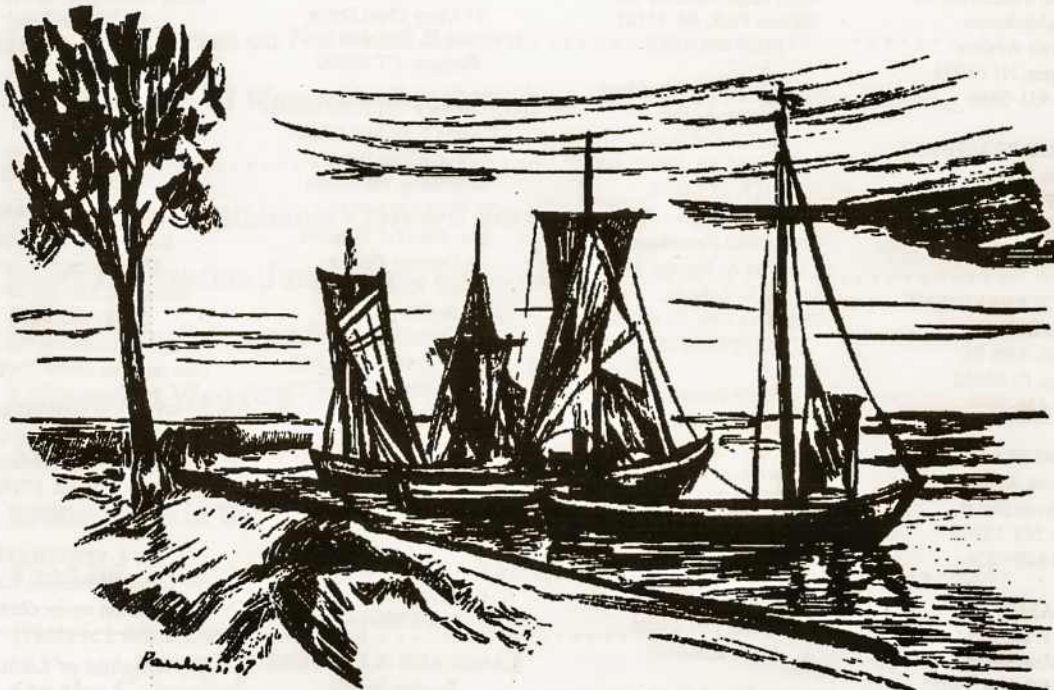


Vytis



The Knight - Volume 85 No. 6



Birželis / June 1999

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VYTIS - The Knight - STAFF

Editor: Marytė Abbott

Council News Editor:

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

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 9326 High Meadow Dr.
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 (412) 364-1622

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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: Footprints in the Sand/Pėdos Smėly

Cover: Seaside Art by P. Jurkauskas, c 1967



June Dates to Remember:

June 3, 1988 - Lithuania's "Sajudis" advocates openness, sovereignty and democracy

June 14 - Day of Mourning and Hope in commemoration of the deportations of 1948

June 23/24 - Jonines - St. John's Day/Summer Solstice

June 25, 1993 - Lithuania's pre-war currency, the litas, is re-introduced

To My Fellow Knights

Once again we're coming upon summer months when we plan vacations and other sorts of fun. Our Knights of Lithuania convention in Philadelphia this year on July 29-Aug. 1 offers a nice opportunity to take the family to see the Liberty Bell and many of the other sites in one of the oldest and historic cities in America. As a child, my own family took historic family vacations to Philadelphia, Gettysburg and other Civil War battlefields and one was always in awe of the fact that our country was at one time at war with itself. Although we are generations removed from this history, it should be remembered and appreciated. History has a tendency to repeat itself, so it's vital for families to not just depend on their child's teacher for his/her history lessons.

We also appreciate our fathers during this month, so happy Father's Day to all K. of L. dads and father figures who have taught us well.



Letters to the editor

Open House Invitation from Gateway National Park The Floyd Bennett Field Aviation History Saturday, July 17

Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan, along with other famous aviators from the 1930s, will be honored during Floyd Bennett Field's Aviation History Open House, Saturday, July 17. The program is free and will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Floyd Bennett Field played a major role in aviation history when it served as New York City's first municipal airport in the 1930s. Now part of Gateway National Recreation Area, the airfield offers visitors a glimpse back in time through exhibits and display aircraft.

Douglas Corrigan departed Floyd Bennett Field on July 17, 1938 after filing flight plans for the West Coast. He became famous when he accidentally flew the wrong way and wound up in Ireland. Other celebrated pilots who made record breaking flights from the historic airfield include Beryl Markham, Howard Hughes, Wiley Post and Lithuanians Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas.

The open house will feature talks and exhibits on aviation history and life in the 1930s. Visitors will also be able to see vintage aircraft, including a PBY Catalina, being restored by volunteers from the park's Historic Aviation Restoration Projects.

Floyd Bennett Field can be reached from exit 11 S off the Belt Parkway and by Green Bus Line Q-35

bus from Flatbush and Nostrand Avenues in Brooklyn.

For information on the event or other Floyd Bennett Field programs call (718) 338-3799.

John Gallagher, US Dept of Interior

Missing Link?

To the editor:

Perhaps one of your readers can help me find out where in Lithuania my mother came from. My father, born Antanas Jonaitis, on Dec. 28, 1886 came from Siauliai, Lithuania. He arrived in the U.S. approximately 1904 and was known as Anthony Unaitis. My mother, Isabel, aka Azabele Vincius was born December 15, 1892 and came to the United States in 1910. They married in South Deerfield, MA on August 21, 1911 and there were nine of us children. Many have passed away. Their marriage license lists them born in Poland and Russia. Thank you for any information you may provide.

Sincerely

*Isabelle Unaitis
Greenfield, MA*

Wants email "pen pals"

To the editor:

Wonder how many Knights have E Mail addresses. Would they like them to be listed in VYTIS? Mine is waterjoe@worldnet.att.net

Joseph Yanalaitis (via email)

Ed. note: There are many who have emails, but to respect privacy, they would not be printed in VYTIS. However, those who want email "pen pals" may write you.

OFFICIAL NEWS

Constitutional Amendment

Proposed resolution to change Article 9, Section 2


Whereas our constitution currently states that each national convention chooses the site for the next convention and,

Whereas on occasion the organization might elect to / need to select a convention site two years prior to a convention date therefore,

Be it resolved that Article 9, Section 2, be changed to state that the delegates to a national convention may select the site for future conventions up to two years prior to the convention date,

Be it further resolved that if approved this change will be retro-active to votes taken on this article at the 1998 National Convention.

*Submitted by: The Knights of Lithuania Mid-America
District Robert A. Martin, Jr., President*



The following resolution was presented to the members of the Mid-America District at their Spring Meeting held on Sunday, March 7, 1999 at Nativity B.V.M. Parish. This resolution was passed unanimously by the District for presentation to the next National Convention.

Respectfully submitted to the Supreme Council at their meeting on Saturday, April 24, 1999 at Nativity B.V.M. Parish. Robert A. Martin, Jr. President

Amendment to the Constitution

Whereas, currently the Knights of Lithuania Constitution only includes an oath of membership and an oath of office for Supreme Council Officers and,

Whereas, an oath of office needs to be taken on the Council and District Levels of the organization as well, and

Whereas, these oaths of office should be uniform for everyone, therefore

Be it resolved, that the Knights of Lithuania organization, gathered in convention in Philadelphia, PA, instruct the Supreme Council to create an oath of office for the District and Council Levels of the organization, and

Be it further resolved, that these oaths be included into the Constitution.

Submitted by Estelle Rogers, H.M. Member Council 112 March 7, 1999

Ritual Committee Notice

Guest Members attending National and District Conventions will be given points for this.

Knights of Lithuania Members attending the National Convention for at least four sessions will be given one point (not as delegates). Register as a guest at each session at the mandate table.

Members attending a District Convention will be allowed one-quarter of a point (not as delegates).

April 30, 1999
Clemencine Miller
Ritual Chairperson

ANNUAL APPEAL TO THE LITHUANIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE WEST BY ST. CASIMIR'S PONTIFICAL LITHUANIAN COLLEGE/ SEMINARY IN ROME

Dear Friends and Benefactors of the College,

The Holy Father had recently celebrated the 36th World day of Prayer for Vocations on April 25th. The Lord promised to remain with His Church until the end of the world. However, the faithful have the duty to pray to the Heavenly Father, that He inspire young hearts with the spiritual vocations, which are a precious gift which he gives the Church.

We often pray for vocations, but it is especially important to do so on this occasion. We too, as Lithuanian Catholics, join in this "prayer campaign" with the Catholic faithful all around the world. Lithuania is in great need of more praise worthy young people, both men and women, who hearing the Lord's

call, would be willing to offer their strengths and talents to God, the Church and their nation.

On this occasion various dioceses also declare an annual "material campaign" as well, the annual seminary collection. At least once a year all the faithful are urged to contribute to support their local seminary, where the future priests of the diocese are being prepared. We invite the entire Lithuanian community to generously support, as always, St. Casimir's Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome. It is not simply a seminary, but a bridge between the diaspora and Lithuania. Let us fortify it and raise it up.

Some time will pass before Lithuania can afford to maintain her own students abroad. But it is extremely important that the Church in Lithuania have a center in Rome, the heart of the Catholic Church, where its future leaders can be formed. The College does not have any large foundations or major benefactors. It survives from many smaller individual donations. That is why each donation is particularly important. We will continue to knock at the door of your hearts, asking to remember us several times a year - during Christmas and on the occasion of the annual seminary collection.

We are already rejoicing that next year, the last year of the millenium, the College's rooms will be full of fine young student priests from Lithuania. The staff of the College is pleased being able in such a way to serve the Church and the nation of Lithuania, a service made possible through your generosity. We often remember and thank God for the solidarity and support of all our friends and benefactors, both laity and clergy, which has been ongoing for many years. With deep gratitude, we pray for all the benefactors of the College, both living and deceased.

With every best wish,
gratefully Yours,

Msgr. Al. Bartkus Rector

P.S. Could you recommend us one new potential benefactor? Please, do! Aciu!

A tax-deductible gift can be made through: (Send checks, as well as the name and address of new Benefactor) St. Casimir's Guild c/o Mrs. Ann Wargo 125 S. Morris Str. St. Clair, PA. 17970 - U.S.A.



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Christianity's Strength, Lithuania's Hope

Part 1

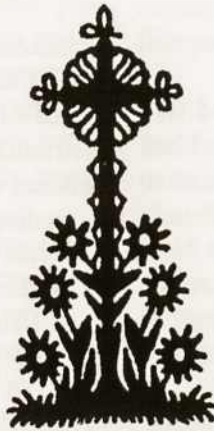
By Thomas R. Papeika

The Russian poet Alexander Sergeevich Pushkin once claimed that all the Baltic peoples were Slavs. It seems that Russians have never been very tolerant of other nationalities, and they have always tried to force their own nationalism on what they considered the inferior ethnic minorities. But the national consciousness of a proud people such as the Lithuanians cannot die quietly and easily. Indeed, the Lithuanians have always been especially problematic to the Russians. There is a Russian saying which translates as "Lithuania is like a fishbone caught in the throat." For years, Lithuanians have irritated the Russians, who looked at Lithuania as a dangerous gateway to the West which could let in potentially lethal ideas about capitalism and Roman Catholicism. Russia, of course, took drastic steps to smother the flame of nationalism which burned so hotly in Lithuania. But Lithuania persevered, until it finally reasserted its independence earlier this decade.

