

VYTIS



The Knight - volume 84 no. 7



Liepa/Rugpjūtis **1998**
July/August

VYTIS

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

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Cover Photo - The Three Crosses of Vilnius before destruction of them by the Communists in 1950. Story on page 3

TO MY FELLOW KNIGHTS

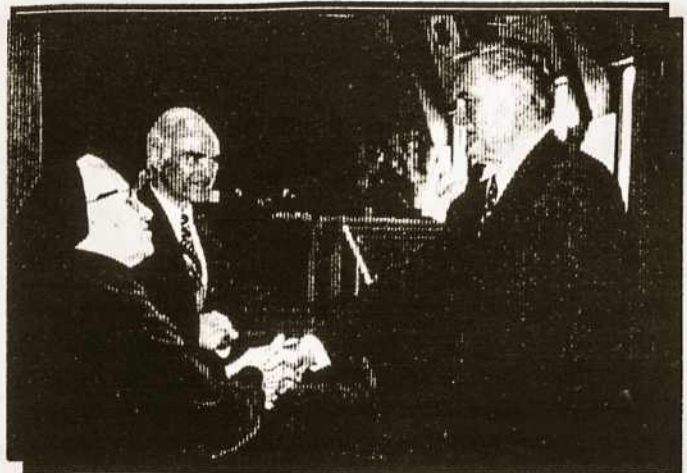
As we near another convention and another summer season, reflections are on the future and growth of our organization, the Knights of Lithuania. At press time, another one of our hard working knights, honorary member Rita Pinkus, joined many of the other great knights who now sit with Our Lord in Heaven. It is indeed sad to see our older members passing, and one wonders who will take their place and will there be enough of the younger members to make a difference and keep the K. of L. vital and thriving. We certainly hope so.

As the second step of a millennium proposal originated by another great Knight, the late Vince Boris, and passed at last year's convention - this year's request is to conduct open discussions on the future of our K. of L. and hopefully, steer it in the right direction. Will we find new great knights who will take up the cause of ensuring Lithuania's freedom in years to come?

As your VYTIS editor ends another series of issues, we are seeking new writers and editors for the various sections. Consider unleashing your talents for this good cause.



VYTIS Editors Marytė Abbott and Dalia Bulvičius with K of L President John Mankus



Sr. Palmira and Faustas Strolia with newly elected Lithuanian President, Valdas Adamkus at entrance to Bl. George Matulaitis Church in Lemont, IL.

Letters to the Editor

Seeking Artifacts and Relatives

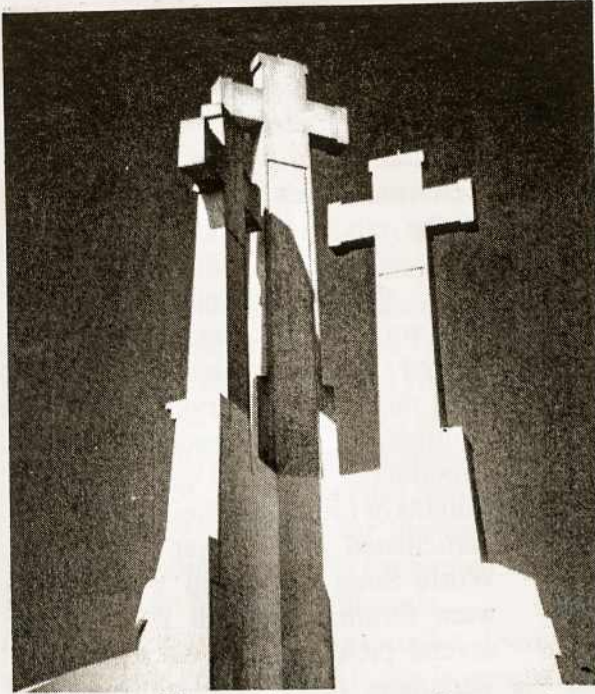
To the Editor:

Where can I purchase "Lithuanian" articles such as wall hangings, pictures, outdoor shrines, amber, books on cooking and folklore.

Both my parents have passed away, my father was Polish and mother was Lithuanian. Her maiden name was Barney (Bernatavičius). I would like some ethnic information and articles to save for my children.

Mrs. J. R. Chepega, Sr. - Trenton, NJ

Ed. Note: One of the best places to purchase articles from Lithuania, besides going there yourself, is at one of our Knights of Lithuania conventions (this year in Waterbury - See "On the Calendar") where local Knights and vendors usually have a nice display, or at a Lithuanian event in your community. Another is through Chicago's Balzakas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, or Lithuanian Heritage Magazine. The museum can also help you trace your Lithuanian roots through their genealogy dept. Write them at Balzakas Museum, 6500 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629.



Three Crosses Monument at present

translated by HM Faustas Strolia

The "Bare Hill" (Plikasis kalnas) of city of Vilnius was decorated for over three hundred years, until the end of the World War II, by three crosses. They reminded the inhabitants of Vilnius of the beginnings of Catholicism in their city and of their first martyrs. Originally, the crosses were built in 1613, reconstructed in 1740 and stood until 1869, when they withered away, but the regime of the Russian Czar did not allow anyone to rebuild them.

Finally, in 1916, they were reconstructed by the people of all the nationalities who lived in this city, when there were no Russians were not in Vilnius. Much effort was put into this project by Msgr. K. Michalkevicius. The project for this monument was drawn by the well-known sculptor and architect Antanas Vivulskis (Wiwulski), a descendant of the nobility of Zemaitija (1877-1919). Among his other works of note are the monument of the Battle of Zalgiris (Tannenberg), the Chapel of Siluva and others.

THE THREE CROSSES OF VILNIUS



*Three Crosses in Vilnius
before Soviets destroyed them*

The monument of Three Crosses was made of concrete. In the lower part it contained this inscription:

Pax Primis XII Operariis in
Lituania Ord.: s. Francisci
Aevo XIV Vilnae occisis
**

Vel maxime VII Marty-
ribus hoc monte crucifixis
**

Christifideles, saevien-
te bello atrocissimo,
ad implorandam opem
divinam et pacem cru-
ces has, in loco primae-
varum, construxerunt
et dedicarunt. AD: MCMXVI

The English translation of this inscription: Peace. In memory of the first missionaries of Christ of the Franciscan Order, who were killed in Vilnius in the XIV century, especially the 7 martyrs, who were crucified on this hill. The followers of Christ built these

crosses and consecrated them, to replace the previous ones, during the atrocious war in AD 1916 to implore God's aid and peace.

There remains a story found in the Lithuanian Chronicle, written by Bychovco, that in the days of the Grand Duke Algirdas there stood in Vilnius a Franciscan monastery, inhabited by 14 monks, who enjoyed the support of Petras Gostautas, the governor (vaivada) of Vilnius. The Chronicle states that once Algirdas with Gostautas left for a battle against Moscow, the pagan people of Vilnius, hating Christians, burned down the Franciscan monastery. They sabred to death seven of the monks, the other seven they crucified and threw down the Neris River by saying: "You came from the sunset (West), let you return to the sunset. How dare you to desecrate our gods!"

In the course of time people created



*Sr. M. Tarcisia and
HM Faustas Strolia
on the platform near
the Three Crosses*

various stories connected with these crosses, and historians never quite agreed whether they were facts or only legends. Nevertheless, the Three Crosses stood above the city, painted in white, and could be seen from afar as a permanent feature of the cityscape, until the Soviets detonated the crosses during a night in 1950. Once Lithuania gained its freedom back, the citizens of Vilnius wanted to see the crosses rebuilt, and gave this project a priority over the multitude of other requests of vital importance. In 1994, when the Knights of Lithuania Choir of Chicago participated in the First Lithuanian World Song Festival in Vilnius, we were fortunate to visit it and take several pictures of it. We made one with the panorama of Vilnius with Sr. M. Tarcisia Stuglis, SSC, and Faustas Strolia, the K of L choir director since 1960, from that hill.



MOTHER THERESA'S WORDS OF WISDOM - TO THOSE PERFORMING WORKS OF CHARITY

People can be unreasonable, illogical and egocentric,
Nevertheless, continue to love them!
When you do good, people will accuse you of self-serving motives,
Nevertheless, continue to do good.
When you are successful, you will attract false friends and real enemies,
Nevertheless, continue to strive for perfection.
Your good works will be forgotten tomorrow,
Nevertheless continue to do good works.
Sincerity and conscientiousness will bring you insults and injuries,
Nevertheless always be sincere and conscientious,
Accomplishments that have taken years to complete can be destroyed in
an instant,
Continue to build.
The poor need help, however they may attack you after you have helped
them,
Nonetheless, continue to help them.
When giving away everything dear to you, you may hesitate to strip yourself,
Nonetheless, give away the very best you have.

Many Thanks as the Good Work Continues...

K. of L's AID TO LITHUANIA - UPDATE

During my last visit to Lithuania in September 1997, I saw a 13 year old girl whose young body was racked with a painful rheumatic condition, her only relief came from medicine provided by Aid To Lithuania. In Vilnius I visited a young man, the victim of a senseless gang attack and robbery which left him brain damaged and semi-conscious. His mother has been at his side constantly for over a year. She has been able to keep him alive with equipment and medicine sent by Aid to Lithuania.

These are only two examples. There are thousands of others. All this is possible by the generosity and Christian compassion expressed by those of you who have generously donated to keep the life-line of hope alive for so many people in Lithuania. Their future would be hopeless without the help we are privileged to be able to give.

During that visit I received a copy of a booklet published by the Lithuanian Government Department of Statistics called "LABDARA, PARAMA LIETUVOJE 1996 Metais. You and I can be justifiably proud that on page 22, AID TO LITHUANIA is listed as the very top provider of help. The statistics show that Aid to Lithuania medical supplies to Lithuania valued at 58,281,356 litai during 1996. This amount was more than the total of the next four largest donors combined.

You might be interested to know that since 1991, Aid to Lithuania has sent over 51 million dollars worth of medicine and supplies in 60 containers as of May 1998.

