96 - DAYTON

Since I purchased the medallion in Cleveland last spring, I had pondered a long time on how I could display such a beautiful and meaningful memento to a better advantage rather than to let it lie in its little velvet case? An idea slowly took form and I quickly started to design a picture of the Medallion and how to embellish it with greater meaning.

My first vision was of a wreath of thorns to signify the suffering of the Lithuanian nation through the many years of captivity and numerous attacks on her people.

The cross atop, of walnut wood, attests to the faith which the people of Lithuania have preserved and upheld through all the years of struggle and subjugation. For her priests and citizens for holding onto the faith, and for the thousands of persons who were deported to Siberia, and others confined to prisons and labor camps, for not denouncing their faith.

Thoroughly enveloping the Medallion and crown of thorns we see a bountiful spray of ruta, Lithuania's national flower. These are carved of light basswood.

Embedded in a circle of clear plastic, at the root end of the ruta plant is real Lithuanian soil which was brought from Lithuania.

The triangular base of the shrine was an idea of our sculptor, George Mikalaukas who agreed to carve the shrine for me. George carved the words, "TEVAS, SUNUS, SVENTOJI DVASIA" and attached these titles to the walnut triangular base. This is a tribute to the Blessed Trinity.

A small bronze plate with the message, "In honor of Blessed George Matulaitis", is attached to the back root of the ruta. I have dedicated this shrine to Blessed George Matulaitis in thanksgiving for the many favors he has granted me through my incessant prayers to him.

The Medallion is set on a little spindle which allows it to be turned to show off all its beauty.

My utmost "Thank You" to George for making this shrine possible.

*Memorial Medallion and Shrine  
Designed by: H.M. Mary L. Lucas, C-96,  
Dayton, OH; Carved and sculpted by:  
George Mikalaukas, C-96, Dayton, OH.*



## Lithuania 1387:

### The Significance Of The Conversion

*Algirdas Budreckis*

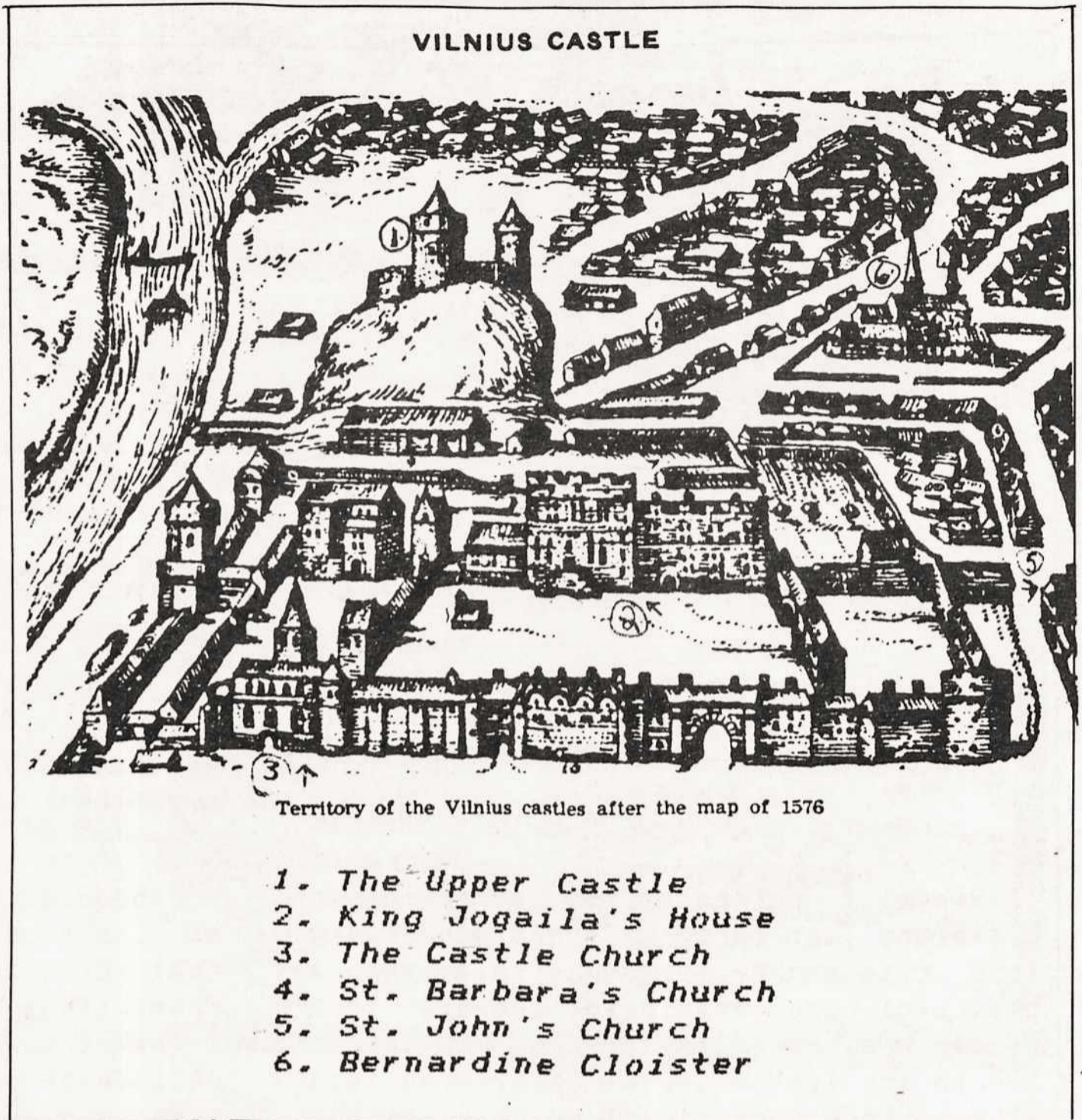
The introduction of Catholicism into Lithuania had great political significance in foreign affairs. It also had great legal significance internally. In conjunction with the christianization, King Jogaila promulgated three "privilegia".



The first *Privilegia*, the first Lithuanian state writ for internal affairs, known as the Act of Endowment of the Cathedral on February 17, 1387, created the bishopric of Vilnius. The bishop of Vilnius received from Jogaila a part of the city of Vilnius, Tauragnai castle and township, the estates of Labanoras and Moletai, Verkiai and Bokstas townships. The government of the state gave up all its rights to the natural resources, revenues and any rights over the inhabitants of the Church domains. The state even exempted the Church lands and inhabitants from military service. Justice and administration of these domains were placed in the hands of the bishop.

The bishop could give part of the domains to the diocesan Chapter, its members, parish pastors or parcel it out as Church benefices to the clergy, but he could not give the land away as personal property to anyone.

On April 8, 1388, Pope Urban VI appointed Andrew Wasillo Jastrzebiec to the See of Vilnius. This first bishop was a native of Poland. However, he was not a stranger to Lithuania. He and his brother, both Franciscans, had lived in Vilnius



during the reign of Algirdas and he spoke Lithuanian. Later he was chaplain to Queen Elizabeth of Hungary, mother of Jadwiga, and after 1377, he was the bishop of Ceretan, Romania. It is quite likely that Bishop Andrew had been instrumental in promoting Jadwiga's marriage to Jogaila.

The Polish chronicler canon Jan Dlugosz, in writing about the establishment of the cathedral, said (see "Dziejow Polskich, Vol. III, Krakow, 1868, pg. 441): "The devoted Wladyslaw (Jogaila) stubbornly striving to introduce the faith in Lithuania so that it could spread and be firm, established in the city of Vilnius, the cathedral church of the Holy Trinity, calling it to St. Stanislaw, named after that brave and famous bishop-martyr, in order for the two nations, the Poles and Lithuanians, equally united in one

*faith and religion and under one rule, would have a single protector and interceder; and in order that the Lithuanians eternally remember that with Polish help they were snatched out of pagan darkness and that from the Poles came the light of Christian faith, for them and their descendents. The great altar was erected in the palace where before then was kindled the eternal fire, so that the pagan error be known to all."*

Archbishop Bodzant of Gniezno consecrated the new Cathedral of St. Stanislaw. Jogaila presented Bishop Andrew and the priests of the Chapter with many gifts. Jogaila also built and lavishly endowed seven parishes in the country. These first Lithuanian parishes were established in Ukmerge, Maisiogla, Nemencinem Medininkai, Kreva, Aina and Obolcai.



The second privilege was issued by Jogaila on February 20, 1387, on Ash Wednesday. It was the "*Universis singulis Lithuanis armigeris sive boyaris*" which dealt with the boyars, who gained by it. In the preamble to this privilege it was stated:

*"Each warrior or boyar and their descendents and legal successors by accepting the Catholic faith have and will have the full and sundry right to possess, hold, use, sell, transfer, change, give, grant and freely use according to his will and wishes castles, townships, villages, and houses and everything they possess from their fathers' inheritance, thusly, as enjoy with similar rights the other nobles in other lands of our Kingdom of Poland, so that it would not appear that they are unequal from a legal point, while they are united by the fact that they are the subjects of one crown."*

Jogaila's privilege defined the rights and duties of the Lithuanian

Catholic nobles. The Catholic nobles were elevated into a privileged position, mixed marriages with non-Catholics were banned. The legal and political foundation was laid for the rise of the Lithuanian Catholic gentry, which proved fatal to the Grand Duchy by the 18th century.



