



# Wytis

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*the Knight*

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*Witnessing - Feasting - Shopping - Touring*  
*The Knights in Lithuania*

# VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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VYTIS STAFF: Due to the precipitous and unexpected resignation of the VYTIS Staff, this issue has been compiled by willing Supreme Council members with the cooperation of several members at large. A new staff is being formed and will be announced in the December issue. During the interim, please forward Council News, other announcements and articles for publication to the Supreme Council President:

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All correspondence should reach the Editor by the **FIRST OF THE MONTH**, two months in advance of the issue. Except for the information contained in the Official Notices Section, the Knights of Lithuania and the editors assume no responsibility for the statements or opinions expressed by any contributors nor any obligation to return any unsolicited material or photos.

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V Y T I S  
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

# THANKSGIVING DAY

November 25, 1993



To you our praise is due  
In Zion, O God.

To you we pay our vows,  
You who hear our prayer.

We are filled with the blessings of your house,  
Of your holy temple.

You uphold the mountains with your strength,  
You are girded in power.

You still the roaring of the seas,  
The roaring of their waves,  
And the tumult of the peoples.

You care for the earth, give it water,  
You fill it with riches.

And thus you provide for the earth;  
You drench its furrows.

You level it, soften it with showers,  
You bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
In the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The hills are girded with joy,  
The meadows covered with flocks.

The valleys are drenched with wheat,  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

Psalm 65

## *Einu per Lietuvą*

Einu per Lietuvą, o ji kaip džiaugsmas žydi -  
Laukai ir kloniai, miestai ir miškai...  
Einu per Lietuvą, o tartum skausmas, lydi  
Kančių paminklai ir kapų takai.

Einu per Lietuvą, tartum svajonė žydi  
Bijunai, rožės, puokštės putinų...  
Einu per Lietuvą, mane kaip aidas, lydi  
Šešėlis nesugrižtančių dienų senų.

Einu per Lietuvą, o visos varšos žydi  
Žaibuojančios vaivorykštės lanke,  
O girių gausmas, tartum skausmas, lydi  
Tėvynės vasarų atograža vaiskia.

(Poem by B. Brazdžionis)

Walking across Lithuania, what joy rings forth -  
Her fields and valleys, her cities and forests...  
Walking across Lithuania, sense the silent sorrow  
In martyr's memorials and graveyard paths.

Walking across Lithuania, as in a dreamlike bower  
Bloom peonies, roses, bouquets of white blossoms.  
Walking across Lithuania, hear as an echo  
The glories of bygone olden days.

Walking across Lithuania, all the iridescent hues  
Mirror the shimmering rainbow's arch.  
The woodlands plaintive murmur evokes an aura  
Reminiscent of a brilliant summer's day at home.

(Translation by V. Boris)

## *A Walk Through Lithuania*

*(Between September 2nd and 17th, of this year, a group of 114 intrepid travellers participated in a Pilgrimage and Heritage Tour of Lithuania under the sponsorship of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania and with arrangements by GT International, Inc., a Chicago-based travel agency. Fifteen or so of the group provided their personal observations, impressions and thoughts. These have been woven into a composite summary of the religious, historical and social aspects of the trip. First, however, is an overview of our journey through Lithuania.)*

This recap of our Pilgrimage to Lithuania starts with a poem found in a recently published coffee-table-sized pictorial book on Lithuania entitled, "EINU PER LIETUVĄ" (Walking through Lithuania). The poem, surprisingly, summarizes the feelings of many of us on the trip. We felt "AT HOME" and while we did not, in truth, walk across Lithuania, our pilgrimage did take us from the holy site of the Hill of Crosses in the North to the Chapel tomb of Blessed George in the South and from the resort area of Palanga in the West to the quiet village of Utena in the East. Everywhere we walked or rode, we saw the signs of change from what we had seen before or from what we had been told about by recent visitors upon their return. For the most part the changes were positive and carried with them signs of hope and confidence for the future of Lithuania. Accompanying these signs of hope, there were "reality checks" that gave ample evidence that there is still a lot to be done.

The major roads we travelled were in good condition; overall, they were smooth and well paved. There were indications of further road construction particularly on the inter-city, limited access, multi-

lane divided highways. There were even a few newly built modern service stations with a cafe for refreshments and food. [Reality check: Traffic was extremely light; most likely due to the high cost of fuel. The cost converted from litas per liter would have approximated slightly over a US \$1.00 per gallon. This seemed a fair, and even low, cost to us, but at the present Lithuanian wage scale, gasoline is very costly indeed. This high cost of fuel was cited as a major reason for the almost complete lack of non-tourists at the Open Air Museum of Lithuanian Folk Life at Rumšiškės. It probably was a major factor in the far less than expected attendance at the public appearances and Masses of the Holy Father.]

In the suburban areas of the major cities, Vilnius, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Kaunas, Panevėžys, etc., there was construction of what appeared to be large private homes, which might have been taken to indicate prosperity and progress. [Reality check: Some of the new houses have been under construction for over two years. Most are being built by individuals who work in their spare time and when materials are available. The shortage of materials was cited as the primary cause of the extended construction time.]

There is a noticeable increase in the number of shops/stores in the central part of the major cities. They are fairly well stocked with western goods. You can easily find Kodak film for your camera at prices not too far above what you would pay anywhere in Europe. Food stores appeared to be well stocked. We did not see any lines for bread or milk or meat. [Reality check: The prices are well above what is easily affordable by most citizens, which may be one reason the shelves appear to be well stocked.]

A number of new restaurants/cafes were open with an apparent variety of offerings at reasonable or cheap (at least by our standards) prices. A full meal with appetizer, salad, entre, dessert and champagne cost about \$15. (60 litas) at the "Black-Red," one of the newer upscale restaurants in Vilnius. Almost all of the restaurants had gotten rid of the standard blue rimmed Soviet era dinner service with the word, *restoran*, in Cyrillic letters along the edge. That also meant no chipped or cracked dinnerware. Most had new, but not always matching china service. Food was invariably good, well prepared and served with style and usually good manners. Of course, we occasionally encountered sullen, tediously long delayed service. [Reality check: Trying to get coffee

at the start of breakfast was almost universally impossible. Often a coffee refill meant a second cup rather than a refill of the first cup reflecting a method of preparation more oriental than European, i.e. made cup by cup, very strong, with a good deal of residue at the bottom of the cup. Also, there still seemed to be a benefit in asking the waiter what was recommended rather than relying on the menu.]

The people were generally warm, open and friendly. The city dwellers were well dressed and stylish. The youth almost universally wore T-shirts, jeans and Reeboks/L.A. Gear-type sports footwear that would make them indistinguishable from young adults anywhere in the world. There seemed to be a slight rebirth of a general euphoria. This was probably occasioned by the formal withdrawal of the last remaining Russian military units a week earlier and by the visit of the Holy Father. This time, however, the joy was accompanied by a pragmatic optimism, with a recognition that there was a long way to go before "normalcy." Whether these hopes can be nurtured into a real advance, or lost through another depressing winter of no heat or hot water, remains to be seen. We pray that it will be the former.



## *"In spite of dungeons, fire and sword..."*

We sang these words of "Faith of Our Fathers" as the offertory song during the opening Mass of our Pilgrimage to Lithuania. Never in my experience had this hymn had such poignancy as when we stood in the Chapel of St. Casimir in the Vilnius Cathedral just a few hours after our arrival in Lithuania. The structure, itself, is a monument to the indomitable faith of Lithuanians which has survived both Tsarist oppression and Soviet depredations. Almost unbelievably, we, the inheritors of this faith from our forefathers in the free land of America, could stand there in Vilnius rejoicing in the triumph of that faith over the forces of atheism in that land of our heritage.

This initial event was enhanced by the presence of **Archbishops Charles Salatka and Paul Marcinkus** who concelebrated the Mass with **Fr. Anderlonis**.

While both are now retired, Archbishop Salatka, a native of Michigan, is distinguished by being the first of the Lithuanian-American clergy to be raised to episcopacy. Archbishop Marcinkus, born and raised



*Opening Mass in St. Casimir's Chapel*

in Chicago, served a distinguished career in the Vatican.

Our pilgrimage, at times, seemed more like a marathon or endurance test. In the 14 days of our trip, we managed to visit 22 churches and 5 religious places, participate in 7 Masses, and attend one choral concert of religious music. Since the tour agency had sent one of the guides on an advance tour, the pastors of each of the churches were aware of our coming and most would personally greet us and speak about the history and significance of their particular church. Often, they had the parish organist concertize while we toured the church. At those churches where a highly revered picture/icon was enplaced and only displayed on special occasions, the pastor would draw back the protective covers so that we could see and pray before the miraculous depictions of the Madonna. We were able to see the marvelous icons of Our Lady of Žemaitija at Žemaičių Kalvarija, of Our Lady of Šiluva in the Church at Šiluva and of the Holy Mother and Child at Pivasiunai. It was an unparalleled privilege to see these treasures and a unique honor to be so graciously treated.

Surprisingly, each church was fairly unique and had its own special role in the history of the Church in Lithuania. Thus, while the church visits were numerous, they never seemed repetitive and were always fascinating. Overall, we visited:

**The Chapel of St. Casimir**, located off the south transept of the Vilnius Cathedral, this beautiful Chapel has been restored and refurbished. The remains of St. Casimir are enshrined in a marble sarcophagus above and behind the main altar. For over thirty years, it had been a closed and abandoned adjunct to a secular state picture gallery. It was returned to the Catholic Church in 1989. (The remains of St. Casimir, which had been transferred to the Church of St. Peter and Paul in outlying Vilnius, were restored to the Chapel in 1990.)

**The Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Šiauliai**, is one of the larger churches in Lithuania and boasts the tallest steeple (reaching some 70 meters). It is a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture, that had been severely damaged during World War II. Its restoration since the war is a testament to the continued mastery of Lithuanian builders and artisans. One moderately sized door provided the only portal for entry or exit. Since our visit was on

Sunday and we tried to enter with those coming for the next Mass at the same time as the attendees at the just finished Mass were trying to leave, we did experience a uniquely Lithuanian version of togetherness for the first, but not the last, time.

**The Church of the Finding of the True Cross in Šeduva** provides another example of late Renaissance architecture with added elements of Baroque and Classicism. Its walls are adorned with priceless paintings that would be the envy of any of the world-class museums.

**The Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Tytuvėnai** has elements of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo. There is an arcaded cloister enclosing a large area in front of the church. At the center of this area is a replica of the Chapel of the Holy Stairs (the Scala Sancta) in Rome. Four of our youthful pilgrims, **Rita Zakarka, Phyllis Pelletier, Mark Bell** and **Vidas Noreika**, dutifully attempted the ritual of ascending the stairs on their knees while at least one other, who will remain nameless in his shame, climbed the stairs afoot. The church with its vaulted ceilings made a perfect acoustical setting for a concert of religious music by Polifonia, a truly remarkable vocal ensemble who were accompanied by a string orchestra from Šiauliai.



*POLIFONIA in concert*

**The Chapel of the Apparition at Šiluva** was the locale of our second Mass of this Pilgrimage. The altar is built over the rock on which Mary appeared to the shepherd children and their Calvinist teacher in 1608. The chapel is a fairly modern building which dates from 1924. It contains both beautiful stained glass windows and four major murals. As we entered the Chapel, we were overwhelmed by the light streaming in through the windows and the aura of peace and well-being that pervaded the place. The Mass at this location was both awe-inspiring and



emotion-filled. After Mass, many of us approached an exposed portion of the rock to touch it. Many



*Knights in attendance at Mass, Šiluva.*

reported that as they placed their hand on the rock, they felt a warmth suffuse their whole body. The local pastor had taken a position in one of the confessionals as we gathered for Mass and stayed there for most of the Mass even though no one availed themselves of his services. He may have been a bit disconcerted that over 100 people received Holy Communion and no one had gone to Confession. One of the Lithuanian guides was equally disconcerted and was led to ask after Mass for confirmation that, unlike in Lithuania, it is American practice not to go to Confession before receiving Communion (each time).



*Stebuklingas Dievo Motinos paveikslas, Šiluvoje*

The Church of the Nativity of Mary is a slight distance from the Chapel of the Apparition. It is the focal point for one of the most popular religious festivals (*atladai*) in Lithuania. The *Šiluvos atladai* are held annually in conjunction with the Feast of the Nativity of Mary (Sept 8) and have drawn tens of thousands of pilgrims even during the Soviet occupation years. A major focus of the devotions is the icon of the Madonna whose raiment is covered by precious metals. Normally kept hidden from public view behind a flat painting above the main altar, the Icon was displayed and lighted in all its splendor for us to view.

The Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Radviliškis is a prime example of perseverance through fire. First constructed by 1619, the original wooden church and two subsequent structures were destroyed by fire, one so intense that even the church bells were melted. Two paintings, however, have survived through the years and are considered to be miraculous. One is a replica of the Madonna of Czestochowa and the other is a depiction of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Mary of the Scapular). An old wooden octagonal bell tower is sited apart from and to the side of the church. It is representative of 19th century folk art.



**The Cathedral Church of Christ the King in Panevėžys** is a fairly recent structure having been completed in 1929. We were greeted warmly by the pastor, **Msgr. Juozapas Antanavičius**, taken on a tour of the church interior and then to an adjacent site where the parish is building a 200-bed elder care nursing home. Among the notable pieces of art in the church is a vivid and expressive wooden sculpture of St. Casimir that is held to be an original Lithuanian representation of St. Casimir. In Panevėžys, we were able to meet a lively young lad, **Edvinas Basakirskis**, who had been born with a serious and life-threatening heart defect. He was one of the 19



*Pat and Tony Alexander with the Basakirskis family*

children operated on by the Deborah Heart and Lung Clinic team last year under the project to which so many K of L'ers had contributed under the leadership of **Loretta and Jack Stukas**. Young Edvinas' shy manner charmed all of the group who stopped to greet him and be greeted by his mother, father and older brother.

One of the signal events of our pilgrimage, attendance at the **Papal Mass on Kryžių Kalnas (Hill of Crosses)**, began with a wake-up call at 3:30 AM, breakfast at 5 and "on-the-bus" at 6 AM. It was still dark; but we could discern already a multitude of people walking in but one direction, toward the Hill of Crosses located some six miles north of Šiauliai. As our buses left the hotel and slowly approached the main road to the "Hill" we could see the people on foot, on bicycles and on other busses coming from all directions. Then as the caravan of busses in single file inched along the main road, we observed the

masses of people, two/three abreast, as they processed along the roadway for the entire six miles in the cold, drizzly and intermittently rainy pre-dawn. We could envy their stamina, dedication and willing sacrifice and even feel guilty about our bus-borne comfort. We arrived just as the sun rose above the horizon on a biting cold windy day. After passing through stringent security checks, we took our reserved spaces and huddled wrapped in heavy hotel blankets to await the arrival of the Pope. Although in a reserved area, we were not segregated from native Lithuanians who eagerly offered to share their meager supply of apples and pears. Some of the clusters of natives and visitors said the Rosary, others talked of world affairs and politics while others used the time to cat nap to make up for the early rising. One grandmother, who had travelled the long distance from the Trakai area with her pre-teen granddaughter and a neighbor's young daughter, told tales of folklore about the Hill of Crosses and Aušros Vartai and the miracles that had occurred there. She had distant relatives in Chicago and marvelled that we, Americans, born in a foreign land could yet understand and to an extent even speak Lithuanian. She felt that it was proof that the Lietuvos Vyčiai was a really excellent organization.

The Pope finally arrived by helicopter. One of the intermittent breaks in the clouds allowed the sunlight to envelop the area and develop a broad rainbow that seemed to touch the earth at one of the distant spectator quadrants that had remained unoccupied.

After a quiet prayer at the top of the "Hill" and a Pope-mobile tour through the cheering throngs, the Pope, with the entire Lithuanian episcopacy processed to the especially built altar and began the Mass. His message during the homily was for the whole world. He said that the cross is a symbol of suffering and that it knows no national boundaries. Jesus came to all people and took on our life and our hope. We have to continue to carry that cross with his help. The Hill of Crosses, he said, is dedicated to the people and the church that has faith in our Lord's promise of victory. Lithuania has borne much pain, many tears and disappointments, and much suffering. Her experience is an example of that which may appear for years to be defeat, but may actually be a prelude to victory. The cross of the Crucifixion took its toll, but failed at the end. The victim became the victor. So, too, we can experience this ultimate victory, good over evil, whatever the cross each of us carries.

We were so blessed to have been at the Hill of Crosses with the Holy Father and to have experienced the meaning of what this hill represents: our hopes and dreams, symbol of our Faith and heritage in the fullness of God's grace.

**Church of the Annunciation and Franciscan Monastery in Kretinga.** Here, we were met by **Sister Dolorita**, one of two Lithuanian-American Sisters of St. Frances (Pittsburgh), who had come to Lithuania under the partial sponsorship of the K of L, to teach catechism to youth and establish an elder care facility. Although both nuns had initially worked in Utena, Sister Dolorita recently transferred to Kretinga. She and a young Franciscan friar, who spoke



*Welcome to Kretinga by  
Sister Dolorita*

excellent English, conducted us on a tour of the Church and the Franciscan monastery. The church has one of the most ornate and artistic Renaissance interiors in Lithuania. Its pulpit was adorned with silver sculptures which were stolen during the Northern wars (1700-1712 with Sweden). There was an organ and ornate pews until 1941. The monastery, which had recently been returned to the Order, was badly damaged during Soviet occupation years and was undergoing massive restoration work. Historically, Kretinga had been a center of Franciscan work in Lithuania; it seems destined to resume this role. A fairly large school on church grounds has been recently reopened. We gathered in their assembly room for a short welcoming program from the school authorities and a talk by Sr. Dolorita on her work. **George Mikalauskas** then presented her with a check for half the proceeds from a raffle held by the Lithuanian Community of Dayton. While George's gift was a formal presentation, there were numerous private donations as money was passed during handshakes not just here but at virtually all the other stops on the trip. This open and anonymous gene-

rosity of our membership is truly outstanding.



*Part of the group in Kretinga*

**The Cathedral Church of St. Anthony of Padua in Telšiai** is a "jewel of baroque architecture." Built in 1765 by Benedictine monks, its interior space is divided into two tiers. The unusual dual level structure has altars on both the main and upper levels, allowing Mass on either level to be visible from either level. Adjacent to the Cathedral is the Telšiai Seminary which had resumed operation only in 1990. We ushered into the seminary chapel where the Rector **Msgr. Kazimieras Gaščiūnas**, gave us a brief talk about the seminary and priestly formation procedure. They have 86 seminarians in residence in Telšiai and 3 studying in Rome. We finished the visit with a short prayer and singing of Marija, Marija.

