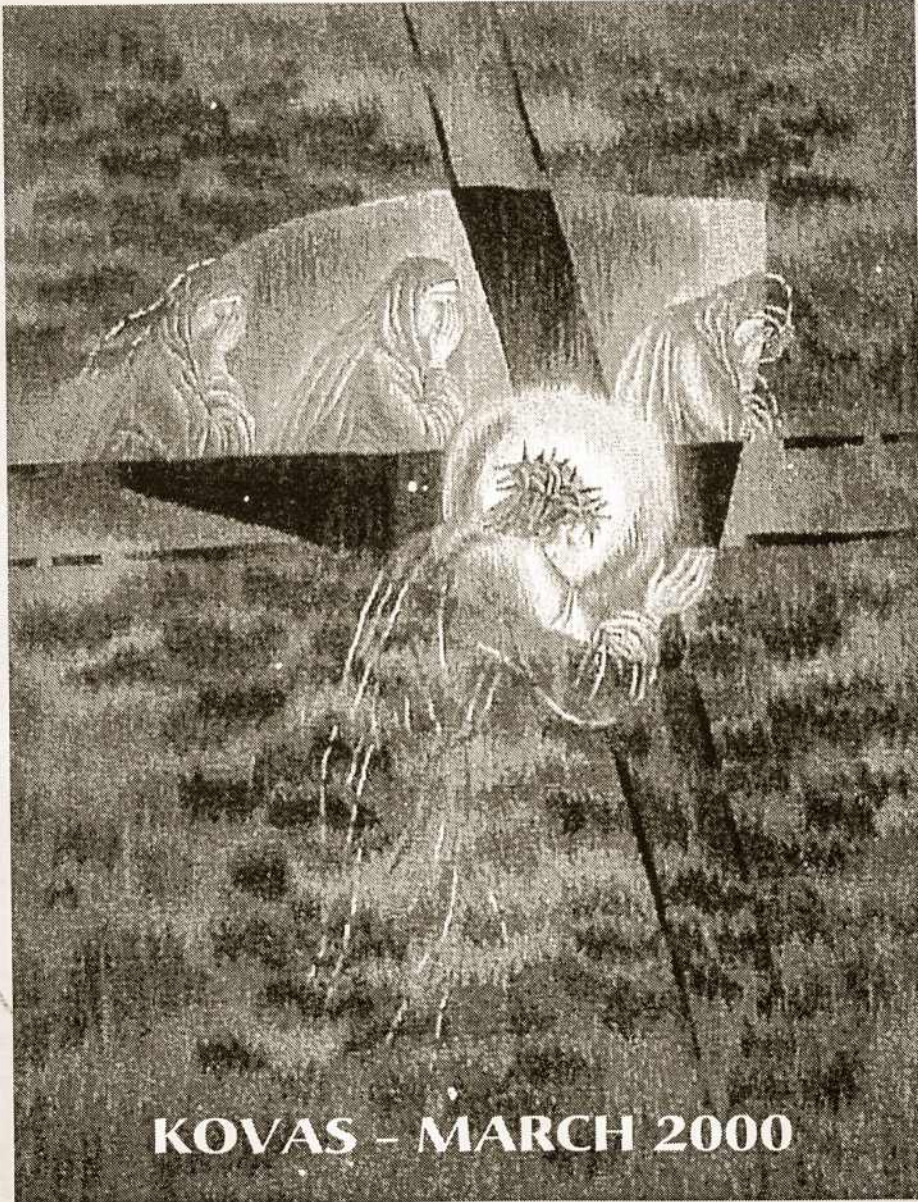


YTTIS



Volume 86 No. 3

THE KNIGHT



KOVAS - MARCH 2000

Vytis- The Knight

**KNIGHTS OF
LITHUANIA
SUPREME COUNCIL
OFFICERS
2000**

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

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

PRESIDENT

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

FIRST VICE

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

SECOND VICE

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

THIRD VICE

PRESIDENT
AnnaMarie Sluzas-Berger
4431 Rainbrook Way
Dayton, OH 45424
(937) 236-1260
Mberger@glasscity.net

RECORDING SECRETARY

Sr. Joanna M. Shainauskas
6408 So. Washtenaw Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629
(773) 476-5135

TREASURER

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

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Mark H. Bell
1224A 7th Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37208-2606
615-256-3790
Mhvarpas@aol.com

KOVAS / MARCH 2000 VOLUME 86: No. 3

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

VYTIS - The Knight - STAFF

Editor: Marytė Abbott

**Send all editorial and district/council news
correspondence to:**

M. Abbott - VYTIS - The Knight
P.O. Box 1934

Grand Central Station, NY 10163-1934

Editorial: tel/fax (718) 937-3352

E-mail: Vytiseditor@juno.com

Layout and Design: MBA Designs

Council News Editor: Becky Nakrosis Pataki

Business Manager: Mary Kinčius

**Send all change of addresses, subscription notices,
greetings payments to:** VYTIS-The Knight

Business Manager - M. Kinčius

P.O. Box 32020,

Chicago, Illinois 60632-0020.

Business: tel. (773) 927-4990

Knight of Lithuania Webpage: <http://www.geocities.com/heartland/prairie/3802>

TRUSTEES

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

Paul Strolia
20921 Barrington Ln
Plainfield, IL 60544-7386

AMBER DIST. President

(interim)
Frank Petrauskas
289 Higgins Drive
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

MAMD President

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

MAD President

Edward Barkowski
1226 Palma Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12306
(518) 355-7483

MCD President

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

NED President

Joseph Stiklius
50 Oak Hollow Drive
Waterbury, CT 06708

LEGAL ADVISOR

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

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

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

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Regina Juska- Svoba, Chair
1594 Beaupre
Madison Hts., MI 48071
(248) 547-2859
Rjuskasvoba@cs.com

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS

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

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

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

RITUAL COMMITTEE

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Irena Gecas-McCarthy, Chr
30 Clinton Road
Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 746-0820
Karen Domalakes
Antoinette Sakal
Wanda Pliskaitis

Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote

AID TO LITHUANIA

Robert S. Boris, Chair
Regina Juska- Svoba, Pres.
1594 Beaupre
Madison Hts., MI 48071
(248) 547-2859
Rjuskasvoba@cs.com

ST. CASIMIR GUILD

Anna Klizas Wargo, Chair
125 So. Morris Street
St. Clair, PA 17970
(570) 429-0132
Akliz@pottsville.infi.net

K OF L FOUNDATION

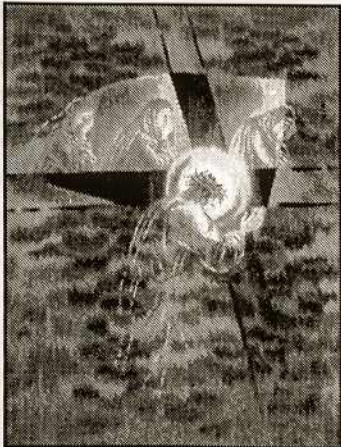
Loretta I. Stukas, Chair
234 Sunlit Drive
Watchung, NJ 07060
(908) 753-5636



**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 |
| Knights of Lithuania Foundation Essay Contest 2000 | 4 |
| Official News – Scholarship Committee..... | 5 |
| The Miracle of My Sister– <i>Kazimieras Vainus</i> | 6 |
| Book Review – Raised to the Light..... | 7 |
| St. Casimir on the Internet | 8 |
| Musings Over Lithuanian– <i>Fr. William Wolkovich</i> | 9 |
| Convention Registration Form..... | 10 |
| St. Casimir Guild Donations | 12 |
| St. Casimir Guild – A Presence in Rome | 13 |
| In Memoriam | 17 |
| California Convention..... | 18 |
| Lithuanian Chefs..... | 20 |
| District and Council News | 24 |
| Back Page Poetry – From the Manger to the Cross – <i>Anna Helen McDonald</i> | |



On the Covers:

Stations of the Cross – at the St. Joseph Seminary Chapel
in Vilnius, photos by JJA 8/99

Lent: Recalling Christ's Suffering

A greater number of diversions and customs dating back to olden times were associated with the beginning of Lent, called *Užgavėnės* (Shrovetide). There was abstinence from amusements during Lent. In the evenings whole families, or even larger groups of villagers sang religious hymns about the torments and crucifixion of Christ.

To My Fellow Knights

Being a member of the Knights of Lithuania makes living in a non-Lithuanian New York City environment much easier. When one discovers another Lithuanian, even another Balt (Latvian or Estonian) it is indeed a pleasant surprise. Lately, in New York City, during the course of a week, I was able to feel as if I were in Vilnius. Why? I attended an art exhibit of contemporary Baltic artists at the National Arts Club, and many of the names of the painters were Lithuanian. The program book, selling for \$35, promised its proceeds to Baltic orphanages. Later on during the same week, I was invited to the Swedish Symphony playing at Lincoln Center. Reading through the Stagebill, I found that the conductor was Estonian. Seems like these tiny countries are finally being noticed. I'm sure in days to come, Lithuania will even make the esteemed New York Times Travel Section. In the meantime, there's a super website for those contemplating travel to Lithuania in the near future, or those of us who like to plan our trip in advance. www.travel.lt this site has lots of indepth information not only on the major cities, but out of the way places not covered by the usual travel sites, like Plunge, Priekule, Birstonas and Ukmerge. Kudos to the site's project leader, Paulius Kazokaitis, who helped release the 2000 version that boasts over 1,800 pages and 1,600 photos and is the first of the Baltics to offer such extensive information. This stuff does take a while to download, but the time is well worth it.



Letters to the editor

Dorothy, We'll Miss You

Letter to the Editor:

We are sad to learn of the passing of Dorothy Banos. She was such a pleasant person and a wonderful Knight. We always looked forward to seeing her each year at the conventions. Dorothy was always most helpful and informative to our council as national Financial Secretary. We thank her for her encouragement and inspiration and shall never forget her Catholic and Lithuanian spirit. She will always be in our hearts and prayers. Rest in peace dear Dorothy.

*Josephine Barzda and Maryte Sepikas
Council 133 - Los Angeles*

SEEKS MATERNAL ROOTS

To the Editor:

On behalf of an adopted young woman, Angela, I write. She is seeking her birth mother of Lithuanian heritage for two reasons: to thank her for making the right decision in March of 1972 and to inquire if there is any interest in considering a rela-

tionship. Angela was born in one of the Carolinas of a college-age mother from New England. If her mother wishes to learn more about Angela, and consider possible contact (but with no necessary commitment) please reach me (anonymously if you wish) as intermediary:

*Fr. William L. Wolkovich-Valkavičius
36 St. George Ave. Norwood, MA 02062-4420
tel. (781) 762-0979, fax (781) 762-0979*

LITHUANIAN CREW ENCOUNTER

Dear Editor:

During a recent vacation adventure that included a cruise among several Greek islands, our group of four fourth degree K of L'ers from Council 26 - Worcester encountered seven native Lithuanian "youngsters" serving as members of the staff of the cruise ship. Employed by the Renaissance Cruise Lines, they demonstrated a wonderful command of the English language, as well as their desire to take advantage of life's opportunities. Still, they possessed a strong sense of loyalty to their own Lithuanian heritage.

