

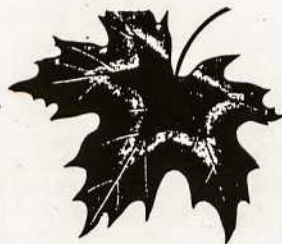


# Vytis ~ The Knight

Vol. 88 No. 6 - rugsejis/spalis - September/October 2002



*"I shall pass through this world  
but once. Any good therefore  
that I can do or any kindness that  
I can show to any human being,  
let me do it now. Let me not  
deter or neglect it, for I shall not  
pass this way again."*



*Stephen Grellet*



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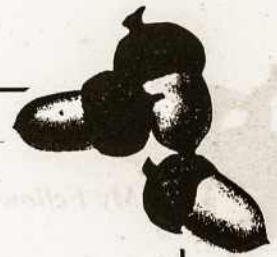
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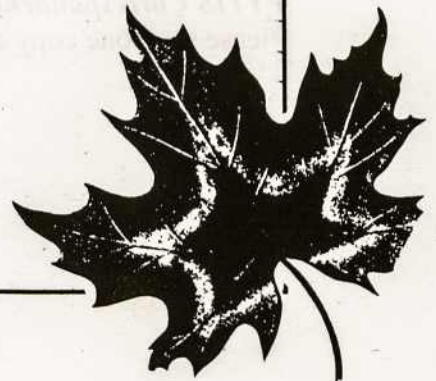
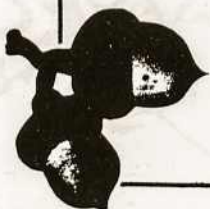
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**Mission Statement: The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of our ancestors, and knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.**



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### *To My Fellow Knights*

As you read this issue, it will already be November, Thanksgiving, and NATO invitation time.

*Happy Thanksgiving!* How fitting it is that we in our country have a special holiday in which to rekindle our gratitude for benefits received! These sentiments, however, should not be confined to the one season of the year. It is right and just to thank God for the many blessings with which we have been gifted not the least of which is the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The conference in Prague for the invitation of countries into NATO later in November is fast approaching. We at this time expect to be joy-filled as we expect Lithuania to be numbered among those *invited* into the organization. When this occurs, let us be joyful, but continue to work for the completion of this project with the acceptance of this by the United States.

*Sister M. Janine*



### **VYTIS REMINDERS FROM THE EDITOR**

#### ***PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR COSTS DOWN.***

If you leave your regular residences for the winter (or otherwise), please inform June Grenier, the Financial Secretary. When you are away, Vytis is not deliverable, and we are charged First Class Mail for the return of undeliverable periodicals.

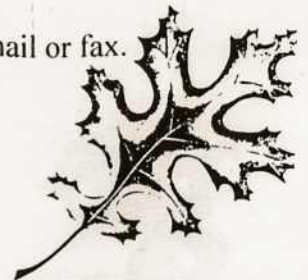
If you move, please inform your local financial secretary or president as soon as possible.

#### ***Council Financial Secretaries***

You are responsible to send official changes of address and death notices of members of your council to **June Grenier, the National Financial Secretary**. Please forward this information as soon as possible. Do not send this to the Vytis Office as this delays the procedure.

#### ***VYTIS Correspondents***

Please send one copy of your Council News to the **VYTIS office** by mail, email or fax.



*Knights of Lithuania*  
*Supreme Council*  
Established 1913

"For God and Country"



**A Message from our President**

September-October 2002

Dear Fellow Member,

It's hard to believe that once again the Fall Season is upon us. Halloween has brought the Trick or Treaters to our doors. It is at this time of year that we also remember those who have gone before us. On All Souls Day may we especially remember the faithful departed Knights of Lithuania Members. With so much uncertainty in our world today may God grant our leaders in Washington the wisdom to make the right decisions to guard the security of our nation and indeed the security of our world.

This fall has truly been a busy one. At this writing, I am happy to write that I was able to attend the Fall New England and Mid-Atlantic District Meetings. On behalf of our membership I congratulate the new presidents of these districts: Vivian Rodgers of the New England District and John Sakal of the Mid-Atlantic District. I'm sure Vivian and John will do a great job leading their districts for the coming year and will each be a great addition to our Supreme Council. I look forward to visiting with the other districts during this year.

I also had the honor of attending a luncheon in honor of President Valdas Adamkus during his recent visit to the United States. Many K of L members turned out in Chicago for this wonderful afternoon. During his address President Adamkus expressed the hopes he has that Lithuania will be invited into the European Union and NATO. Let's all keep writing our representatives in Washington to make sure that NATO Membership becomes a reality this year. The nation of Lithuania has made great strides in the past several years and can be proud of their accomplishments. Before leaving, President Adamkus asked our members to express to all the Vyčiai his warmest regards for continued success.

Finally, I wish to encourage everyone to send in articles for publication in the Vytis. Our editor and her staff welcome all material, regardless of size for publication. The Vytis is our magazine; so it's up to each of us to insure that the staff has information, news and stories for publication. I'm sure we can count on you.

Vytiškai,

*Robert A. Martin, Jr.*

## *Lithuanian Affairs Update...*

### POLITICAL NEWS.

From the office of the **President of the Republic of Lithuania**, it was reported that on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, **President Valdas Adamkus** took part in the opening of the **NATO Workshop, "Consideration and Options on a New Nuclear Power Plant at Ignalina."** In his speech, **President Adamkus** thanked the organizers of the workshop and the **Lithuanian Energy Institute** and its leadership for active involvement in studying topical energy issues and raising public awareness of them. Having noted that **NATO** was one of the organizers of the workshop, **President Adamkus** stated that this event was yet another significant step towards closer cooperation between **Lithuania and the Alliance**. He underlined that consideration and projecting of all possible options for a new nuclear power plant and discussions about the feasibility of building a new plant after shutting down both units of the **Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant** should be undertaken at present. According to the President, the experience of European countries and the United States has proved that nuclear power plants are a reliable source of energy able to satisfy the demands of a rapidly growing economy. Furthermore, they are the future of the energy sector, and Lithuania should take due account of this perspective. "In this respect, shutting down of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant does not preclude us from building in the future a modern nuclear power plant satisfying all technical and safety requirement standards," **President Adamkus** stated. He also understood that realistic assessment should be made of the present economic situation, financial capacity of the state and possible involvement of foreign investors in considering possible construction of a new nuclear power plant. "I am certain that discussions on these issues and possible decisions should be based on adequate evaluation of the current situation in the region, thorough analysis of the capacities of the energy sector in Lithuania and the neighboring countries, and the present and future demand for electricity," the Lithuanian President said.

It was reported by **ELTA and BNS-CITY PAPER**, that **President Adamkus** announced he will be a candidate for a second five-year term. In the announcement he declared, "I feel I have the strength and experience that may be useful to our country in this historically important period." He also stated, "I can't remain calm if I don't attempt to complete unfinished business. A part of our society is still impoverished, and progress in dealing with this has been too slow," he was quoted as saying. During his first term as president, **Adamkus** has been outspoken about incompetence and corruption in some government sectors. He has been a forceful advocate for **Lithuanian membership in NATO and the European Union**. **Adamkus** is the first major politician to say he'll run. **Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas**, of the left-wing **Social Democrats**, and **Speaker Arturas Paulauskas**, of the center-left **New Union**, could be formidable challengers. They are expected to announce their candidacies in the near future.

**BNS-CITY PAPER** reported that **Lithuania and the United States** discussed the possibility of **President George W. Bush** visiting **Vilnius** in the near future. Lithuanian President **Valdas Adamkus** and U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania, **John Tefft**, spoke about possible plans during a short meeting at the presidential palace, the agency said. Speculation is, that **Bush** may come to Lithuania right after the **November 21-22 NATO summit**, at which the **Baltic States** are expected to win highly coveted invitations to join the alliance. Several dozen American officials arrived in Lithuania earlier this week to begin preliminary preparations for the visit, though no firm confirmation is expected until November. **Lithuanian media reports say Bush would be accompanied by about 1000 people, including 200 journalists.**

Professor **Henry Nau** wrote in the London-based **Observer** newspaper, Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, that a larger **Russian role in NATO** could cancel out the benefits to the Baltic States of entering the U.S.-led alliance. He pointed in particular to the Council of 20, a new forum designed to give **Russia a say (though not a veto)** within the alliance. "To put it bluntly, it was a payoff to **Russia to acquiesce in the admission of new members to NATO,**" wrote **Nau**, from **George**

**Washington University.** "If NATO takes in the Baltic States and moves to the borders of Russia, Russia will have to move into the board rooms of NATO," he added. "But, if this is the purpose of the Council of 20, it is deeply contradictory and totally nullifies the significance of NATO membership for the Baltic States."

**Lithuanian Parliament** passed resolutions on Sept. 2, extending the participation of the country's troops in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Yugoslav Kosovo province. Lithuanian soldiers have been deployed in the NATO-led international mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1996 and in Kosovo since 2000.

ELTA reports that the Lithuanian program on preparation for NATO has gained initial approval. An inter-institutional NATO integration coordination commission of Lithuania said "yes" to the draft national program 2002-2003 on preparation for NATO membership on Sept. 18, and now will forward the paper to the Cabinet. The finally approved document will be delivered to the Alliance by end-September. The program focuses on further reform in national armed forces. It provides data on involvement of Lithuanian servicemen in international operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, and the intended delegation of servicemen to UN and US military missions in Afghanistan. The program also emphasized the continuity of Lithuanian commitment to finance adequately the development of the national defense sector. The political chapter of the program deals broadly with anti-terror measures, cooperation with foreign partners, good relations with neighbors, the content of approved national security strategy, anti-corruption action, restoration of historical justice with respect to Holocaust victims, and protection of national minorities and their full integration into Lithuanian society. The economic chapter furnishes update information on economic development and government policy. Lithuania will refer to the program on preparation for NATO as it takes part in the annual cycle of the NATO Membership Action Plan.

A commentary in the German newspaper, "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung," discusses the latest developments in the dispute between Russia and the European

Union over travel between Russia's Kaliningrad enclave and the main part of Russia. Russia has strongly objected to the suggestion that Kaliningrad residents will have to acquire visas in order to cross the EU territory that will separate the enclave from the rest of Russia, if Poland and Lithuania join the EU as expected in 2004. Both the EU and Russia are now making some conciliatory moves, says the commentary. The government in Vilnius has always closed its eyes regarding the illicit dealings by some travelers on the Kaliningrad-Russia route, while Russia has always been more concerned with the broader issues of sovereignty. But, Russia no longer insists on visa-free travel between Kaliningrad and the rest of the country, and the European Commission yesterday proposed introducing special travel passes for Kaliningrad residents.

#### ECONOMIC NEWS.

In the near future, the U.S. database software company, Oracle, plans to form a new team and complete equipping its new office in Lithuania, Lithuanian Development Agency said. The company says it sees at least a hundred potential customers in the country. Oracle has already gained a foothold in Lithuania's energy, telecommunications and financial sectors, and sees new opportunities in the manufacturing and public sectors as well. The company will continue to cooperate with Informacines Technologijos, a Vilnius-based company that has represented Oracle since 1992.

ATMeye video security system developed by the baking technologies arm of Penki Kontinentai, one of Lithuania's biggest IT companies, is becoming increasingly popular among banks in many countries. ATMeye is an ATM surveillance system, fighting fraud and vandalism and helps the bank security service operate in a cost-saving and efficient manner. The ATMeye hardware costs around 180 euros, with software prices depending on the region. Different ATM models are being used or being tested at the banks of Poland, Slovakia, Latvia, Croatia, Ukraine, Lebanon, the UAE and Israel.

Retail sales in Lithuania grew by 14.5 percent in the first seven months of this year, compared to the same period a year ago, due to rising car sales, expansion of retail chains and

increasing domestic consumption, Lithuania's Statistics Department said on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.

The aggregate leasing portfolio of Lithuanian leasing companies grew by 23.8 percent over the first eight months of 2002, and reached 1.392 billion litas (EUR 0.403 b) as of late August, the Lithuanian Leasing Association announced. On a monthly basis, the leasing portfolio increased by 2.4 percent in August.

#### CULTURAL, SPORT AND

#### MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

On Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, the Lithuanian Parliament approved a resolution on sending four Lithuanian military doctors to a United Nations-led peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan. The UN forces are in charge of securing peace in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. The Lithuanian war doctors, who were selected from 30 candidates and trained in the Czech Republic for three months, will join the operation as part of a Czech military hospital.

