

VYTIS



The Knight - volume 84 no. 10



Quodis/December 1998

VYTIS

-The Knight -
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VYTIS - The Knight - STAFF

Editor: Marytė Abbott

Council News Editor: Dalia Bulvičius

Layout and Design: MBA Designs

Bus. Manager: Mary Kinčius

Business: tel. (773) 927-4990

Webpage: <http://www.geocities.com/heartland/prairie/3802> **email:** vytiseditor@juno.com

Send all editorial correspondence to:

M. Abbott - VYTIS - The Knight

P.O. Box 1934

Grand Central Sta. NY 10163-1934

Editorial: tel/fax (718) 937-3352

TRUSTEES

William Kolicius
 9326 High Meadow Dr.
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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 - Madonna and Child
by *Vydūndo Jaunimo Fondas*

Christmas Prayer - Almighty God and Father of Light, a child is born to us, and a son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from Heaven in the silent watches of the night...Open our hearts to receive His life and increase our vision with the rising of dawn, that our lives may be filled with His glory and His peace forever and ever. Amen.

from the Marians Liturgy of the Hours

To My Fellow Knights:

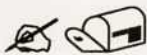
Merry Christmas Everyone -

There is an old Lithuanian saying "Ką įdėsi tą ir rasi" which translates "what you put in is what you'll get out of it." Like the successful Kūčios meal, all the efforts of the cooks and helpers, all those hours of grating potatoes, kneading bread, chopping beets, preparing the table and waiting for all the family members to assemble pays off in the warm feeling one gets as they helped to keep the tradition alive another year.

I was quite lucky as a young child to attend the kucios meals of two distinctly different Lithuanian grandmothers. Both were masters at Lithuanian foods, one adding American shortcuts to her recipes and excelling in oven baked foods, such as kugelis and special holiday breads, the other extremely old world preparing everything from scratch and excelling in fried potato pancakes, virtini, and "žagarėliai" or love-knots, those delicate powdered sugar covered cookies. Each of them would spend days before Christmas Eve shopping, preparing, chopping, baking, cooking, frying and getting everything prepared to their strict standards.

Appreciation for these wonderful grandmothers did not really happen until they were no longer around. My mother and those of us who were once the helpers try each year (sometimes unsuccessfully) to reproduce these wonderful dishes. Each sibling tends to be fond of a particular dish, and although they differ from the original recipes, the breads, the cabbage, the mushrooms, the silkies are indeed all there; each one of the cooks feeling a special pride and we, indeed, get so much more out of it than what was put into it.

In this special season of thanks, VYTIS editors wish to convey a special Ačiū for all the support, especially to the feature and council news writers and photographers, contributors and well wishers. The special place left vacant each Christmas Eve will constantly remind us of those who are "here in memory" and helped to instill a love for Lithuanian customs, foods, songs and traditions - grandparents, relatives, mentors and friends.



Letters to the editor

K of L Choir Activities

The K of L Choir has been rather busy lately. Here's a rundown of some of the recent things we have participated in.

We attended Lithuanian Days in Los Angeles. Suffice it to say, we were warmly accepted and had a few wonderful performances there, including sing at their Lithuanian Mass. We also performed at a "Get-Acquainted" night on November 1st to initiate a formation of a new council in Lemont, IL, home of the Lithuanian World Center and Jurgis Matulaitis Catholic Mission Parish.

Finally, to round things off, we have been invited to sing on a Lithuanian Christmas record by Paul Strolia. Paul is a member of Council 36, a past scholarship winner and former Supreme Council Trustee. The record will include traditional Lithuanian Christmas songs performed a la "Bing Crosby" style. More information on the record will follow.

-Via email by Terry Strolia

Correction

The poet credited for Dekojame Dievui in Sept/Oct. VYTIS should have been Domas Andruska rather than "Anoliuska" as printed in the issue. We regret this error.

ATL Launches a New Project -

ADOPT A SEMINARIAN

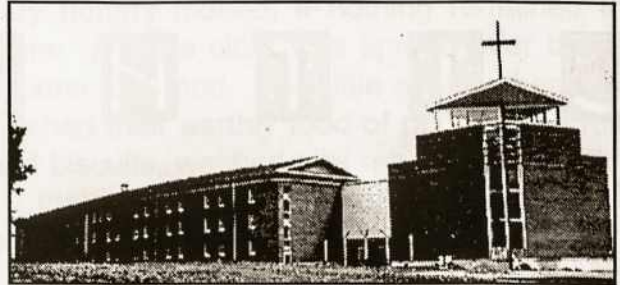
St. Joseph's Provincial Seminary in Vilnius

by HM Robert S. Boris

Archbishop Audrys J. Bačkis of Vilnius cited one of Lithuania's greatest needs as spiritual renewal. During the 50 years of Soviet occupation, atheism was imposed on this nation where 85% of the population were nominally Catholic. The moral and spiritual values of the people were devastated resulting in abortion (authorities acknowledge that women in the Soviet Union had an average of three abortions), the divorce rate is higher than Western Europe, it is estimated that alcoholism affects 50% of the population, the number of dysfunctional families is appalling, the suicide rate for teenagers and young adults in Lithuania is the highest in Europe. The church stands alone offering hope and direction. It is encouraging to see younger priests, religious sisters and seminarians are more involved in these social issues .

The need for improved seminary formation to prepare young men to face the challenges of today and to bring the church into alignment with the directives of Vatican II, became apparent when Archbishop Bačkis was appointed chief pastor of the Vilnius Archdiocese. The doors to newly built St. Joseph's Provincial Seminary in Vilnius were opened in Fall of this year to 70 seminarians from Vilnius, Panevežys and Kaišadorys . The Archbishop has gathered the finest teachers and professors from not only Lithuania but other European countries as well. The young men who complete the six year course will be well prepared to face the challenges of today and the new millennium.

The cost of building a modern seminary and hiring an excellent faculty has prompted the Archbishop to approach Aid to Lithuania and ask assistance in



securing scholarship funds. It costs \$2,000.00 per year to provide for one seminarian. When this project was announced during the 85th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania in Waterbury, CT, the response was exciting. Four people came forward and donated \$2,000.00 each thereby "adopting" the first four seminarians for one year. Sixty-six more scholarships are needed!

Any individual, group, parish, K of L Council etc. willing to donate \$2,000.00 will be assigned an "adopted seminarian-son" by the Seminary Rector. The donor will receive the name and photo of his or her "adopted-seminarian son" and will be able to correspond with him ,if they so desire. Probably the greatest benefit will be to know that you and your loved ones are continually in the prayers of your "adopted seminarian-son".

What a wonderful way to assure the people of Lithuania the spiritual assistance they need to rebuild a strong nation based on solid Christian values, where people will learn again, to love one another as our Father loves us.

Further details will be forthcoming. Do not send donations directly to the seminary.

For more information or to make a donation for this most worthy cause write to **Aid To Lithuania, Inc., 4557 Fairway Court, Waterford, MI 48328-3483**



REMEMBERED CHRISTMAS IN

L I T H U A N I A

By Antonia Wackell

As printed in the Worcester Evening Gazette,
Dec. 23, 1958

One of the best remembered Christmases was spent in my grandparents' cottage, in a quiet village northwest of Vilnius, Lithuania.

Christmas in Lithuania was always a time for a happy get together of families and neighbors.

All necessary farm chores and work were attended to in the daytime, while the evenings were associated with songs, friendly gatherings and prayers.

The beginning of the festivities was (and still is) the day before Christmas, when everyone arose at 3 o'clock to be greeted by a dark, snow-silent morning. Preparations for the Christmas Eve supper and the Christmas Day dinner started immediately. Enthusiastic hands shared familiar tasks in the warm kitchen and in a short while the cottage was filled with the teasing odors of baking, stewing and roasting foods.

THE KITCHEN

Grandmother's kitchen was lucky; it had an oven and a separate stove. The oven was a clay affair with a cavernous mouth that baked four enormous loaves of bread at one sitting, each 20 inches in diameter.

While the elders were busy, the young ones beautified the shrine in the kitchen corner, containing the statue of the Blessed Virgin, with branches of yew, linden and cut-out paper stars. The candles (grandmother's special hand-made with beeswax, melted down from the honeycomb) were placed at each side of the statue.

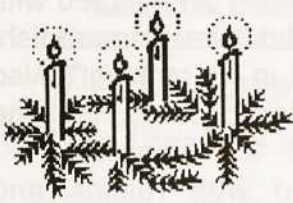
There were no Christmas trees, in fact they were unheard of; but garlands and swags of winter greenery, laurel, juniper berries and mistletoe were suspended from the rafters and festooned along the walls.

WORK COMPLETED

When the moon shone down on the straw-covered homes, and all work was completed, everyone, young and old, gathered around the table in memory of a Little Child's birthday.

Clean, fresh hay covered the long table, and over the dried grass and clover a heavy linen cloth was spread. A finer linen tablecloth was the background for all the food. The hay, we were reminded, symbolized the hay-filled manger prepared by Mary for her Infant and the coarse linen cover was His spread. The Christmas wafers, on the prettiest dish held the center of the table.

Seated in silence, grandfather blessed himself, and asked God to bless the food on the table, his house and all who are in it. Then he broke the wafers into as many fragments



as there were people around the table, removed a portion for himself, then passed the dish to the right.

Each one blessed himself before he received the wafer, took a wafer then passed the dish to the right.

BEET **S**OUP

First from God's bounty were bowls of beet soup with plump, flavorful mushrooms; an assortment of fish and herring; a "gruel" made from barley, cooked to a thick substance that went so well with poppy seed milk. To make the milk required many pairs of strong, young muscles. This pleasant task was conferred upon the younger generation, because pulverizing the seed was a long process. They took turns in rolling the wooden pestle in the crock of poppy seeds. And when the white milk appeared from the crushed seeds, the result when mixed with honey and cooled boiled water was delicious.

Hard, square bite sized biscuits (an oyster cracker size and thickness) were dropped into the milk and left to soften before eating. Stewed prunes, and a jellied pudding made from whole cooked oats was served with syrup.

No one hurried. Everyone ate as much as he could. The day's fast had been long. Finally, all were pleasantly content. Then, blades of grass were drawn from underneath the linen cloth, and as each one extracted, a stalk, the other waited quietly to see its length, for its size signified the height his crop of flax would reach the following year. Families took pride in the yield of the tall-stemmed blue flowered plant which means a long linen thread for weaving garments, bed linen, towels, tablecloths and sacks.

AFTER **S**UPPER

Supper over, all bowls and spoons were replaced on the linen cloth and left to remain on the table overnight because the little souls would come to earth and would be very hungry indeed, if nothing remained for them. A large cloth was spread over bowls, spoons and food. The little souls, when they finished their earthly food of poppy seed milk and biscuits, washed and returned everything so that their hosts would find all in perfect order.

Later on, the countryside rang with vigorous voices. The young were all out, supplied with braided bands of softened straw to bind the new slips of fruit that had been grafted into the trees a few months before. No one knew why that was done. No one could remember; and yet the old custom was persevered in without question simply because there was so much joy in doing it in the tranquil night.

Shortly afterward, murmurs and good natured grumbles were heard. Counting and pairing off all the fence pickets had begun. If one's count ended with a pair; that meant the counter would wed an unmarried individual. If an odd number was the result, then groans howled through the laughter in the night, because that meant the counter would marry a widow or a widower. The boys complained - not too much; but the girls - much!

Christmas morning, the household arose at 3 o'clock again; dressed warmly in their fur jackets and coats, climbed into sleighs piled with hay and woolen blankets, and set out for church for the six o'clock Mass. Church was ten miles away which meant fast riding on speedy sleighs.

DOLVES **P**ROWLED

The sleighs, filled with families,

crunched over the snow in a convoy, and as they sped along the harness bells jingled and the runners sang a musical monotone. Wolves prowled about but disappeared when they heard the jangling bells. Sometimes deep drifts had to be broken through, but drivers and strong horses managed skillfully, and all reached the churchyard in time.

In the church, candle-flame and lamp glow revealed the traditional Christmas colors: red handkerchiefs worn by the girls, the greenery and firs around the altar, and the white candles made by the housewives donated for the Christmas holy days. Gay colors were never worn during Advent. Christmas morning brought out the cherished red kerchiefs, corals and amber beads; for the traditions of the day merited gladdened hearts and colorful dress. After Mass, lines were formed in orderly fashion in the aisles. On the corner of the altar a miniature Holy Family, animals and shepherds were waiting for the people. From the small crib, ribbons were tied and hung in streamers.

Each one waited to rock the Christ Child in His bed, so very gently, and to leave a gift of coin beside it.

