

Volume 81: No. 8
September / October 1995



VYTIS

Knights of Lithuania

82nd National Convention Issue

RUGSĖJIS / SEPTEMBER

IN LITHUANIA, THE FIELDS ARE PREPARED AND THE RYE SEEDS ARE SEWN, "RUGIAI". SUMMERS ARE SHORT, RYE GERMINATES & SPROUTS BEFORE THE FIRST FROST.

SPALIS / OCTOBER

PROCESSING OF FLAX, FROM WHICH LINEN IS MADE, IS ACCOMPLISHED DURING THIS MONTH IN LITHUANIA. "SPALIAI", SHIVES ARE THE CRUMBLED PARTICLES OF FLAX STEMS ONCE USED FOR INSULATION OF HOMES.

VYTIS

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SUPREME COUNCIL
OFFICERS
1995-1996



Rugsėjis-Spalis / September-October 1995 Volume 81: No. 8

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VYTIS (663680) is published monthly November through June, bi-monthly July-August and September-October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, a Not for Profit organization. Subscription is \$20.00 per year. Single copy \$3.00. Outside USA \$25.00 per year. Second Class Postage paid at Chicago, IL. **Postmaster:** Send returns and corrections to: **Business Manager VYTIS the Knight, P.O. Box 60453, Chicago, IL 60660-0453**

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Mūsų Kilmę - Dievo Dovana
Our Heritage - A Gift From
God (82nd National
Convention theme) Logo
(right) and jousta design (back
cover) by Vince Boris and
Irene Vizgirda of C-102



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Detroit '95 Convention Committee

FROM YOUR EDITOR

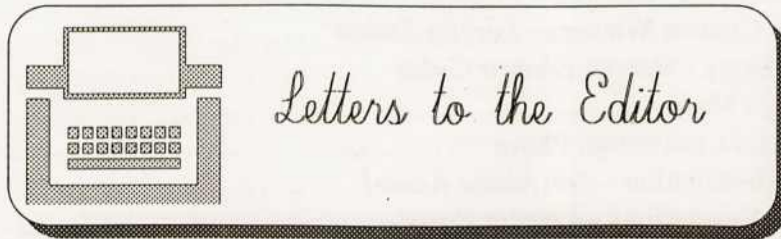
You had to be there to soak in the convention experience of Detroit '95 - but just in case you weren't, here's our 82nd National Convention Issue as the next best thing.

For me, it was the "trip of a lifetime". My mother, father and I made the 11 hour auto trip from my hometown in Amsterdam, NY to the motor city just as we had done many years ago to visit our relatives. The difference this time was that I got to spend

time with Mom and Dad alone, without my other seven siblings - an only child for a week.

Thanks to HM Bob Boris, Tim Baibek, Regina Juska, Irene Vizgirda and the convention committee for making Detroit '95 an extraordinary event. It included a myriad of family reunions as well as the St. Anthony's School reunion which began at Saturday's banquet night where the crowd swelled to almost 400, and concluded with the closing Mass celebrated by His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit, at St. Anthony's and dinner following.

Many of us had a great time making new friends and finding our Detroit relations in the many historic displays beautifully created by Algirdas Vaitiekaitis. I had the honor of visiting with Simonis and Miskinis cousins, one I hadn't seen in over 30 years. It is to their parents memory and the memory of all of our Detroit Knights of Lithuania extended family, that this publication is dedicated. As the convention motto so aptly said: "Mūsų Kilmė Dievo Dovana". Our heritage is truly a gift from God.



To the editor, Ms. Banos and the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Committee:

I want to thank the Knights of Lithuania for their generous scholarship of \$1,500. I was extremely excited and relieved to hear of this good news.

This scholarship will be of tremendous help to me during this, my final year of college in helping to defray some of the loans and other costs which are a burden on any student.

Throughout this school year I plan to continue learning about my Lithuanian heritage and participating with the Knights of Lithuania. Hopefully upon my graduation I will be able to fully give of my services to Lithuanians both here and in Lithuania. Without your help I don't think I would have the opportunity to do this as easily. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Vazquez, C-141, Bridgeport, CT (Alice Karklus Memorial Scholarship recipient)

Knights of Lithuania National President's Meetings in Lithuania

by Evelyn Oželis

During October 1994, I attended the Lithuanian American Congress. Dr. Bobelis, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, created a commission comprised of Lithuanians abroad and members of the Lithuanian Parliament for the purpose of informing Lithuania's emigrants. (See: Joint Seimas - Emigrant Community Commission Formed, © 1995, V. Boris/Vytis Jul. Aug. 1995)

In January 1995, I received a letter of invitation from Dr. Bobelis, inviting the Knights of Lithuania to be a member of this joint commission.

The commission has been formed to coordinate and inform humanitarian, scholarly and cultural activities, to recommend changes in obtaining dual citizenship and other information. After volumes of correspondence to the Supreme Council, it was their decision on March 25 to send me as the Knights of Lithuania representative.

Finalization was made to depart from Chicago on Friday, May 26 through June 6.

I arrived in Vilnius on Saturday, May 27 and immediately had to speak and think in Lithuanian, since all conversations would be conducted only in Lithuanian.

A formal invitation had been issued to attend a reception with the "Seimo Pirminikas", Speaker of the House, C. Jursenas, at the Hotel Draugyste where we were staying as guests of the Republic of Lithuania. We were then individually introduced with a brief resume of our organization's background. Mr. Jursenas greeted us and thanked us for coming. There were representatives of Bendroumene from the U.S., Canada, Australia, Germany, South America (Lith. World Youth



President Oželis addresses Convention.

Pres.), Moscow, Siberia and two Altas representatives from Cleveland and Washington, DC.

Monday, May 29, we were chauffeured to the Parliament for meetings that began at 10 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m. with a break for lunch.

We exchanged greetings with members from the Parliament, and as we were to divide into groups, there was an upheaval. The president of Bendroumene cited irregularities on this commission. Finally, World Community and US Bendroumene met in agreement with Seimas representatives. Two groups were formed; one for dual citizenship and another for humanitarian, political, scholarly and cultural. The latter was my committee. After lunch, we met with a briefing on this commission which was expected to be ratified during the afternoon. Instead, it went into committee and was detained. We were then informed our commission would not be working for awhile, but we could offer advice and ask questions on various issues of citizenship and could not vote.

Mrs. Danute of the Lithuania Immigration was a thorough individual who did not bend with the wind until much clarification. Dr. Valdas Petrauskas, an MD who favors working in Parliament because "it pays more than medicine" was not in favor of dual citizenship. At times the discussions became as heated as the temperature (90 degrees with no AC or even fans). I recorded six cassettes of conversations. They are much like our congressmen and senators, but with less finesse.

I came prepared with history books and VYTIS copies. I left the copies with Prof. Landsbergis along with my official K of L business card. I gave a copy of our history book to Mr.



Members of the joint commission with Lithuanian President A. Brazauskas in Lithuania. Knights of Lithuania President, Evelyn Ozelis seated at right.

Markauskas of the Seimas. He was the representative on the citizenship commission. Another copy was given to Victor Petkus, a political dissident, who was an observer with us.

While taking a ten minute break on Wednesday afternoon, I spoke with Mr. Beliauskas, former President of World Community. He knows the K of L very well, but kept insisting we are only a Catholic organization. I spent the next half hour giving him an understanding of the Knights, what we have done and what we can do.

On Wednesday, May 31, we were invited to attend a formal reception at 7 p.m. at the request of the Prime Minister, A. Slezevicius. Once again, we were introduced with a brief resume of our organization. It was very informative and we did ask many questions about the borders of Lithuania. Belorussia joined forces with Russia and at these borders comes contraband - and many unanswered questions.

The commission on dual citizenship was finalized during the following morning's session. After lunch, our commission was called to attend the Seimas, for it was going to be presented for ratification. Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis was against ratifying our commission because he claimed it was done last year with Bendroumene. With that, Dr. Bobelis said that Bendroumene did not represent all Lithuanians. And then he introduced me to the Parliament. We were ratified with a 66 to 11 vote.

Friday's schedule included a meeting with the President at 11 am for a briefing on the recommendations presented on dual citizenship. He

said all Lithuanians should have citizenship, but documents had to be turned over to the legal dept. for clarification and constitutionality. If all went well, it would be sent to the Parliament Sept. 5.

We received engraved individual invitations from Pres. Brazauskas to luncheon with him at the Draugyste Hotel. It was very elegant, while everyone extended their greetings. I chose to be the last speaker, since I did not want him to forget the K of L. These appearances were televised. The K of L was mentioned in two newspapers. During the second week, I was interviewed by Europos Lietuvi, giving a full report on our history and activities.

My first Sunday Mass was a two hour high mass at the Cathedral of Vilnius. People stand to receive the Eucharist given by only priests or deacons. They are coming into this century.

Ventured to Klaipeda to visit relatives who live in a compact but clean apartment building. The hallways and elevators, however, are similar to our housing authorities' - dirt and druggies laying around.

Spent a few rainy days in Klaipeda. Went to the botanical gardens in Kretinga, part of the estate of the Amber Museum. Attended Mass at St. Anthony's in Kretinga. The Franciscans regained most of their land and hope to be able to use it for the good of the people. The church was packed with people of all ages.

Visited relatives on the farm in Silute. At 75 yrs. old, they still farm a small bit of land to

(☞ please turn to page 19)

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 82nd NATIONAL CONVENTION
STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION REPORT
 presented by **EVELYN OŽELIS, NATIONAL PRESIDENT**
AUGUST 10, 1995

In accordance with ARTICLE XI, SECTION 2 of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution, the National Executive Boards Annual Report, wherein, all reports have been submitted and combined before the National Convention. It is important to note that this is but a summary of the work done by your Executive Board. The officers have provided reports of their activities. You are urged to take home a set of these reports, read them thoroughly and share the contents with your council members.

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Rev. Dr. Joseph J. Anderlonis, S.T.D. has attended all Supreme Council meetings, except the Detroit meeting in June because he was in Lithuania. He has continued to offer a monthly Mass for the deceased members of the Knights of Lithuania, whose names are submitted to him periodically. Father has provided advise and counsel to K of L members, and especially the Supreme Council members. Father has hosted the Supreme Council meeting in October with the able assistance of Council 3-Philadelphia. He continues to be our best friend.

PRESIDENT

Evelyn Ozelis, organized four meetings and presided over three. Meetings were held in Philadelphia, Worcester, and two in Detroit. The host councils for these meetings were most gracious, and very accomodating. There has been much correspondence from various organizations, and Knights of Lithuania members. I acknowledged all of them. I appointed a Business Manager for VYTIS and a new editor for VYTIS. Services of a travel agency were established to centralize billing for the Treasurer. Introduced the LYNX Management for the investment of Supreme Council Funds with Smith Barney for a better return on our monies. I was honored to greet Father Anderlonis on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of the

priesthood. I attended and greeted the conference of United Lithuania Relief Fund, Lithuanian American Congress, February 16 Independence Day, Lithuania Chamber of Commerce, Honoree Frank Zapolis, MAMD Honoree Dr. Leonard J. Simutis, Written Greeting to President A. Brazauskas of the Republic of Lithuania. While attending meetings in Vilnius, Lithuania, I was introduced to the Parliament. The convention committee this year has sent copies of the minutes of their meetings. I am grateful to the 1st V.P., Mr. Tom Bruzga, for conducting the June meeting while I was in Lithuania. I have remained active in my council and district. There was much contact with all the Supreme Council members for various reasons. In addition, close communication has been kept with DRAUGAS personnel: from the Business Manager, Chief Editor, photographer to the mailing staff. The VYTIS editor, Maryte Abbott and the business manager, Richard Niedvares, have communicated at least once or twice a week with the me. As an active member of the Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Parish in Chicago, I was one of the coordinators of the 85th Anniversary & Concert Celebration.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Bruzga missed only one meeting this term. He conducted the meeting in June at Detroit. Tom had made the final arrangements for the panels at this convention. He has been an able assistant to the president. Tom is active with his council and district. He has kept contact with other members of the Supreme Council on matters relevant to the business of the Knights of Lithuania.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Robert A. Martin, Jr. attended all Supreme Council meetings. As membership chairman, he has been working diligently to promote membership to the Knights of Lithuania. His "WELCOME"

packet to new members is the envy of others. During this time, Rob has completed a very informative pamphlet with the cooperation of various chairs. He has also been instrumental in organizing a committee to complete an informative manual specifically for convention hosting councils. At this time, there is a possibility of organizing three more councils. Rob has been very active with his council's district and also is involved with the MAMD Knights of Lithuania Choir. Rob has been a Supreme Council board member for five years and has truly proven himself.

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

HM Frances Petkus is a very capable lady and has proven to us how well she has worked with the Juniors. She did not hesitate to contact the Junior councils and encourage them to participate in projects of various kinds. i.e. adopting the elderly, shut-ins, children in Lithuania and also to participate in their local council activities. Her way of grooming them to be future leaders of the Knights of Lithuania. Fran wrote articles for the VYTIS just for her Juniors. She has kept close contact with her council and district and is actively involved. She attended all Supreme Council meetings for this term.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Agnes Mickunas attended all the Supreme Council meetings. She exercised her duties as Secretary most efficiently. Not only did she record and mail all the minutes of each Supreme Council meeting, but also found time to make arrangements for accommodations for our meeting in Philadelphia. Agnes has been the president's right and left hands. She prepared letters of greetings to the many organizations to our 82nd National Convention. Whenever Agnes was called upon to audit other Supreme Council members in their request for mailing labels and Council Rosters, she willingly obliged. She did not hesitate to be straight forward with answers to questions. Agnes has served her position as National Secretary and advocate for the Knights of Lithuania extremely well.

TREASURER

Edward Barkowski did attend all the Supreme Council meetings. Ed is to be commended on his

patience and understanding to be able to fulfill his job. A few changes were made but Ed met every challenge. He has prepared a budget for the year 1996-1996 plus a complete report of our financial standing. Ed will present them at this convention. He has served untirely for three years. Ed was a most cooperative member of the Supreme Council.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Rita S. Sussko participated at all Supreme Council meetings this past year. She kept all lines open for communication. In addition, Rita did her job meticulously and efficiently. All changes, all letters to various districts and councils were handled immediately. Rita has served three untiring years as our Financial Secretary so that our records would be in order; truly a dedicated lady.

TRUSTEES

John P. Baltrus and Peter P. Zansitis attended all of the Supreme Council meetings. They have fulfilled their duties in scrutinizing the financial books of the various committees within the Supreme Council. John wrote to all District presidents requesting bids for the 1996 National Convention. He updated the Supreme Council's list of equipment. He made many recommendations for the correct procedure in requesting new equipment for Supreme Council members. John suggested and revised a balanced budget for 1995-1996. Peter has worked on the additions and revisions of the K of L Manual. The manual will be distributed to the Supreme Council members and council presidents at this convention. Both trustees have done a tremendous job and are to be commended. Peter has served for three years as trustee; John has served two years.

AMBER DISTRICT

Elsie Kosmisky, District President, attended all Supreme Council meetings. Her district has been active in Lithuanian Affairs activities such as Flag raising on February 16, St. Casimir Mass, and participating at the Lithuanian American Rosary procession. Her councils have been collecting and donating school supplies for schools in Lithuania, medical and dental supplies and other equipment from various hospital. They donated to the LCRA Children's Lunch program. Elsie escorted

Lithuanian visitors from the bureau of Civil Defense to various points of interest in the area... especially to the oldest Lithuanian Church, St. George's in Shenandoah, PA. The district set goals and with their perserverance met the challenge head on. Their goal now is to increase membership and they are adding a new council at this time.

MID AMERICA DISTRICT

HM Algerd Brazis, District President, attended two Supreme Council meetings. No report has been received at this time. In the past, the district and its councils have set goals for various events and fund raisers. I am sure that their obligations have been met. There will be a complete report from the District during the sessions of the 82nd National Convention.

