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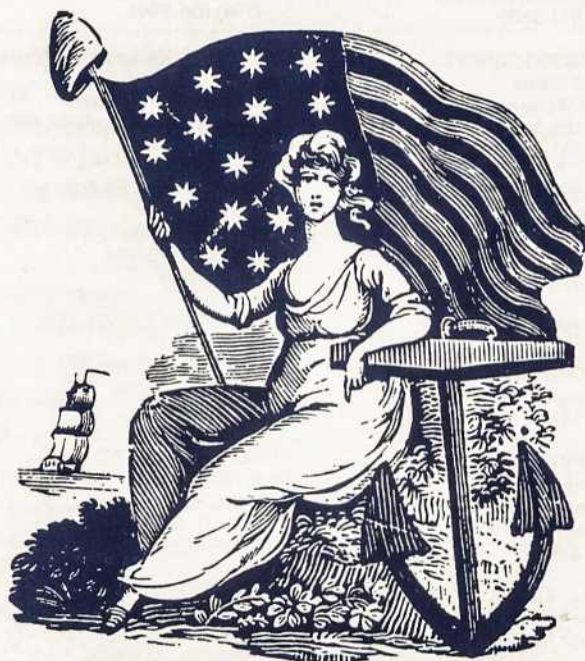


# WYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

VOL. 78: No. 7

LIEPA-RUGPIŪTIS / JULY-AUGUST 1992



Independence Day  
July 4, 1776

# VYTIS

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LIEPA-RUGPIŪTIS / JULY-AUGUST  
1992  
VOL. 78: No. 7

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## The Rulers of Lithuania....

### GRAND PRINCE VYTENIS (1295-1315)

by Edward Baranauskas



Grand Prince Vytenis became the ruler of Lithuania following the death of his father, Grand Prince Pukuveras, who passed away sometime between 1294 and 1295.

The earliest reference to him was noted in the chronicles written by Peter von Dusburg, a Catholic priest and a noted German historian. He mentioned Vytenis as the son of Pukuveras, the King of Lithuania, when he wrote about the year 1292. His stories are mostly about the Teutonic Order's military campaigns against the Prussians and the Lithuanians, and about the castles built by the Lithuanians on the shores of the Nemunas River. His writings were examined by the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order and its accuracy was never doubted because of that. They became the official history of the Order.

Very little is known about Vytenis and his family life. His only child, a son named Žvelgaitis, was first mentioned in 1310. When one considers all the fighting that took place

during that period, it is possible that he may have died in battle. How different the course of Lithuanian history may have been if he had succeeded his father as the ruler of Lithuania. If that happened, then Gediminas may never have had the opportunity to ascend the throne of Lithuania. He became one of Lithuania's most famous and beloved rulers and the one who started the "Gediminas Dynasty" that governed Lithuania for almost 300 years.

Vytenis had three brothers and according to some historians, possibly four. They were: Gediminas, who succeeded him as the ruler of Lithuania in 1315; Vainius, who was the Prince of Polotsk (now a part of Belorussia) from 1326 until his death in 1342; Teodoras, who was the Prince of Kiev (now the capital of Ukraine) from 1331 until he died in 1362, and Margiris, possibly because he was chosen by Gediminas to be the viceroy (vietininkas) of Žemaitija, one of the regions of Lithuania. He died in 1336.

History books for a long time stated that Gediminas was the son of Vytenis, but

it was only in the second half of the 19th century when new evidence was found that showed it was not true. A historian, while looking into the archives of the city of Riga, Latvia, discovered a letter dated November 2, 1322, written to Gediminas that showed he was the brother of Vytenis. These findings were published in 1868.

By the time Vytenis became the ruler of Lithuania, the Teutonic Knights had conquered Prussia, approached the Nemunas River, and began attacking Žemaitija (western Lithuania). He stopped their eastern march, was rarely defeated in battle, and as a result, the situation in Lithuania became more stable.

Vytenis was known as a good warrior before he became Grand Prince, and later became famous as a talented military leader. His twenty-one years as a ruler were marked by fierce battles with the Teutonic Order.

Vytenis knew the situation in the Baltic region very well. When trouble arose between the Archbishop of Riga and the Livonian Order at the end of the 13th century, he sent his army into Livonia (the territory of what is today Latvia and Estonia) to join the forces of the archbishop. The Livonian Order was eventually defeated. This military operation prevented the Order from attacking Lithuania.

There is no documented information about the exact circumstances surrounding the death of Vytenis. It is most

likely that he died in battle against his life-long enemy, the Teutonic Knights. According to Dusburg, Vytenis, the King of Lithuania, besieged their fortress of Christmemel (Skirsnemune) in 1315. Thereafter, his brother Gediminas is mentioned as the Grand Prince of Lithuania.

Vytenis earned his place in Lithuanian history as a brave and an outstanding warrior, and a ruler who proved that Lithuania could not be overthrown.

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## SISTER NIJOLE VISITS DALLAS

*Ed Malouf*

Sister Nijole Sadunaite, accompanied by Mrs. Jane Healy and Mr. Nicholas Healy, Vice President of Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH, paid a three day visit to Dallas in April. Sister Nijole was the 1991 recipient of the prestigious POVERELLO MEDAL, the highest honor bestowed by the Franciscan University.

First on her agenda was a visit to the communications complex at Mt. St. Michael. It included a two hour interview with Ms. Pat Martin, Director of the Archbishop Sheen Center, and Ms. Carol Luker, associate editor of *The Texas Catholic* newspaper. This interview was presented throughout the United States. It will also be transmitted directly via satellite to the Catholic schools in the North Texas area. The group then left for lunch with Diocesan Vicar General Reykemper. (The bishop was in New York). During lunch, Sister was served a glass of juice with ICE in it. She queried, "Am I being punished?" The waiter laughingly replaced it with one with no ice. That afternoon another interview with Mr. Bob Cavnar, director of the Charismatic Services, was videotaped and, after being translated into many foreign languages, will be distributed throughout the entire world. Sister Nijole's smile and sense of humor captivated her admirers who attended a Saturday evening reception and a Sunday morning "get together". How could a person possibly go through so much agony, torture and misery end up with such a sense of humor? What she and millions of others have gone through because of the despots and tyrants of humanity is anything but funny. Yet, she had the audiences "rolling in the aisles". A typical question asked Sister: "Here in the United States we are having fewer and fewer men and women go into the religious vocation. What is it like in Lithuania?" Her answer: "We are having a great many enter the religious life. It has become so bad, however, that men are complaining that ALL the good looking women are becoming nuns."

Dallas Mayor Pro-tem John Evans presented Sister Nijole with a SPECIAL RECOGNITION certificate for Mayor Steve Bartlett of Dallas. It included the "Whereas" phrases which outlined Sister's accomplishments and heroic actions. But the SPECIAL RECOGNITION ended up with the words:

*May GOD grant her the strength to continue her fight for truth, love, justice, humanitarianism, and the dignity of all mankind. And may GOD grant us the wisdom to follow her example.*

The Dallas Special Recognition was followed by a proclamation from Texas Governor Ann Richards and presented by St. Pius X pastor Msgr. Thomas Weinzapfel, naming Sister Nijole as an HONORARY TEXAN. Sister Nijole brought the house down with her comment: "I'll have to be very careful now so as not to embarrass your parish." One very sobering aspect of Sister Nijole's visit was her attendance of a Mass at the White Rose Women's Center. This is a pro-life organization which shares a building with an abortion clinic. White Rose has saved the lives of over 3,500 babies since it has existed. Women who arrive at the abortion clinic many times get confused and go into the White Rose Women's Center. The White Rose counsels women on alternatives to abortion. Sister attended a Saturday morning Mass in a small chapel in the center. Abortions are performed at the South Street Clinic on Saturday mornings, and Sister wanted to pray in a room separated from where the abortions were being performed by a wall only the width of a two-by-four and two layers of dry wall. Interpreters for Nijole's visit were Vida (Stirbys) Brown, Donna Gylys, Victor Kenter and Audrys Liobis of the North Texas Lithuanian American community. This group met on for a Lithuanian lunch during her visit. While in Dallas, Sister Nijole was supplied with a cellular tele-

phone. This was thought a necessity because her hosts did not speak Lithuanian. Sister could use the phone wherever she was to call any of the interpreters for assistance. The "lenders" of the phone insisted she call Brone Kubikaite, her best friend and her Mother Superior in Vilnius before she left. The call to Mother Superior was at midnight .... Vilnius time. Oh, boy!! St. Pius X Catholic Church has established a "Sister Church" relationship with St. Mikalojus Catholic Church in Vilnius. For the time being, food and especially medicine is being collected to send to Lithuania through the Lithuanian Catholic Relief organization in Brooklyn. Msgr. Weinzapfel of St. Pius expressed his appreciation of Sister Nijole's visit. Of tremendous help in this happening was the officials of Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH. As you probably know, Sister Nijole received their prestigious POVERELLO MEDAL on Dec. 7, 1991. Sympathy is expressed for the committee which chooses next year's recipient, for Sister Nijole will be "a

tough act to follow". One final note: Sister Nijole's autobiography *Radiance in the Gulag* was sold out during her visit to Dallas. Officials of Franciscan University at Steubenville have obtained publication rights to the book, have updated it, and will have a reprinting of it very shortly. You can obtain a copy by writing to the University in Steubenville. The address: Franciscan University of Steubenville, Franciscan Way, Steubenville, OH 43952. Cost of the book will be \$7.95 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. As a footnote to this, you might be interested to know that former Mayor Pro-tem Evans is a member of the largest Baptist Church in the U.S., First Baptist in Dallas. He prepaid the cost of six copies of her book. He was very touched by Sister Nijole's account of being approached by fifty Baptist women of conscience while in the concentration camp. (See page 106 of *A Radiance in the Gulag* for details).

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### PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Almighty God, you have given us this good land for our heritage. We humbly ask that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners.

Save us from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion us into one united people - this multitude brought here from many kindreds and tongues.

Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home. Through obedience to your law, may we show forth your praise among the nations of the earth.

In time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and, in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Thomas Jefferson recited this prayer each day during his eight years as President of the United States of America.)*



### God Bless Our Native Land

God bless our native land; firm may she ever stand through storm and night:

When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave, Though who art strong to save, be Thou her might!

For her our prayer shall be, our fathers' God, to Thee, on Whom we wait:

Be her walls, holiness, her rulers, righteousness, in all her homes be peace, God save the State!

Not for this land alone, but be God's mercies shown from shore to shore;

And may the nations see that men should brothers be, and form one family the wide world o'er.

*Mahlmann - Hickson*



## LOST CONSCIENCE

© by Albert Cizauskas

The April 7th issue of the Washington Post's Book World, the paper's literary review, ran a disturbing "Letter from Lithuania" on the tragic aftermath of the nation's Soviet experience.

The "Letter" was from one Ina Navarzelskis, an American living in Lithuania who writes frequently about European literature and politics. The saddest legacy of the 50-year loss of independence, she told the Post's readers, was the cumulative burden of betrayal of the many by the few and its searing impact not only upon the country's literary culture but on all aspects of Lithuanian society.

One such act of betrayal ironically involved a prewar poet of Lithuanian patriotic verse, Kostas Kubilinskas. With the Soviet occupation came the "new commissars of literature," censors who used their power to attempt to stifle Lithuanian nationalism. They suborned Kubilinskas with the lure of freedom to publish provided he would cooperate. So strong was the poet's need to see himself in print that the patriotic writer succumbed to the Soviet blandishments. Kubilinskas infiltrated anti-Soviet groups, recruited colleagues, and even organized an underground cell himself, with the explicit purpose of informing on his associates all of whom were subsequently deported to Siberia or executed.

