



Vytis ~ The Knight

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"Way to Go, Knights!"



K of L Sports Committee Reinstated

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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.

Contents ~ Turinys

<i>To My Fellow Knights</i>	2
<i>Message from Our President</i>	3
<i>Lith. Roman Catholic Priests'</i>	
<i>League Appeal</i>	4
<i>Scholarship Thank You's</i>	5
<i>Someone You Should Know</i>	6
<i>Novena for Priests</i>	6
<i>K of L Foundation Winning Essay</i>	7
<i>Reaching Out... ATL Report</i>	8
<i>Special Letter to the Editor</i>	15
<i>Sports Committee Reinstated</i>	16
<i>"Trys Tigrāi" (Three Tigers)</i>	16
<i>Nāslaitēs Rauda (Orphan's Lament)</i>	18
<i>In Memoriam</i>	19
<i>Tid-Bits of Convention News</i>	20
<i>Knight Life</i>	21
<i>Council News</i>	25

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Holy Mary, most loving Virgin, (Lady of Siluva), receive the unceasing prayers of your children: lift up the fallen, set aright the straying, encourage the fearful, strengthen the faint-hearted, so that we may always bring you praise, Mother of God most high whom we revere.

"Live in the company of the most gracious Mother Mary."  
- St. Catherine of Siena -



*To My Fellow Knights*



As you read this issue, it will again be November and Thanksgiving; however, this year Lithuania has already been invited to NATO. Last year at this time we were working to make the possibility a reality. The membership continues to successfully help the Lithuanian people through many ongoing projects under our motto "For God and country," and the future challenges us to more.

During the wonderful convention (Where it all Began) in Brockton, we celebrated ninety memorable, exciting and historic years as the Knights of Lithuania organization. May we work diligently now to prepare for the K of L Centennial.

*Happy Thanksgiving* and a fruitful, tranquil advent season of both outward and spiritual preparation for Christmas.

*Sister M. Janine*



**VYTIS REMINDERS FROM THE EDITOR**

*Articles for VYTIS* should be sent composed and complete. We can edit, but cannot assume responsibility for composition, nor can we guarantee return of photos. Finished articles sent earlier will be published in a timely fashion. Your contributions are appreciated.

***PLEASE CONTINUE 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.

Thank you for your cooperation.

***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 November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Dear Members,

It is with great pride that I am able to offer congratulations for a job well done by our Convention Hosts – Council 1 Brockton. Our hosts were most hospitable to all the delegates and made everyone feel most welcome. The cultural evenings, were a delight to behold. We hold our champagne glasses high and offer a congratulatory toast to all the talented singers and musicians who entertained us in such a glorious manner!

It was certainly a great honor and privilege to share the banquet table with Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas and his lovely wife Loreta. It was also a pleasure to be in the company of our distinguished Friend of Lithuania, Dr. Kenneth M. Leavitt.

Best wishes and congratulations to our newest Honorary Members – Nellie Bayoras Romanas, Rev. William Wolkovich-Valkavičius and Rev. Anthony J. Zakarauskas.

The Supreme Council has been notified that the members of Council 1 Brockton have decided to waive reimbursement for those specific Convention expenses which are normally the responsibility of the Supreme Council. The members of Council 1 have made this donation in memory of two of their members – George Bumila, Sr. and Rev. Al Abracinskas – who died during the planning of this Convention. The Supreme Council extends a hearty “Labai Ačiū – Thank you” to all the members of Council 1 Brockton for this most gracious and generous gesture.

We are now well into the new K. of L. year. All District and Council elections of Officers and Committees should have already taken place. All Recording Secretaries are reminded to send in the names and addresses of their Officers for the current term of 2003 – 2004 to the National Recording Secretary. It is necessary to have this information up to date. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important matter.

The members of Council 90 Kearny are busily formulating plans for the 91<sup>st</sup> Convention to be held in Secaucus, NJ next August 4 – 8. Mark your calendars and plan to be in attendance. Look for specific detailed plans in forthcoming issues of Vytis.

The Supreme Council met in Philadelphia on October 11. I am happy to say that we had a very informative and productive meeting. Please be assured that your Officers and Committee Chairs take their responsibilities very seriously and all do their very best for the good of the entire Knights of Lithuania organization.

Join your Knights of Lithuania friends on a 10-day Baltic Heritage Cruise beginning June 18, 2004. Look for details elsewhere in the Vytis.

Just a Reminder:- Calls are still needed to members of Congress to help save the Baltic VOA (Voice of America) and RFE/RL (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty) services.

Until next time, have a Happy and Glorious Thanksgiving Day with all your family and friends. We thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us. Also, on All Soul's Day remember all our dear K. of L. friends who are no longer with us.

*Vytiškai,*



*Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.  
President*

*Thanks from the Basilica of the  
Immaculate Conception in  
Washington, DC...*



I am happy to acknowledge receipt of \$790 from the members of the Knights of Lithuania for the maintenance of Our Lady of Siluva Chapel in the Basilica's upper church. I am grateful to the Knights of Lithuania for their loyalty in maintaining this beautiful chapel.

Please convey my thanks to all those members who made donations at the recent 90<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Dedham, Massachusetts.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Bransfield,  
Rector*

~~~~~  
*Appeal from the Lithuanian Roman
Catholic Priests' League of
America...*

August 25, 2003

Garbe Jezui Kristui!

We write to ask your help in a very important project to aid the Church of Lithuania.

At our Priests' League Convention in October of 2002, the Bishops of Lithuania, through Bishop Eugenijus Bartulis, Ordinary of the diocese of Siauliai, asked us to help finance the publication of the *Lithuanian Language "Breviary,"* Liturgy of the Hours, for the priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and seminarians of Lithuania.

Some older priests in Lithuania use a Latin "Breviary." Others do the best they can with an English, German or other language "Breviary,"

but many, especially younger priests with no "Breviary" in their own language, feel unable to pray the official prayer book of the Church, and are left to praying the Psalms or reciting the Rosary.

With the monumental Lithuanian translation of the Old Testament by Msgr. Antanas Rubsys, and the publication of the entire Bible in Lithuanian in 1997, the preparation of the Lithuanian "Breviary" has been made possible, and is now nearing completion.

All donations will be welcome. The General Secretary of the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference has assured us that in the Lithuanian "Breviary" there will be printed a memorial page, "IN MEMORIAM" requesting a prayerful remembrance for all donors. Those who have donated \$5,000 or more will be listed on this "IN MEMORIAM" page. Kindly respond by December 8, 2003, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to allow for printing deadlines.

Many of us plan a monument of stone in the cemetery. How much more spiritually consoling also to have a "MEMORIAL OF PRAYER" in the hearts and on the lips of those who will pray the "Breviary" in Lithuanian for decades to come.

Your gift will be most appreciated. We invite you to consider making a major donation for the publication of this Lithuanian "Breviary." Your help to priests and religious in Lithuania will do much for the spiritual renewal of the Church in Lithuania, and provide you with a living MEMORIAL of prayer.

Together with the priests and faithful of Lithuania, we pray every grace and blessing upon you, your loved ones, and your apostolic works.

Rev. John E. Rikteraitis

"Breviary Appeal" chairman

For information call: 1(860)956-1661

Rev. Msgr. Albert Contons, President

Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests' League of America

For information call: 1 (781)834-4079

Donations can be mailed to:

Rev. John Rikteraitis

1039 Maple Ave.

P. O. Box 341361

Hartford, CT 06134-1361

Scholarship Thank You's...



I am deeply honored and grateful to the Scholarship Committee for awarding me the Sviklas and Tamulevich Memorial Scholarship. Your financial support not only helps in defraying the cost of my education, but also inspires me to do well in my efforts to become a pharmacist.

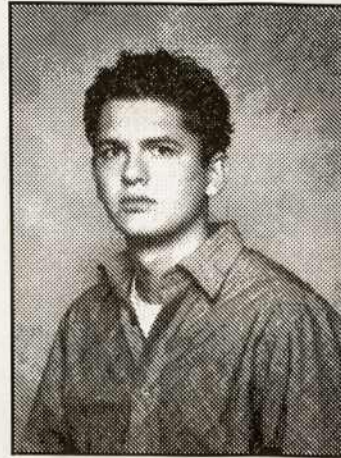
As a member of C-112 Juniors since second grade, I have been privileged to be part of a great community which has not only nurtured the love of my heritage, but also helped instill religious values. I am grateful to Father Tony Markus, who puts together the yearly *Our Lady of Siluva* pageant in which I have participated continuously since second grade. I am especially grateful to Mrs. Maria Deksnis, who has tirelessly worked with us Juniors, making participation in the K of L fun and exciting. I am also very grateful to my parents, for without them, their help, their inspiration and guidance, I would not be who I am today.

The Knights of Lithuania have been an integral part of the foundation on which my life has been built. I am proud to be a member and I can only hope that in return, by my actions and deeds, you will be equally proud to have me as a member.

I feel truly blessed and honored by the K of L for the generous scholarship. Thank you!

Sincerely,

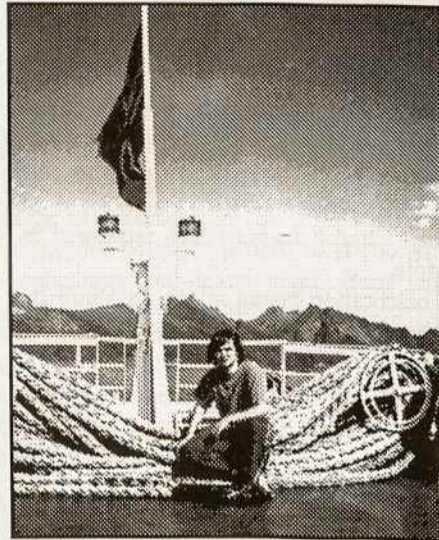
~Alina R. Meile~



I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for choosing me as the recipient of the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council Scholarship. I was very excited and delighted to receive this award. It will be an enormous help for me in paying for the college expenses like books, dues and travel. I am now a freshman in Rhode Island College and hoping to attain a degree in graphic design. This award will aid me to earn a college degree and become a productive member of society. I would like to thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

~Povilas Mecys~



Albert Miliauskas, also a recipient of a K of L scholarship is pictured here during his year of study in Lithuania. In this photo, he is on a ship passing through Norway. Albert's thank you appeared in a previous issue of the *Vytis*.



Someone You Should Know..

Novena for Priests



Four generations of the Vincent and Florence Morkus family celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary.

In this day and age, it is surprising that a couple's marriage reaches the fifth anniversary. We are very proud of two of our members, *Vincent and Florence Morkus*, who celebrated their 57th anniversary, with a Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Hartford, requested by their children.

The celebration began at the seashore this past summer. Four generations, ages 1 to 86, enjoyed the water, kayaking, biking, soccer, outdoor barbecues, etc. Of course, Vin and Flo especially enjoyed reading to their great-granddaughter. Their family certainly has been blessed, and we look forward to congratulating them when they reach their 60th anniversary.

~Council 6, Hartford, CT~

**Jesus, Good Shepherd,
You sent the Holy Spirit to guide your Church
and lead her faithful to You through the ministry of Your priests
Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,
Grant to Your priests Wisdom in leading,
Faithfulness in teaching,
And holiness in guarding Your sacred Mysteries.**

**As they cry out with all the faithful,
"Abba, Father!"**

**May your priests be ever more closely identified with You in Your divine Sonship
And offer their own lives with You, the one saving Victim.
Make them helpful brothers of one another
And understanding fathers of all Your people.**

**On this Sunday, renew in Your priests deeper faith,
Greater trust in You,
Childlike reliance on our Mother Mary,
And unwavering fidelity to the Holy Father and his bishops.**

**Holy Mary, intercede for our priests,
St. Joseph, protect them,
St. Michael, defend them,
St. John Vianney, pray for them.**

(With Ecclesiastical Approval
Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, CSC
Bishop of Peoria
@2003)

~~~~~  
**Correction:** In the recent July-August Vytis issue on page 16, under the picture of Bill and Ann Leseman at the Parade of Nations, it should read, Council 26, kitchen.

