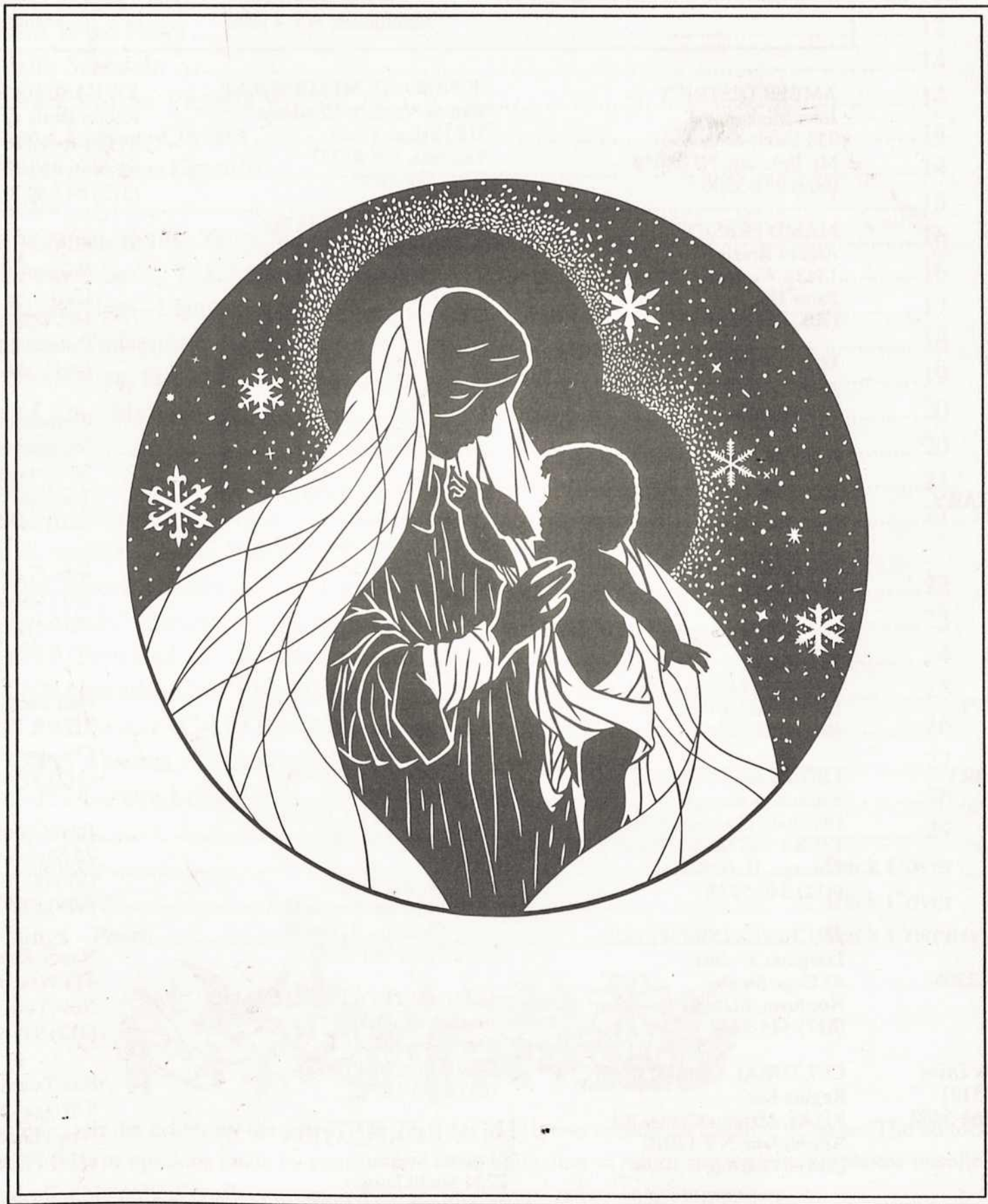


the KNIGHT **WYTYTIS** 1991

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

GEGUZIS - MAY

VOL. 77: No. 5



*Month of May - We honor Our Lady*

# VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

GEGUZIS - MAY  
1991  
VOL. 77: No. 5

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VYTIS (663680) published monthly November thru June, bi-monthly July-August and September-October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, a Not-For-Profit organization. Subscription \$10.00 per year. Single Copy \$2.00. Second class postage paid at Chicago, IL. POSTMASTER ONLY: Send address changes to VYTIS, Two Bayview Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050.

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## THE HILL OF CROSSES

Text by Loretta Girzaitis  
Photos by Jean Girzaitis

On Sunday, Jan. 13, 1990 a new and troubling phase in Lithuania's struggle for independence began with an assault by Soviet military troops on a television broadcasting facility in the capital city of Vilnius that left 15 dead and more than 100 wounded. Many believe that the subsequent crisis is likely to provide a pretext for Moscow's intervention and the suppression of the independent government of Lithuania. Loretta and Jean Girzaitis visited Lithuania last fall, and their account, in words and photos, makes more poignant the fate of Lithuania on the eve of renewed repression.

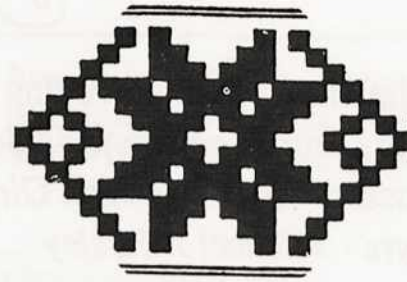
My mother and father had come to the United States from Lithuania after World War I and it was in Chicago that they met and married. At that time there were 14 Lithuanian parishes in the city, with each parish supporting its own Lithuanian school, staffed by the Lithuanian Sisters of St. Casimir. We did not speak English at home, so it became the duty of the sisters to teach it to us.

The sisters had a tremendous task. They needed to support the families in preserving Lithuanian traditions, customs and language. At the same time, they had to instill in their students a love of America and its traditions, customs and language. They did an admirable job of both tasks.

As an adult and during the communist domination in Lithuania, I had been living in St. Paul, MN working for the archdiocese. There are few Lithuanians in the Twin Cities, but once we became acquainted, we managed periodic visits, dinners and *Kučios*, or Christmas Eve celebrations.

Lithuania's declaration of independence on March 11, 1990 reawakened within me a sense of pride for that tiny Baltic state of 3.5 million people, which had been my parents' homeland. My earlier attempt to enter Lithuania in 1972 ended in failure. But last year, my sister Jean and I finally obtained visas and were on our way by Labor Day.

We could not have arrived at a worse time. It rained the entire two weeks we were there.



Visitors from Latvia dressed in their native costumes bring their own crosses to leave on the famous hill.

The potatoes rotted in the fields and the weather turned cold. We had brought only light clothing and there was nothing in the stores to purchase, so we depended on strangers in the city to clothe us with sweaters and jackets.

In Vilnius where we were staying, we learned first-hand what life is like in a communist-dominated country. It was the Soviet government's policy that no heat would be allowed until Oct. 1. So for a month, hospital patients and personnel, hotel visitors, office workers, school children and families shivered in the cold because of a bureaucracy that disregarded human need.

But we were fortunate enough to come at a time when travel restrictions had been lifted. We, as well as our relatives, were allowed complete freedom to come and go as we wished. In spite of the miserable weather, we moved easily throughout the entire country.

During our visit, we met our parents' relatives, saw their homes and their neighborhoods, heard their stories of repression and persecution. The history of modern Lithuania is made up of such stories. Lithuania's time of great trial began in 1940, when Stalin took over the Baltic nations. In effect, Lithuanians became prisoners in their own land. Many of the intelligentsia — professionals, clergy and nuns — who remained in Lithuania were rounded up and sent to Siberia. To survive, some clerics and religious went underground and found secular jobs in order to support themselves.

The churches in the major cities were closed, with only a handful remaining open in some of the smaller villages. However, the Soviet secret police (known today as the KGB) had spies everywhere. Those participating in religious services or baptizing their children were punished by the loss of jobs or services, and suffered deportation or imprisonment. When the Baltic countries were annexed, Russian became the common language. All classes were taught in Russian; all



*Wooden statue of "Rupintojelis (the Worrier) greets people crossing the border from Latvia into Lithuania. It is a national symbol of Jesus' care for his people.*

street and store signs were transposed into Russian. Only Russian newspapers, books and television were permitted.

It was during that period that the *Rupintojelis* (the "Worrier") emerged. This is the image of the wounded Christ sitting with His right elbow resting on His knees with His palm holding up His right cheek and His face expressing His pain for the plight of His people. This image, carved in wood and stone and painted on canvas, showed Christ as one with the Lithuanians in their sorrow. Regardless of how much the Soviets tried to destroy the faith, Lithuanians, in the early days, found ways of publicly defying communist orders.

One of the first places we visited, the Hill of Crosses is

near the city of Šauliai. The Hill of Crosses was constructed decades before the Soviets claimed the land, and it was one place where both sides clashed. There are many legends about its beginnings and no one really knows which are true. But the cross-covered hill has become an important symbol of a public expression of faith.

Both individuals and groups brought crosses constructed of wood, metal or stone, many artistically painted in vivid colors. The crosses increased by the hundreds. When the Soviets took



*Many crosses seen on the Hill.*

over the land, more than 400 crosses dotted the hill. In spite of the ban on public religious demonstrations, the people continued their pilgrimages. By 1961, an estimated 6,000 crosses claimed not only the hill but also the farmland below. That was an embarrassment to the Soviets, who burned and bulldozed them. But the people remained undaunted. Under cover of the night, they replaced their crosses. Those were bulldozed in 1973 and again a year later. The last such attempt was in 1975 when 400 crosses were demolished. All the crosses now present on that hill and the surrounding countryside have been planted since 1975.

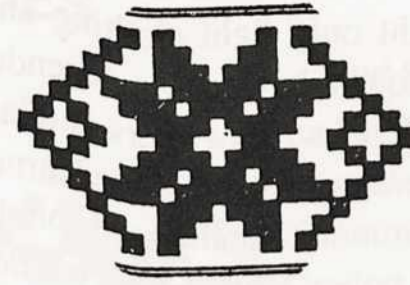
The day we visited the Hill of Crosses, we saw visitors from other countries, some dressed in national costumes. It was humbling to place our crosses among the many thousands that are testimonials to the pain of a people. Even though an ocean separated us, that symbolic act knit us irrevocably together.

Crosses seem to be symbolic of Lithuania's sorrowful past. The country had been noted for its wayside crosses through the centuries. But those had been destroyed by the Soviets, and the countryside had turned bleak. Now, as we traveled, we saw new crosses reappearing in courtyards, parish grounds and farm entrances. The various designs were unique and distinctive.

Most of the churches had been built during the Middle Ages and were Gothic and baroque in style. In Tautyvenas, as soon as we entered the courtyard, we were captivated by the chapel at the entrance. A huge sign announced that no one was allowed to *walk* up the stairs to the altar because the steps were a replica of the stairs that Jesus climbed on His way to Pilate for judgment. Women chanting prayers and hymns were climbing those steps on their knees.

On Sept. 8, the feast of the birth of Mary, we visited the shrine of Šiluva where Our Lady appeared to several shepherds and asked that a church be built at that location. In spite of the rain, the crowds were immense, because for the first time in decades the roads were not blocked by Russian police or bulldozers. It was impossible for us to get inside the church for the services.

Because of the persecution imposed upon the people for practicing their faith, the present



*A tortured man, representing all those who have suffered at the hands of the Soviets, nestles in a carved out section of a tree in a park in Vilnius.*



*This is not an unusual sight in the towns and cities. People wait patiently in line, not only for food but also for whatever products are available.*

generation has very little knowledge of their heritage, even though 90 percent of the people consider themselves Catholics. Most are unaware that Vatican II occurred. Churches that were once closed by the communists are now being renovated. The altars are not turned around. Open confessionals dot the sides of the churches, and people are required to go to confession whenever they have already received the Eucharist three times.

Visiting the cathedral in Vilnius was an experience. It is modeled after the Greek Parthenon, with a huge plaza in front of it where people congregate for special occasions. There are numerous chapels along its walls, each dedicated to a particular saint. The Chapel of St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania and Poland, holds the remains of the saint above the altar. The remains had been removed from the cathedral when it was turned into a museum, and the remains were hidden in the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul. When the cathedral was reopened a year ago, thousands of people marched in procession from Sts. Peter and Paul to the cathedral as the remains of St. Casimir were returned to their original location. We participated in the Eucharist there, kneeling on a cement floor since there are no pews. On Sundays, crowds of older people turn out, joyful that they can have the Mass again. Very few young people are present.

Another significant church is the Chapel of the Martyrs. A sign commemorates the thousands who have died in Siberia. The Kremlin now allows bodies to be returned from

Siberia to be buried in family plots. Before the bodies are taken to the cemeteries, they are brought to that chapel for a commemorative service.

I had the opportunity to speak with several people who had spent time in Siberian prisons. Their stories are vivid reminders of the atrocities human beings can inflict on one another. One man told of having to sleep on wooden slats with dozens of others; they were so tightly jammed together that everyone needed to turn together to the left and to the right to preserve balance. Others spoke of sleeping in the mud or on mats on the ice. Frequently they were hungry. Some were tortured and bear scars as permanent reminders.

