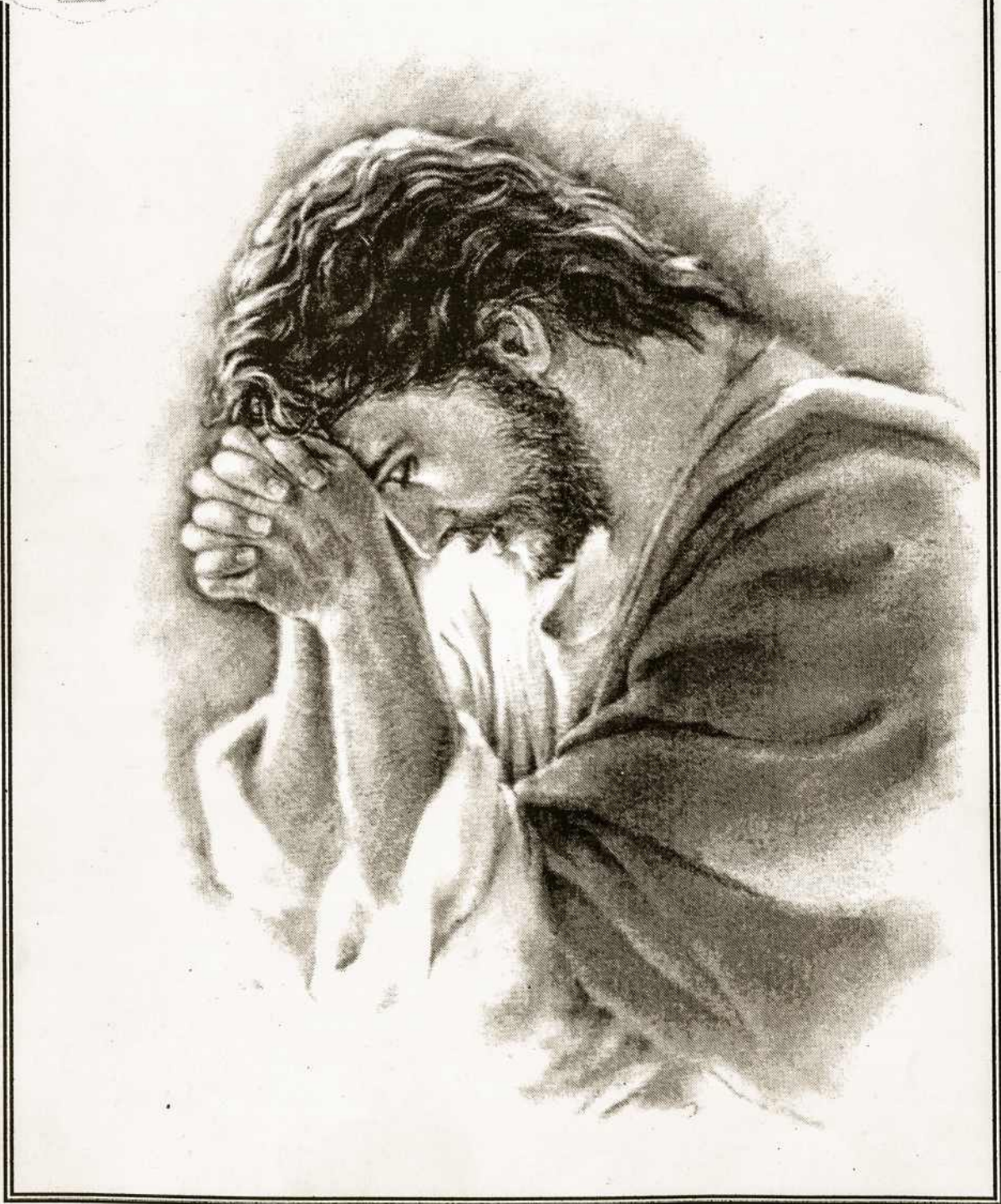




# Vytis - The Knight

Vol.88 No. 2 - kovas/balandis - Mar./Apr. 2002





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*Linksmų Vėlykų Visiems Mūsų Vyčiams!*

**CHANGE IN PUBLISHER DEADLINES:**

*Please send Council News, Articles, Announcements, etc. by:*

**April 1, 2002**

**For the May-June Issue**

**June 1, 2002**

**For the July-August issue**





**PAULIUS A. BALTAKIS, O.F.M.**  
**VYSKUPAS LIETUVIAMS KATALIKAMS IŠEIVIJOJE**  
**361 Highland Blvd. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207**

*Su artėjančiom šventom Velykom!*  
*Sveikinimai visiems Lietuvos Vyčiams, kurie taip gražiai*  
*atstovauja Lietuvai.*

*+Paulius*

2002-II-11

*I send greetings for a blessed Easter!*  
*Congratulations to all the Knights of Lithuania who so beautifully*  
*represent Lithuania.*

*+Paul*

February 11, 2002

### **To My Fellow Knights**


I add my prayerful wishes for a blessed Easter season. May the Resurrection joy and peace extend throughout the entire season of fifty days until it culminates with the feast of Pentecost!

We are grateful to Bishop Paul Baltakis for the special greeting to the Knights of Lithuania which accompanied his Easter message. Bishop's Newsletter provided the information for the 2001 calendar and other upcoming 2002 events. We like him work outside the country of Lithuania.

On April 17th we will celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the death of Mother Maria Kaupas, the foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir. She and her brother Rev. Anthony Kaupas have influenced the lives of many Knights of Lithuania. From Pennsylvania to the other states they carried the light of faith to Lithuanian families and parishes. Mother Maria's ministry expanded to other areas and peoples as her life exemplified the virtues of faith, humility, compassion, and long suffering. On April 17th let us pray for her intercession in our needs and storm heaven to hasten the cause of her beatification in Rome.

*Sister M. Janine*





## A message from your President:

Dear fellow members:

The Easter Season is upon us once again and the world of nature is once again being reborn. On behalf of the Supreme Council, I would like to wish each of you a happy and blessed Easter and welcome to spring, 2002.

I'd like to discuss a few items that affect each of us in our organization. The registration form and other convention information for our 89<sup>th</sup> National Convention is included in this issue for Vytis. Please look for it. The members of Council 16 look forward to welcoming everyone to Chicago this August and are busy preparing a convention that each of us will find memorable and enjoyable. I hope you will be able to attend. This year's convention motto will be, "Knights of Lithuania – United for Freedom and Peace." I'm sure we all share these sentiments which bring us together not only during the convention, but always. Convention information packets have been sent to each council and district with additional information that may not have been printed in Vytis.

As you know, last year we switched the updating of the Vytis Mailing List back to the National Financial Secretary. While this has allowed us to make quicker address corrections, we are still getting copies back as undeliverable. This is costing the organization unnecessary mailing expense. Initially, we pay for the original discounted mailing of Vytis. When the Post Office cannot deliver an incorrectly addressed issue, it is returned with a fee attached. Re-mailing with the corrected address requires a third payment. That means that we are paying postage **THREE TIMES** for each incorrect address. Over the course of the year, this is a considerable, unnecessary expense that should be avoided. Therefore, if you are moving, please notify your council financial secretary. I have talked with our current Vytis Editor and Financial Secretary, and have instructed them to institute the following policy change, effective with this issue.

If a member's Vytis is returned for an incorrect or unforwardable mailing address, we will suspend all future Vytis mailings to that member until we receive correspondence from the individual's Council Financial Secretary with the correct information. Understandably, a notice will be sent to the Council Financial Secretary with the names of those members from their council whose Vytis is being suspended, so that the problem is corrected and members can be back on the mailing list. **Please note:** Membership is NOT suspended, only the Vytis subscription. I apologize for this inconvenience, but we must get this matter under control. We feel that this is the most logical way to do so. I hope you will agree.

Our National Membership Drive is currently under way. I ask that we all work to sign up many new members this year, and make it one of our best yet. I'd like to also remind everyone to get their dues in for this year. I know I can count on you.

Finally, the members of the Supreme Council will be meeting in Chicago on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. If there is anything you would like us to consider, please let me know so I can add it to our agenda. Know that you are always welcome to attend a Supreme Council meeting. I will be happy to send you further information.

Enjoy your spring.

Vytiskai,

*Rob Martin*

**Some timely reminders from our National Financial Secretary – Mark H. Bell:**

<u>Question About</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Dues	Council Financial Secretary. If not satisfied with answer, then National Financial Secretary, Mark H. Bell.
Not receiving the <i>Vytis</i>	National Financial Secretary, Mark H. Bell/
Change of Address	Council Financial Secretary. He/she will then notify Mark Bell
Member's Death	Council Financial Secretary, who will then notify Mark Bell.
New Member's Application	Must be approved by Council Financial Secretary, who will then forward to National 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres., Elena Nakrosis.
Re-instated Member's Application	Must be approved by Council Financial Secretary, who will then forward it to Nat'l 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres., Elena Nakrosis.
K of L Constitution Requests	National 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres., Elena Nakrosis
K of L Manual Requests	National Trustees: Agnes Mickunas and Rita Sussko
Website questions and Events	National Financial Secretary, Mark Bell

**Addresses and phone numbers for the above persons can be found on the Vytis front inside cover.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Your local council officers can easily answer many questions. They are a wealth of information. Our K of L website address is: <http://www.geocities.com/lietuvosvyčiai/> . Check it for current events, officers, recipes, convention information and the guestbook.



**Honorary Counsel to Lithuania in Michigan George Jurgutis, Ambassador Gintė Damušytė, Mrs. Danguole Jurgutis, and ATL president, Regina Juška-Švoba**

## Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to NATO in Brussels, Addresses the Detroit Lithuanian Community

(by Regina Juska-Svoba)

Former Detroit, Ginte Bernadeta Damusyte, traveled from Brussels, Belgium, at the request of DLOC (Detroit Lithuanian Organization Center) president attorney Kestutis Miskinis, to be the keynote speaker at the 84<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Lithuania's Independence Day. The February 16<sup>th</sup> celebration occurred on February 10, 2002, at Divine Providence Church and Cultural Center in Southfield, MI.

The theme of this year's Commemoration was again - Lithuania- NATO- 2002, and the focus on the steps needed to be taken to assist in Lithuania's invitation to join NATO in late 2002.

It was a great honor and distinct privilege to have as the main speaker, former Detroit, her Excellency Ginte Damusyte, ambassador of the republic of Lithuania to NATO in Brussels. As a youngster, Ambassador Damusyte was active in the Detroit Lithuanian community. She completed Lithuanian school, was active in the Detroit Catholic Youth Federation (ateitininkai) and attained degrees from Wayne State University in the fields of Political Science and History. G. Damusyte was the Director of the Lithuanian Information Center, NY, 1979-1991; visiting researcher at Keston College, London, England, 1981; editor Human Rights in Lithuania, 1982; Radio free Europe/Radio Liberty-contributing writer, 1984-90. G. Damusyte joined the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry in 1992; appointed Chancellor, Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations, NY, 1992-96; Head of the Delegation of Lithuania to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Vienna, 1996-99; elevated to Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in 1997; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania in Austria, 1998-2001; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Slovenia, Slovak Republic and Croatia, 1991-2001. On 1/29/01, by the decree of the Republic of Lithuania's President, Valdas Adamkus, G. Damusyte was accredited as the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to NATO in Brussels,

Belgium. *She is the sole female ambassador to NATO!*

Ambassador Damusyte's address to the Detroit Lithuanian community stressed the importance of Lithuania's inclusion into NATO. During many of her meetings with officials, the Baltic nation's invitation to join NATO was discussed. On the surface, the chance of Lithuania's inclusion into NATO appears favorable. Movement is both, slow and cautious. She discussed the process of a country's worthiness and readiness to be included into NATO. Relationships with other countries and defense strategies are reviewed.

Prior to her address, Ambassador Damusyte had the opportunity to meet with several Baltic nations and Congress representatives present at the commemoration. Senator Carl Levin, who was unable to attend the Commemoration, forwarded a video with his greeting to the local Lithuanian community. In it he stated that he has invited Ambassador Damusyte to meet with him in Washington on 2/12/02, to further discuss his position on Lithuania's inclusion into NATO. Senator Levin has long been a strong supporter of Lithuania in her fight for freedom. He has made his commitment clear on the many occasions when he personally addressed the attendees of the Commemorations. Further, Senator Levin is the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services committee. Therefore, his vote is imperative; the meeting will be important and significant to the Lithuanian community.

During last year's commemoration, Senator Debie Stabenaw pledged her support for Lithuania to be admitted into NATO. This was a significant accomplishment.

Participants of the Commemoration were requested to continue to exercise their rights as citizens of a representative democracy and to write letters to the Administration and elected officials who are involved in the NATO issue, and to make our voices heard in Washington.

The 84<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Lithuania's Independence was successful. Donations were collected for ALTAS, ATL, and the Lithuanian American Community. The event was co-sponsored by DLOC, whose president is attorney, Kestutis A. Miskinis, his committee, and Aid to Lithuanian, Inc., whose president is Regina Juska-Svoba, officers and K of L Council-102 and Council -79 members.

