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Every Catholic home should have a bible and after reading the introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, I believe this book should also be prominently placed in every Catholic home.

Pope John Paul II, writing in his introduction of the newly released Catechism of the Catholic Church, states the book is a "symphony" of the faith.

The Holy Father says, "The project was the object of extensive consultation among all Catholic Bishops, their Episcopal Conferences or Synods, and of theological and catechetical institutes. As a whole, it received a broadly favorable acceptance on the part of the Episcopate. It can be said that this Catechism is the result of the collaboration of the whole Episcopate of the Catholic Church, who generously accepted my invitation to share responsibility for an enterprise which directly concerns the life of the Church." He further states, "The achievement of this Catechism thus reflects the collegial nature of the Episcopate; it testifies to the Church's catholicity."

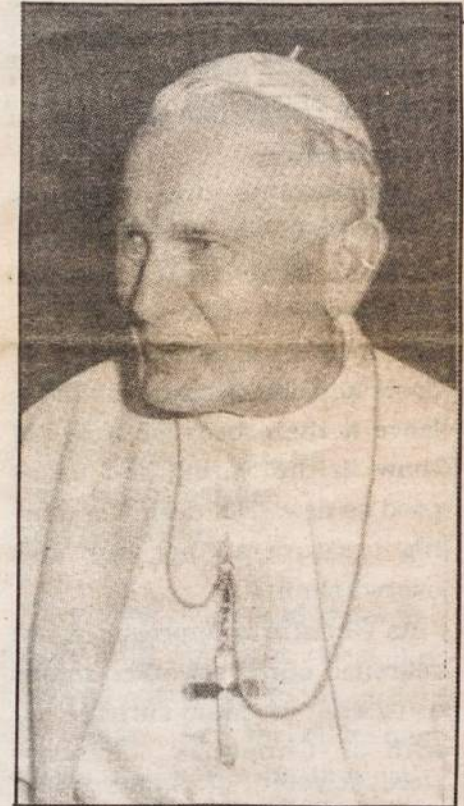
The Doctrinal value of the text

Continuing in his introduction the Holy Father says, "The

Catechism of the Catholic Church, which I approved June 25th last and the publication of which I today order by virtue of my Apostolic Authority, is a statement of the Church's faith and of catholic doctrine, attested to or illumined by Sacred Scripture, the Apostolic Tradition, and the Church's Magisterium. I declare it to be a sure norm for teaching the faith and thus a valid and legitimate instrument for ecclesial communion. May it serve the renewal to which the Holy Spirit ceaselessly calls the Church of God, the Body of Christ, on her pilgrimage to the undiminished light of the Kingdom!"

Pope John Paul in his introduction notes the approval and publication of the book represents a service he wishes to offer to the Holy Catholic Church and all the churches in peace and communion with the Holy See.

Continuing on in his introduction, John Paul II says, "I ask all the Church's Pastors and the Christian faithful to receive this catechism in a spirit of communion and to use it assiduously in fulfilling their mission of proclaiming the faith and calling people to the Gospel life. This catechism is given to them that it may be a sure and authentic



reference text for teaching catholic doctrine and particularly for preparing local catechisms. It is meant to support ecumenical efforts that are moved by the holy desire for the unity of all Christians, showing carefully the content and wondrous harmony of the catholic faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, lastly, is offered to every individual who asks us to give an account of the hope that is in us (cf. 1 Pet 3:15) and who wants to know what the Catholic Church believes.

(Continued on page 5)

Florence Eckert - A Child's Prayer

Being a woman, I won't reveal the number, but I can tell you this old gal has seen many a Christmas come and go and has also stored up a warehouse of memories.

Not being a great animal lover, I paid little attention to the pleas of our youngest daughter for a puppy. Birthdays, holidays, report cards and all occasions that warrant a gift would end up with the same pleas and the same results. "Please Mommy, I'll do anything you ask. Please get me a puppy."

The pitiful pleas fell on deaf ears and our daughter gradually became accustomed to the usual negative replies and excuses. But never did she give up asking. If only we adults had this kind of perseverance.

Innumerable tiny creatures found their way to boxes, jars, and fish bowls on the patio all summer long. One year a crayfish froze in a plastic pan outdoors and she pleaded with me to leave it there because it would thaw in the Spring and be as good as new. Her desire for a living creature all her own was overwhelming.

As Christmas approached, we searched our overworked minds as to what we could surprise her with on Christmas. Presents were selected, purchased and wrapped for her brother and sister, but somehow we just couldn't come up with anything we felt would excite her.

Then it happened! I still can't figure out how or why but suddenly I looked at my husband

and said, "A dog...that's the only answer... a real live puppy!"

