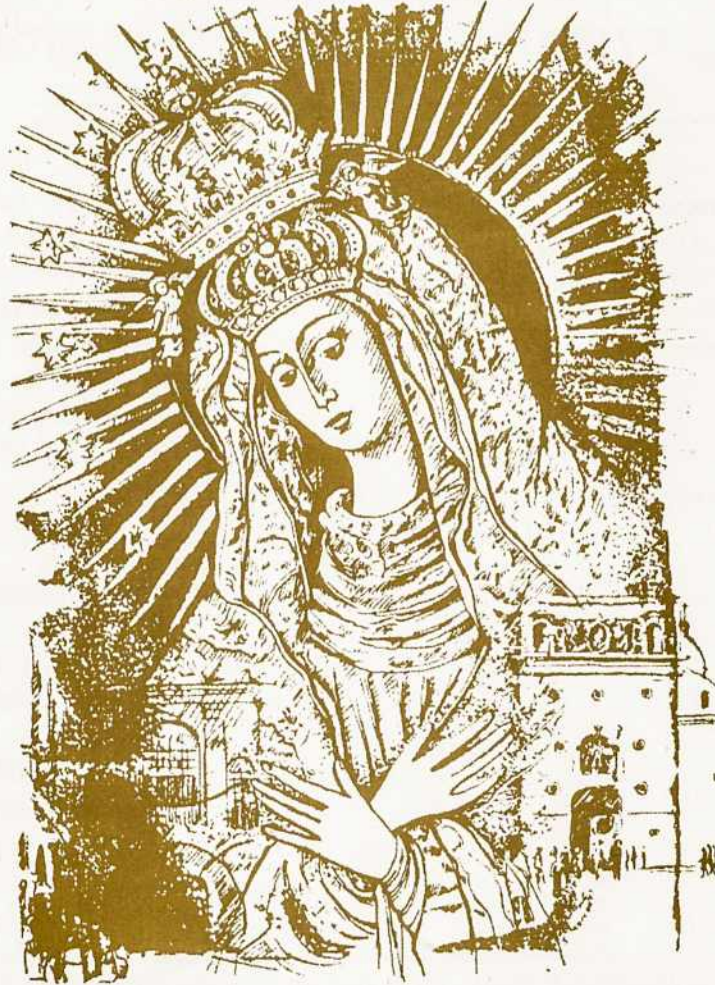


# VYTAIS



volume 82: no. 1



Sausis/January 1996

**VYTIS**

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
SUPREME COUNCIL  
OFFICERS  
1996



**SAULIS**  
**JANUARY 1996**  
**VOLUME 82: NO. 1**

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*Our Lady of Aušros Vartai, or the Gates of Dawn*

*Marija, Marija,  
Skaisčiausia lelija!  
Tu švieti aukštai ant dangaus!  
Palengvink vergija! Pagelbėk žmoniją!  
Išgelbėk nuo priešų baisaus!*

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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.

*Happy 1996  
from your  
Supreme Council  
Members*



## FROM YOUR EDITOR

As we begin a New Year, and I begin my second year as VYTIS editor, I thought I'd add a bit more inspiration to the magazine by including a special "saint of the month". This month's St. Francis De Sales, patron of journalists is appropriate for all writers and is worth meditating on when we feel our energies drained and a winter cold coming on and deadlines looming.

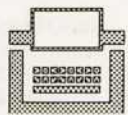
Being that January is also a special month to reflect on Blessed George Matulaitis, I've included one of my favorites from his Spiritual Diary:

### **TRUST IN DIVINE PROVIDENCE**

Is not a person more peaceful, does he not look to the future with greater courage when, with a living faith, he surrenders himself completely to God's Providence?  
After all, not a hair of our head falls unless the Lord wills it, not even the tiniest bird dies,  
but the Lord knows it.

Let us, then, be unassuming, wise and enterprising as we try to do whatever we can,  
but also daring in seeking to attain our goal, confidently believing  
that the hand of Providence is leading and carrying us.

As a child sleeps peacefully in his mother's arms,  
so let us undertake each task with even greater peace,  
knowing that we are always in the arms of God.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **SEEKS LOST RELATIONS**

Dear Editor:

I noticed the name Marjorie Saskowsky in the ATL donations section and, since her name is similar to mine, would like to know if we're related.

*-William & Stella Seskowski (C-26)  
15 Paul St. Auburn, NY 01501*

### **CONVENTION ISSUE ERRORS**

To the Editor:

Too many errors (were made) in council members who made donations. .. Maybe a proofreader would help? *-A Maspeth C-110 member*

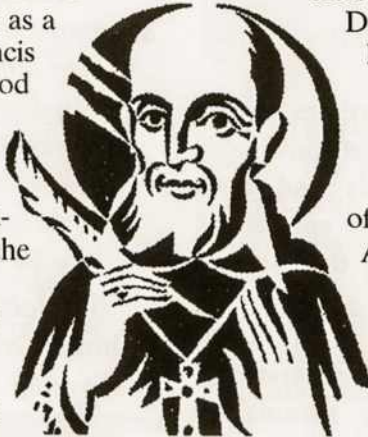
*Editors note: Although I normally don't respond to one who won't sign their name, since this came from my home council, I'd love to have whomever wrote help me with the 1996 convention issue!*

## **St. Francis De Sales**

**Bishop of Geneva, Doctor of the Church,  
Co-Founder of the Order of the Visitation  
Patron-saint of Journalists**

In all probability when one hears mention of St. Francis, one's thoughts probably recall St. Francis of Assisi or possibly St. Francis Xavier. There are at least ten men with the given name, Francis, that have been formally recognized for their sanctity and canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. In the present Church calendar, January 24 is designated as a memorial to one of these, St. Francis De Sales. His ardent love of God and souls, his great kindness, rare wisdom and sure teaching made St Francis exceptionally influential in bringing about conversions and in guiding souls in the spiritual life.

He was born at the Chateau de Sales in Savoy on August 21, 1567, the eldest son of a noble family of Savoy. He was educated privately by his mother with the assistance of a tutor, but at age 14, he left home to study at the University of Paris, which at the time was a major center of learning. Here, he distinguished himself particularly in rhetoric and philosophy. Francis completed his formal education in Padua where he received a doctorate in law at age twenty-four. Returning to his family, he confided to his mother and a few intimate friends his long felt desire to devote his life entirely to God. After overcoming the objections of his father, who still had plans for a secular career for his eldest son, Francis finally was ordained on December 18, 1593. At this time, the religious condition of the people of the Chablais, on the south shore of Lake Geneva was deplorable due to the inroads made by the Calvinists. In response to the Bishop of Savoy, Francis and his cousin, Canon Louis de Sales, set out in September 1594 to work among these people. He was not welcomed. Rather there were at least two



assassination attempts; he was attacked by hostile crowds which both insulted and beat him. He persevered and more people began to listen to his preaching. Eventually, there was a steady stream of lapsed Catholics seeking reconciliation. In all he is credited with the conversion of between 70 -72,000 people.

During this time, he began writing leaflets setting forth the teaching of the Church. These were later collected and published in one volume.

In 1602, he succeeded to the see of Geneva and took up residency at Annecy. He organized the teaching of the catechism throughout his diocese; at Annecy, he did the teaching himself with great fervor and glowing interest.

He was St. Jane de Chantal's director and with her he founded the Order of the Visitation; it was for the Visitandines that he wrote his famous "Treatise on the Love of God." Another work, "Introduction to the Devout Life" was written for the spiritual guidance of lay people and has had a deep and lasting influence until our own times.

St. Francis de Sales died at Lyons in 1622. He was beatified the same year and canonized three years later. He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1877.

It may be noted that the work of St. Francis de Sales to reclaim souls lost to Calvinism is contemporary with the apparition of Mary at Šiluva in Lithuania with the same objective. We might do well to jointly invoke the help of Mary of Šiluva and St. Francis de Sales to inspire the hearts, minds and souls of today's Lithuanians in overcoming the devastation of the modern "heresy" of atheistic communism.

*(Compiled from various sources by;  
Vincent B. Boris)*

## *Five Short Years Ago*

### **A look back at recent Lithuanian history January 13, 1991 Bloody Sunday in Vilnius**

Just five short years ago, Lithuania filled the front pages of all major newspapers. Americans of Lithuanian heritage were awestruck that all of a sudden everyone knew of our little Eastern European country by the Baltic Sea.

After re-reading newspaper articles I had clipped and saved from that time, I'm convinced it was the determination, stamina and raw courage of the Lithuanian people en masse which triggered the downfall of the Soviet Union.

JAN. 10 - NYPost

"Hundreds of Lithuanian demonstrators, some singing songs and waving nationalist banners, guarded Lithuania's parliament building yesterday after Kremlin troops made a show of force then withdrew."

JAN 11 - NYTimes

"Thousands of Lithuanians surrounded the Parliament building today in a vigil of support, while inside scores of unarmed republican militiamen in black berets kept guard. Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told reports that Kremlin intervention would be met with widespread civil disobedience.

Soviet army troops using tanks and live ammunition today stormed the Lithuanian press center and a building occupied by the Lithuanian civilian militia, leaving seven people hurt, including an unarmed civilian guard shot in the face by an enraged (Soviet) army colonel who sprayed the press building with machine gun fire after being doused by a firehose."

*Flowers are placed on the sidewalk to remember the photographers bloodied by the soldiers during the previous night's assault.*

*The Radio & TV Committee building is surrounded by armed tanks.*

*1/14/91. Photo by Vincas Korkutis*



JAN 12 - Audrius Butkevicius, the 30 year old doctor who heads the department of Territorial Defense, said he has a force of about 2,500 young men prepared to resist the Soviet Army.

Hundreds of them stood together in the lobby of Parliament today to be sworn in by President Landsbergis with an oath committing them to give their lives if necessary in defense of the republic.

Although they have access to hunting rifles and sporting weapons, those who patrol various Vilnius buildings were armed only with sticks.

Strikes began in several Vilnius factories that make equipment for Soviet industrial ministries, and tonight organizers asserted that 23 enterprises employing about 20,000 people had been idled.

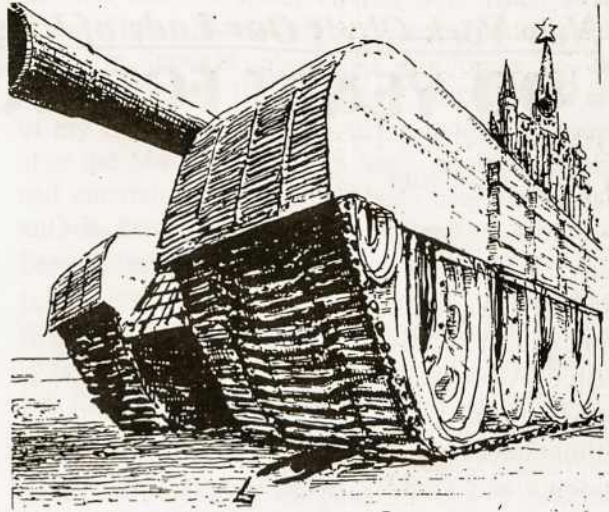
JAN 13 - The National Salvation Committee, a faceless group of Communist Party loyalists, imposed a series of repressive measures on Lithuania today after the Soviet Army, with tanks and machine guns, had seized power for the committee overnight. The

committee ruled today in force but not in spirit, after a night of violence that left 13 dead and more than 100 wounded by bullets or tank treads, according to official reports.

...The democratically elected Lithuanian Parliament, which dared Moscow's wrath last March by declaring independence, refused to surrender, working in its barricaded building in constant expectation that its members would be the next and final target.

As the Parliament worked, ambulances filled with the dead and wounded, raced across the city."

JAN 14 - William Safire, NYTimes



*Barricades around the Parliament building were being decorated by each new contingent of guardians. Medals were placed on the effigies. Slogans said, "Violence should not be honored," "Lithuania will be free," "Soviets - hands off Lithuania". Photo by V. Korkutis*



"The winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, the politician who entranced a gullible world with talk of reform and glasnost...has just ordered his tanks into Lithuania to roll over the bodies of patriots resisting his dictatorship."

JAN. 16 - Editorial, NYTimes - Jeri Laber & Catherine Cosman

"The violence in Lithuania differs from previous incidents...The (Soviet) army was especially brazen, acting in full view of the Western press, its violence recorded on cameras. The images are devastating. ...The United States should not support a Soviet government that crushes peaceful protesters under tanks."

In total, 14 young people gave their lives, over 500 were injured physically. No one but those who were there bear the emotional scars.