Pictured in the photograph on page 3, from left to right, are (seated) Carol Grigas and Eleanor

Walinsky. Standing are Stephen Walinsky, Jr., Juozas Garsva, Saulius Lankutis, Oleg Ivanov, and William Grigas. Lankutis and Ivanov both come from Klaipeda, while Garsva comes from Vilnius.



Lithuanian "Crew"-ze

Almost unanimously, each plans to use their cruise ship employment as a springboard for other adventure and opportunity. Ms. Pociute is anxious to get involved in the world of fashion, and is intent upon designing and producing a line of womens clothing.

Compliments to the Renaissance Cruise lines for recruiting from Lithuania, and congratulations to the current generation of Lithuanian young people.

*Sincerely,
Stephen Walinsky, Jr.*

Lithuania: A visitor's view

Dear Editors:

It seemed as quickly as we had left Detroit, we were now landing in Vilnius the capital city of Lithuania. My wife, Jelena is not 100% Lithuanian, but she knows the culture, the country and even speaks, reads and writes the language. This is of course very important when visiting a foreign country, having my own interpreter was indeed a luxury.

Our trip had been planned for about 6 months and from a personal point of view I do not like to plan that far ahead. To me, some of the spontaneity of the adventure is lost. But, all thing being equal, we had to plan that far ahead because the tour out of Chicago filled up early.

There was very little apprehension on my part; I felt that as long as I was going on vacation, anywhere would do. I like the change of scenery. My wife, on the other hand, was planning this trip for months. Planning to see where her mother was born and where she went to school. The Churches she visited, where she lived, shopped and all the rest that goes with it. We had purchased a camcorder to capture all those moments and lots of film for the still camera in the hope of

bring back some outstanding memories for my mother-in-law to share.

All was ready.

I must say that we had heard some stories about how Lithuania was like a third world country and to be ready for many inconvenience. Nothing could have been further from the truth. We stayed in four and five star hotels ate the best food,

(and I love to eat), so this was a top

priority for me. Most everyone we encountered spoke English and everyone was glad to see us, our tour group was the best. We had shared much laughter and shared some tears at what the country was like before the independence. We visited soup kitchens, places for the homeless and where glad to see that the 'Aid to Lithuania' monies were being used to help the needy.

My favorite place was Palanga. The sea, the sites, the atmosphere and the food.

I was asked by many of my mother-in-laws friends if I liked Lithuania. Yes, I loved it! I wish to return some day and see more. I found the country to be clean and orderly and the "Old Traditions" were a delight to experience.

From an outsider's point of view, neither did I feel, nor was I made to feel as though I was an outsider in beautiful Lithuania.

*Ron Abela
Livonia, Michigan*

Camp Neringa Benefit Concert

A concert of religious music for the benefit of Camp Neringa will be held on Sunday April 2, 2000 at 2:00 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Convent Chapel in Putnam, CT. Performers: Audrone Simonaitis Gaiziunas -soprano, Linda Veleckis - violin, Dalia Sakas - piano. Donation: \$15.00.

In this jubilee year may this special concert be an occasion for spiritual renewal and reflection. Through prayer and donations you support the young people of Lithuanian heritage who gather in Camp Neringa (Vermont) every summer. For more information contact: Dana Grajauskas 617-923-4583, neringai@yahoo.com (*☞ Cont. on page 21*) (*☞ Cont. on page 21*)



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. 2000 ESSAY CONTEST

Each year, the Knights of Lithuania Foundation asks K of L members to research a selected topic and write an essay on the topic. This project enables three lucky members to earn some prize money and all to share ideas with other members. This year, a contest is again being sponsored, but the actual topic is again up to each entrant! Last year, we asked members to use their creativity and write about some K of L activity close to his/her heart, to share some thoughts about the organization or their Lithuanian heritage or Lithuania itself. This "topic" was so successful last year, we decided to repeat it again this year. ..and again ask members to write about what is close to their hearts, regarding Lithuania, their Lithuanian Heritage, or their Knights of Lithuania Membership.

For example, the essay may be a description of some special K of L or Lithuanian activity, or ideas of how to improve the organization, or impressions of what is going on in Lithuania, or thoughts of what your Lithuanian heritage means to you, or ... whatever your creative mind conjures up.

In short, we invite you to write an essay about: something related to either **the Knights of Lithuania, your Lithuanian heritage, or Lithuania itself**, that is especially close to your heart. Enter the Contest and share your thoughts. Rules are listed below.

- LENGTH:** 450 to 500 words (count all words).
- DEADLINE:** June 26, 2000. Essays received after this date will not be considered.
- ELIGIBILITY:** A contestant must be a Knights of Lithuania member (Honorary, Regular or Associate) in GOOD STANDING, OR a member of a Junior Council which is duly registered with the Supreme Council.
- CRITERIA:** Essays will be judged on content, originality, and ATTENTION TO CONTEST TOPIC. Correct grammar and neatness will also be considered in judging.
- MANUSCRIPT:** Must be typed or written legibly, double spaced. The FIRST PAGE should contain ONLY your name, address, council number, and the essay title. Succeeding pages should contain the essay contents but NOT your name. This is to assure anonymity in judging.
- PRIZES:** 1st Prize - \$300, 2nd Prize - \$200, 3rd Prize - \$100.
- JUDGES:** One from each District plus last year's First Place Winner.
- MAIL TO:** Mrs. Elena Nakrosis, 10 Park Ave., Kearny, NJ 07032
- WINNERS:** Will be announced July, 2000, during the 87th National Convention in Los Angeles, CA. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.
- SPONSOR:** KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC., via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.

The **KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.** is a tax-exempt endowment fund which uses interest from its investments to finance cultural and religious projects, helping the K of L AND Lithuania. This contest is just one of its projects.

The Foundation has been in existence for 16 years. You can help keep it in existence by joining the Foundation to increase its capital and provide more funds to help Lithuania and Lithuanian projects. A donation of \$100 entitles you to membership in the Foundation, and supports the Knights' future. Are YOU a member of the Foundation? If not, why not join today? If you are a member, consider making an additional donation.

Send your tax-deductible donation to: Mary Beth Slakis, Treasurer,
11113 Wisconsin Ct., 2C Orland Park, IL 60462

***Notice of Approved Changes to the
Knights of Lithuania National Scholarship Program
Announced at the Philadelphia National Convention
(July 28-August 1, 1999)***



To prepare for the next generation of potential scholarship recipients, the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Committee made one major change to the Scholarship Program beginning for the 2000 awards, to be announced at the National Convention in Los Angeles. Please read below the change is in **BOLD**. This change was approved by the Scholarship Committee by all 5 members as of July 1999.

Please read about the current key requirements.

The *Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Program* is intended to help a worthy and deserving Knight obtain a college education. Applicants must be a member of the organization for at least *two* years in order to be eligible to apply for a scholarship award. (This will be verified with the National Financial Secretary.) The Scholarship Program is intended to be a stimulus for young Lithuanian-Americans to join and be active in our organization. Service to the Knights of Lithuania organization is of prime importance to be considered for this award.

Scholarships are awarded annually as a grant. Applications must be complete (i.e., picture, transcripts, recommendations, etc) to be considered by the Scholarship Committee. Applications must be submitted usually no later than June 30th of each year. The awards are paid to the recipient in two installments. ******* APPLICANTS MAY NOW APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP MORE THAN ONCE. THIS IS OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT AN APPLICANT MAY WIN MORE THAN ONE YEAR.*******

There are various scholarships available with individual amounts decided upon by the Scholarship Committee by vote each year.

Each applicant has the responsibility of completing the application and securing entrance to the college of his/her choice. If the recipient of an award drops out of college, or if his/her scholastic standing becomes unsatisfactory to the college, the unexpended balance of the award may be forfeited at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship awards may be made to a person for undergraduate or graduate work. There is no age limitation. Organizational activity within the Knights of Lithuania is one of the most important criteria for obtaining a scholarship along with the following requirements and stipulations.

An applicant's *qualifications* will be based on recommendations made by his/her *1) Council President or Council 3rd Vice President; 2) Spiritual Advisor or Pastor; 3) Former Teacher; 4) Character Reference.* Applicants will be evaluated on scholastic records, financial need, and most importantly, K of L involvement. The applications will be carefully studied by the Scholarship Committee and decisions of the committee are final. The recipients of the Scholarship Awards will be announced at the annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania.

For more information, please write to the Scholarship Committee Chairperson:

Irena Gecas-McCarthy

30 Clinton Road

Garden City, New York 11530

(516) 746-0820 – home

(212) 720-2617 – work irena.gecas@ny.frb.org (work e-mail)

The Miracle of My Sister, Ona Vainiute - Genciene

by Kazimieras Vainius
C-110, Maspeth, NY

Ona Vainiute Genciene, her husband Dominikas and their daughters Albina, Evita, Genute and Jadvyga were deported from their farm in Laigiai, Lithuania to Siberia in 1947 by the Soviets.

They were given 15 minutes to leave their farm, forced at gunpoint by Soviet soldiers (NKVD) to climb on the trucks and taken to the railroad station. At the station they were pushed into freight cars with barely enough room to sit down. Women, men and children all together. For a toilet there was just a hole in the floor of the car. There were no doctors traveling with them. The travel to Siberia took 2 weeks, nobody was allowed to leave the freight car.

If somebody died, they were just thrown out into the snow for the wolves, only with the silent burial prayers of those still alive.

When the train reached Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, the deportees were taken to a labor camp in the forest.

Two days later Ona's husband, Dominikas died. A day after that. Ona went to an improvised hospital and her fifth child, a boy, was born. Dominikas never knew that he now had a son.

Ona saw through a window of the hospital how her husband's body was being taken to the camp's cemetery.

My sister wrote me later that her heart almost stopped that day. It is a miracle she survived and was able to raise and educate all her children.

First she was begging, she could not work, because of the needs of the baby and her other small children, which were 8, 6, 4 and 2 years old. When the other women saw her with the baby in her arms and the other children holding onto her skirt, they could not hold their tears. Whenever I think about it or write about it, even now I have to weep.

The other women did not have much themselves, but they helped as much as they could, though they were all living on a starvation diet.

When Stalin died and Krushchew came into

power, my sister was allowed to write letters and receive packages. At that time my wife, Ellen, and I had four children and I was making only \$50.00 a week. We saved \$10.00 a week to send packages to my sister Ona in Siberia. We were able to do this on our small income, because my wife Ellen was very thrifty. She made clothes for the children from secondhand wearables given to us (displaced persons, DP's or Dievo Pauksteliai) by our American neighbors or earlier immigrants-older Lithuanians. They helped sometimes with food too, especially on Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Helping my sister Ona in Siberia in her most dire need, was a rewarding sacrifice, but at the same time a heartbreaking affair.

For every package we sent, a service charge and soviet dues amounted to the value of the parcel. It was called "prepaid Soviet dues". If you didn't pay it your relatives would not get the package, because they did not have the money to pay the dues.

