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Vytis - The Knight

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1909 – 1955

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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.



*Mary, Mediatrix of
All Graces, pray for us!*

*Jesus, meek and humble
of heart, make our hearts
like unto Thine!*



May

June

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To My Fellow Knights

"*Habemus Papam.*" Since our last VYTIS issue, we have not only experienced, but also viewed, via the media the dying process and funeral services of Pope John Paul the Great. We followed the election procedure, and participated in the inauguration services by which Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI.

At his first papal Mass our new Holy Father said his goal would be to work toward "the full and visible unity of all Christ's followers." He reached out in openness and reconciliation to all religions and faiths even to those who simply look for answers to life's fundamental questions and still have not found them. As Holy Father, he seeks to bring the children of the world together as one reminding us of the Fatherhood of God that unites all of us in one family.

We children would do well to bide these truths, we who are so prone to accentuating, perhaps belittling, differences: differences of race, education, even national background.

Happy Fathers' Day to all fathers, godfathers, and grandfathers. We look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh at the convention.

Sister M. Janine

In Memoriam...

K of L Obituaries

Council	Name		City	State	Date of Death
26	John	Kazlauskas	Worcester	MA	3/4/05
36	Sabina	Henson	Oak Brook	IL	4/29/05
82	Sr. Mary Lamberta	Novetske, SSC	Chicago	IL	3/26/05
96	Josephine	Zilinkas	Dayton	OH	4/9/05
102	Frank	Repsha	St. Clair Shores	MI	4/1/04
103	Vytautas	Sakalys	East Greenwich	RI	4/13/05
110	Helen	Klimas	Ridgewood	NY	3/21/05
110	John	Lason	Bayside	NY	4/2/05
110	Peter	Zuyus	Maspeth	NY	4/8/05
141	George	Radzwillas	Bridgeport	CT	3/24/05
144	Anna	Dunlap	Shenandoah	PA	3/27/05
144	Edward	Narcavage	Mt. Carmel	PA	5/1/05
147	Francis	Stann	Gulfport	FL	3/11/05



President's Message

Dear K of L Members:

When spring arrives, our minds turn to thoughts of our own vacations and, of course, the Knights of Lithuania National Convention. Just as we plan for vacation, so must we make plans for the National Convention. Now is the time for making hotel reservations and registering our participation with the Host Council.

On April 16, the Supreme Council met with our Convention Hosts – Council 19, Pittsburgh – and together have formulated a great agenda for this year's Convention. The Convention Committee has arranged social activities that will be most enjoyable and pleasing to all the delegates. The Convention business sessions will be interesting, efficient and informative.

Please wholeheartedly support and participate in the upcoming Convention. Meeting new friends, rekindling old acquaintances and sharing the past year's memories are some of the happiest parts of the Convention weekend. Looking forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh, PA in August !!!

Vgtiskai,

Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.

National President

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### *Our Fair Ladies of St. Petersburg, Florida*



St. Casimir's Day celebration, Council-147, St. Petersburg, Florida, held at the Lithuanian American Club, March 6, 2005. Singing entertainment was provided by this choral group and their director. L. to R.: Altos, Grazina Cibiene, Ruta Bandziukiene, Aldona Tamulioniene, Zita Dapkiene. Sopranos, Irena Punkriene; director, Regina Ditkiene, Stella Cipliene, Aurelija Robertson-Zalnerunaite, Onute Armoniene and Sofija Vaskiene.



**ADELÈ DIRSYTĖ**  
**AUTHOR OF „MARY, SAVE US“**

In independent Lithuania Adelė Dirsytė was a dedicated teacher, a young executive director of the Lithuanian Catholic Women's Association, and a Catholic youth educator who inspired adolescents to love Christ and to do charitable work to the old and the poor. For all these activities she was deported to a hard-labor camp in Siberia by Soviet authorities in 1947.

In Siberia Adelė continued to draw strength and inspiration through prayer and aided her companions to do the same. She composed and wrote prayers on scraps of paper, glued them together and distributed such „home-made“ (or rather prison-made) prayer booklets to others for spiritual strength and inspiration. Providentially one handwritten prayer book secretly slipped through the cracks in the wall of the so called Iron Curtain, with a note „pray and praise the Lord with us“. The prayer book was printed, first in Lithuanian (1959) in the United States of America, then in English (1960). Translations multiplied. One edition followed another. In one decade (1960-1970) over one million copies were distributed in five continents with prefaces written by Bishops, Archbishops, and Cardinals of the Church.

It was an outpouring of God's grace for which the author paid the price. Vigilant soviet authorities recognized what she was doing. They tortured her, placed her in isolation. Exhausted, she did not come out alive. The Soviets made sure of that. She was liquidated. An official record stated that she died in September 25, 1956 in Chabarovsk, at the farthest reaches of northeastern Siberia. Her prison companions who survived the ordeal testified about her heroic life. At their request the cause for her beatification was initiated on the eve of the jubilee year 2000.

Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevičius, Archbishop of Kaunas, the shepherd of the diocese in which Adele was born, stated that Adelė Dirsytė is a product of Catholic Lithuania. It is true. And it is true that the prayer book which she composed in Siberia, became a spiritual classic, a treasure for so many all over the world. It is a heritage.

Since the purpose of the Knights of Lithuania is to preserve, to cherish, and to make Lithuania's heritage their own, they will find appropriate words in Adelė's prayer book to express their own desires on behalf of their dear ones, of Lithuania and finally on behalf of the whole world.

The prayer book is small, yet it is one of the richest and most powerful fruits that has ripened during the most painful period in the history of Lithuania. Its power has been discovered by the hundreds of thousands of those who prayed with this prayer book in their hands and with the feelings in their hearts. So did Adelė Dirsytė, while still alive in Siberia. She prayed to Jesus at Christmas time: "If You wish a sacrifice, take it from me, but give me the courage and fortitude of martyrs." Her request was granted. She never came back to her fatherland out of distant outreaches of Siberia. However, she reached her true Home.







\* \* \*

The new English edition of the prayer book *Mary, Save Us* (introduction and translation by Rev. K.A. Trimakas) can be purchased. Order: *Our Sunday Visitor*, Book Sales Dept. 200 Noll Ave, Huntington, IN 46750 USA. Or call: 1-800-348-2440) (\$5.95).

This prayer book and a 16-page booklet *A Voice from Siberia: Adelė Dirsytė's Struggle against Tyranny*, written by Rev. K. A. Trimakas, 2nd edition (\$3). Order: Sister Margaret Bareika, Immaculate Conception Convent, 600 Liberty Highway, Putnam, CT 06260 USA.



**Rev. Kęstutis A. Trimakas**

*Kur šauki mus Viešpatie,  
Kur mes turime eiti?  
Tiek kelių, vieškelių takelių  
Kur, o kur mano kelias...*

Taip 1939 m. savo eilėraštyje Adelė Dirsytė klausė savo kelio, o atsakymą atnešė sovietinio teismo sprendimas, pasmerkęs ją kankinio keliui.

Adelė Dirsytė gimė 1909 m. balandžio 15 d. Kėdainių apskr., Šėtos parapijos Promislavo kaime, ūkininkų šeimoje. 1928 m. baigė Kėdainių gimnaziją, įstojo į Lietuvos universiteto Teologijos – filosofijos fakultetą. Kadangi gimnazijoje ji buvo ateitininkė, tai universitete taip pat dalyvavo ateitininkų veikloje. 1932 m. iš universiteto išėjusi dirbo Lietuvos katalikų moterų draugijoje, rūpinosi našlaičių ir vargšų šalpa. Rašė straipsnius ir religinę poeziją, kurią spausdino „Moteris“ ir kiti leidiniai.

1940 m. birželio 4 d. gavo VDU Teologijos fak. Aukštojo mokslo diplomą. Prasidėjus sovietinei okupacijai A.Dirsytė dirba mokytoja mergaičių gimnazijoje Vilniuje.

Vokiečių okupacijos metais A.Dirsytė dirba suaugusiųjų mokymo įstaigoje, amatų mokykloje – dėsto vokiečių kalbą. Aktyviai dalyvauja visuomeninėje veikloje: dirba su ateitininkais, drauge su kun. A.Lipniūnu organizuoja šalpa ir jos dalinimą nepasiturintiems.

Nuo 1944 m. rudens A.Dirsytė dirba Vilniaus Salomėjos Nėries mergaičių vidurinėje mokykloje. 1946 m. kovo 6 d. ji areštuojama, o lapkričio mėn. 11 d. nuteisiama 10 metų kalėti lageryje už dalyvavimą kontrrevoliucinėje ateitininkų veikloje. Patekusi į lagerį A.Dirsytė atsiskleidžia ir kaip subtili pedagogė, ir kaip tikėjimą palaikanti patarėja bei globėja.

