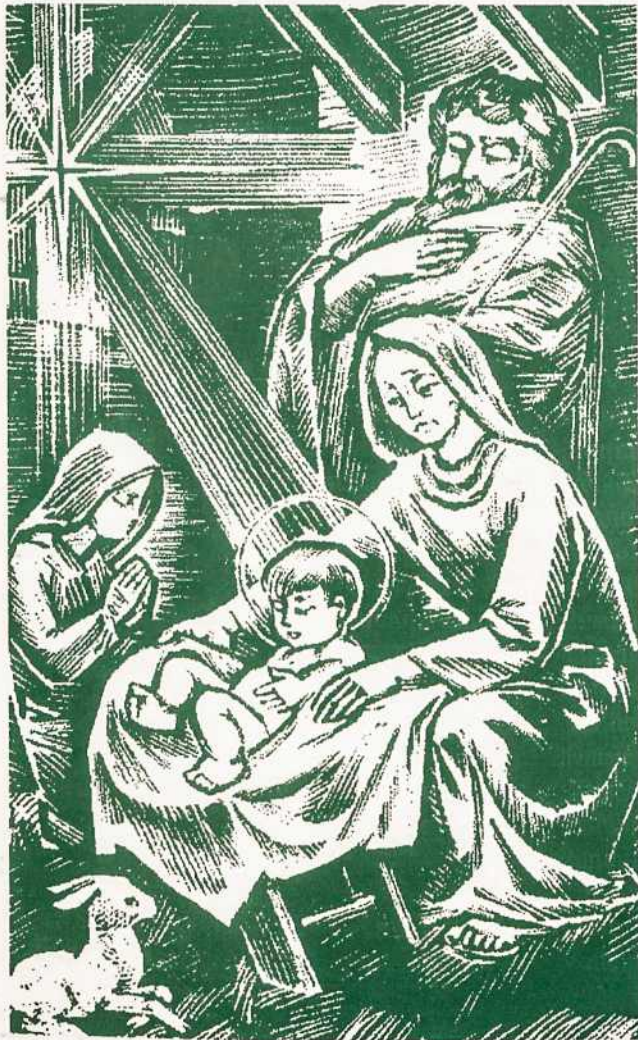


Volume 81: No. 10
December 1995

VYTIS

Knights of Lithuania



Linksmų Šv.

Kalėdų

GRUODIS DECEMBER

**AUTUMN RAINS END,
THE GROUND FREEZES
WITH THE COLD AND
SOIL HARDENS INTO
LUMPS "GRUODAS" ON
THE COUNTRY ROADS
OF LITHUANIA.**

*Merry
Christmas*

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 1995-1996



Gruodis
December 1995
Volume 81: No. 10

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All correspondence should reach the editor by the **first of the month**, two months in advance of the issue and should be typewritten and double spaced. Except for the information contained in the Official News, the Knights of Lithuania and editors assume no responsibility for the statement or opinions made by the contributors or no obligation to return any material or photos unsolicited. Use of material from VYTIS is permissible only if credit is given to VYTIS, its authors, artists or photographers. Lithuanian fonts courtesy of Litnet Typographers.

LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ - FROM YOUR EDITOR

We hope you enjoy the 1995 Christmas issue. Along with an interesting trilogy on the modern Santa, St. Nicholas and Kalėda, the Lithuanian "Santa", we've included a traditional Lithuanian Christmas story and traced the origin of the word, Kalėdos. And to read to your children and grandchildren, a special translation of the folk story, *Piestupys*.

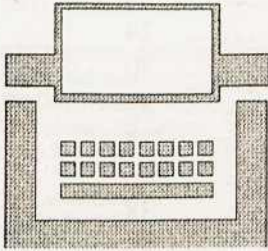
In addition to the good team work of the editorial writers and contributors, this Christmas issue represents lots of moral and fiscal support in the form of greetings from councils, K. of L. related associations, districts, businesses, honorary members, and Knights who want someone remembered. Ačiū labai for all these blessings.

Many blessings were bestowed on me since last month - I met Pope John Paul II at the Mass in Central Park on October 7th, nice Lithuanian fonts were provided "just in time for Christmas" by Litnet Typographers, and my husband and I took a journey out West.

Seeing John Paul II riding twenty yards past me in the Popemobile was close enough to call it a religious experience. The irony of all the police, secret service and agents of fear did not deter the power of Pope's message to "not be afraid". A most touching moment for me, as an American of Lithuanian heritage, was when the Holy Father sang the Polish version of "*Tyliąją naktį*" which we've included in Lithuanian on page 33.

One of our honorary members asked me recently, "Marytė, why do you write about your family so much?" I thought about that question, giving VYTIS a more personable style, or some other editorial comment, and now I have the answer, ... family is where culture and heritage begins. In our own homes, with immediate and extended families we share Kučios and Kalėdos.

Our best Christmas gift to you are these issues. We pray for all the Knights' continued good health, stamina and a spirit of sharing. Share this issue with a youngster. Read them the stories of Lithuanian Christmas and acquaint them with their heritage. Your best gift to us is to do this and continue all the stories, letters, advertisements and critique of VYTIS. Ačiū.



Letters to the Editor:

WHERE WAS VYTIS?

Dear Editor,

Finally, the VYTIS arrived. I was somewhat concerned about your position, whether you were still the VYTIS editor or had there been another change. Editorship is really a tiring and demanding job, not for everybody. I am glad you are still in there and will continue to do an excellent job.

Antonia M. Wackell

Note: Yes, we DID experience some difficulties at our Chicago printers. Hopefully, they have been worked out and VYTIS issues can arrive in timely fashion. Thank you and so many other Knights for keeping my spirits up with your letters, calls and comments.

FLURRY OF THANKS FROM K. of L. SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Dear Editor,

"I would like to thank the members of the Knights of Lithuania for making this scholarship available to me. As a child of a middle income family, we didn't receive very much financial aid and everything helped. When I graduate, I hope to still be an active member, as I was a junior member.

Marilyn Hayner

"The money I have received will be used for my schooling at Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA. I plan to become a dental hygienist. When I am finished, I will have a B.A. in Dental Hygiene and plan to teach the profession in college.

I will do my best in being an honorable Knight and to carry on my (Lithuanian) heritage with me wherever I may be. I appreciate the scholarship and will use it wisely.

Ačiū už pagalbą,
Mary Beth Yanek

"Thank you very much for your contributions toward my education. There has been much support from several Lithuanian organizations and it is greatly appreciated. It mean a lot to me and my family. I will never forget who helped me achieve my goals. You will always be remembered in my prayers. Thank you very much.

Love,
Allen J. Cius, Jr.

"Thank you very much for selecting me for one of the scholarships. This is very important to me and will help out with college a great deal.

I hope I proudly represent the Knights of Lithuania and my heritage with the utmost dignity. Thank you for your generosity.

Molly Geiger

"I would like to thank the Knights of Lithuania for granting me a scholarship. It will be used for books, room and board at Russell Sage College. Since I am spending my first semester in Spain, I look forward to rejoining the Lithuanian community after Christmas. Again, thank you for supporting me in my studies.

Sincerely,
Kelly A. Thompson



Santa Claus

When a one year old celebrates his first Christmas, parents introduce the little one to Santa Claus. Usually, by the time the youngster is three or four, he is taken to see Santa at a department store or at the Macy's Parade. If you live in New York City, the Toy Building on Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street has Santa displayed all year. What is the meaning of this jolly, white bearded man who brings a sackful of gifts to good girls and boys? To be good or to seek more toys?

As a child, my father often told us Santa would leave a lump of coal in our stockings if we were not at our best behavior, so my brothers, sisters and I would "try" real hard to be good, especially during the month of December.

Santa Claus represents to a child the concept that "if we're good, we'll get what we deserve", as an adult it is more of charity, and a time for thanks to those who helped us on our ladders to success. Most of all, Santa rings a hope for human goodness expressed for one another, even in this modern techno-age.

Children of today too often see the "get" side of Santa and Christmas comparing the quantity and quality of toys and gifts with school chums, thus beginning a "keep up with the Joneses philosophy." It is a negative aspect of what Santa has become to some, along with the comment of one youngster, as her mother was about to sit her on the lap of a department store Santa. "I don't speak to strangers," she told the white bearded man. Obviously, her mother taught her safety first.

One of the nicest traditions started by a middle class family I knew in the 1970's was "playing Santa" for someone less fortunate in



the community. Children in the family did not believe in Santa less, they simply had a reason to begin a "giving" side of Christmas. It was the highlight of their holiday, as each hoped to pick out the right gift for someone they did not even know; the parents would

include a tree and groceries, and the family took their "secret Santa" gifts to a part of their town where folks needed it most.

As children, their always was a special excitement in the air at Christmas, one of anticipation of Santa visiting and granting that wish in the form of a much coveted toy. Many of us who did not have a working fireplace, wondered how Santa would get into the house and find the stockings to put gifts into? We

could never sleep on Christmas Eve although put to bed while a few adults remained as baby-sitters, while the rest went to Midnight Mass. Just when we thought we heard the bells on Santa's sleigh, or thought we heard him drinking the cocoa and munching the homemade cookies left

for him during his journey, somehow sleep entered and then it was early morning and a race to look at what Santa left for us.

As commercial as our world has become, there is still one side of Santa that all of us want to believe in. That is a goodness and unity that knits together tapestries of families, as well as the magic of Christmas Eve night when we think we can hear the sleigh bells just above the house. ***



SAINT NICHOLAS

Yes, there really is a Santa Claus - or if you prefer to name him without the pronunciation corruption of the centuries - Saint Nicholas. He is not the rotund Jolly Old Saint Nicholas of folk tale and Christmas song. Rather, he was renowned in the early Christian Church for his holy austerity and childlike innocence. He was chosen as Bishop of Myra in Lycia (Asia Minor now Turkey) and distinguished himself by his charity and liberality. He was particularly solicitous for the young and is today still venerated as the patron of children.

Greek histories of his life, report that he was born in the fourth century at Patara in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor of which Myra was the capital and an episcopal see. In time, Nicholas was chosen to be bishop and, in that position, became famous by his extraordinary piety, zeal and many astonishing miracles. He was imprisoned for the faith under the persecutions raised by Diocletian, and attended the Council of Nicea. He died at Myra and was buried in his Cathedral there.



*Detail from 10-11 Century icon.
St. Catharine's Monastery, Sinai*

Having said that we have covered just about all that is authentically known about the life of St. Nicholas; however, he rapidly became a most popular and widely known saint in all of Christendom. By the time of Justinian, a basilica had been erected in his honor in Constan-

tinople. When this great shrine fell into the hands of the Saracens, the remains of St. Nicholas were transferred to Bari, Italy, where a new church was built to house the relics. Devotion to St. Nicholas had developed long before the transfer of his relics to Italy, but that event greatly increased the veneration and numerous miracles were freely attributed to his intercession.

By the late middle ages, nearly four hundred churches were dedicated in his honor in England alone. He is said to have been depicted by Christian artists more frequently than any other saint except Our Lady.

One of the enduring legends concerning his life recounts that his parents died when he

was yet a very young man, leaving him very well provided for and he determined to devote his inheritance to works of charity. It came to pass that a citizen of Patara had lost all his money yet had to care for three daughters who could not find husbands because of their poverty. The man was going to give them over to prostitution. Nicholas heard of these plans and under cover of darkness threw a bag of gold into the man's house. This was used as a dowry for the eldest daughter and she was soon duly married.

At intervals, Nicholas did the same for the remaining two daughters. On the third occasion, however, the father had kept watch and recognized the benefactor who was then overwhelmed with gratitude. A number of paintings of St. Nicholas came to represent him holding the three bags of gold. In turn, these paintings were mis-

interpreted and the bags were believed to be the severed heads of three children who had been killed by an innkeeper and pickled in a brine tub only to be resuscitated by the saint.

**Sanctify, Lord God, we pray
You, these offerings that we
make on the feast of Your holy
bishop, Nicholas; that through
them our life, both in success
and adversity, may ever be
upright.**

**Prayer from the old Roman Liturgy
for the Feast of St. Nicholas.**

The original legend, however, gave rise to his identification as the patron of children. His feast day (December 6) came to associate his veneration with Christmas and soon there developed a practice of giving gifts in his name, particularly in Germany, Switzerland and the

Netherlands. After the Protestant Reformation, the practice continued but his appellation was changed to Santa Claus and in some cases to Father Christmas.

*(Compiled from various sources but primarily "Butler's Lives of the Saints."
Vincent B. Boris)*

BERNELIŲ MIŠIOS

Skamba žingsniai
Ant ledo,
Ant sniego -
Į Bernelių mišias Tu šauki.
Ne Betliejaus žvaigždė--meilė veda,
Ne žvaigždė mus prikėlė iš miego.
Skamba žingsniai
Ant ledo,
Ant sniego,
Skamba žemė jauki
Mūsų žingsniais,
Angelų giesmėmis
Ir žvaigždėm, lyg sidabro varpeliais.

Žinom patys
Tą kelią
Per lauką --
Stebuklinga žvaigždė nespindės.
Prakarte rasim Jėšų vaikelį,
Prakarte, Išganytojų, lauki.
Žinom patys
Tą kelią
Mums nereikia žvaigždės
Keliui rodyt
Užsnigtom lygumom,
Užpustytomis kalneliais, pakalnėm.

- *Leonardas Andriekus*

"KALÈDA"

Santa's Predecessor in Old Lithuania

By Loretta I. Stukas

Reprinted from *Vytis* - Dec. 1972

"I am Kalda. I bring happiness, a good harvest, and every manner of well being..." Such was the greeting Lithuanians of olden days received on Christmas Eve from their "Father Christmas", predecessor to (but not to be confused with) the modern day Santa Claus.

"Kalèda", the fictional Father Christmas or the Old Man of Christmas was, to the Lithuanians of old, the personification of the Christmas Season. He came from a "far off land", and brought promise of what the Lithuanian peasants yearned for most - happiness, prosperity and a good harvest.

Usually, on Christmas Eve, an old man from a neighboring village would enact tile part of "Kalèda". He dressed up in a white sheepskin coat sashed with a linen belt, and a tall sheepskin hat. Under the coat, he put a pillow on his back, to imitate a hunchback, and attached a long white beard to his face. He carried a crooked cane and a bag filled with nuts and other harvest "goodies".

As he proceeded on his house to-house trek, he was frequently followed by a group of excited children, who clung to him and pulled at his belt, asking for treats.

When he came to a house, he rapped on the door with his cane. To the question "Who's there?" he replied:

"I'm Kalèda. I bring happiness, good harvest and every manner of well-being. I come from another land, where the hills are made of flour, the rivers flow with honey, lakes are filled with beer, and where the rain is made of candy and the snow of doughnuts. I carry a full bag of treasures... good fortune, plentiful crops, and many other blessings. Please open the door and don't send me back just yet."

Upon entering the house, "Kalèda" would take various kinds of grain from his bag and sprinkle it over the householders. An ancient superstition attributed good luck in harvesting to the sprinkling of grain. To the young maidens of the house he would offer soaps and wild herbs for preserving their beauty. Extending best wishes to the family, he would sing a Christmas Carol or two, entertain the children with some funny stories and a few dances, and present them with some nuts from his bag.

In return, the father of the house would treat the old man to some refreshments - and "Kalèda" would continue on to another home.

"Kalèda" was considered the the bearer of good fortune - so was always a most welcome visitor on that magical Christmas Eve.



CHRISTMAS - "KALĖDOS"

"Kalėdos", the Lithuanian Christmas, unlike the merrymaking in some other countries, is a Holiday of quiet joy and hope: on that day Christ was born, and the longest night began to give way to day and light.

Weeks of ADVENT fasting and contemplation are crowned by the Eve of Christmas. By that time everything, in city and country, was made immaculate. The homes were cleaned thoroughly, and holiday foods filled the house with tantalizing aromas. After the chores were done, members of the family scrubbed in the "pirtis" (steam bath) and donned holiday garb. Even the trees in the orchard received a new wardrobe--were bound with a fresh yellow straw.

