

Vytis

The Knight - Volume 85 No. 3



Kovas / March 1999

VYTIS

-The Knight -
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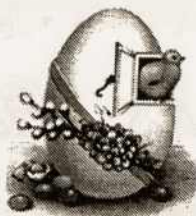
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The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of our ancestors, and a knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture since the K of L began in 1913.

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Back Page Poetry - Mūsų Broliai Mainieriai

Cover art - *St. Joseph: Vilniaus Arkivyskupijos Šv. Juozapo kunigių seminarija (submitted by Msgr. A. Bačkis)*



To My Fellow Knights:

The season of Lent has always been a time when one had to "give something up" becoming less attached to the goodies of the world. I usually tried to pick something really enjoyed, like chocolates, sodas, sweets or a favorite dish. Last year, to the amazement of those around her, a young co-worker announced she was giving up being snotty and "going to really try to be nicer" to her co-workers, since many of them considered her a snob. In observation, it seemed to work as she smiled more often, seemed more helpful and was nicer to be around. I made a mental note to remember that woman's Lenten promise when this year came around and rather than give up a goodie, simply take away a snide remark, a health complaint, an unnecessary dig at how rotten things are. Instead, try to fill that moment with a compliment, a joke, or anything that would reflect a better nature. It just may work.

This month, we also celebrate our patron, Saint Casimir, as so many councils plan special events. We also look forward to Easter and Spring when we can emerge from our hibernated indoor lives and enjoy the wonders of God's creations in nature.

A few of you have emailed about having difficulties finding Lithuanian websites. Please keep in mind you may have to seek a specific search engine to find it. Try locating Yahoo, Lycos, Alta Vista, Excite or HotBot, then type in "Lithuania" and you'll be surprised at the choices that are available. In the future, we'll show you how to find some special sites of interest.



Letters to the editor

This is a letter of thanks to the Knights from a cleric studying at the Pontifical College of St. Casimir's in Rome. He thanks the Knights for the \$1,000 scholarship towards his expenses studying for the holy priesthood.

11.XI.98, Roma
Mieli geradariai,

esu maloniai nustebintas ir giliai sujaudintas Jūsų geros širdies. Šių metų lapkričio pradžioje per gerb. Lietuvių popiešiškiosios Šv. Kazimiero kolegijos rektoriaus Algimanto Bartkaus rankos gavau iš Jūsų tūkstančio JAV dolerių stipendiją, dėl ko nuoširdžiai dėkoju. Šios lėšos labai padės studijuojant. Romoje teologiją Popiežiškoje Švento Kryžiaus universitete ir ruošiantis kunigystei.

Meldžiuosi už Jus ir teatlygina Jums Dievas!
God May Bless You!

Su didžia pagarba
klerikas Eligijus Astrauskas

Seeks Lithuanian Christmas Carols

To the Editor:

Where may I purchase one or more CD's with Lithuanian Christmas Carols?

I have record with various songs, including religious ones, but am unable to locate Christmas Carols. I am also looking for a book, or other information about Pope John Paul II's Lithuanian Mother.

*J. R. Chepage, Sr.
Trenton, NJ*

(editor's note: I've looked myself for these, does anyone have a supplier?)

Archives Reminder

I wish to remind members and contributors that when they send material to the Knights of Lithuania Archives, it should be sorted by subject matter then chronologically and numerical order, and no more than two pieces of each item. Material, especially photos, should be dated and labeled with the name of the event.

Send it to the Archives address listed on the inside cover of this issue.

*Longinas Svelnis
K of L Archives Chairman*

Official News

Notice to Council Financial Secretaries:

Membership dues for 1999 are due in January.

If not received by March, you will be dropped from the "VYTIS" mailing list; if not paid by June, you are dropped from the organization.

We value your membership, therefore, please submit your dues on time. \$22.50/couple - \$15.00/single - \$7.50 additional member living at the same address, but does not receive "VYTIS".

Rita S. Sussko, National Financial Secretary

JOIN YOUR "AID TO LITHUANIA" FRIENDS FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE TOUR OF LITHUANIA IN AUGUST 1999

An 11 day tour has been arranged by the travel experts at GT Int'l. from August 12th to August 22nd.

Things have changed so much that even those who have already visited Lithuania will find something new and wonderful - new and refurbished hotels, terrific restaurants to name just a few.

Among the highlights of this tour will be a breath-taking performance of the Berlioz Requiem in the Pazaislis Monastery. This monumental work is seldom performed because it requires a massed choir, augmented brass and percussion sections.

The tour is limited to 35 people, so please register immediately in order to avoid disappointment since this tour is sure to fill quickly.

Total package is \$1,983.00 from New York and \$2,083.00 from Chicago and Detroit.

For more information contact Regina Juska-Svoba : Telephone eves. (248) 547-2859 & Fax (248) 547-0982 or GT International 1-800 462-2584

On the Calendar...

March 7, 1999, St. Casimir Day Celebration
hosted by C112. Nativity B.V.M. Church, 69th &
Washtenaw, 10:30 a.m. Mass.

March 21, St. Casimir Day Brunch
Hosts: C-141, Bridgeport, CT

Supreme Council Meeting
April 24, 1999 - Chicago
Call Maria Deksnis for details
(773) 476-5896

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

MCD Meeting - Pilgrimage
Sept. 24-26, 1999
Hosts: C-25, Cleveland, OH

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 events at least 2 months in
advance, to the editors to be included in this listing.*



K of L Foundation Essay Contest Winner

The Great Importance of Customs

1st prize Winner

Matthew Anderson - C-141, Bridgeport, MA

I think that customs are important aspects of Lithuanian culture. The word custom is defined as a habitual course of action. A couple of other ways to describe customs would be traditions and rituals. Customs are important because they help you to keep a sense of pride about your heritage and remind you not to forget it. Celebrating Lithuanian customs with my family gives me a sense of pride in my ancestry.

A number of the customs that my family enjoys come during the Christmas season. Our customs are a mixture of Lithuanian and Roman Catholic traditions. We get sacred wafers from our church to share on Christmas eve, at dinner we place a piece of straw under the table cloth because it represents Jesus' birth in the stable, we set an extra place setting just in case a visitor comes by, and we have an odd number of food courses.

Another thing that we do during the Christmas season is marking the top of our doorway with the letters C+M+B inside the current year. We do this on Epiphany Sunday. For example, this year is 19+C+M+B+98. This is Latin asking Christ to bless our home during the current year. C+M+B also stands for the three wise men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar who found their way by the star to the stable and baby Jesus. As Roman Catholics we celebrate Palm Sunday by taking new palms at church and burning our old ones from the previous year. My family discovered a

new Lithuanian tradition when my brother was doing a report on Lithuania. He found the custom of waking up family members on Palm Sunday by gently tapping them on the head with a pussywillow or forsythia branch. My father tried this custom on my brother but he soon gave up because my brother would not wake up. My father says that he will try it again next year.

On Easter Sunday we go to church. We celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. One custom that my family has is to have a big feast with lots of Lithuanian foods like kielbasa, rye bread, cabbage, and potatoes. Other traditions that my family enjoys are guessing the number of chocolate Easter eggs in a glass jar and an Easter egg hunt for the kids. One Lithuanian custom that we do on Easter is the egg-breaking contest where everyone picks an egg to knock against each other's eggs. Whomever ends up with the unbroken egg wins. The winner is supposed to have good luck for the year.

Customs are very important to families because they bring them together and they mix generations. For instance, my great grandmother and I still go head to head in the Easter egg breaking contests and she is 95 years old. All of the Lithuanian side of the family gets together on holidays to visit my great grandmother and celebrate the holidays with her. I am proud of my Lithuanian heritage and I enjoy the customs very much.



A Brief History of the Life of St. Casimir

When St. Casimir was born in 1458, Lithuania was still a newly Christianized country and the saint's grandfather, Jogailia, the Duke of Lithuania had remained pagan for the greater part of his life. And although he was born in Cracow, Poland, his father was Casimir, the Grand Duke of Lithuania (1447-1492), he was born of the great dynasty of Gediminas, which gave Lithuania its many statesmen and leaders.

As a young man, Casimir spent most of his time with his father and had special tutors and teachers for his education. One remarked that Casimir was a "divus adolescens" or holy youth. At the age of thirteen, he was offered the throne of Hungary, but was unsuccessful in the power struggle and failed to be crowned.

His father, King Casimir, had his son accompany him on his trips to Poland and Lithuania. In 1479, on one of his trips to Lithuania, the enemy was conspiring against King Casimir and kin, seeking to dethrone him. Saint Casimir returned to Cracow alone and administered the affairs of his father's state for two years, proving he was a capable ruler.

While attending to affairs of the state during the day, the young Casimir was said to have prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary through each night, clad in his royal robes, but underneath these garments he wore the rough hair cloth closest to his body, the clothing of a penitent. It is also said he had slept on the floor with his arms spread into the sign of the cross, rather than rest in a more comfortable bed.

When King Casimir returned in 1483, he sent his capable son to Lithuania as his representative. Although little is written or known as to what happened at the time, St. Casimir preferred the life of solitude, reflection and prayer to that of rulership.

He performed rigorous fastings and was said to have prayed before the doors of the Cathedral of Vilnius



on cold winter mornings before the doors opened.

Most likely due to his chosen lifestyle, he developed tuberculosis and died on March 4 in Gardinas, Lithuania, at age 26.