Thus, despite as much as we hated the communists, we had to pay the "Soviet dues" to help our relative, a widow with five children.

The Soviets used the dues for spying in America and for propaganda telling the ignorant Americans "how good life is in the Soviet paradise".

Later the deportees were allowed to go home. They had to pay their own fare, despite that they were forcibly brought to Siberia in cattle cars. The fare amounted to a yearly pay for "work". Then they were robbed of every kopek they had hoped to take home to start a new life. My sister wrote, that, if not for the packages we sent (part she did sell) she would not have been able to return to Lithuania. Back in Lithuania, partly with our help, she was able to raise and educate her children.

The eldest, Albina became a railroad engineer, Evita an architect, Genute a chemical engineer, Jadvyga a clerk and Albinas became a truckdriver.

My sister left her valley of tears surrounded by her children and grandchildren in 1988. May God give her a very deserved eternal rest. If she is not in heaven,

we don't have much hope to get there.

Rest in peace my dearest sister Ona Vainiute Genciene.

I wrote the above with the hope that my children, their children and other who would read these lines will get a better picture of the soviet "paradise" as it was then.

In my opinion, it hasn't changed much. Russia is still in the economic grips of the communist bosses. There is no freedom and Russia is not returning any lands: Finland's Karelija, Japan's Kurille Islands, East

Prussia, Chechnia, which were liberated again "to slavery by the Russian bayonets".

All these countries and their people will be free if the West will keep believing that the freedom is indivisible and only then will come the end of the slavery of the hidden communism.

PS: I wrote the above lines with a heavy heart and many times my tears were running down my face remembering my sister Ona's life in the communist hell.

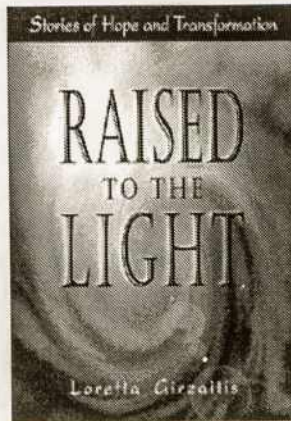


Book Review:

Raised to the Light: Stories of Hope and Transformation

Loretta Girzaitis

© 1999, St. Mary's Press
196 pages, \$11.95



Although not considered a self-help book, this collection of short stories about real people and their life struggles is something one can read as inspiration each day, in the morning, on the train, at the waiting room. Reading these tales of real life people will help put one's own life into perspective and one can walk away with a good and grateful feeling.

The chapters are arranged in twenty-one categories labeled Time for God, Birth, Planting, Suffering, Wisdom, etc. Each section is prefaced by a few paragraphs of description and relevant free-form descriptive poetry by Girzaitis is scattered throughout the book. These short missives involve situations that ordinary individuals go through, how they handled them and the lessons learned in doing so.

A story about a Lithuanian American, Dr. Gintautas Sabitaitis, related the program Partnership for Hope, which was begun in 1995. It followed the "sister cities" of Cleveland, Ohio and Klaipeda, Lithuania and how the generosity of Dr. Sabitaitis and others in time and money aided Lithuanian children who needed desperate

medical attention in the former communist country. More publicized was the story of Tomas, a child born without a lower jaw and chin, who was flown to Cleveland in order to obtain the necessary surgery with the monetary help of a ninety three year old Cleveland woman and many of her senior citizen friends. The compassion and caring of these individuals helped Klaipeda medically advance. It reminds one of the work done by Aid to Lithuania and others in the K of L who are helping Lithuania advance to modern medicine, as well as giving aid to poverty stricken children, seniors and citizens of Lithuania who are finding times rough since the collapse of the soviet system.

Stories involving homosexuality in the chapter entitled *Time for Acceptance* may be a bit hard to take for those of us who are not used to reading about homosexuals in a religious setting. This was the only chapter that had too much of a "liberal spin" for my liking, not because of the plights of the gay men involved, but because of their cover up in a church setting, albeit not a Catholic one. It does not depict honesty, and in my opinion, the men should not have worked in a religious environment as ministers preaching the gospel, but rather as lay assistants.

Bill Huebsch, author, teacher and founder of the Vatican II Center, said the book is a great treasure for anyone attempting to connect faith with life, and he added that he'd like to "put the book in the hands of every person who has ever faced a personal struggle.

I'd recommend this book as food for thought when one is feeling depressed about their own situation in life, as it is indeed an uplifting experience.

The Lithuanian author, Loretta Girzaitis is a spiritual director and teacher of Scripture, as well as being a published poet, feature writer and photographer. To obtain a copy, contact the publisher, St. Marys Press at 1-800-533-8095.

ST. CASIMIR ON THE INTERNET

b: 1461 d: 1484
Feastday: March 4
Patron Saint of Poland
and Lithuania



To honor our beloved Saint Casimir this year, rather than another story about his life, the editors thought we might give readers an idea of what one would find when researching St. Casimir on the Internet. Begin

by selecting a search engine, such as Alta Vista, HotBot, Lycos, etc. and simply type in *St Casimir*. From a search on many of them, the results one finds are quite similar. First of all, there are many churches and cemeteries bearing the name of our beloved patron located in the US, Canada, Lithuania, Australia and other places. Of the more interesting is the Jesuit Church of St. Casimir in Vilnius which gives a good overview of the church as well as its interesting history. Because our patron is shared with the Polish people, many churches and cemeteries are listed as Polish. There is even a French-Canadian site "Caverne de St. Casimir" for those who want to brush up on their French. Some of the Lithuanian sites have problems with the diacritical characters and depending on the type of computer used, may not translate correctly. This is the problem for many who produce these sites, one has to check them on various search engines and platforms (IBM, Mac, etc.), so that all viewers receive the same fonts.

One can even find a listing for "Harley-Davidson of St. Casimir" which turns out to be a Polish motorcycle group located in Canada.

To teach your children or grandchildren who this special saint is, the editors recommend a website called: *Catholic Online Saints* which does not replace the popular Butler's Lives of the Saints, but allows no excuses in finding out about St. Casimir or a multitude

of others (*Saints/Catholic.org* will get you there.) Probably the most striking paragraphs that stike a chord with young people are the following:

"Casimir realized from an early age that his life belonged to someone else, but to a much higher King than his father. Despite pressure, humiliation, and rejection, he stood by that loyalty through his whole life. Born the third of thirteen children in 1461, Casimir was committed to God from childhood. Some of that commitment was the result of a tutor, John Dlugosz, whose holiness encouraged Casimir on his own journey.

It may be hard for us to imagine royal luxury as a pressure. But for Casimir, the riches around him were temptations to forget his true loyalties. Rebelling against the rich, fashionable clothes he was expected to enjoy, he wore the plainest of clothes.

Rejecting even ordinary comforts, he slept little, spending his nights in prayer. And when he did sleep, he lay on the floor not on a royal bed. Even though he was a prince, many of those around him must have laughed and joked at his choices. Yet, in the face of any pressure, Casimir was always friendly and calm."

"He died at the age of 23 in 1484 from lung disease. He was buried with his favorite song, a Latin hymn to Mary called "Omni die dic Mariae" which we know as "Daily, Daily Sing to Mary."

The Catholic Encyclopedia also has a listing, but refers to "St. Casimir of Poland" under it's www.newadvent.org site.

Finally, to understand the feast day and how it's celebrated in Lithuania, one of the best sites is the Lithuanian American Community's *St. Casimir Customs and Traditions* which includes a tradition of giving honey cookie hearts, along with recipes to make your own and verbos, dried flower arrangements customarily used on Palm Sunday in Lithuania. (Lithuanian-american.org/educate/tradicijos/casimir).

Musings over Lithuanian: Sometimes Fun, Often Fascinating, and Always Challenging

by Fr. William Wolkovich-Valkavičius,
C-27, Norwood, MA

Many of our readers, like myself, are second-generation Lithuanians, i.e. American-born of foreign-born parents. Our first speech was nothing more than the style of that era. A mixture of English with a Lithuanian twist, lots of Polish and a dash of Russian, undergirded with solid basic Lithuanian.

Lithuanian, like any language, has its double entendre that lends itself to humor. When directing a guest to put a garment on a hanger, one is tempted to allude to the gallows by saying: "Čia gali pasikarti" - that is, "You may hang yourself here!"

If you like puns, perhaps you can appreciate my version of the origin of the word "to faint," i.e. "nualpti." It seems that Mikas and Petras enjoyed skiing, so off they went to Switzerland to the mountains. When Mikas reached the peak of the Alps and glanced below at the enormous depth, he blanched and then fainted. Thus the etymology of the word "nualpti," in my dictionary meaning to tumble from the Alps!

In the past decade, I had occasion to spend several weeks at a time with relatives from the "Old Country" as we used to call it. The conversations often provoked innocent laughter. "Don't you use this word any more, I would ask. "Only in the villages," was the smiling retort. So, for instance, I stopped using "rubežius" for the border of a country, and switched to "sienas." My listeners keeled over with chuckles when I said "poperiuoti" as the verb "to wallpaper," instead of "tepetuoti." But look! Our folks had no such thing as wallpaper in their native cottages of rough-hewn planks. Here in the USA, on seeing someone hanging wallpaper, for these immigrants it was simply logic to use the equivalent word "to paper." At one point I explained to a cousin that when she listened to me speak, I was a museum artifact ("exponatas") for her, displaying the language of a century ago.

Even so, let's stick to those treasured nostalgic phrases we absorbed from Mom and Dad. I even stumped a professional DP couple on one occasion when I used the word "pavenis" to mean the shade of a tree. "No, no," my hosts objected. Your word means "one by one" since they thought I was saying "pavienis." OK, so I was wrong, I thought. But curiosity drove me to the dictionary, and sure enough there was my little-known friend "pavenis" for shade, used in some areas of the homeland, though not universally.

On another occasion I was momentarily embarrassed at the church door as I greeted exiting parishioners. The gospel of the day included Christ's invitation to imitate Him. "I am meek and gentle of heart." Oops! "You mispronounced a word; it should be 'ramus not 'romus' chirped a self-appointed teacher. OK, so I goofed again. But hold it. I checked the text, and sure enough it was indeed "romus." A vicious criminal could be calm ("ramus"), but "romus" reflects an inner beauty announced by our word "gentle." I'm told that "ramus" is no longer used in ordinary conversation. But so what. Let's revive this beautiful word!

And don't you love that elegant noun "bičiulis," that derives, as I understand, from "bitė" - the word for "bee." "Draugas" is a friend, but "bičiulis" is an intimate friend. Given the Lithuanian fondness for bees, when a bond deepened, one or the other person might present the gift of a beehive as a sign of that friendship. As readers most likely know, Lithuanian uses separate verbs to indicate when a living being expires. For animals we say "isgaišti" or "pastipti," but for humans we reserve the infinitive "mirti." Out of reverence for bees, nevertheless, we extend "mirti" to them, too.

At your next council meeting, recite your reminiscences of language experiences. This could be a rewarding and relaxing time for some innocent mirth. Better still, send in your stories to our house journal to share with others.