1947 m. vasarą ją drauge su kitais išlaipina Čumos stotelėje prie Vorkutos geležinkelio, kur pradėdama garsioji 501 statyba – užpoliarinis geležinkelis. Fizinis darbas, ypač sunkus nepratusiai, glėžnos sveikatos A.Dirsytei, alkis, nuovargis nenustelbia jos pastangų padėti kitiems. Atokvėpio valandomis ji organizuoja pokalbius, rengia diskusijas, sunkiai realybei priešpriešindama emocinį komfortą, nušyvimui – amžinąsias vertybes, nukreipdama mintis į tikėjimą grindžiamą viltį, Marijos globą.

Kolona keičia koloną, artėja Šiaurės Uralas, rudens vėjai ir žiemos dar labiau sunkina gyvenimą, sekina organizmą. Tačiau A.Dirsytė išmokė ir įpratino mergaites dvasiniū susikaupimo, aktyvaus religinio gyvenimo praktikos. Visos drauge švėsdavo religines šventes, po gultais susigūžusios kalbėdavo iš duonos karoliukų padarytą rožančių. Nuolat išskirstant kalinius, dalis jų atsidurdavo už Uralo, Obės link, bet drauge nešdavosi ir A.Dirsytės uždegtą tikėjimą.

1949 m. A.Dirsytė gabenama į Sibirą, prie geležinkelio Taišetos – Bratskas. Čia buvo šilčiau, tačiau vargino debesys smulkių muselių, nuo kurių įkandimų ištingdavo ne tik veidas, bet ir visas kūnas. A.Dirsytė buvo ypač jautri tiems įkandimams – visur perštėjo, buvo sutinusi – bet tai neatpalaiduodavo nuo varginančio darbo prievolės. Ir čia ji buvo merginų dvasinė vadovė ir stiprintoja, sugebėjusi parodyti kančios ir vargo prasmę kaip vertingą auką.

1950 m. daugelis lietuvių drauge su A.Dirsyte pateko į etapą, siunčiamą į Kolymą. Nors visus baugino grėsmingas Kolymos kraštas ir šurpi kelionė laivo triume, A.Dirsytė stiprino mergaičių dvasią rengdama literatūrinis susitikimus, diskusijas literatūros, dorovės, gyvenimo prasmės temomis. Ji ugdė poreikį savarankiškai kūrybai, buvo skaitomi ir deklamuojami eilėraščiai. A.Dirsytės iniciatyva buvo pradėta kurti sava maldaknygė.

Perkelta i p. 6



## Adamkus: Lithuania Faces Three Challenges

By the Baltic Times

VILNIUS – President Valdas Adamkus gave his annual speech to Parliament on Tuesday, April 12, when he said the nation faces three big challenges – **creation of a civil society, consolidation of social justice and prevention of the nation's population demise.**

“The first challenge we are faced with is political alienation, a lack of civil and political maturity. The second is obstacles to rapid economic growth and a lack of social justice and solidarity resulting from this. The third challenge is the diminishing of the nation, accompanied by uncontrollable demographic and emigration processes,” he said.

In order to prevent an increase in emigration and a demographic crisis, Adamkus is urging lawmakers to create a civil society, to overcome backwardness and restore citizens' self-confidence.

“Lithuania now sees its towns are becoming empty. A considerable number of people are starting to have doubts about the future in their country and are not linking their life and the life of their children with Lithuania any more,” Adamkus said.

In the President's words, talented young people are emigrating, and the country is losing its future labor force and many intelligent people. He said that demographic forecasts are warning that in a few decades the number of Lithuanian residents will be well below 3 million.

Adamkus also urged his compatriots to use the “historic chance” to become a regional cooperation, and advocate of the development of democratic values and security.

“We have to solidify Lithuania as a European Union and NATO state, an active policy and inter-regional cooperation center. An active foreign policy is the key to the security and welfare of our state and citizens. It will not be a success if Lithuania is on the edge of Europe, if our neighbors live worse than we, if our citizens do not feel full-fledged Europeans,” he said.

**“Lithuania must be a firm advocate of the development of Western democratic values and security, which supports countries seeking to take**

**the European path.** Further expansion of the European Union and NATO is of importance to us. I have no doubt that such a firm position of Lithuania meets the expectations of most of our partners in Ukraine, Moldova and South Caucasus countries,” Adamkus said.

Right-wing opposition MPs applauded the speech, but they said it lacked a conception of their implementation. “I am glad to see that the President formulates those challenges in a similar way, but I missed a more conceptual vision of how to respond to them,” Conservative Andrius Kubilius told journalists.

In his words, “the most important remark by the President was that about the threat of oligarch rule.”

-article submitted by  
Tony Mazeika

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1950 m. rudenį kaliniai buvo atplukdyti į Magadaną. Kaip ir daugelis teistų politiniais straipsniais, A.Dirsytė pateko į specialų lagerį „Berlag“, kuriame pavardės buvo pakeistos numeriais. Čia buvo parašyta pirma maldaknygė, pasaulyje išgarsėjusi „Sibiro tremtinių“ maldaknygės pavadinimu.

Kolymos lageriuose buvo ypatingai intensyviai vykdoma totalinio nužmoginimo ir naikinimo politika. A.Dirsytė asmenybei išsaugoti naudojo įvairius asmeninį ir emocinį poveikį, pažinimą ir kūrybinę veiklą skatinančius būdus, kurių visumą galima būtų pavadinti moralinės reabilitacijos sistema.

Už šią veiklą A.Dirsytė buvo lageryje nuolat persekiojama ir kankinama. Tačiau Adelė visada ramindavo savo globojamas mergaites, ragindavo melstis už skriaudėjus – „juk jie nežino, ką daro“.

Adelė Dirsytė žuvo smurtine mirtimi 1955 m. rugsėjo 26 d. pakeliui į Lietuvą, Chabarovsko krašte.

Viktor Frankl, vadovaudamasis savo patirtimi nacių lageriuose, išvystė logoterapijos principus. A.Dirsytė žuvo ir nebegalėjo pati aprašyti savo praktikoje naudotų moralinės reabilitacijos principų, ypatingai aktualių šiuolaikinės demoralizuojančios pseudokultūros poveikiui atremti. Tačiau jos ranka rašyta maldaknygė „Marija, gelbėk mus“ tapo didžiausią atgarsį pasaulyje sukėlusia lietuviška knyga, kurioje Meilė ir Auka tampa nenugalima jėga.

*Mindaugas Bloznelis*



## About Honorary Membership...

1. When proposing a Fourth Degree Member for Honorary Membership Candidacy, prepare a detailed history of activities and accomplishments with the Council, District and Supreme Council. Add other activities and participation with Parish, Religious, Civic or other organizations which have resulted in recognition of the Knights of Lithuania or Lithuanian causes.
2. REMEMBER...Honorary Member is NOT a degree. There are several hundred members who have been awarded the Fourth Degree...The Distinguished Order of St. Casimir...for their years of dedicated, untiring service in the K of L. Make a separate list of those accomplishments which are EXTR-ORDINARY for the person you are considering as a candidate.
3. Review with several fellow officers and members, and if you feel that the Honorary Membership Committee and the National Convention Delegates will agree that this member has distinguished himself/herself by intensive, sustained, outstanding service for the K of L and Lithuanian causes, then prepare and present a resolution at your Council meeting for majority approval by secret ballot. Repeat this approval presentation and approval at your District Meeting. The results must be recorded in the Council and District Meeting Minutes.
4. Upon approval, send the history and resolution to the Honorary Membership Secretary with a copy of the cover letter to the Committee President. The resolution must be signed by the Council President, Secretary and Spiritual Advisor of the Council. If one of these signatories is the Candidate, the officer next in line of authority is to sign.
5. The Honorary Membership Committee will review the information submitted and ask for more data if necessary. If the Committee feels that the candidate does not exemplify "Extra-ordinary" standards to qualify, the Council presenting the resolution will be so advised.
6. If the candidate is approved by the majority of the Honorary Membership Committee, the Council will be advised of the possible date of presentation of the resolution to the

National Convention delegates for final approval.

7. If several candidates have been approved, order of precedence will be based on the date the resolution was received. No more than (2) Honorary Awards will be presented in a given year, and ONLY at a National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania.
8. If a Council wants to propose more than one candidate, it is urged that they be submitted in separate years, so as not to detract from the distinctiveness of this great honor for rarely is one's eligibility so completely equal.
9. The Honorary Membership Committee is comprised of one elected Honorary Members from each District.