The return trip was cold. Mother was weatherwise; she had prepared a large pot of fragrant tea made from mint and camomile tea, blended with various aromatic leaves and left it on the stove's edge ready-made, to thaw the pilgrims at journey's end.

The Christmas table, a symposium of good cheer and good country living, dispensed a rising bouquet of culinary fragrances that made all mouths feel like water-troughs. The appearance of a golden roasted suckling pig was oh so welcome to the excited hungry appetites. There was duck, lamb and sausage; chopped cabbage slaw, pickled beets and spiced cucumbers, chopped red beets mixed with small pieces of fried-out salt pork; dried

yellow peas, cooked, drained and served with gobs of rich butter; and red tinted horseradish; what tears were wasted in its making! Also sour milk, golden speckled cheeses, and the favorite Lithuanian

Christmas breads filled with raisins and topped with sugar and poppy seeds.

Beverages were milk, coffee, tea and a sweet drink made from rye. Grandfather's hand-carved wooden bowls contained fruits and nuts for all those who still felt hollows in their stomachs.

Gifts were never exchanged. Grandfather asked each young person, "Will you stay with me next year?" He quickly smiled when the anticipated promise came and placed a silver piece in each palm. The boys tied their silver coins onto their shirts for safe-keeping and thereafter sported their precious pieces on every shirt they wore.

SINGING HYMNS

Then the beloved Christmas song, hymns and carols were sung. When the family singing ended, visits were made to the neighbors' cottages where the youth sang the songs again. No home was overlooked. The children equipped with all types of sleds and skates went to sample the hill or skate on the river; while the older folk rested and prayed.

When the sun had disappeared, the young people gathered in a neighbors house to play Christmas games and dance to the music of the accordion and violins. At midnight, tired but very happy, they separated; and as they went their ways, strains of Christmas melodies floated gently over the peaceful countryside, while the sky beamed with sparkling stars and regarded them in smiling silence. "Linksmų Kalėdų" had been a very Merry Christmas.



Knights of Lithuania
Foundation Essay Winner

Lithuanian Culture and it's Importance

by Bruno Rutkunas, C-110
Second Place Winner



Born of Lithuanian immigrant parents, I was enrolled in a Saturday Lithuanian school to learn more about my heritage and the associated culture of my fore fathers. At home and also at school, I learned to speak and read the oldest living European language; participated in the Easter and Kūčios customs as practiced by morn and dad. Many essays and articles have been written about these customs as well as the Lithuanian language, the agriculture and the evolution of the amber jewel. Also important and most enjoyable is the Lithuanian music with the wonderful meaningful songs and dances, which have survived many hard times throughout the centuries. During the 1980's and 1990's, the various ballads and patriotic hymns buoyed the spirits of all the freedom fighters in the United States and abroad. The music was always present during the freedom marches, demonstrations and parades. After my parents passed on, my interest in Lithuanian affairs started to fade away. My wife's family was also gone and there were very little interfaces with the language. Fortunately my family joined the Knights of Lithuania (1983) and everything started to come together, where I developed an uncontrollable desire to learn more and become more active.

Somehow the music with its traditional songs and dances got into my system. I started to play and record all the old Columbia "78" records and purchased some recent tapes. The

old records contain sad songs, story songs, funny ones and waltzes with snappy polkas, even wedding happenings. Our Knights of Lithuania sponsored Spring and Fall dances where we enjoyed the "Suktine", "Noru Meggi", "Kepurine" and many others. The story ballads made us grateful for the continuance of the wonderful Lithuanian music. Our polkas are special, peppy, not too fast like others; they are refined and pleasing to dance to or just to watch. The more you listen to this wonderful music, you begin to grasp the delightful and pleasant sounds. The hymns are soothing, meaningful and sometimes sad. Our church organist, recently arrived from Lithuania has put new meaning into the prayers and songs. I possess all the verses of "Kai Aš Turėjo", also the 12 stanzas of "Mudu Du Broliukai". These were some of the common songs 60 years ago and many American-Lithuanians must remember these. All aspects of the Lithuanian culture are treasures and important. It just seems the songs and dances of Lithuania have not gotten much noteworthy literary attention. Only recently, our Vytis magazine is now including sheet music in their issues. Let us keep our Lithuanian music alive and well!!



Did You Know?

There are over one million recorded (written) Lithuanian folk songs.

Golfer's Paradise...THE LITHUANIAN OPEN

by Ed Shakalis

On September 26, 1998 the annual Lithuanian Open Golf Tournament was played at the Squirrel Run Country Club in West Plymouth, Massachusetts. When I drove into the golf course parking lot, the first thing I saw was the

Lithuanian flag flying on the flag pole. Charlie Caranci the owner of Squirrel Run as a surprise bought the Lithuanian flag for our tournament, a very nice touch. I knew then the day was off to a good start. Soon after my son, Rick, pulled in with the signs for hole sponsors and his sister, Dorothy Beaton came to sell mulligans with her husband Graham, our tournament photographer.

This year we had 95 players, young and old, men and women of all nationalities including Lithuanians, of course. Last year we had 81 players. The format was Florida Scramble best ball, which allows all team members to contribute. It was a 9am shot gun start which means that all foursomes started at the same time from different holes, thus finishing about the same time for lunch.

The Lithuanian Open is not only a fun time, it also supports the Lithuanian Children's Relief Inc.(LCR), a worthy charity that is based in South Boston, MA. The LCR earmarks the money we raise at the tournament for the purchase and delivery of medicine for children in Lithuania suffering with Tuberculosis. The medicine is sent to Dr. Dana Šlapkauskaitė (an angel of mercy) who administers to TB patients at the Pulmonary and Tuberculosis Center in Vilnius, Lithuania.

This year's Lithuanian Open winners were Peter Van Wagenen, Steve Kelley, Jack Basile and Steve Nickerson with a score of 12 under par. Second place team was John and Jerald Blaze, Chris and Bill Tillo. Third place team was Tomas Kiliulis, Keith Girovard, Kevin Blanchette and Steve Blake.

The longest drive winner was John Bacon.



Winning Golfers...Peter VanWagenen, Steve Kelley, Jack Basile and Steve Nickerson

Winners of closest to the pin are as follows: Hole 7, George Treannie. Hole 13, Ed Uzgiris. Ladies only, Hole 17, Christine Daly. Hole 18, Steve Blake

Note that the trophy held by Steve Kelley in the photo was made in Lithuania from Lithuanian oak. Many thanks to my

Amateur Radio friend W3POA, Bernie Zilaitis and his Lithuanian wife Irena for not only having the new trophy made in Lithuania, then hand carrying it in, but also donating it to the Lithuanian Open.

The Lithuanian Open tradition is that the trophy be held for one year by the winning team and then handed over to the next year winners, so no one keeps it. I had invited President Valdas Adamkus (a golfer and President of Lithuania) to play in the open. In return, I received a letter from the Deputy Adviser to the President on Foreign Policy sending his regrets saying; "that due to tight schedule President Valdas Adamkus will neither be able to open nor participate at the annual Lithuanian Open golf tournament."

I met the Lithuanian Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas at the "Baltic 80 Ball" and he informed me that a golf course will be built next year in Trakai, Lithuania. (future home for the tournament?)

We had players like Nat and Shirley Adamonis come from Weeping Water, Nebraska and others who came from New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

This year's event was successful thanks to the effort of Dr. Richard Shakalis, Dorothy and Graham Beaton, Kestutis Banaitis and Christine Daly. I think I can speak for all the participants of the Lithuanian Open, when I say, "The weather was good, the course was in excellent shape, plenty of good food and we had a lot of fun."

Next year's Lithuanian Open will be at Squirrel Run on September 25, 1999. God willing, I'll see you then.

LITHUANIANS

in the news

Neringa Campers Recall Lithuanian Martyr of the Titanic

In a small rural camp in Marlboro, Vermont, Lithuanian children learned about Father Juozas Montvila, who reboarded the Titanic as it sank to minister to the dying.

He has been compared to St. Maximilian Kolbe and called a martyr of the Titanic. Father Juozas Montvila was a 27-year-old priest from Lithuania who boarded the ill-fated liner as a second-class passenger headed for the United States, where he planned to minister to the growing Lithuanian immigrant community.

After the Titanic hit an iceberg on April 15, 1912, the priest-gave up his seat in a lifeboat so that he could remain on the sinking ship to console those facing death and hear their confessions.

This summer, the self-sacrifice of the young priest was commemorated by children at Camp Neringa, a Lithuanian camp in southern Vermont. The children performed a play all in Lithuanian about the sinking of the ship and the priest's actions.

The camp is operated by the Lithuanian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception based in Putnam, Conn. It offers children of Lithuanian heritage a place to learn about their history, culture and traditions along with their Catholic faith.

The camp served 110 campers ages 7 to 16 from the United States, Canada and Lithuania during the July session, when the Titanic skit was performed. The campers dressed in period clothes and crammed into & makeshift lifeboat while others lay "drowned" on a blue tarp in front of one of the camp's buildings. Most on the "boat" were dressed as first-class passengers, while most who drowned were from steerage.

Records indicate that when the Titanic went down after hitting an iceberg, about 1,500 people, many of them third-class passengers, perished and only 700 were saved. The ship did not have enough lifeboats and those that were put into the water were not filled to

capacity.

Sister Igne Marijosius, a Neringa board member and a former camp director, said it was "incredible" for the children to learn that there was a Lithuanian priest on the Titanic who gave up his life for another.

"It's important to know that one of our countrymen was there and part of the experience the world is talking about (because of the movie) and that he gave up his life," she said in an interview.

Wearing a white alb and green stole, Ginta Adornkaitis, a 14-year-old from Milton, Mass., portrayed Father Montvila. Two campers covered in a white blanket portrayed the iceberg and crashed into a porch that symbolized the ship. Those portraying passengers thrashed about trying to keep their balance. When the priest was offered a seat in the lifeboat, he declined, offering it instead to the camper portraying the young woman who later credited the priest with saving her life.

Later, speaking English, young Ginta said he had not heard of the priest until he came to the camp, but now he is one of the boy's heroes because "he fulfilled his duty to God to help others."

Father Montvila never stopped being a priest, Sister Marijosius said, "and was a missionary to the the end," helping to ensure eternal life for those facing death in the North Atlantic.

Father Montvila was born in 1885, the youngest of 10 children. After ordination Father Montvila worked in Lipskas as a book and Catholic newspaper illustrator and ministered to the spiritual needs Eastern-rite Catholics, who were persecuted by the czarist regime and been forced to worship in secret.

Later, he was forbidden to work as a priest in Lithuania. He decided to emigrate so he could work with the Lithuanians in the U.S. Some reports indicate he was headed to Brooklyn; others that he was going to Worcester, MA.

Father Montvila's body was never recovered. He is considered a hero in Lithuania.

From the Providence Visitor, Sept. 10/98 by Cori Fugere. Submitted by Bill Piacentini

Fitting Tribute to Our Grand Lady

TINA SHATAS

We lost Tina Shatas, our grand lady at age 94 and a 84 year member of the K. of L. I dare say no other K. of L'er has reached this milestone.

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of our Grand Lady on September 1st.

Tina was born on Fern St., Athol in the same home she left to meet her Lord. Born in 1904 she was the daughter of Antanas and Mariana Bendinskas Andraliūnai. She attended the local schools and later on married Paul Shatas. They were blessed with two daughters: Dr. Ann Marie and Margaret of Detroit. Tina's father goes down in Lithuanian history as the first Lithuanian to settle in the Athol area. Tina's parents did much to aid the new Lithuanian immigrants. They sent for them, greeted them and found them jobs, also allowed them to reside with them until they found their own flats. Tina once said that her home was like a rooming house, alays full of new immigrants. This characteristic of her parents rubbed on Tina and her children. Tina's sister Margaret Kucinskas of Detroit opened her door to the displaced persons from Germany after the war. She sponsored them, met them at the train station, found them jobs and apartments.

When our council was formed in May 1914, the founder of the K. of L. Mykolas Norkūnas signed up 98 charter members, among which were Tina's parents. Tina was 10 years old and she also became a charter member of Council 10. She did not have to pay dues until age 16. She has been an intesrrupted active member for 84 years a hard one to beat. Tina was the recipient of honors from the them Mass Governor Michael Dukakis and from the state senate. She was also hon-



ored at a K. of L. banquet. Tina was married to Paul Shatas who died in a tragic railroad accident in 1975 in Vermont. They raised two daughters and gave them an excellend college education. Tina was active throughout her lonmg life. She loved St. Francis parish and her Lithuanian heritage. In her later years she visited Lithuania with her daughter Dr. Marie Ann. Tina was an active member of the parish guild, also an avid gardener.

