

VYTAIS

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Kovas/March 1996

VYTIS
 KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
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 1996



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 MARCH 1996
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The portrait of St. Casimir depicted on our cover design was taken from a prayer card, artist unknown. The papers St. Casimir is holding represent the text of St. Bernard's hymn to Mary, translated "Daily, daily sing to Mary" which reputedly was recited by St. Casimir every day in his short life.



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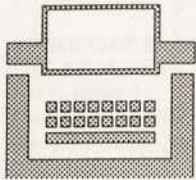
To My Fellow Knights:

March is a month of hope and change. We hope the weather starts to change into Spring. It is also the month where we honor St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania. Vince Boris' saints of the month features an inspiring comparison of our popular saint with Sts. Patrick & Joseph, as protectors. Dalia Bulvičius tells us about a most interesting St. Casimir's Church in Vilnius. We hope all the St. Casimir's festivities at least give us some chance to reflect on what the young, dedicated Lithuanian Saint did to preserve our culture.

Many readers commented on how they've been enjoying Ed Baranauskas' series, *The Four Wives of Jogalia*. A few wanted to know the whole story in advance. Bob Boris, who usually is too busy shipping goods to Lithuania through Aid to Lithuania, Inc., told us why he believes in miracles. Leonard Šimutis gave us additional insight into the life of Anthony Lapinskas, a VYTIS editor during the depression.

And for those who love a good book you can't put down, *The Story of Dr. James Will* by James and Marilyn Yanick is such an experience. Having been riveted to this book during New York's Blizzard of '96, I, too, found many insights on our ancestors, including their unbending determination to keep Lithuanianism alive. It is reviewed by Vince Boris.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to our Irish friends, who keep growing in number as friends and supporters of the Knights of Lithuania.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The recent (Feb.) article about Sr. Margaret John Kelly, D.C. on Christian ethics in Lithuania was certainly most informative and enlightening.

I would suggest that the Lithuanian people are neither any better nor worse than any other nation. One can find crime, degradation and corruption in any city in the world. One need but walk the streets of our nation's capital, Washington D.C., New York City, Boston, Cleveland etc., or view our "talk shows" on TV.

Under the Soviets, the authorities certainly maintained "law and order". No one feared walking the streets of Vilnius at night, to be sure. Whatever crime existed was "hushed-up" in the Soviet controlled media. Lithuania was portrayed as an "ideal Soviet paradise"!

We in America, especially those of us of Lithuanian extraction came to view Lithuania as a "country of holy martyrs", as "Catholic Lithuania", the "Land of Mary", the "Land of Crosses". Many of us developed a romanticized view of a Lithuania which did not exist and perhaps never did. We believed that somehow Lithuanians were of a "higher moral caliber" than others, a nation of long-haired lovely maidens in folk costume, dancing happily among thatched roofs on village greens.

At it turned out, "It just ain't so folks!" Life went on under the Soviets. "It" was all there before, just as "it" is here. As the Lithuanian proverb says "Velniias ne snaudžia" (The devil never snoozes!) At least now "it" is all out in the open, and there are people like Sr. Margaret John Kelly and others, actively engaged in the struggle for souls in the public arena, impossible under Soviet rule.

Dr. Tomas A. Michalskis, Ph.D.
Administrative Asst.
St. George, Norwood, MA

PAPAL Blessings

To the Editor:

I enjoyed your editorial commenting on meeting with the Pope in Central Park last October. I also had an experience with the Pope I will never forget back in 1984.

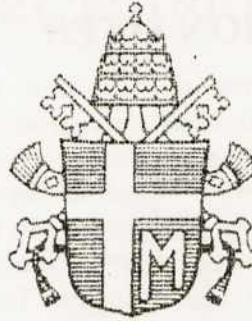
I was in Rome with my daughter, Sr. Mary Ann, SSND, a missionary from Ghana and we were invited to an audience with the Holy Father.

After meeting in a small receiving room that packed about 100 people, he gave us the Papal Blessing. When we got to meet him personally I debated on whether or not I should address him in Lithuanian, which I finally did.

"Linkių jums geros sviekatos ir laimes visados", I said.

The Holy Father then grabbed my hand and spoke with me for about twenty minutes in Lithuanian. He then gave me another blessing. It was a wonderful, and also a religious experience I shall never forget.

*Vytiškai,
Marijona Matachinskas
Houston, TX*



Editors were also alerted to another Knight, Virginia Yakstas Kelly of Palm Beach Gardens, FL who met with Pope John Paul II last Fall.

Mrs. Kelly, a TWA employee met the Holy Father while serving him aboard his chartered flight while transporting

the pontiff home from Baltimore to Rome.

Mrs. Kelly, along with her husband, William, were among the 13 selected to serve the chartered flight.

She was born in Lithuania and left during WWII, coming to the United States in 1949. She and her husband were married at the Pontifical Lithuanian College.

During the papal trip, Mrs. Kelly recited a Lithuanian prayer to the Holy Father.

"The Pope was so delighted with the Lithuanian prayer, he made the sign of the cross with his thumb on her forehead," her husband added. Then he blessed the couple.

-The Florida Catholic- 11/10/95



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CHOIR



CREATES RELIGIOUS HERITAGE TAPE

On Dec. 8, the K. of L. Choir christened their Religious Heritage tape produced by them.

Choir members are: (left to right) Sabina Rucaite Hensen, President; Rev. Anthony Puchenskis, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church; Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, Spiritual Advisor of Mid America District; Sister M. Marilyn Kuzmizkus, Superior Sisters of St. Casimir, HM Faustas Strolia, Director of the choir and Theresa Strolia, who helped gather data for the tape.

1997 NATIONAL CONVENTION SITES

Are you tired of packing up your car or van and driving cross country to attend the convention? Does changing planes three times wear you out? How about staying home in 1997 and hosting the K of L convention? Show off your city to the Knights! There are a lot of cities the Knights would love to visit for four days in August. Think of the great publicity your council and city will get in the local and Lithuanian-American media. This is your chance to make it happen. We, the Supreme Council Trustees Mark Bell and Mary Beth Slakis, would like to hear from you. Talk with your council, explore the opportunities! If

you have an interest or need additional information, call either Mary Beth at (708) 479-3792 or Mark at (615) 256-3790 before May 31, 1996 and let us know. We want all bidders to make a presentation in Brockton this August to show off your city!

DO YOU HAVE...

The Supreme Council Trustees are trying to locate all inventories of the K of L History books. We appreciate the dedication of the various members who are storing these volumes. We need an accurate count of the books and their location. If you have a supply, please call either Mark Bell at (615) 256-3790 or Mary Beth Slakis at (708) 479-3792 as soon as possible and let us know how many you have. Ačiū labai!

ST. CASIMIR GUILD

Dear Knights:

A good Godparent remembers its Godchild and assists in whatever way it can. Since we adopted the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome, many of us have done much for our Godchild. It is important that we continue to do so, as the needs now are greater than ever.

For those Councils and Members who can contribute financially, we are most grateful. Besides the Seminarians, there are now 20 Student Priests at the College. These young men will go back to Lithuania to teach, to bring the Word of the Lord to the churches and Seminaries there. Today, more than ever, it is so important. Those of you who attended the Convention in Detroit will remember the messages brought by the religious who were in Lithuania. The people, especially the youth, need the best guidance possible. After all the years of suppressed religion and loose morals, the proper guidance is needed to prevent abortions, immoral attitudes and the influence of different sects.

The best way you can help is by contributions, however small, to the St. Casimir Guild. Your contribution is tax exempt and will do much to help maintain the college and to aid in the education of future Priests. Secondly, Masses are needed by the Priests at the College. In addition to the Student Priests, there are those who work at the College. Most of them depend on Mass Stipends as they have no other income. You can obtain Mass cards both for Sympathy and Special intention by writing to me. Masses along with the stipends are forwarded to Rome.

We thank you for your prayers for Vocations, for your financial aid to the St. Casimir Guild and for your continued support of Mass Stipends.

May God bless you all Godparents of the Pontifical Lithuanian College.

Su pagarba,

Anne Klizas Wargo

President, the St. Casimir Guild

ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH IN VILNIUS

by *Dalia Bulvičius*

St. Casimir's Church in Vilnius mirrors the history of the Lithuanian nation. Like the legendary *Phoenix*, it rose from the ashes again and again to serve God and Country.

A St. Casimir cult had been started in Lithuania with the arrival of the Jesuit order. In 1569, the Bishop of Vilnius, Valerijonas Progasėvičius invited the Jesuits to Lithuania to spread the Gospel. Their main objective was to halt the rapid spread of Protestantism and to make the Catholic Church stronger to resist it. It is here St. Casimir comes into play.

Groundbreaking began on May 12, 1604 the year of St. Casimir's canonization. The church was constructed in the Baroque style, the architectural style associated with the Jesuits. The place chosen was a huge market place square. Today, nearby stands the Lithuanian museum of art. The Jesuits wanted the church to be as imposing a structure as possible, and to dwarf all the Russian orthodox churches (cerkves) which were dotting the square on all sides. The architect of the church is unknown. It is believed that the Jesuits obtained the blueprints from Rome. One of the assistants with the building was a Jesuit - Brother Jonas Prochovičius. Construction was completed in 1606. St. Casimir's stands 40 meters high and 17 m. wide.

The church burned a few times, but was always rebuilt. When the French army was marching through Vilnius to Moscow in 1812, the church was turned into a warehouse. The Communist occupiers did not like St. Casimir. Perhaps it was because he reminded them of the miracle of 1518, when a vision of St. Casimir on a steed appeared to the Lithuanian soldiers and led them to victory over the Russians. After the revolt of 1831 even the singing of hymns to St., Casimir was forbidden.

In 1840 the Russian occupiers confiscated St. Casimir's church, and turned it into St. Michael's church. All signs of Lithuanianism were eliminated. All became Russified. This situation existed until the twentieth century. In 1922, it was returned to



the Jesuit order, and in 1925, it was refurbished by the Polish architect J. Borovskis.

During World War II, the Lithuanian architect, Jonas Mulokas, restored the Lithuanian motifs. On its steeples the royal crown of the Casimir family was replaced. It was once again consecrated March 4, 1944 by Bishop M Reinyš.

During the war, the church was damaged both on the outside and the inside. In 1949 it was once again renovated but immediately confiscated by the occupiers and turned into a museum of atheism. They wanted every trace of Catholicism removed from the Lithuanian. They even blew up the three imposing crosses on the hill. Even the cathedral was not spared. It became an art gallery and concert hall. The religious sculptures on the facade were removed.

The chapel of St. Casimir also felt the wrath of the occupiers. This chapel was built in 1636 and decorated by the artist A. M Palonio with marble, silver and many frescos. While the silver coffin with the remains of the Saint was transferred to the church of Sts. Peter and Paul, in the place where the coffin had stood, they made a cheap imitation from plaster. The communist regime had but one God - atheism, to whom they dedicated the Church of St. Casimir.

Today, the Church of St. Casimir has been restored and a popular attraction of the faithful.

THREE SAINTS FOR MARCH



March 4
St. Casimir
Protector of Lithuania



March 17
St. Patrick
Protector of Ireland



March 19
St. Joseph
Protector of Families

It is March, the month of contrasts and conflicts. It is not surprising that the very name of the month is derived from the Latin, *Martius*, i.e., of or pertaining to Mars, the Roman god of war. The Lithuanian name, *Kovas*, is similarly derived from a root word signifying conflict, struggle or battle. In all probability, the Lithuanian designation is derived from the struggle of the new life of spring to emerge from the iron grasp of winter. It is, indeed, an unsettled and precarious time.

This month we appropriately celebrate the feast days of three Great Protectors: St. Joseph, protector of families; St. Patrick, Protector of Ireland and revered throughout the world but especially in this country; and St. Casimir, our own Lithuanian saint, Protector of Lithuania and Patron of the Knights.

