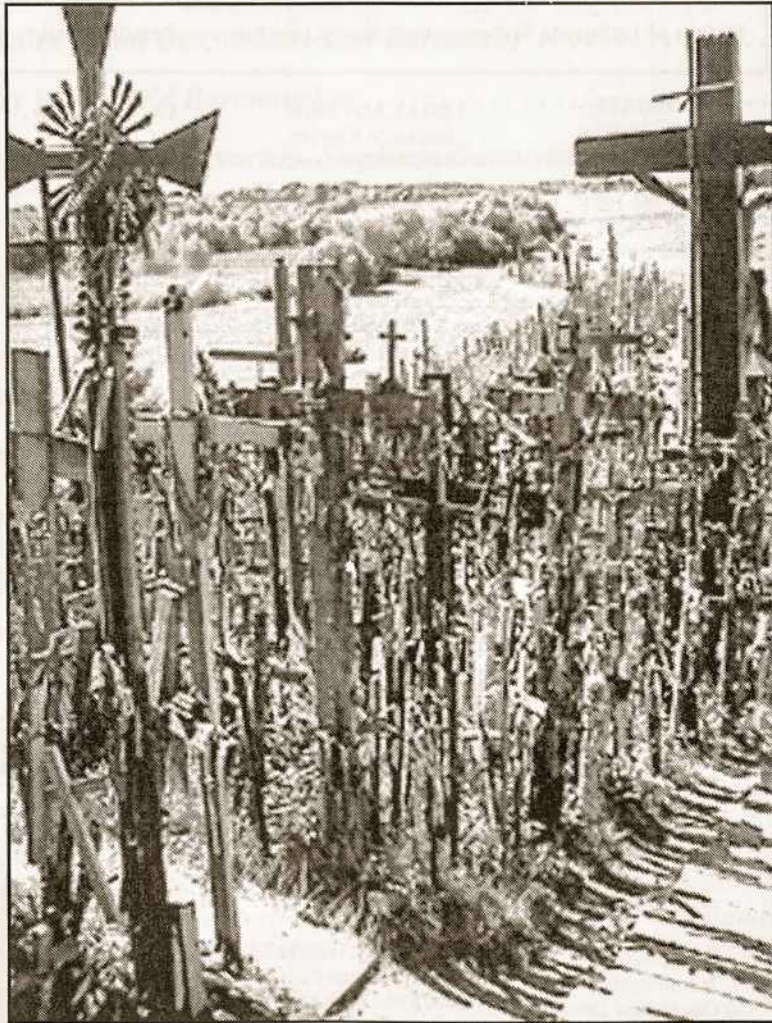


Vytis

The Knight
Volume 85 No. 9



Lapkritis - November 1999

Vytis - The Knight

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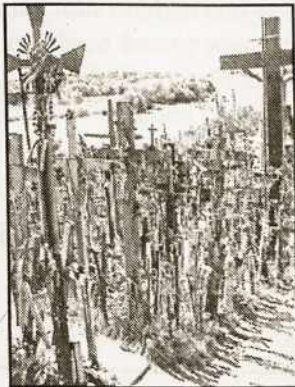
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*The Knights of Lithuania endeavors
to instill in its members
an attachment to Lithuania,
the land of our ancestors,
and a knowledge,
appreciation
and love of the Lithuanian
language, customs and
culture since the K of L
began in 1913.*

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On the Cover: Atop the Hill of Crosses
by JJA from Aid to Lithuania Tour 1999

(Editor's Note: Since Lithuanian Independence in 1991, crosses on this sacred area have grown, stretching wider and further and much deeper than my last visit there in 1996. Crosses seem to cover every inch of ground.)

To My Fellow Knights

It's nice to take a vacation from life's predictable work pattern once and awhile and even nicer when the tour group whom one had joined gets along well, with few inconveniences. We were very fortunate while on Bob Boris' Aid to Lithuania 1999 summer tour. The moderate sized, 24 member group included members from councils in every district, friends of ATL and a few couples where one was not of Lithuanian origin. When the non-Lithuanians, including my husband, said they had such a good time, they'd plan on coming back, then one knows that travel to Lithuania can indeed be an enjoyable treat.

Your photo editor snapped lots of pictures, and we gathered up much information on the 12-day tour that we hope to share with readers throughout the remainder of this year and into 2000. We hope you enjoy them. In addition, this month we have included an overview of Lith. Affairs Chair, Len Barcoucky's most interesting panel discussion and since so many of the conventioners requested it, a portion of Lith. Language and Culture Chair, Faustas Strolia's presentation as well.

Recently, one of the many computer magazines I receive featured a listing of the websites where genealogy can be pursued. Our history and feature writer, Ed Baranauskas, provides us with other ways to trace family roots. Recently, I had him help me track grandparents birth places through their citizenship request forms. I had discovered that none of my own grandparents were born where I had originally thought them to be. Interesting discoveries await those who take the time to do the research. The key is to check many sources, not just the internet or City Hall.

On the lighter side, we welcome C-3 writer, Stephany Gutauskas' most interesting essay on rue, as well as Lith Gardener's advice on houseplants. Enjoy the issue and Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving to all from the VYTIS staff.

President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus to accept K. OF L. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

The Mid-America District proposed it, the Honorary Membership presented it to the National Convention, and the delegates to the 86th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania voted unanimously to bestow Honorary Membership in the Knights on the Honorable VALDAS ADAMKUS, PRESIDENT OF LITHUANIA, during the 87th National Convention of the Knights, July, 2000, in Los Angeles, California.

It is with great joy and gratitude that we can report that Mr. Adamkus has graciously accepted the invitation to attend the National Convention in Los Angeles and to become an Honorary Member of our organization, considering it a great privilege. He further wished all the Knights success in their many works on behalf of Lithuania. Following are his words



of acceptance, received by John Mankus, National President and Loretta Stukas, Honorary Membership Chair, via the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington:

"Nuoširdžiai dėkoju Jums už laišką bei suteiktą garbę -- tapti "Lietuvos Vyčių organizacijos garbės nariu. Man tai yra aukštas įvertinimas, kurį su malonumu priimsiu lankydamasis kitais metais Los Andžele Jūsų organizuojamo renginyje. "

"Linkiu Jums asmeniškai ir visiems organizacijos nariams sėkmės bei daug prasmingų darbų Tėvynės labui. "

"Pagarbiai, "
"Valdas Adamkus"

More information on Mr. Adamkus and the planned presentation will be provided later. Plan now to attend the convention in Los Angeles and help us honor Mr. Adamkus.



On Behalf of Mother Maria Kaupas: An Added Push for Sainthood

Mother Maria Kaupas, a Lithuanian-born nun who founded the Chicago-based Sisters of St. Casimir, is a candidate for Sainthood.

Those who undertake this mammoth task including the required evidence of two posthumous miracles as proof of the candidate's favored place in heaven; vast evidence that undergoes investigation by physicians, x-rays, studies by a Vatican medical board in itself can take innumerable years of intense efforts.

If witnesses are alive, they are called to testify before a tribunal of bishops, priests and nuns. This segment of obtaining testimony can be extremely difficult; many witnesses are aged or ailing and must travel a great distance to attend a tribunal which entails major expenses.

For the cause of Mother Maria Kaupas, the background of her early life in Lithuania presented special challenges. Witnesses in Lithuania were interviewed in secret in the 1980's because of witness fear of persecution and arrest plus the fear of expulsion of those gathering information; as such all was done with utmost precaution. Their testimonies were smuggled back to the United States by a visiting priest, always with a watchful eye for transgression by Soviet authorities.

Reconstructing the life story is also a matter of shifting through mountains of documents. Over 1,000 of Mother Maria's letters had to be translated from Lithuanian into English and documenting the important aspects of these letters was a task that took over nine years. Once all the possible evidence has been collected which also included her life in America, it was time for the position paper, known as the "Positio". Mother



Maria's Vice Postulator, Sister Margaret Petcavage says, "Writing the Positio is like writing a doctoral thesis". The first section of the Positio is dedicated to the candidate's biography, the second is documentation of the candidate's virtues - the letters, writings and eyewitness accounts attesting to piety, faith and charity.

After the Positio is submitted, whereby the writings judged free of dogmatic error, it then becomes Intromit to the Vatican's Congregation for Causes of Saints, consisting of 25 or more Cardinals and Bishops to determine whether the candidate lived a life of heroic virtue. If approved, the title of "Venerable" is given.

At this point, data of the person's earthly existence is complete, the search for two posthumous miracles begins, but also these miracles have very stringent boundaries. Not accepted are any cures as a miracle unless medically, scientifically and humanly certain that the cure has been instantaneous, not expected and complete. In cancer cases, a period of 10 years must pass to see whether the illness is cured or has gone into remission.

The first miraculous cure earns the candidate the title, "Blessed", the second miracle leads to canonization and the title "Saint".

We, must add Mother Maria Kaupas to our prayers. The ill and distressed are encouraged to pray to this potential saint and we, as Lithuanians pray she will soon join the ranks of sainthood.

-submitted by: Mrs. Alice Kauneckas Graff, founding member of C-152 (E. Long Island) ❖❖❖

OFFICIAL NEWS...Notice to All Council Ritual Chairpersons and Committees:

Applications for the fourth degrees should be received by the Supreme Council Ritual Chairperson by **April 1, 2000**. Send \$8.00 per application. This will allow enough time to review the application and notify the council committee about the status of the application before the national convention. Your cooperation and understanding will be appreciated by the Supreme Council Ritual Committee.

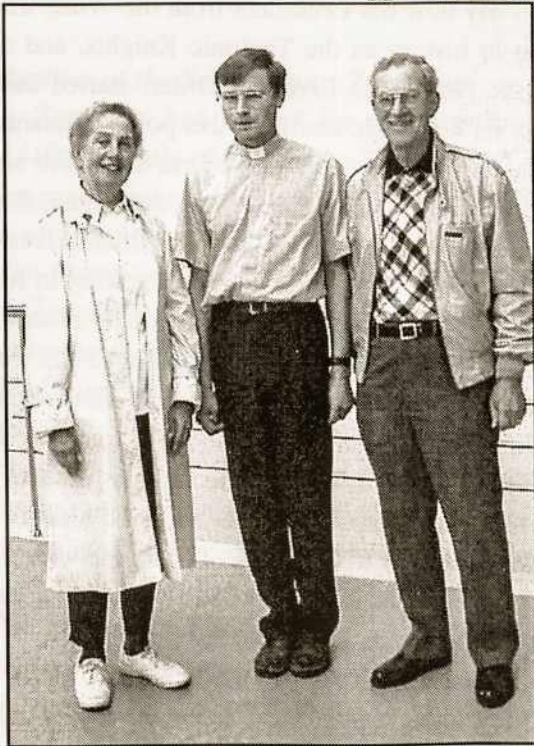
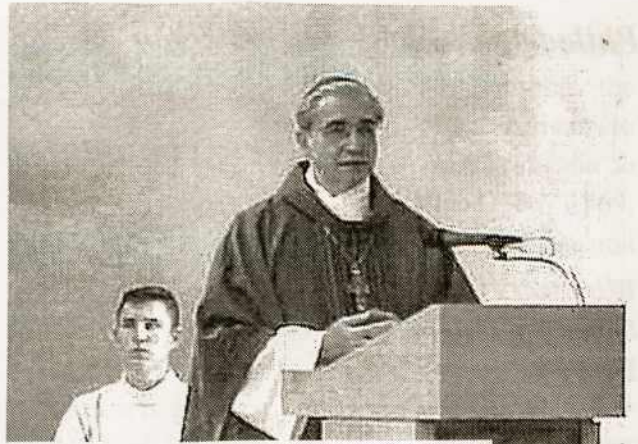
Clemencine Miller, Chairperson, Supreme Council Ritual Committee



On August 12, two dozen K of L'ers and friends toured Vilnius, Kaunas, Palanga and more in a most delightful journey. A few of the special highlights include (top l) welcome to Vilnius greeting by Deacon Balys to your editor and Bob Boris, Chmn. Of ATL; (top r) presentation of a beautiful rosary and special award from Archbishop of Vilnius, His Excellency Audrys J. Bačkis to Anne Baronas, C-52, Elizabeth, NJ, for her most generous support of the St. Joseph seminary. This and awards to others were presented at a special reception and dinner at the Archbishop's residence. The group at Trakai (Center photo). One of the many outdoor memorials to those who sacrificed their lives for Lithuania's freedom (bottom r).

From the Aid to Lithuania 1999 Tour Album

Our guided tour of the historic Kalvarijos section of Vilnius included visiting the newly constructed Provincial St. Joseph Seminary where a special Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Bačkis and select seminarians (top r); our group in front of the seminary (center); Pat and Tony Alexander of Torrington, CT meet their "adopted" seminarian (lower l); the group enjoys snacks in the seminary's spacious dining room (lower r).



Philadelphia Convention 1999

Some Aspects of Spiritual Leadership Among Lithuanians and Their Ancestors Within the Second Millennium of Christianity

*Text of the Panel by Faustas Strolia
Lithuanian Language/Culture Chairman*

Part I

While it is not always possible to research and describe the day to day spiritual life of the Lithuanian people over the centuries, it is possible to review the writings and actions of Lithuania's spiritual leaders to gain some insight into the spiritual state of these Lithuanian people.

Introduction

First Settlers in the Territory of Present Lithuania

There is scientific evidence that about 11 thousand years B.C., when the last glaciers of the iceage moved towards Scandinavia, people settled in the territory of present Lithuania. A dozen millenniums later, in the 9th to 13th centuries A.D. the tribe "Lietuviai", forefathers of our present day Lithuanians, were the largest group of existing Baltic tribes that gradually dominated the others and took them over.

These peoples' culture became uniform: their tools, their articles of personal adornment and even customs: They burned their dead, buried their warriors with their horses, etc. In 1009, for the first time the name "Lithuania" appeared on the historic source. It was spelled out in Latin - "Lituae": At a location, where Russia and Lithuania met, pagans killed the missionary Bruno of Querfurt, Germany.

Some thirty years later Lithuania's name appeared in the Russian chronicles: "In 1040 the duke Jaroslav took the field against Lithuania". They spelled it "Litva". It may not have been a successful engagement for him, because there was no more mention of this event in their chronicle.

