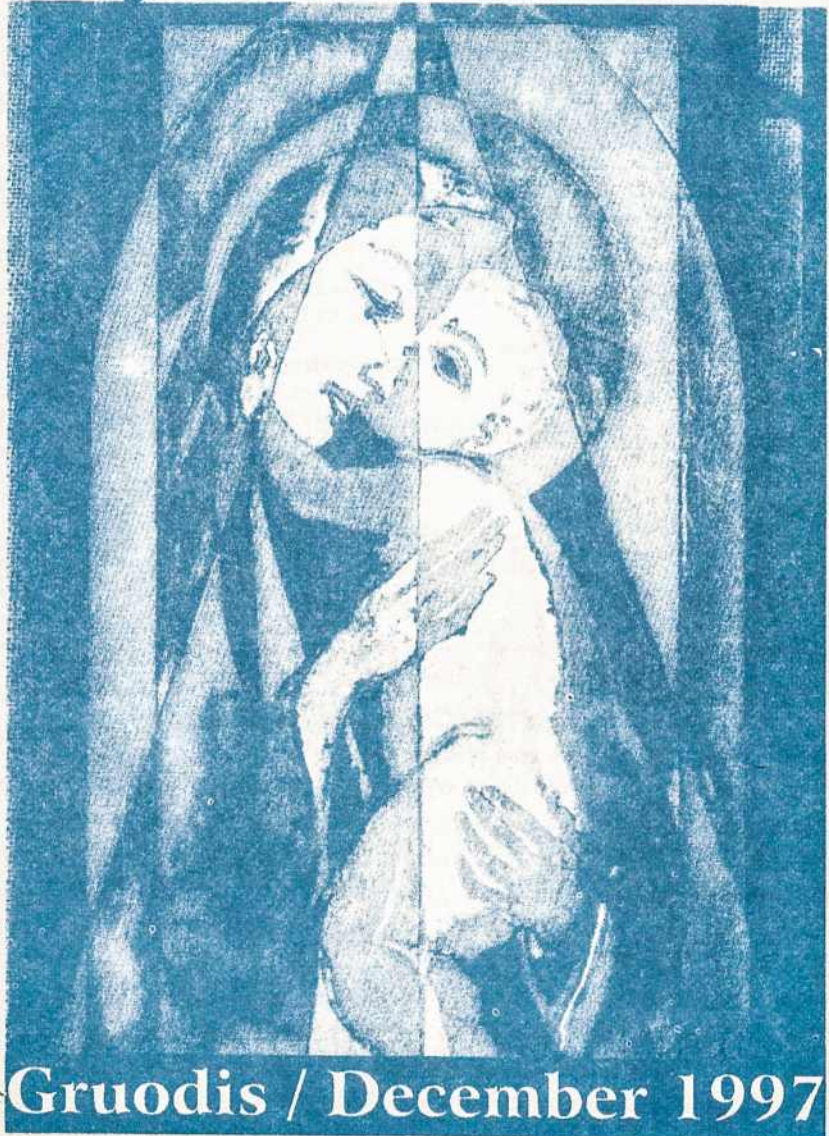


Vydis

The Knight



volume 83: no. 10

Gruodis / December 1997

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-THE KNIGHT-
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*The Knights of Lithuania
 endeavors to instill in its
 members an attachment
 to Lithuania, the land of
 our ancestors, and a
 knowledge, appreciation
 and love of the
 Lithuanian language,
 customs and culture.*



On the Cover: Antanas Kmieliauskas' Madonna, Išleido Ateitininkų namų fondas, Vilnius ©1990

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Prayer to Our Lady of Šiluva

"Mary, your desire was always to glorify God. He came and dwelt with you in the flesh through a mystery of love. And you lived in Him in the spirit in which you received Him. You witness that love which builds up Christ in our hearts. As the perfect model of a disciple of the Lord, show us how to live in faith and love that God may always make His home among us. We want to remain his people forever.

Our Lady of Šiluva, from the first instant of their love for you, the faithful people of Lithuania have publicly honored you by building devotional shrines. Raise up to God in prayer those self-sacrificing descendants in your love. With a motherly love you have cared for the suffering children of God; ask Him to continue to wipe away all tears from their eyes." (from the National Cathedral Website. See related story on page 2.)

To my fellow knights

I'd like to thank everyone, especially those who help to support VYTIS through special Christmas greetings. Also to the Supreme Council and those special "Silent Knights" who never seem to want credit for their efforts, in the production of this team-effort issue. As I complete my 3rd year as your editor, it is my hope that the best is yet to come. With an attitude of gratitude, I'd like to wish a very Blessed Christmas to the Knights of Lithuania, our readers and friends.



The Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva

from the Website of The National Cathedral,
Washington, D.C. Author: Douglas M. Delorge

"How beautiful you are, how pleasing, my love, my delight." (Cant. 7 - 7)

The recovery of a buried chest containing a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the deed to a church in the town of Šiluva, Lithuania, brought about devotion to Mary under the title of, "Our Lady of Šiluva".

During the Reformation, churches, monasteries, and convents were being confiscated. To insure the future of their church a wise pastor and his faithful parishioners buried the chest and fortunately so. In 1569, Calvinists seized the parish church and lands in Šiluva.

Forty years later, interest in restoring the church was aroused when children playing in a field saw a lady standing on a rock and weeping. The parents investigated the children's claim and also saw the lady. When asked why she was crying, she replied, "Formerly, my Son was adored and honored in this place. Now they sow seed and cultivate the land." A blind man in the group claimed he knew where the chest was buried. As they approached the designated spot, his sight was suddenly restored. The chest with the picture and deed to the church was found. These incidents led the people to believe that they had witnessed an apparition of Our Lady. Many returned to the faith. The Church property was recovered and Mass was again celebrated.

The statue of Our Lady of Šiluva, a creation of Lithuanian sculptor, Vytantas Kašuba, is set against a mosaic of varying shades of blue which center into a golden and flaming aureole around the statue. Symbols of Šiluva, which means "pine

cones," are shown in the border of the arch.

A symbol of the sun is often used in Lithuanian wayside crosses; it is represented in the center of the stained glass sky dome. Other titles under which the Lithuanians express their great devotion to Mary are represented in the images of Our Lady of Vilnius, Our Mother of Sorrows, Our Lady of Trakai, and Our Lady of Pažaislis.

A people whose history has often been one of suffering, turn to Mary and plead, "Mary console the children of a land sprinkled with blood and tears." (Arch above the altar). On the altar frontal, a reminder of the sorrows which they bear in union with Christ crucified, is depicted in the "tree crosses;" the cross on either side of the altar has a typical Lithuanian sun attached.

Saint Casimir, patron saint, and King Mindangas, first king of Lithuania (1250) are shown on the south wall panel. Christ the Protector ("Rupintojelis") is pictured on the North wall panel. The all-seeing eye of God is above, and to the right is the parish church of Šiluva. Preservation of the faith during the time of persecution is depicted in the Mother teaching religion and in the celebration of the Eucharist for Lithuanian exiles in Siberia.

"Here God lives among men. He will make His home among them, they shall be His people. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes." (Rev. 21:3-4) - *Sub. by John Patrick, Green Brook, NJ*

Corrections:

In the Sept/Oct. convention issue, the Greetings to the 84th National Convention in Dayton omitted a greeting from Hon. Vaclovas Kleiza, Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania of Chicago, IL. Also, in that same issue, the story on page 3 regarding our newly elected president, John Mankus, copy should have read "he can be re-elected every year for a total three year term". Editors regret these errors.

Christmas - God's Greatest Gift to us

The date was December 25, 1914. It was the first Christmas of World War I. The British army and the German army had fought themselves to a standstill in northern France. Thousands of soldiers on both sides stood in muddy trenches, glaring at each other across the narrow strip of land that divided them. For the first time in weeks, artillery guns had been silent the night before. And in the eerie silence of the gray dawn, everyone was wondering what the day would bring. When daylight had finally come, the British soldiers saw three men rise up out of the German trenches. Slowly and cautiously, they inched forward. Their hands were stretched out with open palms, to show they carried no weapons. They moved past the barbed wire barriers and stood unprotected in "No Man's Land." Suddenly, hundreds of soldiers began pouring out of both trenches, and rushed to meet their enemies. Their hands were clasped in friendly greetings. In broken English and broken German, they wished one another a Merry Christmas.

Only yesterday, these men had sought to kill one another. But today, they exchanged gifts of cigarettes and candy or anything else they could find. The British boys sang "Joy To The World" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem". The German boys sang "Stille Nacht" and "O Tannenbaum". They sat in small groups and shared their canned rations. They showed pictures of their families and carried on conversations with few words and many gestures. Not a single shot was fired the entire day. Then, as the sun began to set, they went back to their trenches and, once again started trying to kill each other.

What brought about that strange episode in the midst of war? Why did two armies lay aside their weapons for one day and treat one another like friends? One thing is for certain - no one planned it. That brief armistice just happened. It was a spontaneous reaction to Christmas. This day, my friends,



has a power in it that mere logic cannot explain. This feast is not a human invention. No group got together and said: "Let's have a holiday, once a year, when people will try to be nicer to one another." We certainly have invented many of the trappings of Christmas but the event that inspired this day was, a gift, the greatest gift the world has ever received.

This is the meaning of Christmas. God wanted to express his love in the most understandable and most convincing way. So he wrapped it in human flesh and gave it to the world. Now, it is easier to hear God's message of love and to understand its meaning. He has poured it into a life. St. Paul said: "In times past, God spoke in fragmentary and varied ways to our fathers through the prophets. But in this final age, he has spoken to us through his Son. "That is the greatest gift of all. The gift, however, must be actively received. We have the option of either accepting or rejecting this gift. That is true of all the best gifts. They cannot be dropped into our lives like pennies into a beggar's cup. We must open our hands and hearts to receive them. Friendship is like that. We may be surrounded by people who are willing, to be our friends. But they can never be that until we receive them.

Forgiveness is like that. Have you ever tried to forgive someone who did not want to be forgiven? It is impossible. You cannot do it. You can rid your own heart of malice and bitterness. You can put down that heavy load and carry it no longer. But you cannot force your forgiveness upon another person. Most of the things we get for Christmas this year can be received in a rather casual sense. But the greatest gift of all must be accepted with the heart. We must take Jesus Christ into our lives and make him the central theme of our living. It is Jesus Christ who brought them out of their trenches Christmas Day, 1914. It is Jesus Christ who will bring us together as one family. Christmas is not a human invention. It is God's gift to us. -S.K.

A Christmas Present for Amsterdam The Miracle at St. Casimir's



Exterior of St. Casimir's. Photo courtesy of the
Schenectady Gazette.

by Mirga Kerbelis Bablin, Pres. C-100

Editor's note: As reported in our March 1997 issue, St. Casimir's Church in Amsterdam, NY had been closed by the Bishop of Albany, NY, Howard J. Hubbard's office, due to structural defects regarding trusses holding the roof. The final Mass was held on Nov. 24, 1996, with your editor and family attending, since this was her home parish. The tears shed at that last service were as great as those shed at a funeral of a VIP.

November 1 and 2 of this year, a letter from was read from the Bishop's office reversing that "final" decision and granting the 400 families the right to worship at their own parish, St. Casimir's. Following work that must be completed on the roof, and a cleanup, the church will probably reopen in early 1998, once repairs have been made and other details approved.

Many consider the reversal of this decision to be a miracle, attributed to St. Casimir and Blessed George Matulaitis.

When I first heard the news, I went up to my bedroom's corner shrine to my cousin, Blessed George Matulaitis, got on my knees and thanked him for answering a year's worth of prayers. Our beautiful St. Casimir's Church will be open again!

The magnificent edifice, cornerstone and lifeblood of so many Lithuanian Americans and others, will once again become our house of worship.

In a pulpit letter read recently to parishioners of St. Casimir's who have worshipped at the neighboring Polish parish, St. John the Baptist, Bishop Howard Hubbard announced his decision to reopen the church upon completion of the necessary repairs. His message conveyed a decided pastoral concern for St. Casimir's parishioners and gratitude to St. John's for providing us with a spiritual home when we were in need. The Bishop also commended members of the St. Casimir's Restoration Committee for their tireless efforts in this project, and deservedly so.

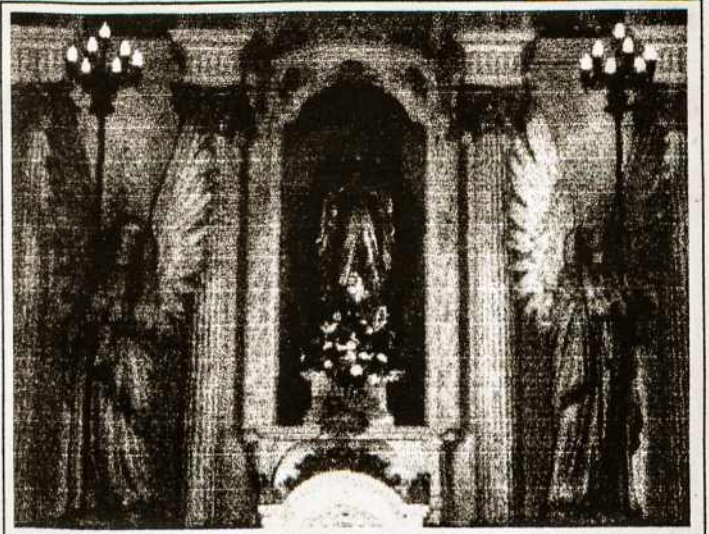
"When the needed repairs to St. Casimir's Church have been completed, services may once again be scheduled in the building," said Bishop Hubbard.

We are most grateful for his decision to keep our church alive, fully aware that it was a most difficult decision for him.

Replacing the tears of grief, parishioners are now ecstatic. Once again, we will be able to attend our Midnight Masses at Christmas, basking in the glory of the magnificent murals and statues. We will be able to bow our heads in thanksgiving to Our Lady in gold high above the main altar -- home at last!

Special accolades are due to the Restoration Committee for their patience and dedication in this year long endeavor. We are also thankful to Fr. Stan, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church and his parishioners who were "our saving grace" during this most trying time. They somehow made it less painful.

