



VYTIS - THE KNIGHT

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Saint Casimir, Patron of the Knights of Lithuania, Guide and bless us!

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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.*



TABLE OF CONTENTS - TURINYS

To My Fellow Knights	2
Reminder from Ritual Chairperson	2
President's Corner	3
Congratulations to New Lithuanian Cardinal	4-5
Lithuanian Affairs Update	6-8
Lithuanian Language Course	8
A Hymnbook Review	9
Lithuanians in the News	9
Letters to the Editor	10
St. Casimir Bio. Sketch and Prayer	11
Lenten Reflections	12-13
At the Hill of Crosses in Lithuania	14
Convention Registration	16
Ads for Convention Program Book	17
Recipes	18
Knights in Action	19-22
In Memoriam	23
Council News	24-30
Spring Breaks Through	32



On the Cover:

"Saint Casimir" from the Book,
 "The Art of Sister Mercedes"
 (Used with permission of the Artist)

To My Fellow Knights

Dear Fellow Knights,

1984 - the year of St. Casimir, prince and patron of Lithuania. On March 4th of that year the most important celebration took place in Rome as Lithuanians from around the world (and even iron-curtained Lithuania) gathered in St. Peter's Basilica to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the death of St. Casimir and the annual feast of St. Casimir.

St. Casimir has long been our protector. Pope Paul V placed him in the universal church calendar in 1621; Urban VIII in 1636 proclaimed St. Casimir the principal patron of Lithuania and Pius XII appointed him as the special supporter of youth in 1948.

Today, too, as model of prayerful devotion and responsible and compassionate action, may St. Casimir, the chosen patron of the Knights of Lithuania organization, inspire us to elevate our values, vanquish selfishness and ennoble us in our quest for God and country. God's blessings on your efforts.

Vytiskai,

Sister M. Janine



Editor's Note

We apologize for the arrival of the January VYTIS in February. The printer was ill and everything was delayed.

The recent rise in postal expenses reaps havoc for the press also. It is now even more important to report changes of address to your financial secretary **as soon as possible**. It is the responsibility of the council financial secretary to forward these changes of address as well as the notice of death of members.

A REMINDER FROM THE SUPREME COUNCIL RITUAL CHAIRPERSON

Be sure to have the **FOURTH DEGREE APPLICATIONS** in to the supreme Council Ritual Chairperson by May 1, 2001.

The procedure was explained in the article "Simple Steps for Ritual Degrees" which can be found in the February, 2001 issue of **VYTIS** magazine.



President's Corner:

Hello fellow members. As I write this I'm preparing to depart for Rome for the Consistory at which Archbishop Backis will be elevated to Cardinal. I'm sure everyone joins me in congratulating the Archbishop on this wonderful news and wish him only the best for his future success. A full report is going to be prepared for a future issue.

With March comes Spring and lots of K of L activity. During the month many meetings and events are going on. From March 8-10 the members of JBANC will be meeting in Washington, DC. High on the list of priorities will be talks on the inclusion of the Baltic Nations into NATO. While I'm only going to be able to attend the sessions on the 9th, our Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, John Mankus will be attending the entire conference. Please watch for John's Lithuanian Affairs bulletins as well as his articles in Vytis. Now is the time for action and we encourage each of you to begin or continue writing your local U.S. Congressmen and U.S. Senators requesting their support of U.S. recognition of the Baltics as full members of NATO during the next round of voting. A letter to our President asking for his support as well would probably be a good idea as well. When I spoke with President Adamkus last year he felt that this was a very important issue facing Lithuania today and urged our support, let's not let our homeland down.

March 10th will find your 88th National Convention Committee meeting to start the finalization of convention plans. All the members are working very hard to insure that while this is our most important business event of the year we want everyone to have a good time full of many fun activities which are also being planned for members of all ages. Please feel free to start making your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Look for the Convention Registration and Ad Form in this issue of Vytis. Hope to see everyone in Orlando for the Convention, you won't be disappointed.

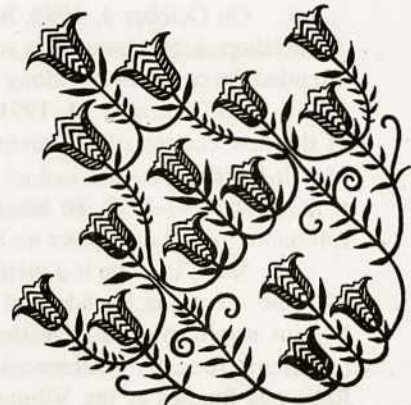
Finally, on March 31st, your Supreme Council will come together again for their Spring Meeting. We thank Council 96, Dayton, Ohio, for inviting us to their lovely city. All K of L members are welcome to sit in on this and all SC meetings.

Have a wonderful Spring and I'll be in touch.

Vytiškai,

Rob Martin

Robert A. Martin, Jr.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW LITHUANIAN CARDINAL!



On February 21, 2001, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, raised to the College of Cardinals **Audrys Juozas Backis**, Archbishop of Vilnius, to the joy of the Lithuanian people and his many friends among the Knights of Lithuania.

Audrys Juozas Backis, Archbishop of Vilnius, was born in Kaunas, Lithuania, on February 1, 1937, the second son in the family of Dr. Stasys Anatanas Backis, a Lithuanian diplomat, and Ona Galvydaitė Backiene, a teacher. He has one brother, Ričardas Backis.

In 1938, the family took up residence in France, where his father worked as a diplomat at the Lithuanian Legation in Paris. When they arrived in Paris, no one suspected that their return to Lithuania would take place 50 years later.

Audrys Backis lived in Paris until 1957, where he finished high school and began his ecclesiastical studies in St. Sulpice Seminary. In 1957 he moved to Rome, residing at St. Casimir's Lithuanian College and studying at the Gregorian University, where in 1961 he received a licentiate in Theology. Ordained in 1961, he was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Kaunas, Lithuania.

Continuing his studies in Rome, he received a doctorate in canon law from the Lateran University in 1964, while at the same time studying in the Diplomatic Academy of the Holy See.

In 1964 he entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See: 1964-1965 served in the Philippines, 1966-1968 in Costa Rica, 1969-1970 in Turkey, 1971-1973 in Nigeria.

From 1974-1988 he worked in the Vatican Council for Public Affairs (now the Secretariat of State), where from 1979 he served as the Undersecretary of the Vatican Council for Public Affairs. During the same period he also taught Diplomatic Law at the Lateran University.

While fulfilling his diplomatic duties, he was also active in parish ministry, assisting youth and family organizations, conducting retreats and leading many discussion groups.

In 1988 he was nominated as the titular Archbishop of Meta and appointed as the Papal Nuncio in Holland.

On October 4, 1988, he was consecrated an archbishop by Pope John Paul II. On this occasion, Archbishop J. Steponavicius was allowed to come to Rome for the first time under Soviet rule. He attended the consecration along with Bishop J. Preikšas.

On December 24, 1991, he was appointed Archbishop of Vilnius, concurrently with the creation of the new ecclesiastical province of Vilnius by Pope John Paul II. He was installed as Archbishop on March 3, 1992.

In 1992-1993, he acted as President of the Committee for the Preparation of the Papal Visit to Lithuania, which took place on Sept. 4-8, 1993.

Since 1993 he is a member of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, and from 1993-1999 he served as President of the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference. In 1993 he also reestablished the Vilnius seminary, and from this time, special attention is given to the continuing formation programs (seminars, retreats, conferences) for ordained clergy. During this same year, he founded the Chair for Religious Studies at the Vilnius Pedagogical University, establishing the academic program to prepare religion teachers. On April 30, 1997, he was granted an honorary doctoral degree by the Vilnius Pedagogical University.

The Archbishop also supported and fostered the work of *Faith and Light*, a support organization for families with handicapped children from the group's inception in Lithuania. Some of his other establishments were the following:

- a grade school, *Versme*, integrating handicapped children into a regular educational system. He the school's spiritual advisor.
- Betanija*, (1992), a soup kitchen, daily feeding 700 adults. The Caritas soup kitchen feeds another 100 children from poor and dysfunctional families and provides a day care center.
- a shelter for mothers with young children, (1996), who lack proper housing, funds and the assistance of their own families.
- the Mother of Mercy Shelter, in which the Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa's sisters, daily feed up to 150 people, and take care of the sick and homeless. Also provides a night shelter for 50 homeless.
- constantly working to expand and develop the Caritas programs, especially the programs within archdiocesan parishes, himself collecting for the poor and often encouraging others to share their own bread and love with those in need. The archbishop frequently makes pastoral visits to hospitals, jails and homes for the elderly.
- a family center (1994) where engaged couples are prepared for Matrimony and receive spiritual and psychological consultation.
- a retreat center, *Trinapolis* (1997), for use by children, youth, priests, religious and private individuals.
- the Vilnius Archdiocesan Pastoral Center (1999), from which various Catholic organizations and the Archdiocesan youth ministry have their outreach.

In 1999, Archbishop Backis was appointed by Pope John Paul II, as a member of the Committee for the preparation of the European Bishop's Synod and later elected the vice-chairman of the committee preparing the final statement of the Synod.

From 1998-2001, he was the acting president of the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference Jubilee 2000 committee. On February 16, 2000, he received the *Medal of the Grand Duke Gediminas of the 2nd Degree*, one of the highest honors awarded by the Republic of Lithuania.

With the death of Cardinal Sladkevicius, Cardinal Backis becomes the only Lithuanian cardinal and the third in the history of the country.

The *Knights of Lithuania* unite in congratulating His Eminence *Cardinal Audrys Juozas Backis*, and bid him fortitude and generosity in working for the continuing spiritual progress of the Church in Lithuania and the well-being of all its people.

Ad multos annos! Ilgiausių, Švenčiausių, Sveikiausių Metų linkime!

Lithuanian Affairs Update (2-7-01)

By **John R. Mankus**, Chairman National Lithuanian Affairs Committee

The month of January is a tragic and profoundly historic event in the history of Lithuania. On January 13, 2001, people of Lithuania commemorated the tragic events of January 13, 1991, when Soviet tanks and Soviet paratroopers occupied the TV and Radio Center and TV tower, and in the turmoil massacred 14 unarmed civilians, mostly young students, and injuring more than 700. I would like to share a few words from President **Valdas Adamkus'** address during the presentation ceremony of the Medal of January 13 to Freedom Defenders. "Today we have gathered to mark the tenth anniversary of January 13. Nobody remained indifferent to the events that took place at the start of 1991. They united our people and strengthened the feeling that we were a united and mature society. That strong sense of unity and national identity is most probably the most important lesson of January 13. Ten years after the 1991, the new generation who grew up in independent Lithuania learns about January 13 events from history books. Freedom and independence that our nation was struggling for in the past is no longer a cherished aspiration, but a political reality which allows to achieve new goals." President Adamkus awarded more than 100 medals in a Friday night ceremony. He said, "Your bravery allows us today to be the masters of our land and creators of our common future."