MID ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Bernice Aviza, District President, attended three Supreme Council meetings. No report has been received at this time. There will be a complete report from the district during the sessions of the 82nd National Convention.

MID CENTRAL DISTRICT

Lillian Petravicius, District President, attended all of the Supreme Council meetings. No report has been received at this time. There will be a complete report from the district during the Sessions of the 82nd National Convention.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Bertha R. Stoskus, District President, attended all of the Supreme Council meetings. There are 14 council and 2 junior councils in her district. Her district is involved in all phases of civics religious and cultural affairs. The district's annual Cultural Festival was held in October 1994 at Maironis Park. It is their only fund raiser, and with the help of district councils, it was successful. They are scheduling another festival for October 22, 1995. This district has had 2 semi-annual District Convention's since 1994. The annual retreat to Kennbunkport, Maine was very successful.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

HM Longinas Svelnis attended two Supreme Council meetings. He has been thoroughly involved in a larger room at ALKA for our Knights of

Lithuania Archives. Larry had to arrange for additional electrical outlets, painting and installation of carpeting. He is grateful to the volunteers of C-103 Providence that helped him remove and return material while the room was being prepared. Larry has worked very diligently with the committee at ALKA to procure the larger room. An additional procedure report for mailing of material to ALKA is available in the Supreme Council report packet. He continues to be active with his council and district.

LEGAL ADVISOR

Saulius C. Kuprys was unable to attend any of the Supreme Council meetings this term. He has submitted a resolution to change the tax status of our organization. He keeps current with the latest tax rulings. Saulius continues to prepare the organizations taxes and oversees Aid to Lithuania Inc., St. Casimir Guild Inc., and the Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc. Saulius and the president have had many conferences regarding legal advice. He has made himself available whenever we need to turn to him.

VYTIS EDITOR

Maryte Abbott was appointed VYTIS editor upon the resignation of Ed Meilus on November 28, 1994. Her Council News Editor is Dalia Bulvicius. Maryte has produced a first class journal. She has set many goals and in due time will achieve all that she has desired. Maryte is a very innovative young woman. Much has been done to enhance the readers. Although there are still problems with production, the U.S. Post Office, and other technicalities; these too, will be worked out. She is grateful to everyone who have given her assistance, constructive criticism and their time. Maryte will continue to make the VYTIS publication a classic especially with her professional expertise.

VYTIS BUSINESS MANAGER

Richard Niedvaras was appointed business manager of VYTIS as of September 1, 1994. He updates the mailing list as soon as new information is received from the Finanacial Secretary, Post Office returns, etc. A Post Office Box was established to receive all returns. Statement of

Ownership was filed with the Post Office in Chicago. Invoices were mailed for renewal of subscriptions. Christmas advertising and other advertising was invoiced. Richard established an audit of the mailing list and entered 737 corrections to the list. Anticipating a smoother operation for this year. New guidelines for this position will be available in the K of L manual.

CULTURAL COMMITTEE

John Mankus was unable to attend two meetings. He continues to send out cultural readings/items to district cultural chairs and district councils. John has translated many poems and/or articles for VYTIS. He shares and recites poems for his council and at District meetings. He is also chairperson of his council's humanitarian shipments to Lithuania. John is a man of many talents and he continues to share them with us.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

HM Loretta Stukas, chairperson, attended all Supreme council meetings this term. Honorary Membership will be conferred on Faustas Strolia of Chicago Council 36 and Director of the Knights of Lithuania Choir; and Frank Petrauskas, Organizer and President of Syracuse Council 140 and Past President of the Supreme Council during this 82nd National Convention. There are currently 29 living Honorary members, 16 men and 13 women. The list includes one Archbishop, one Bishop, two Monsignors, and four Priests. Members may write to the Honorary Membership Committee for information presenting candidates. The Honorary membership Committee mourns the deaths of Honorary Members Jack Sharkey (summer of 1994) and Jonas Valauskas (fall of 1994). Rev. Stasys Raila was presented his Honorary Membership Medal on September 25, 1994 at the fall Convention of the Mid Atlantic District. Father was unable to attend the 81st National Convention.

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Vincent Boris, chairperson, attended all Supreme Council meetings this term. Vincent had worked on the Christmas 1994 edition of VYTIS. He continues to submit various articles to the editor on many subjects. You may be missing out on some interesting and important information if you have

not been receiving the newsletter published by Vincent. Be sure to get on the mailing list. You will be extremely pleased with the information available to you. Vincent has participated in many briefings at the White House, for the past few years. He is invited to many meetings concerning the Baltic States' political, social and economic future. Vincent has many talents. He has put together two liturgical mass books for our convention. If you are looking for information on most subjects contact Vincent.

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COMMITTEE

Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš Obando has attended two Supreme Council meetings. She has contributed to the VYTIS Lithuanian Language section. Virginia has done numerous translations for the president and others where needed. Virginia was responsible last year for the translation of our constitution from English into Lithuanian.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Regina Juska, Chairperson, attended all of the Supreme Council meetings. She has been enormously active in P.R. The Knights of Lithuania activities were all covered with almost a weekly article in three U.S. Lithuanian newspapers. A grand total of 178 articles and 27 photographs appeared in the Lithuanian press. Regina has never declined to assist whenever and wherever needed. She has been part of this Convention Committee as Recording Secretary and I am sure other responsibilities as well.

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Ann Marie Kassel, Chairperson, attended all Supreme Council meetings for this term. She has capably conducted this committee. Ann Marie also has fulfilled her duties With the MAMD. She was on the Ad Hoc committee in search of an assistant editor, and continues to offer her assistance whenever needed.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Dorothy A. Banos, Chairperson, attended three Supreme Council meetings this term. During the past year, she has worked hard with her committee to raise funds for scholarships. Donations were down this year, but she anticipates better support

forthcoming. This is a very special project for it enables the qualified young persons to further their education with the help of the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund.

AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.

HM Robert Boris, Chairperson, attended all of the Supreme Council meetings. His detailed report is evidence of his success in providing container upon container of precious medical supplies to Lithuania. Bob once again successfully initiated the Second Annual George Perles Golf Tournament this June. Proceeds will be used for shipping necessary supplies to Lithuania. In his report, you will see that a special container in October will be for orphans and children in Utena, bringing them gifts in time for Christmas. Bob is contemplating a tour to Lithuania in 1996. It undoubtedly will be as successful as all the other tours have been.

K OF L FOUNDATION, INC.

HM Loretta Stukas, Chairperson attended three Supreme Council meetings this term. The membership will be briefed on the finances of the Foundation during the Convention. The Foundation each year sponsors an essay contest. Winners will be announced during the convention. The Foundation this year donated Learning English books to the Priests Seminary in Vilnius. You can become a voting member of the Foundation with a donation of \$100.00. The Foundation gives the Knights of Lithuania additional security. Contributions continue to firm this up. Loretta also participated in various extra projects such as co-editing the December 1994 issue of VYTIS, was a member of the Ad Hoc committee to find a new editor and other responsibilities.

ST. CASIMIR GUILD, INC

HM Ann Klizas Wargo, Chairperson attended two Supreme Council meetings for this term. Her ongoing efforts for the Guild's VESTMENT FUND DRIVE will have reached its goal at this convention. Ann's untiring efforts in securing funds for the College in Rome are commendable. To help keep the College alive, we should continue to contribute in whatever way we can, by requesting Masses, donations and much needed prayers for

more vocations to the Priesthood. Ann continuously keeps in touch with Msgr. Bartkus in Rome.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA HISTORY BOOKS

Frank Petrauskas of C-140 Syracuse has been the ongoing chairman of this project. Frank recommended the price of history books be reduced for both the hard and soft cover. It was approved by the Supreme Council and books are available at this convention.

SUMMARY

It has been a very busy and exciting year. I am very pleased with the executive board members voted in by the delegates last year. We have shared many ideas and many differences but eventually things fell into place. We initiated a few new projects for the betterment of the organization.

The future of the Knights of Lithuania depends on the responsibility that each and everyone has to encourage new membership. When you return to your home council and district, create a plan of action for a membership drive. What can you offer a new member, a young member? Waving a membership card to prospective members is not a good incentive. Using this year's essay contest topic "How has your membership in the Knights of Lithuania enhanced your life?" may be the key to our membership drive. I was fortunate to be one of the judges this year and found them all extremely interesting. I firmly believe that our future is very bright. We will grow in our responsibilities towards the future of the Catholic Church and schools in Lithuania and the continuous need for medical aid. We will have to cope with the inadequacies in Lithuania.

The Knights of Lithuania and the Republic of Lithuania will survive and flourish, like the first crocus of spring that bursts forth from the cold, hard suppression of the earth.

Lai gyvuoja musu Vyciai, Lai gyvuoja musu brangi Lietuva.



Pre-convention activities

by Regina Juska & Dalia Bulvicius
with Regina Kot & Bill Zager

It has become a tradition that there are some activities to give the early bird conventioners "local flavor" before the main convention Detroit '95 was no exception. We offered two.

One group of 40 members traveled to Frankenmuth (a Bavarian town in northern Michigan) where we admired this small beautiful town. This summer the town is celebrating its 150th jubilee. The skies were gray, the weather muggy, but the mood of the participants was festive. We met old friends and made new ones. We shopped for two hours at Birch Run. Among these of major interest was Bronners where over 50,000 Christmas tree ornaments were sold from various countries of the world. We visited the "Silent Night Memorial Chapel" a replica of the original chapel in Oberndorf, Austria (near Salzburg) where the hymn "Silent Night" was heard the very first time. By the chapel there is a wall of plaques on which in various languages the hymn is translated; we found one verse in Lithuanian. Nearby was a display of various flags. We were happy to find our Lithuanian tri-color there. By the entrance to the store there are Christmas greetings in 200 languages. We found our Lithuanian "Linksmu Kaledu" there also.

All you can eat chicken dinner at the Bavarian Inn was topped by a serenading accordionist in



(top) Conventioneers at "packing day" at World Medical Relief, Inc.; (bottom) After dinner at the Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI. Photos by Bob Boris and Regina Juska.

traditional garb - short leather pants with suspenders and hats adorned with feathers. We saw the number 150 in honor of the jubilee of the town made out of sand near a little castle. A scene of wooden statues depicted the Pied Piper of Hamelin legend. We checked out bake shops and wines and beers from around the world to take home to the hotel.

For a second group, nearly a dozen conventioneers carpoled to World Medical Relief, Inc. offices in Detroit to join in helping to sort and pack containers with various needed medical supplies and instruments. These are shipped to medical facilities abroad as well as homeless shelters in the metro Detroit area.

Here, K of L conventioneers got to witness first hand participation in the massive humanitarian assistance program of Aid To Lithuania, Inc. which has resulted in 11 containers (each the size of a trailer truck) delivered to hospitals, orphanages, clinics, schools and even a church in Lithuania in 1994-1995.

At present, 54 IBM computers were being packed and made ready to be shipped out to Lithuania. It is hard physical work, and those who never observed this labor of love will be able to appreciate it more fully. It is hard to imagine how dedicated these people are and what great work "Aid to Lithuania is accomplishing".



Delegates Attending the 82nd National Convention Detroit, Michigan - August 10 - 13, 1995

by Rita S. Sussko, National Financial Secretary

HONORARY MEMBERS: Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, Robert Boris, Algerd Brazis, Annie M. Matalavitch, Frances Petkus, Rita Pinkus, Estelle Rogers, Eleanor Sluzas, Loretta Stukas, Longinas Svelnis.

SUPREME COUNCIL OFFICERS: Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis, Evelyn Ozelis, Thomas Bruzga, Robert A. Martin, Jr., Frances B. Petkus, Agnes Mickunas, Edward Barkowski, Rita S. Sussko, Peter P. Zansitis, John Baltrus, Elsie Kosmisky, Algerd Brazis, Bernice Aviza, Lillian Petravicius, Bertha Stoskus, Longinas Svelnis, John Mankus, Robert Boris, Loretta Stukas, Regina Juska, Vincent B. Boris, Virginia Obando, Ann Marie Kassel, Dorothy Banos, Ann Klizas Wargo.

RELIGIOUS: Rev. Gintaras Grusas, Sr. Igne Marijosyte, Rev. Antanas Saulaitis, SJ.

DISTRICTS:

AMBER - John Mankus, Nellie Bayoras-Romanas
NED - Marion Hobitz, HM Rita Pinkus
MAD - Mirga Bablin, Edward Bablin
MCD - Lee Moore, George Mikalauskas
MAMD - HM Algerd Brazis, Theresa Vaitkus

COUNCILS:

C-1 BROCKTON: Veronica B. Cote, Sr Helen Ivanauskas
C-3 PHILADELPHIA: Daina Kapochus Miller, Leonard Kapochus, Agnes Mickunas, John Mickunas, Victor Setpalovitch
C-7 WATERBURY: Eleanor Arnauskas, Ann Cheplick, Anne Kundrotas, Doris Snirpunas, Ailene Stiklius, Joseph Stiklius, Alma Torre, Anne Vaichus
C-10 ATHOL -GARDNER: Margaret Senk
C-12 NEW YORK: John Antanavicius, Ed Burba Cook, Helen Cuprewich, Vincent Cuprewich,

Joseph Kscenaitis, Irene Senken, Tony Yacavonis, Alice Zupko
C-16 CHICAGO: Robert Martin, Jr., Richard Niedvares, Mary Beth Slakis, Peter P. Zansitis
C-17 S. BROCKTON: Mary Matachinskas, Alice Opanasets, HM Longinas Svelnis
C-19 PITTSBURGH: Helen Graham, Andrew Rozger, Zeno Yakshas
C-24 CHICAGO: Ausra Padalino
C-25 CLEVELAND: Jean Marks, Richard Marks, Dolly Oberaitis, Tony Oberaitis
C-26 WORCESTER: Rita Karrytais
C-27 NORWOOD: John Skricki, Sonia Betty Skricki
C-29 NEWARK: Consuella Karchefsky
C-36 CHICAGO: Joan Cius, Georgianna Macke, Ann Marie Kassel, Mark Kincius, Mary Kincius, Glen Perutis, Faustas Strolia, Theresa Strolia
C-50 NEW HAVEN: Helen Medley, Isabel Peterson, Audrey Toole
C-52 ELIZABETH: Ruth Brazinski, Mary Mackelis, Vincent Mackelis, Annie Mitchell Matalavitch
C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY: Connie Duha, Lillian Klinosky
C-79 SOUTHFIELD: Bill Dapkus, Margaret Dapkus, Bertha Janus, Violet Panavas, Anna Uzdavinus
C-86 DU BOIS: Paul Moore
C-96 DAYTON: Mark Bell, Annamarie Berger, Elena Mikalauskas, Frances Mikalauskas, Elaine Pacovsky, Lauretta Pant, Robert Pant, Michael Petkus
C-90 KEARNY: Elena Nakrosis, John Nakrosis
C-100 AMSTERDAM: Gene Gobis, Helen Kiuber, Regina Kot
C-102 DETROIT: Aldona Bunikas, Frank Bunikas, Lawrence Hofner, Merri Hofner, Michael Shea, Theresa Shea, Mike Vichinsky, Bill Zager

C-110 MASPETH: Maryte Abbott, Helen Cummins, John Cummins, Joseph Stelmokas, Mary Stelmokas

C-112 CHICAGO: Aldona Brazis, Maria Deksnis, Mary Ann Gercius, Donna Juraitis, Eleanor Kasputis, Phyliss Pelletier, Matt Vilutis, Philomena Vilutis, Dolores Wainauskis, Julie Azkarda, Rita Zakarka, Elizabeth Zibas

C-133 LOS ANGELES: Josephine Barzda, Maryte Sepikas

C-136 HUDSON-MOHAWK: Bernice Aviza, Edward Barkowski

C-139 DETROIT: Lillian Petravicius

C-140 SYRACUSE: Catherine Brandt, John Brandt, Frank Petrauskas, Irene Petrauskas

C-141 BRIDGEPORT: Lee Marcinka, Clemencine Miller

C-142 WASHINGTON: Julia Burlen

C-143 PITTSTON: Helen Karpovich, Jean Mikalick

C-144 ANTHRACITE: Helen Chesko, Elsie Kosmisky, Evelyn Prep, Anna Supernavage, Eleanor Vaicaitis, Anne Klizas Wargo

C-152 E. LONG ISLAND: Antoinette Sakal, John Sakal.



