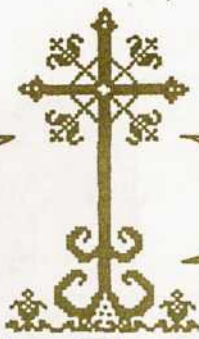


VYĪS



The Knight
volume 82: no. 7



Liepa/Rugpjūtis July/August 1996

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-THE KNIGHT -
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 July/August 1996
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*On the cover: The Song of our
Forefathers - Bočių giesmė 1966
by Aldona Skirytyte
Bottom page art by Kazys
Šimonis from Gyvenimo
Nuotrupos, Vilnius 1966*

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

TO MY FELLOW KNIGHTS:

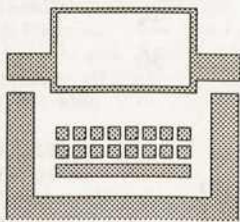
As each of us go about our summer activities, travelling to explore other lands or simply enjoying the outdoors after one of the roughest winters, let us each be grateful for life in these United States. Instead of complaining about our individual situations, let us remember that "your influence counts, so use it." These words, from a popular radio talk show remind us of the power of many voices, and that the "squeaky hinge gets the oil", as the old adage goes.

Maybe many of you may be still debating whether to attend our 83rd National Convention. There are a number of vital issues which will be discussed and debated in Brockton. One of them is the NATO issue, which our Lithuanian Affairs Chair, Vince Boris, writes about. Although the more detailed version is contained in his LA Newsletter, due to its importance a condensed version is offered on page 3. We MUST unite on this issue and use our influence to at least keep the issue in the forefront during this national election year.

Another major issue at the convention will be our K. of L. budget. For almost a year, your editors have tried to keep this publication as one which will not only inform you of the happenings of other councils, but also become a source book for Lithuanian culture and traditions. It is my hope as editor to continue the process, although other factors, such as budget committees and the US Post Office, may cause changes in this publication, cutting back pages and forcing limits which may be hard to accomodate. In true democratic style, your editor will offer a VYTIS questionnaire at the convention to find out what YOU want and enjoy in this publication. If you cannot attend the convention and would like to express your opinion, simply write and I will send you a VYTIS questionnaire.

Another item to be discussed at the convention will be the Cause for the beatification of Mother Maria Kaupas, the founder of the Srs. of St. Casimir in Chicago. Signatures will be collected to support the Cause. (See story on page 6)

Our future as an organization is at stake. If you care that your heritage does not dissolve away into the American melting pot, think again about attending the convention, or at least follow us on a local level. Remember your influence counts, use it! See you in Brockton!



Letters to the Editor

Radio Vilnius

To the editor:

In response to
Anthony J. Sila of

C-103, Prov., RI, at the present time a Lithuanian broadcast airs on short wave radio at 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time; the frequency is 9560 K. The first half hour is in Lithuanian and the last half hour is in English.

But note that frequencies change and the time of the program also especially during our Daylight Savings Time, so listen carefully. Radio Vilnius advises listeners of the coming time changes and frequencies.

Benjamin F. Dirgins

Dear Editor:

In reference to Lithuanian Radio, perhaps a recent *Darbininkas* (May 6, 96) report carried the answer. Vilnius radio announced from May 6, 1996, translation in Lithuanian will be heard on 9560 K. (See also previous letter)

Also their report included a request for listeners to write in and report how clearly they can hear the broadcast. The address of Vilnius radio is:

Vilnius radijas uzsienius

S. Kanarskis - 49

Vilnius, 2674 Lithuania

Kudos to VYTIS and its present staff.

Sr. Mary Elena Majikas, OP, C-41

THE CASE FOR LITHUANIAN MEMBERSHIP IN NATO

by *Vincent B. Boris*
Lithuanian Affairs Chairman

Ever since she broke the monolithic shell of the Soviet Union and reemerged on the world scene as a sovereign and independent state, Lithuania has faced a precarious path. It emerged with a dysfunctional economy, broken infrastructure and open hostility both within and outside its borders. The only counterbalance was the will of the people to establish their own national identity and self-determine their form of self-governance. To be sure, Lithuania has been generously provided with both moral and economic support from the West. Progress is being made but it is not enough.

Perhaps the major factor inhibiting progress has been the problem of security. Lithuania has experienced an economic blockade, severe restrictions on necessary fuel and military intimidation. One cannot focus on economic, social and moral recovery if one needs to continually look in all directions to see what new scheme for destabilization is being developed.

This problem was well recognized after the devastation of World War II. The Marshall Plan was developed to help the economy and morale of Western Europe to recover. It was accompanied by the formation of NATO to provide overall security largely by both the conventional forces of the U.S. stationed in Europe and the U.S. nuclear deterrent umbrella. Combined, the programs have been astoundingly successful. Not only have the Western European nations achieved unparalleled prosperity, but also had enjoyed an almost unprecedented 45 years of peace.

As mentioned earlier, Lithuania (and the other Baltic States) have the first part this most efficacious solution. **They need the second half - security guarantees to emulate the success of Western Europe.**

As in the 1950's, the major impetus must come from the United States, which often seems to be the only country that puts as much credence in altruistic goals as well as pragmatic ends. Certainly, the recovered economies of Western Europe opened significant trade markets. The pragmatic benefits were phenomenal. Lithuania, or even all three Baltic Republics, hardly compare in size or economic power of Western Europe; however combined with the larger East/Central European countries, the Baltics might well compare, favorably to Belgium or the Netherlands.

The altruistic goals should not be conditioned by size of the country. Concern for human rights, national self-determination and free association as well as resistance to tyranny, despotism and imperialism are most important. Perhaps more so than the economic factors. All of these, are inherent in the fact of NATO membership.

Instead of responsible positive dialogue on the subject, there is an outpouring of obfuscatory rhetoric, with the premise that, quick inclusion of Lithuania into NATO is "not feasible." Most recently, RAND corporation (a California-based think tank) issued a study that surprisingly listed as obstacles to NATO membership, the very factors that necessitate NATO membership.

a: Baltics vis a vis Western Security. NATO from the start had both altruistic and pragmatic goals. The U.S. might well feel that it could be quite secure without NATO and therefore participates in NATO only out of concern for the safety and security of Europe. Twice in this century, however, we have been involved in major wars with much loss of life and treasure in order to pacify various European powers. Within the NATO sphere there has been peace. This has had the pragmatic value of developing markets, and trade to the benefit of all. As to the question of how important are the Baltics to Western security, I would respond that the Baltics are as important as the other small nations such as Belgium or Denmark who are unquestioned members of NATO.

b: Negative Russian reaction. The Soviet Union reacted as expected to the original formation of NATO and, themselves, developed the Warsaw Pact as a counter measure. But at that time, "spheres of influence" were an accepted concept, and the Soviet reaction did not deter the development of NATO. Rather it gave NATO a focal point for the source of potential aggression. Today, the notion of "spheres of influence" is a discredited and unacceptable concept. Sovereign nations have an inherent right to associate themselves with whom they wish. The Baltics have asked for NATO membership. The Russian reaction is simply the petulance of a spoiled child who has gotten his way far too long. Lithuania, as a free and independent political state, predates the Russian state by some three hundred years. It is not, inherently, a western province of the Russian empire and would be considered such only by one whose knowledge of history Comes from Stalin-era revisionist history texts.

c: Unresolved Minority Problems. The RAND theorists need to go back and check their sources. What minority problems??? Not a single OSCE or UN authority having examined the situation in the Baltics has found or documented incidents of minority oppression or discrimination. True, both Estonia and Latvia have sizable numbers of former-Soviet citizens who have neither indicated a desire to go home to Russia nor to swear allegiance and become citizens of the Baltic republic of residence. These groups do, in fact, bemoan and occasionally demonstrate against the loss of preferential treatment and other perks they had enjoyed in Soviet times. Infringement of their civil rights is a Moscow-imagined problem.

Being located in Southern California, the RAND researchers should have a keener sense of the problems of undocumented aliens and offer suggestions on how these might be resolved short of deportation or in Eastern European terms - "ethnic cleansing." To my knowledge, none of the Baltic states has resorted to withdrawal of social services or means of education.

d: Indefensible Territory. Perhaps this is true; but such could be said about virtually all the current European States now members of NATO. Individual vulnerability was not considered an obstacle to NATO membership but rather justification for it. One would be hard pressed to point out a single successful defense of a current European state faced with a determined offensive threat from the aboriginal migrant tribes from the East to the Romans, the Goths, Visigoths, Huns, etc. The armies of Napoleon and Hitler swept across Europe and began to lose only when they took up a defensive posture. The only successful defense has been NATO protected by the American nuclear umbrella which proclaimed loud and clear - *Don't even start to fight.*

e: The Kaliningrad Problem. Alaska is non-contiguous to the lower-48 states. Access usually involves transiting the sovereign territory of Canada by land, sea or air. Yet, this has never posed a security problem for either the US or Canada. That is because we have friendly relations and have not used this situation to threaten or intimidate one another. Considering the quite different history in Eastern Europe, this level of friendship and trust between Russia and Lithuania might be rather difficult to develop. But, given NATO membership, Lithuania might well be sufficiently reassured or its security to be more amenable to Russian transit and thereby decrease tension in this area.

We once wrote letters, sent telegrams, or personally contacted legislators to promote the cause of Lithuanian independence. We need once more to rise to similar action. We must promote the cause of extending NATO or NATO-like security guarantees to the Baltic states immediately. If these countries are later accepted as full members of NATO, all the better. The Lithuanian Affairs Committee calls upon all members to take every opportunity as the election campaign progresses to bring up the subject. In addition write letters to Congressmen, Senators, the President as well as local editors. If you need more information, contact the Lithuanian Affairs chair.

Four Knights in the Opera

The Lithuanian Opera Company of Chicago performed *Jurate ir Kastytis* by Kazys Viktoras Banaitis in April 1996 as their fortieth year season.

Four K of L members, Pranas Mikolas Olis and Nelė Genovaitė Paulauskaitė -- of Council 16; Evelina Josepina Oželienė and Glenn Edwardas Perutis of Council 36 were singers in the company. Olis has been performing for 37 years and Oželienė for 17 years while Perutis has been singing professionally for ten years and Paulauskaitė for nine years.

This company has performed operas in Lithuania and is quite a cultural credit to the Chicago Lithuanian community.

The Mid-America District of the Knights of Lithuania is proud of these four members who have donated their time and effort in this singular cultural endeavor. It is doubtful that any other ethnic group in the country can match the opera company's forty year record. We salute the four members and the distinguished opera company of which they are integral parts.



Performing Knights: (l to r) Pranas Mikolas Olis, C-16; Nelė Genovaitė Paulauskaite, C-16; Evelina Josipena Oželienė, C-36; and Glenn Edwardas Perutis, C-36

Submitted by Peter P. Zansitis, MAMD President

a cause for canonization
foundress, sisters of st. casimir

MOTHER MARIA KAUPAS

1880 - 1940

by Sister Margaret Petcavage, SSC

Casimira Kaupas was born in the quiet village of Gudeliai in Lithuania on January 6, 1880. Upon her arrival to America in 1897 for a brief stay as housekeeper for her priest brother, the young Casimira, Kaupas witnessed the plight of Lithuanian immigrant parishioners. There was danger in this time of change that the material influence would steal from their children's souls, the faith of their fathers. Priests in America were earnestly in search of ways to save their parish children.