An international conference on holocaust will be held in Vilnius at the end of September, BNS reported. The conference, "Holocaust in Lithuania. Aspects of Modern History, Education and Justice," organized by an International Commission for Evaluation of Nazi and Soviet Occupational Regimes in Lithuania, is scheduled for September 23-25. The international event aims at presenting and disseminating information on the most recent results of holocaust history research, encourage people's interest in holocaust in Lithuania, stimulated the most eminent world scientists to take part in the discussions about this period of history. Members of Yad Vasham, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Israel, Polish Academy of Science, U.S. Washington University, U.S. Department of Justice Special Investigation Bureau, Millersville University, USA, also famous Lithuanian historians will take part in the conference.

According to BNS-CITY PAPER, Lithuania has launched a novel program to deal with a shortage of traffic police: It's cut new ones out of cardboard and propped them up on the side of streets to scare motorists into slowing down. About 300 of the cardboard cops have been placed at road crossings near 90 schools in Vilnius, a spokeswoman for the municipality,

Rasa Razgaitis, said. She said the program coincides with the start of school in the nation of 3.7 million people. The life-sized replicas, painted turquoise green of actual Lithuanian police uniforms, are expected to stay in service for several months. The some 10,000 dollars of materials required to fashion the police impersonators were donated by Kappa Packaging Baltics, a leading producer of boxes in the Baltic Sea coastal country. Razgaitis said, evidence suggests that the sight of the replicas has, as hoped, caused drivers to hit their brakes. She said, Vilnius has made improving traffic safety a high priority. Lithuania, like her Baltic neighbors, registers among the highest road fatality rates in Europe, with over 700 people dying each year, or around 20 deaths per 100,000 residents. The average annual rate in the European Union is under 10 per 100,000.

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

### *Išleistuvės*

Prabėgo metų keletas gražių  
Draugystėje ratelį jaukiam  
Likimas neleidžia keliauti kartu,  
Reik skirtis su skaudžia širdim.

Šiandieną tariam širdinga sudie,  
Su ašarom virpančiu žodžiu.  
Ir prašom Aukščiausio palaimos  
Lai puošia Jūsų kelią žiedais.

Būkite sveiki ir laimingi  
Tarp gėlėm išpuoštų Tėvynės laukų  
Lietuvos padangė lai džiugina širdis  
Berželių pavėsiai lai duoda jėgų.

Daug žodžių sudėčiau kiek telpa I širdį  
Kad juos ten pabėrus pavirstų džiaugsmu  
Jei ir šešėliai praslingtų pro šalį  
Neliūdintų Jūsų puikiųjų širdžių

Nors karta sugrižkite mintimis atgalios  
Aplankyti šį gražų kampelį  
Su ilgesiu lauksime žinutės nors mažos  
Tikėdami dar susitikti.



*Valeria Leščinskienė, C-147  
St. Petersburg, Florida*



*Scholarship Awards at the  
Chicago, Illinois K of L  
National Convention*



**SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET**  
**August 3, 2002**

Greetings from the Scholarship Committee once again...

I am filling in tonight for Irena Gecas-McCarthy, the Scholarship Committee chairperson. She sends her regards and passes along the regret that she was not able to make it tonight, due to her work commitments. I represent the Mid-Atlantic District. Tonight, I have the great honor of recognizing several deserving applicants and rewarding them with awards based on the Committee's vote.

Over the last couple of years, the Committee has proposed and voted on several changes, including the rescission of the restriction that stipulated that an applicant could only win one time. This year, there is one applicant that has applied for a third time, two for a second time and three others applying for their initial time.

Before announcing the awards, I would, first, like to thank the other members of the committee, and introduce the other representatives from the 4 other districts.

- Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote  
New England District;
- Antoinette Sakal, (myself), Mid-Atlantic District;
- Karen Domalakes, Amber District;
- Wanda Pliskaitis, Mid-America District;
- Irena Gecas-McCarthy, Mid-Central District



All five committee members vote and each applicant is scored. The score is based on a numerical voting system that takes into account the following attributes: K of L involvement (minimum 2 year membership requirement); Financial Need, Character

Reference, Academic Record, and Community Service. These 5 characteristics are still deemed to be important and are used to distinguish potential recipients.

Now...for seven applicants, the award will provide a contribution to the high costs incurred for their education...This year the Committee has awarded a total of \$8,250.

As always, the scholarship mentioned, the Irene Sankus Memorial Scholarship for **\$1,000** that is awarded each year to a seminarian attending the Pontifical Lithuanian College-Seminary in Rome. It is customary for Monsignor Bartkus to select the recipient, who is from a Diocese in Lietuva and is studying in either his first or second year in Rome.

The second scholarship, the top scholarship, the Sviklas and Tamulevich Memorial Scholarship was split this year, with **\$1,000** awarded to **Mary Mankus**, a member of Council 72 - Binghamton, NY, and **Pranas Cziunas**, a member of Council 142-Washington, DC.

**Mary** continues to pursue completion of her PhD, Doctor of Philosophy in History from the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs of Syracuse University. She has completed her course work and continues work on her doctoral dissertation. Her research deals with United States immigration history, specifically that of World War II Eastern Europe Displaced Persons. Upon completion of her dissertation and degree, she plans to pursue a career as a professor of history and an attorney specializing in immigration matters.

**Pranas** is pursuing a Master's Degree in Operations Research at George Mason University in Washington, DC., specifically the Military Operations Research Program. This is his first year to apply. He is returning to school to combine two key interests - information technology and international/military affairs. In addition to the K of L, Pranas is active in other Lithuanian and Catholic organizations,

including working for the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC).

The next scholarship, the Alice Karklius Memorial Scholarship (which is provided through the K of L Foundation), is for \$1500 and is awarded to a previous scholarship winner from Council 133 - Los Angeles - **Robert Medonis**. Robert has a B.A. in History from Kenyon College, and an MBA in Finance/Marketing from Ohio State University. Last year, Robert won an award that permitted him to participate and present at the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference on Baltic States at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, June 6-8, 2002. This year, he is applying to enroll in Vilnius University's Lithuanian language course in July 2003. He has been an active member of both, the Los Angeles and Pittsburgh councils.

In addition, we awarded three general fund scholarship awards to several worthy individuals seeking bachelor's degrees.

**Stephany Suders**, Council 144 - Harrisburg, PA, was awarded \$1,000. She just graduated Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg, PA, and applied to both Marywood University in Scranton, and James Madison University in Virginia. She plans to study psychology, and eventually go to graduate school to study educational counseling and become a guidance counselor. This is her first year to apply.

**Sarah Miller**, Council 141 - Bridgeport, CT, was awarded \$1,000 and has previously applied. She continues to attend Clemson University, studying Speech and Communications with a Sociology Minor. She hopes to become a speech pathologist.

**Aukse Kronas**, Council 147 - St. Petersburg, FL, was awarded \$750. Auske has just completed Boca Ciega High School and will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in Criminology from St. Leo University. This is her first year to apply.

We wish the best to all of our winners!!!! Please let's now give a round of applause to all scholarship recipients, to show our support. In conclusion, the Committee wishes

to thank all of you for your continued support of the scholarship program.



**K of L Scholarship Winner - Stephany Suders -2002**

August 21, 2002

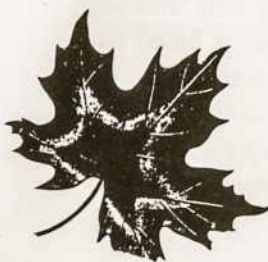
Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Committee,

I would like to share, with you, my gratitude for being selected as a recipient of a Knights of Lithuania General Scholarship. This will aid me in attending Marywood University, and help me achieve my ultimate goal of becoming an Educational Counselor. In this capacity, I will be able to work with and help children in many ways. I will always be thankful for the opportunities my Lithuanian heritage has given me.

Sincerely,

*Stephany*

Stephany Suders,  
Council 144 - Harrisburg, PA



## *Discovering Lithuania, Land of Our Ancestors*

From July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 13<sup>th</sup>, members of the Knights of Lithuania, Council 144, and others, participated in a fantastic "Taste of Lithuania" tour with American Travel Service. Thirty people, of all ages, including three families, participated in this venture, organized by Bernice Mikatavage, Humanitarian Aid Chair for Council 144, to help the needy of Lithuania. For some, it was an emotional experience meeting relatives for the first time, or being reunited after many years, but all travelers were enthralled with the beauty of the land of green forests and 3,000 lakes, our Lietuva, as seen from our plane windows.

Our first stop was Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania founded in 1323, and as our bus drove to the SAS Radisson Astorija, our first hotel, we were reminded that Ausros Vartai, the famous Gate of Dawn was located close to our hotel and St. Casimir's Church was just across the street. These were first stops with many from our group.

A welcome dinner was enjoyed at the "Bociai" Restaurant where many of the tour participants tasted Lithuanian zepelinai for the first time. A folk group entertained and Chrissy Luschas was one from our group that was asked to dance by a performer. She remarked, "I didn't know the song or movements I was trying to dance to, but it was sure tricky and fast. I must have stepped on my dance partner's feet five times during the performance."

Because it was July 4<sup>th</sup>, our Independence Day, the restaurant served us a red, white and blue dessert, topped by a miniature American flag. How very thoughtful of them.

Day three took us to Vilnius University, established in 1579, and where 10,000 students now attend. This is where the idea of freedom from the Soviets was established. A bell, with the date of 1988, stands above a doorway as a remembrance.

Across the street was the Cathedral Basilica of Vilnius, where in the beautiful baroque style Chapel of St. Casimir, there is a miraculous painting of St. Casimir with three hands. The artist tried to erase one of the hands five times, and all five times it came back, as if it was never erased or painted over. The relics of the patron

saint of Lithuania were brought back to the chapel in 1991. The catacombs of the cathedral were also toured.

After the tour of the Cathedral, we drove to Antakalnis Cemetery and saw the tombs of the civilians who gave their lives for the independence of Lithuania in 1991, in front of the TV tower. Most of them were in their early 20's when they were killed, and one was a woman, Loreta. On each tombstone there is a black cross, except for Loreta's, which had a white cross. Also, to the right at this memorial site are the graves of the border guards who were killed at the Medininkai border crossing. In the center, between the two groups, is a sculpture representing "Rupintojelis," with his hands covering his face because of these terrible atrocities.

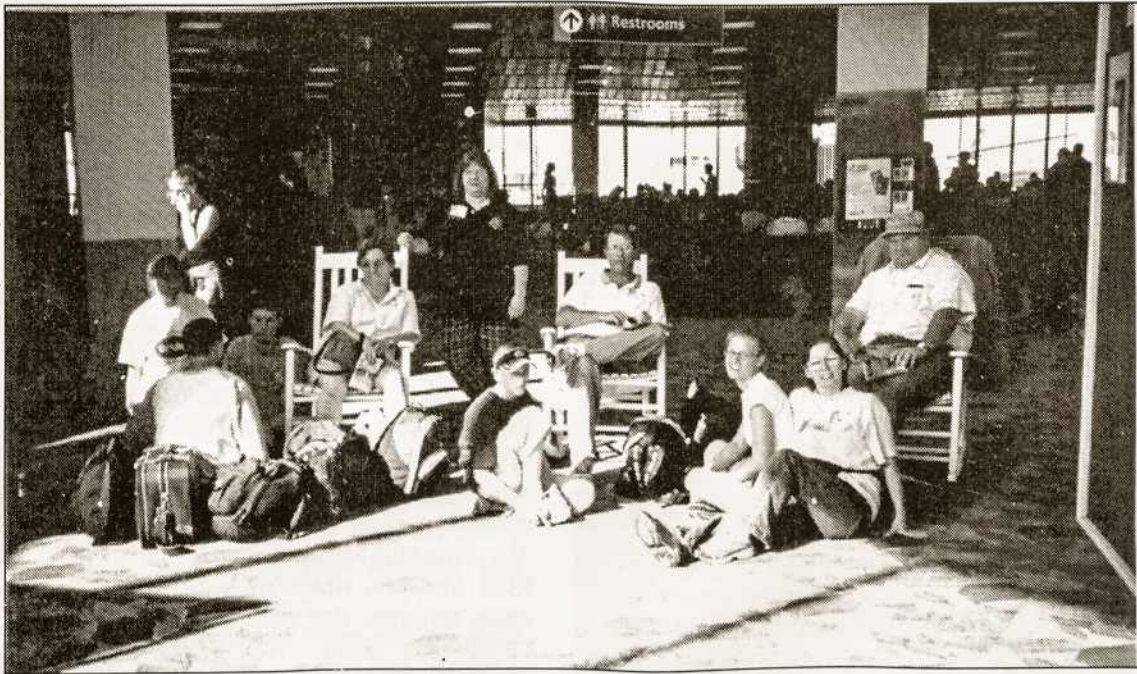
We visited the Museum of Genocide Victims, or KGB Museum, where we witnessed the place where torturous acts were executed against the Lithuanians until 1991. The last one interrogated was, Nijole Sadunaite, who defied her captors, daring them to kill her. From 1940 to 1958, at least 456,000 people - every third adult in the country - were victims of Soviet repression in some way, that is, either arrested, imprisoned, deported or executed. This Museum is the only KGB prison museum in the Baltic States. The task of the museum is, to collect, preserve, research and promote documented material that reveals the forms and methods of cultural repression and physical genocide of the Lithuanian nation, executed by the Soviet regime, as well as resistance to the occupation rule. The museum seeks to perpetuate the memory of the victims of the Soviet genocide and the freedom fighters.

