
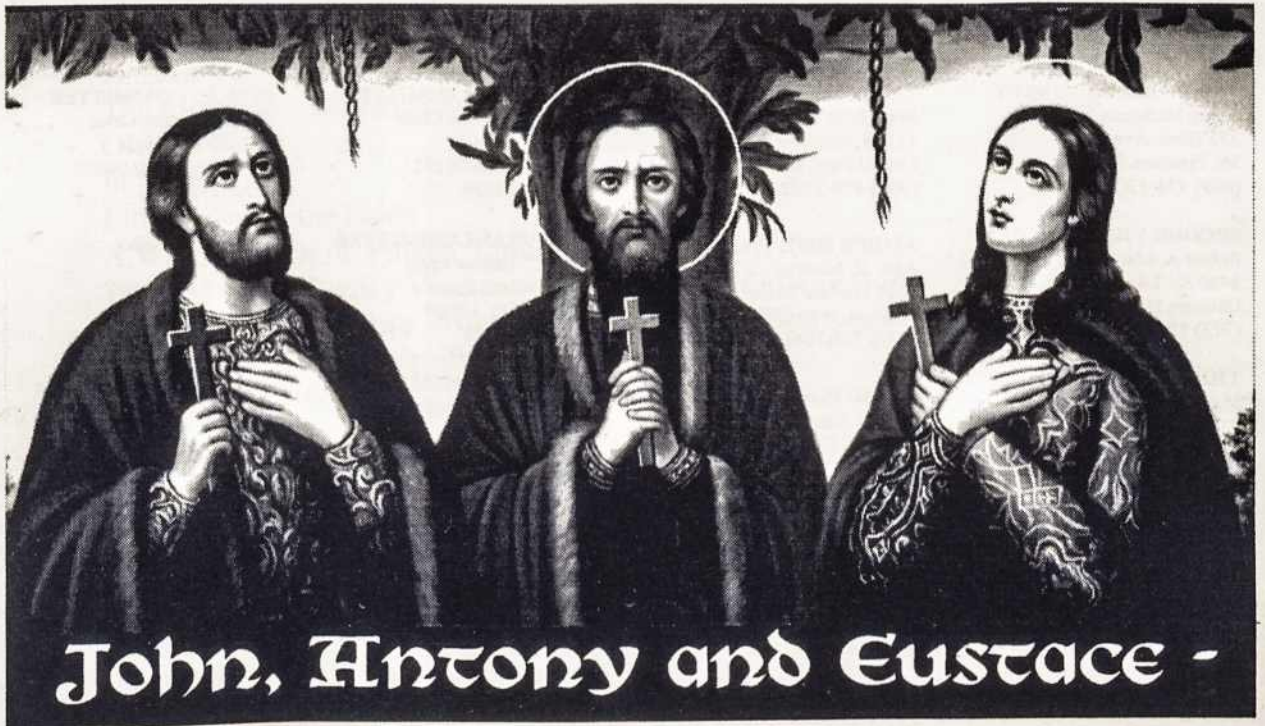


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 The Knight
 volume 83: no. 7
Liepa / Rūgpjūtis - July / August 1997



John, Antony and Eustace -

**Lithuania's First Three
 Christian Martyr-Saints**

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Cover art and feature story: *The First Three Christian Martyrs: Antony, John and Eustace who died a martyr's death in 1347 in Vilnius. Their bodies lie in the temple of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Vilnius.* © V.S.

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THE SPIRIT OF DARIUS AND GIRENAS

Sixty four years ago, on July 15, 1933, two Lithuanian- American pilots, Captain Steponas (Stephen) Darius and Lieutenant Stasys Girenas, commenced a daring and hazardous flight from Floyd Bennet field in Brooklyn, NY. Their plan was to fly over the Atlantic Ocean and to reach Kaunas, Lithuania without a single landing.

They named their plane *Lituanica* and used only a compass to maintain their bearings, yet were able to keep to their route accurately. On the evening of July 16th, they flew over Scotland. They had successfully crossed the Atlantic Ocean. One night later they reached West Prussia. Then,

115 km. north of Berlin, they crashed in a forest five miles south of Soldin, Germany. Both men lost their lives. They were just 650 km short of their destination. They had flown 6,441 km in 35 hours and 15 minutes.

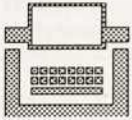
Even though they did not reach Lithuania, their flight became the second best in aviation history - according to time and distance. Because of their courageous flight, the names of Darius and Girenas have won world fame. They also became national heroes and an example to the young people of Lithuania. Before setting out on their journey, they had written, "May the success of *Lituanica* strengthen the spirit of the young sons of Lithuania and inspire them to new ventures ... May the failure teach young Lithuanians strong will and determination."

To My Fellow Knights:

Once again it's Summer and Convention time. This year we will be choosing a new K. of L. Supreme Council president. Having had the privilege of working with Evelyn Ozelis, for the past two and a half years, my hope is that her replacement is someone who possesses one of her positive character traits: the *working zeal* which is what the Knights of Lithuania is noted for. I once overheard an interesting comment about our organization from a non-member. "Knights of Lithuania? Why Yes, I've heard of them. They do a lot of work to help Lithuania. If you want something done, ask the Knights." My hope is that we can keep the momentum.

Thank you for all your letters, calls and comments, both pro and con. A special thanks to all my great writers, editors, and special advisors who contributed to the production of this magazine. We hope more of you will contribute articles, photos, poetry and your stories of Lithuania past and present to continue to make VYTIS interesting.

See you in Dayton.



Letters to the Editor

Ačiū, Ačiū

To the Editor:

Several years ago, as a Board Member of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Inc. (LCRA), I suggested that Lithuanians throughout the U.S. be asked to save at least a quarter a day during Lent, and after Easter, donate the saved money (\$10.00) to LCRA, earmarked to provide lunches to those Catholic school students in Lithuania who cannot provide their lunches.

As a long-time K. of L. member, where else would I turn for help but to members of my favorite organization, the Knights of Lithuania. I wrote letters to all councils each year, and personally spoke of the project when it was possible. The response was overwhelming ... so many K. of L.'ers, Councils and Districts responded with generous donations, making the project a success. Over \$50,000 has already been sent during the past two years, and probably another \$25,000 or more will be sent for the 1997-98 school year. Hundreds of Lithuanian Catholic school children were able to get

lunch, and sometimes breakfast as well, improving their condition for learning. For you see, the current Lithuanian government does not supply lunches for Catholic schools, and many students do not have the wherewithal to bring or buy lunches.

Without such wonderful K. of L. participation, the project would not have achieved the success it did. From the bottom of my heart, let me extend a sincere thank you to all who donated to this cause over the past few years. It makes me proud to hear the glowing praise for the Knights coming from other LCRA Board Members and Administration. The Knights have always been responsive to the needs of the less fortunate, especially the needy in Lithuania, the Land of our Heritage. May God grant all of the donors His continuing love and care. **Ačiū labai!!!**

*Loretta I. Stukas, HM
Member, LCRA Board*

Legend of Birutė Correction:

In the Gegužė/May 1997 issue, on page 9, The Legend of Birutė, Jogaila engineered a coup in 1382 (not 1182 as printed). VYTIS editor's regret the error.

An Open Letter of Thanks

Dear Fellow Members,

It has been an inspiring three years as your Supreme Council President. You gave me the opportunity to serve you and I hope that I have served you well.

There is much to be said as you take on the responsibility to serve. You are only the captain of the ship, for it is your crew that helps you sail on!

Many questions enter your mind, such as, do you feel capable of coping with many situations maturely? Will you handle your position with dignity, and gain the respect of your fellow officers, members and those of other organizations? Are you prepared to devote countless hours in answering correspondence, telephone calls and personal appearances at other organizations' functions? This is called devoting your time to the business of the Knights of Lithuania. All the Presidents of the past have done so, and so will the future Presidents!!!

My journey to Lithuania, representing the Knights in 1995, was an educational experience in many ways and would be hard to duplicate. I am grateful to have had this opportunity.

Since we have been operating on a very tight budget, I was not able to visit various districts, as I had hoped. This would have given me more personal contact with individual members. I did not feel it proper to burden any district with financial stress.

The upcoming years will be just as thought-provoking as the last three years. All of you members of the K. of L. will be needed to take our organization into the right direction as we enter a new millennium!

Once again, I say thank you and GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU!!!

Evelyn Ozelis, Supreme Council President

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP MEDAL PRESENTED

On May 3, 1997, His Excellency, HM Archbishop Paul Marcinkus of Sun City, Arizona, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his Priesthood, at his original home parish, St. Anthony's in Cicero, IL. The event was celebrated with Holy Mass, attending by several Bishops, including our own HM, Bishop Paulius Baltakis, many members of the clergy from Lithuanian and other parishes in the Chicago area, plus a churchful of relatives and friends. An open-house reception followed in St. Anthony Parish Hall.

Archbishop Marcinkus, who served several Popes as a close assistant, and was Mayor of Vatican City for many years, was awarded Knights of Lithuania Honorary Membership during the 1996 National K. of L. Convention last August. Because the Bishop was unable to attend to receive his medal, National President, Evelyn Ozelis, and



*HM Chair Loretta Stukas (left)
and National President Evelyn Ozelis (right)
present Honorary Membership medal to
Archbishop Paul Marcinkus*

Honorary Membership Committee Chairman, Loretta Stukas, seized this opportunity to present the Archbishop with his medal. At the end of the Mass, Loretta Stukas briefly outlined his work, high achievements and kindness to the Knights, while Evelyn Ozelis presented the medal.

We congratulate Archbishop Marcinkus on his 50 years in the service of God, and officially welcome him to the Knights' roster of **Honorary Members**.

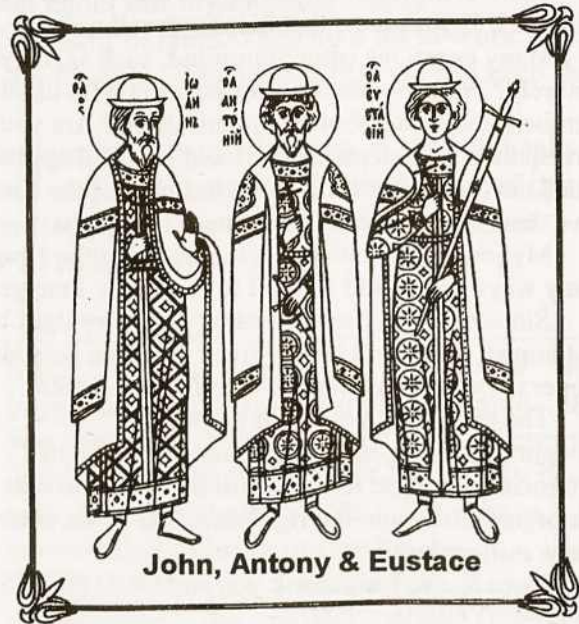
The First Three Christian Martyrs of Lithuania

By Vincent B. Boris

It happened in 1990 during my first visit to Lithuania. My fellow tourists and I were returning to the center of Old Town Vilnius from Aušros Vartai when we were drawn to a church by the ethereal sound of women's voices chanting a liturgy. It was the Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. The church is set back from the street by a courtyard, but the doors were wide open (one of the first fruits of reclaimed independence). The sound wafting out into the late August air came from about 30 nuns chanting a Vespers Liturgy. We entered the church and stood entranced as we gazed at baroque decor while the heavenly sound engulfed us. A young Orthodox monk, discerning that we were tourists, offered to give us a tour. He immediately took us to a wrought iron fence centered in front of the iconostasis and surrounding a wide stairwell. He unlocked a gate and escorted us down, into a crypt which extended to below the sanctuary. The dimness was only slightly abated by the single lamp he lit. There in the center of the room was a wide glass-covered coffin holding three bodies dressed in what I took to be liturgical garb but may have been the flowing robes of the middle ages. The skin on the hands and faces could barely be discerned but appeared to be dark brown and mummified. The priest turned and introduced us to the first Christian martyrs in Lithuania.