Many people remembered that historic event. Norwegian journalist, Hans Steinfeld was in Vilnius in early January, 1991, when Soviet troops had occupied many buildings in Vilnius, and was also in Vilnius during the tragedy of January 13. He stated, "Two events blasted away the Warsaw Pact: the **Vilnius** events and the fall of the **Berlin Wall**," he told the magazine Antena. "Lithuania was the catalyst for the collapse of the Soviet Union."

Petras Liubertas, who was Vice-minister of the Interior in January, 1991, said that a crowd of tens of thousands prevented the Soviet army from storming the Lithuanian Parliament.

Parliament Chairman, **Arturas Paulauskas**, was the prosecutor general in January, 1991. "Many believed that the Soviet tanks and paratroopers were just putting on moral pressure, but even when the Soviets started shooting and the

windows of nearby houses were shattered, people were not afraid. Many prayed, but nobody left," Paulauskas said.

"We lost the battle, but we won the war," said **Antanas Sakalauskas**, 48, whose leg was badly mangled when he was caught under a tank at the demonstration outside the TV tower a decade ago. The unarmed Lithuanians linked arms tighter and kept chanting, "Freedom for Lithuanian," said Sakalauskas.

"War crimes were committed." **Vytautas Landsbergis** said he called for the extradition of the organizers of the Jan. 13 massacre. He said during the anniversary, "The Lithuanian-Russian treaty signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in 1992 states, that Lithuania reestablished its independence on March 11, 1990. The aggression of the Soviet Union against Lithuania took place a full 10 months later. In 1992, Yeltsin told me, "we'll extradite them all for you," but Russia failed to do so. Landsbergis added, that Soviet generals active in Vilnius in January, 1991 are today Russian Duma MPs or occupy high posts in the Russian army. One is vice-minister of defense in Belarus. "When somebody asks me when they'll be extradited I answer, when Russia becomes a democratic state," Landsbergis said. People from neighboring Poland also participated in the commemoration. **Alicja Grzeskowiak** was among a group of Polish senators who arrived in Vilnius several days after Jan. 13 when a second Soviet attack on the Parliament was still expected. Today she is the chairperson of Poland's Senate. In a speech at the anniversary meeting in the Lithuanian Parliament, Grzeskowiak described her feeling of solidarity at the time. "Poland was ready to give some land for a Lithuanian government in exile if an occupation of Lithuania went ahead." In January 1991, Lithuania's Foreign Minister, **Algirdas Saudargas** was in Warsaw. He had a mandate from the Lithuanian Parliament to create a Cabinet in exile if the Soviets arrested or killed Lithuanian MPs and government members.

Bernadeta Lukoseviciute was a Lithuanian Radio journalist in January 1991, and still works there. "January 13 is like roses of blood in the Vilnius snow, which is full of tank tracks," she said.

World Bank in Lithuania/World Trade Organization Update.

Lithuania joined the World Bank in July, 1992. Since then, the Bank's assistance to Lithuania has strongly supported the country's transition to a market economy. Since 1992, the Bank has committed approximately \$314.5 million (US) for 13 projects. At the close of 2000, Lithuania became the 141st member of the World Trade Organization. President Valdas Adamkus told the WTO General Assembly in Geneva, that membership "will secure and consolidate my country's due place in the global network of economic independence."

Border and Ignalina Power Plant Developments.

Since reestablishment of independence, smuggling and illegal immigration has been a problem for Lithuania and Poland. Both countries have dramatically improved control over their own borders. Over the last few years, both, Lithuania and Poland have tightened their borders, both to protect their own populations and to make themselves more attractive as potential members of the **European Union**. Lithuanian border police announced that Lithuania had reduced the flow of illegal immigration by more than 50 percent over the last year, and by more than 90 percent since 1996. Polish officials have been able to report similar gains.

Preparation for Ignalina n-plant first unit decommissioning is gaining momentum and some Lithuanian politicians are calling for a decision on the schedule of the shutdown to be made by the end of this year.

NATO update.

The new US administration claimed its support for Baltic countries' membership in NATO. Secretary of State, **General Colin Powell**, when participating in the Senate hearings, vowed he would support the Baltic states accession to Northern Alliance. Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator **Jessie Helms (R-NC)**, has given a major boost to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in their hopes for joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at the next NATO summit. In a speech at the American Enterprise Institute, Helms outlined foreign policy priorities and objectives which he intends to undertake during the 107th Congress. In his speech, Helms discussed the "moral challenge" the West faces in righting the wrongs

of Yalta in 1945, in which the nations of Central and Eastern Europe were "abandoned" to Stalin. To complete the process of helping Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania back into their rightful place in the West, the SFRC chairman announced that he will work with the new Bush administration to see that the Baltic countries are **invited to join NATO in 2002**. "This," he said, "is vital not only for their security, but for ours as well."

Nuke Movement in Kaliningrad Region.

On January 3, "The Washington Times" reported that Russia is moving short-range nuclear weapons to Kaliningrad (Lithuania Minor), Russia's Baltic enclave bordering Lithuania and Poland. The report was based on intelligence sources and that they had detected the nuclear arms as early as last June. Russian officials in Kaliningrad have denied the reports. However, if the reports were true, Russia would have reneged on its promise to remove all nuclear weapons from the Baltic region. Vytautas Landsbergis stated that Lithuania is now forced to ask for consultations with the US and to discuss Russian air transit over Lithuanian air space. Polish President, **Aleksander Kwasniewski**, said that he counts on Moscow's cooperation in having international inspectors examine whether Russia deployed nuclear weapons in the Kaliningrad enclave between Poland and Lithuania. "In order to check the facts, we count on international inspection in cooperation with Russia," Kwasniewski said. "It is nothing extraordinary. Such inspections are carried out regularly in various parts of the world." Senior US administration officials told Associated Press there had been indications of possible nuclear weapons movement to a naval base in Kaliningrad, the home of Russia's Baltic Fleet. Russian President, Vladimir Putin, called the reports "rubbish." Kwasniewski said it would be a great detriment to the confidence placed in Russia if it turned out that such moves were taking place without notification to partners in NATO. Defense ministers of Latvia and Estonia visiting Poland expressed surprise Sunday about the reports of nuclear weapons deployment in Kaliningrad. There is "no need for Russia to deploy nuclear weapons in the region, because the "Baltic Sea region and all countries around it are friendly nations," Latvian Defense Minister Gritis Valdis Kristovskis stated. Lithuanian Defense Minister **Linas Antanas**

Linkevicius said it would be "justified" to send an international team of experts to Kaliningrad.

European Union update.

Lithuanian foreign minister welcomes landmark EU decision. "The doors to European Union institutions are now open for Lithuania and our country can be properly represented there," Lithuanian Foreign Minister **Antanas Valionis** said after meeting with Jean-Bernard Harth, the French ambassador in Lithuania. EU leaders ruled that after joining the organization, Lithuania would have seven votes in the decision-making council, just like EU member-states of Denmark, Finland and Ireland with a similar population. "We have met our schedule and shall be able to present our positions in all 29 negotiation chapters this year," Lithuania's chief EU negotiator **Vygaudas Usackas** told AFP. Lithuania's European integration Commission approved positions on taxation, regional policy and agriculture. Lithuania began membership negotiations in March, and has opened negotiations on 16 chapters, with seven of them already provisionally concluded. Lithuania hopes to conclude EU negotiations by the end of 2002, and be ready for EU membership by 2004.

Breaking News.

Pope John Paul II, on Sunday, January 21, named 37 new Cardinals, among whom was Vilnius' Archbishop **Audrys Juozas Backis**, consecrated as a priest 40 years ago, who became the second new Church Era Lithuanian Representative awarded this honorable title. The first was **Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius** (1988), who died last summer. The elevation ceremonies for the new Cardinals will take place on February 21 in Rome.



Precious as are all the seasons of the year,
none so rejoices the heart as spring. There
is about spring a gladness that thrills the
soul and lifts it up into regions of spiritual
sunshine.
Helen Keller

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSE

The 16th annual Lithuanian Language Course at **Camp Dainava, Manchester Michigan**, will take place **August 5-12, 2001**. This intensive course, operating under the auspices of the Educational Council of the Lithuanian American Community of the USA, is designed for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students, or those just wishing to refresh their Lithuanian.

The course is taught by experienced instructors in vacation-like surroundings and atmosphere. There are no limitations regarding age or formal education.

For more information or registration, please contact:

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<http://javlb.org/educat/mokytoju.html>

Vytautas Jonaitis is a member of K of L Council - 142.

The sun is bright - the air is clear,
The darting swallows soar and sing,
And from the stately elms I hear
The bluebird prophesying spring.
Longfellow

A HYMNBOOK REVIEW

Faustas Strolia, ATVERKIM VIEŠPACIUI ŠIRDIES DURIS (Chicago, 2000), 100 pages, Preface by Msgr. Ignas Urbonas, collection of 67 Lithuanian hymns, soft cover, plastic spiral binding.

Publications in Lithuanian circles are usually heavily subsidized and are instances of the proverbial "labor of love." ATVERKIM belongs to that genre of publications. This hymnal comes from the talented hands of a jewel in the Knights of Lithuania diadem of activists

Faustas Strolia belongs to a family of musicians and composers. Born in Taurage in 1931, he built up his musical dossier in his homeland and in Germany. Faustas came to Chicago in 1957, where, ever since, he has made his mark in musical life.

This latest endeavor, funded by the Knights of Lithuania, was occasioned by the Millennium Jubilee Year, prompting the composer to distribute over 140 copies of ATVERKIM to choirs in Lithuania through the seven Catholic dioceses.

The hymns are Strolia's original melodies, employing several lyricists, especially Pranas Zaranka of Detroit. Some of the music was written for use at Camp Dainava. The selections suit the major liturgical seasons, and include hymns for major feast days and a badly needed Holy Spirit anthem. The repertoire reaches hymns scored for mixed choir, equal voices, men's choir, and junior choir.

Granted, Lithuanian parishes are dwindling. Choirs are fading out. Still, each council should consider learning a few of these lively, pleasant melodies for annual observances. Another thought, too! Why not translate some of these hymns and use the Lithuanian melodies? (Caution: In this case, as a courtesy, do consult Maestro Strolia).

More importantly, every council ought to hand-deliver gratis copies to one's local library, to nearby conservatories, and to music

departments of area colleges. Creative choir directors are always searching for something different to add to a concert. Why not a Lithuanian hymn? Make it possible for the treasure of Lithuanian gifts to still endure a century from now!

For free distribution copies, write to:

**Faustas Strolia
15325 Sequoia Street
Oak Forest, IL 60452**

(Article contributed by Rev. William Wolkowich-Valkavicius, Norwood, MA, (C-27), who is an avid historian, author of a 75 year history of the K of L, and a history of American parishes. Faustas Strolia and Msgr. I. Urbonas are from Council 157, Lemont, IL).

LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS

The first recipient of the "Amicus Poloniae" nomination of the Polish American Historical Association is **Rev. William Wolkowich-Valkavicius**. The award was presented at the PAHA Convention dinner on January 6, 2001, at the Northeastern University Faculty Club in Boston, given to a non-Polish historian whose writings have contributed to the understanding of Polish immigrants.

