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Shrine of the Three Crosses: Trijų Kryžių Šventovė. Dayton, Ohio

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*Shrine
of the
Three Crosses*

Trijų Kryžių Šventovė

DAYTON, OHIO

Shrine
of the
Three
Crosses

Triju Kryžiu šventovė
Dayton, Ohio

Holy Cross Parish
1922 Leo St.
Dayton, Ohio, 45404

Spausdino DRAUGO spaustuvė 1966 m.
4545 W. 63rd St.
Chicago, Ill. 60629

USCATH

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1966

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BRANGŪS LIETUVIAI!

Daytono lietuvių Trijų Kryžių Šventovė, pastatyta Šv. Kryžiaus parapijos sodyboje, yra vientėlis daugiareikšmis paminklas.

Pirmiausia šios šventovės pastatymu norime atžymėti sėkmingai atšvęstą 1964-65 m. parapijos auksinį jubilėjų, kurio proga buvo atnaujinta lietuviškais motyvais mūsų bažnyčia ir salė. Šventovė bus visų parapiėčių, gyvųjų ir mirusiųjų, ir visų parapijos draugų vertingas prisiminimas. Tai bus paliudijimas, jog Šv. Kryžiaus lietuvių parapijos nariai buvo veiklūs ir susipratę — savo aukomis ir darbu palieka paminklą ateities kartoms.

Trys kryžiai primena Vilniaus Trijų Kryžių kalną, kur žiaurūs okupantai komunistai kryžius sunaikino. Ši lauke pastatyta šventovė yra pirmoji pasaulyje, primenanti visiems lietuviams taip brangų Trijų Kryžių kalną.

Ši šventovė yra taip pat visų Lietuvos kankinių garbei. Apie 400,000 Lietuvos gyventojų okupantai komunistai ištremė ar išžudė. Daug

jų tūkstančių yra tikri kankiniai už tikėjimą ir tėvynę. Prie šių kankinių prisimintini ir visi kiti komunistų okupuotų kraštų kankiniai. Visus veskime prie šios šventovės pagerbti tuos milijonus kankinių.

Šventovė pastatyta minint 25 metų žiaurią Sovietų komunistų okupaciją Lietuvoje. Tebūna ji kaip mūsų šauksmas, jog mes, laisvojo pasaulio lietuviai, neužmirštame kankinamos Lietuvos ir kviečiame visus susimąstyti ir prisiminti visus kankinius ir ryžtis ką nors daryti pavergtųjų išlaisvinimui.

Šie gražūs lietuviški kryžiai tekelia mūsų dvasią, testiprina tikėjimą ir viltį.

Tenepraeina lietuvis pro šią šventovę neatidavęs pagarbos kankiniams, neprisiminęs visų uoliųjų Šv. Kryžiaus parapiėčių, ir neuždegęs naujos ugnelės savo ryžtuose darbuotis Dievui ir tėvynei.

Kun. Titas Narbutas

SHRINE OF THE THREE CROSSES

HISTORY OF THE SHRINE

Holy Cross Parish, Dayton, Ohio celebrated its Golden Jubilee 1964-1965. At the August 1964 meeting of the Golden Jubilee Committee, the pastor, Father Titas Narbutas proposed that a large Lithuanian style cross be erected on the north east corner of the parish grounds as a permanent memorial shrine of the jubilee year. The cross would be erected in honor of all the martyrs for the faith in the countries occupied by the Soviet Communists. This project was placed before the Parish Committee and the Federation of Lithuanian Roman Catholic Societies and was approved by both bodies. The Jubilee Committee appointed a sub-committee for the



The Dedication of the Shrine — Šventovės šventinimas, June 27, 1965

erection of the shrine, consisting of Fr. Titas Narbutas — honorary chairman, George Mikalauskas — chairman, Joseph Bulota, John Kvietys and C. Mike Wilemaitis.

In October 1964 designs were requested from several Lithuanian architects. Architect Alfred Kulpavicius of Toronto, Canada, suggested that instead of one cross, a Shrine of Three Crosses be erected to symbolize the three crosses that were erected on a hill in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, in honor of the Franciscan Fathers who were martyred for the faith in the 14th century. Those three crosses were destroyed by the occupants — the Soviet Communists in 1950. The Committee liked the idea of the Shrine of the Three Crosses and in December 1964 Mr. Kulpavicius was given the assignment of designing the Shrine.