### ABSOLUTE REQUISITES

1. The candidate must be a Fourth Degree member.
2. In the January issue of VYTIS, the newly proposed candidates' names are to be published, as submitted by the Honorary Membership Chairperson.
3. The Honorary Membership Committee, upon their approval, must present the resolution for the proposed candidate to the National Convention for approval by the Convention Delegates.
4. Upon approval by the Convention Delegates, the history of the recipient must be published in the VYTIS issue prior to the Convention at which the Honorary Membership will be conferred.

### EXCEPTIONS

- 2 Archbishops; 2 bishops and President Valdas Adamkus of the Republic of Lithuania.

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### NOTICE:

Letters regarding the social membership proposal were sent to the 50 active K. of L. Councils. There were not enough votes of approval from the Councils to warrant further action. The Trustees will give the official final report of the results at the Convention.

*Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.*

*National President*

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Lietuvos
Laisvės Aukų
Atminimo ir Pagerbimo

Ekumeninės Pamaldos

Ecumenical Prayer Service

A Day of Prayer and Remembrance
for Lithuanian

Holy Name Cathedral
May 8, 2005
Chicago, Illinois

Švento Vardo Katėdra
Gegužės 8, 2005
Viešpaties Metai



Photo © 2005 J. Kuprys

A Day of Special Remembrance...

On May 8, 2005, at 3:00 P.M., a very special Ecumenical Prayer Service was held at Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral, to commemorate the ending of the Second World War in Europe, which took place exactly on the same day 60 years ago. It was not truly a joyous day for the Lithuanians, as this event began an occupation of their country by the Russians, which lasted approximately 50 years.

Many thanks to Mr. Saulius Kuprys, president of ALTAS, and to that organization's members who initiated and prepared this unforgettable event, together with the following Lithuanian organizations: The Lithuanian Ecumenical Forum, The Lithuanian American Roman Catholic Federation, The Lithuanian American Council, and The JAV Lietuviu Bendruomene.

The Prayer Service was begun with a meditation for violin solo and organ accompaniment, expertly presented by violinist, Dainora Petkeviciute and organist, Vidas Neverauskas. This was followed by an entrance procession preceded by crossbearer, acolytes, and flagbearers from various Lithuanian organizations. Many participants were dressed in their colorful Lithuanian national costumes.

An important part of the entrance procession were our spiritual leaders; Rev. Dr. Kestutis Trimakas of St. Anthony's parish, Cicero; Rev. Jonas Liorancas of the Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Teviskes parish; Rev. Anthony Markus, pastor of Nativity BVM parish; Rev. Rimvydas Adomavicius, associate of Nativity BVM parish; Rev. Valdas Ausra of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church; Rev. Jaunius Kelpsas of Immaculate Conception parish; Msgr. George Sarauskas of St. Mary's parish, Riverside, IL; Rev. John Kuzinskas, chaplain of Holy Family Villa; Rev. Antanas Grazulis, SJ; Rev. deaconess Erika Brooks of the Lithuanian Evangelical Reform parish; Msgr. Edmundas Putrimas of Toronto, Canada; Bishop Hansas Dumpys of the Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church Diaspora, and others.

Leading the congregation in hymns and songs was the combined group of choirs from the following parishes or organizations: The Dainava choir, with conductor, Darius Polikaitis; St. Anthony's of Cicero, IL, with conductor, Vilma Meilutyte; Nativity of the BVM, with conductor, Jurate Grabliauskiene; Immaculate Conception, with conductor, Algis Barniskis; the K of L MAMD choir with conductor, Faustas Strolia; The Blessed George Matulaitis Mission choir, with director, Jurate Lukminiene; and

"Teviskes parapija," with director, Arunas Kaminskas.

The Service was begun with a very meaningful introductory homily, presented by Bishop Hansas Dumpys, in which he recalled the many sufferings of Lithuania, God's loving mercy toward our nation, and also mentioned the Lithuanian mothers, whose contribution to their nation and fatherland are innumerable. They were mentioned not only because it was Mother's Day, (May 8), but also because the Lithuanian Mother is held in great respect and surrounded by love.

The Service then continued with various readings from the Scriptures, with several readers alternating. One highlight of the afternoon was the singing of the "Magnificat," by Marius Polikaitis, with responses sung by the combined choral group and the congregation.

A second homily was then given by Msgr. E. Putrimas, in which he also recalled the sufferings endured by Lithuania for the sake of freedom, and the offerings made by the mothers of Lithuania during the time of oppression and occupation.

A monetary collection was taken up afterwards, which will be used for the creation of a special monument to be placed in Washington, DC, in remembrance of the times of suffering under Communist occupation.

The beautiful sounds of the "Kankles," psalteries, could be heard, as played by the ensemble known as "Gabija," directed by Gene Razumiene, during which time several symbolic offerings were brought up, with an explanation for each given by Mr. Juozas Polikaitis. The offerings were: a sculpture of the "Rupintojelis,"; a large letter "L," honoring those Lithuanians killed by the Nazis; a large yellow six-pointed star, in remembrance of the Jews murdered by the Nazis; a green branch from a birch tree, reminding all of the partisans who gave their lives for freedom; the prayerbook composed by Adele Dirsyte, "Marija gelbek mus," to remember all those who suffered and lost their lives in Siberia; a book entitled, "The Chronicles of the Lithuanian Catholic Church," which outlines the sufferings endured by her in Lithuania; an olive branch carried up by the children to remember "January 13th"; and lastly, a Lithuanian mother, carrying a bouquet of lilies, in remembrance of the sufferings and deaths of husbands, sons and daughters for the sake of freedom.

The final blessing was then given by Bishop Hansas Dumpys, followed by the singing of "Lietuva brangi," by the entire congregation and combined choir. Although the entire Prayer Service lasted almost two hours, one did not seem to want to leave the cathedral after this impressive time of reflection.

Ideas to Attract and Retain New Members

In order to keep any organization alive and flourishing, an influx of new members is a must. An organization like the Knights of Lithuania can have particular issues with this task, as the qualifications for membership are quite specific. However, this should not be considered a "death sentence" for the organization, but should, instead, be looked at as a challenge to all current members.

Before beginning to recruit new members into any organization, the current members must have a true sense of the organization and its goals. The K of L is particularly lucky because our members know and understand the organization's philosophy and driving motto, "For God and Country." With this spirit, recruiting new members becomes an easier task, as we have a long term focus in sight.

Once the main foundation of the organization is identified, the next step in building a membership base is to institute the PAR method. PAR consists of three steps towards increasing a membership base. They are:

- Potential members are identified
- Attraction of those members occurs
- Retention of active members is completed

When dealing with specific membership qualifications like those that exist in the Knights of Lithuania, one may sense a feeling of unease, that the pools of potential members have dried up. Don't despair at this point! There are many ways to find these potential members.

1. When running an event, make sure to put a notice in the Community Board of the local newspaper. Let people in your community know about the many activities that your council/district hold and invite them whenever possible.
2. Make sure to also put into the Community Bulletin and your local Parish News, advanced notice of your monthly council meetings. There may be people who are interested in joining your council who are not aware of the meetings.
3. An ad in the local paper, aside from the Community News Section, could entice a few potential members to come out and see what the organization is all about. Something like, "Calling All Lithuanians," will bring notice to the public and make them more aware of the organization.

4. As always, younger members help to ensure the continuation of the group. Think about what your council or district can do to highlight activities to attract younger members.
5. Host a "Bring a Friend" day, where council members invite potential members to join them in a fun event held by the council. Show the guests how warm and inviting the group is and ask what they would like to do to get involved.
6. If there are other similar groups in the area, see if you can advertise your activities with them. For instance, publicize your activities and meetings in other local churches besides your council parish. There may be Lithuanians in non-Lithuanian parishes that want to get involved.

Potential members need to be attracted to the current organization by one of two things: the current atmosphere and a sense of purpose, or a chance to make a difference in the near future. We have a closely knit group, where lifetime friendships are forged through our common heritage and desire to keep our customs alive. We are fortunate to have specific long term goals that keep us focused and moving to a single result, such as the Our Lady of Siluva devotions and shrine in Washington, DC, and alleviating quality of life issues in Lithuania.

1. When potential members attend functions, make sure they are accompanied by a few different members so that they can get to know the current members and make a connection. Everyone likes to feel comfortable in a group, and knowing a few people from the start is a great way to feel like you already belong.
2. Include in an event a portion where current members give their testimonials as to why they have joined the Knights. People will relate to some of the reasons and can better see why membership is a positive thing.
3. Highlight the networking possibilities available to members in this national organization.
4. Specifically for younger members, make sure to note the possibility of scholarships and leadership opportunities available to our members.

Most organizations find that if a new member renews his/her membership for the first two years, then they will be a long term part of the organization. Therefore, the first two years for a new member are

particularly critical to the organization. Once you have attracted these members, make them an integral part of your group immediately.

