

Vytis



The Knight - Volume 85 No. 7



Liepa/Rugpjūtis - July/August 1999

VYTIS-THE KNIGHT
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
SUPREME COUNCIL
OFFICERS
1999

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis
 St. George's Rectory
 3580 Salmon Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19134
 (215) 739-3102

PRESIDENT

John R. Mankus
 1110 Darlene Drive
 Endicott, NY 13760
 tel/fax (607) 754-2429

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Agnes Mickunas
 333 Davis Avenue
 Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059
 (609) 931-3306

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Maryte Sepikas
 6143 Fulton, #8
 Van Nuys, CA 91401
 (818) 782-1248

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Maria Deksnis
 3330 W. 85th St.
 Chicago, IL 60652
 (773) 476-5896

RECORDING SECRETARY

Bernice Aviza
 8 Tremont Street
 Albany, NY 12205
 (518) 459-5256

TREASURER

John P. Baltrus
 118 Vine Street
 Jefferson Hills, PA 15025
 (412) 233-2764

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Rita S. Sussko
 1254 Grandview Ave.
 Union, NJ 07083
 (908) 686-4226

TRUSTEES

Richard Niedvares
 6817 N. Ridge Blvd.
 Chicago, IL 60645
 (773) 764-3996

Liepa/Rugpjūtis July/August 1999 Volume 85: No. 7

VYTIS (THE KNIGHT) (ISSN 0042-9384) is published monthly except bi-monthly July-August and September-October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, 2461 West 45th Place, Chicago, Illinois. 60632. Subscription is \$20.00 per year. Single copy \$3.00. Outside USA \$25.00 per year. Periodical Postage paid at Chicago, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to: VYTIS (The Knight), Business Manager, P.O. Box 32020, Chicago, Illinois 60632-0020.

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

William Kolicius
 9326 High Meadow Dr.
 Allison Park, PA 15101
 (412) 364-1622

AMBER DIST. President

Dorothy A. Banos
 11 Hill Top Road
 Pittston, PA 18640
 (717) 655-0976

MAMD President

Robert A. Martin, Jr.
 133 Lake St.
 Michigan City, IN 46360
 (219) 861-0731

MAD President

John J. Sakal
 P.O. Box 103
 Nesconset, NY 11767
 (516) 724-6998

MCD President

Frances Petkus
 800 Haldeman Ave.
 Dayton, OH 45404
 (937) 236-0395

NED President

William Piacentini
 133 Alto St.
 Cranston, RI 02920
 (401) 943-3495

LEGAL ADVISOR

Saulius V. Kuprys
 Henehan, Donovan, Issacson
 150 S. Wacker Dr. Rm. 1050
 Chicago, IL 60606
 (312) 346-5275

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Longinas Svelnis, Chair
 c/o ALKA
 37 Mery Crest Drive
 P.O. Box 608
 Putnam, CT 06260

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Loretta I. Stukas, Chair
 234 Sunlit Drive
 Watchung, NJ 07060
 (908) 753-5636
 Rev. Albert J. Contons
 Frances Petkus
 Anne Klizas Wargo
 Bertha Stoskus

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Regina Juska- Svoba, Chair
 1594 Beaupre
 Madison Heights, MI 48071
 (248) 547-2859

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS

Len Barcoucky
 7028 Flaccus Rd.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15202
 (412) 766-1499

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Faustas Strolia
 15325 Sequoia St.
 Oak Forest, IL 60452
 (708) 687-1430

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Clemencine Miller, Chair
 80 Cottage St.
 Trumbull, CT 06611-2830
 (203) 268-2350
 Georgianna Macke
 Joseph Zukas
 Irene Yanek
 Elsie Kosmisky

**SCHOLARSHIP
 COMMITTEE**

Irena Gecas-McCarthy, Chair
 30 Clinton Road
 Garden City, NY 11530
 (516) 746-0820

Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote
 Richard Schultz
 Charles Rupsis
 Karen Domalakes

AID TO LITHUANIA

Robert S. Boris, Chair
 Regina Juska- Svoba, Pres
 1594 Beaupre
 Madison Heights, MI 48071
 (248) 547-2859

ST. CASIMIR GUILD

Anna Klizas Wargo, Chair
 125 So. Morris Street
 St. Clair, PA 17970
 (717) 429-0132

K OF L FOUNDATION

Loretta I. Stukas, Chair
 (See address under Hon. Mem.)

*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.*

Table of Contents – Jurinys

To My Fellow Knights	2
Letters to the Editor	2
Report from the President - <i>John R. Mankus</i>	3
Christianity's Strength, Lithuania's Hope - <i>Thomas Papeika</i>	5
First Mass at St. Joseph Seminary	9
Summer Reading	10
Lithuanian Stamps	12
Popular Lithuanian Legends - <i>Edward Baranauskas</i>	13
The Battle of Žaigiris	14
Lithuanians in the News	16
The End of a Beautiful Happy Day - <i>Antonia M. Wackell</i>	19
Food for Thought - <i>Fr. Daniel Jankevicius</i>	21
Council News	22
On the Calendar	28
Back Page Poetry: There is Hope in Prayer - <i>Anna Helen McDonald</i>	
Cover Art: <i>Lithuanian Heroes</i> by <i>V. Kašuba</i> (c) 1984	



July-August Dates to Remember:

July 6, 1236 - Crowning of Mindaugas, Lithuanian Day of Statehood

July 15, 1933 - Pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girenas commenced their daring flight from New York's Floyd Bennett Field over the Atlantic Ocean. They had hoped to reach Kaunas, but crashed in a forest south of Soldin, Germany, losing their lives.

August 23, 1939 - Black Ribbon Day. The signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact between Hitler and Stalin

August 23, 1989 - About 2 million Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians joined hands and formed a human chain stretching from Vilnius to Tallinn, a distance of 650 kilometers, on the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

August 31, 1993 - The last former Soviet military unit leaves Lithuania.

TO MY FELLOW KNIGHTS

Hope to see many of you at the Knights of Lithuania convention in Philadelphia on July 29-Aug. 1. It's the one time of the year when I can spend some "quality time" not only with the Knights and extended Lithuanian family, but with my own mom and dad. It's an annual family reunion and each year they only get better.

This summer means my second journey to Lithuania in search of good material for upcoming VYTIS issues and a chance to capture some moments on digital film. I am seeking some great photos of Lithuania for future covers, so if Knights and readers have some, please send them to: Vytis editor, P.O. Box 1934, Grand Central Station, NY 10163-1934.

Have a relaxing summer and enjoy the issue!



Letters to the editor

C-3 Memories

Julie Kowrak (Eddie Antanitis' sister) of C-3 Phila. writes...

OUR CHILDHOOD

Our parents came from Lithuania in the early 1900's. However they met each other in Forest City Pennsylvania.

They were married in St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, a "Lithuanian" parish, also located in Forest City. Six children were born to them, three girls and three boys, (two of whom were twins).

Our father and mother were very hard workers. Father worked in the coal mines as a miner and our mother worked at home: making clothes, tending to a garden, raising farm animal including pigs, chickens, ducks and a cow; made sour cucumbers, apple pies, baked bread, made root beer, butter etc. Needless to say both parents were kept busy throughout the long day.

We never had much money, since a coal miner's salary was stretched very thin with a family of eight. However, the love shown by both of our parents well, that's something money could never buy.

At home we were spoken to in Lithuanian and taught many songs in my parent's native tongue, some dating back several centuries. Event hough life in general was difficult back in the days of the great depres-

sion my parents, brothers, sisters and I got along well as a family.

Music was a big part of our family life. One of my sisters played piano, the twins each played an instrument, one played a violin, the other the accordion, harmonica and any other instrument he could lay his hands on. Also, my sisters and I belonged to the church choir. We all went to church together. Stopping by the confessional to confess our sins and repent. Afterward apologies and kisses were exchanged with one another if an apology was in order.

During the holidays and especially at Christmas time, if we had been good, we would receive some fruit and candy in our stockings. Our one present for the holidays was mostly clothing or shoes. Christmas eve was celebrated with a traditional Lithuanian dinner know to us as Kučios. Our meal consisted of seven different foods, none of which was allowed to contain dairy products. This food was taken to church and blessed. Any type of meat, sweets or fats were strictly forbidden. At Easter, we joined in the procession, and if the weather was pleasant, we took part in the traditional walk around the outside St. Anthony's church and sang psalms about Christ's resurrection.

Once a year our parish priest would visit all the homes in the parish. As the priest would enter our house a blessing would be waved via his hand over the door. To this day I am still at a loss as to what the blessing was about. With our father leading our family we knelt (☞ to page 28)

Report on JBANC's Third Conference on Baltic Security

Lithuania's drive for NATO Membership

by *John R. Mankus,*
President, S.C. Knights of Lithuania

Report to K of L membership on my attendance at the JBANC's Third Conference on Baltic Security in Washington, DC, March 5-7 and meetings at the Lithuanian Embassy with Chairman of the PARLIAMENT (SEIMAS) and former President of Lithuania Vytautas Landsbergis.

This year's JBANC Conference was especially timely since it occurred only one month before the 1999 NATO Summit in Washington, DC. At this Summit, Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic will be formally admitted to the alliance.

Although no new candidates are anticipated, it is also expected that with new policies, NATO will keep the door open for additional members.

At the Conference, Chairman Algirdas Rimas in his message to the delegates made these key points:

JBANC has been and continues to be an ardent supporter of NATO enlargement which includes all qualified countries, especially Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Baltic security rests not only on alliances, but also on particular internal political, economic, military and human rights criteria. Regional cooperation, foreign assistance and business investment are additional features determining security in the Baltic region.

Mr. Rimas also indicated that a major development in 1998 was the signing of the "Baltic Charter" and the formation of the Baltic Caucus in the Senate and in the House of Representatives. He said, this conference will present an opportunity to present some of the key issues affecting Baltic countries and US - Baltic relations.

During the opening session at the Senate Russell Office Building, Capital Hill, I met Baltic Caucus members, Representative John Shimkus of Illinois, Senator Durbin of Illinois and Honorary



K. of K. President John R. Mankus with John Shimkus (House of Rep.-IL), Prof. Darius Furmanavičius and John Rackauskas (LAC, Inc. President)

Member Gerald Solomon, former Representative from NY. I had the opportunity to discuss Knights of Lithuanian activities with Representative John Shimkus, a fourth generation Lithuanian American.

At this session on "Foreign Policy and Activism", the panel was moderated by Mr. Karl Altai, Managing Director of JBANC, with speakers Mr. Stephen Biegun, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Ms. Asta Banionis, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Mr. Les Kuczynski, National Executive Director, Polish American Congress.

The speakers stressed cooperation, activism, involvement with right issues, use of the press, to reach out to other organizations, recruitment, to handle and answer criticism properly and to get the public involved. Most important of all to remember that democracy is a process. Senate Baltic Caucus Briefing and Award Presentations followed the Panel discussion. Following the Senate briefing, I met with staffs of NY Senators Charles Schumer and Daniel Patrick Moynihan and requested their support for Lithuania.