It may seem a strange group: a prince, a bishop and a poor tradesman. They come from such different times and backgrounds. Yet, surprisingly, there are similar aspects of their lives that could hold great lessons for us in the twenty first century. Each of these, by world standards, was dealt a bad hand. It was their faith and trust in God that brought them through adversity and into heroic sainthood.

Casimir - the prince - was born the third son of a monarch reigning over what was then the largest country in Europe, the Kingdom of Poland-Lithuania. His relatives and siblings, by birth or marriage, touched almost every royal house in Europe. Not a bad card to be dealt (if you could enjoy it). Casimir couldn't. He abhorred the pomp and circumstance, revelry and corruption, vanities and deceits of the Polish court life. Yet he knew the duties of his position and dutifully obeyed his father. When he was yet a teenager, his father sent him on an onerous mission as head of an combined

Polish peasant/ Hungarian aristocrat officer army to depose an unpopular Hungarian king. Enroute, many of the troops deserted for lack of pay; and many officers defected to the Hungarian side. Sensing impending disaster if he continued, Casimir made a fateful decision to simply abandon the mission and return ignominiously home with the remnants of his army. King Casimir, his father, was outraged. Prince Casimir was disgraced. Eventually, young Casimir was allowed to quietly leave the Polish court and take up residence in Lithuania, where he contracted either pneumonia or tuberculosis and died in 1484 at the age of 26. There is a legend that shortly after his death, when Vilnius was being attacked by Russian forces, Casimir appeared in shining armor at the head of the failing Lithuanian forces to lead them to victory. He has thus been revered as the Protector of Lithuania.

Patrick is an enigma, His own writings and a plethora of legends have left a general and frequently contradictory history of the man. He was born around 385 AD in the coastal area of Britain, possibly in Wales, of Roman-British parents. His father was a municipal authority and may have been a cleric or priest. In his mid-teens, Patrick was abducted by a band of Irish raiders and taken to Ireland where he was sold into slavery and put to work as a herdsman.

He spent six years in such servitude before he could effect an escape under mysterious, if not miraculous, circumstances by securing free passage on a ship bound for the European Continent. While a slave, he never lost his faith but rather deepened his powers of prayer and contemplation as well as learning the Celtic language. In Gaul, he was instructed through a dream to return and evangelize Ireland. In preparation for this mission, he studied at various monasteries and was ordained in 417. He returned to Ireland where he preached and established many churches over the thirty years of his ministry. Consecrated a Bishop in 444, he established the metropolitan see of Armagh.

Legends about his life and accomplishments abound. The most prominent is perhaps the story of his expelling all venomous snakes from the Irish isles. He is often depicted in art as sternly ordering a multitude of snakes to depart the land into the sea.

Joseph might have been considered a most unlikely candidate to fill the role as guardian and guide of the infant, adolescent and young Jesus and His most blessed mother. Scriptures describe him only as a "just man." This would indicate only that he was God-fearing, pious and righteous. He was a carpenter but not a wealthy man; his offering at the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple was that of two doves, the least expensive sacrifice offering and one normally used only by the very poor. Although the genealogy of Jesus as presented in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke is traced through Joseph to the royal family of David, there are only the few brief references to him, specifically, in the Gospel narratives. We are told that he was betrothed to Mary; that he was present at the birth of Jesus and at Mary's purification ritual at the temple; he escorted Jesus and Mary on their exile in Egypt; and presented Jesus. It

is believed that he died prior to the start of Jesus' public ministry. There is not one recorded word or statement attributed to Joseph.

We are told that, shortly after his betrothal to Mary, he found out that she was pregnant (not by him). He agonized over the decision on whether to condemn her, through the courts for adultery or disgrace her through divorce. Instructed by an angel while he slept, Joseph followed a third path. He took Mary as his wife and raised the child as his own; thereby protecting Mary's reputation. He undertook the long sojourn to Egypt to protect Jesus from the jealousy of Herod who had ordered the death of all male children under two years of age; and, finally, made a home, supporting and protecting Jesus and Mary as Jesus grew to adulthood. He died in the presence of Jesus and Mary and, thus, has come to be revered as the Patron of a Happy Death.

These three very different men, prince, bishop and carpenter, were very much alike in their unswerving belief and trust in God. In their simplicity of spirit and tranquility of conscience they were open to hearing a divine calling, whether from the quiet urgings of conscience, voices from the wind and woods or from an angel in an apparent dream. They heard and responded faithfully. Would that we all could do the same.

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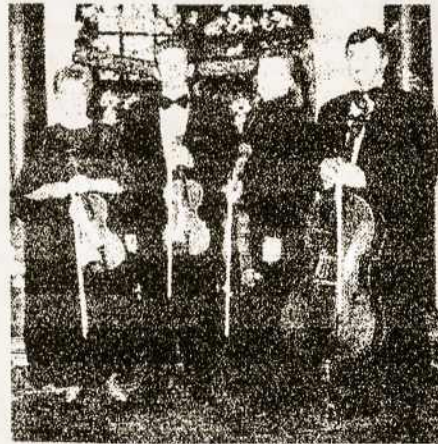
Submitted by M. Deksnis, Scholarship Committee

Vilnius String Quartet

Thanks to Petras Anusas at the Lithuanian Consulate, your editors enjoyed an afternoon of beautiful music presented by the Vilnius String Quartet on Saturday, Jan. 20. The group made its New York City stop on their latest American tour.

The program included a string quartet in C minor by the famed Lithuanian artist and composer, M.K. Čiurlionis and other works by Shostakovich and Schumann. Following intermission, the group was joined by gifted pianist Golda Vainbergaitė-Tatz, who had arranged the New York visit.

The Vilnius String Quartet debuted in 1965 and in 1972 it was awarded the highest prize in the international string quartet competition in Liege, Belgium. The beauty of their combined sound was truly awesome, yet, words are really inadequate. They're a must for any serious music lover, Lithuanian or not. Try to see them.



Pictured above: Audronė Vainiūnaitė, leader and first violinist; Petras Kunca, second violinist; Audronė Pšbilskienė, violinist and Augustinas Vasiliauskas, violoncellist.

We Remember Former VYTIS Editor

Anthony L. Lapinskas
(1908-1995)

On December 27, 1995, Attorney Anthony L. Lapinskas died at the age of 87. He was an active Knights of Lithuania national vice-president (1930-31) and national president of the Knights of Lithuania (1931 through 1934). He also was the editor of 'Vytis' (1930-33, and 1936-37) and president of C-112 (1932). His terms as national K of L president and editor were served during the height of the American depression.

Anthony L. Lapinskas was born on November 19, 1908, in the West side of Chicago - Our Lady of Vilna parish. He attended elementary schools at Our Lady of Vilna parish, St. George's Parish and St. Michael's parish in Chicago. He was an altar boy at St. George's and at St. Michael's (was an altar boy together with Connie Savickas) At about the age of 11 his parents moved to Šiauliai, Lithuania, where he completed his high school education. He was a member of the Lithuanian scouts, and, in 1924, along with other Lithuanian scouts, participated in a world scout jamboree in Denmark. He returned to Chicago about 1926 and worked at the Marquette National Bank. He also lived on Sacramento Ave. near 67th Street with his uncle, Louis Lapinskas, and, studied at De Paul University where he obtained his law degree.

He met Josephine Lukogaitis when she was still a student at St. Casimir Academy. They were married on September 1, 1935. Mrs. Lapinskas recalls that they attended many Knights of Lithuania meetings and dances before and after



they were married. When they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 1995 among the many guests at the celebration was the niece of Attorney Lapinskas, Dr. Vilia Kiuberlienė, a physician who resides Lithuania.

During World War II, he was drafted into military service as a private and 2 1/2 years later was discharged as a 1st Lt. He was a military intelligence officer, in the European theatre of war, under General Eisenhower.

For many years Anthony L. Lapinskas was a director and attorney for Mutual Federal Savings and Loan, a member of Darius-Girėnas Post #271, and, a member of Cardinal Mundelein Council

Knights of Columbus. He was active as president of the Chicago Lithuanian Republican organization. In 1952, he was recommended and nominated to be a candidate for a judgeship in the Municipal Court by the Chicago Bar Association. However, he was not elected. Attorney Anthony Lapinskas was a partner in the Olis/Vasalle-Vasiliauskas /Lapinskas law firm.

Between the years of 1953 and 1958, he was on the executive board of the American Lithuanian Council and was one of its vice-presidents during that time period. He had a 30 year association with Anthony Vanagaitis and the "Margutis" radio program where he was the regular announcer. On March 11, 1990, Anthony Lapinskas was the featured speaker during the 100th birthday anniversary/commeration/banquet honoring the memory of Mr. Anthony Vanagaitis at the Chicago Lithuanian Jesuit Youth Center. He spoke in Lithuanian, without any notes, and mesmerized the audience with his articulate use of the Lithuanian

language, the information that he revealed about Vanagaitis, and, the 'Margutis' radio program. During the banquet festivities on March 11th, news was received that Lithuania had declared its freedom. It was an emotional evening for everyone - Mr. Lapinskas provided an emotional and informative talk receiving a standing ovation. The news of Lithuanian freedom brought tears to our eyes as we sang the Lithuanian anthem. It was an historic, emotional, and, memorable evening.

His funeral took place on December 30, 1995, with the mass at St. Barnabas Church with interment at St. Casimir Cemetery. Anthony Lapinskas left his wife, Josephine Lukogaitis, three sisters: Jennie (Peter) Linkus, Frances (Anthony) Sose, Paulina Markauskas in Lithuania, and the late Veronica (Vincent) Narkis; he was the uncle of many nieces and nephews; brother-in-law of

Antoinette (the late Vincent) Civins, Anthony (Eleanor) Lukogaitis and Edward (Joan) Lucas.

Attorney Anthony L. Lapinskas was at the helm of the K of L organization during a time of great change in its membership, disharmony among the central officers, and, during the height of the depression. According to the August 15, 1932 issue of "Vytis" (p. 181 and p. 202) Anthony L. Lapinskas was always pleasant, full of life, an eloquent speaker who could honestly expect support from all quarters- the clergy, the older and younger Lithuanians and from both the professional and the non-professional members of the organization. He was a patriotic Lithuanian and during the 1930's, a staunch Knights of Lithuania activist!

Submitted by Dr. Leonard J. Šimutis
✠✠✠

In Memoriam

Anna Greaney

C-152, Eastern, LI, NY
Jan. 1996

Col. Robert Barziloski

C-74, Scranton, PA
Jan. 1996

Edward Romanuskas

C-74, Scranton, PA
Jan. 21, 1996

Sr. M. Theiphila, SSC

C-36, Chicago, IL
Jan. 10, 1996

Msgr. Joseph A. Neverauskas

C-144, Anthracite, PA
Jan. 13, 1996

Stanley A. Twerian

C-135, Ansonia, CT
Dec. 15, 1995

Victor Vaitkus

C-7, Waterbury, CT
Nov. 27, 1995

Walter Maknis

C-7, Waterbury, CT
June 30, 1995

Frances Balciunas

C-7, Waterbury, CT
Oct. 2, 1994

Margaret Senk

C-10, Athol, MA
Dec. 15, 1995

Diane Kralik

C-29, Newark, NJ
Dec. 10, 1995

William Hakkienen

C-10, Athol, MA
Jan. 8, 1996

Eva K. Ball

C-17, S. Boston, MA
Jan. 14, 1996

Margaret Rusavage

C-86, Dubois, PA
1995

Julius Rastikies

C-96, Dayton, OH
Dec. 30, 1995

Vitie Joudsevich

C-110, Maspeth, NY
Dec. 10, 1995

William Remas

C-144, Anthracite, PA
Dec. 1995

Ella Ellis

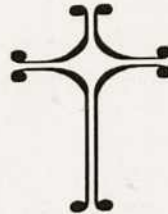
C-135, Ansonia, CT
Oct. 5, 1995

Antoinette Bruzas Bortweck

Dec. 30, 1995

(was age 100 and resided in
W. Palm Beach, FL)

Amžina atļsēj duok
mirusiems Viešpatie ir
amžinoji šviesa tegul
jiemš šviečia, Amen.