1. If you have a council or district newsletter, make sure to list their names as news in a section dedicated to welcoming them. If you don't have a newsletter, think about starting one. It is a great way to keep everyone informed about upcoming events and projects to get excited about.
2. At their first meeting, someone from your council board should sit with them and find out what their skills are and what they would like to contribute to the group. Perhaps there is an artist among your new group who would be willing to help with signs for upcoming events. By including members early on, you can ensure that they feel as if they belong to the group.
3. After two or three meetings, ask the new members what they think of the organization, and if there are any activities in which they would like to help. Also, see if they have any suggestions as to new activities for the group. Remember, if someone volunteers in one group, there is a good chance that they have worked with other groups and can bring some new approaches to our standard ways.

Keep in mind, with new members, the goal is to make them feel that they are an important addition to your council and the overall group. Make them want to come back to your meetings and get involved. If the member develops an early pattern of not attending meetings, they are not likely to remain a long term member. Make a **real effort** to get **new people involved**.

by Becky Pataki
Supreme Council
2nd Vice-President

"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are - no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought."

Pažaislis Video in English

A new video/DVD, with a captivating overview of the Lithuanian baroque pearl of the 17th century, known as the Pažaislis Monastery located outside of Kaunas, Lithuania, will soon be released. Accompanied by splendid classical and national music, the beauty and architecture of this remarkable complex reveals itself along with the fascinating history of this hidden jewel in Northeast Europe.

The video was first issued in 2004, in Lithuania, under the direction of v. Kubilius, with assistance from Nijole Bauzyte, renowned TV Journalist in Vilnius, Lithuania (as published in "Draugas.") Miss Bauzyte recently won an award for the best production of a "mini-series" in Lithuania. Under the inspiration of Algis Liepinaitis C-157, of Riverside, IL, the script was translated by K of L past president, Loretta Stukas, HM, and edited by Sister Margaret Petcavage, SSC (C-36) Brighton Park.

The English narration is done by Msgr. George R. Sarauskas, pastor of St. Mary's in Riverside, IL, and five Sisters of St. Casimir of Chicago: Sister Margaret Petcavage, (C-36), Sister Regina Marie Dubickas, Sister Theresa Papsis, (C-112), Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas, (C-112), and Sister Elizabeth Ann Yocius.

The original script is in the Lithuanian language, and music includes selections from J.S. Bach, H. Perselis, G. Kuprevicius and A. Aponavicius.

Authors of the original text are Marius Bagdonavicius and Remigijus Navickas.

These videos will be available at the Convention in Pittsburgh in August.

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*"The thought of You stirs us so deeply that we cannot be content unless we praise You, because You have made us for Yourself and our hearts find no peace until they rest in You."*

*St. Augustine*

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## KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

### 2005 ESSAY CONTEST

Each year, the Knights of Lithuania Foundation asks K of L members to research a selected topic and write an essay on the topic. This project enables three lucky members to earn some prize money and all to share ideas with other members. This year, the Essay Committee decided to again ask members to write about their K of L Councils or members. Specifically, we invite each interested member to write an essay giving his or her ideas about:

**“Memories of Things Lithuanian”** or  
**“Why Do I Love Lithuania”**

Rules are listed below.

**LENGTH:** 450 to 500 words (count all words).

**DEADLINE:** July 1, 2005. Essays received after this date will not be considered.

**ELIGIBILITY:** A contestant must be a Knights of Lithuania member (Honorary, Regular or Associate) in GOOD STANDING.

Because Junior members cannot be expected to meet the standards of adult members, there will be a separate prize category for Juniors, who are members of a Junior Council which is duly registered with the Supreme Council.

**CRITERIA:** Essays will be judged on content and originality. Correct grammar and neatness will also be considered in judging.

**MANUSCRIPT:** Must be typed or written legibly, double spaced. The **FIRST PAGE** should contain **ONLY** your name, address, council number, and the essay title. Succeeding pages should contain the essay contents but **NOT** your name. This is to assure anonymity in judging. Junior entries should be identified as such, giving the name and Junior Council number.

**PRIZES:**  
1st Prize - \$300,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$200,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$100.



Monetary gifts will also be given to prize winning Junior member entries.

**JUDGES:** One member of each K of L District, plus 2002 Contest Winner.

**MAIL TO:** Bernice Aviza, 8 Tremont Street, Albany, New York 11205

**WINNERS:** Will be announced August, 2003, during the 89th National Convention in Brockton, MA. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.

**SPONSOR:** KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC., via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.

The **KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.** is a tax-exempt endowment fund which uses interest from its investments to finance cultural and religious projects, helping the K of L AND Lithuania. This contest is just one of its projects.

The Foundation has been in existence for over 20 years. You can help keep it in existence by joining the Foundation to increase its capital and provide more funds to help Lithuania and Lithuanian projects. A donation of \$100 entitles you to membership in the Foundation, and supports the Knights' future. Are YOU a member of the Foundation? If not, why not join today? If you are a member, consider making an additional donation.

Send your tax-deductible donation to:  
Ann Marie Kassel, Treasurer  
8200 Anchor Dr., 801  
Woodridge, IL 60517

*Loretta Stukas, H.M.*  
*Foundation President*



Born on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, the second son of a retired army officer and Emilia Kaczorowska, a schoolteacher of **Lithuanian descent**. Young Karol was an excellent student and a talented athlete who loved physically demanding sports.

When Cardinal Wojtyla was elected Pope on October 16, 1978 – the first non-Italian to head the Holy See in 455 years – he became perhaps the most articulate and outspoken leader the papacy had ever known. Fluent in **eight languages**, he has always had a keen understanding of the media, steering the Vatican into satellite transmissions and producing video cassettes. And he has not hesitated to bring his powerful personality into play in the pursuit of his major goals of clarifying church doctrine, seeking contact with other faiths, and proclaiming the sanctity of the individual, body and soul.



## *Candidate for Honorary Membership - 2005*



**Al J. Mockus**

Al Mockus joined the Knights of Lithuania, Marquette Park Council – 112, on March 1, 1953. He joined at a time when members were scarce, operating money was in short supply, and interest in the K of L was almost non-existent. Quite often, barely a quorum of members showed up so that a meeting could be held.

Over several decades, he was to see the council grow to its now present status as one of the largest councils in the organization. From the very beginning of his membership, he was to serve the council in numerous capacities, with almost no time off. First, as a sergeant-at-arms, setting up flags and chairs and tables for meetings, and also carrying the flag in processions such as Siluva and St. Casimir's Day. Three years after he joined C-112, he was elected President, a post he would be re-elected to for nine years. He has served as first Vice-President for 27 years, chairing the Board of Directors' meetings and filling in at regular meetings in the President's absence. He has chaired the nominating committee for 19 years, served on committees for council fund raisers for the last 40 years, and served on the ritual committee, presenting First and Second degrees for 7 years. He was presented with the Fourth Degree on August 9, 1964.

Al was also an active member of the Illinois-Indiana District (MAMD) as it was known many years ago. The I-ID, at this time, owned a building known as the Knights of Lithuania Youth Center, which was home

to the K of L Choir, K of L Dancers, where the District and a number of Councils held their meetings, and almost everyone held their dances and fund raisers. The I-ID was possibly the only District to own its own building outright. Al was appointed a Trustee of the building, and 3 years later became president of the Youth Center Building Trustees, a post he held for 20 consecutive years.

Al also set up the Knights of Lithuania Institute (which is similar to the Supreme Council's Foundation) under the provision of the 501c3 tax code, wherein the money can only be used for purposes of religious, charitable, educational, literary or scientific purposes. He also set up a sub-committee to carry on the work of obtaining outside funding and also appointed a committee to guide and recommend finance and budget matters. Instead of relying on funding from other organizations, the MAMD can stand on its own. He served as a director of the Institute for a number of years.

The MAMD enjoys the financial freedom to use these funds in ways that will benefit others. Al Mockus deserves recognition for his foresight in applying his knowledge and skill in achieving success and avoiding what might have been a financial disaster to the Chicagoland Knights of Lithuania. Devoting hours of personal time to what became his "personal crusade" was done because of a dedication to the Knights of Lithuania organization and faith in its potential growth.

Al Mockus is a full time real estate broker and owns his own business in Chicago. He serves on the Professional Standards Committee of the Chicago Association of Realtors and chairs a panel which meets about twice a month to review grievances between brokers, as well as brokers and consumers. His son, Robert, is an accomplished pianist and serves as the Director of Music at St. George Church in Tinley Park, IL, for the Archdiocese of Chicago. His daughter, Marjorie, resides and works in Bloomington, IL, for State Farm Insurance in the legal department.