Congratulations, Father!



From: Letters to the Editor

TEN YEARS OF "MIRACLES"

Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc., is celebrating its 10th anniversary of helping children in Lithuania who are living in orphanages and in impoverished rural communities.

I'm just sharing some information about 10 years of "miracles" through LCR. God certainly has blessed us through the generosity of countless people. The K of L has been and is a great part in these wonderful years. "Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the apples from one seed." So, too, only God can truly count the "miracles" through the efforts of so many people. God bless you!

Lith. Children's Relief, Inc.
Lietuvos Vaiku Globa c/o:
Sister Helen Ivanauskas, CJC (C-1)
261 Thatcher Street
Brockton, MA 02302

INITIATIVES FOR LITHUANIA

I am a member of the K of L in St. Anthony's Church, Ansonia, Conn. I know Clemencine Miller (Supreme Council Ritual Chairperson). I am receiving the *VYTIS*. I used to speak Lithuanian as a child, and around 5 years of age I learned English. Both of my parents are Lithuanian, as are my grandparents who came from Lithuania. I am at the **UNITED NATIONS** on the Youth Committee. I see the work you are all doing for Lithuania. I believe Lithuania needs to be a part of NATO. I have a connection there if you need help.

I was at the Inauguration and the Inaugural Ball in Washington, DC. I am hoping for a political appointment by the Bush/Cheney transition team, or a job. I hope you can support me. I am willing to be in Washington, DC, New York City, Boston area.

Joseph Kazickas worked with President Carter doing negotiations in Lithuania when the country was seeking independence. He has

been a family friend. His daughter was a photojournalist during the Vietnam War and won a major prize for her photos.

I am at the UN. I am happy to help and work on re-claiming the financial losses from the **Russian Federation for our Lithuania and for our families.**

You may contact me at:

barbara.sherman@snet.net

To the Editor:

I write this letter in the hope that one of your readers may be able to help me in my search for information for a biography that I am writing of my cousin, **Isabella Vilimas (Williams).**

Isabella was born here in Philadelphia in the late 1920's. Just prior to the Second World War, her father died and her mother returned to Lithuania with Isabella and her younger brother. At the conclusion of the war, Isabella joined the Partisans and fought the Soviet occupation. Living in Seduva, she fought mostly, I believe, in the Siauliai area. She appears to have had two Partisan names: "Stirna" and "Sparnuote."

I am returning to Lithuania later this year to continue my research over there. But, I would like to know if any of those she served with, or people who knew her are living here in the US or Canada. I thought that with your magazine's circulation among the Lithuanian community, I could find people who were acquainted with her.

Since I also intend this book to cover the struggle in general as well as Isabella's participation, I would also like to make contact with anyone who fought or had relatives who fought against the occupation. I believe all of their stories are important and need to be chronicled for the sake of posterity. Anyone with information can write me at:

Peter John Williams
2400 South Percy Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148 or,

e-mail: pjwesquire@aol.com or,

Phone: 215-467-0653

SAINT CASIMIR



Saint Casimir, patron of Lithuania, was born October 3, 1458, of royal parents - Casimir, Great Archduke of Lithuania and reigning King of Poland, and Elizabeth, daughter of the Austrian emperor, Albrecht II.

Mundane treasures and pleasures of the court failed to sway Saint Casimir from his persistent striving toward God. He achieved a remarkable degree of sanctity by cultivating a deep love for prayer through frequent meditations on the passion of Christ, and by his great devotion to the Holy Eucharist and to the Blessed Mother.

His two outstanding virtues, love of chastity and almsgiving to the needy, merited for him the titles, "Flower of Princes," and "Father of the Poor."

Saint Casimir died of consumption in Gardinas on the day he had foretold, March 4, 1484, and was buried in Vilnius, where many miracles took place at his tomb. He was beatified in 1521 and canonized in 1602. His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, in 1948 declared Saint Casimir special patron of all Lithuanian Youth.

Prayer to Saint Casimir

O God, who amidst the delights of royalty and the blandishments of the world, didst strengthen holy Casimir with the virtue of constancy, grant we beseech Thee, that by his intercession Thy faithful may despise earthly things, and ever aspire to those of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of the Sparrow



I'm only a little sparrow,
A bird of low degree...
My life is of little value,
But the dear Lord cares for me.
He gives me a coat of feathers;
It is very plain, I know,
Without a speck of crimson
For it was not made for show.

But it keeps me warm in winter,
And it shields me from the rain;
Were it bordered with gold and purple,
Perhaps it would make me vain.

And now that the springtime cometh,
I will build me a little nest,
With many a chirp of pleasure,
In the spot I like the best.

I have no barn or storehouse...
I neither sow nor reap;
God gives me a sparrow's portion
And never a seed to keep.

If my meal is sometimes scanty,
Close picking makes it sweet;
I have always enough to feed me,
And life is more than meat.

I know there are many sparrows...
All over the world they are found;
But our heavenly Father knoweth
When one falleth to the ground.

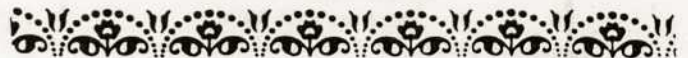
Though small, we are not forgotten;
Though weak, we are not afraid,
For we know that the dear Lord keepeth
The life of the creatures he made.

I fly through the thickest forest,
I light on many a spray;
I have no chart or compass,
But I never lose my way.

I just fold my wings at nightfall
Wherever I happen to be,
For the Father is always watching...
No harm can happen to me.

I am only a little sparrow,
A bird of low degree,
But I know that the Father loves me...
Dost thou know His love for thee?

(Author unknown)



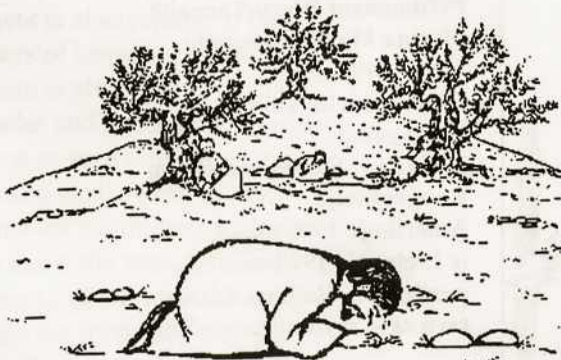


The Cross is a symbol of the greatest LOVE.



Does it have a place in your life?

Jesus knows that he must die to save us.
He goes to the Olive Garden to pray.



Jēzus zinojo, kad jam reikēs mirti už žmonių nuodėmes.
Alyvų sode Jis meldėsi.

Pikti žmonės sakė:
"Jėzus turi mirti!"



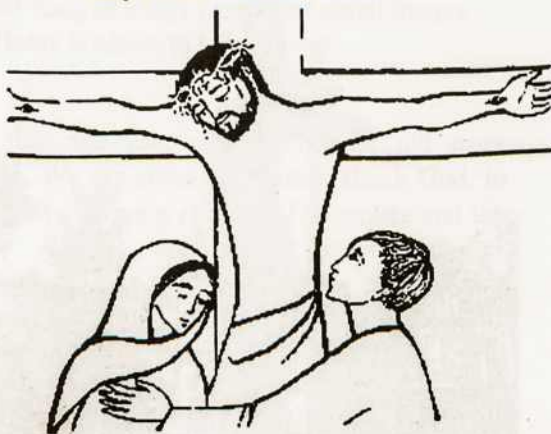
Jie mušė Jėzų, uždėjo erškėčių vainiką ant galvos.

Jėzus neša kryžių,
Ar tu nori jam padėti?



Jesus is not able to carry the cross.
Do you want to help him?

Holy Friday is the day Jesus died.



Jėzaus mirties diena.

Jesus' friends wept because



Jesus died on the cross.

Jėzaus draugai verkė,
kai Jėsus mirė ant kryžiaus.

After Jesus was taken down from the cross,



Mary, his mother,
held him in her hands.
Jėzaus motina Marija
laikė Jėzų ant kelių.
Marija žinojo, kad Jėzus mirė už žmonių nuodėmes.

AT THE HILL OF CROSSES IN LITHUANIA



Prisimenant Dievo Tarnaite
 Motina Marija Kaupaitę
 1880-1940
 Gimė Gudelių kaime
 Ramygaloje
 Isteigė Šv. Kazimiero seserų
 Kongregaciją
 Amerikoje 1907 m.
 ir Lietuvoje 1920 m.
 pastiprinti tikėjimo dvasią
 tarp savo mylimų tautiečių.

In memory of servant of God
 Mother Maria Kaupas
 1880-1940
 Born in Gudeliai, Ramygalą
 Founded the
 Sisters of St. Casimir
 in America 1907
 and in
 Pazaislis 1920
 to strengthen the faith
 life of her fellow Lithuanians



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

1993



LOTS OF TIME

Lots of time for lots of things;
 Though it's said that Time has wings;
 There is always time to find
 Ways of being sweet and kind;
 There is always time to share
 Smiles and goodness everywhere;
 Time to send the frowns away,
 Time a gentle word to say,
 Time for helpfulness and time
 To assist the weak to climb;
 Time to give a little flower;
 Time for friendship any hour;
 But there is no time to spare
 For unkindness anywhere.
 (Author unknown)

A drop of rain caught in the leaf cup of a lilac
 flashes in the sunlight with an eternal splendor
 that outshines the glistening jewels of a
 monarch.

Never mind yesterday, life is today!
 Never mind yesterday, lay it away!
 Never mind anything over and done,
 Here is a new moment, lit with new sun.

I open wide the portals of the spring
 To welcome the procession of the flowers,
 With their gay banners, and the birds that sing
 Their song of songs from their aerial towers.
 (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)

So then the year is repeating its old story
 again. We are come once more, thank God, to
 its most charming chapter. The violets and the
 May flowers are as its inscriptions or
 vignettes. It always makes a pleasant
 impression on us, when we open again at these
 pages of the book of life. (Goethe)

The Lord is good to all; and his tender mercies
 are over all his works. (Psalm 145:9)

OLD PEOPLE

They're not just old people, you know;
 They are life at its finish,
 A book in its last chapter.

They were babies born small, new and fresh;
 They grew and learned, loved and laughed,
 They made mistakes and cried as you and I.

Life taught them much; they are packed with
 Memories and knowledge we can't know.

Here they are; looking back with happy
 Thoughts, but sometimes sad that it's over.
 Why wasn't it different or
 Why can't we do it again?

Time cries out and marches on.

They're not just old people, learn from them.
 Understand them and help them fill their
 Numbered days with love and warmth.

They need you; they are fragile gems
 Polished by life and time.

