

VYTIS - THE KNIGHT

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The Knight*
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2000-2001

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

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*Front Cover: "Mercy Madonna" - 1985, oil  
by Sister M. Mercedes, SSC  
Collection Maria High School  
Chicago, Illinois*





## *To My Fellow Knights*

It is of paramount importance that Lithuania be among the nations to be received into NATO in 2002, and all of us can support this project. This oft repeated theme invites our action as well as cooperation and collaboration with other groups to make this possible. We cannot work alone; we need to include as many people as possible. Numbers are important. Last month VYTIS gave specific information for writing to government officials. VYTIS will continue to publish recommendations for action.

This May may Mary's intercession guide us to mind our motto:

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY!

Vytiškai,

*Sister M. Janine*



## *An Evening Prayer*

### *To Our Blessed Mother...*

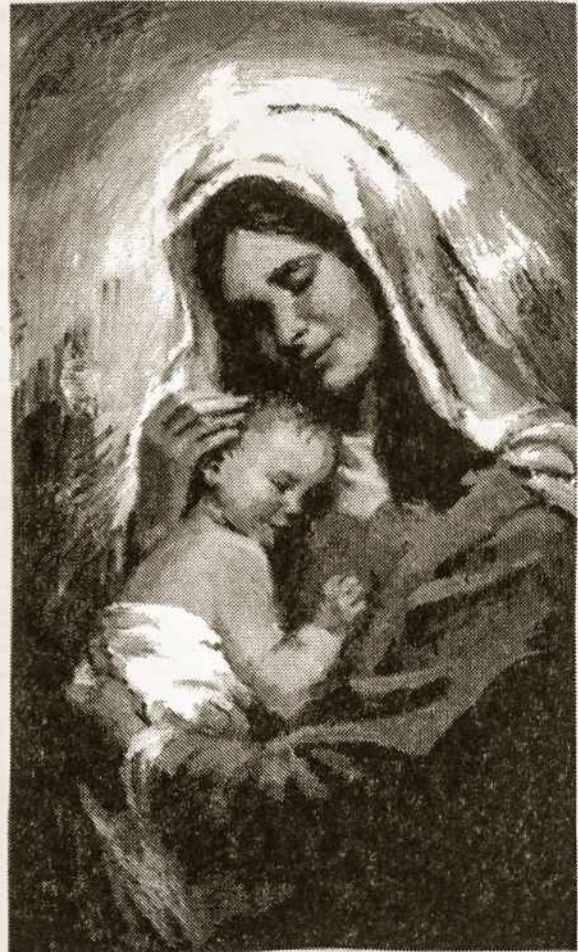
Night is falling, dear Mother, the long day is o'er,  
And before thy loved image I'm kneeling once more,  
To thank thee for keeping me safe through the day,  
To ask thee this night to keep evil away.

Many times have I fallen today, Mother dear.  
Many graces neglected since last I knelt here.  
Wilt thou not in pity, my own Mother mild,  
Ask Jesus to pardon the sins of thy child?

I am going to rest, for the day's work is done.  
Its hours and moments have passed one by one.  
The God who will judge me has counted them all.  
He has numbered each grace, He has counted each fall.

In His book they are written against the last day.  
Oh, Mother, ask Jesus to wash them away.  
For one drop of His blood which for sinners was spilt  
Is sufficient to cleanse the whole world from its guilt.

And if 'ere the dawn I should draw my last breath,  
And the sleep that I take be the long sleep of death,  
Be near me, dear Mother, for Jesus' dear sake,  
When my soul in eternity's shore shall awake.





## A NOTE FROM THE SUPREME COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members:

Each month as I prepare this message I can't believe it's been a month since the last one. Well, this month is no exception. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Easter season and are looking forward to spring. I wish to extend a HAPPY MOTHER'S Day to all our K of L Moms, may your day be a great one.

As you know the SC met on March 30<sup>th</sup> in Dayton, Ohio. Again, a big thank you to Dayton Council 96 for all their hard work. We look forward to visiting Dayton again in the future. I'm happy to report that the meeting went very well. Some of the highlights from the meeting are listed below:

- The National Convention plans are being tweaked and it won't be long before its convention time. I encourage everyone to attend this year's convention. We really feel that the new format will be a positive for the membership and the more attendees the better. This will allow us to get a more accurate opinion from our delegates. Also, the convention schedule is completed and will be printed in the June issue of VYTIS. Please watch for it.
- The role of the K of L in working towards the inclusion of the Baltic Nations in the next round of NATO expansions was also discussed. Beginning last month we have been publishing articles in VYTIS asking you to begin a new letter writing campaign, this month is no different. Now is the time to act as most US decisions are expected to be made by or during June of this year. Let your Congressmen and Congresswomen, Senators and Executive Officers know how you feel about NATO expansion.
- We are in the process of switching the mailing list maintenance over to the National Financial Secretary. The logic behind this is that now that our current Fin. Sec. has computerized all our records maintaining one database of membership information makes sense for the membership. Please bare with us as we complete this process.
- We are still examining the results of last year's survey. To date we have been addressing the five (5) main topics from that survey, there are: better communication from the national board, social membership, convention locations and convention agenda, the organization's purpose and ways to increase membership. All of these will be continually discussed and fine-tuned for the betterment of the organization. We ask your continued support, if you have any ideas please feel free to share them with us.

Finally, I would like to address a subject that I feel needs to be commented on. In the last few months I have received several anonymous letters in the mail about one thing or another that someone, or it could be a group, doesn't agree with about our organization. I have read each of these letters and for the most part remained silent about them. Whoever has sent them, please know that the issues raised in these letters were addressed when I have felt it was warranted. However, to the author(s) of these letters if you really value the Knights of Lithuania organization and are truly concerned for its future I ask that you consider taking ownership of the issues you raise in these letters by signing your name to them. Our organization is a democracy and different points of view are not only expected but are encouraged. What a dull world this would be if everyone always agreed. Also, a signed letter not only shows me that your concern is genuine, it also allows me to have someone to discuss further the points being raised. I can't work to fix a problem if I don't know who is having the problem in the first place. Please think about it when you next put pen to paper. Enough said.

Again a Happy Mother's Day and Happy Spring to all.



Vytiškai,

**Rob Martin**



**A report on the Consistory of  
His Eminence  
Audrys Juozas Cardinal Bačkis  
Archbishop of Vilnius, Lithuania  
February 21, 2001**

**This past February I received, as National President, an invitation that came as not only a surprise, but also a most welcome and honored one. The invitation was from the Archbishop of Vilnius to attend the Consistory of Cardinals in Rome, Italy, at which he would be elevated to Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church. After a few quick telephone calls my plans were in place and I was ready to be your representative in Rome.**



SC President, Robert A. Martin, Jr. with another of Cardinal Backis' guests, Charlotte Assaf of Dublin, Ireland.

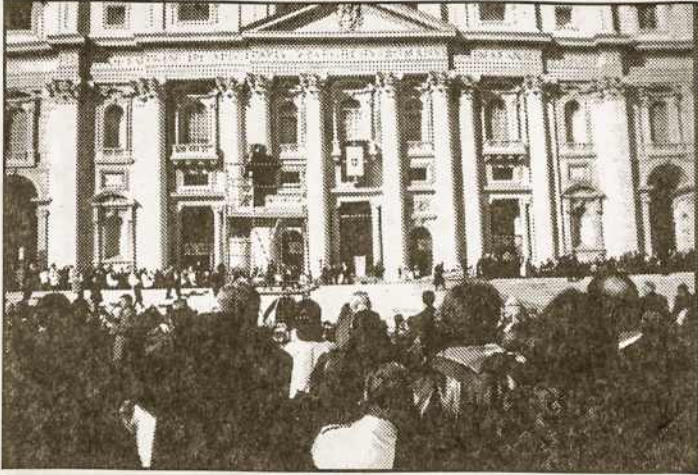
**On the evening of February 19<sup>th</sup>, I was off for what proved to be a week I will not soon, if ever, forget. Arriving in Rome on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> I traveled by train to the center of the city and then on to my hotel.**

**After checking in it was not long before I met up with some of the Archbishop's other guests and we were off to dinner. Imagine my surprise when we arrived at our restaurant for dinner and at the corner table was seated Honorary Member Bob Boris, Council 102, Detroit. Bob had also traveled to Rome for the Consistory at the Archbishop's invitation. After a wonderful meal it was still too early to go back to the hotel so a walking tour of Rome was suggested. Father Gintaras Grusas of Los Angeles, California, and one of his brother priests from Lithuania, led us on a guided evening tour that was truly remarkable. The one thing that made this tour different from all others was that it was given in Lithuanian. I must admit my Lithuanian isn't the best but it did get a lot better that evening. It seemed all too soon and it was time to turn in, after all, tomorrow was going to be a big day.**



Some of the crowds at the Consistory





View of the Outdoor Altar in St. Peter's Square

After an early breakfast, we were off to St. Peter's Square for the Consistory. The weatherman had promised some rain but God was truly with us and the skies were a clear, bright blue all day. After finding seats, it wasn't long before the ceremonies began. In the presence of thousands of family members, friends and guests the forty-four Cardinal Designates and their assistants entered the Square to the cheers and applause of everyone. Once they were seated His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, appeared from the entrance of St. Peter's Basilica to even louder cheers and applause. The sight before us was overwhelming. As we looked on not only was the Holy Father and the soon to be new Cardinals there in front of us but also almost all the existing Cardinals of the world, a huge representation of the world's Bishops, Monsignors and

**Priests. Also in attendance were representatives of nearly all the World's Governments in addition to Papal Knights and other dignitaries.**

During the two and a half-hour ceremony, His Holiness as well as their official commission gave each of the new Cardinals their red hat. After which the now New Cardinals were welcomed into the brotherhood of the College by all the other Cardinals present. The Lithuanian's in the Square made their presence known when Archbishop Bačkis received his hat, which was clear to see due to large video monitors that were erected in the square.

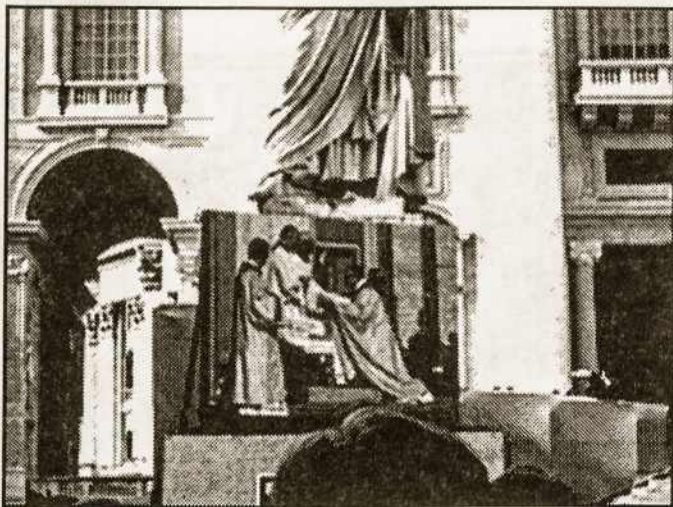


View of Cardinal Backis receiving his hat.

Later that evening we returned to St. Peter's to congratulate the Cardinal inside the Vatican. Each of the new Cardinals were assigned a space within the Vatican to greet their guests and receive congratulations from them. As we approached,



**Cardinal Bačkis' designated area; I couldn't help but notice that he was right in front of the balcony window where a new Pope appears for the first time. Could this be a foreshadowing of things to come? Time will tell. Nevertheless, for know it was an honor to congratulate the Cardinal not only on my behalf but also on yours. The Cardinal was very warm and gracious to each of us and personally thanked everyone for coming. A truly memorable end to a memorable day. Afterward we returned to our hotel and after dinner, it was time to turn in. Tomorrow would be another full day for all of us.**



View of Cardinal Backis receiving his ring.

**Thursday morning we were back at St. Peter's Square for Mass, which would be offered by His Holiness and the New Cardinals. The weather, though much cooler, cooperated again and the skies were dry for Mass. During the Mass, each of the**



Pope Mobile en route back to Vatican.

**Cardinals received their rings from the Holy Father. Again, viewing this was made much easier by the monitors. While the Mass was conducted exactly as any Mass that you or I may have attended, the ending offered us a twist. You see, in order for His Holiness to reach and bless as many people as possible as Mass concluded the Pope Mobile ascended the stairs in front of the outdoor Alter and as soon as he had completed the Final Blessing, the Pope stepped into the waiting vehicle and after circling the entire Alter was headed down the main isle of the square. After blessing the crowds, the Pope departed the square, during which time I was able to get a few close up photos of him.**

**Thursday evening saw everyone attending a reception hosted by Honorary Member, Msgr. Al Bartkus, at the Lithuanian Pontifical College in honor of Cardinal Bačkis. During the reception, the new Cardinal from**



Latvia, Cardinal Pujats, arrived to offer his congratulations as well. After greeting everyone and accepting yet more congratulations, the Cardinal made sure that everyone had something to eat and drink. True to Lithuanian hospitality,



SC President, Robert A Martin, Jr. congratulates Cardinal Backis at reception.

the tables were full of assortments of finger foods that were more like a meal. All too soon it was time to bid everyone good night and head back.

On Friday morning we made our final trip, for the celebrations that is, to St. Peter's Papal Audience Hall. The Pope extended this Apostolic Blessing to everyone and offered a few words to the Cardinals, each in his own language. When he spoke in Lithuanian the Cardinal's delegation applauded loudly, waving the Lithuanian Flag. The Holy Father then received each new Cardinal and a small delegation personally. The Knights of Lithuania was honored to have our Honorary Member, Bob

Boris, included in this group. During their presentation to the Pope, the Lithuanians in the audience hall broke out into song adding ever so much to this special occasion.

How quickly a week goes by and soon it was Saturday. This evening we attended Mass at St. Mary Major Basilica, offered by Cardinal Bačkis and many of his brother priests. Following Mass, the Cardinal hosted a reception for everyone in one of the upper rooms of the Basilica. During the reception, I had the opportunity to talk to His Eminence about Lithuania and her spiritual needs. The Cardinal mentioned many wonderful projects currently going on and I asked him if there was anything the Knights could do to help out. I then invited him, if his schedule allowed, to attend our 88<sup>th</sup> National Convention this summer.



Cardinal Backis with Lithuania's Bishops





Cardinal Backis and his brother priests at the conclusion of his Mass.