Thanks must also be given to the media, local television stations, and our town newspapers, *The Amsterdam Recorder* and the *Schenectady Gazette*, for coverage of the story, along with our own council member,



Blessed Mother in gold, surrounded by angels on the main altar

From the Bishop's letter:

"After considerable study and consultation, I am prepared to re-open St. Casimir's Church and to authorize the repair of the building. However, in doing so, a number of conditions will need to be met to ensure the future of the parish."

"As the diocese pursued the initial concern about St. Casimir's, other pastoral planning issues surfaced, namely: the decrease in attendance at Sunday Liturgy, financial stability, overall ability to sustain the present structure in the future, and pastoral staffing. After working with Father Grabys and Father Swierzowski, I am willing to endorse a plan that will monitor the continued viability of St. Casimir's."

11/1/97

Howard J. Hubbard, Bishop of Albany

Ed Baranauskas, who wrote numerous "letters to the editor" and other stories, keeping the issue alive.

Perhaps the most significant of all was the spiritual strength and endurance of the people, encouraged by our pastor, Fr. Joseph Grabys. Parishioners were able to maintain their identity as a parish and had the courage of their convictions.

When one has climbed the *Hill of Crosses* in Lithuania, as my husband and I did in 1993, and view the thousands of crosses placed there by people waiting to be free, we can further understand the determination of our own Lithuanian people. Theirs was a deep spirituality and love of God that withstood much anguish under the yoke of communism. The churches in Lithuania, now open and vibrant, are beautifully ornate and the people are very fervent in their religious practices. Seminarians are many in number; the Lithuanian College in Rome has a steady enrollment of men studying for the priesthood. This coming year will mark the 50th anniversary of the College, with a special



The Founder of Two Parishes
Father Joseph Zydanovicz (Židanavičius)
St. Casimir's in Amsterdam and
Holy Cross Church in Schenectady, NY

He was born Joseph Zydanovicz (Židanavičius) on August 21, 1866 in Lithuania and enrolled in the seminary in Seinai after completing his high school education. He was ordained a priest on June 26, 1892.

When the Lithuanians in Amsterdam learned of his arrival in America in 1904, guided by Rev. A. Gorski of St. Stanislaus Parish where they worshipped, they petitioned His Excellency, Bishop T. Burke, for permission to organize a Lithuanian parish in Amsterdam. Father Židanavičius arrived in Amsterdam in May of that year, and resided in the rectory of St. Stanislaus Church, where he also said Mass. He made plans for the Lithuanians to build their own church and was instrumental in the construction of St. Casimir's Church. He

also played a vital role in the organization of the Lithuanian community in neighboring Schenectady and was instrumental in establishing Holy Cross Parish.

Fr. Židanavičius passed away on December 26, 1945 and is buried at St. Casimir's cemetery in Amsterdam. *-Edward Baranauskas*

ceremony that will be attended by Pope John Paul II, whose mother was Lithuanian.

So we Lithuanian Americans have these inspiring role models, from which to emulate their determination, courage and deep spirituality.

Although we will not be able to attend Midnight Mass at St. Casimir's this Christmas and there are many details to be worked out before our church reopens, this indeed will be a special holy day for St. Casimir's parishioners, as we have so much to be grateful for. Our fervent prayers to our Lord, His Blessed Mother, St. Casimir and Blessed George Matulaitis have been answered.

"Come, let us sing joyfully in the Lord;
 let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
 Let us greet Him with thanksgiving..."

(Psalm 95:1-2)

**What the media and parishioners
 had to say:**

"(St. Casimir's) beautiful interior and Lithuanian-American heritage will be preserved...Amsterdam will be spared another empty building or vacant lot."

*-Editorial, The Sunday Gazette
 Schenectady, NY 11/2/1997*

"We have the opportunity to rebuild."

-Joseph Shatas, St. Casimir's Parish council

"St. Casimir's could be a model of the Catholic Church in the future."

-Karl Andrzejczyk, chairman of the St. Casimir's Restoration committee.

"Miracles do happen, even in Amsterdam, New York!" - a happy parishioner

The History of Lithuanian Community in Schenectady, NY

by Edward Baranauskas

America is known as the land of immigrants, and people have arrived by the millions from every nation in Europe, from the mid-nineteenth century until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. They left their homelands for a variety of reasons, but there was no doubt that they came to our shores to seek a better life for themselves, and their families.

Lithuanians began arriving in the Schenectady area around the turn of the century. As job opportunities began to increase at the American Locomotive Company and General Electric, so did the arrival of these immigrants.

Since they had a poor knowledge of the English language, they felt more at ease living close to each other, sharing the same language and their everyday problems. They settled mostly in two neighborhoods, known as Goose Hill and Mont Pleasant. Mass transit during that period left much to be desired, those who lived in the Goose Hill section walked to work at the locomotive plant, while those from Mont Pleasant did likewise to get to their jobs at the General Electric factory.

The majority of Lithuanians are of the Roman Catholic faith. Not having a church of their own in those early days, and since other ethnic groups had already established their own parishes, many attended services at St. Mary's Polish Church on Eastern Avenue, where they were married and had their children baptized. Others went to St. Adalbert's Polish Church on Lansing Street and St. Joseph's German Church at the corner of State and Lafayette Street. The closest Lithuanian Parish was in the City of Amsterdam, New York. Some paid their parish dues to St. Casimir's Church and purchased cemetery plots in that parish, even though they resided in Schenectady.

To maintain closer ties to each other, the Lithuanian community formed their own social and fraternal organizations like the St. Joseph's Society. With over a hundred families joining, it was agreed

to organize their own parish and to have a resident pastor holding services in the Lithuanian language. Father Joseph Zydanovicz (Židanavičius), Pastor of St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church in Amsterdam encouraged them in their undertaking. He promised to help in every way he possibly could in order to have their goals achieved and he offered to be their spiritual advisor and to serve their spiritual needs. (See: sidebar story)

Over the years, the spirit of Lithuanian nationalism was high. It became more prominent at the end of WW I in 1918, when Lithuania emerged as a free nation, after more than a century of oppressive rule by the Czars of Russia.

Fund raising drives became the number one priority if their hopes of having a parish of their own were to ever become a reality. Everyone had to make sacrifices in order to raise money and no stone was left unturned. Many raffles were held with prizes donated by friends and benefactors. Their fellow Lithuanians living in nearby Amsterdam were very encouraging and offered financial assistance, even though they were struggling themselves to meet the debts of their own parish that was organized in 1904. Money was not easy to come by, when one considers the wage of the day was about a dollar. Slowly, the treasury of their church organization began to swell.

It was not feasible to build a new church due to the limited financial resources. The only remaining alternative was to purchase an existing structure, renovate it and convert it for use as a Roman Catholic Church. At first this seemed a difficult task, but fate smiled kindly and presented a golden opportunity in 1920.

The earliest Jewish congregation in Schenectady, Sharei Schmajain, decided to sell their Synagogue at 18 North College Street. Originally built in 1891, this edifice was now unable to accommodate the ever increasing numbers of worshippers, and because of that, a much larger Temple was needed. Several bids were offered for the property by commercial developers and the Lithuanians submitted theirs, also, upon the advice and consent of Rev. Joseph Židanavičius. It

was through his efforts that Bishop Edmund F. Gibbons arranged for the purchase of the synagogue in October of 1920 for \$9,450.00. It was believed by some that the congregation favored the sale to the Lithuanians because the edifice was built as a house of worship, it should continue to be used for that purpose. Records showed that the land on which it stood was once a part of Union School property. The deed was recorded on Monday, October 25, 1920.

Following the sale, the Congregation Sharei Schajain changed its name to Temple Gates of Heaven and in 1921 moved to its new location at Parkwood Boulevard and Rugby Road. Today it is now located on Ashmore Avenue and Eastern Parkway.

What once seemed to be an impossible dream, now became closer to reality. With the acquisition of a sound structure, the next step was to renovate and remodel the interior of their future church. The Lithuanians did all the necessary carpentry and renovating and there was no shortage of volunteers. While the remodeling was continuing, Father Židanavičius or his assistant pastor at St. Casimir's would take turns every Sunday morning to come to Schenectady from Amsterdam by trolley car to say Mass at 10 o'clock. Since the church had no pews at the time, the parishioners were required to bring their own chairs and benches.

The year of 1922 was a memorable one for the Lithuanian community. On May 1, Holy Cross Parish was incorporated with the following signatures to the fact: Bishop Edmund F. Gibbons, Msgr. Joseph A. Delaney, Vicar General; Father Joseph Židanavičius (listed as Rector); John Gajdis and John Montrym, Trustees.

On Sunday morning, July 9th, the Rt. Rev. Bishop F. Gibbons came to Holy Cross Church and during the 10:30 Mass, conducted the blessing ceremony. He was assisted by Rev. Joseph Židanavičius. The parish was now given full church privileges and it was expected a resident priest would soon be named.

This was not as forthcoming as the parishioners had hoped, and with the passing of time, they petitioned the Bishop for his assistance in speeding this slow process. In the meantime, Father Židanavičius and his assistant pastor continued taking turns coming to Holy Cross every Sunday morning from Amsterdam to say Mass.

Lithuanian nationalism made a few headlines in the local press when, on Saturday August 19, 1922 more than a thousand Lithuanians from Schenectady, Albany, Troy, Watervliet and Amsterdam held a demonstration in honor of recognition of their homeland as an independent nation by the United States. Included in the program was a mass meeting in Crescent Park. There was singing and speeches and a parade through the business district that ended at Holy Cross Church where they disbanded. A second celebration was held inside the church where the City Public Works Commissioner, Walter G. Robinson making the principal address.

The search for a pastor came to an unexpected, and happy, conclusion in the fall of 1922 when Rev. Casimir Bickauskas came to the United States from Lithuania on a fund raising tour to assist the institutions in Lithuania. The nation had greatly suffered during the war. He worked with the Lithuanian exiles in Russia, and from 1918 to 1921 he performed several pastoral duties in Siberia.

While on a visit to the Lithuanian community in Amsterdam, Bishop Gibbons prevailed on him to accept the pastorate at Holy Cross parish and was appointed to that position on November 25. He resided, temporarily, at St. Casimir's Rectory, assisting Father Židanavičius, until a residence was made available.

The negotiations for the purchase of a residence next to Holy Cross at 16 North College Street came to a successful conclusion on January 5, 1923 when the deed was recorded in the name of Bishop Edmund F. Gibbons. On October 26, 1925, Bishop Gibbons transferred the title of the rectory to Holy Cross Church.

After years of sacrifice, patience and perseverance, the Lithuanian Catholics in Schenectady, who worshipped for almost three years without a resident priest, finally had an established parish with a clergyman residing in their newly purchased rectory.

One cannot help but feel that the founders of Holy Cross Church most certainly realized that none of this would have been possible without the love, dedication, devotion and guidance of Father Joseph Židanavičius, Pastor of St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church in Amsterdam, New York.



Lithuanians in the News

Kasparaitis Performs in Pittsburgh

Defenseman Darius Kasparaitis, who has regained his nasty, agitating edge, believes the Pittsburgh Penguins' new style lends itself to him performing especially well. "I love it when other guys get ticked off at me. That means I'm playing hard. That means they're going to get penalties.", Kasparaitis said to The Hockey News reporter in an interview. Penguin coach, Kevin Constantine says, "I like him. I've always liked him. There are certain players you watch and you always hate them as opposition, and you always say, 'Boy, I'd like to have that guy on my side.' " It seems Darius is back, although he never left. He had a rough transition after being traded from the New York Islanders to the Pittsburgh Penguins for Brian Smolinski. A Pole for a Lithuanian?

It seems the State of Pennsylvania now has a lock on Lithuanian hockey players as Danius Zubris, who was a highly touted rookie last, begins his second season with the Philadelphia Flyers.

Here's a thought. If Darius and Danius were both on the *Flyers*, could they be the '90's version of Darius and Girenas?

-from The Hockey News, 11/97

Lithuanian Gardener New Director of Horticulture



Mark Zelonis became the Director of Horticulture at the Indianapolis Museum of Art on Sept. 22. His responsibilities will include the management of Oldfields, a lavish former estate of the J.K. Lilly, Jr. family that was given to the museum. He will manage the restoration of the grounds

of the museum to its former splendor of the 1920's era, a \$500,000 project. In addition to managing its gardens and grounds, Mr. Zelonis will collaborate to make Oldfields an "American Country Estate at the Indianapolis Museum of Art" and an attractive location for tourists.

Mark has a very rare blending of talents, for his hands are familiar with the soil, while his head is comfortable in boardroom. His credentials include the Executive Director of the Heritage Trust in Rhode Island, where he directed preservation, education and development efforts for four historic sites, including the Blithewold mansion.

Zelonis, a native of New England, is a member of C-103, Providence, RI. He and his wife, Sally, and two children are now in Indianapolis.

-Submitted by Bea & Vic Mathieu, C-103

Volunteers Make a Difference

St. Paul/Our Lady of Vilna School located on the west side of Chicago, not only displays the finest of teachers, it also is home to three young teachers who are part of the Jesuit Volunteer program connected with the Inner City Teaching Corps. This program recruits graduates from the finest universities to work in some of the most poverty stricken parts of Chicago for two years. Corps members receive room, board and a \$5 per day stipend. Savings credited by this simple lifestyle allows each Corp member to provide \$2,500 in scholarships to inner city school children. Current volunteers include Brooke Higgins, Stephan Graham and Sarah MacKay who are helping the Sister's of St. Casimir's Principal, Sister Dolorine make a difference in the lives of many children.

-from Journeys, SSC, Chicago, Fall '97

Lietuva 1997**WHAT WAS HOT AND WHAT WAS NOT**

story and photos by Kay A. Yankoski

What's Hot...

Karšti Šuniukai - Hot Dogs are indeed hot in Nida, and they're delicious, but they're not hot and waiting for you, they're cooked to order under a covered grill! The "foot longs" come on crusty (unlike our soft) rolls and, to me, taste much better. The "cook" adds some chopped onions and slices of cucumber, then the sunukus and to top it off squiggles some ketchup and mustard on top. Sliced tomatoes are sometimes added; I don't know if they ever heard of "have it your way", but "their way" was terrific.

