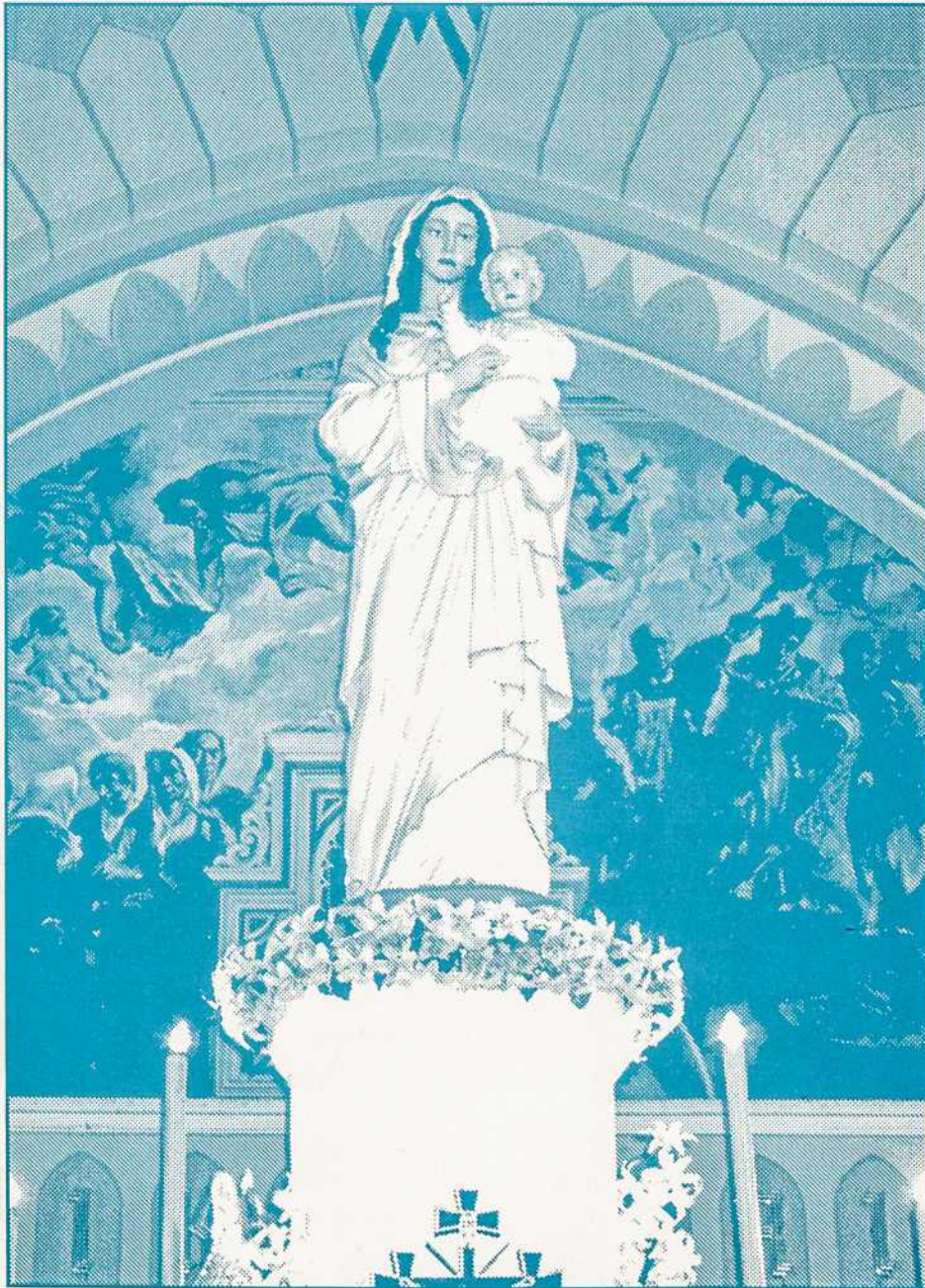




¹
Vytis ~ The Knight

LIETUVA/RUGPIUTIS - July - August, 2003 Vol. 89 No. 4

Our Lady of Šiluva,



Bring Us Peace!

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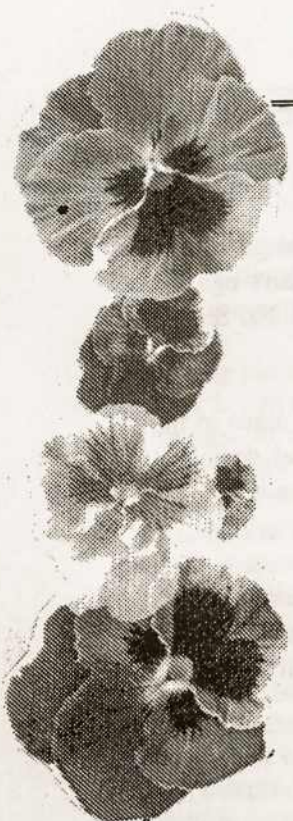
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Mission Statement: The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of our ancestors, and knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.



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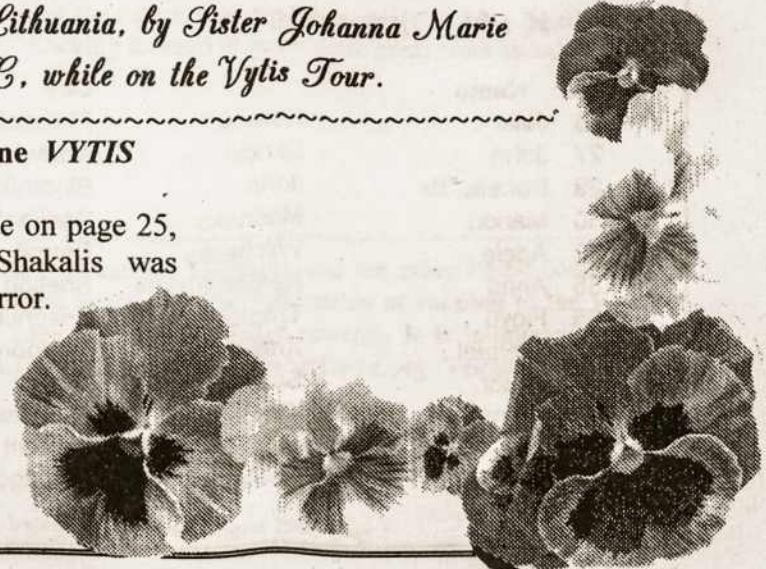
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*Front Cover: A photo of Our Lady of Filuva taken this summer at the Shrine in Lithuania, by Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC, while on the Vytis Tour.*

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CORRECTION FOR May-June VYTIS

In the recent May-June VYTIS issue on page 25, the last name of Rev. Peter Shakalis was misspelled. We apologize for the error.



To My Fellow Knights

And life moves on!

Seven hundred fifty years ago, Mindaugas founded the Lithuanian state, the beginnings of our ancestral heritage. Just 85 years ago Lithuania declared her independence, but 90 years ago the Knights of Lithuania began to influence the Lithuanian immigrants' life here in the United States. This was actually 5 years prior to Lithuania's independence!

This year we celebrate Lithuania as a rapidly emerging Baltic state taking her active place in the European Union and NATO. We have commemorated the feats of Mindaugas and dedicated monuments in his honor. The Song and Dance Festival in Vilnius has united Lithuanians from around the world.

Some of us Knights of Lithuania will gather in Brockton for the annual convention to celebrate a proud 90 years of accomplishments. We will lay our roots more deeply by studying our beginning history. With stronger roots, may our organization now grow and give forth healthy fruits of successful achievements in the years that follow. Pray God - let this be.

Sister M. Janine

Thank you for your cooperation in sending notices of changes of address, etc. We have seen a decided improvement in the number of post office returns.

If you would like to write a convention report for the Vytis on one of the activities or sessions, please contact Sister M. Janine.

In Memoriam...

K of L Obituaries



Council	Name		City	State	Date of Death
3	Julie	Kowrak	Philadelphia	PA	6/12/03
27	John	Skricki	Norwood	MA	6/03
29	Ponelis, Sr	John	Bloomfield	NJ	5/03
50	Marion	Meshako	Wallingford	CT	4/7/03
102	Adele	Wilchesky	Detroit	MI	6/24/03
135	Anna	Ramanauskas	Shelton	CT	5/31/03
135	Floyd	Trapkauskas	Ansonia	CT	6/18/03
143	Michael	Krause	Pittsdon	PA	6/22/03
147	Victor	Sanders	Venice	FL	3/24/03
147	Petre	Kasperaviciute	St. Petersburg	FL	6/22/03
157	Rev. Msgr. Juozas	Prunskis, HM	Lemont	IL	4/30/03
157	Herkulis	Strolia	Chicago	IL	6/13/03

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Dear Fellow Members:

Hope everyone is enjoying his or her summer. It won't be long now until we gather in Brockton for the 90th National Convention. I'm sure Council 1 is eager to welcome everyone for this special anniversary year convention. Hope to see you there!

Having just returned from Lithuania this past week, I am filled with many great memories of a wonderful K of L visit there. It was wonderful to see this year's Song and Dance Festival and all the excitement it brought to our beloved Lithuania. It was also great to be there as Lithuania celebrated its 750th Anniversary of Statehood. It was truly breathtaking to watch the unveiling of a monument in Vilnius dedicated to King Mindaugas near the National Museum. Making it all the more memorable was seeing members of visiting Royal Families and Heads of State in attendance to honor Lithuania at this special time. A special honor for us was the dedication of a K of L Cross in honor of our 90th Anniversary at the Hill of Crosses during our visit. Bishop Bartulis honored the Knights by being present to bless the cross and lead us in a beautiful prayer service there. He further honored us by concelebrating Mass with Father Steven Zukas of Boston, MA, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Siluva later that afternoon. Father Zukas led a tour of Lithuania at the same time, and our two groups were able to join together to share this special Mass together on the very spot where Our Lady appeared. A special thanks to Fr. Steve for making this memorable event possible. Lithuania has truly come a long way in the few short years since she regained her independence. Like in all great nations, problems always exist, but it is good to know that she is making great strides and can be truly proud of all she has accomplished. Today, a walk through the streets of Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda or Palanga shows a country on the move with modern times while maintaining her "Old World" charm. Valio Lietuva!

This past year has been a truly great one for the K of L. Across the nation we have held many events, meetings and socials. Members continue to work as hard as ever to keep the K of L strong and in the forefront of Lithuanian American Organizations. It is this dedication and hard work that makes the K of L such a wonderful family to be a part of. So, as I conclude my third term as your National President, I am very proud and honored to have served you in this capacity for the last three years. I will leave office with many fond memories of work we have done together and opportunities and events that I never imagined I'd be part of. For all of this I say, "THANK YOU." I wish to extend a special thank you to all the members of the Supreme Council during these years for all their support and assistance. I couldn't have gotten through it without you.

Wishing each and every member all the best for the future, may we all continue to work together as our motto states, "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY." Looking forward to many more great years ahead.

Vytiskai,
Robert A. Martin, Jr.
President

We are asking all our members to do what they can for Lithuania and the other Baltic countries, by contacting their Congressmen and asking them to support the restoration of funding to the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Baltic language services. It is important that our voices be heard. For more information, please contact: E-mail jbanc@jbanc.org Telephone: (301)340-1954. Net: <http://jbanc.org>

The Story of "Lituanica"

Stephan Darius and Stanley Girenas, two Lithuanian-born pilots, returned to their adopted homes in Chicago after serving in the United States Army during the First World War. They expressed a desire to conquer the fearsome Atlantic Ocean, and to fly non-stop to the land of their birth, Lithuania. They teamed up and pooled their resources together.

