

WYTIŚ

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

VOL. 79: No. 2

VASARIS / FEBRUARY 1993



February 16, 1918 - Lithuanian Independence

VYTIS

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VASARIS / FEBRUARY
1993
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VYTIS (663680) published monthly November thru June, bi-monthly July-August and September-October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, a Not-For-Profit organization. Subscription \$10.00 per year. Single Copy \$2.00. Outside U.S.A. \$20.00 per year. Second class postage paid at Chicago, IL. POSTMASTER ONLY: Send address changes to VYTIS, Two Bayview Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050.

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Grand Prince Jaunutis

(1341 - 1345)

by Edward Baranauskas

He became the ruler of Lithuania following the death of his father, Gediminas, in 1341. How he became the Grand Prince and why he served for such a short period of time, is an interesting story.

Documents from the end of the 14th century indicate that the Lithuanians of that time typically had a single word, one name only. No one had a last name or family name. The word "jaunas" in the Lithuanian language, when translated into English, means "young". This presents an interesting possibility and a theory only, although there are no historical documents to prove this, that Jaunutis may have been the last baby, or perhaps the last son, to be born in the Gediminas family. The year of birth of each one of the twelve children that Gediminas fathered, or even the year of death, is not exactly known. His wife's name was Jaune, and the masculine gender of that name is Jaunius. The ending "utis" is given to a male's name in the Lithuanian family as a form of endearment shown to a young boy, or even to an older man as an expression of love or close relationship. It could very well be that his parents called him Jaunutis because of that, and the name stuck to him for the rest of his life. But, this is not based on fact, only guess work. The name of his older brother, Kestutis, is an exception to the general rule and its origin is difficult to explain. It is a name that is in a class all by itself.

During the reign of Gediminas, Lithuania increased enormously in size with the annexation of the Slavic principalities to the east and south. This far exceeded in area the ethnographical heart of Lithuania itself. Gediminas may have possibly realized that the nation would be better governed and stronger united if it were divided into six regions, with each one being ruled by one of his older sons. In this manner, he hoped to widen and consolidate his sphere of influence.

Gediminas ruled the most important part of Lithuania which included the capital of Vilnius and its surrounding areas. Jaunutis stayed with his parents and lived in Vilnius.

Algirdas married Maria, the only daughter of the Prince of Vitebsk, and became the ruler of that principality following the death of his father-in-law. In addition, he was given the ethnically Lithuanian region of Krevo (LITH: Kriavas, located about 31 miles east of the present Lithu-

anian border) to govern. Both of these regions are part of Belorussia today.

Manivydas was assigned Slanimas and Kernave, a village in eastern Lithuania, and was entrusted to rule this principality.

Norimantas was sent to rule Great Novgorod, a merchant principality in northwest Russia and held the title of Prince of Novgorod, although his power was limited. He later ruled the territories of Pinsk, Turov and Polotsk.

Liubartas married the daughter of Prince Andrew of Volynia. He joined the Eastern Orthodox Church and was baptized Dimitri. His father-in-law gave him the power to rule over the city of Lutsk. Years later, he became the ruler of Volynia after the nobles offered the throne to him following the death of Prince Boleslav. Volynia was a principality located south of Lithuania and today is divided between Poland and Belorussia.

Karijotas was given jurisdiction over the regions of Novogrudok (LITH: Naugardukas) and Volkovysk (LITH: Valkaviskas) in the territory that was called Black Russia. He was baptized in the Eastern Orthodox Church and took the name of Michael. It must be noted that Valkaviskas should not be confused with Vilkaviškis, which is located in the Suvalkija region of Lithuania.

Kestutis was placed in charge of the entire western part of Lithuania which went from the city of Brest-Litovsk (LITH: Lietuvos Brasta) through Trakai and Žemaitija. He became known as the Prince of Trakai, which was his place of residence.

As a footnote to history, it is interesting to note that it was in Brest-Litovsk where a separate peace treaty was signed on March 3, 1918 between the Central Powers (Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey) and Soviet Russia, thereby ending Russia's participation in the First World War. The word "brasta" when translated into English means "ford" which is a shallow part of a stream where a crossing can be made on foot. Today, the name of the city has been shortened to Brest, thereby severing its historical ties with Lithuania and is a part of Belorussia.

Following his father's death, Jaunutis must have been of age to take over the central government and, therefore, became Grand Prince. It is uncertain under what circum-

stances he inherited his father's domain, whether it was willed to him or because he lived with his parents in Vilnius, the capital of the nation. His other brothers were living in and governing other principalities on assignment by his father. Then again, there was no clear law of succession to the Lithuanian throne, even though it was the tradition during that period in history that the eldest son of the ruling monarch was the first one in line according to the right of inheritance.

Shortly after the death of Gediminas, the unity of the Lithuanian nation was in jeopardy because of its major problems. The regional princes acted independently of any central control and this placed Lithuania in danger of dissolution. The threat of military force by its hostile neighbors posed another danger. Poland, once an ally of Lithuania, now threatened to fight Volynia, which was ruled by Liubartas. The greatest danger was to Kestutis in the west where the Teutonic Order was planning a crusade with the support of the kings of Bohemia and Hungary. The Livonian Order threatened Algirdas in the east.

After the death of their widowed mother in 1344, Kestutis and Algirdas decided that the situation in Lithuania was getting desperate and that it was time for a change. In the winter of 1344-45, they planned to overthrow Jaunutis and to take charge themselves.

Kestutis brought his army into Vilnius from nearby Trakai which was only fifteen miles away and occupied the castle. Algirdas arrived shortly thereafter and Jaunutis was ousted as Grand Prince in this surprise coup. He was taken

prisoner, jailed, but escaped with the help of his supporters. He made his way to Moscow where he appealed for help but none was promised. He was baptized in the Eastern Orthodox Church and took the name of Jonas. Jaunutis and his brother Norimantas alone attempted to resist the coup and a reconciliation with Kestutis and Algirdas took place in 1346. Jaunutis was given the principality of Iziasalavi (Zaslavl), near Minsk, to rule and Norimantas returned to Pinsk. Jaunutis was mentioned for the last time in 1366 in the treaty with Poland and it is believed that he died that year.

Algirdas took over the principality of Vilnius and declared himself Grand Prince. Kestutis recognized his brother as the supreme ruler in both political and military matters. Algirdas concerned himself with the affairs of state, and with the eastward expansion. Kestutis concentrated his attention on the western lands. They agreed to support each other against their foreign and domestic enemies. This brotherly agreement made them, in effect, equal partners in government. In reality, Lithuania became a dyarchy. The chronicles of the Teutonic Order sometimes referred to them as "both kings" (ambo reges).

For the first time in the history of Lithuania, a ruler was removed from the throne, not by assassination or by death due to natural causes, but by a coup engineered by his own brothers. Algirdas and Kestutis followed the right course of action as later events will show.

St. Valentine

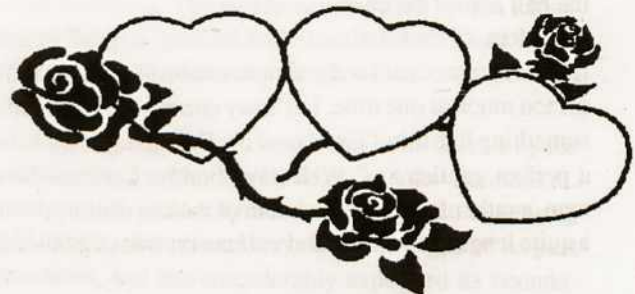
Priest and Martyr

February 14 - Patron of Greetings

St. Valentine, a Roman priest, together with St. Marius and his family, assisted the martyrs who suffered during the reign of Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century. Being apprehended, he was sent to the Prefect of Rome, who commanded that he be beaten with clubs and afterward beheaded. He suffered martyrdom about the year 270.

The custom of sending valentines on this day is the revival of an ancient pagan practice, which consisted in boys drawing the names of girls in honor of their goddess, Februata Juno, on February 15. To abolish this practice names of saints were substituted on billets drawn upon this day.

PRAYER - God of power and mercy, through Your help St. Valentine has overcome the tortures of his passion. Help us who celebrate his triumph to remain victorious over the wiles of our enemies. Amen.



What's New!

REV. A. VALANCIUS

For want of something newer, how about 1993? It's only a few weeks old and we may still be feeling the after effects of the merriment in which we greeted its arrival. With its coming, we found ourselves dreaming of the plans we had for it. For some it meant the beginning of a new life - approaching retirement, completion of studies in a chosen profession, a promotion with a boost in salary. For others, it spelled a new suburban ranch-type home, a shiny convertible decorating the driveway, or like the Christmas ditty says, a couple of new front teeth. New things during the New Year mean different things to different people.

For yet others, it means something not exactly new, but an improvement, a remodeling job. It could have to do with a piece of property, but for most, at least this is the original intent, it concerns a redecorating job of oneself. Not a superficial face-lifting bit with the outside appearance, but an intense effort to better ourselves interiorly. Like a home is not valued primarily by the surrounding landscape, outside paint job or even its location but by the firmness of the foundation, the solidity of the walls that support it and the condition of the roofing; though it is important to look good, it is by what we are that men and God judge us.

And so, we sit down to make plans to make man and God like us better. If we're honest, we will more than likely find that the plans we had made at the beginning of 1993 have been thrown five or maybe ten yards behind the line of scrimmage and 4th down. But here is 1993. We've got the ball again and it's first down. Like the good football player, no matter what the score, we gather whatever talents at our disposal and make a new attempt at carrying the ball across the enemy goal line.

Most of our failures in achieving a goal in self-improvement occur for the simple reason that we try to bite off too much at one time. Let's say one makes a resolution something like this: "From now on, I'm going to try to be a perfect gentleman." Well now, buddy, Cardinal Newman, a rather learned churchman of the last century, wrote a quite lengthy and profound volume on what a gentleman

is or should be. You wouldn't expect to become one during 1993? If you're wild enough to think so, wait until December 31, 1993. You'll probably find that neither you nor your friends will have noticed any special improvement in you. You'll look somewhat like you did on January 1, 1993 - chances are you won't look as good. All this happened because you bit off too much and in desperation you threw the whole idea overboard sometime early in the year and went back to your old self. But hold on! Don't be a quitter! Start again! There's nothing wrong with that! Only this time around, try it a bit differently. Find out one thing, preferably a little one, let's say, whenever answering YES or NO, you will add SIR, MADAM, MISS, MOM, DAD, SIS, DEAR. (Kooky, ain't it, but still in use where there are gentlemen). Tiny words, but they will require thoughtful effort on your part (a quality in all gentlemen) and they will be felt by those for whom they are intended. Or you might notice an elegant quality in the behavior of a friend which you would like to possess in your own personality, focus your sights on IT alone and keep them on IT all the time. This way, you cannot help but improve. It may take you a mite longer than you had originally intended to spend on it, perhaps longer than one year, but it will come eventually.

When confronted with a star, whether on the stage or in real life, we marvel at the perfection of the finished product. Hardly ever do we even think of the hours upon hours of dull, drab, long, persistent rehearsals before stardom. If you feel this is not so, ask one. And so even if it's a small polishing job you want to do on yourself, the final shine will depend on the amount of care and muscle you have put into the brushing. And even though in your own opinion the final result is somewhat insignificant, it will of necessity improve you and will attract the notice of others.