EVE OF CHRISTMAS was, in the past, a day of strict fasting. People restrained from eating until the first star shone in the sky -the sign that the abstinence may be broken. Impatient children will run in and out of the house looking for that star.

The most important event is the CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER. The table is covered with a handloomed snowy linen cloth reserved for the occasion, under which is placed sweet, fresh hay, a reminder of how the Christ Child was born. A crucifix and a plate of "plotkeles" (blessed Christmas wafers) are placed in the center of the table. The family sits at the table according to age, the oldest at the table head, the youngest at its foot. In many homes, one seat is left vacant for an unexpected guest" symbolic of Christ. Families invite single people to partake of the meal, for it is felt no one should be alone on this day.

When the evening star appears in the sky, the head of the family begins the meal with a prayer of thanksgiving for past blessings, and a wish that the family remain intact during the coming year. He breaks and shares the holy wafers with each member of the family, and they, in turn, with each other. All wish each other good luck, good health, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

After this ceremony, the meal begins. No less than TWELVE DISHES must be served, all meatless (to commemorate the twelve Apostles).

Some of the dishes served would be salty herring, for the distasteful things to come; dry peas, in the shape of tears, for the sad things in life; prunes, representing the rough and difficult road we must travel; bread to signify plenitude of sustenance during the coming year; fish (usually whiting) to signify Christ as represented by the first Christians in the catechumens; boiled potatoes to signify the humble and uneventful lives we must be ready to lead; saurkraut.. representing the good and bad we must accept; sweet wine for the sweetness and joy experienced by the coming of Christ. Also served is a special red beet soup, usually with pastries stuffed with mushrooms called "auseles" (little ears).

A specialty, served only once a year on Christmas Eve, is the oatmeal pudding. Another specialty is the "aguonu plenas" (poppy seed milk), served with small, round dough balls. This "milk" is prepared by grinding the scalded poppy seeds and mixing them with water, honey and nuts.

Coffee, fruit and nuts terminate the meal. Children receive individual plates heaped with apples, nuts, figs, candies, etc.

After the supper, the most exciting event for the little ones begins. It is the presentation of the CHRISTMAS TREE. Usually it is the father who goes into the room to light the candles. Mother and children come to the locked door and knock on it. They start singing a carol. If father is ready he will open the door; if not, another carol will be requested. The Christmas tree in Lithuania usually was old-fashioned having decorations that included red-cheeked apples, candies, gilded nuts, cookies, etc. In the country, delicate, intricate straw decorations were made. From wheat and rye chandeliers, baskets, Christmas bells, chains, and an infinite variety of fanciful forms were created. The Christmas stocking is practically unknown in Lithuania.

Occasionally, on Christmas Eve young people will try to find out their future. Hay will be pulled from under the tablecloth to determine the length of life. The one who draws the longest straw will have a long life, the shortest will have a short life.

Fragrant bees wax is melted and poured into cold water, hardening into fascinating shapes. From their shadows against the wall, one's future can be predicted for the coming year. Love and possible marriage if one sees a partner or a ring; riches if one sees money; traveling if a ship appears; death if it looks like a grove or cross; etc. One has to use imagination.

Single girls always listen from which compass direction dogs bark, because it is from there that the girls' suitors will come. Another "burtas" (or game of chance) has the single girl run outside barefoot and grab a pile of firewood. She brings the wood inside and counts it. If an even number is brought in, she will marry soon, if an odd number is brought in, she will remain single; well, anyway until next "Kučios".

A game in which all participate needs three cups. Under the first is placed a piece of bread, under the second, a rosary, and under the third, a ring. The girls choose. If the cup hiding the bread is chosen, it means that she will enter the convent; if the ring is chosen, she will marry. These traditions are passed down from generation to generation for centuries. Each family celebrates "Kučios" (Christmas Eve Supper) in its own way.

It is believed that at midnight on Christmas all the water in the rivers, streams, lakes and wells would change to wine, but only for a second. Also, the belief is that at midnight the animals would begin to speak. It was cautioned though; that those who would make it a point to listen to the speaking animals would hear the details of their own death.

Some of the hay that was placed on the "Kučios" table is given to the animals to eat, but none to the horses, because as tradition has it, the horse did not warm the infant Christ in the stable at Bethlehem as did the other animals.

In some sections of Lithuania, the "Kučia" table is not cleared of food, lest the Christ Child and His Mother visit during the night. It is also

believed that souls of deceased members of the family might return briefly--and they must find a hospitable table. The floor is carefully swept so there will not be even a crumb on which a visitor might stumble.

After "Kučios", each member of the family places a straw for every kind deed or gracious word said during the holidays into a cradle which is put under the Christmas tree for the Christ Child.

With the traditions completed, the entire family from the youngest to the oldest goes together to "Berneliu Misios" (literally the Shepherd Boys' Mass)--the first Mass of Christmas at midnight, with the entire village to greet the Newborn Christ. After this joyous celebration, all return home to share a lavish breakfast.

Just as the Christmas Eve supper is meatless in Lithuania, so the table on the first day of CHRISTMAS (two or three days were celebrated in the past) virtually groans under various meats. The traditional menu includes: ham--boiled, baked in sour rye dough, or smoked; goose--roasted with apples or duck with saurkraut, or red cabbage; turkey with prunes; a suckling pig roasted to a golden perfection or in aspic; leg of veal or mutton; various sausages, among them the hearty Lithuanian "skilandis". All this is accompanied by an assortment of relishes: the freshly ground horseradish--very hot with vinegar, milder with sour cream, or mixed with red beets; "bruknes" (ligonberries); pickles; saurkraut, etc.

Cakes, pastries, and several kinds of cookies are served. The poppy seed roll, called "aguoninis" and special Christmas cookies in the shapes of mushrooms, birds, walnuts, etc. are a must.

The festivities of the Christmas season last until the TWELFTH NIGHT, January 6th, called THE DAY OF THREE KINGS in Lithuania. On that day, Christmas trees are usually taken down.

Editor's note: This story courtesy of C-144, Anthracite, PA, Lithuanian Customs and Other Ethnic Cookery, ©1968--1994 by Circulation Service Inc., Leawood, KS.



Lithuanian Folklore

Piestupys

The Lithuanian writer Jonas Biliunas (1879 - 1907) during his brief lifetime, made a lasting impression on the literature of Lithuania. His stories are dark and dreary interspersed with bits of humor. He wrote about Lithuanians under Russian serfdom, orphans, the poor oppressed by the rich and the fate of poor animals. In his style of pure simplicity, he is reminiscent of the American writer Edgar Allan Poe. This is an abbreviated loose translation of his short story *Piestupys* (a mythical region in Lithuania.) It deals with a Lithuanian Advent tradition, *rarotai*, that involved an early morning journey to church. The word comes from the Latin phrase used Gospel during Advent "Roratae coeli - Rain down dew from heaven." We have kept some words in Lithuanian for atmosphere.

-Dalia Bulvicius

"Jonukai, it is time to get up and get ready for the *rarotai*," I heard my brother, Antanas, voice in my sleep.

But the last thing I wanted to do was to get out of my cozy warm bed....

"Gerai," I answered and turned over.

"Aren't you getting up yet." The voice was harsher as he pulled off the fur coat

which kept me so warm. I jumped out of bed, it seemed that someone threw a bucket of ice water at me.

My whole family was already up. Father was sitting on the end of the table urging all to "giedot rozanciu." Mother with her assistant was busy by the stove.



It is a custom in some parts of Lithuania, during the holydays in Advent, that members of the family took turns to attend the *rarotai*. Early in the morning, in the dark this ritual took place. Not even breakfast was allowed. Finally my sister's and my turn had arrived to do this odyssey. Since I was still very young, getting up early was difficult. But I insisted that I was old enough and begged Father to let me go. Finally, he gave his blessing. My joy was boundless. I would prove to them that I am a man. This was a solemn occasion. Even the *Kucios* supper had more meaning

if one accomplished this trek. The *rarotai* was an integral part of the holyday.

Quickly, I washed my face, found my shoes under the bed and put on my fur coat. With a speedy goodbye, I headed for the door since my sister was waiting outside. But mother had other plans. She rushed towards me carrying her huge scarf.

"I will put this around you so you won't be cold," she remarked.

I was about to escape, but mother won, and wrapped me up like a cocoon. I was mortified. How does it look for a man to be wrapped up in a feminine scarf? Mother did not appreciate my masculinity. I did not think it was proper for a man to wear a female scarf.

"You two better take heavy sticks with you." Mother warned us. "God forbid wild dogs or wolves should attack you."

That winter the animals were extremely troublesome. Wild dogs had injured dozens of people and wolves had recently killed a beggar in the woods.

Passing the wood pile, we both equipped ourselves with two large sticks which were bigger than us. Mine was a bit heavy, but I must be brave, I thought, since I had to protect not only myself, but also my sister.

Near our home I was indeed brave. I felt I could demolish every wolf I met. But the further we went, my bravery started to shrink. When we still could see the houses of our neighbors and the lights in them, all was well and peaceful. But when we entered the dark woods, my bravery had all but disappeared and my imagination took over. All was quiet as if in a graveyard. We could only hear the squishing sound made by our feet.

Will the wolves hear us, I wondered moving closer to my sister. Fearfully, I gazed all around me. Only the dark pines loomed before us, with their drooping branches covered with snow. I could envision bright, slanted green eyes staring at us from under those branches.

Finally we came out of the woods and the village lights were once again visible. The barking of dogs was heard, my fear ebbed once again. But still, every once in awhile, I gazed backwards.

When the village disappeared once again, my heart was once again in my throat. Before us loomed the black Piestupys region known for its legends of ghosts and corpses. Those legends all came to me and my hair almost stood on end. Not many were brave enough to walk this road in the dark. I moved closer to my sister and could not stop myself from trembling. What if we met a hanged man. He would not be afraid of our sticks. Would a crucifix or a rosary help? Swift feet would be of no avail. He would catch up and strangle us.

I did not want to share these thoughts with my sister so not to frighten her. I noticed she was also trembling and looking around. We moved closer together as I fingered the rosary beads in my pocket.

We were almost halfway through Piestupio when my sister screamed and dropped her stick.

"The corpse is approaching!" she shouted.

We grabbed each other and squatted by the side of the road, blessed ourselves and began to pray. A distance away a tall white figure

was approaching us.. Would it strangle us? We were very still. Perhaps it wouldn't notice us.

Meanwhile the white figure kept coming closer and closer, I could hear the snow under its feet. Its breath was laborious as if it was hurrying to catch up with us. But to my surprise as it came closer, it seemed smaller and smaller.

We continued to pray asking God to help. Perhaps we shall never see our parents again. I did not want to die such a terrible death.

The monster was very near, so I closed my eyes and awaited the end, imagining it reaching its ghostly arms towards me.

"Tegu bus pagarbintas Jėsus Kristus," I heard as if in my sleep.

"Per amžią amžius," answered my sister with a voice as if a huge rock had rolled off her chest.

I opened my eyes and jumped from surprise. Before me stood an elderly woman with a white fur coat smiling at us.

"Are you going on the ratotaa," she asked.

"Yes," answered my sister, "You see, you scared us a trifle. We thought you were a white ghost."

"There are no ghosts now. Of course during the evening and at night, but not in the mornings. When the cock crows all ghosts disappear. There is nothing to fear. I am sorry I frightened you."

We stood there awhile as if rooted to the spot. Then all of a sudden, we started to laugh. What dummies we were, we still were at home when our cock crowed.

All of a sudden my bravery was back, I pulled my cap down over my ears, put the stick on my shoulder and preceded my sister. Even going through an old Russian cemetery did not scare me. I could see that the stick was of no use anymore and I threw it on the side of the road, removed my mittens and blew my nose, sneezed three times and, like a real man, marched on.

Malonių Kaledų Švenčių
ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų
Prelatas Algimantas Bartkus
Kunigai ir Studentai
Švento Kazimiero Kolegijoje



***With heartfelt thanks for all you
have contributed to the St. Casimir Guild***

***May the blessings of the Christ Child
and the love of His Mother be yours
at Christmas and throughout the coming year.***

**the St. Casimir Guild of the
Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome
Anna Klizas Wargo, President**

**BEST WISHES
TO ALL**



**FOR A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS AND
A PEACEFUL
NEW YEAR !**



**KALĖDŲ
ŠVENTĖS
TEATNEŠA TYRO
DŽIAUGSMO IR
NAUJIEJI METAI
STIPRYBĖS IR
VILTIES!**

To all Our Friends and Fellow Knights

We Wish a

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų

MID AMERICA DISTRICT



1995 K. of L. Essay Contest

Knights Provide A Tapestry of Benefits

by Anna E. Sikora, C-144
3rd Prize Winner

In all honesty I originally joined the Knights of Lithuania to have a night out with friends. Quite a few meetings passed before I realized all the opportunities offered in addition to cake and coffee.

I decided to join the newly formed choir because I loved to sing. I thought it would be an easy task but it proved much more difficult than I had thought for I read neither music nor the Lithuanian language. Nevertheless, after months of difficult rehearsals, I found myself standing on stage singing beautiful hymns and melodies. I was so proud!

Next, I learned how to make *margucias*. Initially, the process of taking an onion-skin dyed egg and turning it into a thing of beauty seemed incomprehensible to me. Then, a member offered to teach me. I was feeling a little superior after my first success with the Lithuanian choir. In comparison, I thought this would be a piece of cake. I couldn't have been more wrong! I began to wonder how many failures a person could take. However, I eventually became a *margucia* maker as well as learning new levels of patience, tenacity and an unorthodox skill for silent swearing. Now I

accompany my teacher to demonstrate and teach this intricate and lovely craft. I believe we receive more pleasure from the success of our students than from our own accomplishments. It has been such a fulfilling experience for both of us.

I continue to discover abilities which I never knew I had. Our Junior Knights lost their dance instructor and I was asked to help. This was a total surprise to me as I believed my dancing skills to be nil. However, the enthusiasm of our Junior Knights was contagious and with their eagerness and my dance books we were able to forge ourselves into true performers. Thus I discovered that one should not underestimate your abilities. If you never try you may never know failure but you will also be a stranger to success.

What would I choose as the most important enhancement of my life from my membership in the Knights of Lithuania? How can one choose between patience and tenacity or creativity over ability? All the benefits I received are interwoven like a tapestry in which each thread binds to another to create the whole picture. Each benefit is distinct but equally important to every other.

I consider myself to be very fortunate in having joined the Knights of Lithuania. I do not know who I would be today without the benefits I received from my association with this wonderful organization, I believe that I am a much more knowledgeable and tolerant person for having been a member. My life has been enhanced ten-fold and I am truly grateful. I continue to receive benefits as I contribute to our programs with the knowledge I so generously received from other members. Now it is up to me to do the same with the new generation of members. *Sirgingai Ačiū.*



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*To all my friends and fellow Knights, my sincerest Holiday wishes!
May God grant you all a most Holy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.*



*and to VYTIS Editor Marytè Abbott and her Staff,
Congratulations, as you begin the 81st Year of VYTIS.*

May you continue your beautiful work for, many, many years to come!

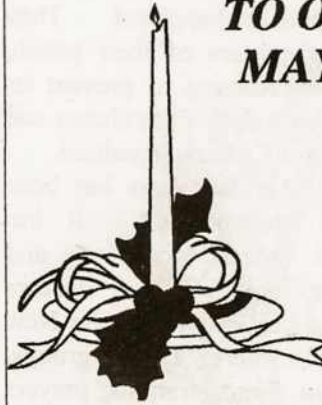
LORETTA I. STUKAS, HM
Council 29, Newark, NJ

**We wish you the
blessings of Christmas
all through the coming year.**



Anna Klizas Wargo, HM
Helen A. Chesko
C-144

**BLESSED CHRISTMAS
TO ONE AND ALL
MAY 1996 BRING
PEACE
HEALTH
HAPPINESS**



The Petkus'
Fran Petkus, HM
Michael, Norma
Robert, Erin
Tom, Kimberly
Rebecca, Tommy

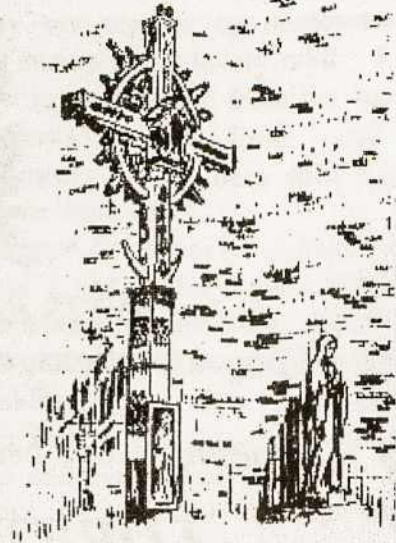
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA Council 29 Newark, NJ 80 Years and Still Alive!

