

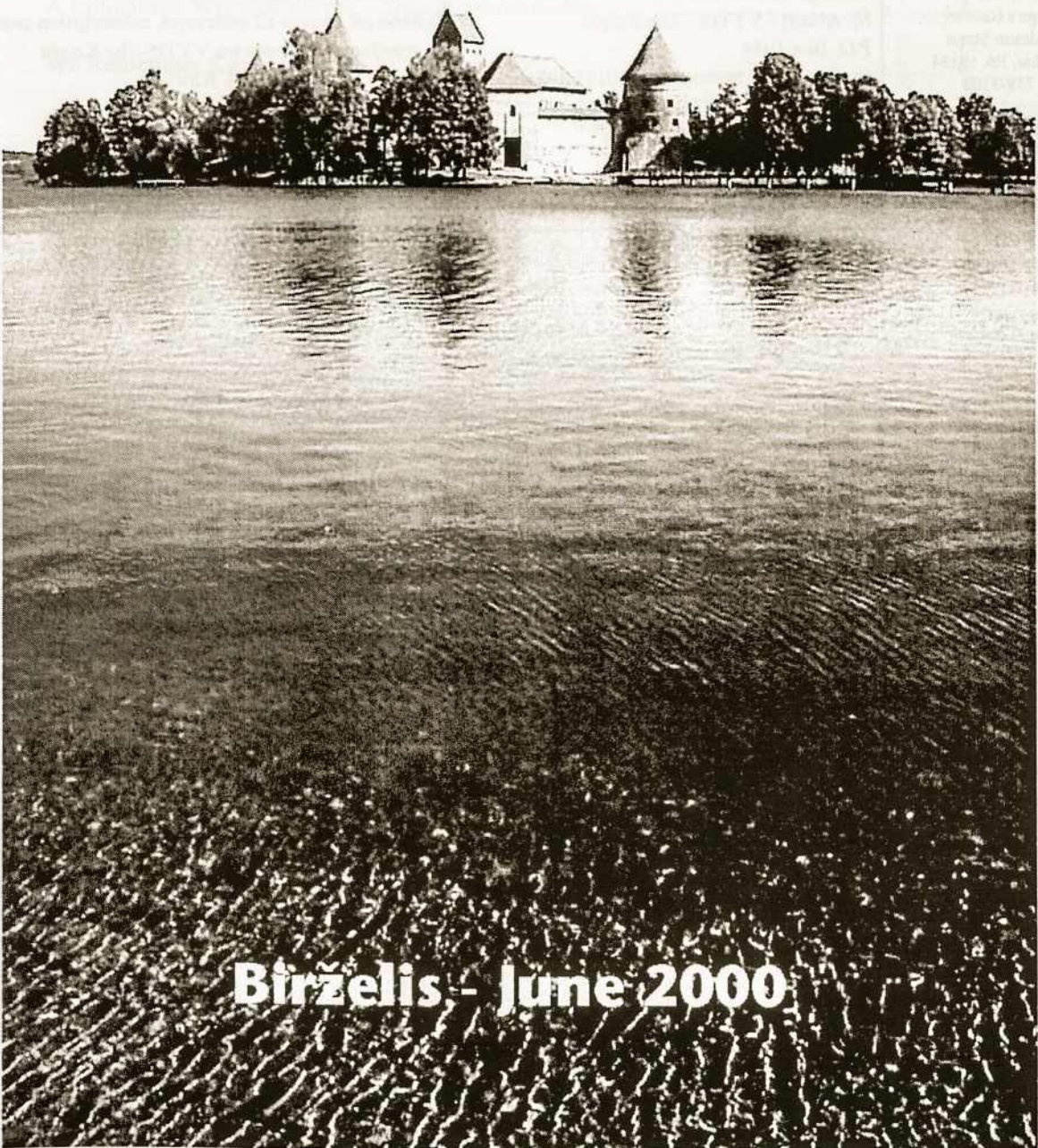


# Y T I S



*Volume 86 No. 6*

**THE KNIGHT**



**Birželis - June 2000**

# Vytis- The Knight

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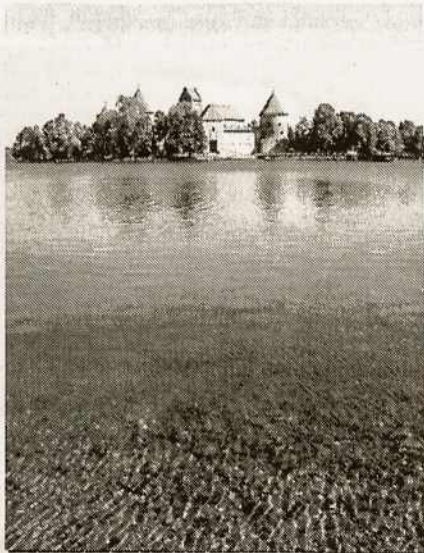
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*The Knights of Lithuania  
endeavors to instill in  
its members an attach-  
ment to Lithuania, the  
land of our ancestors,  
a devotion to our  
Roman Catholic Faith  
and a knowledge, appreciation and love of the  
Lithuanian language, customs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

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### On the Cover:

The Legendary Trakai Castle– JJA 8/99

*"Lithuania's heart once beat here with a Stately rhythm proud, and hence flowed news, from lands both near and from afar"*

- that was how the poets once described the honorable past of the city of Trakai. And although no longer the official State center, the ancient heart of Lithuania continues to pulsate here. The Island Castle is its symbol, and since the XIVth century it has recalled the Grand Dukes of Lithuania - Gediminas, Kestutis, Vytautas. A castle on an island - one of the few in all of Europe.

## To My Fellow Knights

Wow! It was exciting to read more mainstream press writing about our Lithuania. First and foremost, the New York Times' Sunday May 14th editorial praised our ancestral homeland for its decision to close down the Ignalina nuclear reactor.

The Times, which rarely runs anything about the Baltics, also had a "guess the currency quiz in their travel magazine section and the first currency pictured was the Lithuanian Lita! Who knows, perhaps there will be a travel article written about Lithuania soon. Expect the country to attract more tourists who want to see what the architecture was like in the Middle Ages. I already feel that Trakai, our photo feature this month, will someday become a "Lithuanian Disneyland" so fellow readers and Knights who have never seen the beautiful restored Lithuanian park, make your plans to visit before it becomes too crowded.

With so many activities going on this month, Father's Day, graduations, weddings, etc. most of us are in a virtual whirlwind of activities and it's indeed difficult to try and take the time to reflect. Although fathers tend to be downplayed in our politically correct society, a recent news story cited the Swedes as allowing fathers up to six months of "paternity leave" when their children are born. This country acknowledges the importance of this male figure in the lives of children. Whether one's father was a book smuggler, emigrated to America, or was stolen and shipped to Siberia during the Terrible June Days in Lithuania, whether he was a World War hero, or just a modern hard working dad, we'd like to wish them all a very happy Father's Day.

Thank all of you who voiced their concern and prayers concerning my own father, who just recently returned from the hospital after a serious operation. We know there is power in prayer.

## Letters & email to the editor

### THANKS FROM PRIENAI

To the editor:

Best regards from Lithuania to the editorial collective of VYTIS. I am Veronika Bartuskiene from a small town Prienai. I work as a nurse in the kindergarden "Saulute".

I am grateful to you for the Christmas issue of your magazine I received. It was a big Christmas present for me.

Your magazine "Vytis" is very interesting and informative. I especially liked the carol I found there. The children of my group are learning this carol at the moment. It was interesting to read Christmas greetings written so nicely.

I want to pass my best wishes to our friends from Minersville. They are members of "Vyciai" C-144. They are our beloved Bernice Mikatavage, Onute Margaliene and all Vyciai who helped our children's group in the kindergarden. Now our group is nicer and richer. The children wore the sent clothes. And now our children

have enough drawing pads and crayons. It was a big joy to get those presents because not all parents can afford to buy such things for children.

It is also a big joy and pleasure for me to keep

 Letters continued on page 14



*Kindergarden of "Saulute"*

# Official News

## CONCERNING THE REVISION OF THE LIETUVOS VYČIŲ HIMNAS

The 1999 Knights of Lithuania Convention in Philadelphia, PA, passed a Resolution, introduced by Helen Chesko, C-144, concerning our Lietuvos Vyčių Himnas. She added that the arrival of the jubilee year of 2000 increased the urgency for making changes. The convention entrusted me, Faustas Strolia, the chair person of the committees for culture and Lithuanian language, to review the Anthem and eventually to revise the phrase "mums viską davė Lietuva" (everything we received, we received from Lithuania) and to change or eliminate the concept of "plieno kardas" (the sword of steel) as a questionable tool in achieving our organization's goals. I was asked to try to revise, not to rewrite it!

I invited Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, the MAD Spiritual Adviser, and Mr. Petras Apolinaras Bagdonas, C-112, a Lithuanian linguist and poet, member of our K of L Choir, to assist me on this project. As our source we had the 1916 mixed choir version, copyrighted by S.P. Tananevicz. Words by M. Gustaitis, music by A. Aleksis.

First we corrected some spelling and discussed the question of unnecessary capitalization of some words, like *Dungaus*, *Gyvenam*, but we agreed on capitalization of Vyčiai, since it meant

the organization as a whole, and of *Tautai ir Bažnyčiai*, because they underline the motto for which our organization stands. (As a rule, in the Lithuanian language members of any nation or organization are never being capitalized: lietuvia, latviai, vokiečiai, skautai, ateitininkai, šauliai, etc.). On discussing "O plieno kardas" we agreed that it could easily be omitted, since its musical value does not help the anthem's melodic structure (it rather slows it down), nor does the symbol "Sword of Steel" - represent the organizations ideals. The words "mums viską davė Lietuva" can easily be reworded to "mūsų širdyse Lietuva" (Lithuania is in our hearts), while the corresponding phrase "vaduosim galva ją sava" (we'll offer our lives for her freedom) can be exchanged with a phrase like "aukosim jai visas jėgas" (we'll sacrifice to her all our strength).

In a few cages I adjusted the music score making it closer to the present singing practice, (very little different from the written score), although mostly we tried to stick to the original words and music of the poet and the composer.

Our commission members expressed opinions, which would make slightly bigger changes, but these seemed to reach out beyond the scope of the entrusted request simply to make corrections. Vytiškai,

-Faustas Strolia

### The Best is Yet to Be...

**The best convention of the new century awaits those who attend the Los Angeles National Convention on July 27-30, 2000.**

**Highlights include meeting Lithuania's President, Valdas Adamkus, as he receives his Honorary Degree from the Knights of Lithuania.**

## St. Casimir's of Philadelphia Dedicates

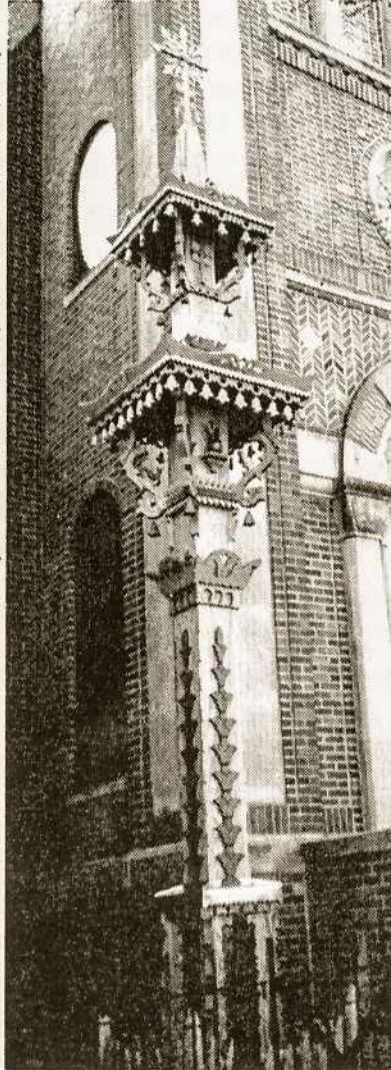
# A LITHUANIAN WAYSIDE SHRINE

By *Stephany Gutauskas*

March 5, 2000 was a red-letter day for St. Casimir's Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for that was the day reserved for the dedication of a Lithuanian wayside shrine on the church property. Religious as well as secular activities were planned for the day, and these included a mass in honor of the Feast Day of St. Casimir, patron saint of the parish, the dedication of the outdoor shrine itself, a homecoming and a buffet luncheon.