Another reason for failure in keeping resolutions comes from giving too much advice from others, competent or not (and there's plenty of that) or interpreting it the wrong way. Since this has to do with coaching and following instructions, I am reminded of a football story. It seems in a game in which his team was hopelessly behind and very little

time left in the game, he turned to his bruised and weary bench. He pointed to his 4th string quarter-back and told him to grab a helmet and go into the brawl. He sent him off with the following instructions. Hoping to keep the score from ballooning higher, he told the eager sub to try an off-tackle play, an end run, a forward pass and then punt. Play started on their own ten-yard line. Faithful to the instruction of his coach and anxious to make an impression, he called the off-tackle play. The half back broke through for 15 yards. In the next huddle, the now excited quarterback pointed to the right half-back for the end around play, to the amazement of the stands, he wasn't downed until he had reached the mid-field stripe. Now came time for the pass. The left end made a spectacular grab on the opponents 20 yard line where he was immediately tackled. Loyal to his coach, the quarter-back next dropped back and punted the ball out of the stadium.

So it is with many of us. We read instructions wrongly, to them rarely do we add common sense and in a burst of emotional enthusiasm blow our chance for success. But one important thing! Always remember, though you might have made such mistakes, **DO NOT GIVE UP**. Calm down, listen, use judgment and start all over again. Giving up is a worse sin than never to have made a boo-boo.

You may not know where to start or what to work on. Allow me to presume to make a suggestion. If you are like the rest of us mortals (I hope you are) then I'm sure that you will agree that the following proposal will assuredly improve you - yes, and even help you to contribute towards

better human relations. Most of us, if not all, excluding a few people whose statues or pictures decorate our churches and homes, seem to take a special delight in knocking others. A faculty that belongs solely to God, we are wont to usurp for ourselves so readily. Did you ever wonder why this is so? More than likely, you will notice that the fault you see in another, you are harnessed with yourself. You point your accusing finger at your neighbor to distract attention from yourself or to justify your own failure. It is one of the truly shameful weaknesses in mankind. And is vividly portrayed in an old Lithuanian saying supposedly uttered by a wandering Gypsy who to pass the time of day sauntered into a church and immediately proceeded to steal an unsuspecting lady's purse in the back pew. Caught in the act, he sternly came back at the victim with, "Nežiūrėk į čigoną, žiūrėk į Šventą Oną."

Charity is the one virtue by which a Christian is identified, as the very words of Christ indicate. Nothing destroys charity more brutally, often irreparably, than petty back-biting. Before you open your mouth in speech, stop and check on what you are about to say - especially about someone else. You know, more than any other virtue, this one will show through whether you intend it to or not. What a compliment to hear, "He or she never says anything unkind about others." I hope I can live so that people and God can say it about me. I'm sure you wouldn't mind to have it said about you. Let's work at it.

Happy Resolutions! Happy New Year! I hope the Good Lord will have us still around for the inventory come December 31, 1993!

SOME FACTS FROM HISTORY

UTENA REGION

Situated in eastern Lithuania, the Utena region is a land of gently rolling hills and mounds, luxuriant forests and beautiful lakes.

The name of Utena is linked with Lake Utenis, the River Utenaitė and Duke Utenis, who fought against the Livonian Order. Circa 1227, Duke Utenis was taken prisoner by German knights and was either murdered or committed suicide.

There are many mounds in the region of Utena where the castles of Lithuanian dukes used to stand. One of them, Mound Šeimynykščiai, is considered to be the site of medieval Lithuanian King Mindaugas' capital Voruta.

Other mounds were piled artificially in the 13-14th centuries as protection against the attacks of Livonian Order. Most of the villages, manors and towns originated in the 13-16th centuries. The manors were ruled by the Lithuanian noblemen: Glinskiai, Radvilos, Goštautai. Until World War I, all residents of the Utena region lived on manor land and had to pay for it.

Utena is a city of tragic fate. It was burned down by the Livonians, the Swedes, the Russians and the Germans More than 65% of the city was razed to the ground during WWII. Today, however, Utena bears no signs of its past destructions, and has considerably expanded its bounda-

ries.

Utena has power generating facilities, water resources and an installed water purification system. The city is able to satisfy its household and industrial heating needs all by itself. At the present moment, Utena is undergoing a difficult transitional period. The factories would like to manufacture less of metal-consuming products and more of in-demand consumer goods. But they cannot change their line of production until the privatization of state-held enterprises is completed in Lithuania.

Utena has excellent possibilities for tourism and recreation. There are 186 lakes in the district, most of which lie in beautiful forested areas. White-sand beaches are waiting for holiday-makers exhausted by the city turmoil. The largest of the lakes is Alaušas. A large section of the Eastern Aukštaitija National Park is situated in the Utena district. One, three or five-day hikes or boat rides are held on the territory of the Park.

During the hunting season, one can shoot elks, deer, wild boars and foxes. The lakes are brimming with pikes, breams and perch.

LITHUANIAN CANES

Nowadays we only see old people, convalescent persons using a simple type cane. A more elegant cane is used by marshals, bishops, or a foreign ruler. Otherwise a cane has been out of style for a long time. But there was a time when everywhere young and old men alike used to carry canes.

Canes, beautifully carved, were numerous produced in Lithuania years ago. And they were not because of the fashion but because of necessity. An oak or ash cane was carried by every passenger, to defend himself from dogs, wolves, or bandits in the forests.

At first, canes had a simple, thicker end; later these ends were carved with numerous designs. There are canes which have a fist or a head of wild boar, ram, horse, bear, lion on the end. Or even a head of the hawk, bearded giant, or open mouthed other animal can be found. Other canes had a handle or bent end, but the whole cane in such instances was either knotty or "thorny". Raising a tree for such a cane took many years because to achieve a knot in a tree's trunk, its bark had to be cut each year in the same place. After cutting such a tree down, its knots could be left as they were or they could be decoratively carved. Many canes depict heavenly angels and a turtle and serpent with



Detailed work on Canes



a frog in its mouth among the angels. Cranes and wild geese fly high and a hunter is aiming to shoot from below. Squirrels are jumping from tree branches and foxes and deer are running through the forest. Other canes show a fox and a young girl, or again, a serpent with an apple in its mouth. It seems that the carver wanted to remind the young maidens to be smart and not give into temptations.

Naturally, such elegant canes were only carried to church or visiting until they finally came to rest as folk art objects in museums.

Lithuanian folk sculptor was chiefly wood carving and dealt almost exclusively with religious themes, the oldest examples dating back to the 18th century.

A Rewarding Experience

by Beatrice Jasewicz

On December 1, 1991 our family decided to visit Lithuania. This was my first trip on an airplane which was a great experience for me. Visiting my parent's homeland was another experience for our family. The purpose of this trip mainly was to adopt a child for my daughter and son-in-law, Joan & Stanley Rimkunas who were married for six years and due to medical problems were never able to have a child of their own. They have been foster parents to several children but unfortunately, after many heartbreaking disappointments, the children always returned to the homes they were removed from. Their next attempt was to contact Lithuanian Childrens Relief (SOS Vaikai) with the hope that perhaps their dreams could be realized through this agency.

It was necessary for Joan & Stanley to visit the Embassy in Washington to receive approval from Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis. Also, SOS Vaikai prepared for a psychological evaluation, letters of recommendations, letters of employment, visas and passports before any thought of adoption could be finalized.

When we arrived in Lithuania, we were informed our stay would be anywhere from three to six weeks before the necessary adoption papers and interviews are processed. We were prepared to stay for whatever time was necessary. Baltic Tours had arranged our flight to Helsinki, then on to Riga and then on to Lithuania. We stayed at Hotel Neringa in Vilnius. At first, the hotel employees were very cold to us but after a short time, they became friendly and helped us in many instances.

It was necessary for us to tour orphanages. At one orphanage, the building was old and outdated, needing major repairs. The childrens' rooms did not display toys, chairs, rugs or anything that made it conducive to an orphanage.

Children were assembled in the bare rooms, rocking themselves with nothing else to do. We visited another orphanage wherein the rooms were clean and plenty of toys were displayed for the children to amuse themselves with. However, everything was under lock and key. The employees, formerly with the Soviet system, were very hospitable.

After immense interpretation of the Lithuanian language and documentation, Stanley & Joan were granted to adopt a little boy. His name is Rimas but a very sick child. He suffered from bronchitis and ear infections and at some point in time during his life, he was a victim of polio. At the age of four, the boy displayed a musical talent. We immediately fell in love with this little boy. Our stay in Lithuania was for only two short weeks and the adoption became a reality. My daughter was anxious to adopt another child but the Lithuanian officials did not permit us to adopt a child at that same time for some unknown reason.

It was necessary for us to obtain U.S. visas in Helsinki for Rimas which were immediately granted. We were able

to return to the States before the Christmas holidays. Rimas blends in very nicely with all of my other grandchildren. He was baptized at St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church in Amsterdam on March 8, 1992 and continues life in the United States with Lithuanian parents.

Then again we visited Lithuania during Nov. 1992 to adopt another child. Since we knew there was a shortage of many things in Lithuania, we filled our suitcases with medicines purchased over the counter, toys and food. We gave most of the medicines to Dr. Radzevicius, Head of the Children's Orphanage in Vilnius. He was very grateful to us, especially for the medicines. My daughter and son-in-law were successful in again adopting Vilas, a three year old boy. It was necessary for us to again obtain a US visa



Joan & Stanley Rimkunas with their two adopted sons from Lithuania, Rimas and Vilas.

for Vilas. When we arrived in the U.S., Vilas was baptized at St. Casimir's Church in Amsterdam on January 1, 1993. He has become acclimated to his new environment with all the other grandchildren and is beginning to pick up the

English language, just as his new brother Rimas has done. We are ever grateful to God for permitting my daughter Joan and her husband, Stanley, a continued life of pleasure with two lovely children from Lithuania.

PRISIMINIMAI

Tyliesios naktys ilgesi audžia
 Primena daina, sena ir graudžia.
 Danguj mėnulis pasaka sėka,
 Per mano veidus ašaros tėka.
 Mintimis plaukia prisiminimai:
 Teviškes sodai, laukai, arimai,
 Žalasis miškas, upes vingiutes,
 Brolių kaimiečių vaišingos puotos.
 Prisiminimai džiaugsmo jaunystes,
 Kai skairios mintys gimė ir vystes.
 Ten, rodos, viskas laime žvangejo.
 Bet viskas, viskas kažkur nuejo.

*Marija Černečyte-Sims
 "Moteris"*

RECOLLECTIONS

The silent nights weave recollections,
 Recalling songs, ancient and mournful.
 In the sky the moon narrates a story,
 Across my cheeks the tears are streaming.
 With my thoughts float many recollections:
 Our native orchards, the fishes, the
 ploughed earth,
 The verdant green forests, the winding rivers,
 Our countrymen villagers' hearty feasts.
 Recollections are the pleasure of youth,
 When bright clear thoughts are born and developed.
 There it seems, every happiness jingled.
 But it all, somewhere, it all went away.

Translation by Antonia Wackell

THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND

"It was battered and scarred and the auctioneer
 Thought it scarcely worth his while
 To waste much time on the old violin
 But he held it up with a smile.
 'What am I bid, good folks?' he cried
 'Who'll start the bidding for me?
 A dollar, a dollar, then two, only two?
 Two dollars and who'll make it three?"

'Three dollars once and three dollars twice,
 And going for three, but no!'
 From the room far back a gray-haired man
 Came forward and picked up the bow.
 And wiping the dust from the old violin
 And tightening the loosened strings
 He played a melody pure and sweet,
 Sweet as an angel sings.

"The music ceased and the auctioneer
 In a voice that was quiet and low
 Said 'What am I bid for the old violin?'
 And he held it up with the bow.

'A thousand dollars and who'll make it two?
 Two thousand and who'll make it three?
 Three thousand once, three thousand twice
 And going and gone!' said he.