**The Church of the Visitation in Žemaičių Kalvarija** was the next stop. We were met by the pastor, **Fr. Ignacas Žeberskis, OFM**. The church is a specimen of the style which is characteristic of the transitional period from Baroque to Classicism and is rare in Lithuania. The high altar contains a painting of the Madonna and Child brought from Rome around 1640 and is held to be miraculous. This depiction is often called Our Lady of Žemaitija. It is normally kept veiled but Father explained that the drapes were drawn back on special occasions to the accompaniment of congregational prayer. As we said the Hail Mary, he drew back two sets of curtains to reveal the precious metal encrusted icon. From the church, he escorted the group to the outside Way of

the Cross from which the town gets its name (Samogitian Calvary). Each of the chapels is believed to be in the proper geographic relationship to the others to correspond to the traditional Way of the Cross in Jerusalem. We visited only a few of the 19 chapels dispersed within the town as Father enthusiastically explained their significance in his picturesque *Žemaitiškai* dialect. Some of our pilgrims chose to visit with the villagers who curiously came outdoors to watch this 3-bus assault on their rural tranquility. Most of the visitors were charmed by the three young boys, armed with the keys to each chapel, who would run ahead to open the chapel as we were bussed to each station. They were happily chewing gum as they stood by to hold the doors open. (I am sure that their horde of chewing gum, at least, was greatly enlarged by the end of our visit.)

**The Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in Varniai** was built as the Cathedral for the Diocese of Samogitia in 1421 just seven years after the Samogitians had begun to be baptized and accept Christianity. For the ensuing 400 years, Varniai and the Cathedral formed the religious and cultural center of Žemaitija; however, the See was transferred to Kaunas after the 1863 Uprising against the Tsar and the area went into a decline. Today, the Church proudly displays the portraits of the 14 Samogitian Bishops. In the crypt below the church, the remains of two of the Bishops are encased in glass covered sarcophagi.

**The Church of the Immaculate Conception at Kražiai** provides the most vivid testimony to survival through fire, sword and dungeon. The church serving the community was destroyed by fire five times through its history (1475, 1638, 1745, 1809, and 1941). The parish church is now a brick edifice that had been built to support a Benedictine convent. When Tsarist authorities threatened to tear down this church, the towns people gathered to defend the structure. After local police and then area gendarmes failed to dislodge the defenders, the Cossacks were called in. The Kražiai Massacre of 1893 resulted. Although only 9 were killed, scores were injured during the fighting, 150 were imprisoned. A worldwide protest, emanating from the emigre press in the United States and Poland, caused the Tsar to commute the sentences of those imprisoned. The Church remained and was reopened five years later. The young pastor, **Fr. Vytautas Gedvainis** (30 years old), charmed his visitors. After recounting the story of his parish, he took the group to an outside chapel

dedicated to St. Rocco for whom he had a special affinity. His open and friendly manner as well as some of his thoughts reflected Post-Vatican II training and philosophy. It was our first glimpse at a new generation of Lithuanian pastors. (The neighborhood children admitted to some in the group that they really loved the new priest but that the old women in the parish didn't like him at all.) His rectory was surrounded by heavily-laden fruit trees. When some of our group strained to reach the apples; he vigorously shook the tree to cause the ripe fruit to fall to the ground so that all could gather as many as they wanted.

**The Blessing and Dedication of the Knights of Lithuania Cross on Kryžių Kalnas** came mid-way through the Pilgrimage. For most, it was the climax of the trip. Although a Mass had not been planned for this occasion, the young pastor, **Fr. Stasys Kazėnas SJ**, of St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Šiauliai had offered to say a Mass upon learning of our visit. We arrived in mid-afternoon and walked in procession, singing "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" from the parking lot to the special altar platform where the



*At Kryžių Kalnas*

Pope had celebrated Mass, just four days earlier. (Ours was the first Mass to be said on that altar since the Papal Mass.) After finishing two verses of "Pulkim ant Kelių," we listened to a local "village band" play and sing about the origins of the "Kryžių Kalnas." At first, it sounded like a sprightly folk waltz. But, then, we began to comprehend the words about a grieving mother's memorial to her missing, probably slain, son who had been fighting for his country's freedom. It was a typically Lithuanian

deep lament disguised in a lilting dance tune. How appropriate to a country that had lived for 50 years under the heel of a vicious atheism unable to freely display their religiosity. Yet they had defiantly, though under the cover of darkness, built and rebuilt

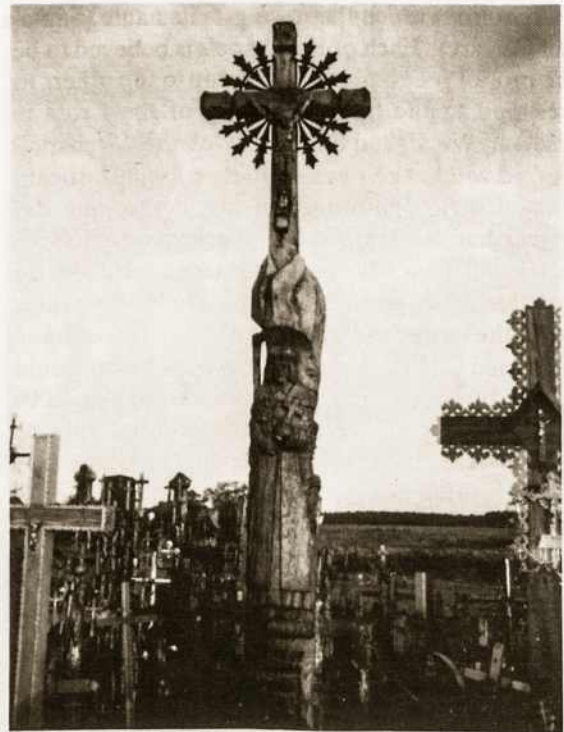


*K of L Mass at Kryžių Kalnas with  
Frs. Juzėnas and Anderlonis*

and rebuilt this monument to their enduring faith. After Mass which included a truly inspiring (as always) homily by **Fr. Anderlonis**, we moved across the area to the newly erected 14 foot cross, commissioned by, and dedicated to, the Knights of Lithuania. It is emplaced at the base of the hill just to the right of the main pathway up the hill. Fr. Joe led us in a few prayers in Lithuanian, English and Latin to reflect the nature of our heritage in faith. He then blessed the cross and we concluded the ceremony by singing the Vyčių Himnas. The master



*Village Musicians from Šiauliai*  
woodworker, **Jonas Mockevičius**, who had designed and executed the carving, and his family were then introduced by **Bob Boris**. The group then filed around the cross placing bits of soil that they brought from home at the base of the cross, as the folk



*THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CROSS*

ensamble from Šiauliai again provided a musical-background. Many left their own rosaries draped on the cross; others had brought their own wooden crosses to leave on the hill. The sight of so many crosses and the beauty of the ceremony have provided an enduring memory for all on the pilgrimage.

**The Seminary Church of the Holy Trinity, Kaunas**, was used as a setting to meet with Cardinal Sladkevicius; however, he was ill and confined to bed. (The wet and cold weather encountered during the Papal visit had taken its toll on all of the Lithuanian hierarchy) We were greeted by one of the young English-speaking seminarians, who provided a short background to the seminary. Then, **Bishop Vladas Michelevičius**, Auxiliary bishop of the Kaunas Archdiocese and Vicar General, expressed a deep gratitude for sharing our time with him and the support given by the Knights to the Church in Lithuania. He spoke in English and, when queried on where he had learned to speak our language so well, he credited years of close listening to clandestine radio broadcasts from the West. There are 170 seminarians at the Interdiocesan Seminary of Kaunas. The seminary had been allowed to function throughout the Soviet occupation. The church, however, had been confiscated and used for several profane purposes, including as a dance hall; it was severely damaged.

**The Cathedral Church of Sts. Peter and Paul in Kaunas** is the largest church in Lithuania and was built in Gothic style. The interior is dominantly late Baroque. Sunday morning Mass demonstrated how far the Church had progressed in a few short years. Three years ago, the Mass was the epitome of pre-Vatican II liturgy with some unique Lithuanian additions. For example, instead of distributing Communion, a Eucharistic procession around the church with incense and bells with a baldachin supported by ushers covering the priest holding a monstrance. (Actually, communion was distributed in a side chapel throughout the period of the Mass.) This year, a small altar had been constructed in front of the main altar to allow the celebrant to say Mass facing the congregation. At communion time, several priests moved out into the church so that one could receive while standing and at several points, not just at a communion rail. The church was filled to capacity with a large percentage of young people; but, there was still little congregational participation in the liturgical responses or song. But the progress is promising.

**The Church of the Assumption in Kaunas** is also known as the **Vytautas Church** because of its age and the fact that it is basically the original structure which dates back to the early 15th century. It is situated on the banks of the Nemunas river and was subject to frequent floods. In its history, it had been abandoned; then used as an Russian Orthodox Church during the Tsarist occupation. It was returned to the Roman Catholics when Independence was declared after WW I.

**Pažaislis** is the location of a former monastery/convent that was severely damaged and is currently under restoration. It was built in the late 17th century for the Camaldolese Order, an eremitic branch of Benedictines. Plundered by the Napoleonic army as it marched through Lithuania on the way to Moscow in 1812, it was later confiscated by Tsarist Russia and given to Russian Orthodox monks. When the Germans occupied Lithuania in 1915, the Russian monks fled to Russia and took with them most of the remaining art treasures, including the famous painting of Mary and Child, known as the Our Lady of Pažaislis. (It was returned by the Soviet Union in 1928 and is now in the Cathedral at Kaunas.) The Republic of Lithuania invited the Sisters of St. Casimir (Chicago) to come to Lithuania and turned the Pažaislis complex over to them. The nuns were expelled by the Soviets in 1940 and the complex used

variously as a archival warehouse, a psychiatric hospital and as a tourist facility. The degree of damage and destruction to the structure is unbelievable. The facility has been returned to the Sisters of St. Casimir and is undergoing restoration under the supervision of the Kaunas based Čiurlionis Museum of Art. Only the ceiling of the church has been largely restored to date. Even that small portion of restoration gives evidence of why Pažaislis had been considered a jewel of Baroque art and one of the most beautiful facilities in Eastern Europe.

**The Cathedral Church of the Transfiguration in Kaišiadorys** is youngest of the Cathedrals of Lithuania, having been built in 1934. Kaišiadorys was designated as the diocesan center for that portion of the Vilnius Archdiocese remaining in Lithuanian hands. Much of the Vilnius district had been lost to Poland in the 1920's. Even though Vilnius was restored to Lithuania in 1940, Kaišiadorys was retained as a separate diocese.



*The Madonna and Child,  
Pivašiūnai*

**The Church of the Assumption at Pivašiūnai** is situated atop a wooded hill in one of the most dramatic and beautiful settings of any of the churches we visited. There is a long and steep ascent (73 steps) after you enter the churchyard gate to approach the church, which is the only surviving clas-

sical wooden church of a cruciform plan in Lithuania. Two earlier churches had been built in the valley but were destroyed by fire (in 1648 and 1766). The present church was built at the top of what had been a castle hill. Installed behind and over the main altar is a miraculous picture of Our Lady which had survived the two fires and has since become the focal point of local devotions and a yearly "atlaidai" that attracts thousands of pilgrims. There are doors to the sacristy on each side of the main altar and a narrow aisle between the altar and the picture. The pastor, **Fr. Antanas Tamošiūnas**, explained that pilgrims would normally move on their knees from the front center of the main altar, around the side, through the sacristy and then up a few steps to kneel in front of the picture. He excused us from that normal practice and allowed us to walk the same course to approach the picture and offer our own private prayers.

**The Cathedral Church of Holy Michael, the Archangel, in Marijampolė** provided another high point on the trip. There is a beautifully designed chapel dedicated to **Blessed George Matulaitis**, the founder



*Mass in the Chapel of Blessed George,  
Marijampole*

of the Lithuanian Marian Fathers. A Mass was celebrated in the Chapel by **Bishop Juozas Žemaitis**, MIC for our intentions. During his homily, Bishop Žemaitis expressed his deep appreciation to the Knights for all their good works, prayers and aid to Lithuania. After Mass, as we more closely examined the Chapel, we were surprised to learn that one of our group, **Venice Grantham**, member of C-96, is a great grand-niece of Blessed George.

**A Chapel marking the spot of a reported Apparition of Mary at Skiemonys / Janonys** was visited on a cold and rainy day. There was doubt that the bus could negotiate the narrow dirt pathways that had



*The Chapel of the Apparition  
Skieomonys*

turned mostly to mud bogs; but we made it to the area that the residents of Skieomonys claim is in their domain but are contested by the residents of Janonys. About 50 yards from the country lane, there is a chapel erected on the site of the apparitions which reportedly occurred in the 1970's. The church hierarchy has made no formal pronouncement on the validity of the claimed apparitions.

**The Church of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew in Anykščiai** was visited briefly. Set in the heart of town with a large and well kept churchyard that, as with most churches in Lithuania, was also the site of large wayside crosses as markers of graves of parishioners or as other memorials. When the Soviet authorities knocked down the wayside shrines that historically had so distinguished the Lithuanian countryside, the people responded by erecting crosses in churchyards and cemeteries. Each church, that we visited, had several such shrines. In Anykščiai, there was a particularly striking cross, dedicated in 1989, that had at the base a carving of a mother holding a dead child in her extended arms. It was inscribed: "*Tautos Kančia, Mano Kančia.*" (The Nations Suffering (is) My Suffering). Across the road was a monument dedicated to Russian soldiers killed in WW-II. The juxtaposition of both memorials so

close was to be repeated in Vilnius where the heroes of the January 13 massacre are buried in a cemetery largely used for the graves of Russian and Polish military. Our guides explained the seeming paradox by citing an old Lithuanian philosophic saying that once dead all people are the same.

**The Saulė Gimnazija in Utena** is currently the only Church sponsored high-school equivalent operating in Lithuania. It is also the location of **Sister Michele's** mission effort in Lithuania which is so heavily supported by the Knights of Lithuania. We also met a young man (non-Lithuanian) who is being sponsored by the Diocese of Oklahoma City. He will spend a year teaching English at the Gimnazija and doing catechetical work with Sister Michele. While at the school, we were treated to a musical program by the school chorus and greeted by the school staff.



Sr. Michele was presented with the other half of the proceeds from the Dayton raffle, a special donation from the New England District by **Bertha Stoskus** and a generous, but anonymous, donation from a member of our group. After the concert, the children presented flowers to each of the visitors followed by a short reception with coffee, tea and cakes.

**The Church of Sts. Peter and Paul in Vilnius** has probably the most beautiful and ornate interior of any of the Lithuanian churches. Built in basilica style with several chapels along the side naves. It is decorated in baroque style with thousands of sculptures and ornaments on the ceilings and walls. The ornamentation covered themes that are mythological, biblical and profane and depicted both queen and peasant, prince and pauper, saint and devil, etc.

**The Church of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist of the University of Vilnius** provided an opportunity to see this historic and beautiful church which has just recently been restored to religious use after having served as the Museum of Science and



*Sr. Michele with some of the "goodies" brought by several on the tour.*

Learning during the Soviet occupation between 1940 and 1990. Under a commission of Jogaila, Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, the original Church was built in Gothic style on what was then the market square of Vilnius. It was given to the Jesuits in 1571 and annexed to the University. After a fire in 1737, the interior was completely redone in a Baroque style.

**The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Mary of the Scapular)** in Kernavė is a fairly modern structure built in Gothic style. It has beautiful hand-wrought wooden altars and choir stalls. Its prominence derives from its location in the area where **Min-daugas** resided and probably received his Baptism.

**The Chapel of Mary, Mother of Mercy, at Aušros Vartai**, provided the site for the end of our pilgrimage with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Anderlonis. There could hardly have been a more fitting place. The holiness of the chapel and reverence due it becomes almost palpable even as you walk up the stairs to approach it. Several relatives of various members of our group joined us for this service and despite the small appearance of the chapel, we all seemed to fit comfortably into the space. It could have been the place that inspired us or the fact that the previous six masses of our pilgrimage had afforded us the practice, but the singing and the



*Closing Mass at Aušros Vartai*



*Attending Closing Mass*



### *Tu didvyrių žeme....*

Our trip was intended to be more than a pilgrimage. It was to provide a glimpse into our heritage, a perspective on our ancestral homeland and an opportunity to tread in the footsteps of our forefathers if not also in those of the heroes of the Lithuanian nation. As indicated in the previous section, it was impossible to separate the religious and political heritage of the nation; each church displayed a significant aspect of the turbulent history of our forefathers. Each carried an historical lesson; but, there were other sights and places that reflected a specifically political, historic and cultural impact. Here we encountered the *didvyrai* of folklore, legend, history and current life in Lithuania.

On our very first day, we had our first encounter with modern heroes, the health providers in general and **Dr. Kazys Paltanavičius**, in particular. He is the chief of staff at **St. James Hospital**, one of the current beneficiaries of our Aid to Lithuania effort. Our visit there on the first day of our trip provided an object lesson on the depravity of the Soviet system, the effects of which will take a long time to erase. In a system that allocated its resources in a so-called classless society on the basis of a Marxist dictum of "to each according to his production," little real state support was provided to a hospital whose primary care population historically had been the disadvantaged, old and indigent. The marginally productive were afforded but marginal support.



Hence, three years after the declaration of independence, vestiges of the grossly inadequate support afforded under the Soviet system are still reflected in the abysmal conditions, the sounds, the smell. The recently assigned chief of staff, himself a survivor of exile in the Soviet "Gulag," once described the dismal atmosphere at St. James Hospital as that of a prison, not a hospital. It is, indeed, a heroic level of dedication and determination that is called forth from so many doctors, surgeons and other care-givers in order to provide acceptable healthcare to the citizenry despite the many inadequacies.

