

VYTIŠ-THE KNIGHT

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Peace
On
Earth



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

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To my Fellow Knights,

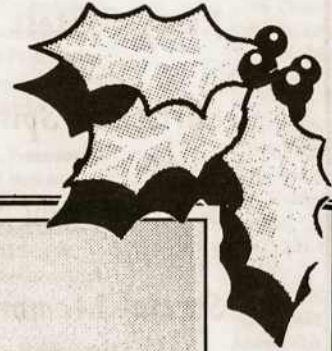
Flying through endless space past countless constellations in the dark of night a divine gift arrives on planet earth, which changes the human situation for the remainder of time. In the Incarnation a new division in time has been created. The past of millions of years is a sacred historical memory, and the present is diffused with the light of divine unconditional love. God has come to dwell with us in human form.

The phenomenon of time! We gather for this *first Christmas of the third millennium* of Christianity to celebrate at Kučios this sacred mystery. As we unite with our families, our loved ones in Lithuania, and all Christians throughout the world and in heaven, we pray that the light of love may illuminate the darkness of sin and hate everywhere.

Though the future is unknown to us, the Providence and Love of our God for us is. The gift of Christmas is the presence of a God in whom we can fully trust. This Christmastide may that peace and love and hope be yours.

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų!

Sister M. Janine Golubickis



Christmas Greeting from the Sisters of Christ the King, Vilnius, Lithuania

Advent Steps... "From Heaven to Earth"



Maybe it was the whispering of his guardian angel. Perhaps it was the prompting of his patron saint. Whatever caused Father Peter Burkauskas to read about Eastern European Customs that day, it had to be divine inspiration. One custom in particular, *Advent Steps*, nestled in Father Peter's mind and spurred him into action. He asked local carpenter and master craftsman, Henryk Jozefowski, to create a series of wooden steps, to help parishioners, young and old, at St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Father Peter is pastor, to observe the Advent Season in anticipation of the Birth of Our Lord on Christmas Day.

Most Americans are familiar with Advent Calendars, which usually depict a holiday scene, and have 25 numbered flaps on them. Beginning on Dec. 1st, flap number one is gently lifted, and a Christmas object, ornament or toy is revealed beneath. The procedure is repeated with consecutively numbered flaps for each day of December, until Christmas Day, December 25th, is reached.

Father Peter's *Advent Steps* are 27, rather than 25 in number. Twenty-six are purple, the official color of the Catholic Church for the Advent Season;

one is pink, and represents the third Sunday of Advent.

The steps, inclined at angle of approximately 75 degrees, form a staircase. The steps are narrow in width at the top of the staircase, and are broader at the bottom. Although the steps are free-standing, that is, there are no vertical supports holding them in place, they are anchored in a rock, symbolic of the Earth, barren and empty without the Lord.

Just behind the top step of the staircase, there is a flat cloud, made of wood and painted in various hues of blue. A dove, with wings outspread and emanating golden rays, is in the center of the cloud. The cloud itself, represents God and Heaven. The dove represents the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life.

At St. Casimir's Church, the *Advent Steps* stand next to the traditional creche. When Advent begins, the manger in the creche is vacant. The empty manger symbolizes the human soul that awaits the Lord's presence.

Baby Jesus, however, is not altogether missing from the scene. On the first Sunday of Advent, the figurine of the Baby Jesus can be found sitting in front of the cloud on the topmost stair of the *Advent Steps*. With each passing day of Advent, the figurine is lowered one step. The *Advent Steps* represent Jesus' journey from Heaven toward the Earth, to become our Redeemer.

During the processional hymn at the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at St. Casimir's, a child from the parish takes the figurine of the Baby Jesus from the bottom-most stair of the *Advent Steps*, and carefully positions it in the manger of the creche. Jesus' journey is now completed. Yearning human hearts are filled with joy as the Word of God becomes reality in the form of a newborn Babe, who dwells among us, and signals that our redemption is at hand.

St. Casimir's *Advent Steps* provide a simple, yet elegant, visual reminder of the spiritual nature of Christmas. It is Jesus, after all, who is "the reason for the season." It is His birth that the faithful celebrate on Christmas Day. We pray that He may bless us with the gifts of His love and peace on His birthday and throughout the entire year.

-Stephany Gutauskas-
Philadelphia, PA.



The Outdoor Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows - Belleville, Illinois

MILLENNIUM PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

Heeding the call of Pope John Paul II for Catholics to participate in a pilgrimage during this Holy Year 2000, Terry Strolia of Lemont Council 157 organized a pilgrimage for the Mid-America District of the Knights of Lithuania to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois, which took place October 28-29, 2000. Thirty-five happy pilgrims from Councils 16, 36, 82, 112, and 157 gathered at the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse and at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont for the ride to Belleville on a very comfortable bus. True to Lithuanian tradition, refreshments arranged by Ann Marie Kassel, Mary Kincius, and Sister Theresa Papsis were served the entire length of the trip. Several "flight (or bus) attendants" with an amazing sense of balance distributed bacon buns, doughnuts, and bagels with cream cheese, napkins, and paper plates, followed by apples, oranges, coffee, and soft drinks. Between "munchies," Faustas Strolia led the riders in song with his accordion, and Mary Beth Slakis satisfied those who kept hoping to find a casino somewhere by conducting several games of Bingo. It seemed as though the fun had just reached its peak when the pilgrims arrived in Belleville.

A representative of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who established the shrine, boarded the bus to welcome the group. A young guide then led a tour of the devotional areas, which are nestled in a beautiful hilly, thickly forested area. The main shrine and its altar have an amphitheater with 2,400 seats, and the adjacent grassy slopes can accommodate many more worshipers for special liturgies and events. The Mary Chapel and Christ the King Chapel located behind the shrine contain many extraordinary mosaics of religious subjects. The route of the outdoor Way of the Cross features a grouping of the figures of each station with a kneeler in



Mid-America District Pilgrims stop at the Church of the Immaculate Conception - E. St Louis, IL

front to allow prayerful meditation. The impressive 85-foot-tall stainless steel Millennium Spire rises like a flame out of the Candelarium, which houses 6,000 candles. The Church of Our Lady of the Snows is round to symbolize the Church's universality and contains a softly trickling waterfall that induces an air of serenity. Nearby, is the Lourdes Grotto, a replica of that in Lourdes, France. Other devotional areas include the Agony Garden, the Edwin J. Guild Center, the Resurrection Garden, the Annunciation Garden, the Mother's Prayer Walk, and the Father's Memorial Wall.

Because the property includes the Shrine Motel, the pilgrims were able to spend the night on the grounds of the Shrine in large, well-appointed rooms. Of course, a main attraction around dinner time was the Shrine Gift Shop with many temptations for shoppers. After a lovely buffet dinner in the Shrine Restaurant, there was the opportunity to view the Jesus 2000 Exhibit in the Guild Center--an exhibition of numerous depictions of Jesus by contemporary artists. From there, a short walk to the Lourdes Grotto allowed the group to participate in the last outdoor candlelight recitation of the rosary for the season.

After a light breakfast at the motel on Sunday morning, the travelers boarded the bus for the short ride to the Lithuanian Church of the Immaculate Conception in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Unfortunately, only one Mass each week is now offered at this church. The visitors joined the small number of faithful parishioners at a Mass concelebrated by a retired priest of the parish and Monsignor Urbonas, spiritual advisor of Council 157. No doubt a special treat for the parishioners was Faustas Strolia's playing of the organ for the service and Ann Marie Kassel's leading of the hymns. It was very poignant to find that this lovely church is so underused. Its architect, Jonas Mulokas, who designed Nativity B.V.M. in Chicago, created a simple work of

beauty out of bricks, cement, and wood. The church's tower is reminiscent of Nativity B.V.M.'s towers, and its stained glass windows by Vytautas Jonynas are dedicated to Mary--Ausros Vartai, Siluva, Pazaislis, etc.--and an upper row of windows depicts historic figures who helped to spread Christianity in Lithuania. Construction took place in 1955-56 under the leadership of Rev. (later Bishop) Antanas Deksnys to replace the original church destroyed by fire in 1943.

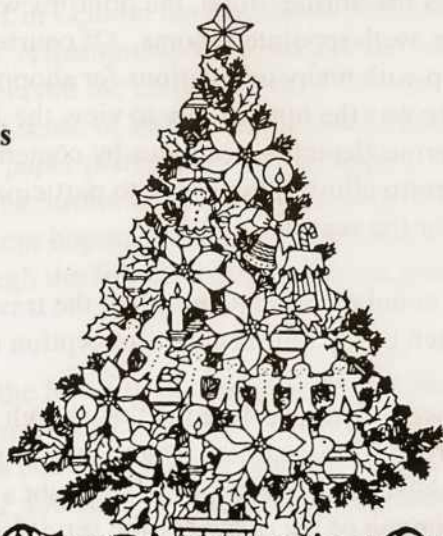
The visitors were invited by the parishioners to share in a delicious repast in the hospitality room on the lower level of the church. As in any Lithuanian gathering, good fellowship was the primary order of the day as some of the visitors were greeted by old friends, and reminiscing was assisted by the singing of Lithuanian songs to the accompaniment of Faustas and his accordion. The warmth of the hospitality was such that departure was difficult. Invitations to return soon were gratefully accepted as were some of the gifts of treats to take along on the bus.

With warm memories of smiling faces and the spiritual experience of Mass at the little church and reflective moments at the Shrine filling their hearts, the pilgrims turned toward home. There was still enough candy, doughnuts, drinks, and the like to provide sustenance for the return trip. Bingo and a videotape of "Arsenic and Old Lace" were the major sources of entertainment--and, oh yes, the requisite singing of songs in Lithuanian and English. Declaring the pilgrimage to be an outstanding success, all agreed that thoughts should turn to plans for another to be taken in 2001.

-Irene Macke-



May you have
The gladness of Christmas
Which is Hope,
The spirit of Christmas
Which is Peace.
The heart of Christmas
Which is Love.
(Author unknown)



I heard the bells
On Christmas Day
Their old familiar
Carols play;
And mild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth,
Good will to men.
(Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)



It All Started With Migle

(A Story of a Gift of Life)



In Lithuania at the "Gediminas Award" Ceremony. L. to R. Migle Grigutis, Loretta Stukas, President of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus.

The following is an update of a success story of an American hospital helping a Lithuanian hospital at a time when Lithuania was in dire need of medical assistance. It all started over nine years ago, with a little girl named **Migle Grigutis**, and involved **Deborah Hospital** in Brown Mills, New Jersey, and the **University of Vilnius Hospital at Santariskiai** in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Migle came to the US from Lithuania in February, 1991. She was just over 5 months old, diagnosed in Lithuania with serious heart problems. Her family was told, that if she did not receive heart surgery, she would not live to age one. Diagnosed with persistent truncus arteriosus, a condition as complicated as the name, she had one, not the normal two arteries leading from the heart, and a hole between two ventricles. The hole needed to be closed, and a human donor was needed for the missing artery. Lithuania, which was just starting to free itself from Soviet occupation, did not have the equipment to be able to operate on such a small child.