"The people cheered but some of them cried,
 'We can't quite understand,
 What changed its worth?' Quick came the reply:
 'The touch of the Master's hand.'
 And many man with life out of tune
 And battered and scarred with sin (pain)
 Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,
 Much like the old violin.

"A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,
 A game and he travels on.
 He's going once, he's going twice,
 He's going and almost gone.
 But the Master comes and the foolish crowd
 Can never quite understand
 The worth of the soul and the change that's wrought
 By the touch of the Master's hand."

How the Boss Americanized a Lithuanian Name

by V. Alantas

The boss, a Pole who had arrived in the United States about thirty years ago, called Pakrantis into his office to fill out an insurance application.

"Your name, please," he asked Pakrantis. Pakrantis pronounced his surname plainly, syllable by syllable, PA-KRAN-TIS.

The boss, lacking time for listening carelessly, or perhaps wishing to serve the cause of Americanization, without hesitation, wrote "Pokrount." Pakrantis told his name: Jonas, the boss immediately wrote: John. Thus, in a few minutes, Jonas Pakrantis, bearer of an old Lithuanian name, became an American — John Pokrount. But he said nothing to the boss and smiling, watched him complete filling out the blank. Having finished, the boss removed the form from the typewriter and pointing to a line at the bottom, gave it to Pakrantis for his signature.

"No sir," calmly said Pakrantis. "Why?" asked the boss in surprise. "I cannot sign for the gentleman whose name is on this blank," firmly answered Pakrantis. "You wrote John Pokrount, while my name is Jonas Pakrantis. Don't you see the difference?"

"But you are now living in America, not in your homeland. It is impossible to pronounce your name," spoke the boss angrily.

"I don't care whether you can pronounce it or not, I just know that other Americans can pronounce it quite well. I was born and christened with that name, and at that time my parents concerned themselves very little whether others could or could not pronounce their son's name. And, of course, they did not ask anyone's opinion how I should be named. If you had been present at my christening and had suggested to my parents that I be called Pokrount or by some other name, and they had agreed to your suggestion, then it would have been another matter, but as things stand now — no!"

The boss was somewhat astounded, hearing these words from the Lithuanian, Jonas Pakrantis, and was at a loss for something to say. "Don't talk, but sign," and again

he thrust forward the form.

"No! You say that in the event of an accident or my death, that my wife would receive this insurance. How will she collect it if her name is written on all documents as Mrs. Birute Pakrantis, whereas here it is Pokrount."

"All right, all right, spell it," impatiently said the boss, inserting a fresh blank in the typewriter.

"P as in Pandora, A as in Andora, K as in Kangaroo, R as in Rome, A as in Angola, N as in Nirvana, T as in Tarantula, I as in inflammatory, S as in Sakajawea..."

"From what corner of Hades did you gather all these words?" the boss stopped typing and asked.

"Why? They are all English. I can explain."

"English!" laughed the boss triumphantly. "I suppose you'll tell me that even that last word Sakajawea is American."

"Of all the mentioned words, the last one is truly the most American," tranquilly replied Pakrantis. "That is the name of a heroic woman of an American Indian tribe. If you are interested, I will bring you a book entitled, 'Other Americans, Men and Women who Built our Country,' written especially for newcomers to the United States and published by the Department of Adult Education of the Detroit Public Schools. Sakajawea's name is listed there alongside such names as Roger Williams, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Alva Edison, Henry Ford and many others, in all 43 honored American surnames. Perhaps you'll try once again to pronounce this name that is so American. It can be pronounced quite easily, but it is even easier to pronounce my name ..."

"The devil knows what these new immigrants are," fumed the boss. "We are different."

"And what is your last name, may I ask?"

"Mine? Gordicki, Frank Gordicki. Why?"

"Oh, nothing. I just think that is quite an American name, Mr. Gordicki," laughed Pakrantis, as he left the office.



HISTORY OF THE LITHUANIAN FLAG

February 16 - Independence Day

The flag that we all know — yellow, green and red paneled one — became official in this form in 1918. It was approved as the State flag of Lithuania and not the national flag of the Lithuanian people as we believe it to be. Popular usage over time engendered the national saliency. Contemporaneously, Lithuanians in the U.S. were adopting flags for their organizations of similar configuration and colors.

Prior to this time, as far back as the Lithuanian Kingdom of Mindaugas in 1251, the territory known as Lithuania did not bear an official “people’s” flag. In fact, it was not until 1905 that patriotic leaders first convened to establish a common symbol for the populace. At the time, the only insignia known was a red banner which flew at official State functions. It was proposed that this be institutionalized but the proposal was swiftly rejected due to its similarity to the flag of the revolutionary forces. Time elapsed as more groups with divergent opinions entered into the polemic.

The most strident and authoritarian voice on the matter was Dr. Basanavičius, who had written his dissertation on the topic in the USA. He reasserted that the “red” flag with a white Knight (Vytis) was befitting a nation which fought for freedom. Once again his proposal was rejected, this time because it was felt there was insufficient correlation with the “popular” tastes. And so, research was conducted to determine the most frequently used colors by village peasants in their clothes and crafts. The results pointed to red and green for the nucleus of a national flag.

For reasons that are unknown to us today, the decision-making body resolved to pursue a third color for the flag. Fairs and committees were organized to explore the possibilities; ideas abounded.

Finally, in 1918, the State Council approved the combination and design that we know today for the State flag of the Republic of Lithuania. Coincidentally, the Council concurrently accepted the red Vytis banner but without official decree or document to denote purpose.

Many important pieces of information were unrecorded at the historic occasion. For example, we have no data regarding the dimensions, proportions, or hues of the original flag. Flagmakers have the liberty of producing art work with varying shapes, hues and intensities. Furthermore, we don’t know what, if anything, the colors represented. Much poetic license is exercised in the numerous interpretations. Some of the more well-known renditions are:

1. About Nature — yellow stands for the golden sun; green for the forests and fields; red for the soil of Lithuania.
2. About Life — yellow for the fruits of life on earth; green for the living things; red for the blood of heroes.
3. About Symbols — yellow for bountiful fields representing freedom from want; green for pine forests and evergreen representing hope; red for blood shed for Lithuania representing freedom.

It matters not which interpretation is believed for all evoke noble and memorable images of Lithuania.

My Trip to Ecuador

by Scott W. Kelley, Brockton

Due to the generous donation by C-1 of Brockton, MA of which I am a member, I was able to participate as an Outreach Minister in conjunction with a group from Cardinal Spellman High School in the Rostro de Cristo (Face of Christ) program in Duran, Ecuador.

In August 1992 our group spent two weeks in Duran living among the poorest of the poor on the top of a hill called “Cerrao”. The poorer the people, the higher on the hill they lived. I observed first-hand how the people struggled on a daily basis to keep their families fed, clothed and educated while still maintaining an unshakeable religious faith.

During my stay, I toured many “campos” (country-side churches) some of which are one hundred or two hundred miles apart. I was amazed that the people, young and old alike, would sometimes walk ten to fifteen miles in order to participate in the religious services. In August, during the Festival of Santa Maria, the Blessed Mother was carried on a platform followed by hundreds of people. The Sunday Liturgy at Padres de Santiago Church was attended by at least 700 people on a weekly basis. The people sang at these services and the echo of their voices singing with such enthusiasm echoed for miles throughout the mountains.

Over 70% of the people are unemployed and those who do work are men who are banana pickers. Because the sun rises at 3 a.m. and sets at 10 p.m. in Ecuador, they work long hard hours for miserly wages. Because of the long working hours for men, the women of Ecuador make up the bulk of the religious community.

My particular job while in Ecuador was to evaluate the sanitary conditions in the area's medical dispensaries. I found that they were sanitary to a degree but sorely lacking in equipment and supplies. Our group brought with us medical equipment and other supplies such as penicillin which they so desperately need. I toured the homes of these poor people, which are mostly one room with six to twelve people living in each home. We were greeted very hospitably and, even though they were so poor, we were always offered something to eat or drink.

In Quito, the capital of Ecuador, there were many beautiful churches where the altars were of solid gold. Armed guards with machine guns are stationed outside the churches to protect them. In Guayaquil, there is a school called Nuevo Mundo (New World) where the more affluent children go to school. For each child who attends this school, the parents of that child pay for a poor child to also go to school. The teachers work long, hard hours to teach rich and poor alike; education is a high priority in this country because it is a pathway to a better life.

Our group also met President Sixto of Ecuador who, ironically, was born in Boston, MA.

The faith of these vibrant people will long live in my memory and my experiences in this third world country have given me a deeper meaning to my faith. I thank you all, especially K of L C-1, for an opportunity to become a part of this group.

Dental Assistance to Lithuania

Imagine going back in time, say fifty years, and practicing dentistry with the limited resources available in 1942. Now imagine practicing dentistry without anesthetic, and if you had any anesthetic at all, you would have to save it for oral surgery, or tooth extractions.

Imagine having no fluoride in the water system, much less in your toothpaste. Imagine a population of two million, some very educated, some very poor, most of whom have never seen a dentist. Imagine never having your teeth professionally cleaned!

That is what dentistry is like today in Lithuania. Fifty years of Russian suppression has made dentistry in Lithuania a much dreaded and feared fact of life.

A group of midwestern Lithuanian American dentists want to change this. They want to upgrade dentistry in Lithuania and improve dental health care. Their non-profit organization called American Dental Assistance to Lithuania (ADAL) was formed over a year ago, shortly after Lithuania regained independence.

The group traveled to Lithuania last year on a fact finding mission to study the needs of dentists there. They found that to solve the problems of dentistry in Lithuania, they really need to go to the heart of the matter which is the educational system. They were warmly and enthusiastically accepted by the faculty of the Dental Academy in Kaunas. Working jointly with the Kaunas Dental Acad-

emy, the ADAL plan to upgrade the dental clinic with supplies and new equipment and to help teach them modern/western dentistry.

The ADAL's goal is to have the supplies and equipment there by 1993. The problem is they are in great need of raising funds to make this dream possible. Trying to raise \$100,000 is no small feat, but the non-profit group is working hard to reach their goal. As Dr. Ragas, the president of ADAL puts it, "Just because it took fifty years for dentistry to sink in Lithuania, doesn't mean it has to take another fifty years to improve, we must help them."

Donations are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to the ADAL and mail to: 14911 - 127th St., Lemont, IL 60439. All donations are sorely needed and much appreciated. Ačiū labai!

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I'm So Bored with the U.S.A. !!!

by Stede Ingram

Two months ago I left my home in America and traveled half-way around the world to the small, former Soviet republic of Lithuania. Without the support of any organizations, I went to Lithuania to live and teach English for a while. When I tell people, both in America and in Lithuania, about this decision, they look surprised and perplexed. After this first reaction they come to one of two conclusions about me: "You are completely crazy!" or "You must be a saint!"

Why would any normal person choose to leave America where life is easy and you can buy anything, to come to Lithuania, where simple comforts like hot water are scarce?

Perhaps I am a bit crazy, if sanity means thinking the same as everyone else. However, I am certainly not a saint. I am glad that I am helping people in a minor way by teaching them English, but my reasons for leaving the USA were primarily selfish.

Last year I completed my undergraduate degree at a respected university and, despite the recent "recession" in America, I believe I could find a stable job at some company in the U.S. I could be making enough money to rent my own apartment, go out to a movie or a bar once in a while, and even save up to buy a car after a year or two. At this moment I could be relaxing in my cozy living room after a day's work, eating a slice of pizza, and watching MTV. So why would I forfeit a life of such wealth and comfort to come to a country where my room is barely heated and I make about one dollar per day? For me the answer is obvious: I would be entirely bored in America.