I realized that no matter what amount of money we spent on this precious child we couldn't make her happy. She wanted a puppy. My husband couldn't believe it. He told me I must be mellowing with age.

I set my mind on a Schnauzer and my first task each morning was to scan the classified pages to see what was available. Poodles, Shepherds, Dachshunds galore but no Schnauzers. One morning I heard from a friend who owned two Schnauzers and knew a few breeders. She gave me the phone numbers and I began my calls. With a mounting phone bill from long-distance calls I finally came up with one available Schnauzer - a reject. It seemed her front teeth were out of line so I could have her for a good price - \$250. We declined the offer. I didn't think I could afford the \$2,000 for braces and I wouldn't dream of having a dog with a crooked bite!

I was beginning to despair as the days were slipping by. Then just three days before Christmas I came upon an ad for a litter of terriers the owner was giving away for Christmas. Out of desperation we drove out to the country to see the dogs. We were waiting to hear from a friend who was trying to get us a dog but now we were running it close and felt we had better take whatever we could get our hands on.

The dogs were cute but I was afraid they were a little bigger

than I had expected. Nevertheless, we asked the owner if she would hold one for us until the next day. If we didn't hear from our friend by then, we would settle for one of these pups.

Two days before Christmas...no friend...no pup. Only one thing to do...take the pup that was being held for us. But before we could bring it home we'd have to have a bed and some food so we went to the pet shop at the shopping center.

There really is a Santa Clause! There she was! The cutest pup you have ever seen! She looked at us just the way I had always felt a pup would look when it wanted you to take it home. "Get her out for me, quick," I said to the man. "We'll take her!"

The search had ended. She was ours. We decided to leave her at the shop until the next day when we would take her home for Christmas Eve.



I will not even attempt to put into words what happened when a little girl and a puppy met on Christmas Eve. All I can say is when everyone dried their tears and our little angel was able to compose herself enough to speak, she said, "Mommy, every night when I'd say my prayers and ask God for my puppy, I pictured what she'd look like. This pup is exactly what I saw!"

There's no longer any question in my mind as to why I finally decided to get a puppy. I had lost that battle right from the start. Look who my opponent was!

Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Classes of Policies

Life Paid Up at Age 80: This is low-cost life insurance which is fully paid up when the insured reaches the anniversary nearest age 80 years.

20 Payment Life: Premiums are paid for 20 full years after which further payment of premiums cease and policy is fully paid up. It is retained by the insured and the amount of life insurance is paid to the beneficiary at the time of death. If death occurs during the 20 year period, benefits are paid to the named beneficiary.

20 Year Endowment: This plan combines life insurance with savings. If the insured dies within 20 years of the date of issue of the policy the face amount is paid to the beneficiary named. If payment of premium is made on the policy for 20 full years the face amount is paid to the insured on the date of maturity after which time the life insurance benefits cease.

Single Premium Life: This policy does away with monthly premium payments. Pay only One Premium, receive full protection and your policy is Fully Paid Up.

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Holiday Treats

Dips and spreads are always welcome on the holiday buffet table. Often a dip can be used as a spread and vice-versa. To use a dip as a filling for a pastry or a stuffing for a vegetable just thicken it. Spreads are usually served with a variety of breads, crackers and toast. Set the spread in a bowl and surround it with the bread and crackers. Vegetables can be used with spreads although they are more popular with dips.

Dips are usually served with potato chips, crackers and vegetables. When preparing your dips, make sure they are soft enough not to break the dipper. For chips, have a softer dip than what you serve for the crackers and vegetables. Practically any vegetable can be used for dipping. The greater the variety, the more color for your table.

The following dips and spreads were sent to us by various hostesses.

TANGY CUCUMBER SPREAD

3 medium-sized cucumbers
1/2 cup chives, minced
Salt and pepper to taste
Sour cream

Garden fresh cucumbers are best but, when forced to use waxed, have skin removed with a paring knife.

Peel cucumbers and cut in half lengthwise. Remove seeds and chop the pulp very fine.

Sprinkle salt over the pulp and let stand at room temperature for one hour. Drain off the liquid and add the chives. Season with pepper and gradually add the sour cream until you have the desired consistency. Serve with a variety of crackers and breads. Small squares of warm toast are a special treat with this spread.

Can be kept refrigerated for up to eight hours. Yield 1-1/2 cups.

CHEEZY NUT SPREAD

1/2 lb. cheddar cheese, grated
1 tblsp. wine vinegar
4 tblsps. butter
1/4 tsp. spicy brown mustard
1/2 cup walnuts finely ground
Cayenne pepper to taste

In the processor, puree all the ingredients except the nuts. Remove from blender and add the nuts until well mixed. Serve with dark breads and crackers. Can be stored in refrigerator and is tastiest is used in two weeks.