At the request of her grandfather, Juozas Grigutis, who was then a diplomat at the UN, and her grandmother, Skalve, K of L Honorary Members, Dr. Jack and Loretta Stukas sponsored little Migle and her parents to come to the US, and, at the invitation of Stanley Frycznski, then head of the Deborah

Foundation, she was operated on at Deborah Hospital on February 27, 1991. Four doctors performed the three-hour operation at no cost to the family. Migle returned home four months later, a healthy and very much alive child. Before her surgery, she was baptized, and Jack and Loretta Stukas were the godparents.

Migle's operation began a long chain of events, all helping Lithuania. Her doctor, Dr. Vytautas Sirvydas, then Chief Cardiac surgeon at the Santariskiai Hospital, was invited to study and observe at Deborah Hospital, because his diagnosis of Migle was considered excellent. He spent three months at Deborah at their expense, observing surgeries and taking part in associated consultations.

Dr. Sirvydis returned to Vilnius with many new ideas on improving health care in Lithuania, and donations of medications and medical equipment, provided by Deborah Hospital and American Lithuanians. He encouraged Deborah to sponsor more doctors, nurses and technicians from Lithuania for this program. For two years, groups of 4 medics—doctors, nurses and medical technicians—at a time, came from Lithuania to Deborah Hospital for three months each of observing and learning, with Deborah providing them room and board during their stay.

In 1992, at the invitation of Stanley Frycznski, the Stukas collected \$60,000 from Lithuanians and others all over the USA, to send Deborah Hospital medics to the newly-independent Lithuania, to operate on more children, to bring needed equipment and supplies, and to teach new techniques. While this was not a strictly K of L project, the Knights, on the National, District, Council and individual member levels, did contribute greatly with their donations and other help.

The trip of the Deborah Hospital personnel to Lithuania took place in September of 1992. The Deborah people brought with them equipment to outfit two complete operating rooms, plus much other equipment, including an ambulance, an ice-machine, special lamps, and, of course, their know-how. Later, several other children were also brought to Deborah from Lithuania for surgery that could not be done in Lithuania.

The children from the Santariskiai Hospital also benefited from this project. During the Deborah visit to Lithuania, Loretta Stukas was asked if she

could arrange to send some toys for the hospital play room, used by children confined to the hospital. When she returned to the US, Loretta asked the NJ based Americans for Independent Lithuania and some local K of L Councils to contribute good used or new toys for this cause. As a result of donations from individuals, schools and other institutions, thirteen large crates of toys were sent to the Santariskiai hospital, to the delight of the children and the hospital staff.

Later, when the mothers of the children who were operated on sent letters of gratitude to contributors to the project, several K of L-ers began corresponding with the mothers, and established friendships that have lasted to this day, greeted with visits, gifts, and other forms of friendship.

Today, the Lithuanian hospital is in excellent shape. Surgeons are performing heart surgery with modern equipment, children are getting good care, and the mood is a good one, thanks to Deborah Hospital.

Three years ago, Migle had another operation at the Lithuanian hospital at Santariskiai, to replace her heart valve. This was expected at the time of the first operation, because the original valve was of infant size. This time, the second operation was done by her doctor, Dr. Sirvydis.

Migle is now a beautiful 10-year old. She is bright, excels in school, is very healthy and happy. Her godmother, Loretta, saw Migle this summer when Loretta traveled to Lithuania to receive a special award, the Order of Gediminas, from the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus, for her contributions to Lithuania. Migle's first words to Loretta this time, as in all her previous visits were, "Thank you for my life." Loretta's response: "Don't thank me, thank Deborah!"

Migle attended the Awards' Ceremony as one of Loretta's guests, and when Loretta received the award, Migle ran up to greet her with flowers, and had her picture taken on the spot, with Loretta and the President. This is one moment we are sure she will treasure.

This project was, without a doubt, one of the greatest gifts anyone has ever given the newly independent and struggling Lithuania. And, it all started with a very sick, 5-month old child, who needed medical help, a hospital willing and able to provide that help, and the generosity of people in the

US. On behalf of Lithuania and all her children and medical personnel that were helped in this program, we thank Deborah Hospital and its leaders for lending a hand when and where it was most needed, and all who contributed to make this project such a success.

-Loretta Stukas, HM-



JUBILEE PLEDGE FOR CHARITY, JUSTICE AND PEACE

The jubilee of our Lord's birth calls us "to bring glad tidings to the poor...to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free"(Luke 4:18).

As a disciple of Jesus in the new millennium, I pledge to:

+pray regularly for greater justice and peace

+learn more about Catholic social teaching and its call to protect human life, stand with the poor, and care for creation

+reach across boundaries of religion, race, ethnicity, gender and disabling conditions

+live justly in family life, school, work, the marketplace and the political arena

+serve those who are poor and vulnerable, sharing more time and talent

+give more generously to those in need at home and abroad

+advocate for public policies that protect human life, promote human dignity, preserve God's creation, and build peace

+encourage other to work for greater charity, justice and peace.

K of L FOUNDATION 2000 ESSAY CONTEST WINNER 2nd PLACE

"PROUD TO BE LITHUANIAN"

by Sister Helen Ivanauskas, CJC
Council - 1, Brockton, MA

It was not easy growing up Lithuanian in a predominately Irish neighborhood. We were those "foreigners," "Polacks," and "Lutheranians." Mom and dad constantly assured us, between tears, that we were Americans, Lithuanian and Catholic! They spent their lives in grooming us to be true to who we were. Our whole world revolved around our Church, be it religion lessons, Lithuanian school, dance practice or social events. Added to this schedule, we were very visible on February 16th, Lithuania's Independence Day, waving our tri-colored flag, gathering signatures in hope of regaining the country's lost independence, and telling the world of the plight of Lithuania. We certainly were "proud to be Lithuanian."

Some of my fondest memories were of helping refugees, who arrived in this country in the 40's and 50's - whether it was offering hospitality in our homes (we thought it was great sleeping on the floor and having pillow fights) or walking with Mom, who, in her broken English, begged for jobs for those wonderful refugees. There was not a store that we missed, combing each for bargains to be picked up and sent to our relatives in Siberia - always with a prayer that the "CARE" package would arrive intact. Always the lesson: "Someday, Lithuania will be free!" made us "proud to be Lithuanians!"

My dream of visiting Lithuania came true when I had the opportunity to visit that dear country while it was still under the U.S.S.R. The image will never leave me of the moment I stepped off the plane, and was stunned by the cheer and songs of my Lithuanian relatives! The flowers, the tears that greeted me are etched in my heart forever. Those

poor broken people stood ten feet tall, and I felt so small beside them. That precious moment seems like yesterday. Truly, we were all "proud to be Lithuanian!"

My parents' prayers, and ours, too, were finally answered! In 1990, Lithuania became free, free at last! In this new millennium, through the many organizations which have sprung up, and the Knights of Lithuania who, for years, were a beacon light reminding us to live for God and country, we now have countless opportunities to reach out to our beloved Lithuania. This freedom made us even more "proud to be Lithuanian!"

In retrospect, I often wonder: was it by chance that I was born a Lithuanian? Was it by chance that the love for my parents' homeland was nurtured? Was it by chance that Lithuanian songs and dances were so much a part of my life? Or was it in God's divine plan to bring us to this moment in time - to the "now" when we can look back at our wonderful heritage, and look ahead to the future, to the new Lithuania, and know that we are part of that God-given right to be Catholic Lithuanian Americans? Truly, we are proud to be Lithuanian! Lai gyvoja Lietuva!



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT - THE SILVER BOWL

By Antonia M. Wackell

"How quickly the season changed," she thought, peering through the kitchen window; everything lies under a thick December's snowy cover. Like an old-fashioned butter-churner, the winds thrash, whirl and sweep the white mass into ridges and mounds. "We'll have a storm full of action and drifts," she predicted, and half-heartedly turned to the tasks before her, because Christmas would soon be here and Paula, lately, was in no Christmasy frame of mind. She had lost the Spirit of Christmas somewhere, and felt that even the dependable St. Anthony could not find it for her.

Turning the radio knob, a prodding, exuberant voice announced, "There are only 18 days left for shopping!" Wouldn't you know it - these overzealous stores! Instead of helping us maintain some form of reason, they exhaust us physically and financially, constantly reminding us listeners to shop! Shop! and shop again! They were displaying Christmas merchandise even before all summer things had been disposed of as mark-downs or had been stored away. Why don't they proclaim Christmas Day in July?

Consoling herself for her lack of enthusiasm and loss of the Christmas Spirit, she turned her attention to the cupboards waiting for order, and remembered the endless things to be done that even the Legislature couldn't get through. "Why? Why do I lack the Christmas energy I once had?"...

All at once a sensation of loneliness and nostalgia for the past Christmas Days assailed her. The warm, sudsy water, as she lowered the china, seemed to soothe the flood of memories - the corner in the front room made cheerful with the decorated balsam tree standing firm in a pail of moist sand and bricks.

A fascinating sight for young eyes to absorb and then dream about at night, was the tree, adorned with cut-out shapes, paper chains, ropes of colored beads, tiny candles in metal holders clipped to restricted branches, and the winged angel always gazing down from the treetop. It was a living tree,

fragrant from the forest, not a scent-less, modern, manufactured production of metal and plastic.

The electric lights, are they any prettier than the softly glowing candles in a darkened room? Not prettier, she conceded, but safer, and smiled suddenly, inhaled deeply, and almost smelled the snuffed-out candles in her kitchen. Nothing, she was certain, can equal the scent of wax and balsam in a warm room.

A nagging something disconnected her from the past, and she was back in her kitchen. "Tree lights!" We need tree lights, and one of the tree's branches needs glue or nails for patching. That recollection discharged, she busied herself with lunch and a cup of coffee lightened with a spoonful of powdered substitute as cream for busy housewives. Perched on a stool near the window, she watched the whirling snow descend...frozen flakes in countless designs, she thought, but not long-lasting.

She recalled how they trudged long distances to church, plowed through drifts, pushed against the winds, yet were never late for Christmas Mass. How long ago that was! Stirring her coffee, she reflected, now we ride in cars, but if stalled in a drift, or parked far away, then the occupants are doomed to finish on foot. A fantastic idea popped in her mind. Why not a parking station near the church? And she chuckled at the vision of a two-level parking garage, and what chaos it would cause. Well now, we will leave that up to 'these modern times' to find a solution for that dilemma.

One event that will never be erased, (resolving for the entire world), are the Christmas Mangers in churches and homes, and all over the world. The scene has been the same for many years: The Three Wise Men, shepherds, lambs, fowl, frankincense, gold and myrrh. These were not elaborate gifts for the Little Child, and not an overabundance of them. There were no Christmas shopping days in His time, no desperate unraveling of oneself and the clutching of various sized bundles. Why is this modern shopping so compelling, so hysterical? Gifts are enjoyed for a few days, and later ignored once the novelty has worn off.

Paula could remember all the gifts she received in her younger days. Toys, if the family funds permitted, were for the young children. Others received common-sense wearable; stockings, rubbers, scarf and mitten sets, dresses, and knickers for boys.

