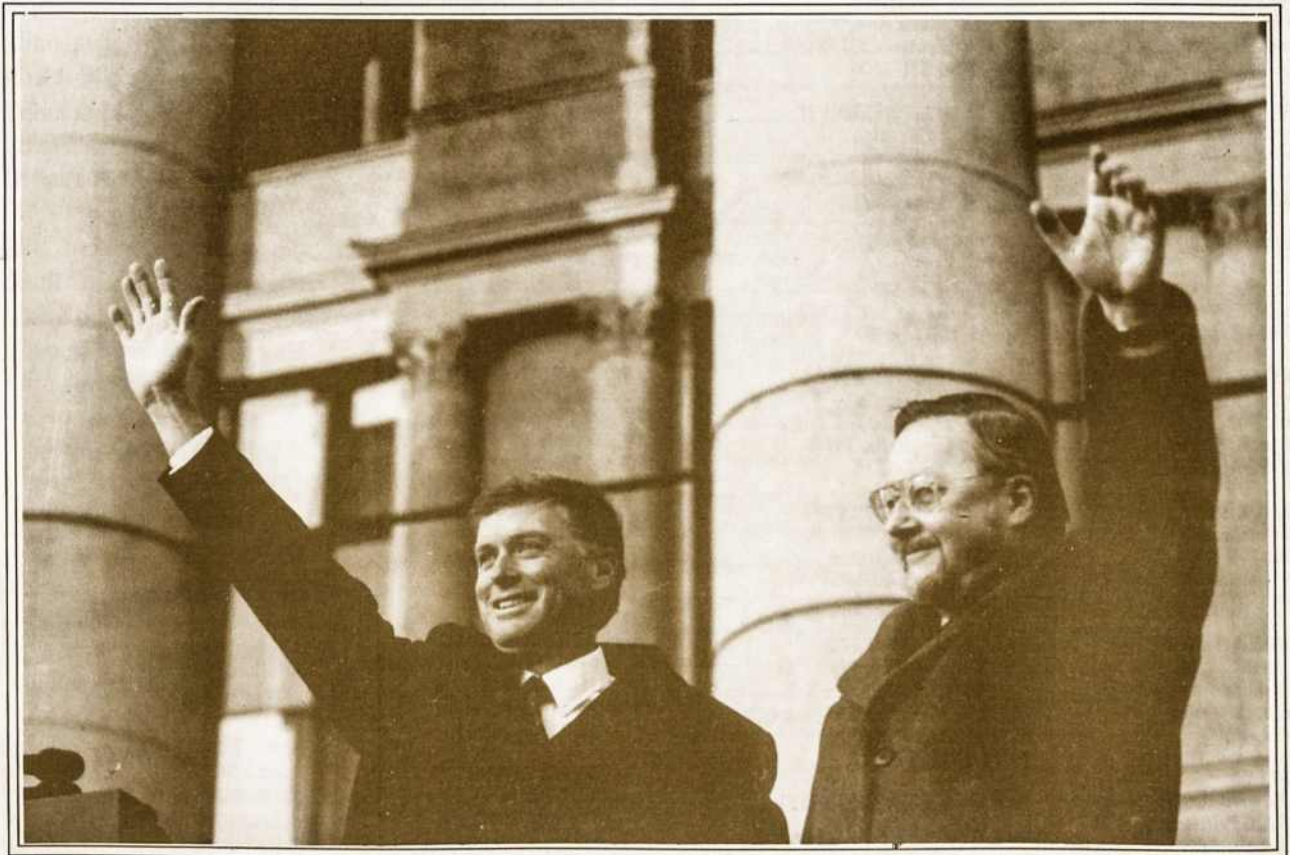


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Photographer: Steven Purcell, The White House

Vice President Quayle and President Vytautas Landsbergis in Lithuania

VYTIS

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Rulers of Lithuania..... (1282-1295)

by Edward Baranauskas

There are no historical facts to prove who actually succeeded Grand Prince Traidenis as the ruler of Lithuania after he died in 1282. The transition of power from one ruler to another was apparently done in a peaceful and lawful manner, as Lithuania did not undergo any turmoil similar to what followed the assassination of King Mindaugas. The throne may have been passed on by inheritance, but this does not mean that during the period from 1282 to 1295 the throne may have been held by more than one ruler who did not belong to the same family.

Strange as it may seem, very little is known about that period. Old chronicles mention several attacks by the Teutonic Order against the people of Žemaitija and Aukštaitija (two regions of Lithuania) and several military campaigns by the Lithuanians, but none of these documents stated who the ruler or rulers of Lithuania were at that time.

Perhaps the only known historical document that mentions any ruler of Lithuania during those years was written by the German chronicler Peter von Dusburg in 1291, who referred to Pukuveras as King of Lithuania (Pucuverus, rex Lethowie) but he does not give any details about his reign. When this chronicle was translated into verse, the name was spelled Putuwere. Information about him is limited. Writing about the year 1292, Dusburg mentions Vytenis as the son of Pukuveras.

Genealogists have tried to trace the family history from the time of Traidenis (1270-1282) to Vytenis (1295-1316)

but cannot find any evidence that Pukuveras was the son of Traidenis, or that Vytenis was linked to King Mindaugas. Some historians theorize that a Lithuanian prince named Skalmantas, who lived in the middle of the 13th century, may have been the father of two sons, Butigeidis and Pukuveras.

Butigeidis was spoken of only once (1290) in known historical sources and was referred to as king (rex Butegeyde). It is not known what territories he ruled, but it is believed that he could possibly have been one of the rulers of Lithuania sometime during the decade of the 1290's. since in the chronicles the royal title is given only to the more powerful princes. The year of his death is not known, but it may have been between 1290-1292.

Pukuveras is also known by some Lithuanian historians as Pukuveras-Butvydas. He may have been the Lithuanian Grand Prince sometime after 1290, perhaps between 1294 to 1295, when he died. According to the Dusburg Chronicle, he must have died before 1295.

Pukuveras was the father of Vytenis and Gediminas, who started the dynasty of Lithuania rulers without interruption until 1572.

Who ruled Lithuania and during what time frame in the years between 1282 and 1295 is a matter that historians must find extremely frustrating due to the lack of historical evidence.

DISCOVER THE DISCOVERER

by Leo Venckus

The Rulers of Lithuania, of which Edward Baranauskas has given us such a detailed and colorful description in the foregoing issues of VYTIS, are and should be of great interest to all Lithuanian-Americans. We can be proud to know that our ancestors under the rule of their first King Mindaugas lived in a Lithuania that then reached from the Baltic to the Black Sea. When Vytautas Didysis, Grand Prince of Lithuania (1392-1430) supported by his cousin, King Jogaila of Poland, defeated the Teutonic Knights at the battle of Tannenberg (Žalgiris) in 1410 and thus entered his name into the glorious history of Lithuania for all times, nobody had ever heard the word "America". Nor was it ever

uttered. Even when Lithuania accepted Christianity, nobody in Europe knew about the existence of a nameless continent across the Atlantic Ocean.

It was only in October 1492 that this New World was discovered by an Italian navigator Christopher Columbus sailing from Spain in three little ships named Santa Maria, Pinta and Nina. Another Italian Amerigo Vespucci followed later and it was his name that was given to the newly found land, though incorrectly and as a gross injustice to Christopher Columbus who was the first and real discoverer of this New World.

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the first voyage

of Christopher Columbus to the Americas and world-wide celebrations are already in full swing. Old, dusty books taken from library shelves in many languages are being studied. New books are in print. Articles and essays containing opinions pro and con; some praising Columbus as a hero, others condemning him as a villain.

Knowing that many of our Knights of Lithuania are also members of the Knights of Columbus, I assume it should be in order as well as useful to submit to readers of VYTIS, at least in a condensed form the basic facts about this famous Catholic navigator.

So let us discover the discoverer and begin with the story of

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Cristoforo the eldest son in the Colombo family (that's the Italian spelling and pronunciation) was born between 1446 and 1451 in or near Genoa, the busy seaport of Northern Italy. His father Dominic had a little business as weaver and cloth merchant, which he intended to pass on in time to his son. Therefore, Christopher was sent to a school for a period of three years to get some education. Being an excellent student and diligent, the boy soon mastered not only the "3 R's" but also became acquainted with astronomy, cosmography, geography and other subjects related to navigation plus Latin. These were the most famous studies in Italy at that time, not common in other parts of Europe.

After three years, Christopher returned from his school in Pavia to his parents home and began working in his father's weaving shop. His heart and mind were not in it. His vivid imagination, fired by a glimpse into learning, by the adventures he now was able to read, his longing to see and explore the wide world made him very unhappy at home. Christopher was restless as the Ligurian Sea that lured him daily.

Finally, his father changed his mind and let him go. At the age of fourteen, Christopher became a deck hand on board a ship in Genoa. Soon his voyages took him criss-crossing the Mediterranean - from the straits of the Gibraltar to Africa and from Genoa to



Greece, the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands. Eager to learn and to advance, young Christopher soon read the stars, the waves and the winds like a much more experienced sailor. This was not left unnoticed by his supe-

riors. Soon Christopher became an officer of the Navy and was given command of a caravel.

Sailing the seas in those days was nothing like a love-boat cruise of today. There were no motor boats in the 15th century. They depended only on the wind, the sails or their oars. Piracy was a common practice then. Especially cruel were the Muslims sailing under the crescent flag. If ever they spotted a Christian ship, no matter if small or large, they would attack it.

In about 1476 Columbus was ordered to sail with a convoy of ships loaded with goods from Khios and Genoa to England. When they reached the southern coast of Portugal near Lagos, the convoy was attacked by pirates. The ship that Columbus commanded was bound together with a pirates ship by spars and grappling irons. Fierce hand to hand fighting was in progress for some time. Suddenly both ships caught fire. Fearing an explosion of the existing powder kegs, everybody now jumped into the sea trying to reach the shore, which was about five miles away. Columbus reached it holding on to a big wooden oar. He fell on his knees exhausted and thanked God for sparing his life.

The people of Lagos treated Columbus and the other survivors kindly. After resting for some time he was on his way to Lisbon. Here he found a sizeable community of compatriots from Genoa and to his surprise, his younger brother Bartholomew. While Columbus was sailing the seas, his brother had come from Genoa to Lisbon where he set himself up into a business making and selling charts, compasses, books of navigation, etc. Soon Christopher became his brother's business partner and was doing well.

At that time, Lisbon was the most beautiful and active seaport in Europe. Sailors and navigators from many countries anchored in the harbor. One could hear many different languages spoken in the streets of Lisbon: sailors from Iceland to the Cameroons, England, Germany mixed with Moors, Spaniards, Genoese, even Negroes. Italian bankers, Jewish money changers had offices and stands at almost every street corner. Lisbon was very much alive, it attracted people from Genoa and other Italian cities. The Columbus brothers met many influential people here, some of whom later helped Christopher to realize his dreams of discovering what lies on the other side of the Atlantic.

Not far from where the Columbus brothers had their business, there was a convent with a well known boarding school for daughters of the Portuguese aristocracy. Among

them was Dona Felipe Perrestrello, whose father Bartholomew Perrestrello was Governor of Porto Santo, one of the Madeira Islands. After his death, his widow Dona Isabel Moniz moved with her two daughters from the Islands to Lisbon and placed them into this famous boarding school. Besides, it was a chapel to which the public of Lisbon had free access. It was here that Christopher met Dona Felipa for the first time.

People everywhere usually stay for a while after Mass in the church yard to chat with friends, relatives or neighbors. I don't know if this custom existed in Portugal in the 15th century but, I assume, it was similar to what it was in most European countries before World War II. Farmers and their families usually went to church in horse-carts. After Mass the older folks, while their horses were munching the oats hanging in a cloth bag from their heads, either exchanged sandwiches from home or went to a nearby Inn for a glass of beer or to an "Arbatiné" for a glass of tea. The younger people preferred not to wait. They left in pairs or little groups on foot or on their bikes. Once out of town and out of sight of their elders, nobody was in a hurry to get home. They would sit down somewhere in the meadow and discuss where to organize the next picnic or geguziné near a river's bend or some other gathering of interest to the younger generation.

Christopher Columbus had no complaints about life in Lisbon. On the contrary. He was happy and content here ever since that tragic shipwreck when attacked by pirates. He had found his brother, had become his business partner and now he had fallen in love with Dona Felipa. They got married in or about 1478. His mother-in-law invited the newlyweds to live in her mansion. While there, Columbus had the opportunity to study in detail the charts, maps and other documents of his wife's deceased father's travels. Before becoming Governor of Porto Santo, he was an enthusiastic traveler and navigator, just like Columbus. Studying these documents, Columbus became more and more convinced that contrary to the popular belief in those days that the earth was flat. It isn't - it must be round!

If so, then Asia of which another Italian explorer Marco Polo had written those fantastic stories about countries he called China and Cipangu (Japan) could be reached much easier going West instead of East crossing rivers, mountains and the Gobi desert. Columbus, too, would like to visit those strange places, countries with the unusual flora and fauna, with costly gems, riches and spices Marco Polo had mentioned. Instead of bringing those treasures home on the backs of a few donkeys, it would be easier and more profitable to load these treasures into ships and bring them

back sailing the ocean. Furthermore, those people in the Indies, according to Marco Polo, had never heard of Christ and His teachings. What an opportunity to evangelize, to spread the faith in those far away countries.

About two years after their marriage, Dona Filipa gave birth to a son whom they baptized Diego. Dona Isabel Moniz adored her grandson. She often hinted that she would love to have more grandchildren around her, but Diego remained the only child.

Columbus had now finally made up his mind to sail West. As a Genoese, he first proposed his plan to the Italian authorities. They rejected it. Then he went to Juan II, King of Portugal. After a lengthy consideration, a Royal Commission also rejected his plan as unwise. Probably because they themselves were not so sure that the earth was round. Columbus felt bitter that some ignorant people had ridiculed and dismissed his plans. Soon he was hit even harder when his beloved wife Felipa became ill and died shortly afterwards. What was he going to do now. A widower with a little son that still needed motherly care? Columbus found the answer in his prayers: he was going to leave Lisbon and take his son home to his parents in Genoa.

His parents were happy to see their son and grandson. They promised to take care of him as long as Christopher wanted them to. It was good to be back home. Here he could relax and allow the wounds to heal that recently were inflicted upon his soul. Time is the best healer. Gradually, the depression caused by repeated rejections of his plans as well as his wife's death, began to disappear. He was now convinced perhaps more than ever before, that he must find a chance to prove to the world that his plans are workable. His only problem - he could not do it alone. To set his dreams into action and reality demanded a lot of financing. But up to now, nobody was willing to supply men, material and money for an enterprise which at that time to most people seemed very doubtful of success.

Columbus felt that he was not getting any younger. He could not simply waste his time by waiting and doing nothing. He had to do something and soon. Having come to this conclusion, he again tried to enlist the republic of Genoa, his native homeland. They would not listen to him. Having failed for the third time, Columbus was not discouraged. He now set out to Spain to try his luck there. Somebody must believe in me!

LA RABIDA

Having said good-bye to his old parents, Columbus took off with his little son Diego. One day they arrived at a

Franciscan convent called Santa Maria de la Rabida. It overlooked the little seaport of Palos in southern Spain. It was Providence that led them to this convent to ask for food and shelter, which the friars never refused to any traveler. The friar in charge of this convent was Juan Perez de Marchens. He became very interested in this unusual traveler with a little boy. Where are you from? What brings you here? Where are you heading for? So, Columbus told him that he was a Genoese from Italy on his way to see the Catholic Kings (that's how King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella usually were called) for whom he had an important message.

When Padre Juan learned the basics of Columbus' plans, he was surprised and excited. He himself was a man of great learning, especially in the sciences of cosmography and he was decorated by Queen Isabella for his many achievements. Soon a sincere friendship developed between those two men. He promised Columbus to get him an appointment at the Royal Court. In the meantime, Columbus should rest here and wait. He also offered to take care of young Diego and his education while Columbus was attending his business. Before long Columbus received an appointment and set out to Cordova, full of enthusiasm and hope.

Columbus secured his introduction to the Royal Court in 1486. At that time, Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile had their troops and their finances involved in a war to overthrow Granada, the last of the Moorish kingdoms. Therefore, Isabella promised to aid Columbus only after the war was over. In the meantime she gave him a position at her court to suit his abilities. While at Cordova, Columbus met a local beauty Beatriz Enriquez, and fell in love with her. Before long, she became the mother of his second son, Ferdinand.

Finally after six long years, the war was over. King

Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to subsidize his expedition to sail West. The signed contract between Columbus and the Catholic Majesties contained the provision that Columbus was to become Admiral of the Ocean Seas, Viceroy and Governor of all territories discovered by him, a hereditary peerage and one tenth of all gold, silver, pearls, spices and other merchandise produced, obtained or found in the new lands.

Early on the third of August 1492 the first expedition consisting of three ships: the Santa Maria, Pinta and Nina received Columbus' order to hoist their flags and sail from Palos into the open sea. He had instructed the crew of 88 men before sailing to go to confession and receive Holy Communion. Now he commended his undertaking to the Almighty.

It would take too much space in VYTIS to describe the difficulties and adventure Columbus encountered in his travels. There are some good books on this subject available in any library. Let's just say that his discovery did not end with the first voyage. The second voyage consisted of seventeen ships and 1,500 men, followed by the third and fourth sailings. The colonization of the New World had begun with all its results. There are many voices today blaming Christopher Columbus and his discovery of the Americas with some negative results it certainly had. But blaming Columbus is the same as accusing Henry Ford that the automobiles he invented are the cause that too many people get killed. Besides hoping to benefit from his travels, Columbus believed that he has to follow in the footsteps of St. Christopher to carry Christ and his teachings across the waters into the New World. We Lithuanians are familiar with St. Christoforus. He is portrayed in the Coat of Arms of Lithuania's capital Vilnius. A tall man wading across wide waters carrying a child on his shoulders.

NIGHT ON BALI (1950)

The night is tender and ecstatic as a kiss.
The moon's milky haze embraces its raven
form
And fills me with ineffable bliss
As from a distance pulses the passion of island
music.

The night reveals its luminous secret;
It is love that filled the primal void of Night
And with its caress created Light.

Albert Cizauskas, C-142



Vice-President Quayle meets with Baltic Representatives

by Loretta Stukas

On Feb. 6 and 7, U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle visited the three Baltic Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania where he brought greetings from the United States, congratulated them on their independence and promised the unwavering friendship and help of the American people in the months and years ahead.

In Lithuania, over 10,000 people cheered him in Independence Square when he spoke of the sacrifices of the Lithuanian people that ultimately brought them their independence.

