

L.C.A. SPIRITUAL ADVISOR MONSIGNOR FRANK L. YASHKAS DIES

By Florence Eckert

ON March 26, 1996 Monsignor Frank L. Yashkas completed his earthly mission and was welcomed into his eternal home. Following a lengthy illness, Monsignor died at Little Flower Manor in Wilkes-Barre, PA where he resided for the past two and one half years.

"HE was an ideal guest" said Sister Raphael, administrator of Little Flower Manor, "somewhat of a character at times, but a lovely character."

SISTER smiled as she spoke about his one "bad habit". "He enjoyed smoking," she said, and although his doctor advised against it, he always managed to get a few cigarettes from friends. As I said before, he was a character."

SISTER Raphael noted that when his health permitted, Monsignor assisted at Mass with resident chaplain Father Jeff Paulish and also helped with anointings.

"HE never missed a social event," Sister said, "and just recently he took part in a Day of Recollection."

I told Sister that on my occasional visits it was seldom that I would find him in his room. I told him he was the "Mayor of the Manor" because he could be found in the lobby greeting visitors, in rooms visiting with guests, and when the weather permitted out on the terrace enjoying the surroundings.

IT goes without saying, Msg. Yashkas will be dearly missed by staff and residents of Little Flower Manor.

HE will also be missed by his friends at L.C.A. where he served as Spiritual Advisor from the time he was elected on June 26, 1984 up until the time of his death.

Msg. Yashkas was born October 17, 1919, in the Newtown section of Hanover Twp., PA, son of the late Louis and Agnes Laurinaitis Yashkas. He received his

elementary education in the local public schools and was a 1937 graduate of Hanover Memorial High School, Lee Park, PA.

HE studied for the priesthood at Marianapolis College, Thompson, Connecticut, and completed his studies at Christ the King Seminary, St.

Bonaventure University, Olean, NY. He was

ordained by the Most Reverend William J. Hafey, D.D., late Bishop of Scranton, at St. Peter's Cathedral on May 26, 1945.

MSGR. Yashkas's first assignment was as an assistant pastor at St. Mary's Lackawaxen in June 1945. He was later assigned in a similar capacity to St. Mary's Mount Pocono; St. Ann's Shohola, and St. Mary's, Old Forge. In 1952, he was released by the Bishop for military service. During that time, he was assigned to various Air Force Bases in Korea, Morocco, Japan, Spain, California, Texas, Alabama, Maine, Mississippi, South Carolina, New Jersey and Louisiana.

HIS military service was marked by numerous awards and commendations: the Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Award Ribbon and the United Nations Service Medal. He retired from active duty in June, 1973, with a full rank of Colonel. (continued page 3)



Monsignor Frank L. Yashkas,
Spiritual Advisor

FLAG-RAISING CEREMONIES COMPETE WITH CLINTON

Few people other than those listed to take part in the program attended the flag-raising ceremonies held at the Luzerne County Courthouse, Friday, February 16, due to some very stiff competition expected to arrive that morning just a little over a block away. That competition was none other than the President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton!

Many felt the celebration should have been postponed but chairperson, Nellie Bayoras Romanas, thought otherwise, and proudly presented the usual program to the limited number of spectators.

The ceremony marked the 78th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's Independence and was also celebrated with ceremonies in Scranton and Pittston a few days earlier.

Monsignor Anthony J. Norkunas, Pastor Emeritus Holy Trinity Lithuanian Catholic Church offered the opening prayer. The newly elected Chairman of the County Commissioners, Tom Makowski read the resolution from the County. Also present were commissioners Frank Crossin and Joseph "Red" Jones. All three commissioners had to leave to be present for the arrival of the President.

Rosalie Kizis, National Vice-president of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance, read the proclamation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Ridge, Governor. Remarks were given by Chairperson Bayoras-Romanas and Reverend Joseph J. Lasky, Pastor St. Mary's Annunciation Church, Kingston, Pennsylvania offered the closing prayer.