Kubilinskas received his thirty pieces of silver in the form of the right to publish. The act of betrayal, however, consumed him. He was "unhappy" and drank heavily. In a scene reminiscent of Lady Macbeth's washing her hands, he was discovered one day crawling on all fours under a table. When asked what he was looking for, the apostate replied, "My Conscience."

### The End of Censorship

Numerous charges of betrayal surfaced after 1989, as did other tragic stories, including those of the Soviet's brutal campaign of genocide against the Lithuanian state and the people's futile resistance. During the 1940s, the Soviets deported some three hundred thousand Lithuanians to Siberia, one-tenth of the country's population. In American terms, this would mean close to 30 million persons. In addition, a secret guerilla war against the Soviet regime accounted for another 50,000 casualties.

With the termination of censorship, manuscripts dealing with the troubled years of the Soviet occupation inundated the country, "fished out from underneath floor boards

and from behind cupboards and sent off" to Lithuanian publishers. Navazelskis herself has collected about fifteen of these book-length autobiographies, and understands that at least two dozen altogether might be in print. Collectively, she maintains, these works form a "damning indictment" of the Soviet government but taken individually their literary quality is uneven. She believes that the "definitive works of the Lithuanian experience in the 20th century [including the years of independence between the wars] have yet to be written."

One major exception has been the publication of the memoirs of Juozas Urbys, the last foreign minister of an independent Lithuania. More than any other Lithuanian, Urbys came into contact with "those who dismantled his country and destroyed many of her citizens," including "a ranting Hitler" and a devious, deceitful Stalin. His book, which had been circulated underground, became a literary sensation upon its publication. It helped force public acknowledgement by the Kremlin of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, of which many of the younger Lithuanians had been unaware. Urbys spent thirteen years in Soviet prisons, eleven of them in isolation. But, as Navazelskis says, "He had the last laugh," surviving to see the rebirth of his country.

Surprisingly, the letter writer doesn't mention the "Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania" which also were circulated underground and even smuggled overseas. The Chronicles provide written confirmation of the Soviet's unrelenting persecution of the Catholic Church in Lithuania and as such are important historical documents.

### An Ailing Industry

The Lithuanian publishing industry is said to be going through a serious crisis. The large, still State-owned firms may even be "in their death throes," finding it almost impossible "to make the transition from a command to a market economy." These large publishing houses are unaccustomed to searching for supplies, like paper, and for luring book buyers, and so are declining at an alarming rate. Small publishers spring up and disappear, "churning" out such cheap products as horoscopes, low-grade detective stories and soft pornography. Unfortunately, there seems to be little profit in publishing serious works [with few exceptions such as the Urbys memoirs], a surprising condition

for a market as literate as the Lithuanian whose people lived through the tragedy of this century's most cataclysmic years.

In the meantime, books by foreign authors are also few and of an eclectic nature. A "hodgepodge" of such titles as James Fenimore Cooper's "The Last of the Mohicans", George Orwell's "Animal Farm," and Graham Greene's "Ministry of Fear" were published in translation from the original English during 1991, but are not readily available in the bookstores. Even works by writers nearer home have been slow to trickle in. Only one of Czeslaw Milosz' books, "The Issa Valley" has been translated into Lithuanian. The Nobel laureate's "Native Realm" and "Captive Mind" would be of considerable interest to the Lithuanian public because of their passionate defense of the Lithuanian side of the argument with the Poles in the prewar years. (Milosz comes from a Lithuanian family of minor landed gentry in

the Vilnius region, one mixed with Polish and German blood as is often the case in that part of Europe).

Why serious domestic literature isn't faring well in Lithuania seems to be explained by our letter writer when she says "Perhaps someday there will be a creative outpouring of literary works in Lithuania". But for the time being, "... many of Lithuania's writers and poets of today have temporarily lost their literary voices .... [they] have yet to define their relationship to [their] society and to their common collective experience. And so, troubled, they remain silent."

Ina Navazelskis is married to a member of Lithuania's parliament, Virginijus Picturna. She attended Columbia's prestigious School of Journalism and is a stringer for Newsweek. We hope to hear more from this perspective observer of the literary scene in contemporary Lithuania.

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## The Pleasures of Mushrooming

by Antonia M. Wackell

**MUSHROOMS!** Who would refuse to walk a mile, or more, to probe fields of woods for the tempting buttons that suddenly burst from the ground overnight. But, you must be an expert, or else an expert must be with you, in order to distinguish the edible from the inedible fungi. To take the slightest chance in picking an unknown specimen of mushroom will lead to serious trouble.

There are more than 1,000 known species. We concentrate on just a few; although we are familiar with others, we ignore them because of taste or texture.

Standard equipment on these mushroom strolls into the woods and fields are: Feet that enjoy walking, a back that will bend willingly, a pocket knife, a long stick or cane, a light roomy basket, and something repulsive for the assaulting mosquitoes.

### NOT FROM SEEDS

According to general belief, mushrooms spring from the ground overnight. Actually it takes two or three days for them to appear. They do not grow from seeds, nor do they have leaves, but they are considered plants nevertheless, and have plant producing spores on their gills.

The common mushroom is umbrella shaped. The top is called the cap, or pileus. The handle is the stem, or stipe. Under the cap there are rows of thin fragile ribs called the gills (we call it 'the pulp' - easier to remember). Some

species like the boletus (baravykas) have tubes instead of gills. On the gills are thousands of spores.

A single meadow mushroom, *Agaric campestris*, may produce as many as 1.8 billion spores. A giant puffball may produce as many as seven trillion spores. Fortunately, all spores never do find suitable organic quarters or leaf mold in which to reside, germinate and produce other little fungi.

### SPORE IS LIGHT

A spore is too small to be seen by the eye. It is very light, very powdery. It can float upon the air for a long time, or may be carried by the wind for many miles. When it falls upon the moist and warm ground or leaves, it germinates, causing a long thread-like filament to grow from one side of the spore and down under the cover of leaves. There it continues to grow and branch and then forms the plant-body.

Sometimes the plant-body will grow quickly and at other times very slowly; sometimes it takes years for it to mature enough to project itself from under the leaves or soil developing into a button mushroom - they are all button mushrooms before they open wide.

### DANGEROUS STAGE

While in the button stage, a mushroom is gravely dangerous, because an edible button closely resembles a poisonous one. That is why it requires two to three days for



a mushroom to develop and be recognized.

During a dry season, one rain does not produce a mushroom crop. It must be followed by another shower and still another - on alternate days, in order to complete the development of the fruit-bodies that were started by the first rain.

We find a broad thick covering of last summer's fallen leaves and glimpse a bit of color under a small mound. Uncovering the leafy blanket with the stick, we find several edible species, not in the button stage, but fully developed. The cap and gills show no signs of tiny flies or insects so the fungi are dropped into the basket. If there are signs of insects, the cap is certain to be burrowed with tunnels which make it unfit for the table.

We continue our quest for those that we like and discover beautiful fungi in many colors and fantastic shapes. Along with the commonplace parasols, there are inverted cups and right-side-up cups, saucers, nests, shells, coral forms, stalagmitical forms, oysters, bear's heads, Judas' ears, funnels and many other fungi formations.

#### TASTY MORSELS

Judas' ear is hard and brittle when dry, but when wet the tasty morsels are as slippery as jelly. It is prized by the Chinese as an article of food. In China, it is cultivated on decaying wood, but most of it is imported from the South Sea Islands. It also grows in the United States on the alder tree, but generally we find it on the ground. It is so called because of the belief that Judas Iscariot hanged himself on the alder tree. Its resemblance to a human ear is unmistakable.

Although some poets in the past despised mushrooms, there were others who admired them. The Greeks and Romans regarded them highly. In fact, one ancient Roman preferred the mushroom to his corn and cows. The *Boletus cervi* is the "Colonel of mushrooms" according to another European poet (Miskevicius). In Europe it grows in abundance; sun-dried or oven-dried it is exported to this country where it is sold in stores, especially before the Christmas holidays, at a considerable price (\$100 per pound). It is not too common here, and if one is found, the finder is jubilant. A variety of mushrooms crop up on our lawn but to our indignation we always discover that the resourceful squirrels have already had their *Boletus* banquet.

#### FOR WINTER USE

When cool weather approaches and into frost time, the small red-brown mushroom will predominate. It grows singly and in clusters, so that one can harvest a large bushel basket full. These keep well and are an excellent edible

species. They are always preserved for winter use when mushrooms are not pickable. They grow in woods, in open fields and on stumps. Squirrels collect these dried little mushrooms and store them away for future use.

Both summer and autumn edible caps may be canned, although the summer's yield is better for oven drying. Dried in this manner they have an aroma that challenges any description. Each species has its individual scent, taste and flesh texture. They may be mild, sweet, peppery, spicy, bitter, smooth, crisp, slippery, crunchy, or solid.

#### AMAZING SHRINKAGE

We return with a full basket. After sorting, checking and cutting them into halves or quarters, the mushrooms are fully washed in several cold waters to remove leafy particles and tiny insects (if any) and the many colored spores from the gills and tubes.

Your profit - sad to say - from a three-quart sauce pan full of cut-up mushrooms, when cooked, will be about a quart and a half. Shrinkage in mushrooms is amazing.

There are many ways in which to prepare mushrooms. The family favorites are mushroom and potato soup. Mushrooms sauteed in butter and onions, or in dried-out chopped salt pork and onions, are a perfect companion for steak, hamburger loaf, chicken and other meats. Dried mushrooms with shredded beets, onions and sour cream are delicious. A spread made of finely ground mushrooms mixed with butter is favored, and is used as a spread or in sauces and gravies over meats.

The mushroom is not considered valuable as a food, but it is esteemed for its flavor. Its food value is just about the same as that of cabbage, less than one half that of potatoes, or about one twelfth that of wheat flour. There is little solid matter in the mushroom in proportion to the water it contains, and that is from 70 to 90 percent.

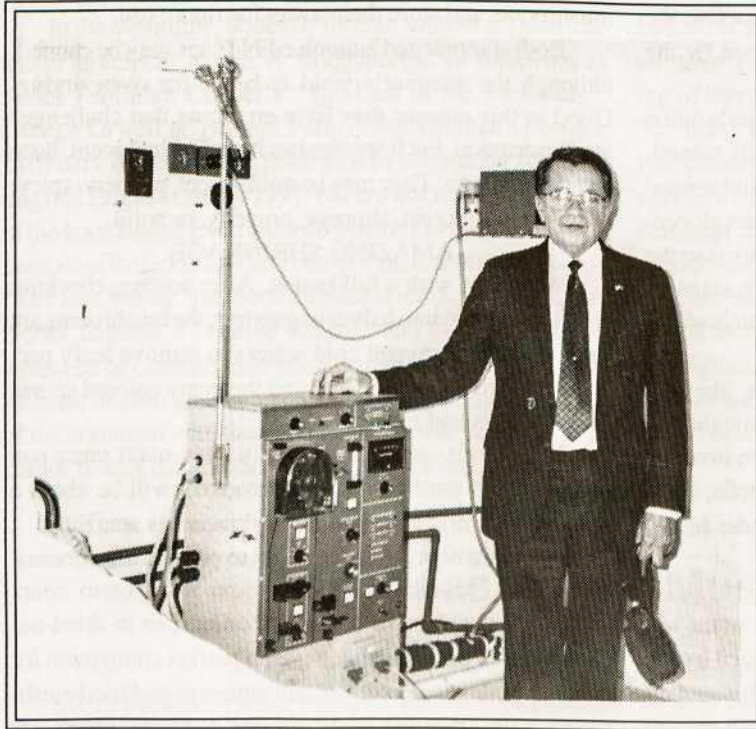
However inviting the mushrooms may look, it is worth remembering that, unless you are very certain of the wild fungi in the woods and fields, it is far safer to purchase your *Agaric compestris* in the market.

