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Pazaislis ~ Lithuania's Treasure

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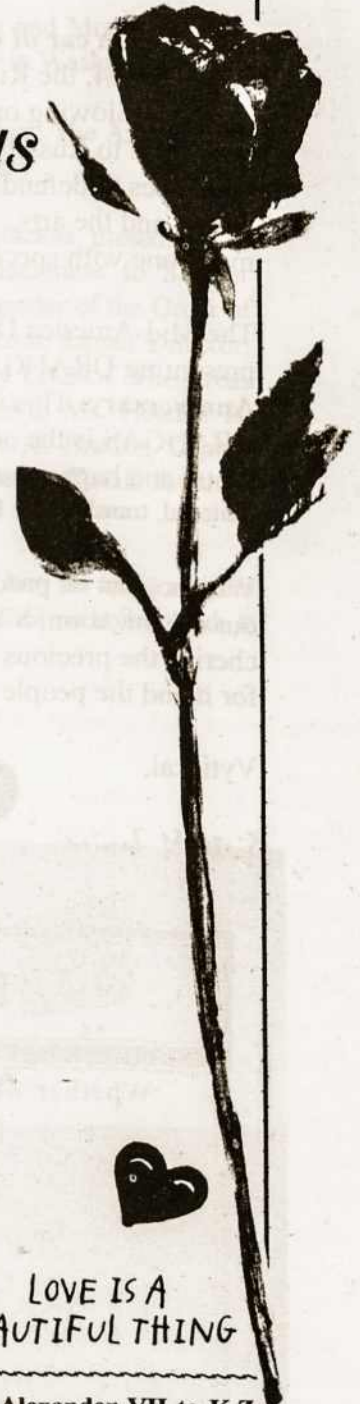


Mission Statement: The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of our ancestors, and knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.



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LOVE IS A
BEAUTIFUL THING

Cover: Miraculous picture of Our Blessed Mother (1661), a gift of Pope Alexander VII to K.Z. Pacas, founder of Pažaislis. Almost immediately, miracles were granted to those who requested favors by their prayers, through the intercession of Our Blessed Virgin Mary. During the occupation of Lithuania, the portrait was transferred from Pažaislis to the Basilica in Kaunas, (1950). It was stolen in 1978, but found and restored in 1979. At present, it still has a place of honor in the same Basilica.

To My Fellow Knights

This is the **Year of the Lithuanian Press and Language**. One hundred years ago on May 7, 1904, the Russian government lifted the ban on Lithuanian publishing in the Latin alphabet allowing only the use of the Cyrillic alphabet. For forty years, this directive had attempted to Russify the Lithuanian people, but our forebears resisted and sacrificed even their lives to defend their right to their language. Ours is a culture rich in literature, poetry and the arts. Lithuanians throughout the world will be commemorating this milestone with special events.

The Mid-America District has initiated the Year of the Lithuanian Press and Language by presenting DRAUGAS with its annual achievement award for this periodical's **95th Anniversary**. This will take place at the Memories of Lithuania Banquet on Feb. 1, 2004. DRAUGAS is the only Lithuanian daily newspaper outside of Lithuania and we are proud and happy that the VYTIS is published there also. Be sure to read the DRAUGAS editorial, translated by Faustas Strolia, in the upcoming issue of our *Vytis*.

We, too, can be proud. This VYTIS issue is VOLUME 90. As we begin the 91st year of our organization, VYTIS begins its 90th year. May the Knights of Lithuania continue to cherish the precious gift of our language and be willing to make the necessary sacrifices for it and the people it symbolizes.

Vytiškai,



Sister M. Janine

NOTE: The deadline for the Next Council News is March 1.

TIME FOR A NEW YEAR

Whether we are conscious of it or not,
time controls us
day after day, month after month,
year after year.
We know we age since birthdays
appear regularly
and we are imprisoned by this rhythm
which measures our life span.
There is no intermission
to this steady march to our destiny.
Time is stable and constant,
a fixture, providing equilibrium
to our routines.



FROM THE OFFICE OF OUR PRESIDENT

I was so very pleased and honored to receive an invitation from Ambassador and Mrs. Vygaudas Ušackas to a Christmas reception, on December 8, at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC.

The Embassy was already brightly lit and decorated for the Christmas Holidays. The Ambassador and Mrs. Ušackas graciously greeted everyone upon their arrival to the Embassy.

The Ambassador began the formal decoration ceremony. Ambassador Ušackas presented the Grand Cross of Commander of the Order of Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas to Senator Barbara A. Mikulski and Senator George V. Voinovich. The Cross of Commander of the Order of Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas was awarded to Mr. Walter E. Andrusyszyn, former Director, National Security Council, and Mr. Kurt Volker, Director, National Security Council. The Cross of Officer of the Order of Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas was awarded to Ms. Heather A. Conley, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State and Mr. Robert A. Bradke, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State. Ambassador Ušackas thanked these officials for their support to achieve Lithuania's foreign policy goals.

The Ambassador was very gracious, and I had an opportunity to speak with him for quite a while about the Knights of Lithuania and all the many projects in which our organization is involved. It was my privilege to represent the Knights of Lithuania at this grand occasion.

Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.

President



Left to Right: Mrs. Loreta Ušackas; Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas; and Agnes Mickunas, HM, pictured here on December 8, 2003

ROSTER OF OFFICERS: From our Supreme Council First Vice-president, Brian Johnson

In accordance with a resolution approved at the National Convention in Chicago, the 1st Vice-president was directed to maintain a roster of all officers and committees. Names printed in bold will have fulfilled their maximum number of terms.

Officers

Spiritual Advisor – Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM – Appointed by Lithuanian RC Priests League
 President – Agnes V. Mickunas, HM – 1st Term
 1st Vice-President – Brian Johnson – 2nd Term
 2nd Vice-President – Becky Pataki – 2nd Term
 3rd Vice-President – Maryte Bizinkauskas – 2nd Term
 Recording Secretary – Bernice Aviza – 2nd Term
 Treasurer – Elena Nakrosis – 2nd Term
 Financial Secretary – June Grenier – 2nd Term
 Trustee – Mary Beth Slakis – 1st Term
 Trustee – Joseph Stiklius – 1st Term

Scholarship: (Each member is elected to a 3 year term)

John Baltrus, Mid-Central District Rep. & Chair - Elected in 2003 - Current term expires 2006

Karen Domalakes, Amber District Rep. – Elected in 2001 - Current term expires 2004

Antoinette Sakal, Mid-Atlantic District Rep.- Elected in 2002 - Current term expires 2005

Wanda Pliskaitis, Mid America District Rep. - Elected in 2002 - Current term expires in 2005

Veronica Bizinkauskas-Cote , New England District Rep. - Elected in 2001 - Current term expires 2004

Ritual: (Each member is elected to a 3 year term)

Lee Moore, Mid Central District Rep. & Chair – Elected in 2001 - Current Term expires in 2004

Rita Sussko, HM, Mid Atlantic District Rep. – Elected in 2001 - Current Term expires in 2004

Clem Miller, HM, New England District Rep. – Elected in 2002 - Current Term expires in 2005

Elsie Kosmisky, HM, Amber District Rep. – Elected in 2002 - Current Term expires in 2005

Georgie Macke, Mid America District Rep. – Elected in 2003 - Current Term expires in 2006

Honorary Membership: (each member is elected to a 5 year term)

Algerd Brazis, HM, Mid America District Rep. – Elected in 1999 - Current term expires 2004.

Bertha Stoskus, HM - New England District Rep. – Elected in 2003 - Current term expires in 2008.

Frank Petrauskas, HM. –Amber District Rep.& Chair – Elected in 1999 - Current term expires in 2004.

Rita Sussko, HM - Mid Atlantic District Rep.- Elected in 2003.- Current term expires in 2008.

Elinor Sluzas, HM- Mid Central District Rep- Elected in 2002 - Current term expires in 2007.

Other Committees (These committees, by our constitution have no term limitation set upon them.)

Archives Chair – Frances Bumila (1st Term)

Lithuanian Affairs Chair – John R. Mankus – 4th Term

Lithuanian Language & Cultural Chair- Larry Misevicius – 2nd Term

Public Relations Chair – Regina Juska-Svoba – 1st Term

Our Lady of Siluva – Elinor Sluzas, HM – 2nd Term

Sports Chair – Linas Balsys – 1st Term



From your many letters
We are thrilled that you all enjoyed our
"Vyėiu" 90th National Convention!!!

It was our pleasure having you as our guests.



God's Peace, Joy and good health
to you all!!!

Looking forward to seeing you all
again at the 91st Convention
hosted by Council 90 Kearny, N. J.

Likite Sveiki ir laimingi!

Vytiškai
Council 1 ~ Brockton, MA
Veronica Bizinkauskas, President



Christmas Greetings
from
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-1 Brockton, MA

C-6 Hartford, CT

C-7 Waterbury, CT

C-10 Athol-Gardner, MA

C-17 So. Boston, MA

C-26 Worcester, MA

C-27 Norwood, MA

C-30 Westfield, MA

C-50 New Haven, CT

C-78 Lawrence, MA

C-103 Providence, RI

C-116 Worcester, MA

C-135 Ansonia, CT

C-141 Bridgeport, CT



LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ



IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

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

**A blessed, healthy, happy & prosperous
Christmas & New Year to all.**

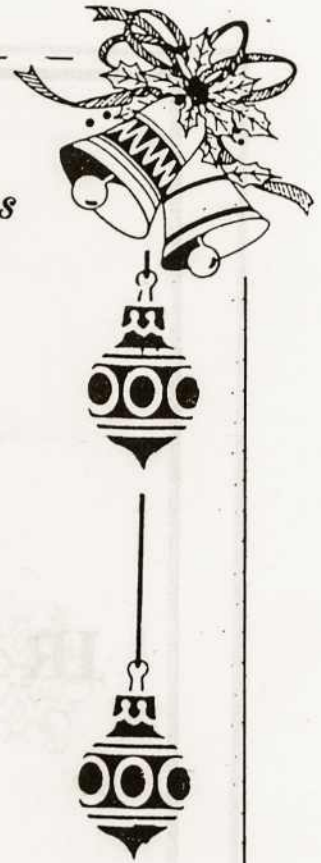
**Serving the Lithuanian
Community for over 75 Years.**



*May joy be your gift at Christmas
and may
Faith, Hope and Love
be your treasures in
the New Year*



The Anthracite Council ~ 144



Council 29 - Newark, New Jersey

Wishes all the Knights of Lithuania

A Joyous Christmas

and

Happiness throughout the coming year

Linksmų Kalėdų

ir

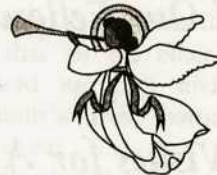
Laimingų Naujų Metų





*Council 17 of South Boston,
Massachusetts
wishes all the K of L Councils
a
Happy, healthy and prosperous*

New Year - 2004!