VEGETABLE DIP

1/4 cup peeled, seeded and minced red, ripe tomatoes
1 cup sour cream
3 tblsps. minced scallions
2 tblsps. minced parsley
2 tblsps. minced celery
2 tblsps. minced green pepper
Salt, pepper, tobasco to taste

Combine all ingredients and serve with vegetables, sesame crackers, tortilla chips, etc. Can be stored in refrigerator for about four days.

When arranging your snack tray for Christmas guests, meatballs are always a welcome hors d'oeuvre. They can be prepared far in advance, frozen, and made available in the quantity you want and at the right time. Served along with a spread and dip, you have a lovely Christmas table for those special relatives and friends who drop by. Add a bowl of fruit, one of chips and some candy and nuts to complete your snack table. An ice bucket filled with small cubs, some with cherries and some with olives frozen in the center add to the attractive Christmas table.

One of our readers sent in the following recipe for Swedish meatballs. There are many different recipes for Swedish meatballs so we suggest you try as

many as you can until you find the one that satisfies your taste buds and receives compliments from your guests.

SWEDISH MEATBALLS II

2 lbs. ground beef
1 lb. lean ground pork
2 eggs well beaten
1 cup dry bread crumbs
1 cup mashed potatoes
2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. brown sugar
1 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. ground cloves
1/2 tsp. ground allspice
1/2 tsp. ground ginger
1 cup milk
Flour
1/4 cup butter
2 cups light cream

Preheat oven to 325°F. In a large bowl, combine the beef, pork, eggs, bread crumbs, potatoes, salt, sugar, pepper, cloves, allspice, ginger, and milk. Work the mixture together (it will be soft). Shape into meatballs. Dredge balls with flour and saute in the butter until well browned.

Transfer to a casserole dish and pour in the cream. Bake for 35 minutes or until cooked through. Yields 70.

When preparing a large amount of meatballs for holiday guests, line a few baking sheets and bake at 400F. until they are cooked through. Remove from oven and cool. Place on cookie sheets and freeze. When they are completely frozen you can place as many as you like in different size freezer bags taking out only what you need. If you have room in your freezer, you can put them all in one large bag removing only as many as you need.



DESROS (Sausages)

Hog casings
10 lbs. fresh pork shoulder
2 large onions
1 tsp. pepper
1 tsp. allspice
1/3 cup salt
2 cloves garlic (optional)

Chop onions. Cook in small amount of fat until transparent. Instead of frying in fat, onions may be simmered in about two cups of water. Cut meat in very small pieces, or put through course grinder. Add onions with fat or water in which they were cooked, pepper, allspice and salt. If garlic is used, chop it fine. Combine thoroughly. Stuff into washed hog casings.

Boil in water about one hour. To reheat, brown in frying pan or oven. Water in which sausages are boiled makes a good soup stock. Refrigerate and remove fat.

ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS CUT-OUTS

1 cup butter
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
2 tblsp. milk
2 tblsp. anise oil to taste
4 tsp. baking powder
4 to 5 cups flour

Cream the butter and sugar together until very light. Beat the eggs and add slowly to the butter and sugar. Add the milk, one teaspoon at a time beating constantly. Add anise oil.

Sift four cups of flour with the baking powder and add one cup at a time until all have been added. Use as little flour as possible of the remaining cup. Flour table or board and take 1/4 of the mixture and roll it out 1/4 inch thick. Cut in shapes with cookie cutters. Place on floured baking sheets and bake in moderate 350° oven for about 10 minutes.

Decorate with colored icing and sprinkle as desired. Powdered sugar mixed with milk or water will suffice for an icing.

Straw Ornaments Synonymous with Lithuanian Christmas Tree

In Lithuania, it became accepted to decorate Christmas trees only during the period of independence (especially the second decade). The custom and most of the tree decorations came from Germany. The decorations were mostly made of glass: angels, various figures, soldiers, balls, etc.

Candy in shiny colored wrappings, red apples and pretty cookies were also hung on the tree. After Christmas, the children were allowed to "pick" the goodies off the tree, while the decorations were put away for next year.

Because the trees were lit with real candles, these were lighted only once, after dinner on Christmas Eve. Later the trees branches were already too dry and people were afraid the candle flames could cause a fire. In Germany, it was customary to decorate the tree for Christmas Eve, then remove the decorations and discard the tree on the first day of Christmas.

Lithuanians did not adopt this custom and the tree remained in the home until the Epiphany (the official conclusion of the Christmas season).