Their hopes for a successful flight to Lithuania were buoyed with the knowledge that a heavily loaded Bellanca airplane took off from Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, New York, on July 28, 1931 with Russell Boardman and John Polando, and flew, non-stop, more than 5,000 miles to Istanbul, Turkey.

They purchased a six-seater airplane in 1932, a Bellanca CH-300 Pacemaker, from an airport company. This model was similar to the one flown non-stop to Turkey, and was no stranger to Darius, as he had flown it for about a thousand hours in a three-year period before buying it. This model, at that time, was the most popular aircraft for transatlantic flight.

After announcing their plan to fly non-stop from New York to Kaunas, the Lithuanian community in Chicago formed a Flight Organization Committee to raise the necessary funds to finance this undertaking. This was no easy task, for these were the days of the "Great Depression," when the nation's economy was struggling with a very high unemployment rate, and money was hard to come by. The Lithuanian communities throughout the United States joined forces and contributed as much as they could for this patriotic cause.

The Bellanca, in its present configuration, was not designed for the planned 45 hour, 5,000 mile non-stop flight. It had to be overhauled, and extensive modifications were needed first. New custom-made gasoline tanks were installed in the cabin to replace the passenger seats, a larger oil tank was placed under the pilot's seat, a new and more powerful engine with a new steel propeller

were purchased. The wing span was increased by four feet to give it better take-off capability, and because of the added weight to the airplane, larger tires were needed, and the landing gear had to be strengthened.

As time passed on, the next concern was, what to name the airplane. Captain Petras Jurgela, one of the committee members, wrote to Lithuanian newspapers, published in the United States, requesting suggestions from their readers about a suitable name for the airplane. Mr. Jurgela went on to say, that the name should be meaningful, symbolic, sound nice, and be short enough. He felt the name should be Lithuanian, but should also sound nice in English, because the pilots are Lithuanian-Americans, and Lithuanian-Americans organized and supported the flight. Of course, the pilots could select a name themselves, but it was important that the Lithuanian community express their opinion about the name. Both pilots supported the idea.

Some of the names suggested were: Sv. Kazimiero Dvasia (Soul of St. Casimir); Mazoji Gelele (Small Flower); Amerikos Lietuvis (Lithuanian-American); Vytautas. However, the name at that time which pleased Darius and Girenas the most, was submitted by a Lithuanian-American from Alaska: "Litvega" (Lit for Lithuania, and Vega, the name of a star).

Later, as more names were being considered, Darius leaned towards "Lietuviu Siela" (Soul of Lithuanians), or Diktatorius (Dictator).

On April 5th, the flight committee discussed the names submitted. They wanted a name that could be easily pronounced by Americans, Lithuanians, and other nationalities, and one that would not require a translation to explain its meaning.

Ten days later, with the approval of Darius and Girenas, the choice was made. They selected the name submitted by Anthony Vaivada, the editor of the Chicago newspaper, *Naujienos*, because it encompassed all Lithuanian interests, ideas and culture.

The name: LITUANICA.

On May 6th, at the Chicago Municipal Airport (Midway), the airplane was christened LITUANICA by Prelate Msgr. M. Krusas. Darius' mother performed the

traditional ceremony by smashing a bottle of champagne on the hub of the propeller.

The next morning, a large crowd gathered at Midway to bid a fond farewell, and to wish both pilots good luck. The LITUANICA took off and headed east towards New York, and its tragic date with destiny. After an overnight stop at Newark Airport in New Jersey, Lituanica arrived at Floyd Bennett Field, in Brooklyn, New York on May 8.

During the early morning hours of July 15, 1933, the Lituanica gently lifted off the runway at Floyd Bennett Field and headed east towards their goal, Kaunas, the provisional capital of Lithuania at that time.

Tragedy, unfortunately, ended their dreams in a forest in Soldin, Germany, now a part of Poland. They were approximately four hours of flying time from their final destination, Kaunas.

The flight of Darius and Girenas was done purely out of love for their homeland and without any financial considerations. They may have failed in their objective, but the fact that their courage and determination conquered the treacherous North Atlantic had an enormous impact on Lithuanians living both at home and abroad.

Sources of information:

Sparnuoti Lietuviai, Darius ir Girenas, by Petras Jurgela.

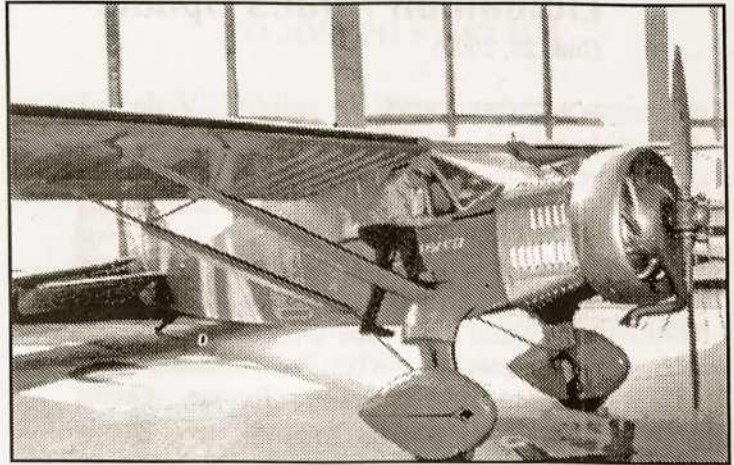
Darius-Girenas, 1933-1983, by Edmund Jasiunas.

(Article and Photos submitted by:

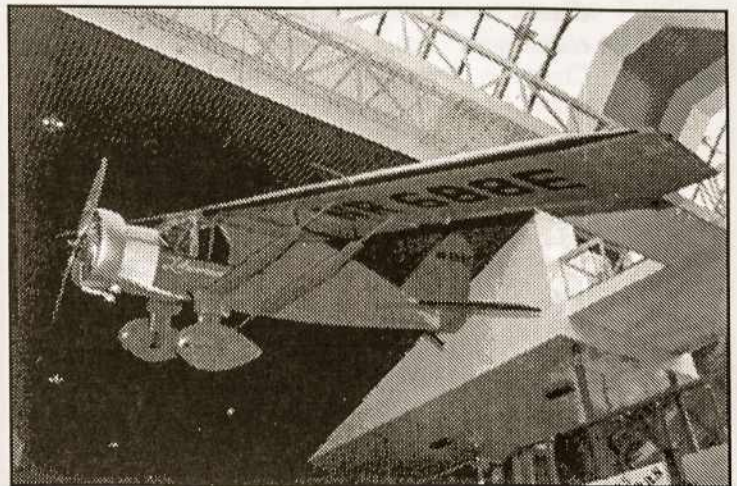
Edward W. Baranauskas

Zalioji g.19

Vilnius 2004, Lithuania)



Edward Baranauskas on the LITUANICA at Lietuvos Technikos Muziejus in Kaunas-Aleksotas Airport



A model of the LITUANICA, 1/20th of actual size. It is located at the departure terminal of the Vilnius International Airport



Final resting place of Darius and Girenas at Aukštieji Šančiai Cemetery in Kaunas.



Capt. S. DARIUS

Pilot S. GIRENAS

Lithuanian Affairs Update

(June 25, 2003)

POLITICAL NEWS

In my Lithuanian Affairs updates over the past years, I have urged our members to contact their Senators for their support of Lithuania's entry into NATO. I thank you for your diligence and your hard work. Our goals have been achieved. We have a great opportunity to thank those in the political arena who supported membership of Lithuania into NATO. The ratification on the accession of **Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia** was approved unanimously by the Senate on May 8, by a vote of 96-0. These seven countries will become part of the NATO alliance and will join the 19 present NATO members in May, 2004. The following Senators deserve special thanks for leading the debate to a successful conclusion: **Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN)**, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC), **Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE)**, Ranking Member, SFRC, **Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN)**, the Majority Leader, **Sen. George Allen (R-VA)**, Chairman, Subcommittee on Europe, SFRC, **Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH)**, SFRC, **Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)**, Co-chairman, Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus, **Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR)**, Co-Chairman, Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus.

President Rolandas Paksas signs Lithuania's May 10-11 European Union referendum into law; it was approved by 91 percent of voters. The final turnout figure was 63 percent, far surpassing the 50 percent needed to make the referendum valid. With its approval, Lithuania became the first of three Baltic countries to vote itself into the powerful European bloc. EU backers in Latvia and Estonia, which hold their referendums in September, have said overwhelming support for membership in Lithuania should help their cause, generating a pro-EU momentum across the Baltics. Latvians and Estonians have generally been more skeptical about the EU, with only 55-60 percent of those asked in opinion polls saying they would vote yes.

Russia continues to press NATO for guarantees that no Alliance bases will be established in the Baltic states, something both NATO and the soon-to-be NATO-

member Baltics have said they are not inclined to provide. While there do not appear to be plans to establish NATO outposts in the region, it has also not been completely ruled out. "We intend to put the question firmly of the formulation of precise and unequivocal guarantees that arms and military forces of third countries will not be deployed on the territory of the Baltic countries," the Russian Foreign Ministry said earlier this week.

Lithuanian Parliament approved of sending troops to Iraq. On May 29th, the Lithuanian Seimas decided as a matter of urgency, to send up to 130 Lithuanian troops to Iraq to take part in the US-led international peace stabilization mission. The State Defense Council also approved of the dispatch of troops to the international peace stabilization mission in a sitting on May 26th. According to the plan, two groups of 50 troops each will be sent to the missions with Denmark and Poland. The first military unit could leave for Iraq in early June. The Lithuanian soldiers would serve with the Danish contingent. The second unit should leave for Iraq in August and will be a part of the Polish contingent. Tasks of the Lithuanian soldiers are likely to traditionally include keeping or stabilization of peace: protecting different objects, ensuring public order, assisting in rendering humanitarian aid.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Lithuania is among 20 most attractive world countries for investment. Lithuania occupies 15th place among the most attractive world countries for investment, according to Ernst & Young European Investment Monitor. "The most important factor in attracting investments to Lithuania is, constantly improving investment conditions and a strong banking sector, making it possible to offer attractive credit conditions to investors," says Ruta Skyriene, Executive Director of Investors' Forum.

Microsoft has purchased licenses for software developed by the Lithuanian IT company Alna and will integrate this software into internal information systems in its head office. According to Lithuanian Development Agency report, the MSGi Filter software developed by Alna helps to find information in stored 3-mail messages. "Software developed by our programmers is not only known, but

appreciated in many countries of the world," said Tomas Milaknis, Director General of Alna. Alna has already developed 7 software products which are very successful all over the world. Software developed by Alna has been purchased by more than 70 world famous companies including Nestle, Siemens and Dolby Digital Surround.

Lithuania's Economy retains the fastest growth in the Baltic States. Industrial sales in January-April 2003 rose by 17.4%, compared to the same period of the previous year, making Lithuania the leader among the Baltic states in industrial growth, according to the report issued by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics on June 6th. Respective figures were 9.8% in Latvia and 10% in Estonia.

(Report submitted by **John R. Mankus, Chairman, National Lithuanian Affairs Committee**).

CONGRATULATIONS

TO JOSEPH STIKLIUS

Joseph V. Stiklius of Waterbury was named to the 2003 Republican Chairman's Honor Roll. Mr. Stiklius serves as a co-chairman of the committee's Business Advisory Council and is recognized for his service and support. As a member of the Honor Roll, Mr. Stiklius's name will be on display at the Republican Headquarters building in Washington D.C. As a member of the Honor Roll, Mr. Stiklius also qualifies to receive the Committee's HIGHEST HONOR, the prestigious Republican Gold Medal to be presented at a special awards ceremony in the nation's capitol.