St. Casimir's, founded in 1893, has a special place in the hearts of Philadelphia's Knights of Lithuania for it is the mother parish of Council 3. Many C-3 Knights, Sisters of St. Casimir, members of the combined parish choirs of St. Casimir and St. Andrew's Churches, and faculty and students of St. Casimir's School participated in the day's activities.

For the mass, the first three rows of St. Casimir Church were decorated with Lithuanian tricolor yellow, green, red bows. Bouquets of flowers in yellow, green, and red adorned the altar and a wreath in arcs of Lithuanian tricolor stood next to the portrait of Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis. A stately processional began the celebration. Sisters of St. Casimir wearing corsages in honor of the day filed into the front pews on one side of the church while a dozen ladies in Lithuanian national costume filed into the front pews on the other side of the church. Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Statkus, Pastor Emeritus, St. Coleman Church, was



the main celebrant of the mass. Concelebrants were Rev. Msgr. Leon J. Peck, Pastor Emeritus, St. Joseph Church and Honorary Canon of the Diocese of Vilkavisis in Lithuania, Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Anderlonis, HM, Pastor of St. George Church, Rev. Daniel Staniškas, and Deacon Rev. Mr. Mark Kunigonis. Rev. Peter Burkauskas, Pastor of St. Casimir Church, was the homilist.

Father Burkauskas explained that wayside (crosses or shrines are considered architectural monuments in Lithuania. The pillar type, which is the type found at St. Casimir's Church, is especially valued in Lithuania as a religious and a national monument. As no two wayside crosses in the world are alike, the variety of crosses that exist is practically infinite. Due to the fact that there are such a large number of crosses that stand within her borders, Lithuania is known as "The Land of Crosses".

In Lithuania, wayside crosses were erected in cemeteries to remember beloved dead or in farmers' fields in hopes that God would grant a good harvest by preventing drought, disease, or other disasters. The Lithuanian wayside cross at St. Casimir's Church is specifically intended as a tribute to the memory of the deceased Lithuanian Priests and Sisters who served the parish and the devoted parishioners who built and supported St. Casimir's through the years. Deceased pastors of St. Casimir's include founding Father Joseph Kaulakis,

Monsignor Ignatius Valančiūnas, and Father Clarence Batutis. Numerous Sisters of St. Casimir taught at the parish from 1912 until June 1990, and many of these devoted instructors now rest in the Lord. Loyal parishioners dedicated to their faith helped rebuild their temple to God after not just one but two devastating church fires at St. Casimir's. The first fire in 1930 destroyed the entranceway to the church and did extensive damage to its interior. The second fire in 1951, caused by the explosion of a heating oil tank, destroyed three walls of the church. On both of these occasions, St. Casimir's parishioners banded together as a spiritual community and did what was necessary to have their church building, like the phoenix, rise glorious and reinvigorated from the ashes.

In Lithuania, the carvings of many wayside crosses incorporate both pagan and religious symbols which embody the soul of the Lithuanian people. Reverence for nature is seen in the form of carved flowers, buds, and leaves. Carved birds express love for all creation. The crucifix on wayside crosses stands as a religious symbol of faith; the crescent moon stands as a pagan symbol of nature. Geometric shapes also often appear on Lithuanian wayside crosses. The wayside shrine at St. Casimir's incorporates many of the aforementioned features. Its pillar is 23 feet high, and it is made of oak. The wood grain, which appears beneath the protective coating, adds interest, natural beauty, and grace to the piece. The very top of the shrine bears an ornamental metal crucifix made from copper. A crescent moon appears near its base. Two wooden roofs or platforms are on the upper part of the shrine. Carved tulips dangle from eyehooks beneath both of the roofs.



Suspended in this manner, the tulips look like bells, and one can almost hear them ringing as they sway in the breeze. The tulip flower and leaf motifs, cut directly through the wood, appear on ornamentation near the center of the pillar. Tulip flowers also appear stacked in bas-relief along the shaft of the pillar directly below the mid-section. Strips of copper flashing, straight-lined along the top and serrated along the bottom, horizontally ornament the middle of each roof as well as the base of the pillar. Carved crosses appear below the topmost roof, and a single Rūpintojėlis, a statue of the penitive Christ at the time of his judgment by Pontius Pilate, appears below the second roof facing Wharton Street. There are also carved birds on the brackets below the second roof. Pyramids (geometric triangles) truncated at the top angle from eyehooks below the brackets of both of the roofs. These pyramids immediately call to mind the Great Seal of the United States which appears on the one dollar bill in the form of a truncated pyramid

with the eye of God within a triangle hovering above it.

Henryk Jozefowski, a Polish carpenter who is a parishioner of St. Andrew's Lithuanian Church and whose wife is a graduate of St. Casimir's parochial school, was commissioned to produce the wayside shrine. It took him a full month to execute the piece. In appreciation of his artistic talent, St. Casimir's parish presented Mr. Jozefowski with a floral bouquet inside the church before the dedication began.

After mass, as the majority of the congregation filed out of the church onto Wharton Street for the dedication ceremonies, the ladies dressed in national costume, bearing a juosta-flanked banner with the image of

St. Casimir kneeling in prayer on it, processed with the concelebrants down the narrow walkway, between church and rectory, leading to the outdoor shrine. The dedication began with a prayer of blessing followed by the placing of a memorial wreath in Lithuanian tricolor in front of the wayside cross. All present sang the American National Anthem and then, with much feeling, the Lithuanian National Anthem. Monsignor Peck was accorded the privilege of being the first to bless the cross with holy water. All the priests present at the mass also blessed the wayside shrine. Father Burkauskas, in a moment of spontaneity and youthful exuberance and enthusiasm, then blessed all of the concelebrants by sprinkling them with holy water, concelebrants, in turn, blessed each other and made sure Father Burkauskas received his due share of holy water as well. Those who wished to do so were given the opportunity to venerate a relic of St. Casimir contained with-

in a crucifix, held by Father Staniskas who stood on the church steps beside the wayside shrine..

The poet Keats once wrote, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever, its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness."

St. Casimir's Lithuanian Wayside Cross is strikingly beautiful. It is a well-conceived and well-executed tribute expressing the ethnic heritage of its community. It is not only a labor of love, it is also a monument of thanksgiving to those whose love and devotion to God embodied a parish and gave it its soul. May its pillar form draw the viewer's gaze ever upward toward heaven, toward eternal God for many years to come.



*This article is dedicated to the memory of Council 3's recently deceased Knight Raymond Pukis who grew up in and went to school at St. Casimir's parish.*



## A Tribute to KAZYS SIPAILA

On Sunday morning, April 2nd Council 29 of Newark was saddened and shocked by the sudden death of our beloved President for over 35 years. Honorary Member Kazys Sipaila. Kazys was a member of the Knights of Lithuania for 42 years. He received his Fourth Degree in 1966 and became an Honorary Member in 1980. He was not only our President but his life revolved around the Knights of Lithuania. He had a nationwide reputation of being truly a "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY" Knight.

The Nuns at the Immaculate Conception Convent in Putnam, CT will truly miss him. Every summer Kazys spent days at Putnam helping the Sisters to prepare for their picnic and clean-up after. He was also a dedicated supporter of the convent. As our dear Fr. Peter Uhde said "If Kazys doesn't get into heaven, we are all in big trouble". He was an usher at Holy Trinity Church and was also our "Mr Fix-it" and grounds clean-up man.



Kazys worked on every committee for the benefit of Holy Trinity Church and Council 29.

He is survived by one brother who resides in Lithuania, but Council 29 members felt we were his extended family. Kazys, we loved you very much and will miss you very much. May you rest in Peace.

-Rita S. Sussko

### IN MEMORIAM

*Tillie Zaleskas - March 9, 2000*

*Francis Grabauskas - March 23, 2000*

*C-26, Worcester, MA*



Los Angeles Convention 2000

# CALIFORNIA LITHUANIAN Places & People



## St Casimir's of Los Angeles

A beautiful hand carved Lithuanian wooden altar reminds us that our quaint church is a celebration of faith as well as our rich heritage and the Lithuanian spirit of determination and hard work. St. Casimir's built by Lithuanian refugees in 1951, is the only Lithuanian church west of Omaha, Nebraska. The church welcomes members from throughout the West. St. Casimir's, reminds us of warm memories of so many religious and social occasions.

In the church hall we danced until our feet were numb, dined on many an occasion and met our loved ones. Lifetime friendships were made and nurtured at this little church. Each autumn we celebrate Lithuanian Days throughout the church grounds.

Msgr. Algirdas Olsauskas is the current pastor of St. Casimir's. Msgr. Jonas A. Kucingis, who also started Council 133 in Los Angeles. Rev. Stanislovas Anuzis arrived from Lithuania to join the church within the last two years.

By  
Marytė  
Sepikas



(top) St. Casimir's in the '60's and now.

(above) Father Stanislovas Anuzis entertains us with his accordin skills at a Sunday luncheon.

## **VICTOR RALYS**

### **Maestro Extraordinaire**

**Talented, handsome, witty  
and Lithuanian,  
of course**

Victor Ralys has magically motivated and rejuvenated our Los Angeles Lithuanian community with his talents and passion for music and our culture since moving to Los Angeles in 1989.

Victor, was born and raised in New York of Lithuanian immigrants, Albina and Leonardas Ralys. His sister Birute Wilfert lives in Florida and brother Leonard in Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Queens College School of Music.

Our community is blessed in that he has rejuvenated the church choir, added his talents to teaching the children of the Lithuanian Saturday school and is the musician for Spindulys, our highly celebrated folk dance ensemble. Our entire Lithuanian community is most appreciative of his talents. The children are especially enthralled by his musical magic.

The choir offers several concerts a year. This past Palm Sunday, the choir presented a gloriously acclaimed presentation of "Stabat Mater" complete with opera singers from the Los Angeles Opera Company.

Victor has been a member of the Los Angeles Opera Company since his arrival in Los Angeles, appearing in hundreds of productions. Always known for his hospitality and hosting the best parties, last July 4 he invited the entire opera cast to his home for a barbecue. Placido Domingo joined Victor and his friends for an unforgettable party.



He has reached out to the Southern California music community and has showcased world class artists and their talents in numerous concerts.

Victor has toured Lithuania twice in 1982 and 1994. Victor was a featured conductor at the Lithuanian World Song Festival in 1994. Los Angeles was quite proud as Victor conducted music and words written by fellow Californians.

In his "spare" time Victor enjoys composing music and acting. Victor has appeared on television and has a speaking part in the movie "Lost Souls" to be released in October, 2000. This role was most enjoyable for Victor as it also featured several Lithuanians who were cast as extras for the movie.



**See You in Hollywood!!!**  
**C-133 Los Angeles Convention Committee 2000**  
**welcomes the Knights of Lithuania**  
**on July 27-30, 2000.**

## Meet the **AUDICKS** Knights of Lithuania California Family of the Year - a "Council" of Their Own

Sweet Sixteen Stella Matulevičiūtė, met her life's sweetheart and dancing partner Albert Audick at a Knights of Lithuania Valentine's Dance on February 6, 1942 in Boston at St. Peter's. Young Albert spotted the South Boston beauty during the band's break and he asked her for the next dance. According to Stella they have been dancing ever since.

Stella grew up in South Boston, the daughter of Stase Studyte and Juozas Matulevicius and the sister of Joseph, Alfonse and Albinute Maryteu. She is a fifth generation descendent of Blessed George Jurgis Matulaitis - Matulevicius, his father was her great grandfather's brother. She has many wonderful memories of St. Peter's Church where she was active in plays, choir and church activities.

Albert is the son of Antonina and Jonas Audiskas of Lexington, Mass. His family includes an uncle Juozas Audenas of Kaunas who was Lithuania's Minister of Agriculture in 1938.

Stella married her "Knight in Lithuanian shining armor" on July 6, 1944, married for 56 years and have 10 outstanding children, from ages 32 to 53 and 14 grandchildren.

Albert always dreamed of flying and entered the Air Force where he served our nation for 31 years - retiring as a colonel. During his career the family had enjoyed living around the world during stays in Alaska, France and Japan. They moved 44 times during the course of his Air Force career. They lived everywhere from Evrux, France to Rapid City, South Dakota and Fairbanks, Alaska enjoying each experience.

One of the family's favorite memories was traveling by car with three young boys in 1951 from Boston



*Stella & Albert Audiskas of C-133*

to Fairbanks, Alaska. The trip in the family's 48 Packard took 15 days in the wilderness of gravel roads and the gas stations were 150 miles apart.