The custom of decorating trees and holding Christmas programs was promoted through the schools and the press. The schools prepared Christmas plays, programs, music and Christmas caroling. The straw Christmas tree ornaments we currently use and cherish were unknown at the time. Straw ornaments made from real wheat or rye straw were used by farmers to decorate their cottages for weddings or other holiday occasions. Their use was revived in the U.S. by former Lithuanian Consul General Juze Dauzvardiene with the help of

the Sisters of St. Casimir, when the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry invited the Lithuanians to participate in an international Christmas tree exhibition.

Because most Christmas tree ornaments are quite similar, an effort was made to find decorations that would highlight the Lithuanian tree and distinguish it from those of other nationalities. The straw ornaments were selected, but were first made from white paper drinking straws. The decorations were a huge success. They have become synonymous with the Lithuanian Christmas tree and today are widely used to demonstrate Lithuanian Christmas tree decorations to foreigners. Now, straw ornaments are usually made from white plastic straws which are stronger and stay white longer.

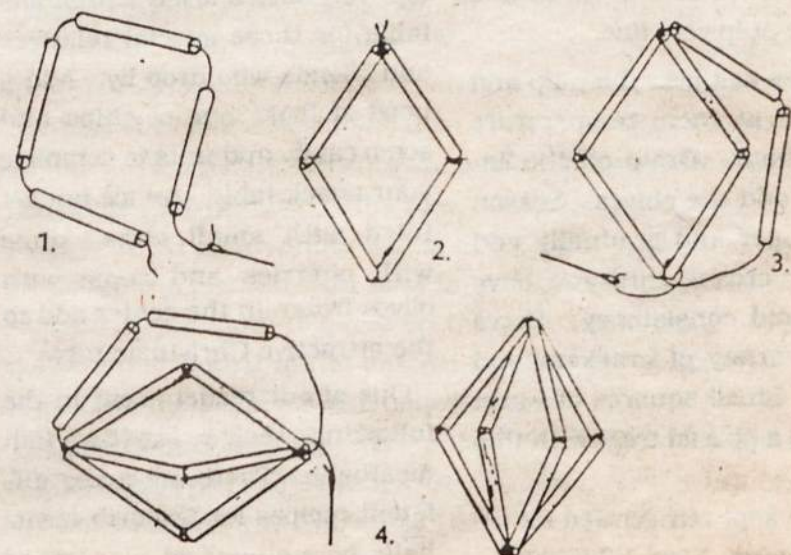
We give here the most basic steps used in making the straw decorations: they can be built upon with just a little imagination. The materials necessary are: a box of white paper or plastic drinking straws, a spool or ball of strong white thread, several long needles with eyes large enough to accommodate the thread selected, a ruler, sharp scissors and imagination.

To begin: cut eight equal lengths of straw, about two - three inches long. Thread the needle with an average length of thread (the end need not be knotted), a long piece is useless for it tangles, wraps around the straws and interferes with the work. Thread four pieces of straw one after another like a necklace by inserting the needle lengthwise. Tie the thread ends and you have a straw "wreath." Do not cut the thread but pull it through two more straws, tie to the opposite

end. (see figs. 1 and 2); thread the last two straw pieces and again secure to the opposite end (fig. 3). Cut four pieces of straw shorter than the first eight (all of which are of equal length), for example, if the first were three inches long, these four can be two inches long (of course, pieces equal to the first may also be used. When shorter pieces are used the ornament will be more elongated, when equal lengths are used, the result will be square, shorter). At this point the needle and thread are at the end of the ornament (fig. 4). Reinsert it through one straw piece (any piece) so the needle ends in the middle (fig. 5). Thread one of the newly cut pieces and attach it to the second joint, in the middle (fig. 6). Do this until all four straw pieces are secured. We now have an elongated or square "box." Everything done subsequently is but a variation or elaboration on this basic figure. If the thread ends while working, cut another piece from the spool, thread it into the needle and tie the end to the thread remaining in the ornament. Place the knot so it remains hidden inside a straw piece and cannot be seen.

Cut eight more pieces of straw, about the length of the other four. The needle and thread are still in the middle of the ornament where the last four pieces were secured. Thread two new pieces and tie them to the other connecting point; thread two more and tie again; thread the fifth and sixth and tie; thread the seventh and eighth and tie. Seen from the end, the ornament looks like figure 7. This already resembles a star for the points made with the last straw pieces look like rays. If longer straw pieces are used, these points will be longer and sharper. But these "rays" are hanging loose, they swing from side to side. They must be secured. Cut another four pieces longer than any before. Determine the length by holding one of the "rays" horizontal, neither up nor down. The new straw pieces must be able to hold the "ray" in that position. All four straws must be equal (otherwise the ornament will be crooked.) Thread the needle through one straw piece so it comes out at the point. Add the new (longer) piece and secure to the top of the ornament (fig. 8).

