



Vytis - The Knight

Vol. 88 No.1 -sausis/vasaris - Jan./Feb. 2002



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2001-2002**

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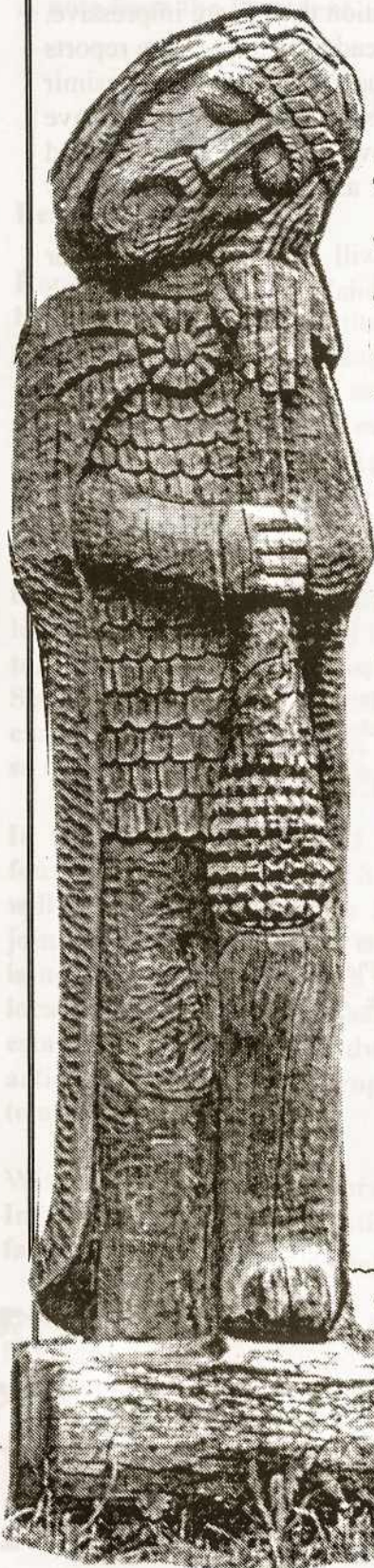
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Mission Statement: The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of our ancestors, and knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.

Turinys ~ Contents



<i>To My Fellow Knights</i>	p.2
<i>President's Note</i>	p.3
<i>Meet Your Supreme Council</i>	p.4
<i>89th National Convention News</i>	p.9
<i>Visit of Maj. Gen. J. Kronkaitis</i>	p.10
<i>Lithuanian Affairs Update</i>	p. 12
<i>Our Lady of Siluva</i>	p. 14
<i>K of L Foundation Essays</i>	p. 16
<i>The Road to Sainthood</i>	p. 18
<i>People in the News</i>	p. 20
<i>"United We Stand"</i>	p. 24
<i>Cardinal Backis Seeks Aid</i>	p. 26
<i>"Knight Life"</i>	p. 27
<i>Greetings</i>	p. 32
<i>District and Council News</i>	p. 34

Cover: Grand Duke Gediminas ably ruled
Lithuania from 1316 to 1341
He founded Vilnius, where he built
a large castle that still stands.

"Rupintojelis"



The Pensive Christ is important in Lithuanian folk tradition, a thoughtful and caring figure.

To My Fellow Knights

The achievements of the Knights of Lithuania organization to date are impressive. One has but to check out the VYTIS convention issue. One reads the impressive reports of the Scholarship Committee, the K of L Foundation, the successes of the St. Casimir Guild, and Aid to Lithuania, Inc. We publish nearly 3000 issues of VYTIS. We have councils throughout the country and members actively involved in individual and community projects everywhere. This is our work together as Fellow Knights. How proud we should be of this!

Throughout this new calendar year, I hope that we will consciously recall our unity as fellow Knights and take pride in the multi-dimensional achievements of each other.

“For God and Country!”

Sister M. Janine

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Sister Janine Golubickis, SSC
Editor, “Vytis”

I have been informed by Rev. Valkavicius about a new book that has been published in 2001: MAKING IT IN AMERICA, (A Sourcebook on Eminent Ethnic Americans). It contains biographies of 90 ethnic Americans, including five entries that are of Lithuanians: Fr. Juozas Zebris, Mother Maria Kaupas, Bronius Kviklys, my Dad Leonard Simutis, and Jack and Loretta Stukas. “Vytis” may be interested in what my Dad and both Loretta and Jack Stukas contributed to the K of L organization and of course, “Vytis.” I was very pleased that Mother Maria was included.

~ Leonard J. Simutis~

Hi Sister,

I just wanted to write to tell you that my dad, John Yanusevicius, passed away on December 9, 2001, after his long, courageous battle with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, (PSP). Please thank all of the many people who sent him letters and cards after my letter was printed in the June, 2001 edition of “Vytis.” All of the interest in him made him feel very happy.

~ Karen Carbone ~

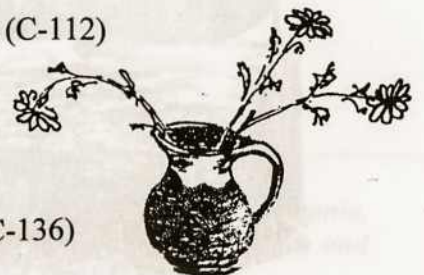
CONVENTION 2001 FLASHBACKS

PRAESIDIUM CHAIRMAN – John Mickunas C-3
PRAESIDIUM CO-CHAIRS - John Mankus C-72 and Elena Nakrosis (C-90)

CONVENTION SECRETARIES – Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas (C-112)
Irene Svekla (C-3)

CONVENTION PHOTOGRAPHER Joseph Stiklius (C-3)

Surfin' to Lithuania PANEL PRESENTER – Bernice Aviza (C-136)



Weren't they just great?

A note from the President....

Laimingų Naujų Metų



Dear Fellow Members,

Here's hoping that your Christmas holidays were good ones and that the New Year will bring you only the best that life has to offer. As we begin this New Year may we look forward to all the upcoming K of L events ahead of us this year. Be it a Local Council or District meeting or social activity, a Supreme Council Meeting or the National Convention, I hope that everyone will make a special effort to attend whichever events they can. Our organization can only continue to function if we have the continued support and dedication of all our members. Your participation and input is vital to our future and we value it.

As you know last year's convention voted to publish *Vytis* BI-monthly this year. I urge you to watch these issues for important information and interesting articles. Sister Janine and her staff are working hard to keep *Vytis* the quality magazine we have become accustomed to. Along those lines, I encourage you to send in your thoughts about *Vytis*, good or bad, to Sister or me. As we've said before, if we don't know what makes you happy or sad, we can't improve on it or fix it if need be. I only ask that you include your name and address so that we can respond back to you personally if needed.

In this issue you will find an introduction to a series of articles about Mother Maria, foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir. It is our hope that after reading these articles you will come to know Mother Maria's life better and see the need for her Beatification and join us in praying for it. You will also find some interesting convention information in this issue as well. Please watch future issues for more information as well as updates at your local council meetings. Lastly, as you may recall the 2001 Convention voted to look into establishing a better worldwide knowledge of *Our Lady of Šiluva*. The first information article about this first European apparition of the Blessed Mother is sure to be of interest to all our members.

With the coming of February, may we all remember to commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day and continue to work for an invitation for her inclusion into NATO this fall.

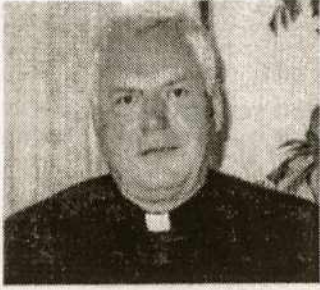
Our next Supreme Council Meeting will be held in Chicago on Saturday, April 6th. If you have any topics you would like your national board to consider, please do not hesitate to send them on to me. I will be happy to bring them up to the rest of the members for you.

Vytiškai,

Rob Martin

President

MEET YOUR 2001-2002 SUPREME COUNCIL



Spiritual Advisor
Rev. Msgr. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM

Msgr. Joe joined the Knights in 1983. He is an active member of Council 3, Philadelphia, PA, and the Amber District. Because of his dedication and commitment to the organization he was elevated to honorary membership in 1999.



President
Robert A. Martin, Jr.

Rob joined the Knights in 1988. He is an active member of Council 16, Chicago, IL, and the Mid-America District. He has been an officer on all levels of the organization. He is also a past president of the Mid-America District. He has worked on numerous national conventions, co-chairing three of them. Rob is a 4th Degree Member.



1st Vice President
Bernice Aviza

Bernice joined the Knights in 1979. She is an active member of Council 136, Albany, NY, and the Mid-Atlantic District. She has held numerous offices on all levels of the organization. Her zeal for the Lithuanian cause has seen her knocking on many doors in her hometown of Albany as well as in Washington, DC. She is truly a credit to us all. Bernice is a 4th Degree Member.



2nd Vice President
Elena Nakrosis

Ellie joined the Knights in 1957. She is an active member of Council 90, Kearny, NJ, and the Mid-Atlantic District. Ellie is a 3rd Degree Member.



3rd Vice President
Annamarie Sluzas-Berger

Annamarie joined the Knights as a Junior. She is an active member of Council 96, Dayton, OH, and the Mid-Central District. She has been active on all levels of the organization. Annamarie is a 3rd Degree Member.



Recording Secretary
Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC

Sr. Johanna joined the Knights in 1998. She is an active member of Council 112, Chicago, IL, and the Mid-America District. Sister continues to serve on all levels of the organization and is the current president of the K of L Choir in Chicago. Sr. is a 2nd Degree Member.

MEET YOUR 2001-2002⁷ SUPREME COUNCIL

**Treasurer
Richard Niedvares**

Richard joined the Knights in 1994. He is an active member of Council 16, Chicago, IL, and the Mid-America District. In the past he has served our organization as national trustee and Vytis Business Manager. Richard is a 3rd Degree Member.



**Financial Secretary
Mark H. Bell**

Mark joined the Knights in 1989. He is an active member of Council 96, Dayton, OH, and the Mic-Central District. He is also a former national trustee. Mark is a 3rd Degree Member.



**Trustee
Agnes Mickunas, HM**

Agnes joined the Knights in 1954. She is an active member of Council 3, Philadelphia, PA, and the Amber District. She has served on all levels of the organization. Nationally, Agnes is a former 1st VP and Rec. Sec. Because of her dedication and commitment to the organization she was elevated to honorary membership in 1998.