The article on page 24, "Birds of Lithuania" was submitted by Leona Sawka, but credit for writing the article should be given to Dalia Dzikas.

We apologize for these errors.



## *This Year's First Prize Winning Essay...*

### **COUNCIL 102 - DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

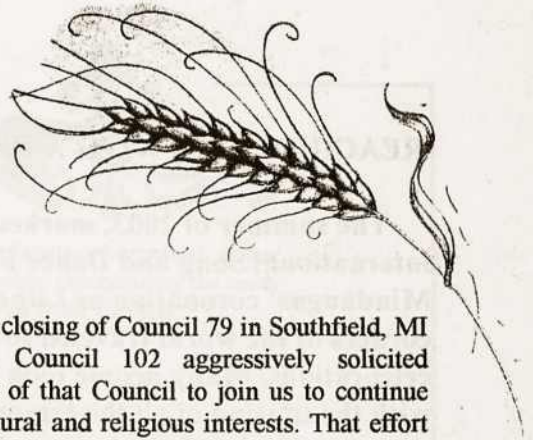
Council 102 of the Knights of Lithuania is a proud member of the Mid-Central District and is celebrating 83 years of membership in the Knights.

We were honored to have hosted the National Convention in 1995, where our good friends and fellow K of L members, Frank Petrauskas and Faustas Strolia were awarded Honorary Membership Medals.

Council 102 has had its own members receive such honors, including Rev. Boreisis and Anna Mae Uznis, both now deceased, and Bob Boris. Bob is the Chairman of the Board of Aid to Lithuania, Inc., the organization he founded in the Knights, and which has been responsible for the shipment of medical supplies and humanitarian aid to Lithuania. Bob was honored by the President of Lithuania, with the medal of Gediminas for his work with Aid to Lithuania, Inc. Regina Juska-Svoba, the President of Aid to Lithuania, Inc., is an active member of Council 102, and dedicates much of her time to St. Anthony's Parish, home of our Council. Regina continues to add the leadership efforts needed to bring relief to the people of Lithuania through ATL. Vince Boris, now deceased, was Chairman of the K of L Lithuanian Affairs Committee and was a long time member of Council 102.

Council 102, together with ATL, rescued the contents of St. Peter's Lithuanian Parish in Detroit upon its closing, and arranged to have it shipped to Lithuania where a special chapel was dedicated to the people of Detroit for their generosity. This included pews, statuary, altars and an organ.

As the home council for Aid to Lithuania, Inc., Council 102 supplies many of the dedicated volunteers serving in responsible positions as officers and board members for ATL and reaches thousands of donors through publications, news articles and personal contact, in order to raise the funds needed to ship medical supplies, donate humanitarian aid to desperate organizations, and support the education of seminarians in Lithuania.



With the closing of Council 79 in Southfield, MI recently, Council 102 aggressively solicited members of that Council to join us to continue their cultural and religious interests. That effort has been very successful and many of those members are with us today. Council 102 is working toward continuing the proud cultural and national interests of Lithuania which the Knights began so many years ago and prevails today. As with many other councils, 102 has aging population, all of whom have been K of L members for many years. We try to instill in our children and in their children, the need to continue to maintain an attachment to their Lithuanian roots. With that attachment comes the knowledge of the culture and heritage of a strong and lasting history that has survived adversity at the hands of dictatorships, attacks by ambitious fellow nations, and desires to dominate our spiritual homes with unholy ends. None of these attacks have been successful, and Lithuania continues to exist and faces a positive future.

Council 102 faces new and exciting challenges brought about by our on-going pursuit for new members. There are many aged members who need consoling and assistance in living their daily lives with dignity. Knights are in a position to grant this help with visits, transportation, financial and personal attention. This type of involvement can go a long way to encourage our younger people to participate in such endeavors and learn much from current members of the Knights of Lithuania.