The indomitable spirit of the Lithuanians was nourished by the Catholic Church, which helped to preserve the Lithuanian cultural and religious identity during the tumultuous years of the twentieth century.

As we all know, the monolithic Soviet Union tried very hard to make a "nation-less" society. All forms of national consciousness were to be erased completely, according to the doctrines of Marxist-Leninism. This, so the theory goes, would create an union of states where all were equal. However, the Soviet Union actually favored Russian nationalism, and tried to Russify all of the Soviet Union. (Ironically enough, this plan was set into motion by Josef Stalin, who was not even an ethnic Russian, but came from Georgia!) The Soviet Union has never been able to eradicate completely the national identity of the states it occupied. In fact, the

people in states such as Lithuania were so persistent in holding on to their national identity that the Soviet government was eventually forced to recognize these so-called "minority populations"--a realization that these proud peoples could never be Russified entirely. But this grudging recognition of nationalism did not result in a placation of ethnic minorities. In Lithuania the persistence of a national consciousness, kept alive in large part by the Roman Catholic Church, contributed to the Lithuanians finally asserting their independence from Soviet Russia after more than fifty years of foreign domination in the twentieth century. But how did Lithuania first become aware of its Lithuanianism? How was Lithuanianism preserved when there were so many forces moving to suppress it?



The Formation of Lithuanian-Religious National Identity

In 1413, the Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas the Great, then the most powerful political leader in medieval Europe, brought Christianity at long last to the stubbornly pagan areas of Vilnius and Samogitia.

However, it is little known that Vytautas himself never clearly separated his Lithuanian ethnic identity from the Polish side of his family. Lithuania, while now fully Christianized, suffered an ethnic identity crisis of sorts for hundreds of years afterwards. A popular saying of the time, "Polish by nationality, Lithuanian by origin," reflects the confusion of identity which lasted well into the nineteenth century and to a lesser extent into the twentieth century. In fact, Josef Pilsudski, the founder of the modern Polish state, showed how closely the Lithuanians were connected to their Polish neighbors. When Pilsudski died shortly after World War I, he willed that his body be buried in Krakow, but that his heart be buried in Vilnius. The close affinity between Poles and Lithuanians could have gone on unabated, but the Catholic Church did much to de-Polonize Lithuania



as well as resist attempts at Russification, as we will see.

The Russian Tsars generally viewed the Polish/Lithuanian Catholic Church in two ways. First, the Tsars thought that the church was subservient to Rome, unlike the Tsar's own Russian Orthodox Church, and was therefore a heretical competitor to the New Christian Empire which the Tsars were trying to establish in Russia. Second, any institution subservient to Rome was thought to be a traitor to the Russian state. It was not until 1847 that Tsar Nicholas I concluded a concordat with the Vatican—a late date indeed for a country in "Christian Europe". Even so, the concordat was more favorable to the Tsar than to the local Catholic hierarchy. But it was a move in the direction of peaceful co-existence.

The promise of the concordat was short-lived, however. In 1863, an insurrection took place in Lithuania which was again to set the Russians against the Catholic Church in Lithuania, even though this bloody insurrection was not a national Lithuanian revolt, but an attempt by the Poles to reestablish the Polish *Rzeczpospolita*. The Tsar was not about to make any fine distinctions between Poles and Lithuanians. In the Tsar's mind, Catholicism, whether Lithuanian or Polish, was a danger to Russia. The only way to stop the dangerous rise of nationalism was to implement reactionary policy towards the Church. Therefore, the Tsars' administrators in Lithuania initiated policies

designed to eradicate both Polish political and cultural influences as transmitted by the Church and to thoroughly Russianize the region instead. This double-edged sword continued to underlie Russian policy towards nationalities throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Ironically, the attempts at Russification actually helped Lithuania distance itself from the Polish influence. If the Russians had never developed policies against the Lithuanians and the Polish, Lithuania might have been completely Polanized. After all, the gentry in Lithuania was by now either

Polanized Lithuanians or actual ethnic Poles. It was the Tsarist attacks against the Church that helped fuel the minds of several extraordinary Lithuanians who were instrumental in developing the modern Lithuanian national consciousness. Siminas Daukantas, a historian, rediscovered Lithuania's all but forgotten past glory, the great days of the Middle Ages when Lithuania held sway from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Paintings such as S. Usinskis' depiction of Grand Duke Algirdas smiting the gates of Moscow with his sword in 1369 regained a proud position in the ethnic consciousness. (The statement such a painting makes regarding Muscovite domination could not be ignored, either.) By 1898, the Lithuanian national anthem, "Lietuva, Tevyne Musu," had been written by Vincas Kudirka. The nationalist press found its genesis in *Ausra*, which was published by Jonas Basanavicius and which would later provide example for twentieth century dissent writers behind the Iron Curtain.

Perhaps most importantly, it was during this period that nationality and religion became an intertwined skein from which one thread of identity could not be pulled without disturbing the other. The Lithuanian national awakening was intimately connected with the ethnic and religious resistance against the Russians. The nationalist newspaper *Apzvalga* printed its diatribes against the Russian oppressors under the staff of "Our guideline is Catholicism and

Lithuanianism." The Lithuanian historian Pranas Dauknyš notes that Monsignor Jonas Maciulis, the great Lithuanian poet who wrote under the pen name Maironis, created many patriotic and religious songs. Maciulis' hymn "Marija, Marija" became almost a second national anthem as it was sung throughout the country with great vigor. Even in the churches of the time, the style of the altars and furnishings, the hymns and processions enjoyed by the people, the liturgies and ceremonies, all reflected a national culture which had religion at its very center.

The greatest figure in the Lithuanian national reawakening comes from the Church's hierarchy itself: Bishop Motiejus Valancius. The historian Juozas Jakstas once said that Valancius set the example for resisting Russification. Valancius' influential Lithuanian language prayerbook, *Ausko Altorius*, provided Lithuanians with a textual focus point that was at once national in its linguistic form and religious in its content. But Bishop Valancius' primary concern was for the church, and he did not find it necessary yet to push the nationalistic implications of his little prayer book.

At the same time Bishop Valancius' book was being circulated, the Russians were stepping up efforts to Russianize the Church by requiring that religious education be taught in Russian. Moreover, Peter Zylinski, the government's administrator in Lithuania, and the co-opted Bishop Josef Staniewski began to see that church services themselves were conducted in Russian. The administration severely restricted the clergy by appointing bishops sympathetic to the Russians, by requiring that sermons be read from a text-book prepared by the Russians, by limiting the number of churches in Lithuania, and by restricting priests, rights in administering the sacraments. Ironically, this not only helped in part to de-Polanize the Church, it actually helped to foster Lithuanianism. The Lithuanians found it much easier to direct their anger for the abuses against their religion towards the Russians who oppressed them than towards the Poles who peacefully coexisted with them.

Eventually, the repressive Russian tactics led to bloodshed as priests and their flocks tried to defend their churches and their religion. In Kraziai, Cossacks were called in to retake a church being held by parish-

ioners angry at an order to close the church. The Cossacks threw the church ornaments out the windows. Many Lithuanians were slaughtered, and the bodies of the victims were tossed into lime pits by the ruthless soldiers. People trying to escape the horror were ridden down by the Cossacks and beaten. Several fugitives drowned in the river Krozanta as the thin ice gave way to their retreating footsteps. After the massacre at the church, the Cossacks plundered the town, all with the approval of Governor Kauman.

The terrible violence caused the influential Bishop Valancius to realize that no *modus vivendi* was possible with the Russians. The good Bishop then exerted his efforts in refuting Russian policy and commanding his subordinates to do the same. The ball had been set rolling: the concept of a "Catholic Lithuanian nation" was taking hold by the close of the nineteenth century, and the Lithuanians began their march towards independence.

During the tumultuous years between the turn of the century and the end of World War I, the Russians had far too many internal problems with revolution and external problems with the war to pay very close attention to further developments in Lithuania. The Baltics were certainly not forgotten, but nationalism was no longer a highlight of Russian policy. As the Russians pulled out of World War I to fight among themselves in the communist revolutions, the Treaty of Versailles ending the war granted Lithuania its independence. Independence for Lithuania could not have come at a better time. The nationalism of the Lithuanians was young and strong after bravely defending the Church against Russian persecutions. The 1920s and 1930s were relatively good to Lithuania, despite the worldwide economic depression of the thirties. During these decades, Lithuanian cultural identity developed free from Soviet repression. To this day Lithuanians look back fondly at the interwar period.

But the tide was to change against the Lithuanians in 1939. The Nazi-Soviet non-aggression treaty (also known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact) paved the way for the Soviet annexation of the Baltic states at a time when the rest of the free world was too preoccupied with Hitler to do anything more than take notice of the Baltic States' eclipse. In 1939, Lithuania

☞ *turn to page 9*

The Flight of *FELIX WAITKUS*

On July 17, 1999 at Brooklyn, NY's Floyd Bennett Field's Aviation History open house, several famous aviation pioneers of the 1930's will be honored. Among these aviators will be Liet. Felix Waitkus who took off from Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, NY on September 22, 1935 to set distance and speed records for a non-stop solo flight from New York to Kaunas.

Waitkus' flight was thought to be a completion of Darius and Girenas' earlier tragic attempt. The trip of the Miss Lituanica II was sponsored by the Lithuanian Naujienos newspaper of Chicago and the American-Lithuanian Flight Association.

Felix Waitkus had made his home in Kohler, Wisconsin, and had logged 1,200 solo hours in the air before his transatlantic flight. 28 years old and a lieutenant in the air corps reserve, Waitkus hoped to fly 4,486 miles to beat Lindbergh's previous record and had also hoped to place memorial ribbons over the graves of fliers Darius and Girenas, who had crashed two years earlier. His plane also carried 1,000 letters.

By newspaper accounts, Waitkus took off at sunrise in "Miss Lituanica II"; a Lockheed Vega monoplane that weighed 8,000 lbs. at takeoff.

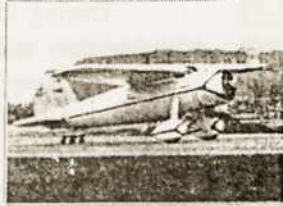
Peter Daubzvardis was the Lithuanian Consul General in New York at the time and was at the airfield to wish the pilot godspeed. Mrs. Waitkus, the pilot's wife had also been at the airfield, and was booked on an

Young Lithuanian Aviator On Aerial Route Home

Somewhere upon the silence over the gray Atlantic, followed by the high of generations Liet. Felix Waitkus is speeding at 170 mph on a long flight, bound from New York to Kaunas, Lithuania, and distance and speed records for a trans-atlantic flight.