Joseph of Council 6 also serves as the Public Relations Chair on the K of L Supreme Council and convention photographer.

Congratulations, Joe! We are so proud of you.

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Council 10 - Athol Gardner. From left to right: Broné Wišniauskas, Bill Wišniauskas, Broné Qualters and Betty Penney. (Photo taken at Kučios).

Our Finest Hour...

(by Elinor Sluzas, HM, C-96)

Throughout the years, the Knights of Lithuania have accomplished much. We set our goals and worked diligently to reach them. In the early years, we were young and vibrant, interacting with other councils, marrying each other and busy keeping our parishes and heritage alive.

World War II brought about many changes, not just to our country, but in our Councils as well. Many of our young men and women went off to war, and some did not return. In the ensuing years, Lithuania suffered devastating oppression, first by the Nazis, then the Soviets. During this dark period in the history of Lithuania, we rallied again. National letter campaigns in support of Lithuania and Lithuanian causes were encouraged. Thousands of packages were sent to help alleviate the hardship felt by relatives, friends and others in need in Lithuania. Aid to Lithuania, St. Casimir's Guild, and the K of L Foundation were formed to expand our outreach. Trips to Lithuania, celebrations in Rome, District and National Conventions...all of these have been the mortar that holds us together.

Our latest accomplishment, and perhaps, our finest hour is, letting the world know about the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1608, in the town of Siluva, Lithuania, two hundred fifty years before Lourdes and Fatima. After extensive research and with the cooperation of Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevicius of the Diocese of Kaunas, we have prepared an elaborate website, www.ourladyofsiluva.com. We feel that our website will enlighten many about the importance of devotion to Our Lady of Siluva. We have not forgotten the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC and the Siluva Chapel there. The story is there, as are stories about numerous locations in the USA where Our Lady of Siluva paintings and statues are prominently displayed. In addition to the story of Our Lady of Siluva, we have included information about other religious sites and cities which can be visited while touring Lithuania.

Another segment in the website tells the reader about the Knights of Lithuania organization. The website is PHASE ONE, and we encourage you to tell your friends about it.

Our Lady of Siluva, Bring Us Peace!

It's one thing to have a website...now we have to let the world know about it. That becomes PHASE TWO.

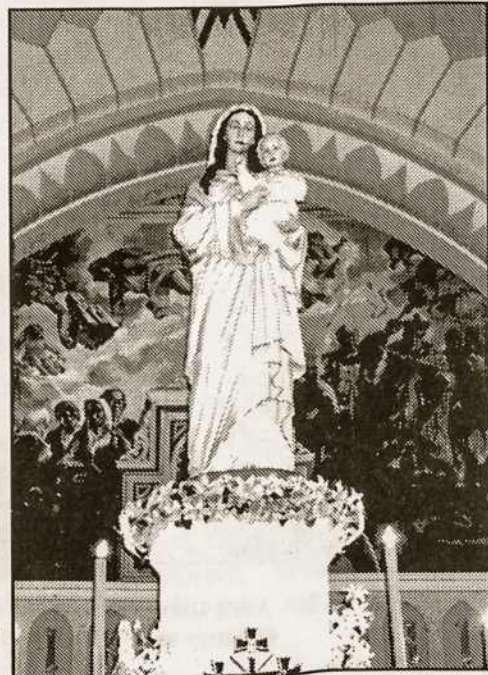
Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM, our spiritual advisor, has written a letter which was sent, along with the story of Our Lady of Siluva, to every Catholic publication and religious tour company in the United States, to inform them of our website and encourage them to help spread the story of Our Lady of Siluva.

Another mailing was sent to Lithuanian Parishes, informing them of the website.

PHASE THREE... we need your financial support, and most importantly, we need your prayers. In order to keep the website alive, we will be adding additional information as it becomes available. We will include "miracles of Siluva from data provided by Archbishop Tamkevicius. We will also keep people informed about the progress of the "Religious Center" being built in Siluva.

Because of the oppression of Lithuania, the world has not heard much about Our Lady of Siluva. What a privilege it is for the Knights of Lithuania to lift the "veil" from the face of Our Lady of Siluva, so that the world will know and heed her call to come home to her Son.

We may not live to see what our prayers and sacrifices have brought about, but some day, hundreds of thousands will travel to Siluva, Lithuania, and "MARY'S LAND" will be blessed once again, all because we cared!



Guidelines for submitting applications for degrees...

from the Supreme Council Ritual Committee.

Please type or print clearly all information on the application and individual point record form. Be sure to include the dates for meetings and all activities. Also, include the telephone number of the person supplying the information in case a question should arise.

For all degrees, make three copies of each application and point record form.

For First and Second Degrees, send one copy to the Supreme Council Ritual Chair, one copy to the District Ritual Chair, and the final copy is for your Council. Membership cards will be sent to the Council Ritual Chair for presentation.

For Third Degrees, send all three copies to your District Ritual Chair, along with a \$6.00 fee for each application. After approval, one copy will be sent to the Supreme Council Ritual Chair for review. Medals, certificates and membership cards will be sent to the District Ritual Chair for presentation at a district function. The other copies are for the district and the council.

For Fourth Degrees, send one copy to the Supreme Council Ritual Chair, along with an \$8.00 fee for each application. After approval by the five members of the committee, notification will be made of approval. The medals, certificates and membership cards will be presented at the National Convention Closing Mass.

Please inform the committee if your candidates will be able or unable to attend the Convention. If a candidate is unable to attend the whole convention, they need only attend the Sunday Closing Mass to receive their degree.

If there are any questions concerning Ritual, please contact the Ritual Chair or the person representing your District on the Supreme Council Ritual Committee. (See inside front cover of the Vytis).

Calendar of Events - 2003

August 9-10th 89th Annual Lithuanian Days
Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, PA. For information
Email Akliz@aol.com.

August 13th PRE-CONVENTION TOUR
Knights of Lithuania 90th National Convention

August 14 - 17th K of L 90th National Convention
Sponsored by Council 1 - Brockton, Massachusetts
At Dedham Hilton Hotel, Dedham, MA

September 14th Mass and Picnic
C-82 Gary Friends of St. Casimir Parish Reunion

September 20th Jubilee Mass for Rev. Michael
Tamulavičius for 60 years of priesthood
St. Casimir Church, Worcester, 4:00 p.m.

October 12th Council 3 - Philadelphia
celebrates its 90th anniversary as a Council.

October 19th NED Cultural Festival at Maironis
Park

October 26th Kof L Dešros and Kapūsta Dinner
At St. Francis Church C-10 Athol-Gardner

November 2nd Festival of Nations
Albany, NY Empire Plaza

December 14th Annual Kučios C-10 Athol-Gardner

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**For Lovers of Words~Smiles Without Wrinkles
(from Leonidas J. Galinskas)**

What's the definition of a will?
It's a dead giveaway.

A backward poet writes inverse.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is
fully recovered.

Every calendar's days are numbered.

The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison
was a small medium at large.

50 Years Since the Death of Antanas Pocius...

one of the first directors (1916-1932) of the Knights of Lithuania Choir in Chicago.

The K of L Choir of Chicago, presently directed by Alma Preisaitiene, commemorated its former director, Antanas Pocius, on January 16, 2003, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his death, with a moment of silence and "Amzina Atilsi."

Its former director, Faustas Strolia, came to the choir rehearsal with four large posters containing blown up pictures of Mr. Pocius, his K of L choir and other choirs, printed musical programs, and articles from the Chicago Lithuanian Daily newspaper, "Draugas," and a portrait of him in "The Herald Examiner," with the inscription: "COMPOSER HONORED" - Anthony Pocius, celebrated composer, right, is shown receiving the honorary Grand Duke Gediminas Cross, which was bestowed upon him by the Republic of Lithuania from Antanas Kalvaitis, the Lithuanian consul in Chicago. Faustas also made a short presentation about this very influential Lithuanian leader in Chicago.

Antanas Pocius was born on June 10, 1884, in Jurbarkas, Lithuania. He arrived in America in 1905, only one year after the lifting of the forty-year press ban, imposed by the Russian authorities on Lithuanian publications printed in the Latin alphabet. So, he had hardly any printed Lithuanian music to start his activities among his own people in Chicago. Although he had learned to play the flute, violin, and double bass from childhood, studied organ with Juozas Naujalis in Kaunas, and worked as an organist at some Lithuanian churches in Chicago, he was not content with his musical abilities, and first tried to achieve his full musical education. After obtaining the Master's degree from the American

Conservatory of Music and doing some post-graduate work at DePaul University's School of Music, in 1914 he established his own music school, the Beethoven Conservatory, which by 1932 had 10 teachers and 200 students.

On March 2, 1916, through the special efforts of the K of L Chicago District President, Leonardas Simutis, Sr., P. Baltutis and J. Joncius, the Chicago-based K of L Choir was established, with Aleksas Aleksandravicius as its first director. When, after a few months, Aleksandravicius had to leave Chicago, never to return again, Antanas Pocius became the first really working director of the K of L choir, and this all happened during these same busy years of his in Chicago (1916-1932).

By the time he became the organist at St. George's church (1926-1953) in Chicago - Bridgeport - (the same vicinity of his conservatory), he had many alumni and students to help him form orchestral ensembles (as many as 100 musicians) with which they accompanied choirs in performance of cantatas and operettas. By 1927, he had even organized a 60-member school orchestra at St. George's school.

At St. George's Church, Pocius established not only a big church choir, but also a separate women's choir. At a 1943 "Draugas" concert, Pocius, besides being accompanist to soloists Antanas Kaminskas, Genovaite Klevickaite and Genovaite Giedraitiene, appeared with his girls' string ensemble. In one of these poster pictures of the string ensemble, we were happy to recognize 2 young ladies - one, our present choir member, Maryte Balandyte Kincius, and Loretta Zailyte Gestautas (another K of L 'er). At this "Draugas" concert, he also performed with a 'selected voices' women's choir, "Antifonalis" (established in 1938) and a "Sasnausko" men's choir consisting of Chicago Lithuanian organists and best choristers of Lithuanian churches. In 1939, this men's choir performed with the Metropolitan Opera star, Anna Kaskas, at

the Chicago Civic Opera House during the "Draugas" Jubilee Concert.

Antanas Pocius initiated a line of Music and Song Festivals in Chicago - in 1916, 1920, 1928, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1935 (during the International Exhibition he combined a chorus of 1200 singers), 1938 and 1940. In 1911, he established the Lithuanian Organists' Association, who regularly printed "Muzikos Zinios" (Music News) since 1934.

Today, this organization is called by a different name - the Lithuanian Musicians' Alliance of North America - and it still continues to print this Lithuanian Music Journal. We were honored that evening (January 16, 2003), by the visit of one of its editors, Kazys Skaisgirys. He not only attended our rehearsal, but also wrote a beautiful article in "Draugas," remembering this event.

Pocius wrote and performed some 7 operettas for adults and children and numerous songs for solo and choir. But, his most outstanding contribution to Lithuanian music literature may be his "GIESMYNAS" (Hymn Book), a 206 page collection of mostly Lithuanian religious songs, printed in 1938 by the Chicago Chapter of the Lithuanian Organists' Alliance.

Antanas Pocius, who died January 19, 1953, in Chicago, was one of the outstanding leaders of Lithuanian musical life in Chicago.