Later in the day, there was an administration briefing in the Indian Treaty Room at the Old Executive Office Building given by Mr. Stephen Flanagan, Special Assistant to the President and Mr. Charles



William Kolcius (K of L Trustee) with Vytautas Landsbergis (Chairman of Seimas), John R. Mankus (K. of L. President) Stasys Sakalauskas (Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S.)

Santangelo, NATO 50th Anniversary Summit Host Committee chairperson.

On the second day of the conference, Dr. John Rackauskas, JBANC President and President of Lithuanian American Council Inc., welcomed the delegates and introduced the Baltic Ambassadors to United States, H.E. Stasys Sakalauskas, Lithuania, H.E. Ojars Kalnins, Latvia and H.E. Kalev Stoicescu, Estonia.

Other conference panels included "Baltic Neighbors-Regional Perspectives", "Baltic Regional and European Integration", "Overview of US - Baltic Relations", "Baltic Candidacy for NATO Membership", "The Baltic Economies: Competitiveness and Integration", "Human Rights in the Baltic's" and "Trade and Investment in the Baltics".

Chairman of the Parliament Dr. Vytautas Landsbergis itinerary in Washington DC included meetings with Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Honorable Dennis Haster, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Congressman John Shimkus, Jan Nowak, Former VP of Polish American Congress, Senator Trent Lott, Senator Richard Durbin and other Baltic Caucus members of the Senate, Franklin Kramer, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Benjamin A. Oilman, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, John W. Warner, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and other private and Federal Government officials. Dr. Landsbergis also participated at several news conferences, lectures, state

receptions and JBANC Conference.

The main speaker at the closing banquet was Dr. Vytautas Landsbergis and his topic was titled "Lithuania and other Baltic States - Issues of Regional and European Integration". Dr. Landsbergis reviewed the struggle for Lithuanian Independence in the late 1980 and 1990, the negotiations with the USSR and his work as Chairman of the Commission for the New Constitution. He stressed Lithuanians' cooperation with all neighbors and the economic integration of Lithuania into Western Europe.

At the reception in the Lithuanian Embassy, Dr. Vytautas Landsbergis, presented the ORDER of GEDIMINAS to Representative Benjamin Gilman, of New York for outstanding service to Lithuania.

The next day at the Embassy, I attended a private meeting with Dr. Landsbergis, Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas and leaders of other Lithuanian American Organizations to exchange views and ideas on cooperation for mutual benefit of all. Six organizations attended the meeting at which Lithuanian was spoken. It was a good opportunity to express our opinions on a number of topics vital to Lithuanian American interest. Afterward I had an opportunity to discuss recent archeological discoveries in the city of Gardinas on Lithuanian Polish Commonwealth Statutes.

I found Dr. Landsbergis to be a very warm and down to earth person, very easy to talk with. He was the first president of Lithuania after regaining independence. During this visit. Dr. Landsbergis, an accomplished musician, performed in concert accompanied by his wife Gražina Ručyte-Landsbergiene, at the Coolidge Auditorium at the Library of Congress. The concert featured the musical works of Lithuanian composer Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis. It was enjoyed by all. This was a very worthwhile conference to participate in. It strengthened the voice of the Knights of Lithuania Organization in the Baltic-American Community and with Capital Hill, the Administration and Congress.



Krikščionybės Stripybė, Lietuvos Vitis

Christianity's Strength, Lithuania's Hope

By Thomas R. Papeika

Part II

Russification and Persecution

The Soviets continued the dual policy of Russification and persecution of the Church which had begun under the Tsarist regimes in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The first step in Russification was the eradication of the legal and governmental structures of independent Lithuania. The Soviets felt that the government in Lithuania should be modeled after the soviet socialist structures now operating in Moscow. Povilas Pakarklis, the chairman of the Lithuanian constitutional committee, proclaimed that "the constitutional commission followed the principles of the Stalin constitution, and took examples from the functioning constitutions of the other brotherly union republics" which were all a result of "Stalin's genius" The flowery praise of a co-opted Lithuanian speaking on behalf of a corrupt and illegal government did little to change the fact that by August 3, 1940, the Lithuanians had a new and largely unsympathetic puppet government to deal with--the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic.

With the new legal structures in place, attempts at Russification were accomplished in part through the mass deportation of ethnic Lithuanians. The deportations began before the Nazi occupation and continued after the war had ended. All of the people living along the western border were relocated in an attempt to isolate the Soviet empire from the West. This several kilometer wide area along the western frontier was declared a "death-zone" and no unauthorized personnel were permitted to travel across it. Throughout interior Lithuania so-called "undesirable elements" were relocated into the depths of the Soviet Union. These included, not surprisingly, police officers, political leaders and activist priests from the period of independence. But the soviets were so paranoid that they also exiled people who corresponded with families living abroad, former Red Cross workers, and collectors of foreign stamps!

By the end of May 1941 the Kremlin had decided to deport a third of the entire Lithuanian nation. The terror ensued at 4 AM on June 14, a day now commemorated in Lithuania as the Day of Mourning and Hope. Families to be deported were given only fifteen minutes to gather their personal belongings while agents of the NKVD (the forerunner to the KGB) searched the house. They were then taken to the railroad station where heads of families were suddenly separated from the rest of their loved ones and shipped off to "special camps" in boxcars. The Soviets gave specific instructions that the deportations and separations be done quickly and with surprise, so the families would not have time to react.

Between 30,000 and 40,000 persons were forced to leave Lithuania during this mid-summer's nightmare, and the total number of Lithuanians deported or killed outright by the end of 1941 reached 75,000. Priests were hunted down with special fervor, not only because of their ties to a religion that was essentially national in character, but also because of their dangerous western orientation by their allegiance to Rome. It seemed obvious to observers that the Communists hated the religious more than others. Obviously the Communists were attacking the very heart of Lithuanian culture--the families that formed the core of Lithuania and the religion which bound them together.

While the Soviets were busy deporting thousands of Lithuanians from their homeland, they were also importing thousands of ethnic Russians in an attempt to change the face of the Lithuanian nation. Many turned out to be "ruble immigrants," staying in Lithuania just long enough to earn some money and then returning to Russia. Some, however, did become permanent settlers. But unlike Estonia and Latvia, the Russians were never able to make significant inroads in changing dramatically the demographics of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic. Ethnic Lithuanians steadily made up about eighty percent of the population during the period from 1936-1989, while the Russian minority hovered somewhere between eight

and ten percent of the population. Of course, it should also be remembered that Jews made up a large minority in 1936, but after the Nazi occupation, Jews were virtually non-existent in Lithuania. For much of the twentieth century, Lithuania has endured attacks on its most precious natural resource--its people.

In another blatant attempt at Russification, the Soviets tried to expunge traditional Lithuanian place names that connected both the beloved Lithuanian landscape and the religion. The largest city in southwestern Lithuania, Marijamole (the City of Mary) was renamed Kapuskas by the Soviets to honor a famous Lithuanian Communist leader. Zemačiu Kalvarija (the Calvary of Samogitia) was changed to the soviet sounding Varduva. Many of the traditional wayside crosses--those wonderful and intricately carved shrines dotting the highways and byways of the Lithuanian countryside--were razed in the Communist effort to eradicate the religious and national identity of Lithuanians.

Besides the Russification of Lithuania, the Kremlin directed the persecution of the Church in the hopes of eliminating the Lithuanian national identity which had become so closely associated with the Church. Striking at the generational roots of Catholicism in Lithuania, the Soviets denied the clergy the right to instruct young people in the faith of their fathers, despite the fact that Article 96 of the constitution of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic provided for the separation of Church and state.

The clergy were incredibly determined and resilient in the face of Soviet persecution. For example, Father Algimantas Keina received a steep fine of fifty



Many of the traditional wayside crosses-- those wonderful and intricately carved shrines dotting the highways and byways of the Lithuanian countryside--were razed in the Communist effort to eradicate the religious and national identity of Lithuanians.

rubles for teaching religion to children. He was later subjected to an eighteen hour long house search and an overnight interrogation for his "crime." Father Antanas Seskevicius, the parish priest of Dubingai in the Moletai District, spent ten years (1946-1956) in a Siberian labor camp for catechizing the Lithuanian youth. After his release from the camp, he voluntarily returned to Siberia in order to minister to the Catholics that were there. The Soviets then promptly exiled him *from* Siberia back to Lithuania! In 1967, after the Soviets discovered that he was distributing Rosary beads to friends still in Siberia, he was sentenced to another year in a prison near Perm for "speculation." In 1970 he received a year's imprisonment in a strict regime camp for again teaching religion to children. It became apparent that the preservation of the faith meant also the preservation of national identity. The courageousness of the Lithuanians in defending their religion and their homeland proved to be a key factor in the continued resistance against the Russian oppressors.

The Soviets also tried to secularize the religious holidays and customs in Lithuania which had become increasingly nationalistic. It is well known that All Souls Day holds a special place in the heart of Lithuanians. Cemetery visits and placing flowers on graves had long been commonplace, but in the post-war period, these observances were combined with patriotic elements as well. Candles were placed on the graves of those who died in battle for Lithuanian independence, and now not only religious hymns were sung in the ceremony, but also patriotic songs and the national anthem. In 1940 B.Baranauskas, the Acting People's Commissar for the Interior of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Lithuania, viewed these observances as anti-Soviet demonstrations, and sent undercover police

to arrest people for anti-government activities.

The Communists also stipulated by law that their own, non-religious holidays be observed. These included the anniversary of the death of Lenin, the day of Lithuania's incorporation into the Soviet Union, the day of International Communist Solidarity (May Day), The commemoration of the Octoberist Revolutions, and so on. The Soviet holidays never enjoyed widespread popularity or enthusiasm, while the church holidays continued to be celebrated with great vigor.

In a similar vein, the Soviets tried to secularize certain sacraments which the Church has traditionally performed. The Church had the right of civil registry, that is, recording births, deaths, marriages, and so forth, taken away from them by the Communists. Here again, the Soviets wanted nothing less than to reduce the power and influence of the national church to such an extent that the Soviet regime would take its place. In an attempt to replace the baptism ceremony at which newborns were not only entered into the Church but also registered civilly, the Soviets concocted a quasi-religious ceremony of their own. The proud parents of the newborn would go to the offices of the local registrar. For the occasion, the government office would be adorned with flowers, a baby carriage, and the local orchestra playing an appropriate Soviet fanfare for the occasion. Representatives from the district, usually party members in good standing, would fill the role of the "god-parent," called by the communists "name-parent." All involved would be required to sign the following pledge:

A new person has been born. It is our collective farm's and the entire district's day of jubilation. There has come into our community still another builder of communism, a new member of the Communist community. Whatever he will be -collective farmer, doctor, engineer--our primary duty is that he grow morally sound. . . . We accept the duty of protecting him, so that the moldy fingers of the outworn remains of the past do not touch him and the shadow of the cross does not darken his life's bright dawn. Carefully we will guard his first steps, so that he does not stray from the single path that leads to communism.

