

## MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

As the year 1995 draws to a close and we prepare to usher in the New Year, we here at the Home Office reach out to our fraternal family out there wishing you all the joys of this Holy Season and Health and Happiness in the New Year.

We strive to do our best to provide you with the kind of service you deserve and are always available to serve your needs.

The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and our phone lines to 4:30 p.m. All correspondence should be mailed to Lithuanian Catholic Alliance, 71-73 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you and yours.

## CALLING ALL LODGE SECRETARIES

Let's hear from all you faithful Lodge Secretaries out there. Write and tell us a little about yourself; how long you held the post, who were or are your most interesting members, the youngest, the oldest, etc..

We'd love to share some of these interesting insights with our members. Let us know what works best for you in signing up new members, your approach, sales pitch, etc. Write to: LODGE NEWS, c/o LCA VOICE 71-73 S. WASHINGTON ST. WILKES-BARRE, PA 18703

## GREETINGS FROM BISHOP PAUL A. BALTAKIS

"The people who walk in darkness shall see a great Light, a Light that will shine on all those who live in the land of the shadow of death." (Isaiah, 9:2)

After endless years of oppression and spiritual bondage, Isaiah's prophecy is coming to fruition. The nations of Central and Eastern Europe are experiencing a renewed faith and hope to at long last see brighter days ahead. The road is still long, the journey is arduous, but trust in the Lord will bring everyone the fortitude and energy to attain the Light both here on Earth and in Heaven.

May the Lord shower a multitude of blessings upon all my fellow Lithuanians and may you all have a Joyous Christmas and a hope-filled New 1996 Year!

*Paul A. Baltakis, O.F.M.*

Bishop for the spiritual assistance of Lithuanian Catholics living outside of Lithuania.

## THE BISHOP'S TRAVELS

During the first half of 1995 Bishop Paul Baltakis, OFM travelled to a number of Lithuanian communities in the U.S., Canada, South America, Germany and Lithuania. He attended the Knights of Lithuania Convention and the 75th anniversary of St. Anthony's Parish in Detroit, MI on August 13.

From September 15 to October 4 he embarked on a long promised visit to Russia and places in Siberia marked with the sign of Calvary. Back in the states on October 4, he participated in Pope John Paul's reception

(continued on next page)



*Bishop's Travels cont'd*

in New York. On October 8-10 he attended the annual meetings of the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid and U.S. Lithuanian Priest's League in Putnam, CT. On October 15, he officiated at the centenary celebration of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Minersville, PA. From October 17 to November 10 the bishop again journeyed to Lithuania to make apostolic visitations to Lithuania's three seminaries.

## LITHUANIANS IN MOSCOW & SIBERIA

In the course of carrying out Pope John Paul's charge to minister to the pastoral needs of all Lithuanians living outside Lithuania's borders, Bishop Paul A. Baltakis, OFM, undertook to visit his companions in what was once the Soviet Union and its satellites. The Bishop met with Lithuanians in Moscow and Siberia and familiarized himself with their cultural and social endeavors and their pastoral needs.

Moscow has a population of approximately 3,500 Lithuanians. Though some are in ethnic or religious mixed marriages, they continue to be actively involved in the Lithuanian community. St. Louis, the only Catholic church to remain open throughout the Soviet years, belongs to the French Embassy and serves the needs of the Lithuanian community. The church and property are extremely run down, but the Apostolic Administrator for Russia, Archbishop Tadas Kondrusecivius has been unable to secure French Embassy permission for repairs. The church has missals and prayerbooks printed in Lithuania, but the parish is presently staffed by two Polish priests. A set of the Lithuanian Encyclopedia published in the U.S. and visits at least two or three times a year by a Lithuanian priest are the foremost needs of the Lithuanian Community in Moscow.

Siberia has a population of about 40,000 Lithuanians. During the mass 1941 Soviet deportations, some 400,000 Lithuanians, including 300 priests, were exiled in several waves to Siberia and neighboring Soviet republics. In 1956 these exiles were rehabilitated and some returned to Lithuania. Those not allowed to live in Lithuania settled in the Kaliningrad District, St. Petersburg, Moscow and elsewhere.

Most stayed in Siberia because of jobs, mixed marriages or the difficulty of starting over again in an independent though still struggling Lithuania. Some 800 families filed requests in 1993 to return to Lithuania, but quite a number of former exiles go back to Siberia because living conditions are better there than in Lithuania.

