



VYTIŠ

1989

The Knights
of Lithuania



EDUARDAS KRASAUSKAS

We Honor Our Blessed Mother

VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

GEGUŽIS/MAY

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EDITORIAL

The month of May is dedicated to honor the Blessed Mother of God and also our own Mothers whether living or deceased. A mother's love is given without reservation or restraint. The month of May is dedicated to honor the Blessed Mother of God and also our own Mothers whether living or deceased. A mother's love is given without reservation or restraint. It grows by its giving. We have a special feast called Mother's Day. On this occasion we honor our deceased mothers with our prayers and living mothers with gifts. All mothers certainly deserve this attention. Therefore, we wish all our mothers a very HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.

THE FOUR REGIONS OF LITHUANIA

Part IV SUVALKIJA

Suvalkija is located in the southwestern part of Lithuania, vaguely, from the lower regions of the Nemunas River to the mouth of the Šešupe River and bordering with what was once East Prussia and Poland. Some of its principal cities include Mariampole, Šakiai, Kudirkos Naumiestis, Kybartai, Virbalis, Kalvarija, Kazlu Ruda and Vilkaviškis.

Many centuries ago, Suvalkija was the northernmost part of Suduva, an area inhabited by a western Baltic tribe known as the Sudavians, whose region extended far into Slavic territory. Unfortunately, they were the victims of ceaseless invasions and attacks by the more powerful Teutonic Knights and Slavs, and were eventually annihilated in the 13th century. In the 15th-18th centuries, Suduva was inhabited by people coming from other parts of Lithuania. While there have been variants of the region's name, the accepted Lithuanian variant is Suduva, a name that is applied to the southern portion of Lithuania west of the Nemunas River. However, the formal, and more familiar, name of this region is Suvalkija.

The city of Gardinas was one of the first settlements of Suduva, dating back to the 4th century. Vytautas the Great intermittently lived here at one of the castles. Saint

Casimir, Patron Saint of Lithuania, died in the Royal Palace in Gardinas on March 4, 1484 and his remains were moved to the Vilnius Cathedral. Gardinas is no longer a part of Lithuania. At the end of World War II, it was made part of the Belorussian Soviet Republic and its name was changed to Grodno.

The town of Suvalkai, another part of the historical Lithuanian region of Suduva, is now a part of Poland, as is the city of Seinai, which was an important Lithuanian cultural center in the period prior to World War I. Bishop Antanas Baranauskas, the famous poet, writer and mathematician, was appointed Bishop of Seinai in 1897 and served until his death in 1902. He was interred in the Cathedral at Seinai. His most famous and beloved poem was "Anykščių Šilelis" (The Forest of Anykščiai) which is treasured by all Lithuanians.

What was once the Lithuanian region of Suduva is now divided among Lithuania, Poland and Belorussia. Justinas Marcinkevičius, one of today's well-known poets, best described the misfortunes of the Lithuanian nation with these words: "Lithuania is like a loaf of bread. Whoever wanted a slice of it, just cut it off and kept it for themselves."

The dialects and linguistic characteristics of the

A typical farm house in Suvalkija. The roof is made of red tile compared to the straw used on the roofs of homesteads in other regions of Lithuania.





The interior of a typical farm house in Suvalkija.

inhabitants of the four regions of Lithuania survived until the latter half of the 19th century primarily because the conditions of serfdom severely restricted the movement of the biggest majority of them.

Following the restoration of independence in 1918, the need for a uniform language for all Lithuanians became a top priority. It is interesting to note that the dialect spoken by the people of Suvalkija formed the basis for the official language of the nation, for this dialect was the closest to a phonetic language. Jonas Jablonskis (1860-1930), noted linguist, is considered by many as "The Father of the Lithuanian Language" because of his enormous contributions to the formation of the standard language.

If a person visiting Lithuania would like to get a broader knowledge of its history, then a visit to the Country Life Museum in Rumšiškės should be made part of the itinerary. It would be an educational experience and it would make one wonder how it could have been possible for the Lithuanians of that era to enjoy life and still survive without the modern conveniences that we enjoy and take so much for granted today.

FOLK STORIES OF LITHUANIA

Over the years many humorous stories have been told about the inhabitants of the four regions of Lithuania Dzukija, Aukštaitija, Žemaitija and Suvalkija and about their different characteristic traits and behavior that would make them more easily distinguishable from one another

and because of this, how they would react in certain situations.

A Dzukas, a resident of Dzukija, is known to be very sincere, and hospitable but tends to be more easily scared.

An Aukštaitis, a resident of Aukštaitija, is more restrained and more even tempered.

A Žemaitis, a resident of Žemaitija, is more reserved, cautious, modest and strong-willed, also the most stubborn because he was the last of the Lithuanians to accept Christianity.

A Suvalkietis, a resident of Suvalkija, is known to be the most proud, and rich but a little stingy.

Here is one of the folk stories that describes the character of each one of these Lithuanians:

Once upon a time, the devil was carrying four Lithuanians in a sack and was on his way to Hell. One was a Dzukas, one an Aukštaitis, one a Žemaitis and the fourth was a Suvalkietis. The voice of God thundered from the heavens and commanded the devil to open the sack and release these innocent people. The devil was very tired from carrying such a heavy sack and decided to put it on the ground and untied it. The devil then sat down to see what would happen next.

The first person, the Dzukas, jumped out of the sack and dashed away swiftly into the woods. The second person, the Aukštaitis, climbed out of the sack, tidied up his clothes, said "Thank you" to the devil and went on his way. The third person, the Suvalkietis, climbed out, went behind a clump of bushes and waited.

The devil sat in amazement and wondered what happened to the fourth Lithuanian. He looked into the

sack and saw that the Žemaitis was calmly sitting in the bottom of the sack. "Why aren't you coming out, like the others?" asked the devil. The Žemaitis, this stubborn Lithuanian, looked the devil right in the eye and replied, "You put me in here and you will take me out."

The devil then noticed that the Suvalkietis was still hiding behind the clump of bushes. He asked him: "What are you doing here?" The Suvalkietis replied: "I am waiting for everybody to get out of the sack. I will then take it and keep it for myself."

It is refreshing that the Lithuanians have a good sense of humor and enjoy a folk story that will make them laugh. here is another version of a folk story that shows the different characteristics of their people but in a different situation.

One day, a man was walking along the road. A Dzukas was riding along in his horse and wagon and stopped the horse as he drew alongside the man and shouted: "Come to me and I will give you a ride. Come, sit next to me. We will chat and this will shorten your journey. Why should you walk?" The man replied, "No thanks. I do not

have much further to walk."

Next, an Aukštaitis came along in his horse drawn wagon. He stopped the horse and said, "May I give you a ride?" The man replied, "No thank you" and the Aukštaitis went on his way.

Now a Žemaitis came along with his horse and wagon. As he came up to the man, he saw that he did not know who he was and since he did not ask for a ride, he went on his way.

The last one to come along with his horse and wagon was a Suvalkietis. He went by without stopping. A few yards away, he stopped the horse and shouted, "You see that I have a horse and wagon. Why on earth don't you ask me for a ride?"

These are just some of the folk stories that I heard during my travels in Lithuania. It sure is wonderful that the Lithuanian people enjoy a good laugh. There are probably many more versions of these same folk stories.

Edward Baranauskas



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 13, 1989

Dear Ms. Wargo:

I want to thank you and the members of the Knights of Lithuania for your thoughtful message and prayers. Barbara and I appreciate your kind words. They will continue to mean a great deal to us as we face the many challenges and opportunities before our country.

We are grateful for your support. God bless you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Anna Klizas Wargo
President
Knights of Lithuania
125 South Morris Street
St. Clair, Pennsylvania 17970

STAKING OUT ONE'S JOURNALISTIC LITHUANIAN TURF; English Language Editors Unite!

Rev. William Wolkovich-Valkavicius

On my desk lie copies of VYTIS, BRIDGES, BALTIC BULLETIN and the OBSERVER - each vying for my attention! The combined readership of these publications, I suppose, is upwards of 20,000. As a historian, I need to receive these and many other papers. Meanwhile, one wonders how many readers subscribe to more than one of the above.

Doubtless, the editors and their sponsors would leap at the chance to double or triple their present 4,000 or so readers. It seems, though, that there is impeding and needless overlapping. What is the solution?

First, let's briefly identify each publication. The Vytis dates from 1915 and is primarily a house organ for the Knights. The heavily ethnic Bridges came on the scene in 1977, the child of the Lithuanian-American Community of the U.S.A., Inc., known as "Bendruomenė" in Lithuanian circles. Headquartered in Los Angeles, the politically-weighted Baltic Bulletin of 1981 origin is "The Voice of the Baltic Freedom League", as its masthead shows. The rookie on the horizon is the Chicago-based Observer, backed by the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation.

Hardly a month goes by when each of these papers duplicates or echoes an entry of a competitor. Yet all have related goals to inform second, third and fourth generation Lithuanian Americans about their ancestral heritage, and about contemporary events in the Lithuanian community both here and in the homeland.

To offset toiling at cross-purposes, would it not be judicious to have a "gentleman's (should we say 'person's?') agreement" among the editorial boards to pursue wisely divided goals? This ideal might prompt many to subscribe to all four journals, since each would specialize enough to warrant separate attention. Here is a possible plan of exclusivity.

The Baltic Bulletin alone sticks to strictly political news. This should be recognized and honored. The other papers would still print such information, but only as it specifically relates to its own sponsoring agent. Bendruomenė assumes the role of cultural promotion. Thus, Bridges could emphasize aspects of past and present Lithuanian achievements in the arts and sciences. The Observer could voice its distinct religious concerns and inform about events of the day from that perspective. The Vytis would remain a house organ, while touching briefly on a variety of issues from the Knights' angle.

To reach this proposed purpose, each editor could summarize one's vision of his or her publication, and share it with the other journalists. Out of this, one hopes, there would emerge a consensus. A single person-to-person session could seal the agreement about the "turf" of each.

Put simply, each paper must be different enough to prompt many Lithuanian Americans eagerly to take on several more subscriptions. Otherwise, the questionable competition continues, to little advantage for anyone.

IN MEMORIAM

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OUR LADY OF SILUVA

...the first widely-known apparition of the Blessed Mother in Europe at Siluva, Lithuania, in 1608....

Lou Ann Rayn, C-150

Much has been said and written about Mary's appearances at Lourdes and Fatima, but very little is known about an apparition that took place two and a half centuries earlier in Lithuania, a small country on the Baltic Sea known as "the land of Mary" because of the great devotion of the populace and "the land of crosses" due to its many wayside shrines. Facts in this article are based on studies by the Rev. Stasys Yla of Putnam, CT, as published in a pamphlet by Rev. John C. Jutt and later revised by Rev. A. A. Jurgelaitis, O.P., publication of which was funded by the supreme council of the Knights of Lithuania, a Catholic fraternal order. There is, essentially, no present-day Lithuania, the country having been given to Russia as spoils of World War II.

Through the centuries, the Mother of God has demonstrated deep concern for the faithful entrusted to her by her dying son on Mount Calvary. From time to time, she appeared in different places throughout the world imparting a message of hope and salvation to troubled mankind. Early in the 17th century, she appeared in the tiny Baltic country of Lithuania, during one of that country's darkest hours. Šiluva is a small town in central Lithuania, with sandy, barren soil, overgrown with pine trees. In the Lithuanian language, "šilas" is a pine tree forest, hence the name of the place where our lady appeared to some small children, almost under the same circumstances as at Lourdes 250 years later. Sometimes, Šiluva is called "the Lourdes of Lithuania".

Lithuania first accepted Catholicism in 1251 when its King Mindaugas was baptized in the faith. Continual attacks and pillagings by the Teutonic Knights kept the faith from spreading until after 1410, when these knights were defeated by a Lithuanian, Vytautas the Great. Petras Giedgaudas, a pious noble and close confidante of Vytautas, built the first church in Šiluva, Lithuania in 1457, in honor of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. It is believed that Vytautas presented an image of the Madonna and Child Jesus, possibly brought from Rome, which held a revered place in the church. A replica of the famous St. Luke pictures of Mary, it is similar to the image of Mary now in the Church of Maria Maggiore in Rome, known as "Salus Populi Romani" (salvation of the Roman people).

This church soon became a place of fervent devotion to Our Lady and each September 8th, people from all over the country flocked there to commemorate the Virgin's birth. About 1497, the church burned down and in 1500, a new church was built on the site. However, a wave of Protestantism was sweeping Europe and a number of Lithuanian nobles accepted the Lutheran faith in 1532. A noble took possession of the church's lands, but it seems he did not take over the church, building a Lutheran chapel a short distance away. Lutheranism gave way to Calvinism in 1550 and a year later the Catholic church's property was sold to a staunch Calvinist. He, in turn, deeded them to the Calvinists on the condition that they build a brick church, a seminary and a home for the needy. The conditions were fulfilled in later years, as the seminary was open and functioning in 1608, at the time of the apparitions of Our Lady of Siluva.

It is not certain just when the Catholic church closed, since the Lithuanian peasants and poor farmers remained faithful to Catholicism, though the nobility, largely, did not. But after 1550, Calvinists began persecuting the Catholics, taking over or even burning many churches. It seems the Catholic church in Šiluva ceased to function about 1570, was either torn or burned down. But the last pastor had the foresight to remove the treasured image of the Madonna and Child, as well as some vestments and documents, placing them in a metal covered oaken chest and burying them secretly near a huge rock, about a half-mile from the church.

In 1558, a statute was passed giving Catholics the right to repossess the churches and property unjustly taken from them by the Calvinists. The Most Rev. Merkelis Giedraitis, Bishop of Žemaitija (a province of Lithuania) started legal proceedings to reclaim the churches and properties. A Rev. Jonas Kazakevičius successfully reclaimed a church in Kelme. He then sought documents to prove ownership of the church in Šiluva. But these were nowhere to be found.

Then one hot summer day in 1608, a group of farm children were playing around a huge rock, tending the flocks of their poor parents. Suddenly, they saw a woman with beautiful long hair, clothed in loose fitting garments, holding a child in her arms, standing on the rock. Tears flowed from her eyes. The children were too frightened to speak. A boy ran to the Calvinist catechist to relate what

they had seen and word of the lady spread rapidly through the countryside. The next day, the Calvinist catechist, the rector of the Calvinist seminary, and a great number of people assembled with the children in view of the rock. The Calvinist attributed the apparition to the devil. But even as he spoke, the woman appeared again. She held a child and tears rolled from her eyes, just as the day previous. The catechist, himself frightened, asked "Why are you crying?" The woman responded "Formerly in this place my Son was adored and honored, but now all that the people do is seed and cultivate the land." After saying this, she disappeared.

The people were dumbfounded. Then a very old, blind man gave this explanation: "Think what you will but I say to you that on this rock appeared not the devil as the Calvinists would have us believe, but the Most Blessed Virgin with her son in whose honor once stood the old Catholic church which was destroyed many years before."

