







# English Section

## The Latest News About Religious Persecution in Lithuania

The Soviet Constitution guarantees the citizens religious freedom, but this does not prevent the authorities from waging a brutal war on the Catholic Church in Lithuania. A leading article of the Lithuanian "Pravda" for January 1, 1947, said among other things:

"The reactionary priests, who are in the habit of living on the stupid babble they cram down the throats of the workers, have clubbed together in a gang and are now trying to stop our onward march by diversion and terror. These historical heroes of the dunghill will be trodden into the ground by the marching millions. . . ."

The Bolsheviks are realizing their anti-religious program in the most ruthless fashion. We have just received a report from the headquarters of the Lithuanian National Resistance movement. A special department of this organization is collecting incriminating material on the crimes of the Bolsheviks against humanity and democracy.

The report in question contains the following data on the persecution of the Church:

1. Immediately on the second occupation of Lithuania in 1944, the Soviet authorities prohibited all organizations of a religious character, stopped the printing of every kind of religious literature and called in and destroyed the existing devotional books. Religious instruction, Sunday schools and prayers before and after school were likewise prohibited.
2. Before the occupation there were four seminaries (training establishments) for Catholic priests in Lithuania, viz. at Kaunas, Vilnius, Telshiai and Vilkavishkis. The seminaries at Vilnius and Vilkavishkis were closed right away, the one at Telshiai a year later. The one remaining seminary at Kaunas had 300 pupils. In 1946 the NKVD deported the leading men of the establishment and restricted the number of its pupils to 100.
3. Persecution of the priests set in with the arrival of Soviet troops in Lithuania. Before the occupation the Catholic priests in the country numbered approximately 1,000, now their number has sunk to 350. The majority were arrested and deported, some are forced to live in the woods under the protection of the anti-Communist guerrillas. Of 80 priests in the Vilkavishkis diocese 25 have been arrested by the NKVD. Only a few of the Franciscan and Jesuit monks are alive to date. Bishop Borisevicius of Telshiai was arrested in the beginning of 1946 and sentenced to death by NKVD court in Vilnius on January 3, 1947. His successor, Bishop Ramanuskas, was imprisoned in the autumn of 1946, as well as Bishop T. Matulionis of Kaishedors. Even Archbishop Reinsys and Bishop Paltarokas have been under arrest and interrogation of the NKVD. The usual charge against the priests is "assistance to bandits."
4. All monasteries in Lithuania are closed. The abbey school at Raseiniai was destroyed and its property confiscated; many of the pupils have been arrested and deported.
5. The lands of the congregations in excess of three hectares have been confiscated. The priests who are allowed to cultivate these three hectares have to deliver 3,000-5,000 kilograms of corn yearly to the state and to pay 2,000-6,000 roubles in taxes. At the end of 1946 a special regulation required the priests to pay an extraordinary tax of 50,000-70,000 roubles, the vicars paying 20,000. Whoever was unable to pay this tax, lost all his property and personal belongings. A case in point is the priest of Gizai.
6. According to a regulation of December 25, 1946,

the churches and priests are debarred from using electric current.

7. Along with other leading public men, the priests are forced by threats and terror to act as spies and agents of the NKVD.

8. Attending divine service is not forbidden officially, but churchgoers have time and again been made to feel the displeasure of authorities. The teachers have not only to engage themselves never to go to church, they are also responsible for their pupils in this respect and have to watch that the children do not attend divine service. Some months ago the Minister of Education, Ziugzda, warned the teachers that those who choose to study at Theological-Philosophical Faculty will be dismissed. On Sundays, while divine worship is taking place, the Communists organize meetings or public works near the churches, in order to deter the faithful from attending and to check on those who do.

9. There are many cases of desecration of churches by the Bolsheviks. In the church at Kybartai soldiers of the Red Army practiced shooting with the altar as a target. In the same church the local secretary of the Communist Party drove the praying women out with a loaded pistol while the priest was officiating at the demolished altar. In Shumskai the police raided the church while the congregation was assembled for prayers. The wayside crosses and statues of saints have been systematically vandalized by the Bolsheviks.

