



# Vytis - The Knight

Vol. 91 No. 1 - sausis/vasaris - January/February, 2005





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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.**







# Turinys ~ Contents



To My Fellow Knights	4
Let Us Remember...	4
President's Message	5
Ad Multos Annos!	5
Christmas Windows	6
Roster of S.C. Officers	10
K of L Foundation 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize-Winning Essay	11
Instructions for Life	11
From the Memoirs of Leonard Simutis	12
Lith. Language & Culture Report	14
92 <sup>nd</sup> National Convention Registration	16
Knight of Lithuania Charities	18
Pontifical College TV Project Report	18
4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Applications	19
Honorary Membership Candidates	19
Vytis Reminders	19
District and Council News	21
The Way to Live in 2005	29
Weekly Workout	29
"Liaudes Medicinos Patarimai"	29
The Passing of a Dear Knight	30
St. Peter's Lithuanian Catholic Church	31

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**Front Cover of This Issue:** One of the original works by Antonia Wackell. She wishes to share this particular work with all of the Knights of Lithuania. Antonia is now 99 years old and resides in the Radius Health Center in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her arthritic fingers no longer allow her to grasp and hold a paint brush. Thanks, Antonia, and God bless you!

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## To My Fellow Knights

2005! Happy and blessed New Year! May this Year of the Eucharist bring blessings of peace and unity to the world and to each of our hearts.

Lietuvių Fondas, the Lithuanian Foundation, Inc., as of last year has increased its efforts to communicate with the Lithuanian community and has been sending communiqués and information to the Vytis office. The Foundation has been graciously remembering Vytis annually for its contribution to the dissemination of Lithuanian information. Presently, they are seeking new members to support and continue the work they have been doing during the past 42 years. This is their year of New Membership.

For Catholics throughout the world, Pope John Paul has proclaimed this the Year of the Eucharist beginning in October until October, 2005. Wouldn't it behoove us as K of L'ers with the motto "For God and Country" to have a special Mass or Holy Hour to unite in celebrating this Year of the Eucharist? What the Holy Father spoke to young people, applies equally to us 'young folk' also. "In the first place, love the Eucharist... Know how to put the Eucharist at the center of you personal and community life, so that communion with Christ may help you to carry out your courageous personal choices." Let the Eucharist give us strength and peace while grounding us in that which is essential in our fleeting lives.

Thank you to all who sent Christmas and New Year's greetings. We appreciate hearing from you. A blessed lent February 7th and happy St. Casimir Day March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Vytiškai,

*Sister M. Janine*

~~~~~  
*Let Us Remember to Pray for Our Deceased Members...*



| Council | Name            |            | City           | State | Date of Death |
|---------|-----------------|------------|----------------|-------|---------------|
| 6       | Eleanor Minukas | Tajmajor   | Hartford       | CT    | 12/15/2004    |
| 7       | Ralph           | Baril      | Oakville       | CT    | 10/29/2004    |
| 25      | Nellie          | Arunski    | Cleveland      | OH    | 12/1/2004     |
| 25      | John            | Valley     | Willoughby     | OH    | 12/1/2004     |
| 29      | Vaclovas        | Kiukys     | S. Bound Brook | NJ    | 11/19/2004    |
| 29      | Ann             | O'Neill    | Denville       | NJ    | 12/10/2004    |
| 78      | Anne            | Vernis     | Methuen        | MA    | 10/14/2004    |
| 110     | John J.         | Cummins    | Queens Village | NY    | 12/9/2004     |
| 110     | Sophie          | Zuyus      | Maspeth        | NY    | 12/13/2004    |
| 141     | Stephen         | Wilcinskis | Milford        | CT    | 11/23/2004    |
| 147     | Kazys           | Bagdonas   | Spring Hill    | FL    | 4/6/2004      |



## President's Message

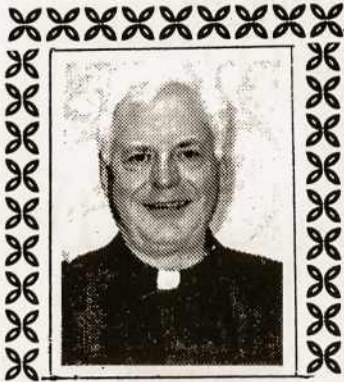
February 16, 1918 and March 11, 1990 - two important dates in Lithuania's history. Our Councils and Districts will gather together to commemorate February 16 which was the date that Lithuania declared her independence from czarist Russia and, of course, March 11 when Lithuania reclaimed her independence. This year we will also be able to celebrate Lithuania's formal admission into NATO and the European Union. I encourage everyone to actively participate in ceremonies marking these historic Lithuanian events.

Another important date was celebrated on December 19. On that date our National Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Joe, celebrated 35 years of his priestly ordination. On behalf of the entire membership we congratulate Msgr. Joe and wish him many more years in his chosen ministry. We are so very proud and happy that he is our Spiritual Advisor and most important, a dear friend of the Knights of Lithuania.

Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year 2005. May we be successful again this year in our efforts to publicly embrace and foster the ideals and traditions of the Knights of Lithuania.

Vytiskai,

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



*Ad Multos Annos!*

*Congratulations, Msgr. Joe!*

On Sunday, December 19, 2004, St. George Parish celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the priesthood of their pastor, Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM, who is also the National Spiritual Advisor of the Knights of Lithuania.

The day began with a special Mass at 1:00 P.M. at the Parish Church. After Mass, a reception was held in the Church Hall and music was provided by a disc jockey.

Many of Msgr. Anderlonis' family, relatives and parishioners, along with some members of the Knights of Lithuania, attended this special event.

Msgr. Anderlonis was ordained in Rome in 1969, and came to St. George Parish in 1982, where a few years later, he became a Monsignor.

(Information submitted by: Victor Stepalovich, C-3, Philadelphia, PA.)





May the Peace and Good Will  
That was yours at Christmas

Continue with good health  
and energy



to continue our mission

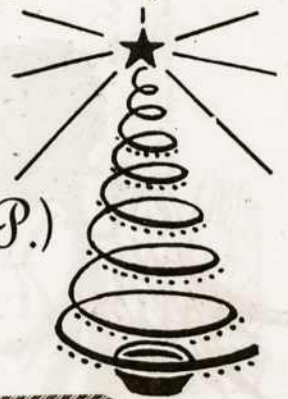
“For God and Country”

“Dievui ir Tėvynei!”

With special remembrance of  
George Bumila and

Father Al Abračinskas (R.S.P.)

Council 1 – Brockton, MA





**THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.**  
*wishes all readers*  
*a Belated Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



*The Foundation is an Endowment Fund, established to:*

- *finance projects to enhance Knights of Lithuania aims and goals,*
- *help our members learn and speak out about their Lithuanian heritage,*
- *send needed help -- books, medications, fabrics, other support -- to the suffering people of Lithuania, especially her youth.*
- *ensure the financial future of the Knights of Lithuania.*

*You can help support the Knights of Lithuania through the K of L Foundation, by joining the Foundation or adding to your previous donation. A donation of \$100 will make you a Foundation Member, \$1,000 will make you an Honored Member, but a donation of any amount will be most gratefully accepted. A gift to the Foundation is a gift that "keeps giving!" Donations are invested ... only interest is spent for K of L-related projects. To send a tax-deductible donation or obtain more information, write to:*

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.**  
 234 Sunlit Drive  
 Watchung, New Jersey 07060

# Christmas Joy

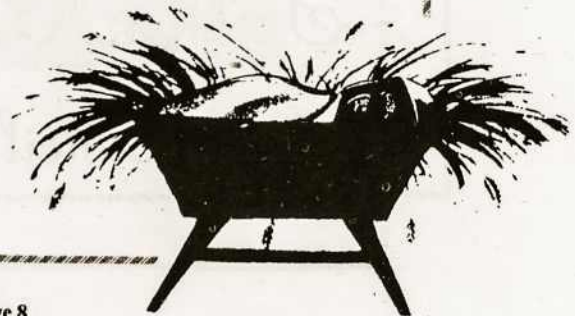
*To all my friends and fellow Knights, my sincerest Holiday wishes!  