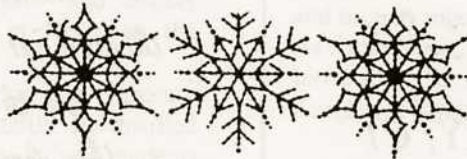


Linksmų Kalėdų

Council 141

Bridgeport, Connecticut

*Wishing you many blessings
in 2004!*





Peace on Earth



**COUNCIL #63
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA**

*Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų*



**TEGUL DIEVAS
LAIMINA VISUS
VYČIUS**

*May God bless all the
Knights of Lithuania*

**Council 74
Scranton, Pa**

To All Our Fellow Knights:

*Best Wishes for A
Joyous Christmas
and A
Happy, Healthy
New Year.*



**COUNCIL 7
OF WATERBURY, CT**



*May all the blessings of
the Infant Savior
be yours at Christmas and may
His Divine Presence
enrich your life
throughout the New Year
are the wishes of
the Amber District*

Knights of Lithuania Foundation Third Prize Winning Essay

"I Belong to Council 3, Philadelphia! What More Can I Say?"

According to me, Council 3 Philadelphia, or C-3 (as we know it), is the best council in the entire K of L. These are very strong words, and I hope this essay backs me up.

C-3 was the 3rd council formed over 90 years ago. C-3 will be celebrating it's 90th anniversary this coming fall. Of course, I was not there when it started, nor do I know the details of its founding. But, I have been around since 1957, which is 46 years and over half the time C-3 has been in existence. So, I feel I am somewhat of an authority on C-3.

If one were to ask, "What has C-3 done?" I'd have a long list of things to tell that person. Among the highlights, I would mention the following. C-3 has hosted the National K of L Convention 4 times since I have been a member. We have also hosted many District Meetings - first, as a member of the New York-New Jersey District, and lately, as a member of the Amber District. According to C-3's friends in the K of L, our National Conventions have been very successful. Speaking of National Conventions, many of our members have served on numerous Convention Presidiums as well as on the Supreme Council itself. C-3 has hosted many Supreme Council Meetings - our central location making it a convenient meeting place.

I honestly feel C-3 has fulfilled the K of L mandate - "For God and Country." Early in my C-3 membership, Honorary Member, Helen Shields was a guiding light and a role model that every K of L Council should have had. She instilled in many of us the true K of L spirit that many C-3 members have to this day. As an example, Helen frequently hosted "Letter Writing Sessions" when the K of L was fighting for Lithuanian independence. Many of us still have our "letter writing plaques" and display them proudly. I still think of Helen as the original "Miss K of L."

I would like to mention another late Honorary Member of C-3, Joseph Yanulaitis. He instilled the history of Lithuania in all of us, and made us proud to be Lithuanian.

As for the current members, suffice it to say, that we have between 10 and 20 members with 40 years or more service to the K of L. I do not know how many other councils can claim that. Our Council now includes 2 Honorary members - Agnes Mickunas, who has been on the Supreme Council for many years, and Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, the K of L Spiritual Advisor for the last 15 years. I am sure that many other members could have Honorary Membership, but the members of C-3 are humble and just think that continued service to the K of L is what we should be doing.

Many C-3 members received their 4th Degree years ago and felt that reaching that milestone should not be an end in itself, but a means to an end.

C-3 members are the most knowledgeable group of members within the K of L, mainly because of the activities and longevity of most of the members. In my opinion, C-3 has the best interests of the K of L, even when we constructively criticize some actions of the Supreme Council, and/or the Amber District. As with any other council, we do have some in-fighting occasionally, but we have always compromised for the good of Cj-3 and the K of L.

To list the C-3 activities over the last 45 years would be difficult. Our Council does the normal and same things that all the other K of L Councils do - hold meetings and socials, celebrate St. Casimir's Day, participate in Lithuanian activities, etc.

All K of L Councils should be praised for all they do, but C-3 had done one activity that is very noteworthy and that we are very proud of - a string of 18 consecutive "Kucios" celebrations at St. George Parish. C-3 and Monsignor Anderlonis feel, that if it were not for C-3's "Kučios," many of the local Lithuanians would not be able to commemorate "Kucios."

The last (but not least) testament to C-3 greatness is, that there is where I met my dear wife of 37 years. Furthermore, many members of C-3 have been my best friends for over 45 years, and we have celebrated happiness, joy, sadness and tragedy together.

As I started out, I hope this essay backs me up to prove that C-3 is the best damn Council in the Knights of Lithuania!

~Walter Ivekla, C-3, Philadelphia

Please Note...

FOURTH DEGREE APPLICATIONS

The Supreme Council Ritual Committee requests that all **applications for the Fourth Degree** be submitted before **May 1, 2004**. Any received after that date will be held for the following year.

If anyone needs to get in touch with me between January 1 to April 1, 2004, please call: 661-242-0133 or write to:

Lee Moore
18 Easthampton A
West Palm Beach, FL 33417



Lithuanian Community USA

The first meeting of the **National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian Community, USA**, was held in Bridgeport, Connecticut, December 6th and 7th, at Saint George's Lithuanian Catholic Church hall. At that meeting, past chairman, **Algimantas Gecys** handed over the reins to newly elected chair, **Vaiva Vebraitė-Gust**.

In addition to the organization's ongoing work in educational, religious and cultural areas, the new chair set a goal to publicize its importance and significance to all Lithuanians.

To that end, a secretariat of five members was established to build a communication bridge, in both the Lithuanian and English languages to radio, newspapers and magazines, keeping the public abreast of the organization's work.

For further information, please check this web site: www.javlb.org

submitted by: Gene Ziurys
Lithuanian American Community



J Tėvyne



Atėjo diena išsvajota
Į Tėvynę Lietuvą skrendu.
Miškai, pievos, vandenys po kojų
Bet siela aukštai ligi dangaus.

Trumpas kelias rodos ir nesutemo
Jau šviesu, kaip saulės rytmečio žara.
Šviesios akys ir nuovargio nejunti
Kai tėvynės viltis prieš akis.

Vilniaus oro uoste, giminių būrys jau laukia
Gėlių didelėm puokštėm kiekvieno glėbį,
Gražią pinaviją prie širdies prispaudžiau,
Jaučiau, kaip kadaise, savam darželį tarp
gėlių.

Važiuojant į Kauną vieškeliais plačiaisiais
Per miškus dolynus Lietuvos laukų
Medžiai ir gėlynai šale kelio mirga
Akimis aprėbti viską negali.

~Valeria Leščinskienė, C-147

St. Petersburg, Florida

LITHUANIAN TOURISM POSTER DECLARED AS EUROPE'S BEST.

On Dec. 22, the Lithuanian Delegation received a prize for the best-looking tourism poster in Europe in the Madrid-based headquarters of the World Tourism Organization (WTO). The advertising poster produced by photographer Arunas Baltenas depicting the dunes of Lithuania's unique seaside resort, Nida, was named the most beautiful during the WTO's General Assembly in Beijing in October. This was the first time the country had joined the global competition for tourism posters. "We are very happy that an image of Lithuania was chosen the most beautiful poster in the European region. This is a great recognition of Lithuania, which this year has joined the WTO family, and an excellent promotion for your country," David de Villiers, the WTO Deputy Secretary General said during the award ceremony.

CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP

For the Pastoral Care of Lithuanian Catholics Outside of Lithuania

His Excellency, Bishop Paul Baltakis, O.F.M., Bishop for the Spiritual Assistance of Lithuanian Catholics Living Outside of Lithuania, and faithful friend of the Knights of Lithuania, has retired. He is being replaced by Msgr. Edmund J. Putrimas of Toronto, Canada.

Bishop Baltakis has served in this position for the past nineteen years. He has traveled the five continents to minister to the Lithuanians scattered across the world. The bishop's mission has been to strengthen the faith of the people and to strengthen the bonds with the Holy Father and Lithuania. The VYTIS also appreciated the communication of information to this office by means of the "Bishop's Brief" as well as the Bishop's support of our organization. May God bless him, and guide his paths.

In accordance with the norms of Canon Law, Bishop Baltakis submitted his resignation to Rome on February 25, 1999. Since no one had been assigned to replace him for the pastoral care of those outside Lithuania, Pope John Paul II did not accept the resignation until someone could be appointed for this important position. It was not until July 12, 2003 that the Papal Nuncio to Lithuania, Archbishop Peter Zubriggen informed Bishop Baltakis that the Pope had accepted his resignation and that the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference had appointed Monsignor Edmund Putrimas of Toronto Coordinator for the Pastoral Care of Lithuanian Catholics Outside of Lithuania and Lithuanian Bishops Conference Delegate.

Msgr. E. Putrimas was born in Toronto September 3, 1959. He studied in Rome and was ordained by Pope John Paul II in 1985. Msgr. served as chaplain and teacher at the "Vasario 16" High School in Germany until 1994 and then became Associate Pastor of Resurrection Parish in Toronto.