The next project of Aid to Lithuania, will be a program being organized by a group called "Pharmacists without Borders" in Paris, France. They are planning a major attack on



*Sister Dolorita's Kids at "Eglutė" School;
(top) enjoying candy on Valentine's Day*

Tuberculosis which is devastating Lithuania. They have asked for our help to purchase TB medicine. We know that when this project is officially announced you will be as generous as you have in the past.

Thanks sincerely for your support in the past and we trust that your donations in the



Viršūžiglio Rehabilitation Clinic

future will enable us to continue this work. Rest assured that the Good Lord sees your generosity and will reward your efforts.

Robert S. Boris
President, Aid to Lithuania, Inc.



**CARITAS - VILNIUS
 EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR
 ASSISTANCE FROM "AID TO LITHUANIA."**

Four years ago, Archbishop Backis began the renovation of the Caritas Headquarters in Vilnius on Odminių street, with help received from the Netherlands, Germany and the USA as well as from donations made by people in Lithuania. The new facility enabled the charitable work of Caritas to expand efficiently.

CARITAS PROVIDES:

A HOME for abandoned, abused or unwed mothers and their children, a soup kitchen for homeless children, a social services office and a Caritas medicine dispensary is under the direction of Deacon Balys Stankus. At present, 17 single mothers and 14 children are in residence. In most cases the mothers are victims of abuse or conflicts at home.

A SOUP KITCHEN which feeds around 120 children from large families and homeless kids. Along with wholesome food, the children are taught to paint, play, act and are shown inspirational movies as well as being taught about God and the Church.



"Modern" hospital: no elevators

SOCIAL SERVICES group provides food and clothing for released prisoners and refugees returning from Siberia. The office also helps to coordinate the activities of Caritas throughout the Archdiocese of Vilnius.

THE PHARMACY helps provided medicine for people in need of help, pensioners, handicapped persons and the unemployed. Much of the medicine came from Europe, however thanks to the intercession of Sister Dolorita (from the Franciscan Mission in Utena) medicine from the Catholic Medical Mission Board (Aid to Lithuania) is being received on a regular basis.

Caritas Vilnius and the people of Lithuania are grateful for the assistance they receive from the Knights of Lithuania and especially the financial help received last year from the Estate of Tom Bruzga, DuBois, PA.

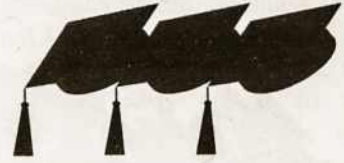
---Deacon Balys Stankus

Anyone wishing more information may contact: Deacon Balys Stankus, Director of Caritas Odminių g. 12 2001 Vilnius Phone 0113702611014.

Donations for Caritas - Vilnius may be sent to: Aid To Lithuania, Inc. 4557 Fairway Court Waterford MI 48328 (Please specify that your gift is for Caritas - Vilnius).

Proposed Changes to the National Scholarship Program

To prepare for the next generation of potential scholarship recipients, the Scholarship Committee would like to solicit your ideas, suggestions, and comments on how to improve the current program. Please read about the current key requirements, and review the questions at the bottom of the page.



The *Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Program* is intended to help a worthy and deserving Knight obtain a college education. Applicants **must be a member of the organization for at least two years to be eligible** to apply for a scholarship award. (This will be verified with the National Financial Secretary.) The Scholarship Program is intended to be a stimulus for young Lithuanian-Americans to join and be active in our organization. **Service to the Knights of Lithuania organization is of prime importance to be considered for this award.**

Scholarships are awarded annually as a grant. Applications must be complete (i.e., picture, transcripts, recommendations, etc) to be considered by the Scholarship Committee. Applications must be submitted usually no later than June 30th of each year. The awards are paid to the recipient in two installments. In exceptional cases, the award may be made in one lump sum. **Scholarships are awarded to different Knights each year and a second award will not be made to the same individual.** There are various scholarships available with individual amounts decided upon by the Supreme Council each year.

Each applicant has the responsibility of completing the application and securing entrance to the college of his/her choice. If the recipient of an award drops out of college, or if his/her scholastic standing becomes unsatisfactory to the college, the unexpended balance of the award may be forfeited at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship awards may be made to a person for undergraduate or graduate work. There is no age limitation. Organizational activity within the Knights of Lithuania is one of the most important criteria for obtaining a scholarship along with the following requirements and stipulations.

An applicant's *qualifications* will be based on recommendations made by his/her 1) *Council President or Council 3rd Vice President*; 2) *Spiritual Advisor or Pastor*; 3) *Former Teacher*; 4) *Character Reference*. Applicants will be evaluated on scholastic records, financial need, and most importantly, K of L involvement. The applications will be carefully studied by the Scholarship Committee and decisions of the committee are final. The recipients of the Scholarship Awards will be announced at the annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania.

Here are some of the Committee's ideas?

- Although funds are limited, would you like to see a four-year scholarship awarded that would be renewable each year based on continued Knights of Lithuania membership and continued academic achievement?
- Should a member be able to reapply for more than one year? Current restrictions are that a member can only win once?
- Should the Knights of Lithuania involvement be de-emphasized?
- Should the scholarship funds be strictly used for college education or could other specialty training programs be reimbursable as long as it was for educational purposes?
- Other suggestions

Vytiškai, thanks for you help!!! Please send your comments to: **Irena Gečas-McCarthy**, K. of L. Scholarship Chair, 446 Joan Court West Hempstead, Long Island, New York 11552



THE JOURNEYS OF ST. CASIMIR

By Edward Baranauskas

St. Casimir was twenty-five years old when he died on March 4, 1484 at the Royal Palace in the city of Gardinas, which was considered to be the second capital of Lithuania at that time. It was here where the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, including Vytautas the Great and other members of the royal family, lived from time to time. Today, it is a part of Belarus, and is known as Grodno.

His father, Casimir IV, was the King of Poland and the Grand Duke of Lithuania. He escorted the body of his son to the Vilnius Cathedral, where he was interred in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It is interesting to point out that several noted historians disagreed as to where St. Casimir died. Some chronicles stated it was in Vilnius, while others claimed it was Gardinas. However, the Benedictine Chronicles and the papal nuncio, Zacharias Ferrerri, a Benedictine monk and bishop, recorded the saint's death as taking place in Gardinas. This was accepted as being more accurate and actual.

Is it possible that Casimir IV's Lithuanian

roots influenced his decision to bring his son's remains to Vilnius? St. Casimir spent most of his young life in Lithuania. It was here that he learned the Lithuanian language and the customs of the Lithuanian people. The Lithuanian magnates crowned him Grand Duke of Lithuania when he was only thirteen years old. He left Vilnius seven years later to become the King of Poland at the age of twenty.

How different history would have been if St. Casimir was laid to rest in Cracow, where he was born and where the royal family lived, instead of Vilnius.

The announcement of St. Casimir's canonization was made in 1602. To honor the Patron of Lithuania, King Sigismund III in 1624 authorized Italian architects to construct a more spacious and beautiful chapel to be added to, and to become part of, the Vilnius Cathedral. The chapel would also serve as a royal mausoleum. The chapel was completed twelve years later during the reign of Vladislovas IV. The remains of St. Casimir were placed in a silver coffin and elevated upon the altar. The chapel was dedicated on August 14, 1636.

Unfortunately, St. Casimir did not rest in eternal peace.

An army from Moscow invaded Lithuania in 1655. The coffin containing the relics of St. Casimir was hidden by the Lithuanians, and saved from harm. It was fortunate that this was done, for the Russians plundered and devastated Vilnius with a fire that raged unchecked for 17 days. The Cathedral sustained extensive damage to its interior and exterior. The coffin of Vytautas the Great disappeared, and was never found.

Both the Cathedral and St. Casimir's Chapel underwent alterations and repairs for years.

However, poor St. Casimir did not rest in peace for long.

The coffin of St. Casimir was once again moved to safety when the Swedish Army, under

King Charles XII, entered Vilnius in 1703 during the Great Northern War. The city suffered, and a plague and famine resulted in the deaths of about a third of its population. The Swedes retreated from Lithuania when they were defeated by the armies of the famous Russian Czar, Peter the Great, in the famed battle of Poltava.

Life in Vilnius returned to normal only in the middle of the 18th century.

One of the darkest periods in recent Lithuanian history occurred during the years following the end of World War II. Stalin confiscated and closed the Cathedral, and years of deliberate neglect followed. It became a haven for rodents, pigeons, and thieves. Much of it was destroyed, even some of its paintings.



Unfortunately, the remains of St. Casimir did not rest in eternal peace.

The coffin containing St. Casimir was secretly removed from the Cathedral in May of 1953 under the cover of darkness. Bishop Kazimieras Paltarokas, the only remaining bishop in Lithuania at that time, presided over the transferal ceremonies to the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in the Antakalnis part of Vilnius.

The Communists converted the Cathedral into a picture gallery and concert hall in 1956. It was taken over by the Ministry of Culture. The entire structure was renovated, the organ was repaired and made playable. Paintings of some of the most famous Western and Lithuanian artists were put on display.

Many unbelievable changes took place in Lithuania after Gorbachev took the reins of power in Moscow in the 1980's. The Communist war on religion was relaxed, and the Church regained the use of the Cathedral in Vilnius as a house of worship.

After almost fifty years of exile, the coffin of St. Casimir was triumphantly returned to the newly renovated Chapel of St. Casimir in the Cathedral on Saturday, March 4, 1989. Archbishop Julijonas Steponavičius, recently returned from exile himself, said mass at the Church of Saints Peter and

Paul. After the services, a procession with clerics bearing the casket wove through the streets of Vilnius to the cathedral, where a mass was celebrated by Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevičius.

Late that afternoon, the Cathedral was closed to the public. The silver casket was then opened, and inside was the wooden casket. Its seals were intact, indicating that the relics had not been disturbed since 1922 when it was last opened. The relics were returned to the silver casket, and later that night was returned to the newly remodeled chapel, where it was originally placed in 1636.

