



# VYTIS



*The Knight*  
*Volume 85 No. 10*



**GRUODIS - DECEMBER 1999**



# Vytis- The Knight

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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.*



## *Table of Contents - Turinys*

To My Fellow Knights .....	2
Letters to the Editor .....	2
Official News - Ritual Committee - <i>HM Clemencine Miller</i> .....	3
Another Side of the Lithuanian Christmas .....	4
Fr. Francis Plantes Remembers Christmas .....	5
Language/Culture Panal Discussion - Part II - <i>HM Faustas Strolia</i> .....	6
Foundation Essay Contest - <i>Nina Padalino</i> .....	11
Lithuanians in the News .....	12
In Memoriam .....	13
Lithuanian Chefs .....	14
Pilgrimage Millennium Tour of Lithuania .....	15
Christmas Greetings .....	16
Music Centerfold - O Grečiau, Grečiau - <i>L. Šimutis</i> .....	24
Lithuanian Tree Ornaments .....	38
District and Council News .....	39
Mary, the Mother of Jesus .....	back cover



**On the Cover: Christmas Blessings** by Antonia Wackell (Worcester, Massachusetts K. of L. long time member, writer, poet and artist.)

*"Bewildered by the mysterious light, they followed the course led by a star. To the lowly quarters — the crumbling stall where they saw a wondrous sight. There a little Christ Child was born in the stillness of the night. Bringing with Him gifts combined for all the world's mankind.."*

*...And so again on Christmas Day His gifts of peace, joy and love He will bestow, upon the universe for all mankind, as He did so long ago."-A.M. Wackell*



## *To My Fellow Knights*

The Christmas holiday season has reached heights unheard of in the not-so-distant past. Most people's concern is not with the spiritual and cultural aspects of the holiday, but rather with the material. Adults to children are concerned with "what they will get". And each year, retailers seem to begin the Christmas shopping season even earlier. In the New York City area, Christmas items were on display before Labor Day in early September! They claim it's a convenience for early-bird shoppers, but I feel it's done more to boost the Christmas sales bottom line revenue. A simpler form of this holiday would be much better, as after a while it becomes increasingly difficult to buy for those who have ten of everything.

A recent letter to Dear Abby offered a possible solution. The writer decided to donate to a charity in the name of the people she needed to buy a gift for. The recipients received a card stating this and were indeed quite pleased with the idea, since they really didn't need any more material items. An idea for future gift giving for K of L'ers could be similar. So to those persons still at a loss of what to get someone who has everything, consider a donation to one of our K of L causes, like Aid to Lithuania, the K of L Foundation, St. Casimir Guild and/or even the VYTIS fund. It's a lot easier than returning the "too small item" at the department store and odds are your recipients will really like the idea. The best of all holidays to all Knights, friends and readers.



## **L e t t e r s to the editor**

To the Editor:

### **Greetings from Lithuania!**

I have not emailed you since the college has only one computer connected to the Internet and it is in the director's office, and I really do not have free access to it. The college's other computer is in the secretary's office. Are you beginning to develop a picture of the school and its resources?

Rokiškis is a city of 20,000 located in the northeast section of Lithuania near the Latvian border. Rokiškis Kolegija is a small 170 student college consisting of a classroom/administration building and a student dormitory. The school is underfunded by the government and has as its mission the training of teachers in music, German and English. Most of the students are women; many married with children. Neither the college, nor they can afford to purchase teaching materials, supplies or textbooks.

I am the English language "specialist" this year and responsible for teaching most of the English language students. Unfortunately, the supply of books I brought from America will not provide me with material for a year of instruction.

I am appealing through VYTIS to publicize the plight of the college, and especially the English language students whom I teach. The German government fully supports the German language program with a goal of promoting trade between Lithuania and Germany. There is no such support from the American government. I have written to the K. of L. Scholarship Committee for financial assistance. If the college's situation is published in VYTIS, more help (supplies, equipment, books for the library, money) might be forthcoming. I am including a brochure of the college.

I can be contacted by email because I will access the computer here whenever possible. I truly appreciate any assistance that can be provided. Of course, my students will appreciate the efforts of the Knights of Lithuania (an organization unfamiliar to them) if we can get a project going on their behalf. Thanks you for your consideration and anticipated cooperation. Email: [WILL3624@hotmail.com](mailto:WILL3624@hotmail.com)  
Vytiškai, *Bill Piacentini* (former Pres, of the NED)  
**Rokiškio Kolegija**  
**Laisves 13**  
**Rokiškis 4820**  
**Lithuania**



## Book Reviews

*To the Editor:*

I would like to comment on two books.

In a recent article of *Lituanus* (Vol. 45 – 2, 1999) there was an article by an Irish Fulbright scholar from DePaul University who went to Lithuania to teach English and wrote of his experience. I found it more interesting than some of the stories in *VYTIS*. It was called "Paskendes Kaimas" which means "a land under water".

The other book I'd like to comment on is the trilogy "Lithuanian Religious Life in America" by Fr. William Wolkovich of St. George Parish in Norwood, Mass. Volume 1 contains the Eastern United States (from Maine to Florida); Vol. 2 is dedicated to Lithuanian parishes in Pennsylvania, and Vol. 3 contains the Midwest and beyond. All volumes contain biographies and other comments and are from 350-500 pages long each. I have all three and they are very interesting and factual. They are great for any religious library and comment on the roots of the Lithuanian immigrants in the United States. There is much written about Lithuanian history in these volumes. Cost is \$150 for all three and they are available from Fr. Wolkovich.

Vytiškai, *HM Al Wesley,*  
Great Neck Council 109

*Ed. Note: Al had recently accepted a computer used by*

*Dalia Bulvicius, purchased a new monitor for it and shipped it to Lithuania. Thanks to Al and those like him for their generosity in helping our kinsmen with these items that can be used as learning tools.*



## Remembrance of a Dear Aunt

*To the Editor:*

"Jau neatmerks blakstienų

Tos akys rūpestingos

Ir neglostys mūs nei vieno

Šalta ranka sustingus."

My dear Aunt Malvina Ugianskienė-Ugenas entered into eternal life on Sept. 22, 1999.

Lenkiu galvą maldos žodžiams –

Telydi Jus Dieviska šviesa ir Ramybė.

For more than 20 years she was a member of the K. of L. and helped with many donations for the Knights and for Lithuania. For me, she was like a mother. She had a good heart, nice voice and loved to sing Lithuanian songs. She also had great faith and liked to pray. Her favorite poem, was from her native Ignalina:

"Išlakios pušys savose viršūnėse

Lig šiol svajonę vaikišką sūpuos.

O ežerai melsvom akim sužiūrę,

Vilios ir šauks mus atgalios."

*Janina Lauras, C-147, St. Petersburg FL*

# Official News... Ritual Committee

## Fourth Degree Candidates 1999

There were twenty six members eligible for their fourth degrees. Many were at the Philadelphia Convention's closing mass to receive their medals.

Eligible are:

C-3 Philadelphia – Ausra Maknys

C-10 Athol-Gardner — Dr. Henry Gailiunas,  
Nellie Melaika

C-26, Worcester — Ruth Sarafinas, Aldona Waska,  
Ann Morkunas

C-50, New Haven — Theresa Strimaitis

C-79, Southfield — Helen Mykolaitis, Joseph Panavas

C-102, Detroit — Eva Stark Austakalnis, Joseph Stark

Austakalnis, William Juodawlakis, Abena Kurpovic  
C-110, Maspeth — Frances Jackett, Edward Jackett

C-136, Hudson-Mohawk — Beatrice Jasewicz,  
William Jasewicz

C-141, Bridgeport — Alice Wilcinskas,  
Stephen Wilcinskas

C-143, Pittston — Genevieve Dajnowski,  
Anastasia Stanley

C-144, Anthracite — Betty Tumas, Eva Yurkewicz

C-147, St. Petersburg — Alfas Shukis, Dr. Aldona  
Valis

*Submitted by Clemencine Miller, Ritual Chair*



## ANOTHER SIDE OF THE LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS

The agrarian Lithuanian believed that Christmas Eve night was miraculous: various omens and rituals could not only be used to predict the future but all of nature felt the significance of the night. It was believed that at exactly midnight all animals were able to speak like humans. But to listen to their conversation was extremely dangerous because you could learn the day of your death. At precisely midnight all water turned into wine, you must simply hit the correct moment which is of very short duration. If the sky was clear on Christmas Eve night and full of stars, the year would be good. That night you must also pray before retiring, or else nightmares will trouble you all year.

Other prognostications at Christmas Eve may have included:

After dinner a girl sweeps the floor, pours the sweepings into her apron, takes them to a crossroads and tosses them out. She then stands and listens from which direction dogs are barking, from there she will get a husband.

Sitting with her back to the door, a girl throws a shoe over her head: if the shoe lands with the toe toward the door she will leave home that year (marry, go to a distant school; a man will leave for the army, a faraway job, etc.). If the shoe heel faces the door, he or she will remain at home.

All the shoes in the house are gathered together and placed in a pile, they are then lined up one behind the other to the door. The person whose shoe touches the door will be the first to leave home (some say, the first to die).

To see the future, go into an empty room after the Christmas Eve supper, prop a mirror against the door, bend down and look at the mirror through your



legs: you will see your future husband or wife.

Take a full glass of water, a gold wedding band, a mirror and two candles. Place all the items on a white tablecloth. The wedding band is dropped into the glass, the candles are lit and placed on either side of the mirror. Sit in front of the mirror, take the ring out of the glass with your fingers and then drop it back in. Do this three times. The third time you remove the ring from the water, look through it into the mirror: you will see your future or the man you will marry.

Drip several drops of wax from a blessed candle into a cold glass of water. Place the glass by your bed.

That night you will dream about your future spouse.

Take a bowl full of water and twelve pieces of paper written with men's names. Fold the papers over the bowl's rim so that one half hangs over the water. Place a piece of candle into a sliver of potato or turnip, light it and float it on the water. Stir the water with a finger to cause the candle to float around. The paper at which it stops or which it sets on fire indicates your husband's name. Questions about the coming year can also be written on the pieces of paper, but the answer can only be "yes" or "no". The paper the candle lights or at which it stops means that those things will come true.

The simplest form of fortune telling is to count in twos. Matches, dried straw, peas, firewood by the hearth, candy or anything else can be counted. If it comes out in pairs, a wedding will take place next year.

After finishing the augury, the family gathers around the Christmas tree. A beautiful tradition is singing Christmas carols in unison and reading Bible excerpts about Christ's birth. The reading is usually done by the oldest family member. If you still have grandparents (or parents) who were born and lived in Lithuania, ask them to relate how they celebrated Christmas when they were little. It would be good to



tape the entire family program, later include the date and put it away. It will become precious when the children are grown and the grandparents no longer living.

Earlier people celebrated Christmas not for the presents but because it was the birthday of God's Son. The Kučios meal, prayers said in unison and an opportunity to spend time with loved ones were quite sufficient to create a festive atmosphere.

Even when Christmas trees were decorated and gifts expected in Lithuania, the children had to "earn" those gifts. When he arrived, Santa Claus required the children to perform. Every child did what he could: some recited poems, others sang, danced or played an instrument. If Santa Claus did not come in person, the children still had to perform, because Santa "sees all" and will see them also. After presents were exchanged, the children usually went to bed while the adults went

to Midnight Mass (which is still called *Bernelių* - Shepherds' Mass). It should be mentioned here that at Christmas time Lithuania is already in the grip of winter. The fields are covered with sparkling snow, streams, rivers and lakes are under ice. Country roads were also snow covered and the people usually traveled in sleighs. On Christmas Eve night bells were attached to the horses' harnesses: sometimes one or two or an entire string of bells. Sometimes small, high-pitched hand bells or a good-sized bell. From all sides on Christmas Eve night resounded with the chiming and tinkling of bells: near and far, soft and loud. The mysterious, quiet night air of Christ's Birth resonated with endless ringing, the murmur of sliding sleighs and Christmas joy.

*from Lithuanian Customs and Traditions,  
by Danutė Bindokienė c 1989*

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### *C-19 Spiritual Advisor*

## **Fr. Francis Plantés Remembers Christmas**

"Oh Christmas tree. Oh Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches...Ah, whenever I hear that songs, it brings me back. Back to when I was a boy. I remember when I was eight years old. It was Christmas Eve and the house was filled with wonderful decorations and aromas. One particular smell I remember is the scent of pine. The fresh fir tree would grace the house with its delicate fragrance. My brothers and sisters and I sat on the floor in front of the tree, just staring in awe. We loved to watch the sparkling tree. Our mother telling us that dinner was ready would interrupt our day dreaming.

Hurray! It was time to begin Kučios. Kučios was a very special Lithuanian meal, which was only celebrated on Christmas Eve (Kučia) The 'Our Father' was said before the meal and unleavened bread called plotkeles or Christmas wafers was served. Plotkeles were square pieces of unleavened bread that were sold by the priest. We ate it to show that we could forgive each other for any arguments that occurred during the year. Special pink plotkeles were given to our pets.

Then we started the dinner. We ate herring, smelts, fish soup, boiled potatoes, pupos, klatskis (rolled oats with poppy seed dressing) and special raisin bread. My favorite part was when our parents gave us coffee and milk; it made us feel grown up.