(Continued on page 5)



Holy Father

(Continued from page 1)

Given October 11, 1992, the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, in the fourteenth year of my Pontificate."

The above paragraphs taken from the introduction by the Holy Father in the Catechism clearly inform us that we need not question this person or that person about the teachings of the Catholic Church. The answers are in this book and they are clearly spelled out in language we can all understand.

The first part of the book deals with the Profession of Faith, the second part, the Celebration of the Christian Mystery, the third, Life in Christ and the fourth, Christian Prayer.

Those who grew up learning their catechism in single sentence statements now have an opportunity to better understand those statements in much more detail.

The meanings of the commandments are clearly spelled out.

Honor thy father and mother, the 4th commandment you learned as a child, takes up 13-1/2 pages to explain.

How well do you really understand this commandment? Are you aware that this is the first commandment to which God has attached a promise?

The 5th commandment, Thou shalt not kill takes up 15-1/2 pages to explain. One page on abortion states: "You shall not cause the newborn to perish."

When one reads the Catechism of the Catholic church, he/she may discover they are not responsible for having broken some of the 10 commandments for they were never really given a full explanation of their meaning. Everywhere we turn we see those commandments being violated and not just behind closed doors but very openly! To be considered as a member of an

organization in the secular society you must obey the rules of that organization or you are no longer considered a member. Religious society is no different. To say you are a member of the Catholic church and to blatantly ignore and disobey the rules of that Church is a falsehood. You are no longer a practicing Catholic anymore than someone who ignores the rules of Scouts, Shriners, etc. These organizations will not change their rules to satisfy any one individuals' fancy. You are simply dropped from membership. The Church, on the other hand, puts out every effort to assist the misguided, to pray for them and to make every attempt to lead them to know and understand that these are not man's laws - they are God's.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is there for them always and there is joy in

heaven for each lost soul that returns.

The Catechism is like an encyclopedia. You pick it up to learn. It is there to refer to when needed and it is backed up by the Holy Scriptures.

Of course the best way to study and really enjoy the "symphony" in this book would be to read a few pages as a family unit each day following dinner.

Understanding how difficult it is to gather the entire family together these days, you may have to each find his/her own time to sit down and read a few pages a day all by yourself. It's really a great idea - much more relaxing than the violent and cheap shows TV has to offer and a lot cheaper than the therapist's sessions.

Single parents will find comfort and hope once they really get to know God's love and it is only in knowing Him that you can love Him.

Make it a gift for the entire family for Christmas. Work it out with your Diocese.

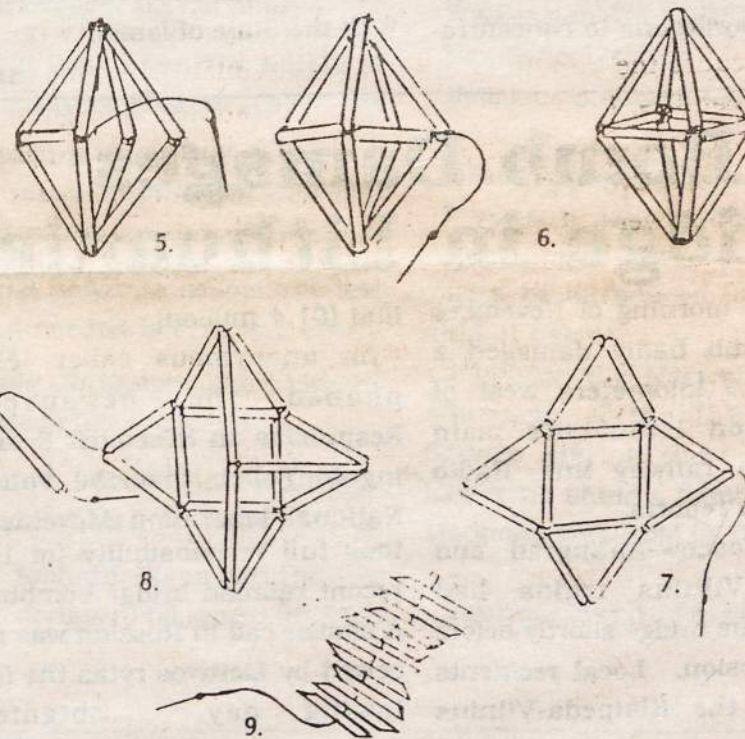
A suggestion might be for Bishops to provide the books at cost to all parishes to be sold after all Sunday Masses. They might even go so far as to provide them to any family unable to afford even the wholesale cost.