In spite of its natural beauty, Lithuania from 1863 - 1904 was a land of sorrow. Her people were robbed of their religious freedom as Roman Catholics. The Russian government held the Russian Orthodox Church as the basic source of Russian supremacy and made a target of the tiny nation of Lithuania because of its language, culture and Roman faith. Their schools were closed and the printing of books



in the Latin characters was forbidden. There were no schools for girls, and the convents and monasteries of the Roman rite were left "to die out". Arrests, confiscations and destruction caused hundreds of individuals, young and old to flee to America for freedom. The Pennsylvania and Chicago areas became the harbinger for thousands of these immigrants.

Long into the night in the rectory of St. Joseph Parish in Scranton, PA, Casimira Kaupas would listen as her brother, Father Anthony and the other immigrant priests in America who would meet to discuss ways to preserve both the faith and culture of their people. "Lord, what can I do?" she prayed.

It was in Scranton that Casimira met Sisters for the first time and was attracted to an apostolic religious life. She realized their joy

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF MOTHER MARIA

O loving Jesus, we beseech Thee, grant that thy servant, Mother Maria, who was imbued with Thy Eucharistic Presence while on earth, may through the intercession of Thy Immaculate Mother and Saint Casimir, be glorified by visible signs and miracles; so that for Thy glory and salvation of souls, she may, by Thy power be declared Blessed. Amen



Joseph Cardinal Bernardin meets with the Historical Commission for the beatification of Mother Maria Kaupas. (1 to r) Rev. Jerome Listeki, August Belauskas, Conrad Borntrager, OSM, Cardinal Bernardin, Srs. Margaret Petcavage, Agnesine Dering, Marilyn Kuzmickus, SSC, (Missing: Rev. Augustine Kulbis, OSM)

came from the blessedness of serving God. At the same time, she noted the woeful lack of religious Sisters for teaching the children of Lithuanian immigrants in America.

She returned to Lithuania in 1902, and while there, resolved to become a teaching religious to help the Lithuanian Americans concerning matters of faith, since it was impossible to do so in her native land. She accepted the offer of Father A. Milukas to study at Ingenbohl, Switzerland in preparation for taking part in this "New Project," that is, a Lithuanian Community of women.

After schooling and religious training in Switzerland the young Casimira with two other young women (Mother M. Immaculata and Mother M. Concepta) and the help of a few Lithuanian priests, especially Rev. Dr. Antanas Staniukynas and Bishop Shanahan in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, she returned to the United States and established a new religious community, the Sisters of St. Casimir, to educate both in faith and knowledge this growing Lithuanian generation.

In 1909, Chicago was selected as the site for the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir for it held the largest Lithuanian immigrant population in the US. Two years

later this four year old fledgling Community opened an academy within the Motherhouse confines. Each succeeding year Lithuanian parish schools were opened in Pennsylvania, the Chicago area, and New England which were staffed by the Sisters of St. Casimir.

After World War I, when Lithuania won its independence, the bishops of Lithuania asked Mother Maria to open foundations in their own dioceses. She herself traveled there with four other Sisters and was given as a

convent, the former Camaldolese monastery known as Pazaislis. In Lithuania, many schools were opened and the Congregation began to grow. In 1934, the Lithuanian Sisters became independent.

Throughout the 27 years of Mother Maria's administration she lovingly guided and governed the Sisters of St. Casimir, expanding the scope of teaching and health care apostolates. Parish elementary schools were increasingly staffed; two high schools flourished and two hospitals became well known landmarks in the Chicago area.

While she did not live to see it, her missionary dream was realized two years after her death when the Sisters of St. Casimir extended their field of apostolic work in South America working in the cities of Buenos Aires, Rosario and Cordoba.

Upon her death at the Motherhouse in 1940, Chicago's prominent newspaper carried the headlines, CHICAGO MOURNS ITS SECOND CABRINI. The most significant parallel of resemblance, of course, was their zeal manifested particularly in bringing help to the poor and needy.

Providence has a way of directing events, and though we do admit that the Lord is the

ONE controlling the destinies of events, we continue to be amazed as to Mother Maria's generous response, her zeal to sacrifice everything, home, country, and personal advantages, to help the Lord's poor and needy.

Three years after her death, in 1943, Samuel Cardinal Stritch gave his imprimatur for a prayer for the beatification of Mother Maria. Throughout the years the Community has prayed and worked to see this end accomplished. In 1989, Sister Marilyn Kuzmickus was appointed the Postulator of this Cause and with her election to the position of General Superior, Reverend John Kuzinskas, pastor of Nativity BVM Church in Chicago, assumed this role. A Tribunal under the direction of Bishop A. Abramowicz, was established in Chicago to formally investigate the saintliness of Mother Maria's life.

In 1994, a Historical Commission of four priests and two Sisters of St. Casimir further investigated the heroic virtues of her life and forwarded ten volumes of material to the Congregation of Saints in Rome in November

of 1995. The Congregation of Saints granted a "decree of Juridical Validity" to the materials and has appointed the Relator General Rev. Ambrogio Eszer, O.P. to oversee the writing of a "positio." The Community has appointed Sister Margaret Petcavage, SSC, as the "external collaborator" to write the "positio," which is an in-depth study of the heroic virtues and saintly life of Mother Maria Kaupas.

As the process of beatification continues successfully, step by step, there is a need for the voice of the faithful people to continue to pray to Mother Maria and to seek graces and favors through her intercession. There is a need for the Church in Rome to realize how many people seek her beatification. The common opinion of Mother Maria's sanctity among the faithful continues to be an essential element in granting canonization. Should favors and blessings be obtained it is most important that the Sisters of St. Casimir be notified for documentation.



Special Petition to the Knights of Lithuania

In a letter to our President, Evelyn Ozelis, Sr. Marilyn Kuzmickus, SSC, noted that Sister Margaret Petcavage is currently working on the Cause for the order's foundress, Mother Maria Kaupas. In Sister Marilyn's words:

"As we continue to pursue her beatification, we need the support of the "faithful". Since Mother Maria's death in 1940 the common opinion was and continues to be that she was a Saint. To present this opinion to the Congregation of Saints in Rome we need to collect the signatures of those who support this opinion. We felt that it is our pleasure to request that the Knights of Lithuania be the first to begin this "petition" with signatures."

Sister Margaret will be at our Brockton Convention. Be sure to add your name proudly to her petition for another Lithuanian Saint.

For more information on this matter, write to *Sr. Marilyn Kuzmickus, SSC*
Mother Superior
Sisters of St. Casimir
2601 West Marquette Road
Chicago, IL 60629-1594

It's Convention Time Again...

Remember to support our Knights of Lithuania causes --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Julia Burlen, 2403 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD 20715



Unbroken Spirit

by Fr Edward Schmidt, SJ

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a magazine of the American Jesuits ©Fall 1995



CRUMBLED MASONRY, smashed windows, collapsed roof beams. Catastrophe or opportunity? Setback or challenge? End or beginning? It depends on who you are and what you are trying to accomplish. The Jesuits in Vilnius, Lithuania, wanted to rebuild a school, and they have done it.

In 1989, even before communism collapsed, St. Casimir's Church, built in 1604 in the center of Vilnius, was given back to the Jesuits. They cleaned out the museum of atheism the Soviets had installed there and went to work. But the old Jesuit school that wraps around St. Casimir's was not returned at the same time, nor with Lithuania's independence in 1991.

Built in 1751 as the Collegium Nobilium (School for Nobles), the facilities became military property when the Society of Jesus was suppressed in 1773. Jesuits reopened the school in 1921, only to have the Communist authorities confiscate it in 1940 for the Soviet army. In the intervening years, the Soviets used parts of the building as a school, but it later collapsed through neglect.

The new government offered the Jesuits a challenge: the property would be returned if a school were opened by September 1995. Fr. Jonas Boruta, SJ, provincial of the Jesuits in Lithuania and Latvia, saw these buildings as an opportunity and accepted the challenge.

One reason for accepting it is tradition. Jesuit education in Lithuania dates back to 1569, when Jesuits opened the University of Vilnius, the oldest in the former Soviet Union.

Another reason is pragmatic. Jesuits in Vilnius are expanding their work in Lithuania and need office and living space. Antireligious groups are growing vocal in opposing the return of Church property, so getting this school functional is urgent.

The driving reason, though, is ministry. Vilnius, a city of 600,000, needs a Catholic high school immediately. The need comes from the current lack of young leadership. Although the Soviet Union no longer exists, the Communist mindset continues. Many people in their late twenties and early thirties have been described as a drifting generation, generally unexposed to the new free world and unprepared to adapt to today's economic and social demands. The Jesuits have a unique opportunity to help the next generation to learn authentic Christian values, traditional and modern, in the context of education. Fr. Tony Saulaitis, SJ, who has been working with the Lithuanian community abroad, says, "With Lithuania's freedom came responsibility. It's exciting to help Lithuania's youth to understand this responsibility through Christian values and education."

The drive to open the school has created notable challenges for the Lithuanian Jesuits. Dozens of ministries occupy every Jesuit. Time disappears into conferences, liturgies, youth camps, among many other demands, and available money has a hundred claims.

But even scarce resources can work wonders. In Kaunas, 60 miles west of Vilnius, the Jesuits accepted a school complete with students and faculty in 1991. The Kaunas

school, run by the Jesuits from 1924 to 1940, had a useable building, but furnishings showed decades of Soviet make-do. The office equipment consisted of one telephone and one manual typewriter, and the music department had only a couple of recorders, two pianos, and a guitar. But the basic faculty was good, and the British Jesuit education office adopted the school and began helping it. British Jesuit Fr. Charles Edwards moved to Kaunas to teach full time. And in the summer of 1994, the school's president, Fr. Gintaras Vitkus, SJ, announced that in only three years the school had been brought up to grade as *gymnasium* - a college prep. school. It now has seven times more applicants than spaces and is considered the premier secondary school in Kaunas.

The school in Vilnius has a long way to go before it achieves the same success. But after three years of digging and scraping, plastering and fitting, painting and paving, it has emerged from the rubble. Twelve classrooms have undergone remarkable renovation, and the Vilnius Jesuit School opens its scarred doors this September with four coeducational grades, a new, energetic faculty, and Fr. Antanas

Grazulis, SJ. Fr. Grazulis has overseen this reconstruction effort and is now serving as president of the school, and was joined in January of '96 by Fr. Algis Gudaitis, SJ, who had finished an MA in religious education at Boston College.

Jesuit education in Vilnius has survived suppression, persecution, and tyrants of every persuasion. Although acquiring supplies takes ingenuity, politics, major capital, and a reserve of humor, crumbled masonry and collapsed roof beams are a lesser challenge. Harder to come by is the time to prepare Lithuania's youth for a confusing and changing world. The job is far from finished, but enough is done to ring the bell and start the schoolday.

The Vilnius Jesuit School opens its doors with prayers, speeches, good wishes, and high hopes ... a new school built on an old foundation of stubborn vision and unbroken spirit.

The author, Fr. Edward Schmidt, SJ, Company's business manager, has journeyed to Lithuania, teaching German to Jesuit novices there. ❖❖❖

In Memoriam

Viola Plienis
C-112, Chicago, IL
May 6, 1996

Anna Sliteris
C-112, Chicago, IL
May 13, 1996

Susana Mazeika
C-147, St. Petersburg, FL
May 22, 1996



Valerie Vilunas
C-36, Chicago, IL
May 1996

Nora Barcousky
C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA
Nov. 20, 1995

Sophie Lushis
C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA
Sept. 21, 1995

Louise Stefan
C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA
Feb. 27, 1996

SANCTITY - A DUTY FULFILLED



St. Maximilian Kolbe
(from Auschwitz ID)

There is a legend that when he was but 10 years old, St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe experienced a vision of the Blessed Virgin in which she offered him a choice of two crowns, one white - one red. He accepted both. So it was that this man led a life of chastity and obedience in a religious order, the Conventual Franciscans, with extraordinary devotion to Mary Immaculate. His life ended in martyrdom in Auschwitz at the hands of the Nazis during World War II.