**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
87TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 27 - 30, 2000**



Dear Members,

The Knights of Lithuania 87th National Convention will be held July 27 - 30, 2000, in Los Angeles where there is nothing finer than a "Knight in California".

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

-----\$100.00 Full Page
4" x 7"

-----\$ 50.00 Half Page
4" x 3 1/2"

-----\$ 25.00 Quarter Page
4" x 1 3/4"

\$10.00 Patron Greeting (Use 3 lines)

First Line _____

Second Line _____

Third Line _____

-----\$5.00 (Name only)

You may submit your ad on a separate sheet of paper. Camera ready copy is always welcome. **DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 1, 2000.**

Make checks payable to:

Knights of Lithuania - Council 133

Amount \$_____

Mail ads with payment to:

Adele Reklaitis
Chair - Program Book
3626 Monon Street, Unit 1
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(323) 666-9103 (phone)
(323) 953-0192 (fax)
email Reklaityte@aol.com

Information for Hotel Reservations

Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Terrace Parkway
Hollywood Hills, CA

Direct Phone: Nancy (818) 509-2755

Special KofL Room Rates: Single/Double - \$105.00 per room plus applicable taxes. Executive Suite - \$200.00 - One Bedroom Suite (with parlor) - \$350.00. (Please Note: You **MUST** mention that you are with the Knights of Lithuania for these rates.)

Special Parking Rates will be available.

Room reservations should be by July 1, 2000 to insure room availability.



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
87TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 27 - 30, 2000**



Convention Site: Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Terrace Parkway
Hollywood Hills, CA
Host: Council 133 - Los Angeles, California

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

First Name(s): _____ Last Name: _____ Council No. _____

Street: _____ Phone No.: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

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

Junior Registration: \$80.00

Name of Child _____ Amount _____

Age of Child _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

All bus service as required; Thursday Night Get-Together; Friday Cultural Evening; Coffee after morning Mass in hotel on Friday and Saturday; Friday Luncheon; Saturday Night Banquet and Dance and Sunday Brunch - Reception at the church hall after mass.

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Wednesday, July 26, 2000 - Bus Tour of Los Angeles and attend a TV show.

Departure 10:00 a.m. \$25.00 per person Amount \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to:

Knights of Lithuania - Council 133

Total Amount \$ _____

Mail Checks and Registration Forms to:

Maryte Sepikas
Registration Coordinator
6143 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401
(818) 782-1248 (telephone and fax)

If you have any questions or special requests, please do not hesitate to call or write. Thank you.

St. Casimir Guild

D O N A T I O N S

The St. Casimir Guild was formed in April of 1989 under the guidance of the Knights of Lithuania to assist the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome. The Pontifical College of St. Casimir is Lithuania's gateway to the Vatican. Student priests attending the College in Rome are the best and brightest of the young priests from Lithuania who are sent to Rome for advanced studies and will return to Lithuania to teach in the Seminaries and to be the future leaders of the Catholic Church in Lithuania.

In the past ten years, the members of the Knights of Lithuania have been generous in their support of the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome and by its support have helped bring the Church in Lithuania into the new Millennium.

For this, the Students and Priests are most thankful and ask for your continued support. The needs are great - in prayers, donations and Mass requests.

We are grateful to the Councils who request Masses-the stipends go to the Priests and Student Priests. This is the only income for those who come from Lithuania. Please continue your support of this project.

Mass cards can be obtained by request from the President of the St. Casimir Guild. The needs of bringing the College up-to-date for the Students is imperative. In the past we have helped with many projects and ask your continued help.

During this Millennium Year, the College will be visited by the Bishops from Lithuania, young people and many other dignitaries. The Holy Father has visited the College, held Mass there and gives it his support.

Following are the donations received between Jan. 1, 1999 and Dec. 31, 1999:

Benefactors, \$1,000.00 and up:

Sophie Dameika, Rockford, IL; Julia Griska, Pittsburgh, PA; Aldona Kirstuk, St. Petersburg Beach, FL; Rev. Anthony J. Cheponis, Boca Raton, FL; St. Andrews Lithuanian Church, Rev. Peter Burkauskas, Pastor, Philadelphia, PA; Knights of Lithuania, Council 144, Schuylkill County, PA

Sponsors, \$500.00 to \$999.00:

Robert & Marie Rondeau, Bristol, RI; Virginia Jakstas Kelly, W. Palm Beach, FL, Laimute ir Algirdas Stepaicai, Arlington Hts., IL; Peter Skikunas, Miami, FL; Rev. Anthony Baltrushonis, So. Boston, MA

Patrons, \$100.00 to \$499.00:

Joseph G. Racas, Plymouth, MI; Bronius & Janina Cikotas, Alexandria, VA; Joseph & Anne White, So. Boston, MA; Henry Andruska, Woodhaven, NY; Dr. & Mrs. Augustinas Laucis, Mt. Olive, IL; Rev. Francis J. Karvelis, Southington, CT; Regina Taunys, Putnam, CT; Nellie Pandza, Philadelphia, PA; Evelyn Ozelis, Chicago, IL; Rev. Walter A. Vichas, Waterbury, CT; Rev. Robert Potts, Shenandoah, PA; Rufus S. Crane, Key West, FL; Council 17, So. Boston, MA; Council 24, Chicago, IL; Mary Belleguic, New York, NY; Anthony G. Matukas, San Jose, CA; Petras Kiselius, Cicero, IL; Isabel Whitney, Upland, CA; Leonard Chaikowsky, Shenandoah, PA; Leo Rusteikas, Duquesne, PA; Florence Zaleskas, So. Boston, MA; P. Algis Raulinaitis, Burbank, CA; Maryte ir Juozas Vizgirdai, Putnam, CT

Donors \$25.00 to \$99.00:

Daniel A. Rodgers, McKeesrock, PA; Gediminas Balanda, Warren, MI; Stella Y. Witkavitch, Fairfield, CT; Bernard Lesky, Hagerstown, MD;

(☞ continued on page 17)

St. Casimir Guild - A Presence in Rome

by Anna KlizasWargo
President, St. Casimir Guild

As we enter this 21st century, I'd like to list some of the happenings at the Pontifical Lithuanian College in the last year of the past Century.

At the beginning of the month of January 1999, many of the student priests at the Pontifical College returned from Lithuania to begin the second semester in Rome. The Priests of the college Participated in a Mass on the feast of Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis at the General House of the Marian Fathers on the 27th of January.

In February, Lithuanian Independence Day was commemorated by a Holy Mass concelebrated by the Staff and the Student Priests in the College Chapel. In the evening everyone attended the official reception hosted by H.E. Mr. Romanas Podagelis, Lithuanian Ambassador to Italy. The College Staff, Students and Sisters also participated at a reception for the President of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus at the invitation of Ambassador Podagelis on the 24th.

On the Feast of St. Casimir, March 4, Msgr. Kazimieras Dobrovolskis was the Principal Celebrant at a Mass to commemorate the Feast. Several students from Lithuania residing in Rome participated.

Father Dominikas Valentis defended his doctorate in Sacred Scripture at the Biblicum in Rome on March 9. The following day the new Doctor of Sacred Scripture was honored at the College.

The Archbishop of Vilnius, Audrys J. Backis was honored on March 18 on the feast of his patronal feast day and his 38th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination.

In April, Easter was celebrated at the college along with various students from Lithuania residing in Rome. On the 25th, the 36th World Day of Prayer for



*Photos: (right)
Chapel at College
(photo by Victor
Stepalovich);
(below) Msgr.
Algimintas Bartkus
meets with Pope
John Paul II in
1995.*



Vocations, the College made an appeal for financial support and a recruitment drive for new benefactors.

Father Kazys Mellius, of the Vilnius Archdiocese, successfully defended his doctoral thesis in Canon Law at the Pontifical Lateran University on April 28. That evening there was a dinner at the College honoring the new Doctor in Canon Law.

The official closing of the academic year took place

May 31 in the College Chapel. Te Deum was sung.

On June 24, Father Juozas Siurys of the Telsiai diocese successfully defended his doctoral thesis in Canon Law at the Pontifical Lateran University. That evening a dinner was held honoring the New Doctor in Canon Law.

On June 29 a number of the students at the College, along with the Sisters and some of the Staff departed on a bus for Lithuania hired by the College. The bus also carried the personal properties of the students who completed their studies this year.

July and August the College is closed for vacation and various repairs on the College.

In July, in preparation for the Grand Jubilee of



Photos: (top) Dignitaries, Mass Celebrants and Priests at Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica in Rome at 1998 Golden Jubilee; (left) K of L'ers Helen Chesko and Anna Wargo meet with Holy Father in 1984.

the Year 2000, as required by Rome's city government, restoration work began on both the original buildings owned by the College. The restoration work will continue until the end of February 2000.

In August five seminarians of the Vilkauskis Diocese visited the College. A group of 21 seminarians from the Vilnius Seminary visited the College led by the Seminary's Vice Rector, Fr. Romas Zdanys. Msgr. L. Tulaba and Msgr. K. Dobrovolskis participated in the opening of the Vilkauskis Seminary and the ceremony commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Bishop Juozas Zemaitis.

In September two new Priests arrived to take an Italian language course- Fr. Petras Siurys and Fr. Rimantas Gudlinkis, both of the Telsiai Diocese.

The Bishops of Lithuania arrive in Rome Sept. 12 to 19 for their obligatory ad limina visit to the Holy Father, which takes place every 5 years. In their honor, a dinner at the College took place on Sept. 18 with the Apostolic Nuncio to Lithuania, the 12 Bishops of Lithuania, the 4 Bishops of Latvia, H.E. Bishop Paulius Baltakis, OFM, and both ambassadors from Lithuania in Rome participating.

On Sept. 14, Msgr. L. Tulaba, the first Rector of the College celebrated the 65th Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination.

The Bishops of Lithuania visited the College's Chapel in the Campo Verano Cemetery on the 15th where they prayed for those buried there as well as for the benefactors of the College.

On the 17th The Bishops of Lithuania, the Priests at the College and other Lithuanian priests studying in Rome concelebrated Mass with the Holy Father in the Chapel of his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo.

October 11 was the official opening of the academic year at the College.

On the 30th Robertas Salasevicius was ordained a Deacon in the Basilica of St. John Lateran. H.E. Archbishop A.J. Backis, the College Staff and several of the College students participated.

On November 2 a Mass was held in the College chapel at Campo Verano (Rome's main cemetery) for the deceased benefactors of the College and the Priests buried there. Besides the students at the College, a large number of Lithuanians studying in



Photos: (top) Seminarians and nuns singing at College; (left) K of L Pres. John R. Mankus, with seminarian and nuns at reception in March 1998. (photos by Victor Stepalovich)

During the 1999-2000 academic year the following students are in residence at the College:

Abbreviations: Vn=Vilnius, Kn=Kaunas, T=Telsiai, Vk=Vilkaviskis,

P=Panevezys, Ks =Kaisiadorys;

* preparing for a Licenciate, ** preparing for a Doctorate

Student priests: Aleknavicius, Justinas (Vn*), Doveika, Ricardas (Vn*), Gudlinkis, Rimantas (T*), Kasciukaitis, Arvydas (Kn*), Pajaujis, Kestutis (T*), Poniskaitis, Arunas (Vk*), Ramonas, Arvydas (T*), Siurys, Petras (T**), Skinkaitis, Rimas (Vk**), Smilgys, Petras (T*), Tamosiunas Gediminas (Ks*), Veilentas, Virginijus (P*).