At long last, St. Casimir was back home. Let us hope the Cathedral will enjoy lasting peace, and that St. Casimir will finally earn the eternal rest that he justly deserves.

Footnotes to history:

If historical sources are correct, the casket of St. Casimir was opened twice before 1922.

The first time occurred in 1604. His body was found miraculously preserved through the period of 120 years. Near his head was found the saint's favorite hymn to Our Blessed Mother.

An interesting historical note; When St. Casimir's coffin was opened in 1830, a grand ducal crown was found there. Though history makes no mention of St. Casimir as a reigning monarch, some historians are of the opinion that he was crowned Grand Duke seven years prior to his death.

(Sources: VENTAS KAZIMIERAS. Zenonas Ivinskis, pages 48-49; THE OBSERVER, published in Chicago, number 3, 1989; Encyclopedia Lituanica, Volume 1, page 472; VYTIS, Vol. 70 No. 3, Kovas-March 1984 issue.)



Did You know? The rūta or rue (*ruta graveolens* in Latin) is the unofficial national flower of Lithuania. It is believed to have arrived in Lithuania with the Franciscans around 1563, in the gardens of the Rokiškis rectory. Lithuanian women believed the rūta cured 99 diseases and it became the symbol of virginity and chastity.

Waterbury CT's Notable Lithuanian**PROFESSOR ALEXANDER J. ALEKSIS**

Professor Alexander J. Aleksis was a nationally known composer and a prominent Lithuanian civic leader. He directed the St. Joseph Church choir from January 1, 1924 until 1974. He remained active in the Lithuanian community until his death on November 1, 1983. This renowned organist of St. Joseph Church was born in Lithuania on October 10, 1886.



HM Alexander J. Aleksis

Orphaned at eight years of age, he went to live with his brother, the Reverend Canon Vincas Aleksandravičius, who provided the means for his education in Lomza, Poland. Here the youthful Alexander grew up in an atmosphere of a deeply religious, patriotic and social culture. He graduated from the Warsaw Conservatory of Music on September 1, 1913, with a music teacher's degree in piano, organ and composition. He turned down an offer to become assistant director of the Russian army band in Lomza and emigrated to the United States, living first in Chicago, where he co-founded the Beethoven Conservatory of Music. He gained the honorific title of professor because of his 70 years of involvement in composing piano and composition instructions and his choirmaster posts.

He worked in Roman Catholic Lithuanian churches in Chicago, Brooklyn, Detroit, Springfield, Illinois and Waterbury, Connecticut. Under his direction, the St. Joseph Lithuanian Church choir performed at the 1939 and 1964 New York World Fairs, in many series of Lithuanian Song Festivals and at the dedication of the Lithuania Šiluva Memorial

Chapel at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.

For many years he had a music studio in Waterbury, Connecticut, where he gave vocal and instrumental lessons. He originated Lithuanian radio programs on Waterbury radio stations. He spearheaded local efforts to restore freedom to Lithuania and other Baltic nations subjugated by the Soviet Union

after World War II. He was knighted with the order of Gediminas by the government of free Lithuania in 1938 for his work promoting Lithuanian culture and patriotism.

An early member of the Knights of Lithuania, he composed the hymn of the order in 1916, published some 80 songs and religious works and one operetta, "To the Fatherland". He was honorary member of the Lithuanian Catholic Federation of America, the Lithuanian Organists and Musicians Association, the Lithuanian American Council, and the Lithuanian Catholic Workers Alliance. In Waterbury, he was president of the Knights of Lithuanian, the Society for the Liberation of Vilnius, the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, the U.S. Serviceman's Families Society, and many more community organizations.

On the political scene, he was city court interpreter during the administrations of two Waterbury mayors. On February 16, 1979, Aleksis served as Lithuanian "Mayor of the Day".

Aleksis lived up town on Center Street in Waterbury his entire life with the exception of a

In Memoriam

HM Rita Pinkus
C-26, Worcester, MA
June 3, 1998

Sylvia Shukis
C-1, Brockton, MA
May 18, 1998

Frances Valonis
C-110, Maspeth, NY
April 16, 1998

Helen Cummins
C-110, Maspeth, NY
May 14, 1998

Mary Ann Yokstas
C-141, Bridgeport, CT
March 1, 1998

Edward Charles Yokstas
C-141, Bridgeport, CT
May 14, 1998

Mary Catherine Ratkus
C-142, Washington, DC
April 29, 1998

John P. Pitrenas
C-29, Newark, NJ
May 15, 1998

Jerome Jankus
C-96, Dayton, OH
March 1998

Anna R. Miller
C-116, Worcester, MA
April 30, 1998

Helen Churi
C-74, Scranton, PA
May 9, 1998

Rev. Jonas Gasiunas
(94 years old.)
C-147, St. Petersburg, FL
March 11, 1998

Mary Duggan
C-26, Worcester, MA
May 1, 1998

Dwight Cummings
C-26, Worcester, MA
May 30, 1998



*May their souls
rest in the
peace of Our
Lord.*

brief time when he lived at the Eiton Hotel. His daily routine as organist at St. Joseph Church was walking to the church in the Brooklyn area at an early hour, approximately 1 mile, he never drove a car.

The organist was kept quite busy prior to Vatican II, as there were six masses on Sunday, one every hour from 6:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Sometimes the early mass was a low mass, the school children sang at the 9:00 A.M. mass and the 11:00 A.M. was a solemn high mass sung in Latin with about 90 choir voices participating every week. Sunday afternoon at 3:00 P.M., Aleksis and the adult choir sang the Vespers in Latin, followed by Benediction. There was choir rehearsal every Thursday in the old school building on Congress Avenue. During Lent,

well-known missionaries conducted missions followed by Benediction and choir singing. There was a week of Evangelization for women only. Then a week for men only, another week for young adults and a week for school children. May devotions and the Feast of the Holy Rosary in October were solemn occasions, and Alexis also performed at funerals and weddings.

Aleksis first wife was a social activist, Frances Nutautas, who died in 1930 and a son by that marriage, Norbert Aleksis, died in 1968. His second wife is Marcella Laureckas. Alexander Aleksis was a man who dedicated his entire life to his Lithuanian community, and we were blessed to have him pass our way.



Lithuania's Five National Parks

When we think of national parks, most of us think of Yosemite, Grand Canyon and a slew of other notables. Lithuania, boasts of five beautiful national parks, and also contains over 30 other parks, called regional parks.

Lithuania's first national park, **The Aukštaitija National Park** was established in 1974 and covers 30,000 hectares (or about 75,000 acres) in the regions of Ignalina, Utena and Švenčionys. Over 70% of the area is covered with pine forests, including ancient woods with pine trees over 200 years old in Azvinciai. The remains of the oak forests of Kaltanėnai, Trainiskis and Varnišķiai cover a vast area. The park has many lakes and contains ethnographic villages.

The largest lake in the park is Lake Dringis (721 ha) and Lake Tauragnas is the deepest lake in Lithuania (60.5 meters). Connecting the lakes are about 30 rivers. Woods, marshes and meadows abound along with rare plant species and these are the domain of elk, deer, wild boar, Canadian mink and a variety of birds.

The park embraces 80 settlements and villages, some of which have retained their original layout and archaic wooden farm buildings and structures. The Paluse village, which is the tourist center of the park, was first mentioned in written sources in 1651. There is also an octagonal wooden church dating back to 1757 and accommodations are provided in old wind mills turned into tourist centers.

Most notable and the most heavily explored national park is the **Trakai National Park**. Visited by over 300,000 people every year, the area surrounding Trakai has about 20



Trakai Castle and Lake Galve

lakes and a number of forests, attracting not only history buffs but nature lovers as well. In the Varnikiai-Ilgelis and Plomenai nature reserves, one can find a number of rare birds and plants. The town of Trakai itself is also an interesting attraction, noted for its wooden houses built by the Karaites, a tribe of Turkic people brought to Lithuania by Grand Duke Vytautas to serve as his bodyguards.

It was designated in 1992 to preserve the historic city of Trakai and the lakes, forests and villages surrounding it, the total area of this preserve is 8,000 kilometers. Its most valuable asset is the Trakai insular castle, remnants of the peninsula castle and the ancient site of the Senieji Trakai (Old Trakai) castle with a church and village. It was at the Senieji Trakai, according to chronicles, the capital of Lithuania was transferred in the 14th century by Grand Duke Gediminas. The capital was later transferred to the castle situated on a peninsula between Lukas and Galve Lakes. The largest castle of its time, it served as the residence for a number of Lithuanian rulers before the famous insular castle was constructed on an island in Lake Galve which served as the residence of a number of Grand Dukes of Lithuania including Kestutis and Vytautas. It was there that Vytautas died in 1430. The famed Trakai castle

was ruined during the wars in the 18th century, but the castle has been restored and is now an impressive history museum.

Kuršių Nėrija National Park, designated to protect the natural beauty of the Kuršių Nėrija, is a narrow peninsula separating the Curonian Lagoon from the Baltic Sea. Located near Nida, this park covers an area of 18,000 hectares (or nearly 45,000 acres) and is a sandy stretch of land extending 98 kilometers with a width varying from 400 meters to 3.8 kilometers. This peninsula was formed 5-6,000 years ago, as sand accumulated in shallow waters along the Baltic coast. Sea winds shifted the sand, creating large sand dunes stretching for 70 kilometers. The largest of the dunes, called Sklandytoju, Angiu Kalno and Urbo Kalno are up to 1,000 meters high and provide a breathtaking view of the sea, lagoon and forests.

Before the 15th century the spit was covered by both deciduous and coniferous forests which were felled and this led to severe sand shifting. Fourteen villages were swallowed up by moving sands and in 1825, the first reforestation project was begun to try and stop the erosion. At present, life on the spit is protected by pine-woods forests.