News of the strange event spread throughout the land and the local bishop sent Fr. Kazakevičius to investigate. Apparently satisfied, the bishop issued no statement denying the apparitions. Still, the important documents needed to reclaim the property could not be found. Again, the old blind man spoke, relating how there once had been a Catholic church in Šiluva, how it was destroyed and adding that the last pastor had buried the image of the Madonna and Child, the vestments and the documents. Fr. Kazakevičius asked to be shown the place. The blind man was led to the spot next to the rock on which the Blessed Virgin had appeared and miraculously his sight began to return. (This was the first miracle recorded after the apparitions). He then fell to his knees, kissed the ground and thanked God for the grace granted him. Next, he pointed out where to dig for the documents.

Sure enough, it was there that the metal covered oaken chest was found, containing the image of the Madonna and Child, the vestments and the documents. Father Kazakevičius instituted legal proceedings to return the property and treasures in 1612 but it wasn't until 1622 that the Tribunal at Vilnius decided in favor of the Catholics at Šiluva.

In 1624, having been appointed pastor in Šiluva, Fr. Kazakevičius built a small wooden church, installing the picture of the Madonna and Child in a place of honor. Multitudes of pilgrims flocked to the holy place, and a larger church was built in 1641. Consecrated in 1651, it served for almost 140 years. On Sept. 7, 1786, a new stone church of renaissance style was solemnly consecrated. Interestingly, by 1671 so many gold and

silver votives have been attached to the "Miraculous Image" that they were melted down and used to decorate the picture.

The number of pilgrims to Šiluva increased, and extraordinary graces were experienced. Miracles happened. The faithful would visit the rock on which Our Lady appeared, touch it, kneel before it and pray, and adorn it with flowers. This increasing devotion prompted the Bishop to have a small wooden chapel built around the rock in 1663. It served the faithful until 1818 when a more spacious one was erected. In 1912, an even larger chapel was begun, but due to World War I, it was not completed until 1924. The altar was built over the spot where the Virgin had appeared. The faithful would go around the rock on their knees, kissing the part which remained visible.

Sometime between 1770 and 1775, a marble statue of the Virgin was made in London and placed in the chapel on the rock. It was publicly crowned on Sept. 3, 1886 and carried the title "Health of the Sick". Many of the faithful who prayed before it experienced health of soul as well as body through Mary's intercession. Years later, another statue replaced the original, but the old statue and altar built over the rock are preserved in the closed chapel of the church. Devotion to Our Lady of Šiluva had approval of the Bishops of the diocese through the years, with papal approval being given by Pope Pius VI in 1775. On Sept. 8, 1786, in the presence of four Bishops, a few senators, many noblemen and over 30,000 faithful, a pure gold crown was solemnly placed upon the miraculous image.

Wondering why the apparitions at Šiluva are not better known in the Catholic world, one must remember that in 1795 the Great Partition put Lithuania under Russian domination. Until 1904 it was forbidden to teach the Lithuanian language, the press was suppressed, religious books could not be printed and special permission was required to travel any distance. In 1904, however, the Lithuanians rose in revolt against their Russian oppressors. Although Russia quelled the revolution, a number of restrictions were removed and Lithuania was given more freedom. In 1905 pilgrimages to Šiluva resumed, with over 30,000 people visiting in the first year. Then on Feb. 16, 1918, Lithuania proclaimed her independence to the entire world. Devotion began to spread even more. On the feast and octave of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin (Sept. 8), almost 100,000 flocked to the shrine. During the years of Lithuania's

independence, the shrine became better known among Europeans and many made long trips to visit Siluva.

In 1940, Soviet Russia again invaded Lithuania, persecuting the Catholic Church and imposing a materialistic, atheistic philosophy. Many churches were closed. Heavy taxes have been imposed on those remaining open. A third of Lithuania's population has either been massacred or exiled to Siberia or other strange lands. But the atheistic repression has not destroyed devotion to Our Lady of Siluva. During the eight days of celebration of the feast of Mary's nativity, Sept. 8 to 15, 40 to 50 priests and 30 to 50 thousand people visit the site despite

many restrictions and harassments by Soviet authorities. There is even a 10-kilometer "Silent Procession" established by younger Catholics and intellectuals, where the rosary is recited softly by as many as 10,000 marchers, to atone for the sins of the nation.

Probably one of every 60 Lithuanian Catholic dares to visit the shrine each year. Their faith in Mary is firm and strong. If in 1608 she saved Lithuania from Protestantism for her Son and His church, perhaps ardent devotion to Our Lady of Siluva today will free Lithuania entirely from the tight grip of Soviet Communism.

(In the United States, various forms of tribute to Our Lady of Siluva - stained glass windows, bas reliefs, etc., can be found in the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Marquette Park section of Chicago; St. Peter & Paul Church, Elizabeth, NJ; the Motherhouse of Sisters of Immaculate Conception in Putnam, CT; the Marianapolis Prep School in Thompson, CT, and a unique shrine built in Lithuanian style by members of Immaculate Conception Church, East St. Louis, IL.)



CAMP NERINGA W. BRATTLEBORO, VT

"Why didn't anyone tell me about NERINGAE before?" lamented a 16 yr. old, who just completed a two week session at Camp Neringa in the hills of Vermont. Why the regret? Only because campers graduate from Neringa at 16. The first year of camping was the last year for this individual, with deep regrets.

The Lithuanian sisters from Putnam administrate and run NERINGA for the entire summer. There is only one two-week session in the English language for children of Lithuanian heritage. The children are grouped according to age (7-16 years old) and attend various activities in small groups. The activities vary from Lithuanian arts, crafts, folk singing, folk dancing, history, current events, learning about important people and significant places together with a dabble of the language itself. There are other regular camp activities such as nature, hikes, swimming, sports, etc. Everything is geared to acquiring a greater understanding of one's heritage and knowledge of the significance of Lithuanian today.

This year's session is from July 30 to August 12. NERINGA is celebrating her 20th birthday this summer and is inviting any graduate camper or counselor to come for a reunion August 12-13. For additional information contact:

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All other program points will be conducted in Lithuanian. The teachers are experienced and will utilize a good practical approach. The cost of the camp and course is very reasonable.

Time: August 6-11. Place: Lithuanian Camp Dainava, Manchester, MI. For additional information, contact:

B. Krokys
1124 Hedgerow Lane
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(215) 671-0397

IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY.....

*Norkunas, laiškė pirmininkui Vasilauskui (10/11/50):
"Tamstai svarbiausiu dalyku patariu: Laikykis kaip galima lietuviškumo, kad ir Centro reikaluose, jogei visi Centro nariai dar gerai supranta tėvų kalbą, taip gi ir Tamsta. Niekas negali nuspėti pagal rašymo, jog Amerikoj gimęs. Baisiausiai piktinuous Vyčiais jog jau ne lietuviai nors lietuvių vaikai."*

HELP THIS "MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY"

Victor G. Mathieu

After having had the moving experience of visiting with the Charge d'Affaires, S. Lozoraitis, at the Lithuanian Embassy on Sixteenth St. in Washington, DC, I was asked by delegates from the New England District who, along with myself, were attending the 75th Jubilee National Convention, for impressions of my visit. They were shocked and stunned when I told them that it would have been better had I not gone; that I was dismayed at the physical appearance of the Embassy. My heart was broken when I noticed the Lithuanian flag twisted, torn, ends frayed wrapped around the staff. The circular drive leading to the entrance in need of resurfacing. In the foyer, immediately upon entering the Embassy, on the right, a most beautiful mural depicting the Lithuanian signing of the Declaration of Independence, of life size dimension, that could be brought back from its shaded condition. The three story building, from quick observation, is in dire straits. It needs rejuvenation - sprucing up - a complete renaissance - overhaul.

The delegates and members of my family looked at me in utter disbelief. I tried to call it as I saw it, not to ridicule, but to awaken in them the sense of pride, that something had to be done. They did not believe me. On our way to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, our bus traveled on Sixteenth St. I implored the driver to slow down when on our left the Embassy came into view. The passengers saw for themselves the Lithuanian flag and the circular drive as described to them previously.

The delegation to the Embassy was very graciously received by the Charge d'Affaires, Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr. His greeting, warm and in a jovial manner made you feel at home. It was not a duty for him, it was a pleasure, he made you feel welcome. His exuberance was shown when he dashed to a nearby bookcase and showed us a diplomatic publication called "Dossier", about the size of Time or Sports Illustrated. With beaming pride, rising as tall as Arvydas Sabonis, he turned to Pg. 37. For the first time, Lithuania had made this magazine. A featured story appeared entitled "Man Without a Country" by Tom McNichol. He was so pleased that he could show us this issue. Never before had a Baltic nation made "Dossier". This issue contained the yearly listing of "Ambassador Profiles". Mr. Lozoraitis picture was on Pg. 75. Only Latvia made it on Pg. 74. No explanation why Estonia was not listed. His photo was taken in front of the mural

depicting the men signing Lithuania's Independence. I was anxious to get a copy of this magazine and when I did, I cherished it as much as Fr. Valkavicius 75 Years of Knights of Lithuania in America.

To my amazement and surprise, I read the article "Man Without a Country" and noted it was more to the point than I described regarding the physical condition, the decor, the furnishings in the Embassy but most of all the insurmountable task that is sought of the Charge d'Affaires. He describes his many roles of being caretaker, gardener, secretary, receptionist, telephone operator and general handyman. The duties of Mr. Lozoraitis are not only confined to the Embassy, he also serves the Lithuanian government in exile as Ambassador to the Vatican.

It pained me to read Mr. McNichol quoting "This is diplomacy on the cheap", "Second floor reception room contains two chairs and a lumpy sofa", and "he can be seen pulling up weeds from the front lawn". These conditions should not continue. Several years ago, about \$200,000 was collected to make the Embassy more livable. I'm told, this money was spent on roof, electrical and plumbing facilities.

Our National Day is February 16. The Embassy doors are open for greetings from Ambassadors, Charge d'Affaires, Attaches and others. One would hope that the representative of the Holy Father, Archbishop Pio Laghi would not be forced to sit on the "lumpy sofa".

There are affluent Lithuanians all over America - from Chicago to California to Florida. Many foundations exist. Lithuanians support many organizations. Listing them would amount to a long litany. Large financial reserves are the envy of everyone but "pinigu" is needed now - not in the future.

We accomplished an excellent and commendable project in collecting money for several years for the refurbishing of the Statue of Liberty. An old axiom comes to mind, "Well ordained charity begins with oneself". Is it not about time that we should concentrate on the Embassy restoration. The Embassy in Washington, DC is your diamond. It is in need if a new setting; the amber stone must be polished. The Embassy must shine among the Jewels of other Embassies and legations. Ways and means must and should be found to provide adequate housing and help for our Charge d'Affaires. Lithuanians, come to the aid of your Embassy in Washington, DC.

Lithuanians in the News



GOOD FRIENDS - Lithuanian student Ieva Barakauskaite (left) and her American host Ann Kolodner sing together during official welcoming ceremonies for the exchange students at John Carroll High School. *The Aegis*



DARCY ANN LAZAUSKAS
Photo: Vytautas Terway

Fifteen students from Lithuania were sent to Bishop John Carroll High School in Bel Air, MD on an exchange program. Their Principal, Vladislovas Kulvietism Baltramejus and their English teacher, Stefanija Kasiulaitis, accompanied them. They were here for three weeks. In April, a group from John Carroll High School went to Vilnius. All visitors were from Salomeja Neris High School.

The combination of academic ability, athletic prowess and beauty prove to be unbeatable for Houstonian Darcy Ann Lazauskas.

At the Texas Institute for the Deaf, Darcy won the academic athlete award excelling in volleyball, basketball and tennis. She is now in her third year of study at the National Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology (NTID) where she is studying fine arts. Upon completion of her studies she hopes to be either a commercial artist, artist or art teacher.

While in high school, Darcy won the Miss Deaf Awareness of Houston beauty pageant and was first runner up in the Miss Deaf Texas pageant. At college she placed fourth in the NTID beauty pageant. In January of this year Darcy competed in the World Games for the Deaf in Christ Church, New Zealand. The volleyball team lost its first game to the gold medal winners, West Germany, but went on to win all the games after that which brought them a silver medal. Darcy served 35 of the teams 45 points.

In addition to her other athletic accomplishments, Darcy plays with a deaf travelling softball team. They play in various Texas cities and in Louisiana. She was chosen most valuable swimmer on her subdivision swim team and won the coach's award.

Darcy has always been a goal setter and achiever. In December she achieved one of her goals: she made the normal hearing volleyball team at NTID, a highlight of her life.

Keep your eye on this bright star in the Lithuanian sky for the games in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1993.

Lithuanians in the News (Cont'd)



ARVYDAS PETRAS ZYGAS



STUDENT FROM LITHUANIA ATTENDS UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

The University of Pittsburgh has what is believed to be a first, certainly in this generation. Gintas Vilkelis, a 19-year-old sophomore physics student from University of Lithuania, is attending the University on a scholarship from the University Honors College.

Bryan Beatty, an Honors College student, met Gintas at the 18th International Physics Olympiad in Jena, E. Germany, in July 1987. The two students from the American and Soviet teams became close friends. After returning to the US, Bryan attended the University of Pittsburgh, where he and Dr. Alec Stewart, dean of the Honors College, initiated the process of obtaining a scholarship for Gintas. This effort culminated in Gintas' arrival in Pittsburgh on January 3, 1989. Within a few days, he moved into a student dormitory and began a full schedule of courses. Gintas will be a student at Pitt for one academic year; he is the first Lithuanian college student ever to be invited to an American university.

The Pittsburgh Lithuanians have taken an interest in Gintas. They are extending hospitality to him so that he can easily adapt to living in a U.S. college environment.

John W. Kuncas

Arvydas Petras Zygas, 29, recently earned a doctoral degree from University of Illinois Dept. of Chemistry was awarded a senior Fulbright Scholarship to the University of Vilnius in Lithuania. He will present a lectureship series and conduct research in the immunology of inflammation and biochemistry of inflammatory cells. Vilnius University, founded in 1579, is the oldest and among the most distinguished universities of Northeastern Europe; its faculty of law and medicine was established in 1641.

Zygas was selected for the first-time distinction on the basis of his impressive academic accomplishments and his approach as a scientist. He said he was especially pleased to have the opportunity to research and teach in Lithuania, where his parents were born and began careers in medicine and science that were interrupted by Nazi and Soviet occupations of independent Lithuania.

More than 150,000 scholars throughout the world have participated in the Fulbright Program since its inception in 1946. It is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious academic programs in the country.

Zygas was born on Chicago's Southwest Side and grew up in Cicero, IL. He is a 1977 graduate of Fenwick High School in Oak Park, IL. He earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology with distinction and went to earn a master's degree in chemistry from UIC in 1985. He is chairperson of ethnography and folklore at Lithuanian Institute of Education in Chicago and has traveled extensively throughout Europe and Latin America conducting ethnographic research on Lithuanian culture. In 1982 he founded and served as artistic director of Lithuanian Ethnographic Ensemble which has performed throughout the U.S. and Canada.

BROTHER JUNIPER



"Two dozen with mustard, Tony . . . and hurry!"

News from Lithuania

Catholic Magazine Published

Long Island Catholic writes that a new, legally published Catholic magazine called CATHOLIC WORLD has appeared in the Soviet republic of Lithuania.