Introduction

It is likely that until recently most Lithuanians had never heard about the three Christian Martyr-Saints of Lithuania, named John, Antony



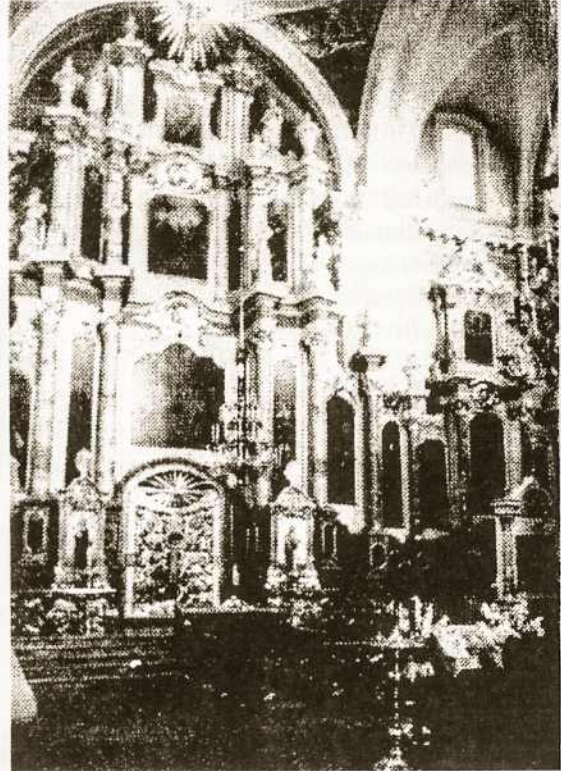
John, Antony & Eustace

and Eustace. Some who may have heard about them are skeptical of their authenticity. Yet, as we were to find out later, they are listed among the martyr saints in both the Eastern and Western Churches. Both churches assigned April 14 (the date of Antony's martyrdom) as their joint feast day, although after the change in the Russian calendar, the Eastern churches celebrate the feast on April 26. They were canonized at least twice (once in Kiev or Constantinople and once in Moscow). Their remains are enshrined in a glass-covered coffin in a crypt below the sanctuary of the Orthodox Monastery Church of the Holy Spirit in Vilnius. They are also credited as miracle workers and this has inspired a significant following or cult within Russian-speaking areas of Eastern Europe.

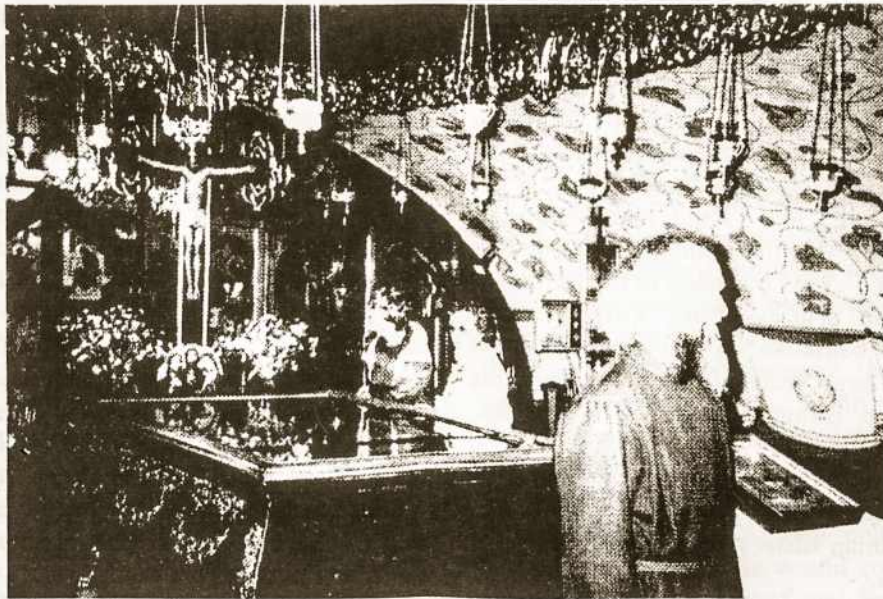
Their lives are recounted in several ancient chronicles from as early as the 16th century. They are considered to be the first Lithuanian martyrs for Christianity although some chronicles identify them as Russians (possibly born in Lithuania).

☞ Turn to page 6

Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit in Vilnius



(top) Entering the courtyard exterior of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit in 1996. (Right) Church interior, entrance to the crypt directly in front of Iconostasis. (bottom) The enshrined remains of the three Lithuanian Martyrs in the crypt.



Whatever their origins, they can be viewed as prototypes of those thousands of Lithuanian martyrs, whose fidelity to their Faith brought them into conflict with civil authority and eventually to a martyr's death. It is this aspect which gives them relevance to us today. They showed heroic courage in giving witness to Christ and would not be secretive in performing or adhering to their religious practices. Over the years, Lithuania has been blessed with countless such heroes. They have been hung from the sacred oak trees by pagans; hacked to death by sword wielding Cossacks; murdered in the forests of Lithuania, executed in the cellars of KGB prisons or frozen to death in the wastelands of Siberian exile. There have been thousands, but Antony, John and Eustace were the first. This is their story.

Historical context

At the outset, it must be noted that many doubt their authenticity, and this disbelief stems from the historical context of their lives and martyrdom. They lived during the reign of Grand Duke Algirdas (1345-1377). During his reign the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was expanded to almost the gates of Moscow in the east and the Black Sea in the south. The vast majority of these newly conquered peoples were Slavs and Eastern Orthodox Christians. With this in mind, it is doubted that Algirdas would have executed subjects simply on the basis of their Orthodox Religion. Additionally, the Lithuanian policy or "law of the land" already well established by Gediminas clearly provided for full religious tolerance. Both Algirdas' mother and first wife were devout Orthodox Christians. There are some historians who claim that Grand Duke Algirdas, himself, had been baptized into the Orthodox Church at the time of his marriage to his first wife, Maria, a Russian princess from Vitebsk and a devout Orthodox Christian. If he had converted, it was apparently kept secret from other than his closest friends in Lithuania. When in Vilnius, Algirdas conducted himself as a traditional Lithuanian pagan and after Maria's death, he probably reverted to full paganism. It is this period in Lithuanian history that is the setting for the three martyrs.

Their authenticity is supported by sufficient

material presented in official chronicles of the period from several sources as well as the traditional oral history or folklore. These provide a convincing argument that the three men did exist and were martyred. There is also ample reason to suspect that their execution, however, was probably as much a political act as it was based on religion.

The Martyrs as described in folklore

During my first encounter with the saints, the priest-guide related that these were the remains of the first Christian Martyrs in Lithuania who had lived some 600 to 700 years earlier. He identified them as missionaries who had come to convert the still-pagan Lithuanians. They had been apprehended by militant pagans who killed them with bow and arrow. The bodies were then hung from a sacred oak tree for several days before burial in the ground. Long after Lithuania had officially accepted Christianity, the area around this old oak tree continued to be respected as holy ground both as a vestige of former pagan beliefs and because it was the site where the three martyrs were buried. The old storytellers had kept alive the tale of the three missionaries that had been martyred and buried in that location. After the occurrence of several miraculous cures to people who had prayed at the site and invoked the help of the martyrs, the local citizens prevailed upon church authorities to exhume the graves and transfer the bodies into a church. This was done and the bodies were reburied in the crypt of the Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Vilnius.

With the passage of time, the memory of the Martyrs faded. It was only during the recent Soviet period that their existence again came to light. The Soviets had closed the Holy Trinity Cathedral and later decided to raze it to make room for expansion of the University of Vilnius. It was only after a series of inexplicable accidents had seriously impeded the tearing down of the old church that someone remembered that there were three Saints buried in the crypt. The bodies were recovered and found to be fairly intact despite the centuries of burial. They were, therefore, sent to Moscow for scientific study. Only recently, after the Orthodox Christians had regained use of a

church, were the bodies returned to Lithuania and installed in the Orthodox Monastery Church of the Holy Spirit.

The Martyrs according to ancient Chronicles

Modern scholarship of some authoritative sources suggest a significantly different scenario. In this version, the Saints were Lithuanian nobles in the court of Algirdas. There was official practice of religious tolerance throughout the expanse of Lithuanian controlled territory which at that time covered much of Eastern Europe. The variety of peoples and cultures that came under Lithuanian rule was such that tolerance of differences was a necessary pragmatic approach to what otherwise could have been a very volatile problem. It had been Gediminas, the father of Algirdas, that had first developed the policy of not imposing cultural, language or religious change on captured territories. As new

territory was acquired and if the governance of these territories was adequate, sons and daughters of the Lithuanian ruling clan would be sent out to marry into the ruling family of the captured territory. Thus, the power structure was unchanged but a familial tie was established with the now-subject rulers. Often, the Lithuanian would adopt the religion of the intended spouse. Of Algirdas' five sons (by his second wife) two became Orthodox, two converted to Roman Catholicism and one remained pagan.

At home in the Court, Algirdas maintained strict standards of dress, conduct and decorum among his nobles. It has been reported that on at least one occasion he admonished his nobles to cut and groom their hair as well as shave. He said that unkempt hair and beards were Russian; he wanted his nobles to be (and look) Lithuanian. It is also

reported that the Lithuanian nobles would take the hair clippings and beard shavings to the pagan temple to be burned in the ever-burning sacred fire as a sacrifice to the chief God, Perkunas, in order to gain his protection.

The stage was set for trouble when two brothers in the Court converted to Eastern Orthodoxy. Their names have been recorded as Nežilokas and Krugletskas. They had heard the preaching of the holy man, Nestor, who had served as the private confessor to Maria, Princess of

Vitebsk and wife of Algirdas. Through his teaching, the brothers had converted to Christianity, taking the names John and Antony upon Baptism. They stopped cutting their hair and began to grow beards as was the practice of Orthodox men. A crisis developed on one winter Ember Day, a day of strict fast and abstinence. It so happened that in celebration of a victory, the Grand Duke had made sacrifice to the pagan gods and then hosted a formal banquet at which

meat from the sacrificed animals was to be consumed. John and Antony refused to partake of the meat thus insulting the Grand Duke. The insult was compounded by a refusal to obey his direct order to partake of the meat.

Algirdas subsequently met with them and reminded them that they were entirely free to espouse Orthodoxy but, when present in his Court, they had to conform to established standards. Cut their hair, shave their beards and stop flaunting their new-found faith among their peers or face imprisonment and death. Both were thrown into prison where they languished for a year. During the second year, John relented and asked Algirdas for a pardon. Algirdas rejoiced at the decision and released both men. Antony could not deny his convictions and said he would continue as he had. He was again imprisoned and finally executed on April 14, 1347. John, however, agreed to the

Whatever their origins, they can be viewed as prototypes of those thousands of Lithuanian martyrs, whose fidelity to their Faith brought them into conflict with civil authority and eventually to a martyr's death. It is this aspect which gives them relevance to us today.

Duke's demands. To all appearances, he conformed to Court standards, but in the privacy of his home he continued to pray and live as an Orthodox Christian. His fellow Orthodox believers excoriated him as a hypocrite. His peers at court ridiculed him asking how he could conduct himself as normal when his brother languished in jail. After Antony's execution, he could no longer maintain his double life. One day at Court, he defied Algirdas by loudly announcing that henceforth he would openly live as a Christian. Again, it was because of this defiance of Algirdas, rather than simply his religious beliefs, that he was jailed and executed in July of the same year.

By this time, Kumetskias, a nephew of Antony and John, who also occupied a position at court, converted to Orthodox Christianity, with Eustace as his baptismal name. With the natural youthful hubris of an attractive and athletic young man, Eustace made no secret of his conversion and he quite enthusiastically exhorted his peers to do likewise. Algirdas, after a preliminary and unheeded warning, ordered him confined to jail. Because of his youth, the jailers were tasked to convince him to recant and be freed. Encountering only stubborn resistance from Eustace, the jailers became exasperated, then angry, as they resorted to torture. Their efforts were of no avail even after they had crushed his legs. He was executed in December.

A political context

The severity of the punishment is somewhat incongruous with what would seem to be minor offenses. Some historians have, therefore, felt that there were subtle political motivations that weighed much more heavily than the religious differences. These political reasons would have derived from questions of loyalty to Algirdas. Instead of maintaining the integrity of his holdings, Gediminas, the father of Algirdas, had decreed that the territory be divided among his sons. Algirdas inherited a portion which was ethnically Lithuanian. Jaunutis, a younger brother, was given territory that included Vilnius, the seat of government and should have carried with it the position of Grand Duke. The surrounding area was heavily populated with Slavs and Orthodox Christians. Relations between the two brothers were never cordial and eventually Algirdas and

another brother, Kęstutis, would jointly depose Jaunutis with Algirdas gaining the title of Grand Duke. The supporters of Algirdas being ethnic Lithuanians were pagans while those of Jaunutis were often Orthodox. Thus, a conversion to Orthodoxy could take on aspects of a switch in alliances to the camp of Jaunutis. Certainly, such action would be treasonous and merit a death penalty.