Similarly, the Communists developed civil marriage ceremonies of their own. Marriages were performed on alternating Saturdays in the district cultural

center, where the state would again provide decorations and an orchestra.

Atheistic funerals, however, caught on less readily. Party members themselves often received Church burial. Certain forms of punishment awaited those who participated in a religious burial, though. For example, a communist Party member and high school principal at Skapiskis lost his position in the school because he was found guilty of passively allowing his friends to recite the Rosary around the coffin of his deceased mother.

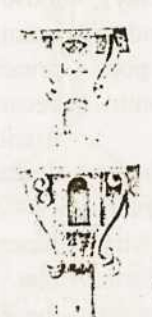
If the Soviets could not eliminate religious funerals, they would at least try to make them more secular. Father B. Laurinavicius, a priest at the time of these persecutions, recalled that priests were ordered to take off their vestments and walk at the rear of a funeral procession if they insisted on attending a funeral at all in order that the appearance of a religious burial would be suppressed. In the final analysis, the Soviet attempts at secularizing the sacraments were a complete failure. The Communists underestimated the Lithuanian people's dedication to their religion, and in the face of such strong support for the Church, the Soviets failed to supplant religious ritual.

In a well-known program, the Soviets closed many churches, converting them to use as museums, warehouses, concert halls, and the like. By 1966, almost half the churches in Lithuania were closed. Out of the 574 that remained open, Soviet law stipulated that they could be closed too if they could not meet their tax assessment, if they could not pay their utility bills, if the building was "too old," if the site was needed for residential construction, etc. The legal door was open for closing the remaining churches with ease, especially considering the other ways that the government skewed the situation against the Church. Father Vladas Slevas complained that members of collective farms had to pay 4 kopieks per kilowatt-hour for electricity while churches had to pay 25. Priests were forbidden from taking up collections in their parishes, so it was easy for a church to fall into debt. Again, the Soviets failed to realize that the vitality of the Church in Lithuania lies not in its physical plant, but in the hearts of the Lithuanian people. The closing of the churches only served to strengthen the resolve of the faithful in opposing the Communists.

Of course, attacks on religious education, holidays, the sacraments, and church buildings are attacks on the body of the church. The Soviets also directed their efforts at the Church's head--the clergy. In the eyes of the Communists, the clergy were an enemy of the people and had to be persecuted. In October of 1940 the head of the NKVD, Gladkov, issued detailed instructions to the chairmen of the county branches of the GPU, organizing their struggle against the "enemy clergy." All priests, nuns and monks were to come under what Gladkov called "control." Spies were put into church's as organists and sacristans so that information on the priests could be gathered. Priests were also given no state salary, could not take up collections, and had to pay a special higher clergy tax. This was to financially disadvantage the clergy so that they would waver in their "idealistic opinion" and be more susceptible to Soviet bribes. In the year of mass deportations between 1939 and 1940, fifteen priests were shot, eighteen jailed, and nine deported to Russia.

Between 1945 and 1953, approximately 330 priests were exiled or imprisoned. Priests faced charges for cultivating deviant bourgeois nationalism, violating Soviet cult regulations, keeping unlawful records, providing charity, pilfering parish funds, and obstructing the education of the youth. Priests were even forbidden from cutting grass in church cemeteries because the cemeteries were now considered public land and cutting the grass on this public land was considered "willful destruction of public property."

Unfortunately many priests could not bear the pressure of persecution, and some were recruited into the apparatus of state control. The important compilation of Soviet abuses, *Leituvos Kataliku Bažnyčios Kronika*, that is, *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church* (known simply as the Chronicle) recounts numerous tales of priests working for the KGB, of whom Monsignor Krivaitis and Father S. Lydzius of the Neris River area are just two. The co-opted clergy were forced to write letters condemning the pope. Many, of course, refused to do so, and their stories are told in the Chronicle as well. But the unfaithful clergy who



The Soviets closed many churches, converting them to use as museums, warehouses, concert halls, and the like.

worked primarily for the State rather than for their Church and their country were becoming a growing problem in occupied Lithuania. The state had infiltrated those seminaries allowed to stay open, and these became tools of the state for political rather than religious indoctrination. Ultimately, the training of priests was forced underground, where the force of state control could not be felt. It was in this clandestine way that true Catholicism and patriotic nationalism was kept alive in Lithuania.

Through the attempts at Russification, which would later be termed "mankurtizaton" in Lithuanian circles--a term referring to the forcible elimination of national memory--and through the persecutions against the Church, the Soviets put themselves into a double bind. Further suppression of the Church seemed to only intensify the feelings of nationalism, while an easing of the pressures brought demands for more autonomy. The much touted "thaw" of the early Khrushchev years resulted in a relaxation of

the tensions between Church and State, but which also resulted in a resurgence of faith and confidence among the faithful. Compounding the problem of Lithuania for the regime was that the Lithuanians were able to develop a distinctive cultural life under the oppressive Soviet strictures, aided by the clergy in preserving Lithuanian traditions through the Church. The period of the thaw, then, did little more than to give hope to the Lithuanians, to fan the smoldering flame of nationalism which had been burning since the turn of the century. When policy once again hardened in the renewed chill after the thaw, dissent and nationalism would together rise, culminating in the apex of modern Lithuanian history--reclaimed independence in January of 1991.

***Coming in November issue...Part III (conclusion)
Manifestations of Dissent and Nationalism***

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





First Mass Celebrated at St. Joseph Provincial Seminary in Vilnius

The first Mass of Fr. Vidas Balcius, Prefect of Studies was celebrated at the Seminary chapel. (photos counterclockwise) Bottom photo shows the ordination of eight deacons at the Vilnius Cathedral. (Photos courtesy of the Seminary)



Aid to Lithuania, Inc. is seeking funds to "adopt" seminarians by paying for a year's study at St. Joseph Seminary.



SUMMER READING LIST

For those of us who enjoy reading more new books over the summer months, here's a selection of the most popular books about Lithuania available on the Internet's two largest bookstores, beginning with Amazon.com



Barnes and Noble offers an extensive selection of books on Lithuania, in both their stores and on line. Books are displayed below in bestselling order.

Beginning With My Streets : Essays and Recollections

Czeslaw Milosz, Madeline G. Levine (Translator); Hardcover; \$27.00

Guide to Lithuania (Bradt Guides)

Rasa Avizienis, et al; Paperback; \$13.45

Lithuania: The Nation That Would Be Free

Stephen Chicoine, Brent K. Ashabranner; Hardcover; \$15.29

Lithuania: The Rebel Nation (Westview Series on the Post-Soviet Republics);

Vytas Stanley Vardys, et al; Paperback; \$21.50
Hardcover; \$60.00

Lithuania Through the Wall: Diary of a Ten-Day Visit to My Native Land; Algimantas Kezys;

Paperback; \$14.35

Showdown: The Lithuanian Rebellion and the Breakup of the Soviet Empire; Richard J. Krickus;

Hardcover; \$22.46

Atlaidai: Lithuanian Pilgrimages: Photographs; Romualdas Požerskis (Photographer), Algimantas Kezys (Editor); Hardcover; \$24.95

Lithuanian Celebrations: Lietuviu Šventes

(Lithuanian-American Ethnic Encyclopaedia Ser); Algimantas Kezys (Editor), et al; Paperback; \$15.00

Night of the Hawk

Dale Brown / Mass Market Paperback / Date Published: April 1993, price \$6.39

Lonely Planet Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

John Noble, Nicola Williams, Robin Gaudie / Paperback / Date Published: July 1997
Price: \$15.96

The Baltic Revolution: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the path to Independence

Anatol Lieven / Paperback / Date Published: August 1994 Price: \$13.60

The Jews of Lithuania: A History of a Remarkable Community 1316-1945

Masha Greenbaum / Hardcover / Date Published: October 1995 Price: \$20.96

One More Border : The True Story of One Family's Escape from War-Torn Europe

William Kaplan, Stephen Taylor, Shelley Tanaka / Hardcover / Date Published: October 1998
Price: \$13.26

The Baby Boat: A Memoir of Adoption

Patty Dann / Paperback / Date Published: May 1999
Price: \$9.56

Thanks to My Mother

Schoschana Rabinovici, Mirjam Pressler, Shoshanah Rabinovits / Hardcover / Date Published: March 1998
Price: \$12.59

In Search of Sugihara: The Elusive Japanese Diplomat Who Risked His Life to Rescue 10,000 Jews from the Holocaust
Hillel Levine, Designed by Carla Bolte / Hardcover / Date Published: October 1996
Price: \$17.50



The Baltic Revolution : Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Path to Independence
Anatol Lieven / Hardcover / Date Published: June 1993 Price: \$26.25

The Baltic States : The Years of Independence : Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, 1917-1940
Georg Von Rauch, Gerald Onn (Translator) / Paperback / Date Published: February 1996
Price: \$19.95

From Russia to Kaliningrad: The Case of Russian Transit Rights through Lithuania
Audrius Lazdinis, Jeanne Hey / Hardcover / Date Published: January 1996 Price: \$3.50

Lithuania: New and Selected Poems
Myra Sklarew / Paperback / Date Published: September 1995 Price: \$12.95

The Karaites Communities of Poland, Lithuania, Russia and Crimea
Mourad El-Kodsi / Paperback / Date Published: March 1993 Price: \$14.95

Showdown: The Lithuanian Rebellion and the Breakup of the Soviet Empire
Richard J. Krikus / Hardcover / Date Published: August 1996 Price: \$17.46

Patronage and Politics in the U. S. S. R.
John P. Willerton / Hardcover / Date Published: January 1992 Price: \$69.95

To be soon released

Lithuania

Gordon McLachlan / Paperback / Published: July 1999

Have You Forgotten Me?

HELLO, remember me? Some people call me Old Glory; others call me the Stars and Stripes and the Star Spangled Banner. But whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America. Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you...because it is about you and me. I remember some time ago people lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parades and naturally I was leading every parade, proudly, waving in the breeze. When your father saw me coming he immediately removed his hat and placed it against his left shoulder so that his hand was directly over his heart..... Remember?

And you, I remember you, standing there straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat but you were giving the right salute. Remember little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you with her hand over her heart...Remember? What happened? I am still the same old flag. Oh, I have a few more stars



since you were a boy. A lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago.

But now I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets and I may get a small glance and then you look away. Then I see the children running and shouting...They don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take off his hat then look around. He didn't see anyone else with theirs off so he quickly put his back on. Is it a sin to be patriotic any more? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been?...Anzio Guadalcanal, Korea, Vietnam. Take a look at the Memorial Honor Rolls sometime of those who never came back to keep this republic free. One nation under God...When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, when I come down the street in the future and when you see me, stand straight, place your right hand over your heart and I'll salute you by waving back. And, I'll know that you remember!!!