Kolbe as depicted by Leonardo
Defilippis
in Maximilian: Saint of
Auschwitz

In his writings he had said, "I must become a saint as soon as possible ... Sanctity is not a luxury, but a simple duty. It is one of Christ's first principles: 'Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.'" For St. Maximilian, the proof of perfect charity is obedience which is to be practiced especially when we are asked to sacrifice our own will.

He was born on January 17, 1894 in the small village of Zdunska Wola near Lodz in Poland and baptized Raymond. At age 13, he joined the Franciscans; taking his initial vows in 1911. After studying in Poland, he was sent to Rome where he was ordained on April 28, 1918. Even before ordination, he had begun to formulate plans for the development of an organization that he called, *The Militia of Mary Immaculate*.

Having received the approval of the Pope for this endeavor, he returned to Poland to begin to implement his plan. He began by publishing a bulletin he named "*the Knight of the Immaculata*" to recruit members for his "militia." He eventually developed a community of 800 friars that formed a virtual village some 25 miles outside of Warsaw. He named it *Niepokalanow* (City of the Immaculata). His magazine/newsletter, *The Knight*, was printed in a million copies and several languages.

He travelled as far as Japan where a similar community was established outside of

Nagasaki and later another community was formed in India. His mission in Japan thrived. Miraculously, it was undamaged by the atomic bomb dropped by the U.S. on Nagasaki in August, 1945.

In 1936, he returned to Poland where he assumed duties as superior of the Polish Niepokalanow and was in that position when the Germans invaded Poland. He was arrested and jailed during the early days of the occupation but released after a short time. In February 1941, he was again arrested and sent to the infamous prison at Auschwitz, where he was assigned to Block 14. It was in reaction to an escape from that Block, that the Commandant selected 10 men and sentenced them to death by starvation. They were to be moved into an isolated bunker and kept there without food or water until they were dead. Maximilian knew one of the selectees who was a young sergeant in the Polish Army and had been praying for his return to wife and two children. Maximilian volunteered to take the place of the young man in the condemned group.

(This man, Franciszek Gajowniczek, years later at age 82, would stand at the Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican to witness the canonization ceremonies for St. Maximilian.)

After 10 days of starvation, all of the prisoners had died except Maximilian, who had somehow endured the ordeal in the bunker; therefore, rather than wait longer, his captors ended his life by an injection of carbolic acid on August 14, 1941. His body was then cremated with the other corpses. He was but 47 years old.

After a 23-year study of his life and work, he was beatified by Pope Paul VI in 1971. With a special Papal dispensation from the requirement for two miracles, Maximilian Mary Kolbe was canonized as a martyr by Pope John Paul II on October 10, 1982.

Gracious God, you filled your priest and martyr, St. Maximilian Kolbe, with zeal for souls and love for his neighbor. Through the prayers of this devoted servant of Mary Immaculate, grant that in our efforts to serve others for your glory, we too may become like Christ your Son, who loved his own in the world even to the end.

*Opening prayer of Mass on the
Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe.*

st. casimir of pittsburgh



by Rob Medonis C-19

Lithuanians in the homeland and in the USA experienced changes in 1991. Whereas Lithuania regained its independence in 1991, Lithuanians in Western Pennsylvania saw the partial loss of theirs with the closing of St. Casimir Church and Parish in that same year, losing a small bastion of their separate culture.

St. Casimir was the largest of the seven Catholic Lithuanian parishes in Western Pennsylvania and some felt the most beautiful. A tribute to the Lithuanian immigrants who built it, St. Casimir was a Baroque masterpiece with stained glass, hand carved life size Stations of the Cross, an entombed Jesus, and painted walls and ceilings. All of this was lost in 1991 with its closing. Parishioners were angry at its suppression and that it was not considered for a worship site in the newly

created Prince of Peace parish. However Western Pennsylvania's loss was Lithuania's gain. His Excellency Bishop Juozas Zemaitis of Vilkauskis wrote to Bishop Wuerl asking for anything usable from the Church. The letter was not followed up until Chuck Goetz, Business Manager of Prince of Peace Parish, was informed of it and discussed it with Nel Brazauskas, an active member of both St. Casimir's Parish and Prince of Peace Parish and Margie Turner, a member of the Charity Committee of the Lithuanian Citizens Society of Western Pennsylvania during the early part of 1995. Fr. Bernard Harcarik, pastor of the Prince of Peace parish, agreed to donate materials from St Casimir's if the Lithuanian Citizens Society was willing to pay for the shipping. The Lithuanian Citizens Society agreed and the move was on.

Bob Boris, of Aid of Lithuanian Inc., was brought in and he made several trips to Pittsburgh and Lithuania to help prepare for the move.

By Thanksgiving 1995, the organ, hand carved life sized Stations of the Cross and the crucifixion scene from behind the altar had been packed and shipped. A second container containing two side altars and the parts of the organ that did not fit in the first container was shipped later. The containers also had a plaque stating that the Lithuanian Citizens Society was the benefactor behind the shipment and the items origin. The items will be used for the newly rebuilt Cathedral of the Visitation of Mary in Marijampole. The Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Prince of Peace, through the efforts of Chuck Goetz and Fr. Harcarik, rebuilt goodwill lost during the closing of St. Casimir. Mr. Goetz did a great job in not only following up on the idea of shipping items to Lithuania but for recruiting volunteers from the Prince of Peace of Parish to help load the containers. The Lithuanian Citizens Society of Western Pennsylvania and its Charity Committee, with its two C-19 members Margie Turner and Tillie Milauskas, did a great job in moving quickly and donating \$20,000 for the shipment. Finally Bob Boris, another Knight who



had a part in this project, along with Cardinal Maida, who paid for the shipping costs of the second container, are also to be applauded for their efforts.



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by James Yanick, M.D. (with Marilyn Yanick Gaetani) © 1995 Naples, Italy, 229 pgs.

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A limited number of copies are now available. All proceeds from this book will be donated to *Aid to Lithuania, Inc.* upon the author's request. For your copy, send \$18.00 (includes postage and handling) to: Vincent Boris

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Make checks payable to Vincent Boris.

Lithuanians in the News

A ROLE MODEL SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Not every substitute teacher is honored by both students and teaching staff.

But not every substitute teacher was Blanche Genaitis. A first time memorial scholarship in the teacher's honor was awarded to Narragansett Regional High School graduating senior, Alison Brown. The award was presented in memory of Genaitis, who died recently, and who substituted for many years at the high school.

According to Vice-Principal John Jasinski, the school staff wanted to do something to honor Genaitis memory. Staff members collected money and made a sizable donation, enough to give to a deserving student. Jasinski said in order to receive the scholarship, a student needed to show the attributes that Genaitis showed, such as good overall school citizenship and a contribution to the school atmosphere in a positive way.

"We were all so impressed with this lady", explained Jasinski. "Her diversity of talents. She was in her 80's and still teaching here. She was involved in education for many years. She would come here in any capacity. She would teach anything and would stay in touch with the kids".

Blanche was NED Scholarship chairman for many years. She was a Knights of Lithuania member.

-Gardner News, MA

Citizen "Saint"

C - 41 Brooklyn, NY member Mary Shalins or as we know her as Marytė Šalinskienė was honored as a local "saint" for her many charitable contributions in the local Leader Observer.

The article states that Mary, the owner of Shalins' Funeral Home... "is a devout, religious person, who has given of herself to cause after cause. She gained her sense of giving from her twin brothers, John and Bolis. She learned about faith, courage, and conviction from them. The brothers were Marine infantry soldiers who saw action in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War".

The three councils based in the New York area: C - 12, Manhattan, C - 41 Brooklyn, and C - 110, Maspeth have all experienced Mary's kindness and generosity.

Her family moved from Lithuania to Forest City, PA. Mary's greatest passion is singing. Whether at church, or at K. of L. conventions we often hear her beautiful voice. Her sister Julie Kowrak (C - 3, Philadelphia, PA) often joins in a duet.

"Life is beautiful", Shalins said. "If you live it well".

Yours truly has known Marytė and Julyėe for many years, and feel blessed knowing them. Whenever I think of them this quote of Paul Bunyon comes to mind: "There was a man, whom all thought mad. The more he cast away. The more he had".

*-Leader Observer, Woodhaven, NY, 5/23/96
with Dalia Bulvičius*

War Horse

Vincent Butvydas, 82, has ridden a long way since he was a Lithuanian cavalryman in World War II.

Two by two competitors apprehensively entered the Littlewood, FL ring for jumpers at the Winter Equestrian Festival. Vincent Butvydas knew Carina, his "sweetheart" charcoal mare, wouldn't fail him.

Robyn Pavone, Carina's trainer wasn't worried about the mare, either.

"She is smart, she is athletic and she is devoted to Vincent", Pavone said.

Truth is, Pavone was more worried about the ex-cavalry officer hunched over Carina's neck, a jokester, who calls himself "Old Junk". One doesn't know what Butvydas might do - jump early, late, never - least of all "Old Junk" himself.

As Butvydas' turn neared, Pavone scrambled to alert the judges: "He'll be a bit late". She sighed, then launched: "He's 82, you know".

Sure he is. The deliberate gait, the silver strands sparsely covering his scalp, the tales of a

war a half-century ago. Eighty two sounds right. Until he rides...

Vincent Butvydas was born in 1913 in Lithuania's District of Tauragė to landowning parents, who introduced him to grain and cows and best of all, horses.

"He tells us he learned to ride before he could walk", said one of his three daughters, Audrey Gross. "And he says he'll ride when he can't walk anymore".

His ambition after high school was to be a forest engineer, but his duty was to join the army. Then in 1940, Russia invaded Lithuania and made it a Soviet republic.

Butvydas was a cavalry officer who excelled in horse shows for his country's elite. A Lithuanian sergeant, force to spy on his fellow officers, others often warned Butvydas to be careful, because the Russians - aware he was not a communist - were watching.

"They hide bullets in the horse's stall, so they could say I was a revolutionary", Butvydas said.

They coerced him to read Stalin's works, though he considered it "manure in my mouth". They threatened him for not keeping his horses clean, no matter how diligently he scrubbed them. They shipped his friends to Siberia.

He escaped to Germany.

Yet trouble awaited him there as well. After resisting proscription into the German army for the purpose of spying in Lithuania, Butvydas was sent to a secondary concentration camp in Soldao.

It was political untrustfulness", Butvydas said. "I was not afraid. I knew if I survived until the end of the war. I'd be fine".

He stayed five months before the German army took him out. Soon after he fled to Germany - occupied Lithuania, then returned to a displacement camp in Germany after Russia recaptured his homeland in 1944. There he lived ("they fed us, took care of us") until 1949, when he was cleared to emigrate and join relatives in America.

He settled in northern New Jersey, and embarked on a 29-year career. By its end, he was the senior supervisor and mechanical inspection at Kyrefor Aerospace, a division of Singer.

In New Jersey, Butvydas still rode but not longer competed. He retired to Wellington, and his introduction to Carina led him back to the horse



shows. Audrey Gross' husband bought Carina in 1991 off a racetrack, to train her for polo. But Carina was too "green" for such an enterprise, so Gross offered her to his father-in-law. The Grosses then approached Pavone, who was training at a show barn in Palm Beach Polo.

"They asked if I was familiar with older adults, and I said I've got plenty of them". Pavone said. But none like this.

"I am like you see me", Butvydas said, winking. "Like a kid".

Butvydas worked with Pavone to train Carina.

"What he's done is no small feat", Pavone said. "Racehorses are trained to be extremely aggressive. This sport is very technical and slow, accurate and controlled".

