

# Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap

## Student Has Personal Memories of Prelate

By Joan M. Smith

"Talk to this boy, he has quite a story," two ladies told a Boston reporter who was interviewing the crowd waiting outside Holy Name Church, West Roxbury, Mass., Aug. 18, for the funeral of Cardinal John Joseph Wright. The young gentleman they referred to was Dennis Culhane, a junior at Cardinal Mooney High School and son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Culhane of St. John the Evangelist parish, Greece. And yes, he did have a story to tell.

Cardinal Wright, who became the highest ranking American prelate in the Vatican with his appointment in 1969 as Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Clergy, died Aug. 10 but he left behind a legacy of Christian brotherhood. He took a personal and spiritual interest in people from all walks of life — and Dennis was one of them.

According to Dennis, five years ago he along with his family attended a Mass at Holy Name Parish, Rochester, which was

celebrated by Cardinal Wright, who was visiting the city at the time. After the liturgy, Cardinal Wright was shaking hands with the congregation when he singled out Dennis and asked if he had ever thought of joining the priesthood. Dennis hesitated and Cardinal Wright lightly tapped him on the cheek and told him not to go through life saying he had never been invited.

Later that year, a friend of the Culhanes, Father Ronald Antinarelli, Holy Family, Auburn, visited Cardinal Wright in Rome and asked if he remembered Dennis. According to sources, the cardinal was not one to forget much, and immediately recalled the incident. Via Father Antinarelli, the cardinal sent Dennis a medal and a regular correspondence sprang up between the two: the Vatican prelate sending Dennis sermons that he gave in Rome, offering him spiritual guidance and suggesting reading material regarding St. Joan of Arc, Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt;

Dennis writing back to tell the cardinal about the various incidents which made up his life.

Cardinal Wright also took a personal interest in other family members — brothers Shaun and Timothy — and when their sister Kathleen became Mrs. Guyette, he sent her a wedding blessing.

Cardinal Wright's funeral was by invitation only, but it didn't take Dennis long to obtain one once he contacted the cardinal's secretary. The event was an impressive one, said Dennis, who named all the federal and state dignitaries who came to pay their respects. The Worcester Telegram said that the occasion was one of tribute rather than sadness, pointing out that the attending cardinals wore scarlet robes rather than the deep purple symbolic of sorrow.

What was Dennis's impression of Cardinal Wright? "He spoke with authority," he said and added that he liked the way he said Mass. "He took control of the Mass," and



Dennis reviews a few of the mementos of his friendship with Cardinal Wright.

Dennis went on to describe how the cardinal would personalize the Profession of Faith by changing the we's to I's.

Recalling the question about joining the priesthood that the cardinal asked him five years ago, Dennis isn't quite sure what his future holds — although he admitted the thought is still present. He returns to Cardinal Mooney as junior class president and a member of the honors

program in Science and Math. During his freshman and sophomore years he played basketball and JV football and served as soph vice president.

He is always willing to discuss his friendship with Cardinal Wright and in talking with him it is evident he is proud to have known him and rejoices in the fact he was a special recipient of the man's wisdom and holiness.

## Young Man Considers His Heritage And Culture Important Aspects of Life

By Joan M. Smith

By the time you finish talking with Larry Wizman, you are motivated to accept more than your share of challenges. Larry's vim, vigor and enthusiastic sense of commitment are catching. Larry is a senior at Bishop Kearney High School and was named Junior of the Year by the Notre Dame Alumni Club. In competing for this honor, he had to write his biography, listing his activities — a list which would fill a book.

Though he's been active in the BK Student Government for three years, he admitted he's more involved outside of school especially as a member of St. George's Lithuanian Church on Hudson Ave. He serves on the parish's liturgy committee and is deeply committed to liturgy renewal; works on parish festivals and participates in the parish's Catholic Youth Group, Ateitis (Lithuanian for future). According to Larry this organization was founded in independent Lithuania but was outlawed when the country was taken over by the Soviet bloc. It then sprang up in Western countries.

Basic to the group's existence are five principles: Catholicism, culture, nationalism (preserving Lithuanian heritage), family life, being a person of the world and identifying with other cultures. The organization consists of all age levels and Larry works with the high school group.

As a member of the Lithuanian Dance group,



The St. George's parish complex houses a museum of Lithuanian culture. Above, Janice Rosa Krokys, senior at Bishop Kearney and Larry survey the portrait book. Behind them are just a few of the portraits of Lithuanian families, politicians and artists which adorn the museum walls.

Lazdynas, he will participate in the International Dance Festival to be held in Chicago the summer of 1980. Last summer, as a member of the Lithuanian Community Choir he performed at the Toronto Song Festival. Academic-wise he is a member of the National Honor Society

and often is a substitute teacher for the Lithuanian Saturday School which is a forum where the younger generation learn the language and history.

Larry admits that language is his forte but describes himself as "semi-fluent in

Lithuanian". He has taken two years of Latin, is learning Spanish and would like to master Russian especially since his career plans, at present, lean toward international relations.

Most of Larry's family still live in Lithuania and he corresponds with them. Sending letters, however, is a cat and mouse game with the Communist censors. "You never know what makes it through and what doesn't," he said about sending mail behind the Iron Curtain. As an example he told about the time he sent a news item about a particular Rochester event to his cousin. In her next letter there was no mention of the article and when he inquired discovered she had never received it — the censor, no doubt, having removed it from the letter.

Sending packages is another delicate situation especially if they include rock albums or books. Larry advised they be sent by certified mail.

Regarding Soviet domination of Lithuania and other countries, Larry has participated in demonstrations like the one last Christmas which protested the Communist denial of the Christmas season in Soviet bloc countries. Larry is active in the anti-Soviet movement and channels his efforts into writing legislators and government officials.

Larry's dream is to visit Lithuania but at present he sees this dream as an unapproachable goal — but then with his gusto for action there's no doubt that one way or another he will someday visit the land of his ancestors.

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