From 1988 to the present, he has been a member of Bishop Baltakis' Pastoral Council for youth, the Bishop's official secretary and a member of the board for Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Inc. In Canada, Msgr. E. Putrimas is the National Vice-President of the Lithuanian Community (LB). With Canadian assistance, Msgr. founded the Spiritual Care Youth Center in Klaipeda of which he is the Chairman of the Board. We ask God to grant success to Monsignor Edmund's many endeavors and offer him our prayerful support.

-Sr. M. Janine Golubickis, SSC

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HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

CANDIDATE FOR 2004 ~

On January 5, 2004, the Honorary Membership Committee received an application from C-112, Chicago, IL, naming Mr. Al Mockus as a candidate for Honorary Membership. Congratulations, Al!

Going to Lithuania? Then Be Sure to Visit "Pažaislis."

The following article appeared in the Lithuanian Daily "DRAUGAS," on May 14, 2003, on page 4. It was written by Algis Liepinaitis. Algis is a member of K of L Council 157, Lemont, IL. He has written many articles about the K of L in newspapers of Lithuania, acquainting Lithuanian citizens with what the K of L does for them. This *Pazaislis* article was translated into English, for the benefit of VYTIS readers, by Loretta Stukas.

Note that *Pazaislis* is a church/convent structure that was organized by the Sisters of St. Casimir before Lithuania's occupation, and Lithuania is proud to have it available for its residents and tourists to visit and enjoy. St. Casimir is honored as the site's Patron Saint. Any K of L - er traveling to Lithuania should not miss visiting *Pazaislis*. You won't regret it! Past K of L excursions have not included this important site. We hope that future ones will opt to go to *Pazaislis*.

PAŽAISLIS

"*Pazaislis*" survived all the storms of war within Lithuania. *Pazaislis* improved. The convent ensemble buildings were repaired on the outside, then the inside of the church, the frescos and other art work were restored, and *Pazaislis* became something to be proud of in Lithuania.

Every year, about 50,000 people visit it, from which about 18,000 are tourists (these statistics were reported by the *Pazaislis* convent). Tourists come from all over the world, representing many nations, races and religions. All are amazed at the beauty of nature there, and not without reason, have dubbed it "The Hill of Peace." Each year, about 100 buses arrive, with school-age children from all of Lithuania's cities and towns. This is indeed a credit to the teachers.

Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda are connected by modern highways. From the highways tourists can see the towers of the *Pazaislis* Church. Many just drive by, because they do not have time to stop. (American Lithuanians, ask your guide to turn to and at least pass *Pazaislis*).

Those who turn onto that road to *Pazaislis* and enter the big gates into the Convent, will feel the spirit of the New Age, and those who enter into the inside of the Church will feel the Middle Age Classical work, which, over two ages, came from the Italian Baroque path into Lithuania, and flourished there for about 200 years.

Lithuania's Sisters of St. Casimir Congregation decided to make a videotape about *Pazaislis'* baroque architectural landmark, with documented history included, on May 1 of this year, 2003. They signed an agreement with Nijole Bauzyte, a well-known editor from Lithuanian Television, (See *Draugas*, May 6, 2003, page 4).

Why is this videotape necessary?

1. Lithuania suffered informational deprivation under Soviet rule. The Education ministry did not allow (and still does not allow) brochures which would have contained writings about patriotism and religion. Children do not get this necessary background. With few exceptions, children learn mostly from their parents. Children who attend private schools receive more spiritual input. The *Pazaislis* videotape will be shown on television, and will open children's eyes, that even Lithuania has fantastic "pearls" which astound even foreign tourists. That will astound the children, also! They will ask their parents to take them to that astonishing place.
2. The example of *Pazaislis* will touch other Lithuanian sacred places, like Siluva, Tituvenas, the Samogitian religious spots like the Hill of Crosses, Samogitia's Calvary, the cathedrals of Telsiai and Siauliai, the holy sites of Kraziai and Varniai, etc.
3. It is anticipated that an English version of this videotape will also be made. The vision of Lithuania's *Pazaislis* will become popular all over Europe and other continents. (*Pazaislis* brochures have been published in seven languages, and are already accomplishing what was intended for them, and their importance is felt in *Pazaislis*).

It is a patriotic intent of Lithuanians to bring moral learning and help to their children and youth, who, in the future, will rebuild Lithuania! Therefore, with this Video, it is the intent of the Sisters of St. Casimir to educate the children

and youth about Lithuania's existing art, culture and history. What children see with their own eyes, they will never forget.

Respectfully,
A. Liepinaitis, C-157



The façade with the main doors of entrance to Pažaislis convent.



A photo of the miraculous picture of Our Lady, originally a gift to Pažaislis, which now hangs in the Basilica of Kaunas.



A photo of the entire Pažaislis compound

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
Knights of Lithuania 91st National Convention

Convention Site: Crowne Plaza Hotel
2 Harmon Plaza
Secaucus, NJ 07094
Host: Council 90 Kearny, NJ

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____ **Council No.** _____
(Please Print)

Street: _____ **Phone No.** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip** _____

Early Registration - \$195.00 per person (Prior to July 1) **Amount** _____
Late Registration - \$225.00 per person (After July 1) **Amount** _____

Junior Registration: \$80.00
Name of Child _____
Age of Child _____ **Amount** _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

All Bus Service as required: Thursday Brunch after Mass;
Thursday Night Get-Together: Coffee after morning Mass
in hotel on Friday and Saturday: Saturday Luncheon;
Saturday Night Banquet and Dance: and Sunday Breakfast
before the Closing Mass.

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Wednesday, August 3, 2004 - Trip to Ellis Island and Statue of
Liberty (including lunch). Departure: 8:00 A.M.
Cost: \$50.00 per person **Amount** _____

Make checks payable to: Knights of Lithuania Council 90 **Total Amount** _____

Mail checks and Registration Forms to :

Ellie Nakrošis, Registration Coordinator
10 Park Avenue
Kearny, NJ 07032

Phone: (201) 998-9641



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
91st National Convention**

Host: Council 90 - Kearny, NJ

Dear Members,

The Knights of Lithuania 91st National Convention will be held August 4th to 8th, 2004, in Secaucus, New Jersey...ONLY SEVEN MILES FROM THE "BIG APPLE," THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD!!

Greet your fellow Knights with an ad in the Convention Program Book. Ad sizes and costs are as follows:

_____ \$120.00 Full Page
8 -1/2" x 11"

_____ \$15.00 Patron Greeting (Use 3 lines below)

First Line _____

_____ \$60.00 Half Page
8-1/2" x 5-1/2"

Second Line _____

_____ \$30.00 Quarter Page
4-1/4" x 2-3/4"

Third Line _____

_____ \$5.00 Kearny Friend (Name Only)

You may submit your ad on a separate piece of paper. Camera ready copy is welcome.

DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 15, 2004

Make checks payable to: Knights of Lithuania Council 90.....Amount _____

**Mail Ads with payment to: Eleanor Rokas, Chair - Program Book
343 Elm Street
Kearny, NJ 07032**

INFORMATION FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
2 Harmon Plaza
Secaucus, NJ 07084
Phone: 201-348-6900 ext. 7205**

Special K of L Room Rates: Single/Double - \$99.00 per room plus applicable taxes

(Please note: you MUST mention that you are with the Knights of Lithuania 91st National Convention to receive these rates!!!)

A Limited Number of Suites are Available!

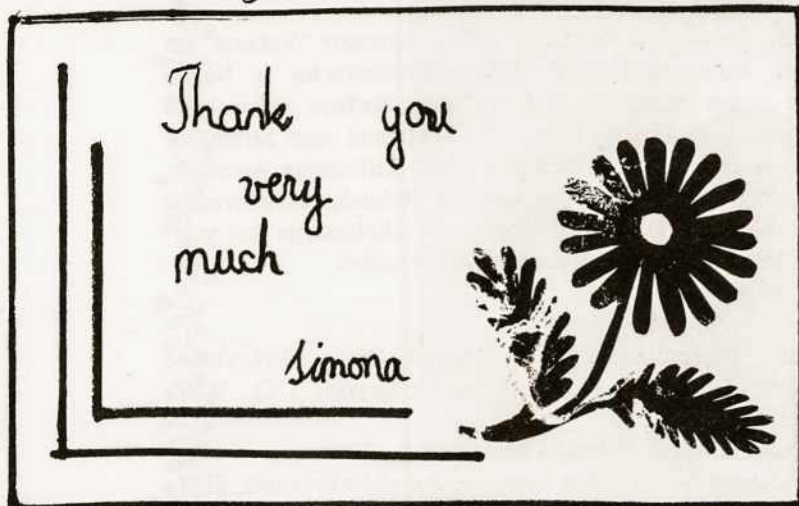
ROOM RESERVATIONS should be made by JULY 1, 2004 to insure room availability

**Parking is FREE.
Valet parking is \$5.00 per car.**

**K of L Council 90
Proposed Agenda
91st National Convention
AUGUST 4TH TO AUGUST 8TH - 2004**

- August 4, 2004**
Wednesday
Convention Registration 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Pre-Convention tour to ELLIS ISLAND and STATUE OF LIBERTY (includes LUNCH) - Depart 8:00 A.M., and return to hotel approximately 4:00 P.M.
Supreme Council Meeting 8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
- August 5, 2004**
Thursday
Convention Registration 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. OPENING MASS AT OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH, Kearny, NJ, at 10:00 A.M., followed by brunch at the Lithuanian Catholic Community Center
FIRST PLENARY SESSION - Crowne Plaza Hotel 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
JUNIOR CONVENTION MEETING, Crowne Plaza Hotel 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
GET TOGETHER NIGHT 6:30 P.M., "NIGHT AT THE RACES," Meadowlands Track
- August 6, 2004**
Friday
Convention Registration 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Morning Mass at the Hotel 8:30 A.M.
JUNIOR OUTING to JERSEY CITY SCIENCE CENTER
SECOND PLENARY SESSION - Hotel 10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
Lunch at the Hotel
Afternoon and Evening on your own to enjoy the sights and sounds of the New York City Area.
- August 7, 2004**
Saturday
Convention Registration 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Morning Mass - Hotel 8:30 A.M.
THIRD PLENARY SESSION, Hotel 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Lunch on your own.
FOURTH PLENARY SESSION, Hotel 1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Convention BANQUET, Hotel 5:30 P.M. to ???
JUNIOR Convention Banquet at "MEDIEVAL TIMES" -7:00 P.M.
- August 8, 2004**
Sunday
Breakfast at Lithuanian Catholic Community Center at 10:00 A.M.
Supreme Council Meeting at Lith. Cath. Comm. Center - 10:00 A.M.
CLOSING MASS at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Kearny, NJ at 1:00 P.M. with Convention Photo
CONVENTION GOOD-BYES!