All who "toured" the hospital, I am sure, uttered a prayer of thanks for the technology and level of healthcare provided in the U.S. Hopefully, they vowed to be much more supportive of the Aid to Lithuania project. We had brought with us on the planes from the States 39 cartons of medical supplies, 15 donated through **Frank Petrauskas**, 12 cartons from the Catholic Medical Mission Board, 4 cartons from the Medical Aid Program (MAP) International, 4 boxes from **Len Kapochius** and 4 additional boxes from miscellaneous sources. Assembled at different points, the cartons accompanied the groups from Detroit, Boston and New York. As a result of the very able negotiating by **Al Grigas** (GTI owner/manager), LUFTHANSA Airlines had promised free air transport; and, they very generously lived up to their commitment. Upon arrival in Lithuania, we were able to pass these 39 boxes with an aggregate value of \$120,000 directly to the waiting vehicle from St. James hospital.

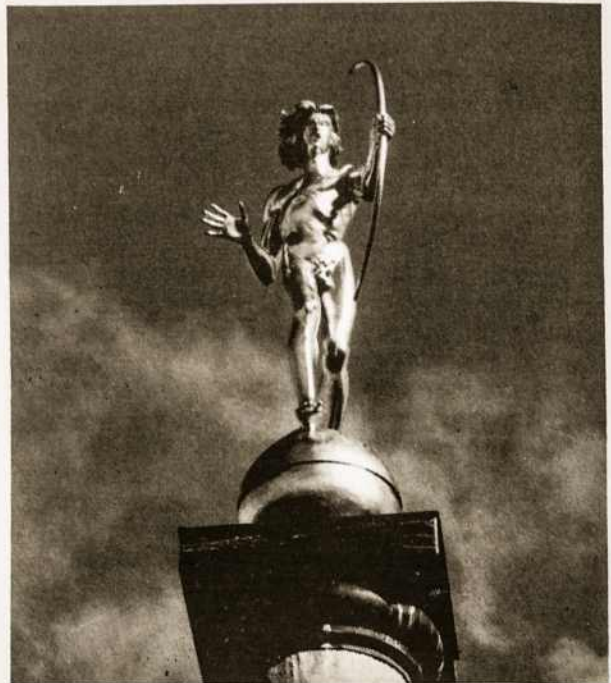


*Unloading at the airport (Michigan)*



*HOW MANY pieces of baggage?*

The second day of the tour was the first from our three day base at **Šiauliai**. Here, we almost immediately touched upon the legendary heroes, those who fought a decisive battle, the **Battle of Šaulė**, against the Livonian Order of the Knights of the Sword. Vastly outnumbered, the Lithuanians had under the cunning and skillful leadership of **Mindaugas** won the day. It was from this battle that the victorious **Mindaugas** went on to unite the various tribes into a single political entity known as Lithuania.



*The "Šaulys" Monument, Šiauliai*

Although the locale of the **Battle of Šaulė** is not precisely known, it is believed to have been in the **Siauliai** area. According to one folktale, it served as the basis for the name of the city. Another legend has the town named after the primary component of the Lithuanian forces - the archer (*šaulys*). There is in the center of the town square a famous landmark, the "Golden Archer" perched atop a tall column.

This legend carried over into the next day at **Kryžiu Kalnas**. Again, legend has it that the first cross was placed on a castle hill that was to become the Hill of Crosses by a grieving mother whose son had been lost at the Battle of Šaulė. Whether the legend is true or not, it is a certainty that many of the crosses placed there in modern times have been dedicated to those heroes whose lives were lost in the defense of their country. There is another folk tale that traces the custom of erecting wayside crosses in one's front yard to a practice of commemorating men sacrificed in the service of their country. Just as we in the US had a practice of placing a gold star flag in the window to commemorate a loved one killed in World War II, Lithuanian peasants would erect a wayside cross as a memorial in lieu of a gravesite since normally bodies of the slain were not returned. Having neither a private homestead nor the ability to mark a private gravesite during the period of Soviet



*Plaque with names of pilgrims attached to K of L cross and adorned with personal mementos.*

occupation, many undoubtedly found the Hill of Crosses to be a real alternative for a memorial. It is certain that there was a vast increase in crosses on this hillside during the past fifty years. But, it is not only dead heroes that are so honored. A walk among the many crosses on the hill will reveal dedications to a vast range of benefactors (even Ross Perot and the people of Dallas, TX, have been so commemorated). It has become customary now, for all visitors to leave a cross, large or small, or some type of memento. So it is that the 1993 Pilgrimage of the Knights of Lithuania is commemorated by a 14-foot cross with the names of all the pilgrims inscribed on a plaque affixed to the cross. Many had brought samples of soil from their homes to mix with the soil of the hill so that the cross would stand in a symbolic mix of Lithuanian and American soil in tribute to our own personal heroes, our parents or grandparents through whom we have been blessed with this dual heritage.

On the fifth day, we continued that uniquely Lithuanian mixture of legend and history with our tour in Palanga. I must say that the scientifically precise history of amber, its sources, composition and uses as displayed in the **Amber Museum**, had nothing of the charm of the legend of **Kastytis** and **Jurate** as depicted in the sculpture and art of the town. As we climbed **Birute's Hill**, we heard the story of the vestal virgin whose beauty so captivated the monarch that he had her kidnapped and brought to him to be made his wife. Of course, this is but a romanticized version of a real-life event in the life of Grand Duke **Kestutis**.

In a one-of-a-kind fantasy land, called **Orvydas' Garden**, we encountered the handiwork of another type of modern Lithuanian hero, the non-conformist. In defiance of the Soviet regime's attempts to mold all citizens into some prototype "Soviet-Man," there were those who held on to their individuality. They reveled, even celebrated, their uniqueness to the consternation of the authorities. Orvydas found a means of expressing this philosophy in his "Sculpture Garden." Here we find old tree stumps, logs, broken tombstones, "junk," and a plethora of objects that defied description, all artfully placed and positioned over several acres of natural growth in a symphony of shapes and shades; of vistas and hideaways. Three generations of family sculptors have contributed to the collection which, above all, extolls the individuality of the artist. Needless to say, this triumph of the individual was not appreciated by the

Soviet regime. But the Orvydas family persisted and withstood all official pressure. The surviving "grandmother" still warmly greets all visitors and supplements her meager 60 litas (\$15) a month pension by selling photographs and exchanging banter with visitors.

In Kaunas, one encounters both ancient and modern heroes. The ruins of Kaunas Castle built by Gediminas are at the confluence of the Neris and Nemunas. Here, the "Old Town" was built. A few miles north, in the "New Town," we could admire the Lithuanian "Statue of Liberty," an heroic sized "Angel of Freedom" clutching the Lithuanian tri-color flag in her right arm while holding the broken chains of servitude in her left hand. She stands atop a high pedestal, at one end of a broad mall called Independence Square. At the opposite end of the



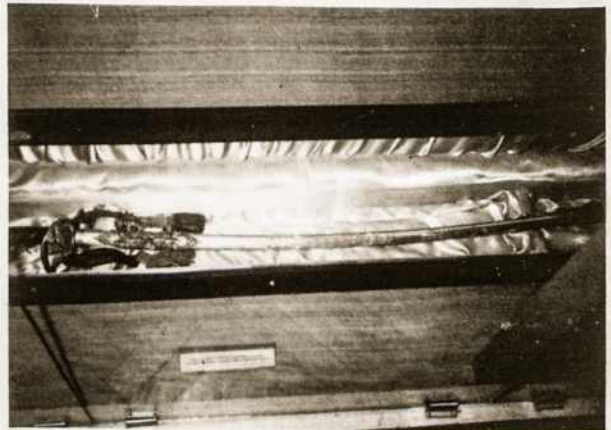
*"To those who fought for the Freedom of Lithuania, with great respect, the Knights of Lithuania"*



*Fr. Anderlonis and Fran Petkus placing the wreath at the Freedom Fighters Memorial.*

broad square is the Lithuanian monument to all those who have sacrificed their lives in the fight for national freedom. It is the equivalent of our Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. All visiting dignitaries will ceremoniously place a wreath at the monument, which is graced by an eternal flame and flanked by several beautifully wrought wooden crosses. On Sunday, after Mass in the Cathedral, we walked the block or so from our hotel to the monument where **Fr. Anderlonis** and **President Fran Petkus** placed a wreath in the name of the Knights of Lithuania. Despite the rain and the wind, the ceremony was solemn and moving.

Alongside this square is the **Lithuanian War Museum**. The normal tour of the museum follows a historical relationship and starts with a prehistoric exhibit with artifacts from archeological digs in and around Lithuania. It progresses through the Golden Age of the Grand Dukes from Mindaugas through Jogaila and Vytautas and the defeat of the Teutonic Orders, the Tartars and Russians. One section covers the years of union with Poland and annexation by the Tsars. The rebirth of a national consciousness and the struggle for independence are covered. There is one large area devoted to Darius and Girenas; the remains of their plane, Lituanica, have been taken out of storage and are redisplayed in a naturalistic setting which depicts how they were found after the crash. The main exhibit closes with the 1918-1940 period of independence, although there are special exhibits of "Lithuania in Exile" and "The Events of 1939-1941" (which is devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact). In the central display was the gold sword presented in 1927 by the Knights of Lithuania to General Zukauskas, the Commanding General of the Lithuanian Army.



*The Knights of Lithuania sword presented to Lithuanian General Zukauskas. On display in the National War Museum, Kaunas.*

Sometimes, it became very difficult to decide which part of the tour was the most interesting. For some, it was the visit to the Outdoor Museum of Lithuanian Folk Life in the 19th Century. It is located next to, and has become synonymous with, the town of Rumšiškis. It is the largest, most famous and the original exhibit of peasant life in Lithuania. The exhibits are grouped according to the four main ethnographic regions: Žemaitija, Aukštaitija, Dzūkija and Sūduva. In 1968, the actual buildings, farm tools, furniture and woven fabrics were moved from their original sites. During the summer, many traditional folk festivals take place at the location. Often folk groups in regional costumes will perform music, songs and dances native to the regions to



heighten an appreciation of the varietal differences between the regions. The thatch-roofed cottages surrounded by apple trees and gardens of flowers and rue evoked memories of a grandmother's stories of her childhood home. It became a bittersweet



*Interior of Farm-home, Rumšiškis*

realization that the Lithuania previously seen only in our mind's eye visualization of family stories, in reality only existed now as a museum exhibit. Never-

theless, wandering through the environs of Rumšiškis we did develop a nostalgia for the land of our roots.

On day 11 of our trip, we travelled to Anykščiai stopped briefly at **Puntukas**, one of the best known landmarks in Lithuania. It is a huge granite boulder, which was probably deposited here by a melting glacier at the end of the last ice age. It weighs 265 tons. One side has been flattened and now bears bas relief sculpted portraits of the American Lithuanian heroes, Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas.



*PUNTUKAS, bearing a memorial to Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas*

Back in Vilnius on September 15, we were immersed in history, again, both ancient and recent. The events of Bloody Sunday, January 13, 1991, were vividly brought to mind as we visited both the site at the TV tower and the graves of the 14 that were killed on that tragic day. At the TV tower area, there are simple crosses erected at the site of the massacre. Oak saplings have been planted and individual fresh bouquets of flowers are set at the various spots where each was killed. This was a reminder of the continuing reverential attachment of the people to this place and their abiding respect for those who lost their life to the blood lust of the Soviet occupiers.

Later, we journeyed to Antakalnis Cemetery where these 14 have been laid to rest. It was a cold and somber day as **Vince Boris, Rita Zakarka and Phyllis Pelletier** placed a wreath at the central cross as a tribute from the Knights of Lithuania to these heroes who quite literally gave their lives that Lithuania might be reborn.

Adjacent to this memorial are the graves of the seven border guards assassinated at the Medininkai

customs post in July of 1991. It was the last vicious swipe of the Soviet Bear's claws before he, too, died and was dismembered. These deaths were brutal and savage and may have seemed unnecessary; but they were not in vain. They destroyed the last vestige of sympathy in the West for maintaining the integrity of the Soviet empire. A little more than a month later, Lithuania's independence was recognized by all the major world powers and several of the smaller states. A free Republic of Lithuania was, indeed, reborn.



*Rita Zakarka, Vince Boris, Phyllis Pelletier  
carry the wreath to honor the martyrs of  
January 13, 1991*

The cemetery is very old yet beautiful. We could not help but note that many of the surrounding gravestones were engraved in Russian or Polish. The guide later advised us that this was a Military section and did contain the bodies of Russians and Poles who had died in the defense of Lithuanian territory during the times that the territory had been "de jure" a part of the Polish kingdom or Russian empire. Although these modern Lithuanian martyrs had been civilians, it had been decided to place them among the military "Defenders of Lithuanian Territory."

The remainder of the tour of Vilnius on this day repeatedly dwelt on the recent history of Vilnius, from the Jewish Ghetto to the small portion of the 1991 barricades around the Parliament Building that are being retained as a memorial. In the afternoon, we began to regress through history to the beginnings of the Lithuanian State as we explored the archeological excavations beneath the Cathedral. We saw the beautifully wrought mausoleum where King Alexander and his Queens, Elizabeth and Barbara, are laid to rest in royal caskets. The excavations

extend down to the foundations of what is believed to be the original pagan temple. Vytautas, the Great, is known to have been buried in the crypt of the Cathedral; however, neither his grave nor his remains have been discovered.

On the last day of our heritage tour and our trip, we journeyed to the locales of the first "capital cities" of Lithuania. Kernavė and Trakai.

Kernavė was the home of Mindaugas, here he may have had his castle, known in legend as "Voruta" although evidence of it has not been found. Even if there were no castle, but only a heavily defended site, then Kernavė could indeed be the site. Between the present church and the banks of the Neris river there are several mounds, maybe natural and maybe artificially enhanced. They served as castle or fort hills. If heavily peopled with warriors, they would have presented a formidable obstacle to invaders moving up the river valley.

Under Gediminas and Vytautas, the focal point of the Lithuanian court was moved from Kernavė to Trakai and then finally to Vilnius. At Trakai, the Castle of Vytautas has been restored in all its medieval grandeur. Trakai is on a peninsula jutting into a large lake leaving but one land approach to the city. The first castle in Trakai was set on this peninsula, but then a new larger and finer castle was built on an island a short distance off shore of the peninsula. Thus, the castle overlooks a long, open, and exposed approach to the island. The castle has a moat and a draw bridge. The excellence of the reconstruction provides an imaginary time-trip back to medieval times - the "Golden Age of Lithuania." The castle now houses an historical museum and is the venue for conferences and concerts.

Thus ended the formal tour but on the following day on the last morning the group spent in Lithuania, some braved the weather and soggy terrain to climb up to Gediminas Tower, the best known monument of Lithuania. It is all that remains of the original fortifications at Vilnius, the so-called upper castle. Had the Tsarist occupational troops not found use for it as a telegraph tower, it too might have been pulled down. As it is, it stands high above the Old Town; a reminder of the by-gone glory days and the pre-eminent symbol of Lithuania.



## *Kas subatos vakarėli, oi oi oi....*

Singing seems to be part of the very essence of the Lithuanian soul. It is unthinkable that we might have a Heritage Tour and not be involved in song. We certainly didn't have to wait until just Saturday evening, either. Our first evening in Lithuania, at the welcoming dinner, we were entertained by an excellent folk ensemble, Kanklės. Their soft strumming on the kankles accompanied by windpipe provided a most appropriate introduction to the art of Lithuanian folk music.



*KANKLES*

On Sunday, as mentioned earlier, we enjoyed a magnificent concert of religious choral music by the Šiauliai-based Polifonia accompanied by a string orchestra also from Šiauliai. Their performance of familiar pieces by Mozart in the first half of their program provided points of comparison and demonstrated world-class excellence. This made their second-half performance of music by Lithuanian composers from the Mozart period all the more interesting. For most of us, if not all, this was an introduction to a completely unknown repertoire and one of great beauty that should not have been allowed to lapse into obscurity.

Two days later, our mid-day meal in Panevėžys was graced by two unusual experiences. Joining us at the meal were two priests from the States. They were not Lithuanian, but felt a calling to come to Lithuania to help, however they could, in revitalizing the Church. There were also two Carmelite nuns from California who had spent the previous several months in Moscow operating a mission. They had come to Lithuania to see the Pope and would then return to Moscow to continue their missionary work. They, also, were non-Lithuanian but had been so

impressed during their short stay that they were going to recommend to their motherhouse, that consideration be given to establishing a Carmelite activity in Lithuania.

On the musical side: a group of young violinists provided music to accompany the meal. Their enthusiasm and earnestness were infectious. Their teacher beamed with pride at the warm applause following both their planned program and a well-deserved encore.



*The Young Musicians of Panevėžys*

In both Kaunas and in Vilnius, we had an evening meal in a cabaret type restaurant. While softer music played during the meal, live performers came on stage toward the end of the meal and played for after-dinner dancing.

At our closing dinner in Vilnius, an a-capella madrigal group provided post-dinner entertainment with a mixture of medieval liturgical music and modern era songs.



*PSALMĖ*

Not to be outdone, our own Lithuanian souls gave voice to a mixture of Lithuanian and American folk-popular songs as we gathered in the hotel lounge area in the late evening for discussion of the day's events. It was rumored that the Blue Bus inhabitants actually practiced en route, and one of the Blue Busers even learned the lyrics in Lithuanian (Of course, how difficult is it to learn Oi, Oi, Oi. or Tumba, tumba, tumba?) Often, we were joined by the tour staff which allowed for some cultural exchange as we learned new songs and the Lithuanians learned the Hokey Pokey and the Chicken Dance. It may not have measured up to the standards of the professional groups; but it was enjoyed by some, irritating to a few, and great fun for the participants.



*Some of our songsters off on a spree...*

### *Leiskit į Tėvynę, leiskit pas savus...*

"I feel that I now understand my childhood in a way I never could before. I found my roots and recognized the scent of the soil." With these words, **Helen Matthews (C-12)** gave her own personal summary of the trip. Many, if not most, felt the same way. It was not only the monuments and museums, the churches and chapels, the fields and forests that gave that rush of emotion and awakened a sense of national identity. To a great extent, it was, also, the people - their warm genuine hospitality, their willingness to share.

