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## VYTIS KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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# ST. CASIMIR

by Romas Kezys

St. Casimir is the most popular Lithuanian personality in history. No kings, dukes, scientists, writers, composers or presidents compare to St. Casimir in popularity. In 1984 we commemorated the 500th anniversary of the death of this saint. I do not know of any Lithuanian person who would be remembered with such dignity and love. My travel agency in Brooklyn organized a group to Rome to commemorate that event. Almost 600 people traveled. That was a historic event in itself, probably the largest group of Lithuanian-Americans traveling to Rome. It was St. Casimir who provided the inspiration to make such a trip. Who was this man whose memory and legacy we cherish to this very day.

St. Casimir comes from a long line of Lithuanian nobility. His great grandfather was Grand Duke of Lithuania, Algirdas. His grandfather was Jogaila who married a Polish queen and became the King of Poland. Jogaila had a son named Casimir who was the father of St. Casimir. He was one of eleven children. His brothers and sisters became queens, kings, dukes in various areas of Lithuania, Poland, Bohemia and Germany. St. Casimir remained at the Royal Court in Cracow. At a very young age, he was recognized as having an unusual gift for learning and a keen mind. He was taught at the Royal Court in a rigorous curriculum which included reading and writing of the Polish language which was the language of the Court. He was also taught German, Latin, public speaking, physical education and the values of prayer and leading a virtuous life. There is no evidence as to when he learned Lithuanian. Most probably his father was responsible for his mastery of the tongue.

Because of departures of his brothers and sisters, St. Casimir became first in line to succeed his father during his teenage years. While still in his early twenties, St. Casimir had the opportunity to exercise his skills in diplomacy and running the State. He also became concerned about the moral climate at the Royal Court.

While excelling at the affairs of State, he remained aloof and devoted much of his energy into prayer and works of mercy. Through austerity and self-denial, he



·SV. KAZIMIERAS.

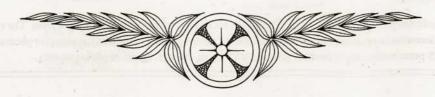
Dall V. K. Jenynes

sought to grow closer to God. Fasting became the order of the day and he spent entire days meditating in the chapel. Later, he even declined the comforts of his bed choosing instead to lie on the cold stone floors.

At the age of 25, St. Casimir's health began to deteriorate. He was infected with tuberculosis. That year he made a trip to Lithuania. However, he was too ill to be an active participant in the King's affairs. He refused a suggestion that he marry. When urged to take care of his illness, he replied, "I know no other health or life than with Christ the Lord."

St. Casimir retired to the Lithuanian castle of Gardinas to join his mother. On the evening of March 3, priests administered the last rites to the dying Prince. On March 4, 1484, he died at the age of 25 in his mother's arms. King Casimir escorted his son's remains to the Vilnius Cathedral where Casimir was buried in a special chapel erected in his memory.

(A talk given at C-109 Great Neck's celebration of St. Casimir.)



### ST. KUNEGUNDES

### March 3 - Patroness of Lithuania

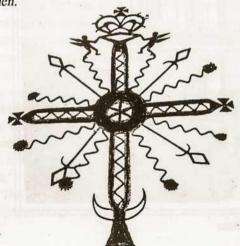
The father of St. Kunegundes was Sigfrid, first Count of Luxemburg. After a pious education, she was married to St. Henry, Duke of Bavaria, who, upon the death of Emperor Otho III, was chosen King of the Romans. St. Kunegundes was crowned at Paderborn in 1002.

In 1014 she went with her husband to Rome and became Empress, receiving together with him the imperial crown from the hands of Pope Benedict VIII. Though married, she lived in continence, for, with her husband's consent, she had made a vow of virginity before her marriage.

Calumniators accused her of scandalous conduct, but her innocence was signally vindicated by Divine Providence, as she walked over pieces of flaming irons without injury, to the great joy of the Emperor. Her husband, Henry II, died in 1024, leaving his widow comparatively poor, for she had given away nearly all her wealth in charitable works.

In 1025, on the anniversary of his death, and on the occasion of the dedication of a monastery which she had built for Benedictine nuns at Kaffungen, she clothed herself with a poor habit, adopted the veil, which she received from the hands of the Bishop, and entered that same monastery. Her occupations consisted in prayer, reading, and manual labor, and thus she spent the last fifteen years of her life. She died in 1040, and her body was carried to Bamberg, where it was laid near that of her husband, St. Henry.

PRAYER. God, You inspired St. Kunegundes to strive for perfect charity and so attain Your kingdom at the end of her pilgrimage on earth. Strengthen us through her intercession that we may advance rejoicing in the way of love. Amen.





# ST. CASIMIR March 4 - Patron of Lithuania

St. Casimir was the third among the thirteen children of Casimir III, King of Poland. He was born Oct. 5, 1458. Although educated in a royal court, he had a horror of luxury and practiced many mortifications in secret. Under the care of the holy canon, John Dugloss, he grew up in singular innocence. One of his principal devotions was to the Blessed Virgin, in whose honor he composed, or at least frequently recited the well-known "Hymn of St. Casimir."

When the crown of Hungary was offered to him, St. Casimir marched at the head of an army of 20,000 men to the frontier, to comply with his father's will. The reigning King of Hungary whom the people wished to dethrone was Matthias Corvinus. On reaching the frontier and learning that the differences between King and people had been adjusted, St. Casimir gladly returned home. Realizing afterward the injustice of the attempt against the King of Hungary, he could never again be prevailed upon to assume the crown when the Hungarians again invited him.

To the end of his life St. Casimir preserved untainted his purity of soul and body, nor could he ever be induced to enter the state of matrimony. A lingering tuberculosis ended his brief career, which was brought to a close at Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, in 1482, at twenty-four years of age.

PRAYER. Almighty God, to serve You is to reign. By the interceding prayers of St. Casimir, help us ever to serve You in sanctity and justice. Amen.

# ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH Vilnius, Lithuania

by J. Boruta, Lithuania

St. Casimir Church, one of the most picturesque monuments of baroque in Vilnius, is dedicated to the Lithuanian Saint Patron's honor. It was build by the Jesuits, who were supported by Leo Sapiega. The Jesuits came to Lithuania in 1569. Its architectural model was a famous church in Rome. The corner stone was brought from Antakalnis hills in 1604.

St. Casimir's Church was consecrated in 1609. It was destroyed by fire in 1610, 1655, 1707 and 1749. One of the most significant Fathers who had been working almost for thirty years here was St. Martyr Andrew Bobola. He was murdered by Russian cossacks in 1657 and in 1938 he was canonized.

In 1773 the Jesuits' Order was closed and the church was delivered over to the priests emeritus. Later it was delivered over to the parish and then to the monk order of missionaries. In 1814 the Jesuits' Order was re-established.

In 1812 Napoleon's Army arranged a military warehouse within the church. After the rebellion in 1831, the Czar's government closed the church. The Russian architect Chiagin restructured the architecture to house an Orthodox cathedral.

In 1915, the Germans turned it into a Lutheran's church for the military. In 1919, the blessed Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis returned it to the Jesuits. From 1920 to 1939 the Polish Jesuits were in control and since 1940 the Lithuanian Jesuits have conducted pastoral work here. In 1942 when the Rector was Rev. R. Blazhis, SJ, it was rebuilt by the architect J. Mulokas (1904-1983). In 1943, during St. Casimir holiday on March 4, the Archbishop of Vilnius, M. Reinys, sanctified the church. It brings joyfulness to our eyes even today.

On January 3, 1949 the church was closed by the Soviet government. At first, a wine store was established and later it became the museum of atheism. The entire inventory of the church was destroyed. The pictures of the altar, the organs and bells were destroyed as well.

On October of 1988 St. Casimir Church was returned to the faithful. After the intensive work of restoration and reconstruction, the Jesuits of Lithuania are working once again with their words and deeds.



St. Casimir's Church in Vilnius

## LIFE WITH VYTAUTAS THE GREAT

© by Albert Cizauskas

For a change of pace, let's leave behind the political complexities of Lithuania's tug-of-war with Russia and journey on a by-way into the Lithuanian past, back to the 14th and 15th centuries.

We often hear of the makers of history, that breed of men whose lives made a difference, and without whom our own lives might have been other than they are today. One of these is Vytautas the Great.

There is a painting of Vytautas, his white horse prancing into the waters of the Black Sea, holding aloft his banner in a symbolic gesture to affirm his overlordship of those vast lands from the Baltic south to the Crimea. It's difficult for us to visualize that, although Lithuania's greatest hero spent much of his life on horseback, riding and

fighting, he was also a man with needs and desires who lived and ruled successfully in a brutal and backward age.

A Lithuanian historian, Daugirdaite-Sruogiene, wrote a remarkably lively and detailed account of Lithuania in which she dealt with the royal court of Vytautas at Trakai. We tend to think of those days as very uncivilized, but there was also unimagined splendor, as she vividly portrays. More to the point, her characterization of Vytautas as a man and prince gives him flesh and blood and lifts him out of the dusty pages of history books where national heroes are usually embalmed.

Through her, we learn that one of the personality-revealing traits was moderation, in both attire and food, this at a time when outward show and sensual indulgence was common among princes. In fact, Vytautas is said to have abstained from meat on Friday, but whether for religious or other reasons we're not told. However, in entertaining guests, he spared nothing to honor and make them welcome in lavish banquets for days or weeks. This tradition of hospitality he obviously passed on to his fellow countrymen, as those who have visited Lithuania can abundantly attest.

The custom was prevalent among rulers then to exchange extravagant gifts, not as today, with perhaps one or



Vytautas the Great, Grand Duke of Lithuania

two valuable items but with whole categories of costly and rare objects which would help stock museums in our day. Even gourmet food was sent along to please royal palates. Fortunately, we have lists of some of the gifts which Vytautas received or gave, from which we can derive a goodly notion of life in Europe's royal courts and of the relative level of their societies.

Interestingly, Sruogiene mentions that Lithuania's greatest hero preferred gifts from the German Knights for their "superior taste." Yet these same Knights were Lithuania's mortal enemies for two centuries. In fact, the Italian opera, *I Lituani*, (which was performed by the Vilnius Opera Company in Chicago), celebrates

this bloody struggle. Vytautas and his first cousin, Jogaila, broke the power of the Knights at the first battle of Tannenburg in 1410 (called "Zalgiris") which prevented Lithuania from becoming Germanized as had already happened to Lithuania's kinsmen in Prussia. Probably, the politics of those days were no less fluid than today, changing with the changing needs of the moment.

According to one gift list, the Knights sent Vytautas weapons, finely-bedecked horses, hunting dogs, falcons, rare fabrics, silk and woolen cloths, all manner of edible delicacies, as for example, dried cherries prepared by master German chefs, dried food imported from other lands, sugar, spices (pepper, safron, ginger and so forth), the highest quality herring, other marinated fish, casks of Rhine wine, expensive paintings, precious items (such as gold chains, rings, rare stones and many other jewels besides). Princess Anna, as wife of the Grand Duke, was pleased to receive a book on the life of the saints (it must have been an illuminated manuscript because printing had not yet been developed), a clavichord (a piano-style instrument popular in the middle ages), and a much-loved monkey.

Acontemporary biography of the reigning Holy Roman Emperor has this list of the gifts which Vytautas sent to



Vytautas the Great on the shores of the Black Sea.

(Painting by J. Mackevicius)

Emperor in 1396 (all items mentioned are twelve in number): falcons trained for warfare, peaceful falcons, hawks, javelins, long lances, hunting lances, dogs trained in falconry, knight's steeds equipped with golden saddles, fast horses, sable hats with two pearls apiece, woven clothes, large gloves made of marten fur with one pearl apiece, Lithuanian great coats made of silk, silk handkerchiefs, silver and gold hammers.

Similarly rich gifts of furs, table cloths, napkins and gloves were sent by the Princess Anna to the Emperor's wife.

What impresses today's reader is the quantity of gifts, almost too monotonous to enumerate, exchanged between rulers and their families, probably on occasion of a state visit, or simply to assure themselves of the other ruler's good will. The custom of exchanging gifts between rulers has persisted to the present, but American presidents are not permitted to retain much simpler and fewer gifts, donating them to the government. In looking over Vytautas' gift list, one cannot help but be surprised that there was no mention of amber, but perhaps he did give Lithuania's

Baltic "gold" on other occasions.

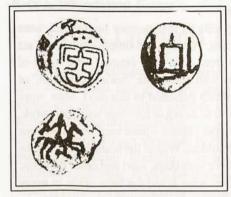
We are also told that Vytautas, in 1415, received his cousin and rival, Jogaila, with splendid ceremonies at Trakai. The Grand Duke of Lithuania showered the King of Poland with gifts more costly than usual, among which was a cradle enriched with silver work in anticipation of the birth of Jogaila's daughter.

#### Eat, Drink and be Merry

The scenes below are reminiscent of Charles Laughton's gluttonous feasting in barbaric splendor as Henry VIII in one of Hollywood's epics.

Feasts were given and were usually rowdy and tumultuous affairs, the guests amused by dancers and musicians while consuming vast quantities of rich food washed down with over-abundance of mead, beer and wine. The food consisted of domestic and wild animals and fowls, served with a great deal of fat and heavily spiced. Varieties of cakes, of the type we know as "tortes" were also served.

Vytautas normally entertained 60 to 100 guests at one time. His tables were covered with fine linen, and the plates were of gold and silver, but every guest would have to come



Coins of Vytautas the Great

e quipped with his own knife (why?). Fingers took the place of forks which were still not known. Dogs under the tables licked off the guests' greasy fin-

gers and gobbled up the excess fat. The great hall at Trakai was illuminated with burning pitch on poles or sticks, giving forth a flickering and smoky light hardly better than the dark.

The often-inebriated guests, while gorging themselves, were amused not only by musicians, singers and dancers, but also by jesters who were often dwarfs and otherwise handicapped persons including cripples. While this seems crude to us today, we need only recall the many times Jerry Lewis entertained TV audiences by mimicking cripples.