On many occasions her flowers graced the altars of St. Francis church, She was last seen at our annual Lithuanian Independence Day celebration and she was in good spirits and a sound mind.

She was a devoted wife, caring mother and good neighbor. She was a generour person. Always with a smile and good word to all. These traits she inherited from her devoted parents. She will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by her loving family, the entire parish and last but not least C-10.

The K. of L. ritual wake was headed by Bill Wišniauskas. Her funeral was largely attended. The eulogies were given by Rev. Messian and K. of L'ers and family friend Jackie Doherty. The Lithuanian juosta was placed on the coffin by Nellie Melaika and Pamela Bouthilier. The funeral dinner was served to about 125 persons.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to daughters, Dr. Marie Ann and Margaret and relatives and friends.

Su Dievu mieloji Tina ir iki pasimatymo aname gyvime!

-*"Vincukas"*

REV. ANTHONY MICIUNAS, M.I.C.



It is with great sorrow we bid a fond farewell to Rev. Anthony Miciunas, M. I. C., Spiritual Moderator of Council 36, Chicago. Father Miciunas passed away September 22, 1998.

Father Miciunas was born October 8,

1915 in Chicago, IL. He attended parochial schools in Chicago, high school in Clarendon Hills, IL and Thompson, CT and earned his B.A. at Marianapolis College, Thompson, CT.

After his ordination in Chicago in 1940 he did graduate work at Laval University, Quebec, Canada, and Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, receiving a Masters Degree in Philosophy and a minor in Journalism in 1944.

From 1944 to 1952 Father was superior of the Marian Fathers monastery in Chicago, editor of the religious magazine *Laivas*, and business manager of the *Lithuanian Daily Draugas*. He later served five years as pastor of St. Peter's Church in Kenosha, WI, returning to Chicago in 1957 as superior of the Marian Fathers monastery and general administrator of the *Daily Draugas*. In 1960 he was again assigned to be pastor of St. Peter's in Kenosha.

In 1963 he was assigned to Rome as consultant to the Marian Father's headquarters. During his six years in Rome he met the present Pope John Paul II on several occasions. At that time, however, the Pope was still a Cardinal. He returned to Chicago in 1969 to become superior of the Marian Fathers Monastery and editor of the *Marian* magazine. Later Father was assigned to a church in Worcester, MA where he spent

fifteen years. He then returned to Kenosha where he celebrated his Golden Anniversary in 1990. It should be noted that Father was also Spiritual Advisor of Council 40, Kenosha, during his assignments at St. Peter's Church. Father Miciunas has earned his eternal rest. May perpetual light shine upon him.

-Ruth Kazlauskas

IN MEMORIAM

Charles Vilnis

C-147 St Petersburg, Florida, October 17, 1998

Antanas Grabauskas

C-147 St. Petersburg, Florida, October 22, 1998

Frank J. Shaknaitis

C-7 Waterbury, Ct., August 25, 1998

brother of Dolores Jonaitis

Irene Allen

C-152, E. Long Island, NY, Oct. 10, 1998

Bernice Tamulevich

C-26, Worcester, MA, Aug. 1998

Nellie Prokopas

C-118, Hazelton, PA, July 13, 1998

Violet Zvirblis

C-110, Maspeth, NY, Oct. 21, 1998

Martha E. Zoba

C-144, Anthracite, PA, Oct. 9, 1998

Helen Piscopo

C-144, Anthracite, PA, Oct. 21, 1998

Julius W. Proko

C-116, Worcester, MA, Oct. 24, 1998

John Gervlis

C-103, Providence, RI, Oct. 26, 1998

Anna Walonis

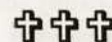
C-110, Maspeth, NY, August 1998

Frank Yuskevich

C-110, Maspeth, NY, Sept. 21, 1998

William Kocecnj

C-141, Bridgeport, CT, Oct. 7, 1998



A Diplomat Who Cared For People

THE STORY OF CHIUNE SUGIHARA

by Edward Baranaukas

His story is one of the most important stories about the Holocaust, and is about a man who defied the orders of his superiors "because he cared for people and respected life.

Holocaust survivors remember very well Oscar Schindler, a German industrialist, who was responsible for saving the lives of many hundreds of Jews. Jeopardizing his own credibility and safety, he convinced the Nazis that it was in their best interests to allow him to use Jewish labor in his factories.

Few have a better claim to be remembered in the Holocaust Museum than a diplomat named Chiune Sugihara, who served in the Japanese Consulate of pre-war Kaunas, the capital of Lithuania at that time.

He was born on January 1, 1900. He had an unusual talent for languages, and was initially trained as a specialist in Russian. In addition, he was fluent in Chinese, German, French and English. He joined Japan's Foreign Ministry at the age of 19, served in occupied Manchuria before being sent to Helsinki, where he stayed for two years. When war broke out, he was transferred to the Consulate in Kaunas. His task was really espionage, particularly monitoring troop movements.

When the Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939, thousands of Jews fled across the Polish-Lithuanian border to seek safety and refuge. Many of them joined their fellow Jews in Kaunas.

In early 1940, Lithuania was still considered independent even though there were thousands of Red Army troops stationed on its territory. After the collapse of the Allies in the West in the summer of 1940, Stalin's grip on Lithuania tightened.

The first months of Soviet occupation put the Jewish community in Kaunas, and elsewhere, in a desperate position. To remain was to risk persecution, especially for the wealthy, educated, and politically-active Jews. To flee westward would court disaster, and yet

foreign travel elsewhere was all but impossible.

A young Dutch Jew came to the Japanese Consulate and proved that there was one possible route to freedom. The Dutch colony of Curacao (located in the West Indies, comprising two groups of islands in the Caribbean Sea) was one of the few places in the world which did not require an entry visa. He asked for, and was granted, a transit visa.

Within hours, word spread throughout the Jewish community, and crowds gathered at the gates of the consulate. The grown-ups shouted in Polish, a language Sugihara did not understand. Five people were invited to come inside, and Russian became the language of conversation. They were Jews from Poland, they said, escaping from the Nazis, and wanted to travel east through the Soviet Union and eventually reach Japan. Once in Tokyo, they hoped to gain papers from the still-functioning Polish Embassy to travel to Canada. Others would go to Shanghai, which also did not require a visa or entry permit.

Sugihara told them he could issue a few transit visas, but not hundreds. He would have to get permission from his superiors in Tokyo, first, to grant such large numbers. He cabled Tokyo three times, and each time his request was denied. He made up his mind to do "what human beings should do", as he would later state. He worked day and night for a month issuing transit papers, and when the Soviets closed the consulate, he continued doing so from his hotel.

Thoughts began running through his mind, and he had to make such a difficult decision. If the Nazis found out what he was doing, would he put himself and his family, who were with him in Kaunas, in jeopardy? On September 1, he and his family were ordered to leave Lithuania, and Tokyo reassigned him to Berlin. Even as he was leaving the hotel, he continued to stamp those precious papers in the street, at the railway station, and even from the window of his train. As it started to move, refugees ran alongside, and he threw them out the open window to waiting hands. The crowd cried:

"We will never forget you ! We will see you again !"

As many as 6,000 Jews, perhaps even thousands more, may have escaped death thanks to Sugihara's courage. With Japan's defeat in the war, the Sugihara family was imprisoned by the Soviets in a Rumanian camp for 18 months. A few months after they returned home, he was dismissed from diplomatic service. Although no formal reason was given, he felt certain it was because he issued those transit visas to the Jews against his government's instructions.

In August 1968, Jehoshua Nishri, a recipient of one of those visas handed out in 1940, was appointed to the Israeli Embassy in Tokyo. He made a surprise phone call to Sugihara to thank him personally for what he did. Now that he was found, Sugihara finally received the recognition that he so justly deserved. In 1968, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem offered his youngest son a full scholarship. The following year, Sempo (as the refugees called him) travelled to Israel to receive a citation from the Holocaust Memorial Museum. He became the first Japanese citizen to be awarded Israel's equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize, given by the government to foreign nationals who helped Jews during the war.

Tributes from grateful Jews poured around the world in July of 1986 when news was received that Sugihara died of a heart attack. His passing was virtually unnoticed by the Japanese until the Soviet Union collapsed in the summer of 1991, and Lithuania regained her independence. In October, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official was preparing to visit the Baltic States when he learned that one of free Lithuania's actions was to name a street in Vilnius, their capital, to honor Sugihara.

In the Baltics, where the Soviet version of history made the discussion of world events and the fate of Jews even more difficult than in Japan, the Japanese diplomat's role was finally receiving long overdue attention at home.

A dusty file was located in the archives of the Foreign Ministry, and an official invitation for tea was given to Mrs. Sugihara by way of an apology. A few months later, the Prime Minister admitted to the Japanese Parliament that the treatment of Sugihara had been "very regretful". This reversal in policy resulted in a substantial reaction elsewhere in Japan. In 1992, Mrs.

Sugihara was flown to Lithuania to reminisce in front of her old home in Kaunas. In 1992, six years after his death, a monument was dedicated to him at his birthplace of Yaotsu. Located on a hill that is now known as "The Hill of Humanity", a group of Sugihara survivors traveled to Japan to rededicate it in the presence of several high government officials.

In May of 1992, a Tokyo-based theater company inaugurated a play called "Sempo Sugihara" which toured Japan, and two years later performed in Kaunas and Vilnius.

At the Ninth Fort in Kaunas, where countless numbers of Jews and others were murdered by the Nazis, there is now a new display in Sugihara's honor, including material donated by his family during their visit.

Chiune Sugihara has shown that the courage of one man can make a big difference in history.

Sources of information:

The Baltic Outlook, supplement to The Baltic Independent, issue 8, 1994. Passage to Freedom, The Sugihara Story, by Ken Mochizuki.



Welcome new members

Rev. Vytautas K. Volertas, C-110



Danute Byliene, C-29

Kazua Navakauskas, C-103

Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Maulding,
Livingston, TN

Kaleda

Santa's Predecessor in Old Lithuania

by HM
Loretta Stukas

"I am Kaleda. I bring happiness, good harvest and in every manner, well being."

Such was the greeting Lithuanians of olden days received on Christmas Eve from their 'Father Christmas' predecessor to (but not to be confused with) the modern day Santa Claus.

Kaleda, the fictional Father Christmas or the Old Man of Christmas was, to the Lithuanians of old the personification of the Christmas Season. He came from a 'far off land' and brought promise of what the Lithuanian peasants yearned for most - happiness, prosperity and a good harvest.

Usually, on Christmas Eve, an old man from a neighboring village would enact the part of Kaleda. He dressed up in a white sheepskin coat, sashed with a linen belt, and a tall sheepskin hat. Under the coat, he put a pillow on his back to imitate a hunchback, and attached a long, white beard to his face. He carried a crooked cane and a bag filled with nuts and other harvest 'goodies'.

As he proceeded on his house-to-house trek, he was frequently followed by a group of excited children, who clung to him and pulled at his belt, asking for treats.

When he came to a house, he rapped on a door with his cane. To the question, "Who's



there?"

He replied: "I am Kaleda. I bring happiness, good harvest and every manner of well being. I come from another land, where the hills are made of flour, the rivers flow with honey, lakes are filled with beer, and where the rain is made of candy and the snow of doughnuts. I carry a bag of treasures - good fortune, plentiful crops, and many other blessings. Please open the door and don't send me back just yet."

Upon entering the house, Kaleda would take various kinds of grain from his bag and sprinkle it over the householders. An ancient superstition attributes good luck in harvesting to the sprinkling of grain. To the young maidens of the house, he would offer soaps and wild herbs for preserving their beauty. Extending best wishes to the family, he would sing a Christmas Carol or two, entertain the children with some funny stories and a few dances, and present them with some nuts from his bag.

In return, the father of the house would treat the old man to some refreshments and Kaleda would continue on to another home.

Kaleda was considered to be the bearer of good fortune - so was always a most welcome visitor on that magical Christmas Eve night.



LITHUANIAN CHEFS

Some Favorites for Christmas Eve and Winters Nights



from *Treasures of Lithuanian Cooking by the Resurrection Parish Catholic Women's League, compiled by Virginia S. Mikenas and Ramune S. Jonaitis*

Christmas Eve Biscuits

Prėskučiai, šližikai

1/4 cup warm water (105F to 115F)
1 package dry yeast
3/4 cup milk
1/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 egg, beaten
1/4 cup butter, melted
3 1/2 to 4 cups flour

Dissolve yeast in warm water in large bowl; let stand 5 minutes. Add milk, egg and butter to yeast mixture. Combine flour, sugar and salt; stir well. Gradually stir flour mixture into yeast mixture. Add more flour if needed to make a stiff dough. Turn dough into floured board, divide into balls and roll the balls into finger-width coils; cut coils into 1/4 inch pieces; place on a slightly greased cookie sheet and bake at 350F degrees until golden brown.

