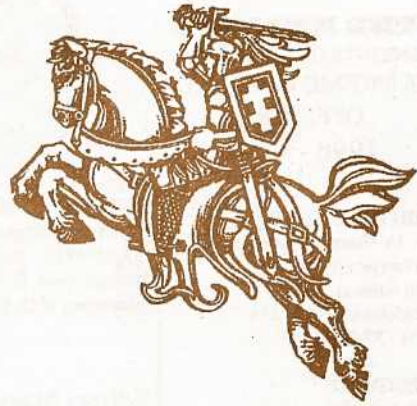
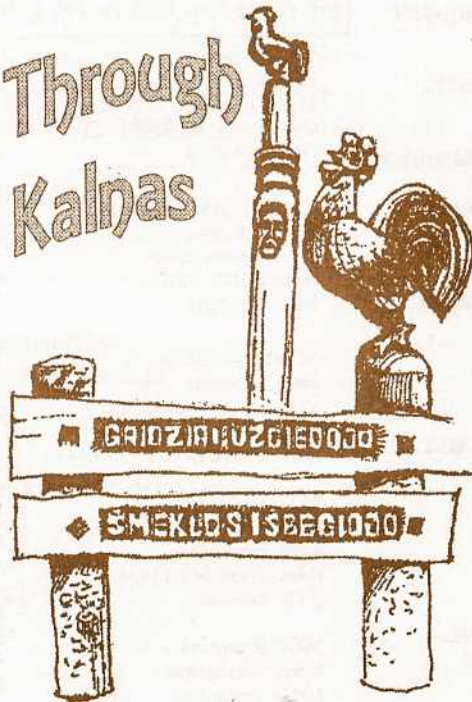


# VYDIS

*The Knight*  
volume 82: no. 9



A Walk Through  
Raganu Kalnas



*Lapkritis - November 1996*



**VYTIS**  
**-THE KNIGHT-**  
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**VYTIS - The Knight - STAFF**

**Editor:** Marytė Abbott  
**Council News Editor:** Dalia Bulvičius  
**Layout and Design:** MBA Designs  
**Bus. Manager:** Richard Niedvares  
 tel. (773) 764-3996 fx. (773) 764-5847

Send all editorial correspondence to:  
 M. Abbott - VYTIS - The Knight  
 P.O. Box 1934  
 Grand Central Sta. NY 10163-1934  
 tel/fax (718) 937-3352

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Cover illustrations from the larger than life wooden sculptures at Raganų Kalnas or the Hill of Witches. Created in 1979-81 to bring fairy tales to life is the "Sitting Forester" (left) by Ipolitas Užkurnys of Vilnius. (Right) "With the Cock's Crow, the Ghosts Depart" by Romas Venckus Birštonas and Rimas Zinkevičius of Ukmergė.



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*VYTIS - the Knight* - is the official publication of the Knight of Lithuania. The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of their ancestors, and a knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.

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:

I couldn't wait to share my thoughts with you on my first trip to the Baltics this past summer. After pondering all the reasons not to go, such as: (1) there's heavy Mafia crime, (2) facilities are poor, (3) why visit Estonia and Latvia, (4) you don't know enough Lithuanian and (5) after two weeks you'll be arguing with Bob Boris. Well, the desire to see the land of our ancestors and gather new material for VYTIS got the better of me, so I decided to join the Aid to Lithuania Spotlight on the Baltics Tour. And in the end, the reasons not to go turned lame. (1) Yes, there sure IS crime in Lithuania and the Baltics. But I've experienced it living here in New York City and have learned not to venture into unknown territory alone at night ANYWHERE. Fact is, Lithuania was much safer as a tourist than New York. (2) Yes, SOME of the facilities are not up to our spoiled Western standards. The toilet tissue does resemble sandpaper and I brought my own supply. But having grown up on summer camping trips with seven siblings cramped into campers and tents, this trip to me was a royal treat. We rode in an air-conditioned luxury German made bus, complete with plenty of water and toilet facility. And some of the hotels were modern and lovely. (3) Traveling the Baltics are like traveling through New England, with the exception of the border facilities. All three countries have many similarities and should market themselves to tourists more. (4) Give me a year in Lietuva and I'll come back speaking Lithuanian. But, I had no problem with a few books, choice words, and friends. Just like the French, the native Lithuanians are pleased that we TRY to speak. (5) Bob and I are still friends, in fact he was instrumental in taking a side trip to see the tomb of Blessed George Matulaitis in Marijampole.

So my advice to any of you who are hesitant about a trip to Lietuva. DON'T BE. GO. If you don't want to impose on relatives and want to see the major sights, take a package tour. You'll still have plenty of free time. And perhaps, like your editor, you'll come back planning your next trip.

We hope you enjoy the upcoming sections about Lithuania and the Baltics. Do write us and share some of your experiences in Lietuva, too.

## Letters to the Editor



### More Scholarship Thanks

To the Editor:

Thank you so much for awarding me the Alice Karklius Memorial Knights of Lithuania Scholarship. It will greatly aid me in attending college. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Thanks,  
**Amy Berczelly**  
 C-96, Dayton, OH

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to thank you very much for the K. of L. Scholarship. Hours before I was notified, information came in on how much of a

grant I would receive from the government and I was very disheartened and began to wonder how I would pay for four years at Slippery Rock. I am very grateful the Knights of Lithuania have confidence in me and I am now even more dedicated to fulfill my aspirations because the Knights have instilled faith in me and I won't let you down.

Thank you,  
**Vincent R. Youravich**  
 C-118, Hazelton, PA

### Budget Blast

To the Editor:

As we all know, the Knights of Lithuania motto is "For God and Country." I presume "country" means Lithuania.

We should help our heritage and roots to the utmost of our abilities. The drastic cuts made at the



National Convention in Brockton, MA were reprehensible. Instead of attending next year's convention in Dayton, we should make our own donations to Aid to Lithuania, Lithuanian Affairs and Lithuanian Children's Relief, etc.

**Ann Z. Morrissey**  
C-110 Maspeth, NY

## An Expert on Alus...

To the Editor:



I read with great interest and thirsty envy your brief article concerning beer from Lithuania (*Alus-Lithuanian Beer*, March 1996, p.22). What lucky editors you were to taste liquid bread from Lithuania!

In this article, a Ms. Vidziene, the wife of the vice-president of the *Lithuanian Breweries Association*, claims that American beer tastes "watery." She further implies that American beer is quite lacking in alcoholic content. The authors of the article then add to this misconception by claiming that the Lithuanian beers they sampled ranged from 11 to 20% alcohol.

These statements are misleading on five counts.

**First...** What the authors read on the bottles 11-20 referred, not to their respective alcohol contents, but to the amount of fermentable sugars present in the beers *before* the onset of fermentation. These measurements are referred to as degrees Plato. They are commonly employed on the labels of European beers.

A beer of 11 degrees Plato would contain, when fully fermented, about 6% alcohol by volume. Budweiser, if identified by this yardstick, would also begin at 11 degrees Plato.

A beer of 20 degrees Plato would contain approximately 8% alcohol by volume. This would be a prodigious beer indeed...but nowhere near the Olympic alcoholic heights claimed by the authors.

**Second...** Alcohol is a byproduct of yeast fermentation. It is, in fact, toxic to yeast! Beer yeast will expire in the presence of 10 - 11% alcohol. Under normal circumstances, beer yeast cannot even attain these levels without greatly injuring beer flavor and stability. That is why the

alcoholic strength of most beer, *including* European beer, hovers about 4 - 6%.

**Third...** The way in which one measures the alcohol present in beer can cause confusion. Alcohol measured by weight will appear less than if it were measured by volume, even though the physical amount of alcohol involved is *identical*.

Alone among the breweries in the world, only the American mega-breweries measure alcoholic content by weight. All other breweries, large and small, instead indicate the *volume* of alcohol present, American mainstream beers thus merely *appear* to contain less alcohol than European beers, To use *Budweiser* as an example again: while listed as 4% alcohol by weight, it de facto contains 5% alcohol by volume.

**Fourth...** The small amount of alcohol in beer (relative to wine or distilled spirits) provides very little flavor. It does produce a moderate psychotropic reaction and a pleasing warmth and sweetness.

**Fifth...** *Utenos Gerimai*, Lithuania's largest brewery, produces 500,000 hectoliters of beer annually. This is roughly equivalent to 426,100 US barrels.

But here in the US, craft breweries produced nearly 4 *million* barrels of beer in 1995, They will produce more in the future, as new operations are opening at the rate of 6 every week! (*Anheuser-Busch*, as a comparison, alone produced 94 *million* barrels of beer last year.)

What are craft breweries? They are small-scale operations, annually producing less than 15,000 barrels, and, more commonly, less than 2,000 barrels.

Since the first operation fired up its kettle in 1979, craft breweries have signaled a return to the *culture* of breweries of yesteryear: that is, an emphasis upon freshness and regional pride. These modern craft breweries regularly produce once-common classic beer styles, similar to the flavorful beers formerly produced by long-shuttered local and foreign breweries. And craft breweries are creating new styles, some of which the mega-breweries have vainly attempted to duplicate.

(☞ turn to page 36)





*Touring  
Lithuania*  
A Walk  
Through  
Raganų  
Kalnas  
and the  
Curonian Spit

Whether you are a naturalist, a historian, a Lithuanian or an inquisitive child, the next time you decide to plan a family journey to Lithuania, the one spot not to miss is the Curonian Spit and the Hill of Witches or Raganų Kalnas.

People have long been trying to solve the enigma of the Curonian Spit - how did the sand bank appear? Legend has it that long ago the place where the spit now is was covered with water from which a chain of islands protruded. On one of the islands a girl was born and her parents named her Neringa. The golden-haired beauty grew into a giant, and helped people in all kinds of ways: she helped fishermen who had been carried far away from the shore, drove fish into their nets, and so on. Once Bangpūtys, the God of the Sea became so enraged that the sea did not calm down for an entire year. The people began to ask Neringa to protect them from furious waves. Neringa listened to them and began to scoop sand into her apron and pour it between the islands. This is how she made the embankment, which even today separates the sea from the peaceful bay, where fishermen can catch fish without fearing that they'll be pulled into the deep sea ... Grateful to Neringa, the people named the embankment after her.

The first people appeared on the spit about 4,000 years ago. They made their living by fishing and hunting, but also knew how to work the land and grow livestock. Some 500 years ago the

landscape began to suffer from the surrounding community. The forests began to be felled on a mass scale, and fires became more frequent. The thin surface layer of life which covered the soil began to disintegrate. The winds began to destroy not only the spit, but the people as well. The old dunes, having lost the protective covering of the forest, turned into loose hills of sand which ominously began to creep towards the fishermen villages. Only then, when was already too late, did people understand the mistake that they had made. In the 16th-19th centuries, fourteen villages on the spit were buried by sand.

People consequently became anxious about how to tame the sand dunes, In 1803, Professor J. Titijus proposed that trees and shrubs be planted on the dunes, and that another dune be built to block the sand from sliding deep down into the spit. G. D. Kuvertas, a postal worker in Nida, was the first to undertake this huge task when he began planting trees and shrubs on Urbas Hill. Other people then followed his example, and by 1904, a protective sand dune had been formed. The fate of the spit has fallen into the hands of humans. Although the strong winds and storms continue harm the dunes, the efforts of the local people are keeping these effects under control.

In order to maintain an ecological balance, officials try to direct the stream of tourists in such a way to protect the landscape as much as possible. There are many scenic overlooks set up throughout Neringa expressly for tourists. One such overlook is some kilometers from Klaipėda, on the so-called Avikalnis ("Sheep Hill") from which there is a marvelous panoramic view of the lagoon, the spit, and the sea.

**Neringa** encompasses the entire Lithuanian part of the Curonian Spit (94.4 square kilometers or 58.7 sq. miles), and is home to the longest street in the country. The four settlements of the Curonian Spit (Juodkrantė, Pervalka, Preila, and Nida) are all situated on the road, which is approximately 50 kilometers or 31 miles long.

The Curonian Spit is a natural wonder created by sea, wind, and man. It was not by chance that the renowned German geographer Wilhelm von Humboldt wrote in 1809 that "the Curonian Spit is so peculiar that if you don't want your soul to be missing a wonderful impression, you really must see it..."