## **Lithuanian Affairs Update - (Feb - 04- 02)**

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

All Lithuanian newspapers and news services including the Press Service of the President widely reported President **Valdas Adamkus** meeting with President **George W. Bush**, at the **White House** on January 17. The historic meeting took approximately forty five minutes. Some of the highlights of this and other meetings were:

\* The meeting focused on the issues of bilateral relations, fight against international terrorism and **NATO enlargement**. President **Bush** commended Lithuania for its efforts to integrate in NATO and reiterated his support for NATO enlargement and called Lithuania the leading aspiring country. President **Adamkus** noted that **Lithuania was most seriously preparing for assuming NATO membership obligations and expected to receive the invitation to join the Alliance this year**. President **Adamkus** recalled that his meeting with President George W. Bush was scheduled on 11 September 2001, but was called off because of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C.

\* President **Adamkus** reiterated Lithuania's support for the efforts of the US led counter terrorist coalition. The President also noted that Lithuania was **acting as a NATO partner**. President Bush thanked Lithuania for support for the fight against terrorism and active involvement in peacekeeping operations in the Balkans. The Presidents also touched upon the relations with the neighboring states. The heads of the two states expressed hope that Russia would continue its constructive cooperation with both NATO member states and the candidate countries. Views were exchanged on Holocaust-related matters. President **Bush positively evaluated Lithuania's** efforts to ensure the protection of the Jewish present-day culture and historic heritage.

\* After the White House meeting, President **Adamkus** met with the IMF Managing Director, **Horst Kohler**. Mr. Kohler informed President Adamkus about the study initiated by the International Monetary Fund, which addressed different aspects of integration of three Baltic countries in NATO and the European Union. According to the IMF, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have financial resources necessary for addressing the needs of integration in **NATO** and **EU** and are able to implement the measures necessary to ensure economic stability. This is one of the requirements for NATO and EU membership. President Adamkus noted that Lithuania, was working to achieve its key foreign policy goals of NATO and EU membership, highly appreciated positive evaluation of the IMF. President **Adamkus** also had lunch with representatives of twenty well-known US companies.

\* President **Adamkus** also met with US State Secretary **Colin Powell**. The US Secretary of State reaffirmed the commitment of the US administration to continue NATO enlargement in Prague this November. Secretary Colin Powell accepted President Adamkus invitation to visit Lithuania. On the same day the President had a meeting with US Deputy Secretary of Commerce **Samuel Bodman**, where they discussed further promotion of bilateral trade. Later President Adamkus met with **Andrew Baker**, member of the **American Jewish Committee**, and had dinner with the members of the US Committee on NATO. On 18 January, President **Adamkus** met with US Deputy Secretary of Defense **Paul Wolfowitz** where he informed the US Deputy Secretary of Defense about Lithuania's preparations for NATO membership. The Lithuanian President assured that Lithuania was determined to respect her commitment of allocating for defense needs of 2 per cent of GDP. *"Our goal is to have a modern and well prepared, although not necessarily big, armed forces equipped with up-to-date equipment and weaponry,"* he said. After the meetings, President **Valdas Adamkus** said he was confident that Lithuania is the leading NATO aspirant country going toward the alliance's summit in Prague. *"It was very nice to hear him say personally that he viewed Lithuania as a front runner in the entire group of 10 countries aspiring to become full members of NATO at the Prague summit. He even called for displaying Lithuania as an example to other countries of how they should prepare (for NATO integration) and have their efforts recognized."* Speaking on a video conference broadcast by Lithuanian radio and television, President **Adamkus** said **he had no more doubts in the United States unequivocal support for Lithuania's admission to NATO**. In Washington D.C., President **Adamkus** also had meeting with deputy editor **Jackson Diehl** of the Washington Post. Jackson Diehl asked the President about achievements of Lithuania's foreign policy, economic development of the country and investment climate in Lithuania. During the NBC talk show One to One President

**Adamkus** answered the questions of reporter **John McLaughlin** about the international security situation, Lithuania's aspiration to integrate in Euro-Atlantic structures and his personal and family life.

### **Economic, Religious and Miscellaneous News excerpts from BNS, ELTA, URM etc.**

\* The Baltic region will retain its position as one of the fastest growing regions in the world despite recent global downturns, BNS quoted analysts from Sweden's leading *Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken* (SEB). The SEB bank predicted that the Latvian economy would grow by 5 percent this year and by 5.5 percent in 2003. It said Lithuania's economy would expand by 4.5 percent this year and 5 percent next year; Estonia's should grow by 4 percent in 2002 and 5 percent the following year. The flow of foreign direct investment in Lithuania **grew by 11.5 percent** or 1.08 billion litas (**\$268 million**) in the first nine months of this year and totaled 10.41 billion litas as of 1 October. The largest investments during the year came from Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Germany, and the U.S. New car sales are up in Lithuania, indicating growing dynamism in the Lithuanian economy. Sales rose by 19 percent, from 7,387 new cars in 2000 to 8,782 in 2001, according to the latest available statistics. The number of car sales in Lithuania in December was higher than in both of the other Baltic states. German *Opels* were the top-selling car in Lithuania last year. The number of people **banking online** in Lithuania has risen fourfold since 2001, jumping from **15,000 to 63,000** today. Analysts say that figure should soar to **200,000** by the end of this year and keep growing by leaps and bounds for the next few years. **Vilniaus Bankas** is the leader in Lithuania's online banking market, with some **50,000 Internet customers**.

\* Lithuanian Suppliers for Swedish Volvo situated in Birzai, Northern Lithuania, generates from Volvo more than half of their sales revenues, which amount to USD 2 million per year. The company produces car locks, window roof and luggage compartment components and is a major employer in Birzai, having created 160 jobs since 1997. Another Lithuanian company, Lietkabelis in Panevezys, in Northern Lithuania, produces cable harnesses for Swedish car manufacturers. Finish Companies are Investing in Bread Baking Sector in Lithuania. Finish Fazer Group company Fazer Bakeries purchased the majority share of Gardesis, one of Lithuania's four leading bread and confectionery companies, situated in Kaunas, Lithuania's second biggest city. Gardesis has just finished 2 million dollar modernization of its production facilities. It produces 100 types of bread and confectionery products, with the daily output of 20-30 tons. Vaasan & Vaasan - another Finish bakery is also entering the Lithuanian market and plans to purchase in the nearest future the majority stake at Vilniaus Duona

Plius - the leader of the Lithuanian bread market. French company Dalkia has won the tender for the lease of Vilnius heating network and has started to invest in the modernization of the heating facilities in the Lithuanian capital. Dalkia has pledged to invest USD 38 million in the upgrading of Vilnius heating network in the coming 15 years and to keep heating costs stable and among the lowest in the country.

\* The **Ignalina** nuclear power plant produced 11.29 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity in 2001, 34.1 percent more than in 2000. While internal consumption of electricity decreased by 7 percent, its export increased by nearly 4.5 times.

\* The parliament decided on 24 January to **postpone** from 25 January to the spring session, which begins on 28 February, the first vote on amending Article 47 of the constitution to **allow legal entities and foreign nationals to purchase farmland in Lithuania**. The deputies could not reach an agreement on how long a transition period to request in the country's membership negotiations with the EU before the provision would take effect.

\* On 7 January **Pope John Paul II** accepted the resignations of three Lithuanian bishops who had reached the mandatory retirement age of 75 and appointed **Jonas Boruta, Jonas Kauneckas, and Rimantas Norvilas** as the new bishops of the dioceses of **Telsiai, Panevezys, and Vilkaviskis**.



**\* 309 Holly Torah scrolls, a Spiritual Treasure of Lithuanian and World Jewish Communities** were transferred to the world Jewish community by the Government of Lithuania. An international delegation of Jewish community representatives headed by **Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior** met in **Vilnius** with **Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas, Chairman of the Seimas Arturas Paulauskas, Foreign Minister Antanas Valionis**. Over 100 Israelis traveled to **Vilnius** to take part in the ceremony. The holly religious manuscripts were presented to the delegation by the Lithuanian Government, in accordance with the law on the transfer of torahs to Jewish religious communities adopted in 2000 by the **Seimas**. The solemn ceremony of presentation of the torahs occurred at the **National Martynas Mazvydas Library**. In his speech, **Paulauskas** stressed difference between return and hand over of Torah scrolls. *"We do not return Torahs - for only that who appropriated property against the will of owner can return them. Independent Lithuania never appropriated nor seized nor borrowed Torahs. Lithuania just rescued Torahs. It rescued them not only as the most valued relic of the Jewish nation but also as its state property - heritage of great cultural and historical importance,"* said Paulauskas. *"I believe this historic act will open a new chapter in Lithuanian - Israeli relations, based on decency and democracy, which will serve for our good and the good of our children,"* said **Michael Melchior**, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister at the ceremony. The transfer of the Torah Scrolls should be regarded as a gesture of good will of the Lithuanian Government and its people to the State of Israel and world Jewish communities. Preservation of Jewish cultural heritage by the Lithuanian people was often a dangerous and difficult task during the Nazi and Soviet occupation. A significant part of those spiritual treasures of Lithuanian Jews, have been preserved in Lithuania. This year also marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of Lithuanian - Israeli diplomatic relations.



**U.S. Senator George Allen in discussion with Lith. Affairs Chairman, John R. Mankus at the Lithuanian Embassy, Washington, D.C. Sen. George Allen, junior Republican Senator from Virginia stated that he will join the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus.**



**Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, John R. Mankus with Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S., Vygaudas Usackas at the reception, commemoration Lithuanian Independence**



## Scholarship Committee

### *Knights of Lithuania National Scholarship Program for 2002 Awards To Be Announced at the 89<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Chicago, Illinois*

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

Scholarships are awarded annually as a grant. Applications must be complete (i.e., picture, transcripts, recommendations, etc) to be considered by the Scholarship Committee. Applications must be submitted **NO LATER THAN JUNE 15, 2002. APPLICATION INFORMATION RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THE 2002 AWARDS FOR CONSIDERATION.** The awards are paid to the recipient in two installments. **\*\*\*\*\* APPLICANTS MAY NOW APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP MORE THAN ONCE. THIS IS OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT AN APPLICANT MAY WIN MORE THAN ONE YEAR.\*\*\*\*\*** There are various scholarships available with individual amounts decided upon by the Scholarship Committee by vote each year.

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

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

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

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

Irena Gecas-McCarthy

30 Clinton Road

Garden City, New York 11530

(516) 746-0820 – home

(212) 492-4700 – work

e-mail: [macgecas@msn.com](mailto:macgecas@msn.com) (home) or [igecasmccarthy@deloitte.com](mailto:igecasmccarthy@deloitte.com)

### RITUAL NOTICE

The beginning of the year is the ideal time to start making out Ritual applications. Use the Knights of Lithuania Manual and the article in the Vytis, February 2000 "Simple Steps for Ritual Degrees" guide and reference.

### FOURTH DEGREE

Fourth Degree applications should be received by the Supreme Ritual Chairperson, no later than May 1, 2002.

**\*\*Note Change: Mail only one copy of the application and fee to the Supreme Ritual Chairperson! The Chairperson will notify the Council Ritual Chairperson when the application has been accepted. After the applicant has been accepted then the Council Chairperson will send a copy to the District Chairperson. A copy will be kept for the Archives records. The date the degree is presented should be listed in the secretary's report.**

The Fourth Degree is normally awarded at the National Convention Mass. Upon the decision of the National Ritual Committee of a candidate's inability to attend a National Convention, the National Ritual Committee may permit the Fourth Degree to be awarded at a District Mass. Under severe circumstances, the Fourth Degree may be awarded other than at a National Convention or District Mass, but only with the expressed permission of the National President. It is advisable to write a letter requesting this permission.

### THIRD DEGREE

The Council Ritual Committee makes three copies of the application. One copy is kept for the Council's files. Two copies and fee are sent to the District Ritual Committee. The District Ritual Committee checks the application for accuracy signs the application and sends one copy and the fee to the National Ritual Chairperson. The National Ritual Chairperson checks the application a final time and sends the signed certificate and medal to the District Ritual Chairperson for presentation.

After the National Ritual Committee receives the date of the presentation, a card is sent to the Council Ritual Chairperson. The Third Degree Candidates are installed at a District Convention or District Function Mass. If the Candidate can not travel the District Function Mass, it then may be presented at a Council Mass with the approval of the District President. A prayer to be used at the Third Degree presentation will be in the K of L Manual 2002.

### FIRST AND SECOND DEGREES

Materials for presenting First and Second Degrees will be included in the K of L Manual 2002. The dates and points for Degrees of individual should be identical in the Council, District and National records. All of this information was taken from the Knights of Lithuania Manual-Update August 1997.

The changes in the procedures were approved by the Supreme Council Ritual Committee.

Clemencine Miller H. M. Chairperson  
Supreme Ritual Committee  
January 2002

## *Reflections from the ATL Summer 2001 Tour*

*(by Regina Juska-Svoba)*

On August 22, 2001, nearly one dozen ATL supporters and friends embarked on an 11 day adventure to their parents', grandparents', or even great grandparents' homeland. For some travelers the excursion was the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> trip to Lithuania, but for others, it was their first journey into a country filled with such a rich cultural and historical past. To actually see and visit Lithuania for the first time, to touch the soil and sand, to smell the fragrance of the flowers, forests and Baltic Sea, to see the bluest of all blue skies, was an incredible and awe-inspiring experience. Some travelers knew of Lithuania and visited the country vicariously – through photographs, books, and stories and tales told, and remembered and forever cherished them in their hearts. With these precious memories, the journey became a reality, and had even more significant importance. Even for the seasoned traveler, each visit is different, and each place visited is seen from yet another and new perspective. Lithuania is moving and changing. Hotels and restaurants are updated, refurbished and expanded. Boutiques, outdoor cafes, technological businesses have flourished. It is a country which is progressing in a forward direction.