According to Soviet news agency Tass, the magazine will be sold at state-run magazine stands. Tass also reported that the magazine will describe "different aspects of the faith and of Catholic morality, helping readers to study more deeply sacred Scripture and Catholic liturgy. It will also print comments and stories on the Lithuanian Church and on religious personalities.

The Vatican Radio said the new magazine will have a printing of 100,000 copies and is being published in connection with the Lithuanian bishops' conference.

MASS AFTER 40 YEARS Lithuanians Rejoice

Thousands of Lithuanians sang nationalist songs and shed tears of joy in a pre-dawn Mass held to celebrate the Soviet government's promised turnover of a 17th-century cathedral to the Roman Catholic Church, according to *Newsday*.

The cathedral was packed as Bishop Julijonas Steponavicius prostrated himself in front of the pillared altar in a reconsecration ceremony. Outside, several thousand people, some waving the newly reinstated red, yellow and green flag of pre-war independent Lithuania, listened to the Mass on loudspeakers.

The authorities agreed last October to return the cathedral amid signs of a warming in relations between church and state. Vilnius Cathedral was a center of Christianity in the Middle Ages and its confiscation by the officially atheist Soviet government angered many Lithuanians. It has been an art museum since 1950.

DID YOU KNOW!

One of the great leaders of the Lithuanian Army, who was born in Lithuania, Thaddeus Kosciusko, rallied the people of both Poland and Lithuania to resist the tyranny of those who wished to destroy their united countries.

LITHUANIAN BLAST KILLS 4

Newsday reported that four people were killed, more than 50 injured and about 30,000 evacuated as a result of an explosion at a Lithuanian factory during March that residents had long called a hazard, the government newspaper *Izvestia* said.

A huge container of ammonia exploded at the factory in the town of Ionava, sending colorless gas drifting toward three neighboring towns.

POPE NAMES 3 BISHOPS FOR LITHUANIA

New York Times reports that Pope John Paul II named three resident Bishops on March 10 for Soviet Lithuania, a step seen as an important symbol for Roman Catholics in that Baltic republic and also a hint that progressively closer relations may be developing between Moscow and the Holy See.

The Vatican maintains diplomatic relations with Lithuania's government in exile because it does not accept the absorption of Lithuania into the Soviet Union five decades ago. Mr. Lozoraitis, the Lithuanian charge d'affaires cautioned that complete Soviet recognition of the Roman Catholic Church in Lithuania remained a distant goal and that religious freedom was still greatly restricted for the republic's Catholics, estimated to number 3 million in a population of about 3.6 million.

The most significant appointment was that of Bishop Julijonas Steponavicius, 77 yrs. old, who will become Archbishop of Vilnius. As Archbishop of Lithuania's second largest city, Kaunas, the Pope selected Vincentas Cardinal Sladkevicius, and as Bishop of Telsiai he designated Msgr. Antanas Vaicius.

Apostolic administrators were appointed for the cities of Panevezys, Kaisiadorys and Vilkaviskis. The fast growing nationalist movement in Lithuania, which has no formal connection to the government in exile, has sought increased freedom for all religious groups.

Rev. Alexander Burba, a Priest for All Times (1854 - 1898)

God raises up heroic souls who heed His inspirations and offer their lives to accomplish His Will regardless of the cost to themselves. This was true of Rev. Alexander Burba, a Lithuanian activist who sailed to the United States in 1884 to be of service to Lithuanian immigrants in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

While in Lithuania, A. Burba had been an "Aušrininkas", that is, a "Dawn" promoter of Lithuania's self-assertion and self-realization in the popular movement for national rebirth. Made aware of their cultural past and worth as a people, Lithuanians sought separation from the Poles in the Church and in their daily life. Rev. Burba was determined to continue the aims of the Dawn Movement in his adopted country.

Upon his arrival to New York harbor, Rev. Burba, met by a group of Lithuanians who escorted him to Shenandoah, and then to Hazleton, PA, was met with hostility and rejection by the pro-Polish pastors and their supporters. However, undaunted by the experience, the young priest looked for a more favorable opening for his mission to the Lithuanians in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The first meaningful step was taken in the Diocese of Scranton where Bishop William O'Hara entrusted Rev. Alexander Burba with the task of forming a Lithuanian Parish and supervising the building of a church for the 800 Lithuanian Catholics in Plymouth, PA. St. Casimir's Church, built in 1890, was the first Lithuanian church built in the Diocese.

Rev. Burba proved to the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania that a good Catholic could also be a good Lithuanian Patriot, that both were compatible. From 1890 to 1894, he was elected president of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance, a fraternal organization formed to assist the people both here and abroad. As a writer, he contributed articles to Lithuanian newspapers. At every opportunity, he edited, translated and published words of encouragement and enlightenment. Through much labor and sacrifice, with spoken and written word, as a leader of the Lithuanian people, Rev. Burba succeeded in teaching them the beauty of their culture as God's gift of diversity to the inhabitants of earth, a gift to be loved and valued by all.

Although many parishes today, listed as Lithuanian, are using the English language in their services, to reach non-Lithuanian members, it does not mean that Lithuanian is no longer spoken. The Lithuanian language



KUNIGAS ALEKSANDRAS BURBA

and culture is very much alive. It is studied in colleges and universities, it is heard at ethnic camps and in special groups, and it is spoken in many homes. Where organists heed the requests of the people, traditional Lithuanian hymns are heard, especially during the Christmas and Easter Seasons.

Because of his love for Lithuania, her people and culture, Rev. Alexander Burba succeeded against seemingly impossible odds to preserve Lithuanian ethnic treasures for future generations. Lithuanians in America and abroad regard him a hero, a caring Christian, and a giant among men. A study of his life and activities will perpetuate his memory and instill a debt of gratitude in the hearts of millions.

Lithuanians everywhere are encouraged to visit the old cemetery in Plymouth to visit his grave. Inscribed on a huge monument are the words: "Here rests a pioneer whose faith will live forever." To Rev. Alexander Burba may be applied the words of the prophet Isais, "Behold my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles." (Matt. 15:18).

Rev. Alexander Burba, in response to the promptings of the Spirit, proclaimed justice for Catholic Lithuanians. He served them faithfully to the end of his short life. He died in 1898 at the age of 44 years. In that short span, he accomplished a gigantic work with which he was entrusted.

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SUKAKTUVINIAI METAI Apreiškimo Parapija, Brooklyn, NY



Kun. Jonas Pakalniškis, Apreiškimo parapijos klebonas.

Šiais metais Lietuvos Vyčiai 41 kuopa ir Apreiškimo parapija mimi savo gyvavimo ir veiklos 75 metų sukaktis. Tų asmenų kurių dėka ši vyčių kuopa ir parapija buvo įsteigta, mūsų tarpe jau nėra; jie senai jau į amžinybės ribų yra iškeliavę. Jų palikuonių galvas jau puošia sidabro spalvos plaukai. 75 metai rodos trumpas laikotarpis, bet, pažvelg, kiek daug per tą laiką Dievui ir Tėvynei yra nuveikta ir atlikta darbų. Vyčių kuopa ir parapija čia kartu augo ir brendo. Jų užduotis, veikla ir sūkis yra bepertrūkio vis dar tesama ir toliau.

Pažvelgia atgal į netolima praeiti matome, kad pradžioje šio amžiaus, prieš Pirmąjį Pasaulinį karą, labai daug jaunų lietuvių atvyko šion šalė iš ivairių Lietuvos šalies vietų sau laimės be eiškodami. Daug jų apsigyveno čia New Yorke ir jo aplynkėse. Tais laikais, esanti 213 South 4th Street, Brooklyn, NY Angelų Karalienės parapijos bažnyčia, gausybei čia gyvenančių katalikų lietuvių, pasidarė jau per maža, ir sekmadieniais negalėjo žmonių sutalpinti, juos visus dvasiniai aptarnauti. Čia gyvenantieji katalikai lietuviai susirinkė nutarė, kad reikia jau kita nauja parapija steigti, ir tuo reikalu 1913 metais, Gegužės 5 d. iteikė prašymą su 1,000 asmenų parašais Brooklyno Vyskupui, prašant leidimo naujai lietuvių parapija su mokykla isteigti. Prašymas buvo priimtas.

Brooklyne, šiaurinėje Williamsburgo dalyje nuo senu laiku daug vokiečių kilmės žmonių gyveno ir turėjo 1865

metais įsteigė 259 No. 5th Street, Brooklyne, savo parapija vardu "Apreiškimo Panelės Švenčiausios" ir pasistatė gražia gotiško stilius bažnyčia ir mokykla, kurioje buvo jų vaikai mokomi.

Senesnės kartos vokiečiams išvykus į amžnybę, o jų vaikams išsikėlus į kitas miesto dalis gyventi, bažnyčia su mokykla ir klebonija paliko čia pat vietoje, ir apleisti pastatai pradėjo nykti. Šiai parapijai grėsė jau išnykimas. Gaves lietuvių prašymą, Brooklyno vyskupas, vietoj duoti leidimą lietuviams nauja parapija steigti, šia apleista Apreiškimo parapija 1914 metais pavėdė jiems su sąlyga, kad esančias šios parapijos skolas apie \$45,000 su nuošimčiais turės išmokėti. Lietuviai su tuo sutiko, ir perėmė šia parapija, o Vyskupas tuojau paskyrė pirmu šios klebonu lietuvių kun. Nikodema Petkų, kuris šia parapija tvarkė ir valdė net iki 1923 metų. Po jo sekantys klebonai buvo kun. Jurgis Paulukas, kun. Antanas Kodis, kun. Kazimieras Paulionis, kun. Nobertas Pakalnis, kuris laike Antrojo Pasaulinio karo visas senas parapijos skolas išmokėjo. Toliau klebonais buvo kun. Juozapas Aleksiūnas, kun. Pranciškus Raugalas, ir dabartinis klebonas kun. Jonas Pakalniškis.

Šioje parapijoje vikaravo šie kunigai: N. Pakalnis, J. Paulukas, J. Balkūnas, K. Paulionis, J. Aleksūnas, P. Lekėsius, J. Lencevičius, J. Kartavičius, J. Laurinaitis, V. Masiulis, A. Petrauskas, B. Kruzas, J. Pakalniškis, A. Račkauskas, ir dabar vikaruoja D. Staniškis.

Šioje parapijoje katalikų lietuvių gyvenimas ir jų veikla visą laiką virte verda. Čia veikė parapijos didelis choras, Šv. Vardo vyrų ir jaunuolių draugijos, Gyvojo ir Amžinojo Ražančiaus draugijos, Šv. Pranciškaus Tretininkų ir Maldos Apaštalytės draugijos, LKSA 135 kuopa, LK Federacijos skyrius, Lietuvos Vyčių 41 kuopa, Moterų Sąjungos 29 kuopa, Šv. Monikos našlių draugija, Sodaliečių jaunų moterų draugija, Sodaliečių mergaičių draugija, parapijos L.K. Jaunimo (CYA) draugija. Čia dažnai parapijos patalpose savo susirinkimus dalyvavo ir L. K. Federacijos NY ir NJ apskritis, ir LKSA New York ir New Jersey apskritis. Iš tų visų čia buvusių ir veikusių draugijų paliko tik parapijos choras, Lietuvos Vyčiai 41 kuopa ir NY ir NJ Federacijos apskritis ir Moterų Sąjungos 29 kuopa, o visų kitų čia veikusių ir gyvavusių draugijų beliko tik atmintis.

Prie Apreiškimo parapijos per daugeli metų gyvavo ir veikė parapijos mokykla, kurioje mokytojavo seserys Dominykietės. Jos labai gerai ir tvarkingai vedė mokykla.

Mokykla turėjo savo puošnų knygyną, gražų muzikos

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BOOK REVIEW

Lithuanian Fraternalism: Seventy-Five Years of U.S. Knights of Lithuania. By William Wolkovich-Valkavicius. (Brooklyn, New York: Knights of Lithuania 1988 Pp. xx 303).

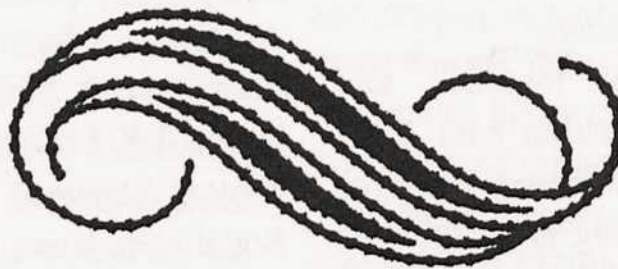
Despite the title of Knights and the identification as immigrant American Catholics that they shared in common with the Knights of Columbus, few aspects of the purpose or scope of the U.S. Knights of Lithuania connect them explicitly to the universally acknowledged Columbians. Yet there is value in seeing these two predominantly lay Catholic organizations comparatively as William Wolkovich, author of this commemorative volume on the Knights of Lithuania, often thoughtfully does his thorough study.

For one thing, the Knights of Columbus numbered into the hundred thousands and had even expanded internationally within their first forty years. To the contrary, even after seventy-five years of development here, the Lithuanian Knights remain a small organization. The Knights of Columbus, moreover, consistently found of the total Lithuanian-American community. Yet, clinging to past tradition seemed to provide them with something more important than numbers. To this day, they aim to be "ethnic in Catholic spirit" - pursuers, collectors and purveyors of an immigrant Catholic culture. Their founder, Mykolas Norkunas, spoke in these terms; their journal *Vytis*, repeated the theme. If they never had the prestige that the Knights of Columbus achieved, ways to encourage growth and ensure fiscal strength - a

route not deliberately followed by the Lithuanian Knights. Instead, this fraternity of Eastern European immigrants preferred loyal adherence to faith and homeland. Above all else, they worked to be "moral and mental" guides for each succeeding generation. This singleness of purpose denied the Knights substantial increase. Never did they reach beyond an annual membership of some four thousand; never did the organization represent more than one per cent Wolkovich makes clear, they at least have the consolation of knowing that their fight for cultural survival still perdures.

By reviewing the story of the Lithuanian Knights in terms of their ethnic purpose, Wolkovich has contributed more than institutional history. Thus, whether detailing the way in which the Knights "rescued youth" from anti-Catholic influences, pointing out their response to wartime loyalties, or describing the problems faced by second- or third-generation Lithuanians in relating to the newest immigrants, he consistently enhances the field of ethnic Catholic studies. *Lithuanian Fraternalism* especially reminds those among us who continue to interpret American Catholicism apart from its ethnic context that there were "other Catholics" who resisted assimilation and that the need for ethnic identification has not ceased even within the American Catholic Church.

Reviewer: Dolores Liptak, R.S.M., Catholic Archival and Historical Services, Silver Spring, MD. appearing in *The Catholic Historical Review*, Oct. 1988.



REV. ALEXANDER BURBA....

Through his example, Rev. Burba proved that nothing worth having is attained without a struggle, and that perseverance is needed for success. It is an example which Lithuanians in the Fatherland should follow in their efforts to implement Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika, persitvarkymas or reconstruction in Lithuania. Rev. Burba, who was born in Lithuania and died in Plymouth, PA, remains a priest for all times and ages.