Politics have never been far separated from religious commitments. Indeed, the canonization of the three martyrs by the Orthodox Metropolitan of Moscow took place at a time when a state of war existed between Lithuania and the Duke of Moscow. It was probably intended to be an early attempt at pan-Slavism and to create dissension in the Lithuanian ranks between the Orthodox Slavs and the pagan Lithuanians. The canonization in Constantinople was at the request of Lithuanian leaders. The Lithuanian Grand Dukes, beginning with Algirdas, had ideas of establishing a Lithuanian Metropolitan in Kiev (then part of Lithuania) that would exercise authority over all Orthodoxy in northern Europe.

Finally, it could not be determined how these three Saints came to be included in the Roman Catholic Martyrology. They are included in a late edition of Butler's "Lives of the Saints" an authoritative compendium of all the Saints carried in the Roman Catholic calendar. Butler also identifies the three "Martyrs of Lithuania" as being members of the court of Algirdas who were martyred for refusing to partake of meat on a day of fast and abstinence.

In April of this year, the 650th anniversary of their martyrdom was observed in Vilnius with special services conducted by the Orthodox Metropolitan of Moscow.

The author and editors express thanks to the following for this story:

Ivergija Šatkytė, for research into historical records to authenticate the identity of these three Saints; Kęstutis Čižunas, for translating assistance and interpreting source material; and Rev. Gintaras Grušas for assistance in locating source material.



OFFICIAL NEWS

Constitutional Amendment to be voted on at the 84th National Convention.

1. WHEREAS the preservation and propagation of Lithuanian culture includes the learning and use of the Lithuanian language:

BE IT RESOLVED that the description of the Lithuanian Culture Committee, Section 5, Article XII of the current Knights of Lithuania Constitution be amended to read:

"The Lithuanian Culture Committee works to preserve and propagate Lithuanian culture by providing brochures, articles, recordings and other appropriate means and cooperates with other groups which are concerned with Lithuanian culture. The Committee will also promote the Lithuanian language through instructional articles in VYTIS and other means, assist the Supreme Council and the membership with translations into and from Lithuanian, and in general provide information about the Lithuanian language.";

and,

Section 9 Article XII be deleted in its entirety.

IN MEMORIAM

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May 17, 1997

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Sophie Ferone
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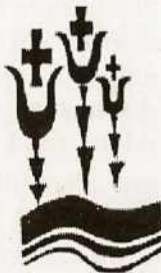
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*May their
souls rest in
the Peace of
Our Lord.*

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C-103, Providence, RI
1996

Lithuanians in the News



*Christine and John Strolia with
"Emmy"*

Knights Win Awards

K. of L.'er Wins Emmy Award

John Vytenis Strolia, a lifetime member of K. of L. Council 36, Chicago, received the coveted "Daytime EMMY Award", from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for Outstanding Multiple Camera Editing, associated with his work for the Oprah Winfrey Show. The award, which was presented Saturday, May 17, 1997 in Beverly Hills, CA, was shared with two coworkers who also camera edit.

During the past 5 years, John has worked closely with the Knights of Lithuania Choir in Chicago, producing four video tapes including "A Lithuanian Wedding" and "Our Catholic Cultural Heritage" featuring Lithuanian churches, convents and Catholic institutions in the Chicago area.

John is the third son of HM Faustas Strolia and his wife, Teresa, both also of C-36. He is a graduate of Lewis University in Communications, has completed Chicago's Lithuanian High School, is a member of Lithuanian Scouts and Ateitininkai.

We congratulate John Strolia on this outstanding achievement and wish him a fruitful, happy and successful future.

Outstanding Lithuanian Journalist

We are sure that our whole organization wishes our national public relations person - Regina Juška of C-102, Detroit, hearty congratulations on her recent engagement. But also, on May 3, Regina Juška, along with 4 other Lithuanian journalists, received a special award for outstanding work in Lithuanian journalism.

The event took place at the Youth Center in Chicago during a concert. The Lithuanian journalist awards were sponsored by Msgr. Dr. Juozas Prunskis, a very generous supporter of

Lithuanian cultural affairs. Congratulations, Regina, we are proud of you!

Historic Threads

An article with this interesting title, by Yadira A. Betances, appeared in the on May 23rd in the Andover, MA *Eagle-Tribune*.

Ms. Betances writes about a handful of Lithuanian sashes which are on display in the Memorial Library in Andover.

In Lithuania, sashes are used for everything from a necktie to a wrap to carry a baby, who is to be baptized. Jonas A. Stundza of Lawrence has a collection of more than 200

sashes. The oldest sashes in his collection are about 100 years old. The sashes are made out of silk, wool and linen. Designs on them include tulips and snakes.

A sash woven in black, which is draped across the shoulders of a pallbearer during funeral processions has this message in Lithuanian "Hail life the one who is about to die will salute you". The sashes are also draped across tombstones.

Mr. Stundza said he started collecting the sashes when he was as young as 8 or 9 years old, by asking women to give him woven neckties. His collection runs the gamut from bookmarks to table runners. He learned about the custom and after family members who worked in the local mills told him stories of how the loom worked. Every peasant woman learns to hand weave as a young girl by making sashes. The pick-up technique of weaving was traditionally one in natural linen yarn for dyed wool yarn. Now it is also one with cotton and silk.

On Lithuanian Independence day, all young boys are seen wearing woven neckties. Sashes are usually given as gifts. For example, they are presented to the matchmaker, those invited to the wedding and to the bridegroom, his relatives and his attendants.

- *Dalia Bulvičius*

Thanks to Kiwanis

Kiwanis Club International President, Eddie Sigurdsson, received a kiss on his hands from a Vilnius Lithuanian hospital patient in a gesture of thanks recently. In the U.S., the downtown Madison Wisconsin Kiwanis Club collects used hospital equipment locally and ships it to the Lithuanian Ministry of Health where it is distributed to hospitals, nursing homes and orphanages. A recent shipment of wheelchairs, beds and surgical equipment was taken to a Vilnius prison hospital. Downtown Madison Kiwanian, Bill Kasakaitas, who visited Lithuania remarked on the poor



Representatives of Illinois Governor, Jim Edgar, present a letter of welcome to Rim Dirvonis (2nd from left) of the Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America sponsors of the NA Juniors' Basketball Championships.

hospital conditions, with eight men sharing two beds.

-*Kiwanis, Jun/July '97 (Submitted by Charles Machutas, C-25 Cleveland)*

Worcester Students Share Jewish Culture in Lithuania

Teenagers from the Kadimah Worcester Hebrew School shared their religious and cultural experiences with Jewish Lithuanian youngsters in Vilnius during a "winter camp" experience in January. Describing the Lithuanians as "poor, but generous and humble", the Worcester group shared language and Hanukkah traditions and made friends.

Peter Stark, principal of the Worcester Hebrew School, began organizing these trips in 1991 in an effort to motivate Jewish teens, pass on traditions and culture which was suppressed during the Soviet occupation. Students from both countries maintain friendships via Internet e-mail.

-*Worcester Telegram, 2/11/97 (Submitted by C. Grigaitis)*



THE FOUNDING OF VILNIUS: THE LEGEND OF THE IRON WOLF



The history of towns, and how they began, often start with legends.

A 16th century Lithuanian chronicle tells the story of the Iron Wolf (Lith.: Geležinis Vilkas) that is associated with the founding of Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.

At the beginning of the 14th century, dense forests full of wild animals and birds covered the area on which Vilnius stands today. They were the favorite hunting grounds of Grand Duke Gediminas, the ruler of Lithuania. Worn out after a long day of hunting, he decided to spend the night in the forest instead of returning to Trakai, his residence. He fell asleep on one of the hills where the two rivers, Vilnia and Neris, meet.

In his dream, on a high hill, an enormous wolf was standing and howling as loudly as if it were coming from a large pack of wolves. Gediminas began firing arrows at this fearsome animal. However, the arrows bounced off the wolf, broke and fell to the ground for he was protected by iron plated armor. Gediminas woke up, and summoned the high priest, Lizdeika, to explain the dream.

It is the will of our gods, Lizdeika explained, that he should build a castle on the hill. It will be as strong and powerful as the Iron Wolf itself. Then, a large town will soon arise whose fame would spread all over the world.

Gediminas was pleased with the words of the old priest. Shortly after returning to Trakai, he ordered a castle to be built on the hill by the mouth of the Vilnia, and a town to be built in the valley.

The origin of the legend is not known.

Submitted by Ed Baranauskas, C-100

Part 1 - The Old Town

A Walking Tour of VILNIUS, Lithuania's capital

Although many European cities boast of their "old towns", none has more impressive variety of architectural styles and beauty than the buildings and churches located in Vilnius' Old Town. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes for the cobblestone streets are tough on the toes.

Perhaps the best way to get acquainted with the Old Town is to start with its oldest architectural layer - Gothic. Vilnius' Gothic masterpiece is the Church of St. Anne (Šv. Ono Bažnyčia), which can be found on Maironio Street. The facade features thirty-three different kinds of bricks and is topped with three pointed towers. The church was built in the 16th century during the reign of King Zygmuntas Augustas.

Near the Vilnia River by the Church of St. Anne is a statue of Adomas Mickevičius (Adam Mickiewicz, 1798-1855), the renowned Polish-Lithuanian poet. As he lived nearby (11 Bernadinų St.) Mickevičius used to like to come and sit by the Vilnia where he could gaze at the nearby Gothic buildings. The statue of Mickevičius was erected in 1984. In 1987, the first meetings for the restoration of Lithuanian independence were held in the square near the statue. Across from the Church of St. Anne is the Church of St. Michael (Šv. Mykolo Bažnyčia, 13 Volano St.). The church was built from 1594-1625 in the style of the Lublin Renaissance, although it does have some earlier Gothic features as well. The Baroque bell tower was added in 1715.

The nearby Bernadinų Street, which is a typical alleyway of old Vilnius, leads into Pilies ("Castle") Street. Pilies Street has been blocked off to traffic since 1988. The street is one of the oldest in the city and is lined with residential buildings which range in



(far left) The last gate left in Vilnius, entrance into Our Lady of the Gates of Dawn (Aušros Vartai) Chapel; (left) the beautiful painting of Our Lady inside the small chapel.

architectural style. A bit farther up from Bernardinų Street on the other side of Pilies is Skapo Street, a narrow alleyway which leads out to Daukantas Square. The main architectural accent of Daukantas Square is Menininkų Rūmai ("Artists' Palace"), a monument of late Classicism which has a long and complex history. In the corner of the square near L. Stuokos-Gucevičiaus Street is the small Chapel of the Holy Cross (Šv. Kryžiaus Bažnytelė). Overgrown with trees, the chapel is situated next to a monastery. In the nearby garden you can find a statue of Laurynas Stuoka-Gucevičius (1753-1798) the renowned Classicist architect. The statue was erected in 1984.

Behind Menininkų Rūmai is the central part of the University of Vilnius ensemble (3 Universiteto St.). The ensemble formed over long period of time during the 16th-19th centuries, so the buildings were built in various styles. If you go through the tall iron gate you'll find the philology courtyard. The

courtyard is named for poet Motiejus Sarbievijus (1595-1640), who was a professor at Vilnius University. The steps on the right side of the courtyard lead to the large University Courtyard. The arcaded courtyard is decorated with commemorative plaques of professors and alumni which were erected to mark the 400th anniversary of the University. The courtyard is dominated by the presence of the Church of St. John (Šv. Jono Bažnyčia). Construction of the church began in 1387, right after Lithuania's conversion to Christianity. Although the present church is dominantly Baroque, it has Gothic and Renaissance features as well, which were acquired during the numerous reconstructions. Next to the church is a bell tower which was erected in 1600-1610. The bell tower which reaches a height of 68 meters is the tallest structure in the Old Town. Behind the bell tower is the so-called Štralis House (26 Pilies St.), where the Independence Act was signed by the Council of Lithuania (Taryba) on

February 16, 1918.

