

1  
VYTIS - THE KNIGHT

Vol. 88 No. 7 - lapkritis/gruodis - November/December, 2002



*"O Come Let Us Adore Him,*



*Christ, the Lord!"*

**Knights of Lithuania  
Supreme Council  
Officers  
2002-2003**



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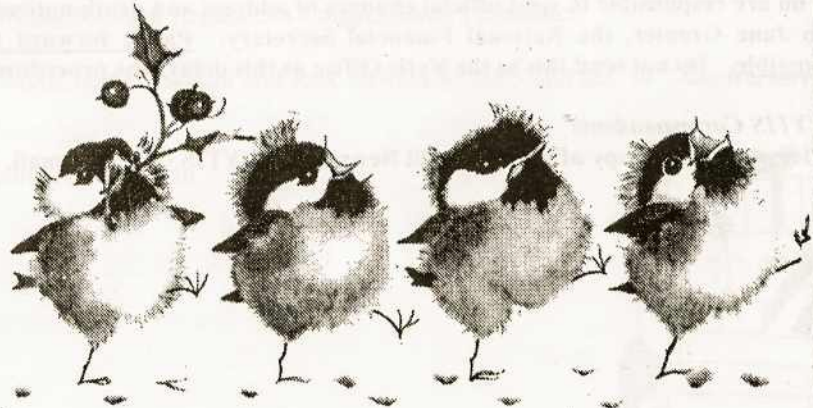
Knights of Lithuania Web page: [www.knightsoflithuania.com](http://www.knightsoflithuania.com)



**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*



Nights are dark. Darkness like death precludes life and productivity. Stories of evil spirits take place in the obscurity of the unseen. Yet each day the sun brings new life and light. We can depend on this daily phenomenon.

Storm clouds envelop the earth with darkness and the possibility of foreboding dangers. Shadows lurk throughout the dim perceivable view and the winds beat mercifully against anything accessible. Yet storms do cease and a season of calm inevitably returns.

Two thousand years ago the Light of Christ shattered the darkness of this planet. It transformed lives and changed history. The Light of Faith that Christ brought on that first Christmas became our legacy in Baptism. God came to dwell in our midst and the beacon of Light is within each of us.

Today the darkness of hate, the fear of terrorism, and the threat of war loom over us ominously. May the Light of Faith sustain us and fill us with hope and courage as we await the coming of the New Day.

*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.



December, 2002



Dear Members,

On behalf of the entire Supreme Council, I wish to extend to each of you our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It's hard to believe that the Holiday Season is once again upon us. It won't be long before the bells ring in the miracle that is Christmas on the 25<sup>th</sup>. It seems all too soon those same bells ring in the New Year. May it be one of health, prosperity and peace for all of us.

With all the preparation that goes into making the holidays special, it is sometimes the little things that get overlooked. At this time, I would like to remind everyone, that when you're purchasing your holiday cards you'd consider purchasing cards that reflect the true reason for the season. Also, when buying your stamps, please request the religious ones. All too easily we sometimes forget to ask for them. Unfortunately, if we don't, next year we may not have the choice. Let the world know that we are Christians and proud to express it. Please remember that these sentiments were made in the form of a resolution at the 2000 convention and approved by the delegates.

The Supreme Council held our fall meeting in Washington, DC this past October. I am happy to report that it was well attended and a busy one. Work continues on many projects, including the Lady of Siluva Website and Proposed Social Member Status. Please watch future Vytis issues for updates. On Friday evening, about ten members of the Supreme Council and guests, visited with the staff at the Lithuanian Embassy. During our visit we were given a tour of the Embassy and a briefing on NATO expansion. We are thankful to the Ambassador for inviting us to visit and become better acquainted with the workings of the Embassy. Our 1<sup>st</sup> National Pilgrimage was a huge success. Roughly seventy-five members gathered on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a morning tour of the lower level, followed by attendance at the Noon Mass. The Knights of Lithuania were honored to have Rev. Msgr. Anderlonis and Rev. Anthony Markus concelebrate the Mass with the Shrine's Rector, Msgr. Bransfield as Celebrant. The Shrine's staff made us all very welcome. Along with the President of the Washington, DC Council, Joseph Chaplik, I was honored to present the offertory gifts during the Mass. Following the Mass, Msgr. Anderlonis led us in a rosary and prayer service in the Siluva Chapel, which was filled to capacity. Many non-K of L'ers present at the shrine during the service joined us in making the service even more special. During the service, Joe Chaplik, our resident Siluva Chapel donations' coordinator, presented Msgr. Bransfield with the donations collected during the national convention for the Chapel's upkeep. A special thank you to all who attended, and especially Msgr. Anderlonis for the wonderful service. Also, a special thank you to Rev. Rossi of the National Shrine, who worked with us to make sure everything went perfectly. Hopefully, we will be able to do this again in the future.

I would also like to congratulate our National Public Relations Chair, Joseph Stiklius, on being named to the Business Advisory Council by the National Republican Congressional Committee.

In closing, again I wish you a happy holiday season and look forward to 2003 and our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in Brockton, MA.

Linksmu Sventu Kaledu ir Laimingu Nauju Metu.

Vytiskai.

Robert A. Martin, Jr.  
President



## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Don't know what to get that special someone who has everything? How about making a donation in their name. During this holiday season of giving how about considering donations to our Knights of Lithuania Charities. Below is a listing of our charities and where you can send donations if you are so inclined. Have a great holiday.

### Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

Send to: Regina Juska-Svoba, President  
1594 Beaupre  
Madison Heights, MI 48071

### Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Šiluva Chapel Renovation Fund

Send to: Joseph Chaplick, Co-Ordinator  
2000 F Street NW #419  
Washington, DC 20006-4229

### Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.

Send to: Loretta Stukas, HM, President  
234 Sunlit Drive  
Watchung, NJ 07060

### Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund

Send to: Irena Gecas-McCarthy, Chair  
30 Clinton Road  
Garden City, NY 11530

### Lady of Šiluva Fund

Send to: Elinor Sluzas, HM, Chair  
55 Brandt Street  
Dayton, OH 45404

### St. Casimir Guild

Send to: Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM, President  
125 South Morris Street  
St. Clair, PA 17970



Come  
and behold Him  
born  
the King of Angels



A Most Blessed Christmas  
and a  
Very holy, healthy, happy  
and  
Prosperous New Year - 2003  
from  
Your Knights of Lithuania  
Supreme Council



# LINKSMŲ KALEDŲ



## IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

**Schuyler Savings Bank  
24 Davis Avenue  
Kearny, New Jersey 07032  
(201) 991-0001**

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

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





Christmas Greetings  
from  
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

*C-1 Brockton, MA*

*C-7 Waterbury, CT*

*C-10 Athol-Gardner, MA*

*C-17 So. Boston, MA*

*C-26 Worcester, MA*

*C-27 Norwood, MA*

*C-30 Westfield, MA*

*C-50 New Haven, CT*

*C-78 Lawrence, MA*

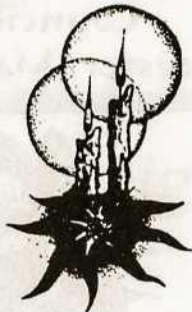
*C-103 Providence, RI*

*C-116 Worcester, MA*

*C-135 Ansonia, CT*

*C-141 Bridgeport, CT*

*C-6 Hartford, CT*



## Season's Greetings -

May the blessings  
of peace,

The splendor of hope,

and the  
Spirit of love

Be your special gifts  
this holiday season!