*~by Michael B. Shea  
Council 102*

~~~~~  
Easy credit plan: 100% down, nothing to pay each month.

Yes! I am going to marry him! He's tall, dark and "has some."

Lord, make my words sweet and reasonable. Some day I may have to eat them.

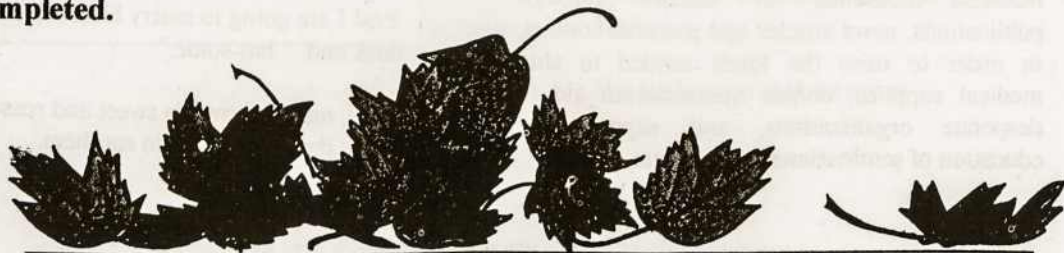
REACHING OUT WITH A HELPING HAND- ATL MEETINGS IN LITHUANIA

The summer of 2003, marked two significant events in Lithuania- the international Song and Dance Festival and the 750th anniversary of King Mindaugas' coronation as Lithuania's first and only king. Spectators from all four corners of the world traveled to witness the events and participate in the celebrations. Many people took excursions to visit Lithuania for the first time. Along with the touring of all the famous historical and cultural treasures of Lithuania, there are many other places and projects that the average traveler tourist does not ever observe.

For nearly the last 13 years the K of L organization's ancillary arm of "Aid to Lithuania, Inc. (ATL) existence, and with the support of many member's financial donations, we have been able to assist and promote many of the requested projects in Lithuania.

The undersigned had the opportunity to witness first hand the day-to day activities of the various projects that ATL supports.

On July 2, 2003, the entire day was spent with ATL in-country representative and the director of the CARITAS programs deacon Balys Stankus. We visited and toured Mother's Teresa's homeless and emergency shelter and soup kitchen. At the present time 27 men (first floor) and 24 women(second floor) reside in the shelter. Nine residents occupy one room. The space is limited, and the resident keeps all his worldly belongings at the bedside. Those who do not have clothing can obtain the basic necessities from the clothing closet. There are separate kitchens on each floor, and every resident is responsible for meal preparation. The shelter is professionally disinfected on a monthly basis. There is a separate community room that is used for Masses, socializing and events and entertainment. The shelter employs three administrators, several volunteers, and in the near future, the seminarians studying at St. Joseph's will also volunteer to assist. All shelter residents sign a contract agreeing to abide by the shelter's rules and regulations. The average length of stay in the shelter is 30 days. It also depends if the individual finds employment, housing and become self-sufficient and independent. Currently the third floor of the shelter is empty. But during the winter months, mattresses are brought up so that more homeless persons may find a warm shelter from the cold. Last summer Vilnius was doused with torrential rains. There was much damage to the shelter- the basement windows were all broken out; doors, walls, ceilings, tiles, electrical wiring and beams were damaged. A plea for emergency assistance was made. ATL and other generous donors aided in the costs of repairs. A significant amount of the repair work has been completed.

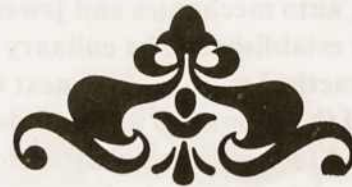




Sister Onute, pharmacist, at her computer, categorizing the meds received from CMMB.



Mother & Children's Center Sewing Room. Psychologist, Gintare and Caritas director Balys Stankus demonstrate machine usage.



Holy Cross Parish building used as warehouse for meds received on CMMB furniture from Germany.



Outside Mother & Children Home with Social worker, volunteer MD, and staff psychologist.



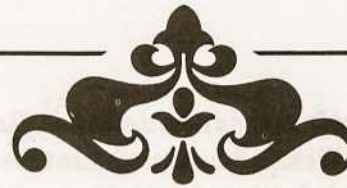
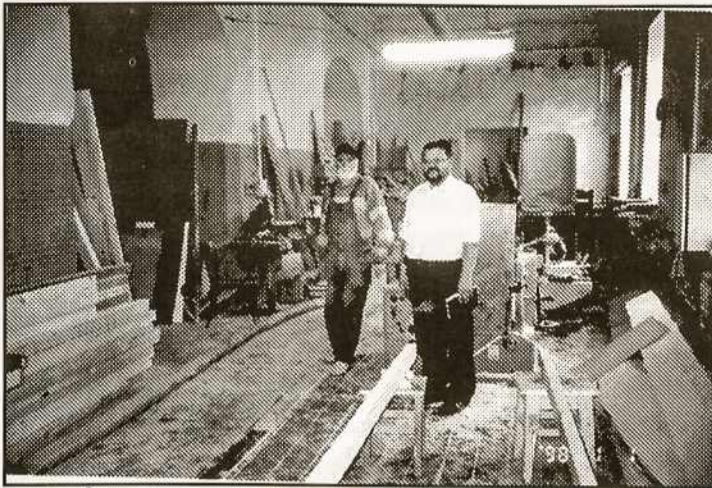
The residents who are not capable or able to prepare their own meals go to soup kitchen located next to the shelter. Mother Teresa's sisters and volunteers prepare and serve the meals. They also treat the residents who have minor medical problems. At the present time six sisters work at the emergency shelter and soup kitchen: 2 from Poland, 2 from India, one from Belgium and one from Hungary. They are assisted by two volunteers. The soup kitchen feeds approximately 100/day, and the shelter medically treats 25-50/day.

We visited the CARITAS pharmacy and spoke with pharmacist Sister Onute. She gave a tour of the small pharmacy and thanked ATL for her computer which is used to categorize all medications received from Catholic Medical Mission Board or elsewhere. She determines the medication and medical supply distribution to the hospitals, clinics, pharmacies and shelters.

The Vilnius Handicraft Center (Trade School) was visited next. Kestutis, the center's director gave an extensive tour and explanation about the progress made since the Center's opening in 2001. Currently 18 students from large families, those who are somewhat physically or mentally challenged and some adults study and live in the facility. Their living quarters are located on the third floor. The trade school has established and started the following programs: culinary, wood carving, art and furniture restoration, sewing, knitting, crocheting, metal work, printing, electrical works, auto mechanics and jewelry repairs. In the near future a computer program will be established. The culinary program is by far the most popular of the studies. The practical work is done next door at the Betanija Soup Kitchen. Local masters of each of the programs teach students. For effective training only three students are assigned to each master instructor. The average training program lasts two years.

There was an opportunity to speak with the local people who come to the Betanija Soup kitchen. On a daily average the soup kitchen feeds 600 people. It is opened daily. A volunteer physician visits weekly to examine and treat patients who have medical ailments. During the holidays (Christmas and Easter) Cardinal Backis visits, dines and interacts with the people. The soup kitchen is clean and modest.

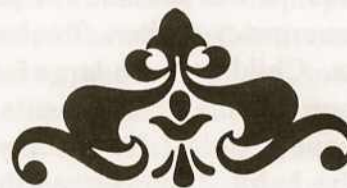
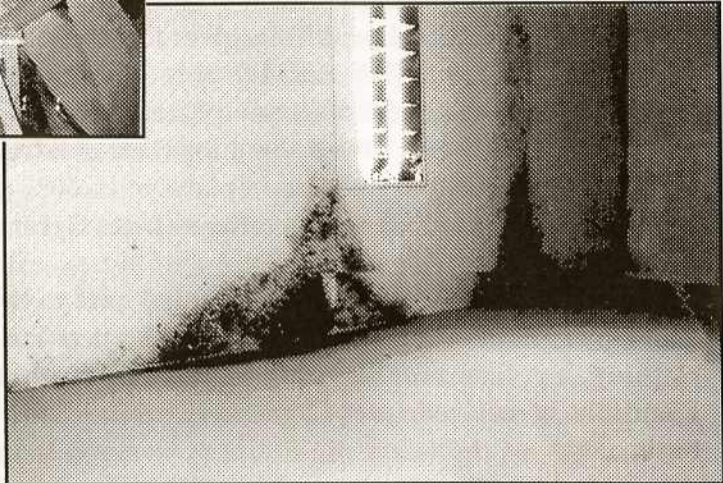
The Mother and Children's Home was next seen. At the present time 10 mothers and 18 children and three pregnant girls reside in the home. The youngest girl is aged 15, while the oldest is 29. There was a chance to speak with some of the moms and children. It is evident that the mothers love and have a special bond with their children. They are concerned about them and their future. There is a communal kitchen wherein the mothers prepare the meals for themselves and their children. Also, there is a community room which is used as a family room, playroom and special events area. A sewing room is located on the second floor where the mothers can learn to sew clothing for themselves and their children. They can also learn to knit and crochet. The Mother and Children's Home employs one staff psychologist, and four social workers. Two doctors and several university medical and social



Trade School director, Kestutis, and volunteer in the carpentry area.



All Saints Parish building. Example of prevalent black mold found throughout the Center.



Trade school student presents Regina Juska/Svoba a stained glass picture he just completed. "Vilnius" view:

Donation given to Venclovas, director of Mother Theresa Homeless and ER shelter.



students volunteer their services. Rev. Joseph provides moral and religious support to the families. When a new mother with child or pregnant girl arrives at the Home, a contract is initiated with them within the first month. The mothers receive work instruction for independent skills and meal preparation instruction. The psychologist works closely with the mother to determine her and her child's problems or crises. She assists in document preparation for financial assistance and helps rebuild relationships with family and friends. The physician treats the mothers and children's medical problems, gives lectures on health, hygiene, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and AIDS. It is interesting to note that most of the children's fathers are from Germany, and it is difficult if not impossible to obtain any financial assistance from them for their children (there is no Friend of the Court of Child Support system in place yet). 50% of the mothers are Lithuanian born, and 50% are Lithuanian citizens from Germany and Poland.

The gently used clothes closet is located next to the Mother and Children's Home. The facility is small yet clean and is run by two female volunteers. Gently used clothing, bed linens and toys are donated by local parishes and individuals. Furniture is received from Germany. Families can receive assistance on a quarterly basis only.

The new CARITAS All Saints parish program was next seen. In 05/03, the project was assigned by Cardinal Backis. The parish is located in a highly trafficked poor area near the bus station. The program consists of a day center and a temporary emergency shelter. Twelve youth (6 boys and 6 girls) aged 14-18, reside in the shelter. Children from large families, families with drug problems, and neglected/abused home environments are placed in the shelter. Some of the children themselves have chemical dependency problems. Glue sniffing is prevalent as it is an inexpensive habit. They attend the local school. While at the shelter the youth learn independent living skills. They clean and maintain their surrounding area and are responsible for their clothing and food preparation. The director and social worker make valiant attempts to work with the parents to reunite the families, but oftentimes are unsuccessful, and the children may reside in the home for up to 3 years. Various activities, groups, sports and pastimes are encouraged. The shelter and day center employs one director and three social workers. A volunteer cook helps with meal preparations. The physical appearance outside and inside of the day center is utmost disturbing. Black mold (pelesai) are prevalent everywhere- walls, ceilings, floor. There is a strong profuse musty odor throughout the center which poses a danger to the staff and children. An emergency request has been made for financial aid to assist in alleviating the danger.

On Thursday, July 3, St. Joseph's Seminary was visited. The current rector assigned in Rev. Robertas Salasevicius, and his assistant is Rev. Albertas. As Father Robertas was out of the country, Rev. Albertas updated the seminary program and activity. Presently there are 56 clerics from Vilnius (23), Kasiadoriu (14) and

Panevezio (14) dioceses studying at the seminary. All are Lithuanian citizens. There is one guest seminarian from Belgium and two guest seminarians from the Ukraine furthering their studies. ATL supporters have "adopted" 17 seminarians by financing their room and board and education in the amount of \$2,000/year. The program lasts six years before a seminarian is ordained a priest. The program is intense, and the time passes quickly. It should be happily noted that during the last year, 4 seminarians have been ordained priests! The seminary has a young administration: Rev. Robertas, Rector, was born in 1974; his assistant Rev. Albertas, in 1972, and the spiritual advisor, Rev. Kestutis, in 1970. The youngest seminarian is 19 years old, while the oldest is 35 years old. During their free time the seminarians engage in various sports activities, act as pilgrim and visit parishes, serve as spiritual advisors and counselors in schools and social settings. During summer vacation they spend time at youth camps serving as spiritual advisors, others return home to their families, and others visit churches and lead pilgrimages.

Next we visited the Holy Cross parish where one of the buildings is utilized as a warehouse for the medical supplies and medications received from Catholic Medical Mission Board, from New York. The building is in need of repairs. The leaking roof, broken windows, and gaping cement floors were minimally repaired. No further repairs could be done due to lack of funding. Three large German Shepherds serve as guards to monitor the building from theft.

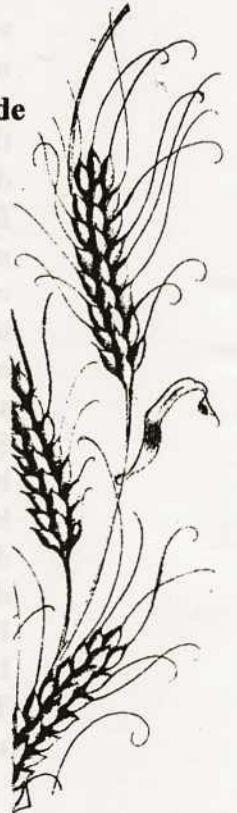