After the remnants of the meal were cleared away, we exchanged gifts. Gifts weren't so important then; it was being together with our family that really mattered. We would enjoy some quiet conversation and then we would go to Midnight Mass. We attended this joyous Mass to celebrate Christ's birth and to watch the blessing of the young Savior's crib. I still love Midnight Mass. I cherish seeing all the happy families singing, rejoicing and praising God. Sadly, as my parents passed away, the importance of Kučia passed with them. They were really the heart and soul of Kučia in our family. Whenever I see a Christmas tree or a happy family, I am reminded of the days of my youth. Suddenly, I am a child again and I can't help but smile.

Father Plantés was the Pastor of St. Peter and Paul Lithuanian Church in Homestead for over 30 years. St. Peter and Paul served the Lithuanian immigrants who settled in the Valley to work the steel mills. Father Plantés, being Lithuanian himself, understood their language, customs and beliefs.

*Submitted by John Baltrus, C-19  
(Pittsburgh, PA) The Valley Mirror - 12/23/1998*



*Philadelphia Convention 1999*

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

by *Faustas Strolia*

*Lithuanian Culture and Language Chair*

**Part 2**

***Early Lithuanian Writers and Spiritual Leaders***

Along with the translation of hymns and prayerbooks into Lithuanian from other languages, the theme of defending "lietuvybę", the Lithuanian language and culture has gone hand in hand with Christianity throughout the centuries.

Before Mažvydas' catechism was printed, the newly founded University of Königsberg had a Lithuanian doctor of theology, Stanislovas Rapolionis (ca.1484-1545), as one of its first professors. His impact on learning can easily be understood from the inscription on his tombstone: "Here lies a great man, an honor to the Lithuanian nation". One of his translations of a Latin hymn into Lithuanian had been printed in a later Mažvydas' hymnal.

Among the very first Lithuanian language writers was Abraomas Kulvietis, (ca. 1510-1545) a scholar and educator, and also a consecrated priest. He translated hymns and psalms, some of them printed in the Mažvydas' catechism. His work in Latin *Confessio fidei* contains his religious and Lithuanian patriotic views, in spite of his close ties with the duke of Prussia, Albert of Brandenburg.

Another pastor of Labguva - Jonas Bretkūnas (1536-1602) - who spoke Lithuanian, Old Prussian and Courish, was first to translate the Bible to a rich and lively Lithuanian, which, regretfully, was never printed, except for The Psalms of David. Another Lithuanian writer - Augustinas Jomantas (ca. 1525- 1575), pastor of Kraupiškis and later of Ragainė contributed to Mažvydas' hymnal with translations which are noted for vivid and correct use of Lithuanian.

Some decades later the Prussian government directed the priests to prepare a Lithuanian grammar and dictionary. It was intended for religious who wanted to work in places inhabited by Lithuanians - township of Isrutis, Ragainė, Tilžė, Klaipėda, Labguva, even Karaliaučius! By 1653 Danielius Kleinas (1609-1666), a pastor for 30 years of a Lithuanian parish in Tilžė, wrote the first Lithuanian grammar *Grammatica Litvanica*, reviewed by the Prussian government authorities, and printed. An original copy of this grammar (and another German version) are in the Newberry Library in Chicago. About the same time another priest with a German name - Adam Friedrich Schimmelpfennig (1699-1763), was one of 17 religious, who translated the Old Testament into Lithuanian and published it in 1735. By 1755 he had published a revised edition where he in his introduction defended the rights of Lithuanian culture in German-ruled Lithuania Minor. He was pastor for many decades at Papelkiai in the township of Labguva.

Our first classical Lithuanian poet - Kristijonas Donelaitis (1714-1780), had been born shortly after the plague hit about two thirds of Lithuanians living in Lithuania Minor. Massive German colonization took place, and it changed the ethnic picture. Donelaitis was a pastor of Tolminkienis. He sided with the serfs - "būrai" - and resisted the landlords when they tried to hurt his peasants. His grand poem "*Metai*", totaling 2997 hexameters, was translated to many languages and has recognition in the history of European literature. A few decades ago we had the English translation by Nadas Rastenis here, in the United States.

Another great educator, doctor of theology, student of Immanuel Kant, to become the dean of the Theology faculty and even rector of the University of Königsberg, was Liudvikas Rėza (1777-1840). In the





***"His Holiness Pope John Paul II visited "Aušros Vartai" in Vilnius, ....and prayed in the Lithuanian language before the eyes of the whole world."***

history of "Christianity in Prussia and Lithuania", he criticized the Teutonic Order for the "apostleship of the sword". His most significant work was an edition of the Lithuanian translation of the Bible. If the first two editions were translations based on the German Lutheran version, followed by two more editions based on ancient Hebrew and Greek texts and on the manuscript of Jonas Breškūnas (1599). Rėza's contribution to literature was the publication of Donelaitis' *Metai* ("The Seasons"), containing a German translation, about 40 years after Donelaitis' death. Rėza's contribution to Lithuanian music is a collection of 85 Lithuanian folk songs. In his outlines he admires the gracefulness of our linguistic expression, our tender emotions, and ever-pervading decency. On this publication he received positive reviews from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. In his written German poetry, Rėza denounced the aggression of the Teutonic Knights and the yoke of serfdom. In his writings, he pointed out that the Prussian government "ought to become concerned in its schools with the greatest treasure of the Lithuanian nation, its language". When somebody wanted to remove the Lithuanian language from Prussian public life, Rėza spoke out that

"the idea is too low and too unworthy of a humanistically educated person to deserve of any further refutation". It is interesting to note his desire was so great to emphasize his Lithuanian roots that he changed his middle name *Martin* to *Jedimin* (Gediminas).

There were pastors like Friedrich Kuršaitis (1801-1884), who for 43 years was the director of the Lithuanian language seminar at Königsberg University, and was awarded the honorary doctor's degrees for his linguistic studies - one from the university of Königsberg, and another from Czech Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Finally, a German linguist, August Schleicher (1821-1868), was one of the most prominent scholars who compared Indo-European and Lithuanian languages. In his 5 month visit to Lithuania Minor, he wrote a Lithuanian grammar, a reader and glossary. Schleicher's grammar book and the one of Kuršaitis were widely used during the second half of the 19th century and had a strong influence on Lithuanian literature and eventually on our standard language.

### ***Lithuania Major and Vilnius University***

In Lithuania Major the education and culture of the people had its fastest growth with the arrival of the Jesuits who, in 1569, founded the first school of higher learning in the whole of Eastern Europe: at first, the Jesuit College, later the Academy of Vilnius, which finally became Vilnius University. The Academy of Vilnius quickly attained an excellence at par with the best European universities. Being an all-Catholic institution, it was also an effective tool to fight the Reformation. Jesuits started publicizing the Gospels, sermons and prayer books in Lithuanian. By 1575 they owned their own press in Vilnius.

Young men with fluent Lithuanian were drafted into the priesthood. Originally, the Jesuits were invited by the Bishop Valerian Protasevičius. In 1576, with



the consecration of Merkelis Giedraitis (ca. 1536-1609) as Bishop of Vilnius, the Jesuit institutions of learning received more evident support. He propagated religious education and promoted the publishing of religious books in Lithuanian. As a member of the Council of Lords (*bajorų konsulas*) he defended the independence of Lithuania from Polish attempts to restrict it. As a result of Bishop Giedraitis' support, a Chronicle (Strykowski's) was printed, a work recounting deeds from Lithuania's past. Among the bishop's co-workers was the Canon Mikalojus Daukša (?-1613) - the first known writer from Lithuania Major, whose most famous work was the translation of a postil from Polish (by Jesuit J. Wujek) in Vilnius, in 1599. This was a 646 page book, which included explanations of the Gospels throughout the year. Of interest is Daukša's appeal to Lithuanians to use their own language proudly, while emphasizing the equality of all languages. (One has to remember that some religious promoted the idea that "God spoke only Polish, and Lithuanian was good for the peasants, only!) He used a clean Lithuanian replacing many Slavic loan words with Lithuanian ones: *pekia - pragaras, griekas - nuodėmė, živatas-iščia (womb)*. Remember, this happened in 1599!

A graduate of Academy of Vilnius is to be mentioned - the Jesuit Konstantinas Širvydas (1579-1631) who was appointed as Lithuanian language preacher at the Vilnius Academy church and is known as the author of the first Lithuanian dictionary in Lithuania Major.

### ***The Press Ban***

For centuries Lithuanians had to fight for their language and for their printed Lithuanian words. For 40 years (1864-1904) Russian authorities imposed a press ban on Lithuanian publications and forbade the publication or import from abroad of Lithuanian books and periodicals printed in the Latin alphabet. They encouraged the printing of Lithuanian books introducing Cyrillic letters. This was done with the intention of speeding up the process of Lithuania's Russification. They wanted to draw away the Lithuanian peasantry

from the Polonized nobility and from the Roman Church, whom they believed to be the main obstacle to a successful Russian domination in Lithuania.

Bishop Motiejus Valančius (1801-1875) is remembered not only for his opposition to the Russian government but also for the tactics he employed in resisting its policies, particularly the illegal practice of printing Lithuanian books in East Prussia and smuggling them into Lithuania during this time. Another priest, later canon, Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas (1859-1933) edited the monthly "Tėvynės sargas" for 6 years during the press ban. For his defense of the Lithuanian cause against Russian civil and Polish ecclesiastical authorities, he earned virtually universal respect among Lithuanians. At our K of L Convention in Boston, in 1963, Cardinal Cushing in his speech admired the "knygnešiai". Instead of being like the "mafia" and smuggling gold, dope or whiskey over the border, they risked their lives and smuggled books, periodicals, and prayerbooks.

If during the Soviet occupation we heard the Soviet prophecy that there always will be a Lithuania, but there won't be any Lithuanians, this idea was alive and constantly strived for even during the 123 years of occupation of the Russian czars. People's fear of being deported to cold Siberia helped the czars sit on their throne. In the "Prayers of the people" (called "Suplikacijos", or Šventas Dieve") they were expected to include a line of prayer for the well-being of the Russian czar. And in spite of this fear and danger, people often liked to change certain words. Instead of "Carą ir jo gimines išlaikyti teikis", they preferred to sing "Carą ir jo gimines išnaikinti teikis" (compare this line with the line in the musical "The Fiddler on the Roof", when the rabbi at the Russian village Inatevka was asked if there was a prayer for the czar, he said, "of course, there is one: 'God, keep the czar far, far away from us!' ")

### ***Priest Literati***

From Mažvydas on, there is a long line of reli-



gious who wrote and printed poems, homilies, and long epic poems to show the beauty of the Lithuanian language, like *"Metai"* by Kristijonas Donelaitis (1714-1780) and *"Anykščių šilelis"* by Bishop Antanas Baranauskas (1831-1902). Bishop Merkelis Giedraitis (ca 1536-1600) is known not only as Primus in publishing Lithuanian books, but also as the second greatest baptizer of the Žemaičiai. Then we had Antanas Strazdelis (1763-1833), a Catholic priest, who had his peasant origins, best known for his *"Pulkim ant kelių"*. Many of his other poems also became a part of our folklore. Bishop Motiejus Valančius (1801-1875) was a talented writer, who stimulated the emergence of the Lithuanian national movement. He was also a leader of the temperance movement.

I would like to include Rev. Antanas Juška (1819-1880), whose 180th birthday they just celebrated in Lithuania. Not only did he write a Lithuanian dictionary comprised of 70,000 words, printed in St. Petersburg, and other three dictionaries - Polish-Lithuanian, Lithuanian Polish and Latvian-Lithuanian-Polish, he collected within the township of Veliuona 7000 folk songs and wrote them down mostly with music. (There were no tape recorders!) Because of the existing press ban in Lithuania, he went to Kazan, a Russian city close to the Volga river, where his brother Jonas lived and taught at University of Kazan. Here he obtained permission to use Lithuanian orthography in publication of these songs (1880-83).

During the years of national reawakening, the greatest and most influential was Maironis (actual name was Jonas Mačiulis; 1862-1932). His poetry won universal appeal among the ordinary readers and the "inteligencia". We all sing his *"Marija, Marija"* and sang or have heard *"Kur bėga Šėšupė"*, which ends with a prayer: "Apsaugok, Aukščiausias, tą mylimą šalį, kur mūsų sodybos, kur bočių kapai..." And then there came Vaižgantas, and many other priests to the present day who lifted the spiritual face of Lithuania not only as religious leaders, but also literati.

### *Priests and Lithuanian Independence*

According to Thomas T. Papeika, a present day history and feature writer, "the indomitable spirit of the Lithuanians was nourished by the Catholic Church, which helped to preserve the Lithuanian culture and religious identity during the tumultuous years of the twentieth century". After 123 years of czaristic Russian rule, independence was gained by Christians. A fifth part of the Lietuvos Taryba (Council of Lithuania) in Vilnius were priests, and they dared to sign and proclaim Lithuania's independence! And with Christianity revived the Lithuanian nationalism. The leader of the Lithuanian Christian Democratic party, Minister of Agriculture, and later chairman of the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania, was Msgr. Mykolas Krupavičius (1885-1970). He should be especially commended for his courage to present Nazi authorities with a memorandum which enumerated German actions unacceptable to Lithuanians, one of them - the killing of Lithuanian Jews. For this he suffered a Nazi deportation. From recently published Adolfas Damušis' book "Lithuania Against Soviet and Nazi Aggression" we also learn that bishop Vincentas Brizgys condemned the Jewish genocide during Nazi occupation, so the accusations to the Lithuanian Catholic Church that it was silent, are not well-founded.