Lithuanians fleeing Russian Tsarist oppression in Lithuania found haven in the USA in the early 1900's. But safety was not enough. They needed a means to preserve their Lithuanian and Catholic traditions for themselves and their children, and a vehicle to help Lithuania regain its freedom. And they needed other Lithuanian friends who shared their desires for their fatherland. In 1913, the Knights of Lithuania organization was begun, to fill just these needs. And in 1915, Newark Lithuanians joined the movement, forming K of L Council 29, in Holy Trinity Parish.

The new council took seriously the Knights' motto - "For God Country" and immediately became active in pursuing all organization's goals. This year, as Council 29 celebrated its 80th anniversary, its organizers and charter members would indeed be proud of their successors, as the Council continues its outstanding activities. The Council worked hard in the fight to restore Lithuanian Independence, in 1918 and again in 1991, and rejoiced when it happened. They continue to be active supporters of their parish, Holy Trinity, many times reacting to prevent its closing. They strive increase their Catholicism and to spread the appreciation of Lithuanian culture.

Council 29's activity over the years has been enumerated at various anniversaries. It has represented Lithuania at various local Song and Dance Festivals and its Junior Council dancers danced in Lithuanian Dance Festivals at the New York World's Fair and elsewhere. Drama groups, cultural exhibits, freedom demonstrations, prayers for Lithuania, and Lithuanian language lessons are just a few examples of K of L Council 29's activity to improve its members' religious, cultural and patriotic life.

The Council hosted a K of L National Convention in 1955 and helped plan Conventions hosted by the Mid-Atlantic District in 1969 and 1975; also hosted numerous District Conventions and Supreme Council Meetings. The council is



always actively represented by delegates to National and District conventions.

A beautiful Lithuanian shrine on the grounds of Holy Trinity Parish, designed and built by the late John Subacius, was a gift of the Council, who commissioned it and collected the funds to erect it. In 1990, member Vacys Kiukys rebuilt the deteriorating shrine, using as much as possible of the original design. It was blessed during the Council's 75th Anniversary in October, 1990.

For 7 years, C-29 represented Lithuania at the Annual New Jersey Ethnic Festival, preparing food and displays and donating the profit from this and other activity to worthy K of L and Lithuanian causes. Significant among the recipients of C-29's generosity are Holy Trinity Church, the K of L Scholarship Fund, the K of L Foundation, the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome, Aid to Lithuania, Deborah Hospital's Lithuanian Program, and others.

While Lithuania was striving for independence, the Council wrote countless letters to newspapers and state and national leaders, urging their support of this campaign, and helped Lithuanians with donations of books, clothing and money. The actively joined in the efforts of other organizations to support the independence campaign. When Lithuanian children arrived at Deborah hospital for



(photo far left) Mary Stonis, longest standing member sings Vyčiu Hymnas with Rita Šussko and Marie Guoba, Chairperson; (left) Kazys Šipaila, C-29 President

heart surgery, Council representatives visited them, bringing gifts from the council.

Numerous C-29 members have also served as National and District officers. Three members -- the late Joseph Sakevich, the late Dr. Jack Stukas, and Loretta Stukas -- have served as Supreme Council President, Mary Stonis served as S.C. Vice-President, and most recently, Rita Sussko served as S.C. Financial Secretary. The council boasts of more than 130 members, including two Honorary Members -- Kazys Sipaila and Loretta Stukas. It recalls the past work of two deceased Honorary Members -- Frank Vaskas and Dr. Jack

Stukas and many regular members who have gone to their reward.

After Independence was achieved, they continue to assist Lithuania's citizens, especially her children, with donations for lunch programs, school supplies, etc. They also continue to be the major support of Holy Trinity parish.

Newark Council 29 continues to be true in everyway to the Knights of Lithuania motto, "Dievui ir Tėvynei" -- "For God and Country". May it enjoy many more years of fruitful activity.

**As I count my many blessings
and the gains the old year sends...
I find my richest treasure
not in money, but in friends.
For the heart and soul of Christmas
brings a truth one can't evade...
The measure of your living
are the friends you have made.**

Merry Christmas

Eleanor Sluzas, HM
Council 96

Annamarie and Mark Berger
Council 96

Joseph Berger
Council 96 Junior



THE DERIVATION OF THE WORD "KALĒDOS"

*From the files of the late Dr. Jack Stukas
Courtesy of HM, Loretta Stukas*

We may assume a fair acquaintance of the ancient Lithuanians with Eastern Christianity before they finally turned to the West and became Roman Catholics. This is clearly demonstrated by the presence of old East Slavic loanwords in the church terminology of modern Lithuanian.

It is quite natural that the ancient Lithuanians, being in constant touch with their Slavic neighbors and later fellow citizens, acquired from them the most important terms for their Christian institutions. Thus, Lithuanian *Kalėdos* "Christmas" is a borrowing from White Russian *kolady* - the term shows plural numbers in both languages which through Old Church Slavic - *kolęda*

"New Year's Day" goes back to Latin *calendae* "the first days of the month" The Latin term was taken over into Primitive Slavic and assumed among the Eastern Slavs (cf. also Russian and Ukrainian *kol'ada*, used the singular the general meaning of Christmas time, the period from December 24 through Epiphany (January 6). The loanword *Kalėdos*, recorded by sixteenth century writers (Mažvydas, Bretkūnas, Dauša), must have been well established in common use long before 1387 when the Polish missionaries arrived in Lithuania. In Polish, *kolęda* or *kolenda* means Christmas carol or gift, Christmas collection and also wafers distributed by the organist among the parishioners, but never Christmas itself. The yearly Christmas offering for the parish priest in the form of money or produce (in rural areas) is likewise called *kalėda* in Lithuanian, as already used by Dauša. Some modern dialects, by analogy with Christmas, use also the plural form *kalėdos*. In its further semantic development the word began to mean also the alms collected by the poor.

The verb *kalėdoti* 'to visit the parish for Christmas offerings'; 'to visit from house to house' was recorded in 1600, and the nouns *kalėd(i)ninkai* 'the priest and church servants visiting the parish' and *kalėdaitis* 'Christmas wafer' I are genuine Lithuanian derivatives. This fact proves once more that the term *Kalėdos* was taken into Lithuanian from a very distant past.

Corrections: In the Sept/Oct. convention issue, the following Greetings were incorrectly printed and should be read the following: **Aid to Lithuania:** C-110, Maspeth, \$1,000.00; under **Scholarship Fund, LRCA Children's Lunch Fund, Lith. Children's Relief, Ed & Irene Senken, C-12, \$25.00 each.**

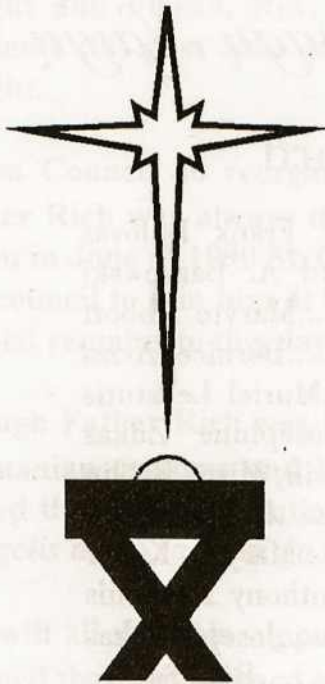
**Peace and Happiness to all
the Knights of Lithuania
at Christmas
and throughout
the New Year**



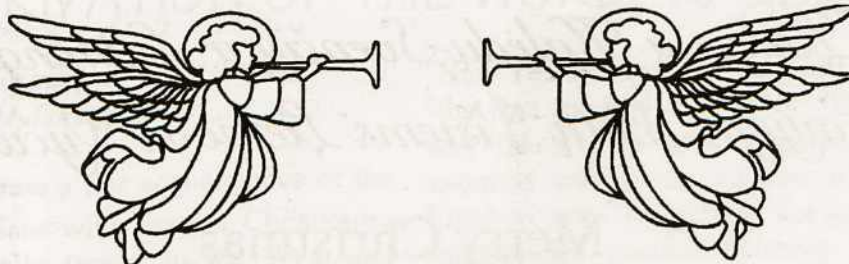
Council 3 Philadelphia

*Linksmų Kalėdų Švenčių ir Laimingų
Naujųjų Metų Visiems Lietuvos Vyčiams*

Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year to All!
from
The Officers and Members
of the New England District



C-1- Brockton, MA
C-7- Waterbury, CT
C-10 - Athol-Gardner, MA
C-17 - So. Boston, MA
C-26 - Worcester, MA
C-27 - Norwood, MA
C-30 - Westfield, MA
C-50 - New Haven, CT
C-78 - Lawrence, MA
C-103 - Providence, RI
C-116 - Worcester, MA
C-135 - Ansonia, CT
C-141 - Bridgeport, CT
C-145 - Holyoke, MA



Knights of Lithuania
Mid - Atlantic District

**to all our friends and fellow Knights
we wish**

Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų!

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Mandate.....	Rita Sussko
Resolutions.....	Thomas Tarmey
Sgt. At Arms.....	Anthony Kober

AND MEMBERS AND JUNIOR COUNCILS



In Memorium



During this Holiday Season the Members of Knights of Lithuania Council 16 Prayerfully and Fondly remember our Beloved Spiritual Advisor, Fellow Knight and Friend, Rev. Richard M. Dodaro. Father Rich passed away suddenly this past June at the age of 52. Father Rich was a Second Degree Knight.

When Council 16 reorganized at St. George Parish in February of 1988, Father Rich was always there for us offering his guidance and full support. When in June of 1990 St. George Parish was suppressed he graciously invited our council to join him at his new parish, All Saints - St. Anthony, where the council remains to this day.

Though Father Rich was 100% Proud Italian, he enjoyed and admired our Lithuanian customs and traditions, especially Kucious. When our Council hosted the 1994 Convention in Chicago, he summed it up best by stating that "*Kugelis and Spaghetti go well together*".

We will all miss his support, guidance and humor. He has left a void in our Council that will be hard to fill.

Wishing all the very best for the Holiday Season.

The Members of
Knights of Lithuania
Council 16, Chicago, Illinois [Bridgeport]

***The Daughter of Vytautas the Great
-Sophie -
Grand Princess of Muscovy***

*Edward W. Baranauskas
C-100, Amsterdam, N.Y.*

It is believed that Sophie was the only child of Vytautas the Great and his wife, Anne. There is no information on her childhood and early youth, but it is accepted by historians that she was born about 1371 and died in 1453 at the age of 82.

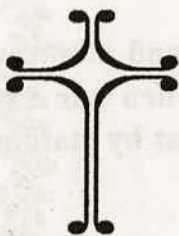
She was engaged to Prince Vasilli of Moscow at the age of 15. After his father, Dimitrii Donskoi, died in 1391, the wedding took place in Moscow shortly thereafter. The marriage seemed to be in the best interests of all parties concerned. Prince Vasilli wanted to obtain assurances from her father that he would not annex any more Muscovite territories to Lithuania. In the meantime, Vytautas hoped to use his daughter's marriage as a means of consolidating his influence in

Slavic lands. Relations between Lithuania and Muscovy remained somewhat peaceful thanks to Sophie, who often returned to Lithuania to serve as an intermediary between husband and father.

Prince Vasilli designated Sophie, their son, and Vytautas as guardians of his principality. He died in 1425 and his son Vasilli II took the throne. After the death of Vytautas in 1430, he was strongly challenged by his uncle and his uncle's sons. Vasilli II secured the Muscovite throne after a series of misfortunes, including his blinding. His mother played a prominent part in these struggles, even though she was held prisoner at one time by the opposition. Sophie took an active part in government affairs beside her husband and son.

At the age of 80 she played an important role in leading Moscow's defense against an unexpected Tatar attack. Two years later she entered a convent, where she died on June 15, 1453. Russian historians feel that she elevated the social status of Muscovite women by her influence. ***

In Memoriam



Rest In Peace

Ella J. Ellis
C-135, Ansonia, CT
Oct. 6, 1995

Juozas Lipskis
C-36, Chicago
Oct. 10, 1995

Ann Radzevich
C-100, Amsterdam, NY
Oct. 16, 1995

Josephine Marshall
C-46, Forest City, PA
July 9, 1994

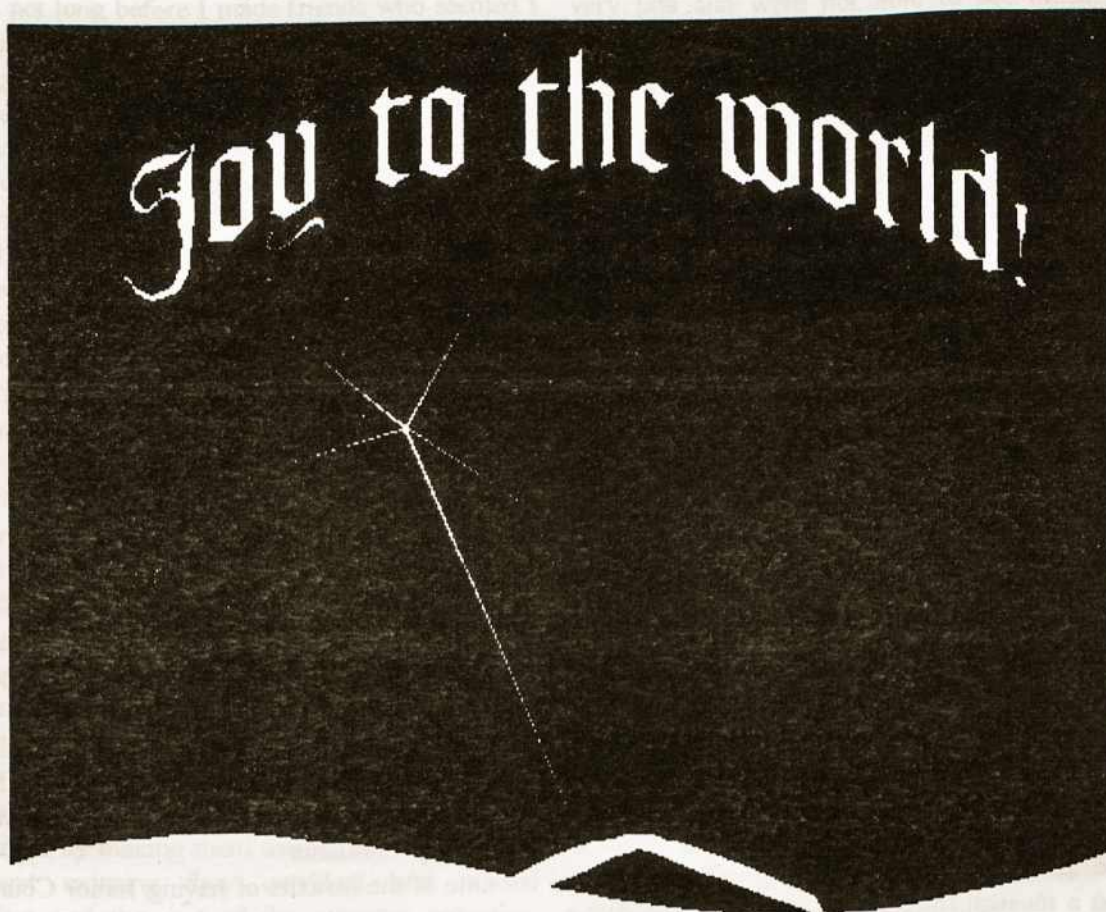
Anna Sidlauskas
C-152, Eastern LI, NY
Oct. 13, 1995

John Poniatowski
C-110, Maspeth, NY
Sept. 20, 1995

Mitchell Marcinauskis
C-141, Bridgeport, CT
Sept. 16, 1995

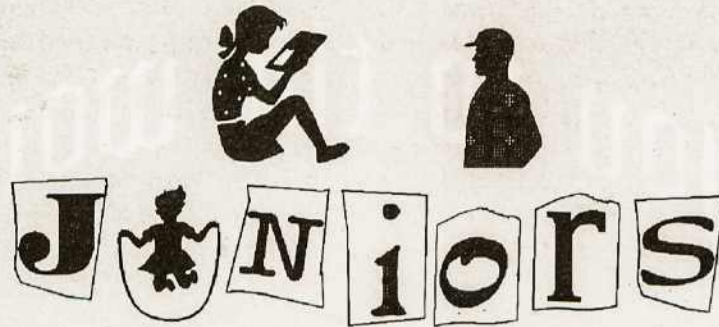
Ann Petrus
C-141, Bridgeport, CT
Apr. 13, 1995

***Amžina atilsį duok
mirusiams viešpatie***



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Juniors Forum *News & Views about Juniors*

by *Elena Mikalauskas*

Christmas provides us with the opportunity of spending time with our families and our friends celebrating the birth of Jesus. As time passed in Lithuania, non-religious customs such as Christmas trees, tinsel, Santa Claus and gifts were added to their holiday celebration. The Lithuanian children had to earn the gifts they would receive from Santa Claus. When Santa arrived at their home, children had to perform (for example: singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument) in order to receive a present. If Santa did not come in person, the children still had to perform for those around them, since it is believed that Santa Claus "sees all." If the exchange of Christmas presents took place in the United States today, what type of performance

would you give? (Adapted from Lithuanian Customs and Traditions)

A reminder, to Junior Councils. Junior Council dues are to be paid in January. The dues are \$5 for each council for the year. Each Junior Council will receive copies of the VYTIS magazine to share. Please send a check to the Supreme Council Financial Secretary, Dorothy Banos, 11 Hill Top Road, Pittston, PA 18640. Please make payable to Knights of Lithuania.