Al also serves on the Parish Pastoral Council of St. John Fisher Church in Chicago, and is chairman of the At-Large Commission of that Council. He has also initiated an adult education program entitled, "Stress-less Living Through Humor," and later hosted such topics as, "Estate Planning," "What's New in Religion," and more.

Al also presides at wake services for deceased members of C-112, and chairs and conducts the annual "Cemetery Walk."

Al's dedication to the Knights of Lithuania and to his Catholic Faith makes him an outstanding member and a worthy candidate for receiving Honorary Membership in 2005.



## *Little Known Stories and Pictures of the Virgin from Around the World...*

"Everyone knows about the famous images of Mary, from Michaelangelo's *Pieta* to her appearances at Lourdes and Fatima. But the Holy Virgin has many lesser known images and titles, from her life as a young infant to her dormition. In her remarkable book, **The Other Faces of Mary**, Ann Ball, a leading Catholic devotional writer, tells us the rich stories of these other faces of Mary – each one beautiful and unexpected, and all of them a tribute to the enduring power of the Mother of God around the world."

"Passages include local stories of the devotions and miracles of the Virgin, as well as testimonies and letters from people around the world who have experienced the Virgin in one of her many aspects. By looking at these other faces of Mary, we see the cultural diversity and universal truth of the Catholic Church."

Pages 150 to 155 of the book are devoted to Our Lady of Šiluva. Also included is a poem by Sister Agnesine Deering, SSC, Ph.D., Sister of St. Casimir Chicago, IL, and a commentary by Sister Margaret Petcavage, also of the Sisters of St. Casimir. They are repeated here for the Vytis:

At the National Shrine of the Immaculate  
Conception,  
Washington, D.C.

### **On First Viewing – Our Lady of Šiluva**

Amazed, I see this dazzling newness  
But renews the splendored sum  
Of every sculptured visage  
Caught in marble; softened by the message  
Impressed upon your gracious image  
Is the unspoken word-yet heard-supernally serene.

For I have gazed upon you thus  
A thousand times before, a hundred ways,  
O ever "Blessed among women."  
But here I read the eternal answers  
You keep for everyman  
Who seeks a silent-strong compassion.  
Your sweet-sad eyes are placid pools  
Where unshed tears reflect your client's own.

And now I know the grand largesse  
A Queen bestows

In bending with a kindly majesty  
To him who pleads.  
(Do you do this to keep alive the legend  
That they tell of Šiluva,  
There souging winds like murmured prayers  
Incline the pines with swaying courtesy  
Forever in your direction?)

Oh, I forget not  
That "Salvation was laid in a Woman,"  
And that the Child you gently hold  
Is regally Divine,  
And claims with you, Divinity as kin.  
Of such a Mother and of such a Child,  
I beg the grace of patient ages  
To produce from the poor pine cones  
Of my life's Faith and Hope  
The evergreens of Charity.

-Sister M. Agnesine Deering, SSC, Ph.D.  
-Sisters of St. Casimir, Chicago, IL

### **Our Lady of Šiluva**

My devotion to Our Lady of Šiluva began in 1991 when I visited Lithuania as it stood on the brink of freedom and independence after decades of communist oppression. I was astounded to see how the country lacked not only material things, but also spiritual freedom. Yet, I found untold numbers of people who, having endured unspeakable suffering, remained deeply devoted to the faith and to Our Lady. My trip to the shrine of Šiluva was in a tiny car which rocked and bounced from side to side as we slowly traveled over four miles of road strewn with rocks and purposely not paved to make the trip more difficult. Seeing the faith of many local pilgrims and the lovely statue of Our Lady holding her Child over the very rock where she appeared touched my very soul. I pray daily to Mary, asking that she strengthen the faith life of all families both in Lithuania and America, so that her "tears" shed on behalf of her forgotten Son in the lovely field of Šiluva be not in vain. Devotion to Our Lady is the mainstay of many families in Lithuania, and I know and believe that she will assist all who invoke her assistance.

-Sister Margaret Petcavage, SSC



**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)



*Congratulations to our  
Longtime Choir Director,  
Faustas Strolia, H.M.*

Faustas Strolia, HM, Director of the MAMD K of L choir for over 45 years, was honored with a special Mass, followed by an afternoon concert with a repertoire of his compositions, and ending with a reception luncheon afterwards. Four Lithuanian choirs participated in this function: The "Dainavos" ansamblis, and "Vyturys" children's choirs directed by Darius Polikaitis; The "Pal. Jurgio Matulaičio misijos choir," directed by Jurate Lukminiene; and the K of L MAMD choir, directed by Maestro Faustas Strolia, himself. The concert ended with the combined choirs, totaling over 100 voices, creating a magnificent sound! Both, the chapel and the concert hall were filled to overflowing. Congratulations to the committee who prepared this wonderful event! Following is a sample of the program, and a few photos, taken by Baniute Kroniene of the Lithuanian World Center,



**Koncerto ruošos komitetas (iš kairės): Baniutė Kronienė, Dalia Povilaitienė, Ritonė Rudaitienė, muz. Alvydas Vasaitis, Irena Kazlauskienė, Romas Kronas, pirm. Irena Kriaučeliūnienė, Gediminas Kazėnas.**



## MUZIKINĖS KŪRYBOS POPIETĖ

sekmadienis  
2005 gegužės 15 11:00 v.r.

Pasaulio Lietuvių Centras  
Lemont, Illinois

Kompozitorius

## Faustas Strolia

*„Žvilgsnis į kompozitoriaus kūrybą“*

### Dalyvauja chorai:

*Pal. J. Matulaičio Misijos choras  
Lietuvių meno ansamblis „Dainava“  
Pal. J. Matulaičio Misijos vaikų choras „Vyturys“  
Lietuvos Vyčių choras*

### CHORAI IR DALYVIAI

*Pal. J. Matulaičio Misijos choras  
Jūratė Lukminienė meno vadovė ir dirigentė  
Lietuvių meno ansamblis „Dainava“  
Darius Polikaitis meno vadovas ir dirigentas  
Pal. J. Matulaičio Misijos vaikų choras „Vyturys“  
Darius Polikaitis meno vadovas ir dirigentas  
Lietuvos Vyčių choras  
Faustas Strolia meno vadovas ir dirigentas*

*Algimantas Barniškis baritonas  
Dalia Eidukaitė-Fanelli, Ona Marija Kasselinė solistės  
Rasa Poskočimienė vargonai  
Dainora Petkevičiūtė smuikas  
Olivija Urbonaitė fortepijonas  
Aušra Bužėnaitė sintezatorius  
Povilas Strolia gitara ir solo Tomas Strolia kontrabosas*



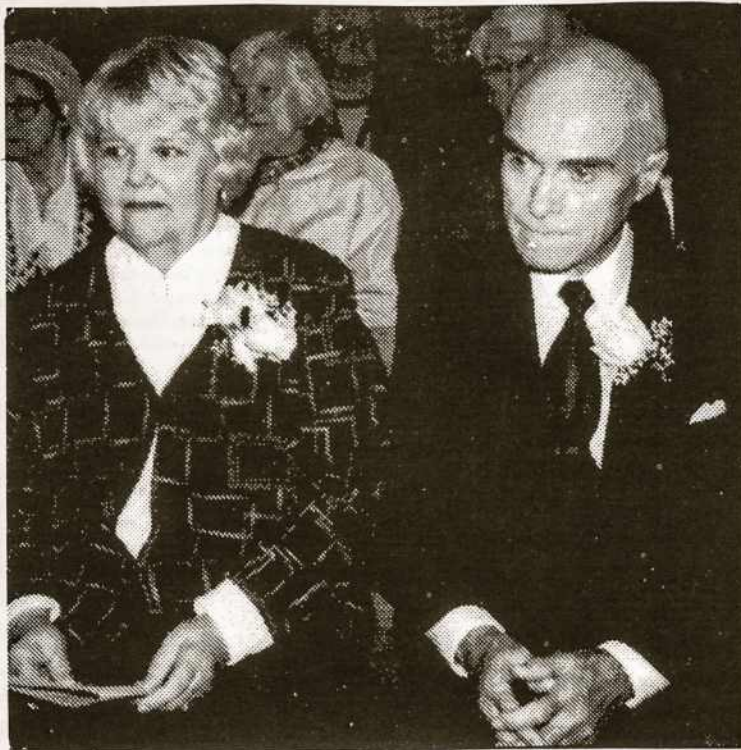
## RENGINIO KOMITETAS

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Danguolė Ilginytė     | Baniutė Kronienė      |
| Gediminas Kazėnas     | Dalia Povilaitienė    |
| Irena Kazlauskienė    | Ritonė Rudaitienė     |
| Irena Kriaučeliūnienė | a.a. Kazys Skaisgirys |
| Romas Kronas          | Alvydas Vasaitis      |