In today's society where we are experiencing a decline in the priesthood and the fragmentation of the family unit, the dividends of distribution of these books may be well worth while.

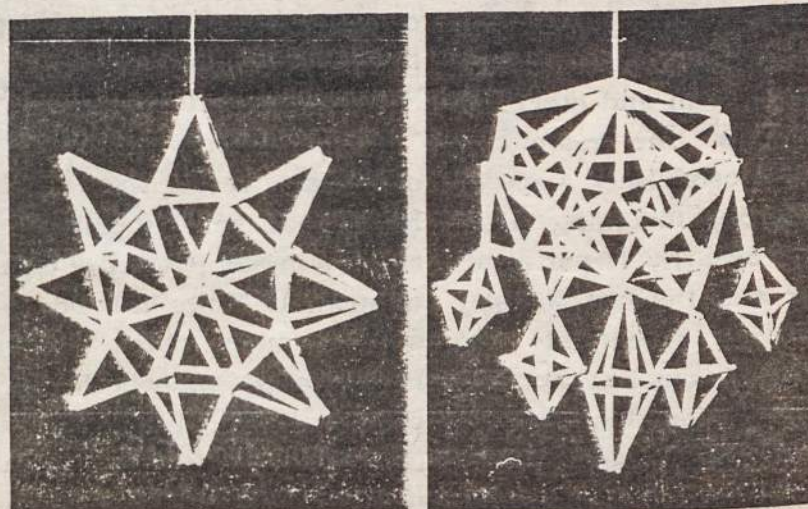
Straw Ornaments

(Continued from page 4)

Thread another straw, bring it to the middle of another point and attach. Draw the needle through the straws that form the point so that it arrives at the end of the point (through two straws.) Add the third straw, pull it to the top of the ornament and tie off. Do likewise with the last (fourth) straw section. If desired, cut four more straws of the same length and perform the same process, securing them to the bottom of the ornament. We now have a very complicated ornament. It can be left as such and hung on the tree or we can continue working and adding more points, attaching small four pointed figures to the bottom and at the end of every point. Such stars may be fashioned with five, six, or eight points. To do this, at the very beginning, instead of eight straws, cut 10 or 12 or 16; in between add five, six, or eight straw sections and work as above.



Taken from "Lithuanian Customs and Traditions" by Danute Brazyte Bindokiene.



Use your imagination and you can create your own designs. Here a few examples.

Lithuania Apologizes for WWII Holocaust

The following is a statement by Lithuania's Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius on the Jewish Holocaust in Lithuania during World War II:

"Over 200,000 Jews were massacred in Lithuania during the Second World War. This is an open wound in Lithuanian past which should be evaluated properly and honestly. The holocaust was the result of the implementation of the Nazi policies in the occupied country but the fact that several hundred Lithuanians took part in the Jewish genocide, compels us to utter the right words of penitence and extend our apologies to the Jewish nation for the sufferings, deportations to concentra-

tion camps and massacre of our innocent fellow citizens.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania assumes the responsibility for the persecution of those who took part in the killings, and will pursue this consistently, honestly and publicly. This does not compensate for the damage inflicted towards the implementation of justice.

For centuries, Lithuanians and Jews coexisted peacefully in Lithuania. The Government of Lithuania will continue this tradition by cooperating with the Jewish Community in Lithuania, Jewish diaspora abroad, and developing mutually beneficial ties in all spheres with the State of Israel."

ABN

Bomb Damages Bridge in Lithuania

On the morning of November 6, a bomb badly damaged a bridge 35 kilometers west of Vilnius on Lithuania's main east-west railway line, Radio Lithuania reports.

The Moscow-Kalingrad and Kaunas-Vilnius trains had crossed the bridge shortly before the explosion. Local residents stopped the Klaipeda-Vilnius train before it reached the bridge some 15 minutes after the blast.

On November 7, Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius ordered tighter security on the railroad system and other key installations. The Prosecutor's Office has established a special commission, including high-ranking Security Department, Interior and Defense Ministry officials, to investigate the bombing. No one has taken responsibility for this terrorist act. Transportation Minister Jonas Birziskis estimates that repairs will take about three weeks and will cost 5.6 million

litai (\$1.4 million).

An anonymous caller telephoned the newspaper Respublika on November 8 saying in Polish that the Polish National Liberation Movement took full responsibility for the recent railroad bridge bombing. A similar call in Russian was received by Lietuvos rytas the following day. Zbigniew Semenowicz, the leader of the Polish faction in the Seimas said he did not know of such an organization, and if it did exist, it would have been created by the KGB, it was reported by BNS.