The aim of the Communists is not only to destroy the Church but to obliterate religion and Christian morality from the hearts of men. They appeal to the lowest instincts like hate, revenge, cruelty, in the hope of producing a new type of brutalized human being, whom they have succeeded in producing in Russia. The fruits of this Bolshevik education can already be observed in the Baltic countries, though it must be said that the moral strength of the Baltic peoples is not broken yet.

The struggle against Western culture goes on unabated. "Communist morality is the struggle for the intensification and perfection of Communism. The false, idolatrous religious morality weakens the mind and paralyse man's strength of will," writes a Soviet pedagogue in the paper "The Ranks of Youth." The Bolsheviks spare no efforts in uprooting this morality. -Newsletter from "Behind the Iron Curtain," March 19, 1948.

### Church's Position in Market Place

Men need the same sort of moral guidance for economics that they already have for education, marriage and other human activities and the Church is duty-bound to supply it, the Rev. Benjamin A. Masse, S.J., associate editor of "America" magazine, declared in an address on the Catholic Hour program.

That is why "the Church cannot wash its hands of what goes on in the market place," Father Masse added. It is not enough for the Church to remind men that nature's resources are meant for the whole human race to use as a means to return to God, he said, but she must explain and apply the moral laws which apply to economic activities.

"Although millions of pounds of food are being poured into Europe Europe, they are only scratching the surface," he continued. "Just now no donation for the children can be too small, none too great. Those who give may assuredly feel that their contributions are actually saving human lives. The only thing that will arrest the worldwide spread of tuberculosis is milk and more milk—and sufficient wholesome food."

After food, medicines and clothing, the greatest need is shoes, Mr. Norris stated. "In many families," he said, "one pair of shoes has to serve the entire family. On Sundays, that pair of shoes will take three members of the family to church at different hours."

### Congressmen in Prayer

Eschewing the tradition of formal prayer in opening the session of the House of Representatives a few days ago, Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen of the Catholic University of America called upon the Congressmen to pledge themselves to 30 minutes a day in prayer.

"Then," he said, "watch our country grow in peace, victory and happiness." "One may pray to God," he added, "that Congress may hear or one may speak to Congress that Congress may pray. I shall break the tradition and choose the latter." "You ought to pray now as never before, first, because as Lincoln told us: 'We have forgotten God.' We have imagined in the deceitfulness of our heart that all our blessings were produced by some superior power and wisdom of our own. It behoves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

### ONE PAIR OF SHOES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

That there are still millions of European children who don't get even one glass of milk a day; who snatch cigarette butts from the gutter, not to smoke but to sell for food; who are barely maintaining life on a starvation diet, was reaffirmed last week by James J. Norris, European Delegate for War Re-

### Anna Kaskas Comes To Pittsburgh in "Il Trovatore"

PITTSBURGH.— With Anna Kaskas, popular Lithuanian contralto of the Metropolitan Opera, in a leading role, the Pittsburgh Opera will ring down the curtain on its 1947-1948 season Friday, April 30, with the presentation of "Il Trovatore" at Syria Mosque.

Presented in Italian, Verdi's musical drama of love and tragedy will be the climax of the most successful season to date, and its conductor, Richard Karp.

Anna Kaskas, who is well remembered here as giving a concert at Lithuanian Hall two seasons ago, returns in the role of Azucena, the Gypsy. A large gathering of Lithuanian music lovers is certain to descend on the Syria Mosque for the occasion. The tickets, which are \$1.30, \$1.65, \$1.95, \$2.60, \$3.25, and \$3.90, including tax, can be obtained at Volkwein's, Gimbel's, and Horne's.

Frederick Jagel, noted tenor, will sing the hero's role of "Manrico." Jagel was seen here earlier this year as "Canio" in the production "Pagliacci."

The presentation of "Il Trovatore" will mark the triumphant return to Pittsburgh of Ellen Faul, who will be seen as the heroine, "Lenore." A native Pittsburgher, Miss Faul studied here before going to New York, and is, at present, a member of the New York City Center Opera.

from the Congress of the United States.