There is a unique shrine in the Old City of Vilnius, built into the wall of the city. Vilnius was founded in the 14th century and its first royalty had its palaces there. Over the main gate into the city, an artist placed a picture of the Virgin, portraying her as the protectress from the enemy. It became a popular place of prayer, especially in times of war or disaster. This shrine, known as *Aušros Vartai* (the "Gate of Dawn"), is a small and narrow one, reached by a flight of stairs. People flock here constantly, leaving their brass mementos of legs, arms and hearts in thanksgiving for favors received. We, too, visited the shrine and were impressed by the devotion and sincerity of everyone seeking the Virgin's protection.

My predominant impression of the people was that they were fearful and very concerned about survival. No one smiled or greeted anyone on the street. People stared straight ahead, lost in their inner worlds as they walked the avenues or stood in lines blocks long when goods became available. Most of the time the stores were empty. They needed ration cards for meat, sugar, sweets and liquor.

The rural communities are more fortunate, even though Soviet-style communal farming is imposed on them. One cousin we met raised ducks, thousands of them a season, for sale in Moscow. Yet whatever the quotas are in Lithuania, farmers make sure that their neighbors have enough food. In addition to their communal farming, families are allowed to raise their own chickens, pigs, cows and vegetables. They did not fear starvation this winter, even though their potato harvest had been ruined by the rain.

But the declaration of independence last year gave the country a sense of pride and determination. Before the recent takeover by Soviet troops, the country was certain it would

gain its freedom from the Soviet Union and that it would be done without violence. The people were living as if Lithuania were free. The emblem of their shield with a crusader riding on a horse was displayed boldly. The red, green and yellow flag flew from flagstaffs everywhere. Street and highway signs had been changed from Russian to Lithuanian.

When we entered the country and stopped at the border, it was the sign "Republic of Lithuania" that greeted us. No longer was the U.S.S.R. tag attached to it. At the border, too, was a stone representation of the Worrier, symbol of Christ's accompaniment in the pain the republic has suffered. During our visit, we saw demonstrations take place in front of the parliament. Where there are now cement barricades to keep Soviet troops out, we saw young men living in tents, fasting for independence. Everywhere in the city there was graffiti reading, "Soviets go home!"

Close to the cathedral is a commemorative park. Here artists have carved out sections of trees and have painted images of their suffering countrymen. The arts were flourishing. We visited a trade school where young women were being trained in weaving. Lithuania grows no cotton but raises plenty of flax, which is converted into linen. The linen is woven into magnificent patterns.

Returning to the United States, we were changed women, touched by strangers-turned-friends and by a country standing tall in spite of the efforts of half-a-century's oppressive tactics to crush its spirit. Now, more than ever, it is good to be of Lithuanian heritage.

*Reprinted with permission of Sunday Visitor.*



*The Madonna reigns royally in the chapel above Aušros Vartu (Gate of Dawn) in the old City of Vilnius.*

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## 'BLOOD OF MARTYRS'

Film smuggled out of Lithuania shows horrors of Soviet military crackdown

*by Michael J. Healey*

A young man pleads with a Soviet soldier not to shoot. The soldier hesitates, then responds by butting the man with his rifle, splitting his forehead open. Says an elderly woman who was shot in the leg, "They just kept shooting and shooting and shooting."

Another woman, another victim of a rifle-butt, her face wrapped in a blood-stained bandage, expresses puzzlement that the soldier "could hit someone who could be his mother." And perhaps most horrifyingly, a 24-year old woman lies in a hospital bed. Her face is contorted with pain. The camera zooms in on her legs, which have been crushed by a tank. Before dying, the woman asks her uncle if this means she will no longer be able to walk down the aisle on her wedding day.

These grainy, grisly scenes seemed surrealistic. But, tragically, they were not. The footage was taken during the Soviet army's brutal crackdown in Vilnius, the capital of the Lithuanian Republic of the U.S.S.R. on "Bloody Sunday," January 13.

The military's raid on the republic's main television tower killed 15 people and wounded an estimated 500 more. Since Jan. 13, seven more Lithuanians have died at the hands of troops, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has maintained that the assault was made without his knowledge.

The film footage was smuggled out of Lithuania shortly after the crackdown. Daiva Kezys, a Lithuanian-American, edited more than 200 hours of tapes and on Feb. 16 — the



**Lithuanian Independence Day, — Gary Penikas showed two video cassettes at Our Lady of Vilnius Lithuanian Church in Manhattan.**

Penikas said that four people attempted to smuggle film from Lithuania only to have it confiscated at the airport. But one man succeeded by gift-wrapping it and telling the authorities it was a souvenir for his relatives in America. Somehow, the film eluded the airport X-ray machine. After he edited the film, it was voiced-over in English, Penikas said.

"If you thought this was violent, some of the stuff was not to be viewed by the public. The violence was incredible," he said. "You really couldn't watch it." Judging from the response of the persons who watched the films, what was left in was enough.

As the images flashed by on the television screen, many viewers wept aloud. Others dabbed at their eyes with tissues. And when demonstrators in Vilnius chanted slogans and sang Lithuanian patriotic songs, some in the audience joined in.

The second tape showed scenes from the Funeral Mass, which was celebrated Jan. 26 by Archbishop Julijonas Steponavičius of Vilnius. In his eulogy, he said, "Now our independence (which Lithuania declared in March 1990) is baptized in the blood of martyrs."

It also showed the funeral procession through the capital city, which was witnessed by more than 300,000 mourners. Later, in a dramatic shot, the camera panned past the thou-

sands of posters and placards that hang in seemingly every available space in the plaza outside the Parliament building, which has been barricaded by Lithuanian nationalists.

Most posters mocked Gorbachev and his Nobel Peace Prize award. One sign read simply, "Hitler-Stalin-Hussein-Gorbachev." Other posters repeated the description of Gorbachev by Andrei Gromyko, the long-time Soviet ambassador to the United States: "This man has a nice smile, but he has iron teeth."

Afterward, Penikas recalled Gromyko's words and said, "Gorbachev has only one friend and that's Mr. Bush. Here we are fighting in Kuwait, and that's not even a democracy."

Rev. Vito Palubinskas, pastor of Annunciation Lithuanian Church said of the Nobel Prize, "What a shame for the committee to give Gorbachev this award. So many Lithuanians never trusted this man. They were right."

Aldona Kepalaite, the organist at Our Lady of Vilnius Church said that the films were shocking but inspiring. "My only thought was I would be willing to give my life so that democracy can succeed in Lithuania."

In the Jan. 19 edition of *The (London) Tablet*, Anatol Lieven, a correspondent who had been stationed in the Baltics for several months, wrote, "The choice here is truly appalling: between anarchy and ethnic conflict on the one hand, and on the other, Soviet repression of a kind that will solve nothing, will in some cases make ethnic conflict even worse and will simply, at huge cost, hold things down until a further inevitable explosion." 🍏



*Coffin of one of the 13 killed by Soviet tanks in an assault on the Vilnius broadcasting center.*



*Huge crowd fills Cathedral Square in front of Vilnius Cathedral on day of funeral. The baroque cathedral was an art gallery for many years, until it was returned to the Catholic church as a place of worship.*



*Wounded man in hospital bed flashes the victory symbol, made popular by both Winston Churchill and more recently, Lech Walesa of Poland.*



*Funeral participants carry the flag of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.*

Photos on Pgs. 7 and 8 taken by Juozas Bindokas

## Lithuanian Twins come to U.S. for Surgery, Hope

For the better part of their three years, Vitalija and Vilija Tamulevičius have been beating the odds.

The Lithuanian Siamese twins were born connected at their skulls (called craniophagus), the most unusual connection of a condition that affects about one in 100,000 births. The girls underwent a 16-hour surgery to separate themselves in Moscow in July 1989. The girls celebrated their third birthday by flying thousands of miles to Dallas, TX where they await plastic surgery.

To date, thirty-four craniophagus separations are known to have been performed. Most of these surgeries have been performed in the U.S., France and Germany. Of the sixty-eight separated twins, twenty-nine are still alive.

The twins were scheduled to undergo additional extensive surgery in Feb. but lack of funds caused that to be postponed. It's considered a very important operation. The skull reconstruction will reshape their heads. They have no bone over their brain, so they must wear helmets during the day for protection. Otherwise, the girls are perfectly normal children. The girls have been seen by a Dr. Kenneth Salyer before and after their surgery in Moscow. Dr. Salyer and colleagues have donated all of their operating time to the procedure and the hospital is donating 42% of the hospital costs. Dr. E. Gendler, president of the Pacific Coast Tissue Bank in Los Angeles is donating the bone for the reconstruction, a value of over \$5,000, according to officials.

The twins still need over \$40,000 to cover intensive care and physical therapy costs during their planned stay. Anyone

interested in donating to this surgery should send their checks made out to: Childworks International,, P.O. Box 515838. Dallas, TX 75251-5838. Childworks International is a foundation for children's surgery.



*The twins after their dissection surgery. awaiting further cosmetic surgery in Dallas.*

## Congressman Dick Durbin supports Legislation to aid Baltics and protect Baltic Nations in U.S.

As the world focuses on the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf and Kuwait's new-found freedom, the Baltic nations continue to struggle for their right to freedom and self-determination.


"The overwhelming votes for independence in Latvia and Estonia reaffirm the support in the Baltic nations for secession from the Soviet Union," Durbin said. "The U.S. must continue to support their struggle for independence and provide whatever assistance is needed."

"I have co-sponsored several bills in Congress which demonstrate U.S. commitment to the independence movement in the Baltics." The first measure (H. Con. Res. 50) would urge continued international diplomatic pressure against intimidation in the Baltic states through the United Nations Security Council and the Commission on Human Rights. "By exercising diplomatic influence on the Soviet Union, U.N. members could help bring about a prompt resolution to the conflict in the Baltic region and restore peaceful relations between these Republics and the Soviet Union."

Another bill which Durbin co-sponsored (H.R. 915) would require all U.S. aid to the Soviet Union to be distributed directly to the Baltic states in proportion to their population. "This bill would ensure that the Baltic nations receive their

fair share of U.S. aid to the Soviet Union and would eliminate Moscow's ability to use U.S. aid to economically intimidate the Baltics."

The third bill (H.R. 637) would grant temporary protected immigration status to nationals of the Baltic states who are temporarily living in the United States. "The civil unrest in the Baltics, and the political oppression being placed on them by the Soviet government, has made these people subject to persecution based on either race, religion, nationality, political opinion and/or membership in a social group," Durbin explained. "This bill would extend Baltic nationals' nonimmigrant visas until the Baltic states become politically stable."

Durbin returned from a Helsinki Commission trip to the Baltic nations of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, where he met with Baltic leaders to discuss their struggle for freedom and the recent Soviet crackdown in the region. Durbin said that the 14 member congressional delegation (code) that left Washington Feb. 10 and returned Feb. 15, 1991 was there to show the United States' support for freedom and democracy in the Baltic states. "During my trip, I saw first-hand the heroic battle being fought in the Baltics. In all three Republics, the determination and courage of these people was remarkable. I believe their strength will endure and eventually lead to freedom." 

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## DURBIN JOINS EFFORT TO EXPAND SUPPORT FOR BALTIC STATES

U.S. Rep. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) joined 11 House colleagues in introducing a resolution urging that the United States expand and solidify its support for the Baltic nations.

"During the Helsinki Commission trip to the Baltic States, we were told time and time again how important U.S. support is to the fight for independence in the region," Durbin said. "This resolution is a result of discussions we had with the Presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, as well as parliamentary representatives and spokesmen of parliamentary opposition and national minority groups."


The resolution would do the following:

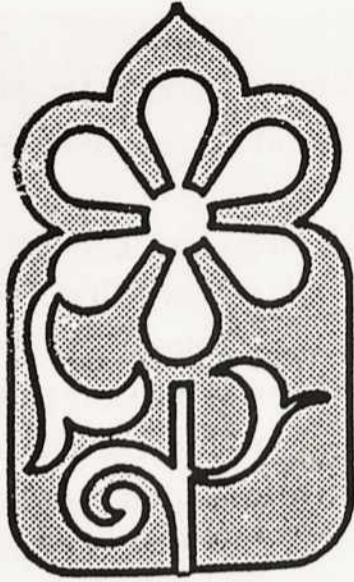
Establish in each of the Baltic States an American presence to serve as a form of political recognition and support, such as through the creation of information offices;  
Channel directly U.S. government humanitarian aid and economic assistance, including management and training assistance, in addition to private sector humanitarian aid, to the Baltic States;

Recognize, establish and maintain direct contacts with the parliaments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as the legitimate, freely-elected and democratic representatives of the peoples of the Baltic States; and

Propose and seek support for observer status for the Baltic States in the 34-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) at the next Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the CSCE participating states.

"Now that hostilities in the Persian Gulf have subsided and our mission was successful, we need to focus on freedom and independence in the Baltics," Durbin said. "I hope the recent liberation of Kuwait will heighten public support for the struggle for freedom in the Baltics."

Fourteen members of Congress traveled with the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) trip to the Baltic States which left Washington Feb. 10 and returned Feb. 15, 1991. 