Long, black stockings were always hung behind the stove, and were generously filled with fruit, such as apples, oranges, nuts, and strings of rock candy, and sometimes, Dr. Lyons tooth powder with a new tooth brush. Lumps of coke/coal (cleaned, of course), were in the heels of the stockings, while pennies and nickels (substantial wealth for children in those days), jingled in the toes.

There were no displays of hurt feelings when coals were discovered. They were expected, because that meant that feet would be warm all winter. Parents had answers for everything. The thrill of ownership of the few coins and gifts lasted a long time.

Santa had no part in the observance of Christmas Day. He was not a mighty figure until later, when public relations magnified him as a figure of authority to boost sales in the stores and to exhort obedience from mischievous small fry, who were angelic models of behavior when threatened with displeasure from the white-bearded, portly Santa Claus.

Probing along the top shelf, Paula brought forth an awkward, paper-wrapped package. She smiled a welcome to the tarnished interior of a large, silver basket with a graceful handle, that for over a half-century had graced her parents' Christmas tables. It was always filled with an assortment of fruits and nuts, centered on the table as the last course to the dinners.

The sight of the bowl spurred her on to recall how it was acquired. She was young, and the eldest of the brood. Their father had given her money to purchase a Christmas gift for their mother. Since she was the oldest and familiar with the department stores downtown, it was her responsibility to rush - a mile away, with only two hours left before closing time - to buy a present that would last a long time.

Two stores offered attractive choices: a handbag in one, and in the other, a silver bowl, gifts within the range of the tightly-clenched sum tied up in the corner of a large handkerchief. Decision weighed heavily upon her. Back and forth through the shopping crowds she rushed. Would her mother like the handbag? Would she like the bowl? Clerks were kind and did not confuse her by urging her to make her purchase. They sensed that this was a grave problem. The handbag, she reasoned, would last a long time, but on the other hand, the silver bowl will

last a long, long time. And there the decision rested. She purchased the bowl.

After the Christmas Mass and dinner, the children presented the gift with great excitement. Their mother made rash guesses, which were all incorrect. The gift was finally unwrapped, to cries of surprise and admiration. Since then, it had been the final setting on each holiday table.

It was many years later, Paula recalled, that her mother laughingly recalled that memorable Christmas Day and made the startling disclosure that she had known all about the money given to her. Her father expected his daughter to purchase - not a silver bowl, but a pair of handsome shoes. Paula remembered, that no disappointment had been visible on her mother's face when she held her first gift from her young children.

She was certain that her mother had always liked the beautiful silver bowl, placing it precisely in the center of a holiday table. What a remarkable woman her mother had been, to have kept that Christmas secret to herself for so many, many years.

Brushing the sudden tears from her cheeks, Paula smiled, and with lively energy and renewed Christmas Spirit, she began to polish her mother's silver bowl that would soon contain oranges, apples and nuts, and Christmas hard candies, set precisely in the center of the table.



**Christ the Savior is Born.
The Christ Child is born not only
In the town of Bethlehem,
But in each of us.**

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW



MELISSA RENEE GRILL

Melissa, daughter of Karen and Edward Grill, and granddaughter of Jovita and Joseph Sleder (maternal) and Fredoline Grill (paternal), all of Warwick, is a graduate of the Warwick Valley High School Class of 1995.

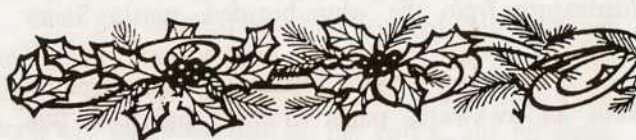
Melissa graduated from the Decker School of Nursing in May, 2000, with a Bachelor of Science degree. Melissa was noted as being one of its most committed and dedicated students. Her enthusiasm, leadership and willingness to volunteer her time and energy have enriched the school, the University and the community. Melissa served on the Decker School of Nursing Council and on several Decker School committees. She was intensely involved with the Nursing Student Association in a number of leadership roles, including service as its president, in which she organized workshops, engaged nationally known speakers and chaired the AIDS and Alzheimer's Walk, as well as fund raisers for nursing homes and the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Grill also volunteered in Binghamton's Student Ambassador Program and was one of those profiled in the

"Believe in Binghamton's University" campaign video. She also assisted with research projects in the Kresge Center for Nursing Research and the American Cancer Society.

Melissa was the recipient of the *Student Excellence Award* at Binghamton University and inducted to *Sigma Theta Tau* Honor Society, which recognizes superior achievement in nursing and is committed to the support of nurse scholars, researchers and leaders. In addition, Melissa was the recipient of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*, which recognizes students for outstanding contributions to their school through campus leadership, scholarship and community achievements.

Melissa has accepted a position in the organ Transplant Step Down Unit at Duke Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. She will be continuing her education at Duke University in the Fall 2001.

Congratulations Melissa!



**Above all,
Let us never forget
That an act of goodness
Is in itself an act of happiness.
It is the flower of a long
Inner life of joy and contentment;
It tells of peaceful hours
And days on the
Sunniest heights of our soul.**

**Kindness in words creates confidence,
Kindness in thinking creates profoundness,
Kindness in giving creates love.**

SPECIAL MEMORIES IN LITHUANIA...



Recently, my sister Anne Vaickus, C-7, and I, returned from Kaunas, Lithuania, where we had attended the 50th Jubilee Mass for our first cousin, Monsignor Pranas Liutvinas. The three-hour Mass in Blessed Mary's Name Church was celebrated by Bishop Juozas Preiksas, Bishop Antanas Vaicius and Bishop Juozas Zemaitis. They were long-time friends from the seminary days. Many priests participated in the outdoor procession under a brilliant blue sky and warm sunshine. Young girls in white dresses and veils dropped flower petals in front of the canopy where Bishop Preiksas was carrying the Monstrance. The church bells were ringing, the choir singing and women in national costume dress carried banners from the parish organizations. It was a memorable, inspiring ceremony, and we were honored just to be there. Following the Mass, many of the faithful proceeded to the altar with heartfelt greetings and flowers for Msgr. Pranas.

A dinner reception followed in the rectory, for the clergy and relatives. A big "50" made out of "rutos" (rue) decorated the altar, and another similar one was hanging on the wall at the reception. The "ruta" is a plant with tiny green leaves, a strong aroma, and has a dainty yellow blossom. In years past, every girl had a rue garden, and braided a

special crown from this plant. Brides would pin the rue onto their wedding veils.

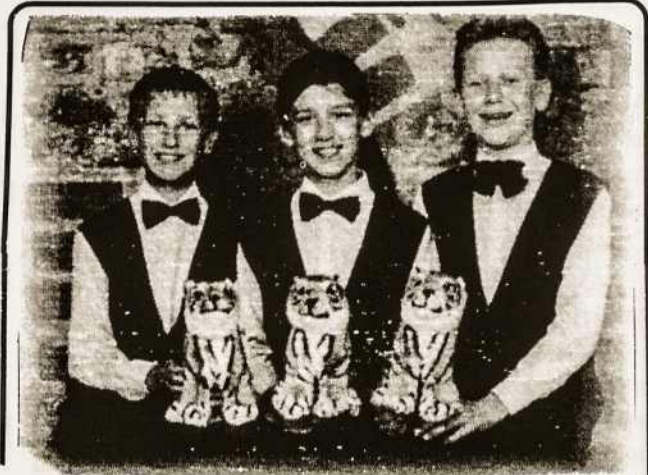
We had visited Lithuania, our parents' homeland, many times before. The last time, in 1993, was a group pilgrimage with the Lithuanian Catholic Priests' League, to welcome Pope John Paul II on his first visit to Lithuania. In the van, from St. Andrew's church in New Britain, CT., with Father Rikteraitis, we took the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the large Wayside Cross (all wrapped up) to Kennedy Airport for Lithuania. The Pope crowned the statue in Siluva Chapel, with a lovely 12-star garnet crown we had brought with us. The Wayside Cross, with the pilgrims' names engraved on it, stands near the Vyciu Cross, which is even larger.

On the day of the Pope's arrival, we were gathering outside the Vilnius Cathedral square, when I crossed paths with Cardinal Sladkevicius, who was accompanying a priest to the cathedral. So unexpected and surprised to see him, I said, "Tu man pazystamas," (I recognize you), from underground Catholic journals. He said, "As Kardinalas Sladkevicius." I wanted to kiss his ring, but he didn't let me. He was the highest hierarchy in Lithuania, and remained with the Pope throughout the visit. At the time, I was wearing a green *Vytis* sweatshirt imprinted with, "Lithuania, free at last!" and holding a small American flag. This was also special and memorable. We are blessed!

-Florence Morkus, C-6



"TRYS TIGRIUKAI" -
 THREE LITTLE TIGERS;
 A TALENTED TRIO



Ramojus Motuzas, age 12, Aurimas Syrusas, and Vytautas Jurgelevicius, both age 13, comprise the trio of vocalists known as *Try Tigriukai*, The Three Little Tigers. They hail from Vilnius. They've been performing as a group for a year and a half. This past September, they came to the United States to sing in Lemont, Chicago, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Cleveland and Philadelphia.

Ramojus has the charming smile. Aurimas sports the pony tail. Vytautas is the tallest of the three.

When the three boys stepped onto the stage of the Grand Ciurlonis Ballroom at the Lithuanian Music Hall in Philadelphia, PA, on Sunday, September 17, they carried stuffed toy tigers, about 12 inches tall, with them, then secured their mascots at the foot of the stage in front of their microphones before they began to sing. As taped music was played from one side of the ballroom, the trio sang a medley of about twenty modern Lithuanian songs.

The majority of the music sung by the boys was composed by G. Saviniene, O Baumiliene and P. Rascius. Each wrote lyrics to three songs, while J. Marcinkevicius and J. Nekrosius each wrote lyrics to two.

Wearing black suits, black bow ties, white shirts, red vests for the first half of their performance, and black vests for the second half, the boys harmonized beautifully. They all had mature stage presence and prodigious memories to remember, without flaw, all the words to the songs they sang.

Although the boys performed a majority of the time as a trio, each vocalist sang solo at least once during the concert. It was Ramojus, however, who sang the most solos. This was no accident. Of the three boys in the trio, Ramojus is the sole member to have won a voice competition. The concert gave him a wonderful opportunity to showcase his talent.

The boys received a standing ovation at the end of their performance. Picking up their tiger mascots, cradling them in their arms, and swaying gently to the music, the trio gave the audience an encore of their last song, "Tai graziai mane augino."

"The Lithuanian community showed its appreciation of the boys' efforts by presenting each singer with a miniature replica of the Liberty Bell, and by presenting their chaperones with bouquets of flowers.

All of the boys are deeply involved with music. They all play piano, with Aurimas playing the best. Aurimas also plays a little guitar. All three belong to Azuoliukas, a boys' choir, with which they take their music and singing lessons. Some of the boys toured Germany and Albania with the boys' choir prior to coming to the United States as a trio.