Council 26  
Worcester, Mass.

Linksmy Kalėdu

ir

Laimingų Naujųjų Metų

Ūyčiams

May God bring you Good Health  
and Many Blessings in the New Year!



Anthracite Council 44 Schuylkill County, Pa.



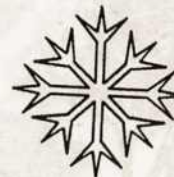
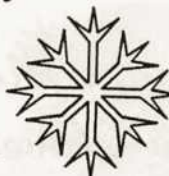
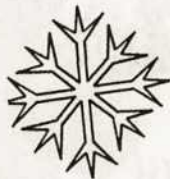
*Prelatas Algimantas Bartkus, Kunigai ir Studentai  
 Šv. Kazimiero Kolegijos Romoje  
 Dėkojam Vycių už jūsų parama ir  
 Linkime Šventų Kalėdų ir Sėkmės  
 Sveikatą ir Laime per Naujų Metų*



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



*Knights of Lithuania C-136  
 Hudson-Mohawk  
 Officers and Members  
 wish one and all:  
 Merry Christmas  
 and  
 Happy New Year*



Council 29 , Newark, New Jersey

Wishes all the Knights of Lithuania

A Joyous Christmas

and

Happiness throughout the coming year

Linksmų Kalėdų

ir

Laimingų Naujų Metų



*Extending Joyous and Blessed Holiday  
Greetings*

to

*All our K of L "Family" of Councils  
Throughout our Nation.*

*May each New Day of 2003 be filled with  
much happiness, good health and  
All of God's Blessings, to all.*

*"Linksmų Naujų Metų" to all.*

*Council 50 - New Haven, Connecticut*



*During this Holiday Season  
the Officers and Members of  
Council 16, Chicago, wish  
to extend to all our fellow*



*members and friends  
greetings for a Merry and  
Holy Christmas and our hopes  
that we all may have the  
Happiest of New Year's.*



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų

**Council 3 Philadelphia**



*The Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.*  
*wishes all readers a*  
*Most Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

The Foundation is an Endowment Fund, established to:  
 finance projects to enhance K of L aims and goals,  
 help our members learn and speak out about their Lithuanian heritage,  
 send needed help – books, medications, fabrics, other support – to the suffering  
 people of Lithuania, especially her youth,  
 ensure the financial future of the Knights of Lithuania.

You can support the Knights of Lithuania by remembering the K of L Foundation  
 this Christmas Season. All interest is spent for K of L-related projects.

For more information, write to:  
 Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.  
 234 Sunlit Drive  
 Watchung, New Jersey 07060

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

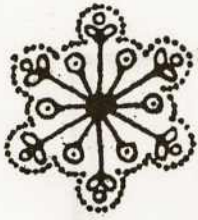
*Please remember my late husband, HM Dr. Jack J. Stukas, in your*  
*prayers.*

*And please keep Our Lady of Siluva ever in your prayers and thoughts.*

*To Vytis Editor, Sister Janine Golubickis, SSC, and her Staff,*  
*a big "Aciu" for their outstanding work in keeping up this publication.*

*May you continue your beautiful work for years to come!*

**LORETTA I. STUKAS, HM**  
**Council 29, Newark, NJ**

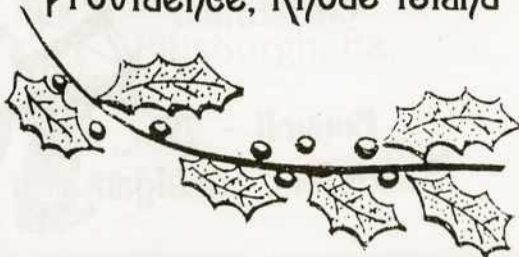


Linksmų Kalėdų,  
Laimingų Naujų Metų

from



Council - 103  
Providence, Rhode Island



WISHING EVERYONE

A

BLESSED CHRISTMAS

AND A

HEALTHY, PEACEFUL  
NEW YEAR

COUNCIL-141 BRIDGEPORT,  
CT

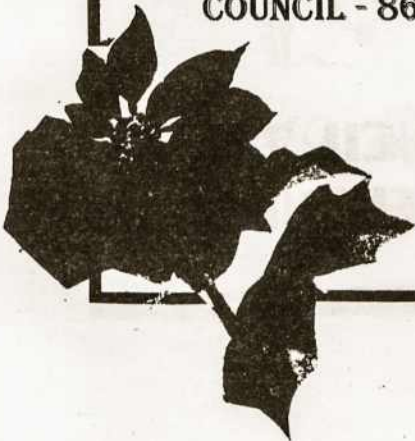
JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH

BESTOW HEALTH AND  
BLESSINGS TO ALL

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



COUNCIL - 86 DU BOIS



Best Wishes

from

K of L Council - 30  
Westfield, Ma.

St. Casimir Parish



*Wishes for a Joyful  
Christmas*

*and a*

*Peaceful New Year*

*Malonių Šv. Kalėdų  
Sekmingų Naujų Metų  
Council #147 - St. Petersburg, Florida*



The gift of love,  
The gift of peace,  
The gift of happiness  
May these be yours at

**Christmas!**

**Council - 79  
Southfield, Michigan**



*Linksmų  
Šv Kalėdų  
Ir*

*Laimingų Naujų Metų*



*Greetings from the  
Mid-Central District*

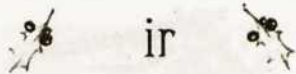
**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and a  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**COUNCIL 25  
CLEVELAND**



Linksmu Kaledu



ir

Laimingu Nauju Metu

Knights of Lithuania  
Council - 19  
Pittsburgh, Pa.



Sventu - Sveiku - Linksmu ir  
Laimingu Kaledu ir  
NaujuMetu Vyciams ir  
Draugams


2003

A blessed, healthy, happy and  
prosperous  
Christmas & New Year to all  
Knights and Friends 2003  
Annie Mitchell Matalavich  
C-52 - Elizabeth, NJ.



*The Best of the*

*Christmas Season*

*to All* 

*C - 140 Syracuse*



*Jesus' is our*

Linksmu, Sv. Kaledu  
ir  
Laimingu Nauju Metu

A Merry Christmas  
and  
Healthy New Year

from Officers and Members  
of  
Council-143, Pittston, Pa.

*Light* 



The gift of love,  
The gift of peace,  
The gift of happiness  
May these be yours at

Christmas!

Council - 79  
Southfield, Michigan



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



*Linksmų Šv. Kaledų ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų!*



Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year to All!  
From  
Council - 12 New York, NY.



