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VYTIS

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Editorial

We are striving to make the "new" VYTIS a magazine that our members and subscribers will enjoy reading. Our main goal is to make certain that the magazine is not late in reaching our constituents. Of course, to accomplish this venture, we find there are many expenses involved such as printing, postage, stationary supplies, etc. of which the cost is constantly rising and slowly depleting our VYTIS account. As the old saying goes, "Brother, can you spare a dime?" (figuratively speaking), we are asking our kind and generous readers to help defray some of the expenses. Your checks should be made out to: Knights of Lithuania and

sent to Mary Kober. A big thank you or "Labai Ačiū" will be published in VYTIS. Let us hear from you.

We also ask that VYTIS Council correspondents mail their council news to Helen Chesko no later than the 20th of each month (items mailed by January 20 will appear in March issue) and VYTIS writers should also mail their articles no later than the 20th of each month to either Dalia Bulvicius or Mary Kober. If we can adhere to this schedule, we will have more updated news articles for our readers. Your cooperation is appreciated.

LIETUVOS HIMNAS

Everyone knows quite well that at the beginning or at the end of events on solemn occasions when commemorating Lithuanian national holidays and during official gatherings such as conventions, national conferences and celebrations, we all proudly stand and sing together our Star Spangled Banner and the Lithuanian National Anthem, a symbol to the freedom of our Lithuanian nation. Whenever we sing the four verses of 16 short lines, we always remember the country of our ancestry, our Fatherland, thousands of miles away across the Atlantic on the shores of the Baltic Sea, still suffering under the yoke of Russian Communist regime.

The origin of this Lithuanian National Anthem, known as Lietuvos Himnas is not really known by everyone. Initially, this Anthem was just a plain poem called "Tautiska Giesme", a national song. It was written and composed at the end of the 19th century by a young physician, a talented writer and musician, Dr. Vincas Kudirka. Dr. Kudirka was born in 1858 and lived in Lithuania during the ban of the press, which was known as "Spaudos Draudimas" when by Czarist Russians the printing, distribution or owning of any Lithuanian publications in Latin alphabet was outlawed. Only those publications in Lithuanian language printed in Cyrillic script were permitted. Under these circumstances, all publications in Lithuanian language such as underground newspapers, journals and prayerbooks were printed in Latin characters only outside Lithuania, mostly in the city of Tilze, in East Prussia which were smuggled across the border and secretly distributed to the Lithuanians, hungry for the

THE LITHUANIAN ANTHEM

Kestutis Miklas

Lithuanian printed word.

Dr. Kudirka was one of the most active members in the movement of the Lithuania's revival via the media. His underground journal "Varpas" (The Bell) was his tool to raise the Lithuanian spirit and to keep the urge alive for freedom from Russian oppression. As editor and publisher of "Varpas", he was very effective. Most of the articles in this paper were written by him. In the Nov. 15, 1898 issue, the text of his poem Tautiska Giesme was published for the first time.

Suprisingly, this national song became quite popular among the Lithuanian people. One year later on Nov. 13, 1899, the song was sung for the first time by a choir, led by famous composer Ceslovas Sasnauskas, at the Lithuanian concert in Petrograd, also known as Petersburg and presently known as Leningrad. At that time, Dr. Kudirka was gravely ill and unable to attend this concert. He died three days later on Nov. 16, 1899 at the young age of 41.

According to Encyclopedia Lituanica, in writing his obituary, Kazys Grinius, President of Lithuanian Republic, called Kudirka's composition "Lithuanian National Anthem". It was not immediately accepted as such. A number of years earlier (1860), the seminarians at seminary of Seinai chose as the Lithuanian Anthem the introductory passage of the epic poem Pan Tadeusz by Adam Mickiewicz which was translated from Polish to Lithuanian known as "Lithuania, my Fatherland". However, Kudirka's Anthem was again enthusiastically sung at the Lithuanian concert in Vilnius on Dec. 3, 1905 commemorating the Lithuanian

Great Assembly which was attended by delegates representing all parts of Lithuania. At that time this song "Tautiška giesmė" became very popular. It was being sung at all solemn occasions and at larger Lithuanian convocations and especially at the Lithuanian convention in 1917 in Petersburg. Popularity of this song became overwhelming that the Lithuanian government took action and officially designated it as the National Anthem in 1919, one year later after the declaration of Lithuania's Independence on Feb. 16, 1918.

Since everyone agreed that the words of the Anthem were deeply meaningful, many requests in the press and at meetings wished that the name of God be included. Suggestions were made to either alter one of the verses or add a new one. However, a suitable text was never found wherein God was included. In addition, honoring Kudirka's memory,

many were unwilling to change the original text. Kudirka was an Activist in the Lithuanian national renaissance, a romantic and a positivist. The romantic tended to idealize the past of their nation and this is expressed in the first verse of the Anthem. The second verse expresses the spirit of positivism and expresses the work for the good of one's nation and humanity in general. The positivists were also attracted to the ideal that education and knowledge would do away with the superstitions of the past and lead humanity to a brighter, happier future. This hope is expressed in the third stanza. In the fourth and last verse, Kudirka urges all Lithuanians to unite for the love of their country because of the many divisions among the Lithuanian intelligentsia of that time.

Today our Lithuanian Anthem is banned in Lithuania by the Soviet Russians since the occupation of our beloved country some 48 years ago. However, in spite of Soviet reprisals, our Lietuvos Himnas is still alive in Lithuania. It is being sung quietly, and sometimes publicly to demonstrate the protest against the present Russian oppression. We all believe the day will come when the sound and words of this Anthem will blossom in our beloved Lithuania again.



DR. V. KUDIRKA

Musical notation for the Lithuanian National Anthem, including lyrics in Lithuanian and English translations.

Lie - tu - va tē - vy - ne mū - su Tu did - vy - rių
Te - gul ta - vo vai - kai ei - na Vien ta - kais do -

že - mė, Iš pra - ei - ties ta - vo sū - nūs
ry - bės, Te - gul dir - ba ta - vo nau - dai

1. Te stip - ry - bę se - mia. ir žmonių gė - ry - bei.
2.

Te - gul sau - lė Lie - tu - vos Tam - su - mus pra - ša - li - na
Te - gul mei - lė Lie - tu - vos De - ga mū - su šir - dy - se,

1. Ir švie - sa ir tie - sa Mūs žingsnius te - ly - di -
Var - dantos Lie - tu - vos Vie - ny - bė te - žy - di!

2. rit.

MASS FOR THE INTENTION OF THE LITHUANIAN PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

By: Albert Zakarka, V.P. C-112

Returning home from the 74th Knights of Lithuania Convention and inspired by the convention's discussion on Lithuanian Prisoners of Conscience, Rita Zakarka, Chicago Council 112 thought and talked about what can we, the Knights of Lithuania organization, do more for the Prisoners of Conscience. At this instant, somewhere in the State of Missouri, an idea was born for a simple but special solemn Mass to be offered for the intention of all known and unknown Lithuanian Prisoners of Conscience.

On Sunday, December 13, 1987, the idea became a reality. The Mass for the intention of Lithuanian Prisoners of Conscience began at 4:00 P.M. at the Sacred Heart Church located at 46th and Honore in Chicago, Illinois.

This solemn event began with Algerd Brazis leading the congregation in the singing of the *Vyčių himnas*. After a short introduction by Rita Zakarka on why we were participating at this Mass, the procession to the altar began with the opening hymn, *Sveika Marija, Motina Dievo*, sung by the congregation. It was an impressive moment to see the procession coming down the aisle in a darkened church with yellow vigil lights glowing along the



Rita Zakarka and Vytautas Skuodis at the Icon of Our Lady of Vilnius for the candle lighting ceremony.



windows on both side of the church and the voices loudly singing *Sveika Marija*. At the side of the main altar stood a beautiful icon of Our Lady of Vilnius with a lighted candle at each side.

In the original planning, Father Anthony Markus was to have been the only celebrant of the Mass. Through the news announcements, three Lithuanian priests arrived at the church and requested participation. As a result, the Mass was concelebrated by six priests, with Rev. Anthony Markus, Assoc. Pastor of Sacred Heart Church as the main celebrant. With Rev. Markus were: Rev. Richard Klajbor, Pastor of Sacred Heart, Rev. Jack Kulinski, Rev. Kazimieras Kuzminskas, and Rev. Juozas Juozevicius.

The first and second readings were read by Joseph Brundza; the responsorial psalm was sung by Mary Ramsden of Sacred Heart Church; the petitions were read by Evelyn Ozelis. Fr. Anthony Markus gave an inspiring homily on the Chronicles and Prisoners of Conscience. The Mass continued with the congregation singing *Ženk iš Aukso Taurės* during the presentation of the gifts. The gifts were presented by Mary Juzenas President of C-112 and Albert Zakarka, Vice-Pres. C-112.



At the Chicago C-112 Mass for Prisoners of Conscience at Sacred Heart Church. From left: Rev. J. Kulinski, OFM, Sacred Heart Church; Rev. J. Juozevicius, Rev. A. Markus, Associate Pastor Sacred Heart Church, Rev. R. Klajbor, Pastor Sacred Heart Church, Rev. J. Savukynas of St. Mark's, Plano, IL and Rev. K. Kuzminskas.

PROFILE

During this Diamond Anniversary Convention, Honorary Membership will be conferred upon this outstanding Knight, Konstant J. Savickus, for 60 years of extraordinary service to the Knights of Lithuania and for Lithuania.

The archives of Council 5, Mid-America District, Supreme Council and the Vytis chronicle the countless offices held, the functions and committees chaired and worked on and other services performed since "Konnie" became a member in 1928.

We will highlight some of the outstanding accomplishments which began back in the early 30's, when Konnie was President of C-5. He increased the membership in his Council from 8 to 98 members. In the District, he introduced inter-council golf and co-organized 12 inter-council basketball teams and even wrote a drama in Lithuanian, which was performed in the parishes. He was awarded the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Degrees in the 1930's.

Mr. Savickus was the "Vytis" co-editor 1931 to 1933, the Editor from 1933 to 1935 and again in 1937, 1938 and 1941. This is a special service to the K of L, but the 1933-35 period was one where Konnie made one of the many extraordinary contributions to our organization.

The Vytis Press was in a state of bankruptcy when our membership was at its lowest ebb in 1933. Konnie's offer to the Supreme Council to try and resolve a very serious situation was accepted and he devoted much time from his law practice for an 18-month period, making the Vytis Press solvent again. He personally paid back rents and publishing costs and through his contacts and business acumen, paid off many other debts. All this while, he edited and kept the Vytis coming out on time each month. All of these services were donated.

Immediately after that, Konnie Savickus entered another period of devotion and sacrifice for the Lithuanian causes. It all started when 11 Chicago athletes (8 were K of L's) went to Kaunas in June 1935, to participate in the Olympiad. Seeing the potential of the young Lithuanian athletes, he offered, at no salary, to set aside his law practice for a year and remain there to teach basketball and swimming throughout the country. With this new training, basketball mushroomed and flourished. Konnie then found and convinced two more young men, Frank Talzunas and Phil Krause, to come to Lithuania to coach and to play on the Lithuanian team, which in 1937 was crowned Champion of all of Europe. They won that distinction again in 1939. In the interim Konnie taught swimming and in 1938, 22 new records were set by the Kaunas swimmers.

There were some exchange visits to the U.S.A. and Lithuania between teams and more American Lithuanians

CANDIDATE FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP



KONSTANT J. SAVICKUS

were encouraged to also spend time there, coaching and training. As a result, even today the USSR teams have Lithuanians as top players, following the occupation of Lithuania.

Konnie, who has a Doctor of Law Degree from Northwestern University, provided his services to the K of L as Legal Advisor for 19 years, without charging any legal fees for his work or advice. His legal professional history also includes work for the Army Signal Corps during WW II, he was Supervisor of Prosecution in the Cook County Courts and Chief of Law Enforcement for the City of Chicago for many years, before his retirement in 1981.

In 1950 Konnie introduced Life Membership in the K of L and became Life Member No. 1 of this special group which now has about 60 members. He also re-organized Council 5 in 1982 which, with Konnie as President, has over 50 members. In the Mid-America District, he has also been most generous. He donated \$10,000 to the Building Fund which yields sizable interest annually for various District projects.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP (Cont'd)

So many have been beneficiaries of this remarkable man of many talents - Artist - Attorney - Writer - World Traveler. He has donated some of his beautiful oil paintings for fund raising, he was not only Editor of the Vytis for some years, but also for publications when he was in the army and recently served as the Commander of the Don Varnas American Legion Post in Chicago.

Yes, during the past 60 years, Konnie has unselfishly and without fanfare given up periods of his life and professional practice to help bring athletic honors to Lithuania, has

donated time and financial aid to the Vytis to ensure its continued existence and has continuously given of his legal and other talents for the benefit and enrichment of our organization, on the Council, District and Supreme Council levels.

It is with great pride, pleasure and deep appreciation that we will bestow Honorary Membership upon Konstant J. Savickus, in recognition of this man's many years dedicated service and extraordinary accomplishments for the Knights of Lithuania and for Lithuania.