Although their hearts will always be in Boston, the family eventually settled in Granada Hills, California after his final assignment as the Commander of Armed Forces Radio and Television Services in Hollywood, California. Their children live in Alaska, California, Colorado, New York and Virginia. Professionally, they include Daniel who is the first Lithuanian American to win a Super Bowl Ring while playing with Joe Montana and the San Francisco 49ers in 1982, Carol Ann a news anchor in Fairbanks, Alaska their youngest Christopher, a CNN cameraman, a social worker, artist, writer, attorney.

In her "spare" time when she not with her children or grandchildren, an accomplished artist she loves to sing, draw, write and sew. While in France her sewing skills were enhanced by lessons from a friend who worked with designer Coco Chanel. Her sewing skills came in very handy with 10 children. Stella still keeps a daily gratitude journal. She is very active in the church choir at St. Euphrasia's Church, the Knights of Lithuania and even finds time to help the healing children of Children's Hope. She is a nurturing mother and friend to all.

Stella feels truly blessed for many reasons and thanks God every day for her wonderful, loving family.

*-Maryte Sepikas*

## The Mid-America District K of L Choir

# CELEBRATING 40 WELL-DIRECTED YEARS

by Irene Macke

For several years prior to 1960, the voices of the Mid-America District's Knights of Lithuania Choir had been silent as a result of the departure of its director, Leonard Simutis, Jr to pursue certain personal goals. A committee that included Loretta Stukas (then Kassel) and Genevieve Maluska was former at the instigation of Eleanor Laurin, MAMD president, to seek out a new director. They had been advised by Laurin and Robert Boris, National K of L president, to meet and witness the work of a recently arrived Lithuanian immigrant, Faustas Strolia, whose musical talent and gift for working with people were becoming well-known.

On March 12, 2000, the MAMD K of L choir celebrated 40 extraordinary years under Faustas' direction. Polonia Banquet Hall in Chicago was the scene of this happy, sentimental reunion of present and past members of the choir. No Lithuanian celebration is complete without a meal, and this one was no exception. The program was opened by Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC, choir president, and Robert Martin, Jr., MAMD president. A long-time friend of the choir, Father Anthony Zakarauskas, delivered the invocation.

After the choir sang a few of its perennial favorites such as "Oi Toli, Toli," Loretta Stukas, who had traveled from New Jersey for the occasion, and Genevieve Maluska described the steps they took in their assignment to search for a new director and reestablish the choir. Fortunately, the information they had been given regarding Faustas Strolia proved to be accurate, and their choice was easily made. Estelle Rogers, choir president in

1960 and in many other years, offered her recollections of the choir's reestablishment and its joy at having obtained the services of such a gifted director.



*K of L Choir Director,  
HM Faustas Strolia*

No celebration of this type could be held without some reminiscing; therefore, a brief history of the choir's many activities was prepared by Theresa Strolia and presented by Irene Macke. Fond memories were relived of singing and marching across the United States and into Canada and Lithuania. In essence, the choir worked hard to represent the Lithuanian community and culture whenever and wherever the opportunity arose: at festivals, civic events, and religious celebrations and in churches, hospitals, and nursing homes. In addition to live performances, the choir produced two records, two tapes, three videos, and films for TV. Always, and in all ways, they praised God and country.

The next portion of the program began with an award to Faustas Strolia in deep appreciation for his 40 years of dedication to the choir. No plaque could hold the many reasons for which Faustas should be honored. He has been deeply revered not only as a gifted director who constantly sought new ways in which the choir could serve the community but also as a humble humanitarian who cares

deeply about his singers. It is for that reason that choir members who have worked with him over the years respond eagerly when he invites them to return for special performances such as "The Seven Last Words of Christ."

A second group of awards was presented to those who had been choir members for 20 years or more. They included Theresa Strolia, Ann Marie Kassel, Virginia Buzenas, Grozvyda Giedraityte, Sabina Henson, Mary Kincius, Estelle Rogers, Margaret Narvaisis, Apolinaras Bagdonas, Ray Samoska, Juozas Juska, Elizabeth Zibas, and Faustas Strolia. Actually, most of this group have been members



*Members of the MAMD K of L Choir for twenty-plus years.*

for all 40 years; they are Theresa Strolia, Ann Marie Kassel, Estelle Rogers, Apolinaras Bagdonas, Ray Samoska, Juozas Juska, and Faustas Strolia.

Special guests invited to attend the celebration included Leonard Simutis, Jr., former

director, and Algird Brazis, who has generously performed many solo duties with the choir, as well as Aldona Brazis, who is currently a choir member.

We are blessed to have so many friends and choir members still with us who have been supporters for 40 years. We have just one question: How could 40 years have passed so quickly?

## A MUSICAL OFFERING FOR LENT

The incredibly beautiful cantata "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Theodor Dubois had been presented with various choirs and soloists under the direction of Faustas Strolia for about the last 20 years. On April 2 of this year, the Mid-America District Knights of Lithuania Choir was joined by the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Catholic Mission Choir and past members of the K of L choir in a presentation of this sacred music in Lithuanian at Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Catholic Mission in Lemont, Illinois. The performance was held in the new Lithuanian Foundation Hall, which was filled to capacity.

The mood on the stage was set by a purple-draped cross. The singers entered in procession, singing "Alyvu Darzeli" along with the audience. Each word of the cantata was introduced with a narrative presented by Sr. Janine Golubickis, SSC, and a candle lit by a special religious or lay guest. A 13-

piece orchestra and an organ played by Robert Mockus accompanied the choir, all directed by Faustas Strolia. In addition, three vocal soloists were featured: Liljana Kopustaitė-Pauletti, Algimantas Barniskis, and Povilas Strolia. The closing moments of the cantata include a simulation of the thunder and lightning at the moment of Christ's death, a somber moment that always affects the audience deeply.

The second portion of the program included excerpts from Mozart's "Requiem" and Fr. Schubert's G Major Mass. The directors of these musical offerings were Birute Mockiene, director of the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Catholic Mission Choir, and Faustas Strolia. This combined-choir effort was a joyful, prayerful experience made possible through the cooperation of Mr. Stropus of the mission choir and Sr. Johanne Marie Shainauskas, SSC, president of the MAMD K of L choir. ❖❖❖

# Lithuanians *in the news*

## Pilgrims from Scranton Journey to Rome

Heeding the Holy Father's call to come to Rome for the Holy Year 2000, seventy-five pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton joined Bishop James C. Timlin in a journey of faith to the Eternal City. This was the first of two pilgrimages which are scheduled during the Jubilee Year. Bishop John M. Dougherty will lead the second group of pilgrims in October.

Departing from New York's JFK Airport on Monday, April 3, the group arrived in Rome to begin a prayerful pilgrimage to the four major patriarchal basilicas. On Tuesday morning, Bishop Timlin celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Altar of the Tomb.

The following day, he had the privilege of concelebrating Mass in the Holy Father's private chapel.

Reflecting on the experience with the pontiff, Bishop Timlin said, "For me to be able to celebrate Mass with the pope was truly a privilege and an honor. It is one which I will never forget as long as I live."

Later in the day, the pilgrims attended the general audience with the pope. For many pilgrims, this was a very moving experience. Bishop Timlin said, "The highlight of any journey to Rome is the opportunity to see the Holy Father and to hear his inspiring words. I am pleased that the pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton will have this special memory for the rest of their lives."

In addition to St. Peter's, the pilgrims journeyed



*The Holy Father and Bishop James C. Timlin celebrate Mass in Rome*

to Rome's other three patriarchal basilicas - St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul's Outside the Walls - newly cleaned and restored.

Traditionally, the basilicas have marked penitential stops on a pilgrimage route through Rome. Although the conditions for gaining jubilee-year indulgences have been expanded, prayer in the basilicas remains a key element for pilgrims seeking an indulgence in Rome. The pilgrims from the diocese joined the throngs of Catholics from all over the world who also came to Rome to gain the plenary indulgences.

The pope opened the Holy Year Dec. 24 when he

pushed open the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica while standing in the church's atrium, which was recently restored. The bronze doors were donated by Swiss Catholics and installed in 1949, replacing wooden doors that had been used the previous 200 years.

The diocesan pilgrims also traveled to St. John Lateran, the cathedral of Rome and the first Christian basilica constructed in the city, where the basilica has just undergone a six-year restoration following damage caused by a bomb blast in 1993. Its gilt ceiling is resplendent, the colors of the apse mosaic are brilliant again, the facade has been scrubbed and a cloister restored.

In the surrounding area, a pedestrian mall has been created out of what was one of the most heavily

trafficked corners of Rome. The site will host a huge Corpus Christi procession in June.

At St. Mary Major, said to have been built in the fourth century after a miraculous August snowfall on the site on the Esquiline Hill, famed early Christian mosaics in the nave are once again gleaming. Bishop Timlin celebrated Mass at St. Mary Major not far from the high altar, under which is a shrine believed to contain fragments of Jesus' cradle.

The pilgrims also prayed at St. Paul's Outside the Walls, built by the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century and rebuilt after a fire in the 19th century. The bronze Holy Door at St. Paul's, which survived the fire, was made at Constantinople in the 11th century and inlaid with silver panels showing scenes from the Bible. Inside, pilgrims viewed mosaic portraits of the popes that form a frieze above the granite columns of the nave.

After visiting the major basilicas in Rome, the pilgrims departed for Assisi where Mass was celebrated in the great Umbrian basilica. Tremors on Sept. 26, 1997 damaged the great church of the Franciscans. About \$30 million was spent to repair the basilica which reopened to the public last November. The diocesan pilgrims all commented on the restoration effort and the beauty of the frescoes by Italian masters Giotto and Cimabue.

The last stop on the journey was in Florence. There Mass was celebrated in Santa Croce, another magnificent church in the heart of the old city.

*-from the Catholic Light, Apr. 30, 2000*



## Maspeth Street Renamed In Honor Of Monsignor Bulovas

On Monday, Mayor Rudy Giuliani signed into law a bill that will officially rename Perry Avenue between 64th Street and Remsen Place in Maspeth Monsignor Frank Bulovas Avenue.

The change was requested through a bill sponsored by City Council members Walter McCaffrey, Karen Koslowitz, Sheldon Leffler and Helen Marshall.

Monsignor Bulovas was born on April 21, 1916 of Lithuanian parentage on the small community of West Pullman in the outskirts of Chicago, Illinois.

When he and his sister Viola reached school age, his parents relocated to Brooklyn, New York. There he attended Cathedral High School and later received his BA degree from Marianapolis College in Thompson, Connecticut. Feeling the call to serve God, he attended Marian Hills Seminary in Clarendon Hills, Illinois and was ordained to the Holy Roman Catholic priesthood on August 8, 1943.

After many years of devoted service at Our Lady of Miracles parish and later at St. John the Evangelist parish on July 3, 1982 he became a monsignor.

For the past 41 years, until his recent death on March 19, 1999, Monsignor Bulovas, affectionately known as Monsignor Frank served the community of Maspeth at the Church of the Transfiguration. For the past 19 years he served that parish as its pastor.

Monsignor Bulovas also dedicated his time as the chaplain of the Transfiguration Post No. 869 Catholic War Veterans and its ladies auxiliary. He was the Catholic chaplain for the United Veterans and Fraternal Organizations of Maspeth and the spiritual director for the Knights of Lithuanian Council No. 110 as well as the Great Neck Knights of Lithuania Council No. 109. He was also the spiritual moderator for the mid-Atlantic District of the Knights of Lithuania.

For those in his parish and others in the community of Maspeth he will be "prayerfully remembered for his years of serving the Lord so faithfully by the many lives he touched through his service."

It is with the support of the community, and namely, K of L'er Helen Matulonis of C-110, that Maspeth legislators requested that the street be renamed in his honor. "We remember Monsignor Frank Bulovas as a dedicated priest and a loving and trusted friend," said the council members.

Giuliani said, "In recognition of his 41 years of service to the Maspeth community, it is fitting that Perry Avenue, between 64th Street and Remsen Place be named Monsignor Frank Bulovas Avenue."

*-by Betty M. Cooney, Queen's Tribune*



-Wise men learn by other's harms; Fools by their own.  
-Think of three things- whence you came, where you are going and to Whom you must account

*-Benjamin Franklin*

☞ *Letters continued from page 2*

in touch with such warmhearted people because my grandfather Martynas Slaminkas came to the USA in 1900. He was a collier in the mountains of Pennsylvania. There my grandfather was buried. The communication with the members of Vyciai is very precious for me.