**Trustee
Rita Sussko, HM**

Rita joined the Knights in 1978. She is an active member of Council 29, Newark, NJ, and the Mid-Atlantic District. Because of her dedication and commitment to the organization she was elevated to honorary membership this year.



**Archives Chair
William Piacentini**

Bill joined the Knights in 1980. He is an active member of Council 103, Providence, RI, and the New England District. In past years Bill served as the Chair of the National Scholarship Committee. He is a 4th degree member.



**Honorary Membership Chair
Frances R. Petkus, HM**

Fran joined the Knights in 1946. She is an active member of Council 96, Dayton, OH, and the Mid-Central District. Fran has served on all levels of the organization. Nationally, some of her former offices include President and 1st VP. Because of her dedication and commitment to the organization she was elevated to honorary membership in 1989.



MEET YOUR 2001-2002 SUPREME COUNCIL



Amber District President John R. Mankus

John joined the Knights in 1984. He is an active member of Council 72 and the Amber District. He has been active on all levels of the organization including being president of his district. John is a former national president. He is a 4th Degree Member.



Lithuanian Language and Culture Chair Faustas Strolia, HM

Faustas joined the Knights in 1969. He is an active member of Council 157, Lemont, IL, and the Mid-America District where he served as Choir Director for the past forty years. Because of his dedication and commitment to the organization he was elevated to honorary membership in 1995.



Public Relations Chair Regina Juska-Svoba

Regina joined the Knights in 1991. She is an active member of Council 102, Detroit, MI, and the Mid-Central District. Regina has served on all levels of the organization. Regina is a 4th Degree Member.



Ritual Chair Clemencine Miller, HM

Clem joined the Knights in 1974. She is an active member of Council 141, Trumbull, CT, and the New England District. She has served on all levels of the organization and is a past chair of the national Scholarship Committee. Because of her dedication and commitment to the organization, she was elevated to honorary membership in 1998.



Scholarship Chair Irena Gečas-McCarthy

Irena joined the Knights in 1983. She is a member of Council 96, Dayton, OH, and the Mid-Central District. Irena has served on all levels of the organization. Irena is a 3rd Degree Member.



Legal Advisor Saulius V. Kuprys, Esq.

Saulius join the Knights in 1979. He is a member of Council 112, Chicago, IL, (Marquette Park), and the Mid-America District. In addition to serving as our Legal Advisor he is also the current President of ALTAS, and the current Chair of JBANC.

MEET YOUR 2001-2002 SUPREME COUNCIL

Vytis Editor-in-Chief Sr. M. Janine Golubickis, SSC

Sr. Janine joined the Knights in 1976. Sister has been active in not only her home council, Council 82, Gary, IN, but also is active in the activities of Council 157, Lemont, IL. Since taking the reins of Vytis in 2000, she has overseen the transition of the Vytis staff as well as opened an official Vytis Office in Chicago. Her keen eye for business has seen her implementation of many cost saving measures for Vytis and improvements to its already outstanding history as a publication.



Amber District President John R. Mankus

John joined the Knights in 1984. He is an active member of Council 72 and the Amber District. He has been active on all levels of the organization including being president of his district. John is a former national president. He is a 4th Degree Member.



Mid-Atlantic District President Edward Barkowski

Ed joined the Knights in 1986. He is an active member of Council 139 and the Mid-Atlantic District. He has been a past officer of his council and is also a former national treasurer and trustee. Ed is a 4th Degree Member.



Mid-America District President Glenn E. Perutis

Glenn joined the Knights in 1988. He is an active member of Council 36, Chicago, IL, (Brighton Park) and the Mid-America District. Glenn is a past president of Council 16, Chicago, IL, (Bridgeport) and also a many time officer on the local and district levels. He has also served as a past national Public Relations Chair. Glenn is a 4th Degree Member.



Mid-Central District President Frances R. Petkus, HM

Fran joined the Knights in 1946. She is an active member of Council 96, Dayton, OH, and the Mid-Central District. Fran has served on all levels of the organization. Nationally, some of her former offices include President and 1st VP. Because of her dedication and commitment to the organization, she was elevated to honorary membership in 1989.



New England District President Joseph Stiklius

Joe joined the Knights in 1991. Joe is active in his home council, Council 7, Waterbury, CT and the New England District. He has been active on the local and district levels. He is a past convention committee chair and has always been willing to assist when asked. Joe is a 4th Degree Member.



MEET YOUR 2001-2002 SUPREME COUNCIL



Aid to Lithuania, Inc. President Regina Juska-Svoba

Regina joined the Knights in 1991. She is an active member of Council 102, Detroit, MI, and the Mid-Central District. Regina has served on all levels of the organization. Whenever called upon you can always count on Regina to see a project through. She has held offices on all levels of the organization and is truly a credit to us all. Regina is a 4th Degree Member.



St. Casimir Guild President Anna Klizas Wargo, HM

Ann joined the Knights in 1976. Since joining she has been an active member on all levels. She is a past president of her district, Amber, her Council, Council 144 and a past National President. Whether it is chairing a dinner, selling raffle tickets or clean-up crew, Ann never refuses to pitch in. Is it any wonder that her dedication to the K of L earned her the respect and admiration of her fellow members! Ann was elevated to honorary membership during the national convention in Chicago in 1994.



Knights of Lithuania Foundation President Loretta Stukas, HM

Loretta is a long time member of the Knights and is certainly no stranger to any of us. Active on all levels of the organization since joining, first in the Mid-America District and later in the Mid-Atlantic District, Loretta has been one of the definitions of dedication within our organization. She is a Past National President and has always been willing to offer her help, assistance and advice when called upon. It was because of her foresight that we developed the K of L Foundation. Under her leadership it has continued to grow and prosper to always insure that our organization stays strong. Because of her dedicated love of our organization she was elevated to honorary membership.

MANY THANKS TO...



Thanks to both, Irene Svekla and Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC, for accepting the position of Secretaries for the 88th K of L National Convention. Great job, Vytes!



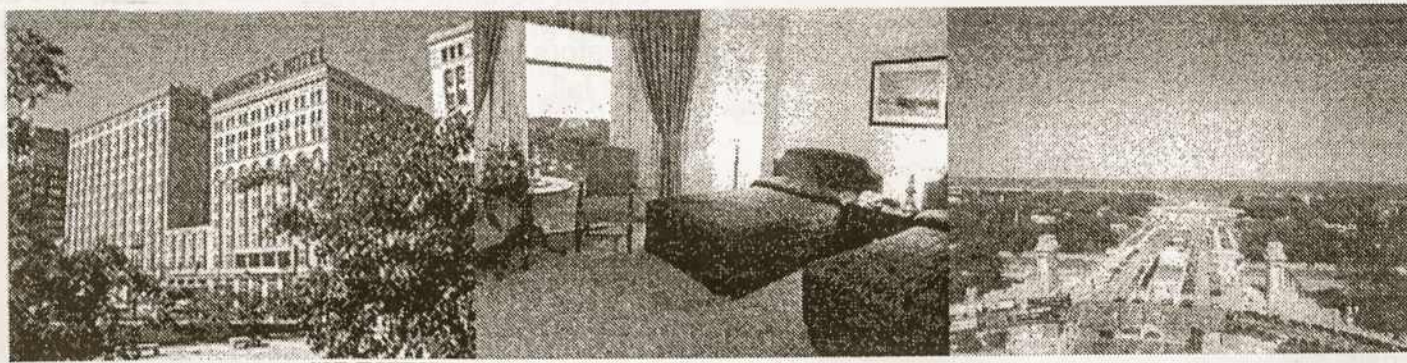
Thanks to our terrific roaming photographer for the 88th K of L National Convention in Florida, Mr. Joseph Stiklius. You did a really magnificent job, Joe!



We know it's early but we just can't wait to welcome you to **CHICAGO**. So to begin to wet your appetite for this year's convention, below is a little information about our hotel site, borrowed from their website, www.CongressHotel.com. Also, in case you want to beat the crowd, we've included some room reservation information for you as well. We are looking forward to seeing you at the convention August 1-4, 2002.

Knights of Lithuania Council 16

History of the Congress Plaza Hotel



Front View of Hotel

View of Standard Double Room

Lake View from Hotel

The Congress Hotel was built in 1893 for the Columbian World's Exposition. It's architecture was designed to blend with that of the Auditorium Theatre, and the hotel itself at one time was connected to the theatre, prior to the construction of the Congress Parkway. Architecture students from all over the world today come to Chicago to study the architecture of the Congress Plaza Hotel. Clinton J. Warren was the architect of our north tower, with Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler serving as consultants. Our south tower, constructed in 1902 and 1907, was designed by the renowned architectural firm Holabird and Roche (now Holabird and Root).

Many famous people have stayed at the Congress Plaza Hotel, including U.S. Presidents Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt. The world famous Gold Room has hosted many historical events. Other well-known guests of the Congress Plaza Hotel include Jean Harlow, Thomas Edison, Benny Goodman, Ruby Davis, Ossie Davis, Bruce Springsteen and Frank Lloyd Wright. Also actor Dennis Franz of "NYPD Blue" and "Hill Street Blues" fame was once a Congress Plaza Hotel employee.

The Congress Plaza Hotel became part of the Albert Pick hotel family in 1950, and was known as the Pick Congress. Later, the hotel adopted the Americana Hotel franchise, and was known as the Americana Congress. In 1994, the Congress Plaza Hotel became part of the Ramada franchise, was known as the Ramada Congress Hotel. Recently renovated in 1998, the Congress Plaza Hotel, independently owned, changed the name to The Congress Plaza Hotel & Convention Center a popular place to stay for convention, business, and leisure travelers.

The Congress Plaza Hotel is located across from Grant Park and the world famous Buckingham Fountain. At the corner of Congress Parkway and Michigan Avenue, the hotel is just a short stroll from The Art Institute of Chicago, the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum of Natural History, as well as Chicago's Magnificent Mile. State Street (That Great Street) shopping, with the landmark Marshall Field's, is just a few blocks away. Chicago's beautiful lakefront can be seen from many of the hotel's guest rooms.

Please watch future issues of Vytis for more exciting information about the convention!!!!