It seems like only yesterday... A REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

By: Al Wesey

The recently published history book by Rev. William Wolkovich — Vincas Valkevičius, is the second history written about the Knights of Lithuania. Honorary member Ignas Sakalas wrote a history book back in 1963 and this was in chronological order. It included write-ups of many of the active Knights during the earlier years. Father Valkevičius however has dug deeply into the times and places, plus individual activists and economic problems. You will find his history well-written plus the reality of organizational politics that surface with groups, individuals and even ideals. The problems of today and individual conflicts are certainly no different than those that happened throughout all the years of the Knights' organization or history.

The introduction into the history of the Knights of Lithuania — 75th Anniversary — begins with a verse from our founder Mykolas Norkūnas personal album entitled *Trupinėliai*: "Dievia, maņ padēk tos skaisčios jaunimo organizacijos Lietuvos Vyčių Amerikoje, darbus ir pasišventimus sudėtus ant Tautos Aukuro nors ne šimtinį bet tūkstantinį dalelį surankioti, kad jie pasilikty pavizdžiu kartų kartėms. Here, our founder is asking the Almighty that at least 1/1000 part of the works of the young organization remain on the national offertory altar to be a shining example for further generations,

The individual immigrant joins other immigrants who collectively want to keep their nationality and save their traditions. Arriving in this new world many Lithuanians joined organizations and clubs. At the beginning the Lithuanian immigrants were joining Polish groups. Here and there were many arguments between the Poles and Lithuanians regarding finances and expenditures.

Before 1900 there were many different Lithuanian groups. There were free-thinkers, atheists, communists, nationalists and Catholics. They all had good speakers and activities in their organizations so they organized well and agitated against the priests and Catholics who were trying to build churches and establish schools and parishes.

Up to now the combined activities amongst American-Lithuanian organizations only slightly mentioned the Knights — really quietly disregarding the Knights input into this country's Lithuanian activity. The dedication of the Knights founder Mykolas Norkūnas or the long years of the active Ignas Sakalas and Leonardas Simutis did not show their full active life about, and with the Knights. So in 1982 it was agreed by the Supreme Council and the historian the Rev. William Wolkovich to publish a Knights history due in 1988 in conjunction with the Knights 75th Anniversary.

(To be continued)



In Memory of a Precious Jewel

MARY LUCAS

Honorary Member

Council 96, Dayton, Ohio



A Diamond is multi faceted...you know...when a diamond catches the sun it bursts into brilliance...it throws off many colors... it sparkles... it's strong...its beauty never diminishes...it never deteriorates...it lasts forever, We have OUR diamond...MARY LUCAS.

MULTI FACETED...

Every organization in Holy Cross Church benefited by her being a part of it. She was a member or an officer or she offered her services in some way. She was an active member of the Democratic Party and was respected and admired by her peers.

She was an active Honorary member of the Knights of Lithuania and a charter member of Council 96.

She was a member of our parish choir for 36 years. She was multi-faceted.

IT SPARKLES...

Her smile... her friendliness...she had style and class. Mary was a LADY in the true sense of the word.

She enjoyed giving elegant parties and sharing with others. Many of us will remember the wonderful parties at Mary's where we sang and danced to the wee hours and we laughed so hard our sides hurt until we couldn't laugh any more. She sparkled.

STRONG...

In her last years, Mary experienced much heartache and pain, but never gave up. She was always willing and found time to help others even though she was hurting. She was strong.

IT'S BEAUTY NEVER DIMINISHES...

We will think of Mary when we see her children and grandchildren.

We will think of Mary when we come into this church which she served so faithfully and generously.

We will think of Mary when we hear the choir sing. We will think of Mary when we see the *Vėjelis* Dancers perform. (She was one of their benefactors).

We will think of Mary when we see a Lithuanian display. (She was so proud of her Lithuanian Heritage.) We will think of Mary when we see a picture of Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis. (She had great devotion to him.) We will think of Mary when we sing the *Vyčių Himnas*. (She was what the Knights of Lithuania is all about.)

Mary asked that this poem be read at her funeral.....

*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done.*

MARY LUCAS (Cont'd)

*I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
Or happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.*

*I'd like the tears of those who grieve
to dry before the sun
Or happy memories that I leave
When life is done.*

*(The above poem and Eulogy were a part of the Funeral
Mass at Holy Cross Church, Dayton, Ohio.)*

*Mary Lucas is Truly a Diamond...It Never
Deteriorates... It Lasts Forever*



Letters

Hello Dalia, Mary and Helen,

How are you? Nice job you are doing, keep it up.

Enclosed is my yearly donation to the VYTIS Fund, in memory of **Honorary member REV. JOSEPH SIMONAITIS 52** — from Honorary Member Annie Mitchell Matalawich Ačiū, Vytiškai,
Annie Mitchell Matulevičiūtė

(Editors' Note: Thank you for your generous gift Onute, Also our thanks to your wonderful historian William A. Senkus for the great material he provided about C-52. We are sorry not to have had room to use more of it. Hope the other councils will do as well. Ačiū labai)

It seems like yesterday...
Anonymous (after a leadership course): "The unifying and binding quality of Lithuanian

Dear Editors:

Our Council 149 feels that the magazine has been improved greatly. We feel that the Vytis staff are to be congratulated and encouraged.

A suggestion was made at our April meeting about the articles written in Lithuanian. Since most of us are not fluent in the language or are just learning it, we thought that you could translate the articles in English. By doing this, we would not have to use our dictionaries to fully understand the most interesting articles.

John P. Greketis
President, C-149
Saginaw, MI



songs should be brought out, also theoretically. Their importance is not understood."

L o y a l t y

Loyalty is a beautiful word.

It can be acquired free from the goodness of your heart.

Loyalty to your church, is to contribute your time and money (Even the IRS helps)

Loyalty to your organization or social club is cordiality to your fellow-members.

Loyalty to Lithuania is love for your immigrant or refugee parents.

Loyalty to your employer, supervisor or boss is respect for honest labor.

Loyalty to Dalia Bulvičius, her associates Mary R. Kober and Helen Chesko and all those who contribute to the betterment of VYTIS.

Loyalty to all of us who read and contribute to the VYTIS our Knight.

Barbara Kartanowicz
(C-12 - Manhattan, NY)

It seems like yesterday

Dwight H. Green, (Governor of Illinois, speaking at a Lithuanian forum in Chicago (Lithuanian Bulletin, Spring 1946): I have no sympathy with the attitude of some Americans, who have enjoyed the blessings of our freedom so long that they have forgotten that the ancestors of all of us once were immigrants, who sometimes doubt if a man can be loyal both to the land of his birth or his father's and to the country of his adoption. To me it is as simple as for a man to be loyal to his father and mother and still be a good husband and father at his own fireside."



ESSAY

CONTEST

ANNOUNCEMENT

DEADLINE:

JULY 1, 1988

HURRY!!!!

Commemorating the 75th Jubilee of the Knights of Lithuania.

TOPIC: How I can help assure a 100th Birthday for the Knights of Lithuania.

LENGTH: 450 to 500 words (count all words).

DEADLINE: July 1, 1988. Essays received after this date will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY: A contestant must be a Knights of Lithuania member (Regular or Associate) in GOOD STANDING, OR a member of a Junior Council which is duly registered with the Supreme Council.

CRITERIA: Essays will be judged on content, originality, and attention to Contest Topic. Correct grammar will also be considered in judging.

MANUSCRIPT: Must be typed or written legibly, double spaced. Include name, address, council number.

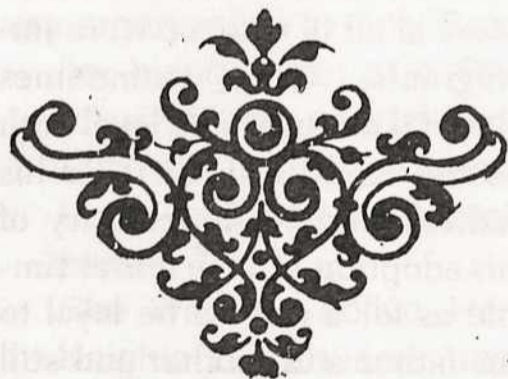
PRIZES:
1st Prize — \$300.
2nd Prize — \$200.
3rd Prize — \$100.

JUDGES: Algirdas Budreckis, Aldona Ryan, Loretta Stukas.

MAIL TO: Aldona Ryan, 6591 McEwen Rd., Centerville, OH 45459.

WINNERS: Will be announced July 30, during the 75th National Convention in Washington, DC. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.

SPONSOR: KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.



"Dede Kastukas Sako"

Two members of the K of L reached the ripe old age of 100 years. One of them was John Kass who died in 1987 at the age of 102 years. There are eleven of his relatives that belong to Council 5; but he was always a member of Council 36 in Chicago.

The other Centenarian is Tekla Ruchas who just celebrated her 100th birthday with a Mass at St. George's Church in February and had a party attended by 300 guests - which was sponsored by her daughter Sabina (Klatt) Henson and John Henson, Mrs. Tekla Ruchas is a member of Council 36 - so if you want to live to be 100 years old, join Council 36.



Mrs. Tekla Ruchas - 100 years old and her daughter Sabina (Klatt) Henson --- Feb. 1988

Loneliness is something each of us experience. Some call it the "Blues". To get rid of that depressive emotion you join an organization like the K of L or other social groups. Then you meet friends and participate in events and help organize them - with the result that your mind is occupied so you're not lonely anymore because you're doing something. You may not like all the people you meet, so what - you mingle with those you like, and if you don't like anyone . . . then look in the mirror if you want to find out whose fault that is.

Some people don't know the value of money and they squander it as though there's no tomorrow coming. New Yorkers have a reputation of living one week ahead of their salary. That's their life style.

Then there's the other type of person who works and manipulates to get money and more money every day and puts it away in the mattress or savings account. This type is the kind that will never have enough lucre - never stopping to realize that their true happiness, freedom and health is

affected by such affliction. Money is just paper in the bank if you don't spend it, after you earned it. Enjoy it with a good friend on a trip or other diversion - it gives you a chance to think clearly about life's priorities, and a feeling of peace and relaxation - and may open your eyes on what is important in life.



November 1988 is election time for the United States. Pres. Ronald Reagan will know who will succeed him in the office. As Lithuanians we admire his recognition of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as Independent Nations which were captured by the Commies thru sheer force. We urge our members to vote in the election for the Presidential candidate who takes this same positive stance against the Communists and their genocide tactics toward the Baltic nations. "Freedom For Everyone!" - Down with the Nazi-Communists.

If you're thinking of going to Africa with a gun to hunt for tigers, lions, leopards, and perhaps a Rhino and elephant . . . forget it. You can't kill wild game anymore, it's too scarce and it's protected by game laws. You can go there with a camera and stalk that prey with your hunting skill and cunning; but make sure the tiger you're stalking had his lunch. Then again, if you don't have the travel cash to Africa, but you do have the urge to hunt - take your camera and stalk the family cat in the alley. Just use your imagination. You're safe and it doesn't cost anything, and you can show your neighbors what a great photographer you are.

We Lithuanians live in the glory of our past. Our language is the oldest living language. Our leaders such as Mindaugas, Gediminas, Jogaila, Vytautas, made Lithuania the second largest country in Europe by the year 1430 - now we struggle just to be free. Russia has been our arch-enemy throughout history - even St. Casimir wasn't safe to rest in peace in the Cathedral of Vilnius. Who will rescue us from the Communists? Of the 300,000 thousand Lithuanian patriots taken to slave labor compounds in Siberia by them, it is estimated only 75,000 remain alive since the years 1940-44. Every Lithuanian who died there gave his life for the cause of liberty and freedom. How can we free those who remain alive? A revolution within Russia could do it. In the meantime send money to your relatives there, plus care packages. That's the only concession and contact the Commies allow to Lithuanian prisoners of freedom.

OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

The National Convention

It's not too early to start thinking and planning for the Knights of Lithuania 75th National Convention. It will be held in the Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. beginning July 28 and ending July 31.

Not only will you be able to attend and participate in a great convention but you'll be able to see and tour our nation's capital. Give yourself at least an extra day either before or after the convention to tour Washington.

Seldom do we ever have such a wonderful opportunity as we have this year. Just think you and I can attend and participate in the Diamond Jubilee Convention of our dear K. of L. We are indeed fortunate that our organization has been in existence for 75 continuous years and today it is as strong and as vibrant as it has ever been.

This is a tribute to you and me for we each have worked hard, each in his own way, to make our dear K. of L what it is today. No organization will function well unless it has good people to direct it. Some of us plan and some of us guide. Some of us push and some of us pull. Some of us make suggestions and some of us kibitz. Some of us set up and some of us clean up. All of the functions are important to keep an organization viable.

Let's get together in Washington in July and really celebrate. Come on out and enjoy yourself. It's not often that our favorite organization celebrates its 75th Anniversary. Bring your family, bring your relatives, bring your friends, but most of all bring all of the K. of L's you can find — the young and the not so young, the active and the inactive, those who are regular attendees and those who have never attended a K. of L. convention, those who were once very active members but now have relegated themselves to the sidelines. Let's all come out and celebrate. A nice gesture would be to invite people from other Lithuanian organizations to come and celebrate with us.

If you have a job without any aggravations, you don't have a job.

Malcolm S. Forbes



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

The KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. is an endowment fund of the K of L. Its capital will remain intact while its interest will be used for special charitable, cultural and educational purposes of the K of L.

Help it grow. Your contribution of \$100.00 or more will entitle you to membership in the Foundation. Send your investment in the K of L future TODAY.

