

Lithuanian Priests Protest Soviet Union Religion Laws

Brooklyn, N.Y. (NC) — Two-thirds of Lithuania's Catholic priests have protested to the Soviet government, saying its religion regulations are contrary to the Gospel, to church law, to the Soviet constitution and to the Helsinki Accords, according to an underground report that has reached the West.

"Some paragraphs of these regulations do not square with the Gospel of Christ, with the decrees of the Second Vatican Council, or especially with the Constitution of the USSR... the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or the

Rochester Lithuanians Mark Dates

At the request of the Rochester chapter of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Mayor Thomas Ryan proclaimed the week of Feb. 13 Lithuanian Independence Week in the city.

Last week, Dr. Kazys Eringis, a scientist who recently defected for political reasons from the Soviet delegation in Australia, was the principal speaker at an Independence Day commemoration at St. George's Parish hall.

Feb. 16 was the 65th anniversary of the proclamation of Lithuania's independence, signed in Vilnius, the capital city, in 1918.

There are about one million people of Lithuanian descent in the U.S., about 3,000 of them in Rochester. The local organization is dedicated to "striving to arouse public opinion against Soviet tyranny, colonial oppression, exploitation and severe religious persecution in Lithuania and her sister republics, Estonia and Latvia.

Guadalupe Guild Notes Anniversary

The Rochester unit of the Queen of All the America's Guild, the organization promoting devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, recently celebrated its second year with a Mass of Thanksgiving at which Father Richard A. Hart, pastor, presided. Novena prayers and a social hour followed the Mass.

The novena is said at 7:30 p.m. every Monday at the Church. The public is invited to attend.

NFP Info

Auburn — A Natural Family Planning Session will be held 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, March 10, at the Auburn YMCA, 29 William St. The session is free and open to the public. Further information is available by calling Kathy Dandino, 252-8552; or the sponsoring agency, NFP Education of Rochester, (716) 464-8705.

Heart Marathon

Students of Nazareth Academy will participate in a "Jump Rope-a-thon" for the American Heart Association at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, March 6, at the school gym. Interested individuals and groups are invited to participate.



Helsinki final accords," the protest reportedly said. Arguing that "we must obey God rather than men," the priests said they could not in conscience follow regulations that prevented them from carrying out their ministry.

In February, the latest issue of the underground "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania" reaching the West carried a report on the protest. It said that at least 468 priests, including a bishop in internal exile, had signed it by November 1982. It was forwarded to the late President Leonid Brezhnev of the Soviet Union. Lithuania is a part of the USSR.

The bishop who signed the document was Bishop Julijonas Steponavicius, Apostolic Administrator of Vilna, who is prevented by Soviet authorities from ministering in his diocese.

News about the contents of the latest issue of the chronicle was reported by the Lithuanian Information Center in Brooklyn, a center that documents government violations of religious and civil rights in Lithuania.

The center said that the total number of Catholic priests in Lithuania is 701 and that priests' signatures were still being gathered in two of the country's six dioceses

when the 468 signatures were reported.

The protest attacked Soviet regulations giving the state complete control over priests' assignments and the admission of priesthood candidates to the one seminary still allowed to exist.

The priests also protested regulations restricting the ministry of priests and policies of harassing the church by slandering believers in the press, destroying shrines and church property, and arresting, fining and physically assaulting priests.

The Lithuanian Information Center said that Father Ricardas Cerniauskas, whom it described as a "prolific preacher... especially popular among Lithuanian youth," was recently transferred by state authorities to a different parish and denied the right to preach.

It said that another priest, Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, has been repeatedly fined for organizing processions and holding children's meetings.

Father Svarinskas was arrested and charged with "anti-state activities" in January and "is the first priest in 10 years to face trial in Lithuania for religious activity," the center said.

Baltimore Unit Aids Lithuania Rights Plea

Baltimore — The Justice and Peace Commission of the Baltimore archdiocese has called for special recognition of the Soviet oppression of 2 million Catholics in Lithuania.