Our last visit for day two was, the Presidential Palace - the Lithuanian White House. After showing our passports and going through security, we were led up a marble staircase and given a tour of elegant rooms, all decorated with mahogany and Siberian birch wood. Very impressive.

Some of the younger members of our tour then hiked to Gediminas Castle. As Crystal Domalakes reported, "It wasn't bad, except for the cobblestone walkway that seemed to last forever. Once you got to the top, if you made it that far, the view was incredible!"

Day four included a tour of Trakai, where Karen Domalakes stated, "I could not have imagined a more beautiful scene. It was a beautiful day,

*Discovering Lithuania, <sup>12</sup>Land of Our Ancestors*



Ten members of the John & Larry Domalakes family await the flight at Newark Airport.



Our group at the Presidential Palace.

with a vibrant blue sky above the castle. Lake Galve around the castle looked peaceful and refreshing, and ducks and sailboats dotted the water's edge. Inside, it was just a castle should be. The walls were fortified, thick and strong. The door was large and heavy. The steps and walkways were narrow, and the ceilings in the rooms were domed." On the way back, a stop was made at Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral. Karen described it as follows: "Almost every inch of the walls and ceilings were covered with plaster carvings of figures and flowers. It also had a crystal chandelier in the shape of a boat. The detail in the decor was unbelievable."

This day, July 6<sup>th</sup>, there was a celebration of the coronation of Mindaugas. Flags flew from hotels and many buildings. There was a festival in Vilnius, in the area of the Park of Amusements. Folk groups from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia participated, singing and dancing. Stunt planes performed tricks, and the finale was fireworks. What a great finish to a busy day!

Today, day five, we attended Mass at beautiful St. Anne's Church, and had an unexpected surprise. The folk group from Kedaine, which was at the festival yesterday, performed at the Mass. What heavenly music! Many of us knew the final hymn, "Lietuva Teyne Musu," and sang along with tears in our eyes.

After a quick tour of St. Bernadine's Church, we were off to Palanga. Many new gas stations with rest rooms are now along the highways, just like our UniMarts. Each one we stopped at did a great business, as everyone wanted to sample all of the snacks and products new to us, as we waited in the usual long line. We were happy to spot a few storks along the way, as they are supposed to be a sign of good luck.

At Palanga, we walked through the botanical garden to the Amber Museum, and later checked into our hotel. The Domalakes family was quickly off to the Baltic Sea.

July 8<sup>th</sup>, day six, started early, and our first stop was Klaipeda, with its cobblestone roads and German-style architecture. Of course, we could not pass the souvenir stands without stopping. Our Lithuanian is improving, especially the words needed to shop.

After boarding a ferry, we go to Neringa. Our tour of the Hill of Witches was delightful. We listened to more folklore, took loads of photos, tried the see-saws and watched Gloria Gardner pass through the opening and down the slide.

Chrissy even climbed up on the horse and rode bare-back.

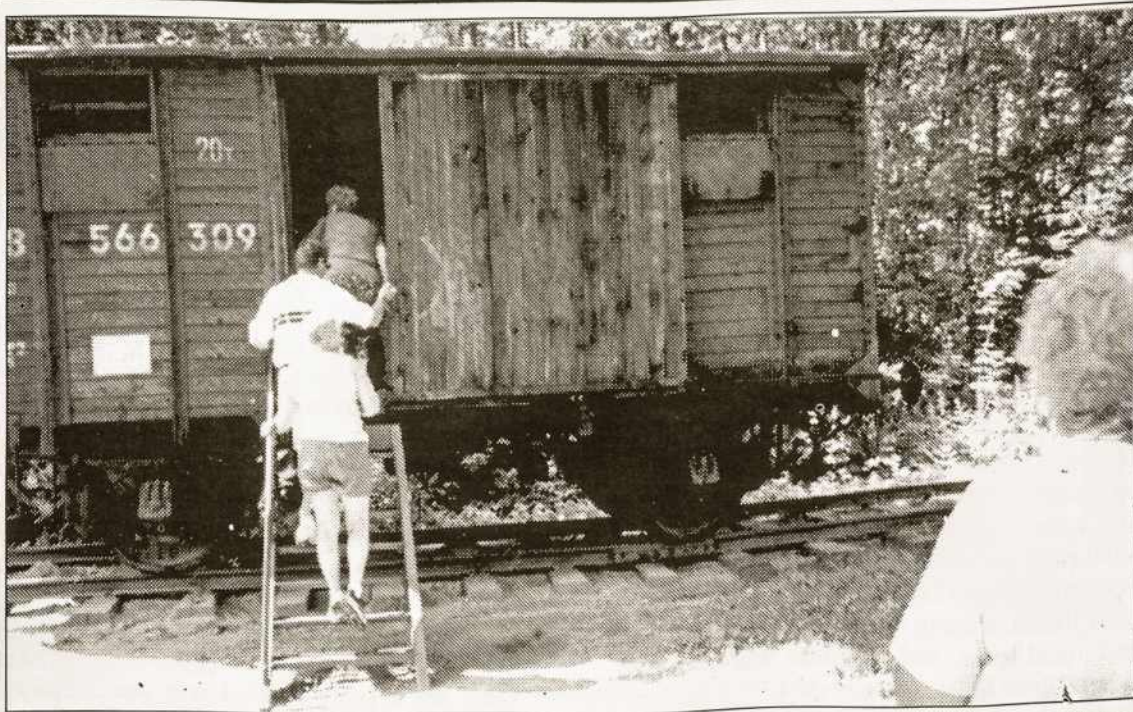
After walking the sand dunes and more shopping, we departed for Juoza's Alus, a local micro-brewery. We tried snacks of fried bread with cheese, mozzarella cheese sticks, and pig-ears that had a heavy smoked flavor. The Domalakes' youth enjoyed the outdoor rides and games—basketball, stilts, swings and a variety of see-saws.

Vicky Domalakes relates her day seven. "My sister, Karen, and my day began at 7:30 a.m., when we were awakened with a knock on our door. This was unfortunate, since we planned to get up at 6:00 a.m. I had gone for an early morning walk the previous day and my experience is worth repeating. I was also curious to find out if the women's "health school" would be exercising again on the beach. They had shocked me yesterday, when each woman, after finishing her jog along the beach, stripped down to nothing at all and then hopped into the frigid water for a short swim. I was also surprised when they continued their exercises—still naked—after their dip in the sea. They didn't seem to mind that a dozen other people, including men and children, were sharing the beach with them. I guess there are different customs here in Palanga, and women are not very bashful when it comes to undressing."

We visited Siauliai, the fourth largest city. Bishop Bartulis greeted us at the Cathedral of the Apostles - Peter and Paul. Anthony Domalakes, age 11, our youngest traveler, presented the bishop with a gift from our group, and we all sang his favorite American folk song, "The Lemon Tree." He was surprised and pleased. After a tour of the church whose interior was white from the tile floor to the ever-reaching ceiling, we boarded our bus. The Bishop also joined us and sang a few farewell songs for us before we departed.

The incredible Hill of Crosses was our next stop. We heard the stories of the Soviets not approving of the Lithuanians erecting crosses, and how they demolished the site several times during the 1960's and 1970's. Brave Lithuanians continued to place crosses on the hill to show their faith and hope for religious freedom for the future. Our tour guide called it Lithuania's place of "prayer and hope," but Vicky said, "Now I think they can call it a place of 'bravery and victory' as well. Although some people say a picture is worth a thousand words,

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Inspecting the cattle car in which Lithuanians were deported to Siberia in the 1940's



Our meeting with Dr. Vaiva Eringyte at Vilnius. From left: Fr. Gary Ziuraitis, Lithuanian nurse, Dr. Vaiva, Bernice Mikatavage, Marion Boyle, Ann Sidora and Annie Morgalis.



a thousand pictures could not come close to capturing the experience of the Hill of Crosses." Another stop was at the Shrine of Our Lady of Siluva. In 1608, the Blessed Virgin Mary had appeared on a rock, and the church was then built on that location at her request. This apparition, although not well-known, took place even before Lourdes.

Rumsiskes, an open air museum about the old-fashioned living for Lithuanians in all different regions of Lithuania, was on our eight-day schedule. This 400 acre museum was very interesting, and of course, we visited all of the shops where craftsmen were working (and selling).

After visiting the cottages, we were shown how the Soviets deported Lithuanians to Siberia in the railroad cars (cattle cars). Eighty people were put in one car that was so compacted, that all could not sleep at one time. Half would stand, while the other half slept for one hour, then they would switch. The 10,000 km journey would take three months to complete, and half of the people in the train car would die. Once in Siberia, forty people were forced to live in one "house."

Pazaislis Convent was our last stop of this day. A sister of St. Casimir gave us a tour of the beautiful church/convent.

On day nine, we had a tour of Kaunas Old Town, the Castle and Castle Square, the Church of St. George, the Town Hall, the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, the grave of Maironis (the famous Lithuanian poet), and saw the longest bridge in the world. During the Czar's time, the river separated Russia and Prussia. Since Russia used a different calendar, it was fourteen days later once you got to the other side.

After shopping, we visited the Ciurlionis Museum, and some of our group visited the Devil's museum in their free time.

A very interesting visit was made to the home of Mr. Andziulis, who ran an underground printing press during Soviet times. You must actually go underground to see his secret printing location. He explained how he produced thousands of pamphlets to spread the truth about conditions in Lithuania. He gave a tour of his museum, which holds photos of resistance members, and examples of the underground press from the Czar years until 1993.

A farewell dinner at the "Zalias Ratas Restaurant" was delightful. The food was

excellent, and a group of seven young Lithuanian women entertained us with traditional Lithuanian songs and dances.

Day ten was departure from Kaunas to Vilnius to the airport, and after an hour delay, we departed to Copenhagen. Our tour participants spent the remainder of the day in various ways; private tours of the city on foot or with transportation, visiting Tivoli Park, attending a Jazz concert, or eating in restaurants, etc.

Our plane from Copenhagen to Newark had an hour and a half delay, but happy to say, after the delay, it was a smooth flight home. Ann Sikora asked, "How can anyone have a joyous, exhausting and sad experience at one time? We are happy to go home, but how can we express our feelings at leaving beautiful Lithuania? Our memories will remain for a long time to come, and we will never forget the emotions that filled us upon seeing what so many of us never expected to experience."

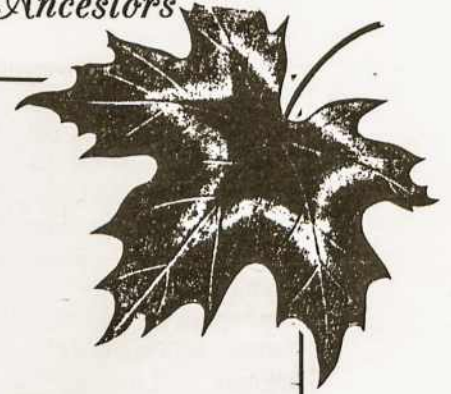
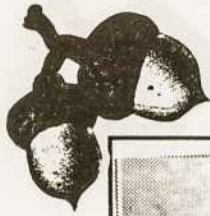
It was also a successful trip for our humanitarian aid committee. We were able to make contact with seven of our aid recipients. Our tour group generously donated and carried food and supplies to be distributed, and monetary donations were given from the Knights of Lithuania, Council 144, and other generous people.

Gloria Gardner expressed her feelings by saying, "On this trip, I feel I have come full circle, and my life is complete. Meeting Lithuanian Aunt Aldona and first, second, third and fourth cousins was an emotional and joyful meeting. I have left my heart and soul in Lithuania, but I have also brought soil home from Prienai to sprinkle on my four grandparents', father's, aunt's and uncles' graves. This has been a dream come true, and I am truly blessed and honored to have set my feet on the soil of my ancestors. With the blessing and help of the Lord, I shall return."

