

VYTIS - THE KNIGHT

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2001-2002**

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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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To My Fellow Knights

This is Christmas! God so loved the world that He gifted us with His Son. May your hearts be inundated with even greater love of God and of each other during this joyful, blessed season. For you and the world I pray that love would lead to acts of justice; for where there is justice, there peace can begin to reign.

This then is my New Year's prayer. May God bless you, yours, and the world with Love, Justice, and PEACE.

Vytiškai,

Sister M. Janine



EDITOR'S NOTE

VYTIS will be published bi-monthly this year per the national convention decision in order to balance the budget. As a result a new schedule is now in place and your editorial staff will need to be more conservative of space and selective of materials.

Council News will be due in the VYTIS office according to the following schedule:

ASAP for the JAN – FEB issue

Feb. 25 MAR – APR

APR 25 MAY – JUNE

JUNE 25 JULY - AUG issues.

The Council News should report council activities and Lithuanian, religious, civil and social affairs in which the members participate.

ARTICLES AND SUBMISSIONS TO THE VYTIS will be due a month prior to the month of publication. Depending on space and editorial demands materials may not be published immediately.

Beginning in 2002 the **CALENDAR OF EVENTS, BIRTHS and CHRISTENINGS, WEDDINGS, and JUNIORS' EVENTS** will be highlighted. Please forward these to the VYTIS office to share the joy with the membership.

The **IN MEMORIAM** of course, will be continued. It is the responsibility of the **council recording secretary** to forward this information to the **national financial secretary, Mark Bell.**

Your editor apologizes for the tardy arrival of the Convention Issue of VYTIS. We will try to be current in the future.

THANK FOR YOUR INTEREST AND YOUR COMMENTS.



A note from the President....

Dear Fellow Members,

If hard to believe that the holidays are already here. On behalf of the entire Supreme Council I hope each of you enjoyed your Thanksgiving and that you are looking forward to the Christmas Holiday.

These past few months have truly been a time for all of us to reflect on just how blest we are to live in this great nation. The events of September 11th have made each of us only too painfully aware of what evil still exists in our world and so as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Lord our prayers for each other and peace in our world are all the more important this year. To all our members in the New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania areas I offer you our prayers and support. Having been in Washington during the attack, I know too well the devastation at the Pentagon. Once again as we look to God for his help and protection does our motto hold true, "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY". So I ask you to continue to remember our nation and each other in your prayers this holiday season.

As we look ahead to 2002, may it be filled with God's choicest blessing for all of us. May we use the coming year to not only continue the good works that we do but expand upon them. May the year ahead be a beneficial one for all of us.

Finally, I ask you to remember our challenge for the coming year and hope that each of us will sign up at least one new member. I encourage you to not only attend your own Council and District Meetings and Council Social Activities but also those of your neighboring councils when possible. Finally, I hope that you will be able to attend our 89th National Convention next summer in Chicago, Illinois from August 1st - 4th. Council 16 looks forward to welcoming you and your Supreme Council looks forward to seeing you there too.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years!

Vytiškai,

Rob Martin

President





Anne Krizanauskas, who joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942, is still active in veterans groups.

Hall of Fame to honor vets

Work after war being recognized

Anne Krizanauskas' 1943 photo from her commissioning in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.



*Knights of Lithuania Foundation
Essay Contest ~ First Place
Winner*



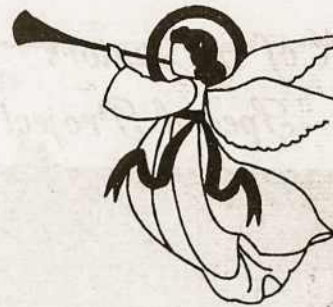
"My Precious Heritage"

It was the summer of '71, when my mother announced, "Let's go to Lithuania. They're running tours now!" "Lithuania?" I echoed, and then, with heart in mouth, I agreed: "Sure, why not?" Thus "Mission Impossible" began.

Although customs' rules only allowed essential personal items, my mother managed to pack "all of America" into four suitcases. The long-awaited day finally arrived. Family and friends gathered to escort us to the airport. There I stood - in the heat of summer - dressed in three pairs of jeans, layers of shirts and my nephew's winter jacket. Mom was dressed in a decrepit raincoat worn over an old long-sleeved dress. Although the family wrestled with her not to wear the ragged raincoat, she prevailed!

Finally, we departed for the trip of my life, and we arrived in Communist Russia - nine long hours later! With fear and trembling, we (and our luggage) were ushered toward customs while armed soldiers surrounded us. As we edged closer to our turn, my mother buttoned "the raincoat" and started shaking so much, that I thought she was suffering a heart attack. Miraculously, the KGB noticed her tremors, and ushered us straight through customs - without even a glance into our baggage!

When we arrived at the hotel, we carefully lowered the window shades to reveal the "raincoat mystery!" Fifty kerchiefs were sewn into the lining, and twenty wristwatches adorned the length of Mom's arms! Thank God that I was not aware of this, or my guilty face would have betrayed us!



Although we toured Moscow, our hearts were set on Lithuania, and the journey finally continued on to our real destination - Vilnius! With beating heart, I stepped onto the runway and took my first steps in my beloved Lithuania! Words cannot express my deep emotions as, with cheers, songs and applause, crowds gathered to welcome the "Americans." Tears overcame me. Yet, I wasn't sure why I was crying, since I did not know these people, nor did I expect to find my relatives among them.

The reason for the tears soon became clear as welcoming arms embraced us and offered bouquets of fragrant flowers. Suddenly, I knew! These people were my people, my relatives, my fellow Lithuanians! The fullness of that moment has never left my memory.

All too soon, the week's tour ended. Our suitcases, emptied of the gifts we had brought, were filled now with their presents to us of mushrooms and amber. Over and above these priceless mementos, was the overwhelming feeling that touched my heart! To this day, it beats with pride at the memory of these beloved people and the gift of my precious heritage.

*~Sister Helen Ivanauskas, C.J.C.
C-1, Brockton, Massachusetts~*

Amžiais pavergta kelias tėvynė;
Jos atgimimą jaučia dvasia.
Ginkim, ka mūsų proseniai gynė!
Zadinkim brolius meile drasia!

Maironis



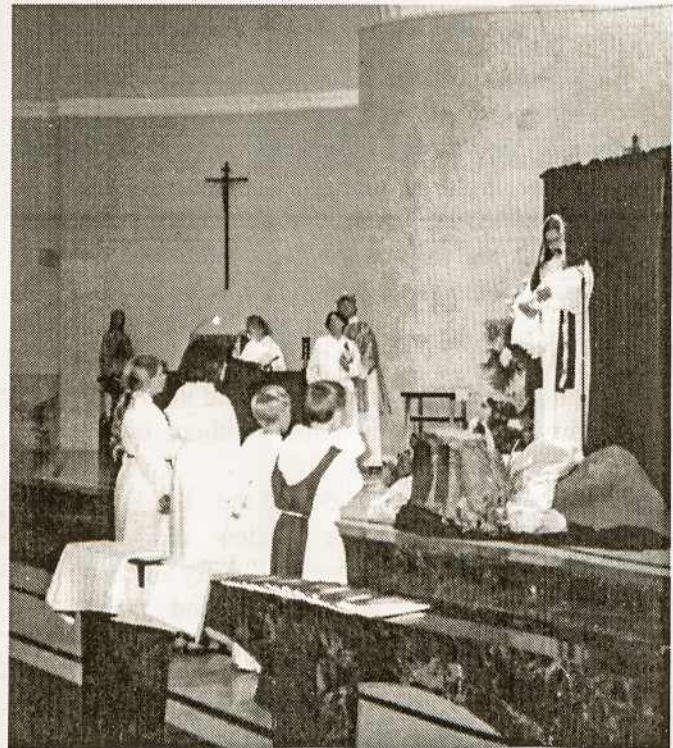
K of L Juniors'
Special Project



Father Tony Markus has been creating re-enactments of "Siluvos Marija" for at least 10 years that I am aware of. The picture of "Siluvos Marija" was decorated by Father Markus, with gold and precious gems, donated by himself and other people. The picture was done beautifully, showing grace and honor to "Siluvos Marija."

Also standing near to the picture (in the photo) is, Marija Deksnis, who has been directing the skit for at least 10 years with the K of L Juniors. This year, the Holy Redeemer students gladly helped with the performance. Ausra Buzenaite was the accompanist, and played piano and kankles. It was a true honor to be part of this project, and I cherish the memory. In remembrance of the Sept. 11 tragedy in New York, we included a prayer service in our performance.

~ Ausra Buzenas
K of L Junior~





I want to thank you very much for the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council Scholarship that was recently awarded to me. It was an honor to attend the convention this year in Orlando, FL and receive the news first hand! It was also wonderful to see all the people whom I had spent so many good times with over the years by being a part of the Knights. Since this was my second year applying after receiving a very generous award last year, I also want to thank you for changing the rules so that I was able to apply again this year as well. Each year at school is a challenge and to have the opportunity to apply for this scholarship again was a big help. With books, dues, travel expenses, etc all over again this year, the money will certainly go a long way.

Attending Clemson University has been a very positive experience and wonderful opportunity for me and thanks to your generous award, it will continue to help me as I continue to further my education.

Sincerely,

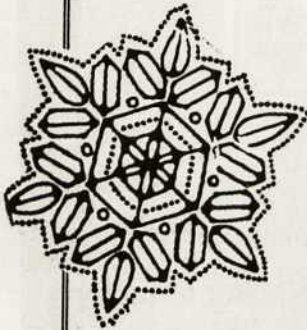
Sarah A. Miller
Sarah A. Miller

Dear Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for choosing me as one of the recipients of the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship. I was delighted to discover that I was one of the award winners.