#### The Grand Duke Outwits his Jester

In addition to physical deformities, jesters were generally selected for intelligence and sharp wit with which to amuse their masters and the court. Frequently, they ridiculed the personal traits of these masters or pointed out some unwelcome truth. What saved them most of the time was the deliberate ambiguity of their utterances couched in a comic vein to provoke therapeutic laughter. Shakespeare's plays are full of such witty buffoons who scoffed and counseled even as they amused.

At times, a fellow prince would lend a gifted jester to a princely rival to buy his good will or even to spy on him. One such was sent to Vytautas by the German Knights.

The German jester had a crooked mouth deformed from birth but a wit honed by years of practice at this intellectual but dangerous game. Unfortunately, the jester became a favorite of the Grand Duke and successfully spied on him for the benefit of the Knights. In one of his reports, he sent the following version of a verbal duel with Vytautas.

Once, the Grand Duke, angered by the clown's impudent nonsense, boxed his ears soundly. Instead of becoming downcast or begging forgiveness, the clever jester began to shout with joy that Vytautas, by his punitive action, had elevated him to the lofty order of knighthood.

(Knighthood was conferred upon an aspirant by a light blow of a sword). Vytautas, thinking that enough was enough, threatened the jester with severe punishment and even to straighten his crooked mouth if he persisted in his disobedience.

"But I no longer have my jester's clothes, I threw them away," the jester cried out. Finally, sensing the absurdity of the situation, Vytautas allowed the irrepressible jester to pretend to knighthood in the mornings but to revert to his jester's role for the remainder of the day. Here we see that Vytautas was able to distinguish the important from the unimportant. Instead of the jester's making him seem foolish and impotent, he turned the tables on the jester and instead exposed him to scorn. Such sensible compromise was a hallmark of Vytautas' political style.

#### Travelers

An English Ambassador traveling through the Grand Duchy in the early years of the 15th century, wrote back to London that Vytautas provided the English diplomat with letters in Latin, Russian and the Tartar languages to ensure his safety when in Tarter-infested lands. Such letters clearly demonstrated the Grand Duke's power over these wild and brutal nomads. (Lithuania, at that time, had no written language. The Ambassador, therefore, may have meant Ruthenian rather than Russian since Ruthenian was the written language of the Lithuanian court.) The English envoy observed that "Vytautas, prince of Lithuania, kept strict order and peace in his extensive domains, and that no foreigner passing through, or stopping therein, needed to pay for anything" or to be concerned about his safety, being allowed to go wherever he wished in the Duchy. Interestingly, the Englishman also noted that the weather in Lithuania that year (1414) was extremely cold, the snow lying on the ground for 28 weeks so that many perished.

There were other visitors, less benign than the English Ambassador. Among these were thieves and agents sent by neighboring nobles to stir up trouble. If they were denied entry, they would manage to sneak in by other means, even somehow down chimneys. They would steal, try to subvert the servants, since ribald ditties to mock the master, and use every means to make life trying for him.

There were also honest travelers who, if they suffered on long journeys, found entry difficult because or the misbehavior of the unwelcome visitors. Those with wounds would have to expose festering sores to gain lodging for the night and perhaps even some herbal treatment if they were lucky. (Medical care was primitive. Princes are said to have exchanged doctors and on one occasion, a highly regarded

German doctor cured the Grand Duke's wife of a serious ailment).

A more welcome traveler was the troubadour, the singing lyric poet. Troubadours were admitted gladly, and in return for pleasant hospitality, they would chant folk ballads of chivalrous love and heroic deeds performed by knights, and even bring news of other lands to lords and princes in an age which had no New York Times or Peter Jennings. Vytautas was most liberal with these wandering minstrels.

#### Peasants

As to peasant life, we have little information. We do know their lives were bleak, brutal and short. But in Lithuania at least, due to the land's fertility and an agricultural tradition, people never suffered from famine. In the days of the Grand Duke Vytautas, grain was even distributed in time of need. Such action suggested an efficiently

administered state.

Our historian tells us that peasant households were mostly self-sufficient. People wore simple clothes and ate sparingly, mostly from clay pots. Homes were made of wood covered over with thatch (the "bakužė samanota" of song and legend which persisted to this day). Men wore short beards and hair so as not to interfere with their work, in contrast to the upper classes whose men wore long hair down over their shoulders. Within the household lived the entire family together with dogs, fowl and other domestic animals. The women were noted for their skills in many occupations, especially weaving, and were said to be modest, thrifty, good hostesses, quiet-natured, and not given to gossip.

Just as they are today, which is a good note on which to end our journey into Lithuania's past.

### Rendezvous with Italian Opera

Daiva Rinkevičiūtė

A week of the Italian opera was held in Vilnius in November. Though opera was formally born in Florence at the turn of the 16th century, the new art form soon spread throughout Europe conquering the hearts of music lovers. Lithuania was one of the first countries where public opera performances were staged. In 1636, the first opera was performed in the Vilnius Lower Castle which, in those times, equaled in its architectural style and cultural traditions to Louvre. This event was sponsored by Duke Vladislovas Vaza, a generous patron and supporter of arts. Italian opera became very popular among the Lithuanian nobles at the end of the 18th century. In 1785, two theaters were established in Vilnius and Klaipeda.

The Lithuanian national theater has always fostered Italian opera. The first opera staged by modern State Opera Theater in pre-war Kaunas on Dec. 31, was Verdi's "Traviata". The tradition of performing "Traviata" on the New Year's Eve has been preserved in Vilnius. From the very beginning, Italian-opera style has constituted the basis of Lithuanian opera and ballet. The Lithuanian school of vocal art stems from Italian vocal traditions. Lithuania and Italy maintained close musical ties between the two World Wars. However, only in the 60s, Lithuanian opera singers were presented with a possibility to learn at Teatro La Scala, the leading opera house in Italy, with tenor Virgilijus Noreika and bass Vaclovas Daunoras making several

appearances on its stage. In Vilnius, opera lovers could attend the performances of the Italian opera stars Virginia Zeanti and Nicola Rossi Lementi. The Italian tradition is still strong in Lithuania: 11 operas out of 19 on the 1991-92 repertoire were Italian.

The week of Italian Opera was the first event of this kind held for more than 50 years at the Lithuanian Opera and Ballet House. The week started with a contest of vocalists. Taking part in it were more than twenty students up to 33 years of age. The jury was headed by Andre Orlowitz, a soloist and teacher of singing from Copenhagen. Vytautas Juozapaitis, who won the first prize, has submitted a serious application to join the team of Lithuanian opera stars.

Seven operas were performed during the week of Italian Opera, with conductors from Belarus, Russia, Poland, Denmark and Estonia leading the orchestras. At the final gala concert, music connoisseurs were enthralled by stage appearances of the best Lithuanian opera singers.



## How Lithuania's Regained Independence Affected Me

Lithuania re-affirmed her sovereignty on March 11, 1990 after almost half a century under foreign Soviet occupation. Soviet hostility towards this declaration of independence manifested itself in an economic blockade of Lithuania. With known shortages in the country and her people experiencing hardship, I at last came alive to Lithuania's suffering. Born a posthumous child in a displaced persons' refugee camp in Germany, never having seen my father's native land, immersed in the American culture and way of life (pursuit of higher education, material acquisition, career objectives), Lietuva seemed so very far away. But now, with the wolf at Lithuania's door - the prospect of wide-scale hunger; the deprivation of medicine, medical supplies and equipment; the potential for epidemics; the fuel shortage; the work stoppages; the psychological terrorism - all contributed to sensitize the world to this small Baltic country's plight. I, too, perceived that my previous passive stance was unconscionable.

What to do? How to counteract the Soviet blockade? An action plan emerged: send food and medicine to Lithuania. So, in a quiet, non-dramatic way, with limited resources available, I joined the activist ranks. I commenced mailing supplies to charitable organizations (CARITAS), relatives and others, through the United States postal system and through private agencies here and abroad. Despite good intentions, as a novice I blundered more than once. So, from personal experience, I don't recommend mailing heavy bags of sugar overseas from California via airmail! With the passage of time, Soviet pressure increased, trying to break the spirit of the Lithuanian people.

Finally, the tragedy of January 13, 1991 is broadcast to the world - unarmed civilians, standing and praying in the Vilnius streets, supporting their elected leader Vytautas Landsbergis, totally without provocation, are brutally attacked with guns and tanks by Soviet military forces. Lithuanian civilian casualties are high: 13 dead (some crushed by tanks), hundreds seriously wounded, newly created orphans and widows, blood spilled for freedom. This was Lithuania's darkest hour. I wept bitter tears. I vowed to pray daily for Lietuva. And so I have. For someone more given to day-dreaming than discipline, for one previously not overly adept at setting aside time for the spiritual side (but always finding time to watch favorite television programs), for a person who sought God only in

the extremes of life (great moments of joy evoking heartfelt gratitude and thanksgiving; deep sorrow and sadness generating cries of supplication and pitiful pleas for aid and succor), to pray every day, despite dis-inclination, weariness, or anger in the soul - this has been the hardest personal challenge.

World recognition of Lithuania's sovereignty came in August/September 1991. It was a time for rejoicing and celebration. Now, nine months later, the issue of removing Soviet troops from Baltic soil is uppermost on our agendas. Although Lithuania has gained her independence, the movement towards freedom and democracy is still an ongoing struggle, and we, her supporters, are still engaged in the battle.

#### ANOTHER DAY

Lord, thank you for another day,
Within this life of mine.
Give me strength to live it well,
Whatever I may find.
Bestow from Your abundance,
Whatever I may lack
To use the hours wisely,
For I cannot have them back.

Lord, thank you for another day,
In which to make amends
For little slights or petty words,
Inflicted on my friends.
For sometimes losing patience,
With problems that I find,
For seeing faults in other lives,
But not the ones in mine.

Lord, thank you for another chance,
in which to try to be
A little more deserving
Of the gifts you've given me.
For yesterday is over.
And tomorrow's far away,
And I remain committed
To the good I do today!

Anonymous

# AID TO LITHUANIA The Impossible Dream

by Robert Boris

#### THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM ...

Who can forget the electrically charged atmosphere at the National Convention in Pittsburgh, two and a half years ago, when a drive was launched to finance ONE forty foot container of medicine and medical supplies? Within a few hours, we were beyond the original goal of ten thousand dollars.

With some apprehension and doubt, the late Helen Shields, suggested that the "marathon" be extended beyond the convention and perhaps enough might be collected to finance a second container.

#### THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM CONTINUES....

On Nov. 4, 1992, Container Number Eight was loaded, sealed and sent to Lithuania. This brought the grand total to 140,098 lbs. of medical supplies valued at \$6,141,108. All eight containers arrived in Kaunas with "seals" intact. Despite all the rumors and lies spread by enemies of independent Lithuania, no one has ever offered proof or substantiated allegations that the medicine we send, finds it way to the "black market."

A milestone was reached in Dec. of 1992 when a check for \$1,000 was received from Chicago representing a joint collection conducted by Immaculate Conception parish and K of L C-36. This donation pushed our "container fund" over the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR mark.

Recently, Victor & Jane Leparskis of East Lake, OH presented us with a \$4,000 check. This follows a gift of \$3,000 in 1991. The Leparskas' are a young couple with four children, therefore their sacrifice to help alleviate the suffering of their sisters and brothers in Lithuania is even more impressive.

The IMPOSSIBLE DREAM is happening, because over 1,400 people from New York to California from Maine to Florida have made financial contributions, large and small. In Detroit, hundreds of non-Lithuanian volunteers regularly sort, pack and help prepare life-giving supplies at World Medical Relief, Inc. We are proud of the many Detroit-area Lithuanians, both K of L members and non-members, who have become regular volunteers and dedicate hundreds of hours to help people around the world, as well as Lithuania.

There are a number of others who have made special contributions to the Impossible Dream. Polly & Ed Ziausys, C-100 Amsterdam, NY regularily collect medical supplies





Antanina Leparskiene and granddaughter Victori sorting medicine for Lithuania at World Medical Relief, Detroit. Aid to Lithuania has received \$7,000 from Victoria's parents, Victor and Jane of East Lake, OH. Victoria and her sister, Diana, and brother, Edmund, are servers at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Lithuanian Church in Cleveland, where their parents Victor & Jane are Eucharistic Ministers. They recently joined K of L C-25.





Container #6 arrives at Caritas warehouse May 11, 1992. Students from Kaunas Seminary unloaded the container.

from area hospitals which they deliver to LCRA in Brooklyn.

Our past-president, Frank Petrauskas of C-140 Syracuse, NY working with Fr. Tom Koburszewski, pastor of St. Stephen's Parish, collected four huge boxes of "sample" medications from local doctors and hospitals, which were sent to Detroit in November and loaded in

Container No. 8. They also collected several boxes of liturgical vestments for needy parishes. In Dec., they sent fourteen boxes of medicine and ten boxes of books to LCRA in Brooklyn. Recently, we received eleven more boxes of medicine to be loaded into the next container. These two people collected and packed 29 large boxes of medicine in less than four months.

Anthracite C-144 in Pennsylvania under the leadership of Anna McDonald has collected medical books and supplies for Lithuania which they sent directly to Dr. R. Maciulaitis at Caritas, Kaunas.

Theresa Shea, a member of Detroit C-102 who works at the Religious Education Office of St. Hugo's School in Bloomfield Hills, organized a drive among the school children and collected eight large boxes of school supplies for the children at the school in Utena where Sisters Michele & Dolorita are teaching. These are the two nuns whose mission to Lithuania was

partially sponsored by the K of L.

And last, but not least, Mid-America District President, Al Brazis, who handed me a clipping from the Chicago Trinbune concerning the head football coach of Michigan State University, George Perles and his trip to Lithuania. Al suggested that we contact Mr. Perles. George

Perles is now on our Advisory Board together with twelve outstanding people who are dedicated to making the IMPOSSIBLE DREAM soar to even greater heights. You will hear more about the Advisory Board in the future.