These can be eaten from dessert bowls with poppy seed milk poured over them

Herring with Mushrooms

Silkės su grybais

1 pound mushrooms, washed and sliced
4 herrings or one 32 ounce jar

marinated herring
3 onions, sliced into rings
1 teaspoon vinegar
1/2 tsp. Sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. Pepper
3 tablespoons oil

If purchasing whole herrings, soak them in cold water for 24 hours, changing the water frequently. Skin, fillet and cut into 2-inch pieces. Arrange these into a large shallow dish; set aside. In a large skillet, heat cooking oil and saute onions and mushrooms until tender. Stir in seasonings. Pour mushroom and onion mixture over the herring pieces. Let sit for about one hour before serving to blend the flavors.

Plum Dumplings

Kukuliai su slyvomis

12 purple plums
12 sugar cubes
ground cinnamon
6 potatoes
2-3 cups all-purpose flour
1 egg yolk
1/4 pound butter, softened
pinch of salt
1/4 cup fine breadcrumbs
3 tablespoons butter

Pit plums without separating the halves completely. Replace each pit with a sugar cube that has been rolled in cinnamon. Boil potatoes until soft, then peel. Mash them and measure quantity. Add an equal amount of flour, the egg yolk, 1/4 pound butter and salt. Knead well. Roll dough out on a floured board to a thickness of 1/4 inch. Cut into 4-inch squares and place a plum in the center of each. Bring the four corners together to make round, watertight

dumplings.

Drop a few at a time into boiling salted water, and cook for 15 minutes. If any stick to the bottom of the pot, prod them gently until they rise.

Meanwhile, brown breadcrumbs in the 3 tablespoons butter and keep warm. Drain each dumpling as it is done and roll it into the breadcrumbs.

Sauerkraut Salad with Peas

Rauginti kopūstai su žirniais

3 cups sauerkraut, rinsed
1 onion, chopped
3 tablespoons oil
1 cup chick peas or frozen green peas
2 tablespoons green onion, chopped

Rinse sauerkraut and drain in colander; set aside. In skillet heat oil and saute onion until tender.

In salad bowl, toss sauerkraut, frozen green peas, sauteed onions with the oil and green onions. Let the salad sit for 1/2 hour or until green peas thaw to room temperature.

Cabbage Soup

Kopūstų sriuba

Boil 1/2 pound mixed vegetables and 1/2 half pound pork bones to make a broth. Strain and bring to a boil again. Boil chopped cabbage with onion and a pinch of caraway uncovered in a small amount of water. Mix 3 tablespoons of flour with 1 cup of sour cream, add to broth with cabbage and salt to taste. Serve with boiled potatoes.



**From America's Heartland
-the Mid-America District-
to all our Fellow Knights,**



**Linksmų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų**



**Robert A. Martin, Jr.
President**





Linkime Visiems Linksmų Šv Kaledų ir Laimingų 1999 Metų!

AČIŪ
and
Congratulations,
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
You made it happen!

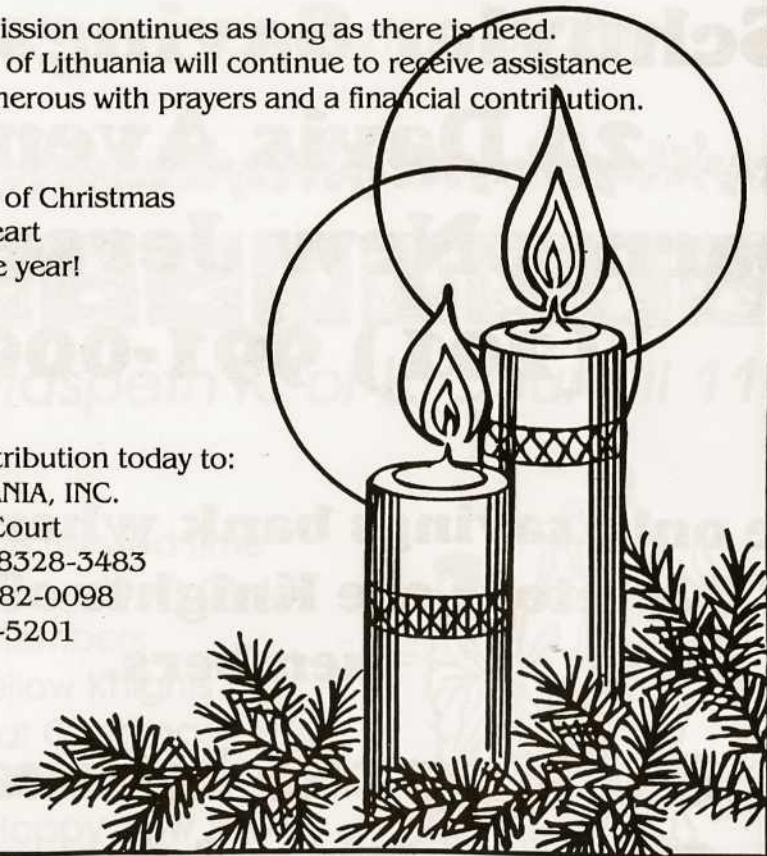
Medicine and Medical supplies worth over
53 MILLION DOLLARS
sent to Lithuania in 63 containers as of October 1998

Fifty-five thousand dollars donated to soup kitchens and other
worthy causes

Our mission continues as long as there is need.
The people of Lithuania will continue to receive assistance
if you are generous with prayers and a financial contribution.

Keep the spirit of Christmas
alive in your heart
365 days of the year!

Send your contribution today to:
AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.
4557 Fairway Court
Waterford MI 48328-3483
Phone: (248) 682-0098
Fax: (248) 682-5201



LINKSMU KALEDU



IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

Schuyler Savings Bank

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**The only savings bank where the Board
of Directors are Knights of Lithuania
members.**

**Serving the Lithuanian
Community for over 70
Years.**



*Prelatas Algimantas Bartkus, kunigai,
ir studentai Šv. Kazimiero Kolegijos,
Romoje, dėkojam visiems
Vyčiams už jūsų paramą ir
Linkime visiems
Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų*

*Anna Klizas Wargo, President
The St. Casimir Guild
Šv. Kazimiero Gilda*



C R E E T I N G S

from Maspeth K. of L. Council 110

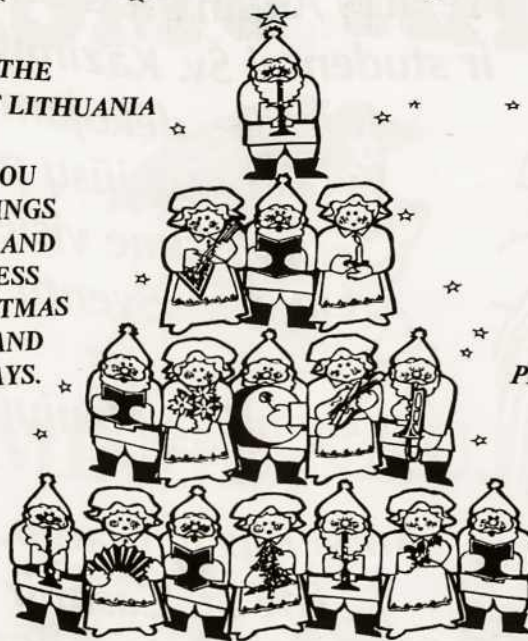


uring this Blessed time
of honoring Jesus Christ,
Our Council Members
wish All Our Fellow Knights
Good Health at Christmas
and continued excellent health
through the "Happy New Year"
and beyond.



TO THE
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

WE WISH YOU
THE BLESSINGS
OF PEACE AND
HAPPINESS
AT CHRISTMAS
TIME AND
ALWAYS.



A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW
YEAR!

COUNCIL 3 -
PHILADELPHIA



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

*Anthracite Council 144
Schuylkill County, PA*

"MERRY CHRISTMAS"

Knights of Lithuania

Council # 50

New Haven, Connecticut

*Extending Sincere Holiday Wishes to All
Our Councils - And Their Families*

May You Enjoy-----

A Blessed And Fun-Filled Christmas

May Your New Year Surround You with

God's Gifts of Love - Tranquility -

And Joy!

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Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų



From Members of Council 17

South Boston, MA

St. Peter Church

*Rev. Stephen Zukas, Pastor, Spiritual Director
Alexander Akule, H. M., President*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Linksmų Kalėdų Švenčių

Council 152 Eastern Long Island

Wishes a Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all our fellow
Knights of Lithuania Everywhere!



**Muriel Lekstutis,
President**



*The Officers and Members
of the Amber District
wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

Peace, Good Health and Happiness to all.

C-3 Philadelphia

C-46 Forest City

C-63 Lehigh Valley

C-72 Binghamton

C-74 Scranton

C-118 Hazleton

C-140 Syracuse

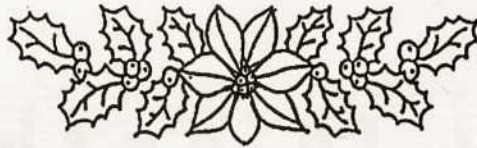
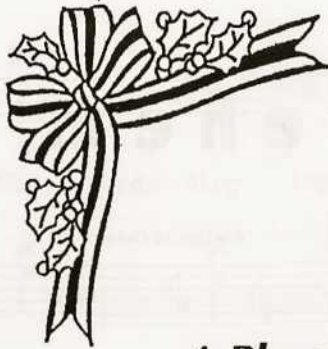
C-142 Harrisburg

C-143 Pittston

C-144 Anthracite

C-146 Harrisburg

C-156 Shamokin



The Officers and Members of the
Mid-Atlantic District

Wish Everyone

**A Blessed Christmas
and**

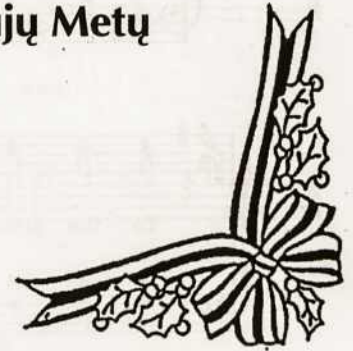
Happy New Year

**Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
ir**

Laimingų Naujų Metų



*President - John Sakal
1st VP - Maryte Abbott
2nd VP - Bernice Cviza
Secretary - Toni Sakal
Treasurer - Josephine Zukas*



**Sveikiname Vyčius
Šv. Kalėdų Proga**



Linkiname Tvirtos Valios ir Vilties
Ateinančiuose 1999 Veiklos Metuose

COUNCIL # 41
BROOKLYN, NY

KUN.

VYTAUTAS PALUBINSKAS

DVASIOS VADAS

WILLIAM KUMETA

PIRMININKAS

Today in Bethlehem

English version by
F.C.

Christmas Carol

Andante con moto
pp

Come all with sing - ing, come all with sing - ing

The first system of musical notation for the song. It consists of a treble and bass clef staff with a grand staff bracket. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

ff

To the place where Christ lies. There in Beth - le - hem,

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

there in Beth - le - hem, You shall find a man - ger.

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Refrain
pp

Christ, Child of sto - ry, is born in glo - ry.

The fourth system of musical notation, marked as a refrain. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

ff

Wise men a - dore Him, beasts kneel be - fore Him.

The fifth and final system of musical notation. It concludes the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

pp
Shep herds sing - ing, pray - ing, stars on high o - bey - ing.

ff
O what won - ders, won - ders to see.

Today in Bethlehem

Come all with singing, come all with singing
To the place where Christ lies.
There in Bethlehem, there in Bethlehem
You shall find a manager.

Refrain.

Christ, Child of story, is born in glory,
Wise men adore Him, beasts kneel before Him.
Shepherds singing, praying, stars on high obeying.
O what wonders, wonder to see.

There lies the Virgin, her babe adoring,
Joseph watches near them,
Watches the Christ Child, watches the Christ Child,
The world's Redeemer.

Refrain

What have the wise men, what have the wise men,
Laid before the cradle?
Gold and frankincense, gold and frankincense,
For a King's adorning.

Refrain

Honor and glory, honor and glory
Be unto the Father;
And to His dear Son, and to His dear Son,
Praises everlasting.

Refrain

Šiandien Betlėjūj

Šiandien Betlėjūj linksma naujiena;
Sūneli Jėšų pagimdė mums Pana.