I am in my third year of college now at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh and I am planning on using the award money towards books and room and board fees. Earning a college degree is very important to me and I am thankful that the Knights of Lithuania is able to award generous scholarship money to students like myself.

Please extend my thanks to everyone involved with the scholarship committee for the generous award.



Sincerely,

Lisa Barauskas
Lisa Barauskas

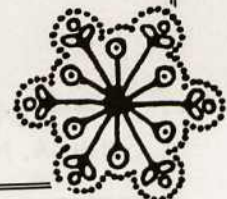


Mieli Lietuvos Vyciai,

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Committee for awarding me the Alice Karklius Scholarship. Being in my first year of law school, this money will be an indispensable help in defraying numerous educational expenses. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Knights of Lithuania as an organization. The Knights of Lithuania family has always given me their full support and for that I am eternally grateful. I only hope that one day I will be able to repay all of the generosity shown to me in full.

Vytiskai,

Nina Badalino



Dear Knights of Lithuania,

It is with sincere gratitude that I write to thank the Knights of Lithuania for the Sviklas & Tamulevich Scholarship that I received at the 88th National Convention. It is my deep respect for and appreciation of my Lithuanian heritage that inspires me both at a personal and professional level. Being an attorney and a scholar has afforded me the opportunity to explore many different facets of my Lithuanian roots and in addition, issues concerning the Eastern European immigrant community at large. Because of this award, I will be able to further my research dealing with World War II Eastern European Displaced Persons and make a fruitful contribution to the legal and historical discourse. Again, I wish to give my heartfelt thanks to the Knights of Lithuania.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Mankus

Mary K. Mankus



Dear Knights of Lithuania:

I would like to thank the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Committee and the Knights of Lithuania organization for awarding me a \$1,000 General Scholarship and a \$425 Ed Stumbris Memorial Scholarship. These awards are most generous and will allow me to travel to the 18th Conference on Baltic Studies in Baltimore, Maryland in June of 2002 to give a presentation on Lithuanian history in western Pennsylvania.

I have been a member of the Knights of Lithuania since 1991 and it has been a very positive experience for me. I can attest to the fact that the membership of this organization is very generous in sharing its time and expertise and for that alone I should be writing this letter. I appreciate the recognition as well as the money from these scholarship awards and I am very grateful for them. Thank you.

Robert Medonis Council 133-Los Angeles



Irene Sviklas-Tamulevich was a member of C-116 (Worcester, MA), New England District, Knights of Lithuania. As a result of a bequest from her estate, two Sviklas-Tamulevich Memorial Scholarship Funds were established in 1998. The New England District of the Knights of Lithuania is the administrator of one fund; the National Scholarship Committee of the Knights of Lithuania is the administrator of the other fund.

Adhering to the organization's motto of "For God and Country", Mrs. Tamulevich was extremely proud of her Lithuanian ancestry, a devoted advocate of Lithuanian culture, and an active member of the Knights of Lithuania. She was committed to keeping alive an appreciation of the Lithuanian language, customs, and culture while stressing the importance of the Roman Catholic faith and service to the country of Lithuania. She instituted these scholarships to provide financial assistance to those who share her commitment, through a variety of ways, especially in various fields of education.

To date, the New England District has made awards totaling \$10,500 from the Sviklas-Tamulevich Memorial Scholarship Fund. Individuals and organizations benefiting from these awards are a diverse group reflecting the philosophy of the scholarship committee, in keeping with Mrs. Tamulevich's bequest, to provide assistance to the broadest number seeking to preserve and promote the culture, heritage, education and Roman Catholic faith of American-Lithuanians and Lithuanians in our ancestral homeland. Lithuanian students studying in America, teachers in Lithuania attending summer institutes, American children attending Lithuanian summer camps, college students at Rokiskio Kolegija, Lithuanian seminarians studying in America and students researching Lithuanian history at Providence College have been the beneficiaries of the financial support provided by the scholarship fund. The portion of the scholarship fund allotted to Providence College also honors the memory of Rev. Anthony J. Jurgelaitis, OP, past National Spiritual Advisor of the Knights of Lithuania and past professor at the college.

The New England District is extremely grateful to Mrs. Tamulevich and is diligently working to implement her bequest to honor her memory.



THE GIFT

Stephany Gutauskas

Shepherds and Magi, abject and elite,
Witnessed a wonder at young Mary's feet.
Swaddled salvation in slumber so mild:
God's present of faith in a little child.

Stardust glitter tumbled down to the Earth,
Proclaiming joyous, miraculous birth.
Even heaven's comet paused to adorn,
Highlight God's gift of hope, a wee newborn.



Angels' wings fluttered in soft, rapid flight.
Saintry voices sang throughout the deep night.
To God's only Son, their homage they paid,
A bundle of love in a tiny babe.



Presentation of the second New England District Sviklas-Tamulevich Memorial Scholarship Fund award at Providence College to Kathyne M. Drezek on May 22, 2001. Her research paper, **A Stateless Nation: The Lithuanian Character Under Foreign Occupation**, will be available in the Knights of Lithuania Archives. Pictured (L to R): William O'Neil, Assistant Vice President; Paul Quinlan, Professor of Eastern European History; Kathyne M. Drezek; William Piacentini, scholarship committee; Rev. Stanley Azzaro, OP, past Provincial Prior of the Dominicans in the Baltic states.



As a member of the Knights of Lithuania, I thank you for the scholarship of \$1250. In my academic years, this will become very useful. Thank you for the scholarship and for your appreciation. I am thankful that I am part of the Knights of Lithuania



Sincerely,

Mary Cius
Council 36



To Keep the Music Playing

Since its organization in 1916 by Leonard Simutis, Sr., the Mid-America Knights of Lithuania (K of L) Choir has maintained a presence as a symbol of Lithuanian culture in the United States, Canada, and Lithuania. Choir members have raised their voices in joyful song at concerts and song festivals and in parades and memorial programs; they have also created a repository of many favorite performances on records, tapes, and videos.

Because it is occasionally necessary to replenish the funds that allow the choir to continue its mission, a fundraising banquet was held on October 7, 2001, at the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse in Chicago. The audience heard a brief choral concert of favorites that included "Uz Raseiniu, Ant Dubysos," "Pavasaris," and "Viespaties Lelija," as well as two solos by Paul Strolia with self-accompaniment on the guitar.

The occasion was also the opportunity to "pass the baton." HM, Faustas Strolia, the choir's beloved and respected director for forty years, is retiring from that position. After the American and Lithuanian national anthems were sung, Faustas turned over his directorial duties to Alma Preisaitiene. Alma is a graduate in choral direction from the Gruodis Conservatory in Kaunas and was a participant in piano competitions there. The choir is grateful to have this talented young director join them in their goal of keeping Lithuanian culture in the public eye. And while choir members were loathe to think of losing Faustas, he has promised to remain as a consultant and to lend his talents as a tenor.

In addition to ticket sales, donations were received from various individuals and groups to which the choir would like to extend its heartfelt thanks: \$500., K of L Institute; \$100., Ellie Kasputis; \$100., Jadvyga Auksciuniene; \$25., Ruta Staniuliene; \$25., Sylvia Jankauskis; \$25., Council 110, Maspeth. The third source of revenue was from raffle tickets for a cash raffle. A special thank you goes to Algerd Brazis, who sold 50 books of raffle tickets. The raffle winners were, Arunas Zentikas, \$500; Laura Zaura, \$100; Ed Mankus, \$100; and Carol Gunulauski, \$100.

~ Irene Macke ~



THE REASON

Stephany Gutauskas

Tinsel, glitter, and flashing strobe.
Dark closet corners children probe.
Searching all for hidden presents.

O!

Remember Jesus' presence.

Decorative boughs, pine scent fresh,
Under the tree, a tiny crèche.
New toys and games our minds distract.
Jesus is real and not abstract.

Cookies, candy, and festive meal.
Jingle bells ring; steeple bells peal.
Musical sounds spirits uplift.
To us, Jesus is God's great gift.

Holly, ivy, and evergreen
Ornament the holiday scene.
Wreath shaped as eternity ring.
Let us Jesus' praises sing.



Kisses, handshakes, peace, and goodwill
Warm our hearts throughout winter's chill.
For this time, there is a reason:
Pray, observe Jesus' season.



The K of L's outgoing director, Faustas Strolia, and new director, Alma Preisaitiene.



The Knights of Lithuania Mid-America District Choir.

Letter to the Editor

Labas!

I am "Camp Nurse" at Neringa the Lithuanian Camp in Brattleboro, Vermont. The enclosed is their recipe for Kugelis—Delicious. I know you have printed several Kugelis recipes but not for *150 eager eaters!!!*

Perhaps someone may like to have it when preparing for a K of L function. This recipe is by Rimantas Pauliukonis from Strafford, New Hampshire. He comes up once a week to make it.

Vytiškai,
Veronica Bisinkauskas
C-1 Brockton

Editor's Response: Will this become a trend? You will find the directions in the recipe section of the VYTIS. Skanaus!



When the K of L Supreme Council sat down for supper hosted by Msgr. Anderlionis and Philadelphia's Council 3, they enjoyed this delicious chicken rendition.

POPPY SEED CHICKEN

2 lb. chicken	poppy seeds	<u>Crust</u>
1 can mushroom soup		Ritz Crackers
1 pt. Sour cream		1 stick butter (melted)

Boil the chicken until cooked. Crush the crackers and mix with melted butter. Dice the chicken. Mix the soup, sour cream and diced chicken together. Line your pan with chicken mix; then cover with the crust mixture. Sprinkle with poppy seed.

Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

From Chris Kremis
All About the Food Catering
Philadelphia

KUGELIS - Neringos receptas/proporcija

QTY	UNIT	INGREDIENT
80	pounds	potatoes
15	pounds	bacon (or equiv of 3-12oz packs prepared bacon)
		NOTE: 12oz prepared = 5lbs raw
20	pounds	onions
6	cups	milk
18	cups	cream of wheat
2	dozen	eggs

NOTES: This will feed 150 with NO LEFTOVERS.

Salt and Pepper to taste (at last stage before pouring into pans)- easy does it
Stir mixture well when placing into baking pans. Water tends to settle to the bottom causing last pans to be watery.

Bake 2.5 hrs (check after 1, 1.5 and 2 hrs) at 325-350F rotating top to bottom and front to back - else top shelf will burn and bottom will be raw.

KUGELIS - Neringos receptas 100 sv bulviu

QTY	UNIT	INGREDIENT
100	pounds	potatoes
20	pounds	bacon (or equiv of 4-12oz packs prepared bacon)
		NOTE: 12oz prepared = 5lbs raw
25	pounds	onions
8	cups	milk
24	cups	cream of wheat
2.5	dozen	eggs

NOTE: Sis receptas uzteks 150 stovyklautoju/vadovu IR DAR LIKS.

Recipe by - Rymantas Pauliukonis from Strafford, New Hampshire.



WELL WISHERS EXTENDING
A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON
TO ALL READERS OF VYTIS

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St. Casimir Guild: Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM

Aid to Lith., Inc.: Regina Juska-Svoba

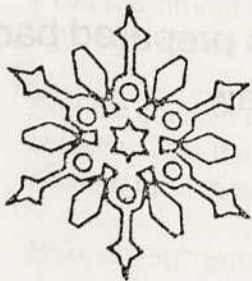
Amber District: John R. Mankus

Mid-America Distr.: Glenn Perutis

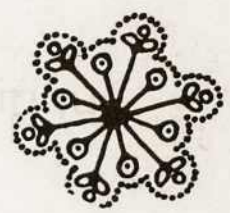
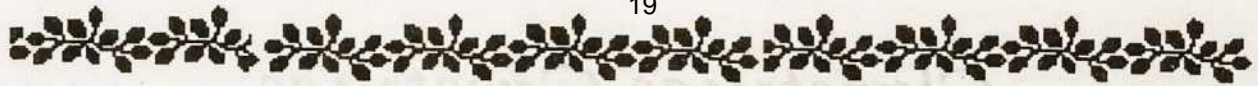
Mid-Atlantic Distr.: Ed Barkowski

Mid-Central Distr.: Fran Petkus

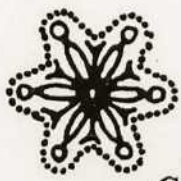
New England D.: Joseph Stiklius



Best Wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a very Holy,
Happy and Peace-filled New Year, from your Supreme Council.



*May Christmas
bring you every joy
and
The New Year
every happiness*



From Your Mid-America District

Council 5 - Chicago, IL

Council 82 - Gary, Indiana

Council 16 - Chicago, IL(Bridgeport)

Council 112-Marquette Pk., Chicago

Council 36 - Brighton Park, Chicago, IL

Council 133 - Los Angeles, CA

Concil 38 - Kenosha, Wisconsin

Council 157 - Lemont, IL

Chicago Seniors' Council



Christmas Greetings from

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-1 Brockton, MA

C-7 Waterbury, CT

C-10 Athol-Gardner, MA

C-17 So. Boston, MA

C-26 Worcester, MA

C-27 Norwood, MA

C-30 Westfield, MA

C-50 New Haven, CT

C-78 Lawrence, MA

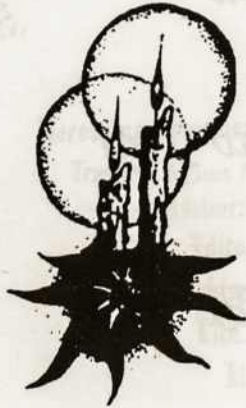
C-103 Providence, RI

C-116 Worcester, MA

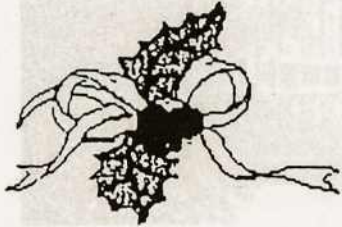
C-135 Ansonia, CT

C-141 Bridgeport, CT

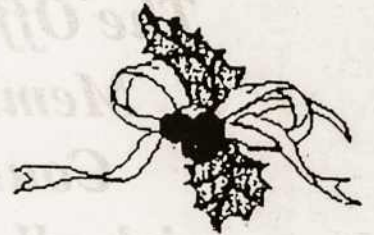
C-6 Hartford, CT



Linkime Visiems Linksmu Šv Kalėdu ir Laimingu
2001 Metu!



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



Medicine and Medical supplies worth over
68 MILLION DOLLARS
 sent to Lithuania in **88 containers** as of October 2002

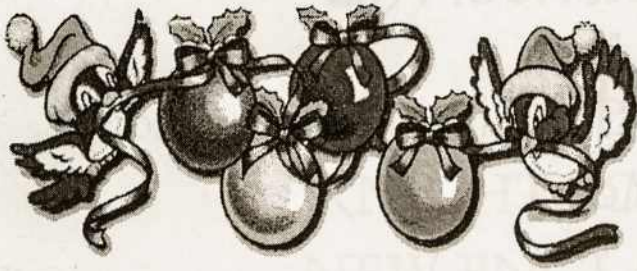
Our mission continues as long as there is need.
 The people of Lithuania will continue to receive assistance if you
 are generous with prayers and a financial contribution.

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

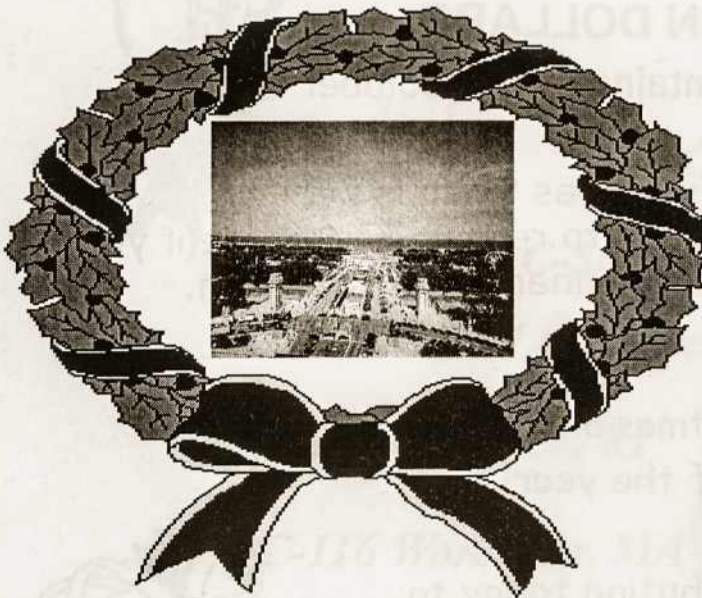


Send your contribution today to:
AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.
 1594 Beaupre
 Madison Heights, MI 48071
 Phone: (248) 547-2859
 Fax: (248) 547-0982





*The Officers and
Members of
Council 16
wish all our fellow
members the
Merriest of Christmas es*



*and we look forward
to Happily welcoming
each of you to
Chicago in the New
Year!!*

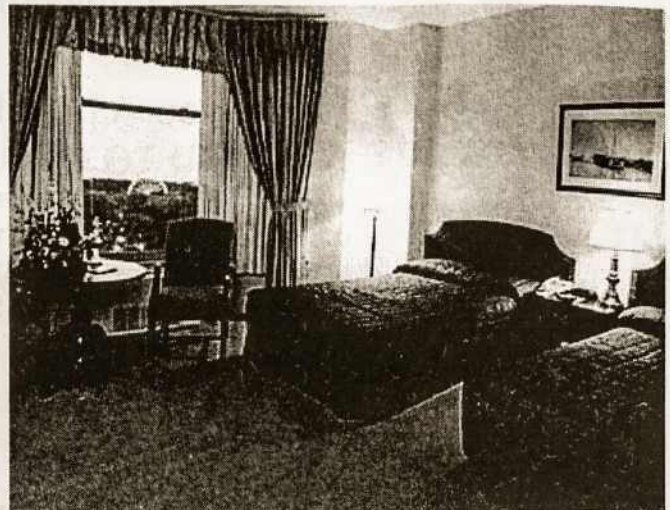


Mark your Calendar!!!

**Knights of Lithuania
89th National
Convention**

August 1-4, 2002

**Congress Plaza Hotel &
Convention Center
Chicago, Illinois
Host: Council 16**



LINKSMŲ KALEDŲ



IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

Schuyler Savings Bank

24 Davis Avenue

Kearny, New Jersey 07032

(201) 991-0001

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

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

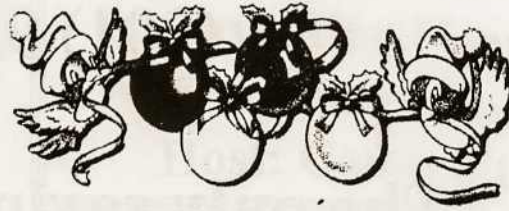
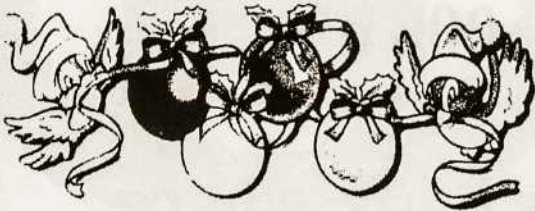
As our Council 110, Maspeth, has done for many years past, we all wish our fellow Knights, a most joyous Christmas and a blessed one. May the 2002 New Year bring us lasting peace without any fears or lasting concerns for our future years.