The third privilege was granted to the townsfolk of Vilnius, bestowing upon them the so-called Magdeburg Law, without explaining what the law was. Apparently, it was quite clear to them, especially the townspeople. The Magdeburg Law meant a collection or code of municipal laws. According to it, the city was to handle its own affairs, form its own self-government, and municipal court, distinct from the boyars.

Except for a few native Lithuanians and Germans, the first

churchmen were foreigners, who did not even know the Lithuanian language. Among the twelve members of the original Chapter (Capitulum) of Vilnius, four were Lithuanians, seven were Poles, and one was a Czech.

A hastily performed ceremony and preaching of a strange faith by recent converts, like Jogaila and Vytautas, and foreign priests could not have changed matters a great deal. The sources estimate that during the first year some thirty thousand villagers and townsfolk were baptized in a short time. One however must agree with the observation of the Lithuanian American historian Constantine Jurgela: "*Several centuries were to pass before the masses of people embraced Christianity completely and Lithuania became the most faithful daughter of Rome in northeastern Europe.*"

Christianity reached the grassroots level during the Counter-Reformation of the mid-16th century!

ACQUAINTING OURSELVES  
WITH  
ARCHBISHOP GEORGE MATULAITIS

It is important that we acquaint ourselves with Archbishop Matulaitis on the occasion of his beatification. The Lithuanian Christianity Jubilee Committee has the following materials available:

Small folder (in Lithuanian)	FREE
Small folder (in English)	FREE
Brochure: To Love and to Serve	
To Serve and to Love	
(in Lithuanian)	\$1.00
(in English)	\$1.00
Biography: (in English)	\$5.00
Author - Dr. Kucas	

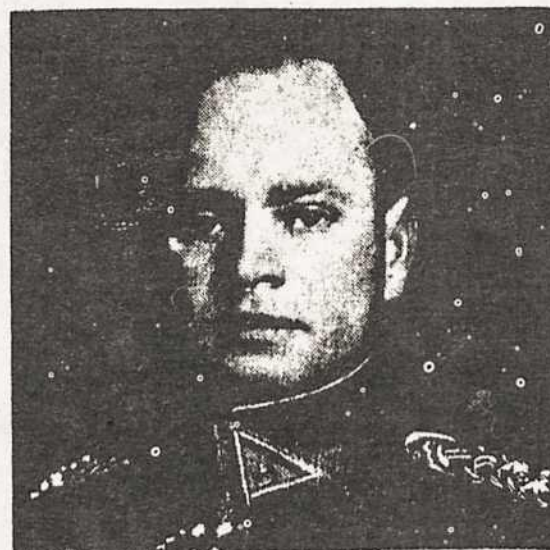
RENEWAL PROGRAM  
ICC - RT 21  
PUTNAM, CT 06260



**Blessed George Matulaitis**  
**1871-1927**



# I SURVIVED A DEATH MARCH



Col. Juozas Tumas, who died in 1977. His statement is taken from his deposition to the U.S. Congress Select Committee to Investigate Communist Aggression.

THIS ARTICLE WAS EXTRACTED FROM  
LITHUANIA UNDER SOVIET OCCUPATION  
*EyeWitness Accounts*

On May 10, 1941, I was arrested on my own farm by Russian NKVD men and jailed in the hard-labor prison in Kaunas.

On the night of June 22 of that same year, I and other Lithuanian prisoners were put on a transport to the prison in Minsk, Byelorussia. On June 24 at the prison in Minsk about a dozen Lithuanians, among them my acquaintances Colonel Steponas Rusteika and Mrs. Pranckonienė, were picked out of our group of Lithuanian prisoners from Kaunas. After they were taken from our cell, a few minutes afterward there was the sound of gunfire in the prison yard. Those of us remaining in the cell concluded that they had been shot by the Bolsheviks.

Early in the morning on June 25, the Bolsheviks made about 4500 prisoners set off on foot from the prison in Minsk to Cherven'. We who had been brought here from Kaunas were among them. The prisoners were of various nationalities: Poles, Byelorussians, Lithuanians, and others. There were also women and small children. The journey, about 70 kilometers, took one and one-half days. Not only was no food supplied, but no water was provided either. Since it was hot, many of the weaker prisoners tired soon and could not walk any farther. The Bolsheviks disposed of such prisoners with two shots to the backs of their heads. During the journey some 550-600 persons — men, women, and children — were dispatched in this manner. Among the Lithuanians I knew, the following suffered this fate: Major Opulskis from Telšiai and Bikinas and Zdanavičius from Kaunas.

When we reached the grounds of the prison in Cherven' on June 26, 1941, the women and the children were separated from the men and left in the yard. The men were taken to an enclosure near the prison.

That evening all the men were separated into three groups. Bolshevik commissars questioned the men briefly and then directed them to go to the right, the left, or straight ahead. I ended up in the group "straight ahead." After all the prisoners were assigned to one of the three groups, the Bolsheviks led out the group to which I had been directed and lined us up by fours in front of the prison. NKVD soldiers surrounded us from all sides and ordered us to march down the road in an easterly direction. At that time I did not know what fate had befallen the other two groups of prisoners. I found out later that one of the groups had marched down the same road behind us and the other had remained behind in the prison yard in Cherven'.

There were some 800 prisoners in my group. I and Colonel Jonas Petraitis walked close to the front of the column. After we had marched about 4 kilometers from the prison, the sound of gunshots reached us from the rear of the column. The prisoners in the back broke ranks and ran toward the front of the formation with the news that the commissars were shooting at the prisoners. Their news caused quite a commotion, but the commissar at the front of the column soon restored order.

After about ten minutes, our formation entered a forest of tall trees. Suddenly NKVD soldiers lying in wait on the left side of the road began shooting at us. All the prisoners and our guards either dropped down or fell upon the roadway and in the roadside ditches. The shooting went on for about ten minutes. When the gunfire ceased, the order was given for everyone to get up and run forward down the road. After running about 150-200 steps, we heard another command, namely, to get down on our hands and knees and lie still. We lay thus for ten or fifteen minutes. During this time the soldiers guarding us crossed over from the



right side of the road and lined up on the left. When this had been accomplished, the prisoners were told to rise. As we stood up, the soldiers, who were now on the left side of the road, began to shoot at us with automatic rifles and submachine guns.

From the 800 persons who were taken on this death march, only several escaped alive.

The same fate befell the second group of prisoners who had marched along behind us. In this massacre perished my acquaintances Colonel Juozas Šarauskas, Colonel Balys Giedraitis, and the Lithuanian National Guard's education department head, Daudzvardas.

I survived because just prior to the shooting of the prisoners I ran away from the road. I did so because when we prisoners were told to get down upon the road, right by the spot where I and Colonel Petraitis were lying, several Bolshevik commissars were conferring. We overheard one of them say in a raised voice, "Anyway, there isn't time to take these wretches any farther, and, besides, some of them will probably escape when we try to shoot them." They continued their conversation in quieter tones.

Hearing this, I realized that the Bolsheviks were about to shoot us. I decided to try to escape. Quickly I considered what would be the best moment and decided that the best time to make a run for it would be when the commissar would give his command. I reasoned that at that particular moment the soldiers would be listening to the command and would not shoot at me. Thus decided, I bided my time. When the soldiers crossed to the opposite side of the road, I shifted my feet and my hands in preparation. Upon hearing the first word of the order for the prisoners to rise, I leaped up and ran to the right, aiming for the woods,

which were only fifteen or twenty steps from the road. No one shot at me. When only five or six more steps would have brought me into the woods, the shooting began. Without trying to go any farther, I fell upon the ground and lay there motionless. After the gunfire ceased, a terrible sound of moaning could be heard, together with the cries of the dying and an occasional louder word spoken by the executioners.

After several minutes had passed, two cars drove up from the direction of Cherven'. I heard their doors being opened and people climbing inside. I waited to see what would happen next. Suddenly a command rang out, given by a commissar standing near one of the cars: "Check to see whether anyone is still alive!" Then both cars drove off to the east. Upon hearing these words, the prisoners who were still alive and could move jumped up and ran in the direction of the forest. The soldiers again opened fire, and again the moaning began. I continued to lie where I had fallen. When the shooting ended, the soldiers were lined up on the road and they also marched off toward the east. It was only then that I jumped up and quickly slipped into the woods. I walked in a southerly direction until morning came. Continuing to hide in wooded areas and in marshes, at last I came across the German army in the late afternoon of July 2, 1941. I went to see the commanding officers of one battalion and told them about the massacre of the prisoners. I then asked the battalion leader to help me return to Lithuania. He sent me to the division staff, from where I was sent to the corps staff, which on July 3 gave me permission to return to Lithuania.