Though others might struggle with his accent, Carina understands Vincent, and that's enough. He orders "stop", and she freezes; he bellows "side", she does the electric slide, as if she were his partner at the beach front dance hall where he goes every Monday night.

Butvydas pampered Carina as if she were his second female love. His wife Hope, is his first.

The day before the Littlewood jumping competition, Butvydas stroked Carina's mane after practicing at Pegasus stables.

"Eighty - two, ready for coffin", Butvydas said "Carina, soon we go in coffin, you and Old Junk".

On his first two Littlewood turns Butvydas touched nary an obstacle. The second run was timed, and he finished third out of 40. Then he strolled off.

Pavone yanked him back: "No, no, you're not going anywhere".

After some delay, Pavone repeatedly asked Butvydas if he knew which way he's going before coaxing him to use the new equipment his daughter bought for Carina ("he likes old stuff", shrugs Pavone) - Butvydas cleanly executed a third run.

"Good job, Vincent". Pavone said. "Carina was tired at the end."

"Me too" - Butvydas said, dismounting alongside the Festival stables. The ex-cavalryman removed his cap, then strutted past the "Over the Hill Farm", a tent adjacent to the terrain he just conquered.

-Palm Beach Post / Ethan Skolnick-2/21/96

Lithuanians at the Olympics

Equestrian

We certainly hope to hear more about expert equestrian, Jane Zukas, daughter of Josephine and Joe Zukas of C-109. She will be riding, hoping to capture the gold in Atlanta on Aug. 16-28 at the paralympics, which are considered the Olympics for athletes with disabilities. Jane is 4'3", the result of a birth condition achondroplastic dwarfism but that does not stop her love of riding. She has won numerous prizes and has traveled extensively around the country and even to England for equestrian events. In Atlanta, Jane will be competing with 58 other riders from 15 countries in the dressage format.

Javelin Throwing

Tom Pukstys, a 27 year old Lithuanian American javelin thrower is an early favorite to grab a medal at the Olympics. Pukstys, originally

from Chicago, has been living in Rhode Island, coaching at Brown University.

Basketball Stars

The Lithuanian 1996 basketball team at the summer Olympics in Atlanta hope to take home another medal like the bronze they won in 1992. Once again, they will wear tie-dyed shirts and sell merchandise originally designed by the Grateful Dead. Only this year, the Phoenix Suns, who will host the Lithuanians, are also assisting in the merchandise efforts. Proceeds from sales of T-shirts, caps, stickers, pins and even special basketballs will help to pay for the 1996 team's travel expenses. Anyone interested in Lithuanian basketball merchandise can obtain a price list and description by writing the editor.



Did you Know? The newly elected Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu's grandfather emigrated from Lithuania in 1920.

Juniors

Keeping the Heritage Alive

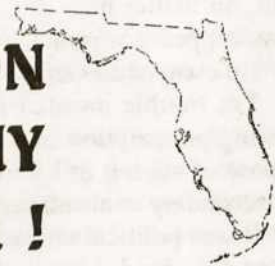
by *Elena Mikalauskas*

I had the opportunity of speaking with Theresa Bilaitis, a member of C-90 in Kearny, New Jersey. Theresa informed me that their council has young members but they happen to be under "junior age". However, Audrey Przybylski and Cathy Cierpial have planned cultural activities for them. Audrey and Cathy have tapped into the knowledge of local individuals including Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš Obando and Bruno Kraukys to plan the socials. Topics have included Christmas traditions, Lithuanian Easter eggs, fairy tales and folk songs. The events periodically occur on Sunday afternoons at the Lithuanian Catholic Cultural Center and interest is growing.



Two types of people say very little - the shy ones and the gabby ones.

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Tūkstantis žingsnelių

Tuks-tantis žingsne-liu nuo ma-no na--me-lių, ne-ga-liu nu-ei-ti
 Ram-ta-drylia.

pas sa-vo mergelę. // mēr-gel'.

Ėjau per kiemelį
 Ant galų pirštelių,
 Kad neprižadinčiau
 Mergelės tėvelių.

Ramta drylia, lia, lia,
 Ramta drylia, lia, lia,
 Kad neprižadinčiau
 Mergėles tėvelių.

Dureles pravėriau,
 Kepurėlę kėliau,
 Lab'vakars, mergele,
 Pas tave atėjau.
 Ramta drylia...

Viena žvaigždė šviesi,
 Antra dar šviesesnė,
 O mano mergelė
 Už visas gražesnė.
 Ramta drylia...

Lithuanian Lore

Like Father, Like Son

In a small village of Šilutė in Lithuania there lived a farmer named Jonas with his wife Ona and some children. Also residing there was his elderly father, Antanas. The old man was frail, often got into the way and dropped things. Once when Antanas dropped one of the best plates in the house, his son lost his patience. He carved a dish out of wood and gave it to his Father to use during his meals. The old fellow accepted his fate demurely. Soon after that, Jonas saw his son doing something in a corner. Upon closer inspection, it appeared that he was carving something out of wood. "What are you doing my child?" asked the Father. "I am carving out a bowl and it will be for you when you get old", answered the little fellow.



Kalbėkime Lietuviškai



Įžymybių Apžiūrėjimas

Sightseeing

Let's Speak Lithuanian !



by Dr. Virginia V. Obando
Lith. Language Chair

Summer is the time for traveling. Some of us will be going to Lithuania. Here is a list of some tourist attractions you might want to consider visiting.



Vilnius Old Town

In Vilnius

ARKIKATEDRA BAZILIKA - Cathedral

Founded on ancient pagan grounds dedicated to Perkunas, the god of thunder. The original church was built by Mindaugas the Great, the first king of Lithuania.

AUŠROS VARTAI - Gates of Dawn

Pilgrimage site of Eastern Catholics. The chapel in the gates houses a holy image of the Virgin Mary, the Madonna, reputed for miracle working powers.

ŠV. ONOS BAŽNYČIA - St. Anne's Church

Represents the peak of gothic architecture in Lithuania. According to legend, Napoleon Bonaparte was so enraptured by St. Anne's that he exclaimed his desire to bring the church back to France in the palm of his hand.

VILNIAUS PILIES MUZIEJUS - Vilnius Castle Museum

VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS - Vilnius University

VILNIAUS ŠIUOLAIKINIO MENO CENTRAS - Vilnius Contemporary Art Center

SENAMIESTIS IR SUVENYRŲ PARDUOTUVĖS - Old Town and Souvenir Shops

VILNIAUS PAVEIKSLŲ GALERIJA - Vilnius Picture Gallery

Traces the development of Lithuanian art from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

In Kaunas

ROTUŠĖS AIKŠTĖ - Town Hall Square

PILIES GRIUVĖSIAI - The ruins of the Castle

PAŽAISLIO VIENUOLYNAS - Pazaislis Monastery

ČIURLIONIO PAVEIKSLŲ GALERIJA - Ciurlionis Art Gallery

ISTORIJOS MUZIEJUS - The Historical Museum



*Illustration by Lithuanian artist,
Kazys Šimonis*

Some Useful Phrases and Sentences:

KUR YRA TURISTŲ BIURAS?

- Where's the Tourist Office?

AR YRA GIDAS KALBANTIS ANGLIŠKAI?

- Is there an English speaking guide?

KUR AŠ GALĖČIAU NUSIPIRKTI...

- Where could I buy...

VADOVĄ PO VILNIŲ / MIESTO PLANĄ

- a guidebook of Vilnius / a map

KUR YRA KATEDRA? - Where is the cathedral?

KUR YRA MUZIEJUS? - Where is the museum?

KUR YRA MIESTO CENTRAS ?

- Where is downtown?

KUR YRA PARODA? - Where is the exhibition?

KADA ATSIDARO / UŽSIDARO

- When does it open / close?

AR MUZIEJUS DIRBA SEKMADIENĮ? - Is the museum open on Sundays?

KIEK KAINUOJA BILJETAS Į MUZIEJŲ? - How much is the admission?

ĮĖJIMAS LAISVAS - Admission is free.

AR GALIMA FOTOGRAFUOTI? - Can I take pictures?

SUVENYRAI - Souvenirs

GINTARINIAI KAROLIAI

- Amber necklace

MEDŽIO DIRBINIAI - Wood carvings

TAUTIŠKA LĖLĖ - National doll

Sayings:

GERIAU VIENĄ KARTĄ PAMATYTI, NEGU ŠIMTĄ KARTŲ IŠKLAUSYTI.

It's better to see it once than to listen to the story a hundred times.

VISUR GERAI, O NAMUOSE GERIAUSIA.

It's OK everywhere, but at home is best.
(East or West, home is best.)



Štai keletas lietuviškų keiksmų pavyzdžių:

Here are some "mild curses in Lithuanian:

Kad jį perkūnas iš giedro dangaus nutrenktų.

Kad tave vėtros padangėm nešiotų.

Kad tave nelabasis pagriebtų.

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BLUEBERRY PICKING TIMES: THEN AND NOW

By Antonia M. Wackell

"Tomorrow we are picking blueberries. If you want to come, meet us at 6 o'clock in the morning." That was the message from a tiny, spunky aunt a long time ago. If we were not there promptly, we would miss out on quarts and quarts of wild, sweet blueberries - not only to satisfy our family's tastebuds, but also, to delight our grateful customers at ten cents a quart.

So we were ready. We would have a long ride on the streetcar - breathe fresh air - feel the sun baking our backs, run into some adventure like being chased out of the pasture by an unfriendly cow, or even get caught in an unpredicted summer storm.

The early mornings of these blueberry trips were so cool, so bracing, so bright - just perfect for picking berries. Our group of five (sometimes more) assembled as directed. All were equipped with large pails (16 qt. size preferably) since there would be no profit in anything less. Into the pail we placed a quart-sized receptacle into which berries would be collected, a towel, bottle of water, peanut butter and jam sandwiches, and a sweater. The streetcar fare and entrance fee into a farmer's pasture were safely tied up in one corner of our large handkerchief.

At City Hall Plaza, other groups from various neighborhoods, had already assembled in clusters. We were surprised to see that pails outnumbered pickers. Auntie began to worry in Lithuanian, We worried in English whether there would be enough bushes for so many pickers. When transfers finally arrived, someone in our group muttered, "Go on! Go on!" Most all clattered aboard. Aunt exhaled a healthy Lithuanian "GERAI! GERAI!"



(Good! Good!). That streetcar drove on north, whereas we were bound for the western outskirts.

Fees at the farmhouses varied according to age. No doubt they reckoned that an adult would gather more berries so it was reasonable to charge them five cents. Whereas, under-teens surrendered three cents, and ten-year olds parted with two cents. However, some two centers were fast pickers. A peak into their pails at end of day, revealed an infinite number of twigs, leaves and unripe green berries. In their eagerness to fill pails not every eager picker remembered an experienced picker's strict lecture on "DON'TS and DO'S" especially "Don't pick the green berries!" Then too, forgotten orders can be blissful

We interrupted our hike to the pastures to sample some lowbush berries. They require bending but were so sweet. So we bent down, and as we raked the berries through our fingers, we were startled by a sudden stirring in the patch ... we jumped ... back to the road again, and an old grass snake slithered by. Unfortunately, we did not retrieve those sweet berries.

The Highbush Blueberries range from 12 feet to 15 feet high, and are most desirable for picking. There are over 50 species and all are edible. However, they are not all sweet.

Some are tasteless, lacking flavor, others are tart. They grow almost everywhere, from the Arctic Circle to Central Europe. They flourish in acid soil.

We proceeded to the pastures and the large blue globes. Always watchful where we stepped, this day, in our excitement to reach the bushes, we stepped, a little closer to gather huge clusters of the beautiful berries and into grief. . . . They struck. We smashed, we shouted and screamed, "KANDA! KANDA!" still they zoomed and charged. Our screams, and the raging drone of the enraged wasps mobilized not only our group, but other strangers; they emerged armed with sticks, stones, branches and empty pails to wipe out the assailants. It was a sad, painful finish for a heedless picker.