The archdiocese of Vilnius CARITAS program consists of 26 employees and 130 volunteers. The CARITAS program activities would be impossible to continue without the active and ongoing support of various organizations and individuals and private donors. Visiting the various programs ATL supports, it is evident that all the donations and financial support received from K of L members, councils, districts and individuals is well utilized to aid in Lithuania's less fortunate. Financial assistance from the local government is ever decreasing, while the ongoing maintenance of the programs, the expenses are always increasing. Due to the current situation, financial support is extremely necessary to continue the much needed and required programs. The Knights have *always* been supportive, generous and have come through whenever the call for need was made. Only with your support of the CARITAS programs, Vilnius Handicraft Center (Trade School) and St. Joseph's Seminary adopt a seminarian program, will the services continue and bring a brighter hope for tomorrow's future today. Please reach out and lend a helping hand to assist our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Lithuania. Every donation is much needed, welcomed and most appreciated. Your tax deductible donation can be sent to : Aid to Lithuania, Inc.. c/o Regina Juska-Svoba, 1594 Beaupre, Madison Heights, MI 48071-2622. For any questions, please do not hesitate to call: (248) 547-2859, or you may send an e-mail to: Rjuskasvoba@cs.com. Thank you for your continued support. Aciu uz nuolatine parama musu reikalingai veiklai!

Saturday, July 5, a conference “Karalius Mindaugas- krikscionis” (King Mindaugas- Christian) was hosted by Cardinal Juozas Backis. Over 100 dignitaries and guests were invited. Among them: LR President R. Paksas and his wife Laima, Vytautas Landsbergis and his wife, Algirdas Saudargas and his wife, bishop Paulius Baltakis, Bishop Boruta, noted professors, educators, clergy, Lithuanian Community President Vytautas Kamantas and his wife, correspondents from “Veidas” and “Elta.” Cardinal Backis greeted the guests and gave the invocation. The lectures were read by: Prof. E. Gudavicius- “Mindaugas ir Morta- pirmoji krikscioniu seima Lietuvoje” (Mindaugas and Martha- the first Christian family in Lithuania); dr. D. Baronas- “Karalius krikscionis Mindaugas popieziu akimis” (Christian King Mindaugas in the eyes of the popes); L. Jovaisa- “Mindaugo Kriksto laiku baznycia” (the Christian Church during Mindaugas’ time); Prof. A. Bublauskas- “Mindaugo Krikstas: regioninis ir universalus zvilgnis” (Mindaugas’ baptism- regional and universal retrospect); and V. Alsaukas- “Valstybes sventes ar istorijos pamokos: Mindaugo karunavimas, Vasario 16-oji ir Kovo 11-oji” (State holidays or historical lessons: the coronation of Mindaugas, Feb. 16th and March 11th). After the conference, in commemoration of King Mindaugas’ 750th anniversary of his coronation, Cardinal Backis presented awards of gratitude for aiding Lithuania. Among the 14 recipients - Bishop Boruta, Bishop P. Baltakis, Prof. V. Landsbergis, Prof. A. Bublauskas, “Elta” and “Veidas” correspondents, journalist P. Subacius, A. Saudargas, ATL founder and Chairman of the Board Robert S. Boris and current ATL president Regina Juska-Svoba.

There was an opportunity to meet and speak with Cardinal Backis privately concerning the continued support and ongoing commitment to the CARITAS programs, St. Joseph’s seminary program and the Vilnius Handicraft Center (Trade School).

All the meetings were beneficial and most informative and left many good and deep impressions.

Regina Juska-Svoba
President, Aid to Lithuania, Inc.



Dear Editor...

I was happy to make a motion at the 90th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, in which we encouraged our members to pray for the beatification of Mother Maria Kaupas, the Foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir.

I have been associated with the Sisters of St. Casimir from the day that I was born at Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago. I was taught by the Sisters at Immaculate Conception School, Nativity BVM School, and Maria High School.

My mother was taught by Mother Maria Kaupas and knew her very well. Mom prayed to Mother Maria, too, especially in the last few years of her illness.

As a young girl, I remember visiting the grave site of Mother Maria by the pine trees, since our family plot is next to the Sisters of St. Casimir in St. Casimir Cemetery. Now her remains have been transferred to a sarcophagus in the chapel of the Sisters' Motherhouse.

I also pray every first Saturday of the month at the 9:30 Mass at the Motherhouse, for the beatification of Mother Maria. You are cordially invited to join us for this Mass if you are living or visiting in Chicago, at 2601 West Marquette Road.

I feel that we are near to the beatification of Mother Maria Kaupas. She is a dedicated person to whom we can relate because of our Lithuanian heritage, and because she has lived during the past century.

I encourage our members to pray daily and also at their meetings for the beatification cause of Mother Maria Kaupas, SSC.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Anna Gercius

Council - 112

Please find the Prayer for the Beatification of Mother Maria printed in the right hand column of this page, for the use of our K of L members:



MOTHER MARIA KAUPAS

January 6, 1880 — April 17, 1940

Foundress

Sisters of Saint Casimir
Chicago, Illinois

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF MOTHER MARIA

O LOVING Jesus, we beseech You, grant that Your servant, Mother Maria, who was imbued with Your Eucharistic Presence while on earth, may through the intercession of Your Immaculate Mother and Saint Casimir, be glorified by visible signs and miracles; so that for Your glory and salvation of souls, she may, by Your power be declared Blessed.

Amen.

Imprimatur: April 9, 1943.

† Samuel A. Stritch
Archbishop of Chicago

All persons to whom any grace or favor may have been granted through the intercession of Mother Maria Kaupas are requested to kindly communicate the facts to:

General Superior
Sisters of St. Casimir
2601 W. Marquette Road
Chicago, IL 60629

Lithuanian Language and Public Relations at its Best...

On June 7th and 8th, the Lithuanian Sports Club of Connecticut sponsored a basketball tournament in Bridgeport, CT at Bridgeport University. K of L Lithuanian Chairperson, Laurynas Misevicius, put together teams from around the United States to compete in the tournament. There were over two hundred Lithuanians, both men and women, that participated in the tournament.

On Saturday evening, a get-together was well attended by 250 young people at St. Joseph's School Hall in Waterbury.

The basketball team representing the New England District came in 2nd place in the tournament. K of L shirts were donated by Joe Stiklius, publications' Director. The tournament proved to be very successful.

Then, the following week, Lithuanian opera singers gave a concert at St. Joseph's School Hall in Waterbury. This was well attended by over 300 people - another successful event turned in by Larry Misevicius.

Thanks to Larry, our heritage is well and active. This also gave us the opportunity to speak on behalf of the K of L to young and old as well. It is very rewarding to meet new friends and possible new K of L members.

~ Joseph V. Stiklius ~

"Trys Tigr'ai," ~ "Three Tigers" Lithuanian-American Tour in the USA

The world famous Lithuanian Opera singers, tenor, Virgilijus Noreika, baritone, Eduardas Kaniava, and bass, Vladimiras Prudnikovas, came to America for a concert tour in the middle of June, 2003. Accompanied by the "Black Panther" - mezzo soprano, Judita Leitaite, along with a well-known pianist, Nijole Ralyte-Prudnikoviene, the artists began their US tour with a performance at the Lithuanian Youth Center in Chicago, IL, followed by the June 14th performance in Lemont, IL. The next morning, they arrived at the East Coast for a Father's Day show in Waterbury, CT. Although the most

distinguished "Tiger," V. Noreika did not come to Chicago and Waterbury due to coincidental timing of the election for the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas), both concerts drew heavy crowds. June 21st marked the beginning of the "Lithuanian Days" at the Holy Child Jesus Parish in Richmond Hill, New York. The "Three Tigers" finally came out "in corpore" for their musical performance at the Rev. Murray School Auditorium provided by the Parish Pastor, Rev. Daniel S. Murphy. This was the first time for a Lithuanian-American community celebration in the area. Several hundred people gathered for the concert that night in spite of a heavy rainfall all over New York City. They cheered for a variety program of classical and popular favorites performed by the "Three Tigers," "Black Panther," and even V. and N. Prudnikovas' daughter, Ieva, who came onto the stage to sing as a surprise to many of us.

After a really remarkable show, we also enjoyed a delicious Lithuanian dinner, including our ever-famous "cepelinai" and "kugelis" made for everyone by a Lithuanian and Chek family of Karel and Danute Dvorak. Karel Dvorak was also celebrating his birthday at the time, and the singers, as well as the guests, sang "Ilgiausiu Metu," a popular Lithuanian tune resembling the English, "Happy Birthday to You."

The next morning a majority of the participants came to the 9 o'clock Mass at Holy Child Jesus Church where the Lithuanian Opera Stars now sang "Ave Maria" and other religious hymns for a multinational parish community. On Sunday evening, June 22nd, the "Three Tigers" gave their final concert in Ellizabeth, New Jersey, at the Lithuanian St. Peter and Paul Church Hall, thus concluding their US tour.

~ Larry R. Misevicius ~

The trouble with most sermons: They are addressed to people not in church.

Chivalry didn't die. It was killed by the women who failed to say, "Thank you."

When I told my wife that I wasn't myself today, she said she hadn't noticed the improvement.

Common sense doesn't appear to be all that common.

*Knight*¹⁹ *Life*



"Three Tigers" concert in New York: l to r. V. Noreika, E. Kaniava, V. Prudnikovas.



Lithuanian Opera singers at Holy Child Jesus, from left: V. Prudnikovas, their tour organizer and sponsor Loreta Welch, the Pastor, Rev. Murphy, J. Letaite and N. Ralyte-Prudnikoviene.

Naslaites Rauda

Algesį sugrįžtu į praeities laikus,
Kur dainos ir juokas skambėjo linksmi,
Kur saulute spionduliais puošė pasaulį,
Ir per langą žyprojos meilčiai.

Kur vėjelis medžių lapus,
Švelniai glostė iš ryto rasotus
Ir palangėje Motulės sodinti jurginų kerai,
Margaspalviais žiedais pasipuošę,
Taip gyvenimas plauks ramiai,
Rodos nieks neišdrįs sutrugdyti,
Išrauti tą laimę, iš gyvenimo raidos
Palikti tik skausmą krutinėj.

Neilgai teko tą laimę dalintis,
Ankstyvoj jaunystėje aptemo dangus
Pilki debesys pasislėpę tyrojo,
Uždengė saulės spindulius skaisčius.

Motule, kodėl mus palikai
Išsiskyrei iš šio jaukaus ratelio,
Kapu tylą pavyliojo tave
Paėmė mūsų džiaugsmą kartu.

Be tavęs buvo ilgu ir lūdna namuos,
Rodos laukiau, gal dar sugryši,
Bet kasdieną kartojo slegenti mintis,
Kad Tavęs jau daugiau nebematyčiau.

Su širdies sielvartu giliu,
Palikau Tėviškės namus,
Javais banquojančius laukus
Ir ošiančio miško šešėlius.

~Valeria Lėščinskienė~
Council 147
St. Petersburg, Florida



An Orphan's Lament

(A brief Translation of poem in left-hand column)

I return to the joy of the past
When the sun adorned the earth and smiled
lovingly through the window.

The blowing wind caressed the tree leaves
moistened by the morning dew.
How could anything eradicate this flowing peace
and leave but pain in the heart?

In my early youth, the heavens darkened and the
gray clouds covered the gentle rays of the sun.

Mother, why did you leave our happy circle?
The silence of the grave drew you and withdrew
our happiness, too.

It was lonely and lonesome without you. Daily I
grew to realize that I would see you no more.

With deep pain, I left my fatherland with the
swaying fields of grain and the shadows of the
rustling woods.

(A Lithuanian-speaking friend would provide a
more satisfying translation. The Lithuanian
language is gifted with colorful expressive
poetry and vividly descriptive expressions.
Volunteers to translate would be most welcome.
Please contact VYTIS).

BACK TO YESTERDAY

(Garnett Ann Schultz)

Oh, that we might walk again
Down memory lane so sweet,
Back to a treasured yesterday
When dreams were then complete;
Back to the land of school-day bliss,
No worries and no care,
To laugh and talk and fondly know
A happiness to share.

In Memoriam...

<i>Council</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