Hotel Information:

Congress Hotel & Convention Center
 520 South Michigan Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois 60605
 Phone: 312 427-3800 or 800 635-1666

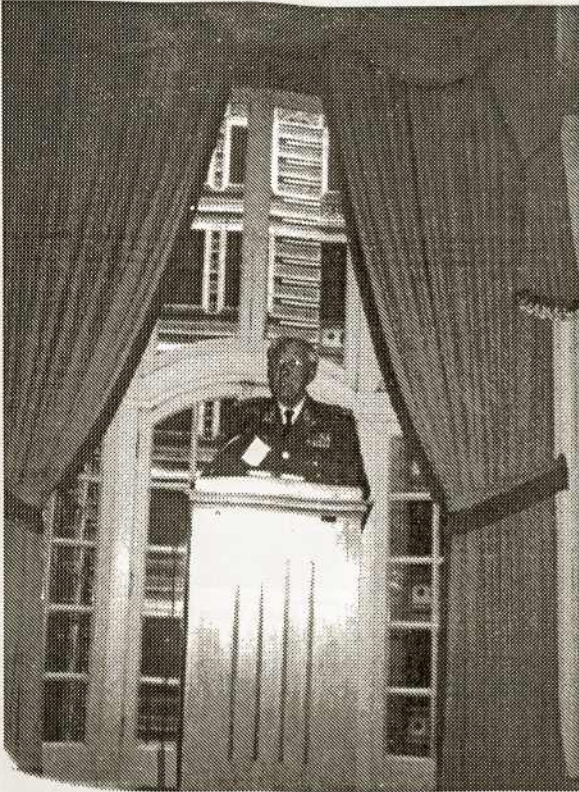
Convention room rate:

Single/Double: \$109.00 plus tax
 Add'l. person: \$25.00
 Suite: Call hotel for pricing

Please remember:

You must identify yourself as Knights of Lithuania to get the convention rate. Reservation deadline is June 30, 2002.

Visit of Major General Jonas Kronkaitis to Chicago, IL



Major General Jonas Kronkaitis addresses the luncheon participants

On weekend of September 28-30, 2001 Major General Jonas Kronkaitis paid a visit to the city of Chicago. Major General Kronkaitis is the Commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Lithuania. On Friday, the 28th at the invitation of the Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania and the Lithuanian American Council, I, along with many other Knights of Lithuania members, had the honor of attending a luncheon in the Major General's honor. As part of the luncheon's program all of us present were honored to hear the Major General's address.

During his speech he reiterated to all of us present the importance of Lithuania's inclusion into NATO along with her Baltic sisters and other aspirant nations. He urged us to keep working here in the United States to insure that our representatives in Congress as well as our Senators support their bid for admittance come next fall.



K of L'ers at luncheon – (L-R) Saulis Kuprys [C-112], Salema Daulys [C-36], Mary Kincius [C-36], Rob Martin [C-16], Major General Kronkaitis, Ellie Kasputis [C-112], Honorary Consul General Stanley Balzekas [C-36], Scottie Zukas [C-36], Robert Damashauskas [C-36] and Evelyn Ozelis [C-36].

So, once again we call upon you to continue writing letters supporting their bid to your elected officials. Now more than ever does their bid need our help. With the tragic events of September 11th which have given our government a much more important national issue to deal with, it is important to keep NATO expansion "on the front burner" before our government officials and not allow this issue to become lost in the shuffle.

– Rob Martin

10th Anniversary Celebration of the re-establishment of USA-Lithuania Relations

On Monday, September 10, 2001, a reception was held on Capitol Hill to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the re-establishment of US-Lithuanian formal relations. Several members of the US Senate and House, notably Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois, hosted the reception. Approximately two hundred people were in attendance including members of the diplomatic core. Representing the Knights of Lithuania were: Rob Martin, SC President; Bernice Aviza, SC 1st VP; Saulius Kuprys, K of L Legal Advisor and ALTAS President; John Mankus, SC Lithuanian Affairs Chair and Amber District President and Grace Mankus.



L-R: John Mankus, President Adamkus, Rob Martin, Bernice Aviza & Saulius Kuprys

During the festivities congratulatory speeches were given including an address by President Adamkus and Senator Durbin. While the mood was festive and celebrated the past ten years of development for Lithuania, the importance of her inclusion into NATO this fall was stressed. The evening was truly a historic event for all who attended.



L-R: Bernice Aviza, John Mankus, Sen. Richard Durbin, Rob Martin & Grace Mankus



L-R: Mr. Dan Freid, Saulius Kuprys, Rob Martin & Bernice Aviza

Earlier that same day both Bernice and I had the opportunity to be in attendance at a meeting in the Old Executive Office Building of the heads of Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian organizations here in the US with senior members of the Bush Administration including Mr. Dan Freid of the National Security Council. At this meeting the petitions requesting support for NATO membership for all three Baltic republics were formally presented to the Bush Administration. All left the meeting with a sense of reserved optimism as we await the NATO Summit this fall. Let us all continue to work and pray to make NATO membership for Lithuania a reality.

- Rob Martin, SC President



Members of the Baltic Organizations with Mr. Dan Freid on the steps of the Old Executive Office Building

Lithuanian Affairs Update -

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



Post September 11 events

-The vulnerability of the Ignalina Soviet-built nuclear power plant to terrorist attacks is of great concern to the Lithuanian government, despite security upgrades following the September 11 events in United States. The Ignalina Nuclear Power Station is located 130 kilometers north of Vilnius. President Adamkus met with government leaders, addressing possible accidental and terrorist attacks. In recent weeks, antiaircraft guns have been placed around the perimeter of the plant and a no-fly zone has been declared in the vicinity. Additional guards have also been stationed at the plant. The meetings at the president's palace also included the giant Mazeikiai Oil Refinery, which handles the bulk of the oil products processed and exported in Lithuania

- Lithuania is to send 12 medical doctors to the Czech military field hospital in Afghanistan as Lithuanian contribution to the anti terrorist efforts.

President Valdas Adamkus

- President **Valdas Adamkus**, conferred the Order of the Lithuanian **Grand Duke Gediminas**, one of Lithuania's highest state medals on **Strobe Talbott**, Professor of Yale University, former US deputy Secretary of State. Talbott, an adviser to former President Bill Clinton, is a strong advocate **for**

Lithuania's membership in NATO. President Valdas Adamkus presented Talbott with the Order of Grand Duke Gediminas at an awards ceremony in Vilnius, *"I thank you on behalf of the entire nation"*. Lithuanian officials are very optimistic about receiving an invitation to join the alliance during next year's NATO summit in Prague, the Czech capital. Talbott said that he also shared those high hopes. *"I am very optimistic about next year."*

- President **Valdas Adamkus** met with **Lord Russell Johnston**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and discussed the issues relating to Lithuania's chairmanship in the CE Council of Ministers, human rights in Lithuania and the international situation. During the working breakfast Lord Russell Johnston commended Lithuania on progress in building a democratic state. *"Within a surprisingly short time from beneficiary Lithuania has become a contributor,"* President of the CE Parliamentary Assembly said. The President also informed Lord Russell Johnston about Lithuania's efforts to ensure respect for human rights and measures taken to combat illicit trafficking in human beings and drugs.

- Lithuanian President **Valdas Adamkus** urged Eastern Europe countries to do more to stem illegal trade across their borders and via banks used by terrorists. *"Corruption, drug trafficking, money laundering, illegal migration, organized crime are just a few areas our countries have been working hard but rather ineffectively at,"* said the President at a 16-nation Warsaw conference on terrorism. *"Our cooperation can be especially effective in shutting down the channels that feed terrorist networks."* Adamkus, who was in Washington on September 11 and saw the Pentagon burning after it was attacked, said ex-communist states should do all they can to aid the U.S. in its war on terrorism. *"In times of need, our nations have always looked to America for support ,he said "Now America needs our support and they must get it-lasting and unwavering. "*

-Analysts from the influential Brookings Institution in Washington have reportedly thrown their support behind **Baltic NATO membership**, BNS reported. It said the Baltic states, Slovakia and Slovenia should be invited next year, while Romania and Bulgaria should be told they will be next in line. A paper on the think tank's web said the Baltic states should be admitted as a bloc, arguing that the move now had widespread support in the United States and Europe, and that Russian objections were less vehement than earlier.

- A total of 3.2 million foreigners visited Lithuania during the first nine months of this year. a rise of 1.5

percent over the same period last year. The **Lithuanian State Tourism Department** also insisted that the September 11th events in the United States did not dent the interest of tourists. It said a total of 363,400 foreigners visited Lithuania in September, up by 3.1 percent over last year.

- **Vilnius**, to many Jews, was known as the **Jerusalem of the North**, for its thriving Yiddish language theaters, libraries and schools that clustered around the 17th-century buildings of the Jewish quarter. Today, very few traces of the city's rich Jewish past remain. "*Where's the Jewish face of Vilnius?*" sighed Lithuanian Jewish leader, **Emanuelis Zingeris** on a recent tour of the area. "*Jewish shops and cafes once filled these streets. Now, nothing.*" In September (2000), while serving in parliament, Zingeris pushed a plan through the legislature to restore scores of Jewish landmarks destroyed during the Nazi occupation. Zingeris, a recent Lithuanian parliamentarian who now chairs the **Jewish Cultural Fund**, said the restoration will be a fitting memorial to the thousands of Lithuanian Jews killed during Nazi occupation.

Mazeikiai Oil update

- Lithuania's **Mazeikiai Oil** is the largest company anywhere in the Baltic states. With a gross revenue approaching 1 billion dollars a year. It is the most important company in Lithuania. It includes an oil refinery, a pipeline and an oil import-export terminal and accounts for approximately eight percent of all economic activity in Lithuania. A sale of 33 percent of **Mazeikiai Oil** was made to U.S. based **Williams International** last year, the sale was highly controversial. It even led to the collapse of one government in late 1999. Critics said the sale was badly thought out and would damage the economy. Recently, Prime Minister Brazauskas caused an uproar in a session of the parliament by saying that official salary of **Mazeikiu Nafta** executives was only 430 litas, therefore, they paid no taxes to the government. According to unofficial information, the executives of the company earn more than a ten times that amount. Nationalists also argued Lithuania was selling out to foreigners and that such a vital enterprise should be kept entirely in Lithuanian hands. Proponents argued that only the American investors were in a position to save the technologically outdated company with promised injections of hundreds of millions of dollars. Still others argued that the American connection would boost national security by entrenching Lithuania even more firmly in the Western camp.