One of the benefits of having Junior Councils in a variety of cities is having the opportunity of hearing what other councils are doing. Please forward any information you can regarding Junior Council activities so we can share your Junior Council news.

My 1st Trip to Lithuania

by *Christine Cius C-36, Chicago, IL*

I was filled with anticipation as my plane landed in Vilnius, not knowing what to expect at the Eighth Lithuanian Youth Congress. About 150 young adults from around the world, from such places as Australia, Canada, England, and the Americas, gathered in Lithuania to learn about other countries different problems concerning the youth and try to solve them.

For the first week, we toured around Vilnius exploring every part of the city. We went to the KGB prisons, where the Soviets, during their

occupation of Lithuania kept political prisoners. We were given a tour by an ex-prisoner who told us of the horrors they experienced.

At the University, I was impressed by the beautiful architecture of the buildings. We visited the television studios, which included the television tower from where we were able to see the whole city as the floor rotated slowly beneath us. One evening, we played basketball against various local youth groups all of which we lost. we spent an entire day touring the government buildings and meeting officials. Another evening, we went to tour the castle of Trakai and afterwards, participated in a pagan dinner.

It was not long before I made friends who seemed I had known forever. Everyone was so friendly that they gave me a feeling that I belonged there. On the day we were able to do whatever we wanted, some of my new friends and I explored Vilnius by ourselves. I found this to be very enjoyable because I got more of the feel of the city. Another day was spent traveling to Klaipeda, where we were going to stay until our flight to London. On the way there, we stopped at many places including two castles. The hotel in Klaipeda was a very big improvement over the place that we were staying at in Vilnius.

The next day we went to Siauliai and spent the entire day there touring the city. On the way there, the bus that I was on, which was also the last one, filled with smoke and stopped, while the others continued on their way without noticing our predicament. Finally fifteen minutes later, the police car that was escorting us came back to help us. Once we got our bus started, the police car stalled!

For a special treat, before going back, we went to a night club. This was my very first nightclub experience and it just made me look forward to my twenty-first birthday even more. I think I wore out my friends by making them dance with me, because the next morning they overslept and missed breakfast and the rest of the morning activities. After they recovered, three of my friends took me with them on an excursion to Witch's Mountains, where wood carvings were placed along a path. Each one had a story of some sort on them and one of my friends tried to translate them out of a book written in German.

Before we knew it our time in Lithuania was drawing quickly to an end, so we spent our last evening having a bonfire on the beach. We sang songs and talked until it was time for us to gather our things for the bus ride to the airport. At the airport, we had to say good-bye to some friends who were going to their home. The flight to London was fun because we knew everybody on the plane. After landing, I had to say good-bye to my other friends that were Dalyvis because at this point we went our separate ways until the closing dance. Once settled in St. Mary's College on Strawberry Hill, and after a good dinner, two of my friends invited me to explore London with them. We made it into the city

very late and were not able to see much. Since everything closes at eleven, the streets were soon cleared. We took a train and walked the rest of the way to the college. The next day, we traveled to Oxford and had a short tour. At Stratford on Avon, we were able to explore for ourselves. Our last stop was the Warrick castle. After a tour of this breathtaking reconstruction in the Victorian style, we had dinner here. It was so much fun. We did not have any silverware to eat with and we had to pound our fists on the table. We were led through dances, songs and stories.

The following day, our meetings started and lasted for a week. Throughout them, we had speakers on various topics such as economics and health care. A representative of each country gave a speech on the conditions and the problems in their country which they are facing. We formed stronger bonds with these countries and with the youth of Lithuania. By the end of the week, we choose a new valdyba from South America and also selected the site for the next congress., North America.

Before we knew it, our three weeks of traveling was quickly coming to an end. At the closing ball, we were united with Dalyvis. During the meal, we all exchanged stories of our adventures. Afterwards, we danced into the wee morning hours.

I do not think there was one boy that I let escape from dancing with me. Unfortunately, time ran out and the busses had to leave. Addresses, hugs, and good-byes were exchanged with our new found friends before we were all to go our separate ways.

A few hours later I found myself on the plane on my way back home, overjoyed that I had been given a chance to go on such a trip. I found each day to be a new adventure, since there were so many things that I was able to do for the first time in my life, such as - taking an airplane ride by myself, going to a dance club. I feel so blessed to have crossed paths with so many wonderful people from all over the world that I met and made friends with. The only bad thing about that is now I am visiting my post office at least once a week.

I do not think saying "thank you" is enough to say for giving me this wonderful experience. I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity. Again, thank you very much. ***

THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.
wishes all readers
a most Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Foundation is an Endowment Fund, established to:

- *finance projects to enhance Knights of Lithuania aims and goals,*
- *help our members learn and speak out about their Lithuanian heritage,*
- *send needed help -- books, medications, other support -- to the suffering people of Lithuania, especially her youth.*
- *ensure the financial future of the Knights of Lithuania.*

*You can help support the Knights of Lithuania through the **K of L Foundation**, by joining the Foundation or adding to your previous donation. A donation of \$100. will make you a Foundation Member; \$1,000. will make you an Honored Member, but a donation of any amount will be most gratefully accepted. To send a tax-deductible donation or obtain more Information, write to:*

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 234 Sunlit Drive
 Watchung, New Jersey 07060



Holiday Greetings
 to all my
 VYTIS friends



Joseph P. Kscenaitis
 Council # 12, NY

Best wishes for a
 Healthy and Happy
 Christmas to all,
 from the Members of

Council 141

Bridgeport, Connecticut



*Linkime Viesiems Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų
ir Laimingų 1996 Metų!*

AČIŪ
and
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MAY THE LIGHT
OF THE CHRISTMAS STAR
SHINE BRIGHTLY IN THE
HEARTS
OF ALL K. OF L'ERS
AND OVER OUR
HOMELAND,
LITHUANIA



Council 103 - Providence

Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Mėtų

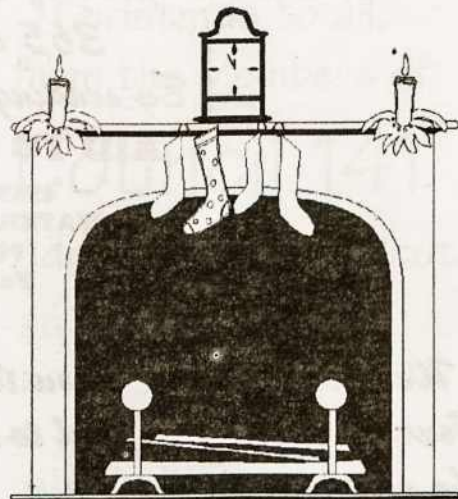


Happy Holidays to All

Council 19, Pittsburgh

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

Council 7
Waterbury, CT



**LINKIME VISIEMS VYČIAMS:
LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ,
NARIAI IR VALDYBA NUO C-143, PITTSTON, PA.**

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

**Knights of Lithuania
LEHIGH VALLEY COUNCIL 63**



Wishes everyone
A Blessed Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!



**Linkime Visiems
Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų!**

GIFT OF SONG **LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC** **HERITAGE VIDEOTAPE**

by Irene Macke

There is a natural human desire in us all to leave our mark on this world--some indication, however small, that we have passed this way. The Lithuanians who began to settle in Chicago in the 1870s and those who followed left a huge legacy, the fruit of their labors, dreams, and prayers. The establishment of the Lithuanian Catholic community in the Chicago area created the framework within which the new citizens and their children could become worthy participants in a new life while preserving the precious elements of their native culture and growing in their spirituality as they shared it with others.

Because of the generosity of the late Eleanore Laurin, Knights of Lithuania District President and honorary member, the K of L Choir has been able to create a videotaped chronicle of the accomplishments of the Lithuanian Catholic community in Chicago. Eleanore had a great desire to see that the music, religious and secular, that was so important in the life of that community be preserved for its descendants. With her financial assistance to obtain the needed equipment, and with the countless hours of voluntary participation by the K of L Choir and its friends, it has been possible for this labor of love to become a reality in the eightieth anniversary year of the choir's establishment.

It was important to keep the mission on track as the Laurin legacy had prescribed. The head person on the project who undertook that responsibility was Ann Marie Kassel. As excitement over the project grew, it became apparent that collection of the historical material on the fourteen parishes that the Lithuanians had established would be no easy task. While Faustas Strolia worked hard with the choir to polish up its presentation of the sacred songs remembered from their childhood, Theresa Strolia was able to gather, from numerous and varied sources, the necessary background information on the parishes and schools, the Sisters of St. Casimir, the Marian

Fathers, the Jesuits, the hospitals, and St. Casimir's Cemetery that created the framework for the videotape.

As filming of the historical sites by John Strolia began, a serious new problem arose: Several churches, like the beloved St. George's, which was the first to be established (1892), no longer existed. It became necessary, therefore, to request the assistance of faithful Lithuanian Catholics who had slides and photos among their personal archives and could lend them to the project. With gratitude, the K of L Choir received that assistance from Martin Geštautas; Anthony Giedraitis; Sr. M. Paulissa, SSC; Gintaras Plačas; Sr. M. Janine Golubickis, SSC; Jonas Tamulaitis; and Sr. M. Perpetua, SSC.

When Director Strolia determined that the choir was ready to tape-record the sacred music in the chapel of the Sisters of St. Casimir, they were joined by the inestimable talent of soloist Algerd Brazis and accompanied on the organ by Robert Mockus. The taping was carried out in several sessions, with Saulius Gylys responsible for sound. Use of the chapel afforded the opportunity to film Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas as a celebrant at the altar.

While the music was the inspiration for the taping, some narrative was required in order to provide the historical perspective. The narrators for the tape were Rev. Anthony Puchenski and Sr. M. Theresa Papšis, SSC, with script editing provided by Irene Macke. A very special feature will be available with the videotape for those who do not understand Lithuanian: Sr. M. Angela Balčiūnas, SSC, has provided beautiful translations of the hymns into English.

The choir expects to introduce the videotape to the public shortly after Thanksgiving, when it will go on sale for twenty dollars. ***

Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų

Laimingų Naujų

Metų



HM Longinas Svelnis

Archives Committee



³³ *The Knights of Lithuania
Mid-America District Choir
sends Holiday Greetings to
all our fellow Knights
and Friends.*

Looking for that Perfect Christmas Gift?

The Choir has copies available of their newest production,

"Our Lithuanian Catholic Heritage"

Also available are copies of "A Lithuanian Country Wedding" and "The Seven Last Words Of Christ" but supplies are limited. All three VHS Videos sell for \$20.00 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling. A cassette of "The Seven Last Words Of Christ", in Lithuanian, is available for \$10.00 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling.

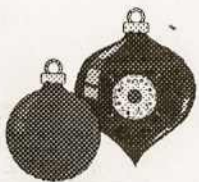
Please Contact: Ann Marie Kassel at (708) 851-7737 or you can send your order with payment to her at 8200 Anchor Drive - Apt. 801, Woodridge, IL 60517

LINKSMŲ ŠV. KALĖDŲ

Tegul Ateinančios Naujieji
Metai Pripildo Jūsų Širdis
Meilės, Kantrybės ir Ramybės.



BEST WISHES FROM YOUR FRIENDS
AND FELLOW KNIGHTS IN THE
MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT.



*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to All*



Council 12 - NYC

*Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Eugene Sawicki
President: Edmund Burba-Cook
Executive Board & Members*

*Linksmu Šv. Kalėdu
ir
Laimingu Naujų Metų*



**Council 142
Washington,
DC**

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN COUNCIL 79**

*Wishes everyone
A Blessed Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*



**MARGARET DAPKUS
PRES. C-79**

Tyliąją naktį

M: Juozo Naujalis

E: Adomo Jakšto

pp

Ty- lią- ją nak- tį bal- sas su- gau- dē: Grei- tai ren- ki-
 "Pie- me- nys, kel- kit Die- vas už- gi- mė!

pp

tės ir bė- kit, i Bet- lie- jų pas- ku- bė- kit svei- kint Vieš- pa- ties!"

Nuėję rado Jėzų ėdžiose,
 Kaip pranašauta Dievo knygoje.
 Jį Dievu jie pripažino,
 Kaip juos angelas mokino,
 Ir pasveikino.

" O Atpirkėjau, seniai laukiamas,
 Tūkstančiais metų žmonių meldžiamas;
 Laukė pranašai, Karaliai,
 O Tu šią tiktai naktelę
 Tepasirodei".

A LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS CAROL
PRAKARTĖLĖJ / IN THE MANGER
 Stasys Garliauskas Engl. adaptation by Chris Zdanowski

LYGIEMS BALSAMS su akompanimentu
 © 1966 Faustas Strolia

Faustas Strolia

♩ = 55

mp *pp* *mp* *p*

p

p

mf *mp*

1. Pra - kar - tē - lėj ant šie - ne - lio Gu - li Jė - zu -
 2. A - vi - nė - liai ir kar - vy - tės Šil - do At - pir -
 3. Pra - kar - tē - lėn pas Jė - zu - lj Sku - ba - me ir

1. On the hay lies In - fant Je - sus Sleep - ing in the
 2. Sheep and cat - tle draw to - geth - er Near the Child to
 3. Come and join us ev - ry - one and Has - ten to the

1. lė - lis, O ma - žy - tį Jo lop - še - li,
 2. kė - ją. Gar - bi - na Ji trys ka - ra - liai,
 3. mes Ir, su - klu - pė prie lop - še - lio,

1. man - ger, An - gels gath - ered 'round the Ba - by,
 2. warm Him, Wise men trav - eled from a - far To
 3. man - ger So may we on bend - ed knee Pay

In the Manger/Lith.S.Garliauskas,Engl.,C.Zdanowski-F.Strolia

1. Su - pa an - ge - lè - lis, *mf* O ma - žy - ti *cresc.*
 2. Iš to - li at - è - jė, Gar - bi - na Ji
 3. Lenk - sim gal - ve - les, Ir, su - klu - pė

1. Gent - ly rock the cra - dle, An - gels gath - ered
 2. wor - ship and a - dore Him, Wise men trav - eled
 3. hom - age to the Sav - ior, So may we on

1. 2.