The Christian Order of Crusaders attacked the Western Baltic tribes off and on, so these pagan people decided to protect their precious main temple in honor of their god "Perkūnas" from the "barbaric" Crusaders. They moved it to Vilnius. Another Perkūnas temple still exists in Kaunas, more like a museum, than a temple.

The Early Beginnings of Lithuanian Statehood and Christianity

At the beginning of the 13th century a confederation of all Lithuanian lands had been formed, and by 1219 there were 21 dukes of different Baltic tribes who signed a treaty with the dukes of Halič and Voluinė. Among them there were 5 grand dukes, one of whom was Mindaugas.

By now the Crusaders from the West, who are known in history as the Teutonic Knights, and others from the North, the Livonian Order, started constant attacks on the Baltic lands. At this point Lithuania was still just a confederation, not a firm state. For several decades different tribes like Prūsai, Jotvingiai, Kuršiai, Žemaičiai and Žiemgaliai, defended themselves individually to stop these enemies from getting in further. This allowed Lithuania to become stronger from within.

By 1236, the chronicles mentioned a new country on the scene: Mindaugas' Lithuania. Mindaugas unified all his tribes and was able to bring other dukes under his command. In 1253, he and his personal court became Christians. Mindaugas received title of king and was crowned in the name of the pope with a royal wreath. With him were crowned two of his sons. But soon all three were assassinated.

According to Rev. Dr. Viktoras Rimšelis, MIC, it is very likely that if these assassinations would not

have taken place, Lithuania would have become an advanced, even leading state in Europe.

The Period after Mindaugas

The successive leaders again received only the title of grand duke until 1386, when Jogaila was baptized, married Jadvyga and became king of Poland. He also carried the title of grand duke of Lithuania. In 1387, Jogaila came to Vilnius with his court and clergymen for christianization of Lithuania.

Some sources say, that he made visits to country castles and more important cities. He himself even taught people daily prayers - "poteriai".

The Baptism of the Samogitians (Žemaičiai)

Žemaičiai had to wait for their baptism until after 1410, the battle of Žalgiris (or Tannenberg), when the Teutonic Knights were completely destroyed by the troops of Vytautas and Jogaila. In 1413, both leaders made an expedition from Kaunas down the Nemunas river to Žemaitija. The mission took three months and it was a success: they baptized two thirds of all Žemaičiai. As vyčiai with our motto "Dievui ir Tėvynei" we would be inclined to welcome this success of Lithuania embracing Christianity. But since we happen to care equally for the second half of our motto - "Tėvynei", we have to realize that Christianity caused other losses.

The Polonization and Political Weakening of Lithuania

Before Jogaila became the King of Poland, there was in 1386 in Krėva an agreement made by



House of Perkūnas in Old Town Kaunas

which he promised on receiving the Polish crown to annex Lithuania to Poland. By 1569, between Lithuania and Poland the Union of Lublin was enacted. Sigismund Augustus, the King and ruler of the Lithuanian-Polish confederation at that time, wanted to annex Lithuanian-

ruled territories. At that time Lithuanian territory included the entire Ukraine. Poland always thought of Eastern expansion. Since Lithuania was threatened by Moscow, the delegates in Lublin had to go along with Polish dictates. They were happy that they could moderate some of their intentions, like preventing the incorporation of Lithuania into the Polish kingdom by calling it "Nowa Polska"

But Christianity in Lithuania had to face a harsh road: the religious, who came to Lithuania mostly from Poland, knew only Polish. The first missionaries had no intentions to polonize Lithuania. (These intentions awakened and intensified in the 19th and 20th centuries.) Nevertheless, since all homilies and teachings in church and all the clerical work in the rectories was done in Polish, the polonization became an inevitable factor. The villagers and the ordinary city dwellers could not understand Polish and for a long time could not understand Christianity and why anybody had to destroy their strong ties with their old pagan religion, in which they could understand what they were praying for. Politically, Lithuania became weaker because of this union, while Poland gained more recognition within the Eastern European region.

The Reformation

Meanwhile, in Western Europe a new movement spread - the Reformation, which very soon came to Lithuania, in a way, as a result of political and cultural connections with Poland. Since the nobility had built the Catholic churches in Lithuania, they also held the patronage rights to install new clerics. At that time two cousins, Lithuanian leaders - Radvila Nicholas the Black and Radvila Nicholas the Red, both influential statesmen, first became Lutherans, then Calvinists-reformats. Many Lithuanians followed their leaders. Although the Reformation modified some doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, for Lithuanians who understood neither Latin, nor Polish, it meant a religion in their own language.

Mary's Apparition at Šiluva

There was an event that helped the Catholic cause. Ca.1651, in Šiluva, where the Calvinists had acquired the estate and town and established an advanced school for the preparation of Calvinist teachers and ministers, shepherds were grazing their flock on the church grounds when a girl appeared on a large rock, holding a small child in her arms and she was weeping. When asked, she said: "I am weeping because once, at this place, my son was worshiped, while now they plough and sow here". Thereafter she disappeared. In later years Mary had her shrines throughout Lithuania and Pope Pius XI proclaimed Lithuania as the Land of Mary. (Subsequently we, Lithuanian-Americans, were enriched in 1966 by a most prominent Šiluva chapel installed within the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.)

Lithuania Minor

While in Lithuania Major there was an absolute shortage of Lithuanian speaking Catholic priests, and in the homes of Lithuanian nobility, in churches and the rectories the Polish language dominated, but in Lithuania Minor they enjoyed Lutheran services in the Lithuanian language! Here they printed the very first

book in the Lithuanian language as early as 1547. It was the Catechism, prepared by Martynas Mažvydas (?-1563), the pastor of Ragaine, and printed in Gothic characters in Koenigsberg. He dedicated this work to Lithuania. From the introduction, written by the Koenigsberg University's chancellor in Latin, we can conclude how little success Christianity had among Lithuanian people, "that paganism has not been completely eradicated from Lithuania, where the people still worship the gods Perkūnas, Laukosargis and Žemėpatis". In the second preface by Mažvydas himself, he condemns paganism and emphasizes brotherly love and concern for religious training. This preface was followed by a primer showing Mažvydas' interest in furthering Lithuanian education among his people. Then came the actual catechism and eleven religious hymns written in Gregorian Chant notation.

In the reprinted publications of "Lietuviškos Svodbinės Dainos" by Rev. Antanas Juška, Vilnius (1954-55), there is an introduction by Zenonas Slaviūnas, an expert on folklore and traditions, where we read about many leftovers of Lithuania's pagan religion. As we know, Christianity requires the observance of certain rules: weddings have to be publicly announced weeks ahead and the couple to be wedded has to know the basics of catechism and daily prayers. We read how Mažvydas complained that, on the whole, Lithuanians tried to avoid all of these! Some of the traditions reached the realm of magic and superstition, like the washing of the bride's face with beer, making her sit on the barrel of bread-dough (duonkubilis), bringing bread and fire to the bridegrooms home, drinking together from the same glass, driving the wedding carriage over burning straw, whipping the whips, even offering a hen or a rooster to gods (vištavimas).

In 1639 the people of Įsrutis were being threatened with a 6 mark fine for ritual carousing, the parishoners of Upytė - with 60 groschen, if they married without 3 weekly announcements. Besides and above, they had to spend all day in "kengė" at the church entrance or were sentenced (☞ to page 14)

K of L Foundation Essay Contest Winner

***Youth, Leadership and Survival of
our Lithuanian-American
Organizations***

3rd Prize Winner

John Baltrus, C-19, Pittsburgh

*Younger members
at the Philadelphia
1999 Convention*



The survival of Lithuanian-American organizations, including the Knights of Lithuania, is strongly tied to the capability and vitality of their leadership. We must always work to make sure that we have in place the most capable leaders and ones that will use their capabilities to instill life within our organizations. We must also ensure that we properly develop new leaders with the proper knowledge and experience.

Youth, leadership and survival of our organizations are irrevocably intertwined. Unfortunately, today all of these are in peril when speaking of our Lithuanian-American organizations. The plight of our organizations is readily apparent: aging, stagnant or declining membership and a general lack of new ideas and programs.

One of the root causes of our problems has been a lack of integration of youth into the leadership ladder. We must recruit new and younger members whom we can develop as future leaders of our organizations. By now we are well aware of the problems of getting members to assume positions of responsibility, whether it is an elected office or committee assignment. We experience this because we failed to recruit and train replacements for these important positions several years earlier.

We also face leadership problems because of the lack of opportunity to develop leadership skills within certain parts of our organizations. We find all too commonly those leaders who do not wish to step aside once they have served a reasonable time, or those who switch from office to office at the hierarchy of the organization, playing a sort of musical chairs. This hampers development of leaders by not allowing them to occupy positions in which they can develop their

leadership skills. The potential leaders and the organization both suffer. Potential leaders eventually become disinterested and may even drop out of the organization; and seeing no opportunity for advancement themselves, they in turn do not encourage development at even lower levels. Eventually a leadership vacuum is created wherein there is no one to take over when the people in the highest positions finally decide to step down. Ideally leaders should be young and dynamic, reaching the most responsible positions after having had experience at lower levels, but young enough to bring vitality to their position.

One way to prevent stagnation of leadership is to enact term limits. The Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council did that a while ago, but it may have been too late. A leadership vacuum, for which no simple remedies exist, may already have been created. The most difficult solution may be to reach to the youngest levels of our organizations and immediately bring the few people at these levels to positions of leadership. This will necessitate intense guidance once they are thrown into leadership positions. Another alternative is to start new organizations or new groups within existing organizations, but building them around younger members. In the Knights of Lithuania, we can build around our Junior Knights or those just beyond that age. In all organizations, the policy of constant change of leadership must be practiced. New ideas will then constantly be brought forth and the organizations will flourish. In nature, branches must be pruned to allow for new growth. Otherwise the plant becomes unsightly and eventually dies. This must not be the fate of our Lithuanian-American organizations. ❖❖❖

Philadelphia Convention 1999

Lithuanian - Polish Relations Today - Panel members, delegates find common ground

By Len Barcoucky, Lithuanian Affairs Chair

Like the British and the Irish, Lithuanians and Poles are two peoples divided by a common history. During a recent panel discussion on Lithuanian-Polish current affairs, however, speakers and most audience members appeared to agree that present joint interests heavily outweigh any past animosities.

"We'll do our best to support Lithuania's membership in NATO," promised Barbara "Basia" Ilnicki. "We hope to pay you back for the support Lithuanian-Americans gave to Polish efforts to join NATO."

Mrs. Ilnicki's remarks set the tone for the discussion, which I organized in my role as Lithuanian Affairs chairman for the Knights of Lithuania. Such sessions have been a regular feature of recent K of L national meetings.

Mrs. Ilnicki, the host of a daily Polish-language radio program in Philadelphia, was joined on the panel by Richard Klirnek, a project supervisor with Polish-American Social Services. Convention delegates also heard from Michael Blichasz, president of the Eastern Pennsylvania District of the Polish-American Congress. Theresa Romanoski, district vice president, also attended the session.

Both Mrs. Ilnicki and Klirnek have traveled regularly to Poland. They agreed that some of the old flash points that poisoned Lithuanian-Polish relations after World War I were no longer an issue to most Poles.

Vilnius is a special city to Poles, they said, but the Polish government and people accept that it is an intrinsic part of Lithuania. Similarly, while there may



Billboard for Polish Artist, Jan Matejko's "The Battle of Žalgiris" displayed in Vilnius this summer

be minor disputes involving Polish and Lithuanian minorities in both nations, there is general satisfaction with how they are being treated by the majorities.

"Both nations are concentrating on the future," Klirnek said. Leaders in both countries recognize that they must cooperate if they are to take their places in modern, integrated Europe, he said. One example of that cooperation is "Lit-Po-Bat," a joint Lithuanian-Polish army unit that uses English as a common language.

Another example was the decision of the Polish government to allow a cultural treasure to be sent from Warsaw for display in Vilnius. "The Battle of Žalgiris" is an 1878 painting by the artist Jan Matejko that captures one of the high points of Polish-Lithuanian cooperation — victory over the Teutonic Knights in 1410. The painting drew huge crowds all summer.

The Rev. William Wolkovich-Valkavičius, whose own name illustrates the strong ties between Poland and Lithuania, urged future programs on similar topics. "I believe this is the first time that we've ever had a panel like this at a K of L convention," he said.

IN SEARCH OF MY *ROOTS*

by *Edward Baranauskas*

I am sure there are people who would like to know more about their parents, or grandparents, such as; at which port in the United States they arrived at, and the date; the name of the vessel; their date of birth, and the town or village in Lithuania they came from. I decided to do some research to see if I could find the answers to the many questions posed to me by my children and grandchildren. Perhaps my story could be of some help to those who would like to get some information about their own ancestors.

I was fortunate indeed when one of my friends took me to the National Archives and Records Administration building in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. This facility resembles a huge library that holds the answers to many questions about our ancestors, and is but one of many such installations operated by the federal government scattered throughout the country. The archivists who work there will help find the answers to many questions, if at all possible, and if not, then you may be referred to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. for further assistance. At Pittsfield, my friend learned when his grandfather came here, and was able to locate the vessel's passenger manifest which contained a wealth of information about him.

Upon entering the library, I was requested to leave my attache case at the office, to sign the visitor's register, and to note the reason for my coming here. I told one of the archivists that I wanted to know about my father. She asked me for his last name, and if I knew about when he came to America. I was then assigned to one of the forty machines available to help me examine the two reels of microfilms she handed me. These reels recorded the last names of the immigrants that began with the letter "B". I was advised to be patient as these names were not in alphabetical order, and to pay closer attention to the first name of the individual as in all

probability the last name would not be spelled correctly.

After spending more than an hour examining those reels, I was pleasantly surprised to see several people with the name of Baranauskas, which was spelled correctly. There was a Baranauskiene (a married woman) and a Baranauskaite (an unmarried woman). When I came upon the name of Kazimieras, I thought for sure that this man had to be my father. There was a group of numbers following his name. I called this to the attention of the archivist, and after she explained their meaning, I learned that this gentleman was 33 years old when he came here in 1926. Also known was the reel number of the vessel's passenger manifest in which he was listed, I knew then that he was not my father, because my Dad was about 18 years old when he came here in 1910 or 1911.