*The Evening Gazette*



## Eight Days in Lithuania

by Robert Boris



*Robert Boris next to Dialysis Machine donated by the K of L, LCRA , George Ward and Dr. Michael Yudd.*

The following narrative is a report of the K of L organized eight day visit to Lithuania. The purpose of the trip was to become more knowledgeable about health care in Lithuania, following the devastation caused by fifty years of Communism and to evaluate the effectiveness of the medical aid being financed and sent by our organization.

On Sunday, May 3, Glen Haydon, Pres. of Mercy International, a division of the Sisters of Mercy Health Corp., Carolyn George, Executive Director of World Medical Relief, Inc. and I started our eight day fact-finding mission. Accompanying us were two large cartons which weighed 52 lbs. and contained \$11,750.34 worth of medicine and drugs provided by World Medical Relief. TWA and Austrian Airlines graciously sent them along with our luggage at no extra cost.

There were only three Lithuanians on the flight from Vienna to Vilnius, the rest of the passengers were business people of various backgrounds and races plus a French traditionalist Bishop (a follower of excommunicated Bishop LaFever). It seems as though everyone is "getting into the

act": Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses and Hari Krishna (saffron robes flying as they danced through Cathedral Square). At the Vilnius Airport we were greeted by Dr. Alva Marciulioniene, chief doctor of Caritas Diagnostic Center and Saulius Kelpsa, Caritas driver. Gone are the Soviet customs officers and ridiculous entry procedures we experienced two years ago. Only later that evening in Kaunas, as we entered "Berniukų Užėga" for dinner, did it finally begin to "feel" like Lithuania.

The next seven days consisted of meetings with Cardinal Sladkevičius, Archbishop Bačkis, Bishop Tamkevičius, Bishop Žemaitis, Fr. George Sarauskas, Pres. Landsbergis, officials of the Health Ministry and the Mayor of Kaunas. We visited thirteen hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, orphanages, old folks homes and hospices. Nearly every place we visited had received supplies and equipment shipped from World Medical Relief. Their expressions of gratitude and appreciation were over-

whelming.

The highlight of the visit was to be present on May 11 for the arrival of our sixth 40' container loaded and sealed in Detroit on March 16. The original seal was unbroken and the precious cargo in excellent condition, after a 56-day journey by truck, rail and ship. We were amazed to see 16,179 lbs. of supplies, valued at \$537,422 loaded by modern material handling equipment in Detroit, being unloaded "by hand" in less than four hours by a group of students from the nearby Kaunas Seminary. The seminarians were released from class to assist in this humanitarian project. We were told that this same procedure was followed for all supplies sent from other sources and other countries to Caritas. Since the beginning of our project in 1990, over 50 tons of supplies valued at \$5,081,828 have been sent to Caritas for distribution throughout Lithuania.

The Caritas Diagnostic Center in Kaunas has been operating for several months with American-made equipment and supplies provided by the Aid to Lithuania Committee and other sources. It was very rewarding to see our efforts and our donations being used to save lives and



*Patient awaiting Dialysis Machine treatment with Dr. Balys Dainys and Glen Haydon.*

alleviate suffering. In the few short months that the Diagnostic Center has been functioning, over a thousand people have been treated free of charge. The services of doctors, nurses and personnel are performed on a volunteer basis, the first such operation in Lithuania since the 40's.

Caritas has established five regional pharmacies (Kaunas, Vilnius, Panevežys, Marijampolė and Telšiai) which distribute gratis the medicines and drugs that have been furnished by World Medical Relief and other organizations. Volunteer pharmacists and doctors supervise distribution and administration of the pharmacies. Of course, the amount and types of medicine available for distribution is limited. The only medicine available is what we, in the West are able to provide. Dr. Romas Maciulaitis, a highly qualified doctor and pharmacist is in charge of this entire program.

Another highlight of the trip was a visit to the Nephrology Dept. of the University of Vilnius Hospital. Dr. Balys Dainys' plea for dialysis machines last summer brought not only a \$3,100 response from the K of L Aid to Lithuania Committee but also responses from LCRA, Mr. George Ward, Dr. Michael Yudd and the Baltimore group. The first seven machines are already operational and saving lives. We actually met two young girls whose kidneys had been removed and were being kept alive by the machines we helped provide. They are awaiting kidney transplants when

a suitable donor is located. Dr. Dainys and his staff while successfully fighting overwhelming shortages of equipment supplies, drugs, etc. have expressed deepest gratitude for the help we have provided, help without which they could not function.

In visiting hospitals and clinics where American equipment is being used, it became obvious that a computerized inventory needs to be established to assist in obtaining parts, supplies, etc. Vince Boris has agreed to work on this project.

It was interesting to note that hospitals built before Communism are still in relatively good condition. The ones built during the Soviet occupation are literally falling apart. They will probably not last for more than a few years. In the USA, similar building would be condemned as unfit for human habitation and razed a long time ago. Most Soviet medical equipment that is still working appears to be from the dark ages. One develops a great admiration for health care givers in Lithuania, who work under such primitive and deplorable conditions.

The purpose of Glen Haydon's visit was to determine if the Church and government of Lithuania are interested in having Mercy International establish an "American-type" hospital. As expected, he received full support and approval of everyone including Pres. Landsbergis, the Ministry of Health and the Hierarchy. Proposals are being prepared and will be submitted shortly. Many found Glen's proposal unbelievable since Mercy International would make no profit from this project and will seek funding from American agencies and foundations.

Thanks to Glen and his staff, an x-ray machine valued at \$170,000 was made available from St. Joseph Community Hospital, New Hampton, IA. Originally, Project Hope had agreed to handle and ship the machine to Lithuania, but then withdrew their offer. The Aid to Lithuania Committee then accepted the financial obligation of approximately

\$4,000 for packing, crating and shipping to Detroit. Six crates containing the entire machine are now at World Medical Relief awaiting our seventh container scheduled for July. When installed, this x-ray machine will probably be one of the finest in Lithuania.

Carolyn George was able to determine that medical supplies and equipment was being handled and distributed properly, in keeping with their mission to serve the poor. It becomes obvious to us, that the type of supplies available at World Medical Relief are exactly what Lithuania needs desperately at the present time. Information gained from the visit will enable World Medical Relief to better evaluate priorities in packing supplies in the future.

A very sincere ačiū to the K of L National Executive Board for sponsoring this trip and to all members, councils and districts whose prayers and donations have made this entire project possible. Please continue your dedicated support. Lithuania continues to need our assistance.

With assistance from LCRA in Brooklyn, World Medical Relief in Detroit, Mercy International and support of the Detroit Lithuanian Community, the work of the



*Dental Equipment from USA - Carolyn George & Dr. Alva Marciulionienė*

Knights of Lithuania - Aid to Lithuania Committee will probably be considered one of our finest accomplishments.

In order to become more effective and after considerable legal consultation, we propose that the Aid to Lithuania Committee be incorporated as a free-standing "charitable" organization under the direction and guidance of the Knights of Lithuania. This will enable us to operate as a non-profit, tax-deductible organization - a status we do not presently enjoy. Our legal advisor, Saulius Kuprys, will begin filing proper forms as soon as the Board approves this proposal.



*Meeting at Caritas. L to r: Glen Haydon, Carolyn George, Dr. Alva Marciulionienė, Bishop Sigitas Tamkevicius, Dr. Romas Maciulaitis, Antanas Sabalius, Sister Albina Pajerskaitė.*

Aid to Lithuania



*Medical Academy, University of Vilnius*



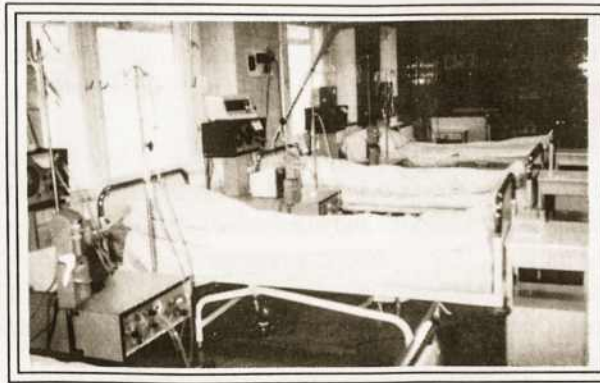
*Preparing Medicine for Patients (The old way).*



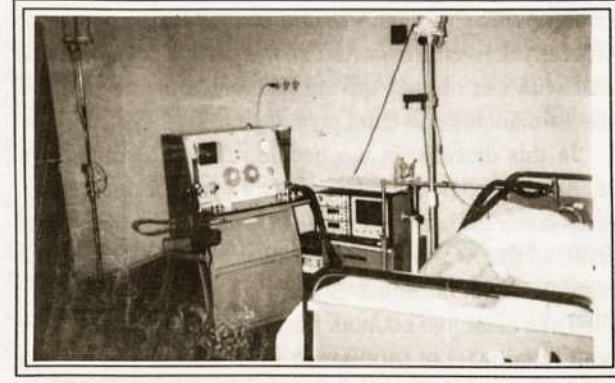
*Kidney Transplant Patient, Vilnius Nephrology Dept., University Hospital.*



*Equipment from World Medical Relief in Detroit.*



*Dialysis Unit - K of L, George Ward & LCRA donated Equipment.*



*Equipment from USA*

## Confessions of a Streetwalker

by Dennis Geaney, OSA

It seems that a concern among Catholics across the country is the poor quality of Sunday homilies, formerly called sermons. A first-class homily on Sunday is a relatively new expectation.

Before air-conditioning, many parishes had no sermon during the summer. There was an Augustinian priest in Oklahoma who the people loved because he gave no sermon on Sunday during the summer and, on cold days, he gave no sermon because they should be home lest there be a fire or the plumbing freeze.

Then there were the churches or chapels that attracted people with the twenty-five minute masses. This sounds like a Herculean feat. Not so. Latin rolls off the tongue quicker than English, no singing, no sermon, a second priest can start giving out communion after the collection. Churches and chapels that offered quickies pulled in people from a wide area. Better a twenty-five-minute mass than commit mortal sin.

My first weekend assignment in Chicago in 1943 was at Holy Angels parish. On the pulpit was instructions for priests. "The sermon must not be over five minutes." Parking was not a problem. The pastor did not want the people to suffer a sermon that would burden them. In the fifties, with masses on the hour and limited parking space, I had instructions to have the people out in forty-five minutes, preferably forty. Many Sundays, instead of a sermon, the priest read a letter from the cardinal and added a few comments or used the time to push a second collection.

The Sunday sermon had no likeness to the classical sermon, which was the mission sermon, a thirty-minute forcefully delivered exhortation on a particular subject that dealt with our eternal salvation. I was a member of the Augustinian mission band preachers from 1959-1965.