NATO activity

- As recently as a year or two ago, the three Baltic countries were still seen as long shots for **NATO** membership, mainly because of vehement Russian opposition to their entry. But there is growing optimism that the Baltic states now have excellent chances of entering the alliance and much sooner rather than later; officials say they're confident they'll be invited to join during next year's **NATO** summit in Prague. "*The signals are strong. We're optimistic that the year 2002 will be the year of Baltic accession,*" said Lithuanian Foreign Ministry spokesman Petras Zapolskas. Many hardened **NATO** watchers appear to agree. **Nicholas Redman**, a defense analyst in England for the **Oxford Analytica**, said he was more bullish about Baltic prospects now, than just a few months ago. "*While the outlook could change, I think it's more likely than not that all three Baltics will get invitations in 2002,*" he said.

- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** has suggested that **he wouldn't try to stop Baltic membership in NATO**, though he insisted expansion to the region is a bad idea, BNS reported. Asked on a live discussion aired on America's NPR radio about Baltic membership, Putin responded by saying that NATO was set up to counteract the Soviet Union and so it no longer had the same value. But pressed by NPR's Robert Siegel specifically on the question of Baltic entry into the U.S. led alliance, Putin said: "*We, of course, are not in a position to tell people what to do. We cannot forbid people to make certain choices if they want to increase the security of their nations in a particular way.*"



Prayer to Our Lady of Šiluva

O most Holy Virgin Mary, you who appeared to the shepherds in the fields at Šiluva, you whose tears bathed the rock where once an altar stood, you who with plaintive voice said: "You plow and seed here where formerly my Son was honored," grant that we, moved by your tears may once, as our forefathers did, revive the spirit of adoration of your Son in our fallow hearts, strengthen the tottering structure of the shrine which is the family, and seek forgiveness for the negligences and sins of our nation.

Lietuvos Vyčiai - Knights of Lithuania

(XXI amžius - Atnaujintas 2001m. gruodžio 12d)

Lietuvos Vyčius vienija daugiausia JAV gimusieji, kurie palaiko lietuviškus papročius, tradicijas ir didžiuojasi savo protėvių kultūrą. Anglų kalba (daugiau nei 3000 egz. tirazu) leidžia mėnesinį žurnalą "Vytis-The Knight." Organizacija įkurta 1913 metais ir pasižymi gausia vargšų šalpa Lietuvai, ypač religinėms institucijoms: įsisūnijo 17 studentų iš Šv. Juozapo seminarijos Vilniuje, vaistų ir kitų medicinos reikmenų išsiuntė net už 68 milijonus dolerių, remia lietuviškas mokyklas. Kasmet rengia Lietuvos Vyčių suvažiavimus-konvencijas (2002 metais 89-asis suvažiavimas numatytas Čikagoje), I kuriuos atvyksta atstovai is JAV. Lietuvos Vyčiai susiburė I daugiau nei 50 kuopų ivairiose JAV vietovese. Visos kuopos veikia savarankiskai. Dabartinis Vyčių pirminikas yra Robertas A. Martinas.

Rugpjūčio 2-5 dienomis suvažiavime (88-oje konvencijoje), kuris įvyko Lake Buena Vista, Floridoje, buvo priimta rezoliucija: visam pasauliui paskelbti informaciją apie Švc. Mergelės Marijos apsireiškimą Šiluvoje. Lietuvos Vyčiai ruošia ypatingai reikšmingą projektą - įamžinti Šiluvos Švc. Mergelės Marijos apsireiškimą (1608 m.). Interneto svetainėje, toje vietoje, kur kalbama apie kitus apsireiškimus (Lurdo 1858 m., Fatimos 1917 m. ir kt.), anglų kalba papasakoti apie Šiluvą. Pagal kun. Stasio Ylos knygą, parašyta 1953 metais, Švc. Mergelės Marijos apsireiškimas Šiluvoje buvo pirmas Europoje ir antras pasaulyje. Pirmasis Švc. Mergelės Marijos apsireiškimas pripažintas Gvadelpėje, Meksikoje (1531m.) (zr. Internte: www.theworkofgod.org/Aparitns/Aparitns.htm). Čia išvardijami Gvadelpės, Lurdos, Fatimos ir kiti Švc. Mergelės Marijos apsireiškimai ir Katalikų Bažnyčios Sprendimas Vatikane. Šiluva turėtų būti paminėta po Gvadelpės.

Ruošiant šį reikšmingą projektą dalyvauja pasižymėjusios Lietuvos Vyčių veikėjos, Loreta Stukas, Elinos Sluzas, Evelyn Ozelis ir kiti. 2002 metais pasaulio katalikai (kurių yra per milijarda) bus supažindinti su Šiluvos apsireiškimu. Šiuo metu internete su didelėmis pastangomis galima surasti šiek tiek anksčiau pateiktos informacijos apie Šiluvą, bet reikia žinoti Šiluvos vardą. Kitokius atvejų surasti labai sunku. Kai Šiluvos apsireiškimas atsiras Švc. Mergelės Marijos apsireiškimų svetainės pagrindiniame Katalikų Bažnyčios sąraše, su kuriuo bus sujungtas visa kita informacija apie Šiluvą, tai pasaulio katalikų sluoksniuose sukels didelį susidomėjimą. Tada tikriausiai padaugės maldininkų kelionių į Lietuvą iš svetur. Ypač maldininkai norės aplankyti pirmąją Švc. Mergelės apsireiškimo vietą Europoje! Greitu laiku sukaks 400 metų (2008m.) nuo Šiluvos apsireiškimo. Kažin ar tam įvykiui kitos JAV lietuvių religinės organizacijos ruošiasi? Iš pradžių reikėtų lankstinukų ir vaizdajuostes apie šį apsireiškimą, atlaidus ir kitos informacijos bent anglų kalba, o vėliau - ir kitomis kalbomis. Lietuvos Vyčiai atliks pavyzdinę darbą papildydami dokumentinę informaciją internete apie Šiluvos šventovę ir garsindami Lietuvą pasaulyje. Lietuvos Vyčiai atlieka šventą darbą. Testiprėja jų indelis katalikiškai Lietuvai!

Algis LIEPINITIS

Our Lady of Šiluva

(This is a condensed version of the Lithuanian article on this subject which was written by Algis Liepinaitis (C-157) and sent to DRAUGAS and other Lithuanian publications).

During the 2001 national Knights of Lithuania Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, the following resolution was passed regarding Our Lady of Šiluva.

WHEREAS...Our Blessed Lady appeared in ŠILUVA, 200 years before Lourdes and Fatima, and

WHEREAS...devotion to our Lady of Šiluva is not well-known,

WHEREAS...we wish to continue our investigative work in furthering the devotion to Our Lady of Šiluva throughout the world, **BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the delegates to the 88th National Convention unanimously support this endeavor.

To this end, the K of L committee is endeavoring to disseminate the story of Our Lady of Šiluva on the Internet. The Lourdes apparitions of 1858 and the Fatima apparitions of 1917 are available, but not that of Šiluva where Our Lady appeared as early as 1608. According to Rev. Stasys Yla's account, the appearance of Our Lady in Šiluva was the first recorded in Europe

and the second in the world. The first apparition of Mary took place in Guadalupe, Mexico in 1531.

(www.theworkofgod.org/Aparitns/Aparitns.htm) This website describes the apparitions of Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima and others, and explains the Vatican decisions regarding them.

Participating energetically in this project to place Šiluva on a website are, Loretta Stukas (C-29), Elinor Sluzas (C-96), and Evelyn Ozelis (C-36). (Also, Algis Liepinaitis (C-157).

Once the information surfaces on the Internet, more people will know about the first European Marian apparition in Šiluva, and will want to visit and pray at this shrine. The 400-year anniversary of these apparitions will take place soon, in 2008. Hopefully, other organizations will enter this work.

The Knights of Lithuania are to be commended for preparing the documentary information about Šiluva for the Internet, and thereby, making Lithuania known to other peoples of the world. The Knights of Lithuania have undertaken a sacred task. May God bless the enterprise.



Council 157's new officers pledging the oath being administered by Honorary Member, Faustus Strolija.

Knights of Lithuania
Foundation Essay Contest
Second Place Winner



"Words"

There are many ways of acquiring a foreign language. My learning Lithuanian as an adult is somewhat unusual in that I am building up vocabulary via biblical Lithuanian. Here is how it came about.

The Lithuanian language lector at my parish church died. For quite a while, there was no successor.

I pondered the situation. What strength did I possess to succeed the previous lector? First, I was familiar with oral Lithuanian. I spoke it as a child. My parents, with whom I dwelled, spoke it sporadically throughout their lives. Lithuanian readings of gospels reached my ears at Sunday Mass. I retained knowledge of Lithuanian pronunciation after having heard it all my life. A weakness, though, was that I had not read Lithuanian all that time.

Second, I considered my experience with other foreign languages. At university, I majored in German and minored in French, which I mastered by matching written word with spoken sound. My ear for foreign languages was an asset. I felt confident that I could master matching written Lithuanian words with already familiar spoken Lithuanian sounds. A weakness, however, was that the extent of my Lithuanian vocabulary was less than 100 words at the time.

After tallying my strengths and weaknesses and praying to God, I volunteered to be Lithuanian language lector at my parish church. The result was that my pastor leapt at the opportunity to fill the vacancy.

My pastor and I arranged audio taping sessions of Antrasis skaitinys. He read. I listened and took notes while my recorder taped the readings. I took the audio tape home, played it, and wrote down Lithuanian phonetically. I read the phonetic version a few times, then opened my Misiolelis and matched the written Lithuanian words to the sounds I had learned from the tape. I translated the Lithuanian into English by using a Lithuanian/English dictionary. I practiced daily until I was satisfied with my enunciation.

They say practice makes perfect. My hours of reading practice have led to success in the pulpit. By tedious, yet worthwhile repetition, I have added many words to my Lithuanian vocabulary. You'd be surprised how much biblical vocabulary can carry over into everyday speech.