To become careless or indifferent requires no great effort. Another morning as we poked along a mountain path, lagging behind some elders, we stopped for a plateful of luscious highbush berries. As we sampled and judged each berry, we became aware of an unusual tintinnabulation. We saw no strange birds in trees or nearby bushes, yet the sound continued.

At last, our glance fell below, on a spot, three feet away. There was the sound. Coiled on a flat stone, sunning itself, was a rattlesnake, its rattles vibrating a warning, a signal to get going..... Our Guardian Angel loaned her wings TO GET GOING. One glance at a panic-stricken face and an aunt remarked, "Tai, mate gyvate?! Tas plešikas pilnas. Šia ryta pasivoge kaimyno visčiuka!" (So, you saw the snake?! That robber is full. This morning it stole a neighbor's chicklet.) Common sense dictated that we take the longer way back to the house.

Our family's two Highbush Blueberry bushes must be protected with a large net from top to bottom to prevent larcenous, frustrated birds from stripping the branches of berries. They pick, tug, and pluck the netting - chattering, scolding, fighting, determined to get in and gorge themselves. Sometimes, they do get in and wildly scatter the unripe green berries on the ground - as their entrance fee

Robert Frost, in his narrative poem "BLUEBERRIES" tells a neighbor what he had seen. (an excerpt)

*"You ought to have seen what I saw on my way
To the village, through Patterson's pasture today:
Blueberries as big as the end of your thumb,
Real sky-blue, and heavy, and ready to drum
Into the cavernous pail of the first one to come!
And all ripe together, not some of them green
And some of them ripe! You ought to have
seen!"*

Now commercial blueberry farms advertise ripening blueberries ready for picking on scheduled days and hours. Prices are quoted (no entrance fees) containers supplied. The rumbling streetcar is replaced by a comfortable automobile that drives pickers quickly to the chosen blueberry farm. Everything is now easy and convenient for blueberry enthusiasts. Unfortunately, the old-time sweetness of the pasture-grown berries has not been inherited by the cultivated farm berries. Finally, there will be no surprise visit by a curious or unfriendly cow, nor even a chance meeting with a gliding lowly creature large or small. And there will be no surprises or adventure...



LABAS YU'ALL

**I wish to locate people who took
video pictures of the 1995 K of L
Detroit Convention Picnic Night.
Kindly contact me.**

**Day phone:
810-477-4710**

**Fax:
810-477-7883**

**Mail:
Joe Stark
4700 Dow Ridge
Orchard Lake, MI 48324**

Ačiū labai





These easy to prepare side dishes make your picnics a taste treat. Once again, ačiū labai to Elinor Sluzas at Elinor's Amber Rose Restaurant in Dayton, OH (C-96) for these recipes. Members are encouraged to share your favorite recipes, especially the ones handed down from your Lithuanian relatives. Mail to the editor's address on the front inside cover.

RUSSIAN COLE SLAW

1 head of cabbage (2-3 lbs.)
1 small package of radishes
6 green onions
1 pint sour cream (I use Breakstone)
1 toe garlic
salt to taste

Shred cabbage. Slice radishes. Chop green onions (white and greens). Crush toe of garlic and rub inside of bowl. Discard. Toss together cabbage, radishes and onions in a bowl. Add sour cream to cover shredded vegetables. Add salt to taste. Serve cold. (serves 10-12)

chopped)

Add: 1 teaspoon each:
celery seed,
mustard seed,
turmic, ground mustard and powdered alum.

Stir and add above mixture to one gallon cucumber slices (smaller cucumbers are best because they do not have as many seeds)

Put into two gallon jars. Put into refrigerator and shake jars every day for five days. They will keep very well for several months in the refrigerator.

Hungarian Coffee Cake

Cream: 1 cup sugar
1/2 cup shortening
2 eggs

Combine: 2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt

Combine: 1 cup buttermilk
1 tsp. vanilla

Alternately add the flour and milk mixture to the creamed ingredients. Pour into a greased and floured 9 x 13"

"Refrigerator" Sweet Pickles

Mix: 5 cups sugar
3 cups white vinegar
1/4 cup pickling salt (kosher salt)
4-6 onions, thinly sliced (not

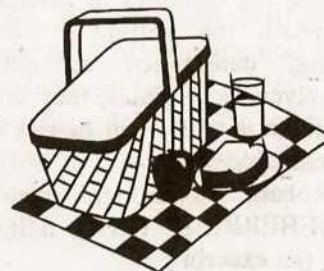
pan. Sprinkle with nutmeg and cinnamon. Dot with butter and sprinkle with brown sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 1/2 hour or until done.

Thanks to former VYTIS Editor, Mary Kober, C-109 for this quick meal recipe. This also tastes great using turkey.

Easy Chicken Pot Pie

1 package Stove Top Stuffing Mix
1 jar (12 oz.) chicken gravy (or condensed cream of mushroom soup)
2 cups cubed cooked chicken
1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen mixed vegetables, thawed and drained
1 large onion, diced
1 can (8 oz.) mushrooms, drained
1/4 tsp. dried thyme leaves

Prepare Stove Top Mix as per directions on pkg. Mix vegetables, gravy, thyme, chicken, onion, mushrooms in a 2 qt. casserole. Spoon stuffing over chicken mixture. Bake in 350 degree oven for 40-45 minutes until hot and bubbly.





COUNCIL NEWS



From Dalia's Desk: We'd like to thank our council news writers for keeping the rest of us informed of your council's activities. Please note the next issue for council news will be November 1996. Deadline for the issue is October 1, 1996.

New England District

Aldona Marcavage

The New England spring convention was hosted by C-135 Ansonia, CT on April 28. Over one hundred delegates and guests representing twelve of fourteen councils were present---this included 5 clergy 1 religious, and 3 Honorary members. For the warm welcome extended us, we thank Father Raymond Yuskas, pastor of St. Anthony's Church; Olga Gray,

vice president of C-135; and the many "šeimininkes" for their tasty meals.

The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Yuskas and Msgr. Francis Pranckus (C 141). The 4th degree was bestowed upon Lee Marcinka of C-141 by Msgr. Pranckus. Our annual Holy Hour followed the close of the convention. At that time, 3rd degrees were awarded by Fr. Yuskas to the following: Elizabeth Babrin, Edward Babrin, Theresa Shukaitis and

Doris Snirpunas--all of Council-7; also Regina Alexander, Francis Zerveskas, Elizabeth Balčiunas, Albert Kniupis, Elaine Kniupis--all of C-17---Patricia Silk of C-141--Magdalen Cronin of C-50. Congratulations and God's blessings to all the degree recipients.

Bertha Stoskus, NED president, conducted the business meeting. Olga Gray, C 135 Vice President extended her greetings to the assembled Knights. Fr. John Rikteraitis of New Britain was Founder's Day speaker. His topic was "Life". He spoke of a new book "UN Global Bondage" by Chris Kinkaid. He gave us much to think about as he said abortion and euthanasia are rampant in our country, adding that Satan is working overtime and Humanism is a society without God. However, the K of L can do much to stem this tide. He invited all to come to Waterbury September 22nd for A DAY OF PRAYER.

NED Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Peter Shakslis said reality is much worse than that book. All we can do now is pray fervently for change. We live in a pagan society that doesn't recognize human values. We need good leaders not only in USA but worldwide. We should begin going to monthly confession again and to wearing the scapular with humility. No power on earth can beat prayer, he added, and conquer Satan.

On the Calendar...

For further info. contact:

Aug. 17 - 18 - 82nd Annual Lithuanian Days
Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, PA

Eleanor Vaicaitis
(717) 874-1695

District Conventions

Sept. 27 to 29, MCD Fall Conv./Pilgrimage
Hosts C-96 Dayton, OH

Elena Mikalauskas
(513) 275- 8235

Sept. 22, NED Fall Convention and Day of Prayer
Hosts C-10, Athol, MA

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.)

The gracious hostesses of C-135, Ansonia, at the NED Spring Convention on Apr. 28 (Photo-right); Fr. J. Rikteraitis of New Britain and Fr. A. Januinas of Lawrence chow down (bottom, left); Third degree recipients during Holy Hour at St. Anthony's Church (bottom, right).



Father Albin Janiunas (C-78) was happy to be with us and working together again. His surgery was Dec-1995--and on Valentine's Day 1996, doctors declared him well --- no reoccurrence! God knew he was still very much needed here. He is wearing his new HM medal proudly and is thankful for our recommendation. Wear it in good health, Father, for many years to come. He asked for prayers for our parishes--for vocations. He said we need more priests, more churches and fewer jails. We should write more letters to our top officials promoting Catholic ideals.

We congratulate Father Petrauskas--C-26--on his 80th birthday. Valio!

A resolution was received from C-103 to NED spring convention to recommend NED

president Birute Stoskus for Honorary Membership at the Aug. National convention.

Two delegates were chosen for the National convention in Brockton: Anne Vaičius--C-7, and Aldona Marcavage C-141. Alternates chosen were Regina Alexander 9-17 and Frances Savicke C-17.

Sister Eugenia of Brockton spoke of K of L helping Sisters in Lithuania. Sr. Igne and Bernice Aviza are coordinators of Lith. nuns' activities. Because of recent surgery, Sister Helen did not attend, but via Sr. Eugenia sent her thanks for the support of the Lith. Catholic Childrens Relief --and for the many used postage stamps. A fire in the So. Boston Club recently caused the loss of the total shipment of articles for the children. Insurance will

reimburse but we must begin again.

Our Annual Cultural Festival at Maironis Park should be a very happy and interesting day. There will be a special children's program, a children's dance group, the scholarship money raffle, delicious Lithuanian food prepared by your congenial hosts--C-27 Norwood and C-50 New Haven--and many exciting games of chance. So, come on down.

The NED fall convention will be hosted by C-10 Athol Sept. 22, 1996. A happy, healthy summer to all!!

C-3 - Philadelphia, PA
Daina Kapochus Miller

On March 3rd Council 3 hosted a Champagne Brunch to celebrate the feastday of St.

Casimir. Three Council 3 members were in attendance to receive their first degrees, namely: Carol Ushka, Philip Machonis, and Anne Marie Jaskel. The president of C - 3, is Irene Ozalis. On March 10th when the Amber District celebrated St. Casimir's feast day our very own Julie Kowrack was presented with her third degree in Binghamton, NY. A warm congratulations to all of you.

One last bit of C - 3 news is that at a recent council meeting, our hard working, dedicated giving and caring Agnes Mickūnas was nominated to the Supreme Council for honorary membership in the K. of L. We know she is a fine candidate and wish her good luck.

C - 10, Athol - Gardner, PA **"Vincukas"**

Minnie (Lukasevičius) Hakkiner donated through our K. of L. \$250.00 to the various Lithuanian causes in memory of her late husband, Bill. The gift was divided among: Aid to Lithuania, Inc., Pontifical College in Rome, Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. and Catholic Religious Aid to Lithuania. Bill was the loving and encouraging father of 5 sons and 7 grandchildren. The recipient of many awards, he served as U. S. Army corporal in France and the Rhineland during World War II.

Minnie is an excellent gardener with a green thumb. Her grounds are a sight to behold during the flowering season. Her tulip and bulb garden has 2,500



blooms, a bit of Holland in Gardner. There is always our tri-color flying proudly over her property. Ačiū labai, Monika!

Condolences are in order to the Eacmen family on the death of father John, age 95. He was a familiar figure throughout the years, working at the Lithuanian club during the summer months up to the age of 91. The club honored his memory with members serving as pall bearers.