The IMPOSSIBLE DREAM continues to need your help. The shortage of medicines in Lithuania is devastating. However, there is something you can do. Contact your persoal doctor, dentist or health care professional. Talk to your neigh-



People waiting in line to obtain free prescriptions and medicine at the Caritas Pharmacy in Kaunas - May 1992.

bor, relative or friend, who works in the medical field. Simply tell them about our project and ask for the "samples" that they do not need or plan to use. It is shocking to hear how many "samples" are eventually destroyed, while people around the world suffer and die for lack of them. 99% of the medicine provided by World Medical Relief in Detroit is obtained in that manner. Pack them into sturdy cardboard boxes and send them to: AID TO LITHUANIA, c/o World Medical Relief, Inc., 11745 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit, MI 48206 via United Parcel or parcel post. They will then be loaded into the very next container. Advise me how many cartons you shipped and the date shipped so that we might maintain a tally. If you have any questions concerning this procedure, please contact me or Frank Petrauskas (315) 492-0689. If every K of L member were to collect one box of medicine, can you imagine the impact this could have on

health care in Lithuania?

Very frequently we receive letters of gratitude from people in Lithuania. They all ask that their appreciation be conveyed to everyone who made this project possible. We, in turn, thank them for the privilege of being able to serve. After all, this is what Christianity is all about. What a wonderful opportunity to follow the mandate of Christ to be of service to people in need. Your financial contribution, large or small, and especially a box or two of medicine will be deeply appreciated and is necessary to keep the IMPOS-SIBLE DREAM from ending. For additional information, contact: AID TO LITHUANIA, INC. c/o Robert S. Boris, 4970 Brookdale Dr., Bloomfield Hills, MI 49304, Phone: (313) 642-4970.

# FRIEND OF LITHUANIA Prints Inaugural Invitations George Ward's Latest Honor

Named the 1992 "Friend of Lithuania" at the Knights of Lithuania convention, George Ward now has a special business honor. George's firm, Bethesda Engravers, printed President Clinton's inaugural invitations.

This is the third consecutive time George has won the prestigious contract to print inaugural stationery. But printing for a new President is always special. It's also hard work. Work started on December 4th and George was at it for 16 to 24 hours a day for two weeks. The job totals 500 person hours. George jokes that "Four years is about enough time to forget how bad it was last time."

The \$68,000 contract calls for 55,000 invitations, program covers, and associated enclosures. The invitations and programs must be fine engraved stationery, the specialty that brings demanding customers to Bethesda Engravers. These were the first inaugural invitations printed on recycled paper. George describes the contract as "a little bit of profit and a little bit of prestige."

No doubt George Ward will donate much of that profit to good causes. Earlier last year, he single-handedly got sixteen kidney hemo-dialysis machines for Lithuania. The machines were shipped by Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid in February.

George works closely with Dr. Balys Dainys, the Chief Nephrologist of Lithuania. Together they hope to build a first class kidney treatment system in Lithuania. Coincidentally Dr. Dainys was visiting George in the U.S. when George won the inaugural printing contract.

George has also nourished democracy in Lithuania. He has helped officials of the Lithuanian government and been a big supporter of the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, for which he received a personal note of thanks from President Landsbergis. And George has been an invaluable member of Baltimore's Free Lithuania Committee. George and the Committee provided educational and humanitarian assistance and lobbied Congress heavily in the critical 1990-91 period.

It's nice to see a Friend of Lithuania earn a business honor, particularly when the business relates to our cherished political process. George hopes Lithuania will continue down the road of democracy and economic reform. He's living proof that good business and good citizenship go hand in hand.



### Futile Search for Sugar Ration is part of life in Lithuania

by Len Barcousky

Having almost fifty years of practice, the people in Lithuanian industrial city of 140,000 are used to waiting in lines. My cousin, Juozas Bindokas, perhaps should have been wary when he didn't have to wait to receive his monthly "talonai," a set of four pastel-colored ration coupons.

Each coupon is good, in theory, for varying amounts of sugar, salt, butter and flour at subsidized prizes. Distributed through local housing offices, the "talonai" are one of several government efforts to help Lithuanians make the transition from socialism to free markets.

Their success has been mixed.

First stop in what became his great sugar quest was the food store two doors from the housing office. Outside, a line of about a dozen people waited for a bottle recycling center to reopen. "Cukrus?" Juozas asked. "Nera" - "There isn't any," was the reply.

"It's not bad for me," Juozas said. "I'm still young and I have a car, but for old people it can be very difficult. They make one trip to get the coupons, then a second trip to find the products."

Next stop was a "gastronomija," a fancier store where luxuries like chocolate and layer cakes are often available. Shops in Siauliai - pronounced SHOW-lay — maintain the custom of midday closing, at varying hours and for varying periods of time. This store, in the busiest part of downtown near city hall and the 17th century Church of Sts. Peter & Paul, wouldn't reopen for another 45 minutes.

Around the corner, though, was a newly renovated state "supermarket," complete with tiny shopping carts. Each of its two check-out stations was equipped with a cash register, instead of the still common abacus.

In the traditional state food store, clerks stand before shelves on which perhaps 20 items are displayed. A shopper requests and pays for a few bottles of beer or mineral water, then moves on to the next counter to buy canned sardines or sausage. The result is long lines, especially for things like fresh meat and liquor.

But in the new supermarket on Siauliai's main street, shoppers select their own items, speeding up the retail process. Unfortunately, sugar was not among the products available that day.

A state store actually is not the most likely place to find goods in short supply. Siauliai has a sprinkling of private

businesses, and, more importantly, a giant bazaar held twice a week. Selling everything from used car parts to jars of Colombian instant coffee, these free-market merchants invariably have plastic bags of sugar.

In a state store, 1 kilogram of sugar - about 2.2 pounds - cost 17 rubles, then about 12 cents, with a ration coupon. The price at the bazaar is at least 50 rubles. Much of that bazaar sugar has to be state-subsidized supplies, either purchased with coupons for quick resale or pilfered. That day, however, there was no bazaar. But Juozas still had hope and his sugar coupons.

Next stop was a small neighborhood store, but clerks were on a 2-1/2 hour lunch-and-cleaning break. "Cukrus?" Juozas yelled through the locked doors. The clerks looked at him as though he were crazy and waved him away. As we walked back to his car, he recalled that just a few years ago -before hyperinflation hit and when Cuba was an ally of the now-dead Soviet Union, sugar cost 20 kopecks - a fraction of a ruble - and stores had piles of it.

Supplies may have improved later in the fall. While Lithuania has factories to refine sugar, the country has lacked raw materials. The country's non-Communist government, however, is returning farmland to families from whom it was confiscated more than forty years ago, and many of those fields were planted in sugar beets.

Our last stop was an attractive store, unusual in that it had a name rather than a number. At "Gluosnis," or "Willow," there were long lines, but the stock looked appealing, especially the fresh meats. But there was no sugar that day. Juozas did find boxes of matches for 60 kopecks. Usually they cost at least a ruble, he said.

"Perhaps I'll just work a little more, he said. An actor with the state theater company, he moonlights as a commercial photographer. "Then I'll just go to the bazaar and buy the sugar."

(Len Barcousky, assistant chief editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, recently returned from two months in the Baltic States. He is former editor of the Bethlehem Globe-Times and began his journalism career in the Lehighton bureau of The Morning Call.)



## MY FIRST VISIT TO LITHUANIA

by Olga Sinkewicz, C-110 Maspeth, NY

This past summer I had a most memorable trip to Lithuania to see the country where my parents were born and to visit many cousins whom I had never met before. My cousin, Ruth and I made the trip together and it was quite an experience meeting with our relatives.

We arrived in Vilnius and were met at the airport by several cousins who presented us with roses. We made introductions and were driven to one of the homes for a dinner with many toasts of Vodka on the occasion of our first meeting. Shortly after dinner we left with one of the cousins for their home in Kaunas, a two-hour drive by car. By this time we were really tired having spent over ten hours in flight from New York and the change in time.

The next day we attended a wedding in Kaunas for another cousin's daughter. The wedding was unusual in that a reception first took place at the groom's parents' apartment at 2 p.m. where the bridal couple received the blessings of the parents as they begin their new life. Many friends, neighbors and relatives offered their best wishes and gifts and were treated to food and drink. This was followed by a church ceremony and the registration at the Town Hall. The church ceremony has been added since Lithuania's independence. About 8 p.m., the dinner reception started for the families of the bridal couple, and this went on until the next morning. There was a plentiful supply of food and drinks. Before we left Lithuania, we were presented with a video tape of the entire wedding ceremony and the evening affair.

It wasn't until two days after our arrival that we settled down to seeing the country. Our cousin, Gene and her husband were very accommodating in driving us to all the outstanding sites. Another cousin's daughter who speaks English, acted as our tour guide. We walked miles of streets in Kaunas and Vilnius seeing all the old parts of the cities -many being restored - and new areas. Some of the walking was difficult especially going to the Gediminas Tower which is about two miles up a cobbled stone, sandy walk, and then steep narrow steps going up to the tower.

We spent two days in Palanga, a resort on the Baltic Sea where we went swimming in cold water, and at 11 p.m. returned to see the sunset over the sea - a sight everyone goes to witness. On our return trip we passed many small towns and stopped to see the beautiful churches, Hill of Crosses, and an old windmill converted to a restaurant and bar.

Another memorable visit was to a smaller city, Utena, where we stayed in the house where our grandparents and parents were born. This is a wooden log cabin type building where the only improvement over the years is electricity—no running water and no bathrooms. The land is still being used for farming and Gene's mother (who is 89 years old) stays there during the summer to tend the vegetables which they grow for their winter needs. Many of their vegetables dried up while we were there due to the lack of rain for two months.

There didn't appear to be any shortage of meat, potatoes, bread, tomatoes and cucumbers but there was no other variety of vegetables. At various times we had their fresh picked strawberries, gooseberries and raspberries. They have no cereal. Breakfast consists of various sausages and farmer cheese. Gasoline stations are few and far between with long lines and limited hours of operation. Auto parts are impossible to buy.

We were treated like royalty and everything was done for our comfort. We stayed in several apartments with our relatives, and there was nothing we could do to compensate them for their hospitality. Also, we were given gifts of amber, hand-made doilies, scarves and a 'tree cake' to bring home.

The people are very hopeful for the future but realize it will be a long time before any changes are seen. Their wages are very low even though they are professional people - doctors, engineers, teachers, economists - and what food is available is expensive. All the stores have very limited amount of food and clothing.

We left Vilnius and arrived in Copenhagen for a night's recuperation before our flight to New York the next day. We spent a few hours that night at Tivoli Gardens which was near our hotel, and the next morning had some time to walk around the Town Square before our departure. It's a trip which will be remembered forever.

After the trip, I was content being home for the remainder of the summer as nothing could surpass our visit to Lithuania.



# Oficialus Skyrius - Official News

#### K OF L JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Rita Zakarka, Third Vice Pres.- Juniors

I am very proud of all our Junior councils! Many are participating in regular activities, ethnic festivals and are learning more about their history. C-96 Dayton, OH and C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY have started writing to young people in Lithuania. By doing this, they will learn what day to day life is like for young people in Lithuania. Congratulations to C-136 for starting their own Junior newsletter and sending packages of toys and games to Lithuania. Keep up the good work! I hope to see some new Junior faces at the 1993 National Convention in Worcester, MA.





Juniors at 1992 National Convention in Allentown, PA



Council 24 Chicago Juniors



 $C-100\,Amsterdam\,Juniors\,participating\,at\,Festival\,of\,Nations.$ 



## A PLEA FROM THE EAST

by Fr. Michael Scanlan

Covenent Magazine, Oct. 1992



"Our last hope is the charismatic renewal." A bishop in Lithuania spoke these words in response to a question about losing young people to non-Christian sects as well as to Western materialism and secularism. When I heard this, I experienced a new sense of purpose for the charismatic renewal and a deeper understanding of the

importance of Pope John Paul II's "new evangelization."

The day was Tuesday, May 25, 1992. Four of us were in Kaunas, Lithuania, to preach a day of evangelization, to investigate the potential for FIRE rallies in Lithuania, and to screen students for the Language and Catechetical Institute at the Austrian campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville.

God has blessed all these purposes beyond our expectations. We left Lithuania deeply impressed by what Jesus Christ is doing through the charismatic renewal for a struggling local church. We made plans to return next May with FIRE rallies. We found some outstanding candidates for the Austrian program.

Most of all, the new leaders in charismatic renewal, Living Stones by name, stole our hearts, They are enthusiastically committed to Christ, to the Catholic Church, and to evangelization of their land. They have served together for three years in a charismatic renewal only six years old. They are hungry for knowledge and wisdom and are ready to travel the country witnessing to new freedom and hope in Jesus. They have clarity of values born of both years of Communist oppression and minds renewed in the Holy Spirit.

Our evangelization program in Kaunas was attended by 300 invited church leaders in the day and more than 700 in the evening. These numbers are significant for a church that has been suppressed for 50 years. After the talks by Ralph Martin and me, the whole assembly led by the bishop, processed through the city to the Franciscan church for a healing liturgy. This procession drew additional people to the liturgy as the street singing and preaching at midday had drawn people to the evening session.

The bishops and pastors are generally wary of the new religious ideas coming from the West. Their experience

comes from sects and new churches without roots in Christian tradition. They respond to the concept of the Holy Father's "new evangelization." They know that the younger generation will not be won by the practices of the church of 1940, the year the Russians occupied their land. They want to preserve orthodoxy and restore church life for their people. They desperately look for what will gather in the younger people. At the same time, they are overwhelmed with administration, building renovation, and the enormous needs of people emerging from oppression to religious freedom.

The new evangelization of Pope John Paul II lays the foundation for the church of Lithuania to accept the ministry of the charismatic renewal.

In May 1983, John Paul first proclaimed this concept in speaking of the church of the West. He called for an evangelization "new in zeal, methods, and expressions." In *Redemptoris Missio*, his 1990 encyclical, he distinguished primary evangelization, where the gospel is first preached in a region, from a second evangelization, where large groups of Christians have lost a living sense of the faith and no longer consider themselves members of the church.