1. Jo lop - še - li *rall.* *f* Su - pa an - ge - *rit.* *mf* lè - lis. *p*
 2. trys ka - ra - liai Iš to - li at - è - jė.
 1. 'round the Ba - by, Gent - ly rock the cra - dle.
 2. from a - far To wor - ship and a - dore Him.

3.

3. prie lop - še - lio, *rall.* *f* Lenk - sim, lenk - sim *rit.* *mf* gal - ve - les. *p*
 3. bend - ed knee Pay hom - age to the Sav - ior.

Tyli naktis

M: Fr. Gruber

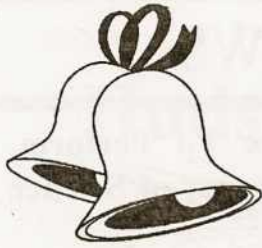
Ty- li nak- tis, šven- ta nak- tis! Vis- kas mie- ga, tik dar vis

Mo- ti- nė- lė ten bu- di vie- na. Kū- di- kis su mei- lia šyp- se- na

il- si- si, mie- ga ra- miai, il- si- si, mie- ga ra- miai.

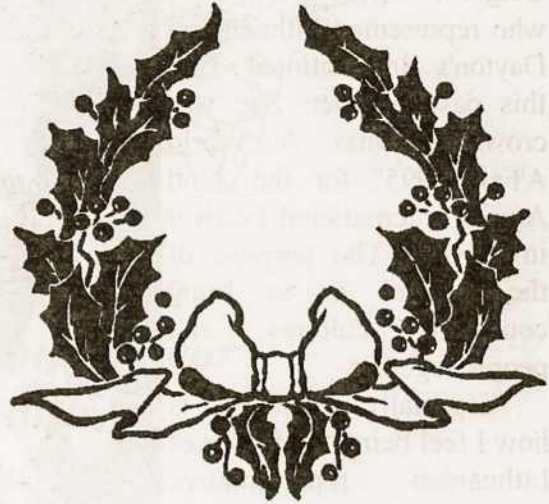
Tyli naktis, šventa naktis!
 Pildos dieviška mintis:
 Viešpats tapęs mažu vaikeliu,
 Žada sieloms malonių gausių,
 Savo šventu gimimu,
 savo šventu gimimu.

Tyli naktis, šventa naktis!
 Vyksta meilės paslaptis.
 Angelų giesmė skamba nakčia,
 Nešdama piemenims žinią šią:
 Jau Išganytojas čia!
 Jau Išganytojas čia!

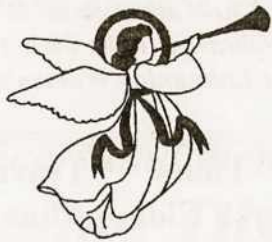


HOLIDAY GREETINGS

FROM
COUNCIL 30
ST. CASIMIR'S PARISH
WESTFIELD, MASS.



*"Hark the Herald Angels sing
Glory to the Newborn King
Peace on earth..."*



*Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year to each and all*

1995-1996
C-146, Harrisburg, PA

**Kristaus Ramybė
May Our Lord Shower
His Kindly Blessing
Upon You All**



*Council 118
Hazelton, PA*

LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS

Miss A World A'Fair 1995

Congratulations to Molly Geiger (C-96, Dayton, OH) who represented Lithuania at Dayton's International Ball this past summer. She was crowned "Miss A World A'Fair 1995" for the 22nd Annual International Festival in Dayton. The purpose of the festival is to bring countries, cultures and people together.

"Especially honored is how I feel being the first ever Lithuanian representative selected for this title," added Molly Geiger.



K.of L. Dancers To Perform at Chicago's Museum of Science & Industry

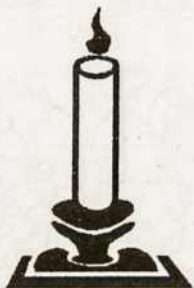
The Knights of Lithuania Dancers will perform a play showing Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in a Lithuanian tradition with dances, song, music and comedy on Sunday, December 10.

The dancers represent the Knights of Lithuania to Lithuanians and non Lithuanians and want to pack the house with local support. Admission is free. Christmas trees from around the world will also be on display at the Museum.



K. of L. Choir at rehearsal in October in Omaha, Nebraska, at the 20th Anniversary of the Lithuanian Women's Club

Peace
In Fond Memory of
Konnie Savickus



A Faithful Knight
and Dear Friend

Loretta Grigaliunas
President
C-5, Chicago

NY Times Travel Section "Discovers" Nida, Lithuania

Watch out, Nida, here comes the American tourists! New York Times travel writer, Suzanne Posschl, wrote about the area in a recent Sunday travel section. She included the folktale about Jurate, the Lithuanian Sea goddess who had her amber palace smashed by the jealous god of thunder, Perkunas. The reason why amber washes to the shore after thunderstorms.

Along a population of 1,000, beautiful scenery and pristine beaches, this spot lends itself to those who enjoy life's simpler pleasures.

Hudson Mohawk Council 136



*and the Junior Council
extend wishes to all for a
Blessed Christmas and a year
filled with health,
hope, peace and love.*

**Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų
Linkime Visiems
Vyčiams ir Jų Šeimoms.**

*The officers and members of
the Amber District
wish all our fellow Knights
a Merry Christmas;
may the New Year
bring Peace, Good Health
and Happiness to all.*



*Elsie Kosmisky
Amber District President*




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*Blessed Christmas
and Happy New Year*



to All our
Knights of
Lithuania

Your Supreme Council and VYTIS editors.

In the spirit of giving...

NEW HABITS FOR THE SISTERS OF THE EUCHARISTIC JESUS

by Loretta I. Stukas

During Lithuania's occupation by the Soviets, the Sisters of the Eucharistic Jesus risked life and limb to bring the world word of persecution of the Catholic Church in their land, with their secretive work preparing the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. Now that Lithuania is free, the Knights of Lithuania Foundation and its members, have seen fit to reward them by responding to some of the Sisters' material needs, by providing them material for new habits and donations for having the habits sewn, purchasing new shoes, medications, etc. Unlike many other religious orders now surfacing in Lithuania, these Sisters were organized in Lithuania DURING the occupation. As such, they have no direct ties and do not receive aid from orders outside of Lithuania. It is our hope that this gift is only a beginning of a beautiful relationship between the Knights and the Sisters.

The Congregation of the Eucharistic Jesus was founded in 1947, in Šiauliai, Lithuania, by the Rev. Pranciškus Masilionis, SJ, and adapted to work underground, to help the young generation and others seeking the truth. They secretly organized young people, taught children catechism and engaged in other works to keep the Church alive in spite of the new atheist government. For ten years, the Sisters lived together without attracting the attention of the Soviet government. But in 1957, the KGB carried out its first search of the mother house, and their persecution began. They took their work underground, teaching catechism, copying religious books, sewing liturgical



Sisters of the Eucharistic Jesus

clothes. At the same time each Sister had to also be employed in a public job. Those caught in the underground activities, or were not employed, were sent to prison.

But they were not dissuaded. They continued teaching children catechism and organized adults into the Eucharistic Friends Movement, where people of all ages discussed faith, Lithuanian history and Lithuanian culture, prayed together, and risked their freedom filling the need to protect human and Church rights.

A major activity of the Sisters was their work in publishing the vital underground journal, the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. They collected material, printed, duplicated and distributed it. Because of their work, the Sisters were often interrogated, mocked, and otherwise persecuted, but this did not quench their enthusiasm. Every new arrest merely encouraged them to sacrifice all for God and country. Thanks to these Sisters, the rest of the world learned of the sad state of the Church in Lithuania, and could work ever harder to overcome this evil system.

When a revival period in began in Lithuania in 1988, the Sisters joined in the work of Caritas, an international charitable and social work federation which began work in Lithuania. With the help of the Eucharistic Friends, the Sisters "came out of hiding" and began openly to care for the elderly and the poor, and continued teaching catechism to children and young people. The Sisters receive no pay for the work they do in the Church and in various organizations with the young and old. Therefore, they must also work public jobs. Their weekends and summer holidays are spent in Church work.

Currently, the Congregation has 113 Sisters. 78 have taken final vows, 21 have taken temporary vows, nine are novices, five are postulants and the remaining two are candidates. The majority of them are under the age of 40. Thirty have a university education and eight are students. They do not have community houses. Novices live three to a room. Cardinal Sladkevičius donated living quarters for the novices, but these are badly in need of repair. In Vilnius, the Sisters are dispersed throughout the city, living in twos or threes in separate apartments.

Thirty of the Sisters do not even have their own habits. On feast days or during profession of vows, Sisters borrow habits from each other. The order cannot supply them, and they themselves cannot afford to purchase them. When the Directors of the Knights of Lithuania Foundations heard of the plight of these Sisters, they asked the Foundation and its members and friends to answer their call.

The Foundation decided several years ago to use some of its available interest to help the Church in Lithuania. It has sent picture bibles to Lithuania's children, "Learning

English" texts to the seminaries, and other aid to Lithuania's Catholic Church. How appropriate that this year, the Sisters who worked so hard and sacrificed so much for the Church are getting aid also.

Knights of Lithuania friends Jay and Gertrude (Pocius) Heyman, proprietors of Fabric Land in New Jersey generously **donated 180 yards** of beautiful material for the habits. During the 82nd National Convention of the K of L and later, the Foundation, its members, and other K of L members donated over \$2,000 toward paying for the sewing of the habits. Because of the added donations, money was also available for shoes for the Sisters, and the purchase of expensive and rare medication needed by some of the Sisters. Donations continue, and these additional donations will be used for other needed supplies, as thread, hose, etc. Their lives extend beyond habits, and any and all help is appreciated.

The material was sent via a BALF Container which left Philadelphia in August. Dr. Rose Šomkaite of New Jersey, who visited the Sisters in Lithuania this month delivered the donated money to the Sisters and brought back the following letter (translated) from the Sisters in the letter below: (*turn to pg. 46*)

"Dear Benefactors,

We thank you most heartily for your sensitivity to our needs. You dressed us, and did not forget our health. But how can we repay you? First, we are overwhelmed by your great spirit, your efforts to help us. You are a wonderful example of many of our people. You are our spiritual wealth. Every day, but especially on Tuesdays, we pray for our benefactors. From now on your names will also be repeated to the Lord, asking that He grant you His blessings. Again, we thank you for the \$1800. received through Dr. Šomkaite.

With gratitude and respect,

Congregation of the Eucharistic Sisters

(Signed) Sr. Gerarda-Elena Šuliauskaite,

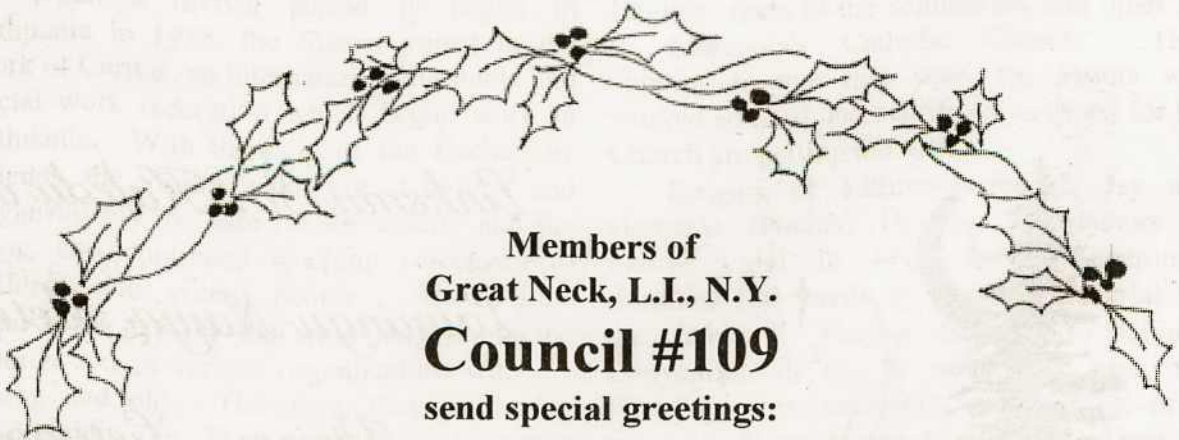
Head of the Vilnius chapter (Signed) Sr. Pija Vargeleviciute"



**Council 90
Kearny, NJ**

*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų
Visiems Lietuvos
Vyčiams*

*May the Prince of Peace
and His Blessed Mother
bestow on all our fellow
Knights both near and far
Health, Happiness and a
Prosperous New Year!*



Members of
Great Neck, L.I., N.Y.
Council #109
send special greetings:

LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ!

Let us keep Christmas close to our hearts,
for its meaning never ends.....the music of laughter,
the warmth of friendship, happiness with good health,
and especially.....
the beautiful reminder of God's love.

**Sveikiname jus su Šventomis Kalėdomis
ir Naujais Metais!
Nors gyvenimas mus skiria vienas nuo kitų,
Bet mintimis pabūkime nors šia minutę kartu!**



Amsterdam, NY
Council 100
wishes
Christmas Joy to one
and all!



*Teišsipildo Aukščiausiojo valia
Šv. Kalėdose ir Naujuose
Metuose*

*Visa širdimi su Jumis
ne tik Šv. Kalėdose
ir Naujuose Metuose,
bet ir gyvenimo kasdienybėje.*

*Kristaus atėjimo šviesa
tešviečia Jums visuomet.*

*Naujieji Metai težiba
nauja saule ir*

**Linkime Visiems Vyčiams
Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų**

**COUNCIL 36
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

EUCCHARISTIC SISTERS*(from page 42)*

Sincerest thanks to Jay and Gertrude Heyman for their generous donation of material, and to all the Knights of Lithuania members who donated to this cause, helping the Foundation bring its aim to assist the Sisters and thus thank them for their many sacrifices in providing the **Chronicles** for the world to read. Thanks also to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid who helped coordinate this project.

Anyone wishing to donate further, please write your check to **LCRA**, noting "Sisters Fund" on the face, and mail as shown below.

Consider also including a donation to the Foundation, with a check to the **Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.** also, so that the Foundation may continue to aid such important causes. The Foundation is an endowment fund whose donations are invested and the interest gained is used for charitable and other projects in keeping with the goals of the Knights.

Enclosed please find my donation to

_____ **the Sisters' Fund. (amount: _____)**
(Make check to "LCRA")

_____ **the K of L Foundation. (amount: _____)**
(Make check to "Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.")

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

COUNCIL: _____ **AMT. ENCLOSED:** _____

Send to: Mrs. Loretta I. Stukas, 234 Sunlit Drive, Watchung, NJ 07060

Let Us Live Christmas Every Day

Christmas is more than a day at the end of the year,
 More than just a season of joy and good cheer,
 Christmas is really God's pattern for living
 To be followed all year by unselfish giving...
 For the Holiday Season awakens good cheer
 And draws us closer to those we hold dear,
 And we open our hearts and find it is good
 To live our lives as We Always Should...