We should all stand shoulder to shoulder and have
GOD BLESS AMERICA FOREVER !!



Maspeth Council 110

Knights of Lithuania



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Wishes
 To all the Knights of Lithuania*

*May the Joy of the Christmas Season be with
 You all through the year!!!*



C-3 Philadelphia





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

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

Council 90 - Kearny, New Jersey



Prelatas Algimantas Bartkus, Kunigai ir Studentai

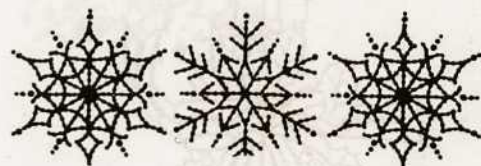
Šv. Kazimiero Kolegijos, Romoje

Dėkojam Visiems už jūsų paramą

Ir

Linkime Šventu Kaledu ir Sekmės, Sviekata in laime per Naujų Metu

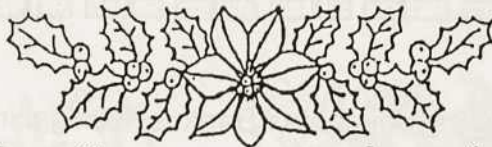
Anna Klizas Wargo, President
The St. Casimir Guild of the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome



**Wishing You Joy,
Love and Peace
All Through the Year!**

**May the Lord Protect and
Watch Over You
and Our Nation!**

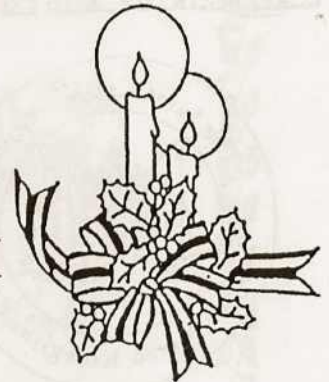
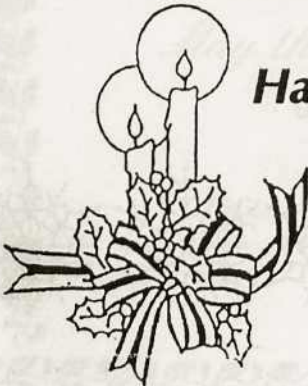
**Council 26
Worcester**



The Officers and Members of the
Mid-Atlantic District

Wish Everyone

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



THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.
wishes all readers
a most Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



The Foundation is an Endowment Fund, established to:

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

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



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

234 Sunlit Drive
 Watchung, New Jersey 07060

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

*and to VYTIS Editor Sister Janine Golubickis, SSC and her Staff,
 a big "ACIU" for an outstanding VYTIS.*

May you continue your beautiful work for years to come!

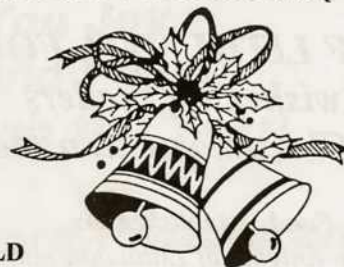
LORETTA I. STUKAS, HM

Council 29, Newark, NJ



THE OFFICERS and MEMBERS of the
AMBER DISTRICT
LINKI VISIEMS VYČIAMS ir JŪ ŠEIMOMS

LINKSMŪ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ
ir
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ



A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

DISTRICT OFFICER

PRESIDENT JOHN MANKUS
V.PRESIDENT ANN HELEN MCDONALD
REC.SECRETARY MARTHA WARNAGIRIS
TREASURER NELLIE BAYORAS-ROMANAS
TRUSTEES ELEANOR VAICAITIS
ELSIE KOSMISKY
JOHN MANKUS
LENA KAPOCHUS
JEAN KAPOCHUS MIHALICK
FRANK PETRAUSKAS
DIANE DRUMSTAS
AGNES MICKUNAS
PUBLIC REL. ANN WARGO
ST CASIMIR GUILD ANN WARGO
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR - REV. PETER J. ALISAUSKAS

DISTRICT COUNCILS

C-3 PHILADELPHIA
C-46 FOREST CITY
C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY
C-72 BINGHAMTON
C-74 SCRANTON
C-118 HAZLETON
C-140 SYRACUSE
C-142 HARRISBURG
C-143 PITTSTON
C-144 ANTHRACITE
C-146 HARRISBURG
C-156 SHAMOKIN



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
COUNCIL #50
NEW HAVEN, CT

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų
- VISIEMS



*As the Christmas Holidays Approach
We Extend Holiday Greetings To All.*

*May God Embrace Us Within His Arms of Love
While We Celebrate the Precious Birth
Of the Baby Jesus With Happy Hearts.*

*May the New Year Be Filled
With Many Blessings For All*

LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ IR

LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

May the New Born Savior Be the
Center of Our Lives!

Best Wishes,

Council 156

Lower Anthracite Region
Shamokin – Kulpmont – Mt. Carmel Region



THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 29

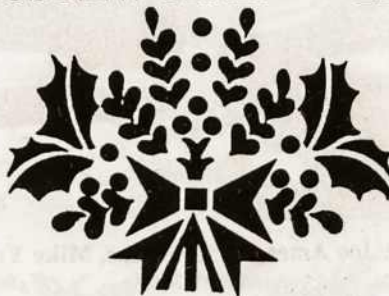
NEWARK, NJ

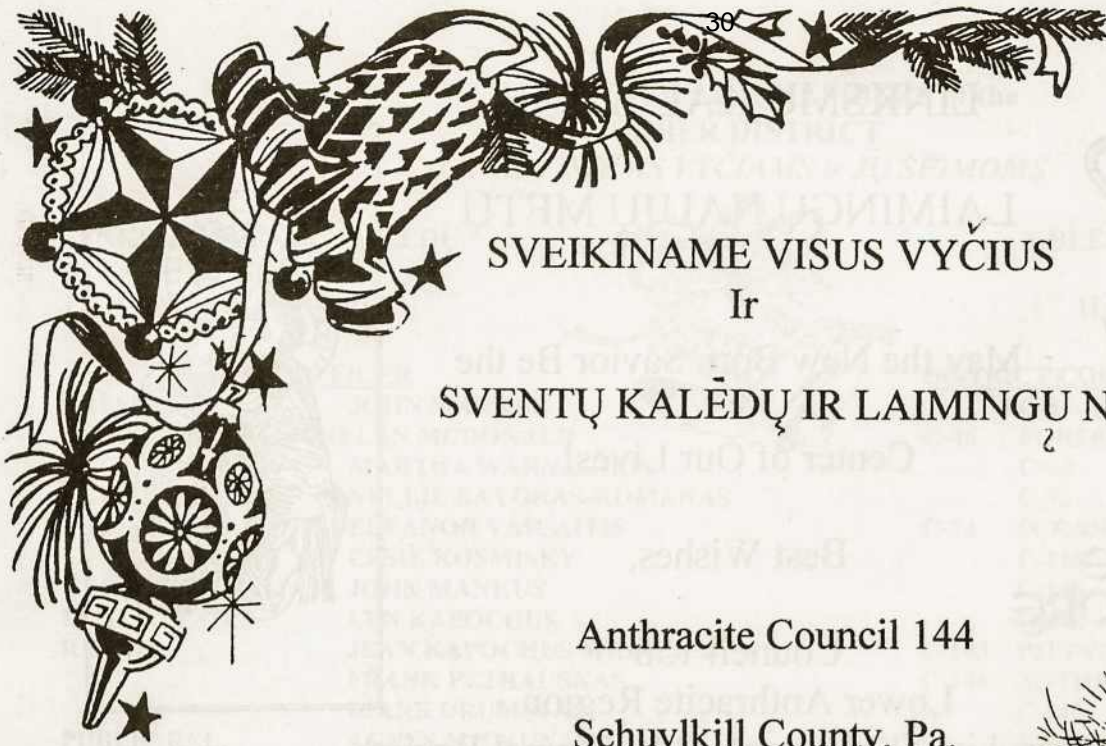


EXTEND TO ALL OF OUR K OF L MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

A BLESSED MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HEALTHY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ
ir
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ





SVEIKINAME VISUS VYČIUS
Ir
SVENTŲ KALĖDŲ IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

Anthracite Council 144

Schuylkill County, Pa.



Council - 144's A-1 cooks: Joe Ames, Jo Martunas, Mike Yanavich and Bernie Zelaitis.

**MANY BLESSINGS
AT CHRISTMAS**

AND

THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR



**COUNCIL #79
MICHIGAN**

**Knights of Lithuania
Council 6, Hartford
*Christ the Savior is Born!***



*Linksmų Šv. Kaledų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų!*

Happy Holidays



**Council 100
Amsterdam, NY**



**WARMEST HOLIDAY
GREETINGS**

*From
Council 86*

**WITH A WISH FOR
WORLD PEACE**



Brangūs Vyčiai,



Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų
Ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų



Kuopa 19,
Pittsburgh

The Best of the
Christmas Season
To All

Council 140 Syracuse



"PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD
WILL TOWARD MEN"

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM
THE MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT
WITH WISHES FOR PEACE & JOY
IN THE NEW YEAR!



peace on Earth



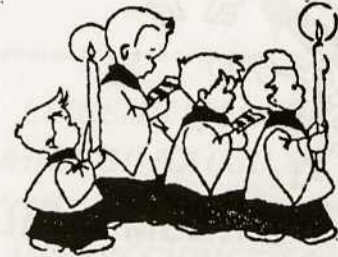
COUNCIL #63
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL**

COUNCIL # 12 NEW YORK



BEST WISHES TO ALL



**FOR A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS AND
A PEACEFUL
NEW YEAR !**

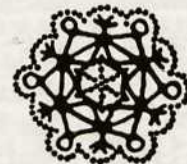
C-25 CLEVELAND, OH

*Officers and Members
of
Knights of Lithuania C-136
Hudson-Mohawk
wish one and all
a peaceful and secure
Christmas
and
New Year*

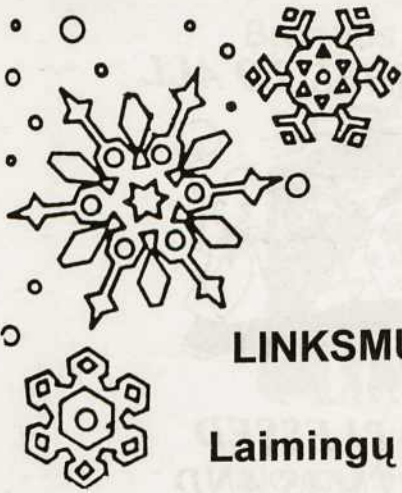


**LINKIME LINKSMŲ
ŠVENČIŲ**

*May the Blessings of
CHRISTMAS
Shine upon you
Throughout a healthy &
Prosperous New Year!*



**Council #147
St. Petersburg, Florida**



LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ
Ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų

From Indiana's

COUNCIL 82



PEACE
AND
PRAYERS

FROM COUNCIL 103

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ
Ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų



O Pasauliui - TAIKOS.