SC President, Robert A. Martin, Jr., with Bishop Baltakis at the Cardinal's reception.

**The Knights of Lithuania can truly count itself honored to have been included as part of this historic event for the Church in Lithuania. I thank you for allowing me to represent you all as your National President. May we all pray for Cardinal Bačkis as he begins this new level of his ministry. Let us continue to work "For God and Country". May we always be there to offer our support if called upon.**

**Robert A. Martin, Jr.  
Supreme Council President**



SC President, Robert A. Martin, Jr. with HM Robert Boris and Cardinal Backis



SC President, Robert A. Martin, Jr., with HM Msgr. Al Bartkus and Cardinal Backis at the Cardinal's reception, hosted by Msgr. Bartkus.



Cardinal Backis as he prepares to offer Mass.



## LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS UPDATE

(March 28, 2001) by John R. Mankus,  
Chairman, National Lithuanian Affairs Committee

Since being elected Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, I have published and mailed out a total of four Newsletters and forwarded to our VYTIS editor three articles for publication in the VYTIS. At this writing, I hope to publish one Newsletter every two months, and to have an abridged version for publication in the VYTIS, in conjunction with any appropriate Lithuanian Affairs District and Council information that may be of interest to our members. I hope to continue with attendance and presentation at various DISTRICT meetings to discuss Lithuanian Affairs Activities with our members, and to distribute Newsletters to attendees. In the past six months, I have received a number of requests from members to send Newsletters directly to them, to which I have tried to comply. At this date, I have averaged over 60 Newsletters mailings per issue, to Council and District leaders, Supreme Council officers and individual members. This is in addition to 70-100 Newsletters distributed at District and Council meetings. I have asked District leaders, officers and individual members receiving my Lithuanian Affairs Newsletters to share them with their district and council members.

### Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration at Lithuanian Embassy

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, I participated at the Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration at the Lithuanian Embassy. Guests included Senator **Richard Durbin**, Congressman **John Shimkus**, movie star **Ruta Lee** and husband **Web Low**, former National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter, **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, a number of Lithuanian American leaders from various organizations, United States Government Federal State Officials, and a number of notables, Ambassadors and businessmen. Nearly two hundred fifty people attended the Independence Day Commemoration at the Embassy. **Ruta Lee** was her magnificent self as the master of ceremonies, Senator **Durbin** and Congressman **Shimkus** praised Lithuania's accomplishments during the past year, especially in its efforts to prepare for an invitation to join NATO. It was also a time to thank and bid farewell to Ambassador **Stasys Sakalauskas**, as he is being transferred to a different post and will be leaving Washington DC at the end of February. During his three and a half years tenure as Ambassador to the United States, Mr. **Sakalauskas** has been an energetic spokesman and worker for Lithuania, and a good friend. Prior to my attendance at the Commemoration, I was forwarded a greeting and a thank you by Ambassador **Sakalauskas**

from Foreign Minister **Antanas Valionis** for our support to Lithuania.

### JBANC Conference, March 8-10<sup>th</sup>.

On March 8-11<sup>th</sup>, Supreme Council President, **Rob Martin**, First Vice-President, **Bernice Aviza** and I attended the JBANC Conference in Washington DC, participated at the presentations by Senate/House Foreign Relations/Appropriations Committee staff members at the Capitol, attended a briefing and Q&A's with NSC (National Security Council) policy level staff at the NSC offices and attended the Baltic leadership conference at the hotel. On Friday evening, **Rob Martin**, **Bernice Aviza**, my wife and I had a private meeting with new Ambassador **Vygaudas Ušackas** at the Lithuanian Embassy. We welcomed him to Washington and updated him on the latest Knights of Lithuania activities. The Ambassador discussed a number of topics high on his agenda, including his highest priority, Lithuania's position to NATO enlargement, increased trade with the US, business opportunities in Lithuania, etc. On Sunday, **Bernice Aviza** and I participated at a round table meeting with

Ambassador **Ušackas**, his staff and Leaders of Lithuanian American Organizations at the Lithuanian Embassy on mutually important topics, especially in the area of preparation of Lithuania to join NATO. As a group, we all agreed to cooperate and work with Lithuania, and signed a statement to work for and to seek that Lithuania is invited to join NATO in 2002. The document describes membership in NATO as the best and most efficient measure to ensure Lithuania's security. Two top level Lithuanian Government officials participated in the Embassy meeting and at the JBANC Conference. Chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee, **Alvydas Medalinskas**, who recently met with NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Secretary General, **Simon Lunn**, shared his views at the Embassy meeting, and was a presenter at the JBANC Conference. Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister and Coordinator of Lithuania's NATO integration efforts, **Giedras Čekuolis**, was a participant and also shared his views at the meeting. **Čekuolis** met with officials from the U.S. Department of State and discussed NATO expansion, bilateral U.S.-Lithuanian relations and security issues in the Baltic Sea region.

### Brief biographies of two new faces to many of us, Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antanas Valionis

### VYGAUDAS UŠACKAS - Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States -



Born in Skuodas, Lithuania, on December 16, 1964. Received Degree in Law (May, 1990) from Vilnius University. Graduation thesis: "Thomas Jefferson's Philosophy." Political Science studies at University of Oslo, Norway and University of Aarhus, Denmark. He has held a number of professional positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including, from 1991 to 1992, he was Second Secretary of the Western European Division serving as Desk Officer for the EC and NATO. Counselor of the Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the European Communities, and Liaison Officer to NATO FROM 1992 TO 1996. Mr. Ušackas has the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Lithuania. He was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister in July, 1999, and Chief Negotiator for Lithuania's Accession to the European Union in January 2000. Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Ušackas served as Political Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1996 to 1999. On December 7, 2000 he was appointed Ambassador for Special Missions. Married to Loreta Ušackienė. They have two children, son Raimundas and daughter Paula. Foreign Languages: English, Russian, French.

#### **ANTANAS VALIONIS - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania**

Appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania on October 30, 2000.

Born on September 21, 1950. He received his Ph.D, Doctor of Social Sciences (Political Science) from Warsaw University in 1994. Dissertation: Transformation of Lithuanian Political System in 1998-1993. Diploma, 1974, Faculty of Mechanics, Kaunas Polytechnic Institute. His professional positions include: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republics of Poland, Romania and Bulgaria. Between 1976 and 1990, he held a number of management positions in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry Department, Division of Perspective Planning, Industry and Transport Department in the Taurage and Kaunas Regions and Foreign Relations Department.

Foreign Languages: English, Russian, Polish  
Wife Romualda. Children: two sons - Tadas and Andrius.  
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#### **Noteworthy Quotes**

**"Lithuania is a successful regional role model in establishing excellent relations with all of its neighbors, and we appreciate Lithuania's Ally-like behavior in supporting common defense policies. The United States welcomes Lithuania's aspirations and is committed to keeping NATO'S door open."** -George W. Bush. The President's reply to the remarks of the newly appointed Ambassador of Lithuania, Vygaudas Ušackas upon the occasion of the presentation of his letter of credence.

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, **Dennis J. Hastert** on March 23, spoke to the **Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas)**, **"I pledge to you, that if Lithuania invests the resources necessary to meet the requirements of NATO membership, I will do all in my power to bring Lithuania into the alliance in 2002. I intend to work side-by-side with President Bush, Vice-president Cheney and Secretaries Powell and Rumsfeld to make this a reality."**

**"We have to form such a force or union with others, which would deter the enemy and leave no one willing to attack us. Our aim is NATO. No one would want to attack such a powerful block. But, in order to become a NATO member, we have to form an army able to defend itself, instead of waiting for help from Poles, Germans or Americans.-- Lithuanian Army Commander Brigade General Jonas Kronkaitis.**

#### **From newspapers in Lithuania**

Only **Algirdas Brazauskas** and the New Democracy Party head, **Kazimiera Prunskienė** ratings saw positive changes during the last two months. The sharpest drop of 7.35 and 5.6 per cent in popularity was observed in the ratings of Center Union Party leader, **Kestutis Glaveckas** and incumbent President **Valdas Adamkus**.

The Conservative Party President, **Vytautas Landsbergis**, is looking for a replacement, as two local sections of the Conservatives have already nominated former premeier, MP **Andrius Kubilius** to run for the presidency.

Vilnius Archbishop, the new **Cardinal of Lithuania**, **Audrys Bačkis**, often says that his new title was an honor to the entire Lithuanian nation, where 90 per cent of the population consider themselves Catholics. New Lithuanian Cardinal **Audrys Bačkis** is also known as a diplomat of outstanding capabilities. Cardinal **Bačkis** has a command of French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, Dutch and Latin languages and has diplomatic experience from work in the Philippines, Costa Rica, Turkey, Nigeria, Holland. **Seimas**



**Chairman, Arturas Paulauskas**, initiated a meeting with Cardinal Audrys Juozas Bačkis to discuss the Church activities and some legal acts, with major attention given to a bill on charity and relief. Cardinal A. J. Backis claimed the present law restricted the Church pursued goals and support for the impoverished, as offerings are put on the same line with relief, which are subject to taxes.

All Lithuanian dailies reported of **Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga's** state visit to Vilnius. It was the first official trip by Vike-Freiberga to Lithuania after she was elected Latvian president in the summer of 1999. The newspapers noted both state leaders communicated in **English**. President Vike-Freiberg lived in Canada. President Adamkus in the U.S.

### Action Item - NATO

In May, **Vilnius** will host the **North Atlantic Parliamentary Assembly**, whose participants will include MP'S from NATO member states, candidate countries and countries involved in the Partnership for Peace Program. I urge all our members to continue their participation in letter writing and to contact their friends and neighbors to ask for their assistance in getting the message to our elected officials. It is clear that the invitation to join NATO is the priority and the goal of the Government and the people of Lithuania. Let us increase our effort in this worthy objective. **Lithuania is free. We can do it.**

## Now Available K of L Manual

Over 120 pages listing all the policies and procedures so helpful in operating a K of L Council

The 1999 edition includes the K of L Convention Manual which provides all the details your council needs to know how to host a successful convention .

**Both for only \$15.00**

Please make check payable to the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council.  
Be sure to include Council Number  
Shipping address  
City, State, Zip Code

Send your order to:  
Rita S. Sussko  
1254 Grandview Avenue  
Union, NJ 07083-3729



Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council Members greet newly arrived Lithuanian Ambassador to U.S., Vygaudas Ušackas. (L.to R.) K of L Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, John R. Mankus, Ambassador Ušackas, K of L Supreme Council First Vice-pres. Bernice Aviza, and Supreme Council President, Robert Martin, Jr. at Lithuanian Embassy, Washington, D. C.





**K of L Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, John R. Mankus, Lithuanian Ambassador to U.S. Vygaudas Usackas, and Republic of Estonia Minister of Defense Juri Luik at the JBANC Conference, Washington, D. C.**



**John and Grace Mankus with outgoing Lithuanian Ambassador Stasys Sakaluskas and wife, Jurate, at Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration at Lithuanian Embassy, Washington, D. C.**



## Junior Convention Info

Come and join us for a fun-filled week:

**August 2 - Thursday:** Traditional Pool/Pizza Party 1:00 - 5:00 Grosvenor Resort Pool

\*See old friends and make new ones - let's have a volleyball game and then cool off in the pool! Parents welcome!

**August 3 - Friday:** We go to Disney World! Meet in the hotel lobby at 8:30, we will leave the park at 3:00 P.M. Any child under 8 years old must be accompanied by a parent (at the parent's expense). The children can get their hands stamped for re-entry if parents want to return to the park that evening with their children.

**August 4 - Saturday:** Breakfast with the Disney characters in the hotel restaurant - 9:00 A.M., followed by the Junior session to be held in the hospitality suite. Lunch with their parents at noon, and then we will attend the afternoon session to receive conventionships.

**August 5 - Sunday:** Closing Mass at Our Lady of the Universe - if you are interested in participating in the Mass in some way, let me know at the beginning of the Convention.

\*\*\*\*\*

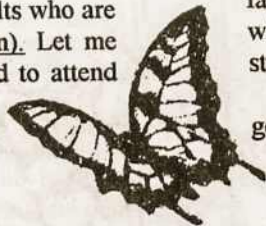
Dear Fellow Knights,

As all of you know, the Supreme Council is hosting the convention. With this in mind, I am asking you to consider donating items for the juniors' "goody bags." I'll need approximately 15-20 of any item that you send. If you wish to donate something, please send it to my home by **June 30<sup>th</sup>**: 4431 Rainbrook Way, Dayton, Ohio 45424. If you would rather send a cash donation for me to purchase items, I will let you know what was purchased, with a copy of the receipt. Two Supreme Council members have already generously offered to donate something. Thanking you in advance for your generosity!

Also, I will need a few chaperones for Disney World, approximately 2-3 people (these should be adults who are not already accompanying their own children). Let me know if you're interested. Everyone is invited to attend our pool party!

See you in Orlando!

*Annamarie Sluzas-Berger*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-president - Juniors



## K of L Juniors on the Move



Andreja Deksnis and Ausra Buzenas at Disney World pose with a "friend."

On our trip to Florida with Mother McAuley High School, Andreja Deksnis and I went to the warm beach, Typhoon Lagoon, MGM, Magic Kingdom, Epcot, and Animal Kingdom. We had lots of fun taking pictures with the characters, seeing the tourist attractions, having our music workshop, and playing at Epcot.

Having these workshop days made me not want to leave. We played Disney pieces, learned more about our instrumental techniques, and most of all, we had FUN!

Traveling with other Mother McAuley students was a memorable experience which I treasure, and hope to participate in again. Disney was so warm, plush, green, and had a sense of peace and serenity that the whole family could enjoy. I don't think it would be the same without my fellow McAulians. Our friendships grew stronger, and people were very friendly.

After having such a great time, who wouldn't want to go back?

~ ~ ~ Ausra Buzenas





*Elsie Kosmisky*

*Candidate for Honorary Membership*

Elsie Kosmisky has been nominated for Honorary Membership by the members of C-144, Anthracite, and the Amber District. Elsie has been an active Knights of Lithuania member since joining C-144 in 1977.

On the **National** level, Elsie has held office on all three Vice-president positions - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>. During her tenure as Vice-president in charge of Membership, 1982 was a banner year for the Knights of Lithuania. Six Councils were organized or reorganized, and membership increased substantially. Elsie was instrumental in the formation of C-156, Shamokin, PA., which is part of the Amber District. Elsie has served on the Supreme Council Ritual Committee at various times. She was chair for one term and is on the committee at present.