Further up Pilies Street is Didžiosios Street, which opens up into Rotušės Aikštė ("Town Hall Square"). This is the center of the Old Town, where markets used to take place and executions used to be held in the Middle Ages. It is believed that the original Town Hall was built in the 15th century. When it was burnt down in the 18th century, Laurynas Stuoka-Gucevičius was commissioned to build a new Town Hall in its place, using part of the old walls. Construction was completed in 1799, and the result is considered to be one of the architect's best works - second only to Vilnius Cathedral. The Classicist building now houses the Lithuanian Art Museum (Lietuvos Dailės Muziejus, 31 Didžiosios St.).

Next to the Art Museum is the Center of Modern Art (Šiuolaikinio Meno Centras, 2 Vokiečių St.), behind it is Rūdninkų Street Square. The square, which was formed in the 15th century, was one of the most elite residential quarters in the Old Town. The area is dominated by the Baroque Church of All Saints (Visų Šventųjų Bažnyčia, 1620-1631) and bell tower (1743).

Returning to Didžiosios Street, your eyes will certainly be drawn to the Church of St. Casimir (Šv. Kazimiero Bažnyčia, 34 Didžiosios St.), which was built from 1604-1618. Named after one of the patron saints of Lithuania, St. Casimir's is the oldest Baroque church in Vilnius. During the period of Russian Tsarism in the 19th century, St. Casimir's was converted into the Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas and the crown of St. Casimir was replaced by an onion dome. The church was returned to the Catholics in 1917, only to be turned into the Museum of Atheism and Religious History by the Soviets in 1965. In 1988, the church was given back to the Catholics again and is now open for public worship.

As you continue up Didžiosios Street you'll find the National Philharmonic (Nacionalinė Filharmonija, 45 Didžiosios St.). The eclectic building was erected in 1900-1902 as a municipal concert hall. It was there that the first Lithuanian opera - Mikas Petrauskas' "Birutė" premiered in 1906.

Bearing left on Didžiosios Street, you will eventually come upon Aušros Vartų ('Gates of Dawn') Street. On the left is Medininkų restaurant, which is set in a 15th-16th century Gothic building which was reconstructed numerous times in various styles. If you turn into the spacious courtyard a little further up the street you will see the Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit (Šv. Dvasios Cerkvė), the center of Lithuanian Orthodoxy. The early Baroque church was built from 1624-1632 and reconstructed in later decades. The interior is predominantly 18th-century Rococo.

Another one of Vilnius' Baroque monuments is the Church of St. Theresa (Šv. Teresės Bažnyčia), which was erected from 1634-1650 (and restored in 1970-1973). After a fire in 1760, the interior was redecorated in Rococo style. In 1789, the Church of St. Theresa was joined with the Gates of Dawn Chapel (Aušros Vartų Bažnytelė), which was built in the former city wall to house a renowned 16th century Renaissance painting of the Virgin Mary (artist unknown). The image of the Madonna is reputed to have miracle-working powers. Painted on a wooden board, the picture was covered with gilt-silver in the late-17th century.

If you continue through the Gates of Dawn you can see a fragment of the old defensive wall of the city, which was built from 1503-1522. The wall began to be torn down in the early-19th century on the instruction of the Tsarist governor of Vilnius. Of particular note is the Medininkų Gate (Gates of Dawn), which is characterized by Renaissance features.

The most mature piece of Baroque architecture in Vilnius is the Church of St. Peter and Paul (Šv. Petro ir Povilo Bažnyčia), which is located outside of the Old Town (1 Antakalnio St.). Although the facade of the church is not very impressive, the Baroque interior more than compensates for any exterior shortcomings. Over two thousand stuccoed sculptures representing a myriad of subjects join together to form a breathtaking decor. Construction of the church began in 1668 and was completed in 1675. -

Adapted from Lithuania By Car by A. Semaška, ©Algimantis Publishing, Vilnius 1995



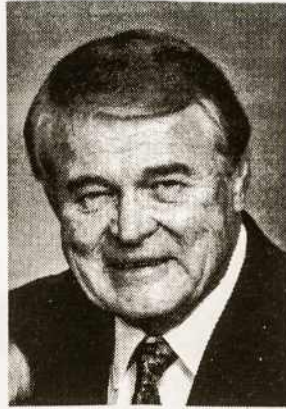
A Special Tribute to HM Stanley Vaitkus

By Elinor Shuzas and Fran Petkus

IN OUR KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA ORGANIZATION, and throughout its rich history, we have been blessed to know and share friendships with many wonderful people. Each unique ... each special ... each fashioned by the Master's hand. One such person who is sadly missed is STANLEY VAITKUS. On the one year anniversary of his death, we think about his kindness, his way of telling a story over and over again and making us laugh so hard, as though it was the first time we heard it. We miss his warm generous smile that made one want to be close to him to hear what he had to say. Stan never had a bad thing to say about anyone. So, who was this Stanley Vaitkus who lived with his family at 518 Hialeah Court, Vandalia, Ohio?

Stanley, whose parents Anthony and Helen Mateunas Vaitkus born in Lithuania, was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. His life centered around Holy Cross Church and Lithuanian activities. Stanley had a Business Degree and his interest was in sales in the electronics field. During World War II, he served as a Staff Sgt. with the Medic Corp. in the U.S. Army Air Force. He was in the China-Burma India Theater and awarded the Bronze Star.

In 1932, he joined the Knights of Lithuania and remained a lifelong member. He held positions on the Council, District and National levels. He did much work with the Junior Knights and chaired many projects. Stanley was awarded HONORARY MEMBERSHIP on August 25, 1968 of which he was very proud. He held the position of Honorary Chair of this committee until the time of his death. We often only see the public side of a person, but today we are privileged to see a little of the private side of Stan through the eyes of his children. (Dr. Mark Vaitkus, Major in the Army teaching at West Point, Dept. of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership. Dr. Steven Vaitkus, Associate Professor at the University of Bielefeld in Germany. Steve and his



wife, Sibyl, have a daughter, Julianna, who is Stan's first grandchild, whom he unfortunately never saw. Teresa Vaitkus has her Masters in Fine Arts and resides in Northampton, MA.) (excerpts from children at his Eulogy)

"Growing up I remember hearing that Dad had such a reputation for having a good time with his friends that there were at least a few who doubted whether he could ever settle down with a family, but then he met Helen Avizynis of C #103 Providence,

RI. Mom, you were the one who knew that this quintessential nice guy had the potential to be a magnificent husband and father--a diamond in the rough maybe, but the genuine article.

As a father, Dad was quite simply a natural. He didn't have to think about spending "quality time" with his kids. He just went ahead and spent a lot of time with his kids and it turned out to be all quality. Bedtime stories about his adventures in the Army filled with amazing things like beds of nails, giant spiders, scorpions, cobras, malaria, street magicians, you name it. Indiana Jones had nothing on Dad. It is a wonder we ever got to sleep after hearing this stuff.

Dad took an interest in what we took an interest in and supported us in our pursuit of them ... Dad was so unselfish, he was easy to take for granted sometimes. He was genuinely concerned with our welfare, allowing and encouraging us to find our own way. And we did. This was perhaps the greatest gift he gave us.

Later in life, especially after his retirement, I got to know Dad as a good friend--through talks over lunch at the Mall, taking in a movie, or going with him to deliver Communion to nursing home residents.

You know, they say that nice guys finish last and maybe that's true when it comes to some of the ways the world measures success. But Dad, you finished first in our hearts and you'll always be first. Thanks for everything, Dad! We love you."

Stanley Vaitkus lived life to the fullest. He had a loving family, an abundance of friends and a great devotion to our heavenly Father. He had everything.

Women In Lithuanian History

Alena (Mirga)

by Edward Baranauskas



This is a story about a woman who played a very important part in the history of Lithuania. Not much is known about her, where or when she was born, or of her personal life. In fact, no one is actually even sure of her first name. It is entirely possible that she was known, at one time or another, as either Alena or Mirga. But, when and how she died is known. Without her, the events that shaped the destiny of Lithuania would have been entirely different.

Ominous events took a turn for the worst in 1382 when conspirators loyal to Jogaila ousted Kestutis as the Grand Duke of Lithuania. Kestutis wanted to reclaim what rightfully belonged to him, and what was taken away illegally by his treacherous relative, Jogaila. Together with Vytautas, his son, a powerful army was organized, and they marched on Trakai to prepare for mortal combat against Jogaila and his forces.

Neither side was sure of victory. Jogaila, however, sent an emissary to offer proposals for peace. Kestutis and Vytautas were reluctant at first, but agreed to the offer after being assured of their personal safety by Jogaila. Once they came to his camp, they were seized and taken prisoners. Their army dispersed after being falsely told that peace negotiations were taking place. Kestutis was sent to a prison in Kriavas, where he was murdered, and Vytautas was imprisoned in Vilnius.

It was a tragic ending to the life of a man like Kestutis. He defended Lithuania and faced death many times in the wars against the Teutonic Knights. To lose his life, at the age

of 82, at the hands of, Jogaila, the son of his brother, Algirdas, is a sorry chapter in the history of Lithuania.

Jogaila and others had plotted to do away with both of them. With Kestutis now out of the way, Vytautas appeared to be the next victim. He was transferred to the same dungeon where his father was murdered.

Vytautas began to have health problems. As his condition became more serious, his wife, Anne, was permitted by Jogaila to visit him. She came everyday with her maid, and as the weeks passed by, developed a plan to rescue him. She discussed the details with Vytautas, and he readily agreed to the scheme.

During one of the visits, Vytautas and Alena (Mirga), the maid, exchanged clothing. She donned his uniform and took his place in the dungeon. Vytautas, wearing her clothing, left with his wife and walked past the guard unrecognized. They mounted two horses waiting outside, and rode away to see his brother-in-law, Prince Jonuša of Masuria. After being told he was too weak to fight Jogaila, they continued on to Prussia, where they were given refuge by the Teutonic Knights. While there, Vytautas would make plans for the future.

When Jogaila learned of the escape, he was furious and ordered the execution of the maid. He knew that Vytautas was a brilliant military leader and a wise politician who would surely challenge his leadership someday.

Alena (Mirga) sacrificed her life to save Vytautas. It is difficult to say what the future of Lithuania may have been if the escape had failed.



Folk Music**Buvo Gera Gaspadinė**


Bu-vo ge- ra gas-pa-di - nė, ge-ro vy-ro žmo-na.
 Ji su-spau-dė sal-dų sū - rį su vi- sa sme- to-na. Tralia, lia, lia...

Prireikėjo gaspadoriui
 Į turgų važiuoti,
 Sūris buvo nesudžiūvęs -
 Negalėjo duoti. Tralia...

Suskvietus daug svetelių
 Vaišino arielka,
 Ėmė sūrį nuo lentynos,
 Dėjo ant torielkos. Tralia...

Aš pati jį numečiau
 Traukdama sermėgą,
 O tas šuva beuodegis
 Ėmė ir suėdė. Tralia...

Išvažiavo gaspadorius
 Į didžią kelionę,
 Gaspadinė namie likus
 Darė sau storonę. Tralia...

Parvažiavo gaspadorius,
 Į lentyną žiūri,
 Klausinėja gaspadinę,
 Kur padėjo sūrį. Tralia...

Gaspadorius vijo šunį
 Iki kiemo vartų,
 Gaspadinė apie grįčią
 Kokį šimtą kartų.

This lighthearted song tells of the wife of a good husband who makes him a tasty cheese. However, while the husband is away, the wife serves the cheese at a party. When he returns, she claims the dog ate it. Of course, the dog took the blame.