Lithuanian Stamps



Stamp collecting is a great pastime for young and old alike and one can get started by turning onto the Internet's Lithuania on line site to explore the philately of Lithuania website and others. Pictured above are modern 1998 Lithuanian issues along with early century woodcuts.

POPULAR LITHUANIAN LEGENDS

by Edward Baranauskas

The Legend of Puntukas

Puntukas, (pronounced Puhn-took-us), is a rock on the site of the ancient forest of Anykščiai (pronounced Ah-neeksh-chay).

It being the largest rock in Lithuania, it is said that an angry devil was carrying this rock late at night, intending either to demolish the Church of Anykščiai, or to dam the Šventoji (pronounced Shventoy-ye) River and flood the town of Anykščiai. But, when the devil approached the sacred oaks in the forest of Anykščiai, and heard the roosters crow, the devil had to depart for the infernal regions, dropping the rock, then and there.

This story, which speaks about the pagan sacred oaks and the Christian church, apparently originated in the days when the Lithuanians were still mixing their old faith with the new.

Puntukas

Puntukas is the best known landmark in Lithuania. It is located along the road from Anykščiai (6 km.) to Kurkliai. It is a pink granite boulder dragged from the north by the last glacier, weighing 265 tons.

In older times, Puntukas was considered sacred and served as an altar for sacrificial offerings.

The boulder is one of the rare natural monuments in the country, and is maintained as such.

Its proximity to the forest of Anykščiai, celebrated in verse by the poet Antanas Baranauskas, makes Puntukas a popular tourist attraction.

In 1943, the sculptor Bronius Pundzius carved, on the stone's flat side, bas-relief portraits of the Lithuanian transatlantic fliers Darius and Girenas, together with excerpts from their testament.



Kastitis

The Amber Kingdom

The Baltic Coast is often referred to as the amber coast. Many legends and stories have been told about amber. At the dawn of our era, the Roman poet, Ovid told us the sad story of Phaethon, son of Helios, the sun god. Amber, the poet claims, is nothing but the petrified tears shed by his mother, the nymph Clymene, and his sisters over his early death. Legends about amber were also told in Lithuania, inspired by the romantic Lithuanian seaside scenery.

As the legend goes, it happened long, long ago, when Perkunas still ruled the other gods, and Goddess Jurate lived in an amber castle at the bottom of the Baltic Sea. She was the fairest of all goddesses, but human love was unknown to her.

A brave fisherman named Kastitis was catching fish with his net in the place where the river Šventoji flows into the sea. The fair Jurate sent her mermaids to tell Kastitis not to fish in her kingdom, for she did not want him to disturb the Baltic waters and her fishes. But the young man did not obey her. The goddess fell passionately in love with the brave, and handsome culprit and lured him into her amber castle. When Perkunas heard this, he became terribly angry. It did not behoove an immortal goddess to love a simple fisherman. He struck the amber castle with a thunderbolt, killed Kastitis, and chained Jurate to the ruins of her castle.

Ever since, Jurate has been weeping, day and night, over her dead lover. Her sobs and moans upset even the cold, and imperturbable, sea depths, which begin to seethe and storm, casting onto the shore fragments of the amber castle. The fine grains of amber found in the sand are Jurate's tears, as pure and virginal, as was her brief and tragic love.

This legend inspired, and continues to inspire, poets, composers, and artists in Lithuania.

The bronze statues of Jurate and Kastitis stand at the head of the pier in Palanga. ***

The Battle of Žaigiris

Matejko, a Polish artist of Czech origin, completing it in 1878.

This panoramic painting portrays the climax of the battle while the focus is on the leaders of the opposing armies. Vytautas while mounted on his horse, revels in the ecstasy of his victory. Ulrich von Jungingen, the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order, is pictured fighting through the last moments of his life.

Both leaders of the victorious allied armies were Lithuanians. Vytautas' cousin

Jogaila was ethnically Lithuanian. He and his descendants ruled

Poland from 1386 until 1572. Jogaila spent most of the battle praying while Vytautas fought.

The battle is steeped in the history of both Lithuania and Poland. Every kid in both countries can rattle off countless details about this historic fight. The field of

Grunwald is a holy place in Poland

and a place of pilgrimage for school kids and adults. There is a magnificent monument there. However, the battle is much less known in other countries.

The victory at Žaigiris (also known as the Battle of Grunwald

or Tannenberg, the names of the villages) on July 15, 1410 was a turning point in relations between Lithuania and the German Teutonic Order. It blocked German raids on Lithuania which had lasted for two centuries. Having secure borders in the Baltic region, Vytautas the Great was able to pay more attention to the East and take over huge swaths of Russian land, including Kursk in the east and the land along the Black Sea in the south.

"Every Lithuanian has seen 'The Battle of Žaigiris'. It is more than just a painting. It is the memory of the nation," says artist Aloyzas Stasiulevicius.

This original masterpiece is normally displayed at the National Museum in Warsaw. From April through mid-July 1999 it will be Vilnius' turn to display the popular 13x33 foot Battle of Žaigiris, painted by Jan



On the morning of the fight, Vytautas' army comprised of about 12,000 knights, not including infantry forces. In Soviet times, historians were obliged to emphasize the contribution of Russians in the Lithuanian army, mentioning regiments from Smolensk (Today, it is part of Russia).

However, Vytautas the Great would be rather surprised to discover "Russians" in his forces. At that time, Lithuania was the biggest country of Europe, three times bigger than Poland. For some centuries, Smolensk was as Lithuanian as Kaunas. There were also some Tartar mercenaries in Vytautas' army.

Vytautas' ally, Jogaila, had an army that was roughly 14,000 knights strong.

Meanwhile, the German Teutonic Order led by Von Jungingen, had 27,000 knights, including regiments of French, English and Swiss mercenaries.

It was a fierce clash where swords, spears and cudgels were swung through the air. The battle lasted 10 hours. Lithuanian and Polish forces routed the enemy at the end of the day's heavy fighting. Von Jungingen was killed.

"Before the battle, Polish envoys to the repre-

sentatives of the Teutonic Order said, "The enemies of Lithuania are our enemies," Kwasniewski said. "It is important to remember that now."

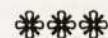
Former Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said, "I'll bring my grandchildren to this exhibition to let them see how all the knights of the whole of Europe lay under the feet of Vytautas the Great."

On July 15, the anniversary of the battle and the day before the exhibit comes to an end, the Lithuanian flag will be raised on every building.

And if that isn't enough, Lithuanians can take comfort in being reminded of this proud day in their history every time the Kaunas Žalgiris basketball club plays. The team was named in honor of the famous battle.

Advertisements for the team in the local media picture Kaunas players on

the landscape of the Matejko masterpiece. Everyone is speaking about the "new" Battle of Žalgiris.



From an article by R. Tracėviškas, TBT, 4/22/99

Art: (pg. 14) Vytautas the Great by V. Kašuba

(above) woodcut from Bielskis' Chronicle of 1564



Traveling to Lithuania to meet your relatives...

Share your experiences with your fellow Knights and VYTIS readers. Send us copy and photos of your adventure for future issues.

Want to get involved with your heritage?

Become a VYTIS writer or editor. Send us a letter or email with your ideas.

Want to leave your children a Lithuanian legacy?

Send them a gift subscription to VYTIS, only \$20 per year. Send check to VYTIS Business Manager, P.O. Box 32020, Chicago, IL 60632-0020



Lithuanians in the news

K of L'er - Anne Wargo Discovers Her Roots

Her entire life, Saint Clair, PA resident Anna K. Wargo had heard about relatives in Lithuania, but none of her family members in America had heard from them since World War II. "We lost all contact with them during the war," said Wargo, of Saint Clair. "And after that, while the Communists were controlling Lithuania, you were afraid to even try."

After 50 years, Anna and her distant kin have linked up again a discovery that occurred almost by accident in June 1997.

Her nephew, James F. Klizas, sent out a search for family members over the Internet. He was seeking possible relatives in the United States and was surprised when his search turned up just one name, Pieter Klizas.

It turned out that Pieter Klizas was a professor of hydrogeology and assistant dean of the University of Vilnius in Lithuania.

Wargo, who speaks and writes Lithuanian, and Pieter Klizas began corresponding, tentatively at first, and together determined that Pieter was Wargo's nephew.

"It turned out that my father and his grandfather were brothers," Wargo said. "It was really quite a surprise, after all that time. I was very excited."

After corresponding for nearly a year, Wargo got a second surprise. As a gift, James Klizas invited her on a trip to Lithuania.

So aunt and nephew set out together to explore their heritage in June 1998. When they arrived in Vilnius, they were welcomed into Pieter's home, which he shares with his wife, Vlada, and daughter, Kristina, II.

"At the airport, Pieter stood waiting for us with a large sign with 'Klizas' written on it, and a dozen long-stemmed roses for me," Wargo said. "We were very much welcome."

The following morning, they all traveled to Anglianinkai, a small village in the province of Jeznis. There, they were introduced to 10 more relatives who traveled to the family farm to meet their Schuylkill County kin.

A party welcomed Wargo and James Klizas at the



Illinois Governor George H. Ryan meets with Lithuanian Consul General Giedas Apoukas of Lithuania at the 18th Annual Gold Medallion Ball held earlier this year

family farm. Surrounded by merry relatives, Wargo was crowned with a hat made from maple leaves and beads of amber were strung around her neck.

"They had presents for us, and they were as happy to see us as we were them," Wargo said. "They felt, just like we did, sad that contact had been lost during the war."

"It was eight wonderful days," she said. "The best part was going to the house where my father had been born."

Wargo's father, Charles Klizas, was born in Anglianinkai in 1883. Ironically, "Anglianinkai" means "coal miner's town," as it was built by men who had traveled to America to work in the coal mines.

Both her parents were Lithuanian immigrants who met, married and lived their entire lives in Saint Clair. Her mother, Anna Kralickas Klizas, was born in the village of Bartininkai. Kralickas was visiting a sister in Saint Clair when she and Klizas met.

"They both had the intention of returning to Lithuania, but they met, courted for six months and then they were married," Wargo said. "They were happy to be American citizens."

Wargo also traveled to her mother's native village, but all records there had been destroyed during the Communist reign.

"We couldn't find out anything about her," she said. That was disappointing, but there was plenty to discover about the family heritage nonetheless "I met these wonderful, nice people, not just in my family, but everywhere I went," Wargo said. "Most of the family was col-

lege- educated, a lot of teachers, and they lived pretty much like we do."

One surprise was that the farm — equipped with electricity and even a television set — had no running water.

"One little boy laughed the first time I had to go to the bathroom, because he knew we didn't still use an outhouse," Wargo said. "The cities are very advanced, but in the country everything is about 50 years behind."

After spending four days with the family, the rest of the trip was used to visit points of interest.