Almost immediately after his return on Feb. 12, Vice President Quayle's office arranged a round-table discussion in his office in the White House to discuss the results of his trip. Twenty members of the Baltic media were present for the meeting, about twenty others were connected to the meeting by telephone. K of L's participating in the conference included HM Jack & Loretta Stukas, HM Juozas Laucka at the White House and Lithuanian Affairs Chairman Vince Boris in the telephone network.

Mr. Quayle opened the meeting with remarks about his satisfaction with his visit. He stated that the most touching moments for him and his wife were those walking through the crowd in Lithuania where Lithuanians reached out to touch them, greeted them so warmly, and shouted in unison "Thank You, Thank You!" He explained that a package of \$18 million of added assistance was designated for the Baltics. Most of the package will be in the form of technical assistance for privatization, environmental and energy efficiency, and market pricing activity. The package also includes humanitarian assistance, business advisory services, financial sector development, agricultural development, management and language training, and legislative strengthening programs.

A variety of questions were asked of the Vice-President. Most attention was paid to the presence of former Soviet troops in the Baltics, and what must be done to remove them. He assured the group that the U.S. is taking steps to encourage removal, but that this cannot be done overnight. The U.S.



Participants in the Feb. 12, 1992 Baltic Trip Roundtable/Teleconference with Vice President Quayle.



Peace Corps Agreement signing ceremony with Pres. Landsbergis, U.S. Peace Corps Director Elaine Chao and Vice Pres. Quayle in Lithuania.

recognizes this as a major problem for the Baltics who want them removed and for the CIS members who do not have facilities to house and support returning troops. He assured the participants that CIS officials are aware of the U.S. position. He further promised that he and the President would stay on top of the dilemma.

Mr. Quayle was favorably impressed with Pres. Landsbergis and signed a Peace Corps agreement with him during the visit. The Peace Corps effort would include English language instruction, small business development, and environmental concerns. He stated that the best help for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania should come from American Baltics who should invest in the lands of their heritage and donate toward their humanitarian and other needs.

Other questions related to the dangers at the Ignalina Nuclear Plant in Lithuania, monetary and business problems, dual citizenship and U.S. assistance with humanitarian aid.

On the Ignalina Nuclear Plant, Mr. Quayle reported that he had a long talk on the question with Pres. Landsbergis who asked for an international inspection team to determine the suitability and safety of the plant. The Vice-Pres. through the National Security Council, has directed the U.S. delegation to the International Atomic Energy Agency to put together an international team to inspect the Ignalina facility.

Asked if any funds were available to cover costs of sending medical people to the Baltics to perform surgery, treat patients and offer seminars, the Vice-President replied that given specific information, his office would seek appropriate funding organizations to assist. But, he urged, most of the assistance should come from within the Baltic community itself, through fund drives and the like.

On the subject of investments from the private sector into Baltic industries, Mr. Quayle explained that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has agreed to

work with the ministries of the above three nations and will offer insurance of private investments in the Baltics. An OPIC team will be visiting Lithuania this summer.

Responding to a question of the status of ethnic minorities in the Baltics, Mr. Quayle noted that in all three nations, he reviewed legislation on minority rights. He believed that because the Baltic people know very well the effects of being dominated and brutalized by others, they were very sensitive to the protection of human rights of all citizens regardless of national heritage.

When asked about the possibility of voting in Estonian elections by those enjoying dual citizenship, Mr. Quayle warned that close attention be paid to U.S. laws in this regard and that no special privileges are given to those with dual citizenship from the Baltics, Israel or any other nations.

To honor the victims of Bloody Sunday, Mr. Quayle laid a wreath at the TV Tower memorial. Many people had gathered at the memorial while he laid the wreath. Their presence left him with a sense of hope for the Lithuanian people, and gratitude to those who had given up their lives in defense of independence for their nation.

The conference lasted about forty minutes. Those present at the White House as well as those on the telephone network, were most impressed with the conference and Mr. Quayle's interest in the future of the Baltic Nations. We are indeed grateful to Vice-President Quayle and his staff for their time and attention.

(The author extends sincere thanks to Vince Boris and Jack Stukas for their help in preparing this article).



Vice Pres. Quayle with Pres. Landsbergis in Lithuania.

**Remarks by the Vice President of the U.S. Dan Quayle,
given to the People of Lithuania in Independence Square,
Vilnius, Lithuania on Feb. 7th.....**

Pres. Landsbergis, Honorable deputies and friends: Sveikinų Laisva Lietuva! (I greet free Lithuania!) I bring you special greetings from Pres. George Bush and your friends, the people of the United States of America.

Let me begin by paying a special tribute to Pres. Landsbergis, a true champion of freedom. For many years, he helped keep alive the hopes of you, his countrymen. He never gave up. He inspired a nation, and in so doing, inspired the world. And so today, I am deeply honored to be standing next to Pres. Landsbergis in a free and independent Lithuania.

In the middle of this century, darkness fell upon the peoples of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Millions suffered at the hand of an oppressive empire. Tens of thousands were martyred, brutalized and torn from family and homeland. There was tragedy and despair. But the people of Lithuania never gave up hope - the hope of freedom. For, in the words of the Psalmist, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

The long night has ended. Morning has broken, and there is joy: Estonia is free. Latvia is free. LITHUANIA IS FREE. Long live freedom.

Over the course of five decades, you showed courage and moral strength ... that no oppressor could overcome. Your resolve never weakened. Your hearts were never dominated. And your spirits were never defeated. After every injustice ... every injury ... every indignity ... the spirit of your people would always reappear as boldly, and as proudly, as the Hill of Crosses.

My country, America, was born in a revolution of independence, and our people have always had profound faith. This heritage makes Americans feel a special kinship with the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian peoples. We have viewed with admiration your unshakable devotion to almighty God. And when you lifted your voice for freedom, you lifted the hearts of America - for you affirmed a great truth spoken by one of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson: "The God who gave us life gave us liberty."

For more than fifty years we stood by you. America refused to recognize the Soviet occupation. The battle cry of freedom was sounded in March of 1990 when Lithuania reasserted its independence. The struggle intensified on Jan. 12, 1991 where - at that television tower - your brave patriots gave their lives in the cause of independence. A short time ago I stood at the television tower and presented a wreath of remembrance from the American people. The events at your tower of bravery happened before a watching world, and the scene inspired others to fight as never before in the struggle of good against evil.

Now my friends, you are part of a new Europe - whole and free, and blessed with great opportunity. And let us remember that the world of tomorrow belongs to those who embrace democratic institutions and free markets. The great question of our time is settled: Freedom lives. Communism is dead. And the Russian soldiers are going home.

It is a privilege to stand at this place, on this day, with so many who made history. You changed a nation and helped change the world. I pledge to you the unwavering friendship of the American people in the months and years ahead. May God go with you, and may He always bless your dear native land, Lithuania, the home of a free people.

"MEMORY CLASS" HOMEWORK

Our assignment was: "study faces."

So I did, in many places;

At the store, in church, at a meeting,

Even an old friend I was greeting.

Quite interesting is the nose,

It is either gross or grandiose.

The Roman-kind is quite large;

In olden times, they often took charge.

Fascinating is the one like an eagle's beak,

On a haughty queen with a mean streak.

I like the perky, up-turned kind,

Always on happy people, you will find.

Eyes — the shape is important

To the form of the face they augment.

Some come large, almond-shaped, and yet

They'll be shifty, but colored violet.

The teeth are an adventure,

Especially when they're a denture.

They're so even, white and straight,

I guess that's why they're called a plate.

The ears — that's another subject,

Many of them, owners would like to correct,

They are small, cauliflower or pointed,

Some even look disjointed.

Cheerfully I could go on,

Like having a neck like a swan;

But Mother Nature I won't antagonize,

In fear she might choose to chastise.

Bertha Janus, C-79

THE OLD-FASHIONED OBSERVANCE OF DECORATION DAY

by Antonia M. Wackell

An approaching Decoration Day always inspired love of country in the hearts of school children, for it was then that we learned - without enforcement - patriotism for our country through songs, declamations and poetry.

A teacher's clever hint that Decoration Day exercises might be held at a future date in the school hall aroused the desire to memorize suitable pieces with high hopes of being the ones called upon to recite our poems learned by heart.

Those who were so honored recited with much enthusiasm and hand motions - effective and admirable in those days. Those who did not feature in the program were encouraged to remember their selections for the next year's exercises.

Sometimes, though, declamations and poems were trustingly memorized but never delivered, because "it wouldn't be right for the same poem to be repeated two or three times in an afternoon." But that was the chance we took. It was far better to be prepared if called upon than not to be prepared at all. If there were disappointments, they were not lasting.

Picking the right pieces was never a problem. The most popular selections were always to be found on discolored, worn and finger-smearred pages of one's reading book, or in the books on teacher's desk. Approved by the elementary set as the most stirring, forceful recitations for Decoration Day were: *The Blue and the Gray*; *Hat's Off! the Flag is Passing By*; and *William Collins' —*

*How sleep the brave who sink to rest
By all their country's wishes blest!
When Spring, with dewy fingers cold,
Returns to deck their hallowed mold ...*

A Decoration Day's program was never complete without the principal's address, a tableau and songs. And just before the "finale" when a boy appeared with the flag of the United States, and a girl with a wreath or a handful of flowers, we, the young Americans, instantly arose and sang with great feeling:

*We deck our heroes, graves in May
With garlands green and blossoms gay.
And o'er each heart so brave and true,
And o'er each heart so brave and true;
We place this old red, white and blue,
We place this old red, white and blue ...*

We knew that Decoration Day, established in 1868, was a holiday set aside for soldiers who died in the Civil War, and on whose graves flags and wreaths would be placed. But for

those who had no Civil War heroes buried in the graveyard, Decoration Day was considered the official "opening day" of the cemetery "to spend the afternoon" near a departed one's grave.

A visit to the cemetery on Decoration Day (or on any Sunday thereafter) was an important event - a family excursion, requiring the preparation of a wicker basket or shoe box full of food for the appetites that the long walk and the fresh spring air would surely develop. Clusters of early garden flowers had to be picked and quickly wrapped in water-soaked papers or cloths to give them water on the way.

Trips to the cemetery from all sections of hilly Worcester commanded an early start since trolleys were few, and even then they did not entirely eliminate walking, because the trolley stops were several streets away from the cemetery. Horse and buggy owners discharged their lilac-laden passengers near the cemetery and then continued on. Automobiles? There were a few, but at most they were considered unnecessary luxuries. So walking, combined with sight-seeing, conversation and meeting friends on the way, was the most inexpensive and pleasant means of transportation for families, while fringe-topped baby carriages transported the young, bottles for the flowers, and many other things.

It was a small cemetery that we visited in those days - peaceful and quiet, with occasional melodic interruptions of birdsongs from the trees that shaded the intersecting dirt lanes. After brief prayers for the *Repose of the Souls of the Dead*, the elders found important tasks to be done around "their graves."

As though by prearrangement, they first filled containers with assorted flowers, then cleared the graves of fallen twigs and wind-blown papers; carefully uprooted the dandelion heads and the tall waving grasses that had anchored themselves into the mounds, and washed the markers and headstones of their winter's dirt. There was a steady, soothing conversation going on among them all while they worked.

Children, too, found things that demanded attention. They collected round stones found near the bordering fence and wall, and arranged them neatly around the humps of soil that covered one's little sister, brother or relative. No one shouted, laughed out loud or played games - all that was strictly forbidden. Older children went "exploring" reading inscriptions on the headstones, studying the carved figures and designs on the monuments, or looking for the oldest

dates. If flowers appeared to be thirsty, they replenished the water supply; arranged circles of white-painted stones around graves that careless feet had kicked aside; and filled in sunken spots on someone's grave so that "rain could not get in."

Many stories, biographies were imaged about the sleeping people in the cemetery - they were unknown, and yet, they were known. Ages were settled in children's fashion: "He was six years old like me!" or "She was only one year old like my little brother!" Ages of adults (unless a very old date) did not vary much - they were "about as old as our fathers"; there was no time to be involved in exact mathematics where older people were concerned.

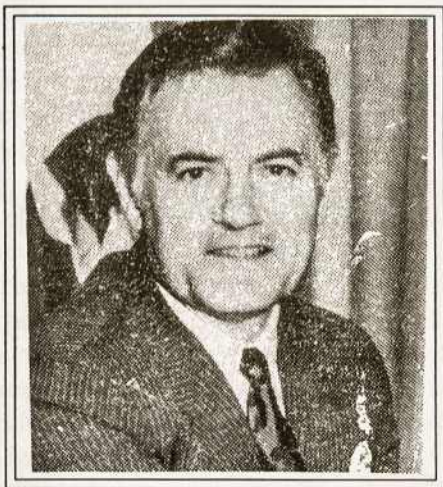
When the sun's rays were on our backs and shadows began to lengthen, then it was the time for us to gather together at a certain water faucet, count noses, wash the dust of our good deeds from our hands and depart for home.

The Evening Gazette

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is a holiday also known as Decoration Day observed in the northern states of the United States on May 30, originally in honor of soldiers killed in the U.S. Civil War, but subsequently also in honor of those who fell in later wars. Before the close of the Civil War, May 30 was thus celebrated in several of the southern states; in the north there was no fixed celebration until 1868, when (on May 5) Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a general order designating May 30, 1868, "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion"; Logan did this "with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year." In 1882 the Grand Army urged that "proper designation of May 30 is Memorial Day" - not Decoration day. Rhode Island made it a legal holiday in 1874, Vermont in 1876 and New Hampshire in 1877; and by 1910 it was a legal holiday in all states and territories with the exception of some ten Southern states. In Virginia, May 30 is observed as a Confederate Memorial Day.

Address to Knights of Lithuania C-112 Chicago given by Valdas Adamkus, Regional Director of Environmental Protection for the Great Lakes Area.



Valdas Adamkus

Good Evening my fellow Knights:

I am going to concentrate primarily on the environmental situation in Lithuania and not on its political or economic problems. I know we are all very happy because our country is free at last. Now we must help it in its struggle to establish its rightful place among democratic nations.

Since 1970 I've had the privilege of visiting Lithuania,

the Baltic States and Russia as a U.S. Environmental Official. I have had the opportunity to compare the environmental conditions of these countries. I found a deplorable situation of real devastation exists there. Natural resources of forests, land and water are being destroyed. This definitely has a direct impact on the economic life of these people.

The Baltic States had no choice in this matter. They had to follow the dictates of the Moscow bureaucrats, who had little knowledge or concern about preserving natural resources for the present or future. In 1975 I asked the Environmental Protection Agency why it didn't enforce the pollution rules and they replied: It's not our problem to enforce rules.

The industries and factories pour out chemical wastes and smoke pollution without any concern about what is happening and without any regulations. I had to assess and report the damage in the Baltics. I found all rivers are polluted and the forests are suffering from pesticides and chemical smoke. There isn't any emission control equipment anywhere! The Nemunas River is like an open sewer flowing to the Baltic Sea. As you approach the bank of the river, you find an offensive odor - that is a condition close to a irreversible process.

To build original pollution plants will cost millions of

dollars for every city there. Even the soil is saturated by the Communist system of pouring pesticides, chemicals and fertilizers, without restriction. Drinking water is affected too. The economy will suffer. The U.S. has delivered 100,000 lbs. of rye and wheat to help Lithuanian people and their stock. The Latvians and Estonians also received such aid.

A major problem exists in Mažeikiai, an oil refining center of Lithuania. And a dangerous situation remains in Ignalinas because of its atomic reactors. The construction is of questionable quality and residents are very concerned a second Chernobyl may explode there at anytime and wipe out the Baltic states and adjoining territories. I have recommended the authorities there and in the U.S. that a joint commission of scientists investigate those reactors and provide a solution as soon as possible. Yes, we have our Freedom, but the Russian soldiers are there. The Communists left us three nations devoid of thousands of people who were herded into Siberia and died there, plus land with polluted forests and rivers, and a shattered economy without food. I still believe that with God's help, we can survive.

A period of Questions and Answers followed.

Question: How was the \$5,000.00 used in Lithuania, which the K of L of the Mid-America District donated?

Answer: That money was given to Director Dr. Veibra of Environmental Protection. He expressed his gratitude and stated it is being employed in education for a period of five years. Also the \$3,000.00 donated for the text books to the Vytautas University in Kaunas to Rector Dr. Avizenas was used at an opportune time to purchase books. He, too, was very grateful to the Knights of Lithuania for the gift.

Question: Is land in Lithuania being turned over to private ownership - to assure a food supply for the people?

Answer: I was informed by the Agricultural Ministry there are over 40,000 requests filed for land, but only 3,000 have been processed. It is a difficult and slow procedure. Most Lithuanian citizens are anxious to own some land and farm it, even though farm equipment is scarce. This year's crop on the collective farms was very good. The turnover to private ownership will continue.

Question: How will the Litas money question be resolved?

Answer: That solution is delayed because of Russia and its ruble problems - and the exchange rate of rubles and U.S. dollars for the litas. The problem continues in the discussion stage. In the meantime our Lithuanian officials are getting more experience from London and elsewhere in the banking system.

Question: How many people died after the Chernobyl disaster?

Answer: The number reported was 100 who died and over 5,000 cases of affected people - plus untold miles of devastated land.

Question: Do the Baltic States have Foreign Ministries now?

Answer: Yes. but the facilities are not too good in Riga and Talin. Vilnius does have a comfortable American Embassy. Visas are issued.

Question: You mentioned there are 100,000 Russian troops in Lithuania. Where are they quartered - and are they occupied enough not to explode on Lithuania?

Answer: We have no information of what the Russian troops do. There are 400,000 in the Baltic States. The 100,000 near Vilnius remain in a guarded compound, their food is brought from Lithuania. Their Commanding General appeared on Vilnius TV and answering the commentator, replied: We were sent here, we are professional soldiers - they do not want us in Moscow and you do not want us here, so what is the solution? The commentator replied: We do not hate you. So just order your troops to change their uniforms to civilian clothes which we will give them. Turn your weapons over to us and be incorporated into our economy and country. The General made no reply, he just shook his head.

So, I hope you know more about Lithuania now. Thank you.

(Condensed by Konstant J. Savickus)

Motin Skaisti, Lelija Gražioji,
Tu mūsų tautą širdyje nešioji,
Glausk mus, Marija, amžinai -
Tu ateities takus žinai.

Nuolat Tėvynei miglotas rytojus,
Kas ir beb't, baugu pagalvojus, —
Tu teiki laimės spindulių
Einantiems erškėčių keliu.

(Iš Šiluvos giesmės)



CARITAS - LCRA A Lifeline for Lithuania

Vincent Boris, Lithuanian Affairs Chairman

In Dec. 1991, a non-Lithuanian Baltimorean who is very supportive of various Lithuanian causes was visiting Lithuania and found himself in a clinic in Panevežys. He observed a man undergoing dialysis with a fairly recent vintage American dialysis machine. Upon inquiry, he found that, indeed, the equipment had recently been received from the United States. More significantly, he was told that if it had not been for that gift from the U.S. that life-saving therapy would not have been available to that patient. Dramatic - yes. An isolated incident - no. There exists a very critical lifeline between Lithuania and the United States. Both terminals of this lifeline are served by cross country networks of people, one in Lithuania; the other in the United States. Because of that lifeline, lives are being saved.