Some of the elements that John Paul proposes as part of this new evangelization are: a relationship to the living Christ through the Holy Spirit, a close personal relationship to the Lord, missionary dynamism born of the Holy Spirit, a personal and profound meeting with Jesus as Savior, and explicit proclamation of the name of Jesus Christ. He requires that the task of evangelization be borne by the entire membership of the church: clerical, religious, and lay. He writes that basic ecclesial communities, living in harmony with the church, can be an important basis of evangelization.

There are many other aspects of the new evangelization. The points mentioned show the compatibility of charismatic renewal to the new evangelization and encourage all of us not to miss the grace of this hour, which may call any one of us into ministry far beyond our present focus.

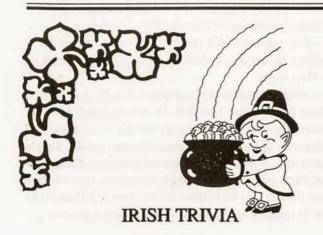
This does not necessarily mean going to foreign lands. The new evangelization requires support organizations, written materials, mass media, financial support, and, always, a basis in prayer.

For me Lithuania provided new insight and new pur-

pose. The church in Lithuania needs the basic evangelism of charismatic renewal and, at least in some prominent areas, is asking for it. To be there was to experience again God's blessings of the past 25 years. I experienced a new fire. Indeed, I saw a new need for FIRE.

One final perspective came from the experience: The Lord is calling all of us to be free of "party spirit." Who we are for, or who we are against, among the Christian brethren will not advance the kingdom of God. Indeed, party spirit can put people in bondage who otherwise would be evangelizing in the Lord. May a new spirit of unity and a new response, working together in John Paul's new evangelization, animate us in this twenty-fifth year of Catholic charismatic renewal.

(Father Scanlan is head of Steubenville University in Ohio)



On Saint Patrick's Day (March 17) everyone is Irish. Or so the saying goes. But have you ever pondered from what ancient provenance the basic tenets of this day come? Things like the wearing of the green, sporting a shamrock or wielding a blackthorn shillelagh?

Besides being an Irish holiday, Saint Patrick's Day has come to unofficially mark the beginning of spring. Thus, the traditional spring color - green. Shamrocks originally depicted the Catholic Trinity. And Shillelagh was the name of a great oak forest that once stood in County Wicklow. The original "sprig of shillelagh" was made of oak and used for protection from unfriendly sorts. Only after all the oaks were gone from Ireland were shillelaghs made from the wood of the blackthorn hedge. No respectable Irish person would be caught on St. Paddy's Day without his or hers. And Leprechauns (grumpy fairies) are no more than demoted gods whose status dwindled after Christianity came to the Island.

#### IN MEMORIAM

ISABEL SUBACH C-144 Anthracite, PA † November 2, 1992

EDWARD KRAUSE C-112 Chicago, IL † December 11, 1992

FRANK SVELNIS C-112 Chicago, IL † January 6, 1993

PAUL RUDD C-140 Syracuse, NY † January 7, 1993

MARY A. NIKSTENAS C-100 Amsterdam, NY † January 17, 1993

B. IVAN GAYSUNAS C-50 New Haven, CT † January 19, 1993

HELEN SABISKI C-17 So. Boston, MA † January 19, 1993

ADELLA MALECKAS C-29 Newark, NJ † January 22, 1993

RICHARD OBDENS C-78 Lawrence, MA † January 24, 1993

REV. PRANAS GARSVA, MIC C-36 Chicago, IL † January 24, 1993

> TONY SLYE C-110 Maspeth, NY † January 25, 1993

ROBERT GRAFF C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY † January 31, 1993

# Lithuanian Kitchen

# Lietuviška Virtuvė

#### MORKU BLYNELIAI

1-2 kiaušiniai, 300 g miltų, viena arba pusė stiklinės pieno, druskos, šaukštelis cukraus, 2-3 nemažos morkos, riebalų.

Kiaušinių tryniai ištrinami su druska ir cukrumi, suberiami miltai, supilamas pienas ir gerai išplakama. Nuskustos morkos sutarkuojamos ir sudedamos į kiaušinių su pienu plakinį. Paskiausiai sudedami gerai išplakti kiaušinių baltymai, išmaišoma. Svieste arba margarine kepami nedideli blyneliai. Prie šių blynelių geriausiai tinka braškių uogienė arba saldūs sirupai.

Gardus Valgiai-Brundzienė

#### TRADITIONAL LITHUANIAN SOUP

2 large potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced

4 cups water 1/4 cup milk
1/2 cup flour 1 onion chopped
3 Tbs. butter/oleo 1 cup milk/light
salt to taste cream

Cook potatoes in water until almost done. In a small bowl, mix flour, 1 Tbsp. butter and enough milk to form a firm dough. Knead for a few seconds until dough is smooth. Into the hot, boiling potato mixture, drop pea size balls of dough with a spoon. Cook 5 mins. or until dumplings are done. In small pan, saute chopped onion in 2 Tbsp. butter until golden. Add to soup, mix well; add milk/cream, adjust seasonings. Heat but do not boil. Serve.

#### MEATLESS CABBAGE ROLLS Low Cholesterol

1 head cabbage (4-5 lbs.)	1 - 16 oz. can tomatoes
2 cups rice	2 bullion cubes
4 cups water	Maggi seasoning (opt.)
2-3 onions chopped	Salt, pepper to taste
4 Tbsp. butter/oleo	1 bay leaf
1 pkg. mushrooms,	2-1/2 cup water or broth

cleaned and chopped

Cook rice in water until done; set aside. Immerse cabbage into a large saucepan with enough boiling water to cover. Cook for about 5-7 mins.; gently removing outer leaves as they become tender. Drain cabbage leaves and cool. In large frying pan, add butter and saute onion until golden; add mushrooms and cook briefly. Add rice to mushrooms - onion saute; mix and season. Spread a cab-

bage leaf flat; place 2 or 3 spoonfuls of rice mixture near the base of leaf. Fold bottom of leaf over filling, fold sides toward center. Roll tightly and place filled cabbage leaf seam down into a large roasting pan. Cover layer with broth. Repeat until all leaves are used up. Add tomatoes, bay leaf and season. Cover and bake in a 375• oven for 40 mins. or until tender. If there is too much liquid, mix 2 Tbsp. flour in a little water and add to baking dish; mix and cook uncovered for 5 to 10 mins. until thickened. Serve hot.

#### CHEESE BLINI CASSEROLE

eggs
tsp. vanilla
/4 cup milk

4 Tbsp. sugar

Preheat oven to 375°. Butter a 9 x 12" baking pan. Place frozen blinis into pan. In mixing bowl, add sour cream, sugar and mix. Add eggs one at a time mixing well after each addition. Pour in melted butter; vanilla. Slowly add milk stirring until mixture is well blended. If it appears too thick, add a little more milk. Pour batter over blinis in pan. Bake at 375° for 15 mins. Reduce heat to 350° and bake for 35 mins. or until puffy and brown. Serve at once.

#### **BANANA CHEESECAKE**

1 graham cracker pie crust, prefera	ably homemade
1 envelope unflavored gelatin	1 cup low fat cottage
1/4 cup water	cheese
2 large ripe bananas, cut into	3/4 cup condensed
1/2" pieces	milk
4 oz. Neufchatel cheese	1 large firm banana,
mint sprigs, berries - opt. garnish	garnish

Press graham cracker crust into springform pan. Bake until set. Cool. In glass cup, sprinkle gelatin over water and allow to soften 3 mins. Place cup in pan of simmering water and stir to dissolve. In processor (blender), combine the Neufchatel, banana pieces, cottage cheese, milk and gelatin. Process until well blended. Pour into graham cracker crust. Refrigerate overnight. Just before serving, slice remaining banana into thin slices, diagonally. Remove sides of springform pan. Arrange banana slices in a circular pattern over cheesecake. Top center with mint sprig. Serves 10.

## LITHUANIA

Direct to Vilnius with European Connection

### Group Departures April - September 1993

#### **GROUP TRAVEL DATES**

April 5 - 20	June 22 - July 7	July 26 - August 10
May 3 - 18	June 28 - July 13	August 2 - 17
May 6 - 24	June 29 - July 14	August 3 - 18
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.
- → Stay in any city in Lithuania or combination of cities. Intercity transportation available.
- Stay in any European city can be arranged.
- → Connecting flights from all US cities available.
- ⇒ Special departures: youth festival in July; Pope's visit in September.

## VYTIS TRAVEL, INC.

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# Vyciai Veikia - Council News

#### **NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT**

Bertha Stoskus was launched on her new career - as President of NED on Nov. 28 at the Board meeting at Maironis Park. The report showed the annual cultural festival a financial success. The large crowd in attendance proved that the organizers of the event did an outstanding job in reaching the American-Lithuanians from all over New England to enjoy meeting friends, checking all the displays and sampling the ever-popular food. The Lithuanians are a creative lot. The arts and crafts tables were proof of their talents - and attracted much attention.

New England District owes a debt of gratitude to Irene Tamulevicius, cochair of C-116, Worcester. She not only organized a table displaying folk art but was instrumental in giving the Festival some valuable publicity - and



Jennifer Laukaitis-Vasquez of C-141 receiving NED Scholarship Award from Scholarship Chair Blanche Genaitis with Al Akule looking on.

Lithuanians in general. She befriended a staff reporter for a local newspaper, and gave him a quick tour of the hall, explaining legends, history, heritage and traditions - also the love of our parents' homeland that most of us inherited. "Area Lithuanians Join to Celebrate their Heritage" - in large print appeared in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette. The article gave excellent coverage. Irene's ingenuity is appreciated.

Rita Pinkus' never-tiring efforts to make this event the success that it is must be acknowledged also. In her quiet way, she makes things hum with the help of her loyal committee.

Jennifer Laukaitis-Vasquez from C-141 Bridgeport was the happy recipient of a scholarship award presented to her by Blanche Genaitis.

This year's annual Holy Hour will be incorporated with the NED Spring meeting on April 25 in Providence, RI. The day will begin with the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Casimir Church; the meeting following lunch, the Holy Hour, supper and social hour, and then on to home.

Helen Dallalis informs us the NED Retreat in June in Kennebunk is totally booked. Helen's husband Stan informs us that Helen is well on the road to recovery but that it has been a long and painful process since that fall in Nov. that broke and dislocated her shoulder. We wish her complete recovery.

Aldona Marcavage

#### C-1 BROCKTON, MA

While a New England blizzard was touring through Massachusetts, members of C-1 were praying and holding their breaths as they prepared for their annual Kučios supper the next day. "Do we cancel? Do we go on?" were the questions asked. After many phone calls, and keeping our ears glued to the weather forecast, we decided to go on with the preparations.

The next day was beautiful! Roads cleared, sidewalks shoveled and a sigh of relief came forth. So did the guests, 125 in all. Our Lady of Sorrows convent in Brockton graciously opened their arms and welcomed everyone to their dining room which was decorated and prepared for a banquet fit for a king, Indeed, so it was. C-1 hustled about preparing the food, making sure all the tables were set with a crucifix, hay, apple and plotkeliu. All was ready, the first star appeared and Sr. Eugenia Glenekis, CJC, of C-17, as MC began the solemn ceremonies. Bread was broken, hugs and wishes were given and tears were shed as families and friends greeted each other in the name of the Lord. As the meal progressed and different customs shared, we realized how, indeed, we are children in heart, God's children; the simple lighting of the Christmas tree at the end of the meal and the singing of "Sveikas Jezau Gimusis" brought delight to every heart. "Su Diev. Merry Christmas, it was one of the best kucios we had" echoed thru the walls. Thank you, dear Vyciai for adding to this wonderful event.

Meanwhile, while all this was going on in blizzard conditions, our "Fearless Leaders" and President Ronnie Bizinkauskas was touring Disney Land in Florida with her granddaughter, daughter and relatives from Lithuania. Needless to say, we thought of her and rejoiced that she had the wonderful opportunity to enjoy such a feat.

To bring the solemn feast of Christmas to a close, C-1 had a Christmas Party on the Feast of Three Kings at George & Fran Bumila's Center. What a delight. Each brought their favorite covered dish consisting of dešros and kugelis, salads in varied forms and desserts too numerous to mention. Those "secret" recipes are still being smuggled to each other. We sang and played games and enjoyed the gift of each other. How good it was for us to be there.

C-1 expresses their good wishes to our Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, who leaves with the medical team to Lithuania to be the mediator for the team who will perform surgery on 35 children with facial deformities. God Bless!

Daisey Ruth

#### C-3 PHILADELPHIA, PA

On Nov. 14 Lithuania's Prime Minister, Aleksandras Abišala and his wife Nijole, visited Phila, as part of a 5-day trip to the U.S. to promote trade and aid. Accompanying the Prime Minister was the Ambassador to the UN, Stasys Lozoraitis and his wife Daniela. It was a very busy and full day for these dignitaries. There was a visit to the Liberty Bell for a wreathlaying ceremony. Abišala also was the guest of honor at a luncheon sponsored by the Lithuanian Community, followed by a Town Meeting at Lithuanian Music Hall, where the Prime Minister answered the many questions of local Lithuanians. Our council was very proud to have Fr. Anderlonis & Julie Kowrak represent the Knights at these affairs.

Fr. Anderlonis was very happy to

welcome these distinguished guests to a reception at St. George's Church. Here, the Prime Minister was greeted by many parishioners and C-3 members. Many of our Council ladies wore their Lithuanian costumes and looked lovely on this special occasion. In commemoration of Prime Minister Abišala's historic visit to Philadelphia and St. George's Church, Leonard Kapocius, C-3's Lithuanian Affairs chair, penned a resolution commending our brothers and sisters in Lithuania for their desire to gain independence and urging our Pres. and Congressmen to continue to facilitate positive democratic changes in Lithuania and to assist in the removal of Russian troops from Lithuanian soil. In commemoration of this visit and in tribute to the Prime Minister, C-3 made a \$100 donation to Aid to Lithuania, Inc. Victor Stepalovitch, C-3 President, presented Abišala with a copy of the K of L

History book and the above mentioned resolution.