Lieut. Waitkus climbs into plane for takeoff



The ship soars down runway... bound for Lithuania

LITHUANIA, 22ND Sept.—Lieut. FELIX WAITKUS last night was making his attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean on his way to Kaunas, Lithuania. Formerly reported to have left New York today from Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn,



Lieut. Waitkus

Lieut. Waitkus is a member of the Lithuanian Air Force, and is a graduate of the United States Army Air Corps School of Aviation in Dayton, Ohio.

The young man's plane was a Lockheed Vega, a single-engine monoplane, which was fitted with a Pratt & Whitney Wasp engine. The plane is reported to be the only one of its kind in the world.

It is said that the plane was fitted with a special fuel tank, which was designed to hold 20 gallons of fuel. The plane is also reported to be fitted with a special compass, which is said to be the only one of its kind in the world.

The plane is also reported to be fitted with a special radio, which is said to be the only one of its kind in the world. The plane is also reported to be fitted with a special engine, which is said to be the only one of its kind in the world.

ocean liner to join him later in Europe.

The plane was fitted with all the modern equipment of its day, including a Sperry artificial horizon and directional gyro, a controllable pitch propeller and radio compass. As emergency equipment, Waitkus took a collapsible boat, pistol, flares and kite. His provisions consisted of ham and egg sandwiches, half a dozen oranges, a quart of coffee, lemonade, two gallons of water, chocolate and chewing gum. He anticipated the flight to take from twenty eight to thirty hours, reaching speeds of 170 mph.

The thin-faced flier faced fog, showers and had to follow an invisible track through the air, laid down for him by a radio station in Ireland, that was received in his plane over the dial of a homing compass.

His flight went unreported ten hours after he had gone airborne from Brooklyn. Reports finally came in from St. John's, Newfoundland, but because of poor visibility, it was not possible to identify his plane. Although he flew blind, a tail wind seemed to assure him all the way from Newfoundland to his goal.

Realizing his gasoline supply was getting low and fog had persisted, Waitkus had decided to land in Ireland after 22 hours of flight and discovered he had only a gallon of gas left.

"After finding a break in the fog, I decided to find a flying field. Finally I spotted one and it looked as though it might do. Unfortunately it was covered with an undergrowth of small bushes, where the machine struck a bush and turned over," he said.



Waitkus said he was a very lucky man. Nobody had seen his plane knife its way through the fog and spiral his way down and land in the field. Peasants were startled when he knocked at their farmhouse door. He was later driven to Ballinrobe Airdrome, while a police guard was placed around the plane which had landed in the same county that Amelia Earhart landed in 1932 when she became the first woman to span the Atlantic.

Had he reached his goal, Waitkus would have covered 4,500 miles as compared with Lindbergh's record of 3,610 miles established on his flight to Paris in 1927.



Christianity's Strength

☞ from page 7

became the first Catholic nation to come under Soviet domination. The beginning of the Soviet occupation was marked by a renewed vigor in persecutions against the Church. In a resurgence of Russification, Catholic newspapers were shut down; hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians were killed or deported; the Lithuanian language again came under attack; the clergy was persecuted; the sacraments were secularized; religious holidays were abolished. Incredibly, the Nazi occupation of Lithuania was the only brief interlude in the longstanding pattern of persecution by the Soviets against the "Catholic Lithuanian nation" which spanned fifty-four years of the Soviet Empire.

Next month...Part II - Russification and Persecution

About the author: Thomas Papeika, of Sheperdstown, WV, is a history and feature writer for the St. Anthony Messenger, Catholic and other publications.



Lithuanian Press On Nato & Kosovo

In Lithuania, *Lietuvos Rytas* asked in an editorial how the Kosovo crisis may affect the Baltic nations' eventual entry into NATO. The paper said: "Sooner or later, the three Baltic states will be invited to join the organization. Because of strong Russian opposition, this can't happen as quickly as our politicians have anticipated. It is too early to say how the process of enlargement may be affected by the military conflict with Serbia and by the inevitable confrontation with Russia. But it is clear that the process of Lithuania's joining NATO cannot be speeded up by increased military spending."

The editorial also said: "Maybe it is possible for Lithuania to join NATO more quickly than for Estonia and Latvia. But is that ambition worth the price?"

The daily, *Respublika* noted NATO's military action against Serbia actually revealed the West's weakness: "The West did not manage to mediate the Kosovo crisis and so in fact started a new war in the Balkans."

The newspaper said also: "The position of Lithuanian diplomacy is not original. The declarations issued by the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs parrot the texts issued in Washington and Brussels. Lithuanian diplomacy is not mature enough to reach independent decisions."

Lithuania's business daily, *Verslo Zinios* said in an editorial that Lithuania should avoid currying favor with the West by blindly endorsing Western policy in the Balkans. It noted: "By supporting the West, Lithuania tries to advance a vital purpose, that of joining NATO. But wouldn't it be prudent for Lithuania to evaluate as a whole the West's Balkans policy, which has been irresolute, inconsistent and ambiguous? This evaluation is essential because someday Lithuania could itself become a victim of such a policy."

Prague, 30 March 1999

(RFE/RL) Radio Free Europe

Transition Nations Press Review, by Don Hill (from the website)

Opinion

The K. of L. and Bendruomene - United in Purpose

Do we dare talk about politics or is it the good old Lithuanian character of being jealous? In the many years of being active, the Knights of Lithuania have hurdled many serious challenges to stay alive and achieve its goals. These goals have been morals and patriotism. Morally, it would concern love, respect, and compliments of our fellow members. However, it is not that easy. Our presidents, in order to keep harmony and to run a good constructive meeting, are often criticized and even called a dictator. So what happens? If the president "feels" these criticisms, he will step down and even leave the organization. And these cynical comments may not only be to the president, but to any active member.

An active member will go all out to do his duty and hope his (or her) report will be accepted by the membership. But here again the criticism may be loud and outspoken and demean a member for his poor or incomplete report. So he (or she) too may throw in the towel to not ever again accept a call to duty, or give up the Council.

I often wonder how many candidates joined our councils and in a year or two later quit because of a minor fracas or some smart aleck insulting a member for some minor fault or even a character flaw. How many would you say?



In Memoriam - Rest in Peace

**Wallace Rogers, C-110,
Maspeth, NY -March, 12, 1999**

**Walter Opanasets, C-17, So. Boston, MA
April 15, 1999**

**Alphonse Ambrose, C-7, Waterbury, CT
April 2, 1999**

**LM Victoria Silliman, C-7, Waterbury, CT
April 14, 1999**

Now I want to go into the politics of the Knights of Lithuania but only pertaining to membership. How many of you have heard of the Bendruomene (that is the American Lithuanian Community)? Let me tell you about Bendruomene.

Back about 1949 all Lithuanian organization representatives of the eastern coast were called to a meeting in a New York City hotel. It was a time when many Lithuanian displaced persons came to America (under the American Lithuanian Relief Act) and settled here. Many of our Lithuanian leaders and parish priests and pastors attended. Joseph Boley was the K of L National President, and I, as the National Vice President, represented the Knights of Lithuania. The main speakers were Msgr. Krupavicius from Lithuania and the very active Father John Balkunas.

Their thoughts were to organize these new immigrants into what? I was brave and I spoke up saying, "Let them all join the Knights of Lithuania because we have a program and committee (the Lithuanian Affairs Committee) that is active and they will help us to fight for a free Lithuania." This was rather juvenile and Father Balkunas said we need a bigger, more important goal than just having them join our organizations. Then someone mentioned "a Lietuviu Bendruomene" where all Lithuanians could join and carry on with Lithuanian culture, education, language, etc.

So where is the K of L in this pool? Of course, we are keeping our own ideas and activities. So does the Bendruomene have its own ideals and goals. Really our goals are the same. So why can't Bendruomene members join the K of L or vice-versa? We speak English; they speak Lithuanian. The Bendruomene does not want to take over the K of L nor will they as we are too large in numbers. But for K of L members to join the Bendruomene would be a good time to learn the Lithuanian language.

God bless the Bendruomene members who have joined the K of L and become active members.

*Al Wesey-Vasilauskas H.M.
Great Neck Council*

THE RULERS OF LITHUANIA

SIGISMUND III (SIGISMUND VASA, 1566-1632) KING OF POLAND AND GRAND DUKE OF LITHUANIA (1587-1632) KING OF SWEDEN (1594-1604)

By Ed Baranauskas

His story, as the old saying goes, proves that truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. Even though his father was a prince, and his mother a princess, he was not born in a royal palace, as one may assume, but in a prison, of all places. Yet, he grew up to play a vital role in the history of Sweden, Poland and Lithuania. He had the unique distinction of being the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, and at the same time. King of Sweden, as well. How did it come about for a man to wear two crowns at the same time?

His father was Prince John Vasa of Finland, and his mother Princess Catherine, sister of Sigismund II, also known in Lithuanian history as Sigismund Augustus, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. He gave his consent to the marriage which took place in Vilnius on October 4, 1562.

The wedding must have enraged the prince's brother. King Eric XIV of Sweden, who was fighting Sigismund Augustus over Livonia, territory that included Estonia and Latvia. When the newlyweds arrived in Finland, the prince was accused by his brother of conspiring with Sigismund Augustus against him, was arrested, and put in prison in Sweden. Catherine refused to be separated from her husband, and spent four years with him.

Their two children were born there, a daughter who lived for about two years, and a son Sigismund Vasa. The Swedish Parliament removed Eric XIV from the throne in 1568 for reasons of insanity, and freed the family. The former prisoner became the next king of Sweden, was crowned King John III Vasa and Catherine was crowned Queen.

Although Sweden and its king were Protestant, Catherine was Catholic. It was her wish to have their son raised in the Catholic faith, a task performed by the

Jesuit Fathers who came from Vilnius. Catherine had hoped that this would improve his chances of someday, perhaps, to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, Sigismund Augustus, as King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. As future events unfolded, her hopes became a reality.

Sigismund Augustus was married three times, but was childless. There "being no heir to the throne when he died, the nobility had to choose another ruler, someone who would have to agree to several conditions, including marrying the last of Sigismund's sisters, Anne, age 51. Stephen Bathory, a Hungarian prince eight years her junior, agreed to abide to all the terms. The marriage and coronation took place in 1576.

King Stephen died ten years later, and, like his predecessor, left no heir. The nobility once again had to go through the process of selecting another ruler, and from a field of three candidates, chose Sigismund Vasa, the son of Queen Catherine of Sweden, and the nephew of Sigismund Augustus. The widowed Queen Anne, his aunt, played a vital and influential role in his selection.

In 1587, at the age of twenty-one, the unmarried prince was crowned King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania and became Sigismund III. Some Lithuanians referred to his coronation as the beginning of the Vasa dynasty.