Because it's been 50 years since Lithuania had last experienced liberty, the transition from that communist state five years ago to a democracy and free market economy has been a very rough one. The greatest work still lies ahead. Armed with the memories of this most recent past, the tough transition may take many years to accomplish, but indeed does not remain an impossible dream. \*\*\*

## New York City's Our Lady of Vilnius Parish

# 90 YEARS FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

by *Dalia Bulvičius*

On October 15, 1995, parishioners of Our Lady of Vilnius in New York City celebrated its 90th Anniversary by hosting a special dinner in the church hall attended by over 150 people. Along with Knights of Lithuania C-12, Our Lady of Vilnius has become a haven for Lithuanians from all waves of immigration, to students and visitors from all over the world. At the special parish dinner, present and past pastors were honored, along with others who made a difference in the life of this little parish at the New York entrance of the Holland Tunnel.

Father Nicholas Langenfeld, Professor Emeritus of Fordham University was a permanent fixture at Our Lady of Vilnius, from 1934 until his death in 1992. He knew every administrator and pastor since the beginning. In 1988 he wrote a short history of our parish and I have used it, with his prior permission, to supplement this history.

One scarcely needs a preface for world famous New York City, a business, communications, and entertainment metropolis. One needs only to recall that New York Harbor houses the prime port of entry for millions of immigrants who caught their first glimpse of the Statue of Liberty, as their first impression of America. This city is home to nearly every known ethnic group. Almost lost in these huge communities is a Lithuanian remnant, a little Lithuanian island in Manhattan - Our Lady of Vilnius parish.

### **Founding Pastor Father Joseph Šeštokas - 1909 - 1937**

Father Joseph Šeštokas was born on July 4, 1867 in the village of Trilaukis, parish of Pajevonys, Lithuania. Upon arriving in the United States he held a variety of jobs -at the Havemeyer's sugar refinery in Brooklyn, as a long shoreman,



and later he opened a small grocery store. With money he saved he entered and graduated from St. John's college in Brooklyn. Feeling the call to the priesthood he entered the St. Bonaventure Seminary in Allegheny, N. Y. Father Šeštokas was ordained in 1903 and his first Mass at St. Mary of the Angels Lithuanian parish in Brooklyn. How ironic that our founding pastor offered Mass at the parish from which many years later we received our beautiful stained glass windows, After serving at St. Francis' parish in Lawrence, MA he returned to Brooklyn in 1904 and decided to organize a Lithuanian church in Manhattan, whose need was so much felt by the Lithuanian population. The project became reality when it was decided in 1905 to start with the construction of a church in Manhattan, at 568 - 570 West Broome Street. At that time this part of Manhattan had a look of a small provincial town, consisting of small two or three storied buildings, one of which serves as our rectory until this day. The rectory was acquired in November 1912. As Father Joseph Šeštokas put it, when he first came to New York, that giant city ended at 14th Street. The first rector met with



much generosity, good will and unusual readiness for any sacrifice in favor of the new parish and church. Before the church was completed on March 5, 1911, Father Šeštokas ministered the sacraments to the Lithuanians in St. Theresa's church in lower Manhattan. Father Šeštokas endured in his shepherd's duties until 1937, when compelled by diminishing health he had to resign. Rev. Peter Lambe took over.

Fr. Nick added, "In 1934 I joined the faculty of the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services. I lived in the Leo House, 332 West 23 St, N. Y. City. Rev. Joseph Osterman, the rector of the Leo House, doubled as professor of German at Cathedral College. His friend, Rev. Peter Lamb taught mathematics at the same college and served as administrator of Our Lady of Vilnius until 1944. Priests at the Leo House were often invited to help out in parishes. My very first call to pinch hit came from Our Lady of Vilnius. I liked the little, cozy church at once. The property of the church was dilapidated since Father Lamb had little time to keep it in good repair. I continued to fill in at Our Lady of Vilnius on rare occasions until 1941 when Father George Gurinskas became administrator and I became a regular supply priest".

**Father George Gurinskas, 1941 - 1980**

Father George Gurinskas, driven to this country by the Communist invasion of Lithuania, was born April 23, 1900, in the village of Galkiemis, parish of Višytis, diocese of Vilka viškis. After having completed his secondary education he entered the Theological Seminary of Vilkaviškis to study for the priesthood. He was ordained June 18, 1926. With the Communist invasion of Lithuania and the various harassment by the enemy forces, it became impossible for him to do his work. Aided by his brothers and sisters residing in New York he reached America's shores on June 13, 1941.

Father Nick continues: "Father George came to Our Lady of Vilnius July 26, 1941, as an associate of Father Lambe until 1944 when he assumed full charge. The parish was reborn. Father George and I became very good friends. The parish was flourishing. The choir loft extended half the length of the church along both walls. On holidays

this loft and the lower church were filled at all seven Holy Masses. The large Heide candy company brought about 30 employees to the holiday Masses. His daughter Constance was one of my Fordham students. At the holiday banquets after the Masses Gerard de Sapio shared the table and entertained us with his lusty singing. He and his son, Carmine, donated the large St. Anthony of Padua painting over the west side altar.

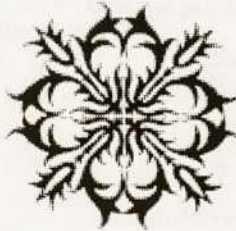
After the Heide factory moved to New Jersey and large commercial buildings replaced the homes of many parishioners, church attendance declined. But Father George hung on. His recreation was cycling in the West side highway, and visiting his Mastic beach home. Here he harvested mushrooms under the oak trees. He gave me jars of delicious canned mushrooms every fall. Father George reached the official retirement age in 1975. But after a lapse of one year, he returned for another four years, 1977 - 1980, as "priest in charge". After he fully retired in 1980 a series of part time priests administered the parish.

Father Nick wrote about another pillar of Our Lady of Vilnius:

**Vincent K. Mascola, 1945**

Vincent is a zealous lay apostle, who has long been active with the parish. In 1945 he became Father George's right hand man. He served as sacristan, Eucharistic minister, custodian and lector. As Father George's health decreased Vincent's role increased. When Father left in 1980 Vincent became the manager and lay administrator of the parish, president of the church council. He secured the help of several temporary priest administrators. Among them was Father John J. Tomalonis, the poet priest. (Father wrote the beautiful poem to Our Lady of Vilnius printed on page 8). He compiled an excellent history of Our Lady of Vilnius parish to commemorate its 75th anniversary". Father John Bida succeeded him. He stayed for about year.

Rumors began to spread that our parish was about to be sold. The parishioners and the local Knights of Lithuania Council 12 under the leadership of Mid-Atlantic District president Larry Janonis, sprang into action. Petitions and delegations were sent to the Cardinal but of no avail. Then a miracle happened. From Rome came Monsignor Ladas Tulaba. A longtime parishioner



### **A Prayer to Our Lady of Vilna**

Our Lady of Vilna, Full of heavenly grace.

Patron of Lithuania, fairest of the human race.

Listen to our sighs, reaching for the starry skies.

Strengthen our faith; shield us from base lies.

Our Lady of the Aurora Gate! Be thou often known:

As daylight expels the darkness of sin alone.

While the Son of Justice shines brighter by the hour;

Your miracles show your great mercy and power.

Down through the ages, you're our strength in need;

Our solace in suffering; your miracles we plead!

Children of Mary! We your tender love ever share;

Open your loving heart; hear our humble prayer.

A downtrodden nation, peace-loving and fair;

Ever a victim of tyranny, yet never of despair.

Strong in spirit, unwavering hope and firm mind;

Amidst all strife, peace and joy and song we find.

Oh! Virgin most pure! Hear our cries today!

Protect us against an ungodly tyrant in life's woe.

Destroy the haughty master with your heel and toe,

Final victory hasten to give us; your mercy show!

Oh Virgin most tender ! We thee truly ever implore.

Lead and guide your humble children forevermore.

With Faith, Hope and Love, we will follow thee;

Until we meet you and your divine Son in eternity.

Our Lady of Vilna, Pray for us. Amen.

*Re. John J. Tomalonis*

*With Ecclesiastical Approval: Mar. 18, 1980, NYC*

Antanas Dėdinas asked monsignor Tulaba to intercede for us to Terrence Cardinal Cooke about our Lady of Vilnius. The Cardinal told the monsignor that he never received any petitions and does not know anything of this situation. When the Cardinal returned to New York a miracle happened. Things turned in favor of the Lithuanians. Monsignor Ladas Tulaba and the faithful parishioners would not give up. A Mass of Thanksgiving was offered and a banquet prepared

in honor of our great benefactor, Monsignor Ladas Tulaba.

Father Nick told how we found a new pastor: "Then there began a period when there was no resident priest at all. Vincent and I collaborated to keep the parish afloat. I unlocked the doors of the church for the 8 o'clock weekday Masses. I also celebrated weekend Masses the five o'clock Saturday evening and the 9 o'clock Sunday Mass. This Mass was attended mostly by the Portuguese parishioners. In the absence of a housekeeper, I often "free-loaded" at a nearby restaurant. All the while Vincent was hunting for a permanent priest administrator. He canvassed the entire United States, sending out 25 letters to prospective priests, inviting them to come to our Lady of Vilnius. Finally he succeeded in persuading Father Vytautas Palubinskas to come here from his parish in Paterson, NJ. He was a God send!

**Father Vytautas Palubinskas  
1982 - 1989**

Affectionately known as Father Vito, he breathed fresh life into the parish. He is a great scholar, linguist and philologist with a great love of N.Y. City with its inexhaustible cultural riches. He at once made many improvements. After redecorating the church he "rescued" the beautiful stained glass windows from Our Lady of Angels Lithuanian church in Brooklyn which was about to close. They were created by the Lithuanian artist Jonynas. Father Vito installed six of these magnificent windows into the church, transforming it into a large "jewel box", gleaming with glorious colors. An electronic bell system was installed which fills the whole neighborhood with sacred music as it calls the faithful to church.

The lower hall was turned into "Father Gurinskas Hall", where the dedicated and talented "Kitchen Brigade" have served many a delicious parish dinner.

When the pastor of Annunciation the Lithuanian parish in Brooklyn Father Jonas

Pakalniškis retired, Father Vito was asked to take over. Father John is also associated with our parish. He was born in Manhattan on January 1, 1915 and baptized in our Lady of Vilnius on January 17th by Father Šeštokas with the name Jonas Leonardas. His parents were married here: Jonas Pakalniškis and Ona Dyglytė.

#### **Father Eugene Savicki 1989 -**

When Father Vito left he did not leave us as orphans, we were in the good hands of Father Eugene. Father Nick continues: "The parish has been greatly enriched by the coming of the talented and genial Father Eugene Savicki. In addition to his parish duties he wears many hats and has just as many various degrees. Among them is an RN and a doctorate. Father Eugene was ordained by Bishop Paul Baltakis, OFM on December 6, 1986, at St. Patrick's cathedral in New York. After Father Vytautas Palubinskas departed to serve at Annunciation parish in Brooklyn, Father Eugene became OLV administrator. In the short years Father Eugene, with the help of Tony Zagarino his right hand man and jack of all trades, have accomplished a few miracles. Perhaps the best of them happened in January 1995 when the parish had paid off all its debts and we were in the black.

This is truly a renaissance for our little parish. As Lithuania regained her independence we acquired new members who came over from our Motherland and proved to be active in the parish, joining the Knights of Lithuania and other parish activities. During Father Savickis "reign" we had a few adult conversions, few marriages. On February 9, 1994 a Lithuanian - American couple Algis Jonas and Caren Matyckas went to Raseiniai, Lithuania and adopted two four month old twin girls. Father Eugene baptized them Lina Deanna and Ona Carina. Our talented organist Aldona Kepalaite is an invaluable part of the parish. Not only does she lead the choir during Mass, composes the music for the choir, but after that rushes down to make coffee for our brunch after Mass. Two generous parishioners, Grace and Richard Austin donated the huge painting of our Lady of Vilnius created by the Tadas and Helen Sviderskis. Turn of the century Lithuanians, the World War II arrivals with our Portuguese American neighbors join after the Masses in a beautiful get-together. Invaluable to the parish is

also the local Knickerbocker council of the Knights of Columbus who uses the hall for their meetings and other activities. They are expert repairmen and aid Father Eugene in many ways fixing this 90 year old grand dame, - Our Lady of Vilnius. Last but not least is the parish cat, Jellybean, who deigns us with his presence in the hall on special occasions.

Father Nick continued:

"While serving Our Lady of Vilnius close to 60 years I have learned to love and respect the great Lithuanian people. Their friendliness, hospitality, piety and sturdiness have made a lasting impression on me. As a token of regard the Knights of Lithuania C - 12 based in the parish, have made a honorary Knight of Lithuania. I even know my name in Lithuanian, Nikalojus Ilgalaukis."

Father Langenfeld passed to his eternal reward, and was buried in his home state of Wisconsin. We had a beautiful memorial Mass for him. Amžina atilsj Father Nick.