All three boys attend the Salomeja Neris School, a prestigious gymnasium in Vilnius, where they study religion, Lithuanian, English, Russian, German, math, geography, history, biology, physical education, a type of home economics that emphasizes sewing, art, and of course, music.

Most Americans are familiar with the three tenors, Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti. In Lithuania there are three famous opera singers, Edvardas Kaniava, Virgilijus Noreika and Vladimiras Prudnikovas, known collectively as the *Tigers*. Ramojus, Aurimas, and Vytautas so admired the "Tigers," that they decided to name their own trio the "Three Little Tigers," in emulation of the opera stars.

While all three of the boys plan to sing as a trio for several more years, Ramojus is thinking of making singing his career - that, or becoming a basketball player. Aurimas wishes to become an

architect. Vytautas aspires to be a physician, specializing in endocrinology, so he may be able to treat people with diabetes, a disease which he also has.

The trio has a keen interest in sports, and all members have a lean, athletic build. In Lithuania, the boys play basketball, soccer, baseball and tennis. One wants to give American football a try.

Attention girls, Junior members of the Knights of Lithuania! Not one of the boys has a girlfriend as yet.

On their first visit to the United States as a performing trio, the boys spent some of their spare time sightseeing. Skyscrapers impressed one of the boys. Vytautas liked Cleveland because he has relatives living there. In Philadelphia, the trio liked South Street, Independence Hall, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and the Art Museum, particularly its steps which gained fame from the movie, "Rocky." Apparently, America made such a favorable impression on Ramojus and Aurimas, that they both expressed a desire to live here when they retire.

With their wonderful singing talent, work ethic and intelligence, these three young fellows appear poised to go far in life. With God's blessings, may they attain the success they strive for in all of their endeavors.

The author wishes to thank Jurate Krokyte-Stirbiene for serving as interpreter during the interview with Trys Tigriukai.

- Stephany Gutauskas -



Rudis Raudonnosis Briedis

Rudis raudonnosis briedis,
Blizganti noselė jo.
Ir jei jus pamatytumėt
Sakytumėt kad ji žiba.

Visi tie kiti briedžiai
Juokias ir vadin vardus.
Jie ir neleido Rudžiui
Žaisti su kitais briedžiais.

Vieną Kalėdų naktį,
Dėdukas klausė jo,
Rudi raudonnoseli,
Ar lydėsi man roges?

Tad kaip jie jį mylėjo,
Sekdami jį džiaugsmingai.
Rudis raudonnosis briedis
Bus minėtas istorijoj!

Žodžiai: Seselė Joana Marija
Šainauskaitė, SSC



LINKSMŲ KALEDŲ



IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

Schuyler Savings Bank

24 Davis Avenue

Kearny, New Jersey 07032

(201) 991-0001



**The only savings bank
where the Board of
Directors are Knights of
Lithuania members.**

**Serving the Lithuanian Community for
over 75 Years.**

Christmas Greetings from

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-1 Brockton, MA

C-7 Waterbury, CT

C-10 Athol-Gardner, MA

C-17 So. Boston, MA

C-26 Worcester, MA

C-27 Norwood, MA

C-30 Westfield, MA

C-50 New Haven, CT

C-78 Lawrence, MA

C-103 Providence, RI

C-116 Worcester, MA

C-135 Ansonia, CT

C-141 Bridgeport, CT

C-6 Hartford, CT





Peace

*The Mid-America District
sends the warmest of Holiday Greetings
to all our fellow Knights.*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Linksmų Kalėdų

Mid-America District Member Councils

Council 5, Chicago, IL [Northside]

Council 14, Cicero, IL

Council 16, Chicago, IL [Bridgeport Area]

Council 24, Chicago, IL [Marian Fathers Monastery]

Council 36, Chicago, IL [Brighton Park Area]

Council 38, Kenosha, WI

Council 82, Gary, IN

Council 112, Chicago, IL [Marquette Park Area]

Council 133, Los Angeles, CA

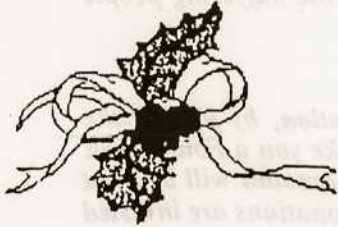
Council 150, Kansas City, KS

Council 157, Lemont, IL

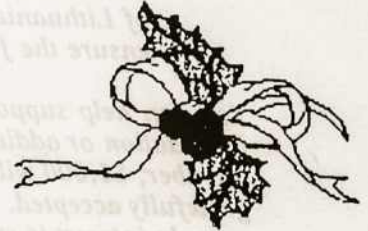
Chgo. Irs.



Linkime Visiems Linksmų Šv Kalėdų ir Laimingų
2001 Metų!



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

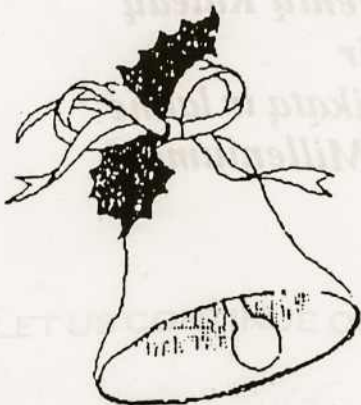


Medicine and Medical supplies worth over
65 MILLION DOLLARS

sent to Lithuania in **84 containers** as of October 2000

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

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



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

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



THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

wishes all readers

a most Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Foundation is an Endowment Fund, established to:

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

You can help support the Knights of Lithuania through the K of L Foundation, by joining the Foundation or adding to your previous donation. A donation of \$100 will make you a Foundation Member, \$1,000 will make you an Honored Member, but a donation of any amount will be most gratefully accepted. A gift to the Foundation is a gift that "keeps giving!" Donations are invested ... only interest is spent for K of L-related projects. To send a tax-deductible donation or obtain more information, write to:

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

234 Sunlit Drive

Watchung, New Jersey 07060

CHRISTMAS
B
BLESSINGS

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

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



COUNCIL #50

*To all our fellow Councils
Whether near or far
A very "Merry Christmas"
Wherever you are
And may the coming New Year
all joys to you impart.
May it keep you well and happy
And put "sunshine" in your heart.*



NEW HAVEN , CT



"LAI GYVUOJA VYČIAI"

**TO ALL DISTRICTS, COUNCILS, FELLOW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS...
HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND GOD'S HOLIEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS...
ON THE OCCASION OF OUR 85TH ANNIVERSARY**

(NOV. 1915)



1915-2000

**LET US CONTINUE OUR GOOD DEEDS AND WORKS AND NOBLE TRADITIONS
WELL INTO THE FUTURE.
COUNCIL #36**



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

*Anthracite Council 144
Schuylkill County, PA*

*... And His Name shall be called Wonderful,
Counsellor, the Mighty God, the everlasting
Father, the Prince of Peace.*

A joyous, blessed Christmas and happy New Year

Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų

ir

Laimingų Naujų Metų

COUNCIL 29
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY



TO OUR FELLOW KNIGHTS

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

COUNCIL 112
CHICAGO



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

*and to VYTIS Editor Sister Janine Golubickis, SSC and her Staff,
A big "AČIU" for assuming this awesome but very important post.*

May you continue your beautiful work for years to come!

LORETTA I. STUKAS, HM

Council 29, Newark, NJ



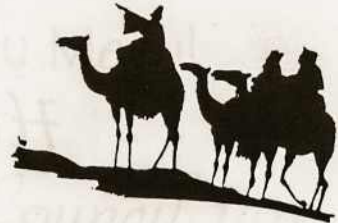
Best Wishes to All -



May the Spirit of the Holiday Season

Bestow upon you the gifts of

Love, peace and happiness.



Council 26

Worcester, MA



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Linksmų Kaledų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų

Council 3 Philadelphia





COUNCIL 17 OF SOUTH BOSTON, MA

*MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE HOLY AND JOYFUL
AND
THE NEW YEAR BE HEALTHFUL AND
PROSPEROUS*



LINKSMU NAUJU METU

FROM
THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF
COUNCIL 152, EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

CHRISTMAS, 2000

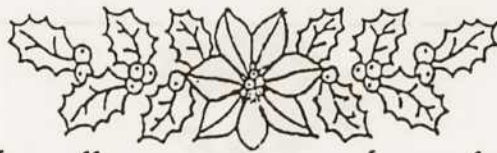




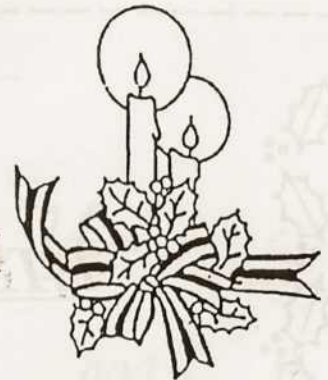
**Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų
Visiems Lietuvos Vyčiams**

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

Council 90 - Kearny, New Jersey



The Officers and Members of the
Mid-Atlantic District



Wish Everyone

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

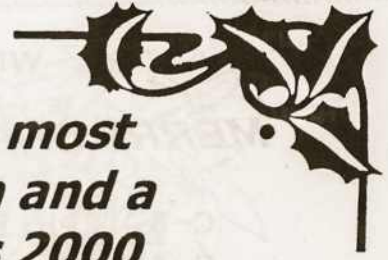


President: Ed Barkowski
1st VP: Maryte Abbott
2nd VP: Bernice Aviza
Secretary: Frances Jakatt
Treasurer: Cathy Nakrosis





All members of our Council 110, most sincerely wish the best of health and a peaceful, happy time during this 2000 Christmas season and the 2001 New Year!



Knights of Lithuania Maspeth, NY

President: John T Klimas;...Vice-President: Maryte Abbott

Let us not forget our Lithuanian cousins who still need our support; we continue to donate children's clothes and medicines. Many package gifts are sent to St. Clare's Hospital in Utena.



*Members of St. Michael's Council 156
Shamokin, Coal Township and Mt. Carmel, PA*



wish to extend blessed greetings to you
and your loved ones

LINKSMU SVENTU KALEDU
IR LAIMINGU NAUJU METU!

*May the New Born Savior be the center of
our lives.*





**THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
AMBER DISTRICT**

WISH ALL OUR FELLOW KNIGHTS

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|-------|------------|
| C-3 | Philadelphia | C-140 | Syracuse |
| C-46 | Forest City | C-142 | Washington |
| C-63 | Lehigh Valley | C-143 | Pittston |
| C-72 | Binghamton | C-144 | Anthracite |
| C-74 | Scranton | C-146 | Harrisburg |
| C-118 | Hazleton | C-156 | Shamokin |

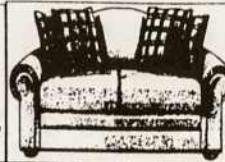
ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ ir NAUJŲ METŲ proga, mūsų valdyba ir narystė sveikina ir linki ramybės, džiaugsmo ir laimės per šventes ir per visus ateinančius metus.



**Christmas is the day
that God came down
from heaven and taught
us how to love!**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Elinor Sluzas HM C-96
Annamarie Sluzas Berger
Supreme Council VP
Mark Berger C-96
Joseph Berger C-96 Junior**



"What on earth could be more
luxurious than a sofa, a book, and
a cup of coffee?"