McDonald's - There are now four McDonald's in Vilnius! Not very Lithuanian, but they serve a need, they're quick, cheap and reliable. What better place to stop on a hot day for some soft ice cream in air conditioning? It was the only air conditioning I experienced in all of Lithuania!

Platform Shoes - It was almost entertaining to sit around in the evening watching the women (mostly in Nida) stroll by. The clunkier and the uglier the pair, the better, just ridiculous!

Roller Blades have hit Nida, big time! The town square was awash with mostly agile children wearing occasional protective padding. Rentals are available.

Clean Public Toilets - The "Klaipeda in your Pocket" guidebook listed the ones in the Nida Cultural Center as the cleanest and best, and they were right. What a pleasure. While I didn't have an opportunity to check out all of them, the road to *Moterų Pližas* in Nida was blessed with an abundance of comfort stations. I was sorry to see that *Sajudis* no longer has a convenient toilet across from the Bell Tower. This was my secret comfort stop - now? another office, darn! The theater has a good *kavinė* (with excellent *karbonadas*) and clean toilets. The bus station and the park behind the cathedral also have clean public pay toilets, but beware of the *monster* who collects 80 *centas* at the latter. She explodes in a tirade if you fail to make

the correct change quickly, as I did after misreading the sign and counting out 50 *centas*! Who did she think she was?

Well, she was actually a woman of power at that time!

Bottled Water - Americans are advised not to drink the tap water or even use it for brushing your teeth. *Pas Juozapq* (near my flat) had two large displays of natural and mineral water readily available for purchase (only about 2 *litas* for a large bottle). In Nida I searched high and low before I found natural water (*be gas, be druskos*) in a liquor store at more than twice the price of Vilnius! Resort prices, no doubt.

Lithuanian Airlines - After a 7 hour layover, the London to Vilnius flight was very pleasant largely due to a Scottish seat mate returning for a visit after teaching school for 2 years in *Ukmergė*. The planes are 747s and the food was good on both legs of the flight.

Potatoes - I ate more potatoes on this trip than I did on my 4 other trips combined and I loved them. The potato crop was never ready for harvest on my previous trips and I had always been disappointed. Not this time, I ate them in every conceivable, delectable form. In general, I ate more good food, this time, than ever.

Restaurants - Vilnius

Pelėdos Kavinė on Gedimino near the Bell Tower, has a personable host speaking terrific English, good service and a clean, locked toilet. It was the best, of what I call experienced service, in the 5 trips I made over 10 years. The host was solicitous, but didn't hover and the restaurant is worthy of compliments on all three counts. It was not a new *kavinė*, but it was new to me.

Gryčia, brand spanking new, across from the Bell Tower on a little street parallel to Gedimino, is a cute *kavinė* with outdoor seating and served pretty good *cepelinai* and *balandėliai*. Across the street from *Gryčia* is a new *viešbutis* (not open as of this writing) that is very convenient.

We looked at the Chinese restaurant near *Stikliai*. Some menu items were 37 *litas*, not a



The lagoon at Nida

kingly sum when divided by 4, but a huge amount when compared to perhaps 8 *litas* for some solid *cepelinai* or *koldūnai*. It was brightly colored but devoid of customers. We left without eating and found a renovated kavine, *Ūkinės*, where we had a terrific chicken / potatoes / carrots baked in a crock and *Žemaičių Blynai*. This restaurant was so good I made a return trip with a friend to have the *Žemaičių Blynai*.

Nida

Rasytė was described in "*Klaipėda in Your Pocket*" as excellent and we agreed. Our only disappointment? We weren't able to sit outdoors for supper and being a guest house the German "in-mates" got there first. No matter, the food was great.

Seklyčia, down *Lutmiškio* street from *Rasytė* was terrific. This time our party had an outdoor table overlooking the lagoon, sand dunes and towering pine trees.

Sena Sodyba on *Naglis* served us a good hearty lunch of *koldūnai* on a dreary day.

Nature in all her Splendor - The green forests, the blue skies, the sandy dunes, the Baltic with shards of *gintaras* washed ashore after a storm. Incomparable!

Berries - (At least in July) Strawberries, yellow and red cherries, raspberries, blueberries, 3

colors of currents and 2 colors of gooseberries, every size, color, variety and then some!

Bread and Butter - *Bulkutė* (in my own words, *bundukės*). *Pas Juozapą* (a new modern store that claims to stock everything) is continually replenishing freshly baked rolls. Conveniently enough, the butter is right next to the *duona*.

Blue Skies - Are there any skies bluer than in Lithuania? I think not.

Church Spires - Silhouetted everywhere against the incredibly blue skies.

Forests - None more dense, greener, more lush and beautiful than here, as they go on as far as the eye can see.

Renovations - The *Astorija Hotel* has a new coat of yellow paint with white trim, absolutely beautiful. The fresh paint on the President's Residence, the former French Embassy, is also outstanding as are the statues atop the Cathedral and the improvements to the Bell Tower. There is work going on all around along promising of more visual treats.

Telephone Cards - My host thoughtfully provided me with a telephone credit card. I don't know the denomination, but it was a great to merely insert the card at the pay phone instead of making change in foreign currency. All my friends used them too.

Vilnius in Your Pocket (The Official City Guide) A small booklet full of valuable information.

What's Not...

Animal Prints - The savage beast continues to captivate the people, as I've noticed over the 10 years that I've been traveling there. Women wear dresses, blouses and scarves of *faux* leopard, which appears to be the most popular. While the bus to Nida sported valances of the same pattern around the front windows.

Cars - There are more cars than ever with drivers who show no mercy for pedestrians, step lively when crossing the street.

Construction - Huge buildings of new flats are cropping up everywhere they can find space. I wondered if there was enough public transportation to get all the new residents to their jobs.



*Musicians - live and wooden at
Ragany Kalnas*

Orphans - 50 orphans from Chechnya, ranging in age from 4 to their early teens, came to Lithuania for the summer. What did they want to see most of all? The sea! They all wore baseball caps - Reebok, Nike and even the Chicago Bulls!

Buses - They are 2 years older than when I was there last (2 years ago), but they are cheap and frequent. However, they are crowded and would make the Toyko Subway Pushers weep. I had to physically fight my way off two buses in one day due to overcrowding. There doesn't seem to be a Rush Hour, they're always crowded in July and they're hot!. I understand people spend as little time at home as possible, hence the crowded buses.

We purchased tickets in advance for our bus trip from Vilnius to Nida, for most of the trip the bus was full, yet not as crowded on our return. The bus was always hot and stuffy, but on our return the overhead vents were open. Some people got cold, so our 'air-conditioning units' were closed up. Seats can either be stuck in an upright or reclining position and neither are very comfortable for a 6 hour journey. Even the guide suggested that a new, modern bus with all the amenities would be a good investment for all the summer travelers to Nida.

Hot Water - Murphy's Law - I managed a real bath the morning after my 2 day journey to Vilnius and a quick (telephone) shower before my 6 hour bus trip to Nida, but, on my return when foremost on my mind was a long soak in a real tub (unavailable in Nida) and a good shampoo, the hot water was turned off in my Vilnius "viesbutis". It was shut off the day before my return from Nida and would be turned back on the day of my departure. Not in time, of course, for a real bath

before my two day return trip home. I had to master bathing in a teacup, my host had a bath tray with a big well into which I poured the water I boiled with a huge emersion device that heated a kettle of water quickly. There was a little tray to the side of the well on which I could set my soaps, etc. and used this long handled small pot to pour water over my body. It took a little more time than turning on the hot tap, in the end it did the job.

Rain - How else all the greenery? A colleague reminded me, *Lietuva* comes from *Lietus*! Never leave home (in Lithuania) without your *maiša* (raincoat, also commonly called, *leitpaltis*) and in it carry your umbrella, raincoat and sweater, you'll need them all before you return to your flat at night. You will look like a *touristas* because the natives just saunter along, with or without an umbrella, or God forbid, a raincoat. Eventually the rain stops but not before your feet and pant legs get soaked. I was the only person in Lithuania with a yellow raincoat and very easy to spot when it rained, I prayed for my parched Virginia gardens.

Safety - A friend was robbed on the bus with the purse on her lap! A friend informed me there are a lot of robberies in tourist hotel rooms and yet another friend was attacked and beaten by 2 KGB types. He thinks it was an assassination attempt! I felt relatively safe taking the almost two hour bus ride to the Bell Tower daily, but I didn't want to come home alone after dark, even though it stayed light there until 10:00 PM or so in the summer.

Shopping - Better than ever, with more and more selections to merchandise. In Lithuania, you buy it when you see it or you may never see it again! In Nida, I treated myself to a lovely amber heart pendent and also saw a cute carved wooden fish whistle that I wanted. I only had 6 *litas* remaining after my purchase and asked my guide to tell the shopkeeper, after making a costly purchase, I would go to the bank and come back because I wanted the fish whistle. The shopkeeper agreed! ".....as my gift to you.", my guide was astounded and I was delighted. On our return trip to Vilnius, I found these same whistles for 5 *litas* on the street,

oh well. The moral of the story is Nida is a resort town with lots of wealthy German tourists who are not in a position to comparison shop.

And Don't Miss...

Raganų Kalnas in *Juodkrantė (Neringa)* is my favorite excursion in all of Lithuania. A nice uphill hike, there seem to be no downhill hikes in Lithuania as far as I'm concerned, through the forest with the pathway dotted with carved wooden figures of demons, devils and dragons, some funny some frightening. Among a group of carved wooden musicians there was a father and son playing their instruments. Charming.

The aquarium, delfinarium (dolphin and sea lion show) and the maritime museums at Smilte, a

ferry stop across from Klaipėda, are a popular day trip. On the walk from the ferry/bus stop to the above there are several nature museums with flora and fauna and all manner of critters from bugs to butterflies to moths and mice.

Take leisurely walks through historic parts of town with stops at the outdoor kavines and hikes through the forests, sometimes just you and Mother Nature. Lithuania is for walkers, so bring your most comfortable shoes and make sure they are waterproof, remember to pack your *lietpaltis* as I've taught you previously and set out!

Smell the linden trees in Vilnius, breathe deep in the pine forests, sniff the breezes coming off the Baltic, and above all, enjoy our homeland and heritage. ❖❖❖

Crisis Intervention

by Fr. Eugene Sawicki, from *Our Lady of Vilnius church bulletin* 11/9/97

Last week, after Mass, the Knights of Lithuania were having their monthly meeting. Sporadic fist fights were breaking out concerning whether to order turkey or ham for dinner at their annual Christmas party.

The sound of splashing water was totally ignored and little did we realize that outside raged a tempest of a storm and inside, the sinks in the kitchen of Our Lady of Vilnius hall were overflowing with sewer spillage!

The beloved pastor (author of this story and gloriously reigning) was pushed to immediate action. He was forced to suit-up with his firemen's boots and truck coat in the usual futile attempt to stem the tide, of not only sin, but in this case, sewer water which continued to cascade down the stainless steel legs of the restaurant sized sinks - - and there was no stopping it! Miraculously, two of the faithful flock, one being the organ repair specialist, the other, a weapons expert, took off their boxing gloves and devised a solution.

They found a hole in the floor (and there are many) and siphoned the raging torrent from the sinks into the hole in the concrete floor. The Beloved Pastor marveled,

"You mean you are going to suck the water through the hose to start the siphon like you were stealing gas?", he asked.

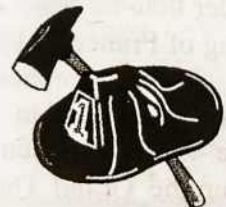
The weapons expert replied, "No. This is not the Polish way or the mode of inferior races." So he plunged one end of the 50' length of garden hose (supplied by Brother Healey of the K of C) into the sinks and the other end down the hole of the gray concrete floor. The waters receded..... Amen!

The panic was over. The cellar was saved. Nothing was ruined. The floor got a good washing. The shouting happily continued over whether visiting clergy should be made to pay admission to the Christmas Party and should we temporarily exempt the Christmas Santa from his oft renewed pledge of sobriety.

And all continued to once again ignore the raging tempest that was washing the streets and sidewalks of New York City.

The moral? They don't call this area of New York City *Canal Street* for nothing.

Editors note: Fr. Sawicki, along with his priestly duties, is a retired fireman after many years of service with the NYC Fire Department.



THREE WOMEN IN LITHUANIAN HISTORY

by Edward Baranauskas

ANNE

Princess of Lithuania Queen of Poland

Anne was the daughter of Poland's King Sigismund the Old. She was born at the royal palace in Cracow, and grew up with her four sisters and brother, Sigismund Augustus.

He was crowned the Grand Duke of Lithuania, and became King of Poland after the death of his father. He was married three times, but had no children and his death in 1572 ended the male ancestry of the Gediminas dynasty. Polish historians, however, refer to that period as the Jagiellonian dynasty. His death presented a problem for Polish nobility, for there was no male heir to the throne.

Anne boldly claimed the throne of Lithuania as her inheritance, and wanted the Lithuanians to proclaim her Grand Princess. The Poles, on the other hand, did not want the Lithuanians to elect a separate ruler. In 1573, the nobility instead chose Prince Henry of France as common king. One of the conditions was that he marry Anne, which he agreed to do.

He spent a short time in Poland, but after his brother, Charles IX died, he returned to France in secret. Apparently he had second thoughts about marrying Anne, for he was only 25 and she, at the age of 51, was 25 years older than he was. He eventually was crowned king of France in 1574.

Prince -Stephen Bathory, governor of the eastern Hungarian province of Transylvania, age 43, was chosen to be king of Poland, and later the Grand Duke of Lithuania. He was

offered the same conditions, and agreed to marry Anne. Their wedding, and coronation took place in 1574. After he died in 1586, Queen Anne did much to have the son of her sister Catherine elected as the new king, Sigismund Vasa, a Swedish prince.

Anne died in 1596, and was buried in the royal chapel of Wawel castle in Cracow. She was the last of the dynasty. Historians called her Anne Jagiellonian, but to the Lithuanians, she was Ona Jogailaite.

MARTHA

Queen of Lithuania

The wife of King Mindaugas in the land of Grand Dukes and Princes, she was the first and only queen Lithuania ever had. Her origin and pagan names are not known, but chronicles of the time report, following the death of Prince Vismantas at the hand of Mindaugas, he married the dead Prince's widow. *Morta* was her name in Lithuanian.