### MARLETTE'S VIEW



NEW WORLD ORDER

MARLETTE'S VIEW  
NEWSDAY

### CARTOON VIEW

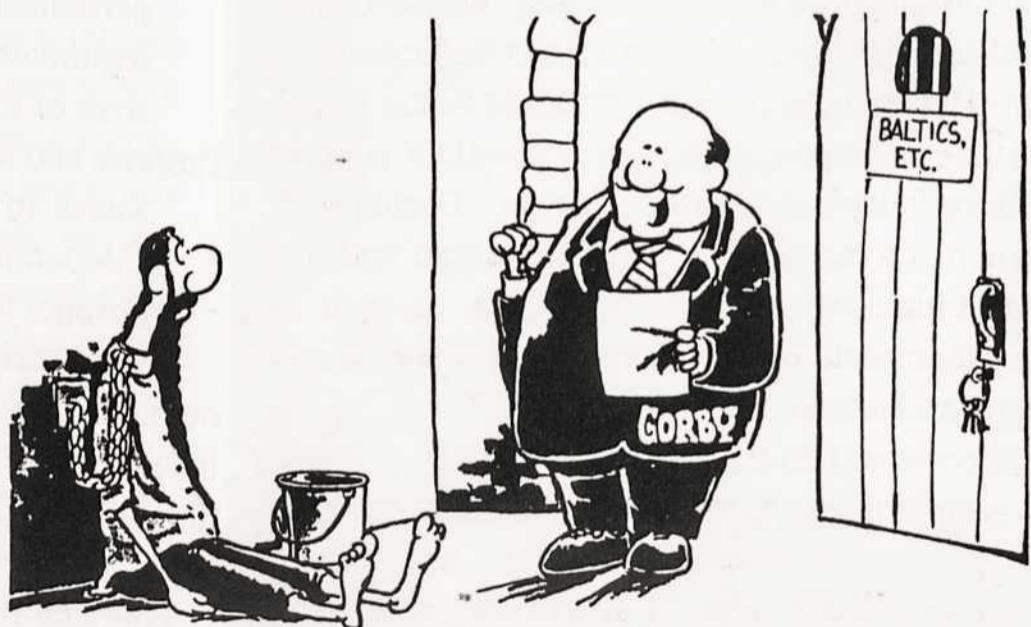
The Miami Herald  
MORAN



Moran, The Miami Herald

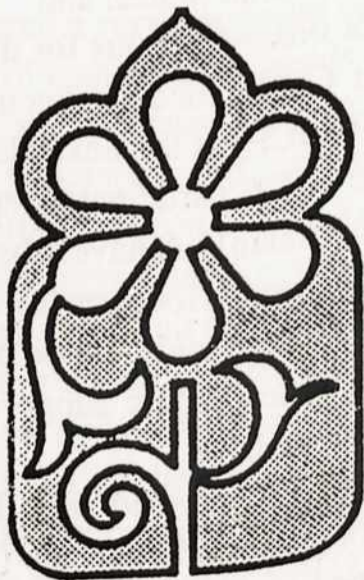


### CARTOON VIEW



"WE HELD A FREE, DEMOCRATIC VOTE, AND DECIDED TO KEEP YOU CHAINED UP."

Mark Cullum, The Birmingham News



## S.O.S. Vaikai - Children's Relief in Lithuania

*Rev. William Wolkovich - Valkavičius*

Elena Kubilienė from Lithuania visited major Lithuanian centers such as Boston, Chicago and Toronto in Dec. of 1990 and the early part of 1991. Who is she?

Elena is president of the "S.O.S. Vaikai" Society and an official of the governmental Education and Cultural Ministry. Her mission is to furnish the basic necessities of food, clothing, shelter and to establish homes for orphans and abandoned children and eventually to design a foster-care system. She is explaining these worthy goals to any and all who are willing to listen. Credit is to be given to the incorporated pioneer Boston chapter of S.O.S. Vaikai for inviting Elena to come here.

The Massachusetts unit consists of vibrant young Lithuanian American women, anxious to do their part in promoting children's welfare. Their aim is to "investigate, gather information and define the distinct needs of these Lithuanian children and determine how we could provide some assistance," according to their first newsletter of Nov.-Dec. 1990. The Board of Directors includes compound names such as Maria Tovaresh-Ashmanskas and Daiva Veitas Neidhardt.

Their first venture turned out to be a Halloween Party at the South Boston Lithuanian Citizens Club, netting \$1,222 from admission tickets and additional donations. Subsequent gifts raised their treasury by the end of the year to \$2,840.

In cooperation with Rasa Razgaitis of Brooklyn, the Boston Vaikai chapter sorted 400 cartons of mostly new clothing and toys shipped to the Citizens Club from St. George Lithuanian Church in Norwood, collected on All Saints Day. Individuals donated still other cartons. Thanks to the Citizens Club, the committee found haven for storage, sorting and bagging.

Furthermore, Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, CJC of Brockton solicited 45 new children's winter coats from a manufacturer. Birutė Skabeikienė, a Randolph resident, persuaded her employer, Shooz, Inc. to give \$1,600 worth of new boots and shoes for children. Gintaras Čepas from Quincy organized and coordinated a book drive on Nov. 4.

The latest fund-raiser took place on March 17, 1991 at the Norwood Cinema with a special showing of "Once Around" - the movie with the major Lithuanian angle. The pastor of the local Lithuanian parish of St. George, Rev. William Wolkovich (Valkavičius) was a consultant on both the religious and Lithuanian language aspects of the film. In the motion picture, the Norwood clergyman plays the Lithuanian priest who baptizes in Lithuanian. Director Lasse Hallstrom ap-

proved of some lines of "Marija, Marija" that Fr. Wolkovich added to the script as well as the names "Marija, Birutė" that he was allowed to select for the christening.

Kudos to Charles Diauto, manager of the Norwood Cinema, who donated his share of the movie proceeds to a charitable cause of the pastor's choosing. He selected S.O.S. Vaikai. Just before the matinee showing of the film, the manager welcomed the priest to give the viewers a short talk about the making of the movie and a summary of its contents. As a bonus, he sang the theme song, "Fly Me to the Moon," while accompanying himself on the violin, and also a verse of "Marija, Marija" and "Oi Močiut, Motinėle." In the movie, Sam Sharpe (Richard Dreyfuss) sings the latter melody to his wife in her maternity hospital room. Fr. Wolkovich coached Dreyfuss for a full hour on how to sing the song.

Readers of VYTIS are urged to consider the children's relief work as one of their favorite charities. For information or to make donations, write to: S.O.S. Vaikai, Box 497, So. Boston, MA 02127 or call either (617) 268-6030 or Daiva Veitas (daytime) at (617) 821-4451.

### KLAIPEDIŠKIŲ DAINA

Ten kur marių bangos skalauja krantus,  
Kur Neringos elniai ganosi miškuos,  
Kur žuvėdros klykia audros užesy-  
Ten mano gimtinė, mano ilgesys.

Bangos man liūliavo lopšinės dainas.  
Prie marių praleidau kūdikio dienas.  
Gervės ir žuvėdros viliojo manę  
Iškeliaut pasaulin per jūrų mares.

Kai likimas lėmė trauktis iš namų,  
Nuo Rambyno kalno, Nemuno krantų,  
Pamačiau pasauli, bet - jisai netoks  
Kaip mano gimtinė ten, prie Baltijos.

Tenai marių bangos skalauja krantus.  
Elniai ten ir briedžiai ganosi miškuos.  
Kur žuvėdros klykia virš smėlių kopos,  
Ten mano gimtinė, kraštas Klaipėdos.

*L. Venckus*

## *Lithuanians in the News*

### **AL BLOZIS, FORMER GIANTS TACKLE**

The Giants owe one to Al Blozis, the huge lineman who gave his all to the team during the 1942 and 1943 seasons and then gave his life for his country in World War II. Al Blozis, a 6' 6", 245 lb. tackle, charged through the Washington line during a memorable 1942 rookie performance against the Redskins. It is also noted that he stretched out one long arm and slung a Washington player to the ground. Blozis roared through the 1943 season with enough intensity to make an all league team. While he was a Second Lieut. in the service, he was cut down by the German machine gun fire on Jan. 31, 1945. It is quoted that if he were not killed, he could have been the greatest tackle who ever played football. He made tackles all over the field. He was good during his first year of playing but the second year he was great.

Al Blozis was born in Garfield, NJ of Lithuanian parents and was a star athlete at Dickinson High School in Jersey City before going to Georgetown on a track scholarship. He was regarded as the strongest player in professional football and had the physique to prove it. After repeated attempts, Blozis persuaded the Army to waive his size limits and accept him. During his final furlough in 1944, Blozis played in three games and two days later he sailed for France.

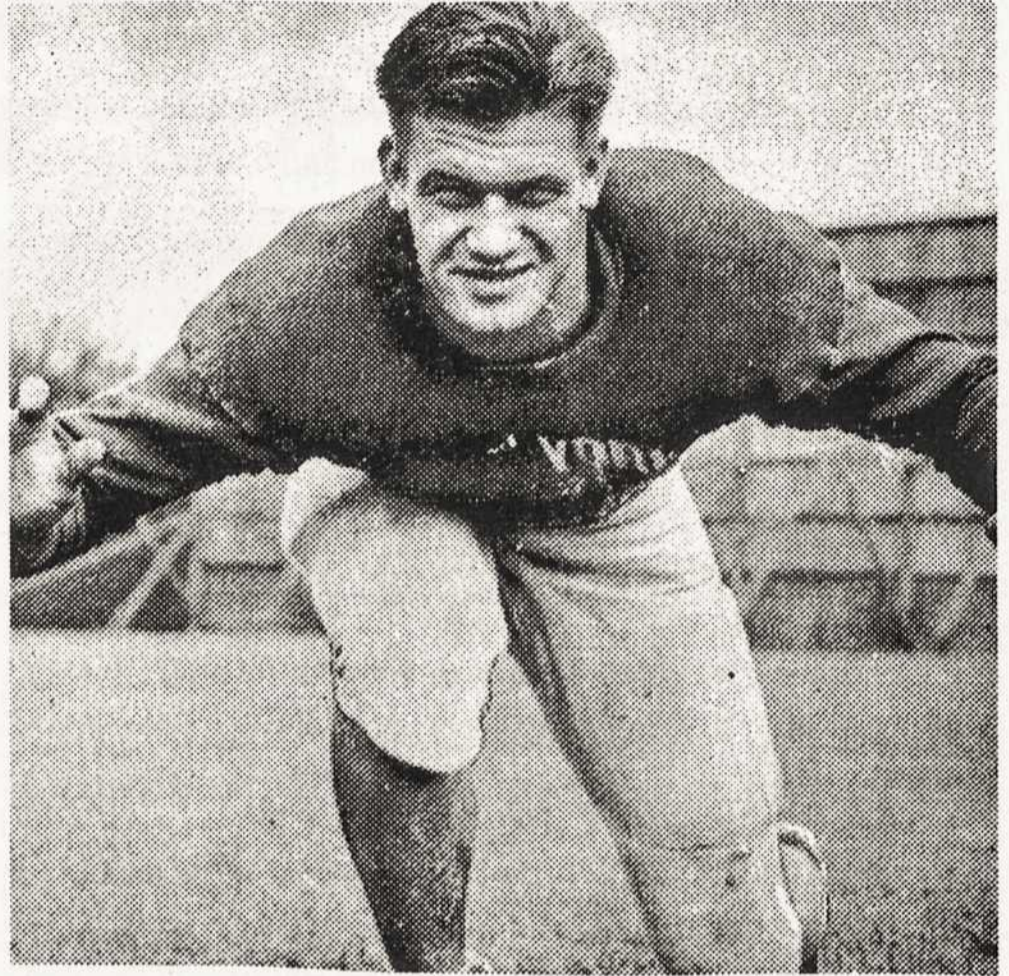
A little over a month later, the man who always led his teammates down the field on kickoffs left his platoon behind and set off through hip-deep snow in the Vosges Mountains of France to find a missing sergeant and a private. He never returned. Although newspaper accounts indicated that Blozis' body was never found, a few old-timers who knew him say that they heard he was hit 38 times. He was a big target. He was so strong that the first bullets weren't enough to kill him.

A plaque in honor of Blozis was once affixed to a wall at the Polo Grounds, but they were lost when the Giants moved to Yankee stadium. Blozis' jersey number, 32, was permanently retired.

### **RECOGNITION GIVEN TO AMSTERDAM MEDICAL HOSPITAL**

Amsterdam Medical Hospital in Amsterdam, NY has been and is continuing to be instrumental in donating medical and surgical supplies and equipment for the hospitals in Lithuania. A plaque in recognition of the hospital's humanitarianism was presented to the hospital's president, Charles Rice, by Pres. of Amster-

12



*Al Blozis, a tackle who played for the Giants during the 1942 and 1943 season and was killed in combat in France in 1945.*



*Irene Tice, pres. of C-100 Amsterdam, presents Charles Rice, of Amsterdam Hospital, with a plaque in appreciation for the hospital's medical donations*

dam C-100, Irene Tice, Mr. Rice gave credit to Edward Ziausys who initiated this aid.

### EXHIBITION AT DISNEY CENTER

An award-winning picture taken by James Cummings, has become a permanent display at the Journey into Imagination Pavilion presented by Eastman Kodak Company at Walt Disney World Epcot Center in Florida.