The group consisted of: Rev. Gary Ziuraitis, CSSR; Judge John, wife Susan; Atty. Karen, Victoria and John R. Domalakes; Lawrence, wife Anna May; Crystal, David and Anthony Domalakes; Atty. Alvin, wife Elaine, Carol and Chrissy Luschas, Gloria Gardner, Shirley Blomquist, Alma Martz, Ann Sikora, Annie Morgalis, Albert Achenbach, Diane Derr, August Savage, Esther Bartashus, Anna Williams, Genevieve Pecina, Joan Vieni, Tom Kroll, Mildred Helt, and Bernice Mikatavage.

*By Bernice Mikatavage,  
Humanitarian Aid Chair, C 144*

*Discovering Lithuania, Land of Our Ancestors*

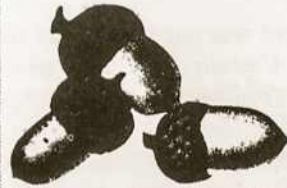


**Vicky & Crystal Domalakes**

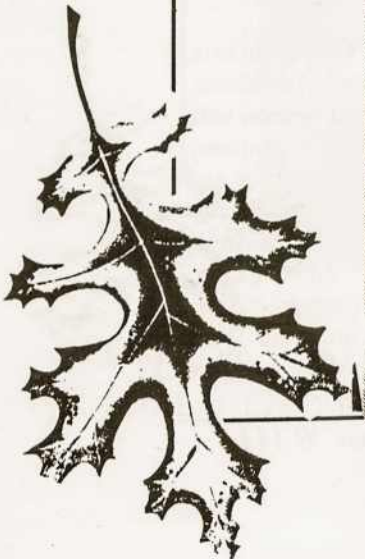
**in secret passages to**

**underground printing press**

**of Mr. Andziulis.**



**Elaine, Alvin, Chrissy Luschas & Alma Martz dance round & round at "Žalias Ratas."**





*A Special Project of  
Spreading Good Words  
About Lithuanians*

Last November, Bishop Baltakis and the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid received a request from a Mr. Algimantas Taskunas, editor of a journal called, "Lithuanian Papers," published by the Lithuanian Studies Society at the University of Tasmania, Australia. The journal is published in English. Mr. Taskunas informed the Bishop of one special issue of his journal, which included a special article, by Vidas Spengla of Vilnius, translated from Lithuanian to English by Gintautas Kaminskas. The 14 page article tells of how, while Lithuania was under Russian occupation, Lithuanian men and women proselytized their Catholic Faith throughout Russia, including Siberia, under great risk to life and limb.

Considering that Lithuanians are still being slandered by outsiders who are not aware of their great faith in God and the Catholic Church, the publishers considered this article to be of great importance in spreading good news about Lithuanians. Besides this article, the booklet contains other interesting cultural and historical information about Lithuania and Lithuanians in other parts of the world. Therefore, they published an additional 1,000 copies, in the hope of spreading them around the world, to libraries, churches, organizations, etc. Mr. Taskunas asked the Bishop and LCRA for assistance in distributing this book.

Bishop Baltakis contacted me, sent me a copy of the letter, and asked whether the Knights of Lithuania could take on distribution of this booklet, as they have a wider base of members to count on for distribution. I approached Msgr. Anderlonis, and John Mankus for their opinions on taking on such a project. Msgr. Anderlonis contacted Rob Martin, and we all agreed to take it on, as a special favor to Bishop Baltakis. The copies would be sent to us at no cost to us.

I notified LCRA and Bishop Baltakis of our decision. Mrs. Jankauskas asked me to notify Mr. Taskunas of our decision. I wrote to him, asking that he send me some sample copies of the publication, and that the rest be sent to Sister Johanna, so that they could be distributed during the Supreme Council Meeting in Chicago, after the SC decides how to distribute them. Mr.

Taskunas responded to my letter with greetings to the K of L and sincere thanks for their desire to help him distribute the books. He sent me 4 sample copies, and the rest to Sister Johanna.

What to do with the booklets was discussed at the April SC meeting. One suggestion was, that copies would be placed in each Convention Delegate package, so that the delegates could read it, and hopefully, pass it on to a local library, school or interested individual. Besides that, Sister Johanna and I have contacted various members, organizations, etc., and are in the process of sending them to sources that may be interested. Included in the list of recipients is Cardinal McCarrick of Washington, who has been very interested in the church in Lithuania, various libraries, universities, and high schools in New Jersey, Chicago, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, and Connecticut, the Lithuanian Affairs Committee, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid and other organizations and individuals that have expressed an interest. We will continue to seek out places to send them, and would appreciate any help available from K of L-ers.

My thanks go especially to John Mankus, Elena Nakrosis, Elinor Sluzas and any other members and friends who have provided names of individuals and institutions that we could send the books to. Anyone having suggestions as to people and places the booklets could go to, to help enhance the name of Lithuanian Catholics, may contact me with the addresses, and I will be happy to send copies to the names provided. Or, if you prefer to present them yourselves, I will be happy to send you as many copies as you desire. You may also contact Rob Martin for copies, as he has a collection of them, too.

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WEBSITE CORNER

Websites in Lithuanian:

[www.delfis.lt](http://www.delfis.lt)

[www.takas.lt](http://www.takas.lt)



Have you any favorites to share with the readers?



## *A Miracle at Siluva*

(from "Lietuvos Rytas," Vilnius, Lithuania)

(9/03/2002)

Original Article by Ruta Miksioniene -  
translation by Loretta Stukas

### **A Renewed Young Lady...**

This week, the devotions to Our Lady of Siluva celebrating her birthday were special, and not only because of the planned placement and blessing of the cornerstone of the planned Prayer Center on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Every believer, looking at the famed Siluva Blessed Mother Basilica's altar painting of the "Mother of God with Child," can detect with his or her eyes, a true miracle!

The Blessed Mother in the painting has become unbelievably younger. The previously pictured austere, pensive Mary has changed into a pleasant Madonna, of sublime facial features, looking directly at the praying pilgrims.

Of course, this is the same miraculous painting of the Madonna, and it has just been returned to Siluva a few weeks ago, from the Lithuanian Art Museum Restoration Center of P. Gudynas.

"Like a mother with her daughter," said, smilingly, this Center's head, Jurate Senvaitiene, showing photos of Mary's face before and after the restoration.

### **Painted over Masterpiece...**

"We ourselves don't know what we have in Lithuania," sighed the painting's restorer, Janina Bilotiene, not wanting to part with the painting. "Many works are painted over and people have not seen the original sometimes for hundreds of years."

"Inferior work!" Such a stern verdict was first given by the art specialist in April of this year at the Restoration Center, when the luxurious coverings of the Siluva Madonna Painting were uncovered.

At first, even J. Bilotiene was not successful. She tried to clean the painting in two places. Then, as if on purpose, she attacked the section with the greatest crumbings, and found only dirt.

It seemed that it would be possible to directly fix the painting's covering, and it could be returned to Siluva within the month. However, as they began to clean other parts of the painting, the disappointment turned into amazement, because it became clear, that beneath the seemingly

inferior work lay a true masterpiece. This became obvious because there were found several layers of paint, indicating that the painting was repainted at least five times.

### **Fine Art and Microsurgery...**

"If in restoring the paintings at The Gate of the Dawn (Ausros Vartai), or the Sapiegas Madonna from the Vilnius Cathedral, I jokingly called myself a physician, then this time, I really felt like a microsurgeon," commented the restorer.

Having stepped up onto a chair, this master craftswoman, using the tip of the scalpel, began to clean the Madonna's eyes. Such an image could never be imagined by her colleagues, who visited to see what new views were found under the layers of paint, lacquer and dirt.

"Come over every few hours," asked restorer J. Bilotiene of the art critics and restorers. The large responsibility, laid on her shoulders, had to be shared with experts.

At first, most of the visitors held back the restorer, always remembering the worth of the painting and its holiness. Later, everyone was taken aback by the danger of attempting to get at the painting's first, authentic layer.

The large, thick, but short fingers of Mary regained their original look. The fingers grew by almost a third of their length. However, the most painted-over parts of the painting - the faces of Mary and Jesus, were not covered with enhancements. It seems that before the big festivals and devotions or other important events at the Shrine, the painting was frequently enhanced. For example, Mary's lips were painted red, and her eyes were darkened.

Of course, this attests to the sincere interest and care given the painting over the years, but because without qualified workers, and not having the proper tools to do the improvements, the true faces of Mary and the Christ Child were hidden from the faithful, as if to mask the heavy, extra layers.

### **An intimidating holiness...**

The Madonna of Siluva is one of the holiest paintings, famous for the most miracles in Lithuania. It is not surprising then, that the decision to allow restoration of this item of great religious value was accepted and supported by the nation's Catholic Church hierarchy.

Now, as the decorations draw one's eyes to the painting with its precious trimmings, and the renewed face of Mary is framed by a bright silver border, doubt about the need and desire

for its restoration no longer exists. But, the first touch of the holy painting always raises the questions, and one of the largest questions is, "Am I worthy of it?"

"From my childhood I have been a believer, but I never thought that in this sphere, I would be able to rise so highly," admitted the restorer, J. Bilotiene.

I thought that only some holy nun should do such work. However, when, having removed the layers I saw how, after so many years the painting became covered with dirt, I understood, that I certainly must help to save it."

**The secret is not yet revealed...**

Whether the assumption will become clear somewhat later, when in October, the Siluva Madonna painting returns to the Restoration Center.

Until now, only the faces have been accurately completed. Also Mary's dark cape should become a clear and bright blue. In the painting's background will appear angels' heads. However, Mary's clothing has already regained its patterns and its beautifully flowing form.

"Careful handling and gently pressing the outer covering from inside resulted in restoring all the silver relief of the clothing," said metal restorer Rimvydas Derkintis. Although he has had the opportunity to restore more than one set of outer clothing on paintings, this restorer's opinion is, that this work of Lawrence Hofman (1974, Prussia), is indeed unique. It is not overloaded with decorations. It is tasteful, a witness to the beautiful artistry of the artist. And, with unexpected secrecy, under the open hand of Mary, was found, subtly placed, the artist's name and the year of the painting's production. Before the restoration, it was difficult to see the full beauty of the painting, because the top was badly oxidized, browned and darkened. Some items on the painting were not entirely correctly placed, and thus, in many parts there were found bad deformations.

Thus, once everything was straightened out and cleaned, it became clear, that never should the framework be glazed or the painting repainted. The original was so beautifully done.

The restorers believe, that taking care of the painting's background and the clothing portrayed, we can expect even more new discoveries. Perhaps, somewhere in the folds of Mary's clothing there will be found the artist's signature, or the year of the painting's origin.

But, already now, it is clear, that the greatest success of the restorer is the discovery that the Siluva Madonna is not only miraculous, but is also a most valuable work of art.



**MARY MANKUS**, a very happy and grateful Knights of Lithuania scholarship recipient for the second year in a row. (Please see details on page 7 of this issue).

Congratulations, Mary! Good luck on the rest of your journey as you strive to complete your degree.

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*"I will not follow where the path may lead, but I will go where there is no path, and I will leave a trail"*

*"The faith to move mountains is the reward of those who have moved little hills."*



# *Knights Life...*



**Bernice Aviza greeted C- 19 President, (Pittsburgh), John Baltrus this summer, in Albany, NY, after John's 500 mile bicycle ride across New York State, along the Erie Canal.**



**Knights of Lithuania Juniors, C-112, participated in "Our Lady of Siluva" skit with Father Tony Markus, on September 16, 2002. Left to Right: Lucia Martis, Andrea Deksnis, Alex Deksnis, Paul Martis, Alina Meile and Ausra Buzenas.**





## *A Celebration of the Franciscan Spirit*

The recently published history of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God is **A Celebration of the Franciscan Spirit**; it is also a record of the vision that has been, and continues to be, an integral part of the members of this congregation of women religious. From the humble beginnings of the group of pioneer sisters and their concern for the preservation of the faith of the Lithuanian immigrants, to those whose lives continue to be touched today by the life and ministry of the Sisters in Brazil, Lithuania and the USA.

Through the work of Eileen Gimper, the author of this historical publication, we are able to visualize the journey of the sisters from the time of the foundation of the congregation, some 80 years ago. Eileen, herself a graduate of St. Francis Academy, the private high school under the direction of the congregation, has researched the necessary material for the content of this book for the past two years. In compiling and organizing the information that was so necessary to the authenticity of this undertaking, she has captured the essence of the energy, influence, and spirit of the women of this congregation through her informative description of the lives and times of these religious sisters.

Indeed, in the pages of this text, there is a record of the vision which has sustained the members on the journey of the past 80 years, as well as a call to move forward, recognizing the presence of God in all that is part of the fabric of the lives of the sisters.

The formal presentation of the publication of this history was made to the members of the community at a recent meeting of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, who gathered together on June 18-19-20, 2002, in Pittsburgh, at their annual Assembly of Corporate Reflection. These yearly gatherings are conducted for the purpose of important and timely discussion regarding the community's future projections and plans.