I was given another reel to examine, but the Chief Archivist, who was standing near me, noticed the disappointed look, and frown on my face. He came over to me, and asked me if either of my parents, or perhaps both, were naturalized, and if they were, if I knew in which county and state they filed their petitions for naturalization. When I replied in the affirmative, and told him where, he then gave me the address of the Hudson County Court House in Jersey City, New Jersey and the telephone number of the County Clerk. They would have in their files, along with the petitions, a Certificate of Arrival issued by the Immigration Service showing the Port of Entry, date, and the name of the vessel. I would probably be charged a fee, he went on to say, for copies of my parents' documents. He was right. I shall be eternally grateful to this gentleman for he saved me many hours of research.

I did exactly as he suggested. I contacted the County Clerk's office in Jersey City the next day, and after a few minutes pause, I was told I could have copies

of my Dad's and Mom's papers for \$1.50 per page.

About a week later I received the copies, including the Ellis Island Certificates of Arrival. My Dad arrived on December 14, 1911 aboard the vessel S.S. President Lincoln, and my Mom arrived at Ellis Island on July 20, 1913 aboard the vessel S.S. Kursk. Armed with this information, I made another trip to Pittsfield to look for the passenger manifests for both vessels.

The passenger manifest for the S.S. Kursk had many pages, and across the top it stated the following: "List or Manifest of Alien Passengers for the United States Immigration Officer at the Port of Arrival". The ledger was printed in English, and because all entries were handwritten, it was difficult at times to read the handwriting. My mother's name was on page 21. The S.S. Kursk left the port of Libau on July 3, 1913. Libau is located on the Baltic coast, and is now a part of Latvia. Because of its close proximity to Lithuania, it was probably the major port from which many Lithuanians came to America, and my Mom was one of them. The trip to Ellis Island took seventeen days, and I often wonder if she ever got seasick.

I found the information for each passenger very interesting, for each one presented a different human interest story. I would like to share some of the entries concerning my mother. For example: age, 21; occupation, domestic; read and write, yes; she had 29 dollars, and it seemed that every passenger had at least 25 dollars. How, and where, they were able to get those dollars would make an interesting story in itself. She paid for the ticket to her final destination, which was Tenafly, New Jersey, where she would join her cousin,



This picture was taken in 1913 or 1914. All the young ladies are immigrants from Lithuania. My mother, the former Salomea Kličiute is standing in the back row in the dark dress. C-12 NYC members may remember Mrs. Peter Tumenas (back row, left)

B.Uselis living in Bergen County, New Jersey.

Her father's name was listed. She was born in the town of Widischki (probably Russian for the Lithuanian Vidiškai) in Kovno gubernija. After Lithuania was occupied by the Russians in 1795, the Czar wanted to eradicate any mention of Lithuania. Lithuania was divided into provinces, called gubernijas, and one of them was the Kovno gubernija.

My mother's nationality was listed as Russian, her country was Russia, and in the "race or people" column she was Lithuanian. Of the 30 people mentioned on page 21 of the manifest, 14 were Lithuanian, 7 were Polish, 5 were Russian, 3 were Hebrew, and 1 was German.

However, each one's nationality was Russian, and their country was Russia.

I found my father's name on page 13 of the list of alien passengers aboard the vessel S.S. President Lincoln that left Hamburg, Germany on December 1, 1911 and arrived in New York on December 14, a journey of thirteen days. His nationality was listed as Russian, as was his country, but in the column "race or people" he was Lithuanian. Here are some of the entries: Age, 18; occupation, farmer; his final destination was Gardner, Mass. Unfortunately, the handwriting was not very clear for me to learn who it was who invited him. His last place of residence was the same as his birthplace, Trošzkune, probably the Russian version of Troškunai.

I noticed a little different passenger nationality make-up for those leaving Germany (Hamburg) in comparison to those leaving Russia (Libau). Of the 30 people listed on page 13, the nationality and country was as follows: 17 were Russian, 11 Hungarian, and 2 were

Austrian. As for the "race or people"; 8 were Hebrew, 6 Slovak, 2 German, 2 Lithuanian (my father being one of them), 1 Magyar, and 1 Ruthenian.

I often wondered why my Dad decided to come here from the port of Hamburg instead of Libau, which was much closer to his hometown. In Russia, when a young man reached the age of 18, he was forced to serve seven years in the army, and usually at a location far from home. My Dad wanted no part of that. Since he was 18 and of draft age, he talked it over with his mother and she gave him her permission and blessings to go to America. He must have thought it best to leave by way of Hamburg instead of Libau to avoid any possible problems with Russian officials. I never knew why he made that decision, and today I wish I had thought of asking him.

My Dad didn't say much about himself, but he did tell me that his first job was at a furniture factory at Gardner, Mass. He never told me how he got there from Ellis Island. Later, he went to work at a Ford Motor Co. plant in New Jersey where he worked six days a week and earned six dollars. My mother worked as a maid for a wealthy family in Tenafly, New Jersey. Sunday was a day of rest for most of the new arrivals, who were sometimes called "greenhorns" by the local people. (This was a slang expression meaning "a newly arrived immigrant" which today is rarely used). An ice cream parlor was their favorite meeting place where they came to relax, make new friends, and enjoy themselves. When war broke out in Europe in the summer of 1914, the uncertainties of the war's outcome gave many second thoughts about ever going back. Friendships blossomed into love and marriage, and the raising of new families.

My parents were married in 1915 at St. Ann's Lithuanian Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, a parish that was founded in 1913. My brother Charles and I were baptized at St. Ann's, and our family settled down to live in Jersey City. A Knights of Lithuania, Council 124, was organized and became the center of our social activities. It was one of several councils that were a part of the "New York-New Jersey District", as it was called

then. Today, it is known as "The Mid-Atlantic District".

My father was not the only one who wanted to avoid military service during the Czar's time. As I recall, most of my friends in Council 124 told me the same story as to why their Dads came here.

As I look back at the years I lived with my parents, the thought never entered my mind to ask more about their leaving Lithuania, and the difficulties they probably went through as they adjusted to their new environment. My parents are long gone, and now I find myself searching for answers to the same questions I could have asked them when we were together.

Postscript

When the immigrants from Eastern and Central Europe began arriving in the United States in unlimited numbers, some shipping companies tried to keep an accurate record of their origins and roots during the years before and after the turn of the century. Several monarchs governed millions of ethnic minorities speaking many different dialects and languages over their empires, the most prominent being the German, Austro-Hungarian and Russian.

In the passenger manifest, each alien was placed in three categories. There were three columns; one was marked "nationality", another "country", but the most interesting one to me was "race or people". There was a page that gave a definition of the "race or people" classification.

"Race or people is to be determined by the stock from which aliens sprang, and the language they speak. The original stock or blood shall be the basis of the classification independent of language. The mother tongue is to be used only in determining the original stock".

There were forty-six classifications, and not mentioned were Latvian, Estonian, Czech, Hungarian, Ukrainian, or Byelorussian. Listed was Flemish, and in two categories, Italy (North) and Italy (South).

There were five races or peoples listed that I was not familiar with, and I had to refer to my encyclopedias and other sources to learn more about them.

Flemish: The Dutch dialect of the people of Flanders in the northern part of Belgium.

Magyar: Its language is the Hungarian language. The Hungarians call themselves and their language Magyar, and their homeland the country of the Magyars.

Bohemian: Bohemia was a former kingdom and province of the Hapsburg Empire, and is now a geographical expression referring to the western part of what was once Czechoslovakia. Almost all of Bohemia's population is Czech.

Moravian: Moravia, in 1849, was separated from Bohemia and was made a separate province within the Austrian Empire. Moravia was made a constituent part of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918. Moravia is a region in central Czechoslovakia, and it separates the Czech region of Bohemia on the west from Slovakia to the southeast.

Ruthenian (Russniak): They were the inhabitants of Kievan Russia. In modern times Ukrainians were also known as "Little Russians". But, in neighboring countries, Ukrainian speaking minorities continued to be called Ruthenians. In addition, Ukrainian speaking people who claimed a nationality distinct from Ukrainian or Russian retained the name of Ruthenian. Under the Astro-Hungarian Empire, Ruthenian was used to designate the Ukrainian population of the north-eastern Carpathians, and although ethnically identical, the Ruthenians are distinguished from other Ukrainians by a different history and religion. Rusnyak is the native

name for Russniak, meaning Little Russian or Ruthenian.

The Grand Duchy of Lithuania around the time of Grand Duke Gediminas became a geo-political entity. Though the surrounding Slavic lands surpassed ethnic Lithuania in area, the official language of the Grand Duchy was Slavic, since it was the only written language in Eastern Europe at that time.

Some historians, however, imply that Ruthenian was actually the official language because Gediminas styled himself as "King of the Lithuanians and Many Ruthenians" (*Rex lithuanorum et multorum ruthenorum*). Lithuania, thanks to an expansion of more than a century, was second in size on the European continent only to the Holy Roman Empire. Ethnic Lithuania had been combined with the Ruthenian lands (today's Belarus and Ukraine), each of which was then an autonomus unit ruled by one of the numerous members of the Gediminas dynasty.

World War I ended in 1918, and when the map of Europe was redrawn, some nations regained their independence and new nations were formed after the breakup of those empires.

Europe was never the same since.

Spiritual Leadership (*from page 8.*)

to so many lashes, done in public. Strangely enough, even the government authorities had to step in to support the Christian effort. According to the law books - the third edition of *Lietuvos statutas* (16th century), the church was entrusted to limit, as necessary, the "folkie" wedding rites and ordered the couples "to live in holy matrimony in accordance with God's laws and the Christian rules". (We should proudly mention, that the Lithuanian Statute "*Lietuvos Statutas*" at one time was the only codified system of law in Europe sanctioned in writing by a sovereign!)

Further we read, that Bishop Motiejus Valančius (1801-1875) described a wedding in his story "Palangos Juzė", how the match-maker asked the young couple, each individually, if they were willing to get married. After positive answers, he first gave gifts to the bride's mother who, in turn, brought her daughter forward. The match-maker had to drink on her and then to

exchange the wreaths of rue. Then he had to bring the bride and seat her next to the bridegroom and publicly announce "This is a new couple" which made them legally married. No wonder Mažvydas expressed in several of his letters to Albrecht, the duke of Prussia, displeasure about weddings in Vilkiškiai, one performed by a carpenter and another by a peasant!

Some displeasure was also expressed by Michael Praetorius (ca. 1635-1707), when he mentioned the match-maker's speeches-"oracijos" - combined with prayers before a meal, while a lightheaded youth made fun of him by saying humorously distorted Latin words, names of the saints, mixed with obscene expressions! Although at a later occasion, he did recognize the inherent creativity of the common people and the quickness of wit. Our touch with Praetorius comes through the Christmas carol "Behold a Rose E'er Blooming" (*Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*).

(to be concluded next month)

Culture

Rue: Perennial Lithuanian Favorite

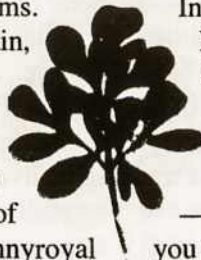
Stephany Gutauskas
C-3, Philadelphia

Of the nine different types of rue belonging to the family, *Rutaceae*, the one closest to a Lithuanian's heart is common rue, *Ruta graveolens*, a pungent herb of bitter taste which grows to a height of about three feet with bluish-green, spatulate leaves and tiny yellow flowers consisting of four and occasionally five, petals. Common rue is also known as the herb of grace, garden rue, and countryman's treacle.

Humans have known about rue for several millennia. Ancient priests before the time of Christ and the people in Christ's day both used rue in their herbal remedies. In written treatises on herbal medicine, a tea steeped with rue was recommended as an emmenagogue as well as a remedy for stomach problems, intestinal cramping, colic and convulsions in children, nervousness, and hysteria. Rue again was useful in purging the body of intestinal worms. Rue also relieved, various types of head pain, mental confusion, dizziness, and insanity. Poultices of rue eased sciatica, joint pain and gout. In the 12th century, the German Benedictine abbess and healer, Hildegard von Bingen recommended ingestion of a mixture of herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*), and rue as a remedy for melancholy.

Four centuries later, Paracelsus, a Swiss physician, recommended drying and pulverizing equal amounts of these same three herbs and eating them sprinkled on bread to cure melancholy and sadness.

In the Old World, the rue herb currently ranges from the Mediterranean to western Asia, but, at one time, it was not indigenous to Lithuania. It is believed that Franciscan missionaries brought rue to Lithuania from western Europe before Christianity became the official religion of the Lithuanian nation in the 14th century. During their stay in Lithuania, the Franciscans grew rue in their gardens and, continuing a tradition



begun in Europe in the 9th century, dedicated their rue to Mary, mother of Jesus, and blessed their plantings of the herb. Because of the honor it accorded to the Blessed Mother, rue became closely allied to the state of virginity and was widely used as a symbol of chastity.

Rue, additionally, is a traditional symbol of grief and regret, yet it also serves as a symbol of grace and repentance. William Shakespeare makes mention of rue in no less than three of his plays.

In *Richard II, Act III, Scene iv*,

...here, in this place, I'll set a bank of rue,
sour herb of grace:

Rue, even for ruth, here shortly shall be seen...
rue is the symbol of grief.

In *The Winter's Tale - Act IV, Scene iii*,

For you there's rosemary and rue; these keep
Seeming and savor all the winter long.
rue is the symbol of grace.

In *Hamlet - Act IV, Scene v*,

--there's rue for you; and here's some for me;
—we may call it herb-grace o' Sundays:-- Oh
you must wear your rue with a difference.--

Rue ought to serve as a sign of repentance or sincere contrition rather than as a simple mourning band of grief alone.

Lithuanians believe rue offers protection against "the evil eye," witches' spells, poison, and other evils. This belief is paralleled in the Iranians' trust in rue's protective powers. In the earlier part of the current century when the Shah of Iran became the father of a son, Iranian police and civilians burnt rue in front of the hospital where the prince was born to summon up good luck and to ward off "the evil eye."

Common rue is mentioned in several sources as an insect repellent being particularly effective, when used in fresh bunches, against ants, fleas, and flies.

Germans claim a wash made from a potent decoction of rue will kill head lice.

