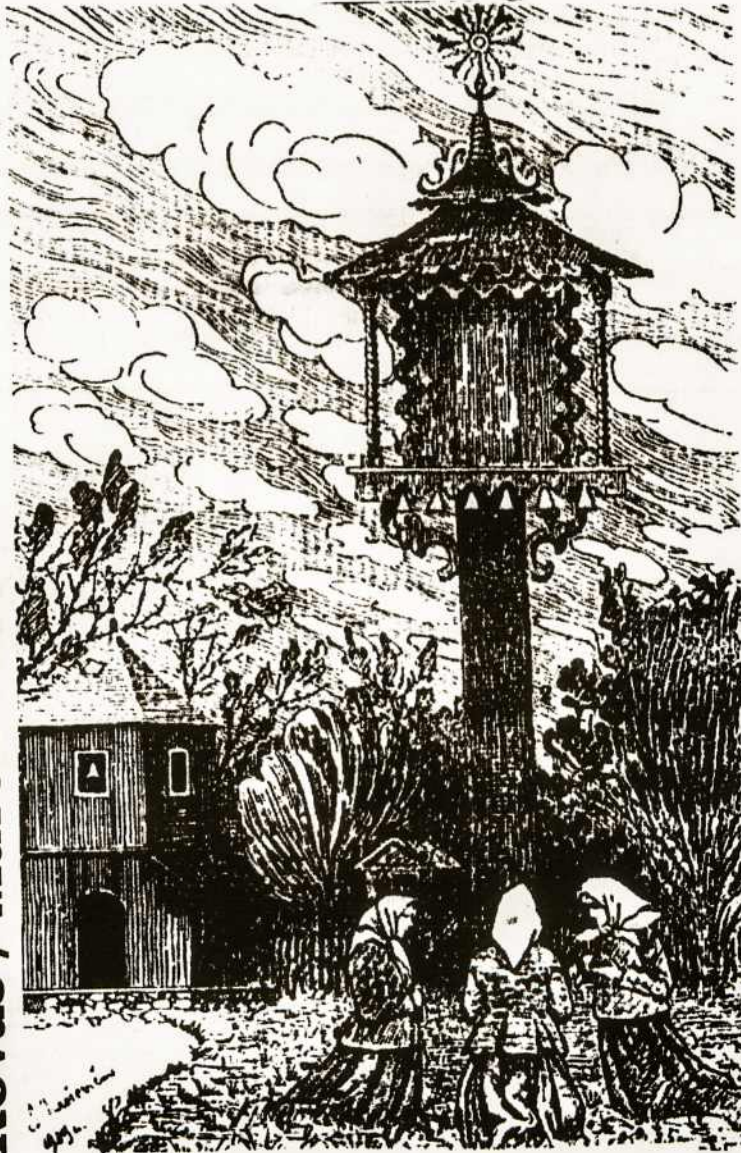


VYTIS



The Knight - volume 84 no. 3

Kovas / March 1998



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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.*

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Cover art and wayside crosses submitted by Bob Boris from the book, *Lietuvių Kryžiai, 1912, Vilnius*



Dedication to St. Casimir - Šv. Kazimieras

In 1636, Pope Urban VIII proclaimed Casimir a Saint and the Patron Saint of Lithuania and designated March 4th as the feast.

Although privileged, Casimir led a pious life of fasting and prayer. He fell victim to tuberculosis and died at age 26. "Malo mori quam foedari." Or, "It is better to die rather than be stained," was one of his sayings.

TO MY FELLOW KNIGHTS

March brings back thoughts of Spring and the end of a dreary, wet winter. It is St. Casimir's Day celebrations in many councils and a chance to think of warmer weather.

We were proud that our K. of L. President, John Mankus attended the Baltic Charter signing (see story on pg. 3) This month, also, is a focus on the role of the Catholic Church in Lithuania in a series by John Patrick, a writer and VYTIS reader. And this month, the first place winner in the K. of L. Foundation's Essay Contest, Bonnie Gulas, article on why St. Casimir is an appropriate Saint for the Knights of Lithuania. (Page 9).



Letters to the Editor

MILLENNIUM PROJECT

Brangi Marytė,

As a member of the 'Vyčiai' for about 50 years, I've read many a Vytis, and pleased that it is getting better and better. The quality you've presented, and effort you've put into the content and format, these past four years, is quite evident. My personal congratulations and thanks.

Since I'm an old dog learning new tricks in this new world of electronics and cyberspace, I have frequently wondered why the K of L, and/or Vytis have not adapted to the use of the new media opportunities. Exploring the search engines, I found that Los Angeles Council 133 has an interesting web site. Unfortunately, while it has some good links to matters Lithuanian, it has not been kept up to date, and the news there is stale.

I was very pleased to learn of the K of L web site at 'geocities,' which is geared to organizational information. Mark Bell has made a special effort to set up the site, and I extend my compliments to him.

While my preference is for the printed word, and the graphics that embellish it in the present Vytis format, I've heard over time about the inherent problems of deadlines (for submission to Vytis, for submission to the printer, etc.). Too often the result is out of date information or no information at all. I would not suggest that Vytis become digital or cyberoptic. Rather, would it make any sense (and perhaps save cents) to have a capsulated version of the Vytis on the Internet? The younger generations, our future, are more tech-minded, and would surely

find this 'connection' to the Vytis, and Vyčiai more interesting.

In the 'old days' we frequently traveled to K of L council cities, and developed long lasting friendships. In today's environment, 'visits' and communications could be only a few keystrokes away. My guess would be that in each K of L Council there is at least one, if not more persons who are on the internet. Each council could communicate council happenings information to the Web Master. Copies of the web page would be of interest at each council meeting, since it would be FRESH information. Your thoughts? Again, congratulations !

Vytiskai,
Vyto C. Gestautas, Chicago, IL
 e-mail: vytogest@worldnet.att.net

(Great minds think alike. Perhaps you might like to join a small planning committee for this proposed project. We have all the tools and are seeking contributing writers.)

Sr. Helen Gets Feedback from the Lithuanian Ministry of Health

To the Editor:

There's no better way of expressing thanks to the Knights than to share this letter received by Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. at Christmas time from Professor Juozas Galdikas of the Lithuanian Ministry of Health.

"On behalf of all of the children and health care providers in the Republic of Lithuania, I would like to express my sincere thanks for all of the

(☞ continued on pg. 13)

Report on my attendance at the White House for the Baltic Charter Signing Ceremonies

by John R. Mankus, K. of L. President

Friday, January 16th, 1998 was a historical day for the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Presidents Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania, Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia, Lennart Meri of Estonia and President William Clinton of U.S. signed a charter of friendship, better known as the "The Baltic Charter".

The signing ceremonies were in the East Room of the White House. It was an honor for me as the President, and representative of the Knights of Lithuania to be a participant in this historic event. The charter is a partnership agreement affirming U.S. support for membership by Baltic nations in NATO and other Western political and economic organizations.

President Clinton said, "This charter will set out a framework to achieve our common goals. It furthers America's commitment to help Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to deepen their integration and prepare for membership in the European Union and NATO."

And continued, "NATO's door is and will remain open to every partner nation, and America is determined to create the conditions under which Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia can one day walk through that door."

The U.S.-Baltic Charter of Partnership commits the U.S. administration to back Baltic efforts to join NATO and establishes a formal dialogue between them on military and economic cooperation. A new \$15 million Baltic-American Partnership Fund to provide technical assistance to the three nations was announced at the signing.

According to President Brazauskas, the Charter is a comprehensive statement regarding U.S. - Baltic relations. It emphasizes U. S. support for



Americans with Lithuanian Soul - (l to r) U. S. Senator, Richard Durbin (R-IL) with the K. of L. Pres. John Mankus and U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania, Keith Smith.

Baltic NATO aspirations and for the Baltic countries' integration into Western structures. He said the Charter establishes a partnership commission between the U.S. and the Baltics, which consists of working groups on security and economic issues.

Over 200 people attended and at the White House ceremony. I met and spoke with a number of dignitaries, including former Presidential candidate Senator Bob Dole and foreign affairs advisor in President Carter's administration, Zbigniew Brzezinski and Bishop Paulius A. Baltakis O.F.M. After the signing ceremonies at the White House, Bishop Baltakis and I walked to a reception at the Blair House. There I met and thanked Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright for their support to Lithuania. At the Blair House I also had the privilege to meet the three Baltic Presidents, Lithuanian Ambassador to U.S. Stasys Sakalauskas and a number of Lithuanian Foreign Ministry Officials. At the ceremonies, I met Petras Buchas, President of National Lithuanian Society of America, Algirdas Rimas, Joint Baltic American National Committee, Birute Jasaitis, President of



Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, Lith. American Community Pres. Regina Narušis and K. of L. President John Mankus at luncheon.

Lithuanian Human Services Council of the USA, Evangelic Bishop Hans Dumpys, Pranas Ciziunas, Michael Mikolaitis and other prominent Lithuanian Americans.

That evening I had a met with Prof. Dr. John A. Rackauskas, President of the Lithuanian American Council; through Dr. Rackauskas a White House invitation to the Baltic Charter signing ceremony was extended to me as President of the Knights of Lithuania.

On the following day at the luncheon to honor the Delegation of the Republic of Lithuania, I met Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas and Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska. It was an honor for me and my wife to be seated with President Algirdas Brazauskas, Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas, Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois, U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania Keith Smith, President of Lithuanian American Community Regina Narušis and other dignitaries. President Brazauskas was very pleased that our conversation was in Lithuanian.

We discussed the political and economic situation in Lithuania, recent elections in Lithuania, the activities of the Knights of Lithuania, our mutual engineering backgrounds: Ambassador Sakalauskas indicated his background was mechanical engineering, prior to his entry into Foreign Affairs. At subsequent ceremonies, Ambassador Sakalauskas and I discussed our Knights of Lithuania Convention and his possible attendance. He indicated he would

be very pleased to receive an invitation and would be happy to attend. I believe his presence would enhance our convention and would add to our memberships better understanding of the current situation in Lithuania.

President Brazauskas schedule included meetings with Undersecretary of State, Stuart Eizenstat on USA-Baltic Partnership Fund, with Charlene Barshafzky on Lithuanian Bilateral Investment Treaty, with Undersecretary of Defense Hamre, with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, with World Bank President Wolfenson, with Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI director Louis Freeh, with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, meeting with

President Clinton, press conference at the National Press Club and other diplomatic functions.

Conversations with Senator Richard Durbin and Ambassador Keith Smith were both interesting and enlightening. Senator Durbin and his brother William were in Lithuania for the February 16th Independence Day celebration last year. This was his fourth trip to Lithuania. He attended Independence Day activities at the Seimas and at the Cathedral in Vilnius. After their visits to Vilnius and Kaunas, they traveled to Jurbarkas, the city where their mother was born. They knew they had relatives there; when they left Jurbarkas, half of the population of the city were their relatives.

Ambassador Keith Smith has been in the U.S. Diplomatic Service since 1962. He became Ambassador to Lithuania last October. During our discussion, I mentioned his interview in "Veidas", a weekly Lithuanian magazine, published and printed in Lithuanian and with a broad smile he thanked me. He was very positive on the economic outlook, in democratic independent Lithuania. Ambassador Smith speaks Hungarian, Spanish, and Norwegian and is rapidly learning Lithuanian.

This was truly a historic event, a stepping stone to a brighter future for Lithuania and an unforgettably educational journey for me.



Did you know? The first mention of Lithuania in the chronicles was in the 11th century.

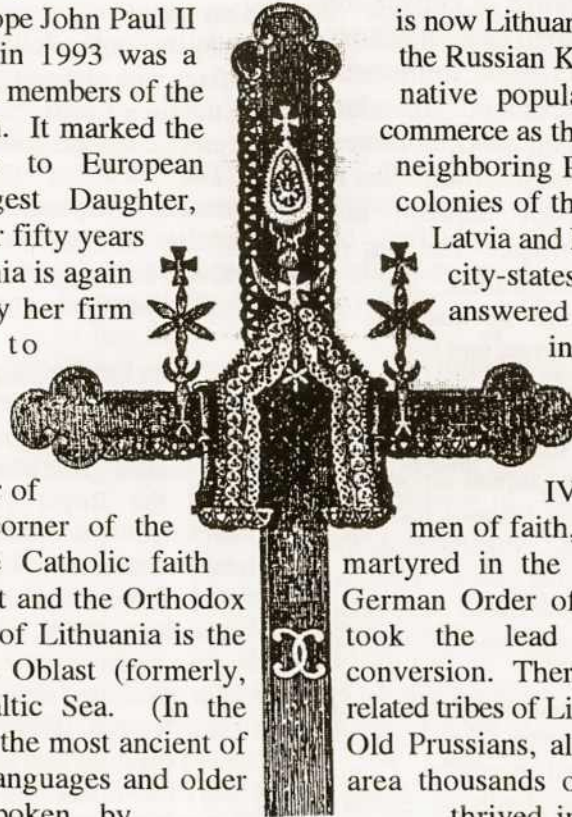
LITHUANIA AND CATHOLICISM

By John Patrick

The visit by Pope John Paul II to the Baltic States in 1993 was a significant event to the members of the Roman Catholic faith. It marked the first Pontifical trip to European Christianity's Youngest Daughter, Lithuania. After over fifty years of Soviet rule, Lithuania is again able to express freely her firm commitment to Catholicism and moral allegiance to the Pope. Lithuania, the geographic center of Europe, is at the corner of the continent where the Catholic faith borders the Protestant and the Orthodox faiths. To the west of Lithuania is the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast (formerly, Prussia) and the Baltic Sea. (In the Lithuanian language, the most ancient of the Indo-Germanic languages and older than the Greek spoken by Homer, "baltus" means "white.") To the north, Latvia and Estonia, like the Scandinavian nations, are primarily Lutheran. To the east and south are the Orthodox Russians and Belarussians. To Lithuania's southwest is Catholic Poland. Nearly ninety percent of the population of this Baltic nation is Roman Catholic.