On the **District** level, Elsie has held office of President for a three-year term, and has served as Vice-president. Elsie chaired arrangements for a District weekend at Kennebunkport, ME, a first for the District. Serving on the Committee for Lithuanian Day at the Capital Mall in Harrisburg resulted in a new council for the District, C-146, Harrisburg, PA.

As a member of **Council - 144**, Elsie has held the office of President, Vice-president, Trustee and presently, Financial Secretary. Elsie has chaired or been on numerous committees for her council. She was part of the many bus trips the council took - Baltimore, Toronto, Chicago, New York City, Brooklyn, Washington, D.C., etc.. These trips involved Lithuanian Culture or Political activities.

In spite of some opposition, Elsie chaired a very successful council Lithuanian Cookbook Sale. Elsie has served for many years on C-144's Annual Lithuanian Day Picnic. One year, she chaired. In 1984, she co-chaired the trip to Rome for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of St. Casimir. Elsie received a K of L Award for the many letters (over 100) she wrote to Prisoners of Conscience during the Soviet occupation. Elsie has participated in her council's humanitarian projects in sending clothes, books, medical supplies, etc., to Lithuania. Elsie has never missed a National Convention since joining, and was part of the committee when C-144 hosted the Convention in 1992. She has assisted Sr. Angela with the Junior's program at Camp Ausra.

Elsie has been very active in her parish, Annunciation BVM, and sister parish, St. Ann's. Along with being in the choir, she helps with parish functions.

Elsie was instrumental in soliciting donations to send two K of L young people to Australia for the 1987 World Youth Congress. In 1992, she made arrangements for K of L's from Pennsylvania to attend a luncheon and dinner at Indiantown Gap to meet and hear four members of the Lithuanian Seimas who were here to observe how the US National Guard operates. Elsie continues to be on the list when dignitaries come in to that area.

Locally, Elsie works at the Library Book Sale for their annual fund raiser.

This covers, in part, the many works Elsie has performed and continues to perform for the Knights of Lithuania. Because of her dedication, **ELSIE KOSMISKY** has earned the right to become an Honorary Member in 2001.



"All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." ~ Abraham Lincoln ~







*Rita Sussko*  
*Candidate for Honorary Membership*

**Rita Sussko** of Council 29, Newark, NJ has been nominated for Honorary Membership by Council 29 and the Mid-Atlantic District not just for her activities as a K of L member, but because of her great service to the organization and Holy Trinity Lithuanian parish, in helping to keep them alive and active. Rita has been the backbone of C-29, not only in doing her own job, but also urging others or helping them to do theirs.

Nationally, Rita served as National Financial Secretary twice, for a total of 4 years, and chaired the Mandate Committee every year while holding that office, and is a regular member of the Budget Committee. She has attended every National Convention, except one, as a C-29 Delegate since joining the Knights. She worked on the Convention Committee, doing mailing, for the K of L 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in 1988, where she received her 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

On the District level, Rita is a regular delegate from C-29 for District Conventions. She has served on the District Ritual, Mandate, Nominating and Resolutions Committees, was chairperson of the Mandate Committee and a moderator on Rituals at a District Seminar. Rita makes sure C-29 has good representation at District Meetings and arranges car pools for those attending to make sure they attend.

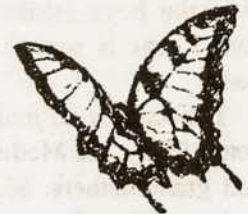
As a member of C-29 for 22 years, Rita has served as Council Financial Secretary for 18 years. In this position, she doggedly pursues those who are late with their dues to make sure they pay and remain members. For the past

three years, Rita has also been Council VYTIS correspondent. She has chaired several Council St. Casimir Communion Breakfasts, Annual Dinner-Dances, and District Conventions whenever hosted by C-29. She has responded to slurs against the Knights quickly, courteously, and with determination, and has served on every Council 29 Committee at least once since joining the organization.

In Holy Trinity Lithuanian parish, she helps keep Lithuanianism alive by encouraging and arranging for Lithuanian readings, Lithuanian hymns, etc. Even though the pastor is not Lithuanian, she has encouraged him to attend K of L activities and to permit K of L use of the parish facilities on a regular basis. Rita has been the backbone of Parish Pancake Dances, Cake Sales, and other money-making activities, finding volunteers, attendees, etc. Rita has been Parish Council Secretary at Holy Trinity Lithuanian R. C. Church for many years.

In other Lithuanian circles, Rita has sent many letters to Congressmen and Senators, encouraging admittance of Lithuania to NATO. She served as Secretary of New Jersey Committee for the 600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lithuanian Christianity, celebrated at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark, traveled several times to Washington, DC to demonstrate for Lithuanian Freedom, participated at the NJ Ethnic Festival, representing Lithuanians at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ.

In conclusion, Rita Sussko has always been cooperative and ready to be of help whenever called on by fellow K of L Members of her own council and members from other councils. She has worked with the K of L and other Lithuanian organizations to keep the name of Lithuania alive. **Rita Sussko** is indeed a worthy candidate for receiving Honorary Membership in 2001.



The best gifts a mother can give her child are roots and wings. ~ Chinese Proverb ~





## Mother's Day

*All mothers are rich when they love their children. There are no poor mothers, no ugly ones, no old ones. Their love is always the most beautiful of the joys. And when they seem most sad, it needs but a kiss which they receive or give to turn their tears into stars.*

*(M. Maeterlinck)*

Mother's Day is a special holiday that is a tradition in my home Council-96, Dayton. For as long as I can remember, our junior council has been a part of the Mass celebrated on this special day. We begin Mother's Day by honoring the most important mother in history, the Blessed Virgin Mary. We honor the mother of Jesus with a May Crowning, special prayers asking for her intercession, and songs honoring her, and then celebrate Mass together with the parish. The Junior Knights participate in the Mass as servers, lectors, and in the offertory procession.

After Mass, the entire parish is invited downstairs for a special meal prepared by the juniors and their advisors. There is always a short, entertaining program put on by the juniors in honor of all mothers present. It is always fun to see what the juniors come up with every year. We have had a lot of different themes, such as, tropical - grass skirts included, a 1950's hop, a Mother's Day fashion show where even the boys dressed up like Moms-what a hoot! Every year is something new, creative, and full of heart.

I encourage all junior councils to do something to honor Mary, the Mother of God, and all your mothers and grandmothers. Show them how much you love and appreciate them.

*Annamarie Sluzas-Berger*  
C-96 Dayton, Ohio

For all your love, For every care,  
For all your smiles, For every prayer,  
For all your faith, Your tender way-  
God bless you on this Mother's Day!



## Mary, Our Model of Faithful Living (A Prayer Service)

**Call to Prayer...**

**The Sign of the Cross...**

**The Lord's Prayer...**

**Leader:** Faithful God, Mary is our model of faith in you. Increase our faith.

*Hail Mary, full of grace...*

**Leader:** Compassionate God, Mary is our advocate to you as we hope in your mercy. Increase our hope.

*Hail Mary, full of grace...*

**Leader:** Loving God, the birth of your Son deepened Mary's love for you. Increase our love for you and for our brothers and sisters.

*Hail Mary, full of grace...*

*Glory be...*

**Leader:** Abba God, when Mary realized the enormity of your graciousness to her, she could not contain herself. Filled with the Holy Spirit, she sang out your steadfast love for the powerless of the world. And so, as our model of prayerful gratitude, we join with Mary in proclaiming your glory:

*My being proclaims your greatness, and my spirit finds joy in you, God my Savior.*

*For you have looked upon me, your servant, in my lowliness; all ages to come shall call me blessed.*

*God, you who are mighty, have done great things for me. Holy is your name.*

*Your mercy is from age to age toward those who fear you.*

*You have shown might with your arm, and confused the proud in their inmost thoughts.*

*You have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places.*

*The hungry you have given every good thing, while the rich you have sent away empty.*

*You have upheld Israel your servant, ever mindful of your mercy-even as you promised our ancestors; promised Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants forever.*

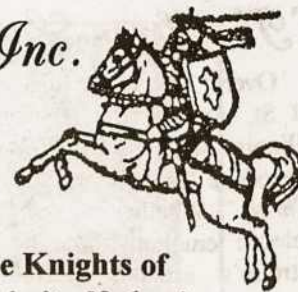




# Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.

(A Tax-Exempt Organization)

## 2001 Essay Contest Announcement



- TOPIC:** Write an Essay about something related to either **the Knights of Lithuania, your Lithuanian heritage, or Lithuania itself**, that is especially close to your heart.
- LENGTH:** 450 to 500 words (count all words).
- DEADLINE:** July 2, 2001. Essays received after this date will not be considered.
- ELIGIBILITY:** A contestant must be a Knights of Lithuania member, (Honorary, Regular or Associate) in **GOOD STANDING**, OR a member of a Junior Council which is duly registered with the Supreme Council..
- CRITERIA:** Essays will be judged on content and originality. Correct grammar and neatness will also be considered in judging.
- MANUSCRIPT:** Must be typed or written legibly, double spaced. The **FIRST PAGE** should contain **ONLY** your name, address, council number, and the essay title. Succeeding pages should contain the essay contents, but **NOT** your name. This is to assure anonymity in judging.
- PRIZES:**  
 1<sup>ST</sup> Prize - \$300.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$200.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$100.
- JUDGES:** One member of each K of L District, plus 2000 Contest Winner.
- MAIL TO :** Rita Sussko\*  
 1254 Grandview Ave.  
 Union, New Jersey 07083-3729
- WINNERS:** Will be announced August, 2001, during the 88<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.
- SPONSOR:** KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC., via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.

\*Note change of "Mail to" address, over that printed in the April VYTIS.



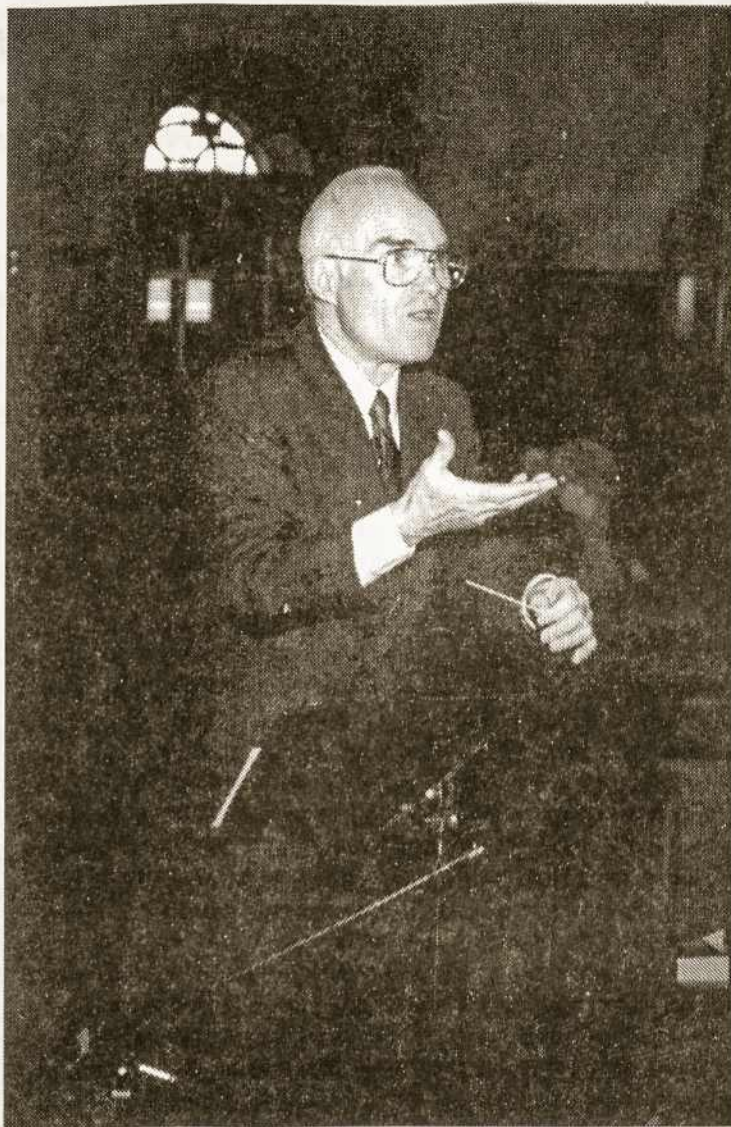
## "The Seven Last Words"

Over 1200 people filled the pews and lined the walls of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Calumet City, Illinois, Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, for a return performance of Theodore Dubois' cantata, "The Seven Last Words of Christ." Whether it was Dubois' skill of portraying intense emotion through music, or director Faustas Strolia's artistic interpretation in expressing that emotion, many of those attending the performance were brought to tears during the final chorus of this sacred choral composition. Strolia returned as guest conductor after having retired as Parish Music Director of St. Andrew's in 1996. The last performance of Dubois' classic work at St. Andrew's was in 1995.

Strolia expressed his joy to be back as he announced to all, "It's nice to receive such a warm welcome home." This welcome was especially evident at the concert's conclusion as well-wishers flocked around Strolia to express their congratulations and delight with his return. Strolia was also presented with a Lithuanian sash commemorating the milestone of his recent 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Over 125 voices were joined together from the St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Choir and School Children's Choir, Knights of Lithuania Choir and the Blessed George Matulaitis Catholic Mission Choir of Lemont. Former choir members traveled from as far as Michigan and Florida to participate in Strolia's return to the director's podium. The concert included sacred works of Bach, Mozart, and Schubert. For first time participant Jim Brewer, a member of St. Andrew's choir, the repertoire was overwhelming. "It was hard work, and Faustas is a perfectionist," Brewer said. "It was everything everyone said it would be and more."

Dubois' work became an annual tradition with Strolia since 1969, growing larger every year. It appears as though he is going to take retirement a little more seriously now. When questioned about next year, he replied, "This is my last one. I really shouldn't do any more."



Faustas Strolia directing the combined choirs in the special presentation of "The Seven Last Words of Christ" this year, April 1, 2001, in Calumet City, Illinois.