From Council 46
Forest City, PA



Just like the star that led to Bethlehem...

May Jesus be our light that leads to peace!

Merry Christmas!

God bless America!

Council 96
Dayton, Ohio

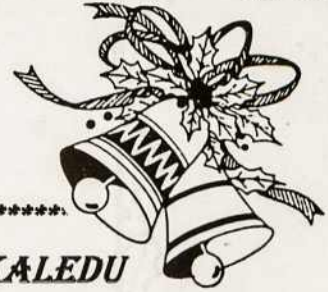


LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ
Ir
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲJŲ METŲ

Council 143
Pittston, PA

HAPPY AND BLESSED
CHRISTMAS
HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR

TO ALL KNIGHTS



*LINKSMU KALEDU
LAIMINGU NAJU METU*

*MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR*

*IS WISHED TO ALL KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
FROM
COUNCIL 7 - WATERBURY, CT.*

Linksmų Švenčių



WE ARE TRULY BLESSED
TO LIVE IN OUR GREAT
COUNTRY !!!

PRAY FOR PEACE !!!

*Council 1
Brockton, MA*



*Wishes for a Joyful Christmas
Mark H. Bell Nashville, TN*

*Blessed Holidays to One and All
Fran Petkus and Family*

*Happy Holidays to All!
H.M. Agnes and John Mickunas*

*Our Prayers for a Blessed Christmas
& Peaceful New Year
Council 116 So. Worcester, MA*

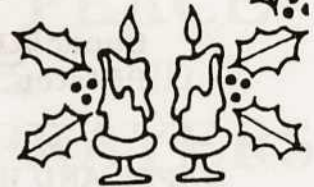
*Sveikiname visus Vyčius Kalėdų
ir Naujų Metų proga
Council 10 Athol-gardner*



LINKSMŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

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

CHRISTMAS, 2001



ŠVENTŲ, SVEIKŲ, LINKSMŲ IR LAIMINGŲ KALĖDŲ IR NAUJŲJŲ METŲ
VYČIAMS IR DRAUGAMS – 2002



BLESSED, HEALTHY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR TO ALL KNIGHTS AND FRIENDS – 2002

Honorary Member Annie Mitchell Matalavich
Council 52 Elizabeth, New Jersey



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

COUNCIL 52
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY



PEACE!

Peace on Earth

From Scranton Council 74

President - Marie Laske	Ritual - Margaret Clegg
Vice President - Lee Bozenko	VYTIS - Correspondent - Marie Laske
Recording Secretary - Liz Kaminskas	Public Relations - Richard Laske
Financial Secretary - Margaret Clegg	Trustees - Leo Zewicki
Treasurer - Margaret Clegg	Martha Wagner
Lithuanian Affairs - Mary Twardzik	Rose Stanches
Cultural - Mary Costello	Sergeant-at Arms - Casimir Yanish
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR - Msgr. Peter Madus	



In Memoriam



- C-1 Ted Orzechowski - May 19
 C-3 Nellie Pandza - June 11
 C-3 Karl Kapochus
 C-10 Mary Garousky - June 5
 C-17 Anna Griganavicius
 C-17 Janice Vallis
 C-17 Phyllis Grendal, HM
 C-25 Mary Trainy
 C-26 Marian March
 C-26 Nell Mitchell
 C- 50 Anthony Kodorsky
 C-74 Jerome Costello
 C-74 Walter Cravath
 C-74 Edward Yarasavich
 C-102 Charles Podolskis
 C-110 Helen Venis
 C-135 Rev. Paul Sabulis - May 10
 C-143 Son of Mary Timek
 C-144 Anna Nardini
 C-144 Florence Orzechowski
 C-144 Anna Supernavage
 C-147 Alena Vilnius - July 9
 C-147 Elena Bacevicius - July 29

How Do You Live Your Dash?

I read of a man who stood to speak
 At the funeral of a friend.
 He referred to the dates on her tombstone
 From the beginning...to the end.
 He noted that first came her date of birth
 And spoke the following date with tears,
 But he said what mattered most of all
 Was the dash between those years.(1934-
 1998)
 For that dash represents all the time
 That she spent alive on earth...
 And now only those who loved her
 Know what that little line is worth.
 For it matters not how much we own;
 The cars...the house...the cash,
 What matters is how we live and love
 And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard...
 Are there things you'd like to change?
 For you never know how much time is left,
 That still can be rearranged.
 If we could just slow down enough
 To consider what's true and real,
 And always try to understand
 The way other people feel,
 And be less quick to anger,
 And show appreciation more
 And love the people in our lives
 Like we've never loved before.
 If we treat each other with respect,
 And more often wear a smile...
 Remembering that this special dash
 Might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read
 With your life's actions to rehash. . .

Would you be proud of the things they say
 About how you spent your dash??

District & Council News

New England District

NED District Arlene Stiklius



C-7 Waterbury hosted the NED Spring Convention. Representatives from 11 councils united in prayer and hymns to begin the day with holy Mass at St. Joseph Church with Rev. Francis Karvelis officiating. Greetings were extended by NED President Joseph Stiklius and C-7 VP Linas Balsys.

Mark Bell, SC Financial Secretary, attended the convention. We were pleased to have Mark at our convention.

Kathryn Urban read a thank you letter from Peter Petkaitis, recipient of the Sviklas-Tamulevich Scholarship, who is doing Evangelistic work in Vilnius. He expects to stay another year because there is a great need to spread the Catholic religion because of the suppression of faith for generations.

C-1 Brockton, MA Veronika



Although we have not written for a year, C-1 Brockton is still alive and active. We are delighted that C-1 is to host the National Convention in 2003.

Our annual Kucios at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent was well-attended by members of NED councils as well as guests who look forward to taking part in our beautiful tradition, every year. Sr. Helen was chairperson. and Sr. Eugenua, program coordinator. Our local newspaper covered the event.

In celebrating Lithuanian Independence Day, C-1 Pres. V. Bizinkauskas and members of other Lithuanian organizations met with Brockton

Mayor John T. Yunits. C-1 Junior, Vilija Bizinkauskas was dressed in her Lithuanian costume. Discussions were about Lithuanian affairs, especially NATO and the Lithuanian flag flew next to our American flag over City Hall for a week.

A communion breakfast was held on St. Casimir Day.

In April all the dishes and silverware at St. Casimir Church Hall were packed and sent to Lithuania through Lithuanian Children's Relief. Sr. Helen and her group have sent 130 containers to rural areas in Lithuania!

Annual Easter Egg Decorating classes were held on Palm Sunday.

We have some Olympic Lithuanian basketball "T" shirts for \$20 available through Sr. Helen. 261 Thatcher St., Brockton, MA 12302

John and Ann Statkus had John's brother, Zigmas, from Lithuania, as a guest and he received a gift from C-1.

C-1 had 2 essay winners at the National Convention - Sr. Helen Ivanauskas and Vilija Bizinkauskas.

We assisted at St. Casimir's picnic in Sept. by selling that famous k.k.k. dinner - kielbasa, kopustai and kugelis.

We have been blessed with 5 new members this year.

C-6 Hartford, CT Leona Sawka



Our Nov. meeting opened with prayers led by Fr. Charles Jacobs, new Administrator of Holy Trinity Church. President, Wandie Kruk introduced our new Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John Rikteraitis, retired pastor of St. Andrews, New Britain.

Kay Urban reported on the fundraiser by

NED at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury.

New member, Dottie Rydzziel had been welcomed and First Degrees were awarded to Agnes Gagnon, Dalia Dzikas, Carylann Balskus, Joe Krancunas, Vincent Morkus, Louise Pivoski and Kristina Serksnas.

C-10 Athol, Gardner Vincukas



James Kraskauskas of Anthony's Package Store held a wine-tasting evening at the Colonial Inn in Gardner. Asta, his wife, presented a beautiful photo display including photos taken in Lithuania.

An old-fashioned Sauerkraut party was held in the Shotas's home in Royalston; more than 150 attended.

Former pastor, Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis was given a 5 minute standing ovation at the parish's recent 50th anniversary banquet.

Armand Bouthillier won many ribbons at the annual Franklin County Fair for his canned veggies. Brone Wisniauskas won ribbons for an oil painting and a straw picture. Bravo to you both!

Millie Melaika and Dr. Henry Gailiunas received their Fourth Degree at the Spring convention in Waterbury.

Congratulations are sent to Vivian Rogers and Dot Virbasius who were honored at the annual St. Casimir Dinner as the outstanding Women of the Year.