### *The Blossoms of Christianity*

It took some centuries, but Christianity took deep roots in the hearts of Lithuanian people. We should never, never forget to give due respect to the Lithuanian peasant mothers at the spinning wheel, who taught their children to read and pray in Lithuanian during the press ban. Most of our "inteligencija-šviesuomenė" of 1918 came from "kaimas". From the Independence of 1918 on, religion was taught, on grammar and high school levels, throughout Lithuania. Furthermore, we had religious orders, like Sisters of St. Casimir, St. Francis, Sisters of Jesus Crucified and of Immaculate Conception, as well as the Franciscans,



Marians and Jesuits who spread the teachings of Christ throughout Lithuania and here in the United States, The countryside was decorated with wayside crosses and statues of Rūpintojėlis (pensive Christ), Holy Virgin of the Seven Sorrows, and the popular saints like St. Casimir, St. George and others. But the signs of deepest religious feelings came from the camps of hopelessness in the desolated waste land of Siberia. In the Siberian prayerbook "Mary, Save Us", written in the Soviet gulag under cover by a nun, Adelė Dirsytė, we read: "I thank You also for those who, by their hatred, teach and warn me. O Lord, have mercy on those who persecute and torment us; grant to them also the grace to know the sweetness of Your love". Is it not this small prayer-book - smuggled through the Iron Curtain, translated into many languages and spread in the Western Free World - that made us, Lithuanians, famous and made us feel proud? Cardinal Cushing of Boston couldn't have summed up better: "Four young Lithuanian girls wasting away in the very flowering of their lives, as a result of inhuman treatment, secretly wrote the thoughts that they spoke to God, as day by day they saw no hope of liberation. Only souls close to God on the Cross and His Mother of Sorrows could give expression to the resignation, charity and forgiveness in these prayers. No more beautiful or promising document could come from a Siberian prison..."

### *The Harm Done to Lithuanian Christian Life-Style*

Only 50 years of Soviet rule did more harm to the spiritual values of the Lithuanian people, than the 123 years before. While Lithuanians were raised in an atheistic spirit, at the same time many of them lost their patriotic feeling towards the fatherland Lithuania and preferred being "cosmopolitan". Systematic persecution and deportation, elimination of religious leaders - priests, brothers and sisters - damaged the Christian life style. If there was a ban on Lithuanian books for 40 years under the czar, this time a ban on religious books lasted for 50 years. We had a new era of "knygnešiai"

who smuggled the Catholic Chronicles to the West, translated them into many languages and spread all over the free world. Among those who devoted themselves to this dangerous mission and suffered exile, were a secret nun Nijolė Sadūnaitė, present archbishop Sigitas Tamkevičius, priests Zdebskis and Svarinskas, just to mention a few. As stated in Thomas R. Papeika's article mentioned previously, "The courageousness of the Lithuanians in defending their religion and their homeland proved to be a key factor in the continued resistance against the Russian oppressors." Their sacrifice bore fruit.

### *Rays of Hope*

There is always room for hope. As before independence of 1918 it took a German, by the name of Sauerwein, to awaken our self-esteem and to point out to us "As we were born Lithuanians, we should be proud to stay Lithuanians" - "Lietuviais esame mes gimę tą garbę gavome užgimę, jai ir neturim leist pražūt"; later we had a Swiss, prof. Joseph Ehret, who encouraged even us, K of L'ers, to keep up our spiritual values. Now we have His Holiness the Pope John Paul himself who visited "Aušros Vartai" in Vilnius, and recognized Lithuania's great, silent fidelity at the "Hill of the Crosses" and prayed in the Lithuanian language before the eyes of the whole world, as he just recently did during his visit to Poland, possibly, to some surprise of his Polish brothers and sisters. He surely supports our Lithuanian identity, and not the cosmopolitan one.

Proudly, we end this millennium with a new publication of the Holy Bible, a fluent translation by Monsignor prof. A. Rubšys.

Let's thank God for all the blessings bestowed on Lithuania, let's keep our organization faithful to our motto "Dievui ir Tėynei" with our hearts open to our programs our leaders so wisely have established, to help Lithuania rise again! Dieve, mums padėk!





**K of L Foundation Essay Contest Winners  
2nd Prize Winner**

## **My Lithuanian Heritage**

by *Nina Padalino*  
C-24 Chicago, IL

"The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave" is the country I am proud to call my home. The United States of America is a modern marvel as one of Earth's dominant superpowers. Its endless contributions of new innovations, creative works, and boundless ideas all lead it in global standings. Although America can still foster many people's ambitions for "a slice of the American pie" or "a new start in life", many of its citizens are lacking the priceless knowledge of their heritage. It is very sad to hear individuals say that they know anything about their heritage other than their last names. Even then, some are unsure of where their last name originated. I consider myself one of the privilege few to know and participate in my cultural heritage.

Throughout my life, my parents fostered ties with the Lithuanian community through countless hours of *lietuviška mokykla* (Saturday School), *tautiniai sokai* (folk dancing), *skautai* (Scouts) and *Vyčiai* (Knights of Lithuania). Each event I participated in taught me more of the grand history and beautiful customs of Lithuania as well as bringing me closer to some of the dearest people in my life. I have realized that with my Lithuanian *mokytojai* (teachers), *vadovai* (counselors), *draugai* (friends), I have a unique tie that can never be broken. I have the knowledge and the relationships to help me through life's future struggles. You may ask how. The simple fact is that I know who I am and I am proud of it. Through all that has happened or will happen, I will always cherish the memories of being a Lithuanian.

In spite of the fact that most people only recognize Lithuanians by it's in Olympic Basketball team, they do not understand the depth and commitment of our Lithuanian culture. I know of Mindaugas and

Vytautas Didysis, I can sing our Lithuanian hymn and folk songs, and I can dance various *tautiniai sokiai*. To some this may be insignificant or irrelevant, but to us Lithuanians it is the corner stone of our culture. This is a source of pride and commitment that past, present and future Lithuanians can cherish.

I always try to expand and participate in my culture. Part of any heritage is keeping it alive to pass on and sharing it with other people. It is organizations such as the Knights of Lithuania that allow Lithuanians of all ages the opportunity to come together to live their heritage to keep it strong and vibrant. Lithuania itself has struggled through much in its long existence and it has made it. The Lithuanians I know and love have always been strong, determined and yet loving which is why I believe I've have made it so far. The people, traditions and culture motivate me to live my Lithuanian heritage and call myself a "lietuvaite".



### **Smiles Without Wrinkles**

A preacher went to his church office on Monday morning and discovered a dead mule in the church yard. He called the police.

Since there did not appear to be any foul play, the police referred the preacher to the health department. They said since there was no health threat, he should call the sanitation department.

The sanitation manager said he could not pick up the mule without authorization from the mayor. Now the preacher knew the mayor and was not eager to call him. The mayor had a bad temper and was generally hard to deal with, but the preacher called him anyway.

The mayor did not disappoint. He immediately began to rant and rave at the pastor and finally said, "Why do you call me? Isn't it your job to bury the dead?"

The preacher paused for a prayer and asked the Lord to direct his response. "Yes, Mayor, it is my job to bury the dead, but I always like to notify next of kin first!" ❖❖❖



## Lithuanians in the news



### Notable Citation

A letter of greeting was presented from Illinois Governor, George H. Ryan to the **American Lithuanian Council** at their convention held in Chicago's Lithuanian Center recently. Pictured at top (l to r) is **Evelyn Ozelis** [K of L past president], Pat Michalski, Assistant to the Governor for Ethnic Affairs, Dr. John A. Rackauskas, President of LAC and Matilda Marcinkus, President of Congress Organizational Committee. The Governor had commended the Lithuanian American Council for its charitable work and promoting the rich Lithuanian heritage and culture for 56 years.

### Iki Pasimatymo

It was hard saying goodbye to Lithuanian Consul **Dr. Petras Anusas**, (photo top right) as he left his New York City office and returned to Lithuania this past October. He had served this position for five years, and helped sponsor many events and befriended many of us. A going away party was held in his honor at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Brooklyn.

### Award Winning Artist

**Frank Gerulskis** (photo above bottom left) of Norwood, Mass., has won first prize for his oil painting "The Wolves" (a portion of it above) at the Norwood Art Association's annual show. The retired business owner has drawn and painted all his life and has taught four-day workshops in Maine for the past 20 years. He has given lectures and demonstrations, judged art shows, taught classes and oil painting workshops throughout New England. At 77, he still enjoys painting and two of his four daughters have inherited this talent. (photos and story from *Norwood Bulletin*, 9/16/99)



*Stories of members and other Lithuanians who have made the news are welcomed and can be sent to the editor.*



## World Champion Shooter

Jim Sarkauskas, of Rhinelander, Wisconsin won the 20-gauge class in the World Side-By-Side Championships Sept. 23-25 in Millbrook, N.Y.

The third annual pro-am shooting event, held on a sporting clays course on the Orvis Shooting Grounds, was organized by the Order of the Edwardian Gunners.

Sarkauskas, a certified shooting instructor since 1996 and owner of sporting clays facility east of Rhinelander, said it was the first time he ever attended the world championships. The event attracted shooters from throughout the United States and Europe.

The tournament was shot in 60-target segments,



advancing through preliminary and championship rounds. Sarkauskas won the event by two targets over second place and three better than third place.

The world championships attracted several hundred participants in a variety of shooting events and brought such sponsors as Shooting Sportsman Magazine, Ithaca, Krieghoff International, Shooting Times and Country Magazine.

Besides shooting and owning an investment company in Rhinelander, Sarkauskas also writes a column called "Adventures with

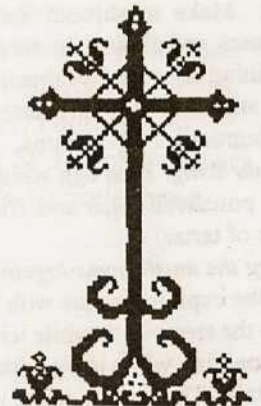
Sark" for Wisconsin Woods and Waters.

*Submitted by Ruth Kaslauskas, Eagle River, WI, story by Gary Ridderbusch, Rhinelander News-Review 10/13/99*

## In Memoriam

**Edward Slautas**  
July 30, 1999  
C-5 Chicago

*Rest in Peace*  
*Amžina Atilsi*



**Fr. John Smith**  
May 16, 1999  
C-146 Harrisburg  
Spiritual Adv.

**Dr. Edward Wilkus**  
C-141 Bridgeport

**Petras Sandanavicius**  
June 1, 1999  
C-41 Brooklyn

**Kathryn Getschman**  
C-38 Kenosha

**Akvila Karklius**  
C-25 Cleveland, OH

**Jonas Plienaitis**  
October 2, 1999  
C-112 Chicago

**Joseph Krukauskas**  
September 10, 1999  
C-29 Newark

**Agnes Dutkus**  
August 30, 1999  
C-29 Newark

**Stella Ellis**  
June 1, 1999  
C-29 Newark

**Regina Malakas**  
June 1, 1999  
C-29 Newark

**Malvina Ugenas-  
Ugenskas**  
September 22, 1999  
C-147 St. Petersburg

**Mary Brennan**  
October 10, 1999  
C-144 Anthracite

**John Bell**  
October 26, 1999  
C-12 New York

**Wilfred A. Renaud**  
August 24, 1999  
C-30, Westfield, MA

**Joseph Buckities**  
September 4, 1999  
C-30, Westfield, MA

**Anthony Oberaitis**  
C-25 Cleveland, OH



## Lithuanian Chefs Christmas Sweets



### Grybukai (Honey mushrooms)

1 cup flour  
2 egg yolks plus 1 whole egg  
1/4 cup butter  
1 cup honey  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp. baking soda  
2 tbs. sour cream  
1 tsp. of following ground spice mix:  
3 parts cinnamon, allspice, cloves,  
1 part orange peel, ginger powder.

#### ICING

1 cup powder sugar  
1 egg white  
1/8 tsp. creme of tartar  
2 tsp. cocoa or chocolate powder

*To make dough:* Heat sugar in a cast iron pan until sugar turns dark brown - place all the ingredients in a mixing bowl and work the dough until good, thick consistency and all the ingredients are incorporated. Let it rest to cool. Divide the dough in half, and make the mushroom caps. Take walnut size pieces of dough, make balls, flatten one side and make a small indentation, a place for the mushroom stem. Put the mushroom caps, hole down, on cookie sheet. Make mushroom stems, finger thickness and about 1 in. long from the remaining dough, place them next to the caps and bake in a preheated oven at 325 degrees for 25-30 mins.

*To make icing:* Beat egg white with sifted powdered sugar and 1/8 tsp. creme of tartar.

#### Putting the mushrooms together:

Glue the caps and stems with the icing. Cover the stems with white icing. Color the remaining white icing with cocoa or chocolate. The brown icing is for the mushroom caps. Finally the iced mushrooms are returned to a warm oven for 15 min., to dry the icing.

### Aguonu pyragas (Poppyseed coffee cake)

2 1/2 lbs. flour  
1 1/2 cups milk  
2 oz. fresh yeast  
4 egg yolks  
1 whole egg  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 tsp. salt

#### Poppyseed Filling:

1 1/2 cups whole poppy seeds, [prepared poppyseed filling can be used]  
3/4 cup sugar, 1 egg  
1/4 cup chopped nuts  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
1/4 cup candied orange peel, diced  
Grind poppyseeds, beat egg with sugar, to it add nuts, orange peel, vanilla and ground poppyseeds - mix well. Let rest until dough has risen.

#### To make the dough:

Mix yeast with 1 tbs. sugar, then dissolve in 1 tbs. milk. Take 1 1/2 cups flour, mix with warm milk, beat until all flour is incorporated. To this add the yeast solution, mix well, dust lightly with flour, cover and set in a warm place to rise for 2 hrs. Beat egg yolks with sugar until pale and add to the risen dough. Mix thoroughly.