Let us thank God the Almighty for sparing this church many times in the past. The construction of the Holland Tunnel in the early twenties, the Great Depression of the early thirties, World Wars I, II, the Korean and Vietnam wars.

These indeed had left Our Lady of Vilnius with scars and loss of membership. But like the Phoenix we are survivors and rise from the ashes awaiting our 100 anniversary. As experience has already proven, we can rest assure that Our Lady of Vilnius - The Worker of the Aušros Vartai will lead us and our future heirs to brighter days in the years ahead. \*\*\*

#### **Did you know?**



Lithuania once proclaimed the stork as its national bird. But the white stork in Lithuania, as in other Eastern European countries, has been on the endangered species list. However, in recent years, ornithology organizations are finding the stork population is slowly coming back. Progress has been made to restore the stork's natural ecosystem and habitat.

# The Four Wives of Jogaila

## King of Poland (1386-1434)

Part I by Edward Baranauskas

It is interesting to note how Jogaila, the ruler of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, became involved with the Polish royal family and his eventual marriage to their young queen. Very little mention is made by some historians that he was widowed three times, and that his fourth marriage resulted in his becoming a father at the age of 74.

As an unmarried monarch of a powerful nation, Jogaila attracted the attention of Dimitrii Donskoi, the Grand Prince of Moscow. He offered his daughter Sophie to become his wife, but Jogaila did not accept this proposal. Some historians speculate that if he had agreed to marry her, would he have converted to the Greek Orthodox faith, or would he have remained a pagan like his father Algirdas?

Poland's problems in 1382 not only influenced the future of Poland, but also that of Lithuania as well.

The King of Poland at that time was also the King of Hungary, Louis d'Anjou. It was his wish that his older daughter Mary occupy the Polish throne after his death, but instead she was crowned the Queen of Hungary. Queen Elizabeth, the dowager mother, sent her younger daughter Hedwig, who was about nine years old at that time, to Poland in her place. This presented a problem for the nobles of Poland.

Hedwig (called Jadvyga in Polish) was engaged at the age of four to Austrian Duke William, and if everything went according to this prearranged plan,



they would someday marry. This did not please the Polish nobility for they did not want the future King of Poland to be of German descent. They turned their attention to Lithuania, which ruled vast Ukrainian lands to the east by the border of Poland, and who also shared the same enemy, the Teutonic Order.

The Poles offered Jogaila a deal. They wanted him to accept the Roman Catholic faith, to marry their queen and become the King of Poland. These negotiations were going on even before Hedwig was crowned Queen of Poland on October 15, 1384 at the age of eleven.

Poland and Lithuania were in a position that the marriage of Hedwig to Jogaila would benefit both countries.

Poland wanted to end their undesirable union with Hungary. They wanted a king who was not from the German Hapsburg family, who were becoming so powerful in Central Europe that the Polish nobility feared they might someday threaten Poland's political independence.

Jogaila, Lithuania's ruler, was engaged in a bitter struggle for power with his cousin Vytautas, who allied himself with the Teutonic Knights. He felt that if he turned to Poland, his position would be more tenable. Also, the question of Lithuania's acceptance of Christianity would be finally resolved.

Hedwig was reluctant to break her engagement to Duke William and marry a pagan who was almost three times her age. The Polish Council of Lords convinced her that this marriage was in the

best interests of Poland, and stressed its importance to the cause of Christianity.

Preparing for an agreement with Poland, Jogaila made peace with Vytautas. As later events proved, this was but a temporary one. A delegation from Poland arrived at the castle of Kriavas (or Kreva), an important Lithuanian political center once ruled by Algirdas, Jogaila's father. Today, it is a part of Belarus, not far from the present Lithuanian border. As a strange footnote to history, it was here that Grand Duke Kestutis, father of Vytautas, was imprisoned by Jogaila, and where he was murdered under mysterious circumstances.

An agreement was made on August 15, 1385 and became known as the "Act of Kriavas". It was signed by Jogaila in the presence of a number of Lithuanian nobles and Polish delegates. Jogaila agreed to be baptized and accept Christianity together with all his nobles, princes, and the entire Lithuanian nation; he would pay 200,000 Austrian florins to Duke William for Hedwig's breaking their engagement, and that he would unite the Grand Duchy of Lithuania with the Kingdom of Poland under his rule. This was the beginning of the Lithuanian and Polish political and cultural closeness, known in history as a union. The so-called Jagiellonian dynasty, which ruled Poland and Lithuania for about 200 years was a continuation of the Gediminas family.

Jogaila arrived in Cracow, which was the capital of Poland at that time, with his brothers and cousin Vytautas on February 14, 1386. The next day he was baptized with the name of Ladislas, but in Polish history he is known as Wladislaw II Jagiello. Polish historians often omitted the fact that he was a Lithuanian.

Jogaila and Hedwig were married on February 18, 1386. He was 36 years of age, while she was a young teenager of 13. He was crowned King of Poland on March 4.

The union was childless for thirteen years until 1399 when Hedwig gave birth, prematurely, to a daughter, Elizabeth Bonifaca. Hedwig died four days later on March 17 and the infant failed to survive a few weeks.

Jogaila was anguished at losing his wife and daughter within such a short period of time.

## WHAT POLISH HISTORIANS WRITE ABOUT LITHUANIA

I enjoy reading about Lithuanian history, and I must admit that my sources of information are found in books and publications written by Lithuanian scholars, both here and in Lithuania.

I decided to go to my local public library to see what Polish historians wrote about Lithuania and its rulers. I picked up one book, "*The Polish Way*" by Adam Zamoyski, and was quite surprised at what the author wrote about the planned marriage of Queen Hedwig to Grand Duke Jogaila. It was not very flattering to him, and here is an excerpt of what he wrote:

"They found a husband for her in Jogaila, Grand Duke of Lithuania. She was so frightened by the prospect of succumbing to this hairy heathen much older than herself that she pleaded with the lords, and was only placated after a favourite young knight of hers, Zawisza of Olesnica, had been sent to inspect Jogaila in his bath-house and reported back favourably on the details of the barbarian's body."

I thought this was an interesting bit of history.

After they were married, the author made this comment: "Poland had linked its destiny to a backward pagan state three times its size, which it never quite managed to control. The benefits to Poland of this arrangement were not always clear."

So much about Lithuania as viewed by Polish scholars ..... *Ed Baranauskas*

However, he continued with his life and married again three years later.

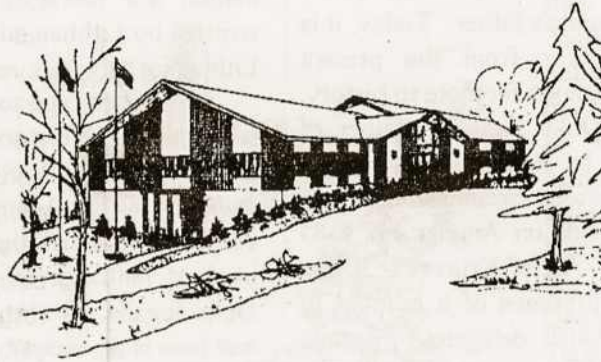
(Next Month: Part II, Jogaila's marriage to Anna, granddaughter of Casimir the Great.)



Lithuanian Charitable Society, Inc.

MAIRONIS PARK

52 So. Quinsigamond Ave. Shrewsbury, MA 01545



**SVEIKINAME VISUS VYČIUS IR LINKIM SVEIKŲ  
IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ**

**A WARM WISH TO ALL OUR FRIENDS FOR ALL  
THE HAPPINESS AND GOOD HEALTH  
THE NEW YEAR CAN BRING.**



Spiritual Advisor -  
President -  
Vice President -  
Recording Secretary -  
Financial Secretary -  
Financial Secretary's  
Assistants -  
Treasurer -  
Sergeant-at-arms -  
Auditors -

Rev. Vincent Parulis, MIC  
Kazys Adomavičius  
Francis (Algis) Glodas  
Ann H. Bender  
Raymond Jakubauskas  
Teresa Adomavičius  
Aldona Lozoraitis  
Dorothy Virbasius  
John Giedrys  
Ellen Vallon and Stephen Walinsky, Sr.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

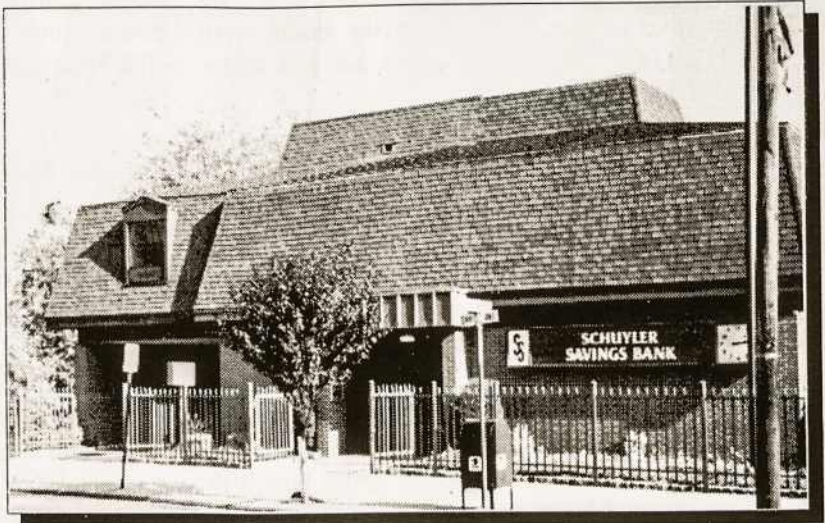
Withold Ivaska	Arvydas Klimas
Casimir Juska	Bruno Naras
Aidis Kozica	Gediminas Račiukaitis
Arunas Simkus	

## SCHUYLER SAVINGS BANK

# Serving Lithuanians And The Community Past & Present

by Loretta I. Stukas

"LET THESE MEN, Your Neighbors, Serve You Thru SCHUYLER B. & L. Ass'n". So read an early handwritten flyer, distributed in 1924 to advertise the opening of the new Schuyler Building and Loan Ass'n., organized to serve the Lithuanian community by providing the Lithuanian immigrants a means of investing



hard-earned savings and borrowing to purchase homes, and thus begin building new lives in the US as viable and self-sufficient citizens. Today, 71 years later, the institution, now called Schuyler Savings Bank, continues to serve the community and provide not only a place for financial dealings, but also for local people to come for financial advice and friendly help. It also continues to serve the community in other ways, by enhancing the neighborhood and aiding institutions that also serve the community.

Back in 1924, many Lithuanian immigrants, who arrived in the US after World War I or earlier and settled in Kearny, were seeking a better life in a free and independent nation. As new arrivals, they needed help assimilating. Considered "foreigners" by the Kearny community, most of whom at that time were of Scottish origin, Lithuanians were hard pressed to break into the community, to obtain credit or other financial aid. A few innovative Lithuanian immigrants who had overcome the first traumas of immigration decided that, one way or another, they would establish a means for their people to become financially independent.

The idea was good and useful, but its realization was difficult. A significant capital investment was needed to guarantee the new

*Schuyler Savings Bank exterior today.*

institution's existence. Few of the new immigrants, whose jobs paid minimum wages at best, had achieved enough financial stability to be able to contribute much to this capital. But some older immigrants who had saved some money willingly and without question brought in larger sums to allow the institution to start. Once by-laws were written and legal matters were settled with the State of New Jersey, the new Savings institution was organized and took its first steps into future success.

The first directors of the Schuyler Building and Loan Association were Lithuanian immigrants, who enjoyed the trust and confidence of the association's first investors. This was important, because in the early days, savings were not federally insured, so confidence in and conscience of the institution were essential. That displayed confidence did not go unrewarded, for even with its difficult beginnings and progression, Schuyler grew, its investors prospered, its borrowers improved their ways of life, and the community enjoyed the fruits of a profitable financial institution catering to its needs.

In its first ten years, by 1934, Schuyler's assets reached \$84,685, a notable achievement, considering that during that time period the nation suffered

the depression, unemployment and other problems. Although the institution also suffered from these woes, it nonetheless maintained its authority and not one investor or borrower suffered financial loss from his/her relationship with Schuyler. By its fiftieth anniversary in 1974, Schuyler assets were over \$9,000,000. Today, its assets are just under \$100,000,000!

In 1978, Schuyler moved into its own building at 24 Davis Avenue. This year, Schuyler expanded into a new, auxiliary building, at 20 Davis Avenue, which now houses the Mortgage Department.

Today, the institution continues to serve the community, which now includes members of many other nationalities. Its directors (now called managers) are still Lithuanian Americans, several of whom are descendants or family members of the original directors. An interesting sidelight of the Schuyler story is that all members of its Board of Managers as well as the Board Attorney are **not only Lithuanian Americans, but also active members of the Knights of Lithuania**. It is probably the only Bank that can make that statement! Managers include: Chairman John Nakrosis (C-90), Rev. Dominick Pocus (C-90), Peter Gibbas (C-90), George Katilus (C-90), Eleanor Rokas (C-90), Jack Salvest (C-90), and Loretta Stukas (HM, C-29). The Board Attorney is Vincas Vyzas (C-90).