The Conversion to Christianity

In the year of Our Lord 1200, a Holy Crusade was declared by Pope Innocent III to convert the pagan tribes inhabiting what



Wayside Cross from UTENA

is now Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and the Russian Kaliningrad Oblast. The native populations were disrupting commerce as they invaded the lands of neighboring Polish Masovia, and the colonies of the Danes in present-day Latvia and Estonia. Citizens of the city-states of Western Europe answered the Papal call to arms, including the English Prince Henry of Derby, later to become King Henry IV of England. Many men of faith, like St. Adalbert, were martyred in the cause. The monastic German Order of the Teutonic Knights took the lead in these efforts at conversion. There were many closely-related tribes of Lithuanians, Latvians, and Old Prussians, all having settled in that area thousands of years earlier. They thrived in the isolation afforded by the dense forests and impenetrable marshes which surrounded their homelands, worshiping their animistic gods and goddesses of nature. They traded furs and amber with Western merchants while maintaining an agrarian lifestyle. The ancient historian Tacitus of Rome described these Baltic peoples as peaceful unless attacked, when they would fiercely defend their homes. With the formidable two-pronged assault by the Knights of western Europe and their allies, the various tribes of the Latvians, Estonians, and Old Prussians, one by one, were conquered. The Prussians

subsequently exterminated. The Lithuanian tribes, under more able military and diplomatic leadership, not only successfully resisted, but expanded territorially south and east. King Mindaugas accepted the Roman Catholic rite of baptism in 1251 A.D., marking the first great wave of conversion of subjects of the Lithuanian head of state to Catholicism. However, the militaristic onslaught of the Germanic invaders continued unabated. In an act of defiance, King Mindaugas rode into the Baltic Sea to wash off the waters of baptism and reclaimed his pagan heritage. The war of Christian versus pagan continued.

In 1387, the hand in marriage of Poland's young Queen Jadwiga, and the crown of Poland, was offered to Jogaila, Grand Duke of Lithuania. He accepted, along with the condition that the Roman Catholic faith was to be actively and peacefully spread among the pagans who so tenaciously resisted receiving the sacrament of baptism. Jogaila took the crown of Poland and the name Ladislas Jagiello, and Lithuania was declared a Christian nation. Thus, the Jagellonian dynasty of Lithuania and Poland began.

King Jogaila's cousin, Grand Duke Vytautas the Great, became the head of Lithuania and the Papal-appointed Grand Protector of the Catholic Faith in Eastern Europe. He directed the conversion of the people in his lands, which, under his able administration, stretched in an empire from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Churches and monasteries were built; religious orders such as the Franciscans and the Dominicans were invited to teach the masses about the true Faith. Great inroads against the animistic pagan religion were made. However, the monastic Germans would not accept the conversion of the Lithuanians (which would eliminate their reason for existence), and ceased their militaristic activities. In a tremendous battle in 1410 A. D., the Teutonic Knights were defeated in the Battle of Tannenberg by the armies of Lithuania and Poland.

The conversion of Lithuania continued

over time, and the people who formerly so stubbornly clung to their pagan faith embraced Catholicism with equal zeal. Fields and gardens throughout the Lithuanian countryside were dotted with Wayside Crosses, ornately carved symbols of faith. It was a folk motif of the common citizenry. Each cross was unique: some had an image of a pensive, suffering Christ (in Lithuanian: rupintojelis); some were stylized crucifixes with elaborate rays of light emanating from the risen Christ. So many of these crosses were erected that the country was called by some as "The Land of Crosses." They were testimonials of expression of the peasant artisans of their love of Christ, which gave them strength to endure the drudgery of life and the constant struggle to survive.

St. Casimir, Patron Saint of Lithuania

King Jogaila's grandson, Casimir (1458 - 1484), showed great piety even at an early age. Born at the Royal Palace in Kracow, he accompanied his father, Grand Duke of Lithuania Casimir IV, on many official matters of State and demonstrated his excellent administrative skills. He led the Lithuanian army into battle at the age of 13. Casimir ably presided over the chancery of Lithuania and moved to Vilnius. However, the young Casimir eschewed the luxurious life of royalty, preferring to pray for hours on the steps of Vilnius Cathedral instead of enjoying the comfort of the palaces. Even when dressed in regal attire, he wore a sackcloth vest under his finery ever to be mindful of the suffering of Christ. His ascetic lifestyle led to the contraction of tuberculosis. He died at the age of twenty six.

Veneration of Casimir began to grow, as the memory of his universal charity and humble manner lived on. Soon, miracles attributed to Casimir were reported. One apparition took place in the year 1518 which was especially important to the Lithuanians. A Lithuanian military contingent, hopelessly outnumbered by the forces of an invading army from Moscow, saw a ghostly image of a charging knight on horseback in the sky. Each and every Lithuanian present knew it was a divinely-inspired symbol

of Casimir urging his countrymen to victory. Thus inspired, the Lithuanian army forced a severe reversal on the armies of Moscow in the battle of Polotsk.

Casimir was canonized a Saint in 1521, the only Lithuanian to date to be declared a Saint by the Church of Rome. His body rests today in an ornate silver coffin in a special chapel of Vilnius Cathedral. His feast day is celebrated on March 4.

The Virgin's Apparition at Šiluva

The Reformation began to sweep across Europe in the sixteenth century. What was to become Latvia and Estonia, where the German influence was still strong, became staunchly Lutheran, and remains so to this day. The nobility of Lithuania began to convert to Protestantism in great numbers, and they tried to force this apostasy upon their stubborn citizenry. However, a miracle occurred which reversed this trend.

In Šiluva, Lithuania, in the year 1608, several shepherd children came upon a unknown woman crying, holding a child in her arms, and sitting on a large rock. The frightened youths ran and returned with the local Protestant minister, who asked the woman why she cried. She responded "Formerly in this place my Son was adored and honored, but now all that the people do is seed and cultivate the land," and then she disappeared. She reappeared the next day before a large number of townsfolk.

Confused, the Protestant cleric consulted a blind man who was over one hundred years old. The elderly man recalled that a Catholic Church formerly occupied the spot the cleric described, but it had been burned to the ground by Protestants in 1536. In an investigation of the event by a local Catholic bishop, the old man was brought to where the woman was seen, and his sight was miraculously restored. He pointed to a spot under the rock where the townspeople were to dig. They found a box containing a painting of the Virgin Mary, the original documents deeding the land to the Church in 1457, and

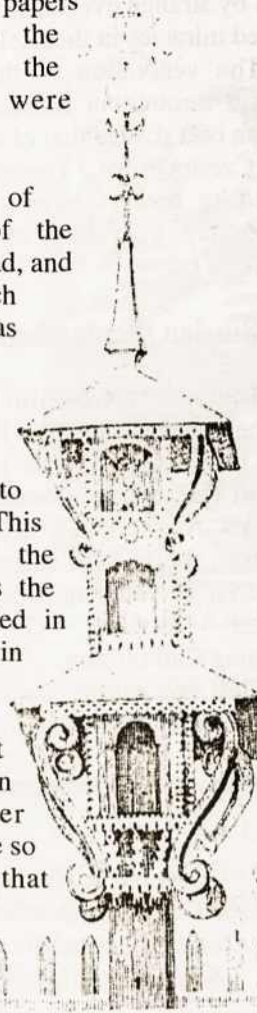
other pertinent papers placed there by the pastor when the Protestants were threatening the Church.

The news of the apparition of the Holy Mother spread, and a Catholic Church once again was erected on the site. Lithuania returned to the fold of the faithful, never to leave it. This appearance of the Blessed Virgin is the earliest documented in Europe (preceded in the world only by the apparition of Our Lady at Guadalupe in Mexico); her veneration became so widespread that Lithuania became known as "the Land of Mary."

The Gate of Dawn

Veneration of the Blessed Mother was firmly entrenched in the Lithuanian character when an icon was placed in a chapel over one of the entrances to the capital city of Vilnius, the Gate of Dawn (Aušros Vartai). The origin of this painted and silver-enrobed image of the Virgin is shrouded in mystery. A myriad of miracles have been attributed to it, finally recognized officially by the Vatican in the mid-1700's.

The painting survived a great fire in 1715, untouched. A number of times the marauding armies of Muscovites and Swedes tried to defame the image or remove it, but were



Wayside Cross from the Village of GIEDRAIČIAI - Vilnius Region

thwarted by strange events; some of these were considered miracles in themselves.

The veneration of this icon became widespread throughout Lithuania and Poland. Veneration of it rivaled that of the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Thousands of pilgrims and curiosity seekers have visited it, and it remains today a symbol of Catholicism in Lithuania.

Czarist Russian Domination

The lot of the faithful Lithuanians was not to be easy. Lithuania fell into Czarist Russia's hand in the three partitions of the Lithuanian-Polish Commonwealth. Although the Czars nominally tolerated Roman Catholicism, the faithful suffered at the hands of dictatorial government officials who tried to proselytize Russian Orthodoxy while undermining Catholicism.

One noteworthy incident occurred in Kraziai, Lithuania in 1891, which outraged all

of Europe. The Russian governor-general ordered a Benedictine monastery and parish church liquidated. The townsfolk peacefully resisted the officials sent to carry out the official's dictates. Frustrated, the governor-general sent in Cossack troops, who murdered and raped the peasants at will, pillaged the town, and burned the monastery and church. It was an act of savagery which did not sway the faithful, but only served to gel their resolve to stand firm in their religion.

To be continued - Next month Mr. Partick discusses Czarist Russia, Communist oppression, the Papal visit and more.

The author, John Patrick (Petruskevicius), is a writer and activist from Elizabeth, NJ. He gratefully acknowledges information provided by the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation, and by Mrs. Loretta Stukas and the late Dr. Jack Stukas.



In Memoriam

Edward J. Kazlauskas

C-36 Chicago - October 21, 1997

*Member (and officer) of the Chicago District
K of L Choir (1946-1951)*

Joseph Rinkunas

C-63, Lehigh Valley - December 18, 1997

Bernard Sodaitis

C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA - Nov. 20, 1997

Anthony Dailida

C-26, Worcester, MA - January 6, 1998

Rt. Rev V. Zakarauskas

C-112, Chicago, IL - December 8, 1997

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C-112, Chicago, IL - October 5, 1997

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C-143, Pittston, PA - January 1, 1998

Melanie Marchuska

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Mary Baltrus

C-110, Maspeth, NY - Nov. 5, 1997

Mary Barkus

C-110, Maspeth, NY - Dec. 16, 1997



K. of L. Foundation Essay 1st prize winner

What in the Life of Saint Casimir Makes Him an Appropriate Patron Saint for the Knights of Lithuania?

by Bonnie Electra Gulas / C-141 Junior

At a time when the functions of the K of L. are shifting from restoring peace to maintaining peace within our home country, it is imperative that we grasp onto the lessons we can uncover from Casimir's life.

A Prussian chronicler once stated that St. Casimir was "very wise and virtuous, and all the people could only speak much good about him." One of the saint's instructors described him as "an excellent youth of rare talents and remarkable knowledge." As members of the Knights, we should mirror these attributes of intelligence and virtue to help us set goals and meet them effectively.

Before his death on March 4, 1484, Saint Casimir displayed his holy callings in a number of ways. Although the son of Casimir IV and Elizabeth of Austria, our Patron Saint slept on the bare ground, wore a hairshirt under his royal robes, prayed at the door of a closed church, and meditated on the Passion of Christ, revealing his humbleness and acceptance that there are greater causes than our own. He donated money to widows, orphans, and the poor, teaching us that we should join together and help those who are less fortunate.

As a representative of his father in Poland, Casimir saved natural resources, repaid debts on mortgaged estates, reduced banditry in the provinces, removed unsuitable courtiers from the palace, and strengthened relations with the Holy See, sacrificing his health for the benefit of

the state and the people. Self sacrifice is important for the accomplishment of goals and plans.

One of the main beliefs Saint Casimir held dearly was in chastity. His self-discipline gave him the strength to withstand the urgings of his parents for a royal wedding, and he devoted his life to the Virgin Mary. We, Knights of Lithuania, must model St. Casimir's determination and not fold under pressure in our fight for the preservation of Lithuania's rights.