Because Casimir's brief life was considered a Christian model, Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503) granted indulgences to all those who might pray at the young nobleman's tomb. Soon after, many miracles became attributed to praying at Casimir's tomb.

The most widely known miracle was thought to be his apparition in 1518. At the time a numerous Russian army was advancing toward Polock. The much smaller Lithuanian forces set out to defend themselves and defeat the enemy. The only way they saw to was to cross the overflowing Daugava River and save their fort. At this moment St. Casimir appeared to them riding a white horse and urged the men to cross the river. Leading them on, the entire army followed without hesitation. The fort was defended and the Russians retreated.

In 1621, during the pontificate of Pope Paul V, St. Casimir was inscribed in the liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church. Later, Pope Urban VIII proclaimed him patron of Lithuania and designated March 4th as his feast day. In 1948, Pope Pius XII declared him to be the special saint of Lithuania's youth.

Sources: Saint Casimir by Zenonas Ivinskis, Vytautas Beliajus and others, drawing by P. Jurkauskas.



SHROVE TUESDAY

The last day before the beginning of Lent is noted as Shrovetide. It is normally observed on a Tuesday, because the third day is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of a long, sober, solemn, lean fasting period.

In the olden days, fasting was very serious; meat was forbidden altogether, milk only now and then. The adults could eat only three times a day - only one full meal.

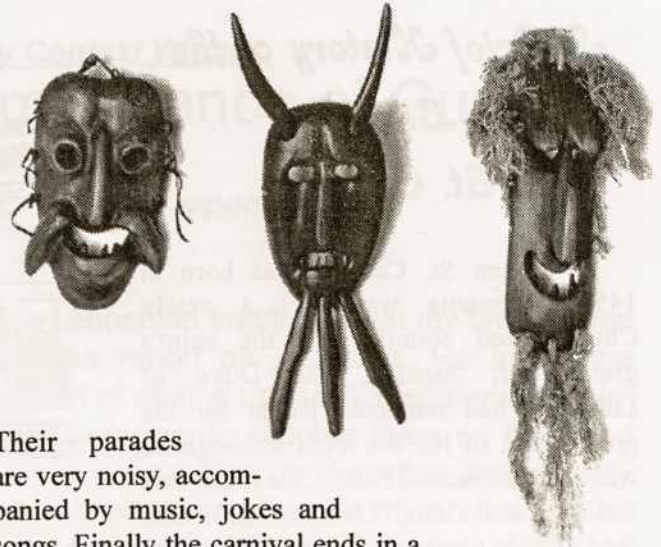
Amusements, dances, singing, banquets were forbidden, not only by the church, but also tradition. Because of that the people tried to spend Shrove Tuesday joyously, boisterously, eat as much rich, fatty foods as they wanted - "so...that it would last throughout Fast." Meals with meat and fat were eaten 9 times a day (elsewhere 12 times). At midnight all food and rollicking had to end, because from that time fasting and Lent began.

So that the fun would not be drawn out, church bells in certain places would ring about eleven at night, and all knew that it was time to end the merrymaking and to go home. The popular food were pancakes, mostly made with flour, apples and yeast or even just plain. Elsewhere dumplings were made but they too had to be consumed before Lent, because dumplings are boiled in pork fat. There were also cabbage, sausage, potato pudding (kugelis) and other fatty foods. Beverages were home-made ale, cider, or brandy.

Drinking water was inadvisable, because then thirst will be a torture throughout the year. Also it was inadvisable to sit at home - the farmer did that, so that their flax plants would grow tall, and their horses would be nimble. The carnival masks were fashioned by the people themselves. They were made with barks from trees and from other surrounding props and materials.

They liked to disguise themselves as beggars, gypsies and Jews. Mythological creatures: devils, skeletons; horses, goats, monkeys, cranes and other birds. Often several characters formed a group and acted out real performances.

They go from one house to another where there are refreshments, food and beverages, and at the same time are sprinkled with water.



Their parades are very noisy, accompanied by music, jokes and songs. Finally the carnival ends in a home with refreshments. In another house finishing the food, two brawling characters tumble in thru the door - Mr. Fat and Mr. Lean.

Mr. Fat was greasy, with sausages dangling about him glistening with fat. He symbolizes the happy 'fat' period between Christmas and Lent, and he controlled the earth up to now. But now, Mr. Lean, dried-up, drooping, wasting away, girdled with rope challenged the fat one to a duel. Mr. Lean's adornments; herring heads, oil bottle, bread crust ...

He is the representative of Fast. Every year these 'creatures' wage war the night before Lent. Every year Mr. Fat loses the war, and the 'devil' gleefully follows after him, swinging his scythe; perhaps this time he will succeed in catching him.

Left in the building, Mr. Lean seized a heavy rope, twisted from hemp, and begins to flounce it about the house, chasing out the good-timers, scattering food off the table. It is time to end all the merriment and time to gather for Lent.

translation by Antonia M. Wackell

-from Musu Lietuva Brazil; -photo Shrovetide Masks from the 1980's by Albertas Žulkus.



Did You Know?

Fasting during Lent in Lithuania served a practical function during pagan times as respect for farm animals during the time they produced their young, to refrain from eating their meat or drinking their milk.

Opinion**Eucharist not Ritual is the Real Focus**

by *HM Robert S. Boris*

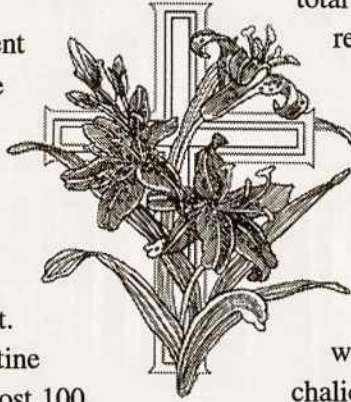
It was interesting to read the recent article in VYTIS regarding the Tridentine Mass. As one who usual opts for the traditional in music, art and architecture, rather than support this article, I find myself at odds with the author for several reasons:

1) It is totally unlikely that St. Casimir was "sustained" by the Tridentine Mass since St. Casimir died in 1458 almost 100 years before the Council of Trent (1537-1564) established the Tridentine Mass.

2) Until 1564 thousands of saints and holy people both canonized and uncanonized were "sustained" by the Divine Liturgy in any number of "rites" from Ambrosian to the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. After the Tridentine Mass was proscribed by the Council of Trent "Latin Rite" Catholics retained variations to the Liturgy such as the Dominican and Basilian rites to name just a few.

3) While Pope John Paul II granted a papal indult in 1988 allowing the use of the Tridentine Rites, he as Pope offers the Liturgy in the language of the people attending his Mass according to *Novus Ordo*. In his own private Liturgy in the Papal Apartments, which I was privileged to attend recently, he used the *Novus Ordo* rites in the Italian language. In Lithuania he used the Lithuanian language, in Mexico, Spanish and in the USA, English all according to *Novus Ordo*. As a personal note--if it's good enough for the Holy Father, then it's good enough for me.

4) Unfortunately, our dear friends the "traditionalists" (I believe they now call themselves orthodox Catholics) appear to be all wrapped up in the "trappings" or incidentals relating to the Divine Liturgy. From the Last Supper to 1999 the absolute center and



total focus of our Faith has been and should remain the Eucharist and not the language or the "rites" used by the faithful. Diversity in many matters existed in our Church from its' very beginning until today, but never in the essential "breaking of the bread." Thousands of priests who died in the gulags of the Soviet Union were able to celebrate the Eucharist without the trapping of vestments, gold chalices and Missals. Most likely, their improvised and abbreviated ritual was performed from memory and did not follow the "rubrics" prescribed for a "Tridentine" Mass. Was it the "ritual" or the Eucharist that "sustained" them?

5) Traditions are beautiful and worth keeping alive if they promote spirituality or add something to our pursuit of happiness. Consider our *Kučios*. This is probably one of the most important and unique traditions we strive to keep alive. How many variations have been made to accommodate modern times and circumstances in this celebration?

Many K of L councils have "*Kučios*" days or weeks before Christmas Eve. Just a few of the traditional foods are prepared, yet all sorts of food unknown to our ancestors has replaced the traditional ones. St. Casimir might roll over in his coffin if he saw ham, turkey or meat being served at *Kučios*, yet he must be pleased that the basic spirit of that tradition continues in the breaking of the wafers and the love-feast which follows, regardless of which foods are served and which language is being spoken around the table.

The K of L has several excellent projects, in need of the energies and dedication of our younger members. Instead of promoting a cause such as the resurrection of the Tridentine Mass, I think our energies might be better spent in caring for the sick and the poor as Jesus did.



MY VISIT TO ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH IN VILNIUS

by Edward Baranauskas

The churches I visited in Lithuania over the years left me with many lasting impressions, and, to me, they are all beautiful, majestic masterpieces of architecture. This past summer, one of my goals was to go to St. Casimir's Church in Vilnius, attend Mass there, and, should the opportunity ever present itself, to take pictures of its magnificent, breath-taking interior. I was there two years ago, but did not have the chance to do so. I hoped everything would be different this time, it was, and I was not disappointed.