In January 1965 official permission from the Archdiocese was granted and the financial campaign for the Shrine was opened. A goal of \$8000. was set. In February 1965 the design of the

Shrine was received and approved by the various Committees and by His Grace the Archbishop of Cincinnati.

In April 1965 the contract for the erection of the Shrine was awarded to Valerijonas Sodeika of Cicero, Illinois, who also remodeled our church and hall. V. Kulpavicius of Woodhaven, N. Y., the architect's father, was engaged to make the wooden statuettes for the crosses.

Ground was broken and the excavation for the foundation begun on May 28, 1965.

The Shrine was dedicated June 27, 1965 with Most Rev. Vincent Brizgys, JDC, D.D., Bishop of Kaunas, Lithuania, now residing in Chicago, Illinois, presiding. Bishop Brizgys celebrated a Solemn Mass at 10:00 A.M. with Fr. Vincent Bartuška, JCD, as deacon and Fr. Titas Narbutas, STD, as subdeacon. Blessing of the Shrine took place at 3:00 P.M. Following this ceremony there was a special program and social in the parish hall.



The Dedication of the Shrine — Šventovės šventinimas, June 27, 1965

CROSSES IN LITHUANIA

Lithuania is a land of crosses. They are erected along the roads, by the waysides, on tombs, in the front yards of houses, near the headwaters of streams, on the hills (piliakalniai), by the churches. According to legend you find a cross at every ten paces in Holy Zemaitija. At the cemetery of Vilnius, the crosses leave no room for a tree. A hill in Lithuania was covered with many crosses. The panorama behind our main altar gives a stylized artistic portrayal of this hill.

The variety of Lithuanian crosses seems to be inexhaustible. There are more than 2000 kinds of crosses, all differing one from another. Different ornamentation and style of the crosses is noticeable in certain regions of Lithuania. There are distinctive characteristics of the crosses in Zemaitija, Aukstaitija and Suvalkija, three major regions of Lithuania. The crosses usually are rich in folk art ornamentation and different hand carved statuettes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CROSSES ON OUR SHRINE

1. The Cross at the left has the motifs of the crosses in the region of Vilnius and the southern part of Aukstaitija. It has a plaque (relief) of Our Lady of the Gates of Dawn in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania. The picture of Our Lady of the Gates of Dawn is from the 16th century. It was on one of the five gates in the wall which once surrounded the city. There is now in the upper part of the gates a chapel with the altar and picture above it. People standing or kneeling in the street pray before this picture. Following an old custom, even non-Catholics passing through the gate take off their hat. About 14,000 testimonials certify to the graces obtained by praying before that picture, and manifest the popularity of the devotion to Our Blessed Mother of the Gates of Dawn. Many churches in Europe, the United States of America, and even in South America are dedicated under the title of Our Lady of the Gates of Dawn. In our church there is a side altar dedicated to this title.