Kristus užgimė, linksma gadynė,
Aniuolai grajin', Karaliai sveikin';
Gieda piemenėliai, klaupia gyvulėliai
Stebūklus, stebūklus garsin'.

Marija Pana Vaikeli nešioja,
Ir senas Juozapas Ji pridaboja.
Kristus užgimė, ir t.t.
Ir Tris Karaliai Iš Rytū atėjo
Ir dovanėles Viešpačiui sudėjo,
Kristus užgimė, ir t.t.
Buk pasveikintas, amžinas Viešpatie,
Kurisai ant šieno guli jau šiandie.
Kristus užgimė, ir t.t.
Buk pagarbintas, Dieve nepabaigtas,
Garbinam Tave, Jėzau neapimtas.
Kristus užgimė, ir t.t. Amen.



Šventų-Šveikų - Linksmų
ir Laimingų Kalėdų ir
Naujųjų Metų - Vyčiams ir
draugams -

1999

*Blessed, Healthy, Happy &
Prosperous Christmas and New Year
to All Knights and Friends*

1999

Honorary Member -
Annie Mitchell Matalavich
Council 52 - Elizabeth, NJ



*Our Best Wishes to All
Members and Friends for a
Very Merry Christmas and a
New Year full of Happiness*



**Council 109
Great Neck, New York**

**Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų**



**Happy Holidays to All
Council #74
Scranton, PA**

Hoping to see a chronicle
which highlights the peaks
of Lithuanian Affairs Committees'
writings and replies as they
sought Lithuanian
Independence.
- by the Year 2000

*H.M. Longinas Svelnis
Archives Chmn.*





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

LORETTA GRIGALIUNAS
C-5 CHICAGO
PRESIDENT

Linksmų Švenčių nuo
C-12 - 12 Kuopos

*the BRIGHT JEWEL
of the BIG apple*



*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų*

Council 153
Treasure Coast
Florida

Širdingai sveikiname Jus
Kalėdų šventėse ir linkime
laimingų Naujųjų Metų.



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
from C-19 Pittsburgh.





**Knights of Lithuania
LEHIGH VALLEY COUNCIL 63**

**Wishes everyone
A Blessed Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!**

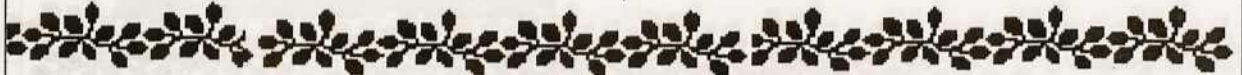
**Linkime Visiems
Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Mėtų!**



***Our Best Wishes to All
For a Blessed Christmas
And a Happy New Year***



**C-25
Cleveland, Ohio**



***Malonių Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų***



***Council 24
Chicago, Illinois***



**Linksmiausių, Švenčiausių,
Sveikiausių Kalėdų ir Ateinančių
Naujų Metų...Jums ir Šeimynoms**

**Thank you for all your good help in writing
and calling me to keep the VYTIS mailing
records up to date.
Keep up the Knights Spirit.**

**VYTIS Business Manager
Mary F. Kincius C#36
2461 West 45th Place (or P.O. Box 32020)
Chicago, Illinois 60632
Phone and Fax: 773-927-4990**

*Knights of
Lithuania*



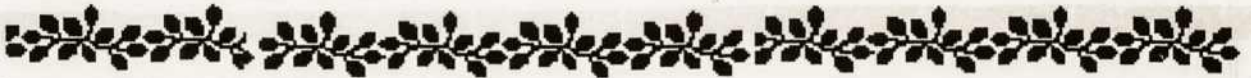
Council 7

P.O. Box 3435

Waterbury, Connecticut 06705



*Sveiki Sulauke,
Šv. Kalėdų!*



**A Blessed Healthy and
Prosperous Christmas and
New Year 1998**

*Linksmų, Sveikų ir Laimingų
Šventų Kalėdų ir Naujųjų Mėtų!*

Vyčiai Tęskite Toliau.....



**Council #36 (Brighton Park, Chicago)
Officers and Members**

Joy to the world!

*Amsterdam
Kuopa 100*

*Linki Visiems Vyčiams
Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų!*

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
COUNCIL 103
PROVIDENCE, R.I.**



*Sing we joyous all together
Fa la la, la la la, la la la.*

Merry Christmas!

**Algerd and
Aldona Brazis**

**Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų**



**The Nation's Capital
Council 142
Washington, DC**

Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų!



*Council 141 and
Junior Council
Bridgeport, Connecticut
Wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.*

Best Wishes for a
Happy and Healthy
Christmas Season
to All.



**Council 79
Southfield, Michigan**



Margaret Daphier
President

Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų



**Council #86
DuBois, PA**



*Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų sveikų Naujųjų Metų
visiems Lietuvos Vyčiams
ir draugams linki
Athol - Gardner
Vyčių 10 Kuopa.*

**Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų**

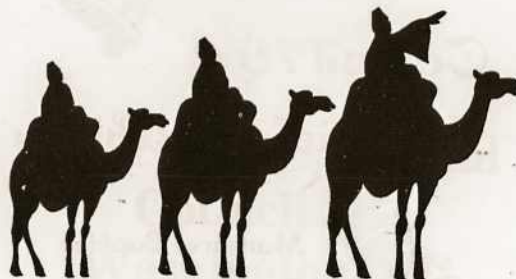


**Best Wishes for a
Blessed, Healthful,
Merry Christmas and
a Happy Joyful New Year
Council # 147
St. Petersburg, Florida**



**Our Best Wishes to all
for a Blessed Christmas
and a Joyful New Year**

**Council 52
Elizabeth,
New Jersey**





LINKSMŲ ŠV. KALĖDŲ
 Tegul Ateinantys Naujieji
 Metai Pripildo Jūsų Širdis
 Meilės, Kantrybės ir Ramybės



**Best wishes from your friends
 and fellow knights in the
 Mid-Central District.**



**Frank and Irene Petrauskas
 C-140, Syracuse**



Best Wishes to All -

**May the Wonder
 And the Glory of that
 First Holy Night fill your
 Hearts with Joy at this holiday
 season.**

Council 26, Worcester





THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

wishes all its members and friends

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

Thanks for your generous support in the past and, we hope, in the future.
Our assets are near \$85,000... lets make \$100,000 by our 15th Anniversary in 1999!

As an Endowment Fund, the Foundation uses its earned interest to help K. of L.
members and Lithuania's seminarians, nuns, and children, culturally and materially.
To send your tax-deductible donation or obtain more information, write to:

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

234 Sunlit Dr.

Watchung, New Jersey 07060

**"Wishing you joy in your home
and peace in your life**

at Christmas and always!"



**Elinor Ambrose Sluzas, HM C-96
Annamarie & Mark Berger, C-96
Joseph Berger, C-96 Jr.**



May the joy
and peace that
Christmas brings,
rest upon
you and your
loved ones,
today and
always!"

**Council 96
Dayton, Ohio**

**Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year
Clemencine and Victor Miller, C-141**

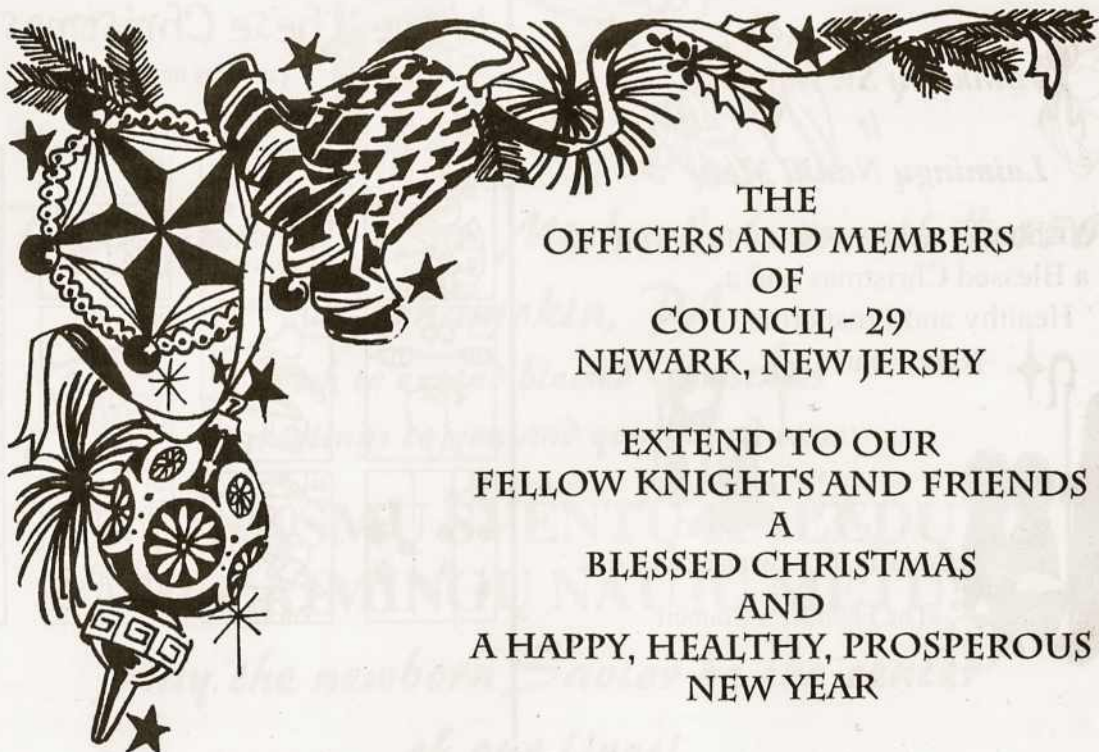
*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujųjų Metų
C - 72, Binghamton, NY*

HM Alexander Akule & Patricia Akule
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

**BLESSED HAPPY HOLIDAYS
C-116, Worcester, MA**

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

Merry Christmas and A Very Happy New Year
Council -46, Forest City, PA



THE
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF
COUNCIL - 29
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

EXTEND TO OUR
FELLOW KNIGHTS AND FRIENDS
A
BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY, HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR



To the Supreme Council and my fellow Knights, my sincerest wishes for a...

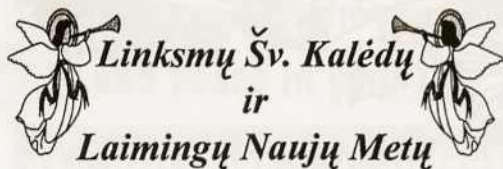
JOYOUS CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR!

and to VYTIS Editor Maryte Abbott and her Staff...

CONGRATULATIONS on a job well done! Keep up your exemplary work!

LORETTA I. STUKAS, HM

Council 29, Newark, NJ



Wishing our fellow Knights
a Blessed Christmas and a
Healthy and Prosperous
New Year!



Name These Christmas Songs

(answers on page 48)

13 	14 ABCDE FGHIJKM NOPQRST UVWXYZ	15 	16
17 	18 	19 	20
21 	22 	23 	24



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

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

Council 90 - Kearny, New Jersey



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

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

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

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

District & Council News

Mid America District

Help Ruta get her show seen -

When the K. of L. Choir was invited to Los Angeles to sing for their Lithuanian Days Festival, Ruta Lee, the Lithuanian actress, invited us entertainers (singers, dancers, musicians, actors, etc.) to her home for cocktails. She gave us a tour of her beautiful home and asked us to help promote her new talk show, "Talk of the Town with Ruta and Toni" by writing to three companies and requesting the show be aired in your area. We have to support our fellow Lithuanians. If you'd like to see Ruta's show in your area, write to the following:

1. KPXN, Suite 1200, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024
2. Paxon Communications, 500 South Australian, West Palm Beach, FL 33401
3. Kennedy/Cabot, 9470 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Mary F. Kincius

New England District

Aldona Marcavage

The fall convention in New Haven, hosted by C-50 provided 73 Knights from 11 councils in New England. St. Casimir's Father Crowley, and Spiritual Advisor, Father Peter Shakalis celebrated Holy Mass. The knights were warmly welcomed by C-50 president Isabel Peterson, and NED



Ruta Lee at the front gate of her LA home with Rob Martin, Jr. MAMD pres., C-133 president, Maryte Sepikas and district members who attended Los Angeles Lithuanian Days and held a district convention on October 4 weekend.

president, Bill Piacentini. The eye-pleasing hall was pretty with our tri-color table covers and fall colored mums on all the tables.