Strange how fate entered the picture. I met Ann Morrissey, a fellow Knight from Council 110 in Maspeth, at a Mid-Atlantic District meeting in Brooklyn last April. When I told Ann I was planning to go to Lithuania during the summer, she gave me the name and address of Father Antanas Gražulis in Vilnius, with whom she was corresponding. Father and I exchanged letters, and he wrote to let me know he was most anxious for our meeting. I am not sure if Ann knew, at that time, much about Father Gražulis, and I certainly didn't, only that he was a priest.

Imagine my surprise when I met him and learned that he was not only the pastor of St. Casimir's Church, but also the rector of the Jesuit High School, which is next to it. I found Father Gražulis to be a very warm, friendly, and an energetic young priest. I was fortunate that he was able to give me some of his valuable time, because of his many responsibilities. The school is still undergoing a lot of repairs and renovation, with much more to be done, and none of this would be pos-



Interior of St. Casimir's

sible if it were not for the financial support from the Jesuits in Germany. As one could well imagine, the interior and exterior were deliberately, terribly neglected during the decades of Soviet occupation.

English is the language of choice for many of the students, but, unfortunately, some of the English teachers leave the school to get better paying jobs in the private sector. Should the need ever arise when Father needs assistance with his correspondence in English, the teachers are there to help with the translation.

I told Father there is a St. Casimir's Church in Amsterdam, not far from where I live, that was founded by Lithuanian immigrants before the First World War. I asked him if it was possible to have a Mass said, before I returned home, for my first wife, Eleanore, and my youngest son, Thomas, both having passed away in the month of August years ago. No problem, he assured me, and scheduled it for the next day. When I brought up the subject of my taking pictures of the church's interior, I was told I could take all the pictures I wanted to. I was surprised to learn that vandals had stolen some microphones and loud-speakers some time ago, and as a result, everything must now be locked up. Father was kind enough to escort me and my brother-in-law to the back door of the church, unlocked it, and asked me to make sure it was secured before we left. He then hurried off to keep his other appointments. We left after taking many pictures, and did just as he requested.

Most of the churches in Vilnius, from what I learned, do not have Masses in the morning during the week, Monday to Friday, but only in the late afternoon



The author receives Holy Communion at the altar rail

or early evening, and at St. Casimir's it is at six o'clock with no organist or choir. The weekend schedules, of course, are much different. When Father announced that the Mass was for my loved ones, I was deeply moved.

Father Gražulis and another priest were at the altar distributing Holy Communion, and it was then I noticed the difference between churches in Lithuania and those back home; no one received Holy Communion in their hands, but only in the mouth, with an altar boy holding a golden plate under the chin. There were no wine servers standing at each side of the altar, and, as each person walked away, I noticed no one was chewing. I asked my relatives if there are any Eucharistic Ministers in Lithuania, similar to those in the United States, and the answer was "no".

Even in Lithuania, there are differences in other parishes, and here is another example. I attended Mass at the church in Kavarskas, which is about an hour's drive from Vilnius, for my mother and mother-in-law. Prelate Alfonsas Svarinskas, the pastor, still observes the old traditions. The altar rail was still in place, and before Holy Communion, the altar boy spread a white cloth over it. (in Lithuanian, this is known as Dievo Stalas, the Lord's table.) Each person knelt at the altar rail. Holy Communion was placed in the mouth, with the altar boy holding the golden plate under the chin, and nobody was chewing as they walked away.

Changes in the Church traditions are sometimes hard to accept, and many of the old customs in

Lithuania are difficult to give up. Over the years during my visits, I have seen changes at my father's church at Troškunai, and at my mother's church at Vidiškai. We live in a changing world, and from what I observed, change is inevitable.

A brief history of St. Casimir's Church in Vilnius

St. Casimir's Church was named after the Patron Saint of Lithuania, Prince Casimir. It was one of the earliest and largest Baroque churches in Vilnius, and for a long time was its principal Jesuit Church. Construction was begun on May 12, 1604, the feast of the canonization of St. Casimir, with the festive laying of the foundation stone, and was completed eleven years later. When the Jesuit Order was closed in 1773, the church was assigned to a parish. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the church was burned, rebuilt and renovated several times. The designer of the church is not known. It is believed the designs were received from Rome and fulfilled by local architects.

St. Casimir's Church has long been a favorite target for persecution. During the war of 1812 when Napoleon went to war against Russia, French troops used it as a warehouse. During the Czars time it was made into St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, and the crown of St. Casimir was removed from the cupola and replaced with an onion dome. During the First World War, the Germans turned it into a Protestant temple. In 1922, the church was returned to the Jesuits. World War II fighting damaged the cupola and destroyed the front towers. After the war the Soviets restored the church, but then turned it into a Museum of Atheism and History of Religion.

With the restoration of independence, the crown of St. Casimir is back in place on the cupola. Recently some benevolent Germans have donated an organ, dating to 1868, valued at 1.5 million deutsche marks.

(Sources of information: *Vilnius in Your Pocket, The Official City Guide, dated July-August 1998; Encyclopedia Lituanica, Vol. V, p. 16*)



SISTER M. ANGELA BALCHUNAS
1915 - 1999
ENTERED INTO ETERNAL LIFE
JANUARY 5, 1999

Sister Angela was born December 6, 1915, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the only child of Joseph and Anna Balchunas. She was educated by the Sisters of St. Casimir at St. Casimir School, Philadelphia. Often she jokingly recalled that one of the parish priests, who taught religion to the eighth grade class in which she was a student, told her that there was no hope that she would ever become a sister.

Upon completing her early education, Sister went to Chestnut Hill College earning her BA Degree and then to the Library School of Drexel University where she received her BS in Library Science. Later, Sister Angela, desiring to use her many diverse talents, received an MA in Religious Education.

In the late 1930's, Sister Angela was unexpectedly invited to Sister Jo Therese's profession ceremonies at the Motherhouse in Chicago. Here in the convent garden she met Mother Maria and spoke with her. In parting, Mother Maria said to her, "Think about

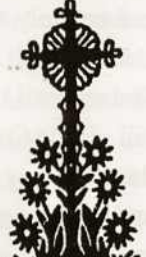


it and come." Back in Philadelphia, another SSC Sister, Sister Juliana, recognizing Sisters Angela's goodness and generous heart also invited her to become a Sister. In 1944, she responded to the Lord's call and entered the Community, never thinking that one day she would be making arrangements for the monthly liturgies praying for Mother Maria's beatification, a task she fulfilled faithfully and lovingly until her death.

Throughout her life, Sister Angela's ministry assignments were varied. She worked in the Motherhouse Library, taught in New Mexico, Massachusetts, Maryland and at Villa Joseph Maria High School in Pennsylvania. When she left the field of education she worked at Loretto and Holy Cross Hospitals. Her positive outlook, her willingness to assist whenever asked, and her gentle, understanding ways endeared her to her students and those with whom she lived and worked. Because of her kind and sensitive manner, and her deep love for people and their concerns, Sister Angela touched the lives of many people and was influential in fostering many vocations.

In 1984, Sister became the Moderator of the Sisters of Saint Casimir Auxiliary, a position she held

In
Memoriam

Eva A. Apanavicius Jan. 7, 1999 C-36, Brighton Pk., IL	August Kodis Jan. 21, 1999 C-110, Maspeth, NY	John Olevitz Dec. 22, 1998 C-17, So. Boston, MA	Eugene Rusatsky Sept. 1998 C-146, Harrisburg, PA
Chester Nowak Oct. 26, 1998 C-140, Syracuse, NY	Ann Dugan Jan. 1999 C-110, Maspeth, NY	Steponas Bucmys Oct. 19, 1998 C-96, Dayton, OH	Charles Feeney Jan. 17, 1998 C-78, Lawrence, MA
Raymond F. Pandza Sept. 21, 1998 C-3, Philadelphia, PA	Albert Alanskis Jan. 16, 1999 C-7, Waterbury, CT	Ruth Guzauskas Dec. 17, 1998 C-25, Cleveland, OH	Agnes Waitonis Jan. 12, 1999 C-103, Providence, RI
Aldona Kuebelbeck Dec. 25, 1998 C-110, Maspeth, NY	Doris Shanahan Jan. 12, 1999 C-118, Hazelton, PA	Virginia Stanton Jan. 14, 1999 C-19, Pittsburgh, PA	<i>Rest in Peace</i> 
	Charles Pechulis Aug. 10, 1998 C-17, So. Boston, MA	Ignatius Hobitz Aug. 23, 1998 C-78, Lawrence, MA	

for fifteen years. During these years she faithfully attended the wakes and funerals of auxiliary members and benefactors. She worked untiringly for the Congregation and thus became its representative at many functions and organizations.

Through the years, Sister Angela's love for Lithuania manifested itself in the various Lithuanian works she undertook. She was a member of the Lithuanian American Roman Catholic Federation of America for many years. The members recognizing Sister's talents and dedication elected her to serve on its National Board and edit its newspaper. While still a young child, her mother enrolled her as a member of the Knights of Lithuania. As a religious she continued to be active and recently became a Third Degree member of C-112, Chicago. Sister Angela's participation in all of the Knights' activities was outstanding. For many years she presented the greeting at the National K of L Convention on behalf of the Sisters of St. Casimir. Her love for Lithuanian music found her to be a faithful member of the K of L Choir in Chicago. Her last memorable occasion was the trip to California in October taken with the Vyčių Choras.