Anthony Trollope: *The Warden*



May the holidays bring everything
you wish for!

**Happy Christmas!
The Mid-Central District**



**A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR
to ALL!**

Vytiskai,

**Council # 153
Treasure Coast, FL**



happy holidays



**Council 100
Amsterdam, NY**

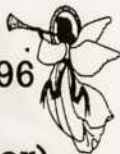
**MANY BLESSINGS
AT CHRISTMAS**

AND

THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR



**Fran Petkus C #96
Dayton
(Honorary Member)**



from

Indiana's

**Council
82**

**Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų**



With Joy

and Love

at Christmas

Council -86 DuBois

Merry Christmas



"Christmas is here
and with reverence and joy
we celebrate the birth
of this blessed baby Boy."

Council - 96
Dayton, Ohio

Wishing you joy in your home
and peace in your life



Council -140
Syracuse

Council 19
Pittsburgh



Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų

*Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų*

IN MEMORY OF
KONNIE SAVICKUS
a FAITHFUL KNIGHT AND FRIEND

LORETTA GRIGALIUNAS
COUNCIL 5
PRESIDENT



**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year**



From all the members
of Council 30
Westfield, Mass.

OUR BEST WISHES
TO ALL FOR A
BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A JOYFUL
NEW YEAR.



COUNCIL 52
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

FROM
COUNCIL - 46
FOREST CITY, PA





*The Happiest of
Holiday Greetings
to All the
Members of
The Knights of Lithuania.*

**Council 25
Cleveland, OHIO**



**May you rejoice and be glad
in this happy, holy season.**

**Council # 79
Southfield, Michigan**



**ŠVENTŲ, SVEIKŲ, LINKSMŲ IR
LAIMINGŲ KALĖDŲ IR NAUJŲJŲ
METŲ VYCIAMS IR DRAUGAMS.
2001**

**BLESSED, HEALTHY, HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEAR TO ALL KNIGHTS AND
FRIENDS.**

2001



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



Peace

**COUNCIL 74
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA**

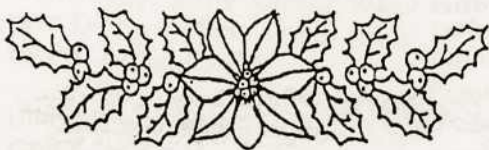


From Atlantic
The K of L to Pacific
is terrific.



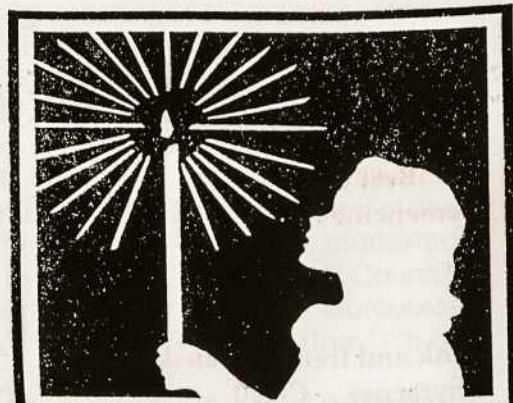
*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų*
**Council 1
Brockton, MA**

Council -141
Bridgeport, CT
extends to our fellow Knights
and friends
a Blessed Christmas and a
Happy, Healthy
New Year



Council 143
Pittston, PA.

CHRISTMAS
B
BLESSINGS

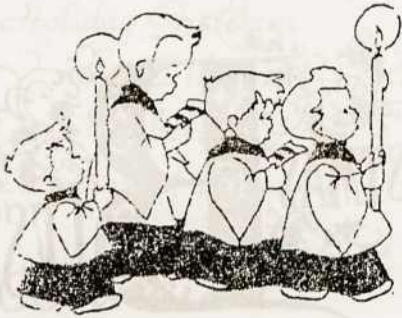


May the blessings of Christmas
Shine upon you throughout a
healthy, prosperous New Year!

From: Council - 63, Lehigh Valley, PA



Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų



THE NATION'S CAPITAL
COUNCIL 142
WASHINGTON, DC

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

Officers & Members

C-136

Hudson-Mohawk



Best wishes
Clemencine Miller, HM

Merry Christmas to all !!
John and Agnes (HM) Mickunas

Frank and Irene Petrauskas, HM
Syracuse C-140

"Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir Laimingų
Naujų Metų!" C-12, New York

Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų
C-116 (O.L.V.) Worcester, MA

Linksmų Kalėdinių Naujų Metų
Švenčių Linki Athol-Gardner C-10



c DISTRICT & COUNCIL NEWS

C-1, Brockton, MA

-Veronica Bizinkauskas-

Although Council 1 has been silent in submitting council news, (okay, lazy), we have been very active. The following are some of the activities from August, 1999 thru August, 2000.

We participated in St. Casimir Parish Fall Picnic and Harvest Bazaar by preparing and serving the famous k.k.k., (kugelis, kopustai and kielbasa), also blynu, (Potato pancakes), and balandeliai, (stuffed cabbage). A special aciu to our great chefs, Steve and Pat Genchauskas and Connie Grein and son Anthony.

Annual Kucios at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent was chaired by Sister Helen and moderated by Sr. Eugenia. St. Casimir school children's choir, under the direction of Maryte Bizinkauskas, performed a Christmas pageant and carols. Later, we all sang Lithuanian Christmas carols. Kucios specialties, e.g., slizikai, mushrooms and beet soup were prepared by Vytas Ivanauskas, John and Anne Statkus, with miscellaneous preparations and assistance by Barbara Arthur, Ed Cominsky, Betty Olzechowski and Diane DeBois. Ticket sales by Pat Akule, (C-17).

To commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration, an article was

submitted to our local newspaper, *The Enterprise*.

St. Casimir Feast Day Brunch was held March 5th, following the 10:00 Mass. Tables were beautifully decorated by Pat Achorn. A superb brunch was prepared by Steve and Pat Genchauskas and Connie Grien, assisted by Florence Carnilla, Agnes Benoit and Doris Fralick.

Annual egg decorating classes were held on Palm Sunday by "egg specialists" Ronnie, Maryte, Vilija Bizinkauskas and Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote.

A successful yard sale was held in June, thanks to Sister Helen, Rose Dooley and Ed Cominsky.

Whenever possible, we have assisted Sr. Helen with Lithuanian Children's Relief. 115 containers have been sent to various parts of Lithuania. She is still collecting postage stamps.

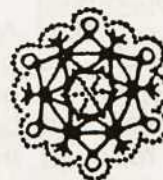
We all enjoyed a Sunday afternoon of summertime with all the trimmings, at George and Frances Bumilar's summer home. It was a special afternoon of friendship, memories, song and the tastiest menu prepared by their daughter, Susan Trautman.

At the National Convention in L.A., three of our members were winners of the Essay Contest... second place, Sister Helen Ivanauskas, CJC...third place was divided between Patricia Genchauskas and Vilija Bizinkauskas.

Our Council 1 Vice-president, Maryte Bizinkauskas, premiered a new song, "My

Lithuania," with Valdas Adamkus listening attentively. She also had sung for President Vytautas Landsbergis in 1992. "My Lovely Lithuania" was written by K of L-er, Art Walunas.

Our deepest and sincerest congratulations to Rev. Peter Shakalis on receiving Honorary Membership at the National Convention.



C-3, Philadelphia, PA

-Stephany Gutauskas-

In September, Theresa R. Mazeika re-enrolled as a member of Council 3.

Leonard Kapocius attended the Amber District meeting in Binghamton, NY, on Sunday, October 1st.

At 8:30 A.M., on Tuesday, October 3, Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM, held a Mass at St. George's Church, for deceased members of the Knights of Lithuania, requested by the Supreme Council. Stephany Gutauskas presented the Offertory Gifts at this Mass.

Msgr. Anderlonis coached a one-hour Lithuanian language lesson before the Council's meeting on October 8. At that meeting, elections for executive officers and committee chairpersons were held, with the following results: President, Irene Ozalis; Vice-president, Agnes Mickunas, HM; Treasurer,

Walter Svekla; Financial Secretary, Alice Bacon; Recording Secretary, Stephany Gutauskas; Trustees, (1st) John Mickunas, (2) Lillian Greymas; Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM; Ritual Chair, (1year) Irene Svekla, (2years) Margaret Petronis, (3years) Ausra Maknys; Culture Chair, Julie Kowrak; Sunshine Chair, Irene Svekla; Lithuanian Affairs Chair, John Chernoski; **Vytis** Correspondent, Stephany Gutauskas; Lithuanian Language Chair, Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM. Msgr/ Amderonis administered the oath of office to newly-elected officers and chairpersons. Leonard Kapochus reported that 1,260 pounds of aid in the form of food, clothes, over-the-counter medications, medical equipment and supplies, adult diapers, shoes, and children's games were sent to Lithuania from St. Andrew's Lithuanian church during the last week of September. Contributions from Margaret Allen, Anne Marie Jaskel, Margaret Petronis and Alberta Weigand helped make the aid drive a success. After this meeting, Irene Ozalis held an organizational session to prepare for the Council's December "kucios."

Congratulations go to Agnes Mickunas, HM, upon being re-elected Public Relations Chairperson of the Amber District.

On Saturday, October 14, Msgr. Anderlonis officiated at the wedding of Barbara Mickunas and James Currie at St. George's Church. Many Knights from various Councils around the United States witnessed the marriage and attended the reception at the Doubletree Hotel, where

Lithuanian wedding cake was meeting opened, and served. In keeping with President, Alex Yusias, Lithuanian tradition, John and presented members with



Agnes Mickunas, Barbara's parents, presented the newlyweds with wine, rye bread and salt, signifying the sharing of the joys, hardships, plenty, and want of married life. Our congratulations go to Barbara and James. May you have many years of wedded bliss.

On Friday, October 20, Msgr. Anderlonis hosted a Shrimp Night at St. George's parish hall. Ausra Maknys and Victor Stepalovitch enjoyed the pick-and-peel shrimp. Also available were, hot roast beef, kielbasa and sauerkraut, sausage and peppers, salads, sweet desserts, beer and soda.

Msgr. Anderlonis, Rev. Peter Burkauskas, Anne Marie Jaskel, ausra Maknys, Margaret Petronis, and Victor Stepalovitch were the Council members who marched in a candlelight procession, in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway on Sunday, October 22.

C-6, Hartford
-Leona Sawka-

Our October 3rd

upcoming events, one of which is the Cultural Festival to be held at Maironis Park in Schrewsbury, MA, on October 15th. A number of members will be attending, and a sale table will be run by Leona Sawka and Irene Petraitis. Items available will be, jewelry pompons, car antennae flags, hats, etc.

Great news! The blind twin boys from Lithuania who were slated for eye operations were brought to Detroit, where the doctors there performed successful operations. Their sight was restored. What a happy ending!