The group traveled throughout the four regions of Lithuania – Suvalkija, Aukstaitija, Zemaitija and Dzūkija, making stops along the way to visit the people of the region, observe their specialties, (linen making factory, wood carvers, black ceramic pottery, blacksmith, microbrewery, sample their cuisines, purchase their wares, and be entertained by various ethnographic ensembles.

In the small village of Marcinkonys, we were greeted by a Dzūk folklore ensemble, lunched, and then were given baskets and sent into the woods to pick edible mushrooms. What fun we had picking mushrooms, especially those of us who never had picked them before! Each of the baskets were inspected for good and healthy "baravykai" and voveruskos.

We visited the large cities of Vilnius, Kaunas, the seaport city of Klaipėda, the resort city of Palanga, and saw the historical churches, cathedrals, city halls, and palatial estates. Of course, we visited the amber and other souvenir shops along the way.

One of the highlights of the tour was, visiting the Presidential Palace in Vilnius. We were given a personal tour by Dr. Remigius Gaska, assistant to President Valdas Adamkus. We also had the opportunity to meet GT travel agency directors, Algis and Ruta Grigas.

The group attended the closing concert of the summer Pazaislis Festival at the Franciscan Monastery Church of St. George. The Kaunas philharmonic orchestra, with renowned violinist, Vilhelmas Cepinskis, performed a classical music concert. The orchestra was directed by V. Cepinskis' father, Stanislovas Cepinskis, who is also a renowned violinist.

While in Vilnius, we also had the opportunity to visit the Lithuanian Art Museum to see the magnificent exhibition, "Christianity in Lithuanian Art." The exhibition was dedicated to the anniversary of Christ's birth, and the 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Baptism (1251) and the Coronation (1253), of Mindaugas, King of Lithuania. The exhibition, comprised of valuable works of art representing Renaissance, Baroque, Classicism, Historicism and Modernism – covers the entire millennium of the Roman Catholic Church in Lithuania – from the St. Bruno-Boniface mission, followed by the first mention of Lithuania's name, "Lituae," in 1009, to the establishment of the Roman Catholic Province in Lithuania in 1926. Twelve halls feature jewelry, textiles, paintings, sculptures, folk art, as well as documents and books witnessing Lithuania's path to Christianity.

We visited a unique rock museum and an outdoor museum, "Ordyvu Sodyba," sometimes referred to as a "Museum of Absurdities."

As we traveled toward Sauliai, we stopped to visit the newly built Franciscan Monastery (hermitage), which is situated 300 yard from the Hill of Crosses. After some searching, we were able to find the K of L Cross, which was erected in 1993, during the event when Pope John II visited and celebrated Mass in the area. Crosses in the area have spread wider and farther, and significantly deeper since 1999. The area is concentrated with crosses, rosaries, flowers, medals and votive candles. We placed crosses, rosaries, medals and other items for special intentions, or in memory of loved ones. As many travelers commented, it was an emotional visit.

While on excursion in Lithuania, travelers see many of the tourist attractions, but there are other areas of concern and need. There is still a dire need for humanitarian aid.

There was an opportunity to spend the entire day with Deacon Balys Stankus, ATL in-country

representative, touring the CARITAS social programs sponsored by the Archdiocese of Vilnius, and speaking with the respective directors and workers of the facilities – Mother Theresa's homeless and emergency shelter, the Betanija Soup kitchen, the Children's Day Care Center, the Family Center, and the pharmacy.

An extensive tour was given of the new Vilnius Trade (Handicraft) Center. The building has been obtained; however, major renovations to the building are still needed. The center will offer specific classes to learn a trade. Culinary arts, auto mechanics, plumbing, restoration, jewelry repairs, carpentry, building, computers, sewing and crocheting classes will be taught by masters of the aforementioned fields. The center will train students who come from large families, those who are homeless, those who would never complete a high school education due to barriers, those who may have learning disabilities, but have vocational grasps and capabilities. Funds are still much needed for the school to become fully operational. ATL has undertaken the trade school as another project to assist the people of Lithuania.

A special opportunity was granted to meet and speak with Cardinal Audrys Juozas Backis, to discuss the CARITAS programs, the trade school, and ATL's ongoing commitment to assist our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Lithuania. The Cardinal was informed that ATL will financially support the Mother Theresa's homeless and emergency shelter for fiscal year, 2001-02.

The farewell dinner was held on a private homestead located in nearby Trakai. The Traku folk ensemble entertained us. There were plenty of music, songs and dances, and there was an opportunity to relax, refresh and unwind in a Lithuanian spa. The food, libations and hospitality were wonderful and unparalleled. The atmosphere was upbeat and happy.

We were saddened on realizing that our wonderful adventure had come to a close, but many new friendships have emerged as a result of the trip. We look forward to maintaining contact with one another, and perhaps, we will once again meet and share our thoughts and reminisce about our exceptional journey to our parents' and grandparents' beloved homeland - Lietuva.

## *A Knight Meets Fellow Knights In Lithuania*

*(by Edward Baranauskas)*

My wife and I moved to our new home in Vilnius last June. Little did I realize then, that I would have the opportunity to meet other members of the Knights of Lithuania who also decided to establish permanent residency here. I knew that Dr. Kazys Bobelis, a former native of Chicago, was very active in Lithuanian affairs there for many years. After Lithuania regained her independence, he and his wife returned to Lithuania to live, became involved in Lithuanian politics, and was elected to the Seimas (Parliament). There is talk that he may consider a run for the presidency in the coming election to be held later in 2002.

He was very kind to devote some of his time one afternoon, to see me and my wife. I introduced myself as an American, and proudly showed him my Fourth Degree award certificate that I received at the National Convention of the K of L held in Chicago, in 1989. Council 112 was the host council.

During the course of our conversation, imagine my surprise when he told me, that he, too, is a member of the Knights, Second Degree, belonging to Council 112 in Chicago. After we parted, this thought ran through my mind: should he decide to be a candidate for Lithuania's highest office, and if he were to win, wouldn't it be exciting to have a member of the Knights of Lithuania living in the Lithuanian "White House?" Stranger things have happened before in politics.

Father Vytautas Palubinskas served as pastor of Our Lady of Vilnius Lithuanian Church in New York City, and later, at the Annunciation Church in Brooklyn, where he retired. He now resides at the Vilnius Seminary and serves as chaplain for the residents of the nearby Nursing Home, where he says Mass at their chapel.

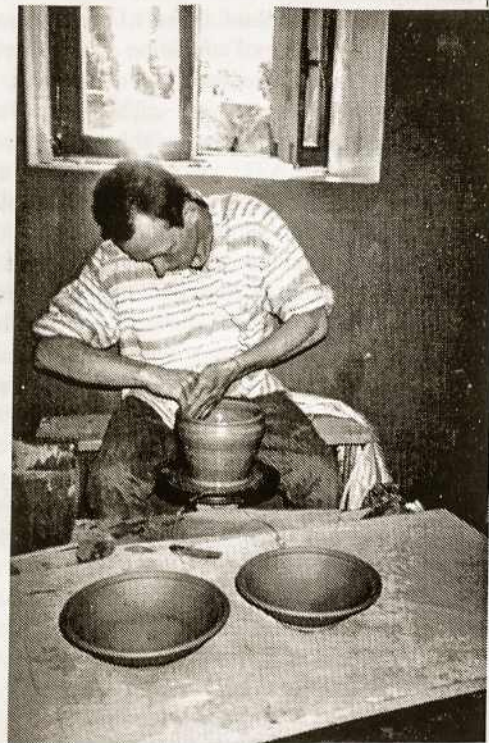
I attended Mass one Sunday morning there, and had the pleasure of renewing old friendships with him. He came to our house one afternoon, and blessed it. I knew he belonged to the K of L., but had no idea he was a Third Degree member. Is there a possibility that more retired Knights may decide to settle here? That is hard to say, and only time will tell.



ATL tour, in front of the Presidential Palace in Vilnius, with Ruta and Algis Grigas, (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from left), GT tour directors.



A visit with Cardinal Backis



Dziugas, potter demonstration - the art of pottery making



Lithuanian singers entertain the tourists.



The audience enjoying a meal.



Franciscan friar at statue of St. Francis in the garden of the Franciscan monastery (hermitage) nearby Hill of Crosses



Just one of the many beautiful Gothic cathedrals in Lithuania.



Garsusis smuikininkas, Vilhelmas Cepinskis, at Pazaislio Festivalis



Weaving at the loom.



Edward Baranauskas, Genute Baranauskas, Dr. Kazys Bobelis



Edward Baranauskas, Rev. Vytautas Palubinskas and Genute Baranauskas



## Easter Tradition

A Special Lithuanian Treat for Easter...

### Chruscik (Ausukes)

- 2 cups flour                      ½ cup powdered sugar
- 2 whole eggs                      ¼ cup butter
- 4 egg yolks                      1 jigger Rum (optional)
- ½ teasp. Salt

Add salt to eggs and beat until thick and lemon-colored. Add sugar, butter and rum and continue to beat. Fold in flour and knead until the dough blisters.

Transfer to a well-floured board and knead until the dough blisters. (you can almost hear it pop). Cut in halves, roll very thin and cut into strips about 4 inches long. Slit each piece in center and pull one end through the slit. (It will look like a bow tie). Fry in hot fat until lightly browned—best if immersed in fat on both sides. Drain on absorbent paper (brown bag is great) and sprinkle with Confectionery powdered sugar.

## Traditional Holiday Food

### SHROVE TUESDAY

- :Lithuanian Hash
- Sausages
- Pancakes
- Potato Pudding (Kugelis)
- Noodle Soup
- Fried cakes

### EASTER

- Colored Eggs
- Sausages
- Ham
- Rich Cheese
- Home-made Bread
- Tortes

### PENTECOST

- Scrambled eggs or omelet
- Cottage Cheese dumplings
- Bacon Buns

(From: *Popular Lithuanian Recipes*)



*Knights of Lithuania*  
*Foundation*

*Essay Contest*  
*Honorable Mention*

**"Victor Johnson, a Unique Individual"**

Victor Johnson was a unique individual, and he came from a unique situation. Victor was a long time member of C-140 Syracuse. He was council treasurer for a number of years, and he served diligently on a number of committees. He truly loved the Knights of Lithuania. He read each issue of the *Vytis* magazine from cover to cover, and when his eyes began to fail he would have his wife, Helen, read to him.

Back in 1910, Victor's parents, whose Lithuanian name was Yancauskas, were the second family to purchase farm land in the settlement which would later be known as the "Lithuanians of the Chenango Valley" near Sherburne, NY. The first family to purchase land was John Getchonis. Eventually, at least 50 Lithuanian families purchased land in the Sherburne area.

Victor was unique in that, he was the first child to be born in the new settlement. He was the second child in a family of 4 boys and 1 girl.

The families would assist each other when they needed help and this produced a strong bonding. Socially, they would get together a few times during the summer, and also at weddings and funerals.

In the mid 1930's, Victor's parents sold their farm in Sherburne and bought a larger farm near Cazenovia. There was a number of acres of full growth timber on the land, so Victor and his brothers decided to open up a sawmill. After thinning out their forest, they started to buy timber from other farmers. They developed a good and successful business.

When World War II began, the United States Government gave the sawmill a special priority to supply lumber and large timbers for the war effort. They had a source for large, straight



oak trees, and they would make up hulls for war ships.

Victor's son, Paul, who was an All-American Football defensive halfback at Penn State University, bought into the partnership. Paul worked at the mill while on summer vacation during high school and college, so he knew the business very well. In the early 1980's, Paul bought out Victor and Bill because they wanted to retire. Paul began to modernize the mill, and today, it is one, large, beautiful operation. Paul ships lumber all over the world.

As we look back from this operation, we look back over the years to 1910, when the poor Lithuanian immigrants began arriving in the Chenango Valley. Victor Yancauskas Johnson was born in that little old farm house. That's when it all began. Today, only part of the foundation is left of that little old farm house. The Johnson brothers have all died. Victor was the last to go, on December 27, 2000.

Much good has come of that settlement. Eva Migonis started C-142 Washington. Charles Getchonis is now Mayor of Hamilton. Mark Lavonis is now Mayor of Canastota. Ralph Lamaitis was long time Chief of Police in Cazenovia. Two Kupris sisters are Sisters of St. Francis. There are still some Lithuanian farmers.

**By Frank Petrauskas, HM, C-140**

\*\*\*\*\*

"The moment of victory is much too short to live for that and nothing else."

~Martina Navratilova~

Knights of  
Lithuania Essay  
Contest  
Honorable Mention



**"The K of L – What's Next ?"**

As I prepare for the K of L National Convention in Orlando, I am getting mellow and reminiscing about the many highlights from my relationship with the Knights of Lithuania. I remember joining the K of L almost 44 years ago, while I was still in college. I had my "American" friends with whom I had my good times and played sports with. To me, joining the K of L at that time did not seem to be a big deal. There were many young people in the local council, and many attractive girls, a definite plus. There seemed to be a lot of fun on the agenda, and so I joined.