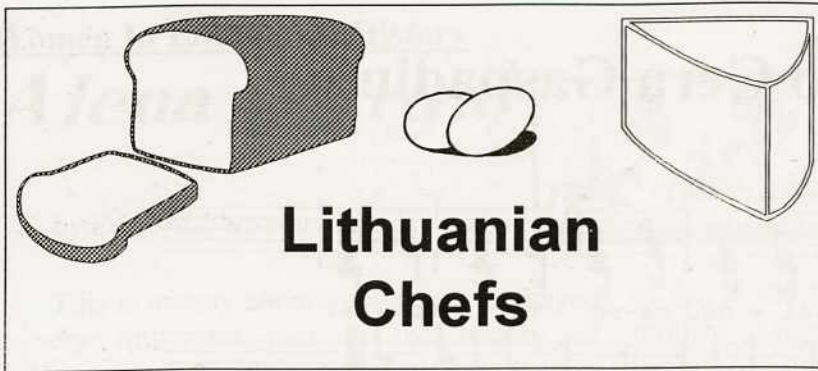
Hey Look Us Over

Hey Look us over
 Give us a cheer
 We are the K. of L.
 And we are gathered Here - Hey!
 Out for a day of frolic and fun
 Catching up on all the news
 With each and everyone - Hey!
 Some of us traveled from homes far away

But every year
 We all return
 And still come out to play.
 Lets hold on to this friendship
 And keep it strong
 For friendships are so dear
 So come on - gang
 Let's make plans, gang
 And let's do this over
 Next year-r-r!!

-Helen Klimaszewski, C-50





Lithuanian Chefs

All Time Favorites

Thanks once again to our great Lithuanian chefs in the Anthracite Council 144 for sharing these favorites. Fellow Knights and readers are encouraged to send in favorite recipes to the editors' address on inside cover. Please include your name and council number.

Stuffed Cabbage Leaves *Kopustainiai*

2 lbs. ground beef and pork
1 onion
salt and pepper
1 can tomato soup
1 head of cabbage
1 cup rice
1/4 lb. bacon (4 slices)

Remove dark green leaves from cabbage and save. Simmer cabbage in water to soften leaves, remove as they soften. Take out cabbage core before steaming and it will be easier to remove leaves. Cut (cooled leaves) tough part of stem and stuff each leaf. Put strips of bacon in roast pan then set stuffed leaves on top of bacon. Pour tomato soup over stuffed leaves and add 1 Tbsp. vinegar

to leaves. Place dark green leaves on top to cover. Bake 325 degrees for 1 - 1 1/2 hours.

Stuffing: Cook rice to 3/4 done and cool. Add to meat. Saute onion in butter with salt and pepper and mix well with meat and rice. Place stuffing on leaves and roll up, tuck in ends of cabbage and place in roaster. *(Evelyn Prep)*

Sauerkraut Soup *Raugintu Kopustu Sriuba*

3 lbs. bones with meat, beef or pork
4 oz. bacon
4 oz. lard
2 lbs. potatoes
salt and pepper
2 lbs. sauerkraut
1-2 stalks celery
1 onion
dry mushrooms (optional)

Boil bones covered in water with celery, onions, salt and pepper, mushrooms. While soup is boiling, braise the sauerkraut in lard and add bacon, cut in small pieces. Add chopped onion, towards end of braising, add 2 Tbsp. flour. Put cooked sauerkraut in pot and finish cooking. Serve with boiled potatoes.

(Eva Swartz)

Potato Baloney *Bulviu Dešros*

12 large potatoes
1 Tbsp. salt
2 onions
1/2 lb. diced bacon or 6 Tbsp. margarine
4 eggs
3/4 cup milk
hog casings (1/2 lb.)

Peel and grate potatoes and drain off liquid. Heat milk and pour over potatoes. Fry margarine or bacon with onions and salt. Stir in the rest of ingredients and stuff casings. Tie ends with string. Put in greased pan and prick with needle. Bake 325 degrees until golden brown or about 1 hour. *(Evelyn Prep)*

Potato Pudding *Kugelis*

5 or 6 large potatoes
3 eggs
1/2 cup milk
1 stick margarine
salt and pepper to taste

Peel and grate potatoes in medium sized bowl. Melt margarine; stir in beaten eggs and milk. Add to grated potatoes; mix well. Bake in 1-1 1/2 qt. casserole for 1 1/2 hrs. at 350 degrees.

Onion juice or grated onion may be added. Variation: fry 3 slices diced bacon and use instead of margarine.

(Ann Butts)



Folktales from the Legends of Juodkrantė**DRIMZAKAS**

Between the regions of Juodkrantė and Pervalkos is a small Kuršių marių inlet which from ancient times was called Drimzakas. The name of the inlet is as mysterious as the inlet itself. The bottom of it is very dark and murky. Its waters are never still. One very seldom notices a fisherman here. No one even comes to enjoy a rowboat trip. It is told that this inlet is haunted by an evil spirit, who plays tricks on the fishermen.

Once there lived a fisherman in Juodkrantė. He was neither very poor nor very rich. He never longed for great wealth but worked, like a busy bee on his everyday tasks. He fished in various parts of the Kuršių marios, but he never threw his nets into the Drimzakas.

One morning he and his son decided to try their luck in Drimzakas. So they did what they said. He found a spot where he thought he would find a good catch, threw in the anchor and spread his nets. As twilight approached, he tried to pull out the nets. They were heavy with fish. He tried once, and again, but the nets would not budge. Suddenly as if by magic, another boat appeared by his side. In it was a shabbily dressed young man. The young man greeted him and inquired.

"Are you having trouble pulling out your nets? May I help?"

"Since you are here, you may assist me," answered the fisherman. "But I can not pay you a lot. I have to bring the fish to market. I have to buy my daughter a hope chest so she can put her woven linens in it."

"That's OK, said the young man. For my work I only want one small bream".



"Surely I will give you one", smiled the fisherman. "Don't you see that my nets are full".

So they started to pull out the nets. The father and son on one side and the young stranger on the other. They pulled and pulled but no fish appeared. When they had pulled almost the whole net into the boat, they saw that there was but a tiny bream in it. The fisherman was very surprised but as he had promised, he gave the bream to the stranger. All of a sudden it became very dark. It was very unusual to get so dark so early in the evening. Then it was light again. The fisherman touched the nets and saw that they were completely dry, as if they had been in the sun the whole day. He looked for his helper but the young man had disappeared.

Could it have been a dream? No! Father and son soon realized that the devil of Drimzakas had played a trick on them.

Translated by Dalia Bulvičius from the Legends of Juodkrantė-Raganų Kalnas by Feliksas Marcinkas.



Juniors Corner

C-96 Dayton

by Julia Goecke and Christine Fletcher

The annual May Crowning and Mother's Day program was a huge SUCCESS!

On that honorable day, the Juniors did the May Crowning. The crowning was done by Alex Fletcher, who also made his First Communion. Flowers were brought to Mary's altar and prayers read for Mary and the all mothers. The Juniors took care of all readings, made up their own petitions and presented the offertory gifts.

After Mass, the Juniors provided (with the help of Senior members) a wonderful coffee klatch/brunch.

The Juniors showed their creativity by presenting a Fashion Show with the latest trends for mothers.. The Juniors were dressed up as the following mothers (keep in mind we have more boys than girls in the council):

Alex Fletcher - "Morning Mom"

Robert Petkus - "Business Mom"

Angela Plozay - "Cooking Mom"

Andrew Berczelly - "Garden Mom"

Joe Berger - "Church Mom"

Erin Petkus - "Sewing Mom"

At the end of the Fashion Show, the Juniors performed a special dance, the Macarena. Then the Mother's were presented with decorative flower pots and posters that each Junior designed for their mom.

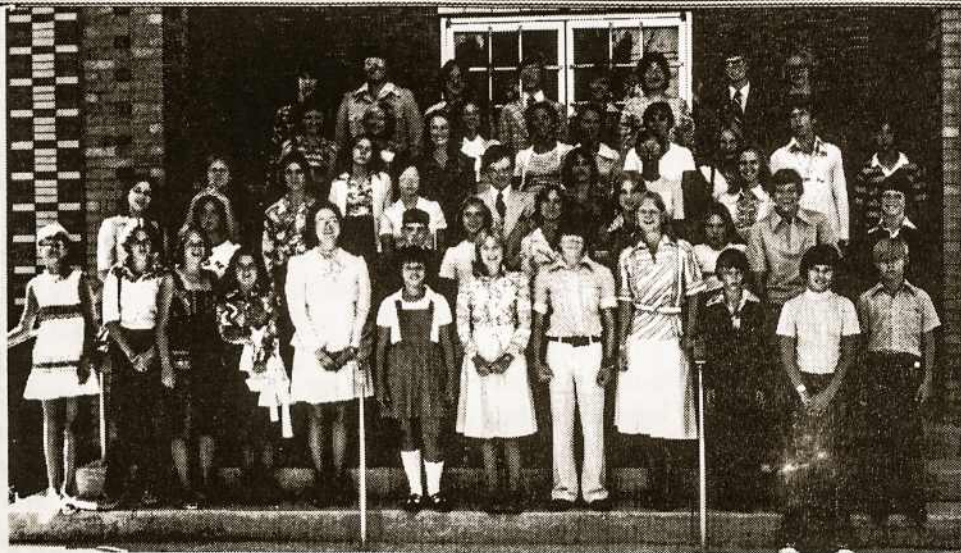
We can't wait to see the other Junior Councils at the National Convention!



Study Lithuanian at Camp Dainava

The 13th annual Lithuanian Language course at Camp Dainava, Manchester, Michigan will take place on August 3-10, 1997. The course, operating under the auspices of the Educational Council of the Lithuanian American Community of the USA is designed for beginners, intermediate and advanced students or those just wishing to refresh their Lithuanian. Taught by experienced instructors in a vacation-like atmosphere, there are no age or formal education limitations.

For information, call Vytautas Jonaitis at 616-458-6378.



Can you name any of the Juniors from the 1976 Dayton K. of L. National Convention?

District & Council News

From your editors:

Ačiū labai to all C-News correspondents for your articles and photos. Please note the next deadline for Council and District News is October 1, 1997 for the November issue. Enjoy your summer and hope to see you at the Dayton Convention.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Aldona Marcavage

The members of Bridgeport C-141 were very happy to host the NED Spring Convention April 27, 1997, which began with Holy Mass. Flag bearers Joseph Janiunas, Sylvester Marcavage and William Wisnauskas led the procession into church. Eleven of the 14 councils attended. A sumptuous Lithuanian dinner was enjoyed at noon. A cordial welcome was extended by Msgr. Francis Pranckus; Clemencine Miller, C-141 president and Father Jose, Administrator of St. George Church. Lee Marcinka sat in for absent secretary, Frances Savicke.

Fr. Jose's inspiring talk ended with, "Keep your culture (always), keep your customs, keep your faith and remember this (church) is your home, Welcome all!" He received a resounding ovation.

NED president, Bertha Stoskus opened the session and called on Msgr. Pranckus to share with us his memories of K.



*NED Convention delegates in Bridgeport.
Photo by Jonas Balčius. C-141*

of L. Founder, Mykolas Norkunas, whom he knew very well. They met at Marianapolis Prep School years ago. Norkunas was so filled with love for Lithuania his "Old Country", he felt there was a lot he could do to help it overcome the powerful hold of Russia on the Baltics. He, therefore, came up with the idea of the "Vyčiai", a fraternal organization where young Lithuanians could meet and work together for "God and Country". Msgr.'s talk was all the more interesting because he was telling us about a friend of his. Msgr. hopes our Vyčiai will continue to be strong, to grow, and nurture that love for our parents' "Old Country"-- our ethnic roots.

Invited guest, Danute Grajauskaitė, spoke about Camp

Neringa, in Vermont where children of ages 7-16 can find enrichment in their Lithuanian heritage. Slides of camp life provided visual aid to her talk. This camp was opened 28 years ago by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Putnam. Its goal is to provide a healthy, active, educational summer for our young people, and to pass on our culture to younger generations.

Bertha Stoskas once again urged everyone to send letters to our officials regarding Lithuania's acceptance into NATO. Worcester's Council 26 sent 400 letters. Can anyone top that???

Once again Bertha Stoskus stressed the importance of our continued support of the

On the Calendar...

District Conventions:

Mid-Atlantic Dist., hosts C-110, Sept. 28, 1997

National Convention:

C-96 Dayton, OH Hosts, August 7-10, 1997
James Geiger, Conv. Chmn.(937) 836-7996
Robt. Pant, C-96 Pres. (937) 228-8641

Other Events:

83rd Annual Lithuanian Days Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, PA
August 16-17 - Anne Wargo (717) 429-0132

Annual Cultural Festival at Maironis Park, Worcester, MA
Oct. 19th - Co-hosts are C-50 and C-78



Cultural Festival at Maironis Park in Worcester Oct. 19th.