Congratulations are extended to Rev. Anthony Jutt, pastor of All Saints' Parish and his twin, Rev. Julius Jutt, pastor of St. James on the occasion of their 50th anniversary in the priesthood. They are from St. Casimir's, Westfield, and brothers of the late Rev. John Jutt Both are priests in the Springfield Diocese.

C-17 South Boston, MA Regina Alexander



Many C-17 members joined with other NED members at the annual retreat at the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, ME. Pres. Al Akule, HM, was the organizer. Although fog, mist, and showers surrounded us, we were greeted with great warmth and hospitality by Fr. Gabriel Baltrusaitis, OFM. Mrs. Sophie Kazlauskas and her staff prepared special dinners and bountiful breakfast buffets. Fr. John Bacevicius opened the retreat with a concelebrated Mass. Fr. John was the director of the retreat.

St. Peter Lithuanian Parish celebrated a special Mass and reception in honor of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother. After 67 years of dedicated service to the parish and 55 years of inspired teaching in the parish school, their active participation has come to an end. All the Sisters had a chance to say a few words, personally, at the reception. Sr. Mary Valliere, General Superior, said "All our lives are a journey. Know that you are loved by the Sisters." Sr. M. David Romanauskas, Principal, extended thanks from the school and herself to Pres. Al Akule and all the members of C-17 for their gracious and voluntary help. All the Sisters have touched many lives, in many ways, and will be greatly missed. It was Standing-Room-Only. A thousand thanks to the dear Sisters!

Congratulations to Pastor and Spiritual Director, Fr. Steve Zukas. He celebrated his 9th year anniversary as a priest in June and will be going back to Lithuania for a few weeks. In his parting words at the meeting, Fr. reminded us "Keep Lithuania in your prayers - pray for the continued development of the country and of the Catholic Church."

A hearty welcome to new member

Frances E. Averka, Sr. We are glad you joined!

C-26 Worcester, MA Ruta



Eighty five years as a Council!!! Our council recently attained this anniversary milestone. We celebrated a special Mass at St. Casimir Church. The Mass, homilies, and songs were in Lithuanian. Ann Walinsky, organist and choir director accompanied the choir of angels. The Mass was co-celebrated by Rev. Richard Jakubauskas, and Rev. John Petrauskas. Joseph Salkaus was awarded his Third Degree medal during the Mass. After Mass, all went to the church hall for a wonderful brunch.

VP and MC Ann Leseman introduced Guy Glodis who is a Massachusetts senator and a C-26 member. He congratulated the council and presented a State Certificate honoring our council and another certificate for our council's years of service to the community and to the church.

The keynote speaker was Ann Bender, HM and active member for 60 years. Co-chairpersons for this anniversary celebration were Ann Leseman and Ruth Sarafinas.

The recent picnic at Maironis Park was highly successful. Co-chairs were Aldona Waska and Al Rodgers.

Fr. John Petrauskas, our Spiritual Advisor, was surprised with a large birthday cake at the June meeting.

Congratulations were offered Vito and Ruth Gadilauskas who celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary.

For the past several years, C-26 helped to support a young Lithuanian orphan to her age of 18 through Lietuvos Naslaiciu Komitetas and are now helping 8 year old Adrijus Puskariouas.

Pres. Vivian read an inspiring thank you letter from the Kedainiu Vaiku Globos Namai Saulute orphanage in Kedainiai, Lithuania.

Nellie and Joe Salkaus were honored, recently, with a 60-year anniversary party at Franklin Manor.

C-27 Norwood, MA Zaibas



The Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, ME was once again a reunion and retreat for more than 85 New England K of L'ers. You can bet that we had a great time despite the cool weather. Sophie, the efficient and kindly innkeeper with her Lithuanian staff and Fr. Gabriel saw to all our needs. We were united in prayer and play as "family" and we all look forward to being together.

Ours is a council few in number but great in generosity of heart and spirit. Under the caring guidance of our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Wm. Wolkovich, we meet, pray together and try to extend our friendships both in the parish and to the country of our ethnic heritage.

In November, we held a Super Kielbasi Supper under the masterful culinary art of Albie Jarvis and co-worker Ed Motyka. Thank you all for making a good team and a happy council!



C-50 New Haven Genute Strimaitis Valente

Well, it's that time of year again and we are ready for the Christmas Season with a Fair and our annual dinner.

We also have an exciting announcement! Fr. Stanley Azary has graciously offered to say Mass in Lithuanian at our parish, St. Casimir. Fr. Azaro is a Dominican priest, a professor at Providence College, and recently returned from Lithuania.

Two of our distinguished members have received their Fourth Degrees: Teresse Strimaitis and Evelyn Lapinsky. We congratulate both and thank them for all their hard work and efforts to make our council strong through the years even though our numbers are small.

C-135 Ansonia J.P. Sabulis



The names and pictures of all the priests on the wall in the church hall are now the same. Before they were different. What made them the same was Fr. Paul Sabulis who passed on to Eternal Life on May 10, 2001. Most Rev. Daniel A. Cronin, Archbishop of Hartford was Principal Celebrant at the Mass at St. Joseph Church in Waterbury. The Concelebrating Bishops were Most Rev. Peter Rosazza and the Most Rev. Christi Macaluso. The Homilist was Rev. Fr. Leonard Kvedas. The Vested Concelebrants were Rev. Fr. Francis Karvelis, Rev. Fr. John Rikteraitis, Rev. Fr. Kevin Forsyth and Fr. Paul's Ordination Class of 1943. There were over 30 priests at the Mass. Fr. Paul was a Fourth Degree Knight.

Bishop Peter Rosazza was here to rededicate the Wayside Cross. This was his first visit to St. Anthony. He said the Mass with Fr. Pat and Fr. Frank Sullivan concelebrating. After Mass, all went outside where he blessed the cross then back indoors to continue the proceedings.

Mid Atlantic District

MAD Meeting Bruno Rutkunas



In September, Mass was held at the restored St. Casimir Church in Amsterdam, NY with the service by Rev. Stanley Swierzowski. Many familiar faces were welcomed by Mirga Bablin, Pres. C-100.

We were surprised when guest speaker, Keith Barkevich, Webmaster of St. Casimir, informed us that their Website was one of the best in the Albany Diocese. (www.St.Casimirs.com)

Bernice Aviza kept the Juniors busy and involved with a visit to Washington, D.C. and requested some Congressmen to support Lithuania's admission to NATO.

5 members received Third Degrees, 4 were awarded Second, and John Sakal received Fourth Degree at the National Convention.

Rita Sussko thanked all who helped her attain Honorary Membership. Bernice Aviza has been nominated for Honorary Membership at the Chicago National Convention.

C-12 New York, NY Irene Senken



In October, a group of C-12 members and C-3 went on a Polka Weekend at the Nevele Grande Hotel in Ellenville. A good time was had by all and we were surprised by a visit by former Pres. Ed Cook.

Congratulations to Anthony Simulinas Jr.'s daughter for her acceptance into a prestigious dance group in NY.

God Bless America and let us not forget to pray for one another.

C-29 Newark, NJ Rita Sussko



In May our Holy Trinity Parish celebrated her 100th anniversary with a Dinner-Dance in the church hall. Our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Peter Uhde, has been transferred; we will miss him; and we now have Fr. Clement Krug. He is a native of NJ but has been a priest in Brazil for 35 years. Welcome.

Rita Sussko attended her granddaughter's

wedding in Michigan - Jamie Lea Detwiler to Chad Kingsbury. Congratulations to the bride's parents, Alan and Sandy Detwiler.

C-100 Amsterdam, NY Reggie



This year, our council hosted the MAD meeting. 65 Knights and their guests attended.

Our guest speaker, Keith Barkevich introduced us to St. Casimir's website, showed many pictures from the past, explained the different events that took place in our parish, and asked our members if any one remembered them.

Our own Pres. Mirga Bablin welcomed all and turned the meeting over to MAD Pres. Ed Barkowski.

Big thanks to all who helped prepare the meeting!

In August, many C-100 members participated in Lithuanian Day at Aurisville Shrine, ending with a picnic on those beautiful grounds.

C-110 Maspeth, NY Bruno Rutkunas



Congratulations to Dr. Giedre Kumpakaite, Director of the Lithuanian Radio Hour on WPAT, previously hosted by retiring Romas Kezys. Giedre also holds the position of Pres. of Bendruomene of NY. We wish her much success in her endeavors.

Our members Marcel (Joe) and Antoinette (Teri) Pointes celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in May; also Peter and Betty Purus their 50th; Peter and Sophia Zuyus their 62nd.

Ann Linkonis turned 90!

Our Aid to Lithuania Raffle was a successful event with a \$500 net gain

July was hot, Aug the same and September in Maspeth was sad. Our neighboring firehouse, a few blocks from the Transfiguration Church, lost 19 of its members when they rushed to the World Trade Center to save persons in the buildings. At our meeting, we offered prayers for all the victims and donated \$500 directly to the 69th Street Firehouse Victims' families. The organ music at the Mass was vibrant, penetrating, and very melodious with Virginius Barkauskas at the new organ in the church.

Shipments were made during the summer and another for Christmas for Aid to the Lithuanian orphans.

We continually look for new immigrant Lithuanians to join our Knights.

C-136 Hudson-Mohawk Dorothy Richmire



The annual picnic in Putnam was well-attended; the day was gorgeous, the food wonderful, and problems only in choosing which Lithuanian treasure to purchase. We were happy that several visiting Lithuanian students joined us for this trip.

In August, Lynn and Helen Hayner hosted a group at their residence in Chestertown, NY.

September 's MAD meeting held worship, once again, in the beautiful St. Casimirs church which was saved by donations and the dedication, patience, endurance, and love of all who were involved. Truly a MIRACLE!