Sister Virginia Vytell, CJC

If all the good people were clever
and all the clever people were good,
The world would be wiser than ever
We thought that it possibly could.
But somehow 'tis seldom or never
The two hit it off as they should;
The good are so harsh to the clever,
The clever so rude to the good.

Elizabeth Wordsworth

SISTER M. ANICETA PAULAUSKAS 100th Birthday

Sister M. Clemencia

On April 27, 1989, Sisters of St. Casimir commemorated the 100th birthday of Sister M. Aniceta Paulauskas. The joyous occasion was celebrated with an impressive Liturgy of Thanksgiving for the intentions of our dear jubilarian.

Stanislova Paulauskas, our future Sister M. Aniceta, came to America from Lithuania at age 17 in 1906. Her first priority was to become a member of St. George Church in Bridgeport. She attended the various services and spent many hours in silent prayer. Sometime after 1915, the Knights of Lithuania was organized in the parish and Stanislova became an active member. The activities of the Knights of Lithuania brought back many fond memories of her native land.

Sister M. Clemencia, as Coordinator, interviewed Sister M. Aniceta concerning her vocation and her consecrated life of sixty-six years as a Sister of St. Casimir.

"Sister, what inspired you to become a religious?"

"I was attracted to a devout life and attended all religious services in the parish. It was here I first saw the Sisters who appeared pious and devout. One day they invited me to visit their chapel. It was here I felt a desire to become a religious."

"Sister, entering the convent at the age of 31, you must have found it difficult to follow a regimental life."

She replied, "I must admit, it wasn't easy in the novitiate. With God's help and a firm determination to persevere, I made my profession on March 4, 1923.

"Sister, as a centenarian, what are you most grateful for?"

"Every day I thank God for my religious vocation. Also I am grateful to have served the congregation as a



SUSTER M. ANICETA PAULAUSKAS

domestic - a cook. I took delight in preparing substantial meals. My specialty and to treat the Sisters were potato pancakes. Today, as an invalid, I am grateful for the solicitude of the personnel in the infirmary.

"Sister, what advice would you like to give us?"

"My first suggestion - love God as you serve Him and your neighbor. Then pray and again I say pray and be faithful to your religious commitment."

"Sister, thank you for your interview. Accept our heartiest congratulations on the centenary of your birth. Your Sisters, relatives and friends join in wishing God's special blessings on your exemplary serene life."



SUKAKTUVINIAI METAI

kambari, berniukų ir mergaičių orkestra su gražiomis uniformomis. Šia mokykla baigusių yra apie pora tūkstančių asmenų, kurių tarpė yra keletas kunigu, daug vienuoliu, gydytoju, advokatų, inžinieriu, slaugiu, profesorių ir šiaip jau baigusių universitetus.

Dabar mokyklos patalpos tuščios be mokytojų ir be mokinių. Tik salės ir vienas kambarys, pavestas parapijos chorui dėl praktikos, yra dar vartojami. Buves seserų

namas vienuolynas dabar jau paverstas gyvenvieta, ir ten jau kelios šeimos yra apsigyvenė.

Šiomet lygiai sukanka 75 metai, kai lietuviai perėmė nuo vokiečių apleista Apreiškimo parapija, ir kai buvo ikurta Vyčių 41 kuopa. Šias abi sukaktis Vyčiai ir parapijiečiai minė ir kartu šves. Minėjimai bus iškilmingai Gegužės 21 d. atšvesti bažnyčioje su pamaldomis, o paskui Kultūros Židinyje su programa ir vaišėmis. Ilgiausių ir laimingų jiems metų!

S. L. Lukas

K of L National Executive Board meets in Chicago, IL



At National Executive Board meeting: Guest Balys Gajauskas, Spiritual Advisor Rev. Joseph Anderlonis and Pres. Anne Wargo.

On Saturday, March 18, the National Executive Board held its meeting at Nativity of Our Blessed Virgin parish hall. C-112, based in this parish, will be hosts for the 76th National Convention to be held August 3 - 6, 1989.

The meeting which was long and arduous but eventually fruitful was opened with a prayer by National Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Joseph Anderlonis. President of C-112, Mary Juzenas, welcomed the Board members who were about 30 in number. Guests from the Chicago area also attended the meeting and shared thoughts with the board.

Al Brazis, our favorite Lithuanian baritone and president of the Mid-America District was not feeling too well but that did not dampen his jollyness. He invited all to come to the convention in August.

Reports of the board followed. Reports were also submitted orally and written. Finances regarding VYTIS were discussed but not resolved. Copies of April VYTIS were distributed to the members. Members chuckled when they saw the cover. The Editor and her staff are working hard and the result is in the ever-improving issues.

A surprise awaited the members when Balys Gajauskas and his wife were introduced. His name is very familiar to those who read "The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania". He spent over 30 years in various Soviet prisons. He spoke about the many changes happening in Lithuania saying "Who would believe that upon my arrival to Lithuania from prison, I was greeted by the tri-color flag and 'Lietuva Tėvyne Musu' reverberating in my ears."

Our flag committee had reported that the organization's flag will be ready for the convention.. The progress regarding sale of our History book was also discussed. Sabina Henson, vice president for Juniors, spoke about her work with our "youngsters". She has started to publish a junior's magazine "Junior Jewels". The tiring meeting was closed with prayer led by our ever popular Fr. Anderlonis.

After the meeting, all attended Mass and upon our return to the hall, we were greeted by most delightful aromas and a buffet table loaded with all kinds of Lithuanian goodies.

This was Yours Truly's first visit to the Windy City, but definitely not the last. My registration form is made out for the convention. We received a fabulous welcome and warm hospitality that C-112 provided. Publicly, we thank each and everyone who made us welcome in Chicago. We highly recommend that you send in your registration immediately.

The next meeting will be held on June 3, 1989 with host C-50 in New Haven, CT. *Dalia Bulvicius*



MĮSLĖS

Apolonija (Polly) Žiaušienė

Keturkojis nevaikščiodamas, daug žmonių
maitina. (Stalas).
Kas trimis dantimis šieną valgo? (Šakė).
Dvejos marios ant lanko kabo. (Kibirai ant
naščių).
Kas atbulai dirbdamas sau duoną užsidirba?
(Višta).

Daili bačkelė (statinė) be jokio lankelio.
(Kiaušinis).
Juoda kiaulė žemę rausia? (Kurmis).
Blizga, kaip auksas bėga, kaip vanduo. (Lino
sėklos).
Už žirni mažesnis, už šuni piktesnis. (Pipiras).

POVERTY IN THE SOVIET UNION

America's Future

The Soviets are crying poverty, literally. Whereas a generation ago Kremlin leaders regularly boasted that the communist system was overtaking Western capitalism, today under Gorbachev's let-it-all-hang-out policy Moscow is admitting just how bad things are in the "workers' paradise".

"Poverty is a reality, our national tragedy," the official newspapers concede. Soviet authorities have revealed that at least 20 percent of the population, or more than 43 million people, now live below the poverty line. That line is estimated at about 75 rubles, or \$124 a month, per capita - at the official rate of exchange. At a realistic exchange rate, it's even lower. Moreover, there is no government agency to which people in need can turn. In fact, the word poverty itself does not even appear in official documents. Instead, Soviet authorities refer to the poor as living in a state of "underprovisioning." Terminology aside, Soviet propaganda no longer refers to poverty as an exclusive capitalist evil.

As a forecast of worse to come, the Kremlin recently announced that last year's grain harvest was the lowest in three years, falling 40 million tons short of the target of 235 million tons. This means Moscow will have to dig even deeper into its hard currency reserves to buy grain from the U.S. and other Western suppliers. As usual, the Kremlin blamed bad weather for the harvest shortfall. But Western economists attribute most of Soviet Union's

recurring agricultural crisis to the lingering effects of Stalin's forced collectivization in the 1930's during which millions of peasant farmers were deliberately starved to death or deported to Siberian labor camps.

Gorbachev has been trying to stimulate more efficient production of food, mainly by giving the private sector a bigger stake in the farm economy. But output has not improved and consumer shortages are still severe. The bottom line is that after 71 years of communist mismanagement, the USSR remains an underdeveloped country that cannot feed its own people. Distribution problems compound the crisis. An agency called "Gosagroprom" sets production quotas, provides supplies and runs the distribution system - badly. An estimated two million country-dwellers come to Moscow every day to shop for food that is grown where they live. Gorbachev himself has complained that millions of tons of food go to waste each year because of inadequate transport or storage.

Certainly, no one is more aware than Gorbachev that it was a worsening of the Soviet Union's chronic agricultural crisis that precipitated the downfall of Nikita Khrushchev in 1964. And the way things are going, say some Kremlinologists, Gorbachev's days may be numbered. But regardless who rules the Kremlin, as long as communism holds sway, Russia will remain a third-class nation with first-class missiles.

K of L HISTORY MECENATAS JONAS VALAUSKAS

Recovering from a serious, temporary debilitating illness, Honorary Member Jonas Valauskas of C-147 St. Petersburg, FL, has reiterated his interest in and devotion to the Knights, by remitting the balance of his pledged donation for the publication costs of the Knights of Lithuania History.

The History was a large and expensive undertaking, but deemed a worthy and necessary project to help celebrate the Knights' 75th years of existence. Rev. William Wolkovitch agreed to research and author the book, many members and councils donated toward the research and writing costs and agreed to buy and promote the book when completed. But it was Jonas Valauskas' pledge in

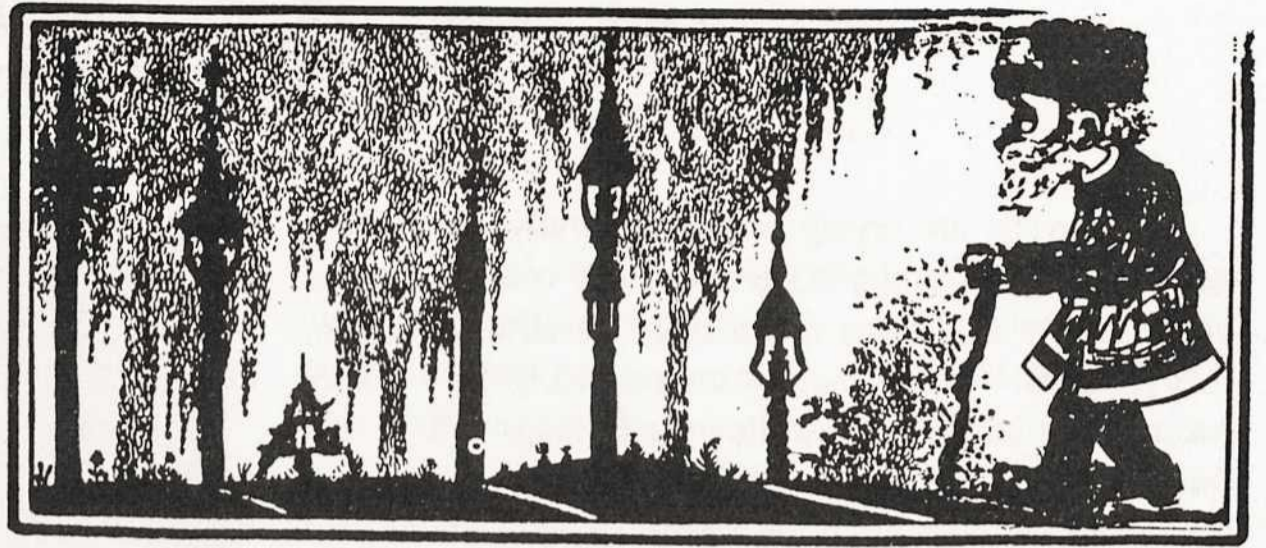
1982 to donate the bulk of the printing expenses of the History that gave the K of L Supreme Council the final impetus to go ahead confidently with this project.

Jonas and Ida Valauskas actually donated \$11,000 toward the History printing expenses. They are also donors of the Knights of Lithuania Archives Room in the ALKA Museum in Putnam, CT and generous donors to many other Lithuanian causes.

The Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council, the History Committee, and the entire organization express sincerest thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Jonas Valauskas for their continuing generosity.

Loretta Stukas

"Dede Kastukas Sako"



A nice lady called me on the telephone and asked whether I was Mr. Yonkers. I put on an important air and drawled, "Speaking". That was one of my shorter speeches. Then she continues, "I have a very pleasant surprise for you. Your name is on a raised gold letter Free Credit Card from Smears Credit Store for department goods." "Fantastic", I replied. "That means I can shop there now and pick up anything I want for free?" "Oh no", she replied. "Just the card is Free." "Oh", I reply. "Then actually you're giving me a nice credit card giving me the right to give you my money, otherwise you may not want to take it?" "Well", she says. "Something like that but in a more favorable light to our side." I ask "Is the manager in?" She said "Oh yes". I then said, "Tell him for me to take this nice gold Free Credit Card and shove it all the way to China or Japan".

Power Struggle

The airlines continue to struggle to exist, at times, with the usual problems with Unions - "We want more money".

Management says, "We're in the red now so how can we give more money to you now." At the same time the airlines would like to get rid of the Unions. There always need to be a discussion then a happy medium arrived at by agreement between both parties, if they want to survive. Management always has the upper hand. They can break Unions. They sell the business piece by piece - planes or routes first and spaces in airports next. The airlines reorganize under the Bankruptcy Act and get more money by selling in sections. In the meantime, workers lose their jobs and there goes the Union. Union bosses do not exert the power of old days with their strikes - they risk the chance of losing their job as a power house instead of figuring an intelligent way of settling the trouble. The strike can be a two edged sword and the worker cannot afford to lose as much money as management. We don't have as many Unions as we used to - what we have is mind boggling.

I'll Get Even

It was a lazy Sunday afternoon, the kind you just stroll along the sidewalk, stop to admire the pretty flowers in a yard, or look at the buds on the branches, or even listen to the hum of a couple of Bumble Bees. The bees even work on Sunday. Can anyone tell them it's Sunday? I walk further and near the end of the fence is a lovely dark red rose. A fragrance permeates the air from this rose and I bend over only to touch a petal with my nose and smell the fragrance when Zap, Wham, Zam, !!**?, a B52 bomber bee missile hits my nose with its stinger. I swing, I punch, right and left, hoping to catch that bee with a right square on the jaw and knock him out but I hear a greater hum and I know his reinforcements are coming. I pull my jacket over my head and retreat across the street. Did I get that bee's number so I won't forget which one it was - do I plan my attack on the spot or do I go home first and get first aid?

So, I walk toward home. I know the yard doesn't belong to that bee...he doesn't have to work on Sunday.... bees don't fight fair when they gang up on you....I better put some more salve on my nose. At least, I can sit down.

My only reinforcement is to boycott them. I won't buy any more Honey. That's what I'll do!!



For months, a friend of mine has been trying to win his wife's consent to buy a sports car. He has his heart set on a two-passenger foreign model and has been giving his wife quite a sales pitch, stressing how economical the car would be. "But suppose we wanted to take another couple to dinner?" she asked, countering his latest approach.

"We go in their car," he shot back, "That's where the economy comes in!"

Conversation is the art of telling people a little less than they want to know.