The presentation of this history will enable the sisters and all those who have worked so closely with the congregation, to review fond memories of the many events which have woven themselves into the tapestry which has become

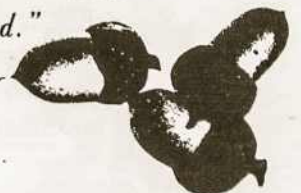
the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God.

For additional information regarding this publication, please call 412-885-7212.



**Sister Marian Blodis, William Kolicus III, William Kolicus, Jr., and Sister Alverna Walls at Pittsburgh's 2002 St. Casimir Celebration. (Photographer: Lee Barcousky, C-19).**

*"We are all links in the chain of life. No one is complete in himself. We are each one daily bearing something onward—something that contributes to the world and to experience. And we never know to what end our influence has been carried."*





## *"Expo!: My Favorite Knights of Lithuania Memory"*

**(K of L Foundation - First Prize Winning  
Essay ~ by Stephany Gutauskas - C-3)**

Cooperation is one trait that exemplifies my Council. Of the diverse individuals, each with his/her own unique personality, who comprise our group, it can be said that we do not let our differences impede the progress of our organization. We volunteer, rein in our temper, put on a smile, and bond together when Council projects are involved.

My fondest memory of my Council's "esprit de corps" and cooperative collaboration is of an event which occurred this year, on the feast day of St. Patrick. On that date, my Council held a Lithuanian Expo and Fair in the parish meeting hall.

The expo was the brain child of one of the Trustees of my Council. The intent from the start was, to gain new members for the group. The Council would advertise its event in church bulletins in the Lithuanian community, set up tables with informational posters, fliers, and photographs dealing with various activities of the Knights of Lithuania, and sell ethnic items on the day of the Expo.

It took at least nine months of planning from initial conceptualization of the Expo to its actualization. When the call went out for workers, all regular and some less frequent meeting attendees volunteered services for our Council's cause.

Here is a glimpse of what greeted guests at our Expo and Fair. First of all, the tantalizing aroma of home-cooked "desros," "balandeliai," and "kugelis" attracted the people to the door of the hall. Ethnic costumes worn by three of our ladies offered visual stimulation to coax guests farther inside. One costumed lady sold tickets for the delicious food; the second took photographs and chatted with guests; the third, a nonagenarian, promenaded the hall and sang Lithuanian songs a capella, in a beautiful

soprano voice. Table and chairs for the diners lined the center of the hall.

Photographs of Council members participating in a variety of Lithuanian community activities filled five posters located along the perimeter of the hall. Other posters, bearing photographs and text, gave readers an idea about Aid to Lithuania, Lithuanian Affairs, St. Casimir Guild, and the Knights of Lithuania Choir.

On stage, a video of the 1998 Song Festival in Vilnius played continually throughout the afternoon. Another video recounted a Lithuanian country wedding.

Ethnic items which members sold included cookbooks, wooden wayside shrines, crosses, and boxes, Christmas cards, post cards, cassette tapes, video tapes, juostas, amber jewelry, decorative woven cloth, metallic pins, ruta seeds, kits for making straw Christmas ornaments, ausukes, and babka.

A local media crew visited us that afternoon.

That same night, our Expo received coverage on television news, thus spreading good words about us to the general community.

Was all our effort—advertising, setting up, preparing food, manning tables, kitchen, and bar, cleaning up—worth it? Resoundingly YES! The net result was a 12% increase in Council membership. Now, each time I see a new member at our meetings, I glow in the pleasant memory of what cooperation and bonded effort achieved for my Council.



C-25 Members, L.toR. Charles & Nelda Machutas, Darius Sviekauskas (Kaunas), and Bill & Helen Jakubs on a Mexican cruise. (March 2002)!



Port Richmond, Phila., PA, Memorial Day Parade; C-3members, L.to R.:  
Stephany Gutauskas, Irene Ozalis, Ausra Maknys.



Port Richmond, Philadelphia, PA, Memorial Day Parade, May 27, 2002.  
C-3 members in costume: LtoR.:Irene Ozalis, Lillian Greymas, Ausra Maknys  
(holding flag), and Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis dressed as St. George.

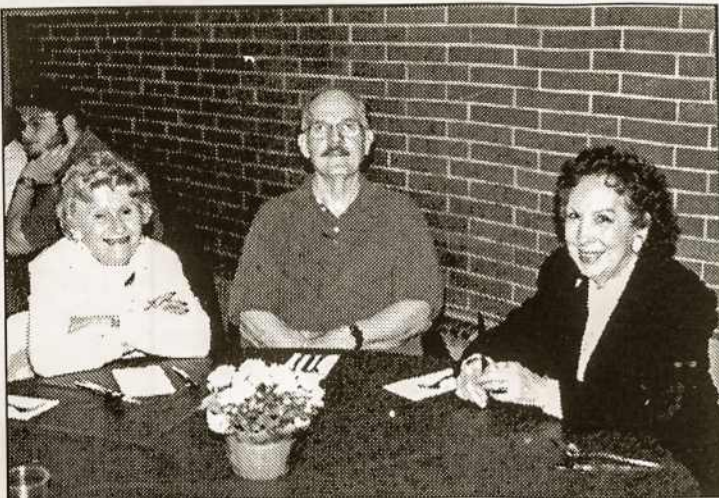


*In Memoriam...*

- C-6 Dorothy Krancunas 8/28/02
- C-7 Antoinette White 9/26/02
- C-7 Stella Woodacre 7/17/02
- C-79 Charles Mykolaitis
- C-82 Vincent Gumulauskis
- C-82 Izadorius Tavaras
- C-96 Jimmy Kavalauskas
- C-102 Mary Guerriero 8/23/02
- C-103 Anthony Gudeczauskas 8/08/02
- C-112 Mary Chapis 4/04/02
- C-112 Rev. John Savukynas, MIC
- C-112 Sylvia Valentine
- C-144 Helen Smulkstis 10/02/02
- C-147 Joseph Petrikas 8/07/02



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MCD Bowling banquet, Cleveland. Theresa Beltowski, George Kayganich, Ruth Wagster. C-102, Detroit.



MCD Bowling banquet, Cleveland. Theresa Capuria; Joa & Ann Ivoska, Stella Sankal, Ed Franckus - C-25





## District & Council News

### Mid Central District

#### **C-25 Cleveland, OH** **Ursula Kunsitis**

We know Summer is over ... Snowbirds Nelda and Chalie Machutas flew back to their cozy nest in Arizona after spending part of their Summer with friends and relatives. Helen and Bill Jakubs (as I write this) are enjoying themselves at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta with their RV Travel Group and then to Florida for the Winter months.

Congratulations to Eleanor and Al Bendokas who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with Mass at St. Basil's Church on August 18th with family and friends. A delicious luncheon was served at the Church Hall hosted by their children.

Congratulations, also, to Helen and John Garnis who celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary with Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Sunday, September 1, with a special blessing by Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas.

We wish both couples many, many more years of Happiness and Good Health!

Our monthly meetings resumed on Friday, September 13th, after a Summer break. Our special guest for a few moments was Molly, Kathy Kaczmarek's dog. It is fun to see how much she has grown from one meeting to another. Highlights of the National Convention were presented by Todd Craig, Dick and Jean Marks, Fran Pranskevich and Joan Ortman who represented our council at the 89th National Convention in Chicago!

A Big Thank you to Lillian and Steve Yurkovic for running the September Coffee Hour at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and to all our faithful bakers, donors, and workers... we couldn't do it without you!!

A Big Welcome to our newest member, Todd Craig. Todd is the nephew of Joan Susan Ortman. Todd is looking forward to attending as many K of L activities as possible.

Dick and Jean Marks and Gene and Ursula Kunsitis had a great time at the Lithuanian Cultural Garden Society's Annual Soiree September 7th at the Henn Mansion. Great hor d'oeuvres, wonderful musical program by Andrea Anelli, champagne reception, and silent auction. Jean was high bidder on a large basket of beautiful linens from Lithuania. 'Understand daughter Mary Beth and Randy in Montana will be surprised with this at Christmas. Wait til you see my successful bid item - a 60 carat amethyst pendant!

We are happy that Jack Valley is doing well after tests and treatment at the Cleveland Clinic. Stella Sankal can hardly wait to get home after spending 2 weeks in the hospital and 8 weeks in Rehab! A Big "Hello" to Nellie Arunski, Betty August, Agnes Bartkus, John and Helen Garnis, Adelle Tanner and Al Wallis. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. We miss you all!

#### **C-96 Dayton, OH** **Frances Petkus, HM**

C-96's Annual Family Picnic rounded out a successful June Meeting. Thanks go to our Social Chair Elaine Pacovsky for preparing the meat while the members brought a variety of special dishes. No one went home hungry or thirsty. Our July meeting was short but productive. We are having a special NO BAKE BAKE SALE in the Fall with ALL the proceeds going to charity. Then, by popular demand, we

will hold another kugelis sale in November. Linda Pant will chair the charity project while Laurretta Pant and Elinor Sluzas will chair the kugelis sale.

By the time you read this, you probably will have caught up on the news of Elinor Sluzas, Annamarie Sluzas Berger and Junior Knight Joseph Berger's return from a fantastic trip to Lithuania. It was a trip of a lifetime. And we are happy all returned home safely!

Get well wishes go out to Catherine (Kitty) Prasmantas as she recovers from heart surgery; George Mikalauskas as he recovers from knee surgery.

Congratulations to Jim and Connie Geiger as they became grandparents for the first time - Aaron James (AJ); Eric Geiger is a proud first-time uncle.

Congratulations go to Kristina Dambrasukas, our newest member, who took the K of L Oath on June 30th!!

The Old North Dayton area has a homecoming event each year that revolves around the various ethnic groups and new neighbors. This is a chance for neighbors to get better acquainted and learn more about each other's culture. This year's parade Grand Marshal was our own -Elinor Sluzas!!

Our council's deepest sympathies go to the family of Sally (Miller) Milaskavitz - to her sister Annadel, niece Anne Louise Tucker, Ronald and great nephew, Junior Knight, Danny Tucker. Sally was an active member for better than 60 years. Health slowed her down the past few years. Sally reached our highest degree - the Fourth Degree - because of her work and dedication. May Sally rest in the Peace of the Lord!

Many of you have met our council's Spiritual Advisor, Father Michael Holloran, at our council's various functions. Father, I believe we told

you, has taken on pastoring the four Catholic churches in the Old North Dayton area. Well, the four parishes got together and planned a surprise 20th Anniversary in the priesthood for Fr. Mike on June 30th. Fr. Mike thought he was going to a birthday party and was completely surprised. Fr. Mike could not believe that many people could keep a secret (four weeks in the planning) that well! Fr. Mike, may you have many more years ahead with all of us!!!

C-96 held its election of Officers for the term of 2002-03 on Sept 29th. This meeting supplemented the October meeting. Members attended the 10:30am Mass then headed to the Church Hall where we all brought covered dishes for lunch prior to the meeting. Also on the agenda was tying up all the loose ends for the upcoming MCD Fall Convention/Pilgrimage. Nominating committee chair Michael Petkus conducted the election procedure. The following are the officers and committees elected: Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Michael Holloran; Pres. Robert Pant; 1st VP-Michael F. Petkus; 3rd VP-Christine Fletcher; Recording Sec-Anne Louise Tucker; Treas-Helen Vaitkus; Financial Sec- Frances Mikalaukas; Trustee-George A. Mikalaukas/Joseph E. Mantz; Sgt at Arms-Michael F. Petkus; Committees - Lithuanian Affairs - Elena Mikalaukas; Ritual - Fran Petkus, Eloise A. Berczelly, Anne Louise Tucker; Vytis Council Bulletin - Fran Petkus; Historian - Elena Mikalaukas; Social/Condolence - Elaine Pacovsky; By-Laws - Robert H. Pant, Joseph/Eleanor Mantz; Chr Telephone Squad - Joyce Berczelly; Parish Council/Sarysis Rep - Laurreta Pant; Public Relations - Elinor Sluzas; Recognition Award - George A. Mikalaukas;; Ways & Means - Laurreta/Linda Pant. Thanks go to our Social Chair, Elaine Pacovsky, for organizing the various dishes we shared for lunch.

Congratulations to our outgoing Board

for all the time and work they did keeping our council busy. To the new Board well wishes go to you as you put into action all your plans to bringing another successful year to the council.

Congratulations to Elinor Sluzas, HM, who will be representing the MCD on the Honorary Membership Committee!

Congratulations to Amy Berczelly on her recent marriage to Robert Glaser! May you both have many years of blessed love and happiness.