## In Memoriam...

C-3 Hedy Sarcewicz March, 2001  
 C-25 Albina Wallis Feb. 2001  
 C-100 Helen Radzevich Feb. 2001  
 C-102 Frank Bunikis Feb. 2001  
 C-110 Thomas V. Walsh March, 2001

C-144 Joseph Yanall  
 C-144 Rose Sobczak  
 C-144 Margaret Marousky  
 C-147 Bronius Bakas Feb. 2001





## KNIGHTS IN ACTION



Members of Pittsburgh K of L Council-19 gather around national President, Robert Martin Jr., third from left. Martin visited Pittsburgh in February to drum up support for the K of L national Convention to be held Aug. 2-5 in Orlando, FL. The photo was taken at the Lithuanian Hall on Pittsburgh's South Side.



Ray Szabo and Patricia Lewellen Beyer, at left, beam after receiving their Knights of Lithuania degree certificates as part of a St. Casimir's celebration on March 3. Len Barcoucky, Alice Lewellen (in costume), Sister J. Lora Dambroski and Rita Johnson also took part in the program. The event was held at the Sisters of St. Francis motherhouse, outside Pittsburgh.



# CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM



## KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 88<sup>TH</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37208-2606

Phone: (615)256-3790



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
88<sup>th</sup> 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<br>4" x 7"        | _____ \$ 10.00 Patron Greeting (Use 3 Lines below) |
| _____ \$ 50.00 Half Page<br>4" x 3 1/2"    | First Line _____                                   |
| _____ \$ 25.00 Quarter Page<br>4" x 1 3/4" | Second Line _____                                  |
|                                            | Third Line _____                                   |
|                                            | _____ \$ 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

Please make your reservations as soon as possible. Rooms are available at our \$95.00 per night rate from Saturday, July 28, 2001 until Monday, August 6, 2001. You must mention "Knights of Lithuania" when making your reservation. A first night's deposit will hold your room.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rob Martin at 1-219-861-0731.



## Memorial Day Remembrance...

### "The Knight Who Went to War"

Tom Brokaw, a noted NBC News television commentator and journalist, recently wrote a book titled, "The Greatest Generation" after visiting the battlefields of Normandy. He came to understand what this generation meant to history, and as he wrote, the greatest generation any society ever produced. He wrote stories of individual men and women who returned home to build modern America, married in record numbers, and gave birth to another distinctive generation. To that list I would like to add *Albert J. Yatkauskas*.

Many members of the Knights of Lithuania came home to adjust to civilian life, and I was one of them, having served in the Marines. I belonged to Council 124 in Jersey City, New Jersey, and had the pleasure of meeting my fellow Knights from other Councils. Those who returned rarely talked about their experiences, and one of them was Al Yatkauskas of Council 12 in New York City. All I heard about Al was, that he lost a leg while serving in the Air Corps.

We went our separate ways, and lost track of each other. A few weeks ago, while sorting out my archives, I came across one page from the issue of the New York Daily News, dated Thursday, May 6, 1965. The paper at that time was writing a daily series about returning veterans, and what caught my eye was the story about Albert Yatkauskas, my fellow Knight. He was interviewed by the paper, and I would like to summarize what Al said.

Al joined the Army Air Corps on June 2, 1942. After completing gunnery training, he became a tail gunner on a B-24 bomber. In February, 1944, he joined the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force based in Naples, Italy. He was involved in 33 bombing missions, and was beginning to think nothing could touch him. His plane was named, "Nobody's Baby," and took off on his 34<sup>th</sup> mission on August 7, 1944 to bomb synthetic oil refineries in Germany, near the Polish border.

At precisely 11:33 A.M., they were hit by anti-aircraft flak as they were coming off target. The number 3 engine started burning, and the flames spread. The bombardier, who normally is part of this crew, was in another formation that day and took a picture of the burning plane. Seven of the crew bailed out. Al had to back in the waist of the B-24 to get his parachute. There he was bumped around when the plane got out of control, but he did get out. The co-pilot and top gunner were killed; the pilot was badly wounded and went down with the plane.

As Al's chute opened, his flying helmet and gloves flew off. The anti-aircraft guns were still barking as he landed in a ravine surrounded by bushes and trees.

Hiding his parachute, he checked himself for any sprains or injuries and found none. When he heard footsteps, he hid himself, face down in a pile of leaves. They were so close he thought he would be stepped on, and as they faded away, he looked up and saw a German officer, pistol in hand, walking away.

Al thought he was home free because Russian lines were about thirty miles away, however, civilians spotted him, and, even though his hands were up to surrender, they started shooting at him. Thinking they were probably members of the Home Guard trying to kill him, Al started to run and was shot in the left leg. Al went down. After they caught up to him, they were kicking him in the body and face. When he covered his face with his hands, the kicking stopped, but when he opened his eyes he saw a pistol pointed at his head. A German soldier came along and stopped them, otherwise he would have been killed. He asked for medical help. The soldier nodded and left. His attackers stripped him of his uniform, boots and shoes, leaving him with only his underwear. Much to Al's surprise, his wristwatch was not taken.

As he lay on the warm August soil wracked with pain, a soldier guard was sleeping nearby. With no first aid kit, the only thing Al could do was to apply pressure on the femoral artery to keep from bleeding to death. Amazingly, though screaming with pain and without the benefit of morphine, he never passed out. Finally, at 6 o'clock, a horse-drawn cart filled with straw came, and the medic with two guards took Al to the hospital.

The medics had to use paper bandages, as they were short on supplies. Al was put in a room with his ball turret gunner, and a pilot and nose gunner from another plane. The second day, he was brought into the operating room, and after awakening, the others were silent. They knew his left leg was removed above the knee, but Al did not. When he looked down, he knew why everyone was so quiet.

After being there thirteen days, they were taken to a prisoner of war camp, their new home, by train. A British doctor, a fellow prisoner, examined Al and issued a call for blood donors. The British surgeon and his British medics took care of him, and Al slowly recovered. How they managed to set up blood transfusions without any medical equipment amazed him. Later, these same medics told Al they had no hope for him when he was first brought in. Al believes their efforts saved his life.

In October of 1944, the Swiss Red Cross repatriation committee came to the camp and informed Al that he was on the next list to be sent home. In the middle of January he was put on a hospital train for Lake Geneva, Switzerland, for the prisoner of war exchange with disabled German soldiers returning from camps in the United States. The next day, Al was sent to Marseilles,



France and boarded the Swedish passenger liner, "Gripsholm" for the trip to New York, arriving around Washington's birthday to see the beautiful Statue of Liberty.

After spending time at two hospitals recovering from treatments of his amputation, Al was discharged on October 12, 1945. Considering what Al went through, he adjusted very nicely after returning home. Despite his handicap, he became an active Knight of Council 12, participating in many social activities, and met a charming young lady from Council 110, Maspeth, New York. He and the former Emily Razickas recently celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.

They were the parents of four sons. Twins were the first to join the family, John and Albert. John is a sales representative in advertising. Albert is a colonel in the army, and expects to retire early in 2001.

Matthew is a priest. He was ordained at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on May 13, 1989 by Cardinal John O'Connor. At present, he is at the Holy Name of Mary parish in Croton-on-the Hudson, New York.

Paul, the youngest, was born with a disability, and passed away at the age of 19.

Al was awarded five theatre campaign ribbons, a Purple Heart, and Air Medal with cluster, and a Distinguished Unit Citation Badge, but he would gladly exchange all of them for a healthy leg.

Even though Al and Emily presently reside in Little River, South Carolina, their home for the past twenty years, they are still members of Council 12.

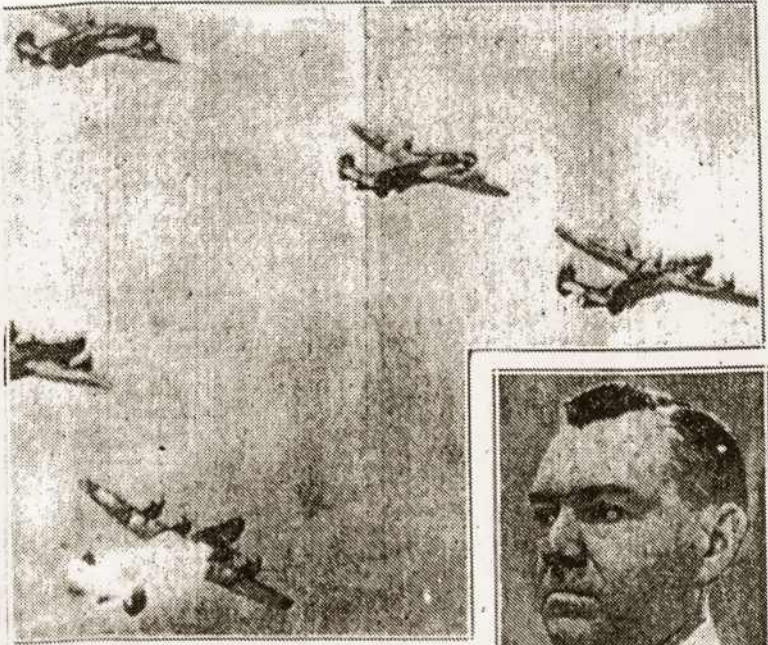
There are undoubtedly other Knights who nobly served in "the war to end all wars," and someday, perhaps their stories will be told. The sacrifices of "The Greatest Generation" should not be forgotten.

(Story contributed by Edward W. Baranauskas of Schenectady, New York).

**Editor's Note:** Let us not forget the original purpose and meaning of Memorial Day. May the many who have given their lives for us and the cause of freedom throughout the world be memorialized in our hearts and prayers this day.

**MEMORY** is the diary that we all carry about with us.

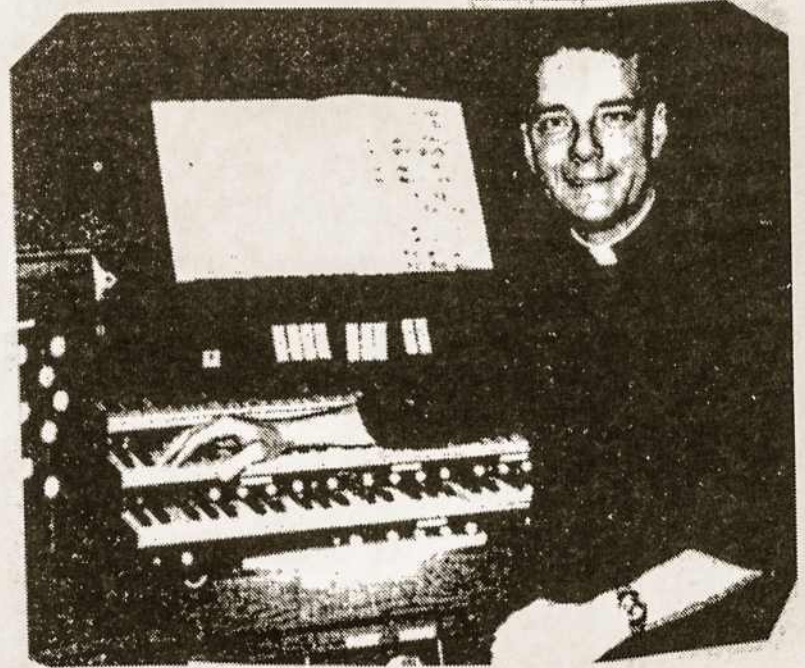
~Oscar Wilde~



Al's plane on fire. (Filmed by one of his fellow pilots from another plane.)



ALBERT YATKAUSKAS



Rev. Matthew A. Yatkauskas seated at the organ in the seminary. (1989)



## WEDDING BELLS RING AT C-3, PHILADELPHIA, PA



Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Barbara Currie - October 14, 2000. The bride is the former Barbara Mickunas, C-3 Philadelphia, daughter of Agnes and John Mickunas.



K of L'ers at Jim and Barbara (Mickunas) Currie's wedding. Front row (LtoR) Walter Svekla, Jr., Barbara and Jim Currie. Second row (LtoR) Mark Bell, Rita Zakarka Johnson, Donna Juraitis, Annamarie Sluzas Berger, Mary Beth Yaneck, Irena Gecas McCarthy, Robert Martin, Jr., Michael McCarthy. Back row (LtoR) Brian Johnson, Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis and Andrew Svekla.



## KNIGHTS IN ACTION



Some members of the Committee preparing for the upcoming 88<sup>th</sup> National Convention met in Orlando to finalize plans. Front (L to R) Mark H. Bell, national Financial Secretary, Elena Nakrosis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president, Mary F. Kincius, Vytis Business Manager. Back row, Brian and Rita (Zakarka) Johnson and their junior K of L'er son. Not in picture but present for meeting, national president, Robert Martin, Jr., and recording secretary, Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas



Council-112 members receiving their First Degrees are Mrs. Katel, flanked by Margaret and Silvia Valentine pose here after the ceremony with Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, MAMD spiritual advisor.



## KNIGHTS IN ACTION



Proud grandparents, Casimir and Ruth Yanish, C-74, Scranton, PA., at the Baptism of their twin grandchildren, Nicklaus and Peter Casimir. The parents of the twins are the Yanish's daughter Lisa and her husband. The ceremony was presided over by Msgr. Lewis at St. Gregory's Church. Four of the other grandchildren were the godparents.



Frances Petkus, Ritual Chairperson for C-96, Dayton, Ohio, presents her First Degree recipients, Gary and JoAnn Thiele, (center), and her Second Degree recipient, Julia Goecke, (on far right). The ceremony took place at the St. Casimir Day Mass, March 4<sup>th</sup>.



***Knights of Lithuania National Scholarship Program for 2001  
Awards Announced at the 88<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Orlando, Florida***

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

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

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

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

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

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

Irena Gecas-McCarthy  
30 Clinton Road  
Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 746-0820 - home  
(212) 436-5316 - work  
e-mail: [macgecas@msn.com](mailto:macgecas@msn.com) (home)



**KNIGHTS' KITCHEN KORNER**

You asked for it! **Pressed Country Cheese.** (Mary Lapinskas' Recipe)

To make a cheesecloth: (Commercially purchased is a bit flimsy for repeated use).

Square (18 inches) folded in half to make rectangle. If you pull out a thread approximately every inch, the whey drains quicker. Sew 2 inches from SW (southwest) corner (bottom) toward NE (northeast) corner (top).

Cloth should be white and like "butcher-linen" - woven loose enough for the "thread pulling." A rough-woven dishcloth is also suitable. (Sew to shape).

**Supplies needed:** Cheesecloth, 2 approx 12 inch cutting boards, huge rock or about 3 bricks, string, jelly roll pan, or.... to catch whey during pressing.