In September, members were treated to a piano concert by Lithuanian-born Ieva Jokubaviciute in the Schenectady Public Library.

C-147 St. Petersburg Dolores Jonaitis

John Jonaitis and I visited Lithuania



and were amazed at how much Lithuania had progressed since our last visit, 4 years ago. In memory of our September 11 tragedy, many Lithuanian flags were displayed at half-mast with a black ribbon tied at the top. Our meeting's opening prayer by Fr. Matas Cyvas was followed by a moment of silence for our deceased members and the victims of September 11th.

A donation of \$100 to Brother Austiejus for the renovation of St. Bernardino's Church in Vilnius was made. Good luck!

Elections were held and all agreed to stay on.

We welcome and congratulate our new members Dr. Petras Jokubka and Julia Navakas.

C-152 E. Long Island Julie Lott

Summer surely did go by fast. Our council is in full swing preparing for another busy and eventful year.

Nominations and elections of new officers will make for an interesting meeting. The previous slate certainly must be applauded for doing such a good job this past year. Whatever was on the agenda was handled with dedicated expertise; meetings are interesting and everyone is comfortable.

All went well for the summer, our annual picnic was well-attended and good company was enjoyed.

It was good to see Fred Lucka at our meeting. Prayers are also needed for Adele Latinis who is seriously ill.

Amber District

C-3 Philadelphia Stephany Gutauskas

A group of Vyciai, in ethnic costume, participated in a Corpus Christi



procession along Allegheny Ave in June. Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua led the adoration services. Our members were able to meet with the Cardinal after the ceremonies and wished him a Happy Birthday.

Many of our Vyciai prepared food, donated prizes, worked the stands, and patronized the St. George Summer Bazaar in June.

In July, members went on a Lithuanian picnic in Fairmount Park where they enjoyed scrumptious blynai.

This summer, sisters Daiva Bennington and Ausra Maknys traveled together to Camp Dainava, a Lithuanian language camp in Manchester, MI.

Several Knights participated in Lithuanian Days in Frackville, PA in August. Naturally, the ethnic food was the big draw at this event.

Valio! Congratulations go to Leonard Kapochus who received the Fourth Degree at the National Convention.

Several honors were brought to C-3 at the National Convention. We received a 3rd place Membership Award Certificate and Stephany Gutauskas won 2nd place and Walter Svekla received honorable mention in this years K of I. Foundation essay contest.

C-3 members were present at a Prayer Service and Pride Awareness Rally held in St. George's school yard Sept. 21. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM, conceived the event - Red, White, and Blue Pride Day, to unite his school and the larger community in song and prayer in a public display of support for America.

C-46 Forest City, PA Josephine O'Peka



What a glorious weekend C-46 members spent when Rev. Casimir M.

Stanis, a member of our council, was ordained into the Roman Catholic priesthood by Bishop James C. Timlin at St. Peter's Cathedral. Fr. Stanis is the son of the late Casimir and Beatrice Stanis of Montrose, PA. Fr. Stanis celebrated his first Mass of Thanksgiving at his native parish, Holy Name of Mary Church in Montrose, PA. Many members attended and were joined by Fr. Stanis's brother, Raymond, and his sister, Eileen who are both members of the K of L.

We all extend our congratulations and our prayers for a long and wonderful priesthood for Fr. Stanis; he will be spending the next year as Asst. Pastor at St. John the Evangelist, in Pittston, PA.

C-46 has made application to adopt an orphan in Lithuania. Frank and Betty Kwader of So. Montrose have already adopted an orphan and have shared letters and pictures with us.

C-74 Scranton, PA Marie Laske



We had our traditional Lithuanian Mass at St. Ann's Basilica on St. Ann's Day. Rev. Clement Kasinskas celebrated the Mass and spoke about Rupintojelis. John Mankus was Lector. Nell Romanas explained the gift that the K of L members carried; Helen Moran was music director; Marie Laske was coordinator. We had a great turn-out and all were happy to hear our Lithuanian songs.

St. Joseph Lithuanian church had their annual picnic. Msgr. Peter Madus and Sr. Paraclete were chairpersons.

The 21st annual "Rosary for Peace and Justice" was hosted by the combined diocesan groups of Our Lady of Czestochowa and Scranton and Pittston councils of the K of L at St. Peter's Cathedral. Msgr. Leonard Novak was

celebrant and solemn benediction was officiated by Fr. Casimir Stanis, newly ordained.

Scripture readings were proclaimed by Sr. Marinetta Harenza and Richard Laske. Marie Laske and Nellie Bayoras were amongst those saying the Glorious Mysteries.

C-142 Washington, DC Florence Draugelis Smith

Though deeply saddened by the tragedy which struck our nation on 9-11, C-142 enjoyed a late summer gathering hosted by member Florence Draugelis Smith and Mary Draugelis. The weather was glorious and everyone's spirits were high. We were pleased to have 3 priests from Lithuania as guests - Rev. Virgilijus Poskus, Virginius Vaidotas and Sigitas Zilys. They are studying at the Washington Theological College in DC, across the street from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Our other guests were Deacon Andy Nosacek and his charming Lithuanian wife, Lorraine. Fr. Sigitas and Deacon Nosacek led us in prayer. Since it was National Priests Day, we prayed a special prayer for priests.

Florence's daughter, Anne, and her fiance, Phil Caparso, also attended. Anne was a motivating force, toiling long and hard on Capitol Hill, for the causes of Lithuania's independence and NATO membership. For 10 years, Anne worked for Sen. Helms on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. As part of her job, prior to Lithuania's freedom, she travelled to our beloved Lithuania both alone and as part of Congressional delegations. As a consultant, she continues to work with BAFL and the Embassy of Lithuania.

We are hopeful that gatherings such as this will encourage members to invite others to join Lietuvos Vyciai!

C-143 Pittston Eleanor Bellanco



At our meeting at the home of Frank and Marian Joga, new member Yvonne Bronis was sworn in by Fr. Peter Alisaukas, our Spiritual Director. Also, Bernard Dalton presented a contribution to purchase a brick in the Memorial Walk at St. Ann's Basilica in honor of C-143. Thank you, Bernard, for your thoughtfulness.

Two guests from Lithuania were Rymanute Pylaitea, a school teacher from Salute and Dalia Kaupaite, a ninth grade student in Salute. They are cousins of Charles and Genevieve Dajnowski and both spoke fluent English, Russian, and Lithuanian.

In August, C-143 participated in the annual Pittston City Tomato Festival Parade. Our Pres. Nellie Romanas, in her Lithuanian outfit, rode in an open car decorated with Lithuanian flags and colors. Thanks to Dan and Karen Flannery for donating the car and driving it. A "Lithuanian Surrey with the Fringe on Top", donated by Bayco Ice Co, made a big hit with parade onlookers with Knights dressed in Lithuanian outfits. Rosemary Durling's grandchildren rode their bicycles all decorated in Lithuanian colors the entire parade route.

C-144 Anthracite Ona



We have 13 recent new members! We welcome them all with full hearts.

Anna Snoich's brother, Fr. Stephen Snoich, a Benedictine, added something special and uplifting to our meeting. He told us about his life at St. Meinrad's Abbey.

Our 87th annual Lithuanian Day was a success with visitors from all over the East Coast and one all the way from California. I cannot mention all the

names but everyone worked hard and made it a beautiful Lithuanian Day and joyous weekend for all Lithuanians.

A thanks, too, for our Shenandoah members who represented us in the Heritage Day Parade in Shenandoah. They marched in the heat in Lithuanian costumes and carried Lithuanian flags with a huge banner proudly stating "Lithuania".

We congratulate Elsie Kosmisky who received the Honorary Degree at the Convention. Elsie Bartashus proudly received her Fourth Degree.

Our thanks to Michael Yanavage and Joseph Martunas for traveling to Washington, DC to talk to our Senators Santorum and Specter re: Lithuania's entry into NATO, along with Pres. Ann, Joe and Michael visited our local Rep. Tim Holden.

Veterans: Thanks to Jack Joseph, there was great success each day. Each veteran came to the stage, was introduced with his/her rank and branch of service and each was given an American, Lithuanian flag pin and thanked for his service to our Country. We hope to continue this joyous occasion.

Mid Central District

MCD Meeting Regina Juska-Svoba



In October, all roads led to Detroit for MCD meeting and pilgrimage, hosted by C-102. Pres. Patricia Zyren and committee greeted the guests, Joe Stark entertained with his musical CD's, and C-25's Joan Ortman led us in Lithuanian songs.

Delegates met at St. Anthony's Lithuanian Church for a continental breakfast followed by the pilgrimage portion of the weekend.

In the afternoon, reports were presented and elections were conducted.

The meeting concluded with a prayer and singing of the Vyciu hymn. Mass was celebrated in the chapel of St. Anthony's facilities and Rev. Alfonsas Babonas greeted the delegates and guests. He commended the K of L for their ongoing efforts to help the people of Lithuania; he stressed that there will always be an ongoing need for humanitarian aid and medical assistance. The church choir director maestro Stasys Slizys played the organ and sang. Pres. Frances Petkus led in the annual remembrance of the MCD's deceased members. Each council's representative lit a candle while another member read the names of the deceased. We prayed for them.

A special thanks to C-102 Pres. Patricia Zyren and her dedicated and enthusiastic committee for hosting a well-organized, wonderful, and memorable weekend.

C-19 Pittsburg Len Barcoucky



A baseball outing has become a new summer tradition for C-19 Knights. This is one of several K of L activities designed to attract new members.

Next on the agenda was All Soul's Day Commemoration at St. Casimir Cemetery in Whitehall. That event was also open to Pittsburg's Lithuanian-American community.

While the Knights plan a gift exchange for members, they also will participate in a joint Kucios celebration with members of the Citizens' Society and students in Lithuanian language classes.