 I hope you all had a very Happy Christmas, and  
 may God grant you all a most Holy and Peaceful and New Year.*

*and to VYTIS Editor Sister Janine Golubickis, SSC and her Staff,  
 A big "AČIU" for their fine work in this awesome but very important post.*

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

**LORETTA I. STUKAS, HM**

**Council 29, Newark, NJ**









**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Below is Vice-President Brian Johnson's report:

**Officers**

Spiritual Advisor – Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM – Appointed by Lithuanian RC Priests League

President – Agnes V. Mickunas, HM – 2nd Term

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Brian Johnson – 3rd Term**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Becky Pataki – 3rd Term**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President – Maryte Bizinkauskas – 3<sup>rd</sup> Term**

**Recording Secretary – Bernice Aviza – 3<sup>rd</sup> Term**

**Treasurer – Elena Nakrosis – 3<sup>rd</sup> Term**

**Financial Secretary – June Grenier – 3rd Term**

Trustee – Mary Beth Slakis – 2nd Term

Trustee – Joseph Stiklius – 2nd 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

Barbara Miller, Amber District Rep. – Elected in 2004 - Current term expires 2007

**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 2004 - Current term expires 2007

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

Lee Moore, Mid Central District Rep. & Chair – Elected in 2004 - Current Term expires in 2007

Rita Sussko, HM, Mid Atlantic District Rep. – Elected in 2004 - Current Term expires in 2007

**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)**

Estelle Rogers, HM, Mid America District Rep. – Elected in 2004 - Current term expires 2006. (2 yr.term)

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

**Anne Wargo, HM. –Amber District Rep.& Chair – Elected in 2004 - Current term expires in 2005. (1yr.term)**

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 (2nd Term)

Lithuanian Affairs Chair – John R. Mankus – 5<sup>th</sup> Term

Lithuanian Language & Cultural Chair- Julia Shroder – 1st Term

Public Relations Chair – Regina Juska-Svoba – 2nd Term

Our Lady of Siluva – Elinor Sluzas, HM – 3rd Term

Sports Chair – Open-to be determined



## *K of L Foundation - 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Winning Essay~*

### What Councils Can Do to Get New Members

Just as commercials are important in attracting customers to goods and services offered by the business world, so recruitment tactics are vital in bringing new members to the Knights of Lithuania. Several successful tactics follow.

The first is word of mouth. One year, when our local Council was preparing to host the National Convention, an enthusiastic K of L member, during some chance encounters at a bus stop, told me how easy it was to become a Knight: have Lithuanian ancestry and be an American citizen and a practicing Roman Catholic. How many of our fellow parishioners fall into these categories? Quite a few, I'll bet. We all can be recruitment ambassadors by simply spreading the word about membership requirements to folks eligible to become Knights. My recruiter further explained how often the Council met, what went on at meetings, and how the Council was executing its plans for the National Convention. Her ebullience was infectious. I attended the next Council meeting as a guest and, a month later, was a dues-paying Knight. How happy I was to be an active Council member by serving on the welcoming committee at the National Convention that year!

A second tactic is, holding a sing-along. Many Lithuanians are familiar with ethnic folk songs and love to sing at social gatherings. Requirements for a sing-along include having a meeting place, a piano or other musical instrument and a person competent to play it, enough copies of sheet music in Lithuanian for all participants, a translator who can relate the gist of the songs in English, and refreshments for guests at intermission. An emcee welcomes participants, briefly describes the organization sponsoring the event, mentions that new members are always welcome, and turns over the program to the translator who converts the words of the first song into English. Music plays and spirited singing ensues. Nine or ten songs are translated and sung before the group pauses for light snacks at intermission. This is the time when more information about the organization, its meeting schedule and the like, can be imparted to newcomers. Another nine or ten songs with translations complete the program. Our first sing-along increased our membership by 10%.

A third recruitment tactic is, selling Lithuanian food. If you cook it, they will come. A few years ago, our Council held a Lithuanian expo which, among

vending of amber, weavings, wood carvings, greeting cards, and videos, featured tantalizing Lithuanian cuisine, kugelis and ausukes, for example, created by our members. Desros, kopustu, babka, farmer's cheese, and rye bread also drew a crowd to our dining tables. Some Council members sat with the diners and casually chatted about the virtues of our organization. We successfully recruited about a dozen expo guests as Knights that year.

We've found that annual sing-alongs and expos are too repetitious. People turn off to monotony. Of utmost importance, therefore, is utilizing a variety of tactics over time to optimize success in membership recruitment drives.

*Stephany Gulauskas  
C-3, Philadelphia*



### *Instructions for Life...*

(From a Bulletin from St. Bridget's Catholic Church)

1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Memorize your favorite poem.
3. Don't believe all you hear.
4. Don't spend all you have.
5. Don't sleep all you want.
6. When you say, "I love you," mean it.
7. When you say, "I'm sorry," look the person in the eye.
8. Be engaged at least 6 months before you get married.
9. Believe in love at first sight.
10. Never laugh at anyone's dreams.
11. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt, but it's the only way to live life completely.
12. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.
13. Don't judge people by their relatives.
14. Talk slowly, but think quickly.
15. Call your parents.
16. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"
17. Remember that great love and great achievement involve great risk.
18. Remember the 3 R's: respect for self; respect for others; responsibility for all your actions.
19. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
20. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.





### From the Memoirs of Leonard Šimutis, First Administrator of "Vytis" – 1915

The historical material as written below was compiled by the late Dr. Leonard Šimutis, (1920-2003), translated from the unfinished memoirs of Leonard Šimutis (1892-1975), later printed in the Program Book of the Knights of Lithuania 75<sup>th</sup> National Convention, July 28-31, 1988, Washington, DC.

With the arrival of Rev. Fabijonas Kemėžis in the United States during 1914, my father states that a new era began in Lithuanian-American Roman Catholic activities – a type of rebirth, renaissance was established. In 1914, Rev. Kemėžis was the editor of "Draugas" and lived in the Providence of God rectory in Chicago, where my father was also living. (My father had come to the United States at the invitation of Rev. Krušas, pastor of Providence of God parish, so that my father might continue his studies for the priesthood in the United States. My father lived in the Providence of God rectory with Rev. Krušas, from the fall of 1913 until probably the summer of 1915. This enabled him to meet many Lithuanian clergymen, and many became his lifelong friends.)

Rev. Kėmėžis especially cherished the Knights of Lithuania organization, and much of his time and energy was devoted to the K of L's. He was instrumental in organizing Council – 4 at the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Parish (Providence of God) with Aleksandras Aleksis (then organist of this parish) and my father, Leonard Šimutis. Rev. Kemėžis visited many other Lithuanian parishes and colonies in order to establish new K of L Councils. Other K of L Councils were influenced by the activities and accomplishments of C-4. During the July, 1914 national K of L Convention in Brockton, MA, Rev. Kemėžis, A. Aleksis, and Leonard Šimutis were delegates representing C-4.

The second K of L Convention, the establishment of many active K of L councils in the Chicago area, especially C-4 with the leadership of Rev. Kemezis, A. Aleksis and L. Šimutis, the year, 1914, can be regarded as a very important and historical year for the K of L organization. A new leaf had been turned in K of L history that ensured the future of the entire organization.

According to the Lithuanian Encyclopedia, Rev. Kemėžis initiated the idea of publishing a journal for the K of L organization.

When the Lithuanian poet, M. Gustaitis, visited the United States in 1914, he lived at the Providence of God rectory. He had written a text for a K of L hymn, and my father was present when the poem was read to Rev. Kemėžis and Rev. Krušas. They all agreed

that the poem was worthy of a musical setting. Mr. A. Aleksis (Aleksandravičius) was asked to compose the music for the poem. The K of L hymn became very popular during the early period of K of L history.

The 1915 national K of L convention selected four students to organize, administer, and edit their "Vytis" publication. According to my father, Leonard Šimutis, A. Račkus, K. Pakštas and A. Linkus gave the name to this new K or L publication. Since A. Linkus left to enter the seminary, the remaining trio - Račkus, Pakštas and Šimutis distributed their duties so that Pakštas and Račkus became the editors, and Šimutis, the Administrator. They rented two rooms at 731 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street (Chicago) for the publication of "Vytis," and also lived in these two rooms along with Izadore Iliakis, a student at the Art Institute. Iliakis did not pay any rent, but was required to keep the rooms clean. They had four folding beds that were removed during the daytime, so that the room could be converted into a "Vytis" office. Since the first name of Račkus was Aleksandras and Aleksandras Aleksas was a frequent visitor, they named their headquarters ("būstinė") "Aleksandrynu." Their food consisted mainly of black bread and homemade sour milk.