With the death of his father in 1592, Sigismund Vasa automatically became the King of Sweden by inheritance, thereby uniting the Kingdom of Sweden and the Commonwealth. He arrived at Stockholm, and was crowned on February 19, 1594. When he left to return to Cracow that same summer, his Uncle Charles summoned parliament and was made regent against the king's wishes. In 1604, parliament deposed Sigismund and his uncle was crowned King Charles IX. Religion was one of the factors involved, as Sweden was Protestant, and they did not want to be ruled by a Catholic.

Sigismund stated that this act was illegal, since he rightfully inherited the throne from his father, and that he would never renounce his title to it. This drew the wrath of Charles, who landed in Livonia with well-organized troops. A war now began, and, except for

some brief periods of quiet, the fighting lasted until 1629 when a cease-fire was signed to last for six years. After the death of Sigismund Vasa in 1632, the fighting resumed.

Sigismund Vasa was married twice; in 1593 to Anne von Hapsburg and in 1602 to her sister Constance. He left two daughters and three sons, two of whom became successive rulers of Poland and Lithuania. Ladislas succeeded his father, and became known as Ladislas IV. Like his father, he claimed the Swedish throne.

Footnote to History;

I am sure many of us had the opportunity, at one time or other, to visit the Vilnius Cathedral while in Lithuania. I would like to share with you some of its history.

After Prince Casimir died in Gardinas in 1484, his body was brought to the Lithuanian capital Vilnius and interred in one of the Cathedral's chapels. After he was canonized in 1602, King Sigismund III Vasa authorized the funding and construction of a more spacious and more beautiful chapel to honor the Patron of Lithuania, and also to serve as a royal mausoleum. The new chapel was attached to, and incorporated into, the

Cathedral itself. His son, King Vladislas IV Vasa, completed and dedicated the chapel on August 14, 1636.

Sigismund and Vladislas always considered themselves to be the legal and rightful heirs to the throne of Sweden, being descendants of the House of Vasa, when King John III Vasa died.

Proof of this can be seen on the plaque located high up on the exterior wall of St. Casimir's Chapel. The translation of the Latin inscription, stated in part. ..."King Sigismund III, King of Poland and Sweden, has erected, furnished, and dedicated this shrine...."

Vladislas IV died on May 20, 1648 and was interred in the chapel of St. Casimir on June 26th. The inscription on the plaque, also in Latin, stated in part. ..."Vladislas IV, King of Poland and Sweden, died in Lithuania in the year 1648 on the 20th day of May...."

To me, it is strange how many unusual twists and turns there are in history. Whoever thought that the baby boy born in that Stockholm prison of a Finnish prince and a Lithuanian princess would someday be the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania and play such an important part in the construction of St. Casimir's Chapel.



Carlsberg buys Svyturys Brewery

The Svyturys brewery, located in Klaipeda, sold a huge chunk of its shares to Denmark's Carlsberg in late April. Svyturys had become a popular Lithuanian brand, outflanking Utenos and Kalnapilnis in local consumption. The Svyturys brewery had been in operation since 1784 and had the recent interest of other Scandinavian countries as well as Carlsberg. Carlsberg, which bought a 95 per cent share of the brewery, paid 180.5 million litai (or \$42.15 million US dollars).

Since Svyturys privatization in the early 1990's, the company has been improving its facilities and technical skills. In 1995, they added a new pasteurization process and modern beer filtration equipment in 1996. The following year, 1997, Svyturys upgraded its delivery system, and along with that its popularity rose.



According to the business newspaper, Verlso Zinios, Svyturys sales this year have added up to 5.58 million litai, or 38 percent higher than last year. Managers of the brewery hope that Carlsberg can help keep up with the momentum, with new technology and equipment.

Although this famous brew won't be seen on our shelves anytime soon, Lithuania and its neighboring countries will enjoy Svyturys. (*Baltic Times* 5/16/99)

Lithuania leads Balts in GNP

Lithuanian economic growth in 1998 was the fastest and Latvia's was the slowest, according to the Statistics Dept in Vilnius. Preliminary reports show that Lithuania's gross domestic product was up by 4.4% in 1998, Estonia's was 4.0 % and Latvia was had 3.6% economic growth for 1998.



Knights of Lithuania 86th National Convention

Hosted by Council 3 Philadelphia

July 29 - August 1, 1999

Sheraton Society Hill Hotel

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Thursday, July 29 -

Walk down to Penn's Landing (a short two blocks) and board the RiverLink Ferry for a quick trip across the river to the NJ State Aquarium.

Greet the seals at Seal Shores and laugh at the African penguins in their newest exhibit, Inguza Island

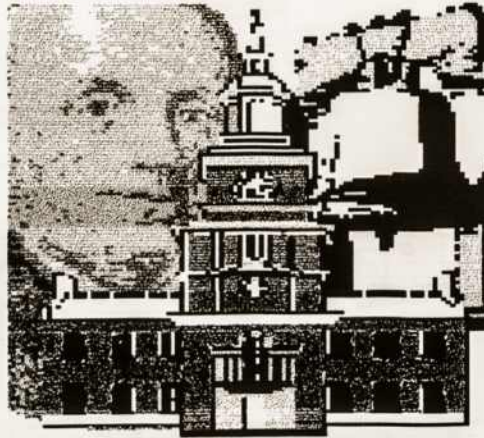


Pet the sharks in the Touch Tank

Voyage through Ocean Base Atlantic and see beautiful tropical fish

Friday, July 30 -

Take a walking tour of Philadelphia's Independence National Park



Visit Independence Hall, the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence and the U. S. Constitution; Congress Hall, where both houses of Congress first met; and the Liberty Bell, the international symbol of freedom.



Juniors will eat their lunch in the shadow of the Liberty Bell!!

Continue on to the U.S. Mint. Find out what "E Pluribus Unum", the motto on all U.S. coins means.

See the Betsy Ross House.

Visit Franklin Court and discover that not only did Ben Franklin like to fly kites, he also liked to invent and was a champion swimmer in his day!!



63. LINELĪ RAUNU NE VIENA

Lineli raunu -
 Ne viena,
 Vežiman kraunu -
 Ne viena.

Moderato

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system is marked 'Moderato' and includes fingering numbers 1, 3, 5 in the right hand and 2, 5 in the left hand. The second system includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and fingering 1, 2, 1 in the left hand. The third system includes the tempo marking 'a tempo' and the instruction 'rit.' (ritardando) above the right hand. The fourth system includes fingering numbers 2, 3 in the right hand. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Music**Linelij Raunu ne Viena**

Linelij raunu-
Ne viena,
Vežiman kraunu-
Ne viena.

Bet tai širdelei
Kažko vis trūksta,
Kažko vis negana. (3x2)

Linelij kloju -
Ne Viena.

Dainas dainuoju -
Ne viena.
Bet ir dainelėm
Kažko vis trūksta,
Kažko vis negana. (3x2)

Kai nematau jo -
Neramu,
Kai pamatau jį -
Neramu.
Kad taip nors karta
Jis palydėtų
Per lauką lig namų. (3x2)

Kad palydėtų
Prietemy,
Apsidairytų,
Ar vieni.
Kad apkabintų
Kad pabučiuotų -
Būčiau tada rami. (3x2)

*From Šaltinėlis, a collection
of Lithuanian folk songs for piano by
Nijolė Dėdinienė*

**Lithuanian Wedding Customs**

The thoughts of young girls revolve around love and marriage and it was true in the past in Lithuania as well. Much folklore exists about the prognostication, charms and rituals when a girl wanted to learn with whom she'd spend her life with...good, handsome, wealthy, mean, a drunkard, poor, etc.

For the man the task was easier, for even if he were homely, he could get a pretty girl if he were rich if he found a skillful matchmaker (usually a male) to convince the parents to give her daughter in marriage. Young people, of course, did often meet each other at social occasions, and resulted in forming a union out of love, although it was indeed difficult if they were from different social classes.

The old fashioned Lithuanian wedding usually lasted a week, being a special occasion for the whole village. Guests took part in the proceedings, and were not just onlookers. The purpose was to honor the young man and woman starting their life together. For instance, it was vital to have a good master of ceremonies (usually the *svotas*, or the same person who would be the inviter of the guests, and also carry the new fire to the new home). Other guests joined in with songs, ceremonies such as removing the bride's wreath,



presenting the gifts, cutting the cake, etc.

The wedding eve was also a significant time, when the couple were given gifts by the community, such as furniture, bedding, livestock and poultry (if they lived in the country).

The bride-to-be had a *svočia*, or person to look after her, somewhat like a maid of honor, but with much more responsibility and expense. Usually this was an aunt or someone close to the bride who could provide the wedding party and guests with a special dinner and the large cake called *karvojus*.

There were many games and rituals leading up to the special day, one being the braiding ceremony in which the bride's hair was let loose, combed and carefully rebraided with a wreath of rue placed on her head. Sad songs of farewell were sung with friends regretting the girl leaving her family, her friends, her garden. Often accompanied by tears, the bride may be leaving for her husband's home far away.

These are just a few of the many, rich customs during this special passage of a couple into matrimony.
- from *Lithuanian Customs and Traditions*
c 1989 by D. Bindokienė

Someone in Vilnius is waiting for you

A young man sits quietly in his room at the Seminary, hands folded in his lap, asking God to help. Do you wonder what keeps this boy in the Seminary?

First of all, God's grace keeps him there! God called him to this work, and every day He gives him the strength to carry it out. But other things keep him there too ...

YOUR financial help maintains him . . .

Those who believe as he does that the key to happiness is knowing, loving and serving Christ can help him by your devout prayers and your generous support.

Will you, your parish or someone you know "adopt" a seminarian at the newly built St. Joseph Seminary in Vilnius?

Archbishop A. Backis, Bishop of Vilnius, needs your help. There are 70 young men enrolled. The



future of the church in Lithuania is in their hands and ours.

As long as there are people like you who share God's blessings with others, we pray that through your support, these newly ordained priests can aid in bringing about a great spiritual renewal in Lithuania! Sincerely,

AID TO LITHUANIA SEMINARY FUND
Elinor Sluzas, Committee Member

I want to "adopt" a seminarian at St. Joseph Seminary in Vilnius
(In memory of/ In honor of _____)

Send me a photo of "my adopted" seminarian

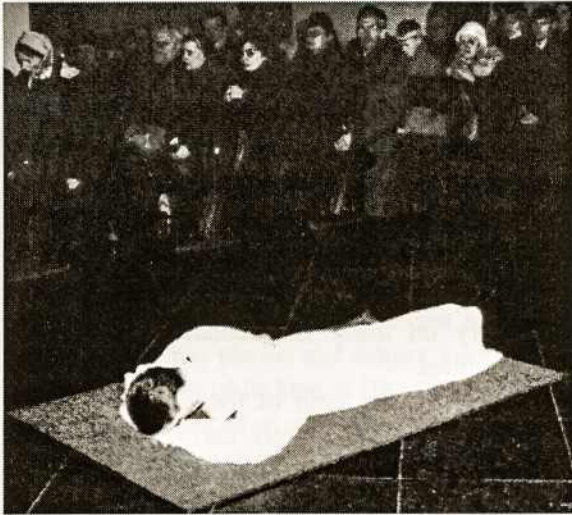
Enclosed is a check for \$2,000.00 to help care for my seminarian for one year.