Martha, Mindaugas and their two sons were baptized in 1251. Two years later Martha was crowned Queen and Mindaugas crowned King with the approval and blessings of Pope Innocent IV.

During her life, (She died 1262 or 1263) she raised three sons and one daughter and attended to her family responsibilities and duties with dignity. Importantly, she was her husband's assistant and advisor.

In 1263, the reign of King Mindaugas came to an abrupt end with the assassination of him along with his two young sons. In the power struggle that followed, one of the conspirators, Prince Treniota, became the supreme ruler of Lithuania. Because Prince Treniota was the leader of the pagan



Aldona was the second daughter of the Grand Duke Gediminas and her grand daughter became the wife of Emperor Charles IV.

opposition to Catholic Mindaugas, any further attempt to Christianize the Lithuanian people came to a standstill. Paganism continued to prevail in Lithuania for more than a century.

Christianization resumed in earnest when Grand Duke Jogaila married the Queen of Poland.

ALDONA

Daughter of Grand Duke Gediminas

Aldona was the second daughter of the Grand Duke Gediminas and her birth date is unknown.

The Teutonic Order was the common enemy of both the Polish and Lithuanian peoples. To strengthen ties between both countries, a formal treaty was proposed in 1325. To seal the treaty, Gediminas, offered

the hand of his quite young daughter Aldona in marriage to Polish Prince Casimir. Prince Casimir, known in Polish history as Casimir the Great, later became King Casimir III.

At that time Cracow was the capital of Poland and Aldona journeyed there from Vilnius amid universal acclaim, joy and blessings. It was here where she was baptized and took the name Ann.

She did not fare too well in her new country as her husband proved to be unfaithful, but the young Queen found comfort in charitable work and her love of music. Ann (Aldona) died a very young woman in 1339, but not before having two daughters. These daughters married into the families of the Holy Roman Empire.

Aldona's grand daughter became the wife of Emperor Charles IV. ❖❖❖

In Memoriam



Sally Andrews
C-3, Philadelphia, PA
May 14, 1997

Reggie Rusonis
C-86, Dubois, PA
Oct. 10, 1997

Victoria Jacobson
C-147, St. Petersburg, FL
Sept. 30, 1997

Povilas A. Miksys
C-153, Treasure Coast, FL
July 28, 1997

Vincent Ivoska
C-86, Dubois, PA
Oct. 6, 1997

Judy B. Krusa
C-38, Kenosha, WI
Oct. 12, 1997

*Amžina atilsį duok
mirusiams viešpatie*



Christmas Sweets

Here's some extra special desserts you might want to try for Christmas and holiday guests.

Thanks to **Vincent Samoska of C-36, Chicago**, for this delicious dumpling recipe from his cookbook, *Dumplings and Kolacky*.

Peach-Prune Dumplings with Rosy Cinnamon Sauce (makes 32)

No. 10 can (30-35 count) cling peach halves, drained (save syrup)
5 lbs. pie pastry
32 large prunes, plumped and pitted
egg-milk wash
sugar
3/4 cup (6 oz.) Red Hots cinnamon candy
1 cup (7 oz.) sugar
1/4 cup (1 1/2 oz.) cornstarch
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 cup lemon juice
whipped cream

Divide pastry into halves. Roll each piece into 20 inch squares, about 1/8 inch thick. Cut into 16 (5 inch) squares to scale about 2

1/4 ounces each. Arrange 1 peach half, cut side up, on each pastry square. Place one prune in each peach. Moisten edges of pastry; bring corners up over fruit. Pinch edges together to seal. Brush with egg-milk wash. Sprinkle with sugar. Pierce with fork. Bake in 400 degree oven for 25 to 30 minutes, until golden brown. Serve warm or cooled.

Meanwhile, prepare sauce by adding water to reserved peach syrup to measure 2 quarts. Add cinnamon candies. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally until candies are dissolved. Combine 1 cup sugar, cornstarch and salt; blend into hot syrup. Cook, stirring occasionally until thickened. Add lemon juice; cool. Ladle 2 ounces sauce over each dumpling. Garnish with whipped cream.

Did you know?

Some of the hay placed on the kučios table is given to the animals to eat, but none to the horses, because as tradition has it, the horse did not warm the infant Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem as did the other animals.



Thanks to **Mrs. Virginia Walent of C-26, Worcester, MA** for this recipe which also is a favorite for Valentine's Day.

Red Velvet Cake

1/2 cup shortening
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 eggs
2 ounces red food coloring
2 1/2 cups cake flour
1 tsp. salt
2 level tsp. cocoa
1 cup buttermilk (room temp.)
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. white vinegar

Cream shortening, sugar, eggs and beat until smooth. Sift flour, salt and cocoa together. Add alternately with buttermilk, beating after each addition. Add vanilla and food coloring.

Put soda in vinegar, stir, and fold into batter. Do not beat after this.

Bake in 9-inch layer cake pans lined with waxed paper in a 350 degree oven for 30 minutes.

Icing

1 cup milk
1/4 cup flour
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
3/4 cup shortening

Combine milk and flour, stirring constantly. Let cool. Cream shortening and sugar until fluffy. Add vanilla and cooled cream sauce gradually while beating. Beat until thick. This sauce will not look smooth. Spread on center and outside of cake. Enjoy.

**To all who attended the 84th NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
in DAYTON, OHIO**

**Our heartfelt THANK YOU and we think of you fondly.
(for those of you who couldn't come....you were missed.)**

**We did our very best and we hope that you returned home
feeling the warmth of our love and many happy memories.**



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WHEN IT REACHES
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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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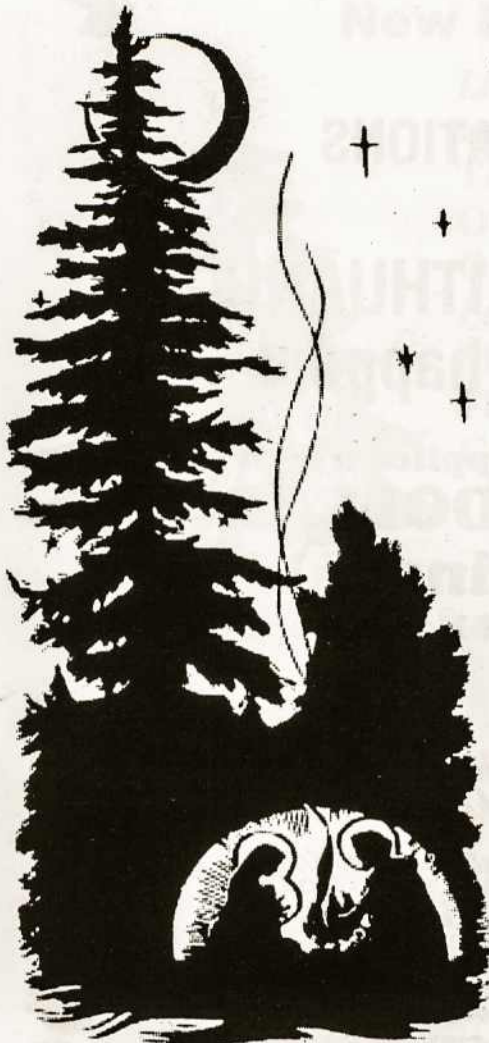
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Laimingų Naujų Metų
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Vyčiams*

*May the Prince of Peace
and His Blessed Mother
bestow on all our fellow
Knights both near and far
Health, Happiness and a
Prosperous New Year!*

*Linkime Viesiems Linksmu Šv. Kalėdų
ir Laimingų 1998 Metų!*

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and
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Knights of Lithuania
Council # 50
New Haven, Connecticut



Linksmų Kalėdų - Merry Christmas
 and
 To Our Councils Nationwide -
 Our Members Extend to You
 Our *Lietuviška* Wish
Laimingų Naujų Metų
 May the Coming Year be
 Filled with Many Blessings
 Good Health and Fun-filled Days!



The Officers and Members of the Amber District:

Wish Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
 Peace, Good Health and Happiness to All.

C-3 Philadelphia
 C-46 Forest City
 C-63 Lehigh Valley
 C-72 Binghamton
 C-74 Scranton
 C-118 Hazleton

C-140 Syracuse
 C-142 Washington
 C-143 Pittston
 C-144 Anthracite
 C-146 Harrisburg
 C-156 Shamokin



Holiday Greetings

May the gift of love,
the gift of peace,
and
the gift of happiness
be yours at Christmas and throughout the
coming New Year!



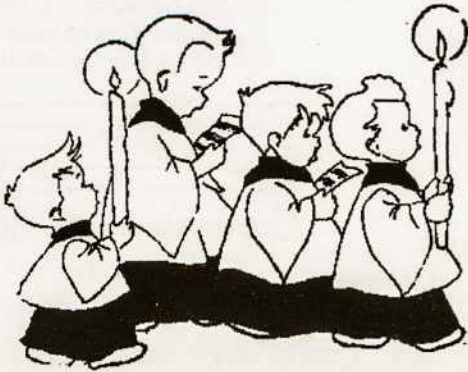
Council 26, Worcester, Mass.



Sveikiname Visus Vyčius
ir Linkime
Šventų ir Linksmų Kalėdų
ir
Sėkmingų Naujų Metų

CHRISTMAS
BLESSINGS
COUNCIL 36
CHICAGO





**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
AND A
HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
COUNCIL 110
MASPETH, QUEENS, N.Y.
(FOUNDED 1924)**



"Behold, a virgin shall be with child..."



**Sveikiname ir linkime ramybės, džiaugsmo ir laimes per šventes ir per
ateinančius metus.**

Council 74, Scranton, PA



Giesmė apie Berneli Jėsu
 kuri giesť dienasu Christaus vřgimi
 ma pagal sugulbima senata ant
 notas, Dies est lectie
 Der tag der ist so freuden reich.



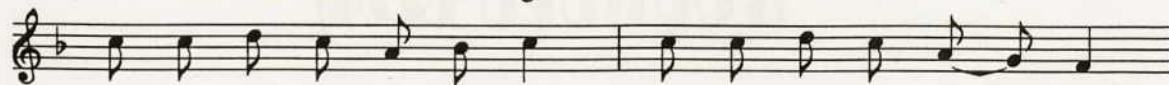
Bernelis gime mums / Ich gē

GIESMĖ APIE VAIKELĮ JĖZŪ

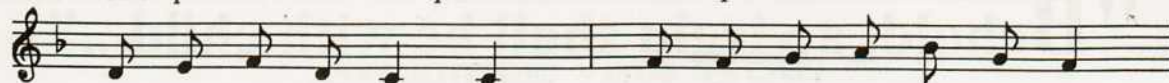
Iš Martyno Mažvydo Katekizmo, 1547)*



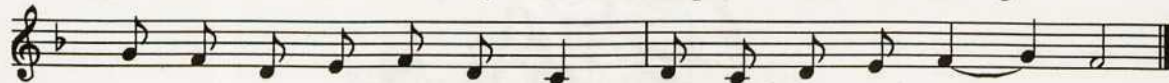
1. Ber- ne- lis gi- me mu- mus iš- gi Pan- nas čis- tas.
 Kaip ra- že ir le- li- a ste- bis vi- sas sve- tas.
2. Gra- žus es- ti Ber- ne- lis že- di kaip le- li- a.
 Ne- ša- ia yi ant ran- ku mer- gai- te Ma- ri- a.
3. Gar- be buk De- vui Te- vui ir ia Su- nui Je- sui.
 Bu- ki čies- tis ir gar- be De- vui am- ži- na- mui.



1. Ber- ne- lis est div- - - nas es- ti tik- ras Die- - vas
2. Žin- de yi Pan- na čis- ta pe- ne- ia ka- ra- li- čia
3. Kai- pa bu- va iš pra- džias tai- pa buk ir vi- sa- da



1. es- ti žma- gaus pil- nas, dei- vis- te- ie am- ži- nas
2. iš- gi dan- gus pe- na, ro- ža est Je- sus Chris- tus
3. ant am- žu di- džu- iu, liaup- se De- vui dan- gu- ie



1. žma- gis- te- ie smer- tel- nas Pa- nas Je- sus Chris- tus.
2. le- li- a est Ma- ri- a, a- bu žie- du dan- gui.
3. ma- ria- su ir že- me- su, Pa- nui Je- sui Chris- tui.

*) **Note:** You will notice that Mažvydas himself sometimes wrote for "God" "Diewas" and the other times "Dewas". To facilitate the reading, I replaced the "w" with "v", "sch" with "š", "sz" with "ž", and "cz" with "č". I did not try to Lithuanianize "Jesus Christus". Since "yr" could be confused with "yra" (is), I changed it to "ir" (and). I also capitalized "Father" (Devui Tevui) and "Son" (Sunui Jesui). Faustus Strolia

Some vocabulary:

mumus - mums (to us)	čiestis - pagarba (honor, respect)	liaupse - garbė (glory)
čistas - švarus, švari (clean)	divnas - nuostabus (peculiar)	mariasu yr žemesu - mariose ir
svetas - pasaulis (world)	smertelnas - mirtingas (mortal)	žemėse (in sea and on land)

Singing the Catechism

by HM Faustas Strolia

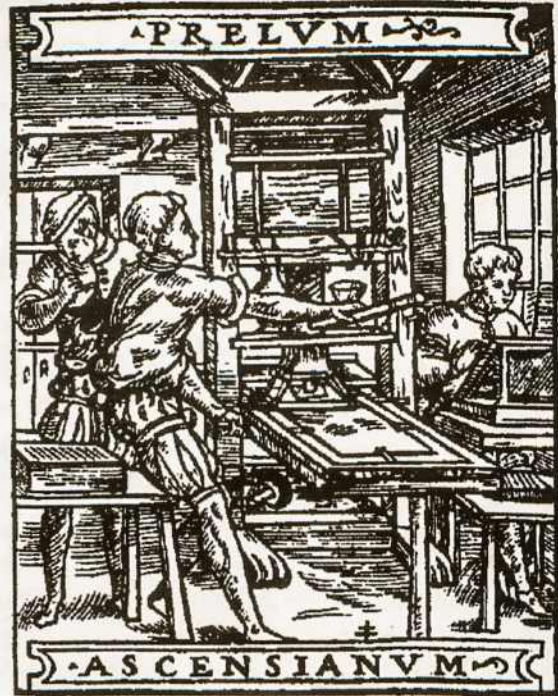
Our Knights of Lithuania Choir had two rare opportunities as well as the honor to participate in the commemoration of the 450th anniversary of the first printed Lithuanian book - the catechism by Martynas Mažvydas.