76th NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, August 2, 1989 - Preconvention Tours

- 9:00 a.m. Tour of Chicago Lakefront and Magnificent Mile
 9:00 a.m. Lithuanian Sightseeing Tour
 8:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite opens

Thursday, August 3, 1989

- 9:00 a.m. National Executive Board Meeting, Room 729 at hotel
 10:00 a.m. Buses begin departing for Marquette Park
 11:30 a.m. Opening Mass - Nativity BVM Church
 12:30 p.m. Luncheon - Nativity BVM Hall
 2:00 p.m. Opening Session - Nativity BVM Hall
 4:30 p.m. Buses depart for Rudis Farm
 6:00 p.m. "Vakaruskos" at Anthony & Mary Rudis' farm **
 9:00 p.m. Bus transportation back to hotel
 10:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite opens

Friday, August 4, 1989

- 9:00 a.m. Session II, Countryside Room
 11:30 a.m. Holy Mass, Countryside Room
 12:30 p.m. Lunch at hotel
 2:00 p.m. Session III, Countryside Room
 (Dinner on your own)
 8:00 p.m. Cultural Night Program, Ballroom
 10:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite opens

Saturday, August 5, 1989

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass, Countryside Room
 9:30 a.m. Session IV, Countryside Room
 9:30 a.m. Juniors Convention, Room 729
 (Lunch on your own)
 1:00 p.m. Session V, Countryside Room
 5:30 p.m. Buses depart for Martinique
 6:30 p.m. Cocktails
 7:30 p.m. Awards Banquet
 ??? Buses return to hotel

Sunday, August 6, 1989

- 9:30 a.m. Buses depart for Marquette Park
 10:30 a.m. Closing Mass - Nativity BVM Church
 11:45 a.m. Convention Photo
 12:00 Noon Buses return to hotel
 1:00 p.m. Luncheon at hotel
 3:00 p.m. Check-out time

** Our Thursday night get-together will be something very special. Our members Anthony & Mary Rudis have graciously offered to host a "Vakaruskos" at their farm in Monee. There will be food, drinks, music, all in a beautiful outdoor setting. There is also ample shelter should the weather turn against us. Dress casually, and plan on having lots of fun.

ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

- TOPIC:** How should the New National Awakening in Lithuania Affect our K of L Lithuanian Affairs Activities?
- LENGTH:** 450 to 500 words (count all words).
- DEADLINE:** July 1, 1989. Essays received after this date will not be considered.
- ELIGIBILITY:** A contestant must be a Knights of Lithuania member (Honorary, 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. The FIRST PAGE should contain ONLY your name, address, council number and the essay title. Succeeding pages should contain the essay contents but NOT your name. This is to assure anonymity in judging.
- PRIZES:**
 1st Prize - \$300.
 2nd Prize - \$200.
 3rd Prize - \$100.
- JUDGES:** Algirdas Budreckis, Sabina Henson, Aldona Ryan, Loretta Stukas.
- MAIL TO:** Aldona Ryan, 6591 McEwen Rd., Centerville, OH 45459.
- WINNERS:** Will be announced August 5, 1989 during the 76th National Convention in Chicago, IL. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.
- SPONSOR:** KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC., via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.

Oficialus Skyrius

Official News

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The 31st Annual Scholarship Awards will be presented at the 76th National Convention in Chicago.

Applications are available from:

William J. Piacentini
362 Webster Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920

Donations to the Scholarship Fund may be sent to:

Clemencine Miller, *Treasurer*
80 Cottage St.
Trumbull, CT 06611

The deadline date for filing applications is June 30, 1989. All applications must be complete in all details to be considered by the committee.

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KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION

The KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, KINC. 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.

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

Write to the below mentioned address also, to learn how to include the Foundation in your will.

The Foundation is tax-exempt, chartered in the State of Illinois. Checks should be made payable to: KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. and mailed to:

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

234 Sunlit Drive
Watchung, NJ 07060

RITUAL COMMITTEE NOTICE

All candidates who expect to receive their Fourth Degree at the Chicago convention in August, 1989, must have their completed application sent to: Albert Zakarka, 6958 So. Rockwell St., Chicago, IL 60629 by June 1, 1989. This will permit the National Ritual Committee to review and process the forms.



All correspondence should reach the Editors by the FIRST OF THE MONTH, two months in advance of issue. The editors assume no obligation to return any material or photos solicited or unsolicited.





NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Frank Peterson, 2nd Vice President-Membership



Looks like the Membership Drive for this year will not be held. There wasn't any publicity or information in VYTIS concerning the Drive.

W R O N G

The Membership Drive is always a continuous project. It is not necessary to always have a special drive. New members should be signed up anytime during the year. We all must work and solicit new members at all times.

The delay in announcing the official notification of the yearly drive was to see if we can do just as good, if not better.

YES - The membership drive is in progress and will encompass the period January 1 through June 30, 1989. All NEW members joining during this period will be included in your total for the period. The rules will be the same as in the past. The following will apply:

COUNCILS

Under 50 members
 51 - 100 Members
 101 - 200 Members
 201 - 300 Members
 301 and over

INDIVIDUALS

From councils with under 50 members.
 From councils with 51 to 100 members.
 From councils with 101 - 200 members.
 From councils with 201 - 300 members
 From councils with 301 or more members.

Regarding Awards: Total number of members will be determined by the number recruited less the number of members who failed to renew their membership for the present year. Example: council with X number of members as of December, 1988 plus 25 new recruited members, minus 5 members not renewing membership, giving a total of 20 new members, i.e., 25 less 5 = 20. (Lost members would not include the deceased). New members will also include any Juniors recruited.

Special awards will be for the following:

Organizing a Council;
 Re-organizing a dormant council;
 Organizing a new Juniorscouncil.

Additional rules to follow:

Only new members enrolled between January 1 and June 30, 1989 will count.
 Payment of one year's dues is required of new members.

New members will be classified as follows:

Members joining for the first time;
 Former members rejoining;
 Junior members advancing to regular membership;
 (Transfers from other councils DO NOT COUNT).

Records from the National Financial Secretary will be used to determine the winners.
 You still have time to get those applications to prospective members. Good Luck!

LETTERS

Soviets Not Synonymous
With Russians

With due respect to Vyt Grabauskas, I would like to offer a few corrections to some of his statements in the story he authored, "Who Really Won the Seoul, Korea World Basketball Olympics?" that appeared in the April issue of VYTIS.

May I correct the misconceptions he made in the opening sentence? Vyt wrote: "With all the countries of any consequence represented this year at the basketball games in Seoul, you'd think a huge nation like Russia or the United States would win the title because of the prestige that goes with it." Vyt should have said "the Soviet Union" instead.

A round of applause should be given to the press in educating the American public in distinguishing between the Soviet Union and Russia. A story that appeared in the U.S. News & World Report on Feb. 2, 1987 clearly clarifies this point. The title of the article was "Can Moscow Control Resistive Republics?" and as the story progressed, there was a map with the caption: "U.S.S.R.: A Nation Divided by Regional Differences" and below this was the statement, and I quote: "Russia, by far the biggest of the Soviet republics, stretches to the Pacific."

In Vyt's last paragraph, he went on to say, "The Russian team has toured the United States playing various teams here with good success...etc." Since when is the Soviet National Basketball Team called a "Russian team"? I intently watched the basketball game on TV between the USSR and the USA and never once did these professional sports casters say "Russia", they spoke of the country as "the Soviet Union" and

they always referred to the players as "Soviets" or "Soviet athletes" and never did they call them "Russians" for they knew that most of the players were non-Russians.

The Soviet National Basketball Team made an appearance in Albany,

NY in Oct. of 1987 and when I saw the headline to the story in my hometown newspaper, the Schenectady Gazette, "Russians Are Coming to Albany", I quickly wrote a letter to the editor to clarify Russians and Soviet Union.

Ed Baranauskas, C-100



K of L CALENDAR

- May 7, 1989 - C-103 Providence, RI - Annual St. Casimir and May Day Breakfast
- May 19-21, 1989 - Mid-Central District Bowling Tournament and meeting. C-79 Southfield, MI Hosts.
- May 21, 1989 - C-41 Brooklyn, NY - 75th Anniversary Annunciation Church
- June 4, 1989 - MAD Meeting - Host: C-152. 11:30 a.m. Mass: St. Patrick's Church, Southold, meeting following at Southold Town Recreation Center, Peconic Lane, Peconic, LI
- June 11, 1989 - Amber District meeting. Host C-144 Anthracite, PA.
- June 17, 1989 - Lithuanian Day of Prayer, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA
- June 23-24-25, 1989 - NED Retreat, Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME
- August 3-6, 1989 - 76th National Convention. Hosts: C-112 Chicago, IL
- August 13-19, 1989 - Eastern European Festival, Lithuanian Exhibit, Workshops, Demonstrations, Food, Entertainment. C-144 Anthracite, PA
- August 27, 1989 - C-152 Riverhead NY - Annual Lithuanian Festival, American Legion Hall, Greenport, NY - 12 Noon - 6 p.m.
- October 14, 1989 - 74th Annual Cocktail and Supper Dance, C# 29, Newark, NJ.
- December 3 - 10, 1989 - C#110 Maspeth, NY - Caribbean Cruise on FESTIVALE - (Carnival Cruise Lines).

Council Activities

Vyčiai Veikia

MID AMERICA DISTRICT

Approximately 80 members from the Chicago area battled the high winds and snow flurries to attend the St. Casimir's Day Mass at St. Peter's Church in Kenosha, WI on March 5. However, most of the members rode in the comfort of two warm school buses. Mass was concelebrated with Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Miciunas of C-38 as main celebrant and Fr. Peter Cibulskis of C-24 assisting. It was most difficult to concentrate on prayers when the aroma of kugelis and cabbage filled the church. After a delicious luncheon prepared by Theresa Balciunas, C-38 President and her able committee, the District meeting was opened by Algird Brazis, District president.

During the course of the meeting, a donation was presented to Fr. Miciunas to help break their "Thermometer" on school deficits. Anyone wishing to help reduce this deficit may send their donations direct to Father Miciunas.

An upcoming event for our district is the special Mass of Hope for Lithuania and her Prisoners of Conscience scheduled for April 23 at beautiful St. George's Church, almost 100 years old in Bridgeport. Father Dodaro, pastor, will be the main celebrant with all council spiritual advisors concelebrating. Rita Zakarka is chairperson.

On Sunday, March 12, the Knights of Lithuania Choir assisted by St. Andrews, St. Marys and St. Georges Choirs, sang The Seven Last Words of Christ in St. George's

Church in Tinley Park to a full church. Faustas Strolia directed the orchestra and choirs. Robert Mockus, musical director of St. George's Church, directed the other portion of the religious concert. Algird Brazis-C-112 was the baritone soloist. Two of the four soloists in the musical selections were Algird Brazis and Ann Marie Kassel-C-36. Rumor is that the K of L Choir will be asked to sing The Seven Last Words of Christ in three different churches in 1990.

Albert Zakarka

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

The District's meeting was held on March 12 at Transfiguration Church, Maspeth, NY with host Council 110.

Mass was concelebrated by MAD's Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Bulovas and Rev. Dr. Bucmys, OFM who also was the main speaker for that occasion. As always, Fr. Bulovas presented us with a memorable sermon. He spoke about how much faith we should have like the woman in the gospel who only wanted to touch Jesus garment to know she would be healed.

After Mass, delegates and friends assembled in the hall which, as usual, was beautifully decorated. C-110 spares no expense to make their guests welcome. John Adomenas, both district and council president, welcomed all present. The main speaker, Rev. Dr. Bucmys spoke on the current events in Lithuania and also about his recent trip to South Africa. Since this was Father's first speech in English, he asked for our indulgence.

The official meeting began with Secretary Jean Janonis reading the previous minutes of meeting held in Kearny, NJ. Helen Matulonis, vice



Mid Atlantic District Pres. John Adomenas, Spiritual Advisor Fr. Bulovas and Public Relations Chairlady Dalia Bulvicius at St. Casimir celebration in Maspeth.



MAD - Rev. Frank Bulovas and Rev. Kornelius Bucmys, Co-celebrants of St. Casimir's Mass and Lector Helen Matulonis, C-110 Maspeth..

president for membership, spoke on her efforts with membership. John Antanavicius, vice president for juniors gave his report. Motions were made and seconded to take a half page in the Convention journal and a donation be made to the Scholarship Fund.

John Adomenas gave a brief synopsis of the District's visit in Albany, NY with Gov. Cuomo wherein Feb. 16 each year was declared Lithuanian Independence Day in New York State. Representation was from C-12 New York, C-41 Brooklyn, C-100 Amsterdam, C-110 Maspeth, C-109 Great Neck, C-136 Albany, C-152 Riverhead. During the meeting, Assemblyman Fred Schmidt greeted the members and briefly spoke on the recent bill passed in Albany.

The refreshments are always great in Maspeth and this was not an exception. Bravo to chief organizer, Joseph Dugan and chief cook Mary Johnson and their hard working assistants. Joe and Jovita Sleder presented third degree medals to several recipients.

After a huge lottery, the time to part arrived all too quickly. Iki pasimatymo in Riverhead, NY on June 4 with C-152 as hosts.

Dalia Bulvicius

C-7 WATERBURY, CT

St. Casimir's Day was celebrated with a Mass at St. Joseph Church with Fr. Paul Sabulis the celebrant. Refreshments followed at the K of L clubrooms. A delicious buffet was served and made by our own K of L ladies. The turnout for the evening was overwhelming. We thank everyone for attending this celebration.

Alma Torre is chairlady for a bus trip to Atlantic City.. We do hope to have a good time on the bus but especially at the casino coming home with big winnings. Frs. Karvelis and Rikteraitis visited Lithuania during April. We do hope they had an enjoyable trip.

Our St. Joseph Parish school will have a Spring Festival on June 9-10 & 11. The K of L will have their own booth. Dolores Jonaitis will be chairlady. Our menu will consist of Lithuanian dishes served with Lithuanian rye bread made at the bakery across from the church. Keep

these dates in mind and plan to come for a day.

C-7 hopes that everyone had a Happy Easter. *Virginia Kosa*

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

Our Council again this year sponsored the 71st anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian Independence on Feb. 19. The event began with Mass in St. Francis Church, Athol, with Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis as celebrant and homilist. The activities continued in the afternoon in the parish hall with singing of national anthems followed by invocation by Fr. Jurgelonis. Bill Wisniauskas, master of ceremonies, called on John Deveau, mayor of Gardner, to read his proclamation designating Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Day in Gardner.

The Sodauta Folk Ensemble of So. Boston directed by Gita Kupcinskas of Walpole performed with song and dance as slides of the Lithuanian countryside recently taken by Perkunas Krukonis were shown on the screen. The group comprising of 17 members has performed in Germany, Belgium, Canada and the States.

Following the performance, our



C-7 Waterbury, Pres. Ann Cheplick, Treas. Alma Torre and Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Karalis.



C-10 K of L'ers at one of the council functions.

girls treated all to a sit down supper including coffee and cake. Sophie Fiorentino and Nell Melaikis headed the food committee. Len Davidonis and Frank Anoris were the set-up committee. Blanche Genaitis served as hostesses. Fr. Albert Yankauskas of Worcester spent the day with us.

The welcome mat is extended to Rev Joseph Jurgelonis and Anne Melaika Zelinski of Erving who have rejoined after years of absence.