At the Bočių Restaurant in Vilnius, we were welcomed by a rather impressive group which included: **Remigijus Motuza**, Personal Representative of President Brazauskas [the formal greeting from President Brazauskas is included in this issue of VYTIS]; **Vytautas Jasulaitis**, Mayor of Vilnius; **Valantas Sapala**, representing the City Council of Vilnius; and the Lufthansa Vilnius Office Manager. In addition, **Darryl Johnson**, U. S. Ambassador to Lithuania, also spoke in welcoming us to Lithuania. As Supreme Council President, **Fran Petkus** acknowledged their greetings and thanked them for their kind words. Later events would prove the sincerity of the words. Very early in the trip, we experienced four medical emergencies. Three required hospitalization, of which, one involved emergency major surgery. In each case, full medical care was provided through Lithuanian health services and AT NO COST. The decision to waive all charges was made at the Ministry of Health level. Speaking of the medical emergencies, we are happy to report that all are well and on the road to recovery. **Rose Diskavitch, Helen Smolek, Charles Mikalauskas and Olga Gray**, our prayers are for your recovery and continued good health. Again, on our last day in Lithuania, a small group (mostly from Detroit since they were held over for two days) were invited by the Mayor to meet with him and city representatives. They hoped we had had a pleasant time, sufficient to want to come back. They earnestly invited us to do so and thanked the Lietuvos Vyčiai for all the support sent to St. James Hospital.

*"From the hills where the fortress was located, a fantastic view of the countryside and the Neris River could be seen. After seeing the view and feeling the history of this place, Lithuania became more real than ever before. ... Tomorrow will be a sad day as our trip comes to a close. God Bless Lithuania!" (Mark Bell, C-3)*

**DON'T DESPAIR - THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR**

**VISIT LITHUANIA - ENJOY THE DAINŲ ŠVENTE  
JUNE 29 - JULY 13, 1994**

**SPONSOR: K of L SUPREME COUNCIL - ARRANGEMENTS: GT INTERNATIONAL**

## *Ačiū! Ačiū! Ačiū!*

In closing this recap of the trip, it is deemed necessary to say a few words of thanks to some special people. First, are the Doctors Jucas - Jurate, Kastytis, Aldona and John. As for the rest of us, this was supposed to be an excursion into their cultural roots. But reality intruded on the first day of the trip, when the first of our medical emergencies occurred. While Lithuanian medical personnel did provide the necessary care, the presence of American-trained medical personnel was most reassuring to both the patient and to family and friends on the tour. Each doctor offered time and talents in whatever way they could to ease the situation. Their willingness to sacrifice their time and their overall good cheer were most



*The Jucas Family  
John, (Mother) Stanislava, Kastytis,  
Jurate Bukauskas, Diana*



*Dr. Romas, Bob Boris*

The group also had an appointed medical man who doubled (quadrupled) as song leader, baggage carrier and security guard. To Doctor Romas Kalinauskas, we also express our sincerest appreciation for his extraordinary efforts in ensuring the provision of adequate Lithuanian medical attention when needed. He proved equal to many and varied challenges.

And then there is our own Honorary Member, Bob Boris, who undertook the coordination of the trip. He had the inspiration for undertaking the trip and did yeoman's work in getting it all arranged. He most patiently listened to the complaints from those few who could/would not be satisfied. It was Bob that responded to requests for interviews and was often quoted in press reports on

the Knights of Lithuania activities in Lithuania.

Last and certainly not least is a most hearty thanks to Al Grigas, Ruta Pauperas and the GTI staff of guides, drivers, security and baggage handlers. Few trips have ever been so well planned with so many added features, or executed with such care and good humor. The guides were well prepared, pleasant, and most helpful. They had the patience of saints. The security and baggage handlers were exceptionally polite and helpful. It was a gargantuan task given the size of the tour group. That we stayed on schedule (by and large) was almost miraculous. It was particularly remarkable that there was only one instance of misplaced baggage and that was corrected quickly. It was, indeed, a fantastic tour that met and surpassed our expectations. Thanks again, Al. We look forward to next year....



*Al Grigas, Darryl Johnson, Ruta Pauperas*



## HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY ŠVČ. AUŠROS VARTŲ MARIJA, GAILESTINGUMO MOTINA

It is by this title that Our Lady of Vilnius (the common appellation in this country) is officially known. Her feast day in the Church calendar of Lithuania is on November 16th; and, it is customary in Vilnius to celebrate an eight day "at laidai." (Sunday to Sunday of the week containing or ending on the 16th of November.

After Imperial Russia had annexed Lithuania in 1795, the Russians began tearing down the old defensive wall of Vilnius. Only the eastern gate on the road to Medininkai, also known as the Gate of Dawn, was left standing, because, by this time, the chapel of the Madonna, which had been installed in the gate, had become a major religious shrine.

According to tradition two paintings were hung on the Gate of Dawn when it was built. Facing outward was a picture of Christ; facing in toward town, was a picture of the Blessed Virgin. When weathering ruined the latter painting, the city government of Vilnius commissioned a new one sometime in the 16th century. According to expert opinion the painting was originally done by a Vilnius artist in the Renaissance style in the first half of the 16th century, and was repainted in oils at the end of the 17th century. A silver garment covers all but the face and hands of the Virgin.

The only source for the history of the painting is a



*Pope John Paul II in solitary prayer in the Chapel of Aušros Vartai. (Photo by ELTA)*

Carmelite friar who belonged to the community that had been established in the Church of St. Theresa, which is adjacent to the gate. He wrote that during the sacking of Vilnius in 1655 by the Muscovites, the painting remained unharmed. In 1671, they built a small wooden chapel to house the painting which was now adorned with the silver raiment. The chapel was destroyed in the 1715 fire, but the monks had transferred the picture to the Church, so it survived. A brick chapel was then built and the picture returned to the gate in 1726.

The chapel was renovated in 1829 and a spacious hall with glass windows was built next to it in 1830. In 1844, the chapel was committed to the

care of secular clergy after the Russians closed the Carmelite friary. The painting of the Virgin of the Gate of Dawn became known for its miraculousness in the 17th century. On the occasion of its transfer to the wooden chapel in 1671, the preacher referred to several miracles. The historian, Friar Hilary, wrote that 17 miracles were attested to between 1671 and 1761. The hierarchy of the Roman Catholic church refrained from comment throughout the 17th century. But from 18th century onward, the Bishops of Vilnius and the Popes have acknowledged the paintings miraculous character. From 1668, the installation ceremonies of the Bishop of Vilnius have included a proces-

sion to the Gate of Dawn shrine. In 1773, Pope Clement XIV granted an indulgence to worshipers at the Gate. In 1927, Pope Pius XI allowed the painting to be solemnly crowned and granted it the title of Mary, Mother of Mercy.

Among the many legends and folk tales of the shrines miraculous nature is one that concerns the failed attempts by the Tsar to have the picture removed and brought to St. Petersburg. On the first two attempts, the authorities who had agreed to carry out the Tsar's orders died mysteriously before they could complete the action. On the third and final attempt, the doors which formed a protective covering over the picture could not be opened or even forcibly pried apart to allow removal of the picture. When in frustration the attempt was abandoned, the doors opened by themselves. This inspired the interpretation that Mary, herself, had intervened to keep the Chapel intact and in Vilnius. The Tsar, on being told the story, was sufficiently impressed that he issued an

order that all Russian military should doff their caps in deference to the Madonna if they should happen to pass the Aušros Vartai.

Before WW II, Mass was said in the Gate of Dawn chapel from sunrise until noon and in the evening a litany and hymns were sung in praise of Mary. During services not only the chapel but the street would be filled with worshipers. The street was restricted to pedestrian traffic at all times. During the Soviet occupation, the street was opened to vehicular traffic and religious processions were forbidden, but people still knelt on the sidewalks to pray.

Pope John Paul II acknowledged, during his visit to the shrine, that his first action after having been elected Pope was to visit the Lithuanian Chapel in the crypt of St. Peter's basilica in Rome and pray before the replica of Holy Mary, Mother of Mercy, of the Gate of Dawn.

(Extracted largely from the Encyclopedia Lituanica)



### IN MEMORIAM

A.†A.  
JONAS AUKŠČIUNAS  
C-36, Chicago, IL  
August 28, 1993

A.†A.  
EDMUND BRACK  
C-74, Scranton, PA  
November 5, 1992

A.†A.  
STANLEY GAPSIS  
C-16, Chicago, IL  
October 22, 1993

A.†A.  
ANN JURGIL  
C-16, Chicago, IL  
August 12, 1993

A.†A.  
JOHN MISSAVAGE  
C-72, Binghamton, NY  
August 18, 1993

A.†A.  
ANTHONY PATELUNAS  
C-74, Scranton, PA  
November 19, 1992

A.†A.  
JOSEPHINE PIACENTINI  
C-103, Providence, RI  
September 20, 1993

A.†A.  
ELENA RIMKUS  
C-112, Chicago, IL  
September 13, 1993

A.†A.  
GEORGE RUDMIN  
C-16, Chicago, IL  
June 1, 1993

A.†A.  
TERESA TRAINIS  
C-141, Bridgeport, CT  
September 20, 1993

A.†A.  
HELEN TROUPE  
C-74, Scranton, PA  
September 16, 1993

A.†A.  
STANLEY YURKUS  
C-112, Chicago, IL  
May 21, 1993

A.†A.  
WESLEY ZOSTAUTAS  
C-29, Newark, NJ  
October 2, 1993

Amžinaji Atilsj duok mirusiemis, Viešpatie,  
ir amžinoji šviesa jiems tešviečia.  
Tegu ilsis ramybėje. Amen.

# THE FULFILLMENT OF A DREAM

## POPE JOHN PAUL II VISITS LITHUANIA

(Papal texts translated by Baltic News/Photos by ELTA)

"Praised be Jesus Christ!" were the first words His Holiness John Paul II spoke, having first knelt to kiss the ground of Lithuania. Kissing the ground has become a routine act on his first visit to a country. The reigning Pontiff with that act and those words had begun a pastoral visit to this youngest daughter of the Catholic Church. For 1993 is the 606th year since Lithuania had formally accepted Christianity, the last of the European nations to do so. It was the Pope's 61st apostolic visit to a foreign country and had been planned for at least six years. Earlier, the Pope had said that all his life he had dreamt of praying at the Aušros Vartai Shrine. He had particularly wanted to come during the 600th anniversary of Christianity; but, was not given permission by the Communist authorities.



In his opening address to the throngs gathered at Vilnius International Airport to meet him, the Holy Father said: "With great emotion I have just kissed the soil of Lithuania, grateful to God for the gift of being able to come among you.

*How deeply I have longed to visit your land, which is particularly dear to me! Immediately after I was elected to the See of the Apostle Peter in accordance with God's mysterious plan, I went to visit the Lithuanian chapel of Our Lady of Mercy in the crypt of the Vatican Basilica. There, at the feet of the Blessed Virgin, I prayed for all of you.*

*Your land is dear to the whole Christian people throughout the world. Lithuania had been the silent witness of a passionate love for religious freedom, which - as I have often said - is the basis of every other human and civic freedom. In her efforts to bear witness to her being a part of the Catholic Church, Lithuania has become, in the course of her long and difficult journey towards freedom, a land of confessors and martyrs.*

*Today marks a historic occasion. For the first time, a*

*Pope has set foot in Lithuania and the Baltic countries. How can our thoughts not turn with emotion to the events which took place during so many centuries of the preaching of the Gospel? These events are part of a journey, filled with remarkable happenings, in which the Christian message gradually came to be accepted and eventually became fused with the very history of your country.*

*The names of venerable historical figures come to mind: Mindaugas, the soldier of fortune who received Baptism "together with a great multitude" and who asked Pope Innocent IV to receive the Kingdom of Lithuania as the possession of Blessed Peter', in order always to be under the protection and obedience of the Apostolic See.'*

*Vytautas, the Great, who ensured the Nation's independence; Jogaila, who married Hedwig, Queen of Poland, and was baptized with the Lithuanian nobility in 1387, the date which marks your country's acceptance of the faith.*

*Saint Casimir, a man capable of showing courage and forgiveness. Lithuania's first Saint, who left Lithuanians and Poles, as his inheritance, an outstanding example of charity and righteousness.*



K of L'ers gather in Vilnius to greet Pope

*These are historical figures who helped to build Lithuania's political and Christian greatness. They blazed a trail, a way of life; they held up a meaningful ideal for that civic peace which was sought and attained. It was they who forged the soul of Lithuania.*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters, I know that I have come among you in a moment in which all Lithuanians, seeking light in their glorious past, in the history so rich in faith, have courageously determined once more to take up their journey, in the light of the Gospel, after a long period of suffering, trials and martyrdom.*

*Situated almost in the center of Europe between the East and West of the Old Continent and confident in its long Christian tradition, Lithuania will be able to embark upon the road of rebuilding unity in peaceful cooperation with the other nations of Europe. Lithuania will be able to open itself to the horizons of the new evangelization."*



*Pope addresses Clergy in Vilnius Cathedral*

From the airport, the Pope was transported in his Pope-mobile to the Cathedral in central Vilnius. People, two or three deep, lined the road on both sides to wave and greet the Pope as he passed. At the Cathedral, he greeted the clergy and religious of Lithuania as well as visiting priests from abroad. He stopped for a moment of private prayer in the chapel of St. Casimir and then proceeded to the

Seimas for an official welcoming ceremony. The day closed with a visit, private prayer and then recitation of the Rosary at the Shrine of the Mother of Mercy at Aušros Vartai.



*John Paul II, Archbishop Bačkis and Cardinal Sladkevičius at Aušros Vartai*

On the second day of his visit the Pope participated in an ecumenical meeting with leaders of the mainstream non-Catholic churches, including Russian Orthodox, Old Believers, Evangelic Lutheran, Evangelic Reformed, Judaic, Karaim and Moslem.

The Pope then visited the Antakalnis cemetery where the most recent Lithuanian martyrs, those killed at the TV tower on January 13, 1991 and those killed at the Medininkai customs house in July, 1991. He was met by the relatives of the heroes, the widows, children, parents, brothers and sisters. Tomas Šernas, the only survivor of the Medininkai massacre and his wife also participated in the ceremony. The Pope paid homage to the victims with a prayer and then blessed the assembled relatives.



*At Antakalnis Cemetery*

At the gravesite, John Paul II said: *"Lord, the wood of these crosses is still fresh, for they were only recently planted, following the events of 13 January 1991. They remind us of your cross, immediately after your Resurrection. They call to mind Calvary and the empty tomb."*

Later in the morning, about 130,000 people gathered in Vingis Park for Holy Mass concelebrated by the Pope and 135 priests. The theme of the Mass was "Baptism, and Renewal of Baptismal Promises."

In the afternoon, ambassadors, permanently residing and working in Lithuania, from 18 countries met with the Pope in the Apostolic Nunciature, the residence of Archbishop Justo Mullor Garcia, Apostolic Nuncio to Lithuania and Dean of the Diplomatic corps. Later he met with Lithuanian intellectuals- workers in science, culture and arts- in the Church of St. John at Vilnius University.

Finally, John Paul II met with an assembly of Lithuanian-Poles in the Church of the Holy Spirit. Also in attendance were Polish Deputy Prime Minister Henryk Goryszewski and Cardinal Glemp, the Primate of the Catholic Church in Poland. At the Holy Spirit Church, the Pope said: *"Your city faces a special call for dialogue and accord among Christians, who pray in various languages and understand that they have inherited separate, though at times common, historic traditions. In this shrine, as in many others, where the Eucharist and other sacraments are celebrated in both languages, Poles and Lithuanians are invited to cooperate. But first they must learn to understand one another and thus grow in faith, hope and charity. As we follow European events, we cannot ignore the clear need for all nations to renounce dangerous nationalism and responsibly cooperate though maintaining their own approach towards integration. On the other hand, the Church, taking note of the decisions of the Second Vatican Council, understands its historic mission and will do all it can to make this process easier."*

On the third day of his visit, the Pope held a open-air Mass in Kaunas at Santaka, which is where the Nemunas and Neris rivers meet. The theme of the Mass was, "Let us Testify Our Baptism." In his Mass the Pope said, *"In the present phase of Lithuania's history it is more important than ever for the whole Christian community to be aware of its own vocation and mission, illumined by the light of the Holy Spirit. The invitation to give witness to Christ involves each*

*one personally, but it is also addressed to the whole people of God, so that we can say that the responsibility of believers is also social."* Some 120,000 believers attended this Mass. Some politicians, including members of parliament, were among those who took the sacrament.

After Mass and a short rest, the Pope entered the Darius and Girenas Sports arena accompanied by Cardinal Sladkevičius and to the sounds of Lithuanian folk music.



The Pope blessed the youth of Lithuania; and the young people responded with shouts of "John Paul, we love you." In his address to the youth, the Pope said: *"Open the doors to Christ! be the first to respond to the push for the new evangelization which your country, Europe and the whole world urgently need. Christ knows the heart of man, the heart of each of you. Christ knows you and He loves you. Only Jesus can fully satisfy the deepest and most vital needs and aspirations of the human spirit."*

*The Gospel is a message of hope and authentic renewal; it is valid at all times and for all people. Accept it as a gift of salvation; let it become the norm for your daily lives. Proclaim it and bear witness to it. Be witnesses of Christ!"*

On September 8, Pope John Paul II held an open-air Mass at the Hill of Crosses. It would be difficult to find a better place for the theme: "Martyrs, Deportees. Lithuania - the land of crosses." In his homily, the Pope said: *"We come here - to the Hill of Crosses - to remember all the sons and daughters of your land, as well as those sentenced, those sent to prison, to concentration camps, deported to Siberia or to Kolyma and*

*condemned to death.*

*Among these, I would like especially to recall three Prelates: Monsignor Vincentas Borisevičius, Bishop of Telšiai, killed in 1946 after lengthy interrogation and severe torture; Monsignor Teofilus Matulionis, Archbishop of Kaišiadorys, whose life was an exhausting Calvary of restrictions and sufferings until his death in 1962; Monsignor Mečislovas Remys, Archbishop of Vilnius who was arrested in 1947 and died in prison in Vladimir in 1953.*

*Innocents were condemned. At that time in your homeland, a terrible system, marked by totalitarian violence raged, a system which trampled down and humiliated man. The survivors, those who were spared these horrors of violence and death, knew that before their very eyes, among their fellow citizens and within their very families there was a renewal of what had already taken place on Golgotha where the Son of God, 'taking the form of a slave', as man 'humbled himself, becoming obedient to death.'*

After blessing the pilgrims, the Pope departed by helicopter for Šiauliai for lunch and a short rest. After these he travelled to Šiluva. The Pope had often expressed a wish to pray in the Chapel of the Apparition and at the miraculous picture of the Madonna and Child.