In alpine regions of northern Italy and Switzerland, a small stalk of rue is placed as a flavoring in bottles of the native brandy known as Grappa. Natives of the Balkans use rue sparingly as a flavoring on cottage cheese and in salads, sauces, soups, and other dishes.

Lithuanians tend to avoid the use of rue as a food staple or condiment for good reason as rue does have some toxic properties. The volatile oil in rue can cause reddening, blisters, rashes, and occasionally sensitivity to light when applied to the skin. If ingested, rue can cause intestinal pain, cramps, vomiting, mental confusion, or convulsions. It is absolutely essential that women, in particular, avoid any and all ingestion of rue during pregnancy.

In many households in Lithuania and in Lithuanian immigrants' homes in foreign countries, rue adorns the garden as a botanical reminder of all Lithuanians' connection to the soil of their homeland. Rue is a perennial which can be grown from cuttings or from seed. It is an herb which grows best in well-drained loam, a sandy soil rich in a mixture of organic matter and clay. Rue's delicate yellow flowers add brightness and warmth to many a Lithuanian's garden around the world.

Wreaths of rue crown the heads of young Lithuanian maidens as a symbol of their chastity. Relatives and friends of a bride-to-be in Lithuania traditionally serenade her with songs about rue on the eve of her wedding. Once a young Lithuanian lady marries, or loses her virginity while she is single, she is no longer permitted to wear any emblem of rue on her person.

The statue of Our Lady of Šiluva in St. George

Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Monsignor Joseph Anderlonis National Spiritual advisor of the Knights of Lithuania, is pastor, graces painted leaves of rue on the Blessed Mother's gown. The rue leaves, symbolic of chastity, emphasize the inherent virginity of Mary. It is quite fitting that the artistic detail on Our Lady's gown includes a depiction of rue, the unofficial national plant of Lithuania, in commemoration of Mary's dramatic appearance to several children and adults near the Lithuanian village of Šiluva in 1608.

Other artistic renderings of rue are typically found on Lithuanian margučiai. Lithuanians who decorate their Easter eggs via the wax-pattern technique tend to utilize a stylized rue-leaf motif in their designs as opposed to the stroke (fir branch) and triangle motifs rampant in the designs of eggs decorated via the scratch technique. In the Lithuanian household, rue is but one of about a dozen plants used to produce a dye for coloring Easter eggs green.

Rue leaf motifs also appear in the decoupage on notecards which craftspeople sell at Lithuanian fairs.

Artists who design dried arrangements of floral bouquets and wreaths value the desiccated brown seed pods of rue not only for their color but also for their unusual four-lobed shape which is quite attractive to the eye.

Former game-show hostess (*High Rollers*) and prime-time television actress (*Pantomime Quiz* and the short-lived situation comedy *Coming of Age*) Ruta Lee carefully chose the Lithuanian word for rue, *Ruta*, as her stage name in honor of her Lithuanian ancestry.

As medicament, talisman, botanical symbol, natural dye and inspiration to artisans, rue has marched through history and, along the way, managed to twine itself indelibly around the Lithuanian heart. ❖❖❖

Ann Matulevich
August 10, 1999
C-74 Scranton

Leo Tamulis
April 30, 1999
C-50 New Haven

In Memoriam

Mary Young
May 1999
C-144 Anthracite

Michael Yudiskas
July 1, 1999
C-153 Treasure Coast



Sophia Bartkus
August 13, 1999
C-112 Chicago

Rest in Peace
Amžina Atilsi

Lithuanians

in the news

Holy Father tells Bishops Lithuanian Faithful Must be Active Witnesses

Pope John Paul II told Lithuania's bishops the lay faithful must be more active in church life to help their country overcome its post-Cold War problems.

"The time has come for the Christian community to become a community of witness," the pope said Sept. 17. "The laity cannot be passive in the church."

Pope John Paul made his remarks during the "ad limina" visit of the Lithuanian bishops. Bishops from throughout the world make these visits every five years to report on conditions in their dioceses.

The pope said lay formation had become an urgent matter in Lithuania.

"I refer in particular to respect for human life," he added, "which today is ever more threatened by a culture of death masquerading as a culture of freedom."

Pope John Paul also noted changes in attitudes toward marriage and the family. He suggested that more attention be paid especially to the education of Lithuania's youth.

"In reality," he said, "the true secret of a significant presence of the church in Lithuanian society is in the formation of a mature laity, which will render its testimony ever better in society."

Pope John Paul urged the bishops to encourage people to pursue vocations and to cultivate potential men and women religious as well as priests. Noting that many parishes were without pastors, the pope said catechists were all the more significant in such a situation. He pointed out that many Lithuanians have been "called to give witness to Christ by privations, incarcerations, limitations of every type, up to and including the sacrifice of life."

"Now the freedom to profess the faith has become for your community like a rebirth," he added.

Lithuania's new-found freedoms have also had their disadvantages, the pope said, citing "the secular and hedonistic model of life which largely predominates in more economically evolved countries."

Speaking on behalf of the group, Archbishop Audrys Bačkis of Vilnius said, "It is not easy to



Pope John Paul II (center) with Archbishop Audrys Bačkis (right)

announce Christ, our hope, in a society where the winds of materialism and secularization blow."

Archbishop Bačkis, president of the bishops' conference, added that rising crime and suicide rates "show that for many, life does not make sense anymore."

The archbishop added that the church in Lithuania has "limited resources," but counts on "the aid of sister churches" to help restore some of the properties seized under communism and to build new facilities where needed.

One of the projects on which the church in Lithuania is working, Archbishop Bačkis said, is the planned publication of the Bible in Lithuanian, "which will permit our faithful better to know and to listen to the word of God."

--submitted by Thomas R. Papeika; 09/17/1999 by Lynne Weil (c) 1999 Catholic News Service/U.S. Catholic Conference



Did You know?

According to the book, Paul II, A pictorial Biography by Peter Hebblethwaite and Ludwig Kaufmann, (Gage Publishing, Toronto, © 1999), our Holy Father's mother was indeed Lithuanian. "On February 10, 1906, Karol Wojtyla, a noncommissioned administrative officer in the Austro-Hungarian Army, married Emilia Kaczoroska, a young Silesian of Lithuanian origin. For their second son, Karol junior, the family history was a symbolic reminder of the period of Polish-Lithuanian unity in rebellion against Russia in the nineteenth century."

Submitted by Mary Nowak, Niagara Falls, NY



Juniors

C-36 Chicago

A Touch of Heaven - Mary's Month

The month of May is especially set apart just for Her - Yes, the Blessed Mother. We have such a beautiful Geguzines Pamaldos (May Devotions) at Immaculate Conception Church with Rev. Fabian Kireilis, our C-36 Juniors Spiritual Advisor.

Remember Jesus stated, "Unless you - become like little children you will never enter the Kingdom." Religion is recognizing our inner divinity, and our faith should always be ahead of all things.

It was moving to see how the Juniors were lining up for the procession. How the innocence was glowing and how we all wanted to show our love for our dear Blessed Mother.

Carrying our Lithuanian Flag was Anna Marie Cius and Anna Mane Gudziunas and Sabina Rucate Henson - both Grandmothers as honor guards. Proudly walking in procession were: Simona Zvingilas and her cousin, Daniel, Elliott, Dane, Eric Gudziunas, Mary Cius. All walked to the altar and placed the flag near the Blessed Mother. Then Father Kireilis prayed special prayers and Mary Cius then crowned Her with the Lithuanian Karuna (Head Crown). This has been our tradition ever since we have participated in previous crownings. We show our special love the Blessed Mother and for Lithuania. We head the singing of the Litany of the Blessed Mother, followed by Benediction, Sveika Maria was sung by the Choir and the people.

Close to the end, many thoughts were being thought. Can you imagine how prayer puts you in the position to receive your good and we must remember continued prayer keeps one in that condition. Prayer changes only the one who is praying. It does enhance personality, it strengthens and increases our confidence in doing good. We not only gave a special tribute to our Lady but praying is waiting on the Lord.

Such a beautiful event, many of the parishioners were so happy they were able to be with us and share in our Crowning of the Blessed Mother. These truly are cherished memories for all. Remember each



day is a miracle.

There is a poem.... "Precious Seeds"..

In what we live, in what we read, in what we share with another's need, In how we grow, to what aspire, in lifting our vision ever higher; In deeds of kindness of words of praise, in quiet hours and busy day, In little things that are great indeed. We sow the kingdom's precious seeds. (R. Kemp)

Thanks to all who attended as this does help our "Precious Seeds" to grow and walk in the correct path of Christ. Thanks to Mr. Drutas, Mrs. Anna Marie Gudziunas and Mrs. Cathy Gudziunas. Appreciated all the help. Thanks to all Juniors C36..YOU DID IT AGAIN..... As you can see and read, we had Unity, Devotion, Vision, Joy and Release of Kindness to make all a success.

Would like to mention that our Juniors C-36 Lithuanian Flag proudly was displayed by "Our Lady of the Millennia" at Sacred Heart Church on June 24th, Lithuanian night. There all prayers were in Lithuanian.



AID TO LITHUANIA

Keeping the Lifeline of Hope Flowing

Volume 6, Number 1

Winter, 1999

AID TO LITHUANIA BEGINS 10TH YEAR OF SERVICE

Fifty-seven million dollars worth of medicine and medical supplies shipped since 1991
Two hundred and eighty-three thousand dollars donated to childrens' day care centers, soup kitchens, St. Joseph's Seminary and other worthy causes

REGINA JUSKA-SVOBA NAMED NEW PRESIDENT OF ATL

After nine years of dedication to ATL as president, Robert Boris proposed that Regina Juska-Svoba be named president, so that he might pursue retirement plans which were placed "on hold" since the inception of ATL in 1990. The proposal was unanimously approved by the ATL Board of Directors, whereby Regina became the second president of ATL. Bob was named President Emeritus in recognition of his accomplishments. He will remain the Chairman of the Board of Directors and will assist Regina in the day to day operations.

Regina's organizational talents were evident from 1992 when she first became associated with ATL and the Knights of Lithuania. Since January 1, 1999, when her appointment became effective, Regina has proven herself to be an extraordinary leader and gained the support of all her associates,

We wish Regina well and trust that she will bring ATL to even greater accomplishments as ATL faces the challenges of the new Millennium.



Regina Juska-Svoba, President of ATL and Deacon Balys Stankus, Director of Caritas, Vilnius



Anne T. Baronas

A GIFT OF LOVE

A gift of love for Lithuania and her people was given by **Anne T. Baronas**, a member of K of L Council #52, Elizabeth, New Jersey to St. Joseph Provincial Seminary in Vilnius through Aid to Lithuania.

The gift of 1,600 shares of Bell South stock will set up an **Endowed Scholarship Fund** enabling newly ordained priests to pursue post-graduate studies. The Fund was set up in memory of Anne's parents **Marcelinas and Antonina Baronas**, who came to the USA before World War I. They settled and were married in Elizabeth, NJ where they became active members of Sts. Peter and Paul Lithuanian Parish. Anne and her brother, Anthony were baptized and received the Sacraments there and attended Sts. Peter & Paul grade school.

Anne and Anthony, were raised by their parents who instilled in them love of God and the land of their ancestors, Lithuania. Anne remembers her mother saying "Duok su miele savo rankam" liberally translated means "Give generously with love." This motivated Anne to make this very generous gift to the Seminary where the needs are obviously so great. The Baronas Family will be remembered in the prayers of countless priests for many years.



Marcelinas and Antonina
Baronas

Editors Note:

Anyone considering a donation of stock or securities to promote assistance to Lithuania, may do so and will receive the following benefits: 1) As a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization a gift to ATL will eliminate the capital gains tax you might otherwise have to pay. 2) It qualifies for a personal charitable deduction based on the value of the stock on the day transferred, as allowed by IRS tax laws. For more information please call Robert Boris 941-389 1996 and consult your tax preparer.

HONOR ROLL OF MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

- Anne T. Baronas - Elizabeth, NJ The Baronas Family Endowment Fund
For St. Joseph Seminary, Vilnius, Lithuania - \$172,686.24
- In Memory of Vincent B. Boris - Robert S. Boris, Detroit, MI - \$25,000.00
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- Lith. Citizen's Society of Western Pennsylvania - \$6,500.00
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Archbishop Backis dedicates day care center

DEACON BALYS STANKUS WRITES ABOUT CARITAS-VILNIUS

In 1989, the Archdiocese of Vilnius established CARITAS with the help of various organizations and private individuals. It successfully solves many social and spiritual problems that plague Eastern European countries including Lithuania.

Difficult social and spiritual conditions create much concern regarding future generations. Children of drug-addicted parents are forced to roam the streets. Many people suffer from lack of jobs, alcoholism and drug abuse, which lead to criminal activity. CARITAS is concerned that they and especially the children should feel the warmth of Christian love. The Archdiocesan soup kitchen feeds 120 children daily, most of whom are neglected or asocial. Several of the children are from large families. In most instances they do not receive normal meals. Even their nights are complicated by the selfish desires of their parents which take precedence over the care of their children.

We will soon be able to fully open our day care center for these children and adolescents, where they will be able to find shelter, do homework and participate in other educational and religious activities. We are grateful for the humanitarian assistance received from Aid to Lithuania Inc. which provided the means to purchase equipment and furniture for the Center. The director of the Center is a religious sister who will be assisted by a staff psychologist, nurse and volunteer teachers.

We hope that in the future Aid to Lithuania (Knights of Lithuania) will continue to assist us in obtaining the medicines that are sorely needed by our people. The pharmacy of CARITAS-VILNIUS takes care of more than 80 seriously ill patients daily, who are overjoyed to receive the most vital medicines without cost.

The Social Service of CARITAS-VILNIUS assists at least 100 individuals daily, among whom are the homeless, recently released prisoners and other needy people. Caritas provides them with spiritual and material help, i.e., food, clothing and assistance with documents. Caritas provides a service for the infirm, hospitalized patients who have no one else to look after them. This is done by 25 Caritas women volunteers.

In September, 1996, the Archdiocese open the "Mother and Child Care Home," where 17 single mothers and 30 children are housed. The mothers receive counseling, as well as spiritual and psychological help.