I would work my eight hours each day, come home, eat

dinner, maybe visit some friends or watch TV, and then go to sleep. This would be my schedule for five days each week, fifty weeks per year. In a familiar, comfortable environment, it is too easy to settle into a daily routine and very difficult to have new experiences. Since I have grown up in America, it is hard for me to find anything new and different.

On the other hand, in Lithuania everything is unfamiliar and exciting to me. Each day I see or hear something unexpected. I am constantly meeting new people, each with a unique personality and outlook on the world. In America you must always search to find new experiences, while in Lithuania they are unavoidable.

And why are new experiences so important? The reasons are countless, but the most basic of them is fighting boredom. Going through my mundane schedule in America day after day, would only lead to dissatisfaction and frustration. In Lithuania, daily life for me can be an adventure, and there are endless opportunities to pursue extra interests (like writing for a newspaper). In a familiar environment, it is too easy to become trapped in monotony, while unfamiliar surroundings provide constant stimulus and the freedom to grow.

I can easily live with minor annoyances like cold water and crowded buses when I am constantly meeting new people and trying new activities. As the old proverb says: "You can't buy happiness." In America I might have money and comfort, but I would not be happy. So for now, there is no place I would rather be than right here in Lithuania.

New Era in Traffic Services in Lithuania with Foreign Help

First Service Station to operate under Neste's blue and green corporate colors was opened in Vilnius on November 13.

Neste is the first Western company to build a modern-style service station in Lithuania. The station has been designed to provide a comprehensive and efficient range of services for today's motorist in Lithuania. Station personnel have been trained in Finland.

The station's 76 and 92 octane gasoline and diesel fuel will be sourced from local refineries, while unleaded 98 octane gasoline and winter-grade diesel fuel is going to be supplied from Finland. In addition to traffic fuels, the station will sell lubricants, spare parts, confectionery, soft

drinks and food. Customers will be able to pay using convertible currency, major international cards, or Neste's own credit cards. Local currency will be accepted for purchase of locally-sourced fuels and cafe products.

Neste already has two basic service outlets at Panevėžys and Mariampolė. These, together with the new Vilnius station, will be joined by a number of western-standard service stations to be opened by Neste's local joint venture, Litofinn Service who have already donated one million coupons to the Social Care Council in Lithuania.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Neste Corporation's Chairman and Chief Executive Jaakko Ihamuotila noted that "We at Neste are committed to working to help improve the services available to heavy and light traffic in Lithuania and expect to see the standard of these services rise significantly in the near future. Neste intends continuing making a contribution to the work currently in progress aimed at developing both Lithuania's transport network and the economy of Lithuania.



Firm Targets former Communist world

American-Lithuanian venture to sell dental products made here

Dentists in the former Communist world run the gamut in equipment, using everything from foot-powered, pedal-driven drills to \$60,000 state-of-the-art dental operators. While there are pockets of privilege, the overall level of dental care is very low. Preventive dental care is almost non-existent, and the average filling falls out in three months.

Medical Technologies, L.B.I., a Lithuanian-American joint venture company, hopes to help change that with modern dental equipment manufactured in Asheville, North Carolina. Knight Manufacturing Company recently shipped its first fully equipped dental operator to Lithuania in what is expected to be a growing stream of exports from the company's plant in Asheville.

Knight employs about seventy workers in manufacturing a wide array of dental equipment, including dental chairs, lights, tools and delivery systems. Jim Gudger, director of marketing, said the company makes a high-tech line of equipment that does everything a dentist needs but does not have the "bells and whistles" found on similar equipment made in Western Europe. Dentists in the former Communist countries typically buy their dental chairs and other equipment at dental shows in large cities, but getting it serviced or repaired is often difficult or impossible, he said.

Euromedika, a holding company based in Milton, MA is setting up a network of dealerships to sell and service high-tech Western dental equipment throughout Eastern Europe. Romas Brickus, (pronounced Breech-kus) Euromedika's chief executive officer said it chose Knight Manufacturing Co. as its supplier after considering a dozen companies in Europe, Canada and America. Euromedika's joint venture company, Medical Technologies L.B.I. will establish a network of dealerships in Lithuania to sell

Knight dental equipment throughout the former Communist world.

The first priority will be to provide service and repair facilities so that dentists for the first time will be confident that their equipment can be maintained properly, Brickus said. Medical Technologies will eventually manufacture some of the equipment in Lithuania, paying Knight Manufacturing Co. royalties for use of its patented designs.

Rimvydas Mozuras and Albinas Valantiejus experienced a bit of culture shock as they made their first trip out of their native Lithuania. Both men were anxious to learn all about the manufacture and repair of the Knight's equipment their company will sell in Lithuania, even requesting that they be allowed to work through lunch so they could learn more. The plant's workers enjoyed showing them some of the cultural attractions which proved to be something of a shock. They had never seen a Mall. When taken to the Grove Park Inn, they thought they had died and gone to heaven.

The Lithuanian visitors were so used to scarcity in their own country that they felt uncomfortable about accepting invitations to dinner. They brought one change of clothing and two big suitcases of food. It took them awhile to understand that we really wanted to take them out to eat. They said they were shocked at how friendly and warm we Americans are, especially after hearing so much government propaganda over the years.

Brickus said that Knight Manufacturing will become a familiar name in Eastern Europe as a manufacturer of top quality equipment at a reasonable cost, even though there are difficulties to overcome. *(Tim Reid - Asheville Citizen-Times)*

PRACTICAL TIME AGAIN

From time to time, it is good to remind ourselves of some courtesies and some norms regarding religious habits. Here are a few:

1. If we are receiving the Eucharist, we are asked to refrain from food and drink (other than water) for one hour before reception of the Eucharist;
2. Gum chewing in Church or on the Communion line is not appropriate;
3. When we receive Communion in the hand, place one hand on top of the other, not side by side or hands spread apart;
4. For those addicted to nicotine, please extinguish cigarettes in your vehicle's ashtray, not on the Church steps.
5. If you read a bulletin during the homily, please take the bulletin home with you as a relic or return it to the trays at the Church entrance;
6. The holy water fonts are not for cigarettes;
7. Please put missalettes in the holders in front of you, even if you did not leave them in the pew;
8. Food should be consumed at home, not in the Church;
9. Try to give your youngsters rubber keys and rubber screwdrivers if they need distractions during Mass. The Church only has one set of pews. Carving classes are offered at your local school.
10. If you have comments or critiques to offer, please

sign your name to the letter or postcard. Sometimes, we cannot understand the comment or critique.

11. Smile, and say "hello" once in a while to your fellow parishioners as you enter and leave the Church.

12. Don't become a werewolf in the parking lot. You were an angel in Church, but in the car you can't wait to sound your horn if someone doesn't leave quick enough. Look at the arrows in the parking lot and obey traffic rules.

Why is 'X' a Kiss?

An "X" for a Kiss: Our custom of putting X's at the end of letters and notes to symbolize kisses grew out of medieval legal practices. In order to indicate good faith and honesty in those days, the sign of St. Andrew — a cross — was placed after the signature on all important documents.

Thereafter, contracts and agreements were not considered binding until each signer added St. Andrew's cross after his name. Then he was required to kiss the document to further guarantee faithful performance of his obligations. The cross was drawn hurriedly, and often it was tilted and looked much like the letter "X".

Over the centuries, the origin of the ceremony was forgotten. But people still associated the "X" with the kiss instead of the pledge of good faith, and the custom has continued into modern times.

Marvin Vanoni

LETTERS

BRINGS BACK MEMORIES

Dear VYTIS Editor:

Congratulations on the most interesting and informative December 1992 issue of VYTIS. The articles were thoroughly enjoyed.

I was especially drawn to a nostalgic memory on the article by Gediminas Indreika, on the demise of the Lithuanian Auditorium.

What great times we had there in our youth. My sister, brother and I were members of the Knights of Lithuania Choir, under the direction of Leonard J. Simutis and I vividly recall

our concerts at the auditorium in 1948 and 1949.

Our parents were also members of the Knights of Lithuania Choir and sang under the baton of Mr. Sauris and Prof. Pocius. In fact, they both performed in the operettas mentioned in the article. I can remember my aunt taking me to the performance of H.M.S. Pinafore to see Mom and Dad on that very stage.

Thanks for the memories, Mr. Indreika and VYTIS magazine.

Regina H. Endriukaitis

SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU

Dear Friends:

I am a student of Gregorianum University sent by Bishop of Telšiai, Antanas Vaičius. I was very glad to receive your Christmas donation through rector of Lithuanian College, Msgr. A. Bartkus.

I thank sincerely the Knights of Lithuania for the scholarship. I shall attempt to justify the hopes in the service for God's church and my country's sake. *Vladas Gedzauskas*

Lithuanians in the News

PRIEST FINDS REWARDS OUTWEIGH DOUBTS

Rev. Joseph Grabys, pastor of St. Casimir's Church in Amsterdam grew up in a religious environment which he believes influenced his decision to become a priest. Grabys, 69, was close to his uncle, eleven years his senior, who was a priest. As a missionary, his uncle sent him literature on the church and missions. Growing up in the 20s and 1930s meant there were no distractions from television, and Grabys had plenty of time to read.

Grabys said there seems to be a lot of apathy on the part of young people and in the diocese. He believes a different approach is needed to increase the numbers of those entering the priesthood. He remembers when priests and nuns would visit schools to talk about the vocation. "This is not being done at all anymore", he said.

IMMIGRANTS' DAUGHTER WEARS BUSINESS HAT

For much of her life, Ingrid Bublys campaigned for Lithuania's freedom from the former Soviet Union. Now, with Lithuania free, Bublys has been working to bring American products to Lithuania and Lithuanian products to the United States. She owns a small public relations firm in Cleveland - IB Communications - and has an office in Vilnius.

She said she believes business with the United States is the best way to cement freedom and democracy in Lithuania. Bublys is now the manufacturer's representative for 15 Lithuanian companies that make everything from machine tools to sparkling wine. She also works to export American home decorative lighting to a country she says needs many domestic products, insulation material and cosmetics. Bublys appears ideally suited to be a saleswoman in both countries. She writes and speaks fluent Lithuanian because her immigrant parents made her learn the language while she was growing up in Cleveland.

By fostering trade, Bublys has become a celebrity in Lithuania. She is known as the aggressive American who always wears a hat.

After earning a degree in chemistry and mathematics



Rev. Joseph Grabys, pastor of St. Casimir's Church, Amsterdam, lights an altar candle at his church.



Ingrid Bublys, owner of a Cleveland public relations firm..

Lithuanians in the News (Cont'd)

from Ursuline College in 1962, she became a research chemist.

DELIVERED

Ann Jillian, the actress whose tale of surviving breast cancer became a top-rated TV movie, is grateful God gave her a "second shot" at life — and now, an infant son she never thought she could conceive.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I don't thank God for the life he gave me and, of course, for my son who came as a result of that second shot," said the wife of Andy Murcia and mother of baby Andrew.

A practicing Catholic, Ms. Jillian told the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, that her faith "kicked in — full speed" during her bout with cancer.



Ann Jillian

Photo: CNS

Oficialus Skyrius

Official News

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - January 1 thru June 30, 1993

Ann Cheplick, 2nd Vice President - Membership

Membership drive for 1993 is now in progress. This drive began January 1st and will end June 30, 1993. The drive is conducted to increase our numbers and not to replace lost membership because of delinquent dues.

It is up to everyone to get out and recruit new members. Talk to your friends and acquaintances personally. In doing so, it will make them feel they are wanted. Invite people from other organizations to attend a meeting and this might get their interest to join the Knights of Lithuania. So start talking and get acquainted with these new prospective members.