- () I hereby donate to the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. the sum of \$ _____
- () I have included the FOUNDATION in my Last Will and Testament.
- () Please send me more information about the FOUNDATION to:

Name _____

Address _____

Council _____

Please make all checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. and mail to: Loretta Stukas, 234 Sunlit Drive. Watchung, NJ 07060. The FOUNDATION is a tax exempt corporation, chartered in the State of Illinois.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PURCHASE YOUR JUBILEE MEDAL

The Lithuanian Christianity Jubilee year has ended but you may still obtain the beautiful commemorative medalion, a fitting souvenir of the Jubilee Year, an exquisite gift for family, friends or co-workers!

Your purchase will help the Central Jubilee Committee meet its many financial commitments and will provide you with a magnificent remembrance of this important year.

Discounts are available on orders of ten or more.

Prices on some medallions have been reduced.

If interested, please contact Loretta Stukas, 234 Sunlit Dr., Watchung, NJ 07060. (201) 753-5636.



OFFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS



ATTENTION - RITUAL CHAIRPERSONS

In order for the Ritual Committee to process Application for the Fourth Degree which are to be presented at the National Convention in Washington, DC, please mail to Ritual Chairlady, Mrs. Rita Pinkus, 76 Providence St., Worcester, MA 01604 before the end of June 1988. Those that we have received are now being reviewed. Please don't disappoint any of your applicants.

LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID REPORT

Our 1988 Drive is now in progress to raise funds to help sponsor the publication of one issue of the Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania. It is our way of performing a direct service to our persecuted brethren along with constant prayer, speaking up, and informing the government about the Soviet atrocities being perpetrated to this day.

Did You Know

- that Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid is the only organization in the world dedicated full time to assisting the persecuted church in Lithuania?
- that LCRA has opened offices in Washington, DC and in Rome?
- that there has been formed in Washington the Congressional Lithuanian Religious Liberty Group and a similar group in the Senate?
- that letters are sent monthly to the Soviet officials from the Senate and House Religious Liberty Groups on

behalf of Lithuanian prisoners of conscience?

The LCRA is a powerful instrument in working for the human rights of the people of Lithuania. We can all share in their task. We, here, in America are free to practice our religion, free to speak up and protest, free to write letters voicing our concerns. In Lithuania the individual human freedom we possess are denied. Through aiding LCRA with our prayers, voice, pen and financial aid, we are helping the cause of our persecuted brothers and sisters. May we all, in some way, keep the works of LCRA in mind. May we all pray for our suffering Lithuania. And, may this 1988 Fund Drive for LCRA be our best, showing all through our efforts the pride and support of every member of the Knights of Lithuania for those unable to enjoy the human dignity and freedom we so value.

We are encouraged to pray constantly for Lithuania. Through prayer we strengthen those in Lithuania who are unjustly punished and being persecuted. It has been reported in Lithuania that prayers for the suffering Church are being offered in the free world. We are all united with the persecuted church when we pray.

Please report to me activities which your council sponsors for the suffering Church in Lithuania.

Please be generous in your financial support to this drive in this the 75th Anniversary Year of the Knights of Lithuania.

Florence Zales

Florence Zaleskas
LCRA Coordinator
264 Bowen St.
So. Boston, MA 02127

IN MEMORIAM
 Please remember in
 your prayers...

ISABELLE PAVLICHEK
 C-79 - Southfield, MI
 Died: February 1988

HELEN GERCIUS
 C-112 - Chicago, IL
 Died: March 1, 1988

JOSEPH W. PETROSKY
 C-144 - Anthracite
 Died: March 5, 1988

ANNA ZINDZIUS
 C-12 - New York, NY.
 Died: March 11, 1988

RONALD MALDUNAS
 C-112 - Chicago, IL
 Died: March 14, 1988

ADELE M. CARROLL
 C-109 - Great Neck, NY
 Died: March 20, 1988

RICHARD KASS
 C-5 - Chicago, IL
 Died: March 21, 1988

PAULINE KASS
 C-5 - Chicago, IL
 Died: March 26, 1988

Memories of Lithuania

(Speech Konnie J. Savickus at a banquet honoring Msgn. Joseph Prunskis, February 7, 1988, Chicago, Ill.)

To-nite we honor Msgn. Dr. Joseph Prunskis, a very humble man and a remarkable man. His writings have infused the Lithuanians with a revived national spirit. He and his work can be described in one general sentence: Msgn. Prunskis' entire life is dedicated to God, to his country, and to humanity. That sums up his life. To know and understand him more thoroughly we present a resume of his life and accomplishments.

He was born on December 22, 1907 in Žvilbučiai, Utėna County, Lithuania — 81 years ago. Like his father, he was a farm boy. He had two brothers and two sisters. He attended high school in Utėna, and started writing articles at the age of 14. As a youth he played soccer and basketball. He taught school in Kupiškis, was an assistant to the church pastor, and became active in journalism. In 1932 he graduated from the Theological seminary in Kaunas, where he studied about God, religion and the universe, and was ordained a priest. In 1935 he received his licentiate in Canon Law at the University of Kaunas, and in 1945 he received his Doctor's degree at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

From 1932 on he was engrossed in journalism, in addition to his pastoral duties. He was editor of a weekly newspaper (*Mūsų Laikraštis*) 1935-37, and editor of a daily newspaper the Twentieth Century 1936 - 39; and Director of the Catholic Press Bureau 1939 - 40, all in Kaunas.

In 1940 Lithuania lost its independence when the Russian communists by sheer force took over the country. When Msgr. Prunskis found out from his friends that he was wanted on Stalin's preferred list for a free trip to Siberia — he knew it was time to leave Lithuania. He traveled at night only through the woods, with agents helping him along the way, and in a few days he crossed the German border which was guarded on the east side by communists soldiers and dogs. He was placed in a concentration camp for 10 days, then made his way to the American Embassy in Berlin. In a few weeks he received an invitation from Msgr. Krushas — so he traveled to Chicago by way of Spain.

In the meantime, his father age 70, his mother, and his uncle Rev. John Prunskis, were taken as prisoners by the communists to Siberia. Without proper food and shelter, life in Siberia in winter, is living death. His father Joseph, and his uncle died within 18 months due to lack of food and the extreme cold. His mother Ona remained a prisoner for six years. One day she casually asked a guard what he would do if she walked away, and

he said he wouldn't do anything and that she'd be crazy to try it. He knew anyone who walked away would meet death — from exhaustion, from the cold, or wild animals. She knew the war was over in 1947, so she decided to escape with two young boys she had raised in the prison when her cousin died. They walked and reached the railroad tracks, then the station. She had rubles, sent her by her son from America, so she got on the train without any identification and made it to Moscow where everyone was celebrating the end of the war, so restrictions were relaxed. In time she got an identification pass by bribing an official, and used her maiden name, for 13 years — then got the news that her son talked to Khrushchev in the United States, and the Kommissar agreed to let her go to America.

How Msgr. Prunskis persuaded Kommissar Khrushchev in Washington, D.C. to permit his mother to emigrate to the United States is a dramatic and amazing achievement. The story is a lengthy one, so it will be written up in the VYTIS. However, after it was done, one of our questionably brilliant Lithuanians asked Msgr. Prunskis, "How can you a priest, talk to an atheistic communist like Khrushchev, and ask a favor of him?" To which the Monsignor replied, "I don't know about you, but I love my mother, and I'd do anything within reason and my conscience to get her out of a prison."

In Chicago, the Monsignor did not waste any time. 1943-45 he became Director of the Press Bureau; editor of the daily "Draugas" 1948-72, editor of the Marian magazine, 1964 - 69; instructor of Journalism at the Lithuanian Pedagogical Institute, a contributor to the Lithuanian Encyclopedia 1953 - 69; editor of *Laivas* since 1972. At present he is the Director of Information for the American Lithuanian Council, and resident assistant at the Queen of the Universe Church. The Holy Father, Pope John Paul II bestowed the title of monsignor on him last July.

In his lifetime he has written 10,823 articles for newspapers and journals, such as the *Chicago Daily Tribune*, the *Draugas*, plus the Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, and German periodicals. He knows nine languages. It's not the quantity that counts — his writings have substance, feeling and impact and all of them are about religion, freedom, communism, plus humanity.

The titles of a few of the books he has written, 36 of them, mostly in Lithuanian, are as follows: *How to Write for Newspapers* 1940, 2nd Edition 1950, *Communism and Revolution in America* 1942, *A Year with*

God 1958, *Men on the Wrong Path* 1960, *My Concept of the World* 1958, *Lithuanians in Siberia* 1981. To complete his education and add more knowledge to his writings, he has traveled around the globe.

Here's what happens to the royalties he receives from his publications. He finances \$1,000 awards each for scientific, religious and journalistic achievements, plus scholarship awards; and contributes \$500 to individuals for good work in local community affairs. No more can be asked of any man. He doesn't expend it on himself. His health is good, aside from having had a heart attack and glaucoma in the eyes.

As to unusual experiences — he has been arrested three times by the police. He was traveling around Konigsburg, Danzig, at the time the Germans were mobilizing their troops to invade Poland. When he got to Warsaw, he was arrested because he spoke to people in Lithuanian or German and was suspected as a spy. He had a Press pass as identification so when he contacted the Embassy he was released. Later he was arrested again at the Border by Polish military police for the same reasons, and again released upon contacting the Embassy. In the United States in 1944, the Police were waiting for him when he got off the train in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was going there to see the Great Salt Lake and visit a priest in the city. While on the train, he had conversations with passengers, and one of them asked

him if he could speak German and he replied: "Yes, very well". He was traveling in casual clothes. That one passenger evidently told his suspicions to the train conductor who, in turn, relayed them to the Salt Lake City police. The police asked him for identification — he showed them a card written in Latin which stated he was a priest — he had nothing else. Their only comment was "Boy, that's a new one on us — we don't read Latin either, so you come along with us." They took him to the station, then decided to take him to the Bishop of the Catholic Church. The Bishop wasn't convinced by the card alone, and some conversation — until he asked Rev. Prunskis some questions which only a priest would know to answers. Finally the bishop was convinced and asked the Reverend to be his guest for a week. The reason Msgr. Prunskis was arrested was not because he looked like Al Capone There was a Prisoner of War compound in Utah, and they thought he was one of the escapees.

I hope in this short biography I have done justice to the Monsignor's career. I wonder what he does in his spare time.

So, the Knights of Lithuania and all of us here this evening say Msgr. Prunskis carry on your excellent work for God, freedom and humanity I give you a humble and worthy man, Msgr. Prunskis

Dr. Konnie J. Savickus



LITHUANIAN ETHNIC CAMP

- WHAT:** *A camp which is God-oriented, encouraging patriotism and love of America, as well as developing an appreciation for the customs and traditions of the Lithuanian heritage.*
- WHO:** *Boys and Girls between ages of 8 through 16.*
- WHERE:** *St. Mary's Villa, Elmhurst, PA*
- WHEN:** *July 10 through the 23rd.*
- BY WHOM:** *The Sisters of Jesus Crucified.*
- COST:** *\$10.00 registration fee plus \$85.00 per week.*
- FURTHER INFO:** *Sister M. Angela, C.J.C.
1404 North Washington St.,
Wilkes Barre, PA 18705*

P.S. The Lithuanian Catholic Alliance Foundation is offering free tuition to the members children or grandchildren for Camp.

LITHUANIAN CASSETTE REVIEW

The ever-popular Joe Thomas Band has produced a stereo cassette dedicated to his many Lithuanian friends but especially to the Knights of Lithuania organization.

The cassette has polkas, Lithuanian dance music and many Lithuanian sing-alongs. This cassette should be in every K of L member's cassette file and played at all Lithuanian social gatherings. You will not be sorry after investing \$9.95 which will give you many pleasant hours of enjoyment. Order your cassette today from:

Joe Thomas Amerlith Productions
11 Olive St.
Rockville Centre, NY 11570



TO KEEP YOUR FREEDOM YOU BETTER DEFEND IT

For the past eleven years, a very active, energetic and devoted woman named Victoria Jacobson has been arranging celebrations to commemorate the Independence of Lithuania on February 16th in the vicinity of St. Petersburg, Florida. The festivities this year started with a Mass at St. John's Church in St. Petersburg Beach on Sunday morning to remind the local Lithuanians and the general public that though Lithuania was crushed into submission by the Communists in 1940-1944, that takeover is not recognized by the United States, England, France or Germany - so Lithuania remains an Independent nation because the League of Nations and the World recognized its sovereignty on February 16, 1918 after the First World War. The TV stations and the newspapers publicized the Mass and its primary intent.

Mrs. Jacobson, as hostess, had 100 guests invited to a banquet held at the Brown Derby Restaurant, consisting of prominent officials of adjoining cities and Lithuanian patriots. She is a Knight's of Lithuania Council 147 member and Chairperson of the Captive Nations Committee in Florida. There were flag raising ceremonies in Gulfport, St. Petersburg, and Treasure Island with the Mayors of each city participating. She received a Proclamation from the Mayors and the Governor of Florida, attesting the Freedom of Lithuania and its Independence.