Together with the United Nations Refuge Committee we are providing for the Pabrades Refugee Center which houses refugees who have illegally crossed the Lithuanian border from Belarus in an attempt to move further west. They are from Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka and other lands. Since they have difficulty adjusting to our climate, CARITAS helps them to adapt, even if temporarily. Eventually they are returned to their homelands.

The Archdiocese of Vilnius Soup kitchen, Betanija, feeds **600 people daily** from all over Vilnius. They are the homeless, pensioners, elderly and disabled. Archbishop Audrys Juozas Backis never forgets them. He is always concerned about their spiritual and temporal needs.

This year, Mother Theresa's Sisters, The Missionaries of Charity, opened "Mother of God Mercy House" where all homeless, infirm and abandoned can find help, thus preventing them from spending the freezing winter on the streets of Vilnius.

These are the major activities of CARITAS VILNIUS.
Deacon Balyš Stankus, Director of Caritas Vilnius (*translation by Frank Bunikis*)



Deacon Balyš Stankus and Archbishop Backis unloading ATL container

President Juska Svoba reports on Ten Years of Aid to Lithuania

Addressing the 86th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, Regina Juska Svoba, commented on the results of our efforts in the ten years since Robert Boris had a dream of helping the people of Lithuania in their struggles to recover from communist domination and now in their further efforts to emerge from that tyranny as a free nation once again.

Who would have thought ten years ago that to date, ATL would have funded the transportation of over 70 forty-foot container and truckloads of vital medicine, medical supplies, medical equipment, vaccines, vitamins and food supplements, **valued at over 57 million dollars** also channeled **over \$283 thousand dollars** to support soup kitchens, childrens' day care centers for "street kids", a home for single mothers and abused wives, orphanages, parish outreach programs for the elderly and the work of Mother Theresa's Sisters, the Missionaries of Charity, among the very poorest of the poor. During that ten years, ATL has developed solid relationships with World Medical Relief, Detroit; Catholic Medical Mission Board, New York and Pharmacists Without Borders, France. From these organizations have come the drugs and supplies that have saved lives and relieved the suffering of our sisters and brothers in Lithuania. Now ATL further assists in supporting humanitarian need throughout Lithuania with much appreciated donations from you to fund seminarians in their studies. *Aciu, Aciu, Aciu!*

In addition to the above, ATL is working with Mercy International Health Services and the Soros Foundations to sponsor Lithuanian doctors trying to further their education in the area of Hospital Administration. ATL Officers have volunteered to house the first doctor, Laimutis Paskevicius, who will spend three weeks at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac Michigan shadowing day to day activities of the administrators.

The areas of ATL's concern have been broad; health care, humanitarian assistance, and support for the Catholic Church and much to our satisfaction and pleasure, we can report that it's working. We are getting children off the streets, nurturing infants, the elderly and the dying; returning families to normal family lives and encouraging long-suffering people to look to a brighter future.

Please help ATL to continue to bring our historic homeland into the new Millennium by making on-going contributions to ATL for the medical fund, the Seminary Scholarship Fund or any other special area you may wish to support.

God has blessed us here in America with the resources, desire and ability to do this work. Let us continue to show Him our gratitude for His goodness to us. (Mike Shea)

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part III - conclusion - Christianity's Strength, Lithuania's Hope

Manifestations of Dissent and Nationalism

by Thomas Papieka

Intense restrictions against religion and nationalism in Lithuania were renewed by 1968. The brief thaw of the early Khrushchev regime renewed the hopes of the Lithuanians and in all likelihood reversed any advances that the Soviets had made in destroying religious-nationalist sentiment among the people. Lithuania rejected Soviet power and Russian foreign rule more explicitly and openly than any other puppet state behind the iron curtain. In 1968, the same year of renewed restrictions, Lithuanian Catholics began a protest movement calling for the freedom of religion and a halt to the discrimination of the church and its believers. A movement for national self-determination was born by the Catholics in the renewed chill of Soviet oppression.

One way the Lithuanians tried to effect change was to make their plight known through dissent literature. The literature of dissent can be traced back as far as the nineteenth century, and became a powerful force during the first phase of Soviet occupation in 1939-1940. In the first days of the Soviet coup, the Catholic newspaper, *XX Amžius* was successful in briefly controlling the editorial policies of the paper before the Soviet position of total control fully crystallized. The Communists, who have always liked to control public voices in the media, found it much more difficult to quiet these voices during the advent of the information age which marked the latter half of the 20th century.

On January 8, 1969, sixty-nine priests submitted a formal letter of protest to Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin complaining about restrictions placed on the training of clergy. While the Lithuanian clergy held little hope that a simple letter writing campaign would change the Kremlin's policies, the faithful did hope that the "open-letter" form of protest would garner support both at home and abroad, especially from the Vatican which had remained curiously ambivalent to the situation of the Church in the Baltics up to this time. Open

letters continued to grow in popularity as a form of protest. Letters were sent to the Kremlin listing specific examples of abuse and discrimination, putting them into the legal context of the Constitution of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic. One letter had 17,054 signatures attached to it, and even then the letter writers claimed that "it must be noted that only a negligible proportion of the believers in Lithuania gave their signatures, since the organs of the police and KGB undertook a series of measures to stop the collection of signatures." The dissenters were now trying to beat the Soviets at their own game.

The Soviets retaliated with a flurry of their own letters. They had the co-opted clergy issue pastoral letters which exhorted the faithful to tow the Soviet line and to not sign any letters of protest, which they deemed to be "irresponsible documents." In an increasingly polarized forum, the clergy indicated their resolve in what was beginning to take the form of an ultimatum. The clergy demanded at least as much liberty for religion as Soviet propaganda currently enjoyed and told the Soviets point blank that they had no fear of suffering for their faith. Eventually, 75% of the priests signed several letters explaining their resolve to participate in civil disobedience. The Soviet response to the Lithuanian clergy's ultimatums was characteristically harsh. Falling on the time tested tactic of hitting religious education the hardest, the Soviets again attempted to wipe out religious and national sentiment at its roots. Four major trials were held in the sixteen months between September 1970 and January 1972, resulting in unnecessarily long imprisonment for three clergymen and one elderly Sunday school teacher.

Rather than curb the literary activities of the Lithuanian dissidents, Soviet policy served to coalesce public opinion against the Soviets. A more formal samizdat literature is found in the *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church*. The Chronicle was first published on March 19, 1972. The amalgamation of religion and nationalism culminated in the Chronicle

which equated human rights with civil rights and thus the aims of religion with the aims of the nationalist state. The Catholic protest movement took up the human rights theme, giving it a specific national and religious character, resonating with the form of religious nationalism which had developed in Lithuania. The Chronicle spawned a new breed of nationalist periodicals such as *Aušra* (Dawn), *Dievas ir Tėvyne* (God and Homeland), and *Varpas* (Bell) which were designed to foment national and religious sentiment.

The Chronicle not only promoted religious nationalism at home, but was also very effective in informing the West of the situation in Lithuania as well. The Chronicle has been translated into English, French, Spanish, German, and Portuguese, thus broadcasting the Chronicle's extensive and detailed accounts of abuse and persecution world-wide. Compilers of the Chronicle, the most famous of whom are Petras Cidzikas, Julius Sasnauskas, Andrius Tuckus, Vytautas Bogusis, and especially Nijole Sadunaite, risked and suffered imprisonment in their efforts to write the Chronicle. Without access to modern copying and printing equipment, the Catholic dissidents were forced to type out issues by hand, making as many as nine carbon copies at a time. These would be passed around in the underground circles and eventually smuggled out of the Soviet Union to the Western world. Much like the *Chronicle of Current Events* published by Russian dissidents, the information conveyed by the Chronicle is a vital window into the Iron Curtain. The contribution of the Chronicle to Lithuania's drive towards renewed independence cannot be overstated. For many years it was the primary source revealing the conditions in Lithuania to the Western world.



Worshippers at Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Kaunas, Summer 1999

Samizdat literature was not the only way Lithuanians voiced their dissent. On November 23, 1970, Simas Kudirka, a radio operator on the Soviet ship *Sovetskaia Litva*, jumped ship and boarded the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Vigilant* near Martha's Vineyard, Mass. For some reason, Kudirka was not granted political asylum in the United States. The Soviet authorities removed him forcibly and returned him to Lithuania where he was tried for treason. The storm of protest which followed in the United States resulted in the "early retirement" of several Coast Guard officers and a congressional investigation of the incident. Kudirka, fearing the worst, spoke uninhibitedly during his trial. He declared, "An independent Lithuania, in my opinion, has a sovereign government and is not

occupied by an army. The Government has a national administration, its own legal system, and a free democratic system of elections."

Thinking that he would be executed, Kudirka professed his belief as a devout Catholic and asked that a priest give him the Last Rites. Probably because of the international spotlight thrown onto the incident, Kudirka was not executed, but sentenced to ten years in a strict regime labor camp instead. Kudirka's attempted defection caused the Soviets to unsuccessfully clamp down even more tightly on what they considered to be deviant behavior, while the Lithuanians found the Kudirka event a tragedy around which they could rally and look to as an example of brave, defiant Lithuanian nationalism.

A new wave of non-conformist youth entered the scene in Lithuania during the late 1960's and early '70's. They did not voice leftist longings like their American counterparts of the time, but were instead nostalgic for the Lithuania of the past that was free from

Communist rule. They listened to the folk-songs of the independence period as well as select Western rock and roll such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*. By 1972, the youth had decided to take the struggle of Lithuania into the forum of global exposure by following the example of the Czech Jan Palach, who sacrificed his life in the center of Prague in 1969.

In the Spring of 1972, a nineteen year old high school

student named Romas Kalanta prepared himself to follow in the footsteps of Palach and make the ultimate sacrifice so that his political voice may be heard. On the quiet Sunday afternoon of May 14, 1972, Kalanta took off his shirt outside a musical theater in the center of Kaunas and poured some kind of liquid over himself. He tried to strike one match, which did not light. With the strike of a second match, he burst into flame. He resisted help from the horrified bystanders, insisting that he was "dying for the freedom of Lithuania." The police eventually extinguished the flames and took the still living Kalanta to the local hospital. KGB interrogators persistently questioned Kalanta as he lay in agony, dying. Kalanta's only response to the KGB and indeed his dying words were,

"I am dying for the freedom of Lithuania."

The police mobilized against what they correctly suspected would be a mob scene at Kalanta's funeral. In an attempt to frustrate the crowd and in the hopes of dispersing them, government officials secretly changed the time and location of Kalanta's funeral. The crowd did not disperse as anticipated. Rather, the mob moved en masse to the city square, turning over a couple of police vehicles and hurling Molotov cocktails into the offices of the Communist party. In a particularly apt symbol of religious and nationalist defiance, someone in the crowd raised the old "bourgeois" tri-



Youth choir rehearsal in Šiauliai, Summer 1999

color flag of independent Lithuania over the tower of a church standing directly across the street from police headquarters. "Special Forces" were flown in from Moscow to quiet the situation, resulting in over five hundred arrests and reports of deaths on both the police and the youth sides. Heavy handed police tactics did nothing to calm the nationalists. Indeed, the Lithuanian youth were further entrenched in

their anti-Soviet sentiments and desires for freedom.

Pent up emotions manifested in other arenas as well. At an international sports competition in Vilnius, the Lithuanians refused to stand for the Soviet national anthem. They vociferously cheered for anyone playing against the Soviets in a volleyball tournament. The Soviets responded by trying to fill international sporting events with more "loyal supporters" of the regime so that the foreigners present did not get the idea that all was not well within the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the Soviets officially condemned any non-conformist acts as "deviant nationalist hooliganism."

In another display of defiance and religious nationalism, thousand of people walked miles to the Utena district to attend the funeral of Canon Rauda, a particularly devout and long-suffering clergyman. Again, the government officials tried to change the time and place of the funeral, but the people somehow always found out about the changes. In all, three bishops and 180 priests took place in the funeral liturgy--fully one fifth of the Lithuanian clergy at the time. Knowing that every move would be reported in the Chronicle, the Soviets were powerless to act against the faithful in the face of the threat of international exposure.

Perhaps one of the most appropriate symbols of defiant nationalism is the famous "Hill of Crosses"

located off the road from Šiauliai to Joniskis, in Daumantai. Here a small hillock called Meskuiciai--local legend says it is the remains of an old chapel buried by the Cossacks--is covered with thousands of crosses, some small, some quite large, and thousands of flickering votive lights as well. The Hill of Crosses is sometimes called the Lithuanian Golgatha in a long suffering land where, according to Bishop Tamkevicius, "spirituality is more familiar with the cross than with the resurrection." The Communists periodically destroyed all the crosses on the hill, only to find them covering the hill again after a few weeks. The Lithuanians have chosen this remote spot in the Lithuanian countryside to make their religiously symbolic stand against the Communists.

Lithuanian devotion to this symbol of the nation and religion is phenomenal. A certain Father Algirdas Mocius walked sixty-five kilometers in bare, bleeding feet to erect a cross on the "spot which had been vandalized by the atheists." The Soviets were constantly pulling down crosses inscribed with both religious and nationalist sentiments. In a typical example, one woman had inscribed on a cross, "Lithuania, be aware of your strength! It lies with Christ and our unity with one another!"

The KGB, of course, interrogated anyone they caught erecting a cross. When a weary Mecislovas Jurevicius, who had erected a cross upon which was inscribed the poignant symbolism of the Sacred Heart of Christ being pierced by two swords, one with a Nazi swastika and the other with the Soviet five-pointed star, exclaimed to his interrogators,

"If I'm guilty, put me on trial!" the agent replied, "it would be too easy to condemn you, but we must rehabilitate you." Here again, the Soviets showed that they were not content with occupying Lithuania; they wanted to destroy any sense of being Lithuanian. The Soviets failed miserably in their attempt at destroying Lithuanian national identity, and the Hill of Crosses remains as a testament to the convictions of the Lithuanian nationalists.

Lithuania is not only famous for its crosses, but also the richly embroidered national costumes that instantly identify the wearer as Lithuanian. Wearing these special costumes to church services became very popular in the latter half of the twentieth century. Often priests would supply the dresses to young girls who

would wear them at Mass in a quiet display of defiance. The Communists proclaimed that "participation in a church procession while wearing the national costume is prohibited, since nationalism is thus propagated within the church." Despite Soviet efforts to suppress the national costume--even to confiscate them from church closets--the national dress of Lithuania continued to be worn in church services in ever increasing numbers. Like all forms of defiance including dissent literature and demonstrations, the ethnic and national identity of Lithuania grew unabated in the most hostile environment of Soviet rule.