(Article submitted by ~Faustas Strolia - C-157, Chicago, IL, recently retired K of L Mid-America District choir director).



nuo 1916 iki 1932 m. chorui vadovavo
rugstjo 1 d.

ANTANAS POCIUS

(gim.1884.VI.10 Jurbarke, m. 1953.I.19 Čikagoje)

nuo 1932 iki 1939 m. vad. Juozas Sauris

nuo 1939 iki 1942 m. — Stasys Rakauskas

nuo 1942 iki 1952 m. — Leonardas Šimutis, Jr.

Sekė 8 metų pertrauka, kol, Ill-Ind Lietuvos Vyčių pirm.

Eleanore Laurin ir Estelle Rogers pakvietus,

nuo 1960 iki 2001 m. vad. Faustas Strolia

(gruodžio 5 d.) (Memorial Day)

nuo 2001 m. Memorial Day ligi dabar — Alma Preisaitienė

Viewing the posters prepared by Faustas Strolia, HM, are from left to right: Faustas Strolia, HM, Estelle Rogers, HM, Sabina Ručas Henson, Sister Johanna Marie, SSC, and Herkulis Strolia. .



Hobo Scholar ~

Coupon King

This is the story of a remarkable Lithuanian, "Bob" Bulchis, a member of Council 144.

Being a child of poverty and the Depression years did not hinder Bob from achieving a college education and eventually, a Master's degree from Yale, with honors. He attributes this to having been blessed with excellent genes inherited from his ancestors.

Bob is a great supporter of Lithuania. Through the years, he has hosted many Lithuanians visiting Oregon, is a sponsor of a child with Orphan Care, and has sent many computers and English books to Lithuania. The timing of his shipment of 29 computers to the Medical School of the University of Vilnius was so critical in establishing the Library, that they posted his name prominently in the Library. His contribution to the University of Vilnius enabled two young women to spend time one summer in England to pursue their study of the English language. He has made a donation of 1250 shares of stock in the Litimpex Bank to a Lithuanian organization. Bob's Lithuanian relatives are not forgotten, either.

Lithuania is not the only place to receive Bob's generosity. During the last twelve years, he has enabled Minersville High School to award scholarship funds to two seniors. Last year, he was able to deliver over \$13,000 worth of groceries to St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank in Corvallis with his coupon shopping. Sizable amounts of pertinent supplies were also given to St. Teresa, St. Bridget, and St. Monica Homes for young mothers in Salem, OR, and some surplus coupons are given to the veterans' overseas program. Bob is linked to several other people who clip coupons and trade their treasures back and forth.

Newspaper articles have featured Bob as the "Coupon King." He is relentless in his efforts in clipping coupons. Through Bob's devotion to clipping coupons, several organizations are the beneficiaries of his hard work. Council 144 receives countless boxes of toothbrushes, large tubes of toothpaste, Band Aids, over the counter medications, deodorants and other articles that are sent to Lithuanian orphanages, schools, daycares and needy in various places

This is Bob's story:

Robert "Bob" Bulchis, the son of Lithuanian immigrant parents, was born January 30, 1915, in Minersville, PA, where he grew up. Times were not easy. His widowed mother remarried when Bob was in the sixth grade. His mother even tried her hand at working a still during prohibition, but that was short-lived when a neighbor informed her that the Government Revenuers were at her parents' house. The Revenuers did come, but all had been well hidden. That ended her business venture.

Bob was no stranger to running off to neighboring cities even at the early age of 6. At 14, when things got unbearable at home, he hit the road again, hitch-hiking and riding the rods (freight train) even to Washington, DC.

He decided to return to Minersville and complete high school. Fortunately, Bob was an excellent student. After high school graduation in 1931, Bob left Minersville, hitch-hiking to destinations unknown. His travels carried him across the country, visiting relatives and taking small jobs in between.

As Bob wound his way to the west, he was able to look up some of his relatives for a little hospitality and a bed. He ended up in Wenatchee, WA, with a job picking apples for five cents a box. There he received a letter from Congressman Brumm, of Minersville, that he had a chance to apply to Annapolis US Naval Academy. Because Bob could not pass the physical exam for admission, Annapolis was now out of the question, it was time to leave Minersville again. His hobo life continued as he became experienced in "riding the rods." The term, "riding the rods" referred to the use of the supporting rods under the old railroad cars as a precarious perch. Bob never saw anyone really ride the rods. That was only for the movies. He stated, "We learned where to ride, where to catch trains, all about the hobo jungles which were present in every freight yard, techniques for getting food, the availability of bed and board in store front missions, etc. While in Daytona Beach, he watched Sir Malcolm Campbell break the world speed record for an automobile.

Bob celebrated his 18th birthday in Seattle as the Civilian Conservation Corps was inaugurated. He applied and was accepted for service in the CCC's in April, 1933, and assigned to Company 937. Room, board, clothing and tools were provided by the government. The enrollee was expected to work a 40 hour week and to follow

A Few of My Favorite Things...

the camp rules. Bob's CCC assignments included work in the Wenatchee and Olympic National Forests. While serving in these CCC camps, each enrollee was taught a new skill and could also attend classes to better his education. Bob served for 15 months.

Bob then contacted the Forest Ranger at Quilcene and in June, 1935 reported to Quilcene for his first job with the U.S. Forest Service. From that day forward, he became self-sufficient, but still used his hobo skills to travel. In 1939, Bob had graduated from the University of Washington and was now assigned to a new job at the Snider Ranger District. At this same time, he had been offered a scholarship from 2 colleges, both Duke and Yale. Bob chose the Yale School of Forestry and graduated from both, the University of Washington and Yale, Cum Laude. At the U of W College of Forestry, Bob earned the highest grade point average in a freshman class of over 250 students.

Following graduation, he received a job offer with the Civil Service Region in New York City as a Rating Examiner for \$35.00 per week. This job ended any desires to enter the Forestry Profession. With the exception of the break of WWII and serving in the Navy, his Civil Service career spanned from 1940 until retirement in 1971.

Before going overseas, Bob had married his wife, Helen, in 1943. They raised four children, and enjoyed many wonderful years together. In her later years, Helen suffered from Alzheimer's and passed away on January 23, 1998. Bob's devotion to Helen in the nursing home and his unselfishness toward the others on his daily visits led to an article published about him in the Corvallis Gazette-Times.

The Knights of Lithuania Council 144 are proud to have Bob as a member and greatly appreciate his hard work.

Aciu! and God bless you!

(Article submitted by: **Bernice Mikatavage,**
K of L Council 144)

Acupuncture is a jab well done.



If you don't pay the exorcist, you'll be repossessed.

There are recent rumors that Julie Andrews did a concert for AARP. Ms. Andrews sang a favorite from the Sound of Music, Favorite Things. There were a few changes to the words, to fit in with the AARP theme. Here are the words to this tune:

*Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.*

*Cadillacs and cataracts and hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.*

*When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.*

*Hot tea and crumpets, and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heat pads and hot meals they bring,
These are few of my favorite things.*

*Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinnin,
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinin,
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things*

*When the joints ache, when the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.*



K of L Photo Parade



Council 82 - Gary, IN, hosts the St. Casimir Day celebration at Merrillville, IN.



Mrs. Mickey Petrosius (C-112), who crowned the Blessed Mother, and Adele Lietuvninkas who assisted, pause for a photo after the ceremony which took place at the May meeting.

K of L Photo Parade



C-25, (photo below). St. Casimir Day luncheon. L Yurkovic; A.&E. Bendokas; N. Samas, H. Valley; Rev. G. Kijauskas; J. Valley.



C-25, Cleveland - St. Casimir Day luncheon. R.T. Capuria; V. Staskus; Cindy; J. Ortman, S & L Yurkovic.

%%%%%%%%%



K of L Photo Parade



C-29, Honorary Members Rita S. Sussko and Loretta Stukas, in their beautiful national costumes, stand ready to participate in their Council's activities. They are always on hand to show their pride for their forefathers' land, and their K of L Organization... "for God and Country. "



C-25, Bill & Ann Leseman at the Parade of Nations,

K of L Photo Parade



Council - 6, Hartford, CT, at the Knights of Columbus Museum at New Haven.



Council -6, Hartford, CT, at the Valentine Social. Lefto to right: Leona Sawka, Diane Grajauskas, Joseph Lindzius - Raguolis baker, Lillian Joseph.

K of L Photo Parade



MCD president, Michael F. Petkus, gives the traveling trophy to the #1 bowling team, team number four. Left to right (all C- 102 members), Karen Szumny, Steve Bottrello, Billy Bowman and Monica Klim.



Barbershop Quartet, "Noteability," entertained the group on Saturday night. They also sang a special song for Norma Petkus.

K of L Photo Parade



Mixing Kugelis. L to R. George Mikalauskas, Henry Pant, Norma Petkus. In background, Laurretta Pant and Robert Pant.



Christmas carolers of Council - 96.

Mid-America Sings...

In this, its 87th year of existence, the Mid-America District (MAMD) Knights of Lithuania (K of L) Choir, under the direction of Alma Preisaitiene, continues to be true to its mission of showcasing Lithuanian culture and being a musical presence in as many venues as possible. The dedication of its members, some of whom have participated for more than 40 years, is inspiring and an indication of the great love and pride that motivate each performance. The countless hours that choir members have devoted to weekly rehearsals and numerous performances have a value that cannot be measured in monetary terms. Their rewards, as well, are primarily spiritual—and the group is very like a family.

Despite the essentially voluntary aspect of the choir's mission—and partially because of it—money plays an important role in the life of the choir. Modest director and occasional accompanist salaries must be paid as well as rental for rehearsal space. The choir is grateful for the assistance recently provided them by the MAMD Institute, and on January 5th, held a fundraising dinner at Mayfield Banquet Hall in Chicago to further fortify their treasury.

Choir members and guests were welcomed by choir president, Sr. Johanne Marie Shainauskas, SSC, who also introduced several special performers who lent their talents to the program. Paul Strolia sang several songs, accompanying himself on the guitar. HM Faustas Strolia and Herkulis Strolia played violin duets, accompanied by Ausra Buzenas, who also played several beautiful compositions on the "kankles." The program closed with four songs performed by the choir. After dinner, a very successful raffle was held of items donated by choir members and their friends. The choir extends its heartfelt thanks to those wonderful friends and family whose support for this event and for its performances is vital to its existence.

At the beginning of a new year, we are always inclined to look back on our lives in the previous year. As choir members reminisce, they remember singing for the Memorial Day Mass at St. Casimir's Cemetery and at Nativity BVM Church hall for the ALTAS banquet in June. In August, they sang at the opening Mass of the K of L's 89th National Convention in Holy Family Church and at the closing Mass in the chapel of

the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse. It was at this convention that our dear maestro, HM Faustas Strolia, introduced his very beautiful composition, "Hymn to Our Lady of Siluva." The Daley Center in downtown Chicago was the scene of another choir performance that put Lithuanian culture in the spotlight. And in December, the choir performed at the Christmas banquet of Immaculate Conception Church, followed the next week by the singing of carols at Holy Family Villa. The singers always find that an opportunity to perform these lovely songs both, in Lithuanian and English, seems a satisfying end to the year and a fitting start to the holiday season.

There is no doubt that this choir is not slowing down despite its long history. It looks forward to each performance with renewed vigor. It revels in its past under the direction of HM Faustas Strolia and eagerly anticipates the future under Alma Preisaitiene. With the new director have come some very welcome additional singers, a few from Lithuania. A particular need exists in the area of male voices; therefore, the choir extends a warm welcome to all with a love of Lithuanian culture to COME JOIN US!