The exhibition includes winners of local 1990 snapshot contests conducted by 175 newspapers in the United States, Canada and Mexico with over 500,000 entries.

A photo entitled, "Freddy's Friend" represented James' winning entry. The photo also qualified in the international competition.

James Cummings is the grandson of Katherine Cravetts and nephew of Catherine & Jack Brandt, members of C-140 Syracuse, NY.



Award winning photo "Freddy's Friend". represented James' winning entry.

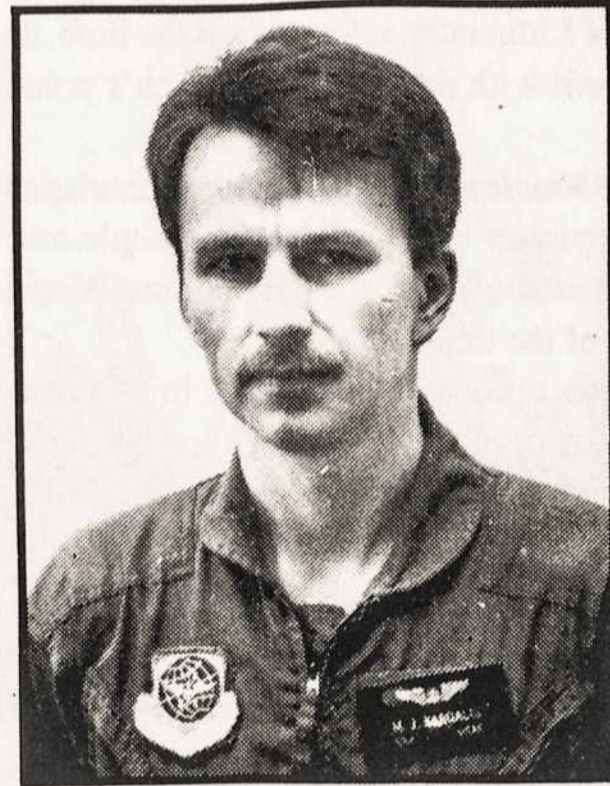


### IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

Michael Sargalis of Amsterdam went to the Persian Gulf twice with his Air National Guard unit. His first trip was in Sept. and his second trip was in Feb. Sargalis, a medical technician trained to treat patients on board a C-130 transport plane. Uncertain about what Saddam would do next made the first trip more frightening than the second. Reserve and guard units were being sent for a month at a time and they knew when they would be back. The second time was different. They didn't know how long they would be there. He and other members of his unit expected to be flying patients to the U.S. for treatment. They never got that chance, because the number of casualties was much lower than expected.

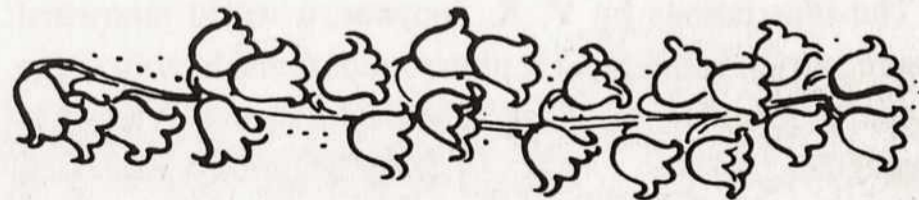
A problem the soldiers confronted was the continuing flow of rumors. The rumors made everybody crazy. He recalled hearing rumors of terrorist attacks and of a bomb threat in the local hospital. Sargalis was impressed by the family-type atmosphere among the many servicemen and women thrown together in the war. "We were one big family. There was no such thing as crime. You didn't have to worry about being mugged or robbed. People gave each other haircuts, building porches, etc. There was a lot of camaraderie and team spirit," Sargalis recalls.

Sargalis' unit remains on active duty for the time being, and he puts in eight-hour days at Stratton Air Base in Scotia, NY. He said he was very pleased with the amount of support for the troops shown by the people back home, displaying flags and yellow ribbons. "I'd like to thank everybody for their support," he said. "We all did this together. I'm glad to help keep this country free and do my part."



Recorder photo: John R. Becker

Michael Sargelis of Amsterdam, NY home from Persian Gulf Storm.



**ANN JILLIAN'S SCHEDULE:**

May 15 - 19, 1991: Drury Lane Oakbrook Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL. Eight shows (6 evening and 2 afternoon performances).

June 8 & 9, 1991: Valley Forge, PA.

June 11, 1991: On "Regis & Kathy Lee" live TV show.

June 12, 1991: Kirby Performing Arts Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

June 13 - 16, 1991: Westbury Music Fair, Westbury, LI, NY

June 22, 1991: Decatur, IL.

August 3, 1991: Peoria, IL, co-hosting Telethon for Danny Thomas St. Jude Kid's with cancer.

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**BOOK REVIEW**

*Wooden Miracles* by Kazys Boruta is truly a remarkable Lithuanian classic, well conceived and presented by the author and now brilliantly translated into English for the English speaking people by Milton Stark.

I had read the life and works of the controversial aušrininkas, Dr. Jonas Sliupas, therefore, I understood the attitudes and beliefs of Lithuanian reformers of the time, the result of disillusionment with the Catholic Church's polonizing tactics.

*Wooden Miracles* further reveals the unchristian reactions and public opinion of self-righteous people and the class conscious customs of European nations adopted by the Lithuanians of the time.

Today, rape is considered a crime in civilized countries and present day psychologists blame society and child abuse as the cause of destructive behavior patterns on the part of the victims.

I highly recommend the book to scholars who are interested in anthropology, in the study of races, physical and mental characteristics, customs and social relationships of people.

Read Kazys Boruta's novel, *Wooden Miracles* for a remarkable presentation of the reality of life in Lithuania at the start of the nineteenth century and enjoy the interesting events and picturesque scenes interspersed throughout its 237 pages.

The illustrations by V. K. Jonynas, a world renowned graphic artist, painter and sculptor, adds considerably to the attractiveness of the publication by the Morkunas Printery in Chicago.

*Sister Virginia Vytell, CJC*

**LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSES**

For those interested in combining summer vacation with a fantastic learning experience, this is the place for you:

A Lithuanian language course for beginners and intermediate level students offered in a Lithuanian setting. The one-week language course also features instruction in Lithuanian song and folk dance. All other program points will be conducted in Lithuanian. You will have an opportunity to totally immerse yourself in Lithuanian.

The teachers are experienced and will utilize a proven, practical approach to learning the language. The cost of the camp and course is very reasonable.

Time: August 11 to 18, 1991

Place: the Lithuanian Camp Dainava, Manchester, MI.

Register before July 1, 1991

Registration fee: \$5.00

To register and for additional information, write to:

B. Krokys

1124 Hedgerow Lane

Philadelphia, PA 19115

(215) 671-0397

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**PĖDOS SMĖLY****Footprints in the Sand**

Vieną naktį žmogus turėjo sapną. Jis sapnavo kad jis su VIEŠPAČIU ėjo peščias pajūry. Tuo laiku padangyje nušvito scene iš jojo gyvenimo. Kiekvienoje scenoje jis pastebėjo smėly pėdų atspaudas, vienos priklausė jam, ir kitos VIEŠPAČIUI.

Kai paskutinė jojo gyvenimo scena nušvito prieš jo akis, jis pažvelgė atgal į pėdų atspaudas smėly ir pastebėjo kad daug kartų jojo gyvenimo pėdos smėly nebuvo matomos - tik VIEŠPATIES atsižymejo. Jis taipgi pastebėjo kad jojo pėdos nepasirodė ypatingai tais laikais, kai vargai ir nuliūdimai daugiausiai jo gyvenimą slogino.

Šis įvykis jį taip kankino, kad jis pasiryžo iš VIEŠPATIES gauti atsakymą: 'VIEŠPATIE, kai aš pasiryžiau sekti tavė, tu žadėjai lydėti manė visiškai. Tačiau aš pastebėjau kad per mano sunkiausias gyvenimo dienas scenoje tebe yra tik viena pėdų atspauda smėly. Aš negaliu suprasti delko tu mane apleidai tada kai man tavo pagelbos reikėjo kuodaugiausiai.'

VIEŠPATS atsakė, "Mano brangiausias, mieliausias vaikeli, aš myliu tavė is aš taves jokiu būdu neapleisiu. Per tavo sunkiausias bandymo ir depresijos dienas, kai tu matei tik vieną porą pėdų smėly, tai buvo tada, kai aš tave mano rankose nešiojau."

*Autorius nežinomas  
Išvertė Vincas Gražulis*



## CAMP AUŠRA

Nestled on the beautiful grounds of St. Mary's Villa in Elmhurst is a summer camp sponsored by the Congregation of Sisters of Jesus Crucified and directed by Sister M. Angela, CJC. Every summer in July, children ages 8 through 16 gather at this wonderful place known as CAMP AUŠRA.

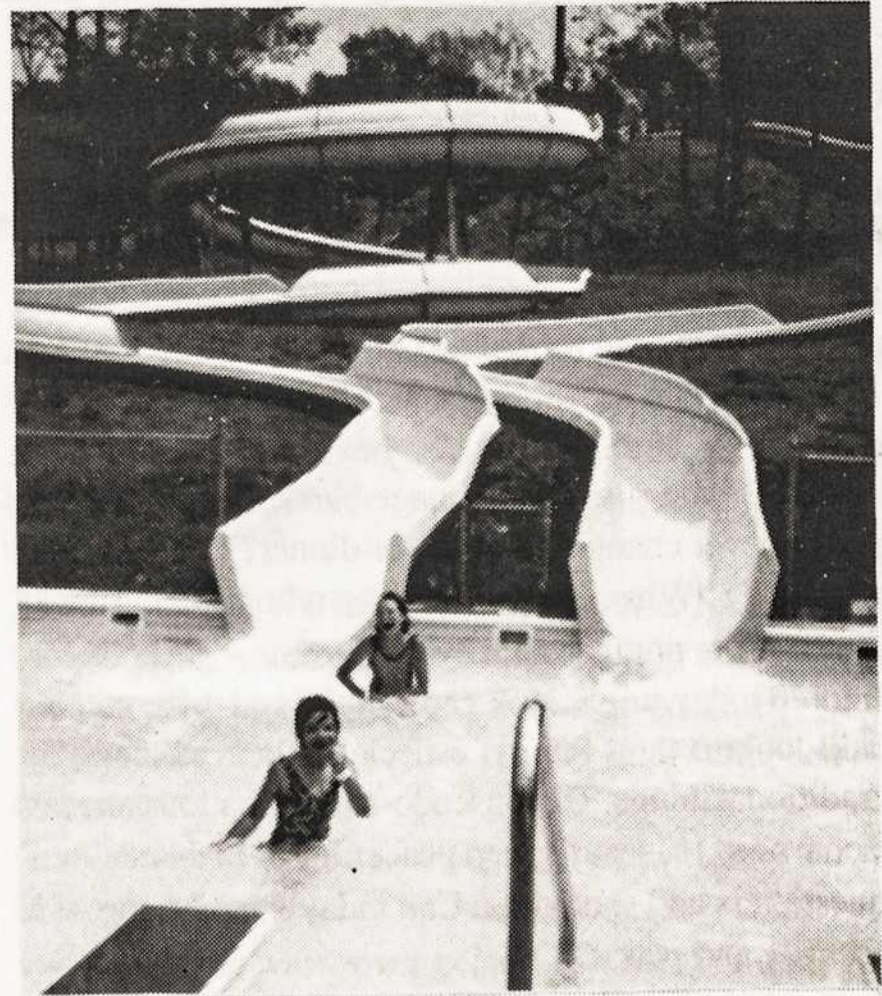
This Lithuanian-oriented camp teaches many things about the children's heritage and also opens its doors to all children ages 8 through 16 regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or religion. All that is necessary is a desire to learn and appreciate the world around them. The campers come from different states and backgrounds including Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, New Jersey and Virginia, learning many things and making lasting friends.

The counselors are responsible leaders who are chosen according to their proficiency in relating Camp Aušra values and goals which are Christian living, Lithuanian culture and character development. Every day at camp, campers are involved in nature studies, hikes and bonfires. The campers publish a camp newspaper and include the folk art of making straw ornaments. Lithuanian folk songs and dances, language and literature, sports, swimming, games, drama and various evening programs are all a part of the two-week program.

Each evening program offers a different theme, serious or humorous and playful. Activities are planned to be meaningful to the campers. Each year is special to the campers and their two-week vacation is high-lighted by a visit to Montage Mountain for a day of water slides and Alpine racing.

Campers are exposed to many learning experiences that they might never have the chance to learn otherwise, the goal being arousal of interest in the rich and beautiful heritage of Lithuania.