**Cheese:**

1 gallon milk (Can use whole, 2%, 1% or skim)  
1 to 2 quarts buttermilk ("to taste")



Scald 1 gallon milk in heavy pot. Stir to prevent scorched bottom. (Would ruin taste). When ready to boil, add buttermilk. Stir 'til have "curds and whey." Pour through a cheesecloth. (Curds stay in cloth and whey drips into pot below). (Whey is nutritious for you...to drink in small amounts, or if you "can't," your plants will love it after it cools). (Editorial note: DO NOT BOIL. Cook slowly).

If you stop at this point, you have home-made cottage cheese. Can "cream" it with some sour cream or you can go "lowfat."

Shake down the curds gently, to eliminate air pockets in cloth triangle. Twist end of cloth and tie as close to filling as possible. Place between 2 cutting boards in jelly roll pan (or...). Tilt boards about 2 inches toward narrow end of cloth. Place HEAVY rocks on top. Press approx 4-8 hours or when firm enough "to taste." (This cook thought cutting boards and rocks better than a cheese press). (I agree).

In warm weather, pressing on a large refrigerator shelf is "preferable," but the cheese won't spoil before becoming firm and then refrigerated.

Untie gently and "peel off" cheesecloth. Can leave uncovered for about ½ hour to "dry" the surface. Refrigerate on flat surface. Keep covered in the refrigerator so that the cheese doesn't absorb the taste/smell of other food in the frig.

Can keep this recipe "lowfat" by using skim milk or can make richer by adding some sour cream to the curds before pressing. (Introduce sour cream so curdling is prevented). (Kaip su barsciais/like with beet soup).



## District & Council News

### Mid Central District

#### C-19 Pittsburgh PA Len Barcousky

St. Casimir's Celebration 2001  
Draws Lithuanian-Americans  
from Several Groups

The sounds of the Lithuanian hymn "Marija, Marija" filled the chapel at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis during a special mass to mark the Feast of St. Casimir. St. Casimir is Lithuania's only Roman Catholic Saint and his feastday, March 4, has been celebrated for almost 500 years.

The Mass on March 3 in Whitehall, outside Pittsburgh, drew members of Council 19 of the Knights of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Citizens Society of Western Pennsylvania and many Sisters from the Sisters of St. Francis.

The Rev. Bernie Tickerhoof celebrated the Mass. The service included the singing of several Lithuanian hymns, led by organist Ed Matelan, and an offertory procession with symbols linked to St. Casimir. Procession participants included K of L members Brian and Rita Johnson and Alice Lewellen and Bill and Kathleen Kudis Sechler. Sister Louise Marie Simcoe served as sacristan.

Following Mass, the Sisters played host at a supper featuring traditional Lithuanian foods prepared by Bonnie Wright, their dietary director. Sister J. Lora Dambroski, the order's provincial minister for the United States, greeted the guests.

The Knights held a brief degree ceremony. Rita Johnson presented a

First-Degree certificate to Patricia Lewellen Beyer and a Second-Degree certificate to Ray Szabo.

The event was a joint project of the Sisters of St. Francis and the Knights of Lithuania, Pittsburgh Council 19. Sister Marian Blodis coordinated the event.

St. Casimir's Day has been celebrated in Pittsburgh's Lithuanian-American community for decades. Until it was closed in 1990, the main Lithuanian Catholic Church was named after St. Casimir. Over the years events have included masses, luncheons, and versions of a St. Casimir Fair, or Kaziuko muge.

The celebration of the Mass with the Sisters of St. Francis is part of an ongoing effort by the Pittsburgh Council of the Knights to do joint projects with other local Lithuanian-American organizations.

#### C-96 Dayton, OH Frances R. Petkus

Council members gathered together for the annual St. Casimir's Day Mass on March 4th. With the council's cross, Henry Pant led us into church. Our Junior Knights, Daniel Tucker carried the St. Casimir's picture while Joseph Berger, Erin and Robert Petkus carried the gifts.

Following the Mass Stefanija Rastikis led us in the Litany to St. Casimir in Lithuanian.

First Degrees were then presented to Gary and JoAnn Thiele. The Second Degree was awarded Julia Goecke. Congratulations to one and all!!!

With Aaron Geiger at the organ, services were closed with all singing the Vyciu Hymnas. Members then headed to the University of Dayton for a delicious lunch and monthly meeting.

A well-rounded event with thanks going to Chairs Gary and JoAnn Thiele. Gary and JoAnn added a touch to the lunch by placing Lithuanian artifacts on the tables.

Our Junior Knights were hosted by Joyce and Amy Berczely in the month of March, taking them to 'Kil'n Tine' where the Juniors did a hands on project in pottery. The item they made will be their gift to their mothers at the Annual Mother's Day Mass and Brunch. Our youth were then treated to pizza plus lunch!

The weekend of March 30th - April 1st C-96 had the pleasure of hosting the Supreme Council meeting. With Board members coming in from various cities it gave our members a chance to meet and see our Board in action. Saturday the SC members had a light breakfast hosted by Laurreta, Henry, Robert and Linda Pant. Lunch and dinner were prepared by Elinor Sluzas and her committee of Rita Ambrose, Eloise Berczely and Fran Petkus. The Petkus', Michael, Norma, Robert and Erin Petkus, Annamaria Sluzas-Berger, JoAnn Thiele lent their hands wherever needed. Transportation committee were George and Frances Mikalauskas while Elena Mikalauskas and Mark Bell handled the bar. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis held a private Mass as C-96's Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Michael Holloran, held Mass at our "sister parish". Our members were impressed with the volume of work the Board covers and how well they work together. A special Thanks must go to our Chair for the weekend who pulled everything together, Anne Louise Tucker!!!!

Love and happiness to Alice Petkus as she and her family move into their new home.

Get well wishes go to Anne Scott and Joan Kavalaszkas!

Our deepest sympathies go to the



family of Aldona Bunikis on the recent passing of her husband, Frank. Aldona and Frank, members of C-102, Detroit, have been friends with many of us in C-96. Our children attended camp together several years in Camp Dainava.

Sympathies must also go to Albert Wallis on the recent passing of his wife, Albina. Al and Albina, members of C-25, Cleveland, at one time were members of C-96. George and Frances Mikalauskas attended the services and Mass for Albina. George was representative for the MCD.

May Frank and Albina rest in the Peace of the Lord!

Happy Mother's Day to one and all!!!!

### **C-102 Detroit MI Teresele**

Father Stanievich is in slow recovery from his knee replacement surgery. The Dynamic Duo, his brother John and Joe Stark surprised him on his 81st birthday with a rendition of melodies on the violin and accordion, much to his delight. Another birthday was celebrated at the February meeting, honoring Regina Juska-Svoba, with not only one, but three cakes. Mes linkime jums daug laimingu, svciku metu!

The good news is that Charles Podolski is recovering nicely from his recent heart attack. More good news is that Vic Yokin is once again teeing it up on the golf course, after his lung surgery. May you both continue to do well, as we continue to remember all the sick, recovering and suffering members of 102 and their families.

Congratulations to Donna Pluto on the birth of her 3rd grandchild, Sean Richard, the firstborn of daughter Kim and hubby, Kevin Clary, christened on January 21st at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church.

Congratulations are also in order for recently engaged Robert Klucens to Mary Han, busy readying plans for their October 6th wedding!

Catherine Kurpovic is doing a great job of collecting cancelled stamps, which she in turn sends to the Sisters in Lithuania. Let's help her in this endeavor by leaving a 1/4 to 1/2" border around the stamp, either mailing the stamps to her, or better yet, bring them to the next meeting.

Welcome to our newly joined members: Ann Dargas, sister of Edna Klucens and former 102 member Vincent Klucens, son of Edna and Bill Klucens.

Michael and Theresa Shea are soaking in some southern rays and are enjoying a month's stay on Sanabel Island, and while there, will be visiting HM Bob Boris. Heard through the grapevine that Michael Shea has a lovely voice and sings with a group that entertains folks confined to nursing homes. Helen Smolek took respite from the wintry weather, visiting son Anthony and family in Texas, returning just in time to enjoy a warming trend.

Speaking of Bob Boris, he's off again, this time to Italy, to observe the ordination of newly designated Cardinal Audrys Backis of Vilnius, a most memorable occasion to attend.

We were deeply saddened by the death of our good friend and 102 member of over 50 years, Frank Bunikis, who passed away the morning of Ash Wednesday, leaving his soulmate, Donna; son, Algerdas and wife Carolyn, their children, Michele and Andrew of Phoenix, Az., daughter Mary and husband Monty Parks of Atlanta, Ga., daughter Margaret Kreig and daughters Genevieve and Monica of Beaverton, Or., and brother, John, in Lithuania. A memorial service was led by Fr. Horn of the Shrine of the Little Flower, followed by the rosary, led by Fr. Babonis, in both Lithuanian and

English.

Mr. Zaparanskas gave a brief history of Frank's life in Lithuania and America. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Donna and her family, as well as to Maryanne Guerriero, whose sister, Helen, succumbed to cancer, leaving her husband Gus Nuerenberg of 45 years. May they both rest peacefully in God's Heavenly Kingdom.

102 Members Ruth Wagster, Bill Zager, Guerrieros, Hofners, Medonis, Regina Juska-Svoba, Stanievichs and Starks joined C-79 to commemorate St. Casimir, attending Mass at Divine Providence Church, followed by a brunch, feasting on traditional Lithuanian foods. Su Diev!

### **Mid Atlantic District**

#### **C-29 Newark, NJ Rita**



Greetings from C-29 of Newark, NJ. November thru March were C-29's hospitalization months. Starting with our Michiganite, Sandy Detwiler, who underwent serious spinal surgery. Doctor's orders were that she could not attend her Freisan horses for at least 6 weeks. Fortunately, she has convalesced and is happy to be back in the barn. Next, our star Chef and Vice President, Marie Guoba, was in for tests and then hospitalized for cardiac problems. Followed by Virginia Kaminskas, Consuella Karchefsky, Brone Venckus, Eleanor Cavallo, Anna Bagdonavicius, also our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Peter Uhde, who had an attack of kidney stones plus complications. With the help of God, they all seem to be on a slow road to recovery. We pray that we have done our hospitalization bit for a long time.

C-29 welcomed in the New Year with a holiday party which was held on January 7th, the date of our first meeting of the New Year. Chairperson,



Nijole Miknevičius, was assisted by the following members who donated the food, which by all reports was delicious. Committee members were: Ada and Domas Andruska, Emmy Grazulis, Marie Guoba, Mary Honeyymar, Virginia Kaminskas, Jennie Miklasavige, Vytautas Miknevičius, Nellie Nechiporuk, Ann O'Neill, Helen Radicsh, and Helen Sisak. Emilia Sadonis donated a "Three King" ornament which she had made as a favor for each.

Lithuanian Independence was recognized at our February meeting by having Vladas Audenas as guest speaker. He is a frequent visitor and instructor in Lithuania. He was most interesting with an up-to-date talk.

On February 25th, our Annual Parish Pre-Lenten Pancake Dance was held. C-29 members work hard to make this parish function a success.

March 4th we celebrated our Annual St. Casimir's Day Mass and Communion Breakfast. The procession at Mass included our president, Harold Kaminskas, carrying a picture of St. Casimir, Vice-President, Marie Guoba, a lily, Jennie Miklasavige a crucifix, Petre Pliskaitis a crown of gold, Paula Paskas a crown of thorns and Domas and Ada Andruska the wine and Hosts. Rita Sussko narrated the procession. Mass was followed by a delicious brunch prepared and served by Chairperson Nijole Miknevičius, helped by her committee: Vytautas Miknevičius, Ada and Domas Andruska Marie Guoba, Jennie Miklasavige, Ann O'Neill, Helen Sisak, Lorraine Stramarra and Rita Sussko.

Rozalia Somkaite is still hard at work providing clothing and miscellaneous items for Lithuania. C-29 members Harold Kaminskas, Lorraine Stramarra, Jennie Miklasavige and Marie Guoba are her willing helpers. God bless them all for their endeavor.

On Palm Sunday C-29 will sponsor a cake sale and luncheon with Mary Honeyymar as Chairperson. All proceeds will go to Holy Trinity Church.

It will be a busy Spring, with our members looking forward to attending the Mid Atlantic Spring Meeting in Kearny on April 29th.

Holy Trinity Lithuanian Church will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary on May 20th, 2001, with a Mass and Dinner Dance. We are hoping that many of our former parishoners and friends will be here to help celebrate this auspicious occasion.

Until we meet again in Vytis, we wish all our fellow Knights and friends a HAPPY, HEALTHY Spring!

### **C-100 Amsterdam, NY "Reggie"**

Our September meeting was hosted by Regina Hartvigas and Ruth Ralys and held at our St. Casimir's Church social center. Our president, Mirga Bablin, asked Sister Roberta, our Parish Life Director, to lead us in a prayer.

A report from National Convention in LA was given by Vice president, Regina Kot. Those attending the convention, besides Regina, were Ruth Ralys and Polly Ziausys from our council. They all had memorable experiences.

Polly Ziausys, language lore chairman, reads many interesting articles at our meetings. One of them was taken from a Lithuanian newspaper, about how we misuse the Lithuanian language by inserting English words. It was very humorous.

At our November meeting, Irene Tice, our cultural chairman, spoke on the Baltic countries - Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Mirga Bablin and Regina Kot attended MAD meeting held in Schenectady, NY, at St. Mary's Church and Mass at the Holy Cross Church. They worked on resolutions committee.

Our past Vice president, Gene Gobis, is not attending our meetings; we all miss her. She used to write many interesting articles in our Vytis. She is of ill health and is presently residing at Montgomery Meadows.

Our annual Christmas party was at Parillo's Restaurant. Donations were accepted for Aid to Lithuania, instead of having grab bags. Christmas carols were sung and we all had a wonderful time.

At our February meeting, Mirga read a Christmas thank you letter from Fr. Stan, who is our sacramental minister.

Ed Baranauskas invited our council members to come to Lithuanian Day Mass at Holy Cross Church. A group of us did.

St. Casimir's Day brunch was held at Valentino's Restaurant on March 4th. We had a wonderful hostess, Sophie Olbie and Sophie Malkowicz. Mirga Bablin gave a brief summary on the life of St. Casimir.

We lost another K of L member in February, Helen Radzevich. We extend our deepest sympathy to her sister Ann Czerw.