Our Lady
of The Gates
of Dawn
Aušros Vartų Marija





Christ of Sorrows
Rūpintojėlis

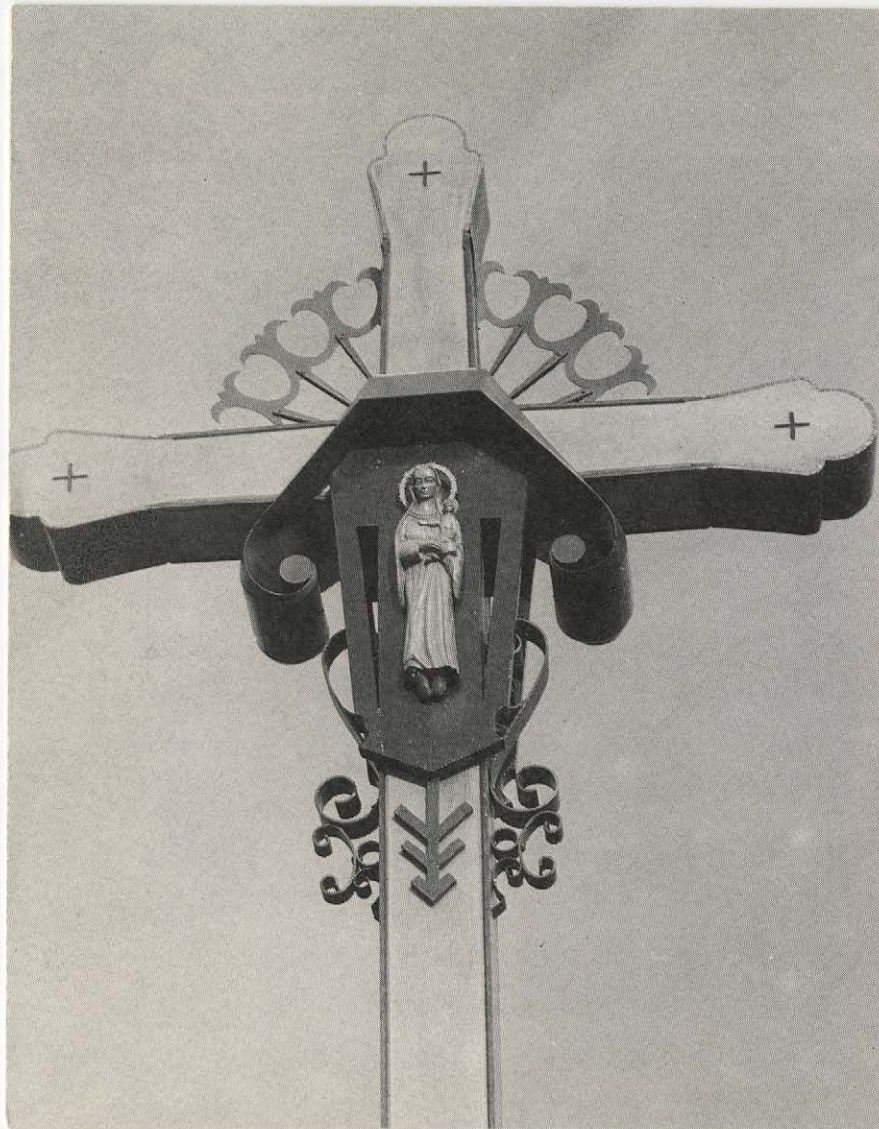
2. The middle Cross has the motifs of central Lithuania and the eastern and southern parts of Zemaitija. The upper statuette on the middle Cross is the meditating Christ or Christ of Sorrows (Rupintojėlis.) Since the Lithuanian people throughout the centuries have suffered much, they expressed their sufferings in art representing Our Lord sitting sad faced and meditating.

St. Casimir
Šv. Kazimieras

The lower statuette is of St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania. He was prince of Lithuania and Poland, born October 3, 1458, died March 4, 1484. He is the patron saint of youth. He preferred to die rather than to sin against purity. Devotion to St. Casimir is very popular among the Lithuanians and Poles. In the U.S.A alone there are more than 50 churches dedicated in his honor. The Sisters of St. Casimir, the Province of Marian Fathers in Chicago, Ill., Lithuanian Franciscan Fathers in the U.S.A., Lithuanian Boy Scouts and the Knights of Lithuania have him as their patron saint.

The Soviet Communists closed the Cathedral of Vilnius where the relics of St. Casimir have been kept for many years, but devotion to St. Casimir is increasing. He is the symbol of heavenly help against the enemy. In our church there is a side altar in honor of St. Casimir. Praying to St. Casimir we should ask him for help to follow him in sanctity, in sacrifice, in prayer, in honesty, in chastity, in spiritual exercises.