The first issue of "Vytis" contains a poem, "Meilė," written by my father. Originally, he had discarded that poem into a wastepaper basket. A. Račkus found it and questioned my father regarding the authorship of this poem. My father told both, Pakštas and Račkus that he was not satisfied with the poem and discarded it. Both of them told him that they were very pleased with the poem and that it should be published. It is interesting to note that Aleksis composed a vocal solo using "Meilė" for the text, and Iliakis designed the cover for the published musical composition. This composition was frequently performed at many Lithuanian recitals and concerts. It was also the very first solo composition composed by Mr. Aleksis. Leonard Šimutis wrote at least 550 poems during his lifetime, along with several texts for operettas and a number of stories. His operetta, "Į tėvynę," with music composed by Aleksis, was performed by K of L choirs in 1918 (Detroit, MI, C-79 K of L Choir, 1923 (Springfield, IL, C-48 K of L Choir, and 1931 (Chicago District K of L Choir at Nativity B.V.M. hall.) There may have been other possible performances of this operetta.

In 1934, my father received a medal from the Knights of Lithuania organization, recognizing his activities with and for the K of L's, and his Lithuanian community leadership. My father wrote the article regarding the Knights of Lithuania organization for the Lithuanian edition of the Lietuvių Encyclopedia. Even though the article mentions many names of K of L officers, etc., the name of my father does not



appear in that article. Posterity may think that Leonard Šimutis was never associated with the organization. As active as my father was, I do not really recall hearing him speak about his accomplishments to his family.

Among the very last diary entries made by my father was "...gavau linkėjimus nuo Estelle Rogers, L. vyčių apskričio ir vyčių choro vardu," (get well cards through Mrs. Rogers from the K of L District and K of L Choir.)

(This article written by the late Dr. Leonard J. Šimutis and submitted by Ruth Šimutis Kazlauskas, daughter of Leonard Šimutis and sister of Dr. Leonard J. Šimutis.)



Komp. Prof. A. J. ALEKSIŠ

### MEILĖ

Kas rymo prie lango nakties gilumoj?  
Kas ašaras lieja karčiąsias?  
Kas trokšta išgirsti kur nors tolumoj  
Lakštingalos giesmes gaudžiąsias?

Prie atviro lango plaukais palaidais  
Kas liūdesio pina vainiką?  
Su plakančia širdžia, veidais raudonais  
Kas verkia, sveikatą naikina?

Kam širdis suspausta, aštriais dygliais  
Erškėčių perverta krūtinė?  
Kieno lekia mintis erelio sparnais  
Svajonių versme begaline?

Kas rymo prie lango nakties gilumoj?  
Kas ašaras lieja? – Mergelė!  
Kas trokšta išgirsti kur nors tolumoj  
Lakštingalos giesmę? ...Tai meilė! ...

L. Šilalis (Leonardas Šimutis) 1915 m.



A. a. LEONARDAS ŠIMUTIS,  
Garbės narys



A. a. MYKOLAS A. NORKŪNAS

### Laisvoji Lietuva



A. a. Prof. KAZYS PAKŠTAS  
Garbės narys



A. a. Dr. ALEKSANDRAS M. RAČKUS



## LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

As the newly elected chair of the Lithuanian Language & Culture Committee, I thought it would be nice to go to the Lithuanian festival in Los Angeles, CA, the first weekend in October. I found out about the festival at the convention when Maryte Sepikaite told my son, Christopher, and me about it. After visiting the usual tourist spots of the San Diego Zoo, Seaworld, Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm and Universal Studios, we went to the festival on Saturday afternoon. Maryte greeted Christopher and me, and had us sit with the other dignitaries during the opening ceremonies. We got to sit with the Ambassador of Lithuania, Vygaudas Usackas. We were honored guests, and as such, we were introduced to the people at all the booths, along with a radio announcer and newspaper reporter from the LA area. I was very surprised at how many people attended the festival. The singing and dancing were held outside, since this was sunny California. The groups were from Lithuania and from the LA area. They all put on a wonderful performance. The booths sold many different things, including a lot of amber. The booth that got the most attention was the beer garden that sold Lithuanian beer and "krupnikas." Inside, with a long line waiting, was the homemade delicious food. Maryte then told me that she had a big surprise for me. She took my family, along with the Ambassador, to the home of Ruta Lee. We got a grand tour of the house, and were treated like royalty by Ruth and her husband. Her hospitality was greatly appreciated by my family. That evening, we went to the Latvian Hall for a dinner dance. The evening's entertainment was provided by the Lithuanian folk music group, "Sutaras," which was excellent.

Sunday morning, I attended the Lithuanian Mass at St. Casimir's Church. The church was standing room only. The choir was terrific. It reminded me of the east coast choirs that are now dying out. I then went back to the festival to say my good-byes. To the people of California I say, please continue this festival, which shows the language and culture of the Lithuanian people. It may be hard work, but I must admit, it was worth the trip from New York to go to this wonderful festival. Keep up the good work!

One thing I have learned is, that when you go to conventions you meet wonderful people, and if you listen, you learn different things. While having supper after the Supreme Council meeting, hosted by C-3, Philadelphia, I sat with some of their members. We started talking about "Kucios." They said they served beet soup. I questioned, "How do you serve it?" Their secret ... in hot cups with lids. Well, at my Council's "Kucios" this year, we served beet soup in

hot cups with lids. It was a big hit. Everyone was so surprised at what was in the cup. Thanks, C-3! It pays to speak with other Council members and share your ideas.

At the Supreme Council meeting, I brought up the fact, that 2006 would be the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of the chapel of Our Lady of Siluva in the National Basilica in Washington, DC. I mentioned that I thought it would be an honor for the Knights to head the festivities. I was asked to secure a date. The date will be **Sunday, October 8, 2006, at the 2:00 P.M Mass in the main Basilica.** Please mark your calendars for this event. Could we possibly have combined choirs sing at the Mass? This event will take place during the Columbus Day weekend. Could we possibly have a dinner/dance or a cultural event in Washington DC that weekend? Please give me any suggestions that you might have, and if you would like to be part of the committee. Please let me know what Council and District you are from, so that I can have all Districts represented. My E-mail is: jaschroder1950@aol.com

I will have a meeting in Pittsburgh during the convention. Let's fill the Basilica with Lithuanian people from all over the USA and around the world.

Also, if your Council or District is having an event, please send the information to the Vytis Office. Please include the date, where the event is being held, and a contact person with a phone number for the directions and other information. Sometimes, someone may be traveling, and your event may be near to where they are going, or they just might take a trip because they heard about your event.

*Julia Schroder*

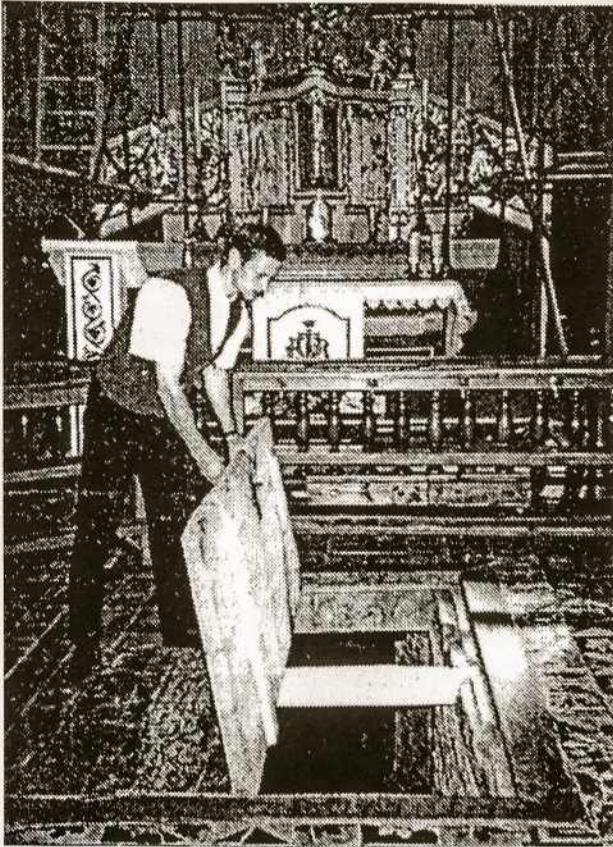
*Language & Culture Chairperson*

## SMILES WITHOUT WRINKLES

- Don't look down on someone unless you are helping him up!