In this diocese, in the late 1950's, the cardinal had outlines sent to parishes that, over a cycle of three years, would cover the basic tenets of our faith and the commandments, all that a Catholic needed to know about God and the church to be an informed Catholic.

Then came the council. The decree on liturgy talked about homilies, not sermons or instructions. The homily was to be a reflection on the scriptures. Previously, I prepared a topic without reference in the readings and then looked at the readings to see if there was something that

would point up the sermon. Now, we were told to turn it around. Reflect on the scriptures of the day and let the homily flow from the readings.

When I arrived at Catholic Theological Union in 1969, there had been a major change in the curriculum from my seminary days. In my era, sacred scripture was a requirement, but a minor one. We studied the history of each book of the Bible, but never studied the text to get behind it and understand it in its historical setting and the twist each of the authors of the gospel and epistles gave them. We learned to answer questions about the Bible, but we did not study how to relate the meanings of the passages to human life today. At CTU scripture is now the principle subject. It has the finest biblical scholars on its faculty. I had to start by studying scripture in a new way. It is still a handicap. Now, when I preach, I begin with the scriptures, but move quickly to their concerns.

Then there is always the backlash of people who are angry at priests because we do not perpetuate the church of their childhoods. What is new is that priests must make it on their own personhood rather than on their ordination and title. I pity a priest if he is a "pleaser." Priests will always fall short of people's expectations. They need the inner security that comes from an awareness of their limitations and inability ever to meet all the needs of their parishioners.

About a decade ago, I was working on an issue of *Upturn* on preaching. Father R. Goedert agreed that he would give each parishioner a sheet to check off the strengths and weaknesses of each of the priests as homilists. He called later to say it was not a good idea. Priests are terribly sensitive to negative criticism of their homilies. Unlike their golf score, it is a part of their identity. (Because Father Goedert has this kind of wisdom, he was ordained a bishop last year.)

(Father Dennis Geaney, OSA is the editor of *Upturn*, the newsletter for the Association of Chicago Priests. He is the author of fifteen books and hundreds of articles, primarily dealing with liturgy, diocesan priesthood and the importance of the parish community. Father Geaney's latest book, *Quest for Community*, profiles twenty parishes which help people build community.)

★★

# Lithuanians in the News

## RECEIVES AN AWARD

Richard Laske, member of C-74, Scranton, PA and a 4th Degree Knight, received the Paul Harris Award from the North Scranton Rotary Club. This is the highest award that the Rotary Club bestows. This award was earned because of his participation with the Foster Children's Association for 28 years and a past president of this association. He is associated with the Holy Family Guild (Little Sister of the Poor), Catholic Charities, Lackawanna River Association. He collects money for the Blind Association and has donated a total of three gallons of blood to the Red Cross.

Once a week he assists with the Food Pantry for the needy and is actively involved with St. Joseph's Church and the Cemetery Committee. He also volunteers at several churches during the summer peeling and cooking potato pancakes. Presently he is involved in getting medical

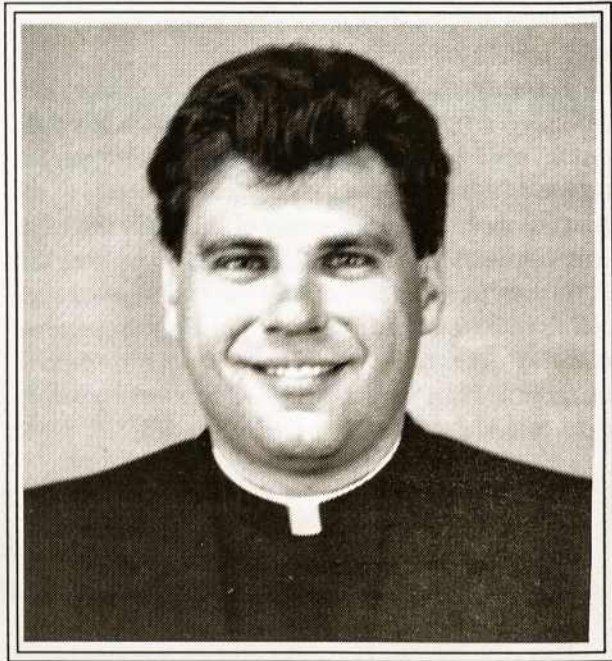


Richard Laske - C-74 Scranton, PA

supplies to Lithuania.

Richard is married to Marie Sarnowski Laske, the parents of eight children, of which three are adopted. We congratulate Richard on this fine accomplishment!

## NEWLY ORDAINED



Rev. Stephen P. Zukas

Rev. Stephen P. Zukas of Norwood, MA was ordained to the Priesthood by His Eminence, Bernard Cardinal Law, on June 13, 1992 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. He is the son of Paul & Louise (Grazulis) Zukas, members of C-27 Norwood.

Father Steve grew up in St. George Lithuanian Church, Norwood, and was a mass assistant for nine years. He graduated from Norwood High School in 1978 and served for six years in the U.S. Navy as a Machinist's Mate, four of them aboard the U.S.S. Halsey (CG-23), a guided missile cruiser based in San Diego.

Honorably discharged in 1984, he enrolled in St. John's Seminary College of Liberal Arts in Boston, graduating cum laude in 1988.

Having completed St. John's Seminary School of

Theology, he will now serve in the Archdiocese of Boston. We congratulate and wish Father Steve God's blessings in his new vocation.

### COMPETES IN VOLLEY BALL

Monica Tomkins has loved volley ball since the fifth grade. But last summer the sport gave her a new perspective on life.

Monika is a first generation American of Lithuanian descent living in California. Last year she traveled to Vilnius to compete for an American volley ball team in the fourth Lithuanian World Games. "It's the first time the Games were held in Lithuania. More than 800 athletes of Lithuanian descent from around the world came to compete," noted Monika.

Formerly a four-year varsity player and captain at the University of Pennsylvania, Monika was one of four Californians playing for Neris, a Chicago-based club team. The trip was Monika's second to her parents' birthplace - she spent one month at the University of Vilnius in 1989. She went with her father who had left the country when he was 22. He hadn't seen his brothers and sister for 50 years. They took five suitcases and only one was for their personal belongings. The rest were full of toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shoes and clothes for relatives - things that are so hard to get there. She states that people struggle daily just to feed

and clothe their families. It takes about three months' salary just to buy a pair of shoes. But improvements may be in sight. "I recently received a letter from my cousin in Vilnius," says Monika. "He says the people have a general feeling of optimism and great faith about their future."

### EARNs PODIATRY DEGREE

Dr. Birute Balciunas, daughter of Theresa Decello and the late Dr. Vitoldas Balciunas, is a 1992 graduate of the Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine in Chicago. Prior to entering Scholl College, Dr. Balciunas received a B.S. in Life Science from University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha.

While pursuing her podiatric medical degree at Scholl College, Dr. Balciunas was a member of the Running Club, Sports Medicine Club and Podiatric Journal Club. Dr. Balciunas was also the Secretary for Phi Alpha Pi Fraternity.

Dr. Balciunas enters residency training at Dakota V.A. Medical Center in Hot Springs, SD. The Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine was founded in 1912 and is one of only seven colleges of podiatric medicine in the nation. The college offers a four-year professional program leading to a degree of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine. More than one-third of the nation's podiatrists are graduates of Scholl College.

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## DARRYL NORMAN JOHNSON

### American Ambassador, U.S. Embassy, Vilnius, Lithuania

Darryl N. Johnson is a career Foreign Service Officer who arrived in Lithuania on Sept. 11, 1991 as Charge d'Affaires and was sworn in as Ambassador on March 30, 1992. He brings to this assignment extensive experience in Eastern European and Asian affairs.

Mr. Johnson joined the Foreign Service in 1965, following two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand. His Foreign Service career has included service in Bombay (1966-68), Hong Kong (1969-73), Moscow (1974-77), Beijing (1984-87) and Warsaw (1988-91). In addition, he has served in the Department of State in Washington as Officer-in-Charge of People's Republic of China affairs (1979-81), as a Pearson Fellow in the office of Senator Claiborne Pell (D-RI) (1981-82), and as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs (1982-84). In the latter position, his responsibilities included East European, Soviet and East Asian/Pacific affairs during the

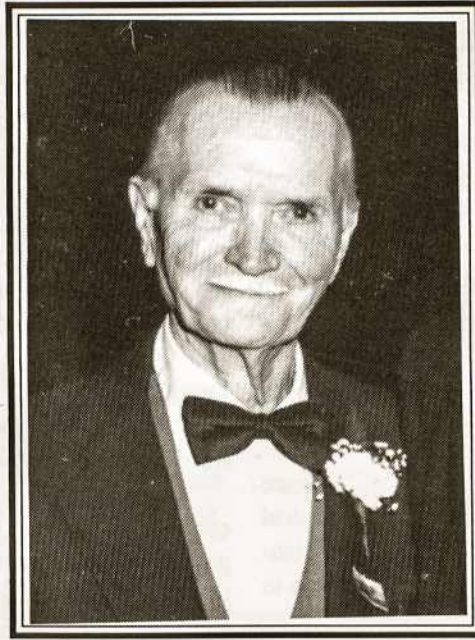
tenure of Under Secretary Lawrence Eagleburger.

Mr. Johnson was born in Chicago, IL in 1938 and moved at an early age to suburban Seattle, WA. He attended public schools in the Highline District, graduating in 1956, and went on to attend the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma and the University of Washington in Seattle, from which he received his BA (cum lauda) in English literature in 1960. At the University of Washington he was a member of the academic honor societies for military science, music and literature and he was admitted to the Phi Beta Kappa Society in 1960. Following graduation he attended the University of Minnesota and Princeton University and worked for several months at the Boeing Company in Seattle during and after his university studies.

He is the father of one daughter and two sons, all of whom are living and working in the Washington, DC area. His languages are Chinese (Mandarin), Polish, Russian, Thai and he is currently studying Lithuanian.



In Memory  
of



**KONSTANT J. SAVICKUS, ESQ.**

*Died: June 2, 1992*

*Benefactor  
Honorary Member  
Loyal Friend*

*Your passing leaves a tremendous void in our hearts.  
We will miss and remember you always,  
dear Konnie.*

## Durbin Bill would condition Russian Aid on progress toward removal of Russian Troops from Baltics

U.S. Rep. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) introduced a bill that would restrict economic assistance to Russia until significant progress has been made to remove all Russian troops from the Baltic states.

"More than a year ago, the Soviet military attacked peaceful Lithuanian demonstrators, killing 14 people," Durbin said. "Today, over 115,000 Russian troops continue to march on independent Baltic soil. The presence of these troops threatens the sovereignty and political stability of these fledgling democracies. While the Baltic states have continually expressed their willingness to negotiate the withdrawal of Russian troops, progress has been symbolic at best," Durbin said.

In addition, Durbin pointed out that reports indicate that Russian troops in Latvia have provided mechanical assistance to a Libyan submarine, in violation of Russian-supported U.N. sanctions against Libya and unknown to the Latvian government.

"As Congress prepares to debate an economic aid package for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), it is vital that such aid to Russia is conditioned on significant progress toward ending their Cold War policy of military occupation of the Baltics," Durbin said.

Durbin's bill, which he intends to offer as an amendment to the CIS aid package, would condition aid to Russia on certification by the President that:

- \* Significant progress has been made toward removal of Russian armed forces from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania;
- \* Additional Russian armed forces have not been brought into Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania without the permission of the government of that country;
- \* Artillery exercises or similar training operations are not being conducted by Russian armed forces on the territory of Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania without the permission of the government of that country;
- \* Russian military installations in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are open to inspection by the government of that country;
- \* Russian air and naval forces are not interfering with traffic in the air space or territorial waters of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; and

\* The government of Russia is keeping the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania informed regarding the number and location of Russian armed forces in that country.