Do you believe in **MIRACLES?**

*By Robert S. Boris
Chairman, Aid to Lithuania, Inc.*

Do you believe in miracles?

I suspect we have all experienced "the impossible dream" in one form or another. But, during the last five years, we have been witnessing what can be truly described as a miracle, happening before our very eyes.

Those who attended the K of L National Convention in Pittsburgh (1990) saw a "miracle" happen when a resolution was adopted to sponsor one forty-foot container of medicine and medical supplies for our sisters and brothers in Lithuania. We had hoped to raise \$10,000.00, but expectations were surpassed, when over \$13,000.00 had been collected. Do you believe in miracles? Was this one?

We could have been justifiably proud to simply send one container of supplies. However the words of Helen Shields "perhaps we should consider trying for two containers" remain etched in my memory. Do you believe in miracles? Helen Shields did.

In the beginning we were aware of only one source of medical supplies - World Medical Relief Inc. in Detroit. This operation began some thirty years ago by Irene Auberlin who responded to Filipino nuns, requesting medical supplies for their

orphanage. Irene began collecting sample medicine which was sorted, packed and shipped out of her basement. Her operation developed into a seven-story warehouse supplying missions and needy people around the world. Do you believe in miracles? Irene Auberlin made one happen.

George Perles, former Head Football Coach of Michigan State University visited Lithuania, his ancestral home in 1992, where he was appalled by the conditions he saw. Upon returning to the USA, he volunteered to serve on our Advisory Board. In 1993, George offered to host a Golf Invitational to benefit Aid to Lithuania, Inc. He suggested that a major sponsor be secured to "underwrite" the event, and assure financial success. This appeared to be an impossible task. A few days later, out of the clear blue sky, Robert Kratage, whose mother and father were very active in Detroit Lithuanian Catholic charitable circles, called and offered to sponsor the event in memory of his Mom and Dad with a \$10,000.00 check. Was this a miracle? The George Perles Golf Invitational in 1994 and 1995 realized profits of over \$32,000.00. If you do not believe in miracles, what else would you call this? George Perles and Bob Kratage made one happen.

In addition to supplies, his own company could donate, Steve Livanavage, the owner of

On 10/28/95 - Volunteers helped load Container number 29 in Detroit with food, clothing and Christmas gifts for the children of needy families and elderly pensioners to be distributed by Caritas under the supervision of Archbishop Backis in Vilnius and the Sisters of St. Francis (Michele, Dolorita and Maryanne) in Utena.



Dialysist Inc. Hackettstown, NJ realized that several associates would also be able to provide additional needed dialysis equipment. Working with Dr. Michael Yudd and Aid to Lithuania, Steve has collected and sent four container loads of supplies which has enabled Dr. Dainys to set up a complete modern "dialysis unit" at the University of Vilnius Hospital. During subsequent visits to Lithuania, Steve met scores of people who are alive today because of his efforts. Do you believe in miracles? Steve Livanavage does, in fact, he made one happen.

In 1994, Catholic Medical Mission Board, New York donated 15,000 vials of desperately needed antibiotics which were hand carried to Lithuania during the K of L Papal Tour. Subsequently, six containers of medicine have been provided by Catholic Medical Mission Board. Their total value is over eleven million dollars. A miracle? You had better believe it!

Our Past National President Frank Petrauskas, inspired by the efforts of Irene Auberlin, discovered that he was able to secure medicine samples from doctors and hospitals in the Syracuse area. Over the last several years Frank has provided Aid to Lithuania with over 100 cartons of

medicine valued at over \$ 200,000.00 Do you believe in miracles? Frank Petrauskas does, he also made one happen.

Last summer, Paulette Montoya, the mother of eight children and a dedicated pro-life advocate in Santa Paula, California, offered to collect medical supplies if Aid To Lithuania would cover the transportation charges. Within several months Paulette called for volunteers to help fill a forty-foot container with the supplies she had secured by writing letters and making phone calls. Do you believe in miracles? Paulette Montoya does. She made one happen.

For the last two years, Tony Balsis has been our representative in Lithuania where he had been working with substance abusers. He was able to oversee the unloading and distribution of all our containers. Since Tony planned to return to the USA after two years in Lithuania, we were concerned about finding a replacement for him. Dr. Paul Bindokas, a native of Chicago who is working to set up American-type Emergency Medical Service in Lithuania, appeared and offered his services. He brings his knowledge of medicine and fluency in the Lithuanian language to continue the excellent job performed by Tony. Do

Photos (Right) On 6/14/95 Container number 22 from Catholic Medical Mission Board was unloaded at Caritas, Marijampole under the supervision of Dr. Emilija Montviliene. Unloading and sorting is being done by the "Geleziniai Vilkliai" - the Iron Wolf Brigade of the Lithuanian Army. (Bottom) Furnishings Altars, Organ, pews etc., of St. Peter's Lithuanian Church Detroit are loaded into Container number 24 by volunteer Detroiters.



K of L Donations to Aid to Lithuania 1995

Supreme Council	\$ 4,113.76
Council 102 - Detroit, MI	1,432.99
Council 110 - Maspeth, NY	1,204.00
Council 118 - Hazleton, PA	600.00
Council 63 - Lehigh Valley, PA	500.00
Amber District	350.00
Council 3 - Philadelphia, PA	350.00
Mid America District	260.00
Council 143 - Pittston, PA	179.50
Mid Central District	172.00
Council 19 - Pittsburgh, PA	169.65
Council 112 - Marquette Park, IL	155.00
Mid Atlantic District	100.00
New England District	100.00
Council 90 - Kearny, NJ	100.00
Council 153 - Treasure Coast, FL	100.00
Council 96 - Dayton, OH	54.00
Council 25 - Cleveland, OH	50.00
Council 16 - Chicago, IL	50.00
Council 152 - East Long Island, NY	50.00
Council 79 - Southfield, MI	50.00
Council 144 - Anthracite, PA	15.00
Council 103 - Providence, RI	11.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 10,166.90

you believe in miracles? Both Paul and Tony are making them happen.

The lists goes on... Mercy International Health Services, Farmington Hills, NH; MAP in Brunswick, Georgia; Providence Hospital in Southfield, NH; Len Kapochus, Milmay, NJ; Elinor Sluzas in Dayton, Ohio; Anna Helen McDonald in Kaska, PA; Detroiters, Fr. Stanievich, Regina Juska, Irene Vizgirda, Al Cerekas, Donna and Frank Bunikis, etc. They've all made dozens of miracles happen!

During the first four years of our existence, Aid to Lithuania, Inc. shipped sixteen containers - an average of four containers per year. In 1995, another major miracle occurred when, during the period of twelve months, fifteen containers were loaded and shipped. Do you believe in miracles, now?

Perhaps the greatest miracle is that the donations of over **3,500** people have made possible

a grand total of 31 containers valued at over \$24 million dollars, plus additional assistance to soup kitchens and other humanitarian needs. Because of these miracles, people are alive today. Many have been cured of sickness and disease, for others pain and suffering have been relieved. Hospital personnel have told us that they could not continue their mission of mercy, if it were not for the help they receive from groups such as Aid to Lithuania. For every dollar spent in shipping a container, Aid to Lithuania is able to provide \$125.74 worth of medicine and medical supplies. Your donation of \$ 100.00 means medicine and medical supplies worth \$12,574.00 are sent to your sisters and brothers, who are otherwise unable to help themselves.

The above illustrations indicate that MIRACLES do happen! However, in most instances, miracles are performed by God through His people. Will these miracles continue? Ultimately, it is up to you and your willingness to cooperate with Him, to be His hands and feet.

The need continues to exist. Everything is in place.... there are plenty of suppliers, a distribution plan is in place to assure that supplies are properly distributed and used in Lithuania. The only uncertain part of this equation is you and your willingness to continue to support this project with your financial contributions. Whether the miracles of the last five years continue during 1996 and beyond, depends on your prayers for the success of this project and your continued financial generosity.



Smiles

A TV truck roared up to people standing on the street and the reporter asked: "Excuse me, what do you think of the current meat shortage in New York?" An Arab asked: "What is a *shortage*"?

A Russian asked: "What is *meat*"?

A North Korean inquired: "What is *opinion*"?

A New Yorker asked: "What is *excuse me*"?



Don't lose your head to gain a minute

You need your head, your brains are in it!



INTERNATIONAL

9525 SO. 79TH AVENUE, HICKORY HILLS, IL 60457-2259 U.S.A.

(708) 430-7272

TELEX: 270367 CGO

FAX: (708) 430-5783

In cooperation with:

AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.

Cordially invite you to visit:

LITHUANIA - LATVIA - ESTONIA

June 21 to July 5, 1996

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BALTICS TOUR

\$ 2,498.00 *

Arrive 6/22 in ESTONIA, the smallest yet most Westernized of the three Baltic countries. Tallinn, a medieval enclave set on a hillock above its port, is reputedly the most picturesque city in the Baltics. You will breathe salt air on your cruise to Saaremaa Island, the largest of 1,500 islands, where the oldest churches in the Baltics are located.

Arrive 6/25 in LATVIA. The capital Riga is said to be the most exciting city of the three Baltic States. Riga is rich in architecture of the Hansa merchants, which date back to 15th century. You will tour Rastrelli's famous palace in Bauska, stroll the streets of beautiful Riga and enjoy victorian Jurmala.

Arrive 6/28 in LITHUANIA. Here history unfolds before your eyes, as you visit magnificent churches, historical landmarks and monuments, and savor the warmth and beauty of our ancient homeland. Your trip can be personalized to include as much "free time" as you wish, to visit relatives or relax on the unblemished sandy beaches of the Baltic Sea. Additional time in Lithuania can be arranged, if GT is notified prior to ticketing. For those who are interested, several visits will be made to hospitals or institutions that have received assistance from AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.

Depart 7/4 from Lithuania with an overnight in Copenhagen and then back to the USA on July 5th.

You can expect the same efficiency rendered during the 1993 and 1994 K of L excursions which include the best in meals, accommodations and travel. Modern, air conditioned buses and a staff of guides and baggage handlers will eliminate all your travel concerns and worries. Enjoy Lithuania, in the company of your sister and brother Knights of Lithuania. (K of L members will be given priority, however the tour will be open to non-members.) This will be your final opportunity to visit the Baltic States at the low all inclusive rate quoted. Prices are sky-rocketing and will soon be at or above the level of other European capitals. * *Our tour price is guaranteed unless drastic economic increases occur prior to departure.*

For additional information please contact:

Ruta Pauperas, GT INTERNATIONAL • Tel: (708) 430 7272 Fax: (708) 430-5783

Robert S. Boris, AID TO LITHUANIA Tour Rep. • Tel: (810) 682-0098 Fax: (810) 682-5201

Ethics in the New Lithuania

Part II

In a round table discussion, held in late December at St. John's University in Jamaica, NY, your VYTIS editor discovered this group of non-Lithuanian professors taking on a most difficult task of reeducating students at Vilnius University to become business people understanding Western ideology and honorable business practices. This month's installment tells how St. John's became involved.

A group of professors from New York's largest Catholic university, St. John's, have been working on an exchange program with Vilnius University in Lithuania, teaching American business courses. The professors included: John Dobbins, Associate Dean College of Business Administration; and Associate Professors Dick Williams, Charles Wankel; Jay Nathan, and John Manna. Our recent roundtable discussion held at St. John's began with a focus on how the project started and comments by St. John's Associate Dean, Professor John Dobbins.