They visited cathedrals, which were reopened after 50 years of Communist prohibition of the Catholic faith, and the Hill of Crosses in Saiulai, where thousands of wooden crosses were built by local mourners in memorial to those who had died.

The KGB museum in Vilnius and the graves of her grandparents were also on the itinerary.

Wargo said she hopes to return to Lithuania.

"The cathedrals were always full, and the people were wonderful. Everywhere we went we were well received."

Wargo says she now corresponds with everyone she met on that trip.

"We all wrote and sent each other little things at Christmas," Wargo said. "We're not going to lose touch again."

- From *Pottsville Republican*,
Jan. 8, 1999 by Gerry Ulicny

Raimonda Mikatavage Pens Second Book

Raimonda Mikatavage, is the author of a new book titled, **Immigrants and Refugees: Create Your New Life in America**, one of the most comprehensive and informative books available for newcomers to the United States. The book was a finalist in the 1999 Independent Publisher Book Awards, Multi-cultural Non-Fiction category. It has been endorsed by the Immigration & Refugee



Raimonda Mikatavage

Services of America, World Relief Corporation, Multicultural Review, the TESOL Journal, and the Maryland Office for New Americans. The book will be printed in Russian, and has already been published in Lithuanian, Spanish, and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian.

Raimonda came to the United States as a refugee in 1972 from soviet-occupied Lithuania, and is the author or another book, *Your Journey to Success: A Guide for Young Lithuanians*, which has been published in Lithuania titled - *Tavo Kelias I Sekme*. She has received a Governor's Citation from Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening and

serves on the Maryland Advisory Council for New Americans. She also hosts a cable show called "Dreams in Action", which gives special focus to the achievements of immigrants.

A member of the K of L, C-144, Raimonda resides in Hampstead, Maryland with her husband, James and daughter, Brigita. (*Mrs.*) *Bemice Mikatavage, C-144*

Lithuania to Participate in Schengen Accord

Shipping goods from outside the European Union (EU) into one member country is a problem because of quota or other restrictions, it may be possible to ship the goods to another EU country and from there into the problem country under the Schengen Accord.

This Accord requires that signatories open their borders to each other so that there is truly free movement of goods and persons among member countries. While the Accord has so far included only western European countries, including Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain, Lithuania is now joining. Visa requirements for travel between Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, and the existing Schengen Accord members are being dropped over the next few months.

--*World Trade Magazine - June 1999*





C-144 member, Mary A. Koons, of Shenandoah, PA, crowns the Blessed Mother during the annual May Crowning ceremony presented by the Greater Shenandoah Area Senior Citizens. With her are her niece, Gabriel, and husband, John.

-From the Pottsville Republican & Eve. Herald, May 7, 1999, photo by Andy Matso

American Entrepreneurs in Lithuania

Cynthia J. Pasky of Detroit, MI and her husband visited Lithuania last summer to explore her grandparents' home country, but the trip ended in far more than a sentimental journey.

Pasky decided to take her Detroit information technology consulting firm international by opening its first overseas operation there.

Pasky, owner and chief executive of Strategic Staffing Solutions, hopes the move will allow her 9-year-old company to double in size during the next year. The company, with headquarters in the Penobscot Building in downtown Detroit, has 550 employees in eight U.S. cities with \$30 million in annual sales.

"Opening an office in Lithuania creates an international dimension to our operations," said Pasky, who has lived in Detroit since 1986. "This expansion will allow us to meet the global needs of our current customers and to pursue more business in other countries."

Plans call for Strategic Staffing Solutions to have two offices in Lithuania. A marketing office will be in the capital city of Vilnius and a recruiting office will be established in Kaunas.

Pasky's threefold strategy for Lithuania:

- To generate new business with major companies in the Baltic and Nordic regions.
- To recruit new employees. The Kaunas office is near three large universities that offer information technology degrees. Pasky hopes she can hire the students and

graduates to fill a void of computer programmers in the United States.

- To create a center big enough so she can take some business from the United States and send it to specialists in Lithuania for completion.

John Carroll, director of international business development for the Detroit Regional Chamber, said he's happy to see Pasky opening the overseas offices.

"There is a benefit for Detroit because it makes us more of an international place," Carroll said. "In this globalizing economy, companies need to start partnerships in overseas places.

"The world is getting smaller. The competition isn't just coming from across the street, but across the world."

Strategic Staffing Solutions is much like Compuware Inc. in Farmington Hills or Syntel Inc. in Troy, both of which provide a wide variety of computer-related services to businesses.

Besides addressing the Y2K problem, the company manages software, provides programmers and handles other computer-related needs. The company's client list includes the city of Detroit, Kmart Corp. and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

The key to the success of Strategic Staffing Solutions is being able to move when opportunities arise, Pasky said. "If you do a good job, windows of opportunities open up," she said. "You have to have the resources to respond when they do."

-Detroit News, 6/1999 submitted by T. Medonis, C-102

THE END OF A BEAUTIFUL *happy* DAY

Antonia M. Wackell

As we struggled up the steep stairs to reach the summer sleeping quarters in the attic, Barbora, the leader, startled her panting friends to apprise them that "Ačiū Dievui, Buvo graži, linksma diena." (Thank God, it was a beautiful happy day.) A ploy, they suspected, to give herself a brief rest, because she also was short-winded like her friends.

Admitting that it had been a happy day - "Iki šiol" (up to now), nonetheless, they ordered her to continue climbing "Griečiau!" (Hurry up!) secretly looking forward to the chairs in Barbora's room.

Her large room, they thought, was pleasant and peaceful, even though it was sparsely furnished. To compensate for the narrow cot upon which she slept, there was a nice round table on which rested, a kerosene lamp that brightened, the room with its cheerful light.

Half the floor space was covered with a well-worn rug, three unadorned but comfortable chairs and a "komoda" (bureau). No curtains shut out the twilight, nor prevented the cool breeze from floating in through the single open window. Delighted with cool welcome, the friends promptly dropped into Barbora's empty chairs. Hanging on the wall, a large calendar, featuring a pompadoured beauty, indicated that the year was 1910.

As usual, once settled, the friends held to their nightly routine; reviewing the day's problems, and also the good things that happened.

So now, they began with the Sunday sermon, crowded church, music, and of special interest - marriage announcements and banns.

Then, they recalled, how at sunset, boys and girls outside, absorbed in their various games, instantly abandoned them when the sound of music drifted in from the distance. Immediately, they organized themselves into a column to parade up and down, singing and shouting "Oh, mien lieber Augustine, Augustine, Augustine! Oh, the German band is coming, it's coming, it's coming!"

The friends marveled at the sudden appearance of wooden orange crates and chairs that lined the sidewalks for parents to occupy, while the curbstones would, be the

favorite seats for children - all, ready and waiting, for the enjoyable concert soon to happen.

Since sound travels, people from the hill had ample time to come and join the residents below. With their instruments and tubas, the band positioned itself in the space where the two streets met. The lively music captivated the eager audience and inspired the children to hop, skip and dance.

Even the in-bound and out-going trolley cars idled for a spell to enjoy the music with these young Americans. The selections played were favorites and familiar to many, so that the listeners were moved to clamor for encores in a blend of foreign tongues. All too soon, the band had to march on, to another community, to please another audience.

Having retraced the day's events, Juzyte suggested that Barbora bring out of her bureau, the booklet of forecasts, and a supply of "kamuoliuku" (pellets). The pellets, originally, were crumbs of soft bread rolled into tiny balls. The booklet contained a zodiac-like circle divided into numbered sections. Each one took turns dropping her pellet very carefully onto the page, and when it stopped on a number, that number on a preceding or following page revealed, a message, hint, advice or expectation.

Whether Barbora's pellets were not as round as peas, or they lacked some inner energy to roll - no one knew, for they seldom rolled beyond number 11, which informed Barbora that she would meet a "juodbruvy" (dark-haired man) in the future.

Barbora always scoffed at the prospect, always repeating her ascertainment that "Dar ne! Dar ne! Laivas su juodbruvio dar neatplauke!" (Not yet! Not yet! The ship with the dark haired man has not yet come.) Of course, no one believed that collection of printed hints and advice, but they were amusing, and some times became subjects for discussion. The friends admitted that it helped to pass the time away. Finally, Petronele, repressing a yawn (the clock showed nine on its face) rose and said, "Seses, vakaras trumpas, bumbininkas tuo jaus plepes ir guolas laukia." (Sisters, the night is short, soon the alarm clock will clatter and bed is waiting.) The beds were soon

occupied. Silence prevailed in the small house as its occupants slept in their beds.

Every night before Petronele surrendered to sleep, she always locked her door, always whispered, to herself "Niekad nežinai kas bus." (You never know what will happen.) So we never knew nor heard the attempt to open our door until shouts, thumps and screams of "Vagis! Vagis! Vagis! Dykaduonis!" (Thief, Thief, Thief, Good-for-nothing!) woke us up.

Petronele leaped out of bed, dashed across the room, opened the door to confront a furious Barbora in her long nightdress, swinging a broom at 'something'. The 'something' was a figure trying desperately to avoid the whacks and save itself from being broomed down a long flight of stairs.

Somehow, during the confusion and sudden appearance of assistants, the victim managed to outsmart the twirling terror and to disappear. Quick-witted, unhampered by his apparel, he had escaped, by sliding down the banisters, unbolted the door, leaped over the steps and out of sight -- "Dingo kaip žaibas!" (Vanished like lightning!) exclaimed the bewildered friends.

It was then noted that Juzyte's manner of "Išpertį kailį" (Sock him) was a feather pillow, whereas, Petronele's weapon of defense was the chamberpot. Each gripped her instrument of punishment for the invader in her right hand, while the left hand held up the side of a long nightdress.

Defeated and frustrated, Barbora was speechless as she bolted the door. Regaining her voice with a deep breath, she suddenly shouted, demanded to know who, in the entire dwelling, had forgotten to lock the door! No one answered. Several shaken tenants promptly withdrew into their small apartments. There were no self-accusers among them.

Reviewing the incident in Barbora's room, she admitted to not having seen the 'good-for-nothing's face' nor would she recognize him in passing on the street. She had only seen the back of his dark head.

"Šiaip ar talp," (At any rate) Barbora cheerfully said, "He will never forget Barbora and her broom...."

Petronele, always curious, wanted to know how

*Every night before
Petronele surrendered
to sleep, she always
locked her door, always
whispered, to herself
"Niekad nežinai kas bus."
(You never know
what will happen.)*

Barbora knew that the intruder was in her room, since her door was never locked. Anyone could enter her room, and now it happened.

Barbora reminded her friends that they knew about her higher threshold, but the 'vagis' did not know that, so when he stumbled over it, he fell and the noise woke her up, and now they knew the rest. As for the unfamiliar broom, it was always under her bed, quickly available when needed.