"This bill would send a clear message to Russia that the U.S. Congress will not aid a nation which clearly violates the sovereignty of its neighbors," Durbin said.

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## What Do the Stars Tell Us?

Dear Padre,

I faithfully read the astrology column in the daily paper. A friend told me that astrology is a lot of nonsense, and even against the Catholic faith. What do you say?

*Gemini Gerry*

Dear Gemini Gerry,

What I say is: "Don't give credit or blame to the stars for what you do and what you are."

Stargazing is as old as the human race. We know with certainty that ancient Chaldea was celebrated for its stargazers. Many of the constellations' names originated in that time. One opinion has it that the three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the newborn Savior were themselves Chaldean stargazers. These men supposedly found an omen in the new star that was not recognized by ordinary folk.

Astrologers believe that human destiny is largely controlled by the zodiac signs under which each of us were born. The main objection that Christians have to astrology is that, taken seriously, it insults almighty God, who alone knows the future. God alone, in cooperation with the free will of humans, controls the future. To suppose that stars or planets, independent of God, direct or influence our lives opposes the first commandment: "I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me."

The Old Testament clearly spells out that it is vain to imagine "either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven, the governors of the world".

Remember also, that astrologers are often careful to make their predictions vague so that they could apply to just about anyone.

My advice on astrology, Gemini Gerry, is this: Don't stop at the stars. See past them to the God who made them, and who made us, and who watchfully cares for all creation.

The Padre

*Father Louis Miller, C.SSR.*

## LETTERS

MORE INFORMATION ON  
COLUMBUS

Dear Editor:

This is to express personal and professional congratulations for the substantive and stimulating May issue of VYTIS. Indeed, Leo Venckus' "Discover The Discoverer," was an outstanding contribution. As a Knight of Lithuania and a former Knight of Columbus, I found Mr. Venckus effort well focused and developed.

For those individuals interested in additional readings about Columbus, I recommend Professor Paolo Emilio Taviani's *Christopher Columbus: The Grand Design* (London, G.B.: Orbis Publishing Ltd, 1985) as well as his *Columbus: The Great Adventure - His Life; His Times, and His Voyages* (New York, NY: Orin Books, 1989).

Paolo Emilio Taviani has devoted his life to the study of Christopher

Columbus, and his works should be required reading for all of individuals interested in *The Age of Adventure*. In short, if you found Leo Venckus' "Discover the Discoverer," stimulating, then as Christopher Columbus might have said: "Read on", "Read On", "Read On."

*George Anthony (Cizauskas) Antonelli*

## VISA CHANGES

Visitors to Lithuania can no longer pick up a visa at the border. A visa must be obtained before leaving the United States. Get one at Lithuania's U.N. Mission in New York at 41 W. 82nd St; phone first (212) 877-4552.



## Remembrances of Youth

*How many of these do your parents say? And what do you answer?*

"As long as you're living under my roof ..."

"No. Do it now!"

"Because I'm the mother, that's why...."

Have you done your homework yet?

"Who was on the phone?"

"Money doesn't grow on trees."

"What did you learn today?"

"Good things don't come easy."

"Get a job."

"Don't wait till the last minute!"

"Go ask your father."

"You're old enough to know better."

"I love you, but...."

## IN MEMORIAM

JOHN ZUTANT  
C-140 Syracuse, NY  
† May 3, 1992

PETER CARROLL  
C-26 Worcester, MA  
† May 29, 1992

KAZIMIERA YAKAVONIS  
C-12 New York, NY  
† May 25, 1992

WALTER ZILYS  
C-29 Newark, NJ  
† May 29, 1992

## FACT OR FICTION

*The universe is shrinking and will soon be the size of a golf ball.*

Fiction: Most stars and galaxies are moving away from the earth which means the universe is actually getting larger.

*The universe is held together by powerful magnetic waves.*

Fiction: The universe is held to-

gether by a force called "gravity", the same force that keeps us on the ground here on Earth.

*Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravity by watching an apple fall.*

Fact: Newton made his famous discovery as a young man but was unable to prove it until almost 20 years later.

## A Voice from the Past

Father Joseph Simonaitis 1897-1953

Joseph Simonaitis joined the K. of L. C-12 in Manhattan only a short time after it was chartered. This was in 1915 and he was 18 years old. In no time at all, he was the organist at Our Lady of Vilnius church, secretary of C-12, and one of the trustees. On behalf of Lithuania (it was war time) he went to President Wilson with petitions.

On May 9, 1917 Joseph was given a farewell party (išleistuvės) and a gift of a golden watch. Religious studies at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado was his aim. His promise was to keep the K. of L. on his mind always, and when he returned in between studies, acted as organist and helped the council as much as he could.

On April 24, 1918 this letter from Denver was read at C 12's meeting —

### Dievui ir Tėvynei

#### New Yorko XII k. Vyčiams

Brangūs broliai bei sesers Vyčiai!

Ilgas jau laikas kai paskutiniam karte su jumis kalbėjau. Dabar imų vėl plunksną rankosną, kad per ją vėl galėčiau į Jus prabilt ir linksmiais žodžiais pasveikinti!

Man čia bebuvant tolimoj žemelėj labai nepaprasta. Gamtos grožybė nors matytis, vienok jos grožybė dilinasi kuomet pamislyju, kad čia nesigirdedi Lietuvos balsai — jos kalba. Tad kalbu su jumis su didžiū noru, kad rašydamas, tos brangius lietuviškus žodžius išgirsčiau bei su jumis anos pasidalinčiau, kad mano balsas jumis nulėktu, ir rastu aidą jūsų krutinėse (kaipo aidas iš šio saulėleidžio žemelės).

Atvykęs čion radau kurčią šalį, nei vieno Lietuivio! Kiek laiko vėliaus buvo studentų vakarėlis. Pagrainęs kiek buvau užkviestas padainuoti: ėmiau ir užtraukiau "Lietuva Tėvynė mūsų", iš to ilgėjimo girdėti savo prigimtos kalbos. Studentai ir professoriai taip atydziai klausėsi, kad nesitikėjau ir vos paskutinės aidas to himno išlėkė, jis buvo rankų plojimo pamerktas... Susipažinau su šio miesto garsu kompozitoriu ir per jį priėjau prie Katedros vargonų. Begraidamas vėl užėjo tas ilgėjimas ko Lietuviško ir pilną įjegą išleidžiau "Tegul Bus", kurio gražią pažymėjo ir tas kompozitorius. Šie du atsitikimai ypačiai buvo priežastis kitiems klausinėti apie Lietuvius, man gi jos supažindinti.

Galiu paminėt kad daug mažesnių atsitikimu buvo kur savo "Lietuvą" aikštėn išvdžiau. Dabar užklausiu jusų vyčių, kur ta Lietuvystės mielė atsirado kur ji buvo išauklėta? Lietuviškas kraujas pridavė man Lietuvystę bet ją išauklėjo "Lietuvos Vyčiai". Jog čia esu gimęs ir

suprantu lengvai kaip greit gali žūt čia gimusio Lietuvos banguose Svetimtautystos! Ir viskas ką **Lietuviško turui, paėjo iš Vyčių**: ir vieną dieną ateis kada stengsiuos atlygionti skolą teisingą.

Dabar, brangus broliai bei sesers Vyčiai noriu jumis pranešti jog yra daugelis tokių kaip kad pats esmiu — čia gimusių, čia augusių, kurie ir gi turi Lietuvystę ir kuri žus ir kuri turi žūti jei nebus auklėjimo. Ant jusų puola ši priedermė suteikt jiems Lietuvystės išauklėjimą. Mūsų Matužė Tėvynė, baisios kruvinos karios nuteriata, prašyte prašo įdant neleistumėt šios jos sūnelius paskėsti svetimtautystos banguose nes žiaurusis karas — kova gana jos sūnelių išplėšė iš glėbio, sudraskė į nepažystamus reginius! Visas jusų veiklumas turi šį tikslą turėt: kiekvienas tyatras, vakarelis, paskaita, prakalbos, arba ir paprastas susijimo vakaras turi už tikslą stiprint, auklėt ir gaivinti Lietuvystę. Prie to; čia atkeļiavę yra daugelis Lietuvių kurie jei į laisvamanius (it medžio sudžiuvusi šaka) arba paskęs į tą nežinomą žmogų, t.y. Lietuvį — lenką, airi, arba kitą kokį nepaprastą bei juokingą sutapimą. Tiems irgi turi Vyčiai suteikti Lietuviškumo palaikymo progą.

Negana to kad artimuose miestuose yra gerokos kuopos. Berods jos turi savo skaičių. Lietuvių prižiūrėt. Velyk, kraipkime akis kiekvienas į savę ypatingai ir sužiniokim ar kada per mūsų ypatingą užsivertimą (kuomet teisybė buvo abejuotina, ginčiuose, laike susirinkimmo ypatingai) gal koki sūnelį Lietuvos atstumėm nuo Vyčių — tos tautos auklėjimo organizacijos. Jei taip, turėtumėm jo vieton surast mažiausiai du, kad sulyginus tą liudėsį, kuri mūsų varginga tėvynė apturi toku atsitikimo ir patys saugotis neatkartuot tokį liudną prasižengimą prieš Lietuvą.

Būte tikrais "Vyčiais" kaip kad mūsų bočiai — milžinai buvo, turime nuolat kardą rankoj laikyt ir nors labai nuvargę turime nesnausti nes priešas ateis tame laike kada bus netikėtas.

Vyčiai, jus gal matot kiek gero jūs darot Lietuvai, bet istorija pripažins jusų darbštumą bei Lietuvai atsidavimą. Senovės Vyčiai gyne tik kiekvienas mažą žemelės dalele — o senovės vyčiai Lietuva išgelbėjo. Jus savo mažoj apygardoj atremkite priešą pilnu gyvu veikimu visų skyrių ir prisidėsit prie kitu kuopų garbės išgelbėjime Tėvynės, arba tikriaus, jos užlaikyme čia svetimojon.

xxxxxxxxxx

**Prierašas.** Liudna sužinoti apie mirtį Marcella. Amžina Atils! Lai buvai šiai Vyčiai tėvynės mylėtojai lengva ši svetima žemelė, nors butų ramiaus gulėti prigimtoj brangioj: Lietuvoj.

xxxxxxxxxx

Egzaminai — kvietimai artinasi: prašau kad atsimin-

tumėt mane savo maldose delei gero pasisekimo, dekoju prieš laiką.

XXXXXXXXXX

Galop, noriu išreikšti kiekvienam XII vyčiui savo širdingus linkėjimus geros kloties bei pasidarbavimo Vyčių dirvoj. Kiekvieną sveikinu ypatišškai ir atsisveikindamas pasilieku,

Jūsų broliukas Vytis

*Juozas Simonavičius*

It is a letter written with much feeling and the handwriting is beautiful.

After completing his studies, Joseph was ordained Father Juozas Simonaitis on July 9, 1922 at Annunciation Church, Brooklyn, NY by Bishop J. J. Dunne. His first Mass was celebrated at Aušros Vartų parish, NY on July 16, 1922 and he was assigned to serve there. By coincidence, the pastor and founder of the parish Father Joseph Šeštokas was his uncle.