The Juniors' Corner...



This Christmas, the Juniors who attended the 90th K of L Convention, hosted by Council 1, received a nice surprise in the mail...a Thank You card from *Simona*.

Simona, a handicapped 12yr.-old girl in Lithuania, made "All Occasion Floral Cards," which our Juniors eagerly sold to the delegates at the Convention. The total sale amounted to \$350.

In September, when Sister Helen Ivanauskas and Maryte Bizinkauskas went to Lithuania – Simona and her Mom were presented with the \$350 at the same school in "Kadainis," where we sent all the toys that the Juniors purchased during the Convention.

Needless to say, the children were so excited about their toys. Simona and her Mom were thrilled and extremely grateful (eyes filled with tears).

For Christmas, Simona created a Thank-You card for each Junior who helped with the sales. Simona mailed her Thank-You cards to Council 1 Junior, Kamile Ivanauskas. Kamile then addressed and mailed each card to each Junior who attended the 90th Convention.

"Thank you, Juniors...you helped to greatly improve the life of one family." Also, you made so many children happy with their toys.

"We are very proud of you!"

Vytiskai,
Maryte Bizinkauskas,
Supreme Council 3rd Vice-president

This and That...

Did you ever think of wearing a HAT to bed at night? During the cold winter we lose a great deal of heat through our heads, but wearing a hat is a good way of keeping our body warm and comfortable. Just think of the early settlers who wore nightcaps to bed. The fact is, the body heat rises and we lose heat from the tops of our heads. At night turn the thermostat down, but we must guard against hypothermia. Older people are vulnerable to this cold weather danger. It can sneak up on you, even indoors, even when the temperature isn't dramatically low. It is also a good idea to wear socks to bed or in the evening when you are sitting still watching television or reading.

A good project would be to start a knitting group to make hats and bed socks for elderly shut-ins.

P.S. I have two good instructions for hats and bed socks. Sudiev! **Kathryn Urban C-6**
Hartford, CT
<sunrise22@juno.com>

Kathryn also adds this little prayer discovered at a Flea Market:

"We are reminded today, dear Lord, we need never to miss You. Let us thank You for the privilege of coming to You at any time or at any place. Amen."

Smiles Without Wrinkles...

Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.

Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

A handful of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains.

~submitted by: Leondas Galinskas C-102

Greetings from Connecticut...

"Vetra" Lithuanian Folk Dancers of New Haven, Connecticut, held their 20th Anniversary "Vakaras" on Sunday, November 9, 2003, in West Haven, Connecticut. The Manager/Co-instructor is Nancy Pawasauskaite of C-141, and members of the group include K of L members Barbara Vilcinskaite Schmidt, NED Vice President and President of C-131, Annette Belevich, C-141, and Jean Stramaitis Valenti of C-50, New Haven. Vaiva Vebraite Gustiene, National President of the Lithuanian American Community is the Director/Co-instructor of the group. Three of our dancers, Rolandas Kiaulevicius, Jurgita Mockute and Irina Chanko were recipients of NED Sviklas/Tamulevich scholarships this year. "Vetra" also performed at the NED Festival at Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, MA in October. Some of our dancers as pictured in the photo below are as follows:

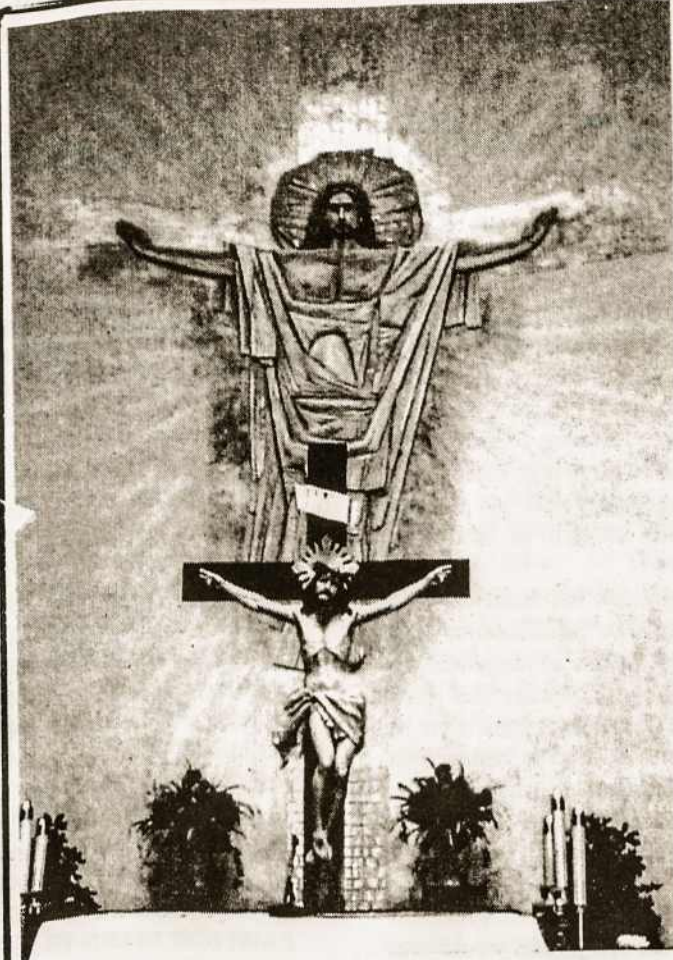
Left to Right: First Row: Nancy Pawasauskaite, Barbara Vilcinskaite Schmidt, Diana Merkeviute Cappello, Rev. Jose Rebacque, (former Pastor of St. George Parish in Bridgeport, CT), Vaiva Gelzauskaite, Zivile Macinskaite, Jurgita Mockute.

Second Row: Sirvydas Gust, James Gust, Zydrunas Gimbutas, Rolandas Kiaulevicius.

Members not in photo: Annette Belevich, Irina Chanko, Vaiva Vebra Gustiene, Rasa Morkeviciute, Sigita Simkuviene, Jean Stramaitaite Valenti, Laura Zilyte, Richard Cappello, James Gust, Stan Rosen and Linas Stasaitis



The "Vetra" Lithuanian Folk Dancers of New Haven Connecticut



A close-up of St. Casimir's altar renovations,
Worcester, Massachusetts

In Memoriam...

<u>Council</u>	<u>Name</u>		<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
6	Vincent	Morkus	Hartford	CT	12/15/03
17	John	Baltrunas	St. Louis	MO	10/19/03
25	John	Garnis	Cleveland	OH	12/2/03
26	Mary	Bruazis	Worcester	MA	11/1/03
26	Judith	Maleckas	Worcester	MA	11/1/03
29	Peter	Podgalsky	Watchung	NJ	11/5/03
50	Helen	Klimaszewski	East Haven	CT	1/10/04
74	Josephine	Profka	Clarks Summit	PA	2003
112	Dr. Leonard	Simutis	Evergreen Park	IL	12/21/03
141	Nellie	Klimaytis	New Haven	CT	12/11/03
144	Valentina	Dancho	Hazleton	PA	2003
152	Benedicta	Kart	Greenport	NY	12/18/03

Lithuanian Affairs *Newsletter...*

Submitted by **John R. Mankus, Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson**

During the fourth quarter of 2003, the Presidency of Rolandas Paksas has found itself in extreme difficulty. As reported in CITY PAPER (Baltics Worldwide) in early December, "A number of his top aides resigned following charges that officials at his headquarters and possibly even Paksas himself, had connections with organized crime. Among those who stepped down, none of whom had themselves been accused of wrongdoing, were his foreign and economic advisers, as well as his press secretary."

The focus of the allegations has been on **Juri Borisov**, an ethnic Russian businessman who gave at least \$400,000 dollars in donations to Paksas' presidential campaign earlier this year. The report concluded that Paksas had been in regular touch with Borisov, who is believed to have ties to the so-called Russian mafia. Paksas helped Borisov to get Lithuanian citizenship earlier this year, and was expected to look out for his economic interests, the report said."

At a press conference on Dec. 30, President Paksas said he would not resign and would win the impeachment proceedings against him. The process, in the president's opinion, was launched to "crush him psychologically."

Speaking to reporters in the resort town of Palanaga, Paksas said, "I did not take office just to resign because of some news articles and complaints from my opponents."

The **Baltic Times** reported that **Kestutis Stungys**, one of the lawyers working for President Paksas, told reporters that all legal means would be used to defend Paksas, including an appeal to the **European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg**. "If it is necessary, we will consider all the institutions where the president's rights could be defended, Stungys said.

The **Washington Times**, on December 12, quotes Ambassador of Lithuania, **Vygaudas Usackas**, who said that the recent events in Lithuania over the accusations against President Rolandas Paksas are "democracy in action."

"I am confident Lithuania will emerge from this scandal more mature and stronger. The constitution is functioning properly. The checks and balances are working. All of the actors in this drama have executed their constitutional duties in a public way," said Ambassador Usackas.

LITHUANIAN EMBASSY IN WASH., DC, ON Monday, November 24, held a commemoration in honor of Lithuanian soldiers and Lithuanian Armed Forces, which celebrated the 85th anniversary. Ambassador **Vygaudas Usackas** noted the short period after the restoration of the Independence during which Lithuanian armed forces managed to "catch up" and adapt to NATO standards. "Today, around 100 Lithuanian soldiers are risking their lives to bring peace, stability and democratic principles to Iraq and to help Iraqi people to deal with the remnants of the former dictator's regime," said the ambassador. On this occasion, the exhibition of Lithuanian Military Collection was opened by ambassador Usackas, Defense Attache, LTC Gediminas Grina, and Assistance Defense Attache, Major Rolandas Zorys. The exhibition is a private collection of insignia of Lithuanian soldiers, collected by a member of American Legion, Lithuanian Henry Gaidis.