The first performance took place on October 25, 1997 at the prestigious Newberry Library in downtown Chicago. There was a one hour lecture in English on this book by Dr. Leonas Gerulaitis from Oakland University in Michigan. The choir opened with four songs from this Catechism and ended the commemoration with another four songs. The program was well attended by some 200 enthusiasts. The choir's second appearance occurred the very next day at the Balzakas Museum of Lithuanian Culture. This time, there were several speakers from Lithuania - Domas Kaunas, University of Vilnius, and Silvija Velavičienė, the chairlady of the Linguistic Dept. of the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.

The festivity was opened with a greeting from Vytautas Landsbergis, the President of the Lithuanian Parliament. We sang the eight songs. Both times, we were joined by K. of L. HM soloist, Algerd Brazis, who added warmth and variety to our performance. In a review of the commemoration on October 28, Danutė Bindokienė wrote in Draugas that she recognized the thoroughness of the lectures and unforgettable impression made by the K of L Choir through the simplicity and sincerity with which we sang these hymns.

"This sounded like an echo, waving over more than four centuries and landed in our hearts giving us a picture of these holy days, when the 'lietuvininkai' sang them in their churches including Ragainė where Mažvydas was pastor."

Overall, it was a wonderful experience for the choir. For a while there was some hesitation on the part of the choristers because it was so different from anything the choir had been doing for the last



At the first presses

37 years. But when we were performing, we finally seemed to enjoy it.

To sing well, a singer has to know the language or at least know how to produce the sounds he is going to sing. Here we were faced with a 450 year old Prussian dialect. We had no problems with words like "makslas", "szadis" and "malane", or the foreign Polish words like "smertis", "greks" or "gresnas". It was even fun to sing the old fashioned forms of Lithuanian grammar like "giventumbin", "tarnautumbim" or "saugatumbi". The real problem arose when we had to sing the Lithuanian vowels "I" and "y", or "e" and "ė". In modern Lithuanian, when we see the word "mylėti", we know that the "y" is a long sound like in English "we", and the "I" is a very short sound like the English "live". (In Polish it is the reverse!) We also know that in "pelė" the "e" is pronounced like in "pet" and the "ė" like in "buffet". When we see in modern Lithuanian the two different kinds of "u"s like in the word, mūsų, we give them both a long vowel sound like in "lose"; once we encounter the word "buvo", we pronounce it short like in "put". We will never know what kind of vowels, (☞ turn to page 37)

**LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ ir
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ**

*A VERY MERRY & BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR*

**OFFICERS and MEMBERS of
K of L COUNCIL # 29
Newark, NEW JERSEY**



*Sveikiname Visus Vyčius
ir Linkime
Šventų ir Linksmų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų!*

*Anthracite Council 144
Schuylkill County, PA*



**THE
KNIGHTS
OF LITHUANIA
FOUNDATION,
INC.**



wishes all it's members and friends

**A MOST MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Thanks for your generous support in the past and, we hope in the future.

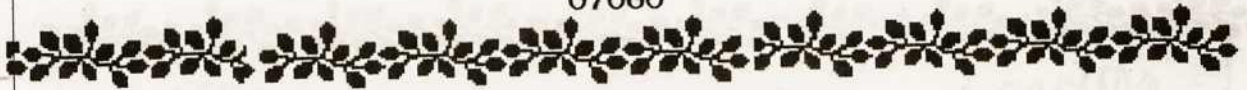
Our assets are near \$80,000.....let's make \$100,000 by our.

15th Anniversary in 1999!

As an Endowment Fund, the Foundation uses its earned interest to help K of L members and Lithuania's seminarians, nuns and children, culturally and materially.

to send your tax-deductible donations or obtain more information, write to:

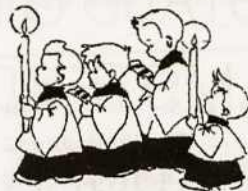
**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, INC.
234 SUNLIT DRIVE
WATCHUNG, NJ
07060**



From CHICAGO to all our Fellow Knights,

MERRY CHRISTMAS

&



HAPPY NEW YEAR -----



Council - 112

CHICAGO



Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų

Prelatas Algimintas Bartkus
Šv. Kazimiero Kolegia, Romoje
and
The St. Casimir Guild

Anna Klizas Wargo, President



KRISTAUS GIMIMO PROGA
AMSTERDAMO VYČIU
KUOPA 100 NARIAI
LINKI LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ
IR LAIMINGŲ ŠVENTŲ
NAUJŲ METŲ
VISIEMS DRAUGAMS VYČIAMS





*The Members of St. Michael's Council # 156
Shamokin, PA*

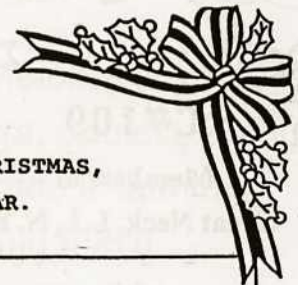
*wish to extend blessed Christmas
greetings to you and your loved ones:*

**LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ
IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ!**

*May the newborn Savior be the center
of our lives!*

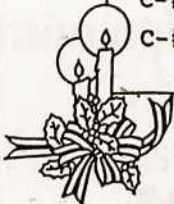


Officers and Members of the
Mid-Atlantic District

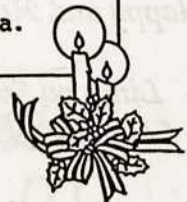


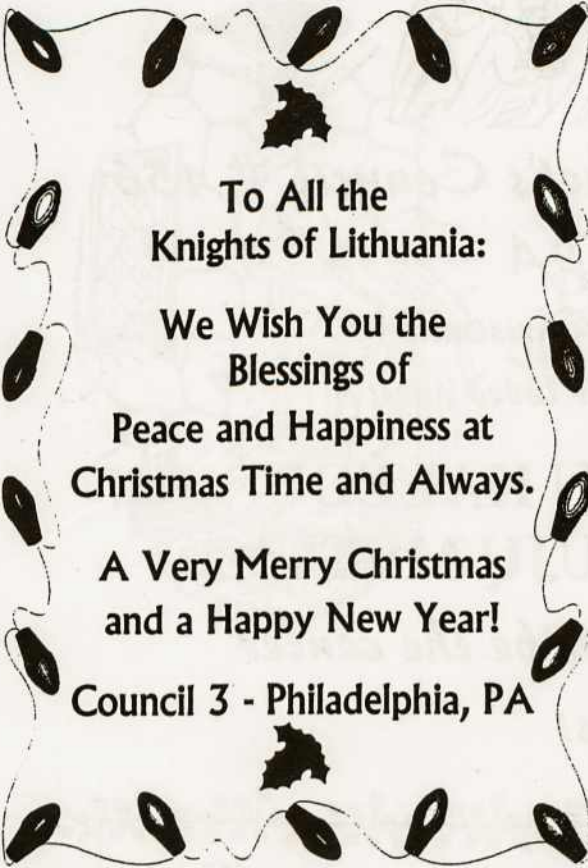
WISHING PEACE, LOVE AND HAPPINESS AT CHRISTMAS,
AND GOD'S BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| C-#12 - New York, N.Y. | C-#100 - Amsterdam, N.Y. |
| C-#29 - Newark, N.J. | C-#109 - Great Neck, L.I., N.Y. |
| C-#41 - Brooklyn, N.Y. | C-#110 - Maspeth, N.Y. |
| C-#52 - Elizabeth, N.J. | C-#136 - Hudson-Mohawk, N.Y. |
| C-#61 - Paterson, N.J. | C-#147 - St. Petersburg, Fla. |
| C-#67 - Bayonne, N.J. | C-#152 - Eastern Long Island, N.Y. |
| C-#90 - Kearny, N.J. | C-#153 - Treasure Coast, Fla. |



Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų!





To All the
Knights of Lithuania:

We Wish You the
Blessings of
Peace and Happiness at
Christmas Time and Always.

A Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

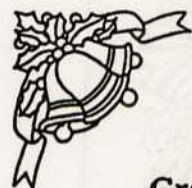
Council 3 - Philadelphia, PA

A Blessed, Healthy and
Prosperous Christmas
and New Year 1998



*Linksmų, Šventų ir
Laimingų Šventų Kalėdų ir
Naujųjų Metų*

**Council 147
St. Petersburg, Florida**



C#109

Members of
Great Neck, L.I., N.Y.

wish

TO ALL OUR
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FRIENDS

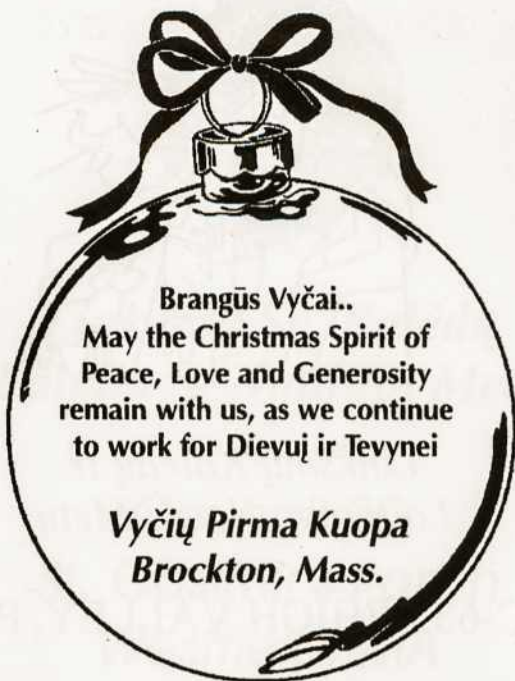
*Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy New Year!*

*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų!*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**COUNCIL 25
CLEVELAND**



**Linksmų
 Šv. Kalėdų ir
 Laimingų
 Naujų Metų
 Visiems
 Lietuvos Vyčiams**

May the Prince of Peace
 and His Blessed Mother
 bestow on all our fellow
 Knights both near and far
 Health, Happiness and a
 Prosperous New Year!

Evelyn Oželis



**Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų
 ir
 Laimingų Naujų Metų
 Council 153
 Treasure Coast
 Florida**

Linkime visiems linksmų
 kalėdų proga, saulėtų dienų,
 daug laimės ir laimingų
 naujų metų.



**Kuopa 142
 Washington, D.C.**



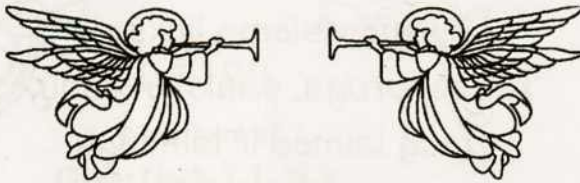
Wishing
everyone
a healthy,
happy
and peaceful
Christmas

Council 141
Bridgeport, CT



*Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų*

C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA



**OUR BEST WISHES TO ALL
FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR.**

**COUNCIL 52
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY**



*Blessed Christmas
and a Happy,
Healthy New Year*

**Council 79
Southfield, Michigan**

**Margaret Daphier
President**

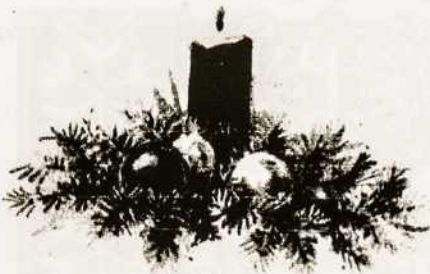


*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų*

**Council 30
St. Casimir's Parish
Westfield, MA**

**Linksmų Švenčių nuo
C-12 - 12 Kuopos**

*the BRIGHT JEWEL
of the BIG apple*



**IN FOND MEMORY OF
KONNIE SAVICKUS
A FAITHFUL KNIGHT
AND A DEAR FRIEND**

**LORETTA GRIGALIUNAS
C-5 CHICAGO
PRESIDENT**

**Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų,
Visiems Vyčiams Linki**

**Detroito
102 Kuopa**





**Council 86
DuBois, PA**

*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų*

*Linkėti laimes geros
sveikatos ir sekmes.*

**Blessed Christmas
&
Happy New Year**

Council 19, Pittsburgh



**Hudson Mohawk
Council 136
and the Junior Council**

*wish everyone
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



*Linksmų Kalėdų
Svenčių ir
Laimingų
Naujųjų Metų
Visiems
Vyčiams.*

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to All*

**Officers and Members
of Knights of Lithuania
C-143, Pittston, PA**

To the Supreme Council and all my fellow Knights, wishes for a
Joyous Christmas



and
 a
*Happy
 and Successful
 New Year!*



...and to **VYTIS** Editor, Maryte Abbott and her staff.....
 Congratulations on a job well done! May you continue to
 'work your magic' for many years to come.

Loretta J. Stukas, HON
 Council - 29 Newark, NJ

Sveikiname Lietuvos Vyčius ir Vytes
 Šią Nuostabią Šventų Kalėdų Proga,
 Linkime ir Prašome
 Dangaus Palaimos Jų Žygiuose ir Darbuose
 per Visus Ateinančius 1998 Metus.

.....

VYČIU 41 KUOPA
 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

.....