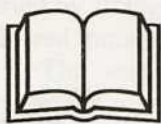
Undoubtedly, the most famous story encircling this saint is of his appearance to a small group of Lithuanians attempting to defend Polotsk from the occupation of a Moscow army in 1518. The legend claims that clothed in white on a white horse with his sword held high, St. Casimir led the Lithuanians over the flooded Daugava River to victory against the Russians. Casimir still guides the members of K of L over any barrier which may stand in the way of protecting justice and peace within Lithuania.

These characteristics form the foundation of our society and will not be overlooked as long as Saint Casimir is marked as an example from whom we may draw these critical lessons.



St. Casimir





Tauta ir jos religija V.Vardžio (redaktorius) knygos “Krikščionybė Lietuvoje” recenzija

Egdunas Račius

Tautos istorijos dalis yra ir religijos raida joje. Lietuvių tautos istorijoje religinė tapatybė užima itin svarbią vietą. V.Vardžio redaguotoje knygoje “Krikščionybė Lietuvoje” lietuvių tautos istorija pateikiama per religijos raidos Lietuvoje prizmę. Knygoje bandyta aprėpti visą tautos istorinį kelią nuo pagoniškosios valstybės susikūrimo iki paskutiniųjų pastarojo šimtmečio devintojo dešimtmečio metų.

Nepaisant to, kad knyga pasirodė tik praėjusiais, 1997, metais, joje visai neliečiami istoriniai įvykiai, turėję gyvybinės svarbos tautos ir jos valstybingumo likimui (čia turimas omenyje Lietuvos valstybės atsikūrimas 1991). Tad ką tik pasirodžiusios knygos siekis aprėpti visą krikščionybės sklaidą Lietuvoje (į tai nurodo jau pats knygos užvadinimas), ignoruojant paskutiniųjų metų pokyčius, palieka studiją neišbaigta. 1988-1996 metų aptarimas būtų tik reikšmingai papildęs šį įdomų veikalą. Pastarąja problematika kompetetingai užsiiminėja Lietuvos mokslininkai (Religijos Studijų ir Tyrimo Centras Vilniaus Universitete), kurie būtų galėję prisidėti prie šio projekto. Todėl lieka tik klausti: kodėl Lietuvos tyrinėtojų paieškos ir rezultatai taip menkai teįtraukti į aptariamąją studiją? Norisi tikėtis, kad veikalo užmąnytojai savo tikslu laikė norą parodyti, kad išeivijos lietuviai, lygiai kaip ir tautiečiai tėvynėje, apmąsto tautos religinį kelią, kad ir ne Lietuvoje esantys yra nuodugnai susipažinę su tautos istorinėmis sėkmėmis bei negandomis. Toliau belieka laukti vaisingo bendradarbiavimo tarp Lietuvos ir išeivijos istorikų.

Knyga išties turi būti įdomi betkam, kas nėra išsamiai susipažinęs su krikščionybės raida Lietuvoje. Pirmoje dalyje aptariama istorinė-archyvinė medžiaga: joje nagrinėjamos geopolitinės sąlygos krikščionybės atsiradimui bei plitimui Lietuvoje, jos įsitvirtinimas bei padėtis iki XIX amžiaus pabaigos. Straipsniai šioje dalyje nėra perkrauti archyvine medžiaga, o jų autoriai labiau gilinosi į iš archyvinės medžiagos kylančias interpretacijas. Vieniems tai pasisekė geriau (paminėtini Z. Ivinskio straipsniai), kitiems gal kiek prasčiau (P. Rabikausko mėginimas parodyti lietuvių savarankiškumą nuo lenkų Lietuvos krikšto metu skamba kiek keistai).

Antroji knygos dalis skirta religijai tarpukario Lietuvoje. Ši dalis itin informatyvi ir pretenduojanti į objektyvumą. Tiek V. Vardžio, tiek P. Garšvos straipsniai labai nepretenzinga ir paprasta kalba supažindina skaitytoją su anuometine religijos padėtimi bei Bažnyčios santykiu su valstybe.

Trečioji dalis yra daugiau egzistencinio-patirtinio pobūdžio: joje atskleidžiami tikintiesiems iškilę pavojai bei sunkumai tarybinės valdžios metais. Šios dalies straipsniuose gausu asmeninių įvykių aprašymų, kurie pateikia ne beasmenį istorijos kontraversijų suvokimą ir tikinčiojo žmogaus dramą. Itin džiugu, jog trečiojoje dalyje išvengiama “viktimizacijos sindromo”: autoriai nedūsauja dėl kenčiančios prispaustos ir bejėgės tautos, bet sutelkia savo dėmesį į tikinčiųjų kovą už religijos laisvę.

Atskiru žodžiu norisi paminėti ir tai, kad knygoje neapsiribota katalikybe, bet

įtraukti ir Lietuvos protestantai. M.G. Slavėnienės bei A.Hermano straipsniai itin praturtina veikalą.

Pabaigai lieka tik pasidžiaugt, kad išeivija savo tautine tapatybe rūpinasi ir akademinėje srityje- "Krikščionybė Lietuvoje" turėtų būti šiltai priimta ne tik tarp išeivijos lietuvių, bet ir pačioje Lietuvoje.

A nation and its religion

Review of V. Vardys' (editor) book

Christianity in Lithuania

A part of a nation's history is the development of religion in it. Religious identification occupies a significant place in the history of Lithuanian nation. In *Christianity in Lithuania*, the book edited by V.Vardys, the history of Lithuanian nation is presented through the prism of the development of religion in Lithuania. The book attempts to embrace the whole historical road of the nation from the foundation of the pagan state to the last years of the 80's of this century.

Despite the fact that the book appeared only last year (in 1997) the events that bore crucial importance to the fate of the nation and its sovereignty (such as the regaining of national independence in 1991) are not touched upon in it. Therefore, the goal of the just published book to cover the whole evolution of Christianity in Lithuania (to this the book's title points explicitly), while ignoring the transformations that occurred in the last past years makes the study not totally accomplished. The presentation of the years 1988 through 1996 would have only enriched this interesting volume. The field of religious history of the nation is being studied by the scholars in Lithuania as well (Center for Religious Studies at Vilnius University), who could have (and probably would have) joined the project. So one is left wondering: why are the research and results of Lithuanian scholars from Lithuania itself barely incorporated in the study under review? I tend to believe that the organizers of this work held as their purpose the wish to show that, as the nation-fellows in

Lithuania, so the Lithuanians abroad think over the religious road of the nation, that even being far from the motherland they are well acquainted with its historical fortunes and misfortunes. Further it remains only to wait for the fruitful cooperation between the Lithuanian historians abroad and those in Lithuania.

The volume is made of more than a dozen articles, contributed by a number of historians, mainly from the USA. The book consists of three parts. The first two are mainly historic for their reliance on the historical documents (some of the articles are very professional and objective, others just interesting) while the third is more of the existential nature- it has the stories of witnesses, many of whom are still alive, as well as the recent documentation on the state of the Church under the Soviet rule. It is worth mentioning that the book does not confine itself to the Catholicism only but deals with the Protestant minorities of Lithuania too. In general the book leaves good impression and must be interesting to anyone wishing to learn about Christianity in Lithuanian history. The book is written in a simple non-sophisticated language and has to be comprehensible to all.

In the end I would like to express the joy that the Lithuanians abroad confirm their identity in and through the academic sphere- *Christianity in Lithuania* should be warmly welcomed not only among the Lithuanians abroad but in Lithuania itself as well.

Published by Draugas, Chicago, 1997

The reviewer, Egdunas Račius is a Fulbright Scholar from Klaipėda, Lithuania, currently teaching and studying at NY Univ.



An Irish Prayer for St. Paddy's Day:

Take time..to work, it is the price of success.

...to think, it is the source of power.

...to play, it is the secret of perpetual youth.

...to read, it is the foundation of wisdom.

...to be friendly, it is the road to happiness.

...to love and be loved, it is the privilege of the gods.

...to share, life is too short to be selfish.

...to laugh, laughter is the music of the soul.

We Remember

ANTANAS SABANIAUSKAS (1903-1987)

By Charles Sable

When you mention the name of Antanas Sabaniauskas in the presence of the older Lithuanians, you notice the nostalgic gleam that comes to their eyes. Among the Lithuanians you still will find that there are a great number of fans of Antanas. Antanas with his rich voice was their hero. This lusty singer fully deserved the popularity which he achieved.

Antanas Sabaniauskas was born in Jurbarkas, Lithuania, on December 12th, 1903. He started his career while he was just a young boy, singing in school performances.

In 1923-1927 he was in Italy studying the art of singing. Antanas returned to Lithuania in 1927, and the same year was admitted to Lithuanian State Opera, in 1927-1930, he was singing in the opera's chorus and performing some solo parts.

In 1930-1940, Antanas appeared on the Lithuanian National Radio "RADIOFONAS" and soon was proclaimed as Lithuania's greatest singing artist.

In 1930-1937, he became Lithuania's most successful recording artist. He recorded in Berlin, Copenhagen and London for COLUMBIA, VICTOR, and HIS MASTER'S VOICE, doing over 30 records. These highly successful records added greatly to his popularity, and he became a tenor of world class.

The songs he performed included tangos, fox trots and waltzes by international composers. The Lithuanian lyrics were by V.Misiunas. The orchestra was Columbia, conducted by M. Hofisekleris.

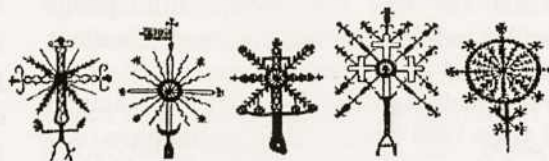
Unquestionably, Antanas was the NUMERO UNO among the other great Lithuanian recording artists, such as Danielius Dolskis, Stepas Grauzinis, Antanas Dvarionas, Jonas Byra, Petras Birzys (PUPU DEDE), the comical team, Jurgis Petrauskas and Viktoras Dineika (LINKSMIEJI BROLIAI), and other artists.

Antanas was the best; he was the king of the popular Lithuanian dance music, known as the slageriai.

1950-1972, Antanas worked with the LTSR Filharmonica. In 1972, he returned to the little stage, singing at the night clubs Dainava and Saltinelis. In 1985, he retired from the little stage.

Antanas Sabaniauskas died on February 9th, 1987 in Vilnius, Lithuania. He was buried in the Rokantiskiu cemetery in Vilnius.

Mr. Sable is the curator of recordings at the Zilevicius-Kreivenas Archives of Lithuanian Musicology, Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, Inc., Chicago.



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(☞ **Letters** continued from pg. 2)

humanitarian aid and assistance provided by Lithuanian Children's Relief during this past year.

Since January of this year we have received 133 metric tons of aid at our warehouses, whose declared value is over 1,500,000 litas. This aid was distributed to children's health care and social welfare institutions in Lithuania and reached every area of our country. We are also aware that you have sent aid shipments directly to several institutions.

I am truly happy to say that the vast majority of the items sent by you were of good quality and really made a positive impact in improving both the quality of care provided to our children, and their quality of life.

During this year, Lithuania has made much progress in reforming its health care system. We have implemented a national health insurance program, which promises to rationalize and improve

the financing of our health care facilities. As a result of this reform, we sincerely hope that we will be able to better meet the needs of our hospitals and outpatient clinics and the patients they serve.

However, the process of reform cannot be completed in a few months. Rather, we understand that it is an ongoing process and that the period of reform will not be an easy time for our doctors or our patients. The assistance that we receive from you not only makes this period easier, but makes a large part of this reform process possible.

We want you to know that you do make a difference, and that your assistance is both needed and highly valued, since you provide aid to Lithuania's future - our children. Without your help during the years since the reaffirmation of Lithuania's independence, we would not have been able to make as much progress as we have."

Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, CJC
Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc.
So. Boston, MA



The changes in Lithuania - politically and spiritually - have begun to transform people's appreciation of the holidays and Holy Days.
New Year's Day - Naujieji Metai, Shrove Tuesday - Užgavėnės, Easter - Velykos, Feast of St. John - Joninės, All Souls Day - Vėlinės, Christmas Eve - Kūčios
Our tradition has been passed down for centuries, but are these rites and observations celebrated differently today? What's YOUR opinion?

Drop me a line (or a manuscript) on how you see our Lithuanian traditions in the coming century.

- **Marytė Abbott, Editor**

Lithuanians in the News

Local Lithuanians Get Firsthand Update

Algirdas Saudargas, Lithuania's foreign minister, addressed a 90 member groups of the Knights of Lithuania in Worcester at St. Casimir's Church. Lithuania's Ambassador to the United States, Stasys Sakalauskas, was also on hand at the gathering.

"Lithuania always belonged to Europe." Saudargas said in an address that stressed Lithuania's desire for membership in NATO and the European Union. The two dignitaries said Lithuania was grateful for the support shown by Americans during the half-century of communist oppression and years of recovery afterward.