*Father and son musicians amid the wooden sculptures at Raganų Kalnas who had some of us doing a polka.*

The landscape of the Curonian Spit is extremely fragile and vulnerable. Its entire beauty is a layer of life tended carefully by man on top of dunes of blown sand. For this reason, visitation in Neringa is limited. Cars may only be driven and parked on asphalt, and it is recommended that they be kept in protective lots, which can now be found in all four of the settlements.

To get to the Curonian Spit from Klaipėda, it is necessary to take a ferry across the Curonian Lagoon. The 10 minute ferry ride somehow seems to calm travelers down and prepare them for the breathtaking beauty of the spit.

**Juodkrantė** (the Black Shore) where Raganų Kalnas is located, is a seaside resort and fishing village on the west shore of the Courish Lagoon, 18 km or 11 mi. south of Klaipėda, an ice-free port on the Baltic Sea. Nestled in a valley surrounded by fir covered sand dunes up to 40-50 m.(130--160

ft.) high, the resort affords scenic views of Neringa, the Courish Spit between the Baltic Sea and the Courish Lagoon. The tallest dunes are in the middle of the spit, namely the Dune of Glider Pilots 68 m (220 ft.), the Old Saloon 67.4 m and the Vipers' Mountain at 58.4 m. Some of the dunes are overgrown with trees and shrubs, others are bare and shifting, giving them the nickname the "Lithuanian Sahara". This strip of sandhills is only 3 km (1.9 mi.) wide where Juodkrantė is located.

Juodkrantė -is perhaps the most stable settlement in Neringa, Juodkrantė remained in place even during the 'sand-blowing' period (18th-19th centuries), as it was nearby natural spit forest which protected it from the winds. In the second half of the 19th century, amber was industrially extracted - Juodkrantė. The name "Gintaro Įlanka" ("Amber Bay") still remains from this period.

**Raganų Kalnas** or the Hill of Witches is not the Disneyland type of amusement that kids are used to in the States, but it indeed has the intrigue and lore indicative of the Lithuanian culture and the visit will leave a lasting impression. Children are immediately drawn to the giant woodcarvings depicting Lithuanian legends and folktales. This ensemble of comic folk sculptures, erected in 1979-1981, shows off the unique talents of carved by various Lithuanian woodcutting artists.





Photos and illustrations do not really do the images justice, as many are made to be interactive. Kids can climb up the wooden horse, slide down the witches tongue, play on the intricately carved teeter-tauter or adults can relive their childhood and do the same. A path leads you through groups of witches, devils and fairy-tale monsters. You can talk to the witch into whose ear whispered wishes are said to come true, and you can sit on the bench which is said to cure all diseases...

One comes to realize how talented the local wood carvers are at this art that when one local artist displayed a few small pieces to sell and many of us forgot to bargain with him on prices. The carvings were so well made, we simply paid what he asked. The walk or hike up the hill may take a bit more time for those accompanied by a cane or limited mobility, but it's indeed worth every extra minute. Gift shops sell books describing Raganų Kalnas, in Lithuanian and German, but English editions were unavailable yet. The books describe the tales each craftsman modeled their sculpture after.

Nida (48 km or 30 mi. from Klaipėda) is the central settlement in Neringa and apparently the oldest. Nida's roots are located farther off from its current location. Archaeologists have come across traces of old Nida on the shore of the lagoon, not far from the Great Dune. People were already living there in 2,000 B.C., when the Curonian Spit was overgrown with luxuriant leafy forests. Archaeologists have established that the Baltic tribe had already settled the area at that time. In 1732, the old settlement was covered with sand, and the inhabitants moved to the area which we now know as Nida. Nida was first mentioned in written sources in 1385, as the Crusaders moved through the spit on their way to baptize the Lithuanian lowlanders.

A neo-Gothic chapel was built in Nida in 1888. Although it was converted to a museum during the period of forced atheism, it started to be used for religious purposes once again in 1988.

German writer and Nobel Prize Laureate, Thomas Mann, spent the summers of 1930-1932 in Nida. His former residence, which was situated on the high shore of the lagoon (19 Skruzdynės St.), now houses a reading room and an exhibition.

The architects of Nida's 'new town' tried to make the new buildings conform as much as

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possible in form, size, and decoration to the architecture of a traditional fishing village.

After Lithuania regained the Klaipėda region in 1923, Nida grew in size and developed as a resort. The Neringa Museum was established. The museum houses a great many regional artifacts. The resort attracts tourists and vacationers not only from Lithuania but also from Germany, Latvia and Estonia.

The summer tourist season attracts up to 5,000 vacationers and tourists to the Spit annually. The old houses of the fishermen, decorated in typical Lithuanian folk fashion, have survived to the present. They have brightly painted doors and windows, ornately carved shutters, an a pair of horses' heads (žirgeliai) carved at the roof ends. Even the boats of the fishermen are decorated with wood carvings.

*Sources: Lietuva, Juodkrantė ir Raganų Kalnas by Felikasas Marcinkas, recently published in Lithuania in both the Lithuanian and German languages. Lithuania By Car by A. Semaška ©1994 Vilnius*



## K. of L. Foundation Essay Contest Winner

# Changes in Lithuania Mean Changes in Knights of Lithuania Priorities

### 2nd Prize Winner

*Len Kapochus  
C-3, Philadelphia*

Dedicated to "God and Country/Dievui ir Tėvynei," we are affected by the following changes: Seminarians and priests can travel freely to other countries; religious institutions and schools are being constructed, refurbished and reopened; healthcare facilities are in need of modern buildings, state-of-the-art equipment, prescription, and nonprescription medications; and involvement in the democratic process is possible.

Knights' support of St. Casimir's College and its students in Rome is important! Lithuanians are blessed to be able to use it to educate seminarians and priests and as a "home away from home" for visiting clergy.

In Lithuania, facilities are needed to worship, to spread the "good news of salvation" through our Catholic Faith, and to educate in a positive atmosphere where our brothers and sisters may witness Catholic Christian values and ethics in action as they are taught and practiced.

We must continue Medical/Humanitarian efforts of Aid to Lithuania, Inc. Its work affects the daily lives of our brothers and sisters positively. Almost 100 organizations and healthcare facilities throughout Lithuania benefited from over thirty 40-foot containers of equipment and medicines valued at about \$25 million.

Support of the K of L Foundation must continue. Its essay contests, cultural and religious information, texts, goods, and humanitarian efforts are needed and appreciated!

We must continue to fund scholarships for deserving members, their children and our seminarians in Rome.

Lithuanian Affairs is a priority. One of the charges of the Committee was to help regain

independence. Now the charge is to help retain independence -- LIETUVA PER AMZIUS!

We may not wish to interfere with our ancestral homeland's internal politics, but it is incumbent upon us to assist in educating our brothers and sisters about how important personal involvement in a democracy is in their quest for life, liberty, and happiness--a free life with economic opportunities in a just society. Foreign policy affects democratization, privatization, and investment. To maintain and improve foreign aid policy, we must provide information to members, the U.S. community, and our legislators so that fairness prevails.

We must continue doing all of our good works! Let's urge members to "donate" acceptable school supplies, computers, lab equipment, etc. that could be used. A group known as Volunteers in Service to Lithuania (VISL) where committed individuals would serve in hospitals, schools, etc. is feasible.

Our personal enthusiasm, commitment, and our own personal support of K of L causes is needed! With about 4,000 members collectively, our personal funds make K of L funds appear minuscule. Our Knights of Lithuania Organization cannot do it alone.

To quote from Mother Theresa, "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

Remember the saying, "Let George do it! Tegu Jurgis daro!" Well, broliai ir seses, Jurgi ne nori daryti, todėl mes turime daryti! (George doesn't want to do it; therefore, we have to do it!)



*Sign on a football coach's door:  
Blame Nobody! Expect Nothing! Do Something!*

*And if you prefer it in Lithuanian:  
Nieko nekaltink! Niekuo nesitikėk! Veik!*

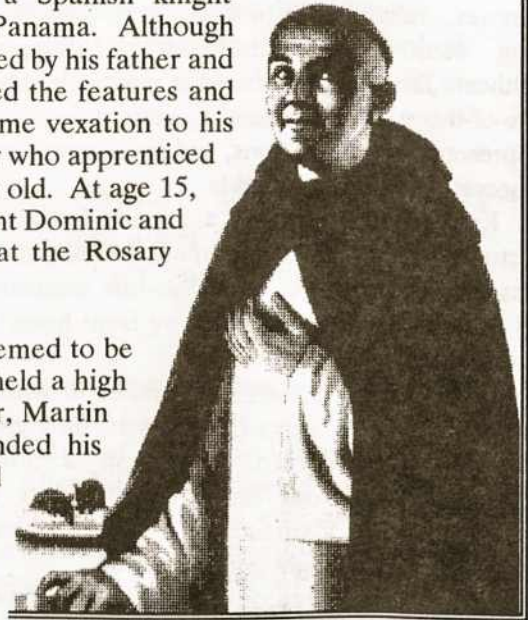


## We're Number One

How often, particularly in late November as the collegiate football season nears its end, do we hear this claim of primacy from schools whose teams had attained (or sometimes almost attained) a position of being first among their peers! So too, in November, the Church celebrates the feast days of two saints, both of whom might, except for their deep humility, lay claim to the distinction of being Number One. St. Martin De Porres was the first of the descendants of African slaves brought to the New World to be canonized. Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini was born in Italy, emigrated to the United States and was later naturalized as a citizen. Her canonization in 1952 made her the first U.S. citizen to be so honored.

**A Patron for Social Justice.** Martin was born in Lima, Peru to a black freed-woman from Panama. His father was a Spanish knight-nobleman, who in later life became governor of Panama. Although his parents never married, Martin was acknowledged by his father and legitimately carried the family name. He inherited the features and dark skin of his mother which was a cause of some vexation to his father. He was left totally to the care of his mother who apprenticed him to a barber-surgeon when he was twelve years old. At age 15, Martin took on the habit of the Third Order of Saint Dominic and eventually became a fully professed lay-brother at the Rosary convent in Lima.

Because of his mixed racial origin, Martin was deemed to be of a lower class of society even though his father held a high office. In his capacity as a simple tertiary brother, Martin was assigned to the infirmary. He soon expanded his ministry outside the priory to the poor and dispossessed of the city. He was totally dedicated to helping the poor and was eventually given the responsibility for distributing the daily alms provided by the convent. He founded an orphanage and a foundling hospital in Lima and constantly worked for equal rights for all people regardless of race. In addition to his active apostolate and penitence, Martin spent many hours in private prayer, often before the Blessed Sacrament.



*St. Martin de Porres,  
1579 - 1639*

He died at the age of 60, worn out from his intensive ministry and practice of penance. Martin was immediately venerated as a saintly man. It is reported that he was carried to his grave by prelates and noblemen. He was beatified in 1837 after long delays and canonized by Pope John XXIII in 1962.



**A Patron for Immigrants.** St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the youngest of 13 children, was born to Stella and Augustine, a farmer in the Lombardy region of Italy. Her parents planned a teaching career for her and at an early age sent her off to a preparatory school. At age 18, she had completed the studies and passed her examinations; however her parents died and she returned home to live with her family. After two years she tried to enter a religious order but was repeatedly refused entrance due to ill health.

Through the local Bishop, she was asked to take over a badly managed school in Codogno and attempt to organize its staff into a religious order. Reluctantly she took on the task. The school eventually had to close but by that time she had recruited seven others into her self-founded order. They moved into an abandoned Franciscan priory and named the order, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Thus she embarked on her life's work. The order flourished and spread to Milan and Rome. In 1889, she travelled to the United States at the request of the Pope and the invitation of New York Bishop Corrigan who had petitioned the Holy See to send help to minister to Italian immigrants. Despite many obstacles, she travelled extensively during the next twenty seven years establishing institutions throughout the United States, in Central and South America, England and France. She became an United States citizen in 1909. Before her death in Chicago in 1917, she had established 67 hospitals, schools, orphanages, convents and other charitable institutions.



*St. Frances Xavier Cabrini*  
(1850 - 1917)

She was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1946 and proclaimed Patron of Immigrants in 1950. In spite of her poor health, Mother Cabrini was a veritable dynamo of energy. At the same time, she was a woman of deep prayer. The example of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini is especially relevant to Catholics in the United States, today. Her devotion to the service of the poor, the underprivileged and the sick should prompt many individuals to become active in works of charity for the needy. Moreover, in view of the tensions and prejudice that foster racial intolerance, Mother Cabrini can help us "to see Christ in all the men and women we meet." (Taken from Opening Prayer from Mass in her honor.) This is especially necessary as the United States is once again receiving numerous immigrants from various lands.