Because she loved to work with the young, she volunteered to teach religion classes at the Lithuanian Jesuit Center Saturday School in Chicago. With a remarkable dedication, she taught these young Lithuanians to love God and His creation. Sister's commitment to any task assigned her was most admirable for she fulfilled it lovingly and prayerfully

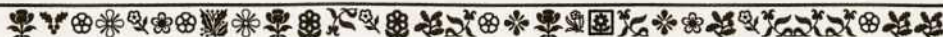
Many years before Sister Angela entered the convent, she had a secret dream to visit Lithuania and the Lithuanian Sisters of Saint Casimir. In 1997, her dream came true when she had the privilege to be present in Pažaislis for the 75th anniversary of their founding by Mother Maria. She spent a joyful month in Lithuania visiting with the Sisters and quietly spreading the love of God to her relatives.

Never one to be idle, Sister Angela was engaged in various services at the Motherhouse. Still desiring to give more of herself to the Community and the Church, she had recently worked part time as a librarian at Nativity BVM School, a task she quietly performed with love.

On December 24th, after having suffered a heart attack, Sister was hospitalized. Complications set in and on Tuesday, January 5, 1999 she peacefully went to her Maker as her Sisters surrounded her with prayers and love. Despite the Chicago snowstorm, a large contingent of K of L members attended her Wake to pay tribute in remembrance, to Sr. Angela, a faithful Knight.

One of Sister's favorite prayers was Thomas Merton's: "My Lord, I have no idea where I am going. ...I will not fear for You are ever with me and You will never leave me to face the perils alone..." Her prayer was answered in that she was not left alone - she was commended into the loving hands of God by her Sisters at her side. May the peace of the Lord rest upon her!

-Submitted by Sr. Margaret, S.S.C.



I Said A Prayer...

I said a prayer for you today,
And know God must have
heard.

I felt the answer in my heart,
Although God spoke no
word!

I didn't ask for wealth or
fame,
(I know you wouldn't mind.)
I asked God to send
treasures
Of a far more lasting kind!
I asked that God be near you
At the start of each new day.
To grant you health and
blessings
And friends to share your
way!

I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small.
But it was for God's
loving care
I prayed
the most
of all!



*-from the
Marianists
submitted by
Marie Laske*



Do You Know Your

Banknotes of Lithuania

Who's on them? And what do they represent?

100 Litas or Šimtas Litu: FRONT: Simonas Daukantas (1793-1864) Lithuanian historian, educator and folklore specialist; BACK: Vilnius University and Old Town.

50 Litas or Penkias Dešimt Litu: FRONT: Jonas Basanavičius (1851-1927) patriarch of Lithuanian culture, scientist, physician and linguist; BACK: the Vilnius Cathedral and belfry.

20 Litas or Dvidešimt Litu: FRONT: Maironis (1862-1932) Lithuanian poet and theologian; BACK: Kaunas War Museum and Statue of Freedom.

10 Litas or Dešimt Litu: FRONT: S. Darius and S. Girenas (1896-1933) Lithuanian pilots and heroes of the

Transatlantic flight from New York to Kaunas (1933); BACK: the Lituania plane that Darius and Girenas flew over the Atlantic. Remains of the plane are now in the Kaunas War Museum.

5 Litas or Penki Litai: FRONT: Jonas Jablonskis, the "father of the Lithuanian language" (grandfather of Vytautas Landsbergis); BACK: Sculpture of Lithuanian mother at the spinning wheel teaching her child to read.

2 Litas or Du Litai: FRONT: Motiejus Valancius, priest and advocate of sobriety; BACK: Castle at Trakai.

1 Lita or Vienas Litas: FRONT: Marija Zemaite, Lithuanian writer; BACK: ?

Traditional winter horse races

on the ice of Sartai Lake in the north of Lithuania, date back to more than a century. Over sixty swift-footed Lithuanian steeds and athletes from ten regions of the country gathered to participate in traditional ice racing on the first Saturday in February. Due to a dangerously thin ice on Sartai lake this winter, the competition took place in Dusetos town racecourse, specially covered with ice. The number of those who arrived to watch the race exceeded eleven thousand. The athletes competed to win nine major prizes.

Unfortunately, the tradition for a Lithuanian president to attend the races in Dusetos, started by President Antanas Smetona, was broken, as Valdas Adamkus was on vacation at that time. Despite of the fact, the great winter

prize by the President's office, was the major award to be won. - *From Elta news online Feb 2, 99. Photo by Gediminas Zilinskis (Elta).*



Philadelphia

What do you do if you wake up one morning and find yourself in Philadelphia? W. C. Fields, a native born Philadelphian who moved to the west coast once said: "Philadelphia is a nice place to visit for one day, but I wouldn't want to live there." Well, if Mr. Fields could see the changes to this city over the past decade, he would certainly have to reconsider his opinion. The whole downtown skyline has changed. The statue of William Penn on top of City Hall is no longer the tallest point in Philadelphia. There are many skyscrapers that dwarf Billy Penn today. The entire center city and waterfront areas have been remodeled and rebuilt. Dining, entertainment, sports and the arts are alive and doing well in Philadelphia today – and, Philadelphia is "The Place That Loves You Back!"



Here I am in Philly. What should I do today?

Well -- I might have breakfast here in the hotel or at one of the other forty restaurants, diners and pubs that are within four blocks of the hotel. I could then walk a block and a half to the Independence Park Visitors Center where I would look into tours to Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Franklin Court, the Betsy Ross House and other points of interest. I might want to take a carriage tour through the Historic Area and enjoy the flavor and history that is Philadelphia. Perhaps I'll visit the U. S. Mint – the only place in the East where I can watch coins being minted.

I have another option!!! I could walk one block from the hotel and see the sights in a PHLASH – Philly's Purple People Mover Bus. (In Philadelphia, senior citizens over 65 can ride the city's public transit system SEPTA and the PHLASH buses FREE during off-peak hours – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM).

The PHLASH bus runs along Penn's Landing and the riverfront, winds around to Arch Street, and passes by Chinatown and the new Convention Center. I'll see the Cathedral and will travel on the Ben Franklin Parkway which is lined with flags representing many countries of the world. I'll try to spot our own Lithuanian flag fluttering in the breeze!! At the end of the Parkway I'll marvel at Philly's Art Museum. This is the place where Sylvester Stallone in the movie "Rocky" ran up the steps in triumph. The Phlash bus continues its tour through center city and wends it way down to the Renaissance area of South Street and back to its starting point.

The bus makes 33 stops on its tour. You may get off at any stop you choose and reboard another bus without any additional charge to continue your tour.



Decisions – Decisions
I have so many choices!!!

Philadelphia's Zoo, the Art Museum, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Franklin Institute (where all sorts of scientific gadgets are displayed) – these are all choices that I have.

When the sun goes down and its time to eat – I must decide if I want French, Italian, Continental, Gourmet or Fast Food. All these are available within a short distance.'

Perhaps I'll take a walk over to South Street with all its Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Art Tacky where the "today" people abound. This area is the Greenwich Village of Philadelphia.

I may walk down to Penn's Landing and the waterfront and spend an evening at Dave and Buster's where I can try my hand at electronic golfing, and arcade games. How about a game of pool!!!

Perhaps just a walk in the night air on Penn's Landing would suit me to a tee! I'd like to see the dancing lights of the Ben Franklin Bridge, the "Spirit of Philadelphia" sailing on the river and the New Jersey Aquarium located just across the river. The color of its blinking lights (red, white or blue) act as a weather forecaster and indicate the next day's weather.

C-3 urges you to spend some time in Philly. Tack on a few days before or after the Convention. You'll have a wonderful time!!!

A Little Philadelphia Trivia

1. City of Philadelphia – Founded in 1682
2. Dutch invent the soft pretzel in Philadelphia in the 1800's
3. Philly Cheese Steak - Created in 1932.
4. C-3 hosts its first K. of L. National Convention in Philadelphia in 1947. To make sure we got it right, we were the hosts again in 1958; in 1968; and once more in 1983. Now we'll do it right again in 1999 and then retire for the millennium!!!!!!!

If you have any questions at all, please contact:

John Mickunas
333 Davis Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059
Phone: 609-931-3306



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
86TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 1999



Convention Site: Sheraton Society Hill Hotel
One Dock Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Host: Council 3 Philadelphia

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

First Name(s): _____ **Last Name:** _____ **Council No.** _____
 (Please Print)

Street: _____ **Phone No.** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Early Registration - \$160.00 per person (Prior to June 1) **Amount** _____
Late Registration - \$165.00 per person (After June 1) **Amount** _____

Junior Registration: \$80.00
Name of Child _____
Age of Child _____ **Amount** _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

All Bus Service as required; Thursday Night Get-Together; Friday Cultural Evening;
Coffee after morning Mass in Hotel on Friday and Saturday; Friday Luncheon;
Saturday Night Banquet and Dance; and Sunday Brunch in Hotel before the Closing Mass.

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Wednesday, July 28, 1999 - Bus Trip to Atlantic City Casino
Departure: 10:00 A.M. (ADULTS ONLY) - \$25.00 per person **Amount** _____

Make Checks Payable to: Knights of Lithuania Council 3- - - - - Total Amount _____

Mail Checks and
Registration Forms to: Lillian Greymas, Registration Coordinator
2557 E. Ontario Street
Philadelphia, PA 19134
(215 - 426-6762)



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
86TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 1999**



Host: Council 3 Philadelphia

Dear Members,

The Knights of Lithuania 86th National Convention will be held July 29 - August 1, 1999, in Philadelphia, PA..... the City of Brotherly Love and the City that loves you back!!!