Another very dear friend is Antanas Barauskas from Philadelphia. Because of his help our Christmas tree and the windows of the kindergarden were adorned. The children received nice toys.

The children of the group "Boruziukai" and myself are sending our greetings to Bemice Mikatavage, Onute Margaliene, all members of "Vyciai", Antanas Barauskas. We wish them good health, joy, and God's blessings all year.

I am sending you a poem written by Albina Blekaitiene who lives in Prienai as our biggest wish to all of you. Thank you

-Mrs. Veronika Bartuskiene  
Prienai, Lithuania

## ARIZONA LITHUANIAN NOTABLE

To the editor:

I am not an active Knight only because there is no council here in Arizona. One of my friends sends me her copy of VYTIS which I thoroughly enjoy.

Since I scan the Phoenix papers for Lithuanians, I thought you might like to know of a prominent Dr. Edward J. Jasaitis of Goodyear, Arizona who recently passed away at 64. He was a retired US Air Force officer, a Vietnam veteran, a Purple Heart recipient with many outstanding achievements and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. He was born in Kaunas in 1936, left Lithuania with his parents in 1944 and returned to his native soil in 1992 to become a professor of Public Administration, providing public management training to over 5,000 Lithuanian public officials. In 1994, he helped to begin a Master of Public Administrations program at two universities in Lithuania, and later received an honorary doctorate. He left behind a large family who can reflect upon him as a hero.

I would also like to suggest that Council News contain the addresses of the correspondents, as some-

times there are items that we'd like to write to them about.

*Mrs. Anne S. Krizanauskas, Major USAF Retired  
Mesa, Arizona*

*Editor's note: To respond to council news editors write to VYTIS P.O. Box 1934, GCS, NYC 10163-1934 and note it is for the council news section. Your information will be forwarded.*

To the editor:

Keep up the good work! We pass our old VYTIS along to others and they say it's great! Some friends made a cookbook from the recipes for their own use. We can always use a new pylagh recipe or ideas for Christmas tree decorations to pass on to our children. Vytiskai,

*Florence Miskinis, C-153, Treasure Coast, FL  
Editor's note:*

*We know there are chefs out there, but are they willing to share their recipes? Also, anyone have some good ideas on Christmas decorations we can include in this year's issue?*



## SMILES.. LORD I'M ONLY 80

Today, dear Lord, I'm 80

and there's much I haven't done.

I hope Dear Lord, you'll let me Live until I'm 81

But then . if I haven't finished all I want to do,

Would you let me stay awhile ---until I'm 82?

So many places I want to go, so very much to see:

Do you think that you could manage to make it 83?

The world is changing very fast: there is so much in store. I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84.

And if by then I'm still alive, I'd like to stay till 85.

More planes will be up in the air, so I'd really like to stick -And see what happens to the world when I'm.

86. I know, dear Lord it's much to ask I

and it must be nice in heaven.

But I would really like to stay, until I'm 87.

I know by then I won't be fast, and sometimes will be late. But it would be so pleasant to be around at 88.

I will have seen so many things. and had a wonderful time, I'm sure that I'll be willing to leave at 89-

maybe!!!

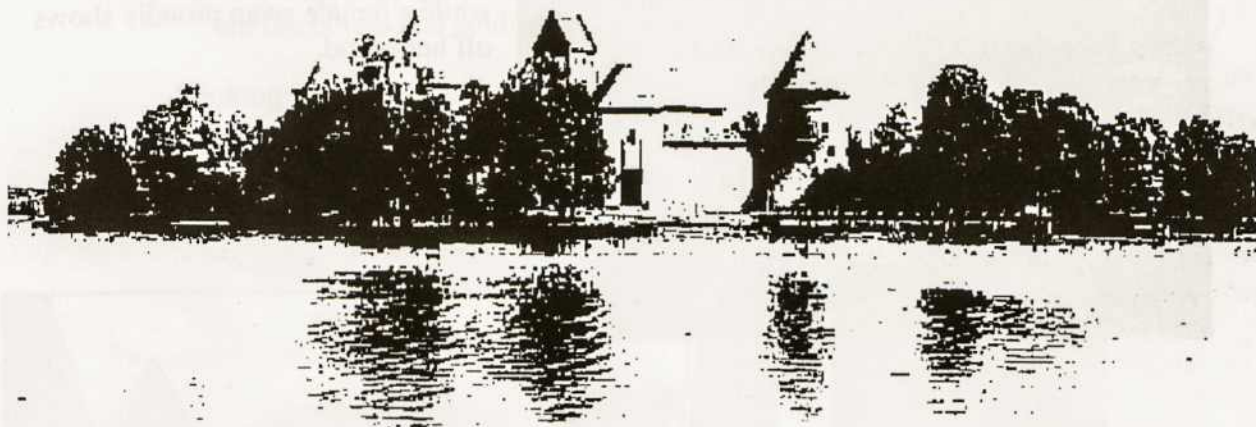




From Horses to Harleys

## A MODERN LOOK AT TRAKAI

### The Jewel in the National Park Crown



Trakai, the former Lithuanian capital is a small, quiet town in a country area of calm lakes and green islands. The beautifully restored fairy tale castle has inspired legends and superstitions for centuries. Lake Galve ("head") got its name when Grand Duke Vytautas tossed the head of a slain crusader into it's waters.



He also brought the Karaites, a religious sect originating in Baghdad that adhered to the Law of Moses, to Trakai (around 1400) to serve as his bodyguards.

Celebrated for its atmosphere, famous and infamous people have visited here through history - kings, dukes, travelers, knights, scholars, guests of the Lithuanian State, tourists and angels. Their travelogues remain valuable witnesses and sources of history. The context of Trakai's glorious history brings one to consider if the future of a monument will be worthy of its past. We hope that the new diversity of Trakai festivals will bring meaning to that future as well.

#### *Upcoming festivals*

*July 15-Aug 20, 2000*

"Trakai Festival" The international Classic Music Festival in the magnificent surroundings of Trakai castle.

*July 24-Aug 30, 2000*

The International Amateur Theatre Festival at Trakai Castle. "Baltic flight 2000". Amateur theatres from Lithuania, Finland, Island, Sweden, Norway, Latvia, Poland and other countries.

*June 23-25, 2000*

"Amber Oar", International Rowing Regatta Trakai, Galves Lake

#### *Trakai National Park Information Bureau*

*Karaimu 5, tel. 52 759/51 506, fax 51 546. Open 8:00 am - 12:00, 12:45 - 5:00pm. Closed Sat, Sun.*

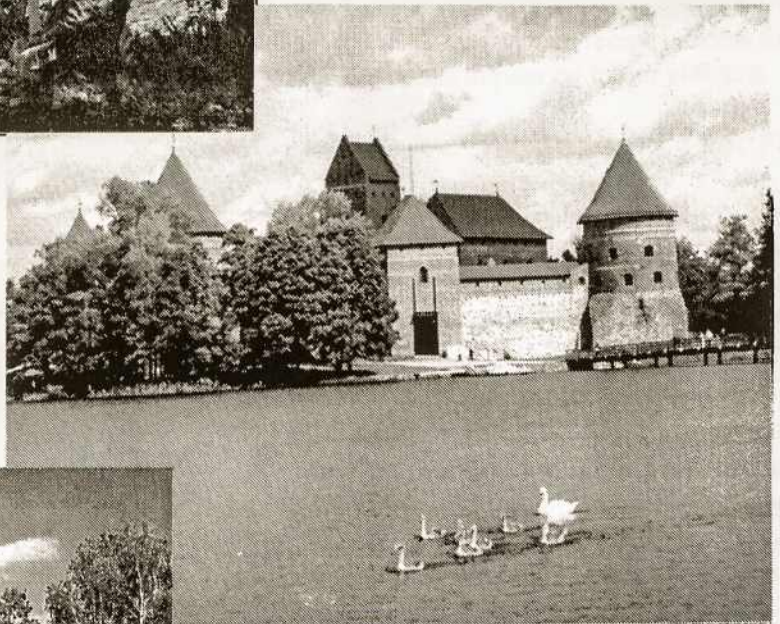
#### *Trakai Tourism Information Centre*

*Vytauto 69, tel. /fax (+370-38) 51 934. Open 8:00 am - 12:00, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, Sat 9:00am - 2:00pm. Closed Sun.*

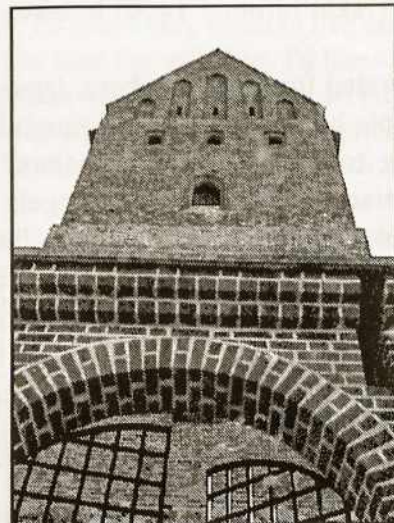


Entering Trakai...an entrepreneurial retiree sits patiently selling snacks and souvenirs, while a female swan proudly shows off her brood.

On a clear day the view is beautiful from the bridge, just as Vytautas saw it 600 years ago.

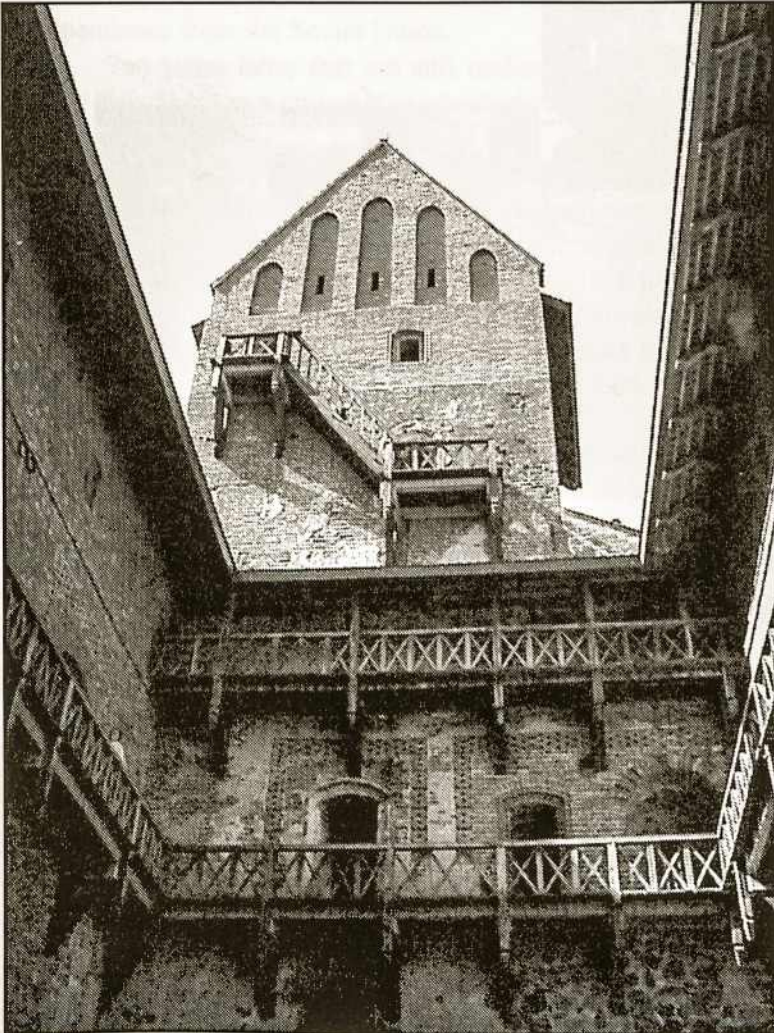
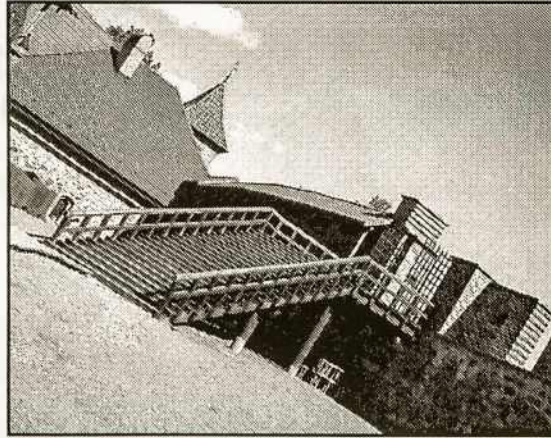


Looking up at the gate and tower



The main courtyard has been beautifully restored- the only things missing are the horses and soldiers

Looking upward at the tower from the inner court shows the intricate workmanship of 15th century craftsmen



Souvenir coins are struck by Darius ...swoooosh!!