Helen Steiner Rice



Lithuanian Fonts

for Windows 3.1 and
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Available in
TrueType or



PostScript Type 1 formats

Vilnius a e u i š č ž é ū
A E U I Š Ž Č Ū É

a e u i š č ž é ū
A E U I Š Ž Č Ū É **Kaunas**

Palanga a e u i š č ž é ū
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Lithuanian Straw Ornaments



The Christmas ornaments of Lithuania are most unusual of all tree decorations. They are made of wheat or rye straw, gathered by the women and artistically fashioned

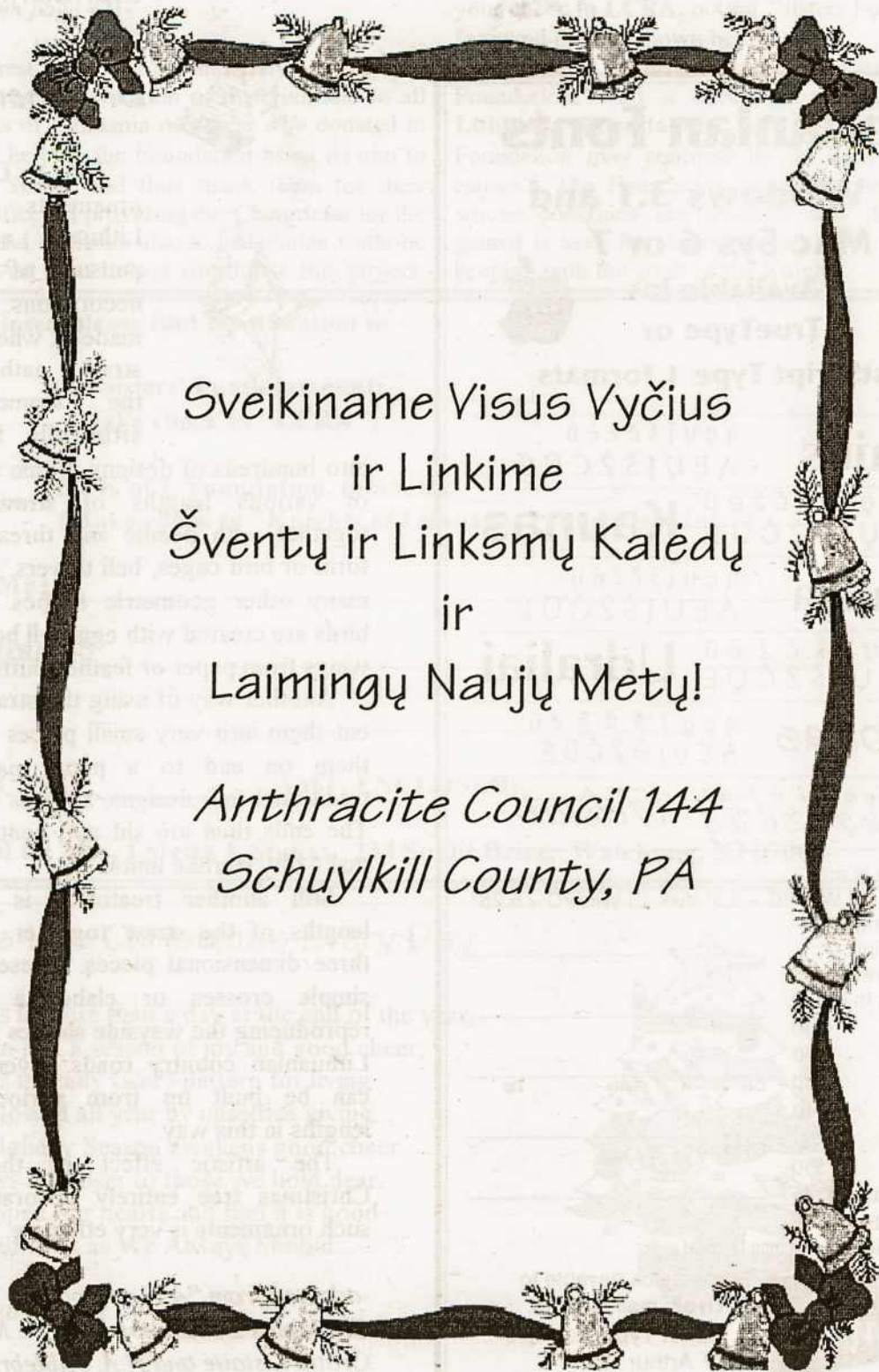
into hundreds of designs. Some are made of various lengths of straw strung together with needle and thread in the form of bird cages, bell towers, stars and many other geometric shapes. Fanciful birds are created with eggshell bodies and wings from paper or feather fluffs.

Another way of using the straw is to cut them into very small pieces and glue them on end to a paper pattern of traditional folk designs, such as the tulip. The ends then are slit and bent back to make tiny starlike units.

Still another treatment is to glue lengths of the straw together to make three dimensional pieces. These may be simple crosses or elaborate projects reproducing the wayside shrines found on Lithuanian country roads. Even figures can be built up from various straw lengths in this way.

The artistic effect of the green Christmas tree entirely decorated with such ornaments is very effective.

-adapted from "A New Look at Christmas Decorations" by Sr. M. Gratia Listaitė and N.A. Hildebrand



Sveikiname Visus Vyčius
ir Linkime
Šventų ir Linksmų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų!

*Anthracite Council 144
Schuylkill County, PA*



Our K. of L. Council 144, Anthracite, PA, created a beautiful and informative book, *Lithuanian Customs and Other Ethnic Cookery*, ©1994, Leawood, KS. Thanks for letting us treat readers to a few favorite recipes for Holiday guests.

POTATO PUDDING

Kugelis, Tarte *Diane Macknis*

10 large potatoes
4 onions
5 slices bacon
2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/2 cup hot milk or evaporated milk
8 eggs

Peel and grate fine the potatoes and onions. Cut bacon crosswise into narrow strips, fry until crisp; pour fat and bacon over potatoes. Add hot milk. Add beaten eggs, one at a time, salt and pepper. Pour into greased pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 375 degrees, bake 45 minutes longer. Cut into squares. Serve hot with sour cream, as main course or side dish.

HERRING WITH OIL AND ONIONS - Silkes

Olyvoje Su Svogunais
D.Macknis

2 herring
2 large onions
4 Tbsp. oil
vinegar and sugar

Skin and slice herring, bone. Soak overnight. Marinate in oil, vinegar and sugar for 2 or 3 hours. Serve with sliced onions.

BRAISED BEETS

-Troskinti Bruokeliai
Eve Swartz

1lb. beets
1 tsp. flour
1/2 onion
3 Tbsp. sour cream
2 tsp. butter
2 tsp. vinegar
2 tsp. sugar
salt and pepper

Cook beets, peel and grate coarsely. Finely chop onion and saute in butter. Add flour, saute. Add beets, sugar, vinegar and salt/pepper to

taste, stir. Add sour cream when done and heat and serve.

Crispy Potato Pancakes BULVINIAI BLYNAI

Elsie Kosmisky

7 med. potatoes
1 med. onion
3 eggs
1/2 tsp. salt
dash pepper
4 Tbsp. flour

Peel and grate potatoes, drain water. Add grated onion, eggs, salt and pepper. Add flour and mix until consistency of thick batter. Add 1/8 to 1/4 cup milk if too thick and beat until mixture looks like waffle batter. Add 1 tsp. lemon juice last. Fry in vegetable oil until golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels. Serve with sour cream.

PRESSED LITHUANIAN CHEESE - Suris

Petrona Patrickonis

2 lb. bought or made cottage cheese
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup milk
1 tsp. salt

Mix all ingredients and place in large cheesecloth bag, tie shut and put on board near drain of sink. Place another board on top with heavy object to press out liquid. After 2-3 days, carefully remove cloth and place cheese on platter. Refrigerate.

Council News '95

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS

John & Andrea Baltrus

Mid-Central District members enjoyed a beautiful fall weekend in DuBois, PA for their annual fall meeting and pilgrimage. The events took place over the weekend of September 29th to October 1st. Everyone was overwhelmed by the hospitality of the DuBois council, as evidenced by their suggestions for C-86 to host more meetings in the future.

The weekend began with a reception on Friday evening at the Best Western's new Conference Center. Plenty of delicious foods prepared by C-86 members were available. Guests were able to fill up and relax while sharing stories about their summer activities.

On a brisk but brilliant Saturday morning, our members traveled to the beautifully wooded area of St. Joseph's Cemetery. The trees were just beginning to turn colors and it felt and looked very much like fall. There our religious pilgrims were met by St. Joseph's pastor and C-86 Spiritual Advisor, Fr. James Kennelly, who led them on a walking rosary through the cemetery's new shrine and grotto. Each decade of the rosary is marked with a stone monument. There are monuments for 3 mysteries of the rosary, so 3 rosaries were said in all. This secluded area is an excellent location for prayerful thought and meditation. Following the recitation of the rosaries, members walked and prayed the stations of the cross at the tall and splendid wooden shrines located around the cemetery. Fr. Kennelly is to be commended for his efforts and personal labor for many years to erect these shrines and turn the cemetery into a spiritual retreat.

A rather uneventful and short meeting was held back at the conference center on Saturday afternoon. Congratulations to Lillian Petravicius on



*C-100's Lithuanian
Christmas Tree*

her re-election to a third term as District President. Most of our other officers were also re-elected.

That evening a delicious catered buffet was served at the conference center and then members moved down the road to the Ramada Inn to enjoy dancing to the big band sound of the Tommy Phillips Orchestra. It provided ample opportunity to work off all the food that had been served up to that time.

On Sunday morning our members gathered at St. Joseph's Church for our annual candle lighting ceremony remembering all of the deceased members from our district. Before

mass the District's Distinguished Service Award was presented to Albina Wallace (C-25), Twila Allen (C-86) and Eleanor Mantz (C-96). During mass, Third Degrees were presented to Twila Allen (C-86) and Lee Moore (C-86). The Fourth Degree was then awarded to Marion Gray (C-25) at our District Pilgrimage because of special circumstances. Congratulations to all.

Before heading home, our delegates were again treated to an excellent meal at the newly refurbished Lithuanian Club. We encourage anyone passing through DuBois to stop in and see their spectacular building. Many words of thanks were said to the weekend's co-chairs, Lee Moore, Tom Bruzga and Irene Yanek, and all of the DuBois council members for their overwhelming hospitality. We look forward to seeing everyone in Cleveland for our spring meeting and bowling tournament.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Aldona Marcavage

This year's cultural festival at Maironis Park on October 22nd was most interesting. A talented group of small children from Boston, provided the

COUNCIL 110 - MASPETH, NY
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

May this year's Christmas and New Year Holidays
 bring joy, peace and lasting
 good health to all our fellow Knights
 and friends of Lithuania!!!



Linksmų Šv. Kaledų

Our Maspeth, NY Council 110

with a steady membership of over 300 members,
 will continue during the newest year
 to support the needy citizens of Lithuania,
 as we have done in the past.

program with Lithuanian Folk Dances. The busy host councils were Norwood and New Haven.

The annual Holy Hour will be incorporated with the Spring Convention for our members convenience. Council 135, Ansonia will host the spring convention in April 1996.

The Franciscan Guest House will again open its doors to welcome the NED retreatants in June, 1996. Contact Al Akule and reserve early to avoid disappointments.

The next National Convention will convene in Brockton, MA in August 1996. So plan ahead for a great time.

We were saddened by the news of the death of Irene Tamulevich, who was buried Sept. 27, 1995. She was president of C-116 Worcester and was NED bowling chairman. She was proud of her heritage, and was always promoting Lithuanian culture with her beautiful displays of artifacts at every event. The local press generously publicized the Cultural Festival and many other K of L activities due to her diligence. Her friendly smile will be remembered. God grant her a special place in Heaven---maybe in a happy Lithuanian community. Maybe that same Lithuanian community in Heaven will also welcome our departed friend and respected member of C-141 Bridgeport, Mitchell Marcinauskis died September 16, 1995 after a long and difficult battle with cancer. He will be missed. May he rest in our Lord's peace.

C-1, Brockton, MA

Daisy Ruta

THE LITHUANIANS ARE COMING! THE LITHUANIANS ARE COMING!! No, it's not Paul Revere's cry but the buzz word around Brockton for the National Convention in 1996. Yes, our council is already in full gear preparing for this memorable event, to be held Thursday, August 8 through Sunday, August 11, 1996 at the Holiday Inn in Brockton.

But before I zoom into the future, let us update you on all the events that have happened to date. This year, Sisters of Jesus Crucified are celebrating their 50th year in Brockton and our wonderful Council has been happily involved. We accepted

the challenge to chair the art show featuring the works of the late Sister Agnes. What a wonderful event! Champaign, cheese, and other goodies were overflowing with delight.

Summer found us celebrating a parish and school picnic at our Lady of Sorrows Convent grounds. Our talented "chefs" prepared the famous "Big K" dinner, kugelis, kielbasa, and kopustai. Hopefully it will be the first of many.

Not only did our Council prepare for their own picnic, we were proudly represented once again at the International Sunday in the Park. yes, the "Big IC" was served.

September blessed us with a concert of sacred music to close the year of Jubilee for the Sister of Jesus Crucified held at their chapel. Our opera diva, Maryte Bizinkauskas performed many beautiful hymns, and Veronica Bizinkauskas-Cote sang a duet with Father Bill Wolkavicz of C-17, Norwood. Truly inspirational!

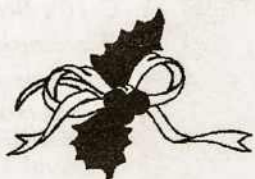
In her usual generous manner, Maryte Bizinkauskas volunteered to go to Lithuania on behalf of Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. to oversee the distribution of several containers that were filled with food, clothes, shoes, and medicines for the orphans and poor children and families. "Yes, we ARE making a difference" said Maryte on her return. To see a child use soap for the first time, get a first pair of shoes, a first doll- what a wonderful experience. While she was there, Maryte put on a mini concert as a public relations benefit for LCR. Bravo to Maryte for her generosity.

Congratulations Maryte on your new position as the Music and Choir Director for St. Casimir's Parish and School. God Bless.

In closing, remember THE LITHUANIANS ARE COMING! THE LITHUANIANS ARE COMING to Brockton for the 1996 convention. Details will be forthcoming in future Vytis issues. WARNING! You are guaranteed to have a great time! Su Diev.

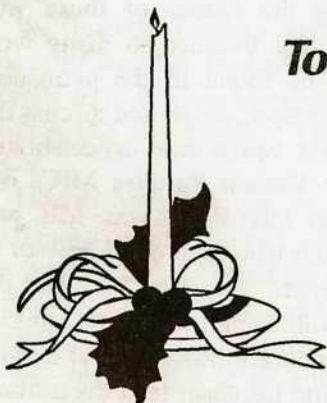
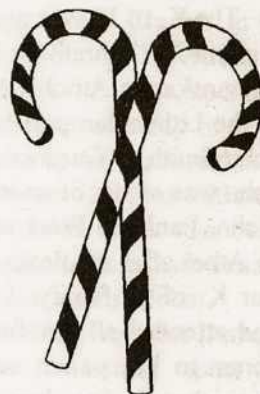
C-7, WATERBURY, CT

Those that went to the National Convention from Council 7 were Ann Chiplick, Eleanor Arnouskas, Alma Torre, Ann Viachas, Ann Kundrotas, Doris Snirpunis, Arlene Stiklius and Joe Stiklius.



**Season's Greetings
from
Members of Council 144**

**Susan Banditelli
Frances Brillius
Ann and Edmund Carlitus
Marcella Kaselonis
Ginner Kazlauskas
Elsie Kosmisky
Helen Labadis
Mary Labadis
Anna Letunic
Joe Martunas
Tom and Anna Helen McDonald
Mary Narcavage
Anna Milbut Nardini
Anna Panchari
Victor and Evelyn Prep
Marge Rozmerski
Betty Tumas
Eleanor Vaicaitis
Bea Wesley
Albert and Ann Yockachonis
Bernard Zilaitis**



Those who went to the New England District Convention were Alma Torre, Ann Viachas, Ann Chiplick, Eleanor Arnouskas, Pat Alexander, Tony Alexander, Ann Roach, Ann Kundrotas, Doris Snirpunis, Joe Stiklius and Arlene Stiklius.