On March 19, 1924 when St. Peter and Paul Church in Elizabeth, NJ urgently needed a Lithuanian priest, Cardinal Hayes of NY transferred Father.

During his 24 years in Jersey, Fr. Joseph invited the Sisters of St. Francis, Pittsburgh, PA to teach the Lithuanian language to the pupils, presented films on holidays, and introduced them to the World Series games on the radio. A wayside cross was blessed and erected through his efforts on November 24, 1946. but in 1982 it succumbed to age. Among the priests who served under the pastorate of Father Joseph were: Rev. Pius Juraitis, Rev. John Kinta, Rev. Michael Kemežis, Rev. John Scharnus, Rev. Stanley Stonis, Rev. Dr. John Starkus and Rev. Anthony Kasper. Father Joseph was the Spiritual advisor for NY NJ District (MAD now) in 1929 and he was bestowed Honorary membership in the K. of L. in 1948.

During a visit to his brother Dr. Simonaitis in Chicago, Father Joseph became ill and died at the young age of 56. He is buried in St. Gertrude's Cemetery in Colonia, NJ. His grave is on a small knoll under a tree surrounded by a few graves of priests formed in a circle.

Council 12 is very proud of Fr. Joseph. He was the second C-12 member to join the priesthood. The first was Rev. Jonas Navickas, who organized C-12 in 1914. He became a Marian Father and later Rector of Marianapolis College. I feel that both Fr. Joseph and Fr. Jonas are smiling down on Laisvą Lietuvą.

**Millie Pietz - C-12**

We have made no attempt to edit or correct Father Joseph's letter. Among the grammar, punctuation and

other Lithuanian language mistakes, lurks a message of pure gold — Father's great love for Lithuania and her language. Far away across the continent, Father felt as if he were in a "deaf nation" far from his beloved C-12, he longs to hear the Lithuanian language. He sings the Lithuanian anthem for the school's professors and students and his voice drowns in a sea of applause. He writes; "I became a Lithuanian by blood and was nurtured in my love for Lithuania by the K. of L. It is a great debt that I owe them, which I hope eventually to repay". Believe me Father you repaid with interest by writing this letter. When he became a priest, Father changed his last name from Simonavičius to Simonaitis.

**Dalia Bulvičius**

**LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR**



# Council News

# Vyčiai Veikia

## NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Pres. Al Akule called a board meeting on Feb. 22 at Maironis Park. Nine councils were represented and a great deal of territory was covered. We began with a sincere thank you to Kazys Adamavicius for giving us the room for meetings .... Blanche Genaitis announced scholarship raffle tickets are available. The valuable gifts offered should sell the tickets quickly

.... A reminder was made to inform all councils that NED dues should be paid by the end of March .... Larry Svelnis requested that all donations to the archives be sent directly to ALKA and not to him .... Andy Axtin reported his recent meeting with Bishop Baltakis and explained the dire need of vestments and religious clothing for seminarians in Lithuania .... Irene Tamul-

eich announced the Spring Holy Hour and Buffet tickets are available .... Recommendation was made to ask a donation of \$200 from NED for the national scholarship fund .... The entire group burst into Happy Birthday as a lighted cake was carried in for Pat Akule.

The NED meeting in New Haven on April 26 was opened with a greeting by Pres. Akule. A special prayer by Fr. Karalis was said for the return to good health to Msgr. Prancus of C-141 Bridgeport and Al Gedrim of C-50 New Haven. Twelve councils were represented to enjoy New Haven's warm hospitality and delicious food.

Fourth degrees were conferred upon

Victor Vaitkus and Doris Blinstrubas, both from C-7 Waterbury; Edith Kazlauskas, Helen Maculaitis, Frank Antin & Ann Rinkevich, all of C-50 New Haven. Congratulations!

A report was given on the upcoming Cultural Festival at Maironis Park on Oct. 18. Hosts will be C-7 Waterbury and C-116 Worcester .... Membership voted to make donations to the following: National Scholarship Fund, National Convention Program Ad, Lithuanian Embassy Fund, St. Casimir Guild and the Aid to Lithuania Fund .... A decision was made to increase the allotment for the district meeting expenses to \$400.

Lenore Jarvis presented Fr. Wolkovich's Lithuanian Parish History Project, Vol. I, New England States, Religious Life in America. The two succeeding volumes will cover the Empire State and miscellaneous institutions. This ambitious and important undertaking promises to be our history at its best. This book is a must for our own personal use and a library donation for others.

Andy Axtin spoke of meeting with Bishop Baltakis and discussing the plight of Lithuania's orphans. He said that the orphans are in a scandalous condition and political red tape is preventing humane overseas adoption procedures. He also discussed the exchange student situation.

An invitation from Al Mitkus was announced to join the Baltic Tours on a six-day cruise to Bermuda on Sept. 7 at a reasonable rate for K of L's.

Unanimously accepted was Vic



*NED - Victoria Masto, Frank Peterson & Michael Meizies of host C-50 New Haven serve as color guard for Spring meeting.*



*Victor Vaitkus & Doris Blinstrubas of C-7 Waterbury installed in Fourth Degree at NED Spring meeting.*

### **C-3 PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Throughout this past year, C-3 has altered its meetings between St. George's and St. Casimir's Churches. We thank both pastors, Fr. Anderlonis & Fr. Wassel, for making us feel so welcome.

May found us once again at St. Casimir's for our meeting and the delicious social so graciously presented by the Kapochus family. This was a meeting full of interesting items of business and information to be shared. Again we thank Leonard Kapochus for his Lithuanian Affairs report on all of the up-to-date happenings concerning Lithuania. For example, Lithuania's own airline is making twelve flights a week. With fuel shortages and many other obstacles to overcome, we congratulate and wish success to Lithuanian Airlines. Leonard also advised of the top priority for writing and calling for the removal of Russian troops from Lithuanian soil. Julia Kowrak, Cultural

Mathieu's suggestion that all national convention annual reports be submitted and put together into one packet and distributed to delegates prior to the first meeting on registration day at the National Convention. A resolution was authorized for presentation.

The fall meeting will be held in Norwood on Sept. 20. District flag was presented by C-50 New Haven to the next host C-27 Norwood, bringing this lively meeting to a close with a prayer and the singing of Vyčiu Hymnas. *Aldona Marcavage*

chairlady, told us about the first Bed and Breakfast Inn in Lithuania.

Our council voted to donate \$100 to the Scholarship Fund, \$200 to the St. Casimir Guild, and to take a full page ad in the National Convention Ad Book at the cost of \$75 .... Irene Ozalis sponsored the bus to the Lithuanian Festival in Baltimore. Everyone saw the fine display of Lithuanian treasures, sampled the delicious food and enjoyed the wonderful entertainment .... Amber District meeting was held June 14 in Binghamton. Six delegates were in attendance.

The National Executive Board meeting was held in Phila. on May 30 at St. George's. Our council extended their hospitality to these dedicated people by providing transportation, hosting a luncheon and giving Fr. Anderlonis a donation toward dinner expenses.

The June council meeting was held at the home of Leonard & Marilyn Kapochus in Vineland, NJ. A council sponsored barbecue followed the meeting. *Irene Svekla*

**C-7 WATERBURY, CT**

### **C-7 WATERBURY, CT**

In March, C-7 hosted the National Executive Board meeting at St. Joseph School in Waterbury. Our spiritual advisor Fr. Karvelis welcomed the Board to Waterbury. Opening prayer was given by Rev. Anderlonis. Mass was celebrated at 4:00 p.m. Dinner immediately followed. Alma Torre was the chairlady assisted by Anne Cheplick, Eleanor Arnauskas, Toni & Ed White, Phil & Fran Stiklus, Mary & Daryl Bartkus, Ann Kundrotas, Doris Snirpunas, Joan & Theresa Shaitis, Joe Stiklius, Ed Karvelis, Lefty Adams & Alex Kosa. Dinner featured homemade Lithuanian dishes and was enjoyed by all.



*Members of NED receiving their ritual degrees at Spring meeting.*

Joan Shaitis recently celebrated her 60th birthday with a surprise party given by her children. She has eight children who each gave her a night to remember. The most touching part of the evening was when her children sang a song dedicated to her. It was a very touching and memorable night for Joan, her family and her friends.

Two of our members, Doris Blinstrubas & Victor Vaitkus, received their Fourth Degrees at the NED Spring meeting held in New Haven, CT in April. Both attended a mass at St. Casimir Church with their families to receive this prestigious award. Congratulations. Other delegates attending were Anne Cheplick, Alma Torre, Eleanor Arnauskas, Vicky Sheehan and Frances Stiklius.

A few of our members have been traveling. For a 50th wedding anniversary gift, Ed & Toni White visited Hawaii. They were also able to stop and visit with their children .... Our spiritual advisor, Fr. Karvelis, left on tour to visit Lithuania and our sister church there. He took religious vestments and other necessities with him to give to Lithuania. This experience will be an excellent opportunity for Fr. Karvelis to describe what he saw and did while there .... C-7 is getting ready for its 75th celebration to be held sometime in November. It's very important that all of us try to preserve our heritage.

#### **C-12 NEW YORK, NY**

May 17, 1992 was a most eventful day for Our Lady of Vilnius Church. It had its Spring dinner and the dedication of a plaque in honor of Fr. Joseph Šeštokas, the founder of this beautiful church.

Fr. Nicholas Langenfeld who is 90 years young has been coming to Our Lady of Vilnius parish for many

years on various occasions. He knew the founder of this church and has been a dear friend to all. He considered it an honor to bless the plaque in memory of his dear colleague. The late Mary York who has done so much to raise money for this plaque must be smiling in heaven.

C-12 treasurer, Millie Pietz, chaired this very successful dinner and was very happy to see most of C-12 at this event. It was good to see John & Evelyn Bell, Stella & Mitch Marcinauskas with their nephew from Lithuania, Fr. Palubinskas, pastor of Annunciation Church and his guests were also at this dinner.

The orphanages in Lithuania have been receiving packages from C-12 as well as clothing for the people in need. This program will continue until further notice.

Kazimiera Yakavonis, a long time member was taken to her eternal rest. She was always in the kitchen helping in every way. We will miss her. God grant her eternal rest in heaven .... We take pleasure in welcoming three new members, Charles Katinas who designed and made the plaque for Fr. Joseph Sestokas, Vincent Katinas and Rasa Varankaite. Welcome .... Get well wishes go out to Helen Malluk. Helen had a problem with ulcers which necessitated an operation .... Congratulations to following members who celebrated a birthday recently: April: Ann Beard, Dalia Bulvicius, Alma Korengo, Ann Lukscha & Anne Yurkus. May: Evelyn Bell, Nancy Belskis & Ann Montvidas. June: Helen Matthews. *Irene*

#### **C-30 WESTFIELD, MA**

Palm Sunday weekend was a very busy time for our members. On that weekend each year we have our annual fund-raiser, making Lithuanian

sausage (dešra) to sell. On Easter Sunday these dešras grace the dining tables in many Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian homes in the Westfield area. Lou Buckities does all the telephone calling, taking orders in advance - nothing is left to chance. Jim & Marcia Rogers do the pre-planning, order supplies and make out work schedules. There is never a problem getting members to work. Although this project is a lot of work, we find it a three-day productive and real fun time. Even all of us "over 39's" who suffer from that Lithuanian sounding affliction, Arthritis, find the standing and working for hours at our tasks to be uplifting rather than debilitating.