(Contributed by Leona Sawka)

*Earth and ocean
 seem to sleep in
 one another's arms
 and dream.*
 - Percy Bysshe Shelley

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 88TH NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 2 - 5, 2001



Convention Site: Grosvenor Resort
1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd.
Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830

Host: KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SUPREME COUNCIL

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

All Bus Service as required; Thursday Night Get-Together at a local amusement park;
Coffee after morning Mass in Hotel on Friday and Saturday; Saturday Night Banquet and
Dance; and Sunday Brunch in Hotel before the Closing Mass.

Council No. _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

(Please print)

Street: _____ Phone No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

(Please do not mail any registration after July 5, 2001; bring them with you to the hotel).

Early Registration - \$175.00 per person (Prior to June 1) Amount \$ _____

Late Registration - \$185.00 per person (After June 1) Amount \$ _____

Junior Registration: \$90.00

(includes all adult activities plus Friday trip to local amusement park)

Name of Child _____
Age of Child _____ Amount \$ _____

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Wednesday, August 1, 2001 - Day Bus Trip to Kennedy Space Center

ADULT COST - \$45.00 per person Amount \$ _____

CHILD COST - \$30.00 per person Amount \$ _____

(Make checks payable to: Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council) Total Amount \$ _____

Mail Checks and Registration Forms to:

Mark H. Bell
Registration Coordinator
1224A 7th Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37208-2606

Phone: (615)256-3790

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
88th NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 2 - 5, 2001
ORLANDO, FLORIDA



HOSTS: SUPREME COUNCIL

Dear Members,

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

_____ \$100.00 Full Page 4" x 7"	_____ \$ 10.00 Patron Greeting (Use 3 Lines below)
Line _____	First
_____ \$ 50.00 Half Page	Second
Line _____ 4" x 3 1/2"	Third Line
_____ \$ 25.00 Quarter Page 4" x 1 3/4"	_____ \$ 5.00 Well Wisher (Name Only)

You may submit your ad on a separate piece of paper. Camera ready copy is welcome.

Also available: Outside Back Cover at \$150.00

Inside Back Cover at \$125.00

DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 10, 2001

Make Checks Payable to: Knights of Lithuania - - - - - Amount _____

Mail Ads with Checks to:	Agnes Mickunas, Chair - Program Book
	333 Davis Avenue
	Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059-1618

INFORMATION FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Grosvenor Resort Hotel
1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd.
Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830
Phone: 1-800-624-4109

Make your reservations now by calling the number listed above. Just mention "Knights of Lithuania" and a first night's deposit will hold your room for you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rob Martin at (219) 861-0731

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

(For those meatless Lenten days?)

SHRIMP TETRAZZINI

- ½ lb. cooked peeled shrimp
- 2c. cooked spaghetti
- 3 Tbsp. Butter or margarine
- 3 Tbsp. Flour
- 1 ½ c. milk

- 1tsp. Salt
- ¼ tsp. paprika
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- ½ c grated mild cheese
- ½ c. bread crumbs
- 1 avocado sliced

1. In a shallow casserole dish arrange slices of peeled avocado. Place spaghetti on top of avocado.
2. Cut shrimp in halves and put on top of spaghetti.
3. Melt butter in a saucepan. Add flour and blend well. Gradually add milk, stirring constantly. Add salt, pepper and paprika, and cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture is thick and smooth. Pour over the shrimp. Sprinkle with grated cheese and bread crumbs.
4. Bake, uncovered, in a 375 degree oven until heated through and browned.
Serves 6.

SHRIMP AND LINGUINE

- 2 lbs. large fresh shrimp, shelled and deveined
- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup olive oil
- 1 ½ tablespoons lemon juice
- ¼ cup green onions
- 1 teaspoon salt
- pepper to taste
- ¼ cup parsley chopped
- 1 pound linguine cooked

Warm butter and oil, stir in all ingredients except shrimp, parsley and linguine. Remove from heat, add shrimp and turn to coat well with oil. Place shrimp in a single layer in broiling pan. Broil three to four inches from heat for five minutes. Turn shrimp and broil another five to ten minutes. Combine linguine and shrimp mixture.

^^

AND FOR DESSERT?

HAWAIIAN PINEAPPLEORANGE CAKE

- 1 package super moist yellow cake mix
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 5 eggs
- 1 large can Mandarin oranges

For frosting:

- Large container of cool whip thawed
- 1 small package French vanilla pudding
- 4 oz. Can crushed pineapple

With mixer, beat together oil and eggs until light and fluffy. Add mandarin oranges, including juice. Beat until smooth. Add cake mix powder and beat until no more lumps remain, about 2 minutes. Pour into greased 9x13 pan or two round cake pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until sides of cake start pulling away from pan. Do not overbake.

For frosting, with mixer, beat together whipped topping and pudding mix. Drain pineapple; reserve juice. Fold pineapple into topping mixture. Add pineapple juice a little at a time until frosting is of desire consistency. Frost cake. Keep cake refrigerated.

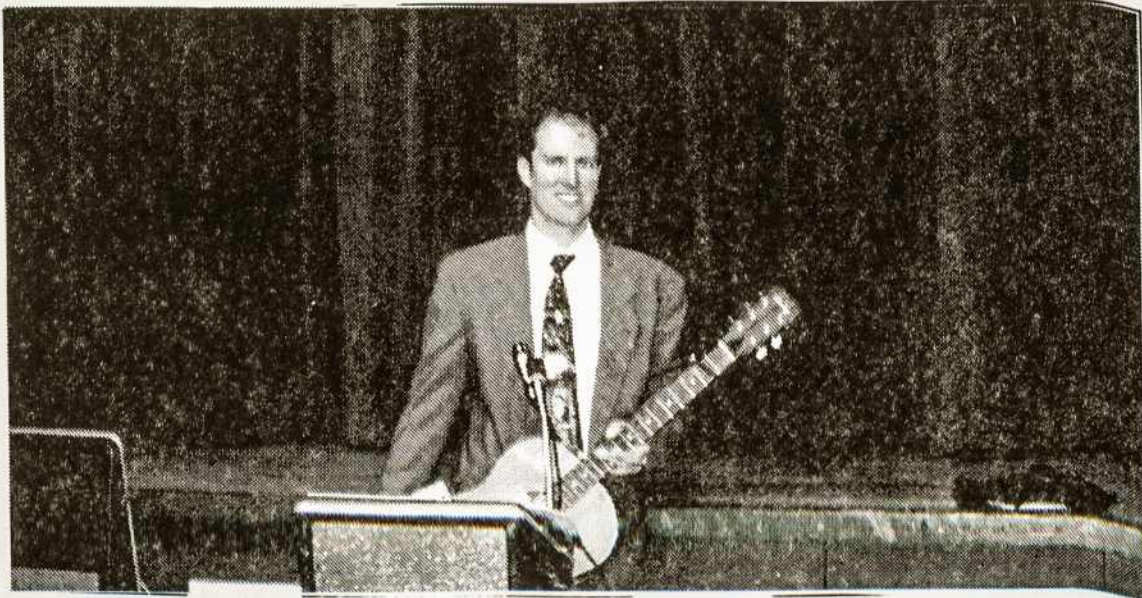
Enjoy!



SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW
 VOIT **KNIGHTS IN ACTION.....**



Eight priests were inducted as Monsignors at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Hartford, on December 16, 2000, one of whom was our Council's spiritual advisor and Administrator of Holy Trinity Church - **Father John P. Conte**. Note the certificate of Investiture on the table.

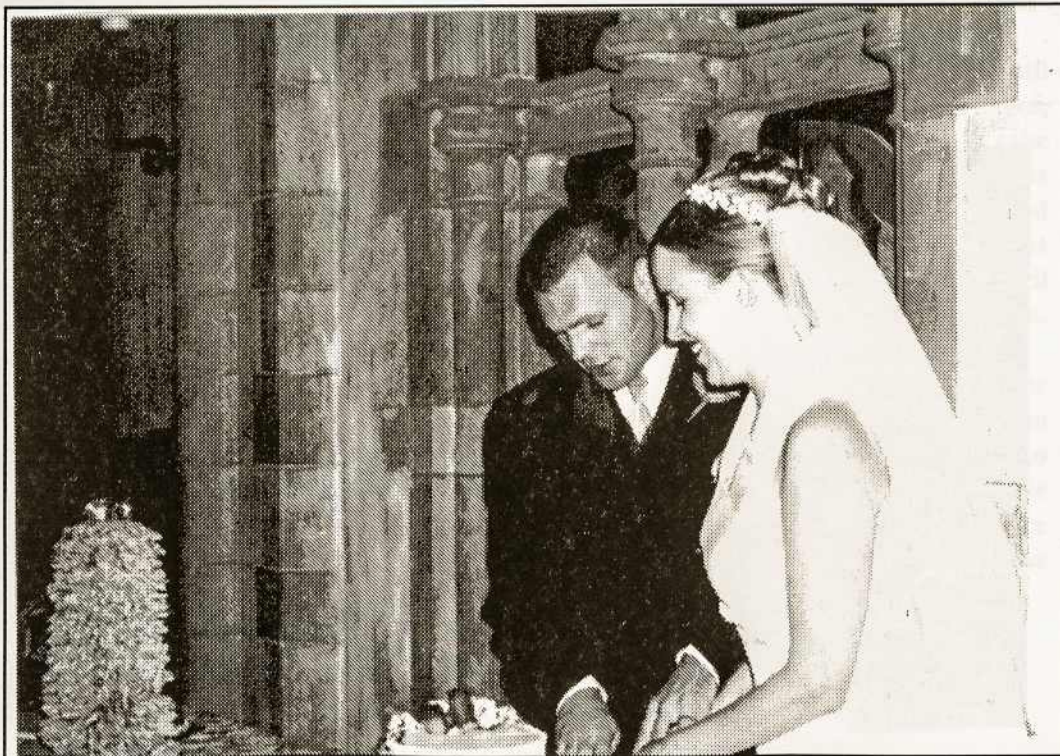


Like father, like son.. Pictured here is the very talented Paul Strolia, son of maestro and Honorary K of L member and Choir Director, Faustas Strolia. He was "pinch-hitting" for his dad at C-112's Christmas party last December. You did a really great job, Paul!

MORE KNIGHTS IN ACTION



Pamela Joksas Rich (Rickerl), C-72, Binghamton, NY, and Paul Rickerl, on their wedding day, June 10, 2000.



WEDDING...Cynthia Meder - C-142, married Michael Crehan in Hammond Castle, Gloucester, MA

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW



Ronald Martin

Graduated from Western University, Kalamazoo, Michigan on November 9, 2000, with an MBA degree. He is the grandson of Marija Yuknis, longtime active member of C-112, and member of the K of L Mid-America District Choir. Congratulations, Ronald! You make us all proud of your accomplishments! Good luck in your future endeavors.

Helen Rita (Tarcila) Bixler (C-63)

Helen can no longer attend our meetings. She calls the council members her family. This is because she had been left an orphan as a child. She feels that being with Lithuanians is the closest she came to having a family. Helen is legally blind, but she thanks God every day for her otherwise healthy body, so she can get dressed and be with people. She is 88 years young and is a lover of life and people. She has strong faith in God, and she loves to laugh and make others laugh, too. Helen is proud to be a Lithuanian! (Photo and information sent by Helen's friend, Evelyn Harryn).



SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW
NOTICE IN THINKING FROM



Council - 72, Lithuanian Christmas Tree at Roberson Center, Binghamton, New York.



Our Kucios Pastry Table, Council 10, Athol Gardner.

IN MEMORIAM....



ALEX JAMES YUSINAS

Alex James Yusias, President of Council 6, died suddenly on Monday, January 8, 2001. He was the beloved husband of Dianne Petraitis Yusias, and resided in Newington for the past 17 years. Alex was an active member of Holy Trinity Church in Hartford, was instrumental in the reorganization of Council 6, and was also involved in organizing the parish's 100th anniversary Jubilee. Alex graduated from Holy Trinity High School, Hartford, and the New Britain General Hospital School of Nursing. He worked for the State of Connecticut, Department of Health, for 25 years, as a Medical Facilities Inspector. Alex was a past president of the Newington Lion's Club. He served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Hawaii. Alex also leaves his son, Scott J. Yusias; a brother, John E. Yusias; a sister, Florence Grigas, two nephews and several grand nieces and grand nephews. He will be greatly missed by all his friends, relatives and parishioners.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace!



Edward Mazotas
C-6, Hartford Sept. 22, 2000

Jean Bent
C-12, New York Nov. 13, 2000

Stella Beneckis
C-16, Chicago July 17, 2000

Vyto Gestautas
C-16, Chicago Oct. 31, 2000

Vito Yucius
C-19, Pittsburgh Jan. 3, 2001

Frank Roland
C-26, Worcester January, 2001

Leo Kulbatsky
C-86, DuBois Jan. 18, 2000

Helen Petrosky
C-86, DuBois Oct. 31, 2000

Karl Serksnis
C-86, DuBois November, 2000

John Yonushonis
C-86, DuBois Jan. 8, 2000

Mary Savage
C-90, Kearny January, 2001

Joseph Gudelis
C-96, Dayton Jan. 12, 2001

Jean Rigley
C-141, Bridge.CT Nov.25, 2000

Rose Sobczak
C-144, Anthracite Dec. 24, 2000

Joseph Yanall
C-144, Anthracite Dec. 7, 2000

Sasha Alexander
C-153, TreasCoast Oct. 30, 2000

Charles Buzas
C-63, LeHighValley Dec. 2000

Elizabeth (Pabionas) Carey
C-63, LeHighValley Jan.10, 2000

Joseph Carey
C-63, LeHigh Valley March, 2000

Joseph Ogint
C-63, LeHighValley Jan.12,2001

District & Council News

C-6 Hartford, CT

Leona Sawka

As we, 21 K of L ers, left the rainy Hartford area on Tuesday, Jan 30, and began our trek toward Eastern Connecticut via carpools, we ran into fog, black ice, and detours due to accidents (colder part of the state). Nonetheless, we arrived at the Immaculate Conception Convent and ALKA in time for Mass in the Convent chapel. After Mass it was time for lunch and after delicious fare prepared by the nuns, we visited the gift room for purchase of books, etc. and then proceeded to the Archives across the street. There was much to view, study, and enjoy here; i.e., the library, museum, and K of L Archives room. Two members located a picture of their mother, a long ago K of L member. Also viewed was the beautiful photograph book of Lithuania which was generously donated by Bob Boris. In attendance at the archives were Longinas (Larry) Svelnis, the former archives chairman for 25 years who lives in Needham, MA.; also, Bill Piacenti, the archives chairman from R.I., Dr. Juoras Kiauciunas, the longtime director of ALKA, and Juozas Rygelis, the pirmininkas of ALKA, who guided us through the archives and the museum. C-6 members later presented a donation. Since the bad weather was still lingering, we all decided to call it a day. All in all, we had a great experience.

C-7 Waterbury, CT

Adele Klenske

Here in our unpredictable New England, the months of January and February are "iffy" and as a result, our January meeting was rescheduled

from the 19th to the 26th - because of inclement weather.

Our rituals have been sorely neglected over the years but this past year, thanks to the efforts of our ritual committee - Doris Snirpunas, Chairman and Eleanor Barkauskas, her committee of one, the situation has improved. Many, many hours have been spent on bringing all the needed information up to date and because of the concentrated effort of these 2 ladies, the information is now current and will be kept accordingly. Because all information has been brought up to date, the following members will be the recipients of the first degree: Richard Dubauskas, Rose Dubauskas, Aniceta Juraska, David Karpavich, Eric Karpavich, Florence Karpavich, Edward Karvelis, Adele Klenske, Richard Litinskas, Nellie Matulunas, Paul Matulunas, Mary Putlinas, Julia Puodzuikaitis, Anna Rutkauskas, Natalya Velicka, Ann Vicas and Joseph Vicas.

Agnes Bauza, who has generously given of her time and charity for the benefit of the orphanage in Ukmerge, Lithuania, will be sending 2 more boxes to the children in the very beginning of March. Her intent is to have the children receive them in time for Easter. Agnes has been contacted, by mail, by the woman who is administrator of the orphanage - which made us all breathe a sigh of relief to know that the boxes are, in fact, being delivered to their intended destination. Just a reminder - there is still time and opportunity for people to get involved in this worthy undertaking. Pat Alexander has also received a communication from this same administrator and she related that the older children (to age 16) are in need of clothing. It is best if the clothes are new, but used are acceptable if they are in good condition. Since we have undertaken this project -

with the backing of our council - a unified show of support should be our goal. We are blessed to live in this country - children in Lithuania are much less fortunate.

Two of our members, Eleanor Barkauskas and Collette Shukis are now Eucharistic Ministers for St. Joseph's church. What a meaningful way to be involved in the stewardship of the church! Congratulations, ladies.... God sees you and you're making points.

C-10 Athol-Gardner Vincukas

We remember Margaret Senk: Margaret (Davidonis) Senk died on 12-18-95. She was born in Athol and attended local schools and was graduated from Athol High, belonged to the parish choir until her marriage to Frank took her to New Britain, CT and there worked in a jewelry store. After Frank's death, Marge returned to her beloved town and parish and, again, became an active participant in the parish and in the K of L. She joined in 1945 and that made her a 50 year member. She attended meetings and all our functions and worked on committees as much as her health allowed, attended all national conventions and was a generous contributor to many Lithuanian fund drives, and special to her heart was Aid for Lithuania. She was so proud of her Lithuanian heritage and language, but mostly the beautiful Lithuanian dainos. She was a good sport and had a good sense of humor and wit.

The K of L conducted their ritual wake service and the funeral mass was well-attended. Fr. Messier's eulogy was very inspiring and he compared her to a jewel in the rough.

Condolences are extended to the

Colo and Sienkevich families. We all miss you, Marge!

Betty Penny recently returned from a Caribbean cruise.

Best health wishes are sent out to Stacey Kulisanski, Roberta Landry, and Bronius Savelis.

Our Lithuanian Independence Day observance will be held on March 11th at St. Francis Church Hall, Athol. The Berzelis Dance Group from Hartford, CT will present a folk dance performance.

Sophia Fiorentino's son, James, suffered a severe, freak accident in Puerto Rico at Christmas time and is in need of prayers.

March 4th brings the feast of St. Casimir, our Patron. Let's all show our colors as the Irish do on St. Patrick's Day. Be proud of your heritage!

C-17 So. Boston, MA Regina Alexander

Congratulations to Richard J. Daniels, son of C-17 member, Mildred Daniels and the late Jack Daniels. Richard was promoted to be President of the Boston Globe Newspaper, effective Feb 16, 2001.

Before he went on his mini-vacation and rest in Lithuania, Fr. Steve Zukas spoke of the significance of these dates in Lithuania - January 13, Tragic Days when Russian tanks surrounded the TV tower, and Feb 16, Lithuanian Independence Day. Fr. Steve promised to return "refreshed and ready". Meanwhile, Msgr. Al Contons will return to help out.

The annual Kucios, sponsored by C-1, Brockton, at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent was attended by many C-17

members. C-17 member, Sr. Eugenia Glineckis, as MC helped to educate and delight the group.

Patricia Akule helped out with the tickets. Frances Zerveske won the grand prize, a golden deer.

The annual C-17 Christmas party was a festive afternoon at St. Peter Parish Hall. The preceding Social Hour and hors d' oeuvres (especially koshelena from Virginia Markuns) were greatly appreciated. Then followed a delicious Roast Pork dinner by Farragut House caterers. Romas Gasparonis was the piano accompanist for the Christmas carols that followed. Betty Baluconis led us all in a rousing rendition of "Twelve Days of Christmas". Pastor Steve Zukas and former Pastor Msgr. Al Contons were heard loud and clear, joining in the singing. Thank you Brenda Wachack for bringing mother, Julia, who enjoys all socials. Once again, aciu labai to Patricia Akule for her perseverance in contacting us by phone.

It was nice to see the following members who attended the Christmas social after recovering from their surgeries: Ann Evans, Helen Boussard, Lillian Vallis and Milly Vallis. Looking good! Best wishes for full recoveries to Al Stakutis and also Jack Baltrashunas.

The snowbirds are soon flying or driving to Florida: Frank and Virginia Markuns, Al and Bea Stakutis, Joe and Ruth Slanina. Enjoy the good weather while we are shoveling snow. Brrr!

Date to remember: March 4, St. Casimir Breakfast at St. Peter Parish Hall, following 10:30 Mass.

Iki pasimatymo.... viso gero!

C-110 Maspeth, NY Bruno Rutkunas

Our first meeting of the 2001 year, (after the snow has stopped here, in Maspeth, Queens, NY) was attended by many devoted members on Jan 28. It seemed like months since our last get-together in December. It was great to socially spend some time with all. Especially those dozen members travelling long distances - 60, 40, and 30 miles away.

After reviewing all our options, a budget of \$700.00 was approved for shipping needed supplies to Lithuania during 2001; Ann Morrissey continues to be the chairperson for this charitable cause.

After the birthday list, raffle prizes and our terrific brunch, we closed our meeting and awaited the Super Bowl, hoping that Joe Jurevicius would help the NY Giants win. They lost badly.

The following is a quote from our NY Newsday: "It's called the Vytis and actually it's a national symbol of Lithuania. My junior year of college (Penn State) I wanted to get my tattoo and not tell my parents. I was actually fortunate enough to get it by. Once they saw it, my Dad was ticked off for a couple of seconds, but then he realized, 'OK, it's not a bad tattoo, at least it's Lithuanian'. " Joe Jurivicius. The tattoo is shown on his right arm... the Vytis, the Knight.

C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY Dorothy Richmire

Happy New Year! May God bless us all with health, peace, love and prosperity.

Our Christmas dinner party was

successful. Many attended and a good time was had by all. The food was good and the restaurant was very nicely decorated for the holidays.

Our guests included Bob Duda, Ginger Houghton, and Jane Prendergast. Jane, who along with Ginger is in the medical field, spoke to us regarding the recent trip she made to Lithuania. She gave us a glowing report of her experience. Lithuanians were very kind, friendly, gracious and very concerned about her having enough food to eat. She just loved every minute and her hosts really appreciated the information she was willing to share and the techniques she was willing to teach them.