- A person never gets so rich that they can afford to lose a friend.
- A person is not rewarded for having brains...but for using them
- Sign in front of church: "Interested in going to heaven? Get flight training here."
- Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open
- A smile is the best cosmetic.
- Among the things most opened by mistake...is the mouth!
- With the cost of apples these days, you might as well call the doctor.
- If more husbands were self-starters, fewer wives would be cranks.
- Pay attention to your enemies; they know your faults better than you do.



# *Knight Life...*



Dabartinis Šiluvos bazilikos klebonas kun. Erastas Murauskas atveria įėjimą į šventovės požemį, kur tebėra mirusių kaulai Nuotr. I. Ross



Sister M. Janine Golubickis receiving an Award medal & certificate from Rob Martin, MAD District President and Georgianna Macke, Ritual Chairperson



8/15/04 – The 90<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian Day celebration in PA. The “Zilvinas” and “Malunas” groups join together in a Lithuanian Folk Dance.



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA**  
**92nd National Convention**  
**AUGUST 11-14, 2005**  
**Host: Pittsburgh Council 19**

Dear Members and Friends,

The Knights of Lithuania will be returning to Pittsburgh for the first time in 15 years for our national convention. The convention promises to be memorable. You can use this form to place an ad or offer greetings in the 2005 Convention Program.

Program books are treasured keepsakes that delegates and guests use both during the convention and refer to later.

While the prices of many medicines and Medicare premiums have risen sharply, ad sizes and prices remain unchanged from last year.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$120 full page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Patron greeting

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 half page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 quarter page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Knights of Lithuania friend  
(name only)

Please submit your ad on a separate piece of paper. (Camera-ready copy is welcome.)

DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 30, 2005

Make checks payable to Knights of Lithuania, Council 19.

Mail ads with payment to:

Eric Grabowsky, chairman, program book

5103 Cherryvale Dr.

Pittsburgh, PA 15236-1607

412-884-1252

e-mail: EGrabowsky@msn.com

**INFORMATION FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport

777 Aten Road

Coraopolis, PA 15108

Phone 1-800-328-9297

[www.wyndhampittsburghairport.com](http://www.wyndhampittsburghairport.com)

K of L room rate: single or double -- \$99 per room, plus taxes

You must mention that you are with the Knights of Lithuania 92<sup>nd</sup> national convention to receive the convention rate.

Room reservations must be made by Aug. 1, 2005, to assure room availability.

**Free parking**

**Free Airport shuttle - 10 minutes to Pittsburgh International Airport**

**Free shuttle to restaurants and mall**

**Indoor/outdoor pools**



## CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

92nd National Convention

AUGUST 11-14, 2005

Host: Pittsburgh Council 19

CONVENTION SITE: Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport  
 777 Aten Road  
 Coraopolis, PA 15108  
 Phone 1-800-328-9297  
[www.wyndhampittsburghairport.com](http://www.wyndhampittsburghairport.com)

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please print)

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Early registration, up to July 1 (\$195 per person) Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Late registration, after July 1 (\$225 per person) Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Junior registration: \$75

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_

Age of child \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please put names and ages of additional children on a separate sheet.)

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES: Bus service for events.  
 Thursday lunch and evening boat ride and buffet dinner.  
 Friday cultural night  
 Saturday evening banquet and dance  
 Sunday breakfast before closing mass

**PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY:**

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2005: Molly's Trolley trip to St. Anthony's Chapel and its collection of relics, to the Heinz History Center and its new Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, and to the Lithuanian classrooms at the University of Pittsburgh. Lunch on Mt. Washington. Cost: \$59 per person; half price for children, age 12 and younger.  
 Number of adult participants \_\_\_\_\_ children \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Knights of Lithuania, Council 19

Mail checks and registration forms to:  
 Len Barcoucky, registration coordinator  
 7028 Flaccus Road  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15202  
 Phone: 412-766-1499 (evenings)  
 724-772-0184 (days)  
 E-mail: [lbarcoucky@post-gazette.com](mailto:lbarcoucky@post-gazette.com)





**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
CHARITIES**

**Aid to Lithuania, Inc.**

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

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

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

**Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.**

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

**Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund**

Send to: John Baltrus  
118 Vine St.  
Jefferson Hills, PA 15025

**Lady of Šiluva Fund**

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

**St. Casimir Guild**

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

**Report to Our K of L Family Regarding  
the Pontifical College TV Project:**

As you know, at the Convention Msgr. Bartkus asked the help of the Pontifical College's godparent, the K of L, to help in improving the Guest House at the College. It is important to keep the Guest House in good condition and comfortable for the guests, as it is a great help to the College, not only financially, but in housing guests such as dignitaries and Bishops from Lithuania. To date, the following have contributed to this cause:

|                                                        |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Mrs. Frances Bumila                                    | \$1,000.00 |
| Anthracite Council 144                                 | 1,000.00   |
| Mid-America Distr. Institute                           | 500.00     |
| Amber District                                         | 200.00     |
| New England District                                   | 200.00     |
| Mid-Central District                                   | 150.00     |
| Council 1-Brockton                                     | 150.00     |
| Council 17-So. Boston                                  | 200.00     |
| Council 26 - Worcester                                 | 150.00     |
| Council 30 - Westfield, MA                             | 200.00     |
| Council 50 - New Haven, CT                             | 100.00     |
| Council 6 - Hartford, CT                               | 50.00      |
| Council 141 - Bridgeport, CT                           | 65.00      |
| Council 140 - Syracuse, NY                             | 50.00      |
| Lithuanian American Women's<br>Alliance-Chapter 17, CT | 150.00     |
| Mark H. Bell                                           | 150.00     |
| John P. Baltrus                                        | 125.00     |

The total is \$4,440.00. There are 55 rooms in the Guest House. This would furnish about ¾ of the rooms. On behalf of Msgr. Bartkus and the Priests at the College, thanks to all who have contributed. I would be great if we could have TV's in all the rooms.

*Anna Klizas-Wargo*



**Happy New Year!  
Council 10-Athol-Gardner**





*Please Note...*

#### FOURTH DEGREE APPLICATIONS

The Supreme Council Ritual Committee requests that all applications for the Fourth Degree be submitted before **May 1, 2005**. 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, 2005, please call: 661-242-0113 or write to :

Lee Moore  
18 Easthampton A  
West Palm Beach, FL 33417

#### HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATES:

Council 3 – Philadelphia, and the Amber District, under Secret Ballot, after reviewing the qualifications, approved that WALTER SVEKLA is a worthy candidate for Honorary Member consideration.

Council 157- Lemont, and the Mid-America District, under Secret Ballot, after reviewing the qualifications, approved that THERESA F. PUPNIK STROLIA is a worthy candidate for

Honorary Member consideration.

*Elinor Sluzas, H.M. Chairperson*

### **Baltic Place**

Lithuania, rather than Latvia, has been the top Baltic country for producing NBA players, judging by this quartet's feats.

**Sarunas Marciulionis** (*right*) Earned a rep as deadeye shooter and top sixth man over seven NBA seasons, four of them with Golden State.

**Arvydas Sabonis** Arrived Stateside in 1995 at 30 and established himself as one of the deftest passing centers in league history over seven productive seasons with Portland.

**Zydrunas Ilgauskas** Cleveland's 1996 first-rounder has developed into one of the league's more reliable centers, averaging 14.4 points and 7.5 rebounds over six seasons.

**Darius Songaila** Played in 73 games for Sacramento in '03-04 as 26-year-old rookie; averaged 4.6 points and 3.1 rebounds.