*Dekojame šios popietės mecenatui ir rėmėjui -  
Lietuvių Fondui už suteiktą paramą.*

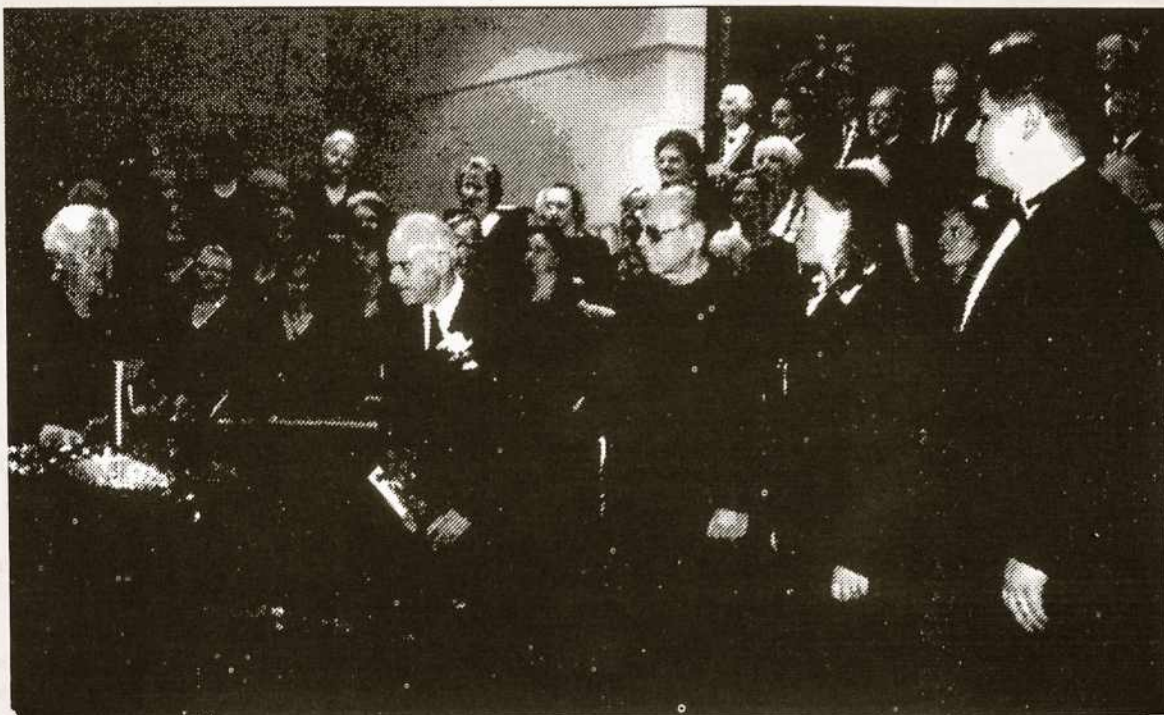


# *Knight of Honor*<sup>21</sup>



**Teresė ir muz. Faustas Strolios.**

**B. Kronienės nuotr.**



**Edvardo Šulaičio nuotraukoje (iš kairės) komp. Faustą Strolią žodžiais ir gėlėmis sveikina koncerto rengimo komiteto narė Ritonė Rudaitienė, muz. F. Strolia, maestro Alvydas Vasaitis, Pal. Jurgio Matulaičio misijos choro vadovė Jūratė Lukminienė, „Dainavos“ ansamblio ir misijos vaikų choro „Vyturys“ vadovas muz. Darius Polikaitis.**



**Kompozitorius Faustus Strolia**  
**Kūrybos popietė - PROGRAMA**

11:00 v.r. **ŠVENTOS MIŠIOS**

Pal. J. Matulaičio Misijos bažnyčioje  
Algirdas Paliokas S.J., Prel. Ignas Urbonas, kun. Jonas Kuzinskas

Pradžios giesmė *Sutelk visus* (ž. Stasio Ylos) F. Strolia  
Garbės himnas *Garbė Dievui aukštybėse* F. Strolia  
Pamokslas Prel. Ignas Urbonas, Ph.D.  
Aukojimui

Giesmė *O, Kazimierai, kilmus* (ž. Onos Mikalaitės SIC) F. Strolia  
*Viešpatie, už ką* (ž. Julijos Švabaitės-Gylenės) F. Strolia  
solistė **Dalia Eidukaitė-Fanelli**  
*Atsiųski, Viešpatie, šventosios Dvasios* F. Strolia  
-olo smuikas **Dainora Petkevičiūtė**

*Šventas* F. Strolia  
*Dievo Avinėli* F. Strolia  
Komunijai

giesmės *Kaip ilgėsingai* (ž. Stasio Ylos) F. Strolia  
*Kristaus stela* (ž. Šv. Ignacas) F. Strolia  
*Atleisk man, Viešpatie, atleisk* F. Strolia  
solo smuikas **Dainora Petkevičiūtė**

Pabaigos giesmė  
*Tau, Marija* (ž. Pievų Smilgos) F. Strolia

Pal. J. Matulaičio Misijos choras  
vargonais palydi **Rasa Poskočimienė**  
diriguoja **Jūratė Lukminienė**

12:30 v.p.p. **KONCERTAS**

PLC Lietuvių Fondo salėje

Religinė kantata *Sveledėjusiomis lipomis* F. Strolia  
(makiū iš Siburo maldaknygos „Marija, gelbėk mus“ ž. Adėlės Dinsytės)  
**L.M.A. „Dainava“**, solo **Algimantas Barniškis**  
fortepijonu palydi **Olivija Urbonaitė**  
diriguoja **Darius Polikaitis**

Ižanginis žodis **Irena Kriaučeliūnienė**



*Ad Multos Annos! to  
Our Silver Jubilarian,  
Rev. Anthony Markus*

Pastor of Nativity BVM parish, and Spiritual  
Advisor to Knights of Lithuania – C-112.  
The special Mass and celebration with  
parishioners and friends took place on Sunday,  
May 15, 2005.

(tesinys)

*Grįšim, grįšim* (ž. Vyta Nemanėlio) F. Strolia  
*Partizano mirtis* (ž. Leonardo Žitkevičiaus) F. Strolia  
*Dariui ir Girėnui prisiminti* (ž. Juozo Tolūnaio) F. Strolia

Pal. J. Matulaičio Misijos vaikų choras „Vyturys“  
diriguoja **Darius Polikaitis**

Poeto svajonė (ž. Henrikio Nagio) F. Strolia  
*Vežė mane iš namų* (lietuvių liaudies daina) F. Strolia  
*Mylėjau mergelę* (lietuvių liaudies daina) F. Strolia

**Lietuvių meno ansamblis „Dainava“**  
fortepijonu palydi **Olivija Urbonaitė**  
diriguoja **Darius Polikaitis**

*Supinkime rankas* (ž. Irenos Šerdienės) F. Strolia  
**VII Skautų Tautinės stovyklos daina**  
(ž. Nijolės Jankutės-Užubalienės) F. Strolia  
**Tango Ašarėlė** (ž. Tautos Zarankaitės) F. Strolia

**Povilas Strolia** solo su choru

*Žalgirio daina* (ž. Ritos Fabijonienės) F. Strolia  
*Tai mano Lietuva* (ž. nežinomo autorius) F. Strolia  
*Mano žemė* (ž. Juozas Augustauskis-Vaičiūnienė) F. Strolia  
*Rūpintojėlis* (ž. nežinomo autorius) F. Strolia

duetas **Dalia Eidukaitė-Fanelli,**  
**Ona Marija Kasselienė**

**Lietuvos Vyčių choras**  
sintezatorius **Aušra Bužėnaitė**  
gitara **Povilas Strolia** kontrabosas **Tomas Strolia**  
diriguoja **Faustus Strolia**

*Narsuolių daina* (ž. Pauliaus Šervio) F. Strolia  
*O didis Dieve Visagali* (ž. iš Labuko maldaknygos) F. Strolia

**Lietuvių meno ansamblis „Dainava“**,  
**Pal J. Matulaičio Misijos choras,**  
**Lietuvos Vyčių choras**  
fortepijonu palydi **Olivija Urbonaitė**  
diriguoja **Faustus Strolia**

Padėkos žodis **Irena Kriaučeliūnienė**



## **District & Council News**

### **Amber District Amber District Meeting Dolores J. Herbert**

The Amber District Meeting was held on March 13, 2005 in St. Clair, PA, C-144 Anthracite, PA. The Mass was held at St. Casimir's Church in St. Clair celebrated in honor of St. Casimir's Day and the Amber District meeting.