Council 152  
Eastern Long Island, NY  
Wishes a Blessed Nativity Season  
and a  
Happy New Year  
to our fellow Knights everywhere

Linksmu Kaledu Svenciu

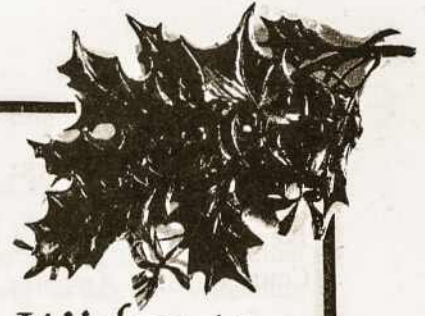


**From The Members  
Of**

Council -157 Lemont, IL

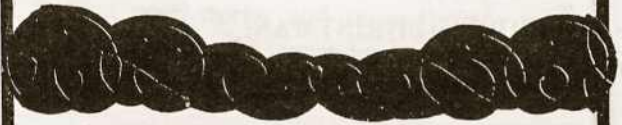


Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų Visiems  
Ir Laimingų Naujų Metų



Our Best Wishes to  
All for a Blessed  
Christmas and a  
Joyful New Year

Council 52  
Elizabeth, New Jersey



*From  
Indiana's  
Council 82*

*Linksmu Kalėdu ir  
Laimingų Naujų  
Metu*



*May the gentle peace of  
Christmas*

*Touch you softly from above,  
As the Christ of Christmas  
Fills your home with harmony  
and love.*

*From all of us  
at C-112*



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year  
Council 135 - Ansonia, CT

Peace and Joy at Christmas and the New Year  
C-116 So. Worcester, MA.

Season's Greetings  
Lee and Paul Moore



A Blessed Christmas and Healthy, Peaceful New Year!  
Clemencine Miller C-141

Linksmu, Šventu Kalėdų ir viso gero Naujaisiais Metais!  
Council 10 - Athol-Gardner

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



The Mid-America District's group of pilgrims gathered at the Immaculate Conception Basilica/Shrine in Washington, DC, October 13, 2002.

## K of L Essay Contest 2002 Second Place Winner

### "Meeting My Last Mentor"

It has been over five years since my best friend and mentor passed away. But, to this day I still feel that meeting him was by far the best experience I had in the K of L.

It was Vincent Boris, whom I had met at a Supreme Council meeting in 1994, who urged me to continue a task I felt was too difficult at the time - assuming the role of *Vytis* editor. I had been a journalist and writer, but had not actually designed and put together a whole magazine that would be read nationwide. I thought I'd do it for a few months and pass it on. I did not know most of the folks at the national level, and did not speak Lithuanian well. I was a neophyte who had started learning computer skills.

But, acting as a true mentor, Vincent told me I did indeed have the talent and stamina to take on the task. He helped me generate ideas to make the magazine more interesting to readers of all ages, like adding history stories, travelogues and topics of interest to the young. He knew Lithuanian history so well, that many of our conversations were learning experiences and prompted me to explore my heritage more in depth. Vincent was also a political activist, active in Baltic affairs at the national level. He urged me to become more proactive in Lithuania's inclusion to NATO and to obtain a Lithuanian Independence Day proclamation from New York's Mayor Giuliani.

During the 1996 tour of the Baltics with the K of L's Aid to Lithuania, Vince would sit down with a small group from the tour and lead lively conversations on all aspects of the history of not only Lithuania, but Latvia and Estonia as well. It gave me a much greater perspective of those countries and how each is alike and different. Even the tour guides labeled him as the "professor" as they

brushed up on their English speaking skills in conversations.

Vince also loved to sing Lithuanian church hymns. I learned many from him and, consequently, to me singing in a Lithuanian choir was like being in heaven. Attending conventions and singing those songs at daily Mass gave me a greater appreciation for our culture's beautiful hymns.

I am not implying that Vince was the only K of L'er who instilled interest in the organization and my heritage. As a child, I grew up with parents and grandparents who fostered a love of our ethnic heritage. Making a recent visit to Ellis Island and noting the many artifacts from our culture that are displayed there would make any Lithuanian proud.

It is said, that if you influence one person in a positive way in your lifetime, you have done a good job. Vincent, I hope you are telling your stories and singing songs with many other K of L'ers in heaven. I miss you a lot, but will use your example to become a mentor to the next generation.

*~ Mary Abbott*

*Council 110 - Maspeth, N.Y.*



## Ilgiausiu Metu, Sesutei Elenytei!



Sister Helen Ivanauskas, C-1 Brockton, receives a painting from artist, D. Jokubaitiene, at the presentation of "Outstanding Woman of the Year, 2002."

A few weeks ago, on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, October 5, 2002, there was an unprecedented event at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent in Brockton, MA. Sister Helen Ivanauskas was being honored as, The Lithuanian-American Women's Federation "Outstanding Woman of the Year 2002." Helen, whose Lithuanian name is Elena Ivanauskaite, is one of the most energetic sisters in her convent, always busy with her charitable endeavors for Lithuania, as well as assisting with the St. Joseph's Manor in Brockton and orphans in the area. Back in 1990, a small group of people in Boston decided that something must be done about the worsening situation with orphanages in Lithuania, and organized a non-profit corporation to help Lithuanian children. Sister Helen and Romualdas Veitas from Boston

are those restless workers who have been organizing fund raisers and managing various charity projects for over 12 years now. With the help of many people of the Boston Lithuanian community and donors everywhere in the world, the "Lithuanian Children's Relief" has made a significant impact on the lives of thousands of children in Lithuania, most of whom are in the country's sanitariums, hospitals and other medical and schooling institutions. The organization has been working closely with the US government, i.e., its foreign financial Aid Agency for International Development with the help of which each dollar donated to LCR resulted in 3 times the amount of aid to Lithuania. In 1998, Sister Helen received a special "Life in Christ" recognition award from "My Brother's Keeper." This religious organization carries a mission "to bring the Love and Hope from Jesus to the ones for whom we are here." Sister Helen Ivanauskas is known as *Sesute Elenyte* to many of us who have ever had a chance to help her in those numerous charitable activities, such as participating in a fund raiser, loading one of more than 120 containers shipped to Lietuva, or simply collecting canceled stamps and sending them for a "Save a Stamp - Save a Child" Project. As far as the containers are concerned, those already shipped were full of clothes, baby food, toys, vitamins and school supplies to the children of the orphanages, as well as much needed medical equipment and beds, donated to the Lithuanian hospitals and children's sanitariums. During the last year, 3 containers worth \$15,000 to \$25,000 each were shipped to Kaunas' V. Tumienenes Children's Sanitarium and Druskininkai Children's Sanitarium, "Saulute." Now Sister Helen and Mr. Veitas are looking for necessary medical equipment in order to send a shipment to Kaunas Boarding School for Low Vision Children. The honoring of Sister Helen in Brockton gathered a few hundred people, where Sister Helen was presented with the "Outstanding Woman of the Year" award by the Lithuanian-American Women's Federation Council 5-representatives from Worcester, MA. Official congratulations speeches followed later. Sister was honored by Gintaras Cepas, member of the District Board of Boston, MA Lithuanian-American Community (Lietuviu Bendruomene), Sigita Simkuviene, Lithuanian-American Community National Board of Directors Vice-President for the "Third Wave" Lithuanian

immigration, Knights of Lithuania Council 6, (Hartford, CT), President Kathryn Urban and the K of L SC Lithuanian Language and Culture Chair, Laurynas Misevicius.