Photos (top) Mandate Committee members; (right) Registration team Helen Smolek and Anna Selenis; (left) Registrants receive "goodie" bags from Len Kapochus, Donna Bunikis and Daina Kapochus Miller; (bottom) Greetings Committee with public relations Regina Juska at far right. Photos by Mike Vichinsky and Regina Juska.



82nd National Convention Novi Hilton Hotel - Novi, MI August 10-13, 1995



*Opening Mass at Sts. Cyril & Methodius
Seminary. Photo by Regina Juska*

The motto of the 82nd National Convention was "*Our Heritage - A Gift from God - Mūsų Kilmė - Dievo Dovana*".

A BRIEF SPIRITUAL RETREAT

by Mirga Diane Bablin

The opening convention Mass was held at the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary on Thursday, August 10. Three loaded school busses made the thirty minute trek to the Polish/Lithuanian seminary where many priests studied earlier in this century. The day was a typically hot and humid one, as was most of our summer, and many of our Knights were grumbling and cranky on the trip there.

Once we arrived at the beautiful grounds, located in Orchard Lake, Michigan, we walked to St. Mary's Chapel, a beautiful and spacious church and marched behind the priests and flag bearers. Those of us who liked to sing formed a choir group near the accompanist.

Mass was celebrated by Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis, our National Spiritual Advisor, with Rev. Gintaras Grusas, Secretary General of the Bishops' Conference of Lithuania and Rev. J.

Walter Stanievich, former pastor of St. Anthony's Parish and former National Spiritual Advisor. The opening Mass was said for the intentions of the Knights of Lithuania.

Father Anderlonis' homily offered us some food for spiritual thought. He praised the K of L's dedication to helping both our own country and Lithuania. He cited the Knights motto, "For God and Country" and posed the question, "How do we work for God?"

He said each of us has a divine purpose for our existence and has an eternal destiny. We must give witness to the Lord, Jesus and live His values. Religion can be handled two ways, he added, begrudgingly or enthusiastically. We can work for God in practical ways by our enthusiasm and joy which has a ripple effect like a pebble thrown into water to uplift others.

Somehow the mood was more pleasant on the trip back to Novi where the business of our convention was to begin. The grumbling over the heat and the bumpy school bus ride was replaced by delegates chatting and singing.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Following the presentation of colors, Supreme Council President, Evelyn Ozelis called the meeting to order. Rev. Joseph Anderlonis opened the meeting with a prayer followed by the singing of the American and Lithuanian National Anthems and the Vyciu Hymnas. Agnes Mickunas, National Recording Secretary presented the roll call of the Supreme Council Officers. Lawrence Hofner, C-102 President welcomed the Knights to Detroit followed by Tim Baibek, Convention Chairman.

The following nominees were presented for Presidium Officers: Presidium Chair & Co-Chairpersons - John Mickunas, Anne Klizas Wargo and Thomas Bruzga; Secretaries - Bernice Aviza and Regina Kot; Sgts. at Arms - Jack Brandt (Amber), Peter Jasaitis (MAMD), John Sakal



"Putting on a convention is like a wedding, when it's all over everyone remembers the good time," said Convention Chairman, Tim Baibek. "The difference with a convention is there's no mother-in-law."

Photo by Mike Vichinsky

(MAD), Frank Bunikis (MCD) and John Skricki (NED); Resolutions Committee - Vincent Boris (Chairman), Frank Petrauskas, Theresa Strolia and Sr. Helen Ivanauskas; Mandate Committee - Rita Sussko, (Chair), Consuela Karchefsky, Georgiana Macke, Agnes Mickunas and Mary Beth Slakis; Greetings Committee - Robert Martin, Jr. (Chairman), Mirga Bablin, Nellie Bayoris Romanas and Isabel Peterson; Bertha Stoskus and Lillian Petravicius reviewed minutes from the last convention; Peter Zansitis reviewed parliamentary procedure.

President Evelyn Ozelis gave reports on the State of the Organization along with a report on her official trip to Lithuania.

A budget proposal for 1995-1996 was presented by Treasurer, Edward Barkowski followed by a personal greeting from Kestutis Jecius of the Lithuanian Scouts Association. Mr. Jecius presented President Ozelis a cassette of Lithuanian Scouting Songs and booklet.

Longinas Svelnis, Chairman of the Archives Committee, was congratulated for celebrating his 82nd birthday. He noted he was "as old as the Knights of Lithuania". The session ended with additional greetings, mandate report and a prayer.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

The convention provided an early Mass celebrated by Father Anderlonis. Sessions began with resolutions and a personal greeting by Michael

Aburius, President of the Lithuanian National Guard.

"The Re-emergence of the Catholic Faith in Lithuania" was the topic discussed by guest speakers, Sr. Igne Marijosyte and Father Gintaras Grusas, who were introduced by Tom Bruzga.

Sister Igne, Provincial of the Lithuanian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, gave us a summary of what's been happening during the past five years in Lithuania. "There has been a re-emergence of faith, with an incredible movement of the laity," she said. The six dioceses formed Catechetical centers, but lack

books and materials. A creation of 'Catholic Schools' began in Siulai, plus 'Catholic classes' have started in the homerooms of public schools. Another re-emergence since WWII is the Catholic press, with seven publications now in Lithuania.

Although assistance is received from other European nations, needs are still profound. The government expects the Catholic schools to receive aid from the West, while Vilnius Univ. summer institute is preparing teachers in religious instruction.

Many nuns took secular jobs as nurses, cooks, etc., during communism and lived in groups of 2-3. Now they must learn to re-adjust to community living, although they still fear that one may be an "infiltrator".

With freedom of religion also came an onslaught of other religious and cultish groups, from the Mormons to Hari Krishnas. Since people are eager to learn what they had been shielded from, these other groups are making inroads too.

Happy Birthday - Longinas Svelnis, Archives Chairman celebrates "82" at the 82nd National Convention.



Sr. Igne asked for continued support both financially through K of L supported groups and to LCRA. She also urged keeping the network of communications open, seeking English teachers in Lithuania and prayers.

Fr. Gintaras Grusas, General Secretary of the Lith. Bishop's Conference, residing in Vilnius, noted in his speech that faith never died in Lithuania. Citing the famous Hill of Crosses as an expression of Lithuania's faith, he noted that faith was moving "from a defensive posture" to a personal experience.

Fr. Grusas stressed the tensions existing in the Lithuanian Seimas, attacking the Church in the field of returning church properties. In Vilnius, for example, most priests do not have a rectory and live with relatives or in apartments.

Even if church property is returned, he noted, buildings are in severe disrepair and costs are skyrocketing. "\$40,000 was required to authorize the dig for restoration of property," he said. Plus the LDDP wants to equate cultist groups with traditional religions. Catholics are helping the other traditional Christian religions to retain rights. Although Lithuania boasts 76% Catholics, like America, church attendance is dropping with only 41% of the people believing in a personal God.

Fr. Grusas urged support of seminarians and the St. Casimir College in Rome. He also accented some of the positive. With a severe shortage of priests, the Church is creating three seminaries in Lithuania. New methods, such as radio and TV are being used to teach the masses. The New and Old Testaments of the Bible are being translated into Lithuanian for the first time. Pre Cana preparation for marriage conferences are being set up to help curb the high divorce rate. Food kitchens and support groups are being formed to enable the people to help themselves. A "not for profit" store was opened in Vilnius as a way to help finance a parish.

Questions were taken from the delegates. Most important, he ended, was to continue praying for positive change in Lithuania.

The session concluded with additional greetings, resolutions and mandate report. Luncheons were provided with special meetings for members of Aid to Lithuania, Inc. and K of L Foundation, Inc.



*Featured Convention speakers (left to right)
Fr. Gintaras Grusas, Sr. Igne Marijosyte
and Father Antanas Saulaitis, S.J.*

Photo by Regina Juska

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Friday afternoon's session opened with a prayer by Fr. Anderlonis.

HM Robert Boris, Chairman of Aid to Lithuania, Inc. followed with a report. Bob noted that in 1990, four containers were shipped to Lithuania. During the past year, eleven containers were shipped, almost three times the amount shipped only 5 years ago. A container is the equivalent of a trailer truck size and each, according to Bob, costs approximately \$4,000.00 to ship. Although most of the items shipped are medical supplies, recently Mercy International Health donated 54 IBM computers that Bob will ship to Catholic schools in Lithuania. However, there are no printers with these and he is seeking to find a donor.

Bob had also been given 150,000 vials of Hepatitis B vaccine valued at a half million dollars, which is desperately needed in Lithuania. However, this medicine must be sent via air, since there is a shelf life and it must be refrigerated. Bob was seeking the \$2,000. needed to ship it properly.

Aid to Lithuania, Inc. (ATL) realized a profit of almost \$8,000 from its 2nd Annual George Perles Golf Invitational.



Junior's display proudly presented by Frances Petkus and Elena Mikalauskas, past and present Supreme Council 3rd Vice Presidents. Photo by Regina Juska.

ATL decided to sponsor a container to be shipped in October with clothes and Christmas gifts for orphans in the Utena area. Distribution will be supervised by the Srs. of St. Francis from Pittsburgh, now working in Utena. Bob thanked members for their continued support.

John Baltrus and Peter Zansitis then presented the Trustees report which included a bid from C-1, Brockton, MA for the 1996 National Convention. The Trustees also updated a list of the Supreme Council's equipment.

Vincent Boris read resolutions that were voted by the delegates which included a monetary grant of \$3,500 to offset administrative expenses for Aid to Lithuania, Inc. (See pg. 28)

Father Antanas Saulaitis, S.J., was the featured speaker during this session. He spoke on Lithuania today and offered an interesting example of how both a Lithuanian mother and father on separate occasions asked the priest to baptize their son. "It was a case of the parents not trusting each other," he added. Fr. Saulaitis informed us the European Bishops were discussing the huge influx of the "new age" movement (from Hari Krishna to Paganism) in former communist countries from former East Germany to Estonia. He said a system of education would be the best way to combat it. He then passed out an interesting questionnaire, a true-false test to help us understand that "voluntary aid means building bridges". The "test" included sections on

characteristics, cultures, Soviet heritage and ethnic matters and it helped us understand Lithuania today.

HM Loretta Stukas, of the Honorary Membership Committee presented Frank Petrauskas and Faustus Strolia for Honorary Membership who were voted unanimously.

The session concluded with additional resolutions including donations to Draugas, Darbininkas, Dirba and St. Casimir's Guild. A moment of silence was observed for past HM's Jack Sharkey and Jonas Valauskas. A prayer closed the meeting.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

His Excellency, Paul A. Baltakis, OFM, Bishop for Spiritual assistance for Lithuanians residing outside of Lithuania greeted the delegates on Saturday morning's session. He informed us that 7 deacons and 6 priests were recently ordained at the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome.

Bishop Baltakis said the College will continue to be a home for priests and students until Lithuania can prepare priests sufficiently to prepare others. Currently, there are 20 priests studying at the University to receive theological degrees. Stressing how badly Lithuania needs priests, the Bishop added that Lithuanian seminaries are not yet properly prepared for priests. "The mission is more important than before," he stressed and desired to make the College at Rome better known.

One particular project at the Pontifical College in Rome is to update its library. It's being revamped and will have two floors which will hold a capacity of 15-20,000 books, including a section that concerns Lithuania. \$10,000 in pledges have been received for this purpose, he added.

Five new computers and a Volkswagen van were recently donated to the College. The Bishop thanked Ann Wargo and the St. Casimir Guild for the vestment fund donations and made an appeal for more K of L'ers to become benefactors.

New membership awards were then presented by 2nd VP, Robert Martin, Jr. He gave a special award to Elsie Kosmisky for helping organize C-156, Shanokin, PA with 21 new members. Council awards for councils **under 75**: 1st place C-19, 2nd - C-102, 3rd-C-153; **75-150** 1st (tie) C-7 and C-141, 2nd-C-79; **151 or over**- 1st C-112, 2nd C-26, 3rd C-144. 1st place for individuals went to Maryte Sepikas, C-133; 2nd Albert Lesutis and a 3-way tie for 3rd of Clem Miller and Patricia Silk, C-141; Doris Spimunas, C-7.

Fourth Degree candidates were presented by Ann Marie Kassel. (See pg. 25); HM Loretta Stukas gave the K of L Foundation report that included financial status, investments and specific projects such as the donation of "Learning English" books to the Priests Seminary in Kaunas. She also announced the essay contest winners (See pgs. 22-23).

Supreme Council Officers for 1995-1996 were elected. They are: Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis, Spiritual Advisor; Evelyn Ozelis, President; Thomas Bruzga, First Vice President; Robert Martin, Jr., Second Vice President; Elena Mikalauskas, Third Vice President; Agnes Mickunas, Recording Secretary; John Baltrus, Treasurer; Dorothy Banos, Financial Secretary; Mark Bell and Mary Beth Slakis, Trustees; Elsie Kosmisky, Ritual Committee; Vincent Boris, Lithuanian Affairs Chair; John Mankus, Lithuanian Cultural Chair; Eleanor Vaicaitis (Amber), Edward Senken (MAD) and Veronica Bizankauskas Cote (NED), Scholarship Committee; Regina Juska, Public Relations; Longinas Svelnis, Archives; and Dr. Virginia Vaikakonis Obando, Lithuanian Language. The following were elected as presidents of the ancillary organizations of the Knights of



*Convention Presidium Secretaries
Regina Kot and Bernice Aviza*

Lithuania: Loretta Stukas, Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.; Anne Klizas Wargo, St. Casimir's Guild, Inc.; and Robert Boris, Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

The session ended with additional greetings, a mandate report and prayer. Luncheon at the hotel followed with a special luncheon meeting for St. Casimir's Guild, Inc.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

The final convention business session began with a prayer followed by an entertaining report by the Juniors and Frances Petkus, 3rd VP. (See pg. 20-21) Fran was presented with a bouquet for all her hard work.

Monsignor Algimantas Bartkus, Rector of the Pontifical Lithuanian College of St. Casimir in Rome, gave an address and thanked Anne Wargo and the St. Casimir's Guild for the \$10,000 check presented for the vestment fund. (See pg. 39)

He said the Knights of Lithuania are the backbone of Catholic support in Lithuania and noted that presently "Eastern Europeans are like sheep without a pastor."

Msgr. Barkus said there are 300,000 Lithuanian exiles in the former Soviet republics such as Poland, Hungary, Russia and Siberia. Most have no Lithuanian priests. The Monsignor will be flying to Siberia to assess the situation there. He said we should not forget those still forced to live in exile.

The convention site for 1996 was voted to be held in Brockton, MA for the second week in August. Chairman will be Veronica Bizankauskas Cote of Council 1.

Resolutions, additional greetings and a mandate report concluded business. A prayer and singing of the Vyciu Hymnas followed.

GALA BANQUET NIGHT PACKS 400 KNIGHTS, GUESTS AND ST. ANTHONY'S ALUMNI

by *Mirga Bablin*

On Saturday night, the grand ballroom at the Novi Hilton came alive with members and guests celebrating not only the 82nd Convention, but the 75th Anniversary of St. Anthony's Lithuanian Parish, as many of the founding fathers were dedicated K of L'ers. Rev. J. Walter Stanievich, former pastor of St. Anthony's was master of ceremonies. Highlighting the event was the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to George Perles by HM Bob Boris; Scholarship Awards by Dorothy Banos; Honorary Membership awards to Frank Petrauskas and Faustas Strolia by HM Loretta Stukas; and the Friend of Lithuania Award to Glen Haydon by Vincent Boris. Following closing remarks by National President, Evelyn Ozelis, new and old friends danced to the music of Joe Stark's orchestra.