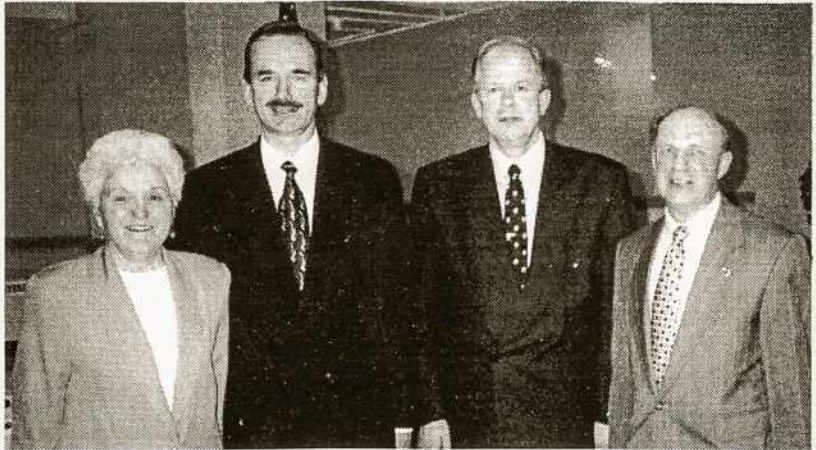
"But the fight is not finished," Saudargas added, "because the fight is not only for freedom. The fight for ideals, principles and moral values is always present."

"We are here to tell you that last year the economy was quite good," he said, "Lithuania is recovering."

"The country is also increasing its defense budget, and building up its army, peacekeeping forces are in place or being negotiated. Our soldiers are presently in Bosnia," Saudargas said.

NATO was created to defend the moral values of Western culture and civilization. The joint military pact, formed in 1949, has 16 member nations and three others have been invited to join: Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

"We hope and we believe this is the U.S. position also, although not formally announced - that NATO will further expand after this current round of



Vivian Rogers, President of C-26, Worcester, MA (l) along with NED Pres. William Piacentini (far right) greet Stasys Sakalauskas, Lithuania's Ambassador to the US and Algirdas Saudargas, Lithuania's Foreign Minister at St. Casimir's in Worcester, MA in January.

expansion," Saudargas said.

"Lithuania has the right to join with like-minded nations in Europe to continue this fight for common ideals, common values. That is why we are asking for membership in the European Union and why we are asking for membership in NATO. And we just aren't going to ask for help. We would like to participate on an equal basis."

"Twentieth-century history is complicated and sad...It would be naive to think that all the conflicts are over. We are optimistic that the future will be better, but only if we keep up the fight for ideals, democracy, respect for a free trade market and respect for private property, human rights and the fight for injustice."

The personable Saudargas spoke slowly in English. He said he was extremely pleased to be in Worcester which he described as multicultural and multiethnic.

Asked how audience members could help, Saudargas replied "Tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth...that's what we ask you. We ask you to understand, to discuss deeply our case and to present and explain it to others."

Sakalauskas also spoke briefly. "Though we are on different sides of the ocean, we have the same dear issues; our dedication to our heritage and to our Church," the ambassador said.

The two diplomats answered questions about press reports on Lithuania's reluctance to prosecute war criminals. Legal hurdles have recently been overcome, they answered, and the country is indeed serious about investigating and prosecuting such cases.

The program ended with the Lithuanian national anthem, moderated by Bill Piacentini, New England District president of the Knights of Lithuania, and brought greetings from Mayor Raymond Mariano.

*Submitted by Bill Piacentini, NED Pres. 1/12/98
Worcester Telegram & Gazette*

Jonas Urbonas in Washington, Attends Charter Signing

Jonas Urbonas, active in the Lithuanian American Community of Detroit and a retired engineer for General Motors, was in Washington on January 16 for the signing of the Baltics' "Charter of Partnership".

"The United States is the leader of the free world," Urbonas added, "the Charter for Partnership is very important because it tells the world that the United States is behind the three Baltic countries." Although some felt the Charter could have been much stronger, it gives opportunity for the Baltics to grow."

The charter envisions eventual membership of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia into NATO. According to President Clinton, who was at the signing, America is committed to help Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to prepare for NATO membership.

"America's hands and hearts and hopes are joined as one with yours," Clinton added, "Working together we can build a new Europe of democracy, prosperity and peace, whose security is the province of every nation."

Representatives of the Baltics and other

Eastern European nations also met at Wayne State University to discuss NATO membership. The forum was designed to encourage public engagement in the foreign policy process.

*Submitted by Leonadas Galinskas, C-79, 1/22/98
Macomb Daily, MI*

Cavs Lithuanian Rookie Tops Pistons

The Detroit Pistons called it bad luck, but the Cleveland Cavaliers called it "Big Z".

Big Z is the nickname for Zydrunas Ilgauskas, who scored a career high 32 points and 13 rebounds, and the Cavs still needed a few breaks to beat the Pistons 90-88 on Saturday, January 31.

"I haven't seen the statistics, but I know Zydrunas did something real good out there a lot of times," Cleveland coach, Mike Fratello said.

Cleveland's third sellout crowd roared every time Kemp dunked and sang, "Zeeee!" with every fadeaway jumper swished by Ilgauskas, the 7 foot 3 inch jumper from Lithuania. Ilgauskas made his first seven shots for the second straight night, going 12-for-14 from the field and 8-for-9 from the foul line.

"It was just one of those days when everything goes in," Ilgauskas said.

*Submitted by Leonadas Galinskas, Roseville, MI
from Macomb Daily 2/2/98*



Lithuanian Website of the Month:
<http://neris.mii.lt/heritage/lfcc/book.html>

Read an on-line book, "Lithuanian Roots" (1996, by Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre) or browse in the other sections. Especially enjoyed the descriptions of the four regions of Lithuania, Dzukija, Suvalkija, Aukstaitija and Zemaitija and Lithuania Minor. And there are song lyrics included representing each region.

Did you know that although Dzukija is the poorest region, they boast having the most songs in Lithuania?

Although the verbage is quite interesting, the site needs graphics. It also took quite a long time to download. -site edited by Rytis Ambrazevicius.

"For God and Country"

Knights of Lithuania

Host: Council 7

*Convention Site:
Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Waterbury, Connecticut
August 6-9, 1998*

85th National Convention

REGISTRATION AND RATE INFORMATION

Convention Registration Rate:

Early Registration Rate:	(Deadline June 1, 1998)	\$120.00
Late Registration Rate:	(After June 1, 1998)	\$130.00
Junior Registration Rate:		\$60.00
Pre-Convention Tour/Dinner:		\$45.00

Convention Registration Includes:

Bus services to Opening and Closing Masses; Supper and Get Together at the Lithuanian Club, Thursday, Cultural Night, Friday; (Coffee/Donuts on Fri. and Sat. after Mass), Friday Luncheon; Convention Banquet Saturday and Sunday Brunch.

Hotel:

(K of L Rates Honored until July 1, 1998)
 Sheraton Four Points Hotel
 3580 East Main St., Waterbury, CT 06705
 1-800-541-0469
 Standard Double \$ 72.00 Per Night
 King Double \$ 72.00 Per Night
 Queen Suites \$145.00 Per Night

*CT State Tax Added To Prices

Please call Sheraton for your Hotel rates.

Pre-Convention Trip/Activity:

Foxwoods Casino Ledyard CT. Lunch.
 Stop by Immaculate Conception Convent. Putnam, CT
 Marijos Nekalto Prasidejimo Vienuolynas

Mail your pre-convention tour and convention registration to K of L Council 7 - P.O. Box 3435
 Waterbury, CT 06705. Make checks payable to K of L Council 7.

"For God and Country"

Knights of Lithuania

Host: Council 7



Convention Site:
Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Waterbury, Connecticut
August 6-9, 1998

85th National Convention

Dear Member,

The Knights of Lithuania 85th National Convention will be held August 6 - 9 1998, in Waterbury, CT.

Greet your fellow Knights with an ad in the Convention Program Book.

Ad sizes and costs are as follows:

- \$100.00 Full Page - 4" x 7"
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- \$ 10.00 Patron Greeting

You may use the space provided or, you may submit your ad on a separate piece of paper. Camera ready copy is welcome.

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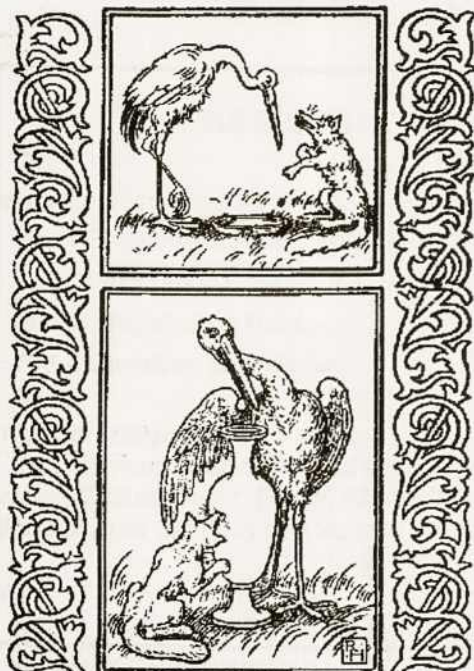
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Knights of Lithuania, Council 7



Aisopo Pasakos

Yours truly recently made a terrific find of a book published in Brooklyn, NY in 1914 (a year younger than my dear mother). It is a book of Aesop (a Greek fabulist 620-560 BC) fables. It is a beautifully illustrated book, compiled by Karolis Vairas, of dozens of fables, all in Lithuanian. We thought you would enjoy a translation. -D.Bulvičius



The Fox and the Heron

Once the fox and the heron were good friends, so the fox invited him to dinner. For fun she served him some soup in a very shallow dish. It was easy for the fox to lap up the fare. But the heron with his long beak managed hardly a drop and had to go home hungry.

"I am so sorry," the sly fox tried to excuse itself.

"Perhaps you did not like the soup."

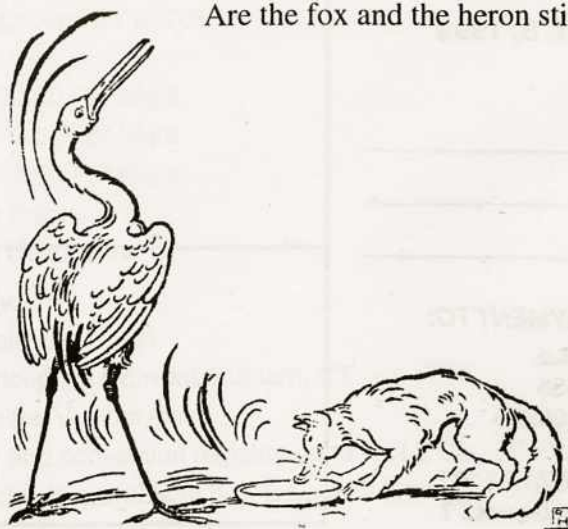
"Don't worry about it," said the heron.

"And to show you there are no hard feelings, please come to my house for supper."

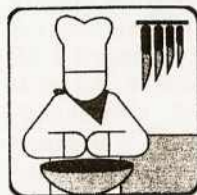
On the appointed day the fox went to the heron's home. Once they were seated it appeared that all the food was served in a long-necked bottle. It was impossible for the fox to put her snout into it. All she could do is to lick it on the outside.

"I make no excuses for what I did," said the heron. "For it is said - What you sow that will you reap!"

Are the fox and the heron still friends?



LITHUANIAN CHEFS



Thanks to
Bernice
(Juršėmaitė)
Feliss of
Denver, CO
who sent this

recipe in reply Mrs. Lester
Dampier's search for baked
barley.

Mieziu Kugelis BARLEY KUGEL

1 cup pearl barley
4 cups boiling water
2. tsp. salt
8 oz. mushrooms, chopped
2 onions, diced
2 tbsp. butter
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 eggs, beaten

Wash the barley, add water
and boil. Add salt. Cover and cook
over low heat until soft. Drain.
Saute mushrooms and onions in
butter until soft. Add cooked
barley, pepper and eggs. Turn into
greased baking dish and bake at
350 degrees for 30-35 minutes until
brown.

Raw Sauerkraut with Caraway

As a tasty variation, buy
some sauerkraut in plastic bags
or bottled. Both are much better
than canned. Drain it and add a
bit of whole caraway seeds.
Refrigerate overnight and serve
cold as a side dish.

For a festive Easter Table Velykų Stalui

Easter will be on April 12, 1998.
Here are two traditional
Lithuanian Easter dishes.

Velykų saldus patiekalas Traditional Lithuanian Easter Dessert

1 lb. dry cottage cheese
1/2 c. butter
1 c. sugar
2 egg yolks
1/2 cup thick cream
1/2 tsp. salt
2/3 c. bleached almonds,
chopped fine
1 tsp. vanilla
1 c. currants

Press the cheese through
a sieve. Cream and butter and
sugar together until light. Beat
in the egg yolks, one at a time.
Add the remaining ingredients
and mix thoroughly. Take a
plastic flower pot with a hole at
the bottom. Line the pot with a
dampened cheesecloth of double
thickness and pour mixture into
it. Cover with a damp cloth.
Place a small plate on top of the
cheese and weight it down with
a suitable weight. The hole on
the bottom of the pot allows the
excess moisture to drain off. Let
it stand in a cold place for 24
hours.

Unmound onto a plate.
Decorate with fresh berries, or a

sliced orange.
Serve in slices at the table.