The program is sponsored by: Lithuanian Alliance of America, District 7; Lithuanian Catholic Alliance; Knights of Lithuania Council 143 Pittston and the Lithuanian Women's Club of Wyoming Valley.

Msgr. Yashkas — He was named a Prelate of Honor (Right Reverend Monsignor) by his Holiness Pope Paul VI on March 27, 1970.

Upon his return to the Diocese of Scranton, Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, D.D., assigned him to his first pastorate at Our Lady of Lourdes, Montoursville, in September, 1973. He served there until August 29, 1978, when he was appointed pastor of St. Ann's Church, Luzerne, PA. He retired in June of 1989 and was named Pastor Emeritus of St. Ann's.

Viewing was at Holy Trinity Church Rectory, Wilkes-Barre, PA followed by transferal of the body

NORTHEAST FRATERNALS PLAN SUMMER EVENTS

The Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania held their monthly meeting in the board room of the Polish Union, S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre. President George Klapischak presided.

Included on the agenda were two upcoming summer events, the Third Annual Golf Tournament and the Ball Park Picnic.

After much discussion and some pending decisions, final arrangements were left to the Executive Committee.

The Golf Tournament will be held at the Mountain Laurel Golf Club, Saturday, July 20, beginning at 12:30 PM. The format will be "Captain & Crew" of mixed foursomes (preferably 2+2). Limited to the first fifteen foursomes.

The fee is \$60.00 per person and includes greens fees, cart, dinner and prizes. Non golfers will be charged \$20.00 per person. Prizes will be awarded for golfing events. Sponsors are welcomed at \$50.00 per hole.

The deadline is July 13, 1996. If you have any questions please contact Bernard Golubiewski at the Russian Orthodox Catholic Mutual Aid Society at 10 Downs Drive in Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-3802 or call him at (717) 822-8591.

NEWS FOR PA SENIORS

People 65 or older who have annual incomes less than \$15,000 are eligible for a reduction in their annual motor vehicle registration fee from \$24 to \$10. For more information, contact your district representative.

Seniors may also purchase a dog license at half price. The cost is \$2.75 annually or \$10.50 for a lifetime license.

For spayed or neutered dogs the fee is \$1.75 annually or \$5.50 lifetime. For a lifetime dog license the animal must be tattooed with a number on the right inner thigh. The tattooist's fee is extra. Call county treasurer.

(Check your state representative for fees in each state)

to Holy Trinity Church where an evening Mass was celebrated with Msgr. Francis J. Callahan, V.F., presiding.

A Pontifical, concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was held the following morning at Holy Trinity Church, with the Most Rev. John M. Dougherty, D.D., presiding. Interment was at Holy Trinity Cemetery, Bear Creek, PA.

DOWN MEMORY LANE — GARSAS 1958 “ARE FRATERNAL LODGES DYING?”

“ARE FRATERNAL LODGES DYING?” This was a question asked in the pages of a 1958 edition of GARSAS.

The article was a copy of an address given at a Canadian Fraternal Association gathering by a gentleman by the name of L. F. Ayre (not identified).

Mr. Ayre opened with the question, “Are fraternal lodges dying?” and gave a very emphatic answer to that question, “definitely not!”

He pointed out that an article had recently appeared in the American Legion Magazine embracing that same subject and offering a rebuttal to the critics that contended the fraternal system was on its way out.

Quoting parts of the Legion article he said, “the fraternal lodges are still going strong and doing a finer job in many respects than they ever did. The scope of their benevolent and public service programs has broadened and in a quiet way, they are contributing more to the welfare of their members, their communities, and the nation than ever before.”

Ayre noted that the success of any lodge of today must be geared to ever changing modern times. He was quick however, to point out that this does not mean that the basic and fundamental principles of fraternalism upon which these societies were founded, should be discarded. “I mean that the same basic principles should still be fostered and perpetuated”, he said, “however, they should be put in modern dress, brought up to date and made compatible with the times.”