In Lithuanian, then, Catholicism is an integral part of the Lithuanian national tradition. During the dark years of Soviet eclipse, Catholicism gave Lithuania the necessary strength to persevere until that wintry January night in 1991 when the television tower was taken over by nationalists and Lithuania moved firmly and quickly towards independence. In post-Soviet Lithuania, tremendous changes have taken place in the Lithuanian way of life. Much has been made of the economic aid to Lithuania and the geopolitical security to be found in the Partnership for Peace and the push for Lithuania's inclusion in the NATO alliance. Economic and geopolitical security are, of course, necessary if Lithuania is to be once again a viable independent state. However, Lithuania should never forget that the strength of the nation comes from the faith which sustained her throughout the more difficult times. Lithuania's Christianity is Lithuania. Without Lithuania, Christianity can survive, but can Lithuania survive without Christianity?



Thomas Papieka is a freelance history and feature writer for the St. Anthony Messenger, Catholic and other publications.

Some source books for this series include:

Lithuania: 700 Years, 7th edition 1984, Albertis Gerutis, ed.;

Land of Crosses: the Struggle for Religious Freedom in Lithuania, 1939-1978, Michael Bourdeaux, Augustine Pub. 1979;

The War Against God in Lithuania, J. Savasis, 1966, NY Manyland Books;

The Sword and the Cross, A History of the Church in Lithuania, S. Suziedelis, 1988, Huntington, IN

Photos by JJA from Aid to Lithuania Tour 1999

The Lithuanian Gardener Indoor Plants

by Frank Petrauskas

Our worthy editor has taken off of the Internet a number of plants and information on their culture. What is interesting about this is it is all in Lithuanian and it came directly from Lithuania. She sent the whole kit and caboodle to me and asked if I could write an article using that information. The challenge isn't that great because they give you information on the culture of each plant. They list Growing Instructions and under that they list temperature, moist or dry conditions, amount of sun light or just light, amount of watering and fertilizer, how much care is required, and how to propagate the plant. This is one article I'll really enjoy writing and this is one article in which I'll really be the *Lithuanian Gardener*.

In the plant world all plants are listed in Latin so as to have a common language for the entire world. Regardless in which country you travel, Acer is maple, Betula is birch, Quercus is oak, Pinus is pine, etc. As I list the plants I will give the Latin name first and then the Lithuanian name and then the English common name if there is one. With each plant I'll give a few highlights of the plant. Nearly all are house plants.

1. **Achimenes** — *Achimenė* — Magic Flower

Achimenes are a relative of the African violet, grows 8 to 12 inches tall and has a brilliant floral display from spring to fall.

2. **Abutilon** — *Galenis* — Flowering maple

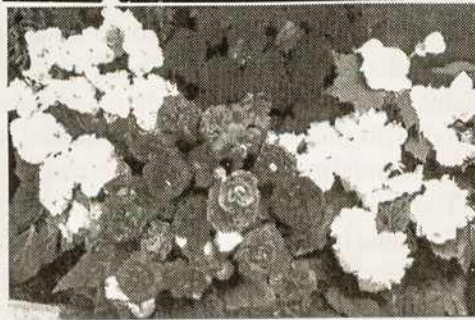
Abutilon has maple like leaves and bell-like drooping flowers that bloom year round.

3. **Alocasia** — *Alokazija*

Alocasia are foliage plants native to the tropics. Their foliage is beautiful, some varieties are silvery with green veins.

4. **Ananas** — *Ananasas* — Pineapple

Ananas is the most common pineapple plant grown



Begonia Multifloral mixed - beautiful compact plants covered with blossoms

indoors. It flowers on a 15 inch spike and then bears a 2 inch fragrant, edible pineapple.

5. **Anthurium** — *Anturis* -- Flamingo flower

Anthurium have strange petal-like bracts of orange or red with a tail-like structure that is the actual flower.

6. **Aphelandra** — *Afelandra*

Aphelandra has gaudy flower clusters 4 to 8 inches high. They blossom for about 6 weeks in the fall.

7. **Araucaria** — *Araukarija* — Norfolk Island pine

Norfolk Island pine is a popular house plant, often used in Christmas decorations.

8. **Aspidistra** — *Aspidistra* — Cast iron plant

Aspidistra withstands all types of adverse conditions but with care it bears handsome arching leaves.

9. **Asplenium** — *Kalnarūtė* -- Spleenwort

Asplenium has graceful arching fronds 10 to 15 inches long. The birds-nest fern is the easiest to grow.

10. **Azalea** — *Azalija*

Azaleas bear masses of red, pink, white or multicolored blossoms for two to four weeks in late winter or early spring.

11. **Begonia** — *Begonija*

Begonias make up the largest genus of plants suitable for indoor culture. The most popular are the wax, the tuberous and the Rex.

12. **Bonsai** — *Bonsas*

Bonsai is a centuries-old method of tree dwarfing developed by the Chinese. It permits you to grow a tree in a flower bowl.

13. **Calathea** — *Kalateja* — peacock plant

The peacock plant has almost as many bright colors as its name suggests: red stalks and shaded green leaves with purple and red undersides.

14. **Codiaeum** — *Krotonas* — Croton

Codiaeum is a beautiful foliage plant with a wide variety of colors in the leaves.

15. **Cordyline** — *Kordilina* — Hawaiian

Cordyline is the Hawaiian ti plant. There are several varieties grown as house plants but they require very humid growing conditions.

16. **Crocus** — *Crocus*

Crocus is an early spring flower but there are many species and hybrids of crocus which make fine midwinter pot plants. Very easy to grow.

17. **Cyclamen** — *Ciklamenas*

Cyclamen is among the loveliest of house plants. It bears 2 to 3 inch flowers whose petals sweep up like the wings of butterflies. The flowers bloom in shades of pink, red and white.

18. **Cymbidium** — *Cimbidis* -- Orchids

Cymbidium orchids rarely grow more than 12 inches high but bear spikes of up to 30 flowers, 2 to 3 inches across, that range in color from mahogany bronze and maroon to green, yellow, pink and white.

This concludes the first section of our Lithuanian plant list. There are too many plants on the list for one article so I'll turn it into two articles.

If you would like to grow any of the plants on the list I would suggest you check with your local greenhouse or garden store to see if they are available.

Once you purchase the plants the seller usually can supply you with the growing information. If they are unable to then write to me. Write the name of the plant or plants and send to: Frank Petrauskas, 289 Higgins Drive, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

I'll send you sufficient information so that if you follow it, you will be a successful Lithuanian Gardener.

Some of the more favorable and more colorful plants to grow are Achimenes, Alocasias, Begonias, Calathea, Codiaeum, and Cyclamen. These plants will give you a lot of color and help to cheer up your day. It's always nice to have some flowering plants in the house along with your foliage plants.

Good luck to you with your plants. Remember the number one cause of indoor plant mortality is over watering. Check the soil before watering. It is better to underwater than to overwater.



(Editor's note: You can access the website called *Gėlės* - www.geles.ot.lt - through *Lithuania-on-line*, a website that categorizes and links to a multitude of Lithuanian sites. The *Gėlės* site is in Lithuanian, has description of these houseplants, and beautiful photos. Many of these plants can be seen in Lithuanian homes.)

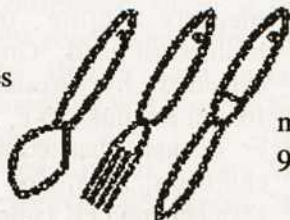


Lithuanian Chefs

Thanks to Vincent Samaska,
C-36 Chicago

Žemaičiu Valgiai Kugelis with Pigs Feet

2 pigs feet
4 lbs. potatoes
6 oz. bacon
1 onion
3 cloves
garlic
pinch of white pepper



salt to taste or (1 tsp.)
Grate potatoes, onion and garlic.
Pour over fried bacon. Add pepper, salt. Mix well.
Cut pigs feet in half the long way.
Wash and par cook 1 hr.
Grease heavy baking pan or casserole. Pour half of kugelis mixture, lay pigs feet cut side down, finish with the rest of kugelis mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 90 minutes.

Carrot Pancakes

5 carrots

1 egg yolk
2 tbs. potato starch
Crisco
1 tbs. sugar
pinch salt

Grate peeled fresh carrots, add salt, sugar, starch and egg yolk. Mix all ingredients well. Fry in hot Crisco pan. Sprinkle with granulated sugar. Variations: instead of potato starch, use all purpose flour, whip egg white to soft peaks, fold into mixture just before frying.



DISTRICT & COUNCIL NEWS

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Mary R. Kober

On Sunday, Sept. 19, the Mid-Atlantic District held their fall meeting in Kearny, NJ hosted by C-90. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Anthony Paskus at 11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Kearny.

A delicious luncheon immediately followed at the Lithuanian Catholic Center. The Meeting opened with prayer by Secretary Toni Sakal. John Nakrosis, president of C-90, greeted and welcomed all delegates and guests. Executive board reports followed with Pres. John Sakal giving an itinerary of his K of L activities..... Vice-Pres. Mary Abbott spoke about membership, encouraging the youth to join, ...2nd Vice Pres. Bernice Aviza spoke about getting Juniors involved, no matter how great the task.Joseph Zukas again gave his interesting report regarding rituals.

There were 10 members eligible to receive the 4th degree at the convention. However, only 4 members attended and the remaining will receive their degrees at a later date.

Resolutions: Loretta Stukas advised that the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid agreed to send textbooks and religious items to Lithuania. Everyone was asked to donate towards this worthwhile project. Schuyler Savings Bank donated \$1,000 and Mid-Atlantic District donated \$200.00.

A Member of C-52, Elizabeth, Anne Baronas, donated



Mid-America District Special Recognition Awardees: Theresa Strolia, Peter P. Zansitis, Mary Beth Slakis, Ellie Kasputis and Ed Pocius

stock certificates to Aid to Lithuania's Seminary Project. She was given a special award by Bishop Backis in Vilnius.

Rita Sussko of C-29 was considered for Honorary Membership which the District approved. Lithuanian Affairs Chair Ed Baranauskas spoke on the successful celebration recently held at Floyd Bennet Field, honoring all aviators who flew from that Field.

Election of officers took place with the following results: President Ed Barkowski - 1st VP- Mary Abbott - 2nd VP Bernice Aviza - Secretary Frances Jakatt - Treasurer Cathy Nakrosis - Trustees: John Nakrosis, Ann O'Neil, Loretta Stukas - Lithuanian Affairs, Ed Baranauskas - VYTIS Correspondent Frances Jakatt - Cultural Anthony Yakavonis - Mandate Committee, Ellie Nakrosis - Ritual Joseph Lukas.Rita Sussko was elected as representative of our district on the national level to the Ritual Committee.

Our long awaited raffle was held with Ann Morrissey as chair. Winners were as follows:

Trip to Lithuania, Virginia Kurilyas of C-110 ; \$100, Emily Vigliarolo C-152; \$50, Diane Bablin-Lauterbach, C-100 -\$50 Felix Zorskis, C-152 - \$50, Marie Guoba C-29.

The committee thanks everyone who participated in the raffle since this is our district's only fund-raising

We thank Kearny C-90 for being a gracious host for this meeting especially the delicious buffet and goodies that were served. You can invite us back at any time.

The meeting ended with a prayer and our spring 2000 meeting will be tentatively hosted by council C-110 in Maspeth.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Aldona Marcavage

Providence Council 103 hosted the NED Fall Convention on a sunny Sept. 19th. Representatives from 10 councils united in prayer and hymns to begin the day with holy Mass at St. Casimir's Church, with Rev. A. Klimanskis officiating. A real Lithuanian dinner awaited our pleasure before the serious business at hand. Greetings were extended by presiding officer Joseph Stiklius and F. Klimanskis. Fr. Shakalis thanked members for choosing him for Honorary Membership. Fr. Janiunas said we need more family enrollments to

ensure the future of the K of L.

Sr. Eugenia spoke of Religious Helping Religious.

Sr. Helen reported the receipt of another grant to defray the cost of shipping. The 103rd container has been sent for Lithuanian Children's Relief. "Keep collecting stamps," Sister Helen added. She has received approximately \$3,000 (from stamps) to date. Our efforts to help these

kids show signs of improvement. This year ALL children went on to either high school or to jobs. Sister Eugenia works closely with Sister Helen. It is a big job performed with heart.

A resolution was read and approved to elevate Fr. Wolkovich of C-27 Norwood, to Honorary Membership. His list of credits is noteworthy.

We were saddened by the news that the president of Westfield, Joseph Buckities died just before our fall convention, which he was planning to attend. May he know peace and enjoy the company of the other K of L members who preceded him to his Heavenly rest. Eternal rest, fellow Knight.

Money from the Sviklas-Tamulevich was thoughtfully distributed where it can do the most good. Among the recipients was Brother Juan in Brazil, who hopefully will become Father Juan soon.

No candidates were submitted for the NED scholarship at this time.

Congratulations and best wishes to Anthony Miner and his



'99 Convention memories: John Mankus, C-7's Kathryn Urban with Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis and Cardinal Anthony Belacqua

bride, imported from Lithuania. God bless you both.

On October 24, the NED Cultural Festival was held at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury, MA. It is the annual fundraiser for the scholarship fund. Doing kitchen duty was C-103, Providence and C-116, Worcester. South Boston was excused due to a fundraiser to aid LCR. Boston had contributed \$100 to the raffle instead.

The busy bees of Boston will host the Spring Convention on April 30, 2000.

Maryte Sepikas of C-133 invited us all to Los Angeles on July 27-30, 2000 tempting us with "Remember, there is nothing finer than a California summer night."

NED officers for 1999-2000
Spiritual Advisor-Rev. Peter Shakalis, Pres. - Joseph Sticklius, 1st VP - Sister Eugenia, 2nd VP - Katherine Urban, Rec. Sec.-June Grenier, Corr. Sec. - Ruth Krecioch, Treas.-Marion Racicot; Trustees-Marion Hobitz and Bill Wisnowski, Pub. Rel.- Aldona Marcavage, Ritual- June Grenier, Cultural - Brone Wisnowsky,

Archives - Larry Svelnys, Scholarship - (on hold till spring

convention)

Note: Bill Piacentini sent in a letter of resignation since he will be teaching English at the University of Rokiškis in Lithuania this year.