Our group honored St. Casimir by attending Mass on March 5 at St. Francis, receiving communion on a body and attending dinner at King Philip in Philipston. Kathryn Paliulis was in charge of arrangements.

On the first anniversary of the death of Charles Genaitis, we ask all readers to offer a prayer for the repose of his soul. Charles is remembered as a staunch K of L'er attending, when possible, all local, district and national conventions and affairs. His widow, Blanche, remembered him with a Mass and dinner attended by family and friends on March 4.

It is with great sorrow to report the death of Alice Jasionis Perekslis on Feb. 23, a year and a half after husband Stan. Born and reared in

Norwood, she joined the local K of L as a young woman. A chance meeting with Stan at a convention in New Jersey ended in a happy marriage of 47 years. Alice helped Stan with the family business, Stan's Super Market. She was always active in the parish life of St. Francis. The K of L wake service led by Fr. Jurgelionis was well attended as was the Mass of Christian burial with 15 K of L members acting as honor bearers. Miela Alicija, amžina ramybė!

Vincukas

C-12 NEW YORK, NY

On the first Sunday in Feb. during our meeting, we had a brief commemoration of Lithuania's 71st independence. Helen Matthews read a poem "O neverk Motule" by Marionis. Dalia Bulvicius gave a brief report about our need to help Lithuania. The Lithuanian Americans helped Lithuania in 1918 to regain her freedom, now it's our turn to come to her aid.

In March we had our St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast. The Mass was offered for our deceased members. During the offertory, twelve carnations were brought to the altar and the name announced. It was really a most beautiful and touching ceremony. Our pastor and spiritual advisor, Rev. Palubinskas gave us a brief talk about the future plans of the parish. Our main speaker was Rev. Daniel Staniskis, spiritual advisor of C-41 Brooklyn. Fr. spoke on how the Knights of Lithuania can help in reactivating Lithuanian parish activities.

Our council was busily preparing for its April 2nd closing of the organization's 75th anniversary. Also this year marks the 75th anniversary of C-12. Since this is the month of Mary, we close with asking our patroness: Aušros Vartų Marija,

melskis už mus!

Dalia Bulvičius

C-19 PITTSBURGH, PA

With a new slate of officers, C-19 is proceeding with an active schedule for the coming year. Dave Wenslovas is our president; Marge Turner, vice pres.; Eleanor Allelunas, sec. and Len Barcousky, fin. sec.

Many of our members participated in the 71st anniversary of Lithuania's Independence held in Pittsburgh on Feb. 11. At this commemoration the following members took part in their Lithuanian costumes: Mary & Vince Tamy, Marge Turner, Agatha Bender, Bertha Kuzma and Alice Lewellen. Srs. Francesca and Alverna directed the Lithuanian class choral group in a short selection of favorite Lithuanian songs. Vyto Yucius was again the principal speaker.

In honor of St. Casimir, at our quarterly Communion Mass at St. Casimir's Church, Fr. Walter Karaveckas officiating, we held our special St. Casimir's procession with our gals participating with Lithuanian costumes. After Mass we enjoyed a breakfast and held our meeting at a local restaurant.

On March 12, K of L members and their friends traveled by bus to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church wherein the Boy Scouts held their Kazukio Mugi in Cleveland. We enjoyed the food and the program. Our thanks go to Marge Turner for her efforts in procuring the bus and planning this enjoyable affair.

Mary H. Tamy

C-25 CLEVELAND, OH

St. Casimir's Day in Cleveland was bright and sunny. Members met at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church for Mass celebrated by Fr. Kijauskas. The music and sermon in Lithuanian were nice. Father

complimented the Knights for their religious aspects and concern about the Lithuanian language.

After Mass, we enjoyed a beautiful luncheon at Holiday Inn in Wickliffe. Both priests attended as our guests. We then returned to the church auditorium to hold our March meeting. The council agreed to donate flowers for Easter Sunday to both parishes. During the meeting, Fr. Kijauskas asked us to view a video received from Lithuania. The video, a lengthy one, showed the struggle of the Lithuanian people against the Russians who are building a nuclear power plant in Lithuania. They protested by holding hands in a chain-like fashion, singing, carrying signs and speaking.

Ruth Guzauskas and Rose Drew held our Feb. bowling social at the Lithuanian Home. Charley Machutas rolled a 600 series. Nelda Machutas was not to be outdone by rolling a 550 series.

Vince & Marion Gray vacationed in Los Angeles. Jack & Helen Valley went to Chicago to visit son and grandchildren. Charley & Nelda Machutas daughters are both moving to Phoenix, AZ.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church has something exciting going on each week. Prof. Andrius Kuprevičius gave a Chopin piano concert in the auditorium on March 5. Jim & Joan Thompson and Fran Pranskavich held our third bowling social in March. It was a Lithuanian social, to say the least. Red, yellow and green ribbons decorated the front of the house. The table setting also followed the tri-color theme with a large tri-color tiered cake. A good time was had by all with an abundance of food and drinks.

Please tune in on the Lithuanian hour each Sunday morning broadcast from John Carrol University on 88.7

FM from 8 to 9 a.m.

Again, display your Lithuanian bumper stickers with pride. One bumper sticker alone in heavy traffic is seen by thousands. Advertise Lithuania. Sveikas! *Joe Ivoska*

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

The early months of every year include the dates of events that are repeated year after year. As always, C-26 is involved in one way or another.

Commemoration of independence of Lithuania started with Mass at St. Casimir Church and continued with exercises and dinner at Marionis Park. St. Casimir, our patron saint, was honored on March 5 with attendance at Holy Mass. As always, they left the congregation with impressed observations of the faithfulness and devotion of our council.

St. Casimir Parish also celebrated St. Casimir Day with its annual parish dinner. Past national president Anthony Miner was master of ceremonies. He also assisted in planning the affair. Many K of L's, as choir members, joined organist Anne Walinsky in presenting a musical program of popular Lithuanian and English songs. Their efforts were cordially acknowledged by the audience.

The Lithuanian Charitable Society installed its newly elected officers with Fr. Vincent Parulis administering the oath. K of L members elected to serve on the board of Marionis Park include Pres. & Mrs. Kazys Adomavicius, Vice Pres. Algis Glodas, Charles Kulakusky, Vitty Ivaska, Peter Molis, S. Walinsky, Sr., Anna Kersis and Anne Bender.

Sharing the table with local and state dignitaries were Rita Pinkus, pres. C-26 and Stephen Walinsky, Sr. pres. of Lithuanian Social Club. Both extended congratulations from their

respective organizations. Jenny & Paul Puris, pres. of St. Casimir Men's Club were also present as invited guests. Obviously, the people named are active not only in the K of L but also contribute their organizational knowledge to and for the benefit of other societies.

Returning from their Florida trip well rested and sporting an enviable tan, Vitty & Ginny Ivaska prepared and presented a scrumptious baked fish dinner preceding the March meeting. Once again the Ivaska family displayed their talents in the culinary arts, remembering the beef stew meal that Joe & Antoinette served in January.

Tearful condolences were offered to the Kardokas and Meilus families during the wakes and funerals of their beloved mothers, Frances Kardokas and Brita Meilus.

There isn't much more that can be said about Frances & Charles Kulakusky, referring to the article appearing in Feb. issue of VYTIS, only that we are proud to have them in C-26.

Leaving you with this thought and reminder: Never forget the members who contributed so diligently to the development of the Knights of Lithuania. Offer a prayer or two for the repose of the departed souls.

St. Casimir's parish recalled the Resurrection of Christ and Easter Day with jubilation. The observance contained all necessary ingredients to make it a complete spiritual celebration. Early morning services included Mass, procession, Lithuanian hosannas with choir and organ accompaniment. It was a day of religious reflection that the Lord will recognize as true allegiance presented by the congregation. The rite was fulfilled in a truly traditional Lithuanian fashion. Floral donations in memory of loved ones or in thanks

for graces granted adorned the sanctuary. Jennie & Paul Puris with assistance of Lynne Walinsky combined their decorating and artistic talents in arrangement of candles and flowers, creating a pleasant atmosphere.

C-26 mourns the passing of another of its long time members, Adele Tagman who has joined her husband Charles in the realm of the Lord. They both contributed much to the council, including a Fourth Degree K of L'er daughter, Carol Grigas, amongst their four children. Adele & Charlie would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. May they both rest peacefully eternally.

Happiness and pride prevailed in the Howard family with the birth of a baby girl. Vicky & Joe, parents, with Sharon & Louis Gouin, grandparents, and Gerry & Ed Paliliunas, great grandparents. May the good Lord reward her with a healthy and prosperous life.

Excerpts from the prayer to St. Joseph the Worker: It is an honor to use the gifts and develop the talents God has given us, that all our accomplishments may benefit others and serve their needs. Then, may the Lord crown our efforts at the hour of death. *S. V. W., Sr.*

C-29 NEWARK, NJ

On Sunday, March 5, our council held its annual communion breakfast and Mass. Before Mass, Bernard Skripata was accompanied down the aisle by Nat'l Pres. Anne Wargo and Council Pres. Kazys Sipaila. Rev. Stravinkas installed Bernard with the Fourth Degree. Fr. Stravinkas celebrated Mass. During the offertory, St. Casimir was honored by Bernard Skripata carrying a portrait of St. Casimir; Brone Venckus in Lithuanian dress, the lily; Anthony



C-29 St. Casimir's Day celebration: Fr. Peter Stravinkas, Helen Chesko, guest, Bernard Skripata, Fourth Degree recipient.

Grazulis, the cross; Rita Grazulis, also in Lithuanian dress, the crown of gold and John Pitrenas, the crown of thorns. Nat'l Pres. Wargo and Pres. Sipaila carried the wine, water and hosts. Reader for the procession was D. Didzbalis who explained the meaning of each gift as presented. Immediately after Mass, we

congregated in the parish hall and had a most delicious luncheon. Rita Sussko, our chairlady, and her committee are to be congratulated on a job well done. Thank you all. It was then time to meet our guest of honor, National Pres. Anne Wargo. It was gracious of her to accept our invitation and to deliver a speech about St. Casimir. It was a pleasure to listen to her and learn something about the "White Knight" or our patron St. Casimir. Congratulations and much good health in the years to come. Bernard Skripata, we say the same to you. We know that all you do, you do from the heart expecting no praise or thanks. You have indeed earned your Fourth Degree. Wear your medal as a true Knight of Lithuania.

We welcome Marcia Stravinkas into C-29's membership.

On March 19 our council held the annual bake sale. Breads, cakes and beautiful colored eggs were displayed to be bought after each Mass. Arts and crafts were in abundance. We thank Mary Honeyman, our chairlady



C-29 St. Casimir's Day celebration. Guest speaker, Anne Wargo, Rita Sussko, chair lady and Kazys Sipaila, Pres.

of the affair, for a job well done. Her committee is to be commended. All proceeds from the sale were donated to the church. Thanks to all who worked, donated and purchased the articles.

We have dates for future affairs: June 17, bus trip to Doylestown to Our Lady of Czestochowa. June 18, first anniversary Mass for our beloved late Msgr. John Scharnus. Sept. 23-24, New Jersey Ethnic Festival at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. Sept. 24, day of Prayer at holy Trinity Church, Newark. October, annual dinner and dance.

Mary Cullen

C-36 CHICAGO, IL JUNIORS

Officers for our Juniors are: Christine Cius, Pres.; Donna Schreiber, 1st Vice Pres.; Beth Jensen, 2nd Vice Pres.; Gina Schreiber, Sec.; Josephine Nowak, Treas; Billy Dixon & Allen Cius, Sgts. at Arms; Audrey Nowak, Corres. Sec.; Roll Call Attendance, Lisa Boese. Our members have been very active.

On Jan. 22 we had our first coffee an'. It turned out great. Thanks to everyone who helped. In Jan. "Junior Jewels" was handed out to each member. We have read the articles, studied Lithuanian and colored the pictures.

In Feb., we were in the Independence Day procession at Immaculate Conception Church. The Lithuanian flag was carried by Ron Nowak with honor guards - Christine Cius and Josephine Nowak. Carrying our beautiful banner: Andrius Boese, Mary Cius and Allan Cius. Many members were ill and could not participate. At the regular meeting of C-36, we performed on the stage commemorating Lithuania's Independence. Sabina Henson, our coordinator and Cultural Chairlady of C-36 started the program of



C-36 Juniors: L to R: Audrey Nowak, Gina Scheiber, Mrs. Sir Cius, Mrs. J. Nowak, Ronald Nowak, Sabina Henson. Next row: Cius, Donna Scheiber, Allen Cius. Little ones in front: Ann Marie Mary Cius.

announcing "The presentation of the Lithuanian flag" which was carried in by Billy Dixon and escorted by Mary Cius, Lisa Boese, Christine Cius. We sang the Lithuanian and American national hymns. The program started with reading of a poem "Geltonas, Zalis, Raudonas" by Sabina Henson. Josephine Nowak read the Lithuanian Anthem in English with so much feeling and understanding, followed by an explanation of the colors of the flag by Audrey Nowak. Christine Cius read about the meaning of Feb. 16 in English and Lisa Boese read it in Lithuanian. Billy Dixon and Andrius Boese recited a Lithuanian poem. After the regular meeting, two Lithuanian poems were read by Mrs. Sirutis, which she wrote. Mr. Liaubis recited a poem about Zemaitis. Evelyn Ozelis, Pres. of C-36, said a few words about Independence Day and the meeting ended with singing of "Lietuva Brangia" by all members.

In March we attended Mass at Sisters of St. Casimir's Chapel. The Mass was celebrated for the

beautification of Mother Maria Kaupas. It was great to be part of this Mass. On March 14, St. Casimir's Day, we presented two books to our local library. One book was "Ilgesio Valandales" written by Dr. Leonard Simutis which included poems written by his father and the other book was "The History of the Knights of Lithuania". The librarian was pleased to receive both books.

C-41 BROOKLYN, NY

Kova 4-ji diena yra Lietuvos Globėjo Šv. Kazimiero diena. Ta diena mini ir švenčia visa lietuvių tauta. Šv. Kazimieras taip pat yra ir Lietuvos Vyčių organizacijos globėjas. Kova 5 diena sekmadienė Apreiškimo parapijos bažnyčioje, Brooklyn, NY-11 val. rytė buvo laikomos iškilmingos mišios-suma už gyvus ir mirusius Vyčių 41-mos kuopos narius. Mišias atnašavo 41-mos kuopos Dvasios Vadas Kun. D. Staniškis. Tautiškais drabužiais pasipuošusios vyčių padavė per mišias aukas, o laike mišių vyčiai ėjo visi drauge prie komunijos.

Po mišių parapijos salėje su savo svečiais vyčiai turėjo pietus, kuriuos malda pradejo Kun. Staniškis. Savo kalboje pirmininkas Kumeta paminėjo, kad šio mėnesio Kovo pradžioje pora vyčių mini savo gimtadienius. Tie vyčiai buvo atsistojimu pagerbti ir sugiedota jiems "Ilgiausių Metų". Toliau sekė kuopos garbės nario Juozo Boley idomi paskaita apie tolima Lietuvos Vyčių praeiti, ir ju ikūrėjus Mykolas Norkunas, J. Milių ir kitus, kurie uoliai organizavo New Yorkė ir jo apylinkėse Vyčių kuopas ir būrė jaunus lietuvius į vyčius ir jiems vadovavo. Jam pabaigus savo paskaita, visi kibo į pietus ir tarpusavė basikalbėdami, vaišinosi iki vėlyvos popietės.