Įdarytas žąsies kaklas Stuffed gooseneck

Uncooked goose meat scraps
bread stuffing, packaged or
made from scratch
goose neck skin, removed whole
1 onion sliced
1 c. boiled hot water
1/2 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper

Grind scraps of poultry
meat fine and mix with stuffing.
Salt and pepper to taste.

Tie one end of the neck
skin tightly with clean string
and stuff with mixture. Tie other
end. Place in baking pan, add
onion and water, bake at 350
degrees until brown and crisp,
basting occasionally.

Variation: Stuff with
grated unbaked potato pudding.
Add a few slices of fried bacon,
crumbled, to the grated potato
mixture.

*Looking for a recipe or have
interesting family recipes you'd
like to share? Send them in to
the editors. We'd love to hear
from more of you.*

AID TO LITHUANIA

Donations for the period July 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997

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Anonymous, IL - \$1,000.00

K of L Council # 110, Maspeth, NY - \$1,000.00

Mr & Mrs Anthony Alexander, Torrington, CT - \$1,000.00

K of L Supreme Council, \$1,000.00

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Mrs. Joseph Sims, Blairstown, NJ • K of L Council # 63, Lehigh Valley, PA • US Naval Hospital Camp Lester - Rev. A. Concha, Okinawa, Japan • Saulius Anuzis, Lansing, MI

\$250.00 to \$499.00

Casey J. Ambrose, Walled Lake MI • Technology Resources Int., A. Lapsys, Bloomfield Hills MI • Val S. Bauza Funeral Home - Y. Zaporackas, Detroit MI • K of L Amber District • K of L Mid-America District, Chicago IL • Jihad J. Antakli, Waterford MI • Robert S. Boris, Waterford MI • Adele S. Bagdon, Livonia MI

\$100.00 to \$249.00

Mr Rom Leparskas IMO Vincent Boris, Warren MI • Ms. Frances Petkus IMO Vincent Boris, Dayton OH • Mr & Mrs Anthony Alexander IMO Vincent Boris, Torrington CT • Elizabeth Ann Hazler IMO Vincent Boris, Bethlehem PA • Mr & Mrs Stephen Bednar IMO Vincent Boris, Bethlehem PA • Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Flint MI • Mr & Mrs Vincent Mackelis IMO Vincent Boris, Linden NJ • Anne Marie Eastman, Orchard Lake MI • Richard Krisciunas, Dearborn Heights MI • W. J. Zager, Ann Arbor MI • Picnic c/o Ona Sadeika, Farmington Hills MI • Jonas Sniokaitis, Commerce MI • Robert J. Adams, Berkley MI • Mr & Mrs James Green IMO Saloma Greene, Dublin OH • Anonymous IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Durco Int'l c/o M. Heidkamp, IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Al Rugienius, Oak Brook IL • Charles & Margaret Petronis IMO John & Anna, Philadelphia, PA • Dawn Maknys, Philadelphia, PA • Len & Daina Kapochus IMO Marilyn Kapochus, Milmay NJ • Juliann Majeski IMO Frank Kapochus, Aston PA • Anna M Kapochus IMO Frank Kapochus, Brookhaven PA • K of L Council # 118 Hazleton PA • Ray & Nellie Pandza IMO Deceased Family Members, Holmes PA • K of L Council # 3 Philadelphia PA • Joseph L. Machonis IMO Constance, Essington PA • K of L Council # 112, Marquette Park IL • Mary B Abbott IMO Vincent Boris, Long Island City NY • Mr & Mrs Joseph Zukas, Port Washington NY • K of L Council # 143 Pittston, PA • Rita Karrytais, Worcester MA • K of L Council # 96, Dayton OH • Jean Mihalick IMO Dorothy & John & Family, Larksville, PA • K of L Council # 86, DuBois PA • K of L New England District • Anonymous, PA • Bernice Aviza IMO Vincent Boris, Albany NY • Al & Aldona Brazis IMO Vincent Boris, Palos Heights IL • Gene Gobis, Amsterdam NY • Edward & Frances Jakatt, Moriches NY • Helen & Mary Labadis IMO Anna & Adelle, Golberton PA • Elinor Sluzas IMO Vincent Boris, Dayton OH • Mr & Mrs Matt Vilutis, Frankfort IL • Rita Zakarka, Michigan City IN • Leonard Kapochus, Milmay, NJ • K of L Council # 102, Detroit, MI • Mr & Mrs Joseph White, South Boston MA • Ms Bernice Markavich, Detroit, MI • K of L Council # 29, Newark NJ • The Misses Diane & Rita Neverouck, Applegate, MI • Ms. Marianne Date, Canton MI • Mrs Adele Bagdon, Livonia, MI • Dr & Mrs Louis Putz, Bloomfield Hills MI • Dr & Mrs Stanly Strasius, Ann Arbor MI • Mr & Mrs Francis Degutis, Worcester MA • John E Waylonis, Fairfax Station VA • Mr & Mrs Vyto Gestautas, Chicago IL • Ms Anne Baronas, Colonia NJ • Catherine Kurpowic, Detroit, MI • Mr & Mrs Stanley Diskavich, Torrington CT • Rev Albert Contons IMO Vincent Boris, South Boston MA • Mr & Mrs E Pantos, West Boylston MA • Mr & Mrs Victor Milukas, Plainview NY

\$50.00 to \$99.00

Mr. Michael Coughlin IMO Vincent Boris, Bloomfield Hills, MI • Mr & Mrs Matt Vilutis IMO Vincent Boris, Frankfort IL • Mr & Mrs Michael Green IMO Saloma Greene, Zaleski OH • Mr & Mrs Bernard Green IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Thomas Austin, Livonia, MI • Alfred & Ann Navitt IMO Deceased Parents, Yukon OK • Dot & Philip Machonis IMO Deceased Family Members, Glen Mills PA • Josephine O'peka, Forest City PA • Irene Ozalis, Philadelphia PA • Lillian Greymas, Philadelphia PA • Hedwig Gedeika IMO Husband & Parents, Ridley Park PA • Barnoski Family Reunion # 1, Hazleton PA • Charles & Donna Sulmar, Springfield PA • Helen Karpovich IMO Anthony, Karpovich, Kapochus, Wilkes-Barre PA • Alphonse J. Balsis, Cape May NJ • Elsie Kosmisky IMO Vincent Boris, Frackville PA • K of L Council # 156, Shamokin PA • Dolores Wainauskis, Oak Lawn IL • K of L Council # 25, Cleveland OH • Ms Alice Zupko IMO Peter Zupko, N Fort Meyers FL • K of L Council # 16, Chicago IL • Joe & Eleanor Mantz IHO Elinor Sluzas, Dayton OH • James A. Marcinkus, Palm Beach Gardens FL • Julie Zakarka IMO Al Zakarka, Evergreen Park, IL • Mr & Mrs M Gestautas, Justice IL • Mr & Mrs A Straksys IMO Antanas Rasytinis, Southfield MI • Mr & Mrs Albert Raubiskis, Chicago IL • Al V. Duoba, Clarkston MI • Z & E Skiotys, Livonia, MI • Mr Andrew Rozger, Pittsburgh PA • Chas A Zavorskas, Waterford MI • Rev. Alfonsas Babonas, Southfield MI • Mr Narimantas Udrys, Beverly Hills, MI • Leonard Matulis, West Boylston, MA • Mrs Dolores Kruger, Chicago IL • Michael Kohut Jr, Sugarloaf PA • Helen L. Garby, Clark, NJ • Cramblet Family & Friends, Detroit, MI • Mr & Mrs Ted Mitkus, Melvindale MI • Mr & Mrs John Svera, Bloomfield Hills, MI • Child & Family Services Center - IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Detroit MI • Saulius Simoliunas IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Detroit, MI • Robert S. Boris IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Waterford MI • Mr Victor Cestar, Bloomfield Hills MI • K of L Council # 112, Marquette Park IL

\$25.00 to \$49.00

Mr & Mrs A Vaitiekaitis IMO Vincent Boris, Canton MI • Mr & Mrs Leo Garity IMO Vincent Boris, Livonia MI • Mr & Mrs Victor Ankus IMO Vincent Boris, Bloomfield Hills MI • Mr & Mrs Michael Shea IMO Vincent Boris, Bloomfield Hills, MI • Mrs Doris Boris IMO Vincent Boris, Port Charlotte FL • Gail Brockman IMO Sally Greene, Dayton OH • Wanda Hedges IMO Sally Greene, Lebanon OH • Robin Coughlin IMO Vincent Boris, Seal Beach CA • Debra Wroe IMO Vincent Boris, Ferndale MI • Sylvia M Page IMO Saloma Greene, Washington DC • Mr Don Crompton IMO Saloma Greene, Tripp City OH • Ms Frances Petkus IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mrs Eileen Heidkamp IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mr & Mrs. Dave Huttinger IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Eleanor Kenzik IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • R. A. Gineitis, M. D. IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mrs. Lillian Crawford IMO Saloma Greene, Springfield OH • Karen A. Kuritar IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mrs. Olga Kuritar IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mr & Mrs Marven Rossa IMO Saloma Greene, Willowick OH • Joe & Linda Mercuri IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Angela Busky, Shrewsbury MA • Ruth Margis IMO Charles Margis, Media PA • Karen Vyte Kapochus IMO Marilyn Kapochus, Cologne NJ • Mr & Mrs T McDonald IMO Thomas III, Bubel & Family, Kaska PA • John W. Ramoska, Scranton PA • Evelyn & Victor Prep, Frackville PA • Joan C Iwasko, Rio Grande NJ • Rita S Sussko, Union NJ • Mr & Mrs Richard Marks, South Euclid OH • Bertha Stoskus, Providence RI • Eleanor Vaicaitis, Frackville PA • Len & Daina Kapochus IMO Vincent Boris, Milmay NJ • Mary Beth Slakis IMO Al Slakis, Orland Park, IL • Eleanor & John Bogdon, Severna Park MD • Alice Chiorra, Fogelsville PA • Carol A Stanley, Collingwood NJ • Mr & Mrs P Monkaitis IMO Deceased Family Mmembers, Lima PA • Ms Aniele Kendrick IMO Deceased Family Members, Holmes PA • Dorothy A Banos IMO Vincent Boris, Pittston PA • Jeanne Dorr, Riverton NJ • Karl Kapochus IMO Marilyn Kapochus, Wilkes Barre PA • K of L Council # 36, Chicago IL • K of L Council # 133 IMO Vincent Boris, Los Angeles CA • Mark Bell, Nashville, TN • George & Frances Bumila IMO Vincent Boris, Raynham MA • Helen Chesko, Mahanoy City PA • Mr & Mrs J Jonaitis, Gulfport FL • Stella Marcinauskis IMO Mitchell, Selton CT • Helen Medley, North Haven CT • Mr & Mrs. John Michunas, Mt Ephraim NJ • Clemencine Miller, Trumbull CT • Lee & Paul Moore IMO Anthoony Petrosky, Clearfield PA • Mr & Mrs Anthony Oberaitis, Bay Village OH • Ms Frances Petkus, Dayton OH • Estelle Rogers IMO Vincent Boris, Oak Lawn IL • Mr & Mrs Faustas Strolia, Oak Forest IL • Mr & Mrs D. Lewis IMO Antanas Rasytinis, Dearborn MI • Robert S. Boris IMO Antanas Rasytinis, Waterford MI • Ms Elinor Sluzas,

