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*Lietuva, tėvyne mūsų, tu didvyrių žeme!
Iš praeities tavo sūnūs te stiprybę semia.
Tegul tavo vaikai eina vien takais dorybės,
Tegul dirba tavo naudai ir žmonių
gerybei.*

*Tegul saulė Lietuvos tamsumus prašalina
Ir šviesa, ir tiesa mūs žingsnius telydi.
Tegul meilė Lietuvos dega mūsų širdyse.
Vardan tos Lietuvos vienybė težydi.*

National Anthem by V. Kudirka



Lithuania, my homeland, land of heroes! Let your sons draw strength from the past. Let your children follow only the paths of virtue, working for the good of their native land and for all mankind.

Let the sun banish all darkness from Lithuania, with light and truth always guiding our steps. Let the love of Lithuania burn in our hearts and for the sake of our country, let unity blossom.

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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.

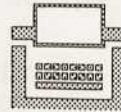
To My Fellow Knights

February is the month most of us look for ways to relieve "cabin fever" or lack of socializing due to bad weather. At press time, your East Coast editors were snowed in with a record blizzard of '96, but that did not stop us from receiving some interesting mail. The letter from *Illinois Governor, Jim Edgar*, on page 3 should make us all proud to be Lithuanians. The interview with Sr. Margaret John Kelly, D.C., on her views of the ethics of the newly independent Lithuanians gives us not only more food for thought, but insight into the Lithuanian character. Perhaps this character of our Lithuanian brothers and sisters was shaped in part by the struggles Lithuania had for so many, many years in attaining her freedom. The words, faith and zeal, as relayed by Sr. Margaret to describe the Lithuanian people, gives one hope and makes one keep trying. Certainly, Steve Livanavage does just that and more as *Aid to Lithuania* continues to find more donations and continued shipments of medical supplies to Lithuania. Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, CJC, also gave an informative report on *Lithuanian Children's Relief* with a family who adopted 24 children.

Our Saints of the month column focuses on two brothers, Sts. Cyril and Methodius and their lives over a millennium ago.

Already, we are planning for our next Convention in Brockton, Massachusetts. Start thinking about your ads and greetings for the convention book, see page 12. Thinking of the August heat wave at our last convention may mentally relieve the icy cold temperatures outside, except for those in our sunny Florida and California councils. And speaking of California... what's happening out there?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



BLESSINGS TO K. OF L'ERS

Dear Editor:

God is good! He has blessed us in many ways- His great gift is wonderful K. of L'ers.

Our local councils, C-1 and C-27, Brockton and Boston, are very active in helping to ship for LCR, while other councils - Norwood, Worcester and Providence continue to help with fundraisers.

Thanks for the VYTIS. We look forward every month to receiving it. Blessings on you and those you love throughout the New Year.

Su Diev,

Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, CJC (C-1)

(See story on pg. 29.)

SEEKS LITHUANIAN MUSIC

Dear Editor:

I am a member of the K. of L. I am seeking a source of cassette tapes of Lithuanian music, such as dance music, songs and *kanklis* music. Am also looking for an old Lithuanian cookbook. Where can I get these?

Thanks,

Stanley Silkunas

62 Hunter St.

Tamaqua, PA 18252

(Although we gave Mr. Silkunas some suggestions, perhaps there are others who can help him locate these items?)



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CHICAGO 60601

JIM EDGAR
GOVERNOR

January 5, 1996

Mary Abbott
Editor
Vytis-The Knight
4028 44th Street
Sunnyside, New York 11104

Dear Ms. Abbott:

As Governor of the State of Illinois, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on the 81st anniversary of your publication Vytis-The Knight.

Your years of dedication and service to the Lithuanian American community are commendable. Your readers are fortunate to have Vytis-The Knight as an excellent source of national and community news. With your continued hard work, you will be able to serve the Lithuanian American community for many more years.

On behalf of the citizens of Illinois, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable anniversary and much continued success.

Best regards,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Edgar".

Jim Edgar
GOVERNOR

JE:nhk

Points of Light

Ethics in the New Lithuania

Part I - The religious vacuum...
Sr. Margaret John Kelly, D.C.
on Christian ethics in Lithuania

The following begins a special series of VYTIS interviews concerning ethics in the new Lithuania. Editors will present viewpoints from clergy, educators, government, business persons and local Lithuanians who are working at raising the standard of living in Lithuania in a decade where high moral values don't make the news.

Our first part introduces the problem with ethics, not only predominant in Lithuania, but in the United States and all over the world. Along with talk of problems, there are those whose actions speak louder than words.

Everybody one speaks to nowadays, whether friends who had just returned from Lithuania or people who tried to conduct business with them, seems to say the same thing. Lithuania in the mid 1990's is a dangerous place. Corruption has replaced communism in the whole of the Eastern European republics, and the press reports we get five short years after Lithuania's 1991 bloody battle for independence is repulsive news on *60 Minutes* and *U.S. News and World Report* magazine about arms smuggling through Lithuania, high crime and a dangerous Mafia similar to Chicago in the 1930's. But where are Lithuania's Elliot Ness', it's people of law and honor? It seems those Baltic warm water ports have a history of shady dealings as well as washed up amber treasures.

In 1990, following Lithuania's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in



**Sr.
Margaret
John
Kelly,
D.C.**

March, your editor had the privilege of meeting with a high level planning committee composed of Lithuanians and American Lithuanians who were interested in Western media. The meeting took place at a private luncheon club in New York City and we were excited about lending our journalistic talents to the newly independent Lithuanian government. But, while my partners and I proposed radio talk shows and local TV projects to inform the rest of the world about Lithuania, the Lithuanians wanted only one thing from America -

"How do we get MTV (Music Television)?" they asked.

Although this at first came as a shock, the worst of Western media had already been seen in all the former Soviet occupied countries, due to high technology.

We knew then that Lithuanians craved the worst of the decadent West, not its creative or entrepreneurial spirit. Of course, they want to make money, but at what price? We asked this question back in 1990. And true to prophecy,

stories from what's happened to Lithuania's freedom abound in negative reports. Lithuania's official unemployment rate is 5.6 percent, the highest monthly rate reported since regaining independence. 55,000 Lithuanians were registered as unemployed in a work force of about 1.7 million. The labor trend worsens as additional unprofitable manufacturing plants near collapse.

But while everybody is complaining about comfort levels, who is doing anything about attempting to convey that there is an honorable way to conduct business, make a profit and succeed? VYTIS editors found Sr. Margaret John Kelly, D.C. of New York's St. John's University as one who is working at filling the moral vacuum left by 50 years of communism in Lithuania. We spoke with her Dec. 5, 1995, having been introduced through Bob Boris and *Aid to Lithuania*. She is the executive director of the Vincentian Center for Church and Society and is special assistant to the President of St. John's University.

Sister Margaret John is neither Lithuanian nor has any known Lithuanian personal ancestors. She spoke, however, as one with the same zeal as any Lithuanian I'd met and just as candidly. Sr. Margaret, along with other professors at St. John's, was part of a international conference promoting business ethics held in New York City last Fall. She strives to embody the vision of St. Vincent de Paul in devotion to education and service. (St. John's University was founded by the Vincentian Community in 1870.) Sister Margaret John lives by the creed, "the business world should journey along an ethical path which emphasizes the common good and seeks to unify classes and talents in the interest of all. The central moral task of every age is to advance the good of the individual human person and the common good."

She became involved in Lithuanian affairs as a member of St. John's and spent three

weeks in Vilnius overseeing St. Johns' professors who took on the task of teaching business courses, including law and ethics, at Vilnius University.

"The goal orientation of so many of the people (in Lithuania) is the worst of western capitalism," Sister John said. As an example she told of a 13 year old Russian market girl, who often spoke English to her while she was in Lithuania.

"What would you like to be when you grow up?" Sister asked.

"A Chanel model with lots of cars and lots of clothes," the Russian girl answered.

"Moving from having nothing to wanting everything and not coming to that middle point to fill that moral vacuum. Too quickly the vacuum is filled with the worst of Western ruination," Sister added.

"Two very strong things motivate the newly independent Lithuanians, consumerism counteracted by solid human ethical principles and the disillusionment that occurred with the growth of the Mafia. Good guys do end up last. It's a very difficult educational and informative task because too quickly the vacuum is filled with the worst of Western ruination."

Of course, I thought of the MTV story back in 1990.

Sister Margaret John told what she had answered to those young Lithuanians who kept looking at Western capitalism as an evil.

"You have to take the best from the West, its innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, you cannot (just) take the worst." But she also noted the newly independent Lithuanians whole goal is to make money and the difficulties encountered in convincing them there is more to life than that.

"There is a friction between the young and old," she added. "The old feel that they lived their whole lives to gain freedom and, now what has replaced that freedom but another form of slavery, the slavery to materialism."



*artist's rendering of Bernadine Complex
in Old Town, Vilnius*

When asked if she thought this new materialistic generation is lost, Sister quickly replied,

"I don't think you can write off the generations. I found in every generation a goodness. For example, in middle-aged professionals in Lithuania, I found an eagerness to find a formal faith dimension expressed with the natural faith they lived with for fifty years."

"The older people have the faith and goodness," she added, "but the middle aged people (25-45 year olds) are the leaders and we should try to work with them. They have the power and are most influenced by the consumerism."

Sister noted that through religious instruction classes for the children, who bring copies home to their parents, some positive influence is being made. But religious instruction materials are in short supply, and copy machines are a precious commodity.

As one who seemed to view life optimistically, Sister Margaret John told of an unusual "omen" that seems to sum up the Lithuanian people.

On the inside of a Vilnius cathedral was an old worn fresco of a Lithuanian patriot. Most of the Latin words on it were illegible, only the words "*Fides et Zelus*" were able to be read. These two Latin words meaning *Faith and Zeal* were what Sister said the Lithuanians still had a high percentage of.

Why was Lithuania chosen by St. John's rather than another former communist country, we asked? Sister answered, "One of our board members was on the Peace and Justice Commission at the Vatican. When the freedom was earned, one of the Cardinals said to her, 'Why isn't the largest Catholic University in the US doing something for its Catholic country in Europe?' This board member, Mary B. McGuire, VP of Chase Manhattan, got other trustees together, sought money from the United Nations and other sources and have been sending St. John's professors to Vilnius University since 1991.