*Juozas Tumas*



G E N O C I D E

*Lithuania's Threefold Tragedy*

1. The First Soviet Occupation  
*Apparition with Hammer and Sickle*  
102,000 Lithuanians lost  
(3.4% of the population)
2. The Nazi Occupation (1941 - 1944)  
*Of the Swastika*  
405,000 Lithuanians lost  
(13.5% of the population)
3. The Second Soviet Occupation (1944-1949)  
*The Great Sin of Genocide*  
500,000 Lithuanians lost  
(17.0% of the population)

COMPARISON OF WAR LOSSES OF LITHUANIA WITH THOSE OF OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF PERSONS	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION
LITHUANIA	1,000,000 approx.	33.9%
POLAND (Including Jews)	6,500,000 approx.	20.0%
YUGOSLAVIA	1,680,000 approx.	10.5%
GREECE	430,000 approx.	6.8%
USSR	7,000,000 approx.	3.7%
HOLLAND	204,000 approx.	2.2%
FRANCE	820,000	2.0%
GERMANY		.52%
GREAT BRITAIN		.13%



Said the Lord: The Voice of thy  
bother's blood crieth unto me from  
the ground...



## ETHNICITY

### *Bonus or Hinderance?*

By Rev. William Wolkovitch

#### ETHNICITY - A HINDERANCE?

From what I have said so far, it surely appears that this sense of belonging is a worthwhile value to cherish. The title of my talk, though, hints at the darker side of one's heritage. Ethnicity can be beautiful, but it can also prove ugly through misuse. So often it gets out of hand. Instead of being a family treasure to enjoy, it descends to what scholars call "ethnocentrism", the arrogant belief that one's group is superior to all others - a mentality that leads to mistrust, prejudice, and hatred.

#### HARMFUL ETHNICITY AND RELIGION

The origin of most ethnic parishes in this country was plagued with ethnic misunderstandings and rivalries. In West Rutland, Vermont, Irish-French friction in the 1860's led to a separate French parish. In the 1890's in Worcester, Massachusetts, Lithuanians in their own parish pushed out the Poles. In the first decade of this century, Poles dominated and impeded Lithuanian in Providence, Rhode Island. Ethnic misunderstandings played a considerable part in the two major departures of Catholics from the Roman Church of this country, namely: the thousands of Ukrainians and Poles who became Orthodox and independent Christians respectively, beginning in the late nineteenth century.

To give a contemporary example, when Portugese immigrant, Humberto Medeiros, cardinal-archbishop of Boston, died in 1983, his obituary in the *Boston Globe* included this poignant note:

Yet ethnic and cultural differences always remained a stumbling block in his years in Boston. When he was ap-

pointed to succeed Richard Cardinal Cushing, one of the preeminent Irish American church leaders, there was an undertone of crude resentment. There were telephone threats on his life, and the archdiocesan television center was firebombed the night of his installation as archbishop. Yet he himself was sensitive to cultural differences, admitting that he never knew what to make of the joviality at an Irish wake, a situation in which Cardinal Medeiros said he would frequently be in tears (September 18, 1983).

#### ETHNICITY AND PREJUDICE

But let's move this topic closer to home. Granted, Lithuanian-Polish relations of the past century have sometimes been less than cordial. Even so, should not a Christian resent being reminded through subtle and not so subtle conversational remarks and newspaper articles that in order to be loyal to one's Lithuanian heritage, it is necessary to dislike Poles. My closest friend in the priesthood, a seminary classmate, is a second-generation Pole. On occasion, he has introduced me as *Lithuanian* to one of his Polish parishioners. I have detected a disappointing sigh that seemed to say - "Oh, he's not one of us". And when I have introduced him to a Lithuanian of my acquaintance, I have been embarassed on occasion to notice a less than enthusiastic greeting.

I once performed a wedding for a second-generation Lithuanian, marrying a woman of mixed non-Lithuanian ethnic background. To my dismay, I learned that one of the groom's sisters, refused to attend the wedding because her new sister-in-law was not Lithuanian. In my hometown, I once heard a Lithuanian churchgoer ranting against Poles, in-



sisting that even if he were dying, he would not receive the Sacraments from a Polish priest. I once heard of a Polish woman who observed that if she ever found out she were actually a Lithuanian she would commit suicide!

Time does not allow a more involved glance at history. But look at what is happening in South Africa today, to conjure up one major instance on the international scene. How much violence and maiming is going on because of ethnic tribal rivalries. One human being killing another, in the name of ethnicity.

It is true that in the last twenty-five years, ethnicity for the most part has become fashionable in this country, with all the talk of cultural pluralism. The "melting pot" image has been mostly replaced with the comparison to a mosaic, or mixed salad, or a multi-colored tapestry. In 1981, though quite late in history (some might say much too late) the U.S. Catholic Conference issued a manifesto called "*Cultural Pluralism in the United States*", a document that recognizes and praises ethnic plurality.

#### EXCESSES OF ETHNICITY

Yet there are some social scientists who view ethnicity as divisive and damaging - a trend to be discouraged. Writing in the *New York Times* of February 20, 1978, a sociologist Orland Patterson of Harvard University called the ethnic movement "insidious and disturbing". Such spokesmen have good reason to distrust ethnicity. History shows that more often than not, ethnicity has brought on much evil.

Basically, what has happened so frequently is that a person becomes so attached to one's ethnicity as to make it the highest value, above all other values. Such an attitude is plainly an assault on the teachings of Christ. To a person of faith, our oneness in the Lord is so profound and so superior, that it is as if no other differences exist. St. Paul could not have put it more clearly than when he taught:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek...but we are all one in Christ".

In the village of West Rutland, Vermont one finds a curious scene. On the side of a hill just below state highway 4, there is a large Catholic burial ground, or rather there are three cemeteries all next to each other. One holds the remains of Irish immigrants, one - the French Canadians, and one - the Poles. In life, they worshipped separately, and even in death they are divided. Yet we profess that all of them and all of us at Baptism were joined to Christ Jesus, and to one another by the Holy Spirit.

At the height of immigration into the United States, there were such a number and variety of newcomers that realistically it seems there was no other way for the Church to accommodate the immigrants, except through a system of separate ethnic parishes. In an ideal world, though, parishes would have provided multi-lingual priests to serve various ethnics within the confines of a single parish. In this utopian scheme of a faith-community, ethnic differences would have been respected, admired, and preserved, while at the same time, the higher value of unity in Christ would have been expressed. Ideally we would all think and behave much like my friend Dr. Dennis with a genuine sense of fairness and equality toward everyone one meets.

How refreshing and even startling, therefore, to read this news story of 1978 out of Cornwall, Ontario - "*Bilingual parish protests division*". The Holy Cross parish, 2/3 French-speaking and 1/3 English-speaking evidently was getting long fine, until the bishop decided, perhaps to improve efficiency, to separate the people into two parishes. More than half the parishioners signed a protest petition. They argued that many families were of mixed ethnic background. "*They wanted to continue the current practice, with a French and English-speaking priest sharing the ministry*". (National Catholic Reporter, September 1, 1978). The bishop prevailed anyway. A new parish of St. Peter for the English-speaking was erected.



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THE HISTORY  
OF  
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
COUNCIL 52  
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

By William Senkus

4th Degree Council Member  
and Council Historian

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The Knights of Lithuania, Elizabeth, New Jersey, Council 52, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on September 26, 1987 with enthusiasm and pride in its accomplishments.

The Knights reflect nostalgically on their earlier days, on that 15th day in September, 1937 when they met in the parish hall of Sts. Peter and Paul (Lithuanian) Roman Catholic Church, on Ripley Place in Elizabeth. Rev. Michael G. Kemezis, (later to become Monsignor) was their spiritual director.

The Elizabeth Knights of Lithuania, C-52, has been host to two National Knights of Lithuania Conventions. Both were successful.

Council members have celebrated the feast of Lithuania's patron saint, St. Casimir, annually by receiving Holy Communion and having breakfast following the Church service.

Joining all Knights of Lithuania members throughout the United States, they have annually observed the anniversary of the Declaration of Lithuanian Independence - February 16, 1918. Mass



1949 K of L National Convention Committee: (L to R sitting) William Senkus, Ann Staboris, Fr. Kasper, Ann Mitchell, Vincent Zakarevich (L to R standing) Joseph Degutis, Frances Balandis, Ronnie Krezonis, Helen Pinkin, Daniel Degutis (Absent from the picture Josephine (Adomaitis) Adams)

and rallies commemorating this special date have been held.

The Elizabeth K of L Council 52, every year, donates financial gifts as awards to outstanding students of Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Grammar School.

Rev. Joseph Simonaitis, Pastor, and Miss Annie Mitchell-Matalavich, of Elizabeth, were awarded Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania organization.

Rev. Peter Zemeikis, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul (Lithuanian) Roman Catholic Church is the present spiritual director of Council 52.

The members of Council 52 are proud of the activities they have performed since their re-organization of 1937. They have been performed in fulfillment of the motto of the Knights of Lithuania organization - *For God and Country*. They are also proud of their contribution to the welfare of

the youth in their Lithuanian community in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Dr. Jack Stukas, former National President of the Knights of Lithuania, will be the guest speaker at the 50th anniversary of the Knights of Lithuania's Council 52, Elizabeth, NJ. A dinner and dance will be held Saturday, September 26, 1987, in the parish hall of Sts. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church in Elizabeth.

Members and guests will first attend the 5:30 PM Mass with Fr. Peter Zemeikis, Pastor, and Rev. Joseph Pragulbickas concelebrating the Thanksgiving Mass. Assisting him will be Deacon Henry Keturwitis and Deacon Anthony Samalonis. After Mass dinner will be served.