In Juodkrante, the first stop on the road from Nida, a number of old fisherman's houses are protected as architectural monuments. Nida, the largest settlement on the spit, contains many rare plant species, and a tourist attraction nearby is the famous "Witches Hill" containing beautiful large wood carvings depicting Lithuanian folk art. The ecological concerns of the area limits access to the area is restricted and visitors need to provide advance notice.

The Dzūkija National Park was designated in 1991 in the region of Varena to protect the natural landscape, old villages, forests and historical and cultural monuments of Southeastern Lithuania. Among the historical attractions is the ancient town of Merkine,

which dates back to the 14th century, and is located between the Nemunas and Merkys Rivers. The Merkine castle offers awesome views of the Nemunas valley and surrounding areas. Liskiava, a historic village accessible by boat or bus from Druskininkai, is a settlement steeped in numerous legends and folktales, many connected with the old 14th century castle, whose remnants still remain.

Pine forests abound with mushrooms and berries. These crops of nature have long served as extra income for the local townspeople. Among the mushrooms found are the edible boletus and chantarelle, which are popular exports. Some rare protected plant species are also found. Birdlife includes rare species of eagles, and the forests also are home to elk, deer, wild boar, foxes and wolves. Access to the park can be found in its administration center in Marcinkonys.

Also designated in 1991, is the **Žemaitija National Park**, situated on the Žemaičių Highlands and consists of about 50,000 acres of fir-grove, pine, birch, oak and alder forests, plus lakes and marshlands. An prehistoric glacier caused the marshlands and lakes to form there, the largest lake is Plateliai. Plateliai is also the park's administration center and is a popular tourist area, complete with a yachting club, park and architectural monuments, along with a church and belfry.

163 species of birds, including rare ospreys, owls, and falcons reside in the park. Numerous animals including martens, mink and lynx are also found. The lakes boast types of rare salmon, eel and other fishes.

Žemaitija National Park also has 30 architectural monuments which including mounds, sacred hills, stone century camps and old cemetery castle hills. Samogitian crosses and wayside shrines are built near the roads; they represent a synthesis of Paganism and Christianity. The park has one of the oldest (☞ continued on page 15)

Not July 4th, but Feb. 16...

WHAT INDEPENDENCE DAY MEANS TO ME

A Speech by Kay A. Yankoski

All of my grandparents came to this country at the beginning of this century, so I'm a second generation American. When I was a little girl growing up in PA, I assumed that the whole world was Lithuanian. It was a great shock to learn that my Uncle George was in fact Russian, and 2 of my aunts were Polish! At that time and place, the emphasis was on assimilation — put Lithuania behind you and be an American. My parents spoke Lithuanian in order to communicate with their parents who never learned English, but we children were second generation Americans with no apparent need to learn the Lithuanian language. When I was 10, we moved to a community that was primarily White Anglo Saxon Protestant, last names were one or two syllables long.

When I was at school here in Washington, I met a Russian jeweler who said, "Your name sounds like Smith to me!" I felt a stirring, an awakening, a need to know more about the dormant Lithuanian in me. After finishing school here, I moved back to PA briefly and later decided that I would like to live in the Washington area permanently.

In the back of my head, I'd always been curious about my ethnic background, so I telephoned the Lithuanian Legation. At that time, no one there spoke English and my Lithuanian consisted of the little I'd learned at my grandma's knee. Again my interest lay dormant until I met a woman who told me she was Lithuanian and that she belonged to a Lithuanian club. She suggested that I come to a meeting and that was how I was introduced to The Knights of Lithuania [Council 142]. It was fascinating to me to meet a roomful of Lithuanians who were not my relatives! I became more involved and more interested: I began attending the monthly Lithuanian Mission Mass in Georgetown, I participated in the demonstrations across from the Soviet Embassy and loved the enthusiasm and camaraderie, suddenly my calendar was filling up with various Lithuanian activities, including: Independence Day Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral,

the Scouts Muge in Spring, the Festival in Baltimore in June, and various activities at the Legation in addition to Mass the last Sunday of each month and K of L meetings and activities like our picnic and Christmas Party.

Still there was that curiosity — I wanted to know more. So, 10 years ago my mother and I embarked on a journey to Lithuania — back in the days when you had to enter through Moscow. I remember the fear of going through Russian Customs, of seeing a young girl from our group being escorted off by two burly matrons for a body search. I remember the loathing I felt that we had to ask permission from the bullies who were our oppressors to visit our homeland. My mother is still amazed at how much there is to that little country of Lithuania; I was not - I had great expectations and I was not disappointed. The next time I went to Vilnius, it was by myself and I still wonder at the dumb luck that took me from the International Airport in Moscow to the domestic airport for my flight to Vilnius. My Russian vocabulary consisted of little more than nyet and do svedania and illegal money changers saw me as ripe for the plucking. Somehow I managed to get myself and my baggage into a taxi and I was on my way to the next part of my journey. On my third trip, the Communists still ruled and this time I had to fly in and out of East Berlin — another adventure — staying in the comfort and affluence of West Berlin, then being transported into the bleak discomfort of Communism. But again, I survived to tell the tale. By my fourth trip, I could fly easily through the Scandinavian countries - Lithuania was free at last! My fifth trip this past July was yet another milestone — in London I boarded Lithuanian Airlines for my flight to Vilnius!

So Independence Day has been an evolution for me. It actually began in Lithuania 10 years ago when the only free speech consisted of whispers on the street — a friend, an engineer who worked on the Lietuva Hotel, warned us that "the walls have

ON THE CALENDAR...

August 6-9, 1998 - K of L.

Convention:

**Host: Council 7 - Waterbury, CT
Sheraton Four Pts. - Waterbury, CT**

1998 District Conventions:

September 13 - MAD fall meeting will be held in Riverhead, Long Island hosted by C-152.

September 20 - NED fall convention will take place in New Haven with hosts C-50.

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

Other Events

October 18 - Cultural Festival hosted by New Haven, C-50 and Lawrence, C-78.

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

ears". It was a time when my daring friends would simply put my [blank] permission slip to leave the city on the table next to the front door — if you don't ask for permission, they can hardly refuse you! If we encountered a roadblock in our travels, I simply remained mute, lest my English give us away. I remain a babe in the woods, but with dictionary in hand, I have met kindly souls who have gotten off the public bus with me to take me to the park where I was supposed to meet a friend on his lunch break from translating at the Seimas.

Independence Day for me means Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral with other Lithuanian friends and nodding acquaintances; it means hearing the Cathedral Choir sing *Marija, Marija* and our National Anthem — I cannot sing either, and yet, here is an inner city choir singing beautifully in a difficult foreign tongue. Just thinking about it brings tears to my eyes. Independence Day for me is a Day of Recollection — of remembering all the years that I have wondered about my heritage, how much I have personally observed the evolution of Lithuania's independence over the past 10 years and 5 visits, until now when I can freely sense Lithuania in every possible way, to see and hear and touch and smell and taste Lithuania for myself.



Lithuania's National Parks (☞ from p. 13) recorded towns in Lithuania, Žemaičių Kalvarija, which was first reported in 1253 (then named Gardai). During the second half of the 19th century, the town became an important clandestine distribution site for forbidden Lithuanian literature.

Bishop Jurgis Tiškevičius modeled the 19 Stations of the Cross Road at the town in 1642, with the 7 km road a model of Jerusalem's Calvary Road. Žemaičių Kalvarija, or "Calvary of Žemaitija" was the town's name in honor of the road. Prior to the Soviet occupation, ceremonies were so extravagant they attracted Latvian and German worshippers. To this day, thousands pay homage to this locale in July of each year.

In addition to its national parks, Lithuania also has four special reserves, (Čepkeliai, Kamanos, Viesvile and Žuvintas) with special permits needed to enter these places where 35 species of wild animals, 200 species of birds, 20 species of fish and 800 varieties of flora surviving at these reserves are under government protection.

See *Lithuania's National Parks website* (<http://www.tourism.Lt/nature/parks>).

Lithuanian gods and goddesses

Praamžius (Jupiter) - the highest ranking god, the Alpha - the beginning.
Lada - the goddess of the animal and plant world.
 Mother of the twins - Lelą and Lelij.

The trinity...

Perkūnas (thunder) - the god of atmosphere and nature.

Patrimpas (Poseidon or Neptune) - the god of the sea, also the god of warmth and harvest. He had the form of a grass snake.

Pikuolis - the god of the underground, darkness, anger and accidents.

The goddesses of life and death...

Laima - the goddess of fertility and everything that is alive on earth. The female version of Praamžius. Had the form of a cuckoo.

Dalia - the goddess of fate, ones future. Had the form of a swan.

Giltinė (the grim reaper) - the goddess of death. Had the form of an owl.

Veliuona (velionis - the deceased) - the goddess of the souls of the dead.

The gods of the earth...

Puškaitis - took care of the harvest.

Pergubrė - the goddess of Spring and blossoms

Kaupuolė - goddess of the fields and plants

Rasa (the dew) - the daughter of Kaupuolė, the goddess of the renewal of life.



Perkūnas the god of thunder, and nature

The household gods

Žemyna (žemė - earth) - the protectress of grain and animals

Gabija - the goddess of fire, hearth

The lower gods...

Andaja - the goddess of fate and fear

Pilnytis - the god of treasure

Kovas (kova - battle) - the god of war

Aušantas the god of health and healing

Ganiklis (ganyti - to herd) - the god of shepherds

Kelinklis - the god of travelers

Milda - the goddess of love and freedom

Krūminė (krūmas - bush) - the foundress of agriculture

Nijolė - the goddess of the underground, the daughter of Pikuolis

Medeinė (medis - wood) - the protectress of forests

Žvėrinė (žvėris - beast) - the protectress of the animals

Lazdona (lazdynas - a nut tree orchard) - the protectress of nuts

Samanėlis (samanos - moss) - the protectress of moss, mushrooms

Miškinėlis (miškas - forest) - the protector of the forests

Austėja (austi - weave) - the protectress of the family and also of the bees

Bubilas - the god of the bees and honey

Ragutis - the god of brewers, beer and midas (mead)

Raugžemėpati (raugti - to ferment) - the god of sour food



Lithuanians in the News

Lithuanian Chef to the Stars

Former Junior and now 2nd degree K of L'er, Michael Pant of C-96, Dayton, was chef to Vice President Al Gore and Tipper for four years, preparing mouth watering dishes such as roasted duck with orange and grapefruit flavored stuffing. Although the duck recipe sounded like a Florida favorite, it's actually based on an old Lithuanian recipe from his grandmother's cookbook, according to Pant. He began cooking in his mother's kitchen when he was eight years old and was into gourmet recipes when he was 14, preparing festive food for holidays and special occasions.