Holy Family sisters: Genovaite Maccenskaite (superior), Joana Bukaveckaite, Irena Mikaviciute, Marija Skucaite ir Regina Staskeviciute.

Rome participated.

November 16 was the Feast of Ausros Vartai Marijos (Our Lady of the Dawn Gate).

On the first Saturday of each month, students from Lithuania, priests and laity, gather to celebrate Mass in the Lithuanian Chapel (Ausros Vartai) at St. Peter's Basilica.

On Christmas Eve, Kucios was held and Midnight Mass was offered for all the College's benefactors, living and deceased.

On New Years Eve all the residents of the College celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in the College Chapel.

*Photos: (right)
College courtyard
with K of L visitors
in 1998; (bottom)
dining hall (photos
by Victor
Stepalovich)*



19,057,000 (USD
\$10,300.00)

■ College: 2 new telephone lines and 2 new computers installed (Donated by the Knights of Lithuania) ITL 9,250,000 (USD \$5,000.00)

■ College: 5 new tables and 46 new chairs for the College and the Sisters dining rooms ITL 5,110,000 (USD \$2,760.00)

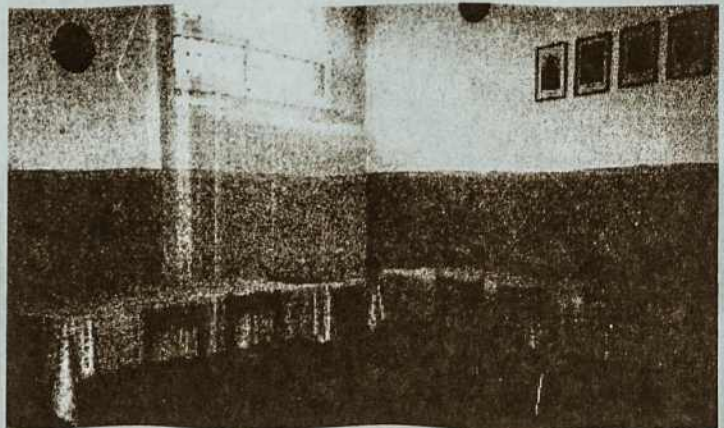
During the second half of the summer of 1999, the reno-

MAJOR PROJECTS OF 1999 AT THE COLLEGE AND VILLA LITUANIA

vation and painting of both of the original buildings of the College and Villa Lituania began. The project is scheduled to be completed at the end of February, 2000. The cost will be \$150,000.00 USD

- Villa Lituania: credit card system introduced
- Villa Lituania: closed circuit TV camera installed at gates (to facilitate cars entering) ITL 2,640,000 (USD \$1,430.00)
- Villa Lituania: new windows for the chapel - in the older house ITL 7,200,000 (USD \$5,450.00)
- Villa Lituania: 1.5 meter tall dividing wall constructed to separate property from the neighboring condominium ITL 10,080,000 (USD \$5,450.00)
- Villa Lituania: renovating floor in dining room and lobby ITL 5,280,000 (USD \$2,854.00)
- Villa Lituania: painting of the corridor and 8 rooms on the first floor of the new building ITL 6,000,000 (USD \$3,243.00)
- College: painting of the corridors on the 1st and 2nd floors ITL 6,000,000 (USD \$3,243.00)
- Villa Lituania: renovation of the men's and women's restrooms on the 1st floor of the old building ITL 34,200,000 (USD \$18,486.00)
- College: renovation of the kitchen ITL

To contact or visit, write, call or fax:
PONTIFICIO COLLEGIO LITUANO S. CASIMIRO
Via Casalmonferrato, 20 00182, Roma-Italia
TEL. (06) 70.24.908 - 70.25.724 FAX: 70.11.659



DONATIONS

(☞ continued from page 12)

Donors \$25.00 to \$99.00 (continued)

Rev. Peter J. Malin, New Port Richey, FL; Victor & Leocadia Malakas, Plainview, NY; Peter P. Molis, Shrewsbury, MA; P. Algis Raulinaitis, Burbank, CA; Vytautas J. Bielauskas, PHD. ABPP, Cincinnati, OH; Joseph & Anna Chikotas, Girardville, PA; Rita Karrytais, Worcester, MA; Jonas & Ona Motiejunas, Prescott, AZ; Algirdas Jankauskas, Woodhaven, NY; James Medgenis, Trumbull, CT; Longinas Svelnis, Needham, MA; Alphonse & Bernice Mikatavage, Minersville, PA; Carol Duggan, Fairfield, CT; J. Lapinsky, Hazleton, PA; Jean Rigely, Milford, CT; Sigitas & Milda Laukus, Huntington, CT; Josephine Bernotas, Washington, PA; Leona Wornczyk, Hazleton, PA; C-72, Binghampton, NY; C-153, Treasure Island, FL; Edward & Mirga Bablin, Amsterdam, NY; Elsie Kosmisky, Frackville, PA; Sophia Zukas, Chicago, IL; Annie Mitchell Matulevich, Elizabeth, NJ; Gediminas Juskenas, Cleveland, OH

Under \$25.00:

Leondas Galinskas, Roseville, MI; Mary A. Taylor, Kissimmee, FL; Elizabeth Romick, McKeesport, PA; Helen Bell, Bridgeport, CT; Ginner Kazlauskas, St. Clair, PA; Kunigunda Coach, Westfield, MA; Sandra Paser, Littleton, CO; John & Birute Svera, Bloomfield Hills, MI; Dr. F.V. Kaunas, Westchester, IL; Rose A. Carroll, Arnold, PA; James Thompson, Lyndhurst, OH; Joseph & Barbara Dereskevich, Barnesville, PA;

Donations for the Bed Project received in 1999:

George & Fran Bumila, Brockton, MA; Usra Maknys, Philadelphia, PA; Philip & Dorothy Machonis, Glen Mills, PA; Nellie A. Pandza, Holmes, PA; Nell Klizas, St. Clair, PA; Mary Hurley, Broomall, PA; Ronald Shatus, New Philadelphia, PA; Joseph & Diane Drumstas, Philadelphia, PA; Hedwig, Adolfin & Irene Saracewicz, Philadelphia, PA; C-10, Athol MA; C-7 Waterbury, CT; C-103, Providence, RI; C-135 Ansonia, CT; C-27 Norwood, MA; C-141, Bridgeport, CT; C-78 Lawrence, MA; C-116 Worcester, MA

Between 1998 and 1999 a total of 64 beds were donated by members and Councils. 5 were donated at this past year's convention and these along with all Convention donations were reported in the October issue of VYTIS.

Through the estate of the late Alphonse Trainis, who, along with his wife, Theresa served for many years as National Treasurers, a total of \$40,000.00 was bequeathed to the St. Casimir Guild for the Pontifical Lithuanian College. This was forwarded as received. Both were good contributors in life and continued their generosity in death.

Our sincere thanks to all who have contributed anything in any way in the past. We pray that you will remember the St. Casimir Guild in the future. What you have done these past 10 years has kept the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome alive. You have proven to be good Godparents in the past and we pray you will continue to do so in the future.

*-Anna Klizas, Wargo, President, The St. Casimir Guild
-Msgr. Algimintas Bartkus, Rector the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome*

In Memoriam

Leo Kulbatsky
January 18, 2000
C-86, DuBois, PA

John Yonushonis
January 11, 2000
C-86, DuBois, PA

Benedict Apanavicius, Sr.
September 8, 1999
C-63. LeHigh Valley, PA

Pauline Sutkus
November 16, 1999
C-36, Chicago, IL

Dorothy Neakrase
January 24, 2000
C-112 Chicago

Bruce Bruno
January 2000
C-157 Chicago

*Rest in
Peace*

*Amžinta
Atils*



Many Great Reasons to Attend the California Convention

July 26-30, 2000



◆ Meet and greet President Valdas Adamkus, Lithuanians President.

◆ Party with Ruta Lee, her husband Webb and friends.

◆ Shake hands with Bernardas Brazdionis - Lithuanians beloved poet.

◆ Time to meet Daniel Audick, the first Lithuanian - American to win a Superbowl ring. He played with Joe Montana on the San Francisco 49ers. He will even let you try it on.

◆ Polka till you can't stop with Arthur Walunas of Utah - the Lithuanian Polka King.

◆ Sing with the Three Sisters - California's singing angels.

◆ Learn how to make the best Lithuanian Easter eggs from our very best "egg" spert and most "egg" citing lady - Giedra Gustas.

◆ Maybe the world famous anthropologist, Birute Galdikas, will be in town.

◆ Enjoy all of the Los Angeles Lithuanian talent.

◆ Your children and/or grandchildren want to go with you and share their heritage.

◆ All of your California friends are expecting to see your smiling faces.

◆ Remember there are no expirations dates on all the memories you will make out west.

◆ California is just plain fun!

◆ Discover that there actually is more culture than



C-133 LA Committee Members

yogurt in the wild, wild west.

◆ Don't you know there is nothing finer than a California "Knight"? The convention will be "pain free" - no aches and pains.

◆ It is not that far.

◆ No humidity will be allowed in California during the convention.

◆ The convention hotel is located in Universal Studios.

◆ Disneyland is just a mouse away. Mickey and friends.

(☞ continued on pg. 19)

ACCORDION TO ARTHUR WALUNAS POLKA IS STILL KING

LITHUANIAN POLKA KING TO PLAY AT LOS ANGELES CONVENTION

SPOTLIGHT ON ARTHUR WALUNAS

Maryte Sepikas

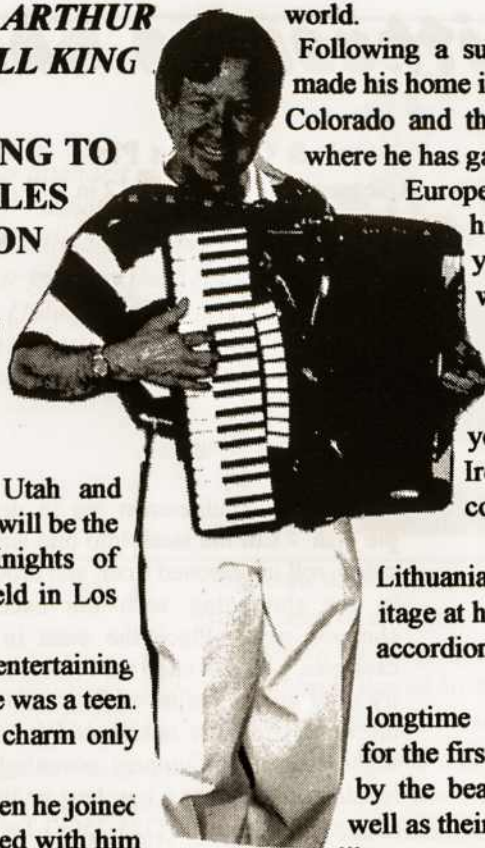
Arthur Walunas of Parowan, Utah and Council 133 member and his polka band will be the featured entertainment at the 87th Knights of Lithuania National Convention to be held in Los Angeles from July 27 - 30, 2000.