Her motto was, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me." She also wrote, "Jesus... tell me what you want me to do, and do with me as you will."



## SISTERS of ST. FRANCIS of the PROVIDENCE of GOD

*This is the second in a series of articles on American Catholic Religious orders and how they evolved.*

*by Sr. M. Loyola Sebelkas, OSF*

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God today located in Pittsburgh, PA, trace their ancestry to John Neumann, the saintly fourth bishop of Philadelphia (1852-60) and the Philadelphia Franciscans. However, before their roots sank firmly into Franciscan soil, their earlier religious rooting had begun with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Des Plaines, Illinois. Like most religious communities founded in United States before the turn of the twentieth century, this community's mission was to serve Polish immigrants. Young women of Lithuanian ancestry, called to serve God's people but finding no Lithuanian congregation, entered this community; for their immigrant parents were bilingual, speaking the language of their occupiers as well as that of their birth. As the number of Lithuanian women increased and their superiors assigned them to Lithuanian parishes to teach, they attempted to receive canonical approbation for forming a separate province to allow them greater freedom in serving Lithuanian immigrants and their children. The response from the Polish congregation was a firm "Impossible."

Circumscribed by religious rules but undeterred in their efforts to effect a separation, they found assistance from three clergymen: Rev. Michael L. Krusas of Chicago, and the Reverends John J. Sutaikis and Magnus J. Kazenas, of Pittsburgh, in whose parish schools some of them were already teaching. In the beginning most of their efforts were directed towards finding a

Midwest congregation willing to accept a fledgling Lithuanian community. Meeting with no success here, the two Pittsburgh priests turned to the Franciscans in Millvale, where the diocesan clergy were to have their annual retreat. The incumbent general superior, Mother M. Chrysostom Krill, and her Council agreed to accept the 24 transferees from Des Plaines gradually, for their novitiate could not accommodate both their own candidates and those of a prospective new congregation.

March 12, 1922, the day when the Millvale Franciscan congregation agreed to foster the Lithuanian community, became the Foundation Day for the Lithuanian Sisters. In groups of six and four and two they found their way from Chicago to Pittsburgh, where Father Kazenas met them at the train station and brought them either to the Larkins Way convent in South Side or to the Motherhouse in Millvale.

Three years later with the blessing of the Bishop of Pittsburgh, Hugh C. Boyle, the financial help of Lithuanian clergy and laity, and the encouragement of the Millvale Franciscans, they purchased a 33-acre farm in the South Hills area of Pittsburgh and built a convent to accommodate their growing numbers. On August 15, 1925, clergy and laity assembled not only for the dedication of the new Motherhouse built on Mount Providence (as they called their hill at the suggestion of the Bishop) but also for the investiture with the Franciscan habit of five postulants and the temporary profession of five novices. In three short years the original 24 transferees from the Holy Family of Nazareth congregation had doubled. God was blessing their desire to serve the Church through meeting the spiritual and educational needs of Lithuanian immigrants and



their children.

Soon they were ministering to first generation Americans in Lithuanian parishes in Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. Before the end of the 1930's they added Brazil to their apostolates. In the 1940s they began to accept all applicants regardless of their ethnic background, and their mission embraced non-Lithuanian parishes and health care services as well. In the States, their borders extended to southern Illinois and California before diminishing numbers in the 1970's and aging members brought a gradual withdrawal from schools and even the hospitals under their administration. They continued to flourish in Brazil as they extend their mission to the poorer areas, especially in the Northeast.

They met the challenges of changing times in the mid-'70s by converting their residence for out-of-town high school students to a residence for women with limited incomes. Presently, they satisfy the spiritual hungers of religious and laity by sponsoring workshops and retreats varying from a single day to a week. To harmonize contemporary needs with those of St. Francis of Assisi himself, they have built hermitages in the wooded area of their Motherhouse grounds.

Though the number of members active in education and health care ministry has diminished, their ardor in serving the Church has not. Supported by the prayers of aging members, they continue to serve as teachers, principals, campus ministers, health care providers, pastoral ministers, and counselors though in a more limited way. Until recently they served the health needs of orphans in Ethiopia and the people in the surrounding area. In the early 1990's three Sisters heeded the call to re-evangelize Lithuanians who had been under the yoke of atheistic Russia for half a century. Presently they are working in Saule School and in newly established St. Clare Hospice in Utena. They are Sister M. Michele

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of Detroit, MI; Sister M. Dolorita of Elizabeth, NJ; and Sister Ruth Maria Ratkevicius of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Under the auspices of Caritas and the Franciscan Fathers and with the financial support of their American community, they labor to bring the post-Vatican II Church to a land whose emigrants had brought to birth the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God.

*Postscript: "The Srs. of St. Francis were dedicated to instilling a knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith which provided an underpinning for morality and good citizenship as Americans. Love of God, neighbor and self were also indispensable in their education system." writes Sr. Mary Jaskel, OSF, the archivist of the order in describing their past teaching ministry. Perhaps some of our readers, like the parents of your editor, were taught by this order. You can write to them at: 3603 McRoberts Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15234-2398.*



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## Frank Kleha Asst. PR Director for the Atlanta Falcons

The roots of Kleha Family are firmly planted in the coal-producing earth of Shenandoah, PA. like so many immigrants from Lithuania, who settled there after leaving their ancestral homes in Lithuania. Frank's grandfather also named Frank Kleha was a teacher and active in sports, particularly football in the schools of Shenandoah. Frank's great-uncle, Eddie Kleha still resides in Shenandoah.

His parents moved to North Carolina where Frank spent most of this early life until they moved to Springfield, VA. After completing high school, he attended George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, where he majored in communications. At George Mason University, Frank worked in the Sports Information Office. Some of his responsibilities included coordinating publicity for such athletes as 1996 Olympic decathlon hopeful, Rob Muzzio. He also worked for the Washington Redskins PR department for four seasons. In 1987 he began working for the *Atlanta Falcons*, where his duties included media relations and publications. Frank edits the team's 300-page media & fan guide, the GameDay program sold at the stadium and assists with the club's newspaper, *The Falcons Insider*. He has worked Super Bowls XXVIII and XXVII for the NFL and was chosen by the League to staff the 1995 NFC Championship game in San Francisco.

Frank's interest in sports began early in life, when he participated in all sports. He played

basketball in college and is an avid tennis player.

In mid 1995, Frank heard about the George Perles Golf Invitational to benefit Aid to Lithuania, Inc. and called to ask if there was anything he could do to be of help. After he was informed that a "silent auction" for sports memorabilia is featured during the Golf Day, he promised to obtain "a few" items for the 1996 event.

Early June 1996, the packages began arriving. Frank provided 13 items including official NFL footballs autographed by the entire *Carolina Panthers* Team, the *Dolphin's* Jimmy Johnson, the *Viking's* Warren Moon, the *Colt's* Marshall Faulk, the *Cardinal's* Vince Tobin, the *Chief's* Marcus Allen, *The 49'ers* Steve Young, the *Steeler's* Greg Lloyd, the *Bill's* Jim Kelly, the *Patriot's* Drew Bledsoe, the *Lion's* Scott Mitchell & Hennan Moore, the *Falcon's* Morten Anderson, plus tickets to the *Falcon's vs. Lion's* game on 10/6/96, a *Redskin's* hat signed by Gus Ferotte & Ken Harvey, etc.

Frank's contributions were auctioned off for \$1,480.00. Factored by the \$152.32 worth of medicine and supplies ATL is able to ship for each dollar raised, Frank was responsible for \$224,960.00 worth of medicine which AID TO LITHUANIA sent to his brothers and sisters in Lithuania. The circle is now complete -- from Lithuania to Shenandoah to Atlanta to Detroit to Lithuania. ❖❖❖



# Lithuanians in the News



## Warm Welcome

A Representative of Illinois Governor, Jim Edgar's Office presents a welcome letter to Rev. Kestutis Ralys, of Lithuania. A director of Children's programs in Lithuania, Ralys was in Chicago recently to visit children's agencies. Pictured (l to r) Indre Tijunelis, Ralys and Pat Michalski, Assistant to the Governor for Ethnic Affairs.

## A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

© by Albert Cizauskas

On June 6 of this year, Genovaite Ambraziejus Cizauskas celebrated the 50th anniversary of her graduation from Brooklyn College. Together with more than a hundred fellow classmates attired in caps and gowns the color of gold, she marched up the college quadrangle to the deafening cheers of a thousand current graduates, friends and relatives, an experience never to be forgotten.

The leap of time made it appear to the jubilarians that only yesterday had they earned their baccalaureate degrees. But with the well-deserved recognition of the living were the many empty places of honor for those who had given the last measure of sacrifice for their

country.

The year of 1946 had been a transitional one when the nation began to return to normal from the greatest conflict in its history barring the Civil War. On the domestic front, Rosie the riveter was giving up her job on the assembly line for the diaper line. Overseas the growing Soviet menace was compelling the nation to rethink its policy of peaceful transition, which led to the Marshal Plan and other programs rebuilding Western Europe and Japan from the carnage of WW2

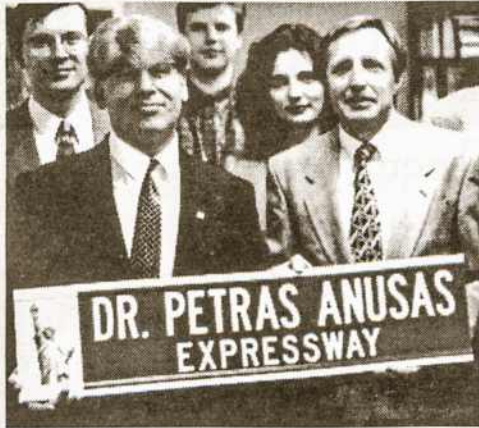
Overall, the graduates of the class of 1946 could look back with reasonable satisfaction on their role in transforming the United States into the world's greatest nation. The question no doubt arose in the minds of the jubilarians, will the graduates of the class of 1996 do as well with the enormous problems still unresolved and fresh ones to come? - June, 1996



## Lithuanian Pilots

Did you know that C-112, Marquette Park in Chicago has two member pilots? Pictured are Fred and Larry Rakunas. They have both just recently retired from Northwestern Airlines.





### Anusas Expressway

Dr. Paul Michael Kazas, J.D., of Woodhaven (front left) presents Lithuanian Consul General, Dr. Petras Anusas (front right) with his own expressway sign, with a few of the consul's staff looking on. This award was presented earlier this year for Dr. Anusas' professionalism, dedication and concern for the Lithuanian-Americans who have settled within the United States.

### Lithuanian WebSites

For those who like to browse the Internet, and want to find some interesting information about Lithuania, there already is a wealth of information. There are almost 2,000 sources when researching the topic "Lithuania". These include history of Lithuania with timelines, key facts about Lithuania, Travel guides such as Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda "In Your Pocket" Guide books, Colleges and universities in Lithuania, various Lithuanian business links, legal information, genealogical resources, how to find relatives in Lithuania. And that only names a few.

To access these sites, search Infoseek <http://guide-p.infoseek.com>. One should also search under "Baltics". But beware, you may spend hours on this.



### Baltics in Seattle

A Baltic Studies Endowment was recently signed at the University of Washington in Seattle. Pictured at the signing are (front row) Mary Oksas, Sec. Lith. American Community; Ina Bray, Baltic Studies Committee; Rasa Raisys, Lith. Amer. Community; Irene Blekys

and Bruno Morkunas of the Baltic Studies Committee. Back row: Prof. Daniel Waugh of the Henry Jackson School of International Studies; Prof. Vidmantas Raisys, UW School of Medicine; Profs. Terje Leiren, Richard Dunn, Guntis Smidchens and Thomas DuBois. *Photo by Mary Levin.*



# Lithuanian Music

## Impossible dream

To dream the impossible dream,  
To fight, the unbeatable foe,  
To bear with unbearable sorrow  
To go where the brave dare not go.

To right the unrightable wrong,  
To love, pure and chaste from afar,  
To try when your arms are too weary  
To reach the unreachable star!

This is my quest, to follow that star  
No matter how hopeless, no matter how far  
To fight for the right  
without question or pause,  
To be willing to march into hell  
for a heavenly cause!