Another, even greater benefit has come to me because of lectoring. I have drawn ever more close to my God. After I read in Lithuanian for the very first time on February 4, 2001, I felt I had experienced a Roman Catholic "bat mitzvah." I had spiritually become an "adult." I was God's instrument. It was His Word that I read, not mere human words. My Lithuanian diction and emphasis aided the congregation in attending to God's Word, heeding it, and practicing it in their lives. It is, first and foremost, for the honor and glory of God that I read. Growth in my Lithuanian vocabulary is an accompaniment.

Dekojame Dievui! Praise to the Spirit who prompted me to lector and to build my Lithuanian vocabulary on His Word!

-Stephany Gutauskas, C-3
Philadelphia, Pa. -



Knights of Lithuania Foundation
ESSAY - THIRD PLACE WINNER

"Keeping Our Heritage Alive"

Nationality: Lithuanian

The answer is plain and simple. One single word. But one that furrows the brow and causes puzzled looks.

"You're what?" - "Latvian?" - "No, LITHUANIAN!"

"Where's that?" "You mean Polish?" - "No, LITHUANIAN!"

We answer that question matter of factly -. As second and third generation Lithuanian-Americans, perhaps we ourselves really don't know who we are. Most of the world knows of Lithuania only as a small, once Russian dominated Baltic country of "peasants."

We know that our parents were Lithuanian, our grandparents and how many generations before them, we can only guess. But, what does it mean to be a Lithuanian? How has our heritage molded who we are and what we've become?

With the passing of our parents and grandparents, the language is seldom, if ever, spoken—and usually only when secrets are trying to be told. The customs and traditions of the holidays are lost in the contemporary celebration of the season. Whatever happened to our folklore and mythology? Stories that have gone to the grave with the teller.

We are a Christian people, but also ones that have clung to the remnants of our pagan past - love of earth and the power of the universe. We cherish the fruits of our hard labors and the nurturing of home and family. We are a warm and loving people - industrious, artistic and mystical.

Being Lithuanian is in the spirit of the soul, intertwining with DNA's genetic coding to make us who we are, each



uniquely different, but with the basic thread of heritage that joins us together.

Consciously or subconsciously, we are aware of who we are. At some point in our lives, sooner or later, we must face the fact of our heritage. It might be the simple answer to the question of nationality on some tedious form, or the laborious task of searching for one's roots through genealogical research, with each bit of information like another piece of the puzzle.

If our ancestors did not have the courage to change their lives, we would not be who and where we are today.

Some may say, "Who cares?" That is the past. Our grandparents came to America to start a new life - why should we search for the old? Well, I care. This is important to me because being the eldest child in the family, I remember my grandparents better than my younger siblings do, and now that I am getting older, I can better appreciate and understand the events and people in my life.

Over the past 10 years, I have researched our Lithuanian "family tree" and recorded Lithuanian history, customs and traditions for my family. I am trying to keep our heritage alive and celebrate the people that we are. This is my legacy to my family - to give them a deeper understanding and appreciation of their Lithuanian heritage.

-Barbara Plungis Shupenis, C-7
Waterbury, CT.~



Mother Maria Kaupas



The Road to Sainthood

Chronology of the Life of Mother Maria

1880 January 6 - Casimira Kaupas born in Ramygala, Lithuania.

1902 October 27 - Casimira Kaupas begins training with Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross. Ingenbohl, Switzerland.

1905 November 2 - Casimira and two companions receive religious training with Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA.

1907 April 19 - Pope Pius X approved establishment of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Casimir.

1907 August 30 - Profession of Mother Maria Kaupas, Mother Immaculata Dvaranauskas, Mother Concepta Unguraitis.

1907 October 7 - First school opened at Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania.

1909 Most Reverend E.J. Quigley, Archbishop of Chicago, selected site for Motherhouse in Chicago.

1911 Motherhouse in Chicago dedicated. St. Casimir Academy opened in the Motherhouse.

1913 Mother Maria Kaupas elected first Superior General of Sisters of St. Casimir.

1920 Mother Maria and four sisters establish a foundation of the Sisters of St. Casimir in Pazaislis, Lithuania.

1928 Mother Maria begins healthcare ministry at Holy Cross Hospital, Chicago, IL

1932 Villa Joseph Marie High School for Girls opens in Newtown, Pennsylvania.

1933 Lithuanian Government bestows highest decoration, the Order of the Grand Duke Gediminas, on Mother Maria, SSC, in recognition of her work for the Lithuanians in America

1933 Mother Maria diagnosed with cancer.

1934 The Lithuanian Sisters of St. Casimir separate from the U.S. Foundation.

1937 The Congregation's apostolate broadens to non-Lithuanian parishes with the opening of two schools in New Mexico.

1940 Mother Maria dies in Chicago.

*Significant Dates in the Process
for the*

*Beatification and Canonization of
Mother Maria Kaupas*



1943 Archbishop Samuel Stritch of Chicago grants imprimatur for prayer of beatification for Mother Maria Kaupas.

1980 John Cardinal Cody of Chicago receives permission from the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints to prepare materials for the beatification & canonization process.

1986 June Maria Kaupas named "Servant of God"

1995 November Petition of SSC Superior General to introduce the Cause of Beatification of Maria Kaupas.

1996 March Rome grants approval to proceed with the Cause of Beatification of Maria Kaupas.

1999 May Exhumation of Maria Kaupas from St. Casimir Cemetery in Chicago, IL. Her blessed remains were placed in a newly built white carrara marble sarcophagus in the SSC Motherhouse Chapel.

2000 February Sister Margaret Petcavage, Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Mother Maria completes the "Positio," 972 pages

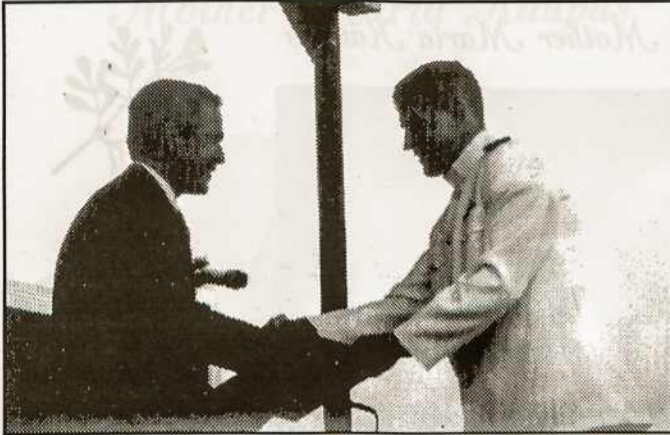
that reveal the heroic and virtuous life of Mother Maria.

2000 October Positio printed. The Relator General, Rev. Ambrose Eszer, OP, wrote a wonderful presentation for the beginning of the book. The Positio now goes to a Commission for further investigation and will need to be "defended" by the Promoter of Faith. If Positio is accepted by the Commission and receives approval of the Holy Father, Mother Maria will then be declared "Venerable."

2001 Cardinal Francis George personally delivered the completed "Positio" to Pope John Paul II.

2002 Those interested in learning more of the Cause for Beatification may contact: Sister Margaret Petcavage, 2601 W. Marquette Road, Chicago, IL, 60629, or visit the Sisters of St. Casimir website: www.ssc2601.com.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS...

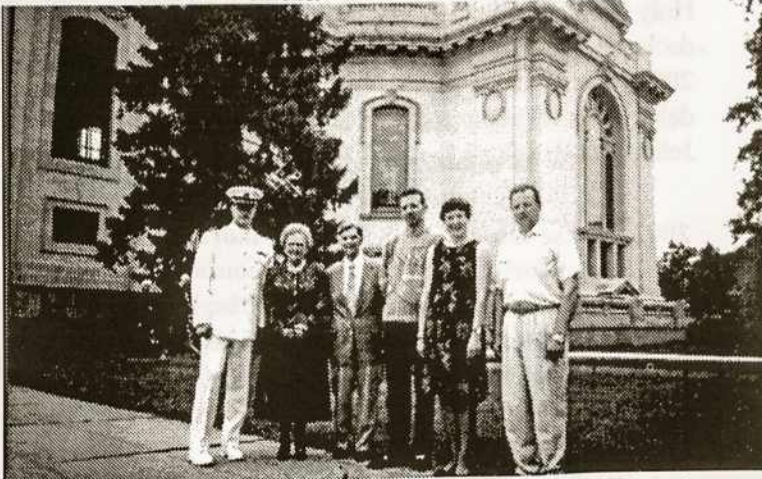


Vytenis receiving his diploma from President George W. Bush

Vytenis Benetis of Siauliai, Lithuania, graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy, on May 25, 2001. Vytenis was awarded a fellowship from the University of Maryland, to pursue a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering.

Rita and Joseph Kapurch, members of Council 142, Washington, D.C., have been the proud sponsor parents for the four years of study and are presently also sponsoring Jonas Slaucys from Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Upon graduation, these Lithuanian students receive their commission in the Lithuanian Navy, and have a 5-year commitment.



From left to right: Lt. V. Benetis, Rita & Joseph Kapurch, Vilius, Violeta, Vidmantas, parents from Siauliai, Lietuva.

100 Years of Service for God and Country

Holy Trinity Parish, Newark, New Jersey



L.toR.: Rev. Peter M. Uhde, Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Rev. James Sherrin, Rev. John D. Dennehy

In September, 2001, Holy Trinity Lithuanian Parish of Newark, New Jersey, celebrated 100 years of existence. A major source of energy for the parish is the Knights of Lithuania Council 29, whose members are usually at the helm of parish activities, and who work hard to keep the parish alive and Lithuanian! As a tribute to the parish and C-29 members, we offer some highlights of Holy Trinity's history.

The early Lithuanian immigrants to various cities of the US found themselves in a strange land, where the customs, language, work and people were different, and turned to their religion, whose traditions they had grown up with, for consolation. In 1887, the 25 families of early immigrants to the Newark, NJ area were granted permission to establish a parish, to be named Holy Trinity. They planned to have a church around which to organize and thus maintain their culture in a foreign land.

Initially, the families worshipped in various churches of Newark, until they were able to purchase a plot of land at 205 Adams St., with



HOLY TRINITY PARISH COUNCIL - L.to R.:
 Front row: Rita Sussko, Vytautas Miknevičius,
 Ann O'Neill, Pres., Marie Guoba. Back row:
 Emilija Sadonis, Jennie Miklasavage, Helen
 Radisch.

the help of the Lithuanian-American St. George Society of Newark. A small 40x90 foot wooden church was built on the plot. The first church services in the new church were held on September 25, 1901, with Holy Trinity's first pastor, Rev. Zebris, presiding. The structure would later be used as a parish hall.