C-3 sailed through the end of the year by celebrating the month of Dec. in a very traditional manner. On Dec. 6, we gathered at the Gloucester Inn for our annual Christmas party. John & Agnes Mickunas handled the arrangements and we are grateful to them for thinking of every little thing to make the party a roaring success. The delicious meal, served in a private room, along with music and cocktails made the afternoon delightful. Instead of the usual exchanging of pollyannas, the council adopted the suggestion of Marge Petronis and each member brought several books to be donated to St. Casimir's School Library.

On Dec. 12, our council sponsored the 8th annual Kucios at St. George's parish. For most of our guests, the evening begins with Mass and then moves to the church hall for dinner. Once again we served dinner to about 150 people. This is not a party evening, but more in keeping with the traditional Kučios dinner as shared by families in Lithuania. Irene Ozalis, Chair, and the committee, along with the council members who helped on Friday night and at the dinner, did a great job and worked long and hard to carry on this beautiful Lithuanian tradition. Barbara Mickunas graciously accepted to be MC at the Kučios and



Rev. Anderlonis welcoming Prime Minister A. Abišala and wife Nijole to St. George's Church. Victor Stepalovitch, C-3 Pres. presenting them with K of L history book.

Victor Stepalovitch, Ausra Maknys, Julie Kowrak, Anastasia Binkus & Walter Svekla participated in the offertory procession at Mass.

We are looking forward to and preparing for the upcoming events: council's commemoration of St. Casimir's Day on March 7 and the Amber District commemoration of St. Casimir's Day on March 14.

Irene Svekla

#### C-12 NEW YORK, NY

A New Year is upon us with a new president, William J. Clinton. We firmly hope and pray that conditions in the U.S. and Lithuania will improve politically with the rest of the world. Our Jan. meeting was held in Fr. Gurinskas hall with fewer members than the previous meeting due to the inclement weather. With the elections in Lithuania for President, quite a bit of discussion ensued on this topic. The general consensus of opinion is that Amb. Lozoraitis is the best candidate.

Ann Charles, C-12 member, is a correspondent to the UN. Ann, in her very eloquent fashion, apprised the members as to what the elections are all about .... Fr. Sawicki is on a well deserved vacation and we do miss his smiling face .... Connie Siatsis has moved to Denver, CO. She has been a dedicated member of C-12 and the K of L. Good luck Connie! .... Al Malluck, our chief cook and all-around man, has displayed his generosity again in donating a Lithuanian flag to the council. Thank you Al. He also became a Lifetime member. Congratulations! ....Connie Nehwadowich just returned from Lithuania and gave the members an interesting summary as to the living conditions there. Connie is returning to Lithuania in March. God Bless her and a safe trip .... VYTIS correspondent has been informed that

plans are being formulated in the Cuperwich household for a wedding to take place in the latter part of this year .... Donna Driscoll presented the members with a talk on the "Our Lady of Loretta" medal, which honors the Patron of aviators. Donna's father was instrumental in promoting this medal .... We are pleased to announce that two members joined our ranks.

Happy Birthday greetings are in order for Vida Kristolaitis, Millie Pietz, Betty Waskiewicz, Irene Senken, Tony Yakovonis, Al Yatkauskas & Vincent Mascola. *Irene* 

#### C-16 CHICAGO, IL

C-16 met on Wed., Jan. 20. This was our first meeting of the year and everyone was eager to get the year started off on the right foot. The air was filled with excitement as we planned our agenda for the year.

Some of the items on our top list of events are the Mid-America District 33rd Annual Memories of Lithuania banquet on Feb. 7. At the banquet, the district honored Robert Boris for his efforts in working to bring about Aid to Lithuania, Inc. with their annual Award of Distinction. Bob is known to many of our members and we wish to congratulate him on his much deserved recognition ... February saw our council participate in the district's St. Casimir Day celebration on the 28th, being hosted by Cicero C-14 ... Some of our members traveled to Detroit on 26 of Feb. to help pack medical supplies to be shipped overseas. Though we aren't sure yet if these supplies are going to Lithuania, we're happy to be able to help out on this worthwhile project.

On March 7 we sponsored our neighborhood St. Casimir's Day Mass and breakfast at All Saints/St. Anthony Parish. We worked with the Sisters of St. Casimir Auxiliary Chapter Two ... The end of March will see the National Executive Board convening in Chicago for the first time in three years. Our council is honored to be able to welcome the members of the Board to Chicago on the weekend of 27-28 for their quarterly meeting. We hope they will enjoy their stay.

Finally, on a sad note, we wish to express our deepest sympathy to the families of member Peter Jurgil and Ona Pliskaitis, mother of members Wanda & Betty Pliskaitis. Peter passed away on Dec. 3 and Ona on Dec. 9. May they rest in peace.

We will convene again on Wed., March 17. During the meeting, we will be finalizing plans for our upcoming Dumpling Dinner. "Rob"

#### C-36 CHICAGO, IL

On the first Saturday of Dec. for the last couple of years, we have had our Candlelight Buffet. It is always such a super time to share with our friends and meet new acquaintances. Joseph Martikonis, our 2nd V.P. did a great job of chairmanship. Evelyn Ozelis was chair for the great raffle. Scottie Zukas was in charge of the reservations, Mary Kincius was chair of kitchen and Ray Wertelka was chair of the bar. Thanks are due to all donors and to all who participated. We have many new memories to add to our past memories.

A special warmth comes over us at Christmas. At our Dec. 21 meeting, we held our Kucios. It was a special time for members and guests to renew acquaintances. Rev. Kireilis blessed our food and we prayed for all members, living and deceased. Plotkelis were passed out and we wished one another good health, happiness and everything good. We openly displayed our love through the exchanges of greetings. So many meatless goodies, which were much appreciated were

brought in by members and guests and enjoyed by all. Everything tasted so good. We ended the evening with singing of Christmas carols.

Greetings for 1993 are wished to all our members and fellow Knights. The installation of officers took place at the Jan. meeting as follows: Spir. Adv., Rev. F. Kireilis; Pres., Sabina Henson; 1st V.P., Ray Wertelka; 2nd V.P., Joseph Martikonis; 3rd V.P., Joan Cius: Rec. Sec., Frances Urnazus: Treas., Mary Kincius; Fin. Sec., Val Vilunas; Corres. Sec., Evelyn Ozelis; Sgts. at Arms, Vytautas Dijokas, Frank Grigaliunas, Steve Rudokas & Victor Utara; Trustees, Irene Norushis, Vince Samaska & Antanas Stakenas; Ritual, Scottie Zukas; Lith. Affairs, Evelyn Ozelis; Cultural, Vince Samaska; Program, Joe Martikonis; Cheer-Up, Irene Norushis, Val Vilunas & Mark Kincius; Social Chairs, Frank Grigaliunas, Vytautas Dijokas & Johanna Johnston; Pub. Relations, Al Zukas; Vytis Corres., Sabina Henson; Wake Chair, Ray Wertelka. To outgoing officers: a job well done! To all new officers: congratulations as you fulfill to the best of your ability all the duties of your office.

To Juozas Lapinskas, Frank Baginski, Jr., Evelyn Ozelis, Bruno Klimavicius, Val Valiunas, Mary Kincius, Mark Kincius, who were hospitalized, and to all other sick members, we're praying and wishing for your good health ... Our condolences go to the family of Frank Svelnis, who was our past president and served as treasurer for many years. May he rest in peace.

We hope that one of our members
New Year resolutions is to attend our
meetings on the third Monday of each
month at 7:30 p.m. at Immaculate
Conception School Hall. We need all
of you.

Sabina Henson



C-50 Helen Medley, Al Gutauskas, Anna & Anthony Kordosky recipients of Fourth Degree.

#### C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT

C-50 members shared time and talents for their annual holiday boutique held at St. Casimir's church hall. Frank Antin, Al Gutauskas & Tony Kordorsky were busy in the kitchen serving delicious dinners of Lithuanian sausage and potato pancakes. Fresh sausage was packaged and weighed under the direction of Helen Medley & Anne Gedrim, and was sold for holiday meals at home. Anne Meskins' table had many tempting baked goods. Mary Ann Cappelli's craft table displayed creative holiday decorations. There were raffle prizes, Lithuanian linens, jewelry, straw ornaments, white elephant items, children's gifts and a coffee and dessert table. All of this took place because of the efforts of the other workers - Joan Augustine, Helen Case, Anna Kordorsky, Isabel Peterson, Elizabeth & Frank Gybowski, Audrey Toole, Eleanor Gutauskas, Marie Antin, Marion Meshako, Mary Geipel, Magdalen Cronin, Marcie Stadolnik. Mary Bachinski, Betty Macknis, Helen Lostys & Eva Cheslock.

Missing from the list of officers was the name of Second Vice-president, Isabel Peterson. Members celebrated the Christmas holidays on Dec. 13 with a party at St. Casimir's church hall. Isabel Peterson and her helpers did a superb job of planning and serving the catered buffet and the entertainment by the one-man band. A good time was had by all.

Travel Chair Irene Meizies is planning bus trips for the new year. Atlantic City and Kennebunkport are two future destinations. Irene has also done an excellent job in making our holiday turkey raffle a success.

Sunshine Chair Eleanor Gutauskas is recuperating after hip surgery. She and husband Al keep us informed about other ailing members. John Saulys, Ann Berzinis, Frank Zaica and Viola Plant had recently been on the sick list. We pray that they are all well on the road .... Our condolences and prayers are sent to the families of deceased members, Mary Klimas McMahon and Ivan Gaysunas.

We look to the future and a happy and healthy 1993. Audrey Toole

#### C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

C-52 members received a letter from Sister M. Dolorita, formerly of Elizabeth, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, based in Pittsburgh who is now serving three years in Lithuania. In thanking our Knights for their kindness and generosity to the Lithuanian Mission, Sr. Dolorita mentions that churches are filled with people standing for long periods of time. Sister is teaching in a school in Siauliai which has now reopened after being closed for 51 years. She notes that children walk miles to school with neither school bus nor cafeteria.

C-52 has also received from Lithuania a letter from Sigute & Rimantas Armonaitis, thanking members for their sponsorship of the Deborah Heart & Lung Center medical team which successfully operated on their young son, Silvester. William Senkus

#### C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

From Nov. 29 thru Jan. 9, hundreds of people viewed the decorated Christmas trees in the lobby of the Comfort Inn in So. Bethlehem, PA. Our council and seven other ethnic organizations displayed trees as decorated in Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Portugal, Germany and a tree in the American Hispanic traditions. Each tree had a podium before it upon which

was a description of that ethnic group's Christmas customs. There also was an accompanying booklet. It was obvious that the Lithuanian tree attracted much of the public's attention. Even the art director at nearby Lehigh University was very impressed with the many handmade straw geometric figures on our tree. So much so, that he



C-63 Andrew Keraga, Evelyn Harryn & Valeria Smickle in Kučios serving line.

brought some of his art classes to view the tree. The viewers included many private tourists and those who came by bus in the annual pilgrimage to the Christmas city. The project was cochaired by Jane Lutick & Evelyn Harryn, who were assisted by Adele & Andy Keraga, Paul Harryn and Al & Jeanette Klizas. As a reward, they were treated to an elegant luncheon at the Inn and invited by the hosts, the So. Bethlehem Historical Society, to participate in the private lighting and

presentation of the trees to the community. The keynote speaker was the mayor, Ken Smith. Later, all celebrated Andy Keraga's birthday with a brisk walk in the crowds to the Confetti Cafe for a bowl of soup and a hot cup of capuccino. Thanks, guys, for your hard work and a job well done!

Arrangements were made for Lithuanian flag raising in Allentown, Bethlehem & Easton, PA on Feb. 16, Lithuanian Independence Day, followed by a luncheon on Feb. 21 at the



Ben Aponavicius leading C-63 Lehigh Valley in caroling.

Glass Slipper Restaurant in Bethlehem, PA.

The recent resignation from the office of president by Joseph Simmons created two vacancies in the panel of officers which council quickly filled. Vice Pres. Bob Klova became the new president and Delores Connolly was elected to the office of vice president. Congratulations to both of them.

Five of our members are on the ailing list. They are Joseph Rinkunas who recently underwent surgery, Mary Good, Sophie Pfieffer, Louise Stefan & Margaret Turner. We pray for their swift recovery.

Also at the January meeting, members were asked to consider financing a bus trip by Lithuanian orphans wishing to see the pope at the Shrine in Siluva during His Holiness' forthcoming visit to Lithuania. Although the proposal had unanimous approval, it will not be acted upon until council receives specific facts and figures from Lithuania. More on this later.

Joseph F. Ogint

#### C-96 DAYTON, OH

A very Happy New Year is extended to all of our fellow Knights and friends. Our council is looking forward to new and exciting activities for 1993, including a Junior group.

Special thanks goes to Elaine Pacovsky for preparing a wonderful lunch for the members who attended the Jan. meeting. At the meeting, various topics were discussed, including the Christmas caroling, Christmas dinner and St. Casimir's Day. Eric Geiger, Elena Mikalauskas & Robert Plant are to be thanked for decorating Holy Cross Church during the Christmas season.

Judy Sluzas is working hard in preparing a Lithuanian cook book from C-96. If you would like to share a recipe, special story of K of L history, or even remember your Lithuanian family history, Judy would like to hear from you. If interested, please contact Judy Sluzas, 4100 Wolf Rd., Dayton, OH 45416. (513) 274-5342.

#### C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

At the Jan. meeting our council initiated plans for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Lithuania's independence held on Feb. 13. In the absence of vacationing Irene Tice, V.P. Gene Gobis conducted the meeting. Polly Ziausys chaired the event assisted by Sophie Olbie & Betty Kuzmich. The 4:30 p.m. mass was celebrated by spiritual advisor, Rev. Joseph Grabys. Dinner and program followed in Fr. Baltch's Social Center. A Latvian quartet provided the musical part of the program. The ancient instrument, kankles, was featured. Prof. Vytautas Straigys from Union College, Schenectady, was the main speaker.