Add the remaining flour, salt. Knead the dough for 30-45 mins. Let rest, in warm place for a second rising. After the second rising, punch down the dough, divide into two, roll out the half of the dough to a 1/2 in. thickness and spread on it half of the poppyseed filling, staying away from the edges. Roll it up gently and place, seam down on baking sheet. - repeat same with second half of dough. Allow to rise in a warm spot. Before baking in a preheated oven, at 350 degrees, brush tops with an egg wash - baking time is about 40-50 mins. When the poppyseed cakes are done, remove them from the oven, but keep them on the baking sheet, covered

lightly so that they do not dry out as they are cooling. Remove from the baking sheet only after they have cooled. Serve cut into 2 in. slices.

### Spanguoliu kisielius (Cranberry pudding)

1lb. fresh cranberries  
8 cups warm water  
4 cups sugar  
several sticks cinnamon  
5 whole cloves  
potato flour as starch

Cover the cranberries with the warm water and bring to a gentle boil. That will be the time when the cranberries begin to break open.

Put the berries through a food mill; when all the cranberries have been crushed, wash the food mill with the boiling liquid - measure the liquid plus fruit pure, this determines the amount of potato starch needed to thicken the juice to pudding consistency. For each 8 oz./1 cup of fruit pure and juice mixture, use 1 tsp. starch.

Set aside 1 cup of juice to dissolve the starch. Add sugar to taste; for a medium sweet pudding, use 1/2 cup of sugar for 2 cups of fruit and juice mix. Add cinnamon, cloves and sugar to the juice mix and bring to a gentle boil. Gentle heat is required to maintain the deep garnet color of the pudding. Add, with vigorous stirring, the starch solution and continue at a gentle boil. Stirring constantly the starch will change from a cloudy solution to a clear, deep garnet. As soon as the pudding has thickened and become clear, remove from the heat and let it cool. The pudding can be served from a large bowl, or can be poured into individual serving dishes.

Commercially available cranberry juice can also be used to make this pudding. Same proportion of starch, but sugar amount will have to be reduced as commercially available cranberry juice is quite sweet. Also addition of cinnamon and cloves will enhance the cranberry flavor.

*Recipes courtesy of the Society of  
Lithuanian Ethnoculture*



*An invitation to participate in the*  
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*Sponsored by the LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA*

*Under the spiritual leadership of*

*Msgr. Albert Contons (tel. 781-834-4079), Honorary Member, Knights of Lithuania  
 Rev. John Rikteraitis (tel. 860-224-0341), Pastor, St. Andrew Lith. Parish, New Britain, Conn.*

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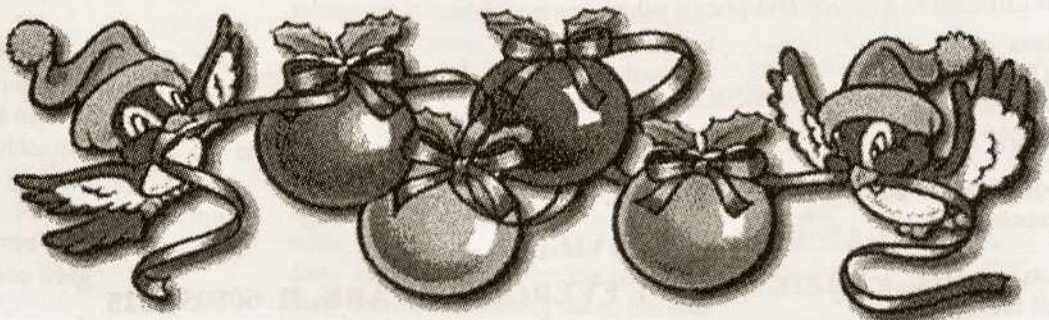
*Council 3 Philadelphia*

*Wishes the best of the Holiday Season to every  
Knights of Lithuania Member.*

*Our thanks to all the Knights who supported us  
in our efforts in hosting  
the 86th National Convention.*

**Linksmų Kalėdų ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų!**

**Christmas Blessings to you all!!**





# Christmas Greetings from

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
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***C-7 Waterbury, CT***

***C-10 Athol-Gardner, MA***

***C-17 So. Boston, MA***

***C-26 Worcester, MA***

***C-27 Norwood, MA***

***C-30 Westfield, MA***

***C-50 New Haven, CT***

***C-78 Lawrence, MA***

***C-103 Providence, RI***

***C-116 Worcester, MA***

***C-135 Ansonia, CT***

***C-141 Bridgeport, CT***





# LINKSMŪ KALEDU



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*The Mid-America District  
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*A Very Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy New Millenium*


*Welcome 2000,  
Hope to see everyone at the convention  
in Los Angeles.*

*Mid-America District Member Councils*

- Council 5, Chicago, IL [Northside]*
- Council 14, Cicero, IL*
- Council 16, Chicago, IL [Bridgport Area]*
- Council 24, Chicago, IL [Marian Fathers Monastery]*
- Council 36, Chicago, IL [Brighton Park Area]*
- Council 38, Kenosha, WI*
- Council 82, Gary, IN*
- Council 112, Chicago, IL [Marquette Park Area]*
- Council 133, Los Angeles, CA*
- Council 150, Kansas City, KS*
- Council 157, Lemont, IL*
- Chgo. Frs.*







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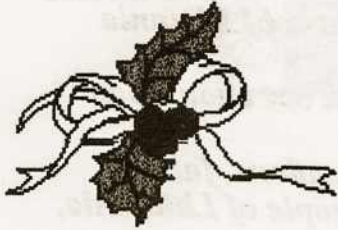
**Still Continues to**  
**Remember and Honor**  
**our Lithuanian Heritage.**

**Our Christmas Wish is for All Knights**  
**and their Families to be in the Best of Health,**  
**with Happiness throughout the New Millennium**  
**and Beyond.**

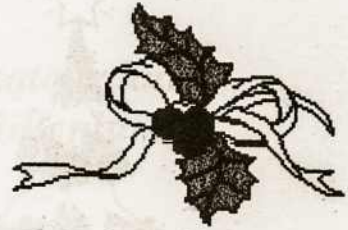
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2000 Metų!



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



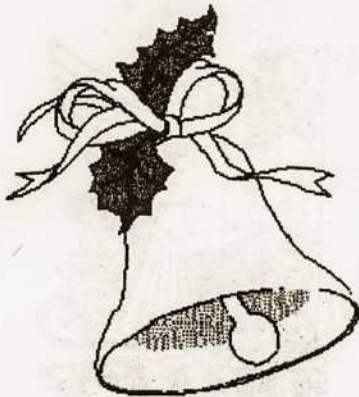
Medicine and Medical supplies worth over

**57 MILLION DOLLARS**

sent to Lithuania in **71 containers** as of October 1999

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

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



Send your contribution today to:  
AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.

1594 Beaupre  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
Phone: (248) 547-2859  
Fax: (248) 547-0982





**THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.**  
*wishes all readers*  
**a most Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



*The Foundation is an Endowment Fund, established to:*

- *finance projects to enhance Knights of Lithuania aims and goals,*
- *help our members learn and speak out about their Lithuanian heritage,*
- *send needed help — books, medications, fabrics, other support — to the suffering people of Lithuania, especially her youth.*
- *ensure the financial future of the Knights of Lithuania*

*You can help support the Knights of Lithuania through the K of L Foundation, by joining the Foundation or adding to your previous donation. A donation of \$100 will make you a Foundation Member, \$1000 will make you an Honored Member, but a donation of any amount will be most gratefully accepted. A gift to the Foundation*

*is a gift that "keeps giving!" Donations are invested ... only interest is spent for K of L-related projects. To send a tax-deductible donation or obtain more information, write to:*

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.**  
 234 Sunlit Drive  
 Watchung, New Jersey 07060

*To all my friends and fellow Knights, my sincerest Holiday wishes! May God grant you all a most Holy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.*

*And to VYTIS Editor Marytė Abbott and her Staff, Congratulations on being the heart of the organization.*

*May you continue your beautiful work for years to come!*

**LORETTA I. STUKAS, HM**  
 Council 29, Newark, NJ



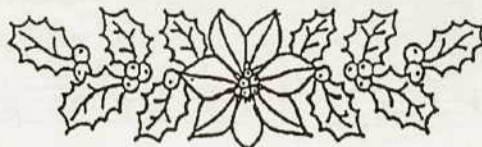
**PEACE**



CHRISTMAS  
**B**LESSINGS

*Prelatas Algirmantas Bartkus  
 Kunigai ir Studentai  
 Šv. Kazimiero Kolegijos, Romoje  
 Dėkojam Visiems  
 už jūsų paramą ir  
 Linkime visiems  
 Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų  
 ir  
 Sėkmės, Sveikata ir laimė  
 Per Naują Milleniuma.*

*Anna Klizas Wargo  
 President  
 The St. Casimir Guild  
 of the  
 Pontifical Lithuanian College*



The Officers and Members of the  
**Mid-Atlantic District**

Wish Everyone

**A Blessed Christmas**    **Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų**  
**and**    **ir**  
**Happy New Year**    **Laimingų Naujų Metų**



President: Ed Barkowski  
 1st VP: Maryte Abbott  
 2nd VP: Bernice Aviza  
 Secretary: Frances Jakatt  
 Treasurer: Cathy Nakrosis







# O Grečiau, Grečiau

L. Šimutis

$\text{♩} = 88$

O grei-čiau, grei-čiau — į Bet-lie-jų bė-kit,

O gar-siau, gar-siau — gies-me-les gie-do-kit An-ge-lai dan-gu-

je aukš-tai, gar-bi-na Jį šven-tai, šven-tai gar-bi-na Jį džiaugs-min-gai.



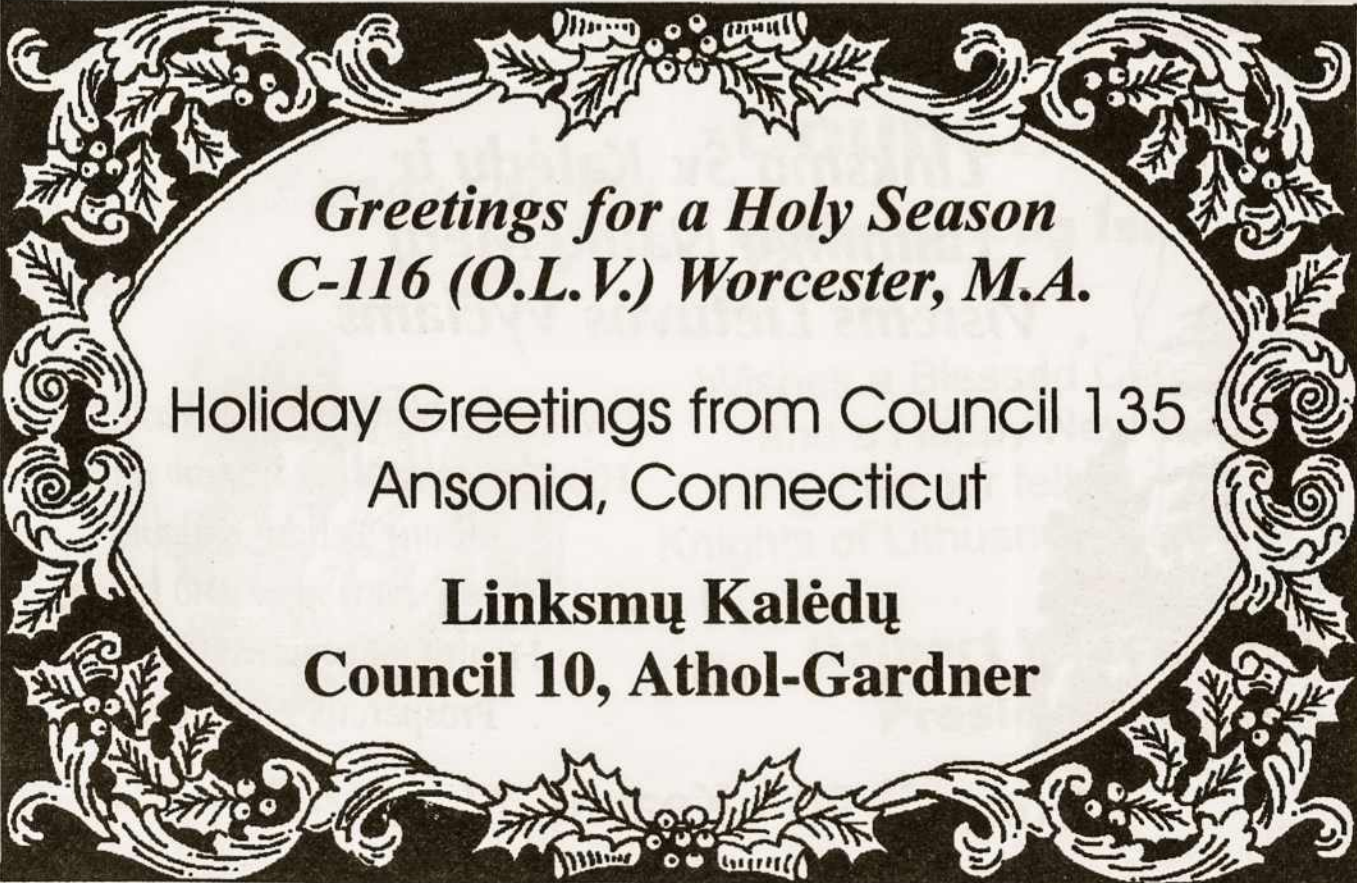
O žmogau, žinai,  
Šianakt Jėzus gimė  
Laimei amžinai,  
Dievo garbei žemėj.