Jonas and Laimonus from Lithuania were also our guests. They are here in anticipation of surgery to be performed on Laimonus to provide him with an artificial arm. They were both so warm and friendly. 11 year old Laimonus just glowed with all the attention he received. We wish him a successful surgery and a speedy recovery.

Since I was unable to attend our January meeting due to a nasty cold, Bernice Aviza was kind enough to email the information re: the program. Thanks, Bernice.

The meeting was preceded by a prayer service to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the day when the 13 Lithuanians lost their lives when the Soviet army attacked the Lithuanian TV tower in 1991. As we walked into the church, the sadness of that event came back quickly. A photo of the 13 brave young individuals was near the altar, illuminated by a vigil candle. The Lithuanian flag and a wayside shrine completed the display.

The service was led by Bernice and included liturgical reading in English

and Lithuanian. The reading in English was done by Ed Barkowski and the Lithuanian reading by Regina Szczepkowski, a visitor from Lithuania. During the service, the name of each of the 13 individuals who died was read. As our eyes focused on their photograph, they became full of tears. You thought back, innocent, unarmed individuals being run over by tanks. The Teve Musu allowed us to focus our thoughts once again. Sometimes it is difficult to forgive trespasses when such a horrible sin has been committed.

After clearing up some business items, our guests from Lithuania were introduced. One of them served as our primary guest speaker. She spoke in Lithuanian as Polly Ziausys from C-100 translated. She described the events that took place on Jan 13, 1991 and the period shortly after. Our other guests from Lithuania contributed what they remembered. When translations were not fast enough, human emotion filled in. A story such as this sometimes does not need every word translated. Tears filled the eyes of our guests as they spoke, as well as those of us that listened.

After the events of January 13th were described, the guests were asked how they felt now, ten years later. For the two older adults, they said that it felt like it was yesterday. For the younger guests, who were in their 20's, they said it seemed like a long time ago. The age of the individual at the time of the event appears to make a difference. The younger ones agreed that we cannot forget these brave individuals who sacrificed their lives; they are truly heroes.

Thought for today: You are what you have learned from the past, what you experience today, and what you dream for tomorrow.

C-152 E. Long Island Julie M. Lott

Although we had freezing temperatures and quite an accumulation of snow and ice - which made it very treacherous underfoot - our first meeting of the year 2001 was most productive. In spite of the smaller than usual attendance due to our "snowbirds" still sunning themselves down south, our ever-present members managed to address the most important issues on the agenda, mainly our yearly St. Casimir's celebration which was to be on March 14th. Mass as usual at 10:30 A.M. and the Lady of Ostabrama Church on Depot Lane in Cutchogue. That will be followed by a covered-dish luncheon at the Center on Peconic Lane, Peconic. Please mark your calendars for this special event and remember to bring your favorite covered dish. How about some Lithuanian dishes or perhaps you have a favorite recipe you would like to share with us? Bring your friends, too..... the more, the merrier. If the date is Ok with our neighboring councils, please do come and join us. Just let us know in advance how many plan to attend so we can set up the seating arrangements accordingly. A covered dish would also be appreciated. Let's make this a fantastic and exceptionally delicious celebration. With the cooperation of everyone, we can accomplish this.

Remember, too, that Feb 16 is Lithuanian Independence Day. It's a day many councils take pride in celebrating this very noteworthy achievement of our Motherland.

We mustn't forget where our ancestors and parents came from and be ever thankful for the progress Lithuania is making. It has a long way to go, but you can be sure that

they will keep striving to achieve their goals.

A reminder that Easter is not that far away and I'd like our members to recall what their traditions were so that we can compare notes and perhaps reintroduce some of these customs to our grandchildren, or in some instances, to our great-grandchildren. They are eager to hear about our ethnic backgrounds. Let's get with it.

The council extends its get-well wishes and prayers to Adele Latinis and to any other members who are under the weather. Take care' and God bless you all. 'Hope to see you at a future meeting.

And here is my food for thought: A sure sign of age is when you hear "Snap, crackle, and pop" and it isn't coming from cereal.

C-96 Dayton, O Frances R. Petkus

One special project we hold at each meeting is our 50/50 raffle. What makes this special is that many receive rewards from the contributions.. Members attending a meeting and participating win half of what is taken in. The other half goes to our Charity Fund. This fund is shared with the charities we donate to. This fund is disbursed at our Dec meetings. Winners in the council for 2000 were: Robert Pant, Anne Louise Tucker, Elena Mikalauskas (2x), Frances Mikalauskas (3x), James Geiger, Loretta Pant, Eloise A. Berczely, Eleanor Mantz, and Fran Petkus. Congratulations to one and all!

Another special function that the council has is our faithful Telephone Squad. These members call for wake services, reservations for functions, etc. Joining the Chair, Joyce

Berczely, are Christine Fletcher, Ann Gitzinger, Joan Kavalauskas, Susan Keivel, Frances Mikalauskas, Loretta and Linda Pant. Thanks to one and all for a job well done.

Our deepest sympathies go to the Gudelis family on the recent loss of their brother, Joseph. Joe, who was a brother to the deceased member (HM) Frank Gudelis, resided at the VA Hospital in Dayton, having served in the Armed Forces in WWII. Although Joe could not be active, he never failed to support C-96 charity projects. May his soul rest in peace!

Get well wishes go to Bernadette Noreikas, Susan Keivel, and Judy Petrokas.

To our Irish friends - Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!

C-3 Philadelphia, PA Stephany Gutauskas

Agnes (HM) and John Mickunas attended the Supreme Council meeting on Nov 4 and 5 at the Grosvenor Resort in Orlando, FL where the Knights of Lithuania will hold their National Convention in 2001. Agnes and John expressed approval of the site and the accommodations and gave our council a preview of the convention schedule.

At 8:30 A.M. on Monday, Jan 8, Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM, held a Mass at St. George's Church for deceased members of the Knights of Lithuania, requested by Supreme Council. Stephany Gutauskas, wearing a juosta, took up the sacramental wine as the Offertory Gift at this Mass.

A native Lithuanian woman moderated an informal Lithuanian language session held before the Council meeting on January 14th.

C-72 Binghamton, NY John R. Mankus

Elections were held at our Oct meeting. Newly elected officers for 2001 are: Fr. John Mikalajunas-Spiritual Advisor and Spiritual Programs, John R. Mankus-President, Vytis Correspondent, Lithuanian Culture and Lithuanian Language, Ralph Sadauskas-Vice president, Irene Grikenis Ritual Chairperson, Arthur Stankevitz-Secretary, Barbara Miller-Treasurer, Robert Skiba-Financial Secretary and Trustee, Charles Almanas-Lithuanian Affairs and Sgt at Arms, Ralph Sadauskas, Pamela Rickerl and Felix Svareika-Sgt at Arms and Trustee, Helen Svareika-Trustee and Public Relations, Ed Radin-Trustee

Congratulations to Pamela Jokas Rich who married Paul Rickerl on June 10, 2000. Pamela, formerly a member of the "Lazdynas" Lithuanian Folk Ensemble in Rochester, NY, had 10 members of the group for her honor guard. They held their juostas high, making an arch, as her brothers Dave and Thomas Rich walked her down the aisle of Christ the King Church. Her headpiece was designed to model a traditional headdress: the white crown was jeweled with purple flowers and embroidered hearts that matched her bouquet.

We welcome her new husband, Paul, as a member, along with her mother, Isabel Rich. Thomas Miller, Barbara Miller's husband, also joined our council.

During the year 2000, our council - with the assistance of many parishoners and friends of St. Joseph's Church - has shipped over 100 packages of humanitarian shipments to convents, orphanages and needy families in Lithuania. We

continue to work with input of names provided to us by VILTIS LITHUANIAN RELIEF PARCEL SERVICE, Inc. in conjunction with VILNIUS CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS CENTER. Fr. John Mikalajunas is a very strong supporter of these shipments with donations, special collections, and 50/50 raffles. Individually, our council members have also shipped many packages of humanitarian supplies directly to their relatives and friends. Over 40 packages were shipped to relatives, convents, orphanages, and needy families during the Christmas season. Many thank you letters and Christmas cards were received and translated by John Mankus and shared with our benefactors, friends, and members.

Our council, under the direction of Irene Grikenis, Pamela Rickerl and John Mankus, participated at the Roberson Center International Christmas Tree Forest Program during the Christmas season. Traditional straw ornaments were used to decorate our Christmas tree. Various displays of traditional Lithuanian Christmas and cultural items were also exhibited, including a replica of a wayside cross, cultural display, juostos, and Irene's beautiful Lithuanian painting of a Lithuanian maiden.

Junior Council is very active under the direction of Barbara Miller. Barbara is looking into ways of expanding Junior activities and she is also our council's financial secretary. John R. Mankus continues to write and translate letters to and from Lithuania for council members, parishoners, and friends.

C-42 Washington, DC Beverly Meder

Cynthia Meder of C-142 was married

to Michael Crehan on Oct 15, 2000, in Hammond Castle, Gloucester, MA. Beverly Meder, mother of the bride and C-142 member, along with the bride's aunt, Kathleen Ambrose, welcomed the newly-married couple into the Lithuanian community with Lithuanian bread (provided by John Waylonis), salt and wine sipped from one glass, signifying the sharing of one's life together.

Along with the traditional wedding cake and the groom's cake - designed by Michael, an artist and an architect- the couple served the towering Lithuania cake. The couple lives in Boston and Michael has now joined Cynthia as a member of C-142.

C-46 Forest City, PA Josephine O'Peka

Hello to all Knights of Lithuania. You haven't heard from us in awhile. Our former Vytis correspondent, Blanche Motsko, because of failing health. She has moved to New Jersey to take residence with her daughter, Ruth. We all miss her and hope that she is doing well.

At our last meeting on Jan 14th, council members expressed their appreciation on seeing the picture of St. Anthony's Church in Forest City which has since been demolished. There was also a Servicemen's Memorial next to St. Anthony's which has been moved to an appropriate location in St. Anthony's Cemetery.

Since last spring, we have 5 new members. They are Maryann and James McCusker, Elizabeth Gudaitis, Dorothy Usher, and Barbara Grace Mykolina. We are happy to welcome them to C-46.

Our officers for the coming year are:

Anthony Yavorosky - President,
John Gudaitis - Vice Pres, Maryann McCusker - Secretary, Beverly Bennett - Financial Sec and Treasurer,
John Morris - Ritual Committee,
Josephine O'Peka - Vytis correspondent, Amy Morris - Sunshine coordinator, Michael Yavorosky - Lithuanian Affairs,
Maryann McCusker - Public Relations, Dorothy Andzulis, Alice Puntar, and Josephine O'Peka - Auditors.

Weather permitting, we hope to see you at the upcoming District Convention in Pittston.