"At the end of 1991, St. John's University was approached through the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace to see if St. John's could be of any assistance in helping Lithuania in their transition from a totalitarian and centrally planned economy to free market system. One of the ways it became apparent to all of us is, that we (at St. John's) have an outstanding college of business administration, and one of the things desperately needed (in Lithuania) was business education. We made contacts with people in the economics faculty at Vilnius University. There was one professor who had a small international business school curriculum and he was trying to import foreign faculty to support his program. He was training Lithuanian

students as managers. Those who had completed their bachelor's degrees and beyond enrolled. Many of them were medical doctors to engineers and physicists, who were all interested in entering the business area. We saw an opportunity to provide some support through the College of Business Administration by sending over faculty and helping them administratively secure funding for the school. We also assisted the Lithuanians with curriculum and training of their faculty so that someday they would have a knowledge of how the free market system works.

Making over a dozen trips to Lithuania since January 1992, I was the first one over there and spent three months in 1992 teaching at Vilnius University's International Business School, and worked to secure funding at the same time. One of the ways we were able to get funding was through the United Nations Development Program, UNDP. The UNDP had looked at the school and was suspicious about it since Vilnius University, which was the third most prestigious university in the former Soviet Union educational system, had basically been run by hard core communists.

At a meeting, when I had informed the UNDP I was with St. John's University and the SJU board of trustees had committed a five year plan to help Lithuania on behalf of the Vatican, the UNDP was then willing to support the St. John's program because of the University's credibility, sustainability and confidence level. From that point (1992), St. John's began bringing two faculty members each semester to Vilnius University and supplying training courses in marketing, management, finance, economics, law and most importantly - ethics. Throughout our curriculum, we had been stressing the ethical context on which business should operate and

trying to show that it works and *is* profitable for the Lithuanians to be ethical in the long run.

With some very imaginative programs we thought we should see results on how ethics and social responsibility tie in.

In a business management class, we got involved in a local food kitchen and homeless shelter the Catholic Church had started. The problems were very simple, how do you feed all these people, how do you secure the food, how do you make sure the food doesn't "walk out the back door", how do you staff this place, how will it be organized? What are your objectives going to be - are you going to feed everybody? the most dire? What kind of control are you going to have? It held a major realistic problem - of planning, organizing, directing and controlling.

To my amazement when we took students to (the soup kitchen), I noticed my students (professional people ranging in age from late 20's through 50's) started reaching into their wallets and putting money into the poor box situated at the soup kitchen. "These people need help", was what one of them told me.

This told me there was hope. (Lithuania) was not a country where its' people were corrupt, or had no sense of responsibility or morals, even though these were people who grew up with no religion, and were products of the fifty years of communist domination.

Many of my students volunteered to work in that soup kitchen, they created a business plan for it, and all were very helpful to Archbishop Bačkis of Vilnius.

All of the St. John's professors at this discussion have taught at Vilnius University at least 20 hours a week classroom teaching time, and also organized a number of professional seminars which were supported partly by the Soros Foundation.

What St. John's has done is given out a certificate of achievement to the students who have completed this 10 month program.

Students also participate in intensive language study conducted in either English, German or French - most of these are in the English program, attending classes every day. Many of these students are on leave from their jobs, or release time from their companies and in the 10 months there is an internship involved, usually in Germany or Denmark at their completion of the program. The students who have graduated from the program are now in prominent leadership positions with the government. It is our hope that some of the things we have done have rubbed off.

But, we are realistic in knowing that simply taking a course in ethics is not going to solve the problem, not when they (the Lithuanian people) have the mentality that if you're not stealing from your company, you're stealing from your family. That's a tough mentality to change.

But I think by showing examples, we tried to prove that being ethical does work and in a free market system being ethical is the only way it will work. One may be able to steal once or twice and take the money and run. But in the long term, we tried to convince them it's never going to work.

The moral here is the communist system in which they grew up did not care at all for the human person. As a result everybody was looking out for themselves. So the idea of stealing, they did not perceive as stealing. They saw it as protecting themselves and protecting their families. And so the difficulty lies in going from a system where one does not trust fellow workers, fellow coworkers or management because it is felt they are stealing. There is no incentive involved presently encouraging them to perform in a free market system and see the merits of conducting business in an ethical, honorable manner. It is a very difficult transition."

Next month: additional viewpoints from St. John's professors.

AT THE SPRING

English version by

H. B.

Folk Song

Arranged by
M. Petrauskas

Andante

Where now the clear wa - ter That gush'd from the moun-tain?

Where the gen-tle youth, my lov-er? Gone, gone like the foun - tain.

Where the gen-tle youth, my - lov - er? Gone, gone like the foun -

tain.

Kur tas šaltinėlis?

*Kur tas šaltinėlis,
Kur aš jauna-gėriau,
Kur tas mano bernužėlis
Katrą aš mylėjau.*

*Katrą aš mylėjau,
Širdelėj turėjau,
Kas naktelę per sapnelį
Žodelį kalbėjau*

*Jau tas šaltinėlis
Žolele apaugo,
Jau tas mano bernužėlis
Į karę išėjo.*

*Darysiu lyseles,
Pasėsiu gėleles,
Apsikaitšius žalia ruta
Bernelio gedėsiu.*

At the Spring

Where now the clear water
That gushed from the mountain?
Where the gentle youth, my lover?
Gone, gone like the fountain.

Him the war has taken,
My faithful, fond lover.
Seek not the spring in the meadow,
Grass covers it over.

In my heart I hid him;
When in dreams he sought me
And we spoke together softly,
What joy dreams brought me.

Bring rue from my garden,
My dark hair adorning.
I'll be constant to my lover
Through long years of mourning.

English version by
H. B.

Lithuanian Poets Corner

SONG OF THE SIMPLE MAN'S INABILITY TO WRITE

*Translated from Lithuanian by
Antonia M. Wackell*

Nothing on earth do I envy
Neither great wealth nor great fame,
And yet, that which is so dear to man,
Is like faded autumn leaves to me.
I am sad for one thing only:
My inability to write!
Dear God of mine, if only I could
Guide my pen to some degree -
What lovely songs I would compose,
What power I would have to understand ...
All that disturbs the peaceful heart,
And the breast that is pressed by sorrows,
Or whatever kindness the eye may see
Quickly, on white paper, I would put it down
So that every thought that grows in my heart
Would be easier to retain -- for me.

But now my thoughts rise only to perish,
Because I don't know- how to write.

II

The greatness of God, I would write about,
Who, with one word the world created
And on it He placed living beings throughout;
And in the sky, shining stars He distributed.

I would relate what kind of a song
Will send us the breezes from out of the sky;
And I would explain, while they float along
Where the skylarks are going when they leave our
sky.

*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.*

I would sing about the summer's dawning,
About the sun as it rises in the morning;
And the shining, glistening drops of dew;
And about the forest birds when they chirp and coo.

I would tell about the beauty of the field:
And how the swinging bells pealed.
How the grain swells, and the ripened straw dries,
And in the stream, the small fish swim and rise.

Mayhap, more thoughts would again occur
And quickly, in writing, they would appear.
But Alas! I cannot write them down on paper...
And so, like the marks of shadows, they will
disappear.

III

I would write about Lithuania's charms ...
The master's manor, the neighbors' farms,
And our cottages darkened with smoke
And the churches, beautifully decorated, by folk.

And our maiden's lovely garden
With roses, rue and pansies filled; and then
The beloved flatness of our fields
And the green coolness that our forest yields...

If only my pen and I would behave and give;
Only for our country would I write and live.

But now, the world will never hear
Of me - the simple man - nor my music,
Nor my thoughts, nor a heart flowing over with
blood -

All will be lost without writing,
All will be in vain.

- Jakštas

THE FOUR WIVES OF JOGAILA

KING OF POLAND, 1386-1434

by Edward Baranaukas

Part III

A year after he mourned the passing of his second wife, Anna, Jogaila began to make plans for marrying again. He sent a messenger to a relative of Emperor Sigismund of Luxembourg about the possibility of marriage, but she was already committed to someone else. He then contacted Prince Vasili Dimitrii of Moscow about his daughter, but nothing came of it.

He found the woman who was to become his third wife where he never thought he would. After a hunting trip to Lithuania in 1417, he went to visit his favorite sister, Aleksandra Algirdaite, who lived on an estate with her husband, the Duke of Mazovia. It was there that he met her good friend, the widow Elizabeth Granovski. She was a beautiful woman, and she impressed Jogaila very much. It was then that he decided to marry her. The first discussions began here, with his sister as intermediary, and marriage plans were agreed upon despite the objections of the Polish nobility. His cousin, Vytautas, did not participate in the discussions, but was not against the marriage.

The boyars were invited to meet with Jogaila, and they tried to talk him out of the marriage because they felt she was not his equal. Some of them, however, did not object.

There was but one obstacle to the marriage, it seemed, for Elizabeth was the daughter of Jogaila's godmother.



Rome was contacted, and dispensation was given.

Because of the opposition, the wedding did not take place in Cracow, but in the part of Poland known as Red Ruthenia, on May 2, 1417. He returned with his bride after traveling around the Eastern lands, and the people of Cracow greeted them with honors.

The nobility and boyars refused to have her crowned as queen. They reminded Jogaila that there could not be two queens since they had given his daughter Jadvyga, by his second wife, an oath in 1413 that she was the heiress to the throne. Jogaila declared that whether they liked it or not, he would still have his wife crowned. He was told that nobody would recognize her as queen if he did that. Seeing how he was unable to make any agreement in a nice way, Jogaila threatened to return to Lithuania. The opposition feared if he did, it would be the end of the Polish-Lithuanian union and would result in political turmoil in both countries. The nobility softened their hard-line position, and Jogaila won. Elizabeth was crowned Queen of Poland at the Wawen Cathedral.

Elizabeth was born about 1380 to parents who were wealthy boyars. She was the only child, and became one of the richest women in Poland after they passed away. Some historians do not agree on how many times she was married. The chronicler Dlugosz does not write well of her, and some of his fellow historians claimed he lowered those people who did not please him, or his friends. He may have done this to Elizabeth in order to portray her as an unsatisfactory wife and Queen of Poland, and to embarrass Jogaila.

Dlugosz wrote that she was married and widowed three times. Her first husband kidnapped her from her parents' castle, the second took

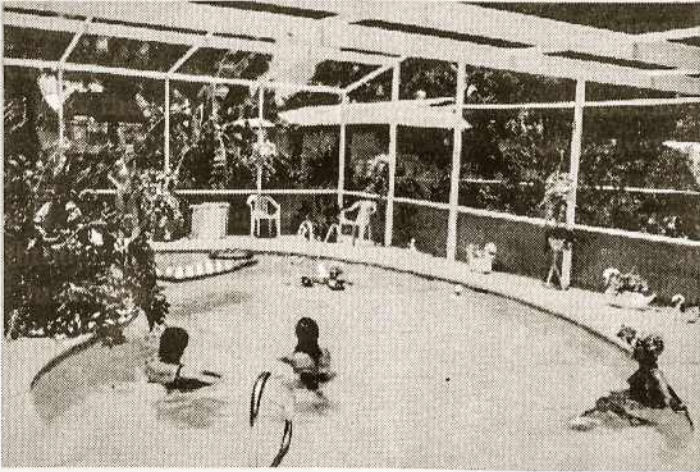
her away and later killed the first. The third was a quiet man, Vincent Granovski who died about 1410. He married Elizabeth about 1400, and they had one son and two daughters. Kantecki, another historian, claims that the story of her having three husbands is only a legend, and proved that she only had one husband, Granovski. So, who is correct? Even if she did have three husbands, does that make her a bad woman?