2 Novosibirsk, the present-day capital of Siberia, is a city of two million inhabitants. Lithuanians were not sent here as exiles, but settled at a later time. About 900 Lithuanians were registered in 1989.

Years ago Franciscan Father Saulius Bytautas built a church in Novosibirsk which is now served by Franciscans of other nationalities. On Sundays, an average of about six Lithuanians gather in a wooden chapel next to the Cathedral under construction. Every other Sunday the readings are in Lithuanian and traditional Lithuanian hymns are sung. About 40 Lithuanians gathered to welcome Bishop Baltakis at a Mass and reception.

Most Lithuanians who have stayed in Siberia and elsewhere in Russia are not visibly religious. The local clergy see few Lithuanians at Masses and parish functions. The main reasons people have drifted from the Church are that they are dispersed over wide areas, live long distances from churches, have formed mixed families and most significantly have no regular visits by Lithuanian priests who could encourage them to become acquainted and organized.

Lithuanians everywhere are pleading for Lithuanian priests to visit them a minimum of twice yearly. They also ask for Lithuanian publications, videotapes about Lithuanian holidays, celebrations and festivals which would motivate them to assemble more frequently and uphold Lithuanian and Catholic traditions.

The bishops of Russia and Kazakhstan and the priests who toil in Siberia pointed out that Lithuanians have settled everywhere, from Murmansk to Vladivostok, but they need ethnic and religious support.

*(Information taken from "Bishop's Brief" which detailed an account of his visit with Lithuanians in the former Soviet Union and its satellites.)*

## BIRTHDAY GUYS AND GALS

Have an upcoming birthday? Write and let us know. Your birthday notice in LCA VOICE (Garsas), might get you some unexpected greeting cards.

If you want to keep your age a secret — we will oblige. Just let us know the date so we can all share the celebration. We're also interested in anniversaries, graduations, etc.

LCA Voice is printed monthly so let us have the information at least one month in advance.

Send to:

LCA VOICE  
71-73 S. WASHINGTON ST.  
WILKES-BARRE, PA 18703



## NEW BOARD MEETS

At the first meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors held at the Home Office in Wilkes-Barre, PA, President Thomas E. Mack appointed five of the seven board members to serve on the Executive Committee. Included are; Thomas E. Mack, Rosalie Kizis, Leocadia Donarovich, George Sadauckas and Charles Liscosky.

In other appointments President Mack named Albina Poska and Saulius Kuprys as delegates to the Alta Convention in Chicago; Jonas Vainius and Joseph Giedraitis as representatives to the Tautos Fundas in N.Y., and Leocadia Donarovich, Charles Liscosky and Florence Eckert to the Fraternal Congress in Philadelphia. (*Liscosky & Eckert did not attend*).

A motion was approved to increase the salary of the Treasurer who has taken on the additional duties of Secretary.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

## DIRECTOR LISCOSKY RESIGNS

The first meeting of the newly appointed Executive Committee was held at the Home Office September 20, 1995

At the opening of the meeting, Director Charles Liscosky resigned his elected position on the Board and his appointed position on the Executive Committee. This leaves the present Board with six members and the Executive Committee with four.

Alena Miskinis presented the members with a thorough, detailed summary of all Home Office financial transactions,

President Mack opened discussion on the need for a qualified person to assume the duties of Executive Director. Florence Eckert joined the meeting and gave a report on her contacts with a few retired servicemens organizations. Alena furnished the Board with a job description for this position and reminded the board that she had agreed to remain as acting office manager only until November 1, 1995.

Leocadia suggested a letter be sent pastors in the Wilkes-Barre area asking they place a notice for this position of Executive Director in their Sunday bulletins.

A motion was approved to increase Single Premium rates by \$25 per \$1,000 of insurance to fall in

line with the rates charged by most other fraternal.

Alena and Florence brought to the attention of the Board the need for a new copy machine. A motion was approved for Rosalie and George to meet with Florence and make a decision on the purchase of a copier.

Several letters requesting donations were tabled due to unavailable funds at this time.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

The Garsas Newsletter is mailed to members of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance *free of charge* one issue to a family.

In view of the increased postal rates for each returned copy and our deep concern to keep operational costs to a minimum we need your cooperation.