He noted that the attendance at lodge meetings around the country had dropped since the introduction of television however in his own state of Michigan the reverse was true. The lodges in Michigan experienced a marked increase in

lodge attendance.

This was accomplished in part through regrouping and consolidating. Where there were several smaller inactive lodges, they were regrouped into one active lodge. Experience proved that lodge members wanted to actively participate in group sponsored activities that would benefit their community thus expressing good citizenship and fraternity, benevolence and brotherhood.

However, his predictions regarding television were way off the mark and I quote, “There has been a marked disinterest in television. In fact, some contend that the novelty of television is about worn off.”, he said. But as we all now know, television was not a novelty, it has actually taken over our lives.

Ayre pointed out that many of the lodges in his area promote various fraternal programs such as; sponsor and support local blood bank programs, special visits and programs for children’s hospitals visits and gift packages to veteran’s hospitals, and programs to help combat juvenile delinquency.

Mr. Ayre made some very good points in his address to the Association that could be put to the test today. How could you help to serve in your lodge? When is the last time you signed up a new member? Do you belong to a church organization where you could speak on the benefits of joining the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance?

Write and let us know how we can be of help. Every new birth in your family or neighborhood is a potential member. Talk to the new parents and we’ll send you the applications. Address your mail to Garsas Newsletter, 71-73 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

MASS IN A COMMUNIST PRISON

Feel a bit uncomfortable in Church during these hot summer months? Think of Father Joseph P. McCormick before complaining.

In an article taken from a 1958 copy of Garsas the then 65 year old Maryknoll missionary, upon his release gave an account of the conditions under which he said Mass.

His Church? A dingy red cell. His congregation? An unsuspecting Red guard with glistening bayonet. Using hosts and wine smuggled in under the guise of medicine, the humble prisoner called Christ down to earth the very same as if offered in a great cathedral or

magnificent church.

But instead of an elaborate ceremony and large congregation to join him in his worship, the veteran missionary would huddle in a corner of his cell, camouflaging his actions by a cup of coffee and a cigarette, whispering the sacred words over a tiny fragment of a host and a thimble measure of wine.

And despite the grotesqueness and brutality of his confinement, what did he have to say about his experiences?

“You really appreciate what the sacrifice of the Mass means when you offer it under these conditions. I never felt so humble in my life!”

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OBITUARIES

CHINIK, Mildred K. Lodge 158
3660 Oakleaf Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Died: March 13, 1996
Buried: March 18, 1996
St. Casimir's Cemetery
Pittsburgh, PA

BOLSAR, Albena Lodge 28
2218 W. Walnut St.
Colmer, PA 18915
Died: March 20, 1996
Buried: March 25, 1996
St. Mary's Cemetery
Pringle, PA

ANDRUSKEVICH, Stella Lodge 171
1980 Trowbridge
Hamtramck, MI 48212
Died: March 13, 1996
Buried: Mount Olivet Cemetery
Detroit, MI

RAUCKINAS, Stasys Lodge 33
14911-127th St.
Lemont, IL 60439
Died: January 11, 1996
Buried: January 15, 1996
St. Casimir's Cemetery
Chicago, IL

DAMBRAUSKAS, Bernard A. ... Lodge 35
227 S. Home Ave., A-#704
Pittsburgh, PA 15202-2824
Died: February 15, 1996
Buried: February 19, 1996
St. Mary's Cemetery
McKees Rocks, PA

YOSKOSKI, Floyd G. Lodge 7
20 Main St. Inkerman, PA 18640
Died: March 5, 1996
Buried: March 8, 1996
Mount Olivet Cemetery
Carverton, PA

KRIAUCIUNAS DR. JUOZAS
31 SAYLES AVE
PUTNAM CT 06260