I want to help, so enclosed is my check for \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.
(Address on front inside cover. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EVERY DOLLAR YOU DONATE WILL BE SENT TO ARCHBISHOP A. BACKIS IN VILNIUS



First Priest Ordained at St. Joseph Provincial Seminary in Vilnius

The Ordination of Fr. Vidas Balcius, Prefect of Studies at the Seminary on December 31, 1998 (Photos courtesy of the Seminary)



Lithuanians in the news

That's Our Sister Helen

Sr. Helen Ivanauskas of the Srs. of Jesus Crucified and member of Council 1 in Brockton, MA, recently received a "Life in Christ Award" presented by My Brother's Keeper, an organization which this past year provided 1,392 families in 43 communities with gifts and food.

The award which is not given annually, was presented at the annual Dinner Dance which was attended by 700 people.

The award read:

"Sister Helen, you have inspired us with your loving spirit and caring ways. You have filled the plates of the poor, provided a bed for them to rest upon...

Your love of Christ and Compassion for those in need shines like a lamp on a lampstand...

Truly, your name brings a smile to the face of Christ."

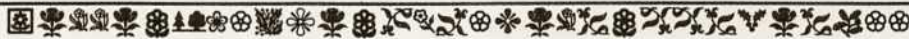
In presenting Sister Helen with her award, James Orcutt, president of My Brother's Keeper, added, "Sister Helen has been a driving force behind the found-



ing of the Lithuanian Children's Relief Fund. Also Sr. Helen and other volunteers have sent over ninety trailer truck loads of medicine, medical supplies, and other life necessities to orphanages and hospitals in Lithuania. They have arranged for an American medical team to go to Lithuania where they performed corrective surgery on thirty Lithuanian children with deformities.

With the help of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified, they are currently caring for a young Lithuanian burn victim who will undergo surgery at the Schriener's hospital in Boston. In accepting the "A Life in Christ" award, Sister Helen credited her family, her Catholic upbringing, and her education by the Sisters of Jesus Crucified for inspiring her life's work. We were all so pleased for Sr. Helen for receiving the recognition she certainly deserved but also she alerted 700 non-Lithuanians about the hardships Lithuanian are still facing as they rebuild their nation.

by Maryte Bizinkauskas, C-1, Brockton, MA



Msgr. Madus Retires from Guard as Brigadier General

Msgr. Peter Madus (C-74, Scranton, PA) was promoted to brigadier general, retired, as he retired recently from the Pennsylvania National Guard after a 29-year chaplain's career.

Msgr. Madus, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Scranton and a priest of the diocese since 1968, was a chaplain at battalion, brigade and division level, and ended his career as state chaplain, the highest chaplain's position in the Pennsylvania Guard.

In that post, Msgr. Madus served on the personal staff of the adjutant general and administered religious programs in support of the 15,000 members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. He also managed 32 unit ministry teams across the state. In addition, he was responsible for representing the department at the

national level, with both the National Guard 1 Bureau and the Chief of Chaplains in Washington, D.C.

"Chaplain Madus was a dedicated professional who played an invaluable role in the Pennsylvania National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Eugene Klynoot, Deputy Adjutant General-U.S. Army. "More important, he was a trusted friend to all."

At his retirement ceremony, Msgr. Madus was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Medal.



Smiles Without Wrinkles

** Old folks are worth a fortune; with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

** Education without common sense is like a car without a steering wheel.



Fr. Wolkovich New Study Published

A study of 130 Lithuanian parishes in the United States has just been completed. Volume I of the trilogy, **Lithuanian Religious Life in America**, includes the eastern seaboard; Vol. 2 is devoted exclusively to Pennsylvania with its 40 parishes and three religious women's communities; while Vol. 3 extends to the Midwest (Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit) and beyond. There is a section on Lithuanian Protestants, entries on a variety of institutions, along with an extensive biographical dictionary of clergy and outstanding nuns. Four indices provide easy access to data, including: persons, parishes, places, and subject matter. The series is evidently the first of its kind in US Catholic history, encompassing the totality of an entire ethnic group.

When this study was first proposed in 1986, leading historians voiced approval. Christopher J. Kauffman, Editor of the U.S. Catholic Historian, wrote: "...the Lithuanian Parish History Project promises to be ethnic history at its best ... Wolkovich is one of the foremost historians of the Lithuanian American experience ...I can personally testify to the richness of his scholarship ..." Oscar Handlin of Harvard University remarked: "I have no doubt that he the author will bring the project to completion; and I know that it will make

a valuable contribution to American social history." Jay P. Dolan of Notre Dame University observed: "Clearly such a history is needed ...I know he the author will bring ... energy and commitment to this project."

After the completion of Volume I, reviewer Alfred Erich Senn of the University of Wisconsin at Madison in The Catholic Historical Review (Spring, 1983), noted that "The details included in this work are positively staggering ... this reviewer stands in awe of the biographical notes" Commenting on Volume 2 in the Journal of Baltic Studies, Aleksandras Gedmintas of the State University of New York at Delhi indicated that the study "has set a standard that future historians will be hard-pressed to meet."

The author, independent historian - Rev. William Wolkovich-Valkavičius, is a priest of the Boston archdiocese who devotes most of his free time to ethnic and immigration studies. He is the author of 23 books, 53 articles, 26 book reviews, and 10 encyclopedia entries - mostly on the Lithuanian experience, but also on Poles, Albanians, and Finns. As a Visiting Lecturer in April of 1999, he gave a course at the University of Vytautas Magnus in Kaunas to 18 history majors about Lithuanians in the United States. For information, write to: Lith. Parish History 36 St. George Ave., Norwood, MA 02062-4420 Fax:781-762-6389 or

That Darn "Cat"?

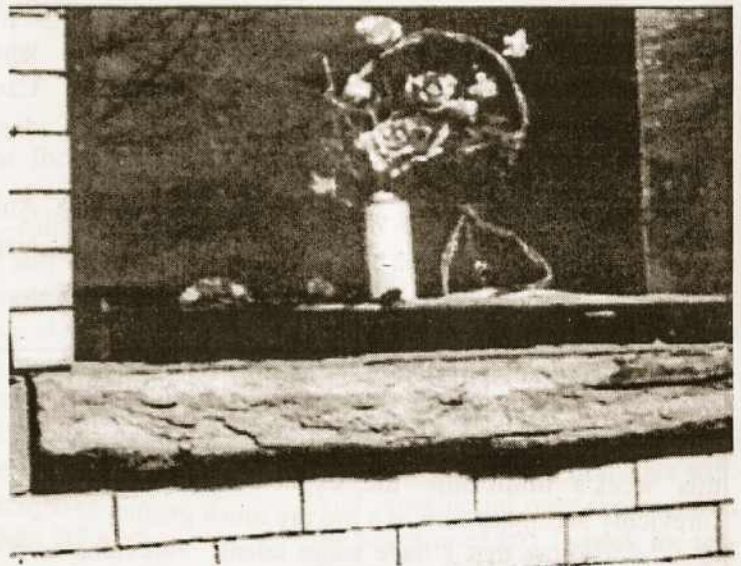
A local Queens, NY newspaper received a call from a woman who claimed there was a dead cat on the windowsill of the Lithuanian Citizen's Club.

The reporter checked out where the "cat" was, it appeared that it was lying on its side, dead, the paws, and a limp tail lifelessly lying sideways.

The window is somewhat elevated so the average person can only view it by looking up. Asking the cleaning man while the reporter was there, he replied, "THERE IS NO CAT! NO, YOU CAN'T LOOK UPSTAIRS."

The woman was called back to "let the cat out of the bag."

The newspaper told her clear pictures would be published. After the work of climbing up from the outside to see the cat up closer, it turned out to be a pair of cute fuzzy gloves "purr-fectly" placed at the window sill, making it look as if there was indeed a dead cat.



Kaunas "Zaigiris" Champions of the Euroleague

"The best basketball is played in Kaunas," stated Czech George Zidek after the team's victory.

Lithuania did not sleep after midnight April 22, the night Kaunas Zaigiris became champions of the Euroleague, tens of thousands of people were shouting, dancing and singing in the streets of Kaunas, Vilnius, Klaipeda, Siauliai and other cities waving the Lithuanian tri-colors and the Zaigiris green-white flags.

Before nearly 12,000 spectators in Munich, Zaigiris, in its debut season in the Euroleague, defeated the defending champions, Italy's Bologna Kinder, 82-74. This fall, Zaigiris will play in the McDonald's Tournament in Milan, where they will meet the NBA, South American, Italian, Asian and Australian champions.

One of the most influential European sport dailies, La Gazzetta dello Sport, called Zaigiris "a team of monsters." "No other team has been capable of so impressively dominating the Euroleague," the paper wrote.

Just after the victory, President Valdas Adamkus sent a telegram to Zaigiris from Washington, D.C., where he was on hand for NATO's 50th anniversary summit.



"Countries are made great by their spirit, not by their territory or numbers," Adamkus wrote. "Your victory is reminiscent of times when the Lithuanian national team became European champions in 1937 and 1939, when our state had no equal competitors in Europe."

The president said he was told of Zaigiris' victory in the office of U.S. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and said he shared his happiness with the presidents of Latvia and Estonia, who were with him and Albright at the time.

What next?

On April 28, Adamkus decorated players and coaches of the Euro-league basketball champions Kaunas Zaigiris with state orders. Zaigiris head coach Jonas Kazlauskas was decorated with the 2nd degree order of Lithuania's Great Duke Gediminas, while the players - including two Americans and a Czech national-were given the same orders of the 4th degree.

In addition to the Lithuanians on the team, American Tyus Edney, was elected MVP of the Euro-league's final four.



Giant Opportunity

E. Rutherford, NJ, May 13, 1999

As the Giants prepare for 1999, beginning with this week's minicamp, the expectations for Joe Jurevicius' second season as a pro are much greater.

"I know that I have some talent," Jurevicius said yesterday. "Obviously, if I didn't I wouldn't be here in New York. I have confidence in my ability and I'm excited about the season; I think I'll get the opportunity to contribute a little bit more.

Jurevicius caught nine passes for the Giants in his rookie year for 146 yards and a 16.2-yard average.

The Quarterback, Kerry Collins, who threw passes to Jurevicius at Penn State University for the year the two intersected, will likely eventually be throwing him passes as a Giant.

Coach Jim Fassel, said, "I expect him to improve. I describe his first year as very good to inconsistent. My hope is that he'll eliminate the inconsistency."



Fr. Dan's

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by Fr. Dan Yenkevich

These first two recipes are good for dieters.