C-63 Lehigh Valley Evelyn Klinauskas Harryn

Some of our Lithuanians from Lehigh Valley attended the Lithuanian Days in Frackville, PA. The Anthracite C-144 hosted this well-organized affair. They deserve praise and gratitude for the fine work and spirit they have shown each year. The entertainment was simply heart-warming and beautiful, especially the children's choir from Mahanoy City. They were all dressed in traditional costumes. The dance group from Philadelphia was a pleasure to see. Then there were the Musical McDonald's. Needless to say, they were terrific. They provided music for dancing as well as for easy listening. And the Food Court was well-supplied with many of our delicious ethnic foods and desserts galore. Plan to attend in August.

C-63 has been very busy since September. We elected our slate of officers. They are: President-Evelyn Harryn, 1st Vice Pres-Ben Apanavicius, 2nd Vice Pres- Robert Kleiner, also our Membership Chairman, Treas-Walter Balchunas, Recording Sec-Blanche Kohanski, also our Lithuanian Affairs

Chairperson-Sgt at Arms-Paul Harryn and Victor Ulba. The Sunshine Lady is Anne Wonsock. Of course we have our "Kitchen Canary" Valeria Smickle. She is also a Trustee and organizer of church affairs. She promotes Lithuanian participation at St. Michael's Lithuanian Church.

In October, we were very busy with our Flea Market. Our treasury profited \$1,192 from this fund-raiser. We had a small but hard-working and faithful crew. After we all rested up, we got together for lunch at Elizabeth's Hungarian Diner in Hellertown, PA. It was so nice to share the comraderie between us, in a different atmosphere.

Our annual Covered Dish was held in November. A delicious variety of foods and desserts were provided. Lillian Russll makes our affair quite festive. She adds her artsy touches with centerpieces - some unusual. She sets up a toast area in her grand style. Also brings an assortment of raffle prizes. ACIU to Lillian and Joseph Russell.

December brought us Kucios. It was a lovely affair, as usual. The meal was complete with the twelve foods and Birsti Soup. There were many prizes given away. We also had a Sing-a-Long, directed by Ben Apanavicius. Of course, we sang Lithuanian Christmas carols. Our treasurer, Walter Balchunas, presented a check of \$500 to Fr. Grabish. This is our annual donation to St. Michael's Church. Following Kucios, we held our Basket of Cheer drawing and our member, Adolf Butkys, was one of the winners. It was well worth the work and effort to have this raffle. We thank all of you that bought and sold tickets. Thanks to Valeria Smickle for all her time and work. ACIULABAI!!
Our sympathy and prayers go out to

our member, Florence Buzas, and her family. Our dear member, Charles Buzas, passed away on December 22nd. Amzinai Atsilis. Charlie was always there to help when able, be it the Bleenie Affairs, Kucios, or whatever. A.A.

Also, our condolences go out to Walentyna Ogint and the family of our dedicated Knight, Joseph Ogint. He was twice president of C-62. He was editor of our newsletter for several years and the Vytis correspondent. He was very active in the Christmas City Bleenie Affairs, Super Sunday Bleenie Stand in Allentown, PA. He also coordinated the flag raising ceremonies in the city of Allentown, PA.

May both of these fine Lithuanian Knights, too, join in the Communion of Saints and forever praise God.

C-63 again took part in the Exhibition of Ethnic Trees in South Bethlehem. They were in the Lobby of the University Comfort Suites Hotel. This was the 9th year that we participated. It is sponsored by the South Bethlehem Historical Society. We had many more natural straw ornaments to display this year. We thank Elaine Lucshas and her daughters for their talent of old art. Once again, the tourists and public were mesmerized by them. A formal Lighting and Opening ceremony were held. This year the tree was decorated by Valeria Smickle, Paul and Evelyn Harryn.

Our prayers and good wishes go out to all of our confined members in the district and in our council. Some are on the sick and healing list. Some are Helen Bixler, Mildred Deriscavage, Connie Duha, Olga Manazar, and Victor Ulba. God bless each of you and give you the strength to heal.

We are looking forward to seeing some of you at the Amber District meeting in March. It will be held in Pittston, PA.

Su Dievu.

C-143 Pittston, PA Eleanor Bellanco

On Sunday, Jan 2001, Msgr. John J. Bendick celebrated 11:00 AM Mass in St. Casimir's Church, Pittston, and installed new C-143 officers for the year 2001. Our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Peter Alisaukas, was unable to attend and was really missed by his fellow Knights.

Officers installed were: Pres-Nellie Bayoras-Romanas, Vice-Pres-Peggy Yanklunas, Rec-Secretary-Martha Warnagaris, Treas- Pamela Smith, Fin Secretary- Helen Mary Karpovich, Historian-Ursula Danoski, Lithuanian Affairs- Genevieve Dajnowski, Lithuanian Culture-Frank Joga, Public-Relations-Patricia Weiksner, Ritual-Jean Kapocius Mihalick, Sgt-at Arms- Casimir Kizis, Jr., Sunshine person-Marie Lauk, Vytis correspondent-Eleanor Bellanco.

After Mass and Installation, our January meeting was held in St. Casimir's Hall. After the meeting, breakfast was served by hostesses Christina Moczydloski, Ann Soha, Anastasia Stanley, Anna Walatkas.

A report was given by the "2000" Kucios Committee. It was a HUGE SUCCESS! Congratulations and thank you to the committee and ALL who participated in any way for a job well done.

Our outgoing Diligent, loyal, diplomatic, patient, hard-working, just great president, Jean Kapocius Mihalick, was presented with an

amber bracelet by C-143.

Plans were made for Feb 15, 2001 - Lithuanian Independence Day at Pittston City Hall; Feb 16, 2001 - Lithuanian Flag raising at Luzerne County Courthouse, Wilkes Barre, PA; March 4, 2001-Amber District meeting hosted by C-143 to be held in St. Casimir's Hall, Pittston, PA

C-82 Gary, IN Millie Lapinskas Jagiella

On Feb 11, C-82 helped host the Lithuanian Independence Celebration at VFW 1563 in Merrillville, IN, to a standing-room-only crowd. Guests included our members from "all over the countryside" in Indiana and also of the "3 waves" of Lithuanians-"old", post-war, and "newly arrived". Even some guests from Lithuania. "Locals", Elizabeth Starewicz ("ambiance") and Joanna Rudzevicius (cashier) were the greeters.

The program opened with a welcome by Vince Gumulauskis and the anthems were sung by Kathy Jagiella, soprano. Birute Vilutis was our MC and Msgr. Ignatius Urbonas conducted a prayer service for those who died for the cause of freedom for Lithuania and America. Sr. Janine Golubickis and Casimir Balt, C-82, president, spoke. Grazina Ragaleviciene was the guest speaker. Proclamations for Lithuanian Independence Day by Robert Pastrick, Mayor of East Chicago and by Scott King, Mayor of Gary were read; also, by Governor Ryan of Illinois. I regret that the Indiana governor's office felt that "NATO" is a "federal issue" and declined. In response, there will be a delegation with information to clarify so that 2002 will be more inclusive and significant to the NATO membership expansion expected in that year.

A resolution to some U.S. Governmental areas to support Lithuania's bid for NATO membership was passed, unanimously.

Ursula Tavaras's baking committee provided desserts while we enjoyed the unsurpassed music by Bronius Muras.

The ages of the guests ranged from Agnes Siupienius, 1 year old, to those like Andy and Marge Malis who will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary. Andy said.. "And to the same woman"... :)

Frank Petrites joined us after another hospitalization, quad-cane and all.

Maps of Lithuania and the Baltics on the program precipitated some nostalgia and Lithuanian spirit mushroomed throughout the day. A newcomer was overheard asking for a trispalve "ribbon" with "Can I have one? I'm Lithuanian." "You bet!"

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard in so many different ways to generate this affair.

May our "Lithuanian spirit" sustain us all, daily.

C-112 Chicago, IL Johanna Marie, SSC

Garbe Jezui Kristui!

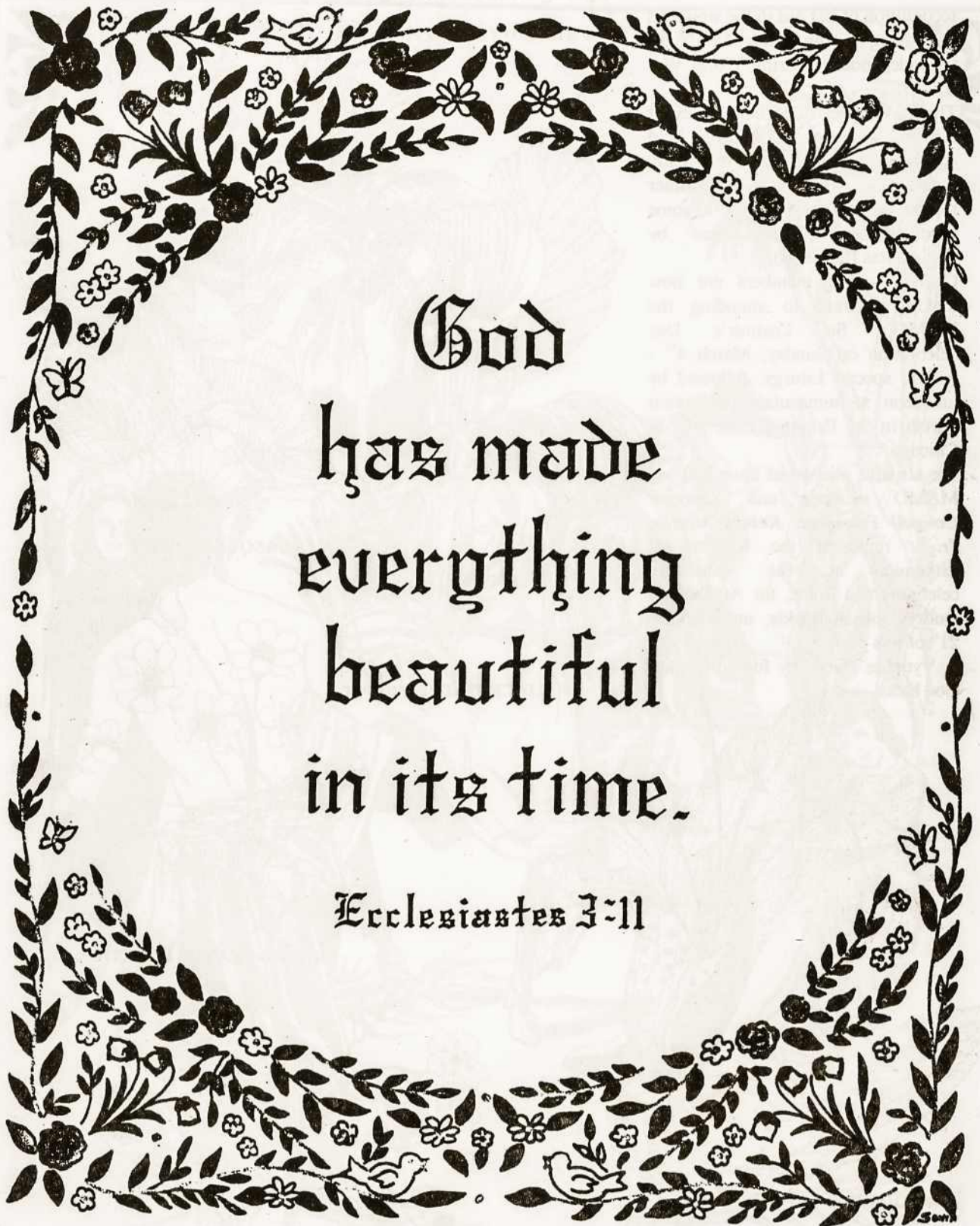
On December 19, 2000, C-112 held its annual Christmas Party. About 84 members were in attendance. Under the capable direction of chairperson, Anele Pocius and her wonderful committee, the event proved to be a huge success. Mickey Petrosius cooked up her *very* well-known, scrumptious, mouth-watering *kugelis*. Mary Banky assisted her with the potato peeling "KP" duty. Board members donated a delicious array of desserts.