While in Šiluva, the Pope crowned and blessed a statue of the Blessed Virgin that had been brought here by Lithuanian-Americans. The statue was dedicated to the unification of all emigres in a prayer for the freedom of their enslaved Tėvyne. It had been

taken as on a pilgrimage through all the Lithuanian parishes in North and South America since 1951. It had then been held in the convent chapel of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception awaiting the day it could be taken to Lithuania.

At Šiluva, the Pope spoke briefly saying: *"I know how much you have suffered and hoped during the interminable decades of an iron regime, amazingly shaken off only a short while ago. I have come here to Šiluva to thank God who allowed you to overcome this terrible trial."*

In a telegram dispatched from the aircraft taking him to Latvia, the parting words to Lithuania from Pope John Paul II were: *"My good wishes and prayers for the continuous peace and prosperity for your nation. I cordially beg upon the Lithuanian people the abundant blessings of Almighty God."*

In his general audience at the Vatican on September 15, the Pope said: *"I give thanks to God for making possible my recent pastoral visit to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. My visit to these countries was a pilgrimage to places where the faith of God's people was clearly expressed during the trials of the recent past...The Christians of the Baltic countries are now facing the challenge of the new evangelization. As we pray for the work of the whole Church in these lands, let us thank God that the Christian faith was able to survive and to remain in the midst of oppression a solid support for individuals and society."*



## A MAN FOR HIS TIME

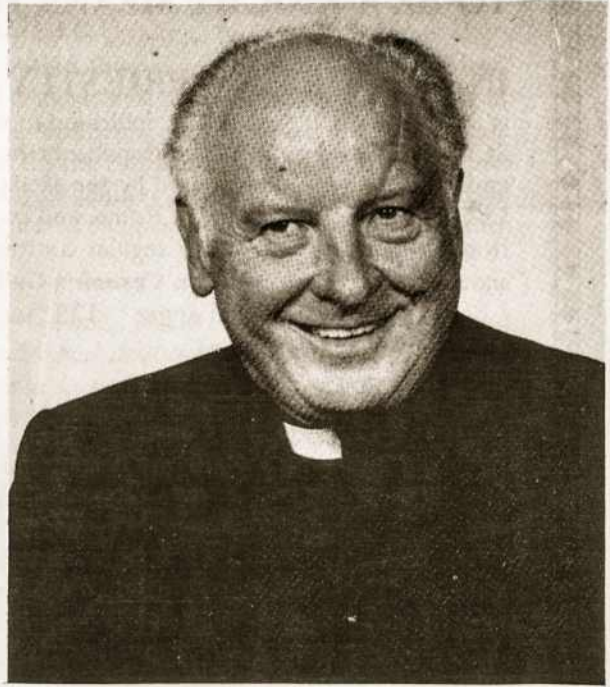
With these words, the Lithuanian Community of Baltimore praised and thanked Father Casimir Pugevičius on October 10, 1993 in commemorating the 40th anniversary of his ordination. The setting was the main ballroom of the Lithuanian Hall in Baltimore in which had gathered family, several fellow clergy and scores of friends including classmates from St. Alphonsus and co-workers from Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid and the Lithuanian Information Center. We, Knights, remember Fr. Pugevičius as the Supreme Council Spiritual Advisor in 1974-1975 and Lithuanian Affairs Committee Chairman from 1975-1981.

This American-born son of immigrant parents grew up with a strong affinity for Lithuania, the country of his parent's childhood and for the United States, the land of his own childhood. "There was enough room in my life for two cultures," he has said upon reflecting on his life. "I was fortunate not to encounter hostility to either culture. Some young people today have not been so fortunate and misunderstanding grows between them and their parents."

"My horizons widened in school. I developed a great admiration for Msgr. Louis Mendelis, Fr. Anthony Dubinskas and for the Sisters of St. Casimir to whom I am deeply indebted. For me, they became models whose lives I dreamed of emulating. Years later when a priest in Lithuania appealed to me, 'Father, help us! The atheists are determined to smother us,' I knew my vocation included the people of Soviet-occupied Lithuania."

Following his ordination in 1953, Fr. Pugevičius was assigned briefly to St. Martin's, in Baltimore and then to St. Peter's where Fr. Dubinskas was pastor of this archdiocesan parish in a Lithuanian neighborhood. From 1954 to 1959, he wrote a weekly column in the *Catholic Review*, the Archdiocesan newspaper, under a pseudonym of "Justin Smith."

In 1955, Fr. Casimir was transferred to his home parish of St. Alphonsus, where Msgr. Mendelis was pastor. During this same period, he acted as the Archdiocesan Chaplain of the Young Christian Workers. In 1962, he began what was to be his last assignment as a parish priest at St. Pius X parish. While in this post, he assumed the position of National Chaplain of the Lithuanian Student or-



Fr. Casimir Pugevičius  
ganization, Ateitis.

The year 1965 saw a great change in the life of the active young priest. He was appointed the Director of Radio and Television for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. During the ensuing nine years, he produced over a thousand radio and television programs including several with a Lithuanian connection. He produced film documentaries on the Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva in Washington, DC; the photography of Algimantas Kezys and a dramatization of the trial of Fr. Antanas Šeskevičius by the communists in Lithuania.

In 1974, he was given a leave of absence from the Diocese to organize Lithuanian-American Catholic Services under the Lithuanian Priest's League and the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation. Two years later, he assumed the position of Executive Director of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. While in this position, he also served as translation editor for the "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania." The significance of this contribution is inestimable. For all these accomplishments, Father Casimir, we thank you and salute you!

ILGIAUSIŲ, LAIMINGŲ, SVEIKIAUSIŲ METŲ,

## **TO BE A KNIGHT MEANS TO BE OF SERVICE:**

**IN SUPPORTING PRIESTLY VOCATIONS** - The St. Casimir's Guild is a semi-autonomous activity dedicated to support of the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome. The Guild sponsors three programs: collection of donations for general endowment fund administered by the Rector; obtaining mass stipends for the support of Lithuanian priests studying in Rome, and coordinating a program of "adopting" seminarians from Lithuania by providing regular contributions for their non-academic needs. Checks should be payable to: **The St. Casimir's Guild** and mailed to:

**Anna Klizas Wargo; 125 So. Morris St.; St. Clair, PA 17970**

**IN HUMANITARIAN AID** - Aid to Lithuania, Inc. is a semi-autonomous organization under the aegis of the Knights of Lithuania which provides medical supplies, equipments and medicines to Lithuania during this crucial period of transition from a Soviet-occupied and suppressed nation to a free self-sufficient democracy. At least one 40-foot container of donated materiel is shipped each calendar quarter. Administrative costs are covered by the K of L so that 100% of donated monies are applied to humanitarian aid. Checks should be payable to: **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.** and mailed to:

**Aid to Lithuania, Inc.; 4970 Brookdale Dr.; Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304**

**IN EDUCATION** - The K of L Scholarship Awards are presented each year to deserving members or children of members who are pursuing studies at the college level. The Scholarship Fund is totally dependent upon donations or bequests from members payable to the **Knights of Lithuania - Scholarship Fund**. Point of contact:

**Florence Zaleskas; 264 Bowen St.; So. Boston, MA 02127**

**IN CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT** - The K of L Foundation is an endowment fund which supports and funds projects that further the cultural, religious or humanitarian objectives of the Knights of Lithuania. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to the **Knights of Lithuania Foundation** and sent to:

**Loretta Stukas; 234 Sunlit Drive; Watchung, NJ 07060**

**IN UPKEEP OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE** - The development of an endowment fund to support the upkeep of the Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was adopted at our 75th Anniversary Convention in Washington, D.C. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to the **Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** and mailed to:

**Julia Burlen; 2403 Belair Drive; Bowie, MD 20715**



## **TWO SPECIAL APPEALS:**

### **FROM THE ST. CASIMIR'S GUILD:**

Those, who attended the 80th National Convention this year in Worcester heard Msgr. Bartkus, the Rector of the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome, speak about the importance of the College to the Church in Lithuania both as a venue for advanced training of Lithuanian priests and as a focal point for the Lithuanian hierarchy visiting Rome. These developments, which have occurred since Lithuania regained its independence, have significantly increased the frequency of concelebrated Masses involving Church authorities from Lithuania as well as those resident in Rome.

Vestments for large liturgical functions are badly needed. Those they have are very old and were acquired as used vestments from several individual donors. While they continue to be serviceable for individual masses, it is impossible to vest more than a couple of priests simultaneously in matching styles and liturgical colors. It is really imperative that those solemn liturgies attending ordinations and concelebrations with visiting Church officials be presented with due decorum. Therefore, a special fund raising drive is being undertaken to enable the purchase of multiple sets of vestments in at least white. Individual unit costs are estimated at \$50.00 for an Alb; \$50.00 for a Stole and about \$200 per Chasuble.

Please help in whatever way you can. Pray for the continued success of the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome and the future good of the Church in Lithuania. Make checks payable to St. Casimir's Guild and send them to:

**Anna Klizas Wargo; 125 So. Morris St.; St. Clair, PA 17970**

### **FROM THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CHOIR:**

The Knights of Lithuania Choir from the Mid-America District is planning to sing in the Dainų Švente in Lithuania in July 1994 as part of a trip extending from July 1st to the 17th. This will be the first time that the choir will be able to participate in a Song Festival since Lithuania regained her independence.

Four Sisters of St. Casimir are members of the choir; and, it would be marvellous if they could participate. To that end, the choir is making efforts to cover their expenses by raising funds in several ways. A videotape of the "Lithuanian Wedding" featuring the District Choir, soloists and the District folk-dance troupe is being produced. It will given upon request to all those contributing \$20.00 or more to this cause. Also, to be produced is a videotape of "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Theodore DuBois in a choral performance directed by Faustas Strolia. It is scheduled for release during Lent. Several audio recordings of "The Seven Last Words from an earlier presentation are currently available for donations of \$10.00.

For further information, contact:

**Ann Marie Kassel, 8200 Anchor Drive, Apt. 801, Woodridge, IL 60517 ; or,  
Rob Martin, Jr., 929 W. 34th Place, Chicago, IL 60608**



## LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS PREZIDENTAS

Didžiai gerbiami Vyčiai!

Iš visos širdies sveikinu garbingo Jūsų organizacijos jubiliejaus proga.

Vyčiai - viena iš išeivijos lietuvių organizacijų, turinčių tokią turtingą ir ženklią savo istorinę praeitį bei dabartį. Sunkiausiai Lietuvos gyvenimo laikotarpiams Vyčiai visada liko ištikimi jos idealams ir siekiams. Ypač reikšminga Jų veikla, rūpinantis nukentėjusių nuo Pirmojo pasaulinio karo tautiečių šelpimu, Lietuvos nepriklausomybės paskelbimu ir įtvirtinimu, protestuojant bei reikalaujant Lietuvos išlaisvinimo sovietinės okupacijos metais. Mus džiugina ir šiandieninės Vyčių pastangos išlaikyti išeivijoje augančio jaunimo lietuvybę, skiepyti patriotizmą senajai tėvynei, meilę lietuvių kultūros vertybėms.

Didžiai vertindamas Vyčių organizacijos atliktus darbus ir veiklą, linkiu visiems Jums sveikatos, geros kloties tolesniems Jūsų darbams ir sumanymams!

Algirdas BRAZAUSKAS

Vilnius, 1993 m. rugsėjis



## PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Greatly esteemed Knights!

I wholeheartedly greet your worthy organization on the occasion of your [80th] anniversary.

The Knights - one of the Lithuanian emigre organizations, that has such a rich and meaningful history both of the past and in the present. Through the most difficult periods in Lithuanian existence, the Knights have always remained true to their ideals and objectives. Perhaps the most significant of their activities has been the concern for and aid to their countrymen surviving the First World War, through their declaration and establishment of independence; and, then, to the demands and protestations for the end to Soviet occupation. We rejoice that even today's Knights strive to maintain Lithuanianism in youth born and raised in distant lands, to infuse them with patriotism for the land of their heritage and with love for Lithuanian cultural values.

With great appreciation of the Knights remaining works and activities, I wish you all good health and good fortune in your future tasks and projects!

/signed / Algirdas Brazauskas  
Vilnius, September 3, 1993.

## Official Notices - Oficialus Skyrius

### From the Supreme Council President:

It is extremely important that we have current information on the Council and District Officers and Committee Chairs. Since most elections are in the fall, I would like to remind all Council/District Secretaries to please forward the names of your current officers and chairpersons to the Supreme Council Recording Secretary, Agnes Mickunas as soon as possible after the election. Your cooperation will be most appreciated.

We have just about completed a full and detailed review of our membership roster and VYTIS mailing list. Hopefully, this issue of the VYTIS may well prove the effectiveness of our efforts. If you know that someone did not receive a copy, and should have, or receive a complaint about non-receipt, please bring it to the attention of the financial secretary (at the council level) to check dues status. The Secretary should relay the information to Rita Sussko, Supreme Council Financial Secretary, who will ensure all appropriate follow up action is taken. In our review we found over 300 disparities. Some complained of not having received a VYTIS in over a year. That shouldn't happen, and won't if you bring the problems to our attention.

### From the Supreme Council Financial Secretary:

**ALL MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT DUES ARE PAYABLE ANNUALLY ON THE FIRST OF THE YEAR.** Please be prompt in your remittance so that we can keep our rosters and mailing lists current with the least amount of confusion. Again, the cooperation of each member and the financial secretaries of each council are required and appreciated.

### From the K of L Foundation Chair:

Happily I can report a successful completion to the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION 1993 ESSAY CONTEST. Winners were announced

during the 80th National Convention in Worcester, MA, and the winning entries will be published in subsequent issues of VYTIS. It is our pleasure to congratulate the winners:

**1st Prize (\$300.00)**

**Thomas F. Bruzga, C-86, DuBois, PA**

**2nd Prize (\$200.00)**

**Peter Iron Jokubka, Seniors, Chicago, IL.**

**3rd Prize (\$100.00)**

**Maryte Abbott, C-110, Maspeth, NY**

**Honorable Mention (\$20)**

**Maryte Bizinkauskas, C-1, Brockton, MA  
Joseph Kohanski, C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA**

The Knights of Lithuania are most grateful to Rev. Msgr. Juozas Prunskis for his most generous grants to the Foundation. These grants established and maintain the Essay Contest, which encourages members to think and write about matters of concern to the Knights of Lithuania. We especially thank him for adding \$500.00 this year to his earlier grant of \$10,000, to augment the interest used as prize money.

We thank all the contestants and judges who participated in the 1993 contest. We encourage all members to give serious thought to entering the next Contest. Suggestions for a 1994 topic are welcome. Hopefully, we will announce the topic in the February issue of VYTIS.

### From the Lithuanian Affairs Chair:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there was no Lithuanian Affairs Newsletter published in October.



## REST IN PEACE,

### ELEANORE H. LAURIN

Her infectious laughter, her thoughtful ideas, her uncanny ability to see a problem and solve it, her undying love for the Knights of Lithuania -- all these linger as a memory of long-time, ever-young and energetic **Eleanore Laurin**. Eleanore died on July 22, 1993, after a long and courageous fight with cancer. The K of L, from her council to the national organization, will miss Eleanore, but at the same time, they will continue benefiting from her many years of activity.

An Honorary Member since 1966, a member since 1940, Eleanore's heart was always with the Knights of Lithuania. To list all her many accomplishments and activities is almost impossible, but some highlights of her life and work are certainly in order.

Eleanore joined Council 13, Chicago, of the K of L as a teenager, in 1940. For her many activities, she received the Third Degree in 1950, the Fourth Degree in 1957, and was elevated to Honorary Membership in 1966. Eleanore served her "native" C-13, and later her adopted C-112, Chicago, well, holding various offices, organizing Junior councils, encouraging others to join and become active in the organization.

In 1960, as the Illinois-Indiana District (now the Mid-America District) faltered, Eleanore took the reins of the District, serving as president for 4 terms, board chairman for one year, K of L Building Trustee for many years. Almost immediately, the District was activated and the rest of the Chicago American Lithuanian community took notice. She instituted a District Bulletin, organized monthly bowling socials, created joint activities with members of other



Districts.

Perhaps her greatest achievements in the District were the initiation of the reorganization of the District Knights of Lithuania Choir and the beginning of the annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquets to commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day. The Choir continues to please audiences in Chicago and elsewhere and plans to participate in the Song Festival in Lithuania next year. The Banquets also continue, as a living memorial to Eleanore.

On the National level, Eleanore served in various offices, including 2nd (Membership) Vice-President, Trustee, Business Manager and later staff member of VYTIS, and Secretary and then Executive Chairman of the Honorary Membership Committee. As national membership VP, Eleanore aided in the reorganization of several K of L councils, including Chicago's C-13 and 14, and organized successful membership drives on a national level. As Chair of the Honorary Membership committee, she helped reorganize the committee and clear up its backlog.

Eleanore continued her interest in the Knights even as she lay ill for more than six months. She instructed her friends to direct activity in the Honorary Membership awards, provided input on the new constitution, and was ever vigilant on the needs of the organization.

One might think, in reading this history, that Eleanore was "all work and no play" but the opposite was true. While she always knew how to inspire others to work, she always had fun doing it. Attending conventions or Supreme Council meetings, Eleanore was known as "hospitality lady." Thanks to Eleanore, refreshments were always available, parties were arranged, with seemingly no effort.

Eleanore Laurin was laid to rest in style, thanks to the efforts of her friends Julie and Rita Zakarka and Estelle Rogers. A K of L Wake service was held, followed by farewell words by Evelyn Ozelis on behalf of the Supreme Council, Estelle Rogers on behalf of the Honorary Members, Algerd Brazis on behalf of the MAMD District, and Al Mockus on behalf of her Council 112.

At the funeral at her parish of Nativity of the BVM, K of L friends formed an Honor Guard, and Rev. John Kuzinkas officiated at the beautiful Mass, and at the final farewell at graveside in St. Casimir's Cemetery in Chicago.

Eleanore Laurin has passed on to her final reward. We pray that God grants her the happiness and peace in His presence that she has so rightfully earned. Rest in Peace, dear friend.

*Loretta Stukas*

## GREETINGS TO THE 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, 1993

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Convention issue of the VYTIS did not list the greetings received by and presented to the 80th National Convention. For completeness, we list them here.

EMBASSY OF THE USA to the HOLY SEE  
Raymond L. Flynn,  
US Ambassador to the Holy See  
Rome, Italy

MOST REV. PAULIUS BALTAKIS, OFM  
Titular Bishop of Egara for Lithuanian  
Catholics throughout the Free World.