CARITAS - The Lithuanian Connection. The CARITAS Federation in Lithuania began operating in 1926 substituting virtually all existing Roman Catholic charitable

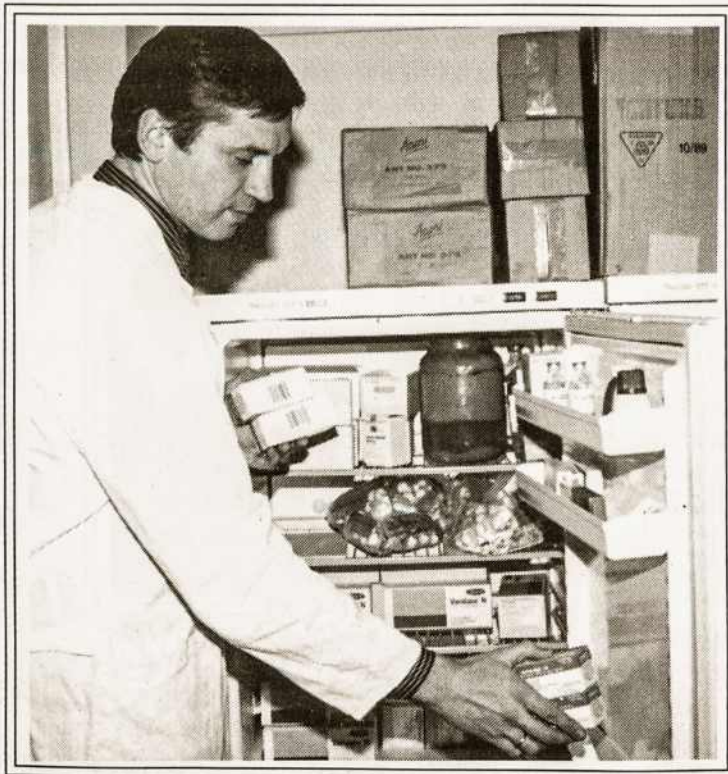
organizations, both national and international, within its mantle. Its formal operations were suppressed in 1940 with the imposition of Soviet communism. It was a basic tenet of Soviet law, that any charitable activity was an implied charge that the State was not capable of providing appropriate care for its citizens and thus constituted illegal anti-Soviet action - a crime punishment by imprisonment or exile.

In 1988, however, seven brave women met on Aug. 26 to reinstitute a Catholic women's group under the name of CARITAS which would undertake the mission of revitalizing Lithuanian family life. They began the work of organization and by April 1989, in less than a year, they called together a convention with 812 delegates and over 3,000 observers. Their activity mushroomed and by the summer of 1991, with Lithuanian Independence reclaimed, they held a second convention; announced acceptance by CARITAS, International (a trans-Europe charitable organization); opened their membership to men; changed their title to the CARITAS Federation of Lithuania; and achieved incorporation and legal status. It now boasts a membership of 5,500 grouped into 338 chapters.

Its work continues to be that of renewing the spirit of community, improving quality of life and developing public sensitivity to the needs of the unfortunate and wayward. CARITAS has now developed a shelter for homeless children, a diagnostic medical center, six pharmacies, several parish-based shelters for elderly, and a large "soup kitchen" for the poor. It also serves as the point of contact for receiving and redistributing all manner of humanitarian aid being supplied through Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid (LCRA).

LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID - The American Connection. The other focal point of this life line to Lithuania is a small staff of dedicated workers located in Brooklyn, NY. It was established in 1961 as a conduit of support to the Catholic Church in Lithuania. One of its major achievements was the Western publication of the *Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, which documented human rights violations in Soviet occupied Lithuania.

LCRA opened a new chapter in its history in



Caritas central pharmacy in Kaunas with director, Dr. Romas Mačiulaitis.

1990 when the economic blockade of Lithuania was imposed by the Soviet Union following Lithuania's declaration of the restoration of Independence. The blockade devastated health care in Lithuania. Under Soviet rule, all medicines and medical supplies/equipment were furnished, albeit inadequately, through the Center in Moscow. Since the blockade and with begrudging acceptance of Lithuanian independence, all shipments of medicines, medical/surgical supplies and equipment previously provided through the governmental infrastructure have been terminated. Theoretically, they might still be purchased with hard currency if such were available.

LCRA established its medical aid program by focusing on insulin and antibiotics hand-carried by private travelers to Lithuania. This effort has now expanded to its current scope of transporting medical goods and equipment via sea carriers and air cargo.

Since the inception of its Life for Lithuania program in the spring of 1990, LCRA has shipped 31 containers and participated in 5 airlifts, providing more than \$15,400,000 worth of medical assistance. Measles, mumps and rubella vaccines, provided through LCRA, immunized all of Lithuania's 3-year old children in 1991 and enabled women of child-bearing age to be vaccinated against rubella for the first time in Lithuania's history. The first dialysis machines were provided in 1991.

The medicines, supplies and equipment now shipped by LCRA are mostly donated by pharmaceutical companies like Eli Lilly, Squibb/Bristol Myers and charitable organizations like World Medical Relief in Detroit, Interchurch Medical Assistance, MAP International, etc. Some equipment are provided at nominal costs such as the dialysis machines from Lutheran Medical Center of Brooklyn, NY. Some supplies and equipment are acquired through volunteer efforts of various Lithuanian-American organizations like the Knights of Lithuania and the Free Lithuania Committee of Baltimore, MD.

The Knights of Lithuania, through Detroit C-102 assisted by C-79 and the Detroit Lithuanian-American community, has collaborated with World Medical Relief to ship six containers worth approximately \$5.5 million (out of the above cited totals). Donations to cover transportation have been funneled from the nationwide organization and community through the Detroit council. It is remarkable that volunteer work in sorting, packing, crating combined with the generosity of hospitals, individual doctors and pharmaceutical companies can magnify the private sector donation of 50 thousand dollars into the provision of 5.5 million

dollars worth of medical aid.

Normally, LCRA transportation costs are provided by a mix of public funding (through Project HOPE acting as executive agent for two major Presidential allocations of Foreign Aid funds) and the private sector which includes grants from established charitable agencies. Not least among the private sector participation has been contributions to LCRA from Lithuanian-American individuals and organizations.

It is difficult to predict how long this networked life-line will need to be maintained. The damage done to the health care system through 50 years of Soviet inadequacy and ineffectiveness is impossible to gauge. It should be obvious that without the lifeline, the medical supplies would have to be purchased on the open market. Until the economy of the country stabilizes and hard (exchangeable currency) is developed, purchase of supplies on the world market is impossible.

We know from discussions with Dr. Baly's Dainys, Chief Nephrologist of Lithuania, that the current case load and level of patient need, would establish a minimal requirement for 50 dialysis machines. Six were shipped in 1991, 16 more were shipped through LCRA by the Free Lithuania Committee from Baltimore in February of this year, so barely half the target need has been met.

Other public health problems such as alcoholism, drug abuse, venereal disease through prostitution and alternatives to abortion are barely addressed. CARITAS has started action on these problems which are widespread and serious. The Lifeline must be maintained.

For further information on CARITAS or LCRA, write or call Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11207. Tel. (718) 647-2434; Telefax (718) 827-6696. To keep the K of L involved in this critical lifeline, send your donations (checks payable to LCRA) to: Aid to Lithuania, c/o Robert Boris, 4970 Brookdale Dr., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304.



SR. NIJOLĖ SADUNAITĖ: Miracles Still Happen

by Katrina Zeno

Miracles still happen. Just ask Sr. Nijole Sadunaite — her life is a litany of God's power and presence in the midst of overwhelming and oppressive circumstances.

Born in 1938 in Lithuania, Nijole grew up under the atheistic, communist regime of the Soviet government. But in her devout, Catholic home, her family said evening prayers together, consecrated themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and attended Mass regularly. Nijole eventually decided to become a nun. She secretly professed in the Polish order of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate on Christmas Day 1965 when she was 27. Rather than draw attention to her religious vocation in a milieu hostile to Christianity, Sr. Nijole continued to work clerical and factory jobs so that she could go to church and pray without interference.

However, in 1974, Sr. Nijole was arrested and tried for anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. Her "crime": typing and distributing copies of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, an underground publication that circulated accounts of the Lithuania church's struggle to survive.

After a highly irregular (even by Soviet standards) and fabricated trial, Sr. Nijole was found guilty and sentenced to three years in a strict regime labor camp and to three years in exile. Despite loss of her physical freedom, Sr. Nijole maintained a spiritual integrity that her persecutors could not violate. She steadfastly refused to reveal the names of others involved with the *Chronicle*, valuing a clear conscience and the safety of her friends more than liberty or life. With God

as her solace, love became her mantle and sword.

Sr. Nijole's autobiography, *A Radiance in the Gulag*, was smuggled out of Lithuania over a period of years and published in the United States. Her book testifies to the triumph of truth and love over a morally bankrupt system fearful of the truth. Though her exile ended in 1980, she was hounded by the KGB for eight more years. In 1987, Sr. Nijole was apprehended by the KGB. Threats to imprison and kill her only generated frustration for the KGB. "They get so mad when you're not afraid," she remarks with a touch of amusement. "If you kill me, I told them, 'I'll be weak and go straight to heaven.'" The KGB retorted, "We're not going to make you a martyr."

But in 1988, she was again seized and brutally beaten, presumably by the KGB who wanted to kill her. She was spared from death when a foreign car accidentally jumped onto the sidewalk and scattered her assailants. Eleven days later, she was removed from her work and taken to meet seven high-ranking KGB agents. They told her she could go anywhere in the world and pleaded with her to leave the country. "I said that I didn't want to leave Lithuania, but that I wanted to go to jail," she recounts, her eyes dancing. "They were surprised because usually they threaten people with jail and I volunteered to go. I told them, 'I love you so much. I don't want to go to heaven alone. I want you to go with me. You don't have clear consciences. It's the way I can make sacrifices for you. I don't know how to make sacrifices in freedom. In jail, I will join my sacrifices to the very great sacrifice of Jesus. Then we will all go to heaven.'" The KGB left the room dumbfounded.

This same heroic attitude so impressed Franciscan University officials during her 1990 visit to the campus that they invited Sr. back, this time to receive the Poverello Medal. This medal is the University's highest honor. It is awarded annually to individuals or groups who exemplify the spirit of charity that animated the life of St. Francis of Assisi. As Franciscan University celebrates its new international dimension with the opening of its East Campus in Austria, it seemed fitting to honor an individual and a country who have kept the flame of faith burning despite every attempt to extinguish it. Sr. Nijole felt unworthy to receive such an honor, but she consented to accept it on



William Kolicius, Pittsburgh, Fr. Saulius Laurinaitis, Steubenville, OH, John Baltrus, Pittsburgh, Sr. Nijole Sadunaitė, Msgr. Vytautas Balčiunas, Putnam, CT, Andrew Rozgar, Pittsburgh, PA.

behalf of the Lithuanian people.

The gap, however, between accepting the invitation and traveling to Steubenville to receive the medal in person was equivalent to a small abyss. Sr. Nijole discovered that her passport was full, leaving no room to stamp her visa. As required, she filed her application, knowing that the serpentine process was not likely to be completed before her departure date. "But God wanted me here," she confesses with a knowing smile. Without solicitation from Sr. Nijole or her friends and for no apparent reason, a government deputy with communist views took it upon himself to push her visa through. He even secured a business visa so that Sr. Nijole would not have to travel to St. Petersburg, a requirement for all personal visas.

Not only was God's hand evident in the provision of her visa, but also in the awarding of the Poverello Medal on Dec. 7, the liturgical feast of the Immaculate Conception. "It is fitting that I receive this award on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is the patronal feast of my religious order the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate," Sr. Nijole beams with joy, gratitude and love. "What makes us Christian is nothing else but love. How much we love our neighbor and other men — that is how much we love God Whatever you do to the smallest — to the one who has no place for God in his heart — whatever you do to him you do to Christ. This is the essence of Christianity." Clearly Sr. Nijole spread this essence throughout her imprisonment and even now as the battle intensifies.

In an uncharacteristically somber tone, Sr. Nijole speaks of the powers of darkness triumphing in her beloved homeland. "For 50 years, Lithuania was fighting the horror of communism. We have defended our nation, but now there is another battle in front of us, the battle against spiritual deformation," Sr. Nijole warns. "The spiritual bondage is much more dangerous than it used to be We were persecuted, but we had spiritual freedom." Sadly, in the past year, pornography, vandalism, theft, the black market and sexual crimes have proliferated, instigated and supported by the enemies of Lithuanian independence.

"The KGB and communists are intent on destroying Lithuania," Sr. asserts. "They want to show the rest of the world that without Soviet support, our country is bankrupt — economically and spiritually. Using the dissatisfaction of the people, they want to launch another coup." Unfortunately, the lives of many Lithuanians still bear the marks of suffering and pain. For example, KGB controlled seminaries attempted to make priests their agents. Those who did not sign were beaten and tortured as examples to others. Sr. Nijole sadly shakes her head as she describes how many priests who have been ordained don't have the priestly spirit and how their evil

has spread even to those who are good. But Sr. Nijole brightens when speaking of how the developed nations can help. "If they could support seminaries with orthodox catechetical materials, the seminaries could be enriched by that. There is a spiritual famine in our country, and we need to feed our priests so that they can feed our people."

Today, Sr. Nijole invests most of her waking hours in the spiritual revitalization of her homeland, especially among youth. Working with Caritas, a Catholic charitable organization based in the capital city of Vilnius, she travels from school to town, holding meetings in auditoriums and convention centers. Her message proclaims the integral connection between faith and the preservation of their homeland. "The greatest richness we have is belief in God," she avows. "If we destroy our religious values, then the spirit of materialism will destroy and kill us. It will give no joy, no freedom."

Her meetings are well received, even by those with communist views and their press. "This is a very great reward for me," Sr. Nijole acknowledges, since most of the teachers and youth have been misled to think that all believers are mindless remnants of the medieval era. "But when they meet us," she beams, "they see that we aren't crazy but that we desire to help each other — bringing love, joy and happiness regardless of beliefs and differences."

When pressed about ways those in Steubenville and other places can help the people of Lithuania, Sr. Nijole says: "Some people in Lithuania want to restore a church that was destroyed by atheists in the town of Naujojivilnia. The title of the church will be Our Holy Lady, Queen of Peace. It will be a type of oasis for people from different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds so that they will feel like they are all children of the same mother."

As Sr. Nijole speaks of her sufferings, past and present, one can't help but marvel at her unwavering assurance of God's providence. When asked to reflect on the most valuable lesson she has learned in life, she responds, "I am convinced that the weakest person, when he trusts in the grace of God, when he leans on God, is undefeatable. Everything is possible — there are no limitations to him who loves God. This is what gives many people their joy and optimism. We are not great in numbers, but it is the quality that matters.

Indeed, like the glowing embers after a magnificent fire, the radiance of joy that comes from Sr. Nijole's interior life warms and attracts those nearby. "According to love we are going to be judged," she serenely exhorts. And by that standard, Sr. Nijole Sadunaite will assuredly receive her eternal reward.

(Reprinted with permission from Franciscan Way)

ON GETTING ALONG.

Joanna Neviera

Do you ever notice how some people can enter a room full of strangers and, a few hours later, leave a room full of friends?

Invariably, they're the same men and women who seem to get tapped for promotions just a little faster and a bit more than their fellow workers, who are earmarked for leadership, who get invited places, who really enjoy life.

What secret charm do these people possess? What qualities are essential to be this type of individual? The answer is simple — all that is required is a mastery of the gentle art of getting along with people.

Many studies have been made to determine how to get along with people; many books have been written to help people to learn how to get along with others; many lectures have been delivered on this topic. Yet, many people find it so hard to get along with others. There is a basic rule that must be followed — selfishness must be ruled out! You must be interested in the people you hope to make your friends.

From the surveys written, there are six "rules" that predominate in getting along with people.

The most truly personal possession anyone has is his name. He always likes to hear it, especially from strangers, for it really means, "I recognize and am interested in you." Therefore, whenever possible, call a person by name.

There is at least one genuinely praiseworthy thing about everybody; pay at least one true compliment. The hardest people will soften a little - maybe even a lot - if you recognize and compliment them on their achievements.

However, there is nothing more disastrous than a synthetic compliment, one that lacks a basis in fact. The field for the true compliment is limited only by your interest in a

person - and your powers of observation. Look for something you can sincerely admire, and do.

Another point worth remembering is to ask people their opinion about something on which they are an authority. Everyone likes to have a chance to talk about something that they know well. Give new people you meet this chance.

One of the most successful salesmen of a nationality known firm confided his secret to his sales manager. He always managed to compliment a man in front of that man's wife or employer. Make people feel important in front of others! It costs you nothing; it's worth millions to them.

The fifth point to remember is to ask "the magic question." The question: "And then what did you do (or say)?" after a person begins talking. The question never fails, for it subtly suggests open-eyed admiration for the speaker and interest in his past.

The last point to remember is to repeat a previous remark that your new friend has made. There is no greater compliment you can pay another person's intelligence than to be so thoroughly impressed with something he has said that ten or fifteen minutes later you find occasion to repeat it back to him, word for word.

These are but a few points taken from various studies on how to get along. They all seem to have the same things in common - you must make the other person feel that he is important to you; that his interests are yours; that his accomplishments, however slight, are worthy of recognition; that he really is "someone".

And finally, we cannot err in "getting along" if we remember the age-old words of wisdom - "To make a friend; be a friend."

.....

I dreamed death came to me last night
 And heaven's gates swung wide.
 With gentle grace St. Peter ushered me inside
 And before my very eyes
 Stood friends I'd known on earth
 Some I'd labeled as unfit -
 And of little worth.

Indignant words rose to my lips
 But never were set free. . . .
 Cause every face showed stunned surprise,
 No one expected me!
 "Lord, teach me to be humble."

Author unknown
 Submitted by Audrey Toole, C-50

LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF HEAVEN

George Anthony (Cizauskas) Antonelli

On March 14, Dr. James and Mrs. Bonnie Yankauskas together with daughter, Linda, hosted a Lithuanian Independence Day party in Chapel Hill, NC. In addition to serving as hostess, Bonnie, with the help of Eileen Antonelli, prepared a traditional Lithuanian meal. There were several appetizers consisting of stuffed cucumbers, herring in wine sauce, together with the traditional black bread spread with a variety of toppings. The entree and side dishes were mouth watering, braised beef with horseradish stuffing, stuffed cabbage rolls, kugelis, radish salad, carrots with dill, hot red cabbage, sauerkraut with caraway seeds. The desserts topped of the meal with strawberry torte, an apple strudel and a cottage cheese pudding with cherry sauce.