Throughout its history, Schuyler Savings Bank has been closely associated with the local Lithuanian community. Schuyler helped the members of the community become financially stable -- and the community supported Schuyler Savings with its investments and loans. It became a central part and a stabilizing force of the Lithuanian

community of Kearny and surrounding areas. Schuyler has contributed to charitable and cultural causes of Lithuanian and civic organizations and the city of Kearny itself. For many years, it was a major contributor to the "Memories of Lithuania" Radio Hour, run by the late Dr. Jack J. Stukas, HM, who was also a director/manager of Schuyler for over 25 years and board chairman many of those years. The Bank contributed generously to the Deborah Hospital Lithuanian Program, to Aid to Lithuania and other causes of the Knights and to the Lithuanian Press. They donated cases of toys to Lithuanian hospitals and orphanages and helped many other causes. The gift of 76 trees planted along Kearny's Davis Avenue by Schuyler this spring added beauty to the area, and brought countless compliments from impressed and grateful clients and local citizens.

Schuyler Bank's most recent project is aiding another Lithuanian institution. Most of Kearny's Lithuanian activity centers around the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church, Our Lady of Sorrows, just down the road from Schuyler. When members of the parish Holy Name Society, in 1939, established the Lithuanian Catholic Community Center (LCCC) and purchased the building at 6 Davis Avenue, Kearny, Schuyler Savings came to their aid, providing a mortgage, and advertising the club's availability to its clients. The two institutions fed on one another -- LCCC clients brought their business to Schuyler, Schuyler rented LCCC for its social activities and otherwise supported its activities. Together, they continued to enhance the



*Ribbon-Cutting at the new bank building in 1978: (L to R) Directors J. Belza, F. Gelinitis, Manager L. Moskal, Director E. Bennett, Kearny Mayor D. Rowlands, Director G. Katilus, President J. Stukas, Directors J. Nakrosis, J. Salvest. Holding the ribbon: Cathy and Becky Nakrosis.*



*Current  
Directors/Managers in  
Board Room: (L to R)  
Peter Gibbas, Loretta  
Stukas, Board Att'y  
Vincas Vyzas, Chairman  
John Naktosis, Msgr.  
Dominick Pocus,  
Eleanor Rokas, Jack  
Salvest, George Katilus.*



local Lithuanian community, and encourage its stability.

The Lithuanian Catholic Community Center has been an important part of Lithuanian activity, not only in Kearny but also in the State of New Jersey. Of course, the founders hold their meetings and other events there as do the parish Sodality, Senior Citizens, and others. It is a regular site for Showers, Weddings, and Funeral Luncheons. Council 90 of the Knights of Lithuania considers LCCC as their headquarters, conduct their monthly meetings and most social and cultural functions there.

When Lithuania was in crisis after she reestablished her independence then fought to obtain recognition of that independence, Lithuanians of New Jersey chose LCCC as the headquarters of the new organization "Americans for an Independent Lithuania", which rallied at LCCC weekly, planning demonstrations, letter campaigns, information meetings and other activities to gain USA recognition of their fatherland. The AIL members also used the Club to gather and pack donated clothing, toys and other gifts for Lithuanian children.

LCCC was the site of AIL social events, as well as of socials of the "Memories of Lithuania" Radio Hour, New Jersey Baltics, and others. When Gov. Florio wanted to meet with New Jersey Baltics after the savage Soviet attack at Lithuania's TV Tower, or when Sen. Bill Bradley wanted to tell local Balts about his visit to Lithuania, LCCC was the meeting site.

Recently, LCCC has fallen into bad times. Schuyler Savings Bank managers, many of whom are also involved in helping LCCC recover from its current problems, recognized that to lose the Club would be to deny assistance to the community and so many other causes. Keeping the club alive and enhancing its appearance would work to benefit many. For Kearny, it would revitalize the area, prevent urban blight and beautify the surroundings. For Lithuanian Americans of New Jersey, it would mean saving the only Lithuanian Club remaining in New Jersey. Improving the facility would serve to bring more people and activity to the club, and introduce new clients to Schuyler Savings, thus also helping its growth. The Bank, as a part of its Community Relations activity, has begun providing financing to LCCC to improve its safety features, modernize and add handicap access facilities, and will finance other repairs, and make the Club a shining jewel in Kearny and New Jersey.

Over the years, "people helping people" has been the name of the game for Schuyler Savings Bank. The Bank began its life for the purpose of helping the local Lithuanian community. Its reward was a successful 70+ year life of financial stability and growth. Today, it continues to serve the community not only by providing a safe haven for investment and borrowing, but also by helping keep alive other institutions that service the community and enhance the physical surroundings. The partnership between Schuyler Savings Bank and the Lithuanian Catholic Community Center is just another example of Schuyler's community service -- "people helping people" in the finest sense. \*\*\*


**Official News**
**Membership Dues Reminder**

Congratulations to all re-elected and newly-elected Financial Secretaries. Thank you for the co-operation received in the past. Your continued co-operation is requested to ensure accurate and up-to-date records. Please be certain ...

1. Membership dues are to be paid in January of the current year or earlier. Members whose dues are not received by March 31st are deleted from the VYTIS mailing list. Dues not received by June 30th are dropped from the organization.

2. Remit all dues payments immediately as they are received. This is very important, as we have encountered problems with outdated checks. It also results in delinquent dues payments.

3. Notify the National Financial Secretary immediately of any change in Council membership; i.e., new members, deceased members, change of address, members not receiving VYTIS, and dropped or resignations (which we hope will not occur).

Any questions or problems with regard to membership?

I am only a phone call or note away.

Vytiškai

**Dorothy A. Banos**

**National Financial Secretary**

**11 Hill Top Road, Pittston, PA 18640 tel. (717) 655-0976**



*Knights of Lithuania Essay Winner*

## Learning & Teaching Lithuanian Heritage

by *Evelyn Walles*  
C-110, Maspeth, NY  
Honorable Mention

As a member of The Knights of Lithuania, I feel I have enhanced my life in many ways and have magnified the importance of my heritage. As a child, my parents always taught me to be proud of my Lithuanian heritage. As an adult member of the Knights of Lithuania, I have learned to use that pride to reach out and help fellow Lithuanians.

I joined the Knights of Lithuania organization in 1979 after returning from a trip to Lithuania. The trip was not pleasant, especially with travel being restricted under Russian rule. The people seemed ill at ease, which in turn made me feel very uncomfortable. When I returned home I was determined to get actively involved in the Knights of Lithuania and help the people of Lithuania any way I could.

I became so involved that the Knights of Lithuania became my second family and in doing so earned my fourth degree. I participated in various activities held by the Knights such as conventions and fund raisers. I volunteered to pack clothing, food and medical supplies to send to Lithuania. I was in demonstrations demanding Lithuania's freedom that took place in Washington D.C., at the United Nations and Russian Embassy. I was determined to let the world know that Lithuania did in fact exist. Belonging to a group like the Knights, you can accomplish so much and spread the knowledge about our Lithuanian heritage.

During all this activity I also persuaded my children and their spouses to attend various



functions such as Kučios. My grandchildren are quite impressed with our traditional religious ceremonies, costumes and of course the different foods. They look forward to the Kučios every year. I feel that this is one aspect of their heritage they will remember thanks to the Knights of Lithuania. I always urge people to bring their grandchildren to the affairs the Knights run. They may not understand the language, but they do understand the kindness and love we share for each other.

I took another trip back to Lithuania in May. What a difference freedom has made. You could drive anywhere in the country. You could feel the love of the people. It warms my heart to know that I might have helped in their push for freedom and that somehow they knew the Knights of Lithuania were behind them. However now more than ever they need our complete support.

Being a member of the Knights of Lithuania has certainly enhanced my life and has made me realize that I can help make a difference. \*\*\*

A wise one knows everything,  
A schrewd one knows everybody.

# SOWING THE RUE

LITHUANIA

English version by  
Edna St. Vincent Millay  
Andantino

Folk Song

I'm — sow - ing the rue, the mint and  
li ly I am sow - ing, I'm sow - ing my  
young — days, like a lit tle green —  
rue. — — — — — rue. — — — — —

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand. The vocal line is simple and melodic, with lyrics in English. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano staff. The final system includes a first ending and a second ending for the vocal line.

## Lithuanian folk song translated into English by Edna St. Vincent Millay

### Sowing the Rue

I'm sowing the rue, the mint and lily I am sowing,  
I'm sowing my young days like a little green rue.

The rue is budding, budding is the mint, is the lily,  
my young days are budding like a little green rue.

The rue is growing, growing is the mint, is the lily,  
my young days are growing like the little green rue.

The rue is ripened, ripened is the mint, is the lily,  
my young days are ripened like the little green rue.

There comes to my garden a youth with a sickle, -  
"Oh touch not my young days like a little green rue!"

He has mown down the rue, the mint and lily he has  
severed,  
my young days he has wasted, like the little green  
rue.

The rue is fading, fading is the mint, is the lily,  
My young days are fading.

### Sėjau Rūta

Sėjau rūta, sėjau mėta, sėjau lelijėlė,  
Sėjau savo jaunas dienas, kaip žalia rūtelė.

Dygo rūta, dygo mėta, dygo lelijėlė,  
Dygo mano jaunos dienos, kaip žalia rūtelė.

Augo rūta, augo mėta, augo lelijėlė,  
Augo mano jaunos dienos, kaip žalia rūtelė.

Noko rūta, noko mėta, noko lelijėlė,  
Noko mano jaunos dienos, kaip žalia rūtelė.

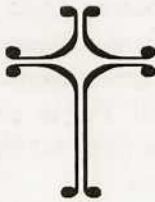
Ir atėjo bernužėlis, skynė lelijėlė,  
Skynė mano jaunas dienas, Vytai kaip rūtelė.



Kirto rūtą, kirto mėtą, kirto lelijėlę  
Kirto amno jaunas dienas kaip žalia  
rūtelė.

Vyto rūta, vyto mėta, vyto lelijėlė  
Vyto mano jaunos dienos, kaip žalia  
rūtelė.

## In Memoriam



**Charles Rusackas**  
C-133, Los Angeles, CA  
Dec. 5, 1995

**Irene Tamulevich**  
Council President  
C-116, So. Worcester, MA  
Sept. 24, 1995

**William J. Poniatowski**  
C-110, Maspeth, NY  
Nov. 1, 1995

**John R. Sabo**  
C-19, Pittsburgh, PA  
Nov. 23, 1995

**Monica Plevock**  
C-17, So. Boston, MA  
Nov. 7, 1995

**Margaret Gervalis**  
C-144, Anthracite, PA  
Nov. 9, 1995

**Alphonse "Al" Zukas**  
C-36, Chicago, IL  
Nov. 1, 1995

**Judy Kastraveckas**  
C-100, Amsterdam, NY  
Aug. 29, 1995

**Walter Wilkewitch**  
C-100, Amsterdam, NY  
Jan. 11, 1995

Amžina atilsį duok  
mirusiems Viešpatie ir  
amžinoji šviesa tegul jiems  
šviečia, Amen.



Here's some "stick to your ribs" hearty main dish winter recipes. Don't forget to send VYTIS editors your favorites!

Thanks to Millie Pietz, C-12, NYC, for this unusual, but tasty cabbage dish.

### LITHUANIAN LASAGNE

2 lbs. ground beef  
 1/2 cup instant rice (or 3/4 cup regular rice) cooked until partially soft  
 1 cup tomato soup  
 1 small jar Ragu Sauce (regular or marinara)  
 2 eggs  
 2 large onions, coarsely chopped  
 1 med.- large head of cabbage  
 salt, pepper to taste

Cut cabbage into several wedges, cover with water and boil until quite soft. Pare thick ribs off leaves when done.

Mix in Ragu and soup.

Mix meat, eggs, seasonings, chopped onions and 1/3 of the sauce. Add rice and mix well. Cover pan with foil and bake 1 1/2 hours at 350 degrees.

When done, lift off one corner of foil and drain off excessive liquid. Return to oven at 200 degrees for 10 minutes, so it

settles. Cut into square pieces to serve. Enjoy!

Thanks to C-144, Anthracite, PA's cookbook and Gene Kaledas for these two favorites

### LITHUANIAN VEAL STEW WITH MUSHROOMS & SOUR CREAM

*Versiena Su Grybais Ir Grietine*

2 1/2-3 lb. stewing veal  
 3 carrots, cut up  
 3 potatoes, cubed  
 2 ribs celery, sliced  
 1 large onion, chopped  
 2 Tbsp. butter or oleo  
 2-4 oz. cans or 1 lb. fresh mushrooms  
 1 bay leaf  
 salt and pepper to taste  
 1 pint sour cream

In boiling water, quickly boil off veal, 4-5 minutes. (Do not put meat into water until water is at a full boil.) Remove from heat, drain, and wash veal. Save broth.