Howie Beaudette was head chef at the Spring Lithuanian Supper held at St. Francis to aid the parish scouts for an upcoming trip.

On April 12, at the local high school, Bronė Wišniauskas conducted a "Margučių Marginimo" demo at the Gardner Public School Multi Cultural Art Exhibit on April 12 at the local High School and was chosen the artist of the month at the May meeting of the Greater Gardner Art Club. Her painting will hang at the State House in Boston for a month. Bravo, Brone!

David Lucas has had a bad winter and spring with his health. We wish you a speedy recovery!

It was good to see Jennie Poskus and Millie Vaitkūnas at the May meeting. The winter months kept them indoors.

Mary Gauronsky broke her fibia and recuperated at the Quabin Rest Home. We all wish you a quick recovery, Mary.

Hope to see you all at the Fall convention to be held at St. Francis on September 22th.

Belated Fathers' Day wishes to all our priests, dads living and prayer for our deceased ones.

C-12 - New York, NY

Dalia Bulvičius ***for Irene Senken***

We had our final meeting for the season (until the fall) on Sunday June 2nd. It was nice to see our beloved president, Ed Burba Cook return to the fold. For various reasons he was unable to attend the last few meetings. Julia Gomes and Alma Korengo were also greeted warmly upon their return. Welcome back, fellows.

The daughter of our ritual chairman, Anthony Yacavonis and the late Kazimiera, Catherine Yacavonis received her B.S. from York College in New York City recently. Congratulations from all of us, Cathy! Irene Senken and our spiritual advisor, Father Eugene Savicki are scheduled to receive their 4th degrees at the National Convention in Brockton, MA. Įlgiausių metų! We will have about 7 delegates attending the convention.

Member Father Daniel Staniškis, who is the pastor of Holy Wisdom parish in Flanders, NJ, invited us to attend the ethnic festival which his parish sponsored on June 8th.

After the meeting, we feasted on a huge pot luck table. We sure have good cooks at C - 12. In charge and who did most of the work were our two Helens, namely Yurkus and Cuperwich with the rest of us chipping in.

We disbanded wishing each other a happy restful vacation

and "iki pasimatymo rugsėjo mėnesį".

C-24 - Chicago, IL ***BITE***

Many holidays and events have passed with great enthusiasm, but first may I introduce our C-24 council officers who are keeping us active - President, Bruce Neberieza; 1st V.P., Ausra Padalino; 2nd V.P., Frank Jurgaitis; Financial Secretaries, Rachael and Frank Jurgaitis; Corresponding Secretary, Loretta Simon; Publicity and News, Bernice Neberieza; Trustees, Stanley Mankus, Vincent Neberieza, Irene Murdock and Olga Eastman; Sgt. at Arms, Ron Padalino, Clare O'Dea, Helen and Connie Baltutis.

Stanley Mankus and Loretta Simon have been working diligently dressing and selling Lithuanian Dolls; Loretta and Joe Simon have recently moved are very busy getting settled into a new home in Orland Park. Much happiness to them. They had also celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary June 22nd. Congratulations!

Frank Jurgaitis arranged a "Day at the Races" for Council 24 on May 5th, Evelyn Ozelis, National President of the Knights of Lithuania was a guest amongst 50 others. We had a buffet lunch and then watched the horse racing where some of us left with our pockets full and others empty. It was great fun.

The Council 24 Juniors are growing like weeds and are eagerly awaiting summer vacations. They are planning some fund raisers under the

direction of Aušra Padalino, our "gražuole".

Our prayers are with two of our K of L'ers, Josephine Mankus and Charlie Aizinas and condolences to their families.

We welcome our new member, Ray Kupetis and are looking forward to the warm and sunny days of summer.

C-25 - Cleveland, OH ***Dolly-O***

After recovering from the "end of the year" holidays and activities, our first bowling get-together in February was hosted by the Thompsons. After the exciting bowling session, we were invited to partake in the delicious culinary makings of Joan with Jim handling the refreshments.

Linksmu Ilgiausu Metu, To Ann and Joe Ivoska,, who celebrated their golden 50th Wedding Anniversary on Feb. 24th with a mass and reception for relatives and friends.

St. Casimir's day celebration, Mar. 3rd started with a 10:00 a.m. mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Following mass, a buffet luncheon was reserved for us at Lilli's Restaurant at noon. Fr. Kijauskas, Msgr. Goldikovskis and 20 members attended. They all braved a severe onslaught of Mother Nature that morning. It SNOWED--Lotsa! Coffee hour was sponsored by C-25, on March 10th. T. Oberaitis thanks all those who baked, donated and helped. 'Tis a labor of love. Monetary donations were given to the parish fund.

The Oberaitis' welcomed all to an enjoyable Sunday

afternoon feast. K.of L'ers supported the Cultural Garden Luncheon at the Omni Hotel on April 14.

Nine members participated in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of St. George Post 613 Catholic War Veterans on Sat. April 20th. A very hearty welcome to our new members, Clifford and Catherine Sneider and Katherine Kaczmarek, and her daughter, Kathy.

Mid Central District meeting and Bowling Tournament was held at the Travelodge Hotel, May 17, 18 and 19. Weather was fantastic. Joan Ortman won the meeting's 50/50 raffle. A surprise attendee, Adele Tanner, showed up at our early bird reception, Friday evening, via her own private chariot.

Eight teams were entered in the tournament including 1 from Pittsburg, 3 from Detroit and 4 Cleveland teams. Detroit C-102's G. Cramblet, took the 1st place traveling trophy by a solid 97 pins; 2nd place J. Guerriero team hit 2960, enough to beat Cleveland's C-25, D. Oberaitis' team by ONE pin. B. August of Cleveland and A. Rogers of Pittsburgh were awarded their "special" trophies. One could identify the 8th place team by their yellow badges. Better luck next year.

Sat. night's Fashion Show of Lithuanian Beauties was a big hit, all done in good taste. The narrator could hardly be heard over the gales of laughter. Our compliments to H. Jakubs for a great entertainment idea.

On Sunday, all representatives attended the 10 am mass at O.L.P.H. Ann Ivoska, Steve Yurkovic and



Lithuanian Beauties Fashion Show proved entertaining on Saturday night during the MCD Spring meeting and Bowling Tournament held in Cleveland's C-25 on May 17-19 (top-left); Joe Ivoska, Betty August and Stella Sankal at the MCD event (top-right)

Agnes Bartkus were presented their 4th degree medals by past National President, Fran Petkus.

B. August and S. Sankal were in native dress and J. Ivoska wore his newly acquired yosta. Awards banquet, distribution of trophies and monies were held at the Lithuanian Club, following mass.

Many accolades go to our industrious president, D. Marks and his entire committee plus everyone who helped make the occasion memorable. You know who you are. No need to mention 35 names. Top prize of the MCD annual drawing Samantha, daughter of J. and L. Farrell of our own C-25. Hope to see you at our Fall pilgrimage. Sudiev.

C-50 - New Haven, CT ***Audrey Toole***

Council 50 members were out in full force to attend a testimonial dinner in honor of Isabel Peterson. The celebration itself at New England Food and Beverage in West Haven was a surprise for Isabel. However, the reason for honoring her is no

surprise. Isabel has been a tireless C - 50 worker, presently as our president and formerly as treasurer as well as leader of many committees. She began as a K. of L. member in Detroit and along with her late husband, Frank, was active in Syracuse. Many thanks to a fine lady.

Congratulations to Magdalen Cronin, who received her Third degree at the New England District meeting.

Members attended a dedication ceremony when a memorial picture of our late spiritual advisor, Father Albert Karalis, was placed in St. Casimir's church. Father Karalis was a strong supporter of members who had earlier worked to reestablish the K. of L. council in New Haven, CT.

Thanks to E. Toole, for taking over the job of ritual chairman.

We continuously pray for the health of all ailing members in various stages of recuperation, most recently our spiritual advisor, Father Casey and for Ann Rinkevičius.

C-63 - Lehigh Valley, PA ***Evelyn Harryn***

We at Council- 63 are nearing the completion of another calendar year.

There has been much that has been accomplished, and plans are still in the making. Pres. Delores Connolly will present the completion of our financial obligations that we must meet, such as Aid To Lithuania (always our first priority), College in Rome, Papal Foundation, to name a few.

On Feb. 16th, Council-63 honored Lithuanian Independence Day in their usual tradition. There were Flag Raisings in the cities of Bethlehem and Easton. Mayors of both cities participated in the ceremonies. Proclamations were presented to council by the mayors. Incidentally, Mayor Ken Smith, of Bethlehem, is of Lithuanian and Irish descent, his mother being Lithuanian. Our member, and Lithuanian Affairs Committeeman, Albert Klizas, had also contacted the office of Congressman Paul Mc Hale. He

received a proclamation from the U.S. Congress. These were sent off to Lithuania like the many others which were received by Vince and Bob Boris. We all want the Lithuanian people to know they are not forgotten. We also realize the transition toward democracy is not smooth and easy.

Council 63 also attended a specially arranged Mass at St. Michael's Church. The choir sang our beautiful Lithuanian Hymns. Member Ed Klova served as Lector. The Lithuanian gifts were presented during the offering. Valeria Smickle was in charge of the arrangements. As she also was for the Mass on St. Casimir's Day. Our council agreed to commemorate this day each year with a Mass, and members receiving Communion as a body, then follow this with a Brunch. And so we did!! This year it was also followed by holding our monthly meeting. Another important event in the month of March was our Spring Flea Market. This is co-chaired by Dora Lushis and Valeria Smickle with their strong, pick-up and delivery man, Jack Lushis. Jack also spruced up items to be sold to bring a little better price. Many of our dedicated members turned out to assist with this fundraiser. Their time and labor enriched our treasury in the tune of \$ 540!! After the Flea Market, a crew took over, and they begin to prepare for the Balfas Shipment. Clothing in excellent condition only were boxed and sealed. Bob Klova provided the proper size and strength boxes. Bob's truck got jam packed, secured tightly with

tarps, and he headed for St. Andrew's Church in Philadelphia. Bob feared a few bandits enroute, so he strapped things down tightly. We at Council-63 realize how fortunate we are to have members like Bob Klova. We can rely on him to get a good job done. AČIŪ, Bob!! Along with this shipment, Council-63 completed the first segment of a new project. We filled three large boxes with school supplies. They were in the vicinity of 200 lbs. They were earmarked for a school, the Utena Šaulies Vidurinė Mokykla, which we adopted to aid with learning tools. Jane Lutick addressed this to a long time contact she has in the area. By the way, when Jane last visited Lithuania, she visited the school with her contact, Regina Valytė, she then imbedded her footprints in fresh, wet concrete. Jane left her mark!!

Bob Klova spearheaded the Cash-Drawing Project which was successful during the past two years. From Bob's report at the May 19th meeting, the ticket sales are doing great!! The drawing will be held at the June 23rd meeting.

Adele Keraga is working very enthusiastically on the Stamp Collection Program. She is pleading with members not to forget to save their Postage Stamps from mail they receive. She and husband, Andy, are collecting them from Protestant Churches, the entire complex where they live, and receiving them in the mail by word of mouth. The proceeds go to the Children's Aid Program in Lithuania.

Council-63 is planning to hold and host the Amber District Meeting in October. Pres. Delores Connolly will soon be arranging plans for this event. Members, Adele and Andy Keraga, Evelyn and Paul Harryn attended the meeting in Binghamton, N.Y. Evelyn Harryn received her Third Degree at this meeting. These four will also attend the meeting in Pittston, Pa. in June.

Vice-Pres. Ben Apanavičius has been directing council members in singing "Lietuva Teyne Mūsų" at all meetings and affairs. Also, honoring council members Birthdays with the singing of "Ilgiausį Metų". Thanks so much, Ben.