Sr. Margaret John is currently working with a team of Lithuanians and Americans who are restoring the Bernadine Complex in Old Town, Vilnius. The group has developed a plan to renovate the centuries old complex which includes the former church of St. Michael (presently used as an architectural museum), the old convent and workshops of the Bernadine sisters who occupied the complex since the mid-fifteenth century. It is the oldest medieval palace of its kind to survive, and was recently added to UNESCO's World Heritage list. A historical and heritage center is planned for the site including educational, cultural and commercial activities. This most awesome project is in its planning and fundraising stages and is scheduled to open before 1999. Its benefit to the Lithuanian people will enhance cultural identity, tourism, education and will be self supportive, once the renovations and repair are completed. The project is said to cost around \$4 million dollars and fundraising is now underway.

Next Month: St. John's professors remark on teaching ethics at Vilnius University.

Compiled from interviews and the following sources: Bernadine Project Report Summary, Fall 1995; St. John's Today, 12/4/95; and Bridges 11/95.

LITHUANIAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY FEB. 16

*Tracing the
path of history,
Lithuania's
Independence
Day is
commemorated
wherever
Lithuanians
live
throughout the
world. It is a
time to reflect
on how hard
freedom takes
to win.*



*Lithuanian Statue of
Liberty in Kaunas*

In order to present a clearer picture of Lithuania's long road to her first formal declaration of independence on February 16, 1918, the path of history needs to be reviewed.

Lithuania first lost her independence in 1569 when her nobility signed a treaty in the city of Lublin (Poland) uniting the Grand Duchy of Lithuania with Poland to form one republic. From that date, the Lithuanians and Poles had a commonly-chosen ruler, a common legislature and senate, one monetary

system (but separate treasuries) and many other mutual affairs.

But the Union of Lublin, though very costly for the Lithuanians, did not strengthen the Lithuanian-Polish state. Powerful enemies Russians, Swedes, Germans and even Turks - rushed to profit from the weakness of this joined state by continually attacking and taking part of its territory. Over the decades and centuries, the neighbors of Lithuania-Poland become so strong and large that opposing them became too difficult. Finally, after a series of wars and defeats, Russia, Prussia and Austria divided for the first time the land of Lithuania-Poland. This occurred in 1772. The major portion of Lithuania's land fell into Russian hands.

The gentry and nobility of Lithuania-Poland attempted to bolster the state's remaining portion by changing the country's structure. In 1791 a new constitution was drawn up. Luckily for Lithuania, it was never adopted and verified. The Lithuanian nobles were very much against the constitutions provisions.

Even after the Union of Lublin, Lithuania still existed as a separate state, though united to Poland. She retained her name, army, government, laws and internal structure. The new constitution would have eliminated the Lithuanian state, leaving Lithuania a mere Polish province.

However, all measures failed to strengthen the Lithuanian-Polish Commonwealth. Powerful neighbors partitioned it among themselves two more times, the last time in 1795. Lithuania's territory again fell into Russian hands, with only a portion of the Užnemunė region adjoining Eastern Prussia passing into Prussian rule.

The third partition completely destroyed the joint Lithuanian-Polish Commonwealth. The confederation was finally dismembered and both states fell under the rule of different foreign powers.

The Russian czars governed Lithuania for over 120 years. During that time, diverse methods were implemented in an attempt to Russify Lithuania, annihilate Catholicism and turn Lithuanians into Russian Orthodox believers. Although the nobility and gentry had become predominantly Polonized

and cared little for the people's welfare, the common folk produced an intelligentsia which, though educated in foreign lands, dreamed of their country's freedom.

Yet the Lithuanian and Polish intelligentsia was restless from the start of foreign occupation. Acting in secret, they opposed the czar's government and attempted to throw it off. At the beginning of 19th century two major uprisings took place against the Russians. The first occurred in 1831. The nobility and the highborn played leading roles. Although the uprising began in Poland and the Lithuanians only helped, the Russians punished the Lithuanians harshly after the revolt was put down. In 1832 the University of Vilnius was closed down as were all Lithuanian schools. The exclusive use of Russian was imposed in offices and schools. The Russians were convinced that the uprising had resulted from Polish influence on the Lithuanians and made every effort to separate the Lithuanians from the Poles. The Lithuanians were to be converted into Russians.

The Russification and anti-Catholicism campaign was unsuccessful. The more the government pressured Lithuanians, the more they resisted.

The last uprising occurred in 1863. The entire nation participated: nobility, clergy, peasants. Of course, the Lithuanian nation could not stand long against such a powerful state. The rebellion was quickly quelled.

To prevent a recurrence of such uprisings, the czar's government sent General Muraviev, notorious for his cruelty, to Lithuania. He was appointed governor general of Vilnius. Because of his extreme harshness, the people nicknamed Muraviev "The Hangman."

Muraviev had complete authority in Lithuania. In 1864 an order was issued, banning the printing of Lithuanian books, newspapers and other printed matter in the Latin alphabet.

Although for many years, the Russian's persecuted the forbidden press which flowed like a flood into Lithuania, their efforts merely served to ignite the Lithuanians' fighting spirit. The press was finally restored in 1904.



The Lithuanians tried to march even further to shake off Russian rule in 1905. At that time revolution broke out in Russia against the czar's government. The Lithuanians revolted also. They called the Great Assembly of Vilnius attended by some 2,000 elected delegates from throughout the nation and demanded from the Russians the right to govern their own state: have Lithuanian schools, restore the use of Lithuanian language in government offices and public life. Although the Russians harshly repressed the rebellion, Lithuanians did succeed in gaining more rights. After 1905, life became somewhat freer.

Nine years later, World War I erupted. As the German and Russian fronts crossed Lithuania, thousands of Lithuanians were forced to flee to Russia. Yet, even while living in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other Russian cities, Lithuanians continued to promote the concept of freedom, establish a cultural life, and prepare to return, to their homeland where they would manage their affairs freely and independently of others.

At the conclusion of World War I, Lithuania became a member of the League of Nations. According to the rules drafted by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, every nation in the world has the right to live and govern itself freely. On this basis, the Lithuanians called a meeting of representatives from the entire country in Vilnius in the fall of 1917. This gathering elected the State Council of Lithuania headed by Antanas Smetona (Later the first President of Lithuania).

On February 16, 1918 the Council of Lithuania signed the Declaration of Independence which proclaimed to the entire world the re-establishment of an independent Lithuanian state, founded on democratic principles with Vilnius as its capital. The Declaration was signed by all 20 members of the Council.

Lithuanians all over the world remember this special day with prayers, masses, speeches, dances and proclamations and celebrations.

Condensed from Lithuanian Customs and Traditions by Danutė Brazytė Bindokienė, ©1989 Chicago

SUBTERRANEAN SECRETS OF OLD VILNIUS

by *Antonia M. Wackell*

People tell many fascinating legends about the ancient past of Vilnius, a city built in 1323 on both sides of the river Neris, surrounded by forest and hills. The city, legend records that was built after the appearance of an iron wolf in a dream to Gediminas when he had camped at the site. Dreamdiviners told him that he would build a fortress here which would be the mighty heart of the whole land.

The thick Cathedral walls would make the fortress impregnable if a pure living heart were buried under the foundation stone--or so the High Priests told Gediminas.

True to that interpretation, a lovely, white-robed maiden with yellow blossoms of rue (symbol of purity) in her hand took her place in the excavation prepared for the stone. But, when the stone was being lowered it touched the flowers in her hand and was splintered into a thousand fragments leaving her unharmed. Despite the High Priests, Gediminas refused to bury any victim under the foundation stone.

They tell about the narrow passages, continuous Old City streets, miracles of art, churches such as Sts. Peter and Paul, the Gothic Church of St. Anne's that so pleased Napoleon that he considered transferring it intact to Paris.

They tell about the antiquity of this city's past, about the industrious people who built the city on the river and defended it from all adversaries. Every building is veiled in legends and traditions. Perhaps most of the legends (certainly the most mysterious) revolved about the underground's of Vilnius and its secret treasures.

However with investigation of these subterranean passages the romantics of legends are exploded.

It is now conclusive that there is not, nor ever was, an underground in Vilnius which could have



been dug out under open fields unrelated to the now existing buildings above. All the known underground mysteries of city are still extant: ruins of such structures as fortresses, convents, churches, rooms and homes. As to the commodious depths of the ruins, the sandy loam of old Vilnius enabled the builders to arrange and construct spacious underground rooms.

After fires and wars - and Lithuania was the battlefield of many wars, old and recent- the gutted or collapsed building walls fell into ruins. Subsequently, they sank into the ground and over the old foundations new homes were constructed. In the older ruins, more recent supports, ceilings and roofs have been found. Frequently, in razing the structures or changing the construction, a portion of the old ruins would show up. It is from such ruins that legends originated about the secret underground labyrinths that extended even to the city of Trakai.

Archeological work has been done in the Old City whose ruins are architecturally interesting. From an historical and architectural viewpoint, the most interesting is the underground of the old Cathedral, where lie the ruins of previous cathedrals and church foundations built in the days of Vytautas or even earlier.

The Cathedral has been many times restored and reconstructed, but it was not until the late 1800's and then through the genius and efforts of architect Stuokos-Gucevicius that the present evidence was acquired.

Because the threatening spring floods, the architect bordered the Cathedral's foundation with huge underground drain canals, welled up many underground openings and isolated various crypts and underground rooms.

In 1931, after a severe flood, work was begun to strengthen the Cathedral's foundations and walls. Unexpectedly, urns with the remains of Vladislavas Vaza were discovered, and later, a crypt with the remains of the Polish Queen Barbara Radvilaitis (Radzwell), and the Lithuanian Grand Duke Alexander.

(☞ Please turn to page 21.)

The Four Wives of Jogaila - King of Poland (1386 - 1434)

by Edward W. Baranauskas
Council 100, Amsterdam, NY

Part II

Chroniclers who authored the events of history during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries did not always agree on every detail of occurrence.

The Lithuanian Grand Duke Jogaila was crowned King of Poland on March 4, 1386 after his marriage to Queen Hedwig. (Some historians refer to her as Jadvyga, while others as Jadwiga.) They had no children for thirteen years until July of 1399 when she gave birth to a daughter, who unfortunately lived for only three days. The queen died four days later on July 17 at the age of twenty-five due to childbirth complications. She was buried in the same coffin with her daughter by her side.

The deaths of both mother and child stunned the nation. The line of succession to the Polish crown was now broken. Jogaila expressed a desire to return to his native Lithuania, and this alarmed the Polish nobility as they wanted to maintain their friendship and union with the Grand Duchy. They had the power to elect a new king if he left, but they hoped it would not come to that. To convince Jogaila they wanted him to remain as their king, the nobility declared their support and loyalty to him. His cousin, Vytautas, used his influence upon Jogaila not to resign, for political reasons of his own, for he knew that if he did return to Lithuania, Vytautas would not have much of a chance to be the Grand Duke.