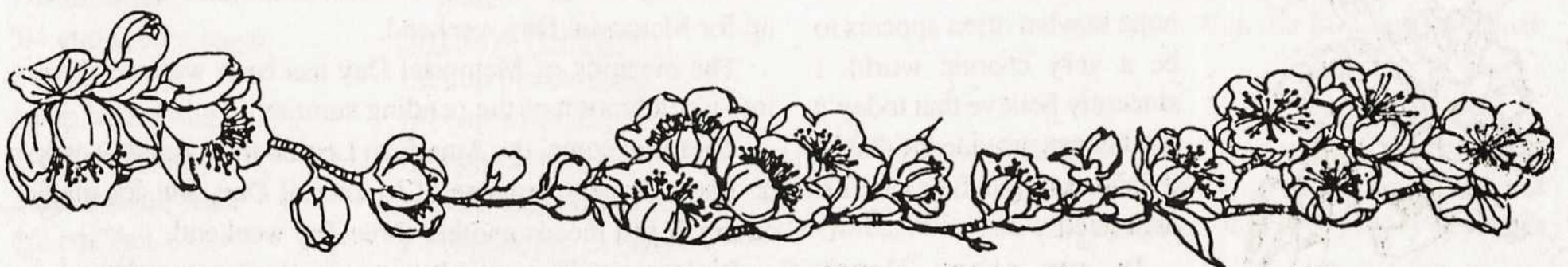
As many campers relate, some of their best memories are those spent at Camp Aušra. They appreciate the opportunity to live within their age groups in a Christian environment where the focus of each daily program is to involve them in a greater love and knowledge of their rich Lithuanian culture and each other. 🍏



*Campers at Montage Mountain for a day of water slides and alpine racing.*



*Camp counselors from l to r: John Merlino, Sister Angela, Karen Domalakes, Andy Merlino, Douglas Yee, Laura Adomaitis and Jenny Valis.*



## Today's Mother

Emilie Teutschman

I doubt if I could survive these teenage years without a good sense of humor. In the midst of sons borrowing sister's earrings and daughters borrowing father's clothing and everybody burning out the hair dryer, a good laugh is essential. What was "cool" to me is "hot" to them; what was "groovy" is now "mint" and instead of "keeping calm" you "chill out." But despite the language barrier there are some things that never change "What's for dinner?"; "Can I have a few bucks?"; "Why am I the only one who has a curfew?" seem to be more popular than ever.

Children today might look and even sound different, but they still look to their family, especially their mothers, for very traditional things. Their pseudo-sophistication conceals their acute need for security and peacefulness in their homes. The question is and should be: Can today's mother provide true security and peace?

Women can boast that we have "come a long way baby." To the traditional housewives' responsibilities we have added school, civic, religious and career involvements which keep us on an endless treadmill of exhausting dimensions. We have proven to ourselves and the world in general that given the opportunity, we can do anything. We have arrived at superwoman status laden with a surprising amount of guilt, tiredness and confusion. "Having it all" can also include heart attacks, ulcers and other stress-related maladies. Over and over I hear women expressing the need for more time to think, reflect and pray.

The old adage that "you can't give what you don't have" is particularly pertinent here.

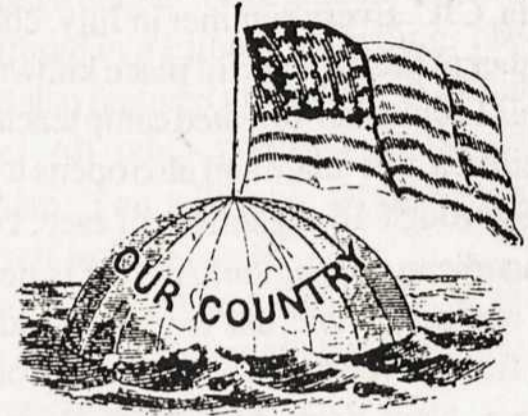
Is it possible for mothers today to be peaceful in spite of our hectic lifestyle? We must understand that peacefulness is not an absence of problems but dealing with them thus demonstrating to our children that we possess a certain degree of control, endurance and hope in what often appears to be a very chaotic world. I sincerely believe that today's mother can provide the stability and strength that our children need.

In any event, Happy Mother's Day to all mothers on May 12. 🍏

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

T. Schaffer

When I was a kid, I thought Memorial Day was created in honor of backyard barbecues and traffic-jamming parades. And the flag was flown because its colors went so well with the season.



I wasn't completely ignorant about the holiday's meaning, though, I had some vague idea that it had to do with honoring dead soldiers. Pictures of people laying flowers on graves for unknown soldiers told me that. But the reason for the holiday wasn't hammered into my consciousness as much as the celebration — supermarket sales on hotdog buns and department sales on bathing suits — was.

I don't recall studying the origin of Memorial Day when I was in school. I'm not alone in this. I took an informal poll of people I work with and found no one else remembered learning anything about it either. Is it because we couldn't draw turkeys and ships to commemorate this holiday the way we could for Thanksgiving and Columbus Day? Or maybe it's because our minds were too occupied with thoughts of upcoming summer vacations. Perhaps the idea of honoring dead people — is too morbid for most folks to bear, so we've turned this holiday into something more fun.

No one I know was killed defending his country and that's another reason Memorial Day never hit home for me. The day I wrote this article, was the day I learned the true origin of Memorial Day, according to the World Book Encyclopedia. The town of Waterloo, NY is credited with first observing a holiday to honor soldiers killed in the Civil War. That was May 5, 1866. Since then, many others have gotten on the bandwagon. Memorial Day is a federal holiday. Merchants see it as a great opportunity for sales. Community pools open up for Memorial Day weekend.

The meaning of Memorial Day has been watered down into a celebration of the pending summer.

There are some, the American Legion most notably, who do know the true purpose of Memorial Day. But for many others, it just means another three-day weekend.

It's ironic and lamentable that many don't remember what we're memorializing on Memorial Day. 🍏



## Lithuanian Kitchen

## Lietuviška Virtuvė

### CABBAGE WITH NOODLES & POPPYSEEDS -

#### Kopustu su Aguonomis

1 med. green cabbage, chopped	4 Tbsp. oil
1 large onion, chopped	1 lb. noodles
2 green apples, peeled and chopped	2-3 Tbsp. poppy seeds, or more as desired.
Salt, pepper to taste	

Saute onion in oil until lightly done; add apple and cook for a few minutes. Add cabbage and seasonings and cook for about 20-25 minutes until cabbage is soft. Remove from heat.

Cook noodles according to directions and drain. Add cabbage mixture to noodles and mix well. Add poppy seeds and serve.

### MEAT BALLS IN SOUR CREAM SAUCE

#### Jautienų Kukuliai su Smetona

2 lbs. lean ground beef	salt, pepper to taste
1 cup onion, chopped fine	1 cup sour cream
1 cup bread crumbs	2 eggs
1 can beef broth	oil for cooking
2 small cans mushrooms with liquid	flour (about 1/2 cup)

Mix beef, onion, eggs, seasonings, bread crumbs together. If mixture appears too stiff, add a little broth. Shape into meatballs of desired size and roll very lightly in flour. Brown meatballs in saute skillet in small amount of oil. When all meatballs are browned, return them to the saute skillet. Add mushrooms and their liquid and broth. Simmer 10-15 mins. until meat is cooked. When done, remove pan from heat, stir in sour cream. Serve over hot noodles.

For hors d'oeuvres: make meatballs 1" in size and omit noodles (Makes 5-6 doz.).

### APPLE CAKE - Obeliu Tortas

1/2 cup oleo or butter	2 cups raw apples, grated
1/2 cup sugar	
3/4 cup brown sugar	<u>CRUMB TOPPING;</u>
2 eggs	1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup buttermilk	1/4 cup white sugar
2-1/2 cup flour	1/2 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. baking soda	1/2 cup chopped nuts
1/2 tsp. salt	1 Tbsp. butter or oleo
1-2 tsp. cinnamon	

Heat oven to 350°. Butter a 9" x 13" pan. Cream oleo, sugar, eggs until light. Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with milk. Mix until smooth. Add apples. Pour into pan.

Combine topping ingredients and sprinkle on top of batter. Bake at 300° for 40-45 mins. or until done.

### STRAWBERRY SNOWBALL SALAD

1 cup boiling water	1 - 3 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
1 - 3 oz. pkg. strawberry flavored gelatin	1/3 cup finely chopped nuts
1/2 cup cranberry juice or sweet red wine	2 cups strawberries
1/4 cup cold water	1 Tbsp. sugar

Pour boiling water over gelatin in bowl. Stir until gelatin is dissolved. Stir in juice or wine and cold water. Refrigerate until slightly thickened. Shape cream cheese into 18 balls; roll in nuts. Mix strawberries and sugar. Pour 1/3 cup thickened gelatin into 6-cup ring mold. Arrange cheese balls evenly in gelatin. Spoon strawberries over cheese balls. Carefully pour remaining gelatin over strawberries. Refrigerate until firm. Unmold. Serves 6 - 8.

Anna Helen McDonald

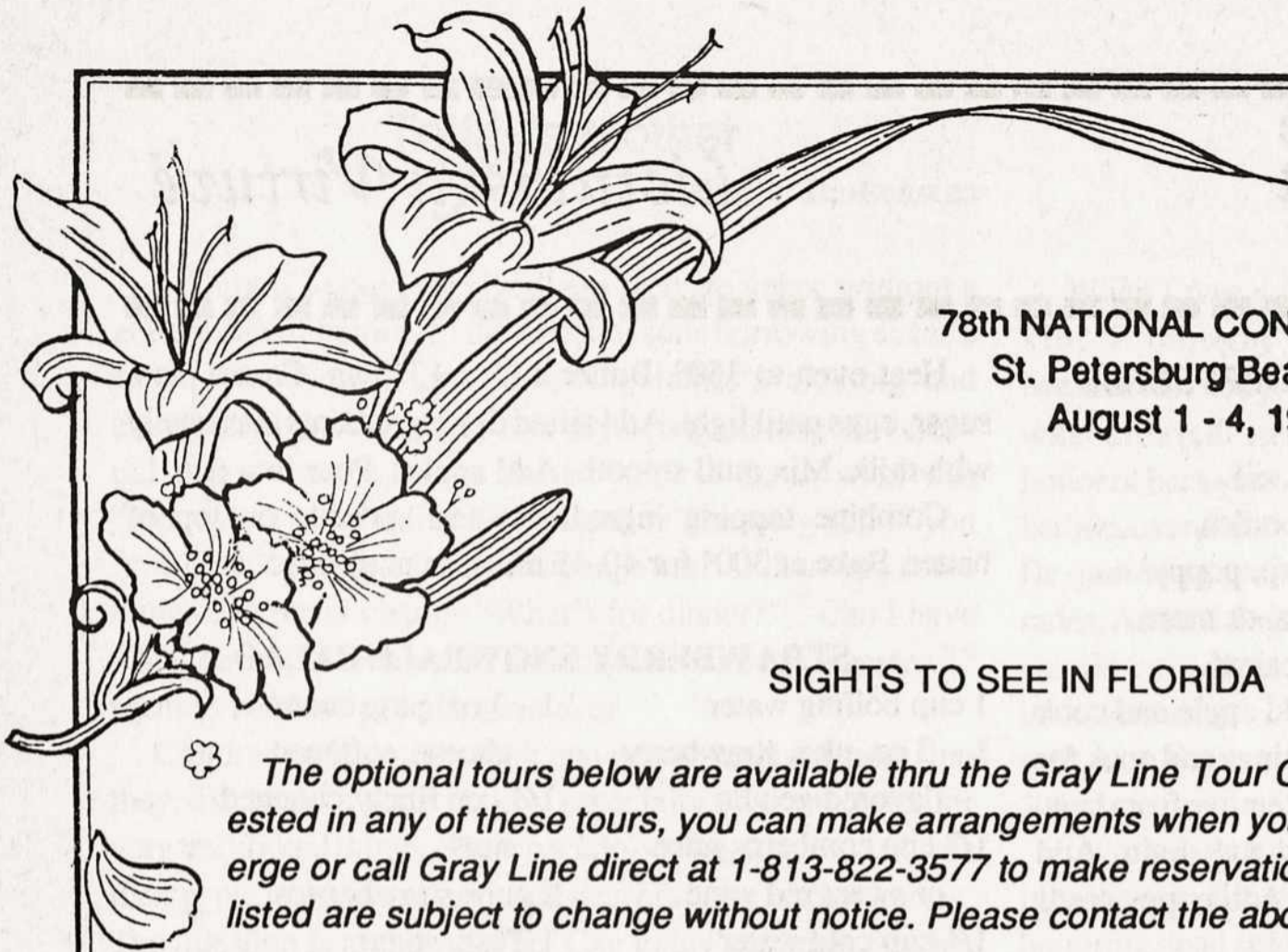
### POTATO BREAD - Bulvinis Ragaisis

2 cup milk, scalded	1 egg
1 large potato	3 Tbsp. sour cream
1 cake yeast	1 Tsp. salt (level)
8 cups flour	

Peel and grate potato fine. Add hot milk; let stand until lukewarm. Crumble yeast into mixture. Add 4 cups flour; mix well with wooden spoon. Add egg, cream, salt and remaining flour; beat well. Cover; let rise for 2 or 3 hours. Beat dough again. Grease 3 bread pans; fill half full with batter. Cover with towel; let stand until double in size. Preheat oven to 450°; bake for 15 mins. Reduce heat to 350° and bake 45 mins. Bread will stay moist and fresh for days.