Plans were also made for the Corporate Communion and brunch. It is scheduled for March 7. Betty Kuzmich will be in charge. The members who are eligible to receive degrees will be installed at that time. The committee of Fran DiBart, Mildred Whelly, Sophie Olbie, Ann Radzevich & Annacetta Guzielek provided a feast of feasts! Special Occasion - our spiritual advisor, Fr. Graby's birthday. With lights dimmed, the candles were lit on the cake and the members sang the birthday song in English and Lithuanian. The girls outdid themselves.

On Jan. 17 we lost our member, Mary Ann Nikstenas, widow of past president Donald Nikstenas and mother of members Joseph, Judianne & Jim Nikstenas. A large delegation of K of L'rs attended the wake. Ritual was conducted by Rev. Grabys. We extend our deepest sympathies to her

three children. May she rest in peace!
... On our accident list is our secretary
Beatrice Jasewicz. A freak accident at
home left her with a fractured right
elbow. We wish you a speedy recovery. Smile & Sparkle

#### C-102 DETROIT, MI

Our annual Kučios was once again held at Bob Boris' home. The evening began with Fr. Stan saying Mass with Vince Boris as alter server. Vince also made mass books for everyone, including Lithuanian hymns. After, a Lithuanian buffet dinner was served. Music was provided by Joe Stark & John Stanievich with singing by Mindy, Terry & Ray Medonis hosted the Kučios and did a nice job. Onytė Selenis prepared her famous salmon dishes; Regina Juska's mother baked the torte; Helen Smolak made the fruit compote; Edna Klucens also made baked fish; the Hofners, Baibaks & Guerrieros made kugel; Shea's & Ray Klucens' dessert; Stanievich's made vinegretta; Medonis made the poppy seed milk and Starks the cheese dumplings - almost forgot, Boris' sauerkraut. Missing again this year were the Bunikis who left for Florida and to also spend Christmas with their son and family in Arizona. Their daughter and family from California was joining them. Missing were Bill Klucens and son, Bob and wife, who were down with the flu; all have recovered.

On Jan. 17 a Mass at St. Anthony's was celebrated on the 70th anniversary of the incorporation of Klaipeda into Lithuania. The mass was also in commemoration of the youths killed on Jan. 13 by the Russians in Vilnius. After Mass, lunch was served and videos of Lithuania were shown.

Lori & Meri Hofner were honored at a surprise retirement party, hosted by their children. Look out USA, their mobile home is all equipped and ready for travel .... Terry & Ray Medonis enjoyed a rainy stay in San Diego, CA but the rain didn't stop them from seeing the sights .... Eve & Joe Stark enjoyed a week at Hilton Head .... Donna Stanievich and daughter enjoyed New Year's in Buffalo visiting Donna's son while John stayed home and fiddled around (playing his violin at New Year's Eve party).

Deepest sympathies are extended to Marie Podzius on the death of her husband, Emil. Emil & Marie met while members of K of L over forty years ago. Emil was ill a short time and we missed him at our Kučios.

Tim Baibak is busy organizing the Mid-Central District Meeting and Bowling Banquet in May. Hope everyone noticed the change of dates to May 21, 22 & 23. We hope to see you all then.

Meriutė

#### C-110 MASPETH, NY

Our end of Jan. meeting began with a blessing by Msgr. Bulovas and a reminder of the special Feb. 14 Mass for Lithuanian Independence Day on which our Knights served coffee and cake following the 11:15 a.m. Mass.

Evelyn & Iggy Walles were named co-chairs for the upcoming St. Casimir's Day buffet on March 28. Edward Sirgedas & Violet Zvirblis were named co-chairs for the upcoming Spring Dinner Dance on April 25 .... The council welcomes new member, Vladas Slaminskas, a recent arrival from Lithuania .... Ann Morrissey offered to send more packages to Lithuanian orphanages. She stressed the need for dry non-perishable foods and clothing, especially warm sweaters for children.

Members voted to allow guests to attend meetings in an effort to build membership. Also voted upon was to have C-110 send a Lithuanian T-shirt



C-102 - Vince Boris, Terry Medonis, Onyte Selenis & Regina Juska, breaking bread at Kucios.

to our new president, Bill Clinton, to wear on Lithuanian Independence Day, Feb. 16. The new president supposedly wears a different T-shirt each day as he jogs.

Entertainment chair Joe Thomas offered a number of day sightseeing bus trips for members to enjoy, along with a golf outing in May and video music tapes produced by Lithuanian

television .... Meeting concluded with prayer and singing of "God Bless America."

Mary Abbott



#### C-133 LOS ANGELES, CA

Christmas is a very special and busy time of the year for our members in LA. On Dec. 5 we had one of the largest meetings in recent times. We welcomed many new members whom we

met at the Lithuanian Days Festival in October. One highlight of the festival was having Sarunas Marcelionis, the professional basketball player, join our council.

Several things took place at our meeting that were extra special. We held a lottery and candle lighting ceremony to benefit the children of Lithuania. We were enlightened by Robert



John Stanievich & Joseph Stark playing Christmas carols with Bob Boris & Joe Raciukaitis in deep conversation at C-102 Detroit Kucios.

Novak on the traditions of a Lithuanian Christmas. Danutė Baltutiene presented Lithuanian Christmas ornaments and we sang some traditional carols. Three girls and their mothers from Lithuania attended our meeting. They were staying in Los Angeles while recovering from recent surgery. They were happy to attend our meeting and are returning to Lithuania ahead of schedule due to their quick recovery.

Lastly, condolences to Robert Kerr on the loss of his mother, Adeline Kerr. May she rest in peace.

Tony Dulkis

#### C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT

Officers and committee chairs for the 1992-93 season were installed by Msgr. Pranckus during Mass in Oct. All approached the altar wearing Lithuanian Juostas making the event a little more special. The new "valdyba" includes: Spir. Adv., Rev. Msgr. F. Pranckus; Pres., Clemencine Miller; 1st Vice Pres., Sylvester Marcavage; 2nd Vice Pres., Joseph Janiunas; Juniors, Clemencine Miller;

Sec.. Rec. Barbara Schmidt: Treas., Patricia Silk; Fin. Sec., Lee Marcinka; Trustees, Peter Putrimas, Stephen Wilcinskas; Sgt. at arms, Peter Peters, John Marcinka; Ritual, Lee Marcinka & Clemencine Miller; Lith. Affairs, Joseph Janiunas & Mitch Marcinauskas; Cultural, Aldona Peters; Spir. Program, Helen Janiunas; Vytis Corres., Aldona Marcavage; Lith. Language, Stefa Vaikutis; Photographer, John Balcius; Sunshine, Ann Petrus;



Val Dancho, Marcella Gelgot & Joe Dancho on their trip to Lithuania wherein a cross was placed on the Hill of Crosses from C-118 Hazleton, PA

Hospitality, Stella Marcinauskas; Public Rel., Pat Silk.

Directly after Mass, Pat Silk, Helen Simanis & Ann Laukaitis hosted a Thanksgiving-theme-table of refreshments, very much enjoyed by all and setting a happy mood. Pres. Clem Miller invited Msgr. Pranckus to open the meeting with a prayer. Joseph Janiunas gave an interesting report on the latest events in Lithuania, and explained the voting process there. Vytautas Vaikutis distributed some prepared letters and envelopes regarding the promotion of Darius & Girenas commemorative stamps. July 17, 1993



Attending 50th wedding anniversary of Steve & Alice Wilchinskas. L to r: Bonnie Galas, Arlene Galas, Barbara Schmidt, the anniversary couple, and Msgr. F. Pranckus - C-141

will be sixty years since their tragic flight ended in Germany.

We welcome new members: Dr. Armundas Zakarauskas, his sister Ilona Zakarauskas, recent arrivals from Lithuania and Violet Seliga ... Msgr. Pranckus recently received a very historical gift - a flag from Vilnius that was used during the demonstrations on that terrifying night of Jan. 13, 1991. It will be placed in our archives ... Our Kucios, this year, had to be rescheduled to Dec. 20 due to Storm Beth which raised havoc in our community. Msgr. Pranckus blessed the plotkelis which we all shared just as soon as our youngest member, Bonnie Gulas, told us she had seen the first star. The gospel from St. Luke was read in Lithuanian by Aldona Marcavage & Helen Janiunas and in English by Ann Petrus & Pat Silk. The traditional foods were enjoyed and carols led by Helen Janiunas were sung in both languages by our talented members. A spirit of family warmth and friendship prevailed.

Our parish bingo in Nov. was a huge success ... Lithuanian classes with Vitalis Zukauskas are continuing at the Miller home each week ... The annual NED retreat is now fully booked. Just send your checks for deposit before April 1 ... Snowbirds Dot & Jack DeGennaro, Lee & John Marcinka and Rose & Walt Barius are spending the winter in sunny Florida ... Stefa & Vytas Vaikutis have opted for California for two months. We who are left home made plans for the Feb. 16 celebration and St. Casimir Feast Day ... Carol & Ray Buzak are Empty Nesters now that their last son has taken a bride. Wishing you much happiness in your growing family.

Our prayers and sympathies to Betty Chacho on the loss of her husband, Frank, and to Ann Petrus whose brother, George, recently passed away ... It was nice to see Helen Baranauskas well again. *Aldona Marcavage* 

#### C-142 WASHINGTON, DC

C-142 was saddened by the news that Bob Carlton's father died on the very day (Dec. 13) that he and his wife, Pat, were to host the council's annual Christmas get-together, Instead, Julia Burlen, council president, was kind enough to invite members to her home where they exchanged season toasts, ate savory Lithuanian and American dishes, sampled the wine and, in general, relaxed from the hectic round of preparations for the Christmas holidays. Kay Yankoski, Vice Pres., did a superb job in planning the party and then relocating it at the last moment.

The party gave members an opportunity to catch up with personal news and views. Of considerable interest was a round-table discussion of the latest Lithuanian happenings, including the unexpected defeat of Sajudis in the recent parliamentary elections and its possible significance. For a change of pace, members could watch the ever-popular Washington Redskins football team on TV.

The time went on too quickly in the opinion of those attending, among whom were Vincent Boris, Joe Chaplick, Gene & Al Cizauskas, Eleanor Depenbrock (the first lady a few weeks later took a style hint from Eleanor and wore a hat to the Inauguration), Joan & Tony Jordano, Jean Lutwin (who talked about her recent trip to Lithuania and the hardships the people were



Catherine Brandt of C-140 Syracuse being installed as an officer of NYS Dept. of Seebees Veterans Auxiliary by Terry Mastroianni of C-109 Great Neck at convention held in Buffalo, NY.

experiencing), Irene & Leonard Redecke, Mary Semel, Clare Saponis, Helen Szpakoski, John Waylonis and new member Mary Cosgrove.

Al Cizauskas

#### C-143 PITTSTON, PA

In Sept. our hearts were saddened by the death of our member William Daileda. He was a loyal Knight and a tribute to his church and community. Our sympathy to his wife and family. Fr. P. Alisauskas, pastor emeritus, officiated at the funeral service. Members acted as honorary pallbearers.

In Oct., we participated in the Folk Festival at the Kingston Armory. It was a three day affair, featuring displays from all over the world. Our booth was beautifully decorated; and

thanks go to Nellie Romanas for supplying all her materials from Lithuania, especially her extensive collection of amber. Our booth was the biggest attraction .... Our council was well represented at the District meeting at St. Joseph's Church, Scranton. Our president, Dorothy Banos, was elected vice president of the Amber District. Congratulations!

Christ the King was celebrated in our parish. The K of L, along with the other societies from our three parishes, marched in the procession. Our members are always clad in Lithuanian attire at every function we attend. It is one way we proudly promote our Lithuanian heritage.

The Christmas party was cochaired by Martha Warnagiris & Rosemary Durling and was held at Bartoli's Restaurant. After doing such a fine job, we were sorry that Martha became ill and could not attend. Thanks for all the gifts you gave to us. Instead of grab bag gifts, food was donated and given to Meals on Wheels .... Anastasia Stanley & Genevieve Dajowski chaired our annual Kucios, which was held on Dec. 20 in the parish hall. Five year old Maryann McGill, granddaughter of Anna Davalla, announced the appearance of the first star, and our solemn Kucios began. Twelve traditional dishes were served under the culinary expertise of Marcella Bartoli. The tables and hall were beautifully decorated and a Christmas tree adorned with Lithuanian ornaments graced the Nativity scene. Dignitaries were Msgr. G. Burns, Revs. M. Rossetti, E. Barrett, spiritual director, J. Serra & Fr. Cini. Also attending were families of Msgr. Burns & Fr. Rossetti. Christmas carols were sung, led by members of the choir, with Fr. Rossetti at the piano.

Our installation ceremony was

held on Jan. 3 at the 8 a.m. mass in St. Casimir's Church, Fr. Rossetti administered the oath of office for the second consecutive term to: Dorothy Banos, pres.; Ann Soha, vice-pres.; Martha Warnagiris, sec.; Anastasia Stanley, treas.; Annamarie Sewatsky, fin. sec.; trustees, Rosalie Kizis, Anna Walatkas & Nellie Romanas. After the service, a short business meeting was held with Dorothy Banos presiding. Adhering to our custom, a continental breakfast was served by the male members. Hosts were Atty. Ronald Kamage, Casimir Kizis, Jr. & Steve Soha. Steve Soha

#### C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

On Jan. 31 Anthracite council commemorated the 75th anniversary of Lithuania's declaration of independence. Fr. Jasunas celebrated Mass with special selections by the friends of Our Lady of Siluva Choir. Offertory gifts were presented by Helen Matunis & Anne Sikora.