And I know if I'll only be true  
to this glorious quest,  
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm,  
when I'm laid to my rest.

And the world will be better for this,  
That one man scorned and covered with scars  
Still strove with his last ounce of courage  
To reach the unreachable star.

*Editor's note: Thought some of you might enjoy the Lithuanian translation of this popular song from the Broadway hit, "The Man of La Manche".*



## Withdrawal Lithuanian style?

### or Is it a crime to take your savings out of a bank?

After the bank failure in Lithuania the citizens were desperate. The money for which they worked so hard was gone. But one depositor was brave. Vladas Kukys, at about 5:30 PM, armed with two pistols entered the Lietuvos Akcinis Inovacinis bankas, confronted the administrator Romualdkas Visokavičius and demanded his savings in the sum of \$11,000. The law is behind me, a citizens has the right to withdraw his savings at any time, the "robber" stated. Having received his money Kukys signed a withdrawal slip and left. Less than 24 hours later he was apprehended. We are left wondering what the charges will be.

## Neįmanomas sapnas

Susapnuot neįmanomą sapną,  
Nugalėt nenugalimą priešą,  
Pakelti nepakeliamą skausmą,  
Nueiti ten, kur drąsieji nedrįsta.

Ištaisyti nebepataisomą,  
Iš tolo tyrai ir skaisčiai mylėti,  
Mėginti, kuomet rankos nusvirę,  
Siekt nepasiekiamos žvaigždės!

Mano tikslas - sekti paskui tą žvaigždę,  
Nesvarbu, kad beviltiškai, nesvarbu, kaip toli,  
Kad kovočiau už teisingumą, nedvejodamas,  
Trokšdamas įžengti pragaran dėl dieviškų tikslų.

Ir žinau aš, jei tik laikysiuos šio didingo siekio,  
Mano širdis bus taiki ir rami,  
Kai manęs nebebus jau.

Ir pasaulis bus geresnis nei šiuomet,  
ir kad vienas, paniekintas ir randuotas,  
iš paskutiniųjų mėgino  
pasiekt nepasiekiamą žvaigždę.

*Lithuanian Translation: ačiū to Julius Keleras,  
Editor of Darbininkas*





## Folklore

# deives and other Lithuanian Spirits



The most interesting spirits are *deives*, the Lithuanian fairies. Usually they appear by twos or threes. They are very beautiful maidens, with long fair hair, blue eyes, and big hearts. A *deive* is able to do all women's work in the most perfect manner, being especially skilled in spinning and weaving. She loves children and is often helpful to poor girls or orphans, but a man must be respectful and careful.

The *deives* do not like mockery and are vengeful towards selfish persons. For example, a poor woman who was tired from working forgot her baby in the field. When she found him in the morning, he was guarded and generously granted gifts by the *deives*. A rich woman, hearing of this, abandoned her baby purposely in order to receive similar precious gifts, but found her child in the morning strangled by the *deives*.

It is forbidden to spin on Thursday evening and to wash linen after sunset, because this is the time when the *deives* are working. They are social beings, very fond of human society. One often falls in love with some young man and marries him; they can also be caught by a man. Family life with a *deive* is happy. She is an exemplary wife and mother.

The *deives* (or *laumes*) are also spirits of the wood and water. They are similar to the fairies of the Celtic people, and many Lithuanian beliefs and legends about fairies are similar to the Celtic. The *deives* are not gods, but they were worshipped. Mosvidius in 1547 exclaimed that the Lithuanians have "a hundred *deives* if not more." Later the *deives* became involved with beliefs about hags or witches.

Very popular also are the demons or dragons, who bring good things to their master. In northern Lithuania the term is *pukys*, a borrowing from the

Latvians, who received the term and belief from the Germans (*puk*). In western Lithuania the household spirit, *kaukas*, is a dwarf living under the earth is charged with similar duties. This may be a borrowing from the Old Prussians, among whom the *kaukas* was a ghost.

It seems that the former *kaukas* was a harmless house spirit like the German kobold, who works for a small reward and does not steal. The Lithuanians do not speak of nature spirits as "mother" but as "man" or "master"; e.g. *Žemepatis*, master of the earth; *Vėjopatis*, master of the wind.

Belief in the grain spirit *Rugių boba*, the old woman of the rye field, is common in western Lithuania. To *Ruginis*, the man of rye, a male goat was offered in the fall (this is mentioned only once in a folk song). On Shrove Tuesday an image in female shape was formed, *Katre*, who is a personification of the spirit of fertility. At threshing time, the male figure of *Kuršis* was formed from straw; *Rugių boba* was not only made from straw, but also baked from dough. A cock was offered at the harvest feast.

The Lithuanians also have many other Spirits and legendary creatures such as; werewolf, *vilkolakis*; giant, *milžinas*; devil, *vėlnias*, and witch, *ragana*. There are many legends about them, but all beliefs of this kind are of a well-known pattern and show

few traits distinct from the corresponding traditions of other peoples. The devil is usually depicted as a German dandy. The Lithuanian word for devil, *vėlnias*, probably originated from *velys*, meaning the deceased.

Compiled by R. Baranikas. Illustrations from *Raganų Kalnas* and K. Šimonis.

Submitted by Leonard Galinskas, C-79





## LITHUANIAN CHEFS

*This month we feature more recipes from the Elinor Sluzas of C-96 of Dayton and her Amber Rose Restaurant. Thanks again, Elinor!*

### Holiday Cranberry Chutney

1 cup fresh orange sections (with skins removed)  
1/4 cup orange juice  
4 cups cranberries  
2 cups sugar  
1 cup apple, unpeeled and chopped  
1/2 cup golden raisins  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
1/2 tsp. ground ginger  
1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1 Tbsp. vinegar

Combine all ingredients, bring to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer for 10 minutes until cranberries burst. Let cool. Refrigerate and serve cold. Makes 6 cups.

### Poppyseed & Nut Rolls

7 cups flour  
1 lb. shortening



3 eggs  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1 tsp. salt  
1 cake yeast or 1 pkg. dry yeast  
1 large can evaporated milk

#### Filling and Topping:

3 cans poppyseed filling  
3 eggs  
3 tsp. honey  
1 lb. ground nut meats

Mix shortening and flour as for pie dough, drop in other ingredients, mix well. Chill dough overnight. Divide into 10 equal parts and roll each into a

rectangle 12-to-14 inches long by four inches wide.

Combine poppyseed filling, eggs, honey, mix well. Spread on rectangles of dough, sprinkle nuts over filling. Roll as for a jelly roll. Place rolls on a cookie sheet. Cover with a cloth. Let rise for one hour. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees until golden brown. When ready to serve, cut into half inch "wheels" and sprinkle with powdered sugar.



## Spotlight on Juniors Activities

### Mid Atlantic District

Bernice Aviza, as VP for Juniors in the district has kept the Junior councils of 136 and 100 quite active. Juniors marched in the Annual Day of Prayer at Auriesville Shrine in August; danced and worked at the Festival of Nations in Albany in October; were cheerleaders and waterboys for the Lithuanian Basketball game at Siena College in November; took a trip to the Statue of Liberty and danced their in April and danced and cooked at the International festival in Schenectady in May. C-136 juniors continue to send holiday greetings to Lithuanians in local nursing homes. And Junior, Corin Levine of C-136 recently received her first degree (See photo in C-news section.)

The dance group of C-100 has become more active and is growing in size as some of the C-136 juniors have joined them.

Getting juniors together and coordinating activities is often difficult with the demanding schedules of today's youngsters, according to Bernice, who has to take into account some of the older junior's part-time job schedules. Events must be planned well in advance. But praise must be given to the parents who strive to keep their children involved in their Lithuanian heritage.

Let the editors know what your council and district's juniors are doing and we will feature it in another spotlight.



## A Glimpse of Dayton

By Fran Petkus and Elinor Sluzas

The highways to the Midwest will be busy August 6 - 10, 1997. The 84th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania will be held in Dayton, Ohio. Where is Dayton? It is in the heartland of the United States .... located 60 miles west of Columbus, Ohio and 60 miles north of Cincinnati, Ohio, about 190 miles south of Cleveland, Ohio. These are the four major cities in Ohio! As we told you at the 83rd National Convention in Brockton, MA, because of Daytonians, Charles F. Kettering (of the renowned Sloan/Kettering Cancer Hospital of New York City) and Col. Edward A. Deeds and their invention and development of the ignition system and self starter for automobiles, you have the option of driving to Dayton. With the dreams and determination of the Wright Brothers, Wilber and Orville, flying to Dayton became a reality. An industrial genius, John H. Patterson, founder of the National Cash Register (NCR) established an enterprise that transformed business operations throughout the world. Frank M. Tait, founder of Dayton Power and Light Co. and the Tait Manufacturing Co., produced the first

commercially successful and completely automatic electric water system.

The city of Dayton was named after Jonathan Dayton, who at the age of 26 was the youngest signer of the United States Constitution and who purchased land in this area of Ohio.

Writers from Dayton who are known throughout the country are Paul Laurence Dunbar, Erma Bombeck, John Jakes; Olympic gold medalist Edwin C. Moses, Baseball Hall of Fame and retired from the Philadelphia Phillies - Mike Schmidt, and Lucinda Adams; cartoonists Milton Caniff, Cathy Guisewite, Mike Peters; from the movies and TV - Gary Sandy, Gordon Jump, Jonathan Winters, Dorian Harewood, Martin Sheen and Nancy Cartwright (the voice of Bart Simpson). Phil Donahue, although not a native Daytonian, began his "Talk Show Host" career in Dayton! We are proud of these famous people who have called Dayton, Ohio their home!

We are equally proud to invite you, our Knights of Lithuania friends, to come to Dayton for our 1997 National Convention!!! Call our Convention chairman, Jim Geiger at (937) 836-7996 with any questions.

It is Great in Dayton!!!

## In Memoriam

**Susana Mazeika**

C-147, St. Petersburg, FL

May 22, 1996

**Virginia Sadzis**

C-17, So. Boston, MA

August 1996

**Stanley Vaitkus**

C-96, Dayton, OH

August 25, 1996

**Frank Dudis**

C-52, Elizabeth, NJ

July 14, 1996

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

**Joseph Sikora**

C-144, Anthracite, PA

September 6, 1996

**Joan Lisauskas**

C-78, Lawrence, MA

July 13, 1996

**Walter Sargalis**

C-100, Amsterdam, NY

May 22, 1996

**Sadie LaTorre**

C-100, Amsterdam, NY

July 22, 1996





## District & Council News

**To Our VYTIS Correspondents:** We are thankful for all that you do and thank you for all your hard work and effort. All of our councils are hard working and we don't want to leave anyone out, but we have to adhere to our limits on pages per Supreme Council, Convention and Budget Committee. Please limit your news to no more than one double spaced typewritten page (or 300 words) per month. Please include news of your council and activities, as well as upcoming events and photos. Deadlines are the first of the month for next month's issue. ie. Dec. 1 for Jan. issue.- Ačiū labai. *Dalia and Marytė.*

### AMBER DISTRICT

#### *Agute*

John Mankus presided over a very successful Amber District meeting held in Pittston on June 2. Our thanks to the Pittston members for their gracious hospitality. C-63 Lehigh Valley hosted the October 6 meeting. They, too, always make our day a real treat.

The Amber District had a good representation at the National Convention in Brockton. Ten of our members were seen working hard at the Convention. Special thanks to Tom McDonald (C-144) who provided the music for the Thursday and Friday liturgies, as well as the closing Mass at the hotel.

Our best wishes and congratulations to all the Amber District members for accepting to serve the Knights of Lithuania on the Supreme Council. Thanks to John Mankus and John Mickunas for making the necessary 'purchases' for the District's Friday evening get together. Victor Prep was our most amiable and hospitable bartender, making everyone feel

welcome. These Convention get-togethers are an Amber District tradition, and give us all a chance to relax, chat a bit and enjoy each other's company. We are all looking forward to Dayton next year.

Upon returning from the Convention our upstate members involved themselves immediately with the Annual Lithuanian Day at the Schuylkill Mall on August 17 and 18. Richard Laske (C-74) handled our fund raising raffle this year. We look forward to a most successful year.

### MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

#### *Andrea Baltrus*

The Mid-Central District endured a warm and steamy weekend in Cleveland from May 17-19th for its annual Spring Meeting and Bowling Tournament. A reception was held at the hotel on Friday evening. Those attending were able to relax and enjoy the many delicacies prepared by the members of our host council, C-25.

Saturday morning began with our District meeting, under the

leadership of MCD President, Lillian Petravicius. Our District's Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Kijauskas, was able to join us and provided words of encouragement for our continued good work. Our Treasurer, Tom Bruzga, was remembered in Father's opening prayer. Most of the business was routine. Mark Bell will be asked to take on the duties of Treasurer until the fall election.

Following the meeting we headed across the street to try our bowling skills. Although the number of participants was less than we expected, the competition was no less intense. The individual winners were both from the host council. George Kayganich had a 682 series, which featured 12 consecutive strikes over two games! The top lady was Dolly Oberitis with a 514 series. Despite Cleveland's fine individual bowlers, the team trophy went to C-102, Detroit, with captain, George Cramblet.

That evening we traveled down the road to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, for more relaxation and entertainment. A fashion show featuring many Lithuanian "beauties" was emceed by Dolly Oberitis where models displayed their un-"conventional" wardrobe. The show was followed by some impromptu singing of some favorite Lithuanian songs led by Fr. Kijauskas and Frank Bunikis. Al Shigo added a few patriotic numbers for good measure.

The next morning was our closing mass with our Spiritual



Advisor as celebrant. The mass included a number of important celebrations, including a first communion, installation of Eucharistic Ministers, and not least the presentation of 3rd degree awards to C-25 members, Ann Ivoska and Steve Yurkovic. Agnes Bartkus of C-25, who was unable to attend, will receive the 3rd degree in a private ceremony. Fr. Kijauskas blended all of the ceremonies together well and had many complimentary comments about the K of L in front of his congregation.

The mass was followed by a closing banquet and presentation of the bowling awards. Our District raffle was also conducted at that time. We thank C-25 president, Richard Marks and his wife Jean, along with the many other volunteers from C-25 for hosting an enjoyable and memorable weekend.

#### **MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT**

*Mary R. Kober*

The District meeting was held on Sunday, September 15th, 1996 hosted by C-29. Mass was offered at Holy Trinity Church in Newark, NJ. Immediately following Mass, a delicious luncheon was prepared and served by C-29 members in the church hall.

Our meeting was opened with a prayer by Pres. Ed Barkowski. The president gave an interesting report on the activities held at the National Convention in Brockton. 2nd Vice President (Juniors) Bernice Aviza spoke about Junior activity in C-100 and C-136.

Secretary Muriel Lekstutis

*Msgr. Ignas Urbonas  
of Chicago's C-82  
greeted Supreme  
Council members at  
their June meeting  
with Ellie Kasputis and  
other MAMD members.*



read minutes of previous meeting and Josephine Zukas gave the Treasurer's report. Treasurer's books were audited and found to be in order as reported by the Trustees Ritual Chair Joseph Zukas gave a report stating the importance of completing correct ritual applications. Ritual Chairs are asked to use the guidelines established in the Ritual Section of the National K of L Manual which many are not following.

Public Relations Chair, Mary Kober stated she has been sending K of L meeting notices to the local Lithuania newspapers, but is having difficulty in getting them printed on time.

Elections for the 1996-97 year were as follows: Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Frank Bulovas; Pres. Ed Barkowski; 1st V.P., Mary Abbott; 2nd V.P., Bernice Aviza; Sec., Muriel Lekstutis; Treas. Josephine Zukas; Trustees Ann O'Neill, Mirga Bablin, Frances Jakatt; Lithuanian Affairs, Romas Kezys; Public Relations and VYTIS Correspondent, Mary Kober; Cultural, Anthony Yacavonis; Ritual Chair, Joseph Zukas; Mandate Committee Rita Sussko; Resolutions Committee,

Ed Jakat and Joseph Stelmokas; Sergeant at Arms, Anthony Kober and John Sakal.

Several resolutions were unanimously accepted. Since the National Executive Board has reduced its Board meetings, MAD also voted to hold only two meetings per year - one in March/April and the other in September/October. Donations were made to the Christmas issue of VYTIS, Romas Kezys Lithuanian Radio Program, Souvenir Journal to Holy Trinity Church in Newark, NJ on their 95th Anniversary and to Our Lady of Vilnius Church in New York City on their annual Dinner affair. Mandate committee reported a total of 78 attending consisting of 4 District officers, 4 Honorary members, 46 delegates and 24 guests. Nine councils were represented with a total of fourteen councils in the district. Meeting closed with prayer and singing of hymns. Thank you Newark C-29 for being so hospitable.

The next district meeting will be held in Schenectady, NY on March 9th, 1997 with C-136 acting as hosts. Maspeth C-110 has agreed to host the following meeting on September 28, 1997.





*NED 20th Annual Mass at St. Mary's in memory of Lithuania's Holocaust, "The Terrible June Days" June 8. Requested by Victor Mathieus and attended by the NED Board. Also pictured is Rev. Albin Janiunas and Rev. Peter Shakalis.*

### NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

*Aldona Marcavage*

June 21st in Kennebunkport was our annual opportunity to seek refreshment for our souls as well as our bodies. Although the rain didn't cease until Monday morning, nothing could dampen our spirits. We were in good company- all 84 of us, enjoying the sessions with Retreat Master Father John Bačevičius, especially Sunday when we were gifted with a special healing prayer and blessing. Father said he believed in avoiding controversial things because they generate more heat than light. So right!!!

Who could ask for anything more pleasant than a sunny summer afternoon in a park-like setting in Vic Mathieu's "Pranzūzų Sodyboje" in Bristol, R. I. The Board meeting was brief but covered many important factors. Chef Victor's and assistant Bea's culinary skills were really enjoyed.

Spiritual Advisor, Father Shakalis lead us in prayer and opened the meeting. NED president, Birute Stoskus, brought us up to date on the most important issues facing K

of L.

The highlight of the day was the Holy Mass at St. Mary's church in memory of the 55th anniversary of Lithuania's Holocaust in June 1941, often referred to as "The Terrible June days". The Mathieus have been offering up this memorial Mass for the past 20 years, and we were privileged to join them this year. The Mass was concelebrated with Rev. John Mc Nulty, Pastor, and Rev. Peter Shakalis, and Rev. Albin Janiunas.

Seven years ago we were escorted out of Athol, MA. by torrential rains-- no different at our Fall meeting in 1996. Holy Mass at St. Francis Church preceded the business meeting. It was concelebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Peter Shakalis and pastor Rev. Raymond Messier for the living and the deceased members of K of L.

Following Mass, C-10 president, Bill Wisnauskas welcomed Knights to Athol. NED president, Bertha Stoskus invited Fr. Shakalis to say Grace--which he did in Lithuanian. Bertha Stoskus

reminded everyone of the need to participate in the annual cultural Festival, since it is the major fund raiser for the Scholarship Fund. Co-hosts this year are Norwood C-27 and New Haven C-50.

Ritual 3rd degree ceremony followed a report of the Convention. Fr. Shakalis swore in the new 3rd degree recipients; C-7 Waterbury--Arline Stiklius, Joseph Stiklius, Anne Vaičius; C-10, Athol-Gardner -Bernice Wisnauskas, Antina Shatos; C-26 - Worcester - Lillian Kondrotas. Congratulations! At this convention there were two 50 - year members: Nellie Maleika and Dr. Henry Gailiunas. C-10 was proud to present one lovely 82 year member. She joined the K of L when she was 10 years old. She wasn't required to pay dues until she was 16 years' old. God bless Tina Shatos -92 years young!

A resolution read by Fran Savicke was made to have each council monitor their degree points. Another resolution, read by Sylvester Marcavage, was received to recommend NED 3rd VP Clemencine Miller for Honorary Membership. Her



***NED Board meeting at Bristol, RI. Vic and Bea Mathieu hosts in their "Sodyba". Seated at lower left are NED President, Bertha Stoskus and Rev. Janiunas and Rev. Shakalis.***



long list of credits proves her worthiness.

Father Janiunas handed out 12 copies of letters to 12 council representatives to take home, make duplicates and distribute. They are requests to government officials requesting Lithuania's admission to NATO.

Sisters of Divine Providence in Lithuania have just a shell of a structure are working on their tabernacle trying to finish building space for the elderly and children. They need \$125,000. We sent them a donation.

Election of officers took place, and newly-elected officers were sworn in by Father Shakalis. NED Officers for 1996/1997 are: Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Peter Shakalis; President - Bertha Stoskus; 1st VP - Howard Beaudette; 2nd VP - Marion Hobitz; 3rd VP - Clemencine Miller; Recording Sec. - Frances Savicke; Corresponding Sec. - Marsha Rogers; Treasurer - Joseph Stiklius; Trustees - Sandra Melish - William Wisnauskas; Public Relations - Aldona Marcavage; Lithuanian Culture - Ignatius Hobitz; Lith. Affairs - Victor Mathieu;

Scholarship- Regina Alexander, Bill Piacentini, Anthony Miner; Ritual - Rita Pinckus, Jim Rogers, M. Rancicot; Archives - Longinas Svelnys.

Our Spring convention will take place in Bridgeport, CT., April 27, 1997 and will be hosted by C-141. The district flag was transferred to Bridgeport's Bob Marcavage.

### **C-3, Philadelphia, PA**

*Daina Kapochus*

Council 3 held a final meeting on June 9, 1996 at the home of John and Agnes Mickunas in Mt. Ephraim, NJ before our summer sojourn. The usual monthly meeting discussions as well as business of the Amber District meeting held on June 2, 1996 in Pittsburgh, PA were head. Delegates to the National Convention in Brockton Mass. were also selected. A champagne toast was given for the Council 3 trip to Lithuania on July 8 - 21 and Father Eugene Wassel gave his blessing for a safe journey. On a sad note, we were informed of the passing of

Fr. Kajetonas Sakalauskas, retired pastor of St. Andrew's Parish in Philadelphia, friend of Lithuania and the Knights of Lithuania for many years.

### **C-7, Waterbury, CT**

*Arlene Stiklius*

Our 80th Anniversary Dinner was a huge success, and we thank all those who attended. A special added ačiū to Rep. Tom Conway for the citation from the State of Conn. General Assembly in recognizing our 80th Anniversary.

The K of L Bowling league completed a very successful season with a very good dinner at Bunkers Restaurant in Naugatuck, May 18, 1996.

June commemorated Lithuania's freedom from Russia. Let us take a moment to pray for all the unfortunate Lithuanian's who perished in labor camps in Russia and Siberia.

Congratulations to the recipients of K of L Council 7 scholarship awards this year. Cara Bartkus, Wesley Bryson, Carolyn Lokes and Stephanie Sdywka.

Florence and Vincent Morkus celebrated their 50th Wedding



Annversary recently at Holy Trinity Church where they were married on Labor Day in 1946. "Happy anniversary Florence and Vincent."

**C - 10 Athol - Garner, MA**

*Vincukas*

Minnie (Lukasevičius) Hakkinen donated \$250.00 in memory of her late husband, Bill, to four Lithuanian charities. Thanks Minnie. We always knew you were kind and thoughtful.

Mary Granousky was hospitalized in Athol with a broken leg. We wish you well Marytė.

Bronė Wišniauskas was chosen artist of the month and her paintings will be exhibited at the State House in Boston in Rep. Robert Hawke's office for two months. Bronė is a member of the Gardner Arts Association. Congratulations Bronė.

John Eacmen died in Garner at the age of 94. John was a familiar sight at the Lithuanian Club, working there up to his last days. Rest in peace, John!

Condolences to Beatrice (Jodaitis) Richard on the death of her beloved sister, Anna Dye of Haganan, NY. Anna attended Lithuanian functions in Amsterdam, NY, was a nurse during World War II and held memberships in many organizations. Rest in peace, Anna.

**C-12, New York, NY**

*Irene Senken*

As I reminisce about the 83rd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania I look back

in awe as to the wonderful things that have been accomplished by an organization that really cares. The charity and hard working committees are inspiring and makes me proud to be a member of this organization.

Council 12 was represented with 9 members at this convention. Two of our members were candidates for the 4th degree, Fr. Eugene Sawicki our religious moderator and Irene Senken, Vytis Correspondent. Congratulations go to both for their hard work which culminated in receiving this high degree.