Adding to the joy of the evening was the musical entertainment presented by the truly talented, Paul Strolia. He also invited the participation of all present to a Christmas Sing-a-long, in both, English and Lithuanian.

Our Council is now planning a special fund-raiser for the benefit of our Nativity BVM parish, on March 18, 2001. It is to be a "Champagne Luncheon," taking place after the Sunday 12:15 Mass, in the parish hall. Julie Zakarka has graciously consented to be the chairperson of this event. A raffle with cash prizes will also be a part of this event. Some of her hardworking committee members are; Gerri Chaplin, Mickey Petrosius, Estelle Rogers, Mary Banky, Dolores Wainowskis, Lorraine Wainowskis, Al Mockus, Ed and Anele Pocius, Al Brazis, Ellie Kasputis and Sisters Theresa Papsis, Johanna Marie and Tarcisia. Fustas Strolia and His brother, Hercules, will be providing the musical accompaniment for the afternoon.

Many members of our Council also attended the "Mem'ries of Lithuania Banquet" on February 3, 2001, at the "Martinique." About 265 members and guests from various Councils were in attendance. This year's chairperson was Evelyn Ozelis, and the co-chair was Algerd Brazis, HM.

Members from the various Councils served on the Committee. This is an annual event sponsored by the Knights of Lithuania Mid-America District. This year's honoree was, Stase (Vanagaite) Petersoniene, who has been working with the Lithuanian Institute of Education for the last 30 years, and has been its director for the past 15 years. She is also the author of four books published in Chicago. She was recently elected president of the Association of Lithuanian Writers in America. The government of Lithuania has honored her with the "Zuvanciuju Gelbejimo Kryzius" in



God
has made
everything
beautiful
in its time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Spring Breaks Through!

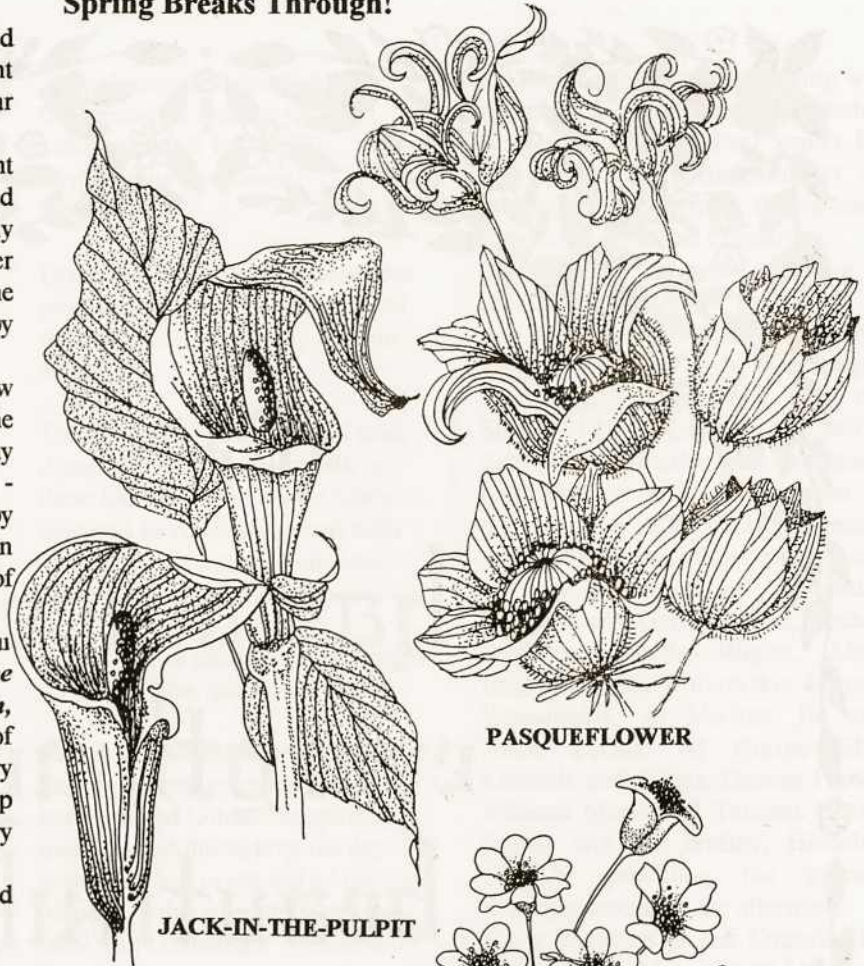
recognition of her aid to the wounded and dying during Lithuania's fight for independence during World War II.

This "Mem'ries of Lithuania" event is probably the only K of L event held consecutively for 41 years! It is really a gala event, with a delicious dinner served, followed by dancing to some excellent music, (this year by Algimantas Barniskis).

Council - 112 members are now looking forward to attending the MAMD's St. Casimir's Day celebration on Sunday, March 4th - with a special Liturgy, followed by luncheon, at Immaculate Conception Parish in the Brighton Park area of Chicago.

We are also pleased to have had our MAMD member and *Supreme Council President, Robert Martin, Jr.*, represent the Knights of Lithuania at the consistory celebration in Rome, for Archbishop Audrys Juozas Backis, on February 21st of this year.

A Vytiskas "Good-by for now," and God bless!

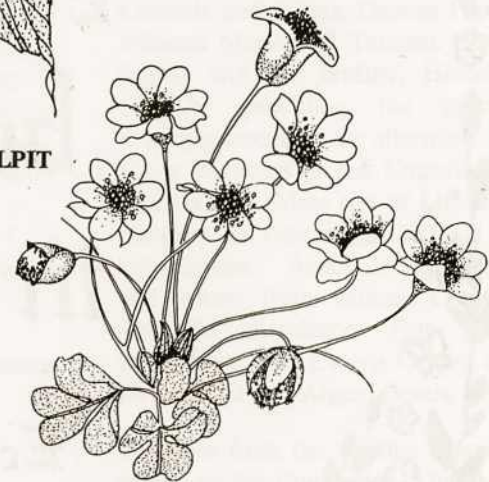


JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT

PASQUEFLOWER



WOOD LILY

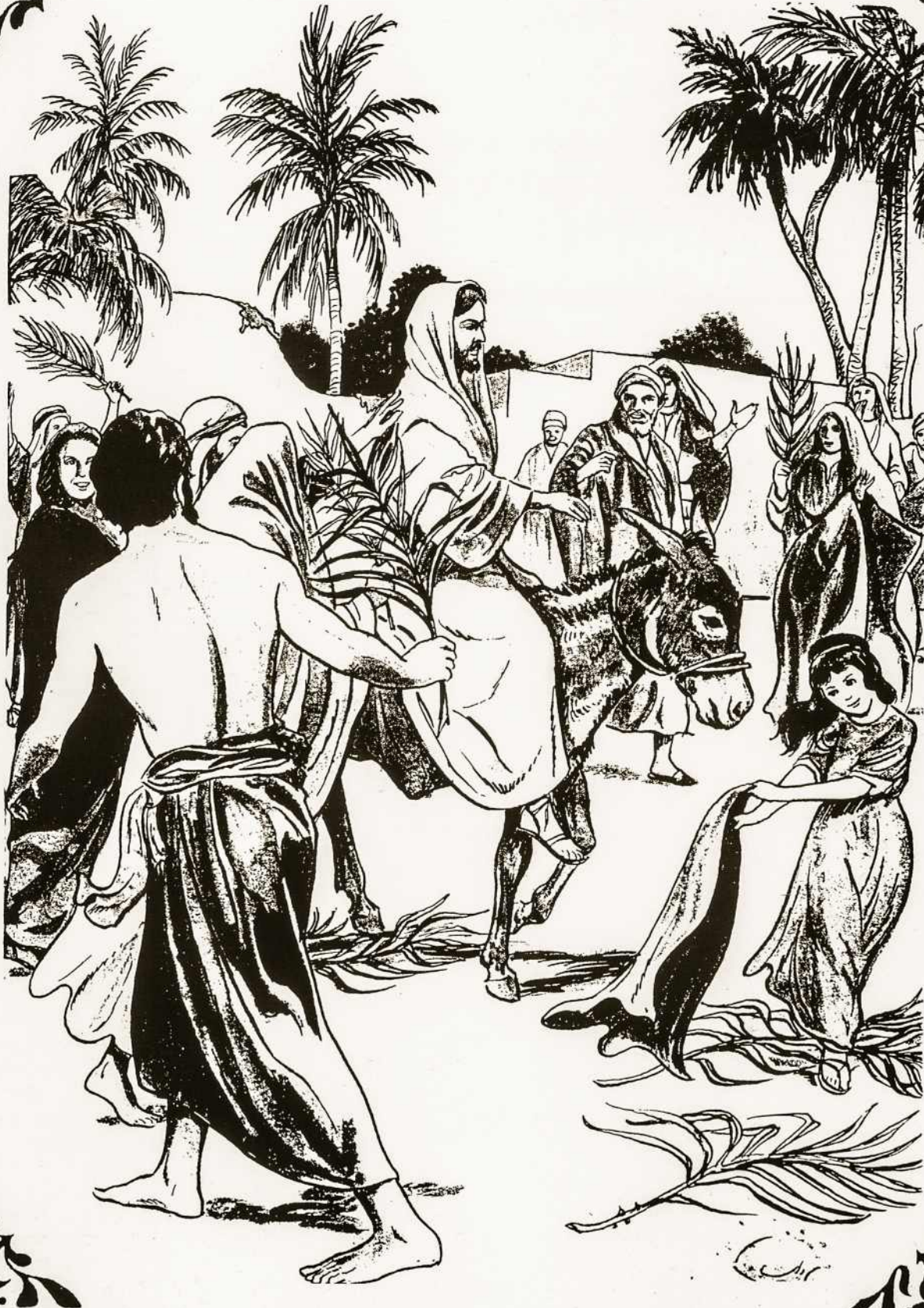


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Laukiam Vėlykų!



Awaiting Easter!