The guests attending this celebration were Mr. & Mrs. Yesulaitis, Dr. & Mrs. Stan Munsat, Mr. & Mrs. Jake Dunlop, Dr. & Mrs. George Antonelli, all of Chapel Hill; Mr. & Mrs. Rob Silbajoris and children Emily & Lydia of Durham, and John Gozjack, a Knights of Lithuania member from Burlington.

In addition to the great food and stimulating conversations, many Lithuanian artifacts were displayed such as flags, maps, T-shirts, and many items of amber. There was a poster that contained the howling wolf before the Tower of Gediminas, the charging Vytautas Knight and a beautiful picture of the Lithuanian countryside. The importance of the Lithu-



John Silbajoris with display of Lithuanian magazines.

anian heritage was documented by several publications: Lituana: Lithuanian Quarterly Journal of Arts and Sciences; VYTIS of the Knights of Lithuania; Bridges of the Lithuanian-American News Journal, and the Observer. In short, the message was clear: "Lietuva, Tu Mūsų Viena".

The memorable evening ended with Bonnie Yankauskas accompanying the group singing the Lithuanian National Anthem. Needless to say, a good time was had by all on Lithuanian Independence Day in the southern part of Heaven, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. "Te skamba Laisvė Lietuvoj."

(Ed. As we go to press, newly formed Council 155 in Burlington, NC has signed up ten new members with many future prospects in sight).



Bonnie Yankauskas & Eileen Antonelli, hostesses at K of L meeting.



Pres. of C-155 Burlington, NC John Gozjack with Rob Silbajoris at first kick-off K of L meeting.

EARLY LITHUANIAN NEWSPAPERS

by John R. Mankus, Lithuanian Cultural Chairman

The first Lithuanian newspaper was published in 1832 in the city of Tilze. Its title was "NUSIDAVIMAI APIE EVANGELIJOS PRASIPLATINIMĄ TARP ŽYDŲ IR PAGONIŲ". Shortly after the initial publication, its editors moved the publishing headquarters to Karaliaučius. Both cities are in Lithuania Minor (East Prussia).

Its articles were mainly of religious nature, just as the early Lithuanian books were of religious nature and as the title indicates, its mission was to spread the gospel among Jews and pagans. However, in 1849, Karaliaučius professor Kuršaitis, published "KELEIVIS", also in Lithuania Minor. Its articles and views were pro German Prussian rather than Lithuanian Prussian or Lithuanian. It did provide a certain amount of autonomy to the Prussian Lithuanians who still formed the majority of the population in this area. It was the beginning of Lithuanian newspapers both in Lithuania Minor and Lithuania Major. These early Lithuanian newspapers had to be smuggled into Lithuania Major, as the Russian Tsars, who occupied Lithuania, forbade Lithuanian publications.

In 1878 the first truly pro Lithuanian newspaper was established by Prof. Sernas. It was called, "LIETUVIŠKA CEITUNGA". Its articles openly proclaimed pro nationalistic views and called for closer ties with Lithuania Major. In fact many of its staff were from Lithuania Major and later were instrumental in starting newspapers in Lithuania Major. These "revolutionary" views did not go unnoticed by the German authorities, who threatened to close the newspaper unless the Lithuanian patriotic articles ceased to be published. The editors did comply to strict German censorship to temper its views to reporting current news events as approved by the German authorities.

It should be noted that the Lithuanian Prussians had been under German domination for centuries and that the Prussian Lithuanian language, a dialect of Lithuanian, had become extinct in the late seventeen hundreds, due to the German cultural genocide against the Lithuanian Prussians.

Finally in the late eighteen hundreds, an upsurge of Lithuanian newspapers took place. The major publications were "AUŠRA" in 1882, whose editor Dr. Jonas Basanavičius is credited in reawakening the Lithuanian spirit, "VARPAS" published in 1889, its many patriotic articles openly called for the elimination of Russian and Polish influence in Lithuania and especially to the domination of the Catholic Church

in many sections of Lithuania by Poland. "ŽEMAIČIŲ IR LIETUVOS APŽVALGA" published in 1890, its articles called for the elimination of foreign influence, especially Russian, on the Lithuanian youth, urging parents not to send their children to Russian controlled schools and for greater unity with the Catholic Church controlled by Lithuania. "TĖVYNĖS SARGAS" published in 1896 by Juozas Tumas Vaižgantas contained similar views as "APŽVALGA" but the tone of its articles was milder.

These early newspapers not only provided a stepping stone to other Lithuanian publications but also the reawakening of the LITHUANIAN SOUL.

.....

VARDUVA

(Gardi, Žemaičių Kalvarija)

Regina Kot

Varduva is a small town in northwestern Lithuania, 24 km northwest of Telšiai. The Varduva River and its tributary, the Pagardenis, flow through the town. The population in 1970 was 668. After World War II, under the Soviet system, the town was made a collective farm center. The oldest historical (1253) designation for the locality was Gardai. It was donated to the bishop when the diocese of Samogitia was created (1417). In 1637 Bishop George Tyszkiewicz (Tiškevičius) established the Dominican Friars there; for them he built a monastery, a church and along the banks of the Varduva nineteen chapels, each of them representing a particular stage of the passion of Christ.

Because of the Stations of the Cross, completed in 1642, the locality came to be known as Žemaičių Kalvarija (The Calvary of Samogitia).

At about the same period, a painting of the Madonna and Child brought from Rome and held to be miraculous, was installed over the main altar of the church. In a short while, the Calvary of Samogitia became a widely known shrine, attracting numerous visitors. On the annual feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (July 2), several tens of thousands made the pilgrimage to the shrine. The present brick church built in 1896 can hold up to 2,500 people. In the 19th century, an 8th class gymnasium (high school) main-

(Continued Page 22)

A 'MATURE' LOOK AT

MEAN
MOTHERS

It is only becoming adults that we can fully understand the difficulty of the responsibilities of Motherhood. In celebrating this MOTHER'S DAY, consider the following excerpts from an anonymously written essay.

She recalled the painful years when she was growing up.

"I had the meanest mother in the whole world," this anonymous person wrote. "While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs and toast. When others had Coke and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich ...

"My mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were on a chain gang. She had to know who our friends were and what we were doing.

"... she actually had the nerve to break the child labor laws — she made us work! We had to wash all the dishes, make beds, learn to cook and all sorts of cruel things She always insisted on us telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she was much wiser, and our lives became even more unbearable. None of this tooting the horn of a car for us to come running. She embarrassed us to no end by making our dates and

friends come to the door to get us.

"... while my friends were dating at the mature ages of 12 and 13, my old-fashioned mother refused to let me date until I was 15.

"Look at all the things we missed. We never got to take part in a riot, burn draft cards and a million other things our friends did. She made us grow up into God-fearing, educated, honest adults.

"... I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my own children call me Mean. You see, I thank God he gave me the 'Meanest Mother in the Whole World.' From this, I would say the country doesn't need a five-cent cigar; it needs more Mean Mothers — and Dads."

MOTHER'S DAY, a holiday celebrated on the second Sunday in May, in honor of all mothers, was instituted in the United States in 1907. The festival, recognized by the United States Congress in 1914, is generally observed in the United States and to some extent elsewhere.

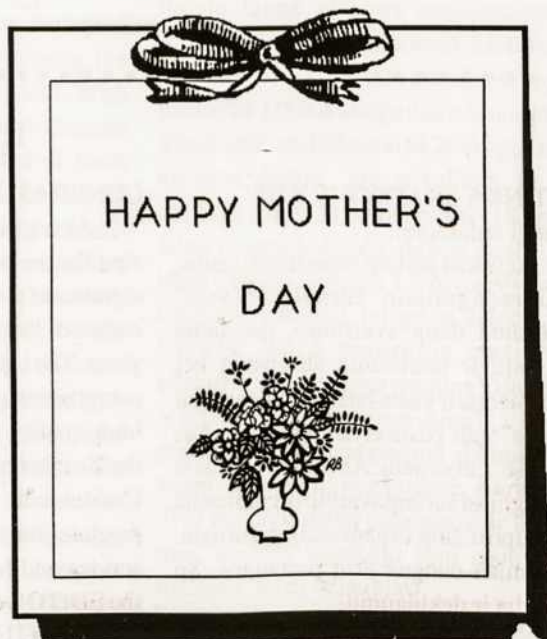
MAMA

Mama, mama mamytė geroji,
Tu mus užauginai ir uoliai globoji;
Mūs šeimynoj tu geriausia,
Visiems esi maloniausia
Mamyte brangioji.

Ačiū tau mamyte už gerą širdelę!
Lai geras Dievulis duod tau sveikatėlę
Daug tau reikėj' iškentėti,
Kol turėjai mus auklėti,
Mamyte kantrioji.

Mes mylėsim Dievą kaip mus išmokinai,
Ir nuolat garbinsim Jį čia ir amžinai.
Melsim Dievą Geradėją
Tau malonių ateityje,
Mamyte geroji.

Prel. M.J. Urbonas, LL.D.



Lithuanians in the News

CITY ARTIST'S CROSS TO STAND IN LITHUANIA

Artist Salvadore DeFazio has created a sculpture entitled "Cross of Faith, Cross of Triumph." The sculpture was presented during the Knights of Lithuania celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day.

The work was inspired by the "Hill of Crosses," a hill in Lithuania where the faithful have placed hundreds of crosses during their vigilance for freedom. The sculpture will be sent to the Lithuanian people in celebration of their independence, which was gained a year ago. The sculpture which stands eight feet high and five feet wide, represents the Lithuanian faith experience and the country.

Artist Salvadore DeFazio, right, presents a sculpture entitled "Cross of Faith, Cross of Triumph" to Rev. Carmen Perry, pastor of St. Peter & Paul's Lithuanian Church.



LETTERS

PATINKA SKAITYT 'VYTIS'

Brangi redaktorė:

Ačiū kad jūs taip rūpestingai sumaniai redaguojate žurnalą "Vytis" įnešdama daug svairumo, duodama religinių ir patriotinių straipsnių bei informacija ir viska laiku paruošate kad "Vytis" gali pasirodyti reguliariai kas mėnesė. Labai ačiū. Aš mylių Vyčius ir džiaugiuosi šia taip svarbio organizacija bei stipriu šios organizacijos žurnalu. Telaimina dangus jūsų pastangos. Su pagarba ir dekingumu.

Prel. J. Prunskis

CONGRATULATES VYTIS

As a reader of the VYTIS magazine for the past fifty years, I note the significant progress made in the publication of this magazine these past few years. The lay-out, selection of articles, composition and headings - all reflect a high quality of journalism worthy of the Knights of Lithuania organization. Undoubtedly all K of L members appreciate your competence and dedicated service and hope you will continue as the EDITOR of VYTIS for many years. CONGRATULATIONS on your suc-

cess in placing the VYTIS magazine in the ranks of distinguished journals.

*Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas
Spiritual Advisor
Mid-America K of L District*

CORRECTS AUTHOR'S MIS-STATEMENTS

The VYTIS March issue ran an article entitled, "Freedom for Lithuania" by Leonard T. Brazis, in which the writer's sympathy for Lithuania, so evident throughout the article, is to be commended. However, the same can-

not be said about Mr. Brazis' interpretation of Lithuanian history.

The author states that the Russian Czar, Nicholas II, "having no economic or political obligation to hold onto this land, formally recognized (Lithuania's) declaration of independence." The facts are otherwise.

At the time of Lithuania's declaration of independence, Nicholas II was a prisoner of the Bolsheviks and Lithuania was suffering under a severe German military occupation. In fact, it was compelled to invite a German duke, Prince William of Wittenberg, to become king of Lithuania under the title of Mindaugas II. It's a curious and largely forgotten historical anomaly that, had imperial Germany won the war, Lithuania would have been a monarchy under German protection. By Nov. of 1918, however, the Allied forces in the West forced Germany to sue for an armistice, at which time Lithuania asserted its right to become a free and democratic republic, subsequently so recognized by the League of Nations and its many members.

Mr. Brazis' second misconception is that Lithuania merged with Poland during this time "to form a powerful political voice in Europe." The facts are that the Poles were one of three hostile forces threatening Lithuanian independence. The others were the Bolsheviks and roving bands of German military adventurers. All three inflicted further suffering upon a people who had already suffered under the harsh yoke of German military occupation. The Poles, however, were probably the most serious threat since a large, reconstituted Poland, under the leadership of a Polonized Lithuanian, Marshal Pilsudski, sought to abort its smaller neighbor. In this, Poland failed, but it did seize Vilnius by force and ignored the early attempts of the League of Nations to return Lithuania's historic

capital to the Lithuanian people. Poland, in fact, was the first country after World War I to defy the League of Nations, much to its regret some years later.

Perhaps Mr. Brazis had in mind the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth formed in 1569 which was indeed "a powerful European voice" until its dissolution by Catherine the Great of Russia in 1795.

A third misstatement is the writer's assertion that the former Stalingrad is a seaport on the Baltic. Stalingrad (renamed Volgograd by Krushchev in 1961) is about a thousand miles from the Baltic. Its historic importance is that Hitler's legions were stopped here by the Red Army in 1942, ending the German drive to annihilate Soviet resistance. Mr. Brazis may have meant Leningrad (renamed today St. Petersburg) which fits his description of this port as being frequently unnavigable in the winter.

Finally, Mr. Brazis demeans Lithuania's economic worth to the former Soviets. On the contrary, Soviet data, as amended by the Wharton Forecasting Association, reveal that Lithuania, despite its small size, occupied seventh place as exporter among the fifteen Soviet republics in 1988. With regard to agriculture alone, Lithuania was the fifth largest supplier of meat and dairy products to the other Soviet Republics, a matter of considerable importance to the food-short republics comprising the former Soviet Union. A highly significant point made by the Wharton economists is that, on a per capita basis, Lithuanian exports of both agricultural and industrial goods (and those of its Baltic neighbors) were the highest within the former Soviet Union. It is not surprising therefore that Gorbachev imposed a severe economic blockade on Lithuania after it had reasserted its independence on March 11, 1990, hoping thereby to compel this

productive country to remain within the Soviet orbit.

Setting the record straight on these matters is necessary, not least to give due credit to the achievements of a small country struggling under the most difficult circumstances.

Albert Cizauskas

THANK-YOU'S TO AID TO LITHUANIA COMMITTEE Didžiai gerbimas Robertai:

Labai dėkoju už jūsų didžiulę pagalbą Lietuvai. Visa laika prisimenu malonų pokalbį su jumis telefonu iš p. Rasos darbo vietos Lietuvių katalikų religinės šalpos Niujorke. Su didžiuliu malonumu prisimenu susitikimą su jūsų broliu Vincentu Boris. Jis mane pavaišino labai skaniais pietumis labai gražiame restorane Baltimorėje.

Prieš kelias dienas gavau p. Rasos Razgaitienės laišką, kur praneša, kad ji atsistatydina iš Lietuvių katalikų religinės šalpos specialiu projektų vedėjos pareigų. Rasa šiame laiške pranešė kad jūs sutinkate isijungti į dializės mašinų projektą. Tai būtų labai didelė laimė visiems sunkiausiems inkstų ligomis sergantiems Lietuvos ligoniams. Nes mes šiuo metu Lietuvoje turime tik 1/5 reikalingu dializės mašinų ir todėl galima dializuoti tik 20% ligonių, kuriems dializė yra reikalinga. O ir rusiškos mašinos, kurių turime 18, yra labai blogos kokybės, dažnai genda ir labai vargina ligonius. Lietuvos Vyčių, Lietuvių katalikų religinės šalpos ir George Ward nupirkto mašinos paskirstytos taip: 3 yra pas mus Vilniuje ir 2 Šiauliuose. Iš jų gerai dirba 3. Viena panaudojome atsarginėms dalims, o viena sugedo ir negauname siurblio. Trys mašinos dirba puikiausiai ir ligoniai, kuriuos išgelbėjo jūsų atsiastos mašinos, labai dėkingi.

Mano klinikoje buvo George Ward ir Michael Jud. Jie matė jūsų nupirktas

mašinas, kurios gerai dirba. Jie pamatė mūsų darbą ir, atrodo, neblogai įvertino. Jeigu mes turėtume gerus instrumentus ir pakankamai mašinų, tai Lietuvos žmonės galėtų gauti gerą medicininę pagalbą. Aš tikiu, kad specialios inkstų ligoniams pagalbos projektas su jūsų pagalba, bus toliau vykdomas. Jeigu būtų proga ir galimybė, tai mūsų klinikai ir Lietuvos ligoniams labai reikalingi urologiniai instrumentai ir equipment for renal angiography.

Dar karta labai dėkoju už jūsų didžiulę pagalbą Lietuvos nefrologijai ir urologijai, linkiu jums daug laimės ir geros sveikatos dirbujantis kilniam sunkiausiu Lietuvos inkstų ligonių labui.

Balys Dainys

Nefrourologijos

klinikos vedėjas

Didžiai gerb. Robertas Boris

Šiuo sunkiu Lietuvoai laikotarpiu mes kiekvienas pajutome mūsų tautiečių, mūsų nauju draugu rūpestį ir didelę materialinę ir dvasinę paramą, kuri mums labai reikalinga.

Dekojame Dievui ir likimui, kad yra tokių žmonių, jūs ir jūsų kolegos, kurie paaukojo mums vaistus ir kitas medicinines priemones.

Morime perduoti ir nuoširdžiausią mūsų ligoninėje besigydančiųjų padėką. Jie su viltimi ir tikėjimu priima kiekvieną jūsų dovaną.

Savo padėką norėtime perduoti Jono Basanavičiaus žodžiais: "Kaip aušrai auštant nykšte ant žemės nakties tamsybė, o kad taip prašvistų ir Lietuvos dvasia! Toks mūsų troškimes ir noras."

R. Turčinskas

Marijampolės rajono centrinės ligoninės vyr. gydytojas

VYČIUI:

Dėkojame už 56 knygų siunta, uria gavome 1991 m. gruodžio mėn. Jomis naudojasi mūsų mokyklos lietuvių literatūros mokytojai ir vyresnių klasių mokiniai. Su nuoširdžią pagarba ir dėkingumu.

44-osios VIDURINĖ

MOKYKLA

ir direktorius Vilniaus Miesto

Dear Bob:

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Knights of Lithuania as well as to you personally for your efforts on behalf of the sick and needy of Lithuania. Since the Knights of Lithuania initiated its program of medical assistance for Lithuania, our country has benefited both materially and spiritually.

The medicines, supplies and equipment provided by you through World Medical Relief have helped Lithuania to achieve a higher standard of medical care. Our CARITAS pharmacies and our fledgling diagnostic center are flourishing in large part due to your gifts. Here, the poor and otherwise helpless can come for the type of assistance not available to them elsewhere.