In large stew pot, place all ingredients except mushrooms, butter and sour cream. Add just

enough water to cover. Cover and cook for 45 minutes or until meat and carrots are nearly done.

Then mix about 1/2 cup of the broth in a bowl (so the cream doesn't curdle). Add sour cream and mix to make a gravy, add to stew with mushrooms and butter and simmer for 15-20 minutes. Remove bay leaf before serving. Serve with fresh rye bread.

### OLD FASHIONED APPLE OR BANANA BLEENIES *Obuoliniai Blynai*

1 cup milk  
 2 eggs  
 1 Tbsp. oil  
 1 1/2 cup flour  
 1 tsp. vanilla  
 1/2 tsp. salt  
 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder  
 1/4 cup brown sugar  
 1 coarsly grated large apple or 1 large ripe banana  
 1/8 tsp. cinnamon (if apple is used) optional

Beat eggs, milk and oil with rotary beater. Add sugar and sifted dry ingredients. Mix well. Mix in either apple or banana, blend well. Fry in a large skillet using one large tablespoon batter per bleenie.

*Petrona Patrickonis, C-144*

### BUTTER CREAM CHEESE SPREAD - *Kastinis*

3 oz. cream cheese  
 1/4 lb. butter  
 1 small clove crushed garlic  
 1/4 tsp. ground pepper  
 1/4 tsp. salt

Beat all together with electric mixer. Good on homemade bread or hot boiled potatoes.

# Lithuanian Fonts

for Windows 3.1 and  
Mac Sys 6 or 7



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  
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 **Udraliai**

**Skuodas** 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 *Telsiai*

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## Welcome New Members

- C-26 Rev. Vincent Parulis, M.I.C.  
Ruth E. Miller
- C-36 David Lornaitis, Stella Yakes
- C-50 Janet Lee
- C-74 Msgr. Michael Ozalas  
Msgr. Peter Madus
- C-96 Frank Ambrose
- C-102 Danquol Kudirkaite
- C-109 Irene Kilius, Vladas Kilius
- C-110 Frances Valonis, Joseph, Julia  
Vito Valonis
- C-112 John Simutis, Marcella Simutis
- C-141 Leon Matejka

### Welcome ! New Council - C-156

**Shanokin, PA** - Albert Kalokitis, Ann  
Kinder, Anthony Milunas, Bertha Ringes,  
David C. Kinder, George Kinder, Gloria  
Milunas, Gregory Pacocha, Isabel Remetta,  
John C. Charnosky, John F. Charnosky,  
Lawrence Kinder, Lorraine Kinder, Marianne  
C. Kinder, Martha Bartos, Mary Ann  
Charnosky, Mary Ann Pacocha, Mrs. Rose  
Paczkoski, Robert C. Barsh, Robert Wislock,  
Thomas Bartos, Dolores Brown, Edward  
Brown, Loretta Brown, Andrew Charnosky,  
Walter Kalokitus, Caren Kinder, Larry  
Kinder, Jr., Bertha (Kachinoskie) Kohan,  
Emma Miller, Bernadine Paczkoskie,  
Dr. Vincent J. Paczkoskie, Joseph J. Ringes,  
Leo M. Ringes, Sophie Skoskie, Veronica  
Venesky, Mary Ann Yonkoskie



*This month we feature the winning poem from the Mid Atlantic District's summer 1995 Junior's contest. Let us know what YOUR junior council is doing. Send in stories and photos to: 3rd VP Juniors, Elena Mikalauskas, 104 E. Bruce Av., Dayton, OH 45405*

## LIETUVA

*by Michalena Tambasco, C-100, Amsterdam, NY*

Oh country by the Baltic Sea.  
That struggled hard to be set free,  
You have lead our hearts to victory,  
Oh country by the Baltic Sea.

Lietuva, beloved land  
You have become our promised land  
Where all the children are holding hands  
Where unknown hardships will soon be bann'd.

Oh country by the Baltic Sea  
Your struggles have now embraced me  
Your presence here on earth will be  
A remembrance of our freedom flee

Lietuva, your children fled,  
After several world wars, our records have said  
Lietuva, your history's led  
to several thoughts while I lay in bed

Oh country by the Baltic Sea  
You opened my heart and rescued me  
You challenge minds and will always be  
the country by the Baltic Sea.

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# LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS



## PERLES PEARLS OF WISDOM

George Perles, former coach of Michigan State University, recently penned "The Ride of a Lifetime" an autobiography in which he attempts to motivate children, students and athletes. Mr. Perles received a distinguished service award at the 1995 Detroit Convention, for among other things, lending his name to two successful fundraising golf tournaments for Aid to Lithuania and the Knights.

In his book, Perles suggests that parents, teachers, and coaches seek to guide children and students into situations in which they will succeed and lavishly praise them for their successes.

"Find out what they're good in and tell them they're good. The more you say it, the more they will believe it," he added. In his book, Perles included his early years growing up in his Lithuanian and multi-ethnic neighborhood in Southwest Detroit.

*Utica, NY, Macomb Daily*  
11/20/95

## FIREFIGHTING PRIEST GIVES UP ONE HAT

The Rev. Eugene Sawicki, pastor of Our Lady of Vilnius, and Spiritual Advisor of C-12, retired from the New York City Fire Department where he had been a firefighter and dispatcher for 27 years. Fr. Sawicki holds eight college degrees and worked as a firefighter to pay off student loans. In addition to his priestly duties, he is an adjunct professor at Mercy College and chaplain of the New York State Guard. He is currently launching a campaign to prevent city officials from closing all New York's fire boxes, citing this would cause more fires to be reported too late.

"The smart businessman, who is not consumed by greed, must take care of his people. People are

precious in the eyes of God - not just in the eyes of city government." Fr. Sawicki said.

*Linda Stasi, NY Daily News, 12/4/95*

## LITHUANIAN ABOARD!

When Charlie and Marge Petronis, C-3, Philadelphia, traveled to Alaska on their 30th anniversary cruise, they did not expect to say "Labas" to a fellow Lithuanian. On their first night aboard the *Rotterdam*, they went to enjoy the entertainment. Cruise Director, Chris Jurasas, introduced himself and staff to the crowd and said he was Lithuanian. Chris was born in Vilnius and fled the then Soviet ruled Lithuania when he was six years old. Educated in Europe and New York City, Mr. Jurasas plans activities and entertainment for 1,200 cruise ship guests on the Holland America Lines.

*Charles & Marge Petronas, C-3, and Dagelyks Nieuws 7/29/95*

## Smallest Church Linen

In a beautiful wooded spot along Rt. 219 near Thomas, W. Va., a childless couple, Mr. and Mrs. P.L. Milikint, built their own child -a tiny church - dedicated to life and faith. It is believed to be the smallest

church in all of the lower 48 States, being but 24 feet by 12 feet on the outside (16 by 11 feet inside) and can seat only 12 worshippers.

Christened as "Our Lady of the Pines", the chapel is open to visitors and priests come in during the summer to celebrate Mass. The altar boasts a linen cover woven by Mrs. Milikint's grandmother in Lithuania over 90 years ago.

More than 37,000 people have visited here since 1958. There are beautiful gardens and statues on the grounds and the smallest mailing office.

*Sent by Leondas Galinskas, C-79, Detroit from Tiesa, 4/95*



## AID TO LITHUANIA RECEIVES LETTERS OF GRATITUDE FROM LITHUANIA

*Translated by Regina Juska  
Public Relations Chair*

In the past few months Aid to Lithuania, ATL, has received numerous thank you letters for the supplies, medications, equipment, clothes, etc., from Lithuanian organizations. We would like to share a sampling of these letters with our fellow K of L members.

**Juozas Galdikas, M.D., Ph.D., Vilnius City Board, Health Care, Sanitary and Hygiene Dept.** "I would like to thank you personally for the serious help (Hepatitis B vaccines) for the Lithuanian medical staff. Thanks are extended also to Tony Balsys and Paulius Bindokas of ATL, who assisted with the transportation of 25 cartons of the medication."

**Dr. J. Valentinas, Pediatric Urologist and Dr. V. Barakauskas, Chief of Pediatric Surgery.** "We thank you, and on behalf of our Pediatric Surgery Clinic of the Kaunas Academic Clinics, for the kind attention and charity to our Clinic. It is difficult to function in the manner that we do, but assistance in the form of humanitarian aid from foreign countries makes it a bit easier in this complicated period of our republic. Looking forward to future collaboration."

**Dr. Evalda Danytė, Diabetes Outpatient Center, Kaunas Academic Center.** "On behalf of all the diabetics in Lithuania, I am grateful for your support in supplying oral antidiabetic medicine through 'Caritas' organization. The supply of Orinase tablets will be distributed among the clinics in various regions of Lithuania with the assistance of the Lithuanian Diabetes Association. Thank you for your good will in assisting us in a difficult and complicated period."

**Archbishop Audrys J. Bačkis of the Archdiocese of Vilnius.** "I wish to express my gratitude to ATL for the ongoing donations for the

'Betanija' and Caritas soup kitchen. Thank you for your love of the poor people of Lithuania."

**Dr. G. Dolzenko, Head Physician, Children's Hospital of the University of Vilnius.** "On behalf of the doctors and especially our patients, the little children, we sincerely thank you for the 145 boxes of medications provided by Catholic Medical Mission Board, which was sent in the ATL container. The shipment was received in excellent condition- The medicines were important and beneficial in treating our very sick children. Thank you."

**Dr. A. Mažeikienė, Head Physician, Šakų, region Central Hospital.** "Heartfelt thanks for the humanitarian shipment, which we received from the Marijampole Caritas warehouse. We are moved by your concern and ongoing support for the Šakių region hospital."

**Dr. Elva Marčiulionienė, Director, Caritas Diagnostic Center, Kaunas.** "On behalf of the staff of Caritas, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the Knights of Lithuania, for the container including 41 boxes of donated medical literature and texts, medicines and supplies, which we received from ATL. I will do my best to ensure that the medicines and supplies will be distributed to those who need it the most."

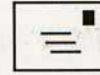
**J.S. Paukštys, Red Cross Hospital.** "We would like to thank you for the drugs for our hospital. Our patients and doctors are grateful to you. We hope to get your assistance in the future."

**Naomi Vanagienė, Univ. of Vilnius Antakalnio Hospital.** "We received your donation, and are very happy about its contents. The medications, which are valuable and extremely needed, will be distributed among the various depts. to the patients. Thank you for your assistance and caring. Your help is invaluable to us."

**Antanas Raitelaitis, Chief, Dept. of Angiography, Kaunas Medical Academy.** "We thank you for the cardiovascular balloon dilation catheters and hemostasis introducers. Our Dept. of Angiography performs about 1,200 procedures annually (500 coronarographies). As our supply of equipment and instruments is insufficient, your support is of great importance for our hospital."



# COUNCIL NEWS



## New England District

*Aldona Marcavage*

Bertha Stoskus, NED president opened the fall convention September 17, 1995, with a warm welcome to guests and delegates. Ann Leseman, president, and Worcester's C-26 were very happy to play hosts to such a large gathering. The meeting was dignified by the presence of seven clergy and two religious. In attendance were: Peter Shakalis (Spiritual Advisor), Fr. Albin Janiunas, Fr. Contons, Fr. Volungis, Fr. Petrauskas, Pr. Parulis, and Fr. Volkovich. The two religious were Sister Helen and Sister Eugenia of the Sisters, of Jesus Crucified, Brockton. Guest speaker was Mr. Thomas Michalskis Ph.D., former Secretary and special assistant to the Lithuanian ambassador in Washington. He spoke briefly of his duties in D.C.

A repeat reminder to please reserve early for the 1996 retreat in Kennebunkport, Maine --June 21, 22 and 23.

Reporting on the Cultural Festival in Shrewsbury, Mass. on Oct. 22 at Maironis Park - the young children's group from Boston "Samburys" delighted the audience. The program this year provided children's games, a bountiful raffle, delicious food, and dancing. Norwood and New Haven were the busy and efficient hosts.

During the Ritual Degrees Ceremony, two members received the 4th degree: Howard Beaudette C-10, Athol; and Mary Giegel, C-50, New Haven. Congratulations--Keep up the good work!!!

Make a note of this date---April 28, 1996. The NED Spring Convention and annual Holy Hour in Ansonia, Ct. hosted by C-135. Do not forget to keep in your prayers all our ill and departed members.

### NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT ELECTIONS:

Officers and Committees 1995-1996 Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Peter Shakalis; President - Bertha Stoskus; 1st. V. P. - Howard Beaudette; 2nd. V. P. - Marian Hobitz; 3rd. V. P. - Clemencine Miller;

Recording Sec.- Frances Savicke; Corres. Sec.- Sonia Skricki; Treasurer - Joseph Stiklius; Trustees:- Sandra Melish and Bill Wisnauskas; Public Relations - Aldona Marcavage; Ritual - Rita Pinkus, Marion Racicot and Albert Butkins; Lith. Affairs - Victor Mathieu; Lith. Culture - Ignatius Hobitz; Scholarship - William Piacentini, Regina Alexendar and Anthony Miner; Archives - Larry Svelnys and Al Akule.

## Amber District

*Agnes*

The Amber District met on Sunday, October 8 in Hazleton, PA. We sincerely thank Joe Dancho and his Committee for their warm hospitality and for the excellent repast they prepared for us.

Congratulations to the newly elected Officers for the 1995-1996 term:

Spiritual Advisor -Rev. Peter Alisauskas

President - John Mankus

Vice-President - Dorothy Banos

Recording Secretary - Anna Helen McDonald

Treasurer - Eleanor Vaicaitis

Trustees - Nellie B. Romanas, John Mickunas

Cultural Committee - John Mankus

Lithuanian Affairs - Leonard Kapochus

Ritual - Anne Challan (Chair), Dianne Drumstas and Helen Chesko

Public Relations - Thomas McDonald

Vytis Correspondent - Agnes Mickunas

Father Alisauskas presided at the Installation Ceremony for the newly elected officers.

Our sincere thanks to Elsie Kosmisky for her leadership as President for the past three years. We are truly grateful for all she has done for the good of the Amber District.

We heartily welcome the newest Council in our District, St. Michael's C-156- Shamokin, PA. It was a real pleasure to meet our newest K. of L'ers and we look forward to a long and fruitful friendship with all their members.

**MID AMERICA DISTRICT**  
*swearing in ceremonies for  
 some of 1996 officers (L to R)*  
**Georgianna Macke, Peter  
 Zansitis, Evelyn Ozelis and  
 Rob Martin.**



We are truly honored to have Frank Pėtrauskas in our District. We heartily congratulate Frank for the great honor he received at the National Convention - Knights of Lithuania Honorary Membership! He is truly deserving of this great honor and we salute him! Valio, valio, Frank. Thank you for all you have done throughout the years for the good of the Knights of Lithuania.

Nellie B. Romanas and John Mankus were the District Delegates to the National Convention. Their Convention reports were read to the assembly. We thank them for the fine job they did in representing the District.

Many of our Amber District members are on the Supreme Council. Rev. Joseph Anderlonis is the National Spiritual Advisor; Dorothy Banos was elected as National Financial Secretary; Agnes Mickunas is the National Recording Secretary; John Mankus will serve as Cultural Chair; Eleanor Vaicaitis is on the Scholarship Committee; Anna K. Wargo is St. Casimir's Guild Chair; and Elsie Kosmisky is the newly elected member of the Ritual Committee. Nellie B. Romanas and John Mickunas already serve on this Committee. Congratulations and our best wishes to all for the coming year.

The St. Casimir's Day Celebration for the Amber District will be held in Binghamton, NY on Sunday, March 10. Thank you Binghamton for inviting us.

Joanna Gilbert, C-146 Harrisburg, is chairing our annual raffle drive. Please participate and do your share. This is the only means we have of replenishing the Amber District's Treasury.

Best wishes to all for a Happy Holiday Season.

### Mid-Central District

Mid-Central District Officers for 1996 are:  
 Spiritual advisor: Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas (C-25);  
 President: Lillian Petravicius; 1st Vice President:  
 Regina Juska (C-102); 2nd VP: Brian Johnson  
 (C-19); 3rd VP: Annamarie Sluzas Berger (C-96);  
 Recording Secretary: Donna Bunikus (C-102);  
 Treasurer: Tom Bruzga (C-86); Sargeant-at-arms:  
 Jon Ortman and Ruth Gzauskas; Lithuanian  
 Affairs: John Baltrus (C-19); Cultural: Terry  
 Medonis (C-102); Ritual: Fran Petkus (C-96);  
 Trustees: Dolly and Tony Oberaitis (C-25); Public  
 Relations/VYTIS: Andrea Baltrus (C-19).

### C-7, Waterbury, CT

#### *Arlene Sticklius*

On Sunday October 29, 1995 Council 7 held their Harvest Dance which was very successful. Special thanks go to workers Ann and Joe Vicas, Paul Matulunas, John Greblunis, Ed and Betty Bebrin, Doc and Theresa Shukaitis, Joan and Edmund Shukaitis, Doris and Walter Blinn, Dave and Diane Gay, Ann Kundrotas, Doris Blinn, Ann Roach, Arlene and Joe Stiklius, Doris Snirpunis, and Ed Karvelis.

We are grateful to all in our council and to The Waterbury Lithuanian Community and St. Joseph Church parish people who attended this event and helped to make it a success.

We are deeply saddened by the passing of fellow member, Victor Vaitkus. He was a third degree Knight and the leader of the Lithuanian Community plus several other organizations. He attended church every day and helped anyone that needed

him. We know that he's in heaven. We miss you, Victor.

Our Harvest Dance was very successful. We had a great turnout and a great time was had by all.

We also had a very successful pancake breakfast on November 26, 1995.

Best wishes to Florence Karpavich after recent surgery. We are all happy to see that she is feeling better.

### C-10, Athol-Gardner, MA

#### *Vincukas*

James C. Sacmen of Gardner was presented a plaque from the Lithuanian Outing Association in appreciation of 42 years of service to the club. He joined in 1953 and served as treasurer for many years. Plus, he has done countless hours of volunteer work for the club and has gained the respect of all its members. He retired from New England Power Service after 32 years of service and retired from the Army Signal Corps as Lieut. Colonel with 22 years of service. He is the father of 3 daughters and one son, 14 grandchildren and one

great-grandson. He has been a long time member of C-10.

Fr. John Petrauskas, MIC of Gardner has been reassigned to St. Casimir's, Worcester as priest in residence. Lillian Erickson of Seattle, WA, spent several weeks in town and attended the NED cultural festival at Maironis Park.

K. of L. members elected as officers of the Lithuanian Outing Assoc. are: Howie Beudette, David Lucas, Walter Mikas, Peter Molis and Bill Wisniauskas.

Suzanne Genaitis, granddaughter of the late Blanche Genaitis is a new member of Council 10. Congratulations. Betty Penney has been doing volunteer work the past several years at Ellis Island.

Condolenses are extended to James C. Sacmen and family on the recent death of his second wife Margaret Burbank Sacmen. Margaret has helped at the Lithuanian Club since her marriage to Jim in 1988. Club members honored her by serving as pall bearers at her funeral. Rest in peace, Margaret.

A large contingent of Athol and Gardner members attended the NED Cultural Festival at Maironis Park.

Howie Beudette was head cook at the St. Francis Boy Scout annual supper held at the church on Nov. 4. Athol K. of L'ers were committee members for the annual card party of St. Francis parish.

### C-12, New York, NY

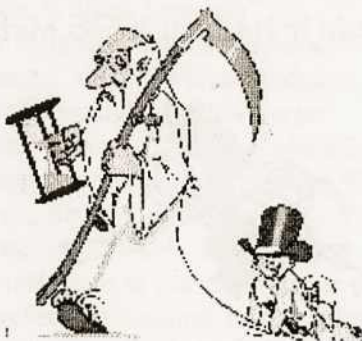
#### *Irene Senken*

The big events of our year were our home parish, Our Lady of Vilnius' 90th anniversary (see story elsewhere in this issue) and the National Convention. C-12 was well represented. Nine members attended this annual affair, and the general opinion regarding this convention was that it was handled in a most expeditious manner.

Elections were held at our October meeting and the panel for the previous year was re-elected with the addition of two new members to the panel. Cathy Yakovonis is our new secretary and Helen Yurkus is the new treasurer. Congratulations to both.

October 14th and 15th Millie Pietz and her sister, Betty, attended a Memorial Service for

DuBois, PA  
**Council 86**  
 wishes everyone a  
**Happy, Healthy and  
 Successful New Year**



**1996**

firemen who made the supreme sacrifice fighting fires. This service will be in Maryland. Betty's son Robert had given his life fighting a fire in Wisconsin several years ago.

C-12 along with C-141 mourn the loss of Mitch Marcinauskas, husband of our dear member, Stella. May God in his charity receive Mitch into his Heavenly Abode.

Ed and Irene Senken celebrated their 40th anniversary travelling through San Francisco, Arizona, and Nevada for eleven days. The children of the Senken's had a surprise family dinner in their honor.

It is pride and satisfaction that C-12 extends its hand to those in need. C-12 adopted St. George's parish in Kedainei, Lithuania. Members have been making financial and material donations on many occasions.

Vincent Mascala and Millie Pietz are the designated Godparents. Millie and John Antanavicius have visited this parish on every visit to Lithuania. Helen Yurkus donated a chalice and vestments in memory of her late husband, Walter. A need for a banner for a church where Fr. Grauzeunes also says mass was procured by a nun in Chicago, a Sister Igne Marijosuis who had gotten it from a church that had to close. This banner will live in Josvaina. Fr. Grauzeunes is also the pastor of our adopted church in Kedainei.

Get well wishes go to Dalia Bulgaris for a speedy recovery.

### **C-26, Worcester, MA**

*Olga*

Happy and healthy New Year to our K. of L. friends everywhere!

Our council earned second place in the membership drive at this year's National Convention.

Father Anthony Nockunas, MIC, was invited to give the invocation for a Worcester City Council meeting in October. Father's choice of prayers and his appearance made us proud! On television, too!

Get-well prayers are in order for Francis Ginkus, Mary Duggan, Nell Dailida and Vite Ivaska. Our October pot luck supper was a huge success. Wonderfully delicious dishes prepared by members are indeed a treat. Something different this time

was the delicious old-fashioned Lithuanian cabbage soup prepared by John Putis. Mmmm, good. The dessert committee for the month was Helen Banis, Ann Bender, Yirginia Bloom, Rita Brazauskas, Polly Brosky, and Ann Bucinskas. The lovely table decorations of pumpkins, bittersweet and autumn leaves were arranged by Ann Walinsky.

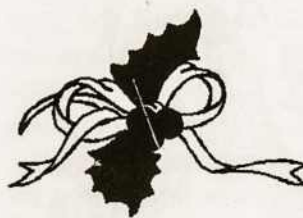
Our pastor, Father Vincent Parulis, MIC, can breath a sigh of relief at last! The renovations of our beautiful new parish hall have been completed with the dedication banquet set for our parish patron's feast, Saint Casimir in March.

While our hall was being renovated these past few years, Council 26 had no home for its meetings. We were accepted with warmest hospitality by Maironis Park these last several years. A sincere public acknowledgement of thanks to Maironis Park president, Kazys Adomavicius and his board of officers, for allowing us the privilege of using the Maironis Park facilities all this time. They were more than good to us. Ačiū širdingai! Best wishes for success in all the endeavors endorsed by the president and governing

To member Knights and Friends,

**I wish you a Blessed, Healthy,  
Happy and Prosperous Christmas  
and New Year!**

Vyčių nariams ir mano draugams,  
Šventų, Sveiku, Linksmu ir Laimingu  
Šv. Kaledu ir Naujųjų 1996 Metų.



**Honorary Member  
Anne Mitchell Matalavich  
Council 52, Elizabeth, NJ**

**Lai Visagalio Palaima  
lydi visus Vyčius  
1996 Metais.**

**Ir visada būti ištikimais  
savo idealais.**

**Linki St. Peterburgo  
147-tos kuopos Vyčiai**



**Sveikinimas į VYTI**

board at Maironis Park. Lai gyvuoja Maironio Parkas!

Our nominations and elections are over and we list below the 1996 Board of officers:

President: Ann Leseman  
Vice President: Joan Wojciak  
Recording Secretary: Ruth Gadilauskas  
Financial Secretary: Marion Racicot  
Treasurer: Lillian Kondrotas  
Auditor: William Leseman  
Public Relations: Dorothy Spokis  
Lithuanian Affairs: Vivian Rodgers  
Vytis correspondent: Olga Kersis  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Charles Kulakusky

Nominating chairperson was Stephen Walinsky, Sr.

Happy news, indeed, that Father John Petrauskas, MIC, has been assigned priest-in-residence at our St. Casimir parish and is able, therefore, to continue as our spiritual advisor. The announcement at the October meeting brought much applause and a standing ovation for Father John. Father John's talks at our meetings are

eloquent and sincere. They impel us to try to live up to them.