Now, after 44 years, I look back and, as a lot of us say, "Where did the time go ?" When I joined the K of L, I really did not know how much this organization would change my life. Many nice people in our organization made it easy to be a member and to remain year after year. The activities, both social and religious, were worthwhile and enjoyable. But, the glue that kept everything together was, (to coin a word), its "Lithuanianicity." It is true that the *Bendruomene* was present in the 50's and 60's, but many of us did not have a complete control of the Lithuanian language, and many of us did not find a comfort zone within the *Bendruomene* that was always there with the K of L.

Thus, I started my K of L "life" that has occupied over 2/3 of my life. Along with the social activities and other fun that the K of L offered, the true value of the Knights of Lithuania organization surfaced soon after I joined. The religious activities and the Lithuanian cultural traditions wove together perfectly and embody our slogan, "For God and Country." From the 50's to the 60's, the K of L had a definite

mandate – to help Lithuania become a free country again. And, the K of L did do just that - with our Lithuanian letter writing campaign, Congressional lobbying, "Friend of Lithuania" award, and the other endeavors of the Lithuanian Affairs Committee.

With the arrival of the late 80's and early 90's, the unthinkable happened. The Soviet Union collapsed and, lo and behold, Lithuania regained its independence. At that time, many of us thought we had reached our long anticipated goal, and, that perhaps the K of L was not needed anymore. Although there may still be some members who have this opinion, I feel the K of L is as viable now as it was when I first joined. I say this because Lithuania needs us again – with letter writing, petition signing, and Congressional lobbying, to allow Lithuania to become a full member of NATO, thus ensuring Lithuania's security for the future. And now that "Ethnic is in!" we have a perfect vehicle for this in the K of L. We also know that "God is alive and well," and our K of L religious activities provide a perfect complement to our cultural heritage. I've had many years of fun in the K of L and am looking forward to many years of worthwhile activities. "Gyvenam tautai ir baznyciai!"

~ by Walter Svekla - C-3,  
Philadelphia

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"If you are not criticized,  
you may not be doing much."

~Donald H. Rumsfeld~

*An International Shrine for  
the First Divine Mercy Image,  
a Dream for Lithuania*



It was in Vilnius, more than 65 years ago, that the public first caught a glimpse of the Divine Mercy Image. It was 1935. Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska had been working as the gardener at her congregation's convent in Vilnius for two years. During that time, she began writing her diary, and soon confided in her new spiritual director, Father Michael Sopocko, that beginning three years earlier, Jesus had instructed her, in a vision, to have a picture painted as she saw Him---with His right hand raised in blessing and red and pale rays of light streaming from His Heart.

After much hesitation about having a painting done, Father Sopocko found the artist, Eugene Kazinirowski, who agreed to paint the first Divine Mercy Image. It was finished in 1934, but it wasn't until the Sunday after Easter in 1935 that the Image was publicly displayed for the first time, at the *Gate of Ostra Brama*, which was an Eastern Gate to the City of Vilnius, and a shrine of Our Lady, (Ausros Vartai in Lithuanian).

"The picture was placed in a window facing the street at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy," explains Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, who served as Vice-Postulator for St. Faustina's cause of canonization. "Sister Faustina, assisted by a few others, decorated the area where the Image had been placed in the window for viewing."

Following that first public display, Fr. Sopocko moved the painting to a convent next to the church where he was rector. Sister Faustina visited the painting several times before she was transferred to Warsaw in 1936. When churches in Lithuania were ordered closed, ransacked and/or demolished, secretly the painting was rolled up and stored in an attic.

When discovered in 1956, it is noted - "It was stored under such poor conditions, that some of the paint fell off, and the Image had to be touched up," Fr. Michalenko explains. "Our Lord's face appears to have been changed from the way the original may have looked as a result." Currently, the Image of the Merciful Savior hangs in the Church of the Holy Spirit in Vilnius.

"Devotion to Our Lady of Mercy continues to be a popular devotion in Lithuania, although most Lithuanian Catholic there and throughout the Western world still do not know about Divine Mercy," says Cardinal Backis," even though this is where it all began." Many of those that are aware of the basic knowledge about the message of Mercy given to St. Maria Faustina, regard it as a "Polish Devotion." This Image is very popular in the small country churches, but sadly, not to any great extent in Vilnius itself.

When Cardinal Backis walks through his parish, that of the Holy Trinity Church, he closes his eyes and dreams of what might be. He imagines hundreds of people gathering to adore Jesus Christ---in The Divine Mercy. But, when he opens his eyes, he's faced with a church in devastation and a people who know very little about The Divine Mercy message, or even the fact that the Image "roots" are in downtown Vilnius, our Lithuania.

By renovating Holy Trinity Church, Cardinal Backis hopes Vilnius will truly become recognized for restoring Faith and spreading Mercy. The gothic style 15<sup>th</sup> century church was chosen to be the main church of the diocese because of its central location in

Vilnius. Although unable to be currently used, it has a fascinating history.

It was damaged by fire in 1748, converted to a Russian Orthodox church in the 1820's, returned to the Catholics a century later, then taken over by the Communist government following WWII. The atheistic government turned the church into a workshop to build and repair organs. The government finally returned the deteriorated church to the Archdiocese in 1998. During the intervening years, there was a complete lack of maintenance.

Like many former Communist nations, Lithuania is still struggling to make the transition to democracy. Most Lithuanians – especially those who live outside the major cities—survive on approximately \$20 per week. So the thought of renovating, restoring and building new churches to replace those torn down by the atheistic government becomes a daunting task. Churches such as Most Holy Trinity are in a state of extreme decay, with need to repair and replace everything from the foundation to the roof. Cardinal Backis remains optimistic. “We will do it bit by bit,” he says, as he examines gaping holes in the floor, and envisions the most appropriate site for a permanent “home” for the original Image painting.

~Alice Kauneckas Graff~

(Council 152 founder)

807 Parkway Street

Riverhead, L.I., NY 11901-2945

**Note:** Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated in many churches throughout the United States and the world, on the Sunday after Easter.



Council 6, Hartford, visit to the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven. Posed in front of wooden statue of St. Peter are: bottom row - LtoR - Julie Naunchek, Fr. John Rikteraitis, Kay Urban and June Grenier. Second row - LtoR - Wanda Klinkevich, Dottie Rydzial, Wandie Kruk, Leona Sawka, Irene Petkaitis, Joe Krancunas and Judy Landers. Rear - LtoR - Lillian Joseph, Helen Tomaszewski, Fran Ambrose, George Petkaitis, Al Dzikas and Dottie Krancunas.



Council 102 members at 6/10/01 meeting at St. Anthony's parish, Detroit, MI. Aldona Bunikis, (holding cake) departed for Portland Oregon. Members wished her well.



A group of Knights of Lithuania, C-74 and C-143, at St. Ann's basilica for the Lithuanian Mass. Rev. Clement Kasinskas was celebrant; John Mankus was lector.



# Knights of Lithuania

## 89<sup>th</sup> National Convention

### August 1-4, 2002

Convention Site: Congress Plaza Hotel  
and Convention Center

Host: Council 16, Chicago, IL

Dear Members,

The Knights of Lithuania 89th National Convention will be held August 1-4, 2002, in Chicago, IL..... The Windy City!!!

How about greeting all your fellow Knights and friends with an ad in the Convention Program Book? Ad costs are as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100.00 Full Page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00 Half Page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 Quarter Page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 125.00 Inside Cover\*  
(Front or Back)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 150.00 Back Cover\*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 10.00 Patron Greeting (Use 3 Lines below)

First Line \_\_\_\_\_

Second Line \_\_\_\_\_

Third Line \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00 Windy City Pal (Name Only)

\* Cover availability is on a first come basis.

You may submit your ad on a separate piece of paper or use the space provided below. Of course, camera ready copy is always welcome.

**DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 1, 2002**

Make Checks Payable to: Knights of Lithuania Council 16 ----- Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Ads with Payment to: Peter Paul Zansitis, Chair – Program Book  
Knights of Lithuania 89th National Convention  
6939 South Crandon Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60649-1701  
Phone/Fax: 773.363.2023

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(Ad copy)

# Knights of Lithuania

## 89<sup>th</sup> National Convention

### August 1-4, 2002



Convention Site: Congress Plaza Hotel  
and Convention Center

Host: Council 16, Chicago, IL

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

**Hotel Information:** Please make your hotel arrangements by contacting the Congress Hotel and Convention Center, 520 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605, 312 427-3800 or 800 635-1666. Room rate are: Single/Double: \$109.00 plus tax. If a third and/or fourth person will be sharing the room there will be a \$25.00 charge per person. If you're interested in a suite, please check with the hotel for pricing. Please remember: You must identify yourself as *Knights of Lithuania* to get the convention rate. Reservation Deadline: June 30, 2002. The convention rate is on room availability basis after deadline.

Early Registration - \$175.00 per person (Before June 1, 2002)

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration - \$185.00 per person (June 2 to June 30, 2002)

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late Registration - \$200.00 per person (After July 1, 2002)

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Registration: \$95.00 (Please use a separate form to register each junior)

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Junior \_\_\_\_\_

### ADULT CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

All Bus Service as required; Thursday "Taste of Chicago" Lunch; Thursday Night Get-Together; Coffee+ at hotel after morning Mass on Friday and Saturday; Saturday Night Banquet and Dance; and Sunday Brunch at Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse after the Closing Mass.

### JUNIOR CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

All items listed above and Thursday afternoon trip to Navy Pier; and Friday excursion to Chicago's Museum Campus

### PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Wednesday, July 31, 2002 - Bus Trip "Sights of Chicago - Lithuanian and Otherwise"

Departure: 9:30a.m.(Adults-\$45.00 p.p. /Juniors-\$30.00 p.p.) Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA COUNCIL 16

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Checks and Registration Forms to: Diann Martin & Frankie Zajauskas, Registration Coordinators  
c/o: 89<sup>th</sup> National Convention Committee  
929 West 34<sup>th</sup> Place  
Chicago, IL 60608-6720

Got a question on registration? Call: Diann (773) 376-4779 / Frankie (847) 587-1419

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Hey, look what's in store for you in Chicago this summer!



## 2002 Pre-Convention Tour: "Sights of Chicago – Lithuanian and Otherwise"



Arriving early for convention this year? How about joining us for our pre-convention tour of Chicago? Our day tour will leave from the Congress Hotel at 9:15 a.m., aboard an air-conditioned motor coach for a sightseeing tour of downtown Chicago. During this tour, you'll get an overview of Chicago's famous "Loop," so you can return to those points of interest later, that you might want to explore further on your own. We will then journey over to Holy Cross Lithuanian R.C. Church in the "Back of the Yards" neighborhood of Chicago. Holy Cross Church is an architectural marvel, with its double choir loft, Lourdes Grotto and some of the finest religious works of art commissioned by the Lithuanian Catholics of the Chicago area. Following our tour of the church, we will proceed to Mabenka Restaurant for a traditional Lithuanian lunch. After this delicious meal, it's time to relax a bit aboard the bus as we watch the video of "Our Lithuanian Catholic Heritage," en route to our next destination. Directed by our four-time Emmy winner, John Strolia (K of L C-

157 Lifetime Member) and produced by the Knights of Lithuania Choir, this video covers all the Lithuanian Churches in the Chicago area. As the video concludes, we'll be arriving at another of Chicago's famed institutions, "Eli's Cheesecake World." Here we will be given a tour of this famous factory, which will conclude with a sampling of their delicious cheesecake. All too soon, it seems, it will be time to board our bus back to the hotel. Time permitting, we'll be able to enjoy another video, this one produced by WTTW, entitled "Lithuanians in Chicago." We'll travel back via picturesque North Lake Shore Drive to that Magnificent Mile we call Michigan Avenue.

Please see the Convention Registration form in this issue of *Vytis* to sign up for this all-inclusive tour. Seating is limited, however, so we ask that you please reserve early. We regret that we will not be able to add anyone to the tour the morning of.

## Some Fun Facts About This Year's Convention

Council 16 is really excited about welcoming you to Chicago this summer, and just wanted to share some of our plans with you. First off, we are honored to be holding this year's Opening Mass at one of Chicago's most historic churches, Holy Family. Holy Family is one of the city's oldest churches, pre-dating the Chicago Fire. The story is told, that while out of town on business, its founder, Fr. Damien, SJ, was informed of the approaching flames. Fr. Damien prayed that this new church be saved from destruction. Minutes later, the winds shifted and the church was spared. The interior of the church recently underwent a complete restoration, and the exterior is currently under restoration. We are sure that everyone will marvel at the beauty of the church as it adds to the prayerfulness of our Mass. After Mass, we are planning a "Taste of Chicago" lunch at St. Ignatius College Prep., located right next door to the Church. This meal will live up to its name and give everyone a taste of the great things Chicago has to offer them during their visit. Later that afternoon, we will hold our first business session back at the hotel. In the evening, a wonderful Get-Together Party is in the works. You won't be disappointed.

Friday will see us begin the day with Mass at the hotel. Then we begin the Second Plenary Session. Early this afternoon, as the session comes to an end, you're free to roam the city on your own. Take a trolley ride down Michigan Avenue, do some shopping, visit a museum, take

in a play, or enjoy another wonderful meal. Chicago has something for everyone.

Saturday will begin as Friday did, with Mass, followed by two Plenary Sessions. In the evening, we'll all enjoy our convention banquet and dance the night away.