Annual events such as conventions bring our distant members together to share the camaraderie and joy to see one another. A big "Labas" goes to Stella Marcinauskas, Alice Zupko and The Senkens.

Congratulations are in order to Helen and Vinnie Cuprewich on becoming Grand Parents to a baby girl. "Ilgausu Metu."

Prayers and get well wishes are requested for Connie Nehwadowich and Dalia Bulgaris, two of our devoted members who have had very serious operations. We pray that they will enjoy a quick recovery.

Kudos of praise I offer to a very busy person, Dalia Bulvicius. Dalia has performed a yeoman job presenting council news in my absence due to inclement weather. Širdingai Ačiū, Dalia.

**C-26, Worcester, MA**

*Olga*

The Bob Cousy International Basketball Tournament is over and a victorious Lithuanian team has returned to Lithuania. One

of the main coordinators on the welcome/entertainment committee was Irene Markevicius. Dan Shimkus with his Lithuanian War Veterans Color Guard made a beautiful picture at the special Mass celebrated by our spiritual director, Father John Petrauskas, M.I.C. Ann Walinsky and her choir provided the music and hymns.

We prayerfully hope for the return of good health soon to Adele Degutis, Frances Kulakusky, Bill Leseman and Patricia Sharkus.

Congratulations to Marilyn Buckley, daughter of Bill and Ann Buckley, who returned from the Summer Special Olympics with gold and silver medals. Rita Pinkus, our delegate, returned home after the Brockton National Convention with our other member delegates simply raving about the wonderful time they had and the hospitality received. Ann Leseman, our president, with her committee is very busy planning our Council's 80th Anniversary.

A warm welcome to Albina Bartkus, our newest member.

Anna Deslauriers died earlier this year. She was a member but a few years before her death. We are so sorry. Francis Ginkus, a high ranking firefighter, died this summer after a long illness. To his wife, Edwina and daughters Janet (of Shrewsbury) and Judith of Littleton, Colorado we extend our severe sympathy. Vincent Grasulis and his wife Anne maintained membership in our council even though they lived in California these past years. Vinnie died in August and was brought back to Massachusetts



for his funeral.

**C-27, Norwood, MA**  
*Žaibas*

The Spring bottle drive directed by hard working Paul Žukas was successful. It benefited the many charitable works our council sponsors.

In June, we sponsored a program of music and discussion to commemorate the Tragic Days of June. Fr. Bill Wolkovich was assisted by music director, Katherine Perednia.

Many members participated in the retreat held by the N. E. district at the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, Maine. In attendance were Lenore and Albie Jarvis, Lillian and Ted Callahan, Louise and Paul Žukas, Terry and Stan Wasil, Frances and Stan Medveski. It was good to see Stan M. looking so well after his surgery. Stan get well wishes are sent to you from your many friends. We are looking forward to the coming season when friendships and pride in our Lithuanian heritage will continue.

Likit sveiki!

**C-41, Brooklyn, NY**  
*Bill Kumeta*

50th wedding anniversary

The Knights of Lithuania Council 41 of Brooklyn New York are very proud of two of its members. Helen and George Turasonia who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with a Mass at Annunciation Church, Brooklyn New York on May 11, 1996. They both graduated from Annunciation Parish School in 1935.

Mass was celebrated by Father John Pakalniškis and assisted by Father Daniel Jenkevičius. After the sermon given by Fr. Pakalniskas, he congratulated the celebrants and gave them an appropriate blessing. After that, Fr. Jenkevičius showed the parishioners and read "The Blessing" that Sister Urbona (Helen's sister, who is a member of the Dominican Order) received from the Holy Father.

C-41 also awarded five members degrees. Juozas Luogauskas and Peter Sandanavičius received first degrees, Bill Kumeta and Helen Tumasoniene were awarded second degrees and Veronica Kazlauskis received her third degree. Congratulations!

**C-46, Forest City, PA**  
*Blanche Motsko*

Our monthly meetings are well attended. A social with cake and coffee follows.

We had our "Old Home Week". There were many vendors, fireworks and a spectacular parade. The town was full of visitors.

Council 46 is proud of its scholars: Jennifer Trusky is in her second year at college, Frank Cyzaski, our secretary has earned his B. S degree and now is planning further studies in the linguistic field. Casimir Stanis received a B. S. degree in accounting and now is working in that field. Casimir is planning to study theology and has future plans to be ordained a Catholic priest. We are proud of you, Casimir.

We had our annual picnic at



***George and Helen Tumasonis  
of C-41 Brooklyn celebrate  
their 50th Anniversary on  
May 19, 1996 at  
Annunciation Parish***

"The Little Red School House" Excellent service, food and weather. After a hearty meal, our hostesses, Alice Puntar (president), Stasia Wallace (past president) and Josephine O'Peka organized bingo games and donated all the prizes.

On July 10, Josephine O'Peka and Blanche Motsko joined "The Bishop Timlin, Scranton Pilgrimage Tour" to Europe. We visited Helsinki, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia. Mass was offered every day by Bishop Timlin and other priests. Many beautiful churches and cathedrals were visited. For two days we visited Moscow where the sun does not set until 11 o'clock at night. We visited the capital of Lithuania - Vilnius and saw all its important landmarks.

The port city of Klaipėda was next from which we took a ferry to Nida. Saw the resort of Palanga where we saw the huge amber collection at the museum. In Šiauliai we visited the Hill of



*Rev. Clement Kasinskas, C.P. from Cambridge, MA led C-74's Lithuanian service at St. Ann's Monastery in July. Photo by Marie Laske*



Crosses. Bishop Timlin and other priests offered a Mass and Sister Margaret laid a wreath by one of the crosses. Also on our agenda was Kaunas and the fortress of Trakai. It was an unforgettable experience enjoyed by all.

#### C-74, Scranton, PA *Marie Laske*

Hope you all enjoyed the summer and are ready to get to work.

July 24th we attended the Baltic States Independence Mass at St. Ann's Monastery. Rev. Clement Kasinskas, CP from Cambridge, MA offered the Mass. Gift bearers were: Dorothy Banos, Marie Laske, Pranas Shimkus and Ann Marie Sewatsky. Father Grace from St. Ann's spoke on the new freedom in the Baltic States. Regina Rudas Hannon organized the Mass. Bless our dedicated priests, K. of L'ers and all who participated in the Lithuanian services on St. Ann's day to honor the Mother of

Mary and Grandmother of Jesus. Father Clem was the homilist. Pastor Emeritus Rev. Peter Ališauskas of St. Casimir's

parish in Pittston, led the stations. Msgr. Michael Ozalas gave the Benediction. Msgr. Peter Madus, pastor of St. Joseph's in Scranton gave the St. Ann' blessing. Helen Moran led the music. Richard Laske and Steve Soka were the flag bearers. Nellie Bayoras carried the candle. All members of the Scranton, Pittston and Forest City councils brought up gifts. Marie Laske explained the symbolic meaning of each gift. Marie Laske presented the four priests with amber rosaries. Our hard working member Nellie Bayoras was presented an amber rosary for all her hard work to aid Lithuania. She held many positions in the K of L and also other Lithuanian and American organizations. She would be a perfect nominee for Honorary membership.

Please pray for our sick members Nellie Bayoras and Jerome Costello.

Although our council is small we had a very good attendance for our after summer meeting.

Marie Laske was presented with a special "Vytis" award - one of three best council news reporters. I was happy to receive it. Ačiū!

Richard Laske collected 4 huge boxes of priests' vestments to be send to Lithuania for the seminarians. Also 600 rosaries were mailed out to be distributed in Lithuania.

Our slate for 1996-1997:  
President - Marie Laske, Vice President - Rose Stanches, Recording secretary - Ruth Yanish, Financial secretary - Martha Brack, Treasurer - Margaret Clegg, Lithuanian Affairs - Helen Cravath, Lithuanian Culture - Lee Bozenko, Ritual - Peg Romanauskas, Trustees - Leo Zewicki, John Ramoska, Phanas Shimkus, Sgt-at-arms - Richard Laske, Public Relations - Della Zvirblis, "Vytis" correspondent - Marie Laske, Spiritual Advisor - Msgr. Peter Madus.

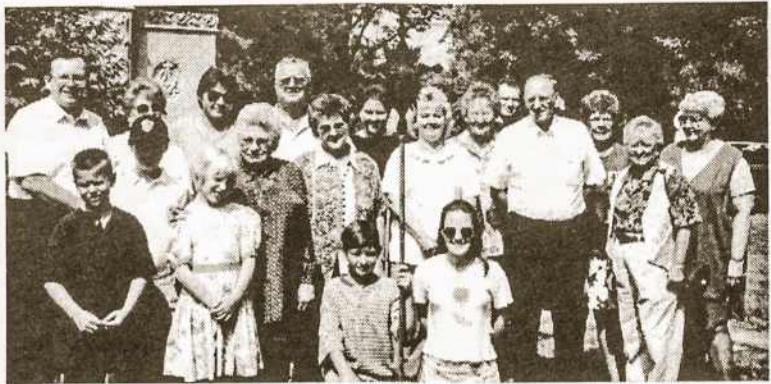
#### C-79 - Southfield, MI *Bee Jay*

Our summer activities included our participation in the Divine Providence annual Parish Picnic June 2. Our Council was in charge of the ever-popular "Basket of Cheer" raffle. With Council members' donations of the contents, it produced a substantial profit. Those responsible for helping were Pres. Margaret Dapkus, Fin. Sec. Stella Hotra, Tina Bulota and Emma Povilaitis.

Our annual Family Day Picnic took place Sat. July 13. Approximately 30 members attended. Pres. Margaret and Bill Dapkus were in charge of the food department, with Joe Panavas, dispensing the liquid refreshments. Members provided sumptuous portions of



**C-96 Annual Cemetery visit  
at the graves of  
Rev. Titas Narbutas and  
Rev. Vaclovas Katarskis.  
Photo by Joseph Mantz**



typical picnic fare.

Since no meetings were scheduled for July and August, more than usual business was transacted at our Sept. 4 meeting.

We voted to send a donation for the "Utena Hospice" in Lithuania, a much needed facility, we were told.

We were urged to notify and bring families and friends to our annual Fall Festival Sun., Nov. 3 at the Parish hall. Committees were named and assigned to their duties for the day. All members who do not contribute their services through the year are invited to do their share -- wherever possible -- to help our Council have a successful affair.

After a reminder that at our next (Oct.) meeting we will be having the election of 1997

officers, our President closed the meeting with an appropriate prayer.

### **C - 96, Dayton, Ohio**

*Fran Petkus*

With C-96 not taking a "vacation" during the summer months, we have been "on the go". Dayton's 23rd Annual International "A World A'Fair", took place May 31st-June 2, 1996 at the Dayton Convention Center. Once again, the Lithuanian community came in first and were presented with the "Outstanding Cultural Display" plaque. Holy Cross Lithuanian Cultural Committee organized our participation but many K of L'ers did their share. Co-chairing were our own Jim

and Eric Geiger and Annamarie Sluzas Berger. The theme this year was "Immigration Celebration". Connie Geiger conjured up the idea for the display and the artwork was completed by Jim and Molly Geiger along with Elinor Sluzas. Congratulations!!!

C -96's Family Picnic took place on July 14, 1996 along with our monthly meeting. This all took place on the church grounds and was a great success. Thanks must go to Elaine Pacovsky, Lauretta and Henry Pant.

August saw several members of C -96 heading to the 83rd National Convention in Brockton, MA. We returned home with the good news that our own, former Junior Knight and now in the regular council, Amy Berczelly, was recipient of the Alice Karklus Scholarship Award! Congratulations!! We, also, had the pleasure of informing our council members that C -96 will be hosting the 84th Knights of Lithuania National Convention!!

September 8th our Annual Mass for Deceased Members and Cemetery Visit was held. Flowers for members buried



**Jim and Molly  
Geiger of C-96  
display plaque at  
the Lithuanian  
Cultural Display.  
Photo by Connie  
Geiger.**



out-of-town were placed at the altars. Our Religious Chr, Jim Geiger, led us in prayer following the 10:30 AM Mass. At Calvary cemetery Jim, once again, led us in prayer at each grave site. The Juniors placed the flowers at the graves. The Mikalauskas', George, Frances, and Elena took care of the refreshments. We then headed back to the church hall for our monthly meeting!