Honorary members at banquet (top); new honorary members with district representatives (bottom)



Congratulations Faustas on your elevation to Honorary Membership



Love and God's Blessings

Ann Marie

Georgi

Ken



All the best to "Mister Nice Guy"

*Honorary Member
Frank Petrauskas*



*Vytiškai,
Council 140 Members
and Friends*



Pres. Ozelis Meetings in Lithuania

(from page 4)

survive. Chickens are a delicacy. They milk two cows to sell it to the co-op. Many like them lost their money in the banks, unless they saved American dollars. My cousin was able to pay for his cataract operation in Vilnius with the \$150. he had saved for four years.

Both sets of relatives live on opposite ends of Silute. They all remarked about children going hungry and dirty, parents without jobs who somehow find money to drink...a high rate of alcoholism, an outrageous situation.

On Sunday afternoon, I attended "Sekmines" in Rietava. A young priest, who had just been ordained the day before, blessed us as parishioners clapped. The beautiful choir sang from the opera, "Nabucco". Outside, candy was being sold as a tradition of Sekmines - pure sugar. A car was stolen that was parked next to ours, disasterous and heartbreaking.

Fruit carts along the main streets sell bananas to kiwis, but bananas are purchased for their cheaper price and higher nutrition. Some crazy drivers in new Mercedes, Volvos, Fords, Chevys and many used cars are seen on the streets which came as a surprise. I visited a supermarket, "Iki" whose shelves were stocked, but people seemed to look and not buy. Looking over the entire scene, I saw some progress, but only time and new elections will make a change.

Managed to get home via Newark, NJ. Thanks for the opportunity to get acquainted with Parliament, the political structure and the education.



Ice Cream Lovers - The Lithuanian-Finnish joint venture, Ingman Vega, produces 20 types of ice cream, 5 types of eskimo pies, 6 types of ice cream cones and has captured 23% of the market. Their ad lists ice cream flavors and cakes: "Serbentina", "Spanguoliuke" and "Aistra".
(from Sept-Dec. C-110 Newsletter, Bruno Rutkunas)

Junior K of L'ers Convention Activities

by Frances R. Petkus

Keeping the traditions alive was the Juniors theme for the 82nd National Convention!

Those Juniors who were early arrivals joined the delegates and guests at the opening Mass at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. After lunch and a swim the Juniors met with Tina Bulota who was their host, along with her committee, chaperoning the Juniors to a racing car antique show on Thursday afternoon. The Juniors had fun sitting in the various cars of all sizes, shapes and colors. Hopping on a special truck made them feel a part of the repair crew for the racing cars.

In the evening the Juniors joined the general conventioners at the hotel for the Thursday evening get-together. There was plenty to eat, sing, dance and have fun!

Friday, under the leadership of the Junior Activities Chair, Irene Vizgirda and her committee, the Juniors headed for Camp Dainava in Jackson, MI. Their day at camp is expressed by these young people later in this section. Friday evening the Juniors participated in the cultural night activities.

Saturday the Juniors held their Annual Meeting with the Supreme Council 3rd Vice-President, Fran Petkus, assisting. Their meeting was preceded with time shared with Fr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD and an exchange of thoughts. Father then opened the meeting with prayer. Presiding over the meeting was Nina Padalino, C #24 Junior, Chicago. Natalija Padalino, C #24, Juniors, volunteered to take the minutes. Allen Cius, C #36 Juniors, Chicago, volunteered to do the VYTIS article.

Concerns of the Juniors expressed at the meeting were to more organized and interesting activities that might induce other young people to become Juniors; to keep things fun, less formal and short meetings!!!



Juniors enjoying Saturday night banquet. Photo by Rob Pant.

Saturday afternoon the Juniors were first on the agenda for the general session of the convention. Sharing their trip to Dainava was well received! Each Junior (there were eleven in attendance) was presented with a Conventionship and a gift of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) from the Knights of Lithuania! Nina and Natalija Paladino sang a special duet in Lithuanian dedicated to Fran Petkus. Fran was then presented with a bouquet of flowers from the Juniors. The rest of the afternoon was spent at the pool having FUN, etc.... !!!

At the Saturday Evening Banquet, the Juniors sat together and shared thought of their weekend. The Juniors went home from the national convention ready for next year!!!

Special thanks must go to the following for their help putting the Junior program together: Irene Vizgirda and Tina Bulota, chairing the social activities for the Juniors and their committee; Elena Mikalauskas, new Supreme Council 3rd Vice-President for the 1995-96 term, for putting the collage of pictures together; Elinor-Sluzas, HM, for our theme; Robert Martin for the special Conventionship "flyers"; Maryte Abbott for her "goodies" to the Juniors, Mark Berger and Michael Petkus for helping to drive the Juniors to Camp Dainava; most of all - thanks to the parents and guardians who brought these wonderful young people to the convention!

In their own words... Our Day at Camp Dainava

Eleven juniors headed out to Lithuanian Camp Dainava to have fun and enjoy their heritage. Here is what each of them had to say:

Joseph Berger - C #96 Dayton, Ohio (age 7 1/2) "I went to Camp Dainava and we played in the lake. We had lunch."

Anna Cius - C #36 Chicago, IL (age 8)
"We went to the beach and we went swimming. It was great!"

Andrea Deksnis - C #112 Chicago, IL (age 10)
"Yesterday we went to Camp Dainava for the day. First we made a wreath with wild flowers. Then we ate lunch. After lunch we went swimming at the beach and someone caught a turtle. Then we left."

Mary Cius - C #36 Chicago, IL (age 12)
"Camp Dainava was a lot of fun. When we got there we made wreaths out of wild flowers. After that we ate lunch. Then we went swimming in the lake and some people went off the diving board. Some people caught turtles. When swimming was done we all went home."

Ronald Padalino - C #24 Chicago, IL (age 12)
"Camp Dainava was really fun. We got to swim, catch turtles and also catch fish. We made flower hats which was really fun. The best thing I liked was we got to spend time with each other."

Kristen Vichinsky - C #79/102 Detroit (age 13)
"When I went to Camp Dainava I learned about my Lithuanian heritage and I had fun doing it. We made flowered wreaths that in Lithuania people wore on their heads and jumped over a camp fire."

Sarah Miller - C #141 Bridgeport, CT (age 13)
"On Friday, the K of L Juniors took a trip to Camp Dainava. First, we toured the buildings where the campers slept and then joined the campers in making wreaths of flowers. We ate lunch with them and, also, swam in their lake. I learned many things and enjoyed the trip."

Natalija Padalino - C #24 Chicago, IL (age 13)
"The K of L Juniors took a trip to Camp Dainava. When we arrived we made vainikai. After that everyone ate lunch. When we were finished with lunch we went swimming at Dainava's Beach."

Nina Padalino - C #24 Chicago, IL (age 15)

"The trip to Dainava was a nice change of pace from the hotel rooms to the outdoors. Camp Dainava is a place I have often heard of but I never have camped there. While we were there we made wreaths of flowers, had lunch and went swimming. We were there only a couple of hours, yet, I saw the Lithuanian culture & traditions were being passed on. In society we often forget our heritage. It is nice to know that we still know who we are and people still care enough to show others how rich and beautiful our Lithuanian culture is."

Chrissy Peterson C #50 New Haven, CT (age 16)
"Friday we went to Camp Dainava. The trip was very interesting. Everyone spoke Lithuanian and I learned some new words. People there were very friendly. The camp was nice with a lake to swim in. I learned more about my culture."

Allen Cius C #36, Chicago, IL (age 18)
"On the way to camp Dainava we got to experience what they call "fresh country" air. It took about an hour to arrive there, since we got off on the wrong exit. When we arrived, we were welcomed to join in making flower wreaths. Everyone enjoyed making them. After we were done making wreaths some of us went to the basketball and volleyball courts. There we played Frisbee and catch with a ball that we had found. It was rather hot out and we were all looking forward to swimming in the lake. After playing catch we were all called for lunch in the barracks. There we ate a large meal that really hit the spot. They served hot soup, salad, chicken, potatoes, lemonade, and more. After we all ate, we went swimming. Some of us jumped off the diving board while others just worked on their tans. The water was so refreshing from the heat. After swimming we prepared to go home. We exchanged gifts with our hosts and bid them a farewell with a promise to return. On the way home, the trip seemed much faster, but I think most of us still fell asleep. We had a lot of fun at Camp Dainava and wish to come back some day to visit. We, the Juniors, would like to thank Camp Dainava for their hospitality."

A Successful Completion to the **KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION 1995 ESSAY CONTEST**

by Loretta I. Stukas, Pres. K of L Foundation

Knights of Lithuania members meeting formally or informally in their own cities or away from home usually greet each other as kin, regardless of the extend or length of their friendship! For many, the organization has helped them find a spouse, for others, it has provided an opportunity for learning more of their heritage -- or their spouse's heritage, or provided a way to help the children or the ailing in Lithuania. The benefits of membership go on and on, with variations for members old and young, full and associate. This year's Knights of Lithuania Foundation Essay Contest provided members an opportunity to ponder these benefits, and tell other members about them.

The topic of the 1995 Foundation Contest was:

"How has your membership in the Knights of Lithuania enhanced your life? Elaborate on a specific aspect or an ongoing benefit you have experienced."

Essays were judged on the basis of content, style, grammar, creativity, general appearance, and adherence to the stated topic. Judging was anonymous -- judges did not know the identity of any of the entrants until the judging was over. Winners were announced at the 82nd National Convention in Detroit, MI. The first prize winner's essay is published in this issue (see page 23). Other winning entries will be published in subsequent issues of VYTIS. This year's contest provided joy to the entrants -- as they recalled what the Knights have meant to them. When printed, they should provide interest to other members as they compare the expressed experiences with their own. We thank all the members who entered the contest, and congratulate those in the "winning circle", namely:

1st (\$300.00) Bonnie Electra Gulas, Jr. C-141
2nd (\$200.00) Frances R. Petkus, HM, C-96
3rd (\$100.00) Anna Sikora, C-144
Hon. Men. Evelyn Walles, C-110
Hon. Men. John Baltrus, C-19
Hon. Men. Elena Mikalauskas, C-96



*HM Loretta Stukas gives Foundation
Report and Essay Contest winners*

The Knights of Lithuania is most grateful to Rev. Msgr. Juozas Prunskis for his generosity in donating a special grant of \$10,500 to the Foundation, with the specification that the interest from the grant be used for an Essay Contest, encouraging members to think about and write about Lithuania, her customs, and the Knights of Lithuania.

We encourage all members to enter the next contest!

Essay Contest First Prize Winner

Knights of Lithuania - A New Generation's Viewpoint

by *Bonnie Electra Gulas*

Junior Council C-141 (age 15)

My membership in the Junior Knights of Lithuania has effected my life in many positive ways. I've learned about my Lithuanian heritage: past, present, and future, leaving me with an undying sense of love, pride, and loyalty for the country my relatives parted from so long ago. The Junior society has also taught me how to become an active participant in my community, church and school. I feel that the Knights of Lithuania has tied my family closer together and taught us how to respect one another and tolerate each other's different views. The conventions that we attend fill me with a wider perspective of my state, my country, and the world. All of these aspects have enhanced my life, but, perhaps none of these I held so dear than the discovery of my ancestry and history.

Before I joined the Knights of Lithuania, I had very little interest in my family's past or the world in which they had lived. The farthest back I had ventured were my great-grandparents. At that time, I was not inspired to go any further back than that. Then my grandparents urged me to join the Juniors, which I did and will never regret for the rest of my life. After attending a great deal of the Knights of Lithuania's functions, such as Easter egg decorating, celebration of St. Casimir's Day, Christmas dinner, Knights of Lithuania conventions, an various others, my curiosity for the heritage of my family and the kind of environment they were raised in grew. Through these group learning activities I soaked up information about the customs, government, economy, and life, styles of the people in Lithuania's past and with guidance from my



family and family friends I acquired information concerning the actual people who led to my grandparent's, my mother's, and my creation. My ancestors' world began to open and bestow its secrets in me. These secrets caused me to realize that their world is a part of our world, its inhabitants are buried in our souls and our past. Their sweat, blood, and hard work formed the world we now live in. Their songs can still be heard in our music and their blood flows in my blood, passing through the shared hearts of generations.

I would like to thank the Knights of Lithuania for helping me rediscover my ancestry through the endless number of events offered to me by this organization and interest sparked from those events. My family's past is the base on which all my present day accomplishments are built and helps me to better understand myself and others. I would not even be in existence today without my ancestors, for what becomes of a tree without any roots?



Enthusiasm is the electric current that keeps the engine of life going at top speed. -B.C. Forbes



St. Anthony Lithuanian Parish Celebrates 75 years of Community Life

The final day of our convention surrounded us with oppressive heat and humidity as we welcomed His Eminence, Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit into St. Anthony's Lithuanian Church. The special Mass not only celebrated the conclusion of the 82nd National Convention, but also the Diamond Jubilee of the parish. Concelebrants with the Cardinal included His Excellency Bishop Paul A. Baltakis, OFM, assistance to Lithuanians living outside Lithuania; Monsignor Algimantas Bartkus, Rector of the Pontifical Lithuanian College of St. Casimir in Rome, Italy; Rev. Alfonsas Babonas, Pastor of St. Anthony's; Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis, K of L National Spiritual Advisor and Pastor of St. George's Parish of Philadelphia; Rev. J. Walter Stanievich, former pastor of St. Anthony's and former National Spiritual Advisor; Rev. Gintaras Grušas, Secretary General for the Bishops' Conference of Lithuania.

In his homily, the Cardinal assured parishoners and Knights that St. Anthony's would remain open as long he had the power to keep it so. He also awarded Bishop Baltakas with \$10,000.00 for his upcoming trip to Siberia. A special dinner followed.



Photos: (top) Archbishop of Detroit, His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida celebrates 75th Anniversary Liturgy; (middle) St. Anthony's Church with banner; (bottom) 82nd National Convention Official Photo; (opposite page top) Supreme Council members take oath at St. Anthony's altar
Photos by Regina Juska and Mike Vichinsky (except official photo).





Nine Awardees attend the special Mass while 18 members were approved by the National Ritual Committee for installation into the Fourth Degree

Members approved at the 1995 Convention in Detroit are: C-10, Howard Beaudette; C-29, Marie Guoba and Nellie Krynicki; C-36, Rev. Fabian Kireilis and Evelyn Oželis*; C-50, Mary Geipel and Audrey Toole*; C-96, Elena Mikalauskas*; C-102, Vincent Boris*, Aldona Stanievich* John Stanievich* and Ruth Wagster*; C-112, Theresa Vaitkus*; C-141, Leokadia Marcinka; C-143, Anna Davala and Frances Shoppel; C-144, Evelyn Prep*; C-147, Elena Bacevicius.

*Indicates ceremony attendees.

*Ann Marie Kassel, Chmn.
Ritual Committee*

RESOLUTIONS - NUTARIMAI

CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION:

DISALLOWANCE OF PROXIES

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania is a non-profit Illinois corporation duly organized and operated under the laws of said state, and;

WHEREAS it has been established that under the statutes of the State of Illinois not-for-profit corporations are permitted to utilize proxies at membership meetings, and that the said statute further permits organizations to limit and disallow the utilization of such proxies, and;

WHEREAS it has been determined that the utilization of proxies is not conducive to the orderly and effective conduct of Knights of Lithuania meetings, and;

WHEREAS the requirements for prior approval by the Supreme Council and publication in VYTIS have been duly accomplished,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Constitution of the Knights of Lithuania (as revised and approved in 1994) be amended to add a paragraph to Article XIV to read as follows:

"10. Proxies may not be utilized at membership meetings."