On March 1st when Victor Skuodis, an American Citizen who was jailed by the Communists while in Lithuania for expressing his thoughts publicly that "Freedom was every person's birth right" got eight years in prison for it - and after serving time was allowed to return to the United States, and now was arriving in Gulfport . . . Mrs. Victoria Jacobson arranged for a cavalcade of 18 Police and Official Autos to parade Mr. Skuodis to the Lithuanian Hall in Gulfport where the Knights of Lithuania had arranged a reception for him. In his speech to the overflow crowd, Mr. Skuodis again reiterated his statement that "Freedom is



Victoria Jacobson and Mayor of Treasure Island, Florida at Lithuanian Flag Raising Ceremonies.

every person's birth right" and no one arrested him!

Though Mrs. Victoria Jacobson is along in years, we must call her our modern Lithuanian Joan of Arc for she is completely dedicated to the cause of Freedom for Lithuania and all Captive Nations. We need more people like her to protect Freedom. The World got rid of Nazism; Communism is the same type of government since a chosen organized small group of men hold a noose around the neck of unorganized people. It's time to cut the rope.

Dr. Konstant J. Savickus

I'M FINE

There's nothing whatever the matter
with me.
I'm just as healthy as I can be,
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I think my liver is out of whack
And a terrible pain is in my back,
My hearing is poor, my sight is dim,
Most everything seems to be out of trim,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I have arch supports for both my feet.

Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.
Sleeplessness I have night after night,
And in the morning I'm just a sight,
My memory is failing, my head's in
a spin,
I'm peacefully living on aspirin.
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
The moral is, as this tale we unfold,
That for you and me who are growing
old,
It's better to say, 'I'm fine' with a grin
Than to let them know the shape
we're in.

Lithuanians in the News



V. Vencienė (center,) gold medalist, R. Smetanina (left), silver medalist, M. Matikainen (right) bronze medalist. It is sad for us Lithuanians that Vida Vencienė had to compete under the Russian not the Lithuanian flag.

VIDA VENCIENĖ— OLYMPIC CHAMPION A LITHUANIAN GOLD MEDALIST

Gimtasis Kraštas the weekly newspaper from occupied Lithuania, for the purpose of closer cultural ties with Lithuanians abroad, published the following item:

In the past, skier Vida Venciene had remarked: "If I do not return with a medal from Calgary, then perhaps from another Olimpiade, but let us not speculate, it will be best to speak after the finish." Then behold, all 53 cross country skiers completed the 10 kilometers and the lighted billboard showed: 1st. place — Vida Vencienė (USSR), 30.08.3, 2nd place — R. Smetanina (USSR) 30.17.0 and 3rd place, M. Matikainen (Finland) — 30.30.5. When departing from Vilnius Canada, Vida expected to win a medal, but earning a gold one is something else. She spoke excitedly: "I can't believe it! I am an Olympic Champion! I am extremely lucky!"

ROOTING FOR RUTA

Actress Ruta (Kilmonyte) Lee has won another struggle with Soviet Authorities and brought a second relative to the U.S., according to George Bancroft of Asbury Park Press.

A cousin of the actress, 18-year old Maryte Kaseta arrived in the U.S. and expressed wonder in her new home. She will live with Ruta Lee and her husband, Webster Lowe, Jr. and learn English at high school.

Ms. Lee known for her roles in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" and "Funny Face" began her efforts in 1980 to bring Maryte to the United States after learning that the girl was declared an orphan because of an alcoholic mother. Maryte became a ward of the governmental institutions.



ST. JUDE TELETHON CHAIRMEN

Karen and John Rakstis were named area chairmen of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Radio-A-Thon. John is owner of Schell's Pharmacy in Fort Hunter and is Lithuanian. The telethon will help raise funds in the local area for cancer research.

Lithuanian Affairs Committee Bulletin

Vol. 8, No. 4

May 1988

by Dr. Jack J. Stukas, Chairman

In the last issue of our Bulletin, we asked our Committee activists to thank the editors of those newspapers that printed an editorial on Lithuanian Independence Day.

On top of our list of congratulations is: Providence, RI C-103. Letters of thanks were sent (and printed on Feb. 26th) by: **Bertha Stokus**, President; **Victor Mathieu** who has been instrumental in telling the tragic story of Lithuania not only to residents of the Providence area, but to the entire state as well; and **Antanas Valiuskis**, whose letter was also signed by 46 persons of Lithuanian descent. Edward Symonton, who is not of Lithuanian ancestry, was motivated to write and command the Providence Journal for its "excellent editorial". He wrote: "Let us pray for a cessation of suppression everywhere".

Al Klizas, of Lehigh Valley, PA C-63, sent us several writeups in the local press, of the Council's commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day. They included: "The Morning Call" of Allentown, PA; "The Globe Times" of Bethlehem, PA and "The Express" of Easton, PA. All of these papers also included photographs for the Lithuanian flag raising ceremonies at City Hall, and speakers who participated in the commemoration. We might note that C-63 is continuously active in the Lehigh Valley in promoting Lithuanianism.

Al Klizas' daughter, **Susan Onufer**, sent an article from the Lansing State Journal, in Lansing, MI which printed a story on Feb. 2nd about former Soviet prisoner and Lithuanian dissident, **Vytautas Skuodis** who spoke in that city.

Ever active in Lithuanian Affairs, **Gene Gobis**, of Amsterdam, NY sent us a copy of an editorial which appeared in the Amsterdam Recorder on Feb. 12th entitled: "Lithuania Tragedy A Matter of Honor". This paper, over the years, has been exemplary in reporting on activities of the local K of L Council, also has repeatedly reported on various Lithuanian commemorations, especially Feb. 16th. *The publishers deserve a hearty vote of thanks from all K of L'ers throughout the states.* Gene also sends us a photo which appeared in the Schenectady Gazette of Jan. 25th. The caption indicated a presentation by **Edward Barkowski**, immediate past president of Kiwanis Club of Rotterdam, who is also President of the Albany C-136.

The Chicago Sun Times published letters of thanks on Lithuanian articles appearing in that paper, from our young and versatile activist, **Rita Zakarka**, also by **Mary Juzenas**. A similar letter of thanks to the Southwest News Herald, a regional paper in Chicago, was written by **Rita Zakarka**. **Rita** also send us clippings from the Chicago Sun-Times:

"Lithuanian Beatings Told", "Bit of Free Lithuania in Middle of Beverly" (about Lithuanian Consul **Vaclovas Kleiza**) and "Lithuania Cops Bar Nationalist Protest". In addition, in her correspondence with **Mary Russo**, Member of Congress, **Rita** was forwarded excerpts from the Congressional Record which highlighted statements by various Congressmen on Lithuanian Independence Day.

Helen Kulber, who is well known over the years for her unceasing efforts in the New York area in behalf of Lithuanian freedom and various causes, send us copies of the following articles: "Lithuanian Police Beat Marchers, Dissidents Report" - from the Times-Herald Record in Middletown, NY, "Birthday Plans 'Anti-Soviet' Lithuanians Told", from the Toronto Star of Feb. 16th, also "Soviets Ready For Ugliness in Lithuania" from the Washington, DC Times of Feb. 16th.

Ann Dudewicz, Lith. Affairs Chairlady for C-74, sent us an editorial from Scrantonian Tribune, which appeared on Jan. 28th entitled "Lithuania's Reminder". *Please write the editors to thank them for their excellent editorial.* Here is an excerpt: "It is good to keep those three gallant (Baltic) nations in mind, as **Mikhail Gorbachev** continues refurbishing the Soviet facade. Glasnot is worth encouraging, but make no mistake - it is not renunciation of official Soviet goals, merely an adjustment of means for achieving them.... Better that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia be free; but if they are not, let them be a reminder of freedom's foes for those of us who are". In this vein, **Ann** also sent us an editorial from the News Herald, PO Box 1940, Panama City, FL 32402, entitled "Glasnot is little more than glossy cosmetics". Here is an excerpt: "We can press the Kremlin to grant more freedom to Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians. We can help keep the countries' ancient cultures alive by broadcasting from the West in the face of intensified Soviet jamming. And we can keep the Baltic peoples, and all enslaved peoples, in our prayers." *Write and thank the editors.*

Additional articles on Lithuania were sent to us by: **Stanley Valatka**, C-52, Elizabeth, NJ, **Mary Vaglia** - MCD Lith. Affairs Chairlady, **Rev. William Wolkovich** of Norwood, MA (from the Vermont Catholic Tribune), **Millie Pietz**, C-12, New York (from Catholic New York) and **Helen Venis**, Woodhaven, NY (from Tablet, Brooklyn).

Bill Senkus of C-52 Elizabeth, sent us a copy of NJ Senator **Bill Bradley's** statement on Lithuania's Independence Day anniversary made in the Senate, and your

Chairman and Loretta Stukas received a summary of action taken in behalf of Lithuanians and Lithuanian freedom by Senator Frank Lautenberg, of NJ. *Both should be thanked.*

The Joint Baltic American National Committee in Washington, DC. representing the Estonian American Nat'l Council, American Latvian Assoc. and Lithuanian American Council, informed us that **House Joint Resolution 474**, designating June 14th as Baltic Freedom Day, must have 218 co-sponsors to pass. The Resolution was introduced in Congress by Rep. Don Ritter on behalf of himself, Dennis Hertel, Helen Bentley, Douglas Bereuter, Robert Dornan, Edward Feighan, Wm. Lipinski, John Miller, Connie Morella. Recently Rep. Paul Henry added his support. As an annual resolution, (1988 marks the 7th consecutive year), the Baltic Freedom Day legislation is taken very seriously by the Soviet government and in more recent years, Congress has been attacked by the Kremlin for supporting such legislation. **ENCOURAGE YOUR CONGRESSMAN TO SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION AND TO MAKE A STATEMENT IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD!**

Anthony J. Mazeika, Pres. of the Coalition for Constitutional Justice and Security needs immediate financial help to stop the deportation and death of 12 OSI (U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations) defendants. He states that since 1980, \$24 million of your taxpayer money has been spent to administer a joint U.S. Justice Department/Soviet KGB-sponsored campaign to denaturalize and deport former World War II refugees from the Baltic States and neighboring countries to the U.S.S.R. Since 1980, more than \$12 million has been spent by de-

fendants, their families, friends and communities to defend their citizenship, reputations and their lives. Proposed legislation must be rapidly introduced and passed *before the end of this session of Congress*, authorizing the immediate commencement of **CRIMINAL TRIALS** of alleged war criminals here in the US, accused of crimes during World War II. Your **TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS** should be sent to this address: 25108 Marguerite Pkwy., Mission Viejo, CA 92692, payable to: Coalition for Constitutional Justice & Security.

The Chicago Tribune, on Feb. 18th printed an editorial entitled: "A Silent Observance in Lithuania". It concluded: "The capacity of the human spirit to cherish freedom and resist oppression is fathomless and implacable. Among us there will always be men and women and children waiting for the right moment to take charge of their own destinies. From Lithuania and elsewhere, that is the real, enduring news." **WRITE AND THANK THE EDITORS.**

On March 8th the US State Department confirmed that the Soviet Union is not allowing Lithuanian-American, **POVILAS PECIULAITIS**, to emigrate, despite a statement last December that he would be free to leave. Rep. Edward Feighan, Ohio Democrat, has urged Secretary of State George R. Schultz to quickly intervene and requested a meeting with Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin. He has also written to Soviet leader M. Gorbachev, asking that the matter be resolved quickly. "They have the audacity to tell us now that it was a mistake", Mr. Feighan said of the Soviets. **WRITE MR. FEIGHAN FOR HIS EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF POVILAS PECIULAITIS, THANKING HIM, AND ASKING HIM TO PERSIST!**

MOTULE MANO ...

L. D.

S. Šimkus

Mo-tu-le ma-no, šir-de-le ma-no, pri-keik, mo-tu-le,

ryt ma-no ank-sti, pri-keik, mo-tu-le, ryt ma-no anksti.

Mečiau šluotelę tiesion šalėlėn,
O pati jauna aukštan svirnelin.

Motule mano, širdele mano,
Prikelk motule anksti rytelį.

Dūkrole mano, jaunoji mano,
Oi ką darysi anksti rytelį?

Močiute mano, senoji mano,
Rišiu šluotelę, šluosiu dvarelį.

Rišiu šluotelę, šluosiu dvarelį,
Lauksiu svetelių, anksti rytelį.

Dar nenušlaviau pusės dvarelio,
Žiūriu atjoja pulkas brolelių

Mečiau šluotelę tiesion šalėlėn,
O pati jauna aukštan svirnelin.



Council



Vyčiai Veikia



Activities



Edited By: HELEN CHESKO

1000 E. Pine Street, Mahoney City, PA 17948



C-3 — PHILADELPHIA

Šv. Kazimiero šventę Philadelphijos mieste 3-čiosios Lietuvos Vyčių kuopos nariai šiemet šventė kovo 6 d. Šv. Kazimiero parapijos bažnyčioje. Prieš pradėdant Šv. Mišias karo veteranai įnešė JAV ir veteranų posto vėliavas, kurias sekė vyčių vėliava ir kuopos vyčiai. Jie susėdo pirmuose bažnyčios suoluose. Šv. Mišias atnašavo parapijos klebonas kun. Eugene Wassel. Jis Evangeliją perskaitė anglų ir lietuvių kalbomis. Pamoksle paaiškino kodėl Šventas Tėvas šv. Kazimierą paskyrė lietuvių jaunimo globėju ir taip pat palietė šių dienų jaunimo ydas. Argi savižudynės nėra velnio įkvėptos! Bažnyčia buvo apypilnė žmonių. Šv. mišių metu buvo giedamos lietuviškos giesmės. Po mišių kun. I. Wassel, pagal ritualų komiteto pirmininkės Dolores Herbert paliepimą, suteikė Joseph ir Ann Morro Antrą Vyčių Laipsnį.