One of the reasons why she didn't endear herself to many was because she wanted to make peace with the Teutonic Order, Poland's mortal enemy. She was in a position to influence her husband's policies, and encouraged him not to let the nobility gain the upper hand over him. Elizabeth was an educated woman, and could make sure the royal secretary was writing what Jogaila wanted, and not what he wanted. This was another reason why she was not so well liked.

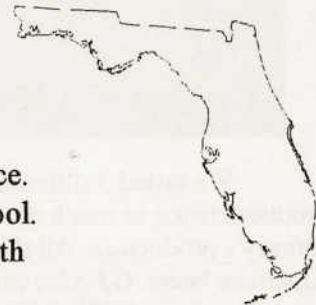
It was believed that Jogaila married Elizabeth because of her beauty. At the time, he was 67 years old, and she was about 37, or possibly a little older. They were married only two years, and had no children. She died on May 12, 1419 and was buried in Cracow's church.

What was the reaction to her unexpected passing? The book, Jagiellonian Poland, writes: When Elizabeth died, all those present, both clergy and laymen, displayed unusual joy; everyone, dressed in festive attire, laughed and frolicked at the funeral." After her death, a royal secretary composed an insolent, even vulgar satire on the deceased. He was removed from the court, but was returned later and eventually made the Bishop of Poznan.

Jogaila never gave up hope of marrying again and having a son. His dreams came true after he married a very young Lithuanian princess. *(Continued next month.)* ❖❖❖



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Alus - Lithuanian Beer

A few of your VYTIS editors were treated to Lithuanian beers upon the return of C-100 members, Ed Bablin and Stanley Stankes from a trip to Lithuania last Fall. The editors had a mini taste test (See below).

Coincidentally, we had the honor of meeting with Saulė Vidžienė, the wife of the vice president of the Lithuanian Breweries Association in Vilnius, Audrius Vidžys.

According to Mr. Vidžys, in Lithuania there are 10 large and 5 micro breweries operating at this time (Fall '95) in Lithuania. The biggest brewery - "UTENOS GERIMAI" produces only 500,000 Hectoliters of beer per year and all others are much smaller. (A Hectoliter equals 1,000 liters; a liter is more than a quart.) These amounts are very small compared to breweries and micros in the US.

In 1994 in Lithuania 1,450,000 Hectoliters of beer were produced. With 3.7 million people, the per capita consumption of beer in Lithuania is about 39 litres, compared to 60 in Sweden and 80 in Finland.

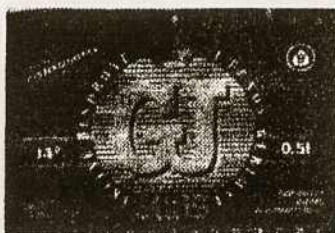
The large breweries were build in Soviet times with Russian made equipment that does not meet today's requirements. The beer is bottled only in 0,5 and 0,33 ltr. glass bottles and its stability is up

to 3 months. Inadequate equipment is not capable of producing the same quality as imported beer.

Lithuania's best breweries are making strides towards this. Two years ago, Lithuania had no "micro" breweries at all, now there four, with two more coming soon. Mr. Vidžys feels that with good management, marketing and production experience and an influx of capital for modern equipment, Lithuania's beers can one day become world class.



(L to R) Irene Tice, Stanley Stankes and Ed Bablin, of C-100 enjoy a bottle of Lithuanian beer.



We tasted 3 different beers from Lithuania's largest brewer, **Utenos Gėrimai**. This brewery, produces twice as much more beer than any other in Lithuania and almost one third of the total country's production. All three beers we tasted had a much greater percentage of alcohol content than American beers. *GJ Alus* (top left) had a golden color and light ale taste and compared to Fosters, the Australian import. *Žaldoko* (center) was a golden colored light beer and compared to Radegast, an imported Czech beer. *Utenos Porteris* (right) had a Bass Ale taste but was not as sweet as the popular dark beer.

Having completed our experiment, we knew why Saulė thought American beer tasted watery. The Lithuanian beers tasted had 11-20% alcohol content, compared to 3-5% here in America!

LITHUANIA

1996

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K of L C-41



BOOK REVIEW

The Story of Dr. James Will by James Yanick, M.D. (with Marilyn Yanick Gaetani); July 1995; Litografia Nicola Libero, Naples, Italy; 229 pages.

This is a work that may be unique within the genre of American-Lithuanian literature. It is a multi-generational, mostly biographical story told by a second generation American concerning his roots in Lithuania. Actually, we learn the least about James (Jimmie in the story) the American-born son and grandson of Lithuanian immigrants to New Jersey. His own story is but one brief anecdote that was left unfinished by the author's untimely death. His manuscript, partially hand written, partially typed, was prepared by his daughter for publication.

The story begins with the narrative of *Jonas*, father of James, as he passed from adolescence to young manhood in southwestern Lithuania at about the turn of the nineteenth century. At that time, Lithuania had been occupied by the Russians for over a hundred years and existed politically only as a western backwater province of the Tsarist Empire where law and order were being enforced by brutish Cossacks.

"There is no silence like that of a dense forest in early afternoon. The birds have eaten and are still. The animals are in hiding, waiting for the dark. Even the monotonous drone of the insects seems to accentuate the silence. The old oaks reach majestically above the tangled underbrush, creating a twilight shade. The soft black soil glistens here and there with pools thrown out by the sodden swamp.

In this forest, a shadow moved swiftly from under one bush to another. Then another and another, appearing, only to vanish quickly. They were young men, boys really; the heavy packs over their shoulders made them look like hump-backed goblins.

Suddenly the crack of a rifle broke the silence. The face of one of the flitting shadows was reflected in the rippling water of a shallow pool. His pack slowly weighed his head down deeper, while red blood spread, stilling the ripples..."

Thus, opens the story of *Jonas* with vivid imagery and stark drama. He is a "book-carrier" smuggling Lithuanian prayer books into Lithuania from East Prussia. This first section, which takes up about two thirds of the book, recounts his life in a small unnamed village near the border of Lithuania. Jonas' father, *Antanas*, also figures prominently in this section. Antanas is considered to be the "*starshin*" or elder of the village and is held responsible by the Cossacks for everything that might occur in the area. The villagers are Lithuanian to the core; it is their identity and their creed. Because of their proximity to the border, their open daily lives as farmers, herdsmen, cobblers or smithies overlay a deeper commitment to resistance against the occupying forces. Surreptitiously, they escort refugees from Lithuania, the Ukraine, the other Baltic provinces west into Prussia and smuggle in Lithuanian printed matter.

Their lives are a measured sequence of tragedies and minor triumphs. Tragedy when killed by pursuing Cossacks or apprehended and exiled to Siberia. Triumph when they succeed in one of their secret excursions or otherwise outwit and embarrass the hated Russians.

It is during one of these forays into Prussia, that Antanas' absence is noted and he is convinced to emigrate to America rather than return to Lithuania and face exile. Having settled in New Jersey, he manages to bring Jonas to America so that together they might earn enough money to quickly unite the family. The story, then continues as an exposition of the Lithuanian immigrant experience in America. Far more valid a depiction and with less polemic than Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle," the story recounts Jonas' attempts to assimilate into American life. In this he becomes a Lithuanian "everyman." He progresses from backbreaking factory work in New Jersey, through the debilitating and dangerous labor in a Pennsylvania coal mine, to a near fatal exposure to steel making in Pittsburgh. He returns to New Jersey, meets and marries Elsbeta and together they continue the search for the "good life" in America.

With Elsbeta, we are introduced to another facet of life in turn-of-the-century Lithuania and meet what might be considered a Lithuanian "everywoman." She is the youngest of several daughters of a prosperous farmer in central Lithuania. She develops a romantic notion of escaping to America in pursuit of a life of independence and ease rather than suffering through an inevitable marriage to a neighboring farmer, who would probably drink too much, and raising a brood of kids as the women in her family had done for generations. She makes good her escape, arrives in Newark and meets Jonas. When we leave the story, Jimmie, the son of Jonas and Elsbeta, is in college and destined for medical school.

The family name, Will, of course, is an Americanization of the Lithuanian name, *Vilkas*. Their search for the "good life" was, as it was for many of the Lithuanian emigrants of this period, hard but successful. From former serf in Lithuania and manual laborer in America to college graduate/medical doctor in the next generation is common experience of so many. It is an engrossing story, well told. There were so many points of resonance with my own experience and tales of my grandparents, that I felt it could almost be my own story. Would that I could tell it so well.

Review by Vincent B. Boris

(Unfortunately the book is not commercially available; but the author has many copies available. There is a possibility that we might serialize the book in future issues of VYTIS. If you wish to obtain your own copy, please contact the Reviewer.)



LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS



Preparing for intermission refreshments at the Mid Central "Angels" concert are (l. to r.) Elena Nainys, Richard Marks, Bill Bohem (Director of the Singing Angels), Fr. Kijauskas, Ursula Kunsitis, Isabell Reedick.

A Concert of Angels

by Richard Marks, C-25

On December 17, 1995, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Cleveland, Ohio, sponsored a Christmas Concert performed by The Singing Angels in the parish auditorium. Fr. Kijauskas, Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and spiritual advisor for the Mid-Central District and Council 25, announced several weeks before the concert that proceeds from this event would support and restore the Jesuit secondary school in Vilnius, Lithuania. The school was built in 1751.

This young group of singers, 100 strong, ages 8 - 18 years old, have performed throughout the United States and Europe, along with a special private performance for the Pope.

At our event, they entertained almost 500 people with songs, dances and had the audience participate in Christmas sing-alongs.

At intermission, Fr. Kijauskas read a letter addressed to the Singing Angels from Rev. Antanas Grazulis, S. J., president of the Jesuit secondary school. Fr. Grazulis expressed gratitude to the "angels" in helping restore the school building. He

also wrote that the audience will include not only the guests in the auditorium, but also the "angels in Heaven, who will be listening to your music enchanted by the goodness and nobility of your young hearts."

Fr. Kijauskas concluded by inviting the entire audience to the beautifully Christmas decorated cafeteria to enjoy the delicious holiday fixings donated by Parishioners and members of Council 25.

The concert's profit for the Jesuit school was \$2,074.00.

Rising Basketball Star

College Sophomore, Sarunas Jasikevicius of University of Maryland celebrated his first all around game 3-pointer foiling N.C. State in an exciting basketball game on January 20 at UM in College Park, MD.

He hit three of four point shots, and then some. He scored a team high 15 points against a gritty North Carolina team., including five in overtime. He collected four rebounds, played solid defense and with his fiery demeanor gave his team a much needed emotional spark during the game, which ended a tight 77-74 in Maryland's favor.

This was a big break for the young Lithuanian who had seen more bench than game time prior to this win.

- Baltimore Sun, Jan 21, 1995

COUNCIL NEWS

C-7, Waterbury, CT

Arlene Stiklius

Thank you to all those Council 7 members that helped make our Christmas Dinner a success. Special thanks to our dedicated members that helped out: Doris Snirpunis, Ann Kundrotas, Joan and Theresa Shukaitis, Ann Roach, David and Diane Gay, and Arlene and Joe Stiklius. Thanks also to Kay Urban for driving a long distance to help out.

This month would have been Victor Vaitkus birthday, so please remember him in your prayers.

Toni and Edward White are celebrated their 55th. wedding anniversary in January; so did Arlene and Joe Stiklius.

Three of our members were recently in the hospital. They were Natlie Puodzuikaitis, Anna Rutkauskas and Joe Stiklius. We wish them a speedy recovery.

C - 10, Athol - Gardner MA

Vincukas

The Athol - Gardner K. of L. family on Dec. 18th sadly gathered to pay their last respects to our dear member, Margaret Senk.

Born Margaret Davidonis in Athol, she attended local schools and graduated from Athol High School. She belonged to the choir of St. Francis Church.



C-10's Helen Šimkunas cuts her own cake at her 80th birthday party, while Bronė Wišniauskas waits for a slice.