C-7, WATERBURY, CT
Adele Klenske

June Grenier, Lillian Joseph, and Kay Urban, our three delegates to the 86th National Convention in Philadelphia, reported having a wonderful time! They brought back to the Council a second place certificate for enrolling our many new members. Credit goes to those few members who have diligently pursued the practice of looking for these new recruits.

At our September 17th meeting, we re-elected the same officers for the coming year:

President - Joe Stiklius
Vice President - Linas Balsas
Treasurer - Arlene Stikius
Rec. Sec. - Agnes Bauza
Financial Sec. - Doris Snirpunas

Thank you all for accepting your responsibilities and keep up the good work!

Also at our meeting, we welcomed our new Spiritual Adviser, Father Kevin Forsyth, who is presently Acting Administrator of St. Joseph's Parish, with which our Council is closely connected. Father was presented with a Knights of Lithuania shirt and hat and thereby became the "adopted Lithuanian son - Father Forsytis".

The New England District Convention was held on September 19th in Providence, RI. At that

meeting, our Council President, Joe Stiklius, was elected President of the New England District. Kay Urban was elected Second Vice President and June Grenier Recording Secretary and member of the Ritual Committee. Congrats to all!

The 10th Annual Day of Prayer for Lithuania was celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford on September 26th. Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin was the principal celebrant. Attending were numerous priests from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York, as well as Most Reverend Paul Baltakis, Bishop for Spiritual Assistance of Lithuania Outside Lithuania and Most Reverend Juozapas Matulaitis, Bishop of Kaišiadorys, Lithuania. Many of our Council members actively participated in the Mass and ceremonies. Most of the credit goes to Father Rikteraitis of New Britain, who puts much effort and time in the organization of this event. It certainly showed in the final analysis.

C-10, ATHOL-GARDNER

Vincukas

Our council elected the following officers for the coming year: Spiritual Advisor: Reverend Joseph Jurgelonis
 President: Dr. Henry Gailiunas
 Treasurer: Nellie Melaika
 Vice Pres: William Wisniauskas
 Rec. Sec: Pamela Bouthillier
 Fin. Sec: Howard Beaudette
 Cultural Chair: Brone Wisniauskas
 Marshal: David Lucas
 Ritual Chair: Howard Beaudette

Plans are being formulated for our annual Kučios and Lithuanian Independence Day.



C-17's Sr. Eugenia Glineckis, CJC celebrates 50 Years in religious life

year, was the recipient of many prizes for his own grown veggies and canned vegetables at the Franklin County Fair in Greenfield. Bravo Armand. Member James Kraskauskas has been taking many trips to Lithuania.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to the following members: Reverend Richard Algimantas Jakubauskas on his ordination in St. Paul's Cathedral in Worcester on June 5th. He is assigned to St. Cecilia's, Leominster. Our prayers go out to you, Father.

Ann and Stephen Walinsky, Sr., of Worcester, on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. May you see many more!

Al and Pat Akure of Council 17, South Boston, on the 50th anniversary of their marriage.

A large group of members attended the Fall convention held at St. Casimir's, in Providence, Rhode Island. Thanks for the hospitality.



C-17's Alexander Akule and wife, Patricia celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary

C-17 - SOUTH BOSTON, MA
Balandis

A special pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece, following the footsteps of St. Paul, is being taken again this year, was the recipient of many prizes for his own grown veggies and canned vegetables at the Franklin County Fair in Greenfield. Bravo Armand.

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Congratulations to Al and Elaine Kniupis, upon becoming grandparents again. A granddaughter, Natalie, was born in Georgia to their daughter, Lauren, and husband Jay.

What a surprise for Walter Bossi—his wife, daughter, family members and friends held a party for him to celebrate the big "8-0". His wife Nellie's happy laughter must keep him looking so young!

Fr. Steve Zukas, St. Peter's Pastor, announced that after the 4 o'clock Mass, there would be a little something "extra" for the members at the K of L meeting.

Delicious bulbinu blyniu was prepared and served by chefs Frank and Virginia Markuns and Joe and Ann White. Ann White's easy recipe for a large hungry group includes: 30 lbs. potatoes, washed, grated, then divided into 3 large mixing bowls. To each bowl add 8 well beaten eggs, salt. The tasty potato pancakes were hot from the grill and served with the choice of sour cream, apple sauce and/or Larry Svelnis' honey.

Welcome to Council 17!!! Our three newest members are: Rornualdas Gasparonis, St. Peter's talented organist and choir director; Andrius Gasparonis, his oldest son; and Kenneth Casper, youngest family member of the long-time Lithuanian funeral directors of S. Boston.

Triple Congrats to the "Happy Birthday Trio"—Adele Martus, Mary Martus and her sister Nancy.

Daughter and niece, young Adele, wishes for their good health and surprised the 3 birthday ladies with happiness. a jolly dinner at "Louis, Louis".

At the New England K of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified L, District Meeting, council celebrated her Golden Jubilee in members, Sr. Eugenia accepted the religious life. At a special Jubilee position of Vice President and Mass at the Brockton Our Lady of Larry Svelnis continues on in the Sorrows Convent Chapel, she Archives. Best wishes to the newly celebrated with her extensive elected President, Joe Stiklius, who replaced Bill Piacentini.

A great big thanks to the hard working members of the Providence Council who were very hospitable and also excellent cooks! Best wishes and thanks to Bertha Stoskus for all her many years of doing many jobs with such excellence.

Heartfelt congratulations on the 50th Wedding Anniversary of our Honorary Member, and long time C-17 President, and former New England District President, Alexander Akule and his very supportive wife, Patricia! Fifty years ago they met at a Polka Night at the Roseland State Ballroom. That was the very beginning. Blessings to you both. In honor of the occasion there was a special Mass for their intention and then a special dinner with family and friends. We all send our very best



Victoria Augustine, C-26 at Trakai in summer

big move down south to Florida. After a big party sendoff at her daughter's, Carol, and family's beautiful home. Esther has moved to the Palace Suites, 11377 Southwest 84 Street, Miami, Florida 33173. She would love to hear from all her friends. We will miss you Esther!

Many of our members attended the N. E. District Spiritual Retreat at the Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME. We thank both Father John and Father Dennis. Also registrar Sophie and her staff, who always help to make us both comfortable and well fed. Ačiū Labai. This year the added attraction was the Aquacize water exercises down at the pool. Keep splashing Ladies and Gentlemen (or is it dolphins and sharks).

Members we would like to see more often at the meetings: Josie Satkevich is kept busy singing so low (not solo!) with the Weymouth senior citizens singing at various Nursing Homes on the South Shore. Helen Bouffard, with sister Josie, returned recently from a stay on Martha's Vineyard. Helen's daughter and family are residents there. Her grandson, who works at the Vineyard's airport, shook hands with President Clinton when he arrived there for the family vacation.

Recuperating from operations are: Amelia Vallis, Eleanora Mikalonis, and Mary Martus. We wish you all a speedy convalescence and recovery.

Our C-17 photographer Albert Kropas and his wife Aldona Elizabeth, recently celebrated with their niece, Claudia Kropas Hughes. She is a graduate of St.

Peter's school and received a Ph.D. sight-seeing.

degree in Engineering, Patent Recognition, from the School of Engineering, Institute of Technology, Dayton, Ohio.

Good work Donatas Galentas on receiving a well deserved scholarship from the Supreme Council at the Philadelphia convention! All eligible members are strongly urged to apply. It is an honor both for the member and the council.

It is nice to have had Msgr. Albert Contons back at St. Peter's helping out Fr. Steve Zukas while he was away on vacation.

Ikipasimatymo!

C-26, WORCESTER, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

Those of us who knew Dalia, and of her involvement with the business of being an eager K of Ler, grieve and pray for the repose of her soul.

When Charlie and Emily Witkus checked out of the hotel before departure from Lithuania, they left with the desk clerk a note of welcome, with do's and don'ts, for Viv and Al Rodgers to consider while they vacationed in Lithuania. The Witkuses ended their stay the day the Rodgers arrived. This trip for Vivian and Al was the beginning of the celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Anne and Steve Walinsky celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary renewing the marriage vows during a Holy Mass, followed with a family dinner.

Victoria Augustine, our Lithuanian Affairs chairperson, spent her vacation in Lithuania, not at the same time of the others. She enjoyed herself by visiting with friend and family partying and

Lynne and Mike Jalbert housed and hosted one of the LPGA golfers during the Pleasant Valley Tournament week of August 1st through the 8th.

Anne Buchinkas fell and broke a hip late in August, and is now in physical therapy and healing. Hurry up and get well.

Helen Gillus has not bowled with her buddies through out most of the summer, due to knee problems. We have missed her and her joviality.

Terry Adomavicius was scheduled for knee replacement in the middle of October. She should be back on both feet before this notice appears in this issue. Hopes for a complete and pain-free recovery.

Our September meeting started off with a good pot luck supper. Forty attended and ate with smiles of contentment between bites. President Rodgers, back from Phillie, Lithuania, Cape Cod, and her 50th wedding anniversary honeymoon, conducted business as usual after the repast.

Interesting programs are planned for the coming monthly Meetings. One in particular is the fabulous Christmas party for the meeting

C-82, GARY, IN

Mildred Jagiella

On September 19th, Council 82 hosted the 2nd annual reunion of St. Casimir Church parishioners and friends. Casimir Bait, council President, headed the committee.

Under sunny skies with some stiff breezes, an outdoor mass was held by Monsignor Urbonas. Sr. Janine helped provide liturgical guidance to the approximately 188

who attended the mass and picnic.

Parishioners who passed away during the past year - Mike Ziedelis, Julius Ualeika, and Sr. Marise Petrites, PHJC- were remembered; also, those who were ill, including Dr. Apolonia Pacys, who has since passed away.

Monsignor Urbonas and Sr. Janine traveled back to Indiana from Lemont for this event. Other guests from Lemont included Faustas and Theresa Strolia, Ann Marie Kassell, and Uladas and Marie Ruzga. Our Californian, Al Brazauski attended, while in town visiting his mother, Mary, a local nursing home resident.

The camaraderie, spirit, and love we shared as parishioners continues to grow in spite of obvious hardships. Dr. Apolonia's last Christmas card wished us all "tyro dziaugsmo... stiprybes ir uilties". In addition, she hand-wrote... "I wish we could be together at our little church". Amen.

C-74, SCRANTON, PA

Marie Laske

We had our first meeting after summer vacation. Newly elected officers are: President-Marie Laske, 1st VP-Marie Beneckine, 2nd VP-Rose Stanches, Rec. Sec.- Lee Bozenko, Fin. Sec. Ruth Yanish, Treas.-Margaret Clegg, Lith. Affairs - Casimir Yanish, Cultural-Martha Brack, Ritual and Vytis Corres. - Marie Laske, Public Rel.-Marie Beneckine, Hospitality-Della Zvirblis, Spiritual

Advisor-Msgr. Peter Madus, Trustees-Leo Zewicki, Phanas Shimkus and Richard Laske, Sgt. at Arms - Martha Wagner. Congrats to all our officers.

Our member, Ann Matulevich died August 10, 1999. We extend our sympathy to her brother, Casimir Yanish, his wife, Ruth and Ann's two children and their families. Rest in peace, Ann. Our sorrow also goes out to Nellie Bayoras Romanas of Pittston, on the passing of her only son, John Joseph. John is now at peace.

Condolences go out to Jean Kavelines whose two sisters died very recently. Jean is our dependable cook and this is such a hard time for her. A few of our K of L's volunteered for the Little Sisters of the Poor Bazaar. Dick and I have been volunteering for 20 years for the Little Sisters.

December 12 is the date planned for our annual Kučios. The public is welcome. Cost is \$8.00 each.



Maryanne and Joseph Guerriero of C-102 Detroit celebrate 50th Anniversary

C-96, DAYTON, OHIO

Fran Petkus

We have maintained a busy schedule in Dayton. In June C96 hosted the MCD Spring Convention/Mid-West Bowling Tournament June 11-13, 1999. Under the chairmanship of Michael F. Petkus, the weekend proved to be a very successful one. It was the participation of councils and their members, in the MCD and MAMD, that made the event the success it was. The winning team was C -25, captained by Charles Machutas. Of the many winners, Nelda Machutas went home with the most individual prizes. Rob Martin of C-16, Chicago, was pleased to regain his title of 'low man'! Congratulations to all!

On the committee from C -96 were Eloise, John, Joyce, and Amy Berczelly; Elaine Pacovsky; Robert Pant; Joseph and Christine Fletcher; George and Frances

Mikalauskas; Annamarie Sluzas Berger; Elinor Sluzas; Fran Petkus; Judy Petrokas; Rita Ambrose and many more.

Congratulations to Rev. Michael Holloran and Elaine Pacovsky upon receiving their Third Degree Medals prior to Mass on the 13th. MCD Ritual Chair Lee Moore and Lauretta Pant had the honors of making the presentation.

Much thanks goes to Elena Mikalauskas who hosted the council's July meeting and family picnic at her home. With everyone bringing covered dishes and all the trimmings, we had a great time! Sr. Regina came up from Fayetteville!

Our delegates to the National Convention in Philadelphia came home with nothing but praise for a job well done by the members of C-3. The hot, humid weather did not

interfere with everyone having a great time. Delegates from C-96 were George, Frances, and Elena Mikalauskas, Irena Gecas, Elinor Sluzas, and Mark Bell. Fran Petkus registered as an Honorary Member, while Michael F. Petkus went as a delegate from the MCD. C-96 members on the Supreme Council Board for this coming term are Annamarie Sluzas Berger, 3rd Vice President in charge of Juniors; and Mark Bell, Financial Secretary. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Annamarie Sluzas Berger and Linda Pant, recipients of the Supreme Council Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Awards. Way to go!!

Congratulations to George and Frances Mikalauskas on the occasion of their Fortieth Wedding Anniversary. Their children put together a wonderful celebration for them at the Lithuanian Club. Running all during the gathering was a video of their wedding day and the days following the wedding! A most enjoyable sharing of a special day.