The rules and awards will be as follows:

COUNCILS:

Under 50 members
51 - 100 members
100 - 200 members
201 - 300 members
301 and over

INDIVIDUALS

From councils with under 50 members
From councils with 51 to 100 members
From councils with 101 to 200 members
From councils with 201 to 300 members
From councils with 301 or more members.

Awards for the councils will be determined by the total number of new members less the number of members who dropped out or suspended for non-payment of dues. EXAMPLE: Councils with X number of members as of Dec. 31, 1992 - if council recruited 25 members during this drive but lost 15 members, this loss will be subtracted from the total giving an increase of 10 members. The lost members do not include deceased or transfers. Records of the National Financial Secretary will be used to determine the winners. Special circumstances may arise during the drive and they will be judged on an individual basis.

Let us all go out and bring in these new members and especially, we need the younger generation. Increasing membership must be every councils priority. GOODLUCK!

Lithuanian Kitchen - Lietuviška Virtuvė

LOW CHOLESTEROL POTATO PANCAKES

6-8 large potatoes, 2-3 Tbsp. flour
peeled and grated 3 egg whites
2 medium onions - grated Salt, pepper to taste

Squeeze out liquid from grated potatoes and onions. Mix onions, potatoes, egg whites, flour, seasonings in bowl. Heat a non-stick pan, add small amount of oil and when pan and oil are hot, add spoonfuls of potato mixture. Allow to spread slightly, cook until under surface is browned; turn and brown on other side. Cook pancakes until all potato mixture is used up. Serve with unsweetened apple sauce or lite sour cream.

PORK HOCKS, KRAUT AND DUMPLINGS

4-5 pork hocks 1 Onion
1 lb. sauerkraut, drained Salt
1/2 tsp. caraway seeds

Cook pork hocks and onion in salted water. When meat is done, skim fat, remove bones, chop meat and return to broth. Add drained sauerkraut and caraway seeds. Cook for 20-30 mins. Ten mins. before serving, add dumplings on top of kraut.

DUMPLINGS:

2 cups flour 3 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt 3/4 cup milk
1 egg beaten 2 Tbsp. melted oleo

Combine dry ingredients; add egg, milk and oleo. Mix and form into balls with spoon. Place into kettle of boiling kraut. Cover and do not peek into pot. Dumplings cook in 10-12 mins.

CRACKER STUFFING

1 stick butter/oleo 1/2 cup chopped onion
4 cups broken crackers, 1 cup heated milk (Skim)
like Uneceda Biscuits Salt, pepper to taste

Cook chopped onion in butter/oleo until pale yellow and translucent. Add broken crackers, seasoning and milk. Mix well. If mixture appears too dry, add more milk. Makes enough stuffing for a 4-5 lb. chicken; or place stuffing into buttered casserole and bake in 350° oven for 40-50 mins. or until browned on top.

DILL SAUCE WITH SOUR CREAM

2 Tbs. flour 8 oz. sour cream
2 Tbsp. butter/oleo 3-4 Tbsp. chopped
8 oz. beef broth or 1 can fresh dill
of bouillon Salt, pepper to taste

Melt butter/oleo in saucepan; add flour and stir until mixture is bubbly. Slowly pour in beef broth and cook until mixture is thickened. Remove from heat and blend in sour cream and seasonings. Return to heat but do not boil sauce or it will curdle. Add dill. Serve over meatballs and noodles, roast pork or veal.

LIMA BEAN CASSEROLE

6-8 slices bacon, 3 10-oz. pkgs. frozen limas
cooked & crumbled bread crumbs
2 med. onions chopped 1 cup grated cheese (can be
1/2 cup chopped or cheddar or farmer cheese)
stewed tomatoes Salt, pepper to taste

Thaw and separate lima beans. Saute onion until translucent. In large bowl, mix together the limas, onion, bacon, tomatoes, cheese and seasonings. Place into well buttered, 2 qt. casserole. Sprinkle with bread crumbs and if desired, dot with butter. Bake at 375° for 45-50 mins. Serve hot.

LITHUANIAN MUSHROOM BAKE

1 lb. large mushrooms, halved
1 Tbsp. reduced calorie margarine
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup 'light' sour cream 1/2 cup plain non-fat yogurt
1 Tbsp. flour Salt, pepper to taste
1/2 cup fine breadcrumbs

Preheat oven to 375°. Simmer the mushrooms and onion in the margarine over low heat, covered, for about 10-15 mins. Place in shallow pan. Mix together the sour cream, yogurt, flour, salt and pepper. Pour over mushrooms. Sprinkle with bread crumbs. Bake 10-15 mins. Serves 4.

*Simply Elegant Low Fat Choices,
Joan P. Guenther*



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May 17 - June 1	July 5 - 20	August 9 - 24
May 25 - June 9	July 6 - 21	August 23 - September 7
June 1 - 16	July 12 - 27	August 30 - September 14
June 14 - 29	July 13 - 28	August 31 - September 13
June 15 - 30	July 19 - August 3	September 30 - October 6

- ➔ Travel individually or with a group. Group rates lower.
- ➔ Standard itinerary for groups with all-inclusive package: 5 nights Kaunas, 4 nights Palanga/Klaipeda, 5 nights Vilnius.
- ➔ Book all-inclusive package or just the air fare; or book the air fare plus any one of the following: transfers, hotels, breakfast, lunch, dinner, sightseeing, car rental with driver, tax and service charges, tour guides, luggage handling, Lithuanian visa.
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Council News — Vyčiai Veikia

AMBER DISTRICT

The members of the Executive Board, under the helm of Elsie Kosmisky, met on Sat., Nov 21, in Frackville, to formulate plans for the District for the coming year. Besides being a constructive meeting, it provided the officers and committee chairs the opportunity to gather together in a relaxed manner, enjoy each other's company and exchange ideas.

Amber District's St. Casimir's Day Celebration will take place on Sun., March 14 in Shenandoah, PA. Please be sure to mark this date on your calendar. Also, the officers urge all members of the Amber District to participate as fully as they can in this year's annual raffle. The District needs your help in this endeavor. Frank Petrauskas is this year's raffle chair.

Our best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy 1993. *Agnes*

C-7 WATERBURY, CT

C-7 has been very busy. We recently celebrated our 75th anniversary dinner at the Club. It was chaired by Ann Cheplick & Joseph Stiklius. During the dinner, new officers were sworn in by Fr. Karvelis, our spiritual advisor. Congratulations to: Pres., Joseph Stiklius; 1st V.P.; Victor Vaitkus; 2nd V.P., Ann Kundrotas; Rec. Sec., Virginia Kosa; Treas., Arlene Stiklius; Fin. Sec., Alma Torre.

During Dec., we had a food drive to benefit St. Vincent de Paul Shelter. Members donated canned goods, food and money to the shelter during the Christmas holiday. It was a great success and was greatly appreciated by the Shelter.

The K of L Bowling League had a Christmas Party following bowling at the Club. It was a pleasant party and enjoyed by all who attended Birthday wishes in Dec. go to Bruno Rickevicius, Albina Satkuras, Walter Maknis and Arlene Stiklius Congratulations to John Blinn for receiving his Third Degree. We also wish him and his wife the best of luck with their new home in Florida.

A Polka Fest was held on Sunday, Feb. 7 at St. Joseph's School Hall. Music was provided by the Alpine Echo. There was plenty of polkas and alpine music.

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

An old fashioned Kučios, the Christmas Eve Supper of Christian Lithuanians, was again held this year at the Lucas home in Gardner. The

Kučios is steeped in tradition which have been passed from generation to generation. About 40 members and guests attended. The Kučios began with the reading of the Christmas Gospel according to Luke by Pres. Bill Wisniauskas in Lithuanian and Marie Calo in English. The plotkelis were distributed by Auksė Yurkus of Kaunas, Lithuanian, who is an exchange student at Deerfield Academy. The meal consisted of at least twelve meatless dishes from delicious chowder made by Alice Luean, fish and herring dishes, casseroles and concluded with calorie-loaded Christmas pastries. Following dinner, game of "chance and superstitions" were conducted by Auksė & Bronė Wisniauskas.

Supposedly, many of our members will reach the 100 mark and some



C-7 Waterbury 75th anniversary - Standing: Virginia Kosa, Ann Kundrotas, Alma Torre, Victor Vaitkus. Seated: Fr. Rikteraitis, Joseph Stiklius, Arlene Stiklius.

of our singles will find mates this coming year!

We began an hour of caroling with Sveikas Jezau Gimusis - Hail the Newborn King. A business meeting followed and plans are being formulated to celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day in Feb. and the feast of St. Casimir on March 7 in St. Francis Church. Two new members were admitted - Martha Elison & Sophie Simkevičius Beauguard, both of Gardner. The evening was later spent enjoying the player piano. Sophie Fiorentino was in charge of the refreshment bar. Dave Lucas played the role of Santa. Kathryn Paliulis' car broke down at the Old Mill and could not make the activities. It was good to see Millie Vaitkunas. Both local dailies carried nice write ups of this affair.

K of L'er Joanne Chastney is the hard working president of the Women's Guild of St. Francis Parish. Through her efforts and her fellow members, substantial sums are raised for the parish Get well messages are sent to Marge Senk and Ann Ambrose, both of Athol. *Vincukas*

C-12 NEW YORK, NY

As the old year of 1992 came to a conclusion, the busy holidays and merriment will be a part of our nostalgic past. As part of this pending nostalgia, it is worthy to note the interesting activity that some of our members are engaged in. Ed Meskys of New Hampshire is president of "The National Federation of the Blind in New Hampshire". Ed is also the editor of the Federation newspaper which offers information that the blind and handicapped can avail themselves of Helen Matthews is most talented in the field of wood sculpture; also finding time to take less fortunate children



C-12 New York Christmas Party. Santa (Joe Sleder), Fr. Eugene Sawicki, President Ed Cook.

on field trips to interesting places Among her many talents, Aldona Zaunius has added acting as a new interest. She has performed in plays sponsored by the Salmagundi Club of Fifth Ave. in New York City. Her most recent engagement was a play entitled, "The Dresser", a Shakespearean play. Good luck, Aldona.

Due to an auto accident, Thanksgiving Day could have been an unfortunate holiday for Connie Siatsis. However, she escaped serious injury Get well wishes are in order for Julia Gomez who spent some time in the hospital. She is now recovering at home It is with sorrow that we learn of Jean Janonis' mother, Helen Dronsky. May she rest in peace.

On the brighter side, C-12 had its annual Christmas party which was a huge success due to the untiring efforts of the committee. In spite of the Nor'easter storm, many children came to see Santa played by Joe Sleder. Chair Irene Senken thanks all com-

mittee members for their cooperation Several of our members attended the Kučios at C-110 Maspeth. As usual, it was a great success.

Birthday greetings are in order for the following: Aldona Kepalaitis (Oct.), Helen Cuperwich, Jean Bent, Al Maluk, Fr. Eugene Sawicki, Connie Siatsis & Bertha Stanwick (Nov.), John Antanavičius & Jovita Sleder (Dec.)
Irene

C-16 CHICAGO, IL

C-16 last met on Wed., Nov. 18. At our meeting we were pleased to hear that our council 1st V.P., Richard Schultz, and our council's Treas., Christine Beneckis are engaged to be married in 1993. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Chris & Rich on this wonderful announcement.

At our meeting held in Sept., we re-elected current officers for a second term. All officers are doing a great job and we thank them for their leadership and time. Following the meet-

ing, we were treated to a wonderful slide presentation by member, Vyto Gestautas, on his trip to Lithuania earlier last year. Vyto and his wife Loretta traveled to Lithuania as part of the American-Lithuanian Lawyers Conference held last May.