After studying restaurant management at Sinclair Community College in Ohio, he enlisted in the Navy and became one of seven cooks for a crew of 150 on a submarine. As part of his naval experience he trained at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI, became chef for the U.S. Department of Defense and then moved on to cook for the Gores, emphasizing "family orientated cooking with some gourmet cooking".

The news article emphasized some of the special traditional Easter foods such as lamb, ham served with kugelis (Lithuanian potato pudding) and ausukeis or little ears, served as a dessert. Other popular dishes he likes to prepare are cold beet soup, creamy pickled herring, saffron herring, sauerkraut with caraway seeds, peppercorns, grated carrots and onions, meat stuffed dumplings and sour cream and fresh tomatoes.

"I get pleasure from watching other people get pleasure out of the food I prepare," Pant noted, "When I think about food, I think about sharing. It's a time to relax and spend time with family and friends. It's a happy time."

Ed. Note: Perhaps Michael can supply the editors with some of his favorite Lithuanian recipes from his grandmother's cookbook.

From Palm Beach Daily News by Skippy Harwood (4/8/98)



K of L President, John Mankus visits with former Lithuanian President, Algirdas Brazauskas during recent Washington conference.

Amsterdam Library Promotes Lithuanian Culture

For the second year, the Amsterdam Public Library hosted a Lithuanian heritage day for local residents to learn more about our culture and traditions. Mirga Bablin, C-100 president, along with past president, Irene Tice, and Junior, Emily Gavry hosted the event. All the ladies were dressed in Lithuanian traditional costumes, complete with amber jewelry. Mrs. Bablin discussed the significance of Lithuanian amber, while Mrs. Tice discussed the Lithuanian language and traditions. Emily Gavry performed a folk dance and taught members of the audience to join in.

Linens, wood carvings, Easter eggs and amber were displayed, Lithuanian traditions in the home were discussed, and the Lithuanian version of the folk tale, Cinderella was read. Lithuanians in the area and non-Lithuanians alike enjoyed the special event.

Amsterdam Recorder (5/3/98)

BALTIC NATIONS CELEBRATE AT THE SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

The celebration of nearly a decade of independence for the Baltic Nations radiated throughout the National Mall June 24-28 and July 1-5 when "The Baltic Nations: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania" were featured in the 32nd annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Although the three Baltic Nations share a history and location along the Baltic Sea, they have distinct languages and cultures. Within the Lithuanian events, festival visitors experienced a Baltic kitchen, with Lithuanian culinary delights such as herring in a sour cream sauce, potato pancakes and blueberry dumplings.

A Lithuanian blacksmith created beautiful intricate sun designs, while masters of amber designed jewelry. Additionally, an Easter egg decorator demonstrated decorating skills. Sodauto, a group of Lithuanian-American singers based in Boston, introduced visitors to the world of Lithuanian music in the United States. The group formed in 1974 as a means of preserving their Lithuanian heritage since leaving their homeland. A women's acapella group sang ancient melodies, and the Marcinkoniai village folk group taught the traditions of mushroom and berry gathering while sitting around a Lithuanian village table.

In addition, a Baltic Reunion Dance Party special evening was held Wednesday, July 1, 1998 hosted by the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall. This was not be a choreographed performance, but rather an informal dance session where Baltic participants, Baltic-Americans and the general audience learned traditional dances together.

Smithsonian

Congratulations to Dolores Wainauskis, senior technologist, laboratories resource coordinator at Northwestern Memorial



Dolores Wainauskis



Tomas Sirgedas

in Chicago and a member a long time of C-112. Dolores was honored at the 1998 Annual Employee Recognition Day Dinner for her 45 years of service. Wainauskis was among 300 employees (who collectively had given over 5,300 years of service to the hospital. They were recognized for their commitment to "patients first" at the annual celebration at the Westin Hotel. *Submitted by Estelle Rogers, HM, C-112*

Congratulations also to Tomas Sirgedas, who graduated Detroit Catholic Central, Redford, MI. He had received academic honors in multiple categories, is a member of the National Honor Society, Math Team, Computer Club, Quiz Bowl Team and Science Olympiad and Science Fair. He also is treasurer of the Lithuanian Catholic Youth Organization of Detroit and a camp counselor for the Lithuanian Catholic Youth Camp. He plans to study computer engineering at the University of Michigan this fall.

Lithuanian Priest aboard the Titanic

Fr. Juozas Montvila of Marijampolė was 27 when he left Lithuania for London, where a friend assisted him in booking passage to America. He would travel second class on the maiden voyage of the Titanic, which began its sail on April 11, 1912.

As the ocean liner hit the iceberg and began to sink, Fr. Montvila refused to board a lifeboat and gave his place to another passenger. He continued to minister to those around him and heard confessions. He gave his life so others might live. An underground church in Lithuania in the late 1980's began a cause for Fr. Montvila's beatification, the results are not known.

*From Lithuanian Heritage (Mar-Apr 1998)
Submitted by Eleanor Olechowski, C-100*

LITHUANIAN CHEFS



Make your next event a Lithuanian one with **Cheese or Fruit Dumplings**

(serves 16)

DOUGH:

2 cups of all purpose flour
1 egg
½ cup milk
1 tsp. salt
2 egg whites, beaten to a froth

CHEESE FILLING:

1 lb. Large curd cottage cheese or pot cheese
2 Tbsp. sugar
1 egg yolk
1 Tbsp. melted butter, cooled
½ tsp. salt
2 cups sour cream
4 Tbsp. melted butter, hot

CHERRY FILLING:

1 ½ lbs. fresh sour cherries, pitted (or 1 ½ cups drained, canned pitted sour cherries)
1/3 cup sugar

BLUEBERRY FILLING:

1 pt. blueberries
4 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. fresh, strained lemon juice

Dough: Pour flour into large mixing bowl; make deep well in center. Drop in egg, milk and salt. With fingertips or large spoon, slowly mix flour into liquid ingredients; mix vigorously until dough is stiff enough to be gathered into compact ball. If dough

crumbles, add an additional 1 to 2 teaspoons milk to make particles adhere. Dust ball with flour, wrap in waxed paper and chill 30 minutes. Reserve egg whites until after filling is prepared.

Cheese filling: Puree cheese in food mill, or rub with back of large spoon through fine sieve set over a bowl. Beat in sugar, egg yolk, melted butter and salt; stir in one cup sour cream, 1/4 cup at a time. Continue to stir until ingredients are thoroughly mixed.

Cherry or blueberry filling: Spread ½ fruit at the bottom of 1 qt. enameled or stainless steel saucepan. Sprinkle with ½ sugar, then make similar layers of remaining fruit and sugar. Bring to a boil over high heat, then cover pan and reduce heat to low. Simmer over moderate heat for 3 to 5 minutes.

If using blueberries, stir in lemon juice; let them cool to room temperature. With slotted spoon, transfer blueberries or sour cherries to small bowl. Bring juices remaining in pan to rapid boil; boil steadily, uncovered, for 2 to 3 minutes, or until they thicken into light syrup. Pour syrup into small serving bowl; set aside.

Assembling dumplings: On lightly floured surface, roll dough into circle about 1/8"

thick. Cut out as many circles as possible with 3 ½ to 4 " cookie cutter. Gather remaining scraps into ball, roll out again and cut out additional circles. With pastry brush, coat each circle with light film of beaten egg white. Drop 1 tablespoon cheese or 1 tsp. fruit on lower half of each circle. Bring exposed ½ circle up over filling; press edges all around dough firmly with back of fork. Make certain that edges are thoroughly sealed to prevent filling from seeping through. Set aside, loosely covered with towel until ready to cook.

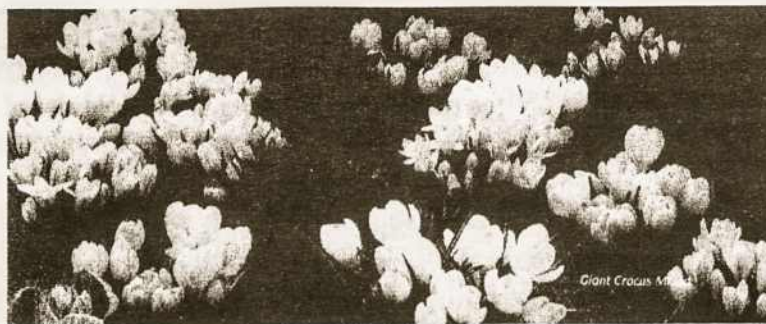
Bring 4 qts. salted water to a boil in 5 to 6 quart pot; drop in 6 dumplings. Lower heat; simmer uncovered for 8 to 10 minutes, or until they float to surface of water. Remove with slotted spoon; transfer to heated platter. Cover loosely with foil to keep them hot while you cook the remaining dumplings similarly.

To serve, arrange dumplings on heated platter; moisten with hot melted butter. If you have used fruit filling, serve dumplings with cherry or blueberry juice. Cheese dumplings are customarily served with the remaining cup of sour cream.

Thanks to Vincent Samaska of C-36 for this delicious recipe.