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ACCEPTANCE OF NON-LITHUANIAN SPIRITUAL ADVISORS AS MEMBERS

WHEREAS several Councils and Districts of the Knights of Lithuania have experienced difficulties in securing a Lithuanian priest or member of a religious order to serve as Spiritual Advisor, and;

WHEREAS the constitution does not require that the Spiritual Advisor be of Lithuanian extraction, but only that he be the pastor or appointed assistant at the associated parish or as approved by the National Spiritual Advisor; and,

WHEREAS increasingly the accepted Spiritual Advisor is not of Lithuanian extraction and despite this official and very intimate relationship with the Council, the non-Lithuanian Spiritual Advisor cannot be fully integrated into the organization as a member,

BE IT RESOLVED that Article V, Section 1.b. of the Constitution of the Knights of Lithuania be amended to read:

"... be of Lithuanian extraction or the spouse of a member in good standing of the Knights of Lithuania, or be an approved, although non-Lithuanian, Spiritual Advisor of a Council.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the first sentence of Article V, Section 2.c. be amended to read:

"An associate member may be a non-Lithuanian Catholic spouse of a member in good standing of the Knights of Lithuania or be a non-Lithuanian priest or ordained deacon serving as a Spiritual Advisor of a Council."

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GENERAL:

BUDGET ACCEPTANCE

BE IT RESOLVED that the budget for 1995-1996 as submitted by the Supreme Council Treasurer be accepted as a guideline for the Supreme Council and with the understanding that a 5-person panel will be appointed by the Supreme Council President to review the overall funding levels and devise an approach to attain a balanced budget if feasible.

K OF L REPRESENTATION ON CAMP DAINAVA BOARD

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania from its inception has been affiliated with the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America, a national

umbrella organization which is a corporate affiliate of the United States Catholic Conference; and,

WHEREAS the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation organized the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation Youth Camp "DAINAVA" in 1955 for the purpose of promoting religious and cultural activities among Lithuanian American Catholics and particularly young people; and,

WHEREAS the Board of Camp Dainava has representatives from Catholic organizations active in the United States, it is deemed mutually beneficial for the Knights of Lithuania, the largest lay Catholic Lithuanian organization in the United States, to be officially represented on the Board of Camp Dainava,

BE IT RESOLVED that we delegates to the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania authorize the Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania to designate a representative to the Board of Camp Dainava, and, that upon the appropriate changes having been made in the by-laws of the said Camp Dainava, such representation be appointed thereafter on an annual basis by the Supreme Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the designated representative report annually to the Supreme Council and the National Convention on the activities and status of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation Youth Camp "Dainava."

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CHANGE IN IRS STATUS

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, currently has an exemption from the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(7) which primarily applies to a sport's league and/or a recreational organization; and,

WHEREAS it has been determined that the current activities of the organization are more accurately described under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization engaged in social and civic activities for the public welfare; and,

WHEREAS it having been established by the Supreme Council that, for the good order of the

organization a change in its status should be sought in accordance with the above, the organizational legal counsel was instructed to proceed to take all necessary legal, technical and administrative steps to obtain a reclassification of the Knights of Lithuania as a Section 301(c)(4) organization.

BE IT RESOLVED that we delegates to the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania here assembled at the Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, Michigan, hereby confirm the action of the Supreme Council and authorize the expenditure of such funds as are required to effect said reclassification.

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K OF L REPRESENTATION ON JOINT SEIMAS/IŠEIVIJA COMMISSION

WHEREAS the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lithuanian Parliament proposed, and the Parliament (Seimas), has approved formation of a special commission composed of several members of the Seimas and an equal number of representatives of ethnic Lithuanians, who permanently reside outside of Lithuania and may carry citizenship to another state. The purpose of this commission is that of consultation, advice and coordination of legal matters affecting both sides (such as dual citizenship and property ownership) and social/ humanitarian concerns; and,

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania was invited to participate by sending a delegate to the commission who could represent the pre-World War II emigrants and those Lithuanian-Americans who are second, third or more generation citizens of the United States; and,

WHEREAS in response to this invitation, the Supreme Council at their March meeting in Worcester Mass. did select the Supreme Council President to serve as such a delegate to the Commission meeting in Vilnius between May 28 and June 2 of this year; and the full report of this meeting has been submitted to this convention,

BE IT RESOLVED that we delegates to the 82nd National Convention meeting in Novi, Michigan, confirm the Knights of Lithuania participation in the aforementioned Special Commission on an official and continuing basis so long as it is determined to be

beneficial for the Republic of Lithuania and for our organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Supreme Council President, Mrs. Evelyn Ozelis, continue to serve as our representative. Should a change become necessary, the Supreme Council is, hereby, authorized to appoint a new representative.

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GRANT TO AID TO LITHUANIA, INC

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania have for the five past years underwritten the administrative expenses of Aid to Lithuanian, Inc., in lieu of a specific donation; and,

WHEREAS the Supreme Council at their March meeting in Worcester voted to terminate this practice; and,

WHEREAS the Supreme Council should set the example for Districts and Councils to financially support this most significant Knights of Lithuania sponsored effort, particularly since Aid to Lithuania has gained unprecedented respect and publicity through this humanitarian aid and reflected great credit upon the Knights of Lithuania with which Aid to Lithuania, Inc., is so closely identified,

BE IT RESOLVED that we delegates to the 82nd annual National Convention, here assembled, set an appropriate example by making a monetary grant of \$3,500. to Aid to Lithuania for FY 95-96 and that such grant be made from general funds and not be accounted within the budgetary allocation for charitable donations.

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HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR FAUSTAS STROLIA

WHEREAS the 81st Annual Convention of the Knights of Lithuania gathered at the Chicago Marriott Hotel, Chicago IL, on August 6, 1994, approved the candidacy of Faustas Strolia for elevation to Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania; and,

WHEREAS all constitutional requirements and

considerations have been met for this candidate,

BE IT RESOLVED that this 82nd National Convention confer Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania upon Faustas Strolia, member of Council 36, Mid-America District.

NUTARTA: 82-ame Lietuvos Vyčių Seime priimti į Garbės Narių Faustą Strolią, Lietuvos Vyčių 36-tos Kuopos narį, kurio kandidatura buvo patvirtinta 81-ame Lietuvos Vyčių Seime.

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HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR FRANK PETRAUSKAS

WHEREAS the 81st Annual Convention of the Knights of Lithuania gathered at the Chicago Marriott Hotel, Chicago IL, on August 6, 1994, approved the candidacy of Frank Petrauskas for elevation to Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania; and,

WHEREAS all constitutional requirements and considerations have been met for this candidate,

BE IT RESOLVED that this 82nd National Convention confer Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania upon Frank Petrauskas, member of Council 140, Mid Atlantic District.

NUTARTA 82-ame Lietuvos Vyčių Seime priimti į Garbės Narių Praną Petrauską, Lietuvos Vyčių 140-tos Kuopos narį, kurio kandidatura buvo patvirtinta 81-ame Lietuvos Vyčių Seime.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CANDIDACY OF ALEXANDER AKULE FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

BE IT RESOLVED at the recommendation of the Honorary Membership Committee, that the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania gathered at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi, MI, approve as a candidate for Honorary Membership - Alexander Akule, member of Council 17, New England District, and allow his history, outlining his services as a worthy and dedicated Knight to be published in VYTIS.

NUTARTA: Garbės Komisijos pasiūlius patvirtinti Aleksandro Akulio kandidatūrą į Garbės Narius, ir

atspausdinti jo darbus ir nuopelnus organizacijai Vyties žurnale.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CANDIDACY FOR
ARCHBISHOP PAUL MARCINKUS**

BE IT RESOLVED at the recommendation of the Honorary Membership Committee, that the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania gathered at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi, MI, approve as a candidate for Honorary Membership - Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, an outstanding Catholic Lithuanian whose activities for God and Country have been preeminently outstanding and exemplary of the ideals of the organization and allow his history outlining his services for Lithuanian and Church causes to be published in VYTIS.

NUTARTA: Garbės Komisijos pasiulius patvirtinti Arkivyskupo Paulio Marcinko kandidaturą į Garbės Narius, ir atspausdinti jo darbus ir nuopelnus organizacijai Vyties žurnale.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**IN MEMORIAM: "JACK" SHARKEY
JONAS VALAUSKAS**

WHEREAS during this past year, the Knights of Lithuania lost two of its highly respected and beloved Honorary Members, Jack Starkey and Jonas Valauskas.

BE IT RESOLVED that in grateful appreciation and recognition of their work, we, Delegates to the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered here at the Novi Hilton in Novi, Michigan, on this 11th day of August, 1995, pay tribute to these worthy and outstanding Knights with a moment of silence.

"May the souls of these our brothers and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace."

WELCOME:

COUNCIL 156

WHEREAS St. Michael's Church in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, has been closed and a number of its former parishioners, wishing to retain involvement

with a Lithuanian organization and maintain their Lithuanian identity, have taken action to form a council of the Knights of Lithuania,

BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates at the 82nd annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, express on behalf of all our membership a most sincere and warm welcome to the new council. May we all enjoy many fruitful years of working together "For God and Country."

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DONATIONS:

ST. CASIMIR'S GUILD

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to this 82nd Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, here assembled in Novi, Michigan, continue to show our support to the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome, Italy, with a donation of \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) through the St. Casimir's Guild.

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LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID

WHEREAS Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid (LCRA) was extremely supportive of the Knights of Lithuania in our "Aid to Lithuania" work; and,

WHEREAS Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid continues to provide spiritual and humanitarian assistance to Lithuania,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania assembled at the 82nd National convention send a \$100 (one hundred dollar) donation to LCRA to support their ongoing work.

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VALIO! VALIO! VALIO!

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH

WHEREAS St. Andrew's Parish, in New Brittany, Connecticut, is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in September of this year,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 82nd annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania assembled on this 12th day of August 1995 extend our heartiest congratulations to Fr. John

Rikteraitis, Pastor, and the parishioners of St. Andrew's Church.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

WHEREAS St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in Minersville, Pennsylvania, is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 82nd annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania assembled on this 11th day of August 1995 extend our heartiest congratulations to the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

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STS. PETER AND PAUL PARISH

WHEREAS Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, in Elizabeth, NJ, is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 82nd annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania assembled on this 12th day of August 1995 extend our heartiest congratulations to the parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church.

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OUR LADY OF VILNIUS PARISH

WHEREAS Our Lady of Vilnius Parish, in New York City, is celebrating its 90th Anniversary on October 15, 1995,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 82nd annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania assembled on this 12th day of August 1995 extend our heartiest congratulations to the parishioners of Our Lady of Vilnius Church.

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

WHEREAS Immaculate Conception Parish, in Chicago (Brighton Park), Illinois, is celebrating its 80th Anniversary this year,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 82nd annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania assembled on this 12th day of August 1995 extend our heartiest congratulations to Rev. Anthony Puchenski, Pastor, and the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church.

ILGIAUSIU METU LINKIME:

FR. FRANCIS PLANTES

WHEREAS Fr. Francis P. Plantes celebrated the Golden Jubilee, 50th anniversary of his consecration as a priest on March 4th of this year; and,

WHEREAS Fr. Plantes faithfully served as pastor of SS Peter and Paul Lithuanian Catholic Church in Homestead, Pennsylvania for 31 years until its closing in 1992 and as Spiritual Advisor to Council 19, Pittsburgh since 1990,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates at the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, here assembled on this 11th day of August 1995, extend our warmest greeting, sincere felicitations and heartfelt congratulations to Father Plantes on this auspicious occasion.

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FR. BERNARD GUSTAS

WHEREAS Father Bernard J. Gustas is celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and

WHEREAS Father Gustas, while serving as Pastor of St. Joseph's Church and as administrator of Holy Cross Parish, has been a strong supporter of the Knights of Lithuania, and is the Spiritual Advisor of Council 136, Hudson-Mohawk,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates at the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, here assembled on this 12th day of August 1995, extend our warmest greetings, sincere felicitations and heartiest congratulations to Father Gustas.

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FR. JOSEPH F. CALLAHAN

WHEREAS Father Joseph F. Callahan on November 21 of this year will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood; and,

WHEREAS Father Callahan has faithfully served the parishioners of St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA, for 2 years; and has been a strong supporter of the Knights of Lithuania,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates at the 82nd

National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, here assembled on this 12th day of August 1995, extend our warmest greetings, sincere felicitations and heartiest congratulations to Father Callahan.

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SISTERS OF JESUS CRUCIFIED

WHEREAS the Sisters of Jesus Crucified in Brockton, Massachusetts, are, this year, celebrating the 50th anniversary of their establishment in Brockton,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 82nd annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania assembled on this 11th day of August, 1995 extend our heartiest congratulations to the Sisters of Jesus Crucified in Brockton, MA.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

IN APPRECIATION OF:

DRAUGAS

WHEREAS the Lithuanian Catholic Daily "DRAUGAS" has generously printed news of the Knights of Lithuania in the "Vyčių Veikla" column and in other parts of the publication,

BE IT RESOLVED that the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania express its sincerest gratitude to the "Draugas" and its staff for their generosity and cooperation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a \$200.00 donation be sent with this expression of gratitude.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DARBININKAS

WHEREAS the Lithuanian Catholic Weekly, DARBININKAS, has generously printed news of the Knights of Lithuania,

BE IT RESOLVED that the 82st National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania express its appreciation to the DARBININKAS and its staff for their cooperation and generosity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a donation of \$200.00 be sent to DARBININKAS with an expression of gratitude.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DIRVA

WHEREAS the Lithuanian Weekly "DIRVA" has consistently and generously printed news of the Knights of Lithuania in their publication,

BE IT RESOLVED that the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania express its sincerest gratitude to "Dirva" and its staff for their generosity and cooperation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a \$200.00 donation be sent with this expression of gratitude.

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GREETINGS:

THE LITHUANIAN ALLIANCE OF AMERICA

WHEREAS the Lithuanian Alliance of America (LAA), the oldest Lithuanian fraternal organization in the USA is holding its 66th National Convention in Cleveland, OH, on September 22 through 24, 1995; and,

WHEREAS the LAA has traditionally been supportive of the Knights of Lithuania,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania convey its fraternal greetings to the LAA through a full page ad in their convention program book.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THANK YOU, BENEFACTORS:

THANK YOU TO ROBERT BORIS

WHEREAS Robert Boris has generously spent countless hours organizing and shipping medical aid to Lithuania, as President of Aid to Lithuania; and,

WHEREAS the operations of Aid to Lithuania, Inc., as a subsidiary of the Knights of Lithuania and closely identified with them, have brought great credit to our organization and have resulted in a heightened awareness and appreciation of the Knights of Lithuania among the Lithuanian community both here and in Lithuania,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates here assembled at the 82nd annual convention send him a heartfelt thank you and prayers for continued success.

WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF

WHEREAS the World Medical Relief Organization, established as a non-profit organization to send medical supplies to needy countries, has continued to make available much needed medicines, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment for shipment to Lithuania. In the five years of collaborative effort with the Knights of Lithuania, sixteen 40-ft containers for Aid to Lithuania have already been dispatched; and,

WHEREAS the total estimated value of the medical aid for Lithuania donated through the auspices of World Medical Relief is now nearly \$10.5 million,

BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to this 82nd Annual National Convention that the Knights of Lithuania acknowledge this most valuable contribution and express our heartfelt thanks to World Medical Relief for its outstanding work.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MERCY INTERNATIONAL

WHEREAS Mercy International Health Services under the dedicated leadership of Glen Haydon has spent much time, money and energy pursuant to their proposal to establish an American-style Catholic hospital in Lithuania and which would also serve to educate personnel in modern techniques of medicine,

BE IT RESOLVED that the 82nd Annual Knights of Lithuania Convention acknowledge their efforts and thank them for their continued dedication to humanitarian aid and support to Lithuania.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CATHOLIC MEDICAL MISSION BOARD

WHEREAS Catholic Medical Mission Board has been most generous in supplying much needed medicines for shipment to Lithuania and have now contributed to three shipments with donated medicines worth almost \$ 3 million dollars,

BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates gathered at the 82nd National Convention, that the Knights of Lithuania express our appreciation for their continuing most valuable support.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CHRISTIAN RELIEF SERVICES

WHEREAS Christian Relief Services has been most cooperative through the services of George Lendraitis of Lithuanian Mercy Lift and is supplying critically needed financial assistance to Aid to Lithuania, Inc., by covering some transportation costs for the shipment of humanitarian aid to Lithuania.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Knights of Lithuania gathered at our 82nd Annual National Convention that we officially express our most heartfelt appreciation of their support to both Christian Relief Services and George Lendraitis.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MR. STEVE LIVANAVAGE

WHEREAS Mr. Steve Livanavage, a Lithuanian businessman resident in Hackettstown, NJ, has most generously obtained a significant amount of medical equipment and consumable supplies required in hemo-dialysis therapy and made it available for shipment to Lithuania; and,

WHEREAS in cooperation with the Knights of Lithuania subsidiary Aid to Lithuania, Inc., he has responded to urgent calls for specific supplies critically needed at the Vilnius University Antakalnis Hospital Nephrological Center; and,

WHEREAS, the aggregate value of materials and equipments donated by or through Mr. Livanavage and shipped under the auspices of Aid to Lithuania, Inc., now totals over one million three hundred thousand dollars,

BE IT RESOLVED that we delegates to the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, on behalf of our membership at large acknowledge this most significant humanitarian effort and express our sincere appreciation for his contributions.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PAULETTE MONTOKA

WHEREAS Mrs. Paulette Montoka, a non-Lithuanian resident of Southern California, in a most magnificent act of Christian charity took upon herself the task of collecting a vast amount of medical supplies; clothing and other items for the poor of Lithuania. She amassed sufficient goods and supplies

to fill a 40-foot container and with an aggregate value of over \$130,000. She contacted K of L subsidiary Aid to Lithuania, Inc. to request identification of an appropriate recipient and assistance by paying for transportation of the container to Lithuania.

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates here assembled at the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania acknowledge her outstanding Catholic action and express our deep appreciation. *

★ ★ ★ ★

MR. BARTON ETTER, JR.

WHEREAS Mr. Barton Etter, Jr, a non-Lithuanian retired businessman resident of Memphis, Tennessee, in a most magnificent act of Christian charity took upon himself the task of collecting a vast amount of medical supplies, computers and other items needed in Lithuania. The amassed goods and supplies filled a 40-foot container and had an aggregate value of over \$250,000. He contacted K of L subsidiary, Aid to Lithuania, Inc. to request identification of an appropriate recipient and assistance through payment of transportation of the container to Lithuania,

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates here assembled at the 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania acknowledge Mr. Etter's outstanding act of Christian charity and express our deep appreciation. *

★ ★ ★ ★

AČIŪ, AČIŪ, AČIŪ

CARDINAL MAIDA

WHEREAS His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida has repeatedly demonstrated a most affectionate and abiding support of his flock and has specifically lent his personal as well as official time, talents, and effort to support those of Lithuanian heritage. - His generous donation to the Sisters of St. Francis to aid them in re-establishing their order in Utena, Lithuania; the generous permission to transfer the furnishings of recently closed St. Peter's Lithuanian Church to a newly established parish in Lithuania; agreeing to honorary sponsorship of Aid to Lithuania, Inc, fund raising efforts, and now to personal participation in the closing liturgy of this 82nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania which also jointly celebrates the Diamond Jubilee year of St. Anthony's Lithuanian Parish,

BE IT RESOLVED that we delegates to the 82nd National Convention hereby extend on behalf of all our membership a most heartfelt thanks to Cardinal Maida, wishing him a long and prosperous life with much success in his episcopacy. We pray that God grant him all his needs, wants and more.

★ ★ ★ ★

OUTGOING SUPREME COUNCIL OFFICERS

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 82nd Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered here at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi, Michigan, express on behalf of themselves and the general membership, that they represent, their deepest gratitude to the 1994-1995 Supreme Council for its dedicated service to the organization and support of the ideals of the Knights of Lithuania.

★ ★ ★ ★

CONVENTION PRESIDIUIM

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 82nd Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, assembled at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi, Michigan, extend their warmest appreciation and gratitude to the Presidium and its committees for their hard work, diligence and professionalism in the conduct of the business of this convention.

★ ★ ★ ★

AČIŪ, 102-Ą KUOPA

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 82nd Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Novi Hilton Hotel in Novi, MI, extend our sincerest congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Host Council 102 and the entire convention committee for having planned and provided excellent programs and facilities for this convention.

★ ★ ★ ★

NOVI HILTON

WHEREAS the management and the staff of the Novi Hilton Hotel demonstrated an uncommon level of hospitality, courtesy and cooperativeness during our 82nd Annual National Convention; and,

WHEREAS the accommodations were most comfortable and pleasing; most specifically appreciated was the use of the "Forum" room for our religious services,

BE IT RESOLVED that a note of appreciation and thanks on behalf of all the delegates be sent.

Seven Scholarships awarded at Convention

By Dorothy A. Banos
Scholarship Chairman

It was my extreme pleasure to present the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship awards for 1995. This is our 37th year in presenting these awards. This year, we had seven recipients:

For 1995, the IRENE SANKUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP awarded \$1,000.00 to Vladas Gedgauskas, a seminarian studying at St. Casimir College in Rome, Italy. Vladas, a native of Lithuania, is highly regarded by the faculty and students at the college, and will be ordained to the priesthood next year.

The prestigious ALICE KARKLUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP of \$1,500.00 was awarded to a member of Council 141 - Bridgeport, CT - Jennifer Ann Vazquez. Jennifer has been a member of her Council for five years. She has been a dancer with the Berzelis Lithuanian Folk Dance Ensemble since 1988. They have performed at various events including: the National Convention in Worcester, MA; the Ninth Lithuanian Folk Festival (Chicago, 1992), and the Song and Dance Festival (Lithuania, 1994). During the independence movement, she was actively involved in rallies, petition drives, letter writing campaigns, and other events in support of Lithuanian freedom. She worked in the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, Hartford, CT. She has received many honors and achievements. She will graduate from Central Connecticut State University with a degree in Political Science. She hopes to locate a position with a lobbying firm in Hartford, CT, where she will work with State representatives and senators. Her future plans are to attend law school with the intention of practicing law or entering the political field.

A \$1,500.00 KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHOLARSHIP was awarded to Allen Joseph Cius of Council 36, Chicago, IL. Allen has been a member of the Juniors of Council 36, serving in many offices and participating in their many activities. He has received many special honors and awards, even while working after school. He has been



Jennifer Vazquez

working with computers since he is seven; so, of course, his goal in life is to become the best computer engineer that he possibly could.

The second \$1,500.00 KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHOLARSHIP was awarded to Molly



Allen Cius

Kathleen Geiger, a member of Council 96, Dayton, OH. She has held many offices in the Juniors and has participated in many activities. She is now Historian in the Senior Council. She belongs to the Vejelis Dance Group and performed at this convention. She will attend Sinclair



Molly Geiger

Community College, taking classes in the Visual Communications Program. She would like a career in commercial art.



Marilyn Haynor

A \$1,000.00 scholarship was awarded to Marilyn Elizabeth Hayner of Council 136, Schenectady, NY. Marilyn has been president of the Juniors for five years and participated in numerous council activities. She has helped send packages

Kelly was brought up in strong Lithuanian traditions, joined the council and participated in their functions. She is attending Russell Sage College and will be traveling to Spain as part of her education. She plans to be a bilingual teacher after she completes her Masters at Russell Sage Graduate School. Her mother, also a teacher, went to Lithuania on the Apple Program with Kelly. Now Kelly wants to return to Lithuania to help the Lithuanians with reform.



Mary Beth Yanek

to orphans in Lithuania and also sends greeting cards to shut-ins in Lithuania. Her plan after college is to join the Peace Corps. But she would like to be a doctor and find a cure for cancer since members of her family died from the disease.

The Scholarship Committee wishes all the recipients the best of luck in pursuing their college curriculum, attaining their goal in life.

As Chair of the Scholarship Committee, I want to thank the members for their diligent work for this committee. I also wish to thank all of the districts, councils, members and friends who have contributed to this worthy fund. Thank you and God Bless you. Please continue to support this project.



The next \$1,000.00
KNIGHTS OF



LITHUANIA
SCHOLARSHIP was
awarded to Mary Beth
Yanek of Council 86,
DuBois, PA. Mary Beth
has been attending meetings
with the regular council, as
they don't have a junior

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA PIN/TIE TACS

Display this pin proudly on a tie, shirt, jacket or cap. Handsomely detailed in goldtone and red, these enameled pins also make great gifts for friends and family.

Specify:

- A. tie tac cloisonne (men's) or
- B. clasp pin (women's)

only \$2.50 each

plus \$1 each shipping and handling.

Send orders to: Ed Barkowski
1226 Palma Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12306

Make checks payable to: "Knights of
Lithuania"

Kelly Thompson

council. She has been participating in their many activities when called upon. She has been vice-president for the past two years. She will attend the Pennsylvania College of Technology and work for a degree in Dental Hygiene. She is excited to find what the future has in store for her.

One \$750.00 KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHOLARSHIP was awarded to Kelly Anne Thompson of Council 100, Amsterdam, NY.

Cultural Events

Get Acquainted Picnic

by John Baltrus

Those who attended this year's National Convention were treated to a Lithuanian Picnic on Thursday evening. What made this picnic different, was its location inside the ballroom of the Novi Hilton! Of course we had the usual picnic fare of hot dogs, hamburgers, and watermelon. The disappointment in not being able to hold traditional picnic events, such as a watermelon seed spitting contest and egg toss contest, was tempered by being able to enjoy the air-conditioned comfort of the ballroom, as opposed to the sweltering heat outdoors.

Our picnic area was packed due to the heavy turnout and nary an empty seat could be found. The entertainment for the evening consisted of Council 102's talented musicians, **Joe Stark** and **John Stanievich**, who were accompanied by their fellow musician and honorary Lithuanian for the evening, **Nick Fiore**. The group started their pre-dinner entertainment with a series of songs associated with the different states the delegates represented. Songs ranging from the Pennsylvania Polka to the Ohio State Fight Song brought rousing cheers from the council members representing those states, as well as others.

Following a filling meal the entertainment swung into high gear. The musicians moved



(top) Convention "picnic" table group enjoys food, song and friendships; (left) Frank and Irene Petrauskas take a spin on the dance floor.



from table to table filling requests for traditional Lithuanian Folk Songs. Everyone was able to participate in the singing, as song books were thoughtfully provided by the convention organizers. The crowd sang many traditional Lithuanian favorites, such as *Kas Subatos Vakareļi* and *Kai A Turėjau (Kaime Mergelę)*. As they moved from table to table, they were periodically joined by other K of L members of musical notoriety, including **Faustas Strolia** and **Al Brazis**. The musicians kept the evening moving and the crowd interested by switching back and forth between folk songs and dance music. This gave the opportunity for our energetic guests to work off their meals by taking part in the Lithuanian dances, *Noriu Miego* and *Suktinis*, along with our Spiritual Advisor's favorite, the Chicken Dance, and many others.

The band kept a steady pace throughout the evening, never seeming to tire. The crowd was enthusiastic as well, splicing in conversation and renewing old acquaintances as the evening wore on. The picnic came to a close around 10:30 p.m., as guests headed to their rooms and began another round of smaller parties that lasted until the wee hours of the morning.

THREE PERSPECTIVES OF LITHUANIAN FOLK CULTURE

by Vincent B. Boris

It has become customary at our conventions to experience in sight and sound, in prose and poetry, or in participation and performance some aspect of Lithuanian culture. It is a tribute to the richness of our culture that offerings can extend from the beauty of operatic arias and classical musicianship (Washington '88; Chicago '94) to the plaintive re-enactment of folk stories by Lithuanian Summer Camp youth (Worcester '93).

In Detroit '95, new dimensions were introduced. First, came traditional folk dances aptly and ably performed by youth from Dayton, Ohio. A new dimension derived from the fact that only some of the dancers were of Lithuanian extraction; one was Latvian; most boasted of a mix of ethnic backgrounds; all were at least third generation Americans. One could not have surmised that fact from their dress or demeanor. All seemed to fully and equally enjoy the dancing. Their ease of movement and precision in the choreography could only have been achieved through hours of preparation and practice. Yet, a sense of spontaneity and frivolity permeated the performance to make it all the more enjoyable by the audience which indeed was captivated by the dancers.

The most captivating aspect of the Dancers from Dayton was the diversity of their ethnic backgrounds. We, Lithuanians have long boasted that the folk songs and dances were the jewels of our rich heritage. Too often, we have treated them just as such precious jewels - to be enjoyed in our own private vaults and put on display only as in a museum. But then "*Vejelis*" proved that folk

dances are not diminished in the least by sharing. Rather, by sharing, cultural appreciation is expanded and its longevity extended well beyond the immigrant generations.

After a short video tour of Lithuania, a second unique cultural perspective on Lithuanian folk life was seen. This was a short film of Lithuanian-American life in the 1920's. Unfortunately, it reflected many of the "flaws" of non-professional film production - overloud background clatter, stilted dialogue, choppy transitions between scenes, etc. It was produced by a prosperous Detroit of Lithuanian extraction, based on an incident related by her grandmother concerning the days of Prohibition in Detroit.

It was a time when many Lithuanian immigrants (and those of other ethnic groups) found "bootlegging" or production of "bathtub gin" as the most accessible means of livelihood. At the time many women, widowed early in life by the untimely death of hard-working spouses, found that keeping boarders (usually newly arrived immigrants), allowing gambling in the dining room in the evening (from which the house could extract a percentage of the wagers) and "selling" home-produced liquor provided sufficient income to maintain the home and raise several children. The story concerned an incident where the woman was able to provide an

Vejelis Dayton Dancers included: Molly Geiger, instructor, Kay and Paul Andolsek, Bob Bloom, Lisa Bourdon, Aaron Geiger, Eric Geiger, Rhonda Harvey, Paul Keire, Ariana Liaugminas, Todd McMillin, Rob Pant, Michael and Norma Petkus and Kristy Tipton. Photo by Mike Vichinsky



emergency resupply of booze to a local "blind pig". Later, she successfully hides her stash from agents of the "Purple Gang," a notorious Detroit mafia group that controlled alcohol trafficking.

Despite its shortfalls, this video won some critical acclaim and was shown at the Detroit Institute of Arts. For many of the delegates, it was nostalgic; a few similar tales were related later during the post-event socials. It may not have been a flattering depiction of Lithuanian life in the States; but it was valid for a small segment of early immigrant urban life.

Finally came the *piece d'resistance* - a video translation of a major motion picture produced in Lithuania in the mid 1960's "*Velnių Nuoteka*" or "The Devil's Bride". The film won high critical acclaim (and several prizes). Based on a folk tale about a crafty miller who makes a deal with the "devil" to exchange the hand of his daughter (when she comes of marriageable age) in return for manually powering his mill. The story is mostly set at that critical time when the beautiful daughter has fallen in love with the local "hunk" but faces the fulfillment of the father's earlier promise to the devil. The father, desiring his daughter's happiness, devises a plan to outwit the devil. He substitutes, for his daughter, a shrewish hag who so nags and discomforts the devil during the pre-wedding negotiations that the devil soon cancels the bargain and forswears his requirement to marry the daughter. After more mischief engendered by the devil, the story ends with the happy couple married and riding off into the sunset.