Auditing of books was postponed due to the absence of both trustees. Marion Hobitz's husband had recently passed away, and Bill Visnauskas was in Europe. Also missed was secretary, Bertha Stoskus due to recent knee surgery. Acting secretary was Vivian Rogers. Our get well wishes to Regina Alexander who is recovering from recent eye surgery. Our

condolences to Marion and get well wishes to Bertha and Regina. You all were missed. Also missed lately are Bea and Vic Mathieu--our once very active members. Please keep them on your prayer lists--they have a number of health problems.

With the death of Tina Shatos of C-10, it seems like the end of an era. She was a K of L member for over 80 years--joining at age 10. A memorial Mass was celebrated for Tina. I wonder if she joined the K of L in Heaven?

It was explained that all 4th degrees were to be received only at National Conventions, unless a valid, written excuse is received.

Anthony Miner reported that a \$1,000 scholarship award would be presented to Bonnie Gulas (C-141) at the Cultural Festival on 10/18/98 in Shrewsbury, MA.

A list of students worthy of financial assistance was reported by Anthony Miner. Seminarians will be judged on character as well as academic marks. Sum total of all awards not to exceed \$5,000 maximum each



On Sunday October 5th, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mulokas was the setting for a special party for Faustas Strolia (right corner) and his K of L choir members

year.

NED is in need of a new flag. The current one looks a bit shabby.

Pontifical College in Rome (St. Casimir's) is creating a guest house so Knights, when traveling, may choose to stay there instead of a strange hotel. They are in need of some furnishings, however, especially beds. Someone suggested a donation of \$100. from each of NED councils, which would give them 13 beds for starters. How about it?

Elections took place. First V.P.-Paul Zukas resigned. Joseph Stiklius (C-7) accepted the vacancy. The NED scholarship committee will consist of Anthony Grein (C-1) Barbara Schmidt (C-

141) and Isabel Peterson (C-50).

The Tamulevich/Swikalus scholarship committee: Anthony Miner, Clemencine Miller HM, and Vivian Rogers.

The rest of the slate remains the same. Wishing you all a very productive year. God Bless.

'If your day is hemmed in prayer-- it is less likely to unravel'

Mid Atlantic District

We are asking all Secretaries in the Mid-Atlantic District to forward a complete listing (names and addresses) of their Council's 1999 Executive Board and Committees (even if it has not changed) to Bernice Aviza, National K. of L. Secretary, 8 Tremont St., Albany, NY 12205.

Also, please mail a copy of this listing to our M. A. District Secretary: Mrs. Toni Sakal, P. O. Box 103, Nesconset, L. I., NY 11767. Thank you.

C-10, Athol-Gardner, MA Vincukas

The following were elected at the October meeting: Spiritual advisor - Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis, President - Dr. Henry Gailūnas, Vice president - William Wišniauskas, Treasurer - Nellie Melaika, Recording secretary - Pamela Bouthillier, Financial secretary - Howard Beaudette, Cultural chair - Bronė Wišniauskas, Marshall - David Lucas, "Vytis" correspondent William Wišniauskas.

The annual Kūčios will be held at the St. Francis' parish hall on Sunday December 20th after the first star appears in the heavens.

Plans are also being formulated for commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day in February.

Armand Bouthiller received 10 blue ribbons this year at the Franklin County Fair held each year in Greenfield. His prizes were monetary for various garden displays (vegies). Bravo Armand!

Anna Wilson now in Kennebunk, Maine reached the 90th mark. Anne we wish you continual good health and the choicest of blessings!

Best wishes are sent to Helen Lepkouski who had knee surgery.

Member Mary Gauronsky is now in residence in a Gardner Nursing Home. Her picture appeared on the front page (in



Summer Memories...NED members Helen Baranauskas, Kathleen Balcius and Aldona Marcavage with Lithuanian sailors from the ship, Vetra, at the summer Putnam picnic.



Missing the heat...C-25 (Cleveland) and C-86 knights enjoy a picnic at J. Andrulis cottage in Du Bois, PA

color) of "The Gardner News" at the nursing home annual Fair.

Alec and Leontine Kuzmeskas are building a retirement home in the Cape.

Lilly Genaitis Erickson spent two weeks this Fall in Gardner.

Many local K. of L'ers attended and worked at the NED Fall Festival held at Maironis Park.

Minnie Hakkiner of Gardner again had a show piece of flower garden this summer. She always donates them when asked. Thanks, Minnie!

Many local K. of L'ers were among the 150 persons attending an old fashioned Lithuanian sauerkraut party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralf Shatas in Rozalston on October 4. It has been a family tradition for years, and relatives and friends from the area came in with their crocks. It was an experience that brought back memories of years gone by, as most of us have. Sadly, we have discontinued the practice of getting delicious sauerkraut from the crock. Now whenever we need

it, we buy it in a bag or a can. It was a great day with loads of Lithuanian food and drinks available. We hope to have Ralf and wife as future K. of L. members. Much thanks, you guys!

On October 5, we celebrated the 65th wedding anniversary of Tony and Anne Kraskauskas, the parents of member, James Kraskauskas. A special Mass was offered for their intention after that a festive dinner was prepared at a local restaurant. All were well attended. Wishing Tony and Anne continual good health and blessings.

C-12, New York, NY

Dalia

On our October 4th meeting we elected the same executive board. Thanks to you all hard working guys for staying on.

On October 18th Our Lady of Vilnius parish held its annual Fall Parish Dinner following the 11:15 Mass, which was well attended by both parishioners and friends. There was plenty of food, refreshments and socializing and a good time was had by all.

Also on October 18th, the children of Betty Janonis attended a lovely surprise party for her 75th birthday. Relatives and close friends helped her to celebrate. God's blessings and įlgiausių metų - Betty!

We were very saddened by the death of our member, Joe Sabl. In recent years ill health caused him to be inactive but he was a long time number and supporter of the Knights of Lithuania and will be missed by his many friends.

Irene and Ed Senken traveled to Italy in September and had a very enjoyable time visiting a lot of interesting places.

Anthony Yacavonis celebrated his 90th birthday early with us in October. Tony's birthday is in January, while he's snow birding in Puerto Rico. God bless you, Tony. (We still remember when you came straight from the hospital to receive your fourth degree at the convention in Worcester!)

On October 16, yours truly lost her sister, Laima Kurpienė, age 63. She leaves

behind a loving husband, Gediminas, son Peter Augustin of Hawaii and daughter Victoria of Canada with their respective families, mother Marija Bulvičienė of Toronto, plus other family members. Amžina atilsj Laima !.

C-29, Newark, NJ

Rita S. Sussko

We are back and ready to start another eventful year in the Knights of Lithuania.

In August, Council 29 was represented by four delegates at the National Convention; Helen Radicsh, HM Kazys Sipaila, HM Loretta Stukas and Rita Sussko, who was once again elected to serve as Financial Secretary on the National. The Council 7 Waterbury hosts, chaired by their President Joseph Stiklius and his committee did a great job. Ačiū labai to them.

Our first meeting of the season was held on September 4th, at which time the nominating Committee presented their slate of officers for the coming year.

September 13th Council 29 was represented at the MAD meeting on Long Island by Ann O'Neill, who serves as a Trustee, Rita S. Sussko, Mandate Chairperson and Paula Paskas. Council 152 hosted the meeting and did an outstanding job. Their Fall decor was so appropriate for the season. The next MAD meeting will be hosted by Council 29 in April, 1999 at Newark, NJ.

Elections were held at our October 4th meeting by Nijole Miknevičius and Dana Rogers, Nominating Committee. The

following were elected: President HM Kazys Sipaila, Vice President Harold Kaminskas, Recording Secretary Helen Radicsh, Financial Secretary Rita Sussko, Treasurer Paula Paskas, Correspondence Elizabeth Luciw. Committee Chairpersons for the coming year will be Cultural Emilia Sadonis, Lithuanian Affairs Joseph Russell, Ritual Ann O'Neill, Sunshine Marie Guoba. Three Trustees Ada Andruska, Anthony Grazulis and Nijole Miknevičius. Sgt. at Arms Val Tumelis and Vytautas Miknevičius. We extended Get Well Wishes to Brone Venckus, who had cataract surgery. Fr. Peter Uhde swore in our new member Danute Byliene - Welcome -she was proposed by Mary Tumelis.

This meeting had a sad note because of the demise of our ever loved and popular Margaret Brazaitis on September 10th. May she rest in Peace.

Council 29's social event of the year, our annual dinner and dance was held on October 18th immediately following 11:00 AM Mass, which was celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Uhde. Guess who was Chairperson? Of course Marie Guoba and again we have to sing her praises, also Ann O'Neill who does such a super job as Chairperson of the cocktail hour.

Very much preparation is put into the evening along with the hard working Committee: Ada Andruska, Virginia Kaminskas, Anne Klimas, Nellie Krynicki, Elizabeth Luciw, Jennie Mikiasavige, Nijole and Vytautas Miknevičius, Nellie Nechiporuk, Helen Radicsh, HM Kazys Sipaila,

Helen and John Sisak, Rita Sussko and Fr. Peter Uhde. A raffle was held with many beautiful prizes, all donated by members and an extravagant cocktail hour, dinner, Venetian table and good music provided by Joe Thomas, what more is there to say except "A good time was had by all".

Our November meeting covered plans for a Christmas Social for members to be held following our December meeting. We were pleased to learn from our Cultural Chairperson, Emilia Sadonis, that the Boy Scouts from Newark went to Kearny to help Roze Somkaite and her other volunteers repair bicycles and load supplies destined for Lithuania. Thanks fellows. A special Thank You to Roze, who works so diligently in aiding Lithuania.

Happy, Healthy, Safe Holidays to all.

C-36, Chicago, IL

Rutele

Greetings! It's been a long, long time. When Marty and Emily Gestautas visited me here in the beautiful Northwoods of Wisconsin this past August I had to open my mouth and ask why there was never any news from C-36 in the Vytis. It didn't take much for them to twist my arm to become Vytis correspondent again. The old shoes still fit and I'm giving it a try.

Following is a limited update of the Council activities for 1998. C-36 has continued to send school supplies and books to



C-41's Fr. Daniel Yenkevich (center) farewell party at Annunciation parish in Brooklyn. With him is pastor Fr. Vytautas Palubinskas (left) and Msgr. David Cassato.

various schools in Lithuania, among them Kaunas Middle School, through the efforts of Marty and Emily Gestautas. Books were also sent to Lietuva, donated by the Chicago school system. Immaculate Conception school donated books for the fifth and sixth grades. Profits from our annual fund raiser "Dinner is Served" which was held in June were used for purchasing more school supplies and to cover shipping costs.

Also to be noted, religious articles and rosaries were sent to Luzon in the Philippines by our very active Evelyn Ozelis. Evelyn is recovering quite nicely from a heart attack suffered in September and is slowly returning to good health.

Vytautas Dijokas has recovered from serious surgery and is feeling much better. Sadly, he was informed that his sister, Ksavera Vasilauskienė, passed away in Lithuania. We extend our deepest sympathy.

The National Convention in Waterbury was attended by Mary Kincius, Faustas and Theresa Strolia, Ann Marie Kassel and Glenn Perutis. Ann Marie served on the Mandate Committee. Faustas, National Cultural Chairman, gave a presentation on the 1st Lithuanian book in America. Glenn Perutis received his Fourth Degree at the Convention's closing Mass. Congratulations!

Election of officers for the new term took place at the October meeting. Mary Kincius was elected President; 1st Vice-President, Vince Sanaska; 2nd Vice-President, Victor Utara; 3rd Vice-President, Jenny Hornik; Recording Secretary, Denise Hornik; Corresponding Secretary, Evelyn Ozelis; Sgts-At-Arms, Frank Zailskas and Dave Lorinaitis; Treasurer, Lillian Micka; Financial Secretary, Gerri Mack; Trustees, Marty Gestautas, Tony Stakenas and Ed Apke; and Vytis Correspondent, Ruth

On a lighter note, Kazlauskas. Installation of new officers will be held at the Raymond and November meeting.

Lynda Simutis proudly announce the birth of a new grandchild, their fifth. Son Tom and daughter-in-law Elizabeth greeted their newborn daughter in October.

The very successful annual "Candlelight Dinner" will be held on December 5th in the Immaculate Conception school hall. Our sincere thanks go out to all who support this annual event which allows the council the means for charitable donations.

In order to effectively keep your council news going. I'm only a postage stamp or a phone call away - Ruth Kazlauskas, 6414 Evergreen Lane, Eagle River, WI 54521, 715-479-6888. Leave me a message and I'll return your call. I'm waiting to hear from you.