Additional information can be obtained by writing to Annie Mitchell Matalavich, 212 Msgr. Kemezis Pl., Elizabeth, NJ 07206.



## NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES LITHUANIA'S CHRISTIANITY JUBILEE

A Mass marking the 600th anniversary of Lithuanian Christianity was held at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on May 31st, notes "The Advocate", East Orange, N.J.

Archbishop McCarrick was principal celebrant of the Mass, joined by Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Bishop of all Lithuanians in the free world, and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph A. Francis, Vicar of Essex County.

Priests from the four Lithuanian parishes of the Archdiocese also concelebrated: Holy Trinity, Newark; SS. Peter and Paul, Elizabeth; St. Michael's, Bayonne, and Our Lady of Sorrows, Kearny, N.J.

The day's events were planned by a joint committee of these parishes and St. Michael's in Paterson. Msgr. John Scharnus, pastor emeritus of Holy Trinity, was honorary chairman, and Dr. Jack J. Stukas of Watchung, chairman.



*C-96 Eucharistic Ministers lead the Way of the Cross during pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation. (Stanley Vaitkus, H.M., August Blum and George Mikalauskas)*

## MEMORIES OF A PILGRIMAGE

BY HON. MEMBER, MARY L. LUCAS

The day dawned bright and beautiful on Sunday, May 3rd. A group of Council 96 Knights of Lithuania members assembled in Holy Cross Church parking lot for a bus trip to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio. This was not the first trip to the Shrine. Many members might remember other trips made to this same area that were arranged by C-96 as Mid-Central District Pilgrimages. But this trip was something "special". We were celebrating the 600th Anniversary of Lithuania's Christianity.

Before departure at 7 A.M., our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Walter Katarskis, blessed the group of 38 pilgrims. He wished them a happy and safe journey.



Stanley Vaitukus and Judy Petrokas, co-chairmen, distributed schedules for the entire day. Although the day started out with beautiful weather, each mile ahead indicated unpredictable rain and coolness as we traveled north.

Driving along the scenic highway, we reminisced about the history of this miraculous Shrine and how it came to be settled here in Northern Ohio.

Devotion to Our Lady of Consolation, first started in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The people of this country had for centuries fostered a deep devotion to the Mother of God. She had been proclaimed patroness of the Grand Duchy under the title of "Mary, Consoler of the Afflicted". A very ancient wooden statue, the origin of

which is hidden in mystery and forgotten in the passage of time, is to this day the most prominent image in the Cathedral of Luxembourg.

In the first half of the 19th century, many people from all over Europe were coming to the United States. Even the small Duchy of Luxembourg saw many of its sons and daughters seeking a new life in the United States. They settled in Wisconsin, Iowa and the northwestern part of Ohio. In 1868 permission was given by Bishop Amadeus Rapp, bishop of Cleveland, to organize a Catholic congregation in Carey, Ohio. However, after several attempts by a couple of priests, the project failed and construction of the building dwindled and a great feeling of apathy rose.

In 1870, after his ordination in Luxembourg, Father Joseph Peter Gloden came to the United States. While yet a cleric in the seminary of Luxembourg, he promised Our Lady that the first church he was to build or share in the building of, he would do everything in his power to see that it would be dedicated to Our Lady of Consolation. In June-1873 it came to be that Father Gloden was asked to take the Carey mission. Upon his arrival in Carey, Fr. Gloden found a congregation of thirteen families and an unfinished tiny, wooden church.



*Mary Lucas, H.M. explains the "miracle" of Our Lady of Consolation*

In his journal, Fr. Gloden wrote, "They were just as discouraged as they were few". He refused any salary from the congregation until such time that the building of the church would be finished. After Mass and religious instructions, he worked with the people of Carey to finish construction of the little church. They did all the work themselves. When the construction was finished, Father Gloden was able to fulfill the promise he made to Our Lady so many years before. The church was to be called Church of Our Lady of Consolation.

The miles sped by very fast, and before we knew it, we were at the shrine. We were cheerfully met by Franciscan Father James Worchuck, and since we had time before the Mass was to begin, we visited the Lower Basilica to view the new improvements. We viewed the crutches, canes, braces and other momentos left by pilgrims as testimony to their cures. There was also a large basket-bed left by a pilgrim who was blind and completely paralyzed. Also displayed in the lower church are the gowns used to adorn the Blessed Virgin and her Child whom she holds in her left arm.

These are very beautiful robes donated by grateful pilgrims and adorned



with precious jewels and gold and silver embroidery. In her right hand she holds a golden scepter with a golden key and heart, suspended from the lower end of a golden cord.

After a short while, we entered the beautiful Upper Shrine Church in procession. A solemn High Mass was held at 10 A.M. for all of the pilgrims. Following Mass, we had a hearty lunch in the cafeteria. In the afternoon, due to inclement weather, we assembled in the lower Church for the Way of the Cross. Our council's three Eucharistic Ministers, We walked the Way of the Cross, led by our council's three Eucharistic ministers dressed in ecclesiastical robes. They are H.M. Stanley Vaitkus, August Blum and George Mikalauskas. George also carried a self-carved crucifix.

This pilgrimage was held in conjunction with the 600th anniversary of Lithuania's Christianity. Stan Vaitkus announced this to all members assembled. He later asked Elinor Sluzas to explain more in detail how Lithuania came to accept Christianity. Elinor gave a vivid portrayal of the Kings and Grand Dukes involved in the great Baptism of the entire nation and how Lithuania finally entered into the spiritual organization with all the other nations united by God. Other pilgrims also expressed their joy and happiness in being able to attend this excursion and share in this spiritual renewal. Many first time pilgrims were greatly impressed and asked to be included again in our next trip.

We had a few moments to spend in the Gift Shop and found many articles of value, then we returned to the Upper Shrine Church for a procession of the Statue of Our Lady. Again, George and his cross led the way. This procession is normally held outdoors, marching the whole length of Clay Street to the Shrine Park Altar where benediction is usually held. After the blessing of the sick and solemn benediction, all pilgrims were invited to approach the several stations where priests, deacons, Brothers and Nuns stood for private consultations for all who desired it.



*Elinor Sluzas explains how Lithuania came to accept Christianity*



*The statue of Our Lady of Consolation is carried in procession*

This lovely day ended at 4 PM, and we all boarded our bus where Fr. Worchuck blessed us with a safe journey home and invited us to return again. Riding home, we all had a feeling of deep devotion to Our Blessed Mother and spiritual renewal of a day well spent.

P.S. We members of Holy Cross Church are very fortunate to be able to direct our prayers to a statue of Our Lady of Consolation placed on Our Lady's altar. It was a gift from our Council members, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Petkus.





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# We get letters...

TO: EDITOR IN CHIEF, VYTIS  
 RE: Misinformation in LITHS IN THE NEWS  
 Column, as submitted by George Kisil-  
 silius, C-50

PLEASE! Pearl Harbor was NOT command-  
 ed by Bakutis during the infamous attack  
 by Japs. . NOR is his name Al. It is  
 Fred E. Bakutis. The future admiral  
 graduated from the United States Naval  
 Academy in 1935. Hardly could he assume  
 command of a major naval base in just a  
 few years.

As a matter of fact, after completing  
 a few assignments and training, Fred  
 A. Bakutis was designated Naval Aviator  
 in 1939 and reported to Scouting  
 Squadron #3, based on the USS Saratoga.  
 In September 1941 he returned to Annapo-  
 lis for instruction in Aeronautical En-  
 gineering at the Naval Postgraduate  
 School. But at the outbreak of World  
 War II he was ordered to the Naval Air-  
 craft Factory, Philadelphia, PA where he  
 served as Inspector of Arresting Gear  
 and Catapults from March through Septem-  
 ber, 1942. Bakutis went on to serve  
 heroically and honorably. The Lithu-  
 anian-American, much decorated through  
 his career, in due time became an  
 admiral and after a number of years, re-  
 tired. His father is Frank Bakutis;  
 his brother is Captain W.S. Bakutis,  
 USCG, also retired. (Note: An article  
 regarding Bakutis appeared in the  
 October, 1986 issue of BRIDGES).

Edward M. Budelis  
 Member, C-3

Editor's Comments: The U.S. Navy  
 Commander at Pearl Harbor at the time  
 of this historical attack was Admiral  
 Husband E. Kimmel.

## JUNIOR FUND RAISER



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## LITHUANIA ON THE WASHINGTON AGENDA



### Baltic Freedom Day, 1987

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### A Proclamation

Historians of the 20th century will chronicle many a tragedy for mankind—world wars, the rise of Communist and Nazi totalitarianism, genocide, military occupation, mass deportations, attempts to destroy cultural and ethnic heritage, and denials of human rights and especially freedom of worship and freedom of conscience. The historians will also record that every one of these tragedies befell the brave citizens of the illegally occupied Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Each year, on Baltic Freedom Day, we pause to express our heartfelt solidarity with these courageous people who continue to prove that, despite all, their spirit remains free and unconquered.