MSGR. ALGIMANTAS BARTKUS  
Rector, Pontifical Lithuanian  
College of St. Casimir,  
Rome, Italy

STASYS LOZORAITIS, JR.  
Ambassador of Lithuania to the USA  
Washington, D.C.

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL (ALTAS)  
Mr. Grozvydas Lazauskas, President  
LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY OF AMERICA  
(BENDRUOMENE), Worcester, MA Chapter  
by Teresa Meilus

LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS'  
LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
by Rev. Albert Contons

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC  
(TAUTOS FUNDAS)  
Alexander Vakselis, President

LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC  
FEDERATION  
OF AMERICA  
Saulius Kuprys, President

LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES,  
INC.  
Regina Saulis, Secretary

LIETUVIAI TEVAI JEZUITAI - JESUIT  
FATHERS  
Antanas Saulaitis, SJ

SISTERS OF ST. CASIMIR  
Sister Marilyn Kuzmickas, SSC,  
General Superior  
by Sister M. Lawrence, SSC

POOR SISTERS OF JESUS CRUCIFIED  
Sister Mary Mercedes Petkunas, CJC,  
General Superior  
by Sister Eugenia Glenckis, CJC

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS  
Sister Alma, SF

UNITED LITHUANIAN RELIEF FUND  
OF AMERICA, INC. (BALF)  
Mary P. Rudis, President

LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID  
Ruta B. Virkutis, Exec. Dir.

LITHUANIAN ALLIANCE OF AMERICA  
Dr. Vytautas P. Dargis, Pres.

LIETUVIU SKAUTU SAJUNGA  
Peter Molis, Pres.

LIETUVIU SKAUTU SAJUNGOS JUB.  
STOVYKLOS  
"Lituanica" Skautai ir Vadovai

LITHUANIAN STUDIES SOCIETY  
Tasmania University Union,  
Australia  
Algis Taskunas, Senior Fellow

GT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL  
CONSULTANTS  
Algis Grigas, President

LEO VENCKUS  
Fennville, MI

### GREETINGS WITH DONATIONS

#### AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.:

K of L Amber District	\$500.00
K of L Council 36	650.00
Margaret A. Senk, C-10	300.00
(IMO Leonard Davidonis)	
Rita Zakarka, C-112	100.00
Edward & Frances Jakatt, C-110	100.00
Bruno Rutkunas, C-110	1,000.00
Clemencine Miller, C-141	100.00
Ed & Irene Senken, C-12	100.00
IMO Lenkauskas & Sinkevicius Fms.	
Julie Zakarka, C-112	200.00
IMO Eleanore Laurin	

Mrs. Irene Tamulevich	100.00
IMO Edward G. Tamulevich	
Rev. Albert J. Contons, HM	100.00
Leo Valonis	100.00
Joseph V. Stiklius, C-7	100.00
Joseph & Josephine Zukas, C-109	100.00
Lillian A. Kondrotas, C-26	100.00
John & Dolores Jonaitis, C-147	25.00
Frank & Irene Petrauskas, C-140	50.00
IMO Frank Peterson	
Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Oberaitis, C-25	25.00
Frances R. Petkus, HM, C-96	10.00

Aldonna Keaney, C-17	20.00
Mrs. Helen Medley, C-50	25.00
Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	50.00
Millie J. Pietz, C-12	25.00
Evelyn Walles, C-110	10.00
Florence Zaleskas, C-17	50.00
Felisa Grendal, HM, C-17	25.00
Anna D. Supernavage, C-144	10.00
Estelle Rogers, HM, C-112	25.00
Helen Galada	25.00
Connie Nehwadowich, C-12	10.00
Victor Stapalovitch, C-3	50.00
Kazys Sipaila, HM, C-29	25.00
Helen A. Chesko, C-144	50.00
Mrs. Ann R. O'Neill, C-29	25.00
Mrs. Agnes Dunn, C-152	20.00
IMO Ignatius & Agnes Milinauskas	
Susan Banditelli, C-144	10.00
K of L Council 143	50.00
Ms. Gene Gobis, CI-100	25.00
Mary Beth Slakis, C-16	25.00
IMO Albert Slakis	
Walter D. Svekla, C-3	100.00
Robert A. Martin, Jr., C-16	20.00
Helen & Steve Contons, C-17	25.00
Members & Friends, C-3	1,478.00
Dorothy Banos, C-143	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Algerd Brazis, HM, C-112	100.00
PLEDGES:	
Maryte Sepikas, C-133	50.00
IMO Joseph Sepikas	
K of L C-133	100.00
Julie Kowrak, C-3	1,000.00

**CONVENTION COMMITTEE:**

Ms. Gene Gobis, C-100	10.00
Susan Banditelli, C-144	10.00

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION:**

Clemencine Miller, C-142	25.00
Elinor Sluzas, C-96	25.00
Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	10.00
Frances R. Petkus, HM, C-96	10.00
Mrs. Helen Medley, C-50	50.00
Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	25.00
Eleanor Vaicaitis, C-144	50.00
Anna D. Supernavage, C-144	100.00
Helen A. Chesko, C-144	100.00
Msgr. Juozas Prunskis, HM, C-5	500.00
Rev. Anthony Baltrushunas, C-17	100.00
Helen Matulonis, C-110	10.00
Len & Marilyn Kapuchus	25.00
Jack & Loretta Stukas, HM's, C-29	25.00
IMO Eleanore Laurin	
Genevieve Gobis, C-100	100.00
K of L Council 36	25.00
Mary F. Kincius, C-36	25.00
Robert A. Martin, Jr., C-16	10.00
Frances Bumila, C-1	100.00
Daina Kapochus, C-3	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Algerd Brazis, HM, C-112	25.00
PLEDGES:	
K of L Council 12	100.00

**LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

Josephine & Joseph Zukas, C-109	20.00
Elinor Sluzas, C-96	25.00

Frank & Irene Petrauskas, C-140	50.00
Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	10.00
Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	25.00
Florence Zaleskas, C-17	10.00
Anna D. Supernavage, C-144	15.00
Kazys Sipaila, HM, C-29	25.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	25.00
K of L Council 36	25.00
Dorothy Banos, C-143	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Algerd Brazis, HM, C-112	25.00

**ST. CASIMIR'S GUILD:**

K of L Amber District	5,000.00
Aldona Kirstuk, C-147	1,000.00
Clemencine Miller, C-141	25.00
Josephine & Joseph Zukas, C-109	20.00
Elinor Sluzas, C-96	50.00
Sophia Sakalys, C-103	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Markuns, C-17	25.00
Frank & Irene Petrauskas, C-140	50.00
IMO Eleanore Laurin	
Bertha Stoskus, C-103	10.00
George & Frances Bumila, C-1	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Oberaitis, C-25	25.00
Len & Marilyn Kapochus, C-3	25.00
Frances R. Petkus, HM, C-96	10.00
Aldonna Keaney, C-17	20.00
Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	25.00
Evelyn Walles, C-110	5.00
Eleanor Vaicaitis, C-144	50.00
Florence Zaleskas, C-17	50.00
Rita Karrytais, C-26	50.00
Anna D. Supernavage, C-144	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Walinsky, Jr.	25.00
Victor Stepalovitch, C-3	50.00
Kazys Sipaila, HM, C-29	25.00
Helen A. Chesko, C-144	50.00
Mrs. Ann R. O'Neill, C-29	25.00
Julia Trocki Burlen, C-142	100.00
Helen Matulonis, C-110	10.00
Susan Banditelli, C-144	10.00
Mary Lou Abbott, Mirga Bablin, Ed Barkowski, Irene Tice, & Polly Ziausys	50.00
IMO Frances Marie Aviza	
K of L Council 143	100.00
Ms. Gene Gobis, C-100	25.00
K of L Council 36	25.00
Longinas Svelnis, HM, C-17	40.00
Casey & Irene Grikenis, C-72	25.00
Stacy Labadis & Family, C-144	50.00
IMO William J. Labadis	
Helen & Steve Contons, C-17	25.00
Anna Marie C. Sewatsky, C-143	100.00
Helen & Mary Labadis, C-144	100.00
IMO William J. Labadis	
Agnes Waitonis, C-103	350.00
IMO Joseph A. Waitonis	

**K OF L SCHOLARSHIP FUND:**

Rita Zakarka, C-112	10.00
Edward & Frances Jakatt, C-110	50.00
Clemencine Miller, C-141	25.00
Dorothy A. Banos, C-143	50.00
K of L Council 146	25.00
Sophia Sakalys, C-103	15.00
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Markuns, C-17	25.00
Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	25.00

Len & Marilyn Kapochus, C-3	25.00
Frances R. Petkus, HM, C-96	10.00
Aldonna Keaney, C-17	20.00
Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	25.00
Evelyn Walles, C-110	10.00
Eleanor Vaicaitis, C-144	50.00
Florence Zaleskas, C-17	30.00
Anna D. Supernavage, C-144	15.00
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Walinsky, Jr., C-26	25.00
Jean Kapochus Mihalich, C-143	25.00
Victor Stepalovitch, C-3	50.00
Kazys Sipaila, HM, C-29	25.00
Helen A. Chesko, C-144	25.00
Susan Banditelli, C-144	25.00
K of L Council 143	50.00
Jewel Ushka, C-3	25.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	25.00
IMO Eleanore Laurin	
K of L Council 36	25.00
Irene & Walter Svekla	125.00
Aldona J. Kirstuk, C-147	1,000.00
K of L Council 144	100.00
Helen & Steve Contons, C-17	25.00
K of L Council 12	400.00
Daina Kapochus, C-3	25.00
Family & Friends of William J. Labadis	700.00
<b>VYTIS FUND:</b>	
Josephine & Joseph Zukas, C-103	10.00
Sophia Sakalys, C-103	10.00

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Oberaitis, C-25	25.00
Kazys Sipaila, HM, C-29	25.00
Susan Banditelli, C-144	25.00

**SILUVA SHRINE FUND:**

Frank & Irene Petrauskas, C-140	50.00
Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	10.00
Kazys Sipaila, HM, C-29	25.00

**K OF L JUNIORS FUND:**

Clemencine Miller, C-141	25.00
Florence Zaleskas, C-17	10.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	15.00
Robert A. Martin, Jr., C-16	10.00
Helen & Mary Labadis, C-144	100.00
IMO William J. Labadis	

**DEBORAH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION:**

Anna D. Supernavage, C-144	25.00
Dorothy A. Banos, C-143	25.00

**LITHUANIAN CHILDREN'S AID FUND:**

Longinas Svelnis, HM, C-17	40.00
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Note: A total of **\$15,953.00** was collected for the various K of L and other charities. For this, the Supreme Council expresses a big ACIU to all contributors!



Council 16 invites you to join us in that toddling town of Chicago for the **81st NATIONAL KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CONVENTION.**

The convention will be headquartered at the Chicago Marriott Hotel from August 4 - 7, 1994. room rates will be \$95.00 for a single or \$105.00 for two to four people.

The Chicago Marriott is located right in the heart of our world famous Magnificent Mile of Michigan Avenue. Some of the best shopping, dining, and tourist sights are just walking distance from our hotel doorway.

Mark your calendars, make your vacation plans and plan on attending. We hope to welcome you at the Marriott in 1994!

# LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS



## DEBORAH HOSPITAL LITHUANIAN PROGRAM CONTINUES



*Lithuanian Medics enjoy C-29's Dinner, seated, l to r., Birute, Aldona, Rita, standing, Loretta Stukas their weekend hostess, and Sigita.*

The Deborah Hospital Foundation continues to aid the Cardiac Clinic of the University of Vilnius Hospital at Santariskiai. On Sept. 14, four woman medics from the Cardiac Clinic in Vilnius arrived at Deborah Heart and Lung Center for a three month study program. The women include Dr. Sigita Bagausauskiene, Anesthesiologist, Dr. Rita Sudikiene, Pediatric Cardiologist, Aldona Rakauskaite, Operating Room Nurse, and Birute Maceviene, Perfusionist. They were guests at the Knights of Lithuania Council 29 Dinner Dance in Newark on Oct. 9, and Oct. 10, they spoke on the "Memories of Lithuania" Radio Hour in New Jersey.

Some of the Deborah Medical team that visited Lithuania last year to operate on 19 children there plan a follow-up trip to Vilnius some time this winter, to reexamine the 19 children and to evaluate others who might come to Deborah for surgery.

Deborah Foundation thanks the Knights of Lithuania who during the 80th National Convention donated another \$1,000.00 to the Deborah Lithuanian Project, as

well as others who made individual donations to this project during the Convention.

## A NEW AMERICAN-LITHUANIAN PRIEST FETED BY C-100 MEMBERS



*Rev. Lee Paul Chase, surrounded by C-100 Juniors and Jr. Counselor Christine Tambasco (far right), all his cousins.*

June 13 was a joyous and memorable day for the Bablinskas family. Rev. Lee Paul Chase, newly ordained priest, son of deceased C-100 members Robert and Genevieve Bablinskas Chase held his first mass at St. Casimir's Church, the church of his childhood.

Rev. Chase attended St. Casimir's School and the Perth Central School in Amsterdam and graduated from Bishop Scully High School in 1981. He holds degrees from Nazareth College and St. Bernard's Institute in Rochester, and prepared for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. He served as director of religious education at St. Anne's Church in Rochester, NY before entering the seminary.

Rev. Chase has so many family members in K of L Council 100 that he would be hard to top! His uncles and aunts in the council are: Edward and Mirga Bablin, William and Beatrice Bablinskas Jasewicz, Paul and Aldona Bablinskas Abeling, Irene Bablinskas Damphier; his first cousins in C-100 are Richard, William Richard, Kenneth Jasewicz, Christine Jasewicz Tambasco, Joan



Jasewica Rimkunas, as well as all 8 juniors of the council.

Many C-100 members headed by president Irene Tice were on the reception committee. They included Elizabeth Kuzmich, William and Beatrice Jasewicz, Judy Kastraveckas, Helen Wojcik, Frances DiBart, and Mildred Whell. C-100 Vice President Gene Gobis presented Fr. Chase with C-100's gift and Polly Ziausys presented a Lithuanian sash.

#### MARCIULIONIS AIDS LITHUANIAN CHILDREN



*Tadas Sumauskas and his benefactor, Sarunas Marciulionis, chat in the cancer clinic at Beaumont Hosopital.*

Golden State Warriors guard Sarunas Marciulionis has again "reached out to touch someone", namely one of his fellow Lithuanians in need, Tadas Sumauskas. Tadas, an 11 year old Lithuanian boy suffering from cancer, recently arrived in the US for free medical treatment at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. His trip here was paid for by Marciulionis.

Marciulionis teamed up with Healing the Children/Michigan, a national nonprofit organization that secures medical care for needy foreign children, to help Tadas and, earlier, three other Lithuanian children. Marciulionis learned about Tadas when the boy's father approached him last summer in Marciulionis' hotel in Vilnius and asked for help.

Marciulionis called "Healing the Children/Michigan" and arranged for the trip. Tadas has Ewing's sarcoma, one of the two most common children's cancers. His prognosis is not excellent -- he has a 50-50 chance of survival and will be treated for a year.

Marciulionis isn't through yet. On Sept. 23, a seven member team of pediatric surgeons from Grand Rapids traveled to Lithuania at his expense, stayed in his hotel, and taught Lithuanian doctors how to treat children there.

Why all this? "It makes me feel good that I can help. This young generation ... they'll help somebody else," Marciulionis said. "They are the future of Lithuania."

*(from the Detroit News, by Marian Dozier, Sept. 19, 1993)*

#### KARNISHOVAS ADDRESSES ALLAMUCHY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



*Arturas Karnishovas signs autographs at Allamuchy School.*

Arturas Karnishovas of Lithuania, a senior at New Jersey's Seton Hall University and one of the stars of the University's Champion "Pirates" Basketball team, recently was a guest at Allamuchy Elementary School of New Jersey, at the invitation of student Jordan Geary, son of John and Judy (Stukas) Geary. Karnishovas addressed the students there, responded to a host of questions, and signed a multitude of autographs.

The students, who are studying Lithuania in several grades, asked about his experiences as a member of the Bronze Medal winning Lithuanian Olympic Basketball team and his impressions of the American "Dream Team." They were interested in how he learned English so quickly, how "things" were in Lithuania, and what his future plans were.

Arturas showed himself to be a fine example of a Lithuanian athlete and demonstrated warmth and interest in dealing with the children. In his last year at Seton Hall, which he attends on a sports scholarship, Arturas hopes to be chosen by a team in the NBA after graduation.

# Let's talk Lithuanian — Kalbėkime lietuviškai!

Dalia Bulvičiūtė-Bulvičius  
LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR

## Put on Your Thinking Cap! — Pagalvokime!

By "popular demand" 3 readers wanted more riddles or mįslių (plural, singular mįslė). Your wish is our command:

1. Kuo daugiau gauna, tuo daugiau nori. Kai viską suėda ir pats numiršta.
2. Per mažą rankovę, visos marios išbėga.
3. Vasarą važinėta, žiemą vėžės žymu.
4. Skrenda skrenda tik niekuomet žemėn nenusileidžia.
5. Šėmas jautis išgeria klanus vandens.
6. Iš vandens gimusi, vandens bijosi.
7. Be akių be galvos, bėgdama priėda.
8. Du kartus gimsta vieną kartą miršta.
9. Šilkų mergos, šilkų kasos, žiemą vasarą basos.
10. Pilkas — ne vilkas, ilgaausis — ne kiškis, su kano-pom — ne arklis.

1. Ugnis krosnyje; 2. Dūmai; 3. Lysvės; 4. Debesys; 5. Šaltis; 6. Druska; 7. Spulė; 8. Paukštis; 9. Žąsys; 10. Asilas.

## *Elgeta ir velnias* *A Begger and the Devil*

Ėjo keliu elgeta ir galvojo: "Koks sunkus mano gyvenimas. Vargas mane spaudžia. Kišenėje beliko vos keli skatikai. Ir juos paskutinius, reikės išleisti... Kaip gerai tiems žmonėms, kurie turi pinigų. Jiems pinigai patys auga. Turi auksiną, šis atveda antrą, tie du — dar du, tiek keturi — dar keturis ir taip turtėja ir turtėja. Kad man tokia laimė nusišypsotų! Kaip būtų gerai, jei mano skatikėliai, kuriuos dabar turiu, padvigubėtų, ir taip toliau ir taip toliau. Būčiau turtingas! Bet kur tau! Niekas nė pats velnias, man nepadedą".