CREAMY COLESLAW

- 2 1/2 cups shredded cabbage
- 1/2 cup shredded carrot
- 3 Tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tsp sugar
- 2 Tbsp nonfat sour cream
- 2 tsp Dijon mustard

In a large bowl, combine cabbage and carrot. In small bowl, combine all remaining ingredients; blend well. Add to cabbage mixture; mix well. Serve immediately, or cover and refrigerate until serving time. If you wish, sprinkle with paprika before serving.

BREADED WHITE FISH

(Use walleye, halibut, pike or sole)

- 1 lb. lean white fish
- 2 egg whites
- 1/4 cup skim milk
- 1/4 All Purpose Flour
- 1/2 cup plain bread crumbs
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1/4 tsp paprika

Preheat oven to 500 degrees. Place oven rack in center position. Cover cookie sheet with foil and spray with non-stick cooking spray. Combine egg whites and milk in shallow bowl; beat well. Place flour and bread crumbs on separate plates. Add pepper to flour; mix well. Add paprika to bread crumbs; mix well. Dip fish in

flour mixture; then in egg whites; then in bread crumbs, coating thoroughly. Place on cookie sheet. Place fish on cookie sheet, and bake 10 minutes at 500 degrees. Then reduce heat to 450 degrees. Remove cookie sheet from oven and turn fish carefully. Return sheet to oven and bake an additional 5 minutes or until fish flakes easily with fork. Sprinkle with salt and pepper before serving if you wish.

HOT RED CABBAGE

- 1 1/3 lb head red cabbage
- 3 Tbsp butter or bacon drippings
- 1 large onion, minced
- 1 large tart, peeled and sliced
- 1 cup hot water
- 1/3 cup vinegar
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 5 whole cloves
- 1 tsp salt

Shred the cabbage. Melt butter in pan in which cabbage is to be cooked. Add onion and cook slowly until soft and yellow. Add cabbage, apple water, vinegar, sugar, cloves and salt.

Toss together. Cover and cook just until cabbage is wilted. Uncover and cook 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

BAKED LIMA BEANS

(These beans are even better rewarmed the next day)

- 1 pound (2 1/2 cups) dried lima beans
- 1/2 tsp baking soda

- 4 oz. salt pork or 5 slices bacon
- 1 tsp dry mustard
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar or molasses (I used more)
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 1 cup bean liquid (or water)
- 1/2 cup catsup (or more)
- 1 medium onion peeled but whole

Pick over beans and wash them. Cover with water three inches over the beans and soak overnight, (or at least six hours). Next day wash and then cover with fresh water, put several whole celery stalks with greens pushed in among the beans; add the baking soda and bring to a boil and simmer 1/2 hour. (I usually simmer until the beans are almost soft and not falling apart). Drain off the hot liquid and save. Discard the celery. Pour beans into the baking dish. Bury the onion in the center of the beans.

In one (or two) cups of the hot liquid, combine the dry mustard, brown sugar, paprika, and salt. Pour over the beans (so you can see the liquid, add more if needed). Cover the beans with bacon slices cut into one inch squares (be generous). Cover with foil or cover and bake in a moderate oven (350° F.) for about 2 1/2 to 3 hours until beans are soft. And more liquid over the beans as the beans need it. (I check for tenderness and cut down on the baking time. Uncover the last half hour or so of baking to brown the bacon on top.



District & Council News

Mid-Atlantic District

Mary Kober

On Sunday, April 18th, the Mid-Atlantic District held their Spring meeting in Newark, NJ hosted by C-29. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Peter Uhde at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church in Newark. During Mass, Ritual Chair Joseph Zukas performed a very impressive ceremony by presenting the third degree medal to Mary Abbott of C-110 Maspeth. Fr. Peter blessed her medal at the altar. Luncheon immediately followed in the church hall. Members of C-29 prepared and served a delicious sit-down luncheon consisting of roast pork and all the trimmings. Many thanks to a group of devoted Knights in C-29 who made this all possible.

The meeting opened with prayer led by President John Sakal. Marie Guoba greeted all district members to their council. Executive board reports followed. President Sakal gave an itinerary of his activities with the K of L... Vice-President Mary Abbott again spoke about increasing our membership and invited Loretta Stukas, Foundation President, to speak about the forthcoming essay. Loretta encouraged everyone to write since the topic was about your involvement with the K of L... 2nd Vice-President Bernice Aviza spoke about the Juniors, especially with C-100 Amsterdam, naming different activities and functions where they have performed... Lithuanian Affairs Chair Ed Baranauskas spoke about pilot Ed Waitkus, who also flew to Lithuania. He stated that on July

17th, Floyd Bennet Field was going to have a commemoration honoring all pilots that flew anywhere from Floyd Bennet's Field. Ed will look further into this celebration and advise councils. Mary Kober added to the Lithuanian Affairs report asking that everyone write to the Celebrity Cruise Lines, 1050 Caribbean Way, Miami, FL 33132 encouraging the cruise line to hire more crew members from Lithuania and also thank them for the 15 members from Lithuania who worked on the GALAXY ship sailing from San Juan, Puerto Rico. ...Ritual Chair Joseph Zukas mention there were 7 candidates eligible for the third degree but only 1 degree was presented at Mass. He also stated he was resigning as a member of the National Ritual Committee ...Treasurer Jo Zukas gave her usual interesting report re finances in our savings and checking accounts. ...Raffle Committee Chair Ann Morrissey reported she was able to obtain a contribution from a major airline to donate the first prize of a round-trip air ticket to Lithuania for the district's upcoming raffle. She also distributed raffle books to all councils present and will mail



C-110 Maspeth's 75th Anniversary Committee hosted dinner dance on April 25th (see pg.26)

them to councils not present. Ann asked that the stubs and money be forwarded to M/M Ed Jakatt, 77-10 Wildflower Ct., Moriches, NY 11955-2034.. Raffle will be held at next District meeting.

The following motions were made and seconded: Mass to be offered for Msgr. Frank Bulovas, our District Spiritual Advisor, who passed away recently. A one-half page ad to be taken in the journal at the National Convention. \$100 to Aid to Lithuania. \$50.00 to St. Casimir's Guild and \$50.00 to the Šiluva Shrine in Washington, DC.

Delegates to the National Convention in Philadelphia were offered by Becky Pataki and Kathy Nakrosis. ...Mandate Committee reported there were 8 councils present with 8 district officers, 1 supreme council officer, 4 honorary members, 42 delegates. 8 guests; with a total of 63 attending.

The Fall meeting will be hosted by C-90 Harrison-Kearny on September 19th at which time elections will be held.

The Sounds of C-12, NYC

John Lostys

A silence hung over our hall as Council 12 started our first meeting after the death of our good friend Dalia Bulvičiute. It seems as if it was only yesterday when she returned back home from her European trip. Dalia was speaking with such happiness and sparkle about her and Connie's adventures in Vilnius, Stockholm and Copenhagen. She was so happy to have finally seen her father's name on a memorial in Vilnius. (Dalia's father was a leading officer in the Lithuanian Army in the late 1930's and was murdered by the Communists.) Dalia was always the joy of Council 12, always giving us a joke or an article that she had just cut out. Her mushroom dish and cold borsch made many an empty stomach brim with satisfaction. Dalia's voice greatly brightened up our humble choir.

Besides being missed by Council 12 and the members of Our Lady of Vilnius, she will also be deeply missed by her confident Shirley Sprenger, who was so kind as to shop, cook, and do so many other wonderful deeds for Dalia. Shirley also recently spent hours picking out, and gift rapping, mementos of Dalia for the members of Council 12 and Our Lady of Vilnius. Thanks a lot, Shirley! Your kind work is well appreciated!

On a happier note, Mary Abbott a good friend of Council 12, and her husband Jack just celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to the lucky couple!

Mary's angelical voice has often graced our choir. Their anniversary gift to each other is a trip to Lithuania this August. Have fun!

Back in the choir loft, I am happy to report that Saulius Janusas is making excellent progress restoring our 70-year-old organ. With his talents and perseverance, he is working magic with tons of old tin pipes, wiring and wood work. Keep up the good work, Saulius! We all appreciate Aldona Kepalaite's world-class talents, but now she has a better organ to create even better music. Recently, two Lithuanian angels, (G.M. and H.L.) gave Saulius a rare set of Lithuanian and America 78 records from the 1920's that have been in their family for three generations. Hope you and your family have many happy moments with those good old songs.

C-17, South Boston, MA

Balandis

Our annual St. Casimir's Day Communion Breakfast started off with a concelebrated Mass by Monsignor Al Contons and Father Steve Zukas. Fr. Zukas was the guest speaker at the Communion Breakfast. It was good to see Fr. Baltrashunas who was able to attend. We are grateful to Pres. Al Akule and his committee which included his wife Pat, Joe and Ann White, Al and Aldona Kropas, Larry Svelnis and others. The beautiful flowers were donated by Ann Norinkavich IMO husband John and also Brenda Waychack, IMO her aunt. A splendid portrait of St. Casimir in all his glory, that is permanently displayed over the tabernacle in the Vilnius cathedral, was brought from Lithuania and presented by Fr. Zukas.

Grandparents Joe and Betty



C-12's correspondent, John Lostys enjoys a song with the late Dalia Bulvicius, organist Aldona Kepulaite plays in the background

Balaconis announced new additions to their family. Their daughter Doris (former Junior K of L'er) and husband are the proud but busy parents of twins, John and Nicole. Great-Grandparents Vincent and Frances Zerveske's newest great-grandchild, is baby girl Eden Rose. They had an exciting trip to see their daughter in Oklahoma when Vincent landed in the hospital. All are doing well now. Congratulations!

Member Mary Ann Doherty had total hip replacement surgery, but is now recuperating back home in Wakefield. We wish you well. Also, best wishes for your health to Rita Uzdavinis. Frances Savicke is now a resident at the Marian Manor. We miss our former smiling and cheerful secretary. We wish to express our sympathy to Aldona Keaney on the passing away of her brother, Francis.

Mr. Bill Olevitz who represents St. Peter's Church in the South Boston Youth Ministry, worked with Father Steve Zukas in hosting a very successful Youth Mass

in February. Several K of L members helped serve the refreshments of pizza and this was a big hit.

C-17 South Boston and C-27 Norwood were hosts in January to hearing of the successful completion and the publishing of historian, Fr. Bill Wolkovich's trilogy, "Lithuanian Religious Life in America". Then C-17 voted unanimously to purchase the trilogy. The program also included both an exhibition of the author's publications and video excerpts of his activities.

Larry Svelnis, Chair of the Archives Committee related that Ruth Krecioh, his committee member is now in Lithuania for 2 months, and should be of great help and resource for his committee when she returns.

Our busy and active vice-president Frank Markuns and wife Virginia are vacationing and visiting relatives in Florida.

lki pasimatymo!

C-26, Worcester, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

With the reason and rhymes of Easter Time gone, 'tis time to settle down to some serious (profitable) activities and persuasive programs to entice the membership to attend and enjoy the presentations.