After her marriage to Frank Senk, Margaret settled in New Britain. There for many years she worked in a jewelry store. After the death of her husband, she returned to her beloved town and parish and became an active participant in the parish and the K. of L. activities. She joined the K. of L. in 1945 which made her a 50 year member. She was the second longest member in years. Our oldest in the local area is our Grand Lady, Tina Shatas who was a charter member for 82 years.

Margaret attended meetings and all our functions and worked on committees as much as her health allowed. She attended all the National Conventions and was a generous contributor to many various Lithuanian fund

drives, especially to her heart was Aid to Lithuania chaired by HM Bob Boris.

She was ever so proud of her Lithuanian heritage and language, most of all the beautiful Lithuanian dainas. She was a good sport and had a beautiful sense of humor and wit. On December 10th, at fellow knight, Helen Šimkunas 80 birthday she sang up a storm and was in very good spirits. Who would have thought that a week later we would be saying Su Dievu.

The K. of L. conducted their ritual wake and the funeral Mass was well attended with a large group of K. of L. members serving as honor guard. Nellie Melaika and Bill Wisniauskas placed a juosta on her coffin. Fr. Messiers eulogy was inspiring. He compared her to a jewel in the rough.

Condolences are extended to the Colo and Sinkievich families on their loss. Su Dievu Marge, miela Marge ir iki pasimatymo!

Condolences are also extended to Martha Alison on the loss of her sister Dammy Dokumo.

Our own Pat Shatas was elected president of the St. Francis Parish Women's Guild. The vice president will be Natalie Brighenti. Congratulations girls, the parish expects a lot from you this year.

Clare Zetkowsky, Howie Beaudette, Bill and Bronė Wisniauskas are members of the

C-16 pres. Kenneth Darr Rudmin welcomes new council members Ramune Rita Kelecus, assistant US attorney for the Dist. of Illinois and Linas Kelecus, asst. state's attorney for Cook County, Il. The couple has chosen public service in which to practice law.



Perpetual Adoration group in Gardner's Holy Rosary parish.

Helen Šimkunas of Gardner was guest of honor at a surprise 80th birthday party on December 10th at the spacious barn /penthouse/ of the Lucas family. It is the scene of many of our Kučios and other events.

Born Elena Kemzura in the parish of Butkiškis, she arrived in the States in 1937 and made her home in town ever since. Married to Anthony Šimkunas, she was widowed at an early age. She was left with her son, Tony. In her early widowed years, she worked as a domestic and put her son through college, later she was employed at Simplex Time until retirement.

Helen, known as Elenute, is a great cook and excellent gardner with a green thumb. She has a quiet, gentle disposition, which has endeared her to all, especially the Knights of Lithuania. She attends all K. of L. Lithuanian Club and parish functions and is a generous donor.

Her party was arranged by Bronė and Bill Wisniauskas and the Lucas family. About 40 guests gathered. The day before, a snow blizzard swept through New England and the ice forced some guests to remain at home. A great buffet dinner and an open bar was enjoyed followed by a banquet and dancing in the

upstairs hall.

Elenute, mes linkime stiprios sveikatos ir dar sulaukti daug gražių metų.

We were saddened by the deaths of members E. Ball and Bill Hakkinen of Gardner (husband to Minnie Lukasevicius and uncle to David Lucas).

Bill was a local businessman and life member of the local Lodge of Elks, scout club master and former president of the Gardner Little league. He was the recipient of many awards while serving as a U. S. Army corporal in France and the Rheinland during World War II. He was the devoted husband of Minnie, who nursed him many years and the loving and encouraging father of five sons and seven grandchildren.

C-16, Chicago, IL

Paul Robert

Council sixteen's recently elected officers are: president- Kenneth Darr Rudmin, first vice president- Mary Elizabeth Slakis, second vice president- Peter Paul Zansitis, recording secretary- Diann Ameilia Martin, financial secretary- Richard Paul Niedvares and treasurer- Richard Gerald Schultz.

Two new members -- Linas Jonas Kelecus who is assistant state's attorney for Cook county Illinois, and his wife, Ramune

Rita Kelecus who is assistant United States attorney for the northern district of Illinois, have joined our council.

Robert Anthony Martin, Jr. is chair of the Mid-America District banquet, "Memories of Lithuania." The Ateitis Federation is the honoree this year, the thirty-sixth annual district affair.

The council mourns the recent death of esteemed member, Christine Mary Beneckis Schultz who was a pillar of the re-establishment of Council sixteen.

Peter Paul Zansitis was recently elected president of the Mid-America district and Mary Elizabeth Slakis is currently serving as trustee of the Supreme Council, while Robert Anthony Martin, Jr serves as second vice president of that body.

C-25, Cleveland, OH

Dolly

Back tracking to '95, on June 4, members participated in the 100th Anniversary celebration of the "old" St. George Parish. Amazing to see how the old acquaintances have matured over the years.

On July 8th, the Lithuanian Cultural Garden Club held their annual fund-raising event at the Gwynn Estate in Bratenahl. We

had a remarkable turnout. Aug. 10-13 at our Nat'l Convention in Detroit, D & J Marks and T & D Oberaitis represented our council. On Sept. 10th, T. Oberaitis and his staunch supporters, helped sponsor the Coffee Hour after the 10 a.m. mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Labai ačiū visiems.

Sept. 29, 30 & Oct. 1 brought compliments to Du-Bois for a most successful and entertaining Pilgrimage. Not only did it restore our faith, it allowed us to atone for our sins and absolve us of our misgivings by saying 3 rosaries, (all 3 mysteries) then followed by the Stations of the Cross. The most devout one of us all, was "Kelly" who made a good role model to follow--and we did.

Dec. 10- The annual Christmas Party was held at the Lithuanian Club followed by a short meeting was held. We're proud to announce the re-election of Dick Marks as president; Jean Marks, secretary; Joe Ivoska, 1st vice pres., and Jim Thompson, treasurer. A delicious dinner was served, enticing music brought out dancers and gifts were exchanged. A wonderful way to socialize and celebrate the birth of Christ. Msgr. A. Goldikovskis and our "lucky" spiritual advisor, Fr. G. Kijauskas attended.

Dec. 17- On the request of Fr. Kijauskas, our members cooperated by bringing baked goods for the reception of the Singing Angels after their Christmas Concert held in the parish auditorium. All concert

goers were invited also. Ardent members tended to solicitations and ticket-taking and distribution of refreshment. Proceeds were sent to a High School in Vilnius, befriended by our illustrious pastor.

C- 27 Norwood, MA *Žaibas*

Sveikiname visus.

Šią žiemą tai visi nameliai ir miestai apdengti sniegu. Gražu žiūrėti, bet daug darbo padarė visiems.

But neither snow nor sleet kept Council 27 members from their meetings. We enjoyed an excellent turnout for our December brunch.

Our January meeting culminated in plans for our St. Casimir Day Program and an outline of activities for the coming year. With Stan and Terry Wasil as our leaders it promises to be a great year.

Likit sveiki.

C-29, Newark, NJ *Rita S. Sussko*

With the Fall season in full swing, C-29 held their annual election of officers and Committee Chairpersons. The following were the results: Our beloved Admin., Rev. Peter M. Uhde, Spiritual Advisor; HM Kazys Sipaila, Pres.; Harold Kaminskas, VP; Margaret Brazaitis, Rec. Secretary; Rita S. Sussko, Fin. Secretary; Adele Urbanas, Treas.; Elizabeth Luciw, Correspondence; Joseph Russell, Lithuanian Affairs; Emilia Sadonis, Cultural; Estelle Kasetta, Paula Paskas and Lillian Russell, Trustees; J. Vytautas

Miknevicus and Valentinas Tumelis, Sgts. at Arms; Helen Radicsh, Ritual Chair.; Nellie Krynicki, Spiritual; Marie Gouba, Sunshine; Rita S. Sussko, VYTIS Correspondent.

Our 80th Anniversary was celebrated with an 11:00 O'clock Mass followed, a gala dinner and dance, chaired by Marie Guoba, who, as usual, outdid herself, with an able assist from Cocktail Chairperson, Ann O'Neill. They both had the cooperation of the ever efficient C-29 committee members. Music was furnished by Joe Thomas. We were honored by the presence of Beatrice Lucka and Emily Vigliaro, whose father, A. Masanda, was among the organizers of C-29 in 1915.

All during the year the charitable hearts of C-29 members have been collecting non-perishable food items. During the holidays they will add perishable items, such as hams and turkeys and donated these to St. John's RC Church of Newark, who distributed them to the homeless.

Our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Uhde, is also Pastor of Epiphany Portuguese Church in Newark. The boy scouts under his direction deserve an honorable mention for their cooperation and efforts in helping Holy Trinity Church and C-29. So to Fr. Pete and your youth, we extend a great big Lithuanian "AČIU"!

Our Christmas Party was held on December 10th, with a new chairperson initiated into the task, Nijole Miknevicus. She did such an excellent job, with a good time

being had by all who attended, that she has been recruited to serve again next year.

January meeting was canceled because of "BLIZZARD '96"

Until we meet again in words if not in person - VYTIŠKAI and a healthy, happy year!

C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA

Evelyn Klinauskas-Harryn

Council 63, Lehigh Valley have been busy! We began a new term with a new president. Pres. Joseph Ogint completed his very active term as president once again handed the gavel over to the incoming president, Delores Connally. Thank You, Delores, for accepting this office. We anticipate full cooperation wherever needed. All other council offices remain the same. Vice-Pres.- Ben Apanavicius, Treasurer- Walter Balchunas, Recording Secretary - Evelyn Harryn, Financial Secretary- Jane Lutick, Chairpersons for Lithuanian Affairs-Albert Klizas,

Sgt. at Arms- Andy Keraga, Sunshine Lady-Anne Wonsok. Our Spiritual Advisor is Father Grabish of St. Michael's Parish.

Council-63 have been internally involved with fund-raisers, Diocesan involvement, and community affairs. We participated in the Diocesan Ethnic Celebration. This was held at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church in Bethlehem, Pa. The church was filled to capacity and then some with many nationalities and races. The beautiful high Mass and benediction was officiated by Bishop Welsh. The concelebrants were Msgrs. Devlin and Chaback with a procession of priests from churches throughout the diocese. A social event followed at the church hall with some entertainment. This was provided by members of the Knights of Columbus. Representing Lithuania were Lillian Klinosky, Valeria Smickle, and Evelyn Harryn.

Lillian and Valeria proudly represented "Lithuania" as the formal "Greeters". They were dressed in full costume, even fresh "ruta" in their hair. Evelyn Harryn chaired the event with Albert and Jeanette Klizas who joined in.

C-63 also participated in the Bethlehem Cultural Unity Fair. Albert Klizas and Evelyn Harryn chaired this event. We presented a very attractive display of amber, various Lithuanian artifacts, supplied mainly by Adele & Andy Keraga, and Jane Lutick. There were books, art, wall-hangings, hand woven and crocheted items. Hand crafted Wayside Crosses and Shrines were made by Andy Keraga. The public were so intrigued with them, they requested to purchase them. So, Andy obliged and he has been busy ever since.

Bob Klova chaired a 50 - 50 Cash Drawing. This smoothly run project netted council's treasury a pleasing quick \$548.75



C-63's men and women prove to be proud Lithuanians. (top left) Paul Harryn, Andrew Kerage and Albert Klizas are three annual participants at the Cultural Unity Fair, while (top right) Valeria Smickle, Evelyn Harryn and Lillian Klinosky represented Lithuania at the Bethlehem, PA Historical Society Ethnic Tree Exhibition.

Ačiū! Ačiū! to you, Bob. You always do an outstanding job for us !!

This was followed by the collecting of items to sell at our Flea Market. Again, it was chaired by Dora Lushis and Valeria Smickle and their strong man, Jack Lushis.