On June 14, 1940, the Soviet Union, in contravention of international law and with the collusion of the Nazis under the infamous Ribbentrop-Molotov Non-Aggression Pact, invaded the three independent Baltic Republics. The imprisonment, deportation, and murder of close to 100,000 Baltic people followed. Later, during the Nazi-Soviet war, the Nazis attacked through the Baltic nations and established a Gestapo-run civil administration. By the end of World War II, the Baltic states had lost 20 percent of their population; and between 1944 and 1949, some 600,000 people were deported to Siberia.

Totalitarian persecution of the Balts, this time once again under Communism, has continued ever since. While enduring decades of Soviet repression and ruthless disregard for human rights, the Baltic people have continued their noble and peaceful quest for independence, liberty, and human dignity.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the *de jure* recognition by the United States of the Baltic Republics. The United States Government has never recognized, nor will we, the Soviet Union's illegal and forcible incorporation of the Baltic states. The United States staunchly defends the right of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to exist as independent countries. We will continue to use every opportunity to impress upon the Soviet Union our support for the Baltic nations' right to national independence and to their right to again determine their own destiny free of foreign domination.

Observance of Baltic Freedom Day is vital for everyone who cherishes freedom and the inalienable rights God grants to all men alike; who recognizes that regimes denying those rights are illegitimate; who sees, shares, and salutes the Baltic peoples' hope, endurance, and love of liberty.

The Congress of the United States, by Senate Joint Resolution 5, has designated June 14, 1987, as "Baltic Freedom Day" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 1987, as Baltic Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate remembrances and ceremonies and to reaffirm their commitment to the principles of liberty and self-determination for all peoples.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eleventh.

*Ronald Reagan*

### CONGRESSMEN ASK GORBACHEV FOR TRUE INDICATION OF COMMITMENT TO GLASTNOST

On June 11, 1987 a letter, signed by 17 Congressmen was sent to Mikhail Gorbachev. In the letter the Congressmen asked for proof of the Soviet's genuine commitment to "glasnost" because of the continued imprisonment of Baltic human rights activists, denial of freedom of expression, and continued distortion and ignorance of important aspects of Baltic history.

The Congressmen suggested two ways in which the Soviet government could demonstrate their sincerity:

1. To allow, without interference, a peaceful ceremony to honor the Latvian victims of the mass deportations (Scheduled to take place in Riga on June 14th)
2. To grant full and unconditional amnesty to three Baltic prisoners of conscience: Balys Gajauskas (Lithuania), Gunars Astra (Latvia), and Mart Niklus (Estonia)

### CONGRESSMEN APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF FR. SVARINSKAS AND FR. TAMKEVICIUS

66 members of Congress have written to Soviet Procurator General A.M. Rekunkov on behalf of Frs. Alphonse Svarinskas and Sigitas Tamkevicius. They requested that these clergymen be granted full and unconditional amnesty.

In their letter, the Congressmen alluded to the recent 2-way transfers from labor camp to Vilnius KGB prison and then back to camp. It is believed that Soviet officials brought the priests to Vilnius to extract confessions of guilt and pledges to refrain from religious activism in the future. Additionally, it is assumed that, failing to obtain these confessions, Soviet authorities returned them to their respective labor camps.

The appeal to Mr. Rekunkov was spearheaded by Rep. John Miller (R-WA) and Rep. Edward Feighan (D-OH) who are co-chairmen of the recently formed Lithuanian Catholic Religious Liberty Group in the House of Representatives.





## ...UPDATE...



**CCJS**

ADP is now publishing a monthly newsletter. Among the items addressed in the June 1987 issue were:

1. Media attention to the question of Nazi war criminals
2. A recent article appearing in "Freedom at Issue" entitled - "Collaborating with Communists to Prosecute Nazis"
3. Current OSI cases in court
4. Update on post-OSI cases
5. William Buckley's "Firing Line" segments regarding "Should ex-Nazis be sent to the USSR?"

The newsletter and the following additional items can be obtained from:

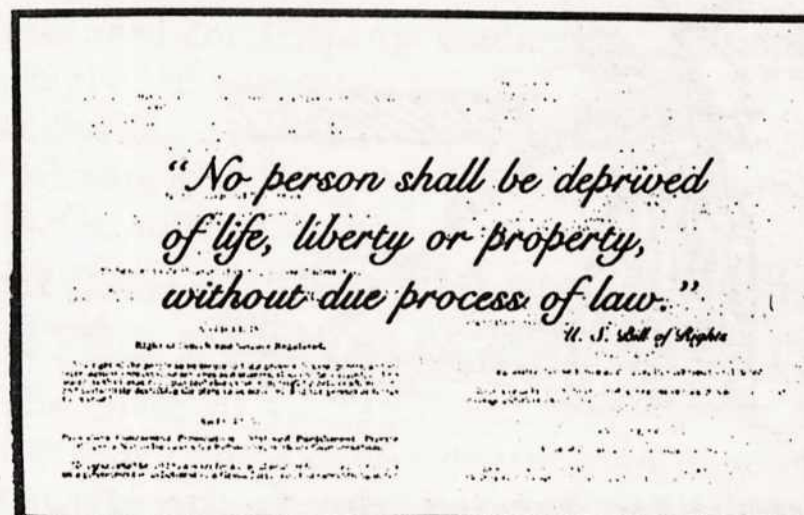
AMERICANS FOR DUE PROCESS  
P.O. BOX 85  
WOODHAVEN, NY 11421

1. Soviet Testimony in U.S. Courts  
A 20-minute videotape which includes excerpts from Soviet depositions and outlines the problems encountered in the use of testimony.
2. The Case of Karl Linnas  
A 15-minute videotape which discusses the troubling aspects of a deportation to the USSR.
3. Soviet Evidence in North American Courts - An analysis written by attorney S. Paul Zumbakis giving a detailed look at the way the OSI operates.
4. Postcards urging criminal jury trials for OSI defendants.
5. Freedom at Issue magazine containing Michael Warders article *Collaborating with Communists to Prosecute Nazis*.

CCJS representatives, Tony and Danute Mazeika and Mari-Ann Rikken recently spent a full day in Washington lobbying members of Congress on the possibility of passing legislation which would provide for criminal trials in OSI cases. Congressional members seemed receptive to this measure.

Criminal trials would provide full evidentiary standards for accused persons including jury trial.

### **WHERE DOES YOUR CONGRESSMAN STAND ON THIS ISSUE?**



This postcard, just issued by ADP, has the U.S. Bill of Rights in the background. The cards are pre-addressed to Congressman Rodino, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and ask that he initiate or support legislation that would provide for criminal jury trials in OSI-prosecuted cases. The text also stresses that existing procedures should not be further abbreviated. The cards are available to individuals and groups at cost from ADP.



## Kalbekime lietuviškai! Let's speak Lithuanian!

KAIP TAVO DARŽAS AUGA? HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?



*Kaip paruošiama žemė daržovėms?*  
How does one prepare the soil for the garden?

*Pavasariį kastuvu kasama žemė, subyginama grėbliu ir padaromos lysvės.*  
In the spring, one digs and rakes the soil to prepare the garden bed.



Kopūstas



Agurkas

*Kokios daržovės sodinamos?*  
What does one plant in the garden?

*Sodinami svogūnai, raudoni burokėliai, kopūstai, petražolės ir agurkai.*  
One plants onions, red beets, cabbage, parsley and cucumbers.

*Kokie yra darbai darže po to, kai viskas paruošta?*  
What work must one do in the garden after planting

*Daržą per vasarą reikia prižiūrėti - ravėti ir laistyti.*  
During the summer it is necessary to weed and water the garden.



Burokas



Petražolės



# Lithuanians in The

Edited by RUTH KAZLAUSKAS



## A LITHUANIAN REACHES OUT TO HISPANICS

"Church Reaching Out to Hispanics", an article in the publication "Reign", published by the priests and brothers of the Sacred Heart, Hales Corners, Wis., features FATHER BOB MARKUNAS, SCJ, who works with Hispanics through Milwaukee, Wisconsin's Office of Hispanic Ministry.

In Milwaukee and an increasing number of cities around the country, a growing Hispanic presence is steadily being felt. Hispanics are the fastest growing population in the United States and for the Catholic Church, that means extensive future planning.

Coming from a bilingual background, Fr. Markunas felt drawn to Hispanic ministry and became involved in it during his first year of college. "I grew up in a Lithuanian culture. I spoke the language and went to a Lithuanian school run by a Lithuanian religious community. Having the human experience of growing up in a bilingual environment helps me to understand some of the problems of Hispanics," said Fr. Markunas.

He quickly admits that Lithuanians and Hispanics have little in common culturally.

However, it is the experience of living in two different cultures that is very similar. Fr. Markunas began taking courses in Spanish during his first year in college. After ordination to the priesthood, he began working in Hispanic ministry full-time in Texas. When he arrived in Milwaukee, he started doing work with Hispanic organizations in and around the city.

The need for Hispanic leadership is becoming increasingly important for the church in the United States. Statistics show that by the year 2000, Hispanics will be the majority population in the U.S. Catholic Church.

## AMERICAN LITHUANIAN VETERANS GRANTED NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, through the aid of Congressman Samuel S. Stratton, recently granted national recognition to the American Lithuanian Veterans (ALV), according to the "Recorder", Amsterdam, N.Y.