1	George Bumila	Raynham, Ma.	7/3/03
6	Mary Jacobs	Hartford, Ct.	7/27/03
7	Edmond Shukaitis	Waterbury, Ct.	7/20/03
7	Natalija Velicka	Waterbury, Ct.	7/2/03
12	Anthony Yacavonis	Rosedale, NY	7/30/03
17	Alexander Akule, H.M.	So. Boston, Ma.	7/03
29	Petre Pliskaitis	Newark, NJ	6/29/03
29	Mary Stunis	Union, NJ	7/13/03
29	Jennie Miklasavige	Newark, NJ	9/9/03
50	Anne Meskins	Hamden, Ct.	6/25/03
78	Kenneth Hobitz	Lawrence, Ma.	8/2/03
86	Thomas Metrovich	Dubois, Pa.	9/28/03
100	Eleanor Olechowski	Amsterdam, NY	7/6/03
112	Albert Kerelis	Palos Park, Il.	5/03

The souls of the just are in the hands of God,
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if in the sight of others, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them

and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
they shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.

Those who trust in him shall understand the truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love;
because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect. (Wisdom 3: 1-9)

Tid-Bits of Convention News



Tuesday morning, August 12th, we left our homes anxious to get to the Knights of Lithuania Convention held in Brockton, Massachusetts.

Had a smooth ride down, but finding the hotel took us a little extra time. Arrived without mishap, registered at the desk, received our keys and went to our rooms. Didn't bother to unpack. We were anxious to meet other K of L'ers. We went down to the lobby, had a great time meeting new people and asked who was going on specific trips and where?

Later, we went to lunch at the "Grille," which is in the hotel. We ordered sandwiches. When they arrived, they were so large, one could have served three people. Dessert time came, so only one of us ordered dessert, asking for three forks, but instead, the dessert was a small serving only for one. What a disappointment!

Wednesday morning my friends and I went to the New England Aquarium. We were fascinated to see the different species of fish—fell in love with an enormous turtle. Enjoyed seeing a short 3D film (getting educated) about the fish. After the movie, we decided to have a light lunch and then proceeded to see more fish—we acted like children instead of adults. Then, suddenly we had to leave.

After our tour, we went to visit Our Lady of Sorrows Convent and paid a visit to their beautiful Chapel. Then Sister also showed us their lovely dining room where we enjoyed some snacks. Late afternoon we went to a restaurant featuring Greek food, which was enjoyed by all.

Thursday morning we boarded a bus to attend Mass at St. Casimir's Church in Brockton. Following Mass we were treated to a "Special K" luncheon (Kugelis, Kielbasa and Kopustai). None of us left hungry!

Some of the wonderful cooks in the "Kitchen Krew" were: Donna Gustafson,

Rose Dooley, Mary Carlton, Doris Fralick, Thomas Green, Marilyn Yuskaitis, Constance Green, Diane DuBois and Florence Carnilla.

After lunch, we returned to the hotel and got down to serious business. After the conclusion to the sessions, we were treated to a Convention Get-Together Cocktail Hour. But, the best was left to the last. We were treated for an evening of Lithuanian fun. We were entertained by the "Sodauto Ensemble of Music and Dancing. Then, back to our rooms to finally rest for the next day. Where does the time go?

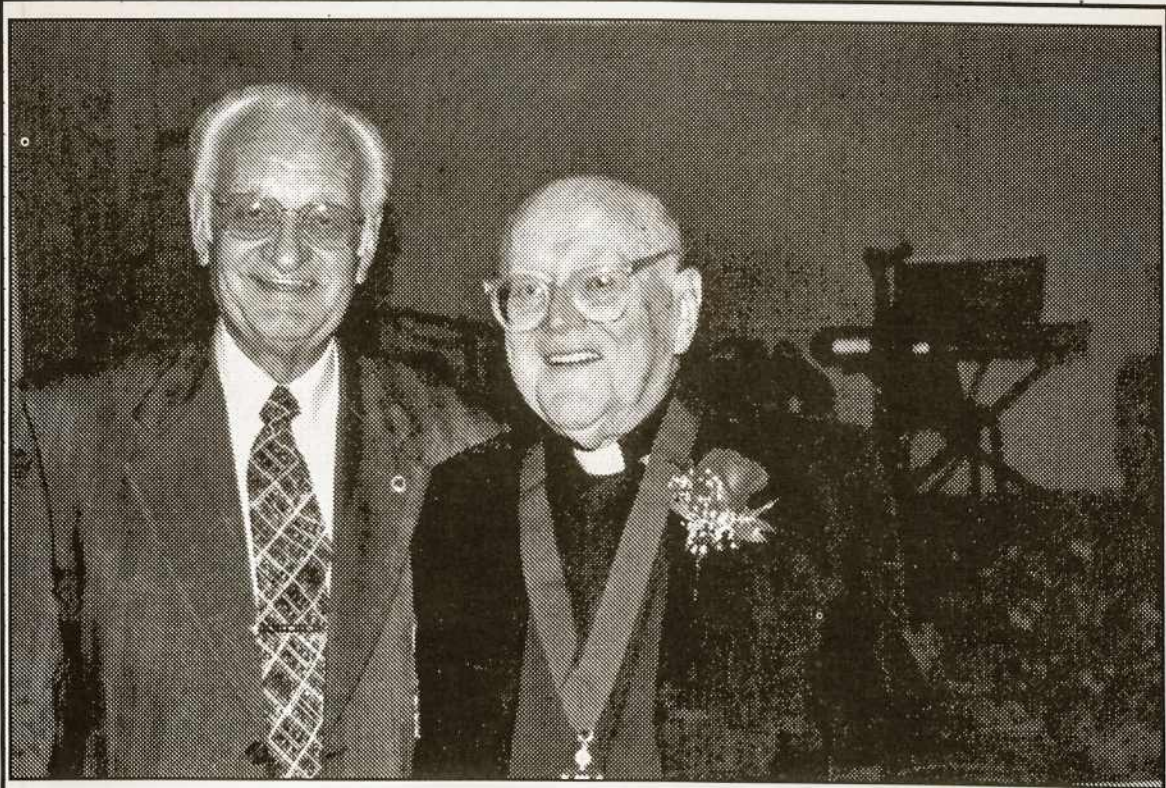
Friday morning we attended Mass at St. George's Church in Norwood. After the Mass we went back to business. After the session we were treated to a great lunch at the hotel. Of course, our day was not yet complete. A reception was held for the delegates. We were treated to hors d'ouvres and drinks - but, wait, that's not all. The best was yet to come. We attended a Cultural Extravaganza - we were treated to the most beautiful music of singing. We thought that we were at the opera. And, oh, the pianist! He was exceptional! But, that's not all - along came the champagne (for all present). What a night to remember!!!

Saturday morning we had Mass at the hotel. After the closing session, we were looking forward to our banquet. After the great food, presentations were held, and then came the music and dancing. A great evening.

Sunday morning we attended Mass at St. Casimir's Church. Medals were given to Fourth Degree Knights of Lithuania members. Shortly after Mass, we had our convention photo taken, then our farewell luncheon—back to the hotel to say good-bye to our new and old friends, and then sadly, yet happily, we all went our ways.

~"Queen" Victoria~





Frank Petrauskas, HM, Honorary Membership Committee chair, talks to Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas after the special dinner at which Father received his Honorary Membership Medal Award. About 100 people were in attendance. C-112



Martha Wanagaris, Nellie B. Romanas and Rev. Rokoz, congratulating Julia Atmonavage after receiving her Third Degree. Jean Kapochus and Frances Evans also joined the group. (C-143 - Putnam).

Knight Life



C-96, Dayton, OH, at a social gathering at Elena Mikalauskas' home. Seated L. to R.; Michael Petkus, Fran Petkus, Frances Mikalauskas. Standing: Alex Fletcher (Jr. Knight), George A. Mikalauskas, Marian & George Mikalauskas.

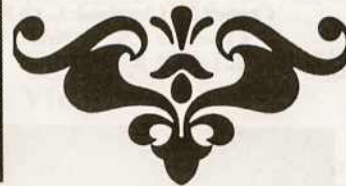


Council 112's Officers for 2003-4: Julie Zakarka, Edward Deksnis, Estelle Rogers, Anele Pocius, Ellie Kasputis, Louis Rogers, Leon Pauksta, Sister Johanna, Mary Ann Gercius, Antanas Pauzuolis, Andrea Deksnis and Al Moclus.

Knight Life



Linda M. Kapurch, daughter of Rita Kapurch, C-142, taken on her trip to Lithuania this summer, outside the Siaulai Cathedral. Rt. Rev. Eugenijus Bartulis, Bishop of Siaulai, was a guest several summers ago of C-142 while touring Washington



Millie Pietz, Council 12 with Mary Shalins, Putnam, Connecticut.



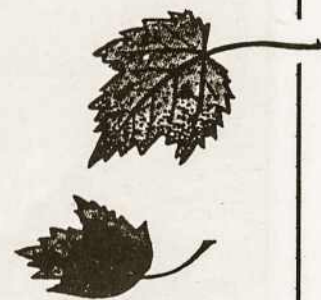
Knight's Life



Council 25, Cleveland. L. to R.: Stella Sankal, (Cleve.), Betty August (Ga.), Ursula Kunsitis (Willoughby Hills), Ben Karklius (Cleve.), Nelda & Charlie Mashutas (AZ), Gene Kunsitis, Photographer.



Council 26: L. to R. Tony and Danute Minor are watching President Vivian Rodgers present a surprise Birthday cake to Father John Petrauskas, our former Spiritual Advisor, who visited us at one of our recent meetings. He was celebrating his 87th Birthday.



District & Council **News**

New England District **Birželis**

The Big Event in New England this summer was the K of L National Convention hosted by the NED's own Council 1 in Dedham, MA. And what a fine job they did! The Plenary sessions were well-attended with over 100 delegates at each, with our own NED President Vivian Rodgers on the Presidium. Convention highlights were: At the Holy Day Mass, Fr. Wm. Wolkovich played on his violin the Hymn to Our Lady of Siluva, written by Faustas Strolia. There was a Heritage Night with the Sodauto Ensemble and a Cultural Night at which the tenors, trying to outdo one another, had the women in the audience swooning. And, of course, Maryté gave a magnificent operatic performance. All of this followed by a champagne toast to close the evening. Aciu, Council 1.

The NED Board Meeting met in early September at C-103 in Providence, RI, where its President Bertha Stoshkus and friends provided us with a delicious lunch. As usual, NED President Vivian Rodgers ran a well-organized meeting. When it was over, no one could believe it. Time just flew.

The NED Fall Convention took place at C-141 in Bridgeport, CT, on Sept 21, 2003. It opened with Holy Mass at the beautiful church of St. George, at which 6 recipients were presented with the 4th Degree medals: Gintare Ivaska, Helen Janiunas, Aldona and Peter Peters, all of C-141 and Irene & Michael Meizies of C-50. Mary Grosso was at the organ with Evita Orlinyte performing a violin solo of Schubert's Ave Maria. After a delicious lunch, Pres. Vivian Rodgers opened the session. Rev. Julio

Lopresti, Pastor of St. George, and Barbara Schmidt, the new President of C-141 extended greetings. The business of the convention got underway. Jim Rogers reported that there were 15 recipients and Camp Neringa of the Svicklas-Tamulevich Scholarship Fund. The delegates to the National Convention, Bertha Stoshkus and Linas Balsys, gave their reports. A donation was made to Fr. John Rikteraitis for the Priests of Lithuanian Breviary Fund. The Cultural Festival will take place at Maironis Park on Oct. 19, 2003 with the Vetra Dancers of New Haven performing.

Sister Helen of Council 1 and the Lithuanian Children's Relief organization reported on her recent trip to Lithuania where she visited many of the orphanages and hospitals that are the recipients of goods from LCR. She was very appreciative of any help that we can give her, such as saving cancelled stamps and donating clothing. Bed linens are especially needed for the orphanages. She ships containers to Lithuania every few months. The goods go to the needy in outlying villages.

The election of officers took place. All were reelected, with Frances Bumila replacing Lillian Joseph, who did not seek reelection. The district flag was transferred to C-10, Athol-Gardner, for the Spring Convention on April 25, 2004. We had picture-taking in front of the church, a light supper, and departed for home. Special thenka to C-141 for hosting a well-run convention.

C-6 Hartford, CT **Bette Ann Liudžius**

Members of C-6 who visited Lithuania this past year were: Caryl and Edward Balskus, Dalia and Al Dzikas, Richard Huck, Jonas Kasputis and his bride, Maryte, Bette Ann and Joseph Liudzius. The Liudzius tickets were won in the Lithuanian Mercy Lift Raffle. The

Dzikas' brought their entire immediate family of ten and had the privilege of having a tour of St. Casimir's Church in the Old Town of Vilnius. Fr. Saulaitis who grew up in Waterbury, CT and is now Provincial General of the Lithuanian and Latvian Jesuits, led the family to a crypt underneath the church's altar. It was discovered accidentally during the renovation. The walls contain chalk drawings, some unfinished in the sketch phase. The crypt holds the remains of Jesuits and their supporters.

Dalia Dzikas continues to teach us various Lithuanian phrases and traditions at each meeting. "Sudiev vasara" (good-bye summer) and "Labas ruduo" (hello autumn) were our September lessons.

Two new members were added to our roster, Wanda Klinkevicius and Mary Jean Litvinskas. C-6 might reach the 100 member mark yet. Go, team!

C-10 Athol-Gardner **Vincukas**

Our council sponsored the annual Lithuanian-style dinner at St. Francis on Oct. 26 with a capacity crowd in attendance. The sizeable profit will benefit the council's charities. Pres. Henry Gailiunas was general chairman. Armand and Pamela Bouthilier as kitchen coordinators and chef did a great job. Roberta Landry was in charge of the raffle, Milda Stasiunas coffee and pastry and the entire council worked as servers, set-up and clean up.

Brone Wisniauskas and family are proud to announce that cousin Rev. Erastas Murauskas on May 10 was appointed Pastor of the prestigious Basilica of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Siluva, the Apparition Oratory and the neighbor parish of Zaiginis. A huge complex was blessed on Sept. 8 that will house a spiritual center for retreats and vocational formation unit.

The center will allow pilgrims to remain on site. Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevicius has asked businesses to invest in much needed stores, restaurants and hotels in Siluva.

Let us say an extra prayer on behalf of Archbishop George Matulaitis, renerator of the Marian Fathers, and Mother Marija Kaupas, founder of the Sisters of St. Casimir, that their canonization can be hastened.

A contingent of Athol-Gardner K of L'ers attended the Sisters picnic in Putnam, CT. The best ever!

The Fall season is a great time for gathering mushrooms in the area. But caution, would-be-pickers, to be extremely careful. If not sure, leave them.

Congratulations to Frances Burba on joining our group!

Condolences are extended to Pat Akule and family on the death of longtime So. Boston K of L Pres. Al Akule. Al will be surely missed. He was a perfect example of a Christian Gentleman.

A didele aciū to Vivian Rodgers for her efforts in coordinating the annual K of L New England District retreat at the Franciscan Monastery.