Twila Allen, With Our Blessings Cookbook

*The Vytis Staff extend their sympathies to Food Editor Stella Matulonis and daughter Suzy on the recent death of husband and father, Vito Matulonis on March 27, 1991. May he rest in peace.*



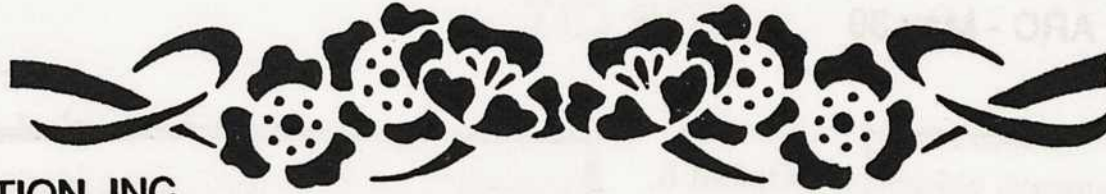
78th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
St. Petersburg Beach, FL  
August 1 - 4, 1991

SIGHTS TO SEE IN FLORIDA

*The optional tours below are available thru the Gray Line Tour Company. If you are interested in any of these tours, you can make arrangements when you arrive with the Hotel Concierge or call Gray Line direct at 1-813-822-3577 to make reservations. The trips and prices listed are subject to change without notice. Please contact the above about possible changes.*

<u>TOUR</u>	<u>ADULT</u>	<u>CHILD</u>
<b>ADVENTURE ISLAND</b> This trip is available on a daily basis	\$ 29.00	\$ 29.00
<b>BUSCH GARDENS</b> This trip is available on a daily basis	37.00	37.00
<b>SEA WORLD</b> This trip is available on a daily basis	54.00	48.00
<b>UNIVERSAL STUDIO</b> This trip is available on a daily basis	62.00	52.00
<b>WALT DISNEY WORLD</b>		
Magic Kingdom	64.00	54.00
Epcot Center	64.00	54.00
MGM	64.00	54.00
These trips are available on a daily basis		
<b>CYPRESS GARDENS</b> This trip is available on Monday and Wednesday only	37.00	31.00
<b>KENNEDY SPACE CENTER</b> This trip is available on Tuesday only	44.00	38.00
<b>EVERGLADES TOUR</b> This trip is available on Friday only	51.00	45.00
<b>SARASOTA</b> This trip is available on Monday only	27.00	23.00
<b>SHOW BOAT DINNER THEATRES</b> This trip is available on Thursday only	42.00	42.00

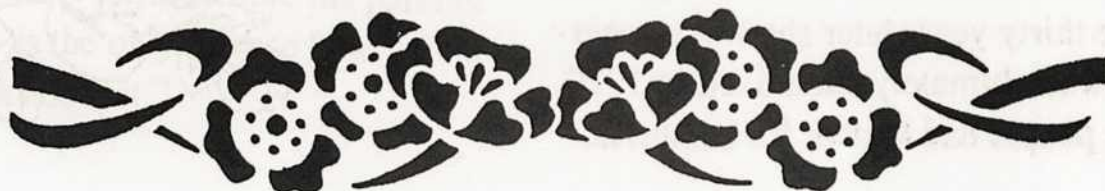




**K OF L FOUNDATION, INC.**

**ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT**

- TOPIC:** How can the Knights of Lithuania inspire the younger members to assume the organizations leadership roles?
- LENGTH:** 450 to 500 words (count all words).
- DEADLINE:** June 15, 1991. 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 and neatness 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:** Thomas Bruzga, Aldona Ryan, Loretta Stukas, Walter Svekla
- MAIL TO:** Aldona Ryan, 6591 McEwen Rd., Centerville, OH 45459
- WINNERS:** Will be announced August 2, 1991 during the 78th National Convention in St. Petersburg Beach, FL. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.
- SPONSOR:** KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC., via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.



## ST. JOAN OF ARC - May 30



On Jan. 6, 1412, Joan of Arc was born to pious parents of the French peasant class, at the obscure village of Domremy, near the province of Lorraine. At a very early age she heard

voices: those of St. Michael, St. Catherine and St. Margaret.

At first the messages were personal and general. Then at last came the crowning order. In May 1428 her voices told Joan to go to the King of France and help him reconquer his kingdom. For at that time the English King was after the throne of France and the Duke of Burgundy the chief rival of the French king, was siding with him and gobbling up ever more French territory.

After overcoming opposition from churchmen and courtiers, the seventeen-year-old girl was given a small army with which she raised the siege of Orleans on May 8, 1429. She then enjoyed a series of spectacular military successes, during which the King was able to enter Rheims and be crowned with her at his side.

In May, 1430 as she was attempting to relieve Compiegne, she was captured by the Burgundians and sold to the English when Charles and the French did nothing to save her. After months of imprisonment, she was tried at Rouen by a tribunal presided over by the infamous Peter Cauchon, Bishop of Beauvais, who hoped that the English would help him to become Archbishop.

Through her unfamiliarity with the technicalities of theology, Joan was trapped into making a few damaging statements. When she refused to retract the assertion that it was the saints of God who had commanded her to do what she had done, she was condemned to death as a heretic, sorceress and adulteress and burned at the stake on May 30, 1431. She was nineteen years old. Some thirty years later she was exonerated of all guilt and she was ultimately canonized in 1920, making official what the people had known for centuries.

### IN MEMORIAM

MARY MATHES  
C-112 Chicago, IL  
† January 6, 1991

ANNA SHAGG  
C-112 Chicago, IL  
† January 22, 1991

ANNA BETIVOGLIO  
C-118 Hazleton, PA  
† February 12, 1991

ANNA STATKUS  
C-29 Newark, NJ  
† February 20, 1991

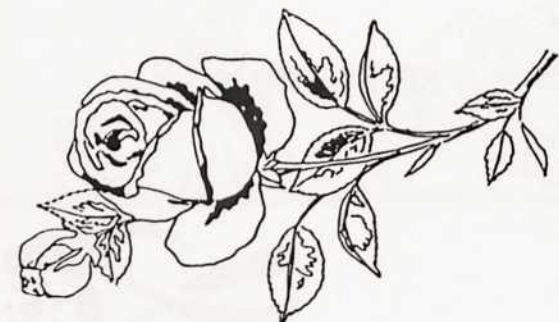
THERESA LUITKUS  
C-147 St. Petersburg, FL  
† February 26, 1991

NELLIE ZILINSKAS  
C-7 Waterbury, CT  
† March 2, 1991

EDWARD LAUKAITIS  
C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY  
† March 8, 1991

ERNEST SUTKUS  
C-5 Chicago, IL  
† March 21, 1991

VITO MATULONIS  
C-109 Great Neck, NY  
† March 27, 1991



## TID BITS

### DID YOU KNOW:

That like Germany, Ireland and Korea, Lithuania is not a whole country? The Republic of Lithuania of the Lithuanian SSR is a fractured country. The Republic of Lithuania contains 3 million ethnic Lithuanians. Yet, the Byelorussian SSR contains 33 rations (10,000) with an additional 600,000 of Lithuanian stock, and the People's Republic of Poland rules over the Lithuanian counties of Seinai, Augustavas, Suvalkai, Angerape and Galdape. The Kaliningrad Oblast of Soviet Union, used to be the Lithuanian portion of East Prussia. There are still 60,000 Lithuanians in this region. The vital question remains: when will all lands inhabited by Lithuanians from time immemorial be united into a Lithuanian state?

That the oldest University within the confines of the Soviet Union is the University of Vilnius founded in 1579. The oldest Russian university which is called the Lomonosov University after its founder, was established in Moscow in 1755.

That Johnny Unitas, the Hall of Fame quarterback who recently filed for bankruptcy with \$3.5 million in debts, is now charging to be interviewed. When a reporter phoned him at his office, his secretary said he was out of town. "But," she said, "he told me to tell you that if you want an interview, it will cost you." When asked how much, the secretary giggled and said, "Oh \$50,000. You don't pay - he won't talk."

### Origin

Did you know that Crisscross means the "Cross to Christ?" When things cross one another in different directions and are pretty well tangled up, we call them crisscross, saying Christ's cross. Many years ago, there was a child's primer known as the horn book, so called because the pages were protected by a transparent sheet of horn. The first lesson used in the Old Dam schools was the alphabet. It was printed on the top line of the single sheet of parchment and the symbol that began the line was a cross. This was called "Christ's cross row."

### The real world

Several of the Big East's international players have reason for particular concern about developments overseas.

Seton Hall basketball forward, Arturas Karnishovas, a native of Lithuania, has been watching reports of Soviet troops clashing with civilians in Vilnius, where his parents reside. "Basketball right now is the only release I have," he said. "It helps me not to think about it."

### Lithuania's last resort?

Talk about making dreams come true — Golden State's Sarunas Marciulionis is building a resort complex that includes a hotel, 2,500-seat arena, restaurant and bar. It's not unusual for athletes to go into business, but Marciulionis is having this resort complex built in Vilnius, Lithuania. He is seeking NBA and other coaches to come to Lithuania in the off-season and conduct clinics for children. Marciulionis said the quality of Lithuanian basketball has decreased because of the volatile political situation and he wants to do something about it. "I want to make it like it was before," he said. A resort in Lithuania? What next? A golf course?

### The New York International Festival of the Arts

From June 8 thru 23, New York City will see 55 spectacular dance, music and theatre events from 23 different countries. One of the cultures represented will be Lithuania. The State Theatre of Lithuania presents two extraordinary productions from Eimuntas Nekrosis, one of Eastern Europe's most visionary directors. His 'UNCLE VANYA' is a hallucinatory, fiercely unconventional version of Chekhov's Black Comedy remarkable for its evocation of 19th century rural life and its stinging critique of contemporary Soviet society.

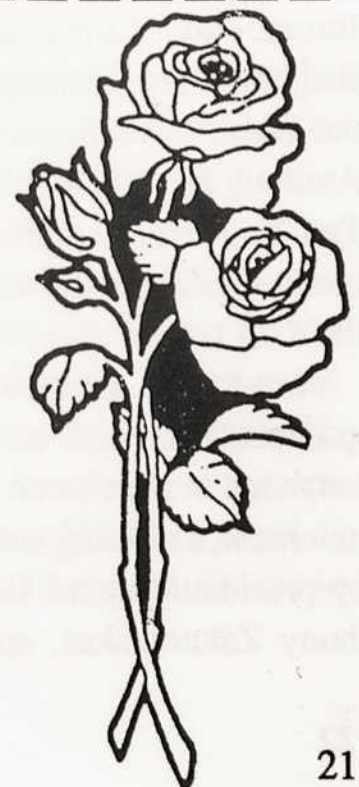
Part political parable, part gulag romance, "THE SQUARE" unfolds with the eloquence of a masterful silent film in which music, movement and the manipulation of light are the principal instruments of expression.

Both productions are performed in Lithuanian with simultaneous translation. This Company's New York debut is presented at the Joyce Theatre, 175 - 8th Ave (18 & 19 Sts), New York City. (212) 242-0800. Tickets went on sale during the months of April thru the New York Festival Ticket Service at \$30. each.

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### MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Mother, I want to use this day  
To thank you for all you do and say.  
Thank you for the joy you share,  
And for your love and tender care.  
I promise to spend  
This whole day through  
Just looking for ways to say,  
"I love you!"



## Council Activities

## Vyčiai Veikia

### MID AMERICA DISTRICT

This year, the District Choir celebrated its 30 year reorganization. That initial step was taken by a very hard working lady, Estelle Rogers who had the foresight to envision a very meaningful facet of our Lithuanian heritage here in Chicago. With the help of Faustas Strolia, who has been the director for all these many years, the choir has achieved the success that it enjoys today - performing at many Lithuanian functions throughout the years. Many thanks to the past and current presidents of the choir.

The Choir was originally organized in 1916 by Leonard Simutis, Sr. and was first directed by Prof. Alexander Aleksis. Under Prof. Aleksis and subsequent directors, A. Pocius, Joseph Sauris and Leonard Simutis, Jr., the choir sang to audiences in many cities.

The choir hosted a very successful event at Sauliu Hall on Jan. 12. A short program was presented to a standing room crowd. Congratulations to a wonderful organization and here's to another successful 30 years!

Mass for the deceased members of our district was held on March 10 at Immaculate Conception Church of Brighton Park, Chicago. Officiating at the Mass were Revs. Fabian Kirelis, Anthony Markus and John Savukynas. The music and musical instruments blended beautifully with the voices of the K of L choir.

Tom Strolia, president of host C-13 graciously invited us to a delicious luncheon in the church hall. Following luncheon, a meeting was called to order by president Algerd Brazis. Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, spiritual advisor,

opened the meeting with a prayer and a moment of silence in memory of Albert Zakarka. Committee reports followed.

*Ellie Kasputis & Gerrie*

### C-5 CHICAGO, IL

On March 21, the grim reaper visited Palos Heights, IL and claimed the life of Ernie Sutkus, our secretary for seven years. He had also been president of the Chicago K of L choir years ago when Leonard Simutis was its director. That's when Ernie met his wife Pauline, who also sang in the choir. They were going to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in June.

We are certain Ernie has found a happy spot in the hereafter. During his life as a photographer, his only sin was making us look better in the photo than we actually were. Life is a puzzle - only

God knows its solution. There is more tragedy, sorrow and illness in life than there is happiness. We certainly will miss Ernie. May he rest in peace.

### C-7 WATERBURY, CT

At our Feb. meeting, we prayed for Lithuania and remembered our troops in Desert Storm. Pres. Ann Cheplick reminded us of the National Convention in St. Petersburg, FL on Aug. 1-4. She advised us to make early reservations and looks forward to a good representation from our council.