"Three, you ought to pray to God that our beloved country through its generous relief to the vanquished and distressed: 'I was hungry'—and through its dedication to her of whom the Savior said: Behold thy Mother, may one day be the certain secondary cause by which God will bring freedom to the people of Russia and peace and happiness to the whole world."

"Instead then of praying perfunctorily to God and tabling the prayer as 'finished business,' we say to you: Gentlemen, this is the unfinished business, your prayers."

### COMMUNISM AND THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WEST

Ask the man in the street and he will tell you that Communism is the greatest menace to this nation, to the world and to his faith. But if you press him for a definition of Communism and its aims, he is completely at sea. He does not know or understand fully why this menace is so dangerous and insidious.

Monsignor Sheen in what is undoubtedly his best book gives us a clear and concise exposition of this modern heresy. He analyzes it and explains why Communism is a grave threat to our way of life and our precious faith. He discusses the origin, rise, teachings, effects and consequences of the red menace to civilization. It is a warning to us to be alert and watchful, pointing out clearly that when a cause is there, it must produce an effect and the same causes are bound inevitably to produce the same effects.

The book is written in Monsignor's distinctive style. It is neither too philosophical nor too deep for the average reader. It is written by one of the best informed men on the subject and deserves a popular reception. It should be read and discussed by all. It has a splendid bibliography.

350 American town and villages are named for saints; St. John leads with 22, St. Joseph second with 15.

### MOVE YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD

for Sunday, April 25 So that you are not late for "Lithuanian News" Concert

### Notre Dame Leads Drive

NOTRE DAME.— Contributions totalling \$32,000 by students at the University of Notre Dame to the recent student relief campaign for aid to needy students of all creeds in war-torn countries top all totals among participating colleges and universities.

### St. Casimir's High Opens Baseball Season vs. St. Wendelin's High

PITTSBURGH.— On Wednesday, April 21 St. Casimir's High fields for the first time in its fourteen-year history a baseball team. The starting line-up and batting order are as follows:

Wagner, cf; Westphal, 2b; Rataj, c; Boker, lf; Visconti or Lacher, 1b; Jesko, 3b; Suess, ss; Jencka, rf; Bronislavski, p; Cunningham, p. The schedule is as follows: Wednesday, April 21, St. Wendelin at St. Casimir. Sunday, April 24, St. Casimir at St. Michael. Saturday, May 1, St. Casimir at St. Adalbert. Wednesday, May 5, North at St. Casimir. Friday, May 7, St. Casimir at North Catholic. Friday, May 14, St. Casimir at St. Joseph. Monday, May 17, St. Adalbert at St. Casimir.

### CATHOLIC INFORMATION

#### Lack of Religion Called Common Cause of Crime

No Other Single Factor Prevails in Juvenile Case, Non-Catholic Judge Tells Newark Group

The biggest job in the field of juvenile delinquency prevention, Juvenile Court Judge Lindeman told the Newark Civiccers at Military Park Hotel, Newark.

Describing the work of his court and his experience with youngsters, Judge Lindeman said he found a single denominator in all juvenile cases—lack of any religious ties.

Of 1,700 offenders who came before him last year, he declared, 95 per cent were not churchgoers. He added that he believed he saw only about one-third of all actual offenders in the county.

Aside from lack of religious training, Judge Lindeman said there is no prevailing factor in juvenile delinquency.

Some children suffer from physical deficiencies which are translated into psychological disturbances which in turn result in delinquency, he declared, while delinquency in others can be traced to improper environment or substandard economic grounds. In many cases, however, delinquents come from good homes and from areas where recreational facilities are outstanding, he said.

Judge Lindeman objected to proposals of classes for "troubled parents," however, because of their bad effect on children. Parents would lose their children's respect, he stated if the children learned they were at the classes.

Without any specific references, Judge Lindeman said the current interest in establishing new agencies to deal with problems of juvenile delinquency is an optimistic sign, in spite of the fact that in the past there has been more talk than action on the part of private citizens.

The state, he said, has been a leader for 50 years in an effort to "ameliorate the rigors of criminal law" and cited the development of juvenile courts as an indication of the progress made. Essex County has been a leader within the state in this program, he said.