Kitas susirinkimas buvo tojau po Velykų sekmadienė S. K. Lukas

C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT

After morning Mass on Feb. 19 we commemorated the 71st anniversary of Lithuania's Independence at the Memorial Cross. Immediately afterwards, we gathered in the church hall to see a film of the recent manifestation of Lithuanian spirit of freedom moderated by Asta Baneinyte Connor of Washington, DC. This is the first time in 44 years the tri-colored flag was raised and the Lithuanian anthem sung. Vetra, the Lithuanian Folk Dancers, participated in the program which was conducted in English.

On March 5 we celebrated our annual St. Casimir's Feast Day. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Albert Karalis. Frank Antin was chairman with Frank Peterson serving as master of ceremonies. Elena Vaisyns was guest speaker. The food was excellent and everyone enjoyed the complete celebration.

A full bus load of members and



C-50 New Haven, Visitation at St. Casimir's Church, Rev. Albert Karalis and Bishop Peter A. Rosazza

friends traveled to Jersey City, NJ to witness the Passion Play. It was a day to remember. Members were pleased with the bus, the trip, and the rewarding spiritual experience from watching the dramatization of Christ's journey to Calvary and his death on the cross.

The annual St. Casimir's parish Palm Sunday Food Fair was a success. Theresa Strimaitis served her usual dinners of sausage, potato pancakes, kugel, sauerkraut and apple sauce. Helen Medley's Easter straw crosses are always in demand. Betty

Gybowsky had something real nice to spruce up your kitchen. There were many others who worked hard to have everything run smoothly to make it the best Palm Sunday Food Fair.

Our condolences go out to Joan Augustine in the loss of her brother-in-law, Victor Kazukynas, and to Walter Rokosky in the loss of his wife Marguerite. May they rest in God's love. H. B.

C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

On Feb. 16 Lithuania's Independence Day, C-63 conducted flag raisings in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. Each ceremony included the Mayor, public officials and a sizable contingent of Lithuanians. News coverage was provided by each city's major newspaper and by three television stations. Violet Price headed the Easton group, Al Klizas, Bethlehem and Joseph Ogint, Allentown.

Trudi Simmons led the Allentown group in singing the Lithuanian national anthem as the flag was raised. A short address by Joseph Ogint followed. He cautioned fellow Americans not to permit themselves to be mesmerized by Gorbachev's



C-50 New Haven members at Christmas party: Isabel Peterson, Alex Gedrim, Frank Peterson, Rev. Karalis, Frank Antin, Irene & Michael Meizies.

recent sweet talk. He pointed out that glasnost and perestroika can be turned off as suddenly as a water tap.

On Feb. 19 a Mass at St. Michael's Church in Easton was held. Celebrant was Fr. Stephen Flynn who detailed Lithuania's religious and political plight. The hymns were in Lithuanian sung by the choir led by Benedict Aponavicius. Gifts were presented by Eddie & Nellie McGary, Jane Lutick, Ann & Janet Pettit, Joseph & Trudi Simmons with Valeria Smickle as coordinator. Following Mass, members and friends enjoyed a dinner at the Candlelight Inn, Bethlehem. Guests included Amber District Pres. Joseph Simmons and wife Trudi, State Representative Robert L. Freeman, Frs. Stephen Flynn & Joseph Hulko of St. Michael-St. Bernard Churches in Easton. Main speaker was Marian Skabeikis, Translation Editor of *Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. She focused in on the continuing suppression of the Catholic Church noting that even though Lithuania was recently allowed production of a Catholic magazine, its survival is threatened since the government stopped allocating paper. She noted that the Catholic press was expunged by the Soviets for over 50 years and suggested sending books or taking books on visits to Lithuania.

Our fellow member, Dr. Adolph Butkys, witnessed his idea bear fruit when he went to Harrisburg to watch Gov. Robert Casey sign a proclamation designating every Jan. 30 as a day to recognize the handicapped. Dr. Butkys, a handicapped person, approached Rep. Wm. Rybak, himself an amputee since childhood, with his idea and he introduced the resolution which became a reality. Jan. 30 is the birthday of Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt, a



Members C-63 Lehigh Valley gathered at City Hall in Allentown to commemorate Feb. 16 with a flag-raising ceremony.

victim of polio. Congratulations, Adolph!

Our council was honored at our last meeting to have a visitor from Lithuania. Myle Kontumiene, niece of Pat Lushis, answered a myriad of questions concerning conditions in present-day Lithuania. It was a most interesting hour of conversation. Bob Klova, her cousin, injected a bit of humor in relating an incident at Kennedy Airport involving a baggage mix-up. A hefty Russian woman passenger was under the impression that Bob was trying to get away with her bags. It took a Russian Embassy official who was meeting that flight to resolve the matter.

Despite short notice and geographical dispersion, thirty-one council members attended the St. Casimir's Day Mass in St. Michael Church in Easton. Fin. Sec. Anne Wonsock was in charge of the celebration. Brunch, hosted by Valeria Smickle, was served in the church hall.

Six members were installed in the Third Degree at Mass in St. Casimir Church in Pittston on March 12. Recipients were Mary Sockel, Ann Pettit, Albert & Jeanette Klizas, Joseph Simmons & Joseph Ogint.

Thirteen members attended the Amber District meeting in the church hall following Mass. Our own Joseph Simmons, president, presided at the business meeting. Thanks to our host C-143 for their extremely warm welcome and generosity.

Joseph Ogint

C-78 LAWRENCE, MA

Amidst pomp, ceremony and pageantry, members of C-78 of St. Francis Parish participated in two important Lithuanian community events. With a Lithuanian flag escort and dressed in national costumes, K of L members marched into church on Feb. 19 as delegates to the Lithuanian American Council's Taryba observance of Lithuanian Independence Day. Mass was celebrated in Lithuanian by Rev. Janiunas with a luncheon in the parish hall prepared by Alice Lever and Joan Lisauskas. A slide show of Fr. Janiunas' recent trip to Lithuania and a file on the Lithuanian Restructuring Movement were shown. Jonas Stundza, C-78 member, spoke at the luncheon.

On Feb. 13 a flag raising ceremony was held wherein the tri-colored flag was placed atop the Lawrence Common across from City

Hall for the week ending Feb. 20.

On March 5 the 10:00 a.m. Mass held in Lithuanian and celebrated by Rev. Janiunas in honor of our patron saint St. Casimir, followed by a successful Communion Breakfast and raffle. A continental breakfast of farmer cheese, juice, assorted breads, eggs and other delicacies were served and prepared by chairladies Alice Lever & Joan Lisauskas from membership donations.

Congratulations to our members who recently received degrees. Under the Ritual chairmanship John M. Grenda-Lukas and Alice Lever, the following were recipients: FIRST: Alice Lever, John and Matilda Stundza. SECOND: Alice lever, John Grenda-Lukas, John and Matilda Stundza, Albert Blazavitch, Helena & Mary Ann Zuber, Bertha Halley and Anna Axtin.

Upcoming plans for the year consisted of attending the NED Holy Hour on April 2 in Putnam, CT and the Spring Meeting of NED on April 30 in Ansonia, CT. We are also planning to attend an International Ethnic Festival in Haverhill, MA on June 17; holding an Annual Day of Prayer for Lithuania on August 30; donating books on Lithuania to the Lawrence Public Library; participating in the parish picnic in August and Christmas Bazaar in November; as well as holding a Kucios observance in December. Truly a busy schedule, constantly added to, with a variety of events to keep our membership active and interested. *John M. Grenda-Lukas*

C-79 SOUTHFIELD, MI

Our council lost a long-time active member when Chester Nashlon passed away Feb. 9 in No. Ft. Myers, FL, where he and Margaret Ann took up residence several years ago after his retirement. During his forty years

as a K of L member he held so many offices there would be no space to list them, from committee chairmanships to district offices and national convention duties. He was also an usher at Divine Providence parish and a member of Knights of Columbus and American-Lithuanian Veterans. He will be missed by many. We send our sincere condolences to Marge.

Joe Racas and David Walsh were on the sick list during March.

March 5 marked our annual commemoration of St. Casimir's Day. After Mass at Divine Providence, we trooped into the Cultural Center Hall for dinner. After an hour's wait for the scheduled meal, the 60 or so members gathered were told the truck with food was mistakenly taken to another church down the road. Frustrated Mary Keller, committee chairlady, with the help of Joe Yakstys, managed to calm the disappointed attendees by declaring the drinks are on the house. We were glad we finally took possession of the food. It was delicious even after an hour and a half delay. The half dozen members who could not wait should have stayed. A 50/50 raffle was held after dinner. The proceeds were equally divided between Fr. Michael Kundrat, once our spiritual advisor, and Chester Ostrowski, our flag-bearer. Father was celebrating a milestone birthday that day. Chester's name was drawn as the other recipient.

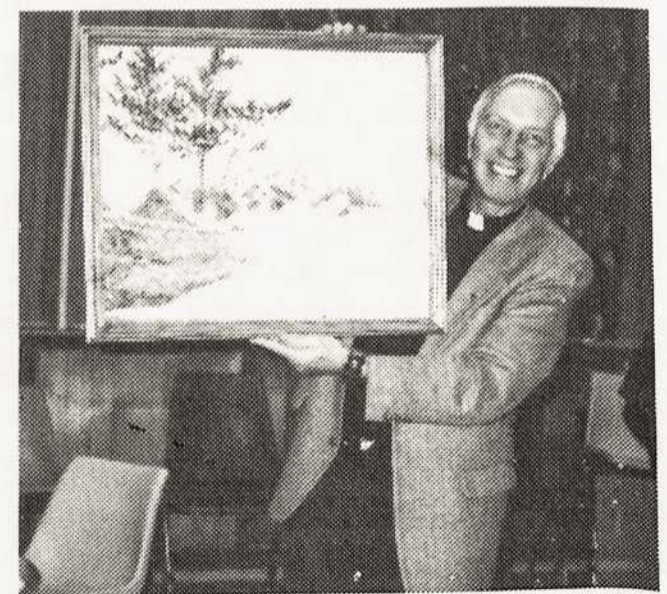
A future event is our council's hosting the semi-annual meeting and an annual bowling tournament the weekend of May 19-21. This should be of special concern to all active and inactive members. Since the District's Pilgrimage last fall in Cleveland, we gained a new president. We should be interested in a fresh, new officer's viewpoints and intentions. Let us all cooperate by planning to attend the

meeting at Hampton Inn on the morning of May 20. Mass and awards banquet the next day. *BEE JAY*

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

The observance of the 71st anniversary of Lithuania's independence on Feb. 18 began with Mass concelebrated by Spiritual Advisor Fr. Baltch and Rev. Joseph Grabys of Watervliet, NY. Honor guards Vincent Rossi and Gerard Drenzek led the procession to the altar with Polly Ziausys and Adeline Raila in national dress; National Pres. Anne Wargo, Helen Chesko and Sister M. Angela, SJC, of Pennsylvania; Assemblyman Paul Tonko, Judge & Mrs. Robert Going and Pres. Radzevich. Homilist was Rev. Baltch. Readings were by Polly Ziausys and National Pres. Wargo. Leader of the worship was Sophie Olechowski. St. Casimir's choir sang during the Mass.

A dinner and program followed in the Social Center with 100 guests and members attending. Mistress of ceremonies was Adeline Raila. Invocation was given by Rev. Baltch. Vice Pres. Genevieve Gobis welcomed members and guests including the large delegation of



Rev. Robert Baltch, spiritual advisor C-100 Amsterdam, displays painting presented to him on his recent birthday.

of the State Capitol on Feb. 14. This meeting was arranged to thank Gov. Cuomo for signing Assembly Bill #9279 designating Feb. 16 annually as Lithuanian Independence Day in New York State. A good sized delegation from Amsterdam attended. Mr. Tonko was one of the sponsors of the resolution.

Mid-Atlantic District Pres. John Adomenas thanked Gov. Cuomo and presented him with two large Lithuanian bread.

Judge Going presented his thoughts on this occasion. He stated that freedom is really in one's heart, but in time freedom will become a reality for the people of Lithuania.

National President Ann Wargo greeted the group and expressed her thanks for the warm welcome that she and her friends received in Amsterdam.

The Ukraine group was represented by the president of Amsterdam's Ukrainian Club who declared that the Ukrainian's desire was the same as Lithuania's for freedom from the Russian yoke.

Vice Pres. Genevieve Gobis read the state and city proclamation of Gov. Cuomo and Mayor Paul Perillo and the Legislative Resolution Senate #291 by Sen. Hugh Farley.

Adeline Raila introduced the main speaker, Rev. Grabys, pastor of St. Brigid's Church, Watervliet, NY. He spoke of his recent visit to Lithuania. The youth did not know their national history because this was suppressed in the schools by the Russian government. Until recently, their parents were unable to tell their children facts without fear of repercussions.

A Latvian duo entertained with delightful renditions of Latvian folk songs and music on the guitar an instrument similar to Lithuanian kankles. Mrs. Lee VanAlstyne, Fort Ukranian and Latvian Americans.

Assemblyman Paul Tonko spoke

of the Lithuanians who met with Gov. Mario Cuomo in the Red Room Edward, accompanied by Rev. Baltch at the piano, sang a medley of Lithuanian and English songs.

Special recognition was given to all who donated hors d'oeuvres. Mrs. Raila thanked the committee consisting of honorary chairman Rev. Baltch and general chairlady Polly Ziausys. After the program everyone was invited to view a video of the Albany ceremonies of Feb. 14 at the State Capitol taped by Steve Raila.

After participating in the Lithuanian Mass celebrated by Fr. Baltch, members met for the Feb. meeting in the Social Center. The membership unanimously approved a donation of \$100 to the Lithuanian College in Rome. Lithuanian Affairs chairman Baranauskas notified us that the Festival of Nations will be held at the Schenectady Museum on May 13. Cultural chairlady Ziausys & Bernice Aviza visited Rev. Grigaitis at the Matulaitis Nursing Home in Putnam, CT and brought greetings to all.

Refreshment committee headed by Frances DiBart and assisted by a

group of lady Knights prepared a birthday celebration for our beloved Fr. Baltch. Fran DiBart recited a poem dedicated to Father. Happy Birthday, Fr. Baltch.

Smile & Sparkle

C-109 GREAT NECK, NY

St. Casimir's Day commemoration was celebrated with Mass at St. Aloysius Church. Rev. Jos. Dunn greeted the K of L members present in the congregation, and before his homily, mentioned the need for prayers for Lithuania. The hope for a Free Lithuania was also mentioned in the church bulletin. Bill Statkevicius and Starsy Wesey, resplendent in her Lithuanian costume, brought the Offertory gifts to the celebrant at the altar. Ours is a non-Lithuanian parish, and the Lithuanian costume does arouse the curiosity of the parishioners. After Mass, all gathered at Lauraine Murphy's Restaurant for lunch. There were 71 persons present, and for our small council, this was a good number. To make the day more interesting, some of our members donated door prizes, of which there



C-109 Great Neck. St. Casimir's celebration: Jean Mactutis, Fin. Sec., Mary Wesey, Sec. and Bill Statkevicius, Vice President.

were many. It was a pleasant day renewing old acquaintances, at the same time being mindful that we all share a Lithuanian ancestry, and that through St. Casimir's intercession, we hope for the peace and freedom of that nation. Our thanks to the luncheon chairladies, Martha Krug, and her assistants Bertha Fuchs and Mary Wesley.