Vos tik elgeta taip pagalvojo, kur buvęs nebuvo, tarsi iš žemės išdygo velnias ir sako:

— Žmogau, nekalbėk niekų. Aš tau padėsiu. Man tai visai nesunku, Ar matai per upelį tą mažą tiltelį?

— Matau, — atsako elgeta, o pats dreba kaip epušės lapas.

— Pereik tą tiltelį, ir tavo pinigai kuriuos turi, padvigubės. Grįši atgal, ir vėl pinigų turėsi dvigubai daugiau, negu turėjai anoj pusėj.

— Et, nenoriu tau patikėti, — sumurmėjo senis.

— Duodu tau garbės žodį, — atšovė velnias. Tačiau privalai išpildyti štai tokią sąlygą: už šį mano patarimą turi kiekvieną kartą, perėjęs tiltą, man užmokėti 24 skatikus. Jeigu to nepadarysi visus pinigus prarasi.

— Na, nedaug aš nustosiu, — pagalvojo elgeta. — Jei man pinigai dvigubės, tai kodėl aš negaliu jam duoti 24 skatikų?"

Ir sutiko patenkinti velnio prašymą.

Perėjo elgeta vieną kartą tilteliu ir suskaitė savo pinigus. Tikrai — pinigų atsirado dvigubai daugiau. Metė velniui 24 skatikus. Dabar senis kuo greičiau šoko bėgti tilteliu ir vėl pinigų padvigubėjo. Atskaitė 24 skatikus metė juos velniui ir perėjo tiltelį trečią kartą. Įsitikino kad pinigų vėl padvigubėjo, tik — nelaimė — turėjo vos 24 skatikus. Juos pagal susitarimą atidavė velniui. Taip senis liko be skatiko.

Ėmė jis aimanuoti ir keikti. O velnias tik piktai nusijuokė ir išnyko

Kiek pinigų turėjo elgeta, prieš susitikdamas velnią ir perėjęs 3 kartus per tiltą? — How much money did the pauper have before he met the the devil and crossed over the bridge 3 times.

Answer: Aštuoniolika skatikų!

## *Let's play cards — Paloškim kortomis!*

Some of you asked us to write about the different card suits in Lithuanian:

Diamonds — Čyrvai, Spades — Pikai, Hearts — Širdys, Clubs — Lapai

Ace — Tuzas, King — Karaliai, Queen — Dama, Jack — Valetas, Ten — Dešimkė, Nine — Devinkė (or Devintė), Eight — Aštunkė, Seven — Septinkė, Six — Šeškė, Five — Penkiukė, Four — Keturiukė, Three — Tryjukė, Two — Dvejukė. And there is also the Joker — Juokdarys

# COUNCIL NEWS

## VYČIU VEIKLA



### C-3, PHILADELPHIA, PA

C-3 gathered for its first Fall meeting on Sept. 12 at St. Casimir's Church. All who had recently been sick looked well and happy to be back. All those who had attended the National Convention were full of K of L spirit and energized to resume activities. Still absent but due to return soon were our Lithuanian travelers Rev. Anderlonis, Victor Stepalovitch and Phil Bomblauskas.

In the absence of our president, Marge Petronis rose to the occasion and conducted a very orderly and productive meeting, covering much business old and new.

Congratulations were extended to Agnes Mickunas on being elected National Recording Secretary; to John Mickunas for his good work as Convention Presidium Co-Chairman; to Lenny Kapochus on his presentation to the National Convention of his Aid to Lithuania Program; and to Agnes Mickunas and Irene Svekla for working on the National Convention Mandate Committee.

As part of his Lithuanian Affairs report, Lenny Kapochus went over the details of his program to raise money for Aid to Lithuania. He asked that all donations be channeled through him for accounting. He also brought to our attention that Nellie Pandza had raised \$750.00 for this fund by writing personal letters to her friends. Len read her letter to us as a way of encouraging us to do the same.

You can see how successful this method is and we congratulate Nellie for her good work. Lenny has offered his help to anyone wishing to write their friends to solicit donations. Just call Len if you need help composing your letter.

The Amber District Meeting was held on Oct. 10 in Easton, PA and quite a few of our members attended. October 16 was the date of the Supreme Council meeting here in Philly at St. George's Church. Our council again prepared lunch for the delegates, provided transportation and offered any other assistance Fr. Anderlonis needed. And with an eye to the future and because the months go by quicker than a wink, the council discussed and voted to hold the annual Kucios at St. George's Church on Dec. 11.

Our members have been participating in all the many events marking the 100th Anniversary of St. Casimir's Church and attended the special Anniversary Mass and Banquet celebrated on Oct. 3. St. Casimir's has been a beacon of the Lithuanian community and an integral part of many of our lives. We wish the parish a Happy Anniversary and another 100 years of devotion and service to its flock!

Because of the fond memories we have of last year's Christmas Party, we have asked John and Agnes Mickunas to once again chair this event planned for Dec. 5. Dianne and Joe Drumstas hosted the social after the meeting and because of the thoughtfulness of Marilyn and Len

Kapochus, we were able to offer a champagne toast to Agnes and wish her a great year as National Recording Secretary.

In closing, we send our congratulations to Worcester for a great convention. We thank you for all you did for the delegates, alternates and guests. Many good things were accomplished and everyone had a good time.

*Irene Svekla*

### C-7, WATERBURY, CT.

C-7 had a great time at the National Convention in Worcester, MA. Those attending were: Frances Balcuinas, Ann Vaichus, Frances Januska, Ann Kundrotas, Alma Torre, Agnes Bauza, Lefty Adams, Petronella and Tony Alexander, Walter Maknis, Tony Pullman, Ann Cheplick, Eleanor Arnauskas, Ed Karvelis, Victor Vaitkus, Fran Stiklius, Victor Maciokas, Arlene and Joe Stiklius. Congratulations to Ann Cheplick for being elected Second VP of the Supreme Council for another term.

At our September meeting, election of officers for 1993-94 were held. Re-elected were: Pres. Joe Stiklius VP Ann Kundrotas, Rec. Sec'y Virginia Kosa, Fin. Sec'y Alma Torre, Treas. Arlene Stiklius, and Spir. Advisor Father Frank Karvelis. The officers were sworn in at our October meeting by Father Karvelis, followed by a pot-luck dinner. Congratulations to all the officers on their reelection.

Following our monthly meetings,



*C-7 members at National Convention.*

the K of L Club has been holding Saturday night socials. Members come together to socialize and play games. Each brings a pot-luck dish. It has become an enjoyable night and a great success!

We had a Pancake Breakfast Sun. Oct. 3. Other plans in the works are a fall dance, a spaghetti dinner, and a few more pancake breakfasts. We hope to have a great year.

*Frances Stiklius*

### **C-10, ATHOL-GARDNER, MA**

K of L-ers Dr. Henry Gailiunas, Bill and Brone Wisniauskas visited Lithuania this summer. Also, the following members had the good fortune to be there during the Pope's visit -- Blanche Genaitis, daughter Lillian Erickson, son Richard, Nellie Melaika and Joanna Chastney. Along with them were Philip Erickson and Frank Melaika. They were all deeply impressed with the ceremonies and the country of their forebears. The only complaint was that the weather did not cooperate!

Margaret Senk, Howie Beaudette and Blanche Genaitis were our council's delegates to the National Convention held in Worcester. It was a well-planned convention and the committee deserves much credit

for an excellent job. The closing Mass was beautiful.

Many Gardner persons attended the 50th Anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Gardner native Rev. John Petrauskas. The Mass and banquet held at Maironis Park were great. Father John is advisor to the Council at St. Casimir's and dearly beloved by all. We wish Father John many more years in the Lord's vineyard.

Local members elected as District officers at the Fall Convention held in So. Boston are 1st VP Howie Beaudette, 2nd VP Bill Wisniauskas, Scholarship Committee Blanche Genaitis. Thanks for the great hospitality.

It is with great sorrow that we report the death of a dear C-10 member. Lennie Davidonis had been a member of C-10 for 48 years, serving in about every office. Through the years he was truly devoted to his parish of St. Francis, his Lithuanian heritage, and the ideals of the K of L -- "For God and Country." The K of L presented him a beautiful ritual, attended the wake and many served as honor bearers at this beautiful funeral. Ilsekis ramybeje, Lennie.

Sophie Sinkevicius Beauregard has just retired from years of service

with Mass. Electric. Enjoy, Sophie! Sophie Fiorentino spent her vacation in Arizona and Valeria Smith three weeks in Kennebunkport, ME. Get well wishes are extended to Howie Beaudette who underwent major surgery recently.

*Vinciukas*

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

This past summer has been quite a busy one for Council 12. On July 16, LITUANICA III flew from Republic Airport in Farmingdale. Jovita Sleder and Helen Yurkus were there to witness this wonderful event.

Saturday July 17 was a special day because of the Commemoration of the Darius and Girenas flight 60 years ago at that same hangar in Floyd Bennett Airport. This gathering of proud Lithuanians was



*C-12, Jovita Sleder and Helen Yurkus watch take-off of LITUANICA III to Lithuania from Farmingdale, NY.*

made possible by the untiring efforts of our own Connie Nehwadowich.

The National Convention in Worcester was a special event for our council because we had three candidates that were honored with the 4th Degree, Ed Burba Cook,



C-12 members: S. Marcinauskas, J. Kscenaitis, E. Senken at Convention.

Vincent Cuperwich, and Anthony Yacavonis. As sick as Anthony was in Mary Immaculate Hospital, that did not deter him from receiving the 4th Degree. Congratulations! It was nice to see Alice Zupko who flew in from Florida for this gala event.

Donna Driscoll returned from Oxford, England after a visit with her daughter who is an exchange student. Welcome back. Millie Pietz and Betty Waskiewicz have moved from their Bronx home of many years to White Plains, NY. Good Luck!

Ed and Irene Senken have moved to their summer home of many years in Shelter Island. Congratulations to the Senkens on the arrival of their 3rd grandchild, Andrew Edward.

Our prayers go to the following for a speedy recovery: Aldona Zaunius, Connie Siatsis, and Julia Gomez.

We wish all the members with birthdays in July, August, September and October A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Irene

### C-26, WORCESTER, MA

Ruth Sarafinas, Rita Pinkus HM, and C-26 members, Aciu! You did us proud! It was certainly a successful 80th event. The convention

began with the flag raising at City Hall and a walk to church. The highlights of the convention began with Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral when Ruth Sarafinas, dressed in her Lithuanian costume, walked down the center aisle of church with a large straw basket (the collection) and presented it to Bishop Harrington. It seemed to express the community of Lithuania.

The pre-convention trip was hosted by Bill and Anne Leseman. Shopping trips were made to the Greendale Mall and Spags, and side trips routed by Chuck Sarafinas. There was a plentiful buffet at the Thursday get-together. A special Lithuanian doll collection was on display at the hotel. Ed Meilus, Jr. led us in a sing-along and the Berzelis Folk Dance Group delighted the audience with their performance of the "Wedding Dance" on Cultural Night. Steve Walinsky, Jr. was M.C. at the Banquet with guest speaker, new Honorary Member the Honorable Stasys Lozoraitis, Ambassador of Lithuania to the USA. The first and second head tables represented many honored Lithuanians and friends of Lithuania, and Al Brazis sang his accolades to all and especially to Fr. Anderlonis.

And of course, there were the business meetings for sharing goals and the accomplishments of the Knights of Lithuania. May it be resolved, our Motto: "Land of our fathers, Lithuania, always in our hearts."

At the 80th Convention Closing Mass held at St. Casimir's Church, 4th Degree Honors were bestowed upon Bill and Anne Leseman and Virginia and Dwight Cummings. Congratulations.

Our sympathy is extended to Bill Leseman on the death of his mother, Mary Crockford, age 96. Also our condolences to Dorothy Virbasius on the death of her mother Topelia Zalauskas, age 88. May they rest in peace.

The NE District Convention held in So. Boston Sept. 19 was well represented with C-26 delegates: Rita Pinkus, Rita Margosian, Annie Bacinkas, Arthur & Marion Racicot, Aldona Waska, Victoria Augustine, Marion Bard, and Mary Duggan.

Tony Miner and Anne Miller of C-116 and Barb Pantos of C-26, representing the Worcester area K of L journeyed to Lithuania in September on the first official K of L excursion since WW II. The Papal Tour and Pilgrimage included many areas of Lithuania and a ten foot Memorial Cross was erected at the Hill of Crosses to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the K of L organization.

The tour began with Mass at St. Casimir's Chapel in Vilnius Cathedral. The Pope arrived and sped by our hotel. We traveled from the cities of Vilnius, Kaunas, Utena, Panevezys, and Siauliai along the countryside with lush green farmlands, churches, cathedrals, and parish churches were newly refurbished in Gothic and Baroque styles with an awesome array of color and beauty in the art, statues, and the icons adorned in silver.

We pilgrims journeyed by bus at 6 AM to view the Papal Mass which was held in a large open field with a rustic wooden altar behind which was the silhouetted Hill of Crosses. The morning light accented the dark shaped crosses surrounded by millions of crosses. The sky darkened many times as we patiently awaited the Pope's arrival by helicopter. Then the sky cleared with the sun on one side of the altar and the moon was in the sky on the other side, and at the same time a rainbow appeared.

We were privileged to celebrate Mass at every chapel in which the Pope held a service -- Siluva Chapel, Hill of Crosses, Vilnius Cathedral, and our ending service was held at the Gate of Dawn.

We journeyed west to the Baltic



*Fran Petkus, Ruth Serafinas and C-26 Flag Bearers in Parade Walk, Opening Ceremony.*

Sea visiting Telsiai, Kretinga, Palanga, and Klaipeda. In all we visited a seminary, a monastery of the Lithuanian Sisters of St. Casimir, two schools, St. James Hospital (the 1st Lith. Catholic Hospital), an Amber Museum, the Ballet, Art Gallery, War Museum, toured the Lithuanian Folk Life Museum in Rumsiskes, and the Trakai Castle on a quiet blue lake.

Vince Boris provided us with historical guide booklets and his brother, Bob, in conjunction with GT International Tours made our trip a memorable journey of our Lithuanian Catholic heritage.

*Barbara Pantos*

#### **C-74, SCRANTON, PA**

We are extremely happy to hear the Russian Army withdrew its last soldier from Lithuania, a dream of all Lithuanians.

Our Holy Father's visit to Lithuania to heal the souls of all Lithuanians who are now free and can practice their Catholic Faith was another plus for Lithuania.

Although we didn't have any summer meetings, our council was extremely active. We had a good turn out at St. Ann's Monastery for

the Stations of the Cross and Benediction. Under the direction of Father Clement Kasinskas of the Passionist Fathers. Members of C-74, Scranton, and C-143, Pittston carried gifts. Helen Moran and Prof. Alfonse Bulavich led the singing. Marie Laske was coordinator.

Our Fund Raisers were successful. "Immigrants All" at Anthracite Heritage Museum, we sold potato pancakes. Our cooks were Richard Laske, Ed and Peg Romanauskas, Jean Kavelines and Pres. John Ramoska. Our booth was the busiest as everyone loves good Lithuanian pancakes. "Community Day" at the Bon Ton Store brought us a huge profit also.

Our dear member Helen Gilisevitch Troupe died Thursday, Sept. 16, 1993. She was a relatively new member. She was our Lithuanian Affairs chairperson. She will be missed by all.

Our new slate of officers is: Pres., Marie Laske; V. Pres. Rose Stanches; R. Secy, Mary Costello; F. Secy, Martha Brack; Treas., Edward Romanauskas; Lith. Aff., Helen Cravath; Cult., Lee Bozenko; Ritual, Peg Romanauskas; Trustees, Leo Zewicki, Jerome Costello, John

Ramoska; Sgt-at-Arms, Ann Huffstutler; PR, Della Zvirblis; VYTIS Corres., Marie Laske; Spir. Adv., Msgr. Peter Madus.

C-143, Pittston, C-74, Scranton, and C-46, Forest City attended the 14th Annual Lithuanian Rosary at St. Peter's Cathedral. Msgr. Michael Ozalas, Pastor Emeritus of St. Joseph's Church was principal speaker and celebrant, assisted by Father Savukynas. Edward Romanauskas gave the scriptural readings. Mrs. Nellie Romanas gave the meditations for the rosary and Helen Cravath served as Master of Ceremonies. Sister Elizabeth Zemaitis was organist.

The Diocesan Pilgrim Statue was crowned by Elizabeth Georgia and Alicia Foley carried the crown. Alexandra and Autumn Laske and Rachel Georgia led the coronation procession. Marie Laske was coordinator.

*Marie Laske*

#### **C-79, SOUTHFIELD, MI**

Our representatives on the trip to Lithuania last month were Bill and Margaret Dapkus, Charles and Helen Mykolaitis, and Joe Panavas. Despite inclement weather discomfort, all agreed it was worthwhile, especially the event with Pope John Paul II.

The annual MCD Pilgrimage in Cleveland, OH, hosted by C-25, drew these members: Pres. Maggie Smailis, Mary Ann Newberry, Mary Keller, Joe and Violet Panavas, and Bertha Janus. It was a very enjoyable weekend. The meeting Saturday morning was well-run, amicable, and all planned business was transacted. National Pres. Fran Petkus attended and told us about Supreme Council activities pertaining to our District.

We especially enjoyed the performance Saturday evening of the "Singing Angels," a group of 94 area youngsters. They earned our standing ovation. The group sang last August at the World Youth

Congress in Denver and greatly impressed the Pope. We congratulate the committee in charge of procuring this entertainment for the MCD meeting.

Our annual Luncheon and Card Party with the Women's Alliance Chapter held Sept. 22 went well and we look hopefully toward another success Fall Festival Nov. 14. "HAPPY THANKSGIVING."  
*Bee Jay*

### C-96, DAYTON, OH

As the fall leaves change with bright colors, it reminds us of our ever changing commitment to promote our Lithuanian heritage. The K of L continues to devote time and energy to the motherland as does the Dayton council.