Among all of her other responsibilities and obligations, Sister Helen is a K of L Council 1 - Brockton member!

There were many other recognizable guests; Lithuanian folk-dance group, "Sodauto," leader, Gita Kupcinskiene, Sisters from Putnam, CT Convent and others. However, the biggest surprise to Sister Helen was, a present from a Taurage (Zemaitijos region town in Lithuania) born artist Danguole Jokubaitiene. She is visiting Connecticut and other New England states at the moment. Danguole gave Sister Helen one of the pictures, painted by herself - a portrait of a Child resembling an Angel!

(Article submitted by Laurynas (Larry) R. Misevicius, K of L Lithuanian Language and Culture Chair).



Msgr. George Lutz, C-29 Spiritual Advisor

**NOTICE: Convention Issue Corrections:**

Please be advised, that due to an error in communication sent to the Vytis Staff, a few items were misprinted in the Convention Issue. They are as follows:

**On page 22:** With regard to the Mini-Taste of Chicago: The use of the St. Ignatius College Prep Dining Hall was made possible through the efforts of Deborah and Ken Rudmin.

**On page 29:** The name of Irene Macke of Council 157 was omitted from the listing of Donations' Committee members.

**On page 30:** Regarding changing our ritual point system to a time system. This resolution **DID NOT PASS**. Rather, what was approved was, for this resolution to be sent on to the National Ritual Committee for further study. Upon reviewing it, the committee would make a recommendation by the next convention.

**On page 33:** Regarding term limits for Chair of Supreme Council Standing Committees. This resolution **DID NOT PASS** due to a lack of a 2/3rds favorable vote. Also, for the record, Council 16, Chicago, IL, not the Supreme Council, presented the resolution.

We apologize for any confusion or misunderstanding this may have caused our membership.

Vytiskai,  
Rob Martin, President  
Supreme Council

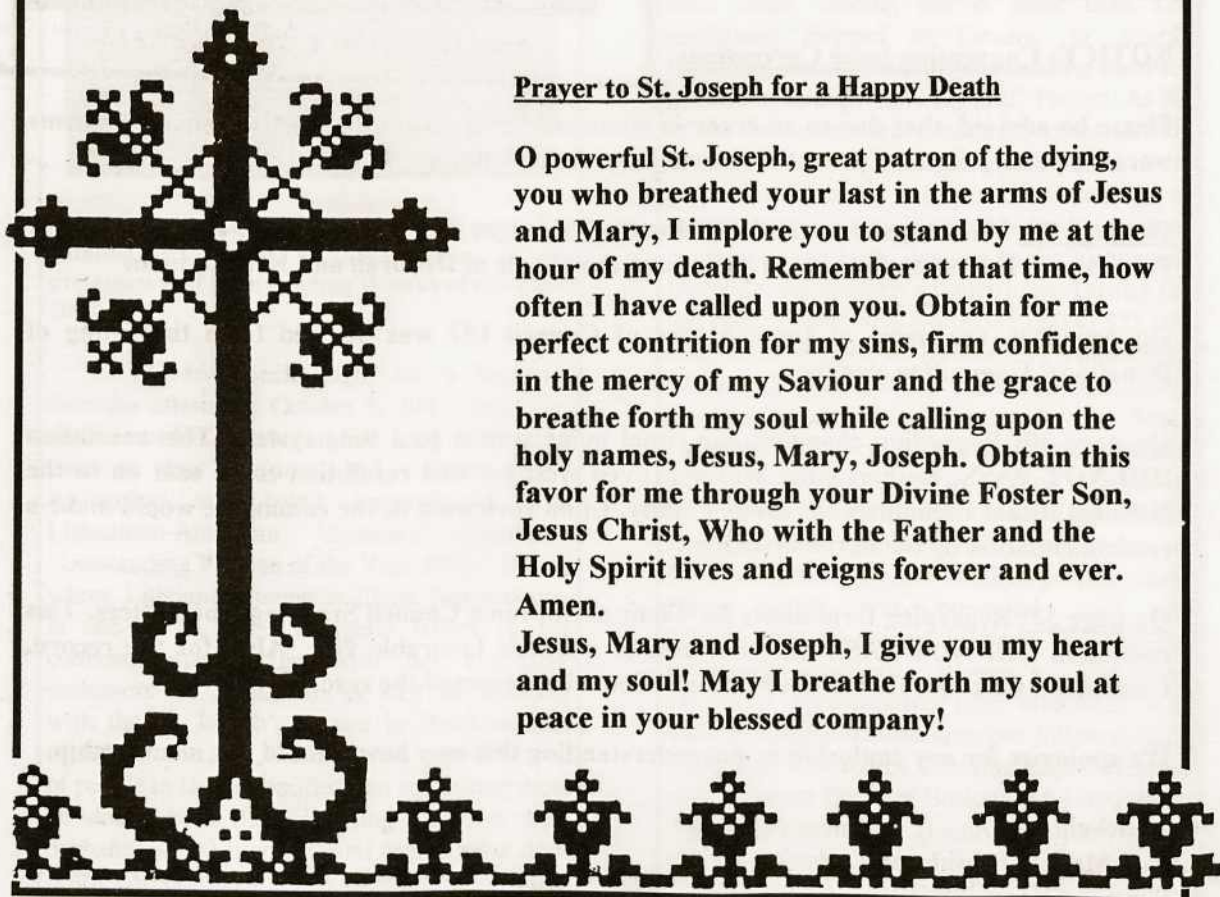
## In Memoriam...

C-10 - Beatrice J. Richard	Gardner, MA
C-12 - Alice Zupko	N. Fort Myers, FL
C-17 - Edwin R. Prantis	Milton, MA
C-17 - Anne P. White	So. Boston, MA
C-19 - Sister M. Alverna	Pittsburgh, PA
C-29 - Anthony J. Malakas	Cranford, NJ
C-36 - David P. Gaidas	Knox, IN
C-36 - Bernice Lenkart	Chicago, IL
C-36 - Msgr. Damasus A. Mozeris	Chicago, IL
C-110-Edward J. Barkus	Howard Beach, NY
C-110-Peter Kalibat	Freeport, NY
C-110-Helen Jambor	Flushing, NY

### Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death

O powerful St. Joseph, great patron of the dying, you who breathed your last in the arms of Jesus and Mary, I implore you to stand by me at the hour of my death. Remember at that time, how often I have called upon you. Obtain for me perfect contrition for my sins, firm confidence in the mercy of my Saviour and the grace to breathe forth my soul while calling upon the holy names, Jesus, Mary, Joseph. Obtain this favor for me through your Divine Foster Son, Jesus Christ, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul! May I breathe forth my soul at peace in your blessed company!







**SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL 2003  
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA TOUR**

**JUNE 26 - JULY 8, 2002**

Prepared by:

**VYTIS Travel**

Rita Pencyla, Agent  
14001 S. Villa Ct.

Orland Park IL 60462

Phone: 1.708.923.0280

Email: [pencylar@aol.com](mailto:pencylar@aol.com)

- June 26  
Thursday** Depart for Lithuania from Chicago or New York on FINN Air. Travelers from Chicago will fly American Airlines to New York to connect to FINN Air flight with a transfer in Helsinki.
- June 27  
Friday** You will arrive in Vilnius late in the morning and be transported to a special resort - Padubyso Farm/Resort for a typical taste of Lithuanian countryside. After a late lunch, you may enjoy a leisurely afternoon swimming, hiking, riding or just relaxing. In the evening we will have a traditional Lithuanian Welcome Dinner. **LD**
- June 28  
Saturday** After breakfast, you will continue your Lithuanian adventure by visiting Rumsiskas, a unique open-air museum, where 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century farm structures were brought from different regions of Lithuania. You may visit wood carvers, potters, and jewelry craftsmen from whom you can acquire their wares. Lunch will be in a traditional restaurant on the premises, enjoying regional dishes. After returning to the Farm/resort, you will have enough time to enjoy the beautiful outdoors with its many activities. In the evening you will enjoy a traditional dinner and entertainment. **BLD**
- June 29  
Kaunas** You will arrive in Kaunas in time for Holy Mass. After hotel check-in, you Sunday will tour Kaunas visiting its Cathedral, Vytautas the Great Church, the Castle and Old Town. After lunch, there will be enough time to do some shopping, visit one of the many museums or take in a summer concert. **BL**
- July 30  
Monday** This morning you depart for Palanga, the resort town by the Baltic Sea. Upon hotel check-in and lunch, the rest of the day is free to enjoy the resort on your own. **BL**
- July 1  
Tuesday** After breakfast you will depart for Klaipeda, the only port city in Lithuania. After a short tour and some shopping time, you will take a ferry to Neringa. There, you will climb the famous Witches Mountain, admire the architecture of the fishing village Juodrante, and visit the resort town Nida. After partaking in a typical Lithuanian picnic, we will return to Palanga. The evening is free to listen to some music, walk down to the sea, or just relax at some outside cafe. **BL**
- July 2  
Wednesday** Early in the morning, you will check out of the hotel and continue the tour to the two most reverent places of Lithuania, The Hill of Crosses and Our Lady of Siluva where Holy Mass will be celebrated. Lunch will be at the unique Seduvos Malunas. Arrival in Vilnius will be late in the afternoon. After hotel check-in and some rest, you may wish to attend a special evening concert, SALUTE TO LITHUANIA, in the Cathedral Square. **BL**

- July 3  
Thursday  
Vilnius** This morning you will tour Vilnius, visiting Old Town, Gate of Dawn, Vilnius University, and the Gediminas Castle. After lunch, we will visit The Lithuanian National Museum, and The Cathedral with its catacombs. The Opening of the Song and Dance Festival will be at 1 PM in front of the Presidents Palace and then you may enjoy the Folklore and Folk art fair in Sereikiskiu Park that continues into the night. **BL**
- July 4  
Friday  
Vilnius** This morning after stopping at the Parliament Building and TV Tower, we will continue to Trakai, the fully restored castle. After lunch your next stop will be the Center of Europe Park with many unique sculptures. In the evening you will enjoy the Folklore concert, VIRSMO SPALVOS in Kalnu Parkas. **BL**
- July 5  
Saturday  
Vilnius** After a late breakfast you will visit the Exhibit of Lithuanian Art in Christianity and have still time for some independent sightseeing. After lunch there will be enough time to get ready for the Dance Festival, GYVYBES ZALIAS MEDIS. **BL**
- July 6  
Sunday  
Vilnius** After Holy Mass, the morning is free for last minute shopping or sightseeing. Since the Song Festival may last late into the night, you are going to have a late Farewell Lunch, where you can reminisce about your latest Lithuanian adventure and say goodbye to new and old friends. Many may wish to watch the parade of the choirs starting at the Cathedral Square and ending at the place of the Song Festival in VINGIO PARK. **BL**
- July 7  
Monday  
Helsinki** After breakfast, you will depart for Vilnius Airport and your flight to Helsinki. After arrival in Helsinki, you will be transported by bus to Hotel Ramada Presidente in the center of the city. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the city on your own or take one of the city tours offered by the hotel. **B**
- July 8  
Tuesday** After breakfast you will be transported to the airport for your flight to JFK. Those traveling on to Chicago will be taken by bus to La Guardia Airport for an American Airlines flight to O'Hare International Airport. **B**

**Total Price of Tour:** Chicago - \$2,625.00    New York - \$2,525.00    Single supplement - \$300.00

**Included in price:**

- Round trip Airfare from Chicago or New York.
- First class Hotels with private bath or shower.
- Meals as listed in the itinerary.
- Sightseeing tours by bus with English speaking guide.
- Transfers on arrivals/departures and baggage handling in Lithuania hotels.
- All prices are per person sharing a twin bedded room.
- Entrance fees per itinerary; Song and Dance Festival tickets are not included.
- Song and Dance Festival tickets will be offered for purchase at a later date.



**SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL 2003  
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA TOUR**

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: AMEx VISA MC Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing room with: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit \$200.00/pp enclosed by check \_\_\_\_\_

Request single supplement at \$300.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail registration form and deposit check to: **Vytis Travel**  
14001 S. Villa Ct.  
Orland Park IL 60462

Contact person: Rita M. Pencyla  
Phone: 708-923-0280  
Email: [pencylar@aol.com](mailto:pencylar@aol.com)

**\*\*\*Deadline for Registration:**

**December 31, 2002**

## District & Council



### News



## Mid Atlantic District

### **C-12 New York, NY Irene Senken**

The days of a hot summer have passed and now we have to consider activities for the fall and winter.

The Chicago convention is also history and was attended by our faithful members Helen and Vinny Cuprewich and John Antanavicius. No doubt a report will be forthcoming at the Nov 3 meeting.

Millie Pietz and her niece had a very eventful stay in Lithuania visiting relatives, family plots at the cemetery and the adopted church of C-12, St. George in Kedainiai.

I understand that Helen Yorkus went to visit her sister, Ann, in Iowa. Ann and her husband, John, were former members of C-12.

After many years of residing at one location Jeanne Janonis has moved to a different area in the Bronx. We wish her happiness and good health.

Our Lady of Vilnius had its Fall Dinner on Oct 20th and I am pleased to report its success - good food, good company and nice raffle prizes.

Joe Kscenaitis is still having some health problems. Our prayers are with him. We miss his good humor.

John Antanavicius was quite sick, but is on the mend and we are happy for him. God bless.