Once again, let me express the thanks of CARITAS, as well as the people of Lithuania.

*Most Rev. Sigitas Tamkevičius
President - CARITAS*

(Continued from Page 19 - VARDUVE)

tained by the Dominicans was in operation.

Simonas Daukantas and Bishop Motiejus Valančius studied there. The school was shut down by the Russians in 1836, the monastery in 1889. The Marians founded in 1927 continued the Dominican tradition during the independence period until the first Soviet occupation (1940). Following the second Soviet occupation, the name Žemaičių Kalvarija was changed to Varduva (1964).

God give me eyes that I might see
the work that can be done by me.
God give me ears that I might hear
the cry of those who need me near.
God give me lips that I might comfort
and peace to all who seek.
God give me mind that I might know
how to help those who need me so.
God give me hands that I might do
some large or simple tasks just for You.

(Author unknown)

The sad thing about Mother's Day is that we only celebrate it once a year.

What folks say probably won't influence your life; how you respond undoubtedly will.

No one can live wrong and pray right; and no one who prays right can live wrong.

Egotism: Keeping an I on everything.

Lithuanian Kitchen - Lietuviška Virtuvė

CHEESE SORREL SQUARES

Rūkštynių Apkėpas

4 tbsp. butter	1 tsp. baking powder
4 large eggs	1 cup grated Andrulis
1 cup flour	Lithuanian cheese
1 cup milk	1 cup cooked, chopped
1 tsp. salt (optional)	drained sorrel
4 pieces bacon, fried & crumbled	

Melt butter in 9" x 13" baking dish in oven and swirl butter about pan evenly, In large bowl beat eggs, add flour, salt, baking powder, milk and mix thoroughly. Add drained sorrel, cheese, bacon bits; mix and spoon into baking dish. Bake at 350° or until done and lightly browned. Remove, cool slightly and cut into serving pieces.

POTATO AND SAUERKRAUT CASSEROLE -

Bulvių ir Kapūstų Apkėpas

4 baking potatoes, peeled and sliced
2 lbs. sauerkraut, rinsed and drained
2 large onions, peeled and chopped °
1/4 lb. bacon or salt pork, chopped.

Saute bacon or salt pork pieces in frying pan; add onion and cook until lightly browned. Drain off excess fat and, if desired, remove bacon or pork bits. Spread out one-fourth of onion mixture on bottom of a 9" x 13" baking pan and cover with a layer of sliced potatoes; place a layer of sauerkraut; season if desired. Continue layering, ending with a layer of potatoes with an onion topping. Bake 40-45 mins. or until browned on top and vegetables are cooked.

RADISH SALAD - Ridikų Salotas

1 large black radish, peeled and thinly sliced
1 large carrot grated salt (optional)
1/2 cup sour cream

Place peeled, sliced radish into bowl, sprinkle with salt; allow to stand for a few minutes. Place a dish over the bowl and shake the bowl for a few minutes (this procedure softens the radish and removes excess water). Drain off any remaining liquid. Add grated carrots, sour cream and mix lightly. Place in serving bowl.

RED BEETS WITH HORSERADISH

3 cups cooked or canned	1 tbsp. brown sugar
red beets, drained &	1 tsp. vinegar
coarsely chopped	1/4 tsp. salt

6 oz. prepared cream horseradish

Combine all ingredients. Cover; refrigerate 3 days. Serve with cold meats.

LITHUANIAN BIRDS - Lietuviškių Riestiniai

8-10 thinly sliced chicken,	1 egg
veal, turkey or beef	1/2 cup flour
cutlets	1 carrot, grated
4 tbsp. butter/oleo	1/2 cup sour cream
2 medium onions, chopped	1-1/2 cup chicken broth
1-1/2 cup bread crumbs	Parsley garnish
1/2 cup finely chopped,	Oil for frying
cooked mushrooms	

Dip cutlets in flour, season and set aside. To make stuffing, saute onion in butter; add mushrooms and cook. When done, add bread crumbs, seasonings and egg; mix well. If mixture appears too thick, add some chicken broth. Divide stuffing into equal portions and place on chicken cutlets; roll up and fasten ends with thread. Brown on all sides in hot oil in frying pan. When browned, place meat in heavy saucepan; add carrot, pan drippings and broth. Braise over low heat and when birds are done, remove them and cut off threads. Add 1 tbsp. flour to braising liquid to thicken; bring to simmer and stir in sour cream. Heat again, season to taste. Pour gravy over chicken birds; garnish with parsley and serve.

PEAR UPSIDE DOWN CAKE

1/2 cup butter/oleo	1-1/2 tsp. baking powder
3/4 cup brown sugar	3/4 cup milk
3 peeled, sliced pears	1/3 cup oil
1-1/2 cup flour	1 large egg
1 cup sugar	1 tsp. vanilla

Melt butter in 8" square pan; mix in brown sugar and place sliced pears on mixture, coating them to both sides. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over pears. Bake at 350° for 35-40 mins. or until cake is done. Cool slightly and turn out on serving dish.

K OF L FOUNDATION, INC.

Lithuania is at last free! The work of countless Lithuanians throughout the free world certainly contributed to this wonderful news. The impact on Lithuania is obvious - she is accepted into the community of free nations of the world, she becomes a member of the United Nations, her borders are open to diplomats, dignitaries, businessmen and tourists.

But what is the personal impact on each of us! How has Lithuania's independence affected each of our lives? Do we speak more freely about our heritage, or have we become more lay-back about it? Are we still interested in her well-being or are we going to "take a rest"? What new projects will we get involved in now to help Lithuania, if any?

The Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc. is providing each member an opportunity to share his or her ideas on these questions, through its annual essay contest. The contest, made possible by the generosity of Msgr. Juozas Prunskis, has as its theme "What Impact did Lithuania's regained Independence have on me and my awareness of my Lithuanian heritage?" Please consider this topic and your ideas by entering the contest. A formal announcement of the contest appears below.

The Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt endowment fund which uses the interest from its investments to finance cultural and religious projects of the K of L. This contest is just one of its projects. It needs your support to grow. A donation of \$100 entitles a council or an individual to membership and thus supports the Knight's future. Are you a member of the Foundation? If not, why not join today?

ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

TOPIC: What impact did Lithuania's regained independence have on me and my awareness of my Lithuanian heritage?

LENGTH: 450 to 500 words (count all words).

DEADLINE: June 15, 1992. Essays received after this date will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY: A contestant must be a Knights of Lithuania member (Honorary, regular or associate) in good standing or a member of a Junior Council which is duly registered with the Supreme Council.

CRITERIA: Essays will be judged on content, originality, and attention to contest topic. Correct grammar and neatness will also be considered in judging.

Loretta Stukas

MANUSCRIPT: Must be typed or written legibly, double spaced. The first page should contain only your name, address, council number, and the essay title. Succeeding pages should contain the essay contents but not your name. This is to assure anonymity in judging.

PRIZES: 1st Prize - \$300.
2nd Prize - \$200.
3rd Prize - \$100.

JUDGES: Adolf Klova (AMD), Clemencine Miller (NED), Evelyn Ozelis (MAMD), Aldona Ryan (MCD), Loretta Stukas (MAD), Bruno Rutkunas (1991 contest winner).

MAIL TO: Aldona Ryan, 6591 McEwen Rd., Centerville, OH 45459.

WINNERS: Will be announced July 17, 1992 during the 79th National Convention in Allentown, PA. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.

SPONSOR: Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc. via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.

BROTHER JUNIPER



DEBORAH HOSPITAL TO SEND OPERATING TEAM TO LITHUANIA

Deborah Hospital in New Jersey, one of the outstanding heart and lung specialty hospitals has announced plans for a trip to Vilnius by a medical team of about 30 people from the institution to perform surgery on 15 to 20 Lithuanian children sometime at the end of September. While there, the team will also conduct a symposium for Lithuanian physicians and make plans to invite Lithuanian medical personnel to Deborah for further study.

An advance team of about eight people will travel to Vilnius in May to see the hospital, the operating rooms, the equipment and the level of nursing skills available, and to consult with Dr. Vytautas Sirvydas to make plans for the September trip.

Because the bylaws of the Deborah Hospital Foundation prohibit the use of Deborah funds for travel, it is up to us, the Lithuanian American community to assist with the airfare for the team trips in May and September. An estimated \$50,000 will be needed for this cause. Surgery and consultation costs will be covered by the hospital.

Similar programs have been carried out most successfully in Georgia, Poland, the Ukraine and Armenia. Help for Lithuania by Deborah began in winter 1991 when 6-month old infant Mige Grigutis was brought from Lithuania for major heart surgery as part of their "Children of the World" program. Later, Mige's doctor, Dr. Vytautas Sirvydis, chief cardiac surgeon at Vilnius University Hospital, was accepted for a three month stay at Deborah, at their expense, to observe surgeries and take part in associated consultations.

Lithuanians are indeed grateful to Deborah Hospital for its interest and aid to Lithuania. A campaign to raise the needed funds for the working visits of Deborah's medical personnel has been started under the leadership of Jack & Loretta Stukas of "Memories of Lithuania" and "Music of Lithuania" radio hours. Assistance is expected from local Lithuanian RC parishes and various Lithuanian-American organizations and individuals. This project is a most important one because it aims to save Lithuania's future - her children. We look to all American Lithuanians to assist. Donations of any amount may be sent to: Dr. & Mrs. Jack Stukas, 234 Sunlit Dr., Watchung, NJ 07060. Checks should be made out to: DEBORAH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION with a notation of "Lithuanian Project" on the face of the check. All donations are tax-exempt.

LITHUANIAN GIRL AWAITS EAR SURGERY

Ausra Stropute, a 12-year old girl has come from Lithuania to live in Brockton, MA for six months who was born without a right ear, hoping to return to Lithuania with a new ear and possibly a gift of hearing after surgery. She only has 50 percent hearing in the left ear. Upon examination, it was found that her jaw was not fully developed and surgery will be required on it. As she grows older, her face will become distorted. Since this condition requiring surgery on the girl's jaw must be performed first and will require time for healing, the ear replacement may not take place until summer when the renowned oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Dr. Martin Dunn, may travel to Lithuania with a team to perform the surgery and instruct Lithuanian doctors on the procedure. Dr. Dunn has agreed to perform his services free of charge. The hospital, also, offered to waive all costs of Ausra's hospitalization.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has not yet approved the procedure to replace the ear. Since Dr. Dunn performs this type of surgery in Ecuador and failing to receive FDA approval for the operation, Ausra might have to go to Ecuador for the procedure.

Ausra's legal guardians in Brockton delivered children's hearing aids in Lithuania donated by Dr. Reagan, director of Hearing & Speech Center in Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI. Ausra happened to be one of the beneficiaries of these hearing aids. She regained 100 percent hearing in the left ear as a result of the hearing aid she received through the efforts of SOS Vaikai. Ausra's parents have been trying to obtain help for their daughter since she was born, traveling to see specialists in Moscow and Leningrad who were unable to provide a diagnosis or treatment for the young girl.

Ausra was brought here through the efforts of SOS Vaikai (Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc.) The organization paid for the girl's trip to the United States. She is living with a Lithuanian family, attends St. Casimir's School here and is learning to speak English. SOS Vaikai have sent more than 130 cartons of clothing and toys to Lithuania that were donated. Scandinavian Airlines provided free transportation. Donations for this and other worthy causes may be sent to: Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc., P.O. Box 497, So. Boston, MA 02127. This fund is a charitable, non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

*Oficialus Skyrius**Official News***MESSAGE FROM ARCHIVE COMMITTEE:**

Members and contributors are reminded that when they send material to the Knights of Lithuania Archives, it should be sorted by subject matter, then chronologically and in numerical order, and no more than two of each item. The material, especially photographs, should be dated and the event specified. The material to be sent to the Knights of Lithuania Archives should be addressed as follows:

Knights of Lithuania Archives
c/o ALKA
P.O. Box 608
Putnam, CT 06260

The present Archives Committee consist of the following:

Chairman Longinas Svelnis, 43 Gage St., Needham, MA 02192. (617) 444-7499.

Alexander Akule, 20 Summer Dr., Saugus, MA 01906.

Ruth Krecioch, 15 Rosewood Ave., Cranston, RI 02905.

Joseph White, 427 E. Seventh St., So. Boston, MA 02127

District Representatives

Amber - Anne Challan, C-143

MAMD - Mary Juzenas, C-112

MAD - Eugenia Janonis, C-12

NED - Audrey Toole, C-50

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK DOWNEY
C-3 Philadelphia, PA
† February 21, 1992

STEPHEN VEDESKAS
C-50 New Haven, CT
† March 18, 1992

MONICA BARCAS
C-52 Elizabeth, NJ
† March 28, 1992

GLORIA FLECK
C-100 Amsterdam, NY
† February 22, 1992

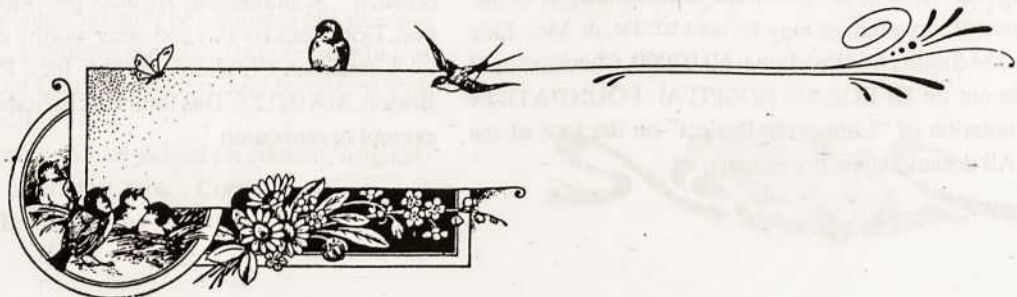
PETRONELLA LUSHIS
C-63 Lehigh Valley, PA
† March 19, 1992

ANTOINETTE VISOCKAS
C-25 Cleveland, OH
† March 30, 1992

BERNARD BORIS
C-116 Worcester, MA
† March 12, 1992

ANNA LESKY
C-144 Anthracite, PA
† March 20, 1992

EDWARD DOWETT
C-50 New Haven, CT
† March 29, 1992





TOUR #622
TOUR #706
TOUR # 803
TOUR #907N

LITHUANIA & NORWAY

15 Day Tour with 4 Days in Vilnius,
2 Days in Kaunas, 1 Day in Šiauliai,
3 Days in Palanga, 3 Days in Bergen.

June 22 - July 6	\$2,489.00
July 6 - 20	2,489.00
August 3 - 17	2,489.00
September 7 - 21	2,489.00



Single Supplement \$299.00
Via SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES

The tour includes in addition to round trip air fare and hotel accommodations three meals throughout the entire tour and daily sightseeing including a fjord cruise.



BALTIC TOURS will assist K of L Councils wishing to organize a council tour to Lithuania and other countries.
For information and reservations, please contact:

Mrs. Albina Rudziunas, C-17 Member
BALTIC TOURS
77 Oak St., Suite 4
Newton, MA 02164
Telephone: (617) 965-8080
FAX: (617) 332-7781

Let's speak Lithuanian — Kalbėkime lietuviškai!

Dalia Bulvičiūtė-Bulvicius, Lithuanian Language

Happy Endings!

Declension of Lithuanian nouns

Vardininkas — kas?
 Kilmininkas — ko?
 Naudininkas — kam?
 Galininkas — ka?
 Įnagininkas — su kuo?
 Vietininkas — kur, kame?
 Šauksmininkas (Exclamatory) o!

Singular

Kas (subject) (who) gėlė yra didelė — the flower is large.
 Ko (what) aš noriu tos gėlės — I desire the flower.
 Kam (For whom) gėlei reikalingas vanduo — the flower requires water.
 Ka (what, direct object) aš matau gėlę — I see the flower.
 Su kuo (with whom) man patinka būti su gėlė — I enjoy being with the flower.
 Kur, kame (in what, where) — gėlė yra daug nektaro — in the flower there is a lot of nectar.
 O! o (oh!) o gėlė gražioji — oh you beautiful flower.

Plural

Kas gėlės — The flowers are large.
 Ko gėlių — I desire the flowers.
 Kam gėlėm — The flowers require water.
 Ką gėles — I see the flowers.
 Su kuo gėlėm - I enjoy being with the flowers.
 Kur, kame — gėlėse yra daug nektaro — there is a lot of nectar in the flowers.

DID YOU KNOW THAT....

— Lietuva yra panašaus didžio (approximately the size) of South Carolina;

— Lietuvos vėliava priešais Jungtines Tautas (UN) plėvesuoja (flies) tarp Luxembourgio ir Liechtensteino vėliavų. Lithuania is the largest in area and population;

— in English — human beings eat, and the animals eat. Not so in Lithuanian: žmogus valgo, gyvulys ėda, paukštis (bird) lesa;

— in English one says you to everybody — Your Excellency; you are a nuisance John! Not so in Lithuanian: There are two forms: the polite — Jūsų Ekscelencija (to a bishop); the familiar — Tu, Jonai eik namo! The familiar form is used for siblings, children, close friend or close relative, usually this use depends on the upbringing of certain families. In our family we called our relatives (especially older ones) — Jūs bobute, (grandmother); Jūs sėneli, (grandfather); Jūs kūma, (Godmother); teta (aunt); dėdė (uncle).

— in Lithuanian one can tell your marital status by your last name's endings — Ms. — Bulvičiūtė; Mrs. — Bulvičiene; Mr. — Bulvičius; Master — Bulvičiukas.

Not the right age!

Ar eisi į Marytės vardadienio balių (name day party)?
 — Negaliu!
 — Kodėl?
 — Pakvietime (the invitation) parašyta: nuo trijų iki šešių, (from 3-6 o'clock) o aš jau septynių!

Smart Cow

Žmogus važiavo per kaimą. Jam sugedo (broke) automobilis. Atėjo karvė iš pievos, pažiūrėjo ir tarė (said):
 — Trūksta alyvos. (You need oil).
 — Žmogus labai išsigando (got very frightened) ir nubėgo pas ūkininką (farmer). Ūkininkas paklausė:
 — Ar karvė turi rudą lopą virš akies?
 — Taip.
 — Tai nekreipk dėmesio. (Don't pay attention). Ji nieko apie automobilius neišmano.

Pronoun lesson — Who me?

— Dariau, (the pupil's name) pasakyk (tell me) du įvardžius. (pronouns).
 — Kas? Aš?
 — Labai gerai!