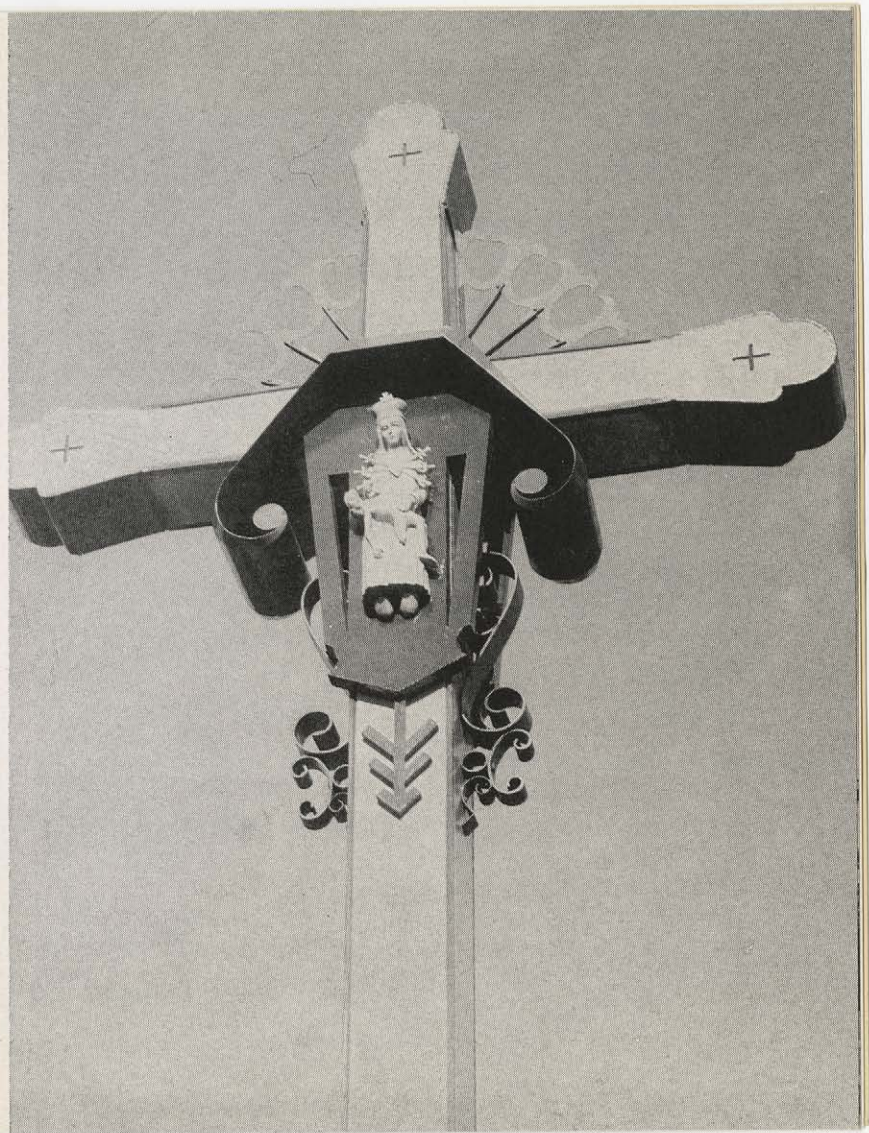
On the sides and the back of St. Casimir's statuette are the symbols of the Passion — the chalice, the cross with crown of thorns and nails, and the symbol of Our Lord — XP (monogram of Christ).