All too soon it's Sunday, and we prepare to close our convention with our Closing Mass. This year we have been given an invitation to hold our Mass at the Chapel of the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse. This beautiful chapel is a most fitting place to gather for our Mass, and we look forward to it. Of special note, the chapel is also the final resting place of the Sisters' Foundress, Mother Maria Kaupas. Members will have the opportunity to not only share some prayerful time together, but also with Mother Maria, as we pray for God's blessings for ourselves and for her beatification.

Following Mass and the convention photo, we will have a farewell luncheon in the Motherhouse Auditorium. We are very thankful to the Sisters of St. Casimir and the Society of Jesus for allowing us the use of their places of worship.

Now that you've had a taste of what's in store, we hope to see you in Chicago on **August 1 - 4**. Please watch the next issue of *Vytis* for additional convention information.

## Inauguration of a Scholarship



Count Nikolai Tolstoy, Mary and Anthony Rudis, Dr. Aldona Mogenyte Walker, Ronald Walker, Jr. and Dr. Ronald E. Walker

The formal inauguration of the Mary and Anthony Rudis Scholarship for the Study of The Lithuanian Statute of 1529 took place at Loyola University in Chicago's Edward Crown Center for the Humanities, on January 24, 2002. Anthony and Mary Rudis (C-112) initiated a scholarship fund for the study of this early statute which was built on Roman and Canon law, and which was characterized by tolerance, recognition of minorities, and a respect for women. Among the dignitaries in attendance were, Count Nikolai Tolstoy of Great Britain; Lithuanian ambassador to Spain – Dr. Vytautas A. Dambrave; Rev. Raymond C. Baumhart, SJ, President Emeritus of Loyola University, Chicago; and Stasys Kasauskas from Lithuania who has newly published the Lithuanian Statute of 1529. The keynote speaker, Count Nikolai Tolstoy, a descendant of the author of *War and Peace*, spoke on "The Tolstoy Family Roots in Lithuania." The classic Russian author Tolstoy was born and lived in Lithuania before they moved to Russia. The master of ceremonies was Dr. Ronald E. Walker, professor emeritus of psychology. His wife, (Lithuanian from East St. Louis), Dr. Aldona Mogenyte Walker, adjunct professor of modern languages & literature, presented Mary and Anthony Rudis at the inauguration ceremony.



Count Nikolai Tolstoy(left) of Great Britain, receives the honorary Lithuanian sash and flowers from Stasys Kasauskas, (right), Publisher from Lithuania.

## Lithuania Celebrated at Church

Lithuania has no better champion than **Florence Yanall**, Shenandoah Heights. She's been active from the start in the annual St. George Church celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day. Initially, she partnered with her husband, Joseph, who passed away in 2000. A Knights of Columbus leader on the community and county 1 levels, he, too, had been a champion of Lithuania.

Shenandoah, at one time, had the distinction of having one of the largest concentrations of Lithuanians outside the Baltic nation. Folks like Yanall and the local Lithuanian-American community haven't forgotten, and remain faithful to their traditions. The Lithuanian Women's Club of Schuylkill County aids various causes in Lithuania.

St. George Church in Shendandoah continues as one of the largest, oldest and most beautiful Lithuanian Catholic churches anywhere.

(Article which had appeared in the Republican Herald was contributed to Vytis by Tony Mazeika).



## *The Beatification Cause of Mother Maria Kaupas*



The Beatification Cause of Mother Maria Kaupas, foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir, is presently under review in Rome. To initiate the cause, a book, known as the "Positio," providing evidence of her heroic virtuous life, had to be written. It was completed by Sister Margaret Petcavage, SSC, Vice Postulator, in February, 2000, and submitted to the Sacred Congregation. To better acquaint people on the life of Mother Maria, we wish to share with our readers a segment of the Introduction to the "Positio," which was sent to Rome.

### INTRODUCTION –THE SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The lifetime of the Servant of God, Mother Maria Kaupas, stretches across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In her rather short life span of sixty years she experienced life at both ends of a continuum. Her childhood and adolescence were lived under the oppression of the Russian Czar's government. Her adult life was lived in the United States, experiencing an explosion of materialism, progress and a freedom of religion, language and culture – all unknown in her native homeland for generations.

During her youth, her country, Lithuania, was running a double risk of losing its identity. Sporadic efforts on the part of her countrymen to revive the Lithuanian spirit were brutally suppressed. In order to hasten the Russification of the Lithuanian people and to draw them into Orthodoxy, the czars, in 1864, banned the use of the Lithuanian language in the schools, churches, and in the press. A second kind of oppression existed in the predominance of Polish culture in Lithuania. Most of the upper classes, some of whom had brought their baronage coat of arms,

had been assimilated into the ways of Poland and their politico-economic interests were tied to

Poland. The Church, too, became a center of emerging conflict because of this twofold Lithuanian national struggle against both, Russian czarism and the Polish nobility. At such a time, Maria Kaupas was born.

### HISTORICAL, RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF LITHUANIA

That a young, immigrant Lithuanian girl would establish an American religious community appears contrary to what the Church of America had been experiencing for decades, especially at the turn of the nineteenth century. Most religious communities traced their roots to a European foundation, while the congregation of Mother Maria Kaupas had native American roots. A brief review of the historical, religious and political background of the suffering country of Lithuania provides insight into the understanding of the founding of the Sisters of St. Casimir in Chicago, Illinois through the supportive efforts of immigrant clergy and laity, and most especially, Maria Kaupas.

#### LITHUANIA: Homeland of Maria Kaupas

Lithuania is an ancient land. Its history is long and turbulent and reflects its role as an integral part of European, Asian and world history. It is a land of amber-hued and primeval forests known and spoken about by the Etruscans, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, as well as the Vikings. The tiny Baltic state was never populous, for it was continually attacked from all sides. In an effort to ensure some strength, in 1569, Lithuania reluctantly entered into a close defensive alliance with the neighboring state of Poland. Because of this alliance, Polish culture and Polish language were widely adopted within Lithuania. This union proved to be an unfortunate alliance, for the countries were too different to agree. For the next two hundred years, Lithuania/Poland fought the Swedes and Russians. Eventually this endless conflict proved to be the main undermining factor in the eventual economic and political decline of both countries.

For more than a hundred years, (1795-1920), under ruthless Russian occupation, the Lithuanians seemed doomed to extinction as a nation. The nation suffered unspeakable oppression from Czarist Russia, and twenty-five years later by Soviet Russia, who created a severe and cultural setback religiously, economically, politically and morally.

#### CHRISTIANITY IN LITHUANIA

It was only in the mid thirteenth century, (1250-1251), that Mindaugas emerged as the

preeminent ruler of Lithuania and embraced Christianity. This was done on his part to unify the Lithuanian lands, since he was hard pressed by the Livonian knights and equally pressed by political enemies at home. He tried to strengthen his position by accepting Christianity, together with his immediate family and some members of his court. Yet, Pope Innocent IV later wrote that a "multitude" of Mindaugas' subjects accepted Christianity, but there were indications that the Lithuanian ruler's baptism hardly affected the religious practices of the Lithuanian people at large. In 1386, historical records show that the ruler, Jogaila, was baptized and married to a Polish princess, Jadwiga. The nuptial agreement included Lithuania's acceptance into Christianity. Only a part of the population was baptized in a political move to show the West that the "heathen" Lithuanians had embraced Roman Catholicism. This date is recorded as the official introduction of Lithuania into the Christian world. Thus, religious writings often list Lithuania as the youngest daughter of the Church in Europe. The date is equally important, in that the Catholic church was to become the greatest religious institution in Lithuania. In the centuries that followed, its influence would extend to virtually every aspect of Lithuanian religious, cultural, economic and political life. In addition to its spiritual role, the Church also had a temporal function; it served as the medium through which the values of the West became part of the Lithuanian experience.

For decades, however, the Catholic Church continued to be involved in the struggle for political freedom, the development of the Lithuanian language, literature and culture. Dissident activity continued against Czarist Russia, and eventually against Polish dominance. Many educators sought to preserve the Lithuanian language. Included in this group were priests and bishops, most noteworthy, Bishop Motiejus Valancius, (1801-1875). He encouraged the people to use their old Lithuanian prayer books which gave rise to the domestic "school of the spinning wheel," where mothers secretly taught their children, at their knees, the faith and language in the forbidden Lithuanian script. He also financially supported the printing of Lithuanian books, both religious and secular, across the border in East Prussia. This was the beginning of the "book carrier" movement which became a well organized network for the distribution of illegal Lithuanian literature. Antanas Kaupas, strong defender of the faith, the

father of Mother Maria, greatly assisted in the dissemination of this literature.

The nineteenth century Catholic Church also became involved in the struggle for nationalism through its conflict with the Polish nobility. The rank and file clergy, who served the village people, became greatly involved in the national movement to preserve the Lithuanian language and its written word. The church hierarchy, on the other hand, supported the use of the Polish language. The struggle of Lithuanian curates and their Polonized pastors became a favorite theme in modern Lithuanian literature, while their disagreements continued in seminaries, rectories, and ecclesiastical offices. At the turn of the century, this conflict eventually led many a Lithuanian seminarian or young priest to flee the country and follow thousands of immigrants to the shores of the United States. Here these "fugitives" built Lithuanian churches and parish schools and became prolific writers of Lithuanian articles and books, and thus preserved the faith and Lithuanian culture in America. It was a few of these priests in the Pennsylvania area who conceived the idea to establish a religious congregation to preserve the faith.

It was in this period of time, when Lithuania was struggling for its own nationalism; when books in Lithuanian were banned; when the Roman Catholic Church was seeking to sustain itself against Russian Orthodoxy; and the Lithuanian Church was in conflict with the Polish hierarchy, that Casimira Kaupas was born. Her life, and that of her family, were greatly influenced and affected by each of these factors. With a profound faith and an indomitable courage, the Kaupas family responded and became a vital part of the heroism that existed for centuries within Lithuania.

The end of World War I granted Lithuania the opportunity to become independent, but hostile powers continued to agitate. Throughout this time, the clergy continued to be involved in politics, citing they were citizens and there was a need to defend the rights of the Church. The most striking figure in Lithuanian Catholicism in the 1920's was, Blessed George Matulaitis, MIC, (1871-1927). In addition to his profound spirituality, he attempted to integrate new teachings and scientific disciplines, such as sociology, into a Catholic philosophy of social action. He greatly influenced Mother Maria Kaupas in her work in America and rewrote her congregation's Constitution to be more in accordance with the revised canons for religious life.

## In Memoriam...



C-7	John Gerulis	8/17/01
C-7	Alma Torre	9/19/01
C-10	John Smith	11/2/01
C-12	Vincent Gendvilas	
C-16	Dorothy Roman	6/25/01
C-26	Annie Holm	10/1/01
C-29	Mary Cullen	12/15/01
C-36	Judith Sokolowski	9/7/01
C-46	Bolus Cyzeski	10/7/01
C-78	Mary Phillips	11/14/01
C-90	Frank Sluzas	7, 2001
C-110	Joseph Kabosis	8/25/2001
C-110	Stephen Krasnica	12/8/01
C-112	Jean Janula	8/29/01
C-112	Andrius Baltrusaitis	
C-112	James Bozec	9/7/01
C-112	Isabelle Phillips	11/17/01
C-112	John Adamenas	12/17/01
C-112	Frank Jagiella	12, 2001
C-118	Marie Alansky	9/28/01
C-118	George Norris	6/3/01
C-144	Eva Yurkewicz	12/9/01
C-144	Mary Pieri	1/9/02
C-144	Anele Gans	1/5/02
C-152	Mary Savage	12/5/01
C-153	Ignatius Grigutis	1/19/02
C-143	Ann Soha	9/17/01
C-36	Sr. M. Felice Jucius, OSF	6/2001

## Knights, Club Members, Make Annual Cemetery Visit



The sounds of Lithuanian and English prayers mixed with the sounds of traffic on McRoberts Road during the annual All Souls' Day Service in St. Casimir's Cemetery in Whitehall.

The commemoration was organized by Knights of Lithuania, Council 19, and was open to members of the Lithuanian-American community. Council president, John Baltrus, led the Service.

The readings in English, from Isaiah, and the Gospel of St. John, were read by Eric Grabowsky, Rita Johnson and Len Barcoucky. Simon Aleliunas led the prayers in Lithuanian.

The program was in two parts. It opened with the lighting of a memorial candle by Brian Johnson at the Marian Shrine at the entrance to the cemetery. Following the readings and prayers at the Shrine, participants then visited a half-dozen graves where members of the Knights were buried. At each plot, visitors recited a few prayers and left a carnation.

Each year, members visit different sites in the sprawling cemetery. This year's All Souls' commemoration included stops at the graves of Sister Valeria and Al Stanton, both of whom died in November. The group also stopped at the graves of the Rev. Walter Karaveckis, the last pastor of St. Casimir Church on the South Side; the Rev. John Woshner, long time pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Pittsburgh's Espien neighborhood, and members of the Brazauskas family.