Council News

Vyčiai Veikia

AMBER DISTRICT

On March 8 delegates from member councils convened in Hazleton for the annual St. Casimir Day Amber District meeting. Host C-118 greeted early arrivals with refreshments of coffee and cake. Mass was held in Sts. Peter & Paul Church starting a ceremonial procession of members wearing costumes and bearing the Amber District flag in church. Statues were draped in traditional purple cloth for Lent. Mass was celebrated by Pastor Carmen J. Perry. He welcomed all council members of the Knights of Lithuania. The offertory procession was a tribute to St. Casimir, patron of the Knights, by members in national dress carrying a replica of a wayside shrine, a portrait of St. Casimir, the national flower of Lithuania, the ruta, and the lily. Also carried was a portrait of Archbishop Matulaitis, bishop of Vilnius, whose cause



Helen Chesko, Ritual Chairlady of Amber District presents certificates to Third Degree recipients of C-144: Betty Tumas, Anna Helen McDonald, Pat Roberts and Anna M. Nardini.

for canonization is being promoted, the Vytis Knight, and wine, water and wafers for the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

After Mass, Vyčiai returned to the parish hall for a hearty luncheon includ-

ing haluski, Lithuanian sausage and bulvinių dešros which were prepared and served by members of host C-118. The hall was festooned with lively tricolored ribbons and bows. Fr. Perry blessed the lovely hand-strung rosaries in Lithuanian colors that were presented to all delegates and guests.

After the official welcome from Pres. Anna Kaschek of C-118, the first order of business was the presentation of the Third Degree by the District Ritual Committee. Diane Drumstas announced the names of the candidates who were pinned with the medals by Anna Challan and then received certificates from Helen Chesko. The twelve Third Degree members are Lorraine Grabauskas, C-146; Della Zvirblis, Leo & Evelyn Zewicki, C-74; Dolores & Charles Yuscavage, Anna Kraschak, Marie Alansky, C-118; Betty Tumas, Pat Roberts, Anna Helen McDonald, Anna M. Nardini, C-144. Francis



Gov. Casey signing Independence Day Proclamation: Seated at right and standing behind the Gov: Anne Wargo, C-144, Dorothy Banos & Nellie Romanas, C-143, Helen Chesko, C-144 & Jeanette & Al Klizas, C-63.

Downey of C-3 was presented the medal posthumously.

Prizes for the annual raffle were awarded as follows: \$300 Bob Mack, Plymouth, PA; \$100 Sophie Wallace, Simpson, PA; \$50 Sandy Evans, Vineland, NJ; G. Tokash, Hazleton, PA; \$25 Jack Hill, Orwigsburg, PA; Tom Hollanduk, W. Hazleton, PA; Jack Ellis, Mays Landing, NJ; Mary Good, Easton, PA. Many thanks to Eleanor Vaicaitis, treas., and Elsie Kosmisky, vice pres. for conducting this important fundraiser. Thanks to Leo Kapochus of C-3 for selling so many chance books with three winners among them.

C-63 Lehigh Valley vice pres. Joseph Simmons requested the district to contribute to the traveling expenses for a Lithuanian fire-fighter to attend Allentown's Firefighting Academy for a free 12-month training program June through August. Of the \$1,200 required for travel expenses, Amber District voted a \$100 donation and collected more than \$100 from member donations Anna Wargo of St. Casimir's Guild recommended that councils adopt one of the fifteen seminarians at the Pontifical College in Rome The district approved the purchase of a portable public address system in the price range of \$250 to \$300 as suggested by Pres. Mickunas A resolution was introduced and carried that the term of district president be limited to three consecutive years and that an interval of at least one year elapse before reelection to the same office Irene Petrauskas narrated the accomplishments of Frank Petrauskas, Mr. Lithuania of C-140 Syracuse. Irene offered his name for consideration as Honorary Member which was approved to be submitted to the Honorary membership Committee of the Supreme Council The Mandate Committee reported 109 Vyčiai in attendance.

The Amber District member coun-

cils will convene for the next meeting on June 14 in Binghamton. C-72 Pres. John Mankus invited delegates and guests to attend Mass at St. Joseph's Church at 10:30 a.m. Fr. Peter Aliauskas led the closing prayer which was a moving plea for Lithuania and relief from her suffering.

Ausra Maknys

MID-AMERICA DISTRICT

The District has been very busy over the past several months. Our councils have been working overtime. On Oct. 20 C-82 joined in the 75th anniversary celebration of St. Casimir's Parish in Gary, IN. The Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Deksnis, Msgr. Urbonas & Rev. Kirelis, and the luncheon following was a tribute to good old fashioned Lithuanian know-how. Congratulations to C-82 member, Sr. Janine Golubickis, who arranged the day's festivities. A memorable time was had by all. Later that day many district members were off to the Martinique Restaurant for the 50th anniversary of ALTAS. Chaired by C-36 member, Evelyn Ozelis, the evening was a wonderful mix of good

food, good music and a lot of fun.

On Nov. 10 the District held its annual Mass for deceased members. Chaired by C-36 at Immaculate Conception parish, Mass was concelebrated by Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, Rev. Fabian Kirelis & Rev. John Savukynas. Following the mass, many members were off to a Memorial Luncheon at Sharko's Restaurant while many others were off to Nativity BVM to attend the joint celebration of C-112 Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Canon Zakarauskas' 60th anniversary in the priesthood and 85th birthday. The MAMD congratulates Father on this momentous occasion in his life. On Nov. 22, the city of Milwaukee played host to the International Folk Fair. C-38 was in charge of the Lithuanian Craft booth which displayed some of the beautiful Lithuanian Christmas ornaments. Hats off to C-38 member Anita Gedville and her committee for doing a wonderful job.

On Dec. 7 C-36 held their 3rd Annual Candlelight Buffet in the Immaculate Conception school hall. All who attended were treated to a memorable evening of good food, good music and



MAMD K of L Man & Woman of the Year awards to Albert Dagis & Eleanor Kasputis of C-112 on St. Casimir's Day.

wonderful memories. Kudos to chairladies Irene Narushis and Helen Meisis and their committee on a job well done. Dec. 13 saw many K of L's traveling to Baltia Restaurant for C-13's Christmas Dance. Paul Strolia and his band entertained. Dec. 14 saw C-24 play host to the district's winter meeting at the Marian Fathers Monastery. Special thanks to C-24 Pres. Stanley Mankus and his hard working council for an enjoyable afternoon. Dec. 15 saw our K of L dancers perform at the Museum of Science and Industry. Under the watchful eye of director, Frank Zapolis, the dancers treated everyone to a splendid performance.

On Dec. 17 C-112 held its Christmas party and raffle at Nativity BVM parish hall. Congratulations to Julie Zakarka and committee on a job well done. Also, a grand raffle was co-chaired by Algerd Brazis & Ellie Kasputis. On Jan. 11 the K of L Choir held their annual Choir Dinner/Dance at Sauliu Hall. The choir gave a wonderful concert under the direction of Faustas Strolia, which really set the tone for a memorable evening. Choir Pres. Sabina Henson can be proud of the job the choir is doing.

On Feb. 2, the MAMD held its 32 Annual "Memories of Lithuania" celebration banquet held at the Martinique Restaurant. The District presented its annual "Award of Distinction" for 1992 to Rita Dapkus. Rita, a Chicago native, is the Director of the Bureau of Information for the Lithuanian Parliament. During the past several years, she has taken her lifelong pride in her Lithuanian heritage to the extreme by living and working in Lithuania. The entertainment for the evening was, as always, first rate. We were treated to a special performance of the K of L dancers followed by soloist P. Ragas, who,



MAMD St. Casimir's Day Third Degree recipients: Susan Binkis & Ann Marie Juraitis of C-112, Frances Urnozias, C-36 & Ausra Padalino, C-24 all from Chicago.

after her program treated us by singing with the District's very own baritone, Algerd Brazis. Special thanks to co-chairs Algerd Brazis & Evelyn Ozelis and their committee on a job well done. On Feb. 22 many members of the district gathered with the family of Albert Zakarka at Nativity BVM for mass on the first anniversary of his death. Though a very moving mass was offered by Fr. Larry, all were saddened as they remembered Al and the vital part he played in the K of L both as our fellow Knight and dear friend. After Mass a memorial breakfast was held by the family.

Our annual St. Casimir's Day commemoration was hosted by C-112. The district gathered on March 8 for Mass, lunch and our first meeting of the year.

Ellie Kasputis

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

The District's annual St. Casimir's Commemoration was held March 8 in Brooklyn, NY hosted by C-41 Pres. William Kumeta and members. We thank them all for their friendly, warm hospitality.

Members assembled with flags, attending the 11 a.m. Mass at Annun-

ciation Church. Mass was concelebrated by Msgr. Frank Bulovas with Rev. Vytautas Palubinskas and Rev. Stasys Raila. Prior to the Mass, Msgr. Bulovas bestowed the 4th Degree Medal and Certificate to Frances Migliore of Maspeth C-110. Congratulations, Fran!

An elaborate program of events was prepared by the host council, a copy of which was distributed to the congregation. All sat in designated areas which were marked off with Lithuanian tri-colored ribbons. The choir, under direction of Gintare Bukauskas had some powerful voices and truly complemented the Mass. They deserve a standing ovation for a job "well done". After Mass, members and guests assembled in the parish hall. Bill Kumeta welcomed everyone to his parish. District Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Bulovas opened the program with a prayer and Pastor Rev. Palubinskas spoke on the life of St. Casimir. HM Joseph Boley read his composition, "Dieve, Neturiu Laiko" (Lord, I don't have time). It was a very moving piece. Rev. Eugene Sawicki, pastor of Our Lady of Vilnius Church, NYC and Rev. Stasys Raila also joined the dais. "Ilgiausiu Metu"



MAD Third Degree Recipients: Joseph Zukas, Bruno Rutkunas, Peter Dykowitz, Brian Rutkunas, John & Amy Girdauskas, George Tamusunas, Joe Stelmokas, Roman Wensek, Irene Senken, Jean Rutkunas, Ann Akilitis, Sophie Wensek.

was sung to Rev. Bruno Kruzas whose birthday was celebrated that week. He is now retired and residing at the Annunciation Rectory. Later in the day, Maryté Shalins was also wished a "Happy Birthday". After the program, everyone helped themselves to a buffet lunch, with seconds available to everyone. A selection of prizes was displayed and some lucky winners went home happy.

The business meeting followed. Mandate figures showed 9 councils represented with a total of 128 present. 1st vice pres. Josephine Zukas read membership figures which, when compared to previous reports, were a little disappointing - mainly due to normal attrition. She urged every council to give support to the membership drive, adding to our numbers. Awards should be presented at the July National

Convention in Allentown, PA. Letters had been mailed to each council president, reminding them that the new yellow-covered 1991 K of L Constitutions were now available and should be ordered from the Nat'l Fin. Sec. A calendar of Council activities was also included, so that members could support other council's affairs. Letters on behalf of the District were mailed to CBS-TV chastising them for their coverage of the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics, putting on a commercial while the Lithuanian team members were marching into the stadium - and to the Coca-Cola Co. thanking them for featuring a Lithuanian cross-country skier in their commercial. Replies were received from both companies.

2nd vice pres. Edward Senken gave his report on Junior councils, and while we are limited in this area, he encouraged all councils to look toward the young for the very existence and continuance of our K of L organization. All executive board members were called on to give their reports. Lithuanian Affairs Chairlady Bernice Aviza intro-



MAD Spiritual Advisor Msgr. F. Bulovas, of Transfiguration, Rev. V. Palubinskas, pastor of Annunciation and Rev. E. Sawicki, pastor of Our Lady of Vilnius Church.

duced Gary Kowalsky, Pres. of Charis Air (Aircraft Management) of Red Hook, NY. They are initiating passenger, charter service, and air freight shipments to Lithuania, commencing May 1 - starting in Chicago, with pick-up in New York (if interest is warranted), directly to Kaunas. His corporation will be subsidizing the joint effort with Air Lithuania. They hope for eight round trips every two weeks from May to August. A resolution was passed to encourage our government representatives to put pressure on Moscow to start evacuating their red army troops from the Baltic countries as soon as possible. Lithuania is now free, and they are not welcome in this country.

So many requests for donations have been received. To raise funds for the District, raffle books for prizes will be distributed at the June meeting. Mary Kober suggested a bus trip to Atlantic City, NJ. This took place on May 14, the bus starting from Great Neck, with a stop in Maspeth. Perhaps more trips can be planned in the future.

A representative from each council present gave reports on what was happening in their area. While activities were varied, most all were helping Lithuania in their own way. We encourage their support.... District representatives at the Supreme Council meeting on March 14 in Waterbury, CT were John Sakal and Josephine Zukas. The Nat'l Pres. presented a long agenda with much to be accomplished.

Our next District meeting will be held June 14 in Kearny, NJ. There will be a 10 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church with lunch immediately after at the Lithuanian Community Center. Donation is \$12.00 per person. Let's all plan to be there.

At our June meeting, nominations will be accepted for positions on the District Executive Board and commit-

tees, with elections to take place at the Sept. District meeting. A nominating committee of Rita Sussko, Bruno Rutkunas and Al Marcel was selected. It is said that any organization is only as strong as its leaders make it. We encourage anyone who is willing to make such a commitment to contact any one of the above members. Supreme council nominations will also be accepted at our June meeting by District Pres. John Sakal for those members interested in accepting a spot on the National Executive Board level. Let's become active in all phases of our K of L organization! GIVE IT A TRY! *Josephine Zukas*

C-3 PHILADELPHIA, PA

Philadelphia began its observance of Lithuanian Independence Day with special Masses at each of the three Lithuanian churches in the city. Later in the day a commemoration was held at Lithuanian Music Hall. Fr. Anderlonis offered the opening prayer and Phila. Mayor, Ed Rendell and Congressmen from Phila. and Delaware addressed the gathering. Many of our Council members were present and stayed to enjoy the social which followed the formal program.

Frank Downey, a member of our council for nine years, died on Feb. 21. Although Frank did not enjoy the best of health, his death was unexpected and saddened all of us. He was a fine gentleman., a regular at council meetings and district conventions. He served on many committees and lent his enthusiasm to all of C-3's endeavors. He was scheduled to receive the Third Degree at the March district meeting and was so proud and happy. The third degree was awarded to him posthumously. Our council held the K of L Wake Service for Frank and he was buried in upstate Pennsylvania. He will be missed by all who knew him. May his soul rest in

peace!

March 1 was the 50th commemoration of St. Casimir's Feast Day sponsored by C-3 at St. Casimir's Church. St. Casimir's Catholic War Veterans Color Guard led the procession into church. Fr. Wassel celebrated the Mass, Philip Bomblauskas was one of the readers and many of our ladies wore their Lithuanian costumes. About 100 guests enjoyed the catered buffet luncheon which followed. Walter Svekla was MC and greetings were extended by John Mickunas, Dianne Drumstas and Fr. Wassel. Irene Svekla, ritual chairlady, presented the 1st degree to Leonard & Marilyn Kapochus, Leon Macionis, Raymond Pandza & Anne Petraitis. The 2nd Degree was presented to Verna Huhn & Dorothy Machonis. We thank each of them for all their hard work and congratulate them on the receipt of their degrees. Keep up the good work! Everyone enjoyed the remainder of the afternoon listening and dancing to the music provided by our DJ, Joe Drumstas. A wonderful day was had by all.

On March 21 our council attended a Holy Hour at St. Casimir Church. The evening consisted of the rosary, stations of the cross and benediction. We thank you for inviting us, Fr. Wassel. This was a nice way to spend a prayerful evening during the holy season of Lent.

Plans are under way for a trip to Baltimore for the Lithuanian Festival. This will be a one-day bus trip. Irene Ozalis, Victor Stepalovitch & Lillian Greymas are busy making the arrangements. *Irene Svekla*

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

Our council observed the Feast of St. Casimir on March 8 by attending Mass in a body at St. Francis Church in Athol. Pastor Rev. Missier along with



C-10 members at home of Margaret Davidonis Senk.

the altar servers and Eucharistic ministers led our group procession into church. Following Mass, about thirty members attended dinner at the King Philip in Philipston. It really was a nice affair and St. Casimir must have been proud of us. Sophie Fiorentino was chairlady of our observance.

Margaret Senk & Lennie Davidonis were recently hospitalized but are back in circulation as was James Eacman of Gardner Dave Lucas spent ten days in Florida and Ann Ambrose spent time in Washington with her daughter Valerie Lil Smith spent the winter months with her son in Arizona It is a grand feeling to see our tri-colors flying at the home of Howie Beaudette each day on busy Route 2 Brone Wisniauskas gave a Lithuanian "margučiq" demonstration to a group at the Philipston Craft Center before the Easter holidays. *Vincukas*

C-12 NEW YORK, NY

The month of March was a month of celebration. We paid tribute to St. Patrick, St. Joseph and, of course, to St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania.

C-12 did not have a March meeting due to celebration of St. Casimir on March 1. Immediately following Mass a short program was scheduled with reading of poetry by Dalia Bulvicius & Aldona Zaunius. The annual Commu-

ion Breakfast took place after the program. The committee is happy to relate that the breakfast was a huge success. Attendance was doubled in comparison to prior years. Many thanks to all who attended. In spite of the unexpected setbacks, we thank those members who rallied to our rescue - they were superb and we thank them. We were honored with the presence of Jack & Loretta Stukas. Jack praised Fr. Sawicki for his prayers that contributed to Lithuania's independence. A tape was shown of the Mass last September for Lithuania's independence. The festivities in the church hall were also shown. The council is most grateful to Mr. Sawicki (no relation to Fr. Eugene) for making this possible.

Aldona Zaunius is back from her cruise in the Caribbean and she said she had a wonderful time The following birthday greetings are in order: February - Jean Janonis & Barbara Kantowicz. March - Ellie Karanauskas, Connie Nehadowich, Stella Marcinauskas, Joe Sleder and Joe Sabal Along with the many members on our sick list, we add Michael Kartanowicz.

The District meeting was held at Annunciation Church Hall on March 8. C-12 is happy to relate that we had a fine representation of two tables We congratulate Fr. Sawicki & Irene

Senken upon their acceptance of the Third Degree. A most enjoyable day was had by all. *IDS*

C-25 CLEVELAND, OH

"Te skamba laisvė Lietuvoje" - Feb. 16 was a day of celebration at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. After the 10 a.m. Mass, ceremonies were held at the outdoor shrine commemorating the anniversary of Lithuania's independence. The day-long activities ended with a concert in the evening. All the organizations of the parish were represented. Rep. Ed Feighan, member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, sent a copy of his remarks from the unanimous passage of the House Resolution commending the people of Lithuania on this occasion.

On March 1, St. Casimir's Day was acknowledged with corporate communion at the morning mass at Our Lady of Perpetual help. Luncheon followed at the Lithuanian Club. Fr. Kijauskas officiated and Msgr. Goldikovskis blessed us. A short monthly meeting preceded the festivities. A generous display of our membership participated.

We wish Ruth Guzauskas a speedy recovery after major surgery. She is recuperating at the home of her sister Rose Rew Host & hostess for our March bowling session were Nelda & Chuck Machutas. T'was the last "to do" in that house. They are moving into a condo in May.