Art, a Detroit native, has been entertaining several generations of polka fans since he was a teen. His Lithuanian looks, manner, wit and charm only enhance his performances.

One of his biggest thrills was when he joined the Frank Yankovic polka band and toured with him and several other prominent polka bands throughout the United States and Europe. Since then Art has performed all types of music throughout the world.

For many years Art tour with his talented family that included his children, Ed, Mary Ann and Joe, in the Coors Cowboy Band.

He came into polka prominence in 1963 when his hit recording "No Beer in Heaven" was first released. It has since become a standard in the polka



world.

Following a successful recording career, Art made his home in Utah. He often plays in Vail, Colorado and the Rocky Mountain ski circuit where he has gained a reputation for a touch of

Europe to the Rockies. He is still in high demand and plays every year. His music is and always will be his first love.

A typical Lithuanian he has never stopped performing or working. He has for several years been the manager of the Iron County Fair, Utah's biggest county fair.

Art is very proud of being Lithuanian. He always mentions his heritage at his performances. His beloved accordion bears Lithuanian colors.

This past fall Art realized a longtime dream and visited Lithuania for the first time. He was most impressed by the beauty of the people and land as well as their great love of music. He would like to record in Lithuania.

Los Angeles Council 133 was thrilled to have Art and the band play at their 50th anniversary banquet. Council 133 is very proud of their first Utah member who has attended meetings and events in spite of the great distance.

Art is single and thinks that Lithuanian women are the most beautiful in the world. Council 133 ladies feel his taste in women is as great as his music.



(☞ continued from pg. 18)

are waiting. ◆ You will be staying in the Hollywood Hills. The stars both Hollywood and "Knights" will be shining. You can tour the stars' home. ◆ The new Getty Museum is outstanding. ◆ The last convention was almost 40 years ago. ◆ You can dip your toes in the Pacific in less than 1/2 hour. ◆ In less than 1 hour you can be at the ocean, the mountains or the desert. Lots of choices, no excuses. ◆ The Redwoods are just a few hours away. Las Vegas is 1 hour by plan or 4 hours by

car. Palm Springs is 1 1/2 hours away. San Diego is 2 hours south. What the heck - Mexico is 2 hours away as well. You must visit for at least one week. Look at all the friends you will renew friendships. How about all the new friends you will meet. ◆ Watch a taping of too many television shows to chose from. ◆ Bob Barker, Drew Carey and Jay Leno are waiting to meet you. ◆ Brad Pitt lives so close to our church he could walk there. ◆ You can buy some more amber. ◆ There will so many surprises.



Lithuanian Chefs



St. Patrick's Day Specialties

St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland is included in all stories and legends of the slave turned saint. Some say they fled into the sea to escape his goodness. Others claim the snakes symbolize Pagans who became Christians under his guidance.

To honor this special saint, we've included some editor's favorites, one from a Lithuanian chef who wants to remain anonymous. Enjoy!

Shepherd's Pie

2 pounds ground chuck
1/2 yellow onion - chopped
1/2 cup celery - chopped
2 cloves garlic - pressed
1/4 cup beef base
1 cup water
2 tablespoons flour
2 pounds potatoes - peeled and boiled
1/4 stick butter
4 ounces cheddar cheese - shredded

Saute beef, onion, celery and garlic until done. Drain the beef mixture. Make a gravy with the beef base and water and whisk in enough flour to thicken. When gravy comes to a boil, add the beef mixture. Cook and drain potatoes and mash with butter. Blanch carrots (cook briefly in boiling water) Then add to beef mixture. Place beef mixture in 2 qt. casserole or baking pan. Spoon mashed potatoes on top of beef; bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Top with cheese and let sit until cheese is melted about 5 minutes.

NOTES : Beef base is a commercial product usually found in the supermarket on the soup and bouillon shelves. One cup of beef bouillon or stock can be substituted for beef base and water.

Steak & Guinness Pie

pie pastry for double 10-12 in. pie
1 2-lb Round steak
1 TBSP Flour
1 TBSP Brown sugar
1 TBSP Raisins
5 small-med onions
1 bottle Guinness stout
8 Slices bacon
3 TBSP shortening
Chopped parsley

For double-crust pie in deep pie dish. - Cut the steak into bite sized cubes, roll in seasoned flour, and brown in the shortening with the bacon, chopped small. Place the meat in a casserole, peel and chop the onions, and fry until golden before adding them to the meat. Add the raisins and brown sugar, pour in the Guinness, cover tightly and simmer over a low heat or in a very moderate oven (325-350F) for 2 1/2 hours. Stir occasionally, and add a little more Guinness or water if the rich brown gravy gets too thick. Meanwhile, line a deep pie dish with half the pie crust: bake it: then add the Guinness/beef mixture from the casserole, cover with the top layer of pie crust, and bake until finished, probably about 10 more minutes.

Irish Soda Bread

3 cups Bread flour
1 cup graham flour
1/2 cup Sugar, 1 1/3 TBSP Salt
1 1/3 TBSP Butter, 1 cup Raisins
3 TBSP Caraway seeds
1 1/2 tsp Baking soda
1 1/2 cup Buttermilk, 2 tsp Dry yeast

In large mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Cut in cold butter with pastry blender or two knives until fine. Stir in raisins. In bowl beat eggs, stir in buttermilk and soda. Make well in dry ingredients and

add liquids all at once, mixing lightly with fork until blended. Turn dough on to floured surface and knead lightly for 10 seconds. Shape dough into ball and place on buttered baking sheet. Flatten ball into 8 or 9-inch loaf. Grease sharp knife with butter and cut 1/4-inch deep cross from edge to edge to mark into quarters. Brush top with melted butter and sprinkle with caraway seeds; bake in preheated 375F oven 40- 45 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from baking sheet and cool to lukewarm.

Corned Beef & Cabbage

5 lbs. Corned beef brisket
1 lg Onion stuck with
6 whole cloves
6 Carrots, peeled and halved
8 medium Potatoes, washed, quartered
1 tsp Dried Thyme
1 small Bunch Parsley
1 Head Cabbage (appr 2 lbs), quartered

HORSERADISH SAUCE:

1/2 pint Whipping Cream
2 TBSP mayonnaise
2-4 TBSP prepared horseradish

Put beef in a large pot and cover with cold water. Bring to a boil with the lid off the pot. ADD thyme, parsley and onion. Turn to simmer and cook for 3 hours. Skim fat from top as it rises. Add cabbage, potatoes, and carrots. Simmer for 20-30 minutes until cabbage is cooked. Remove the meat and cut into pieces. Place on center of a large platter. Strain the cabbage and season it heavily with black pepper. Surround the beef with the cabbage, carrots and potatoes. Serve with horseradish sauce.

Horseradish Sauce: Whip cream until it stand in peaks. Fold in mayonnaise and horseradish.



President of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus attended mass at the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Lithuanian Catholic Mission and spoke at the church meeting at the Lithuanian World Center. He is also expected to be our guest at the 87th National Convention in Los Angeles (July 26-30, 2000) Pictured (l to r): Vartan Seфарain, Pat Michalski, asst. to Illinois Gov. George Ryan and President Adamkus.



(LETTERS Cont. from page 3)

ONE FROM THE HEART

To the Editor:

I was fortunate to happen upon this address as it was happening. Let me tell you, this man was incredible in his strength to give this speech. It was, I would guess, one of the few times that some of the people in attendance that day were completely speechless! It is a subject that I feel strongly about, as the people that know me are already aware of, so allow me a few minutes of your time and please read this portion of his message.

*Eduardas Zemaitis, VYTIS correspondent
Council C146, Harrisburg, Pa*

"I wish we all could have heard his message six months ago, when he gave his presentation. It is funny how the media selects the information they feel is important to report to the public.

On Thursday, May 27, 1999, Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee:

What he said to our national leaders during this special session of Congress was painfully truthful. It needs to be heard by every parent, every teacher, every politician, every sociologist, every psychologist, and every so-called expert! These courageous words spoken by Darrell Scott are powerful, penetrating, and deeply personal. There is no doubt that God sent this man as a voice crying in the wilderness.

The following is a portion of the transcript:

"Since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the heart of men and women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Jo Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher, and the other eleven children who died must not be in vain. Their blood cries out for answers. The first recorded act of violence was when Cain slew his brother Abel out in the field. The villain was not the club he used. Neither was it the NCA, the National Club Association. The true killer was Cain, and the reason for the murder could only be found in Cain's heart.

I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written way before I knew I would be speaking here today.

Your laws ignore our deepest needs
Your words are empty air
You've stripped away our heritage
You've outlawed simple prayer
Now gunshots fill our classrooms
And precious children die
You seek for answers everywhere
And ask the question "Why"
You regulate restrictive laws
Through legislative creed
And yet you fail to understand
That God is what we need!

I challenge every young person in America, and around the world, to realize that on April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School - prayer was brought back to our schools."



District and Council News

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Aldona Marcavage

Congratulations and best wishes to Hartford Knights of Lithuania. With the enthusiastic efforts of Kay Urban and June Grenier, they have reorganized Council 6. Their initial meeting was held on January 11th in the Holy Trinity Church hall, with 28 present. The-council was dissolved in 1950--and reborn in 2000. Membership is an interesting mixture of the old and the new, since some of the members are new, some are rejoining, some are transfers from Waterbury, and some whose parents belonged to the original council.

The new officers of Council 6 are Spiritual Advisor - Rev. John P. Conte; President - Alex Yusinias; 1st. V. P. - Alex Dzukas; Recording Secretary - Lillian Joseph; Treas. and Financial Sec. - June Grenier; Trustee- Kay Urban; Vytis Corr.- Leona Sawka; Sgt. at Arms - Elvyra Rimsa. They will meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 at the church hall. For information call: Kathryn Urban at 1-860-529-6602 or Lillian Joseph at 1-860-563-2540. We wish you all a long life and very rewarding activity for "God and Country".

Elona Vaisnys and Marijona Ogden of the Women's

Federation are sending a Psychologist to Lithuanian orphanages to evaluate children who have never been outside of a building to prepare them for the world. Elona Vaisnys will be flying there first.

Zita Maciulyte, a nurse from Lithuania arrived at Fairfield University on January 15th for one month's stay, under the guidance of Prof. Laima Karosas, a nurse at the university. She will be studying areas of Public Health Nursing. Her next stop for one month is Worcester, at Anna Maria College. She is sponsored by the Svitkas/ Tamulevich scholarship fund-put to good use.

Former NED pres., Bill Piacentini, who has been teaching in Rokiskis, Lithuania, came home for the January break. He made known his wish for some American classic Literature books, and received some from Maryland. A friend in New Jersey donated a computer, and lastly, he received a gift from the K of L Foundation of \$1,000. I suspect Bill knows that K of L. is behind him and wishing him God's blessings.