(Article submitted by: *Irene Macke - C-157*)



The brothers, Strolia, Faustas at the keyboard and Herkulis on the violin, play for the Senior citizens at Holy Family Villa on Valentine's Day.



The Mid-America District Choir performing at the Mem'ries of Lithuania Banquet.



The Knights of Lithuania C-112 "Cemetery Walk" on May 26th, 2003, at St. Casimir Cemetery. Cardinal Francis George and Rev. Anthony Markus prayed and blessed the grave of Irene Jonusys. Thanks to the efforts of Alexander Mockus.

Retired from the Post Office...



Andy Rozger, second from left, remains active with Knights' activities. He took part in the annual St. Casimir's celebration at the Sisters of St. Francis motherhouse with Sister Marian Blodis, left, Agatha Bender, and Sister J. Lora Dambroski, the Order's provincial minister for the United States.

Andy Rozger keeps making his rounds.

If you want to reach Andy Rozger at his apartment in the Pittsburgh suburb of Baldwin, you'd better call in the morning. By mid-morning, it is hard to reach the long-time member of the Knights of Lithuania, Council 63.

Andy marked his 90th birthday on April 14. This year also marks Andy's 63rd year as a member of the K of L.

The son of Peter and Anna Yanusaitis Rozger, he was born in the Esplen neighborhood of Pittsburgh. "Almost everybody was Lithuanian there," Andy said. "If a kid was Irish, he was almost ashamed to admit it." The middle child in a family of five, he graduated from Langley High School in 1931.

His first jobs included driving a bakery truck and working for a company on Neville Island that made oil-drilling equipment. He served in the Army from 1942 to 1945. After the service, he went to work for the Post Office, where he was employed until his retirement in 1971.

He joined the Knights of Lithuania in 1940, first as a member of Council 62 in Esplen. After that Council was disbanded, he joined Council 63. A faithful delegate at many national Knights' conventions, he served as sergeant-at-arms for many years. It was his responsibility to help keep order at what were sometimes noisy and contentious meetings.

The Pittsburgh Council meets on the same afternoon as the Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western Pennsylvania. This meant that Andy's 90th birthday was marked with cards and singing at both meeting.

(Article submitted by: Len Barcoucky)

"Friendship that flows from the heart cannot be frozen by adversity, as the water that flows from the spring cannot congeal in winter." James Fenimore Cooper

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." Helen Keller

"No life is so strong and complete, but it yearns for the smile of a friend." Wallace Bruce

"Friendship without self-respect is one of the rare and beautiful things of life." James Francis Byrnes

"A friend is long sought, hardly found, and with difficulty kept." Saint Jerome

"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out." Walter Winchell

"True friends are the people that are there for you unconditionally. They are the people that never question you and support you no matter what the circumstances are. They are the people worth living for." Unknown

Friends

Obit Commentary

Archbishop Charles (Kazimieras) A. Salatka died on March 31, 2003. He was born February 26, 1918 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He became the first American Lithuanian bishop. He was ordained in 1945. In December of 1961 he was consecrated bishop and assigned to Grand Rapids as auxiliary bishop. From 1968, Bishop Salatka served as bishop of Marquette, Michigan. From 1977 he served as the archbishop of Oklahoma City until his retirement in 1992. Archbishop Salatka was an honorary member of the Knights of Lithuania.

BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE

The Knights of Lithuania extend a sincere expression of sympathy to His Eminence, Cardinal Audrys Bačkis at the passing away of his dear Mother, Ona Bačkienė on Thursday, June 19, 2003.

Te ilsisi ramybėje. Amen.

"REMEMBER ME"

Remember me when flowers bloom
Early in the Spring.

Remember me on sunny days
In the fun that summer brings

Remember me in the Fall
As you walk through leaves of gold
And remember me in Wintertime
In the stories that are told.

And most of all remember
Each day - right from the start,
I will be forever near,
For I live within your heart.

Monsignor Joseph Prunskis (1907 – 2003) grew up in the Utena district of Lithuania. Priest, journalist, writer, philanthropist, he was ordained in 1932 and honored with the monsignorate in 1987. Monsignor began his journalism career in Lithuania, contributing to several publications and then becoming editor of several others. He accepted the invitation to edit *XX Amžius*, the official Catholic Lithuanian paper, when he was only in his early 20's. Before being pressed to leave the country with the Soviet takeover, Monsignor had been director of the Bureau of the Press.

In the United States, Monsignor worked at St. George Parish in Chicago's Bridgeport area from 1941 – 1969. Beginning in 1955, he was a regular speaker on the Voice of America. For 24 years, Fr. J. Prunskis served as editor of *Draugas* and for which he became one of its best benefactors. He taught journalism at the Pedagogical Institute in Chicago, attended the International Journalists conventions in Budapest, Nice, and other international conferences, and traveled the world. Not many can boast of writing over 10,000 articles some under different pen names.

Monsignor Prunskis also loved to work with youth. He participated the Scouts and the Ateitininkai, a Lithuanian Catholic Action organization. He has sponsored various literary contests among them our annual K Of L Essay Contest. Monsignor left his library to the sisters of St. Casimir, his archives to the Balzekas Museum, and selected books to Lithuania. Monsignor is the proud recipient of many distinctive medals and tributes, but the most outstanding is the Order of Gediminas Medal of Honor from Lithuania. The Knights of Lithuania are indebted to Honorary Member Monsignor Joseph Prunskis for his many kindnesses to the organization.

A Cultural Note...

Birds of Lithuania

One of the harbingers of spring is the various birds that return north after spending winter in warmer climates. I would like to acquaint you with some of the birds that are found in Lithuania.

Those of you who have visited Lithuania and gone out to the countryside, you saw tall posts with large birds resting on them. That is Lithuania's largest bird, the stork, *gandras*, most liked, whose arrival is always anxiously awaited.

To make it easier for the storks to build their large nests, farmers place wagon wheels or platforms into trees, on poles or on top of roofs. The stork is considered just like a family member. After wintering in the south, he always returns to his old nest.

It is believed that the stork brings good luck to the homestead, that lightning will not strike that house. It is deemed extremely unlucky if a stork, upon return, suddenly abandons his nest. Then tragedy is expected to visit the household.

The stork, *gandras*, is important to the farmer, because he eats bugs, toads, mice and snakes that are harmful to the farmer's crop.

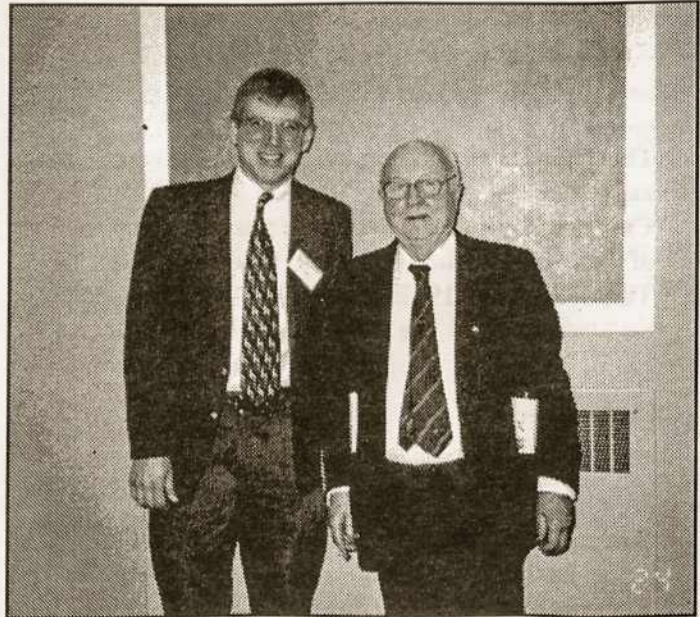
The lark, *vieversys*, is the first one to announce the arrival of spring. You can hear his lovely song in the early morning as he soars high up into the dawning sky. The lark, *vieversys*, follows the farmer as he plows his field.

With the cuckoo's, *gegutes*, sorrowful "kuku," people know that spring has fully arrived. It was believed that the cuckoo's cuckooing portends good or bad luck. If, for the first time, one hears the cuckoo, *gegute*, with money on him, that means the person will be rich that year.

The cuckoo is about the size of a dove, has a long tail and short yellow legs. They live in forests, orchards and parks, anywhere where there are lots of other birds. *Gegute* is the only bird that does not make a nest; she lays her eggs in other small birds' nests. There is a legend, that when God created the birds, while other birds were building their nests, the cuckoo was just flitting around. She never built a nest, but did want to have children, so she laid her eggs in the robin's nest. The eggs hatched, and the robin took care of hers and the cuckoo's. Now the cuckoo wanted to see her offspring, but they

would not acknowledge her and the robin shooed her away. The cuckoo was very sad, but the robin was adamant. So the cuckoo went to appeal to the Lord. The verdict was, that since the cuckoo was too lazy to build a nest for her children, the cuckoo would no longer be able to sing a lovely bird song, but would only be able to "cuckoo" and the cuckoo will never build her nest, but will continue to lay her eggs into other birds' nests, and the cuckoo's children will be brought up by other birds. Thus, it is said that the *gegute's* tinny ku-ku is her lamenting for her children.

(Article submitted by: Leona Sawka, C-6).



John Baltrus, C-19, Pittsburgh, PA, pictured above with Edward Pocius, C-112, was one of the presenters at the Science and Creativity Symposium, (*Mokslo ir Kurybos Simpoziumas*) in Lemont, IL on May 23, 2003. His presentation was entitled, "APPLICATION OF MATERIALS CHARACTERIZATION TECHNIQUES TO FOSSIL ENERGY RESEARCH." John is a research chemist for the US department of Energy, National Energy Laboratory. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from St. Francis College (PA), his Ph.D in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in 1987. He Applies surface analysis and other analytical characterization methods to materials related to the efficient use of fossil fuels. Congratulations, John! You make us proud!



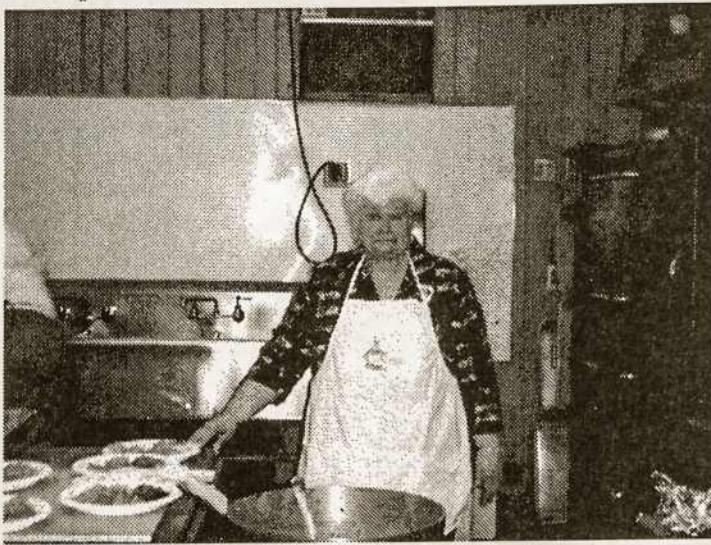
News from K of L Juniors...

On June 25, 2003, Maria Deksnis, C-112, organized an outing for the K of L Juniors, at Splashdown Dunes Park in Portage, Indiana. The above picture shows some of the participants in this activity. From left to right, they are: Elizabeth Macke, Francesca, Nicholas, Amanda, Nina and Cody Strolia with their grandfather, Faustas Strolia, HM. In the background, Andrea and Alex Deksnis are flanked by Ann Marie Kassel and Father Tony Markus. A grand time was had by all!