The Lithuanian wooden cross drawing, sponsored in conjunction with George Mikalauskas of C-96, the Lithuanian Social Club of Dayton, and the Lithuanian Anglers of Dayton, was a great success. A monumental amount of \$1,400 was raised for the Catholic Sisters in Kretinga, Lithuania. The proud winners are:

1. Frank Petrauskas, Syracuse, NY
  2. Barbara Brigdner, Dayton, OH
  3. Veronica Omler, Dayton, OH.
- Thanks to all who assisted in the raffle. The money was presented personally by George Mikalauskas during the K of L pilgrimage to Lithuania this September.

Six representatives from Dayton participated in the fabulous trip to Lithuania this past September. The troupe included Frances Petkus, Robert Pant, Elena Mikalauskas, Frances Mikalauskas, George Mikalauskas and Robert Richards, as well as Venice Grantham, our member in Texas and guests Charles and Lenore Mikalauskas of California. Hundreds of stories have been shared by the tourists recalling the most emotional times of the trip. Of special memory is the Mass with our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. The day of celebration was remembered as a

cold, rainy day. Attendees arose early in the morning to make the long journey towards the Mass area. It was so cold, members needed to use the blankets from the hotel to keep warm. At the beginning of the celebration, with the Holy Father beginning Mass, the sun began to shine and a rainbow appeared.

Continuing with the religious devotion, our council held the annual cemetery visits in September. Each year, C-96 attends 8:30 AM Mass at Holy Cross to remember living and deceased members of the council. Immediately following, we went to Calvery Cemetary and visited the graves of our dearly departed. We were then nourished with donuts, meats, cheeses, and breads prepared by Elena, Frances and George Mikalauskas.

Look for the Lithuanian cookbook being prepared by member Judy Sluzas -- just in time for gift giving. The book will be ready for the holidays.

Please keep these members in your prayers: Jimmy Kavalauskas, Karl Keival, and Ada Sinkwitz. Congratulations are extended to members Helen and Karl Keival as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

*MaryAgnes Mikalauskas*

### C-102, DETROIT, MI

In June, Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius, along with Romaldas Ozolas, Aloyzas Sakalas, and Saulius Saltenis, met with 300 American Lithuanians at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield, MI. The conference was to introduce the American Lithuanian Community to the new Lithuanian Government. The two day conference ended Sunday with Fr. Krisciunevicius saying Mass at Divine Providence.

Our delegates to the National Convention were Frank and Donna Bunikis. They gave a report on the

Convention at our August meeting held at the home of Eve and Joe Stark. Enjoying the meeting and corn and hot dog roast were Frank and Donna's two granddaughters who were visiting with them from California. Two new members were also introduced at the meeting -- Lou Bogard and Vince (Bill) Zager. Another new member C-102 acquired during the Bowling Tournament was Jim Shovelty. Welcome to all. Ona Sadeikas and Merri Hofner brought the dessert to finish off the roast.



C-102: John Stanevich and Joe Stark, Music Makers, with Ona Sedeikas at her Garden Party.

In July, Ona Sedeikas entertained at a Garden Party at her beautiful home, for the regular volunteers at "Aid to Lithuania." Music at the party was provided by President Joe Stark and VP John Stanevich.

Terry and Ray Medonis visited their son and family in New York, and John and Donna Stanevich visited their son and family also in Buffalo, NY. Joe and Maryanne Guerriero enjoyed a short visit with their sister-in-law, Isabel Peterson from C-50, New Haven, CT. Maryanne Guerriero was too busy working on the committee for her 50th Graduating Class Reunion from Chadsey High School, that their traveling was local.

Our next meeting will be at Fr. Stan's summer home on Harsen Island, and we are all anxiously waiting to hear about the Lithuanian trip from Helen Smolek, Ona



C-102: Regina Juska and Onita Selinas, readying the speakers' Podium for the MCD Convention in May.

Selinas, Regina Juska, and Bob Boris. More on this next issue.

*Meriute*

#### C-110, MASPETH, NY

Maspeth C-110's first Fall meeting brought out great summer vacation stories as well as plans for the coming year. Members Helen Matulonis and Ann Morrissey had joined other K of L'ers to see the Holy Father in Lithuania. They also saw first hand the orphanages where we sent all those "we care" packages. My own parents, Mirga and Ed Bablin of C-100 discovered many relatives on their first trip to Lithuania and have made the quest to discover Lithuanian roots more accessible. More of us should plan on pilgrimage trips to Lithuania.

Our meeting consisted of last minute plans for the bus trip to Amsterdam Sept. 26. Our Council President, Bruno Rutkunas, had ordered two busses and invited other councils on the trip, which only cost \$22 for the fare and the meal. It is this writer's contention that our councils should get together and work on more events to get other Lithuanians involved. After all, membership has been dwindling over the past year and we need to keep the group events interesting to all.

The Fall Halloween Dinner Dance was held Sunday, Oct. 31 following the 11:15 AM Lithuanian Mass.

The most interesting summer event for me was the K of L National Convention held in Worcester. There were lots of new Lithuanians to meet including the new Honorary Member Stasys Lozoraitis, Lithuanian Ambassador to the US, who shared some of my own views on Lithuania's transition to a free market economy. The Convention broadened my own perception of the K of L and allowed me to hear how other councils keep Lithuanian affairs alive, look for new members, and share in their ethnic pride. More of us should look forward to next summer's meeting in Chicago. It was well worth the time away from business, and brought forth a wealth of ideas, new friendships and projects for the future.

*Maryte Abbott*

#### C-112, CHICAGO, IL

Council activities resumed with the start of the September meeting. Many events transpired during the summer and there was happy news and sad news to share.

First, the happy: Alexander Anthony Deksnis, weighing a hefty 8 lbs. 4 oz. made his entrance on July 20. Proud parents are Maria and Ed., sister Andrea, and grandmother, Julie Zakarka. Congratulations to a lovely family.

Then the sad. All our lives were touched by Prudencija Jokubauskas and Eleanore Laurin. These two wonderful women passed away this summer and they will be missed immeasurably.

Prudy's wonderful voice will always be remembered, as will be her performances with the Lyric Opera and the Lithuanian Opera. We will always be grateful to her for giving the K of L Choir a boost by being a soloist at their very first concert in 1961. A wonderful, warm, funny, generous lady with so many friends, as evidenced by all who



*Prucencija Bickus Jokubauskas, RIP*

attended her final services. We loved her, may she rest in Peace.

Eleanore was one of the most active, supportive K of L-ers there ever was. Thirty years ago, when I joined the K of L, Eleanore was in her prime and always the center of all activities, be it conventions, District meetings, picnics, bowling parties, or holding office on the Supreme Council and the District. Eleanore became an Honorary Member some years ago. Her death has created a void in our lives that will not soon be filled and her presence will be missed. (See Eleanore's obituary elsewhere in this issue.)

We were also saddened to learn of the passing of Julia Sacauskas and Stanley Yurkus. Our Condolences to their families.

Matt Vilutis underwent triple bypass heart surgery in August. We are happy to learn that he is doing fine. Can't keep a good K of L man down!

After a brief meeting, we went on to the business of electing new officers for the coming year. The membership elected the following officers: Vida Sakevicius, President; Al Mockus, 1st Vice-President; Ellie Kasputis, 2nd Vice-



President; Denise Zakarka, 3rd Vice-President; Theresa Vaitkus, Recording Secretary; Peter Jasaitis, Treasurer; Jolita Balzakaite, Financial Secretary, Dolores Wainauskas, Corresponding Secretary; Lorraine Svelnis and Philomena Vilutis, Trustees, and Ed Deksnis, Carl Beinoras, Ed Pocius, Matt Vilutis, Peter Juzenas, and Don Petkus, Sgts. at Arms.

The following were appointed committee chairs: Rita Zakarka, Lith. Affairs/Aid to Lithuania; Leonas Narbutis, Lith. Culture; Mary Ann Gercius, Ritual; Apolinaras Bagdonas, Lith. Publicity; Aldona Brazis, English Publicity; Gerrie Chaplin, VYTIS Corresp.; Estelle Rogers, Courtesy/Photographer; Grozvyda Giedraitis, Social. We are fortunate to have Fr. Zakarauskas back with us again as Spiritual Advisor. After the meeting, we enjoyed the refreshments which were prepared by the outgoing board members, although a number of them have stayed on for another term. Thank you all. Everything was wonderful.

After the convention festivities were over, our newest Honorary Member, Algerd Brazis, was honored by a gathering of K of L members, friends, and family at the home of Lorraine Svelnis. Lorraine and her sister Dolores, have got to be the "hostesses with mostesses" because they once again outdid themselves with their hospitality and tremendous assortment of food and refreshments. Al got a kick out the "Ode" that was prepared to honor him and read by Al Mockus to the wild cheers of the audience. Afterwards, everyone made a little speech, kind of a "This is Your Life" thing and recalled events from years ago. It was a fun evening and we all are proud of our newest "Honorary."

A few convention highlights. We applaud Denise Zakarka who was awarded the \$2,000 K of L Foundation Scholarship. Once again a top winner, Ellie Kasputis, brought C-112 top honors in membership and



*C-141 representatives at 80th Convention Banquet.*

she, as well, was awarded top honors for recruiting the most new members. We're sure proud of her.  
*Gerrie*

#### **C-136, HUDSON-MOHAWK, NY**

Summer is gone and the cool, crisp days of Autumn are upon us. Summer was a busy time. Some of us enjoyed the annual trip to Putnam, CT and had a nice day.

The Convention, as reported by our President, Ed Barkowski, went off quite well. The sad news was that Bernice Aviza, President of the Mid-Atlantic District, received news of the sudden passing of her sister, Frances Marie and had to cut short her attendance at the Convention. We extend our deepest sympathy to Bernice and her family and also to Stella White, who lost her husband this summer.

Our annual joint picnic with Amsterdam C-100 was well attended. The day was perfectly gorgeous, the food expertly prepared by members, was thoroughly enjoyed and the games of cards and Bocci were some forms of relaxation we enjoyed. Our annual Kennebunkport trip was successful. The weather cooperated and everyone attending reported that a great time was had by all.

Our first meeting began with a decade of the Rosary led by Betty Parker, recited for the intention of the health of Rev. Bernard Gustas who recently had surgery. Silent prayers were also offered for our departed members and relatives and for the health of those members on the get-well list. We attended the Mid-Atlantic District meeting hosted by Amsterdam, C-100 on Sept. 26. The meeting was preceded by Mass at noon followed by lunch.

*Dorothy Richmire*

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

Teresa Trainis, founder of K of C-141, entered into Eternity Sept. 20, 1993. During the afternoon visiting period many Knights were present, including NED representatives: Bertha Stoskus of Providence, NED President; Alex Akule and Larry Svelnis of Boston; Ruth Krecioch, Bea and Victor Mathieu of Providence. Our religious coordinator Helen Janiunas suggested the gift of a Rosary for Terry and led the first decade. Bertha Stoskus followed, also Aldona Marcavage, Jean Burnett, and Victor Mathieu. In the evening, the Christian Wake Ritual

was recited by Msgr. Prancus, officers and members of C-141. Teresa Trainis was the first C-141 President in 1974 and later was its treasurer. She was National K of L Financial Secretary, and was either an officer or active member of a great many social organizations. She was a tireless worker for worthy causes. During her lifetime, Terry contributed many bricks for her Eternal Home. May the Gates of Paradise be opened for her, and may she rest in peace.

*Aldona Marcavage*



*C-141: Clemencine & Victor Miller dancing at their 50th Wedding Anniversary Garden Party, given by their children and grandchildren. Joe Thomas provided music.*

#### **C-142, WASHINGTON, DC**

On Sept. 9, our Council lost Joseph Laucka, a member of international stature, known and admired for his unceasing labors on behalf of Church and State. He died at 83 from congestive heart failure.

Joe's long and productive life was defined, apart from love of his family, by his devotion to the Catholic Church and Lithuania. In both of these spheres, he achieved the pinnacle of success, being appointed a Knight of St. Sylvester by Pope John Paul II, and bestowed

the highest rank of Honorary Member in the Knights of Lithuania. He exemplified the best in our Lithuanian American culture, truly a Knight to remember, conferring honor to the national organization of the Knights of Lithuania and to our own council, in which, even at his advanced age, he participated creatively.

The council sends its sincerest condolences to his wife, Isabel, and to his daughters Frances and Isabel. You may be certain that all of us loved and esteemed this great man. Amzina Atilsi duok jam, Viespatie.

Council members Pres. Julia Burlen, John Waylonis (with his brother Fritz from PA), Mary Cosgrove and Joan Jordano participated in the recent historic visit of Pope John Paul II to Lithuania as he bestowed his blessings on a land newly-liberated from the stifling despotism of the Soviet Union. The Pope visited various shrines and churches throughout the country for four days, much of it in pouring rain. The inclement weather, however, did not dampen the enthusiasm of those attending, who numbered, according to official estimates, over 300,000, many from other lands.

President Burlen continued the council's tradition of remembering the souls of departed council members during the month of September with an annual mass at the Lithuanian Mission in Washington. This time, Julia took advantage of the trip to arrange commemorative masses at the Shrine of Ausros Vartai (Morning Star) in Vilnius, Christ the King Cathedral at Panevezys, and at the Shrine of Our Lady of Siluva.

Council members, as did others, broke away from their tours to visit relatives and friends in various towns where they were greeted with heartfelt warmth and good food not always available in commercial establishments. Overall, council members found the entire pilgrimage a most memorable one, despite

minor inconveniences and wet skies. Julia found especially worth noting the sight of the President of Lithuania, and ex-Communist, greeting the Pope, a dramatic symbol of the historic changes that have trans-formed eastern Europe.

Vincent Boris, K of L Lith. Affairs Chairman, is a frequent and welcome participant in the council's activities. Vince prepared for those in the K of L Excursion, a booklet which provided a brief summary of the history of the different sites on their tour. Vince also translated the Lithuanian responses and hymns into English and, with his fine voice, led the singing at the Papal ceremonies.

John Waylonis, one of the council's most active members, responded with more than his customary zeal last December in assembling clothing and other needed items from council members and other sources for shipment to Lithuania. He personally transported more than 50 large crates in a rented vehicle to the Baltimore collection point. More recently, he assembled and transported over 15 additional crates. Other council members have also responded personally to the Baltimore appeal for helping the Lithuanian people in their time of distress but nowhere near the magnitude John has. Here is true Knightly work, meriting our recognition.

*Albert Cizauskas*

#### **C-146, HARRISBURG, PA**

C-146 celebrated its 15th Anniversary in the Knights of Lithuania. The sunny Sunday morning began with a Mass at St. Marys Church celebrated by Father John Smith. The turnout almost filled the beautiful little church in Wrightsville, PA. From there, the Knights drove to the Road House restaurant a few miles away in York, PA, where we all had an excellent luncheon. After a brief meeting, much socializing and reminiscing ended a beautiful day. A successful reunion was enjoyed by everyone.



C-146, Harrisburg members attending the council's 15th Anniversary.

Several of our members had the good fortune of visiting their relatives in Lithuania. Jean Hallam and her sister Eileen Hofstetter spent a week in Vilnius. Unfortunately, their stay was shortened when Jean became ill. They soon realized that Lithuania is not the ideal place for a foreigner to get sick. Since then, Jean has recovered emotionally and physically.

Gene Rusatsky and his wife Eleanor visited their cousins in Kaunas and spent much of their time touring Vilnius, Trakai, Rumsiskis, Siauliai, the Hill of Crosses, Rokiskes, Palanga, Klaipeda, plus many other sites. Their trip was ended with an eight hour excursion aboard a hover craft from Kaunas to Nida on the Nemunas River. The entire boat trip cost them \$5.00 each!

Eduardas Zemaitis

#### C-147, ST. PETERSBURG, FL

Our members have been traveling this past summer, with many loving memories. Many have visited their



C-147 delegates to National Convention, Aug. 1993. l to r: Frank Stann, Bertha Stann, John Jonaitis, Dolores Jonaitis, Aldona Kirstukas.

homeland Lithuania, and elsewhere. Returning from Lithuania were Angele Shukiene, Petre Kasperaviciute, Veronika Pleskiene, Dr. Aldona Valis and Antanas Gudonis. Aldona Kirstuk attended the K of L Pilgrimage to Lithuania, Genovaite Bakas visited her daughter in Ohio. Maria Gelaziene and Victoria Kleiviene were in Chicago for three weeks. John and Dolores Jonaitis have returned from Connecticut and Frank and Bertha Stann from Massachusetts and Maryland. Sept. 5 and 8, at the "Tautos Sventes Minejimas" at Holy Name Church and the Lithuanian American Club, Antanas Grabauskas, Ona Semoleviciene and Petre Kasperaviciute represented C-147, St. Petersburg, FL.

Dolores Jonaitis

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**K OF L CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Nov. 7, 1993 - MAMD Memorial Mass for Deceased Members. Immaculate Conception Church, Chicago. C-36 Hosts
- Nov. 8, 1993 - C-144 Concert featuring SODAUTO of Boston. Annunciation BVM Hall, Frackville, PA, 1:00 PM
- Dec. 4, 1993 - C-36 "Candlelight Buffet" (Dinner Dance). Immaculate Conception Hall, Chicago, IL.
- Dec. 4, 1993 - MAMD Meeting, Marian Fathers Monastery, 4545 W. 63rd St., Chicago, IL
- Dec. 11, 1993 - C-3 "Kucios", St. George Hall, Philadelphia, PA
- Dec. 19, 1993 - C-143 "Kucios", Pittston, PA
- Dec. 20, 1993 - C-36 Traditional "Kucios", Immaculate Conception Hall, Chicago, IL. Members and guests welcome.
- Feb. 6, 1994 - MAMD "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet, Martinique Restaurant, Chicago, IL
- Mar. 13, 1994 - AMD St. Casimir's Day Celebration, Pittston, PA
- Mar. 13, 1994 - MAD St. Casimir's Day Celebration and Convention, Albany, NY. C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, Hosts.
- Mar. 19, 1994 - Supreme Council Meeting, Detroit, MI
- May 20-22, 1994 - MCD Spring Meeting and Bowling Tournament, Pittsburgh. C-19, Pittsburgh, Hosts.
- Jun. 4, 1994 - Supreme Council Meeting, Chicago, IL
- Jun. 17-20, 1994 - AMD Meeting and Pilgrimage, Kennebunkport, ME
- Aug. 4-7, 1994 - K of L 81st National Convention, Chicago, IL. C-16, Chicago, Hosts.
- Sept. 11-14, 1994 - C-136 Annual Pilgrimage to Kennebunkport, ME



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