On March 22, C-25 sponsored the parish Koffee Klutch after the 10 a.m. mass. Tony Oberaitis, sgt. at arms, was the chairman with the able assistance from the members who baked and served. Ačiū labai. Proceeds from donations were submitted to the parish general fund The appeal for financial assistance to the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington was recognized.

A stipend was forwarded to help in the maintenance of the Embassy.

QUESTION: Are you earning points toward your next degree? Don't be left out! We need you! *Dolly-O*

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

Observance of the Feast of St. Casimir was held on March 8 with a Mass at St. Casimir's Church Hall with an excellent showing of K of L members. We continued our observance of the annual parish dinner which was held at Maironis Park. The parish choir, under direction of Anne Walinsky, our organist and a member of our council, sang Lithuanian and English songs. Our pastor, Rev. Vincent Parulis, played the piano entertaining us with a medley of tunes. Eduardas Meilus, Jr. with his accordion led a sing-along of Lithuanian folk songs with everybody participating. Copies of the songs were at every table. Ed was also MC.

Our March meeting was especially enjoyable. A very tasty meal of "balandeles" was prepared and served by dinner committee consisting of Anne & Steve Walinsky, Jr., Rita Margosian, Angela Busky, Ellie Walinsky, Mae Anusauskas, Dorothy Virbasius, Vivian Rogers and Paul Puris, "some great cooks".

An epidemic of surgeries seems to have befallen our council. Those who had surgery recently were Lillian Kondrotas, Adella Degutis, Helen Gillus, Anne Bender, Joe Ivaska, Frances Kulakusky, Tony Anthony and Eduardas Meilus, Sr. It is good to see them all well. Moral support was given to some of the above by Judy Maleckas, an anesthesiology technician at St. Vincent Hospital. Judy is at this writing also having surgery. We hope all goes well for her We hope Aldona Waska will be on her feet soon from an ankle injury Just learned that our presi-

dent, Rita Pinkus, was taken to the hospital. We wish all our sick members a speedy recovery Back from their vacations are Teresa & Kazys Adomavicius from Aruba and Millie Lapinskas from Florida. *Anne Leseman*

C-30 WESTFIELD, MA

With the installation of the following slate of officers, C-30 started the year 1992: Fr. Wm. Hamilton, spiritual advisor; James Buckities, pres.; James Adamaitis, vice pres.; Benedict Coach, sec. & Lithuanian Affairs; James Rogers, treas.; Eugenia Duda, Lithuanian culture; Kunigunda Coach, ritual and VYTIS correspondent. Nellie Lord resigned as VYTIS correspondent. We thank you, Nellie, for your many years of service.

As one of the events in honor of the 75th anniversary of St. Casimir's Parish, our council helped prepare Kučios for over 100 parishioners and friends in the church hall on Dec. 21 after the evening mass. Members assumed much of the planning and kitchen duties. Helen

Alexik, Frank Bernardicius, Joseph Buckities, Cooky Coach, Jeanie Duda, Sophie Kucharski, Jim & Marcia Rogers and Louise Renaud made cheese, virtinij, beet mushroom soup, sauerkraut salad, baked fish, boiled potatoes, poppy seed cake, Kalėdų pyraga, breads, fruit compote, marinated herring, fruit and nuts. Jim Rogers is our volunteer baker of very special breads. Cooky Coach was mistress of ceremonies, introducing this beautiful tradition to our guests. Fr. Bill Hamilton blessed the Christmas wafers and gave the evening's blessing. After dinner, he led the singing of Christmas carols. Louise Buckities saved the day by setting up her personal tree decorated with beautiful Lithuanian straw ornaments. It was a memorable evening.

Eugenia Duda had the honor of representing our parish at the installation of the sixth bishop of the Springfield Diocese, Bishop John Marshall. Jeanie presented the Lithuanian petition during the Prayer of the Faithful This winter was somewhat disastrous



C-38 Kenosha International Holiday Folk Fair - Theresa DiCello, pres.; Grace Johnson, sec.; Anita Gedville, vice-pres. and from C-112 Chicago, Bernice Gulli.

to some of our members. Helen Alexik slipped on ice and fractured her elbow Edna Bernardicius also fell and broke her wrist Della Mikelis Zumburski is having a difficult time with a fracture that refuses to heal. She will have further surgery We pray that the good Lord grant these ladies and our long time shut-in Anna Babonis the blessing of good health and comfort.

On March 10, our council observed St. Casimir's Day by attending Mass followed by breakfast at the Sons of Erin Hall, originally St. Casimir's Hall where our parish began. Fr. Martin Henri of the Brothers of Bethany, Holy Trinity Monastery, Palmer, MA who was filling in for Fr. Bill while he was in Rome, celebrated the Mass and was our guest at breakfast.

Sophie Kucharski is enjoying the Florida sunshine. Cooky & Benny Coach spent a few pleasant weeks in Florida and spent a day at the So. Florida Fair. One of the prominent displays at the Fair was the Parade Kodak Freedom Trail photo exhibit containing a large photo of Fr. George Gailusis prayerfully strolling on the grounds of the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, ME. Fr. George can usually be found working in the monastery gift shop.

We are pleased to welcome new members Margaret & Paul Carboneau and children, Dan & Michelle. We also welcome Diane & Frank Baia and Jim Kules. Happy to have all of you with us in C-30. *Cooky*

C-36 CHICAGO, IL

The Mid-America District Memories of Lithuania banquet was well attended by our council members. Many thanks to the committee for a grand evening.

On Feb. 9 we participated in the Lithuanian Independence Day celebra-

tion at Immaculate Conception Church. Frank Grigaliunas carried the District's flag with Helen Kernagis as honor guard. Andrew Boese carried the Junior flag with Lisa Boese, Christine, Allen, Mary, Ann Marie Cius, Anthony, Matthew Apanavicius and Sabina Henson in procession. Many members were present on Feb. 16. Vytautas Dijokas carried the District's flag with Helen Kernagis & Elizabeth Ziba as honor guards. Andrew Boese carried the Junior flag with Lisa Boese & Sabina Henson as honor guards. It was a beautiful procession at Nativity BVM church. Later in the afternoon, we were present at the Altar Program at Maria High School.

On Feb. 14, Evelyn Ozelis and Sabina Henson were invited by Len Petrusis, our member, to be on his radio program. We talked about the activities of the Knights. Feb. 17 was our regular meeting night. J. Garcia, Maria Slas Sauerzapl & Victor Utaras were our guests and brought short messages. Our cultural chairlady Elena Dirutiene presented a beautiful program in observance of Lithuanian Independence Day. Aldona Smulkstys also spoke on Lithuania. William Liauba read a poem in Lithuanian. Elena read a poem which she had written. The program concluded with the singing of Lietuva Brangi with Aldona Grinceviciene as soloist.

On Feb. 29 and March 1, Evelyn Ozelis was the chairperson for Immaculate Conception Mardi Gras. Valio to the workers who helped. A special thanks to Joe Martikonis & Denise Hornik for all the toys they donated. We are very proud of the things that were done and thanks to all. Our booth was outstanding.

What a fun time we had at the Užgavėnių Blinai on Feb. 22 at Seklyčios Hall. When everyone came in, they were greeted by the Butterfly, none other than Sabina Henson. The Brighton

Gypsy, Johanna Johnston, sat at a table collecting ticket money and gazing in the magic crystal ball to foretell one's future. We had the famous apple pancakes. Evelyn Ozelis acted as mistress of ceremonies and what a job she did. The parade included Statue of Liberty of New York Harbor, Elena Sirutis; Statue of Liberty Kaunas, Sabina Henson; Poison Mushroom from Lithuania, Maria Yanusha; Bozo, the Clown, Anna Miksis; Little Red Riding Hood, Grazvyda Giedraitis; Pirate from Spain, William Liauba; Arab, Vytautas Dijokas; Brighton Park Gypsy, Johanna Johnstone; Carmen, Aldona Grincevicius; Rabbit, Marie Cius; Clown, Mary Cius; Ramulelis, Cecilia Miniota; VanGogh the Painter, Al Zykas; Queen Elizabeth, Joan Cius. The winners were: the Rabbit, Statue of Liberty from New York, Brighton Park Gypsy and Poison Mushroom. Everyone applauded and enjoyed the evening. The profit will be donated to medical aid for Lithuania and SOS Vaikai.

We wish all our members who are sick good health. We miss you. Our deceased: Frank Pieza, brother of Stanley Pieza; Josephine Kulys, mother of Joe Kulys; Sister M. Alphonsine. May they rest in peace.

Sabina Henson

C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT

It was with great regret that C-50 members received a letter of resignation from Al Gedrim as financial secretary. Al has been a true K of L'r and has worked tirelessly in trying to recruit new members - seems always to have an application card handy to enroll a new member. Even during his illness he has tried to keep up with the membership dues. We continue to keep Al's well being in our prayers.

We also remember especially in our prayers for good health our fellow

members, Adele Yanus, Marie Antin, Anthony Dickus and Joan Saulys. Deepest condolences go to the families of Ann Kapavitch, Steve Vedekas and Frank Bakaitis, brother of member Marcie Stadolnik. In addition, with the untimely death of Sam Meshako, our sympathy is sent to Marion and her family.

In spite of illness and sadness, C-50 continues to work and move forward. Our "travel lady" Irene Meizies is planning trips for the future. All members look forward to our upcoming activities - our parish food fair, our pancake breakfast, our national convention, etc., etc. Our president, Frank Peterson, is working hard to keep pace with his council, district and national activities.

Audrey M. Toole

C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

At the observance of the Feast of St. Casimir on March 8, Rev. Alfred Zemeikis, pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul, announced that Deborah Hospital of Browne Mills, NJ plans a trip to Vilnius by a medical team of about 30 to perform surgery on 15 to 30 Lithuanian children some time in September. While there, the team will also conduct a symposium for Lithuanian physicians and make plans to invite Lithuanian medical personnel to Deborah for further study. An advance team of about eight will travel to Vilnius in May to see what equipment and nursing services are available. It will be up to the Lithuanian-Americans and the general public to assist the medical teams in May and September. An estimated \$50,000 is needed. We urge all K of L members to donate towards this worthy cause.

William Senkus

C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

Pres. Robert Klova's opening statement during our council meeting of

March 15 was a most welcome and pleasant surprise. He reported that our council had \$415 to date in the Visiting Lithuanian Firemen's Fund. As reported previously, the council is responsible for the travel expenses of the Lithuanian firemen from Panavežys to attend a fire-fighting school conducted by the Allentown Fire Dept., a project of Mayor Joseph Dadonna after his visit to Lithuania. The Amber District donated \$100 toward this project. Individual donations were also accepted at this meeting. Vice pres. Joseph Simmons stated that there is a possibility that Swiss Air may assume travel expenses.

Our council had 15 members attending the Amber District meeting on March 8. Host C-118 Hazleton ladies outdid themselves as they prepared a truly Lithuanian style dinner and buffet. Their hospitality was second to none and was highlighted with Fr. Perry's leading the Knights in "Laimingiu Metu" to our member Margaret Turner as her sister, Lillian Klinosky, presented a beautiful birthday cake. The very next day, Margaret was blessed with the news of becoming a great grandmother for the second time. Congratulations.

On Feb. 16 Lithuanian Independence Day luncheon at the Glass Slipper in Bethlehem was to say the least sublime. Everyone savored Lithuania's first celebration of total freedom in 51 years. Our guest speaker was Rev. Casimir Pugevicius of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid who detailed Lithuania's religious and material needs. He outlined what aid was rendered to date and what is needed for the immediate future. His presentation was further supported by U.S. Rep. Don Ritter who is a most ardent supporter of Lithuanian freedom. Last but not least, PA Rep. Robert Freeman, a native of Easton, of Lithuanian descent, was on hand repre-

senting Gov. Carey. The luncheon was further enhanced by the extensive display of Lithuanian artifacts and hand-crafted items by Adele & Andy Keraga.

Another council "sparkplug" is Emilie Tihansky. Through her single handed efforts, this lady created a Pen Pal program and has 195 American children corresponding with 193 Lithuanian children. That is truly an accomplishment! Members Ed Klova and brother Bob are making arrangements to receive typesetting and electronic equipment for use in Lithuania. The brothers will then transport this equipment to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid in Brooklyn for shipment to Lithuania.

Despite all the happy events of Feb. and March, we close this report on a sombre note. Ed & Bob Klova's mother, Petronella Klova Lushis, passed away on March 19. She was 81 years of age. She attended council meetings regularly and her appearance belied her age. C-63 extends their condolences to the Klova and Lushis families. May she rest in peace.

Joseph Ogini

C-79 SOUTHFIELD, MI

Dear inactive members of C-79: At our first meeting of the year after Ash Wednesday Mass, we learned from Fin. Sec. Stella Hotra that we have 100 members, but nearly half are delinquent in paying their '92 dues. Please help Stella. It's not easy begging for money.

Treas. Leonard Balkus informed us that our treasury is fast depleting because of our generosity in never saying "NO" to charitable causes. On Feb. 14 we lost a once active member. Geraldine Chaps died after a long illness. She and her husband Joe were one of our council's reactivators in '59. Rest in peace, Gerry We learned that Helen Petocki had a fall and suffered

several fractures. We hope you have a full recovery, Helen.

And, dear members, did you know that Stella Hotra is also our council's cultural chairlady? That's another reason we must support her efforts and make her duties easier. As her cultural contribution at this meeting, she read a hilarious article on "Antiquated Lithuanian Medical Practices".

On March 1 approximately 25 members attended the St. Casimir commemoration at St. Anthony's Church. Four priests officiated at Mass. Later, C-102 hosted a dinner where we met two medical doctors from Lithuania. They spoke on the great benefits of our contribution to Caritas-sponsored World Medical Relief shipments. We were told a seventh carload is being prepared. Bob Boris, who is in charge of this venture, was rewarded with a medal, plaque and Lithuanian sash for his hard-earned efforts.

So-o-o, members who do not attend meetings, you now know what you have been missing by being inactive. As a reminder, our meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month, nine times a year. *Bee Jay*

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

Members of C-100 attended Mass at St. Casimir's Church for corporate communion in March. A luncheon at Valentino's Restaurant in Cranesville followed the church services. Vice pres. Gene Gobis welcomed everyone and recognized Bernice Aviza of C-136. Rev. Grabys said grace. Mirga Bablin, MAD treasurer, spoke on the life of St. Casimir, our patron saint.

At the invitation of Gov. & Mrs. Cuomo, Vincent Rossi represented the council at the Interfaith Program to commemorate Christopher Columbus Quincentenary on Jan. 29 at the United Nations. He read Mrs. Cuomo's letter of events planned for 1992 whom he

personally met. The last speaker was Rev. Grabys who traced the lineage of St. Casimir to Jogaila. He also said that March 4, the Feast of St. Casimir, was a holy day of obligation in Lithuania.

Elizabeth Kuzmich, our ritual chairperson, presented Christine Tambasco and the following Junior Knights with the Second Degree: Daniel Jasewicz, Mikolina, Robert & Timothy Tambasco. Fr. Grabys performed the ceremony. The center pieces were awarded to Jennie Burinauskas, Mirga Bablin and Beatrice Jasewicz. Elizabeth Kuzmich, chairperson, thanked her committee consisting of Judith Kastraveckas & Helen Wojcik. Many thanks for an enjoyable St. Casimir's observance. The program concluded with the singing of Lithuanian folk songs. *SMILES & SPARKLE*

C-102 DETROIT, MI

In honor of our 72 years in the Knights of Lithuania, we hosted the St. Casimir's Day celebration this year. Fr. Babonis celebrated the Mass at St. Anthony's with Revs. Stanievich, Kundrat & Simaitis as concelebrants. Along with our president, Joe Stark, Maggie Smailis C-79 and Lillian Petrovich, C-139 brought the offering to the altar. Mass with dinner following was very impressive, all chaired by our new members under the guidance of HM Bob Boris. Regina Juskaite was chairlady and her workers were Theresa & Mike Shea, Juozas Raciukaitis, Ona Seleniene. The cleanup crew were the older members, Joe Jonulate, Helen Smolak, Merri & Lowry Hofner and Joe & Maryanne Guerriero. Our MC was Al Zaparackas with Fr. Stan giving the invocation. Mykolas Abarius, Nat'l Pre. of Šiauliai presented HM Bob Boris with their highest medal of honor for all the work Bob has done for Lithuania, a very moving presentation. Guest speakers were Dr. Elva Marciulioniene, Chief

of the Caritas Diagnostic Center in Kaunas and Dr. Giedrius Dzidolikas of the Kaunas Clinical Hospital. Ms. Carolyn George, Executive Director of World Medical Relief of Detroit was introduced to the 140 guest present and Bob Boris presented her with a piece of amber jewelry from the Lithuanian Community that have donated so generously to the Lithuanian Relief. Helen Smolak was introduced as the longest active member of our council. She joined in 1932 and was the first woman president of our council. John Stanievich & Joe Stark provided the music to make the dinner more festive. The committee did a beautiful job and we're happy to have you in our council. *Ilgiausių metų* was also sung to all the Casimirs.

Ruth Wagster just returned from Hawaii where she visited for the first time her newborn great grandson. It was also her first flight and she fared well No sooner did Terry & Ray Medonis come back from the christening of their grandchild in New York, their daughter presented them with a new grandson. Love is what makes the world go round and increases the population. Congratulations We hear our Florida snowbirds, the Bunikis, Medonis and Klucens, are enjoying the winter there. We miss them and can hardly wait until May when all are back Helen Smolak enjoyed two weeks in Florida In Oct., Joe & Maryanne Guerriero enjoyed a visit with her brother and sister-in-law, Frank & Isabel Peterson, in Connecticut. While there, they attended the New England District Cultural Festival at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury enjoying the food and folk dancing.

We are all looking forward to our District meeting and Bowling Tournament in DuBois, PA. Hope to see you all there. *Meriutė*



C-103 PROVIDENCE, RI

A Sunday breakfast was held after the 10 a.m. Mass in St. Casimir's Church in honor of St. Casimir. Over 100 people attended. Fr. Cukurus told us the story about our patron, St. Casimir, who was a prince and gave up all his riches to serve God. In addition to the usual menu of ham and eggs, Lithuanian dešros was included and enjoyed by all. Quite a few of the council members saw the "Land of Crosses" which was shown following the observance of the Feast Day of St. Casimir on March 8.