Father Casimir Pugevicius, executive director of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, addressed the commission at its January meeting on the Soviet denial of religious liberty in Lithuania. The commission later issued a statement in which it said it "deplores" what it called the systematic harassment and

large-scale assault by the Soviet government directed at Catholic religious liberty.

Parishes were asked to have special intentions or petitions at Masses between Feb. 16 and March 4. Feb. 16 is Lithuanian Independence Day and March 4 is the feast day of St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania.

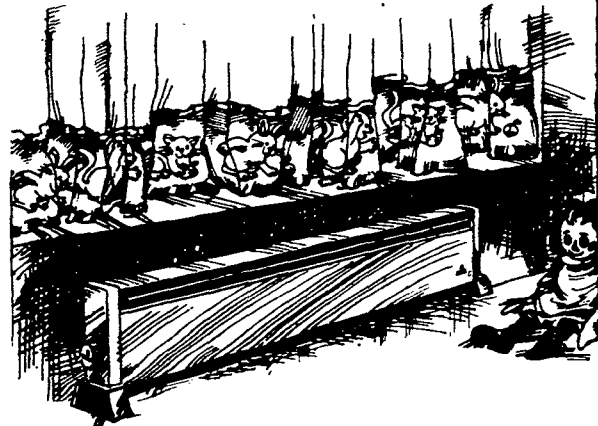
The commission also asked for recognition of "The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania," an underground publication detailing Soviet actions.

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Rochester Cenacle Programs

Month	Event	Given by
March	4-6 Nazareth & St. John Fisher Students	Given by College Chaplains
	11-13 Good Shepherd Parish and others	Fr. Ed Palumbos and Team
	13 Family Evening: Clown Workshop and Liturgy, 5:30-9 p.m.	Fr. Dave Mura
	18-20 Women of St. Margaret Mary, St. Salome, Our Lady of Mercy Parishes, and others	Fr. Jim Schwartz, Sr. Shirley Kitagawa
	25-27 Mothers of Teens Seminar	Ron and Judy Platten, Fr. Charles Mulligan and Team
April	8-10 Never Married Singles (20-40) General Retreat	
	15-17 Women of Southwest Region and others	Sr. Shirley Kitagawa, Sr. Margaret Mattie, Sr. Barbara Moore, Fr. Charles Mulligan
	22-24 Effective Living Seminar	Srs. Shirley Kitagawa, Arline Brent
	29-5/1 Feast of Our Lady of the Cenacle	Eucharistic Celebration at 10:30 with Bishop Matthew H. Clark
May	14 Retreat for Men and Women: "Faith Makes the Unbearable — Bearable"	Fr. John Walchars, SJ
	20-22 Three-Day Inner Healing Retreat "Jesus in the Cenacle"	Sr. Joan Kellenberg and Team
	27-30 Buffalo Group and General Cursillo Workshop	Fr. Euclid Marier
June	3-5 Cursillo Workshop	Liz Cannizzaro and Team
	10-12 Effective Living Seminar	Srs. Shirley Kitagawa, Arline Brent
	17-19 Capuchin Friars' Retreat	
	20-24 Guided Retreat	Fr. John Conway, CM; Cenacle Staff
July	10-16 Reserved for Cenacle Sisters	
	17-31 Silent Directed Retreat	Fr. Armand Nigro, SJ; Cenacle Staff
August	6-14 Day of Prayer	Fr. Armand Nigro, SJ
	15 Directed Retreats	Cenacle Staff
	19-27 At Home Retreats Workshop	Sr. Mary Sullivan and Mrs. Mary Horstmann
	31-9/5 Legion of Mary	
September	9-11 Retreat for Men and Women: "In Love No Lie Can Flourish"	Fr. John Walchars, SJ
	16-18 Inner Healing Retreat "Jesus in the Cenacle"	Sr. Joan Kellenberg and Team
	23-25 Serenity Weekend	
	30-10/2	

For further information on these, as well as other programs, contact the Cenacle Ministry Office, 693 East Ave., Rochester 14607 — 271-8755

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