BILL KUMETA, PIRMININKAS + KUN. VYTAUTAS PALUBINSKAS, DVASIOS VADAS

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
John, Agnes and Barbara Mickunas**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
from C-135 Ansonia, CT**

**Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year
C-116 Worcester, MA**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
COUNCIL 27, NORWOOD, MA**

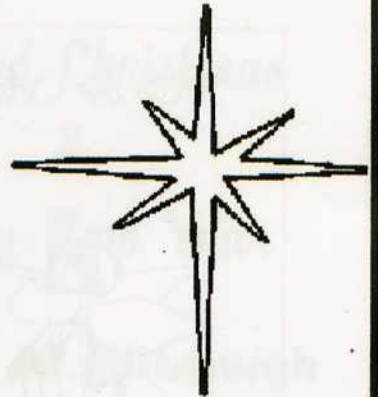
**Kalėdų linkėjimai
James A. Marcinkus, C-153**

**Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų
Alphonse and Florence V. Miskinis - C-153**

**Just a greeting from
Mr. and Mrs. Victor Miller, C-141**

**Kalėdų Linkėjimai Visiems!
GENE GOBIS - C-100**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS - A HEALTHY HAPPY NEW YEAR
Council 46 - Forest City, Pennsylvania**



Singing the Catechism

(from page 25) Mažvydas meant by using letters "e", "I", "y" and "u". In English and other languages, we also have some rules which help us pronounce common words. But Mažvydas was a pioneer - he did not find any rules from his predecessors. The rules had to wait until 1922, when the spelling rules according to the Jablonskis grammar were accepted nationwide.

When I was facing the frightening idea of singing to my choir so they could imitate me, I concluded that we should not worry that much, because in spite of Martynas Mažvydas' high education and his knowledge of the Prussian dialect, he still did not know how to write it down.

Although he knew very well how to pronounce it, there was no way we could know if those letters "e", "I", "y" and "u" were meant to be long or short sounds. That's when we stopped feeling inadequate. We chose the middle of the road. When we came to words like "smarkibe" or "biauribe", we pronounced them the way we pronounce them in today's Lithuanian - "smarkibė" and "biauribė", (long English "ee" sound like in "feet".) We also had to smile a few times about the words "nasrai" and "biauribe" used in a religious text. Nasrai is used presently only for mouths of animals, particularly for predators. In the hymn, we pray to God for "nasrai". The second word meant

"evil"; now it means "monster". Nowadays, we hear this word used when people lose their temper and swear or call names: "Tu, biaurybe!" or "Baisus biaurybė!"

After the performance, I met Marta Trumpjonienė, who said she was born in that region. She praised us and could not get over how "Prussian" we sounded to her ears!

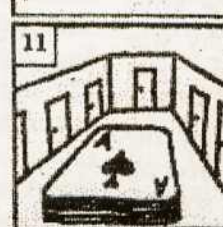
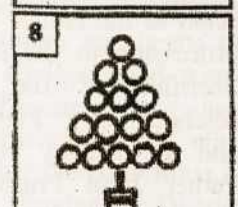
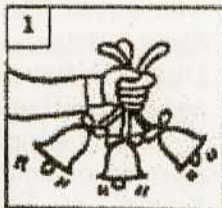
All the music in this catechism was written in square notes like those in Gregorian Chants, only they were written on a regular five line staff (instead of the usual four in Gregorian notation). The hymns had no meter, so it was flowing in free rhythm, which made this music even more peculiar, but also, much harder to keep the choir together. Our world is surrounded by such a strong feeling of beat and rhythm! Once you take them away, music seems to lose the sense of time and direction. The music also had no harmony, except for a lone two-part hymn. Every hymn was modal, so one could never hear a distinct, clear major or minor tonality.

The preparation for this festive occasion was unpredictable. At anytime somebody from the choir could have thrown a "time-bomb" with a question, "do we really have to do it?" and could have spoiled the enthusiasm. Thank God, it never happened! The choir enjoyed doing it and made this great commemoration so memorable!

Holiday Quiz...

Can You Name these Popular Christmas Songs?

Answers on page 48.



Council News

MID ATLANTIC DISTRICT

We are asking all Secretaries in the MAD to forward a listing (names and addresses) to their Council's 1998 Executive Board (even if it hasn't changed) to Bernice Aviza, National K. of L. Secretary. Also, please mail a copy of this listing to: Muriel Lekstutis, 54 Tarpon Road, Rocky Point, NY 11778-9577.

C-1 Brockton, MA *Susan Boroskas*

Council 1 of Brockton, MA did not take a hiatus this summer but was continuously active within the parish family as well as the community. Our most ambitious event was the celebration of Father Peter Shakelis' 50th anniversary of his ordination. K of L members spearheaded the occasion and it was attended by over 400 parishioners and friends. The K of L was well represented from the New England Councils. Knights of Columbus 4th Degree acted as the Honor Guard in the procession to the church. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated by Father Shakelis and assisted by current Pastor Father John Prusaitis and 26 priests concelebrated. The Most Reverend William Murphy was the presiding prelate and homilist.

Music was provided by the Senior Choir under the direction of Jurate Lobas with soloists



C-1 Chefs at NED Convention in Brockton included (l to r) Gaspardine Connie Grein, assisted by Anthony Grein and Mary Carleton

Marytė Bizinkauskas and Danutė Miluka.

After the Mass, parishioners and friends joined with Father Shakelis for a sumptuous buffet prepared by Connie (Boroskas) Grein and her son Anthony Grein, assisted by Mary (Boroskas) Carleton, with songs by the Junior Choir, Marytė and Danutė providing solos. Patricia Achorn acted as Mistress of Ceremonies.

The evening closed with a video collage of family and friends in the life of Father Peter. The Committee members were Fr., John Prusaitis, Council 1 President Chairperson Veronica Bizinkauskas.

C-1 represented Lithuania at the 'Annual Ethnic Sunday in the Park' at D.W. Field Park in

Brockton. Lithuanian art was displayed and snacks like kugelis, kopustai and kilbasai were served. The Committee was Sister Helen, Doris Fralick, Diane DuBois, Sylvia Shukis and George Bumila.

Marytė Bizinkauskas gave a presentation on the history of the Knights of Lithuania to the "World Youth Congress" held this summer on the Cape (Hyannis, MA), July 26, 1997. It was extremely well received.

Besides all these activities, Council 1 paid for 3 Apple Scholarships this summer. Members who attended the National Convention, at Dayton, learned all about the good this program does for education in Lithuania.

The New England District Convention was held on September 21st at Brockton. Special awards were given during Mass to Jim Orcutt and Sister Eustice for their donations over the years and Sister Helen for her work with Lithuanian Children's Relief. LCR has sent out 60 containers to Lithuania consisting of hospital beds, equipment, medicine, baby food and clothing. Birute Stoskas, recipient of Honorary Degree at the National Convention received a gift of 'straw art' and flowers and Maryte Bizinkauskas and Anthony Grein were elected as NED officers for Vice President and Scholarship Chair respectively. Connie Grien along with her son Anthony and sister Mary Carleton, again, prepared a fantastic dinner.

Our next activity, the annual Kučios, will be December 21st at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent.

C-3, Philadelphia, PA

Daina M. Kapochus

Council 3 members gathered for our October meeting on a warm Fall day at St. Casimir's Church in Philadelphia. On October 12, 1997, C-3 members conducted old and new business alike. Elections for this year took place during our meeting.

Newly elected officers are as follows: John Mickunas, President; Irene Ozalis, Vice President; Walter Svekla, Treas.; Alice Bacon, Fin. Secretary; Ausra Maknys, Rec. Secretary; Irene Svekla and Agnes Mickunas, Trustees; Julie Kowrak, Cultural; Nellie Pandza, Sunshine committee chairperson; Lillian Greymas, Marge Petronis



C-19's Lithuanian Language Class (l to r) Pat Macey, Agnes Bolkova, Kathleen Sechler, Bernice Foster, Ada Hill, Mike Valente and Rob Medonis

and Irene Ozalis, Ritual committee; Leonard Kapochus, Lith. Affairs; Daina Kapochus, "Vytyis" correspondent. Each C-3 member as well as the officers of our council is a vital asset to our small group.

C-19, Pittsburgh, PA

Rob Medonis

Council 19 has been very busy the past six months with cultural and social activities. Council 19 sponsored weeknight Lithuanian language classes from February - June 1997 at the Lithuanian Hall. Agnes Bolkova graciously donated her time and expertise to teach the classes which were held on Tuesday and Thursday nights. The class had six students and was successful as we covered all declensions and conjugations.

Council 19's annual picnic was held on Sunday July 19 at the Lithuanian Country Club. Thirty-four members attended and enjoyed the picnic. Eric Grabowsky, our newest and youngest member at age 22 attended along with his girlfriend, Piper, as well as guests, Ale and Ramunas Ivaska. Many thanks to John and Andrea

Baltrus for setting up and cooking the hamburgers, hot dogs and dešras (kielbasi) and Alice Lewellen for her organizational work.

Finally C-19 sponsored a tour of the John Heinz Regional History Center located in the Strip District of Pittsburgh on Saturday October 18. Thirteen members attended and all enjoyed themselves. Thanks again to John Baltrus and Alice Lewellen for all their work organizing the tour.

C-26, Worcester, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

"Lydėk musu žingsnius prie Altoriaus kai nešam auka Tavo šlovej, Viešpatie"

These words and prayers were in the minds and hearts of Viv and Al Rodgers, and Anne and Bill Leseman as they proceeded down the aisle with the Gifts during the Holy Mass at the New England District Convention in Brockton.

As the leaders of C-26, they were chosen by the committee, awarding them the honors that they rightfully deserve. Speaking favorably of the choice of course, because they are from C-26.

PRIEST FOSTERS LITHUANIAN CULTURE

When Fr. Daniel Staniškis came to the small parish of Holy Wisdom in Somerset, NJ in 1994, the parishioners had already presented two successful Slavic festivals and were planning a third. While most of the people of Holy Wisdom are Eastern Rite Catholics of Slavic background, it didn't take Fr. Dan long to conclude that some Baltic influence, especially Lithuanian influence, wouldn't hurt. Since there are no K. of L. councils in Morris County, where Fr. Dan's parish is located, and not a lot of organized Lithuanian activities, he felt that an outreach to Lithuanians living in the area would be a good idea. The outreach effort began with Fr. Dan going through the Morris County phone book, page by page, and mailing out individual invitations to all the Lithuanians he could find. Of course, the folks invited to the renamed "Eastern European Folk Festival" needed to find something more than the ethnic foods that we share in large measure with our Slavic neighbors, so in 1996 the New York folk dancing group *Tryptinis* was invited to perform, which they did with zeal and skill. In 1997 the Philadelphia area dance group *Žilvinas* accepted the invitation to perform, also pleasing the crowd with their adept performance and the background information they provided on the dances they presented.

Knights of Lithuania Council 12, based at Our Lady of Vilnius parish in New York City, has been a loyal supporter of the festival for the past few years, always coming out in numbers, some in their own vehicles and some driven to the festival in a rented van by Fr. Dan, who is himself a member of Council 12.

Although it's difficult to say exactly how many local Lithuanians are attracted to the festival, the event is well attended, drawing close to 1,400 people every year. Those who are not Lithuanian are exposed to Lithuanian culture, and those of Lithuanian background have the opportunity to meet other Lithuanians, share ethnic foods we all love, and loudly applaud the dance groups who so aptly exemplify the culture of which we are so proud.

Remembering also that all of the delegates present deserved the same honors. An anti-biased selection was made to represent the entirety of the delegation and its devotion. Thank you C-1, for your splendid hospitality.

The C-26 September meeting captivated and held our attention

throughout the entire evening. For those of us who could not attend the National Convention, President Vivian Rodgers, delegate, gave us a lengthy complete and excellent report. Nothing was left out. She expertly covered all the activities

and convention business throughout her account.

Fr. John and the assemblage initiated Rita King and Ruth Miller as First Degrees. Congrats to you two. To those who did not attend the September meeting - you missed a great pot luck supper.

Being correspondent, at times, is not a pleasant position to hold because of the subject matter one must write about, such as reporting of the health and welfare of council members. How does one express ones feelings concerning the hurts and pains of his friends? Sometime, I'm sorry, does not seem as enough. We say we pray for their recovery, hoping that our prayers reach the Almighty, and that our intercession brings results. Not being medical, this is just about all that we can do in their behalf.

With that in mind, the council and I extend to Nel Mitchell, Mary Duggan, Tony Dailida, Ann Buchinskas, and also to one of the C-116 members, Tony Miner, who is very active in the C-26 parish, all of our sincerest wishes that your illnesses cease, and you return to us 100%. Please, say an extra few prayers for Virginia and Dwight Cummings, they are now in the confines of a nursing home.

I fail sometimes to recognize all, because of the lack of communication, for which I apologize, but, out of sight, out of mind. Active or inactive status helps with mention and inclusion in these columns.

The same board of officers was reelected for another term. I will not repeat what I said about them in my last year's edition of

VYTIS, but just that they are such a busy bunch.

After the October business meeting, a pictorial and verbal description of life in Vietnam was presented by Carol Grigas. She visited the family and toured the birthplace of a young man, who has been living with Carol and Bill for quite some time. He is now in college. As a substitute mother, Carol is doing a wonderful job. as a former teacher, Bill is an excellent tutor, both offering the right direction for a stranger in a strange land. Tikrai vydiskai darbuojasi, gero vėjo.

C-27, Norwood, MA ***Žaibas***

The New England District meeting held in Brockton, MA was well attended by council 27 members. President Stanley Wasil and his lovely wife Theresa, Sandra Melish, Dorothy Ausevich, Paul and Louise Zukas, Leonore and Albie Jarvis, Ed and Adele Macys. They all participated in the meeting and the Holy Hour that followed. Paul Zukas was elected vice president for the district. Ed and Adele shared pictures of their bumper crop of tomatoes this season.

Congratulations are in order for Stan and Terry Wasil on their 40th Anniversary. Their 4 children hosted a gala surprise party for them. Many out of town family members and friends attended. Stan and Terry had just returned from a wonderful trip to Europe which included many days in Poland and Germany.

At the Maironis Park - N. E. District Cultural Festival member

Adele Macys was one of the lucky money prize winners in the scholarship raffle.

Our favorite author, pastor and Gediminas Medal recipient, Fr. William Wolkovich, shared all his many noted writings and books. We all are proud of his many talents and achievements. Ilgiausią metų!

Seen enjoying themselves in the day's festivities at Worcester were Fr. Bill, Stan and Terry Wasil, Kay Perednia, Sandra Melish, Dorothy Ausevich, Louise and Paul Zukas (they had a great visit to Lithuania this summer) Ed and Adele Mecys, Stanley and Frances Medueski, Lenore and Albie Jarvis and John and Betty Skricki.