Our deepest sympathies go to Joan Kavalauskas and her family on the recent passing of her husband, Jimmy. Jimmy had been a member as early as in the late 1930's and 40's as a Junior Knight and then moved into the regular council. Jimmy was famous for his home made wine from grapes he grew!! Our sympathies go to Joe Gurriero (C-102) on the loss of his wife, Mary Anne. Mary Anne had been one of the best bowlers in the MCD for many years. An auto accident slowed her down. Deepest sympathies to Helen Mykolaitis (C-79) on the recent loss of her husband Charles (Chuck). Chuck and Helen were another pair who faithfully bowled in the MCD Spring Bowling Tournaments. All will be sadly missed. May their souls rest in the Peace of the Good Lord.

It is good to write that C-96 members Elinor Sluzas, HM, Annamarie Sluzas Berger, Robert H/Linda Pant, Michael Petkus, Mark H. Bell, Fran Petkus, HM, along with our Junior Knights Joseph Berger, Robert/Erin Petkus, all returned home safely from the 89th National Convention. Fran had one minor set-back when her engine locked up 80 miles out of Dayton. Thank heaven for AAA and its open-option plan. Fran, her granddaughter Erin and the car were hauled safely back to Dayton.

A hearty thanks must go to the

Convention Committee and the hard work they did putting together a successful convention. Special congratulations go to C-96's President, Robert Pant, upon receiving his Fourth Degree medal!! Congratulations go to Erin Petkus, a winner in the K of L's Annual Essay Contest in the Junior Knight category.

Our council annual Mass for our living and deceased members was held on Sept 8th. Following the Mass, the council's president, Robert Pant, in church, read names of the deceased members buried out of town. Mother Nature gave us an extremely hot day - over the 90's - for the cemetery visit. We covered 46 gravesites with prayers. In lieu of flowers, remembering September 11, 2001, the American flag was placed at each grave. From the cemetery we headed back to the church hall for a delicious warm lunch prepared by JoAnn and Gary Thiele. JoAnn and Gary must be thanked for all the work they did in chairing our annual cemetery visit. This was followed by our monthly meeting. An exhausting day but one filled with joy as we remembered those who once were part of C-96.

Mass on Sept 15 was very special as we celebrated Holy Cross Lithuanian Catholic Church's Annual Feast Day. Thanks must go to Jim Geiger and all who helped him with the very special Koffee Klatsch, etc. A raffle was held of which all proceeds went to Old North Dayton Pantry. This group takes care of the needy in our area. Winner of the Wine and Cheese Basket was Connie Geiger!!

## Mid Atlantic District

### **Mid Atlantic District Bruno Rutkunas**

The results of our Knights Mid Atlantic District meeting held on Sept 22, hosted by C-90 of Kearny, NJ, were



excellent with many exciting and challenging proposals. But first let us review the events from the beginning. After the 11:30 Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church - celebrated by Rev. Anthony Paskas - with the choir directed by Joyce Machinski providing the hymns, everyone proceeded to the Lithuanian Club. An outstanding Lithuanian lunch with deserts as well as souvenir gifts were presented to all. At the meeting that followed, President Robbie Martin stated that increases of postage with returns and revisions was one of the many items requiring additional funding which caused the increase of membership dues but the Vytis will now have 7 issues per year instead of 6. Additional savings will be made since most (23) Supreme Council officers will try to use their computers for correspondence via e-mail; and Sister Joanne will be the new Vytis business manager at 1/5 of the previous cost.

HM Loretta Stukas informed the members about the various programs that will try to help for some needed repairs on Our Lady of Siluva Shrine in Washington, DC, including some expenditures by K of L for creating a website. How about launching a sister-cities project between Amsterdam and Marijampole, Lithuania!! Bernice Aviza has made contacts in both city's schools where art projects were exchanged and shared by the school children.

The Executive Board remained basically the same except John Sakal of C-152 was elected President, replacing Ed Barkowski who was thanked and applauded for the work he has done. Hopefulle, at Elizabeth, NJ, we will be able to continue our MAD projects next April.

## C-12 New York, NY Irene Senken

The last meeting I attended was in May. We go to Mass as a group 11:15 AM. On this particular Sunday we had a

guest in church from another council visiting John Boltrus from Pittsburg Pa. He was not able to attend our meeting. Our meeting was short, we had our usual Pot Luck meal, we are especially treated with home-made cheese from one of our Lithuanian ladies which is always devoured right away. The parish had their Spring dinner - heard it was a success.

On a more serious note , heard Steve Montvidas was in the hospital, we wish him well. Betty Waskowicz lost her second son Lee suddenly. Alice Zupko, long time member who lived in FL, passed away, Ed Senken lost his sister Marie. Our condolences to all the families. Since most of our members are up in years unfortunately that is the only news we get.

In the last article on C-12, omitted was Fr. Sawicki getting his 4th Degree from Fr. Staniskas.

## Jovita C. Sleder



As the anniversary of 9/11 approached, our council 12 in Manhattan, felt it was appropriate to give the following account of how Father Eugene Sawicki, our Spiritual Advisor, participated in the days of that horrid, unspeakable act.

He visited nightly from 2000 hours to 0800 hours, bridges, armories, piers, warehouses, manned outposts along the East River, Grand Central Station, Penn Station, WTC site, R&R stations, i.e., St John's University, Marriott Hotel, St. Paul's Chapel, FDNY and OEM Command Stations at the WTC site, and two firehouses from which 11 members were missing.

During these visits, his intention was to "be present" to troops, inquiring as to their emotional status and physical needs which come under the heading of "spiritual". He sought to reinforce the Commanding General's admonition to keep the troops aware of the importance

of their mission, especially those on isolated outposts or those engaged in "boring" tasks, such as ticketing trucks going to and from the WTC site.

When necessary, he engaged in crisis intervention, which usually did not require anything more than being "friendly" or "human". However, there were a few instances when it was necessary to employ more sophisticated counselling techniques, e.g., a grieving fireman, a relative who lost someone at WTC and one or two angry (fatigued) soldiers.

Chaplain Assistant PFC McGiver was of no small assistance in aiding in Chaplain's duties. She should be commended for her excellent evaluation of problems real and potential among soldiers and for her practical problem-solving techniques and overall support of those under stressful situations.

Chaplain Goldstein's approval of a "night duty Chaplain" was an excellent decision. There was plenty to do at night and the troops expressed surprise, approval and gratitude.

Father's overall impression was:

"From generals to privates, in my view, the Guard responded to the crisis with speed, eagerness and efficiency. All hands can be proud of themselves"

A Testimonial of Appreciation was bestowed upon a good non-Lithuanian friend of C-12 - Lillian Romaine. Through the years - over 20 - Lillian has assisted the council in many, many activities, unstintingly of her time and always with pleasant humor. This testimonial was created by our VP, Aldona Zaunius.

The parish of Our Lady of Vilnius in downtown Manhattan, and also C-12, look forward to the parish's semi-annual dinner and all are cordially invited.

## C-110 Maspeth, Queens Bruno Rutkunas

Would you believe the attendance on

our yearly closing meeting was double the usual amount of members attending our monthly get-togethers?

As was done many times, we made another shipment to the orphans at the Kaunas Child Development Clinic; (Paulina, Guste, Valentas, and Adomas are pictured dressed in warm PJ's).

Preliminary plans were made for a Halloween Dinner-Dance on October 27th 2002; the committee consists of Helen Matulonis, Ann Morrisey, Julia Schroeder and others to be helping to make this long-awaited affair a happy K of L evening.

Our Atlantic City fun bus will be resuming trips to Atlantic City on September 19th. Dr. Giedre Kumipkaite, director of the Lithuanian broadcast Mon 9:30-10:00 PM on 930AM, is heading a committee to be able to use the Lithuanian Citizens' Club on Grand Avenue here in Maspeth, especially since so many members were the original owners of the club.

About 11 did not renew their K of L membership this past year, leaving 177 in our council.

Our council on Sept 29 has voted in a new President, Julia Schroder, a very dedicated young woman with lots of new ideas and overwhelming energy. By the time you read this, our Dinner-Dance will be over - Oct 27th.

Captain Phyllis Barker reported on her very interesting visit to Lithuania; the country is still trying to become more self-sufficient and stronger in spite of many social, political, financial and medical problems. Most people know of all the aid that we and the US government give and want this to continue.

A detailed review and report of the daily meetings at the National convention were clearly and

interestingly presented by Julia Schroder.

On Sept 22, many members joined with Transfiguration parishioners to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the "new church", a memorial plaque honoring all the lost foremen from the near-by firehouse on Sept 11, 2001. Also, many guests were viewing the official opening of the new handicap ramp, thanks to efforts of Pastor Ted Rooney who made this possible.

Another change to our Board was made with Mary Stungurys taking over the tasks associated with the Treasury. 51 members enjoyed the brunch, going home very pleased with our latest K of L meeting.

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

Richard Fuerst, our favorite lawyer, hosted our meeting at his law office, recently. We were fortunate to learn from his program on "Planning your Estate". Richard's important facts on the subject generated many questions and gave us much to consider. Thank you, Richard.

Our annual "end of the season" banquet and meeting was held in Amsterdam in June allowing some members of C-100 to attend. All who were present had a great meal and a good time.

Bernice Aviza gave a detailed report of her recent trip to Marijampole, Lithuania. Marijampole and Amsterdam, NY, have become sister cities and are in the process of exchanging artistic creations by the children of both cities. Helen Hayner accompanied Bernice on the trip and was able to visit her relatives and mine in Marijampole.

We regret the passing of our member Stephanie Dwulitt recently. We miss her and remember her gorgeous hats and

beautiful smile. May you rest in peace, Stephanie.

Our thought for the day: Forbidden fruit creates many jams.

### **C-147 St.Petersburg,FL Dolores Jonaitis**

It's been awhile... a short absence.. hoping all is okay now. We welcome our new member - Povilas Jancauskas. We also have an application from Dalyte Scheuru who is Bronce Urboniene's granddaughter. We most heartedly welcome both of you.

A short note on our Lithuanian Club's 40th anniversary. We all celebrated for 3 days - Nov 9, 10, 11. I would like to mention our K of L members who participated. Irene Diktanas, Valeria Lescinkas and Anthony Gudonis sang with the choir; Joe and Dale Dana were folk dancers. Joseph Gecas and John Jonaitis were among the directors from all the other organizations. A beautiful K of L display was exhibited, gathered by Dolores and John Jonaitis.

St. Casimir celebration was celebrated by Br. Antanas Grabnickas, OFM, and Rev. Matas Cyvas. Dinner was at the Lithuanian Club. Brother Antanas explained the life of St. Casimir in detail. Everybody was greatly impressed.. he was so well acclaimed.

The Mid Atlantic District meeting (April) was held in St. Pete Beach at the Travelodge Motel, hosted by C-147. Our Spiritual Advisor, Father Cyvas, gave the Invocation. The group was welcomed by John Jonaitis, President of C-147. Home-made pastries were prepared by our ladies for breakfast. All was donated. After the 9:00AM meeting, we all attended Holy Name Church in Gulfport for the 1:00 Lithuanian Mass, celebrated by Brother Antanas and Father Cyvas. Then it was to the Lithuanian American Club for dinner. Seating was arranged by

Laimute Alvarado. Thanks, Laimute. The home-made raisin bread made a big Rasha Petraitis was a delegate at the National Convention.

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

Things are still growing strong with C-52 here on the east end of Long Island. Our meetings are well-attended, considering that our members are so scattered. There are about 80 miles from one end to the other end of the island, so that means some have to travel quite a distance to attend meetings.

Our final meeting for the summer break was held on June 9. We skip the month of May because of Mothers' Day. We also skip July and August to give everyone a chance to enjoy the summer activities. Our annual picnic at Orient State Park was July 9/10. Also the council is planning a Chinese auction Oct 2. Our previous ones were a great success and lots of fun, too! It is also a good time - and not too soon - to think about the Christmas party. Set date is Dec 8 at the Polish Hall in Riverhead, NY. There too we have a table of gifts to raffle off, so think about your donations-nothing under \$5, please.

Fred Lucka read news items explaining Lithuania being accepted into NATO. It's been a long time coming, but it's finally happening. And for that we are all very grateful. In closing, my definition of a vacation: The period when those rainy days for which a person saves, usually arrive.

## **Amber District C-74 Scranton Marie Laske**



We attended the Amber District meeting in Binghamton. It was an enjoyable ride watching the beautiful scenery roll by. John Mankus, President of Amber District, presided over the meeting. did a great job. He also recited a beautiful

Lithuanian poem.

Our Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. John Mikalajunas, MDIV Paastor. He was so gracious welcoming the K of L and also wrote a note in the church bulletin, welcoming us.