FIRST RESULTS OF LITHUANIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) institutions were discussed on 23 December at the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the session of the Lithuanian Delegation for EU Accession Negotiations, led by Lithuanian Foreign Minister, Antanas Valionis. Minister Valionis, in order to represent the national interests effectively, it is important not only to adjust the positions inside the country, but also to represent them comprehensively in Brussels, to raise the issues topical to Lithuania at all the EU working groups and committees, including those of the highest level, if necessary. As a successful example of representing Lithuania's interest, Minister Valionis named the fact that the railway project "Rail Baltica" and the project of Power Bridge between Lithuania and Poland, both presented by Lithuania, were included into the priority list of trans-European network projects.

ECONOMIC NEWS - Lithuania's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 8.3 percent in

the first nine months of 2003, compared to the same period last year, according to final estimates of the country's Statistics Department. Lithuania's economy grew by 6.7 percent in 2002. Lithuanian exports rose by 8.5% in the first ten months of 2003 compared to the same period in 2002.

According to a newly released EU study, it will take the Baltic states years, if not decades, to catch up to living standards in the European Union. On the bright side, the Baltic states have boosted their standards of living much faster than anyone expected they would ten years ago, and they stand out far above of neighboring Russia and Belarus.

ON DECEMBER 22ND, Lithuanian President, Rolandas Paksas has signed into law the 2004 central government and municipal budget, which is the country's first budget to include EU aid allocations, BNS reported. The total revenues of the national budget, which includes both the central government and municipalities, are expected to reach 13,454 billion litas next year, a 21.2 % rise from 2003. The 2004 budget revenue estimate includes 1,579 billion litas in EU aid, while the expenditure estimate includes 440 million litas in Lithuania's contribution to the EU budget.

Lithuania's commercial banking sector continues to show strong growth in 2003, with aggregate assets rising by almost one-fifth, loans increasing by more than one-third and deposits going up by one-eighth since the start of the year, BNS reported. The report does not cover foreign bank branches operating in Lithuania.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Vilnius is to be announced European capital of culture in 2009, General Assembly of Organization of World Heritage Cities decided this week during its session in Greek City of Rodos. Vilnius could host, in 2009, the General Assembly of the Organization of World Heritage Cities, Vilnius City municipality reported. "These are joyful and significant events for Vilnius, as well as the whole Lithuania. The world has acknowledged once again, that Vilnius could be held up as an example for other cities," press report cited Vilnius Mayor Arturas Zuokas as saying. Zuokas noted that these decisions would substantially promote cultural tourism in Lithuania and its capital. The General Assembly singled out Vilnius for the

best restoration of the old town out of 24 selected capitals.

LITHUANIA'S RESIDENTS ARE AMONG HEALTHIEST in the European Union's member and candidate states, shows a study conducted in the current and future EU members reported BNS on December 19. According to a press release of the Statistics Department, which conducted the survey in Lithuania, 8.4% of Lithuania's residents aged 16 to 64 suffered from long-term health problems last year. The number for the EU states was twice bigger - 16.4.

THE MOST POPULAR SITE AMONG EUROPEAN BASKETBALL FANS, Eurobasket.com, elected basketball player, Arvydas Macijauskas as the Eurobasket Player of the Year 2003. A. Macijauskas currently plays in Tau Ceramica, Spain. Eurobasket .com also ranked all players who played in Europe in 2003, to form the European "Dream Team." Out of 5 players in Eurobasket All-Europe 1st Team 2003, 3 are Lithuanians: **A. Macijauskas (guard), Sarunas Jasikevicius (guard) and Arvydas Sabonis (center).**

DUE TO MASS EMIGRATION IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY, and especially during the Soviet takeover in 1944 which forced many Lithuanians to flee, there are now over three million people of Lithuanian descent living outside Lithuania. Some 800,000 Americans claim Lithuanian heritage.

LITHUANIA'S LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER, Petras Silkinas, reached Portuguese capital, Lisbon, on Monday, completing over six months a tour of European capitals dedicated to the Lithuanian membership in the European Union. "I believe there was a meaning to my running. I wanted to show Lithuania and its people, as well as see how people lived in other countries," Silkinas said. The marathon runner said that he covered **13, 386 kilometers, and average of 69 kilometers a day.** He started his jog from his home town of Kretinga, in Western Lithuania, in the beginning of May.

*Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir Viso gero
Naujiems Metams 2004 - G-10
Athol Gardner*





Brian Daigle supervises Dianne Yusias' coffee preparation as Joe Liudzius waits patiently. (C-6)



Joe Kranciunas, Jurgis Petkaitis, Holy Trinity's organist and choir director with his wife, Irene, wait to be served by Lillian Joseph at Council 6's Breakfast Buffet.

Knight²⁷ Life...



Group from St. Joseph's Church, Scranton, PA, greeting our new bishop, Bishop Joseph F. Martino. Back row: Bishop Martino and Marie Laske. Front row: 1 to r. Jean Kragius, Connie Brocavich, Marian Stepanavich and Ellie Reese.



C-3 Kucios, Dec. 13, 2003. L to R. John Mickunas (chief cook) and his helpers, John Chernoski & Tony Pacesa.

District & Council News



Amber District

C-46 Forest City, PA Josephine O'Peka

K of L C-46 wishes everyone a very healthy and Happy New Year!

Our annual picnic in August was held at the home of Pres. Frank and Betty Kwader of South Montrose, PA. They are very gracious hosts and we truly enjoyed their beautiful patio and grounds. Thank you, Frank and Betty.

Betty Kwader and her fellow Gradale members packed boxes for the Klebiskio Pagrindine Mokykla. There were 50 gift packages made up of hats, socks, toys, books, school supplies, candy, personal items, etc. In addition several items of clothing were sent. There were 4 large boxes in all. After packages were sent last year, a letter and pictures were received from Director Jonas Kirkliuskas. This is a school of about 120 children from K through 6th grade. It is in a very poor section. Some of the items received are sent home for siblings as needed so everything sent is used. This ladies club has 12 members and have taken this on as a Christmas project instead of exchanging gifts. Everything is donated by members and the shipping charges are paid from the club's treasury.

Frank and Betty Kwader have a sponsor child through Lithuanian Orphan Care in Birstono. Two years ago, on a trip to Lithuania, they had the pleasure of meeting Rytis's family. Their father is dead so it is hard for their mother to provide. The Kwaders have adopted the whole family and sent 5 boxes for Christmas. Having Rytis for a sponsor child is Betty's annual birthday present. What a present!! They receive wonderful letters from the mother who writes beautifully of all their activities.

John and Amy Morris and Betty Kwader were delegates to the District Convention in Pittston, PA, in Oct.

Our council members gathered many useful items of clothing and food to be sent to our sponsor child, Aldute, in Vilnius, Lithuania. Aldute lives with her mother and we have been receiving some correspondence from Aldute's girlfriend.

On Dec 7, we all enjoyed our Christmas Kucios at the Crystal Pines Restaurant.

We all continually pray for Peace on Earth.

C-74 Scranton, PA Marie Laske

We had our traditional Kucios. Jean Kavelines and Sandi Georgia, Susan Stebbins and Marie Laske were the cooks and helped set up food and serve. These hard workers were assisted by Richard.

Leona Bozenko and her husband, Stanley, with Nathan Stebbins set up the Lithuanian Christmas tree. Margaret Clegg and Rose Stanche's daughter, Helen, trimmed the tables. All these served, including Helen Cravath and Autumn Laske. Autumn is quite the hunter; she bagged a doe and an 8 point buck this year; she is 15 years old. Nathan is 14 and received his Eagle Badge for Boy Scouts. These youths have helped many years at Kucios.

Our home-bound were missed. Get well wishes go to Jim O'Neil.

Ruth Yanish and her sister from Massachusetts enjoyed our meal. Sister Elizabeth Zemaitis was our guest. Sister Paraclete couldn't come this year because of recent surgery. She was missed.

Msgr. William Pakutka was the hit of our Kucios. He greeted and introduced himself to all. He is a great showman; he should be called Msgr. Terrific.

Thanks go to my granddaughter attorney Rebecca Georgia and her soon-to-be husband, Mario Emiliani, who served

and helped in many ways.

A big Aciu to all who helped in any way to make our Kucios a success.

C-144 Anthracite, PA Ona

Newly elected officers for 2004 are Pres Larry Domalakes; VP Ann Wargo; Sec Terri Rautzahn; Fin Sec Elsie Kosmisky; Treas Peter Teresavage.

We lost two good members, both after long illnesses, Valentina Dancho and Mildred Mikatavage. Val and her husband, Joe Dancho were active members in the Hazleton council and when that council disbanded, they enrolled in ours. Both had been great supporters of St. Casimir's Guild.

In October, Judge John Domalakes was recognized by the Knights of Columbus for a lifetime of achievement. The award acknowledged Judge Domalakes as a staunch Catholic gentleman, a loyal American Patriot, a prominent judge of the Court of Common Pleas and a leader in his community. The God and Country award was presented by Msgr. Gerald Gobitas, secretary to the Bishop and Chancellor of the Diocese of Allentown. John is a Third Degree of the Knights of Lithuania; He and his wife, Suzanne, had been honored by the town of Frackville for all they had done for that town. The Domalakes family, John and his brothers Larry and Paul, their wives and children, are all active members of the council. They are proud of their Lithuanian heritage and all do much "For God and Country".

Due to the bad snow storm on the Sunday that we were to have our Kucios, we cancelled til the beginning of Jan. Suzanne Domalakes and Terri Rautzahn are co-chairpersons.