It had been said that Queen Hedwig on her deathbed urged Jogaila to remarry, and recommended Princess Anna as his spouse, the granddaughter of Casimir the Great, who ruled

Poland from 1333 to 1370. The nobility also suggested that he marry her as this would strengthen his right to the throne, and the survival of the union with Lithuania.

Casimir the Great had two daughters, Anna and Jadwiga. Princess Anna later married a German, Count Wilhelm of Cilly, and had a daughter also named Anna. After the death of Wilhelm, his widow married another German prince and left Cilly to live on his estates. The young Princess Anna was left behind and was taken care of by another count, Herman II.



In 1400, three Polish lords appeared unexpectedly at the castle of the counts of Cilly, located in Styria, a province in the southeastern part of Austria. To the amazement of Count

Herman II, the lords told him that they were sent by the King of Poland and the crown council to ask for the hand of the count's niece, nineteen year old Anna. Her guardian could not refuse such an honor, and on July 16, 1401, she was given a festive greeting in Cracow.

Jogaila was somewhat disappointed with his future bride as she was not a beautiful woman. He did not want to break the agreement he made with her family because he felt it would not be proper. Anna presented another problem as she could only speak German. She should not have felt too bad about her poor knowledge of other languages. According to historians, many of the Polish dignitaries of that time could not read or write, but that was also true for the rest of Europe. Pope Boniface IX, for example, was able to read, but could not write very well. As a point of information, it is interesting to note that Latin was the only language used for official documents in



Poland during that period.

Jogaila had his problems too, when he began to govern Poland. He could neither read or write very well in any language, and probably spoke very little Polish.

Both Jogaila and his boyars, at the time of the union, spoke Ruthenian, which was the official language of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. This may come as a surprise to many of us. It must be remembered that ethnic Lithuania was but a small part of the Grand Duchy. The Ruthenian lands, as they were called then, are today's Belarus and Ukraine.

While Anna was taking lessons to learn Polish, Jogaila spent the rest of the year in Lithuania. He returned to Cracow in time for the wedding, which took place on January 29, 1402, and a week later she was crowned Queen of Poland. At that time, she was 21, and he was 52.

Six years later, a daughter was born and was given the name of Jadvyga. In 1421, at the age of thirteen, she was engaged to marry the son of one of Brandenburg's nobility. However, her marriage plans never materialized and she died in 1431 at the age of 23.

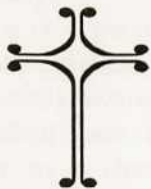
Jogaila and Anna were married for fourteen years. She died March 21, 1416 at the age of 35 and was buried in Cracow. Jogaila was now widowed again, at the age of 66.

If the line of succession to the Polish throne was to continue, Jogaila had to become the father of a son. Under Polish law, women could not inherit the crown though they could pass it on to their husbands. Jogaila, now approaching his seventies, had not given up hope that a son would be born to him in another marriage, the future Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland.

Postscript: Queen Jadwiga was beatified by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Poland in 1979. The canonization of Blessed Jadwiga has the warm support of the Pope.

(to be continued next month)

In Memoriam



Julie Lasky Farrell
C-143, Pittston, PA
Dec. 27, 1995

Ann Maskolaitis
C-110, Maspeth, NY
Dec. 19, 1995

Sophie Aunce
C-50, New Haven, CT
Nov. 2, 1995

Elizabeth Macknis
C-50, New Haven, CT
Nov. 28, 1995

Valeria Brazinskas Smith
C-10, Athol, MA
Sept. 25, 1995

Antoinette Barvitz
C-112, Marquette Pk, IL
Dec. 8, 1995

Casimer Walton
C-26, Worcester, MA
Dec. 1995

Danielius Averka
C-17, South Boston, MA
Nov. 17, 1995

Anna Mae Wallace
C-136, Hudson-Mohawk,
NY
Oct. 1995

Charles J. Krauss
C-12, New York, NY
Nov. 10, 1995

Dorothy Mascola
C-12, New York, NY
Nov. 29, 1995

*Amžina atilsj duok
mirusiemis Viešpatie ir
amžinoji šviesa tegul
jiems šviečia, Amen.*



Pakelkime balsus! Lift our voices!
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 83RD NATIONAL CONVENTION

Council 1 Brockton, Massachusetts
 August 8-11, 1996

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Chairpersons

Maryte Bizinkauskas
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On August 8-11, 1996, Knights of Lithuania from every part of the United States will be gathering in Brockton, Massachusetts for the 83rd National Convention hosted by Council 1 of Brockton. To properly commemorate this occasion, a Souvenir Program Booklet will be published. We know that you will want to express your greetings to the delegates and your friends by placing an ad in the booklet. Don't miss out on your chance to be a part of K of L history. Your participation in the booklet will also ensure a financially successful convention. Prices are as follows:

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 424 North Cary Street, Brockton, MA 02402.

DEADLINE for all ads is June 1, 1996.

Steve Livanavage Businessman With A Big Heart

by Michael Yudd, MD

The tall, well-built man was seated at his desk, telephone in hand, doing what he does best...deliveries here, equipment sales there. "Sure, we can do it!" **STEVE LIVANAVAGE**, President of **DIALYSIST, INC.** of NJ, a medical supplies company specializing in dialysis care, is a very successful businessman. No one doubts his considerable business talents, but what makes Steve so special is his warm heart, his generosity, and his great efforts to help the Lithuanian Medical System and, in particular, their dialysis program. Since 1991, Steve collected or personally donated from his company most of the valuable medical supplies and equipment which filled 7 large containers. These were shipped to Lithuania through the **K of L's Aid to Lithuania, Inc** with whom Steve works very closely.

Steve is a personable and sensible man who tries to find practical solutions to problems. And he became keenly aware of problems, major problems, with medical care in Lithuania and dialysis in particular by a chance meeting in 1991. Steve recalls: "in November, 1991, at a medical meeting of kidney diseases in Baltimore, I met Professor Dr. Balys Dainys of Vilnius, the chief transplant surgeon for Lithuania and the Director of the Lithuanian Kidney Foundation. Dr. Dainys travelled there as a guest of Mr. George Ward. Prof. Dainys described the stark realities of medicine and dialysis in Lithuania. Throughout the Republic, there were only a handful of dialysis machines, most of them Russian made and of very poor quality. Dialysis supplies, like most medical supplies, were also badly needed. A safe water source for dialysis was a major problem for them.



Steve Livanavage, left, with Prof. Dr. Balys Dainys, outside of Vilnius, Lithuania. Photo by Michael Yudd

Because the Lithuanians could not afford specific water treatment systems which are used routinely in the US and Western Europe for dialysis treatments, the Lithuanians had no other alternative but to use tap water, a potentially very dangerous practice. Dialysis needles, always discarded after one treatment in the US, were reused many times in Lithuania. This practice probably contributed to the high rates of hepatitis seen in some of their dialysis units. Dr. Dainys did not even have adequate suture material to perform his transplant surgery. In short, some patients died because dialysis was not available to them and those fortunate enough to receive dialysis were sometimes exposed to risky and inadequate treatments simply because the Lithuanian medical system could not afford the necessary equipment and supplies."

As fate would have it, Dainys could not have told his story to a person more eager or in a better position to help. Steve was obviously moved by Dainys' story and being a practical man, he sought practical solutions. "I certainly couldn't solve Lithuania's dialysis problems, but I knew I could help," recalls Steve. A few years earlier Steve donated a shipment of dialysis machines and supplies to Armenia to help earthquake victims there. "I knew I could send similar materials to help fellow Lithuanians" he added.

So Steve went to work. From his warehouse, he set aside dialysis machines and supplies, and he convinced fellow businessmen to donate other useful

materials. Two months later, his first container shipment was sent to the Lithuanian Kidney Foundation. And since then, subsequent shipments have gone out nearly every 6 months, the last this past May. One of the containers was organized by Steve's son and partner, Jim, from the company's Arizona warehouse.

Included in Steve's shipment were approximately 65 dialysis machines and large amounts of dialysis supplies -- dialyzer filters, blood tubing, needles, and more. General medical equipment and supplies were donated by various sources, and included incubators and anesthesia machines from the New York Infirmary, medicine from the Catholic Medical Mission Board of New York, cardiac equipment from Deborah Hospital of New Jersey, and dental equipment and computers collected by Karyl Arnold.

"We try to send whatever we think is useful" says Steve. The Knights of Lithuania, Newark Council 29 and the Americans for an Independent Lithuania of New Jersey also helped in the collective effort. Even 500 pounds of peanut butter for a Lithuanian Children's Camp were included in the last shipment, thanks to Best Foods and Dr. Rose Šomkaite.

In the spring of 1993, Steve, along with this writer, visited Lithuania as guests of Dr. Dainys and Naomi Vanagiene, Administrative Director of the Lithuanian Kidney Foundation. Along with Dr. Dainys we visited the 12 dialysis units spread throughout Lithuania's major cities. Steve was dismayed to see the marked shortages throughout all the hospitals, but he was impressed by Dr. Dainys' and the other Lithuanian physicians' energetic attempts to improve their conditions. All the donated equipment was accounted for and appeared to be fairly distributed throughout the hospitals. "It was gratifying to see that our efforts contributed to improving the life-saving care of the unfortunate

patients requiring dialysis", noted Steve. "Obviously, much more is needed."

Steve Livanavage, 54 years old, grew up in Pittston, PA. His four grandparents emigrated from Lithuania in the 1890's, and most of his family were either coal miners or tavern owners. His mother, Johanna, and his brother, Jim, continue to run the family tavern on Lake Wallenpaupack in the Poconos.

After serving in the army, Steve trained initially as an orthopedic brace maker and quickly found his way into medical sales. In 1975, with the help of his brother Jim, he bought his first medical supplies company and then gradually expanded into dialysis care. In 1989 he acquired the home care division of Cobe Laboratories, which made his company DIALYSIST the national supplier of home hemodialysis. DIALYSIST has 2 offices, one in Hackettstown, NJ and another in Tempe, Arizona.

Steve's wife, Catherine, his daughter and his son are all fond supporters of his work. His son James who lives in Arizona, is a partner with Steve.

"Aid to Lithuania" salutes Steve for his great efforts and contributions. Bob Boris, Director, noted "if we had more contributors like Steve, we would make an even greater impact on medical care in Lithuania." Two others also deserve recognition for their attempts to improve dialysis care in Lithuania. Mr. George Ward, former President of the Maryland Chapter of the National Kidney Foundation donated several dialysis machines. Dr. John Daugirdas, a recognized expert in dialysis, recently organized a conference on dialysis in Kaunas, in which several well-known authorities of Kidney diseases from the US and Western Europe participated.