Po to sekė pusryčiai, skaniai ir skalsiai parapijiečių paruošti parapijos salėje. Čia atsilankė beveik visi pamaldose dalyvavę.

Persikėlus į kitą salę, vyko eilinis mėnesinis vyčių susirinkimas, daugiausia ruošiamo 75 m. jubiliejaus reikalui. Minėjimas įvyks gegužės 15 Švento Kazimiero bažnyčioje. Šv.

mišias sutiko koncelebruoti vysk. Paulius Baltakis. Per mišiais giedos Šv. Jurgio Parapijos choras. Lygiai šiuo metu į susirinkimą atvyko parapijos vargonininkas Stanley Petraitis ir prašė įsijungti į chorą jo sustiprinimui. Atsirado net 9 savanoriai.

Koresp. E. B

C-10 — ATHOL-GARDNER

We did it again! Our council sponsored the Lithuanian Independence Day program on February 21. Special prayers were offered at the morning Mass in St. Francis Church, Athol, by Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis, our pastor.

The activities continued in the parish hall in the afternoon where approximately 100 persons sang the national anthem that was followed by the invocation by Father Jurgelonis.

Due to the untimely illness of Charles Genaitis, the keynote address was given by President Bill Wisniauskas who also acted as master of ceremonies. Dr. Henry Gailunas read the proclamation given by Mayor John Deveau of Gardner proclaiming February 16 as Lithuanian Day in Gardner.

Anthony Simkunas of Gardner showed his beautiful slides of Lithuania as well as Washington DC as a

preview to the national convention.

Our K of L girls treated all to coffee and goodies, headed by co-chairpersons Nellie Melaika and Paul Shatas. K of L members later sat down to a bountiful ethnic buffet.

Our council commemorated the Feast of St. Casimir by attending morning Mass on March 6 in St. Francis Church. The Mass Was celebrated by Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis who also gave an appropriate homily. A true relic of St. Casimir was adored by all following Mass. Dinner was enjoyed at a restaurant in Erving with Ann Ambrose and Amelia Waitkunas in charge of arrangements.

Vincukas

C-26 — WORCESTER

Read all about it! The latest news and views!

A warm welcome to Stephanie and Charles Jordan, transfers from Paterson Council, Veronica Coccio and Mary Lovett. A concentration in the area of membership has netted our council with 161 members as of December 31.

Joe and Nell Salkaus will be returning in April after two months in Florida. If Virginia and Withold Ivaska return from their Florida jaunt in time, we'll be enjoying a Lenten meal

of baked fish! Stephen Walinsky Sr. is in charge of the Plainfield, CT trip for the March 5 Night at the Dog Races.

Mary Kamendulis had a difficult February. She spent most of it in the Cardiac Unit of St. Vincent Hospital. Her husband, Stanley, says she's convalescing nicely.

Sharon and Louis Gouin have released latest bowling standings. High singles go to Richard Godek and Dorothy March. High averages and high triples go to Richard Godek and Sharon Gouin. Sharon Gouin's team is in first place, Richard Godek's in second, Jim Griffin's in third, Louis Gouin's in fourth, Dorothy March's in fifth and Lewis Lloyd's in sixth.

Brother Joseph Landis MIC died on January 29. He was a native of our parish. He was in his early forties when he made the decision to become a Brother with the Congregation of Marians. For the most part he worked out of his office at Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson. At his funeral Mass many priests concelebrated. The Marianapolis student body was present. He was a past president of Council 26. God rest his precious soul.

Geraldine Thompson Tagman recently retired after 35 years with Filene's Department Store. Her positions began with sales, went to secretary, then advertising and finally personnel. She will be married to Ed Palilunas in the spring. In the meantime, Gerry is head hostess for the annual St. Casimir parish dinner on March 6. She will be assisted by hostesses Ann Walinsky and Carol Grigas. The morning of March 6 will find our council at the 10 o'clock Mass to honor our patron. Gerry has also accepted the chairmanship of an all-profit, no-expense military whist for March 19. Her committee is made

up of Ed Palilunas, Genevieve and Paul Puras, Ann Bender, Charles and Frances Kulakusky, Ann and Bill Leseman, Marion Racicot, Virginia Cummings for public relations, Sharon and Louis Gouin, Ann and Stephen Walinsky and grandchildren Mark and Lynne. This leaves Marian Racicot very busy counting points toward degrees!

Last year, St. Casimir's Church hosted the Lithuanian Independence Day commemoration. This year we were invited by Father Alphonse Volungis, pastor of Our Lady of Vilna, to join his parish; in praying for Lithuania's freedom. On February 14 a large representation from our Council 26, along with many dignitaries and organizations, found us at Our Lady of Vilna for a concelebrated Mass. Father Volungis was main celebrant. One of the concelebrants was our own Father John Petrauskas MIC. Following Mass, "coffee and" was served in the parish hall where Council 116 made us feel right at home. Thank you Father Volungis. And thank you Irene Tamulevich, C-116 President, and your committee.

Spotted in the Honor Guard of the Lithuanian War Veterans were Daniel Shimkus and Ed Palilunas. Congratulations to Francis Tagman who was installed Commander of the Lithuanian War Veterans in January.

Lastly, for the political gathering at Maironis Park that afternoon, our council was represented by Rita Pinkus, president, and Ann Bender, Lithuanian affairs and cultural chairperson.

Linksma diena nušvito mums!

"Dzūkelė"



C-27 — NORWOOD

"Šalta žiemužė!" A good place to say "Labas" is from under the covers even though spring is forecasted for the next couple of days.

Betty Skriecki, our president, and her tiny band of workers set up a very nice table of treats and coffee for Council 27 celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day with our ever popular Father Bill giving a very inspiring talk. This pastor of ours doesn't miss an occasion to show his true patriotism for Lithuania.

In Boston, he joined a large gathering at the City Hall and at the State House, letting the people of the state know the Lithuanians in this country are very proud of their heritage.

Mary Ann Tamasanis and her friend Helen Juskievicz went to Brockton's Snowflake Ball. Even though they weren't chosen Council 27 Queens, just by attending other councils functions, there is still that "vienybė".

All the students, Paul Picard, Irene Skriecki and Nancy A. Dallalis, returned to classes after mid-season break.

Nancy A. Dallalis, C-27 Vytis Correspondent, who is part-time employee of Bay Bank, one of Boston's largest banks, was fortunate to receive a beautiful plaque from the president designating her as a "Bay Banker" achiever with a check for 250 dollars. Congratulations, Nancy, and best wishes for continued success.

Mary Ann Tamasanis, Aldona Jackson and Sandy Melish attended the C-26 Ski Weekend in January and all came home in one piece.

Our Fr. Bill finished the K of L History and from all reports, the book

is a work of art.

Al Yurkstas, our former treasurer, built a new home and moved himself with his Mrs. to Manorhēt, near Plymouth, MA. We miss his happy smile and his willingness to "I'll do it" attitude. We all miss Al.

Nancytė



C-36 Chicago - Man of Year Award given to Rev. Fabian Kirielis at MAMD St. Casimir Day Celebration. Evelyn Ozalis, Pres. of C-36 at left.

C-41 — BROOKLYN

Kovo 6-tą dieną, po pamaldų Apreiškimo parapijos bažnyčioje, kur tą dieną vyčiai savo intencija turėjo mišias ir visi kartu ėjo prie komuijos, parapijos salėje įvyko 41-mos kuopos narių susirinkimas, kurį išangine kalba pradėjo pirmininkas W. Kumeta, po to pakviesdamas kleboną kun. J. Pakalniškį sukalbėti maldą. Perskaityti praeito susirinkimo užrašai buvo priimti be pataisų. Išdininkė V. Kazlauskas pranešė, kad išdas yra gerame stovyje, dabartiniu laiku kuopoje yra apie 60 narių, ir praeitame susirinkime kuopon įstojo 9 nauji nariai. Tikimasi dar daugiau naujų narių kooptuoti. Lietuvos Vyčių Vidurio apskrities suvažiavimas į Scranton, Pa. iš 41-mos kuopos važiuoja 8 as-

menys. Brooklyno vyskupija ruošia gegužės 21-mą dieną ekskursiją į Washington, D.C., ir šiai maldininkų kelionei pats vyskupas Fr. Mugavero vadovaus. Ten jis aukos Mišias Marijos nekalto prasidėjimo bazilikoje. Marijos metų proga tą dieną visos Brooklyno vyskupijos parapijos vyksta į Washington, D.C. Lietuvos Vyčių 41-ma kuopa taip pat ta proga organizuoja į ten ekskursiją ir norinčius ten važiuoti prašo prie jų prisidėti. Kelionė autobusu ten ir atgal ir pietūs kainuos tik 25-ki doleriai. Toliau sekė Stan. K. Lukosevičiaus paskaita apie Šv. Kazimierą, Lietuvos Vyčių globėją. Po susirinkimo sekė vaišės ir tarpusavis pasikalbėjimas.

S. K. Lukas

C-63 — LEHIGH VALLEY

Lehigh Valley Council 63 attended a Lithuanian Independence Day Mass in St. Michael's Church, Easton, on Sunday, February 14. The celebrant was Rev. Father Michael J. Davino who delivered a stirring homily covering Lithuania's staunch

defense of her Catholic faith and national identity against the atheist occupant, Soviet Russia, and Lithuania's consequent suffering. He asked all to pray a daily Rosary for Lithuania's deliverance from her oppressor.

Following the Mass, council members commemorated Lithuanian Independence Day with a dinner in the grand ballroom of the newly-restored Historic Hotel Easton. Council President Joseph Simmons opened the program with greetings. Guest speakers included US Congressman Don Ritter, Co-chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Baltic States and the Ukraine, who presented the proclamation paying tribute to Lehigh Valley Lithuanians. State Representative Robert L. Freeman also presented a similar proclamation from Governor Casey.

The main speaker was Algimantas Gečys, an Executive Director of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., who was accompanied by his gracious wife Teresė. The theme of Mr. Gečys' speech was "the lie of glasnost," Mikhail Gorbachev's newly-announced policy of free expression in the Soviet Union. He warned



C-63, Lehigh Valley Lithuanian Independence Day Flag-raising Ceremony at City Hall in Allentown, PA. L to r: Alice Karshneski, Allentown Mayor Joseph Dadonna, Joseph F. Ogint, Ann Petit, Mary Sockel. Back row: State Senator Roy C. Afflerbach and John C. Pilpavage.

of the dangers to the West if we believe that change was really occurring and pointed very recent acts of Soviet repression committed against Lithuanians who dared to celebrate Lithuania's Independence Day on February 16. He suggested that increased contact with senators and congressmen can help the plight of Lithuania and urged all of us to read Lithuanian-American publications. Such lobbying efforts have worked, pointing to a recent letter signed by 32 US Senators to Gorbachev, requesting the Russians not to interfere with the planned demonstrations. Gečys concluded with, "Let's be Lithuanians 365 days a year!"

Included among the non-speaking guests was Ed Reichman, a candidate for Congress in the forthcoming Democratic primary election.

Al Klizas served as Master of Ceremonies.

On the following Tuesday, February 16, the Lithuanian flag proudly flew over the Lehigh Valleys three main cities of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. Flag-raising ceremonies were conducted in each city and communications media coverage was provided by three major newspapers, two television channels and two radio stations.

The Allentown contingent was led by Joseph F. Ogint, the Bethlehem contingent by Al Klizas and the Easton contingent by Violet Price. Each group was addressed by the mayor. State Senator Roy C. Afflerbach attended the Allentown ceremony. An approximate total of 50 Lithuanians publicly demonstrated their dedication and love for the Lithuanian cause. Some members travelled as far as 40 miles to attend on a cold, windy morning and most importantly, the entire Lehigh Valley knew we were there!

Despite the fact that Council 62 members are scattered throughout the Lehigh Valley, we continue gaining new members. Among our more recent additions to the family are Dick and Joyce Ocelus, Michael and Elizabeth Klemo and Dorothy Andrews, all of Allentown; Charles J. and Florence Buzas and Madlyn Brewer of Bethlehem and Frances Sharpless of Easton.

Our February 21 council meeting resulted in scheduling a St. Casimir's Day Mass in St. Michael's on Sunday, March 6, followed by a light luncheon in our meeting hall. Council 63 will be represented at the Mid-Atlantic District meeting in St. Joseph's Church in Scranton on March 13.

Joseph F. Ogint

C-72 — BINGHAMTON

Elections were held at the November meeting. Officers for 1988 are Father John Mikalajunas, spiritual advisor; John Mankus, president, cultural chairman and Vytis correspondent; Irene Grikenis, vice president and ritual chairman; Arthur Stankevitz, secretary; Mary Guokas, treasurer; Casey Grikenis, financial secretary; Charles Almenas, Lithuanian affairs chairman and Delores Wasileski, hospitality chairman.

During the Christmas season our council under the direction of Irene Grikenis sponsored a Lithuanian Christmas tree with traditional straw ornaments in the International Christmas Forest at the Roberson Center for Arts and Sciences. It was very well received and Irene received a nice thank you note from the chairperson of the event.