Making new friends at Trakai is a chinch and the new generation of free Lithuanians seem to be adapting to all varieties of western culture.



These most polite Hells Angels, (perhaps the new Karaites?) Bruno, Jonas and Petras even invited the tourists to join them for a festival... from Horses to Harley's, Trakai lives



A glance back and a good bye smile from Birute...



...the next generation of entrepreneur



Recent History—*We Remember*

## Lithuanians' drive to secede led others to defy Kremlin

It was 1990, a new decade, a new chance to push for the independence that Lithuania had been denied for most of the 20th Century. The Berlin Wall had crumbled only months earlier. Freedom was spreading across Eastern Europe as the Soviet Union lost its Cold War grip.

In meetings arranged by cloak and dagger, Vilnius leaders discussed the advice and considered the threats. Then in a meticulously detailed, thoroughly debated and carefully planned action, Lithuania did something completely rash.

On March 11, 1990, Lithuania declared its independence from the Soviet Union.

Ten years later, that act still makes emotions soar. It also stands as a critical if overlooked event in the breakup of the USSR.

Lithuania's declaration emboldened independence groups in Latvia and Estonia as well as autonomy movements in Ukraine, Belarus and other Soviet republics. It energized pro-democracy Russians. It also set in motion a hard-line response by certain Soviet authorities, a reliance on force that would culminate in August 1991 with the failed coup against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The August putsch turned out to be the Soviet Union's last gasp. By the end of 1991, the USSR no longer existed and 15 nations stood in the place of one. Lithuania was among the proudest.

The March 11 declaration by leaders of the Sajudis movement in Lithuania's new parliament did not bring the Baltic nation immediate freedom. Nor was it the only crack in Moscow's armor. Some kind of disintegration of the USSR seemed destined whether or not Lithuania stepped forward.

But had Sajudis not challenged Moscow then, perhaps the USSR would not have broken up so quickly. Perhaps it would not have broken up so relatively peacefully.

Some Lithuanians regret that their role in the fall of communism goes mostly unrecognized. Others say, get over it.

"We are now writing fairy tales about all this," said Vilius Kavaliauskas, a journalist and sometime

political imagemaker. "We are now thinking that we are heroes."

"We were doing something for ourselves," Kavaliauskas said, "We weren't doing anything for Europe or for America."

What Lithuania was doing was fighting. And the fight was not new.

Lithuania had won independence from Czarist Russia in 1918, only to lose it again to the Soviets in 1939. German soldiers then invaded on their march toward Moscow during World War II. In less than four years, the Nazis together with sometimes eager Lithuanian units killed more than 200,000 Jews. The toll would represent more than 90 percent of the nation's Jewish population.

The return of the Soviet Red Army brought more terror. The Soviets resumed forced deportations, eventually sending hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians to Siberia. Yet partisan fighters who had resisted the first Soviet invasion, some of whom would bloody their hands in the Holocaust, resumed their fight against Russian occupation.

For nearly a decade a significant resistance movement called the Brothers of the Forest survived in Lithuania. The Soviets would not finish off the last of the stragglers until the 1960s.

"The struggle never stopped, said Algirdas Saudargas, a Christian Democrat member of that historic parliament who has been Lithuania's foreign minister for most of the last decade. "Just the methods changed."

Saudargas said the people and their political leaders came to understand that military resistance like that of the Forest Brothers would not end the Soviets' occupation.

So after two years of mass protests, including the forming of a human chain stretching across the Baltics, Lithuanian leaders crafted their challenge to Moscow as a political one and a legal one.

The Soviet occupation was not valid, the parliamentarians argued. Lithuanian independence would not be created but restored. First Lithuania's 1938 constitution would be put in place of the Soviet

Constitution, then quickly replaced by a new one drawn up by Sajudis.

The legislation was drafted scrutinized for errors of reasoning and legality, No one doubts that the KGB knew something was in the works. Events demanded it.

In early March, Lithuanian voters had overwhelmingly provided Sajudis a majority in the new Lithuanian parliament. Soviet legislators in Moscow, meanwhile, were moving to revise the Soviet constitution to restrict secession by republics.

If KGB agents caught wind of an independence declaration, though, they probably did not know everything.

"We had doubts about society's ability to change," said Virgilius Cepaitis, a professional translator and Sajudis leader in parliament. "There were two options, gradual or radical"

Estonian independence leaders had advocated a 14-step process, for example. Estonia would gain more autonomy over a decade until finally realizing full independence in 1999.

"We decided that our only chance was to take a radical step," Cepaitis said.

After an all-night debate, Sajudis members decided at 2 a.m. on March 11 to spit in Moscow's eye. In that morning's session, parliament elected as chairman Sajudis leader Vytautas Landsbergis. The members then voted to drop the words "Soviet" and "Socialist" from the official title of the Lithuanian Republic. They placed the Lithuanian tricolor flag over the Soviet emblem. Then they passed the Act on the Re-establishment of the State of Lithuania.

The vote was 124 in favor, none against; six deputies abstained.

"The most emotional moment was the signing of the act itself," Cepaitis said. "Up until then, all the time I was wondering if this was going to happen or not."

What would come next in Lithuania was almost impossible to consider at the time. Ask Sajudis members if Lithuania has turned out the way they hoped on that March 11 morning and they are almost to a person

unable to answer.

Many had dreamed of independence but certainly had not expected such a chance to befall them. Hardly anyone predicted that within about 18 months Lithuania would be readmitted to the United Nations along with Latvia and Estonia.

Those 18 months would prove to be difficult, even tragic. Moscow first tried to coerce Lithuania back to the fold by cutting off fuel supplies. Then in January 1991, Soviet leaders resorted to military means.

Soviet troops seized newspaper offices and cut off air and rail links to Lithuania. On Jan. 13, troops took the Vilnius television tower. In the process killing 14 unarmed civilians and injuring at least 700. The troops were finally turned away from parliament by an estimated 30,000 civilians.

That bloodshed tempers the joy of the March 11 holiday. So do Lithuania's economic troubles.

Unemployment approaches record highs. Schools and hospitals cry out for funding. The infrastructure desperately needs improvement. Some Lithuanians say they are too troubled to take much joy in the 10th anniversary of their historic declaration.

"Of course there is the reality of everyday life," said President Valdas Adamkus. "But we have not quit. The will to overcome the difficulties, this is one of the highlights of the 10 years of independent life.

"The fruits of democracy--the freedom of expression, the freedom of the press, providing the opportunity for individual initiative free of some kind of persecution--these are so widely accepted and enjoyed now," Adamkus said. "You can't find anyone who would want to go back to the previous system."

*-Reprinted with permission from The Chicago Tribune, Mar. 12, 2000, by Colin McMahon*



#### **Did You Know?**

The Karaites of Trakai are one of Lithuania's smallest and oldest minorities. They have lived near the castle since 1398, when Vytautas the Great brought 400 of them here from Turkey after a victorious march on the Crimea. Their houses still have 3 windows facing the street: for God, Vytautas and themselves.

***"You can't find anyone who would want to go back to the previous system."  
President Valdas Adamkus.***



# Lithuanian Chefs



## Summer Winners

from Anna Helen McDonald

Republican cook-off - 1st prize 1990

### TOPSY TURVY APPLE PIE

1/4 cup butter or softened oleo  
 1/2 cup pecan halves  
 1/2 cup brown sugar  
 plain pastry for 2 crust 9 inch pies  
 6 large tart apples, peeled, cored and sliced ( about 6 cups)  
 1 tablespoon lemon juice  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 1 tablespoon all purpose flour  
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Spread butter evenly on bottom and sides of a 9 inch' pie plate- press nuts rounded side down into butter on bottom of plate. Pat brown sugar evenly over nuts- roll cut pastry- for bottom crust, place in pie plate over sugar. Sprinkle apples with lemon juice- combine flour, nutmeg, and a dash of salt- toss with apples and seal with top crust. Prick top of pie with a fork.

Bake at 400 degrees for 50 minutes- remove from oven-cool 5 minutes. Place serving plate atop pie- invert and carefully remove pie plate- serve warm or cool.

"A pie with an upside down twist." serves 8 persons  
 (This is like an apple pie topped with a pecan pie.)



Republican Cook Off, 2nd Place Winner 1986.

### Strawberry Snowball Salad

1 cup boiling water  
 1 (3 oz.) package strawberry flavored gelatin  
 1/2 cup cranberry juice cocktail or sweet wine  
 1/4 cup water  
 1 (3 oz) package creamed cheese, softened  
 1/3 cup finely chopped nuts  
 2 cups strawberries  
 1 tbsp. Sugar

Pour boiling water on gelatin in bowl. Stir until gelatin is dissolved. Stir in juice or wine and cold water. Refrigerate until slightly thickened. Shape cream cheese into 18 balls, roll in nuts. Mix in strawberries and sugar. Pour 1/3 cup thickened gelatin into 6 cup ring mold. Arrange cheese balls evenly in gelatin. Spoon strawberries over cheese balls. Carefully pour remaining gelatin over strawberries. Refrigerate until firm. Unmold. Serves 6-8

1983 - Republican Cook Off, 3rd Place

### Cantaloupe Custard Pie

4 eggs  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 1/2 tsp. almond extract  
 1 tsp vanilla  
 1/2 tsp salt  
 2 1/2 cups milk, heated until very hot  
 1 (9 inch) pie shell, unbaked

1/2 cup currant or strawberry jelly, divided

1 medium cantaloupe, seeded and cut into 3/4 inch cubes or balls  
 1 tbsp. Kirsch or almond flavored liqueur (optional)

In a medium mixing bowl, beat together eggs, sugar, almond extract, vanilla and salt until well blended. Gradually stir in milk. Pour into pie shell and bake on bottom rack of preheated 400 degree oven until knife inserted comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Cool completely on wire rack.

In small saucepan over medium heat, heat 1/4 of the jelly until melted, then spread over cool pie. Refrigerate until jelly sets. Top jelly-glazed custard with the cantaloupe balls.

In the same fashion, heat remaining jelly until melted. Remove from heat. Stir in liqueur if desired. Pour hot jelly mixture over melon balls. Cover and refrigerate until chilled thoroughly. Makes 8 servings.



Got some great family recipes? If they are Lithuanian ethnic foods, that's great, if not, let us see them anyways. Editor's were told some members keep a cookbook from VYTIS recipes.

Send in your favorites to:  
 VYTIS CHEFS EDITOR

P.O. Box 1934  
 Grand Central Station, NY  
 10163-1934



# District & Council News

## MID-AMERICA DISTRICT

*Valeria Stanaitis*

St. Casimir's Day Mass and the Spring District Meeting were held on March 3rd, at the Marion Fathers Monastery Chapel. The celebrant was Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas.

After Mass, President Kestutis Krisciunas of Council 24 welcomed all to a delicious buffet, served in the lower level of the Monastery, where the meeting was held.

President Robert Martin, Jr. began the meeting with the presentation of third degrees by Ritual Chairlady, Georgianna Macke to Carl Beinoras and Denise Zakarka. Reverend Zakarauskas assisted in the presentation of these honors. The officers' reports followed where Treasurer Richard Niedvares gave an excellent report on finances.

Committee reports included Frank Zapolis of the Vytis Dancers, stating that he is happy with his group, but in need for more participants of all ages to sign up, in order to continue the Lithuanian Dance Tradition. He has devoted over thirty years of his time to promote Lithuanian dancers. The dance group is so popular that they are invited to non-Lithuanian doings.

Sr. Johanna M. Shainauskas announced that the Choir, under the direction of Faustas Strolia, performed the Seven Last Words of Christ, in Lithuanian, on April 2, 2000, at the Lithuanian World



*Msgr. Kucingis receives Mid-America District award of his priesthood. He also founded LA Council 133.*

Center, in Lemont. Soloists were Lijana Kopustaite, Algimantas Barniskis and Paul Strolia. Robert Mockus was the organist.