Andrea Deksnis, Junior K of L'er, receiving a scholarship which was contributed by a former scholarship winner, John Svelnis, to C-112. Andrea's grandmother, Julia Zakarka, did the honors.

K of L Photo Parade



Council 26 Member, Joan Wojciak, working in the kitchen at the Kaziuko Muge



Council 26 Members at the Kaziuko Muge: L to R: Ray Jakubauskas and Irene Markevicius



Council 26 Spiritual Advisor, Richard Jakubauskas, and Peter Molis, President of the Lithuanian Scouts



District & Council News

Mid Central District Mid Central District Regina Juska-Svoba

On the weekend of May 17-19 all roads led to Detroit for the MCD's Spring Meeting and Bowling Tournament which was hosted by C-102. Friday evening, approximately 50 delegates, local K of L members and guests converged at the Quality Inn for a welcome back to Detroit get-together. Pres. Patricia Zyren and her energetic and enthusiastic committee greeted the guests with a variety of home cooked delicacies and decadent sweets. So that no one would become ill from the cool spring weather, "medicinal libations" warmed everyone. The Lithuanian candy game of "pora ir lycna" (even and odd) tried the challengers, was played Friday and Saturday evenings. It was good to see and "catch up" with many members whom we have not seen in the last 6 months.

The District meeting was held on Sat and was conducted by the new MCD Pres. Michael F. Petkus, C-96. The new district recording secretary, JoAnn Thiele, C-96, led the opening prayer. The district officers, council presidents, committee chairs, and ancillary charities' representatives reported on their biannual activities. District delegates to the 90th convention were selected (Dedham, MA, Aug 14-17).

The upcoming Fall Meeting and Pilgrimage and the 2004 Spring Meeting/Bowling Tournament dates and host council sites will be announced in the upcoming months. The mandate committee reported that the 26 delegates and guests represented 4 districts attended the meeting. Ritual chair Lee Moore, C-86, reported that Linda Pant, C-96, will receive the 3rd degree at the next Fall meeting. Theresa Shea, of

C-102, Detroit, was the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle. Thank you for donating your entire winnings to ATL! The meeting concluded with a prayer led by George Mikalauskas, C-96, and the singing of the Vyciu hymn.

All energies were in high gear for the bowling tournament and put-put golf in the afternoon. 5 bowling teams of 4 bowlers each participated in the heated competitions. For those members who did not bowl, another activity - put-put golf was planned and 12 golfers engaged in the competition.

In the evening the delegates and local C-102 Knights and friends gathered at St. Mary Magdalene Church for the closing Mass. The closing dinner and bowling and golf award announcements took place at the hotel's facilities. A Chinese raffle with many unique items was held. There was a special raffle held for the abundant Michigan basket. And guess who won - our own local Ruth Wagster, C-102. Congratulations to you!

The winners of the MCD raffle were announced: Fran Andrunas - \$250; Pat Marrara-\$150; and Donna Price-\$100. Congrats to the lucky winners.

Sam Perritino, C-102, announced the bowling awards. Congratulations to all the following: Monica Klim, C-102, ladies actual high series - 660, Sam Perritino, C-102, men's high series - 636, and the traveling trophy was won by Monica Klim's team #4, C-102, Detroit (Monica, Steve Bottrello, Billy Bowman and Karen Szunny). The winners were satisfied and happy with their prizes.

Next, Lory Hoffner, C-102, announced the winners of the put-put golfing. There was a tie for 1st place - Margaret Dapkus, C-102 and Lee Moore, C-86; 2nd place was taken by Theresa Shea, C-102 and 3rd place was won by Michael Shea, C-102. All golfers received a gold medal. Congratulations!

On behalf of C-102, Detroit, a heartfelt thanks to all delegates and guests who attended, participated and supported the district's weekend activities! It was a wonderful and memorable weekend and a special time of sharing and remembering. After a successful and productive meeting, bowling tournament and put-put golf, delegates bid their farewells, wished each other a safe return home, and until we gather again in October for the Fall Meeting and Pilgrimage!

C-25 Cleveland, Ohio Ursula Kunsitis

Apologies to Jean Marks and Dolly Oberaitis. Somehow I got their council positions mixed. Jean is our council VP and Dolly our recording secretary. Sorry, ladies.

Congratulations to Gene Kunsitis who was awarded First place in the Graphic Arts Division for his drawing entitled "Retriever" in the Euclid Art Association's Spring Show in April!

Enjoying themselves at the Slovenian Singing ZARJA'S "kar bo pa bo" (Oh! That Fickle Finger of Fate) - a musical farce - were the Marks' and Kunsitis'. It was amazing how easy it was to follow the story and to even laugh in the right places!

In May, eight members traveled to Detroit for the MCD Meeting and Bowling Tournament. (Theresa Capuria, Todd Craig, Dick and Jean Marks, Fran Pranskevich, Dolly Oberaitis, Joan Susin Ortman and son, Chric) Out of the 6 bowling teams, our Cleveland team finished in 4th place. Jean had a 180 game with handicap and Dick a 550 series with handicap. Congratulations to all! Our members enjoyed the warm hospitality of C-102 and thank them for a lovely weekend! Our President, Theresa Capuria, gave an excellent report on our council at the meeting.

We are happy that Al Wallis is now settled and happy in his new Senior-living residence, Sommerville, Room 228, 5700 Emerald Ct. in Mentor, Ohio. We hope that all his K of L friends will touch base with him.

Nellie Samas, our "Sunshine lady", ENJOYED baby sitting 2 YOUNG Mountain Swiss dogs for daughter, Lorrie, and husband, Hap, while they enjoyed a 2 week Caribbean vacation in May. We admire your stamina and patience, Nellie!

Jim and Joan Thompson enjoyed a lovely Memorial Day weekend with friends at Put-In Bay, one of our Lake Erie islands.

We wish all our members a Happy, Healthy, Safe Summer!

C-96 Dayton, Ohio Frances Petkus HM

A tradition that began in the early 50's continues today for C-96's Junior Knights and that is the Crowning of our Blessed Mother on Mothers' Day. On May 11, with our Juniors in procession to the Blessed Mother's Altar, Erin Petkus then placed a wreath on our Lady's head. Alex Fletcher led the congregation in prayer to the Blessed Mother. Joseph Berger and Erin were the readers with Angela Plozay and Nathan Fletcher as offertory bearers. The 10:30 Mass was dedicated to the living and deceased mothers of C-96.

Following Mass, the Juniors, under the leadership of their Advisor, Christine Fletcher, and council members helping. Eleanor Mantz, Barbara Kreuzer, Annamarie Sluzas Berger (all former Junior Knights themselves) held a huge brunch for the congregation. The Juniors presented their mothers with gifts. No one went home hungry. We are so proud that our Juniors continue to maintain a tradition so special -

Honoring our Blessed Mother on Mothers' Day.

Elena Mikalauskas, ably assisted by George and Frances Mikalauskas, hosted the council for a fun evening at her home recently. It was a huge success with plenty to eat, drink, much conversation, games, card playing, etc. It was good to see so many of our Junior Knights being a part of this fun. The mystery of how and why Elena's one cat managed to get himself up into the eaves of her home is yet to be solved.

The weekend of May 16-18 saw the Knights congregating in Taylor, MI for the MCD Spring Convention/Sports weekend. C-102, Detroit, outdid themselves as host. The hotel where we stayed was most hospitable to us. The council fed us well the whole weekend. It was great all of us getting together and getting caught up since our last District gathering.

Our new District Pres Michael F. Petkus and new secretary JoAnn Thiele held the meeting. It was good to hear, those councils present, brought back the report we are staying as a district. It was sad to learn C-79 has dissolved. The good news is that many of its members are joining C-102.

Under the leadership of Joe Guirrero, we did have bowlers. Our faithful score keepers, Sam Perritino and Bea Gramblet were once again there to take care of running the details of the tournament. We must congratulate C-102 team for winning the Traveling Trophy! Fran Petkus did win the "star fish" for lowest one game score for the women. JoAnn Thiele came home with a medal in the put-put tournament. The Dayton delegation, George, Frances and Elena Mikalauskas, JoAnn Thiele, Fran and Michael Petkus, had nothing but praise on the great job Patricia Zyren and C-102 did to make the weekend a fun one.

Holy Cross Lithuanian Parish held a Thank You/Going Away Party for Fr. Felix Molumel. Fr. Felix is with the Oblate Order and he is from Lesotho, South Africa. Fr. Felix has been attending Wright State University for his doctorate in clinical psychology and will be leaving for Nebraska for one year to complete his internship, returning to Dayton in June of 2004 for graduation. Fr. Felix has been helping Fr. Michael Holloran with the Masses for the 4 parishes that Fr. Mike is pastor. Holy Cross Parish Council, with the president, James Geiger, chairman, commissioned Norma Petkus to make Fr. Felix a vestment with a Lithuanian motif and George Mikalauskas one of his hand-crafted crosses. Norma and George collaborated by having the cross George made be the same that would be sewn on the vestment. Fr. Felix was so elated. Fr. Felix was bestowed with many gifts and so appreciated everything.

At dinner, Fr. Mike said the prayer before the meal in English and Fr. Felix in his native tongue. It was a wonderful evening of sharing and love.

We have many congratulations to share: To Robert Petkus and Andrew Berczelly who took their K of L oath. To Gary and JoAnn Thiele who have received their status as 2nd Degree Knights. George and Marian Mikalauskas on their first baby, Regina Nicole. Proud grandparents are George and Frances Mikalauskas; aunts are Elena and Mary Agnes. Junior Knight, Erin Petkus, representing Lithuania, came in 1st runner-up in Dayton's Annual World A 'Fair pageantry. Her escort was Junior Knight Joseph Berger. To Robert, Linda and Gabriella Pant as they settle into their new home.

Get well wishes are sent to Eloise A. Berczelly, Judy Petrokas, and Elena Zukaitis.

Happy Summer. See you in Brockton!

New England District

NED District Birzelis

The annual NED Retreat at the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, ME took place the weekend of June 20-22, 2003. Most of us left behind the rainy weekends of Southern New England for a beautiful, sunny weekend at the Monastery. It was a chance to greet old friends and make new friends. Many were missing because they were busy packing for their trips to Lithuania. We were also saddened to hear of the passing of John Skricki from C-27, Norwood. John and Betty Skricki were loyal retreatants at the Monastery and often came with their bicycles for an extended stay. Our condolences to Betty on her loss.

The retreat opened with a Memorial Mass for Sophie Kazlatskas, the former manager of the Guest House, who passed away, suddenly, last winter. Fr. John gave us inspiring talks at each of the sessions. At the last session, he blessed us and our possessions. He spoke of the special protection given to the wearer of a medal of St. Benedict.

We wished each other a safe journey home and hopefully we will all meet again, next year. It is always such a pleasant trip to the Monastery. The rhododendrons were in full bloom, both on the manicured grounds and in the woodlands behind the Monastery where there is a beautiful Fatima shrine. The chapel in the Monastery is especially beautiful, filled with distinctly Lithuanian art in the Stations of the Cross and stained glass windows.

We ate a hearty Lithuanian breakfast each morning and a delicious evening meal. The staff this year was students from the University of Vilnius. The monastery is only a short walk to the beach or the Village for shopping or eating during our free time. Many

people are also content to sit on the patio on the Guest House to watch the world go by. There is also a heated pool for swimming or sunning.