Plans are under way for the Two Rivers Ethnic Festival to be held at the Veterans Memorial Arena in

Binghamton on April 20. As in the past we will sell ethnic Lithuanian food, but we are planning a larger cultural display.

At our February 16 independence day buffet supper, we had a very special guest, a young Lithuanian Lady, Elena Muliolytė, formerly from Cleveland, but now residing in Endicott. She played several selections on the kanklės for everyone's enjoyment.

Mention should be given to our hospitality chairperson Delores Wasileski and her helpers in organizing and coordinating the buffet.

At our last several meetings our cultural program included the discussion of the life of Daktaras Jonas Basanavičius, the heroic struggle for Lithuania's independence and the life and writings of Jonas Maironis.

In closing I should like to share a recent event that occurred to the granddaughter of Milane and Alphonse Marchuskas. During a recent school project on the country of her ancestors, Diane chose Lithuania. Her teacher informed her that there was no such country. After explaining to the teacher that there actually was a country named Lithuania, presently under Russian occupation, she was able to complete her project and received an A for her grade. It is clear that as Lithuanian-Americans must continue to do more to educate the American populace about Lithuania and her history.

John R. Mankus

C-79 — SOUTHFIELD

Our first meeting of the year was held on March 2. We welcomed back our president Maggie Šmailis after her extended Florida visit with daughter and son-in-law, Marge and Chester

Nashlon. When the tropical sun gets unbearable, they also come back for our cool Michigan summers!

At this writing, Antoinette Kaminskas and George Kase are hospitalized. We wish them a full and speedy recovery.

On February 27 we attended the funeral of Isabel Pavilchek, sister of HM Anthony Dainus. Tony is still receiving therapeutic care at the nursing home where he resides.

We plan an observance of Founders Day on April 24. Other dates decided upon are September 1, day of prayer for the Persecuted Catholic Church in Lithuania; September 21, annual Fall Luncheon and Card Party given in conjunction with the Women's Alliance; November 6, Fall Festival. All members are reminded to take notice of all dates and urged to attend the events.

On March 6 to commemorate St. Casimir's Day, 56 attended Mass at Divine Providence Church. Ten members from Councils 102 and 139 were also present and accompanied us to the historic Botsford Inn for a tasty brunch. At Mass after the homily, we were pleasantly surprised to witness the renewal of marriage vows of Joe and Geraldine Chaps. Congratulations on your 45th wedding anniversary!

Financial Secretary Stella Hotra wishes all to note her new address: 25396 Donald Ave., Redford, MI 48239.

Rosary Chain Chairlady Violet Panavas asked that she be notified at 557-8711 in the event of a member's death.

All inactive members are asked to record the above dates on their calendars and make a special effort this year to donate their time and possible talents for the benefit of our council. You will be surprised at the self-satisfaction you will realize.

Bee Jay

C-90 — KEARNY

Our flag-raising at the Kearny-Town Hall commemorating Lithuania's Independence Day was a sight to behold. It was a very cold but beautiful morning. Msgr. Pocus and Mayor Sansone, along with a police honor guard, made it a perfect picture that brought tears of pride to your eyes as the K of L-ers along with many friends sang the Lithuanian anthem as the flag was raised.

Irene Belza, Aldona Basgil, Adele Sopolis and Della Yaniscavitch served delicious hot coffee, homemade cakes and cookies. Al Zarbetski Jr. talked about the hardships and years of struggle our people endured. This event was enjoyed by all.

Eleanor Rokus, our Madam President, was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of Schuyler Savings, our "Lithuanian Bank." She is the first woman to serve on the Board of Schuyler. Eleanor is also a full-time realtor, serves on the town Welfare Board and attends classes on Lithuanian History and culture.

Classes in Lithuanian history and culture are given at Morriss College, Route 10, Randolph, NJ. Ann Pringle, Ann Sluzas and Dorothy Songile are taking this class and really enjoy learning about the land of our forefathers.

Anyone wishing information on starting these classes, please contact Betty Tomalaitis DiAndrioli, 6 Norman Lane, Succasunna, NJ 07876.

We are happy to announce the engagements of Al Bilaitis to Terry Gelcius and Attorney Paul Galenitis to Terry McGuire. Congratulations to the happy couples!

We are sponsoring the Mid-Atlantic District convention on October 9, 1988. We are planning an interest-

ing one; please plan now to attend.

To have your voice heard, you must have strength and strength comes from your membership so please call a fellow K of L member and make plans to come together and share an afternoon with us.

Dorothy Songile



Committee people at one of C-100 Amsterdam's meetings. From left: Regina Hartvigas, Regina Kot, Ruth Ralys, Gerard Drenzek, Irene Tice.

C-100 — AMSTERDAM

A special Mass was held at St. Casimir's Church in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Lithuania's independence. The entrance procession started with the carrying of the American and Lithuanian flags by Gerard Drenzek and Harold Tice.

Rev. Baltch celebrated the Mass with Rev. Cyvas as the concelebrant. The homily was given by Rev. Baltch. Leader of Worship was Vincent Rossi. Mr. Žukauskas gave the first reading in Lithuanian and Miss Aviža read the second reading. St. Casimir's Choir with organist John Nye sang English and Lithuanian

hymns.

The dinner and program followed in St. Casimir's Social Center. Some 125 people from Brooklyn, Waterbury, Albany, Schenectady, Scotia, Hagaman and Amsterdam attended. The commemoration began with the presentation of the colors by G., Drenzek and H. Tice accompanied by women dressed in traditional Lithuanian costumes. The invocation was by Rev. Baltch. Council President Radzevich welcomed the members and guests.

The committee was as follows: Rev. Baltch, Honorary Chairman; Polly Žiaušys, General Chairman; Tickets and Dinner, Sophie Olbie; Public Relations, Gene Gobis, Art Work and Program, Regina Kot; Hors d'oeuvres, Ann Radzevich and Refreshments, William Burimaskas, William Jasewicz, Walter Sergalis and Edward Bablin. The centerpiece was won by Ann Radzevich who presented it to Mayor Parillo's wife Mary Ann.

Approximately 70 members of Amsterdam's Council 100 attended Mass at St. Casimir's Church on March 6 for their Corporate Communion. Rev. Robert K. Baltch, spiritual advisor, was the celebrant. He congratulated the group on the national organization's diamond jubilee.

A luncheon followed at the Teepee Restaurant. President Anthony Radzevich was toastmaster. Invocation was given by Rev. Baltch. Mr. and Mrs. Victor Rimkus of Scotia were welcomed into membership. Adeline Raila, principal speaker, spoke on the life of St. Casimir.

Joseph Nikstenas, a 1986 K of L scholarship recipient, reported on his progress in college. Mary Ann Nikstenas, mother of Joseph and Judianne also a scholarship recipient, commended the Junior Counselors, Regina Kot, Genevieve Gobis and

Beatrice Jasewicz, on their work with the Junior Knights. She urged members to enroll their children and grandchildren.

Vice-president Gobis spoke on the history of the council. The council was organized in the late teens and existed until World War II. When the American Federation of Lithuanian Clubs building was built in the late twenties, the council held its meetings there up to the time the club went into bankruptcy.

When Rev. Baltch came to St. Casimir's parish, he was approached by national officers to reorganize the council. With the cooperation of Michael Kerbelis and representatives from New Jersey, the council was reorganized in March 1950. Of this group six charter members are living, Rev. Baltch, Edward Bablin, Edward Baranauskas, Ann Beleckas, Gene Gobis and Sophie Olbie. Miss Gobis also spoke of the members who held national office and are currently holding office on the Supreme Council.

Betty Kuzmich, ritual chairman, called on Rev. Baltch to present the Second Degree to Rima Hartvigas, Michael Mikolaitis and Joseph Nikstenas. All three are scholarship recipients. Rima represented the Knights at the Lithuanian Youth Congress in Australia in December.

The centerpieces were won by Gerard Drenzek and Joseph Shatas Jr. Betty Kuzmich and her committee of Judy Kastraveckas and Helen Wojcik prepared the program.

Smile and Sparkle

C-102 — DETROIT

November was a very happy month for our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Kun. Alfonsas Babonas, as he cele-

brated twenty-five years in the priesthood. The Mass celebration was at St. Anthony's Church, and a beautiful reception was held at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield. Our newly-elected President, Gus Baibak, presented Father with a congratulatory speech and a gift from Council 102. In attendance at this happy occasion were Jo Jonulate, Edna Klucens, Terry and Ray Medonis, Eve and Joe Aukstakalnis-Stark and Joe and Maryanne Guerriero. May Fr. Babonas celebrate many more happy years in the priesthood.

November also took Joe and Maryanne Guerriero to Syracuse for the wedding of their nephew, Frank Peterson Jr., Council 140 member. Among the guests were SC President Frank Petrauskas and his wife Irene. Frank Jr. is the son of 2nd SC Vice President Frank Peterson and wife Isabel, New Haven C-50 members. They also had the opportunity to meet Isabel's cousin, Gena, who is visiting them from Lithuania.

December was the month of our favorite social, Kūčios, held once again at the beautiful home of Bob Boris. This year the Mass was more beautiful because we sang Lithuanian hymns to Bob's cassette. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Stan and Fr. George. At the Offertory we read the names of deceased members and were happy no new names were added this year. Fr. George gave the sermon this year. Mass was closed with singing Lithuanian and English Christmas carols. Fr. Stan had just returned from a trip to Israel.

After Mass a beautiful Lithuanian buffet was served, and John Stanievich and Joe Aukstakalnis-Stark rendered requests on their instruments. The evening ended with Bob showing the video of the Jubilee Mass in Rome.

Surprise members of the evening

were Donna Plute and her daughters, Lisa and Kim. Also, once a year members were Marie and Emil Podzius, the Klucen boys including Vince and his new bride. Bob's invited guests were Casey Ambrose, his son and Dr. and Mrs. Pekunas. Dr. Pekunas was also seen in the Rome video as he attended the Mass. It was also nice visiting with Vince Boris who comes every year from Maryland. Vince Boris was promised a lot of visitors this July with the National Convention in Washington.

Donna and Frank Bunikis always do a beautiful job with this yearly Kūčios. Donna and Frank just returned from Arizona where they attended the christening of their first grandson. Two days later they left for Florida for the rest of the winter.

January 1 was a proud day for Michigan Lithuanians. Michigan State University, coached by George Perles, won the Rose Bowl football game. George Perles is Lithuanian and attended St. Anthony's Lithuanian Grade School. Congratulations George Perles.

We were proud to hear Lithuanian spoken on the Ann Jillian Story on national television.

Get well wishes are extended to Ray Medonis who is recuperating from heart surgery.

Deepest sympathies are extended to Council 96 Dayton on the passing of HM Mary L. Lucas. We'll always remember her delicious cooking.

If we don't see you on the ski slopes of northern Michigan or the sunny beaches of Florida, we'll surely see you in Pittsburgh in May. Council 102 is looking forward to the bowling tournament.



Meriutė

C-103 — PROVIDENCE

With aplomb and dispatch, our monthly meeting was conducted by Madam President Bertha R. Stoskus. Invocation was offered by our pastor and spiritual advisor Father Gedvila with twenty-four members in attendance.

Following usual business items, Lithuanian affairs chairman William Piacentini Jr. commented on recent Observer editorial entitled "No Gloss Glosnot." E. Ruth Krecioch, cultural chairlady, read a very enlightening article outlining the responsibilities of Lithuanians here in America to foster, promote and educate non-Lithuanians concerning Lithuania's plight, her heritage and customs. The article was

long but informative and especially impressive coming during the month of February when we are observing the 70th anniversary of Lithuania's independence.

As plans were announced for our coming St. Casimir's Day Mass and brunch. The members were informed of the hospitalization of Nellie Grande. We pray for an early recovery. Irene Landanski, social chairlady, is already working on our Christmas party after having received an invitation to have the annual affair the Pawtucket Country Club where Dr. and Mrs. John J. Cunningham are members.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments after the membership reviewed and commented on the 1988 calendar of events as presented by President Stoskus.

The council participated along



Rhode Island State Representative Rene M. Lafayette was honored by the New England District at the NED Cultural Festival at Maironis Park in Worcester in recognition of his work on behalf of Lithuania, specifically the passage of the act proclaiming Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day in the State of Rhode Island. Victor G. Mathieu of C-103, Providence, made the presentation. A copy of the Act and the pen used by Governor Edward D. DiPrete for the signing were presented to Larry Svelnis for the archives at ALKA Museum in Putnam.

with the parish and the Lithuanian Community on Sunday, February 14, in the exercises observing the 70th anniversary of the independence of Lithuania.

On February 21 we joined parishioners and friends of Father Gedvila at 10:30 a.m. Mass with a reception in the parish hall in congratulating Father on the 40th anniversary of his receiving Holy Orders.

Our yearly observance, tribute and supplication to our Patron Saint, Saint Casimir, was the council's participation at Mass on Sunday, March 6, celebrated by our pastor and spiritual advisor, Rev. Izidorius Gedvila. Thirty-two members were joined by parishioners and members of the Lithuanian Community.

A brunch followed at a local restaurant where council members listened to Rev. Jude McGeogh, pastor of St. Ann's Church in Cranston, speak on St. Casimir. Several years ago, he was curate at neighboring St. Patrick's Church, a close friend of our late pastor, Rev. Vaclovas Martinkus.