"*Velnių Nuoteka*" is set as a period piece (18th or 19th century ??) but is presented in the form of a light rock opera a la *Clockwork Orange* or *Jesus Christ, Superstar*. Elements of allegory can be viewed and interpreted in many ways. The film was the basis for long analytical discussions whenever shown in Lithuania. Imagine, the college kids, who saw this movie when it first came out, had lived their entire life and formative years under the Soviets and official atheism. Yet, on the screen was a marriage being performed by a priest and in another scene the miller and his daughter earnestly

pray to God for help and salvation against a background of "decadent Western rock" music.

As a Lithuanian folk-tale, the story presented stereotypical characters. The "devil" in Lithuanian folk tales is not the malevolent embodiment of evil so much as an impish mischief-maker. The miller is a wise and crafty Lithuanian peasant, who can get the best of any bargain. The daughter is the sweet virginal Lithuanian maiden. Her suitor is a typical Lithuanian "hunk" - handsome and vain but sturdy and brave.

The action which at first seems so incredible begins to make sense only within the context of the Lithuanian folk-tale genre. One prime example is provided by the Devil - He is ensnared by the miller's net and after being outwitted by the miller spends time in the attic of the mill, propelling the rod that turns the millstone. The devil keeps his bargain, but it doesn't stop him from creating mischief particularly in preventing the would-be suitor from seeing the miller's daughter - bridges collapse, wheels come off the carriage, a collaborator is convinced by the devil to steal the horses during the wedding ceremony so that the vows are not taken, etc.

Which brings us to the other example - why would a man abandon his beloved right at the point of taking the vows of marriage in order to pursue horse-thieves? But understanding Lithuanian folk wisdom, it is the essential aspect of a man to support his wife and family. If he has no means of support, then he has no right to take a wife. Therefore, it is logical that upon losing his horses, he would first attempt to recover them, regaining his ability to support a wife, before continuing with the ceremony.

Thus, through subtle inferences and allegorical action, the film offers a moral lesson in values. It is all the more surprising that it was produced in the darkest years of the Soviet period. To that extent it came as a reaffirmation of a statement made earlier by one of our featured speakers at the convention, *Fr. Gintaras Grušas*. He reminded us that throughout the long period of Soviet domination, Lithuanians had never lost their faith.



The Saint Casimir Guild
of the
Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome
Sv. Kazimiero Kolegijos Gildija

by Anne Klizas Wargo

During the meeting of the St. Casimir Guild Board of Directors held in Worcester, Mass. in March 1995, it was decided to send a letter to all Councils requesting a donation to the Vestment Fund so a check could be presented to Msgr. A. Bartkus, at the Convention. Prior to the convention, we received \$8,845.00. Another \$700.00 was presented at the convention from C-112 Chicago by Rita Zakarka who chaired a raffle for this purpose. \$500.00 was also contributed at the convention by Mrs. Loretta Stukas in memory of her husband, Dr. Jack Stukas. We proudly presented Msgr. Bartkus a check for \$10,000.00 at the convention.

Contributors to the Vestment Fund are as follows:
Council 144 Anthracite, Pa. \$1,200.00
i.m.o. Father Matthew Jarasunas 300.00
Total Anthracite \$1,500.00
C-36 Brighton Pk., Chicago 500.00
New England District 350.00

\$300.00 Donations

AMBER District
C-118 Hazleton, PA
C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY
C-16 Chicago, IL
C-26, Worcester, MA
Mary & Helen Labadis,
Gilberton, Pa. i.m.o. Bill Labadis
R. Svainauskas, Studio City, Ca.
Eleanor Vaicaitis, Frackville, Pa.
i.m.o. Stanley Vaicaitis
Vincent Boris, Columbia, Md
Helen Chesko, Mahanoy City, Pa.
Alphonse & Bernice Mikatavage,
Minersville, Pa
i.m.o. deceased
Mikatavage-Kasputis Families

\$250.00 Donation

C. 96 Dayton, OH
i.m.o. Fr. Vaclovas Katarskas

\$200.00 Donations

C- 29 Newark, NJ
C- 19 Pittsburgh, Pa.

\$150.00 Donation

C 63 Lehigh Valley, Pa.

\$100.00 Donations

C -17 S. Boston, Ma.

C -86 DuBois, Pa.
C-100 Amsterdam, NY
C-147 St. Petersburg, Fl.
C-41 Brooklyn NY
C-50 New Haven, Ct.
Olga Gray, Ansonia, Ct.
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Tyson, Ansonia, Ct.
Frances Boyle, Harrisburg, Pa.

\$90.00 Donation

C- 3 Philadelphia
For sick members - \$50.
i.m.o. Catherine Briscoe \$25.
i.m.o. Edmund Binkus \$15.
Total: \$90.00

\$75.00 Donations

Anne Wargo, St. Clair, PA \$50
i.m.o. Charles & Anna Klizas
i.m.o. Fr. Matthew Jarasunas \$25.
Total: \$75.00
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Pandza,
Philadelphia, Pa. i.m.o. deceased
family members \$50.
Commemoration Fr. Joseph
Anderlonis Silver Jubilee \$25.
Total: \$75.00

\$50.00 Donations

C- 30 Westfield, Ma.
i.m.o. Benedict Coach
C-146 Harrisburg, Pa.
C-142 Washington DC
C 153 Treasure Coast, Fl.
C140 Syracuse, NY
C-1 Brockton, Ma.
C-90 Kearny, NJ
C-103 Providence, RI
John & Andrea Baltrus,
Pittsburgh, PA

i.m.o. Antanas Balsys
Anne Panchari, Seltzer, Pa.
Rev. Albin Janunas, Lawrence, Ma
Rev. Bernard Shimkus, Mahanoy
City, Pa.
Kunigunda Coach, Westfield, Ma.
i.m.o. Benedict Coach
St. Peter & Paul Holy Name Society
Hazleton, Pa.
Bernice Aviza, Albany, NY

\$30.00 Donations

Commemoration of 35th.
Anniversary of Ordination of
Father Bernard Gustus - Mary
Gustas, Mt. Carmel, Pa.
Hazleton, Pa. Members - Valentina
Dancho, Charles & Delores
Yuscavage, Evelyn Urban, Eva
Steponis

\$25.00 Donations

C-78 Lawrence, Ma.
C-10 Athol-Gardner, Ma.
C-52 Elizabeth, NJ
Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Danco,
Bridgewater, NJ
Juliana Liana, Elizabeth, NJ
i.m.o. William Senkus
Ann & Ed Carlitus, Ringtown, Pa.
i.m.o. Father Matthew Jarasunas
Mary Zutant, Syracuse, NY
i.m.o. Jack Zutant
Annie Morgalis, Minersville, Pa.
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Mr. & Mrs. V. Milukas
i.m.o. Dr. Jack Stukas
John Grenda Lukas, Lawrence, Ma.

Ausra Maknys, Philadelphia, Pa.
i.m.o. Edmund Binkus

\$20.00 Donations

Leona Taronis, Pt. Carbon, Pa.
Beatrice Jasaitas Richard,
Gardner, PA.
i.m.o. Blanche Genaitis
Julia Aleshunas, Greensburg, Pa.
Margaret Rozmerski, Kulpmont, Pa.

\$10.00 Donations

Mary Narcavage, Mt. Carmel, Pa.
Ginner Kazlauskas, St. Clair, Pa.
Anna Letunic, Gilberton, Pa.
i.m.o. Wm. Letunic
Ann & Albert
Yockachonis, Gilberton, Pa.
Anna Helen McDonald, Kaska, Pa.
i.m.o. Tommy McDonald

\$5.00 Donations

Diane Drumstas, Philadelphia
Marge Marowski, Shenandoah, Pa.
Walter Mameniskis, Philadelphia
i.m.o. Edmune Binkus

Mass stipends were sent each month to Msgr. Bartkus. From

August 30 to July 17, 1995, 316 Mass requests were forwarded. The stipends were forwarded to the College Mass Stipend account. I was asked by a member if these were individual Masses or were all put in a barrel. Rest assured, they are individual Masses. You can request a specific date but I must get that at least a month in advance so I can get the request to Rome in time. Each Mass request is acknowledged and a new Mass Card is forwarded for future use. We are grateful who request Masses, This is a great help to the Priests at the college.

Donations received from September 1994 to July 1, 1995 were \$6,358.00. After the Convention Donations were received in November 1994, \$10,000.00 was forwarded to the College Account.

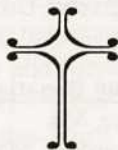
Six Seminarians were ordained this year. They are:

Telšiai (July 9)
Vladas Gedgaudas
Renaldas Reivytis
Arvydas Ramonas
Kaunas (July 8)
Remigijus Krprys
Aurelijus Zukauskas
Vilkaviškis (July 9)
Rimas Skinkaitis

We thank everyone who contributed in any way to the support of the Lithuanian Pontifical College and we ask that you would continue to help in whatever way you can, by requesting Masses, by donations to help keep the College alive, by your prayers for more vocations to the Priesthood. To all of you who have helped in any way, we say "Širdingai Ačiū".

Respectfully submitted,
Anna K. Wargo

**In Memoriam
Rest in Peace**



*Amžina atilsį duok
mirusiams viešpatie*

Rev. Albert Karalis
Spiritual Advisor
C-50, New Haven, CT
August 21, 1995

Josephine B. Mankus
C-24, Chicago, IL
August 19, 1995

Frank Baginski
C-36, Chicago, IL
July 5, 1995

Larry F. Gubista
C-36, Chicago, IL
June 20, 1995

Margaret Rasavage
C-86, Dubois, PA
July 10, 1995

Michael Wilton
C-140, Syracuse, NY
July 18, 1995

LM Bertha Stann
C-147, St. Petersburg, FL
July 25, 1995

Bernice Schiebel
C-153, Treas. Coast, FL
June 29, 1995

Ruth Remeika
C-29, Newark, NJ
July 12, 1995

Beatrice Stanis
C-46, Vandergrift, PA
July 7, 1995

Margaret Zelonis
C-144, Anthracite, PA
July 10, 1995

Ruth Remeika
C-29, Newark, NJ
July 12, 1995

Mary Bittner
C-29, Newark, NJ
July 25, 1995

GLEN E. HAYDON - 1995 FRIEND OF LITHUANIA

*Vincent B. Boris, Chairman
Lithuanian Affairs Committee*

All the nominees for the "Friend of Lithuania Award" were suggested on the basis of their involvement with humanitarian aid to Lithuania as she recovers from the long half century of Soviet domination. The 1995 selectee is distinguished by not only what he has already done, but by an even greater potential that will evolve from the concept and groundwork already laid.

It was 40 years ago that the first "Friend of Lithuania" was named at the Knights of Lithuania Annual Convention Banquet by Father John Jutt, after whom the award is now named. Born in this country, he carried into all aspects of his life a very deep and vibrant love of his Lithuanian heritage and the land of his forefathers. The immediate post-World War II years, when most of the world was still rejoicing in the long awaited peace, Fr. Jutt recognized that there was no joy in our ancestral homeland. Communists were back in power and backed up by the occupying Soviet Red Army. The Lithuanian people were again subjected to the Stalinist program of genocide through deportation and Russification. The exhausted Western Allied raised no official protest.

Lithuania was born under his leadership to bring the situation in Lithuania to public attention through letters, Op-Ed pieces, demonstrations, etc. He soon noted that the cause of Lithuanian freedom attracted support and compassion from a number of influential and well placed non-Lithuanians. Fr. Jutt developed and implemented a proposal to recognize the efforts of these non-Lithuanians by presenting a yearly award at our National Convention.

This award has been presented annually to a wide variety of individuals in the political area, to religious leaders and others. All were inspired by a deep felt commitment to human rights, justice and



Glen Haydon thanks K of L and Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, Vincent Boris at banquet.

Christian charity. Each shared with us a concern for the plight of the Lithuanian people and manifested concern with action.

Lithuania reclaimed its independence in 1990 and the Lithuanian Affairs Committee has shifted its concerns to the problems and frustrations of Fr. Jutt was convinced that Lithuanian Americans could not complacently stand by in the face of this Western apathy to Soviet terror. His voice rang out clearly and convincingly - Lithuania would not be forgotten nor would the conscience of the West be allowed to be ignore the plight of the brave Lithuanian people. Thus, in 1946 the Lithuanian Affairs Committee of the Knights of Lithuania was reorganized. Many of the previous techniques of public outreach and legislative lobbying are being employed to support aid in overcoming 50 years of Soviet suppression and depredation. Once again, we have found a tremendous amount of support, from non-Lithuanians, who have freely and unstintingly given their time, talents and expertise to help Lithuania overcome the dark decades and prepare to enter the bright new millennium. Which brings us to today as I present to you a man whose personal credentials have entitled him to be designated as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. In 1990, he began by making inquiries on the status of health care in Lithuania, if there was a need for outside help and what might be done.

Glen Haydon is the President of Mercy International Health Services a subsidiary of a Michigan based non-profit Healthcare system sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of Detroit. He serves as an educator and advisor to governments, religious congregations and individual hospitals, specializing in the areas of privatization, strategic planning, marketing, operations improvement, structuring of hospitals and health care systems. He has worked in Africa, Micronesia, Melanesia, the Middle East, Central and South America and Eastern Europe. Prior to coming to Mercy International, he had been involved with medical relief work for the International Committee of the Red Cross, disaster relief work for the United States government and the United Nations and has served as executive director of the American Red Cross.

Had we been in a position to search and hire someone for a long-term healthcare improvement project, I doubt that we could have found someone better qualified. I know that neither we nor Lithuania would be able to afford his services. Yet, providentially, he came to us and without recompense has worked these past five years with great effectiveness.

He began his involvement with detailed interviews of doctors from Lithuania visiting in the Detroit area. In this early period, he developed the concept of establishing a Catholic Hospital with modern technology and US standards in health care as well as physical infrastructure. In 1992, he made his first visit to Lithuania to gain first hand knowledge of the situation. In addition to visiting several health care facilities, he met with the Minister of Health as well as Cardinal Sladkevicius to assess their willingness to support the project. Both reflected reservations and demurred from enthusiastic full support.

Having seen the hospitals, Glen was convinced of the need and recognized the lack of enthusiasm from government and Church leaders as coming from factors other than nonrecognition of the need for improvement in healthcare. Undaunted, he has persevered in refining the concept, developing a plan for implementation and laying groundwork for the eventual funding of the project. Subsequent visits

to Lithuania were successful in gaining both official government and church endorsement of the project.

By obtaining a grant from the Emily George Foundation, Mr. Haydon conducted a seminar on healthcare systems for senior members of the Lithuanian Ministry of Health in October of 1993. It was at that time the Government was developing their first post-Soviet overall plan for organizing Lithuanian healthcare. There can be no doubt that the subsequently promulgated blueprint for Lithuanian healthcare was influenced by this seminar.

Additionally, Mr. Haydon now sits on the Advisory Board for Aid to Lithuania, Inc, and has become involved in furthering the efforts of that program, as well. Thus, in many ways, Mr. Glen Haydon has demonstrated a real concern for the welfare of Lithuania devoting much time, talent and effort to a most significant project to aid Lithuania. I am most gratified to name him "Friend" and present him as our 1995 Friend of Lithuania - Glen E. Haydon.