John and Betty have good reason to be proud of their daughter who has gained local and national recognition as one of the leading oars women. Good Luck to her on her past achievements and current goals.

We would love to receive news from past and present council 27 members and encourage all to send a note to Stan Wasil or any member and will include news items in our next column. Ačiū labai.

C-30. Westfield, MA ***Kunigunda A. Coach***

Our election of officers for 1997 returned most of the incumbents into office with Joseph Buckities as president, Kunigunda Coach; vice president, James Rogers, treasurer and Sophie Kucharski as secretary. Sophie replaced Nellie Lord who stepped down due to fragile health. Thank you Nellie, for serving our council so

cheerfully - we wish you the best of health.

We had our annual Lithuanian dešra (kielbasa) manufacturing project again this year with it's usual resounding success. The date was changed, however, from Palm Sunday weekend to two weeks before Easter since a few of our members were singing in the choir on Palm Sunday. So the event proved to be much more comfortable with less stress.

Many of our members were on the sick list. Could it be that we are no longer youngsters and that the "Golden Years" are somewhat tarnished? Helen Alexik had very successful knee replacement surgery. She made husband Willie very happy by being able to dance with him at their 50th wedding anniversary this past spring. Congratulations to both on reaching this very special milestone. Cooky Coach and Jean Duda are seeing the world in a new light after their cataract surgeries. Will Renaud had heart surgery and looks and feels great. Wife, Louise, who was ill is feeling much better. Theresa Atkocaitis had a very long bout with a fractured shoulder and torn ligaments. No more walking the dog on icy streets. Jim and Marcia Rogers, Helen Alexik and Cooky Coach attended the NED K. of L. retreat in Kennebunkport. It was a spiritual and social success and very much enjoyed. Meeting old friends and being treated royally by the Guest House staff and the young people from Lithuania is always a treat.

Along with the good and happy we also experienced much sadness. Esther Griggs is still



(Top photo)

**C-74 Scranton joins C-143
Pittston at St Peter's Cathedral
for the Lithuanian Rosary.**

(Bottom photo)

**C-74 members with
newly elected K. of L. President,
John Mankus (standing in back
row next to Fr. Peter J.
Alisauskas)**



grieving the loss of her sister, Alice, although Alice's daughter presented Esther with a namesake grandniece, baby Esther, who is a joy. Isabelle Unaitis lost her sister, Anna, and council 30 lost member Helen Kazimeraitis. Long time member and friend, Anna Jonaitis Sabonis, was also called from this earth. Although house bound for many years her hands were never idle, always knitting or crocheting for husband Joseph, four sons, her many grandchildren and great granddaughter and also for K. of L. projects. Our condolences go to those who lost loved ones and our prayers for the deceased that they eternally enjoy the

Kingdom of Heaven.

To balance off the sadness there are also joys. Theresa Atkocaitis became a grandma again. Son, Bob, and wife, Terry, presented their son with a baby sister. Donna Renaud made Willie and Louise very happy with her first child and Jim and Marcia Rogers went up the ladder from one grandson to three grandchildren upon the birth of Ken and Barbara's twins, a boy and a girl. Marcia may have thought she was busy before but now with early A.M. trips to Ken's house to hold down the fort and the two babies until firefighter Ken gets home from work, while Mom Barbara is on her way to work, makes for a tight schedule for all. All seem to be thriving on the hustle and bustle. How wonderful it would be if all these adorable babies could be counted upon to be future Knights of Lithuania generation. Well, maybe? Esther Griggs, who with husband Charlie, spent the summer at

of their lakeside home in Winchendon Springs, MA. She will be starting her low impact exercise classes in our St. Casimir's church hall real soon. She is determined to keep us all fit and healthy and gives her all for a nominal fee. The fees from her three six-week sessions are all turned over for the benefit of our parish. Esther has 40 years experience as a certified physical fitness instructor and is on the President's council of Physical Fitness. Many non-parishoners take advantage of this program held in our beautifully renovated church parlors - it is Esther's "Labor of Love".

Council 30 enjoyed the Rogers' hospitality at their summer home in the Hills in Otis, hosting our annual picnic. Jim and Marcia and Joe and Louise Buchities and Sophie Kucharski were the planning committee and we certainly enjoyed the delicious food, perfect weather, good company and watching the antics of humanity and ducks on the lake.

Our sister church, St. Peter's Slovak Church, held its annual fund-raiser picnic on their parish grounds. They invited our parish council to participate by hosting

a booth for the benefit of our parish. Jim and Marcia (they wear many hats) with three other parish council members decided on a Kugelis booth. They made the kugelis in our kitchen and transported it to the nearby picnic grounds. It was a big hit and a sellout. This was a good, novel and lucrative activity and introduced many people to this delicious Lithuanian delicacy. Perhaps we will be invited again. Likit sveiki!

C - 74, Scranton, PA

Marie Laske

The 17th annual Diocesan Rosary Devotion hosted by the combined Knights of Lithuania Councils of Pittston and Scranton was held on Sunday Oct. 5th. at St. Peter's Cathedral. Celebrant and homilist was Msgr. Anthony Norkunas, pastor emeritus of Holy Trinity Church in Wilkes-Barre. Msgr. Michael Ozalas, pastor emeritus of St. Joseph's Lithuanian church officiated at the solemn benediction. Forming the coronation court for the crowning of Mary were: Elizabeth Georgia and Rachel Georgia and Amanda Benekine.

We thank Della Zvirblis and Martha Brock, John Ramoska and Richard Laske for selling tickets and all those who supported this cause.

Casimir Yanish, who worked so hard for the association of Retarded Mental Health when he was in Washington, had the honor of sitting next to Mother Theresa.

Our elected officers for 1998 are: Spiritual advisor - Msgr. Peter Madus; Pres. - Marie Laske; VP -- Helen Cravath; Tres. -

Margaret Clegg; Rec. Secty.-Helen Churi; Fin. Secty. Martha Brack; Cultural - Lee Bozenko; Publicity - Della Zvirblis; Ritual - Marie Laske; Lithuanian Affairs - Rose Stanches; Trustees - Pranas Shimkus, Leo Zewicke and John Ramoska; Sgt-at-Arms. - Richard Laske.

Get well wishes goes out to our Msgr. Peter Madus who is recuperating after a fall, and is now getting around on crutches.

Congratulations to the 5 candidates our council submitted, qualified to receive their 4th degree, they are: Martha Brack, Ann Patelunas, Pranas Shimkus, Leo Zewicki and Della Zvirblis. These hard working people have faithfully served the K. of L. for 20 years.

Get well wishes also goes out to Helen Churi, who is coming along. God bless!

Margaret Cligg, Richard and Marie Laske volunteered for the Little Sisters of the Poor Bazaar. The Little Sisters have homes all over the United States. Any K. of L. member who would like to volunteer contact the Little Sisters near you. You may volunteer in many different ways.

We are now planning our Christmas Kučios. It will be December 14th at 1 PM. Cost \$8.50. This is very traditional. Hold fast to our traditions either by act or work!

To all members who are absent from meetings, you are missed.

C-79, Southfield, MI

Bee Jay

Our annual Family Day picnic drew approximately 20

members to enjoy a beautiful summer day on the grounds of the home of president Margaret Dapkus and husband Bill. We chatted and ate our fill of the sumptuous lunch prepared by Margaret and others.

During the weekend of Sept. 26 - 28 we hosted the annual MCD meeting and pilgrimage. Approximately 40 out-of-towners came from PA, OH and IL. The highlight of the gathering was a bus trip into Detroit - to the Capuchin Fathers Monastery. It was established for the training of Brothers of the Order. Fr. Solanus (dec.), a well known member of the order, is being considered in Rome for beatification. There is proof of his having performed numerous miracles while still alive. After visiting the museum and viewing a movie of Fr. Solanus's life, we participated in a special prayer service, which left many of us not quite dry eyed. We toured downtown Detroit and had a meal at a colorful Mexican restaurant. Sunday morning Mass was offered at Divine Providence parish. A dinner followed after which good-byes were exchanged. We will meet again at a meeting and Bowling tournament in Pittsburgh, PA.

Our council wishes to thank "social" member Irene Vizgirda for her great help during this get-together.

C - 96 Dayton, OH

Fran Petkus

Our Annual Cemetery Visit was held recently beginning with the 10:30 AM Mass at Holy Cross Lithuanian Church. Prayers for our 12 out of town members were said in the church

*(Top photo) C-96 Dayton participants at their annual cemetery visit. Photo by Joseph Mantz.
(Bottom photo) New officers installed for C-96.
Photo by Norma Petkus.*



following Mass. Prayers, led by Ritual Chair, George Mikalauskas, and flowers were placed at the 40 graves of our members buried at Calvary Cemetery. From the cemetery, members headed to the church hall for our monthly meeting. The Mikalauskas', George/Frances/Elena, must be thanked for the snacks prepared for the day. Fran Petkus took charge of the flowers for the church and the cemetery.

Election of Officers was held at the October meeting in the church hall. Members brought finger food to munch on prior to the start of the meeting. C -96 Officers for 1998 are as follows: Spiritual Adv. - Fr. Michael Holloran; President - Robert Pant; 1st Vice President - Eric Geiger; 2nd Vice President - Christine Mantz; Recording Secretary - Laretta Pant; Trustees - George Mikalauskas/ Joseph E, Mantz. Committee Chairs: Religious George Mikalauskas/Betty Nash; Lithuanian Affairs - Elena Mikalauskas; Cultural - Robert Pant; Ritual - Fran Petkus/Eloise Bercelly; Vytis - Fran Petkus; Bulletin Editor - Linda Pant; Historian - Elena Mikalauskas; Social - Elaine Pacovsky; Sports - Michael F. Petkus; Condolence - Elaine Pacovsky; C-93 by-laws



- Joseph E./Eleanor Mantz; Telephone - Joyce Berczelly; Sarysis - Robert Pant; Librarian - Henry Pant/Betty Nash; Photographer - Connie Geiger. To our outgoing Officers, we thank them all for the work they did to have a busy council in 1997. To the new Officers, we wish them a very successful and memorable term!

At the October meeting, we voted to send the donations collected at the 84th National Convention Opening Mass to Mother Teresa's Community in Lithuania. Delivery will be worked out through our Aid to Lithuania, Inc. Committee. Total donations came to \$393.00. We rounded it out to \$400.00!

We are happy to see Joyce Berczelly is doing so well after her recent major surgery. We

were saddened on the loss of two members within 10 days. Our deepest sympathies go to Alice Petkus and her family on the loss of her husband, Michael J. Petkus, Sr. Mike had been a member of C-96 for many years. He was well known in the Dayton area for the successful real estate business he built. Our sympathies go to Richard Conrady/ Annalouise/ Ronald Tucker, Sally/Annadel Miller and family on their loss of wife/ mother/ sister, Dorothy Miller Conrady. Dorothy was a Fourth Degree Knight and held the position of Supreme Council Financial Secretary at one time. May their souls rest in peace of the Lord!!

Recently in town were our Florida members - Wally, Mary Lou and Barbara Lastoskie. In

from Arizona was Ann Boeke. Merry Christmas to one and all!

C-100, Amsterdam, NY ***SMILE & SPARKLE***

Greetings from Amsterdam council 100! Edward and Mirga Bablin represented our council at the Dayton convention. They had an extremely great time and told us of the excellent convention events, including Ed giving everyone around him a description of the aircraft at the US Air Force Museum during cultural night.

At our September meeting at St. Casimir's Rectory they gave a resume of the doings and meetings. Our president, Mirga Bablin, advised us on the entire affair. Our member, Edward Baranauskas, received a commendation for his interesting historical articles in VYTIS. Also, Bill and Beatrice's granddaughter, Jessica, received one of the national scholarship awards. Congratulations, Jessica!

It was great to see Sophie Olbie at the meeting. She had surgery a few months ago.

For our refreshments, we had the committee of Regina Hartvigas, Birutė Ralys, Victor and Geraline Rimkus and Gene Gobis. The table was filled with an assortment of delicacies, including a few Lithuanian dishes.

We missed our regulars, Bill and Jennie Burimaukas and Adeline Raila due to illness. Father Grabys recently underwent surgery. We were happy to have him back with us.



Down the Aisle at St. Anthony's... Newlyweds, Regina and Ray Švoda of C-102 Detroit at their beautiful Lithuanian wedding.

Lithuanian Day at the Auriesville Shrine was held in August with Adeline's son, Fr. Donald Raila, from Pennsylvania the celebrant along with our pastor, Rev. Grabys assisting. Both gave sermons. Our member Billie Ossenfort was the organist. (He has the same style of playing as our deceased member, Prof. Joseph Olsauskas. I believe that Billie was a student of the Professor.)

Our past president, Irene Tice, is busy collecting food on a monthly basis for the poor. Her mother, Nancy Yakes, recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

Happy, happy birthday! We wish you many more.

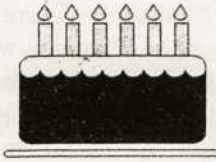
Eleanore Olechowski has been finding interesting articles on Lithuania which she shares with our members.

When the district convention was held in the spring in Schenectady, a large contingent came from our council. Attending were: Polly Ziaušys, Walter and Sophie Malkowich, Gerard Drenbzek, Regina Kot, Edward and Mirga Bablin and your correspondent, Gene Gobis.

C-102, Detroit, MI ***Dvynukės***

This has been a banner year for C-102 weddings. Four within two months, each very beautiful, different and individual.

President Lorry and Merri Hofner's son, Lance was first to tie the knot and we celebrated at a reception amid palm trees and a tropical setting. Vice-president, Richard Straksys and Denise were married in a lovely ceremony performed by her father, who is a Deacon at "Our Lady, Queen of Heaven" Church. Supreme Council Public Relations chair, Regina Juška became Mrs. R. Švoba amid colorful Lithuanian wedding customs which included a matchmaker, the removal of the wreath of rue as well as the mother's greeting with bread and salt. Donna Pluto's daughter, Kimberly, was wed at the magnificent St. John's Armenian Church in an elegant black tie event. Each wedding was unique and meaningful in its own way. We wish them all *ilgiausią metų*.