If your issue is returned to us as unable to deliver and we must pay the postage penalty because you did not notify us of your address change we will be forced to drop you from our mailing list until we receive your new address.

To avoid the above, please send us your new address as soon as you make a change.

THANK YOU

### NEW MEMBER

We are happy to welcome Mrs. Anna Sutherland of Harrisburg, PA as a member of Lodge 222. Her husband Anthony is also a member of Lodge 222.

### NORTHEAST FRATERNALS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Office Staff and Board members of the Northeast Fraternal enjoyed a Christmas get-together at the Woodlands in Plains Twp., PA.

Representing the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance were Director George Sadauckas, and the following office personnel: Alena Miskinis, Pat Weiksner, Florence Eckert and newly appointed Office Manger Myrtle Nagle.

Following an ethnic buffet, the guests were treated to a slide presentation by Mr. Eric Pomeroy of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. The slides gave an insight to the operations of the Institute and all received a folder outlining the achievements made possible through public support.



## OBITUARIES

**CARROLL, Sophie F.** ..... Lodge 81  
11 Dedham St.  
Norfolk, MA 02056  
Died: October 31, 1995

**CIZAUSKAS, Pranas** ..... Lodge 265  
1984 - 25th St.  
Detroit, MI 48216  
Died: October 29, 1995  
Buried: November 2, 1995  
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery  
Southfield, MI

**KELLY, Charles A.** ..... Lodge 46  
703 - 12th St.  
Alva, OK 73717  
Died: November 27, 1995  
Buried: November 30, 1995  
Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery  
Alva, OK  
Sympathy is extended to his father-in-law,  
Anthony Kackauskas, member of Lodge 46  
who enrolled Mr. Kelly.

Sympathy is also extended to John Shup of  
Lodge 209 on the death of his daughter, Judith  
Shup, which occurred December 18, 1995.

## LCA LOOKS TO "BANNER YEAR" IN 1996

We are proud to announce that we continue to sign up new members especially among the newborns and 1995 was a good year. But for Lithuanians, "good" is not enough!

We are setting ourselves a goal for 1996 but that goal doesn't include any quotas or set figures. YOU, our members will set those goals for us December 31, 1996.

Listed at the bottom of this page are the excellent choices of policies we have to offer and which we have been offering in one form or another for the past 109 years. This year of 1996 will mark our 110th anniversary and we would like to see you, the membership working together as a fraternal family mark that happy occasion with a minimum of 110 new members.

Our president, Thomas A. Mack, introduced the slogan, "Lithuanians live longer," however after being in existence for 109 years we are bound to lose a few from time to time to the "fraternal on high" so they must be replaced to keep us viable and healthy and able to serve the needs of our members in 1996 just as they did in 1886.

After the Holiday celebrations have subsided, get out that strongbox of important papers and check which members of your family have been overlooked in regards to insurance coverage.

Take a look at the policies we have to offer at the bottom left of this page. There's one there for every member of the family. Don't wait another day! Sign them up NOW!

### LCA INSURANCE PLANS

All plans available in following sums:

\$2000 - \$3000 - \$4000 - \$5000 - \$7500 - \$10,000

Plan	Without Waiver of Premium	With Waiver of Premium
Life Paid up at age 80	Ages 0-70	Ages 16-55
Twenty Payment Life	Ages 0-60	Ages 16-55
Twenty Year Endowment	Ages 0-60	Ages 16-55
Single Premium Life	Ages 0-70	Not available
	Non-Medical Ages 0-55 - If under \$5,000	
	Over \$5,000 - medical application required	
	Medical: Ages 55 to 70 regardless of amount of coverage	

For more information Write: LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC ALLIANCE  
71-73 WASHINGTON ST. WILKES-BARRE, PA 18703

### MAGIC NUMBERS

Write down any number from 50 to 100 then add 62. Take the first digit from the total and add it to the remaining number (i.e., 72 plus 62 = 134) cross off the 1 and add it to 34 to give you 35 — now subtract this number from your original number and you get — you knew it all the time — 37. This will happen on any set of numbers from 50 to 100.



### IRS & FORM 1040



"Ever wonder why the IRS calls it Form 1040?" asks Jay Lenno, star of the "Tonight Show"

"For every \$50 you earn, you get 10 and they get 40."



### GARSAS

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