Deepest sympathies to Janet Vigel-Birt on the loss of her mother, Irene, and to the family of our Third Degree member Polly Pietrzak who was called by the Good Lord at the age of 92! May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

Congratulations to Rob and Linda Pant on the birth of their first baby, Gabrielle Elizabeth! Happy grandparents are Lauretta and Henry Pant and uncle Michael Pant, all K of L's!

Mother Nature blessed us with a clear, very warm day for our Annual Cemetery visit on Sept 12th. We began the day with 10:30 AM Mass for the deceased members of the council. Our



C-112's Aldona Brazis (l) with Mary Krauchunas, guest speaker after Vytis presentation

Juniors were the Offertory Bearers. Following Mass, prayers for the deceased members who are buried out of town were held in church. Forty grave sites were visited at Calvary Cemetery with a white carnation placed at each grave. Potted plants were placed at the graves of our two newest deceased members. Prayers and reminiscing was shared.

Sr. Regina Welza came up from Fayetteville (an hour and half from Dayton) to join us. Thanks must go to George/Frances Mikalauskas and Betty Nash for making all the arrangements. Members returned to the church hall for our monthly meeting.

The Feast of the Holy Cross date was Sept. 14th. This year we held our Parish's Feast Day Family Picnic on Sept. 19th. Thanks must go to the Keivel Family for once again taking charge of the very special occasion. The parish supplied the meat with parishioners bringing covered dishes. There was plenty to eat with no one going home hungry. The children had fun with all the games and prizes to win. Top horse shoe players were Father Michael Holloran and Jim Geiger.

The weekend of Sept.



C-112's Anniversary Committee Members

24-26, 1999 saw George/Frances Mikalauskas. Henry/ Laurreta Pant, Robert Pant and Fran Petkus head to Cleveland, OH for the MCD Fall Convention/Pilgrimage. C-25, our host, did an outstanding job putting the program together. At the get-together on Friday, not only was there plenty to eat, we had a treat with Samantha Farrell, age 14, entertaining us with her beautiful voice. The meeting went very well on Saturday with the following members of C -96 on the MCD Board: President-Fran Petkus; 3rd Vice President-Robert Pant; Treasurer-Elena Mikalauskas; Trustee-Michael F. Petkus; Sgt-at-Arms-Robert Pant; Ritual-Laurreta Pant; Aid to Lithuania, Inc.-Elinor Sluzas; MCD Recognition Award-George A. Mikalauskas. Congratulations to one and all!

Saturday we attended Mass and lunch at Saint Mary Seminary. Hearing the seminarians as they chanted during the Mass in English and Latin was a real treat. In the evening we went to Our Lady of Perpetual Help auditorium for a concert. We were entertained by the beautiful voices of the "Volunge" Women's Singing Group from Toronto.

Sunday we attended 10:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in a body. The Presidents of Councils and District were the Offertory Bearers. Following

Mass, our District Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Geiminas Kijauskas, held swearing in of District Officers, presentation of the MCD Recognition Award and the Third Degree Medal. Congratulation must go to Laurreta Pant C-96's newest Third Degree Member!! Closing dinner at the Lithuanian Club was plentiful. Special guests were Ingrid Bublys - Lithuanian Consulate in Cleveland; Dr. Jonas Jasaitis, editor of DIRVA. To the members of C -25 -Thanks for a GREAT weekend!!

C-112, CHICAGO, IL

Johanne Marie Shainauskas, SSC.

After welcoming 12 new Knights, Council 112 now proudly claims a total membership of 284! Our newest member signed up on the Internet site set up by Mark H. Bell, the Supreme Council's new Financial Secretary. Thank you, Mark!

This year, 14 adults, and 5 Junior members (directed by Maria Deksnis), attended the K of L 86th National Convention in Philadelphia. The Juniors put on a very inspiring skit about our Lady of Šiluva. They did a super-excellent job!

Four of our members celebrated special wedding anniversaries this year: Vincent and Mickey Petrosius, their 50th; and Algird and Aldona Brazis, their 59th. Ilgiausiu metu!

Our May 18th meeting featured a special guest, Mary Krauchunas, who was invited to be our speaker by Mrs. Aldona Brazis.

Mary gave a most interesting

presentation regarding the K of L symbol, the VYTIS. All left with a better understanding and appreciation of our precious historical symbol. Thank you, Mary!

At the Mid-America District meeting on June 5th, held at the

Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir, 5 Knights received special recognition awards: Theresa Strolia, Peter P. Zansitis, Mary Beth Slakis, Ellie Kasputis, Edward Pocius, and Evelyn Ozelis. Sincerest congratulations to each of them!

The 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Council 112 is fast approaching. A special Liturgy, dinner and dance will be held on October 9th, at the Nativity Parish Church. Julie Zakarka and her committee members have long been hard at work in preparation for this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

Our Mid-America District's spiritual advisor, Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, is recuperating nicely after hip-replacement surgery. We pray for his complete recovery and good health. Greitai pasveikit, teveli!

C-136, HUDSON MOHAWK, NY

Dorothy Richmire

We hope you all enjoyed the unusually hot, humid summer. Some members of C-136 joined C-100 on the bus trip to Putnam. It was an especially hot and humid day and very oppressive.



C-142 Washington DC Knights hosted Bishop Bartulis of Šiauliai on July 18, 1999

However, we managed to find cool spots on the convent grounds. The museum was refreshingly cool and particularly interesting. We were fortunate while visiting, to have someone explain the history and significance of the various artifacts. The dancers were splendid in their native dress. Participants ranged in age from the very young to the older teenagers, and they danced beautifully. We enjoyed the traditional foods and conversation and had a full day.

Our annual picnic by the Mohawk River found many of us from the two councils visiting and sampling the delicious dishes created by members. It was a lovely day and we all went home with tummies full of good food. It seems that whenever Council members meet, whether at meetings or social gatherings, we all have a great time.

Sad News---Two of our newer members recently journeyed home to God, Joe Janaibis and Doris Laurensi. Joe was the essence of a perfect gentleman who especially enjoyed visiting with everyone. He had so many

interesting tales to tell and those of us fortunate to know him always

loved hearing them. Doris was faithfully devoted to her faith and church and in her quiet unassuming way, always had a smile for you. We will indeed miss them very much and we extend our deepest sympathy to their families.

C-141, BRIDGEPORT, CT

Aldona Marcavage

Members of

Council 141 were warmly welcomed by Marie and Bill Brilvitch to their lovely home and grounds for the 25th Anniversary picnic. Council photographer, Jonas Balcius, took a group picture for a lasting memory of the occasion. Jonas, assisted by his son Peter, provided us with a pleasing assortment of Lithuanian music for our dancing and listening pleasure. Bob Marcavage, initiated a cross-dressing race. Players were Barbara W. Schmidt, Helen Baranowskas, Victor Miller, and William David Brilvitch. All were winners who received a fortune cookie.

Fellow knights please remember wheelchair rider John Kristy in your prayers. Also don't forget our other wheelchair friend--Ray Buzak. They will appreciate a prayer or two. We were happy to see Ann Gecevich in our midst walking without a walker and looking great. Welcome back.

Anne Laukaitis has just returned from a very enjoyable visit with her daughter in Lithuania. Jennifer was working at the US Embassy in Vilnius for ten weeks. Mother and daughter had fun checking out many points of

interest. Jennifer, who once was Folk dance our Junior council member, ensemble interned at the state capital in entertained Hartford for one semester. She with their returned to the University of lively Connecticut Law school in dances. September. We wish you success Three of and God bless! our council

Nothing but high praise members can be heard for the 86th National dance with Convention in Philadelphia. Sean the group: Miller, our Junior council member, Barbara W. is always so eager to go as he has Schmidt, so much fun. This year attending Nancy were Honorary Member Pawasausk Clemencine Miller, Lee Marcinka, as, and Stella Marcinauskis, Eleanor Annette Wisniesky, Allison and Sarah Belevich. Miller, and of course, Sean Miller.

Our council is saddened by the loss of another member. Regina Wright was called Home to eternity August 8, 1999. She left her beloved husband George, six children and 5 grandchildren. The Knights performed the special Wake Ritual, and ended with "Marija, Marija". Msgr. Francis Pranckus led the prayers and President Clemencine Miller placed a white flower in the casket. Regina very generously provided care to her relatives in Lithuania over the years. She will be greatly missed by all. May she rest in peace.

At the Sisters Friendship Bay picnic in Putnam, it was so good to see so many Knights contributing their support to the Sisters annual fund raising and fun event. They truly work so hard for God and country.

October 3, 1999 C141 celebrated 25 years as a K of L Council. A wonderful dinner/dance was planned with the one and only Joe Thomas to provide our favorite tunes for our dancing and singing pleasure. Our favorite VETRA



C-156 Shamokin knights at Philadelphia convention

Members entering the club \$50.00 for text books for religious education in Lithuania.

rooms for the first meeting of the season were met by a blackboard greeting "Sveiki Vyčiai - C-141" initiated by Peter Balčius.

Due to a death in her family, HM Clem Miller was absent, so Nancy Pawasauskas, 1st VP presided with 36 members present. Lee Marcinka, Eleanor Wisniewsky and Aldona Marcavage represented our council in Providence, RI, at the NED Convention. Msgr. Pranckus

reported he recently suffered two infections after chemo at the hospital, but he is doing well now. May the prayers of his many friends help him with improving health.

We are very proud of HM Clemencine Miller who was chosen "Woman of Substance". She received a full page spread in the CT Post with a brief summary of her activities. She deserved a more in-depth report of her colorful life, but the large tri-color flag by her side was lovely and the Knights of Lithuania received some positive publicity.

Members agreed to donate

The Vetra dancers performed to an appreciative audience in Hartford during the Lithuanian Day of Prayer. Participating in Holy Mas was an honored guest, Most Rev. Juozapas Matulaitis from Kaišadorys, Lithuania.

A letter of thanks was received from Sister Helen for all the stamps sent to her. They help pay for shipping needed items for LCR. Keep collecting.

Carol Buzak and her husband, Ray, a long time MS patient, traveled to Lithuania this October. Ray will be taking part in classes in Klaipeda and will talk on theatre and drama in English.

They will visit an engineering student in Vilnius who teaches English at Klaipeda Christian University. They will also travel to Switzerland to visit another friend. They had met these people at the 1993 World Drama Festival in Vilnius. When asked if his health will allow him to achieve all his desires, Ray replied, "God knows where we are—at all

times."

Joseph Janiunas reported that the Kamertonas Chorus from Kaunas will be touring the USA in October. Lithuanians in seven cities will be able to hear their concerts. They have performed in Austria, Poland, Germany, France, Luxemburg and Holland.

PS. Thanks for this report goes to Sylvester, my husband, who took notes for me while I was in Providence.

C-152, E. LONG ISLAND, NY

Julia M. Lott

I do hope everyone had a pleasant fun-filled summer. Many of our members were kept busy traveling. Five of our Knights attended the National Convention in July. Others were enjoying the special events of summer in their communities. In spite of the start of a very rainy July 13th, our Annual Picnic went off just as planned. The rains stopped, the sun came out, and 14 members and 4 guests arrived with their huge picnic baskets. We acquired big appetites at the beach, and I believe, all must have anticipated this and came prepared to share with one another. Not only did we have such a variety of food, but Fred Lucka thoughtfully brought along some of his Lithuanian tapes. Along with the music and good old-fashioned conversation, it was a most enjoyable day. Wish more could have come, perhaps next year!

Our members sure are in the news. Peter Dykovitz is again in a great write-up with a biography of his years in the Military. A very impressive Merchant Marine life beginning long before World War II and continuing after the end of the war, for 5 more years, until his

discharge in 1950. A very dedicated Veteran!!

Member Mike Zukas made an appearance on television explaining the history and functions of the Southold Historical Society where he's quite active. Muriel and Ray Lofinark traveled to Maine to visit the Lithuanian Franciscan Priests in Kennebunkport. They said it's a very scenic place to see.

Our local photographers were busy too. They got a nice shot of our very active member, Beatrice Lucka, attending the Eastern Long Island Quilting show, where Angela Minsavitch, another one of our Knights had entered one of her quilts. Speaking of Angela, she, too, did some traveling. This time to the Holy Land in Jerusalem for two weeks. She covered lots of territory in that time.

I'm sorry to report the loss of our Knight Helen Kenny, who passed away on July 16th. She was a member since 1987. A K of L Ritual Wake was held with 8 of our Knights attending. Tom Tarmey presided with Agnes Manna presenting the Rose. May she rest in peace. A very lovely thank you was received from her husband, Peter Keimy, who said he was so pleased that Helen had such a nice Lithuanian good-bye.

C h r i s t m a s p a r t y
preparations are in the works as are the elections for the coming year. So before our "Snowbirds" flyaway south please attend the next few meetings before you leave. And a "Happy Thanksgiving" to all.

C-156, Shamokin, PA

Olympic Zelinski

Council 156 had their annual picnic at Knoebels Grove on June 17. It was well attended

and there was plenty of delicious food. The Council provided soft drinks, hot dogs and hamburgers.

Children received a book of tickets and members played Bingo or toured the Park.

The next annual event was the Anthracite Parade in Shamokin. Our council sponsored several antique cars for the members (who would not be able to walk) to ride in and we won an award.

Our big event for the year was two vans traveling to Philadelphia for the National Convention. We went especially to present \$2,000 from our council to adopt a seminarian through Aid to Lithuania's new project. It took a lot of hard work during the year to reach this goal, and will now start another year of fundraising events.

On August 21, our council "adopted a highway", Route 901 clean. Member Andred Charnosky did all the planning for this event and was the highway cleanup coordinator. The day began with breakfast at Palmer's Diner and our council had its name displayed as the group in charge.

Our first meeting on Sept. 21 at Our Lady of Hope Hall featured Paul Wislock's slides from his trip to Lithuania.

We lost one of our good members, Alberta Bartash on July 20. She was always willing to help at any project we undertook and we could always count on her for a delicious cake. Attending her ritual wake were council members and members from Frackville, namely Elsie Kosmisky, Eleanor Vaicaitis and Marcella Kaselonis.

❖❖❖

Smiles Without Wrinkles

One nice thing about egotists; they don't talk about other people.

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