NED president Joseph Stiklius is still waiting for his open heart surgery that was to take place in January. Due to a cold, it had to be postponed. Our prayers are with you, Joe. May you soon enjoy the pleasure of good health again.

C-3, Philadelphia, PA *Victor Stepalovitch and Stephany Gutauskas*

Council 3 held a one-hour Lithuanian language session before it's January meeting. At that meeting, members learned the Hill of Crosses in Siauliai is not only a symbol of suffering and hope of the Lithuanian people, but also an archeological monument with its mound dating back to the first millennium.

Members and friends are invited to bring health care items or clothing to donate toward Lithuanian aid to any of C-3 's regular local meetings. All items will be put into storage until sufficient weight is attained to make it feasible to ship a box to Lithuania.

Father Jakimavicius sent a note of thanks, including a church picture, for recent contributions from Council 3 to his ministry, to orphans and senior citizens in Rumbonys, Lithuania.

This year, four members of C-3 are eligible to receive the first degree and one member the fourth degree.

St. George Church will host a Lithuanian Day celebration with an 11:30 A.M. mass on February 20. Other ceremonies in honor of the day will be held at the Lithuanian

Music Hall beginning at 2:00 P.M.

C-3 members will observe St. Casimir's day on March 5 with a 2:00 P.M. mass at St. Casimir Church in South Philadelphia and gathering for a catered buffet afterward. Also on March 5, Father Burkauskas, pastor of St. Casimir's, will dedicate a Lithuanian wayside shrine in the walkway between the church and the rectory.

C-3 is planning a spring outing to Bistro Romano to enjoy dinner and a murder mystery play entitled "An Annual Employee Appreciation Dinner."

C-6, Hartford, CT *Leona Sawka*

A reorganizational meeting was held on January 11 at the Holy Trinity Church hall in Hartford in order to reactivate Council 6 which has been dormant for many years. The response was great. Twenty-seven people were in attendance.

The second meeting of Council 6 was held on February 1 with six new members joining making the membership a total of 33. Various committees were formed at this time.

The officers for the ensuing year are as follows: President, Alex Yusias; Vice-President, Al Dzikas; Recording Secretary, Lillian Joseph; Financial Secretary, June



C-133, Los Angeles Christmas and Children's party revelers

Grenier; Trustee, Kaye Urban; Sgt. of Arms, Elvyra Rimisa; and Vytis Correspondent, Leona Sawka

Fr. John Conte of Holy Trinity Church will be the Council's spiritual advisor.

Monthly meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month with the exception of July and August.

Of interest and according to records, the late Mykolas Norkunas, uncle to member Angela Shages, was the founder of the Knights of Lithuania back in 1913. What a wonderful memory for Angela.

Many future activities were planned at the February meeting. The enthusiasm from the members was very contagious and many are also

involved in other church activities.

C-7, Waterbury, CT *Adele Klenske*

Not much has been going on during these unpredictable months of January and February. Our President, Joe Stiklius had heart valve surgery and we are most happy to report that his valve could be repaired. We wish Joe a speedy recovery and hope to see him back at our monthly meetings in the not too distant future.

Kay Urban, June Grenier, and Lillian Joseph, the "three musketeers" from the Hartford area, have been faithful members of our council, along with others from that area and the New Britain area. We will soon be losing 10 members to the newly re-activated Hartford Council 6. It was great having you all among us - we wish you much luck in your endeavor. Feel welcome to come and join us for meetings, special events and whatever and we, in turn will attempt to support your socials and fundraisers.

Doris Snirpunas is compiling a list of interested members wishing to join us for the National Convention at the end of July, in Los Angeles, CA. Our hotel will be located right

across from Universal Studios. If interested, call Doris and get your name on the list so that plans can be made for plane fares, hotel accommodations, etc.

C-26, Worcester, MA
Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

There hasn't been much action for C-26 during the month of January. Our Council's President and Vice President, along with their mates, served the coffee, bulkies, and bagels to the attendees of the early masses at St. Casimir church every Sundry morning during December. The church hall becomes a good place to converge after visiting with the Lord.

The Commemoration of the Independence of Lithuania, originally planned, to take place at Our Lady of Vilnius church this year, was relocated to St. Casimir church by a unanimous vote by the members of the TARYBA. C-116 is to host and serve the refreshments after the services and program.

Some of our members who are not able to attend meetings or can not enjoy our activities because of personal reasons or of confinement are Joe Sakaitis, Tillie Zaieskas, Marion Shapiro, Anne Bender, Anne Buchinskas, Virginia Cummings, Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Sharkus, Mary Ulevich, Adele Ulevich, Ginnie Ivaska, Edwina Ginkus, Nel Mitchell. They continue to belong, but we miss their contributions to the life of

the Council. Thanks to all of you for your years of loyalty.

C-27, Norwood, MA
ZAIBAS

Countless blessings to everyone in the year 2000. Our council followed the first meeting of the New Year with a breakfast in the parish hall. The turnout was great, and the friendliness of our group was evident. Where else can you meet and talk with such good people as Louise and Paul Zukas, Kay Perednia, George Barton, Betty and John Skricki, Dorothy Ausevich, Sandra Melish, Ramona Gonski, Lenore and Albie Jarvis, Lillian and Ted Callahan, Vin and Fran Kasauckas, Stan and Tern Wasil, and Ed and Adele Macys.

Our pastor and Spiritual Advisor, Father Bill Wolkovich, joined us and brought us up to date on Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. He showed us an article in BRIDGES written by Ramona Gonski, which told of her travels with husband, Ed, to Lithuanian villages and their bed

breakfasts. Fr. Bill outlined the continuing outreach to other churches in Norwood. That same day parishioners from St. George Orthodox church came to join in a service and social.

On February 19, 2000, a Lithuanian Mass was held. The Sodauta ensemble joined us. Our historian, Fr. Bill is now researching and writing the fascinating life of Lydia Langley of Groton, MA. Fr. Bill has become acquainted with two

nuns from Lithuania who are studying at Boston College. He hopes Sr. Dalia and Sr. Paula will visit our parish community.

Our members are fortunate to be kept well informed on Lithuanian happenings by our Pastor, Fr. Bill Volkovich. He has so many interests and talents to share with us.

Ikipasimatymo-Likitsveiki.

C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA
Evelyn Harryn

Council #63 extends their warmest wishes for a healthy and happy "2000"!

We have been silent, but not still! In September we held the nominations and induction of officers. President - Evelyn Harryn; Vice President - Ben Apanavicius; Treasurer - Walter Balchunas; Recording Secretary - Shariene Malin; Financial Secretary - Anthony Malin; Rituals - Lillian Klinosky; Lithuanian Affairs - Blanche Kohanski; Sgt.-at Arms - Paul Harryn; Sunshine Lady - Anne Wonsock; Trustees - Valerie Smickle and Jake Zansitis.

At this meeting we voted to donate \$150.00 for Catechisms to Catholic schools in Lithuania. Members, Blanche & Joe Kohansky matched this with a donation of \$100.00, also. Sirdingai Aciu!

In October, Lehigh Valley C-63 hosted the Amber District Meeting with 54 in attendance. It was a very productive and informative meeting. Our national president, John Mankus, presented a very



C-63 Officers , Members and Lithuanian Guests at covered dish supper in Nov. '99.

impressive display of photos for all to enjoy. Some were of his recent trips to Lithuania, the UN and Washington, DC. He met with Lithuania's President Adamkus and our ambassadors. The photos of John at the home of Ruta Lee in Los Angeles were very festive ones. Guests attending were some of our Lithuanian celebrities, and also those in the sports world.

Council 63 held a Flea Market in October. It was very profitable and we shared our good fortune. All merchandise that we had remaining on Saturday morning was donated. It went to the flood victims in North Carolina. A local radio station made pleas for clothing and household items. Our crew labored furiously to get everything packed. God gave us the strength and health to get the job done.

We held our annual Covered Dish Buffet in November. The table was blessed with some delicious Lithuanian cooking. Many "Acius" to all of the cooks and hostesses who put the labor of love into the affair. 34 members and guests that attended enjoyed it. "Sirdingai Aciu" to Lillian and Joseph Russell, who again showed their Lithuanian generosity. They made a monetary donation to our treasury and, as they do for meeting and affairs, provided raffle and door prizes.

At the November affair, we had guests present from Lithuania. They were Daiva Narkute of Mazeikiai Lithuania and her niece, Vale Ragauskaitė of Klaipėda, Lithuania, relatives of Blanche Kohanski. Also in November, we bid a sad farewell to Adele and Andy Keraga. They flew away to their new and

permanent residence in Zephyr Hills, FL. They are already greatly missed.

Once again, our Lithuanian Christmas Tree was exhibited at the University Comfort Suites in South Bethlehem. The South Bethlehem Historical Society sponsors this exhibition. Mary & Andy Sabol, Victor Ulba and guest, Walter Balchunas, Lillian Klinosky, Jane Lutick, Lillian & Joseph Russell, and Evelyn and Paul Harryn attended the opening ceremonies. Again, our tree was greatly admired and chosen as a favorite by many tourists. The decorating committee was Jane Lutick, Evelyn and Paul Harryn, and Valeria Smickle.

Our Kucios was held on December 5th, in St. Michael's Church Hall, and was attended by 52 members and guests. The Procession of Lights included

some of St. Michael's Lithuanian Choir members. They sang "Silent Night" in Lithuanian and English. All present joined in singing. The main table was set with the twelve traditional foods and a seat for the unseen guest, our Lord. Walter Balchunas opened our annual tradition with a beautiful prayer and the breaking of bread (plotkelies). There was a sing-a-long directed by Ben Apanavicius. Joe Kohanski did the traditional readings.

The Basket of Cheer Raffle was held. Drawing of door prizes was then held. There were many beautiful prizes donated. Most were donated by Lillian and Joe Russell and by Lillian Klinosky. Lil Klinosky also donated some very good dessert from Sweet Street in Reading. We give a great, big "Aciu" to Valeria Smickle for her fast and hard work for the Basket of Cheer Raffle. Our treasury profited by \$548.00.

On February 16th, Lithuanian Independence Day, we had a flag raising ceremony in the City of Easton, PA. Afterward, we had a breakfast brunch at St. Michael's Church Hall.

On March 12th, Council #63 will hold their St. Casimir's Day Celebration. There will be a special mass with a catered luncheon affair held afterward in St. Michael's Church Hall.

Keep praying for Lithuania and her people.
Su Dievu

C-74, Scranton, PA **Marie Laske**

During the Christmas holidays I listened to the Holy Father on TV. He sang a Polish song, the same tune as "Piemeneliai". It was wonderful he remembered his Polish heritage for so many people to hear it.

Our oldest member, Anne Patelunas, age 91, died in January. She wore her Lithuanian dress as often as possible and as a final tribute, she was buried in it. Msgr. Peter Madus was the celebrant at her funeral mass. Amzina Atilsi duok Mirusiums Viespatie ir Amzinoji Sviesa tegul jiems sviecia! Rest in peace, Annie.