Dayton OH • Carol Lawson, Newton, CT • Frances Petkus IMO Michael J. Petkus, Sr., Dayton OH • Frances Petkus IMO Dorothy (Miller) Conrady, Dayton OH • Paulette Petkus IMO Michael J. Petkus, Sr., Owensboro, KY • St. Michael's Council # 156, Shamokin, PA • Mr & Mrs Peter Cekaitis, Wayne, PA • Mr & Mrs Michael Tonilas, Dearborn, MI • K of L Council # 52 IMO Vincent Boris, Elizabeth NJ • Margaret Turner c/o W. Balchunas, Linfield PA • Edward D. Valeska, Cincinnati OH • William Juodawlkis, Livonia, MI • Mr & Mrs A Rudis, Livonia, MI • Mr & Mrs A Zenka, Bellerose Manor, NY • Mrs Laura Manzari, Bayside NY • Mr William J Piacentini Jr, Cranston, RI • Mrs Donna Anuzis, Troy, MI • Milly Grigaras, Warren MI • Mr & Mrs Claude Di Natale, Grosse Pointe Farms MI • Kazys & Roza Razauskas, Dearborn Heights MI • Mr & Mrs Chas Macke, Indian Head Park IL • Helen Gillus, Worcester MA • Joan C Iwasko, Rio Grande NJ • Connie Duha, Taylor MI • Mr & Mrs Aloyzas Aidis, Bethesda MD • James Medgensis, Trumbull CT • Donna Pluto, Southfield MI • Thomas Austin, Livonia MI • Regina Taunys, Putnam CT • Mr Jonas Kucinskas, Miami Beach FL • Marge & William Dapkus, Farmington Hills MI • Anthony Kazlauskas, East Greenwich RI • Aldonna Keaney, Quincy MA • Mr & Mrs James Murphy IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Weidman MI • Peter R Andrews IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Sterling Heights MI • Andrius Butkunas IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Farmington Hills, MI • Mr & Mrs Zenas Janson, Farmington Hills, MI • Lillian A Kondrotas, Worcester MA • Ronald E Spakauskas, Jefferson MA • Mr & Mrs J Motiejunas, Prescott AZ • Vincent Banonis, Southfield MI • Michael Yudiskas, Jupiter FL • Louis Bogart, Bloomfield Hills MI • Joseph Gudonis, Philadelphia, PA • Vete A Kelmelis, Torrington CT • Regina Sajauskas IMO Vince Boris, Ellicott City MD •

less than \$25.00

Mrs. Emil Podzius IMO Vincent Boris, West Bloomfield MI • Antanina Petrauskas IMO Vincent Boris, Davisburg MI • Milly Grigaras IMO Vincent Boris, Warren MI • Mr & Mrs R Medonis IMO Vincent Boris, Fenton MI • John & Andrea Baltrus IMO Vincent Boris, Pittsburgh PA • Valentina Bulota IMO Vincent Boris, Redford MI • Mrs & Mrs Walter Hotra IMO Vincent Boris, Redford MI • Mr & Mrs Robert Pant IMO Vincent Boris, Dayton MI • Mrs. Paul Kassel IMO Vincent Boris, Chicago, IL • Mr Edward A Barkowski IMO Vincent Boris, Schenectady NY • Dorothy Murphy IMO Vincent Boris, Weidman MI • Mr & Mrs Henry Pant IMO Vincent Boris, Fairborn OH • Mr & Mrs A Lenhart IMO Vincent Boris, Redford MI • Mrs Birute Bacevicius IMO Vincent Boris, Warren MI • Joyce Kay Sifferlen IMO Sally Greene, Dayton OH • Katherine L Michael IMO Sally Greene, Englewood OH • Karen M. Newell IMO Sally Greene, Englewood OH • Jeanne & Tim Dorr IMO Vincent Boris, Riverton NJ • Mr & Mrs Richard Marks IMO Vincent Boris, South Euclid OH • Mr & Mrs Anthony Page IMO Saloma Greene, Columbus, OH • Mr & Mrs Tom Menker IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mrs Rose Dudon IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mr & Mrs Herbert Clawson IMO Saloma Greene, Troy, OH • Mr Ed Grimmer IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mrs. Susan Marks IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Jerry Scott IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mrs Julia Boston & Family IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mrs. Catherine Prasmantas IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mr & Mrs Robert Staas IMO Saloma Greene, Franklin OH • Mr & Mrs Pat Sluzas IMO Saloma Greene, Trotwood OH • Mr & Mrs Anthony Page IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mr Joe Page & Family IMO Saloma Greene, Iowa City, Iowa • Mr Stan Sluzas IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mrs Sue Moore IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Bernadette & Richard Noreikas IMO Saloma Greene, Trotwood OH • Mr & Mrs A Krowialis IMO Saloma Greene, Centerville, OH • Mr & Mrs Jimmy Kavalauskas IMO Saloma Greene, Riverside OH • Mr & Mrs Steve Lakner IMO Saloma Greene, Miamisburg OH • Mr & Mrs Montie Clawson IMO Saloma Greene, Tipp City OH • Ernie Sakalaskas IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mary Gudelis IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mrs. Eloise Berczelly IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mr & Mrs Michael Starosky IMO Saloma Greene, Springfield OH • Ann Hohne IMO Saloma Greene, Kettering OH • The Stan Kavy Family IMO Saloma Greene, Dayton OH • Mr & Mrs John Berczelly IMO Saloma Green, Dayton OH • James & Joan Thompson, Lyndhurst OH • Elena Pestemis, Philadelphia, PA • F. Jankauskas IMO Mother Vincenta, Hatboro PA • Constance Powell IMO Husband & Parents, Milmont Park, PA • Charlotte Rice IMO Anthony Rice, Brookhaven PA • Josephine Remaize IMO Husband & Parents, Eddystone PA • Anna Radzavage, Shenandoah PA • Elizabeth A Sprow, King of Prussia PA • Catherine Applegate, Millville, NJ • Sophie Colesar IMO Deceased Family, Chester PA • Agatha Bender IMO Family, Pittsburgh PA

• Rev Albin Janiunas, Cambridge MA • Mary F Kincius IMO Justin J. Kincius, Chicago IL • Mr & Mrs Ray Medonis IMO Vito & Ed Zaliagris, Fenton MI • Frank & Irene Petrauskas IMO Anthony Petrosky, Syracuse NY • Sophia Sakalys, E Greenwich RI • Anthony Yacavonis IMO Kazimiera Yacavonis, Rosedale NY • Mr & Mrs R Medonis IMO Antanas Rasytinis, Fenton, MI • D. Kudirka IMO Antanas Rasytinis, Canton, MI • Ms Helen Smolek IMO Vincent Boris, Northville, MI • Mr & Mrs J. Thompson, Lyndhurst OH • Mr. George Mikalauskas, Dayton OH • Mrs A Lenhart IMO Isabell Rutkelis, Redford MI • Regina Goebel IMO Regina Petrauskas, Livonia MI • Richard Noreikas, Dayton OH • Mrs Eloise Berczelly IMO Dr. E Drukteinas, Dayton OH • Ed & Kathryn Carter, Somerset PA • Ms Zusan Staskauskas, Rockford IL • Antanas Lelevicius, Redford MI • Kate Wallunas, Chicago, IL • Mr & Mrs K Giedraitis, Livonia, MI • John S. Lapinsky, Hazleton PA • Ms Mary Paso, Sterling Heights, MI • Mr & Mrs F Strolia, Oak Forest IL • Mrs Anna Hornyak, Troy MI • Stasys Garliauskas, Manchester MI • Ms Mary A Semel, Washington DC • Anthony P Polman, Southbury CT • Frank Griglonis, Exeter PA • Mr & Mrs John E Shurna, Orland Park IL • Mr & Mrs Joseph Carroll, Richmond Hill NY • Margaret Thomas, W Bloomfield MI • Ted Navickas, Coeur D Allene ID • Mr Daniel Degutis, Elizabeth NJ • Mr Larry Svelnis, Needham MA • Gerard F. Graham, Livonia, MI • Ms. Mary Paso, Sterling Heights MI • Salomeja Idzelis, Cleveland OH • Betty Chacho, Bridgeport CT • Joann Warnagiris, Union NJ • Mr & Mrs A Kavalauskas, Troy, OH • Agnes Gackenbach, Emmaus PA • Anna Selenis IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Ann Arbor MI • Gene Skorupskas IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Farmington Hills MI • Reyes Smith IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Royal Oak MI • Jonas Bartkus IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Dearborn Heights MI • Dr B Girnius, IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Allen Park MI • Stefanija Juska IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Detroit MI • V Kincius IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Melvindale MI • Robert S. Martin IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Chicago IL • Lydia Mingela IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Northville, MI • Mr & Mrs A Osteika IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Warren MI • Leonas Petronis IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Dearborn Heights MI • F. Repsha IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, St. Clair Shores MI • Stasys Simoliunas IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Detroit, MI • Mr. Juozas Suopys IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Detroit MI • Antanas ir Stase Zaparackas IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Highland Beach FL • Frank & Donna Bunikis IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Panama City Beach FL • Mrs Evelyn Ozelis IMO Vincent Boris, Chicago IL • Mr & Mrs V Memenas IMO Anna Radzevicius, Bloomfield Hills MI • Jonas Leonavicius IMO Ona Radzeviciene, Dearborn Heights MI • Sue Bubnelis IMO Ona Radzeviciene, Livonia MI • Mrs. Milly Grigaras IMO Ona Radzeviciene, Warren MI • Anonymous, Albany NY • Helen Kayetskis, Fairfield CT • K of L Council # 102 IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Detroit MI • John Kristy, Fairfield CT • Eleanor Bogdon, Severa Park, MD • Antanas Pesys, Dearborn Heights MI • Richard Banules, Katy TX • Mr & Mrs George Blecka, Huntington NY • Mr & Mrs James Thompson, Lyndhurst OH •



Šypsniai be raukšlių

Smiles without Wrinkles

-A grocer was asked about the new minister in town. "And have you heard him preach?" he was asked. The grocer admitted, he hadn't. Then, how do you know he's good?"

"Because," the grocer answered, "the members of his church have begun to pay their bills."

-Patience: The ability to count down before blasting off.

Jokes from Fr. John Savukynas' Laughing Matter. (Readers are encouraged to send in material for this column to the editors. Jokes can be in English or Lithuanian.)

District & Council News



New England District Conventioneers on the steps of St. Casimir's Church in Brockton, MA. The Sept 21 event was hosted by C-1.

at our annual Kūčios. Most of our guests began the evening by attending Mass at 5 p.m. and bidding farewell at approximately 9 - 9:30 p.m. Virtually none of our guests left before the program was concluded, it was enjoyed by all.

C-10, Athol-Gardner, MA
Vincukas

C-3, Philadelphia, PA

Daina Kapochus

Council 3 Knights of Lithuania held their Thirteenth Annual Kūčios dinner on December 13, 1997, after 5 o'clock Mass at St. George's Parish Hall in Philadelphia. Irene Ozalis has been chairperson or co-chairperson almost every year since the Kūčios started 13 years ago. Victor Stepalovitch was co-chairperson this year. Both Irene and Victor did a great job that was really appreciated by all. There were 120 guests of Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian descent who shared this most auspicious occasion with us.

The presence of Monsignor Leon Peck and the Reverends Joseph Anderlonis, Peter Burkauskas, and Joseph Rymdeika were indeed appreciated. In addition to co-chairpersons Irene Ozalis and Victor Stepalovitch, other Council

3 members present were Mary Bigenis, Anastasia Binkis, Joseph and Diane Drumstas, Lillian Greymas, Len Kapochus, Julie Kowrak, Philip and Dorothy Machonis, Ausra Maknys, John and Agnes Mickunas, Ray and Nellie Pandza, Stanley and Anne Petraitis, Antoinette Petrone, Charles and Margaret Petronis, Walter and Irene Svekia, and Ruth Wallash. Our newest members also jumped right in to participate and a sincere welcome and thanks are also extended to Frank and Genny Fisher and Stella Panaccio!

The usual Kūčios Menu was served, Christmas Carols were sung in both Lithuanian and English, the usual raffle with door prizes was done, and Lithuanian Kūčios traditions were all part of the evening.

It was not only a Kūčios celebration, but a complete night out with various kinds of activities

At our October meeting the following slate of officers was elected: Spiritual advisor - Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis, President - Dr. Henry Gailiunas. (President for the past 23 years Bill Wišniauskas decided it was time to give someone else a chance to show off his talents.) Vice President - William Wišniauskas, Treasurer - Nellie Melaika, Financial secretary and Ritual chair - Howard Beaudette, Recording secretary - Joanne Chastney, Cultural chair - Bronė Wišniauskas, Marshall - David Lucas, Publicity - Wm. Wišniauskas.

Lithuanian Independence day will be observed on March 15 with the Sodauto dance group from

Boston, who will entertain us with their beautiful Lithuanian dances.

Member Ed Lepkowski, campaign manager of Mayor of Gardner was the general chairman of a fund raising supper. It was attended by about 800 persons. Mayor Charles Mance was reelected for a 5th term. He is a friend of the Lithuanian people and each year, together with his wife Marie, attends our February 16th Independence day commemoration, and presents a proclamation from the city of Gardner.

Lillian Genaitis Erickson of the state of WA, along with husband Phil, recently went on a pilgrimage to Spain and France.

Mary Gauronsky is a permanent resident of the Wachurst nursing home in Gardner.

Condolences are extended to Jeanne Poshkus on the recent death of her brother Anthony Gotautis. Condolences also extended to Jane Mordes of Long Island, a cousin of mine, on the loss of husband Walter Mordes.

C - 26, Worcester, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

Regardless of whether or not C-26 has a meeting during any month, there are important subjects which concern either



C-3's Victor Stepalovitch and Irene Ozalis, co-chairpersons for 1997

religion or Lithuania that keeps us active, interested and motivated. For instance, the visit in Worcester by Algirdas Saudargas, Foreign Minister of Lithuania and Stasys Sakalauskas, Lithuania's Ambassador to the United States. The New England district council arranged and sponsored their appearance in the St. Casimir Church hall, hosted by, you guessed it, C-26, whose reputation of gracious hospitality is a consideration for the selection of a site for such a memorable occasion. Aside from any reason, we were, that is, C-26 was honored with the opportunity to entertain and nourish these important officials of Lithuania. (See Local Lithuanians Get Firsthand Update article in page Lithuanians in the News section.)

As reported in my previous sick list, Anthony Dailida was included. I now report that the Good Lord beckoned him to Himself. Tony is now in His Realm of faithful departed. He died Jan. 6, 1998. Ellie Walinsky had surgery and is now healing, and slowly regaining her strength. We will miss her at the bowling alley.