For starts, how does a meatloaf supper sound? That is what we had before the April meeting. Forty five of us devoured with delight everything on the bill of fare. Congrats and thanks to the committee. Master chef Ann Walinsky was deeply involved as the mixer of this mess.

That was a great meeting, but, the May meeting was even, (I

won't say better, but I shall say an equal with April). Our appetites were satisfied with servings of delicious Kugelis and much more. I wrote about Marion Racicott and what she does for the K of L. She supervised the preparation of these capital culinary courses for our enjoyment. I must repeat, CAPITAL.

The big topic of the business meeting was, our June picnic. To fill the chair for the affair, and how to pack the premises with people. The first was resolved, the second, advertise and wait and see.

In my last review, I requested prayers for complete recovery for Vitie Ivaska, the Good Lord knew something. He put all of the prayers in escrow, and now they are for the repose of his soul. Vitie died on April 21. There were many, and still are many, who benefitted by the efforts and energy expended by Vitie for their pleasure. Baked fish dinners for C-26ers, bus trips for the retired, visiting the sick, consoling the bereaved. All of this and much more. The community, his church, the organizations, and all who knew Vitie will speak of him and remember him for a long time. He will also be remembered for his unusual rendition of the Alleluia while lecturing during Mass.

Ann Walinsky is frequently mentioned for her participation in K of L activities. She also, deservingly so, was selected as the Volunteer of the Year at St. Vincent Hospital, nominated by her co-workers and chosen for the honor by the executives in charge.

Do for others as you would wish for yourself. (To quote somebody).



Council 27, Norwood, MA

Žaibis

Valio, Valio, or words to that effect! Council 27 hosted the Spring New England District Convention and are pleased to report its success. For a small council, the event brought good food, good friends, and a good meeting led by our New England Dist. Pres., Bill Piacenti into perfect harmony. Our pastor, Father William Wolkovich, who had just returned from an eventful trip to Lithuania, began the day with an inspirational mass. Then came a fine dinner, a talk by Fr. Stephen Zukas of St. Peter's Church, South Boston on his year of study in Lithuania, a business meeting, a Holy Hour, with Fr. Shakalis, then supper and socialization. A film on Lithuania was shown. It was a great and full day.

We missed our good friends, Bob, Aldona, Clem and their cohorts from Connecticut. Also missed was George Barton, C-27 who, with his wife Birute, is in Lithuania at their condo. Ed and Mary Ann Motyka, C-27, are still in Florida where Ed had a medical setback, but is now doing well and will be back in Norwood soon.

How can we show our appreciation to the co-chairs of this event? Louise Zukas and Kay Perednia—thank you gals, thank you. The hard-working committee not only slaved diligently in preparation but also had fun in getting it all together and during the cleanup too. Labai ačiū. Ramona Gonski and Dorothy Ausevitch were the kitchen wizards—helping at all the tasks. Sandy Melish (who is just fine after her recent surgery) sliced and diced,

and also checked in the delegates. Albie Jarvis was at hand to move furniture, serve food and drink and advise everyone. Also jumping in to assist Louise and Kay were Pres. Paul Zukas, Stanley and Terri Wasil, Lenore Jarvis, John and Betty Skricki.

Our members came to the rescue on the day of the event. They included Lillian and Ted Callahan, Ed and Adele Macys, Fran and Stan Medveski; and as always, we thank everyone for their assistance and for making it a spectacular day. C-17 members not only showed up but brought their beautiful and tasty pastries to help out.

Father Shakalis, Spiritual Advisor, also Msgr. Albert Contons and Fr. Albin Janiunas and Sister Eugenia, CJC attended and brought out the religious part of our Knights of Lithuania-For God and Country.

C-50, New Haven, CT

Audrey Toole

Rumors are again circulating about the closing of St. Casimir's Church, but council 50 members continue to remain optimistic that the church hall will continue to be the center of our activities.

Our St. Casimir's Day Dinner was well attended and the church hall busy with members and friends. Thanks to Irene Meizies and her crew for all their work.

It was again active during the Palm Sunday food fair — which included the sale of Lithuanian



Chicago's C-112 awards 1st degrees to Cynthia Paskauskas, Laima Vaiciuniene, Sylvia Jankauskas, Vytas Paskauskas, Arthur Valentine, Marija Skemaite and Irene Jonusys.



2nd Degree Awardees at C-112 include:

Genevieve Pivoras, Joanna Danilevicius, Mrs. M. Petrosius, Dr. Ferdinand Kaunas, Kathleen Svelnis and Leo Venckus

sausage for our Easter dinners. Theresa Strimaitis and her committee prepared the delicious meals for this event.

Welcome to new member, Nancy Conlon! Congratulations to Al and Anne Berzins on receiving their third degree medals.

On April 25, Magdalen Cronin, Mary Geipel, Isabel Peterson and Leo Tamulis attended the New England District meeting in Norwood.

Sadly on April 30, Leo Tamulis died suddenly at his home. Our sympathy and prayers go to his wife, Pat, and family.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of deceased member, Al Plant.

We continue to pray for the return of good health for all our members. We look forward to sunshine and warm weather.

Thanks to all for the prayers and cards during my recuperation from back surgery.

C-74, Scranton, PA

Marie Laske

Hundreds renewed their marriage vows at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. More than half of the nearly 450 honored couples were married more than 50 years. Three couples were from Council 74: Helen and Walter Cravath; Marie and Richard Laske and Bette and Edward Tamociatis!! The Laske's eldest daughter, Sandra and her husband, Charles Georgia celebrated their 25th anniversary. A reception followed at Bishop Hannon High School. The cathedral was filled to overflowing at both masses.

In his homily, Father Albert Libertore told the couples that they were living examples of God's unconditional love for all His children.

"Your love may not be perfect; your parenting may not be the stuff about which books are written; your mistakes may very well have been many over the years," he

said, "But the fact remains, you are still here together. We look to you for proof that God's love is real, because only in you do we see love like God's: love in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, no matter what, until death."

Labas to our out of town social members.

Martha Brock is coming along well after her stroke. Martha Wagner is recovering after her surgery. To all our homebound and sick members, God's speed.

Life is like seeds, they are well tendered acres or empty lots!

C-110, Waspeth Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Close to 150 knights and friends gathered at Transfiguration Parish on Sunday, April 24 for a special Lithuanian Mass and celebration dinner and dance commemorating our 75th anniversary as a council. Fr. Vytas Volertas, our new spiritual advisor and parochial vicar at Transfiguration celebrated mass, while many of us prayed for our beloved Msgr. Bulovas, who had recently gone home to the Lord.

At our jubilee, we also had the honor of visiting priest, Rev. Gintaras Jonikas from Lithuania.

Tossing her cane aside, Sophie and Peter Zuyus danced to the strains of the anniversary waltz, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. The applause was great and ilgausiu metų was sung by many

at the 75th anniversary of council 110.

A mouth-watering meal of roast beef, potatoes, added to the



...and the 3rd Degree awardees of Chicago's C-112 are Sophie Beinoras, Elizabeth Vilkas and Georgianna Macke. All awards were presented by Rev. A. Zakarauskas.

standards of dešros, cabbage, babka, etc. Joe Thomas and his band did an excellent job getting us out to dance. HM Fr. Raila, at ninety-something led a conga line, cane and all, while Romas Kezys showed off his great voice with songs we all enjoyed.

People all wanted to know when our next dinner dance would be held, as so much fun was had by all.

Kudos to Bruno Rutkunas, our C-110 president, his trusty right-hand, Helen Matulonis and the rest of the committee who made this event a success.

Wedding bells were ringing when member Peggy Ann Lasis exchanged vows with Thomas Mongello on April 24th. We congratulate them and wish them a happy, blessed future.

Death takes no holiday as we mourn our council's latest departure of Anthony Maculaitis of Valley Stream. May he rest in peace.

We look forward to our

special raffle and final meeting before our summer break on June 27. Proceeds of the raffle go to Aid to Lithuania. Let's have a good showing!

C-112, Chicago, IL

JohanneMarie Shainauskas, S.S.C.

Council-112 members deeply mourn the loss of their very loving and long-time active member and Vytis correspondent. Sister Angela Balchunas, S.S.C., whom God had suddenly called to her eternal reward on January 5, 1999. We will miss her kind and gentle manner, and the many talents she so generously shared in performing her numerous tasks as a truly dedicated K. of L. member. "Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord."

The K. of L. Mid-America District solemnly celebrated the Feast of St. Casimir on March 7th, with a processional march, consisting of flagbearers and Vyčiu members, to Nativity B.V.M. Church. This was immediately followed by a most inspiring liturgy, conducted in Lithuanian by Rev. Rimas Gudelis, and concelebrated by Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas. All were invited to a delicious luncheon afterwards in the parish hall. The day ended with the District Meeting, chaired by president, Robert Martin, Jr. Two 3rd degree K. of L. awards were also presented to Elizabeth Vilkas and Sophie Beinoras at this time.

At the March 16th meeting, Council-112 presented the following awards to some of its outstanding members: 2nd degree to Genevieve Pivoras, Joanna Danilevicius, Mrs. M. Petrosius, Dr. Ferdinand Kaunas, Kathleen Svelnis, and Leo Venckus; 1st degree to Cynthia and Vytas Paskauskas, Laima Vaiciuniene,

Sylvia Jankauskas, Arthur Valentine, Marija Skemaite and Irene Jonusys. Congratulations!

On Saturday, April 24th, Council -112 hosted the K. of L. Supreme Council meeting at Nativity B.V.M. parish. The day began with the meeting at 10:30 am, and ended with the Liturgy at 5:00 P.M. in the parish church. Mrs. Maria Deksnis, Council-112's 3rd V.P., and hostess for this event, also involve her K.of L. Junior division members. They helped with baking cakes, the set-up, registration, breakfast, and also attended the Liturgy. (The warm breakfast buns and take-home flower pot pens were a real hit thanks to the juniors!)

On Memorial Day, May 31st, Council-112 participated in its annual cemetery walk, immediately following the Liturgy at St. Casimir's Cemetery. The K. of L. choir sang at this Liturgy. The purpose of the walk is to visit the graves of the deceased members who passed away during this current year.

The K. of L. Mid-America District now has an adult dance group which meets every other Sunday at the Jesuit Center. They have also formed a bowling league which meets once a month. For more information, please call Maria Deksnis at 773-476-5896. **The Mid-America District Bowling Tournament has been planned to be held in Dayton, Ohio, from June 11-13th, 1999.**

Council-112 is planning a GRAND celebration of its 75th Diamond Jubilee. This event will take place on October 9, 1999, at Nativity B.V.M. church and parish hall. Mrs. Julie Zakarka, in charge of this celebration, has already begun the formation of specific committees to assist her with this special and

memorable event.