#### 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. Your contributions are appreciated; however, articles from other newspapers and magazines cannot be used without permission.

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

**If you leave your regular residences temporarily for the winter** (or otherwise), please inform June Grenier, the National Financial Secretary. When you are away, *Vytis* is not deliverable, and we are charged first class mail rates for the return of undeliverable periodicals.

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

#### **Council Financial Secretaries**

You are responsible to **send official changes of address and death notices** of members of your Council to **June Grenier, the National Financial Secretary**. Please forward this information as soon as possible. **DO NOT SEND THIS TO THE VYTIS OFFICE.**

**OOPS!** Two names from Council 96 were omitted in the last Ritual report. The 2 missing names were;

Elaine Pacousky and  
Loretta Pant

We sincerely regret the error.

*Lee Moore*

**Ritual Chairperson**

#### COMING ATTRACTION:

Look for "Rizika," Lithuanian Jeopardy, in the next issue of the Vytis, and see how well you do.



# *Knight Life...*



Left: "Would You like to buy a ticket?" Irene Petkaitis (l.) and Leona Sawka (r.) of C-6, Hartford ask as members enter.

Below: The Friendship Breakfast Committee, L.toR.: Brian Dagle, Chair; Agnes Gagnon, Louise Piwoski, Judy Landers and Beth Piwoski are all smiling and ready to serve.



Bottom Photo: C-144 members at Lithuanian Day Fair: L.tor. Tina Saukaitis Rodriguez, Baltimore; Marcella Kaselonis, Mt. Carmel; Alice Saukaitis O'Donnell, Mt.Carmel; Marion Saukaitis Wydra, Mt. Carmel, and Henry Gailiunas, Athol, MA.





## District & Council News

*Many thanks to our  
dedicated, hard-working  
Vytis Correspondents!*



### New England District C-6 Hartford, CT Betty Ann Liudzius

Once again, the Fall Knights of Lithuania Friendship Breakfast was a tremendous success. With pleasant, smiling faces Irene Petkaitis and Leona Sawka greeted guests. Kitchen committee members Agnes Gagnon, Judy Landers, Beth and Louise Piwoski scurried to keep the warmers filled with succulent scrambled eggs, sizzling sausage, pancakes and home fries. Tasty croissants and a delicious fruit cup completed the menu. While drinking steaming cups of coffee or tea or cold juice, many people remarked that at \$6 for an All You Can Eat Breakfast they had discovered a bargain. Children under 12 years old were guests of the Council. Chairman Brian Daigle was pleased, but said the event was a success not just in the monetary sense; it showed the support and fellowship of the community and great teamwork on the part of the committee.

### C-10 Athol-Gardner Vincukas

The highlight of our year was the Annual Kucios held on Dec 19 at St. Francis Church. About 75 KofL'ers and guests were in attendance. Master of Ceremonies Bill Wisniauskas invited Deacon James Couture to read the Christmas Gospel of Luke and Bill in Lithuanian. Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis read the Kucios traditions. The lights were dimmed and Sophia Fiorentino lit the candles in memory of our deceased members and they are many. Pastor Stephen Johnson offered the prayer and blessed the plotkeles and all wished

each other the best in the coming year. The meal, meatless as to tradition, began with fish chowder, Alaskan salmon, herring, kugelis, mushrooms-wild and cultivated, various casseroles, and great calorie-loaded pastries.

Lithuanian superstitions were enacted, with Brone Wisniauskas in charge. Following the meal, carols were sung, beginning with "Sveikas Jezau Gimisis".

Co-chairmen were Sophia Fiorentino who was the fish benefactor and Brone Wisniauskas. Kitchen coordinators were Pam and Armand Bouthilier who - as always- did an excellent job; Richard Gatautis, wine server; James Kraskauskas - of Anthony's Package Store, wine benefactor.

A beautiful, Lithuanian style Christmas tree with straw ornaments adorned the hall. The Athol Daily News carried a long write-up.

Home-bound are Ann Ambrose, Martha Aleson, Marie Colo, John and Eleanor Baltakis, and Helen Simkunas, nursing home.

Asta Kraskauskas and council and District Cultural Chairman Brone Wisnisuskas arranged the Lithuanian display along with food in Dec at the 3rd annual Ethnic Night at the Gardner Museum. Seven national groups participated. Bravo, girls.

The Athol Daily News carried a lengthy write-up on the Council's 90th Anniversary, written by Bill Wisniauskas.

Our parents settled together and formed communities that valued family, culture, and church. National parishes were built by their hard work and formed a social bond and their customs were shared and continued. In our time our 2nd and 3rd generations moved from the area of their parishes for the suburbs or their jobs took many away to other cities. As a result and the lack of new

immigrants, lack of vocations, many of our Lithuanian parishes are closing, sad to say. This is a sad situation as it weakens our cultural link to the traditions of our forebears.

St. George, Norwood, (Lithuanian) recently closed and through the efforts of Maryann and Ed Motyka of Norwood, two beautiful angels now grace the main altar of Gardner's St. Joseph Polish Parish. Pastor Thomas Tokarz is a cousin of Ed Motyka.

Henry and Brone Gailiunas attended the Brockton Sisters' Kucios on Dec 19.

The council-sponsored Lithuanian Independence Day will be held on March 13 with the Birzelis Dance Group of Hartford to perform under the direction of Dalia Dzikas.

Vincukas wishes all a healthy, happy New Year and the choicest of blessings.

### C-17 So. Boston, MA Regina Alexander

C-17 slate of officers for the coming year is as follows: Spiritual Advisor, Rev Stephen Zukas; Pres, Frances Markuns; 1st VP, Florence Zaleskas; 2nd VP, Patricia Plevock; Corresp Sec, Barbra Trybe; Rec Sec, William Olevitz; Treas, Ann Kleponis; Fin Sec Vera Yuskavich; Trustees, Louis Bazzinotti, Eleanor Mikalonis; Sgt-at-Arms, Albert Kniupis; Ritual, Patricia Plevock; Culture, Rev Stephen Zukas; Sunshine, Ann Norinkavich, Frances Zerveskes; Vytis Correspondent, Regina Alexander.

The Thurs morning So. Boston bowling group waited impatiently for President Frank Markuns, but he was a no-show. Unexpectedly, he had been rushed to the hospital for surgery. He is doing fine now and is in the rehab, soon to be home. The bowlers are waiting for your return, Frank, after a full recovery. In Frank's medical leave, we thank VP Florence Zaleskas who



chaired the meetings. Sunshine Committee Chair', Anna Norinkavich, is back home now and we wish her well after her recent hospitalization. Also, another member, Larry Svelnis HM, had a most unexpected accident but is back and it is good to see you recovered.

Months have gone by without any official word as to the fate of St. Peter Lithuanian Parish. The Friends of St. Peter Lithuanian Parish are actively functioning. On Sun, Oct 31, after the 10:30 AM Mass, the parishoners, including many K of L members, brought individual crosses of all sizes and shapes and artistry to build a Hill of Crosses in front of the church. The Hill of Crosses symbolizes the fight to save St. Peter Lithuanian Church. Next action, there is a possibility of conducting a future "live-in" vigil inside the church.

C-17 member, David Ferraro, wrote the resolution that was unanimously passed by C-17, to send to Archbishop Sean O'Malley.

Pastor Steve Zukas has been selected to be the Grand Marshall of the South Boston March 17th, 2005, St. Patrick's Day Parade.

CONGRATULATIONS! Red Sox came through- now are World Champions!

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

We were privileged to have Philip Guerin, who is the Water Resources Coordinator for the City of Worcester, talk about the city's water supply. He gave us a history of where the original water supplies were located and as the City grew, so did the need for this valuable commodity. There are now 10 reservoirs. He explained about watersheds and their importance. A new filtration plant was opened recently. It is one of the most modern facilities

in the area. Our water is now less acidic and tastes sweeter. It is computer-driven. He also distributed informational literature to all the attendees. We learned a lot about the importance of safe drinking water.

At the Nov meeting, our council collected non-perishable food for the Pernet Family Food Program to be given to their clients for Thanksgiving and Christmas. A wonderful thank you note was sent to us and read by Pres Vivian Rodgers. The food went towards filling 250 baskets for the needy.