C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA

Evelyn Harryn

Council 63 has been internally active since September. Since then, we held election of officers. The new regime for 1998 are:

President - Evelyn Harryn
 Vice President - Albert Klizas
 Treasurer - Walter Balchounas
 Recording Secretary - Adele Keraga
 Financial Secretary - Jane Lutick
 Sergeants-at-Arms: Andy Keraga and Paul Harryn
 Spiritual Advisor - Rev. John Grabish

Council held a two day Flea Market in October. It was a great success! Thanks to Dora and Jack Lushis and Delores and Frank Connelly for chairing this event. They worked for days setting up for the sale. Ačiū, also to Jane Lutick, who is always there to help...everyday!

Jane is a dedicated worker at all events. Ačiū to each and everyone that helped.

In November, we held our Annual Covered Dish. As usual, we had a delicious variety of dishes and a tantalizing assortment of desserts all prepared by members. We also had quite a few raffle prizes. Some were donated by our guests and friends, Lillian and Joseph Russell, from the Newark, NJ Council. This was a very enjoyable time. Council 63 also worked on their budget and made some generous donations. Our treasury was left a bit depleted, but we always bounce back!!!

In December, we held our "Annual Portrayal of Kučios". It was held December 7 at St. Michael's Church. The traditional foods were served after the Breaking of Bread and prayers. The annual Toastmaster of this event is Albert Klizas. The fresh made kugeli was prepared again by Adele and Andy Keraga: Barščiu Soup by Evelyn Harryn; and the Mushroom /Barley Soup by Jeanette Klizas. (There were no leftovers!) We wish to thank Lillian Klinosky for the huge, scrumptious chocolate mousse cake she provided for dessert and the Christmas tins filled



Emilie, C-10's youngest member, (2nd from left) who had just given birth to Ethan, and husband Christopher Joseph formed a living Nativity scene that local newspapers featured at Christmas.

with goodies for door prizes. Ačiū labai, Lillian. Lithuanian and English Christmas carols were sung by all under the direction of Ben Apanavačius, Jr. Andy Keraga did the readings of Lithuanian traditions and superstitions.

Our beautiful Lithuanian Christmas Tree was again one of the trees exhibited at the University Comfort Suites in Bethlehem. This is part of the South Bethlehem Historical Society Ethnic Tree Exhibition. There are now 13 trees featured in this exhibit. Each one is unique and true to their own tradition. The tree-lighting and opening ceremonies were held at the hotel on November 31. This was also the lighting day of the Christmas lights throughout the Christmas City of Bethlehem.

Some of the Lithuanian guests attending the Tree-Lighting Event were Albert and

Jeanette Klizas, Blanch and Joe Kohanski and son, Anne and George Wonsok, Lillian Klinosky, Adele Satkus. Chairpersons - Evelyn and Paul Harryn and the Decorating Committee - Jane Lutick, Adele and Andy Keraga. Father John Grabish gave the benediction.

The entire concept of this ethnic unity was originated by Father Grabish. This is the sixth year of the Ethnic Tree Exhibition. It attracts tourists, bus tour groups, organizations, educational classes, etc..

In December, Council 63 had their "Basket of Cheer" drawing. Our member, Regina Tragus, was the lucky winner of the big basket. Congratulations, Regina! This was another big boost to our treasury. We thank Valeria Smickle for chairing this fund-raiser. Also, many thanks to Dora Lushis for assisting with the ticket sales.

Council 63 sends a great, big "ačiū" to Lillian and Joseph Russell for their generous donation to our treasury. What a "Merry Christmas" that was to all of us! It came just in time.

Once again, our dear members, Ann and John Rushanin, played "Santa" to Council. Each year, for several



C-24's Christmas Party with Mr. and Mrs. Santa, Ron and Aušra Padalino and "tevelis" Jonas Kriščiūnas

years now, they provide us with all of the white paper products that we need for our Kūčios as well as a generous supply for afterwards. Ačiū labai, Ann and John! on this note, remember Ann in our prayers as she is having health problems and suffering much pain. God Bless You, Ann.

Council 63 is working hard to meet our goals, make generous contributions and stay active. Our membership has dropped from 97 to 67 in just a little over a year. This is due to relocation, illness and death. A number of our members are inactive due to illness. We wish all of our fellow Knights a Blessed and Healthy New Year!

C-74., Scranton, PA

Marie Laske

Our condolences are extended to Nellie Bayoras-Romanas on the death of her beloved husband - Prof. Vaclovas

Romanas. Amžina atilsis. We attended a memorial Mass for maestro Romanas at St. Casimir's Church in Pittston. The K. of L. members wore their colorful dresses and served as an honor guard. Father Benick was celebrant and Msgr. Anthony Norkunas was concelebrant. The choir and the organist were from Holy Trinity church. They did a wonderful job. Maestro Romanas would have been proud.

We sang Happy birthday to Ona Matulevich, who celebrated her 89th birthday. Ilgiausių metų! (May you live for many years!) Ona just returned home from Louisiana. She visited her daughter and granddaughter.

There will be a Lithuanian Mass at St. Ann's Basilica on July 26th at 3:45 in the lower church. Father Peter Alisaukas will be the concelebrant. President John Manka and Helen Cravath will be the lectors. Nellie Romanas will explain the significance of the gifts presented during the Offertory. Richard Laske and

Steve Soha will be the flag bearers. Please make an effort to attend this special Mass.

C-79, Southfield, MI

Bee Jay

After a busy year in 1997, we are now relaxing, with not too many activities planned for the near future.

We remembered Lithuanian Independence Day with an annual program arranged by Detroit's Lithuanian Federation. It was scheduled for Feb. 1, at Divine Providence Parish Hall.

On March 1, we will commemorate St. Casimir's Day, attending 10:30 Mass. Although our President's and husband's 50th. wedding anniversary occurred on Jan. 30, they, Margaret and Bill Dapkus, celebrated the occasion with approximately 50 relatives and friends on Jan. 3rd. It began with a mass officiated by Fr. Aloyza Volskis — during which the couple again exchanged vows.

The early celebration was prompted by the visit of their son and his family from California, who came for the Christmas holiday and stayed on for the party. Bill Jr., wife Denise and their two children enjoyed visiting with the honored couple's friends. Another son, Ted and wife Carolyn and their two children, plus a daughter, Lynn and husband Fred Broniak with



*NED officers being sworn in by Fr. Shakalis.
Photo by Aldona Marcavage, C-141.*

their five daughters rounded out the family contingent.

Pres. Marge and Bill were especially surprised and pleased when they learned that a Papal blessing was bestowed on their anniversary, with a certificate to acknowledge the fact.

A short time later they made it known that through the efforts of daughter Lynn, a Presidential congratulatory certificate was forwarded by President Bill Clinton, inscribed with the Presidential seal. Margaret says they will both be framed and hung in a conspicuous spot in their home. Our Council wishes for them many more happy and healthy years together. Bill is gradually improving, after being seriously ill during the past year.

Let us also remember, in our prayers, other sick members — Carl Janson, Sophie Zager and those who choose not to have their names mentioned.

Ritual Chairperson Sylvia

Jarosz returned from a visit with a daughter in Texas - just in time to award some degrees at the next MCD gathering. On this happy note I'll end this missive with a "Linksmų Velykų" to all.

C-136, Hudson-Mohawk, NY

Dorothy Richmire

At our Christmas dinner-meeting it was suggested that perhaps we could meet during the day-time hours for the winter months. Therefore, at our January meeting a vote was taken and we decided to meet on Sunday afternoon during the months of December through March beginning with our February meeting.

We certainly add our congratulations to the citizens of Lithuania in their election of their new president, Valdas Adamkus. We wish the new president and the Lithuanians much success in the future.

Our annual celebration of Lithuanian-Independence Day will take place on Sunday, February 15, 1998. We will offer mass at Holy Cross Church at 9:00 a.m. followed by finger foods and liquid refreshments donated by members of K of L. We hope the weather will

cooperate so that we will have a good crowd attending.

Happy News - My husband, Simeon and I welcomed our first grandchild to our family. Dylan Thomas O'Connor was born on December 21 and we really celebrated Christmas knowing the real miracle of birth.

Speaking of miracles, our sister council 100 Amsterdam certainly is living proof that miracles really do happen. They are looking forward to their church, St. Casimir's, reopening on Easter Sunday and from all reports, it looks as if it will happen. Many donations, prayers and meetings made it all possible and we wish them well. A very happy Easter is wished for all of the parish members of St. Casimir's.

C-141, Bridgeport, CT

Aldona Marcavage

We were invited by Fr. Jose to experience the old Spanish tradition of "Posada".

Prayer groups visit nine homes on nine consecutive nights during Advent, reenacting the seeking of a room for the birth of Jesus. Helen Simanis invited K of L Members and some of her neighbors to her new condo. Fr. Jose came with about 50 choir members and parishioners' With them, in costume, were Mary, Joseph, two shepherds and a music group. A



Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, CJC, makes a special plea at NED convention to "save stamps" for her needy Lithuanian children.

bilingual Mass was celebrated. Helen's new home was blessed. Carols were sung in Spanish and English and refreshments were enjoyed. The Lithuanians who attended were very favorably impressed with Posada. Fr. Jose hopes to find one Lithuanian home each year to accept the prayer group for Posada. The Balčius family livened up our Kūčios. Kathleen was emcee assisted by her son, Peter. Dad, John supplied Christmas music. Peter donated a huge basket of fruit as a door prize.

This year saw our largest ever gathering for Kūčios.

Msgr. Pranckus explained the custom of sharing the "Kalėdaičiai" (not plotkelės anymore because that word was of Polish origin, which was news to many of us.). The food was blessed carols were sung in both Lithuanian and English. This community gathering of the Vyčiū family for Kūčios keeps the customs of our heritage

alive and gives Christmas a deeper meaning. We are keeping Christ in Christmas, the old-fashioned Lithuanian way.

It was great to see Ed Stumbris and Leon Mateika, much improved... They have made wonderful strides recuperating from serious illnesses. Missed were Peter Radzwillas Stella Witkavich, Gen Burnett, Stella Marcinauskis, also very seriously ill Edward and Maryanne Yokstas. They are still challenged with health problems--some more--some less. God bless you all. May the New Year be kinder to you. Invitations were extended by Marie and Bill Brilvitch to visit their home to see their extensive indoor Christmas display. So much time and energy went into their enormous Christmas village with its lights, music and action. Very beautiful!

We were saddened by the loss of member, Victor Ross on Dec.8, 1997. Our

heartfelt sympathy to his widow Anna, daughter Patricia Silk, two grandchildren, one great-grandson and two sisters. A severe ice storm caused the wake to be canceled. However, the K of L wake ritual was performed on -the funeral day in front of the altar led by Msgr. Pranckus and Clemencine Miller. It was a beautiful send-off. Rest in peace dear knight. C 141 Jr. member Sarah Miller, granddaughter of

Clemencine Miller took part in Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in N.Y. with her High School marching band. Sarah is a color guard. They also performed in Disney World in Florida.

Ilona and Frank Sciarrapa have returned from a long vacation in Italy. Our sincere sympathy to the "three Sulinsky sisters"—Claire Carrol, Mary Spellman and Stella Wildman, who recently lost their older sister. Holy Mass preceding the January meeting was in memory of our fellow knight Alphonse Trainis. Good news! Fr. Jose was able to purchase a parcel of land adjoining our church property. This will become a much-needed parking lot. Our thoughts now turn to celebrating Lithuanian Independence Day February 15, 1998. We are privileged to have lively VETRA folk dance ensemble for entertainment. They will be celebrating their 15th anniversary this year. We wish you many more years!

Our annual St. Casimir's brunch will be March 15th. Our honored guest will be much-loved Sister Helen Ivanauskas. Keep collecting those stamps and needed things for "her children" --- as she calls them. On April 26th we all will be traveling to Lawrence, Mass. for the NED spring convention. Until then--- God Bless !!!

C-143, Pittston, PA

Eleanor Bellanco

On Sunday January 4, 1998, in St. Casimir's Church in Pittston, PA Father Alisauskas celebrated 11 A.M. Mass and installed officers for Council 143. Pictured are the newly installed officers L to R Treasurer-Mary Ann Cipolla; Recording Secretary-Rosemary Durling; President-Jean Kapochus Mihalick; Spiritual Advisor-Rev. Peter Alisauskas; Financial Secretary-Helen Karpovich; Vice-President-Martha Warnagiris; Committee Chairpersons for the year are: Cultural Affairs-Ann Soha; Lithuanian Affairs-Genevieve Dajonowski; Publicity-Anastasia Stanley; Ritual-Helen Karpovich; Historian-Ursula Danoski; Vytis Corresp.-Eleanor Bellanco; Sgt. at Arms-Casimir Kizis Jr.

After Mass the men of the Council did a great job of hosting the January meeting breakfast in the church hall.

With all the joy of the occasion, we had sadness too. Knight Prof. Vaclovas Romanas went home to the Lord on



C-144 officers (l to r front) Elsie Kosmisky, finance secretary; Marion Saukaitis Wydra, president, Anna K. Wargo, Secretary; (back) Anna Radzavage, Treasurer; Rev. Ronald V. Jankaitis, Spiritual Advisor and David P. Carroll, VP.

January 1, 1998. He was the beloved husband of Knight Nellie Bayoras Romanas. Our condolences go out to Nellie and her family. Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him, O Lord, and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him.