The ALV, headquartered in Amsterdam is recognized as one of the 53 bona fide national veterans organizations. Their primary function is to honor America's war dead on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. The organization has been active locally for 30 years. EDMUND LIBERIS is commander.



## REMEMBRANCES OF WARTIME

### UNDERSTANDING WHY MEN FIGHT WARS

Remembrances of Wartime - feature article in the Tribune, Richmond Hill, N.Y. A blue woolen Nazi Air Force uniform hangs from a painted yellow wall next to a gold-trimmed red British jacket and a chain mail shirt, a chain-linked undergarment worn in the 1600's by knights going into battle.

The Nazi uniform, complete with swastikas hanging from the lapels, was brought home by an American veteran who, recognizing the value it might have after the war, marched his captured German soldier into the woods and made him exchange his uniform for a prisoner's outfit.

While many "militaria" collectors have "gone the way of the bisons," BILL PAULASKAS remains. For him, the passion is still alive to understand the men who fought when war was a romantic expression of men's valor as far back as the Crusades. And this passion lives in the most unlikely of places.

Below the tracks of the Jamaica Ave. El trains, off 105th St., an indistinct wooden sign reads "Antiques - \$ - Buy - \$ - Sell" above a glass front window cluttered with lamps, a desk and chairs.

Inside, Paulaskas, who has been described by a friend as a "walking history book on World War II," sells, with just a bit of reluctance, military items which he collects from family estates, and occasionally, veterans who have brought home valuables.

Due to Paulaskas' interest in World War II, the store has become somewhat of a hangout for local veterans who often recount their wartime experiences.

Paulaskas has served as a consultant for a TV series called "War Chronicles" that was scheduled to be aired in 37 cities.

Paulaskas, 45, was too young to serve in Korea and too old for Vietnam, but, while not an advocate of war, he believes that war "is a tragedy that brings out human qualities we value very much - values like bravery and loyalty."

## MULTIPLE ARTISTRY: SCULPTURE - TATTOOS

Zaks Gallery, N. Michigan Ave. in Chicago, exhibited GEORGE KLAUBA'S 11 pieces of sculpture and one roving human specimen of Klauba's skill as a tattoo artist, reports the "Chicago Tribune".

Although the sculpture represents recent work by the artist, the tattooed man is a living sample of Klauba's artistic background, and he willingly rolled up sleeves and trouser legs to display more of the artist's technique.

Klauba, who works by day as a graphic designer at the Chicago Sun-Times, is a sculptor who combines fantastic imagery with intense attention to miniaturized detail.

## FAMED LITHUANIAN SOPRANIST MOVES TO FLORIDA

GERTRUDE RASKAUSKAS and her husband LEON, departed for Florida last Fall leaving one synagogue and several churches short one magnificent lyric soprano, whose voice is so extraordinary that critics have lamented she hasn't made the "big time" of international renown, notes "The American", Waterbury, Conn.

She is Catholic and a parishioner of St. Joseph's Parish, but she's been the soloist at one time or another for First Baptist Church, Trinity Episcopal Church and Temple Israel for about a quarter of a century.

Gertrude sang at a wide variety of civic, school and church events; she sang with the Knights of Lithuania, travelling to Boston, Chicago, New York and New Jersey among other places. Using the professional name "Gertrude Lynn", she sang with the Knights of Columbus Choraleers, the Harmony Kings and at concerts in Hamilton and Library Parks.

Her regular associations with various religious groups began about 1962 when she first started to solo at Temple Israel. She usually attended 8 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's and then picked up her route, singing at the 9 a.m. service at Trinity, skipping there a few minutes after 10 for a dash to the nearby First Baptist Church and donned a different robe in time for the 10:30 service.





*The late John Kass (center) being congratulated on the occasion of his 100th birthday at the Mid-America District's annual picnic in 1984. (L to R: Al Brazis, Irene Sankus, Martin Gestautas, Ellie Kasputis, Ruth Kazlauskas, Julie Zakara and Emily Kass Gestautas)*

## JOHN A. KASS

### OLDEST K OF L MEMBER DIES

A long time member of the Chicago Seniors, JOHN A. KASS, died on April 30th at the age of 102. Mr. Kass was believed to be the oldest resident of the southwest suburban Justice, Ill., as well as the oldest K of L member.

Born in Lithuania, Lygumu parish in 1884, he came to the United States in 1904 and learned the watchmaking trade. John and the late Emily Mickeliunas were married in 1914, the first couple to be married in Immaculate Conception Parish, Brighton Park, Chicago.

His first jewelry store was opened in 1915 in the Town of Lake area, later moving to Bridgeport for several years, then to Brighton Park on Archer Ave. where he served the area with his jewelry and music store for 22 years. Retiring in 1954, he moved to Justice, Ill. to live with his daughter and son-in-law, Emily and Martin Gestautas, members of C-36 Chicago. He continued repairing watches for over 15 years.

John was a very active K of L member for many years. He was a member of the committee that purchased and renovated the K of L building on 47th St. in Brighton Park and spent countless hours on the repair and remodeling of the much used building, which has now been sold.

His wife Emily died in 1974. Besides his daughter Emily, he has a son Matthew residing in Los Angeles, Calif., five grand-children and four great-grandchildren.

## A YOUNGER LITHUANIAN EARNS HONORS



## ELLEN GRIGALIUNAS

St. Peter's College Class of 1996 valedictorian, Ellen Grigaliunas, is pictured reviewing the Jesuit college's 95th commencement exercise program with New Jersey Gov. Thomas H. Kean, prior to the graduation ceremonies held at Brendan Byrne Area, East Rutherford, NJ. Governor Kean was the commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient. Ms. Grigaliunas was chosen as valedictorian for maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade point average as a computer science major.

Ms. Grigaliunas, who is employed as a Programmer/Analyst by the Department of the Navy, Military Sealift Command, is the daughter of Helen and Michael Grigaliunas, both members of C-67, Bayonne, NJ.



# Vyčiai Veikia Council Activities

Edited by HELEN CHESKO

1000 E. Pine St. Mahanoy City, PA 17948

## NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT



Ažuolas

### C-30 WESTFIELD

Among our recent retirees are Willy Alexsis and Joe Buckities. The police force lost two men to retirement, Will Renaud and Benny Coach. We wish that you "fellas" enjoy a long and healthy retirement. Now it's your turn to do the dishes!

Our annual making of desras as usual was a huge success. We must be doing something right because of our many satisfied customers. This year we donated the profits to the church renovation fund.

Benny and Cookie Coach represented our council at the NED Convention at Our Lady of Vilna Church in Worcester.

On April 15 the Lithuanian Christianity Jubilee celebration was held at the Massachusetts State House in Boston. Among those who attended were Jim & Marsha Rogers, Benny & Kunigunda Coach and Joe & Louse Buckities. Rep. Steve Pierce from

Westfield graciously accepted our invitation to join us at the State House.

Frank Bernadictus took pictures of the interior and exterior of St. Casimir's. Cookie Coach composed a short history of the parish. A poster was made up showing old photographs of parish events, former pastors, priests and sisters from the parish. All material collected plus recent pictures taken by Frank made a very interesting and informative collage. Our donation for the food table was a honey cake and some of our homemade desra.

One of our members, Della Combiuski from Hatfield, was in a serious auto accident and suffered a broken leg which will keep her in a cast for a long time. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

Father Foley, our spiritual advisor, left us. He was assigned as pastor of St. Jerome Church in Holyoke. He was at St. Casimir Church for over eight years and was a good friend and a very supportive pastor. We will all miss him. The K of L's parting gift for Father Foley was a Lithuanian woven juosta. We hope that when he wears it he will recall pleasant memories of Westfield. Good luck Father on your new assignment.

Nellie Lord



Liepa

### C-50 NEW HAVEN

We regret deeply the following names did not appear on the list of newly-elected officers for 1986. They are George Kisielus, Lithuanian Affairs; John Saulys, Cultural Affairs; Mary Geipel, Second Vice President and Eleanor Gutasukas, Sunshine.

The Knights again did their generous share of work to make the Parish Palm Sunday Food Fair a great success.

The Knights also honorably participated in the Holy Week and Easter Sunday Resurrection ceremonies, especially the procession preceding the Mass which was celebrated by Father Karalis.

April 5, many K of L women who are also members of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Women's Alliance attended a gala 70th anniversary banquet held in St. Casimir's Church Hall. Many delegates from Connecticut were present. It was another memorable occasion for Mae Jacobs who is also a very active K of L member. She is genuine and abounding in good Lithuanian spirit no matter which organization she attends.

April 25 Frank and Isabel Peterson and Ann Meskins were our delegates to the New England District Meeting in Worcester. They had a very enjoyable day with plenty of good food and refreshments throughout the day.

Helen Balchus



## C-103 PROVIDENCE



Klevas

Our April meeting followed a pot-luck supper and accounted for an unusually large turnout. President William Piacentini led us in prayer and presided. The usual committee reports were given. Irene Landanski reported on the progress of the coming

May breakfast with a request that members use their ingenuity in setting up booths.