### **C-109 Great Neck, L.I.**

On June 11th of last year, it was doom and gloom at our Council Meeting. Our meeting place had been sold, attendance at meetings was sparse (we have mostly senior members; some are unable to come), we could not foresee any new members joining, nor any reason to plan for future fund-raising activities - to which a very few would come. The council became inactive.



Our President announced she was resigning from the presidency and no one volunteered to take her place, nor for any other Executive Board position. With the few members present, which was a quorum, all decided that perhaps it was time to disband the council.

After it was a done deed, some of our members started to reminisce about "old" times and "memories" not to be forgotten. Some of us were reminded about all the good times - the energy and enthusiasm of members at long past National Conventions - where we remembered the late Mykolas Norkunas, Joseph Boley, Frank Gudelis Dr. Jack Stukas, the Rev. John C. Jutt, Frank Vaskas, Antanas Mazeika, etc. - and especially our own late Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Msgr. Frank Bulovas, who always took time out from his duties at the Transfiguration Church in Maspeth to come to our meetings in Great Neck - to encourage us to stick together no matter what, to plan ahead and somehow it worked. We love you, Monsignor, you are always in our prayers.

And then it happened. In October, Honorary Member Alexander Wesey, who had been National K of L President several times, invited us to his residence for a meeting and announced that he was willing to take over the presidency of our council, again. Other Executive Board members were elected: Secretary Mary Ann Wesey, Treasurer Josephine Zukas, and Fin./Memb. Secy. Joseph Zukas. To our delight, we also have a new member, Adele Bondel, and two members who have rejoined - Lou Ann Rutha and Alexander Norwesh. We are glad to have you with us and we truly thank you and all of our members for their support.

Our members were invited to come celebrate St. Casimir's Day, the Patron Saint of Lithuania and of our organization, at the 10:15 Mass at St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck. We

remembered in our prayers the living and the deceased members of our council. After Mass, we gathered together at a small restaurant where we enjoyed the camaraderie of all participating.

It is said that if you're waiting for your ship to come in, first you must build a dock. That is what we will be doing. We must publicize our activities to gain acceptance and find a way, with the Lord's help, to stimulate our existence in the common bond we all share. We are a small group but if we have faith in one another and in the purpose of our organization, we will survive.....

(Council News Ed. note: "Don't wait for your ship to come in; swim out after it." and that seems to have happened. We salute you!)

### **C-110 Maspeth, NY Bruno Rutkunas**

Another month has flown by; it seems that our time pieces are running too fast. Our March 25th meeting entertained many who attended for the first time, this year. We petitioned and signed many requests to President Bush to help Lithuania get approved for being admitted to the NATO Alliance.

We remembered and honored the life and the sacrifices that St. Casimir made for all of us.

Our shipments to aid the Lithuanian orphans continues on schedule.

Sadly, we lost another member, Thomas V. Walsh, of Sea Cliff, NY who entered into Eternal Rest, March 11th; also wishing the speediest recovery for Sophie Zuyus, Anne Lason and Helen Tamulinas who suffered a serious stroke.

On Good Friday, many members joined with the parishoners of the three local Catholic churches for the Stations of the Cross prayers, with the march

terminating at the Transfiguration Church located on the recently renamed "Monsignor Frank Bulovas Blvd."

As was done for many years in the past, strong legged K of L members will parade alongside the many organizations on Sunday, May 27th, honoring the many veterans and heroes of our country. The Lithuanian flag as well as the American flag will be flying along 69th Street, Maspeth, NY. Many ethnic groups participate in this event.

### **C-136 Hudson-Mohawk Dorothy Richmire**

Seems like we recover from one huge blanket of snow and Mother Nature manages to cover us over and over again. Has anyone seen a robin? I keep looking and hoping. According to the calendar, Spring is just days away.

Prior to our March meeting, Albert Jurzynski, Mayor of Schenectady, presented us with the official proclamation noting February 16th as Lithuanian Independence Day. The Mayor was on vacation and out of state at the time of our celebration and was unable to attend; however, he made up for his absence by making a particular effort to personally share with us this special event.

In the absence of the president, Sue, and Vice-President, Bea, Ed Barkowski, treasurer, conducted the meeting. Bernice talked about conditions in Lithuania. She indicated that the economic situation is not good at the present time. She reminded us that we should all concentrate on letting go of the past and looking forward to the future. In other words, "Let bygones be bygones and let's move ahead" is a good rule for Lithuanians and all of us to follow. She is hoping to meet with State Legislators regarding support for Baltic membership in NATO.

On a happy note.....we congratulate



Richard A. Fuerst on his new position as an associate in the local law firm of Higgins, Roberts, Beyerl and Coan. He holds a juris doctorate from Albany Law School of Union University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Union College. He also holds our respect, gratitude and love. Richard, we are extremely proud of your achievements and are always grateful for your legal advice.

On the sick list: Helen LaPierre, Frank Zebuda, Stella White and Stephanie Dwilitt. Cards or visits are always welcome and especially prayers.

Thought for today: Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time. Happy Spring!

### **C147 St. Petersburg FL Dolores Jonaitis**

A Big-Big "WELCOME" to our newest members. Kazmiera Vasvila has rejoined our council. Joseph Gecas has transferred from C-96 and Victor Maciokas transferred from C-7. Irena Punkris joined in January of 2001.

Bronius Bakas, at age 91, and a member of our council for 21 years, passed away February 7, 2001. We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife, Genovaite, his step-daughter, Salna, his two sisters in Lithuania, and three step-grandchildren. Father Cyvas and John Jonaitis led the group in the K of L Wake Ritual. Irena Diktanas presented the family with a Mass Card. May he Rest in Peace.

Our February meeting was opened by our president, John Jonaitis and the Opening Prayer by Rev. Father Cyvas, followed by a moment of silence for Bronius Bakas and all of our deceased members. After the recording secretary report by Irena Diktanas, Elena Jurkynas, Trustee, checked the books with Maria Gelazius. Elena reported

and confirmed that all was in order.

M/M Gedmintas and Irena Punkris were sworn in by Father Cyvas.

Father Cyvas brought in his album commemorating his 60 Years Jubilee in the Priesthood. The album was put together by Albinas Karnius, then president of the Lithuanian Club. We all enjoyed reliving the Happy Moments of his banquet and the many pictures taken.

After the closing prayer, we all sang "Lietuva Brangi" in view of the upcoming Feb 16th celebration.

Coffee and refreshments were extra special this time. Our bakers made a special effort to please everybody. Donaters were V. Pleskus, E. Jurkynas, I. Diktanas, D. Jonaitis, B. Urbonas, O. Semolavicius, D. Jurenas, S. Janciaukas, V. Lescinskas, K. Arlauskas, J. Lauras and A. Aciene.

This year's Feb 16th celebration was observed on Saturday the 17th at the Lithuanian Hall. The choir offered some beautiful songs. Flags were carried in by "Romas Kalantos Saulai". Representing C-147 were John Jonaitis, flag carrier, Irena Punkris and her sister, Aldona Olis. A short program followed. Our guest speaker was Lietuvos Respublikos Generalinis Konsulas, Rimantas Morkvienas. Later, a welcome social was held at the home of L.R. Honorary C. Algimantas and Nancy Karnaviciaus. John and Dolores Jonaitis and Anthony Gudonis were C-147 members attending. On Sunday, 18th, the Holy Mass was concelebrated by Father Cyvas and Brother Antanas OFM. Flags were brought in by Romas Kalantas Saulai and John Jonaitis brought in the C-147 flag. Attendants were Genovaite Osinskiene and Irena Punkris.

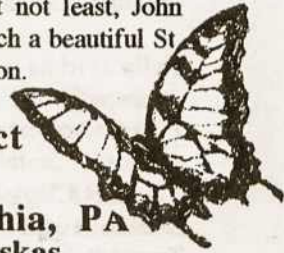
St. Casimir's Feast Day, March 4th, Holy Mass was concelebrated by Brother Antanas OFM and Father

Cyvas. A stormy rainy day but Mass was well-attended. Our Men's Choir sang in church. They were just superb. Dinner followed at the Lithuanian Club. John Jonaitis introduced Bro. Antanas, OFM, C-147 member, who spoke about our Patron Saint, St. Casimir. He went into detail of St. Casimir's life. It was interesting and well-appreciated. Valeria Lescinskiene, also a C-147 member, read a beautiful poem in Lithuanian. Just lovely.

A special "THANK YOU" to our Men's Choir, Brother Antanas Grabnickas OFM, Valeria Lescinskas, Irena Diktanas, and last but not least, John Jonaitis for making such a beautiful St. Casimir Day Celebration.

### **Amber District**

### **C-3 Philadelphia, PA Stephany Gutauskas**



C-3 was happy to hear of Pope John Paul II's appointment of Audrys Juozas Backis, Archbishop of Vilnius, as Cardinal. We were elated that Robert Martin, Jr., President of the Supreme Council, officially represented the Knights of Lithuania at the installation ceremony held at the Vatican on February 21st.

Council members were pleased to learn that the television series, "Attila", which aired on the USA Network in late January, was filmed entirely in Lithuania. Lithuanian artisans fashioned props for the series and Lithuanian military portrayed Roman soldiers in the drama.

On Wednesday, March 14, several C-3 members were present at a talk given by Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM, which began this year's Lenten Program at St. George Church. Members also toured St. Clement's Church on March 21st in continuation of the Lenten spiritual program.



On Saturday, March 17, several council members attended a St. Patrick's Day Party sponsored by the Home and School Association of St. George parish.

On Monday, March 26, at St. George Church, many of our council members attended the funeral of Hedy Sarcewicz, a former member of the Knights of Lithuania and a well-respected pillar of the Lithuanian community in Philadelphia. Hedy entered into Eternal Rest on March 21st.

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

Della Zvirblis was in the hospital with pneumonia and is now on the mend. Pray for her and all our sick.

Margaret Clegg is gone on a vacation to Florida again. Cousin Mary Globis Twardzik is also vacationing in Florida with daughter, Connie, a well-deserved rest after clearing all the snow.

Dick and I were invited to Ruth and Casimir Yanish's twin grandsons' baptism. They are named Nicklaus and Peter Casimir. Their parents are daughter, Lisa, and husband, Steve. Their 4 young cousins were the godparents. Kate Yanish, daughter of Casimir's son, Dr. Michael Yanish, said the Blessing and Grace. Sarah and Marisa, other grandchildren, recited a beautiful poem about their family. Grandson, Mathew, announced that Grandpa Casimir was 82 years old on St. Casimir's Day and we all sang Happy Birthday. This was truly a very special occasion. Grandmother Ruth read a poem about 10 top reasons why they were glad to have 2 new grandsons.

Msgr. Peter Madus asked for donations in 1995 to sponsor 5 Lithuanian orphans. This year, 2001, our church parishoners, parish groups and friends of St. Joseph's sponsored 64

Lithuanian orphans. We thank all who contributed. I suggested a clothing drive. On March 17, 18, 19 we collected much needed clothing for the Lithuanian orphans. I know they will be appreciated.

The K of L C-74 received communion and went out for breakfast afterwards. It was great to get out after the long winter.

### **C-140 Syracuse, NY Pusbrolis**

Our annual Christmas brunch was a great success. It took place on Sunday, Dec 10. We started with Mass at St. Stephen's and then we all went to the Ramada Inn for brunch. Nearly all of our local members were in attendance. It was nice to eat and to visit with each other. Nobody was in a hurry to leave.

We decided to do away with our January meeting as the weather can be most unpredictable in January. No sense in having people come out on a stormy night; much better to sit at home by the fire.

Our February Independence Celebration was at the mercy of the weather. We had a heavy snowfall Friday night and Saturday morning but by Mass time Saturday evening, the weather had cleared. A number of brave souls gathered for Mass and the program and refreshments that followed. Many Acius to Cassie Stanley and Ruth Hare for their annual Independence refreshments. They always do a good job.

For St. Casimir's Celebration we had better weather. We began Saturday evening with Mass at St. Stephen's. After this we retired to the Church Hall for one big birthday party. Catherine and Jack Brandt and Sally and Bob Cummings surprised their mother, Katherine Cravetts, with a table loaded with food and a large birthday cake.

Katherine turned 93 on March 6th. We all sang "Happy birthday" and presented her with gifts and good wishes. She was really surprised and most emotional that we would honor her. Next we honored Cassie Stanley with a nice rendition of "Happy birthday" and extended good wishes as her birthday falls on March 4, St. Casimir's Day. May both honorees have good health and long years. With all of the members and guests in attendance, the hall was nearly full. A nice turn-out for two beautiful people.

All through this report you may have noticed that I talked about the weather. As I am writing today, we are having a snow storm. We are fast approaching a record snowfall this winter.... of 16 feet. Syracuse is known as the snowiest city in the United States. We take it all in stride and push it away as it comes down and then we go about our business.

The beautiful renovation work done at St. Stephen's Church has been receiving praise from both parishoners and visitors alike. We made changes but we kept the old church atmosphere, keeping the statues and the altar rail. We installed beautiful Italian marble tile on the floor of the sanctuary and the church proper. A lovely 5 foot round, stained glass window above the main altar really adds to the beauty of the sanctuary. Our own Frank Petrauskas was Chairman of the renovation.

### **C-142 Washington DC Joseph Chaplick**



Greetings, Knights,

Sunday, the 18th of February was a cold and sunny day. At 10 AM, a solemn High Mass in Latin was held at St. Matthew's Cathedral for the Lithuanian community. The Mass was in Commemoration of the 83rd anniversary of Lithuanian Independence.



The following members of C-142 were in attendance: John Waylonis, Joseph Chaplick, Jean Lutwin, Regina Ratway, Mary Semel, John Ratway, Florence Smith, Beverly Meder, Cynthia Meder Crehan, and Michael Crehan.

St. Matthew's Cathedral Choir sang "Marija, Marija" during the Offertory.

Gifts were brought to the altar by Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas, Mrs. Sakalauskas and the actress, Ruta Lee.

At the conclusion of the service, the choir sang the Lithuanian National Anthem. To hear it - would grab at your hearts! The amazing part of all this - no one in the choir is of Lithuanian descent and they learned and sang the words perfectly.

Holy Week is upon us so soon. May each and everyone have a Blessed Easter.