As most immigrant parishes of that period, Holy Trinity's first years were not without problems. Although by 1904, the parish congregation grew to more than 700, mostly newly-arrived immigrants, the parish experienced financial and leadership problems. Pastors were changed frequently, new buildings were started, but parish debts stalled their completion. A new rectory was built in 1905, a new brick church was begun in 1917.

In 1922, at the urging of the parishioners, Bishop O'Conner gave the parish another chance to survive by appointing Msgr. Ignotas Kelmelis as pastor. Msgr. Kelmelis breathed a new life into the parish, by organizing parish meetings, and providing spiritual help for all. He managed to pay off the debts, complete construction of the church, and put the parish back on its feet.

The new church was a magnificent sight to behold! Three marble altars, the main one in honor of the Holy Trinity, the others, in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, were decorated with beautiful paintings and statues. Stations of the Cross reflected the deep love for God held by the Lithuanian people.

In 1963, the parish hall, with two floors, was built, and became a cultural center.

Although there was no school, the Lithuanian Franciscan Sisters provided the parish youth with a solid religious foundation and the Lithuanian language on weekends. K of L C-29 also erected a beautiful Lithuanian Cross on the parish grounds, next to the new hall, which remains as a symbol of the parish's Lithuanian heritage.

When Msgr. Kelmelis retired in 1968, a "native son" of Holy Trinity, Msgr. John Scharnus returned as pastor of Holy Trinity. He reduced the parish debt substantially, and kept the parish active as a religious and cultural center. He put Vatican II recommended changes into effect. The parish celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 1976, with Archbishop Gerity and many priests and parishioners in attendance at the Mass and Banquet.

On New Year's Day, 1981, an electrical fire damaged Holy Trinity Church fatally, and the church was demolished. The lower hall of the parish center was converted into a church, with the use of some of the salvageable art work and equipment from the burned church. Services continue there.

On March 4, 1984, the parish commemorated the 500th Anniversary of the death of St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania, with a Mass and Banquet. This commemoration continues to be an annual tradition observed in March, under the auspices of the Knights of Lithuania.

After Msgr. Scharnus' retirement, the parish again experienced frequent change of management, but held firm in its determination to stay alive. In 1995, Rev. Peter Uhde was appointed administrator. He also served as administrator of the Portuguese parish of the Epiphany, who still do not have their own church, but use the facilities of another church in the Ironbound district of Newark. A wonderful friendship developed between Epiphany's Portuguese parishioners and the Lithuanians of Holy Trinity. The Portuguese youth serve at Mass, assist at other services, and help with grounds-keeping at Holy Trinity. The adults of Epiphany help maintain Holy Trinity parish facilities. In return, they use Holy Trinity parish facilities when needed. This fall, Rev. Uhde was transferred to another parish, and Rev. Clement Klug, CSSR, was assigned pastor of Holy Trinity, and immediately, another

wonderful friendship formed between clergy and parishioners.

Rev. Klug is a native-born American and New Jersey-ite of German Descent. He was ordained into the Redemptorist Order in 1965, and spent the last 34 years serving in Brazil. At the request of Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, then Archbishop of Newark, he returned to the US and agreed to be pastor of Holy Trinity Lithuanian R.C. Church, and also of the Church of the Epiphany. He has also agreed to serve as Spiritual Advisor of K of L C-29. Not only the K of L, but all the parishioners are grateful for his arrival.

Holy Trinity proudly celebrated its Centennial with a Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Rev. Peter Uhde, Rev. James Sherrin, and Rev. John Dennehy, and an elegant banquet in May, and then with a beautiful concert in October, by the "Azuoliukas" Boys' Choir, visiting from Lithuania. The events brought old and new parishioners together, and, hopefully, will again enhance the life of the parish.

Although there are fewer parishioners than at its onset, Holy Trinity parishioners still enjoy a partially Lithuanian Mass every Sunday, with Lithuanian readings and singing of Lithuanian hymns by the parish choir. Members of the parish still see the parish as a place to meet with their fellow Lithuanians.

Our Father has bestowed many blessings on Holy Trinity's Lithuanian Parish. As we thank Him, we continue to pray that the dream of Holy Trinity Parish, which became a reality through the persistence and dedication of its founders, will not die. May God hear our prayers so that Lithuanian hymns continue to ring out joyously in Holy Trinity Lithuanian Church for yet another 100 years. AD MULTO ANNOS!
ILGIAUSIU METU HOLY TRINITY PARISH!



Tevynė Sutemoje .

Saulutė leidos vakaruos,
Nutilo žemės pakraščiuos
Ir paukščiai gryzo i lizdus.

Tylūs nurimo vakarai
Saulės užgeso spinduliai
Pasaulį apgaube tyla.

Tiktai širdis ko nerami
Rytuose kilanti audra
Naktis žaibais zegnoja žemę.

Aukštai jau šiausias debesys
Kalnais vingiuotais neramiais
Grumoja zemei savo galia.

Tik vienas kryžius tolumoj
Kristaus rankų ištiestoj žaizdoj
Lašelį kraujo tavo laimė.

Pabūsk is miego neramaus
Tevynę saugok nuo audros
Maldoj suraski savo dalia.

Aukščiausio vieno tik galia
Nutildo juroje audras
Ir saulės spinduliai atgyja.

Valėria Leščinskienė

COUNCIL #147

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA



Council 6 - Hartford. Presentation of the altar/communion set in memory of the late Alex Yusias, former President of Council 6, who went to his untimely death on January 8, 2000, and who was instrumental in the reorganization of this Council. L.to R.: Dianne Yusias (wife of Alex), Fr. Charles Jacobs, Fr. John Rikteraitis and Kay Urban who was the presenter.



New England District Retreat at Franciscan Monastery. L.to R.: Al Akule, Pres. C-17; Rev. Gabriel Baltusaitis, OFM; Mrs. Sophie Kazlauskas

"UNITED WE STAND"

St. George School: Pride, Prayer, and Passion for America.



Red, white and blue Pride Day - St. George's Parish - Philadelphia, Pa. "Our Community Heroes."

"United" was the operative word.

After the heinous attack on America which killed or injured thousands of innocent victims and disrupted so many families' lives on September 11, 2001, the pupils and their teachers at St. George School in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia, PA, united in love for their country.

Kindergarteners made garland chains out of strips of red, white and blue construction paper. Second graders learned about the meaning of the colors of the American flag as they decorated white paper plates with red and blue magic markers. Nearly all of the pupils drew the American flag surrounded by stars in the center of their artwork. Many pupils printed, "I love America," "God bless America," or simply, "Love America" on their plates which were displayed in a group in the hallway near the entrance of the school. Many pupils drew posters in support of their country and the rescue workers. Eighth graders prepared for an essay contest with the theme of, "What Memorial Day Means to Me."

Msgr. Joseph Anderloins, STD, HM, National Spiritual Advisor of the Knights of Lithuania, and pastor of St. George's, felt something more

could be done to unite school and community in a public display of patriotism. He set aside one Friday afternoon as Red, White and Blue Pride Day, and invited pupils, school personnel, parishioners, police, and firefighters to participate in a prayer service and pride awareness rally.

Accordingly, at 1:00 P.M. on September 21, school teachers, pupils, and members of the community began to gather in the St. George school yard for the rally. School children toted helium-filled red, white, or blue balloons. Some carried hand-drawn posters showing their appreciation of their country and the people involved in the rescue efforts. The songs, "Auld Lang Syne," "What a Wonderful World," "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," and "Everything is Beautiful," were played through a loudspeaker and greeted the arrivals, who wore red, white and blue clothing to show their support for America.

At 1:30 P.M., Msgr. Anderlonis, dressed in the official garb of a prelate, stepped out onto the metal stairway leading from the church to the school yard, and introduced members of the police and fire departments to the participants. Standing at attention, all sang our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," with respect and with more than a little emotion. Msgr. then prayed for God's mercy upon those who lost their lives or who were injured in the attacks of Sept. 11. He prayed for families and friends of the victims, and for the rescue workers who were valiantly moving debris in an attempt to find and preserve human life. He also asked God to bless America and unite us in love for our homeland. All those gathered then recited the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Upon signal, the children, in their love and their innocence, enthusiastically released their balloons, symbols of freedom and support for America, to the heavens above. An updraft lifted the colorful balloons, and --was it God's will?-- carried them westward, toward the traditional location of the Isles of the Blessed. For minutes, children and adults gazed at the orbs as they drifted ever upward. Tears of gratitude, appreciation, or prayerful supplication were present in the eyes of many community members as they watched the balloons disappear from view. A resounding chorus of "God bless America" concluded the program.

~ Stephany Gutauskas ~
C-3, Philadelphia, PA.

More Knight²⁷ Life...



St. George School & community, Philadelphia, PA, watch as their balloons disappear on Red, White and Blue Pride Day.



Some Mid-America District K of L Juniors having fun

CARDINAL BACKIS SEEKS AID FOR TRADE SCHOOL...



Mike and Theresa Shea with Cardinal Backis at their visit with him in Rome.

ATL Vice President Mike Shea and Secretary-Treasurer Theresa (Stasiulaitis) Shea met with Cardinal Backis in Rome recently and discussed the recently obtained building in Vilnius that was acquired by the generosity of American benefactors. The purpose of obtaining the building is to establish a trade school for young Lithuanians to learn some of the skills needed for them to be able to obtain meaningful employment in the workplace. Many of these

young people have not and will not go on for higher education due to life's circumstances. It is vital, therefore, for them to have skills to become self-sustaining in the future of Lithuania.

Some of the specific needs expressed by the Cardinal included:

New European sewing machines for students to learn sewing, tailoring and completing alterations. The machines would be up-to-date, non-computerized basic machines that can be obtained in the European community.

Kitchen equipment for students to learn cooking, baking, food handling and preparation, presentations and serving skills.

Tools and power equipment to teach plumbing, electrical operations and carpentry.

These would be skills that would last a lifetime and provide families with employment opportunities that would not be available to them otherwise.