Della Zvirblis fell, but luckily no broken bones. She is just sore all over.

Nellie Bayoras Romanas also fell and hurt her back, but is still planning the flag raising at this writing. I had told her, "You know what they do to horses when they can't walk, they shoot them!" I think I scared her into walking again.

A big welcome to Liz Kaminskas, our new member. We hope she will be an asset to our club.

We attended the 257 Rosary at St. Peter's Cathedral. It was the 21st ethnic rosary with several different nationalities represented. Lithuanians said the first decade. Fr. Thomas Pulickal, OCD Dis Calcev Carmelites who came from India, was the homilist. He is assistant pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Church, South Side.

Evelyn and George Sailus have organized the rosary for 21 years. They also transport the Virgin Statue to homes all over the vicinity. God bless such a loyal couple who devote themselves to Mary! Even with the snow, we had a surprisingly nice crowd of faithful who plowed through it. Nell Bayoras was the announcer of the decades and did a great job as usual.

Pat Boone said, "Our greatest national tragedy is the wanton murder of our innocent babies. Blindness and ignorance about abortion is allowing this tragedy to continue." He recommends the book, Who Broke the Baby, by Jean Staker Garton. God said, "My people perish for lack of knowledge."

I had attended the pro-life breakfast and people from far and near filled the room. The speaker was Molly Kelly, who was excellent. Many dignitaries were there including Aux. Bishop Dougherty.

C-133, Los Angeles, CA **Maryte Sepikas**

**CENSUS 2000 - BE
COUNTED!**

When filling out your Census 2000 forms this spring, please remember to state your nationality and religion at the appropriate places on the long census forms. This will insure a more far distribution of federal funds to our community and church.

C-136, Hudson-Mohawk, NY
Dorothy Richmire

First, I want to say I GOOFED in the December issue in two areas. I reported that our council would be hosting the MAD meeting in March of this year. CORRECTION: The March 26 meeting of MAD will be held in Maspeth, NY hosted by C-110 and our Council #136 will be hosting MAD in Schenectady, NY on September 17. Sorry if this caused any confusion.

Also, my apologies to Bernice Aviza. I neglected to congratulate her on her recent election to First Vice-President of Supreme Council. We are very proud, Bernice, and know you will be up to the challenge. Congratulations.

Our annual Christmas Dinner Party was a fun night. Thirty-four were in attendance. Bernice aided in making the atmosphere very festive by providing lovely decorations and centerpieces for each table. Fr. John Provost led us in prayer before the meal and we all enjoyed a delicious dinner. A raffle supervised by the two EDs, Barauskas and Barkowski, was a bonus for many that were fortunate to hold the winning tickets. Thanks to those that donated so many items, there were prizes galore.

Gen Deery coordinated the sing-a-long. She provided the song sheets and led the singing of many Lithuanian favorites and traditional holiday songs. Everyone came away from the evening with a warm



C-133's and Lithuania's beloved poet, Bernardas Brazdžionis along with Aldona Variakojis (left) and Marytė Sepikas (right) want to welcome you to the Los Angeles convention on July 26-30, 2000. Mr. Brazdžionis had attended the 1965 and the 1973 conventions in Los Angeles.

feeling of tradition, fellowship and the wonder of Christmas.

At a recent meeting in January, Ed Barkowski announced that our council will be celebrating Lithuanian Independence Day on Sunday, February 20.

On the sick list, please pray for: Helen La Pierre, Clara Tullio, and Frank Zebuda. We miss them all and hope they will feel better soon.

Keep warm and safe during these wintry days and nights.

C-141- Bridgeport, CT
Aldona Marcavage

Was it realized that we were living history on that January 19th when we convened for our first meeting of the new century of the new millennium?

It could never happen to us again. Unfortunately, the extremely cold weather and the prevalence of colds and flu kept many of our members at home. Among those reporting health problems were Msgr. Prancus, Stella Witkavich, Eleanor Wisniewsky, Lee Marcinka, Florence Zikaras, and Ben Dirgins.

Peter Radzwillas has returned home after disc surgery, and several weeks in rehab. We wish him a speedy recovery. Sophie Putrimas, while visiting her children in California, fell and fractured her wrist, which extended her stay. What a painful way to get a longer vacation. Gintare Ivaska is soaking up some of the Florida sunshine. Retired Judge Thomas Griglun has accepted the invitation to be Guest Speaker at

our Independence Day Celebration.

H/M President Clemencine Miller spoke of the November 1999 "The Gifts to Lithuania" conference held in Arlington, Va. as presented to BRIDGES December issue. The conference drew participants of all Lithuanian organizations, including K of L President John Mankus. The outcome of some of the discussion groups showed great need of more help for the people in Lithuania. Whereas the city elderly have soup kitchens and available medical help, this is not true in the country. There is a shortage of medical help and trained social workers. Often the elderly living alone go to bed hungry. Future needs are recognized and hopefully will eradicate some of the misery of the aged poor. "Remember a country is judged by the way it treats its young and its old".

Helen Janiunas led the membership in opening and closing prayers in Lithuanian.

C-156, Shamokin, PA Zelinski

Council 156 had been very active the last three months. Now that all the Christmas decorations are put away, and all the parties are over, I can get back to writing for the Vytis.

I had bad news last week. My brother passed away on January 5th.

December was a busy time for Council 156. Our council again cleaned up our adopted highway. Thanks to Andrew Charnosky over two

miles were cleaned up, and 72 bags of debris was collected. Thanks to everyone who helped.

We celebrated our Kucios, December 17th, at Our Lady of Hope Church Hall. The members helped by bringing the foods we eat at our Christmas meal. We again sold kielbasa and horseradish on December 13th, which helps to build our treasury for our many donations we give over the year.

This year we held a cultural day with the Church. There were eight different countries involved. Our president, Bob Wislock, spoke on St. Casimir, and Olympia Zelinski gave a short talk. We had a room just for our Lithuanian artifacts. Some were on loan from the Frackville Museum,

our council members, and some members from Council 144. It really was a room that we were proud of. After the Church services, we all went to the school hall and tasted the food from the different countries. One of the hymns we sang was St. Casimir's "Daily, Daily Sing with Mary."

We had our annual Turkey Bingo before Thanksgiving. That is another means we have to build up our treasury.

We will be starting our 2000-year with Bingo again and our monthly meeting to plan for the year.

Wishing all our Knights from Council 156 a very merry, holy, healthy, and happy new year!!

On the Calendar...

**87th National Convention
Los Angeles, CA
July 26-30, 2000**

**Supreme Council Meeting:
April 8, 2000
St. George's Rectory
Philadelphia**

**District Conventions:
MAD -C-110 Hosts
Maspeth, NY
March 26, 2000
Following 11:15 mass**

**Send in your upcoming
events to editors two months
in advance for listing.**



All council news should be sent to editor's address on inside cover or can be emailed (text only, no attachments) to Vytiseditor@juno.com



Smiles Without Wrinkles

An English professor wrote the words, "a woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed the students to punctuate it correctly.

????? The men wrote:
"A woman, without her man,
is nothing."

????? The women
wrote: "A woman: without
her, man is nothing."

Punctuation is
everything!



An invitation to participate in the

PILGRIMAGE TOUR TO LITHUANIA MAY 29 - JUNE 14, 2000

**FEATURING THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS OF LITHUANIA
CELEBRATING THE THIRD MILLENIUM OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS**
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.

TOUR PRICE OF \$2499 INCLUDES:

- Round trip airfare on Finn Air from New York or Boston
 - Hotel accommodations in Lithuania
 - Meals as indicated in the itinerary
 - Entrance fees to museums
 - Services of local guide - interpreter
 - Transfers on all arrivals and departures
- Services of an experienced American Travel Service escort throughout the tour
 - All prices are per person sharing a twin bedded room
 - Limited single rooms available at an additional charge of \$425.00
- For connecting flights to New York contact American Travel Service

ITINERARY FEATURES (subject to change): Aukštaitija National Park, the most beautiful part of Lithuania (Ignalina, 2 nights); the Eucharistic Congress, June 2-4, in Kaunas, and, for those who wish, sightseeing to Kaunas Old City, Seminary, Cathedral, Pažaislis Convent restoration, Rumšiškės open air museum of old farmhouses; visit to Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis birthplace and tomb in Marijampolė, Vilkaviškis Cathedral, Kaišiadorys Cathedral (Kaunas, 5 nights); bus trip along Nemunas River to Palanga and its Amber Museum and Birute's Hill, City sightseeing of Klaipėda, ferry ride to Neringa, Nida, famous Witches Hill, Kretinga (Palanga, 3 nights); Telšių Cathedral and Seminary, Šiauliai, renowned Hill of Crosses (Šiauliai, one night); the beautiful church of Tytuvėnai, the Marian Shrine of Šiluva, Vilnius with its Old Town, beautiful churches, Sunday morning Cathedral liturgy, Parliament Building, Television Tower, KGB Museum and Antakalnis Cemetery, Castle of Trakai, St. Joseph Seminary, Farewell Dinner (Vilnius, 4 nights); and home. **TOUR IS FOR 17 DAYS, 16 NIGHTS.** Concelebrated Masses with Lithuania's bishops and priests wherever possible.

**FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS send NAMES, ADDRESS,
TELEPHONE NUMBER AND DEPOSIT OF \$300 TO:**

RITA PENCYLA (Tel. 800 - 422 - 3190)

AMERICAN TRAVEL SERVICE

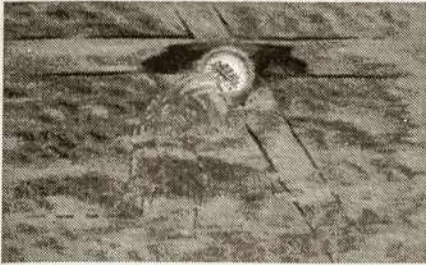
9439 S. KEDZIE AVENUE EVERGREEN PARK, IL 60805-2325

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

550 P6 444
 THE LITHUANIAN INFORMATION CENTER
 EDITOR'S EXCHANGE COPY
 5620 S Claremont Ave
 Chicago IL 60636-1039

**Periodical
 Postage Paid**

FROM THE MANGER TO THE CROSS



From the manger to the cross in 33 short years
 From joy of birth—to crucifixion and tears
 His feet took him down many roads in many lands
 Healing the sick—returned the dead to life
 Yet was mocked and spit upon—
 it cut Him like a knife
 He knew His time was short and what did lie ahead

The Last Supper; "Drink this wine and eat this bread"
 The Holy Eucharist emerged from this act
 Passed down to us from this awesome pact
 They crowned His head with painful thorns
 Standing helpless—His mother Mary mourns
 It was though a thorn had pierced Her heart
 All this She had known—that one day they would part
 To give His life for all our sins



Eternal life for us He wins
 What a supreme sacrifice—to die among thieves
 A sorrowing mother watches and grieves
 Please, dear Father, let not your Son have died in vain
 Lead us away from sin—but we'll do our best
 Your Guiding Hand will help us pass the test.

-Anna Helen McDonald