Before the friends left, they scolded her for being careless and never locking her door, for disregarding her safety and the welfare of others. Satisfied that she listened, they rose to leave when all at once, a young voice

hitherto silent - chirped up. "Teta Barbora, gal tas buvo tavo juodbruvys, ir žiurek tuojau 11-ta skambes ant bumbininko." (Aunt Barbora, perhaps that was your dark-haired man! And look, soon number 11 will sound on the alarm clock!)

"Iš tiesu, iš tiesu" (Indeed, indeed) laughed her friends, delighted with the young voice's reminder, and before Barbora thought to evict them from her room, they darted toward their rooms across the hall.

As Petronele was locking her door again, her thoughts shifted back to the disturbance. Several questions lingered in her mind.

How did he get in? A curfew-of-sorts existed in the small house and was under the charge of four strict "gaspadoriu" (heads of families), and each month one of them was responsible for bolting the doors. So, the outer doors were always bolted. What did he want? The four young Lithuanian families and lone Austrian lady, and us three hard-working boarders, certainly had nothing of value for a thief. Who was he? A thief or someone without a home?

Since answers, she conceded, would not be forthcoming, she decided not to dwell upon them any longer, but to return to bed and interrupted sleep.

As Petronele relaxed on the straw-filled mattress, she sighed deeply and murmured, "Ir štai kaip pasibaigi graži, linksma diena." (And this is how a beautiful happy day ended.) ❖❖❖

Fr. Dan's

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by Fr. Dan Jankevicius

Summer Favorites

LITHUANIAN CUCUMBER SALAD

- 2 large cucumbers
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 3 Tbsp vinegar Salt

Pare cucumbers and cut into thin slices. Add salt and let stand one hour. Squeeze, rinse in cold water, and drain. Prepare dressing with vinegar and sour cream. Mix with cucumbers and sprinkle with paprika.

CREAMED CABBAGE

- 1 medium cabbage shredded
- 1 onion, grated
- 1 carrot, grated
- 2 or 3 radishes, chopped fine
- 1 pepper, diced or grated
- 1 celery stalk, chopped fine fresh parsley, chopped fine or dry parsley
- 2 Tbsp vinegar
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 2 Tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 small can evaporated milk

To each cup of vegetables, add 2 tablespoons each of vinegar, sugar, and mayonnaise. Add 1 small can of evaporated milk. Mix thoroughly. Add salt and pepper to taste. (NB the carrot and onion I would grate on the side opposite the side I would use for grating potatoes for pancakes.)

3 BEAN SALAD

- 1 cup cooked green beans
- 1 cup cooked wax beans
- 1 cup cooked kidney beans
- 6 Tbsp sugar (or less)
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 2 1/2 Tbsp salad oil
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper

Drain beans. Mix all seasonings in the liquids. Pour over vegetables and place in the refrigerator for 24 hours before eating.

DALIA'S COLD BEET SOUP

(What you should know about this recipe: Dalia Bulvicius, who worked for Darbininkas Printers, was busy with so many other projects in and around New York, did not have the time nor did she care to cook, but would invariably serve her guests this soup if you happened to visit her in the summertime. She took some culinary short-cuts, but the end-product was delicious.) This is her recipe:

- 2 large bottles of Mother's Borscht (It's a brand name)
- 2 14 or 16 oz. cans of Julienne Red Beets
- 1 or 2 bunches of green onions, sliced about 1/2 inch
- 2 or 3 eggs, hard-boiled, sliced or cubed
- 1 or 2 cucumbers, cubed dill weed, chopped (about 4 tps or more)
- 1 quart buttermilk perhaps with a bit of sour cream added
- 2 Tbsp (or more) lemon juice or vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste

The secret of Dalia's recipe was that she insisted on pan frying the cut up green onion in a little oil to release the flavor. After these fried onions cooled down, and the eggs were hard boiled, she would unceremoniously mix all of the above ingredients together in a large pot, which she would stow away in her refrigerator -- as she awaited her guests. When you arrived, she would have a pot of potatoes on the stove almost ready to eat -- with the shalta barschiai

Dalia, we will eat heartily to your happy memory!

WALDORF SALAD

- 1 cup diced apple
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1/2 cup walnuts, broken in pieces
- Mayonnaise

Mix apple, celery, and walnuts with mayonnaise. Serve on lettuce leaf. (For that Lithuanian flair, substitute sour cream for the Mayo, if you wish).

SOUR CREAM CAKE

- 3/4 cup margarine
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 3 blocks baking chocolate, melted
- 1 cup boiling water

Beat margarine, eggs and sugar together. Add remaining ingredients. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 40 minutes. ❖❖❖



Council News



C-10, Athol-Gardner Vincukas

Christine Genaitis finished her two year Peace Corps service in Siberia and has begun law school at the University of Virginia. Prior to her Siberia term, she had graduated Harvard. Sister Suzanne completed her sophomore year at Tufts and will study in Australia this summer.

Ed and Helen Lepkouski spent the winter in Fl. Ed is campaign manager for the mayor of Gardner, Charles Manca, who is running for his 6th term. A featured article and color picture appeared on the front page of the Gardner News on all Ed's endeavors through the years for the good of the city.

Dr. Henry Gailiunas was married in Lithuania on Dec. 26 and his bride is awaiting her arrival in the States. We look forward to meeting Doc's choice, Bronė.

Bronė and Dick Qualters and Roberta Landry worked at the annual pancake breakfast to benefit the Athol Hospital in conjunction with the famous River Rat Canoe Race in the Millers River.

At our Easter meeting cultural chair, Bronė Wišniauskas conducted an egg rolling contest that was won by Maryann Langlois. Easter customs were read and discussed.

Howie Beaudette, grounds chairman for the Lithuanian Country



C-17's Virginia and Frank Markuns dance the night away at their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Club in Gardner is doing an excellent job at keeping the grounds well manicured.

The Massachusetts State Mens Ten Pin Bowling Tourney was held at the Gardner Ten Pin Lanes during May and June weekends. The owners are the Lithuanian Buderick family and son, Steve.

Dr. Marie Shatas and Jackie Doherty are employed at Mass. General in Boston.

Betty Penney spent a ten day tour in Italy, much enjoyed.

A group of C-10 members attended the Spring K. of L. District Convention in Norwood. Thanks, C-27 for the fine hospitality.

Bill and Bronė Wišniauskas and cousins Kay Urban and Tom Sidlauskas spent a week in Newport, RI.

A tragedy occurred in NH.

Gardner folks, Bronė Grigas and son, Brian, died as a result of a motorcycle accident. Condolences to the family.

C-17, South Boston, MA Balandele

Our Golden Jubilarians, Frank and Virginia Markuns, were pleasantly shocked at the surprise 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration Dinner Party hosted by their loving children, spouses and many grandchildren. One of the highlights at the party was the Markuns' "Dancing Raisins". The next weekend a Mass of celebration in their honor was concelebrated by Msgr. Albert Contons and Pastor Father Stephen Zukas at St. Peter's Lithuanian Church. This was attended by their family members and also many K of L members. This was a truly joyous occasion for all - Happy 50th anniversary to a special couple!

Many of our active council members still have time to do volunteer work for their communities. Some of the busy volunteers include: Mildred Daniels, Eleanora Mikalonis, Florence Zaleskas. At our meetings and also at other activities we greatly appreciate: Emily Loehman for her perpetual coffee machine making; Al Kropas for being our unofficial council photographer.

Congratulations to Grandmother Regina Alexander! Her son Richard and wife Diane

returned home safely from cold Omsk, Siberia. The temperature there was minus 40 degrees. They finalized the adoption of their baby Lydia Marie. Welcome to America.

The Marion Manor Nursing Home may want to start a new K. of L. council. Their registration list of residents now includes: Father Anthony Baltrashunas, Frances Savicke, Ann Carroll and Tessie Sidlauskas. We miss you all. Best wishes from C-17.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Alice Opanasets upon the passing away of her husband, Walter Opanasets. Also to Leonas Rudziunas upon the passing away of his wife, Albina Rudziunas. Amžina atilsi.

The New England District Spring Convention held in Norwood MA was well attended by many C-17 members. N. E. District President Bill Piacentini presided over the meeting. C-27 President Paul Zukas and his many hard-working committee members were very hospitable. Aciu. Iki pasimatymo!

Labas from Council-29 Newark

Rita Sussko

We were all here to welcome another year - Thank God!

Our December meeting was followed by a Christmas Social, chaired by Micknevicus', Andruska's and Grazulis'.

Christmas Eve Mass was made very special by the Youth Group from Epiphany Church. They presented the "Living Gospel", which was a heart rendering experience. Thank you to the Youth Group.

On January 3rd, we held our

regular monthly meeting, but because of the inclement weather the attendance was small. During the month we wished Birthday Greetings to Fr. Peter Uhde, Brone Venckus, Consuella Karchefsky and Bernie Skripata. Our long time member, Ed Rimelis, Jr. and his lovely wife, Dorothy, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary - we wish them 50 more.

On another note, HM Loretta Stukas had some good news and bad news. Over the holidays she and Janina Dittmar were involved in an automobile accident. The car was demolished, but fortunately we still have our two members.

February 7th's meeting was followed the following week, on Valentines Day, by Holy Trinity's Pancake Dance, chaired by Ann O'Neill. Rita Sussko went on a trip to Michigan, while her daughter, Sandra Detwiler and Granddaughter, Jamie, went to South African countries so that Jamie, a Photography Major was able to photograph wild animals for her thesis. She received her Degree from Grand Valley University on April 24th.

Our March meeting and Annual Cake Sale and Luncheon were held on Palm Sunday. This event is held annually for the benefit of Holy Trinity Church, Mary Honeymar was Chairperson, who along with her committee had a successful affair.

The Mid-Atlantic Spring Convention was hosted by Council 29 on April 18th. Mass was celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Peter Uhde. A delicious roast pork dinner was served prior to the meeting, prepared by our "Chief Chef", Marie Guoba and, as usual,

the same committee who work at all functions. The meeting was presided over by our newly elected President John Sakal, Ann O'Neill was Chairperson and had a tedious, but well done job. Sandwiches, cake and coffee were served prior to our members departing.

The weekend of April 24th Loretta Stukas and Rita Sussko traveled to Chicago to attend a Supreme Council meeting. While there they also attended Mass and a banquet honoring the 85th Anniversary of Immaculate Conception Church and also the 60th Anniversary of Priesthood for Msgr. D. Mozeris and Fr. Fabian Kireilis.

Unfortunately on April 22nd we must report a serious automobile accident involving Fr. Peter Uhde, Helen Radicsh our Recording Secretary, Marie Guoba our Sunshine Lady and also as I said previously our "Chief Chef" and Chairperson of our Annual Dinner and Dance and Isabel Tavares Epiphany Secretary. The car was so badly damaged the "Jaws of Life" had to be used. Thank GOD they are all here to talk about it. We pray for a speedy recovery for all.

Our final meeting of the season was held in June, so with that in mind we wish all our fellow Knights a HAPPY, HEALTHY, SAFE SUMMER.