Angelai dauguje aukštai  
Garbina Jį šventai, šventai,  
Garbina džiaugsmingai.

O grečiau, grečiau  
Prie Jėzaus skubėkit.  
O garsiau, garsiau  
Jam giesmes giedokit.

Angelai dauguje aukštai  
Garbina Jį šventai, šventai,  
Garbina džiaugsmingai.

*(Faster and faster let us run to Bethlehem.  
Louder and louder let us sing the hymns.  
The angels in heaven give glory to Him,  
they joyously give glory to Him!)*  
*from Lithuanian Customs and Traditions  
D. Bindokienė, c 1989*



*Greetings for a Holy Season  
C-116 (O.L.V.) Worcester, M.A.*

Holiday Greetings from Council 135  
Ansonia, Connecticut

**Linksmų Kalėdų  
Council 10, Athol-Gardner**



**Council 29**  
**Newark, New Jersey**



*Extends to All  
 Knights of Lithuania  
 Linksmų Kalėdų  
 Merry Christmas  
 Laimingų Naujų Metų  
 Happy New Year*



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

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

**Council 90 - Kearny, New Jersey**





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

*Anthracite Council 144  
Schuylkill County, PA*



Linskų Kalėdų Švenčių

**Council 152**

**Eastern Long Island**



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

**Delbert Vance,  
President**



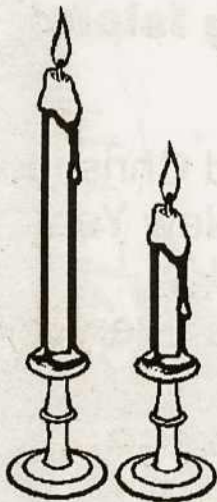
**Knights of Lithuania  
Council #50  
New Haven, Connecticut**



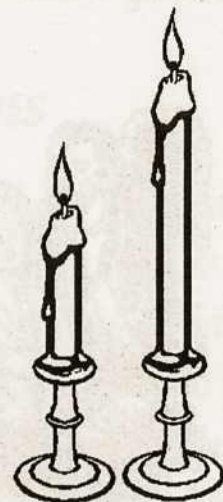
*Wishing All Our Members - and-  
their Extended Families -  
A Very Merry Christmas  
and as We Approach  
the New Year  
May God Embrace You  
Within His Arms of Love  
And Bless You  
With All Good Things  
For the  
"New Millennium".*



*Best Wishes for Peace and Joy this Holiday Season  
and a New Year of  
Health, Happiness and Prosperity*



*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų  
ir Laimingų  
Naujųjų Metų*



*Knights of Lithuania  
Council 7  
85 Green Street  
Waterbury, Conn. 06708*





**Council 17  
South Boston, Mass.  
wishes all our fellow Knights  
A Blessed Christmas and  
Most Happy New Year**



*Sveikiname nuo keturiasdešimtos  
Pirmos Vyčių kuopos  
Brooklyn New York  
Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų  
ir Laimingų  
Naujų Metų*

Bill Kumeta  
Marytė Šalinskienė  
Ona Barauskienė  
Veronika Kazlauskie  
Helen Yuomosienė  
*Ir visi kiti nariai*





## Greetings of the Season to All -



May the peace and Joy of that  
first Christmas be always  
with You and the good  
things of Life be yours as  
we enter this new Millennium!

Council 26, Worcester



*The Officers and Members of the  
Amber District*

*wish all our fellow Knights  
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Peace, Good Health and Happiness to all.*

*Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų!*

C-3 Philadelphia  
C-46 Forest City  
C-63 Lehigh Valley  
C-72 Binghamton  
C-74 Scranton  
C-118 Hazleton

C-140 Syracuse  
C-142 Washington  
C-143 Pittston  
C-144 Anthracite  
C-146 Harrisburg  
C-156 Shamokin



**Linksmų Kalėdų!**



*from*

**Lehigh Valley  
Council #63**

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



**Best Wishes for a  
Blessed, Healthful,  
Merry Christmas and  
a Happy Joyful New Year**



**Council #147  
St. Petersburg, Florida**

**Council 141  
Bridgeport, CT**



**extends to our Fellow Knights  
and Friends  
A Blessed Christmas  
and a Happy Healthy  
New Year.**

*Christmas  
Peace*



**Council 74  
Scranton, Pennsylvania  
Knights of Lithuania**






**Blessed Christmas and  
A Happy, Peaceful  
New Year**

**Clemencine Miller HM  
and Victor Miller  
C-141**



**BLESSED CHRISTMAS**



**May the Spirit  
of Christmas  
Surround you  
into the New Year  
and Beyond!!!**


**C#96, Honorary Member  
Fran Petkus and Family**

**Brangūs broliai  
ir sesės  
Lietuvos Vyčiai,  
Širdingiausiai  
sveikiname**

**Jus visus,  
sulaukus Kristaus  
Gimimo šventės.  
Žengiant į jubi-  
liejinius 2000-uosius  
metus, visiems  
linkime Dievo palaimos,  
džiaugsmo  
ir vilčių išsipildymo!**

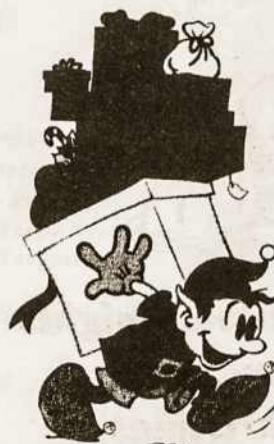


*Theresa ir Faustas, H.M.  
Stroliai, C-157*



Seven boxes of clippings and letters at  
the K. of L. Archives in Putnam, CT  
Highlighting years of Lithuanian  
Affairs Committees' work  
Year 2000 Project????

Awaiting chronicle



**Linksmų  
Švenčių**

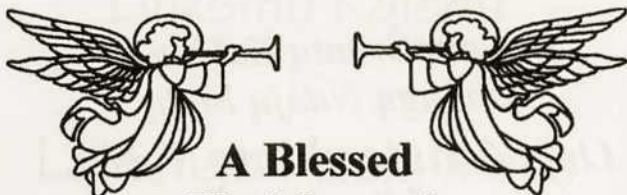
**H.M. Longinas Svelnis  
Archives Chairman**



The gift of love,  
the gift of peace,  
the gift of happiness  
May these be yours  
at Christmas.



**Council 79**  
**Southfield, Michigan**



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

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

*Vyčiai Tęskite Toliau...*

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



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

Thank you for all your good help in writing  
and calling me to keep the VTIS mailing  
records up to date.

Keep up the Knights Spirit.

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

*Merry Christmas  
to all  
Fellow Knights*



**May the New Year  
2000 Bring Peace,  
Health and Happiness.**

*Council 25*  
*Cleveland, OHIO*



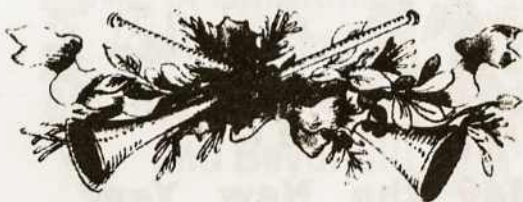
**MAY THE  
CHRIST CHILD  
SHOWER HIS  
BLESSINGS ON  
THE K. OF L.**



**Council 86 DuBois**

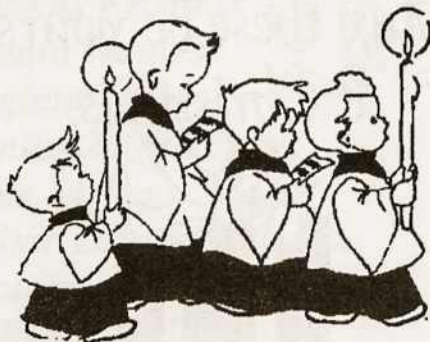
**MAY YOUR JOYS BE MANY  
YOUR TROUBLES FEW  
YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE  
AND YOUR FRIENDS ALL TRUE**

**Merry Christmas and  
Happy Millennium**



**Council 96  
Dayton, OH**

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
FROM COUNCIL 103  
PROVIDENCE, RI  
MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**



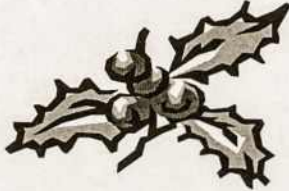
**Linksmų Kalėdų ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų**

**Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų  
Linki Amsterdamo Vyčiai  
Kuopa 100**





**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**



From all the members  
of Council 30  
Westfield, Mass.

**HAVE A MERRY, MERRY  
HOLY CHRISTMAS**



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
COUNCIL 109  
GREAT NECK, NY**

Linksmų Kalėdų

ir

Laimingų Naujų Metų



**Council 146  
Harrisburg  
Pennsylvania**

Linksmų Švenčių nuo  
C-12 - 12 Kuopos

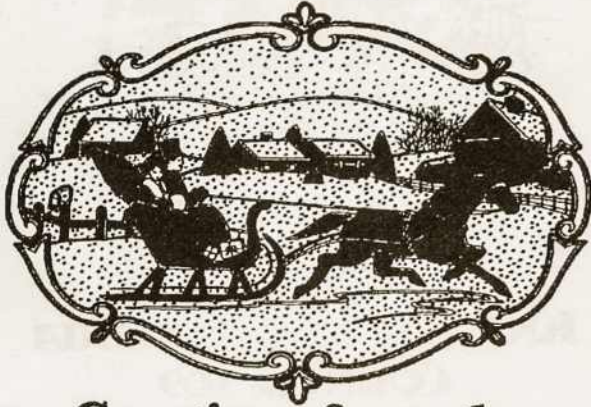
*The bright jewel  
of the big apple*



**New York, NY**



**Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų  
Best Wishes for a Happy &  
Healthy Christmas  
Season!**



**Greetings from the  
Mid-Central District**

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

**Council 52  
Elizabeth, New Jersey**



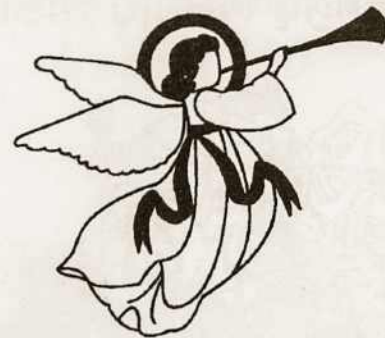
To our fellow Knights  
and Friends:

**Linksmų Kalėdų  
ir Laimingų  
Naujų Metų**



**Council 102 Detroit**

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



**THE NATION'S CAPITAL  
COUNCIL 142  
WASHINGTON, DC**



# Šventa Naktis



Member's of Pittsburgh's  
**Council 19**  
offer holiday wishes to all  
at this most blessed time

## Sincere Greetings of the Holiday Season to Pleasant Persons:

Walter Svekla, A.J. Mickūnas,  
D. J. Drumstas, L. Greymas, M. Ch. Petronis,  
I. Ozalis, Adutė Kirstuk, M. Abbott,  
J. Mankus and wife, Rev. Msgr. J.  
Anderlonis, W. Piacentini,  
Rev. W. Valkavičius, E. Sprow,  
S. Panaccio

*Lekia metai lyg  
paukščiai greitieji,  
Tirpsta dienos lyg snagės delne,  
štai ir baigesi metai senieji,  
su Naujaisiais! Daug laimės juose.*



**Janina Lauras**  
C-147, St Petersburg, Florida

Officers and Members of  
**Council 143 Pittston, PA**  
wish

A Blessed  
Christmas and  
Healthy, Happy  
New Year  
to  
Supreme Council  
and all  
K. of L.  
Members



*Linksmų Kalėdų Švenčių ir Sveikų  
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų  
Visiems Vyčiams*

*Šventų - Sveikų  
Linksmų ir Laimingų Kalėdų ir  
Naujųjų Metų Vyčiame ir Draugams*



**2000**

Blessed Healthy Happy  
and Prosperous Christmas  
and New Year to all Knights  
and Friends

**2000**



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



## Old designs in new form Lithuanian Tree Ornaments

Decorations on the 14-foot spruce commanding the rectory living room at St. Andrew's Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church in Philadelphia would be called *šiaudinukai* — literally, straw ornaments.

Here, they are called beautiful and a testament to one woman's desire to keep alive a memory from her childhood in Lithuania.

"I thought they would be a nice thing on the tree," Angela Puodziunus said hours before parishioners were to usher in Christmas Day with a Midnight Mass at the church at 19th and Wallace Streets. She reached for a palm-sized snowflake, an artificial reminder of the real thing that lay just beyond the rectory's door, and smiled. "It was a lot of work."

It was a labor of love that began months before, when Rev. Peter Burkauskas issued this request to his parishioners:

*Would anybody make for the rectory tree the straw ornaments so common on Christmas trees in Lithuania before that nation was absorbed by the Soviet Union?*

Puodziunus, whose family, emigrated to the United States in 1949, raised her hand. She would rekindle the old memories — with a new twist: she decided to make the snowflakes, stars, carousels and angels with plastic cocktail sipping straws, not real straw. Sturdier than the original decorations, they would last for years.

She recruited her husband, John, a retired machinist, who located on the Internet a distributor of the slender, white straws. A few days later, they arrived: 10 boxes containing 10,000 straws, suitable for sipping — or clipping.