Two of our Council members, Vitas and Cynthia Paskauskas, both First Degree members, have together successfully completed the Diaconate Formation Program of the Archdiocese of Chicago, which is a rigorous four-year theological, liturgical and social justice oriented program. The good news is that Vitas will be ordained as a Permanent Deacon on May 1, 1999, by Francis Cardinal George at Holy Name Cathedral, along with 22 classmates, for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Currently, there are about 600 Permanent Deacons serving the Archdiocese. Vitas will serve our community as a deacon for Nativity BVM Church, under the guidance of Rev. Mike Yakaitis, pastor of Nativity and also member of Council 112. Two Masses of Thanksgiving will take place on May 9th, at 9:15 in English, and at 10:15 in Lithuanian at Nativity BVM Church. All are invited to join in worship at one (or both!) of these Masses. Congratulations Vitas and Cynthia!

C-141, Bridgeport, CT

Aldona Marcavage

Msgr. Pranckus opened the April meeting with a prayer and his thanks to all for making his 80th birthday such a memorable affair with cards, gifts, and a birthday dinner, Ilgiausiu, sveikiausiu metu, Monsignor—and many more birthdays. Msgr. told us the Pope condemned the death penalty as did Lithuania recently. The Pope also condemns the war in Kosovo.

Sister Patricia Rickes took the oath read by Msgr. and officially became one of us. Welcome, Sister!

Pat Silk bestowed the 1st degree on Stefa Armonas—and the

2nd degrees on Marie and William Brilvitch. Congratulations.

President Miller thanked Bob Marcavage and Steve Wilcinskas, and Bill Brilvitch for taking care of the 50/50 raffle every meeting. It makes a welcome addition to our treasury and puts smiles on the faces of the winners.

A nice thank you note was received from Sister Helen saying so many children will be warm because of our contributions. The daughter of (AA) Agnes Lazdauskas, Elyte Vaitkus sent a heart-felt thanks to all who helped her mother's last days be more cheerful with prayers, cards, visits.

Two more Lithuanian priests will be retiring soon: Fr. Karvelis of Waterbury and Fr. Rikteraitis of New Britain. Let's pray for vocations.

Time to apply for NED scholarships. Winners will be awarded during the Cultural Festival in October, in Shrewsbury.

Annual Essay contest begins. Subject related to being Lithuanian or our Lithuanian Heritage, etc., in 500 words or less. Should be submitted by July 1, 1999.

Our council voted to buy one bed for Villa Lituana, Rome. Msgr. Bartkus will be appreciative.

We are, once more, urged to write to our Senators and Congressmen asking them to support HR 21 and SR2 regarding Baltic States entry into NATO. It is important that they are aware of Americans support of these resolutions.

A very good article appeared in March issue of BRIDGES by Rasa Juaka about Victoras Liaukas—father of our member Sigita Liaukas—entitled "Speaking the Language of Wood". Mr. Liaukas has God-given artistic talent, and has over 300 beautiful wood carvings

based on Lithuanian themes. Victoras Liaukus certainly is leaving his "footprints in the sands of time", lifetime memories for his children and for many generations.

Gintare Ivaška recently saw the Baltic States on TV's travel channel. This year is the 100th anniversary of the death of Vincas Kudirka, who wrote the Lithuanian National Anthem. This year "Šventas Raštas" was published. It is the first Holy Bible in the Lithuanian language published as one book. Note your calendars: **the annual CLC day of prayer for Lithuania will be September 26th in Hartford's St. Joseph Cathedral.**

President Clemencine Miller H/M flew to Chicago to attend the Supreme Council meeting. She took a side trip to Utah to visit with her sister, Sylvia. Did you have fun?

An important question raised by Ray Buzak during the meeting "Why do we have Irish soda bread during a Lithuanian brunch"?

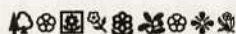
In need of cards, notes and prayers are Ann Gecevich and Stefa Armonas. Both had surgery recently, and are recuperating nicely. Also both sisters Genevieve Burnett and Eleanor Jakutis who have retired to St. Joseph's Manor. Do not forget Peter Radzwillas who is living with Parkinson's. Sincere get-well wishes to Ann Wargo--May she get well soon and stay healthy.

Our April meeting ended with a prayer led by Msgr. Pranckus for our council news editor Dalia Bulvičius. Grant her eternal--joy with You forever, dear Lord.

Happy father's day!!!



Changing of the guard...C-147, St. Petersburg, FL recently hosted a retirement party as new council president, John Jonaitis presents retiring pres. Anthony Gudonis with a plaque.



C-152, E. Long Island, NY *Julie M. Lott*

In the absence of Pres. Del Vance, our April 11th meeting was opened by Vice Pres. Muriel Lofmark and an opening Prayer read by Tom Tarmey. Then on with discussions of past and coming events.

The turnout for our March 14th, St Casimir's Celebration and Mass was a great success. To make it even more special we had thirteen native Lithuanians from towns and cities in Lithuania as guests. They all must enjoyed the festivities as they were all here again for our April meeting. We are hoping some will eventually join our council as new members. How nice to have them here.

Must also mention that Fred and Beatrice Lucka and Tom Tarmey were the recipients of the

Fourth Degree at the convention in Waterbury, CT. Congratulations Knights! And so while on the subject of Degrees, we have to give Felix Zorskis credit for all the work he's doing by updating the degrees and whatever else is necessary, like keeping records and points for each member. Thanks again Felix.

We skipped our May meeting because it fell on Mother's Day this year. Do hope all the Mothers had a very happy day.

So after our June meeting our council will skip the two months of July and August when so many members have other summer activities and family gatherings to attend. We do however have our **annual July Picnic at the Orient State Park.**

All members and guests are invited. Just pack a picnic lunch and come and enjoy the great outdoors, the beach and good company.

So until September, here's wishing everyone a safe, healthy and fun-time summer.

C-156, Shamokin, PA *Olympia Zelinski*

President Bob Wislock opened the meeting that was led in prayer by vice president, Dave Kinder. The treasurer's report was given by Rose Paczkoski.

Our May and June activities include a Summer Picnic Basket Raffle to reach our goal of \$1,000 for the seminary in Lithuania. Our recent spaghetti dinner and raffle proceeds were also for that cause.

Will have our annual picnic in June at Knoebels Grove. It will be a covered dish by the members, while the council will supply hotdogs and hamburgers.

The Amber District retreat in Maine will be attended by some of our members. We will also have someone represent our council at the convention and the banquet. At that time we will present our greeting and donations for the seminary and \$250 for Aid to Lithuania and to St.

Casimir's Guild.

Locally our donations of \$100 help to support the Shamokin Library and \$125 go to the scholarship fund at Lourdes High School.

At our meeting we had a guest speaker, Mr. Jim McCormack, from the U.S. Army who had recently visited Lithuania to serve

as a technical advisor to the Lithuanian Military Academy and the Iron Wolf Brigade. He presented some interesting slides and photos and was well received by all.

Members brought some delicious treats that were shared by all.



On the Calendar

June 11-13th, 1999

The Mid- America District Bowling Tournament - Dayton, Ohio

1999 National Convention

July 29-Aug. 1, 1999

Hosts: C-3, Philadelphia

District Meetings

Sept. 19, 1999

MAD District Meeting - Elections

Hosts: C-90, Kearny, NJ

Sept. 24-26, 1999

MCD Meeting - Pilgrimage

Hosts: C-25, Cleveland, OH

July 26, C-74 hosts:

2:30 Lithuanian Mass at St. Ann's Basilica in Scranton, PA

Aug. 14-15, 1999

Lithuanian Days
C-144- Anthracite Council
Contact: Anne Wargo
(717) 429-0132

Sept 25, 1999

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

October 3, 1999 - C-141

Bridgeport, Connecticut, is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a Dinner-Dance on For more information, contact Barbara Wilcinskas Schmidt at (203) 878-0519.

October 9, 1999 -Council-112 is planning a GRAND celebration of its 75th Diamond Jubilee at Nativity B.V.M. church and parish hall. Contact: Mrs. Julie Zakarka, chr.

Send in your district/council events at least 2 months in advance, to the editors to be included in this listing.

Webwatch

Did you know there's a wealth of information on the internet regarding Lithuania? One of the best ways to get started is to locate the website *Lithuania On Line* which has a great system of categorizing information from travel and accommodations, to government, business, news, customs and traditions, magazines, and even photography. Much of this information is in English, yet a lot is in Lithuanian. Some of the Lithuanian-only sites have a hard time with the accent marks and they may not read on your computer.

One of my favorites is the on-line version of the "In Your Pocket" Guides (www.inyourpocket.com) In the Klaipeda Guide, for instance, is a listing and explanation of all the area's museums complete with descrip-

tions and hours open. The Clock Museum tends to be a favorite with visitors and this clock and watch museum traces the history of timepieces from primitive calendars to nuclear clocks. A summer garden located in a sundial is the place to be when the post office carrion bells ring at noon, according to the guide.

It's invaluable to anyone planning a trip to Lietuva or just wanting to learn more about their Lithuanian heritage. Of course, like all websites, one should check for the validity of what is written, as the web is still in its infancy.

Share your favorite Lithuanian websites with us. Write editors at PO Box 1934, GSC, NY or email editor at Vytiseditor@juno.com



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED:

VYTIS (The Knight)
P.O. Box 32020
Chicago, IL 60632-0020

SS1 P6 444
 THE LITHUANIAN INFORMATION CENTER
 EDITOR'S EXCHANGE COPY
 5620 SOUTH CLAREMONT
 CHICAGO IL 60636

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Footprints in the Sand

Pėdos Smėly

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life, there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most, you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child. I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Vieną naktį žmogus sapnavo, kad jis su Viešpačiu ėjo pėsčias pajūry. Tada padangėje nušvito jojo gyvenimo vaizdai. Kiekviename vaizdelyje jis pastebėjo smėly pėdsakus; vieni buvo Viešpačio, kiti jo.

Kai paskutinė jojo gyvenimo scena nušvito prieš jo akis, jis pažvelgė atgal į pėdsakus smėly ir pastebėjo, kad dažnai jojo gyvenime pėdos smėly nebuvo matomos - tik Viešpaties atsižymėjo. Jis taipgi pastebėjo, kad jojo pėdų nesimate pačiais liūdniaisiais ir sunkiasiais jo gyvenimo laikotarpiais.

Šis įvykis jį taip kankino, kad jis pasiryžo iš Viešpaties gauti atsakymą, "Viešpatie, kai aš pasiryžiau sekti tave, tu žadėjai lydėti mane visuomet. Tačiau aš pastebėjau, kad mano sunkiausiose gyvenimo dienose tera ko tik vieni pėdsakai smėly. Negaliu suprasti kodėl tu mane apleidai tada, kai man tavo pagalbos reikėjo daugiausiai."

Viešpats atsakė, "Mano brangiausias, mieliausiasis vaikelis, aš myliu tave ir aš tavęs jokių būdu neapleisiu. Per tavo sunkiausias bandymo ir depresijos dienas, kai tu matei tik vieną porą pėdų smėly, tai buvo tada, kai aš tave savo rankose nešiau."

-author unknown (autorius nežinomas)
Išvertė Vincas Gražulis, C-25