A high Security Department official said that it was "hardly likely" that the blast had been set by a mysterious Polish organization, for "Poles have no reason to make noise." The Lithuanian government that day offered a reward of 250,000 litas (\$62,500) for information leading to the disclosure of the organizers and perpetrators of the bombing.

RFE/RL Girnius

Here and There in the Baltics

One seldom mentioned fact; the Hill of Crosses, outside Siauliai in Lithuania, also has what is known as a Latvian section. There, Latvians have also been placing their rosaries and religious mementos for years.

The Hill of Crosses has no permanent commercial building. The city fathers of Siauliai are apparently against any commercialization of this religious site. Enterprising individuals, on the other hand, have set up tables and are selling tourists a variety of religious items, mementos, handicrafts, as well as amber. This open air trade does not bring any profit to the city and stops altogether in bad weather. Seems like a building could be erected and would bring fees to the city and improve the quality of merchandise sold - not to mention the visitor's comfort.

Except for a few lucky ones who have traveled to the West, most people in the Baltics have never seen or tasted a banana while under Soviet rule. Balts

are now very much impressed by the fruit. One funny observation: some peel the banana from what we would consider the wrong end - they cut off the tip, and while holding the banana by the stem, they peel it backwards. We Americans peel it from the stem.

Many in the Baltics, especially Lithuania, are suffering from what can be described as ill-defined kidney diseases. Just like gout for the English, and liver disease for the French, kidneys are the organs of choice for the Lithuanians. One of the reasons may be that Lithuanians drink so little water during the day - water intake is key in washing out metabolic byproducts that result from a meat-rich diet. Water intake should also be high to wash out pain-killers, some of which have been associated with kidney disease. Why don't Balts drink more water? Could it be the sad state of their public toilets?

ABN

IMF Approves Loan for Lithuania

Reuters reports a \$201 million loan has been approved for Lithuania by the International Monetary Fund. The loan is to be made available over the next three years. It projected economic growth in Lithuania to reach 1.5 percent in 1994 and 6.75 percent the following year.

The loan is expected to help the country push ahead with eco-

conomic reform and bring down inflation to 20 percent in 1995. Lithuania is the first Baltic country to have its three-year economic memorandum accepted by the IMF. This should help Lithuania obtain loans from other international financial institutions that may help cut local interest rates to about 30 percent by year's end.

Slow Progress in Lithuania - Belarusian Border Talks

Radio Lithuania reported on November 9 that in Vilnius on territory.

the previous day, Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Rimantas Sidlauskas and his Belarusian counterpart Stanislau Ahurtsau determined the border at the confluence of the Kleva and Gauja Rivers and decided that the Lithuanian Pagiriai enclave would be ex-

changed for some Belarusian territory. During a meeting on October 13, the fate of Adutiskis railroad station was settled; however, the follow-up meeting was postponed several times. The next round of talks is scheduled for November 24 in Minsk.

RFE/RL Girnius

Services for the Elderly

What do you do when an older person you care about requires assistance to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle? Where do you begin to look for resources that provide services for our senior population.

It's difficult to know where to turn - especially in a crisis situation and especially if you are a long distance caregiver.

But now there is an easy way to get this information through the Eldercare Locator.

The Eldercare Locator is a toll free, nationwide, directory assistance service that helps older people and caregivers locate community resources for Seniors. With the Eldercare Locator, callers are provided with state and local information to help find services that enable older persons to remain independent in their own homes or that give caregivers a well-deserved break.

Anyone can call the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Eastern Time).

The Eldercare Locator provides callers with information on how to locate a wide variety of services like meals, home care, transportation, housing alternatives, home repair, recre-

49th Anniversary

Congratulations to George and Verna Sadauckas on their 49th wedding anniversary celebrated Thanksgiving Day.

George serves as a Trustee on the LCA Board of Directors and is also Secretary of Lodge 155. Verna serves on both the Benevolent and Youth Committees. The anniversary couple reside at 119 S. Rebecca Ave., Scranton, PA 18504.

ation, social activities, legal and other community services.

Key Facts:

Americans are living longer. Persons 85 plus is the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population. Improvements in health care, nutrition and fitness contribute to this increase in life expectancy.

Soon, even more Americans will be living longer. There are 30 million Americans currently aged 65 plus. This figure will increase dramatically as the 75 million baby boomers enter this age group over the next 20 years.

Many older people will require a little help maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle. As a result, a growing number of services and organizations across the country are available to assist this age group.

Now caregivers can easily access information about local services that help seniors through the Eldercare Locator - a nationwide directory assistance service.