Coinciding with our retreat weekend, the Village of Lower Kennebunk was celebrating the Summer Solstice. Friday evening, some of us went to the Bonfire behind the Fire Station. There were also various art exhibits in town featuring the work of local artists and band concerts with music for all ages.

C-17 South Boston, MA Regina Alexander

Another council meeting, another special birthday. Geguzio menesi we celebrated with Msgr. Al Contons, with not only birthday cake but a pizza party. Aciu labai to our refreshment committee: Pres Frank and Virginia Markuns, Barbara Trybe, Mildred Daniels, Elaine Kniupis, Ann Norinkavich.

Congratulations to Al Siauris. He is the proud (and very much surprised) grandfather of twins - a boy and a girl!

Welcome to C-17 new members this month: Martha Gaide, Edward Kaunelis, Rolandas Sinkevicius.

The June trip to Lithuania with Fr. Steve Zukas is fast approaching. Arnold and Pat Plevock and their daughter, Audrey, are also included in the tour. The excited group traveling together are anticipating a great adventure. Bon Voyage.

The June council meeting will be the last of the season. We are looking forward to a tasty Bean Supper. In October, C-17 will be in charge of the kitchen at the annual NED Fall Picnic held at Maironis Park.

The National Convention is being held in our neighboring council in Brockton, Aug 14-17. Many C-17 members are

looking forward to participate. Four C-17 members will be eligible to receive their 4th Degrees: Mildred Daniels, Al and Elaine Kniupis, Regina Alexander.

A drive for new and former members will start in full in the Fall.

Iki pasimatymo, viso gero.

C-6 Hartford, CT Bette Ann Liudzius

The council celebrated St. Casimir Day on March 4, followed by a luncheon in the Holy Trinity Church parish hall. Not only did our chaplain, Rev. John Rikteraitis, concelebrate the Mass with the administrator of Holy Trinity, Rev. Charles Jacobs, but we were privileged to have an actual relic displayed of St. Casimir. Fr. Jacobs was instrumental in obtaining the relic from a closed Lithuanian parish. Gene Ziurys was lector. An invitation to the luncheon was extended to all area office workers who often attend the daily noon Mass at Holy Trinity. It was a definite pleasant surprise for them. Janina Nawarskas of Waterbury's C-7 was also our guest. Hostesses were Fran Ambrose, Lillian Joseph, Wanda Kruks, Judy Landers, Louise Piwoski and Kay Urban.

June Grenier explained council rituals and also named the following members who received degrees: 1st degree: Angela Balskus, Vito Balskus, Richard Banavich, Dana Grajauskas, Florence Grigas, Jonas Kasputis, Mary Kozicki, William Kranmas; 2nd degree: Edward Balskus, Al Dzikas, Lillian Joseph, Gertrude Kruzinauskas, Judy Landers, Jurgis Petkaitis, Madelyne Ratches, Leona Sawka, Dianne Yusias and Gene Ziurys.

Juozas Giedraitis was wished well on his trip to Lithuania. We learned of Joseph Stiklius' exceptional honor of receiving the CT 2003 Businessman of the Year award. It was presented in Washington, DC to him and other

representatives of America's best business leaders and entrepreneurs, March 18th. One of Fr. John's favorite prayers, "Here we are again, Lord" ended the meeting. Fr. uses the prayer at many happy occasions but mostly at the graveside ceremonies. Shouldn't we all be glad to receive our eternal reward and enter into our heavenly home and say, "Here we are again, Lord" at last. During our April meeting, Dalia Dzikas informed us of more traditions and customs in Lithuania, such as during Holy Week no one could be angry, scold, or be jealous.

Will our council make history as the first to install a member via cell phone? Joanne Williamson said the pledge in Costa Mesa, CA and the oath was administered to Lorraine Deyette who was present at our Hartford meeting.

At the May meeting, Brian Daigle, one of our trustees, complimented Madelyne Ratches on her excellent job as treasurer. Gene Ziurys extended the council's best wishes to Kay Urban who was awarded the 3rd Degree at the NED Spring Convention. At every meeting our 2nd VP, Alyce Gegesky always urges us to recruit more members. She hopes membership will increase to 100 by the end of 2003. If anyone needs a good cheerleader, Alyce would be a great candidate. Richard Huck joined our ranks as a new member, searching for his roots. Hurray for the K of L.

C-6 keeps growing. On May 4, the Friendship Center, a small hall adjoined to St. Andrew Church in New Britain, CT was re-dedicated in honor of our chaplain. It is now known as the Father John Rikteraitis Friendship Center; Fr. John is known for his generosity and his support of all Lithuanian causes. A reception followed the dedication attended by family and friends. Gene Ziurys said he has known Fr. John since 1956 and Fr. still continues his good work for the Lord - even in retirement.

Everyone learned about Joe Liudzius's hobby, bee-keeping. Honey helps cure, some believe bee stings aid arthritis. Joe pleased our group by providing samples of his honey made into a delicious Lithuanian drink called "krupnikas".

May we all know peace within ourselves that it may spread throughout the world.

C-26 Worcester, MA Ruta

The May meeting started with a delicious Kugeli/Kielbasi dinner. As one arrived, you could inhale the wonderful aromas from the kitchen. The committee that created this great dinner consisted of Marion and Arthur Racicot, Vivian and Al Rodgers, Anne Leseman, Lillian Kondrotas, and Aldona Waska. The monthly refreshment group brought some tasty goodies to top off the meal. As everyone was finishing eating, the lights in the hall were dimmed and out came a huge birthday cake. This was a surprise for Fr. John Petrauskas, who was visiting us this evening. He was celebrating his 87th birthday. Everyone stood and sang to him while he blew out the candles.

The Mass remembering Rev. Michael Tamulavicius will be at 4:00 PM on Saturday, Sept. 20 in St. Casimir's Church. This will be in honor of his 60 years as a priest. All are invited to attend.

Joan Wojciak attended her first meeting in many months. She looked great and was feeling like herself again. She had a long period of illness and has progressed very well. Terry Adomavicius is also recovering. We wish them a speedy and complete recovery.

Steve Walinsky, Jr. spoke at the Mothers' Day Breakfast held by the Lithuanian Scouts in St. Casimir's

Parish Hall. We extend congratulations to 3 couples who are long-time members of C-26 and who are all celebrating 55 years of marriage: Ruth and Vitty Gadilauskas, Jenny and Paul Puris, and Eleanor and John Gadilauskas. We wish them many more years of happiness together. Lillian Kondrotas, who just returned from a long stay in Florida, is off again. This time she is going to Texas to visit her son, Alan, daughter-in-law, Carla, and their daughter, Kiela, who just received her first Communion.

The Worcester Multicultural Committee recently held its 3rd Annual Spring Festival. The purpose of this group is to present to the public and school children the ethnic community's heritage, history, cultural, and immigration experience. On the Executive Board for this event were Anne and Bill Leseman, C-26, acting as advisors. They were also Chairpersons for St. Casimir's parish. C-26 was well represented. Adele and Francis Degutis assisted in greeting people at the door and with running the raffles. Ceremonies were opened with the parade of flags. Ray Jakubauskas carried the Lithuanian flag, as well as Terry Adomavicius, and Vivian Rodgers carried the Knights of Lithuania flag. Al Seilius also participated in the flag parade.

Some of the special features included various musical performances by different nationalities, ethnic foods, cultural displays, arts and crafts, and children's activities. The St. Casimir's choir called the "Lithuanian Songsters" performed. Most of the members are K of L'ers from our council. As a special feature, Edith Roberts, our organist, who was playing the piano, performed a duet with Al Tamasiunas who played a Recorder. They entertained the audience with 2 Lithuanian polkas. Various delicious Lithuanian baked goods were for sale. Vivian Rodgers helped at this table. Ray Jakubauskas had a wonderful display of Lithuanian items

such as amber, wayside crosses, carvings, weavings, decorated eggs, etc.

Two of our members recently had relatives that passed away: Anne Leseman's younger sister, Catherine Sullivan; and Dorothy Zalieckas's aunt, Lucy Degutis. We extend our deepest sympathy to them.

C-27 Norwood, MA Zaibas

K of K C-27 hosted the Tragic Days of June observation on Sunday, June 1, 2003, after the 8:00 AM Mass. Fr. Bill spoke about Adele Dirsyte, Siberian Martyr, who smuggled prayers on scraps of paper to the West. Folk songs of Siberian exiles concluded the program. Ramona Gonski and Dorothy Ausevich hosted the refreshments.

Delegates to the 90th Annual Convention at the Dedham Hilton will be Charles and Carol Trečiokas and Stanley Wasil. Alternates are Teresa Wasil, John and Betty Skricki. St. George R.C. Church is pleased to hold a Mass for the delegates on Fri, Aug 15

We are saddened to report that our member John Skricki passed away on June 6, 2003. He leaves his beloved wife, (Sonia) Betty Skricki, his children, Edward, Carol Ann, Irene, her husband Stephen Nishiura and their son, Alexander Adam. John will be remembered for his kind, gentle ways and his wonderful sense of humor. We all will miss him.

C-78 Lawrence, MA Jim Ouellette

Although news from our chapter has not been submitted in quite some time, we are alive and well.

July 7, 2002 was a very sad day for us. Our parish of St. Francis of Assisi had its last Mass celebrated. We put up a good fight to keep our church open,

especially since it was the last Lithuanian parish in the Merrimack Valley, which covers a number of cities and towns in northeast Massachusetts and also crosses the border into southern New Hampshire. Additionally, we had only one year to go to reach our 100th Anniversary.

Before the official closing, we received an invitation from the parish of Holy Rosary (Italian) to join them. Through the tireless efforts of our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Albin Janiunas, we have been able to continue to have a Lithuanian Mass on the first Sunday of the month now held in the lower church of Holy Rosary. Fr. Albin, the last Lithuanian pastor of St. Francis Church, retired a number of years ago and has traveled from his home in Cambridge to Lawrence to celebrate Mass in Lithuanian, each month, after which, we have our K of L meeting under the direction of our current president, David Boucher.

We have been working on a project to ship the statues, Stations of the Cross, vestments, and other furnishings to the Church of Kristaus Prisikelimo in Kaunas, Lithuania. After many years of the communists using the building as a factory and warehouse, Fr. Vytautas Grigaravicius has the difficult and expensive task of transforming it back to a house of worship. When I found out about his need through a friend in Minnesota, I thought that this would be a good home for all our beautiful religious artifacts and closure for us.

Through the generous response by members of our K of L and former parishoners, the project will move forward on June 14 at which time, items that need to be professionally crated will be moved from the church to a company that specializes in it. A team of volunteers will pack everything else. A container, provided by Sister Helen Ivanauskas of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified in Brockton will be sent to Lawrence on June 25.

Amber District

C-3 Philadelphia, PA Victor Stepalovitch

C-3 is very saddened by the death of our Financial Secretary, Alice Bacon, on April 16, 2003. Alice has been our secretary for quite awhile and has been quite active in all council affairs and activities. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

For our final meeting before the summer months we had a combination Picnic meeting where all of our members each prepared a covered dish of all delicious foods and deserts, as well as drinks. All enjoyed the day and prepared for the summer days of fun and relaxation.

Oct 12 of this year will bring to us our 90th Anniversary as a Council and all our members are preparing and are excitingly awaiting this special occasion.

St. George's Parish again held its Parish Bazaar in June and we are happy to say that Irene Ozalis, Lillian Greymas, Victor Stepalovitch, Ausra Maknys, Stephany Gutauskas, Irene Sarcewicz, Stanley and Irene Petraitis, all members of C-3 participated in this great event.