Ed Senken was in the hospital, recently, and is now recovering. Ed lost his sister, Marie, in May and

brother, Charlie, in August. We pray for them.

Birthday wishes to our November and December members.

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



2002/2003 season was opened on September 1st. It was with pleasure that we again attended a meeting with our friendly members. We also welcomed our new Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. George Lutz. Fr. Clement Krug, our former Spiritual Advisor, has been transferred to another parish. We wish him our very best and will miss him.

Our Lithuanian Cowboy, Edward Rimelis, celebrated his 80th birthday. We are very proud of him, not only for his charity to both church and council, but each year "IDAHO ED AND HIS COUNTRY BAND" hold an affair solely for the benefit of handicapped children. Happy Birthday, Ed, and many more. Labai aciu.

Members of C-29 attended the MAD Fall Meeting in Kearny, NJ, hosted by C-90. The theme was "Fall" and the food was delicious. C-29 members in attendance were: Pres Harold Kaminskas, Ann O'Neill, Mary Honeymar, Elizabeth Luciw, Clara Schiavo (our CA member), Rozalia Somkaite, HM Loretta Stukas and HM Rita Sussko. National Pres, Robert Martin, was Guest Speaker. MAD Pres, Edward Barkowski, conducted the meeting. Elections were held and John Sakal will take over the duties of Pres for the coming year. Time and place for the Spring meeting will be announced at a later date.

C-29 K of L Dinner and Dance was held on Oct 6 in the parish hall. Music was furnished by Stasys Telsinskas. Ann O'Neill - ever-efficient chairperson - and her committee did an outstanding job, as usual. Helen Sisak (who put

out a scrumptious deessert table), Marie Guoba, Helen Radisch, Nijole and Vytautas Miknevičius, Harold Kaminskas, Jennie Miklasavige, Nellie Nechiporuk, Elizabeth Luciw, Rita Sussko and John Sisak.

Honorary Members Loretta Stukas and Rita Sussko spent the weekend of Oct 10th in Washington, DC, attending a Pilgrimage to the Lady of Siluva Shrine and also a Supreme Council Meeting. Our travelling companion was HM Agnes Mickunas of C-3, Phila. We had an excellent tour of Washington, thanks to our Chicago friends who shared their bus. Until we meet again in VYTIS, the members of C-29 wish you a HAPPY, HEALTHY, SAFE Fall, Winter and Holidays.

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



Our council is again preparing to have the Kucios meatless luncheon and celebration on Dec 15 after the 11:30 AM Lithuanian Mass at Transfiguration Church and Hall. This is one to remember our heritage and one of the best known Lithuanian traditions. There will be 12 delicious meatless dishes, beverages, coffee, and bakka.

If you did not attend our Dinner Dance on Oct 27, you may have missed an unusual affair with 105 persons dancing, singing, and enjoying the homemade food and beverages to quench our thirst. An event like this would not have been possible without the many volunteers before, during, and after this D & D.

Elections were held in Sept. President Julia Schroeder and Treasurer, Mary Stunguryš, were the changes to our Executive Board.

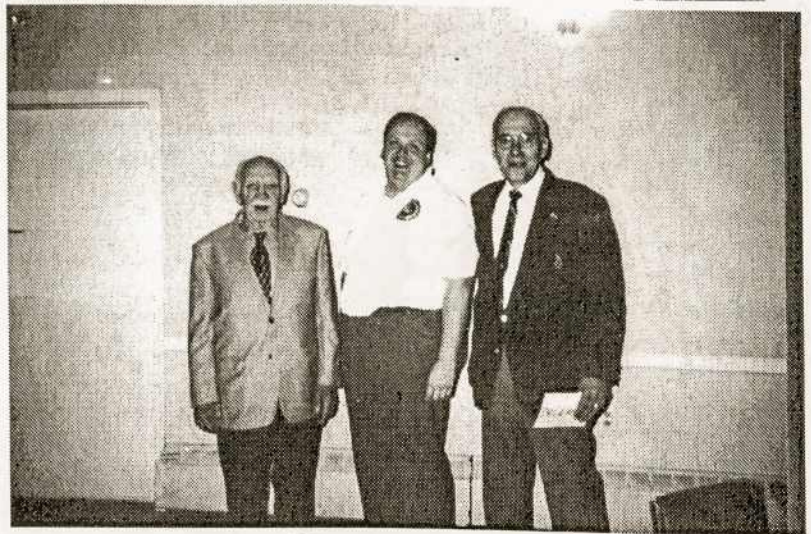
On Sept 22, many members joined with the Transfiguration parishoners to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the "New Church" and the dedication and



From left to right: Niece of Millie Pietz; Millie in Center; Rev. Sigitas Betkauskas. Council 12 - New York.



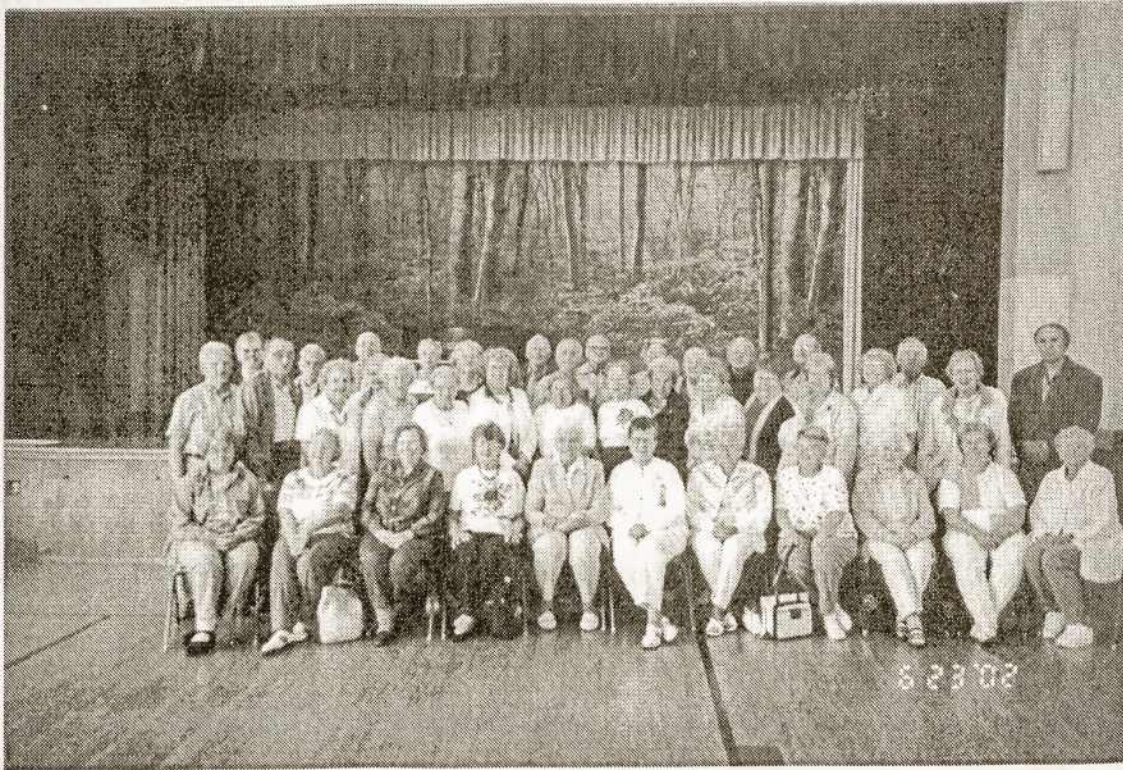
"Idaho Ed" - Ed Rimelis  
Lithuanian Cowboy



Three presidents: National, Robert Martin, Jr.; Edward Barkowski, MAD; Harold Kaminskas - Council 29



## *Knight Life...*



The New England District K of L at their Annual June Retreat in Kennebunkport, Maine. Photo by Vivian Rodgers, Council 26.