Tony Sidla

C-109 GREAT NECK, NY

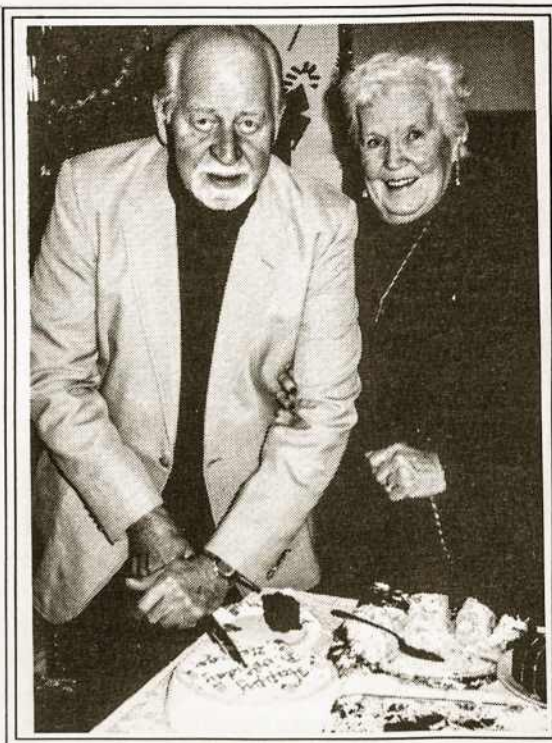
On St. Casimir's Day, March 4, members attended a Mass at St. Aloysius Church, Great Neck, to honor the patron saint of our K of L organization and Lithuania. A small breakfast buffet followed in the parish clubhouse. We had decided not to plan our annual luncheon in March, as some of our members wanted to attend other councils' St. Casimir commemorations. Therefore, our luncheon took place April 5 at Lauraine Murphy's Restaurant, Manhasset, where 100 members and guests enjoyed a leisurely after-

noon, enjoying good food, a variety of member-donated raffle items (collected by chairlady Linda Henry), and talks by Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Frank Bulovas, council president, Al Wesey, and speaker for the day, Almus Salcius of TV and theatrical Genesis Productions, Inc. We were also pleased to have Pat & Nancy (Kober) Leddy present. Nancy is a member of the National Scholarship Committee. A camaraderie exists among our group, which also includes the non-Lithuanian parishioner friends of Martha Krug. We are grateful for their participation and support. Ritual Chairlady Stella Matulonis announced the various Ritual Degree participants. There were thirty-four who earned the First Degree. The eleven Second Degree members are as follows: George Blecka, Bertha & Howard Fuchs, Martha Krug,

Jack Malis, Stella Matulonis, Ann Reardon, Mary Santagata, Jane Schwarz, Mary Wesey & Starsy Wesey. The Third Degree medal was presented to Joseph Zukas at the March 8 Mid-Atlantic District meeting in Brooklyn, NY. We

thank Stella for renewing interest in the Ritual Program in our council, which made it possible for many to have attained and claim points for the degrees they should have received some time ago.

A few of our members have been ill and we have missed them. Ann Reardon, though in a wheelchair, attended our luncheon, and it was good to see her enjoying her many friends. Artie Nelson, our life-time member, who had a heart attack just a few weeks prior, while at their home in Kennebunk, ME also looked well and was as spry as ever. Mary Wesey, who had foot surgery, hobbled in with a walker and will have to remain immobile for several more weeks. Emilie Winsky has had some illness, a few complications, but knowing her determination, she'll do fine. We've learned that our long-time member, Ann Martens, now residing in Nevada, had surgery and is getting about



George Blecka, C-109 Great Neck celebrating his 80th birthday with wife Mary looking on.



Wally & Jean Mordes, C-109 Great Neck, vacationing in the Caribbeans.

comfortably. We pray that our members who have been ill will continue their improvement and bounce back to good health quickly.

Our Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, Joseph Zukas, has kept us informed and up-to-date on news about and from Lithuania. This comes from a combination of bulletins received from Vince Boris, the Nat'l Lithuanian Affairs chairman, and listening nightly to radio transmissions direct from Lithuania on his short-wave set. The Cultural Chairlady, Stella Matulonis, has also researched various timely topics and always comes up with interesting presentations. We thank them for spending the extra time to make our meetings more meaningful.

We congratulate George Blecka on his 80th birthday and thank him and Mary for the ice cream cake shared with members at a recent meeting. Wally Mordes presented his wife, Jean, with a birthday gift that most wives would love - a trip to Nassau and Disneyworld. Lou Ann Rutha reveals she is now a great grandmother and loving it. The first day of Spring coincides with Bertha & Howie Fuch's 55th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

We welcome new members, Bernadette & George Mickeriz of Rumford, ME, Starys Wesey's brother. We are also pleased to have Lou Ann's brother and sister-in-law, Stanley & Mary Ann Sosaris, join the council. We offer condolences to Mary Ann Sosaris who recently lost her brother, Joseph Venskus, who was closely associated with the Transfiguration Church in Maspeth and a K of L member there. We were sorry to hear of his death.

Happy "Mother's Day" to all Mom's. They are loved and cherished and will be remembered in our prayers.

Jo Z.

C-110 MASPETH, NY

On March 21, seven of our members attended a lecture and slide presentation at the United Nations. Amb. Stasys Lozoraitis gave a vivid summary of the conditions and the problems in Lithuania. preparation of a workable constitution and increasing the currency flow into the country were the main priorities at this time. He stated that the removal of the Russian troops is very slow and dragged out. Interesting discussion followed. Ginte Damusis, counselor to the UN, talked about the difficulties of getting started in the UN. Rimvydas Andrikius informed the audience about improving the country's polluted environment. In closing, Krista Butvydas-Bard stated that there are many business opportunities, especially if one deals with the private entrepreneurs. Majority of the audience was non-Lithuanian. Many students from Brown University were eager to learn of the conditions in the Baltics.

At our St. Casimir's luncheon, on March 29, it was a pleasure to have our neighboring K of L council members join us from C-12 New York, C-109 Great Neck with VYTIS Editor Mary Kober and her husband, Anthony, C-152 Eastern Long Island, as well as other guests. Rev. Kenneth Wicks, Rev. Stasys Raila and Romanas Kezys, direc-

tor of the Lithuanian Radio Program in Queens, helped make this affair a huge success. Thanks to the 180 guests who attended. A very warm Ačiū to the volunteer help of spiritual program director Helen Matulonis, the waitresses Ann Ackalitis, Mary Stelmokas, Evelyn Walles, Marie Stungurys, Jean Rutkunas & Fran Jakatt. Also a thank you to our bartenders John Girdauskas, Jim Greiner & Ed Jakatt. We say thanks to Marie Stungurys for the gifts and to Brian Rutkunas, chairman. Our short monthly meeting followed with the highlight being the report by our treasurer Roman Wensek that our council contributed over \$3,000 during the past four months. The hall was cleaned and put back in good order by Peter Zuyus and Roman Wensek.

We are looking forward to seeing our fellow K of L members at the national convention in Allentown.

Bruno Rutkunas

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

The day dawned gloomy and threatened rain but by Mass time, the sun came out and smiled on a procession of 138 K of L's who had gathered at



Frances Migliore, C-110 Maspeth receives Fourth Degree medal from MAD Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. F. Bulovas.

Nativity BVM Church to commemorate St. Casimir's Day hosted by C-112. Following Mass, we met in the school hall for a degree presentation, delicious luncheon and short program. Our thanks to Pres. Don Petkus who made the luncheon arrangements and donated the lovely flowers that adorned the tables. Committee chairladies Estelle Rogers, Lorraine Svelnis & Eleanore Laurin did an outstanding job of organizing proceedings for the entire day.

Congratulations to Ann Marie Juraitis and Susan Binkis who received their Third Degree. Congratulations also to Eleanor Kasputis who was bestowed the title of "K of L Woman of the Year" for the many hours she devotes to her office far above and beyond the call of duty and also to Albert Dagis, "K of L Man of the Year". Al is a member of C-112 for 34 years and always served as an officer or committee chairman during that time. He richly deserves this honor.

Guest speaker at our March meeting was Dr. Kastytis Jucas who gave an informative talk about the harmful effects of the sun's rays. A word of warning to the wise is sufficient. We also gained a new member as Dr. Jucas was welcomed into the council. Welcome also to Fr. Larry McNally from Nativity BVM as a new member. He has endeared himself to all by his presence and help with our many functions.

Twenty-two members and friends enjoyed a dinner-theatre party recently. Dinner

at Sharko's and "Rumors" at the Candlelight Theatre made for a very pleasant evening. Thanks to Marie Deksnis who chaired the event. *Gerrie*

C-143 PITTSTON, PA

As the new correspondent, I would like to commend Charles Dajnowski for the outstanding job he did in reporting the news of our council.

Our Christmas Party which was chaired by Anastasia Stanley was held at Bartoli's Restaurant. Everyone had an enjoyable evening. Instead of exchanging grab bag gifts, we contributed food products and donated them to Meals on Wheels. Rosemary Durling & Frances Shoppel, co-chairmen of our Kucios, created an old-fashioned Lithuanian atmosphere. Since our parish of St. Casimir was united with St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph, Msgr. Gerald Burns, our pastor, and Revs. Edward Barrett & Mark Rosetti, assistants, had their first taste of viritos and the traditional meal. We sang carols with Fr. Rosetti at the piano.

In Jan., our installation ceremony was held at St. Casimir's Church. Be-

fore Mass, Msgr. Burns gave the oath of office to Dorothy Banos, pres.; Ann Soha, vice pres.; Annamarie Sewatsky, fin. sec.; Martha Warnagiris, sec.; and Anastasia Stanley, treas. Msgr. Burns officiated at the Mass which was offered for the deceased members of the K of L. Rev. Edward Barrett is spiritual advisor. Appointed trustees are Rosalie Kizis, Anne Walatas & Nellie Bayoras Romanas. The following chairpersons were appointed: Nellie B. Romanas, Lithuanian affairs; Mary Ann Cipolis, cultural; Annamarie Sewatsky & Mary Chorba, ritual; Genevieve Dajnowski, historian; Charles Dajnowski, sgt. at arms; Anna Soha, public relations and Steve Soha, VYTIS correspondent. Following the service, a continental breakfast was served by the men of the council.

In Feb. our council observed the flag-raising ceremonies in commemoration of Lithuania's independence. Our first one was held at Pittston City Hall, followed by a luncheon at St. Casimir's Hall. Next day we went to Luzerne County Court House. Only Dorothy Banos & Nellie B. Romanas attended at



C-143 Pittston, St. Casimir's Day Celebration. (Seated) Helen Karpovich, Jean Mihalich, Rev. E. Barrett, spiritual adv., Msgr. Gerald Burns, pastor, Dorothy Banos, Rev. Julio Serra, OSJ (Standing) Anastasia Stanley, Martha Warnagiris, Rev. Mark Rosetti, Ann & Steve Soha, Annamarie Sewatsky.

the Scranton Court House. Our council also attended the Ethnic Rosary at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton.

After our St. Casimir's Day Mass, our annual breakfast was served. The decorations were beautiful and were made by co-chairperson Helen Karpovich & Jean Mihalich. Corsages and boutonnieres of white and tri-colored ribbon were given to each person attending. In addition to our pastor and his assistants, we had the pleasure of a visit from Rev. Julio Serra.

Martha Warnagiris, Annamarie Sewatsky, Celestine Filipkowski and Anna & Steve Soha attended the St. Casimir's Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Scranton. Everyone was so pleased having Fr. Peter Alisaukas, pastor emeritus of St. Casimir's Parish and Msgr. Peter Madus officiate at the Lithuanian Mass. The gifts were carried by Marie Laske & Ann Soha attired in Lithuanian dress. Afterwards, refreshments were served. It was our pleasure to visit with Fr. Pete. We were glad to see him looking so well. We also had the privilege of greeting Anne Challan, one of our former council presidents.

Our members mourn the loss of Agnes Kishel who died on Jan. 29 and Margaret Zukauskas, who died on Feb. 9. Rest in peace. *Steve Soha*

C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

March 1 was a special day for C-144. Fifteen years ago approximately 100 members were inducted into the First Degree of the Knights of Lithuania. Members attended Lithuanian Mass celebrated by Fr. Jarasunas in Our Lady of Siluva Church. Friends of Siluva Choir, directed by Jean Straka with Eileen Barlow at the organ, sang the Mass. The offertory procession included special gifts honor-

ing St. Casimir and were presented by John Joseph, Anna Supernavage, Mary Gustus, Helen Chesko, Anna Helen McDonald, Eva Yurkewicz, Bernice Mikatavage & Olympia Zelinski. The women wore national costumes.

After a light lunch in the church hall, ritual chairlady Helen Chesko installed the following in the First Degree: Anna Alinsky, John & Mary Brogis, Emma Delinsky, Anna Gonzales, Estelle Nojunas, Isabel & Gerre Polokas, Marge Rozmerski, Isabel Subach and Joseph & Marion Wydra. Candidates qualifying for the Second Degree were Helen Mackavage, Thomas McDonald and Andrew & Mary Sobol. Congratulations and best wishes! We look forward to your joining our 78 Third Degree recipients and 22 Fourth Degree members in the future.

March 8 was also a great day. Thirty delegates and alternates attended the Amber District St. Casimir's Day observance hosted by C-118 Hazleton. Fr. Perry, pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, welcomed the visiting Knights who attended Mass. The ladies of C-118 prepared and served their specialty, bulvinių dešrų. And to add another Lithuanian touch to the luncheon, the

desert was tri-colored jello. Many thanks for the early snacks, the bountiful luncheon and the delicious buffet. Immediately following the luncheon, Anna Helen McDonald, Anna M. Nardini, Pat Roberts & Betty Tumas were installed in the Third Degree by the District Ritual Committee. Congratulations!

Pres. John Mickunas conducted the meeting. Anna Wargo served on the Mandate Committee reporting 109 in attendance with 71 delegates and nine councils represented. Elsie Kosmisky & Eleanor Vaicaitis, raffle chairpersons, conducted the raffle. Sorry, there were no C-144 winners. The school bus transported twenty-six happy passengers who expressed words of appreciation for the gracious hospitality of C-118 Anna Wargo and Helen Chesko attended the National Executive Board meeting in Waterbury on March 14.

The happy festivities of St. Casimir Day in March was clouded with the death of Anna Lesky, a Third Degree charter member. Anna died on March 20 while visiting her sister in Florida. She was an active member in the early days of our council but she cooperated with fund-raising and attended an occasional meeting. Our



C-152 Eastern Long Island St. Casimir's Day Celebration. Standing: Agnes Marma, Mike Zukas, Muriel Zambuto. Seated: Anne & Tom Tarmey, Msgr. Bulovas, Guest Speaker; Rev. Cwalina.

deepest sympathy is extended to her sister, Mary Brennan, and her family. Fr. Jarasunas & Pres. Zelinski conducted the Wake Service. Members also attended her Mass of Christian Burial in St. Francis of Assisi in Minersville.

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

The winter months find our homes here in sunny Florida bulging with family, friends, relatives and fellow Knights who escaped ice and snow up north. Our location is an ideal jumping-off spot from which to visit the numerous "must see" tourist attractions. Years of experience have made us super guides.

Annette & Bill Gnezevich drove to Ft. Meyer to meet with Muriel Lekstutis Zambuto, president of C-152 Long Is-

land group. An exchange of ideas relative to making our organization even more productive took place. We are grateful for all the suggestions on how we can best aid our Lithuania in her courageous struggle CBS-TV was sent a letter expressing our outrage at the slight we felt when the Lithuanian athletes were not shown as they participated in the parade heralding the opening of the Winter Olympics at Albertville, France. A public relations representative called to express regret at the deletion declaring it was inadvertently done with no slight intended. However, the representative did call attention to the fact that much footage, at the parade which concluded the Olympics, displayed the Lithuanian flag

and also the many commentators expressed admiration for the Lithuanian athlete Another letter, this one filled with thank you's and a resounding Ačiū (translation included) went to the Coca Cola Bottling Co. Wasn't that a fine, handsome, well-spoken Lithuanian athlete that Coca Cola used in their commercial? Remember, drink coca cola when you crave a soft drink - we promised we would do just that!

We attended the Bill Irlle Dinner Theater in Dunnedin to see the production of "The Owl and the Pussycat". For those of us who enjoy live theater, it was a great production.

At this writing, the orange and grapefruit blossoms perfume the air, and yet some of us are ready to leave for the north to enjoy the "greening" there!

Sadye G. Petraitis



Attending National Executive Board meeting in Waterbury, CT - Standing: Rev. F. Karvelis, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Josephine Zukas, MAD; Al Akule, NED; Seated: Mary Kober, Vytis Editor; Agnes Mickunas, Amber District, Wm. Kolicius, MCD and Longinas Svelnis, NED.

TOURS TO LITHUANIA

1992



May 4 - 19	June 30 - July 20
May 26 - June 11	July 6 - 21
May 27 - June 12	July 7 - 27
May 28 - June 13	July 13 - 28
June 1 - 16	July 14 - August 3
June 22 - July 7	August 3 - 18
June 23 - July 13	August 17 - September 1
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CALENDAR of EVENTS

- May 15-17, 1992 - MCD Meeting & Annual Bowling Tournament - Host: C-86, DuBois, PA
 May 23, 1992 - MAMD Meeting hosted by C-36, Chicago.
 May 24, 1992 - Centennial Organ Concert, K of L Choir, St. Andrew's Church, Calumet City, 3:00 p.m.
 May 25, 1992 - Memorial Day Program at St. Casimir's Cemetery, K of L Choir, 10:00 a.m. Mass.
 May 30, 1992 - National Executive Board Meeting, St. George's Parish Hall, Philadelphia, PA, 12 Noon.
 June 14, 1992 - Amber District Meeting. Hosts: C-72, St. Joseph's Church, Binghamton, NY, 10:30 a.m. Mass.
 June 14, 1992 - MAD Meeting. Hosts: C-90, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Kearny, NJ, 10:00 a.m. Mass.
 June 19-21, 1992 - New England District Annual Retreat, Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME
 July 4, 1992 - MAMD Annual Picnic at Pines Restaurant, Pines, IN.
 July 5, 1992 - Ninth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, Rosemont, IL
 July 16-19, 1992 - 79th National Convention, Allentown, PA. Hosts: C-144, Anthracite, PA
 September 25-28, 1992 - C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, Pilgrimage, Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME
 October 4, 1992 - C-90 Kearny, NJ, 75th Anniversary, LCC Center, Kearny, NJ
 October 10, 1992 - C-29 Newark - Annual Dinner/Dance at Holy Trinity Hall.

WHEN YOU'VE COUNTED ALL YOUR BLESSINGS

When you've counted all your blessings
and named them one by one,
You'll stand in awe before the Lord
for all that He has done.
You'll be amazed by little things
that you didn't see before
Like rainbows in the meadow
and moonlight on the shore.

How sweet the melody of birds
for each angelic voice
Sifts softly through the night
to let our hearts rejoice.
How precious, too, the budding rose
which brightens every smile
For these are the simple things
that go the extra mile.

And treasured, too, are memories
of friends who pass our way
To share a cup of kindness
when sorrows cloud our day.
You'll be aware of many things
unnoticed by us all
When you worship on your knees
and praise Him wall to wall!

Clay Harrison