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MSGR. ALGIMANTAS BARTKUS
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 of St. Casimir,
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HIS EXCELLENCY ALGIMANTAS EIDINTAS
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Aldona J. Kirstuk, C-147	300.00
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Mary & Vincent Mackelis, C-52	270.00
K of L Mid-Central District	100.00
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Julia T. Burlen, C-142	100.00
Ruth & Charles Brazinski, C-52	100.00
Ed & Audrey Toole, C-50	100.00
Eleanor Kasputis, C-112	100.00
Phyllis Pelletier, C-112	100.00
Elinor Sluzas, HM, C-96	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Algerd Brazis, HM, C-112	100.00
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Bernice Aviza, C-136	50.00
Julie Zakarka, C-112	50.00
Rita Karrytais, C-26	50.00
M. & I.	50.00
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Jean & Richard Marks, C-25	25.00
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Louis Bogart, C-79	25.00
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Frances Petkus, HM, C-95	25.00
Tony Yacavonis	20.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	20.00
Anonymous	20.00
Anna Helen McDonald, C-144	10.00
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Mary Matachinskas	10.00
Regina Kot, C-90	5.00

PLEDGES:

K of L Mid-America District	200.00
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bunikis, C-102	50.00
K of L C-16, Chicago	50.00
Rita Zakarka, C-112	20.00

TOTAL **\$8,808.00**

ST. CASIMIR GUILD:

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K of L Mid-Central District	100.00
Victor Stepalovich, C-3	100.00
Helen Chesko, C-144	100.00
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Margaret A. Senk, C-10	50.00
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Bernice Aviza, C-136	50.00
Eleanor Kasputis, C-112	50.00
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Rita Karrytais, C-26	50.00
Anonymous	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Algerd Brazis, HM, C-112	50.00
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Tom Bruzga, C-86	25.00
Josephine & Joseph Zukas, C-100	25.00
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John & Agnes Mickunas, C-3	25.00
Daina Kapochus Miller & Len Kapochus, C-3	25.00
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Anna D. Supernavage, C-144	25.00
Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	25.00
Jean & Richard Marks, C-25	25.00
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Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	25.00
Julie Zakarka, C-112	25.00
Frances Petkus, HM, C-96	25.00
Mark Bell, C-96	20.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	10.00
Mary F. Kincius, C-36	10.00
Mrs. Pat Roberts, C-144	10.00
(Vestment Fund)	
Alice Opanasets	10.00
Mary Matachinskas	10.00
Helen Medley, C-50	5.00

PLEDGES:

K of L Mid-America District	200.00
K of L C-16, Chicago	50.00
Rita Zakarka, C-112	10.00

TOTAL **\$1,940.00****KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION:**

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K of L Mid-Central District	100.00
Lee Marcinka, C-50	100.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	100.00
John & Agnes Mickunas, C-3	100.00
John Antanavicius, C-12	100.00
K of L C-144, Anthracite	100.00
Julie Burlen, C-142	100.00
Helen A. Chesko, C-144	100.00
Elena & John Nakrosis, C-90	100.00
K of L C-36, Chicago	50.00

Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	50.00
Eleanor Vaicaitis, C-144	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. John Stricki, C-27	50.00
Anonymous	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Algerd Brazis, HM, C-112	50.00
Frank & Irene Petrauskas, HM, C-140	25.00
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Rita Sussko, C-29	25.00
(IMO Michael Sussko)	
Daina Kapochus Miller & Len Kapochus, C-3	25.00
(IMO Marilyn Kapochus)	
Mary F. Kincius, C-36	25.00
Anonymous	25.00
Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	25.00
Helen Medley, C-50	25.00
Ed & Irene Senken, C-110	25.00
Tom Bruzga C-86	25.00
Ann Radzevich, C-100	10.00
Regina Kot, C-100	5.00

PLEDGES:

K of L Mid-America District	200.00
K of L C-16, Chicago	50.00
Rita Zakarka, C-112	10.00

TOTAL **\$1,925.00****K OF L SCHOLARSHIP FUND:**

Ed Cook, C-12	\$500.00
(IMO Mary York)	
K of L C-29, Newark	150.00
K of L Mid-Central District	100.00
K of L Amber District	100.00
K of L C-143, Pittston	50.00
Anna Marie Sewatsky, C-143	50.00
Dorothy Banos, C-143	50.00
Frances Bumila, C-1	50.00
K of L C-25, Cleveland	50.00
Anonymous	50.00
Anna D. Supernavage, C-144	35.00
(IMO William Labadis)	
Walter & Irene Svekla, C-3	25.00
Eleanor Vaicaitis, C-144	25.00
Lee Marcinka, C-50	25.00
John & Agnes Mickunas, C-3	25.00
Daina Kapochus Miller, C-3	25.00
(IMO Marilyn Kapochus)	
Len Kapochus, C-3	25.00
(IMO Marilyn Kapochus)	
Aldona Keaney	25.00
Anonymous	25.00
Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	25.00
Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	25.00
Ed & Irene Senken, C-110	25.00
Ann Radzevich, C-100	25.00

(IMO Anthony Radzevich)	
Julie Zakarka, C-112	25.00
Frances Petkus, HM, C-96	25.00
Margaret A. Senk, C-10	25.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	20.00
Tom & Ann Helen McDonald, C-144	10.00
Ed & Maria Deksnis, C-112	10.00

PLEDGES:

K of L Mid-America District	200.00
K of L C-16, Chicago	50.00
Rita Zakarka, C-112	10.00

TOTAL **\$1,860.00**

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Phyllis Pelletier, C-112	\$35.00
Frank & Irene Petrauskas, HM, C-140	25.00
Josephine & Joseph Zukas, C-110	25.00
Anna D. Supernavage, C-144	25.00
Anonymous	25.00
Elinor Sluzas, HM, C-96	25.00
Margaret A. Senk, C-10	25.00
Frances Petkus, HM, C-96	25.00
Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	15.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	10.00

TOTAL **\$235.00**

K OF L JUNIORS' FUND:

Anonymous	\$50.00
Elinor Sluzas, HM, C-96	25.00
Margaret Senk, C-10	25.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	20.00
Anonymous	15.00

TOTAL **\$135.00**

VYTIS FUND:

Frank & Irene Petrauskas, HM, C-140	\$25.00
Margaret A. Senk, C-10	25.00
Longinas Svelnis, HM, C-17	10.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	10.00
Regina Kot, C-100	5.00
Helen Medley, C-50	5.00

TOTAL **\$80.00**

K OF L GENERAL FUND:

American Travel Service Bureau	\$50.00
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TOTAL **\$50.00**

CONVENTION COMMITTEE:

Gene Gobis, C-100	\$10.00
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Regina Kot, C-100 5.00

TOTAL **\$15.00**

SILUVA SHRINE FUND:

Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	\$25.00
Ruth & Charles Brazinski, C-52	20.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	10.00
Helen Medley, C-50	5.00

TOTAL **\$60.00**

LCRA CHILDREN'S LUNCH FUND:

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Elinor Sluzas, HM, C-96	100.00
George & Frances Mikalauskas, C-96	30.00
Helen A. Chesko, C-144	25.00
Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	25.00
Ed & Irene Senken, C-110	25.00
Elena Mikalauskas, C-96	25.00
Dolores Wainauskas, C-112	25.00
Ruth & Charles Brazinski, C-52	15.00
Mary F. Kincius, C-36	15.00
Bertha R. Stoskus, C-103	10.00

TOTAL **\$495.00**

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Rita Karrytais, C-26	50.00
M. & I.	50.00
Bill & Margaret Dapkus, C-79	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. John Stricki, C-27	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Algerd Brazis, HM, C-112	50.00
Phyllis Pelletier, C-112	35.00
Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	25.00
Daina Kapochus Miller & Len Kapochus, C-3	25.00
(IMO Marilyn Kapochus)	
Dorothy Banos, C-143	25.00
Ed & Irene Senken, C-110	25.00
Jean Kapochus Mihalick, C-3	25.00
(IMO Marcinkevicius & Petrauskas Families)	
Ruth & Charlie Brazinski, C-52	15.00
Longinas Svelnis, HM, C-17	10.00
Gene Gobis, C-100	10.00
Helen Medley, C-50	10.00
Alice Opanasets	10.00

TOTAL **\$765.00**

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA ARCHIVES:

Gene Gobis, C-100 \$10.00
TOTAL **\$10.00**

SISTERS OF EUCHARISTIC JESUS HABIT FUND:

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 Mr. & Mrs. Algerd Brazis, HM, C- 112 25.00
 Anna Klizas Wargo, HM, C-144 25.00
TOTAL **\$925.00**

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Margaret A. Senk, C-10 \$50.00
TOTAL **\$50.00**

CATHECETICAL TEACHERS IN LITHUANIA:

Anonymous \$20.00
TOTAL **\$20.00**

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Helen A. Chesko, C-144 \$25.00
TOTAL **\$25.00**

TOTAL DONATIONS AND PLEDGES

RECEIVED **\$16,818.00**

The Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council and All its Committees and Funds express sincerest thanks to all Districts, Councils, members and guests for their very generous donations, to keep our organization and its many activities thriving.

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SEPTEMBER - 1995 - RUGSĖJIS

Mary, O Mary, fairest of lilies,
You reign now as Queen of heaven!
Before the Most High,
plead for our dear nation,
For with your intercession,
there is naught that God will deny.

*Marija, Marija, skaisčiausia lelija,
Dangaus Karaliene šviesi!
Užstok prieš Aukščiausią
Tėvynę brangiausią,
nes viską pas Dievą gali!*

(Verse 3, Marija, Marija by Maironis)

September Dates to Remember:

- Sept 8 Feast of the Nativity of Mary, also called "*ŠILINĖ*" in Lithuania. The feast is closely associated with Our Lady of Šiluva. It marks the beginning of an eight day *atlaida* at Šiluva, which is the major religious festival in Lithuania; it attracts faithful by the 10,000's. The Nativity of Mary has been celebrated by the Eastern Church much longer than in the Western (Roman) Church. It was incorporated into the Latin liturgy at the end of the seventh century by Pope Sergius I. In the nineteenth century, its date was used to fix December 8 as the day for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
- Sept 12 Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. Following normal Jewish practice, a newborn babe was named within the octave of birth, thus the feast of the Holy Name of Mary was inserted into the Church calendar within the octave of the feast of the Nativity. Observance of the feast had began in Spain in 1513. In 1683, Pope Innocent XI extended the feast to the whole Church in thanksgiving to our Lady for the victory of John Sobieski, King of Poland and Grand Prince of Lithuania, over the Turks who were besieging Vienna and threatening the West.
- Sept 15 Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the B. V. Mary. The third great Marian feast in this month commemorates the sufferings of Mary and of the Church. Depiction of the Sorrowful Mother is very popular in Lithuanian folk art.
- Sept. 23 Commemorative day in Lithuania, on which attention is drawn to the Holocaust in Lithuania. Over 90% of the Jewish population of Lithuania (in 1939 they constituted 17% of the overall population) were killed at the hands of the Nazis.

HAPPY NAME'S DAY TO:

Adrian (Sep 8)
Bronius (Sep 3)
Darius (Sep 9)
Egidijus (Sep 1)
Faustas (Sep 6)
Gabriel (Sep 29)
Gediminas (Sep 16)
Gerard (Sep 24)
Gražina (Sep 8)

Gregory (Sep 3)
Ida (Sep 4)
Ingrid (Sep 2)
Jerome (Sep 30)
Kęstutis (Sep 4)
Matthew (Sep 21)
Michael (Sep 29)
Nijolė (Sep 21)
Ramūnas (Sep 24)

Raphael (Sep 29)
Regina (Sep 7)
Rimantas (Sep 4)
Robert (Sep 17)
Rosalie (Sep 4)
Sophia (Sep 30)
Stephen (Sep 2)
Vincent (Sep 27)
Vytautas (Sep 8)

OCTOBER - 1995 - SPALIS

Queen of the holy rosary,
Pray for us!

*Karaliene šventojo rožančiaus,
melsk už mus!*

In October:

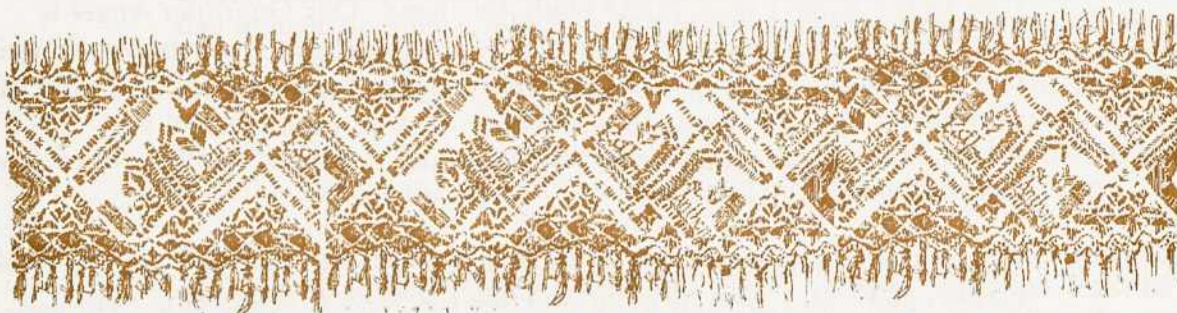
- Oct 2 Feast of the Guardian Angels. In the Old Testament, it is recorded: "I am sending My angel to go before thee and guard thee on thy way, and lead thee to the place I have made ready for thee." Our Guardian Angel is commissioned to protect and defend us always against the cunning enemies of our soul and all adversities, so that we may reach the promised land of everlasting life. As our faithful companion, we owe our angel our gratitude; as a pure spirit enjoying the vision of God in heaven, we owe our veneration.
- Oct 4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, one of the greatest saints. He took the Gospel quite literally and followed Christ as closely as possible. He had several followers to whom he gave his rule but more importantly imbued them with his spirit. Thus was born one of the world's greatest religious Orders, the Friars Minor. Then, with St. Clare, he founded a counterpart Order for women. Lastly, came the "Third Order of Penance" which was to include lay people. Francis of Assisi died on October 3, 1226 and was canonized by Gregory IX less than two years later.
- Oct 9 "Discoverer's Day" - a National Holiday in the US commemorating the valiant explorers that discovered and opened up the New World and Continents. Expanded from the simple observance of Columbus Day, it is also transferred from the traditional Oct. 12., the date on which in 1492 he first set foot on the territory of the "New World."
- Oct 11 On this date in 1962, the Vatican II Council began. Among the major accomplishments of this Council was the revision of the Liturgy with the introduction of the use of the vernacular in the Mass and other Sacraments. The Council ended on Dec 8, 1965.

Congratulations to those with a name's day in October:

Benedict (Oct 8)	Francis (Oct 4)	Remigius (Oct 1)
Bridget (Oct 8)	Hedwig (Oct 16)	Renata (Oct 7)
Bruno (Oct 6)	Irene (Oct 20)	Simon (Oct 28)
Christina (Oct 3)	Jude (Oct 28)	Teresa (Oct 15)
<i>Danguolė</i> (Oct 22)	<i>Liza</i> (Oct 2)	Theresa (Oct 1)
Edward (Oct 13)	Luke (Oct 18)	Ursula (Oct 21)
Edwin (Oct 5)	Margaret Mary (Oct 17)	<i>Vaiva</i> (Oct 18)
	<i>Mindaugas</i> (Oct 14)	

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KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

For further information contact:

Supreme Council Meeting October 15 Hosts, C-3 Philadelphia	<i>Agnes Mickunas</i>	(609) 931-3306
Sts. Peter & Paul Centennial Celebration October 22 Bishop's Dinner following noon Mass	<i>Lorraine Staboris</i>	(908) 352-2271
Celebrations and Festivals		
October 8 80th Anniversary Dinner Dance C-29, Newark, NJ	<i>Marie Guoba</i>	(201) 589-2001
October 22 NED Cultural Festival Marionis Park, Schrewsbury, MA	<i>Bertha Stoskus</i>	(401) 331-2605
October 15 Our Lady of Vilnius 90th Anniversary Dinner C-12, New York, NY	<i>Fr. Eugene Sawicki</i>	(212) 255-2648
District Conventions		
Sept. 17 MAD Fall Convention Hosts C-152, Eastern L.I.	<i>Muriel Lekstutis</i>	(516) 744-5986
Sept. 17 NED Fall Convention Host C-26, Worcester	<i>Ann Leseman</i>	(508) 755-4786
1996 National Convention Aug. 1996 Host: C-1, Brockton, MA	<i>Veronica Bizinkauskas</i>	(508) 586-0650

(Note: If your council/district has a scheduled function that's not listed, please inform the VYTIS Editor, so we may include it here. Aciu.)