The host council prepared a wonderful lunch prior to getting to the business gathering. 72 members attended, which is a record number of participants for our meetings. Ann Snoich made lapel pin crosses with the yellow, green and red ethnic flag for everyone to wear. Of the 11 councils in the Amber District, 8 councils were represented. Three HM attended.

The annual drawing for the Amber District raffle was held and the winners were: 1st prize of \$300 won by Lee, sold by Victor Stepalovitch; 2nd prize of \$100 won by Eleanor Balsis; 3rd prize of \$50 won by Michael Beebe; 4th prize of \$50 won by Dawn Maknys.

On the way home, we passed a huge billboard on Route 61 with our Trustee's picture, Anna Wargo of St. Clair, PA- is a long time member of C-144 and without a doubt, a factor in that council's success. You are beautiful, Anna!

### **C-3 Philadelphia Victor Stepalovitch**

C-3 congratulates the following members on receiving their degrees. At their council meeting in March, Mary Czupick, Jackie Fox and Charles Moncrief received their first degrees, while John Chernoski received his second degree. Stephany Gutasukas received her degree while attending the

St. Casimir Day Amber District meeting in St. Clair, PA.

Our sympathy is extended to member Irene Sarcewicz whose mother passed away in March and also to Leonard Kapochus whose niece, Mary Ann O'Connor, also passed away.

We welcome back Agnes and John Mickunas, Walter and Irene Svekla and Victor Stepalovitch who were vacationing in sunny Florida during the months of March and April. Hope all of you returned with a very good sun tan.

Summer will be upon us by the time the next Vytis arrives so all of us here at C-3 in Phila wish all the members of the K of L a wonderful and joyous summer. See all of you at the Convention in Pittsburgh.

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

Our sympathy was extended to Father Cirba on the death of his mother, Agnes Cirba. A sympathy card and Lithuanian Mass card from St. Casimir's Guild were sent to him.

Frank and Betty Kwader joined Marie and Richard Laske for the Independence Day flag raising at Scranton City Hall on Feb 12th. There were about 15 people in attendance. Marie had a very nice reception, as usual.

On March 6, our council attended Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Forest City, then met for breakfast after Mass at the Ben Mar Restaurant in Carbondale. Thanks to John and Amy Morris for arrangements.

On March 13, Frank and Betty Kwader attended the Amber District meeting hosted by C-144, Anthracite PA in St. Clair. Frank and Betty were the delegates from C-46 in Forest City.

At our April 3 meeting, a guest from

Lithuania attended. It was very nice to meet her and learn more about Lithuania

Information was received about the upcoming convention to be held in Pittsburgh in August.

### **C-143 Pittston, PA Jean Mihalick**

Because of the death of our Vytis correspondent, Mary Ann Mihalick Connor, on Easter, this news is compiled by Jean Kapochus Mihalick.

C-143 held their annual flag-raising ceremony at Pittston City Hall on Feb 16, 2005. In cooperation with the KofL, Pittston City had on display for one week 20 Lithuanian flags. It made the Lithuanians so very proud of those flags flying on the poles throughout the city.

Members of C-143 attended the flag raising ceremony at City Hall. The flag at City Hall was raised prior to the ceremony. The ceremony began with the assembly singing the Lithuanian National Anthem. Fr. Navy Kumar of the St. Casimir's/St. John's/St. Joseph's Church Community, gave the invocation. Fr. Kumar's prayers were very inspirational and meaningful. It was a pleasure to have him. Proclamations were received and read by representatives of Mayor Lombardo of Pittston, Gov. Ed Rendell, Senator Musto and Congressman Paul Konjorski. Jean Mihalick read the proclamation of Gov. Ed Rendell. There was a closing prayer by Father Kumar, after which the assembly sang the American National Anthem.

Nellie Bayoras Romanas was the honorary chairman, Mary Ann Cipolla and Jean Kapochus Mihalick were the co-chairpersons.

Public officials, friends and members of the K of L attended the ceremony, including members Rosalie Kizis, Genevieve Dajnowski, Anastasia



Stanley, Helen Karpovich, Martha Warnagiris, Clement Jasonis, Mary Ann Cipolla, and Jean Mihalick.

We ask for prayers for good health for Anna Walatkas, Mary Ann Connor, Nellie Romanas, Anna Marie Sewatski.

Our St. Casimir's Day Mass for living and deceased members was celebrated on March 6 at St. Casimir's Church in Pittston. Msgr. John Bendick was celebrant, assisted by Fr. Peter Alisauskas, our Spiritual Director.

An offertory procession honoring St. Casimir was held during the Mass. The Lithuanian flag was carried by Casimir Kizis, Jr. The council flag was carried by Pam Smith and the American flag by Steve Soha. The picture of St. Casimir was carried by Ursula Danoski. The Wayside Cross Shrine was carried by Martha Warnagiris; Marie Lauck carried the lily; Anastasia Stanley carried a picture of Vytis, the Knight. The bread and wine were carried by Jean Mihalick and Helen Karpovich. Pat Weiksner carried the offertory collection. Carol Kizis was the narrator.

A luncheon meeting was held after the Mass at Agolino's Restaurant in West Pittston. At the luncheon, the 1st degree was awarded to Clem Jasonis by Rev. Peter Alisauskas and Jean Mihalick, the Ritual Chair. Directories were distributed as well as programs honoring St. Casimir. Mary Ann Cipolla gave her treasurer's report.

Following the report, readings and poetry honoring the life of St. Casimir were given by Genevieve Dajnowski, Peggy Yanklunas, Clem Jasonis, Ursula Danoski and Rosalie Kizis. Remarks were made by Fr. Alisauskas and Msgr. Bendick who emphasized the importance of maintaining and continuing our Lithuanian cultures and traditions and our heritage. It was a wonderful day to celebrate and honor St. Casimir. The attendance was great.

## New England District NED News Birzelis

On April 24, 2005, the NED Spring Convention was held in Hartford, CT, hosted by C-6. Kun. Charles E. Jacobs presided at Holy Mass in Holy Trinity Church. Brone Wisniauskas, C-10, Athol, received the 4th degree. Receiving the 3rd degree - all from C-6 were: June V. Grenier, Irene Jankauskas Petkaitis and Kun. John E. Rikteraitis, Spiritual Advisor of C-6. After a delicious lunch of turkey prepared under the supervision of Elizabeth Ellis and volunteers enlisted by Leona Sawka, NED Pres, Vivian Rodgers opened the meeting. George Petkaitis led the singing of the national anthems. As always, Vivian ran a well-organized meeting and much was accomplished. All 14 councils in the NED were represented with about 70 delegates in all.

After a wine and cheese break, the NED retreat at Kennebunkport was discussed. It will take place the weekend of June 24-26, 2005, with Msgr. Contons as the retreat master. Kathryn Urban, C-6, and Larry Miscevicus, C-141, were nominated to be delegates to the National Convention in Pittsburgh, with Florence Zalaskas, C-17, Carol Treciokas, C-27, as alternates.

The Sgt-at-Arms, Resolution and Greeting committee persons from the NED were appointed. Donations to be made at the convention were discussed and voted upon. The Cultural Fair on Oct 16, 2005 at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury MA was next discussed. The Vetra Dancers from New Haven, CT will perform and the raffle tickets will be distributed early. C-50, New Haven and C-6, Hartford are to provide the kitchen and clean-up crews. The nomination committee for the fall elections was selected: Kathryn Urban, C-6, Marcia Rogers, C-30, and Bertha Stoskus, C-102.

The Fall Convention will take place on Sept 18, 2005 in Lawrence, MA, C-78. We closed with the singing of Vyciu Himnas, led by George Petkaitis. Due to the late hour, the Holy Hour was omitted. Kun. Rikteraitis and Kun. Albin Janiunas said special prayers instead.

## C-6 Hartford, CT Bette Ann Liudzius

Alyce Gegesky had chaired the Nominating Committee, assisted by Judith Landers, Bette Ann Liudzius and Kristina Serksnas. The officers elected for 2005 were Pres, Joseph Stiklius; 1st VP, Special Projects, Irene Belanger; 2nd VP, Alyce Gegesky; Rec Sec, Catherine Salka; Trea, Florence Grigas; Fin Sec, Brian Daigle; Ritual, Judith Landers; Trustees, Irene Petkaitis and Leona Sawka; Lithuanian Affairs, Tomas Nenortas; Cultural, Dalia Dzikas; Social, Lillian Joseph; Choir and Language, Jurgis Petkaitis; Sgt-at-Arms, Jonas Kasputis; Telephone contact, Wanda Kruk; Hospitality, Kristina Serksnas, Angela Balskus and Gloria Scovill.