Holy Cross' 2nd Annual Parish Feast Day was held on Sept. 15th. Fr. Mike Holloran began the day with Mass at 10:30 AM. The day continued with refreshments and all bringing 'covered dishes' to share. There were games for the old and the young. Mother Nature gave us beautiful weather. Thanks to C -96 members - Anne Scott, Judy Petrokas, Elinor Sluzas and Elaine Pacavsky for taking care of the social end of the day.

Our council was hit recently with the death of two long standing active members. Honorary Member Stanley Vaitkus died July 25th after being ill for several years. Stan had held many offices on the council, district and national levels. Stan had many friends throughout the organization and was always ready to share a humorous story. (There will be more about Stan in a later issue of the VYTIS). Our deepest sympathies go to the family - his wife Helen, sons Mark, Steve and Steve's family and to his daughter, Terry. Our very deepest sympathies go to the family of Ada Sinkwitz - Jim, Ann (Sinkwitz) Boeke and her family, Joe and his family and

**C-110 members  
Sophie and Peter  
Zuyus meet with  
Bishop Barbarito at  
Transfiguration  
Parish.**



Kathy. Ada was very active in the organization and had held the position of SC Financial Secretary at one time. Ada was very generous with her time and in giving much of herself. She took all her challenges in stride and the Good Lord decided her work was completed on Aug. 25th. May they both rest in the peace of the Lord!

We shall see all of you  
August 7 - 10, 1997!

**C-109 - Great Neck, NY  
S. G. Petraitis**

As the autumn season puts on her brilliant showing of red and gold, we reflect on the past few months as they impacted on our fellow member Knights.

It is probably safe to say that most of us have doctors, lawyers, professors or priests in our families. However, here is a first: Josephine and Joseph Zukas are the parents of Jane Zukas, who is a member of the USA equestrian team and entered in the Paralympics in Atlanta, Georgia. Interviewed on Channel XI, Jane exuded such enthusiasm and obvious dedication that a medal

seems like a "sure thing" We are behind you Jane all the way. Jane is the niece of Blanche Zukas and Tony and Mary Kober.

A perfect summer day brought out a record number of members to our annual picnic at King's Point Park. Al Wesey, as host assembled a great team to make this a really memorable day. Howard Fuchs, Wally Modes and John Petraitis manned the grills. Bea Jamison coordinate the table loaded with side dishes and desserts. Jack Malis brought a treasure-trove of old photos. Some of our members found themselves as "youths" in these precious mementos.

We gave up our reserved date at our meeting place so that the Lithuanian Community of Great Neck could celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day. In turn the group made a generous contribution to our fund for aid to the orphanages in Lithuania.

While spending time in Chicago to attend the graduation of their grandson, the Petraitis attended the "Dešimtoji Lietuvių Tautinių Šokių Šventė. What a spectacular presentation! Over



*Julie Zakarka, Rev. John Kuzinskas and Vida Sakevicius shown at the dedication ceremony for the parking lot lights donated by C-112 to Nativity B.V.M. in Chicago.*



two thousand dancers in native dress from all the world. Eleven thousand spectators, including the Kilius, who bumped into the Petraitis unexpectedly.

Golden wedding bells chime for Tony and Mary Kober. A dinner was arranged to celebrate this memorable day at Steve's Pier One in Bayville.

The Golden anniversary for Al and Bertha Benell was incorporate into a great family reunion in Indiana. Linda and Pette Henry, Jr. joined in the festivities of this gala.

Amelia Chapin and Irene Vilgalys are recovering from surgeries. Our prayers are with them.

#### C-110, Maspeth, NY

*Bruno Rutkunas*

Our September meeting was packed with plans for the upcoming season. Final plans for our annual Fall Halloween Dinner Dance on Oct. 27 were finalized, along with our Christmas Party on Dec. 8, to be held at O'Neals Restaurant in Maspeth. Kučios will be held the following week, Dec. 15 in the church hall, following the 11:15 Lithuanian Mass.

Discussion on the K. of L.

trimmed budget and the National Convention in Brockton highlighted our meeting. Eight C-110'ers received their fourth degrees, five at the Brockton Convention.

Although Ann Morrissey had run out of her allocated budget on sending packages to our designated orphanages in Lithuania, "guardian angels" and Olympic t-shirt sales helped her finish out the year with a final Christmas shipment made in October. Thanks to all who helped.

#### C-112, Marquette Park, Chicago, IL

*Gerrie*

Board members gathered at the home of yours truly for "dinner on the deck" before tackling council business and adjourning for the summer.

The Amber Ball sponsored by the Chicago Lithuanian Women's Club is always a special affair and this year it was even more so as one of the honorees was our own member, Aldona Brazis. She was among three distinguished Lithuanian women honored for their many years of tireless dedication and contributions to the Lithuanian

community, both locally and nationally. Estelle Rogers organized a table of C-112 members so we were on hand to lead the applause for Aldona, who also received her Fourth Degree at the K of L National Convention. Our sincerest congratulations, Aldona!

We welcomed Arvydas Zygas as guest speaker at our June meeting. After spending the winter and spring in Lithuania working with the many unfortunate young people, Arvydas finally was able to take a short break and return to the U.S. and tell us about the many problems these young people face. The council collected gifts at Christmas time for Arvydas to take back to Lithuania with him and he expressed his appreciation and the appreciation of the children for these small items. We hope we have an opportunity to assist him again in his good works in the near future.

We hardly ever see 1st V.P. Al Mockus these days, as he is currently busy with a program that area Catholic churches are putting all their efforts toward and that is to try to bring back to the fold as many fallen away Catholics as they can reach. We





*Just a few of the Los Angeles Spindulys Dance Troupe C-133 members who entertained in Chicago. First Row: Valerija Reklaitytė, Onutė Šepikaitė Keblienė, Adella Reklaitytė and Marytė Šepikaitė. Second Row: Kest Karoskas, Anthony Dulkis, Vytas Keblys and Jonas Sepikas.*

wish them luck in their endeavor and know that they can't help but succeed.

Congratulations to newlyweds Peter and Christine Juozenas. Here's to a lifetime of good health and happiness. And we also extend our best wishes to Mickey Petrocius who recently retired from her duties at Nativity B.V.M. School. After many years of dedicated service, she's entitled to some time off. (Now maybe we can convince her to spend more time with us!)

### **C-136, Hudson Mohawk, NY**

*Dorothy Richmire and  
Lynn McCafferty*

At our June meeting, members enjoyed an excellent dinner at one of our local restaurants. We were also pleased to have as guests, Rev. John Massey Jr. and his son, Maurice, founder and coach respectively, of Redemption Christian Academy in Troy, New York. The school has been trying for 17 years to save the lives of young people in academic trouble and has been quite successful. Many of its students are high-profile college athletes, young adults used by schools that base their reputations on the

success of their sports teams.

Among the students presently, are several young basketball players from Lithuania hoping to attract some college with their talents after attending the school.

Their ultimate goal is to be seen by coaches from Division I colleges and to qualify for further basketball opportunities. The young men are: Arvydas Mikalainis, 18 from Kaunas; Mantas Storpieratis, age 19 from Jonava; Vaidas Nutautas, age 17 from Kaunas, and Marius Kovaliukas, age 20 from Vilnius. All are working very hard to succeed here in the U.S. Mantas was seen at the Lithuanian/Siena College game which was on tour last year in the fall.

The third guest at our dinner was Richard Fuerst, a member of our council, who recently graduated from Union College with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in German.

Three members became Third Degree recipients: Estelle Nelson, Helen La Pierre and Shelly LeVine. Richard Fuerst received a check from the Council as he was graduated from Union College in Schenectady, N.Y. Speedy

recovery wishes and prayers are given to Nell Freer, our Sunshine Committee Chairperson.

At the end of July, the annual trip to Putnam, Conn. was attended by many new members, including the four Lithuanian young men.

August 18th at the Kiwanis Park on the shores of the Mohawk River in Rotterdam, we, along with our sister Council 100 of Amsterdam, enjoyed our annual picnic.

Our first meeting of the fall season was September 12 and it was good to get together again after the summer recess.

The election of officers and committee chairpersons was held and there were a few changes. However, for the most part, those in office agreed to serve another year. The following will lead us: President-Lynn McCafferty; Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Bernard Gustas; 1st VP - Ed Barkowski; 2nd VP - Helen Hayner; Recording Secretary - Shelly LeVine; Financial Secretary - June Stankus; Treasurer - Betty Parker; Trustee - Estelle Nelson. The following are chairpersons: Cultural-Stella White; Lithuanian Affairs - Bernice Aviza; Public Relations - Joan Parker; Ritual - Bea



Twardowski; Sunshine - Nell Freer and Betty Parker; Vytis Correspondent - Dot Richmire. Congratulations to all.

We are happy to report Nell Freer is well on the way to recovery from her recent illness.

We are saddened by the news that Thomas Baranauskas passed on in California where he was residing. Thomas is the son of Ed and Genute Baranauskas and we offer our sincerest sympathy to the family of Thomas.

Helen LaPierre has volunteered to chair the committee planning for our annual Christmas Party.

#### **C-141, Bridgeport, CT**

*Aldona Marcavage*

Msgr. Pranckus congratulated all Fathers on their day, then opened the meeting with a prayer. He spoke of the importance of a greater attendance at the Lithuanian Mass on the 3rd Sunday of each month including July and August--so our heritage doesn't die out. President, Clemencine Miller added "if we don't support it--it will die out".

Stella Marcinauskis just returned from Lithuania with a tree cake and souvenir cards for all. Her late husband, Mitch, had a second funeral service there and his ashes were buried next to his mother's in a little cemetery just behind the church.

On Deacon John Rigely's initiative, and strong support by commissioner of Elderly Services, Kathi McDonnell-Bissell, project "Aid to Lithuania's Hospitals" got under way in Milford. Sister Igne of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM in



*Future Lithuanian Basketball Stars visit with C-136. (l to r) Arvydas Mikalainis (18) of Kaunas, Mantas Storpirstis (19) of Jonava, Vaidas Nutautas (17) of Kaunas and Marius Kovaliukas (20) of Vilnius.*

Putnam, was invited and very graciously received on June 19th, at the Milford Senior Center. She spoke of the current conditions in "awakening" Lithuania. Her talk was inspiring and very informative. In unity, the local Knights and the Milford Seniors presented her with approximately \$10,000 worth of medical supplies. John Rigely put in a lot of effort for this project. This drive will continue to the end of this year. Sister Igne said our supplies will go to a new clinic in Utena.

John Balčius visited his relatives and friends in Sauliai this spring. He also went to the Hill of Crosses and said guards are posted to protect the cross that Pope John Paul II left there.

Pete Peters read a report about a Father Finnegan who just returned from visting Lithuania. He was much impressed but saddened by the living conditions of the Franciscan priests in Kaunas. After years of horrendous oppression they are still lacking basic creature comforts.

Enjoying the annual Retreat

at the beautiful Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, Maine were Peter and Aldona Peters, Deacon John Rigely and Jean, Victor and Clemencine Miller, Sylvester and Aldona Marcavage.

Sincere sympathies to Frank Sciarappa and his wife, Ilona on the loss of his father June 25, 1996. May he rest in peace.

The first meeting of the new season began after the 11 AM Mass Sept. 15th, and was well attended. It is such a pleasure to see a full club room. Msgr. Pranckus opened with a prayer. President Clemencine Miller gave a report on the 83rd National Convention in Brockton, listing the new slate of officers.

The annual council picnic at the Miller home was a lot of fun, great food, good company and as usual -- a great hostess.

September 25th Lithuanian classes will again resume at the Millers.

John Kristy appeared at our council picnic. All were happy to see him, even though he was in a wheelchair. Since then, he





**C-136 Junior, Corin Levine receives her First Degree**

has had another operation on his leg, and is doing well. Prayers and cards are requested to keep his morale up. Joe Simanis is very seriously ill at this time. Please put him on your prayer list, also. He told his sister, Helen, he is hoping to feel well enough to be able to attend the 30th anniversary of Our Lady of Siluva chapel in Washington.

Election of officers took place with the incumbents remaining in place much to everyone's pleasure.