It was announced that \$200 would be sent to the Kedainai Saulute Orphanage in Lithuania which we support. This money was earned from the Chinese auction that we held last month.

Everyone was encouraged to save their cards and used stamps for Sr. Helen.

Vivian and Al Rodgers took a well-deserved vacation and went to Florida.

It seemed like in a blink of an eye we went from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Our party was held at Maironis Park. After the appropriate prayers by our Spiritual Advisor, Rev Richard Jakubauskas, the food appeared - hors d'oeuvres, shrimp, cheese and crackers, fruit, veggie dip, etc and then a delicious buffet. The staff at Maironis prepared their usual great feast.

After the meal, a brief meeting was held and Vivian Rodgers thanked everyone who worked and supported St. Casimir's Harvest Fair. It was a huge success. A ham and bean supper followed in the parish hall. Ann Leseman was recognized as selling the most tickets at the NED Festival. She received a gold star and a round of applause.

Thank you letters were read from the Pontifical College and Seminary in Rome, the orphan children's home,

Kedainai Saulute, Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Putnam and the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, ME.

Once the meeting ended, members were ready to party. First order was to select a King and Queen to preside over the festivities. Selected by drawing names, the winners were King, Jonas Viktazentis and Queen: Theresa Jakubauskas.

We had two honored guests, Rev John Petrauskas and Rev Vytautas Gedvainis. Fr Gedvainis says the Mass at Immaculate Conception Convent in Putnam and comes to St. Casimir's once a month to say the Lithuanian Mass. In 6 months, he will be returning to Lithuania.

Pres Vivian Rodgers acted as Mistress of Ceremonies. First, she gave us all sheets of paper with some unusual phrases related to carols/Christmas songs. A prize was awarded to the person who got the most correct - Barbara Thompson. Then, the annual Twelve Days of Christmas was sung with "willing" volunteers. After this, the members sang Christmas carols in English and Lithuanian. A jingle jangle was heard as Santa, Bill Leseman, and his trusty elves, Lillian Kondrotas and Aldona Waska, arrived to give out Christmas presents to all the attendees. This was a fun time for everyone and the party ended all too soon. Best wishes from our council to everyone for joyous holidays and a healthy new year.

## **C-141 Bridgeport, CT Florence Zikaras**

In August, our annual summer picnic was held at the home of Clemencine Miller HM. The weather was perfect. Our parish priests were present along with several seminarians from their order in Argentina. Joe Thomas and his accordion provided music all afternoon.





**Ada and Domas Andruska**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**  
**Council – 29**



**Viola and Bernard Skripata**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.**  
**Council – 29**



**Rita Sussko, HM, National  
Ritual Committee,  
With Harold Kaminskas,  
4<sup>th</sup> Degree recipient.**





He played Lithuanian, Spanish, German and American tunes. We joined him in several sing-a-longs. Many danced on the grass to the polka tunes. Members brought their favorite dishes for the buffet table. Peter Balcius conducted a fund-raising raffle. We all hated to see our festivities end with the sunset.

Although we do not meet during July and Aug, our monthly Masses were well- attended. At the September meeting, Pres Barbara Schmidt reported that she has been receiving many compliments on the way we have been able to coordinate our Mass in a bilingual way. Our Spanish Pastor, Rev Julio LoPresti, IVE, or the Parochial Vicar, Rev Jorge Randle, IVE, conduct the Mass in English and our Spiritual Director, Helen Janiunas, does the readings and gospel in Lithuanian and leads us in the hymn singing. Our homilies are delivered in English, a great compliment to our clergy who are mastering the English language very well. Our church is now called St. George Community Church with predominantly Spanish and Mexican parishoners. Father LoPresti is very anxious to see that our Lithuanian customs and ceremonies continue. He is already working on the preparations for our 100th anniversary in 2007. I can add that we enjoy visiting their many Spanish customs and services.

Helen Simanis reported on her wonderful trip to Lithuania during the summer. She discovered some unknown relatives and couldn't say enough about the wonderful hospitality she received.

Condolences were sent to the family of Milda Lietuvinskis. She was buried in the Lithuanian cemetery in Canada. Although she was unable to attend the meetings, she kept up her membership in the K of L.

At our Nov meeting, the following officers and committee chairmen were

installed: Barbara Schmidt, Pres; Marie Brilvitch, VP; Pat Silk, Treas; Helen Simanis, Sec; Bill Brilvitch, Fin Sec; Nancy Pawasauskas, Ritual; Helen Janiunas, Spiritual; Gary Anderson, Cultural and Language; Joe Janiunas, Lithuanian Affairs; Sgt-at-Arms, Mary Spelman and Peter Balcius; Trustees, Linus Stasaipistis, Claire Carroll; Ways and Means, Aldona Peters.

Plans were finalized for our Kucios celebration-which was snowed out last year. We held our Kucios on Sun, Dec 19. After Mass we met at the church hall for the festivities. The tables were decorated with white damask tablecloths, candles, and holly boughs and napkins. Straw and apples were placed on the tables. A table was set for our departed members. Little Katrina found the first star. After prayers and a reading, we shared the Christmas wafers. There were many traditional foods brought in by the members. Mary Spelman brought her table tree decorated with the familiar straw ornaments which she made. Luckily, the rain held off til evening.

We lost two of our best coffee makers in November- Peter Peters and Steve Wilcinkas (Barbara Schmidt's father). Both men were very active and long time Fourth Degree members. Pete and his wife Aldana arrived early to set up the coffee and when Pete became ill, Steve and his wife, Alice, took over. They were there for set-ups and clean-up. Both had a great sense of humor. Members performed the rituals at the wakes.

Condolences also go out to Lee Marcinka, Laurynas Misevicius, and Ann Laukaitis upon the loss of family members.

We send our best wishes to Ray Buzak, Peter Radzwillas, and Bob Marcavage who are in nursing homes.

George Radzwillas is well on the mend, and Marie Brilvitch is recovering from surgery.

## Mid Atlantic District

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

On Sunday, Nov 7, 2004, we had our regular meeting; we started with Mass in the church hall.

The roof problem has not been resolved as yet; the hierarchy has not made a decision.

The choir and K of L members sang happy birthday and *ilgiausiu metu* to our moderator, Fr. Eugene Sawicki.

The meeting was conducted by Pres Jovita Sledar and election of officers for the coming year is the same- reelected. Congratulations to all.

One of our faithful Lithuanian members, George Aleliunas gave a dissertation on happenings in Lithuania on Nov 1st and 2nd and how those 2 holidays are celebrated.

Dalia Bulgaris also spoke about the 100th anniversary of the Forbidding of Reading Books in Lithuania- very interesting.

'Heard Millie Pietz had an accident at home and hospitalization was required. We wish her a speedy recovery. She will be missed for our Kucios this year. Jovita Sledar is due for surgery in Dec and we wish her a speedy recovery.

We discussed our next meeting and Christmas Social-a potluck luncheon will follow.

With deep sadness we report that our K of L member and church organist, Aldona Kepalaite, went to her Eternal Reward on Oct 8, 2004. Her extraordinary talent will be missed. May she Rest in Peace.

### C-147 St Petersburg Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan

On Tues, Nov 9, 2004, C-147 held a meeting at The Lithuanian Club Hall in





Council – 50, Summer Outing at Savin Rock – August 14, 2004.



Council 26 – At the Annual Christmas party, L to R Rev. John Petrauskas (our former Spiritual Advisor), Rev. Richard Jakubauskas (our current Spiritual Advisor), and Rev. Vytautas Gedvainis from Putnam, Connecticut and Lithuania



Council 26 – Santa, Bill Leseman, with one of his elves, Lillian Kondrotas, distributing Christmas presents at the Council's annual party.



St Petersburg, FL. A new member, Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan, was installed and took the K of L oath from Rev Dr Mathew Cyvas. Marilyn is 3rd generation Lithuanian with both sets of grandparents having immigrated from Lithuania. Marilyn's father, Alex Kraujalis, deceased, was Pres of C-147 1984-1987 and was one of the founding members of the council along with Anthony and Sue Mazeika. Her mother, Violet Barkowski Kraujalis, has served various offices since the founding of the council in 1978, is 4th degree K of L and is the current Fin Sec. In other news, the council co-sponsored the Opera Festival Florida Concert on Oct 9, 2004 in Gulfport.