The organist played Marija, Marija! This was well-appreciated by all the Lithuanians.

We thank the Binghamton council for having us. Our attendance was 51 which is so much lower than 24 years ago when we started in Scranton.

St. Ann's Basilica Day was July 26 in Scranton. Rev. Clement Kasinskas, CP, waas celebrant of the Lithuanian Mass. John Mankus was lector. Both spoke Lithuanian beautifully. Helen Moran was music director. Marie Laske was coordinator.. C-143 and 74 took John Mankus out for dinner, in appreciation.

Our next event was the Polish and Lithuanian Rosary at St. Peter's Cathedral. Marie Laske introduced the 5 decades of the rosary. Helen Cravath recited the Lithuanian decade. Martha Waragiras was lector. This was a beautiful tribute to Our Blessed Mother. Mr. George and Evelyn Sailus from Wyoming have different groups say the rosary each month. They are very religious.

Please remember our sick: Dorothy Samowski, Della Zvirblis, Mary Twardzik, and all the Knights.

May the Lord bless you and take good care of you.

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

Our annual celebration of St. John the Baptist Day was held on Sunday, June 30th, at the home of Council Secretary Beverly Meder in Springfield, Virginia.

The setting was lovely and Beverly had fresh flowers everywhere. We began with champagne. The brunch consisted of an egg souffle (secret recipe), desrai, roasted potatoes and a fruit compote steeped in sherry wine. Dessert was a huge carrot cake and a chocolate mousse cake served with hot coffee.

The "Dirty Dozen" in attendance included Anthony Ratkus, Mary Semel, John Waylonis, Jean Lutwin, John Ratway, Joe Chaplick, Richard Koehl, Marylou Koehl, Leonard Redecke, Irene Redecke, and Beverly Meder. We hope that Eleanor Depenbrock's health will permit her to join us at our next gathering.

Jean Ratway was the main speaker and was very interesting informing us about the adornment with Lithuanian significance surrounding the interior of the Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva in the Basilica of the National Shrine.

Our council has 31 members. We recently donated \$100 to Lithuanian Orphan Care. Also, HM Bertha Stoskus sent a gift of \$100 to the K of L Our Lady of Siluva Chapel Fund.

Since 1966, the support of the Knights has assisted in preserving the Chapel as a spiritual home for America's Lithuanian Catholics and as a testament to their faith in the Blessed Mother and her Son.

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



July and August were very busy months for our council. In July we participated in the annual Novena to St. Ann's Basilica in Scranton, Pa.

In August our council joined the Scranton K of L council and the Diocesan Polish groups in hosting the Rosary for Peace and Justice in St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. Our council participated in the Pittston City Annual Tomato Festival Parade.

Congratulations to Jean Kapochus Mihalick and Helen Mary Karpovich who were awarded their 4th Degree at the National Convention.

Christina Moczdoski was awarded her 2nd degree at the September meeting. Christina will be relocating to make her home in Florida. She will be missed. Amber C-143 sends Christina our best wishes and prayers. Best of Luck Christina!!!

We extend our Get Well Wishes and Prayers to many of our council members who are on the sick list: Celestine Swankowski, Mary Timek, Julia Atmonavage, Anastasia Stanley, Frank Joga, Anna Walutkas, Frances Evans, Mary Ann O'Connor, Charles Dajnowski, Eleanor Bellanco.

### **C-144 Anthracite Ona**

Once again we lost a very dear member. Pauline Martunas, wife of our Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, Joe, passed away after a long illness. Pauline and Joe were members since we organized and both very active. She very rarely missed a meeting and was always willing to help. She received her 3rd Degree at the District St. Casimir's Day affair this year and came even though she was sick. She was an associate member but was very Lithuanian in all she did. May God have mercy on her soul and may He help Joe over this sad time. They were true soulmates.

Another Lithuanian Day has passed, the 88th. Started in 1914 by the Lithuanian Priests League in Northeastern Pennsylvania, it has continued without stopping since then. When the Anthracite Council was formed the Priests asked if we would take over as many of the old priests were gone and they could not continue. This year's chairman was Peter Teresavage, co-chaired by Eleanor Balsis, Food Chairman Joe Ames and

his aides, Joe Martunas, Bernie Zelaitis, and Mike Yanavich worked very hard making kugelis, bulviniai desros, and making arrangements for the other Lithuanian food. Display and Entertainment was chaired by Bernice Mikatavage. Thanks to the Luscius family and Domalakes family for demonstrations of straw ornaments and marguciai and for all the work they did. Eleanor Vaicaitis for sales, Betty Tumas, raffle, Anne Wargo, PR and food tickets and for all who worked so hard - too many to mention. Lithuania is still strong in the Anthracite Coal Region. Our forefathers came in the first wave of immigrants, worked hard in the mines, built churches, and kept their Lithuanian traditions. We - First, Second, and Third Generation Americans - try to uphold these Lithuanian customs. Proceeds always go to Lithuanian Humanitarian Aid.

Many of our members had a wonderful trip to Lithuania in July, led by Bernice Mikatavage. They came back praising the wonders of Lithuania.

Attending the National Convention were Anne Wargo, HM, Council President, Elsie Kosmisky, HM, Eleanor Vaicaitis, Eleanor Balsis and Esther Bartashus. Msgr. Al Bartkus, HM, Rector of the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome came to Chicago and is still a member of C-144. He was one of our founders.

### **New England District**

#### **New England District Birzelis**

The NED Fall Convention was held in Hartford, CT, on Sept 15, 2002. It was the first time that C-6 hosted a convention and they did a fine job. The convention started with Holy Mass in the beautiful Church of Holy Trinity. The Mass was celebrated by Kun. Charles E. Jacobus who welcomed the

Knights and gave an inspiring homily.

After Mass, we adjourned to the Church Hall which was festively decorated, for a delicious meal. The convention session started promptly at 1PM by NED President Joe Stiklius. C-6 President, Kay Urban, welcomed the delegates and guests. Father Jacobs said the opening prayer.

Highlights of the convention were: A guest-appearance by Robert A. Martin, Supreme Council President. The NED delegates to the convention, Maryte Bizinkauskas, C1 and Laurinas (Larry) Miscevicus, C144, gave a dramatic presentation, a la Academy Award style, of their convention reports. The awards of the Sviklas-Tamulevich Scholarship Fund were announced. Bronė Wisnauskas, Cultural Chairperson, did a cultural presentation on a Lithuanian wedding.

At the session break, the Berzalis Dancers, under the direction of Dalia Dzikas, performed Lithuanian folk dances to the enjoyment of everyone.

After the break, the election of officers and committee chairpersons took place. The new officers are: President: Vivian Rodgers, C-26; VP: Barbara Schmidt, C-144; Treas - Marion Racicot C-26; Recording Sec - Lillian Joseph, C-6; Corresp Sec - Marcia Rogers, C-30; Trustees - Bill Wisniauskas, C-10 and Marion Hobitz, C-78.

The new President, Vivian Rodgers, thanked the outgoing officers and everyone for coming. At the close of the session, we went upstairs to the Church for the Holy Hour, after which we returned to the hall for a light supper. C-6 Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John Rikteraitis, recovering from an illness, made a brief visit.

Many people were reluctant to leave. George and Frances Bumila from C-1 stayed to the very end, enjoying the cheesecake made by Danata Virkutis.

Everyone left with a positive feeling and we are looking forward to meeting again at the Cultural Fair at Maironis Park in Worcester on Oct 13, 2002.



## C-6 Hartford Leona Sawka

One of our summer social functions was to see an Allen Sherman musical entitled "Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh" at the Cabaret Theater in Berlin, CT, on June 14. This very entertaining play had a zany cast of characters and was enjoyed by all.

Congratulations go to Nell Knusto who was recently awarded the St. Joseph Archdiocese Medal of Appreciation for all her good works. We're proud of you, Nell!!

Florence Morkus and Leona Sawka co-chaired a recent event at Holy Trinity Church - Mothers' Day crowning of the Blessed Mother statue. The crowning queen was the granddaughter (Jessica Marie Wyble) of Flo and Vinnie Morkus. Jessica and her parents live in Maryland and came here for this very special occasion. Pictures of the crowning were carried by The Hartford Courant and The Catholic Transcript and also Channel 20. Crossroads Magazine videotaped and aired the crowning.

Three members - Kay Urban, June Grenier, and Lillian Joseph attended the New England District Retreat held in Kennebunkport, ME.

With the induction of Birute Pellerin and Dottie Rydzial into our council at our September meeting, our membership is now up to 79. Congratulations and welcome to our council, Birute and Dottie.

Dalia Dzikas, Cultural, spoke about Our Lady of Siluva, celebrated Sept 8 at the 10:30 Mass at Holy Trinity Church, followed by coffee, refreshments, and fellowship. Kay

Urban, President, brought in her collection relating to Our Lady which made a wonderful display. This was available in the church hall for all to view.

On October 5, Sr. Helen R. Ivanauskas will be honored with the National Outstanding Lithuanian Woman Award for 2002 at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent in Brockton, MA. Sr. Helen has done an outstanding job in collecting used postage stamps, selling them to collectors and using the money to send containers of medicines, bicycles, wheelchairs - to name a few - to the Lithuanian Children's Relief. Following a Mass at the convent, the award will be presented at the luncheon by our President, Kay Urban, who is the National VP.

June Grenier informed members of the goings-on at the National Convention in Chicago this summer at which our council received an award for having the greatest increase in membership. Also, June brought back a certificate and gift which was presented to Kristina Serksnas for her endeavors in bringing in 8 new members. Congratulations, Kristina, for a wonderful job. June Grenier is now the National Financial Secretary on the Supreme Council and brought to our attention that the national dues are now increased. We all agreed, therefore, to increase our dues by \$5. June also mentioned that Joe Stiklius is now the Public Relations person on the Supreme Council. We applaud June and Joe for giving so much of their time to this worthwhile organization.

"We have soccer champions" announced the proud grandparents, Vin and Flo Morkus. Their granddaughter, Jessica Marie, and her soccer team Bethesda Phoenix spent 3 weeks of July playing soccer games in Sweden and Denmark with over 100 youth teams from 60 countries around the world, including 2 teams from Lithuania. The winning team arrived home in Dulles Airport to

a great welcome with the championship DANA cup. Bravo!

Vin and Flo Morkus celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on Labor Day. They also have a new great-granddaughter, Leah, who was born August 13, 2002. Congratulations!

On Sept 15 our council had the pleasure of hosting the NED Convention. Delegates were Francie Ambrose, Richard Bansavich, Alyce Gegesky, Flo Grigas, Lillian Joseph, Wandie Kruk, Flo Morkus, Louise Piwoski, Madelyn Ratches, Arlene Stiklius, Kay Urban and Gene Ziurys. We're pleased to announce that Lillian Joseph is now Recording sec and June Grenier is our Vytis correspondent for NED.

A special thanks go to all who helped in making this affair a success: Francie Ambrose, Ed Balskus, Linda Bansavich, Birute Bernotas, Brian Daigle, Al and Dalia Dzikas, Agnes Gagnon, Alyce Gegesky, Danute Grajauskas, Flo Grigas, Lillian Joseph, Victor Kogilis, Mary Koziicki, Wandie Kruk, Judy Landers, Bette Ann and Joe Liudzius, Irene and Jurgis Petkaitis, Louise Piwoski, Madelyn Ratches, Dottie Rydzial, Leona Sawka, Kay Urban, Danute Virkutis and Gene Ziurys. This affair was a success due to the hard work and diligence of this group. We must not forget Fr. Charles E. Jacobs for his stirring sermon. It was wonderful to hear how much the out-of-towners enjoyed our church, sermon, and hospitality. Aciu all for making this possible.

## C-7 Waterbury Adele Klenske



Hopefully, our fellow-Knights have enjoyed a healthy, happy Summer. Here, in New England, we had an exceptionally hot Summer with 4 official heat waves and record-breaking temperatures. Enough, already! The coming of Fall is surely looking good!

On May 18 we had our first ever pasta supper, chaired by Joe and Holly Albino. They did all the shopping, preparing and cooking and deserve a huge "Thank You". It turned out to be a most successful fundraiser. Comments from diners were most favorable. The good part was that we had so much left over which we froze and again enjoyed at our last meeting for the season on June 15.

Sadly, the Archdiocese of Hartford chose to close St. Joseph's School, which leaves us all wondering what will happen to the church and our K of L clubrooms (which is church property). The Sunday morning "coffee and..." after Sunday Masses is now being held in our clubrooms, as well as other Brooklyn Community meetings. We are all hoping for the best and expecting the worst, however, we will survive as a council!