Congratulations to Armand Bouthilier who won many ribbons for his canned and fresh veggies at the annual Franklin County Fair and to Brone Wisniauskas for a first prize ribbon for a straw picture and the best in the show for a collection of 50 Easter margučiai.

Our council Kucios will be held Dec 14; St. Casimir's Day on March 7 and Lithuanian Independence Day celebration March 14.

C-17 South Boston, MA Regina Alexander

The first fall meeting will be Sept 13.

C-17 is warmly welcoming all new members.

Happenings at the 90th National Convention:

HM Larry Svelnis was honored and received special recognition and accolades for his 90th birthday, and also especially for his many years of devoted service. He founded, organized and served for over 25 years as the K of L Archives Chairman, now located in Putnam, CT. Ilgiausiu ir laimingu metu, Larry! Valio!

The highest level of musical performances were enjoyed at the cultural evening. "A Viennese evening in Vilnius" received many standing ovations. C-1 Maryte Bizinkauskas and other talented vocalists and musicians put on a spectacular musical gala and champagne evening.

Viewed on the dance floor while merrily polka-ing to the music of the "Dixie" band were: C-17 Pres. Frank and Virginia Markuns, HM Larry Svelnis and Donna Reina, Arnold Plevock and sister Alice Ruseckas, Barbara Trybe and Bill Olevitz, and many others. Among others seen enjoying the banquet and the band were: Monsignor Albert Contons with several of his family members, sister-in-law Helen, his nephew Stephen and wife; also Florence Zaletskas, Aldona Keaney, Mildred Daniels, Phyllis Gendreau, Sr. Eugenia, Regina Alexander, Lillian and Gilbert Gailius.

The final memorable Mass was celebrated by Bishop Malone, Fr. Prusaitis, Fr. Shakalis, Fr. Janiunas. Fourth Degrees were awarded C-17 members: Mildred Daniels, Al and Eileen Kniupis, Regina Alexander. After the convention photograph, a sumptuous breakfast followed. Then, time for the many delegates to board the bus for the final trip towards the hotel and then home.

C-17 extends the deepest sympathy to

Patricia Akule with the passing away of our good friend and long-time President, HM Alexander Akule.

The Council also wishes to express sincerest sympathy to members Joanne (Neviera) and Tony Shalna, upon the death of their beloved son, Christopher. Amzina Atilsi duok jiems, Viespatie.

Get well wishes go out to: Al Kropas, Pat Akule.

Check out the new inspiring website: www.ourladyofsiluva.com. This website is produced by the Knights of Lithuania. It is very informative and also contains the beautiful hymn, "Our Lady of Šiluva", with lyrics and music by composer, Faustas Strolia.

Iki pasimatymo. Viso gero.

C-26 Worcester, MA Ruta

The last meeting in June, before summer vacations started for everyone, was truly a fun evening. We had a "make your own sundae" social after the regular meeting. Various toppings were available to go with the delicious ice-cream. Also available were some great pastries to top off the evening. It was not a night to watch the calories.

President Vivian Rodgers thanked everyone for working at our Annual Picnic held at Maironis Park. They did a great job. Also, the attendees were thanked for coming and bringing guests. In addition to the baked goods and various games of chance, a Lithuanian luncheon was offered. As usual, the kugelis was a great hit, along with the kelbasi and cabbage.

Ann Bacinskas fell at home. She is now at the Fallon Rehabilitation Facility and is hoping to be home soon. Ann Bender is on the road to recovery. Judy Maleskas is still recovering.

The 90th National Convention in August was discussed. It was announced that 3 of our members would be receiving the Fourth Degree: Father John Petrauskas (our former Spiritual Advisor), Vivian Rodgers (Pres) and Lillian Kondrotas (Treas). We are looking forward to the ceremony at St. Casimir's Church in Brockton.

Congratulations are extended to our member, Jack Kazlauskas. He is the proprietor of the Dirsas-Morin and Henry-Dirsas Funeral Homes in Worcester. He was recently elected as President of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards at their convention in Anaheim, CA. We are all very proud of you.

C-78 Lawrence, MA Jim Ouelette

May 31 was a day of commemoration and reunion for the former members of St. Francis of Assisi Church which closed July 2002 and was home to our K of L council. We celebrated the centennial of the establishment of the parish that was started by Lithuanian immigrants on May 30, 1903.

The festivities commenced with a bilingual Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Rosary (Italian) Church in Lawrence. The principal celebrant was Bishop Baltakis and among the concelebrants were Rev. Albin Janiunas, our Spiritual Advisor and former Pastor of St. Francis. The altar was adorned with spectacular floral arrangements utilizing the yellow, green and red colors of the Lithuanian flag. The Holy Rosary Choir did a beautiful job singing our beautiful Lithuanian hymns. It was good to have a number of their parishoners join us in our celebration. (They will be celebrating their centennial next year.)

At the conclusion of the Mass, Fr. Ronan, pastor of Holy Rosary and

administrator of St. Francis at the time of its closing, made several presentations. First, he presented Bishop Baltakis with a monstrance and chalice that was used at our former parish. These sacred vessels will be given to a church in Lithuania. Additionally, Fr. Janiunas accepted a papal blessing on behalf of all the former parishoners. This beautiful document is on display in the lower church next to the oil painting of Our Lady of Vilnius.

The centennial dinner was held at the Holy Rosary Center that is next to the church. It was a great time to see our friends, some of whom we haven't seen since the closing of St. Francis. Entertainment was provided by the Lithuanian dance troupe from So. Boston. As always, it was very lively and interactive and enjoyed by everyone.

On another note, I'm happy to announce that our statue relocation project has come to a successful conclusion. This was made possible by the generous financial contributions from some of the former parishoners. These funds were used to pay the mover and the crating company. Additionally, David Lebreque, the owner of Wood Products Unlimited, was very generous by absorbing over one third of the cost of crating the statues. He was also instrumental in obtaining all the packaging material needed for the job from a company that shares space in the same building. The materials were provided at no charge.

On June 14, a team of 5 K of L members prepared the statues, Stations of the Cross, vestments and other items for shipping to Kristaus Prisikelimo in Kaunas, Lithuania. Tony and Charlie Grauslys removed the Stations of the Cross and their pedestals from the walls and David Boucher and I bubble-wrapped them before the movers placed them on the truck for shipping to the crating company. My wife, Christine, packed all the vestments and other

items.

July 2nd was the day! The container provided by Sister Helen Ivanauskas, SJC, through the Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc, arrived at the crating company where 5 crates containing the statues and stations were fork-lifted onto it. The next stop was the church where items that were previously packed needed to be loaded. The final stop before being placed on the steamship in Boston was to the Sisters of Jesus Crucified in Brockton. Sister Helen had a team of about 10 people loading bags of clothing and cases of cereal, paint, candy, etc. to fill the container. These items will be distributed to the people in need. The anticipated time of delivery to Lithuania is mid to late August.

This project has been a means of closure for many of us. We are comforted knowing that Fr. Vytautas Grigaravicius and members of his parish will benefit from our loss. We did not want these religious artifacts to end up in a dumpster or a second-hand store as other similar items from other closed churches have.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a success.

C-141 Bridgeport, CT Florence Zikaras

In August, our annual picnic was held at the home of Bill and Marie Brilvitch. It was one of those rare, sunny days that we had seen all summer. We were honored to have the Rev. Julio Lopresti, IVE Pastor and Rev. Jorge Montangan, IVE, Vicar from St. George's Church in attendance. Pot luck food and dancing were in abundance. A fund raising raffle was held under the direction of Peter Balcius.

We hosted the Fall NED Convention on Sept 21st. Rev. Lopresti presided at

the Mass and startled the congregation when he addressed them with a few words of Lithuanian. Father hails from Argentina. Concert violinist Edita Orlynte rendered a beautiful "Ave Maria" and Mary Grosso was at the organ. Helen Janiunas did the Lithuanian readings. After the Mass, all congregated to the undercroft of the church for lunch and the meeting. The highlight of the dessert table was the RAGUOLIS donated by Stella Marcinauskas.

During the meeting Supreme Council Ritual member, HM Clemencine Miller, presented Fourth Degree medals and certificates to Gintare Ivaska, Helen Janiunas, Peter and Aldona Peters.

Pat Silk was awarded her Fourth Degree at the National Convention. Bill and Marie Brilvitch were awarded their Third Degree at the Spring NED convention in Ansonia. Our heartiest congratulations to all.

The Diocese of Bridgeport celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Harbor Yard Arena in Bridgeport on Sept 29, 2003. More than 8,000 people were in attendance. Helen Simanis carried the St. George banner which was created by Fr. Lopresti. It noted that St. George Church was founded in 1907 and bore the picture of St. George and the dragon. Helen Janiunas did a petition in Lithuanian. Both ladies wore beautiful costumes. Al Zikaras sang in the Diocesan Jubilee Choir of 300 voices.

On the sick list are: Peter and Rosa Januska, Peter Radzwillas, Bob Marcavage, Ann Gecevich, Lillian Argust, and Milda Liaukas. Our prayers are with you. Glad to have Aldona Marcavage back at the meeting.

Jonas and Kathy Bacias celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. Congratulations!

C-25 Cleveland, O Ursula Kunsitis

Congratulations to Kathy Kaczmarek on making the Dean's List at Cuyahoga Community College. You make us proud!

On a recent June visit to see his parents, Fr. Dale Yurkovic, Pastor of St. Mary's in Livingston, Montana (and a recently licensed pilot) took his Dad, Steve, and Uncle, Dick Marks, on an island-hopping trip to the Erie Islands in a Cessna 4-seater rental to prove that he could fly! There's the "Flying Nun" and now there's the "Flying Padre"! The trip was enjoyed by all.

Nellie Arunski who is at the Eliza Jennings Home just can't wait to get her VYTIS - she just loves it and shares it with a fellow-Lithuanian at the Home, Helen Baranauskas, who just happens to be member Andrew Palzes' Aunt... small world!

We are glad to hear that Fran Pranskevich is doing well after a short hospital stay and rehab. Keep up the good work, Fran!

The Thompsons - Jim and Joan - are off again to Ocean City, MD for several weeks of ocean breezes and sunshine!

Our Fr. Gediminas is also busy packing his bags for his yearly vacation and Spiritual Retreat in his "favorite Quebec" at the Jesuit Retreat Center. Enjoy your morning swims, Fr! Enjoy that cold, cold water!

Congratulations to Samantha Farrell on her recent high school graduation. Parents - Jim and Laura - threw a great picnic to celebrate with over a hundred family and friends attending. To top the evening off, Jim and his buddies put on a great fireworks finale for over an hour and a half.

Dick and Jean Marks visited their

daughter and husband in Montana. On the way, they stopped and enjoyed the sights of Deadwood, SD, and out-drove a tornado in Nebraska. That was quite a trip to remember! Glad you're back home safe and sound.

Betty August came in from Canton, GA for several weeks and had a delightful time reminiscing about the past with K of L'ers.

Irene Chalko and Nellie Samas and friends went to Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario for the Shaw Festival. Memorable time - one that will stay with them for a long time.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Joe and Ann Ivoska on the wedding of their granddaughter, Megan. Looks like you'll have to hang on to your dancing shoes a little while longer - Megan is the first grandchild of many.