C-118, Hazleton, PA Tom Hollodich

Mrs. Helen Hopeck of council 118, Hazleton, PA celebrated her 100th birthday September 10, 1997. A former resident of Hazleton Mrs. Hopeck now resides with her daughter Heidi Post in Neshanic Station, New Jersey. May God continue to bless you Helen!

The Mid-Central District Convention, hosted by sister council 79 was a wonderful weekend. President Margaret Dapkus did an outstanding job coordinating the events, while working under the handicap of conflicting dates. Out of towners, Dist. President, Elena Mikalauskas and family, Fran Petkus, Elinor Sluzas, Rob Martin, MaryBeth Slakis, District Secy., Donna Bunikis, Frank Bunikis, HM Robert Boris chose to attend the Švoba wedding on Friday evening as did Theresa and Faustas Strolia... what a choice!!

Saturday morning the district meeting moved along swiftly and we congratulated HM Frances Petkus on being elected District President. C-102 Bill Zager is taking over as secretary, while Theresa Medonis and Regina (Juška) Švoba retain their positions.

Our District remembered deceased members at a Pilgrimage during the fall meeting weekend. This year it was a very inspiring visit to the Capuccian Monastery and the museum dedicated to Venerable Solanus Casey. We prayed at his coffin and attended an inspiring prayer service in the chapel.

We missed Maryann Guerriero who rarely misses a

District Convention. She is on the road to recovery, responding to therapy for a severe bout of arthritis, that has kept her house bound for weeks. She has been a mainstay of our council through the years and we wish her a speedy recovery. Get well wishes are also extended to Bill Dapkus and Ray Švoba. Also missed Irene Vizgira, whose duties as alternate organist at Divine Providence plus her other job keep her on the go. She has also been helping over at C-79 in the true K. of L. spirit.

Busy, busy Bob! Who can keep up with Mr. Robert Boris? He no sooner returned from a successful Aid to Lithuania trip to Lietuva, then was off on business to Maryland and then down to Marco Island for a well deserved vacation.

Globe trotting Lou Bogard just returned from a wonderful trip to Israel just in time to make a big move. Like some of our other retirees he has decided to abandon lawn mowing and snow shoveling for the joys of condo living. Sounds like a good move for a traveling man! ENJOY!

C-109, Great Neck, NY***Sadye Petraitis***

A quick flashback for our council presents a still photo of our group which is struggling to

put strength and dedication into the purpose of our existence.

July gave us a highlight. We had a great picnic in a lovely setting at Kings Point Park, - a picture-perfect day, and food fit for the most sophisticated gourmet.

In August, Jo and Joe Zukas took a 674 mile, 10 hour auto trip from Long Island to arrive as delegates at the Dayton Ohio National K. of L. Convention. They both spoke about the warm hospitality of the hosting Dayton, C-96 members, and meeting old and making new friends during their stay. We all are eagerly looking forward to the Waterbury, Conn. Convention next year. Our good thoughts and prayers are with them in finalizing plans.

Illness has taken its toll. Bea Jamison had eye surgery, Jack Malis spent a week in the hospital in Atlantic City (far from home), an Mary Kober continues with physical therapy.

The terrific efforts of Jack Malis, assisted by his sister, Julia Wackerman, choreographed a really great bus trip on August 14 to the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City. A full busload of happy passengers. (We kept them busy with a serving of hard boiled eggs, cookies and candy.)

Five delegates: Mary Kober, Al Wesley, Jo and Joe Zukas, and Sadye Petraitis, attended the Mid-Atlantic District meeting hosted by Maspeth C-110 on September 28. Dist. Ritual Chair Joe Zukas was moderator at the awarding of the 4th Degree Ritual Medals during the Mass. He was proudly assisted by our newly elected National K. of L. President John Mankus, who

arrived from Endicott, NY. The medals and certificates were blessed by our K. of L. Honorary member, who celebrated the Mass, His Excellency Bishop Paul Baltakis, OFM. In his later report Joe emphasized that in his 40 years as a member of the organization this, truly was a memorable day.

We have reserved a table at the Flea Market which was held on December 7 in the St. Aloysius Church hall, Great Neck.

Our ladies with artistic skills were busy making salable crafts with the goal of increasing our treasury for donation purposes. A Christmas party at a local restaurant will be held, which will be a special occasion at the most beautiful season of the year, - the birth of Baby Jesus.

As the early frost turns the leaves to beautiful colors, we hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving, setting a special time aside to thank the Lord for his many blessings.

C-110, Maspeth, NY ***Helen Yakaitis***

Council 110 was host for the MAD Convention held on September 28th. The special proceedings started with a Mass concelebrated by our Lithuanian Bishop Paulius Baltakis, OFM, our spiritual advisor Msgr. Frank Bulovas, Father Ted Rooney, pastor of Transfiguration Church where all the proceedings took place and Father Raila, honorary member of the K. of L. The procession into church was regal, with many of our women members in Lithuanian cultural costumes, was led by flag bearers and

On the Calendar...

1998 District Conventions:

March 15 - Amber District's St. Casimir's Day Celebration in Philadelphia

April 19 - MAD spring conv. following the 11:00 a.m. Lithuanian Mass, Annunciation Church, Brooklyn, NY - C-41.

April 26 - NED spring convention in Lawrence, MA. Contact: NED Pres.

Other Events

Dec. 14, 1997 - C-110 Maspeth Annual Kučios, following 11:15 Mass at Transfiguration. -

April 19, 1998 - Fr. A. Janiunas' 50th anniv. of priesthood. Celebration at St. Francis Church, Lawrence, MA.

May 31, 1998 - 90th anniv. of St. Francis Church, Lawrence, MA.

Send in your council's upcoming events along with council news for the calendar.

followed by the clergy. The Mass was in Lithuanian. The Mass was enhanced by the choir, which was augmented by the choir from Annunciation parish. It was conducted by the husband and wife team of musicians, Asta and our own maestro, Virgis Barkauskas.

Fourth degrees were awarded to Stella Stripukis, who is a member for 19 years and Sophie Wencek member for 11 years. Another 4th degree was awarded to Bill Budris. Unfortunately, Bill died in the spring, therefore the medal was presented posthumously. He was a very active and generous member. "Teilsisi ramybėje" After Mass, the Knights were served a delicious buffet meal. The meeting commenced following the socializing.

Amid the wealth of items contained in our goodie take-home bags were beautiful handmade crosses, perfect for the Christmas tree, constructed by hard-working Helen Matulaitis.

MAD President Edward Barkowski opened the meeting with a prayer. He introduced Dr. Petras Anusas, Consul General of Lithuania, who spoke of making people aware of Lithuania, its problems and needs.

National President, John Mankus, also spoke. He greeted the Knights and said he was delighted to meet us and encouraged to seek new members young and old.

Our Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Bulovas stressed trying to keep Lithuanian parishes open by attending Lithuanian masses. It was also reported that the next National Convention will be in Waterbury, Conn. The dates - August 6-9, 1998. More information to come.

After various donations were made and resolutions read and approved, and reports given by the councils' presidents, the meeting was closed with a prayer and the singing of the Vyčių himnas.



C-142, Washington, DC *Joseph C. Chaplick*

The following are the officers for council 142 1997-1998: President - Joseph G. Chaplick, Vice President - John Waylonis; Secretary - Clare Sponis; Treasurer: Jean Lutwin; Lithuanian Affairs Committee Chair - John E. Waylonis; Lithuanian Cultural Committee Chair: Florence Smith. Pictured above are: Claire Sponis, Joseph Chaplick, Jean Ludwin and John Waylonis. Art in the background is the work of member, Beverly Meder.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this meeting successful and enjoyable.

**C-133, Los Angeles, CA
*Marytė Sepikas***

On October 18 we had our meeting at the home of Danutė an John Scola. we enjoyed a lovely afternoon with fellow Knights.

We had a few fund raising benefits at St. Casimir's hall: October 12 - Draugas newspaper banquet; October 19 - Balfo - Lithuanian Aid Banquet; October 26 - St. Casimir's parish Autumn Ball; December 14 - Traditional Christmas Eve (Kučios).

Our Lithuanian fair was held October 4- 5 and was very successful. Let the spirit of Lithuanian Days continue! Proceeds will benefit the Lithuanian orphanages and Lithuanian Radio. We had fun and helped others. Thanks to

your continued generosity, ten more boxes of children's clothing and toys were sent to the Lithuanian orphanages - this time in Kaunas.

**C-144, Anthracite, PA
*Ona***

Officers for 1998 were elected at the October meeting of the Anthracite Council. They are: President - Marian Saukitas Wydra; Vice President - David Carroll, Secretary - Anne Wargo, Treasurer - Ann Radzavage and Finance Secretary - Elsie Kosmisky. Installation of officers was in November.

Thanks to Bernice Mikavavage, Anne Panchari and Annie Morgalis for the terrific job they did in coordinating the Christmas gifts for the Lithuanian orphanages. The council purchased gifts for all the orphans in the orphanages in Lithuania and for one in Alytuys.

The Three Musketeers shopped, got donations, packed and shipped all these packages to Sister Helen. They worked long hours and deserve a "širdingai ačiū".

Donations were sent to APPLE, to the Mother Maria Kaupas guild and to the St. Casimir Guild. Our prayers go to Anne Slikona who fell and broke her hip while visiting her daughter in Texas.

Some of our members are planning to go on the pilgrimage to Rome in March and are looking forward to an enjoyable and rewarding spiritual trip.

**C-147, St. Petersburg, FL
*Dolores Jonaitis***

We welcome our new member Genovaitė Osinskiene, who joined our council October 14, 1997. Congratulations.

Genovaitė and Bronius Bakas, have her niece from Lithuania visiting them.

Victoria Jacobson 88, of St. Pete Beach, passed away on September 30, 1997, at Carrollwood Care Center in Tampa. She was very active

Name the Christmas songs answers: 1. Jingle Bells; 2. Walking in a Winter Wonderland; 3. Santa Claus is Coming to Town; 4. Joy To The World; 5. Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer; 6. O Come All Ye Faithful; 7. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas; 8. O, Christmas Tree; 9. What Child Is This?; 10. We Three Kings; 11. Deck The Halls; 12. I Saw Three Ships.

person in St. Pete Beach an St. Petersburg and a dedicated member of our Council 147. She was a member of one of the founding groups of the St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society and was an organizer of Captive Nations Day in St. Pete Beach for many years. She presented the Lithuanian Flag to the State Capitol in 1980, and to Florida House in Washington D. C. May she rest in peace.

Our October 14th meeting was opened by our president, Anthony Gudonis. Opening and closing prayers were said by Rev. Matas Čyvas, our spiritual advisor. Irene Diktanas our acting secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting. There was very little activity in the treasurer's report. Agreement was made to send \$100.00 to the St. Casimir's College in Rome. Refreshments were served after the meeting. Donators were Irene Diktanas, Bronė Urbonienė, Victoria Kleivienė, Valerija Lesčinskienė, Elena Jurkynienė and Dolores Jonaitis.

C- 156, Shamokin, PA **Robert Wislock**

St. Michael's Council 156 held a Lithuanian Craft and Food Festival on October 18 and 19 at Our Lady of Hope Church hall. The purpose of the event was to heighten the awareness of the Lithuanian heritage among the residents of the Shamokin - Mt. Carmel area. Many delicious foods were served. Council members who prepared and served the various foods were: MaryAnn Chamosky, John Chamosky, Jessica Hubler, Mary Ann Pacocha, Rose Paczkoski, Isabel Riemetta, Bob Barsh, Kathy Wislock and Maryann Yakubick. The Ethnic Eatery, New Philadelphia also served red beet soup and dešrų. The highlight of the event were the beautiful displays and crafts that were exhibited by Joseph Dereskavich, Joseph Simmons, Helen Chesko and Anna Helen and Tom McDonald. These exhibits included linens, starburst ornaments, wood carvings, wayside crosses, and amber jewelry. Len Kapochus, Lith-

uanian Affairs chairman of the Amber District, displayed numerous Lithuanian photos/articles and encouraged support to Aid to Lithuania. A special thanks is extended to these individuals for helping and supporting this endeavor.

Our council likes to welcome two new members Genevieve Marino and Genevieve Verbitski. Our two new members are residents of Kulpmont.



Eddy Bundelis of C-3, Philadelphia asks that the K. of L. adopt the following suggested Christmas message: "There is no Christmas without Christ" or "Without Christ, there is no Christmas"



Mano žemės vardo skambesys
Tu, gerasis Viešpatie, esi;
Tu dangaus aukštybių melsvuma,
Tu, Kalėdų rytmečio šarma.

-B. Brazdžionis



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You won't want to miss what's coming in 1998! Due to improved computer equipment and better communications, VYTIS will take on a new image. Look for exciting new columns and stories including:

The Lithuanian Gardener
How to Trace Your Lithuanian Roots
Lithuanians on the Internet
Editor's e-mail - powerpair@juno.com
Lithuanian Entrepreneurs
and much, much more...

Better yet, join the Knights of Lithuania and become an active participant in the future of your Lithuanian heritage. See addresses on front inside cover.

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Gimimo Naktį

Ar mes gi būtume Tave atprašę,
Tu, baltutėli šarmo laše,
Čionai po mūsų kojom?
Mes tik kliedėjom ir viliojom,
Kliedėdami Tave mes priviliojom,
Ir štai, Tu šiandien nukritai
Po pat pavargusiom mus kojom.

O ten aukštai
Žvaigžde - gal sniegule? - mirgėjai
Ir netikėjai,
Kad mūs širdis,
Ta mūs karščiauojanti širdis
Tave tuoj sutirpdys
Kaip dykumų įkaitę vėjai.

O, mes...mes daug kliedėjom,
Mes daug kliedėjom ir girdėjom
Kaip gieda Tavo angelai,
O gal tai šakalai
Ten riejas tarp pusnyčių?
Lavonas, jų daug ten primasino.
O tie varpai?
Ak tie vidurnakčio varpai -
Tai pakasynų!

Ne, ne! Ne mes čion būsime Tave atprašę!
Mes tik kliedėjom ir viliojom,
O Tu iš ten, iš taip aukštai
Šią naktį nukritai
Po pat pavargusiom mūs kojom,
Tu, baltutėli šarmo laše.

- *Antanas Jasmantas*