*The Lithuanian
Gardener*
**Flowering
Bulbs**



by HM Frank Petrauskas

My subject for this installment is flowering bulbs. Bulbs are plants for all seasons. With careful selection you can have bulbs in bloom at any time the year. There are some that push up through the snows of late winter dozens that fill the garden with color in the spring, more that thrive in summer's sun and others that arrive and linger after the leaves have fallen. A number can even be induced to flower indoors during the winter.

Bulbs are plants for all seasons and they are plants for all places. Wet or dry sunny or shady, wooded or open almost any spot is suitable for a flowering bulb.

Bulbs are divided into five categories. They are true bulbs, corms, tubers, tuberous roots and rhizomes. True bulbs which are tulips, daffodils, narcissi, hyacinths and lilies have a complete embryo of the plant to come packed inside the bulb. Corms are crocus, freesia, galanthus, erantis, scilla and gladiolus and they are a solid mass of stored tissue with the buds on top. Tubers are tuberous begonia, caladium) gloxinia and anemone and they are a solid mass of stored tissue with buds but no base plate. Tuberous-rooted plants such as dahlias, ranunculus and winter aconites have swollen food storing roots, the bud eyes are not on the roots but on the base of the plant's stem. Rhizomes such as canna, lily of the valley and calla are thickened under ground stems that grows horizontally with bud eyes on top and roots below.

The growth cycle of the bulbs which is from the time you plant the bulbs to the time when they produce new bulbs after blooming. True bulbs can weeks. Corms up to 18 weeks. Tubers

can be up to 16 weeks. Tuberous root up to 20 weeks. Rhizome can be up to 16 weeks.

When buying bulbs always buy from a reputable dealer as the old adage goes — you only get what you pay for. Bargain basement prices too often gives you poor quality results. If you are able to select the bulbs personally then choose the bulbs that are firm and noticeably heavy for their size. Don't choose any that have soft spots or bruises.

The bulbs have been purchased and now it's time for planting. Spring flowering bulbs can be planted any time from September to until the ground freezes. Summer flowering and Fall flowering can be planted in the Spring. Planting can be done in a prepared bed or you can plant them individually throughout your garden beds.

To prepare a bed you will need a rototiller, bone meal, or dried manure, or 5-10-5 fertilizer and peat moss if necessary. Choose one of the fertilizers and spread it on the bed at a rate of 5— 6 pounds per 100 square feet. Myself, I like dried manure. If your soil is sandy and weak or heavy clay add a couple of inches of peat moss to the bed. Next take your rototiller and till the bed to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. Make sure the end result is a soft fluffy mix once the stone, roots and other debris are removed. Bulbs grow best in a soil PH range of 6.0 to 6.8.

When you have the bed smooth to your liking, take your bulbs and set them on top of your bed according to your plan or design. Smaller bulbs can be set as close as 3 to 4 inches apart and larger bulbs as close as 6-8 inches apart. For planting depth small bulbs 3 to 4 inches and larger 6 - 8 inches. Once the bulbs are set on the bed take the bulb to be planted in your left hand, press it lightly on the soil to make a slight mark then with the trowel in your right hand

dig straight down to the planting depth, pull the soil toward you wide enough to fit the bulb into the hole. Cover over the bulb with soil and go onto the next, etc.

For best color and show plant the same types of bulbs in groups of a dozen or two. Start with the early varieties, then the medium and then the late. This way you'll have a longer period of color. The earliest of the bulbs are the snowdrops, winter aconites and crocuses. A bit later are daffodils, narcissi, hyacinths and early tulips. Still later are the rest of the tulips. Even later are the anemones, irises and a number of lilies.

For summer color we can go with alliums, caladiums, tuberous begonias, lilies, cannas, gladioluses, callas and tigridias.

Late summer and fall color comes from dahlias, acidantheras, hardy amaryllis, haemanthus, zephyr lilies, stembergia, cyclamens and autumn crocuses.

The various summer and fall flowering bulbs will have a variety of planting depths starting with

the tuberous begonia set in at soil level down to galtonia at 6 to 7 inches. In between we have the canna at 3 to 4 inches, the various lilies and gladiolus and dahlia at 4 to 5 inches.

Of course all of the above flowers originate from bulbs. For more fall color I would suggest you use some chrysanthemums or mums as they are commonly known. I like to use them in the fall and they give me a couple of months of color.

Happy planting to you. Working with soil and plants can be a very relaxing and rewarding experience. Especially when you see the beautiful results of your labors.



Did You Know?

The small settlement of Paberžė, located near the Musė River, is the only place in Lithuania known for its bull fights. In the beginning of the 16th century, the bull fighting was held at the Paberžė estate where local matadors took part.

Šypsniak be raukšlių

Smiles without Wrinkles

The Parrot

When Uncle Charlie died of old age, Bill was bequeathed his uncle's prized Amazon parrot. This parrot was fully grown-with a bad attitude and worse vocabulary. Every other word was an expletive. Those that weren't expletives were, to say the very least, extremely rude.

Bill tried hard to change the bird's attitude and was constantly saying polite words, playing soft music - anything he could think of to try to set a good example...

Nothing worked. Exasperated, he yelled at the bird. But the bird just got louder. Then he shook the parrot. But the bird just got more angry and more rude.

Finally, in a moment of desperation, Bill put the parrot in the freezer. For a few moments he heard the bird squawking, kicking, and screaming... Then suddenly, all was quiet. Bill was frightened that he might have hurt his uncle's prize parrot and quickly opened the freezer door.

The parrot calmly stepped out onto Bill's extended arm and said: "I am truly sorry that I might have offended you with my language and actions and humbly ask your forgiveness. I will now, from this day forth, endeavor to correct my behavior so that such ill-perceived outbursts never again occur."

Bill was completely astonished at the bird's change in attitude and was about to ask what had caused such a dramatic change when the parrot continued: "May I ask what the chicken did?"

District & Council News

New England District

Aldona Marcavage

The NED Spring Convention in Lawrence, Mass. began with Holy Mass in honor of all living and deceased members of New England, with Fr. Peter Shakalis, celebrant. With Daniel Skusevich at the organ, the St. Francis male choir, consisting of six beautiful voices, were a pleasant addition to the Mass. Hearty congratulations to David Boucher and his committee of diligent workers for presenting such a well-planned menu of delicious foods for the hungry Knights. Didelis Lietuviškas Ačiu.

Fr. Richard Brady, Pastor of St. Francis Church extended a warm welcome. He said "I'm Irish, you know, but remember this is your church".

Father Albin Janiunas gave his heartfelt thanks to all for joining him in the celebration of his 50th anniversary in priesthood. He was especially grateful to Council 78 for hosting the celebration.

Fr. Shakalis gave the Founder's Day talk on M. Norkūnas--on this the 85th observance of that historic occasion. Long live the Knights of Lithuania--and continue to grow.

This meeting was significant in that it was the first meeting conducted by our new NED president, Bill Piacentini. This gives Bertha Stoskus the less stressful job of corresponding



*Fr. Albin Janiunas (C-78)
speaking at the NED
Spring Convention*

secretary. Good luck to you both.

Irene Tamulevich's bequest was read and discussed. She left a substantial gift to NED to establish the Sviklas/Tamulevich Memorial Scholarship Fund. It is hoped the scholarship program will be in place within the year.

Marytė Bizinkauskas spoke on the necessity to increase membership. "Nothing," she said, "beats a personal invitation by an enthusiastic member. It also helps to keep meetings informative, brief and fun--and goal-oriented, joined in by all members for the common good." We are saddened by the loss of Holyoke's Council 145.

Al Akule, reservations

chairman, reminded us the date for the NED retreat is drawing near--and Father Robert is waiting for us.

Three Anna Maria College nurses spoke of their visits to Lithuania for the past few years (at their own expense). They presented the latest health and medical practices to over 2,000 medical personnel there.

Many 3rd degrees were earned, but only three attended--they were: Vivian Rogers, C-26, Mary Bachinaky, C-78; and David Boucher, C-78.

This year's Cultural Festival on October 18, 1998, will be hosted by New Haven, C-50 and Lawrence, C-78. The Cultural Festival scholarship fund is to be replaced by Cultural Festival Operating Fund raffle. The money raised will be utilized for district expenses and charitable donations. The Tamulevich bequest is responsible for the change. NED congratulates Father Contons on his 50th anniversary in priesthood. May you be blessed with good health and many more anniversaries.

Bon voyage to Bronė and Bill Wišnauskas who are gallivanting all over Europe this summer.

Chosen as delegates to the National convention in Waterbury were Maryte Bizinkauskas, C-1 and Bertha Stoskas C-103. Alternate is Stan Wassell, C-27. The NED fall convention will take place in New Haven with hosts C-50 on September 20, 1998. Just

heard of the passing of active member Sylvia Shukis.

Our condolences to her family and friends, Iľėkis Dievo Ramybėje.

C-12, New York, NY

Dalia Bulvičius

During our June meeting we had a commemoration of the terrible June days. A friend of the council Rita Dmukauskas, who came to the US about 3 years ago recalled her memories as a child of the terrible mass deportations. Vida Gendvilas recited a poem by Maironis and also spoke about those turbulent days more than 50 years ago. Jurgis Aleniunas, who was born in the United States, but was taken to Lithuania as a child, suffered in Siberia for many years. He had a chilling tale to tell.

On the brighter side, our cultural chair Tony Yacavonis spoke about the Lithuanian language and how certain words are made up.

The national convention in Waterbury will be well represented by our council. About 15 of us are planning to attend.

Our talented weaver Stase Aleniunas will represent us at the Smithsonian Folk Festival in June and July.

Congratulations to Irene and Ed Senken who recently became grandparents - twice.

A sincere gero vejo to: Milly Pietz, Vida and Vincent Gendvilas and John Antanavičius who are on their way to Lithuania this summer.

The NY Lithuanian Community and Council 110 are planning a 65th Darius and Girenas commemoration on June



NED President William Piacentini at Spring Convention April 26th

27th. at Floyd Bennett field (from which the heros took off). The K. of L. young dancers from Amsterdam, NY and soprano Angela Kiausas will participate in the program. The chair of the event is Connie Nehwadowich of C-110.