Greet your fellow Knights with an ad in the Convention Program Book. Ad sizes and costs are as follows:

_____ \$100.00 Full Page 4" x 7"	_____ \$ 10.00 Patron Greeting (Use 3 Lines below)
_____ \$ 50.00 Half Page 4" x 3 1/2"	First Line _____
_____ \$ 25.00 Quarter Page 4" x 1 1/4"	Second Line _____
	Third Line _____
	_____ \$ 5.00 Philly Pal (Name Only)

You may submit your ad on a separate piece of paper. Camera ready copy is welcome.

DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 1, 1999

Make Checks Payable to: Knights of Lithuania Council 3 ----- Amount _____

Mail Ads with Payment to: **Margaret Petronis, Chair - Program Book**
223 Dickinson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Information for Hotel Reservations

Sheraton Society Hill Hotel
One Dock Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: 1-800- 325-3535
Direct Phone : 215-238-6000

Special K. of L. Room Rates: Single/Double - \$105.00 per room plus applicable taxes
(Please Note: You MUST mention that you are with the Knights of Lithuania for these rates!!!)

A Limited Number of Suites are Available:
One Bedroom Suite (with parlor) - \$275.00
Two Bedroom Suite (with parlor) - \$350.00
(Please Note: We suggest using Direct Phone No. to order suites.)

Room reservations should be made by JUNE 1, 1999 to insure room availability.

Parking will be extra.

Lithuanians in the news

Žydrūnas Ilgauskas signs 6-yr pact for \$70.8M

After Žydrūnas Ilgauskas signed a maximum six-year, \$70.87 million contract extension with the Cavaliers, he thanked owner Gordon Gund, president Wayne Embry, coach Mike Fratello and his staff and all his teammates.

Then his eyes came to rest on the team's trainer and strength coach standing behind the assembled media and staff members, Ilgauskas had saved his last thank-you's for the Cavs' doctors and trainers. They were not empty words.

"I think of them more as friends," Ilgauskas said. "They mean a lot to me."

Said trainer Gary Briggs, with a tear in his eye: "He is a good friend, a very special person." Almost like a son?

"I'm not that old," coach Stan Kellers said. "It's more like a younger brother."

Notice he didn't say "little brother." Not when talking about a 7'3" - 260-pound center.

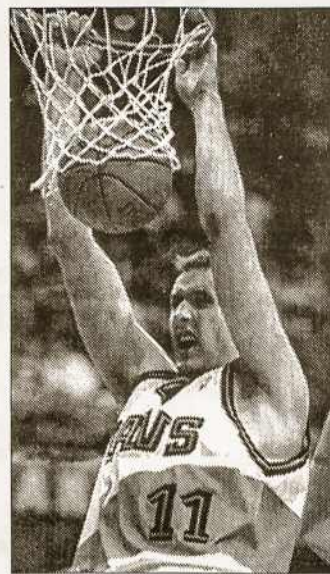
Of course, when Ilgauskas first arrived in Cleveland as a first-round draft choice, the 20th player taken in the 1996 draft, he was a shy, skinny 21-year-old from Lithuania who was closer to 238 pounds. He hadn't played basketball in a year because of a broken right foot, and no one was quite sure what to expect. But before he could even start to show his stuff, he reinjured the foot, had surgery in October and missed the entire season.

While Cavs fans had to wait an entire season to get to know Ilgauskas, he spent almost every day working out in the Cavs' training room with Kellers. They were joined by Briggs when the Cavs weren't on the road. Those two got to know Ilgauskas better than anyone else. They came to appreciate his work ethic and his playful sense of humor, and they helped to ease his tran-

sition into a new situation in a new country.

Their main role was to get him into shape in the NBA, and they did that with spectacular results.

- *Cleveland Plain Dealer*
by Mary Schmitt Boyer,
1/30/99



*Cavalier Zee-light
Multi-Million Dollar Man*

Ilgauskas begins friendship with Cavs

"*Tai yra pradžia gražios draugystės,*" as they say in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda and the other cities of Lithuania. "This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

Žydrūnas Ilgauskas, the Cavaliers' Lithuanian center, who ranks as the most intriguing European player since Toni Kukoc, signed a six-year contract extension for close to \$71 million yesterday

When it comes to hoops, Lithuania is sort of the Indiana of Europe, only without Bobby Knight or euchre, neither, of course, amounting to much of a loss.

Lithuanians Arvydas Sabonis and Šarūnas Marčiūlionis were the pioneers who first came to the NBA. Cavs' players call Z "Za-bonis," in tribute to the man who is his idol.

In the capital city of Vilnius stands the Šarūnas Hotel with Rooney's Bar inside. A display of basketball shoes shares space with bottles of krupnikas. That's Lithuanian liquor made from honey, and it just might be sweeter and stronger than Z, but not if you ask Tracy Murray.

Murray was the member of the Washington Wizards who is the last defender on a videotape Cav

coaches like to play over and over again and cackle about. It's the one where Z, all 7'3" of him, rambles most of the length of the court and then gets a little crazy picking up his dribble as he nears the basket, shifting the ball from one hand to the other and back again by going behind his back, and then — wham! — dunking while Murray scurries for the nearest bunker.

"I see some similarities between Z and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar," said Cavs' General Manager Wayne Embry, who was the Milwaukee GM when Kareem was a Buck. "But I never saw Kareem go behind his back and dunk."

"Uždenk galva!" ("Cover your head!") Z could have yelled at Murray, if he were of a boastful disposition.

Actually, Z is anything but that. To turn Sally Field's legendarily embarrassing Oscar speech around, he likes us! He really, really likes us!

"It wasn't about money," said Ilgauskas.

But Z's contractual numbers, lavish as they are, were determined by the collective bargaining agreement that ended the lockout and installed maximum salaries. Still, other teams would have flocked to him had he become a free agent after this truncated season. Because he missed the entire 1996-97 season with a broken right foot, Z was entering his third and last contractual year. He has broken the same bone twice and has had two operations to fix it.

"I like it in Cleveland. I like the ethnic community. I like the weather," said Z, who worked out at CSU during those lollapalooza storms earlier this month and apparently considered it a Baltic springtime.

So, Z, what makes you say "*labai gerai*" ("very good") since, odds are, it's not the return of the Browns? The Flats? The Orchestra? Walleye fishing?

The loyalty is what is striking. Perhaps it stems from the chance the Cavs took on him when he had the broken foot. Or perhaps freedom is best appreciated by those who remember when they had none. Lithuania was a part of the Soviet Union until the latter's break-up earlier this decade. For years, the best Lithuanian players were conscripted to play under the hammer and sickle flag.

A stronger, heavier Z is already one of the top centers in the league. With a shooting touch that makes a snowflake seem like a brick, he figures to only get better. Provided he heeds this advice: "*Apsisaugoti. Saugok koją.*" Be careful. Watch your foot.

-From Bill Livingston's column / Cleveland Plains Dealer 1/30/99; submitted by Dolly O., C-25 (who notes that no other "Lit" is more popular than "Z", Žydrūnas Ilgauskas, the Cleveland Cavaliers' center. He has visited our coffee hour at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on a number of occasions and is very hospitable.)

St. George Church trilingual vitality

From a thriving parish founded shortly after the turn of the century for Bridgeport's Lithuanian community, St. George Church on Park Avenue has evolved into a vibrant trilingual parish.

The transition began in 1966, as the parish became a territorial one, merging with Sacred Heart. What followed was a merger of European, English and Hispanic cultures.

"The strength of the parish is that it exists at the cooperation of the cultures and we are fairly successful in both activities and finances", said Thomas Kanasky, Jr., the parish council president.

"I think the exchange of cultures is very important," said lifelong parishioner Clemine Miller of Trumbull (Clem is also a K. of L'er and recent honorary member) "This is an important strength, understanding each other."

The cultures often intertwine, especially for services celebrating major feasts. Different traditions are shared in various ways.

Lithuanian parishioners hold a kucios Christmas Eve solemn dinner with traditional foods and carols sung in English and Lithuanian. In the spring, junior council knights who are learning Spanish in school explain the Easter egg decorating in Spanish. In this way the cultures continue to blend.

Lithuanians have also taken to Las Posadas, the Spanish tradition of re-enacting Joseph and Mary's search for shelter on the way to Bethlehem. Clem

Miller says her home is already scheduled for a stop of the "journey" next year.

Bridgeport council members also meet at St. George's and number close to a hundred, traveling from as far as Stamford to attend monthly meetings. A Lithuanian mass is celebrated once a month by Msgr. Francis Pranckus, the council's spiritual advisor. Rev. Jose Rebaque is the current pastor.

-From the (Bridgeport) Connecticut Post, 1/99 by J. Pronechen. Submitted by Joe Sticklius, C-7



popularity poll after receiving a Lithuanian newspaper containing the ballot.

Rasa later received by mail a presentation pack containing all the 1997 Lithuanian stamps and a thank-you note for participating in the poll, and Rick received a similar note and a package of 1995 Lithuanian stamps. In a letter to Linn's,

Rick Miller wrote: "Receipt of these gifts was completely unexpected and most welcome, since there was no mention of a gift for participating in the voting."

-From Lynn's Stamp News, 2/8, 1999

Thanks to the Millers for supplying Linn's with information about the Lithuanian stamp poll.