President Bertha R. Stoskus remembered an article that Father Jude had written concerning St. Casimir that was published in our diocesan newspaper, "The Providence Visitor." Her choice of Father was very profitable for all who attended. Another side of St. Casimir's life was brought to us by a priest of non-Lithuanian extraction.

On March 13, five council members led by President Stoskus, Helen and Anthony Gudeczauskas along with Bea and Vic Mathieu joined New England District members in the annual Holy Hour held at the facilities of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified in Brockton. NED President Albert Jaraitis honored C-103 by requesting that two in our group take an active part in the Living Rosary

that was followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The collation that ensued provided by the Sisters and served by them in their cafeteria was just super. Thank you Sisters!

Un Qui Aime Les
Lithuaniens



Mary Kober, Martha Krug and Rev. J. Dunn at Great Neck C-109 Annual Communion Luncheon held at Lauraine Murphy's Restaurant in Manhasset, NY

C-109 — GREAT NECK

Our February 14 meeting was held at our club house. We had a very good turnout of members. It was a very informative and also interesting



C-109 Great Neck members enjoying luncheon at Annual Communion Mass and Reception - Bertha Saltanis, Stacia Wain, Josephine Zukas, Joseph Zukas and Albert Twaskas.

meeting. Tony Kober, our sergeant at arms, gave us a pep talk.

In addition to our regular members, we were very pleased to welcome the following new members: Anna and Kestutis Miklas, Thomas Nekuinan and his wife, Lawrence and Margie Bleika, John and Eileen Bleika and Bill and Beatrice Jamison.

Josie Zukas brought up some good ideas and we will be discussing them at future meetings. Let's all bring up new topics and suggestions to keep our council interesting.

March 6 is our Annual Communion Breakfast. Mass will be held at St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck at 10:30. Immediately after Mass, luncheon will be served at Louraine Murphy Restaurant in Manhasset. The council was in agreement to have our annual breakfast in a restaurant to give our hard-working social committee a chance to sit down and enjoy themselves.

As we learned at our meeting, Radio Station WNWK wants to do away with the Sunday Lithuanian Program that airs from 9 to 10 a.m. and replace it with a Spanish-speaking one. We urgently request all our

members to write letters and show them our interest so that our Lithuanian program will continue to be aired.

Write to Romas Kezys 105 FM, 217-54th Ave., Bayside, NY 11364.

Our meeting ended with cake and coffee that was cheerfully served to us by our social committee. We also sang "Happy Birthday" to Howie Fuchs and Jack Malis. Congratulations fellows!

Marytė



C-109, Great Neck - Bill Statkevicius, Anne Miklas & Kestutis Miklas at Annual Communion Luncheon.

C-110 — MASPETH

The members of this council hope that the Christmas holidays brought the Knights of Lithuania membership happiness, health and inner peace.

Our first New Year's Party which President Adomėnas unselfishly tried to promote was cancelled because of the unseasonably cold weather. The celebration depended in a very great part on the conditions one had to face of traveling by train, bus or car.

On January 6, our regular monthly meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

Recently Transfiguration Holy

Name Society presented President Adomėnas in recognition of this council's participation and service rendered to Transfiguration Church the Community and Brotherhood of Man Award.

On January 22, a bus load of council members and friends with the blessing of Msgr. Bulovas left for Washington to participate in the National Right to Life March. This pilgrimage brought joy to the members and friends when they alighted from the bus and saw such a great assemblage of more than 50,000 souls.

The officers and members appreciate the friendship shown toward this council by the Mid-Atlantic Knights and look forward to many more pleasant relationships.

Joseph C. Dugan

C-112 — CHICAGO

To commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day, we were requested to present our reports in Lithuanian and also comment in Lithuanian. Most members experienced little difficulty in doing so and a real Lithuanian meeting was enjoyed by all.

Following our meeting, First



Mary Juzenas, Pres. C-112 Chicago receiving her Third Degree on St. Casimir's Day.



Michael Yuknis, Rita Zakarka, John Kilkus and Vitas Daulys at the recent C-112 Chicago St. Casimir's Day celebration.

and Second Degrees were awarded. Congratulations to the following recipients: First Degrees — Jean Miranda, Zenonas Sukys, Arvydas Zygas and Denise Zakarka. Second Degrees — Ann Marie Juraitis and Theresa Vaitkus.

Anthony and Mary Rudis were honored in January with a banquet at the Martinique for their participation in Lithuanian activities. Mary Rudis was president of the United Relief Fund (BALFAS) for many years and both were involved in the repatriation of prisoners of conscience and also those expatriated from Russian influence.

The evening consisted of a program presented by famous violinist, Franz Benteler and his Royal Strings with 625 guests in attendance. Irene Krauceliunas was chairman and Al Brazis, co-chairman, with Jolita Krauceliunas as master of ceremonies.

Stanley Pieza also was awarded a beautiful Lithuanian carving honoring him for his many years as Editor of the Catholic News column in the evening American newspaper.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudis also received the Order of St. Gregory medals from the Pope in Rome on June 29 during the 600th Jubilee celebration of Christianity. Cardinal



C-112 Chicago - Anthony and Mary Rudis honored at a banquet at the Martinique for their participation in Lithuanian activities.

Bernardin presented them with the medals.

The Choir Dance on January 16 was very successful. We were so happy to see Faustas Strolia in attendance after his bad accident. He and his son Tom led the guests in a sing-along that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Plans for the 1989 National Convention to be held here in Chicago are in full swing and we are looking forward to a large attendance.

Ruth Dagis

St. Casimir's Day occurred on a bright and sunny day. The celebration was hosted by Council 36 with a delicious and lavish buffet luncheon following Mass. We congratulate our council president, Mary Juzėnas, on receiving her Third Degree that day.

Our council is sorry to be losing one of our favorite blondes. Aldona Gylys is moving to St. Pete's Beach, Florida, the end of this month. Our loss is Florida's gain. We wish you health and happiness and we will certainly miss you.

Welcome to the following new members: Gladys Karnis, John Karnis, Charles Zulanis, Lillian Mickewice and Violet Shipe.

Sincere condolences to the families of the following members who passed away recently: Ronald Maldūnas, Vladas Šimaitis, and Helen Gerčius.

ARDEE

C-116 — WORCESTER

The spiritual segment of the commemoration of the anniversary of Lithuania's independence alternates between our own Our Lady of Vilna Church and neighboring St. Casimir's. How appropriate that our turn to commemorate the 70th anniversary occurred during the Marian Year. The Blessed Mother is our parish patroness. Baptisms, first Holy Communion, weddings and other special events were recorded by families through photographs taken in front of Our Lady's statue which graces the outdoors of our church.

On Sunday, February 14, just before the 11 o'clock concelebrated Mass, delegations from C-116, C-26, Lithuanian Catholic Women's Alliance, Lithuanian Girl and Boy Scouts and the Šiauliai, led by the beautiful Color Guard of the Lithuanian War Veterans, marched into church with their flags and banners.

The pastor, Father Alphonse Volungis, was the main celebrant, assisted by Father John Petrauskas MIC of St. Casimir's and C-26 spiritual advisor, Father Albin Yankauskas, an active retiree and Father Edward Dyer, retired pastor of St. Catherine of Sweden Church.

Father Yankauskas was homilist. The intention of the Mass, the prayers of petition, the homilies in both English and Lithuanian, all concentrated on begging our Lord's mercy for our brethren enslaved by Communistic

oppression. Hymns were sung in Lithuanian. One was "Palaimintas Viešpats", composed by K of L'er Louis Stukas, organist-director-composer of Morgantown, New Jersey. The choir members were Helen Daltwas, Julia Gallien, Anna R. Miller, Mary and Victor Mrozinski, Rita Paluses and Mary Simonis. Organist was Olga Kersis of St. Casimir's C-26.

Everyone present was invited to the continental breakfast which was prepared, served and hosted by C-116 in the parish hall. Irene Tamulevich, C-116 president, was chairperson, assisted by Helen Daltwas, Anna R. Miller, Vic and Mary Mrozinski, Dorothy Sinkevich and Ann Yurkenas. Lithuanian tablecloths covered the tables and decorations of Lithuanian motif were all about. Thanks to all our participants for that special camaraderie which we experienced on that lovely, sunny, winter day when together we prayed for Lithuania's freedom.

Peter Molis was in charge of the civic commemoration which took place that afternoon at Maironis Park.

Did you know that our pastor, Father Volungis, has been a priest for 43 years? He was ordained on January 13, 1945.

February 11 was officially proclaimed "Anna R. Miller Day." Anna was honored at a surprise banquet for her 40 years of excellent service with the government.

A. Patriot

C-133 — LOS ANGELES

It was so sudden! A call was received on Wednesday morning, November 25, 1987, that John Petras (Petrauskas) had died. The night be-

fore we had a short conversation with no complaints.

Just three days prior, on November 22, several of the K of L members, including John Petras and his two sons, Dennis and Leonard, participated at the Lithuanian 600th year of Christianity Jubilee in St. Vibiana's Cathedral and at the banquet in Otani Hotel in Los Angeles.

At the Lithuanian St. Casimir's Church Rosary was said on November 29 and funeral Mass was held on the following day.

Many friends and members of the K of L attended. The Lithuanian National Guard — Šiauliai — served as Guards of Honor in full dress and performed the appropriate ceremonies. The long caravan of cars with mourners travelled to the distant Valley Oaks Cemetery in Westlake Village where John Petras was laid to rest.

In the cemetery eulogies were said by Juozas Gedmintas in the name of the Lithuanian American Citizens Club and the Lithuanian Alliance of America.

Our Knights of Lithuania Vice President Robert Novak spoke very touchingly of John's personal qualities. Kazys Karuža, Vice President of Šiauliai, brought out the importance of belonging to organizations which work for the Lithuanian cause as John Petras did.

John Petras was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on August 13, 1913. Both of his parents were native Lithuanians. As a baby John was brought to Lithuania by his family.

Soon World War I broke out. They were forced to remain throughout the war. During the Lithuanian independence years, John's father became chief of police in Kėdainiai and John became a clerk at the courthouse.

In 1935 John moved back to Scranton where his older brother had a

supervisory job in the coal mines. Within a short time, his brother perished in the coal mine cave-in. For a while John worked for the So. Pacific Railroad. In Cleveland he met his wife-to-be Adele Kucinkas whom he married in 1948 at the Lithuanian St. Casimir's Church in Los Angeles.

Here John became a contractor of painting and decorating. His wife worked as a nurse and later as an anesthetist. Their three sons, Jonas, Dennis and Leonard, were born in Los Angeles. While the children were still young, the Petras family brought a home in Burbank and settled there.

In January of 1969, Adelè Petras died from cancer. In 1981 son Jonas died in an accident. John Petras was proud of his heritage and family. In 1979 John Petras and son Dennis visited Lithuania. Again in 1981 John travelled to Lithuania with a tour. Two of John's sisters, Aldona and Zita, are still living in Lithuania. In the past 10 years John built a family partnership called Petras Investments.

B. Skirius

C-135 — ANSONIA

Christmas time is always one of the most festive periods that we all enjoy. The hustle and bustle of shopping, gift giving and visiting friends and loved ones always makes the effort worthwhile.

Once again our church was tastefully decorated with the traditional red and white poinsettias. Thanks to Father Ray! An addition this year was the Lithuanian Christmas tree. Thanks to Donna Koltko! The white hand-made straw ornaments were outstanding and added a new dimension to our Christmas celebration at St. Anthony's.



Donna Koltko of C-135 Ansonia made the ornaments and decorated the Christmas tree in St. Anthony's Church.

C-135 was well represented at the annual Kūčios held in Waterbury and sponsored by the Lithuanian Community. President Olga Gray led the delegation comprised of Lil Chaplik, John Yudas, Al Shurkis, Al Barauskas, Helen Roman, Anne and John Sabulis, JP Sabulis, and Judge Joseph Chernauskas. It was like a large family affair. We appreciated observing the Lithuanian customs and partaking of food that is not common to our diet today.

Can't help but think of our two retired K of L members, Matilda and Walt Stachowicz, who are living in Florida. No snow to shovel or cold weather to endure! The arthritis should be better too!

The weather is getting better; spring is coming. It is time for all you members who were not around for some time to stop by and say "Hello" again. We need your ideas and participation to put new life into our endeavors. We have many projects

coming up and now is the time to get involved.

NAKTIES PELĒDA

C-140 — SYRACUSE

October 3, 1987, Theresa Petrauskas, C-140 member, was married to Steve Contons in Boston. Theresa is the daughter of Irene and Frank Petrauskas, K of L National President. Steve is the son of Helen and Steve Contons, long-time members of C-17 Boston. The wedding ceremony was performed by Father Al Contons, former K of L National Spiritual Advisor. It was a beautiful ceremony. The reception was held at the Habitat with its very lovely grounds. We wish Theresa and Steve many happy years of wedded bliss.

Frank Petrauskas attended and represented the K of L in the closing



On Oct. 3, 1987 Theresa Petrauskas, C-140 Syracuse member, was married to Steve Contons in Boston. Theresa is the daughter of Irene and Frank Petrauskas, K of L National President. Steve is the son of Helen and Steve Contons, long-time members of C-17 Boston.

ceremonies of the 600th Anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago on Thanksgiving weekend.

December 17, C-140 held its annual Kūčios with a nice group of members and guests in attendance. Veronica Sutkus was chairman. She was ably assisted by Dawn Rudd and Irene Petrauskas. The girls cooked a delicious meal which was enjoyed by all.