You could say Jack was the 'backbone' of this project. After all sales ended, council's treasury netted \$ 700. Thanks to all that helped to set up, sell and collect and donate items to be sold. Jack and Dora Lushis even drove to Shillington to pick up a load of fine clothing at the residence of Helen Bixler. She had been selectfully gathering these items. Jane Lutick and Adele & Andy Keraga are always a dependable source of help at the flea markets. And then comes Bob Kloval! He is the man who takes over. He sees that all left over clothing in good condition are properly packaged. They are then loaded on Bob's truck, and he transports them to Philadelphia for the Balfas Shipment. Again Bob, ačiū labai!

Council-63 represented Lithuania in the Ethnic Tree Exhibition in the city of Bethlehem, Pa. The exhibition was sponsored by the Bethlehem Historical Society. Trees were exhibited at the University Comfort Suites Hotel Lobby from Dec. 9th to Jan. 12th. This was the fourth year council is participating in this event. Our Lithuanian tree was a very outstanding, popular tree due to the ornaments being all hand made and of natural materials.

Last year, almost three-thousand tourists visited the trees. There were thirteen of them on show. This project was co-chaired by Evelyn Harryn and Jane Lutick. The committee consisted of Paul Harryn, Adele & Andy Keraga, and Delores and Frank Connally.

We at Council-63 would like to thank two of our fine members for their kindness and sharing. They are Helen Bixler and Connie Milligen. Every year in the month of their birthdays they pick up the tab for a lavish luncheon provided at our meeting. Ačiū Labai!!! These 82 and 83 year young chickies are always smiling and full of energy.

Council-63 would also like to acknowledge the recent 80th birthday of another fine man and council pillar, Albert Klizas.

We are happy to see Jake Zansitis back in the swing of things again. His hip surgery was very successful. He is ready to Polka, and it even looks like Rock & Roll!!! Keep up the good work, Jake!

Our annual portrayal of Kucios was co-chaired by Valeria Smickle and Florence and Jake Zansitis.

A Healthy, Prosperous New Year and may God Bless the people of Lithuania.

C - 74, Scranton, PA

Mary Laske

Margaret Clegg and her sister Helen Churi were chairpersons of our Kučios. This event was the best ever. Marie Laske gave the blessing. Lee Bozenko was in charge of the door prizes. He was assisted by Susan and Nathan

Stebbins. The food was hot and delicious. Richard Laske and John Remoska were in charge of the tickets. Everyone enjoyed our Lithuanian Vyritus served by our faithful Edward and Pat Romanauskas.

Mary Costello led the English and Lithuanian sing-along with all our Knights and guests. Just a bit more practice and we will be professionals. Everyone received ornaments in honor of Christ's Birthday.

On February 4th, we had our Ethnic Rosary at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. Everyone was invited to pray the first decade of the Rosary in Lithuanian.

Council 74 wishes all the best in the coming year.

C-96, Dayton, OH

Fran Petkus

C-96's Annual Christmas Dinner once again was well attended. Members gathered at Elinor's Amber Rose Restaurant on Dec. 6th. Not only was the dinner excellent, as usual, but Elinor added to the festivities, as she did last year, with live music!! Thanks must go to Frances and Elena Mikalauskas for putting the evening together and George Mikalauskas for the favors placed at each setting. These were all hand crafted by George! Many of you have seen George's work. George feels he is so blessed to have this talent. During the course of the evening an envelope was passed with members and guests generously donating to Aid To Lithuania, Inc.



C-96 1995-1996 Board - Sitting: Audrey Blum (with future Jr. Michelle), Eloise Berczelly; 2nd Row: Eleanor Mantz, Laretta Pant, Connie Geiger, Elaine Pacovsky, Betty Nash, Janet Veigel-Birt, Fran Petkus, George and Frances Mikalauskas; 3rd Row: Elena Mikalauskas, Michael Blum, Henry Pant, Rob Pant, Jim Geiger & Joe Mantz. Photo by J. Geiger/L. Pant.

December 10th was a very special day. It began with Mass followed by members participating in the parish's Koffee Klatch. Our December meeting followed. A highlight of the meeting was the annual distribution of our Charity Fund. This fund is built by 10% profit from each money making project; half of our monthly 50/50 raffle; donations by members, etc. This year's proceeds went to; North Dayton Food Pantry; Aid To Lithuania, Inc.; St. Casimir's Guild, Inc.; and the Children's Lunch Program in Lithuania.

After the meeting members and guests headed to the nursing homes where members and parishioners are residing for our Annual Christmas Caroling. Also visited were the shut-ins and those over 80 years of age. Our oldest visit was to a lady - 106 years young!! All told, there were twenty-five poinsettias distributed by our carolers. Thanks must go to Mary Agnes Mikalauskas for chairing and supplying live music, via her

accordion, for the carolers. Thanks to Frances Mikalauskas for taking care of the flower order and to Linda Pant for printing up the song sheets! This all was followed by a hot supper (the day was the coldest, so far, for Dayton) by the Social Committee- Elaine Pacovsky, Laretta Pant and their helpers!

Special thanks must go to our Religious Chair, James Geiger. Through his time and effort, \$600 plus was raised from donations of members and parishioners. This contribution, through the efforts of George Mikalauskas and Sr. Igne of Putnam, CT, was sent to our adopted order of nuns - The Sisters of Christ The King in Vilnius.

Under the Chair of Holy Cross Lithuanian Cultural Committee, Elinor Sluzas, our parish held its Kucios Dinner on Dec. 17th. Participation was excellent. The evening followed the Lithuanian custom sharing plotkele and the twelve dishes representing the twelve apostles. Many shared stories of how their

family celebrated Kučios. Elinor and Jim Geiger were the "fortune tellers". It was good to see C-96 members, Charles and Frances Vangas of FT. Lauderdale, FL, in for this special evening and the holiday season.

Ann Scott hosted our Junior Knights in December. She kept them busy teaching various Christmas decorations which were made to be given to their parents. Ann was assisted by C-96 Junior Advisor Annamarie Sluzas Berger and Fr. Michael Holloran. All were served a delicious lunch!

Get well wishes are sent to Dorothy Conrady, Jimmy Kavalauskas and Joseph Gudelis. Spring is coming this should help us get over the winter blues.

Thanks must go to Eric and Aaron Geiger, Rob Pant and Kristie Tipton for decorating the council's beautiful Christmas tree for the Holy Season. Our council's tree is place in front of the St. Casimir's altar. This altar was donated by the council

during Holy Cross' remodeling in the 1960's.

To our Irish friends and those who have some Irish blood - a very happy St. Patrick's Day!

C - 109, Great Neck, NY

S. G. Petraitis

Our 1996 slate of officers is installed and is eager to make a significant mark in the records of our council.

Spurred on by a pep talk by our Jo Zukas, we are looking into activities we can participate in working toward reaching our goal of a bigger and even better council.

We have received news from Anele Povilaitis. She left us to resume life in Lithuania. Although she was warmly received by relatives and friends, she did make reference to the fact that "Lithuania is not America".

Rasa and Henry Miklas as our representatives continue to generously donate their time and energy to the task of packaging and sending countless boxes of materials to Lithuania. They are making extra special efforts for the orphans and sick children of Lithuania. They have found their reward in the many letters expressing gratitude from the recipients. They have shared these letters and photos with us at our meetings.

The Vilgaliai still leave the light on for visitors from Lithuania. Recently, we met three of their visitors. Three bright, handsome, energetic young people eager to absorb our culture.

We ask that you add to your prayer list the names of our dear members, Bill Bernatovich, Wally Mordes and Gladys Banks, who are experiencing health problems. The rest of us continue to count our blessings.

Love one another.

C-110, Maspeth, NY

Planning for upcoming events is always important as our January meeting firmed plans for Lith. Independence celebrations, our St. Casimir's district meeting (Mar. 10), and Spring Dinner Dance slated for April 28. Jean Mactutis, financial secretary, reported our membership stands at 311 members, yet many have not yet paid their dues. Don't embarrass our council, fellow knights, send them in ASAP!

Ann Morrissey reported on recent shipments to Lithuania including 3 containers to "Gifts of Hope", 2 containers to Kaunas and another to Jeznio orphanages. A total of 111 pounds of clothing and other useful items were shipped. Our council also voted to adopt another Lithuanian orphan, this time a boy.

C-112, Chicago (Marquette Park) IL

Gerrie

Ten members took part in a cemetery walk in St. Casimir's Cemetery shortly after Thanksgiving. Organized by Julie Zakarka, fourteen gravesides of recently deceased members were visited, prayers said, and a flower placed on each grave. Those who attended felt it to be a moving experience and

many expressed a desire to make this an annual event.

Second V.P. Ellie Kasputis entertained board members and friends at a Christmas Party following a short meeting in December. We are grateful to Ellie for making this such a special occasion.

One hundred members and guests attended the council Christmas Party which was held immediately following a short regular meeting. Chairladies Julie Zakarka and Gerrie Chaplin coordinated the arrangements. Al Mockus and Peter Jasaitis handled the refreshments very capably; Matt Vilutis played Santa, handing out candy with the help of his two grandsons who had recently come to live here from Lithuania, and Phyllis Pelletier and Vida Sakevicius took tickets at the door. The chairladies give a big "thank you" for all the help they received with the baking, setting up, decorating, and the clean-up. This is a big job and so many people pitched in. Thanks to Robert Mockus for once again accompanying the annual sing-along (Denise Zakarka doing the vocal), and Al Brazis who never fails to thrill everyone with his rendition of "O Holy Night." We ended the evening with polkas that Robert played on the piano (mostly listening, and some dancing) that were written by our own C- 112 member, Jack Abramite, and named after his late wife and two daughters. Jack was a professional entertainer some years ago when he wrote these enjoyable pieces of music and they are still being played today. If you've never come down to



C-141 members were treated to Lithuania's next generation, Linelis dancers from Panevezys who entertained at St. George's Hall in Bridgeport, CT on Nov. 26. Photo by Stella Marcinauskas

our after-meeting Christmas Party in December you should plan to attend next year. Great food -- great time!

Members were very generous with gifts of warm mittens and hats, scarves, colored markers, and other things that young children would enjoy. Arvydas Zigas will be returning to Lithuania shortly with these items which he will distribute to the underprivileged children he works with in his "Angel of Hope" project. He will be back to speak to us at a future meeting to update us on this project.

We were very happy Canon Zak joined us for the meeting. He recently had surgery and had spent the last few weeks recuperating. We continue to pray for a speedy recovery and good health in the coming months.

You can still wish Lorraine Svelnis a "Happy Birthday" the

next time you see her. She is our official New Year's Baby as she was born on January 1. Her sister, Dolores Wainauskis, entertained the Cook County Card Club with a wonderful dinner on New Year's eve and all of Lorraine's friends got to convey their good wishes shortly after the clock struck twelve.

Don't forget our "Dumpling Blast" on Sunday, March 24 at Nativity school hall.

Dumpling dinner with all the trimmings and a raffle to follow. Vida Sakevicius, chairlady, asks you to get your reservations in early.

C - 141, Bridgeport, CT *Aldona Marcavage*

We are pleased that our membership is steadily increasing--sometimes even by way of matrimony. Ilona Zakarauskas and Frank Sciarappa became Mr. and Mrs. October 22, 1995. Now Frank, too, is a member. Congratulations and best wishes to you both. Other recent additions to our council include: Claire Carroll, Mary Spellman, Irene and John Sulinsky, Leon Mateika, Christopher Popp, Estelle Wildman, and Stefa Armonas. Stefa received a round of applause when she requested that she take her vows in Lithuanian. We are happy to

welcome you all. A group of us attended a concert at St. Andrew church hall to hear Sophie Putrimas sing solo. It was a great show.