Council members on the sick list are our faithful and expert Treasurer, Walter Balchunas. He is at home recuperating from surgery. We are praying that God grants you a speedy recovery, Walter! Also, Connie Milligan, who suffered a stroke. Connie's alertness and a "911" call saved her from the severity of the stroke. We miss you both at the meetings and hope to see you soon. May God keep you in His constant care.

Su Dievu.

C -96 - Dayton, OH
Fran Petkus

A very special time for our council is our Annual Mother's Day Mass. This year it was held on May 12th. The Mass was dedicated to all our living and deceased mothers. As part of this celebration, our Juniors held their Annual May Crowning of the Blessed Mother. Junior Knight, Joseph Berger had the

honor of Crowning the Blessed Mother while the other Juniors had flowers to place at Her altar.

Following Mass, under the guidance of their Junior Advisor, Annamarie Berger, the Juniors had a brunch for members and parishioners of Holy Cross. This is a tradition our Junior Council has continued for many, many years!

May 17-19, 1996 saw four of our members heading to Cleveland, Ohio for the MCD Annual Spring Convention and Bowling Tournament. George, Frances and Elena Mikalauskas and Fran Petkus were delegates from the council. Elena and Fran also bowled in a combination C -96/C-102 (Detroit) team. The team placed second, thereby, getting into the money prize level. Elena bowled so well she, also, came into the money prizes in the individual category. We must thank Cleveland, C -25, for planning a very successful weekend, as usual! We especially were impressed with their very unique Fashion Show!!

Our district holds an annual 50/50 raffle which is the only fund raiser to meet obligations for the various charities, etc. we have each year. Tom Bruzga, was not only SC 1st Vice-President, he was our District's Treasurer, also. One of the duties of the MCD Treasurer is to chair MCD's Annual Raffle. Our MCD President, Lillian Petravicius, assigned George Mikalauskas to complete this duty at this time. With George and C -25 member, Dolly Oberaitis, the raffle, once again, was very successful. We are happy to say C-96 member,



C-96 Member and new High School Graduate - Amy Berczelly

Eleanor Bobulski of Columbus, OH, was one of the winners!

Congratulations go out to Amy Berczelly upon her graduation from Carroll High School. Amy, who grew up in the Juniors and now a regular member of the council, will be heading to college pursuing a career as a Physician's Assistant. Get well wishes go to our St. Petersburg, FL member, Mary Lou Lastoski! Also to Dayton member, Aldona Sinkwitz. Another St. Petersburg, FL member has been very ill for several years. The Good Lord has decided it was time for Eugenia Gečas to join Him. Our deepest sympathies go to her husband, Joseph, her children Rita, Vida, Irena, Ray and his family. Eugenia, rest in the peace of the Lord!

C-100 - Amsterdam, NY Smile and Sparkle

Much has happened since our March communion brunch. First, our pastor and C-100 spiritual Advisor, Rev. Joseph Grabys was taken ill on Holy Saturday.

He was taken to St. Mary's Hospital where he spent a few days recuperating. It was great having him back for our April 15th meeting.

President Mirga Bablin and husband Edward were in Arizona visiting their daughter Diane and her family. While there, Mirga signed her up as a member of our council. Welcome to the fold, Diane Lauterbach!

1st Vice-president Regins Kot conducted the meeting in Mirga's absence. Past president, Irene Tice presented her with a new gavel. 2nd vice-president Gene Gobis received a letter from president Mirga Bablin which she read to the members. She also enclosed a check for \$105.00. This is the amount that Edward Baranauskas collected at our Lithuanian Day dinner and program. The amount was designated to be donated to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid.

Gene also received a check for \$100 from our member Sadie LaTorre. The members voted to send the donation to the Lithuanian Children's Relief Inc. Many thanks to Sadie for such a generous donation.

Eleanor Olechowski read a most interesting article on an amber collection which was displayed in Germany prior to World War II. It was noted that the huge collection in many different shades disappeared and more than likely was taken by the Russians. A search is still in progress in an attempt to reclaim the beautiful stones.

The K. of L. Foundation, headed by Loretta Stukas, acquired a new member on the

board, Polly Ziausys. Congrats Polly!

The Refreshment Committee of Frances DiBart, Mildred Whelly, Helen Hugo and Ann Czerw served a most delicious combination of goodies.

In the last few months we have missed our good member Walter Sargalis and were advised us of his illness. Our prayers are with you Walt!

C-110 - Maspeth, NY

Bruno Rutkunas

Birthday greetings by the our council and the Transfiguration parishioners went to our spiritual advisor, Msgr. Frank Bulovas on his 80th birthday, April 21, followed by another greeting by our knights a week later at our monthly meeting.

Our April 28 dinner dance was once again a successful affair with almost 200 dancing and dining guests. Thanks to all your support, plus all the volunteer help from our dedicated members (too numerous to mention, you know who you are). Without this teamwork, this celebration would not be possible.

On May 26th, we participated in our annual Maspeth Memorial Day parade. Some of our ladies wore their colorful Lithuanian costumes. Our meeting was held afterwards with beverages and franks for the hungry marchers. Our season wound down with our June 30 meeting, dinner and special annual raffle to benefit Aid to Lithuania.

Please be advised that we will have our first meeting of the season on August 25, after the 11:45 Lithuanian mass. We need

the added meeting to plan our fall activities. Have a nice summer and see you in Brockton!

C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY

Dot Richmire

Ed Barkowski, our Vice-President, reports that his wife, Virginia, is doing quite well after her recent hip surgery. We all wish her well in her recuperation and hope that she will be good as new soon.

Sadly, two members on the inactive sick list, died recently. Frances Stanonis in April and Frances Fink in May. We will miss both of them and extend our deepest sympathy to their respective families.

In April our New York City Bus trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island was well attended. In fact, the bus was filled to capacity. The weather cooperated and after a full day, everyone returned home safe, sound and sleepy.

In May many council members pitched in to assure a successful day at the annual Festival of Nations Lithuanian booth. Some members scrubbed and grated potatoes and prepared the "recipe" for potato pancakes and some prepared the kopustai. In fact, I had the unique pleasure of appearing on one of our local TV programs demonstrating the preparation of kopustai for the festival. Our special Mushroom cookies created by Gen Deery, and Walnut cookies by Gen Baranauskas were also featured on the program.

Apparently someone was watching the telecast, since many requests for the featured

foods were satisfied at our booth. In spite of the pouring rain early in the day, the sun finally appeared and so did the people, hungry for a treat.

In June, a dinner at a local restaurant will end our season.

Happy Summer everyone!

C-141 - Bridgeport, CT

Aldona Marcavage

Recently we were able to shower Sr. Helen with stamps for Lithuanian Children's Relief Fund. This is the story. The Ct. Post Publishing Co. had a puzzle contest with an unbelievable response. Staff correspondent at the Milford Senior Center remembered my plea for used postage stamps for Sr. Helen. Deacon John Rigeley, C-141 member and on staff at the Center filled two vans full with 40 huge bags full of envelopes and delivered them to the Senior Center. The flag went up for help. The teamwork involved in clipping and saving the stamps was truly gratifying. Aldona Peters, C-141 stamp chairlady was delighted with the unexpected windfall. We must acknowledge with thanks the many who helped with this project: John and Jean Rigely, Aldona and Pete Peters, Lee Marcinka, Clem Miller, Helen and Joe Janiūnas, Stephen and Alice Wilcinkas, Aldona and Bob Marcavage, children of St. Mary's elementary school (who are still happily clipping) and many people at the Milford Senior Center. To all of you, "Širdingai ačiū".

The stamp project is not the only one uniting the Knights of Lithuania and the Milford Senior

Center. The "Help Lithuania's Hospitals" has taken root. A couple of local newspaper stories regarding their great needs for medical supplies touched the hearts of the folks here, sparking this new project. This has the blessings of and is staunchly supported by the Executive Director of Elderly Services, Kathi McDonnell Bissell and John Rigely, Deacon of the Archdiocese of Hartford's Aid to the Elderly and C-141 members. Several doctors and a medical supply company have donated some supplies: gauze, bandages, alcohol swabs, blood pressure monitors, eye drops, and diabetes supplies. They are now sitting in a warehouse, the space for which was donated by a local business man. We hope to make this a meaningful and successful drive.

We welcomed Alan Strudas who was inducted into membership at our April meeting. His son Alan Jr., who has recently returned from a two week visit in Lithuania now desires to return there to teach English. He feels the need is great.

Our guest from the University of Bridgeport, Laurynas Misevičius, reported with pride that the 18 students from Lithuania beat the 250 Japanese students, and won first prize for their Lithuanian booth at the International Festival at UB March 30th. Congratulations!!

Our May meeting began on a happy note. Msgr. Pranckus lead us in prayer and a chorus of "Įlgiausių Metų" (with Armand Zakarauskas on accordion) for the many May birthdays. A beautiful cake decorated with



Lithuanian flags graced the refreshment table.

Msgr. Pranckus told us he enjoyed the NED spring convention and visit with former schoolmate, Fr. Raymond Yuskas, who will be retiring June 15, 1996. He hopes his replacement will be a Lith. priest. Our concern is that St. Anthony's Church may go the way of St. George and many others. This generation is seeing more and more Lithuanian churches and Lithuanian centers built by our forefathers' hard labors slipping away into the hands of other nationalities-other cultures. All good Catholics true, but no longer Lithuanian.

Congratulations and best wishes to Lee Marcinka, who received the 4th degree, and to Pat Silk, recipient of the 3rd degree at the NED spring convention in Ansonia.

Aldona Peters reported the Chicago Museum of Arts is requesting, for their records, the names and stories of Lithuanian-Americans who served in WW II.

Because it was the Blessed Mother's month of May, Aldona Peters read the story of AUŠROS VARTŲ Madonna and the many miracles attributed to her.

New Degree C-141 members Lee Marcinka (4th degree) and Pat Silk (3rd degree) at the NED convention in April.

Did you know that former President Reagan was made Honorary Citizen of Vilnius for his achievements during the Cold War?

Armand Zakarauskas introduced honored guests from Lithuania: Vilius and Joana Misevičius, who came here to share the joy of their son's (Laurynas) receiving his Master's Degree in Economics from U B. Vilius is an Associate Professor of Technology, and his wife, Joana, is an Associate Professor in English/Humanities --- both at the University of Kaunas. It was a pleasure to hear Joana speak in perfect English. She said when she was young, her mother encouraged her to study foreign languages because they were important in the world. She accented the fact that Lithuania is a small heart-shaped country on the map, which signifies Lithuanians have heart. True Lithuanians have always been kind-hearted people. Vilius showed video tapes of the beautiful architecture of Lithuanias many churches, and the Hill of Crosses. They then presented Msgr. Pranckus with a book of Lithuanian church and a tricolored folder with the National Anthem printed inside. After the meeting there were



"Boxes for Lietuva" C-146 members (left to right) George Gilbert, Joanna Gilbert, Stella Graci and Eduardas Žemaitis.

many warm exchanges of greetings, hugs and kisses with these lovely people who made our May meeting so enjoyable.

In our thoughts and prayers is John Kristy, who recently suffered serious surgery. Our deepest sympathy to Gintare Ivaška whose beloved mother recently passed away. May she enjoy the nearness of our Heavenly Father.

News flash from Florida. Our "snowbird" Walt Barius fell, broke his wrist and moans that he can't play golf now. On the cheery side--his daughter, Aldona, (my Godchild) has just received her Masters Degree from Sacred Heart U. God Bless!!!

Bon voyage to Stella Marcinauskis who with her sons John and Mitch with his wife fly to Lithuania May 30th.