May the good Lord bless you for your fine work, Steve. Certainly the Lithuanian patients who benefit from your great charitable efforts are deeply grateful to you.



More Help Needed

"We need more help from the medical community" says Steve Livanavage. "From the letters of gratitude which we receive from Lithuanian hospitals, we know that our shipments are very valuable to them. But the used equipment we send has a considerable attrition rate, and supplies will always be in demand, at least until Lithuania develops a stronger economy."

Other interested persons in the medical field are needed to help Steve and his colleagues in New Jersey and "Aid to Lithuania, Inc.", which pays for these shipments and sends others from Michigan. Particularly needed are persons in position to donate or help collect donated medical materials for future shipments. "I can't keep asking the same businessmen and hospitals who donated in the past for more donations" adds Steve.

Among the badly needed supplies are syringes, needles, sterile wound dressings, intravenous solutions and tubing, and catheters. Included in the list of badly needed equipment are cardiac monitors and defibrillators, EKG and echocardiography machines, respirators, dialysis machines, and surgical and anesthesiology equipment. Medicines of all kinds are in great need.

Can you or someone you know in Medical Sales or other medical related fields donate medical supplies or functioning equipment for Lithuania? Please contact:

Steve Livanavage in New Jersey - phone # 908/852-0069, FAX # 908/852-4961, or

Michael Yudd, MD, in New Jersey - phone # (evenings) 201/239-7543.

Robert Boris in Michigan at - phone # 810/682-0098.

Also, "Aid to Lithuania, Inc." needs donations to pay the shipment costs for shipping Steve's and others' containers of medical supplies to needy Lithuanian hospitals. The cost to send each container is approximately \$5,000. If you can help in this worthy cause, please send your donation, which is tax deductible, to:

AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.

4557 Fairway Ct.

Waterford, MI 48328-3483

A special appeal to **NEW JERSEY MEMBERS**... We desperately need volunteers to occasionally:

- pick up and move donated materials (by truck, van or auto) to a warehouse in western New Jersey,
- spend a day or a few hours at the warehouse preparing a packing list and/or helping load medications, equipment, and other materials into a container scheduled for Lithuania.

Your help will facilitate efficient shipping of needed materials to Lithuania. We need a large pool of potential workers. The more volunteers we have, the easier the job will be. To add your name to this list, please call:

Michael Yudd, MD, - phone # (evenings) 201/239-7543 or

Loretta Stukas - phone # 908-753-5636, FAX 908-753-9492

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Tēve Mūsu

Moderato

Liudas Stukas

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand starts with a series of chords in the treble clef, while the left hand plays a simple bass line in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

The first line of the song features a vocal melody in the treble clef and piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Tē - ve mū - sū, kurs e - si — dan - gu-

The second line of the song continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: je. Te - e - sie šven-tas Ta - vo var - das, te - a-

tei-nie Ta-vo ka-ra-lys - tē. Te- e- sie Ta-vo va- lia,

kaip dan-gu-je, taip ir ant žė - mės. Kas-die- nės mū- sų duo - nos

duok mum šian - dien. Ir at - leisk mums mū - sų kal - tes,

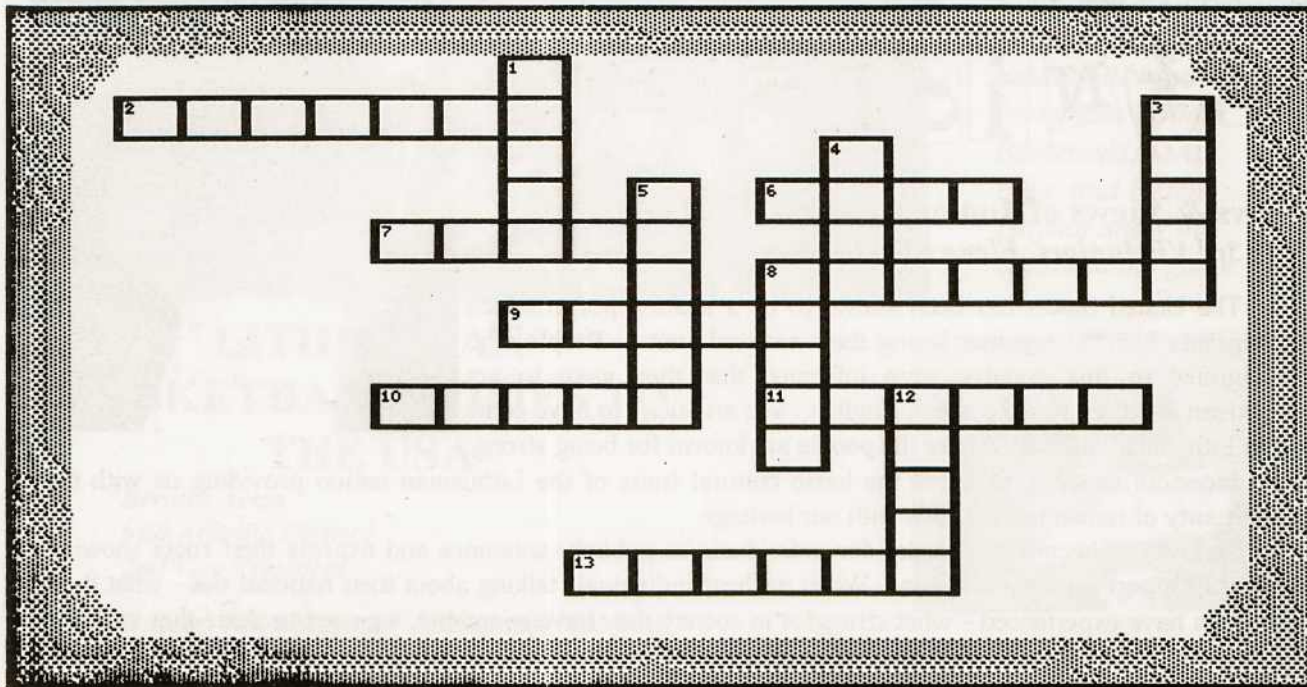
kaip ir mes at-lei-džia-me sa-vo kal-ti-nin - kams. — Ir ne -

vesk mus į pa - gun - dą, bet gel - bėk mus nuo

pik - to, bet gel - bėk mus nuo pik - to.

A - men. A - men.

A Lithuanian Crossword



← 2 across →
GRANDMOTHER

← 10 across →
HUSBAND

↑ 3 down ↓
SON

ANSWERS

BROLIS
BEDE
DUKTE
MOCIUTE
MOTINA
SEIMA
SENELIS
SESUO
SUNUS
TETA
TEVAS
VAIKAS
VYRAS
ZMONA

← 6 across →
AUNT

← 11 across →
MOTHER

↑ 4 down ↓
UNCLE

← 7 across →
WIFE

← 13 across →
BROTHER

↑ 5 down ↓
CHILD

← 8 across →
GRANDFATHER

↑ 8 down ↓
FAMILY

← 9 across →
DAUGHTER

↑ 1 down ↓
SISTER

↑ 12 down ↓
FATHER



News & Views of Junior Councils

3rd VP Juniors, Elena Mikalauskas

The United States has been known to be a melting pot in which immigrants blended together losing their national traits. People who immigrated to this country were informed that they were to act American and they were to speak English. We are lucky to have come from Lithuanian ancestry where the people are known for being strong. Our ancestors chose to preserve the basic cultural traits of the Lithuanian nation providing us with the opportunity of remaining in touch with our heritage.

Today it is becoming popular for individuals to publicly announce and express their roots showing outward support for their ancestry. When we hear individuals talking about their national ties - what their ancestors have experienced - what struggles in society they have overcome, we need to share that we have roots as well. We need to take pride in our heritage and share cultural practices and customs. We should feel comfortable wearing national colors and symbols and express we are proud of being Lithuanian!

C-136 Lithuanian Tree Cake (Raguolis) Junior Storyteller

The Hudson-Mohawk Council 136 recently participated in the annual Festival of Nations held in Albany.

Every year the Lithuanian "tree" cake (raguolis) is one of the big attention getters. Everyone is awed at the shape of this tree and wants to know how it can be made.

Needless to say, the story of the cake must be repeated many times during the day. This year MAD Junior Vice President Bernice Aviza was fortunate because she found her best tree cake storyteller student. It was a 10-year old junior.

Michael Hayner, Junior Knights from Council 136, became this year's infamous tree cake storyteller. To really appreciate the Tree Cake Story, it is better to have the cake in front of you so the storyteller can use his hands as part of the story. However, Michael has written the story on paper so all of us can enjoy it and learn from it. If

some of the descriptions are not perfect, he says it is because you have to use terms everybody knows in order for them to understand.

"It is cooked like a rotisserie style chicken - on its side. Using a long metal rod, batter is poured on it layer by layer. Then wait a bit and pour more batter on. This is how the lines of the Tree Cake are made. When they are done, the surplus drippings are left to hang to make the branches of the tree. It is served on holidays and weddings."

Michael told this story at least 200 times during the course of the day. Each time he told the story he sounded like a tree-cake expert. People started coming to the booth just to hear his story.

Council 136 thanks Michael and his fellow juniors for helping to make the Festival very successful. Funds raised will be used to send packages to the children's home and nuns in Lithuania.



p.20 Junior cheerleaders, Victoria Rimkunas & Coryn LeVine; left, Lith. basketball team at reception; bottom, Ed Barkowski, MAD Pres. and Helen Haynor show the colors at the game.

LITHUANIAN BASKETBALL COMES TO THE USA

*Bernice Aviza
Mid-Atlantic District
2nd Vice President*

During November the Lithuanian "All-Star" Basketball team toured the United States.

On November 15th they played Siena College in the Albany, New York area. Members of Junior Councils 100 and 136 attended the event.

The game started with the singing of the Lithuanian and American national anthems.

The two teams then exchanged gifts.

Council 100 Juniors Stanley (Stasys) Rimkunas and Nicholas Tambasco served as "ball boys" for the team. Part of a ball boy's responsibilities are giving the players towels and water when they come off the court. They were rewarded by the Lithuanian team coach with Lithuanian Basketball Federation pins.

Victoria Rimkunas, (Council 100) and Coryn Le Vine (Council 136) served as cheerleaders. They got some assistance from Rimas, William and Alex Rimkunas (Council 100).

Older juniors and adult members cheered from the bleachers. The game was exciting. At half-time Lithuania was ahead 39-36. In the second half, many times only one point separated the two teams. Unfortunately Lithuania lost, but they played well. Council 136 sponsored a reception for the team after the game. There we were able to get our programs signed by the team members.