The Summer District meeting will be held on June 10, 2000, at the Lithuanian World Center, and be hosted by council 157.

*lki pasimatymo.*

### C-3, Philadelphia, PA

*Victor Stepalovitch and Stephany Gutauskas*

Condolences go to Monsignor Joseph Anderlonis, HM, upon the passing of his uncle, Michael Bacheck. C-3 welcome two new members, Anthony J. and Mary Pacesa.

A Lithuanian language class was held before April's meeting. During the meeting, members learned about Lithuanian customs observed during Holy Week. As a special treat, after the meeting, guest Algis Valius taught the members how to decorate Easter eggs via the wax

technique. Mr. Valius generously provided all instructional materials for the decorating session: photocopies of marguciai patterns, beeswax, kistkies (styluses), cold dyes, and several dozen eggs produced by his own chickens. C-3 members brave enough to try out the technique were delighted with the colorful original artwork resulting from their efforts.

On April 8, the Supreme Council met at St. George's parish for a daylong business session. Members of Council 3 served as hosts for their guests. Victor Stepalovitch provided several homemade cakes, Anne Marie Jaskel a chocolate cake, and Joseph Stiklius (C-7) some doughnuts which were served as refreshments in the school basement prior to the meeting. Fresh-cut flowers decorated the tables in the room and brought a breath of spring indoors. After the morning session, council members adjourned to another section of the basement for a buffet luncheon of salad and cold cuts. After the meeting concluded, members attended 5 PM mass celebrated by Archdiocesan Vicar Rev. Msgr. Francis Beach. After mass, Supreme Council members gathered in the parish hall where they were treated to dinner prepared by Ann Szczepanski, St. George parish cook. Ann and her family members' helped to serve the guests.



# District & Council News



**MAMD's Georgianna Macke (right in both photos) awards 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees to Carl Beinoras (L) and Denise Zakarka (l, below)**



Dinner consisted of a selection of poppy seed chicken, desros, kopustai, mixed vegetables, ziti baked in tomato sauce, rolls, and rye bread. Joseph Stiklius provided kugelis and dark Lithuanian bread. Stephany Gutauskas, Anne Marie Jaskel, and Ausra Maknys, all of C-3, provided the "Vytis" sheet cake for dessert which was specially commissioned for the occasion and hand-decorated by Ausra's niece, Judy Dempsey. The cake represented the Lithuanian flag in yellow, green, and red tricolor with a mounted Vytis outlined in black in the center. All Vyciai enjoyed the dinner and

appreciated the hospitality extended to them by C-3 and St. George parish.

On April 9, Rev. Peter Burkauskas was a concelebrant at a Eucharistic liturgy for the Jubilee Year, the closing ceremony for the Eucharistic convocation held from April 7 to 9 in Philadelphia, PA. Many who attended this liturgy held at the Liacouras Center of Temple University wore national costumes or insignia in a procession celebrating the ethnic diversity in the parishes of the city. Sixty banners were carried into the Center. "Lithuania, land of Crosses" appeared on the banner representing our heritage. Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua was the main celebrant of the mass with the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Most Reverend Gabriel Montalvo, among the concelebrants.

On April 15, Joseph and Dianne Drumstas held a First Holy Communion celebration at Ozzie's Trattoria in South Philadelphia for their granddaughter, Catherine Drumstas. A dozen council members were on hand to congratulate the new communicant.

## **C-6, Hartford, CT** *Leona Sawka*

Council 6 meeting was held on Tuesday, May 2, at which time Father John Conte, Spiritual Advisor, was inducted as a member. Our church rummage/tag sale held on May 5, 6 and 7 was a great success.

Thanks go to all the wonderful help.

The eight delegates who attended the recent New England District spring convention in South Boston at St. Peter Church gave glowing reports on the session. They felt it was a very productive day. The two new delegates, Alyce Gegesky and Judy Landers, gave enlightening reports and enjoyed meeting many of the New England District members.

It was brought to members attention by President, Alex Yusinas, from information received from the Lithuanian Children's Relief about the plight of a set of twins who were born with a congenital eye defect leaving them blind from birth. Dr. T. Hirose of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute has determined that the problem can be reversed. Cost of surgery is \$17,000 per eye. The family has secured enough money through donations, etc. to have one eye repaired for each child. Evaluation and surgery will take about six weeks. The boys will be here mid-May. Donations can be sent to TAUPA LITHUANIAN CREDIT UNION, P.O. BOX 95, SOUTH BOSTON, MA 02127 - ATTENTION: LEVERIS FUND. A hat was passed around at the meeting and \$101 was realized for this worthwhile cause.

Quite a few members will be attending Father John Rikteraitis retirement mass at St. Andrew's Church, New Britain, and dinner to follow at the Hawthorne Inn on May 21st. We will be looking forward to that event. C-6 members are enthusiastically planning future projects.

# District & Council News

## C-7 Waterbury, CT

*Adele Klenske*

With the passing of Easter, all the major holidays are over and done with - Thanksgiving is the next big one at just seven months away! Time flies so fast that we will be preparing for it before we realize.

On April 9th, we had yet another of our famous pancake breakfasts and cake sales. There were not as many baked goods as usual, however we still managed to have a successful fundraiser. Thanks to the committee, all the members who lent a helping hand in various ways, and especially to the faithful attendees, without whom these events would not be so successful.

We need to show recognition to several of our club members who generously participate in local volunteer services. Agnes Bauza, our Recording Secretary donates her time as a volunteer at the Waterbury Hospital in the Admitting Office. Agnes and Mary Putemas also volunteer their time in visiting the parishioners of St. Joseph's Church at the various nursing homes throughout the Waterbury area. They are members of the Special Concerns and Services committee of the parish.

Another outstanding volunteer is Mary Undraitis, who, for about the past ten years, has also worked at Waterbury Hospital in the Record Processing Department. She is truly dedicated - working five days a week and often putting in a full day. Her number of volunteer hours now totals 11,000! Mary was honored at a volunteer appreciation dinner at the Sheraton Hotel on April

10th. Way to go Mary - it must be gratifying to be able to donate your time for the community.

On May 21st, Father John Rikteraitis will be honored at a Mass at St. Andrew's Church in New Britain, where he is presently pastor and from which he will be retiring. His parish family is planning a celebration with the Mass, followed by a dinner at the Hawthorne Inn. Father is a very well liked priest and although we, at the K of L are not part of his parish family, we have grown to admire and respect him. He has been the driving force in keeping the CLC (CT LITHUANIAN CATHOLICS) alive and in organizing the annual Lithuanian Day of Prayer at the cathedral in Hartford. We wish him many healthy and happy years of retirement and certainly hope that he will keep in touch with his many friends.

We are all eagerly awaiting the third annual "Velyku Stalas", which the Women's Alliance will host on April 30th. The past two years have been most enjoyable - delicious food with unusual and excellent Lithuanian desserts. Our K of L members enthusiastically support this event.

Our two members who had heart valve repair operations are recuperating nicely. Frances Januska, who is presently living and being spoiled by her daughter in Bristol, is coming along well. Hurry and get really well, Frances, the



*Meghan Rudmin, C-16  
Junior and 2000  
Amber Ball Debutante*

convention is just three short months away! Our President, Joe Stiklius, is looking very fit and much like his old self. Joe was back in the swing of things as of our March meeting. He still has weeks of therapy ahead of him, but has progressed so well that he has been able to accomplish his many duties - proof that you

can't keep a good man down. That's all folks!

## C-16, Chicago, IL

The members of our council continue to be active and busy with their K of L activities. Since the beginning of the year our membership has participated in several functions. Many of our members attended the Mid-America District 40th Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet in February. Four of our members, Diann Martin, Peter Zansitis, Richard Niedvaras and Rob Martin, Jr. served on the banquet committee. The banquet was a huge success thanks to everyone who worked so hard. The committee was co-chaired by H.M. Algerd Brazis and Rob Martin, Jr.

This past March several members attended the District's Annual St. Casimir's Day Mass, Luncheon, and Spring Meeting. Hosted by Council 24, under the direction of Ausra Padalino, everyone enjoyed a wonderful day. The Mass was offered by Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, District

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Spiritual Advisor, at the Marian Father's Monastery.

Our Council sponsored a bus trip to Milwaukee last November for the Annual International Holiday Folk Fair. Forty members and friends enjoyed a wonderful day of international culture and holiday fun.

We are now looking ahead to this summer and fall. Six members are planning on attending the National Convention in Los Angeles in July. From all indications this looks to be one of the best conventions ever.

We are eager to meet President Adamkus once again and celebrate with him as he receives Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania. We, in Council 16, are very proud of the fact that it was our membership who first proposed his candidacy to the Mid-America District, whom, in turn, submitted his name to the Committee. We are very grateful to the entire Committee for voting to present his name to the National Convention last year, where it was decided by the delegates to bestow this honor on him.

Early this fall we will sponsor our famous "Dumpling Dinner" at our home parish of All Saints/St. Anthony. At our last meeting it was decided by the membership that all proceeds of this fund-raiser be donated equally to the Sisters of St. Casimir, in the United States and Lithuania. Watch for more information in the near future.

Finally, we wish to congratulate one of our junior members, Meghan Rudmin, on being invited to be one of the Chicago

Lithuanian Women's Club's "Amber Ball" Debutantes. Meghan, a Junior at Chicago's, St. Ignatius College Prep. will be presented by her father, Kenneth, (a past C-16 president) on June 18th along with her sister "Debs" at the Martinique Restaurant. We are proud of her.

### C-17, South Boston MA

*Regina*

Council 17 was the host for the spring convention of the New England District Convention. The hard working committee led by President Al Akule welcomed the many members and guests who attended. Donatas Galentas and Ilona Baranauskas were the Chefs for the tasty repast. David and Kenneth Casper helped out with the parking. A special guest was Mrs. Vasiliunas and her son Bratenas Vasiliunas, a prominent organist, musician and scientist.

The New England District President, Joseph Stiklius, presented honorary member, C-17, Longinas Svelnis, a beautiful clock with an engraved inscription honoring him for 25 years of work as the Chairman, K of L Archives.

In 1975 Longinas Svelnis brought up the motion to set up the Archives at the 62<sup>nd</sup> National Convention held in New York to gather all materials pertaining to Councils, Districts, and Supreme council meetings. The action was passed to organize a group and to furnish monthly progress reports, later changed to annual reports. With the aid of Msgr. Francis Juras, a benefactor sponsored Kof L quarters

at the ALKA building in Putnam, CT. After many trying years, they received a larger room which they renovated by painting, improving the wiring, installing carpeting, adding cabinets and racks. The archives material is set up by Districts, Supreme Council, and 20 other categories. A work station is in place for a Macintosh Computer, scanner and printer. Longinas has spent 25 years working as Chairman. Although he is stepping down, he will remain a member of the Archives Committee. Thank you Larry for a hard job well done!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mary Martus. We miss you. We extend sincere sympathy to Frances Zerveske and family upon the death of her brother, Victor Waitaitis, who lived in St. Croix.

Bon Voyage to Msgr. Al Contons, also members Florence Zaieskas and Phyllis Gendreau who are looking forward to their upcoming trip to Lithuania and the 2nd Eucharistic Congress, Iki pasimatymo—viso gero

### C-25, Cleveland, OH

*Ursula Kunsitis*

Sunday, March 5th brought a very nice group of C-25 members together for our annual St. Casimir Day celebration. Mass was offered by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and was followed by a delicious luncheon at Finamore's Restaurant. It was nice to have Paul and Irene Chalko and Nellie Samas join us for this occasion. We were also so happy

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that it was possible for Nellie Arunski to also attend. We know how much this day means to her!

I just have to congratulate my husband. Gene Kunsitis, upon receiving the First Place Award (Best of Class) Display at the Northeast Ohio Orchid Show in March. He came up with a unique display and called it THE ORCHID GALLERY featuring framed orchids, potted orchids, ceramic orchids and original Watercolor paintings of orchids. Of course, his wife is his inspiration!!

President Dick Marks and Theresa Capuria attended the informative conference on March 26th by Fr. Antanas Saulaitis, S.J., Lithuania's and Latvia's "provincijos provincijolas". Fr. Saulaitis up-dated the group on the problems facing the schools and youth. He reported on the work done to date and the work to be done in the future. Our help is most urgently needed. More on this at a later date.