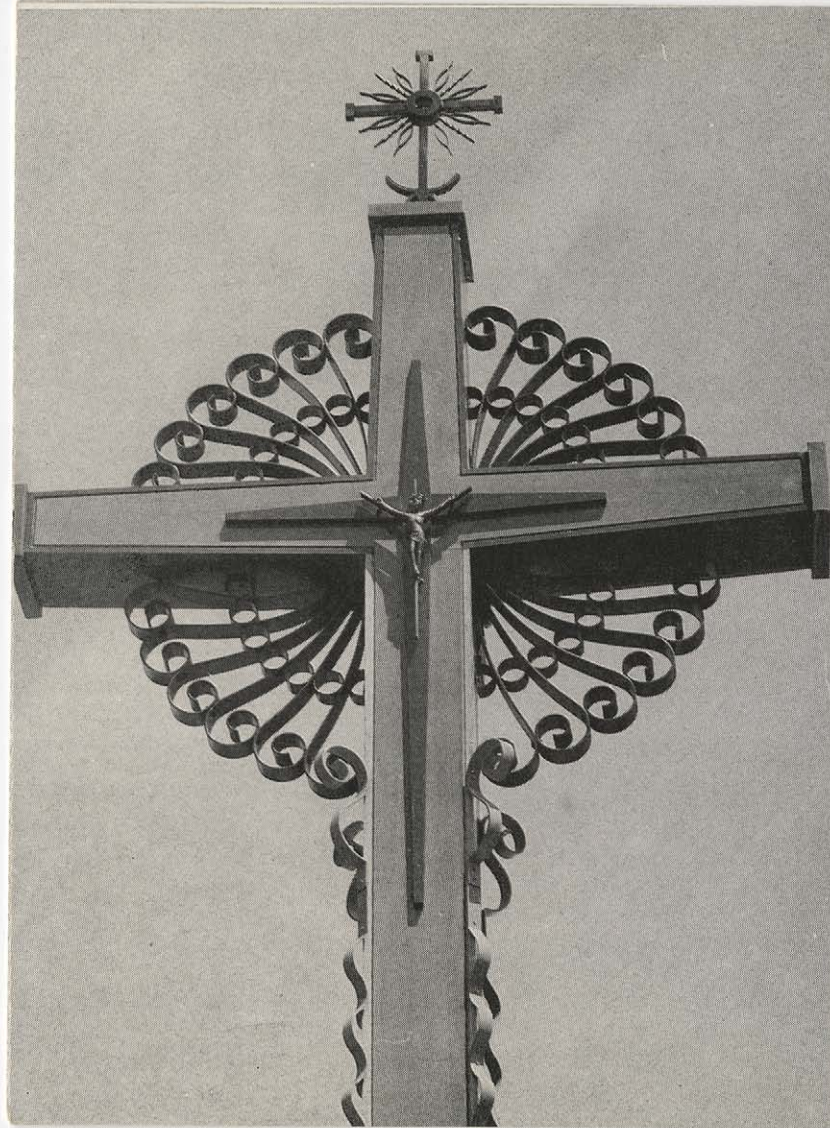
Our Lady
of Šiluva
Šiluvos Marija

3. The third Cross has the motifs of that part of Lithuania called Dzūkija. The statuette on the front of the third Cross is of Our Lady of Siluva, a village in the region of Lithuania called Zemaitija. In 1608 Our Lady appeared to children playing in a place where a church stood long ago. Our Lady was weeping because her Son was no longer worshiped there as He once had been. People were moved by this apparition, returned to the faith, and Siluva was again Catholic. The image of Our Lady of Siluva was recovered when a blind man's sight was miraculously restored when he was brought near the spot where it had lain hidden for 80 years. Siluva is the National Shrine of Lithuania. Lithuanians have built a chapel of Our Lady of Siluva in the National Shrine of the U.S.A. in Washington, D.C.

Our Sorrowful Mother
Sopulingoji Motina

On the other side of this third Cross is the statuette of Our Sorrowful Mother. It is a Pieta in Lithuanian folk style, very frequently found on shrines in Lithuania. Seven swords pierce the heart of sorrow.





Crucifix

on the Middle Cross

Kristaus Kančia

* * *

May these three Crosses always remind us of all those martyrs who gave their lives for God and country under the cruel persecution of the Godless tyranny of Soviet Communists, who occupied Lithuania and the other Eastern European countries.

Our votive lights in front of these Crosses are a sign of our faith in the Cross through which will come salvation to us and also to oppressed people everywhere.

May our prayers be always fervent for those martyrs who died so that we may live and understand their sacrifice.

Passing these Crosses — stop for a little meditation.

Celebration
of the
Captive Nations Week
July 25, 1965

Pavergtųjų Savaitės minėjimas

The following inscriptions are engraved on
the Monument:

IN MEMORY OF

ALL LIVING AND DECEASED PARISHION-
ERS AND FRIENDS OF THIS PARISH. THREE
CROSSES DESTROYED BY THE COMMUNISTS
IN VILNIUS, LITHUANIA. PARISH GOLDEN
JUBILEE 1964-1965.

IN HONOR OF

THE MARTYRS FOR FAITH AND FREEDOM
IN LITHUANIA AN THE OTHER CAPTIVE
NATIONS.

REMEMBER AND PRAY.

LIETUVOS KANKINIAMS
1965



HOLY CROSS PARISH GOLDEN JUBILEE
COMMITTEE

1964-1965

Honorary Chairman — Fr. Titas Narbutas,
General Chairman — Leo Razauskas, Associate
Chairmen — Mrs. Mary Lucas and Joseph Kava-
lauskas, Jr., Secretary — Mrs. Irene Veigel, Trea-
surer — Frank Gudelis, Members — Jeronimas
Cibiras, Karl Keivel, George Mikalauskas, Mrs.
Anele Petkus, Mrs. Frances Petkus, Joseph R.
Petkus, Lionginas Prasmantas, Anthony Preidis,
Mrs. Ada Sinkwitz, Mrs. Elinor Sluzas, John Vei-
gel and Vincas Zukaitis. George Mikalauskas was
chairman of the Shrine Committee. Elinor Sluzas
was in charge of the variety program, and Joseph
R. Petkus was banquet chairman. Ada Sinkwitz
was in charge of the church dedication program
and open house. Jeronimas Cibiras and John Vei-
gel were receptionists and ushers, Anthony Prei-
dis in charge of refreshments and Lionginas Pras-
mantas in charge of souvenir sales and photo-
graphic exhibit.



Panorama of Lithuanian style crosses in our church. By The Valeška Studios — Stilizuotų lietuviškų kryžių panorama už didžiojo altoriaus mūsų bažnyčioje.



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Photography by courtesy of Mr. Henry B. Beck