Under the direction of our Pres., Peter P. Zansitis, we look forward to a year full of enjoyable activities to promote the Lithuanian culture in our multi-ethnic neighborhood. In addition to hosting the Mid-America District meeting on Dec. 6, we will be sponsoring our annual council's St. Casimir Day commemoration co-chaired by C-16 and the Sisters of St. Casimir Auxiliary Chapter 2 in March. Our annual Dumpling Dinner originally scheduled for last October will be held in April. We also look forward to hosting the National Executive Board on March 27.

Besides our own activities, our council will be attending as many functions of our fellow Knights as possible. Our council continues to be active in aiding Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. Over the past year, we were able to send more than \$500 worth of much needed supplies to orphanages in Lithuania. *Rob*

C-17 SOUTH BOSTON, MA

With the summer hiatus over, C-17 looked forward with excitement to a new season and a new meeting place.

After forty-five years of meeting at the same location on East Seventh St., St. Joseph's Chapel, we now meet at the newly renovated church hall on 75 Flaherty Way after the 4 p.m. Mass every second Saturday of the month.

At our Sept. meeting, we selected a Nominating Committee who undertook the serious business of forming a slate of prospective officers and conducting the election. We thank Mildred

Daniels, Eleanora Mikalonis & Mary Martus, committee members, for the efficient manner in which they conducted the task. The officers for the 1992-93 season are: Pres., Alexander Akule; 1st Vice Pres., Francis Markuns; 2nd Vice Pres., Longinas Svelnis; 3rd Vice Pres., Emily Lehman; Treas., Joseph White; Rec. Sec., Frances Savicki; Corres. Sec., Adele Martus; Fin. Sec., Eva Ball; Trustees, Walter Opanesets & John Norinkavich; Sgt. at Arms, Albert Kropas.

Our delegates to the national convention were Aldona Keaney, Florence Zaleskis, Alice Opanesets, Mary Matačinskas, Alexander Akule, Longinas Svelnis, Anne Voveris & Mary Ann Dailey. Brief reports of convention proceedings kept our members abreast of what transpired.

After a five year hiatus, our parish resumed its fall bazaar in Nov. at the new church hall. The bazaar was co-chaired by Al Akule & Brenda Wachak. They did a fine job aided by a hard working committee who put together a very successful event in a

limited time frame and space compared with our previous ones. The kitchen crew, led by Francis & Virginia Markuns, produced a fabulous Dešrų Dinner topped by large chunks of Kugel baked by Ona Merkiene, our Lithuanian Julia Childs.

Many members traveled to St. George Church, Norwood, to attend the NED Fall meeting. Our council Pres., Al Akule, chaired the meeting. Eva Ball, our council financial secretary for the last ten years, 3rd V.P. NED, and an incorporator of C-17, received her Fourth Degree. Congratulations on receiving the award and thanks for the many years of service you have given the organization! Also, we thank C-27 Pres., Betty Skricki and Pastor Wm. Wolkovich for their hospitality. All enjoyed the short musical interlude rendered by Fr. Bill and Gediminas.

Council extends best wishes to long-time members, Frank & Joanne Grigas, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in Nov. Frank is an usher at St. Peters and former



*C-17 last K of L meeting at Chapel on East Seventh St., S. Boston June 1992
Rev. Albert Contons, John Norinkavich, Longinas Svelnis*

president of the council Our condolences to Louis Bazzinati on the death of his wife, Lillian. The council held a K of L Wake Service at the funeral home. Also, condolences to Anne Voveris on the death of her son, John Sister Eugenia Glinikis, CJC, is recuperating from eye surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery Monica Plevock experienced a bad fall in her home in Nov. All of us wish her a speedy recovery.

Several of our members are in rest homes throughout the area: Daniel Averka, Putnam, CT; Anne Petchell, Jewish Rehabilitation, Boston; Tony & Mildred Young, St. Joseph Manor Nursing Home, Brockton. Those confined to home are Anne Lentini & Josephine Mason. We extend our best wishes and know they would appreciate a card.

Joseph White

C-25 CLEVELAND, OH

Like all councils, Dayton was a perfect host for the Pilgrimage in Oct. Nineteen members of C-25 participated in their activities. Since that time, we have sorrowfully bid another member, Andy Skarnus, "Su Diev". Our heartfelt condolences to his widow, Vi. Ritual was held at Jakub's Funeral Home.

Our Nominating Committee promoted a "shoo-in" roster of officers for 1993. All of them maintained their previous positions. Now, that's a working team!

A fish-fry was held on Wed., Dec. 2 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish hall sponsored by our Knights. Profits were donated to the tuition fund of the parish. A good show was maneuvered by the Marks', the Kunsitis', the donors of baked goods for dessert and all the helpers who gave their time and effort to make it a success On Sun., Dec. 6 our Christmas social was held

at the Lithuanian Club. It was one of our best turn-outs. A short and snappy meeting was held after the meal. Good food, gift exchange and blessings by Msgr. Goldikovskis & Fr. Kijauskas were included in the plans for the day. The band even played "our kind of music". Many birthdays were celebrated for the month of Dec., also: Dolly-O, Steve Yurkovic, Eleanor Bendokas, Jack Valley and most important of all, Baby Jesus!

Our gracious thanks to Joe & Ann Dayton

Ivoska and their committee for the fine preparations and their excellent execution of same.

Hope your Christmas was merry and bright ... and may your New Year be blessed and right.

Dolly-O

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

Council member Janet Ginkus-Allen and fifty educators participated in a project to stimulate teacher's interest in the creative use of Math & Science in everyday activities. The program is called, "Partnerships Advance Learning of Math & Science"; the five year project is funded by a \$10 million grant from the Massachusetts Dept. of Education Lillian Kondrotas & Aldona Waska are back from Sarasota, FL sporting tans Kazys & Terese Adomavicius went to Aruba



C-25 Cleveland members at MCD Pilgrimage held in Dayton

for their 7th annual mid-winter vacation 50th anniversary wishes to Anthony & Helen Lidekauskas New member Michael Stankus joined us in Nov. - Welcome!

We extend condolences to: John Kazlauskas on the passing of his mother, Ann Kosloski; Michael Stankus, whose father, Albert died; Joseph Salkaus who lost his brother, Edward Salkaus of Florida; and Bruno Sharkus on the death of his brother Joseph. We express our sadness to our council members and their families Gerri Palilionas is recovering at Fairlawn Rehab. Hospital in Worcester and HM Ann Bender had surgery on her foot. Speedy recovery to you both!

Our joint Christmas party and dinner was held on Dec. 11 with the St.

Casimir's Men's Club in spite of the blizzard. The snow didn't dampen the holiday spirit when Al Seilus led the line dancing and program 100 American Lithuanians braved the snow to celebrate the traditional Christmas Eve meal held at Marionis Park on Dec. 13 under the direction of Irene Markevicius. The Worcester Council of Lith. Scouts, C-26, the Lith. National Guards, the Catholic Mothers Guild and the Putnam Sisters Auxiliary kept the tradition of Kučios alive.

There was no Jan. meeting but we are looking forward to the Feb. meeting which will be the pot luck supper.

Barb Pantos

C-29 NEWARK, NJ

At our regular monthly meeting, our Sunshine Chair Marie Guoba told us of two young boys from Lithuania who were patients at Deborah Heart & Lung Center, and had undergone very serious heart operations. One of the lads was Rolandas Bumbliauskas, who celebrated his fourteenth birthday and Gediminas Spiklys, who was seven years old. C-29 donated money for each of the boys and Marie Guoba collected additional money from the members who were present. Marie Guobas, Helen Radisch, Rita Sussko & HM Loretta Stukas went to the hospital to visit the boys. Marie presented the boys with their gift while Loretta brought a birthday cake for Rolandas and also presented each boy with the Lithuanian basketball team T-shirts. Both mothers were overwhelmed by the kindness shown to their sons. Sometime in the future, Rolandas will have to undergo additional surgery. We pray for a speedy recovery for both.

We also have a new member, Dr. Michael Yudd - Welcome! ... Dates to be remembered for C-29: March 7, our annual Mass honoring St. Casimir



Birthday Party for Gediminas Spiklys at Deborah Hospital. Iлона Laucius, Loretta Stukas, Dr. Kestutis Versockas, Vilune Bitenas, Gediminas and his mother Roma.



C-29 members at Deborah Hospital.: Marie Guoba, 14 year old Rolandas Bumbliauskas, his mother, Rita Sussko and Helen Radicsh.

at 11 a.m.; April 4, our annual Cake Sale at the parish hall ... Our Christmas Party on Dec. 27 was a very successful affair. Thanks to our chair, Mr. & Mrs. A. Grazulis We also sent pounds and pounds of food for St. John's Church in Newark. Joseph Russell gave a very interesting report on the present sad conditions in our

beloved Lithuania Our Chinese Auction in Nov., under the supervision of our most capable Margie Brazaitis, was most profitable. Our C-29 has much to be thankful for and, with that in mind, we wish that everyone of our K of L members everywhere had a very Happy New Year, much health to all. M.C.

C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

Fr. Alfred Zemeikis, pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Lithuanian Church, celebrated Thanksgiving Day mass at 9 a.m. During Mass, each person in church received a special loaf of bread donated by the Lithuanian Bakery of Elizabeth. It was to be consumed at home at the Thanksgiving dinner.

C-52 members and parishioners attended Kučios, traditional Christmas Eve supper, on Wed., Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. Lee Grynis, a K of L member and president of the Altar Society with other members were in charge of arrangements Christmas tree lighting was conducted by Fr. Zemeikis with prayer at the giant cross on Sat., Dec. 19, in the church garden. Following church services at 5:30 p.m., a parish Christmas party was held in the parish hall. Isabelle Kerwites with assistants were in charge of the arrangements.

The Candlelight Christmas Vigil Mass was held on Dec. 24 at 9 p.m. Deacon, Henry Kerwites assisted. The parish choir sang appropriate hymns and carols. President HM Annie Matalavich was hostess, serving coffee and cake after each Christmas Mass.

St. Casimir's Feast Day will be celebrated by C-52 on Sun., March 7 at the 11 a.m. Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul Church. A dinner is planned after the church services. *William Senkus*

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

C-74 Scranton & C-143 Pittston hosted the Lithuanian Rosary at St. Peter's Cathedral. Msgr. Anthony Norkunas spoke on how powerful the rosary is and how it was handed down to us by Mary. Msgr. Michael Ozelas gave the benediction. Nellie Romanas served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Scriptural reading was given by Edward Romanas. Helen Cravath

led the glorious mysteries of the Rosary. The pilgrim Virgin Statue was crowned by Alicia Foley with Autumn Laske as crown bearer. The court was comprised of Kyle Foley, Liz & Rachel Georgia & Alexander Laske. Marie Laske was coordinator. Sister Elizabeth Zemaitis was organist. We were happy to see members from Forest City attend.

The Amber District meeting held in Scranton was chaired by Peg Romanauskas with Jean Kavelinas, culinary chair and members. We had maps of "old Lithuania" as place mats. To all our members, Ačiū del gero darba!

We elected the same slate of officers as last year: Pres., John Ramoska; Vice Pres., Rose Stanches; Rec. Sec., Mary Costello; Fin. Sec., Ann Lisowski; Treas., Ed Romanauskas; Lith. Affairs, Helen Troupe; Cultural, Jean Kavelinas; Ritual & Vytis Corres., Marie Laske; Trustees, Lee Bozenko, Jerome Costello, Leo Zewicki; Sgt. at Arms, Ann Huffstutler; Public Relations, Dell Zvirblis; Spir. Adv., Msgr. Peter Madus.