A handy brochure describing the Eldercare Locator service is available by writing the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, 1112 16th Street, N.W., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20036-4823.

Obstacles and Opportunities

Many years ago, a large American shoe manufacturer sent two sales reps out to different parts of the Australian outback to see if they could drum up some business among the aborigines. Some time later, the company received telegrams from both agents. The first one said, "No business here. Natives don't wear shoes." The second one said, "Great opportunity here, natives don't wear shoes!"

Madonna and Child to be Removed from 1995 Stamps

In the latest attack on religion in America, the U.S. Postal Service's top official, Azeezaly Jaffer announced on November 17th that the postage stamp showing the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child will not be printed in 1995.

This stamp has been used for the past 28 years and has been well received for the Holy Season of Christmas.

The U.S. Postal Service has the authority over the issuance of stamps but Congress is the watchdog over the U.S. Postal Service and therefore must see to it that freedom of religion and its traditions are not abused.

At a time when the nation is gradually coming to realize the important part religion plays in our society and there is consideration for an amendment allowing prayer in school, the last thing needed is criticism over a simple Christmas stamp depicting a mother and child.

Pistols have replaced prayers in school and Marilyn Monroe and Richard Nixon are the two new stamps to be issued in 1995,

the year the Virgin and Child are eliminated.

The postal service saw fit to honor Elvis Presley and even went so far as to offer several different poses to his followers to choose from before they selected the one his fans wanted.

Voice your objection to this outrageous move by writing or calling your particular Congressman and the new House Speaker, Congressman Newt Gingrich.

Address your letter to:
Congressman Newt Gingrich
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Re: School Prayer
Religious Stamps 1995

Dear Congressman Gingrich:
I support your stand for a school prayer amendment and urge it be introduced for a vote without delay.

I oppose the November 17th statement of the U.S. Postal Service stating there will no longer be stamps depicting the Madonna and Child in 1995.

Your name and address



Stanley Banes of Texas is pictured being greeted by distant cousins in the Silale area of Lithuania when he visited there with his parents. (Story was in the November issue).

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by Josephine Dauzvardas\$8.00
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by B. Piesarskas and B. Svecevicious (about 27,000 words).....\$15.00
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(Forty lessons for the teacher or the self-teacher)
by Dambriunas, Klimas and Schmalsteig.....\$25.00
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- Lithuanians in America
by Dr. Antanas Kucas, (translated by Joseph Boley)\$11.00
- The Brothers Domeika
by Liudas Dovydenas, (translated by Milton Stark.).....\$3.50
- Vytautas the Great - Grand Duke of Lithuania
by Dr. Joseph B. Koncius. (The life and times of Lithuania's most famous ruler).....\$5.00
- Praise the Lord, All You nations
(A religious, social and cultural history of Lithuania)
by Sister Virginia Marie Vytell.....\$9.00
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by Izabele Sinkeviciute (328 pages).....\$12.00
- Lithuanian Customs and Traditions
by Danute Brazyte Bindokiene.....\$16.50

Make all checks payable to:
Lithuanian Catholic Alliance and mail to:
L.C.A., 71-73 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Obituaries

STAFIRA, Eleanor...Lodge 222
10111 Joliet St.
St. John, Ind. 46373
Died: 11/20/94
Buried: 11/22/94
St. Casimir Cemetery
Chicago, IL

SMIGELSKI, Joseph..Lodge 46
646 Main St.
Sugar Notch, PA 18706
Died: 11/21/94
Buried: 11/24/94
SS Peter & Paul Cemetery
Sugar Notch, PA 18706

CHEPULIS, Mary....Lodge 137
415 Lincoln Ave.
Rockford, IL 61102
Died: 10/24/94
Buried: 10/27/94
St. Mary Cemetery
Rockford, IL

Sincere sympathy is extended to Anthony Smigelski on the death of his brother Joseph Smigelski and also to George Wanta on the death of his uncle.

Mrs. Chepulis served for many years as Secretary for Lodge 137 until she entered St. Ann's Nursing Home Center in September of 1993.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mary Kozerski, Tyler and Justin Baran and Kyle McLaughlin, all members of Lodge 212, on the death of Anna Baltuskonis who died November 7, 1994. She was the sister of Mrs. Kozerski and great-grandmother of Tyler, Justin and Kyle.

SALUCKA, Marija...Lodge 137
3520 Packard Pkwy.
Rockford, IL 61101-1849
Died: 11/23/94
Buried: 11/28/94
Calvary Catholic Cemetery
Rockford, IL

DAUKAITE, Julia....Lodge 171
8326 Whitefield Ave.
Dearborn Hgts., MI 48127
Died: 9/5/94

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