**AID TO LITHUANIA****Donations for the period July 1,2001 to December 31,2001****\$10,969.68**

Mr & Mrs A Alexander (Trade School) Torrington, CT  
 (Plus an additional 100 shares of IBM Stock--value to be determined)

**\$6,000.00**

Rev.Peter A Shakalis (Seminary Fund)Plymouth, MA

**\$2,000.00**

Aldona J Kirstuk (Seminary Fund) St.Petersburg Beach, FL  
 Mr & Mrs A Alexander (Seminary Fund) Torrington, CT  
 Mary Gudelis (Seminary Fund) Dayton, OH  
 Mrs N Stodolski (Seminary Fund IMO Katrina Lutvinas)Kearny,NJ  
 Robert S Boris (Seminary Fund IMO Vince Boris)Marco Island,FL  
 Dr.Hal E Learman (Seminary Fund) Bloomfield Hills, MI  
 Ms.A Baronas (Seminary Fund) Colonia, NJ  
 Mr A Baron (Seminary Fund) Colonia, NJ  
 Patricia Kamar (Seminary Fund) Brookfield, IL  
 Ms D Kalvenas (Seminary Fund IMO Salomeja Kalvenas) Canton, MI  
 Major A S Krizanauskas (Seminary Fund) Mesa, AZ

**\$1,200.00**

Robert S Boris, Marco Island, FL  
 Ms A Baronas, Colonia, NJ

**\$1,000.00**

Estate of Michael A Yudiskas (Vilnius Trade School) Ft.Lauderdale, FL  
 K of L Supreme Council

**\$500.00 to \$700.00**

Mid-America K of L Institute Oak Lawn, IL \* K of L C-100 Maspeth, NY \* Mr & Mrs A Alexander Torrington, CT \*

**\$300.00**

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Flint, MI

**\$100.00 to \$250.00**

Sr.Margaret Louise Rupsis, Nerinx, KY \* Mr W Mameniskis (IMO Nellie A Pandza) Glenside, PA \* Dr A Mameniskis (IMO Nellie A Pandza) Philadelphia, PA \* Ms J Koshetar (IMO Nellie A Pandza) Folsom, PA \* Mr V Demereckis Eagle River, WI \* Mr P Pagojus Detroit, MI \* Mr L Grunavas Detroit, MI \* Mr & Mrs A Alexander (Trade School) Torrington, CT \* Juliann & John Majeski (IMO Frank Kapochus) Aston, PA \* Dawn Ausra Maknys (IMO Nellie A Pandza) Philadelphia, PA \* K of L C-3 Philadelphia, PA \* M & J Abbott (Seminary Fund IMO Vince Boris) Woodside, NY \* Rev.Msgr.A Contons HM Humarock, MA \* K of L Amber District \* K of L New England District (IMO Deceased Members of NED) \* K of L

C-86 DuBois, PA \* Mr & Mrs A Brazis Palo Heights, IL \* Mr & Mrs J Jonaitis Gulfport, FL  
 \* R Juska-Svoba (IMO Rimgaudas Svoba) Madison Heights, MI \* Phyllis Pelletier (IMO Jonas  
 & Irena Jacinavicius) Chicago, IL \* Mr & Mrs J Olson (Vilnius Trade School) Palm City, FL \*  
 Mr \* Mrs J Olson (Mo. Teresa Shelter Fund) Palm City, FL \* Mrs C Kurpovic, Detroit, MI \*  
 Mrs M Hobitz (IMO Igie Hobitz) Methuen, MA \* Mrs J Drukteinis, Omaha, NE \* Joann Doyle  
 ( Sem. Fund IHO Joe Stark) Oxford, MI \* Mid-Central District, K of L \* St Michael's K of L  
 C-156 Shamokin, PA \* John, Erma, Ellen & Donna Walters Millville, NJ \* Daina Kapochus  
 Egg Harbor City, NJ \* Len Kapochus Milmay, NJ \* Billy J McLean Milmay, NJ \*  
 Dr. V Vaitkevicius (Trade School) Pleasant Ridge, MI \* Mr L Grunavas (Sem. Fund) Detroit, MI \*  
 Rev. Peter Shakalis (Sem. Fund) Plymouth, MA \* Mrs D Strasius (Mo. Teresa Shelter Fund)  
 Ann Arbor, MI \* J Irene Ambrose Bloomfield Hills, MI \* Mr & Mrs P Zaranka, Ms Nata  
 Zaranka, Mr & Mrs G Zaranka & Mr & Mrs V Underys (Mo. Teresa Shelter) Redford, MI \*  
 Adele Degutis Worcester, MA \* Mr A Lukas (IMO Ingeborg Lukas) Dearborn, MI \*  
 Diane M Neverouk (IMO Mary Neverouk) Applegate, MI \* Anne P White South Boston, MA \*  
 Mrs M Greer Naples, FL \* Sr. Margaret Louise Rupsis Nerinx, KY \* Patricia A Zyren  
 Melvindale, MI \* Mr & Mrs V Milukas Plainview, NY \* Evelyn Ribron (Mo. Teresa Shelter  
 IMO deceased Sestokas & Siugzdinis Families) Milford, CT \* Mr R Leparskas Warren, MI \*  
 Gerri McIntosh (Mo. Teresa Shelter IMO Mr & Mrs Gus Baibak) Livonia, MI \*

**\$50.00 to \$75.00**

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 MD \* Kapochus Family (IMO Nellie A Pandza) Milmay, NJ \* Mr & Mrs P Machonis (IMO  
 Nellie A Pandza) Glen Mills, PA \* Mr & Mrs M Hasiuk (IMO Nellie A Pandza) Morton, PA \*  
 Mr L Petronis Dearborn Heights, MI \* Mr & Mrs J Starkus (Caritas Appeal) Santa Monica, CA  
 \* Mr & Mrs J Thompson Cleveland, OH \* Mrs D Strandberg (IMO Stasiulaitis Family)  
 Bayonne, NJ \* Donna Bunikis (IMO Frank Bunikis) Beaverton, OR \* Mr & Mrs R Marks  
 S. Euclid, OH \* John & Mary Chernoski Ewing, NJ \* Philip & Dorothy Machonis (IMO  
 Deceased Family) Glen Mills, PA \* Charles & Donna Sulmar Springfield, PA \* Mary Ann &  
 David Cipolla West Pittston, PA \* Helen Karpovich (IMO Karpovich & Kapochus Families)  
 Wilkes-Barre, PA \* Sarah & Jeffrey Barker Sudbury, MA \* Harry & Lillian Fina Bel Air, MD  
 \* K of L C-16 Chicago, IL \* K of L Mid Atlantic District \* K of L C-90 Kearny, NJ \*  
 K of L C-143 Pittston, PA \* M Labadis (IMO Bill & Helen Labadis) Giaberton, PA \* J Laurus  
 S. Pasadena, FL \* M & N Petkus (IMO Michael Petkus HM) Dayton, OH \* Dr & Mrs R Tote  
 (Seminary Fund) Grosse Pointe Shores, MI \* D Wainauskis (IMO Frank Svelnis) Oak Lawn, IL  
 \* Mary Gudelis (IMO Joseph Gudelis) Dayton, OH \* Mr L Grunavas, Detroit, MI \*  
 Mr W Zager (Trade School IMO Vince Boris) Ann Arbor, MI \* Mary Gudelis (IMO Frank &  
 Joseph Gudelis) Dayton, OH \* Michael & Ann Dillon (Sem. Fund IHO Joe & Eve Stark)  
 Lathrup Village, MI \* Barbara R Plikaitis Arlington Heights, IL \* Mrs S Hotra (IMO Solomeja  
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 Jonas Antanaitis & IHO Maryte Shalins) Woodhaven, NY \* Mr & Mrs J Stanievich (IMO  
 Robert Stanievich) Redford, MI \* E Zelinskas (IMO George & Frances Zelinskas) Huber  
 Heights, OH \* Mr W Mallen (IMO Mrs Helen Mallen) Detroit, MI \* Angela Minsavitch  
 Hampton Bays, NY \* Mr & Mrs T Mitkus (IMO George & Mary May & Joseph & Anna  
 Mitkus) Melvindale, MI \* Angela Minsavitch (Mo. Teresa Shelter) Hampton Bays, NY \*  
 Mr & Mrs A Zenka Bellerose Manor, NY \* Rita Karrytais (Trade School) Worcester, MA \*

Mr & Mrs V Rugienius Livonia, MI \* Jennie Blanchet (IMO Kaspar & Vincenta Minalgo) Esmond, RI \* K of L C-100 Amsterdam, NY \* John Waylonis Fairfax Station, VA \* John Waylonis (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Fairfax Station, VA \* Aldona Bunikis (IMO Frank Bunikis) Beaverton, OR \* Mary Shalins (Trade School IMO Mother Marija Kaupas) Woodhaven, NY \*

**\$25.00 to \$40.00**

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 Mr A Gudeczaukas (Trade School) Coventry, RI \* Mrs A Gibbas (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO  
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Mr & Mrs A Vaitiekaitis Canton, MI \* Mr D Chesson (IMO Theodora Chesson) Bridgeport,  
 CT \* K of L C-112 Chicago, IL \* Ms S Gutauskas (IMO Stephany Gutauskas) Philadelphia,  
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 (IMO EugenijaGecas) Garden City, NY \* Mrs J Ortman (IMO Mary Susin) Plainsville, OH \*  
 Mrs J Zakarka (IMO Al Zakarka) Evergreen Park, IL \* Maria Deksnis Chicago, IL \*  
 Mrs E Rogers (Seminary Fund) Oaklawn, IL \* Florence Fraser, Glenolden, PA \* William  
 Juodawlkis (Sem.Fund) Livonia, MI \* Mrs S Staknis (IMO C A Staknis) Kearny, NJ \*  
 Mr A Gumbrys, Detroit, MI \* Mr & Mrs C Sadeika (Trade School) Farmington Hills, MI \*  
 Mr & Mrs J Shurna Orland Park, IL \* Mrs S Staknis (IMO C A Stakns) Kearny, NJ \*  
 Anna Radzavage (IMO Domicelle Misunas) Shenandoah, PA \* Mr & Mrs D Miller, Dallas, PA \*  
 Mrs N Bayoras Pittston, PA \* Ruth Birute Lacek Plymouth, PA \* Ben Bala Family  
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 Millville, NJ \* Jennifer Krawchuk Milmay, NJ \* Agnes Kay Exeter, PA \* Alberta & Charles  
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 (Mo.Teresa Shelter) St Clair Shores, MI \* Agnes Gackenbach (IMO Lithuanian Heritage)  
 Emmaus, PA \* Mr V Lelis Sterling Heights, MI \* Mr J Briedis (Trade School) W.Bloomfield,  
 MI \* Mr & Mrs K Kizlauskas (Trade School) W.Bloomfield, MI \* Mr & Mrs T M Horning  
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 Mayor Rudy Guillani) Fairfield, CT \* Mr & Mrs E Senken (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Senkavich

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~~~~~  
 "Knights of the Round Table" of Council - 74, enjoying lunch after the St. Ann's Day Mass:



Left to Right from top photo:

Martha Warnagiris, Robert Warnagiris, Nellie Romanas,

John Mankus, Marie Laske, Richard Laske,

Mary Twardzik and Martha Wagner.







**"Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Sight"  
K of L Junior, Andrea Deksnis (right in photo) is at  
the microphone explaining Lithuanian traditions.  
She is a member of the K of L dancers.**



**K of L Junior, Ausra Buzenaite (farthest on left) plays  
kankles with Gene Rzumienes kankles group during  
a "traditional Lithuanian Christmas," which is  
organized by Frank Zapolis and the K of L dancers.**



**From left: Gene Razumiene, kankles teacher; Ausra  
Buzenaite; Frank Zapolis, director K of L dancers.**

**(Photos by Jonas Tamulaitis)**

## Looking Back ~ 2001

### Lithuanian Parishes Celebrating Anniversaries in 2001:

|                   |                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>110 years:</b> | St. George, Shenandoah, PA                                                                                  |
| <b>100 years:</b> | St. Casimir, London, Eng.<br>St. Mary, Eynon, PA<br>St. Mary, Wanamie, PA<br>Holy Trinity, Newark, NJ       |
| <b>90 years:</b>  | St. Anthony, Cicero, IL<br>St. George, Utica, NY<br>St. Casimir, New Haven, CT<br>St. Casimir, Peterson, NJ |
| <b>80 years</b>   | St. Anthony, Detroit, MI                                                                                    |
| <b>60 years</b>   | St. Casimir, Los Angeles, CA                                                                                |

### Clergy Celebrating Anniversaries in 2001

**60 years:** Rev. Matas Cyvas, Anthony A. Kacevicius, Agnelius Krasauskas, Nathaniel Krisciunas, Michael J. Kundrat, Juvenalis Liauba, LFM, Antanas Zakarauskas, Albert J. Zanavicius.

**50 years:** Rev. Anthony A. Jutt, Julius A. Jutt, George J. Klimas, Peter V. Kranch, Msgr. Jonas Petrosius, George P. Stalavicz, Edmund J. Sviokla, John J. Tomalonis, Albin J. Yankauskas.

### Other

**50 years:** February 16, 2001 – High School in Huettendorf, Germany. Since its founding in 1951, more than 2,000 students from 22 countries have passed through the doors of the high school.

## Looking Ahead ~ 2002

**Nativity BVM Church**, Chicago, Illinois, Marquette Park, is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The celebration begins on April 7, 2002, with Holy Mass at **12:15 p.m.**, presided over by Cardinal Francis George and former pastors and clergy of Nativity BVM church.