OLD VILNIUS (From page 9)

All the relics were removed and placed beneath St. Casimir's Chapel in a mausoleum designed by architect J. Kloso. To this day, tours are permitted for viewing. It is interesting to know the earliest burial pits have also yielded iron knives, chisels, spears, swords, sickles, gold and silver ornaments, clasps and glass beads.

However, the Cathedral's underground has not revealed many secrets--among them, the burial place and remains of Grand Duke Vytautas who died in 1430. It is doubtful that it ever will be, because from the time of Vytautas to the present, the floors of the Cathedral have thickened to almost 167 centimeters.

Many interesting legends could be told about other churches in Vilnius, about convents and undergrounds, about the celebrated underground of the Dominican Church with its skeletal bodies...



Thinking about the season...

Mardi Gras and Lenten Customs of Old Lithuania

Printed with permission from HM Loretta Stukas the files of Dr. Jack Stukas

In Old Lithuania, a rigid fast of 40 days was followed during Lent. Even at the beginning of the 20th century, during the Lenten period, Lithuanians did not eat any meat nor even any dairy products. Milk was consumed by infants and small children only. During Lent, Lithuanians ate only herring, beet and cabbage soups, rice and potato pancakes fried in vegetable oil.

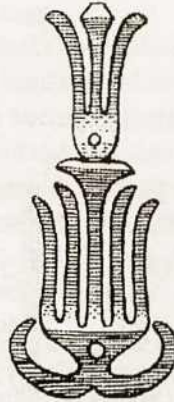
The Lithuanians not only fasted from meat products, but also excluded all forms of merriment during Lenten period.

On Shrove Tuesday, the night before Ash Wednesday, the Lithuanians ate heartily and ate up to 12 courses of various meats for they believed that in so doing, meat will be in abundance for the following 12 months. On Shrove Tuesday, or "Užgavėnių Vakaras", they also ate such foods as mashed peas and rice, boiled with pork, bacon, a sausage made of rice and animal blood called "vėdaras", and potato pudding called "kugelis".

It was also traditional to have potato pancakes, "blynai", and donuts of various sorts. For the pre-lenten celebration, Lithuanians brewed good, old-fashioned beer, for it was said, that "whomever drinks *water* on Shrove Tuesday, will suffer thirst for the balance of the year."

The Lenten meal was usually followed by traditional games of chance, which were surrounded with many superstitions. In the Dzūkija or Southern part of Lithuania, it was

said that if the sewer of grain would rub his hands with meat or bacon on Shrove Tuesday, then birds would not eat his seed at planting time. And if the fats from the foods eaten were applied to the necks of bulls, then the harnesses would not bite into their flesh. This superstition was common in the Suvalkija region of Lithuania near the Polish border. It was rumored that snakes were afraid of jellied pigs feet - headcheese or "šaltiers" as it was called. Therefore, if you rubbed your hands with jellied pigs feet on Shrove Tuesday, then no snake would bite you for the rest of the year.



On Shrove Tuesday, there would be a great battle between "Lašinius ir Kanapinis", two mythical figures, translated as Mr. Bacon and Mr. Hemp. Kanapinis would try to take the meat from Lašinius to hang on to it until Easter. But Lašinius would not give up the meat. When the merrymakers heard some unusual sounds outside the cottage, as the wind howling through the trees of the wailing of cats, they would exclaim, "Listen, Lašinius and Kanapinis are fighting."

The young people on Shrove Tuesday would go sleigh riding. Having harnessed the horses to the sleigh, and hanging various bells to it, they would attempt to ride as far away as they could, occasionally rolling out into the snow. For it is said, then the flax crop would be richer. If a sleigh was not available, then the householders would journey as far as they

could on foot. Those who stayed at home on Shrove Tuesday would suffer a bad crop the next summer. In some sections of Lithuania, even bee hives were transported as far as possible then returned... so that in the coming season, bees would bring honey from afar and be healthy bees.

The most important pastime of the Lithuanians on Shrove Tuesday, was of a mardi-gras nature. donning masks and costumes. Some costumes were made of reversed furs, with a straw cord for a belt, and padding on the back to produce an effect of a hunchback. In their hands the merrymakers would have whips and wooden swords. Their masks were made of the outer painted bark of large fir trees, or faces were blackened to prevent recognition.

In the Žemaitija or Samogitian regions of Lithuania, these costumed merrymakers would go from village to village, making much noise. They would seek out old maids of the village and "punish" them for not marrying before Shrove Tuesday. Many merrymakers would dress as gypsies, others as beggars. Some were accompanied by animals: a goat, a bear, a crane or makeshift scare crow, which in Žemaitija was called, "Morė, Morynė or Kotrė". Around midnight, the scare crow would be taken into the hills and burned, signifying the end of the pre-lenten festivities.

And that is how Lent was ushered in, in Old Lithuania.



Did You Know?

The patron saint of nurses is St. Agatha whose feast day is February 5. St. Apollonia, whose feast day is Feb. 7 is the patron for dentists.

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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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ST. CYRIL and ST. METHODIUS

(c. 827 - 869)

(c. 826 - 884)

Called the "Apostles of the Slavs," Sts. Cyril and Methodius, were proclaimed as co-patrons of Europe by Pope John Paul II on December 31, 1980. Their Feast day had been established for the universal Church on February 14 in 1880 by Pope Leo XIII. In his apostolic letter, *Slavorum Apostoli*, John Paul II extolled their work as an outstanding contribution to the common Christian foundation of Europe. All the cultures of the Slavic nations owe their beginnings and development to these saints, whether through the creation of their alphabet or their translation of liturgical books and Holy Scriptures into the Slavonic language. That Slavonic language is used even today in the Eastern Church, both Catholic and Orthodox, in eastern and southeastern Europe and in the Roman liturgy in Croatia.

The two brothers, Cyril and Methodius, were born in Thessalonika, Greece, to a politically prominent family. The names by which they are remembered today were assumed only when they entered Holy Orders later in life.

Cyril was baptized as Constantine and Methodius was baptized Michael.

At an early age, Cyril was sent to the Imperial University at Constantinople where he studied under Photius. He was ordained there and stayed at the university eventually taking over Photius' chair and earning himself the sobriquet, "the Philosopher." Methodius entered the political life and was eventually appointed as governor of one the Slavic colonies in Opsikion Province. In mid-life, both retired to a monastic life. Both were living in a monastery on the Bosphorus in 861 when the Emperor Michael III sent them on a religio-political mission to the Khazars who resided in an area between the Dnieper and

Father, you brought the light of the gospel to the Slavic nations through St. Cyril and his brother St. Methodius. Open our hearts to understand your teaching and help us to become one in faith and praise.

Opening prayer from the liturgy of the Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

Volga Rivers.

Shortly after their return, they were again summoned to another missionary effort. This time it was in response to a request from Rostislav, the prince of Moravia (part of present Slovakia in Central

Europe). Previous attempts at conversion and proselytization by missionaries from the neighboring Germanic provinces had been unsuccessful; therefore, Rostislav begged the Byzantine Emperor to dispatch missionaries that might preach in the language of the people. Photius, who had taught Cyril and had since become the Patriarch of Constantinople, recommended his former student and his brother who were both well versed in theology, philosophy and, most importantly, the Slavonic language.

They accepted the task and immediately began to translate liturgical texts into Slavonic, after first devising an alphabet to be used for writing Slavonic. Based upon Greek

capital letters, the result was the Glagolitic alphabet. (Some present day liturgical texts continue to be printed in Glagolitic.) Several years later, the followers of Cyril further adapted the glagolitic and developed what is known today as the Cyrillic alphabet used by Russians, Bulgarians, Serbs and other Slavic peoples.

In 863, the two brothers with a number of assistants set out for the court of Rostislav. The new missionaries freely used the vernacular in both preaching and in their ministries. The people responded favorably. The efforts of the missionaries were so successful that they soon encountered difficulties from a shortage of priests. The German clergy, however, thought that the use of the vernacular in the liturgy was objectionable and the German prelate, the Bishop of Passau, refused to ordain any of the candidates offered by Cyril.

The two brothers decided to return home to seek help. They arrived in Venice on the way to Constantinople when they learned that their mentor, Photius, had incurred excommunication and they, as proteges of the Eastern Emperor and because of their use of a new language in the liturgy, were being severely criticized. They changed their destination and went, instead to Rome. Fortunately, they were carrying a major relic of St. Clement. Cyril had acquired it in the Crimea during his previous missionary posting and now offered it as a gift to the Pope in Rome. After having received so great a gift, Pope Adrian II warmly welcomed them. The Pope heard their cause and eventually gave his judgement that: Cyril and Methodius were to be given episcopal consecration; their neophytes were to be ordained and the use of

Slavonic in the liturgy was approved. It is not certain that Cyril was actually consecrated as Bishop, because a few days later, while still in Rome, Cyril died on February 14, 869, and was buried with great pomp in the church of St. Clement.

St. Methodius took on the leadership role of his brother, was duly consecrated as Bishop and returned to Moravia with a letter from the Pope recommending him as a man of exact understanding and orthodoxy. At the same time an ancient diocese was revived and its borders extended from Moravia to Bulgaria. Methodius was appointed as Metropolitan of this new diocese. The German clergy and hierarchy were not intimidated by the Papal approval of Cyril and Methodius' inculturation of the liturgy and their use of Slavonic. Their opposition was implacable.

On the political front other adverse developments had taken place. Prince Rostislav had been removed and the new leaders established close ties to the German rulers. Thus, despite his position, Methodius found himself brought before a synod of German bishops and imprisoned. It took two years of pleading by the Pope (by then John VIII) before he could secure his release and then only after rescinding authority to use Slavonic in the liturgy except for preaching. During the last four years of his life, Methodius completed the Slavonic translation of the Bible and other works. This suggests that circumstances were preventing him from devoting all his time to missionary work and episcopal concerns. He was fighting a losing battle with the German influences. Worn out by his labors, he died on April 6, the funeral liturgy was conducted in Latin, Greek and Slavonic.

Lithuanian Poets Corner

Mano Gimtinė

Ten, kur Nemunas banguoja
Tarp kalnų, lankų
Broliai vargdieniai dujuoja
Nuo senų laikų.

Ten močiutė užlingavo
Raudomis mane,
Į krūtinę skausmą savo
Liejo nežinia.

Girios užė ten, minėjo
Praeities laikus,
Kad lietuvis netikėjo,
Jog belaisvis bus.

Ten apleistos pilys griūva
Ant kalnų aukštai;
Milžinų ten kaulai pūva,
Verkia jų kapai.

Ten užaugau, iškentėjau
Aš kančias visas
Ir pamėgau, pamylėjau
Vargdienių dūmas.