Sister Marilyn of the Daughters of Charity who is affiliated with the Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, Pottsville, gave an informative slide presentation of her five-week mission to observe and assist health services in Lithuania under the sponsorship of St. John's University. Archbishop Backis welcomed her. She visited many hospitals, psychiatric and cancer institutions as well as orphanages in the vicinity of Vilnius and Kaunas. She commented on the shortage of energy for hot water and heat with temperatures of 55. in hospitals. There was also a shortage of supplies and the equipment dated back to the forties. There was evidence of problems arising from the conversion of a communistic economy to a business oriented management. She also visited many churches, some of which were being restored. She said, "Faith is alive! Churches were crowded with worshippers, both old and young."

Parishioners of St. George Church, Fr. Potts, pastor, observed Lithuania's Independence with appropriate services in Shenandoah on Feb. 14.

A donation of \$500 was forwarded to Deborah Heart Hospital in New Jersey .... Plans are underway for participation in KALEIDOSCOPE '93 on June 18-20 at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds. It will serve as a showcase of the county's arts and ethnic organizations. Display and entertainment are in the plans.

Kucios was chaired by Marian Wydra of Mt. Carmel and her committee of Mt. Carmel members on the first Sunday of Dec. in Our Lady of Siluva Social quarters. The tradition Kucios foods were prepared and served by Marie & Edward Marcavage, Mary Narcavage, Helen Mackavage, Marcella Kaselonis, Marge Rozmerski, Mary Pieri & Olympia Zelinski. Fr. Jarasunas read the gospel, Fr. Potts gave the blessing, Fr. Yanushefsky gave the toast and Fr. Bowler closed with the benediction.

C-144 hosted the Amber District meeting on March 14 in St. George Church in Shenandoah. Helen Matunis, chair, and the Shenandoah members served on the committee.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to our long time members Mary Gustus & Alberta Bartash on the loss of their husbands. We miss Isabel Subach who died in November. We also lost one of our new members, Dorothy Hardy, in December. May they rest in peace.

Elena

#### C-146 HARRISBURG, PA

C-146 last meeting of 1992 was held Dec. 6. Lorraine Grabauskas chaired the meeting with Rev. J. Smith presiding. Before adjourning the meeting, Fr. Smith swore in the following new officers for 1993: Eileen West, pres.; Lorraine Grabauskas, vice pres.; John Povilaitis, sec.; Nell Berulis, treas.; Rev. J. Smith, spir. director; Eduardas Zemaitis, Vytis Corres.; Francis Boyle, cultural chair; Joan Suders, Lith, affairs; trustees, Gene Rusatsky, Vity Grabauskas & Anthony Marazas. This meeting was combined with our annual Kucios. As usual, a great time was had by all. Members brought a covered dish and a gift to be raffled off after the meal. Vity Grabauskas put on a new twist to the raffle by calling out the winning numbers in Lithuanian. This turned out to be a lot of fun and made the event a total Eduardas Zemaitis success.

#### C-153 TREASURE COAST, FL

Since all our K of L members finally returned from the North, we held our elections in Nov. Our elected officers as follows were sworn in by 4th Degree Knight, Luidas Stukas. Pres., Frances Daniels; VicePres., James Marcinkas; 2nd Vice Pres., John Tomasauskas; Sec., Florence Morris; Fin. Sec. & Treas., Charlene Zorskas. Louise Hamill donated an unusual turkey, made from a whole pineapple, for our raffle.

Dec. 6 our Christmas party was held at St. Paul of the Cross Kafenhaus. The room was all aglitter, with tables decorated with miniature Christmas trees and poinsettias made by Frances Daniels and Florence Miskinis. Rev. Pikturna opened the festivities with a prayer and blessed the plotkeles which were distributed to all members present. A Lithuanian buffet consisted of dešros (Al Miskinis recipe), kugeli and kapusta made by



C-146 Harrisburg newly elected officers: Francis Boyle, Joan Suders, John Povilaitis, Nell Berulis, Eduardas Zemaitis, Lorraine Grabauskas, Gene Rasatsky, Eileen West & Rev. John Smith.

Albina Bilunas. Nellie Balbota brought a basket of Lithuanian grybū pastry. Nellie brought the recipe back from Lithuania this summer. Everyone enjoyed the excellent sumptuous meal and all the varied delicacies and pastry to the fullest. We even took "doggie bags" home. We had a successful raffle

with many gifts and the old Lithuanian Christmas carols ended the afternoon with Liudas Stukas accompanying the members and guests on the piano. Pres. Frances Daniels presided and her committee consisted of Charlene & Felix Zorskis, Jim Marcinkus, John Tomasauskas & Florence Miskins.



C-153 Treasure Coast, FL Pres. Frances Daniels, Rev. Pikturna at Christmas Party festivities.

At the Jan. meeting plans were made for our March 7 St. Casimir's Day banquet. We were fortunate to have as distinguished guests, Mary & Anthony Rudis from Chicago. Mary is president of BALFO and graciously gave us a very informative talk about the very serious conditions that she found in Lithuania this past summer. Also as honored guests were Elsie Kosmisky, president & Eleanor Vaicaitis, treasurer of the Amber District.

Plans were finalized that we will have our own Lithuanian flag made by Aldona Bilunas which will be ready for our St. Casimir Day celebration .... Announcement was made that a representation of our members met Ann Jillian in concert in Ft. Lauderdale on Jan. 30. Florencija Miskinis

#### C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

We are looking forward to a banner year in '93. Plans are being made for innovative, interesting endeavors to keep us motivated. Our Jan. meeting at the Spring Hill Community Center was highlighted by the selection of a Nominating Committee.

We took a cruise on the "Casablanca" out of Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks. Music provided by Don Hawaiian and his guitar created a romantic atmosphere for us to dance to and just enjoy. A buffet was served followed by a hula contest. We had no trouble providing participants for the dance contest. Picture us in grass skirts and leis around our necks shaking our hips and telling a story with our hands.

Our newest project is not only recreational but will also be a healthful way to exercise. We have approached John & Alvina Normantas, the "Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire" of the Hudson Beach Community Club to teach us the dance routines which constitute "Line Dancing".

Mixed feeling on how we should commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day led us to make our own decisions on how we will remember the day. We pray that God will guide the people of Lithuania to find meaningful direction.

Continue to do what you must do to stay happy and healthy!

S. G. Petraitis

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

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 18, 1993 - C-109 Great Neck - Spring Luncheon, Plattduetsche Restaurant, Franklin Square, NY - Noon

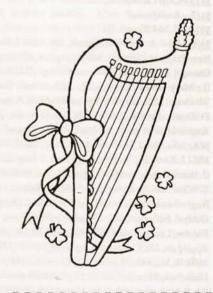
April 25, 1993 - NED Spring meeting, Host C-103, Providence, RI.

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.



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#### AID TO LITHUANIA DONATIONS January 1 - December 31, 1992

\$2,000 - C-144 Anthracite, PA

\$1,430 - St. Andrew Catholic Church, Rochester, MI.

\$1,200 - C-90 Kearny, NJ

\$1,000 - Pat Kamar, Brookfield, MI; Matt & Philomena Vilutis, Frankfor, IL; C-63 Lehigh Valley, PA; Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Lawrence, MA

\$634 - Immaculate Conceeption Church, Chicago, IL

\$515 - C-79 & Womens Alliance #54, Dearborn, MI

§500 - L. Puskepalaitis, Dearborn, MI; C-96 Dayton, OH; Americans for an Independent Lithuania, Kearny, NJ

\$321 - C-36 Chicago, IL

\$296 - C-78 Lawrence, MA

\$250 - C-141 Bridgeport, CT

\$220 - M/M A. Mikutis, Phila., PA

\$200 - Eleanor Aleliunas, Pittsburgh, PA; C-118, W. Hazleton, PA; C-133 Los Angeles, CA; M/M Vytautas Gestautas, Chicago, IL; St. George Parish, Phila., PA; C-102 Detroit, MI;

\$150 - Nijole Cerekas, Warren, MI; C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY; Mid-Central District

\$125 - Michael Mokate IMO Eliz. Baukys, Mt. Prospect, IL

\$119 - C-16 Chicago, IL

\$113 - Anonymous

\$110 - C-36 Chicago, IL

\$100 - Rev. A. Babonas, Detroit, MI; M/M I. Kaunelis, Westland, MI; New England District; Adele Bagdon, Livonia, MI; Julie Zakarka, Chicago, IL; M/M Carl Beinoras, Chicago, IL; Eleanor Kasputis, Chicago, IL; Mary Banky, Chicago, IL; Mid-Atlantic District; Anthony Miner, Westboro, MA; Anthony Versaci c/o Multi King Corp., Troy, MI; M/M F. Zapala, Grosse Pointe Wds, MI; Rev. Jos. Prunskis, Chicago, IL; Angelina Giambattista, Sterling Hgts, MI; Edward McDonough, Lawrence, MA; Julia Shola, Methuen, MA; Josephine Kowalskie, Allentown, PA; M/M I. Kaunelis, Westland, MI; D. & J. Jurgutis, Farmington Hills, MI; C. Barnkauskas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Rev. A. Babonis, Detroit, MI; M/M J. White, So. Boston, MA; M/M J. Kulesus, Milford, MI; M/M V. Rugienius, Livonia, MI; Kazys Razauskas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Stanley Geldys, Belleville, MI; Raymond Petrauskas, Davisburg, MI; Adele Bagdon, Livonia, MI; C-136 Niagara-Mohawk, NY; D. & R. Neverouck, Applegate, MI; Catherine Kurpowic, Detroit, MI; C-30 Westfield, MA; M/M V. Mackelis, Linden, NJ; Elsie Kosmisky, Frackville, PA; Dr./M Louis Putz, Bloomfield Hills, MI; C-25 Cleveland, OH; C-144, Frackville, PA; Rev. Lawrence McNally, Chicago, IL; C-19 Pittsburgh, PA; American Lith. Veterans, Fenton, MI; Bernice Aviza, Albany, NY; Bl;essed Sacrament Church, Albany, NY

\$75 - Anna Billa IMO Billa, Saukimas Churlionis, Pt. Pleasant, PA

\$70 - Mary Keller, Plymouth, MI

\$60 - Sisters of Jesus Crucified, Frackville, PA

\$50 - Algimantas Brazenas, Royal Oak, MI; Juozas Orentas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; M/M A. Rugienus, Warren, MI; Charles Oskutis, Elizabeth, NJ; R. Leparskis, Warren, MI; M/M A. Misiunas, Gulfport, FL; F. Nemanis, Dearborn, MI; V. Slusnys, Detroit, MI; Dr. M Kastytis Karvelis, Troy, MI; Antanina Klimkaitis, Livonia, MI; Bernardus Brizgys, Farmington Hills, MI; Frank Malinowski, Bklyn, NY; C-41 Brooklyn,

NY; Anne Baronas, Colonia, NJ; C-112 Chicago, IL; M/M H. Kennedy, Sterling Hgts, MI; Wm. Piacentini, Jr., Cranston, RI; A. Lukas, Dearborn, MI; Jadvyga Grinius, Detroit, MI; A. Poderiene, Southfield, MI; Kazys Razauskas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Algimantas Brazenas, Royal Oak, MI; C. Bankauskas, Dearborn Hgtsd, MI; Antanas Lelevicius, Redford, MI; G. Balanda, Warren, MI; M/M P. Balynas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; M/M Antanas Pesys, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Maryanne Neeley IMO Michael Boris, Raleigh, NC; C-36 Chicago, IL; M/M J. Monkaitis, Wyckoff, NJ; M/M Wm. Klucens, Detroit, MI; M/M A. Misiunas, Gulfport, MI; M/M Wm. Roberts, Lake Forest, IL; Annie Atanian, Detroit, MI; St. George's Rectory, Phila., PA; John Kuchinskas IMO Lottie Kuchinskas, Hampton Bays, NY; Algimantas Brazenas, Royal Oak, MI; Robt. Jansauskas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Rbt. Damasauskas, Chicago, IL; Jos. Mauer & Staff, Child & Family Services, Taylor, MI; M/M F. Bunikis, Royal Oak, MI §45 - C-112 Chicago, IL

\$40 - Antanas Pesys, Dearborn Hgts, MI; M/M J. Stanievich, Redfor, MI

\$37 - C-112 Chicago, IL

\$35 - Wm. Roberts, Lake Forest, IL

\$32 - C-112 Chicago, IL

\$30 - Mrs. Pasiukonis, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Pranas & Julia Zaranka, Redford, MI; M/M R. Tamulionis, Birmingham, MI; E. Jurgutiene, Detroit, MI; L. Gruniuvas, Detroit, MI; A. Markevicius, Westland, MI; M/M R. Klucens, Detroit, MI; M/M A. Lukas, Dearborn, MI; Stase Bliudzius, Southfield, MI; J. Orentas, Dearborn Hgts, MI