C-41, Brooklyn, NY

Dalia

It was with sadness that on Sunday October 4th we had to say good bye to Father Daniel Yenkevich, who is being transferred to a parish in Pennsylvania after three years at Annunciation parish in Brooklyn. The parish council presided by Vladas Sidas and the K. of L. presided by Bill Kumeta organized a gala farewell party. It was a large turnout, Many K. of L's attended from neighboring parishes. During Mass, concelebrated by Rev. Vytautas Palubinskas, pastor emeritus and spiritual advisor of C-41 and Father Dan. In the sermon Father Vyto thanked Father Dan and wished him well in his new parish. The choir under the direction of Bill Kutchinskas sang beautifully even though its



C-74 Juniors say the Lithuanian rosary at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. (L to r) Alexandra Laske, Amanda Beneckine, Kristin Laske and Autumn Laske

Merry Christmas and a happy 1999 to all K of L members.

C-74, Scranton, PA

Marie Laske

Our K. of L. members Margaret Clegg, our treasurer Jean Karalinas, my daughter Susan and myself along with about 12 other volunteers made over \$4000 at their white elephant sale for the "Sisters of the Poor". My husband Richard Laske worked in the kitchen making potato pancakes. Richard volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday in the kitchen.

The combined K. of L. councils 74 Scranton and 143 Pittston held their annual Diocesan rosary devotion at St. Peter's cathedral. The homilist and celebrant for the afternoon was Rev. Joseph Callahan C.S.S. associate pastor at St. Casimir's parish, Lyndwood. He became Rev. Callahanauskas for the Lithuanian Rosary. He is an excellent speaker. Helen Crevath was master of ceremonies and Nell Romnas led the rosary. Scriptural readings were given by the president of C-143 Jean Nihalick. Marie Laske was coordinator.

Children forming the coronation court for the Diocesan Statue included Amanda Benedicki and Alexandra Laske, Kristen Laske crowned the statue and Autumn Laske was crown bearer. We had a very good turnout. Thanks to all our faithful people.

Oh Lord, You who have

director Asta Barkauskienė was not present. Good job Asta and Bill!

After a most delicious meal, parish members and Knights wished Father Dan well and presented him with a large cake, various gifts and a beautiful Lithuanian juosta. Father Dan thanked everyone and stated that he will always remember all his friends.

Father Dan's new address: Rev. Daniel Yenkevich, St. Matthew Church, 200 Brodhead Ave, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

C-50, New Haven, CT

Audrey Toole

Council 50 ended the year of 1998 involved in several activities. Many members worked hard and helped in hosting the New England District meeting in September. In October several members attended the Cultural Fair at Maironis Park. In November, Marion Meshako and her able workers did a superb job

for our council's Holiday Boutique. December brought our council Christmas party under the direction of Irene Meizies.

Two couples recently celebrated golden wedding anniversaries. Our best wishes to Frank and Marie Antin and Tony and Anne Kordinsky.

Our slate of officers for the new year is as follows: President - Isabel Peterson, 1st vice president - Magdalen Cronin, 2nd vice president - Mary Geipel, secretary - Audrey Toole, treasurer - Evelyn Lepensky, Financial Sec. - Helen Klimaszewski, ritual - Edward Toole, Sgt. at Arms - Tony Kordinsky, Ways and Means - Irene and Michael Meizies, Trustees - Leo Tamulis, Helen Lostys, Mary Ann Cappelli, telephone squad - Mary Bachinski, Magdalen Cronin, Mary Geipel, Mary Ann Cappelli, Helen Lostys, Genevieve Michalik, Viola Plant, Marcy Stadolmik, Evelyn Lepensky, Helen Balchus and Ann Lukaszewski.

given me so much more, give me a grateful heart!

C-96, Dayton, OH

Fran Petkus

The weekend of October 9-11, 1998 saw George/Frances/Elena Mikalauskas, Robert/Linda Pant, Elinor Sluzas, Jim Geiger, Fran/Michael Petkus head to Pittsburgh, PA for the M C D Fall Convention/Pilgrimage. Turnout for the weekend was well attended.

C - 96 members on the MCD Board for this coming term are Fran Petkus, President; Annamarie Berger, 3rd Vice President; Elena Mikalauskas, Treasurer; Michael Petkus, Trustee; Rob Pant, Sgt-at-Arms; Lauretta Pant, Ritual; George Mikalauskas, MCD Recognition Award; Elinor Sluzas, Aid To Lithuania, Inc.

Jim Geiger was presented the Third Degree Medal prior to the start of Mass on Sunday. Jim, also lit the candle for the deceased members of C-96 while Elinor Sluzas read their names. It was great to see Srs. Francesca and Alverna who were so very active when their health permitted. They were presented with special gifts from the district. The Franciscan Sisters made the K of L feel very welcomed and at home. Many thanks must go to the members of C-19 for hosting a wonderful weekend! October 16th saw several members from C-96, Mark/Annamarie Berger, George/



C-110's Kazimiras and Elena Vainius celebrated their Golden 50th Wedding Anniversary earlier this year.

Frances/Elena Mikalauskas, Robert Pant, Mark Bell, Elinor Sluzas, Fran Petkus, head to Chicago for the wedding of Brian and Rita (Zakarka) Johnson. Looks like the MCD has gained a new active member! Congratulations and happiness! MCD President Fran Petkus returned home from a very successful Supreme Council meeting in Philadelphia, PA (hosted by Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis and the members of C-3) on October 24th.

C-96 held its Fall Bake Sale October 24/25th in the undercroft of Holy Cross Church. Chair Lauretta Pant and her committee, Henry/Robert/Linda Pant, Elaine Pacovsky, Kathy Sinkwitz, out did themselves with a very successful sale. Many thanks must go to the members for the various donations of baked goods and financial support.

Elinor Sluzas set out a very elaborate Koffee Klatch of which C-96 was the beneficiary! Participation of members and friends made this event the success it was!

Our very deepest sympathies go to the family of 3rd Degree Knight Steponas Bucmys who died suddenly; his brother and sister-in-law, also K of L's, Ildefonsas/Janina Bucmys and family. Sympathies to the Kavalaszkas family on the recent loss of Mary Kavalaszkas. May their souls rest in the peace of the Lord!

Continued get well wishes to our Minster, OH member Veronica Heitkamp! It was good to see our Concord, NC member, Theresa Somerville, in town while visiting her mother, Aldona Ryan.

Once again our Jr Advisors, Christine Fletcher and Julie Goecke, did a wonderful job hosting our Juniors. They had fun at the "Goecke Farm" participating in out door activities with lots of goodies to eat!

C-110, Waspeth, NY

Elena

There are moments in our lives when we suddenly come to a STOP and begin to wonder why we are here on this earth. You begin to question yourself, as I have done lately and this was answered by the following : "KNOW GOD? I know my parents, relatives, children, friends, the lady next door, the



*C-141 Bridgeport's August picnic
at the Baran's in Stratford, CT*



*Bertha Stoskus bestows
honorary degree on C-
141's Clemencine Miller*

man who sells fruit on the corner, maybe the bus driver. I know a lot of people - some well, some not so well - maybe just to say "Hi" when we meet. But, know God? How can I get to know HIM? Father talks about HIM during Mass. I hear the Gospels read. Maybe I look at the Stations of the Cross on the Church walls. God is the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Son. The Gospels tell me about HIM. He was Kind (made very good wine from water at a wedding feast when the wine was running out); got tired (fell asleep in His Friends' boat); was thoughtful (told the parents of the girl He raised from the dead to get her something to eat); was tidy and careful not to waste (made sure His friends gathered up what was left after feeding the people bread and fish); made toast for His friends on the shore after they had spent the night fishing; was forgiving...

I talk to people I know. How do I talk to Jesus? Mary is Jesus' Mother.

Tell her I'd like to know Him a little better. For example,

when I say and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus", maybe I could add I'd like to know Him. Please help me." Our Council continues on with their regular routine and we are looking forward to the traditional Kūčios which is overwhelmingly enjoyed by many.

Once again we are saddened by another loss of a 20 year member, Violet Žvirblis, and another faithful member, John Pachesa. May their departed souls rest in peace. Wishes of a quick recovery are forwarded to Amylia Girduškas who underwent an operation recently, and prayers are offered for Beatrice Young who is seriously ill.

On the lighter side of life, may all have a good, holy, cheerful and healthy Švenčių ateinantiems metams!

C-141, Bridgeport, CT

Aldona Marcavage

After Mass our legendary cuisine was made available by the October hostesses—Helen Simanis, Barbara Schmidt, and Lee Marcinka.

Chief petty officer

William Dave Brilvitch was here from Maryland to take part in his brother's wedding. He was introduced, by his dad Bill Bilvitch. Vytautas Valkutis introduced his guest from Poland - another Vytautas? and Rose and Vladas Barius dropped in before returning to Florida. Rose wished us a warm winter.

Congratulations to Joseph Janiunas on achieving 4th degree, and receiving his medal at the 85th National Convention in Waterbury. 2nd degree awards were received by Patricia Silk and Eleanor Wisniewsky. Helen Baranoweky received a membership award for bringing three members of her family. C-141 received an award for 5 new members. Congratulations all!

Msgr. Pranckus took charge of the election of officers and committees. The slate remains the same. All accepted to work for another year. Installation will take place at Mass prior to the November meeting.

Financial secretary, Bill Brilvitch explained the new ruling regarding the slight increase in dues. These are the changes as of 1999 for couples. The husband



*C-142 Washington members at the home of Beverly Meder.
Photographer was Jean Ludwin.*

will pay 15.00--wife 7.50--for your club 3.00 each. New total for year will be \$28.50. The increase was a necessity.

Bonnie Gulas received a \$1,000 NED scholarship award 10/18/98 at the Cultural Festival at Maironis Park. Good luck, Bonnie!

Our members attending the NED fall convention in New Haven were: Clemencine Miller H/M, Barbara Schmidt, Peter and Aldona Peters, Helen and Joseph Janiunas, Eleanor Wisniewsky, Lee Marcinka, and Aldona and Sylvester Marcavage. Meanwhile, back at home. on the same date first V.P. Nancy Pawasauskas presided over the first meeting of the new season in Bridgeport. First degree medals were presented to Helen Simanis, Richard Haux, Benjamin Dirgin, Peter Balcius, Marie Brilvitch, William Brilvitch, Carol Buzak, Byrnon Buzak. Receiving the second degree medals were: Anne Laukaitis, Helen Baranowaky, Eleanor Wisniewsky, Genevieve Burnett, Frances Marlin, Kathleen Balcius, Jonas Balcius, Jean Rigley, Eleanor Jakutis, Dorothy

assistance. Our church is in need of many repairs. Since our council will be celebrating 25th anniversary next year, it would be nice to have the church looking its best.

December 5 and 6 "Christmas around the World" will be displayed by the Milford Historical Society. Once more we have been invited to participate. We will proudly display the beautiful hand-made straw ornaments and other decorations our samples of our precious Lithuanian heritage. October 21, 1998, at the Catholic University Lithuanian president Valdas Adamkus was awarded an honorary degree of Law, it was reported by Joseph Janiunas. Adamkus' autobiography is appearing in installments in the DARBININKAS. It is a beautifully written account of the hardships under Soviet domination and his ability to survive and rise to his fullest capabilities in spite of it. He knew cold and hunger until his education elevated him to a better life. Success in all his endeavors is wished him most sincerely, with God's blessings.

De Gennaro. Agnes Lazdauskas was eligible but was unable to attend due to illness.

Lithuanian classes will once again be held at the Miller home. They will be conducted once a month with Gintarė Ivaška as instructor.

Msgr. Pranckus sent out a plea for financial

HM Clemencine Miller, with her daughter-in-law Allison, drove to Philadelphia the week-end of October 23rd for a meeting of the Supreme Council Ritual Committee. Plans were to clarify the rules for receiving the 4th degree. She was also able to visit her grandson, Ryan, who is attending college in Philadelphia.

Best wishes to Stella Witkavich on the addition to their family circle by the birth of a new granddaughter born to Stella's youngest daughter, Anne. God bless!

Our members in need of supportive prayers are Agnes Lazdauskas, Peter Radzwillas, Edmund Stumbris, and Eleanor Jakutis. Condolences to Dorothy Konecny on the death of her husband William October 7, 1998. May he rest in peace.