This year the Annual Lithuanian Cultural Garden Society's fundraiser was held in the Grand Ballroom of Judson Manor. Cleveland Opera soloist, Denise May Howell performed. Randy Roberts, son-in-law of Dick and Jean Marks donated several of his fine photographs for the Silent Auction.

On Aug 29th, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Lithuanian Consulate, and various Lithuanian organizations presented ANDRIUS ZLABYS in Piano Concert. The Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper recently pronounced pianist Zlabys a Virtuoso of fabulous technique and romantic temperament who performed like an authentic heir to the Grand Masters of the 19th Century keyboard tradition. A reception followed the performance where Andrius was presented with the total evening's receipts to help further his studies. He is pursuing a Master of Music Degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

It was good to see Cliff and Catherine Schneider and Stella Sankal back in the fold again. Stay well, you hear!

Theresa Capuria, our President, was the winner of the 50/50 Raffle. Congratulations!

Helen Jakubs is recovering very nicely after a hospital stay and therapy in Port Clinton in September.

The Cleveland Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community sponsored "Lithuanian Days" on Sept 27 and 28 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. Dick Marks carried the American flag in the church procession along with honor guards, Theresa Capuria and Vic Staskus. On Saturday evening the mixed choir Dainava of Chicago presented a concert of Lithuanian songs and music. On Sun afternoon, there was an exhibit of Lithuanian Arts and Crafts in the auditorium. Our own Gene Kunsitis presented some of his art and WWII PBY background to interested parties. A group from Pittsburgh attends this event every year.

Angela Staskus along with cousin Carmen spent a very busy 3 weeks in Sept visiting churches and museums in Vilnius, Kaunas, Palanga, Siauliai and family in Marijampole. Another very important reason for the trip was to drop off accumulated proceeds from Koldunai Sales to the Lithuanian Political Prisoners and Deportees Association. The women of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church make and sell koldunai every month. Every month is a sell-out! Congratulations to all these hard-working women! What a great cause!

A special "hello" to all our ill and house-bound members. We miss you all and you are all in our prayers and thoughts!

C-96 Dayton, OH Fran Petkus HM

For the past 30 years the Lithuanian community of Dayton has participated

in Dayton's Annual World A'Fair. This year was our last year to participate - and it proved to be our very best! The cultural display was of a Lithuanian wedding which included the wine, salt, bread, etc. It was well done and again we won a blue ribbon and excellence awards. It was a display all Lithuanians would be proud of! Comments from those who come to our booth each year for kugelis and our cold beet soup expressed their dismay that this was our last year. Our Vejeliai Dancers had a special closing performance by inviting all previous dancers who were a part of the group to come and share the final performance with them. The Vejeliai Dancers were also told they would be missed. Thanks must go to Jim and Connie Geiger, Elinor Sluzas and all the volunteers who made this event so successful each year. Our Lithuanian community will continue to enlighten the Dayton area of Lithuania's culture and history in other avenues.

How many of us would travel 300+ miles to attend a council's monthly meeting? Mark Bell, our Nashville TN member, has done it and now we can add our Cookeville TN members Marcus and Jennifer Maulding. They wanted to learn more about the Knights and thereby came to C-96's June 8 meeting. While attending the meeting, it gave them the opportunity to take the Knights of Lithuania's Oath! Congratulations! We also had a chance to meet their children - James and Samantha - future Juniors. As a gift to the council, Marcus and Jennifer presented us with the Tennessee State Flower - an Iris! This has been planted on the parish grounds.

Get well wishes go to Catherine (Kitty) Prasmantas as she recoups; Veronica Heitkamp, our Minster, OH member recovering from several medical problems; Larry Pacovsky as he recovers from his recent surgery.

Congratulations to our Supreme

Council Scholarship Chair and C-96 member Irene Gecas-McCarthy and her husband, Michael, on the birth of their first baby, Julia Eugenija; to aunts, C-96 members Rita Gecas of Highland Heights, KY, and Vida Gecas of Washington, DC. Our Glendale AZ members, Joseph and Ann Boeke have added the birth of their eighth grandchild to their growing family, a girl, Joli.

Congratulations go out to Robert Petkus on his recent graduation from Stebbins High School. Robert will continue his studies on a 2 year scholarship in engineering at Sinclair Community College in Dayton.

C-96's Family Picnic held on Aug 2nd proved to be a success in spite of the low participation. Mother Nature had been busy with storms that caused some not to make the trip to Lake St. Mary's for the picnic. Thanks must go to the Dayton Lithuanian Anglers for allowing us to use their grounds. Mother Nature did hold up further storms which enabled the cook-out to take place. When the rains came back we headed indoors continuing sharing the various covered dishes and fun. Kristina Dambrauskas, who had never been to the Anglers cottage, made it up without getting lost! We had some guests, future members, Greg and Beata Evans and their son, Lucas; Beata's mother, visiting from Kaunas, Lithuania, Grazina Habaniene; also, from Taurage, Zemaitija, Lithuania, Vaida Ardinskaite.

All of our returning delegates, Juniors and guests came home sharing what a great national convention the Brockton council sponsored. Thanks must go to the committee for the fun Thursday Night Get-together. Friday night's cultural program was superb! Those of us who went whale watching really enjoyed that. From the council Michael Petkus co-chaired on the Presidium; Elinor Sluzas was on the Resolutions Committee; Norma and Robert Petkus helped with the Junior

Program. Fran Petkus was a delegate while Erin Petkus participated with the Juniors. Guests from Dayton were Kathy Kondrotas and Russell Miller.

Elinor Sluzas remains on the Honorary Membership Committee and Our Lady of Šiluva Web Site Chair. Congratulations go to Michael Pant who has become a Supreme Council Knights of Lithuania Scholarship recipient!!

Mother Nature gave us a beautiful day to celebrate our annual Mass for the living and deceased members of the council and cemetery visit Sept 7. We have 15 members buried out of town and their prayers were said in church after Mass. With 53 graves to cover we did something new this year. We clustered the deceased members into 4 "sections" with 4 groups visiting the gravesites. This enabled members to spend more time at each grave with prayer and reminiscing. We began our pilgrimage at the graves of our deceased Spiritual Advisors with all meeting at Michael P. Petkus's grave to close the visitation. Mike is the member who began this special time over 50 years ago. The day ended with all heading back to the church hall for our monthly meeting and delicious supper prepared by our Chair JoAnn Thiele and her committee, Gary Thiele! Aciu!!

Get well wishes go to Larry Pacovsky, Veronica Heitkamp.

On Sept 14 the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Holy Cross Parish celebrated its Annual Feast Day with a special Koffee Klatch hosted by the Petkus family - Fran, Michael, Norma, Robert and Erin. Included was a special birthday cake for Fr. Michael Holloran!!

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!

Mid Atlantic District

C-152 East Long Island Charlene Miele Zorskis

In April we attended the Mid Atlantic District Meeting in Maspeth, NY.

Three of our members received their third degree. They are: 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.

Beatrice 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 Tarney, and council members at Horton-Mathie Funeral Home in Greenport, NY.

On our Sept meeting we will hold a Chinese auction.

C-12 New York, NY Irene Senken

It has been quite awhile since I wrote a news article. Our council is not a very active group due to aging and people coming a long distance. We need new blood. Many times we don't have meetings, especially in the winter. This winter was "the Mother of all winters". It did not bother me. I was in FL.

Our longtime member Joe Kscenaitis is at Castle Hill NY Nursing Facility. Our best to you, Joe.

Millie Pietz and her niece were in Putnam, CT, for the July 4 festivities. While there, they visited the Matulaitis Nursing Home where they saw Fr. Raila and Mary Shalins who are residents there.

Heard that Anthony Yakavonis, one of our most faithful members, died recently. He was in his 90's. May he rest in peace.

It is nice to know our Lithuanian-speaking members are still active and

faithfully coming down. We do have some new members: Marija Svideniene, Rita Dmukauskienes, Angela Celenceviciene. Welcome!

One of our members, Regina Sudziute, graduated from NYU Dental School. Congratulations!

A few of our faithful members attended the Convention: Helen and Vinnie Cuperwich and John Antanovich.

Helen Yurkus celebrated her 80th birthday with a surprise party given by her daughter and son. Congratulations.

Aldona Kapulaita who is the church organist, also member, was severely burned in her apt fire in Feb and is in and out of the hospital. Our prayers are with you.

Julia Gomez, longtime member, is living in CA with her daughter. She celebrated her 94th birthday on Sept 3. We miss your smiling face.

One of Jovita and Joe Sladar's granddaughters just graduated from Farleigh Dickinson Univ in NJ with a Master's in Education. Congratulations. Also, a grandson and friend went backpacking for 8 weeks, visiting Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, the Phillipines, etc. Some experience.

The parish dinner was held Oct 19 at Our Lady of Vilna Hall, NY.

Our prayers are with family and friends on the 2nd anniversary of the World Trade tragedy.

Ed Senken lost his sister, Wanda, in July, his third sibling in one year. Our condolences to the family.

C-136 Hudson-Mohawk Dorothy Richmire

On Sat, July 12, some of our members enjoyed picnicking in the Adirondacks

near Chestertown. Our hosts were Lynn Hayner, her Mom Helen and Jim. It is a beautiful setting and the weather was perfect. We all brought food so we had quite a variety of goodies. We enjoyed Lithuanian music and it was so good to eat, drink and just relax telling tales.

One story Lynn shared with us was interesting. At their residence they proudly display the Lithuanian flag where it can be seen from the road. Well, one day recently, a couple drove in and identified themselves as native Lithuanians traveling from Vermont on their way to Niagara Falls. They saw the flag and were so thrilled to find Lithuanians they could relate to and Lynn and her Mom were also delighted to meet them. They exchanged names and visited for quite awhile and as they left, both parties felt happy to experience the exciting event.

Bob Duda and Ginger Houghton were able to take time out for a quick visit while attending a wedding nearby. They have just recently returned from their visit to Lithuania and have much to tell us re: their trip. We hope they will take the time to do just that at a future meeting.

At a recent meeting there were only 6 of us in attendance. Illness and other commitments, etc. prevented members from joining us. Since there were so few at the meeting, we postponed the election of officers for the new year.

Good news: Lynn Hayner won 2nd prize in the recent essay contest, honoring her Mom by using her as the subject of her entry. Congratulations. You make us very proud and we look forward to reading it in the Vytis.

More good news: Lynn and her fiance, Jim, are planning to say their "I do's" next summer. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to both of them.

Sunday, Sept 28, was the annual