And here we wish to congratulate Father Alphonse Yolungis, pastor of Our Lady of Vilna parish here in Worcester, spiritual advisor of neighboring Council 116, on the beautiful occasion of his 50 year golden jubilee in the holy priesthood. Father Volungis is a special friend of ours. He was assigned to our St. Casimir's parish for many years and was once our spiritual advisor. We offer prayer-filled congratulations, good health and Gods blessings on all Father's work.

Ilgiausių sveikiausių metų, gerbiamas Tėveli !

Marion March, mother of our financial secretary Marion Racicot, was honored on her 85th birthday in September by her five children, sixteen grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren at a surprise party. Many, many happy returns!

### C - 27, Norwood, MA

#### *Zaibas*

Our October meeting went well. We elected new officers for 1996. President - Stanley Wasil, Vice - President - Leonora Jarvis, Vice-President - membership - Sanora Melish, Recording Secretary - Theresa Wasil, Treasurer - Katherine Perednia, Trustees - Albie Jarvis, Dorothy Ausevich, Sgt. at Arms - John Skricki, Ritual - George Barton, Our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Wm. Wolkovich, also serves the role of enlightening us on current Lithuanian culture and events.

On October 22 we joined our fellow New England District council members in Maironis Park, Worcester for a cultural picnic. Providence hosted the affair and Norwood and C - 26 Worcester assisted.

Albie Jarvis, Stan Wasil, Paul Zukas aided the kitchen crew. Sandra Melish and Kay Perednia did double duty in the kitchen and council table where Leonora Jarvis, Terry Wasil and Louise Zukas presided. Seen mingling with the crowd were members Stan and Frances Medveski, Stan and Helen Dallalis and Katherine Adukonis and her daughter. The day was a great success for the district, a huge crowd, good friends, good food, the Lithuanian dance group and lively music.

Likit sveiki.

### C-50, New Haven, CT

*Audrey Toole*

Council 50 continues to remain active. Travel chairlady, Irene Meizies planned and carried out a memorable bus trip to Boston. Member and friends enjoyed a harbor cruise which included entertainment and a lobster bake luncheon. This was followed by a visit to Quincy Market. The weather was beautiful which helped to make the day a marvelous success. The New England District meeting was attended by Isabel Peterson, Mary Geipel and Magdalen Cronin. Helen Case, Anne Gedrim and Helen Medley have agreed to serve as a nominating committee for our upcoming elections. We continue to look forward as we plan for the new year.

### C -96, Dayton, Ohio

*Fran Petkus*

Mother Nature treated the delegates from C #96 over the weekend of September 29-October 1st to a beautiful display of foliage as they headed to DuBois, PA for the MCD's Fall Convention/Pilgrimage. The delegates, Eloise Berczelly, George, Frances & Elena Mikalauskas, Joseph/Eleanor Mantz and Fran Petkus, came home with nothing but praise for a well planned, packed weekend. A get-together on Friday had members reminiscing about the national convention. Saturday, Fr. Kennelley, Spiritual Advisor for C #96, led us in the "Walking Rosary" where we said the fifteen decades. The Rosary Walk was comprised of handcrafted shrines for each decade. They were carved by Father and a friend. The Rosary was followed by the Stations of the Cross placed around areas of the cemetery. Fr. Kennelley used the Stations relegated to older people. A very inspiring morning. Our afternoon covered all the necessary business for the district. In the evening we went to a nightclub to listen to music from the forties, etc. That brought back many memories. Sunday morning our annual memorial service was held for the deceased members of the MCD. Mass followed and it was beautiful! After a wonderful dinner everyone headed home filled with good thoughts.

## Linksmų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų 1996



## Council 25 Cleveland, OH

Congratulations to C #96 members - Annamarie Sluzas Berger who is the MCD's new 3rd Vice-President; Fran Petkus is the district's Ritual Chair upon the "retirement" of C #19 member Agatha Bender; Joseph Mantz was presented with the MCD Recognition Award!

Saturday, October 7th, C #96 members gathered in the church hall for the Annual Election Night meeting. Members brought various types of goodies and finger foods for all to share. The following are our newly elected officers for the 1995-96 term: Spiritual Advisor-Fr. Michael Holloran; President- Elena Mikalauskas; 1st Vice-President-Robert Pant; 3rd Vice- President-Anna-Marie Sluzas Berger; Rec. Sec'y-Loretta Pant; Treasurer-James Geiger; Fin. Sec'y - Frances Mikalauskas; Sgt-at-Arms-Robert Pant, Joseph Fletcher; Trustees-George Mikalauskas, Joseph Mantz; Committees: Religious-James & Connie Geiger; Lith. Affairs - Molly Geiger; Cultural-Eric Geiger; Ritual-Fran Petkus; VYTIS-Fran Petkus; C#96 Bulletin-Loretta and Linda Pant; Historian-Molly Geiger; Socials-Elaine Pacovsky, Loretta





**C-96 Delegates at DuBois, PA : (L-R) Elena Mikalauskas, Frances and George Mikalauskas, Eloise Berczelly, Fran Petkus and Eleanor Mantz. Photo by Joseph Mantz**

Pant; Treasurer-James Geiger; Fin. Sec'y - Frances Mikalauskas; Sgt-at-Arms-Robert Pant, Joseph Fletcher; Trustees-George Mikalauskas, Joseph Mantz; Committees: Religious-James & Connie Geiger; Lith. Affairs - Molly Geiger; Cultural-Eric Geiger; Ritual-Fran Petkus; VYTIS-Fran Petkus; C#96 Bulletin-Loretta and Linda Pant; Historian-Molly Geiger; Socials-Elaine Pacovsky, Loretta Pant; Ways & Means-Eleanor Mantz, Robert Pant; Sports-Joseph Fletcher, Michael & Audrey Blum; Condolence-Eloise Berczelly; C #96 By-Laws-Eleanor & Joseph Mantz; Telephone Squad - Joyce Berczelly; Sarysis-Sally Miller, Janet Veigel-Birt; Public Relations- MaryAgnes Mikalauskas; Librarian-Henry Pant, Betty Nash; Photographers-Betty Nash, Connie Geiger.

To our outgoing officers, we thank you for keeping the council busy this past term. To the incoming officers, we wish them well as they meet the challenges ahead.

C #96 has a special project at each meeting where half the proceeds go into our Charity Fund while the other half goes to members. Winners for the 1994 - 95 term were: Robert Pant (2), Fr. Michael Holloran (2), Janet Veigel-Birt (2), Annamarie Sluzas Berger, Loretta Pant, George Mikalauskas, Eleanor Mantz, Fran Petkus and Jim Geiger!!

A warm welcome goes to our newest member - Frank Ambrose! Congratulations go to a former C #96 member and president of C #140 Syracuse, Frank Petrauskas on his well earned award - Honorary Membership!!

News came out from Washington, DC that our council member, 2nd Class Petty Officer, Michael

Pant, on the invitation of Vice-President Gore, attended the going away private reception for the Holy Father, Pope John-Paul 2nd!!! C #96 President Elena Mikalauskas, Supreme Council 3rd Vice-President, came home from her first full Supreme Council meeting full of news!

To one and all, we wish the K of L members and the many supporters a very Happy New Year filled with family, good health and good food!!!!

### **C-100, Amsterdam, NY** ***Smile & Sparkle***

On August 20th many of our council members joined C-136 at an outing on the shores of the Mohawk River. It was a beautiful day. Food was plentiful! Some of our members who were in attendance were: Ann Czerw, Sophie & Walter Malkowicz, Father Joseph Grabys, Helen Hugo, Sophie Olbie, Fran Di Bart, Mildred Whelly, Helen Dylong, Ed & Polly Ziausys, Agnes Rokit and brother, Vincent Patrick, Jennie Kensell, Bill & Jennie Burimaukas and Gene Gobis.

Lithuanian Day in Auriesville, New York was on August 27. Mid-Atlantic District president, Bernice Aviza was the chairperson. The readings were done by Bernice and Polly Ziausys. The mass was celebrated by Rev. Donald Raila, son of our member Adeline Raila with Rev. Peter Jonaitis (C-100) and Rev. Joseph Grabys, C-100 spiritual advisor, assisting.

Polly Ziausys and Bernice Aviza did the readings. The gifts for the Offeratory were brought to the altar by our junior members, all children of Joan and Stanley Rimkunas; grandchildren of William and Beatrice Jasewicz. The organist was Billie Ossenfort (C-100) with members of St. Casimir's Church choir singing Lithuanian hymns.

A picnic followed. Father Grabys brought some of his dilled cucumbers. They were delicious! It was good to see Prof. George Gravrogkas and his



*C-109's  
Anele  
Povilaitis at  
her recent  
farewell party  
as she left for  
Lithuania*

wife Dr. Aldona Baltch Gravrogkas. Betty Kuzmich packed a large lunch for Billie Ossenfort who was leaving on a trip to Tennessee right from Auriesville.

Bill & Bea Jasewicz told us that they have a new grandchild, born August 26 to our members Joan and Stanley Rimkunas. It's a girl- Maria Sophie. Congratulations to your new addition. Happy New Year to all!

### **C-102, Detroit, MI**

#### *Meriute*

Thank you Dubois, Pa., C-86 for a very impressive Pilgrimage and District Meeting that our delegates, Frank and Donna Bunikis, Terry and Ray Medonis, Regina Juska and Joe and Maryanne Guerriero attended. The praying of the three Mysteries of the Rosary and The Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph Cemetery was beautiful. Sunday before Mass, the reading of deceased members of our Council was led by Donna Bunikis while Frank Bunikis lit the candle. The candles remained lit during Mass, and after the Gospel, Fr. Knealy bestowed all K of L er's with the Papal Blessing. The hospitality of the Council was great and we had a good time.

District meeting elections were held with most offices retained by incumbents. Terry Medonis was elected to the Cultural Office, and Donna Bunikis retained her secretary position, as did Regina Juska as 1st vice president.

Election of officers in our council was held with Mike Shea conducting the elections, the job was easy as all members retained their offices of last year.

We are still receiving great vibes for our National Convention, and enjoyed reminiscing at the Post Convention Party held at the lovely home of Terry and Mike Shea. From the convention, we recruited Bill Juodwalkis into our council. We call Bill our recycled member, as he was a member of Council many years back. He, in fact, was council president back in the 60's. Welcome back, Bill!

Irene Vizgirda has organized a Christmas shipment to Lithuania. We collected clothing, toys and food to be shipped to the nuns who will distribute the goods. This has blossomed to where St. Anthony's rectory basement is covered from wall to wall with bags and boxes of all necessities. The goodies were shipped from Divine Providence Church in time for Christmas. Bob Boris just returned from Lithuania checking on our shipments and said the nuns are anxiously awaiting the Christmas gifts.

Our Christmas Kucios was held at the lovely lake home of Eve and Joe Stark. Will Ruth Wagsters patio be ready for next Summer's barbeque?

Get well wishes are extended to our Cultural reporter, Donna Stanievich, who is recovering from surgery. Congratulations to Dan Baibak and Joe Guerriero, Jr. on their Holes-in-One. This be my last Council 102 article. After almost 10 years, I thought someone else should display their writing talents.

### **C - 109, Great Neck, NY**

#### *S. G. Petraitis*

The elections of officers for the coming year resulted in the following: President - Alexander Wesey, Vice - President - Mrs. Danute Allilonis, Secretary - Mrs. Irene Kilius, Financial Secretary - Joseph J. Zukas, Treasurer - Mrs. Josephine Zukas, Sgt. at Arms - Howard A. Fuchs, Lithuanian Affairs - Vladas Kilius, Lithuanian culture - Mrs. Irene Vilgalys, Package mailings to Lithuania - Mrs. Irena Rasa and Henry Miklas, Ritual - Jonas Vilgalys, Vytis correspondent - Mrs. John C. Petraitis, Sunshine Lady - Ms. Mary Wesey, Social Committee - Mrs. Beatrice Jamison, Mrs. Emilie Winsky, Mrs. Emilie (Mimi)

*Chicago Marquette Park  
C-112 newly elected  
officers shown being  
sworn into office at their  
September meeting.*



Winsky, Joseph Zukas, Spiritual advisor - Msgr. Frank Bulovas.

In July, we gathered at Kings Point for our annual picnic. Our grillside chefs prepared hamburgers and hot dogs, while the ladies provided a variety of delectable side dishes. Spirited conversation filled the afternoon as we exchanged anecdotes - some about life in Lithuania as it was in the past as recounted by parents of those of us whose parents came to America shortly after the turn of the century.

Our next meeting was followed by a Pizza Party. We greeted two new members Mr. and Mrs. Vladas Kilius. Our President, Al Wesey conducted the induction ceremony as outlined in the by-laws. It was noted that our new members had received welcome messages from the national president. They also received as a gift a tote bag with the K. of L. logo. Mr. and Mrs. John C. Petraitis transferred their membership from Florida Council to C - 109. According to Joseph Zukas, our financial secretary, we now can boast of a membership of 68 members.