Remember it is the only fund raiser for the NED Scholarship. Co-hosts this year are New Haven C-50 and Lawrence C-78. On the program will be Anne and Pat Kelly -Amber Singers- from New Britain. Aldona Saimininkas was invited to displays her beautiful straw art. More of us should consider special projects for this day.

Congratulations to 3rd degree recipients who were presented with medals by Jim Rogers and Marion Racicot of the Ritual Committee. Included were: C-26 Worcester--Casimir Serafinas; C-50 New Haven--Helen Lostys; C-141 Bridgeport--Helen Janiunas, Aldona Peters, Peter Peters, Sophie Putrimas. Two absent recipients were: C-50 New Haven- William Bachinski and C-141 Bridgeport - Gintare Ivaska.

A proposal to elevate C-141 president Clemencine Miller to Honorary Membership was read and approved. Her many

dedicated involvement and accomplishments within the K of L structure are praiseworthy. We are proud of Clemencine Miller, and wish her well.

Fr. Robert was Retreatmaster this June in Kennebunkport. This year Friday and Saturday evening meals were available with reservations. Those good Lithuanian cooks always make this a special treat!

NED will send delegates: H/M Rita Pinkus, C-26; Arlene Stiklius, C-7 and alternate Barbara W. Schmidt, C-141 to the National Convention in Dayton, Aug. 7-10.

Fr. Peter Shakalis sent a letter regretting that he could not be with NED in Bridgeport because Fr. Wolkowich had invited him to Norwood where he formerly served, but hopes we could be in Brockton May 4th to help celebrate his 50th anniversary. Congratulations and our sincere best wishes, Father. Ilgiausiu, sveikiausiu metu Dievo tarnyboje.

Pending approval, the

National Convention in 1998 will be hosted by C-7 Waterbury.

I wish you all a beautiful summer.

C-7, Waterbury, CT

Arlene Stiklius

We hope all our K of L mothers had an enjoyable Mother's Day.

The first annual bowling tournament between St. Andrews of New Britain, St. Josephs and Holy Trinity was hosted by St. Joseph's. A great time was enjoyed by all. Trophies were presented to the following: Ralph Baril, Dottie Baril, Ann Kundrotas, David Stiklius and Joe Vicas representing St. Joseph's League; Leane Valengavich, Lauren Mae Biddle and Pamela Anamean of St. Andrews. Tom Sidbauskas won a trophy for Holy Trinity.

We are saddened with the passing of fellow member Walter (Casper) Kapzukiewicz on April 25, 1997. Walter a resident of Jewett City was a former minor league baseball player in Rochester, NY. He was also a Veteran of Foreign Wars, having served in the Navy during WW 2. He is survived by three sons and three daughters.

David Karpavich is recuperating from knee surgery at Abbott Terrace. Joe Vicas is in the hospital following a dizzy spell. Marian Jenusaitis is recovering from hip surgery. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Jennifer Shortell, granddaughter of Ann Cheplick who is graduating from Quinnipic College.



C-12 New York members with 1st and 3rd degree recipients. From the left: Alfonsas Kasperaitis, Jurgis Aleniūnas, John Lostys, Alma Korengo, Stasė Aleniūnienė, Rev. Daniel Staniškis, Aldona Kepalaitė, Ed Burba Cook. Photo by Anthony Simulinas.

C - 12, New York, NY *Dalia Bulvičius for Irene Senken*

Our last meeting until the fall was on Sunday, June 1. During Mass our spiritual advisor, Father Eugene Sawicki, reminded us of the terrible June days when so many Lithuanians died. The Mass was offered for them. The choir under the direction of Aldona Kepalaitė sang hymns asking God to protect our troubled native land.

Since our president Jovita Sleder is in beautiful Austria, visiting her sister-in-law, vice president Alma Korengo opened the meeting with a prayer. Our newest arrival from Lithuania and daughter of member, Stasys Gečius, 19 year old Birutė Gečiūtė recited two poems by V. Mykolaitis - *Putinas: Birželio 15* (June 15) and *Žuvusiems partizanams* (For the slain freedom fighters). Both poems were written in June 1941. A former Siberian inmate, member George Aleniūnas, spoke about his arrest, deportation and

experiences in Siberia. Since George was born in the United States and brought back to Lithuania at the age of one, he only saw the land of his birth four years ago. George is in his seventies.

Tony Yacavonis, our cultural chairman read from the Congressional Record a tribute to Lithuania by Congressman, Michael P. Forbes of New York.

Member Father Daniel Staniškis ended the meeting with a prayer.

The Our Lady of Vilnius parish dinner was very successful. Once again we heard our organ. We owe a debt of gratitude to Saulius Janušas, member Vincent Katinas and his son, Vincent Jr. who spend countless hours refurbishing this old "lady". The work is still going on and the organ sounds better every day. A hearty *aciū labai* from the grateful pastor, Eugene Sawicki, and the parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Vilnius. *Jus bičiuliai saved us a fortune!*

The membership offered their deepest condolences to Ed and

Irene Senken and their family on the loss of Irene's brother, Peter Lenk, Jr. who passed away on April 30. *Amžina atilsį duok savo ištikimam tarnui Viešpatie!*

A pot luck supper followed. We have so many good cooks in our council, including Father Daniel Staniškis, who prepared a delicious meatloaf.

At the end we wished each other a fond farewell and *iki pasimatymo rugsėjo mėnesį.*

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

On Sunday, Feb. 16th, 25 members participated in the 79th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian Independence; 744th anniversary of the Kingdom of Lithuania (established in 1253 A.D.) and the 7th anniversary of the Declaration of the Resumption of Sovereign Functions of the Republic of Lithuania (March 11, 1990) at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. It was sponsored by ALTOS Cleveland Chapter. Pres. R. Marks proudly carried

the American flag into church for Mass and during the ceremonies at the Lithuanian Freedom Monument. S. Sankal was one of the gift bearers at Mass. K. of L'ers attended the well planned, modernized program which followed in the church hall. The event was well received by the parishioners.

On Sundays Feb. 23 and May 4th, we held our bowling practices and socials in preparation for the MCD tournament held in Detroit on May 16-18. After bowling, the members enjoyed a potato pancake party at the Gintaras Restaurant. M-m good!

C-25 had a smaller than usual group at our St. Casimir's Day celebration on Sun. March 9th, due to many traveling "snow birds" and ailing members. After Mass, we enjoyed a luncheon buffet with Msgr. A. Goldikovskis and Spiritual Advisor, Fr. G. Kijauskas in attendance.

Labai ačiū, to our favorite bakers, donators and workers who helped make our Palm Sunday Coffee Hour a big success. Tony-O was missed, but Dick-M and all did a great job.

Ilgiausių Metų to Steve and Lil Yurkovic and Jack and Helen Valley on their 50th Wedding Anniversaries.

Congrats to E. Kunsitis on winning first and 2nd place ribbons for his unusual orchids exhibited at the Greater Cleveland Orchid Show. He also received "best of class" on a ceramic orchid sculpture he entered.

Sixteen members made the trip to Michigan for the Spring MCD meeting and bowling

tournament - three teams were entered. Record time for the meeting, thanks to Elena! Dick Marks and Theresa Capuria were the only money winners for C-25, but no trophies. Wait till next year. We'll be back!

To all our sick and infirmed members, you're not forgotten. You're in our prayers, we think of you often.

Know God - know peace

No God - no peace

See everyone in Dayton!

C- 26, Worcester, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

May was the month of the year dedicated for devotions and prayer to our Holy Mother Mary. Could it be that Mother Mary answered someone's prayers from C-26, asking for an exceptional entertaining and educational meeting for May? It would seem so, because, Marion Racicot and Rita Pinkus together with their committee, enraptured us with the tastiest chicken dinner one could ask for.

Eighty Vyčiai enjoyed. They must have, 'cause the chatting ceased, when the entree was served, or maybe it appeared that way to me as I was dinnerring. (Am I coining a new word?) It was quieter, believe me, you could have heard a chicken feather drop, you just had to stop talking, the food was so tasty. Mustn't forget the girls who supplied the cakes and cookies that go with the coffee. BLESS YOU.

So be it for the dining segment of the evening. Now to be educated. Reigning President, Vivian Rodgers, enthusiastically

introduced the speaker of the evening. What we should know about Estate Planning was the topic and context of the lecture given by Atty. Michael Jalbert. The relevance of the subject and text was most interesting to the retired and older members of the council. The younger members too, were captivated by the personality and presentation by Mr. Jalbert. (Mike and Lynne Walinsky Jalbert, both K of L'ers, recently became parents of a beautiful baby girl. That made yours truly a great grandfather!)

Thank you Marion, thank you Rita, thank you Mike, and a high five to all who helped and contributed to the effects of the evening.

Specials to the cleanup crew, also. They deserve extra points for their thoroughness.

As proud as one can be, was "Chuck" Serafinas as he received the Third Degree Medal during the New England District Convention at Bridgeport, Conn. Congrats, friend, your next will be the Fourth. Go for it.

June 1st, 9:00 am, Maironis Park, Get ready, Get set, GO. The kitchen crew cheerfully shouted as they began their assigned duties to assemble, combine and prepare the required ingredients for a kugeli, kielbasi and cabbage dinner. As I tried to interview them individually, each just waved me away, saying, I'm too busy, go bother some one else. They refused to identify themselves as well. But, Aldona Waska, our secretary, had her pad and pencil, jotting down names for the record. All would receive points for degree advancement.

The kitchen help worked

diligently and tirelessly to concoct the meal, and then the serving team took over. At 12:30 the first meal was served, and then it was rush, rush, rush until all of the food was gone.

The lottery, as always, was one of our best enterprises, producing substantial revenue. A favorite game for the children and (for the big kids) was a variation of a fish pond. That too came through with plenty of profit.

A well done pat on the back for all who contributed to and worked at the coffee and pastry concession, that too was operated like professionals. The outcome of their endeavor was notable, and deserves enthusiastic applause. All in all the picnic was a huge success. We all profit by the efforts of a few.

As a C-26 member, attending any function sponsored by your council, did you ever see a committee without Frances? Almost never. She was that concerned for the values of the organization. Frances was totally involved. We will miss her. If heaven has special rooms for special people, she deserves a special suite and with a bevy of angel maids to comfort the repose of her soul. Frances E. Kulakusky passed away on May 17, 1997 Su Diev Frances.

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

Seems like winter was followed by summer. We had no spring. Forest City looks picturesque, with its well-groomed green lawns and plenty of flowers. Since St.

Anthony's Church was closed in January '97, we have been holding our meetings in the church basement. There is no heat in the building, but thanks to Frank Cyzeski's generosity, he provides us with a large gas heater and kerosene to heat the basement.

We are saddened to hear of one of our devoted members, Marion R. Kilonsky, suddenly passing away. Charles Cyzeski has been confined to his bed for almost a year, but I was glad to see Dr. Margie is spending a week at home and motivating Charles to work on his flowers.

John Gudaitis had a bad bout with sickness, too, but is feeling much better. Stasia Wallice is waiting to have a knee replacement and Albert Kazakevich is also having health problems.

Good health to all of you.

C-74, Scranton, PA *Marie Laske*

We started our May meeting with a prayer for all our members, those who are well, those who are ill, and for all the deceased members and their families.

Phanas Shimkus donates a copy of the "Baltic Times" to our K. of L. every month so we can keep up on the Lithuanian news. Ačiū, Phanas.

Ruth Yanish read an article from the "Baltic Times" about Lithuania's Parliamentary speaker, Vytautas Landsbergis, questioning Western commitment to Baltic membership in NATO. He asked why the Russian Kaliningrad issue was

considered an obstacle to Lithuanian membership, but not Poland's, even though both countries share borders with the region.

We are preparing for our Lithuanian Mass at St. Ann's Basilica in West Scranton, July 26 at 3:30 PM in the lower church. We invite everyone to come and join us. Please wear your national Lithuanian costumes. Our celebrant will be Rev. Clement Kasinskas C. P. from Cambridge, MA, assisted by other Lithuanian priests.

We played bingo after our meeting. Della Zvirblis, Ruth Yanish, Casimir Yanish and yours truly were the lucky winners.

We ended our meeting with a prayer: Oh Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like Thine.

Have a wonderful summer!