Corcoran Gallery of Art, Tues. April 17 - 7 PM - A Charming Evening of Piano Classics/Reception. Co sponsored with Embassy of Lithuania. Four young and highly talented Lithuanian pianists present a magical performance of classical piano music. Winners of several international piano competitions, Gabrielius Alenka, Andrius Zlabys, Sonata Deveikete-Zuboviene and Roska Zubovas perform works by Bach, Chopin, Franck, Liszt, Schubert and Corigliano. Reception of Lithuanian delicacies follow. Public \$20.

### **C-143 Pittston, PA Eleanor Bellanco**

Since our last correspondence, K of L C-143 has been busy, busy, busy. February 15, 2001: To honor the 83rd anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's Independence, our council sponsored a flag raising ceremony in front of Pittston City Hall. The

Lietuvos Himnas was sung by the assembly and Knight Frank Joga, Lithuanian Cultural Chairperson, offered prayer. Many proclamations and citations were presented to our council on this special occasion.

Pittston City Proclamation presented by Jerry Mullarkey in the absence of Mayor Michael Lombardo.

Citation, Senate of Pennsylvania - presented by Leo Kucewicz, Representative Raphael Musto.

Citation, Pennsylvania House of Representatives - presented by Thomas Tigue, State Representative.

Proclamation, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor Tom Ridge, read by Knight Martha Warnagaris.

Remarks were presented by council president Nellie Bayoras Romanas, who was also chairperson for the event.

Following the ceremony, refreshments were served in St. Casimir's hall.

Committee members were: Ann and Steve Soha, Rosemary Durling, Martha Warnagaris, Eleanor Bellanco, Julia Atmonavage, Mary Ann Cipolla, Marie Lauck, Genevieve and Charles Dajnoski, Rosalie Kizis, Pamela Smith, Anna Walatkas, Patricia Weiksner, Anastasia Stanley, Nellie Bayoras Romanas.

The city of Pittston was "Little Lithuania" during the month of February. Many Lithuanian flags were flown throughout the city's Main Street.

Friday, Feb 16, 2001:

Our enthusiasm continued the following day at the Luzerne County Court House in Wilkes-Barre, PA. K of L C-143, joined together with Lithuanian Alliance of America, Lithuanian Catholic Alliance, Lithuanian Women's Club of Wyoming Valley, in co-sponsoring a Lithuanian Flag Raising at the Courthouse. We are very happy that members of our local, county, and state government took time out of their busy schedules to join us on this wonderful

occasion. Raising the Flag: Edward Stankus; Introductions: Elizabeth Linskey, Deputy Chief Clerk; Program Coordinator: Eugene Klein, Chief Clerk, Administrator; Invocation: Msgr. Joseph Lasky, Pastor, St. Mary's Annunciation Church, Kingston.

Proclamations and Citations:

Luzerne County Commissioner Proclamation: Tom Makowski, Esq., Thomas Pisano, Stephen Urban.

Commonwealth of PA Proclamation, Tom Ridge, Governor: Knight Rosalie Kizis, National VP, Lithuanian Catholic Alliance.

Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski, Citation-Paul Maher, Representative.

Senate of PA Citation, Senators Raphael Musto, Charles D. Lemmond and Robert Mellow - Knight, Martha Waganoris, Rec. Sec K of L C-143.

House of Representatives Citation, Kevin Blaum - Leonard Pallis, Dir of Veterans Affairs, Wyoming County.

Thomas E. Tigue - Karen Flannery - Womens' Club of Wyoming Valley.

Pittston City Proclamation, Michael Lombardo, Mayor - Knight, Patricia Weiksner, Lithuanian Catholic Alliance.

C-143 President, Nellie Bayoras Romanas, who was also Chairman of this event, presented remarks.

Refreshments were served in the Courthouse. Knights Genevieve and Charles Dajnowski's daughter, Janet Palladino, and niece, Michalina Sinkavitch, were great helpers at both events. We want to thank them. Also, Karen Flannery for her help. These events could never have been so successful without the cooperation of our members and friends. Thanks to You All!

### **C-144 Anthracite, PA Anna K. Wargo**

Although St. Casimir's Day was



snowy, there was a good attendance of our St. Casimir's Day Mass and breakfast. Thanks to the Friends of Siluva Choir for singing the beautiful Lithuanian hymns. President Anne Wargo was lector at the Mass and as usual Spiritual Advisor Rev. Ronald Jankaitis' homily was beautiful. He thanked the members for the work they do for all Lithuanian causes. The committee consisted of the Officers and, as usual, the Hall was beautifully decorated by Evelyn Prep and Anne Sikora. Everyone enjoyed the meal and the family atmosphere. We are family as we feel about all our brother and sister Knights. Evelyn Prep and Father Jankaitis presented 1st and 2nd degrees. Evelyn took over the Ritual Chair after Helen Chesko died and she has been doing a great job. Receiving their First Degrees were Joseph Ames, Diane Draugelis, Florence Strouphauer, Mildred Taylor; Second Degrees, Karen Domalakes, Michael Yanavich and Brother Joseph Zutelis, CSC. Brother Joseph returned to this area several years ago. Since joining the Knights, he has participated in the spiritual and cultural aspects of our meetings. He has offered prayers, Liturgical readings or commentaries on Lithuanian seasonal customs. He recently celebrated his 50th anniversary as a professed member of the Congregation of Holy Cross. To acknowledge his years in the educational apostolate of the Congregation, his community rewarded him with a Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome where he also attended a reunion of the alumni of Notre Dame International School in the Eternal City where he was a faculty member for 16 years. While he was in Europe, he visited his relatives in Kaunas who welcomed him with deep affection and generous hospitality. His hosts took him to the Hill of Crosses, the Shrines of Our Lady, and the beautiful churches of Vilnius and Kaunas. The highlight of his visit was a family reunion at the old Kiselius family homestead (near Sargines Kaimas) in the Kaunas countryside.

Members attended the Amber District St. Casimir's Mass and Meeting on March 28 at Pittston, PA, hosted by C-143. Members who received their Third Degrees were Joseph and Violet Yanushefsky, Anna Brennan, Anna Letunic. Attending were new members M/M Tarasavage, recently joined and are active, President Anne Wargo, Eleanor Vaicaitis, Evelyn and Victor Prep, Anne Sikora, Anne Bendrick, Anna Helen and Tom McDonald. Thanks to C-143 for hosting. It was great to see Spiritual Advisor Fr. Peter Alishausky; Father Pete has had a lot of medical problems and our prayers are with him for good health.

Thanks to Anna Helen and Tom McDonald who represented the Council at the Schuylkill County Courthouse for Lithuanian Independence Day.

We were saddened to lose three more members. Joseph Yanall, who was a long time member and was active on Lithuanian Days and also in his church, St. George's in Shenandoah. His wife, Florence, is also a good member and our condolences go to her and her family. Rose Sobczak who only joined a short time ago but loved coming to the meetings and Margaret Marousky. Marge was a long time member and was very active until she got seriously ill. She has been in a nursing home for several years. Our sympathy to their families. Amzina Atsili, Vyciai.

Our Humanitarian Aid Committee is still very busy and have sent many packages to the orphanages, poor schools, Hospice, and poor elderly in Lithuania, for these members work very hard all the time, collecting and packing items for these places. Simto Aciu to all the members who assist in this very wonderful project.

Members of C-144 wish to all brothers and sisters Vyciai a Happy Easter and a wonderful Spring

## **C-156 Shamokin, PA Olympia Zelinski**

Since the last time we wrote, many different activities have taken place. With the help of our good members we were able to send to Sister Michele in Utena, Lithuania, money to purchase a washer and a dryer and the expense of shipping. Sister is in charge of the Hospice there and they have been doing the laundry by hand. Sister sent an inspiring "Thank you" and also that we will be in their prayers.

We opened our February meeting at Our Lady of Hope Parish Center with a prayer by Dave Kinder, VP, in the absence of our President. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Some members will be traveling to Pittston for the Amber District Meeting, March 18.

The following have been elected for the coming year: President Robert Wislock; VP Dave Kinder; 2nd VP Genevieve Martino; Treasurer, Rose Paczkoski; Rec Sec Mary Ann Charnosky; Financial Sec Jennifer Wislock; Sgt at Arms Mary Ann Pacocka; Trustees Larry Kinder, Sr. Walter Kalokitus. We wish them a lot of luck in their undertakings.

We then celebrated everyone's birthday with a pizza party.

The Council will again have their spaghetti dinner, March 17 and 18 at Our Lady of Hope Center. The profits from this fundraiser go to the seminary in Lithuania. We have been doing so for the past two years.

Volunteers are again needed to clean up our Highway on Rt. 901. John and Mary Charnosky are in charge of this project and they do a very good job.

This coming Easter Week we will again have our kielbasi and bread sale. It is



another good fund-raiser. There is a lot of work involved but Thank God for good members who support and work at this project. We used some profits to support libraries in our area, when a member dies, and also for scholarships. The last one was to Lourdes High School. Bingo's are run from January to May to help in our fund-raising.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Easter.

## New England District

### C-6 Hartford, CT Leona Sawka

At our March 13 meeting, Lillian Joseph diversified herself by wearing the hat of Acting President and also that of Secretary until Wandie Kruk came to her rescue and volunteered to take on the presidency. Congratulations, Wandie, and best of Luck! This is the result of the loss of our dearly beloved President, Alex Yusias, who passed away in January.

Trivia question: Who was the first president of the K of L?  
Kas buvo pirmas L.Vyciu organizacijos pirmininkas?

Three new members were introduced and sworn in, namely, Jonas Kasputis, Angela Balskus, and Vito Balskus. C-6 now has 57 members.

Members were reminded to turn over new/cancelled postage stamps and any type of greeting cards to Dottie Krancunas for project "Save a Child" in Lithuania.

Tickets were passed out to members to sell for our Pasta Supper to be held March 24th at the Holy Trinity Church Hall after the 4:00 Mass in commemoration of St. Casimir's Day. Lillian Joseph, Alyce Gegesky, Judy Landers and Leona Sawka are coordinating the event.

A donation in the amount of \$50 was made to the Lithuanian Radio Hour. This radio program, which is a non-profit community service station, can be heard each Sunday at 5 PM on WWUH. Al Dzikas, council member, runs the program.

It was unanimous that \$50 should go to the Aid to Lithuania program, a very worthwhile organization which assists the poor, needy, young, and elderly. They also give scholarships to seminarians in Vilnius, Lithuania.

We are also contributing \$30 to APPLE - American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education. Instructors are volunteers and \$30 will sponsor a teacher. The money can also be used by a teacher in Lithuania to pay for attendance at seminars or for needed equipment.

Once again, Leona Sawka, assisted by Irene Petkaitis, Judy Landers, and Wandie Kruk will be making cheese dumplings (virtiniai) to be delivered at the next meeting.

To apprise members who cannot attend meetings due to illness or who are now living out of state of goings-on in our council, Lillian Joseph will be forwarding copies of her minutes to them. What a great idea!

A thank you was received from Peter and Ruth Petkaitis who live in Vilnius for the Tamulivich Scholarship money awarded to Peter recently. It read in part: "We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for your consideration and generosity. As you know, we felt "called" by the Lord to uproot and move to Lietuva as pastoral workers for the Roman Catholic Church. We did so without sponsorship from any official organization from the Church or otherwise."

Ruth recently has begun helping the Sisters of Mother Teresa with their Soup Kitchen for the needy, as well as

working as a pre-kindergarten teacher at the American International School of Vilnius. Peter is employed by the Lithuanian Defense Ministry editing English texts of all kinds. Ruth is also a cantor and music minister and Peter often lectures. They have formed a parish/pastoral council for their little community and have encouraged the congregation to take a more active role. The above is just a portion of what Peter and Ruth do. They also have a son, Gabriel. You can see why Peter was so deserving of this scholarship.

Inspired by the late Archbishop George Matulaitis who made a difference in Lithuania, Kay Urban has named April 1st to be "Make a Difference Day". Therefore, council members were asked to make a difference by taking time to do something special for a shut-in, sick, or needy person on one particular day and jot this down on paper which will be turned in and read by the Board at the next meeting. What a great way of making us aware of Kay's inspiration, Blessed George Matulaitis who was born in Mariampole, Lithuania, on April 13, 1876, the youngest of 8 children. He was left an orphan by the age of 10. In his early teens, George developed TB of the bone in his leg which tormented him all of his life.

When George was 18, his cousin arranged for him to go to Poland for medical treatment. While there, George realized his vocation and entered the seminary in 1891. He studied at the Grand Seminary in Warsaw and finished graduate studies at the Catholic Academy of Theology in St. Petersburg, Russia. He received his doctorate in theology at the University of Friburg, Switzerland. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Kielce.

In 1913, Fr. George visited the US and established the first Marian House in Chicago. In 1915 he established a Marian Religious House and Novitiate at Bielany, a suburb of Warsaw. In the



Spring of 1918, he reopened the Marian Monastery at Mariampole, Lithuania with its own novitiate. Pope Benedict XV named Fr. George as Bishop of Lithuania on December 1, 1918. On September 1, 1925, Pius XI elevated George to Titular Archbishop and appointed him Apostolic Visitor to Lithuania to restore harmony between the State and the Holy See. The Archbishop visited Hartford in the summer of 1926 and established the Immaculate Conception in Putnam, CT during that year. Archbishop Matulaitis died on January 27, 1927 of a ruptured appendix. It took 34 years for the Archbishop to be beatified.

Judy Landers, Lithuanian Affairs, reported on the commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day whereby a small reception was held at the State Capitol in Hartford with Governor John Roland on March 15. In attendance were K of L's Alyce Gegesky, Judy Landers, Dana Grajauskas, Irene Petkaitis, Carol Balskus and Kristina Serksnas. Holy Trinity Church members Danguole Banevicius and Victor Kogelis, Janina Nawarskas, Representative Ruth Fahrback, Alyce Gegesky's nephew, Daniel Moreland.

Daniel Moreland was instrumental in arranging this event as well as seeing to it that the Lithuanian flag was flying over the Capitol on this occasion.

Special thanks go to Alyce for her driving and enthusiastic endeavor on this very special day. Pictures were taken and the Governor was presented with a juosta.

Answer to Trivia question:  
Mr. Norkunas in 1912  
Norkunas, 1912 metais.



### **C-7 Waterbury, CT Adele Klenske**

On February 16, 2001, we celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day with a

flag-raising ceremony at Waterbury City Hall. This year, Honorary Mayor for a Day was our council's Financial Secretary, Doris Snirpunas.