On Aug 3, Doris Snirpunas hosted a picnic in her very pleasant backyard for all the members who have constantly and diligently worked on every committee for all our fundraisers. It turned out to be a potluck affair with delicious food galore. Thanks for the use of your yard, Doris - it was really a nice afternoon and a good time was had by all.

The next council event which members will attend is the NED convention. Next will be our kick-off meeting Sept 20 at our clubrooms.

We need new members!!! Let's all get out there and start recruiting. The July/Aug issue of the Vytis mentioned that C-3 of Philadelphia welcomed 10 new members. Congratulations! We have to start beating the bushes for eligible candidates. Thankfully, we do have Juniors whose ranks we hope will increase and persevere. The Juniors have been duly registered with the Supreme Council and after some paperwork, they will be officially pronounced Junior members of our

council.

Richard Dubauskas has been diligently pursuing the creation of a degree plaque for our clubroom. Over the years, Ed White has suggested having such a plaque in recognition of the members who have received their degrees. Richard was able to find someone willing to make this plaque and soon it will grace our clubroom's wall.

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

We welcome Richard Gatautis as a new member!

Brone Wisniauskas had a Lithuanian Easter "marguciu" table as part of her decorations at the Greater Gardner Art Show.

Betty Penney spent her vacation in France and Belgium. Bill and Brone Wisniauskas spent 3 weeks in Lithuania and Poland. They attended Brone's cousin's - Fr. Erastas Murauskas' First Mass. Fr. Erastas has been assigned to Holy Spirit Parish in Silainai section of Kaunas, a parish of 50,000 souls.

Condolences are extended to Asta Kraskauskas on the loss of her father, Jonas Rudokas, in Kaunas, Lithuania.

We are deeply saddened at the deaths of 3 of our K of L members: Amelia (Bendinskas) Vaitkunas, a long-time member who attended our council functions while her health permitted. Was buried from St. Francis Church, recently. The K of L performed their ritual and placed a Lithuanian juosta on her casket.

Walter Mikas, Sr. passed on to his eternal rest and his Mass of Christian burial was held at Sacred Heart in Gardner with a large group of K of L'ers as honor bearers. Walter was a Eucharistic Minister and devoted Lithuanian Club member.

We were all saddened at the death of Jennie (Gatautis) Poskus of Athol. The K of L performed their ritual and Nellie Melaika and Marie Colo placed the juosta on her casket and a large group of members formed an honor guard.

Condolences to Ann and Richard Gatautis on the death of their husband and father, Joseph Gatautis. Funeral Mass was held at St. Francis and largely attended. Both Ann and Rich are K of L'ers.

I apologize for a recent mistake in the Vytis. Mr. Howard Beaudette was one of 3 members honored as a 50-year member of the American Legion Post in Gardner and not the VFW.

Get well wishes are extended to Beatrice Jodaitis Richard who is a patient at a local area nursing home.

K of L member Peter Molis of Worcester was awarded Lithuanian GrandDuke Gedimino Medal on June 14th in Vilnius, for his outstanding work in promoting Lithuanian scouting through the years. The award was made by Pres. Valdas Adamkus. Bravo, Petra!... We are all proud of you!

### **C-17 South Boston Regina Alexander**

Summer rains did not dampen the spirits of the N.E. K of L members at the Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME, as we gathered together for annual retreat. Our organizer, President Al Akule, HM, and his wife, Patricia, were unable to attend due to Pat's illness. Although both were greatly missed, Pres. Vivian Rodgers, C-26, Worcester, stepped up and guided us all to a pleasant and worthwhile retreat. Father John Bacevicius and Father Dennis were the speakers and gave us guidance and spiritual talks. Father Gabriel and Sophie Kazlauskas and all the staff showed us gracious hospitality and



made delicious meals for the group. Frank and Virginia Markuns also were greatly missed due to Virginia's illness. We want all missing members healthy and back with us next year, God willing. Elvira and brother Frank Averka enjoyed their first time as retreatants.

New members and old joined together at the June meeting and helped with the delicious refreshments: Peter Raskauskas, Barbara Trybe, Donna Reina, Elvira Averka, Billy Olevitz. The Pizza Party was a tremendous hit!

While Spiritual Director and Pastor Fr. Steve Zukas was visiting Lithuania, former Pastor, Msgr. Al Contons was here at St. Peter's Lithuanian Church.

A surprise birthday party for Ann Norinkavich was hosted by her 2 daughters. Many K of L and Sodality members were among the guests joining in to wish her Happy Birthday and "Ilgiausiu Metu".

The Sunshine Committee, Ann and Mary, have been busy with sending spiritual bouquets and cards. Our deepest sympathy goes to the families and friends of our deceased members: Joseph White, dedicated and active member, our long-time treasurer; Mary Martus, long time member and Ritual Chairperson; Julia Mansfield, Tessie Sidlauskas, Phyllis Castagiola, Madeline Druzdas, Anna Neviera all were long-time members. Sincere sympathy to Eleanor Mikalonis upon the death of her son, Charles.

Our prayers and best wishes for good health go out to: Virginia Markuns, Anne White, Patricia Akule, Irene Regan. Now residing in a nursing home in Stonham is Ann Voveris.

To help fill the void we welcome newly-elected Ann Kleponis as Financial Treas and Larry Svelnis as Ritual Chairperson who is actively seeking members to update their

degrees.

Iki pasimatymo, likit sveiki.

## C-26 Worcester Ruta

Father Jakubauskas, our Spiritual Advisor, spoke about June being the month of the Sacred Heart and Jesus's life in charity. The more we know and understand His teachings on charity, the more beautiful are lives will become. Our lives will start to fall into place as we practice charity and continue to grow.

Bill Leseman attended the June meeting after being out with surgery. Everyone was happy to welcome him back after his absence. Ann Walinsky was also welcomed back after being out for several weeks. Angie Busky had a major operation and is in rehabilitation.

Our annual June picnic was held at Maironis Park with an excellent attendance by members, parishoners and guests. President Vivian Rodgers appreciated the support of non members to this event. It was an afternoon of good fun and delicious Lithuanian food. As usual, our members pitched right in to assist in running the various tables such as fish pond, bakery, door prizes, etc. as well as cooking the great lunch.

Arthur and Marion Racicot recently returned from a trip to New Orleans, Nashville, Memphis and Branson. They thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend it to anyone. The New Orleans Latin Quarter was especially interesting and impressive. This was a jazz, blues, and country music tour. They attended all kinds of shows and did a lot of sight-seeing.

The silent auction that we recently held earned \$150. It was voted to send the money to the Lithuanian Orphan Care Organization in Lithuania.

Ann Leseman presided over the



awarding of first and second degrees. The recipients were: First Degree: Dorothy Vaicilionis, Ed Markevicius, and Albina Barkus; Second Degree: Irene Markevicius, Wanda Ramonas, and Sharron Gowen. Congratulations and good wishes were extended to these members.

The Worcester Multicultural Committee recently presented their 2002 Multicultural Spring Festival. The theme was "Worcester is America". Many various ethnic groups participated. The Lithuanians were honored by being selected to lead the parade into the hall. Bill Leseman led the parade of all the nations and carried the American flag. Aldona Jakunaite was next carrying the Colonial flag of the 13 original states. She was followed by Ann Leseman carrying the State flag and George Sopcak carried the Lithuanian flag.

Our June meeting, the last before Summer vacations, concluded with an ice cream social. What a way to slide into summer! Ice cream was served with various toppings and a wide selection of cookies. This was not a night to worry about one's diet. Everyone wished each a good and safe summer. Many of the members were looking forward to the Annual K of L retreat in Maine at the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport.

## C-27 Norwood, MA Zaibas

Labas. Sunny days, rainy days. It does not matter when the NED K of L's gather at the Franciscan Guest House in Kennebunkport, Maine. It is like a family reunion. Warm greetings, prayerful meetings, sad remembrances of the loved ones no longer with us and relaxing evenings spent in conversation or card playing.

The Norwood contingent consisted of Louise and Paul Zukas (their son,





*More Knight Life...*



Bronius Muras C-82 and Theresa Strolia C-157 among the participants at the annual Mass-Picnic of the Friends of St. Casimir Church of Gary, Indiana



Msgr. Ignatius Urbonas HM at the C-82-sponsored Mass on September 15, 2002



Father Steve, is visiting and studying in Lithuania for a month), Adele Macys, Frances and Stan Medveski (who journeyed up from Rhode Island), Lillian and Ted Callahan (who scout the state of Maine for antiques), Ramona and E. Gonski (she took our class photo) and Albie and Leonora Jarvis. We all signed up to return June 20, 2003, God willing.

Our Fall meeting was opened with a prayer led by our notable Spiritual Director, Fr. Bill Wolkavich and presided over by Stan Wasil, VP. Our President, George Barton, will soon be returning from his stay in Lithuania.

Stan gave a detailed report of the NED meeting. Many changes were voted in at the August Convention which included a raise in yearly dues. A trip to Lithuania will be available to interested members in 2003.

Ted Callahan led a discussion on how best to preserve our Council and Lithuanian flags. We all applauded his ideas to resolve this problem.

Betty and John Skricki were off to Spain to witness their daughter Carol's participation in an International Sculling contest.

Ed and Mary Motyka were off to yet another Polka Week in Maryland.

Our council was well-represented at the lively NED in Hartford, CT. Stan and Terry Wasil, Albie and Leonora Jarvis, Sandy Malish, Dorothy Ausevich, Charles and Carol Treciokas attended.

The parish hall at St. George's is undergoing extensive renovations. We look forward to its new look.

### **C-50 New Haven, CT Jean Valente**

Well, the holiday season is over and it is time to bring in the summer. I am pleased to announce the confirmations for this year. We are expecting to have a wonderful year! God bless!

President - Isabel Peterson; 1st VP - M. Cronin; 2nd VP - Mary Geipel; Sec - Audrey Toole; Treas - Evelyn Lepinsky; Financial Sec - Helen Klimazewski; Sunshine Fund - Helen Medley; Rituals - Ed Toole; Vytis Corresp - Genute Strmaitis-Valente; Historian - Ann Kodorsky; Ways and Means - Irene and Mike Meizes; Sgt at Arms - Charles Valente; Telephone Squad - Helen Lostys.

Thank you to everyone for donating their time and efforts in support of K of L C-50.

### **Mid America District**

#### **C-82 Gary Daisy Talley**



C-82 held a meeting on September 15. Sister Janine opened the meeting with a prayer. Elections were held and the new officers/committees are:

Spiritual Advisor - Msgr. I. Urbonas; President - Joanna Rudzevicius; 1st VP - Ursula Tavaras; 2nd VP/Treasurer - Elizabeth Starewicz; Sec/Fin Sec - Mildred Jagiella; Vytis Corresp - Daisy Talley; Historian - Carol Gumulauskis; Lithuanian Affairs - Birute Vilutis; Cultural/Language - Marie Ruzga; Public Relations - Joanna Rudzevicius; Trustees - Stasys Kirsinas, Balys Ruzga, Nell Jurczak; Sgt at Arms - John Jagiella; Ritual - Casimir Balt; Spiritual Programs - Sr. Janine; Juniors -- Loreta Vician.

Daisy Talley was fortunate to have won 2 round-trip tickets to Lithuania and had a great tour on her first visit!

First Degrees were received by ten of our members at the Spring meeting. Congratulations to all !!

Our 5th Annual Outdoor Mass and Picnic was held at the VFW on Sept. 8. Monsignor I. Urbonas, HM, celebrated the Mass with Faustas Strolia at the organ. Sr. Janine was Liturgy

Coordinator. Bronius Muras provided his typically superb music during the picnic. Casimir Balt was coordinator for the event.

Since our parish closed, meetings have been held at members' homes and now we'll be meeting regularly at the Lake County Reference Library which is centrally located for our members.

Plans are in progress for the celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day 2003 at the American Legion on Feb 9, 2003. Our council will host the District for St. Casimir's Day at the Carmelites in Munster, IN.

We are all saddened by the loss of 2 of our members who toiled for Lithuania and her causes all of their lives - Izidore Tavaras and Vince Gumulauskis  
Eternal Rest!

#### **C-112 CHICAGO, IL**

##### **Sr. Johanna Marie**

The yearly election of officers took place today. The same members agreed to stay on for another year. All took the oath of office once again.

November 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 were the date and time set for the annual Mass for the deceased K of L members. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> was decided as the date for the yearly Christmas Party. Delegates who attended this year's Convention excitedly told those gathered of the wonderful time had in our windy city of Chicago. All present then sang a joyful "Happy birthday" to our Jr. K of L'er, Andrea Deksnis, who just turned 17. Mrs. Maria Deksnis then announced that the Juniors will be presenting a skit called "Our Lady of Siluva," at Our Lady of the Ridge Church, on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. All were invited to atten



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