4<sup>th</sup> grader, Elana Aiello - St. Joseph's School, No. Grosvenordale, CT. She is the granddaughter of Irene Markevicius, Council 26.



L.to R.: Teresa Adomavicius and Olga Kersis, C-26, At the annual New England District K of L Cultural Fair.

blessing of a memorial monument remembering the firemen who gave their lives saving others. All guests witnessed the dedication of the new handicap ramp and ribbon-cutting by the parishoners, led by Dr. Rimantas Morkvenas. All made possible by the efforts of Pastor "Ted" Rooney; a light brunch was served in the hall.

Pray for recently deceased long-time members: Peter Kalibat and Edward Barkus.

## New England District

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



Our slate of officers for the ensuing year are: Pres, Gene Ziurys; 1st VP, Al Dzikas; 2nd VP, Alyce Gegesky; Spiritual Advisor, Rev. John Rikteraitis; Rec Sec, Louise Pivoski; Fin Sec, June Grenier; Treas, Madeline Ratches; Sgt-at-Arms, Wandie Kruk; Trustees, Kay Urban and Brian Daigle; Ritual, June Grenier; Vytis Corresp, Bette Ann Ludzius; Lithuanian Affairs, Joe Stiklius; Cultural, Dalia Dzikas; Social, Lillian Joseph; Telephone, Fran Ambrose; Hospitality, Danute Grajauskas; Membership, Alyce Gegesky.

Cultural - Dalia Dzikas spoke on the recent trip to Lithuania which she and her husband, Al, took. They decided to visit the much talked about Gruto Parkas to see the statues that the "Mushroom King" collected, relating to Soviet times and communist dignitaries. "Exhibit is too soon - a remembrance - not a highlight of one's visit to Lithuania", Dalia said. She continued, "We also visited a Nature Preserve in Dzukija where there are marshes, swampy areas, cranberry bogs and moss in the forest. Wild strawberries, cranberries, raasberries, and red bilberries are the most widely spread kind of berries found in the park. Also, Dalia mentioned that there is now

available Farmstead tourism in Lithuania - Bed and Breakfast homes or separate tourist housing on a farm.

The Dec meeting was the month for the Pot Luck supper headed by Lillian Joseph, Leona Sawka, and Hospitality Chair, Judy Landers. Many delicious dishes brought in by membership complimented the buffet table and a good time was had by all.

### **C-26 Worcester, MA** **Ruta**



At our Oct meeting, we were privileged to have Police Officer Andy Avedian speak to our council. He spoke about Crime Prevention. He covered safety techniques that should be followed in our homes as well as when we are out in the street.

At the recent New England District Convention, our President, Vivian Rodgers, was elected President of this group. Also, Marion Racicot was re-elected as Treasurer and Ann Leseman was re-elected as a member of the Ritual Committee.

The election of officers took place and the slate of officers for the coming year are: Rev. Richard Jakubauskas, Spiritual Advisor; Vivian Rodgers, President; Ann Leseman, VP; Lillian Kondrotas, Treas; Aldona Waska, Rec Sec; Marion Racicot, Fin Sec; Bill Leseman, Auditor; Victoria Augustine, Lithuanian Affairs; Ruth Sarafinas, Vytis Corresp; Olga Kersis, Publicity Relations; Anne Bucinkas, Sunshine Lady; Steve Walinsky Sr, Sgt-at-Arms.

Adele Degutis had an accident and is recuperating at home. Ginny Ivaska was recently in an auto accident. She is recovering nicely and is at home now.

Carol Grigas, a Physical Therapy Assistant, was recently honored by her employer, The Fairlawn Rehabilitation

Hospital, for her outstanding dedication to the patients and to their families. She was given the Clinician of the Year Award. Carol, we are very proud of you. She is a very active member of C-26.

Congratulations go out to our Anna Walinsky for receiving the Parish Ministry Award for her dedicated work at St. Casimir's not only as organist and choir director, but for organizing Sunday morning coffee, washing and ironing altar linens, cook at dinners, providing flowers and vases at parish dinners, decorating the church... and even canning peaches in the rectory.

Teresa Adomavicius, a member of our council, is also President of the Auxiliary Guild of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Putnam, CT. This group sponsored a benefit concert and dinner for the Sisters at Maironis Park. The Boston's "Men's Sextet", under the direction of Daiva Navickas, provided the entertainment.

## Amber District



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

At our last meeting, Jean Kavelines prayed the opening prayer. We discussed having our traditional Kucios. Everyone was asked to have their children and grandchildren help serve.

Marie Laske read an interesting article on Life in Lithuania under Russia - when our parents and grandparents lived there.

Lee Bozenko spoke on the additions the Pope added to the rosary.

Margaret Clegg collected the dues for the coming year.

Ruth Yanish closed the meeting with a prayer for all the living and deceased members of the K of L.

We attended the Ethnic Rosary once again at St. Peter's Cathedral. Marie Laske introduced those who recited each decade. Of course Nellie Romanas recited the Lithuanian decade. Also the Polish, German, Italian, Slovak, and French participated. Helen Cravath announced the Mysteries. Martha Waragenis and Richard Laske were lecturers. Evelyn and George Saitus from Wyoming, PA have different groups recite the Rosary honoring the Mother of God faithfully every month.

Every human being stands alone before God as if no one else existed. God bless.

### C-144 Anthracite Ona



The Anthracite Council is again saddened with the loss of a member. Helen Smulkstis passed away in October. Amzina Atsilis, Helen. We also offer our sympathy to Msgr. Anderlonis in the loss of his father. Also, to Philadelphia member, Lennie Kapochus, in the loss of his beloved daughter, Daiva.

Officers were elected for the 2002-2003 term. They are Larry Domalakes, Pres; Anna K Wargo, VP; Lisa Rittle, Sec; Peter Teresavage III, Treas; and Elsie Kosmisky, Fin Sec.

Mary Labadis who was Hospitality Chairman for many years had to give up that job due to illness. Accepting the job was Terri Rautzahn. We thank Mary for her years of service and Terri for taking up the cause.

Ritual Chair is Evelyn Prep; Cultural, Mary Koons; and Lithuanian Affairs, Joe Martunas. Father Ron Jankaitis is Spiritual Director. Our sincere thanks to all old and new officers.