C-36, Chicago, IL Rutele

'Tis the season of weddings, graduations, confirmations and First Holy Communions. I'm sure many of you and your families have rejoiced and celebrated these joyous occasions. Since I haven't heard of any of our council members' specific celebrations, I'm going to have to

toot my own horn.

On May 8th my family had a double graduation at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. My granddaughter Mary Casperson, Anne's daughter, received her degree of Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Communication - Marketing. She was also the recipient of the "Woman of the Year" award. Then, my daughter-in-law Tina Kazlauskas, Paul's wife, finally got her degree of Bachelor of Science in Education. As she puts it, "It took 20 years, 18 Semesters, 1 Husband, 3 children and 4,772,423 cups of coffee, but I did it". I am so very proud of both of them. Enough about me and mine.

Please send me news of your family's happy events. In case you lost my address, I am Ruth Kazlauskas, 6414 Evergreen Lane, Eagle River, Wisconsin, 54521. Or, you can call me at 715-479-6888.

The Immaculate Conception Parish 85th Anniversary celebration on April 25th was very successful. Approximately 275 people attended. Several of our dedicated council members were involved in the planning and the work.

A Memorial Day Mass was held at St. Casimir's Cemetery on May 31st. The K. of L. Choir under the direction of Faustas Strolia sang at the Field Mass. Following the Mass was a Cemetery walk sponsored by C-112.

The annual Mid-America District picnic will be held Sunday, July 4th, at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, IL. The picnic will begin after the 12:00 PM Mass.

Our deepest sympathy to Mary Kincius and her family upon the death of her beloved brother Victor Balanda, a member of C-36.

Don't forget the Convention

in Philadelphia July 29th. Have a great summer !

C-96, Dayton, OH **Fran Petkus**

As of our last meeting, C-96 is six new members stronger! A warm welcome to Gary and JoAnn Thiele of Dayton; Carole A. and Joseph W. Heffner of Dowelltown, TN; Marcus and Jennifer Maulding of Cookeville, TN. We now have five members living in Tennessee! A potential council in Tennessee? Growth in the Mid Central District?

Congratulations to Anthony Berczely, Gary and JoAnn Thiele who took the Knights of Lithuania's Oath at a recent meeting. This is the beginning of things to come as these members become more involved in the activities of the organization.

Heading to Chicago the weekend of April 23-25, 1999 for the Supreme Council meeting, hosted by C -112, were Fran Petkus, MCD President and HM Elinor Sluzas. Joining them on this 'venture' were Robert Pant, C -96 President and Annamarie Sluzas Berger, MCD 3rd Vice President.

Our SC President, John Mankus, must be congratulated for holding one of the shortest meetings we've had in some time. All business was covered. Any situations that could have arisen took care of themselves prior to the session. C -112 must be thanked for being such great hosts! It was a great weekend.

While in Chicago we had the pleasure of meeting Fr. Rimantas Gudelis who, besides assisting parish priests, is in the US taking courses in Pastoral Theology; etc. Father did share with some of us, the benches the K. of L. 'sponsored'

when we attended Mass with Pope John Paul II in 1993 in Šiluva went to his church in Panavežys!

Members of C -96 hosted the MCD and MAMD at the Spring convention and Mid West Bowling Tournament (more to come). In the meantime, everyone have a wonderful summer. See you in Philadelphia!!

C-102 - Detroit, MI **Dvynuke**

It has been 10 years of dedication, diligence, countless hours at the computer and telephone, meetings, trips to Lithuania and traveling out of state. You name it, he's done it - All in the name of Aid to Lithuania. We laud our HM, Robert Boris, who recently relinquished his position as President of ATL, remaining as Chmn. Emeritus. We are very proud of all that he has accomplished, and wish him a much-deserved, enjoyable 'R and R' at his condo on Marco Island. And what more qualified, dedicated person, who graciously accepted, to follow in his footsteps, namely, Regina Juska-Svoba, along with 102 members, Bill Juodawlakis, Frank Bunikis, Theresa and Mike Shea, among others to assist her. We wish you much success, and pledge our support to a most worthy cause.

It is with deep regret that we add another name to our 102 deceased members list, namely, Marie Podzius. Our heartfelt sympathies to her sister Ruth Richards and family; also to Ona Sadeikiene upon the death of her sister; to C-79's Irene Vizgirda, whose mother died recently, as well as to Stella Hotra, whose husband passed away several months ago.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest peacefully in Gods' heavenly kingdom.

Joe and Maryanne Guerriero, Regina Juska-Svoba, Ruth Wagster, Lorry and Merri Hofner represented C-102 at the St. Casimir's Day Commemoration Mass hosted by C-79 at Divine Providence Church, feasting on traditional Lithuanian foods at the luncheon that followed.

We were delighted to see Bob Boris at the April meeting, looking fit and well-rested; a good reason why he will soon declare Florida his permanent home base. Good luck and God's blessings, Bob. You will be missed, but not forgotten!

Now that all the snowbirds have returned, and the arrival of spring, hopefully, it will encourage more members to attend the monthly meetings. Hope to see you there! Su Diev!

C-110, Maspeth, NY

Rev. Robert P. Galchus C.M. celebrated his 50th anniversary of the priesthood at Transfiguration Parish in Maspeth on May 26. Concelebrants of the special mass were Pastor James T. Rooney, Rev. Vytas Volertas and Deacon William Oggeri.

Rev. Galchus was born in 1923 to Kasper and Antonia Galchus in Maspeth. He had received his sacraments at Transfiguration, where he served as an altar boy and was active in the basketball sports program. He followed his brother, Vincent, into the Vincentian Community and was ordained at the Mary Immaculate Seminary in North Hampton, PA.

C-136, Hudson-Mohawk, NY Dorothy Richmire

Our annual community event "The Festival of Nations" was very successful this year due to the dedication of our members. The many hours spent preparing and cooking, serving and cleaning up afterward is a fine example of the community spirit our members extend to our projects. So many of the attendees stopped by our booth for a taste of Virtinai with bacon and sour cream sauce, Kapustai (2 versions--spicy and mild), Dešros, Kugelis and Rye Bread. We offered desserts which included the mushroom cookies and walnut cookies created by Gen Deery and Gen Baranauskas and the "tree cake" which always causes much curiosity to passers by. And last but not least, the interesting snack offered by Ed Baranauskas---cucumbers and honey. "Try it, you'll like it", he promised everyone.

It is such a pleasure to observe Bill and Bea Jasewicz working together as a team, preparing and serving the Virtinai. After over 50 years of marriage, they set a loving example of what marriage is all about. Congratulations to both of you.

It was so good to see Chick Rupsis at the Festival. He seems hale and hearty after a brief period of illness. Welcome back Chick and stay well.

On the present sick list: Helen La Pierre, Clara Tulio, Stephanie Dwulitt and recovering from broken bones: Joan Parker, Anne Morgalis, Stella White and Ed Baranauskas. Also best wishes to Margaret Sheehan for a successful impending surgery. Our prayers and best wishes to all.

Upcoming events include a

Pizza Party and our annual Picnic by the Mohawk River and don't forget the annual visit to Putnam and Auriesville Shrine this summer. Hope to see you all there.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer.

C-141, Bridgeport, CT Aldona Marcavage

A candle was lit in memory of all our deceased members during the annual memorial Mass in May, celebrated by Msgr. Pranckus.

Gary Anderson was formally sworn in by Msgr. Pranckus, as a new member. Gary introduced himself with a brief rundown of his background. While living in New Britain Gary was immersed in Lithuanian culture, he said, then moved to Cheshire where he and his family were the only Lithuanians in the area. One day he saw our flyer announcing St. Casimir's brunch. He came down, liked it, and joined our council. His son Matthew entered the K. of L. essay contest and won first prize. How is that for fast immersion back into Lithuanian heritage?

We welcomed back after surgery Stefa Armonas and Bob Marcavage. Good to see you both doing so well. Anne Geceвич is still in the healing process after her hip operation; We wish you well, Anne.

Ilona and Frank Sciarrapa have returned from Lithuania. The trip was not all pleasure, Ilona's mother is terminally ill, and not doing too well. It was a sad farewell to a loved one.

On August 1st, Claire Carrol and her sister Mary Spelman are flying to Lithuania for the first time. Bon voyage!

HM president Miller welcomed snow birds Rose and Walt Barius. Congratulations to Iлона Sciarrapa who received her first degree belatedly.

Two more Lithuanian priests will be taking time to smell the roses and watch the grass grow. Fr. Karvelis in Waterbury and Fr. Rikteraitis of New Britain will soon discover the joys of the Golden Years in retirement. Check with Msgr. Pranckus.

Helen Simanis has been selected to serve on the church Parish council. We know you will do a good job.

Msgr. Pranckus reminded us that although there will be no meeting in July -- let us not forget the Mass for our recently deceased member, Agnes Lazdauskas, on July 17th.

Many donations for Lithuania were brought to Putnam for sorting, packaging and sending. Bob Marcavage made a motion to donate \$200 dollars to the Sisters of Immaculate Conception of BVM -- to help them at least a little bit in their labor of love. It was passed.

Helen Baranowskas was honored with a surprise 80th birthday party given by her son and his family at their lovely home on long Island Sound. Many happy returns, Helen.

It is not too late to write letters regarding Lithuania's acceptance into NATO.



C-147's Third Degree recipients at St. Casimir Day Mass at Holy Name Church in Gulfport, FL. Included are (l to r) Valeria Lesčinskas, Irena Diktanas, Brone Urbonas, Dr. Aldona Valis - Ritual Chairman, and Aldona Kirstuk. Petre Kasperavičiute, absent from photo, also received her 3rd degree.

August 15th Holy Mass will precede our annual council picnic which will be held at Marie and Bill Brilvitch's "Sodyba".

NED president Bill Piacentini as an educator has read much about far away places--so this year he decided to visit and see for himself. He traveled to Egypt and Israel during May 15th to June 5th. We want to hear all about it, Bill.

We are looking forward to meeting many friends in Putnam during the Sisters annual Friendship Day Picnic July 25th.

A happy and healthy summer to all.

C-144. Anthracite

Ona

This year we will be sponsoring the 85th. Annual Lithuanian Days at Schuylkill Mall in Frackville, Pa. August 14-15.

The first Lithuanian Day was held in 1914 by our forefathers who wanted to commemorate their customs, music and crafts. In the early years it was held at a park

where thousands gathered. With the closing of the parks, we were fortunate the Schuylkill Mall gave us a large area where we could have food, displays, sales of Lithuanian artifacts and good fun. Proceeds always go to a Lithuanian cause and much good has been done for Lithuania because of this. Chair-people this year are. Mall, Eleanor Vaicaitis; Displays, Bernice

Mikatavage and Annie Morglis; Food, Suzanne Domalakes; Raffle, Betty Tumas; Ticket Sales, Anne Wargo; Kitchen Supervision, Joe Martunas; Sales, Mary Labadis and Anna Radzavage.