ATL has been approached to assist the Cardinal in this major project. However, this appeal is beyond the normal reach of the programs that ATL has adopted, and for which the funds donated by our generous givers has been intended. A special appeal is needed to help Lithuania fulfill the goal of teaching future generations to be able to gain employment in the workplace. Do you know of any organizations that would be interested in aiding our struggling nation by providing funds for Cardinal Backis to obtain this needed equipment? If so, please contact :

**ATL (Aid to Lithuania)
1594 Beaupre
Madison Heights, MI 48071**

ACIU!

~Mike Shea ~



Knight Life...



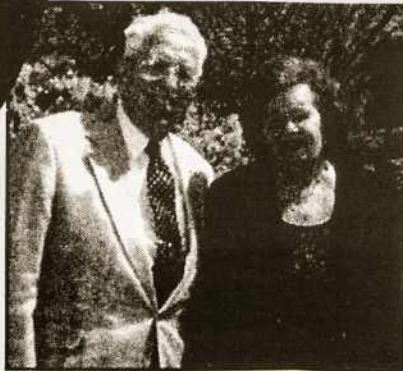
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS...

Sophie Sakalys (left), C-103 Rhode Island, prepared the Lithuanian cultural tree with straw ornaments of her own creation at the Rhode Island State House. Governor Lincoln Almond presided over the Lighting of the trees for the Annual International Tree Festival on December 5, 2001. The exhibit continued until January 2, 2002. Sophie Sakalys is active in the New England District and is Council 103's secretary, as well as the president of the Rhode Island Lithuanian Heritage Council. Sophie has creatively dressed the cultural tree twenty consecutive years and has brought much praise and recognition to the land of her birth.

Rima Zotovas (below), C-153, Treasure Coast, Florida, painted and donated the picture displayed at the St. Casimir's Banquet. Honorary Lithuanian Consul, Stanley A. Balzekas, Jr., and Banquet chairperson, Mrs. Dorothy Parrilli look on.



*Hartford Couple Celebrates
55 Years Together...*



On September 2, 1946, Vincent Morkus and Florence Litwinas were married at Holy Trinity Church in Hartford.

Over a half-century later, the couple is still going strong and celebrated their 55th anniversary with a special Mass at Holy Trinity on Saturday, September 1.

Five years ago, they celebrated their 50th anniversary, by returning to Canada, where they honeymooned in 1946.

(Excerpt from The Hartford News, Aug. 22-29, 2001)

ENGAGEMENTS:

C-3 Joanne Weigard. Parents, Charles and Alberta Weigard

WEDDINGS:

C-3 Philadelphia - Henry Ruggiero and Dina Miriello - 5/5/2001. Mother is Toni Petrone

BIRTHS:

C-3 Philadelphia - Devin Taulane 5/21/2001
Grandmother is Alice Bacon

C-3 Philadelphia - Edward Collier 8/29/2000
Granparents: Robert and Carol Ushka

C-27 Norwood, MA - Alexander Adam
Grandparents: John & Betty Slericki
C-82 Gary, IN - Mary Katherine Jagiella
6/25/01 - Parents Tom & Kathy
Jagiella; grandmother is Mildred
Jagiella, "Vytis" Council News Editor

THANK YOU, K of L..

Dear Knights of Lithuania,

I would like to thank all of the K of L members who have helped me to receive the general scholarship. I am currently attending Hudson Valley Community College in their Fine Art Program. I am looking for other schools to transfer to in the spring of 2003. I greatly appreciate the help of my friends and family. Going to school is not easy, especially Art School. I would like to sincerely thank my Council-136 for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Hayner, Jr.

SOME VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

A gigantic "Thank You" to **"FUNDAS"** for their generous donation of \$1,000 to have 4 colored "Vytis" covers printed. God bless you for your kindness. This really enhanced some special issues. **Ačiū, Lietuvos Fondas!**

Sincerest Thanks also to the Ushka family for their generous check from the estate of the late **Jewel Ushka**. K of L is grateful that you thought of them. May God, who is never outdone in generosity, greatly reward you for your charity.

More Knight³¹ Life...

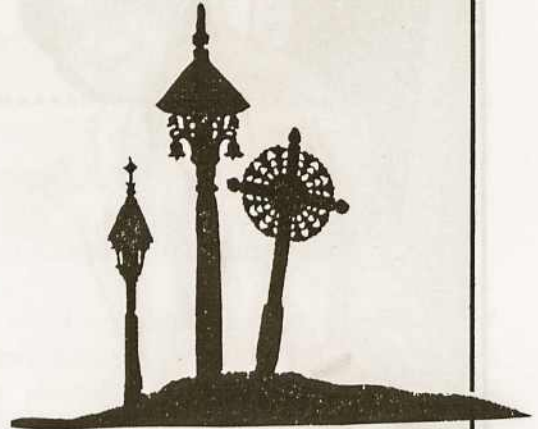
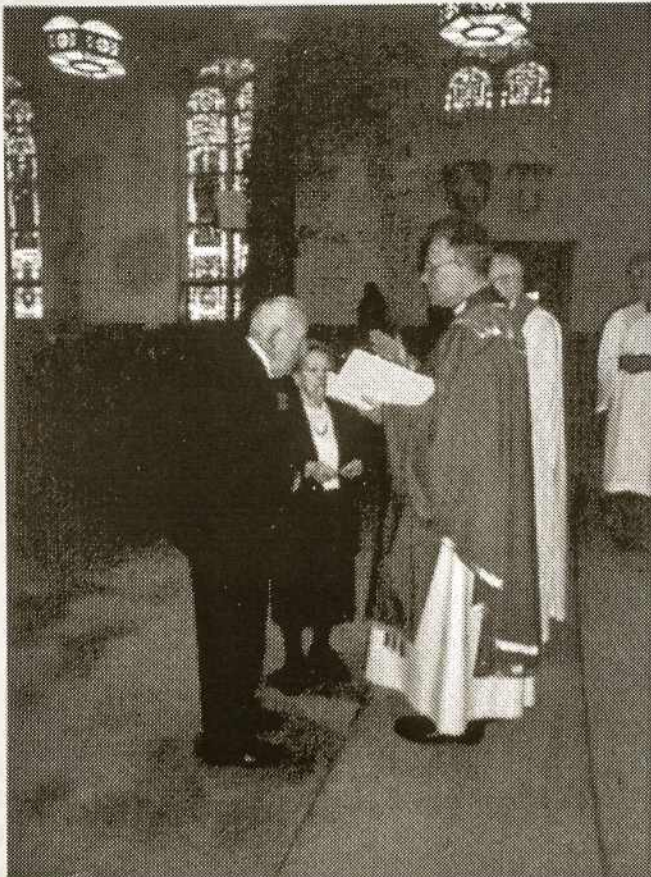


FOUR GENERATIONS: C-25 - Cleveland, Ohio: Mother, Dolly Oberaitis; granddaughter, Lisa Carlson; great-granddaughter, Baby "Iris" Carlson; daughter, Christine Pierman.



Mia Therese Strolia, one of the smallest K of L Juniors. The proud grandparents are Faustas and Terry Strolia, C-157.





Joseph Salkaus receiving the Third Degree from Rev. Richard Jakubauskas during the 85th Anniversary Mass for Council 26 Worcester



85th Anniversary celebration, C-26
Ilor. Co-chairs Ruth Sarafinas, Ann
Leseman; Ann Bender, keynote speaker;
Rev. Richard Jakubauskas. Sp. Advisor;
and Vivian Rodgers, President



President, Vivian Rodgers, C-26, receiving a Certificate honoring the Council on its 85th Anniversary, from Massachusetts State Senator, Guy Glodjs.

More Knight Life...



C-26 - Annual picnic at Marionis Park in Shrewsbury, MA. Those who prepared the meal were: L.tor., Al Rodgers, Vivian Rodgers, Bill Leseman, Ann Leseman, Wanda Ramonas, Elaine Salkaus, Aldona Waska, Nell Salkaus and Joe Salkaus.



Anthony Ciginskas, in the suit, was one of the founders and a president of Council 26. He is shown in the early 1900's with some of the members in costume from one of the many plays presented by the Council.



Ačiu 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 , 2001

17 seminarians have been "*adopted.*"
at St. Joseph's Provincial Seminary in Vilnius

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.

Aid to Lithuania, Inc.
1594 Beaupre
Madison Heights, MI 48071

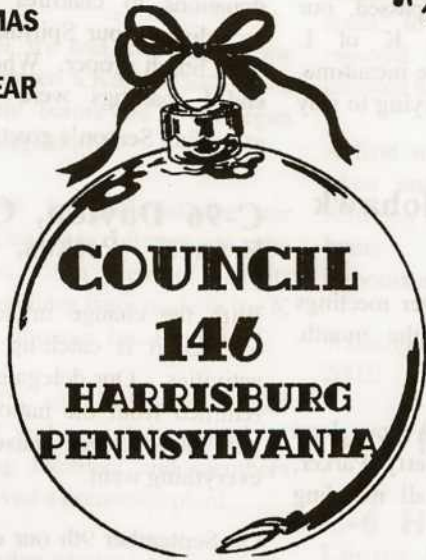


Council 141
Bridgeport, CT

Wishes Everyone a
Happy, Healthy, Holy year.

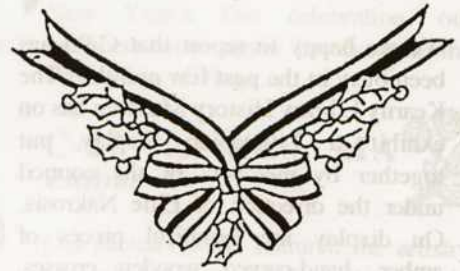


BEST WISHES FOR A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HEALTHY NEW YEAR
OF 2002



Linksmų Švenčių

*We are Truly Blessed
To live in our Great Country!!!
Pray for Peace!*



*Council 1
Brockton, MA*



OUR BEST WISHES
TO ALL FOR
A JOYFUL NEW YEAR.

Council 30
Westfield, MA



Best Wishes from
Clemencine Miller, HM

District & Council News

Mid-Atlantic District

C-90 Kearny, NJ Becky Pataki



We are happy to report that C-90 has been busy in the past few months. The Kearny Library History Museum has on exhibit a Lithuanian display put together by members of the council under the direction of Ellie Nakrosis. On display are beautiful pieces of amber, hand-carved wooden crosses, Easter eggs, albums of music, and other cultural treasures. The Museum Director commented upon the exquisiteness of this display.