Dottie Krancunas will be in charge of "Save a Stamp- Save a Child" program. Thus far, several bags of stamps have been collected and turned over to Sr. Helen in Brockton, MA. Sr. Helen is also looking for greeting cards of any sort, which she will forward to Lithuania, to be used for craft projects by children there. Bicycles, a wheel chair, trapeze and walker have already been forwarded from Council 6.

Wandie Kruk is also collecting items such as, yarn and any craft goods, which

can be utilized at a Lithuanian orphanage.

On October 22, Council 6 will be involved in a Lithuanian Day of Prayer at Holy Trinity Church. Refreshments will be served after Mass at 3:00 p.m., and the celebrant will be Most Reverend Paul A. Baltakis, OFM.

C-10, Athol - Gardner

-Vincukas-

Maryann Langlois' picture appeared in the "Sunday Worcester Telegram," along with members of the Mount Steppers, a walking group and the Life Program, walking on the beach during a recent trip to Maine. Also, a speedy recovery to Maryann on her recent fall and a broken ankle.

A big aciu to C-116 of Our Lady of Vilna parish, So. Worcester, for the great hospitality extended to all at the Fall Convention.

A cousin of Beatrice Jodaitis, Richard Romas Knyza of Lithuania, crossed the Atlantic from Morocco to the Bahamas in 19 days in a sailboat with another friend. The first time for a Lithuanian. The Lithuanian Press gave the event great publicity.

Remembering Blanche Genaitis... Brone joined our ranks in 1968, and through the years had been a faithful and devoted member. Through the years with the local K of L, she had worked at all our Council functions and gained us many new members. For many years she was in charge of the District Scholarship raffle, and always followed to the end. After the death of her

husband, Charles, she contacted the Mayor of Gardner each year for a Feb. 16th Day Proclamation. That was her final task, delivered to the Lithuanians of our town, before her death.

Born Brone Jonaitis in the parish of Seredzius, she attended local schools, with high honors, including Becker's Jr. College. After the children were educated and on their own, she received her B.A. in Education and began on a teaching career. She gained the respect of all her students.

Proud of her Lithuanian heritage, she instilled it in her children and taught them our customs. Hers was a 100% K of L family, which was also a member of the Lithuanian Club. She truly lived up to her motto, "Dievui ir Tėvynei!"
Sudiev, Brone of many happy memories!

Jim Krasauskas has donated a valuable collection of Lithuanian artifacts; wood carvings, pictures, maps and posters to the Lithuanian Outing Association Club in Gardner. Aciu labai, Jim!



C-17, South Boston, MA

-Regina-

Father Steve Zukas, Pastor of St. Peter church and Spiritual Director of C-17, has now returned from his trip to Lithuania. Father organized a write-in campaign to our government officials in Washington, DC, to help restore the \$20 million in

military assistance funds that are critical to the Baltic countries. Without this needed assistance, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia can be faced with financial ruin. These funds are urgently needed to ensure strong and stable democracies.

Larry Svelnis reported on the National Convention held in California. He has recently retired, (after 25 years), as chairman of the Supreme Council Archives Committee.

Bill Piacentini, former NE District president, who has just returned from a year of teaching in Lithuania, has accepted the position which Larry held.

Congratulations to Rev. Peter Shakalis, Spiritual Director of the NE District, who was awarded the title of Honorary Member of the K of L at the Convention in LA.

Adele and Mary Martus spent a busy summer month entertaining relatives from Italy. "Arrivederci!"

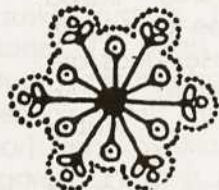
Condolences to the Druzdis family upon the death of member Adam Druzdis. Also, condolences to Frances Savicke upon the death of her brother, Frank Gaide. Frances now resides in Marion Manor.

Nice to hear from Esther Marcinowski. She would enjoy hearing from all her friends. She is at 11377 Southwest 84 St., Apt. 405, Miami, Florida, 33173.

Get well wishes go out to : Lillian Vallis, recovering from an operation; to Lucy Gasputis, after her knee operation, and to Vera Juskavitch. Best wishes for speedy recovery to all.

Remember October 15,

the NE District Festival at Maironis Park, Worcester. C-17 members will be among the workers. See you there!



C-25, Cleveland, OH
-Ursula Kunsitis-

The weekend of August 11th had C-25 members heading down the road to DuBois, PA, for their annual picnic at the John Andrulewicz Cabin once again. Besides the merriment and camaraderie, there was time to pick fresh veggies at the Ivoska Farm. Plans are already being made for 2001! Thanks, John!

On August 26th, the Annual Lithuanian Cultural Garden Evening at the Gwinn Estates on the Lake was enjoyed by Dick and Jean Marks and Gene and Ursula Kunsitis. Father G. Kijauskas was also spotted enjoying our beautiful Lake Erie. We hope more of our members will plan to attend this event next year!

We would like to thank Joan Susin Ortman, and Charles and Nelda Machutas for being our Delegates at the 87th National Convention in Los Angeles, and we would also like to congratulate Council 133-Los Angeles for a well-planned, hospitable Convention!

Congratulations from all our members go to Jim and Joni Thompson, who celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on July 29th! We all wish you many more "happy" years!

This is what we like

about summer--our beautiful climate brings back our Snowbirds, Bill and Helen Jakube and Charlie and Nelda Machutas. Bill was in for quite a surprise upon his return to Cleveland--instead of shoulder surgery, he underwent triple by-pass heart surgery. We are pleased to report that all went well, and they are now traveling in their Motor Home to Florida. The Machutas' spent time at the Lake Erie Islands for several weeks with daughter, Laura and family, and Suzanne and daughters, who were also visiting from Arizona.

Can you believe it? Married 60 wonderful years! How great! C-25 congratulates John and Helen Garnis, who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on September 2nd, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, where our Spiritual Advisor, Father Gediminas Kijauskas blessed their marriage. Many more years of happiness are wished for you by your fellow Knights!

WE HAVE A NEW HOME!
Our Council meetings are now held in the Conference Room at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Hall. Our first meeting this Fall was held on September 1st. We had a very good attendance, and hope that this is a good sign for the future. Come and see your new home!

Our September 10th COFFEE HOUR at OLP Church was another success. A big **THANK YOU** to Steve and Lillian Yurkovic, who have taken over this project, and to all our wonderful bakers, helpers and contributors!

On September 22nd, the International Services

Center honored those who help others. For many decades, the Center has helped immigrants settle in Greater Cleveland, and each year the Center holds a dinner to honor those men and women who have helped with the job. This year, our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas was one of the honorees. He was presented with his Award by Ted Henry, New Anchor for WEWS-Channel 5. We were very proud to be among the Knights of L'ers and parishioners who attended this event, and are very proud of Father's untiring effort in this regard! Congratulations, Father!

Congratulations to our Vice-president, Joseph Ivoska, who was presented with his Fourth Degree at the MCD Pilgrimage and District Meeting in DuBois, PA, on October 8th, at St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church. Among his many well-wishers were, our Council Members who accompanied him on this trip: Ann Ivoska, Dick and Jean Marks, Theresa Capuria and Fran Pranskevich.

Congratulations to "Dirva," our Lithuanian Weekly which celebrated its 85th Anniversary on October 8th. We also congratulate its Director, Dr. Jonas Jasaitis. "Linkime Ilgiausiu Metu!"

I always thought it would be fun to ride out a Hurricane, but my dear friend, Nellie Samas, doesn't agree. She was in Hudson, Florida, when Hurricane Gordon threatened them. Evacuations were ordered. They had tumultuous winds and heavy rains, but were spared. I guess you have to be careful about what you wish for. Nellie was

glad to get back home to beautiful Ohio.

Our members extend their deepest sympathy and condolences to: Fr. G. Kijauskas, whose brother Albinas, passed away in Lithuania in August; Ann Ivoska, whose sister, Helen Carney, died on September 10th; Katy Kaczmarek, our Financial Secretary, whose mother, member, Kathryn, died on September 19th; and to Betty August, whose cousin, Walter Angelaitis, died on October 1st. May they and all the departed souls rest in peace!

To all our sick and house-bound members, we haven't forgotten you. We think about you all often, and you are in our prayers, and HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE, and a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

C-26, Worcester, MA

-Ruta-

At the October meeting, a delicious dinner was prepared by chairperson, Ann Walinsky, and her able staff. Steve Walinsky, Sr., Steve Walinsky, Jr., his son, Ronnie Walinsky, Bill and Carol Grigas, Al and Vivian Roders, and Jennie and Paul Puris. Her volunteer servers did a great job in getting the food to everyone in record time. It was a feast to rave about. Congratulations for a job not only well done, but also done with a special, loving touch.

The slate of this year's officers was presented by the nominating committee, Steve Walinsky, Sr., and Irene Markevicius. The members approved it. Officers for this fiscal year are: Spiritual Advisor,

Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC; President, Vivian Rodgers; Vice-president, Anne Leseman; Treasurer, Lillian Kondrotas; Secretary, Aldona Waska; Financial Secretary, Marion Racicot; Public Relations - Olga Kersis; Vytis Correspondent, Ruth Serafinas; Sergeant-at-Arms, Steve Walinsky, Sr.; Lithuanian Affairs, Victoria Augustine; Auditor, Bill Leseman; and Sunshine Lady, Anne Buciskas.

Everyone welcomed three new members; Jean and Paul Grabauskas and Ann Frederico.

The Pernet Family Health Service asked for help in filling their Thanksgiving Baskets for the needy. It was decided that, for the next meeting, all the members would bring in donations of various canned goods, cookies, cake mixes, etc., so that this organization will be able to help people have a good Thanksgiving.

Ann Holm is now at the Christopher House in Worcester, and Charlie Kulakusky is at the Assisted Living Residences at Whitney Place in Westborough.

Our Council was well represented at the New England District Cultural Festival recently held at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury. It was great to visit with our friends from other Councils. Steve Walinsky, SR., was in charge of a table offering a beautiful Vytis tapestry throw cover, which could also be used as a wall hanging. The proceeds from this are to be given to the Holy Trinity Church in Lithuania. In addition to the other Councils having special tables, our Council sold a

variety of delicious bakery goods, a fish pond was established with treasures, and another table was set up with some exciting gifts.

A news flash was just handed to me, indicating that Ronnie and Barbara Spakauskas, who are avid football enthusiasts, (they have season tickets to the Patriots' Games), were able to get tickets to a November Notre Dame Football game in Indiana. They are very excited about this forthcoming trip. While traveling in that area, they are also planning to visit relatives. This past summer they went to Lithuania. Ronnie and Barbara certainly do get around.



C-74, Scranton, PA

-Marie Laske-

Our sympathy goes out to Mary Costello and Leona Bozenko on the death of their brother, Ben Laurynis. May he join the communion of Saints, praising God forever.