The Saturday after Thanksgiving Day we discovered we had something more to be thankful for this year. Panevezys sent us joy in the form of "LINELIS"--a children's national dance company which consisted of a troupe of 16 children ages 9 to 12, plus 8 adults (five of whom are musicians). They were sponsored by the International Institute of Conn.- brought here to acquaint school children of Connecticut with another culture. They performed in the Bridgeport school system and at St. Theresa's school in Trumbull, to the delight of the pupils. Their schedule to visit other schools was "snowed out". We, however, were privileged to meet these beautiful youngsters and enjoy their lively dances thanks to the initiative of Gintare Ivaška and Clemencine Miller.

Joining us in the celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day Feb. 18th was our well-known VETRA dancers and our guest speaker, Gintaras Karosa, proprietor of Lithuanian Relief and Parcel Service as well as the Lithuanian Village and Gift Shop "DOVANA" in South Boston. He is a true Lithuanian activist and was once employed by the CIA and the Department of Interior. He was involved with helping Simas Kudirka get free of the Soviet grip. He was also once on the editorial staff of BRIDGES--and a Lithuanian

Youth magazine, "LIETUVIŲ JAUNIMAS". He was one of the founders of WORLD LITHUANIAN INFORMATION CENTER. Medical Aid to Lith. will benefit from the collection.

St. Casimir's feast day will be remembered March 17th. Our honored guest speaker will be Sr. Igne Marijošiūte -- Sister Superior of the Immaculate Conception Convent in Putnam, Ct. This energetic sister has done much in her young life to improve the lives of the old and the young by initiating various programs for them. She is currently involved with the progress of the new convent in Lithuania. Brunch in the church hall will follow the Lithuanian Mass with Msgr. Prancuskas as homilist.

Now is a good time to mail in your reservation checks to Father Gabriel in Kennebunkport for the Retreat June 21, 22, 23. For questions contact Al Akule.

Circle this date on your calendars: April 28, 1996--Ansonia's C-135 will host the Spring Convention for the New England District. Put everything else on hold, and trot on down.

C - 144, Anthracite, PA

Brother Joseph Zutelis, CSC

Sacred Heart Church in New Philadelphia recently concluded its centennial celebration with a special Mass offered by the pastor, Fr. James Loftin, and the distribution of a booklet recounting the history of the parish during its first hundred years. Long-time Knights of Lithuania member Rita Shevokas Tamalongo authored the book,

consulting parish records, newspaper clippings, programs of past parish events, and interviewing senior parishioners. She also included in the booklet an essay on Lithuanian ethnic and religious customs and observances that informed present-day parishioners of the cultural and spiritual practices of their forefathers.

For many years Rita has fostered Lithuanian culture in the parish and the area by training a dance and choral ensemble, "Marijos Varpeliai." They performed at Lakewood Park at the Lithuanian Day celebration, at the capitol in Harrisburg, for restoration of Lithuanian Independence Day, the Allentown Fair for multi-nations Day, and the Schuylkill County Fair. The group promoted the Žolinės tradition for August 15 and decorated a Christmas tree with šiaudinukai, Lithuanian straw ornaments.

Marriage, parenting and tending responsibilities have forced her to relinquish her involvement in many activities, but she still directs the choir and plays the organ at Sacred Heart Church.

A centennial album - a pictorial record of the year-long celebration - was produced by Bro. Joseph Zutelis, CSC with the assistance of members of the Centennial Committee: Sr. Marie Rachfalski, O.S.F, Marion and Paul Crochunis, Ronald Shatus, and Margaret Valinsky. It records in pictures the events of the centennial year: Masses, festivals, spiritual rites, trips, picnics, pilgrimages, dances, socials, parish organizations, Bishop Thomas J. Welsh

centennial Mass, and the banquet that followed. Margaret Valinsky was a very able assistant in typing the copy for both publications.

Esther Bartashus, an active parishioner, served on the church council, worked on the bingo games for many, many years and was active in the Women's Guild until she had to curtail her contributions because of medical problems. We pray for her recovery.

Ann Helen McDonald joined the centennial procession in her Lithuanian costume, and her husband Thomas recorded Lithuanian hymns played on chimes, forming the background music for the procession.

Adele Rolonaitis, a faithful Knights of Lithuania member and worked for many years, was unable to attend. She is residing at the Schuylkill Manor Nursing Home.

A word of gratitude must be expressed to Helen Bernitsky who faithfully drives members without the means of transportation to various K. of L. functions.

C-152, Eastern L.I., NY

Tom Tarmey

Council 152 confidently faces the unknown challenges of 1996 behind our newly elected slate of officers: President -John Sakal
Vice President -Delbert Vance
Treasurer-Thomas Tarmey
Corres. Secy.-Muriel Lekstutis
Financial Secy.-Beatrice Lucka
Sergeants at Arms-Evelyn Niksa,
Peter Petrowski
Trustees-Joseph Bealis, Peter Dykovitz

We closed out 1995 with our annual Christmas Party, held on December 10th at the Miller Place Inn, in Miller Place, NY, where, in a splendidly decorated Seasonal setting, more than 110 Knights and guests enjoyed an afternoon of good food and good fellowship to the accompaniment of almost continuous music provided by a hardworking, Joe Thomas.

As with the larger world about us, the small world of our Council also reflects the ultimate realities of birth and death. On August 5th, last, a son, Charles Louis, was born to our fellow Knight, John Dumbilis. To offset this addition to our fraternal family, death has recently taken from us Knights Stanley Peters, Anna Sidlauskas and Anna Greaney. Additionally, we have been saddened by the deaths of Andrew Zipkas, brother of our Sister Knight, Mary Zipkas, and Anthony Oszczapinski, father of our Sister Knight, Antoinette Sakal. Please, readers, remember them, both the newly born and the recently dead, in your prayers!

C - 153, Treasure Coast, FL
Florence Miškinis

The October 1st meeting brought all the devoted members of C - 153 together again.

Sad news was that Martha Sagrensky, Connie Scheibelhut's mom and Helen Hamill, Jack Hamill's mom passed away this summer. Our deepest sympathy to their loving families.

Mid Atlantic District sent certificates to the Council and to John Tamasauskas for finding the

most members for our council. John must take the credit for this honor.

Paul Labanauskas was greatly honored when he received a Bronze medal and a certificate from the Lithuanian government during their celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Lithuanian Navy. It was called Day of the Sea. Paul was one of the pioneer organizers of the Lithuanian Navy and had a brilliant career as commander of Lithuania's first and only warship, *The President Smetona*. One hour before Hitler arrived in Klaipeda on March 22, 1939, due to Paul's foresight and daring, *The President Smetona* and its convoy of 6 auxiliary vessels escaped into the Baltic Sea. In recognition of his service and ability, Paul was promoted to Commander and given command of the ship at the young age of 30. Congratulations, Paul. We have a celebrity in C - 153!

The results of the elections on November 5th were as follows:

James Marcinkus - President,
Treasurer
Frances Daniels - V. Pres, Ritual
Joan Bizowsky - Recording Sec.
John Tamasauskas - Lithuanian Culture
Paul Labanauskas - Historian
Helen Heberstreit - Sunshine
Florence Miskinis - Vytis correspondent

On March 15th, our member, Walter Lubinsky of Hobe Sound passed away after a long illness. A memorial Mass was held at St. Christopher's Church. Mass was attended by Jim Marcinkus, Frances Daniels, Florence and Al

Miskinis. Deepest sympathy to Josie and family. They are great supporters of all C - 153 affairs.

On March 17th, Louis Stukas sponsored a concert with Audrone Azunas of Chicago as soloist and Birute Kozica as announcer. Her repertoire consisted of many Lithuanian songs and some from the historical composers.

December 3rd, we held our annual Christmas party. Angels, the Immaculate Mary and the creche graced our tables. Felix and Charlene Zorskis were guests. Rev. V. Piktuma blessed the plotkeles and thus began our festivities. The kugelis, desros and all those delicious ethnic foods were enjoyed by all. The raffle sent many member and guests home with happy faces.

Chairman was Jim Marcinkus and his able committee consisted of John Tamasauskas, Florence and Al Miskinis.

December 24th, Frances Daniels and Florence Miskinis attended Kučios at Deerfield Beach for the Lithuanian Children's Orphanage. Mass was offered by Rev. V. Piktuma. It was so pleasant to pass the afternoon enjoying the traditional repast. It brought back so many happy memories of past Kučios. Mrs. E. Jonusas and Mrs. Petrauskas were co-sponsors. Laimingu Naujuju Metu.



*St. Casimir
pray for us.*

MARCH

X

1996

X

KOVAS

Kurs už mus kaltus kentėjai...pasigailėk mūsų!
 May he who suffered for our sins...have mercy on us!

IN MARCH:

- Mar 4, Feast of St.Casimir, Patron of Lithuania, Patron of the Knights of Lithuania.
- Mar 11, Lithuanian National Commemorative Day celebrating the Restoration of Lithuanian Independence in 1990.
- Mar 16, Today, in Lithuanian, is *Knygnešio Diena* (Book-carriers Day). It commemorates the valiant young men who smuggled prayerbooks, periodicals and other materials printed in Lithuanian (with Roman script) into Lithuania from East Prussia between 1864 and 1904. Publication of such in Lithuania was forbidden by the Tsar.
- Mar 17, All God's children join their Irish brothers and sisters in the wearing of the green to celebrate St. Paddie's day.
- Mar 19, Solemnity of Joseph, Husband of Mary.
- Mar 20, International Earth Day - First day of spring.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO CELEBRATE NAME DAYS IN MARCH:

Adrian (Mar 5)
 Casimir (Mar 4)
 Colette (Mar 6)
 Dominic (Mar 9)
 Francis (Mar 9)
 John (of God)(Mar8)
 Lucius (Mar 5)
 Patrick (Mar 17)
Rūta (Mar 27)

Albin (Mar 1)
 Catherine (Mar 22)
 Constantine (Mar 11)
 Elena (Mar 2)
 Herbert (Mar 16)
 Joseph (Mar 19)
 Matilda (Mar 14)
 Paulina (Mar 13)
Sandra (Mar 29)

Benjamin (Mar 31)
 Clement (Mar 15)
 Cyril (Mar 18)
 Felix (Mar 26)
 Irma (Mar 20)
Laima (Mar 8)
 Michael (Mar 21)
 Rimgaudas(Mar 13)
Saulius (Mar 21)

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K. OF L. SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

For further info. contact:

St. Casimir's Day Celebrations

March 10, Amber District

Hosts C-72, Binghampton, NY

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

C-79, Southfield, MI

Mar. 3, St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast - C-29, Newark, NJ

Mar. 31, 11:45 AM Mass at Transfiguration *Bruno Rutkunas*

C-110, Maspeth, NY

John Mankus

(607) 754-1241

Bruno Rutkunas

(516) 628-2292

District Conventions

March 10, MAD Spring Convention

Hosts C-90, Kearny, NJ

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

Becky Nakrosis

(201) 998-3526

Richard Marks

(216) 381-7287

April 28, NED Spring Conv. & Holy Hour

Hosts C-135, Ansonia, CT

Sept. 27 to 29, MCD Fall Conv./Pilgrimage

Hosts C-96 Dayton, OH

Bertha Stoskus

(401) 331-2605

Elena Mikalauskas

(513) 275-8235

Council Events

March 31, Annual Cake Sale, C-29, Newark, NJ

April 28, Spring Dinner Dance, C-110, Maspeth, NY

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.)



Amber Exhibit

When visiting New York City, remember to stop into the American Museum of Natural History at Central Park and 79th Street where a new exhibit - "Amber, Window to the Past", takes a look at the remarkable "organic jewel".

The Ancient tree resin, with its entrapped organisms from eons ago, has proven to be of interest to the worlds of science and art. The show opened on February 10th and runs through Sept. 2nd.

Amber, as you know, is Lithuanian Gold, just like Jade is to the Chinese.