C-74 Scranton, PA Marie Laske

Our last meeting opened with a prayer in Lithuanian by Leona Bozenko. We discussed how we could enlist more members.

Richard Laske read an article about the election of the new Lithuanian President - very interesting. Helen Cravath, Judge of Elections, was absent as she was checking the voting machines.

We sent a donation to Loretta Stukas

for the Lithuanian boy who has bone cancer.

We discussed our Mass at St. Ann's Basilica - July 26. John Mankus will be lector. We hope to get many of our K of L'ers to attend.

Ruth Yanish closed our meeting with a prayer.

Nathan Stebbins, Marie Laske's grandson, was the Sr. Patrol Leader at the Veteran Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre. Senator Arlen Specter was there. Nathan is 13 years old and working on his Eagle badge. He always helps out with our Kucios, along with his cousins.

My son-in-law, Charles Georgio who always helped at the Kucios died, unexpectedly, with a heart attack. He was father of 5. Pray for him. He will be greatly missed. Msgr. Peter Madus said that it was the largest turn out that he had ever seen at St. Jos. Church. Charles was a teacher and liked by all.

C-144 Anthracite Ona

Once again we prepare for our Annual Lithuanian Days which will be held Aug 9 and, this year, at the Schuylkill Mall in Frackville. Peter Teresavage is Chairman. This is our 89th consecutive Lithuanian Day, started in 1914 to bring together all Lithuanians. Our council continued to uphold the tradition.

Congratulations to Sr. M. Angela, CJC, on her Golden Jubilee with the Sisters of Jesus Crucified. We pray that she will have many more healthy and happy years in the Service of God.

God's blessings, too, to our newly ordained Lithuanian priest, Fr. Christopher Zelonis, a member of Saint Casimir's Church in St. Clair was ordained June 7th.

Our Humanitarian Aid Committee, under the leadership of Bernice Mikatavage still does a great job in aiding the poor, old, and needy in Lithuania. Much of our Lithuanian Day money goes to this project. We also support the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome.

A donation has been sent to the Marian Fathers for the restoration of Holy Trinity Church in Vilnius where the original painting of Our Lady of Mercy hangs.

Our Cultural Chairperson, Mary Koons, continues to present a cultural report at each meeting. She also has members sing one Lithuanian song or hymn.

Lithuanian Affairs Chairman also presents a good report each meeting. He keeps well-abreast of all Lithuanian news.

President Larry Domalakes heads a drive to obtain new young members. He encourages all members to try to obtain these. He brings new ideas to the council.

We hope to see many of you on Aug 9 and 10. We promise you a happy Lithuanian experience.

Mid Atlantic District

C-29 Newark, NJ Rita

Labas from C-29. We are all really happy to finally come out of our snowbound deep freeze in the Northeast. It restricted travel for some of our members, therefore, we look forward to Spring and our having all come out of hibernation.

Feb 2 our Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson, Vytautas Miknevičius, hosted our commemoration of Lithuanian Independence at our regular

monthly meeting. Feb 16, Holy Trinity, along with our sister church, Church of the Epiphany, held a combined Mass, celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. George Lutz. Honorary Members Loretta Stukas and Rita Sussko, in Lithuanian dress, along with C-29 President, Harold Kaminskas, carried Lithuanian gifts in procession. Young men from the Portugese Boy Scout Troop were our flag bearers. Following Mass, refreshments were served in the church hall.

Our St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast was particularly a joy for us this year. Five of our members were awarded their 3rd Degree; namely, Nijole and Vytautas Miknevičius, Frank Pokol, Edward Rimelis, and Helen Sisak. Msgr. Lutz blessed and awarded their medals at Mass and C-29 Ritual Chairperson, Ann O'Neill presented their certificates at the meeting which followed. Congratulations to well-deserving members.

On March 30, Loretta Stukas, Francis Stankus (our newest member) and Rita Sussko attended the Mid Atlantic District Meeting, at which time Rita presented Cathy Nakrosis, Becky Pataki, and Antoinette Sakal with their 3rd Degrees.

On Palm Sunday, our Ohio members, Consuella and Chester Karchefsky celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a Mass followed by a reception at Fairport Yacht Club, attended by 120 relatives and friends. We wish them a Healthy Happy 50 and many more.

Palm Sunday is the day of C-29's annual Cake Sale, chaired by our ever-efficient Mary Honeyman. Proceeds from the cake sale and luncheon are donated to Holy Trinity Church. Unfortunately, Mary is now hospitalized. We pray for a speedy recovery for her and for Brone Venckus who is also hospitalized. Brone is now

a resident of Hunterdon Care Center. Long-distance member Clara Schiavo from California became seriously ill while visiting her family members in NJ, but, Thank God, she is back home and doing well.

We lost 2 of our long-time members - Walter Sharon and Bronius Sudzinskas. They will be missed. May they rest in peace!

C-29 is looking forward to another successful year and with our fellow Knights a HAPPY, HEALTHY year ahead!

C-110 Maspeth, NY Bruno Rutkunas

Our Council was fully represented at the Veterans Memorial Day Parade, displaying our Lithuanian colors and banners. We were extra careful marching behind a few horses who left their marks on Grand Avenue!

The membership approved a donation to Sister Dolerita who was leaving to do her charitable relief work for the orphans in Lithuania. Also a monetary retirement gift for Rev. Stasys Raila retirement to Putnam, CT.

We were made aware that Pastor Ted Rooney of Transfiguration Church will be transferred in the very near future to another local parish; we again voted to donate a very generous gift for him, thanking him for his guidance, while wishing him all the best in his new endeavor.

Our regular June meeting was postponed; the hall was being used for a few important church events. We will have the "end of year" party in September and also have the Supporting the Knights raffle drawing then. A catered luncheon will be served at a moderate cost to all members and guests.

A donation to Aid To Lithuania was authorized unanimously by the

membership; Rev. Vytautas Volek closed out our successful May meeting with a prayer for our continued dedication to God and Country.

C-136 Hudson-Mohawk Dorothy Richmire

The calendar tells us Spring has arrived; however, Mother Nature is still reluctant to present us with warm, sunny days. The rain and cool weather have forced us to continue wearing sweaters, jackets and even rain hats and umbrellas. Perhaps June will find us in shorts and short sleeves, we hope.

Our annual Festival of Nations at the museum was a great hit. Those that attend have discovered our Lithuanian goodies and they keep coming back every year for more and they encourage their friends and relatives to come to our booth. As usual, we ran out of food by the end of the day. Many thanks to all who worked to make the day successful.

Looking forward to upcoming events - July 12-Banquet/Picnic at Lynn Hayner's summer cottage; July 19 - Darius-Girenas 70th anniversary in New York City; July 27-Lithuanian picnic in Putnam, CT; A bus will be available; Aug 14-17 K of L Convention in Dedham, MA; Sept 28 - Lithuanian Days at Auriesville Shrine; Nov 2 - Festival of Nations-Albany Empire Plaza.

Don't forget to send a card to those on the sick list: Helen LaPierre, Frank Zebuda and Margaret Sheehan. Get well wishes to you.

Don't be discouraged, it is often the last key on the ring that opens the lock.

C-152 E. Long Island Charlene Miele Zorskis

In April we attended the MidAtlantic District Meeting in Maspeth, NY. 3 of our members received their 3rd Degrees: Delbert Vance, Agnes Dunn and

Antoinette Sakal. Congratulations to all!

In March we celebrated St. Casimir's Feast Day with a Mass and a covered dish at our regular meeting.

Beatice and Fred Lucka celebrated 52 years of wedded bliss. We all wish them many more.

Loretta Rhinow, a member of our council for 19 years, passed away on June 24. A ceremony was conducted by our chaplain Tom Tarmey and council members.

On our Sept meeting we will hold a Chinese auction.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Mid America District

C-82 Gary, IN

Our able President, Joanna Rudzevicius is chair for our 6th annual Outdoor Mass and Picnic at the VFW on Sept 14th. Since our St. Casimir Church closed in May, '98, our Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. I. Urbonas HM honors us with the traditional annual Outdoor Mass, assisted by Sr. Janine Golubickis, SSC.

Faustas Strolia HM of C-157 shares his time and talents on the organ. Terry Strolia and Ann Marie Kassel further enrich the event.

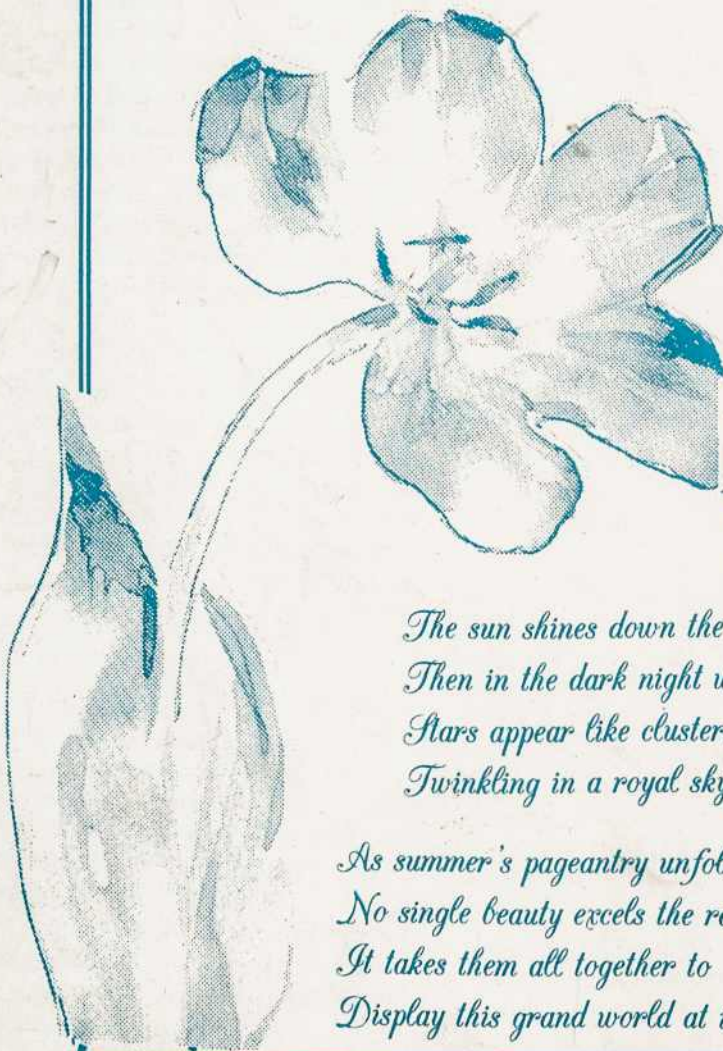
During a delicious catered meal, Bronius Muras provides music unparalleled.

When Lithuanian-Americans are located all over NW Indiana - and no Lithuanian church in Indiana in sight - the K of L activities such as the Outdoor Mass and picnic provide a vehicle for cohesion, renewing friendships, and enlarging memories. As our news continues to carry further closings of Lithuanian parishes throughout the nation, may we persevere to maintain our Lithuanian heritage!

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Summertime's Reign

Virginia K. Oliver

*When summertime has come to reign,
 All nature seems to understand
 That competition of the best
 Is taking place throughout the land.*

*The birds sing out their sweetest tunes,
 The trees and grass parade their green,
 Flowers lift their faces up
 So their perfection may be seen.*

*The sun shines down the brightest rays,
 Then in the dark night way up high,
 Stars appear like clustered jewels
 Twinkling in a royal sky.*

*As summer's pageantry unfolds,
 No single beauty excels the rest;
 It takes them all together to
 Display this grand world at its best.*