

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA

STATISTICS

The data given for 1926 represent 4 active organizations of the Lithuanian National Catholic Church, all reported as being located in urban territory. The total membership was 1,497, of whom 761 were males and 736 were females. The classification by age was reported by all of the 4 churches, all of which reported members under 13 years of age.

The membership of the Lithuanian National Catholic Church includes all baptized persons connected with the several parishes.

Comparative data, 1926 and 1916.—Table 1 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this church for the censuses of 1926 and 1916. A change in organization since 1916 accounts in part for the loss in membership.

TABLE 1.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1926 AND 1916: LITHUANIAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA

ITEM	1926	1916
Churches (local organizations)	4	7
Increase ¹ over preceding census:		
Number.....	-3	
Per cent ²		
Members	1,497	7,343
Increase over preceding census:		
Number.....	(³)	
Per cent.....	(³)	
Average membership per church.....	374	1,049
Church edifices:		
Number.....	6	6
Value—Churches reporting.....	4	6
Amount reported.....	\$139,000	\$38,000
Average per church.....	\$34,750	\$14,667
Debt—Churches reporting.....	4	6
Amount reported.....	\$44,800	\$65,700
Parsonages:		
Value—Churches reporting.....	4	1
Amount reported.....	\$39,000	\$6,000
Debt—Churches reporting.....	2	
Amount reported.....	\$14,000	
Expenditures during year:		
Churches reporting.....	4	7
Amount reported.....	\$22,151	\$17,374
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$17,778	\$11,255
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$4,373	\$1,736
Not classified.....		\$4,383
Average expenditure per church.....	\$5,538	\$2,482
Sunday schools:		
Churches reporting.....	1	1
Officers and teachers.....	3	2
Scholars.....	217	140

¹ A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Because of organic changes between 1916 and 1926 the membership figures for the two censuses are not comparable.

State table.—Table 2 presents the statistics for the Lithuanian National Catholic Church by States, giving for each State in 1926 the number and membership of the churches classified by sex, and also the membership classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Separate presentation, by States, of financial data is omitted, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, AND MEMBERSHIP BY SEX AND AGE, BY STATES, 1926: LITHUANIAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	Number of churches	Number of members	MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE		
			Male	Female	Males per 100 females	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Per cent under 13
United States.....	4	1,497	761	736	103.4	504	993	33.7
Middle Atlantic: Pennsylvania.....	2	767	415	352	117.9	274	493	35.7
East North Central: Illinois.....	2	730	346	384	90.1	230	500	31.5

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

The first Lithuanian National Catholic Church was organized in 1914 by Lithuanians, at Scranton, Pa., by the advice and with the help of Bishop Hodur, head of the Polish National Catholic Church of America. He appointed Rev. S. B. Mickiewicz as its pastor, and later the present pastor, Rt. Rev. J. Gritenas. Mickiewicz subsequently organized several Lithuanian congregations in Chicago, Ill., under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Carfora, of the Old Roman Catholic Church.

At a synod held by the Polish National Catholic Church in 1924, at Scranton, the Rev. J. Gritenas was elected and consecrated as bishop of the Lithuanian churches, and at the present time has under his care four churches in Pennsylvania and Illinois.

These Lithuanian churches are in no way connected with the Old Roman Catholic Church; they accept the first four general councils of the church and use the Niceno-Constantinopolitan creed. The liturgy is Lithuanian. The supreme ecclesiastical authority is vested in a Synod. The Church maintains a seminary which prepares students for the priesthood of the church.

¹ This statement was furnished by Rt. Rev. John Gritenas, bishop, Lithuanian National Catholic Church of America.