Thank you to all the bakers, donators and workers who worked at the Sunday, March 26th Coffee Hour after the 10 AM Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. The Parishioners are always so amazed at the large selection of baked goods and are so delighted to see us. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK VYCIAI! We have just learned that Dolly Oberaitis is retiring from the COFFEE HOUR COMMITTEE and is turning the duties over to Steve and Lillian Yurkovic. Thank you, Dolly for all your help and we know Steve and Lillian will carry on this fine tradition!



*C-29's members Valentinas & Mary Tumelis carrying Gifts to altar*

Doll and her daughter Christine attended the Masters Golf Tournament in April and enjoyed themselves immensely. Dolly, does this mean you'll be turning in your Bowling Ball for a Golf Club??

Congratulations to Fran Pranskevich, Betty August and Lillian Yurkovic and Dolly Oberaitis who were winners at the KENTUCKY DERBY Get-Together at the home of Jim and Joan Thompson. Thank you for your hospitality Jim and Joan!

21 Members of our Council enjoyed our Lithuanian Club's 80th Anniversary Celebration at Lithuanian Hall on Saturday, April 29th. The DAINAVA MEN'S OCTET from Chicago provided the entertainment and they were great! We all enjoyed the food, wine, champagne and music. We wish Lithuanian Hall another successful 80 years!

Council 25 and all its members would like to wish our spiritual advisor, Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas, a very HAPPY, HEALTHY 70TH BIRTHDAY ON JUNE 29th!!! We hope our relationship will carry on for many, many more years!

"MAY YOUR TROUBLES BE LESS, AND YOUR BLESSINGS BE MORE, AND NOTHING BUT HAPPINESS COME THROUGH YOUR DOOR".

Have a happy summer!

**Council 26 Worcester, MA**  
*Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.*

You must forgive me if I missed an issue, my excuse for the lapse was that I was recuperating after a total knee replacement operation. That won't happen again because I ran out of knees, both have been done.

We of C-26 grieve with the families of Tillie Zaieskas, she died on March 9th, and Francis Grabauskas, he died on March 23. Both good KofL'ers, Tillie, for many years, Frank, not so many but active while involved. Leonard Matulis is going through some bad times, in and out of the hospital into rehab facilities. We pray for your regaining of strength so that you can return well and strong. Adelle Degutis spent some time in the hospital after surgery. Please God, favor her with a quick and complete recovery.

Fr. John Petrauskas did well to organize and fulfill the Holy Hour, a great success, many attended for its purpose and promise. Joan Wojciak was overseer of the plans

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and presentation of refreshments after the Holy Hour, she and her auxiliary did everything with perfection.

The retreat at Kennebunkport is a sellout, those who have signed up are anxiously awaiting that weekend.

The proceeds of the blind auction held after the April meet went to the orphans in Lithuania. The May meeting included a scrumptious kugeli supper. Again supervised by our master kugeli chef, Marion Racicott. To this meeting we can always expect and do have, a larger attendance.

**IN MEMORIAM Tillie Zaleskas - March 9, 2000 and Francis Grabauskas - March 23, 2000**

**C-29, Newark, NJ**

*Rita*

Greetings from C-29.

We almost thought spring had arrived early, but not so, it was only temporary. Our spiritual advisor, Fr. Peter Uhde, hosted a millennium party for us. The menu was Portugese cuisine and of such a huge variety that there was a choice to please everyone. It was a very enjoyable time for all.

At our February meeting we celebrated Vasario 16. A new member was proposed by Rita Sussko, her sister Clara Schiavo from Marysville, Ca. March 5th Marie Guoba and Helen Sisak along with their fellow knights held the annual pancake dance for the benefit of Holy Trinity church. Ed Rimelis, Jr. Donated the music for the affair. It was a pleasure to welcome back two of our faithful members, Brone

Venckus returned after 13 months. She was recovering from surgery on a broken femur bone. Her doctor thought she would never walk again, but she fooled him. Ann O'Neill, our ritual chairperson, had knee replacement surgery in November. Welcome back ladies.

March 12th was the date of our St. Casimir's communion breakfast. The mass was concelebrated by Fr. Peter Uhde,

delicious German style buffet was served. Our chairperson Nijole Miknevicus did an outstanding job.

The following Friday, H.M. Loretta Stukas, H.M. Kazys Sipaila, Ann O'Neill, Valentinas and Regina Melinis and Rita Sussko attended a reception at the LCCC in Kearny honoring the ambassador from Lithuania, Stasys Sakalauskas. It was a pleasure to meet such an outgoing and cordial gentleman.



*C-29 members welcome Stasys Sakalauskas (standing in center)*

who was also the recipient of the third degree, presented to him by H.M. Kazys Sipaila and Rita Sussko. Fr. Anthony Paskas celebrated a Lithuanian mass. Prior to the procession, Helen Radicsh did a beautiful reading of a prayer to St. Casimer. Helen also narrated the procession: H.M. Kazys Sipaila carried a picture of St. Casimir, Jennie Miklasavige a lily, Domas Andruska a crucifix, Ada Andruska a crown of gold, Paula Paskas a crown of thorns, Mary and Valentinas Tumelis the wine and hosts. A

April 2nd, which was to have been our regular monthly meeting date, C-29 was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our devoted president, H.M. Kazys Sipaila. Our members are still trying to cope with the loss. May he rest in peace. Our vice president, Harold Kaminskas, will carry on as acting president until elections are held in October. Best wishes Harold. The week-end of

April 7th H.M. Loretta Stukas and Rita Sussko attended the supreme council meeting in Philadelphia. Many topics of interest discussed and handled. Philadelphia is not only the city of "brotherly love", but council 3 along with Rev. Msgr. Anderlonis were as always the greatest hosts.

On Palm Sunday we held our annual cake sale, raffle and luncheon. Five beautiful afghans were included in the raffle along with many other gifts. Helen and John Sisak made beautiful palm crosses, as they have done in previous years.

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Marie Guoba made her home-made horse radish and delicious baked goods, she also prepared the luncheon. Mary Honeyman did an excellent job as chairperson. Her committee: Ada Andruska, Kestutis Byla, Marie Guoba, Jean and Harold Kaminskas, Jennie Miklasavige, Nijole and Vytautas Miknevicus, Nellie Nechiporuk, Ann O'Neill, Helen and John Sisak, Bernie and Viola Skripata and Rita Sussko.

Thanks to our fellow knight, Becky Pataki from C-90 Kearny, Ann O'Neill and Rita Sussko were able to attend the Mid-Atlantic district meeting in Maspeth, Council #110 were hosts.

Happy - safe - healthy spring and summer to all our fellow knights and their families.

### **C-36, Chicago, IL** *Rutele*

Spring came in March and left in April. Daffodils and tulips started to wake up and the robins came back. Then winter came back with a vengeance, in April, snowy and cold.

On April 2nd, the Knights of Lithuania Choir, in conjunction with other choirs, presented "The Seven Last Words of Christ" at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont. Our congratulations to Faustas Strolia on his 40th Anniversary as Choir Director. He was honored for this achievement on March 12th.

On April 6th, eighteen of us met at the Old Barn restaurant in Oak Lawn, IL to commemorate our Spiritual Moderator Rev. Fabian Kireilis' 85<sup>th</sup> birthday at a very nice

luncheon. Also in attendance were Rev. Anthony Puchenski and Rev. Edward Maxa of Immaculate Conception parish, Ilgiausiu metu Father Fabian. We love you!

Get well wishes are extended to 92 years young Sister Emma who is recovering from hip surgery. Martin Gestautas is also on the sick list and on the way to recovery.

C-112 member Dr. Leonard J. Simutis and his wife Zita jointly commemorated their 80th birthdays and 57th wedding anniversary with family and friends on May 28th. Leonard had been Knights of Lithuania Choir Director in 1941, was inducted into the U. S. Armed Forces, served until 1945 and resumed choir directorship until 1951. Both Leonard and Zita were very active with the choir. Zita is also well known for her artistic talents as a musician. Leonard is still very active in many Lithuanian organizations including the K of L.

Our annual "Dinner is Served" was held on Tuesday, June 20th, at the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall. Mary Kincius and Evelyn Ozelis chaired this annual fundraiser.

The 85th anniversary of Council 36 promises to be an enjoyable event. It will be held in October under the chairmanship of Scottie Zukas and Evelyn Ozelis. Stay tuned for the announcement of time and place.

### **C-74 Scranton, CT** *Marie Laske*

Congratulations to Martha Wagner and Marie Beneckine on

receiving their first degree awards.

Reverend Clement Kasinskas, of the Passionate Fathers, our loyal Lithuanian, who has served us so many years, will have a mass on St. Anne's Day, July 26th, at St. Ann's Basilica in the lower church. The mass and music will be in Lithuanian. This is an opportunity to be enjoyed. Plan your day to be with us. As so few churches have Lithuanian services now Lithuanians should appreciate this mass and, hopefully, fill the church.

Bishop James C. Timlin took a group of pilgrims from Scranton to Rome and had an audience with Pope John Paul II. This was seen on Catholic television.

St. Joseph's church had a trip to Lancaster to see "Behold the Lamb". This was a light sight and sound show about Jesus, where live horses, goats, sheep, donkeys, and doves were on stage and came through the aisles. It left us feeling like we were actually there when Jesus was crucified. Many Knights attended, and Msgr. Peter Madus went on a separate bus with all the children who volunteer at Church. It was a very rewarding show and a special time for all who participated.

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

Something new has been added to the Dayton scene. A state of the art, Class A, minor league ball park opened on April 27th. The team will be affiliated with the Cincinnati Reds. The ballpark, located in the downtown area, has brought people back to the city and has increased

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crowds at many local businesses. With the beautiful weather, people are once again bringing life to the downtown area. If you are planning to be in Dayton during the baseball season, keep this in mind and take in a game!

Fran Petkus came back from the April Supreme Council meeting full of updated news. National Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis made everyone feel at home. His very special cook and her family outdid themselves for dinner. Council 3, led by their President Irene Ozalis, made everyone feel very welcomed. She and her members had treats for breakfast and a great lunch! The meeting went very well and plenty of items were covered. With the upcoming National Convention, plans had to be finalized for the delegates and guests. C-133 President Maryte Sepikas shared the program she and her committee have put together. You are in for some surprises and a great convention!

It will be especially interesting to hear the results of the Knights' Membership Survey recently mailed to the councils. The committee will present a complete report at the convention. Hopefully, a good majority of the membership has participated. The results of this report will give some insight as to the future direction the Knights.

Congratulations to Chair Anne Louise Tucker on the success of our Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale, held April 16th. Co-chairing was Linda Pant. Also on the committee were Laurreta Pant and Junior Knights Danny Tucker, Joseph

Berger, Robert and Erin Petkus. The donations of members and participation by Holy Cross parishioners and guests created the success. Thanks to one and all! Elaine Pacovsky once again chaired the Koffee Klatch that was an added feature to the bake sale. Elaine outdid herself with all the 'goodies' she prepared. Income from both ventures helped the council's treasury.

Recently in town for a short visit was former council member, now with C-7 of Waterbury, Pat Zelinkas Alexander and Tony. Pat is doing very well recovering from recent health problems.

### C-100, Amsterdam, NY

#### *Smile and Sparkle*

Greetings from the former carpet city! Much has happened in our parish. We now have a nun, Sr. Roberta O'Rourke, as Parish Life Director, Fr. Stan Swierzowski, as Sacramental Minister, Regina Kot, as Parish Secretary and Jerry Drenzek, as Caretaker of Grounds. Two of our members, Helen Senecal and Betty Kuzmich have volunteered their Friday mornings to check the church pews, etc. We had invited Sr. Roberta to our fall meeting and enjoyed her company.

President, Mirga Bablin will continue as president with Regina Kot as 1st VP and Gene Gobis as 2nd VP. Eleanor Olechowski was elected secretary and Polly Ziausys, Irene Tice and Ed Baranauskas will be giving us interesting facts about Lithuania. Sophie Olbie was elected treasurer.

We were glad to see Edna Luzinas back in the choir, she had been ill for a few weeks.

Helen Kuiber had traveled to Lourdes last October. In the same group were Bill and Beatrice Jasewicz and some of their grandchildren.

Three sisters, Frances DiBart, Mildred Whelley and Helen Dylong, had been ill, although Frances and Mildred were able to join us at our last meeting. We wish Helen a speedy recovery.