Dolores Jonaitis and her husband will be moving to St. Petersburg. Dolores served the council in many capacities. We wish them the best in the coming years as they make their new home in Florida.

On March 3 we lost a faithful Knight, Nellie Zilinskas. She has been a K of L member since 1987. May she rest in peace.

Father Sabulis, assistant pastor of St. Joseph's, underwent hip surgery. He is recuperating at home and doing very



*Past presidents of Mid-America District Choir: l to r: Vladas Paliulionis, Sabina Henson, John Aukstiunas, Estelle Rogers, Dr. Leonard Simutis, Eleanore Laurin, past IID pres. and Faustas Strolia, choir director.*



well. We wish him a speedy recovery.  
*Virginia Kosa*

### C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

Our council again sponsored Lithuanian Independence Day. A Mass for Lithuania was celebrated and the So. Boston Lithuanian Men's Septet presented a program of folk songs which was enjoyed by all. The Mayor of Gardner, Charles Manca and his wife Marie attended the festivities. Rev. Raymond Messier served as honorary chairman with William Wisniauskas as general chairman. Nellie Melaika and Marie Colo chaired the supper. Tina Shatas handled the coffee service. Lennie Davidonis prepared the hall.

Sophie Florentino and Al Kanash attended the Boston observance of flag raising at the State House on Feb. 16. Several proclamations were obtained by Sophie from the State House.

Our K of L observed the feast of St. Casimir by attending evening Mass at St. Francis. Nineteen of us traveled to Maironis Park and attended St. Casimir's parish dinner. Nellie Melaika, Paula Shatas and Lennie Davidonis won prizes in their "loterija".

A hearty welcome is extended to Roberta Landry, Armand & Pat Boutillier, John Smith and Joanna

Chastney, our new members.

Blanche Genaitis' grandson, Lt. Philip Erickson of the Naval Air Force, was injured in a plane crash. After a lengthy stay in the Navy Hospital in San Diego, he was transferred to Seattle where his parents reside. We wish him a complete and speedy recovery. Members Julia Meehan and Margaret Eacmen are recuperating from surgery. Get well! Let us all remember Frank Anoris with a prayer on the first anniversary of his death.

*Vincukas*

### C-12 NEW YORK, NY

Spring is in the air and so are our thoughts. We dispensed with the March meeting since our Communion Breakfast fell on the same day. Many hours of preparation went into this endeavor and a special thank you to the committee. Also many thanks to all that attended.

The success of our potluck luncheons can be attributed to our most capable chef Al Malluk. Al also did a yeoman job at organizing our storage room, a job long overdue. Many thanks Al. Al has some knee surgery pending in the next two or three months and we wish him success.

C-12 has several books of K of L

history of which will be donated to Fordham University library, Vilnius University and two public libraries.

At our April meeting

we had two visitors from Lithuania, Jurate & Pranas Gendvilas, brother and sister-in-law of member Vincent Gendvilas. Jurate spoke to us about life in Lithuania and the Bloody Sunday in January. She related to members that people are not afraid to die for independence and to date, fifteen have sacrificed their lives. Our prayers go with all our brothers and sisters in Lithuania in their quest for independence.

As per custom, we had a birthday cake for Alma Karengo and Dalia Bulvicius. A very Happy Birthday to both.

Our condolences go out to Ed Senken whose brother John passed away March 2. John was a member of C-110 Maspeth. May he find eternal rest in heaven.

*IDS*

### C-16 CHICAGO, IL

C-16 has been busy in the last few months. Members participated in the winter and spring meetings. In conjunction with these meetings, the district held a Mass for deceased members in Jan. and their St. Casimir's Day celebration in March. The council observed St. Casimir's Day at All Saints-St. Anthony Parish with Lithuanian Mass, followed by a large reception in the parish hall. The Mass was well attended by Lithuanians and non-Lithuanians alike. Special thanks to the committee.

The council met on March 20 in the rectory of All Saints-St. Anthony Parish. Before the usual meeting, we held a letter writing session urging congress and the president to recognize Lithuania and her sister Baltic states. Some of the matters discussed were the national convention, Easter donations and fundraising. We will be sponsoring a one day trip to the Dog Races in Sept. as well as a Western Caribbean Cruise in October.



*Dave Lucas, Blanche Genaitis and Bill Wisniauskas at C-10 Kucios.*



*C-16 members at church services.*

At our council's meeting, a moment of silence was observed for Albert Zakarka of C-112. Al was a good friend to all of us and will be missed. Our deepest sympathy to his family on his passing.

We welcomed back Walter Juraska who has been ill and expressed get well wishes to members Al Slakis and Aldona Gapshis. We hope to see them up and around real soon.

Member Stanley Gapshis was honored on April 27 by the St. George Institute, Inc. for his years of dedication to the people of St. George. Congratulations Stanley.

The council will be selling Knights of Lithuania beach towels for \$15.00. The towels are 30" x 60" and will feature the organization's name and motto as well as Vytis. With the convention being held in Florida this year, now is the time to start preparing your travel gear and what better to pack than a Knights of Lithuania beach towel to sun-bathe on.

Anyone wishing to sail the Western Caribbean is urged to contact Rob Martin at (312) 890-4607 for further details. The trip will depart on Saturday, Oct. 19, 1991 for eight days of fun and sun.

Well, that's all for now.

*Rob Martin*

## **C-25 CLEVELAND, OH**

Members Lillian & Steve Yurkovic journeyed to Mundelein Seminary, north of Chicago, to participate in a Lithuanian vesper service on Jan. 30. Their son, Dale, is completing his seminarian studies this year. After the vesper services, dinner was served in the seminary dining room. Also join-

ing Dale's parents were his aunt and uncle, Jean & Richard Marks. Dale will be ordained into the priesthood on June 12 in Montana with assignment in their Eastern Diocese.

Lauren Parsons, MD, granddaughter of member Betty August is specializing in adult psychiatry in Wichita Falls, TX. She is a graduate of Euclid High School, Kent State University and Northeastern Ohio University of Medicine. Congratulations.

The members of the committee for the May bowling and MCD convention are hard at work getting final plans completed. Don't miss out on this grand weekend.

At our last meeting, members agreed to donate money to both Lithuanian churches for Easter flowers, to St. George's Lithuanian Vets and to the Lithuanian radio program.

St. Casimir's Day brought out nearly all C-25 members marching into church for the Lithuanian Mass and then on to the Lithuanian Club for a brunch and meeting.

Thirty-five members attended the first bowling social held at the home of Jean & Dick Marks. The hit of the dessert table was the coconut pound cake, the recipe of our Supreme Council President Anne Wargo, which was printed in the June issue of Vytis. The



*C-25 Cleveland members Lillian & Steve Yurkovic with son Dale who will be ordained on June 12 in Montana.*

next bowling social will be held at Jim & Laura Farrell's home.

Betty August, Francis Pranskavich and husband vacationed in Florida this past winter.

Our prayers and condolences are extended to Ruth Guzauskas on the loss of her husband Joseph.

Once again, be a proud American-Lithuanian and display your Lithuanian bumper stickers *Joseph Ivoska*

## **C-27 NORWOOD, MA**

C-27 membership may be small in number but its activities and commitments to the K of L's ideals "For God and Country" are exemplary.

We worked with St. Joseph's parish members to sponsor a most pleasing and professional presentation by "Sodautu" Folk Ensemble. Benefits derived from the program were sent to Lithuania to Caritas for aid to the orphans.

Member Sandy Melish was presented her third degree. She celebrated by sharing a bountiful brunch at the Marriot

### Courtyard.

A Mass was held for Lithuanian Independence observance. Parishioners and K of L attended. Fr. Bill Wolkovich spoke on "Ireland, Lithuania and a Statue". K of L member Stanley Wasail is organizing an entry in Norwood's Fourth of July parade to help publicize Lithuanians and their views.

A large number of fans attended the Norwood opening of the movie, "Once Around". Our esteemed pastor, Fr. Wolkovich, appears in a role as a Lithuanian priest who baptizes the baby of Holly Hunter and Richard Dreyfus. Proceeds from the attendance was donated to SOS Vaikai, the Children's Relief Agency of the Lithuanian government. Go see the movie. You'll like it!

ZAIBAS

### C-29 NEWARK, NJ

C-29 held its annual Mass and devotion to our patron St. Casimir on March 3. As Mass was to begin, the ceremonial flags were carried in by Bernie Skripata and Kazys Sipaila. Rev. Peter Stravinskas, spiritual advisor, celebrated the Mass. Gifts were brought up by Kazys Sipaila, carrying a portrait of St. Casimir, Rita Grazulis dressed in costume carried the lilies. Peter Podgalsky carried the cross, Brone Venckus carried the crown of gold and Joe Russell carried the crown of thorns. The host, wine and water were carried by Bernie Stelmok and Nellie Krynicki. Following Mass, luncheon in the parish hall was prepared by a committee under the chairmanship of Rita Sussko. A job well done!

Guest speaker was our member Dangolė Didzbalis who spoke of the plight of the orphans and displaced children in Roumania. A very heart rendering situation revealed to all attendees.

We welcome new members Rose Yankauskas and Frank Rogers in our midst.

Mary Cullen

### C-41 BROOKLYN, NY

Our council celebrated St. Casimir Day with a high Mass concelebrated by Revs. Palubinskas, Pakalniskis and Raila at Annunciation Church in Brooklyn. Immediately following a luncheon was held in the school hall. The program consisted of two talented young ladies in costume, Monika and Indre Bilerytes singing Lithuanian songs. Main speaker was Paulius Jurkus, editor of Darbininkas, who gave an interesting talk about our patron St. Casimir. All Kazimeriai and Kazimeretais attending the luncheon were congratulated. Many members of the Annunciation Choir also attended for which we are grateful. Bill Kumeta acted as MC.

Immediately following the luncheon, many members attended the Kazuko Mūgė that was held that same day at the Franciscans Lithuanian Cultural Center.

Ona Barauskiene

### C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

We mourn the passing of K of L member Deacon Anthony Samalonis who died in Jan. He was ordained in 1981, dedicating ten years of service to Sts. Peter & Paul Lithuanian Church. He entered his vocation with enthusiasm and commitment. He will be sorely

missed in our circles. May he rest in peace.

C-52 held its annual St. Casimir Feast Day celebration on March 3. Following the church services, a catered buffet for 58 members and guests was served in the parish hall. We were happy to have Juliana Liana, Gina Zingerman, Albert & Rita Peskus, Eva Frank & Chris Mazauskas who recently joined the council at our commemoration.

Fr. Zemeikis was honored on his 55th birthday with a special cake with one candle which he blew out with little difficulty. Henry & Isabel Keturwitis observed their 45 wedding anniversary during the commemoration Mass and renewed their wedding vows. Best wishes for many more happy years.

William A. Senkus

### C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

C-100 members and guests attended Mass in observance of St. Casimir's Feast Day on March 3. Luncheon followed at Valentino's Restaurant.

Guest speaker, Gavin Murdock, government and economics high school teacher, spoke regarding the Soviet Union. 75% of their gross income goes to the military and bureaucracy is much greater than in the USA. He visited Russia several times.



C-41 Brooklyn l to r: Paulius Jurkus, Rev. J. Pakalniskis, Rev. V. Palubinskas, Visiting priest from Ghanda, Africa, Rev. S. Raila, Soloists Injra & Monika Bileryte and Master of Ceremonies Bill Kumeta at St. Casimir's Feast Day.



*C-100 Lithuanian Independence Day. L to r: Bridget Kaminskis, Gene Gobis, Rasa Krokys, Montas Zurba, exchange student from Lithuania*

Juniors Jessica & Rebecca Jasewicz and member Helen Kiuber received her first degree while Nancy Yakas received her second degree.

Judy Kastraveckas and Helen Wojcik assisted Elizabeth Kuzmich in planning the commemoration.

*Smile & Sparkle*

### **C-102 DETROIT, MI**

Happiness is peace in the Persian Gulf, but more so to Merrie & Lori Hofner whose son, Dr. Mark, was just primed for duty there when the cease fire came and he didn't have to go. Along with the display of the American Flag, Joe & Maryanne Guerriero also displayed their Lithuanian windsock.

With Ruth Wagster as chairlady, our council joined C-79 Southfield in celebrating St. Casimir's Day. John & Donna Staniewich, Gus Baibak, Ruth Wagster and Joe & Maryanne Guerriero attended the Mass and the Fair sponsored by the Lithuanian Scouts. It was a fun afternoon.

Missing from our meetings are Frank & Donna Bunikas and Terry & Ray

Medonis, Helen Smolak and Edna & Bill Klucens, who are spending the winter in Florida. Hurry back as our meetings are quite empty.

HM Bob Boris is really spending a lot of time and effort on the Medical Relief for Lithuanian. He is pleased with the help he is getting to physically sorting the drugs and hopes the financial donations keep coming in.

Deepest sympathy to Terry & Ray Medonis on the death of their new born granddaughter. Get well wishes are extended to Eve Aukstankanis-Stark on her recent surgery.

Our council is looking forward to the District meeting and bowling tournament in Cleveland to be held in May.

*Meriutė*

### **C-110 MASPETH, NY**

During the month of March, many of our members attended and supported communion breakfasts sponsored by our council neighbors in Brooklyn, Great Neck and Eastern Long Island. We also had a good showing at Transfiguration's Holy Name communion breakfast in March.