C-141 Officers and Committees 1998-1999

Spiritual Advisor - Msgr. Frances J. Pranckus President - Clemencine Miller H/M, 1st V. P. - Nancy Pawasauskas, 2nd V/P. - Joseph Janiunas, Secretary - Barbara W. Schmidt, Treasurer - Patricia R. Silk, Financial Secretary - William Brilvitch Trustees: Sylvester Marcavage —Stephen Wilcinkas, Language and Cultural - Gintarė Ivaška. Ray Buzak, Carol Buzak Sunshine - Helen Simanis Photographer - Jonas Balcius Ways and Means - Aldona Peters and Marie Brilvitch Sgt. At Arms - Peter Peters - Peter Balcius Social Co-ordinator - Stella Marcinanskis Ritual - Clemencine Miller H/M Barbara Schmidt Patricia Silk, -Vytis Aldona Marcavage

C-142, Washington, DC

Members of Council 142 of the Knights of Lithuania gathered at the home of Beverly Meder for their fall meeting on October 4. The principal item of business was election of officers. The current slate volunteered to serve another year, and was voted to continue in office by acclamation. Officers are: President - Joseph Chaplick; Vice President - John Waylonis; Secretary - Clare Soponis; Treasurer - Jean Lutwin. The agenda was comprised of other items of business, including discussion of assistance to Villa Lituanica in Rome. The meeting was followed by a social hour with refreshments courtesy of Beverly Meder.

Council 142 members were privileged to attend ceremonies at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., on October 21 when Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa. He and Mrs. Adamkus were also feted at the Lithuanian Embassy at a noon reception the following day. Among participants were Jean and Al Cizauskas, Mary Semel, and Joan Jordano.

C-144, Anthracite, PA

PEP TALK TO THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, ANTHRACITE C-144 (JULY 19, 1998)

by Marion Saukaitis Wydra, President Knights of Lithuania, Anthracite Council 144

Have you ever thought of why we are all gathered here this

afternoon and how this came about? We owe it all to one man - Alexander II Czar of Russia. In 1863, in an attempt to Russianize the country, he declared death to the Lithuanian language, schools, and churches and eradicated them all.

The population of 3 million in Lithuania decreased by one-half. Most of the people sought refuge in the United States of America.

The First Lithuanian settlement was made in 1860 in the Anthracite Region in Northumberland and Schuylkill Counties. Many of the people were illiterate and lived in very poor conditions while the men worked like slaves in the bowels of the earth.

On September 14, 1892, the Lithuanians established their own church and school. They named it the "Holy Cross" Church and School because of all the suffering and persecution they endured.

And so it came to pass, 84 years ago, all the Lithuanians congregated in Lakeside and Lakewood Park (Barnesville, PA). They wanted to get together with their fellow countrymen to celebrate the "Feast of the Assumption". It was the one and only day of the year that they looked forward to, to meet friends and relatives. Transportation was difficult because they were extremely poor, the coal magnate made sure of that.

I come to you today to ask your help and support to make this our "84th Lithuanian Days" a success. Each time we celebrate this event, it's like a heavenly fresh scent from our ancestors. We do

not want to let them down, do we?

Since time marches on and our bodies do not, (we are all senior citizens), I do not know how much longer we or you can keep it up. I am a realist and tell it like it is. I do believe that "We are an Endangered Species".

We are proud of all our accomplishments, which includes tons of food, medicine, clothing, and money sent to Lithuania.

But the way I see it, we just can not take minutes at our meetings and file them in a closed book. They should and must be "made public". How else can we enlist the support of the public and fellow Lithuanians unless they are aware of all the good and generous work we do. There are a lot of young Lithuanians who would take an interest if they read it in the newspaper and might get inspired. I have a lot of faith in our young people.

So tell me how can we help each other? You know what Abraham Lincoln said, "United we stand, divided we fall."

Long live Lithuania and her Knights of Lithuania, Council 144; St. Casimir, Pray For Us.

I have recently taken on a monumental task to try to make the former Lithuanian School into a historical site. It was the first Catholic School to employ the first three Lithuanian nuns directly from Lithuania in a little coal mining town, Mount Carmel, PA. And that my dear friends, was the beginning of the Sisters of St. Casimir in USA.

Since the Harrisburg Bishop sold the school, hopefully the next time it is sold it will be available for us to preserve its valuable history - RIGHT. I

would like to call all Lithuanians to arms on this project. We need all the support available to realize this project. It will benefit all future generations in the USA.

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

Our October meeting was opened by our President, Anthony Gudonis. Due to the absence of our Spiritual Advisor Father Mathew Cyvas, a written note obtained by Irena Diktanas, and read by Anthony Gudonis, was our opening prayer. Father Cyvas is recuperating at home- after an accidental mishap, in which he fractured his hip and shoulder. Father Ropolas O.F.M. is also hospitalized, and will be coming home soon. We have Father Jurgutis from Toronto, Canada helping out retired Father Kirkalas with Sunday Mass and morning Mass at the Chapel.

Three of our members attended the Convention in Waterbury CT, John Jonaitis, Dolores Jonaitis and Aldona Kirstuk. John Jonaitis gave a briefing on our Convention, and updated the figures on the amount of containers sent to Lithuania. Robert Boris tells us that a \$25.00 donation for Aid to Lithuania, INC., makes it possible to ship \$4,360.75 dollars worth of medicine and medical supplies to the poor and sick people of Lithuania.

Also discussed was the upcoming Concert by Summit Orchestra and Singers on November 21, 1998, at the Lithuanian American Club in St. Petersburg. Arrangements are in charge of Anthony Gudonis and John Jonaitis. Tickets will be

handled by Laimutė Alvarado and Dolores Jonaitis. Alfas Shukis read an article from the DIRVA in relation to K of L containers sent to Lithuania. Disappointed however was that nothing was mentioned in Draugas.

Kazimiera Arlauskas, Elena Jurkynas and Eugenia Satraitis received their official 2nd degree cards from the Supreme Ritual Committee. They received their degrees in May 1998. Father Mathew Cyvas received his 3rd degree on March 1, 1998 on St. Casimir Day. Congratulations to all of you.

Get Well Greetings are in order this month. Irena Diktanas mailed cards to: Brone Urbonas, Bronius Bakas, Kazimiera Arlauskas, Rev. Mathew Cyvis, Father Steponas Ropolas O.F.M., Mr. and Mrs. Vilnis, Malvina Ugenas, and Sally Zupka.

At closing we were led in prayer by Anthony Gudonis. Then we were treated to coffee and delicious desserts. Donaters were Irena Diktanas, Dolores Jonaitis, Janina Lauras, Petre Kasparaviciute and Eugenia Satraitis.

Sadly, on October 17, 1998, Charles Vilnis passed away. He was a 4th degree knight and was in our Council 20 years. The K of L Wake Ritual Service was held. Father Mathew Cyvas, still recuperating, and Anthony Gudonis, our President, presided. Irena Diktanas placed a white carnation on the casket, and presented the family with a Mass card.

Antanas Grabauskas, a 4th degree knight, 18 years with our council, passed away October 22, 1998. He was our official Flag

carrier. The K of L Wake Ritual was also held. Father Jurgutis and Anthony Gudonis led us in prayer. Maria Gelazius placed the carnation on the casket. She also presented the family a Mass card. May both their souls rest in peace.

On a happier note, Aldona Kirstuk returned from Chicago, after attending the wedding of Rita Zakarka. She is planning a trip to Arizona.



Smiles without Wrinkles

Actual bumper stickers seen on the highway -

Caution: I drive like you do.
I brake for no apparent reason.

I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to become a vegetarian.

The more people I meet, the more I like my dog.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Forget the Joneses, I'm keeping up with the Simpsons.

Born Free - Taxed to Death



Answers to Christmas song puzzle on pg. 36

13. O Holy Night
14. Noel (No L)
15. Away (a weigh) in a Manager
16. Twelve Days of Christmas
17. I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
18. All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth
19. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire
20. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
21. Let It Snow...
22. Silent Night
23. O Little Town of Bethlehem
24. Silver Bells

On the Calendar...

Traditional Kucios - Dec. 13

C-110, Maspeth, NY
Transfiguration Church Hall
after 11:15 Lith. Mass

Annual Kucios - Dec. 20

C-10, Athol Gardner, MA
St. Francis Parish Hall

39th Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet.

February 7, 1999 - Martinique
Restaurant, Grand Ballroom. Call
Rob Martin, Jr. for details (219)
861-0731

District Meetings

**Amber - St. Casimir Day -
March 14, 1999**

Hosts: C-72, Binghamton, NY

**Mid Atlantic - Spring Convention
April 18, 1999**

Hosts: C-29, Newark, NJ

Supreme Council Meeting

April 24, 1999 - Chicago

Call Maria Deksnis for details
(773) 476-5896

1999 National Convention

July 29-Aug. 1, 1999

Hosts: C-3, Philadelphia

Lithuanian Open Golf Tournament

Sept 25, 1999

Benefit for Lithuanian Children's
Relief at Squirrel Run Country
Club, West Plymouth, MA

*Send in your district/council and special
Lithuanian events for this section. We
will also include them in our K. of L.
website.*

Christmas Eve

by Mirga Bablin

The people in Lithuania are rich in the splendor and variety of their Christmas holiday traditions. Many of these customs are still maintained within the homes of Lithuanian-Americans, who learned from their immigrant parents or grandparents. Lithuanian Christmas customs center around the church and family. Children are encouraged to do special tasks for their parents; with each good deed marked by placing a piece of straw in a homemade manger; the intent being to make it as soft as possible for the infant Jesus.

The highlight of the Lithuanian Christmas is Christmas Eve, as so aptly told by Vytautas Belajus from his article, "An Old Fashioned Christmas Eve in Lithuania":

"In Lithuania, we do not anticipate Christmas Day as much as we do Christmas Eve or Kūčios. This is the day of days and the eve of eves. In our district, we never heard of Santa Claus and never received any Christmas gifts. Even so, there was still a great deal of color to Kucios. Long before sunset, my two brothers and I dashed over to Auntie's house. Shaking the snow from our Klumpos (wooden shoes), we entered reciting the customary prayer, "Garbe Jezui Kristui (Praise be Jesus Christ); "Per Amžius Amen" (for ever and ever) would be the reply. With the rising of the evening star, the table was covered with a fine white linen tablecloth, whereupon hay was strown. A picture of the Nativity or the Madonna and Child was made the centerpiece with figurines of cattle and donkeys nearby to imitate the setting of our Savior's birth. Now the family gathered about the table. The dishes were set on the hay; a twelve course dinner honoring the twelve apostles was

served, truly a festive meal that only Kūčios could offer.

First we prayed. Then the plotkele, a big square wafer bearing the image of Christ was broken into as many pieces as people at the table; each member kissed the blessed wafer before eating it. Then followed the magnificent feast - chopped herring with seasoning, herring cutlets rolled in flour and linseed oil, fried fish, boiled potatoes, biscuits of Baravyku - the king of mushrooms; slizikai - a batter biscuit; some plain, others mixed with poppy seeds. Then followed a hot porridge, kisielius, of oat flour mixed with water and sometimes in the crust of rye bread, leavened for about 12 hours, cooked and eaten with poppy seed milk. A fruit compote and mead, a sweet drink made of hops and honey, completed the meal.

As the custom, the meal lasts for three hours and to ensure this, the people tell stories on the Nativity and kindred subjects, including any miraculous events. On Christmas Eve, we were told, the wafers turned sweeter and even animals would speak with a human voice to praise the lord's name. The hours never pass more quickly than the three hours of kucios night.

Carols were sung and games were played. Because an apple is reminiscent in the lives of Adam and Eve, a game of prediction ensued. The apple was cut and divided among the participants. If the apple was cut into an even number, all will be well until the next kucios, but if an odd number resulted, one of the guests would be missed at the next Kūčios. Another game is played with sheaves of hay. Sheaves are pulled from under each plate; the one whose sheaf is the longest, will live the longest. After the dinner, the hay was gathered from the table and taken to the stalls of the cattle, so that they, too might share in the feast."



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Kalėdos

**Kalėdų Kūdikėli,
 Dangaus žvaigždė skaisi,
 Užgimk juodam pasauly,
 Užgimk žmogaus širdy.**

**Kalėdų Kūdikėli
 Ant ežzių svetimų
 Ir mes toli nuo savo
 Tėvynės ir namų**

**Gal tau tenai užgimus
 Tik šaltas vėjas siaus,
 Ir vilkas staugs atėjas
 Iš miško, iš tamsaus...**

**Gėl piemenėliai naktį
 Pasveikint negalės,
 Kalėdų šventą rytą
 Visi varpai tylės...**

**Kalėdų Kūdikėli,
 O didis Dieve mūs,
 Mes tau įrengsim savo
 Širdelėse namus.**

**Kalėdų Kūdikėli,
 Dangaus žvaigždė skaisi,
 Užgimk vargų pasauly,
 Užgimk žmogaus širdy.**

-Vyte Nemunelis