On April 21, 2002, at the **10:30a.m.**, all parishioners and past parishioners are invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving. Also on that day, at **3:00 p.m.**, a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet will be held at the Paradise Banquet Manor, 9220 S. Harlem, Bridgeview, IL

## Looking Ahead....

### Calendar of Events-2002

**February 9** - Opening of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. George Church, Phila., PA

**March 3** - MAMD District Meeting, Kenosha, Wisconsin

**April 6** - Supreme Council Meeting, at the Congress Hotel, Chicago, IL, contact Robert Martin, (773)376-4779

**April 7** - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Nativity BVM Church, Chicago, IL

**April 14** - Mid-Atlantic District Mtg., St. Petersburg, FL, contact Ed Barkowski (518) 355-7483

**April 21** - Nativity BVM Church Mass of Thanksgiving and Banquet

**April 28** - New England District Mtg., Worcester, MA, contact Joe Stiklius (203)574-2046

**May 5** - Rev. John Kuzinskas - Golden Jubilee of Priesthood, Nativity BVM Church Chicago, Reception at Martinique Restaurant

**June 8** - MAMD District Mtg. - at Lithuanian World Center, Lemont, IL, call Terri Strolia (708) 687-1430

**July 23-29** - World Youth Days sponsored by Pope John Paul II

**August 1 - 4** 89<sup>th</sup> Knights of Lithuania National Convention, Chicago, IL, at the Congress Hotel

**October 11-13** - Supreme Council Mtg. and Pilgrimage to the Immaculate Conception National Shrine in Washington, DC

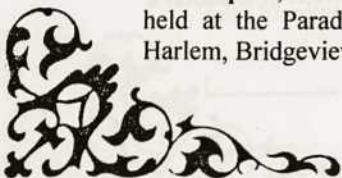
### Smiles Without Wrinkles

If you lived in your car, you'd be home by now.

After all is said and done, a lot more is said than done.

If life was fair, Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead.

~Leondas Gabinskas~ C-79



## District & Council News

### Mid Atlantic District

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

C-29 was proud of their representation at the National Convention held in Florida. Six states attended. We also received a new member to our council - Donna Robert from Orlando.

Rita Sussko received her Honorary Membership award, along with Elsie Kosmisky from C-144. Following the banquet they invited many guests to a social. We hope that a good time was had by all.

C-29 welcomed the 2001-2002 season on Sept 2nd. It was a pleasant meeting to return to old friends and members. At this meeting we greeted our new Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Clement M. Krugg CSSR, who recently returned to the States from Brazil.

In October we held our Annual Dinner Dance, chaired by Rita Sussko along with the greatest committee one could wish for; the affair was a huge success. Those working for the affair were: Domas and Ada Andruska, Marie Guoba, Mary Honeyman, Virginia and Harold Kaminskas, Elizabeth Luciw, Jennie Miklasavige, Nijole and Vytautas Miknevicus, Nellie Nechiporuk, Ann O'Neill (who chaired the cocktail hour), Al Pryzbowski and Helen and John Sisak.

Our Christmas Social was chaired by Nijole Miknevicus and was held following our December meeting.

C-29 continues to collect money for which they shop annually for food for St. John's Soup Kitchen. This is done during the year when most other

donations are not available. We also have our President, Harold Kaminskas, Lorraine Stramarra and Jennie Miklasavige working diligently with Rozalia Somkaite in collecting, sorting and packing items from household goods, clothing, books, etc. for Lithuania. The next container leaves in February.

Easter came early this year and so our parish's Annual Pre-Lenten Pancake Dance was Feb 10th. Palm Sunday was the K of L's Luncheon and Cake Sale for the benefit of Holy Trinity Church.

Our deepest sympathy to Helen Radisch on the recent bereavement of her son, Martin, to the families of long-time parishoner and K of L member Mary Cullen and of Julius Cavallo. May they rest in peace.

Happy, healthy, safe Spring to all!

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

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

Our first meeting of the New Year was well-attended and we discussed many topics and enjoyed wonderful goodies created by Lynn and Jo Sasinowski who baked but could not attend due to illness.

Bernice urged members to write to Senators Clinton and Schumer asking them to co-sponsor Senate Res. #1572; it expresses the concensus of the US Senate that NATO should be expanded and that the Baltic States should be invited to join NATO.

President Ed Barkowski reported that we received a thank you note from the bio-med technician, Vytautas Laskauskas, who was able to observe the techniques at St. Peter's Hospital during his visit.

He was very, very appreciative of the opportunity we provided to him, making possible his coming from Lithuania to learn.

Ed appointed Lynn to head a new committee - Program/Projects - and she requested members to make known their preferences for programs or projects for future meetings. Richard Fuerst, our favorite lawyer, volunteered to discuss legal matters concerning wills, trusts, etc. at a future meeting.

Lynn graciously offered her summer home in the Adirondacks for a day when the sun is shining brightly and the temperature is warmer. Those that were fortunate to enjoy a day last summer are certainly looking forward to another wonderful time. Thank you, Lynn.

Our Lithuanian Independence Day commemoration took place on Feb 24th. More details are forthcoming.

Our thought for today: Take time to love and be loved; it is a God-given privilege.

#### **C-152 E.Long Island** **Julie Lott**

We put closure to the year 2001 with our Annual Christmas Party held at the Birchwood. There was an attendance of about 114 members and guests.

Not all our snowbirds are back from the South yet but we started the New Year with a productive meeting in January. The main topic was the St. Casimir celebration to be held on March 10. A buffet luncheon follows after a 10:30 Mass at Our Lady of Ostrabama Church in Cutchogue. Again, it's a covered dish affair that is always a great success.

The National Convention to be held in Chicago was also discussed. This gives the Knights time to decide whether they will attend this noteworthy function. More on this subject at a later date.

Nice to see Loretta Rhinow and Fred Lucka back. Both spent time in hospitals due to medical problems and both are now doing quite well on the road to recovery.

"Keep up the good work, Knights."  
See you at the next meeting.

## Amber District

### **C-3 Philadelphia Victor Stepalovich**

After having another successful Kūčios and enjoying the Christmas holidays, C-3 members are now well-rested and ready for this year 2002.

On Feb 9th, C-3 attended a Pre-Lenten banquet which was held at St. George's Hall. This banquet is an annual event at the church and takes place every year on Saturday before Lent begins.. This year's banquet, however, was very special because it was the opening of the 100th anniversary of the church.

In February, the council participated in the celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day which was at the Lithuanian Music Hall. The day began with Mass at St. Casimir's Church, continuing later with festivities at the Music Hall. The Council was presented at the Mass and at the Music Hall.

Members of C-3 will attend a Mass honoring St. Casimir at St. Casimir's Church and a reception will follow at the Waterfall Hall.

On March 17th, C-3 will present a Lithuanian Expo and Fair at St. George's Church Hall featuring Lithuanian artifacts, videos of Lithuania, and cultural items.

At a previous meeting, members of the council decided to make a yearly pilgrimage to one of the many shrines in our area. This year, on April 27th,

we will be visiting Padre Pio's Shrine in Barstow, PA.

All members of C-3 join together to wish all Knights a Happy and Healthy Easter.

### **C-144 Anthracite, PA Ona**

C-144 was saddened with the deaths of three good members all of whom were long-time members. Anne Carlitus had served as Secretary for Lithuanian Day for many years and she and her husband, Ed, were always ready to help. Ed - who looked like Col. Sanders - and Ann - quiet and sweet. Ed left us a few years ago and now he took his beloved Anne with him. Eva Yurkewicz only missed a meeting when she was too sick to attend and was former organist at Our Lady of Siluva Church. Mamie Pieri, our oldest member in age, was active almost until the end. Mamie was a true Lithuanian and many times corrected us when we said something wrong in Lithuanian. The Lord received three good people; we will miss them but we know that they are with our other members in Heaven. Amzina atsili.

Kūčios this year was again successful. Our committee, as usual, prepared all the traditional Lithuanian foods. We started with Mass and Robert Yanaitis was organist and played our beautiful Lithuanian hymns. Robert and his lovely wife, Marian, are new members and we welcome them.

Our Kūčios always brings young families together to celebrate the Lithuanian customs. It was so nice to see complete families with their children attending. Each table has a head who passes the Plotkeles. Father Jankaitis opened with prayer and, as always, has something special. We are so grateful to him. After dinner, Cultural chairperson Mary Koons spoke on Lithuanian Christmas superstitions and led the group in singing Lithuanian

Christmas carols. It was a joyous and holy afternoon.

Our Financial secretary, Elsie Kosmisky, and Vice President, Eleanor Vaicaitis both underwent heart surgery and are recuperating at home. Our prayers for a quick recovery.

Anne Bendrick is our Sick Chairman and she is sure that all our sick get Spiritual Bouquets. Anne has also accepted chairmanship of the Amber District Meeting and Luncheon on March 10. The Friends of Siluva Choir will sing at the Mass and Fourth Degrees will be presented to those who cannot attend a National Convention.

Bernice Mikatavage is chairing a trip to Lithuania this summer and many of our members will be going and many of our young members will be going with their parents. It is such a joy to see the interest these young people take in their Lithuanian heritage.

This year the Anthracite Council will be celebrating its 25th anniversary as K of L's. In 25 years, we have done much. Through our successful Lithuanian Days we have been able to help our Lithuanian poor and needy considerably. Money was sent to a Carmelite Monastery in Pastuva to help them rebuild their convent. We adopted a church in Pavandenys - St. Ann's - and helped them. In the earlier years, we helped Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid in the printing of the Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania. We contribute to the Pontifical Lithuanian College, yearly and our Humanitarian Aid Committee for the past few years has sent much to the poor schools and orphans in Lithuania. We are grateful to God and to St. Casimir that we are able to do this and pray that we can continue with Lithuanian Day - this year is the 88th. Our Lithuanian Day is one year younger than the K of L. More on this, later. Our best wishes to all of our Vyčiai for a Happy Easter & Spring!

## **C-146 Harrisburg, PA Helen Grabauskas**

Yes, C-146 is still around, even though you haven't heard from us for awhile. We are a small group and this past year seemed to find many of us in poor health; our President, Joanna Gilbert, included.

Our annual Kūčios was held on Dec 8th at the Harrisburg Library Hall. Due to bad weather many who have a long way to travel were not able to attend. Those who were able to come brought a nice assortment of meatless dishes and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship.

Carol Grabauskas, daughter of Vity and Helen Grabauskas, works for the State Department in Washington, DC; last year one of her assignments as diplomate brought her to Lithuania. She was honored at the Embassy and also had a chance to visit with relatives. When she came home, her family received beautiful amber gifts. Carol is one of the organizers of our council.

We will celebrate St. Casimir Day at the Geo Restaurant in Harrisburg. We haven't had a church or hall where we can meet which is a drawback.

Helen Venis, a lifetime member of C-110 in Maspeth, NY, passed away June 16th. She was the mother of Helen Grabauskas and lived in PA for the past 3 years. Our whole family misses her very much but Thank God for letting her live to the age of 92 years.

Our council received thank you letters from Msgr. Al Bartkus for the donations that we sent to Pontificio Collegio Lituaniano and also for the donations to the Jesuit Fathers' Baltic Project. We pray for Msgr. Bartkus to regain his health in 2002.

## **New England District**

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

The new slate of officers were presented and sworn in by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John Rikteraitis: Kay Urban, Pres.; Al Dzikas, 1st VP; Alyce Gegesky, 2nd VP; Irene Petkaitis, Rec. Sec.; June Grenier, Financial officer; Madelyn Ratches, Treas.; Wandie Kruk, Sgt-at-arms. Also sworn in were 3 new members: Richard Bansavich, Florence Grigas and Mary Kozicki. Congratulations to all.

Through arrangements made by our Social Chairlady, Lillian Joseph, for car-pooling, etc., members had an interesting and impressive tour of the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven, on January 24th. Highly recommended by one of our members, a delightful luncheon followed at near-by Tycoon's Restaurant. Dalia Dzikas gave an enlightening report on the Lithuanian Christmas season and Three Kings Day.

Because our Feb 2001 ?Beach Party? was such a huge success, our second annual event was held Feb 5th at the Holy Trinity Church Hall. Although the weather outside was raging cold, the atmosphere inside was warm and the aroma of hot dogs and hamburgers cooking permeated throughout, as prepared by Leona Sawka, Judy Landers, and Lillian Joseph. Aciu, aciu to all those who helped to get all the food out and clean-up. Our Hospitality Chairlady, Judy Landers, and her ?bakers for the beach party/meeting? get a special thank you for a great job! We applaud Frances Ambrose (telephone) for always being so punctual and reliable in making her telephone calls. She reported that since we now have 68 members, she needed to ask for volunteers to assist her making calls. The volunteers are Judy Landers, Louise Pivoski, Kristina Serksnas and Wandie

Kruk. Wandie, our past President, received a very appreciative thank you from Janina in Ukmerge where we had sent a donation to Babilonas Recreational After-School program for children. Janina stated, "I can repair rooms at 'Babylon'... thanks to good people."

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

Our council elected the following slate for 2002: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis; President, Henry Gailunas; VP, William Wisniauskas; Treas, Nellie Melaika; Rec. Sec., Pamela Bouthlier; Fin. Sec., Marie Colo; Marshal, David Lucas; Cultural Ch., Brone Wisniauskas; Ritual Ch., Maryann Langlois.