On the first day, all equipment and work areas are thoroughly cleaned and set up. Seasonings are weighed out and packaged, ready to be mixed into the meat. On Saturday and Sunday mornings, all workers report at 8 a.m. to various tasks assigned to them. After a quick trip home to shower off the evidence of our labors, we are back for 5:30 mass. By noon on Sunday, all orders are completed. The workers and Fr. Bill enjoy the much looked forward buffet dinner to which all contributed their favorite food or beverage. Theresa Atkocaitis' large kugelis disappears real fast. Our church choir members share in the labors and profits of this endeavor. Several of our members are also members of the choir. Their purpose is maintaining the church organ. Over the years the choir has invested many dollars in this upkeep. This is an appreciated donation and help to our parish.

Our next sausage making is scheduled for our parish's August 23 picnic. The sausage, kugel and baked goodies are always in demand. Members willingly work with the committee.

We welcome to our council new





*C-52 Elizabeth members Julianna Liana and daughter Gina meet Senator Bill Bradley from New Jersey.*

member Robert Shiels. Bob is Cooky & Benny Coach's nephew .... Mary Minkus, long time member, is in a nursing home. She misses the K of L members and activities. If anyone would like to drop her a card, the address is: Mary K. Minkus, Eagle Pond Nursing Home, P.O. Box 208 - R239, So. Dennis, MA 02600.

*Cooky*

#### **C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ**

After successful major surgery in New York City, Rev. Alfred Zemeikis, pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, is now recovering. He says, "Thank you to all who sent get well remembrances. I hope to see all of you in church while at the altar." Fr. Peter Aquinto, an assistant, conducted the services in his absence. He learned to read and speak Lithuanian since arriving from the Philippines .... Congratulations to Rev. Joseph Pragulbiskas who celebrated his 89th birthday on April 8. Fr. Joe celebrates the 11 a.m. mass on Sundays-He is residing at a nursing home

in Cranford .... Our annual picnic was held on June 7. *William Senken*

#### **C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA**

One hundred ninety-five students in the Allentown area have pen pals in Lithuania as the result of Emilie Tihansky's project. Emilie, an active

member of C-63, wrote to Ramunė Kubilus in Chicago requesting names for her pen pal project. To her amazement, she received 200 names from students in Druskininkai, Nida and Neringa. She approached Kelly Painter in St. Thomas More School where seventh and eighth grade students eagerly accepted Lithuanian pen pals. Other teachers in various schools in Bethlehem also accepted pen pals. As a result of Emilie's enthusiasm for promoting Lithuanianism, 195 young people are learning more about the Baltics. Congratulations to the success of this project, Emilie!

#### **C-86 DUBOIS, PA**

Our council finally got out of the starting blocks in regard to issuance of degrees. So far this year, we have processed three third degrees, six second degrees and nine first degrees, with more to come later. Congratulations to all recipients for this honor which is so meaningful to all K of L members, both locally and nationally. We are hopeful that this will be the start of a regular program of degree recognition.



*C-63 Lehigh Valley, PA - 8th grade students in St. Thomas More School hold letters received from pen pals in Lithuania.*



*MAMD first place bowling team: Bruno Bartkus, Joanna Shigo, Joe Ivoska, Ursula Kunsitis and Tom Bruzga.*

Our council hosted the MCD meeting and annual bowling tournament. Tom Bruzga was general chairman and John Amilkavich was co-chairman. When the smoke finally cleared on Friday night, we had 109 persons registered. The attendance surpassed all our expectations. We had a nice opening party that evening with more food and drinks than we could possibly consume. A special thanks to Jeanne Bruzga for her outstanding food. And a big Ačiū to the guys who did the bartending and the women who donated snacks and desserts.

Saturday morning we had a very productive meeting, followed in the afternoon with our bowling tournament. In the evening we had dinner at St. Joseph Church followed by dancing at the beautiful Lithuanian Club. Again our ladies came through with home-made cakes which quickly disappeared after our swiss steak dinner.

The first place team award was presented to Cleveland. They won a cash award, individual trophies and the traveling trophy which is awarded

permanently when the same council has won first place for three different years. Members of the winning team were Bruno Bartkus, Joanna Shigo, Joe Ivoska, Ursula Kunsitis, all from Cleveland, and Tom Bruzga from DuBois.... Individual awards of trophies and/or cash prizes were made to John Cramblet, Chip Newberry, Chuck Mykolaitis, Joe Guerriero, Sue Franklin, Janie O'Daniel and

Maryanne Guerriero, all from Detroit, and to Charlie Machutas and Dolly Oberaitis of Cleveland.

Everyone had a good time and we look forward to our next MCD meeting in Dayton and the next bowling event in Detroit .... My special thanks

are extended to our two photographers, Elena Mikalauskas from Dayton and Jeanne Bruzga from DuBois.

*Tom Bruzga*

### **C-90 KEARNY, NJ**

Well, here we are almost six months into 1992 and we have been busy. Our Lithuanian Independence Day celebration was a marvelous event. The day started with Mass. It is always a moving experience to hear our beautiful Lithuanian hymns sung by all. Following Mass, a Lithuanian flag raising was held at the Kearny Town Hall Park. Through the efforts of Joe Gaglio, Commander of the VFW, we had the presence of the Color Guard and a volley of shots fired in salute to Lithuania's freedom. What an inspiring event. Our big "Ačiū" to Joe. A brunch was held at the LCCC adding the finishing touches to a "perfect" day.

On Feb. 19, Msgr. Pocus, Elena Nakrosis, Eleanor Rokas & Gen Mazur traveled to Trenton to attend Gov.



*MAMD recipients of third degree: Joe Ivoska, Virginia Kohl, Tony Oberaitis, from Cleveland; Irene Yanek, (back row) Ben & Tom Bruzga of DuBois.*

Florio's signing of a proclamation for Lithuanian Independence Day in New Jersey. Lithuanians from different areas of New Jersey attended. It was a delightful event.

Our council held a family pancake dance (Blyniu Baliu) in March and a great fun time was had by all, especially the little children. Ann Pringle and Fran Grdina did a fine job as co-chairladies. Accolades to the chefs and all the wonderful hard working potato peelers. There were many of them. Ačiu to all.

We are proud of C-90's donation of \$300 to the Deborah Hospital "Children of the World Fund" program that will help send thirty Deborah medical people to Vilnius to operate on 25-30 children with serious heart and lung problems. What a wonderful project. These children are the future of Lithuania.

There is some sad news from our council. We recently lost two of our members, Peter Macijauskas and Walter Songile. Our deepest sympathy to the families of both men. May their souls rest in peace. Our condolences also go out to Elena Nakrosis and her family on the death of her dad, Anthony Miskewitz, of the Bayonne council. He will be greatly missed at St. Michael's Lithuanian Church in Bayonne. Rest in peace Tony.

Now with some happy news. Eleanor Gelenitis is a proud grandmother of Ryan born to Terry & Paul Gelenitis in Oct. A girl Loretta Ann was born to Audrey & Stan Pryzyblski in April. The proud grandmother is Laima Kohanski. We now have two more future K of L's. Both Paul & Audrey are former Juniors.

Our beautiful Lithuanian tradition of Easter Resurrection Mass was held at O.L. Sorrows Church at 7 a.m. To the sound of the choir singing

"Linksma Diena", Msgr. Dom processed through the church with little children and members of church organizations following. Many a tear comes to one's eye when they witness such a beautiful and stirring event. We are grateful that our Lithuanian traditions still exist at OLS.

On May 5, our spiritual advisor, Msgr. Dominick Pocus celebrated his 47th year in the priesthood. Many of us remember when he first came to our parish 45 years ago. He was instrumental in the building of our new church and we wish him Ilgiausiu Metu.

A beautiful hand carved sign is being made for the Lithuanian Community Center through the generosity of Irene Belza and C-90. Irene's donation is in memory of her husband, Joe Belza. The Vytis will also be visible on the sign. Ačiu.

With summer fast approaching, we wish all our fellow Knights a wonderful, restful summer. Su Diev!

*Zmon*

### **C-102 DETROIT, MI**

C-102 members came away with most of the bowling trophies and money at the MCD Bowling Tournament in Dubois, PA. Winners were: John Cramblet, Sue Franklin, Janie O'Donnell and Joe & Maryanne Guerriero. Congratulations to Cleveland winning first place traveling trophy. Tim Baibak & Maryanne Guerriero were our delegates at the meeting. Other members enjoying the fun-filled weekend were: Ruth Wagster, Bea & George Cramblet, Don & Marge Wagster, Tim & Chris Baibak and Sue & Dan Baibak with infant son Stephen. This is an enjoyable weekend every year as we get to renew friendships and have a good time. Thanks Dubois for the fun weekend.

Memorial Day was celebrated by the American-Lithuanian Veterans with mass and lunch at Divine Providence Church. After mass a blessed wreath was placed at the Wayside Cross followed by the sounding of taps. Charles Mishakis read the names of deceased veteran members; a moving ceremony remembering all our long time friendships.

It seems like our members are always coming or going, but our meetings, after Sunday mass are always well attended. Bunikis, Medonis & Klucens all returned from Florida. .... Get well wishes are extended to Bill Klucens, who spent several days in the hospital in Florida and was driven home by his son ... HM Bob Boris and Carolyn George returned from Lithuania where they delivered medical supplies and visited the hospitals that are receiving them .... Joe & Maryanne Guerriero enjoyed a fruitful three days in Atlantic City before the MCD bowling tournament .... Joe & Eve Stark along with Donna & John Stanievich enjoyed a weekend in Buffalo, NY visiting with Dr. John Stanievich .... Regina Juskaitis just returned from Europe .... Congratulations to Merri & Lorry Hofner on the birth of their new granddaughter .... Also to Tim Baibak on winning the 50/50 raffle at the MCD.

Hoping to see all at the National Convention in Allentown, PA.

*Meriutė*

### **C-112 CHICAGO, IL**

Board members were treated to a lavish array of snacks and desserts when recording secretary, Theresa Vaitkus, hosted our May meeting. She is a super cook and everyone appreciated her hospitality.

Eight members traveled to Davenport, IA for cruising, dinner and



*St. Casimir celebration at Nativity BVM, Chicago, IL: Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, co-celebrant with Revs. Anthony Puchenski, John Savukynas, Canon Vaclovas Zakarauskas, John Kuzinskas and Peter Cibulskis.*

gambling on the Rock Island Casino Riverboat and a side trip to Galena. We understand no one won enough money on which to retire .... Al & Aldona Brazis and Ellie Kasputis joined more than 400 people on a dinner-cruise aboard "The Odyssey" on Lake Michigan. Titled "Mercy Lift," proceeds were earmarked for Lithuanian relief.

Estelle Rogers sold enough tickets to fill three tables with K of L's attending the 40th anniversary dinner at the Martinique for Fr. John Kuzinskas, pastor of Nativity BVM Church. We wish him another forty years with much good health and thank him for his support of the K of L.

Cultural chairman, Leonas Norbutis, introduced Arvydas Reneckis, who brought along a Lithuanian documentary film showing us the current upheaval in the political situation in Lithuania. Arvydas directed this very excellent film. Thank you, Leonas, for providing us with interesting guest speakers every month.

Robert Mockus presented a very interesting and unusual concert at St. George Church with many talented singers, musicians and a handbell choir. Robert has presented a series of four concerts during the year, a tremendous undertaking for a very talented man. *Gerrie*

#### **C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT**

It was a real pleasure to welcome back Msgr. Prancus after being hospitalized. He opened our May meeting with a prayer and expressed his gratitude for all the prayers and remembrances. We wish him good health and a long, busy life.