Congratulations to Rose Stanches on her new granddaughter We had our annual Kucios chaired by Dell Zvirblis & Martha Brack. Ann Lisowski & Pat Williams decorated our Lithuanian tree. Msgr. Madus blessed the tree and offered grace. Peg & Ed Romanauskas served their famous Viritos and punch. We ended the affair with Lithuanian and English carols.

We do hope everyone had Happy Holidays. *Marie Laske*

C-79 SOUTHFIELD, MI

Our council is saddened by the death of a notable, long-time member. Anne Valatka passed away Nov. 25, 1992 after a serious illness. Several

months before her death, she went to Chicago to live with her son Ralph, Jr. Her death came exactly (to the day) fourteen years after her husband, Ralph, died. They were a very devoted couple. In 1985 they were instrumental in reactivating our council - after approximately twenty years of inactivity. Under the direction of Bob Boris, the first meeting was held in the Valatka home. A few years later, we became the largest council in the organization and held that distinction for several years. Since her husband's death, Anne had not participated actively but she was in the background, ready to advise or suggest, until bad health intervened. On Nov. 25 cancer ended her life. Our sympathy is extended to Ralph, Jr. and his family.

Our Dec. meeting was very interesting. We walked in to see a long table covered with a red tablecloth, set for attendees by our illustrious and imaginative council secretary, Marge Dapkus. With the help of several members, she prepared a delicious holiday feast which delighted all. After eating our fill, we sat at the table enjoying chit-chat and discussing issues pertaining to the meeting. One important matter decided on was the holding of meetings in the day time. After much discussion, we voted to have our next meeting at 11 a.m. Wed., March 3. Due to possible inclement weather, we did not meet in January or February.

Our St. Casimir's Day observance plans have not been completed - just that we will attend 10:30 a.m. mass in a body on March 7. On March 3, we will hear the rest of the story - further plans for the day.

Members, please circle your calendars on March 3 and 7 and attend with our officers. *Bee Jay*

C-96 DAYTON, OH

We wish all had a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! All of us in sunny Dayton wish only the best to our friends. The Dayton council has been extremely busy during the last few months. We give a big thank you to Chris & Joe Fletcher for a successful fall bake sale. Many thanks also to all who gave donations and helped run the sale. There were many pleased raffle winners.

Election of 1993 officers took place at the annual Nov. dinner held in the basement of Holy Cross Church. A special thanks to Kitty Prasmantas and her daughter Julie for the wonderful dinner. The following officers were elected for 1993: Fr. Walter Katarskis, Spiritual Advisor; Elena Mikalauskas, Pres.; Mary Agnes Mikalauskas, 1st Vice-Pres.; Julie Goecke, 2nd Vice-Pres. & Treasurer; Frances Mikalauskas, Fin. Sec.; Karl Kievel & Jos. Fletcher, Sgt. at Arms; Joseph Mantz & George Mikalauskas, Trustees; Aldona Ryan, Stefani Rastikis, Audra Varnelis, Lith. Affairs; Stefani Rastikis & Aldona Ryan, Cultural; Frances Petkus, ritual; Mary Agnes Mikalauskas, VYTIS Correspondent.

The Christmas Dinner was held this year at Anticoli's Italian Restaurant. The festive activity played host to 27 attendees. Special thanks to Frances Mikalauskas for chairing this event Every Dec., the members carol and visit any parishioner of Holy Cross Church who is eighty years of age or older who is sick. This year was no exception. Our caroling began with a neighborhood walk and ended with a car caravan. We traveled over 29 miles to eleven homes. Following the caroling, we were treated to a delicious meal prepared by Barbara Goecke and her helpers. The beautiful voices were accompanied by the guitar of Mary Agnes Mikalauskas.

Mary Agnes Mikalauskas



C-96 Dayton 1992 Christmas Carolers

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

Our officers for 1993 are: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Jos. Grabys; Pres., Irene Tice; Vice-Pres., Gene Gobis; Sec., Beatrice Jasewicz; Treas., Sophie Olbie; Sgts. at Arms, William Jasewicz & Wm. Burimaukas; Ritual, Eliz. Kuzmich; Cultural, Mirga Babin; Lith. Affairs, Adeline Raila & Edward Baranauskas; Lith. Language, Polly Ziausys; Jr. Counselor, Christine Tambasco; VYTIS Corres., Gene Gobis; Sunshine, Adeline Raila; Nominating: Gerard Drenzek & William Jasewicz. We wish the re-elected slate a fruitful and successful year.

The Lithuanian Mass held by Rev. Grabys in Nov. was for our deceased members. Polly Ziausys did the readings and Gene Gobis read the list of members that left our fold. We were happy to have as guests at our two meetings national treasurer, Edward Barkowski. Secretarial duties for these two meetings were performed by Christine Tambasco, daughter of secretary Bea Jasewicz. Bea and husband

Bill, plus daughter Joan and son-in-law Stanley Rimkunas, returned to Lithuania for a second time to adopt another child. Joan & Stanley are now the proud parents of a second son, William Stanley Christopher, who was baptized on Jan. 1. Congratulations also to grandparents, Stanley & Evelyn Rimkunas.

Polly Ziausys will Chair our Lithuanian Day program in February. Betty Kuzmich will chair our March communion brunch Members Regina Kot and husband John, Leo & Helen Druziak and Harold & Irene Tice will be spending time in Florida this winter. Our pastor, Fr. Grabys will be in Florida for two weeks visiting Fr. Cyvas in St. Petersburg Get well wishes are extended to Edward Liberis, Nancy Kazlauskas and Mary Ann Nikstenas Mary Stanionis is a patient at the Mt. Loretto Nursing Home Congratulations to Leo & Christine Tuttle III on the recent addition of a baby daughter in their family.

Our Kučios held on Dec. 14 started

with a Lithuanian Mass celebrated by Fr. Grabys and K of L organist Billie Ossenfort. Four members, Irene Tice, Regina Kot, Betty Kuzmich & Gene Gobis, sang Lithuanian Christmas carols during the services. Eight members from C-136 joined us in the celebration. Irene Tice and husband, Harold, co-chaired the event, assisted by Walter & Sophie Malkowicz, Gerry

Drenzek, Sophie Olbie & Fran DiBart. The entertainment was in the hands of Billie Ossenfort & Regina Kot. Fr. Grabys donated a roasted goose for the dinner. He stated, "it wouldn't be a Lithuanian Christmas if there was no goose on the table." John Kot did the honors of carving the goose. Prizes were awarded to many in attendance. Christmas carols, sung by all, completed the evening's festivities.

We wish to commend Ed Baranauskas of our council for the most interesting article on Lithuanian Airlines in the November VYTIS issue.

Smile & Sparkle

C-102 DETROIT, MI

Congratulations to all the newly elected National Executive Board. Also, to our re-elected officers of C-102. They did such a good job last year, we thought they deserved another year.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The Mid-Central District meeting and Bowling Tournament has been changed to the weekend of May 21-23. Hope this change hasn't inconvenienced anyone.

Bob Boris was missing from our meeting because he was in Lithuania, helping to organize a hospital there. I



C-100 Amsterdam. Juniors being installed the Second Degree by Fr. Jos. Grabys.

think this was his third trip to Lithuania Our Cultural Lady, Donna Stanievich, gave a very interesting report on the political history of Lithuania Edna Klucens introduced a new member, Mary Taylor - we welcome her graciously Congratulations to Terry & Ray Medonis on the marriage of their youngest son, Robert. The wedding was held in Northern Michigan and council members attending were: Helen Smolek, the Bunikis' and Guerrieros' Also congratulations to Terry & Mike Shay's son who completed a 26-mile marathon starting in Windsor, Canada and through Belle Isle Joe & Eve Aukstakalnis-Stark enjoyed a trip to

Seattle, WA to visit their daughter and family Get well wishes are extended to Emil Podzius. Our prayers are with him.

Hoping all enjoyed a Merry Christmas and wishing all a healthy and happy New Year. *Meriuté*

C-103 PROVIDENCE, RI

Greetings for the New Year 1993 from C-103. We live in hope that the New Year will be better; unfortunately, we don't know what it holds for each of us. Sadly, last year we said goodbye to some of our members. Others were hospitalized for one reason or another: Peter Kuprevich has been in and out - at one point the Sunshine Committee

didn't know what hospital he was in; Nell McKenna had a cataract operation; Jonas Gervalis is doing nicely after heart surgery; Joe Kiela had hip surgery; Vic Mathieu underwent radiation therapy and is hoping for the best; Nell Grande is up and around after a fall and is now looking forward to a trip to Arizona where her daughter has



C-140 Syracuse members visiting with C-102 Detroit members: Holly, Chrissy & David Peterson.

relocated.

On the happier side, the Walaskas' granddaughter, Alison, had chemotherapy treatments for two years and the tumor is gone. She has started school with a very positive attitude added to by the arrival of her baby sister, Lauren. Michael Walaska has been transferred to Washington, DC with the CVS chain Peter & Helen Denesewich have a new grandchild, Kyle Patrick, who was christened in Manchester, CT Helen & Tony Gudczauskas are happy to announce another grandchild Bertha Stoskus' son, Paul, was married to Ramonda Rawls in Virginia Regina & Liudi Jagminas don't get to many meetings - what with a new baby son, and Liudi's being in charge of interns in the Trauma Center at Rhode Island Hospital. Liudi sent a shipment of medical books and a medical computer to Lithuania and he has received acknowledgements. Currently he is working on a project to send medicine to Kaunas Medical, all in the name of Knights of Lithuania C-103 To John Walaska, who was elected president, and to all the officers, we wish a successful year.

All indications are that it will be a busy year. Providence will be hosting the NED meeting on April 25, 1993.

Bertha Stoskus

C-110 MASPETH, NY

C-110's Nov. meeting followed a beautiful Lithuanian high mass celebrated by Msgr. F. Bulovas. The new Transfiguration organist from Lithuania, Virgilijus Barkauskas, led the choir in song. During the meeting, Msgr. Bulovas asked for better attendance at the Lithuanian Mass. Following a deli-style luncheon, minutes from the previous meeting were read by Helen Matulonis. Applications to be submitted for the following degrees

were read: 1st degree - Albert Klimas & Ilona Stungury; 2nd degree - Alice Laukaitis & Joe Thomas; 3rd degree - William & Zina Budris, Edward & Frances Jakatt, Dorothy Sakal and Kazimieras Vainus. The highlight of the meeting was a visit from Dr. Steven Laukaitis, an ophthalmologist from Seattle, WA. The doctor is an administrator with Project Orbis, a mobile airplane eye hospital which will be visiting Vilnius from May 29 through June 19. Dr. Laukaitis said that many Lithuanians have been blinded by glaucoma and diabetes, conditions which are easily controlled in our country.

Grateful Dead Lithuanian Bronze Medal T-Shirts were distributed by the Council and additional orders were taken. Some of the funds raised on this project were used to ship clothing and food to Lithuanian orphanages in time for Christmas. Over 600 signatures were reported by Ann Morrissey and presented to the Secretary General of the United Nations and UN Mission. The signatures represented Lithuanian, Baltic and other Americans who seek to remove Russian troops from Lithuania and the Baltics.

A successful Kucios was held on Dec. 20 chaired by Ed Jakatt. Christmas Party chair was Tony Yakaitis with Walter Klosis acting as Santa Al Marcel will investigate the steps necessary for the council to add a cross to Lithuania's now famous Hill of Crosses Joe Thomas was named



Msgr. F. Bulovas presenting Fourth Degree medal to Jean Mactutis of C-110 Maspeth.

entertainment chair.