On February 14, C-140 members attended Mass at St. Stephen's Church in honor of Lithuanian Independence. After Mass there was a program with readings given by John Stanley and Frank Petrauskas. Refreshments were then served by Cassie Stanley who put on a nice spread.

It was at this affair that we signed up the Fink family to our council. Phil and Mary along with son Chris and daughter Cathy are a welcome addition to our council. We also welcome Vytis subscribers Karen Elias and Joan Patrick.

Our St. Casimir's celebration was held on March 6 with a Mass at St. Stephen's and a brunch at the Ramada Inn. There was a nice turnout which made for a very enjoyable day.

June Johnson had a hip operation on March 3. She is mending nicely. She enjoyed the company of the members who visited with her. Katherine Cravetts was under the weather for awhile during the winter but has recovered and is up and around.

There were 13 members who attended the Mid-Atlantic meeting in Scranton on March 13. All enjoyed the fine hospitality of the host council C-74 and the fellowship of the large group of people in attendance.

The Lord has taken our dear Sister M. Anne Adams-Adamavičius. Sister Anne died on March 10. She will always be remembered and loved

by C-140 members because she was a living saint. She was a member of C-140, joining in recent years after working many years with the lepers in Molokai in Hawaii. Upon returning to the Franciscan Motherhouse in Syracuse, she started many Rosary Groups and was noted for her visits to the poor and needy. She made daily phone calls to speak to and pray with shut-ins. May your soul rest in peace dear Sister Anne.

Pusbrolis

C-141 — BRIDGEPORT

C-141 ended 1987 on a very happy note by celebrating a family style Kūčios on December 13. Msgr. Francis Pranckus and President Clemencine Miller were in charge.

We are very proud of Msgr. Pranckus who was named 1987 Lithuanian of the Year by the Lithuanian Young Men's Club of Bridgeport. He was feted at a banquet in his honor. Jonas Balčius made a video tape of the affair, and council members watched the tape at our January meeting which also featured a pot-luck luncheon.

An active 1988 program is in progress. Our talented Gintarė Ivaška is conducting Lithuanian weaving classes at the home of President Miller. The class is attended by eight ladies who can now truly appreciate the patient care and skill of their female ancestors.

Our dear professor from New York, Vitalis Zakauskas, again agreed to teach weekly Lithuanian language classes in the coming spring.

Lithuanian Independence Day was celebrated on February 21. The guest speaker was Pijus J. Nasvytis. There was a very entertaining dance program by Vėtra. Nancy Miro and

Barbara Schmidt are members of this dance group. They are looking forward to participating in the 1988 Šokių Šventė in Hamilton, Ontario.

The profit from the St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast on March 22 was donated to the St. Casimir's Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome. Dalia Bulvičius was the honored speaker.

A workshop in Margučiai, the traditional egg decorating, was held.

On Sunday, May 22, an afternoon dinner dance is being planned. Joe Thomas from New York will provide the music. We hope that several K of L councils in the area will be able to attend.

Barbara Schmidt

C-142 — WASHINGTON

Council 142 started off the year with a meeting in St. Dominic's Church on January 24 to set the agenda for 1988. A reception followed.

Commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day began with a reception at the Lithuanian Legation on February 16. Council 142 and the Lithuanian American Community were invited to join Charge d'Affaires Stasys Lozoraitis and Mrs. Lozoraitis in the celebration. The reception was a fabulous affair. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment. A young Lithuanian group in national dress sang Lithuanian songs and concluded with the Lithuanian Himnas.

On Sunday, the 21st, the commemoration continued with a 10 o'clock Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral. Following Mass, C-142 invited other Lithuanian groups to join in a wreath-laying ceremony at Kosciusko's monument in Lafayette Park. In the afternoon, a reception by



The Washington area members of C-142 enjoyed a holiday fest at home of Daiva & Jim Miller. The late Dr. Constantine Jurgela is shown in discussion with Albert Cizauskas, popular journalist from the Council.

the Lithuanian American Community, to which all Lithuanian groups were invited, was held at the Ukrainian Shrine Hall where an entertaining program was performed. One of the outstanding groups was from the University of Maryland who folk danced for the guests.

During this period, Council 142 welcomed four new members: John and Jennifer Legler of Great Falls, Virginia, and Michael and Audrone Pakštys, also of Great Falls.

Julia Burlen



Victor and Evelyn Prep, co-chairman of Anthracite C-144 commemoration, presenting proclamation from House of Representatives, as well as one from the Senate, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to President Joseph Yezulinas.

C-144 — ANTHRACITE

Anthracite Council opened the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Lithuania's independence with a Freedom Vigil in Annunciation BVM Church in Frackville followed by a dinner-dance in the church hall on February 21.

John Domalakes presided at the Freedom Vigil. "Šiluvos Marija" Choir under the direction of Jean Straka with Eileen Barlow at the organ opened the service with "Marija, Marija." Anna Zaldaris read Psalm 26. The Gospel by Rev. Gerald Gobitas, pastor Annunciation, followed.

While Joseph Yezulinas sang "Ave Maria," the Junior Knights, Victoria Lee Prep, Gretchen Cieslukowski, Janine Graziano and Cathy Vernusky, dressed in national costume, in procession presented Wayside Shrines and lighted candles in memory of Lithuania's unsung heroes who fought for freedom. From these candles, the Junior Knights carried the flame to those assembled. Esther Bartashus read a short history of Lithuania as the candles burned as a memo-

rial to our heritage.

Coordinator John Domalakes presented Patricia Rounds who read a prayer from prison by Victor Petkus.

The four Junior Knights recited verses from "Mary, Save Us," from a prayer booklet written by four girls in a Siberian prison.

The final reading by Sister Paulina was an excerpt from the writings of Nijolė Sadūnaitė.

The vigil was concluded with the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament with Father Gobitas assisted by Spiritual Advisor Rev. Matthew Jarasunas and Rev. Edward Zamanik.

Selections by the choir included "Šiluvos Marijai," "Lietuva Brangi," and "Dieve, Kaip Didingas" as well as the Lithuanian Benediction Hymns.

Dinner in the church hall followed with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a gourmet meal served by Granny's of Frackville. President Joseph Yezulinas welcomed the 190 members and guests. Spiritual Advisor Rev. Jarasunas asked the dinner blessing. Victor Prep, co-chairman, gave the toast. Leonard Chaikowsky served as master of ceremonies.

In his address, Father Gobitas requested that "with renewed dedication we make our fellow Americans more aware of the plight of our fellow Lithuanians" and admonished us "each day to lift up these people to the Lord. They are suffering."

The proclamation of the Schuylkill County Commissioners was read by Joseph Martunas. He announced that the Lithuanian flag flew over the Schuylkill County Court House on February 16.

Victor Prep presented the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Proclamations for Lithuanian independence commemoration through the courtesy of Senator Rhoades and Representative Lucyk.

Program ended with benediction by Rev. Robert Potts, pastor St. George, Shenandoah. The Dennis Hardock Orchestra provided music for dancing.

An inspiring Freedom Vigil, delicious dinner, an informative program and dancing to Denny's music made the 1988 commemoration by Anthracite Council a truly enjoyable afternoon and early evening. Evelyn and Victor Prep with an energetic committee co-chaired the commemoration.



Victoria Lee Prep and Gretchen Cieslukowski, Junior Knights C-144 participated in Anthracite Council Freedom Vigil.

Anthracite Council celebrated St. Casimir's Day with a Lithuanian Mass at Our Lady of Šiluva Church in Maizeville. Spiritual Advisor Rev. Matthew Jarasunas offered the Mass in memory of deceased members. the Lithuanian hymns were sung by the newly-formed Knights Šiluvos Marijos Choir under the direction of Jean Straka with Eileen Barlow at the organ.

Evelyn and Victor Prep prepared and served a delicious luncheon. President Joseph Yezulinas presided. Anne Wargo spoke on the life of St. Casimir and urged everyone to follow

his example.

We extend our deepest sympathy to our charter member Helen Ambrose on the death of her brother Stanley, a member of C-144. Helen was a very active member until her recent illness.

We were shocked at the sudden death of Joseph Petrosky, one of our most dependable workers, always ready and willing to help. Joe attended district and national conventions. His death was a great loss to Council 144.

Father Jarasunas and President Yezulinas conducted the Knights Wake Service in Lithuanian at both viewings. Members joined in the prayers.

Thirty-four members attended the Mid-Atlantic St. Casimir's Luncheon and Spring Convention at Scranton. Our thanks to the Scranton Council for their hospitality.

The monthly Lithuanian Mass is held on the last Sunday of each month at Our Lady of Šiluva Church in Maizeville, post office Gilberton, Route 54. Anyone visiting the area is welcome to attend the Mass at noon and the social in the church hall. Our Palm Sunday Mass was well attended.

AKW

C-147 — ST. PETERSBURG

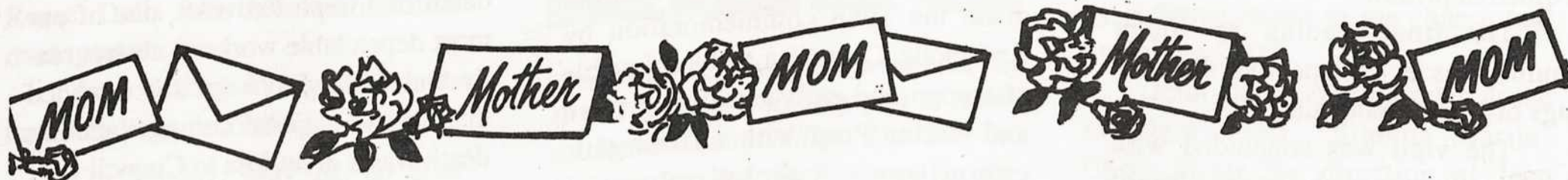
Lietuvos Vyčių 147-toji kuopa St. Petersburg, FL nutarė suorganizuoti didžias iškilmes š.m. kovo 3 d., 4 val. p.p. Lietuvių klubo salėje. Šalia kasmetinės patrono šv. Kazimiero šventės, kuopa mini savo dešimt metų veiklos sukaktį (kuopa įsteigta 1978-I-28). Be to, Lietuvos Vyčių organizacija šiemet švenčia savo didystės 75-kių metų organizavimo jubiliejų. Jungties kelią su kenčiančia tėvyne Lietuva pajėgia

LITHUANIAN INFORMATION
CENTER
5620 S CLAREMONT
CHICAGO, IL 60636

VYTIS

5112 S. Mayfield
Chicago, IL 60638

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pristatyti Sibiro kankinys prof. Vytautas Skuodis, kuris atvyksta su paskaita į Vyčių šventę ir į lietuvių koloniją.

Iškilmių programoje: banketas-pietūs, paskaita ir meninė dalis, kurią atlieka muz. A. Mateikos vadovaujamas "Vyčių Dainos" vienetas. Be to, Vyčių kuopa išleidžia įdomų 36 puslapių leidinį, kuris trumpai supažindina su organizacijos 75-kių metų ir 10-ties metų veikla, talpina sveikinimus ir vietos lietuvių bei amerikiečių pasireiškimus.

Iškilmingos pamaldos kovo 6 d. Šv. Vardo bažnyčioje, 1 val. p.p., dalyvaujant Vyčių vėliavai ir abiejų Šaulių kuopų vėliavoms.

Švęsdami 75 m. jubiliejų, širdingai sveikiname Lietuvos Vyčių organizacijos vadovaujančius pareigūnus. Su pagarba vertiname Vyčių garbingą, plačios apimties ir savistovią veiklą.

Mūsų 147 kuopos jubiliejiniais metais ryžtasi sustiprinti veiklą, padidinti narių skaičių ir toliau artimai bendradarbiauti su organizacijomis ir asmenimis. Aštuonių liet. organizacijų pirmininkai kolonijoje yra ir vyčiai.

Victoria Kleiva



K of L Calendar

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| May 15, 1988 | - 75th Anniversary K of L Celebration, Lawrence, MA |
| May 15, 1988 | - 75th Anniversary Dinner-Dance, Council 3 Philadelphia, PA |
| May 21, 1988 | - Marian Pilgrimage to Washington, DC. Leaving Annunciation Church, Brooklyn, NY at 6:30 am Sponsored by Council 41, Brooklyn, NY |
| May 20-22, 1988 | - Mid-Central Convention & Bowling Tournament Host: Council 19, Pittsburgh, PA |
| May 22, 1988 | - Dinner & Dance. Music by Joe Thomas. Council 141, Bridgeport, CT |
| June 4, 1988 | - Supreme Council Meeting, Washington, DC |
| June 5, 1988 | - MAD Meeting - Host Council 41, Brooklyn, NY |
| June 17-19, 1988 | - NED Weekend Retreat - Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME |
| July 28-31, 1988 | - 75th National Convention, Sheraton-Washington Hotel, Washington, DC |
| August 14, 1988 | - 74th Annual Lithuanian Day, Rocky Glen Park, Moosic, PA |
| September 18, 1988 | - Council 152 Riverhead, NY - Festival held in Greenport, NY |
| October 9, 1988 | - MAD Meeting - Host Council 90, Kearny, NJ |
| November 5, 1988 | - Annual Fall Dance - Council 90, Kearny, NJ |
| November 6, 1988 | - Fall Festival - Council 79, Southfield, MI |