Doris has been a most dedicated and hard-working member, responsible for and organizing all our fund-raisers, collecting dues, bringing and keeping the rituals up to date and taking care of any and all business in her realm of responsibility. She is a lifelong member and supporter of St. Joseph's Parish, where, in her teen years, she taught religion instruction. She is also a volunteer and loyal supporter of the annual parish picnic and is always ready and willing to give a helping hand whenever she is called upon to do so.

Before our regular monthly meeting that same evening, we hosted a buffet supper for Doris - attended by members of her family as well as council members. Frank Griswold took charge of all the arrangements - the shopping and cooking of all the great food. Thank you, Frank, and our compliments to the Chef. Thank you also to everyone who contributed to the overflowing buffet table and their donations. It was a very nice evening for all and a much deserved recognition for Doris.

The St. Casimir's Mass, for the first time, was part of the regular 9:00 Mass at St. Joseph Church on March 4th.

Another fund-raiser, another pancake breakfast was held on March 18th in our clubrooms and another successful event. Beside the usual, faithful committee consisting of: Richard and Rose Dubauskas, Eleanor Barkauskas, Vera Puzas, Ann Valuckas, Ed and Betty Bebrin, Theresa Shukaitis, Joan Shukaitis, Doris Snirpunas and Adele Klenske, we had 2 new recruits: Frank Griswold and Eddie Zuraitis, decked out with white chef's jacket and funky Irish hat. Both men took up the hot job of cooking the bacon, sausage, and scrambled eggs. You were much

appreciated, gentlemen, especially by Richard Dubauskas, who was no longer the only male in the kitchen!

On April 29th, our council will host the New England District meeting which will be held at the school hall. We will be serving a luncheon and dinner and would appreciate any help offered. Please contact Doris Snirpunas.

Spring has sprung, but you can't prove it here in New England where we are still battling the Winter weather. Nevertheless, we look forward to the awakening and Thank God we made it through another season. Happy, healthy Spring to all!

### **C-10 Athol - Gardner Vincukas**

Our K of L sponsored the Annual Restoration of Lithuanian Independence Day observance on Sunday, March 11, at St. Francis Church Hall, Athol.

In the absence of clergy, Master of Ceremonies offered the Invocation followed by the singing of both National Anthems. MC, William Wisniauskas, gave a brief history of Lithuania's struggles, followed by a performance by the "Berzelis Folk Dance Group" of Hartford, under the direction of founder, Dalia Dzikas and assistant, Jonas Kodis. Following the program, the group drew in people in attendance in several folk dances.

All were treated to coffee and pastries followed by a sit-down Lithuanian supper for the dance group and the K of L members.

Hostesses dressed in National costumes were Marie Calo and Nellie Melaika. Armand and Pam Bouthillier were kitchen coordinator, Mylda Stasiunas, coffee. All the members did a great job of baking and cooking their favorite dishes. Both dailies gave good



publicity along with a picture.

Richard and Brone Qualters were elected delegates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention to be held in Springfield. Bravo!

Joanna Chastney spent several months in Florida and Nell Melaika and sister visited relatives in Georgia.

The December and March meetings were held at the home of Henry Gailiunas. Henry and wife, Brone, were gracious hosts. The beautiful home was decorated for the different seasons.

Good health wishes are extended to Walter Mikas, Sr., Helen Simkunas, Bronius Savulis, and Roberta Landry.

Alec and Lillian Kuzmeskas have sold their home and pharmacy in Athol and have relocated to their new retirement home in Orleans, on the Cape. Happy retirement!

Thanks to our outgoing council ritual chairman, Howie Beaudette, for putting our council on the right track after years of negligence. Many degrees coming up.

Letters from Lithuania complain about the warm, rainy winter they experienced this year. I don't think they would like to exchange it for our brutal, cold, snowy winter. But then again, we live in the North Country and, it seems, the Snowbelt!

Lil Genaitis Erickson, husband and son, PJ, visited Gardner recently, to help Mrs. Erickson celebrate her 90th.

Being the month of May devoted to the Blessed Mother, try to attend May Devotions if your parish still observes the beautiful devotion. Also remember your Mothers who gave so much to us all!

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_  
Remembering Jim and Barbara Eacmen

James Eacmen was a quiet, unassuming man, an extraordinary loving and caring father to three lovely daughters and a son, plus 14 grandchildren - a devoted and faithful husband, - a true friend. He was a fine example of a Christian gentleman. He was my Gardner Lithuanian Club treasurer for many years, a man of many talents; there wasn't a trade he couldn't do - carpenter, plumber, electrician, bookkeeper. Jim, we sure miss you at the Club.

Barbara Grecius Eacmen came to Gardner from Pepperell, MA, after her marriage to Jim. After the 4 children finished college, she began a career at the Board of Health Office in Gardner and remained there until her retirement. She was quite a generous person, loved to read and do gardening.

The K of L performed their ritual and served as honor bearers at both of their funerals! Rest in Peace, Barb and Jim!

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_  
**C-26 Worcester, MA**  
**Ruta**

Snow. Shovel. Snow. Shovel. etc. etc. Mother Nature has evidently become confused and has been sending us the snow that usually goes to Buffalo, NY. This has been the coldest and snowiest winter in many years. Everyone is waiting for Spring - the sunshine, the green grass and, especially, the flowers and NO SNOW!!! However, being true New Englanders, we have not let the weather get us down.

Our council celebrated Lithuanian Day with a Mass. Flag bearer was Joe Salkaus. After Mass, a reception was held in the church hall. There was a variety of delicious food available for the attendees. Ann Leseman was chairperson with Frances Degutis as her

co-chair. In charge of refreshments and working in the kitchen was: Ann Leseman, Marion Racicot, Arthur Racicot, Adele Degutis and Lillian Kondrotas. Ann Walinsky again used her talents and created some lovely decorations. In charge of arranging the set-up of the hall was Vivian Rodgers, Al Rodgers and Bill Leseman. We congratulate the committee for making this event memorable and quite enjoyable.

On St. Casimir's Day, a special Mass was held for deceased K of L members. Vito Gadilauskas was the flag-bearer. Later that day, the annual parish dinner was held. At the dinner, President Vivian Rodgers and Dorothy Virbasius were honored and received jackets for recognition of their parish work. We are very proud of them - both K of L'ers - and extend our congratulations to them and their families.

Plans have been finalized for a K of L Holy Hour at St. Casimir's Church. This will be the first Sunday in April. Everyone is invited to attend - the K of L members, parishoners, friends, relatives, other K of L Councils, etc. There will be a benediction and rosary with a reception to follow.

Louie and Sharon Guin are very proud grandparents. Their granddaughter, Elizabeth Howard, was accepted into Holy Name High School. The results of her entrance exams were extremely high. Elizabeth is very excited and is looking forward to attending classes there.

Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC, our Spiritual Advisor, was our guest speaker at the March meeting. His topic was the Lithuanian 4th of July picnic celebrations at Marianapolis College in Connecticut from 1933 thru 1970. Heavy emphasis was put on the first picnic and the big question was, "Would they come?" If you want an answer, please read the article in this issue which recaps his talk.



## C-141 Bridgeport, CT Nancy A. Pawasauskas

Council 141 celebrated Kucios on Sunday, Dec 17. We had 60 members and guests in attendance, including Father Jose, Parish Administrator of St. George's R.C. Church and Mary Grosso, our organist. Peter Balcius did a fine job again this year as Maaster of Ceremonies. The tables were set with white tablecloths, red candles, and fresh pine boughs, and straw was placed beneath each tablecloth. After the first star of the evening was spotted, Father Jose blessed the plotkeles and everyone moved around the room, sharing pieces of plotkeles and wishing each other, "Linksmu Kaledu". In between courses of beet soup with "little ears", cold winter salads and herring dishes and hot fish dishes, readings were done in English by Matthew Anderson - one of our Juniors - and in Lithuanian by Stefa Vaikutis. At the end of the meal, the traditional kusielis and fruit compote were served, and apples cut into pieces were shared around the table. All joined in singing carols, both in English and in Lithuanian. It was a special day for all who attended.

C-141 celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day on Sunday, Feb. 18th. A procession of C-141 officers, led by Steve Wilcinskas and Bill Brilvich bearing the American and Lithuanian flags, followed by Barbara Schmidt and Nancy Pawasauskas wearing National costumes, preceded the Mass celebrated by Father Jose. Helen Janiunas assisted at Mass with readings and leading hymns in Lithuanian. The Independence Day program commenced after a bountiful buffet of assorted sandwiches and desserts. Barbara Schmidt, Mistress of Ceremonies, introduced Gintare Ivaska who spoke on Lithuania's fight for independence, highlighting significant events from 1913 through 1990. In addition to her talk, Gintare brought an informative display of books, articles,

photos and paintings which traced the history of Lithuania's struggle for independence. Our guest speaker was Bill Piacentini, K of L Archives Committee Chairman and former NED President and National Scholarship Chairman. On the lighter side, Bill regaled the audience with some of his more humorous experiences while teaching at Rokiskis College in Lithuania, last year. With a healthy dose of humor, Bill talked about the hardships he and his students faced, how he met each hurdle and worked out a solution to each problem. Bill, I hope your students know how lucky they were to have you, even for just one year. To close out the program, C-141 member Gary Anderson and his son, Matthew, one of our Juniors, put on a wonderful presentation of the music of Lithuania. Gary and Matthew played excerpts of recordings from traditional folk music played on kankles to modern jazz. Everyone really enjoyed the music!

In addition to the cultural enrichment we all shared, we collected over \$1600 for Aid to Lithuania! Great job! Thanks to all who participated and contributed! We missed HM Clem Miller at Sunday's celebration.

On a sad note, we extend our deepest condolences to Clem who lost her sister, Mildred, on February 15th.

Those of you who read the Council News section religiously will recognize a new hand writing this column for C-141. I have taken over the helm from Aldona Marcavage who has been our Vytis correspondent for many years. Aldona is courageously fighting a grave illness and our prayers are with her for a complete and speedy recovery.

## Mid America District C-82 Gary, IN Mildred Jagiella

"Aciu tau, o mamyt - kad mane taip

myli....." We extend best wishes for a Happy Mothers' Day.

Our council welcomes new members Ann Pridala, Daisy Ann Talley, Nell Jurczak, Frank and Denise Jagiella, Ruth Czajkowski, Sharon Petronis, and Eva Brav. We look forward to your "unique and valuable participation"!

The Spring awakening has everyone busy in all directions; time to harness that Lithuanian power. In that vein, John James Jagiella has made a "career change" at 74 years old and is teaching accounting at Ivy Tech State College. Does one say "Way to go!" to Seniors?

On a sadder note, Monsignor Urbonas and Sister Janine Golubickis, SSC, attended the funeral for "Father's" last friend from "long ago", Father Kerelis. Deepest sympathy goes to Monsignor from all his "newer, younger" friends. As he related at a recent funeral... "When a ship goes past the horizon and our eyes cannot see it, it's still there"...." as is the Kingdom of God."



Marion Masionis Matachinskas, formerly of South Boston, MA, K of L member of So. Boston Council, now of Houston, Texas, wife of the late Joseph Matachinskas of Worcester K of L, asks for prayers for healing, after 3 recent surgeries.

May God touch you with His healing hand!



A mother understands what a child does not say. ~ Jewish Proverb ~

"No man is poor who has a godly mother."  
~ Abraham Lincoln ~



*Dear Members: Now is the time to write! Below is a copy of a recent JBANC ACTION ALERT I encourage you to write your letters. As stated before, once again Lithuania needs our help, let's not disappoint her. - Rob Martin, Supreme Council President*

## **ASK PRESIDENT BUSH TO SUPPORT NATO ENLARGEMENT**

**Washington, DC (JBANC)** --- The Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. (JBANC) is intensifying its campaign to inform the Administration and Congress about the importance of including Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the next round of NATO enlargement. JBANC is addressing the issue through letters, petitions and visits to congressional offices.

President Bush is expected to make a more pronounced statement on NATO enlargement in the coming months, so it is important to contact him as soon as possible. Letters can also be sent the Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

|                                     |                                  |                                         |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>The Honorable George W. Bush</b> | <b>The Honorable Dick Cheney</b> | <b>The Honorable Secretary of State</b> |
| <b>The President</b>                | <b>The Vice-President</b>        | <b>U.S. Department of State</b>         |
| <b>The White House</b>              | <b>The White House</b>           | <b>2201 C. Street</b>                   |
| <b>Washington, D.C. 20500</b>       | <b>Washington, D.C. 20500</b>    | <b>Washington, D.C., 20520</b>          |

(Sample letter 1) Dear Mr. President:

I am an American of (Estonian, Latvian or Lithuanian) descent and I write to let you know how important it is for me to see my ancestral country (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) be invited to join NATO. During your presidential campaign you indicated that you would support taking up NATO enlargement at the next NATO Summit meeting in 2002. I trust you will do so. The enlargement of NATO is in the interest of the United States in securing transatlantic peace and stability.

Hopefully, the U.S. will lead its NATO allies at the next NATO Summit in inviting all qualified applicants to become members. I especially urge that the Baltic countries be invited. They made great progress since regaining their independence and they can contribute significantly to the Alliance.

(Sample letter 2) Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to take a leadership role in enlarging NATO and inviting the Baltic countries to become members. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are working democracies with free market economies and the rule of law. They are also doing all they can to meet the established standards of NATO membership and they can be expected to contribute their fair share of resources to the Alliance. The enlargement of NATO is in the interest of the United States in securing peace and stability.

(Sample letter 3) Dear Mr. President:

Please support the enlargement of NATO and lead our NATO allies in inviting at the next NATO Summit meeting all qualified aspirants to become members. The Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are prepared to join and should be invited. Please do not permit Russian objections to result in the Baltics being denied NATO membership.



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## Mother's Day

*Peter Marshall*

*On this day of sacred memories, our Father, we would thank Thee for our mother who gave us life, who surrounded us early and late with love and care, whose prayers on our behalf still cling around the Throne of Grace, a haunting perfume of love's petitions.*

*Help us, their children, to be more worthy of their love. We know that no sentimentality on this one day, no material gifts—no flowers or boxes of candy—can atone for our neglect during the rest of the year.*

*So in the days ahead, may our love speak to the hearts who know love best—by kindness, by compassion, by simple courtesy and daily thoughtfulness.*

*Bless her whose name we whisper before Thee, and keep her in Thy perfect peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*Amen.*