### PRIMINIMO ŽODELIS

Pas gerbiamus ir malonius "Lietuvių Žinių" skaitytojus norime paprašyti nepamiršti mūsų Preso Fondai ir prie kiekvienos progos rasti galimybės didesnę ar mažesnę auką sulig išgalės atsiųsti.

Laikraščio leidimas yra susijęs su didelėmis išlaidomis, kurių dalį tenka gauti už spaudos darbus. Šiandien reikalui taigi ir buvo įtaisytas naujas presas ir kita finansinė našta būtų ne vien ant leidėjų pečių, bet kad jos dalelę malonėtų pasiimti kas tik gali iš mūsų lionių "L. Z." skaitytojų, buvo įsteigtas Preso Fondas.


Vieni šiandien kiti rytoj kas tik kuomi ir kiek galite prašomi dėti prisidėti į fondą išaukinimo.

Aukoti Preso Fondai, reiškia remti katalikišką spaudą, dirbti katalikiškos veiklos darbą. Į jį kviečiame visu nuoširdumu visus.

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Šv. Pranciškaus Vienovyno Seserys širdingai dėkoja savo Rėmėjams ir geradariams už surengimą card party, kuri atsibuvo bal. 4 d. Lietuvos Piliečių Svetainėje.

Žmonių susirinko labai gražus būrelis. Ramiai ir linksmi praleido visą popietį. Atsilankiusieji grįžo namo linksmi, nes beveik kiekvienas gavo gražius ir naudingus laimėjimus.

Sesutės Pranciškietės širdingai dėkoja Rėmėjams už uolų pasidarbavimą, už su-nešimą dovanų, už rūpestingą ir mielaširdingą darbą. Dėkoja gerbiamiems klebonams už pakvietimą savo žmonių į card party ir atsilankymą. Dėkoja Lietuvos Piliečių Draugijai, kaip valdybai taip ir visiems nariams, už leidimą pasinaudoti gražia auditorija tam tikslui. Širdingai dėkoja visiems darbininkams ir padėjėjams prie to sunkaus ir atsakomingo darbo. Taipgi širdingai dėkoja visiems atsilankiusiems į card party, nes kiekvieno atsilankymas suteikė didelę paramą vienuolynui.

Gerasis Dievulis teatlygina gausiai visiems už mielaširdingus ir gerus darbus. Didžiai dėkingos— Šv. Pranciškaus Seserys.

SOUTH SIDE

Malda į Šv. Gregorijų. Atkalbėta Parapijos Bažnyčioje Italijos Rinkimų Dienoje, Balandžio 18

O nenugalimas Bažnyčios laisvės saugotojau per tą narsumą, kurį tu parodei, o garbingasis Šv. Gregorijau, apgindamas jos teises prieš žemės ir pragaro pasikėsimančias galybes, ištiesk iš dangaus, mes tave meldžiamės, savo galingą ranką ant Bažnyčios, idant sustiprintum ir apgintum ja šioje baisioje kovoje, kurioje ji šiuo momentu yra puolama. Bet labiausia padrasink šiam karčiame susirėmime garbingąjį Popiežių Pijų XII, kuris, užimdamas tavo vyskupiškąjį sostą, paveldėjo ir dalį tavo širdies drąsumo, ir išmelsk, kad jis galėtų matyti savo šventas pastangas apvainikuotas Bažnyčios pergalę ir klįstančiųjų sugrįžimą į tiesos kelią. Duok žinoti visai žmonijai, sykį ir ant visados, kad yra tuščias dalykas kovoti prieš tą Tikėjimą, kuris visada pergalėjo ir pergalės pasaulį: "Haec est victoria quae vincit mundum, fides nostra."—Ši yra pergalė, kuri nugalį pasaulį, mūsų tikėjimas. Ši yra malda, kurią mes viena mintimi ir viena širdimi siunčiame į tavę, tikėdamiesi, kad mes, kurie dabar būsimė išklausyti čia ant žemės, vieną dieną susijungsimė drauge dangūje akivaizdoje amžinojo Karaliaus, kuris su Tėvu ir Šv. Dvasia gyvena ir karaliauja per amžių amžių. Amen.

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