A huge shipment was sent to Lithuania to arrive before Christmas. A beautiful Christmas card and Aciu with much love was received from the Klebiskio

Pagrindine Mokykla in Prienu. This is just one of the places that we support. Our Humanitarian Aid Committee, under the chairmanship of Bernice Mikatavage, work very hard. We are thankful for the work they do in many places in small villages, orphanages, etc. We are also thankful to Annie Morgalis who stores everything - whatever they receive, they clean if necessary, only send what is good if it is not new. Because of our annual Lithuanian Days, we are able to do this. Thanks to all who support this cause. And thanks to Peter Teresavage who the last 2 years chaired Lithuanian Days - no easy task.

We are proud that our District member, Agnes Mickunas, has accepted the National Presidency and we wish her well. Agnes is very knowledgeable in the workings of the Knights and will be an excellent President. We also congratulate District President, Diane Drumstas, another oldtime Vyce who will also do well. At the District meeting, Eleanor Vaicaitis accepted the Treasurer's job and Ann Wargo and Elsie Kosmisky, trustees.

As the old year ends, let us all wish for the best to come. We wish our New Supreme Council, all our brother and sister Knights, a New Year filled with good luck, good health and much happiness. God bless you all.

Mid Atlantic District

C-110 Maspeth, NY Bruno Rutkunas

The weather has taken over some of our local Knights events: On Dec 7, Sunday the Blizzard of Dec 6, reduced the amount of guests attending the Christmas party sponsored by C-152 of Eastern Long Island in Riverhead, LI. Fortunately, Joe Thomas was able to entertain everyone and the social event was completed without any particular problems: a few members from C-110, Maspeth, were able to make it.

After preparing the Transfiguration Hall by chairpersons Ann Morrissey and Mary Stungurys on Sat, Dec 13 for the 29th celebration of KUCIOS by C-110, the Sunday morning snowstorm on Dec 14 caused many cancellations and many no-shows. Joe Thomas was not able to get through the icy roads for this event. Like always, candles were lit and songs and prayers helped us remember the traditional Christmas Eve happenings in Lithuania.

The no-meat luncheon included catered potato pancakes, piroges, fish, blintzes, Andrulis farmer cheese, herring and more: breads and babka from Silver Bell. Apple cider and wine were served to wash down the tasty dishes. All this happened after the 11:30 AM Lithuanian Mass celebrated by Rev. Vitas Volertas. Honored guests included Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Pastor Paul Wood and neighboring friends of the Knights of Lithuania. Monetary gifts were awarded to the clergy who guided us through the year with prayers and support. After cleaning up, we left the hall and, as expected, the snow had stopped, replaced by rain.

Our President, Julia Schroder, and her volunteer helpers made every effort to make sure everything and everybody were treated to a fine affair. Even though our Kucios Luncheon was a social success, the absence of many guests because of the inclement mess by Mother Nature resulted in a non-profit event.

On Oct 30, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Astoria, Queens, Ms Helen Matulonis and Anne Marie Verbil were presented with the Commemorative Medal of the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the Diocese of Brooklyn for their long time service to the parish of Transfiguration and St Stanislaus Kostka!!! CONGRATULATIONS!!

The celebration of Lithuanian Independence in 2004 will be hosted by the Transfiguration Church with the

Annunciation choir and members joining with the Knights and guests on Sunday, Feb 15.

The Spring MidAtlantic District Convention will be hosted by our C-110; many important matters and changes to improve attendance will be on the agenda!

Our council would like to thank all councils that sent their Christmas wishes to our council in the past issue of Vytis; likewise from C-110.

Even though our regular monthly meeting was postponed, all members are awaiting the start of the year 2004 to keep the Council active and to sponsor more noteworthy affairs; Amen.

C-136 Hudson Mohawk Dorothy Richmire

Happy New Year to all and we pray for lasting peace, good health and happiness.

Our Annual Christmas Dinner Party was held Dec 21 at a restaurant in, Amsterdam, NY. It was well-attended and very enjoyable. Our guest of honor Rev. Richard Carlino joined in the festivities and during the course of the evening, he agreed to serve as Spiritual Advisor for our council. We are happy and honored.

On Dec 10 and 30 we loaded containers #34 and #35 for shipment to Lithuania. Containers consisted of operating room tables, patient monitors, hospital beds, and other medical equipment. This equipment was saved from the scrap pile due to the renowned Ginger Houghton, whose name and phone number are on file in all medical and dental facilities in NE New York. Ginger receives the calls and then relays the information to Bob Duda and Ed Barkowski, her cohorts, who assemble a group of volunteers to pick up and then load into containers the various equipment and supplies which have been saved from demolition. It is such a miraculous endeavor in that offers of equipment

keep coming in from all parts of the Northeast. Truly it is a rewarding project and we are so proud and grateful for all those who volunteer and make this possible.

A date has been set for our annual commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day - Sun, Feb 22 at Holy Cross Church in Schenectady, NY.

Count your age by friends, not years, count your life by smiles, not tears.

Mid Central District

C-25 Cleveland, OH Ursula Kunsitis

Theresa Capuria, C-25 President, Joan Ortman and son, Chris, arrived in Pittsburgh Friday, Oct 17, in time to enjoy the Hospitality Get-Together hosted at the home of John and Andrea Baltrus. A great time was had by all. Members Dick and Jean Marks and Dolly Oberaitis arrived for the MCD Business Meeting. Four C-25 members were returned to MCD office: Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas will remain as Spiritual Advisor; Jean Marks, VP; Richard Marks, Treas; and Dolly Oberaitis, trustee. Congratulations!

Our members were especially moved by the Pilgrimage at the St. Casimir Cemetery and the Reading of all the council's deceased members and the visit to the graves of several nuns and priests who were also K of L members. At the Sunday Mass at the Sisters of St. Francis Convent Chapel, Dolly Oberaitis and President, Michael Petkus, presented the Offertory Gifts. C-25 would like to thank C-19, Pittsburgh, for a well-planned Meeting and Pilgrimage. All had a safe journey home. Thank you for representing our Council!

Can you believe this -- Eleanor Bendokas walked into the Seneca Casino with husband, Al, Irene

Chalko, Nellie Samas and Ann Wallis and in less than 10 minutes, the bells started ringing and she was the winner of a "sizeable" jackpot. Eleanor was bewildered and overjoyed and couldn't believe her good luck! That a Girl Eleanor!

Betty August, now living in Canton, Georgia, writes that on September 11 she was presented with her 11th great-grandchild, Ryann, and on Oct 11th, with her 12th great-grandchild, Leila. Congratulations to all!

Joe and Ann Ivoska are the proud parents of Dr. Bill Ivoska who was named to the position of VP of Student Services of Owens Community College, in Oct. His responsibilities will include overseeing and supervising staff and activities within the Department of Athletics, Academic Enhancement and Counseling, Enrollment Services, Financial Aid, Records, International Students, Disability Services, Student Appeals and Discipline and Student Services on the Finlay-area campus. That's quite a job, Dr. Bill - Congratulations - we are all proud of you!

Good luck to Gene Kunsitis who was recently elected to the position of Treasurer of the Greater Cleveland Orchid Society. Happy balancing!

C-25 was deeply saddened at the death of John Garnis who died, unexpectedly, December 2nd, 2003. John was a long-time member of C-25, the K of C, and an Usher-Committee Man at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. John had been the Primary Care Giver of his wife, Helen, who has been ill for a number of years. Our K of L service was held at the Jakubs and Son Funeral Home led by Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas, our Spiritual Advisor, and President Theresa Capuria. May you Rest in Peace, John!

We would all like to thank our President, Theresa, who handled all the arrangements for our Dec 5 Christmas Party. A One-Man Band provided the

Christmas music and wonderful polkas while we enjoyed a sumptuous family-style dinner and also for the endless number of gifts for our Christmas raffle. Aciu!

Dick and Jean Marks happy to be back after their visit to daughter, Mary Beth, and husband, Randy Roberts in Montana. Seems there was a bit "too much snow" to their liking! We wish all our ailing and recovering members: Nellie Arunski, Agnes Bartkus, Betty August, Helen Garnis, Helen and Bill Jakubs, Ben Karklius, Dolly Oberaitis, Stella Sankal, Cliff Schneider, Adelle Tanner, Al Wallis, Jack&Helen Valley, Lillian Yurkovic Laimingu, Sveiku, Nauju Metu!!!

C-96 Dayton, OH Frances Petkus HM

It is that time of year when councils and districts vote in their officers for the coming year. C-96 did just that on Oct 5th. The following officers and committee chairs will be keeping the council busy in 2004: Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Michael Holloran; Pres-Robert Pant; 1st VP- Michael F. Petkus; 3rd VP-Christine Fletcher; Rec Sec-Mary Agnes Mikalauskas; Treas-Helen Vaitkus; Financial Sec-Frances Mikalauskas; Sgt-at-Arms- Robert D. Petkus; Trustees- George Mikalauskas/ Joseph E. Mantz; Religious-Joann/Gary Thiele; Lith Affairs/Cultural/Historian-Elena Mikalauskas; Ritual-Fran Petkus/Eloise A. Berczelly; Vytis/Council Bulletin-Ed-Fran Petkus; Social/Condolence - Elaine Pacovsky; By-laws-Joseph/Eleanor Mantz; Telephone Squad- Joyce Berczelly; Sarysis/Parish Council-Lauretta Pant; Public Relations- Elinor Sluzas; Photographer- Gary Thiele/Kristina Dambrauskas; Recognition Award-George Mikalauskas; Ways and Means-Kristina Dambrauskas. We thank the out going officers for their dedication this past year and we wish the incoming officers success as they step in to lead us.

Michael F. Petkus, as MCD President, returned home from a very successful trip to Philadelphia the weekend of Oct 10-12. Junior Knight Erin Petkus was there as was Fran Petkus but they spent the meeting time at the Mutter Museum which is affiliated with the College of Physicians. A display of skulls of Eastern Europeans caught their attention. The display was dated 1785-18???. There was a skull of a Lithuanian girl who died from smallpox at the age of 17. They all joined C-3 at Mass and lunch for the council's 90th Anniversary on the 12th.