C-96, Dayton, OH *Fran Petkus*

Following tradition, our Junior Knights held their Annual May Crowning of the Blessed Mother on Mother's Day. In procession into church, Junior Alex Fletcher placed the wreath on the Blessed Mother's head. The Juniors did all the readings for Mass, the petitions and were the Offertory Bearers. After Mass, the Juniors sponsored a brunch for all the mothers and guests in the church hall.

Under the directions of Junior Advisors, Christine Fletcher and Julie Goecke, the Juniors put on a "Fashion Show". Each Junior was dressed for a particular time of day; mother waking in the

morning, preparing breakfast, going to work, sewing, cleaning, gardening, attending church, etc. It was impressive to see the boys in wigs setting the mode of the chore. At the end of the program, the Juniors presented their mothers with gifts. Thanks must go to the Advisors and Juniors for a wonderful beginning to this very special day. Helping to put this together were Amy Berczelly, Annamarie Sluzas Berger, Norma Petkus, and others.

Spring is special in the MCD as this is the time we gather for our Spring Convention/Bowling Tournament. C-102 of Detroit were the hosts for the weekend of May 16-18, 1997. Turnout was good with our District President, Elena Mikalauskas, holding a very concise and organized meeting. Frances Mikalauskas, of C-96, was the winner of the meeting's 50/50 raffle!

Bowling took place in the afternoon with ten teams participating. One of the teams for C-102 took first place. With an invitation from C-16, Chicago, hosting the tournament next Spring, the MCD is revising a tradition from times past. MCD will now call it, once again, the Mid-West Bowling Tournament! A Big Labai Ačiū to C-102's committee for a wonderful weekend! Thanks to the safe driving of George Mikalauskas, through the rain storms while heading home, the Dayton delegation, Frances and Elena Mikalauskas, and Fran Petkus returned home from a most enjoyable weekend.



C-102's Third Degree Recipients include Regina Juška and president Laurence Hofner (on the right and left of Rev. Alphonse Babonas, Pastor). Donna Bunikis, ritual chair, (left) and HM Fran Petkus (right)

Good to see our Florida members, Walter and Mary Lou Lastoskie, visiting from St. Petersburg, FL. When you take time to rest in front of Holy Cross Church, the Sinkwitz Family, Joe, Jim, Kathy and Ann Boeke, have set a special place in memory of their parents, Joseph and Ada Sinkwitz.

Get well wishes go to Joyce Berczelly, Stanley and Ida Kavy.

Fast approaching is the 84th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania!! Safe trip to Dayton to one and all - 8/6-10/97!!!

C-102, Detroit, MI DVYNUKES

The Midwest Bowling tournament went off with only a few minor glitches thanks to chairman, Tim Baibak, and his hard working committee. Registration was handled by

Maryann Guerriero, while Ruth Wagster organized the food, ably assisted by Mary Hofner and the Zyrens. Missing were Theresa and Raymond Medonis, who were in New York attending a grandson's first communion. They have been trying to get together with Robb Medonis of C-19 for some time now. Robb came to Detroit, but ironically they were gone. Better luck at the Convention in Dayton.

Robb and Frank Bunikis will be District delegates.

Lorry Hofner and Regina Juška received our congratulations on obtaining their 3d degrees. Our thanks also to Fr. Babonas for his cooperation. Our members are scattered throughout the suburban area, some as far as 40 miles away. As a result, we are not very active in parish affairs, although our monthly meetings are held there on the 3rd Sunday of the month. St. Anthony's is an older parish with mostly senior members and seldom sees a wedding. This is a banner year with Regina Juška tying the knot and we have just learned that 2nd vice-president, Richard Strakšys also plans to wed in the fall.

Welcome to Vic and Marie Yokin who have joined our council again. They were members many years ago and have been retired to Florida enjoying the good life, but still return to Michigan for the summer.

By the time you read this the *Aid to Lithuania Golf Day* will be a thing of the past. From all reports it promises to be the best yet.

C-110, Maspeth, NY

Bruno Rutkunas

Our Spring Dinner-Dance held in April was again another social and financial success, thanks to all the volunteers helping to make it so. The donations for the raffle prizes were outstandingly generous. Thus, we were able to continue to support the Alive-In-Hope campaign with another \$1,000.00 gift; \$250.00 for the Transfiguration Church and another \$100.00 for K of L Scholarship Fund.

REVEREND PAUL ANTANAS BALTAKIS, O.F.M., ordained as the Titular Bishop of Egara for the Spiritual Assistance of Lithuanian Catholics living outside of Lithuania has traveled throughout the world helping many understand their beliefs. Many Knights of Lithuania members and friends attended the Concelebrated Mass in Portland, Maine on September 14, 1984. Even though his schedule is very busy, Bishop Paulius Baltakis has accepted our invitation to attend our Mid-Atlantic Convention on September 28, 1997 and serve Mass at 11:15 AM at the Transfiguration Church. Guests and friends are welcome to attend the Mass and the Mid Atlantic District meeting with a luncheon buffet, for a \$12.00 donation.

On Memorial Day, in addition to the family cookouts and Graduations, Communions, etc., we pay homage to all Americans who gave their lives to preserve our independence and



STRIKE!! *Rita Zakara gets ready to knock some pins down at C-112's bowling party.*

freedom. About a dozen members of the Knights joined the parade sponsored by the United Veterans and Fraternal Organizations of Maspeth along Grand Avenue on Sunday, May 25. We marched in the first rainy parade over the past 6 years to honor the slain Lithuanians who fought for their freedom.

C-112, Chicago, IL

Gerrie

Thirty-three of our heartiest council members gathered at Lawn Bowling Lanes for some fun and exercise. After three games, it was very clear that Dolores Wainauskis was the bowling champ of the evening. No matter what the scores, a good time was had by all. Everyone enjoyed the buffet dinner that followed the bowling and thanked Ed Deksnis for making the arrangements and

Elly Yundul for donating the trophies.

After several long discussions and debates, members voted to change our regular monthly meetings to quarterly meetings. We will be meeting on the third Tuesday of September, December, March and May. The council newsletter will be mailed to you and arrive the beginning of each meeting month so you don't have to worry about forgetting a meeting. Meetings will be a little longer and more interesting. We hope that more of our members who found it hard to join us monthly will be able to make the quarterly meetings.

Congratulations to our corresponding secretary, Alvina Giedraitis and her husband Tony, who celebrated 47 years of wedded bliss on April 15. We know you will enjoy the next 47 even more.

A Wake Service was held for long-time member Albert Cekanor. Al and his wife, Alice, were very active members not too long ago until health problems became overwhelming. Our deepest sympathy to Alice and family.

C-136, Hudson Mohawk *Dorothy Richmire*

The annual Festival of Nations took place in May and in spite of the inclement weather, our efforts were rewarded. Ed Barkowski organized the event and those of us who were able and willing exercised our special talents and cooked up a storm of goodies including: Virtiniai with special sour cream sauce,



C-141's Joe Janiunas and Bob Marcavage join Bill Wisnauskas of C-10 carrying flags at the NED Convention in Bridgeport. Photo by Jonas Balčius

Dešros, Kugelis, Kapustas, Rye Bread, mushroom cookies and sour cream coffee cake. We also offered the traditional Tree Cake which is always a big hit with everyone. Thanks to the wonderful participation of members, the day was a huge success.

We have added some new members to our council recently and we are pleased to welcome: Gerda Korla, Doris Laurenski, Frances Maslanka, Stanley and Joan Rimkunas, John and Margaret Sheehan, Mikalina and Chris Tambasco, Judith Wildzumas and William and Beatrice Jasewicz. We are happy to have you all become an integral part of Council 136.

We look forward to our "end of the year" banquet in June. It will be held at a local restaurant and we hope to enjoy good food and fellowship with our fellow

members and guests.

Two of our members are on the sick list and we sincerely wish them well. Helen LaPierre and Nell Freer get better soon, we miss you very much.

Reservations are adding up for the bus trip to Putnam, Connecticut for the annual Lithuanian Picnikas in July. Plenty to do, see and eat in Putnam and we don't even have to concern ourselves with driving. See you there, God willing. Happy and safe Spring and Summer.

C-141, Bridgeport, CT *Aldona Marcavage*

The long awaited day arrived--April 27th--and the NED spring convention in Bridgeport. It was a pleasure to see so many friendly faces again. We missed members of the three councils who could not be with

us. We hope you enjoyed your church celebrations at home.

After Mass and dinner, NED president Bertha Stoskus opened the business session. There were welcoming greetings from Msgr. Pranckus C-141, president Clemencine Miller, and Fr. Jose (administrator of St. George Parish). Lee Marcinka volunteered for secretarial duty for this day, due to absence of secretary, Frances Savicke.

Founder's Day speaker, Msgr. Pranckus knew Mykolas Norkunas personally from his prep school days at Marianapolis, making his talk most interesting.

The much enjoyed retreat in Kennebunkport, with Father Robert as retreatmaster was held June 20-22. This year in addition to continental breakfast, two evening meals were available by reservation. Those Lithuanian "imports" are great chefs. Lucky us!!

New administrator of Camp Neringa, Dana Grajauskas, gave a very interesting presentation, with slides, of camp life in Vermont. Her enthusiasm made one wish we had children to send to camp.

The importance of supporting resolution HCR 10 regarding Lithuania's acceptance into NATO was stressed by Pres. Stoskus.

We congratulate our council's 3rd degree recipients: Helen Janiunas, Aldona Peters, Peter Peters and Sophie Putrimas. Co-founder of our council, Gintare Ivaska, was unable to attend the NED convention, so she received her medal at our May meeting from Clemencine Miller (as Ritual Committee

Member of the Supreme Council).

Welcome Helen Simanis as our new Sunshine Chairperson.

Congratulations and good wishes to a nice couple - Marie and Bill Brilvitch celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary on May 25th.

Larry Misevicius reported that UB students once more participated in the International Festival-- and again took 1st prize, with their Lithuanian display.

Alan Strudas gave us some happy news. 40 boxes of medical supplies including the mammography and ultra sound units filled one 40-foot container worth about 60 thousand dollars, from St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport and sent to Kaunas Red Cross Hospital. It went out April 30th to be received about May 20th. Sister Helen Ivanauskas is coordinator of all supplies. Alan's Rotarian friend came by with a heavy duty truck to transport the heavy machines for shipping. Strudas' son Alan, who is still teaching in Kaunas, was there to meet this, as were Mr. and Mrs. Misevicius. Lithuania's hospital personnel were delighted with this great gift.

The used postage stamps we all collect for Sr. Helen help fund shipments for Children's Relief. Sr. Helen reports \$1,500.00 has been received so far for the stamps, so please continue to help.

May birthdays were celebrated with a lovely cake and enthusiastic singing.

Get well wishes to: Al



C-142 members enjoy the Catonsville Lithuanian Festival.

Trainis, Anne Gecevich, Stella Witkavich, Peter Radzwillas, Clem Miller's son Wayne--and Edmund Stumbris, who is very seriously ill. (Remember him in your prayers). Our condolences to Peter Radzwillas on the recent loss of his wife, Anna. May she rest in peace.

The Victor Millers will once again open their home and garden for the council picnic in August--after the National Convention. Plans for a surprise best ever party are on the way.

Put these special dates on your calendars: July 20 - Memorial Mass for Joseph Simanis, August 17 - Memorial Mass for Deacon John Rigely.

Sincere wishes for a fruitful, enjoyable National Convention in Dayton, Ohio. Have a happy, healthy summer.

C-142, Washington, DC Kay Yankoski

It was billed as the 25th ANNUAL LITHUANIAN FESTIVAL, A Quarter Century and Still the Best

Little Ethnic Festival in Maryland -- 745 Years of Lithuanian Culture! The 2-day festival was well attended by Council 142 members on Sunday: Emily and Al Paukstaitis brought their granddaughter who was entranced by the young dancers; Beverly Meder and Helen Szpakowski came along with a friend of Helen's from PA; Pat Carlton showed up (after a month at their beach place) minus husband Bob who stayed home to do some repairs; John Waylonis picked up Kay Yankoski, then May Semel and finally Jean Lutwin for the trek to Catonsville; John saw Len and Irene Redecke at the Festival, too. There was a good crowd, terrific dancers, both young and old, even a group from Pittsburgh. As always when Lithuanians gather, food was on our minds, with the longest line for blinis. The Lithuanian beer sold out fast, too. On the return home, Mary Semel mentioned a new Filipino Chapel at the Shrine of the Immaculate

Conception, so we stopped to see that and, of course, paid our respects at the beautiful Lithuanian Chapel. It was a good afternoon of Lithuanian camaraderie. President Julia Burlen was convalescing in a nursing home, so John and Kay brought her up to date on the happenings by phone.