Our March meeting started with 11 a.m. Mass in remembrance of St. Casimir. The highlight of the meeting was the showing of slides taken in Lithuania in Dec. 1990 by a non-Lithuanian group known as "TFP" organization.. We viewed many churches, the surrounding suburbs of Vilnius including such areas as the Hill of Crosses, the parliament and cathedrals. The "TFP" organization is continuing to work for Lithuania's independence requesting Washington to set up diplomatic relations. In appreciation for their effort to this cause, our council made a generous donation for this cause.

Our fin. secretary, William Budris, reported that 90% of our 400 members have paid their dues for another year.

We welcome new member Nellie Rutken who resides in Vermont and was former owner of the Lithuanian Square Restaurant in Brooklyn. She still makes her homemade "kapusta" soup.

Ritual chairlady Amy Girdukas submitted following name for the 2nd degree: Mary Lewandowski and for the 1st degree: Helen & Mary Ann Rokus.

C-110 hosted the MAD meeting with Frances Migliore and Millie Gregotowicz as co-chairladies. Everyone attending seemed to enjoy the meal plus the many prizes given during the raffle. *Bruno Rutkunas*

### **C-112 CHICAGO, IL**

Lithuanian Affairs chairlady, Rita Zakarka, conducted a letter writing session at the Jan. meeting held at Nativity BVM parish hall. Congressmen, senators and the president received letters regarding the bloodshed in Lithuania. A total of approximately 150 letters were mailed. Many thanks to those who participated.

A special Mass was held at Nativity for the Lithuanians killed on Jan. 13. Many of our members attended. It was a very stirring, emotion-filled ceremony as we prayed for a quick solution with peace and freedom for Lithuania.

All our best wishes to members who are or were ill: Most Rev. Vincent Brizgys, Al Brazis, Vera Paukstis, Emily Perkins and Peter Gagle. Hurry and get well. We need all of you back again with us.

Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy go to the families of our council who lost relatives: John Tucker, father of Betty Bozek; Antanas Kleiza, father of Council General of Lithuania Vaclovas Kleiza; Antanas Kazaitis, father of Barbara Klevinsky; Ann Shagg, wife of

Joseph Shagg; Albert Zakarka, husband of Julie and National Lithuanian Affairs chairman and co-chairman of the 78 National Convention.

The Memories of Lithuania banquet hosted annually by the Mid-America District was held in Feb. This very elegant affair was well attended by many K of L members and guests. It was ably chaired by Algerd Brazis and a hard-working committee. Honored as "Man of the Year" was Charge d'Affaires Stasys Lozoraitis who came from Washington, DC. Msgr. Joseph Prunskis was recipient of the K of L Honorary Award. We thank all who made this affair a success.

A special pre-Easter performance took place at St. George Church in Tinley Park in March. Under the direction of Robert Mockus, son of a very proud mother, yours truly, the combined choirs of St. George, St. Andrews and the K of L Choir performed Theodore DuBois "Seven Last Words of Christ".

In Feb., Estelle Rogers, Ellie Kasputis and the Brazis' were among the K of L members who attended a Lithuanian Independence commemorative Mass in St. John's Church in St. Petersburg Beach, FL. Again, the most gracious hostess was Victoria Jacobson who organized this tremendous affair for many years. The celebrant was Rev. John Kuzinskas. Al Brazis enhanced the Mass with his rendition of Panis Angelicus in Lithuanian. The church was filled to capacity with over 2,000 worshippers.

*Gerrie Chaplin*

### C-135 ANSONIA, CT

With 1990 behind us, we are all looking forward to a busy new year. So far, it has been slow as many members were down with the flu which resulted in a small attendance at meetings.

We were happy to have a good sized

group at our flag raising ceremony. We first attended Mass and then went to City Hall for the ceremony commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day. Immediately following, the group was invited to the church hall for refreshments and a program. Mayor Clifford was the main speaker. Slides of Lithuania were also shown.

We observed the feast day of St. Casimir by attending Mass. It was so good to hear Lithuanian hymns being sung. Coffee an' was served to all in the church hall after Mass.

At our March meeting, we had seven new members installed: Paul & Jennie Loda, Michaline Saculas, Ruth Doherty, Adele Kierol, Catherine Hulsey and Walter Ciezniak. We welcome them most heartily.

We welcome back Mildred & Walter Stachowicz who moved back from Florida and rejoined C-135.

Get well wishes are sent to Ella Ellis and Bill Winkis. *Sophie Thomas*

### C-136 HUDSON-MOHAWK, NY

Our annual celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day was held on Feb. 17. Mass was celebrated with six of our women proudly wearing native costumes and actively participating in the celebration. Immediately after Mass, a reception was hosted for all members of the parish.

Our council which is only three years young, proudly announces that in March as we celebrated St. Casimir's Day, six of our members received the first degree and nineteen received the second degree. Those receiving the first degree were: Helen LaPierre, Shelley LeVine, Estelle Nelson, Beatrice Twardowski, Victoria Wachunas, Anna Mae Wallace. Second degree recipients were: Edward Barkowski, Genevieve Deery, Frank Doblewski, Stephanie Dwulitt, Frances Fink, Nellie Freer, Helen

Hayner, Henry Jackson, Lynn McCafferty, Frances Max, Betty Parker, Joan Parker, Jean Ralston, Dorothy Richmire, Frances Stanonis, Clara Tulio, Stella White, Anna & Frank Zebuda. We proudly congratulate all recipients. A delicious buffet followed the special Mass celebrated for all Lithuanians over the world and especially those living in the homeland.

In addition to our monetary contribution, our council is happy to report that we were able to contribute three large bags of medications to the cause for Lithuania.

*Dorothy Richmire*

### C-143 PITTSTON, PA

Our Christmas party, chaired by Anastasia Stanley and Mildred Walsh was held in Dec. The following week, we had our annual Kucios in the church hall. Chairpersons were Ann & Steve Soha. Both events were catered by Bartoli's.

Installation of officers took place in Jan. at Mass. Afterwards, the men of the council hosted a continental breakfast, followed by our meeting. It was decided to have a letter writing session to Pres. George Bush, James Baker and our legislators protesting the brutal aggression of the Soviets against the Baltics and urging support for Lithuania.

We celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day at two locations: first, at Pittston City Hall and second: at Luzerne County Court House grounds. Both began with the singing of the Lithuanian National Anthem. Remarks were made by council pres. Nellie Bayoras Romanas and Ann Soha, read the proclamation. Refreshments were served at both locations. We also had good newspaper and TV coverage.

Our annual St. Casimir's Day Mass and Breakfast was held on March 3. Nellie Bayoras Romanas spoke about conditions in Lithuania and how people

were thirsting for freedom. Chairpersons for the breakfast were Casimir & Marcella Kisis. Marcella Bartoli, member of our council, caters all our affairs and does a marvelous job.

Seven members attended the Amber District meeting at Maizeville on March 10. Two of our members, Mary Ann Cipolla and Charles Dajnowski, received third degrees. Congratulations. Thanks to C-144 for the kind hospitality. Anna Challan and Leo Butsavege were in charge of the raffle and did a marvelous job raising over \$2,000 for the Amber District.

On our sick list we have Rosalie Kizis who was struck by a car while walking at a shopping center in Wyoming. Julia Atmonavage and Frances Evans have also been on the sick list. Best wishes to all for a speedy recovery.

One of our founding members, John Wisnosky, passed away in Oct. He was the first treasurer of the council. He received his Fourth Degree at the convention in Pittsburgh. May he rest in peace. Deepest sympathy to his family.

Our spiritual advisor, Rev. Peter Alisaukas, pastor of St. Casimir's Church in Pittston announced his retirement after serving the parish since 1966 and the council since 1976. The parish family of St. Casimir's Church honored Fr. Alisaukas with a testimonial on May 20 in Convention Hall in Pittston. The K of L regrets the loss of Father but looks forward to a happy retirement for Father. Congratulations. *Charles Dajnowski*

### C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

For C-152, March was highlighted by our annual Communion Luncheon in honor of St. Casimir on March 10. Mass was held at Our Lady of Ostrabrama Church in Cutchogue and was concelebrated by our spiritual advisor, Rev. Scryll together with the

Pastor and Pastor Emeritus of the church. In welcoming his Lithuanian guests, the Pastor, Fr. Richard Kopinski, noted the historical fact that the Christianization of Lithuania under the Latin rite was brought about by the marriage in 1386 of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Jogaila to the Polish Princess Jadviga. For his part, Fr. Scryll, pointing out that the day was once more familiarly known to Catholics as "Laetare Sunday" observed that Christians, even in the midst of the Penitential Season of Lent, have every right to rejoice in their heritage as children of a loving God. The church ceremony was further highlighted by the conferring of the second degree upon nine Knights: Alberta Clark, John Greicius, Mary & Anthony Majeuskas, Mary Petrowski, Nellie Sarkus, Anne & John Sidlauskas and Blanche Zeidat. First degrees were conferred upon Helen Kenny and Alice & George Kline.

Following Mass, a hot buffet luncheon was served to some 100 Knights and guests. Our guest speaker, Fr. Edgar Debany, SJ, constructed his remarks around the observance that our individual lives reflect in many ways the history of a nation. Just as Lithuania has known its days of glory followed by hardship and sorrow with the prospect of a recovery from misery and despair, so, also, as persons our individual lives reflect times of enjoyment alternating with days of sorrowing, with the promise of an ultimate and eternal happiness.

We were saddened by the death of council member Edward Laukaitis, who departed this life on March 8. We ask the prayers of our readers for the happy repose of Ed's soul and for the consolation of his widow, Bertha, and their family.

Our long suffering Knight, Tony Zambuto, who continues to be desperately ill, is also commended to the prayers of all who read this column.

*Tom Tarmey*

### C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

The arrival of Spring in Florida ushers in a phenomenon that is in truth, a migration. Just as many of our birds leave the sunshine to return to the north, so do a group of people who are called "Snow Birds". This title is given to the Florida residents who run away from the snow, sleet and cold up north to bask in the sun until the arrival of Spring beckons them to return to experience the greening in the gardens in the north. This is by way of an explanation as to why we are not too active as a council during the next few months.

However, our Political Action committee continues to watch the struggle of Lithuania, as she struggles to regain her independence. Letters were sent to the Norwegian Consulate, thanking the Norwegian people who so graciously raised \$450,000 and presented it to Pres. Landsbergis on the first anniversary of the renewed declaration of independence. The committee interprets this gesture as a direct opposition to the Nobel Peace Prize presentation.

The committee also sent a letter to former Pres. Nixon thanking him for the stand he took before a renown group of Russians. He urged in strong terms that they urge the release of the Baltic States from their bondage.

The Social Committee met at the Ile de France Restaurant in Hudson to formulate plans for the summer season. They planned a picnic in conjunction with the American-Lithuanian Social Club of Spring Hill. The beautiful park at Crews Lake is to be the location.

As a reminder for all those of you who will be visiting Florida this summer for the 78th National Convention, we are here and ready to add another dimension to your Florida experience. Feel free to call upon our council's President George Mayer at (904) 686-1836.

Have a great summer!

*S. G. Petraitis*

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## K of L CALENDAR

May 17-19 1991 - MCD Spring Convention & Bowling Tournament, Host C-25 Cleveland, OH.  
May 15-28, 1991 -Lithuanian Music Festival, Muzikos Šventė, Chicago, IL.  
June 2, 1991 - C-26 Worcester, MA. Annual Picnic, Maironis Park.  
June 2, 1991 - MAD Meeting - C-109 Great Neck, Hosts.  
August 1-4, 1991 - 78th National Convention, Trade Winds, St. Petersburg Beach, FL. Hosts: National Executive Board.  
October 13, 1991 - Annual dinner-dance, Holy Trinity Hall, Newark, NJ C-29 Newark Hosts  
October 19, 1991 - C-16 Chicago - Western Carribean Cruise.

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### QUOTABLE QUOTES

A woman is as old as she looks. A man is old when he stops looking.  
Rev. B.C. Preston

Truth struggles in strange places and often slumbers even in a joke.  
Glenn Buck

That birdlike lightness of the body is a sure sign we are at our best.  
Lina Cavalieri

We have but one police force, the American woman.  
Herbert Hoover

A flavor of frying bacon beats orange blossoms.  
Ed Howe

All that I know I learned after I was thirty.  
George Clemenceau

The biggest` liar in the world is They Say.  
Douglas Mallock

## LITTLE THINGS

It's not the great things in this world  
that make our lives worthwhile,  
It's the little things like a tiny flower  
or perhaps a baby's smile.  
A little word, sincerely spoken,  
can lift our spirits high;  
Like a tiny bird perched on a limb  
sends his message to the sky.  
A little dewdrop on a rose  
and tiny blades of grass,  
All sparkle in the sunlight,  
to cheer us as we pass.  
The lovely johnny jumpups,  
the smallest flower that grows,  
Delight the heart of youngsters  
peeping up around their toes.  
A friendly gesture or a smile  
mean more to me than gold.  
They help us feel that someone cares  
when we are growing old.  
Money cannot buy the things  
that mean so much to me,  
They are part of God's creation,  
and all of them are free.

Laina Owen