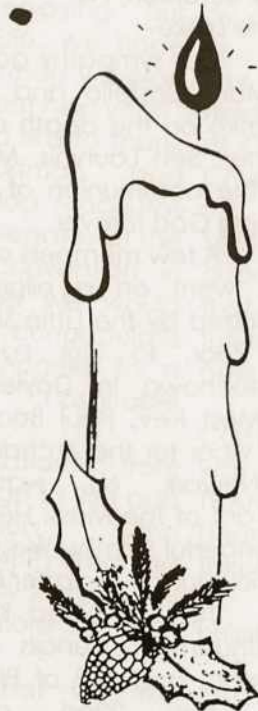
A few members of our K of L went on a pilgrimage organized by the Little Sister of the Poor, to Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. Most Rev. Paul Bootkaski, DD., Vicar for the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ, was the celebrant of the Mass. He gave a wonderful homily. We had a delicious luncheon after Mass.

The combined Knights of Lithuania, Councils 74 of Scranton, and 143 of Pittston, held the 22nd annual Diocesan Rosary Devotion in St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton.

KNIGHTS IN ACTION ...



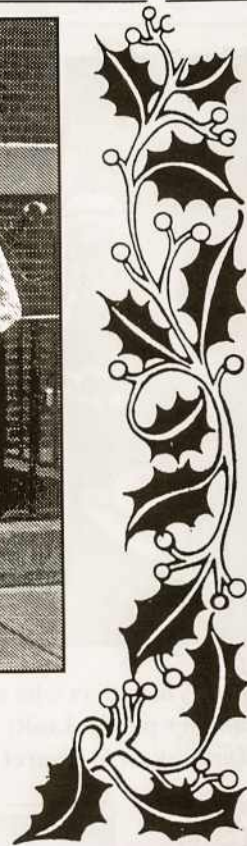
C-25 Fourth Degree recipient, Joe Ivoska, with wife, Ann. Oct. 8, in DuBois, PA.



Ted Henry - News Anchor - WEWS, and Rev. G. Kijauskas, C-25, Cleveland, recipient of the Int. Services Center Award.



K of L members who attended St. Ann's Basilica Lith. Mass. L to R: Mary Twardzik, Liz Kaminskas, Lee Bozenko, Margaret Clegg, Helen Cravath, Martha Warnaginis, Marie and Richard Laske. (C-74)



Int. Services Banquet - Cleveland, Ohio. Liudas Tankunas (Palanga); Gene Kunsitis, Rev. J. Kijauskas; Richard Marks, Jean Marks, Ben Karklius, (seated) Ursula Kunsitis, William Jakubs and Helen Jakubs. (C-25)



K of L members who attended ST. Joseph's summer picnic. LtoR: Richard Laske, Liz Kaminskas, Margaret Clegg, Ann Dudwicz,

Marie Laske, Jean Kavelines, Martha Wagner. Msgr. Peter Madus was the photographer.(C-74)



4th Annual Picnic C-25 & C-86 at John Andrulis Cabin in the Woods - DuBois



St. Anthony's Lithuanian Church, Forest City, PA, which was recently demolished.



Steve Walinsky, Sr., at the New England District Cultural Festival. (C-26)



The Rev. Thomas Pulickal was homilist and celebrant. He spoke about freedom of religion in Lithuania, and freedom for the unborn. Helen Cravath announced the program, Nell Bayoras Romanas led the Rosary, Jean Mikalick was lector, and Marie Laske and Nell Bayoras Romanas were coordinators. We Lithuanians were well represented and had a larger crowd than usual. This was the month of the Rosary.

We are now planning our Kucios Ethnic Meal, (12 traditional foods), which will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17th, at 1:00 p.m. The public is invited at \$8.00 each.

We attended the Amber District meeting at St. Stanislaus Church in Binghamton, NJ. Rev. Father John Mikalajunas celebrated the Mass, and we were happy to hear the organ play, "Pulkim ant keliu," at Communion time. It brought tears to many eyes. Father John welcomed everyone, and later joined us in the cultural center for a visit. Thank you, Father John!

"Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who'll never find out."



C-79, Southfield, MI

-Bee Jay-

Our October meeting was attended by the usual group, plus one who was not able to attend any meetings this year because of health reasons. She is, long-time

member, Violet Panavas. It seems her medical-person allowed this change in her schedule, so she attended the Council meeting.

The usual business was taken care of, with emphasis on the upcoming MCD meeting and bowling tournament which we plan to host next spring --May 18, 19 and 20, 2001.

Pres. Margaret Dapkus informed us that reservations for the motel and bowling alley have been taken care of. Other matters pertaining to the event will be seen to as the date nears.

Last weekend, Oct. 6, 7, 8--four of us drove to the MCD meeting and pilgrimage in DuBois, PA. If the weather had cooperated, it would have been an ideal get-together. But, in spite of the cold and rain, all activities were enjoyed by assembled.

Margaret Dapkus, Regina Juska, (C-102), Sylvia Jarosz, (our driver), and I had the privilege of representing our Councils. The meeting was informative, the hospitality was generous, the entertainment was delightful, the meals were sumptuous--majority of attendees agree with me, I'm sure.

The pilgrimage service was held in a colorful town--Clearfield, approximately 25 miles from DuBois. The road to it went through beautiful hills, with views of mountains covered by vast areas of trees "painted by God" for this occasion. This was a quote from a committee member and resident of the region. I feel God is too busy to paint leaves--I think He gives the job to Mother Nature!

Well, anyway, we enjoyed the time we had in DuBois, PA--from the Friday evening ge-together with the interesting appetizers, to the "going home" delicious meal.

Thank you, Lee and Paul Moore, Co-chairpersons, for a lovely weekend.

C-96, Dayton, OH

-Fran Petkus-

Like all Councils, C#96 held its Election of Officers for the coming term. This took place at our monthly meeting of Oct. 1st. Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Michael J. Holloran; Pres. Michael F. Petkus; 1st Vice-Pres. (we have combined 1st and 2nd VP), Robert H. Pant; 3rd Vice-Pres., Christine Fletcher/Julia Goecke; Recording Sec., Anne Louise Tucker; Treasurer, James R. Geiger; Fin. Sec., Frances Mikalauskas; Trustees, George A. Mikalauskas/Joseph E. Mantz; Sgt.-at-Arms, Ildefonsas Bucmys. Committee chairs: Religious - Gary/JoAnne Thiele; Lith. Affairs -Elena Mikalauskas; Ritual - Frances R. Petkus/Elois A. Berczelly; VYTIS corresp. and C-96 bulletin - Ed-Frances R. Petkus; Photographer - Connie Geiger; Social - Elaine D. Pacovsky; Ways and Means - Laretta Pant; Concolences - Elaine D. Pacovsky; By-Laws - Eleanor and Joseph E. Mantz/Robert H. Pant; Telephone Squad - Joyce Berczelly; Sarysis/Parish Council Rep. - Laretta Pant; Public Relations - Elinor D. Sluzas.

Thanks must go to our outgoing Board, for they accomplished much in keeping us busy this past term. To the New Board, good wishes go to them with all the projects and events that face

them in the coming term. Special thanks go to our "Super Chef," Elinor Sluzas, who did a great job preparing lunch for us!!

Oct. 6-8th, 2000, saw the Mikalauskas', George, Frances, Elena and Fran Petkus head to DuBois for the MCD Fall Convention/Pilgrimage. C#86 did a terrific job in planning the weekend for the delegates and guests. Friday night was a time to renew friendships and meet new members. Saturday morning, we held our meeting, which included Election of Officers. In the afternoon, we headed to Clearfield, PA, for the Living Rosary and Benediction. In the evening, we had dinner at a local restaurant, followed by variations of Bingo. Proceeds from the games went to Aid to Lithuania, Inc. Sunday, prior to Mass, was the presentation of Fourth and Third Degree Medals to members, plus installations of the new MCD Board. The weekend ended with a closing banquet. Thanks to all the members of C#86 and their Chairs, Paul Moore and James Allen. It was a great weekend. With the "cooperation of Mother Nature," Lee Moore had all the trees "painted" in shades of yellow, green and red for us!!

Members from C#96 on the MCD Board are: Pres.-Fran Petkus; Treasurer - Elena Mikalauskas; Trustee - Michael F. Petkus; Sgt.-at-Arms - Robert Pant; MCD Recognition Award -George Mikalauskas. Congratulations!

Several members from C#96, Elinor Sluzas, Annamarie Sluzas-Berger, Mark Bell, Irena Gecas-McCarthy and Fran Petkus, had the pleasure of

attending the recent wedding of Barbara (Mickunas) and James Currie, in Philadelphia. Many of us have seen Barbara grow up in the K of L from her Junios Knights days to the present. Much happiness and love to the Curries!

It is great having Fr. Michael Holloran back at Holy Cross after his three months' sabbatical. Father had much to share with us upon his return. Recently from Owensboro, KY, was Council member, Paulette Petkus, visiting family and fellow Knights.

Get well wishes to Ida Kavy. Ida has been in and out of the hospital quite a few times this year. Stay well!

Our sympathies go to the family of Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, OP, on his recent passing. Many of the Dayton members had opportunities to get to know Fr. Jurgelaitis, not only as our former National Spiritual Advisor, but on the many visits he made to Dayton. May his soul rest in the peace of the Lord!

To one and all - A Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!



C-110, Maspeth, NY

-Bruno Rutkunas-

At our successful June meeting, members enjoyed a hot buffet and voted to donate \$1,000 to the Aid to Lithuania fund to help finance the shipping costs for sending relief packages to the needy orphanages in various locations throughout Lithuania.

About 12 members of

our Council attended the 87th National Knights of Lithuania Annual Convention in Los Angeles, and everyone enjoyed the hospitality of the host Council #133, and the fine open house treats by Ruta Lee and her husband.

At the MAD convention in Schenectady, slides were presented, showing scenes from many understaffed hospitals in Lithuania, which were in poor condition. Twenty-four C-110 members were present. Edward Barkowski will remain president of MAD.

The elections at our September meeting were held after the 11:30 AM Mass. John Klimas was elected President, Maryte Abbott, 1st Vice-president, and Dorothy Sakal the new treasurer.

C-136, Hudson-Mowhawk

-Dorothy Richmire-

The month of September turned out to be very busy for C-136. The National Guard Picnic early in the month was very successful. The weather cooperated, and the traditional Lithuanian food was especially enjoyed by the approximately 50 members of the Guard who attended, as well as the K of L members who were fortunate to be there. There was great conversation, and the Guard shared plans for another mission to Lithuania in 2002.

The MAD convention convened on September 17th, starting with Mass at Holy Cross Church, with Father John Provost celebrating, and the meeting and delicious luncheon was held at St. Mary's Church Hall. The meeting ran smoothly, and out

of town members were able to meet their bus schedule for a safe ride home.

On the weekend of September 22-24, members cooked up a storm of Lithuanian goodies that we offered at our booth, which was part of the Cluster Bazaar at St. John the Evangelist Church. It was a lot of work, but it was fun, too, interacting with the other volunteer workers. There was entertainment every night, and we heard nothing but positive comments about our food. Fr. Provost was our biggest fan. He kept returning for more. Our efforts were rewarded with a successful profit realized, which we donated to Holy Cross Church.

Our October meeting resulted in the election of officers for 2000-2001 as follows: President - Sue Freer, Vice-president - Bea Jasewicz, Treasurer - Ed Barkowski, Sgt.-at-Arms - Bill Jasewicz, Financial Secretary - June Stankus, Trustees - Richard Fuerst and Chick Rupsis. Congratulations to all.