Ship stamp tops

A stamp picturing a 16th-century sailing vessel was voted as the favorite Lithuanian stamp of 1997 in a poll conducted by Lietuvos Pastas (the Lithuanian postal administration).

The 50-centa stamp shows a fishing vessel of the Kur-shes (a Baltic tribe). The boat is called a kurenas. Saruno Leonanicius designed the stamp. The House of Questa in London, England, printed it. The same ship also appears on three other stamps, one from Lithuania and the other two from Estonia and Latvia.

The three countries participated in a May 10, 1997, joint issue featuring old ships of the Baltic Sea. Each country released a souvenir sheet containing three similar stamps. One stamp in each sheet pictures the kurenas.

The other two show a 16th-century Maasilinn ship (representing Estonia) and the 17th-century battleship dos Wappen der Herzogin von Kurland (Latvia).

Motifs related to the sea, including a mermaid, Neptune and a seahorse, appear in the border area surrounding the stamps on each sheet.

This announcement said of the kurenas: "The boat is flat-bottomed, usually made of oaken planks, well suited to sailing on the shallow Kursiu ilanka (Kursiu Bay) and coastal waters of the Baltic."

The release also said this type of boat typically was about 33 feet in length and used for shipping of small freight and other purposes, as well as fishing.

Linn's reader Rick Miller reported that he and his wife, Rasa, participated in Lithuania's 1997 stamp-

Maryland's Only Female Sheriff

Not only is Evelyn Strasdauskas the sole female sheriff in the state of Maryland, but she's also Lithuanian. Having defeated incumbent, Norman Peppersack in last November's election in Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland, Strasdauskas had previously been fired from her job as a deputy to the incumbent for failing to turn in a radio on time.

"I was way down there, dead, and God lifted me up again. That's why I always say, 'don't quit'", said the 44 year old Strasdauskas who lives with her ailing parents, helping them with their wheelchairs, doing domestic chores and even dying her mother's hair red. Strasdauskas still works out regularly to maintain her fitness she coveted as a speedskater in the 1984 Olympic Games in Sarajevo until suffering a knee injury.

Proclaiming her campaign as an effort to improve the lot of deputy sheriffs, she said she will press for a pension after 20 years of service. She also stresses that the sheriff's department's major duty is to protect the courts and is attempting to move her offices to the county courthouse.

-From the Towson Times, 11/11/98 by Lou Panos. Submitted by Eddy Budelis ❖❖❖

AID TO LITHUANIA

Donations for the period July 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998

Over \$1,000.00

Estate of Vincent B. Boris Waterford, MI \$15,000.00
Benedict Karklius - Caritas - Cleveland, OH, \$3,000.00
Benedict Karklius - Seminary Fund - Cleveland, OH \$2,000.00
Aldona J Kirstuk St Petersburg Beach, FL \$3,000.00
Aldona J Kirstuk - Seminary Fund - St Petersburg Beach, FL \$2,000.00
Mr & Mrs A Alexander - Seminary Fund - Torrington, CT \$2,000.00
Ms Anne T Baronas - Seminary Fund - Colonia, NJ \$2,000.00
Robert S Boris - Seminary Fund - Waterford, MI \$2,000.00
Jonas & Ona Motiejunas-Seminary Fund-IHO Family Prescott, AZ \$2,000.00
Rev Peter A Shakalis - Seminary Fund - Plymouth, MA \$2,000.00
Mrs. Nellie Stodolski IMO Katrina Lutvinas - Seminary Fund - Kearny, NJ \$2,000.00
K of L Council # 110 Maspeth, NY \$1,000.00
K of L Supreme Council \$1,000.00
Dr Hal Learman - Seminary Fund - Bloomfield Hills, MI \$1,000.00
Lithuanian Citizens Society of West Penn Pittsburgh, PA \$1,000.00
St. Andrew Catholic Church - Seminary Fund - Rochester, MI \$1,000.00

\$500.00 to \$999.00

Anonymous - NY • Anonymous - Sem Fund - NY • Mrs Adele Bagdon - Sem Fund - Livonia, MI •
 Eleanor T Depenbrock IMO Parents & Julia Burlen, Washington DC • Elenor T Depenbrock IMO Family
 -Sem Fund Washington, DC • K of L Council #63 Lehigh Valley, PA

\$250.00 to \$499.00

Mrs. Adele Bagdon, Livonia, MI • K of L Amber District • K of L Mid-America District • Diane & Rita
 Neverouck, Applegate, MI

\$100.00 to \$249.00

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This report represents 370 donations made between July 1st and December 31st 1998 totalling \$61,887.76. A very sincere thanks to all whose generosity and concern for our brothers and sisters in Lithuania has made possible the work of AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.

Smiles without wrinkles...

CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

- ☞ Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- ☞ The outreach committee has enlisted 25

visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

- ☞ The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.
- ☞ Evening massage - 6 p.m.

Fr. Dan's

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by Fr. Daniel Yenkevich



Easter Treats

EASTER EGGS COCONUT CREAM CHEESE EGGS

2 lbs. sugar
1/4 cup butter
3 Tbsp peanut butter
One 8 oz pkg cream cheese
1/2 coconut (use the fine chopped coconut)
MIX WELL. Shape into oval egg shape. Refrigerate for a few hours or overnight Dip into chocolate covering:

Recipes: Melt 2 pkgs. semi-sweet chocolate
1 square parafin (or less)
5 Tbsp. butter

OR

Melt 1/2 lb. Hershey Kisses and 1/2 cup sweet chocolate

POTATO EASTER EGGS

1 large potato, boiled and mashed
3 boxes of powdered sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 bag coconut (fine chopped)
Some small cherries (drained) or candied cherries or peanut butter
Dip in melted chocolate. Use **Recipes** listed above. (This recipe offers a variety and is not super-sweet.)

CARROT CAKE (no Eggs)

Combine in medium saucepan:

2 large carrots, finely grated
1 1/3 cups water
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup raisins
1 tsp cloves
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp nutmeg
1 Tbsp butter

Simmer 5 minutes; cover and rest combination for 12 hours!

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT
NEXT DAY, Mix and Add:

2 1/2 cups All Purpose Flour
1 tsp baking soda
2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup chopped nuts

Bake batter in two greased loaf pans or 1 tube pan at 175 degrees for 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Allow to cool 15 minutes. Cake is dense and moist and should remove easily from pan. Better slicing if allowed to cool 'til next day. ENJOY!

POPPY SEED CAKE

Soak 3/4 cup of whole poppy seeds (not ground) in 1 cup of milk for 3 hours or overnight. Keep in a cool place.

Cream:

2/3 cup Margarine
1 1/4 cup sugar
Then add 1 tsp vanilla
Add poppy seed mixture. Mix well.
Add:
2 1/4 cups flour

1/2 tsp salt
3/4 tsp baking powder.

Mix thoroughly. Add: 4 stiffly beaten egg whites. Fold in gently. Bake in greased layer pans at 350 degree oven for 50 to 60 minutes.

RAISIN PIE

1 cup seedless raisins
2 cups water
1 1/2 cups sugar
4 Tbsp flour
1 egg, well beaten
juice of 1 lemon
2 tsp grated lemon rind
1/4 tsp salt
Your favorite flaky pie crust

Wash raisins and soak in cold water for 3 hours; drain. Combine the 2 cups water, raisins, sugar and flour which have been mixed together, salt, lemon juice and rind, and the egg. Mix thoroughly and cook over hot water for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool. Pour into pie shell. Cover with narrow strips of crisscrossed dough. Bake in oven at 450 degrees, for ten minutes, then reduce oven to moderate heat, 350 degrees, and complete baking for 30 minutes.

◆◆◆

Smiles -- Humor from heaven:

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

◆◆◆

District & Council News

C-12, New York, NY

Dalia

Congratulations to our spiritual advisor, 4th degree member Rev. Dr. Father Eugene Sawicki on his promotion to lieutenant colonel in the State Guards. We are proud of you Father!

We ended 1998 with a very successful Christmas party. Everyone had a great time and our Santa (Joe Sleder) was very generous as always.

During our February meeting, we had a commemoration of Lithuania's Independence Day. Our cultural chairman George Aleniunas spoke on how the proclamation came about in 1918. Rev. Daniel Staniskis shared with us his feelings about February 16, from a viewpoint as a 3rd generation Lithuanian - American.

Dalia Bulvicius spoke about the 20 brave men who signed the declaration. Two became presidents of Lithuania. The oldest (67) Jonas Basanavicius was what Benjamin Franklin was to the United States. He died a few years later on February 16th. Many of them were deported to Siberia, some died in Lithuania and a few in the United States. Lithuania's first president, Antanas Smetona died in a fire in Cleveland,



C-12's Christmas party enjoyed by Vincent and Vida Gendvilas

OH.

Since many of our members and guests speak only Lithuanian or only English, instant translations are provided. Thanks goes to Aldona Kepalaitė and Dalia Bulgaris. Ritual chairman, Alma Korengo awarded 2nd degree pins to Stase and George Aleniunas. Congratulations on these new arrivals from Lithuania. They are a big asset to C-12!

C-26, Worcester, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

First I must admit that I overlooked the very important celebration of fifty years of the sacrament of

marriage for John and Eleanor Gadilauskas. This was brought to my attention by Rita Margosian for which I extend my thanks. Congrats to the charming couple with wishes from the 26-ers for many more anniversaries.