Council delegates to the Mid-Atlantic District commemoration, hosted by Maspeth C-110 were Helen Wonson, Jean Mactutis, Jo & Joe Zukas and Mary & Anthony Kober. Mass at Transfiguration Church was celebrated in Lithuanian by Msgr. Frank Bulovas, their pastor (and our Spiritual Advisor) assisted by Rev. Kornelius Bucmys. Helen Matalonis was a fine lector. Singing the hymns and trying to keep up with the Lithuanian service (prayers which most of us were taught in our youth), brought back old memories. The District meeting followed in the church hall. We thank Maspeth council members who provided coffee and buns before Mass, a meal after Mass, and another, after the meeting. That is one organized group and we applaud them! The main speaker was Fr. Bucmys, Darbininkas newspaper editor, who spoke about present day occupied Lithuania and also on his recent trip to Africa. Father mentioned this was his first speech given in English. If the role were reversed, some of us would wish we could do as well in Lithuanian! We are pleased with the District's resolution requesting consideration of Honorary Membership for Brooklyn, NY C-41 member, Helen Kulber. Helen has always been so proud of her heritage and has been persistent in her efforts to do everything in her power to publicize the Lithuanian cause. She has been a faithful, loyal member of our organization, and we

sincerely hope she may be so rewarded.

The Bendruomene recently held a dinner at the Cultural Center in Brooklyn honoring their ilgametis outgoing president, and at the same time honored nine other very worthy members. Among them was one of our own, Petras Povilaitis. Esame dekingi esate pagerbtas dirbant Lietuviu Tautos reikalams!

Mary & Tony Kober flew to Chicago to attend the Supreme Council meeting. Accompanied by Estelle Rogers, C-112 and Konstant Savickus, C-5, they had a grand tour of Draugas establishment where our Vytis is now being published. Mary & Tony thank the Chicago K of L's who were so hospitable and friendly to them.

We realize we have missed two members, Mary Pelkus and Jane Schwarz who have not been with us at our various functions. Both of these ladies have been giving tender, loving care to their elderly Mom's, in their 90's, who reside with them. We want to especially wish them and all mothers, those who are living, and those already deceased, a very warm Mother's Day remembrance. During the month of May, we will be remembering all mothers in our prayers, hoping they realize how much they are loved and cherished... (and missed). HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, MOM! 🍏

C-110 MASPETH, NY

March, harbinger of Spring, with its shivering winds, did not dampen this council's outlook for the coming of Spring.

As required by the constitution, the council members and their friends desired that there would be no more fitting way to honor St. Casimir than by participating at morning Mass on March 5 and by giving thanks for the

blessings of our faith. Thus, 140 members and friends attended Mass at Transfiguration in Maspeth with a luncheon following in the parish hall. After everyone partook of the luncheon, with attentive ears they listened to Rev. Carl Clavers speak on St. Casimir's life.

On March 7, Joseph Vastunas, age 94, died in Jacksonville, FL. We were saddened at the death of our oldest member in age. Though sympathy is small consolation, nevertheless, we feel his loss. His body was brought back to Brooklyn and remains buried in St. John's Cemetery.

On March 12, we hosted a communion luncheon and Mid-Atlantic District meeting. Following Mass in Transfiguration, a luncheon was served in the parish hall. Shortly thereafter, the meeting took place.

Third degrees were received by the following: Sophie & Petras Zuyus, Anna Dugan and Anna Kakoszko. This council is beholden to those that received their Third Degree for services rendered and having contributed immeasurably to the success of this council. Sincere congratulations to one and all.

Chairman John Adomenas and Maitre D Joseph Dugan offer their thanks to the following members who assisted in making both luncheons successful: Ann Adomenas, William & Zina Budris, Anne Dugan, John & Amy Girdauskas, Anna Kakoszko, Helen Matulonis and Nellie Wassell. The council is deeply indebted to those mentioned as having contributed immeasurably to the success of both luncheons. Although your service may at times seem thankless, one must remember it is for the good of the council and the Knights of Lithuania. 🍏



C-112 CHICAGO, IL

Our condolences to member Adella Zunas on the death of her brother Frank Kasputis.

At our March meeting the members celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph with a St. Joseph's Table. Under the leadership of Donna Juraitis and Rita Zakarka, a 20' long table was decorated with all home-specialty type foods. Over fifty members and guests were present for this celebration. To the delight of everyone present, there was a double crowning for the special event. Algird Brazis and Eleanor Kasputis were crowned King and Queen for the special events fund raiser. Congratulations to both. C-112 thanks Donna & Rita for making all the arrangements in preparing St. Joseph's Table and to all members who so graciously donated their specialty foods. Also, many thanks to Susan Binkis for being in charge of distribution of raffle tickets for the special event. We cannot forget Ellie Kasputis for her untiring efforts of gathering the prizes. Job well done!

On March 18, we hosted the National Executive Board meeting at the Nativity BVM hall. The hall set up and all food arrangements were under the capable leadership of Susan Binkis. She made certain there was enough food for light lunching, snacking and supper. Susan expresses her thanks to her committee of workers and to all who donated all types of goodies. We thank Susan for chairing this big undertaking and for making sure the pitchers of coffee and water were filled during the meeting. Much coffee and water was consumed during the course of the meeting.

Our council newsletter informing our members of the upcoming events will be out shortly. We all look forward to this excellent newsletter. Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Peter Juzenas for their untiring efforts in all the

necessary preparations for the newsletter.

Remember to send in your registration forms and Ads for the Convention Program Book.

Albert Zakarka

C-142 WASHINGTON, DC

C-142 participated in the national capital's impressive ceremonies commemorating the 71st anniversary of Lithuania's declaration of independence. On the evening of Feb. 16, Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr., newly appointed Charge d'Affaires and his wife, hosted a gala reception at the recently refurbished Legation. Some three hundred of the area's Lithuanians attended the affair. Mingling with the festive celebrants were State Department officials, diplomats of other countries and members of Congress. The highlight of the evening was the personal attendance of James Cardinal Hickey, accompanied by two of his auxiliary bishops, Leonard Olivier and William Curlin. The cardinal extended his warmest wishes for Lithuania's welfare and by his attendance and that of the two bishops signified the

concern of American Catholics for Soviet occupied Lithuania.

Mr. Lozoraitis doubles as Lithuania's diplomatic representative in the Vatican so that much of his time is necessarily spent in Rome. Lithuanians attending the reception enjoyed the opportunity of meeting Mrs. Lozoraitis, a charming Italian woman who greeted guests with the traditional Lithuanian "Labas." C-142 contributed a beautiful bouquet which was placed at the Legation's entrance.

The following Sunday, Feb. 19, a solemn high Mass in Latin was held at St. Matthew's Cathedral for the Lithuanian community. Fr. Gigrich of the cathedral staff was the chief celebrant who also delivered a moving homily dealing with the heroic struggles of the Catholic Church in present day Lithuania, particularly in past years. One of the concelebrants was Fr. Thomas Zuiraitis, OP, the council's spiritual advisor. Following Mass, C-142 honored the memory of Thaddeus Kosciusko, the Lithuanian born hero of the American Revolution and of anti-Russian rebellions, by laying a wreath at his statue in Lafayette Park across from



Charge d'Affaires Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr. and wife welcome Cardinal Hickey (center) , Bishop Olivier (left) and Bishop Curlin (right) to reception at Lithuanian Legation on Feb. 16.



Members of C-142 Washington, gathered to honor memory of Thaddeus Kosciusko, Lithuanian hero of the American Revolution, by placing a wreath at his statue in Lafayette Park.

Photo: Al Cizauskas, Jr.

the White House. The ceremony has become an annual tradition of C-142.

The day's activities concluded with a meeting at the University of Maryland hosted by the local chapter of the Lithuanian American Community, Bendromiene, at which Fr. Zuraitis delivered the invocation. Darius Suziedelis of the Lithuanian American Youth Association gave the afternoon's key address in which he criticized the prevailing attitude among older Lithuanians of tending to ignore younger Lithuanians when their knowledge of the Lithuanian language is deficient.

Gene & Al Cizauskas

C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

Anthracite Knights joined together to celebrate the feast of St. Casimir. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Matthew Jarasunas at Our Lady of Siluva in Maizeville. To honor St. Casimir, the following gifts were presented: Statue of St. Casimir, Jos.

Martunas; cross, Janet Domalakes; lily, Karen Domalakes; crown of thorns; Anna Helen McDonald; amber rosary, Ann Supernavage; crown of god, Eva Yurkewicz; gifts of bread and wine, Olympia Zeliski and Eleanor Vaicaitis. Readings were done by Mary Koons. Jos. Kaselonis and John Koons served as ushers. The choir honored us by singing Lithuanian Mass and hymns. Closing hymn was to St. Casimir. After Mass, members and guests went to the hall for refreshments, hosted by Helen Matunis, Ann Dunlap, Anna Bender, Olympia Zelinski, Marcella Kaselonis, Margaret Marousky, Helen Kratulis, Frances Rauba, Isabel Subach and Mary Koons.

The meeting was opened with prayer followed by the flag salute. Pres. Eleanor Vaicaitis thanked Joni Reinhart and her committee for chairing the March affair. Life of St. Casimir, written by Sisters of St. Casimir, was read by Anna Helen

McDonald. Joseph Martunas, Lithuanian Affairs chairman, gave us some highlights from the short wave radio programs from Lithuania.

Forty council members attended the Amber District meeting as delegates in Pittston on March 12. Fr. Alisauskas, pastor of St. Casimir's and spiritual advisor of C-143, was celebrant and homilist for Mass honoring St. Casimir. The choir's rendition of Lithuanian hymns was outstanding. District ritual committee, Helen Chesko, presented candidates for installation in their degrees. Fr. Alisauskas conferred Third Degrees on Joseph & Marcella Kaselonis, Ginny Kazlauskas, Frances Rauba, John Balesky, Ann Dunlap, Lucy Zelonis and Esther Bartashus of our council. Congratulations!

Luncheon was served in the church hall. Fr. Alisauskas gave the blessing. Business meeting followed with Joseph Simmons, C-63, presiding. Edmund Carlitus is district treasurer. Elsie Kosmisky and Eleanor Vaicaitis served on the mandate committee and reported an attendance of 124. Ann Carlitus assisted with the money raffle, which C-144 was not fortunate to bring home.

Anthracite Council will host the Amber District meeting on June 11 at Our Lady of Siluva, Maizeville.

The council purchased the council's allotment of Lithuanian Fraternalism: 75 Years of U.S. Knights of Lithuania. Copies are being distributed to public libraries and institutions of higher education in Schuylkill County and surrounding areas.

John R. Joseph, our vice president, was recently honored as "Elk of the Year" by Frackville Elks Lodge #1533. A group of Knights attended. Congratulations. 🍏

C-152 RIVERHEAD, NY

The highlight of our council activities during March was our annual Mass and communion luncheon in honor of St. Casimir on March 12. Some one hundred members attended Mass which was celebrated by Fr. William Scrill, our spiritual advisor. He selected the theme of his homily "God's Readiness, even Anxiousness, to Forgive our Offenses against Him with only One simple, but Crucial, 'String' attached: Our Willingness, in turn, to extend our own Hand in Forgiveness to any and all Persons whom we, ourselves, have injured." Drawing from his own experiences as Catholic Chaplain of a nearby county jail, Fr. Scrill stressed the importance, even while being conscious of the gravity of our own faults and offenses against God and neighbor, of maintaining our self-esteem by realizing our own value in God's sight. Rejecting all belief in our own intrinsic worth, Fr. Scrill pointed out, is a formula for despair.

Our guest speaker at the luncheon following Mass was Rev. Daniel Staniskis, currently serving as assistant pastor of Annunciation Parish in Brooklyn. He is also spiritual advisor of C-41. Father is a native of Philadelphia and a graduate of St. Casimir's College & Seminary in Rome. He concentrated his remarks on the role of that Seminary in forming the minds and characters of its students for the service of Lithuanian congregations. It is the only such existing institution, Fr. Staniskis pointed out that the support and maintenance of the Seminary is a prime concern of the Knights of Lithuania and urged everyone to support the Seminary. He also recommended consideration of the seminary to any young men who might feel a vocation to the priesthood.



C-152 members at flag-raising ceremony in Riverhead on Feb. 16th. Shown with Suffolk County Presiding Legislator Gregory Blass are Pres. Michael Zukas, Beatrice Lucka and Angela Minsavitch.

The undoubted success of our annual Mass and luncheon was due to the unselfish efforts of numerous members and with special appreciation to Fred Lucka as choir director and master of ceremonies.

Tom Tarmey

C-153 TREASURE COAST, FL

Šv. Kazimiero šventę paminėjo "Lobių Pakrantės" 153 Lietuvos Vyčių kuopa. Kova 5 d. St. Paul of the Cross šventovėje atlaikytos iškilmingos pamaldos šia intencija.



C-153 New Officers l to r: Louis Stukas, Cultural Chairman; John Thomas, Vice-Pres.; Constance Scheibelhut, Pres.; Rev. Vytautas Pikturna, Spiritual Advisor; Rose Zukauskas, Treas.; Albinas Zukauskas, Lithuanian Affairs Chmn. Missing: Florence Morris, Sec. & Aldona Biliunas, Publicity Chairlady.

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Mišių pradžioje ėnešė Amerikos ir Lietuvos veliavas Jack Scheibelhut ir Jonas Thomas. Šv. Kazimiero didžiulį paveikslą prie altoriaus padėjo Michael Yodiskas, Mišiola Aldona Biliūnienė. Procesija lydėjo pirm. Konstancija Scheibelhut ir Albinas Žukauskas, kurie vėliau atnešė šv. Mišių auką. Procesijos dalyviai pasipuosė tautiniais kostumais ir juostomis. Vietos lietuvių dvasios vadas Kun. V. Pikturna ir svečias Kun. Skodenis aukojė šv. Mišias. Solo giesmes pagiedojo solistės G. Mazur ir J. Šalnienė. Daug vyčių suvažiavo iš įvairių Amerikos vietovių: Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Illinois ir

Florida. Pamaldose dalyvavo daug plačios apylinkės lietuvių. Visi maldoje jungėsi su Lietuva. Šia diena Vilniuje šv. Kazimiero relikvijos buvo perkeltos į Katedrą, neseniai komunistinio režimo sugražinta tikintiesiems.

Po pamaldų dalyviai rinkosi Olive Garden restorane vaišėms. Kalbėjo šiai progai specialiai atvykęs prof. Jokubas Stukas, isteigėjęs šios jaunos Vyčių Kuopos.



C-153 honoring St. Casimir at St. Paul of the Cross Church in FL

Happy
Mother's Day