We voted to send a donation of \$100 to the Auriesville Shrine in response to an appeal for funds needed to replace the roof.

Bernice reported that Lithuania is now a member of the World Trade Organization. They are now preparing for membership to NATO, which will be considered in 2002. She also commented that, according to her source, Lithuania seems to be up to date as far as modern technology, computers, etc. Thought for today: "Life is hard by the yard, but by the inch it is a cinch."

C-144, Anthracite, PA

-Ona-

The 86th Annual Lithuanian Days, sponsored by the Knights of Lithuania, Anthracite Council #144, were held at the Schuylkill Mall in Frackville, PA, on August 12 and 13, 2000, Saturday and Sunday, from 11AM to 5 PM.

Started in 1914, by the Lithuanian Catholic Priests' League at then Lakewood and Lakeside Parks to bring together Lithuanian immigrants and their families for a day of culture, fun and good fellowship.

Until the end of WW2, it was always held on August 15 at the Parks. This was the Feast of the Assumption, a Holy Day. Many mines closed so the people could go to Lithuanian Day. After WW2, it was held on the Sunday close to August 15, to accommodate the young people who left the area for better jobs. As many as 25,000 people attended the festivities. Many prominent people attended, and there was always a morning Mass, followed by a program in the afternoon. It was held at Lakewood until that park closed, and then it was held at Rocky Glen Park until that, too, closed.

Since then, the Schuylkill Mall very generously allowed the celebration to be held there. Proceeds go to Lithuanian charities; the Church in Lithuania through the Pontifical Lithuanian Seminary in Rome, the Poor Orphanages and schools in Lithuania, and for the poor and needy.

This year's celebration featured the Lithuanian Folk Dancers from Philadelphia.

Accordionist Lynne Cox will entertain both days, and she and Michael Flynn will led the Lithuanian sing-a-longs. We also had the famous musical McDonalds right from our own area, Kaska, PA. The Gintaras Children's Folk Dance Group from Mahanoy City sang and danced on Sunday. There was good Lithuanian food, the Display Room featured Lithuanian Artifacts and videos from Lithuania, and Lithuania on the Internet. There was a variety of Folk Art demonstrations and other surprises.

There were prizes for the person who traveled the farthest; for the oldest person who attended Lithuanian Days, and for the person who had the greatest amount of Lithuanian Pins which were sold during the years at Lakewood Park.

Lithuanian Days is the longest consecutive ethnic festival in Pennsylvania.

C-152, E. Long Island, NY

-Marion Wydra-

"The frost is on the pumpkins, the corn is turning brown..."

Anyone remember the next line? It's the time of year when the foliage shows all the brilliant colors. A reminder for us to get back into the swing of things. Council 152 skipped the July and August meetings, so that our members could enjoy all the summer festivities. We met again for the September meeting with Vice-president Delbert Vance, filling in for Pres. Muriel Lofmark, who was celebrating her birthday with her family. "Happy Birthday," Muriel, from all of us. The important issues and topics

were all addressed.

Fred Lucka read an interesting article on the origin of the Lithuanian polka, which brought back memories of our very early years when our parents held Saturday night parties with their Lithuanian friends. Out came the old "Victrola" (phonograph), with the favorite Lithuanian records. Most requested were the polkas.

John Sakal then gave a brief summary of the National Convention he attended in July, and did cover the main proposals and the final outcome of the convention. So good to have such a dedicated, traveling Knight. Thanks for being there for us, John. The opinions and approval of the members is important, and we never rush through with the business part. Rarely do we every put anything on the "back burner" unless the issue requires more research for in-depth discussions. Then, when all old business and new business is taken care of, we begin the social time. Refreshments and coffee are provided by designated committee members. It's such a friendly atmosphere, that we hesitate to leave. So, never have second thoughts about attending a meeting. It can be fun, too! And, bring a guest.

The October meeting is always quite festive, with pumpkins and autumn decorations. Here, on Long Island, we are surrounded with pumpkin farms, and the fields are filled with people picking pumpkins. This makes traffic so heavy and congested, that it takes twice as long for members to arrive for our

October meeting.

Nevertheless, their determination gets them here.

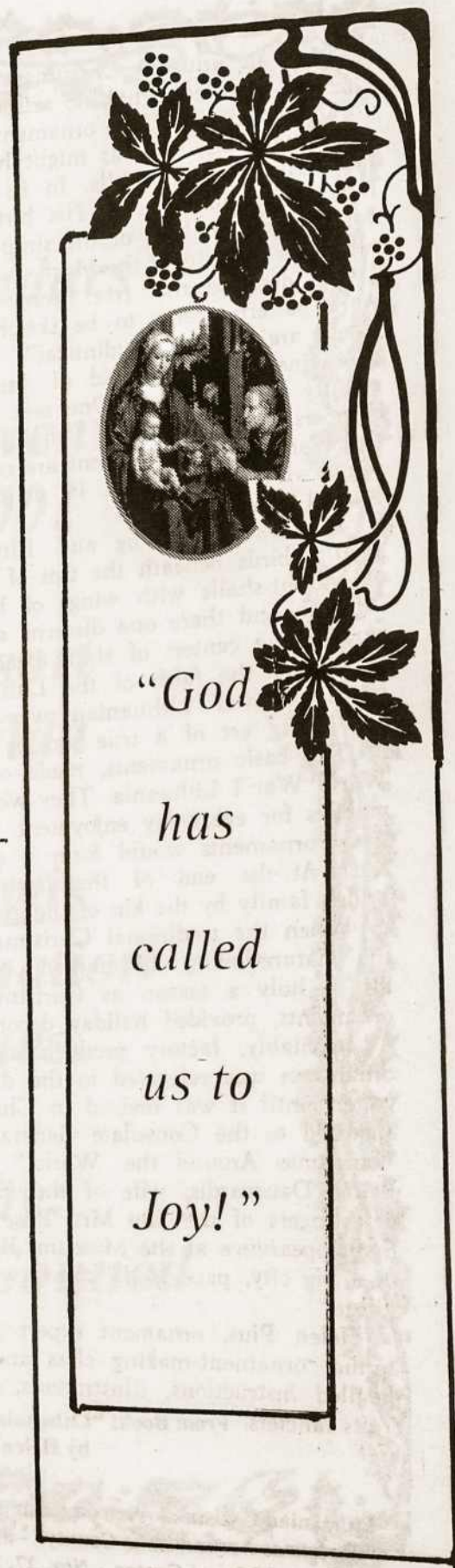
Now, that's dedication. And who was that flying around on her broom Halloween night? None other but yours truly!

Now it's time to get ready for Thanksgiving. A celebration begun by the Pilgrims for their successful harvest. That is why we have such an abundance of food on the Thanksgiving table. Remember all there is to be thankful for. Council 152 is so thankful for the continued support and interest its members show in keeping the Knights of Lithuania active.

Our condolences go to the family of our dear and dedicated Knight, Anna Bakys, who passed away on August 30th. She did a lot for us just by keeping us informed of the state of affairs in Lithuania by using her short-wave radio. She'll be missed very much, and may she rest in peace. Our get well wishes are extended to all on the sick list.

Again a reminder that our Christmas party is coming up on December 10th. Looking for a big turnout, so mark your calendars and invite a friend.

My quote for the month: "Some people don't have much to say, but you have to listen a long time to find it out."



Lithuanian Christmas Ornaments

A LOST ART REVIVED

It is an unusual Christmas tree. On it you will find no tinsel or glitter, no blinking multi-colored lights, no artificial snow—none of the baubles which we expect to find on Christmas trees. The ornaments on this unorthodox tree are fashioned from commonplace materials, such as might have been gathered from or near His manger: straw, eggshells, feathers, nutshells. In its modesty of adornment, it might well betoken the humble surroundings of His birth. The hours of painstaking work and ingenuity devoted to the making of the simple ornaments for His Birthday are commensurate to the wealth of the gifts of the Magi.

To describe the tree: from afar, a delicate, straw or ivory-colored geometric fretwork pattern seems to be sketched against the dark green branches of the evergreen. They are the "siaudinukai" ornaments, made by stringing different lengths of straw on twine into a myriad of fantastic geometric shapes dictated by the fancy and ingenuity of the maker. One sees triangular and rectangular bells with colored bead clappers, birdlike figures, chains, festoons, simple triangles and elaborate bird cages. Color and gentle movement are contributed by birds made of whole empty eggshells, some white, some dyed in delicate hues, with beaks, wings and tails made of gaily colored paper.

A constant twirling and flitting movement magnetically draws the glance to still smaller birds beneath the tips of branches. These birds, of the species "riesutas" are made of walnut-shells with wings of birch bark, feathers or paper.

Here and there one discerns a few "saulutes", little suns — flower-like aureoles surrounding centers of shiny beads, metal, or mirror fragments. Atop the tree is the symbol of the faith of the Lithuanian nation — a stylized cross made of straw, replica of the beloved Lithuanian way-side cross, reproduced and carefully embellished with the loving art of a true son or daughter of Lithuania.

The basic ornaments, made of natural rye or wheat straw, were popular in pre-World War I Lithuania. They were used as decorations for special functions and as mobiles for every-day enjoyment. In certain regions, green boughs decked with the straw ornaments would form a decorative background for a bridal party at a wedding feast. At the end of the festivities, this "bride's tree" was "purchased" from the bride's family by the kin of the groom, and the money given to the bride.

When the traditional Christmas tree, as we know it, began to appear in Lithuania, the nature-loving Lithuanian could not bring himself to cut down a living tree even for so holy a season as Christmas. Therefore, evergreen boughs, hung with straw ornaments, provided holiday decorations for the home.

Inevitably, factory products supplanted handicraft, and the making of the delicate ornaments was relegated to the dim corner of a very recent past. It was all but forgotten until it was revived in Chicago. In 1943, the Museum of Science and Industry appealed to the Consulate General of Lithuania for a typically Lithuanian tree for its "Christmas Around the World." Through the research, inquiries and efforts of Mrs. Petras Dauzvardis, wife of the Consul General, and with the rekindled memories and deft fingers of the late Mrs. Rose Maziliauskas, a Lithuanian Christmas tree made its first appearance at the Museum. Because natural rye or wheat straw was difficult to find in a big city, paper soda straws were found to be a satisfactory and more durable substitute.

Helen Pius, ornament expert and instructress, and Frank Zapolis, who sponsors an annual ornament-making class and contest, have filled a great need with this book of detailed instructions, illustrations, and diagrams. It will be welcomed by arts and crafts fanciers. **From Book: "Lithuanian Christmas Ornaments"**

by Helen Pius & Frank Zapolis (1969)

Josephine J. Dauzvardis
The Lithuanian Lore Lady

Lithuanian Christmas Tree on Exhibit
"Christmas Around Lake County" - at the Lake County
Interstate Visitors' Center - Nov. 27, 2000 - Jan. 3, 2001
7770 Corinne Drive - Hammond, Indiana

(1969)



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