Members work hard for these days, preparing food, working at the food and various displays, while some of the men handle the electrical problems and do all the running around wherever needed. We have a wonderful working group and we pray we can continue to carry on this tradition.

Our Orphan project has been very successful, thanks to all who do anything to help. We especially thank Father Ron Jankaitis and St. Casimir's Church for their Easter project in donating supplies for a Hospice. Father Ron is our very good Spiritual Advisor and our meetings are held at St. Casimir's in St. Clair. This is where we first organized in 1977 when Msgr. Bartkus was our first Spiritual Advisor.

President Marian - Wydra appointed an Humanitarian Aid

Committee to better coordinate what and where items are being sent. Chairperson is Bernice Mikatavage, assisted by Annie Morgalis, Ann Panchari, Ann Sikora, Tom and Anna Helen McDonald, and Eleanor Vaicaitis.

Condolences to Paul Sakaitis on the loss of his brother.

Mary and John Koons were honored by the Shenandoah Senior Citizens by crowning the Blessed Virgin at their May Devotions. John and Mary are charter members and Mary is our very capable Cultural Chairperson. Each month we hear a very interesting cultural talk from Mary.

Bernice Mikatavage is leaving for Lithuania this month and she will visit many of the orphanages and schools we support.

We invite all who may be in our area or will be visiting to attend our 85th Lithuanian Days. Iki Pasimatymo!

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

Welcome to our newest members: David Mancini and Brother Antanas Grabnickas, O.F.M.

Brother Grabnickas O.F.M. is from Kretinga, Lithuania. He will stay at our Mission as long as he is needed, due to the illness of Father Steponas Ropolas O.F.M. We welcome you wholeheartedly. He has also joined our Council 147. Again we say welcome.

Get well wishes are extended to Alfas Shukis and Ona Semolavičius. They were both hospitalized this month. Elena Vilnius is still convalescing, as is



At St. Petersburg, FL, C-147 May monthly meeting. Genovaite Osinskiene (l) and Janina Lauras (r) receive their 1st degrees. Ritual Chairman presents the awards (center)

Father Ropolas O.F.M. Victor Sanders from Venice had two major surgeries.

We thank Genovaite Bakas for the lovely pictures she took at our last meeting. They were well appreciated.

Our May meeting was opened by our President John Jonaitis. Opening and closing prayers were said by our Spiritual Advisor, Father Matthew Čyvas. This meeting was special, as two of our members, Janina Lauras and Genovaite Osinskiene, received their 1st degrees. The award was presented by our Ritual Chairman, Dr. Aldona Valis. Also honored were our 3rd degree recipients, who received their degrees on St. Casimir's Day. They were Irena Diktanas, Petre Kasperaviciute, Aldona Kirstuk, Valeria Lescinskas and Brone Urbonas.

Irena Diktanas read the minutes from the previous meeting. She also read Thank You notes from Dr. Joseph Petrikas and Father

Steponas Ropolas O.F.M.

It was voted to send \$100.00 to The Pontifical College in Rome. The Convention in Philadelphia was discussed, and 5 members are planning on going. Our Council voted for a 1/4 page Greeting in the ad book. Our Guest Speaker, Brother Antanas Grabnickas, O.F.M., a very cheerful and energetic person, told us a little bit about his childhood and his mother, whom he especially praised. He also sang us a song. But he insisted that we all join in. After the closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned. Our

members brought many delicious refreshments. Dr. Aldona Valis, our Ritual Chairman, donated wine as a toast to our 1st and 3rd Degree recipients. Other donaters were Vie and Lucy Sanders, Ona Semolavičiene, Dolores and John Jonaitis, Brone Urbonas, Elena Jurkynas, Irena Diktanas, Adele Aciene, M. and V. Gelažius, G. Bakas, V. Lesčinskas and Laimute Alvarado.



Did You Know?

In 7000 BC the last glaciers retreated and an underwater current of sand formed the Curonian Spit on the coast of Lithuania. It took approximately 5000 years for the first peaks to rise above sea level and to this day the spit is still drifting eastward. Records indicate that settlers began to inhabit the area in the first century A.D.



On the Calendar...	Pilgrimage Hosts: C-25, Cleveland, OH	Sept 25, 1999 Lithuanian Open Golf Tournament Benefit for Lithuanian Children's Relief at Squirrel Run Country Club, West Plymouth, MA	more information, contact Barbara Wilcinskas Schmidt at (203) 878- 0519.
1999 National Convention July 29-Aug. 1, 1999 Hosts: C-3, Philadelphia	July 26, C-74 hosts: 2:30 Lithuanian Mass at St. Ann's Basilica in Scranton, PA		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.
District Meetings Sept. 19, 1999 MAD District Meeting - Elections Hosts: C-90, Kearny, NJ	Aug. 14-15, 1999 Lithuanian Days C-144- Anthracite Council Contact: Anne Wargo (717) 429-0132	October 3, 1999 - C-141 Bridgeport, Connecticut, is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a Dinner-Dance on For	
Sept. 24-26, 1999 MCD Meeting -			

OUR CHILDHOOD (☞ from page 2)

down while the priest blessed each one of us and kissed the back of his hand.

After mass on Sunday afternoon, our parents would take all the children for a walk in the woods to look at nature, hear the birds sing, watch the pheasants pass and deer run. On our way home we were treated to an ice cream cone.

There are four of us remaining today. Our parents, one brother and sister have gone to their eternal rest. We pray each is at peace. The dear Lord knows we will never, ever forget them. With my family in mind, I leave you with a quote from an old Lithuanian prayer: "Amzina atsilsis duok miisii teviems, sesute ir broliuku, Dieve. Mes niekadoss nepamirsim jos. Labai sunku, be teveli, motinele, Onutes ir Bolesuku. Dieve padek mums atsilikusiems."

Julyte, Maryte, Jonas ir Edvardas

Smiles Without Wrinkles

If you don't have anything nice to say,
come sit next to me.

Where There's a will I want to be in it.

Never underestimate the power of stupid people
in large groups.

Of course I don't look busy—I did it right the first time.

I can only please one person per day.

Today is not your day, Tomorrow doesn't look good

either.

The 4 Basic Food Groups for Police Officers:

1. Glazed
2. Jelly
3. Powdered
4. Chocolate Frosted

Yardwork's a real pain in the grass.

God gave us two ears but only one mouth. Some people say that's because He wanted us to spend as much time listening as talking. Others claim it's because He knew listening was twice as hard as talking. 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.

The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I do—all the time. No matter where I am—in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen or down in the basement, I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'

Most high school dropouts can see the writing on the wall, but they can't read it.

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

We bring nothing into this world, and we take nothing out of it—talk about traveling light.

Nostalgia: The VCR of our minds.

-L. Galinskas C-79 - Southfield, MI.



***Even if you can't make our K. of L. Convention -
Support our Knights of Lithuania causes:***

AID TO LITHUANIA, INC., is a semi-autonomous organization under the aegis of the Knights of Lithuania, that obtains donated medicine, medical supplies and other humanitarian aid items which are then shipped in 40 ft containers to Lithuania. ATL covers the cost of transportation. Financial support is provided to select projects, church related soup kitchens, orphanages, hospice and day-care centers with ATL acting as a catalyst between these projects and donors in the USA.

Since this project began in 1991, approximately \$600,000 has been donated by members and friends of Lithuania enabling ATL to ship 70 containers, worth over 53 million dollars.

In 1998, ATL began a drive to provide scholarships for seminarians at St. Joseph's Provincial Seminary in Vilnius. Individuals are able to "adopt" a seminarian by donating \$2,000 to this very important means of contributing to the moral rebirth of the Lithuanian Nation.

As of 6/1/99 14 Seminarians have been adopted through the efforts of ATL

Checks should be made payable to Aid to Lithuania, Inc. and mailed to:

Regina Juska-Svoba, President - 1594 Beaupre, Madison Heights, MI 48071



THE ST. CASIMIR GUILD, is a semi-autonomous activity dedicated to the support of the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome. The Guild sponsors three programs: collection of donations for a general endowment fund administered by the Rector, obtaining Mass stipends for the support of Lithuanian priests studying in Rome, and coordinating a program of "adopting" seminarians from Lithuania by providing regular contributions to their non-academic needs. Checks should be made payable to: The St. Casimir Guild and mailed to:

HM Anna Klizas Wargo, 125 South Morris Street, St. Clair, PA 17970

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS are presented each year to deserving members who are pursuing studies at the college level. The Scholarship Fund is totally dependent upon donations and bequests from members. Checks should be made payable to: Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund and mailed to:

Irene Gecas-McCarthy, 30 Clinton Road, Garden City, NY 11530

THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC., is an endowment fund which supports and funds projects to further the cultural, religious or humanitarian objectives of the Knights of Lithuania.

Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to:

Knights of Lithuania Foundation and mailed to:

HM Loretta Stukas, 234 Sunlit Drive, Watchung, NJ 07060

THE NATIONAL SHRINE - An endowment fund supports the upkeep of the Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception located in Washington, D.C. was adopted at the 75th Knights of Lithuania Anniversary Convention. Donations are tax deductible.

Checks should be made payable to:

Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and mailed to:

Joseph Chaplick, 2000 F. Street, N.W. Apt. 419, Washington, DC 20006

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED:**VYTIS (The Knight)****P.O. Box 32020****Chicago, IL 60632-0020**

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

**Periodical
 Postage Paid**

There Is Hope in Prayer

As I knelt in prayer, my thoughts seemed to wander
 As I saw our sorrowful Lord I began to ponder
 I saw a rose among so many thorns growing beautifully there
 I felt it was like "Our Lithuania" struggling—praying for care
 Raising its head—so determined to survive and blossom
 Oh Lord, the vision was so vivid it was awesome
 God in his wisdom put this precious thing to a test
 Just like His Son— so must our land suffer in its quest
 Down deep inside a shiver went down my spine
 And a soft whisper was heard "Victory will be thine"
 If anyone was put to a test in faith and determination
 Our homeland, Lithuania, has become a strengthened nation
 Please help them grow in faith and love
 Guard them, protect them, watch over from above
 Bring them from the darkness out into the dawn
 Let them ultimately reach their goal precious freedom won
 May my prayer be answered with millions of others
 Freedom for our loved ones Moms, Dads, Sisters and Brothers.
 Yellow, green, and red Our Lithuania sends out a plea
 Help them in their desperate need across the sea.
 They need food, clothes, and shoes
 All are necessary—send whatever you choose.
 Know that your sacrifice on this end
 Can help a child, a relative, a friend.
 Feed them, clothe them, remember our Lord's plea
 Whatsoever—you do for them—you do for me.
 Lend a helping hand—have a compassionate heart
 Your help now will give their future outlook A new start.
 "Lietuva per amžius" they made the dream come true
 Their determination is an inspiration for me and you.
 A forward look—to know we care
 With outstretched, caring hand, we will be there.

Anna Helen McDonald