Michael and Fran Petkus had good news to share when they returned from the MCD Fall Convention/Pilgrimage which was hosted by C-19, Pittsburgh, Oct 17-19. It was good to see our fellow Knights who are unable to travel due to health problems - Andrew Rozger, Agatha Bender, etc. At the Lithuanian cemetery John Baltrus had beautiful prayers read along with the reading of the names of the deceased members of the MCD. These names brought back many memories for us. Closing Mass for the weekend was held at the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God Chapel.

On Dec 7, C-96 and its members held its Annual Christmas Caroling to the shut-ins and those over 80. We had members from 14 months to 84 years making the rounds. As Eloise Berczelly says - we have walker/wheelchair will travel! Poinsettias are presented to many to take home after Mass. We went to 3 nursing homes and one private home where we not only sang to our members but other people in the facilities came out to hear us. Mary Agnes Mikalauskas supplied the music with her guitar; Connie Geiger, as our parish choir director, kept us on key; Jim Geiger was the lead in the songs we sang a cappella. We sang Christmas songs in English and Lithuanian. Thanks to Frances and

Mary Agnes for putting the event together. Thanks must go to our Social Chair Elaine Pacovsky who had a warm supper prepared for us upon our return to the church hall and monthly meeting.

Once again George Mikalauskas made the arrangements for the members to get together at the Milton Athletic Club for the council's Annual Christmas Dinner on Dec 10. Had some cancellations due to illness but those who attended had a good meal, time to share friendship and a fun time to get into the holiday season mood. In lieu of flowers donations were collected for Aid to Lithuania, Inc. We have so much to be thankful for. Josephine Zilinkas, a lifelong member of our parish and council member, has always been a kind and giving person. Recently she donated \$5,000 to Aid to Lithuania, Inc. and \$5,000 to our council. May our heavenly Father bless and keep her in His Loving Care!

On a sad note, our deepest sympathies go out to Alice and Mary Petkus on the untimely loss of their 9-month-old great granddaughter/great niece and godchild, Gillian Faith Wells. May she rest in peace with God and His angels.

New England District NED News Birzelis

It was a rainy Sunday with a touch of snow in the air when the NED held their Cultural Festival at Maironis Park in Worcester, MA on Oct 19, but that did not stop many people from attending. It was a great time to meet old friends and make new friends. Many of the councils had tables to sell goods or raffle prizes for the benefit of NED. This is the only fundraiser that the NED has. A delicious Lithuanian Dinner was prepared by C-26, Worcester, with the assistance of C-27, Norwood, and C-17, So. Boston.

The Vetra Dancers of New Haven, CT, performed traditional Lithuanian Folk Dances under the guidance of Nancy Pawasauskas. After the dancing, the councils with raffles distributed their prizes. The finale was the drawing of the NED raffle tickets with Waterbury, CT winning 5 of the 7 prizes. The winners were: 1st prize(\$300) to E. Salkaus of Worcester; 2nd prize (\$200) to Pete Genvickas, Waterbury; 3rd prize (\$100) to Rosie Bebrin, Waterbury; 4th prize (\$100) to Edward Toole, West Haven, CT; 5th, 6th, 7th prizes to Waterbury's Mark Greene, Anthony Puzenis, and Julia Puodziukaitis. The weather had cleared for our drive home after a delightful afternoon with the NED.

C-6 Hartford, CT BettyAnn Liudzius

On Nov 16, after the 2 Sunday Masses, crisp bacon strips, fluffly pancakes and delicious tropical fruit cups were only part of the delectable breakfast buffet prepared by chairperson Brian Daigle, his wife, Mary, and their industrious committee-Alyce Gegesky, Lillian Joseph, Judy Landers, Donata Virkutis and Dianne Yusias. With smiling faces, June Grenier and Betty Elis greeted council members and guests who supported the fundraiser. Tomas Nenortas sold various Lithuanian products on a corner table. So many compliments were received that I am sure C-6 will turn the Breakfast Buffet into an annual event.

Soft Christmas music, red and green tablecloths, and council members attired in holiday vests and sweaters lent a festive air to our Dec meeting. Each brought a specialty to be shared for the potluck supper and, of course, the old stand-by Lithuanian dish, kugelis, was one of the many tasty dishes. The bounteous buffet was artfully arranged by Social Chairperson Dana Grajauskas and her committee- Alyce Gegesky, Victor Kogelis, Judy Landers and Leona Sawka. I think we all gained 5 lbs.

Dalia Dzikas had us all pronounce "Linksmu Kaledu (Merry Christmas) and Piemeneliu Misios (Shepherd's Mass). Animals speaking at midnight, well-water turning to wine and the sharing of 12 foods commemorating the Apostles were some of the traditions that Dalia mentioned.

Our President, Gene Ziurys, commented that Jesus is the Reason for the Season and when greeted with "Happy Holidays", he replies "Merry Christmas", except of course, if they are celebrating Hanukkah.

Every meeting we have a 50/50 raffle and our organist/choir director Jurgis Petkaitis, said that the next winner would have to come up and sing a carol solo, but Arlene Stiklius was too shy. Jurgis Petkaitis said "Pick my ticket next" and Guess What? his was the next ticket pulled. You should try that on the lottery, Jurgis-Good Luck. The evening ended with the singing of familiar English and Lithuanian Christmas carols. All went home contented and were looking forward to an exciting and eventful 2004.

C-10 Athol-Gardner Vincukas

Our council elected the following slate of officers for 2004: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis; Pres, Henry Gailiunas; VP, William Wisniauskas; Treas, Nellie Melaika; Rec Sec, Pamela Bouthilier, Fin Sec, Marie Colo; Ritual, Maryann Langlois; Cultural, Brone Wisniauskas; Sgt-at-Arms, David Lucas.

Our council held their annual Kucios on Sun, Dec 21 after the first evening star appeared. It was the best ever with about 70 members and guests in attendance. MC, William Wisniauskas asked Deacon James Couture to read the Christmas Gospel of Luke. Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis explained the significance and traditions of the

evening passed down through the years. Rev. Steve Johnson, Pastor, blessed and distributed the plotkeles to all, the breaking and the sharing representative of the Last Supper now symbolizes family unity. The meatless meal included fish chowder, baked salmon and haddock, herring, kugelis, mushroom dishes, sauerkraut, hot and cold various salads, etc. The pastry table was great..

The candles were lit for the deceased members and they are many. Traditions and Kucios superstitions were enacted under the guidance of Brone Wisniauskas. The hall was beautifully decorated along with a Lithuanian Christmas tree. Carols were sung. Bernice Wisniauskas and Sophia Fiorentino were co-chairmen. Armand and Pam Bouthilier were kitchen coordinators and chefs. Richard Gatautis, set-up chairman. Dr. Marie Shatas, Dr. Jackie Doherty and Sophia Fiorentino were fish benefactors.

Joanna Chastney has returned from vacation in California and is now on her way to Florida. Henry and Brone Gailiunas are spending 6 weeks in Lithuania.

We are proud of council members who are successful business men: Richard Gatautis, Richard Genaitis, Tom and Marie Colo, and Jim and Asta Krasauskas.

Local K of L's elected as officers of the Lithuanian Outing Assoc in Gardner - David Lucas, Howard Beaudette, Gloria Debesitis O'Malley, Bill Wisniauskas, Peter Molis, and Raymond Jakubauskas.

Condolences are extended to the John Baltakis family on the death of sister, Helen Baltakis Olsen.

Brone Wisniauskas and Asta Krasauskas had a great Lithuanian display along with Lithuanian goodies at the Annual Ethnic Day at the Gardner Museum in Dec. Remarks were the

display was outstanding.

Best holiday greetings to all our shut-ins and home-bound members.

C-17 So. Boston, MA Regina Alexander

The Annual St. Peter Parish Bazaar saw many C-17 members, both industriously working and pleasantly socializing. It is nice to see our new members are also taking an active part in council and parish activities. Master Chef Vytautas Ivanauskas with his daughters and several other hard-working council members prepared excellent Lithuanian food for all. There was a large variety of great prizes. Many were donated. Msgr. Al Contons and Fr. Steve Zukas warmly greeted the many parishioners.

At the November meeting an active committee prepared and served the special refreshments; it was Blynu Vakarai. Also at the Nov meeting the new officers and committee chairpersons were sworn in and took office for the coming year.

Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Stephen Zukas; Pres, Francis Markuns; 1st VP, Florence Zaleskas; 2nd VP, Patricia Plevock; Rec Sec, William Olevitz; Treas, Ann Kleponis; Fin Sec, Vera Yuskavich; Trustees, Louis Bazzinotti, Eleanora Mikalonis; Sgt-at-Arms, Albert Kniupis; Ritual, Longinas Svelnis; Culture, Phyllis Gendreau; Vytautas Corresp and PR, Regina Alexander; Sunshine, Ann Norinkavich, Frances Zerveske. Congratulations and best wishes to all! Iki pasimatymo....

C-26 Worcester, MA Ruta

Our Spiritual Advisor and Pastor of St. Casimir Church, Rev. Richard Jakubauskas, is congratulated by all K of L members and the parishioners for a job well done. The church underwent major renovations such as painting, installation of new lighting, and much

of the artwork painted in natural colors giving them life; previously the church and artwork was done in an off-white. Masses were held in the church hall while the work was underway. Everything was completed in time for the 100th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the church. After the Anniversary Mass, there was a celebration dinner at Maironia Park with a few speeches and entertainment by the choir.

Bishop Daniel Reilly held the Mass and many other diocesan priests either assisted or attended. Fr. Jakubauskas gave the homily. Our K of L members were there assisting and attending this momentous occasion to help make it a success. The focal point and theme is behind the altar, which depicts the mystery of our faith - Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. Christ has died- there is a large cross with Christ on it. Christ is risen - the white base relief, which is somewhat above the cross, is now painted in colors and gold leafed. Christ will come again - this painting is near the ceiling, showing Christ ready to descend to the earth. The entire background of this area is done in a pale yellow, blending out to a lovely shade of rose, and then merging to the edges in a vibrant blue. It is absolutely beautiful and very impressive. When you enter the church, the gold rug leads you straight to the altar. If you are in Worcester and near St. Casimir's Church, you must stop in.--

Our members donated large bags of non-perishable food for the Pernet Family Health Center. The food was distributed to the needy families in the area. Pres Vivian Rodgers received a letter from the organization thanking us for our support in this worthwhile program.