Lithuanian Day at Auriesville Shrine.

On the sick list: Gen Deery, Elizabeth Aviza, Frank Zebuda, Helen LaPierre and all others who are not feeling up to par. Please pray for them.

A thought for today: Live your life to improve yourself, not to prove yourself.

C-110 Maspeth, NY Bruno Rutkunas

On Sept 28, 2003, our council held our monthly meeting. We were introduced to the new Pastor, Rev Paul Wood, a very outgoing priest and super friendly. Our super hot buffet was filling, thrilling and for all willing indulged in seconds and thirds used a supply of Tums if it was necessary.

Members Ann Morrissey, Zina Budris, and Kazimieras Vainius were warmly congratulated for earning and becoming 4th degree members. All enjoyed the cream layer cake donated by Zina!

Our Executive Board changed a little, with Christopher Schroder replacing Helen Matulonis who resigned her position as Recording Secretary.

President Julia Schroder will introduce some new ideas for our brunch. Winners of our \$5 Raffle were Mary Stelmokas, Bertram Linkonis and Joseph Veyvoda.

Moderator Rev. Vytas Volertas closed our successful Fall meeting with prayers and a wish for health for all members.

Mid Atlantic District Fall Meeting Bruno Rutkunas

Hurricane Isabelle forced a change of our meeting Sept 21 to Oct 19. Host council 52 of Elizabeth graciously welcomed all members of councils from

NJ: Newark C-29 and Kearney C90 and from NY: C-100 Amsterdam, C-110 Maspeth and C-136 Albany.

The date change caused many delegates to be unavailable for this meeting; Maryte Abbott, our VP, was present, arriving by train, bus, and foot, opened the meeting with a prayer and greetings to all. As the VP for Membership, Maryte reported the decline of the K of L membership. She indicated more should be done, even some drastic changes from past practices.

Bernice Aviza, VP for Juniors, indicated that in order to attract the younger children, you should provide them with activities that they like.

Trustees reported that everything was in order after review of treasury books and records. Cathy Nakrosis, our treasurer, told us that the balance was a bit lower and provisions will be made for a fund-raising raffle.

Helen Matulonis, who wrote about the 70th anniversary of the trans-Atlantic flight of the ill-fated Lituanica in the Darbininkas bulletin, spoke about the Sat, July 19 celebration at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, NY. She thought the highlights were the performances of the dance groups from Amsterdam and Elizabeth and also the singing by the Opera Star. All attending enjoyed the honor given to Darius and Girenas who lost their lives in the valiant attempt to cross the Atlantic 70 years ago.

The delegates attending the National Convention were Becky Pataki and Chris Schroder. A short review and their impressions of the convention were made by Chris.

The Executive Board elections saw the following changes: Maryte Abbott - Pres. Bernice Aviza, 1st VP; Antoinette Sakal 2nd VP; Julia Schroder Secretary and Lynn Hayner Ritual.

John Nakrosis gave us advance information about his C-90, Kearny, hosting the National Convention on Aug 4 thru 8 of 2004 at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, NJ

The Newark council may consider hosting the Spring 2004 District meeting - TBA

The meeting ended with members thanking the pastors of Sts. Peter and Paul for his blessings and prayers at the 11:00 AM Mass; and also to the host C-52 of Elizabeth for their luncheon and warm welcome to all attending this MAD mini-convention. Prayers were said for all members, living and deceased.

C-153 Treasure Coast Florence V. Miskinis

The Board for C-153 elected was as follows: Pres - Dorothy Parrilli; VP - Valerie Bissol; Fin Sec and Treas - James Parrilli; Rec Sec - Florence Morris; Sgt-at-Arms - Alphonse Miskinis; Lithuanian Corresp - Aldona Biliunas and Vytytis Corresp - Florence Miskinis.

St. Casimir's Day was celebrated at St. Jude's Chapel. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Chopenis, our Spiritual Director. After Mass we congregated at Mimo's Restaurant in Tequesta. We all had a great, joyous celebration! Lou Stukas and Dorothy Parrilli were Chairpersons with Josie Lubinski their capable assistant.

Our last meeting allocated all monies to our various charities. Florence Miskinis was appointed as delegate to the National convention which was well-attended and much accomplished.

The musical on Fri night was fabulous, worthy of a Broadway show. I brought home to Florida delicious Lithuanian sury from Lithuania. All C-1 deserve great applause for a terrific job well

done. It was good to see old friends and make new Vyciu friends. Congratulations for a convention well-done.

Amber District

C-3 Philadelphia Victor Stepalovitch

C-3 is very saddened by the death of Julie Kowiak on June 13, 2003. Julie had joined C-3 in 1989 and for a number of years held the position of Cultural Chairman of the Council. She was to receive her 4th Degree this summer.

On June 29th our council held its final meeting for the summer. It was a combination meeting and picnic. Everyone prepared a covered dish with hot dogs and chicken along with side dishes of delicious appetizers and desserts. Everyone had a wonderful time.

The Bazaar at St. George's Church is finally over. The event took place June 12, 13, 14, then 19, 20, 21. After the Bazaar a Workers' Party was held on June 24 for all who helped work at the Bazaar. Members of C-3 Lillian Greymor, Irene Ozalis, Victor Stepalovitch, Ausra Maknys, Irene Sarcewicz, Stanley and Anne Petraitis and Stephany Gatauskas all participated in this event which was a big success.

On Oct 12 the Council celebrated their 90th anniversary.

Summer with its Heat Waves, rain, high winds and Hurricanes are all gone and all of us have returned from vacation and did resume the work that lies ahead of us in the coming year.

15 members of C-3 who had traveled to Lithuania from July 17 to 29 had a very pleasant and enjoyable trip. While in Alytus visiting Msgr. Jakimavicius's newly constructed church, they were

able to witness a wedding being performed. Msgr. Jakimavicius then led them into the village of Rambonys where he is also Pastor, where Mass was then said. After Mass they were invited to a reception and dinner after which entertainment was presented.

While in Druskininkai Walter and Irene Svekla were reunited with relatives and attended the wedding of one of them. Also in Druskininkai Victor Stepalovitch met with the boy he has through Lithuanian Orphan Care and his foster mother and father drove to Alytus where he spent a few days with them.

In Oct, members Irene Ozalis, Lillian Greymas, Irene Sarcewicz, and Victor Stepalovitch attended a Mass to greet the new Archbishop of Philadelphia. Also in Oct Msgr. Anderlonis and C-3 hosted the Supreme Council at St. George's Church. Since C-3 was also celebrating their 90th anniversary, they invited members of the SC to join them at a Champagne Brunch at LaPadella Restaurant with a short program following brunch.

Prayerfully, everyone at C-3 was happy to hear that John Mickunas had successful surgery and we hope he will be back in good health soon.

C-3 congratulates member Agnes Mickunas on her election to be President of Supreme Council. We wish her good luck and know she will do a good job. Also, C-3 is so happy that she will be Chairing her first meeting at C-3. C-3 will have a Mass in Nov for all deceased members of the council at St. George's Church.

C-74 Scranton, PA Marie Laske

We received a beautiful letter for our council's donation to help a critically ill boy in Lithuania.

We had our annual Lithuanian Mass at

St. Ann's Basilica in Scranton. Fr. Clement Kasinskas from CT - who is fluent in Lithuanian - was our celebrant. John Mankus was our lector. He came down from Endicott NY just to be lector. Sr. Elizabeth Zemaitis was our musical director. It was good to hear our Lithuanian songs. Marie Laske and Nell Bayoras Romanas were coordinators. We can always count on Mona Kashuba coming to St. Ann's Mass. The Mass was said for all the K of L members, both living and deceased

Pray for the homebound: Dorothy Sarnowskas, Dell Zvirblis, Mary Twardzik, Martha Wagner, and Leo Zewicki. Also Nell Bayoras Romanas.

Congratulations to Richard Laske who got Rotarian of the Year from Scranton. He also received an award from Scranton's Mayor for having the Fishing Derby for the past 10 years with the Rotary's help for all children. Each child received a trophy or gift certificate if they caught a fish. Good work, Dick and Rotary.

Recently we had a visitor who returned to Scranton, Jim O'Neil; his mother was Lithuanian. He was very interesting.

Ruth Yanish made a scrapbook all about her husband, Casimir Yanish who was a true Lithuanian; he passed away. She made a book for each of his grandchildren so they would remember his wish for a better life for his children and grandchildren.

Just to let everyone know, I got 2 shopping bags of mushrooms (?Kelmities). They were delicious with fried bacon and onions.

C-143 Pittston, PA Eleanor Bellanco

We try to accomodate our members in any way we can. Julia Atmonavage, a K of L member for many years, always

got to meetings and functions. Now she is a resident of Pittston Manor and doesn't get around much anymore. So the council went to her.

On May 15, 2003, Julia was presented her 3rd degree certificate and medal by Ritual Chairperson Jean Kapochus Mihalick. Fr. Rokaz held a special Mass for Julia and President Nellie B. Romanas brought flowers for the altar. Julia was very proud and elated by it all and kept saying, "I think I died and went to Heaven" as she held onto the yellow carnation she carried.

C-144 Anthracite Ona

Thanks to Chairman Peter Teresavage and his excellent committee, the 89th Lithuanian Days was successful both financially and socially. To all who served in any way we say "Aciu Sirdingai." The entertainment both days, Zilvinis Dance Ensemble and the Ausrine Dance Group from Philadelphia brought much joy to the affair with their dances and songs. Lynne Cox was again our Lithuanian troubador, playing the accordion and singing all day. The proceeds are used to aid Lithuania through our Humanitarian Aid Committee and also to the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome. This year we added a Lithuanian Quiz Show which was monitored by Pres. Larry Domalakes.

Ann Wargo, Marian Wydra and Anna Coffee attended the 90th National Convention in Dedham, MA. C-1 Chairperson, Maryte Bizinkauskas did a fine job. The sessions were interesting, the food was good and the entertainment was outstanding. Thanks to C-1 for a fine convention.

It was nice seeing Sister Angela at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified. Sr. Angela spent many good years with C-144 while stationed in Frackville and had a very good Junior

Council and dance group when she was there.

We look forward to a busy autumn under the leadership of Pres Domalakes. We are hoping to add some new and young members. Some of our members will be attending the Amber District meeting in Oct. We wish all our fellow Knights a happy and healthy Fall season.

Mid America District

C-82 Gary, IN Daisy Ann Talley

The 6th Annual Outdoor Mass and Picnic of the former parishoners of St. Casimir Church of Gary and the 37th anniversary of Pastor Msgr. I. Urbonas was held on Sept 14, 2003. Hosts were Knights of Lithuania C-82, ALTAS, and the Lithuanian American Community of E. Chicago, IN. A cloudy day and rain did not hamper the celebration. Mass was at noon by Msgr. Urbonas in honor of the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross and the Apparition of Our Lady of Šiluva. Liturgy Coordinator was Sr. M. Janine Golubickis. Organist was Faustas Strolia and Cantor was Ann Marie Kassel, guests from C-157.

After a traditional Lithuanian dinner (Food was excellent), entertainment was provided by Bronius Muras. The camaraderie of the group was as great as Lithuanian people.

Our Sept meeting was called to order by Pres Joanna Rudzevicius. Opening prayer was led by Sr. Janine. Elections were held and officers were retained for the coming year.

Our delegate to the National Convention, Sr. Janine gave a report. Plans are underway for Lithuanian Independence Day 2004.

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