C-144, Anthracite, PA

Ona

The Anthracite Council hosted the Amber District Meeting June 1. It was a beautiful day starting with a Lithuanian Mass concelebrated by Father Peter Alisauskas, District Spiritual Advisor and Father Ronald Jankaitis, C 144 Spiritual Advisor. Mary Koons was the Lector and the Friends of Šiluva Choir sang the beautiful Lithuanian Hymns. Father Jankaitis, in his homily, gave honor to all the Knights for all the work they do for Lithuania and Lithuanian causes. The dinner was prepared by our wonderful cooks, Evelyn and Vic Prep, President Anne Wargo, Helen Chesko, Helen Matunis, Elsie Kosmisky and Eleanor Vaicaitis. The clean-up and potato peeling crews included Pat Roberts, Bernice Mikatavage, Ginner Kazlauskas and Frances Brillius. Thanks to Andy Sabol who went into the kitchen and washed all the dishes. Ačiū, too, to all our wonderful members who baked cakes. It was truly a good day.

Now we prepare for Lithuanian Days which will be held at the Schuylkill Mall in Frackville, August 16 and 17. Anne Sikora and Evelyn Prep are

food Chairmen; Eleanor Vaicaitis, Mall Preparation; David Carroll, Public Relations; Bernice Mikatavage and Annie Morgalis, displays and Florence Kobluskie, Raffle. We invite you to attend - The Philadelphia Dance Group will perform both days. There will be beautiful displays and good Lithuanian food. All proceeds go to our Lithuanian charities.

Past President Anna Supernavage is hospitalized and we are all praying for her health. Anna, despite her disabilities, has attended the National Conventions and does not miss any meetings.

We welcome back Sue Banditelli from Florida.

We wish you all a happy summer and hope to see some of you in August, both in Dayton and in Frackville.

C-147, St. Petersburg

Dolores Jonaitis

Get wishes to Sally Zupko, who is in a Nursing Home in St. Petersburg, FL. We are also happy to see Bronius Bakas after his long convalescence at home.

Our May meeting was opened by Anthony Gudonis, our president. Opening and closing prayers were led by Rev. Matthew Čyvas, our Spiritual Advisor. Irena Diktanas was our acting recording secretary. She was commended on the minutes from our previous meeting. She did a tremendous job, not missing any details. Discussed were our long time members who have become quite ill in recent years with on-going illnesses. Irena Diktanas and Angele Shukis agreed to visit

some of our sick people periodically.

A Mass for Francis L. Barry of Bradenton Florida, who died October 30, 1996, will be requested. He was in our Council for ten months.

Brone Urbonas took care of our refreshment table, which had some delicious home-baked goodies. Our contributors were: Kazimiera Arlauskas, Irena Diktanas, Victoria Kleiva, Petre Kasperavičiūtė, Veronika Pleskiene, Valeria Lesčinskas, Maria Gelažius, Elena Baceviene, Angele Shukis, Brone Urbonas and Dolores Jonaitis. Thank you ladies.

On Sunday May 18, our community had a Romas Kalantas Menejimas. A Mass was requested for him, with flags in Holy Name Church in Gulfport. Representing K of L Council 147, were Antanas Grabauskas, our flag bearer, and Irena Diktanas and Valeria Lesčinskas as flag attendants.

C -152, E. Long Island

Tom Tarmey

Our Council's observance of St. Casimir's Day took the form this year of attendance at Mass on Sunday, March 9th, at our local Church of Our Lady of Ostrabrama, in Cutchogue, NY, followed by a covered dish luncheon at our regular meeting place in Peconic, NY.

Our Knights continue to support the Viltis "Gift of Life" Program by contributing selected food items for boxing and shipment to our "adopted" needy individuals and families in Lithuania. We are assured by letters received from the

recipients that our packages are badly needed to supplement the meager resources of our less fortunate brethren in a country which has yet a long way to go to recover from the spiritual and economic devastation inflicted upon it by communist malice and mismanagement. While people living on farms are assured of at least some degree of self-sufficiency, city dwellers, especially the elderly and the ill, must squeeze by as best they can, often on miserably inadequate incomes, or on pittance of pensions. Accordingly, our members are happy to utilize the availability and resources of the Viltis Program, by means of which the prospects of our needy brothers and sisters in Lithuania may be brightened at least a little.

This past Easter Sunday, during the noonday parish Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Mattituck, NY, little Elizabeth Annette Dumblis, daughter of our Knight, John Paul Dumblis and wife, Beth, was received into the Catholic through the sacrament of Baptism. We wish every Christian blessing upon Elizabeth Annette and her parents!

At the other end of life's journey, we are saddened by the death of our long time member and Council Sergeant-at-Arms, Evelyn H. Niksa, who only shortly survived the death, in late December last year, of her husband and late fellow Knight, Walter. May God be abundantly kind to their souls!

With the return of Spring and Summer, the urge to see how our fellow inhabitants of planet Earth

***C-153's Spiritual
Advisor, Rev. V.
Pikturna and Bishop
P. Baltakis at the St.
Casimir's Day
Banquet on
Mar. 2, '97.***



are coming along arises among our members. Angela Minsavitch is readjusting to life on Long Island after a railway tour of Switzerland, and Bea and Fred Lucka are shortly leaving on a revisit to Paris. To all current and prospective travelers, whether your destination be near or far, a hearty "BON VOYAGE"!

***C-153, Treasure Coast
Florence V. Miskinis***

We had a beautiful winter this year and Sunday, March 2nd was the usual balmy, sunny day, as we prepared for our annual St. Casimir's day celebration. It started with Mass at St. Paul of the Cross church in N. Palm Beach. We were greatly honored to have Bishop Paulius A. Baltakis, OFM, as celebrant and Rev. Vytautas Pikturna as co-celebrant. The procession into church included: cross bearer - Victor Malakas, Lithuanian flag - Michael Yudiskas, American flag - Jack Scheibelhut, St. Casimir's picture - Ursula Malakas, Scripture Book and lector - Aldona Biliunas.

Florence Miskinis, the 3rd

degree recipient, was escorted by Connie Scheibelhut, a 4th degree Knight, and James Marcinkus, council president. They were followed by Rev. V. Pikturna, our spiritual advisor and Bishop P. Baltakis celebrants of the Mass. At the altar Bishop Baltakis blessed and presented the medal to Florence Miskinis. In his homily, Bishop Baltakis spoke about the life of St. Casimir and about the sad moral conditions in Lithuania today.

Gift bearers were Joan Bizausky, Connie Scheibelhut and Josephine Lubinski. Our deepest gratitude and congratulations go to the director Irena Mamaitienė for the excellent renditions by the "Dainos" choir. They sang two beautiful hymns composed by Liudas Stukas, who is the organist and a 4th degree Knight. The soloist was Ona Salčiūnienė. Our grateful thanks go to Irena, Ona, Liudas and the choir for making our St. Casimir's day Mass so memorable. The Vyčiu hymn was the grand finale and left us all with great joy in our hearts as we went to greet the Bishop.

Then off to the Holiday Inn in

Palm Beach Gardens for the banquet honoring St. Casimir. Honored guests were Bishop Baltakis, who gave the blessing, and Rev. V. Pikturna, who was greatly surprised by a birthday cake and all the guests singing "Įlgiausių metų" and "Happy Birthday". The food was delicious and the raffle was a huge success.

We have so many talented council members! The gifts were unbelievable! Ursula Malakas made three beautiful afghans, dolls, picturesque towel arrangements alone and Ona Meiler, even though suffering from vertigo, made a lovely afghan. Of course the "piece de resistance" painting by our talented artist and member, Aldona Biliunas, was won by Jonas Bilienas. Thus ended our glorious day!

At the April 6th meeting, Connie Scheibelhut collected \$70.00 from the council members to be sent to the Lithuanian-American Community in Queens, NY for the Lithuanian 8 year old boy whose parents were murdered in New York City. All members were encouraged to write to their congressmen and senators in Washington, DC to allow Lithuania to become a member of NATO.

The May 4th meeting was our final meeting for the season. Monies were collected for several charities. James Marcinkus was elected delegate to the national convention in Dayton, Ohio.

Father Pikturna said his farewell as he also leaves for the north. God willing we will all meet again in September.

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C-156, Shamokin, PA

Bob Wislock

The members of Council 156 were busy in May performing acts of stewardship. A spaghetti dinner was held to raise funds for the Eddie Griffiths, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. Eddie was a beautiful, young boy who died from a illness. Five hundred and twenty five dollars was raised. The scholarship fund helps local students from the Shamokin area to attend Penn State University.

The council members also awarded a scholarship to Maria Laczkoski, a senior at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional High School. The \$125 scholarship was presented at senior awards day. The award is presented to a senior who is active in school affairs, is a member, a Lithuanian or deserving family, and will attend an institution of higher education.

Five council members attended the Amber District Mass and Meeting on June 1 at St. Casimir's Church in St. Clair. They were Isabel and Joe

Remetta, Alberta Bartash, Olympia Zelinski, and Bob Wislock. Anthracite Council 144 organized and hosted the beautiful Lithuanian Mass and informative meeting. Thanks to our sisters and brothers of C-144 for a great day.

Please remember Loretta and Ed Brown and Bertha and Leo Ringles, our council members, in your prayers as they recuperate. Finally, congratulations are extended to Dave Kinder, our vice president, who won the Democratic primary election for register and recorder in Northumberland County. Our best wishes to him for a victory in the November general election.



Did You Know?

Lane Bryant, a well-known large woman's clothing line was begun in 1904 when a Lithuanian Jewish immigrant, Lena Bryant, began designing formal maternity wear in a Philadelphia store. Profits helped her start a catalog of women's fashions for sizes up to 60.

-submitted by Anne Wargo

even if you can't attend the convention...
please support our Knights of Lithuania causes:

priestly vocations through the **St. Casimir's Guild**,

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

Checks should be made payable to: **The St. Casimir's Guild** and mailed to:
HM Anna Klizas Wargo, 125 South Morris Street, St. Clair, PA 17970

humanitarian aid through **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.**, a semi-autonomous organization

under the aegis of the Knights of Lithuania, that provides medical supplies, equipment and medicines to Lithuania during this crucial transition period from a Soviet-occupied and suppressed nation, to a free and self sufficient democracy. 40-foot containers of donated materials are shipped each calendar quarter; this past year, 11 of these containers were shipped.

Checks should be made payable to: **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.** and mailed to:
HM Robert Boris, 4557 Fairway Court, Waterford, MI 48328

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

Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund and mailed to:
Irene Gecas, 446 Joan Court, West Hempstead, NY 11552

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

Knights of Lithuania Foundation and mailed to:
HM Loretta Stukas, 234 Sunlit Drive, Watchung, NJ 07060

upkeep of the national shrine The development of an endowment fund to support the upkeep of the Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva

at the **Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** located in Washington, D.C. was adopted at the 75th Knights of Lithuania Anniversary Convention. Donations are tax deductible.

Checks should be made payable to:

Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and mailed to:
Julia Burlen, 2403 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD 20715



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ONE SMALL ROSE

I would rather get one small rose from my friend's garden,
 than to have a huge bouquet of flowers
 when my stay on this earth has to end.

I would rather hear one loving word spoken sincerely,
 than praise when my heart stops beating and my life ends.

I would rather see a beloved smile from a faithful friend,
 than tears flowing on my grave when I say good-bye to this world.

Bring me today all of your flowers, regardless of whether they are pink, white, or red;
 I would rather have one blossom now than a whole cartful when I am dead.

-translation from Lithuanian by Vince Samaska, C-36



Brangūs Vyčiai

Brangūs Vyčiai, one and all,
 We meet and chat and have a ball.
 We proudly share an ethnic bond,
 And work to help our kin abroad.
 Though meetings are not always brief,
 A little fun does bring relief.
 Let's strive to keep the Knights alive,
 With prayer and faith and woes aside.
 Brangūs Vyčiai, one and all,
 Let's stand together, straight and tall.
-Mirga Bablin, C-100