Since the January meeting was deleted from the schedule, we begin our business with the February gathering. But before the agenda was presented by VP Leseman, we were treated to a very elaborate Valentine's Day pot luck supper. It was a humdinger, believe me. Pres. Viv Rodgers took off for Florida for some deserved R and R.

The Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration was held at the St. Casimir Church for its Holy Mass, and its rally in the church hall. It was our turn this year, to host and nourish the assemblage, in the year 2000 it will be Our Lady of Vilna and council 116, at least that has been the interchange in the past. The TARYBA of Lithuanian Organization of Worcester introduced this system because of the two parishes in the city. It works well.

I think that it is fitting and proper and a well deserved mention of the dedication of our financial secretary, Marion



Racicot, who has for many years, collected the dues, kept record of your points, awarded the degrees, and reported all of this to the National. In addition to having a large family, an aged mother, and being a Tax Consultant, Marion still has time for C-26. What we could accomplish if we had more like Marion. Thank you very much.

Things are looking good for the up coming monthly meetings, the executives have arranged for different features of interest to fulfill the evening. Hope to see you there.

C-27, Norwood, MA

Winter weather did not have any setbacks for Council 27 members. Our esteemed members. Paul and Louise Zukas are the proud parents of Father Stephen Zukas. Father Zukas was recently installed as the Pastor of St. Peter's Lithuanian Church in South Boston. Attending the celebration was Bishop

C-25 Cleveland, OH

Members enjoyed a special concert performed by Frankie Avalon on Dec. 3rd, especially Elena Nainys who got to sing with Frankie. She is also the Pres. Of Lith. American Catholic Women's Alliance #36 and was the guest of members Stella Sankal and Vi Skarnus.

Šaltakis, Monsignor Conlon, Fr. Wolkovich, many other clergy and religious, and relatives, friends and parishioners.

The same afternoon many Norwood and South Boston K. of L's continued to celebrate with Brockton K. of L. C-1. A traditional Lithuanian Kučios was prepared with C-1 as the hard-working hosts. The annual event was at the Our Lady of Sorrows Convent. Brockton. MA. This was a truly authentic kučios meal. with prayers. and informal program and explanations by Sr. Eugenia Glineckis. C.J.C.

On January 24, 1999. our pastor. Fr. Wolkovich presented the final volume of his trilogy. "Lithuanian Religious Life in America", at St. Peter's Church. South Boston. A large appreciative audience enjoyed the program and also the videotapes. C-27 and C-17 were the sponsors. The complete set of 3 volumes is now available for purchase

by individuals and councils.

We look forward to a busy 1999 spring schedule. The main event in April is to be the hosts for the New England District Convention.

C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA

Evelyn Harryn

Members and friends of Council-63 are deeply saddened by the loss of their member and founder, Albert Klizas. He parted from this world on December 20th. He was an outstanding Lithuanian Activist in the Lehigh Valley. We also lost our dear member, Florence Daday at the same time. Florence was one of our silent, but very generous members.

Installation of officers were held in November. Officers are-Spiritual Advisor-Father John Grabish; President- Evelyn Harryn; Vice Pres.-Ben Apanavicius; Treasurer- Walter Balchunas; Rec. Secretary-Sharlene Milan; Fin. Secretary and Rituals - Jane Lutick; Sgts. at Arms- Andy Keraga and Paul Harryn; Lithuanian Affairs - Blanche Kohanski; Cultural Affairs - Joseph Russell.

Our council enjoyed their Annual Covered Dish event in November. It was well attended and enjoyed by all present. We thank each of you for your involvement and participation. A monthly meeting followed the event. We got down to business and worked on our budget. Our donations again were very generous. Council moved to

make a donation to the newly rebuilt St. Joseph Providence Seminary in Vilnius. It was unanimously agreed to donate \$300.

Once again our unique and beautiful Lithuanian Christmas Tree was proudly displayed. It was among twelve others at the University Comfort Suites Hotel in Bethlehem, PA. This was the 7th year that the South Bethlehem Historical Society held the exhibition of ethnic trees. The festive opening ceremonies and lighting of the trees was held on November 29. A lavish buffet was provided by the hotel. Entertainment was provided by the Slovenian Mixed Choirs. Guests representing the Knights of Lithuania were Albert Klizas, Blanche and Joe Kohanski, Andy and Mary Sabol, Adele and Andy Keraga, Lillian and Joseph Russell, Evelyn and Paul Harryn and Marie and Robert Kleiner. We all left with a heartfelt of "Holiday Spirit".

On Dec. 6th we gathered for our Annual Portrayal of Kučios. The affair opened with the procession of lights. It was formed by the St. Michael's Lithuanian Choir members. The choir then sang a few of our beautiful Lithuanian carols under the direction of Ben Apanavicius. The blessing was given by Father Grabish. We also took a moment to present him with a check of \$500 for St. Michael's Lithuanian Church. The annual toast was given by Bob Klova. Afterwards, Bob

also began the "Breaking of Bread". We then proceeded to the table of traditional Kučios Foods. They were so well prepared by our members. After the meal, the readings of old time superstitions and traditions were presented by Ed Klova. Again, as usual, the room took on a "hush" when Ed does the reading. They are always greatly enjoyed by all. There were many beautiful door prizes. They were donated "by members. Some were handmade. Lillian Klinosky donated a few lovely holiday arrangements and a few goodies. Others that donated were Helen Bixler, Valeria Smickle, Paul Harryn, and Lillian Russell. The day ended with Ben Apanavicius leading everyone in singing of Christmas Carols.

Our Basket of Cheer raffle drawing also took place at Kučios. The Council's treasury is \$821 richer from it. Ačiū Širdingai to Valeria Smickle and Bob Klova for their hard work and Lithuanian Spirit! Also, to Nellie McGary for helping Valeria to sell tickets after Sunday Masses.

After a one week delay, we were able to hold our January meeting. We worked on our calendar of events.

On February 16th we held a Flag-Raising Ceremony in Easton, PA. Afterwards, there was a light breakfast treat at the church hall.

On March 7th we will honor Lithuania's patron, St. Casimir. There will be a mass at 10:30 at St. Michael's Church. The Lithuanian

artifacts and gifts will be presented by council members. There will be a social hour and Luncheon served in the church hall. Guests are invited to attend. We warmly welcome our new members, Anthony and Sharlene Milan! We lucked out by having them join our council. Sharlene is already our recording secretary. Anthony is our strong-man. Where ever help is needed, he is there!

We are looking forward to the Amber District Meeting to be held in Binghamton, N.Y. on March 14th. Also, the National Convention in Philadelphia, PA. There are several of our council members eligible for their fourth degrees. The convention is only a hop, skip and jump away from us. So we are looking forward to a sizeable attendance from our council.

Pray for Lithuania and her people!

C-74, Scranton, PA

Marie Laskie

During the most inclement weather our family had to travel to Morristown, New Jersey. Frank David my brother in law died. He was the father of Mary Reisch, a K. of L. member.

Dr. Frannie Covalesky, daughter of Dr. Bernard Covalesky, my first cousin, was organist, she played beautifully. Our condolences go out to Mary and sister Lisa and their families.

God comes like a thief in the night, that is why each

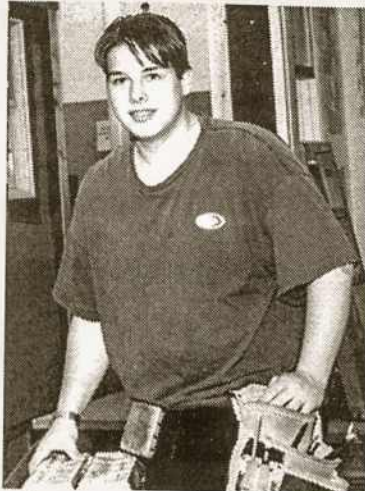
moment – each day and each year is a gift from God.

The 20th annual ethnic rosary devotion was held at St. Peter's Cathedral. Nellie Romanas of St. Casimir's church, Pittston, offered the meditations of the joyful mysteries of the rosary. Celebrant and homilist was Father Edward Shoback, pastor of S.S. Peter and Paul church. The rosary was recited in Gaelic, Lithuanian, Polish, Italian, German, Spanish, Slovak, Filipino and Ukrainian.

Our K. of L. members wore their national costumes. A huge thank you to all the faithful who attended the rosary to honor our Blessed Mother.

A few K. of L. members attended the annual 'Respect for Life' prayer breakfast. The principal speaker was Dolly Kelly, who is a nationally acclaimed pro-life lecturer and author. She is an expert, speaking to teens on the topic of abortion. She addresses young people and educators throughout the world. She speaks to over 100,000 students a year. She said the rosary is a weapon to end abortions. President Clinton's stand on partial birth (abortions), according to Ms. Kelly is an impeach able offence. She stated that Pennsylvania the Keystone state is the "Rock of the Nation", and Planned Parenthood is an "evil empire".

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord. They



Carpentry Student is Calendar Guy - Daniel Lombardi became "Mr. May" in a calendar printed by Nassau County BOCES. He is the grandson of C-110 members Norbert and Alice Lokaitis and a student at Baldwin High School.

will find rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them". (Rev 14.13)

C-110, Maspeth, NY

Rita Ceramella

Usually January is a slow month, which brings bitter cold, blue days in which many remain in their "caves". Some of us are "busy" being lazy, sleepy and most of all cleaning our homes and clearing out our closets in preparation for Spring.