Members of our council attended mass at St. Casimir's Church in March and then proceeded to Valentino's for a special St. Casimir's luncheon. Our treasurer Sophie Olbie and Helen Hugo were in charge of the event. Father Stan led us in prayer. President Mirga Bablin welcomed all in attendance. Ed Baranauskas gave us an interesting talk on his going to the county seat, Fonda, to look up birth certificates of Lithuanians who settled in this area.

Sophie Olbie surprised a few members with beautiful picture frames for having been members for 50 years. Recipients were Ann Beleckas, Edward Baranauskas, Gene Gobis and Sophie herself. We concluded by singing many Lithuanian folk songs.

We wish member Ed Bablin, husband of president Mirga, a speedy recovery from surgery at Veteran's Hospital in Albany.

### C-112, Chicago

*Sr. Johanne M. Shainauskas, SSC*

Many C-112 members

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attended the celebration of the K of L Mid-America District Choir, on March 12, to remember its 40th anniversary of re-organization, under the expert direction of Mr. Faustas Strolia. Mr. Strolia was feted with special awards for his many years of dedication to the choir. After many reminiscences of happy times, the choir members provided the entertainment, and a really wonderful time was had by all. C-112 had the unusual privilege of having a special guest at its March meeting, being his Excellency Bishop Eugenijus Bartulis, from Šiauliai, Lithuania. We found him to be most

congenial and very much interested in the work of the Knights of Lithuania here in the United States.

One of the highlights of the evening was the awarding of First and Second Degrees to some of our members. First Degrees were awarded to Mr. Antanas Pauzuolis, Mr. Peter Jadvirsis, and Sister Johanne Marie, SSC. Second Degrees went to Mr. Vince Petrosius, Dolores Maldunas, Sophie Balchunas, and Ed Balchunas. Georgeanna Macke and Ann Marie Kassel were the presenters, with Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas presiding.

Estelle Rogers informed us that 2 members of C-112 have passed on to eternity: Denise Vaikutis and Walter Klemka. May they rest in peace!

Through the efforts of Sister Theresa Papsis, by the sale of chances, (and the kindness of winner, Mr. C. Beinoris), \$40.00 more will be sent to the "Aid to Lithuania" fund.



*C-112's 1<sup>st</sup> degree recipients, Sr. Johanna Marie, Antanas Pauzuolis and Peter Jadvirsis*

Mr. Al Mockus reminded everyone about the annual Memorial Mass at St. Casimir Cemetery on May 29th, 10:30 A.M., and the traditional cemetery walk afterwards, to visit the graves of all the members of Council 112 who died during this past year.

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

*Aldona Marcavage*

Our April meeting on Palm Sunday was a special occasion in that the luncheon was attractively prepared and served "with low-fat, low sodium, vitamin packed nutrition" by the male members of our council. This very special event was co-chaired by Bob Marcavage and Peter Peters. Blessed Palms surrounded by fresh spring flowers adorned the buffet table, reminding us that Easter was on its way. The ladies applauded with their appreciation, as Msgr. Pranckus blessed the food with his opening

prayer.

It was good to see the Monsignor looking so well again, and nice to have Stella Witkavich joining us after her long absence. April brought "clouds" into many hearts with family illnesses. Paul Schmidt and Victor Miller suffered heart problems, while Eleanor Wisniewski had cataract surgery, and Juozas Janiunas was nursing a fever, as Lee Marcinka

had hip replacement surgery. God grant you all good health. Msgr. asked us to remember in our prayers the recently departed, but especially Father K. Pugevicius, Father Ray of Ansonia, and Walt Devanas, former member and meteorologist on a local radio station. Prior to our June meeting, the Mass will be dedicated to the memory of all our deceased members. They are not forgotten.

On a happier note: Bill Brilvitch announced we have 100% paid up membership. Members voted to contribute \$200.00 to our VETRA dancers toward their trip to the Dance Festival in Canada.

Barbara Schmidt and Alice Wilcinskas volunteered to be in charge of inventory control of supplies. No problem now that Barbara has a new van that holds much. President Miller once more announced Ansonia's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which was held May 7th.

Helen Baranauskas and her



## District & Council News

family were quite excited to see the picture and read about the rebuilt St. Monica's church in Ryliskiai. She believes she was married in the old church in August 1939, and is eager to get more information.

Our annual-picnic will take place at Bill and Marie's (Brilvitch). The announcement, inadvertently came out as 'Villa Marie's' -- to everyone's amusement.

### C-152 E. Long Island

*Julie M. Lott*

I'm sure all the Mothers had a Happy Mother's Day, now it's time to say Happy Father's Day to all the Dads.

Our April meeting was quite surprising as we had such a good turnout in spite of the very blustery and snowy day. It definitely was not April weather, but our members braved the storm to get to the meeting. After the opening of the meeting by President Muriel Lofmark, and the prayer led by Tom Tarmey, we proceeded to get on with the show. The President distributed K of L membership survey forms to all present and made it known that those not in attendance would get theirs in the mail.

John and Antoinette Sakal are planning to attend this year's National Convention, representing Council 152. We "stay at homes" will be anticipating some fascinating and informative reports. Have a good time Knights!

It was also reported at this meeting the outcome of the district meeting. Again, I must praise our council for having 11 members



*C-112's second degree recipients include: Anna Marie Kassel, Vince Petrosius, Dolores Maldunas, Sophie Balchunas, and Julie Zakarka; Georgeanna Macke and Ed Balchunas (back row)*

attend. That is an exceptional showing!

Our annual July picnic will be held at Orient State Park beach as usual. Anyone wanting more details should call me at 631-765-1331. Let it be known it's a "great fun day." We always seem to end up having a bright sunny day even if it starts out cloudy and misty.

Fred Lucka, Lithuanian Affairs Chair, spoke of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the New Lithuanian Independence. There was a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Immaculate Conception Basilica in Washington DC. Council 152 has made a recent donation to the basilica to help defer the expenses for the upkeep of it. It was also noted that Congressmen and Senators are aiming at having Lithuania become a member of NATO. We were all urged to write to our own Congressman to encourage this endeavor.

Since our meeting came

before Easter, yours truly tried her hand with Margut; and took a dozen to the Council to sell. Sorry I didn't have more. It was done on a whim and I'm happy the Council could benefit from my work. It's one tradition I picked up from my Mother and hope to pass on to my granddaughter. In fact, even though she is just 10 years old, I did let her try her hand at it this year. I was very impressed, she picked up the process so quickly and did quite well.

Our get-well wishes go to Joseph Allen and Joseph Latinis. Hope you are both feeling better.

A quote from General George S. Patton, which I think we can all apply to our daily lives: "Accept the challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of Victory."

### C-153, Treasure Coast, FL.

*Florence V. Miskinis*

Our November 7th meeting began with a new Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Anthony Chepanis of Boca Raton and the election of officers. Our 2000 officers are: Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Anthony Chepanis; President - Keistutis Bogaciunas; Vice President - Lou Stukas;

## District & Council News

Treasurer and Ritual - Jim Marcinkus; Recording Secretary and Vytis Correspondent - Florence Miskinis; Lithuanian Language and Culture - John Tamas; Sgt. at Arms - Al Miskinis.

Our Christmas party was held December 3rd in St. Jude's conference room and was a delight to behold with the lovely red poinsettias, miniature Christmas trees and, of course, the outstanding ethnic food table with all the delicious desros (thanks to Al Miskinis) and Aldona Biliunas' scrumptious kugelis. She's the best, and brought enough for seconds and thirds.

The committee, and its tremendous helpers, were Adele Dauzikas, Florence Morris, Connie Scheibelhut, Florence Miskinis, and Josie Lubinsky. God bless Josie! She's the first to come and the last to leave. What a gal! It was a great beginning for the Christmas season.

At the February meeting, Lou Stukas announced Keistutis Bogaciunas resigned as president due to his transfer to Virginia. Lou Stukas was reinstated as President and Adele Dauzikas accepted as Vice President. Guests at the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Petrauskas - President of the Amber District, Elsie Kosminsky - Supreme Ritual, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Moore of Council 86.

In the February 13th Sun Suntainel Fort Lauderdale newspaper, Keistutis Bogaciunas was interviewed on how he found, on the internet, that the Knights had a council in Tequesta. He was thrilled to attend a Lithuanian mass and hear the language he loves so, spoken again.

We're sorry he couldn't stay longer with us.

March 5th was a lovely typical cool Florida day for the celebration of St. Casimir's Day. St. Jude's Chapel, seating 200, was almost full. Procession into church was as follows: Cross bearer - Victor Malakas; American flag - Jack Scheibelhut; Lithuanian flag - Jim Marcinkus; St. Casimir's picture - Stella Miskinis; Lilies - Florence Morris and Aldona Biliunas; Regal crown - Josie Lubinski; Crown of thorns - Florence Miskinis; Holy scripture - Dr. Majauskas; and Celebrant Reverend Anthony Chepanis.

Professor Jonas Samoska directed the Dainos chorus. Guest soloist was Ona Jameikis of Chicago, formerly of the Palm Beach Opera Company. Her glorious voice filled the entire chapel and her renditions of "O Visagali" and "Sveika Maria" were magnificent! We were thrilled to see and hear her again. Lou Stukas, who accompanied Ona at the organ, composed the music. It was beautiful! Our deep gratitude to Ona and Lou!

The Banquet was held at the Waterford Hotel and attended by 100 guests. Mr. Keistutis Miklas was "master of ceremonies" and spoke eloquently about the life of St. Casimir. The Bendruomene, Balga, Lithuanian daughters and Lithuanian Museum extended greetings.

The highlight of the lottery was the magnificent painting donated by Rima Zotovas, a well-known artist. The ecstatic winner was Dana Eringas of Port St. Lucie. Mrs. Ursula

Malakas donated two afghans which were won by Lou Stukas and Connie Scheibelhut, our own K of Lers. Mrs. Arena Anextis, who resides in New York City and is our member, donated \$200 towards the success of the banquet.

Many thanks to Lou Stukas banquet chairman, who put it all together, and his co-chairpersons Connie Scheibelhut, Florence Morris, Josie Lubinski, and Florence Miskinis for a very successful St. Casimir's Day! Many thanks to Mrs. Lee Moore, of Council 68, for helping Jim Marcinkus with the lottery. Concluding the banquet, Prof. Jonas Samoska led us in singing a few Lithuanian songs and accompanied us on his accordion. It was an enjoyable ending to a wonderful day!

Stella and Joe Miskinis sold their condo in Stuart and returned to Hamilton, Ontario. Stella was the "ticket seller" for the banquets. God bless you and grant you good health. We will miss you always. Please visit us whenever you are in town!

On March 18th, Jim Marcinkus and Florence Miskinis represented council 153 at the Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania in Palm Beach, FL. The occasion was the restoration of Lithuanian Independence on March 11, 1990, and the official opening of the Lithuanian Consulate in Palm Beach with the Ambassador and Mrs. Stasys Sakalauskas and the Honorary Consul Stanley Balzekas Jr. presiding. The rain held off until the ending of this lovely affair.



**Share the bounty and give...**  
**Support our Knights of Lithuania causes:**

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

Since this project began in 1991, over \$350,000 has been donated by members and friends of Lithuania enabling ATL to ship 80 containers, worth over 62 million dollars.

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

As of 5/15/2000, 17 Seminarians have been adopted through the efforts of ATL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to:

Knights of Lithuania Foundation and mailed to:

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

**THE NATIONAL SHRINE** - An endowment fund supports the upkeep of the Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva

at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception located in Washington, D.C. was adopted at the 75th Knights of Lithuania Anniversary Convention. Donations are tax deductible.

Checks should be made payable to:

Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and mailed to:

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

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## Gerumui Ribų Nėra

Oi, koks gražus tada pasaulis,  
 Kai klesti meilė tarp tautų.  
 Po tuo pačiu dangum ir saule  
 Gyvename visi kartu.

Ir saulės šviesai, ir gerumui  
 Nei sienų, nei ribų nėra.  
 Nebaisūs dideli atstumai,  
 Kai Dievo meilė širdyje!

Juk ta pati saulutė šviečia  
 Ir Jūs krašte, ir čia pas mus,  
 Ir, rodos, ji maloniai kviečia  
 Pasidalinti gerumu.

Kuo atsilyginti mes galim  
 Už Jūsų dovanas gausias?  
 Gerasis Dievas Visagalis  
 Telaimins Jūs dienas visas.  
 -Albina Blekaitienė