Pres John Jonaitis asked for volunteers to fill the officer positions for 2005. After discussion, the current officers agreed to stay, with the new addition of new member, Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan becoming the Vytis Corresp. Officers are: Rev Matas Cyvas, Spiritual Advisor; John Jonaitis, Pres; Anthony Gudonis, 1st VP; Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan, Rec Sec; Maria Gelazius, Treas; Violet Kraujalis, Fin Sec; Elena Jurkynas and Janina Lauras, Trustees; Vladas Gelazius, Sgt-at-Arms Aldona Valis, Ritual; Alfas Shukis, Lithuanian Affairs; Ritual, Irene Diktanas, Dolores Jonaitis, Antanina Petraitis, and Valeria Lescinskas. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev Matas Cyvas and refreshments provided by members were enjoyed by all.

Looking forward to a rewarding and blessed 2005, we wish all councils a Happy New Year!

## Mid Central District

### C-96 Dayton, Ohio Frances Petkus HM

December 5 saw council members heading out for their Annual Christmas Caroling to shut-in members, parishoners, and those in residence at

the facilities. Many miles were put in to accomplish this feat. We headed south of town to Miamisburg and as far north as Troy, Ohio, and points in between. With the wonderful voices of our members it was delightful to see smiles on the faces of those we sang to. Many of the shut-ins joined in with us! It was fun when we sang some of the carols in Lithuanian to see the people sing along in English. At the young age of 96, Annadel Milaskavitz was our oldest member to visit. Josephine Zilinskas was patiently waiting for our arrival, as was Ida Kavy and Wilfred (Bill) Gitzinger. We ended the day by heading back to the church hall for homemade lasagna and all the trimmings prepared by our Social Chair, Elaine Pacovsky, and the council's monthly meeting. Thank you, Elaine!!! Thanks must go to Frances Mikalauskas and Mary Agnes Mikalauskas for planning the day. Special thanks for Mary Agnes as she supplied the music for us with her guitar!

Thanks must go to Laretta Pant for chairing the council's Annual Christmas Dinner. With George and Frances Mikalauskas making arrangements at the Milton Athletic Club, members gathered there on December 15 for an evening of food, friendship, and fun. In lieu of a gift exchange, donations were made to Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

On Dec 19, Holy Cross Parish's Cultural Committee held its Annual Kucios. Under the chair' of Elinor Sluzas HM, and with Eloise Berczelly taking care of the reservations, the church hall was once again filled to capacity. With Fr Michael Holloran opening the dinner with prayer and Fr Dwight Campbell doing the gospel reading, the evening began. First, the sharing of the apple followed by asking forgiveness from past errors as 'plotkele' was exchanged the mood for the evening was set. Following the dinner, Fr Mike, Fr Campbell, of

Chicago, IL and Fr Johan Rotan of the head of the University of Dayton's Marianist program, shared thoughts with humor, ideas, and leading us in a carol. It was an evening filled with the spirit of the season. Thanks to Elinor and all who helped in preparing for this very special evening.

Get well wishes are sent to Susan Keivel and Constance Zilinskas! With Julia Goecke moving from Dayton to Pikeville, NC, Julia is now added to our list of out-of-town members. Congratulations to Laretta Pant as she joins the ranks of retirees! After 20-plus years working for the government Laretta has decided to "hang it up" and join Henry who has been retired for several years.

Deepest sympathies go out to the family of Elena Zukaitis. Elena was born in Lithuania and came to the US in the 1940's. May she rest in the peace of our Lord.

Former council member Pat Zelinskas Alexander and her husband, Tony, now member of C-7, Waterbury, CT, was in town for the holidays!!

Mark your calendars on May 20-22, 2005! Dayton will be hosting the MCD Spring Convention/Sports Weekend in Port Clinton, Ohio!!!

Please continue to keep those serving in our armed forces in your prayers!  
Happy Presidents and Valentine Day!!!

## Amber District

### C-46 Forest City, PA Betty Kwader

December 2004 was a busy month. It was great to see so many members out to the Christmas Party at Crystal Pines. Thanks to Amy and John Morris for the planning and the favors! We missed Stasia Wallace! Amy and John Morris and Betty and Frank Kwader attended the





Rev. Gediminas Kijauskas  
Administers 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree to  
Patricia Zyren, C-102.  
Frances Petkus, C-96, assisting.  
C-25 hosted the meeting.

Below: Chow line after the Mass  
9-14-04 in Indiana at the MAD  
District Meeting. Gary C-82  
hosting.



Council – 96's new officers for the  
Year, 2004-2005, smile for the camera  
after elections were held.  
Congratulations & Good luck!





Kucios at St. Joseph's in Scranton. It was a wonderful afternoon.

Get well wishes to Alice Puntar. Missed Alice and Bill at the Christmas Party.

Our first meeting of the new year will be on Feb 6th. We can then look forward to the flag raising in Scranton to celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day. Then in March we will celebrate St. Casimir's Day with a Mass and breakfast following. Best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year 2005!

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

Installation of Officers took place at Mass with Spiritual Advisor, Rev Ronald V. Jankaitis, installing Pres Larry Domalakes; VP, Ann Wargo HM; Sec, Terry Rautzahn; Treas Peter Teresavage; Fin Sec, Elsie Kosmisky HM. Ann Wargo was Lector at the Mass and Terry Rautzahn was Eucharistic Minister. The Offerings were carried by Pres Larry and Treas Peter.

Following the Mass, the Annual Kucios was held in the Church Hall with Chairpersons Suzanne Domalakes and Terry Rautzahn. The tables were beautifully decorated. After the dinner blessing by Fr Jankaitis, plotkeles were shared by all present. Our youngest attendee, Madeline Domalakes, placed the infant Jesus in His manger. Lithuanian Christmas customs were given by Cultural Chair' Meredith Domalakes. Our thanks to the committee for the food and for a beautiful Kucios. It is so nice to have some young families attending. Following the meal we were entertained by the Junior Knights from Mahanoy City with Christmas carols and some Lithuanian Folk Dances.

Each year we remember our nursing

home members and shut-ins at Christmas. They were all active when they were able and we ask God's blessings on them.

Our council will host the Amber District St Casimir's Day Meeting on March 13 with Ann Wargo as Chair'.

Laimingu Naujuju Metu to all our brother and sister Knights with wishes for good health and joy in 2005.

## **Mid America District**

### **C-36 Chicago/Brighton Park Scottie Zukas**

C-36, Chicago, Illinois - ALIVE AND ACTIVE, starting OUR 90th YEAR with Spiritual Advisor, Rev Jaunius Kelpsas; Pres, Evelyn Ozelis; VP Vince Samaska, Victor Utara, Sabina Henson; Treas, Lillian Micka; Rec Sec, Mary Kincius; Fin Sec Scottie Zukas; Corresp Sec Robert Damaskauskas; Trustees, Ed Apke, Vince Samaska; Sgt-at-Arms David Lornaitis, Frank Zailskas.

We might not be the largest council in the District, but we do have 10 meetings a year. Attendance may be low but affairs are planned and held. Recently a fund-raiser was held and our Christmas Social-meeting was a success with good food and grab bag gifts. Plans to celebrate our 90th Anniversary are in the works.

Linksmu Sv Kaledu ir Laimingu Nauju Metu to all our fellow-Knights.

### **C-82 Gary, IN Mildred**

Our last meeting of 2004 was at the Schererville Library and was also a Christmas Potluck. Attendance was almost doubled; the bountiful buffet was enjoyed by all; spirits were

naturally high. We appreciate Marie Ruzga and husband, Vladas, driving from Lemont to join us. Marie is still recuperating from 2 hospitalizations but made and brought bacon buns! Before our church closed, Marie was very active in all aspects.

Business was conducted efficiently by Pres Joanna Rudzevicius and plans are in progress for the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration at the American Legion in Merrillville. Joanna and Loreta Vician are co-chairs'.

Anne Pridala won the door prize and Vladas won the raffle and without hesitation, gave the Lithuanian bone china trinket box to April Vician, Junior.

Prayers for our troops- including Loreta's son, Michael- were led by Sr. Janine.