C-144, Anthracite, PA

Ona

Our Annual Kūčios was held the first Sunday of December. President Marian Wydra welcomed the members and guests who attended the traditional meal. Spiritual Advisor Rev. Ronald Jankaitis gave the Opening Prayer and Brother Joseph Zutelis spoke on the plotkelė. Benediction was offered by Rev. Albert Byrne, Pastor of Our Lady of Šiluva Church. Cultural Chairman Mary Koons led the Lithuanian

Christmas sing-along and Elsie Kosmisky closed with a Christmas Prayer with all holding lighted candles and singing Silent Night. Thanks to the cooks who once again prepared a true Lithuanian Kūčios.

We were also happy to welcome Jim Marcinkus President of the Treasure Coast Council and his sister, Bernice Mikatavage, Chairperson of the Orphan's Christmas Gift project received many thank you letters from them. We also received a nice thank you letter from our adopted orphan. Bernice and her two assistants are still

collecting items for the orphans-Annie Morgalis and Ann Panchari are her busy elves. Thanks to to Anna Helen and Tom McDonald for the packages they send to Sister Dolorita's Hospice in Lithuania.

Plans are now being made for our Annual St. Casimir's Mass and Breakfast. Ann Radzavage is Chairperson and guest speaker will be Judge John Domalakes. We are proud of Judge Domalakes, a long time member, who is the first Lithuanian to serve on the Bench in Schuylkill County. We also congratulate hi daughter, Janet, who recently passed the Bar. The Domalakes Sisters, Janet, Karen and Vicki have been members of the K of L since Junior Days and have always shown their Lithuanian Heritage by making straw decorations and margučiai

at different affairs and by assisting Sister Angela, CJC with her Camp.

Ann Wargo attended the "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet in Chicago where she received the Lithuanian Pontifical College Award.

We ask prayers for Helen Labadis who suffered a stroke and is hospitalized. Helen has been an active member until her illness. We are also sorry to hear that Gene Kaledas is now as Resident at Shenandoah Nursing Manor.

Our best wishes go to all our K of L family for a Happy Easter.

C-147. St. Petersburg, FL

Dolores Jonaitis

Our meeting on January 6, 1998, at Florida Power Welcome center, was opened by our President Anthony Gudonis. Prayers were said by our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Matas Čyvas. A moment of silence was requested for Victoria Jacobson, who passed away September 30, 1997.

It was noted that Genovaite Bakas donated \$10.00 to our Concert that was held on November 22, 1997. It was voted to send \$100.00 to our college in Rome. Two members (New),



Adele Keraga, Jane Lutick and Evelyn Harryn at the Ethnic Tree Decorating in Bethlehem, PA on November 30, 1997.

were accepted in our Council. They are: Genovaite Osinskiene, and Janina Lauras. Congratulations to both of you.

Six members celebrated their birthday in January.

Adolph Sarka (not present), John Jonaitis, Anthony Gudonis, Janina Lauras (new member), Kazys Bagdonas (not present), and Brone Urboniene. We all sang "Įlgausių Metų". Many pyragai were donated by our members, including a large delicious torte. Donaters were: K. Arlauskienė, D. Jonaitis, E. Jurkynas, Janina Lauras, V. Lesčinskienė, A. Shukis, I. Diktanas, V. Pleskienė and Bronė Urbonienė.

Our two Trustees, Father Stephonas Ropolas O.F.M. and

Alena Vilnis, examined all records and explained all was in order.

Election of Officers was held. Present officers are: Spiritual Advisor-Rev. Matas Čyvas; President, Anthony Gudonis; Sergeant at Arms, John Jonaitis; Vice- President, Dolores Jonaitis; Ritual, Dr Aldona Valis; Rec. Secretary-Irena Diktanas; Lithuanian Affairs, Alfus Shukis; Treasurer, Maria Gelažius; Fin. Secretary, Eugenia Satraitis; Lithuanian Culture, Irena Diktanas; Trustees, Rev Steponas Ropolas O.F.M; Alena Vilnis; VYTIS Correspondent, Dolores Jonaitis; Ritual Committee--Irena Diktanas, Dolores Jonaitis and Brone Urboniene.

Kūčios was held at the Lithuanian American Club on December 24, 1997. The traditional food was great. There was a large turnout-about 300 plus people.

On Friday, January 16, 1998, our President Anthony Gudonis, was honored on his 80th birthday, with a Dinner-Dance at the American Lithuanian Club. Nearly 300 people attended. The dinner was delicious, and enjoyed by all. The program consisted of the Men's Choir singing a few songs. Also "Linksmieji Brolei" from Canada, Ulbinas and Alex Kusinskas, brought some comical entertainment to the tremendous affair. Antanas Jonaitis was Master of Ceremonies, highlighted the affair. Many Birthday Greetings were received through the mail.

Individual societies with their representatives were: Knights of Lithuania Council

ON THE CALENDAR...

1998 District Conventions:

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

March 21 - Mid-America District - St. Casimir's Day Mass and District Meeting - Council 16 hosts. For Information: Diann Martin (773) 376-4779.

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

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

October 2-4 - Mid-America District - Fall Meeting Weekend. C-133 Hosts, Los Angeles, CA. For Information: Diann Martin (773) 376-4779.

August 6-9, 1998 - K of L. Convention:

**Host: Council 7 - Waterbury, CT
Sheraton Four Points -Waterbury, CT**

St. Casimir Celebrations

March 8 - St. Casimir's Day Mass - 10:30 at St. Michael's Church, Easton. PA. Procession Offerings of Lithuanian Gifts, Catered Luncheon. Hosts: C-63

March 29 - St. Casimir's Day Mass and buffet, C-110 Maspeth

Other Events

Tuesday, March 17: C-112 meeting in Nativity Parish Hall, 7:30 p.m. Degree Presentation with refreshments to follow. C-112, Chicago, IL.

Sunday, March 29: C-112 Pre-Easter Champagne Brunch, 11:30 a.m., Nativity Parish Hall - tickets are \$12. A raffle will also be held.

March 29 Holy Hour at St. Casimir Church - Worcester, MA. 2:30 pm (refreshments following in the church hall) Hosts: C-26

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

May 15-17 Mid-Central District - K of L Bowling Tournament and District Meeting. Best Western Inn of Burr Ridge, IL. Council 16 hosts. For Info: Rob Martin (773) 376-4779.

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

July 26 -C-74 Lithuanian Mass, St. Ann's Basilica (lower church) 3:45 PM Scranton, PA.

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

147-Irena Diktanas; Romo Kalantos Šaulių -Vladas Gedmintas; Retirees/Pensininkai, Laimute Alvarado; Bendromenes, Liutaras Samoška; Tautinas Sajunga Juozas Šulaitis

Mr. Gudonis is very active in the St. Petersburg and St. Pete Beach area. He is President of K of L C-147, President of Romo Kalantos Šaulių, Vice-President of the Retirees Club, and as of

January 1998, he was elected President of the American Lithuanian Club. Again, we wish Anthony, much Happiness, Good Health and Good Luck in all your endeavors.

We wish John Jonaitis a quick convalescence on his major surgery - very unexpected.



Gems of wisdom: There are only two ways to live your life: one as

if nothing is a miracle, and the other as if everything is.-*Albert Einstein*

What speakers lack in depth, they give in length.

Even the richest soil, if left uncultivated, produces only weeds.

To err is human, but don't wear out the eraser before the pencil.

WE REMEMBER - - -

MARGARET M. PAPEAKA

The entire Lithuanian community in the Greater Pittsburgh PA area, and most of all K. of L. Council 19, Pittsburgh, were saddened by the passing of their long-time former President, Margaret M. Papeaka, on Wednesday, November 12, 1997. Margaret finally gave up her long fight, in her 88th year, following a stroke from which she never recovered. She was the eldest of 12 children, preceded in death by her sister, Edith Kelminsky, and brothers, Peter and Constant Papeaka. Left in mourning were her sisters, Ann Magdich, Mary DiMarco, Bertha Kuzma, Mathilda Ghelarducci, Alice Lewellen, Julia Acri, Evelyn Walles and Dolores Schmitt, also a great many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Anthony's Church in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, followed by burial in Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Margaret was very generous of herself, first and foremost to her large family of younger brothers and sisters, to St. Anthony's, her parish, to the Knights of Lithuania, as well as to many other Lithuanian activities. Margaret will always be remembered. Our prayers are with her family.

May she Rest in Peace and may the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her.

Lenten Inspiration...

WATCH ONE HOUR WITH CHRIST

from the writings of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Our Blessed Lord spent ten times as much time in silence as He did in action: thirty years obeying, three years teaching, and three hours redeeming. One of the most salutary of all silent ways is the holy hour.

There was only one request Our Blessed Lord ever made directly to His apostles. In a general way He asked for drink when He was on the cross. But to His own disciples He said explicitly, "Can you not watch one hour with Me?" Now why did our Lord use the word "hour"? He did not ask them to go into the Garden to share His agony. They did not have to suffer a blood sweat. He merely asked, "Can you not watch one hour with Me?"

Every time the word hour is used in Scripture in the New Testament in connection with our Lord, it is always in relationship to His passion and death, and to the evil forces in the world. When the people attempted to stone Him, Scripture says His hour was not yet come; when they attempted to throw Him over the brow of His

own home town, His hour was not yet come; when the Blessed Mother, asked for His first miracle, He asked her if she was sending Him on His hour: "My hour is not yet come"; In other words, "that hour when I go to My death to face the forces of evil."

We are living in that hour today, for the devil is loose. Our hour is related to the evil and the crucifying forces of our modern world. There are two great benefits in making the hour. It trains the eyes, and it trains the ears. I am not speaking of physical eyesight; I'm speaking of spiritual light and faith.

Notice how very often Our Blessed Lord used the word see. When the woman came in to break a little alabaster vase that she had about her neck and poured the perfume at His feet, she was ridiculed by Simon the Pharisee. Our Lord turned on him and said, "Do you see that woman? No, what you see is a tag, a name, a label. To Me, she is a ruined image of My Father!" And when the priest and the Levite were on their way to liturgical services and passed a wounded man, they turned aside so that they would not see him. On the last day the Lord will say to us: "I was hungry, and you gave Me not to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave Me not to drink." And those who are lost will say: "When?" The rich man never saw Lazarus, the poor beggar at his door. So seeing is something that our Lord associates with faith.

We must be interested in the poor, the socially disinherited, not only our neighbors but all the people of the world. But where do we learn to see them? Looking at that Host! The best place in the world for social workers and all those who would serve mankind is to come before the Host, tear away bread as they tear away flesh, and see Christ. This the condition of all social-mindedness.

One of the reasons why all of us in the Church are growing cold in faith because we are doing what Peter did. When our Lord came to His struggling apostles in the boat, who had been rowing against a storm, Peter said to Him, "Lord, bid me come to You on the water." And Peter began to walk on the water. Then he sank! And this is strange; he sank! Now Peter was a swimmer, and if you read the Gospel closely, you will discover the reason why he sank. The Gospel says: "He took account of the winds." And we begin to take account of the currents of public opinion, the surveys, the modern moods, and we begin to sink. Why? Like Peter we have taken our eyes off Christ.

May I plead with all good people to make the hour every day. It means sometimes getting up early. It may be hard, but after a while it seems so easy. Do it, and your life will change. Your character will change. This is the Lord we want. It can be done. Permit me to conclude with a personal note. I have not: missed a holy hour in 51 years, every day. So it can be done.

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OI NEVERK, MATUŠĖLE!

Oi neverk, matušėle, kad jaunas sūnus
 Eis ginti brangiosios tėvynės!
 Kad pavirtęs, kaip ąžuolas girių puikus,
 Lauks teismo dienos paskutinės.

Taip nelaužyk sau rankų, kaip beržo šakas
 Kad laužo užrūšintas vėjas;
 Tau dar liko sūnų; kas tėvynę praras,
 Antros neišmels apgailėjęs.

Ten už upių plačių žiba mūsų pulkai:
 Jie mylimą Lietuvą gina;
 Kam nusviro galva, tam dangaus angelai
 Vainiką iš diemantų pina.

Daugel krito sūnų, kaip tų lapų rudens:
 Baltveidės oi verks, nes mylėjo!
 Bet nei bus, nei tekės Nemune tiek vandens,
 Kiek priešų ten kraujo tekėjo.

Vedė Vytautas ten didžiaviryių pulkus
 Ir priešų sulaužė puikybę:
 Už devynias mares, už tamsiuosius miškus
 Išvarė kryžiuočių galybę.

Saulė leidos raudona ant Vilniaus kapų,
 Kai duobę kareiviai ten kasė,
 Ir paguldė daug brolių greta milžinų,
 O Viešpats jų priglaudė dvasią.

O neverk, matušėle, kad jaunas sūnus
 Eis ginti brangiausios tėvynės!
 Kad pavirtęs kaip ąžuolas girių puikus,
 Lauks teismo dienos paskutinės!

by Maironis (Jonas Mačiulis) - 1895

Here the author urges the mother of a young soldier not to cry because he is going to war. "He will become as an fallen oak, who will wait for the final judgement."