Congratulations are extended to our wedding anniversary couples: Ed & Frances Jakatt - 46 years; Zina & Bill Budris - 46 years; Tony & Lillian Polis - 50 years; John & Ann Lason - 53 years; Peter & Sophie Zuyus - 53 years; Roman & Sophie Wensek - 56 years.

A request was made for the K of L to supply coffee and donuts following some of the 11:15 masses to promote better attendance at the Lithuanian service in Transfiguration Church Planning of the upcoming events such as Lithuanian Independence Day (Feb. 14) and St. Casimir's Day (March 28) was discussed. Iggi Walles will chair the St. Casimir's event.

Mary Abbott

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

Our holidays abounded with much good fellowship and a deep spiritual renewal of the meaning of the Christmas Season. We worshipped and participated in services in various beautifully decorated churches and renewed old friendships at many K of L gatherings.

Terry Vaitkus and a hard working committee hosted our Christmas party at Nativity Hall. A great deal of before hand preparation went into making this a successful affair. Algerd Brazis, accompanied by Robert Mockus at the piano, thrilled us with Christmas selections, including Lithuanian carols, and Ruth Dagus & Ed Pienkos led us in a sing-a-long and gave us their rendition of "The Chipmunks". The food was delicious and ample; many came back for seconds (and thirds). Santa Claus (don't tell, it was really Matt Vilutis) passed out bags of candy. Thank you one and all for making this a very enjoyable evening.

Vice Pres. Ellie Kasputis hosted the council board meeting in Dec. Once council business was taken care of, we were treated to a sumptuous buffet which Ellie had prepared. We enjoyed a little socializing and then Ellie came around with a little grab bag gift for everyone. We all appreciate her thoughtfulness.

Attorney Robert Zapolis was guest speaker at Nov. meeting. He spoke on the topic of Estates Planning, and specifically how to set up a living trust. He offered many valuable tips and answered members' questions regarding probate laws. Thanks to Leonas Norbutas for providing us with interesting speakers at our meetings.

Gerrie

C-136 HUDSON-MOHAWK, NY

Soon after our Nov. meeting, six members took off on a Caribbean Cruise for one week. Ed & Virginia Barkowski, celebrating their 36th wedding anniversary, Dot & Simeon Richmire, celebrating their 30th anniversary, and Betty Parker & Helen LaPierre, just celebrating. The six "cruisers" came back with tans and interesting tales of their wonderful trip to "Paradise". It goes without saying

that Sim took video the whole time, so all the cruisers continue to enjoy the trip over and over again.

Our council Christmas dinner was well attended and everyone had a great time. Lots of good food and prizes made it special. Some representatives of C-100 Amsterdam joined us and the following week several of our members attended their party. A good time was had by all.

A memorial service was held on Dec. 19 by members for recently departed member, Helen Griffen. Helen has been a member since 1990 and is also the mother of member, Helen Brockett. She will surely be missed and we want to extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

Dorothy Richmire

C-147 ST. PETERSBURG, FL

Bronius & Genovaite Bakus are entertaining his niece, Dr. Birute Markeviciene from Kaunas. She was here for the month of Dec. and enjoyed all the sights and Lithuanian hospitality here in St. Petersburg & St. Petersburg Beach. We were proud to welcome her Victor Sanders is recuperating at home after a heart bypass surgery in Dec. in Tampa General Hospital. Victor & Lucy transferred to C-147 from C-152 Eastern Long Island Valerie Lesčinskas returned from Chicago on Jan. 7 after visiting her family there. Sorry to hear she was ill during the holidays. We're glad you are back and feeling better We are also happy to have Fr. Stephen Rapolas, OFM, back with us. We hope "temporary" becomes "permanent".

Many of our Knights attended the New Year's Eve banquet at the Lithuanian American Club in St. Petersburg. A wonderful time was had by all. The dinner and midnight buffet were excellent. Dance music was provided

by our ever popular Joe Thomas from New York. Juozas Nakatavičius accompanied him on singing most dance melodies. Thanks "Joe T" and "Joe N". It was a great performance.

Dolores Jonaitis

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

C-152's membership voted to return its current slate of officers for another year of service: Muriel Lekstutis, pres.; Delbert Vance, Vice-Pres.; Agnes Marma, Rec. Sec.; Thomas Tarmey, Treas.; Mary Zipkas, Fin. Sec.; Charlene Abrahamsen & Jos. Bealis, Trustees; Peter Petrowski & Evelyn Niksa, Sgts.-at-Arms.

On Dec. 13, a day otherwise set aside for our Dec. meeting, our council sponsored our Annual Christmas Party, playing host to more than 100 members and friends at the beautifully decorated Miller Place Inn, Miller Place, NY. Those attending were well rewarded by a delicious menu, ample dance music and an excellent opportunity to renew friendships and relive pleasant memories. Acting on the belief that it is rarely too early to plan ahead, Co-Chair Joe Bealis & Del Vance have already booked the Miller Place Inn for our next Christmas Party on Sun., Dec. 12, 1993.

As our council's contribution to the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Lithuania, we will sponsor a Pilgrimage to be held on Sunday, May 23 at Our Lady of the Island Shrine, a 65-acre facility, open daily to the faithful and maintained by the Montfort Missionaries at Eastport, NY. Area Knights and friends who might wish to join C-152 members on this occasion will be most cordially welcomed. Our Chair for the Pilgrimage Committee is Beatrice Lucka, who may be reached

for particulars at (516) 298-8077. With the cooperation of the weather, it is our hope to have procession and Mass held outdoors in a truly lovely setting at a time of the year when nature is particularly at pains to put on a happy face.
Tom Tarmey

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

Not unlike the rest of VYTIS country, each of us celebrated the happy, holy season in traditional ways. Some of us made the Christmas Eve supper using recipes our mothers brought from Lithuania. Others attended midnight Mass welcoming

Baby Jesus into our hearts and homes. Gayly decorated trees were laden with gifts by the score on Christmas Day. Only the weatherman reminded us that we were a bit different - the temperature was 73° - not a cloud in the sunny blue sky.

On Epiphany we joined the American Lithuanian Social Club and the Ukranian Club of Spring Hill. We had a great dinner and enjoyable listening and dancing to the music of Joe Thomas and his soloist Joe Nakata-vičius.

Helen & Tony Konewitch used the recipe that Food Editor Stella

Matulonis included in her Lithuanian Cooking segment in the Christmas issue of VYTIS. We celebrated and toasted each other with viritos. Great recipe, Stella! A real mood elevator!

We are looking forward to a boat ride and lunch on board the Sponge Docks cruiser in Tarpon Springs later this month At our next meeting we shall have election of officers.

Hugs and kisses are out there for all to share on Valentine's Day!

S. G. Petraitis

CALENDAR of EVENTS

February 7, 1993 - MAMD "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet. Martinique Restaurant Grand Ballroom North, 4:30 p.m.

February 28, 1993 - MAMD St. Casimir's Day Mass, Luncheon, Meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Cicero, IL. Hosts: C-14.

March 7, 1993 - C-52 Elizabeth, NJ Annual St. Casimir's celebration, Sts. Peter & Paul Church, 11 a.m. Mass.

March 7, 1993 - C-152 Eastern Long Island, Annual St. Casimir's celebration, St. Patrick Church, 1 p.m. Mass. Breakfast following at Southold Town Rec. Center - \$10.00

March 14, 1993 - Amber District meeting & St. Casimir's Day celebration, Shenandoah, PA.

March 14, 1993 - MAD Meeting, Immaculate Conception Center (Seminary), Douglaston, NY. Mass: 10:15 a.m.

March 27, 1993 - National Executive Board Meeting, All Saints/St. Anthony Parish - Hosts: C-16 Chicago.

April 25, 1993 - NED Spring meeting, Host C-103, Providence, RI.

May 21-23, 1993 - MCD Meeting and Bowling Tournament - Host: C-102 Detroit.

May 23, 1993 - Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Island Shrine, Eastport, LI. Hosts: C-152 Eastern Long Island - 1:00 p.m. Mass.

June 25-27, 1993 - NED annual Retreat - Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunk, ME.

August 12 - 15, 1993 - 80th National Convention, Marriott Hotel, Worcester, MA - hosted by C-26.



Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication	VYTIS - THE KNIGHT				2. Date of Filing	9/22/92
3. Frequency of Issue	Monthly: November - June Bi-Monthly: July/August - Sept/October				3X No. of Issues Published Annually	10
4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State and ZIP + 4 Code) (Not printer)	Lithuanian Catholic Press, 4545 West 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60629				5X Annual Subscription Price	\$10.00

5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters or General Business Office of the Publisher (Not printer)
Office of National President
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA - 800 Haldeman Ave., Dayton, OH 45404

6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (This one MUST NOT be blank)
Publisher: phone and Complete Mailing Address:
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA - 800 Haldeman Ave., Dayton, OH 45404

Editor: phone and Complete Mailing Address:
Mary R. Kober, Two Bayview Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050

Managing Editor: phone and Complete Mailing Address:
None

7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address must be stated. If there are more than one, they must be completed.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Knights of Lithuania a fraternal non-profit organization.	Office of President 800 Haldeman Ave. Dayton, OH 45404

8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities (If there are none, so state)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
None	

9. For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Special Rates (501(c)(3) only)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (Check one):
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)

10. Extent and Nature of Circulation (Give estimates on reverse side)	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	2,918	2,918
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	-	-
2. Mail Subscriptions (Postmaster: please remit)	2,877	2,877
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)	2,877	2,877
D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means: Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies	-	-
E. Total Distribution (Sum of 10C and 10D)	2,877	2,877
F. Copies Not Distributed: 1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	41	41
2. Return from News Agents	-	-
G. TOTAL (Sum of 10E, 10F and 1 - should equal net press run shown in 10A)	2,918	2,918

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete
Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Mary R. Kober (Editor)

(43 2) 5
 REV. JUOZAS PRUNSKIS
 7114 S. HAMLIN AVE.
 CHICAGO IL 60629-4321

Second Class Postage Paid
 Returns & Address Corrections to:
 VYTIS - THE KNIGHT
 Two Bayview Avenue
 Port Washington, NY 11050



You'll have to travel far

TO BEAT THIS...

National CONVENTION

The event of the Year — the Knights of Lithuania 80th National Convention is fast approaching. We need not convince you that it is very convenient to get to Worcester. We have reserved the most comfortable HOTEL MARRIOTT in the city for your convenience and have planned many interesting social activities for your enjoyment.

Most of all you will agree that there is a stronger force behind us which urges us to pack our favorite suitcase and head towards the convention city. Could one of those reasons be our Lithuanian heritage — a desire to share a few fruitful hours in the company of true friends? A wish to do something more outstanding for Lithuania's independence, might be another reason. A desire to strengthen our organization, may be the goal of others. It has been said that only in numbers and unity there is strength. The job is immense. We need you to implement these goals. Please cross the threshold of the convention city and be counted as an outstanding member of a fine organization. Each and every one of you is desperately needed if we are to see the K of L organization growing, growing, and growing in the generations to come.

In future issues of VYTIS, the complete program with registration forms will appear. Once you receive these forms, do not hesitate but send them in immediately. Iki Pasimatimo!!

Kviečiame visus

IN MEMORIAM

PETER JURGIL
 C-16 Chicago, IL
 † December 3, 1992

ANN CHAPULIS
 C-29 Newark, NJ
 † December 30, 1992

JANET MONTVILLO
 C-110 Maspeth, NY
 † January 8, 1993