We acknowledged receipt of request for contributions to journals being published by other K. of L. councils. Our ads will appear in each council's journals. We also subscribe to the Lithuanian Radio program. Our meetings have been announced on this program. A donation was made to the Lithuania Children's Relief so that they can continue to do their good works.

Delegates were sent to the MAD meeting on Long Island. We congratulate the new District President - Ed. Barkowski.

Invitations have been received from several councils to their Kuciu celebrations.

We applauded the Miklas for their tremendous, untiring efforts in preparing and sending packages to Lithuania, particularly to orphanages. Their most recent effort included over 400 sweaters which had been donated to our member, Sella Matulionis by a manufacturer. Letters of thanks and snapshots of children wearing the sweaters have been received by the Miklas.

We will miss our member, Anele Povilaitis, who is leaving the U. S. to take up residence in Lithuania. We said our goodbyes at a luncheon where we presented her with a parting gift.

Our Christmas party was a covered dish affair at our Christmas meeting.

We continue to pray for those Lithuanians who are making valiant efforts to achieve the democracy that seemed possible when Russia freed the Baltic states. They are really struggling against so many odds. God give them strength.

### **C 141, Bridgeport, CT.**

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES - 1995-1996  
Spiritual Advisor - Msgr. Frances Prancus  
President - Clemencine Miller  
1st V. P. - Armundas Zakarauskas  
2nd V. P. - Joseph Janiunas

Secretary - Barbara W. Schmidt  
 Treasurer - Pat Silk  
 Financial Sec. - Bill Brilvitch  
 Trustees - Steve Wilcinkas and Bob Marcavage  
 Lith Affairs - Joe Janiunas, Armundas Zakarauskas,  
 Sigitas Liaukus  
 Cultural Affairs - Aldona Peters  
 Social Director - Stella Marcinauskis  
 Spiritual Director - Helen Janiunas  
 Sgt. At Arms - Peter Peters  
 VYTIS Correspondent - Aldona Marcavage

### **C-144, Anthracite, PA**

*Ona*

The Lithuanian Days held at Schuylkill Mall were a success thanks to Chairman, Eleanor Vaicaitis and her committee. Profits from the affair were distributed to the St. Casimir Guild, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid for the School Lunch Program and to Lithuanian Childrens Relief. Our members continue to work hard for this affair yearly and all profits are used for Lithuanian causes.

Thanks to Bernie Zilaitis and President Anne Wargo for packing all the video tapes and records from our deceased Spiritual Advisor, Father Jarasunas and shipped them to the library at the Lithuanian Pontifical College.

Congratulations to Sacred Heart Church in New Philadelphia and to St. Francis of Assisi Church in Minersville on their celebration the 100th Anniversary of their churches.

All officers were reelected for the 1995-96 term of office. President, Anne Wargo; Vice President, Pat Roberts; Secretary, Eleanor Vaicaitis; Treasurer, Anna Helen McDonald; Financial Secretary, Elsie Kosmisky. Joseph Martunas will continue as Lithuanian Affairs Chairman - he always has a good report on L.A. Mary Koons, Cultural Chairman, gives an interesting talk at each monthly meeting. Mary also serves as Lector at our Lithuanian Masses. Helen Chesko is Ritual Chairman.

We lost two members, Wilhemina Verbitsky and Margaret Gervalis. Both had been good members until they became ill. Amžina Atsilis Willie and Margaret.

Our Annual Kučia was chaired by Helen Matunis with members from Shenandoah on the Committee. Helen and her committee prepared an excellent meal, with all the traditional foods.

Due to the bad weather we decided not to have any meetings in the months of January and February. Driving becomes hazardous on our mountain roads.

We wish all our Brother and Sister Knights a Happy and a Healthy New Year.

### **C-147, St Petersburg, FL**

*Dolores Jonaitis*

Knights of Lithuania, Council -147, celebrated "TAUTOS ŠVENTĖ" on September 8th, in the American Lithuanian Club, and on September 10th, in Most Holy Name of Jesus Church in Gulfport.



*C-147 St. Petersburg, FL members celebrate "Tautu Švente Minejimas" at Most Holy Name of Jesus Church in Gulfport, FL (L to R) Valeria Lesčinskiene, Antanas Grabauskas and Petre Kasperavičiute*

Various organizations participated by carrying and displaying Their flags and banners. Antanas Grabauskas was our Council's representative, Valeria Lescinskiene and Petre Kasperaviciute, dressed in Native costume, were the flag attendants.

In September, Father Matas Cyvas underwent surgery on his second knee. He is slowly recuperating and is back at saying Mass at the chapel. We wish you, Father, continued good health and a quick recovery.

A longtime C-147 member, Marijona Punkris, passed away October 13, 1995 at Convalescent Health Care. Born in Lithuania, she came here from Chicago and was a seamstress. She is survived by her son Raymond from Edina Minnesota, 2 grandchildren from Canada and 4 great grandchildren. Members in attendance at our October meeting, contributed for two Mass requests. Marijona Punkris will be remembered at Holy Mass on Sunday, January 14, & January 16, at 1:00 P.M. at Holy Name Church. Prayers were also remembered for Bertha Stann who passed away in July. May they rest in everlasting peace.

At our meeting, it was decided to write a New Year's Greeting for the VYTIS, since we missed the Christmas deadline. Victoria Kleiva will compose it as usual. She does a fine job.

Members who contributed so generously to our coffee "and", for our October meeting were: Ona Semolavičienė, Valeria Lescinskienė, Bronė Urbonienė, Violet Kraujalis, Genovaite Bakas, Dolores Jonaitis, Petre Kasparavičiūtė and Elena Bacevičius.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for 1996. All were accepted and voted in. They are: Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Jonas Gasiunas; President - Antanas Gudonis; 1st Vice President - Dolores Jonaitis; 2nd Vice President - Brone Urbonas; Recording Secretary - Viktorija Kleiva; Treasurer - Maria Gelazius; Financial Secretary - Violet Kraujalis; Trustees - Rev. Matas Cyvas, Alena Vilnis; Sergeant at Arms - John Jonaitis; Ritual - Dr. Aldona Valis, Dolores Jonaitis; Lithuanian Affairs - Alfas Shukis; Lithuanian Culture - Irena Diktanas; Vytis Correspondent - Dolores Jonaitis

We're glad to see our Sunday Mass at Holy Name is back to normal, with the continued good health of Father Cyvas and Father Gasiunas. We are happy to see all at the altar.

Council #147's delegates to the 82nd National Convention were Aldona Kirstuk, John Jonaitis and Dolores Jonaitis.

Ida Valauskas, wife of Honorary Member Jonas Valauskas, who died October 10, 1994, died November 11, 1995 at home. May her soul rest in peace.

Antanas Grabauskas, our faithful flag bearer for all occasions, is hospitalized for surgery at St. Petersburg General Hospital. We wish you a quick recovery and good health always.

"Kariuomenės Šventes Minėjimas" was celebrated at Holy Name Church on Sunday November 19, 1995. Also a celebration at the Lithuanian American Club, on November 21st. John Jonaitis, Valeria Lescinskienė and Ona Semolavičienė represented our Council. Other active participants were Kazimiera Arlauskas, Irena Diktanas, Antanas Gudonis, Elena Jurkynas and Kazimiera Vaisvilienė.



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## January - 1996 - Sausis

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit,  
we begin the new year!

*Vardan Dievo Tėvo. ir Sūnaus,  
ir Šventosios Dvasios  
pradedame naujus metus!*

### Dates to remember:

- January 3: On this date in 1958, the first-ever Bishop of the Diocese of Panevėžys died in Vilnius. **Bishop Kazimieras Paltarokas** was also known as the author of a modern Lithuanian-language catechism which has been used universally within Lithuania for teaching prayers, basic Catholic precepts and responsibilities.
- January 6: The 12th Day of Christmas; The Feast of the Epiphany (in the U.S. transferred to the Sunday between January 2 and 8; this year - Jan 7); also known as the Feast of the Three Kings (Magi). According to an old custom in Lithuania, blessed chalk is used to inscribe the initials K + M + B on the doors of their homes by "believers" in honor of the three wise men - *Kasparas, Merkelis, Baltazaras*.
- January 13 - It was on this date in 1991 that the movement toward sovereignty and separation from the Soviet empire reached a fateful culmination in Lithuania at the TV tower in Vilnius. Fourteen civilians lost their lives during the brutal assault by Soviet special forces (OMON) troops backed up by tanks and armed personnel carriers on the unarmed Lithuanian patriots ringing the TV tower precincts. It is a day to pray for the souls of all those who lost their lives fighting for Lithuania's freedom.
- January 27 - **Archbishop George Matulaitis (Matulevičius)** died in Kaunas on this date in 1927. Proclaimed "Blessed" in 1987, the cause for his canonization is still being pursued. We should all be praying for speedy resolution of his cause and his canonization as a saint of the universal Church.

### Congratulations to those celebrating a "Name's Day" in January:

Agnes (Jan 21)	Fabian (Jan 20)	Raymond (Jan 7)
<i>Algimintas</i> (Jan 23)	Felix (Jan 14)	<i>Šarūnas</i> (Jan 24)
Anastasia (Jan 24)	Francis DeSales (Jan 24)	Sebastian (Jan 20)
Angela (Jan 27)	<i>Jaunutis</i> (Jan 25)	Simon (Jan 5)
Anthony (Jan 17)	John Bosco (Jan 31)	Thomas (Aquinas)(Jan 28)
<i>Apolinaras</i> (Jan 8)	Lilija (Jan 14)	Veronica (Jan 13)
<i>Artūras</i> (Jan 6)	Mary (Jan 1)	Vida (Jan 3)
<i>Audrius</i> (Jan 11)	<i>Malvina</i> (Jan 3)	Vincent (Pallotti)(Jan 22)
Beatrice (Jan 17)	<i>Mažvydas</i> (Jan 2)	<i>Vytautas</i> (Jan 5)
Elizabeth Seton (Jan 4)	Peter (Jan 9)	<i>Vytėnis</i> (Jan 27)

# Make a New Year's Resolution...

*Support our Knights of Lithuania causes:*



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

**HM Anna Klizas Wargo, 125 South Morris Street, St. Clair, PA 17970**

Humanitarian Aid through **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.**, a semi-autonomous organization under the aegis of the Knights of Lithuania, that provides medical supplies, equipment and medicines to Lithuania during this crucial transition period from a Soviet-occupied and suppressed nation, to a free and self sufficient democracy. 40-foot containers of donated materials are shipped each calendar quarter; this past year, 11 of these containers were shipped. Checks should be made payable to: **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.** and mailed to:

**HM Robert Boris, 4557 Fairway Court, Waterford, MI 48328**

College Education through **K of L Scholarship Awards** presented each year to deserving members who are pursuing studies at the college level. The Scholarship Fund is totally dependent upon donations and bequests from members. Checks should be made payable to: **Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund** and mailed to:

**Maria Deksnis, 3330 W. 85th St., Chicago, IL 60652**

Cultural Advancement through the **K of L Foundation**, an endowment fund which supports and funds projects to further the cultural, religious or humanitarian objectives of the Knights of Lithuania. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: **Knights of Lithuania Foundation** and mailed to:

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



Upkeep of the National Shrine - The development of an endowment fund to support the upkeep of the **Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** located in Washington, D.C. was adopted at the 75th Knights of Lithuania Anniversary Convention. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: **Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** and mailed to:

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

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## KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

### For further information contact:

#### **Sts. Peter and Paul Centennial Celebration - C-52 Elizabeth, NJ**

Jan. 7, Closing Centennial Mass at 12 noon

#### **St. Casimir's Day Celebrations**

March 10, Amber District

Hosts C-72, Binghampton, NY

*John Mankus*

(607) 754-1241

#### **District Conventions**

March 10, MAD Spring Convention

Hosts C-90, Kearny, NJ

*Becky Nakrosis*

(201) 998-3526

May 17-to 19, Mid Central District Meeting

and Bowling Tournament - Cleveland, OH

*John Baltrus*

(412) 881-1716

April 28, NED Spring Convention & Holy Hour

Hosts C-135, Ansonia, CT

*Bertha Stoskus*

(401) 331-2605

Sept. 27 to 29, MCD Fall Convention/Pilgrimage

Hosts C-96 Dayton, OH

*Elena Mikalauskas*

(513) 275-8235

#### **Supreme Council Meeting**

March 23, Hosts, C-19, Pittsburgh, PA

*Agnes Mickunas*

(609) 931-3306

#### **1996 National Convention**

August 1996 Host: C-1, Brockton, MA

*Veronica Bizinkauskas* (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.)*