O tos dūmos vargdieninės
Graužia kai kada
Tartum rūdys geležinės,
Amžina žaizda.

- **Jonas Mačiulis Maironis**
Submitted by John R. Mankus
Cultural Chairman

Awaken the sleeping poet within! Looking for Lithuanian and Lithuanian-American poets for a "Lithuanian Poets Night" in New York City. Poets will read original poems they wrote about Lithuania. Poems can be in English or Lithuanian. Call or write to Editor for more details.



Kur lygūs laukai

Kur lygūs laukai, snaudžia tamsūs miškai,
Lietuviai barzdočiai dumoja;
galanda kirvius, kalavijus aštrius ir -
juodbėrius žirgus balnoja.

Nuo prūsų šalies, kaip sparnai debesies,
padangėmis raitosi dūmai; tai
gaisrų ugnis, šviečia dienas naktis,
tai gaisrų ugnis, šviečia dienas naktis,
liepsnoja ir girios ir rūmai.

Tarp tyrų plačių ne staugimas žvėrių:
Oi ne! tai našlaitės lietuvės
Ar verkia sūnaus, ar bernučio brangaus,
Kurs jų nebegins, gal pražuvęs.
Kryžievių seniai suprašyti svečiai
Į vaišes per Lietuvą traukia;
Ištroškę garbės, kai aušra patekės,
Išvys, ko visai nebelaukia.

Lietuvių pulkai, kaip apsako žvalgai,
Ties Kaunu per Nemuną plaukia;
Po kaimus šauklys (jo putotas arklys)
Į kovą lietuvininkus šaukia.
Klaidu tarp miškų; vien tik ugnys gaisrų
Per Lietuvą kelią parodo.
Užtemęs dangus mėto tankiai žaibus,
Jau klaidžiot svečiams nusibodo.

Sutrinko miškai, lyg perkūnas aukštai,
Ir štai netikėtai lietuviai,
Tarytum ugnis kad ant stogo nušvis,
Apraitė kryžiuočius, užgriuvę.
Ir buvo mūsų!.. Apsiniaukus naktis
Jį dienai parodyt bijojo!
Tik kūnų šimtai suguldyti aukštai
Ilgai, dar ilgai ten drybsojo.

from Subatos Vakarėlių ©1982, Bonn, Germany

K. of L. 1995 Essay Winner

HOW MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA ENHANCES LIFE

Honorable Mention winner
Elena Mikalauskas
C-96, Dayton, OH



Membership in the Knights of Lithuania organization continues to enhance my life by blending Lithuanian customs and culture with the development of friendships. The K of L provides opportunities for the evolution of an understanding and appreciation of what it means to be Lithuanian. I am exposed to individuals that are also developing their perception of what it means to be of Lithuanian descent in today's society. "As a result of my involvement and interactions with the K of L, I have a greater appreciation of my ethnic ties and religious beliefs. I am Lithuanian."

One of the K of L activities that has enhanced my life with lasting memories was participating in the pilgrimage to Lithuania in September of 1993. The pilgrimage provided me with the opportunity of exploring my Catholic beliefs in a country that I had only heard and read about. What an emotional experience. I was able to see how Catholicism was practiced and kept alive in a country that was oppressed. These experiences and encounters strengthened my religious convictions and awareness of my Lithuanian heritage.

On this pilgrimage, I was also blessed with meeting other Knights of Lithuanian members from around the United States. Acquaintances that had previously existed developed into stronger friendships, and new friendships developed where none had previously existed.

I have since been provided with a unique combination of friends that appreciate that sense of being Lithuanian and Catholic.

I listen to my parents talk about how they met through the K of L and all the fun they had with the different councils. The stories are filled with pleasant memories of times past when the numbers of young Lithuanians belonging to the organization were abundant. Over the years, those special friendships continued to grow and the social activities continued to occur. As a result of the Pilgrimage, a group in our twenties and thirties from around the United States are getting together. The Knights of Lithuania has instilled in us an attachment to the Catholic religious philosophy and our Lithuanian heritage.

Today, I along with other young Lithuanians are attempting to carry on that spirit of the K of L organization. The spirit encourages the following of the Catholic philosophy, provides an awareness of being Lithuanian, and offers support to Lithuanian communities. The efforts and ideas of those from our past, along with those from our present are progressing into the future. My life has been enhanced through my interactions with other Knights of Lithuanian members. I can only hope that the future will provide me with an opportunity to pass that spirit on to the next generation.



Try one of these recipes for your St. Valentine's Day sweetheart!

SOUR CREAM SQUARES *Grietininis Plokštainis*

3 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 1/2 oz. butter
2 cups sour cream
3 egg yolks
1 tsp. vanilla sugar

1 tsp. baking soda

Filling:

2 lbs. apples or plums

Into a bowl, put chilled sour cream, powdered sugar, egg yolks, butter, vanilla sugar, flour, soda, a dash of salt and knead these ingredients to mix thoroughly. Chill dough for one hour, then roll out into a thickness of 1/4 inch. Spread layer into prepared baking sheet. Arrange apple or plum pieces on top of the dough. Garnish top of

cake with strips of same dough. These strips must be brushed with beaten egg. Bake in 400 degree oven for 25-35 minutes.

ALMOND COOKIES *Migdoliniai Sausainėliai*

2 3/4 cups flour
7 oz. butter
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup shelled almonds
3 eggs
1 Tbsp. sugar (to sprinkle on top)

Grind almonds and cream with the butter. Then add 2 eggs and one egg yolk, the sugar, and beat until smooth and fluffy. Add the flour, knead into the dough and roll out into a thickness of 1/8 inch. Cut into various shapes of cookies, place on baking sheet. Brush cookies with egg white and sprinkle with sugar. Bake until golden.

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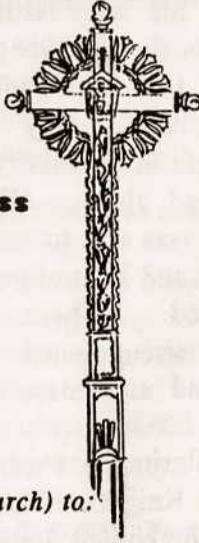
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UPDATE ON LITHUANIAN CHILDREN'S RELIEF, INC. LIETUVOS VAIKU GLOBA

Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, CJC

"Yes, we are making a difference," so said Maryte Bizinkauskas, C1, Brockton upon her return from Lithuania on a special mission for Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. (LCR). Maryte spent a month overseeing the distribution of several 40 foot containers shipped to the orphaned, institutionalized children, and poor families.

There were tears and cheers as she distributed 20,000 dolls donated by Fisher Price, 10,500 shoes purchased by LCR, and soap. For some this was a "first" bar of soap ever used or seen. Clothes and food were dispensed to families. In the photo above, a special family who were gifted by us was a family in Raseiniu (Rajonas) who adopted 24 children. Yes, adopted! And they have three of their own. One of the 'delicacies' was Gerber's carrots. The youngsters spread it on bread like butter. They thought they died and went to Heaven.

Another place Maryte visited was the Children's Tuberculosis (TB) Hospital. It took her a

couple of days before she was able to talk about it. The conditions are very bad. TB is on the rise. They have no toilet facilities. What they have is a hole in the ground. So the children slip and slide and ultimately fall in their own excretions. To add insult to injury, they have no showers or bathing facilities. So combine poor nutrition, poor sanitary conditions, no medicines or vitamins and there you have an epidemic.

But we are making a difference! Inch by inch, shoe by shoe, sweater by sweater, spoonful by spoonful and somebody's life is changed. The problems we see or experience just motivate us and remind us our work, rather God's work, is not completed, only begun.

Our motto for 1995 was "Alive in 1995" and yes, LCR is alive. As we close our year, we can proudly claim we sent thirty-six 40-foot containers with food, clothes, medicines, toilet articles, toys, and even an ambulance! Thank you to so many people for being part of our success for providing to the least.



COUNCIL NEWS



Attention Council news writers: the heavy snows left us with many delays, so some news will be published next month. Thanks for your understanding. -Dalia

C-1, Brockton, MA

Daisey Rūta

We had the wonderful opportunity to meet with president Evelyn Oželis and plans are near completion for the National Convention here in Brockton.

Yes, the Lithuanians are coming, some by air, some by land. Council 1 is the modern Paul Revere announcing the good news. Exciting events are planned from Aug. 8 to the 11th. Come and be a part of it, where it all began.

"Blyniu, Bolveniu Blyniu" was the menu at our parish bazaar, as cooked by our excellent C-1 chefs. We ran out of food at an early time.

Our 7th annual Kučios was held at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent. It was well attended as memories, customs, laughter and tears were shed. Sr. Eugenia Glinikas, CJC, did a splendid



Convention chairpersons (L) Marytė Bizinkauskas and (R) Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote meet with (Center) K. of L. President Evelyn Oželis.

presentation of this precious tradition, while Sr. Helen Ivanauskas had everyone happy decorating and preparing food.

Children from St. Casimir's School, directed by Marytė Bizinkauskas, performed a Christmas pageant closing our Kučios. Thanks to everyone for an evening truly fit for a king!

Ačiū also to C-17, S. Boston's Pat Akule for organizing her council members and to Mr. and Mrs. V. Ivanauskas for the baked goodies.

The Sisters at Our Lady of Sorrows are walking about with heads high and smiles, thanks

C-3, Philadelphia

Daina Kapockus Miller

Council 3 elected new officers during their October meeting. The installation of new officers took place on October 22, 1995 at St. Casimir's School in Philadelphia. Newly elected officers are as follows: Seated from left to right are:

Ausra Maknys, Secretary; Alice Bacon, Financial Secretary; Nellie Pandza, Sunshine Chairperson; Rev. Eugene Wassel, Spiritual Advisor. Standing from left to right are: Julie Kowrak, Cultural; John Mickunas, President; Lillian Greymas, Ritual; Walt Svekla, Treasurer; Daina Kapockus Miller, Vytis Correspondent; Leonard Kapochus, Lithuanian Affairs; Irene Ozalis, Vice President. Not pictured are Trustees, Agnes Mickunas and Irene Svekla.



to member Doris Frolick, a creative beautician who has become the senior sisters hair dresser.

Bravo to our enthusiastic Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote who coordinated the children's games and events at the NED cultural picnic in Worcester. We even had some "older" children pulling lollipops and playing "tic tac toe" just to win a prize.

Now that I've exposed our members talents and secret lives, I'll ride off with Paul Revere and continue to announce "the Lithuanians are coming to Brockton for the Convention." See you there.

C-10, Athol - Gardner, MA

Vincukas

Our council attended Mass for our late members, Paula Shatas on November 1 and followed it by supper and meeting in St. Francis Church Hall. The following officers were elected for 1996.

Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis

President - William Wisniauskas

Vice President - Dr. Henry Gailiunas

Treasurer - Nellie Melaika

Financial Secretary - Howard Beaudette

Recording Secretary - Joanne Chastney

Marshal - David Lucas

Cultural Chairman - Bronę Wisniauskas

Vytis Correspondent - Bill Wisniauskas and Margaret Senk.

After the meeting we had a social. The Athol group served a great supper. Plans were made to observe Kučios at the David Lucas home on December 17.

Helen Simkunas broke her wrist and had a hard time for several weeks. Our hard-working Howie Beaudette fell from a ladder while repairing his roof and broke several ribs. He was head chef for the annual Lithuanian Scouts dinner in the parish hall just before his accident. We all wish Howie a speedy recovery.

C-12, New York, NY

Irene Senken

Several of the meetings in the past have been missed by yours truly due to matters of a higher priority and travel. With the severe cold weather we have endured, it is a good time to compile whatever news I can convey to you.

Our annual Christmas Party was celebrated on December 10, and the affair was attended by fewer people than last year due to the bitter cold. We had plenty of good food and ate for those those that could not come. As chair-person for this event I want to thank all those that put in their time and wonderful talents to use in making this a successful affair. "Sirdingu Ačiu."

We celebrated our pastor, Father Sawicki's retirement from the N.Y.C. Fire Department and devoured a beautiful cake with adult beverages dispensed by Vincent Cuperwich, our most learned Mixologist. It is a blessing to have a devoted priest like Fr. Sawicki as our Spiritual director, and we wish him many years of good health in his retirement." *Admultos Annos.*"

On a recent senior citizen trip to N.Y.C. we had to wait at the N.Y. Public Library on Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street for our bus to take us home. One of the seniors noticed an inscription on the floor of the main entrance which read: "IN MEMORY OF MARTIN RADTKE 1883-1973-GAVE LIBRARY MY ESTATE WITH THE WISH THAT IT BE USED SO THAT OTHERS CAN HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY MADE AVAILABLE TO ME. He was born in Lithuania. It was an inspiration.

C-12 Knights at work: (L to R, seated) Dalia Bulvicius and Aldona Zaunius. (Standing L to R) C-12 Pres. Ed Burba Cook, Bernice Rameika, Anthony Zagarino and Rev. Dr. Eugene Sawicki.



C-26, Worcester, MA

Olga

Greetings! About eighty members attended our annual Christmas party held in our newly renovated church hall. President Anne Leseman has submitted the long list of committee members to the secretary for permanent record but she does want all to know that it's Rita Pinkus who prepared the scrumptious meat loaf. Mmmmmm, delicious! We'd be remiss if we failed to mention the beautiful Midnight Mass at St. Casimir's Church which was concelebrated by our pastor, Father Vincent Parulis, MIC, and Father John Petrauskas, MIC, our spiritual advisor. Ann Walinsky presented a lovely musical program. The church was decorated in breathtakingly beautiful fashion by Charles Kulakusky, William Leseman, Daniel Shimkus, Paul Puris, Alfred Rodgers, William Buckley, Edmond Palilunas and last but by no means least, Helen Jane Midgley who is homemaker in our parish rectory. The Memory Tree decorated with lights and special intentions was the idea of Stephen and Eleanor Walinsky.

Recent recipients of the First Degree are: Mae Bucinkas, John Putis and Joan Wojciak. Congratulations! We have many members holding Fourth, Third, Second and First Degrees but we also boast of the ones holding Honorary Degrees: Ann Bender, Rita Pinkus and Joseph Sakaitis. The late Mary Jankowski of loving memory was also an Honorary Degree member.

Vivian and Al Rodgers and Dorothy Virbasius provided the "coffee and" after weekend Masses during the month of December. How truly satisfying to have the use of a parish hall once more. It will be dedicated when we celebrate the feast of our patron, St. Casimir, by Bishop Daniel Reilly of the Worcester Diocese.

On the sick list with our prayer-filled wishes for an early recovery are: Eva Grudzinskas, Francis Ginkus, Irene Mamovich, Withold Ivaska, Anne Skrocki, Mary Duggan and Stephen Walinsky, Sr.

Casimir Vallon died this past November following injuries received in an automobile accident. To his wife, Ellen, and their family, we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

Time to mention our out-of-State members: Alana and Tony Burch and children Tina and Joey, welcomed mother Rita Pinkus to their Philadelphia



New hard working C-26 members recently received first degrees. (L to R) John Putis, Joan Wojciak and Mae Bucinkas. Photo by Barbara Pantos.

home for the holidays. Judith Lofty arrived before the holidays to visit her sick dad, Francis Ginkus, and mom Edwina and sister Janet Allen. Judith and her husband live in Littleton, Colorado. Ann and Yinnie Grazulis of Torrance, California called Vite and Ruth Gadilauskas with holiday-greetings to all. Vera Scarbeau visited her son and his family in Florida just before the holidays. Mark and Kathleen Walinsky of Vail, Colorado visited parents Steve and Eleanor Walinsky, sister Lynne and her husband Mike Jalbert, and grandparents, Steve and Ann Walinsky and Mary Anusauskas.

Jessica Waska is a 17-year old senior at Holy Name High School here in Worcester. A straight "A" student, Jessica has been accepted at Regis College, a prestigious Catholic college in the Boston area. She is our youngest member. Grandmother Aldona Waska is proud. So are we! Anne Bucinkas and Rita Brazauskas sold up a storm during the Christmas shopping specials at Saint Vincent Hospital's gift shop. Quite the salespersons. Until the next issue, best wishes to all from all of us in C-26.

C - 50, New Haven, CT

Audrey Toole

Our new officers and committees prepare for this new year. They are as follows:

Spiritual Advisor - Rev. John Casey
 President - Isabel Peterson
 1st Vice President - Magdalen Cronin
 2nd Vice President - Mary Geipel
 Secretary - Audrey Toole
 Treasurer - Anne Meskins

Financial Secretary - Helen Klimaszewski
 Assistant Financial Secretary - Helen Lostys
 Ritual - Albert Gutaszkas
 Sgt. at Arms - Tony Kordorsky, Alice Dekas
 Vytis Correspondent - Audrey Toole
 Trustees - Charles Dekas, Helen Case and Anne

Gedrim

Historian - Anne Kordorsky
 Publicity - Elizabeth Gybowski
 Sunshine - Eleanor Guytaszkas
 Ways and Means - Mike and Irene Meizies
 Telephone Squad - Mary Bachinski, Mary Geipel, Mary Ann Capelli, Helen Lostys, Viola, Plant, Marcie Stadolnik, Evelyn and Ann Lukaszewski.

Many of these people worked at our annual holiday boutique - providing homebaked goods and crafts as well as their time to help. Theresa Strimaitis and her cooks made the delicious Lithuanian food which was thoroughly enjoyed. Many people went home with prizes which they won at our plentiful raffles.

Marion Meshako was able to be part of the group attending the Pope's Mass in New York. She shared with us the feeling of happy camaraderie the participants had in this historic event.

Get well prayers and wishes to Mary and Leo Yanus, Mary Bachinski, Robert Peterson, Frank Antin and Pat Tamulis. Condolences are extended to the family of fellow member Sophie Aunce who passed to her eternal rest in November.

C-72, Binghamton, NY

John R. Mankus

GERBIAMIEJI:

Elections were held at our November meeting. Officers for 1996 are: Father John Mikalajunas -

Spiritual Advisor and Spiritual Programs; John R. Mankus - President, Vytis Correspondent, Lithuanian Culture and Lithuanian Language; Carla Wilson - Vice President; Irene Grikenis Ritual Chairperson; Arthur Stankevitz - Secretary; Barbara Miller - Treasurer; Robert Skiba - Financial Secretary and Trustee; Charles Almanas - Lithuanian Affairs and Sergeant at Arms; Ralph Sadauskas and Felix Svereika - Sergeants at Arms; Helen Svereika - Trustee and Public Relations; Ed Radin - Trustee.

On November 14th, our council hosted The Lithuanian All-Star Basketball Team. Our original plan was to serve the team lunch at Saint Joseph's Cultural Center, however, due to a severe winter storm, the team was four hours late in arriving to Binghamton and asked if a meal could be served after the game with SUNY Binghamton. We obliged, I packed my car, the motel provided a room and we had the meal at 10:30 PM. Due to the work of Grace Mankus, we were able to provide each member of the All Stars with a souvenir package and mementos from merchants and city and county government officials of the area. Grace spent many hours contacting merchants and gathering these souvenirs. It turned out to be a very nice party and we had a question and answer session after the meal. The discussion lasted till midnight. By the way, the Lithuanian All-Stars won the game with SUNY Binghamton, 65-54. All our members worked very hard to make the team welcome in our area.

Since we began our humanitarian AID TO LITHUANIA drive, our council has shipped fifty eight large packages of medical and humanitarian supplies directly to convents in Vilnius and Kaunas. We also shipped prescription drugs to



Lithuanian All-Star Team members in action against SUNY Binghamton Colonials. The Lithuanian All Stars won 65-54. See also, Jrs. story on page 21.



*K. of L. members and guests
of Councils 74 and 143 at the
Richard Fitzsimmons picnic
at Falls Church, PA*

hospitals and doctors in Vilnius. Five packages were shipped during Christmas. Many thank you letters were received, these were translated by John Mankus and shared with our members. Father John Mikalajunas also shared these letters with Saint Joseph's Church parishioners, who continue to contribute generously to this drive.

Irene and Casey Grikenis and Barbara Miller helped Elizabeth Kunce celebrate her eighty eight birthday.

Our council, under the direction of Irene and Casey Grikenis and Dolores Wasileski participated in the Robertson Center International Christmas Tree Forest program during the Christmas season. Traditional Lithuanian straw ornaments were used to decorate the Christmas tree and various displays of traditional Lithuanian Christmas and cultural items were exhibited, including a replica of a wayside cross, cultural display, Irene's beautiful Lithuanian painting and our Lithuanian flag.

Charles Almanas, our Lithuanian Affairs representative has been doing an outstanding job, at each council meeting reporting on current news, latest activities and the situation in Lithuania.

Plans are under way to commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day, February 16th with Binghamton Mayor Richard Bucci.

C-79, Southfield, MI

Bee Jay

Our main, annual project is history. It was the Fall Festival, which took place Sunday, Nov. 12 in the Gym/Auditorium of Divine Providence Church. We experienced several days of severe, wintry cold, but were rewarded with milder weather for our Festival day.

Credit goes to the following, who took the time and made the effort for a successful affair. Pres.