"I said, 'What am I going to do with so many straws?' " Puodziunus said. Then she laughed. "I used every one."

Using scissors and kite string — it was strong and slender, she learned, suitable for literally stitching together short bits of plastic — Puodziunus struggled with her first few designs: snowflakes and carousels, mostly, based on old straw decorations an elderly

parishioner had shared with her.

It wasn't easy to make the decorations and tie them tightly with string, and Puodziunus pushed away quiet feelings of panic. Could she deliver on her promise?

But she persevered, fitting together tiny straws during the morning commute on the Frankford El to her job at a Center City insurance company or staying up after her husband had gone to bed to finish a particularly challenging design.

Puodziunus eventually filled a cardboard box with the ornaments, Gaining confidence and speed, she filled a second carton with her creations, and then a third. Winter passed, then spring, and she still worked — snipping, stitching, packing more decorations into boxes.

Puodziunus' grown children teased her about all the effort she put into diminishing the inventory of straws. Her six grandchildren became accustomed to finding little bits of white plastic in the Puodziunuses' rowhouse. Her 65-year-old husband grumbled, good-naturedly, about losing sleep while she worked late.

When she arrived to decorate the big tree in the rectory, Puodziunus brought with her 12 boxes of ornaments — 250 decorations in all. She and Father Burkauskas spent four hours placing them on the tree.

"It's beautiful," Father Burlwiskas said, eyeing the big tree and touching' one of Angela's creations. "They're far more beautiful than I thought they would be."

Puodziunus, who figures' she spent about 20 hours a week making the ornaments — roughly 900 hours in all — just smiled.

"I was very pleased when I saw them," said Puodziunus. "My concern was to make sure I had enough ornaments."

There are more than enough. The decorations nearly bump into each other like a family outgrowing a house. She also rekindled old memories and, in the process, created some new ones for the churchgoers at St Andrew's.

*From the Philadelphia Enquirer  
by Mark Davis 12/25/1998*





# Council News

## C-7, WATERBURY, CT

Adele Klenske

Our first fund raiser for the fall season was held at our clubroom on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Agnes Bauza, who picked up 20 lbs. of blueberries this past season – with the help of Lefty Adams – and generously donated them for our breakfast. As a result, we were able to get a bit fancier and serve blueberry pancakes, along with our usual fare. 139 tickets were sold at the door, which gave a positive boost to our treasury. We heard many happy comments from the attending crowd and want to thank all the good people who supported this successful event. Thanks, also, to all who pitched in and helped! Next event to read about and remember – a ham dinner on November 14<sup>th</sup> – also at our clubroom. Check for other social events in 2000!

One of our members, Denise Petkus, organized a 15-day trip to Helsinki and Lithuania, which embarked on August 1, 1999. We asked Denise to submit an article on this trip and she graciously obliged. Following is a synopsis of this article: The travelers landed in Helsinki, Finland. They took a waterbus tour, as well as a land tour of the city, visited an open-air market, and did some local shopping.

Next stop, Vilnius, the romantic and elegant capital city. The second day of the tour continued with a relaxing excursion to Kernave and Trakai Castle. Third day, Kaunas for two evenings and a visit to Pirciupiai, which in 1944 did the Nazis along



*Ilgausią Metų ...C-110's birthday girls Helen Matulonis and Sophie Zuyus are treated to a surprise party attended by many council members.*

with its 119 inhabitant's burn. This village has been restored and a monument erected in memory of the victims. On to Druskininkai and a visit to the Čiurlionis Museum. The group then departed for Merkine, one of the oldest inhabited locations in Lithuania. Evening found the group settling in at Kaunas and touring the area the following day. Next morning all departed for the beautiful seaside resort of Palanga. They detoured to Šiluva, a holy place, where the Blessed Mother once appeared to children playing in a field. After visiting the church and chapel, they continued on to Tytuvėnai, where they heard the sound of a choir's beautiful and poignant Lithuanian hymns in an 18th century church and abbey. Old Town, Klaipėda, Nida, Neringa, Kriskstai and Kretinga were also on their itinerary. Charming little fishing villages and their thatched roof homes were seen. The famous Hill of Crosses was also visited. Evening found the group in Panevėžys and from there they headed back to Vilnius, stopping to see the eerie

forest setting in Paneriai. Here they viewed the killing pits, where the bodies of primarily Jewish people were disposed of – following their execution. Finally, free time in Vilnius and a farewell dinner in the beer cellar of Stiklai Aludė. This group returned home with wonderful and lasting memories.

Denise is planning another trip in the year 2000 with an add-on to another country for two days. Anyone can reach her at 203-753-1796 or email: abushka101@yahoo.com.

## C-19, PITTSBURGH, PA

Rob Medonis

The Knights of Lithuania Council-19 attended the Latin Liturgy of St. Gregory the Great on Sunday, September 12 at St. Boniface Church on the North Side of Pittsburgh. The Knights said the Litany of St. Casimir in Lithuanian following the Holy Sacrifice of Mass and then went to the church's basement for their monthly meeting. Rev. Ken Myers spoke to Council-19 following their meeting on the Latin Mass and answered questions about it.

Council-19's attendance at the Latin Mass marked the first time that Council-19 had attended the Latin Mass as group since the imposition of the New Mass in the Diocese of Pittsburgh on May 17, 1970.

The Latin Mass Community of Holy Wisdom Parish at St. Boniface Church, whose Mass the Knights had attended, dates back to June 11, 1989, when Bishop Wueri permitted the first indult Latin Mass in the Diocese of



# Council News



*New England District Officers for the New Millennium at Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> District Meeting in Providence, RI*

Pittsburgh. The Latin Mass community had its first Latin Masses at Duquesne University and Beaver then at St. Agnes in SoHo/Oakland before finally arriving at St. Boniface Church on the North Side.

Ironically enough St. Boniface has some Lithuanian connections for although St. Boniface was a German parish, some Lithuanians on North Side had sent their children to its school as Ascension, the Lithuanian church on North Side, had no school.

For more information on the Knights of Lithuania or the Latin Mass you may call Robert Medonis at 412-571-2937 or write to him by email at [rmedonis@yahoo.com](mailto:rmedonis@yahoo.com)

## **C-25 CLEVELAND, OH**

*Ursula Kunsitis*

Believe it or not – C-25 is alive and well even though we haven't appeared in the Council News for quite a spell.

Our officers for the millennium are Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas, Spiritual Advisor; Richard Marks, President; Joe Ivoska, Vice President; Jean Marks, Secretary; Jim Thompson, Treasurer; Kathy Kaczmarek, Financial Secretary; Steve Yurkvic, Sgt. At Arms; Stela Sankal and Lillian Yurkovic, Trustees; Al Dumchus, Lithuanian Affairs; Joan Ortman, Ritual; Ursula Kunsitis, Vyti's Correspondent; Theresa Capuria, Sunshine. Congratulations and have a great year!

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Dolly Oberaitis upon the passing of her husband, Tony. Tony had been our Sgt. At Arms and Coffee Hour Chairman for a number of years. We also extend our deepest condolences to Ben Karkilius, whose wife, Akvila, also passed away. Both Tony and Akvila will be sincerely missed. May they both rest in peace!

Once again on the weekend of August 28<sup>th</sup>, a caravan of our members traveled to DuBois, PA,

for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Picnic at John Andrulis' "Cabin in the Woods". A great time was had by all, and it is our understanding that this is to become an annual event with John, Council 25, and DuBois, Council 86! Thanks again, John, for your hospitality.

A big thank-you to all our members who participated in the September 5<sup>th</sup> Coffee Hour at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Vince and Marion Gray and Joan Ortman represented C-25 at the National Convention in Philadelphia. We enjoyed your report Marion – yours, too, Joan!

C-25 had just about a full table at the Lithuanian Radio Program's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on September 11<sup>th</sup> Dinner and Concert featuring Mezzosoprano, Aldona Stempuzis. Mrs. Stempuzis is the host of the Lithuanian Radio Hour. A special note of recognition was given to the Jakubs and Son Funeral Home. They were the only advertiser who advertised with them from the inception of the Radio Program



# Council News

and still remain with them to this day. Congratulations to Bill Sr. and Bill Jr. for their loyalty!

On September 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> council 25 hosted the MCD Meeting and Pilgrimage. Our President, Dick Marks, deserves a big hand for making all of the necessary arrangements for this Pilgrimage. At our Social on Friday night we were so pleased to have Samantha Farrell (16-year old daughter of Jim and Laura) entertain our guests and members with her beautiful singing program. We believe "Sam" has a great career ahead of her and wish her much success in her endeavor!

The site of our Pilgrimage had been changed to Borromeo Seminary where Saturday Mass, our luncheon in the dining room, and tour of the Seminary was held. Our guests enjoyed the informal discussion held after our tour by the 5<sup>th</sup> year Seminarians and Father Dale Yurkovic who was visiting his parents from Montana. In the evening we all enjoyed the Concert presented by the Volunge Women's Singing Group from Toronto. Ingrid Bublys, Honorary Lithuanian Consulate in Cleveland was the guest speaker at our Sunday Banquet.

We would like to thank all our Delegates for attending, and congratulations to Lauretta Pant, council 96, upon receipt of her Third Degree and to Joan Thompson, from council 25, upon her receipt of the MCD Recognition Award!

We'd like to extend a big welcome to Ruth Reedy (Youngstown) for joining council 25. Ruth is a transferee from Chicago council 157! Hope we'll



*Mid Central District president, Fran Petkus (bottom left) with Fr. G. Kijauskas, C-25 Spiritual Advisor, I. Bublys, Lith. Consul, and R. Marks, C-25 president.*

get to see you at one of our monthly meetings.

It was very sad to say goodbye to our long time, active members, Charlie and Nelda Machutas, at our October meeting. They are now both residing in Sun Lakes, Arizona, with the rest of the Snow-Birds. We wish you much happiness and good health in your new residence!

Please remember our ailing members! Everyone try to stay well and healthy

## **C26 WORCESTER, MA**

*Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.*

Having covered our footprints of travel at home and abroad, with pleasant memories and recollections, our thoughts must now return to achievements for C 26. Meetings, agendas, programs, and above all, attendance are the ingredients for a successful and enjoyable organization.

Irene Markevicius volunteered as the Nominating

Committee. Thanks Irene, you are a one and only.

Our same board of officers remains. A hard working crew it contains. Never has it ever worked against the grains. The present and future of C-26 it sustains.

Through two of our well-informed members, Fr. John and Victoria Augustine, we are well informed about the goings on in Lithuania, and we very well appreciate their direction.

A suggestion to collect food items to provide for less fortunate families for Thanksgiving dinner was presented by President Vivian Rodgers, and accepted by our membership. These foodstuffs were brought to the November meeting, then turned over to the Pernet Order of Sisters.

Our tireless top echelon got the District Festival off the ground by purchasing, providing, planning, and preparing the kitchen for the designated councils to continue the operation. Kugeli, kielbasi, and kabbage were on the menu for the dinner dream. All went like clockwork, and the results were positive with profit. A good time was had by all.

Members Adele Ulevich and Mae Anusauskas are confined in nursing homes and Nel Mitchel continues recovery. We think of you often with sorrow and prayer.

## **C-27 Norwood, MA**

*Zaibas*

Our fall meeting was held in the rectory of St. George R.C. Church. Ramona Gonski provided a nice coffee cake to go with coffee that Fr. Bill had ready for us. We unanimously reelected our diligent officers and board



# Council News

members. Our pastor, Rev. Wm. Wolkovich, brought us up to date on the convention, it's meetings and activities.

Betty and John Skricki hosted a reception for Bishop Matulaitis who visited the parish and told of his experiences in Lithuania.

The Pasta Supper was a huge success thanks to the members who shopped, prepared, served and cleaned up. As always, the committee enjoys a great friendship in working together.

Our travelers, Ed and Mary Ann Motyka are off to Florida and then the Panama Canal, This must be the place to go this year, as Albie and Leona Jarvis are headed for Panama also.

Panama will become an independent country in 2000.

George and Birute Barton returned to their home in Norwood after having a wonderful time in Lithuania at their spring/ summer residence. We always enjoy eating Birute's delicious pirogi.

Sandy Melish told her stories of great polka weekends. She and Dorothy Ausevich (our pizzelli pastry chef) have dancing feet, as do Terry and Stan Wasil and Betty and John Skricki.

Louise and Paul Zukas keep busy with the K of L, St. George activities. They also enjoy the hospitality of South Boston's St. Peter Church where their son, Rev. Steve Zukas, is pastor.

Louise had a great trip to Alaska and is fine, thank you, after a brief hospital stay.

We thank our gracious and good friend, Mrs. Milleriene. She donated a lovely hand-made

afghan. The lucky winner of it, Mrs. Vincent Kasauskas, was very pleased with it. It was a delight to see our new and old friends at the Pasta Supper. Looking forward to another great year.

## C-36. Chicago, IL

Rutele

After a wonderful and relaxing summer our first Council meeting was held on September 20th. 3rd Vice-President, Sabina Henson, reported that the Juniors participated in the Immaculate Conception may crowning on May 27th and are keeping busy in various other activities. Council members actively participated in the farewell party given for Rev. Anthony C. Puchenski on September 11th and 12th.

Frank Zapolis, Director of the K of L Dancers spoke about the activities of his four dance groups - Little ones, High School, College and veterans. After practices there are pizza parties with 50 to 60 attending which is quite an incentive for attracting new members not only for dancers but also for councils. Frank has been active in C-36 for a very long time. The dancers will appear December 5th at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry in their annual Christmas program. Lithuanians have been honored by the Museum for being participants for the longest period of time.