Council 90 is starting a children's dance group and members are encouraged to bring their children/grandchildren to meetings so that they can be taught simple dances.

Our adopted Lithuanian boy, Darius, has received the Christmas gifts from our council for a warm Christmas.

Plans are in progress for our Spring Potato Pancake Dance on March 3 at LCCC in Kearny. Joe Thomas & orchestra; all guests are welcome.

C-90 welcomes new members Sarah and Stephen Nakrosis; great additions.

C-110 Maspeth, NY Bruno Rutkunas



Our fall meetings featured plans for our 27th celebration of Kucios, which was held Dec. 16th. All who attended about 125 - enjoyed the home-cooked meatless dishes and appetizers. Our choir members led us in song and we offered our prayers to all and recently deceased members.

When the holidays have passed, our council will resume all K of L activities and events. In the meantime, we are keeping warm and trying to stay well.

C-136 Hudson-Mohawk Dorothy Richmire

We voted to schedule winter meetings on the first Sunday of the month. Hope to see you all there.

Stella White, Bernice Aviza, Joan Parker, Jo Sasinowski, Betty Parker, and Elizabeth Aviza are all mending well.

Our council approved a resolution for Bernice Aviza to receive Honorary Membership for her years of dedicated service to the K of L.

Bob Duda and Ginger Houghton were able to visit with Ed and Gen Baranauskas in Vilnius. We deeply appreciate Bob and Ginger's efforts in the humanitarian services for Lithuanians.

Mid Central District

C-79 Southfield, MI Bertha Janus

Our December meeting is always festive. The table sports an authentic Lithuanian tablecloth and there are flowers. That is because we observe the traditional Lithuanian Kucios; this year the date was December 4th. One important phase was missing because of the early date - the Christmas wafer was not available. Fr. Volskis led us with prayers.

We generally try to heed legend and serve the twelve traditional dishes but modernized dishes, like desserts, appear on the table.

Conversations were interrupted to hold the meeting. Our annual Christmas

donations to charities were decided, including to our Spiritual Advisor and the Church proper. When the meeting ended, partings were reluctant after extending Season's greetings.

C-96 Dayton, OH Frances Petkus, HM



With the change in schedule of the VYTIS, it is catch-up time on C-96 activities. Our delegates and members returned from the national convention with nothing but praise on how well everything went.

On September 9th our council held its annual Mass for the living and deceased members of C-96. Prayers for members buried out of town were recited in church after Mass. At the cemetery we visited over 46 members where a flower was placed on each grave. This was followed with prayers and some reminiscing. Then to the church hall for our meeting. It was a special time spent together!

Oct 5-6th saw the Mikalauskas' George, Frances, Elena and Fran Petkus head to Detroit for the MCD's Fall Convention Pilgrimage. C-102 hosted the weekend and did an excellent job. Robert A. Martin Jr., our national President, who had been in DC on Sept 11, spoke of what he saw and how the U.S. made sure that Lithuania's President, Valdas Adamkus, and other foreign dignitaries who were in the US regarding NATO, were returned home safely.

As part of our religious program, we toured St. Anne's church, the 2nd oldest church in the US and celebrating its 300th anniversary.

Closing out the weekend activities we had a private Mass in St. Anthony's Chapel. Following Mass a candle was lit for each council in the district and the names of their deceased members were read. The evening ended with a wonderful dinner and fellowship

abound.

In November we had a FIRST! Our council sponsored a Kugelis Sale! We were sold out before we even began making the kugelis!

December 5th we gathered for our council's Christmas dinner at the Amber Rose. In lieu of a gift exchange, donations were made to the K of L Aid to Lithuania, Inc. fund.

On Dec 9th we had our annual Christmas Caroling and visited 5 assisted-living facilities and members over 80 received a poinsettia plant.

At the December meeting we distribute our Charity Fund, this year to: Old North Dayton Food Pantry, Aid to Lithuania, St. Casimir Guild, and The Children's Foundation in Brockton, MA

Once again, we had our Annual Kucios. K of L'ers all ages pitched in to help. A very sharing time. Let us continue to keep the US, our leaders, and our people in our prayers as we work to make the world a safer place for all.

C-102 Detroit, MI **Teresele**



The misty weather didn't deter a nice turnout for the annual hot dog-corn roast at the Starks. We thank them again for their gracious hospitality.

Congratulations to Fourth Degree recipient Regina Juska-Svoba! She continues to do excellent K of L projects.

A "Nuosirdingai Aciu" to all who executed a well-organized MCD Pilgrimage weekend.

After a full-scheduled day on Sat, we ventured to the Church of St. Anne, founded by Cadillac in 1701. Upon returning to St. Anthony's, lunch was followed by the MCD meeting and

election of officers. A grateful "Labai Aciu" to all the guests, hoping you enjoyed yourselves as much as we enjoyed having you.

A first was initiated when our annual Mass and Kucios were held at St. Anthony's rather than at a member's home. 27 attended, including Fr. Babonis and Fr. Stanievich.

Wishing all a peaceful, healthy, joyous 2002!

New England District

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



A short meeting preceded our Christmas Potluck Supper. Clergy present were Fr. Charles Jacobs, Holy Trinity Church; Fr. John Rikteraitis, Spiritual Director; and Sr. Mary Louise, Holy Trinity Church. Membership now totals 61.

After the meal we all joined in singing Lithuanian and American Christmas carols. Donations were accepted for the After School program for children in Ukmerge, Lithuania. Aciu to all.

The evening was culminated with the presentation of the engraved pewter altar/communion - set, purchased in memory of the late Alex Yusias, our first council President. Fr. Charles Jacobs accepted the set for Holy Trinity Church; the set will be used, formally, at the Christmas Masses.

C-26 Worcester, MA **Ruta**

Our December meeting was held at Maironis Park and Pres. Vivian Rodgers read thanks from the Pernet Family Health Service for all the food and financial assistance given by C-26.

Fr. Jakubauskas gave his greetings to all and spoke of the importance of

Christmas and why the holiday is celebrated. Entertainment followed a wonderful buffet and then Christmas caroling in English and Lithuanian.

Santa and 2 little elves gave all a wrapped gift... some were serious and some were for fun.

On First Night, Worcester's Ultimate New Year's Eve celebration, our members were again involved in the Procession of Flags.

C-27 Norwood, MA **Zaibas**



Our January Mass featured the artistry of violinist Rev. William Wolkavich. The meeting that followed discussed plans for the special program on Feb 3rd to honor our Lithuanian heroes and will welcome all parishoners..

We welcome our new members Carol and Charles Treckiokas.

George and Birute Barton welcome family guests from Lithuania.

John and Betty Skricki have double reason to celebrate - their first grandchild, Alexander Adam; and their Olympic athlete, Carol Skricki will be honored and will carry the Olympic torch in San Diego. Valio!

March 3rd: 90th anniversary of St. George Parish, including a concert with Maryte Bizinkauskas.

April 14: Jubilee Mass, 10 AM followed by a brunch.

Amber District

C-3 Philadelphia **Victor Stepalovitch**



Congratulations to Alice Bacon on receiving her 4th degree!

Our Christmas party at the elegant

Rosebriar Inn was beautiful atmosphere to celebrate the holiday season.

Our 17th annual Kucios at St. George's Parish Hall was a great success. Each year this event becomes better through the efforts of all the members.

Daina Kapochus and Anastasia Binkis are wished "Get Well".

Msgr. Anderlonis is busy preparing for the 100th (!) anniversary of his parish, St. George.

C-74 Scranton Marie Laske

Marie, Richard, Susan and Nathan Laske and Liz Kaminski helped Sr. Adrian serve the annual Thanksgiving dinner for all who are alone or underprivileged - over 2,000 people.

We had our traditional Kucios. This is a wonderful tradition that is carried on from generation to generation. 90 people attended; Sr. Elizabeth was so kind to say grace. We broke the plotkele and wished each other peace. The servers were Laske family members and Liz Kaminskis. Our choir sang Lithuanian and English Christmas carols, led by Sr. Elizabeth, SVC. This was shown on local TV and appeared in the newspaper. Many thanks go out to all who helped and donated.

"I call on you O God, for You will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer."

Mid America District

MAD District

MAD District meeting was held after the outdoor Mass by Msgr. Urbonas, and picnic hosted by C-82.

The Memories of Lithuania Banquet will be Feb 3rd at the Martinique, "Chicago". Co-chairs Al Brazis and Evelyn Ozelis consistently ensure a memorable gala. All are welcome.

C-82 Gary, IN Daisy Talley

Our January meeting prepared for Lithuanian Independence Day to be celebrated at a new site - a bigger hall - to accommodate increasing attendance. February 10 at the American Legion will feature Lithuanian cooking again and music by Bronius Muras.

The Lithuanian straw-ornament decorated Christmas tree at The NW Indiana Visitors Center took first place honors. Cheers for Marie Ruzga and Birute Vilutis who made this project a success!

C-157 Lemont, IL Irene Macke

Membership in C-157 continues to grow and council members welcomed new members Akvilina Petrauskis and Lucille Kazunas. We hope that the warmth and spirit of the K of L will inspire them and make them feel at home.

Council member Terry Strolia was the prime organizer of the pilgrimage to Holy Hill National Shrine of Mary in Hubertus, WI. Mid America District K of L'ers who participated in the pilgrimage which included an overnight stay and dinner at Mader's in Milwaukee found the experience rewarding, both spiritually and socially.

In Dec, a festive Kucios featuring mouth-watering specialties of the season contributed by council members was enjoyed by all; numerous K of L Juniors were included among the guests. Msgr. Urbonas opened the evening with a prayer and the passing

of the Christmas wafers. Then, to familiarize those less acquainted with our traditions, Sr. Janine Golubickis, SSC, explained how certain foods had become part of the Lithuanian Kucios and the rituals associated with that evening as celebrated in Lithuania. Lithuanian Christmas carols were led by Faustas Strolia and it was agreed that the evening was a fitting start to the holiday season.



Members of Council 19, Pittsburgh, PA and guests enjoy a Pirates' victory at PNC Park on the North Shore. The baseball game is one of several K of L activities designed to attract new members, share traditions and provide more value to C-19's 40 members.



C-1, Brockton MA. Kucios Gaspadines.

*"Lietuva,
tēvynē mūsu..."*



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*"Tik aš vieną vargo dieną
Grėbiau lankoj šienelį..."*