During our pot luck dinner we celebrated the birthdays of Helen Matthews, Cathy Yacavonis and Stase Aleniunas. Ilgiausiu Metu to all!

Our meeting was closed with a prayer by member Father Daniel Staniskis. We prayed for recently deceased HM Rita Pinkus and all those who suffered during the terrible June days.

Enjoy the summer guys, see you in September!

C-26, Worcester, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

We, the Knights of Lithuania of Worcester, and of the New England district, grieve over the loss of four of our faithful long time members. Mary Duggan, died on May 1. Dwight Cummings, died on May 30. Rita Pinkus died

on June 3, and Anne E. Miller of C-116 passed on, on April 30. Anne and her husband Ben, were always present at any function sponsored by C-26; Mary, was a great contributor and supporter of every council affair; Dwight, was ever present on kitchen committees whenever a meal was being offered, either during preparation or clean-up, a good man to have had in our midst. And Rita, need I say anything about Rita. We all know of the good that she did for the K of L, and how valuable she was locally, for the district and nationally.

We will remember them as true-blue members and as VYČAI VISADA.

Chuck Serafinas is recuperating after a surgical confinement in our local hospital facility. Sixty plus C-26'ers feasted and enjoyed an evening away from TV, by attending the dinner meeting of May 12.

Balandelai and business made a most interesting night out. Wine, pigs-in-a-blanket, ice cream and pastries, washed down by a good cup of coffee, what more can one want for satisfaction?

One other hi-lite of the eve, was the big birthday cake for Fr. John, presented and accompanied with a big smooch by Pres. Vivian Rodgers. Many happy returns, Father.

Business as usual was executed throughout the entire agenda. Plans for coming events were forethought, donations were decided upon, and financial matters were mulled over. When the meeting was adjourned, a prayer of thanks was recited and then the Ode to Lithuania and the

Knights was sung with gusto.

C-27, Norwood, MA

Žaibas

At our St. Casimir's Day Communion breakfast our spiritual director, Fr. Bill Wolkovich and our K. of L. members welcomed as guests our neighbors from the St. Peter's Church and hoped they would become part of our parish family.

We are so pleased that our small membership has renewed zeal and interest in our council and is attending the monthly meetings. They are held, for the most part on the first Sunday of the month at 9 AM in the parish hall.

Lucky, lucky us our "in house" master chef, Ed Maryka, and his lovely wife Mary Ann, prepared, served, and cleaned up our very successful, "Ethnic Dinner". More than 100 guests and members attended and enjoyed the meal and the camaraderie.

Sandy Melish, our Las Vegas winner; Dorothy Ausevich, our Puzzle Princess; Louise and Paul Zukas, he is our bottle/can chairman and Vice Pres. in the New England District; George Barton and Jos. Šipas, our liquid refreshment merchants; Stan and Terry Wasil, our ticket handlers; Leonora and Albie Jarvis, raffle assistants; Kay Perednia our treasurer and maid of many talents; and Betty and John Skricki; who are the parents of daughter Carol. Carol Skricki, who is a Champion Sculler and TV personality. They were all on hand to give a bit of help to chef Ed and Mary Ann.



MCD Bowling 3rd Place Team (l-r) Linda Pant, Rob Pant, Norma and Michael Petkus and Ruth Guzauskas

Other K. of L'ers enjoying the event were Fr. Bill and Fr. Lucey. Also seen were Ted and Lillian Callahan; Alice Sipas and daughter; Ed and Adele Mačys, Ramona Gonski and husband; Vin Kasauskas and wife; and many, many more.

Its a great feeling to get together for a happy time as a parish family.

C-50, New Haven, CT

Audrey M. Toole

Council 50 celebrated St. Casimir's Day with a catered buffet dinner at the St. Casimir's church hall. The large turnout enjoyed the excellent meal, the company of fellow K. of L'ers, the beautiful singing in Lithuanian, and the timely talk given by Father Bonadies. Irene Meizies and her workers did themselves proud.

Ritual chairman Ed Toole has been busy checking points for members various degrees. Several have received their second degrees: Anthony and Helen Brastavskas, Anthony Cappelli,

Eva Cheslock, Eleanor Dapkus, Genevieve Michalik, Albin Papeika, Tilli Poggi, Frances and John Prishwalko, Robert Peterson, Ed Toole and Charles Zaremsky.

C-74, Scranton, PA

Marie Laske

The Diocese of Scranton had a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D. C.. It was led by the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D. D.

This is the largest Catholic church in the Western Hemisphere and the eighth largest in the world. We were in awe of this most beautiful Basilica. Bishop Timlin celebrated the Mass and the Saint John the Evangelist choir Honesdale, PA provided the beautiful music.

We met some K. of L. members from Forest City. The trip was 5 hours each way. It started with the recitation of the Rosary. We had a very enjoyable time.

Our beloved Helen Churi's

sufferings are over. She went to her heavenly reward on May 9th. Thanks to all our Knights who came to pay their last respects. A funeral Mass for Helen was offered by Msgr. Piorkowski at St. Mary's Visitation Church. In his eulogy, Father Piorkowski said that Helen dressed like a true lady and always acted accordingly. Pray for her son and daughter and also her sister Margaret Cleggs, who was a great comfort to Helen during her illness. Amžina atilsj mieloji Elenute!



MCD Team spirit includes (l-r) Betty Johnson C-19, Laurretta Pant C-96, MaryBeth Slakis C-16, Frances Mikalauskas C-96 and Regina Juska Svoba C-102

Our council donated a set of Lithuanian Encyclopedias and two Lithuanian dictionaries to the Anthracite Museum in Scranton.

Some of our members attended the Ethnic Rosary at Our Lady of Snow in Clarks Summit. Our own Lee Bozenko recited the 4th glorious mystery in Lithuanian.

Continue to enjoy the pleasures of summer!

C - 96, Dayton. 07

Fran Petkus

We can't thank C-16, Chicago, enough for the great job they did hosting the MCD Spring Convention/Bowling Tournament May 15-17, 1998! Under their chair, Robert A. Martin, Jr and his 'team', resurrecting an old custom between the MCD and what was once called IL-IN District aka MAMD, brought back many memories from times past. Our meeting was opened with prayer by George Mikalauskas followed by greetings from C-16's President, Kenneth Rudman and Rob Martin.

Reports were given by all

district officers and presidents. Faustas Strolia, HM of C-36, Chicago, for leading us in song on Saturday evening and in closing out the weekend with the Vyčiu Himnas!

Following the Ritual co-chair report, the Second Degree was formally presented to our Nashville, TN member, Mark H. Bell. Our Treasurer, Elena Mikalauskas, informed us of another successful MCD Raffle. This is our only money making project in the district which affords us to meet our district expenses and charity donations in the K. of L. With all delegates participating, the meeting proved very successful! Congratulations to special winner of the meeting's 50/50 raffle, Frances Mikalauskas.

Congratulations to C-102 Team 2, Detroit, who were winners of the Bowling Tournament. Dayton/Cleveland team comprised of Robert/Linda Pant, Michael/ Norma Petkus and Ruth Guzauskas came in 3rd Place. Congratulations to Linda Pant who came away a winner high game w/HC and Michael Petkus high series w/HC. Low score for the men was Rob Pant!

Special thanks must go to Ellie Kasputis, C-112 Chicago, who donated champagne for the high and low individual scorer of each team. Special thanks to

The 25th Anniversary of Dayton's Annual World A 'Fair' was held the weekend of May 29-31, 1998. This very special event, co-chaired by James and Connie Geiger, once again was a ribbon winner! Elinor Sluzas HM was in charge of the display depicting Lithuanians who contributed to the history of the US in public works, theater, sports, etc.; Norma Petkus was in charge of the egg decorating display; George Mikalauskas demonstrated his wood carving talent; Annamarie Sluzas Berger had a real straw ornament demo. Many council members helped during the weekend. Our Lithuanian pastries and kugelis, once again, was in big demand!

K of L out-of-towners in for Dayton's Annual World A 'Fair' were Mark H. Bell, Jim and June Bell all from Nashville; from C-16, Chicago, Aldona Zajauskas, Diane and Rob Martin!

Congratulations go to Elena Mikalauskas, RN, BMT,



C-96 Fran Petkus awards Mark Bell his Second Degree

Education, upon her award from Miami Valley Hospital during National Nurse Recognition Week for her commitment and dedication to her profession! Get well wishes go to Judy Petrokas!

**C-102, Detroit, MI
Meriute**

With our snowbirds, Buniki's, Medonis' and Klucens' returning, our meetings are in full swing again. As they came back, some of our locals took off - Laura Kurtinsitis to her granddaughter's wedding in Boston, and the Starks to visit their daughter and family in Arizona.

A fun weekend was spent in Chicago when Council 16 hosted the Mid Central meeting and bowling tournament. Our local members won the tournament three years in a row, which allows our council to keep

the beautiful traveling plaque that George Kauslauskas from Dayton carved. The plaque was donated from Nelda and Chuck Mashutas. Thanks to the Cramblet team for winning it for us. Our other team consisting of Joe Guerriero, Ruth Wagster, George Kavgnich and C-79 members Helen and Chuck Mykolaitis took second place.

At the banquet, held at the beautiful Lithuanian Cultural Center, the winning tables displayed all the trophies like a trophy shop. Sunday Mass was held at the beautiful church in the

Center.

Our delegates to the Mid Central meeting were: the Buniki's, Guerriero's, Regina Svoba, Bill Zager and Ruth Wagster. It was nice seeing friends from the different councils. Thanks to Chicago's C-16 for the beautiful weekend. Joe and Maryanne Guerriero extended their weekend by visiting the casinos in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana, but no winners.

Get well wishes are extended to Tim Baibak who had by-pass surgery and is home recuperating nicely. Prayers and get well wishes also to Ray Medonis, Jr., son of Terry and Ray Medonis, who is recuperating from a serious illness. He is kept in our prayers.