C-141 Bridgeport--Officers for 1996/1997 are: Spiritual Advisor - Msgr. Francis J. Prancus; President - Clemencine Miller; 1st VP - Armundas Zakarauskas; 2nd VP - Joseph Janiunas; Rec. Sec. - Barbara W. Schmidt; Fin. Sec. - William Brilvitch; Treasurer - Patricia R. Silk; Lith. Affairs - Joseph Janiunas; Lith. Culture - Aldona Peters; Ritual - Clemencine Miller; Trustees - Stephen Wilcinskas - Sylvester Marcavage; VYTIS Corr.-

Aldona Marcavage; Social Coordinator Stella Marcinauskis; Religious Coordinator-Helen Janiunas.

Just back from an extended vacation in Lithuania, Vytautas Vaikutis gave an interesting report. He said there are more poor people than ever, more people out of work and hungry. He learned about a lot of corruption --from the top officials in government down to the little people. Bribes are still flourishing throughout the land. Example: If you are going to have a baby in the hospital, bring your own sheets, blankets, etc. and be sure to give your R.N. a good bribe or you will have no attention during your hospital stay. What a disgrace to our country! This is residue from the Soviet regime, when people knew they could not exist without bribes in all the right places. So sad that it is still so.

We were informed that Alan Strudad, who was ill at this time, has organized six packages of medicine worth \$30,000 for hospitals in Lithuania. Deacon, John Rigely has been working very conscientiously to promote Aid to Lithuania's hospitals and people. With permission from Executive Director Kathi McDonnell-Bissell, the Milford Senior Center is used as a collection center. At least \$30,000 worth of medicals and hospital necessities have been forwarded to Aid to Lithuania to date. This is an ongoing project. Our council is still collecting stamps for Sr. Helen in Brockton. Many boxes of children's clothing, shoes and toys have been contributed for the Lithuanian Children's Relief.

Pat Silk read a proposal to be submitted to NED and the Supreme Council to consider Pres. Clemencine Miller for a candidate for Honorary Membership. A standing ovation followed to our deserving president. Our meeting ended on a sweet note with a beautiful cake, decorated in yellow and green--and a real red rose--with 6 candles for the six members who had September birthdays.

### C-142, Washington, D.C.

*Kay A. Yankowski*

Council 142 enjoyed its Annual Picnic on June 24, with Beverly Meder hosting this event. The luck of the Lithuanians prevailed and we enjoyed a sunny, sultry afternoon on her deck. 16 Council members attended along with 2 Lithuanian guests. John Waylonis is our official chef but his hamburgers took a backseat to desru and kapusta this year. Council President, Julia Burlen looked fit and trim after her recent quadruple bypass. Gene Cizauskas, fresh from her 50th Reunion at Brooklyn College, showed up in her cap and gown, with husband Al and Helen Szpakowski, poppyseed cake in hand, following behind. Joe Chaplick passed around photos of the wedding of Chris and Laura Hogan which was celebrated the previous week. On the way to the picnic, Clare Sponis picked up sister Mary Anne at the airport, just jetting back from a business trip to London. Irene and Len Redecke picked up Mary Semel and Eleanor Depenbrock on their



way too. Most of us planned to meet again the following Sunday for the last Lithuanian Mass for the summer and to bid a fond farewell to Joe Simanis who will give up the reins of the Lithuanian Mission.

#### **C-143, Pittston, PA**

*Dotty*

We started 1996 in great fashion! We had installation of officers on January 7 at 11:00 A.M. Mass in St. Casimir's Church. Reverend John Major conducted the services and installed: Ann Soha, President; Rosalie Kizis, Vice-President; Nellie Bayoras-Romanas, Treasurer; Jean Mihalick, Recording Secretary; Helen Karpovich, Financial Secretary; Dorothy Banos, Mary Timek, Annamarie Sewatsky - Trustees; and Steve Soha, Sergeant-at-Arms. After the installation and Mass, we had a continental breakfast hosted by the men of our Council. We had a short meeting with the appointment of the following chairpersons: Mary Ann Cipola, Lithuanian Affairs; Ursula Danoski, Culture; Pamela Smith, Correspondent; Annamarie Sewatsky, Historian; Dorothy Banos, Ritual and VYTIS correspondent.

On February 15 and 16, we celebrated Lithuanian independence. On February 15, we were joined by the Pittston City officials at City Hall in recognizing the independence of Lithuania. Nellie, Steve, Ann, Annamarie, Dotty, Rosalie, Genevieve, Marie and Frances Shoppel attended. A social followed in St. Casimir's Hall.

The scene of the celebration

on February 16 was Wilkes-Barre Court House. President Clinton was speaking across the street at Kings College, but we had good attendance. The state, county and city officials were with us and gave us a proclamation designating February 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day. Nellie Bayoras-Romanas chaired these events.

On March 3, we had a St. Casimir Day Mass in our church followed by a breakfast catered by Knight - Marcella Bartoli. Father Timchak, our assistant pastor, was the speaker.

On March 11, we traveled to Binghamton (C-72) for the Amber District meeting. Reverend Peter Alisaukas, Spiritual Advisor; Ann Challan, Ritual Chair; Nellie Bayoras-Romanas, Trustee; and Dorothy Banos, Vice-President, all district officers. Our delegates were Ann Soha, Frances Shoppel, Ann Davala, Martha Warnagiris, Steve Soha. Our guests were Jean Michalick, Helen Karpovich and Rosemary Durling. We were honored having the Fourth Degree given to Frances Shoppel and Ann Davala by our Supreme Council Ritual Chair, Nellie Bayoras-Romanas. The Third Degree was given to Ann and Steve Soha and Martha Warnagiris. Our Council hosted the June 2nd Amber District meeting.

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

*Ona*

Congratulations to Anna Helen McDonald and Victor Prep who received their 4th

Degrees at the 83rd Convention.

Our 82nd Annual Lithuanian Day was successful thanks to Chairperson Eleanor Vaicaitis and her Committee. Everyone enjoyed the Gilvelis Folk Dance Group from Philadelphia. The Cultural displays were beautiful. Schuylkill County was all Lithuanian.

Our condolences go to Vice President Pat Roberts on the loss her husband. He was hospitalized for almost a full year. May God grant him peace and help Pat over these sad days.

We were saddened to lose Msgr. Gerald Gobitas who was transferred from the Annunciation Church to St. Jane de Chantal in Wilson, Pa., which is in the Easton area. We wish him well and welcome the new Pastor at Annunciation Church in Frackville.

Mary and John Koons celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Mary is our Cultural Chairperson and Lithuanian Lecter when we have a Lithuanian Mass. May they have many more good and healthy years.

We are most grateful to our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Ron Jankaitas, who brings us great messages at our Masses and has been great in every way.

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

*Dolores Jonaitis*

Our June meeting was opened by Anthony Gudonis, our president. Opening and closing prayers were said Father Steponas Ropolas O.F.M., due to the absence of Rev. Jonas Gasiunas. A moment's silence was observed for Susana



Mazeika who passed away May 22, 1996. May she rest in peace.

It was voted to continue to donate \$100.00 to St Casimir College in Rome. Victoria Kleiva read Thank You notes from Maria Gelazvius and Father

Ropolas who had been ill. Also a note from the family of the late Susan Mazeika. The K of L Ritual was handled by Victoria Kleiva due to the absence of the other officers who were away. Thank you Victoria. You are well appreciated.

Plans were discussed for the coming concert by "Ansamblis Lietuva" on November 26, 1996, hosted by Council - 147. The song and dance group consists of 46 members. The orchestra consists exclusively of Lithuanian folk instruments and have the same footing as the best classical instruments. Their National costumes created by famous specialists in folklore, reflect various Lithuanian

ethnographic regions.

Donaters for today's meeting were: Aldona Kirstuk, Kazimiera Arlauskas, Irena Diktanas, Genovaite Bakas, Elena Jurkynas, and Dolores Jonaitis. Anthony Gudonis thanked all of them wholeheartedly. Ačiū labai.

Tautų Švente Minejimas was held on September 8, 1996 in Most Holy Name of Jesus Church and the Lithuanian Club. Representing our Council -147 was Antanas Grabauskas flag-bearer. His attendants were Valeria Lesčinskas and Maria Gelažius. We are looking forward to the 50 year Jubilee of Father Ropolas O.F.M.'s Ordination.

### Official News

## ***K. of L. Scholarship Donations for 1996***

### \$150.00

C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA

### \$100.00

C-1, Brockton, MA

C-26, Worcester, MA

C-100, Amsterdam, NY

C-110, Maspeth, NY

C-112, Marquette Pk, IL

C-118, Hazelton, PA

C-147, St. Petersburg, FL  
Mid Atlantic District

### \$50.00

C-17, South Boston, MA

C-79, Southfield, MI

C-109, Great Neck, NY

C-136, Hudson-Mohawk, NY

### \$25.00

C-41, Brooklyn, NY

C-46, Vandergrift, PA

C-52, Elizabeth, NJ

C-141, Bridgeport, CT

Elena Mikalauskas

Annie Mitchell Matalavich

Victor and Clemencine Miller

Ed and Maria Deksnis

Knights of Lithuania  
Foundation : \$20.75

*Thanks to all councils, districts*

### **Letters to the Editor** (☞ cont. from pg. 3)

The "watery" taste of American beers is not related to alcoholic content at all. Rather, it is a deliberate (and, from a sales perspective a very successful) effort by American mega-breweries to produce a product with impressive stability and consistency, but without much flavor or aftertaste.

This alleged "watery" taste, however, has nothing to do with the flavorful beers of the American craft breweries. The writers should have known better and gently educated Ms. Vidziene (or pleasantly surprised her with some ambrosia samples).

Sveik's! Yours for good fermentables,

**Thomas Cizauskas**

Brewer - Manayunk Brewing Company

Philadelphia. PA

*Editor's note: Mea Culpa! Thanks for straightening us out on that one. A recent article in the Baltic Times gave Lithuanian beers high marks compared to the other two Baltic countries!*



*Happy Thanksgiving  
to All!!!*



# NOVEMBER - 1996 - LAPKRITIS

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

*Amžinąjį atilsį duok mirusiems, Viešpatie,  
ir amžinoji šviesa jiems tešviečia...*

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Nov 1** Feast of All Saints. During the year, the Church celebrates one by one the feasts of the major saints. On this date, she joins them all in one festival.
- Nov 2** Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed. (In Lithuania - *VĒLINĖS - MIRUSIŲJŲ DIENA*)
- Nov 8** On this date in 1953, Archbishop *Mečislovas Reinys* died while incarcerated in the Vladimir Prison in Russia. The Lithuanian Church asks for prayers that his cause for beatification be accepted.
- Nov 11** In the U.S. - **Veteran's Day**. We honor and pray for the intentions of all who have served their country in the Armed Forces.
- Nov 16** In Lithuania - **Feast of Mary, Mother of Mercy** (Madonna of the Gates of Dawn - *Aušros Vartai*). An 8-day atlaida is observed in Vilnius.
- Nov 18** Fifty years ago on this day, a sentence of death by firing squad was carried out in Vilnius against Bishop *Vincentas Borisevičius*, of Telšiai. We are asked to pray for acceptance of his cause for Beatification. The cell in which he was imprisoned and the courtyard where he was executed, today, form a part of the KGB Museum in Vilnius.
- Nov 23** In Lithuania, **Armed Forces Day**, celebrated on the anniversary of the formation of the Lithuanian Army in 1918.
- Nov 28** In the U.S., **Thanksgiving Day**. We thank God, of whose mercies there is no number and of whose goodness the treasure is infinite.

## Congratulations to those celebrating a name's day in November:

Albert (Nov.15)			Pauline (Nov.9)
Andrew (Nov.30)	Edmund (Nov.16)	Hubert (Nov.3)	Ramantas (Nov.13)
Andrius (Nov.30)	Elizabeth (Nov.5)	Laimutis (Nov.22)	Rimdaugė (Nov.19)
Ašmantas (Nov.6)	Ernest (Nov.7)	Leo (Nov.10)	Stanley (Nov.13)
Audronė (Nov.19)	Felicity (Nov.23)	Leonard (Nov.6)	Stephen (Nov.27)
Catherine (Nov.25)	Felix (Nov.20)	Leonard (Nov.26)	Sylvester (Nov.26)
Cecilia (Nov.22)	Gertrude (Nov.16)	Margarita (Nov.16)	Sylvia (Nov.3)
Charles (Nov.4)	Getautas (Nov.17)	Martin (Nov.3)	Vaidilas (Nov.15)
Clement (Nov.23)	Gregory (Nov.17)	Matilda (Nov.19)	Zacharius (Nov.5)



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