C-25 Cleveland Ursula Kunsitis

What a great adventure Dolly Oberaitis and daughters had traveling through

Lithuania on a self-planned and self-guided tour in May.

On July 1, Helen and Bill Jakbus celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church officiated by Fr. Leo Zarembo.

This July, Dick and Jean Marks, Dolly Oberaitis and Jim and Joan Thompson, Theresa Capuria and Fran Pranskevich traveled to DuBois for John Andrusis's annual get-together at his cabin in the woods.

In a nice gesture, Paul and Irene Chalko invited 11 family members on a grand tour of Lithuania. What pleasant memories they all must have!

Congratulations to Cliff and Catherine Schneider on their 50th wedding anniversary.

C-25 members, along with 500 others attended the 50th anniversary of the LAC which featured Lithuanian choir "Azuoliukas".

C-96 Dayton Frances Petkus, HM



What a summer has passed! The National Convention was a huge success. We congratulate Dayton members for their participation - Elinor Sluzas, HM, Mark Bell, Annamarie Sluzas Berger, Irena Gecas-McCarthy, Michael Petkus, and Fran Petkus, HM.

Junior Knight Joseph Berger received a special award for his participation in the K of L essay contest.

Erin Petkus was part of the quintet that sang "It's a Small World" in Lithuanian at the closing banquet.

Elinor Sluzas is chair of a committee to make the world aware of **Our Lady of Siluva**, with Msgr. Anderlonis, HM, Msgr. Urbonas, Rev. Markus, Loretta Stukas, HM, and Bernice Aviza.

C-102 Detroit Teresele



What a nice surprise that Fr. Stanievich was able to concelebrate Mass with Fr. Krisciunevicius and Volskis at the annual Lithuanian-American Vets Memorial Mass.

25 members paid tribute to Frank Bunikis at the Memorial Mass in June at St. Anthony Church. Fr. Babonis spoke of C-102's loss.

Theresa and Michael Shae were delighted when they spent a lengthy visit with newly elevated Cardinal Audrys Juozas Backis, while vacationing in Rome. Cardinal Backis praised the dedication and support of the ATL and K of L organizations and asked for their continued support.

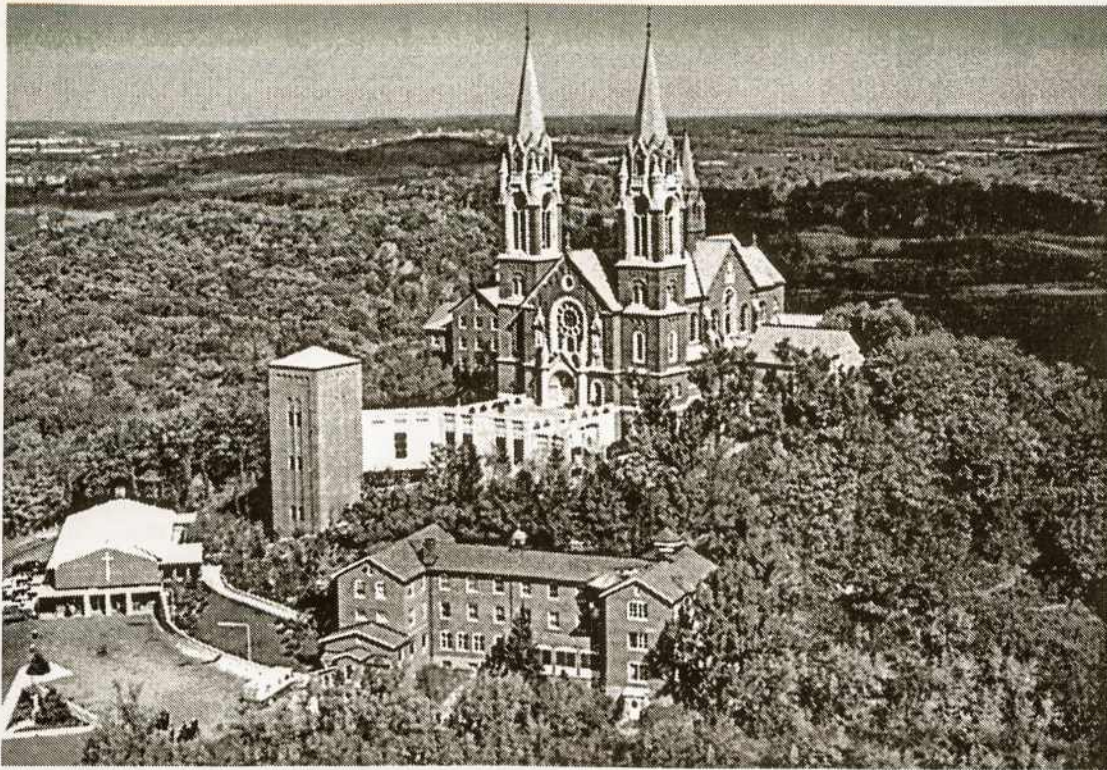
Belated birthday wishes to Joseph Guerriero who turned a young 80 on March 19! And to Edna Klucens who celebrated her 80th on June 17. We wish you both healthy, happy years ahead.



K of L-ers at the Holy Hill Shrine in Wisconsin: Front row, L to R., Julie Zakarka, Sisters Theresa, Genevieve and Janine G. 2nd row, Ann Marie Kassel, Sr. Johanne Marie, Eleanor Kasputis, Mary Beth Slakis. 3rd row: Richard Niedvares, Lorraine Svelnis, Faustas and Theresa Strolia. 4th row: Diane, and Robert Martin, Jr., Peter Paul Zansitis, Jancen and Glenn Perutis. MAD sponsored the trip.



C-112 Farewell Committee members and officers surround Rev. Michael Yakaitis as they bid good-bye. Father Mike is leaving Nativity BVM parish after almost 5 years, to assume his new duties where he will serve as Chaplain for College students, while at the same time acting as Administrator for St. Thomas the Apostle Parish on Chicago's East Side. Good luck, Father Mike!



Holy Hill - Shrine of Mary - Help of Christians, the highest located Church in the state of Wisconsin, 1500 feet above sea level. Thirty miles northwest of Milwaukee.

Pilgrimage to Holy Hill, Wisconsin

Eighteen pilgrims departed for Hubertus, Wisconsin at 8 a.m. Saturday morning, September 22, 2001, via Bluebird Charter Coach. We arrived after much rollicking, games, songs, and laughter, at about 11:00 a.m., just in time for Mass. After Mass, a member of the Discalced Carmelites spoke about the history of the shrine, which honors Mary, Help of Christians, and gave an orientation about the various stops on the grounds. The Shrine is located at the highest point in southern Wisconsin. The bright and sunny day added to our awe at the beautiful view from the top of the Hill.

Some of us started right off at the Shrine Church, heading for the outdoor stations, a walking trip of about a mile, all up hill. Others wandered the upper and lower churches, historical diorama and the gift shop. We then proceeded to the Shrine lunchroom for a bite to eat. After lunch, we met as a group to say the rosary in the main church, a very rewarding experience. At the close of the service, we banded together to sing, "Marija, Marija," led by Faustas Strolia with his accordion.

At this point, we boarded the bus again for a short trip to our hotel, a Holiday Inn Express about 7 miles from the Shrine. After checking in and a brief rest, we re-boarded the bus for a short ride to Mader's German Restaurant in Milwaukee. Here we were treated to authentic German meals of our choice, desserts galore, and a small interesting museum/shop displaying Hummel, Lladro, and other figures. After a very prolonged dinner, we returned to our hotel via our bus.

The next morning, after a Continental breakfast, we joined other pilgrims for Mass at the Shrine Church. Then we returned home via our bus, once again singing, playing bingo, and watching a video and a program televised from New York, giving tribute to those lost on September 11th. We stopped along the way at a buffet restaurant for lunch. By 5 p.m. we arrived back at St. Casimir's Motherhouse. A good time was had by all! Where to next year?

SMILES WITHOUT WRINKLES

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

I am not a perfectionist. My parents were though.

If marriage were outlawed, only outlaws would have in-laws.

Time may be a great healer, but it's also a lousy beautician.

Life not only begins at forty, it begins to show.

Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes it comes alone.

It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.

~Leondas Galinskas, C-79~
Southfield, MI.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE

1. You believe in Santa Claus.
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus.
3. You are Santa Claus.
4. You look like Santa Claus.

Raising teenagers is like nailing
Jell-O to a tree.

Growing old is mandatory; growing
up is optional.

Laughing helps. It's like jogging on
the inside.

Forget the health food. I need all
the preservatives I can get.

SMILE A WHILE

If God had a wallet, your mug shot would be
in it.

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would
be on it!

Doesn't He send you flowers every Spring?

And a sunset every night?

He sent you a present that night in
Bethlehem...and what about the one He gave
you that Friday night on Calvary?

He listens to you every time you speak to Him.

Get used to it kid...He's crazy about you!!!

I'M FINE

There's nothing whatever the matter
with me.

I'm just as healthy as I can be,
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I think my liver is out of whack
And a terrible pain is in my back,
My hearing is poor, my sight is dim,
Most everything seems to be out of trim,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I have arch supports for both my feet.
Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.
Sleeplessness I have night after night,
And in the morning I'm just a sight,
My memory is failing, my head's in
a spin,

I'm peacefully living on aspirin.
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
The moral is, as this tale we unfold,
That for you and me who are growing
old,
It's better to say, 'I'm fine' with a grin
Than to let them know the shape
we're in.



*Best Wishes for a Most Blessed and Merry Christmas
and a very Healthy, Holy and Happy New Year!*

From your Vytis Staff

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*Angelai gied danguje, Skelbia Išganytoją
Betliejū, Dovydo miestelyje, Menkame staldelyje,
Gimus iš Marijos.*