### C-3 Philadelphia Victor Stepalovitch



Council 3 is deeply saddened by the deaths of Daina Kapochus and Joseph Anderlonis. Daina was the daughter of Leonard Kapochus, and Joseph was the father of Msgr. Anderlonis. Supreme Council Spiritual Advisor.

Our congratulations go out to the daughter of Alberta and Chuck Weigand, who was married in October.

The members of C-3 pray for a quick recovery of Irene Svekla, who had surgery. Hurry and get well soon, Irene.

In conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. George's Church, a cantata entitled, "Sacra Cantata 100-Lithuania," was presented at the Church. This covered the birth of "Lithuania," its conversion to Christianity, dedication to Mary, Communist Repression and its independence and freedom. Our own members, Victor Stepalovitch, Julie Kowrak, Irene Sarcewicz, Ausra Maknys and Stephany Gutauskas, were members of this presentation.

A great number of C-3 attended a special Mass, followed by a banquet on October 27<sup>th</sup>, to close the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. George's Church.

Our members attended a Mass on November 10<sup>th</sup> at St. George's Church for all deceased members of C-3. After Mass in the parish hall, a delicious breakfast was cooked by our famous Chef, John Mickunas, and was served buffet style to all

members who attended the Mass.

Our annual Christmas party once again was held at the COASTLINE Restaurant in New Jersey, where everyone enjoyed their meal and exchanged Pollyanna gifts. Our thanks go out to Irene Svekla for arranging this affair, and to Agnes Mickunas for completing all that remained when Irene had to have surgery done.

"Kucios" will be held again at St. George's Hall on December 14<sup>th</sup>, and as usual, will probably be well attended and enjoyed by all. The Council thanks Irene Ozalis and the "Kucios" committee for a job always well done.

All of the members of C-3 hope that all the members of all the K of L Councils will have a wonderful, joyful and spiritual Holiday Season, and that your New Year will be healthy and prosperous.





## O GREIČIAU, GREIČIAU

13

L. J. ŠIMUTIS

$\text{♩} = 88$

O grei-čiau, grei-čiau ————— į Bet-lie-į bė-kit.

O gar-siau, gar-siau ————— gies-me-les gie-do-kit. An-ge-lai dan-gu-

je aukš-tai, gar-bi-na Jį šven-tai, šven-tai, gar-bi-na Jį džiaugs-min-gai.

2. O žmogau, žinai,  
Šiąnakt Jėzus gimė  
Laimei amžinai,  
Dievo garbei žemėj.

3. O greičiau, greičiau  
Prie Jėzaus skubėkit.  
O garsiau, garsiau  
Jam giesmes giedokit.

## CHORAS:

Angelai danguje augštai,  
Garbina Jį šventai, šventai,  
Garbina džiaugsmingai.

## *A Revered Painting of Our Blessed Mother...*

An interesting monument of art, a painting of Our Blessed Mother, can be seen at one of the side altars in the church of Troskunai, and it is as revered as the Madonnas at Aursros Vartai and Siluva. The people of Troskunai, like their forefathers, believe that this is no ordinary painting, for two fires, one in 1743, and the other in 1770, destroyed both wooden churches, and in both disasters, Our Blessed Mother survived undamaged.

Father Saulius Filipavicius, the present pastor of the church, had the history of the painting researched, and made the arrangements to have it restored and returned to its original place.

It is believed that the Bernardines who settled in Troskunai, brought the painting with them. The first wooden church, built by them in 1698, had the painting, and, in 1789, an altar was built especially for it. The artist who painted the Madonna with Child is unknown. The restorers found the date, 1557, on the back side of the portrait, and on the same painting, at the bottom, there is another date, (166?), with the last number illegible. Some feel that it was restored during that year, and the Mysteries of the Rosary were also painted around its edges.

Years later, the picture disappeared and no one had any idea of what became of it. One day, in 1988, Father Kazenas, pastor of the parish at that time, was putting Mary's altar in order, and removed the painting of Her. There he found a dusty cloth hanging, which was probably used as a covering. He had it removed, and much to everyone's amazement, a painting of Our Blessed Mother with Child unexpectedly was exposed.

Art experts think that it may have been put there by the Bernardines during the 1864 uprising against the Czarist government when the monastery was closed. The monks fled, and either had no time, or could not take the painting with them, and so they hid it to keep it out of harm's way. Perhaps they thought they would return some day when the situation calmed down, but this never happened. Those monks who knew where it was hidden died out, and no one knew where the painting was, that is, until 1988.

There is a Latin inscription on the bottom of the picture: MONSTRA TE ESSE MATREM, meaning, "Show that you are a Mother."

Father Kazenas was transferred to another parish, and Father Filipavicius, his successor, became concerned about the painting's future. He invited Balys Pakstas, a renowned restorer, to examine it, and when he did, he said he never saw anything like it anywhere in Lithuania.

The people of Troskunai agreed to raise the money to pay for the expense of restoration, and it was taken to Vilnius where it was done by Tauras Jurkunas under the supervision of Balys Pakstas. After the work was done, the painting was returned in the fall of 1994, and on November 6, was installed to its original location.

Today, worshippers feel that by praying at the altar of Our Blessed Mother, their prayers will be answered. To show their gratitude for the favors granted, artifacts and rosaries are placed at the base of the portrait.

It is amazing that, no matter where a person stands while looking at the picture, whether from the left or right side, or wherever, it appears that the eyes of Our Blessed Mother are gazing straight at you.

Unlike its predecessors, the present day church in Troskunai is made of brick. Called Holy Trinity (Svc. Trejybės baznyčia), construction was started in 1774 and completed in 1787. The bell tower, also of brick, was built in 1800. This church has a special place in my heart, for it was here that my father was baptized in 1893 and attended Mass before leaving for the United States in 1911.

The town of Troskunai is located about 35km. Southeast of Panevezys, or about an hour and a half's drive from Vilnius.

Anyone desiring to see the painting, or to learn about the church history, should contact Father Filipavicius by telephone first, as almost all churches in Lithuania are closed during the day, except when religious services are held.

**Article submitted by: Edvardas and Genute Baranauskas**



### MELCHIOR

Oldest of the three kings,  
was emperor of Arabia.  
He is usually depicted as  
the first in line to present  
Jesus with a gift.  
His gift was gold, which  
means love.



### BALTHAZAR

was the king of Ethiopia.  
He presented myrrh,  
a resin from a thorny tree,  
which means suffering  
or is symbolic  
of Christ's approaching  
sacrifice.



### GASPAR

The youngest king,  
was the ruler of Tharsis.  
He gave the gift  
of frankincense,  
a very sweet spice,  
which has the meaning  
of prayer.

*May you have a blessed and joyful  
Holiday Season,  
Christmas and the New Year, 2003  
From the three of us at the Vytis Office,  
Sister Mary Janine Golubickis, SSC  
Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC  
Mrs. Mildred Jagiella*



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*Sveikas, Jėzau Gimusis. Šventas Dievo Kūdiki!*