Margaret Dapkus wishes to thank all who helped. In alphabetical order, they are: Leonard Balkus, Lynn Broniak, Tina Bulota, Bill Dapkus, Estelle Gogelis, Stella Hotra, Isabel Korsakas, Julie Janson, Bertha Janus, Sylvia Jarosz, Mary Mitchell, Charles and Helen Mykolaitis, Violet and Karen Panavas, Betty Petroski, Marianne Newberry, Joe Racas, Ann Salas, Joe and Helen Usoris and Helen Santorum. Winner of the 50-50 raffle was Rachel Broniak.

Our sick list (at this report) includes Walter Hotra, recovering after serious surgery, Helen Patocki, seriously ill at home, Frank Povilaitis, convalescing after a hospital stay and Helen Santorum, due for several surgeries. Also, please remember in your prayers, those confined in Nursing Homes, Rita Krumpoch and Sophie Zager.

We ended the year with our customary pot-luck lunch after the December meeting, enjoying each other's specialty. As we have done in the past, there will be no Council meetings in January and February.

Officers hope all members remember to attend our annual St. Casimir's Day Mass, scheduled for 10:30 AM Sunday, March 3 at Divine Providence. A Happy and healthy New Year to all!

C - 96, Dayton, Ohio

Fran Petkus

As you have read or heard the Bosnian Peace talks recently took place in the Dayton area. Many of us locally felt little change in our daily lives except one member, HM Elinor Sluzas. Elinor made her restaurant, Elinor's Amber Rose, available for those looking for Eastern European home cooked dinners. Although dignitaries in for the peace talks were unable to participate, due to

tight security, members of the press from the US and countries from all over the world filled Elinor's Amber Rose!

A big round of applause goes out to Chairperson Annamarie Sluzas Berger and her committee, Frances and Elena Mikalauskas, Christine Fletcher, Robert Pant, Junior Members-Joseph Berger and Alex Fletcher, for a very successful Fall Bake Sale on Nov. 18-19, 1995. Helping to make this happen were the donations, participation and sales by the general membership and Holy Cross Church parishioners! Our members came in the "winner's circle" - MaryAgnes Mikalauskas, Laretta Pant, Elena Mikalauskas, Catherine Prasmantas, Elaine Pacovsky, and Sally Miller.

Father Michael Holloran and Eloise A. Berczelly will be part of C -96's Ritual Committee.

On Dec. 3, 1995 MaryAgnes Mikalauskas was presented with her Masters Degree in Business Industrial Management Counseling. MaryAgnes is a K of L Scholarship recipient and C-96 Public Relations Chair. Congratulations!!

Congratulations also go out to Robert Pant and Linda Miller as they were blessed with the Sacrament of Marriage on Oct. 21st. It was a beautiful wedding with many K of L members in attendance. C -16 member, Robert Martin, with the help of a special angel, brought the traditional Lithuanian Wedding Cake in from Chicago; MCD President and C -139 members Lillian Petravicius and Louis Selenis were in from Detroit; in from Nashville, TN, Mark Bell, June and Tom Bell; Irena Gecas (NY,NY); the Boeke's, Joe and Ann (Grand Rapids, MI); Ken and Veronica Heitkamp

C-100 President, Mirga Bablin accepts the gavel from outgoing president, Irene Tice.



C-96 members Linda and Robert Pant

(Minster, OH). Best Man and cook for Vice-President and Mrs. Gore, Michael Pant, 2nd Class Petty Officer in the Navy, created a beautiful and very delicious wedding cake!! (Many of you met Rob and Linda at the national convention in Novi, MI. Rob was one of the Vejelis Dancers).

C - 100, Amsterdam, NY

Irene Tice

Local K of L Traditions - Passing on the Gavel

On October 9 at 6:30 PM a special Mass was offered for me at St. Casimir's church in appreciation and gratitude for many years as C-100 president. It was an honor to be blessed by Father Sipperly, since our pastor Father Grabys was in Putnam, CT at a Lithuanian Priests League convention.

After Mass, I opened my last meeting as president with a short speech:

"On November 12, 1990, after 22 years of service as president, Tony Radzevich passed on this gavel to me. Tonight I will relinquish my gavel to our new council president, Mirga Bablin.

Council 100 has done good things for friends, relatives, nuns and hospitals in Lithuania. Also we help the Ladies of Charity feed the hungry locally. We award scholarships to our Lithuanian children and also contribute on the National Scholarship level. We took part in the APPLE program in 1992 through Stephanie Kleabonas.

Thanks to Stanley Stankes, we received much recognition for our Lithuanian Christmas tree. Our little dance troop act as good will ambassadors, even in excessive heat at City Hall and the Library.

I want to express my thanks to all of you for your help and cooperation. A president is only as good as the members behind her. It was a thrill to see a Mass for me in the church bulletin and tonight the bouquet of flowers was very special to me.

I know you will give Mirga the same respect and cooperation you have given me.

So now its time for me to pass the gavel. Thank you again - Ačiū labai.

And remember, I am not retiring from the K. of L. Just the presidency."

After my speech, the new president, Mirga Bablin, announced her new appointments. It was a beautiful evening enjoyed by all. Helen Hugo, Fran Di Bart, Ann Czrew and Mildred Whelley were in charge of the buffet. Christmas party chairpersons Irene Tice and Louise Kleabonas made several announcements.

C-110, Maspeth, NY

Bruno Rutkunas

Our annual Kučios was shared by over 150 members and guests on December 17 at Transfiguration parish in Maspeth. Following the Lithuanian Mass celebrated by Msgr. Frank Bulovas, a welcoming address was given by William Budris, chairman of the event, and Bruno Rutkunas, council president. A candlelight procession was led by Helen Matulonis, followed by the blessing of plotkeles. Stella Stripeikis read the story of Kučios in Lithuania. The special meatless luncheon was served, followed by babka, coffee and the singing of Lithuanian and American Christmas carols.

For our celebration of Lithuanian Independence, C-110 will host the remembrance at Transfiguration Church Hall on February 18, where the Annunciation Church choir of Brooklyn will join with us at this special Mass.

C-147, St Petersburg, FL

Dolores Jonaitis

The November 29th meeting was opened by Dolores Jonaitis. After the opening Prayer by Father Gasiunas, he swore the new officers. Anthony Gudonis read the agenda and presided over the meeting.

It was agreed to place a New Year's greeting in the Vytis, since we missed the Christmas deadline.


Victoria Kleiva organized a raffle table which was quite successful. She and her daughter, Angela, decorated the Hospitality Room very beautifully in the Christmas spirit. Twenty-seven members attended and all brought delicious sandwiches, cakes, cookies, herring snacks and dinner wine. A lovely time was had by all. We thank all who participated.

We are happy to see Antanas Grabauskas feeling better. We hope to see you again shortly, as our flag bearer. Good luck and a continuing good recovery.

The Lithuanian American Club sponsored a "Kucius" On December 24th. The food was excellent - very traditional. Many of our K. of L. members attended.

Get well quickly, to Antanas Gudonis on his mishap the day before Christmas. I hope the cast on your foot doesn't slow you down too much.

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FEBRUARY

X

1996

X

VASARIS

O Lord, protect our ancestral land;
and hear us when we call to Thee!

*Viešpatie, globok mūsų Tėvynę
ir išklausyk mus, kai Tavęs šaukiames!*

In February:

- Feb 2 - Feast of the Presentation at the Temple. As prescribed by Mosaic Law, forty days after his birth, Jesus was taken by his parents to the Temple at Jerusalem for a ritual dedication to God. Known as Candlemas Day (*Grabnyčios* in Lithuania); it is traditionally a day when pure beeswax candles are blessed and distributed to the faithful. The candles are reserved for use when a priest comes into the home with Holy Viaticum for a dying parishoner. These blessed candles are also lit and placed beside the casket during the wake.
- Feb 12 - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday - Formerly a National holiday; its observation is now combined with Washington's Birthday and celebrated as a collective Presidents Day.
- Feb 14 - Valentine's Day. Traditionally, a day to express your affection for a loved one.
- Feb 16 - Reinstatement of Lithuanian statehood (1918) - Lithuanian National Holiday. It commemorates the day on which the Council of Lithuania issued its proclamation on the re-establishment of an independent Lithuanian state.
- Feb 19 - President's Day - National Holiday in honor of all U. S. Presidents.
- Feb 21 - Ash Wednesday - Lent begins - Day of Fast and Abstinence
- Feb 22 - George Washington's Birthday. Celebration transferred to Feb 19.
- Feb 29 - Leap day; an extra 24 hours added to the calendar to compensate for inherent error.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE CELEBRATING A NAME'S DAY IN FEBRUARY:

Agatha (Feb 5)		Laimutis (Feb 16)
Alex (Feb 17)	Catherine (Feb 13)	Leon (Feb 20)
Alexander (Feb 26)	Cyril (Feb14)	Loreta (Feb 13)
Alvyra (Feb 23)	Dimitri (Feb24)	<i>Mantas (Feb 12)</i>
Andrew (Feb 4)	Edgar (Feb 3)	Marius (Feb9)
Apolonija (Feb 9)	Gabriel (Feb 27)	Mirga (Feb 23)
Asta (Feb 3)	Gilbert (Feb4)	Richard (Feb7)
Benedict (Feb 12)	Ilona (Feb 4)	<i>Valdas (Feb 28)</i>
Bernadette (Feb18)	John (Feb 8)	Valentine (Feb 14)
Birute (Feb 4)	Julian (Feb 16)	Victor (Feb 25)
Bridgit (Feb 1)		<i>Vida (Feb 1)</i>

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KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

For further info. contact:

Lithuanian Independence Day

Feb. 18, 11:45 Mass at Transfiguration

Hosts: C-110 and C-41

Romas Kezys

(718) 423-6161

St. Casimir's Day Celebrations

March 10, Amber District

Hosts C-72, Binghamton, NY

John Mankus

(607) 754-1241

Mar. 3, 10:30 AM Mass at Divine Providence

C-79, Southfield, MI

Mar. 31, 11:45 AM Mass at Transfiguration

C-110, Maspeth, NY

Bruno Rutkunas

(516) 628-2292

District Conventions

March 10, MAD Spring Convention

Hosts C-90, Kearny, NJ

Becky Nakrosis

(201) 998-3526

May 17 - 19, Mid Central District Meeting
and Bowling Tour. - C-25, Cleveland, OH

Richard Marks

(216) 381-7287

April 28, NED Spring Conv. & Holy Hour

Hosts C-135, Ansonia, CT

Bertha Stoskus

(401) 331-2605

Sept. 27 to 29, MCD Fall Conv./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 8-11

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.)