Deepest sympathies to Donna Stanievich, who lost her sister in California.

Congratulations to Dan and Sue Baibak on their new

home. It's about time.

Congratulations also to our spiritual advisor on his 35th anniversary of the priesthood. Regina Svoba hosted a lovely banquet for him. It was nice to see Josie Jonulate there.

Looking forward to seeing all at the National Convention in Waterbury in August.

C-110, Waspeth, NY

Love is patient, love is kind...It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. And so, we congratulate our long standing members Roman and Sophie Wensek, who celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on May 30th. And to Peter Zuyus, keeper of the keys and Sophie, sincerest wishes on your 59th wedding anniversary on May 20th. And in September, it's 51 years for Evelyn and Igni Walles. May all your lives be filled with blessings.

Our kitchen angel, Ann Ackalaitis, who recently became a great grandmother for the 2nd time, needs prayers for a speedy recovery from a most recent unexpected heart condition.

Please keep Sophie Aleksiejus, Stella Stripekis' mother, who is currently confined to her home due to illness, in your prayers.

Also remember other members who are ill and cannot attend our meetings, namely, Ann Dugan, Helen Jambor, Nellie Albrecht, Bernice Young, Marija Kapochuanua, August Kodis, George Karpus, et al.

A group of two dozen Knights marched in the annual meeting. Thanks to Ann and Paul

Third Degrees were presented during St. Casimir's Day Commemoration ceremonies to Chicago's C-112 very active Sisters of St. Casimir: (l-r) Sr. Angela Balchunas, Sr. Therese Papsis and Sr. Tarcisia Stuglis, who is also our council photographer.



Morrissey for organizing the annual event. Memorial Day Parade prior to the

The 65th commemoration of the flight of Darius and Girenas was held at Floyd Bennett field in Brooklyn, the site where the plane took off. Organized by a committee, headed by Connie Nehwadowich, the event featured speakers, dancers from Junior councils 100 and 136, Angela Kaupsaite, and an accordion player. Both the K. of L. and Bendruomene sponsored the ceremony.

Our MAD meeting will be held in Riverhead, Long Island hosted by C-152 on September 13 and our September meeting will be on the 27th. Mark your calendars.

**C-136,
Hudson-Mohawk, NY**
Dorothy Richmire

Several members traveled to Brooklyn, NY to the Annunciation Church. Ed Barkowski reported on the meeting. National president John Mankus was the main speaker. Ed encouraged members to try to

attend the annual convention to be held in August in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Several of our members will be eligible for the fourth degree. This is an obvious incentive for those members in particular to attend. Phil Shapiro, who has been faithfully attending our meetings and keeping us abreast of happenings in Lithuania was kind enough to allow us to observe interesting information regarding various areas of Lithuania on his personal computer. He also diligently offers written information about Lithuania to members.

The annual Festival of Nations was held on Saturday, May 30 this year and we planned a banner year.

There was much cooking and baking at Holy Cross Church kitchen the night before in preparation of serving the "hungry public".

Our June meeting was our annual dinner meeting held at a local restaurant. We always look forward to good food, good fellowship and good times. See you in Waterbury, God willing. Happy Summer.

C-141, Bridgeport, CT

New members inducted into K. off L. were Alfred and Joyce Baran and their daughter Margo Baran, also Irene and John Sulinsky. Welcome!

Barbara Schmidt has returned from her trek to Paris, accompanying some students. What a nice way to mix business with pleasure.

Msgr. Pranckus gave us the good news about our neighbors—the New Haven St. Casimir church will remain open under the leadership of a fine Irish priest.

On May 17, 1998 Msgr. Pranckus was celebrant at a special Mass in memory of all deceased members of our council. "Barbara Schmidt, dressed in beautiful Lithuanian costume read all the names and dates.

Financial secretary, Bill Brilvitch reported our dues were 100% paid up. This May Bill and his wife Marie celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary in their lovely new home. Congratulations on both counts, and enjoy your new home in good health.

Gintare Ivaska read some

old Lithuanian proverbs and then translated them into English, providing us with a little fun.

Clemencine Miller read a brief biography of the interesting life of Valdas Adarnkus - - the Lithuanian-born American who became president of Lithuania. He was educated in Lithuania, Germany and USA. He was EPA Agency's longest serving senior executive working under appointment by three US presidents, until his retirement in 1997. America's loss will be Lithuania's gain.

Currently missed at our meetings are Peter Radzwillas, Leon Mateika, and John Kristy due to health problems. Prayers are requested for them and for Eleanor Jakutis for improved health.

We are saddened by the loss of yet another knight—Edward Charles Yokstas, who was called home by our Heavenly Father May 14, 1998--just 6 weeks after his wife Mary Ann. C-141 conducted the K of L wake ritual led by Clemencine Miller and members of C-141. Our condolences to his sister Stella Witkavitch. She lost both brothers and a sister-in-law in a short space of time.

Carol and Ray Buzak announced the arrival of first grandson, Connor, son of Kerry and Victor Buzak. Connor was baptized June 7, 1998. Congratulations and God Bless.

C-141 is eagerly anticipating the National



C-141 St. Casimir's Day - After reading her essay, Bonnie Gulas is given hugs by her grandparents, Steve and Alice Wikinskas and her mother, Arlene.

Convention this August at which time our dedicated president, Clemencine Miller, will receive her Honorary Degree. Valio!

C-147, St. Petersburg, FL Dolores Jonaitis

Get Well wishes for Steponas Father Ropolas O.F.M. who is convalescing at home after surgery at Palms of Pasadena Hospital. Father Čyvas explained his condition briefly at our meeting. He is much improved and we wish him the best of health. Eugenia Satraitis became ill and was hospitalized. She was unable to attend our meeting. It was the same case with Victor and Lucy Sanders from Venice Florida. He baked two cheesecakes for the occasion, and then couldn't come because of illness. We hope to see you next time Victor and Lucy.

Our May meeting was opened by Anthony Gudonis, our president. Opening and closing prayers were recited by Father Čyvas, our Spiritual Advisor.

A moment of silence was observed for our three members who passed away. Rev. Jonas

Gasiunas, 3/9/98 our former Spiritual Advisor: Victoria Kleiva, 3/11/98, our former Recording Secretary: Mary Sarka 4/26/98, who transferred to our Council from Spring Hill, Florida.

Our Ritual Chairman, Dr. Aldona Valis, bestowed 2nd Degree honors upon Kazimiera Arlauskas, Elena Jurkynas and also Eugenia Satraitis who was absent because of illness. It

was voted to donate \$200 to "Pažaislio Vienuolynas" in Lithuania, the Sisters of St. Casimir, to rebuild its Church. Also voted was to place a quarter page ad in the sponsor's booklet in the upcoming National Convention in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Our meeting closed and we were all treated to a delicious table of cakes and pastries. Donaters were Kazimiera Arlauskas, Maria Gelazius, Dolores Jonaitis, Elena Jurkynas, Janina Lauras, Valeria Lescinskas, Veronika Pleskiene, Ona Semolavičienė and Bronė Urbonienė. Thanks ever so much Ladies We all appreciate you. Thanks Bronė for keeping track of all donations.



Labai Ačiū to all feature writers, council news writers and photographers and those who submit recipes, jokes and other material. Continue your good work. Editors are seeking photos and/or stories about your Lithuanian trips, especially the Song and Dance Festival.



See you in Waterbury as we... support our Knights of Lithuania causes:

Priestly Vocations through the St. Casimir Guild,
a semi-autonomous activity dedicated to the support of the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome. The Guild sponsors three programs: collection of donations for a general endowment fund administered by the Rector, obtaining Mass stipends for the support of Lithuanian priests studying in Rome, and coordinating a program of "adopting" seminarians from Lithuania by providing regular contributions to their non-academic needs. Checks should be made payable to: The St. Casimir Guild and mailed to: HM Anna Klizas Wargo, 125 South Morris Street, St. Clair, PA 17970

Humanitarian Aid through Aid to Lithuania, Inc., a semi-autonomous organization under the aegis of the Knights of Lithuania, that provides medical supplies, equipment and medicines to Lithuania during this crucial transition period from a Soviet-occupied and suppressed nation, to a free and self sufficient democracy. 40-foot containers of donated materials are shipped each calendar quarter. Since we began this effort in 1991, 60 containers worth over 51 million dollars have been shipped as of May 1998. Checks should be made payable to: Aid to Lithuania, Inc. and mailed to: HM Robert Boris, 4557 Fairway Court, Waterford, MI 48328

College Education through K of L Scholarship Awards presented each year to deserving members who are pursuing studies at the college level. The Scholarship Fund is totally dependent upon donations and bequests from members. Checks should be made payable to: Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund and mailed to: Irene Gecas, 446 Joan Court, West Hempstead, NY 11552

Cultural Advancement through the K of L Foundation, an endowment fund which supports and funds projects to further the cultural, religious or humanitarian objectives of the Knights of Lithuania. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to: Knights of Lithuania Foundation and mailed to: HM Loretta Stukas, 234 Sunlit Drive, Watchung, NJ 07060

Upkeep of the National Shrine The development of an endowment fund to support the upkeep of the Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception located in Washington, D.C. was adopted at the 75th Knights of Lithuania Anniversary Convention. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and mailed to: Joseph Chaplick, 2000 F. Street, N.W. Apt. 419, Washington, DC 20006

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For Those I Love



*For those who love me...
When I am gone release me, let me go...
I have so many things to see and do.
You must not tie yourself to me with tears.
Be happy that we had so many years.
I gave you my love. You can only guess
How much you gave me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you have shown
But - now it's time I traveled on alone.*

*So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must.
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part.
So bless the memories that lie within your heart.
I won't be far away, for life goes on.
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All of my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then when you must come this way alone...
I'll greet you with a smile and "welcome home".*

*- Author unknown
Submitted by Marie Laske, C-74*