Congratulations to Barbara Schmidt who returned from Germany just in time to receive her Third degree at the NED meeting in New Haven .... Two young Lithuanian citizens, Elena & Dr. Armandas Zakarauskas, arrived in Bridgeport in April via International Institute and were introduced at our meeting by Gintare Ivaska, refugee coordinator of the Institute. Dr. Armandas spoke briefly and articu-

lately in English touching on conditions in Lithuania. He thanked all Knights for their gifts sent via Aid to Lithuania containers which everyone appreciated. He is general practitioner and his sister is an architectural engineer. They hope to get established and build a better life in the United States. In the interim, Agnes Lazdauskas is trying to keep them from getting bored.

Recently, Ray Burzak appeared in a local fund-raiser play as the villain. Good luck, Ray!

.... Ros & Vldas Barius spent June in Lithuania and attended the 75th anniversary of the school they attended .... Aldona Marcavage announced the completion of the first volume of Fr. Wolkovich's book Religious Life in America. There will be three volumes when completed. The council purchased a copy for the council library. St. George Parish history is included.

Sylvester & Aldona Marcavage attended the 25th Jubilee of Sister Joan Blazeovich, CJC, in June in Brockton and then went on to the NED Retreat at Kennebunkport .... A rousing Happy Birthday was sung to Leë Marcinka and Alice Wilcinskas on their May birthdays. *Aldona Marcavage*

#### **C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA**

At our May meeting our council was saddened at the loss of our vice pres. Eleanor Yancofski, a Fourth degree member. Eleanor was a loyal Knight. She attended district and national conventions. She volunteered to help with all council activities. We extend our sincere sympathy to her

brother, sister-in-law and nieces. May she rest in peace .... Our prayerful condolences are extended to Pres. Olympia Zelinski on the death of her brother Edward. May he rest in peace.

Joseph Martunas, Lithuanian Affairs chairman, expressed concern over the Russian troops in Lithuania. Cultural chairlady Mary Koons related the observance of Pentecost in Lithuania. Fin. Sec. Helen Chesko forwarded certification for 231 members at the end of May .... Anne Wargo, St. Casimir Guild chairlady, and Helen Chesko attended the National Executive Board meeting on May 30 sponsored by Fr. Anderlonis and C-3 in St. George Church in Philadelphia .... Six members from Hazleton Council joined 23 members from our council for the trip charted by bus to Binghamton on June 14 for the Amber District meeting.

See all the early birds in Allentown on July 15!

### **C-150 KANSAS CITY, KS**

Our council's Second Heritage meeting was held on May 9 at the home of Anita & Bill Strumilla. Attending were John Brinza, Anthony Granosky, Charlotte & Dick Horvatic, Frances & Charles Purduski, Vice Pres. Dolores Purduski and Pres. Lou Ann Rayn. After socializing and a lovely luncheon, Anita & Bill shared their collection of family photographs of Lithuanian "old times" including a group outing at City Park with Fr. Zekas taken about 1841. They also displayed copies of a document relating to the incorporation of a Lithuanian insurance society in Kansas City in 1912.

Most of the group visited Vilnius and Kaunas and other points of interest in Lithuania on May 20 thru 28.

*Lou Ann Rayn*

### **C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY**

For the Knights of our Council this Spring has been a time of sadness and happiness. We were saddened by the death, on April 28, of our fellow Knight and good friend, Anthony Zambuto. Some 25 members participated in a K of L prayer ritual for the eternal repose of Tony's soul. Our deepest sympathy to Tony's wife and council president, Muriel Lekstutis Zambuto and family.

On a far happier note, Joanne White was married in Vero Beach, FL to Rolland Paul LaBonte. The newlyweds will make their home in Sebastian, FL .... Congratulations are also in order for fellow Knights Louise & Vito Senken on their recent induction into the ranks of grandparents.

The four marks of the Roman Catholic Church are that it is one, holy, Catholic and apostolic. To illustrate the catholicity (or universality) of our church, in the spirit of ecumenism, a service was held at Sacred Heart Church in Cutchogue, NY in March at which, in the various languages spoken in the area, petitions were addressed to God for the particular blessing nearest to the heart of the person asking it. Representing the Baltic people, Fred Lucka, speaking in Lithuanian, offered his prayer that God, in His goodness, may restore to Lithuania and to the other formerly Christian countries just emerging from their domination by a Godless Soviet Union, the blessings of faith, Christian morality, and hope for a decent future.

Once again, our readers, in their kindness, are asked to spare a moment of prayer for the soul of Tony Zambuto and for the return to good health of our fellow Knight, Blanche Zeidat and Frank LoPiccolo.

*Tom Tarmey*

### **C-154 SPRING HILL, FL**

We are in the process of making arrangements to recognize the Olympic athletes from Lithuania when they participate in Barcelona, Spain. Monetary contributions have been sent to the Olympic Committee earmarked for the Lithuanian delegation. Also, we are looking into the possibility of contacting American-Lithuanian Olympic hopefuls so that they may first-hand bring greetings and words of encouragement from us.

On Mother's Day we traveled by bus to the Mission Inn in Howey-in-the-Hills, FL for a day of sightseeing and a superb brunch. This is truly a secluded oasis amid a whirlwind of activity for a day of relaxation. Later, on our way home we stopped for a wine-tasting adventure at the Lakewood Winery and Vineyard in Clermont, FL. This provided a great opportunity to sample and purchase some of the award winning wines of Florida.

Some of our members will join a tour group as it leaves for Lithuania. We will anxiously await for their slides and commentary so that others will be encouraged to take that trip .... Many social activities are planned for the summer months.

Annette & Bill Gnezevich have returned from Austin, TX. They joined their whole family to celebrate the awarding of a law degree to their grandson .... Ed & Tillie Laconis were happy to welcome their son who lives in Hawaii. He visited here for a week and then all of the Laconis' left for a summer respite in Michigan.

Have a safe summer!

*Sadye G. Petraitis*



# ST. CASIMIR GUILD DONATIONS

Sept. 1 - June 1, 1992

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| \$1,333 - C-144 Anthracite, PA  | 50 - Longinas Svelnis, Needham, MA; Rev. Peter Alisaukas, White Haven, PA; Mary Belleguic, New York, NY City; C-96 Dayton, OH |
| 1,000 - National Executive Board  | 25 - C-146 Harrisburg, PA; Rosellen Frantz, St. Clair, PA; John/Mary Gustas, Mt. Carmel, PA; Elizabeth Tumas, Tamaqua, PA     |
| 500 - Amber District  | 25 - C-150 Kansas City, KS<br>IMO Paul Purduski<br>IMO Ann Gaydess Scherzer   |
| 300 - Alphonse/Bernice Mikatavage, Minersville, PA  | 20 - Ed/Anne Carlitus, Ringtown, PA; Anne Challan, White Haven, PA; Mr/Mrs. Alvin Zakaras, Bridgeport, CT;                    |
| 250 - C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY   | 10 - Anella Klimaytis, Bridgeport, CT; Carol Duggen, Bridgeport, CT   |
| 195 - C-141 Bridgeport, CT  | 5 - Bronius Krokys, Phila., PA; Frances Boyle, Camp Hill, PA; Ausra Maknys, Phila, PA IMO Fr. Frances Jaraska                 |
| 150 - Florence Zaleskas, S. Boston, MA  |   |
| 100 - Mid-Atlantic District; Olympia Zelinski, Mt. Carmel, PA; John/Anne Morgalis, Minersville, PA.   |   |
| 70 - Helen Chesko, Mahanoy City, PA<br>IMO John Yurickonis, St. Clair, PA<br>IMO Ted Pinkus, Worcester, MA<br>IMO Anne Kersis, Worcester, MA<br>IMO Michael Sussko, Union, NJ<br>IMO Helen Stancavage, Mahanoy City, PA<br>IMO Frances Downey, Philadelphia |   |

## RECOLLECTING

My favorite music was the big band sound,  
At that time it was the best to be found,  
In alphabetical order, (since they were all grand)  
I'll list them - each spectacular band.

Tommy Dorsey and trombone, as though in a dream,  
Played "Sentimental Over You" as his theme.  
Appealing was the talent of Eddie Duchin  
When his piano music he would begin.

There were also the smooth tunes of Glen Gray;  
And we would "swing and sway" with Sammy Kaye.  
Kay Kyser created his "College of Musical Knowledge,"  
And then quickly in radio he found his niche.

Vincent Lopez I loved to hear  
When he played "Nola" with notes so clear.  
Phil Spitalny had an all-girl crew;  
They sang and their instruments they blew.

Buddy Rich exuberantly beat his drums,  
I hope he didn't hurt his thumbs!  
Ted Weems had that talented whistler,  
He was Allen Reynolds — remember?

Then Lawrence Welk's "champagners" came along;  
They played, danced and entertained with song,  
Rudy Vallee, the last but not least,  
With megaphone bemused us from a college "out east."

They didn't need amplifiers, woofers and such,  
Their musical knowledge gave it that romantic touch.  
Ten guitars they had no need for,  
Their educated trumpets sang melody galore.

Memories, I know, we have of our youth,  
When we danced (together) to music so smooth.  
And when our grandkids call it "corn,"  
We can remind them their "music" often leans to "porn".

Bertha Janus, C-79



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**LITHUANIA & NORWAY**

15 Day Tour with 4 Days in Vilnius,  
2 Days in Kaunas, 1 Day in Šiauliai,  
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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

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## CALENDAR of EVENTS

## GOLFER'S PRAYER II

- 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 20, 1992 - NED Meeting, Hosts: C-27 Norwood, MA.
- September 25-28, 1992 - C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, Pilgrimage, Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME
- September 27, 1992 - MAD Meeting. Hosts: C-110, Transfiguration Church, Maspeth, NY
- October 4, 1992 - C-90 Kearny, NJ, 75th Anniversary, LCC Center, Kearny, NJ
- October 10, 1992 - C-29 Newark - Annual Dinner/Dance, Holy Trinity Hall, Newark, NJ
- October 18, 1992 - NED Annual Cultural Festival, Maironis Park. 12 Noon.
- October 25, 1992 - C-110 Maspeth, NY - Dinner-Dance, Transfiguration Hall immediately following 11:30 a.m. Mass.
- October 25, 1992 - "The Singing Priest", benefit Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc., Cardinal Spellman High School, Brockton, MA

O Heavenly Father, in the game of life You know that though most of us are duffers. We all aspire to be champions. Help us, we pray, to be grateful for the course, including both the fairways and the rough.

Thank You for those who have made it possible for us to tee off; thank You for the thrill of a solid soaring drive, the challenge of the dog-leg, the trial of the trap, the discipline of the water hazard, and the beauty of a cloudless sky.

Thank You, Oh God, for the master, our pro, who shows us how to get the right grip on life. To slow down our backswing, to correct our crazy hooks and slices, to keep our head down in humility, and to follow through in self-control. May He teach us also to be good sports who will accept the rub of the green, the penalty for being out of bounds, the reality of lost balls, the relevancy of par, and the dangers of the 19th hole.

And Lord, when our last putt has dropped into the cup, and the light of our last day has faded into darkness, though our trophies be few, our handicap still too high, and, for most of us, the hole-in-one still only a dream, may we be able to turn unto You, our tournament director at the great clubhouse and with an honest scorecard. Amen.

*Submitted by Al Gedrim, C-50*