Membership was brought up to date on NED Executive Board meetings. Commemoration of Lithuania's Christianization in Hartford on May 17 and Boston on October 4. Fall NED Convention will be held in Waterbury on September 20. NED Cultural Affair is scheduled on October 25 in Worcester with our participation with Norwood in the kitchen.

Ritual Chairperson E. Ciuryla announced that degrees would be exemplified in May. Donation was made to the National Scholarship Fund.

Delegates to the District Convention on April 26 in Worcester were Helen Zielinski, Elizabeth Ciuryla, and Helen & Anthony Gudeczaukas.

E. Ruth Krecioch set up a most beautiful table of Easter items. Many members participated in the class she conducted in the decorating of eggs.

Accolades to Walter Mathieu for Rhode Island becoming the third state to enact a public law making February 16 "Lithuanian Independence Day" an official observance. Kudos to Governor DiPrete!

Called an "Act Relating to Special Observances" 87-H5338 amended Chapter 25-2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, by adding section 25-2-28, namely:

The 16th day of February shall be set aside as a day to be known as "Lithuanian Independence Day," said day to be observed by the people of this state with appropriate exercises in public places."



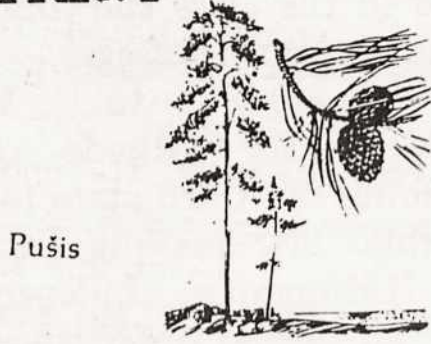
Governor DiPrete of Rhode Island admiring Jubilee Medallion presented to him by Rhode Island Lithuanian Heritage Commission members. From left to right: E. Ribuisiene, I. Snieckiene, Dr. DeCesare, Governor DiPrete, O. Kukanauziene and S. Sakaliene, head of the Lithuanian Heritage Commission



Rhode Island Governor Edward D. DiPrete signing act making every February 16 Lithuanian Independence Day. From left to right: Victor G. Mathieu, Konstance Valiuskiene, Representative Rene M. Lafayette, Dr. Danute DeCesare, Governor DiPrete, Ona Kukanauziene and Sophia Sakaliene



## MID-AMERICA DISTRICT



President Algird Brazis announced the following committee appointments: Lithuanian Affairs, Evelyn Ozalis; Lithuanian Cultural, Susan Binkis; Public Relations, Estelle Rogers; Rituals, Ann Marie Kassel; Civic Affairs, Sabina Klatt and Vince Samaska; Lithuanian Publicity, Emilija Pakalniskis; District Trumpet, Josephine & Peter Juzenas.

Our Annual Mass for Deceased Members was held in November at Nativity BVM Church with a brunch and program following at Raume Restaurant. Chairlady Julie Zakarka handled arrangements assisted by Al Brazis and Mary Juzenas.

The Winter Business Meeting of the District was held at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall. At the conclusion of the business, a delightful social hour followed with a delicious buffet prepared by our hosts, Council 36 of Chicago Brighton Park. It was a pleasure for everyone to meet the new pastor and now K of L member, the Rev. John Kucinkas.

Belated congratulations to K of L Choir officers: President, Estelle Rogers; Vice President, Albert Matulis; Secretary, Ann Marie Kassel; Treasurer, Juozas Juska; Trustee, Albert Zakarka; Librarians, Steve Rudokas, Stase Rudokas, Sabina Klatt; Sergeant at Arms, Peter Gagle; Archives, Margaret Narvaisis; Lithuanian Publicity, Apolinaras Bagdonas.

The K of L Choir, under the direction of Maestro Faustas Strolia, with a full orchestra and organist Robert Mockus, performed "The 7 Last Words of Christ" during Lent at both St. Mary of Perpetual Help and St. John Fisher Churches. Our own Algird Brazis was one of the soloists. The Choir also held a very successful benefit dinner-dance at the Sauliu Namai under the leadership of Estelle Rogers and all of the officers.

Our 27th Memories of Lithuania Dinner-Dance was another great success due to the efforts of everyone involved. This year we honored the American-Lithuanian athletes of 50 years who journeyed to Lithuania to help with the sports program. This group includes our own Konstant Savickus, Edward (Moose) Krause and Harry Petraitis. The evening was a trip down memory lane as told by Konnie Savickus and we received many compliments from the Lithuanian and sports community.

The hard-working committee included Co-chairs Al Brazis and Irene Sankus; Konnie Savickus, Al & Julie Zakarka, Estelle Rogers, Eleanor Kasputis, Vince Samaska, Mary Juzenas, Aldona Brazis, Harry Petraitis, John Paukstis, Paul & Susan Binkis, Sabina Klatt, Mary Kincius, Gerry Mack, Valeria & Joseph Stanaitis. Our organization always receives many accolades from our "Memories" banquets. It is a tribute to all of the members of the Mid-America District.

Our traditional St. Casimir's Day Commemoration was held at Nativity BVM Church and began with a large and beautiful solemn procession with flags, organizational banners, honor guards, a very large group of K of L Juniors from both C-24 and C-112, along with fellow Knights and guests. All details were handled by Estelle Rogers and Albert Dagus. Preceding Mass, a floral tribute was presented to the



*Some of the "Memories" Committee members gather for a photo - Sabina Klatt, Aldona and Algird Brazis, Irene Sankus, Al Zakara, Konnie Savickus, Harry Petraitis, Eleanor Kasputis, Julie Zakarka, Paul Binkis Jr., Mary Juzenas and Susan Binkis (Photo Jonas Tamulaitis)*



statue of St. Casimir by Junior members. The beautiful Mass was concelebrated by HE Bishop Vincentas Brizgys, Pastor Anthony Zakarauskas, Rev. Peter Cibulskis MIC and Rev. Canon V. Zakarauskas.

Host Chicago Marquette Park Council 112 President Paul Binkis Jr. and Pastor Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas greeted the guests before the luncheon and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal. We thank C-112 for their hospitality.

Following the luncheon the Spring Business Meeting of the District was chaired by President Algerd Brazis. District Spiritual Advisor Rev. A. Zakarauskas was presented with a bronze Lithuanian Jubilee Medallion on behalf of his years of work with the District. We also were most delighted to have President Joann Timm and Vice President Eugene Ashley of Kansas City C-150 join us for the day.

The District Ritual Team headed by Chair Ann Marie Kassel presented the following: During the St. Casimir's Day events, Fourth Degrees to Albert Matulis and Juozas Juska; Third Degrees to Albert Cekanor and Aldona Gylys. Following C-112 meeting, Second Degrees to Aldona Brazis, Mary Banky, Antoinette Barvitz, Zena Gallagher; First Degrees to Susan Binkis, Peter Burns, Elizabeth & Jonas Vilkas, Philomena & Matthew Vilutis.

The K of L Dancers continue to perform at various civic and Lithuanian functions, under the leadership of Frank Zapolis who is assisted by Aukse Kane and Paul Strolia. They meet each and very Wednesday at the Jesuit Center and are well received by the directors.

Kansas City, here we come! We are all making plans to attend the national convention this July, hosted by fellow District Council 150 in interesting Kansas City. The committee is hard at work and we look forward to seeing all of our long-atime K of L friends.  
**iks**

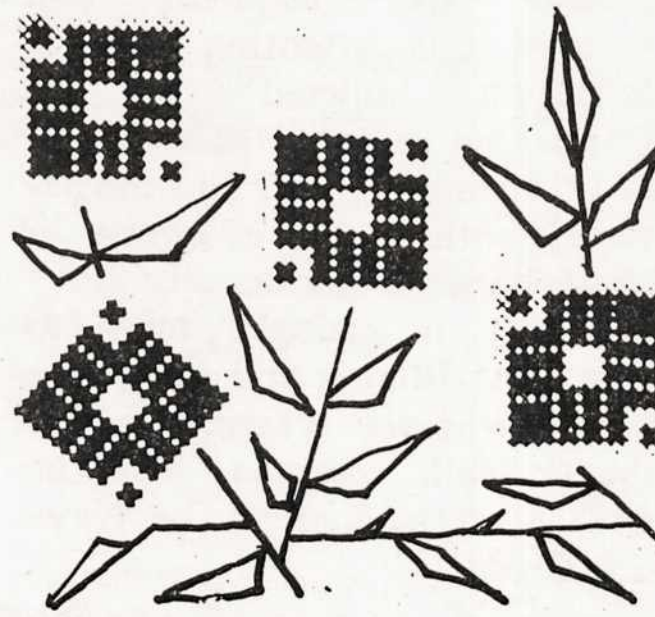
#### IN MEMORIAM



As this copy went to press, we learned that a devoted member of the Knights of Lithuania, Irene Sankus, had died. On June 22, she was called to join Our Lord in Heaven.



*Irene Sankus*



## C-112 CHICAGO

We were honored to have Leonard Simutis as our guest speaker following our April business meeting. He spoke on the activities of the early K of L and particularly on his father's involvement. He also made us aware of a number of interesting and virtually unknown facts which were a pleasant surprise to those in attendance.