C-10, Athol, MA

Vincukas

The K. of L. was again saddened at the death of Valeria "Lil" Smith on September 23. Born Valeria Brazinskas in Athol she received all her sacraments at the Lithuanian parish of St. Francis. She married John Smith of Gardner and later moved there where John was owner of an insurance firm. Their 3 sons - John, Paul and Peter were born there. She returned to Athol after the death of her husband and rejoined our K. of L. family. Lil seldom missed a meeting and attended all our functions and was a generous donor to her parish and our causes. She is best remembered for her sweet, kind, gentle and unassuming manner, that endeared her to all of us. She was proud of her Lithuanian heritage and language and truly lived up to our motto: Dievui ir Tėvynei. A large group of K. of L members attended her wake service and funeral Mass and served as honor guard. Joanna Chastney and Howie Beudette placed the Lithuanian juosta on her casket. Su Dievu Lil, and say hello to our recent deceased members Blanche Genaitis and Paula Shatas from all of us knowing that at some point in time we will be reunited.

Congratulations are extended to Howie Beudette on receiving his 4th degree at the Worcester Fall Convention.

K. of L members served on the parish barbecue committee that netted \$2,700. for St. Francis parish.

Condolences are extended to Julia Meehan and the Kalanta family on the recent death of their sister, Albina, in Connecticut.

A group of Gardner K. of L. members attended the beautiful funeral service for Irene Tamulevich, Miss Lithuania of C - 116 Worcester. It was a grand tribute to Irene who devoted her entire life to her parish of Our Lady of Vilnius., K. of L. ideals and the spreading and promotion of Lithuanian culture. Sudiev, Irena.



*C-10's Brone & Bill
Wisniauskas
celebrated 25th
Anniversary*

David Lucas, Howie Beudette and Bill Wisniauskas spent the entire summer working at the Lithuanian summer club in Gardner as charity work. Maryann Langlois recently retired and has been doing a lot of traveling. We all wish you a happy retirement.

We extend to the readers of Vytiska a holy and blessed Christmas.

C-26, WORCESTER, MA

Olga

Ann Leseman, our Madam President was simply delighted with the beautiful cooperation provided by our members in hosting the Fall Convention of the New England District of the Knights of Lithuania. We won't risk listing the names of those who worked in the parish hall because so many were involved. They will be found in the permanent record of Minutes. However, we should discuss the beautiful morning Mass which was concelebrated by our pastor, Father Vincent Paruliss MICs our spiritual advisor, Father John Petrauskas, MIC and by Father Peter Shakaliss who is spiritual advisor of the New England District. Ann Walinsky and the choir provided the Lithuanian liturgical music. Vivian Rodgers and Honorary Member Ann Bender read the epistles and Ann Leseman read the psalms. The gifts were presented. at the altar by Bertha Stoskus of Providence R.I. who is New England District president and by Ann Leseman who is our president. The committee who spent long hours contributing their talents preparing for this gathering in St. Casimir's Church and its brand new church hall deserve endless praise, for sure. We loved having those special guests!

Among the active participants at the convention was Irene Tamulevich, president of neighboring

C-116 at Our Lady of Vilna Church. Shocking, unexpected, so very sad, was the news that Irene took ill a few days later and died a few days after. The convention was held on Sept. 17th. Irene died on Sept. 24th. We of C-26 express our sincerest condolences to C-116 on the death of their president, Irene Tamulevich. A more loyal or dedicated K. of L.'er could never be found. At the wake, Dorothy Sinkavitch, vice president of C-116, and Anthony Miner, former president of C-116, led us in the K. of L. ritual for a deceased member. The funeral Mass was concelebrated by Father Alphonse Volungis, pastor of Our Lady of Vilna Church and spiritual advisor of C-116 and by Father Peter Shakalis, spiritual advisor of the N.E. District. Our two councils in Worcester have always respected and supported one another and this was one more occasion, though so very sad, that we came together once more. May God rest Irene's precious soul! She is now at Peace, but we who consider ourselves her K. of L. survivors will miss her more than we can express in words.

One of our members, Elaine Salkaus received her Third Degree medal at this convention. Congratulations to Elaine! She's recovering after suffering a serious fractured ankle, poor Miss Elaine.

We learned recently that Pauline (Buciskas) Mahoney lost her husband James to death a few months ago. We join in expressing our sympathy to Pauline and her family. May Jim rest in eternal peace.

Fiftieth birthdays can be special events! Jack Kazlauskas was relieved of his funeral director responsibilities on September 16th to have a special birthday dinner with daughter, Meghan. Dinner turned out to be a surprise party by family and friends-and the gift of all gifts was a video tape of Jack's life up to his 50th birthday which contained pictures from babyhood to manhood, messages from family members and friends. What a beautiful memory recorded on tape. And Jack thought no one could ever fool him! Many happy returns, Jack.

Elections are coining up soon for the next term and. Steve Walinsky, Sr. is heading the nominating committee. Results will be published next issues. Our former pastor, Father Anthony Miciunaso

MIC, of Chicago, visited Worcester this past fall. It was good to see Father looking so well.

We wish our K. of L. friends everywhere a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Linksmy švenčių visiems ... likite sveiki!

C - 27, Norwood, MA

Zaibas

Marian / Lithuanian Day /Tautos Švente/ was commemorated at St. George R.C. Church at a Mass concelebrated by Rev. Wm. Wolkovich and Rev. Gudaitis, SJ. Members of the Sodauto ethnographic ensemble, under the leadership of Gita Kupcinskas, were guest singers at the Mass and at a program in the church hall. Victor Kubilius initiated a voluntary collection which the K. of L. members unanimously agreed to donate to the Lithuanian Children's Relief fund /Lietuvos Vaiku Globa/.

John and Betty Skricki returned from the Detroit National Convention with an interesting report of the programs and events. Sandra Marlish, Lenore and Albie Jarvis, Stan and Helen Dallalis, Paul and Louise Zukas attended the District Convention in Worcester, Father Bill also attended.

We are proud to have Betty Skricki, /Corresponding Secretary/ and Sandra Melish, /Trustee/ on the Board of Officers elected at the New England district.

We look forward to a good year with active participation from all our members.

C - 36, Chicago, IL

Balandelis

Summer time, and the living was easy. It passed by so rapidly, there was not time to even count the days. Although Council 36 activities slow down a bit for the three months of summer, but events all around us kept pulling us all in.

Sad to say, but our wake prayer service was used multiple times. Some of our dearest members passed on to their final reward... Frank Baginski, Sr., Lawrence Gubista, Helen Pius, Sister Julie Shainauskas, Sister M. Theophila, Brother Thaddeus Margis and Bernice Zengulis. Requiescat in pace.

*To all our good friends
in the Knights of
Lithuania*

A Joyous, Holy Holiday Season

**FROM MARQUETTE PARK C-112
CHICAGO, IL, OFFICERS --**

President: Rita Zakara

VP's - Al Mockus, Ellie Kasputis, Maria Deksnis

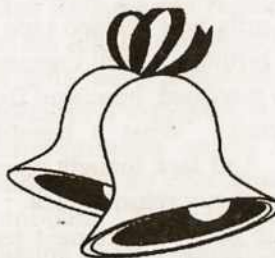
Secretaries: Terri Vaitkus, Gerrie Chaplin, Alvina Giedraitis

Treasurer: Dolores Wainauskis

Trustees: Lorraine Svelnis and Philomena Vilutis

*Sgts. at Arms: Jack Abromite, Peter Jasaitis,
Matt Vilutis and Louis Rogers*

--AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
AND MEMBERS WHO EXTEND
THEIR WISHES FOR
MUCH GOOD FORTUNE AND HAPPINESS
IN THE COMING YEAR!



But came the month of August, and we were convention bound. Delegates attending the 82nd National Convention were: Joan Cius, and four of her children... Allen, Christine, Anne Marie and Mary; Georgianna Macke, Ann Marie Kassel, Mark Kincius, Mary F. Kincius, Glen Perutis, Faustas Strolia, Theresa Strolia. Both of their sons and their wives came up for the big celebration of their Fathers honorary membership award, the suite party was outstanding...

As soon as we came back, there was an immediate rush to plan supplies, shop for the food, get workers for set-up and clean-up of the Immaculate Conceptions five day carnival. Council 36 volunteered to accomplish the amazing feat of feeding dinners and various snack foods to the hungry throngs of parishioners, relatives and friends attending both Saturday and Sunday carnival events. Mary F. Kincius did the planning, ordering, shopping and organizing the team efforts of: Sally Daulys, Vyto Dijokas, Evelyn Ozelis, Frances Urmazus, Lucille Kilkus, Denise Hornik was a co-chairperson for the whole affair, and Eva Otrus was up in the money counting room. Many of us are not very young anymore, but the Lithuanian spirit and energy helps keep the parish afloat both financially and spiritually.

Septembers opening meeting for the year was special as the council had their own celebration to honor our member Faustas Strolia. He brought his accordion and led us in Lithuanian songs.

Elections are coming up next. When next we write council news, we will have a slate of officers.

C -96 Dayton, Ohio

Fran Petkus

The Lithuanian Community of Dayton can once again be proud of their participation in Dayton's Annual World A'Fair. They were awarded with the Blue Ribbon of Excellence for their display. This evolved around the making of wine. It was good to see many K of L's doing their part. Special thanks to Sally Miller for supplying the Lithuanian style Christmas ornaments for the K of L booth. Thanks go to the committee chairpersons, James Geiger and Annamarie Sluzas Berger.

*C-96 wedding:
George Mikalauskas
and Marion
Berhinger*



With the University of Dayton holding its summer programs covering communication, etc., the Dayton area had another opportunity to entertain two "special students". Donatas Vilkas of the Lithuanian Catholic TV in Kaunas was in for an advanced course. Donatas works under Bishop Sigitas Tamkevicius.

Gediminas Jomantas, working with the Franciscan Order of Vilnius, was a "first year" student. Gediminas is continuing his studies at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

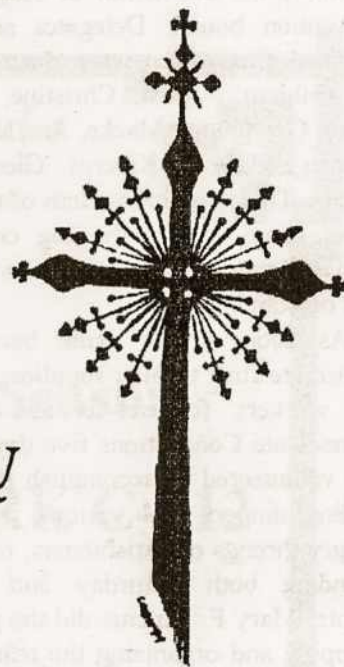
Our council's Annual Family Picnic was combined with our August meeting. Social Chairpersons Elaine Pacovsky and Loretta Pant made roast beef for the picnic while members brought a covered dish to share and their own liquid refreshments. Annamarie Sluzas Berger was in charge of games which proved to be fun for all!

Members returned home from the 82nd National Convention tired but well pleased with the sessions and program. Delegates, etc. from C #96 were Elena and Frances Mikalauskas, Mark Bell, Mark and Annamarie Berger, Elaine Pacovsky, Henry, Loretta and Robert Pant, Elinor Sluzas, Fran Petkus and Linda Miller. Council members who are part of the "Vejeliai Dancers", performing for the Cultural Night Program, were Eric, Aaron and Molly Geiger, Michael F. and Norma Petkus. Representing our Junior Council was Joseph Berger. George Mikalauskas was a delegate for the MCD.

Congratulations must go to Elena Mikalauskas who is now Supreme Council 3rd Vice-President; Mark Bell was voted in as a Supreme Council Trustee. Irene Gecas remains on the Supreme Council Scholarship Committee. Elena also received her much earned Fourth Degree Award.

To all our friends in the Knights of Lithuania
and all readers of VYTIS,

**LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ IR
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ**



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Eleanor Rokas

John Salvest

Loretta Stukas



Linksmų Kalėdų Švenčių

Council 152

Eastern Long Island, NY

Wishes a Blessed Christmas

and a Happy New Year

to all our fellow

Knights of Lithuania Everywhere!

Muriel Lekstutis, President



Council 17, South Boston, MA

Wishing all a
Blessed
Christmas
and a Happy
and Healthy
New Year

Linkime Visiems

Linksmų

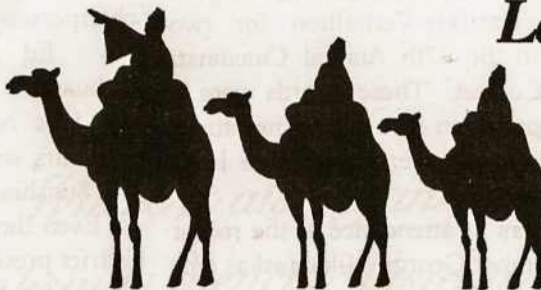
ir

Laimingų

Sveikų

Naujų

Metų



Also to be congratulated is Molly Geiger upon her reception of the K of L Scholarship Award!

On Sept. 10th C #96 held its Annual Mass for the living and deceased members at 9:30 AM. After Mass, prayers for those members buried out-of-town, of which there are 9, were held in church. We then headed to Calvary Cemetery to pay tribute to 33 members who are buried there. We were led in prayer by Father Michael Holloran. A carnation was placed at each grave. When it is the first year for a member we place a plant. Thanks must go to Religious Chair, James Geiger and his committee, Molly Geiger, George, Frances, Elena Mikalauskas and Fran Petkus. The good Lord gave us beautiful weather for this very special day. Deceased Honorary Member Michael Petkus began this tradition for C #96 over 40 years ago!!

The cemetery visit was followed with lunch and our monthly meeting. Thanks go to the council's Social Committee, Elaine Pacovsky and Loretta Pant with their cleanup crew, Henry Pant, for a very delicious meal.

Out-of-town members from St. Petersburg, FL, Walter, MaryLou and Barbara Lastoskie, were visiting council members and in for the baptism of their grandson.

Get well wishes go out to Honorary Member Stanley Vaitkus, Amy Berczely, Richard Noreikas, Mike and Alice Petkus, Ada Sinkwitz. Warm welcome to Betty Nash and Janet Veigel!

Congratulations to past K of L Scholarship recipients MaryAgnes Mikalauskas (C#96 1st Vice-President/Public Relations Chair) upon receiving the Joseph T. Cline Award for outstanding professional and civic contributions to the Dayton community; Laima Rastikis-Vermillion for two first-placed awards in the 27th Annual Cincinnati Editors Association Contest. These awards were in feature writing/newspaper on local telecommuting; and profile-newspaper/newsletter featuring a local business.

With many members in attendance at the recent wedding of C #96 member George Mikalauskas (rd) and Marion Berhinger, our very best wishes and many years of happiness go to both of you. Looks like C #96 will gain a new member!

C-100, Amsterdam, NY

Smile & Sparkle

Greetings from Amsterdam Council 100. Here's a short synopsis on our activities since last February.

In February we commemorated Lithuanian Independence Day with a special mass. A program in Father Baltch's Hall followed. Former Vytis editor, Ed Meilus was the guest speaker. Our member, Assemblyman Paul Tonko did the first reading during the mass and then he spoke at the dinner program. Our spiritual advisor, Rev. Joseph Grabys said grace. Dinner was served. General chairpersons were Bill and Beatrice Jasewicz. Their team workers were Stanley & Joan Rimkunas, Ann Czerw. The juniors, all grandchildren of the Jasewicz's, were waiters and waitresses. Mistress of Ceremonies was Mirga Bablin. Vice president Gene Gobis read the Recorder's editorial, the proclamations of Senator Hugh Farley, and Amsterdam's Mayor Mario Villa. Ed Meilus gave the English translation of the Lithuanian anthem in poetic form. He then asked the audience to participate in a sing-a-long accompanied by Ed on his accordion. President Irene Tice thanked everyone for attending. The juniors surprised the audience by dancing the "Klumpakojas". Also in attendance were Father Baltch's sister and brother-in-law, Professor George and Dr. Aldona Baltch Gravrogkas.

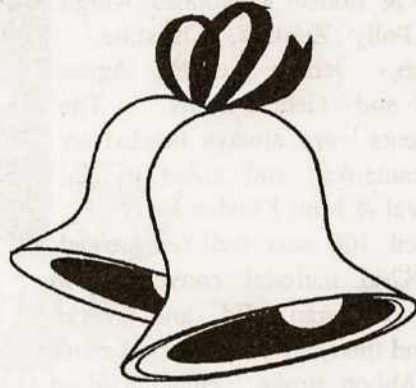
On the second Monday of every month our members attend the 7 p.m. mass and then hold the monthly meeting with President Irene Tice at the helm. Polly Ziausys, our Lithuanian language chairperson always has some amusing readings for us. Ed Baranauskas keeps us informed on Lithuanian Affairs and Mirga Bablin keeps us on our toes on Lithuanian culture. Adeline Raila co-chairs with Ed on Lithuanian Affairs and she is our Sunshine girl.