\$26 - Rita Zakarka, Chicago, IL

\$25 - M/M J. Osminas, Livonia, MI; J. Bartkus, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Regina Juska IMO Pranas Juska, Detroit, MI; St. Butkaus Siauliu Kuopa, Dearborn, MI; R. Leparskas, Warren, MI; M/M A. Vaitiekus, Detroit, MI; M/M Raymond Medonis, Fenton, MI; M/M J. Stanievich, Redford, MI; Stasys Geldys, Belleville, MI; Vacius Lelis, Sterling Hgts, MI; Magdalena Smailis, Dearborn Hgts, MI; A. Bliudzius, Southfield, MI; Genevieve Viskantas, Grand Blanc, MI; V. Tamasiunas, Detroit, MI; M/MI. Anuzis, Troy, MI; Edward Senken, Ozone Park, NY; Robert Boris IMO Frank Peterson, Bloomfield Hills, MI; M/M J. Righeimer, Lincolnshire, IL; M/ M G. Mikalauskas, Dayton, OH; Anna Driscoll, Lawrence, MA; Ann Gobush, Lawrence, MA; Loretta Janus, Dorchester, MA; John Grenda-Lukas, Lawrence, MA; A. & V. Micavich, Methuen, MA; Richard & Blanche Obdens, Lowell, MA; Joan Ouelette, E. Hampstead, NH; Charles & Joan Rimas, Metheun, MA; John Baltrus, Pittsburgh, PA; R. Leparskis, Warren, MI; John Ramoska, Scranton, PA; Algerd & Aldona Brazis, Palos Hgts, IL; M/M A. Shurkis, Redford, MI; Dr./M Pikunas, Northville, MI; Kazys Gricius, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Rbt. Jansauskas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; E. Skiotys, Livonia, MI; Rev. V. Krisciunevicius, Southfield, MI; Magdalena Smailis, Dearborn Hgts, Mi; Alfonsas Kasputis, Warren, MI; A. Bliudzius, Southfield, MI; M/M Emil Podzius, W. Bloomfield, IL; M/ M Michael Shea, Bloomfield Hills, MI; M/M V. Cizauskas, Detroit, MI; Eugenija Bulota, Detroit, MI; L. Grunovas, Detreoit, MI; M/M Rich. Goebel, Livonia, MI; Josephine Jonulate, Detroit, MI; Jonas Bartkus, Dearborn Hgts, MI; R. Svoba, Madison Hgts, MI; Joanna Svobas, Madison Hgts, MI; A. Uzdavinis, Canton, MI; A. & V. Shukis, Redford, MI; Robt. & Regina Janukaitis, Redford, MI; Josefa Vyzas, Jersey City, NJ; Rose Boris IMO Bernard Boris, Worcester, MA; Martin Rusgi,

Sparta, NJ; M/M V. Banonis, Southfield, MI; C-10 Athol, MA; Eloise Berczelly IMSO Peter & Mary Sluzina, Dayton, OH; Robert Boris IMO E. Baukys, Bloomfield Hills, MI; Robert Boris IMO Michael Boris, Bloomfield Hills, MI; Mary Young, Tamaqua, PA; Bertha Stoskus, Providence, RI

\$20 - Sophie Simkus, Royal Oak, MI; T. Jonynas, Detroit, MI; S. Bartkus, Detroit, MI; G. Norus, Dearborn, MI; Vacys Juocys, Dearborn, MI; M/M V. Petrauskas, Livonia, MI; Stasys Garliauskas, Manchester, MI; M/M A. Zaparackas, Farmington Hills, MI; Rev. K. Simaitis, Detroit, MI; E. Milkus, Detroit, MI; M/M S. Slizys, Dearborn, MI; A. Andrusaitis, Detroit, MI; A. Rimba, Sterling Hgts, MI; M/M V. Cizauskas, Detroit, MI; M/M Jos. Stark, Orchard Lake, MI; M. Baukys, Dearborn Hgts, MI; M/M A. Pusdesris, Redford, MI; O. & V. Valys, Detroit, MI; M/M V. Telycenas, Dearborn, MI; M/M Suziedelis IMO Michael Boris, Lake Villa, IL; B. Rukstele, Farmington Hills, MI; M/MF. Povilaitis, Troy, MI; Juozas Krakaitis, Romeo, MI; A. Miciunas, W. Bloomfield, MI; Stanley Naumas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; M/M Paul Savickas, Dearborn, MI; Jonas Bironas, Livonia, MI; Danute Jankus, Redford, MI; Vladas Slikas, Livonia, MI; Elena Braziunas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; M/M E. Sventickas, Livonia, MI; Pranas Zaranka, Redford, MI; M/M Chas. Mykolaitis, Redford, MI: Vacys Slusnys, Detroit, MI; Stefania Juska IMOS Pranas Juska, Detroit, MI; M/M V. Kincius, Melvindale, MI; V. Paliulonis, Berwyn, IL; B. Girnius, Allen Park, MI; Rev. Casimir Butkus, Detroit, MI; Theresa Vaitkus, Chicago, IL; Raymond Klucens, Detroit, MI; M/M Ray Medonis IMSO Frank Peterson, Fenton, MI; Mary A. Neeley IMO E. Baukys, Raleigh, NC; Ray & Violet Buchonis, Lawrence, MA; Wm. & Anne Leseman, Worcester, MA; Mildred McKinnis, Methuen, MA; Anna Miller, Worcester, MA; Jonas Bartkus, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Eugenia Bulota, Detroit, MI; Liudas Griunavas, Detroit, MI; Titas Jonynas, Detroit, MI; Stefanija Juska IMO Pranas Juska, Detroit, MI; M/M S. Petrauskas, Detroit, MI; M/M S. Pusdesris, Redford, MI; G. Noriene, Detroit, MI; M/M C./ Sadeika, Farmington Hills, MI; Vacys Slusnys, Detroit, MI; Rimgaudas Svoba, Madison Hgts, MI; M/M C. Mykolaitis, Redford, MI; V. Z. Radze, Redford, MI; Frank Povilaitis, Troy, MI; Kazys & Roza Razauskas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Anele Pasukonis, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Danute Jankus, Redford, MI E. Milkus, Detroit, MI; M/M J. (Stark) Aukstakalnis, Orchard Lake, MI; M/M John Stanievich, Redford, MI; Lillian Kodis, Chicago, IL Alvira Gedaminas, Chicago, IL; V. Osganaitis, Chicago, IL; Gerry Mack, Chicago, IL; Nelia Paulauskaite, Chicago, IL; V. B. Siliunas, Chicago, IL; Brone Cizikaite, Chicago, IL; Sigitas Astrauskas, Chicago, IL; M/M V. Povilaitis, Troy, MI; Zita Radze, Redford, MI; Kazys Gogelis, Redford, MI; M/M J. Mikulionis, Sterling Hgts, MI; Juozas Briedis, W. Bloomfield, MI; M/M V. Lelis, Sterling Hgts, MI; Vladas Slikas, Livonia, MI; Birute Ceckus, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Danute Jankus, Redford, MI; B. Neverauskas, Sterling Hgts, IL; M/M Petras Putrius, Livona, MI; J. Mike, Redford, MI; E & R Sventickas, Livonia, MI; M/M J. Guerriero, Dearborn Hgts, MI; M/M J. Stark, Orchard Lake, MI; Stefania Juska, Detroit, MI; P. Televicius, Detroit, MI; M/M A. Pusdesris, Redford, MI; M/M S. Petrauskas, Detroit, MI; V. Staskus, Redford, MI; M/M A. Norus, Detroit, MI; Alfonsas Gumbrys, Detroit, MI; M/M S. Slizys, Dearborn, MI; M/M Osteika, Warren, MI; M/M Baukys, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Stasys Raciukaitis, Detroit, MI; Aldona Vilkauskas, Tecumseh, Ontario, Canada; Albinas Andriusaitis, Melvindale, MI; J. Kincius, Melvindale, MI; M/M A. Nemanis, Dearborn, MI; Antanina Petrauskas, Davisburg, MI; A. Rimba, Sterline Hgts, MI; Mary & Martha Straksys, Detroit, MI; Jonas Urbonas, Clawson, MI; Stase Bubliene, Birmingham, MI; Casimir Ramauskas, Livonia, MI; Stefa Baliene, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Charles Mykolaitis, Redford, MI; Elena Braziunas, Dearborn Hgts, MI; Brone & Antanas Sukauskas, Dearborn, MI; M/M Stasys Skorupskas, W. Bloomfield, MI; Sisters of Jesus Crucified, Frackville, PA; Anonymous, Detroit, MI; M/M A. Bienek, Detroit, MI; M/M Michael Tonilas, Dearborn, MI; Janice Norton, Rochester Hills, MI; James & Joan Thompson, Lyndhurst, OH; Louis Bogart, Birmingham, MI; Clemencine Miller, Trumbull, CT; Robert Boris IMO Mary Boris, Bloomfield Hills, MI; Regina Juska IMO Mary Boris, Detroit, MI; Rita Zakarka, Chicago, IL; Egle Sundstrom, Forest Park, IL; Regina Juska IMO Michael Boris, Detroit, MI; M/M Jos. Kapochus, Milmay, NJ

\$16 - Holy Cross Church CCD, Dayton, OH

§15 - Helen Smolek, Northville, MI; Anna Hornyak, Troy, MI; M/M Jos. Chapulis, Bricktown, NJ; Diane Rimus, Metheun, MA; Antanas Zaparackas, W. Bloomfield, MI; Jadvyga & Petras Gruodis, Chicago, IL; Dalia Kisielius-Azzo, Chicago, IL

\$11 - Fran Petkus, Dayton, OH

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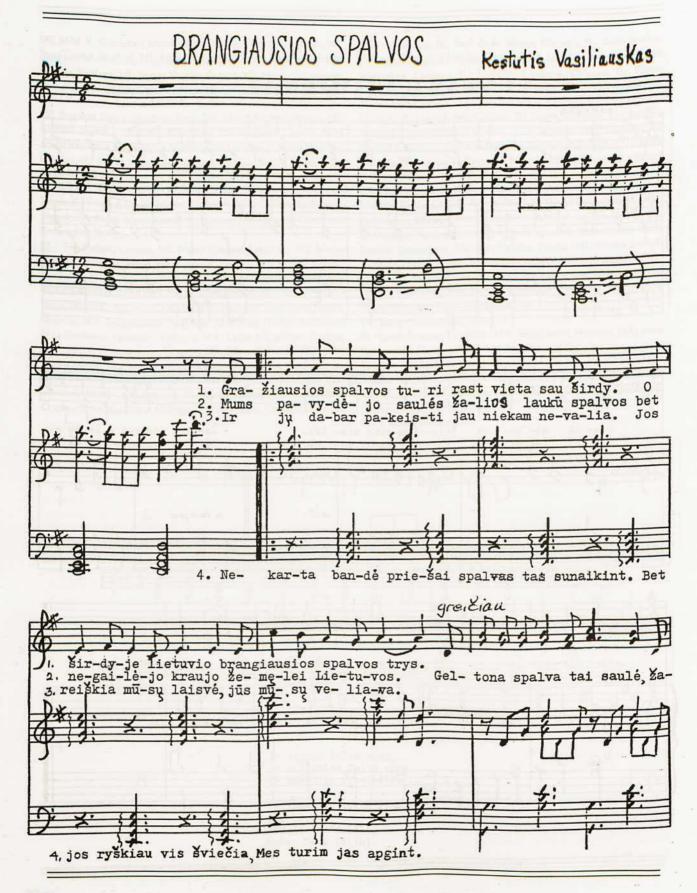


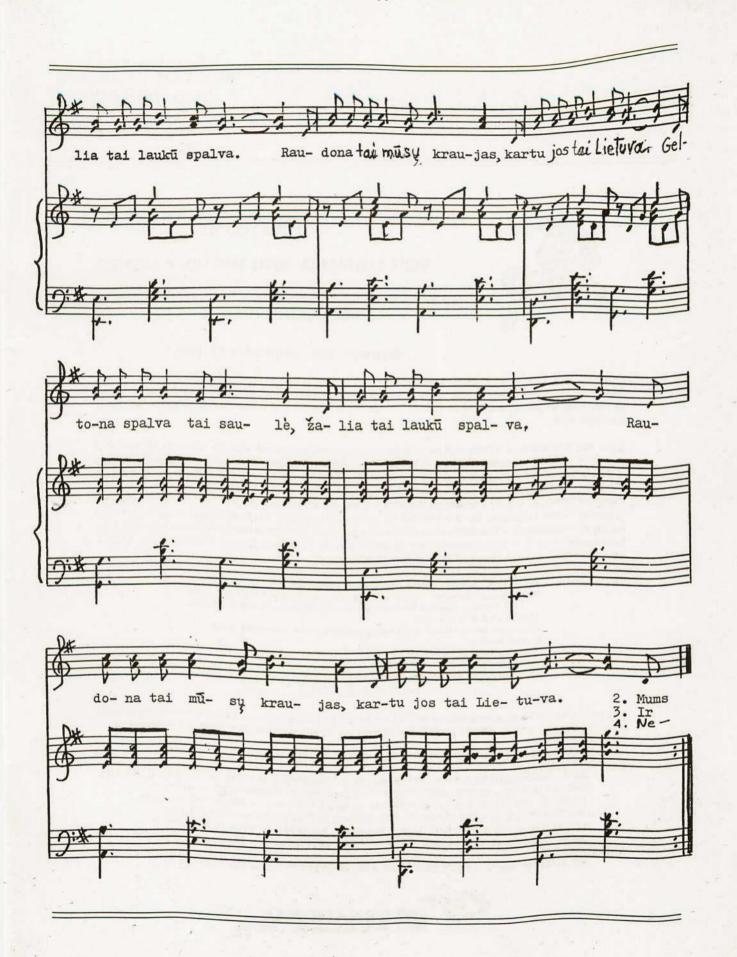


Ir išdygo žalia rūta... Ir nuskyniau žalia rūtą... Ir nupyniau vainikėlį...

Ir sumainėm aukso žiedus, Bus mergelė man, man. Jau,jau,bernužėli, Dabar tavo valioj.







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September 2nd ....September 17, 1993

Celebrate your Lithuanian Catholic heritage!

Attend Mass: At the tombs of St. Casimir in Vilnius and Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis in Marijampolė, • Shrine of Our Lady of Šiluva, • Shrine of Aušros Vartiai, • Kernavė (site of Mindaugas' Baptism) • and other historical sites.

Visit: The Cathedral of Vilnius and explore the underground excavations while savoring the 15th & 16th century • Trakiai (the restored fortress of Vytautas) • Skiemonys (alleged site of Marian apparitions in 1968) • Kryžių Kalnas (where we will erect and dedicate a K of L Memorial Cross), • An Opera performance in Vilnius • Kražiai (site of Cossack massacre of villagers in 1893) • The Vilnius TV Tower • Antakalnis Cemetery where we will lay a wreath on the graves of the patriots killed at the TV Tower • Orvydių Sodybą (a garden where Franciscan Brother Gabriel, his family and associates have established a memorial to the infamy of communism) • Rumšiškės (an outdoor museum where the various ethnic regions of Lithuania have been reconstructed). • Visit Sisters Michele & Dolorita at the Franciscan Mission in Utena • Plus MANY other points of national, historical and religious significance.

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