We also received a surprise visit from some of our Juniors. Three charming young ladies, Irene Kvantas, Renata Kvantas and Lynette Miklius, sang three Lithuanian folk songs. Then Paul Young and his brother-assistant Andrew presented a very professional juggling act. Our compliments to these talented young people whose performance was enjoyed by all.

Verbal accolades to Faustas Strolia, Robert Mockus and the Knights of Lithuania Choir who once again presented the beautiful Seven Last Words of Christ at St. Mary of Perpetual Help Church on April 5 and again on Palm Sunday, April 12, at St. John Fisher Church. The true meaning of Easter was even deeper instilled in our minds and hearts after hearing this beautiful cantata.

Get well wishes to Aldona Daukas and Bernice Laurian. Welcome to Jack Abramites and Edmund Lacny, our new members, and to Helen Janas who recently transferred from Council 36. Our sincere condolences to the family of Frank Bargaila who passed away early in April.

**ARDEE**



## WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?

=====

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

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
HELP THE SUFFERING PEOPLE  
IN LITHUANIA

Send a donation to the  
K of L LCRA Fund.

REMEMBER YOUR PRISONER  
OF CONSCIENCE

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## C-90 KEARNY



*C-90 Kearny NJ Flag-raising Ceremony in Commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day*

On March 26, 1986, we held our first reorganization meeting. Now a year later our membership is 80 plus. We've come a long way since then. With the help of new members we will continue to grow.

The extreme cold did not dampen our spirit and many members came to Mass prior to the flag-raising in observance of Lithuanian Independence on February 15. The sermon by Fr.

Paskus was inspiring and focused our attention on the holocaust inflicted on the Lithuanian people. The singing of Lithuanian hymns and the national anthem by everyone in church was so emotionally moving that it brought tears to many. Al Bilaitis and Catherine Rokus, who was wearing her authentic folk costume, laid the wreath at the foot of the Wayside Cross.

After Mass, the flag-raising ceremony was held at the Kearny Town Hall. Coffee and cake were served at the church hall. Florence Schum was our hostess. Len Rokas showed movies of his trip to Lithuania.

Mary Bubenas and Ann Yuknulis made some homemade "suris," just like the kind grandma used to make, for our last meeting. It was simply delicious!

Our bowling get-together was so much fun. Those who did not bowl cheered. Helen Yuknailis was head cheerleader, complete with white cowboy boots. Theresa Gilcius arranged the buffet.

The egg decorating classes brought out the artistic talent in so many of us. Helen Lutkus, Ann Yuknulis, Mary Bubenas, Ann Sluzas and Mary Birkner really turned out works of art.

On Sunday, May 31, a concelebrated Mass and joint celebration will be held at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Newark, at 3 p.m. for the 600th Jubilee of Lithuanian Christianity with a gala banquet following at the Town & Campus, West Orange. We cannot urge everyone enough to attend.

**Dorothy Songile**



## C-144 ANTHRACITE COUNCIL

Anthracite Council celebrated its 10th anniversary with a concelebrated Mass and Banquet at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Minersville.

HM Loretta Stukas, past national president and member of the executive committee of the 600th Jubilee of the Christianization of Lithuania, was the guest speaker at the banquet. She focused on the jubilee and commended the council on its accomplishments in the past 10 years.

Although a group was organized in 1974 as the Lithuanian Ethnic Group of Schuylkill County, its members did not affiliate with the Knights until

January 1977. At that time there were 50 members in the organization. In 10 years, C-144 has grown to 250 members, the third largest council in the K of L. Loretta Stukas who was then Vytis editor presented the charter and installed the officers in March of 1977.

The celebration began with a concelebrated Mass with Spiritual Advisor Father Matthew Jarasunas as celebrant; Father Daniel Yenushosky as homilist; Fathers Robert Potts and Gerald Gobitas; pastors of Lithuanian parishes of Schuylkill County, and Pastor Emeritus of St. Francis Father John Luksys as concelebrants. Past President Anna Klizas Wargo served as lector.

Children of Holy Redeemer School, Minersville, directed by Sister M. Cordia, presented an original skit on the origin of Anthracite Council. Annie Morgalis, Bernice Mikatavage and Anna Klizas Wargo continued with later events in the history of the council.

Helen Chesko presented the past presidents. National President Frank Petrauskas and President Joseph Yezulinas extended greetings. Rev. Gerald Gobitas gave the invocation and Rev. Ronald Jankaitis the benediction.

William Gudelunas, Ph.D., was master of ceremonies. Helen Luckus was accompanist.

Music for dancing was provided by the "Sensations!". Birthday cake cutting ceremonies concluded the tenth anniversary celebration.



*Anthracite Council Tenth Anniversary: Seated L to R National President Frank Petrauskas, HM Loretta Stukas, banquet speaker Joseph Yezulinas, president 1986-87, 1981-83. Standing L to R Past Presidents Elsie Kosmisky 1979-81, Bernice Mikatavage 1977-78, Anna Supernavage 1983-84, Anna Klizas Wargo 1978-79, 1984-86*



*Children of Holy Redeemer School of Minersville with under the direction of Sister M. Cordia portrayed the Early days of Council 144 at the 10th Anniversary Banquet on April 26*

Proceeds to Benefit St. Casimir's College

## THE 73RD ANNUAL LITHUANIAN DAY

ROCKY GLEN PARK  
Moosic, PA

SUNDAY

AUGUST 16, 1987



LITHUANIAN INFORMATION  
 CENTER  
 5620 S. CLAREMONT  
 CHICAGO, IL 60636

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



## C-147 ST. PETERSBURG



Egle

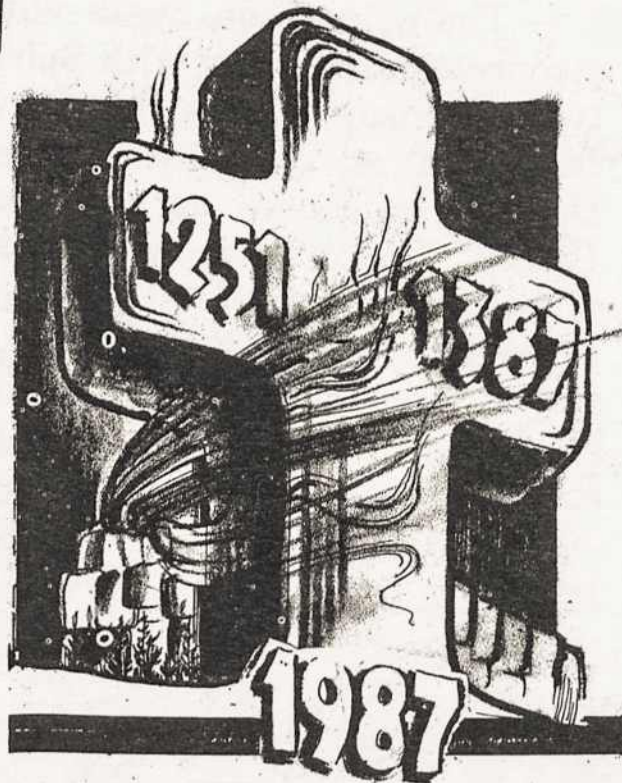
So you haven't heard from us yet this year! Council 147 in St. Petersburg, Florida, is alive and well. Alex Kraujalis is serving his fourth term as president. Since the early days of this council, Victoria Kleiva is our secretary as well as Fr. Gasiunas as chaplain. Reelected were treasurer Zigaitiene, financial secretary Helen Vilnis and all committee chairmen.

Council 110's loss is our gain. Alphonse and Stasia Kraujalis moved to Florida and transferred to our council. They were warmly welcomed at our last meeting.

Best wishes to Anthony Mazeika who is recovering from the stroke he suffered.



GET WELL  
 SOON!



Denis, son of Anthony and Sue Mazeika, is striking out on his own with success. He is a life member of the Knights, beginning his membership as a Junior. He was a K of L scholarship recipient, attending Fordham University and Buffalo Medical School. For four years he was chief of staff in an army hospital. He is a loyal K of L'er, participating on committees nationally and for five years as our chairman of Lithuanian Affairs committee. Denis and his wife Audrone are Fourth Degree members. We extend to Dr. Denis our best wishes for success in the opening of his new office for the practice of ophthalmology.

Eight council members will join the St. Petersburg group going to Rome for the 600th anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania. Delegates are being selected for the convention in Kansas City. We wish the travellers good health and good weather.

V. Kraujalis



## K OF L CALENDAR

### AUGUST

- 16 73rd Annual  
 Lithuanian Day  
 Rocky Glen Park,  
 Moosic, PA
- 23 Annual Pilgrimage  
 North American  
 Martyrs Shrine  
 Auriesville, NY

### SEPTEMBER

- 12- New Jersey Ethnic Festival  
 Liberty State Park  
 Jersey City, NJ
- 13 600TH JUBILEE  
 LITHUANIAN CHRISTIANITY  
 Diocese of Allentown, PA  
 St. George's Church  
 Shenandoah, PA
- 20 Mid-Atlantic District  
 Annual Meeting  
 Hosts: C-143, Pittston
- 25- 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
- 10 C-90 Annual Fall Dance  
 LCCC Hall  
 Kearny, NJ
- 17 C-29 Annual Dinner Dance  
 Holy Trinity Parish Hall  
 Newark, New Jersey