Yours truly remembers being a participant with the K of L Choir umpteen years ago.

Ten members of C-36 attended the 75th Anniversary celebration of C-112, Chicago. What a revelation! C-36

President Mary F. Kincius discovered that her father, Victor Balanda, organized the first meeting of C-112 and was its first President. Who would have thought that one day Victor Balanda's daughter would be President of a neighboring council and Business Manager of VYTIS. It must be in the genes.

C-36 will be celebrating its 85th Anniversary in the year 2000. Plans are now being made for a joyous commemoration. C-36 was organized in 1915 and remained active for the whole 85 years.

Remember the following dates. Our very successful fund raiser the annual "Candlelight Dinner" will be held again this year on Saturday December 4th. Also, our council is hosting the Mid-America District meeting on December 17th.

Get well wishes go out to Irene Norushis who had eye surgery and to John Janus. We pray that you're both doing well.

A great big welcome to two new members, Sister Salvatore and Sister Aurelia.

Elections for the New Millenium were held in October. Mary F. Kincius remains President; Vince Samaska, 1st Vice-President; Victor (Jtara, 2nd Vice-President; Sabina Henson, 3rd Vice-President (Juniors); Denise Hornik, Recording Secretary; Evelyn Ozelis, Corresponding Secretary; Lillian Micka, Financial Secretary and Treasurer; Vince Samaska and Tony Stakenas, Trustees; and Dave Lornaitis and Frank Zailskas, Sgts-at-Arms.



# Council News

Rev. Fabian P. Kireilis is Spiritual Advisor and Martin Gestautas has been appointed Asst. Chaplain in Father's absence. Committee appointees are as follows: Lithuanian Affairs, Evelyn Ozelis; Lithuanian Language and Culture, Sally Daulys; Cheer, Irene Norushis; Ritual, Mary F. Kincius; Vytis, Ruth Kazlauskas; English Publicity, Mary F. Kincius; and Lithuanian Publicity, Sally Daulys.

Happy Holidays. Looking forward to the New Year for many new and exciting things to happen.

## **C-74, SCRANTON, PA**

*Marie Laske*

With officers elected, we prepare for our annual Kučios on Dec. 12th. We must employ younger people to help us out. Each year we host about 70 people, usually the same ones and a few new additions.

Msgr. Peter Madus has been very busy. He was the homilist at the Lithuanian Rosary and had others participate. He was also the homilist for the first diocesan Veteran's Day Mass concelebrated in 25 years by Bishop James C. Timlin and priests from eleven counties.

Martha Brack has been attending our meetings and is coming along well after her stroke.

Jerome Costello had a heart problem and is recuperating at home. Jerome certainly has had his share of health problems.

Martha Wagner, our refreshment chairperson, is a busy

person serving our group of 8-10 people each month.

Although Marie Benckine has serious arthritis, she is a very dependable contact person. With so much illness, Rose Stanches is busily sending her get well cards.

Richard Laske has gone to an Indian reservation in Canada to go moose hunting. Last time he went he shot a bear and now we have a bear rug. Just what I needed!

May the peace of God be with all our Knights and their families and may year 2000 bring health and happiness to all!

## **C-96, DAYTON, OH**

*Fran Petkus*

Council 96 was doing what most everyone else was doing in October, holding the election of officers. Those taking charge for the '99-'00 term are:

Spiritual Advisor – Rev. Michael Holloran

President – Michael F. Petkus

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Laurretta Pant

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Robert Pant

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Christine

Fletcher/Julia Goecke

Recording Secretary – Anne

Louise Tucker

Treasurer – James Geiger

Financial Secretary – Frances

Mikalaukas

Trustee – George

Mikalaukas/Joseph E. Mantz

Sergeant at Arms – Henry Pant

Lithuanian Affairs/Historian –

Elena Mikalaukas

Ritual – Fran Petkus/ Elsie A.

Berczelly

Vytis Correspondent – Fran

Petkus

C96 Bulletin Editor – Anne Louise Tucker

Social/Condolence – Elaine Pacovsky

Ways and Means – Laurretta Pant

By-Laws – Joseph E.

Mantz/Eleanor Mantz

Telephone Squad – Joyce

Berczelly

Public Relations – Linda Pant

Librarian – Henry Pant

Photographer – Connie Geiger

To our new Board, we wish a very successful term. To our outgoing officers, thank you for dedicating your time and efforts to give the Council another busy year.

New Supreme Council 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Annamarie Sluzas Berger, had the opportunity of attending her first Supreme Council meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Los Angeles. Also on the SC Board attending the meeting from C-96 were Mark Bell, SC Financial Secretary; Irena Gečas-McCarthy, SC Scholarship Chair; and Fran Petkus, HM and MCD President. All had good reports of the meeting and updates on plans for the National Convention in Los Angeles. Start making plans as it sounds like a good one!!

George and Frances Mikalaukas came back from their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary cruise of the Hawaiian Islands with nothing but praise. They recommend it to everyone!

Rob and Linda Pant truly shared the baptism of their daughter, Garielle Elizabeth, with Holy Cross Parish. Not only with the ceremony in church, but with a brunch in the church hall open to the entire parish. It was a very memorable occasion. Proud



# Council News

godparents are (Uncle) Michael Pant, and Annamarie Sluzas Berger.

Get well wishes to Aldona Ryan, Helen Keivel, Bernadetta Noreikas, and former member Pat Zelinskas Alexander, currently with C7, Waterbury, CT.

At this time I need to turn to my K of L roots from C12, New York. A very dear friend and 'pišlys' for my having met my husband Mike of C96, Dayton, John (Bell) Belevich passed away on October 26<sup>th</sup>. John met Mike at the K of L National Convention in Detroit in 1948 and they became friends, and as they say the rest is history. To Evelyn and family, John was always so proud of his family, we send our deepest sympathies. May his soul be at peace with the Lord!

## C-100, AMSTERDAM, NY

*Smile & Sparkle*

Greetings from the former Carpet City: Many things are/opening in our parish. We now have a nun. Sister Roberta O'Rourke as the Pastoral Associate. We invited her to our October meeting and we were very taken by her. We had election of officers. Mirga Bablin will continue as president.

The vice-presidents are Regina Kot and Gene Gobis. Treasurer is the very capable Sophie Olbie. Eleanore Olechowski will take over the secretarial duties. Polly Ziausys and Ed Baranauskas will continue to give us interesting facts on Lithuania.

We were happy to have Edna Luzinas back in the choir

again. She had been on the sick list for a number of weeks.

Helen Kiuber, our former secretary, traveled to Lourdes France. Also in the group were Bill and Beatrice Jasewicz and grandchildren.

We hope our three sisters, Frances DiBart, Helen Dylong and Mildred Wholly are feeling better.

Our president Mirga and husband Edward Bablin visited their daughter and family in Arizona for a month just when the cold weather hit.

Congratulations go out to Dr. Aldona Baltch Gravrogkas, sister of our deceased pastor, Rev. Robert K. Baltch. She was the winner of our church's membership drawing:

For our first meeting in September, Regina Hartvigas, Birute Ralys and Gene Gobis served on the refreshment committee. For October it was Mirga Bablin, Walter and Sophie Malkowicz.

In ending, all of our Amsterdam Vyčiai "Linki Linksmų Šventų Kaledų ir Laimingų Sveikų Naujų Metų visiems!

P.S. Congratulations to William Burimauskas - first to pay his dues for the year 2000.

## C-102, DETROIT

*Dvynuke*

We had a beautiful weekend for traveling to attend the MCD Meeting-Pilgrimage, hosted by council 25. A nuosirdingai "Ačiū" to Richard Marks and his committee for a most enjoyable well-rounded weekend, both

spiritually and socially. It brought back fond memories for Donna Bunikis and Theresa Medonis when they spotted Fr. Ivanauskas' Ordination picture while walking through the halls of St. Mary's Seminary. It was on one of his visits to St. Anthony's School that he taught the students the "Blynai" song. To this day, Theresa sings this son to her grandchildren when she's frying up a batch of blynai. Along with the Bunikis' and Medonis', who made the trip, Regina Juska-Svoba and the Guerrieros, also attended. While the rest of us returned home, Maryanne and Joe took a side trip to Niagara Falls.

Several of our 102 Nomads traveled to Lithuania this past summer, namely our past president, Grazina Vaskelis Giroux, and her hubby, Al, as did ATL President Regina Juska-Svoba, and Honorary Member Bob Boris. While there, Regina and Bob visited several facilities that ATL has supported. They were also invited to the residence of Bishop Bačkis. Lou Bogart can now cross off another European trip from his list, as he toured Poland. All came back with interesting tales and pictures.

How nice to see Della Zyren at the September meeting, and just in time to receive her 2<sup>nd</sup> degree along with her daughter, Patricia, as well as Michael and Theresa Shea. Ritual Chairlady Donna Bunikis administered all awards.

We had the quickest and smoothest run "election", as all present officers graciously accepted to stay on for another year. Thanks for doing a great job



# Council News

to the outgoing officers and congratulations to the incoming.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Evelyn Uznis and family upon the recent, sudden death of her husband, John, brother of deceased HM Ann Uznis. John was a staunch supporter of 102. May his soul rest in peace.

It would be nice to see some "long time no see members" at the monthly meetings before the snow and sleet hit the roadways! Su Diev!

## C-112, Chicago

Sr. Johanne M. Shainauskas, CCS.

August 28th found many members of C-112 present at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir, assisting at the Mass in honor of Mother Maria Kaupas, and celebrating the 92nd anniversary of the founding of the Sisters' Congregation. After the Mass, a beautiful mosaic which was created in Italy, depicting various aspects of the Communities works, and placed above the sarcophagus of Mother Maria's remains, was blessed by the newly elected Prior Provincial of the Augustinians, Rev. Robert Prevost.

At the September meeting, Ellie Kasputis, 2nd Vice-President, was proud to report that Council 112 now has the largest membership of all, totaling 286 Knights! Anele Pocius, Mary Banky, and Theresa Vaitkus, received awards for being the top three winners of the membership drive. The two newest members, Lorraine Barvitz and Genovaite Petreikiene were welcomed to the



*Blessing of the Mosaic at the Motherhouse of the Srs. of St. Casimir in Chicago. Standing near the sarcophagus is Prior Provost of the Augustinians*

## Council.

Approximately 14 members, who attended the 86th Knights of Lithuania National Convention, gave glowing reports of the wonderful job done by Philadelphia's C-3, and of the good time had by all.

Congratulations and best wishes were directed to the following members who are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversaries this year: Mr. and Mrs. Vince Petrosius, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pocius, and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Yerkes. God's blessings, health and happiness to you!

Elections were then held for the new officers for the year 2000. The results were as follows: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Rimas Gudelis; President, Mickey Petrosius; 1st Vice Pres., Al Mockus; 2nd Vice-Pres., Ellie Kasputis; 3rd Vice-Pres., Maria Deksnis; Treasurer, Dolores Wainauskas; Recording Sec.,

Gerry Chaplin; Financial Sec., Theresa Vaitkus; Corresp. Sec., Alvina Giedraitis; Trustees, Lorraine Svelnis and Mary Banky; Sgts.-at-Arms, Edward Pocius, Edward Balciunas, Vince Petrosius and Anthony Pauzuolis. New members were then inducted by Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Rimas Gudelis.

Visiting guest members from Baltimore, Maryland, Mr. and Mrs. John and Theresa Pocius, were in attendance at this September meeting.

Council 112's 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration was a tremendous success. The festivities were begun with a beautiful Liturgy at Nativity B.V.M. church, with Pastor, Rev. Michael Yakaitis as main celebrant, assisted by Deacon, Vytautas Paskauskas. After Mass, 140 members and guests proceeded to the parish hall for a social hour, followed by a gala dinner and dancing. The success of the event is due to the hard-working 75th Anniversary committee, whose members included: Chairperson, Julie Zakarka; Co-chairperson, Mickey Petrosius; Charge of bar, Pres. C-112, Ed Deksnis; Ticket sales, Estelle Rogers and Mary Banky; Public Relations, Aldona Brazis; Master of Ceremonies, Al Mockus; Incredible Decorations, Vince Petrosius; Gorgeous table centerpieces, Gerri Chaplin; Creative Photo Memories' display, Susan and Paul Binkis, and Maria Deksnis; Successful Anniversary Ad-Book, Mickey Petrosius and Dutchie Adamenas; Hors d'oeuvres and general direction of committee, Dutchie Adamenas.



# Council News



*C-112 Officers for the New Millennium*

Robert Martin, Jr., President of Mid-America District, did the honors of presenting engraved plaques to eleven C-112 members of 50 years or more. The M.C. announced the names of members of 40 to 50 years. They were asked to stand up, and were applauded by all present.

C-112 members were invited to Julie Zakarka's home on October 22nd for a Halloween get-together, and to discuss the results of the Jubilee celebration. Most members were bedecked in Halloween regalia, and some hardly recognizable! A really fun time was had by all. Thank you, Julie.

"Dutchie" Adamenas, husband John, and son Michael, spent 18 very busy days in Lithuania this past summer. She reports that they saw very many changes since their last visit in '96. The roads were in good repair to take on the great amount of cars, many of which are American. "Maxima" supermarkets have everything, with many, many choices. Restaurants, outdoor cafes and "kavines" have taken

over the city. An excellent pizza was also enjoyed by all. They also journeyed to the Hill of Crosses, Rumsiskis, Kaunas, Taurage, Sulte and Nida. They also saw the "Prezidentura," which is magnificent - a mini-White House, although President Adarnkus and Alma do not live there. Great visit!