Even though it wasn't our council's turn, MAD district president Bernice Aviza asked us to hold the June district meeting. President Irene Tice and husband, Harold, got busy buying the supplies. Again the Jasewicz family aided by Eleanor and Kristin Olechowski, Ann Czerw, Helen Hugo, Fran

Best Wishes for
a Healthy and Happy
Christmas Season
to All

C-140
SYRACUSE

Best of the Season



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Tell Santa your Christmas Wish is:
to attend the
83rd National Convention
August 8-11th, 1996
Brockton, Mass.
Council 1

Where it all began !!!
Linksmu Švenču Visiems !!!

DiBart, Mildred Whelly, Regina Kot, Sophie Olbie, Betty Kuzmich, Val, Matthew & Louise Kleabonas, Mirga Bablin, Polly Ziausys, Christine Tambasco, Jennie Kensell, Agnes Pearson and Gene Gobis. The refreshments are always headed by Bill Baramaukas and aided by Ed Bablin, Val & Matt Kleabonas.

Council 100 was well-represented at the 82nd national convention in Detroit, Michigan. Ed and Mirga Bablin and their daughter, Vytis Editor, Maryte Abbott drove. Helen Kiuber, Regina Kot and Gene Gobis went by plane. Due to inclement weather in Detroit, the girls were delayed in leaving Albany for about an hour. They took a limousine to the Novi-Hilton hotel. On the way, the limo had a flat tire! The driver called for another car. After a delay of about a half hour, the limo finally arrived.

... Continued next month.

C-110, Maspeth, NY

On October 29, our council hosted our third annual Halloween dinner dance. After attending the 11:15 AM Lithuanian Mass at the Transfiguration Church in Maspeth, Queens, NY, which was held by Msgr. Frank Bulovas who offered special prayers at the statues of St. Casimir, St. Jude and at the Tree of Life memorial, we went downstairs to the church hall. There were flying witches, smiling pumpkins and dancing skeletons decorating the "filled to capacity" dance hall. At the open bar, an assortment of cocktails and beverages were being served by Ed Jakatt. Nobby Laukaitis and John Girdauskas. The tantalizing odors of the home cooked food were coming from the kitchen, where

C-112 Action Committee chairlady, Vida Sakevicius, and members of her committee present Fr. John Kuzinskas, pastor of Nativity B.V.M., with a check donated by the council to be used for the installation of parking lot lights in conjunction with their campaign to "light up Marquette Park".



C-110 Knights in costume at the Halloween dance

Chef John Klimas and friend Robert were creating their masterpieces!

We were directed to our reserved seats and joined others partaking in the farmer cheese appetizers and picking up our gift of apples. After the first round of live band music by Joe Thomas and group, trays of Desros (Kielbasi) and sauerkraut were being served by happy and pleasant servers, Helen Cummins, Stella Stripeikis, Mary Stelmokas, Ann Linkonis, Isabel Valentine, Jean Rutkunas, Ann Ackalitis, Fran Jakatt and Alice Laukaitis. Suddenly, 16 dancers, (the

Vetra dance group from New Haven, Conn.), clad in the traditional Lithuanian costumes, started their renditions of a few folk dances and ended by dancing with the startled guests. We participated in the very enormous amount of raffle prizes, and thoroughly enjoyed the Babka and chocolate candies for dessert.

Costumes worn by a few fun-loving free spirits were all deserving of First Place. The night shadows reminded us the ghosts were near; we left a little after 5:00 PM, feeling very fortunate to have donated only \$20.00 for the dinner, which also included cut-up chicken, rolled meatballs, small potatoes, carrots, string beans, cole slaw, Lithuanian breads and condiments. Chairperson Brian Rutkunas and supply persons Al Klimas and Peter Zuyus along with "all" the other volunteers made us realize the extreme dedication and caring that is needed to make every guest at home, satisfied and fulfilled. A happy and safe remembrance of Halloween!!!



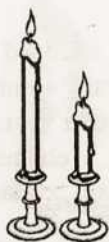
"Behold, a virgin shall be with child..."



Sveikiname ir linkime ramybės, džiaugsmo ir laimes per šventes ir per ateinančius metus.

Council 74, Scranton, PA

Our best wishes to all
for a Blessed
Christmas
and a Joyful New Year



**Council 52
Elizabeth, NJ**



C-112, Marquette Park Chicago, IL

Gerrie

I think everyone will agree, this was one summer we were anxious to have over as soon as possible. It was just too hot to even move! But, of course, the weather did not interfere with the activities of the K of L who just kept going. Some attended the district's 4th of July Picnic and had a wonderful time, especially those who were caught in the "jail" whose "prisoners" had to be bailed out with proceeds going to the Aid to Lithuania fund.

Then there was the convention in Detroit. From what we hear, it was a blast (naturally, there were business sessions, too). Did anyone notice that lady in her nightclothes prowling the hallway in the middle of the night? We hear someone got locked out of her room and after knocking on many doors failed to rouse any of her friends. They say she is still there.

So now, it's fall once again, and time to attend to K of L matters starting with the election of a new slate of officers and committee chairpeople. We appreciate the efforts of the nominating committee, Al Mockus, Ellie Kasputis, Ed Pocius, and Terri Vaitkus, who presented us with a slate of officers that just couldn't miss. Members agreed, and elected Rita Zakarka, for her second term as president. Our vice presidents are Al Mockus, Ellie Kasputis and Maria Deksnis. Our secretaries are Gerrie Chaplin, recording; Terri Vaitkus, financial; and Alvina Giedraitis, corresponding. Treasurer is Dolores Wainauskis. Trustees are Philoniena Vilutis and Lorraine Svelnis. Sgts. are Jack Abromite, Matt Vilutis, and Peter Jasaitis. Louis Rogers is flag bearer.

Rita made the following committee appointments: Social- Julie Zakarka; publicity - Aldona Brazis, Apolinaras Bagdonas, Gerrie Chaplin; Aid to Lith. Raffle - Phyllis Pelletier and Denise Zakarka; Courtesy/Wake - Estelle Rogers; Lith. Affairs - Rita Zakarka; Ritual - Phyllis Pelletier; Action Committee - Vida Sakevicius; and council photographers - Denise and Rita Zakarka.

We are pleased to have Canon Zakarauskas with us for another year as our Spiritual Advisor. He's been with us for about 35 years, and hardly ever



Mrs Virginia Buzenas showed the C-112 Juniors how to make Lithuanian straw ornaments. Pictured are (top row) Ausra Buzenas and Maria Deksnis (C-112, 3rd VP); (bottom row) Allison Lechowicz, Andrea Deksnis and Lauren Lechowicz.

misses a meeting. We send him our love and our sincere thanks.

Congratulations to everyone! After the swearing-in and picture taking session, we were treated to a wonderful array of treats prepared by the out-going board of directors.

Action Committee chairlady, Vida Sakevicius, was very busy this summer, getting her pet project off and running, namely, the installation of dusk-to-dawn lights for the parking lot at Nativity B.V.M. She has launched a campaign to "light up Marquette Park" and this is just the beginning. The council donated the money for the lights which should be installed shortly so that organizations using the facilities will be coming out into a brightly lit parking lot. She has much, much more planned for the Marquette Park neighborhood and we will give her all the help and support she needs to accomplish her goal.

C - 136, Hudson Mohawk, NY

Dorothy Richmire

Greetings to all K of L members.

Our September meeting was well attended and for the most part, all members currently assuming an office, agreed to serve again for another year.

By the same token, those chairing a committee will also stay on in their present capacity. Congratulations to all.

**Nuoširdziai Sveikiname Lietuvos Vyčiu
Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų**



Heartfelt Greetings to all my fellow

Knights of Lithuania

**May we all have a healthy,
happy and prosperous**

NEW YEAR

Honorary Member, Kazys Sipaila

President, C-29, Newark

Those members currently on the "get-well list" are: Stephanie Dwulitt, Frances Fink, Helen La Pierre, Beatrice Twardowski and Anna Mae Wallace. We pray for all of you to recover soon.

When Lynn Mc Cafferty and her mom, Helen Hayner toured Lithuania in July, they were able to visit the school in Marijampole. This is where our donated packages were sent in the spring. The children were not at the school at the time of their visit so they were unable to meet them personally. However, we are sending another shipment in time for Christmas.

We also plan to send another bunch of boxes to the Nuns that we have been in touch with. The things that we so easily take for granted here in the good old U.S.A. are at a premium in Lithuania. Therefore, we hope to make it possible for both groups to enjoy our surprises.

An exciting bus trip was planned for Saturday, November 4 to Stockbridge, Mass. Those taking advantage of the trip enjoyed the museums, shopping and many other areas of interest.

The Fall Festival of Nations in Albany was held October 29 with Bernice Aviza representing the Lithuanians.

C-141, Bridgeport, CT

Aldona Marcavage

Our new season began September 17th with a holy Mass for recently deceased member, Peter Putrimas, followed immediately by a luncheon and business meeting. President Clemencine Miller invited Msgr. Pranckus to say the opening prayer. He requested a special remembrance of all our departed members. Sadly that list is growing longer. Yet another fellow Knight departed from this earth. Sept. 16th Mitchell Marcinauskis died in

his home after a long and difficult battle with cancer. Born in Chicago, he was raised and educated in Lithuania and returned to the USA to escape Communism. With his wife Stella, they raised four fine sons: Mitchell and John Marcinauskis and Dr. Stephen Kolesk and Andrew Kolesk--leaving 4 grandchildren. The K of L Ritual was enriched by many K of L friends from New York City, Long Island, New Jersey, New Haven and Ansonia. President Miller placed a white carnation encircled by ruta in the casket. MARIJA MARIJA was sung. Then to honor Mitch's love of his adopted homeland the group sang "LIETUVA BRANGI" accompanied by Armundas Zakarauskas on his accordion. Faith in our Lord helped the family to bear the pain of loss so stoically. Our sincere sympathy to you and yours, Stella. We pray Mitch will know the joys of Heaven.

Sister Helen CJC of Brockton, who is working so hard for needy children in Lithuania said she now has storage space in the VILTIS building in Boston. There is a need for food, clothing, toys, and money. Continue saving used postage stamps.

Our Kučios program will follow a Lithuanian Mass on December 10th. Since our membership has increased to 97--this should be an eventful afternoon. We continue to enjoy the old traditions of our forefathers, which unite American-Lithuanians.

Another important date for our council is December 17th. At that time Msgr. Pranckus, our Spiritual advisor, will be celebrating his 50th Anniversary in God's service as a priest. A holy Mass of Thanksgiving will precede a parish reception in the church hall.

A dinner party at the 3 Doors Restaurant will conclude the event.



Merry Christmas - Happy, Healthy New Year

C-135 - ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujųjų Metų

COUNCIL 149 - SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

CLEMENCINE MILLER, COUNCIL 141

Detroit Council 102
Host of the 82nd National Convention

Wishes you a Christmas filled with Christ's peace!

Thanks to all who visited us this past August, we really enjoyed seeing you! A very special thanks to the many delegates who wrote, called and expressed how much they enjoyed the Convention!

Best Wishes to Everyone

**May the blessings
of peace,
The splendor of hope,
and the
Spirit of love
Be your special gifts
this holiday season!**



Council 26
Worcester, Mass.

GRUODIS - 1995 - DECEMBER

Garbė Dievui auštybėse,
o žemėje ramybė
jo mylimiems žmonėms!

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace
to men of good will!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec 3 **International Day of the Handicapped.**

Dec 8 **The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**
Instituted when Pope Pius IX defined the dogma on December 8, 1854, the feast celebrates the preservation of Mary from all stain of sin; thereby, making her a worthy dwelling for His Son. It is under this appellation that Mary has been declared Patroness of the United States.

Dec 8 On this date in 1965, Vatican Council II was officially closed after three years of deliberation

Dec 23 Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, a traditional Christmas eve fast and abstinence can be observed on the 23rd.

Dec 24 On this date in 1991, Pope John Paul II announced the establishment of two ecclesiastical provinces in Lithuania, Vilnius and Kaunas. The Archbishop of Vilnius serves as metropolitan of the Vilnius province consisting of the Dioceses of Kaišiadorys and Panevėžys in addition to Vilnius. The Province of Kaunas encompasses the Dioceses of Kaunas, Telšiai and Vilkaviškis, with the Archbishop of Kaunas as Metropolitan.

Dec 25 **A VERY MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!**

Congratulations to those celebrating their name day in December:

Albina (Dec 16)	Francis (Dec 3)	Natalie (Dec 1)
Alfred (Dec 14)	John -Damascene (Dec 4)	Nicholas (Dec 6)
Arthur (Dec 14)	John of the Cross (Dec 23)	Nina (Dec 15)
Barbara (Dec 4)	John the Apostle and Evangelist (Dec 27)	Silvester (Dec 31)
Christine/Nina (Dec 15)	Kastytis (Dec 13)	Steven (Dec 26)
Dagmara (Dec 12)	Leocadia (Dec 9)	Thomas (Dec 21)
Dalija (Dec 5)	Lucius, (Dec 2)	Victoria (Dec 23)
Darijus (Dec 19)	Lucy (Dec 13)	Vidas (Dec 28)
Eglė (Dec 27)		Zenon (Dec 8)

Make your New Year's Resolution today!

Why not send VYTIS to a child, grandchild, or friend in the U.S. who may love to read about our fascinating Lithuanian heritage and Lithuanian activities around the country. Subscription prices may be going up soon, so \$20.00 per year is STILL a bargain.

Just send the following information and a check for \$20.00 payable to: **Knights of Lithuania**. Indicate full name and address of recipient. Include city, state and zip code. Send to:

VYTIS Business Manager, Richard Niedvares
P.O. Box 60453
Chicago, IL 60660-0453

SAVE \$5.00 and become involved in keeping our Lithuanianism alive here in the USA. Our membership dues of ONLY \$15.00 per year include a subscription to VYTIS per household. New members also receive a complementary gift tote bag for joining! Write today to: **K. of L. Financial Secretary, Dorothy Banos** (address on front inside cover) and ask for *Membership* information.



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

For further information contact:

Sts. Peter and Paul Centennial Celebration - C-52 Elizabeth, NJ		
Dec. 18 Parish Christmas Party	<i>Lorraine Staboris</i>	(908) 352-2271
Jan. 7, 1996 Closing Centennial Mass at 12 noon		
Kučios Dinners and Christmas Parties		
Dec. 3 Christmas Party	<i>Muriel Lekstutis</i>	(516) 744-5986
C-152, Eastern, LI		
December 17 Kučios 21st celebration	<i>Bruno Rutkunas</i>	(516) 628-2292
C-110, Maspeth, NY		
District Conventions		
Mar. 10, 1996 MAD Spring Convention	<i>Becky Nakrosis</i>	(201) 998-3526
Hosts C-90, Kearny, NJ		
May 17-19, 1996 Mid Central District Meeting and Bowling Tournament - Cleveland, OH	<i>John Baltrus</i>	(412) 881-1716
Supreme Council Meeting		
March 23, 1996 Hosts, C-19, Pittsburgh, PA	<i>Agnes Mickunas</i>	(609) 931-3306
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. Ačiū.)

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**Sveikas Jesau Gimusis
 Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų Laimingų Naujųjų Metų**

In this our **80th Year Anniversary**,
 the Executive Board and all the members of

Council 29, Newark, NJ



Wishes to extend to our fellow Knights

A Blessed, Healthy, Happy
 and Prosperous Year.

May we enjoy many more years of our Knights
 of Lithuania membership.

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Vice President	Harold Kaminskas
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Lithuanian Culture	Emilia Sadonis
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