Our next reunion was June 21st at the annual Retreat in Kennebunkport, Maine and soon after it will be in Brockton at the National Convention. So--IKI!!!

C - 144, Anthracite, PA

Ona

May was a busy month for the Anthracite Council. We entertained 3 members of the Lithuanian Civil Security who were at Fort Indiantown Gap for

some time. they were Colonel Algirdas Stulginskis, Chief of Technical Division; Lt. Col. Romualdas Kiseliūnas, Chief of Regional Civil Security Section, and Major Vidas Astrauskas. They were impressed with our hills, enjoyed our Cultural Center and the dinner at Grannies Restaurant, owned by member Victor Prep Jr. It was a time of good fellowship and they brought us up to date on Lithuania.

Then the following week, our friend Sister Marilyn Perkins brought Dr. Vaiva Eringyte. We had a lovely luncheon at Grannies, then Eleanor Vaičaitis, Chairman of Our Cultural Center took them to the Cultural Center and to see St. George's Church in Shenandoah. Dr. Vaiva was impressed with both and really enjoyed her visit with us. We gave her a donation to be used at Sv. Jakūbo Hospital where she works.

We were also informed by the people at Indiantown Gap that whenever they have Lithuanian visitors, they want to visit our area, where they feel very much at home. We expect more visitors soon.

Our special thanks to Eleanor Vaicaitis for the wonderful job she does at the Cultural Center.

She devotes much time to the upkeep of the building and to being a very special guide to visitors. Also thanks to Elsie Kosmisky, who is her able assistant, and to Bernie Zilaitis who also helps.

Our Lithuanian lector, Mary Koons, was hospitalized for a detached retina. We pray she gets well soon so she can continue her good work, not only as lector but as an excellent Cultural Chairman.

We are also praying for Father Bernard Shimkus who has been hospitalized in Philadelphia. Father Bernie, when he was well, celebrated our Lithuanian Mass.

We hope to see some of you at our Lithuanian Days which will be held at the Schuylkill Mall in Frackville on August 17 and 18.

C-146, Harrisburg, PA

Eduardas Žemaitis

April 20th and 27th, 1996 were very busy days for C-146. Many of our members packed cartons with clothing and dry goods for Lithuania. At the last count, there were 35 boxes, each weighing about 50 pounds each. The boxes were transported to the Lithuanian House in Baltimore, MD in the members vehicles. From there they will be shipped to Vilnius, Lithuania where they will be distributed among the desperately needy families in Lithuania identified

by Catholic parishes through out the country. Many of the recipients were political prisoners who have returned from Siberia.

There is no charge for boxes with no special address. However, for cartons that are sent specifically to friends or relatives there is a nominal fee of \$25.00. For more information concerning this matter, contact:

Lithuanian Relief Parcel

Service, Inc.

368 W. Broadway

Boston, MA 02127

Tele.: (617)269-4455

Fax: (617)269-4836



This was a well coordinated effort on the part of C-146. Congratulations go out to Joanna Gilbert and Stanley Brazinskas for spear heading this philanthropic mission.

C-147, St Petersburg, FL

Dolores Jonaitis

Get well wishes for Violet Kraujalis and Victoria Kleiva.

Welcome to Adolph and Mary Sarka who transferred to us from C - 154 in Spring Hill.

Council 147 held their picnic in Veterans Park on May 1st. It was a lovely day enjoyed by nearly 100 members and guests. The food was planned and prepared by Petronelė Gudoniene. She worked very hard and diligently for 3 days. Her kitchen helpers were Anthony Gudonis, John Jonaitis, Dana Jurėnas, Jesaitiene, Irena Diktanas, Janina Lauras and Elena Jurkynas. Maria Gelazius was in charge of tickets and Victoria Kleiva took care of the raffle table, with the help of Birutė

Mikalauskiėnė and Gražina Biknevičienė.

Romas Kalantas Menėjimas took place in Church on May 12th, and at the Lithuanian Club on May 20th. Antanas Grabauskas, Valeria Lesčinskas and Kazimera Arlauskas represented our Council 147.

On May 22nd, a group of Lithuanian retirees went to Biloxi and Gulfport Mississippi, to visit their Casinos. John and Dolores Jonaitis and Anthony and Petronelė Gudonis were among them.

Get well wishes are also in order for Father Steponas Ropolas O.F.M., who had surgery at Bayfront Hospital. He is now at home. In the meantime, Father Čyvas has been quite busy with Chapel affairs; etc. We're certainly glad Father Čyvas is feeling better.

Our faithful 4th degree knight, Suzana Mažeika, passed away May 22nd in Boca Ratan, Florida. A Memorial Service was held at Calvary Cemetary on May 25, 1996. Victoria Kleiva and Father Matas Čyvas said our K of L Ritual prayers. May her soul rest in peace. Her husband Anthony Mazeika was the founder of our Council 147.

C-152, E. Long Island, NY

Tom Tarmey

Although for a considerable time during what seemed an interminable winter and an almost nonexistent spring we nearly came to suspect an irreversible climatic change for the East Coast, we are relieved to find that our extreme corner of Long Island has once again acquired the lovely complexion

that makes it so desirable a place to live in, or retire to.

With the return of finer weather, the human urge to see the sights of other lands and how their peoples live, grows strong. Bea and Fred Lucka have just returned from exploring three lovely and historic cities in Bavaria and the Austrian Tyrol: Munich, Salzburg and Vienna. Anyone who appreciates great beer enjoys "The Sound of Music", or is enchanted by the deathless melodies of Mozart will envy them!

This writer is looking forward to the emotional experience of revisiting, after 68 years, Ireland, the birthplace of both his parents.

Our Fellow Knights, Alice and George Kline, celebrated during this past May the 50th anniversary of their marriage, an attainment which, especially in our times is as rare as it is glorious. May God bless them with many more!

We wish also to extend our Council's heartiest welcome to our two new members, Martha Daly and Matthew Martin.

On a less happy note, we wish to commend to your prayers our ill: our Sister knight, Mae Zipkus and Edward Zorskis, son of our members, Charlene and Felix Zorskis.

Our deceased, for whose souls the kindness of our readers' prayers is also respectfully asked, include Kevin Clark, son of our Sister, Alberta Clark; and Anthony Patamsis, brother of our Sister, Anna Baksys.

May God lay His hand gently on the ill, and may He welcome the dead into Paradise with outspread arms!

JULY - 1996 - LIEPA

**Most gracious Queen,
Miraculous presence at
Samogitian Calvary,
Hear us, petitioners,
Who yearn for your comfort.**



Our Lady of Žemaitija
Miraculous icon at
Church of the
Visitation

*Karaliene maloninga,
Kalvarijoj stebuklinga,
Išgirska Tu mus prašančius,
Malonių tavo trokštančius!*

Dates to remember in July:

- July 4 Independence Day, a national holiday in the U.S.
- July 6 Statehood Day. A national holiday in Lithuania commemorating the coronation of Mindaugas in 1253, which marked Papal and international initial recognition of the State of Lithuania as a Christian Kingdom in Europe.
- July 12 Commemoration of Blessed George Matulaitis. This feast is also celebrated with an 8 day Atlaida in Marijampolis.
- July 15 Commemorative day in Lithuania marking the definitive victory over the Crusaders by the combined forces of Lithuania and Poland under the leadership of Vytautas the Great on this date in 1410. After the Battle of Grünewald / Žalgiris, the Crusaders ceased to be an important threat to Lithuania.

Name's Day Greetings to all:

Amelia (Jul 10)	Ann (Jul 26)	Arnold (Jul 18)
Audrius (Jul 8)	Benedict (Jul 11)	Bertha (Jul 4)
Birutė (Jul 4)	Bridgit (Jul 22)	Christina (Jul 23)
Christopher (Jul 23)	Danguolė (Jul 27)	Elena (Jul 31)
Elizabeth (Jul 8)	Elizabeth (Jul 4)	Eugene (Jul 12)
Fredrick (Jul 18)	Gintas (Jul 5)	Henry (Jul 13)
Ignatius (Jul 31)	James (Jul 25)	Joachim (Jul 26)
Julius (Jul 1)	Jūra (Jul 12)	Kęstutis (Jul 25)
Lawrence (Jul 21)	Leo (Jul 3)	Longinas (Jul 21)
Martha (Jul 29)	Napoleonas (Jul 2)	Natalie (Jul 27)
Regina (Jul 1)	Sigita (Jul 31)	Sigute (Jul 10)
Thomas (Jul 3)	Veronica (Jul 9)	Victor (Jul 28)
Vita (Jul 12)	Živilė (Jul 24)	

AUGUST - 1996 - RUGPJŪTIS

O Queen,
assumed into heaven,
pray for us.



*Karaliene
į dangų paimtoji.
melski už mus!*

Madonna and Child,
Miraculous icon at
Church of the Assumption
Pivašiūnai, Lithuania

Dates to remember in August:

- Aug 8 An 8-day "atlaida" in preparation for the Feast of the Assumption is begun at Pivašiūnai. The parish church here features a miraculous icon of Our Lady behind/above the main altar. It is the focal point of the pilgrimage which attracts tens of thousands from Poland and Belarus as well as Lithuania.
- Aug 15 The Feast of the Assumption of Mary. Also known as "Žolinė", it is customary on this day to bring bouquets of flowers, newly harvested ears of grain to be blessed in church. In some areas, these were, then, preserved by drying and carefully stored so that they could be placed in the casket and buried with a deceased family member.
- Aug 20 On this date in 1962, Archbishop Theophilus Matulionis died in Šeduva. He had spent much of his life in exile and/or jail. The Church in Lithuania fervently prays for the formal acceptance in Rome of his cause for Beatification.
- Aug 26 Women's Equality Day

Name's Day Greetings to all:

Adolph (Aug 29)
Augustin (Aug 28)
Daina (Aug 9)
Elena (Aug 18)
Hiliary (Aug 12)
Laura (Aug 22)
Liudas (Aug 25)
Monica (Aug 27)
Sabina (Aug 29)
Vilija (Aug 5)
Virginija (Aug 9)

Alphonsus (Aug 1)
Bernard (Aug 20)
Daiva (Aug 6)
Felicija (Aug 19)
Karolina (Aug 6)
Lawrence (Aug 10)
Louis (Aug 25)
Raymond (Aug 31)
Stephen (Aug 16)
Violė (Aug 8)

Audronė (Aug 24)
Clare (Aug 11)
Dominic (Aug 8)
Gintė (Aug 30)
Kastytis (Aug 13)
Lidia (Aug 3)
Mėta (Aug 28)
Rose (Aug 23)
Susanna (Aug 11)
Violeta (Aug 21)

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Kalbų mokslas

Kas knygom's kalbą nor' išmoks,
 Jam daug daug mokslo reik,
 Iš knygų daug tur paskaityt.
 Tai tikt neina veik?

Tas kalbą jau lengviau išmoks,
 Kurs gird' dainas dainuot,
 Bet dar lengvesnis mokslas koks -
 Mergoms ją nubučiuot.

Kaip aš dabar lietuviškai
 Veik išsimokinau?
 Ar man ir puolė taip lengvai?
 Tai tik tau nesakau.

Learning a Language

To learn a language out of books
 Exacts a teaching toll,
 For many books must be consumed
 Does any reach the goal?

But language learning comes with ease,
 If sweetened with song's bliss
 By far the simplest method, though,
 Is having girls to kiss.

How I learned Lithuanian
 So fast and without woe?
 Did it come easyilly to me?
 Now, that you'll never know!

By Jokubas Skliutauskas: Sauerwein-Gedichte (1831-1904) a German writer, Lithuanian activist and poet. English translation by Greg Triffitt of the University of Tasmania (near Australia). Line art (bottom) by Kazys Šimonis, Vilnius (1966)