Our council held a Lithuanian-style dinner attended by some 140 people. Chairperson of the Kitchen was Armand Bouthlier; Nellie Melaika, ticket chair; Hostess, Sophia Fiorentino; Coffee, Mylda Stasiunas; Raffle, Roberta Landry. A good sum was donated to St. Francis Church.

Our annual Kucios was held Dec. 16th. It was a beautiful event attended by some 50 K of L'ers and several friends. Pastor, Rev. Raymond Messier read the Gospel of Luke and broke the blessed plotkeles to all. Rev. Jurgelonis explained the meaning and significance of the Lithuanian Kucios. Sophia lit the Advent candles in memory of our deceased members and Brone Wisniauskas did the various games of chance. Singing of carols was enjoyed -"AJ" was the piano player. Bill Wisniauskas was the MC. Armand Bouthlier was the kitchen coordinator.

Kristine Genaitis is a third year student at the University of Virginia Law School ; Sister Suzanne is working on her Master's at Boston College.

Brone Wisniauskas was elected Hostess

of the Greater Gardner Art Club.

Condolences to the Smith family on the sudden death of John Smith of Hadley. He was a Guidance Counselor at So. Hadley High for 31 years. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, son, David, and two brothers, Paul and Peter. John attended functions with his wife. K of L'ers attended his Funeral Mass and burial. John, Eternal Rest!

## Mid America District

### **C-82 Gary, IN** **Daisy Ann Talley**

February 10th was a great day for C-82 to celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day. ALTAS President, Vince Gumulauskis welcomed everyone. After the flags were posted with Vladas Ruzga of American Legion's Vytautas Post and the Pledge of Allegiance, Katherine Jagiella sang the National Anthems. Mistress of Ceremonies, Birute Vilutis, Pres. of LAC of East Chicago, introduced Monsignor I. Urbonas for the prayer service for all those who died for the cause of freedom. The dinner was exceptional - Great Lithuanian Food. Our Lithuanian Super-chefs came out of retirement after the Church's closing: Ursula Tavaras (our 2002 President), Loreta Raudonis, Birute Ruzga, Joanna Rudzevicius and Maryte Ruzga.

U.S. Congressman, Pete Visclosky gave an interesting speech and was very encouraging concerning Lithuania being admitted into NATO. Mildred Jagiella presented the resolution for NATO admission for the Baltic States and this was unanimously passed. Kestutis Pocius spoke of NATO and the Baltics States.

After Benediction by Msgr. Urbonas, "God Bless America" filled the Hall. Music was provided by Bronius Muras. 'As always, superb.

It was a great turn out!

### **C-112 Chicago, IL**

**SJM Shainauskas**

Council 112 is proud to report that it has registered **16 new members**. What wonderful news! In addition to this good news, Nativity BVM parish is preparing to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this coming April. Cardinal Francis George will be the celebrant on April 7<sup>th</sup>, and another special Mass, followed by a parish banquet, will be celebrated on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Ad multos annos!

Some members will be attending the MAMD meeting in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This meeting will include the celebration of the Feast of our Patron, St. Casimir. Also, long-time member, Mickey Petrosius will be receiving her 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree at this Mass. Some first and second degrees will be awarded during C-112's meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Members were also invited to attend the Supreme Council meeting to be held in Chicago on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

On a sad note, we were sorry to hear that our member, Antanas Pauzuolis suffered a heart attack while visiting his son in Florida. Our prayers and best wishes for returning health are with him.

Congratulations are wished to our pastor emeritus, Rev. John Kuzinskas, who will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood on this coming May 5<sup>th</sup>. May God bless you, Father John!

Also, Maria Deksnis is planning some Easter egg coloring activities with her

Juniors. A happy and blessed Easter from our Council to yours! Linksmų, Šventų Vėlykų Jums visiems!

### **C-96, Dayton, Ohio**

**Fran Petkus**

The Lithuanian community of Dayton, Ohio commemorated February 17<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Lithuania's 12<sup>th</sup> year of regained freedom. Mass was held at Holy Cross Lithuanian Church at 10:30 a.m. Before the close of Mass, Elinor Sluzas, HM, shared the work the Knights of Lithuania are doing, to bring to the world Lithuania's best-kept secret - Our Lady of Siluva! Our visiting priest, Fr. John Roten, director of the Marian Library at the University of Dayton, which houses a complete library of Our Blessed Mother, was so impressed with the material Elinor had shared, he requested a copy with the intent of putting it on the Marianist's international web site. Mass was then closed with prayer and the resounding singing of the American and Lithuanian National Anthems!!

After Mass, everyone headed to the church undercroft where opening prayers were followed with a special buffet breakfast prepared by C-96 Social Chair and Sarysis president, Elaine Pacovsky. MC for the program was Michael F. Petkus, with C-96 president, Robert Pant reading the Resolution Proclamation for Lithuania's entrance into NATO. The day's program rounded out with the *Vejeliai* Dancers doing their usual super

performance. Donations collected were designated to the K of L Aid to Lithuania, Inc., and Lithuanian

Children's Relief, Inc., Brockton, MA.

A warm welcome to our new member, Kristina Dambrauskas, formerly from Michigan City, IN, and now teaching at Wayne High School in the Dayton area. Also, a warm welcome to our rejoined member, Mary A. Petkus! Congratulations go to Jimmy and Joan Kavalas on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary, They have both been members for better than 50 years.

Deepest sympathies go to Karl Keivel's family. The good Lord called Karl on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. He and his wife celebrated 58 years together and have been Council members during that time. May Karl rest in the peace of the Lord!!

### C-143, Amber, Pittston, PA

Eleanor Bellanco

Our 2001 Kucios was a great success. Frank and Marian Joga, chair and co-chairs and their committee, Martha and Robert Warnagaris, Yvonne Branis, Marie Lauck, Bernard Dalton, Rosalie Kizis, Eleanor Bellanco, Mary Ann Cipolla, Patricia Waiksner, Rosemary Durling, Anna Davala, Peggy Yanklunas, Carol and Casimir Kizis, Ursula Danoski, Genevieve Dajnowski, and Nellie Bayoras Romanas did an excellent job. 108 tickets were sold. Knights and friends from far and near attended. On Jan. 6, 2002, Fr. Peter Alisaukas, Spiritual Director, celebrated Mass in St. Casimir's

Church, and installed the following officers: President, Nellie Bayoras Romanas; VP, Peggy Yanklunas; Rec. Sec., Martha Warnagaris; Treas., Frank Yoga; Financial Sec., Helen Mary Karpovich; Trustees, Rosalie Kizis, Anna Walutkas, Marie Lauck; Committees: Lith. Affairs, Genevieve Dajnowski; Ritual, Jean Kapocius Mihalick; PR, Patricia Weiksner; Vytis Correspondent, Eleanor Bellanco; Historian, Ursula Danoski; Sunshine, Christine Moczydloski; SAA, Casimir Kizis, Jr.; Culture, Martha Warnagaris.

Men of the Council served refreshments. We are happy to welcome a new (transfer) member, Marilyn Burkeiser. Delegates were chosen for the March District meeting. Pittston City honored its Lithuanian Citizens by displaying Lithuanian Flags along Main Street. On Feb. 14, 2002, our council conducted the 84<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian Independence Day Flag raising at Pittston City Hall. Msgr. John Bendick offered Benediction. Mayor Michael Lombardo spoke, as did Council Pres., Nellie Bayoras Romanas. March Warnagaris and members sang the Lietuvos Himnas. The following day, our Council participated in a Lithuanian Flag raising ceremony at the Luzerne County Courthouse. Yvonne Branis, chairperson, Mary Ann Cipolla, co-chairperson, are planning a Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, March 3, 2002, in Honor of St. Casimir's Day.

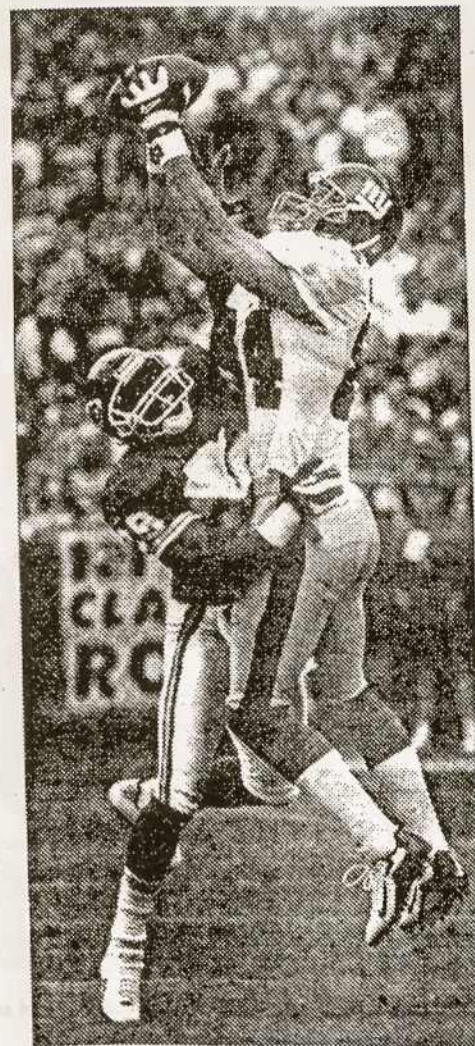
The Council is very sad to have lost one of its members, **Ann Soha**, who passed away on September 17, 2001. Anna was a dedicated

Mother and wife. She was active in her church and civic community affairs. She was past President and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Member of K of L Council-143. She will be missed. May the Perpetual Light shine upon her, and may she rest in peace.



### It's Spring!

'Tis the season of the year  
To set aside all care,  
Time to enjoy the beauty  
Around you everywhere.



**GOOD HANDS PERSON** Giants' Joe Jurevicius leaps over Chiefs' Ray Crockett for one of his seven catches on day.

## Did You Know That? ...

Know what?

The average Lithuanian does not go around lauding his ethnic inheritance. Some are bashful, not many, though. In comparison to other nationals, most of us are humble individuals. We have a small population. We support our churches, attend our chapters, form comradeships and maintain our culture. That, in short, is our existence. But, it's hard work.

**Eureka! The mold is broken!** By whom? Joe Jurevicius, that's who. Who's he? A member of the New York Giants Football Team. Chicago Bears better watch out! He is an outstanding Lithuanian-American, proud of his heritage, and a person we, as fellow Lithuanians, should try to emulate. All stand at attention here! Our path is getting thinner, you know. Our ancestors across the sea remain strong and defiant after years of oppression, and will carry their new independence into a prosperous future. (Strains of Lietuva, Tevyne Musu playing in the background). Lietuva!



KEITH TORRIE DAILY NEWS

**NO ORDINARY JOE** Joe Jurevicius makes one of seven catches Thursday.

Notice the Vytis tattoo on Joe's right arm.

Article submitted by: Walter Klosis, C-110, Maspeth, NY



A gathering at Henry and Brone Gailiunas' home.  
C-10, Athol-Gardner.

## A Meaningful Fast ...

Rabbi Joseph Teluskin, in the Book of Jewish Values, offers this fresh perspective on fasting as a prayer—My wife and I periodically try to engage in a “complaining fast.” For a week at a time, we try to refrain from all whining and complaining. Doing so makes it easier to become conscious of things that are going well in your life.

Lent, of course, is a time for fasting. We usually identify fasting with giving up food and drink. The hunger we feel in our stomachs reminds us of our more important hunger for the things of God. But, this Lent, perhaps we can consciously fast from other behaviors besides food:

--fasting from complaining so as to become more aware of all that we have to be grateful for in our lives.

--fasting from criticism, so as to see anew the good that exists in everyone.

--fasting from anger, so as to realize our own need for forgiveness and understanding.

We might also consider a more tangible form of fasting:

--fasting from television in order to spend more time with the family; fasting from some activity we enjoy in order to volunteer our time to some charity; fasting from “noise” in order to spend time in silent, but conscious prayer.





Stanley Bozenko, 75, of Clarks Summit, bows his head during grace before Sunday's traditional Lithuanian Kucios Christmas supper at St. Joseph's Church in North Scranton.



C- 109 members in attendance at a K of L meeting at the Wesey's residence: seated l to r Jane Schwarz, Adele Bondel, Starsy Wesey, Josephine Zukas, Alexander Wesey, Bertha Fuchs, Blanche Zukas, Amelia Mileskie. Standing: l to r Joseph Zukas, Mary Santagata and Mary Ann Wesey.



Brone Wisniauskas' Lithuanian Christmas tree and decorations. C-10, Athol-Gardner.





Father Clement Krug, CSSR, new pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, which celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, in Newark, NJ.



ATL president, Regina Juska-Svoba, gives updated report on ATL at Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> commemoration. Seated at left, Honorary Consul, George Jurgutis; seated at right, DLOC president, attorney Kestutis Miskinis.



Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> commemoration, donation table.  
L to R, seated: Sylvia Jarosz, C-79; Margaret Dapkus, C-79 president; ATL president, Regina Juska-Svoba.  
Standing: ATL VP, Michael Shea; ATL Secr.-Treas. Theresa Shea; ATL Corresp. Secr. Bill Zager.

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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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*God Is With You Always*

*There is nowhere we can go*

*That God has not been before us—*

*We walk always in the shadow*

*Of His presence and His care,*

*For the Shepherd doesn't call His sheep*

*To unfamiliar pasture;*

*God has promised that, where we are,*

*We will also find Him there.*