## **C-136, HUDSON-MOHAWK** *Dot Richmire*

At a recent MAD meeting, my brother, Ed Barkowski, was elected President.

Congratulations Ed, we have full confidence in your ability to serve. Ed announced that our council will be hosting the meeting of MAD to be held in March. More details are forthcoming.

At our Council meeting on October 7, election of officers resulted in the following:  
President – Charles Rupsis  
Vice-President – Bea Jasewicz  
Treasurer – Ed Barkowski  
Rec. Secretary – Stella White

Trustee – Richard Fuerst  
Fin. Secretary – June Stankus  
Ritual Chairman – Sue Freer  
Sunshine – Joan Parker  
Vydis Corres. – Dot Richmire  
Cultural Chairman – Stella White  
Lith. Affairs – Bernice Aviza  
Archives – Gen Geery  
Sgt. at Arms – Bill Jasewicz  
Spir. Adv. – Fr. Edward Kacergius  
Congratulations to all.

One event we participated in is the Festival of Nations, held on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Convention Center in Albany. Our booth offered the usual Lithuanian foods in addition to artifacts and gift item from Lithuania.

Ed and Chick traveled to Boston to obtain a newer version of the popular "house candles". The new ones are larger and more beautiful. We hope they will appeal to those that visit our booth.

Our Christmas Party/Dinner has been scheduled for Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Bayou Cafe. More specifics are to be released at our next meeting.

On our sick list are Frank Zebuda, Clara Tulio, Helen La Piere, and Stephanie Divillitt. You are all in our prayers and hope you will be able to attend our meetings soon. Happy Holidays!

## **C-141, BRIDGEPORT, CT** *Aldona Marcavage*

The nostalgic sounds of Lithuanian melodies were a pleasant surprise to members arriving for the October meeting. It was provided by the boom box brought in by our thoughtful president Honorary Member Clemencine Miller. Our 25<sup>th</sup>



# Council News

anniversary banquet is now just a pleasant memory. Msgr. Pranckus said he hoped our 50th would be just as nice. Honored guests Giltare Ivaska (one of the cofounders) and President Clemencine Miller were presented with corsages, a boutonniere were given to Msgr. Pranckus and Fr. Jose. We missed cofounders Alphonse and Theresa Trainis, who have been called Home by our Heavenly Father. It was a lovely party – and for some it was a reunion with old time friends.

Bill Brilvitch proudly shared with us the full page spread in a Stratford paper regarding his son, Peter, receiving an award for being named Big Brother of the Year. Your pride in your son is understandable, Bill. We congratulate Peter.

Claire Carroll and Mary Spelman traveled to Lithuania with the Waterbury group, led by Fr. Karvelis, who celebrated Mass each day. Mary Spelman gave a glowing report of their experiences. The weather was great, the food was good, and they enjoyed the beauty of the country and the historical sights. In the cities, she noted the young people dressed comparably to American youth. In the country, however, old time life was seen. There were many beautiful wayside shrines along the way. The guided bus tours gave them a lot of Lithuanian history, too. They stopped at a pub one day, where Mary decided to order a Seagram's 7 and water. She asked the waitress (in her best Lithuanian translation) "Noriu Septinius ir vanduo". To everyone's amusement, the



*Bonnie Gulas, former C-141 Junior (now a Yale student) and youngest Junior, Zackary Miller enjoy the council's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party*

waitress delivered seven glasses of water!

Sophie Putrimas sang in concert with the Golden Oldies at St. Andrew's Church recently. She looked and sounded great.

Bob Marcavage proposed that our stagnant special account be turned into a special gift to our Sisters in Putnam toward a project to help them make Matulaitis Nursing Home a cooler, more comfortable place during the hot, humid summertime. The special account was closed, and the check was sent. We hop this will start the ball rolling with contributions from the rest of the NED councils. This is a very expensive project – but many loving hearts can make it a possibility.

November 10<sup>th</sup> began the new season of Lithuanian classes

at the Miller home, with Gintare Ivaska, teacher.

A one-time scholarship fund was established in memory of our former member Regina Wright.

Pres. Miller encouraged members to take an interest in the annual Retreat at Kennebunkport for all New England District. You make new friends – your soul is nurtured, and your body refreshed.

Lithuania's president Valdas Adamkus, has been nominated for next year's Honorary Membership, as was Fr. Wolkowitch of Norwood.

Requesting prayers for Msgr. Prankus for the return of good health. Nancy Pawasauskas had surgery recently, but I hear she is doing well. Get well soon, and God bless you both.

Council 141 officers and members sent Father Karvelis a card and gift check congratulating him on his 50 years in God's service and his retirement. Fr. Rikteraitis is hosting a party in his honor in New Britain. God Bless.

It's late October already. Not much time left in the old century – and the millennium. I wonder what new changes we will see? Happy Holidays!

## **C-147, ST. PETERSBURG, FL** *Dolores Jonaitis*

Council 147 lost a 20-year member when Malvina Ugenas-Ugenskas passed away on September 22, 1999. She will be deeply missed. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her survivors, son Paul, and daughters Aldona and Ruta, as well as her niece Janina Lauras.



# Council News

We are all sorry to have Brother Antanas Grabnickas O.F.M. leave us and return to Kretinga Lithuania. He joined Council 147, and had to leave before the swearing in ceremonies. This is truly a great loss for all of us.

After the opening prayer of our October meeting, a moment of silence was observed for Malvina Ugenas. Also remembered were the sick members of our Council. At present, 11 members are ill. Our two new members were unable to be sworn in, as they were absent. David Mancini was still up North, and Brother Antanas Grabnickas O.F.M., returned to Lithuania.

Our Recording Secretary, Irena Diktanas, read the minutes of the previous meeting. She also read the Treasurer's report for Maria Gelažius. As Eugenia Šatraitis was absent, there was no Financial Secretary's report. Our Ritual Chairlady, Dr. Aldona Valis, noted that she and Alfas Shukis received their 4<sup>th</sup> degrees. We are waiting for St. Casimir's Day for the presentation. Also this year, five 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees and two 1<sup>st</sup> degrees were awarded.

Irena Diktanas and Gene Puniskiė made donations to C147 in memory of Malvina. Adele Aciene donated to Aid to Lithuania. Other donations to C147, for 1999, are Elena Bacevicius, Veronica Pleaskiė, Genyte Dirse, Adele Aciene, Julia Rodowk, Maria Gelzius, and Alfas Shukis.

John Jonaitis gave a report on the Convention in Philadelphia. It was very interesting, and he covered all aspects. Attending

were Dolores and John Jonaitis, Aldona Kirstuk, and Janina Lauras, Dale and Joseph Dana attended the Banquet on Saturday night.

Alfas Shukis thanked the Council for the many get well greetings sent to him and his wife during their illness. Aldona Oliene also thanked everybody on behalf of herself and her mother, Kazimiera Arlauskas, for all the remembrances during their illness.

The following officers were elected to lead our council into the millennium:

Spir. Advisor, Rev. Matas Čyvas  
 President, John Jonaitis  
 Vice President, Anthony Gudonis  
 Recording Sec., Irena Diktanas  
 Treasurer, Maria Gelažius  
 Fin. Secretary, Eugenia Šatraitis  
 Trustees, Dolores Jonaitis and Janina Lauras  
 Sergeant at Arms, Vladas Gelazius  
 Ritual, Dr. Aldona Valis (Chairman), Dolores Jonaitis, Irena Diktanas, Brone Urbonas  
 Lithuanian Affairs, Alfas Shukis  
 Lithuanian Culture, Irena Diktanas  
 Vytis Corres., Dolores Jonaitis

The meeting was adjourned and Father Čyvas said the closing prayer. All were invited for coffee and delicious refreshments donated by our members.

## C-152, E. Long Island

*Julie M. Lott*

Here it is December, another year has come and gone, and hopefully we've all been preparing for the new Millennium. It's the most opportune time for councils to set their goals and strive to do the most for "God and Country".

As always, our October meeting was very productive and informative. That's due mostly because it's run with such protocol by the efficient staff of officers we have. Thanks to them, the issues and topics on the agenda get a good response from our fellow Knights. Our Christmas Party was finalized at this meeting and it was decided we would be gathering at the "Birchwood" in Riverhead on December 12<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon until 4:30 PM. Tickets are \$20.00 per person. Music will be provided, along with the great raffle table that our members fill with their donations of prizes. Get your tickets, bring a friend, and join in the holiday festivities.

October being Halloween month, our refreshment committee really outdid themselves setting up the table. Credit goes to Agnes Dunn, Mary Malinauskas, and yours truly. It all looked so beautiful with all the "treats", and no "tricks" It's so nice to have the social time after the business part of the meetings are closed. That's when our President, Muriel Lofmark, and her husband, Ray, informed us of their upcoming trip to Ireland. It will be interesting to hear their travels, and that's another plus for the social time.

Now I want to wish all our Knights a very merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. And with that thought, I'll leave with this quote: "The secret of happiness is not doing what one likes, but in liking what one does."

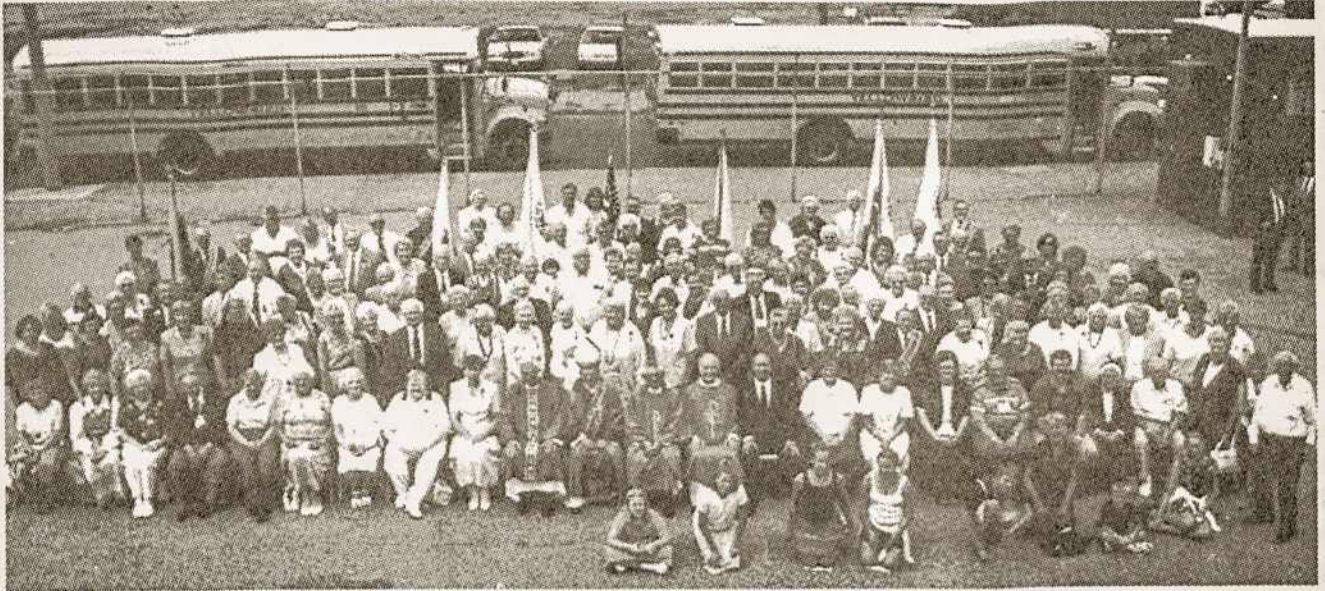


*Merry Christmas to All  
 From your editors!*





**86th National Convention,  
Philadelphia, PA  
July 29 - August 1, 1999**



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## MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

Mary raises slowly from her bed, still uncomfortable from the recent birth. The baby nearby stirs. She steps to tend His restlessness. Quieted, He sleeps again. As she gazes upon the baby her thoughts reflect on the events of His birth.

It had been a long journey; by nightfall all had blurred into a tired scene viewed through half-opened eyes.

Noisy, crowded streets, rude, impatient innkeepers, bleating animals, and finally the quiet comfort of the soft, warm straw.

She recalls the fear she had at this, the birth of her first child - and she so far from home and so alone. And how she sensed that she was tended by unseen hands which brought her peace and assurance that all would be well. As if embraced in the loving arms of a heavenly being, she was sustained throughout the birth. The child was born.

She remembers how curious the shepherds looked, peering from behind the door, and how they spoke of angels. Their tears had glistened in the stable



light as they saw the baby. She leans against the wall and rests.

There were special, personal things as well. Visits from an angel, announcing His birth. The comforting spirit that came to her, dispelling the flash of fear, when uncertain whether Joseph would marry her. The spiritual bond she felt with Elizabeth, as Elizabeth called her "Blessed, the Mother of my Lord."

There were also the many times she had knelt in solitary prayer, seeking strength - when her prayers were heard and strength was imparted.

The baby stirs again. She smooths His blanket and caresses His soft cheek.

All things and more she remembers and keeps within the sacred chambers of her heart. As the baby grows, she will draw forth these special witnesses and share them with Him. And, in so doing, she will impart to Him another gift - as significant as the gift of life - for she will also give birth to His testimony of His own divinity.

Her words, her recollections of these great events, conveyed to a believing child, with the pure assurance of a mother's love, will bear solemn witness to the young Messiah that He truly is the Christ.

*-from "The Nativity" by T. Craig Bott*