But here in C-110 Maspeth, we do not hibernate. Deacon and Mrs. William Oggeri celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Joe and Gen Thomas are sunning themselves in Florida while

Vinnie Stripeikis is hitting golf balls in the sunny climes. Other members continue to enjoy the slots in Atlantic City. Meanwhile we are busy getting ready for our "Big 75th Anniversary Dinner and Dance" on April 24.

On Sunday January 31, 1999 our council held its monthly mass and meeting. We were honored to have in attendance the Most Reverend Rene A Valero D. D., Regional Bishop of Queens North as concelebrant and homilist.

We planned the menu for our St. Casimir Communion luncheon. It will consist of dešros (sausages), cabbage and potatoes. The luncheon will be after the 11:15 AM Mass on Sunday March 28, 1999, Palm Sunday.

We also discussed our forthcoming annual Dinner – Dance in April. We will be celebrating our 75th anniversary of our council. Joe Thomas will provide the music for this event.

At this meeting we had a raffle which was very well received. The proceeds of which will go to our shipments to aid the orphans in Lithuania, headed by Ann Morrissey.

We ask you to remember our sick members and there are many.

Please note that 14 members entered their Eternal City of rest in 1998. Amžina atilsi!



C-141**Bridgeport, CT****Aldona Marcavage**

The sound of silence envelopes me as I stare out the window at my world of white on this cold January morning. Now the stillness breaks with the sound of freezing rain beating on the window. What a perfect day to devote to Vytis and to reminisce about the events of The past year.

How quickly time flew by. Our council experienced many emotions, gone are Mary Anne and Edward Yokatas, Victor Ross and his two sisters, Ann Ross and Katherine Griglun, William Konecny and many relatives of our members. Born were grandchildren to Stella Marcinauskis, Stella Witkavich, Carol and Ray Buzak. Also born--a son to Jūratė and Laurynas Misevicius. Married this year were John Marcinauskis, Laurynas Misevicius, and Gintare's daughter Gaile, who married her VETRA dancing partner. National Convention in Waterbury bestowed Honorary Membership to our president, Clem and 4th degree to Joe Janiunas. Sept. Bonnie Gulas entered Yale after receiving several awards and scholarships. July and December gave us opportunity to show pride in our Lithuanian heritage by participating in the Milford Historical Society's "Immigrants Christmas", The visitors loved our Lithuanian Room. And Barbara Schmidt



Honored guests at C-141 Kučios include Fr. Jose Rebaque and Msgr. Francis J. Pranckus

looked great on TV in costume. Our annual Kučios was its usual success. Las Posadas was hosted by Marie and Bill Brilvitch this year. It is a beautiful Spanish tradition of Advent. We're honored to have been asked to participate.

Msgr. Francis Pranckus, our Spiritual advisor, opened our January meeting with "Bless, O Lord, our good food and the good things we are going to accomplish this year. What inspiration!"

For a good beginning we welcomed two new members--Albin and Florence Zikaras. For a lucky start, Florence won one of the 50/50 club prizes.

Recipients of First Degree: Claire Garrol, Leon Matejka, James Medgensis Mary Spellman, Estelle Wildman, Irene Sulinsky, John Sulinsky, Anna Ross. Receiving Second Degrees were: Carol Buzak, Raymond Buzak, Peter Baldius, Helen Simanis,---absent recipients were: Alan Strudas, Ilona Sciarappa, Stefa Armonas,

Marie Brilvitch, William Brilvitch, and Agnes Lazdauskas. Unfortunately Agnes Lazdauskas cannot attend our meetings anymore.

She suffered a stroke Just 5

days after the Putnam Sisters' July picnic. and is now resting in Matulaius Nursing Home.. Agnes drove to Putnam a few days early every year to help Sisters prepare for their annual Friendship Day Picnic. This was her pleasure. No one dreamed 1998 would be her last picnic, she seems to be at peace-content to be among friends--where the Lithuanian language is spoken. H/M Clemencine Miller paid for her next year's dues so that she would receive Vytis in Putnam. Perhaps someone would read it to her from time to time.. Cards would cheer her, too.

Msgr. is thankful for his Christmas gifts and good wishes. He thinks we should be reminded that the replica of the Hill of Crosses at St. Joseph's Cathedral needs annual financial support for its upkeep (in Hartford). We should also attempt to attend the day of prayer there once each year. Aldona Peters told of the dire need in Lithuania for school books in English. The ones they have

now are 10 years old and depict USA in an unfavorable light. It was discovered that thousands of books were available in Baltimore, needed was money for shipping. \$50.00 would supply many classrooms full of books. Our members responded immediately--collected \$53.00. Feb. 21st we will be celebrating Independence Day with Mass of Thanksgiving, followed by a real treat--the Hartford Hen's Trio directed by George Petkaitis. Our favorite VETRA ensemble will also entertain.

On Feb. 21st Gintare Ivaska and Ray Buzak had a special exposition focusing on folk art. Everybody loaned their treasures for the day.

On March 21st, we will celebrate St. Casimir's Day with a Mass and a bountiful brunch. On March 27th there will be an egg decorating workshop in the church hall. Bring your own eggs.

C-146 Harrisburg, PA Helen Grabauskas

The year went by very quickly. As we get older it seems to go even faster. We were happy when our spiritual advisor, Father John Smith recovered from his long illness. He was able to join us for our picnic in July held at Vity and Helen Grabauskas pool and backyard. Clara and Joseph Gudolonis, our members who now live in Florida were also here for the picnic. Our council was saddened by the death of our long time member, Gene



Summer Memories...Harrisburg's C-146 at last year's summer picnic held at Vity and Helen Grabauskas' home

Rasatsky in August. May he rest in peace. A few of us enjoyed a trip to the coal region to visit many of the beautiful churches there. If anyone is ever near St Georges in Shanandoah make sure to visit. The stain glass windows are well worth the trip. Those of us who had never been in a mine were thrilled to go down into the Ashland coal mine. Our Kučios was held at the large basement room of the dauphin library. Plenty of good food. Everyone enjoyed the 12 lb. Loaf of Lithuanian bread that Joseph and Jacqueline Yanolaitis brought. Vity Grabauskas annual potato kugelis was quickly finished and enjoyed by all. We must gratefully thank Joanna Gilbert for taking the presidency for another year and also to her wonderful husband George. Our council could not do without them. Best wishes to all council members for a happy healthy and Holy New Year.



LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSE

The 14th annual Lithuanian Language Course at Camp Dainava, Manchester, Michigan will take place August 1 to 8, 1999. This course, operating under the auspices of the Educational Council of the Lithuanian American Community of the USA, is designed for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students, or those just wishing to refresh their Lithuanian. The course is taught by experienced instructors in vacation-like surroundings and atmosphere. There are no limitations regarding age or formal education. For more information and application please call 616-458- 6378 or write to: Vytautas Jonaitis, 1546 Quarry N. W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504; E - mail: yjonaitis@juno.com.



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Mūsų Broliai Mainieriai

Vyrai moteris ir mergelės,
 Brangios jūs mano seselės,
 Meldžiu visų paklaustyti,
 Ką turiu jums pasakyti.

Aš trumpai čia pakalbėsiu,
 Kaip ant delno jums išdėsiu,
 Kas mainieriai mūsų veikia,
 Kaip praleidžia savo laiką.

Ryte anksti atsikele,
 Vos kavutės išsigėrę,
 Bega darban kuo greičiausia,
 Lenda po žeme giliausia.

Vieni skyles ten driliuoja,
 Kiti anglį gi lioduoja;
 Treti stulpelius greit stato,
 Kaip tik liuosa uolą mato.

Taip per dieną prakaituoja,
 Dirba vargsta ir dėjuoja;
 Nor anglies daug išvaryti,
 Gerą pėdę padaryti.

Kuomet pėdę gi jiems moka,
 Mus mainieriai kitaip šoka;
 Suodini karčiamon traukia,
 Kur karčiamninkas jų laukia.

Tuomet užėik pas Kampuolį,
 Rasi ne viena varguolį.
 Jie sau linksmi uliavoja
 Ant nelaimių neatboja.

Vieni alu gurguliuoja,
 Kiti šnapsa sau šnapsuoja,
 Treti, žiurek, džiką šoka,
 Mat, girti, tai gerai moka.

Dručiuoliai stalus kilnoja,
 Viens kitam ant sprando joja;
 Paskui, žiurek, kedės laužo,
 Viens kitam pakaušius daužo.

Katrie greit namo netraukia,
 Tie ir "dėdės" susilaukia.
 Kurs ne vienąmus vaikina,
 Į belangę pasodina.

Ten vyrukai kaip pasėdi,
 Kartais tris dienas neėdę,
 Ir už tai dar užsimoka,
 Ką karčiamoj džiką šoka.

Mieli broliai, susipraskit:
 Girtuoklystę šalin meskit,
 Knygas, laikraščius skaitykit,
 Savo protą prablaivykit.

Jeį manes jus paklausysit,
 Daug sau gero padarysit;
 Tuomet Dievas jus palaimins,
 Ir nebus iš niekur baimės.

Digging among our memorabilia, we discovered this treasure about Lithuanian coal miners. After a hard week at work one had to enjoy himself. These are the people who build countless churches and founded various organizations. But fun is fun! What do you think?