A Petition for Consideration in behalf of St. Peter's in So. Boston was signed and mailed to Archbishop Sean O'Malley, OFM, Boston, MA.

In lieu of a grab bag, members donated to Aid to Lithuania.

The Northwest Indiana Visitors' Center in Hammond again featured a Lithuanian Christmas tree by Birute Vilutis.

We welcome two new members: Sr. M. Lamberta, SSC, and Rachael Thorbjornsen. Glad to have you!

Our council is fortunate to have very industrious, committed members who are maintaining "a Lithuanian presence" in Indiana although our church was closed more than 6 years ago. And we are truly graced by our non-tiring, committed, 94-year-young Pastor and Spiritual Advisor, Monsignor Ignatius Urbonas. His leadership over the years has helped to "show the way". Aciu.



## *The Way to Live in 2005...*

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctor worry about them. That is why you pay him/her.
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down. If you really need a grouch, there are probably a few dozen of your own relatives to do the job.
3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Just never let the brain idle.
4. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. Laugh so much, that you can be tracked in the store by your distinctive laughter.
5. Do not worry about situations beyond your control. Karma is karma. What shall be will be.
6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves.
7. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it is family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
8. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
9. Don't take guilt trips. Go to the mall, the next county, a foreign country, but not guilt.
10. Tell the people you love, that you love them, at every opportunity. Remember, Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

### **Simplify Life in 3 Simple Steps...**

Fill it when it's empty,  
Empty it when it's full,  
And scratch it when it's itchy.

### **"LIAUDĖS MEDICINOS PATARIMAI"**

(From a booklet printed in Klaipeda in 1990)

1. Nuo kosulio užkimimo reikia gerti pieną kuriame virė česnakas.
2. Palengvina atsikosėjimą sergantiems kvėpavimo taku uždegimais, vyšnių sultys.
3. Stipriai kosėjant, užkimus, patariama gerti juodojų serbentų sultis su medumi ar cukrumi.
4. Nuo stipraus kosulio, atsiradusio peršalus, sergančiam angina, reumatu, geriamos spanguolių sultys.
5. Stiprus kosulys sumažės jei truputį suvalgysite juodų maltų pipirų su cukrumi.
6. Dūsulį išgydo pienas. Kasdien gerti po 0,4 stiklinės šilto, ką tik pamelžto pieno.

(From "Millie, RN)

## **WEEKLY WORKOUT**

The Doctor told me I should start an exercise program. Not wanting to harm this old body, I've devised the following:

### **Monday**

Beat around the bush  
Jump to conclusions  
Climb the walls  
Wade through the morning paper

### **Tuesday**

Drag my heels  
Push my luck  
Make mountains of mole hills  
Hit the nail on the head

### **Wednesday**

Bend over backwards  
Jump on the Band Wagon  
Run around in circles

### **Thursday**

Advise the President on how to run the country

Toot my own horn  
Pull out all the stops  
Add fuel to the fire

### **Friday**

Open a can of worms  
Put my foot in my mouth  
Start the ball rolling  
Go over the edge

### **Saturday**

Pick up the pieces

### **Sunday**

Kneel in prayer  
Bow my head in thanksgiving  
Uplift my hands in praise  
Hug someone and encourage them  
**Whew! What a workout!**





## The Passing of A Dear Knight...



Rev. William Wolkovich-Valkavicius, HM

The Rev. William Wolkovich-Valkavicius, HM, died on Wednesday, January 12, 2005. The funeral took place the following Saturday at the 10:00 Mass in St. Michael's Church, Manning St., Hudson, MA. His body lay in state at the church on Friday, from 4-8 P.M.

Father Bill was living with his brother since the closing of his parish in Norwood, MA

Memorial contributions in his memory may be sent to the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, 64-25 Perry Ave., Maspeth, NY, 11378-2441, or the Fr. Bill Wolkovich Scholarship Fund, c/o Spirit of St. George Foundation, PO Box 62, Norwood, MA 02062.

*Amžina, šilsi duk mirusiam,  
Viešpatie, ir amžingoji šviesa tegu jam  
šviečia. Teilsisi ramybėje!*

William Wolkovich (Valkavicius) was a native of Hudson, Massachusetts. He was born to Lithuanian immigrant parents in 1929. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1953, for service in the archdiocese of Boston.

Alongside his pastoral duties, he had devoted nearly all his free time to religious-ethnic history for over two decades. His writings included: seven books, forty articles and book reviews, and entries in various encyclopedias.

In addition to pursuing the Lithuanian and Polish experience, he had delved into Irish, French, and Albanian immigrants. Another of his works dealt with Lithuanians of Norwood, Massachusetts. One of his papers inspected the origin of the first independent Polish National parish in New England at Chicopee, Massachusetts. A review in the (Boston) *Pilot* concerned the Irish of Lowell, Massachusetts. One of his articles and a chapter from a book had been selected for inclusion in various anthologies. He was also invited to write entries on Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians, and Albanians for a dictionary on U.S. immigration history.

Father Wolkovich belonged to numerous historical groups, including: Immigrant History Society, Organization of American Historians, American Catholic Historical Association, Lithuanian Historical Society, Lithuanian Institute and Lithuanian Catholic Academy.

His study of the Knights of Lithuania, "**Lithuanian Fraternalism: 75 Years of U.S. Knights of Lithuania,**" (copyright, 1988 – published by the Knights of Lithuania) was the culmination of more than five years of research.

(Excerpts taken from the book jacket of the above-mentioned work.)

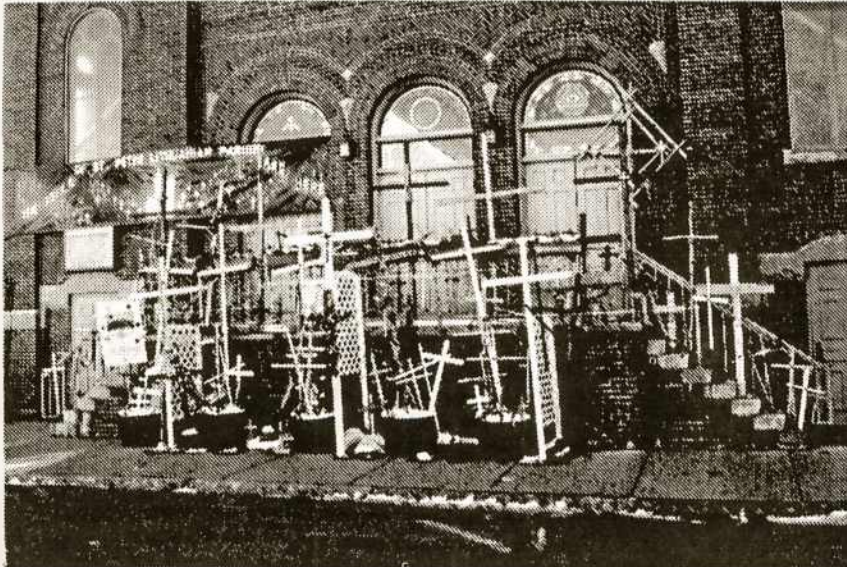






St. Peter  
Lithuanian  
Church

South Boston  
Massachusetts



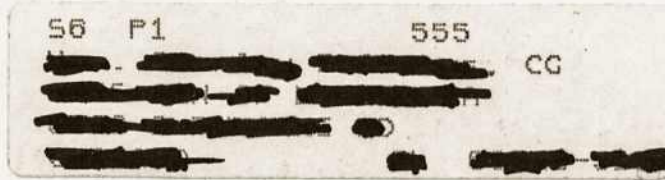
Hill  
Of  
Crosses

Photos by  
Kristen Vanick



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### ONE SMALL ROSE

I would rather get one small rose from my friend's garden,  
 Than to have a huge bouquet of flowers  
 When my stay on this earth has to end.

I would rather hear one loving word spoken sincerely,  
 Than praise when my heart stops beating and my life ends.

I would rather see a beloved smile from a faithful friend,  
 Than tears flowing on my grave when I say good-bye to this world.

Bring me today all of your flowers, regardless of whether they are pink, white, or red;  
 I would rather have one blossom now, than a whole cartful when I am dead.

*Vince Samaska, C-36*