Our Christmas Party and meeting was held at Maironis Park. Everyone was in a festive mood. As usual, the buffet

was delicious. Al Seilius, by unanimous demand, conducted the group through uproarious singing of the 12 days of Christmas. Then Santa, Bill Leseman, arrived with his bag of gifts. Everyone received some type of small gift. A king, Louie Gouin, and a queen, Lillian Kondrotas, were selected. They received gifts appropriate to their stations. The evening concluded with Pres Vivian Rodgers leading the group in English and Lithuanian Christmas carols. A good time was had by all!

Joan Wojciak traveled to Grand Rapids, MI during the holidays to visit her son, Paul, his wife, Erin, and their 2 children Daniel and Connor. Daniel, the eldest, was recently nominated to the High School National Honor Society. Needless to say, grandmother Joan is very proud of him.

With great sadness, I tell you that several of our members and members of their families recently passed away. Judith Maleckas, Mary Bruazis, Ann Buckley, and Frances Glaskas. The Ritual ceremony was performed at the wakes. We also extend condolences to Sharon Gouin for the loss of her brother, Francis Tagman, and to Bill Leseman for his sister, Flora Kittredge. Our prayers go out to the deceased and their families.

C-27 Norwood, MA Zaibas

Let it snow. Let it snow. And so it did for our planned Ham and Bean Supper that was to be held Dec 6. After so many phone calls, we cancelled. Luckily we did as more than 20" of snow fell and roads were impassable. The supper was then held on Dec 13 and turned out great. All who attended complimented the chef, Albie Jarvis, and his hard-working committee.

Our first meeting of the New Year was held Jan 4. It was good to see our Spiritual Director, Rev. Wm Wolkavich who celebrated the 8AM

Mass. Then the members enjoyed a festive champagne brunch in the church hall and shared their happy holiday experiences with one another.

At the meeting both Pres. Chas. Treciokas and Al Jarvis thanked the members for a job well done with our supper. The parish hall was filled with many happy people at that event.

George Barton, Ritual Chairman, read the ceremony that installed Carol Treciokas with a 1st degree and Chas. Treciokas with a 2nd degree. The council looks forward to a busy year. Lai Dievas palaimina visus Vycius per Nauju Metu, 2004!

MidAmerica District



C-157 Lemont, IL Irene Macke

C-157 delegates to the 90th National Convention of the K of L were Theresa and HM Faustas Strolia, Irene and Charles Macke, and Georgianna Macke as well as Ann Marie Kassel and Junior, Liza Macke. C-1's hospitality was deeply appreciated and the outstanding program of Friday's cultural evening will long reverberate in happy memory. A particular pleasure for our council was the honor of having Ann Marie Kassel nominated for honorary membership. Her many years of devotion to the K of L deserve the highest recognition.

In Sept, council officers were elected as follows: Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. I. Urbonas; Pres, Charles Macke; VP, Ben Nauseda; Treas, Tom Strolia; Rec Sec, Georgianna Macke; Corresp/FinSec, Ann Marie Kassel; Sgt-at-Arms, Donna Juraitis; Trustee, Vyto Shukis; Ritual, Ann Marie Kassel; Lithuanian Affairs, Barbara Kotlar; Cultural Affairs, HMFaustas Strolia; Vytis Corresp, Irene Macke.

With sadness and deep respect we paused to remember our dear member Herkulis

Strolia who had passed away in June. His membership in the council was short but he will be long remembered for his friendliness, the resonance of his wonderful voice in the K of L choir, and his great talent as a violinist, recalled with particular nostalgia by this correspondent as Herkulis played at her father's funeral. Thanks for the memories, Herkulis.

The council welcomed three potential members: Ann Shukis, Sr. Stella Stanevich, SSC, and Lillian Olzewski. It is our sincere hope that these lovely women will indeed join us.

Theresa Strolia, once again the organizer of a K of L Pilgrimage, announced that the 2003 pilgrimage would be Nov 15. This tour to the National Shrine of St. Maximillian Kolbe at Marytown in Libertyville, IL, did indeed take place with 27 pilgrims and proved to be another very worthwhile spiritual and social experience for all attendees. We are deeply indebted to Theresa for her time and efforts in researching and planning these pilgrimages.

C-157 organized the annual K of L Mass for the Dead, which was held on Nov 8 at Holy Family Villa. Approximately 40 K of L'ers attended and shared a lunch organized by Ann Marie and Donna Juraitis.

Our council was thrilled to hear of an outstanding honor bestowed on HM Faustas Strolia in Lithuania in early October. Faustas was honored at St. Casimir's Church in Vilnius by an entire evening devoted to his compositions. The Mass was concelebrated by seven priests and the music sung by the choir was entirely that composed by Maestro Strolia. His new "Hymn to Our Lady of Siluva" was sung after Mass by a congregation of nine choirs. Those of us lucky enough to have seen a videotape of the evening taken by Robert Damasauskas were deeply moved and gratified to see

Faustas receive medals of recognition for his body of work. Those of us who have been privileged to perform his music have long been struck by its beauty and are grateful that he has shared his great talent with us. God bless you, Faustas and Terry; it must have been an incredible night.

December 9 was Kucios with C-157.

An invitation was extended to all district members. HM Msgr. Urbonas led us in prayer and Sr. Janine Golubickis explained some of the Lithuanian Christmas traditions that have been passed down to us. Approximately 50 guests, including Juniors, attended and shared a wonderful array of foods prepared by members. As no such evening is complete without music, HM Faustas Strolia led us in carols both in English and in Lithuanian. Donna Juraitis, who has a surprise for us at every meeting, arranged a raffle with wonderful prizes and made sure that every child went home with a present.

C- 112, Chicago, IL J.M. Shain

Council 112 convened its meeting on December 16th, which was held in conjunction with its annual Christmas party. About 55 members were in attendance. Our Council had the honor of the presence of 5 priests: Rev. Anthony Zakaruskas, Mid-America District spiritual advisor; Rev. John Kuzinskas, Nativity Parish Pastor; Rev. Vyto Mikolaitis, Associate Pastor; Rev. A. Adomavicius from Lithuania, assisting in the parish; and Rev. Tony Markus, the spiritual advisor for C-112.

It was announced that the K of L Mid-America District would be holding its 44th annual "Mem'ries of Lithuania" Banquet on Sunday, February 1, 2004, at the "Chateau Bu-Sche," in Alsip, IL. All were encouraged to participate and support this wonderful yearly event.

A secret ballot vote was taken for the election of Al Mockus as a candidate for Honorary Membership. Estelle Rogers also announced the names of 5 new members which she registered for C-112. They were cordially welcomed with warm applause. Andrea Deksnis, in charge of Juniors for C-112, announced that the Juniors attended the "Kučios" celebration held by C-157. They had a really good time, and each Junior received a gift. Andrea also asked for donations for the Orphans of Lithuania. This being a Junior project. Anyone who made a donation received a beautiful handmade ornament.

The Mid-America District will be celebrating the Feast of St. Casimir at Nativity B.V.M. parish this year, on Sunday, March 7th, at the 12:15 Mass.



Nathan Stebbins, grandson of Marie Laske, C-74, Scranton

Know Your Supreme Council ?



Front Row: Joe Stiklius, Sr. Janine Golubickis, Bernice Aviza, Ellie Nakrosis, June Grenier, and Brian Johnson,
Back Row: Michael Petkus, Regina J. Svoba, Frank Petrauskas, HM, Linas Balsys, John R. Mankus, & Loretta Stukas, HM.



Front Row: Agnes Mickunas, HM, Becky Pataki, Elinor Sluzas, HM, and Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM.
Back Row: John Sakal, Laurynas Misevicius, Mary Beth Slakis, Frances Bumila and Lee Moore.

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№ 22 (70)

Vilnius, antradienis, 1918 m. vasario mėn. 19 d.

II metal

LIETUVOS TARYBA skelbia

Lietuvos nepriklausomybę

Lietuvos Taryba savo posėdyje vasario m. 16 d. 1918 m. vienu balsu nutarė kreiptis į Rusijos, Vokietijos ir kitų valstybių vyriausybės šiuo pareiškimu:

Lietuvos Taryba, kaip vienintelė lietuvių tautos atstovybė, remdama pripažintą tautų apsisprendimo teisę ir lietuvių Vilniaus konferencijos nutarimu rugsėjo m. 18—28 d. 1917 metais, **skelbia atstautanti nepriklausomą, demokratiniais pamatais sutvarkytą Lietuvos valstybę su sostine VILNIUJE** ir tą valstybę atskirianti nuo visų valstybinių ryšių, kurie yra buvę su kitomis tautomis.

Drauge Lietuvos Taryba pareiškia, kad Lietuvos valstybės pamatus ir jos santykius su kitomis valstybėmis privalo galutinai nustatyti kiek galima greičiau susauktas Steigiamasis Seimas, demokratinio būdu visų jos gyventojų išrinktas.

Vilnius, vasario 16 d. 1918 m.

Lietuvos Tarybos nariai:

Dr. J. Basanavičius, K. Bizauskas, M. Biržiška, S. Banaitis, P. Dovydasis, St. Kairys, P. Kilmantas, D. Malinauskas, V. Mironas, St. Narutavičius, A. Petrušis, Dr. J. Šaulys, K. Saulys, J. Šernas, A. Stulginskis, A. Smetona, J. Smilgevičius, J. Staugaitis, J. Vaškevičius, J. Vileišis.

THE NEWSPAPER LIETUVOS AIDAS PROCLAIMS THE ACT OF INDEPENDENCE
OF 16 FEBRUARY 1918