After installing the officers, our chaplain, Fr. John Rikteraitis prayed that the Spirit of Wisdom would abide with our council and guide those newly elected. He congratulated all past officers and committees on a job well done during the past year, especially President Gene Ziurys for always leading with diplomacy. Let us always remember that when we harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

At our Feb meeting, our chaplain, Fr. John Rikteraitis opened the meeting and newly elected Pres, Joseph Stiklius, surprised us by passing out "little black books" to keep our important K of L addresses. He said that was wife, Arlene's idea and we are grateful for her thoughtfulness.

Dalia Dzikas spoke of the "Draugas"



newspaper article by Danute Bindokiene about "Vyciai" no longer speaking Lithuanian, but they do not forget their roots and are always there with helping hands for any Lithuanian cause. Dalia also reminded us of the significance of Lithuanian Independence Day and the meaning of the flag colors. Because the national flag was hidden while Lithuania was under communist rule, that flag appeared and were flown from Gedimino Pilis, immediately after regaining freedom, seemed miraculous. Dalia mentioned Shrove Tuesday and that we had but a few hours left to indulge ourselves in delicious, rich, fat foods before Lenten fasting. The hostesses for the month - chairperson Kristina Serksnas and her assistants Angela Balskus, Judy Landers, Leona Sawka and Irene Selinka pampered us with pastries, dips, and hot coffee. The few pounds we gained would be gone by Easter, we hoped.

The April meeting was filled with enthusiasm to discuss NED Convention plans. Alyce Gegesky sadly reminded us that we had lost 12 members during the past year and we have not reached our goal of 100 council members.

Dalia and Al Dzikas went to Lithuania to celebrate an aunt's 80th birthday and were fortunate enough to be there during Easter. They visited the Hill of Crosses and many local people were visiting, although it was cold and the ground was snow covered. While in Lithuania, Al represented Bendruomene at a celebration reception re: NATO. We welcome them home and enjoy hearing of their travels.

Tom Nenortas was congratulated for having his book, "Victorian Hartford", a post card history series, published. Paging through the book is like opening a treasure chest of postcards from the past. Tom has been interested in history since elementary school and has a strong interest in Lithuanian genealogy and heritage. He enjoyed

listening to folk tales and history of Lithuania from his grandparents and his appetite for history began when he had to complete a school project about his family tree. Tom is now working on a 2nd volume and we wish him every success.

## C-10 Athol-Gardner Vincukas

Our K of L held its annual observance of Lithuanian Independence Day, March 13, at St. Francis Church Hall. The 10:45 Mass was celebrated by Pastor, Rev. Stephen Johnson for the Freedom Fighters who through the years died for freedom. The weekend event celebrated the 15th anniversary of Lithuania's freedom from Russian communist rule, gained by declaration on March 11, 1990.

The observance followed at 1:30PM in the parish hall. Both anthems were sung. Deacon James Couture offered the invocation.

The Birzelis Dance Group of Hartford, CT, under the direction of Dalia Dzikas, performed beautifully. Birzelis displayed several different styles of Lithuanian dance. The movements of Ruguciai represent the cutting of rye, e.g., while the circular theme of Kubilas is intended to recall the shape of barrels used for vegetable storage during the winter. An all-female performance of Blezdingele depicts the motion of swallows in flight. In the final dance, Rolenderis, the group invited spectators to join them on the floor.

William Wisniauskas, the MC, traced the history of Lithuania from King Mindaugas in 1251 to the present day as to their problems and aspirations. He mentioned the May 9 Moscow-Putin observation which Pres Adamkus refused to attend. Bravo!

James Kraskauskas spoke on attending, with his wife, Asta, a Baltic group conference in Washington condemning the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

The committee members included Armand and Pam Bouthilier as kitchen

coordinators, Vince Kulisansky, Nellie Melaika, hostess, Milda Stasiunas, coffee; Brone Wisniauskas, decorations, servers. Marie Shatas, Jackie Doherty, Betty Penney, Marie Colo, Clara Zetkauskas, Maryann Langlois, Richard Gatautis, clean-up.

An excellent Lithuanian supper was served. The "Gardner News" carried a lengthy article with a large, color picture of the dance group on the front page. The Athol press also did the same.

Member Jackie Doherty was elected for a 2-year term on the Athol School Committee. Bravo, Jackie.

Brone Wisniauskas gave an Easter egg demonstration at the Barre Senior Center in March and had a Lithuanian Cultural display at the annual Ethnic Day at the Gardner High School, 4/3.

Because of failing health, Martha Aleson has moved to her son's home in upper NY State. We wish you well, Martha.

Spring has finally arrived in North Country, Athol-Gardner. It surely was a cold one with a record snowfall.

We are all saddened on the death of our beloved Pope John Paul II. A quote from a local paper: "On Feb 10, 1906, Karol Wotyła, a non-commissioned administrative officer in the Austro-Hungarian army, married Emilia Kaczowska, a young Silesian of Lithuanian origin. For the second son, Karol, Jr., the family history was a symbolic reminder of the period of Polish-Lithuanian unity in rebellion against Russia in the 19th century. As Pope, Wotyła addressed a particularly warm greeting to the Lithuanians."

When the Pope visited Lithuania, Gardner K of L's Blanche Genaitis, son Richard, daughter Lillian Erickson and son PJ were in Lithuania and at the Hill of Crosses when he offered Mass. They were very impressed.



## C-17 South Boston, MA Regina

Pres Frank Markuns returned for the April Council meeting after convalescing and vacationing in Florida. Welcome home, Frank! The council helped celebrate the birthday of our Spiritual Director, Fr. Steve Zukas, with a cake and songs.

On April 17, the 10:30 AM Mass was celebrated by former Pastor, Msgr. Albert J. Contons, and the co-celebrant was Fr. Stanley Azaro, OP, Dominican Friar. Included during the Mass was the Sacrament of Anointing. Following the Mass, in the church hall, the annual St. Peter Senior Citizen's Party was held. The party was a huge success. Gloria Adomkaitis and a hardworking committee organized, prepared and served a grand meal. *Aciu labai visiems darbininkams.*

Long-time C-17 member, Marion Matachinskas, who now resides in Texas, is seriously ill and we send our love and prayers. It was nice to see Aldona Kropas feeling better.

There has been no further news concerning the closing of St Peter Lithuanian Parish. We await the reponse to the letter of inquiry from the Congregation of the Clergy in the Vatican. A response is expected in May 2005. All parishoners are being encouraged to continue to support and attend Mass at St. Peter Lithuanian church. The Friends of St. Peter Lithuanian Parish report that the parish continued to be supported, financially, but our physical presence during Mass should be encouraged more.

## C-26 Worcester, MA Ruta

At the last meeting, Annie Bacinskas was welcomed back. She has been out for several months and it was

wonderful to see her and hear that she is feeling so much better. Ann Leseman is now on the sick list and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Our fun activity and good money-maker was run again this year... THE PENNY SALE! Everyone was asked to donate an unwrapped gift for the sale. Our members really support this activity and brought in some very nice prizes. This exciting event was held after the meeting. Once everyone purchased their ticket and made selections, the fun began. A drawing was held for each gift and the winners were announced. Some lucky members won more than one prize and others, none. There was even some trading going on behind the scenes. All of the money earned was being sent to Lithuania to help support the orphan girl we are sponsoring.

The tanned and "rested" Aldona Waska and Lillian Kondrotas had returned from their annual visit to Florida. They made the rest of us look so pale.

Congratulations to George Sopczak! He was awarded "The Jacket". This is given by St. Casimir's to a deserving member who volunteers and performs a number of duties for the parish. George goes well above the call of duty. He seems to be everywhere quietly helping and doing things without even being asked. We are so fortunate to have him in our council and as a member of St. Casimir's.

It is with great sadness that we have to report that John "Jack" Kazlauskas has passed away. He was only 59. Jack was a Life-time member of our council and held a second degree. Many of you will remember Jack as the funeral director who purchased the Dirsas Funeral Home. Years later he added the Morin Funeral Home and then the Henry Funeral Service. He also belonged to two other Lithuanian organizations: The Lithuanian Charitable Society and the Lithuanian Social Club. The list of other

organizations in which he held membership filled an entire column in the newspaper. In many instances, he was either president, past president, director, etc. He was not afraid to give of his time and expertise to make things better. Jack always had a friendly handshake and smile for everyone and always took time to stop and talk. Now, he is probably up in Heaven helping to organize things. We shall miss him and extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

## C-27 Norwood, MA Zaibas

Yes, we are still here. C-27, formerly of St. George R.C. Church, Norwood, MA (now closed by the Archdiocese of Boston) is still together. Our meetings are held the 2nd Sundays of the month at St. Mary's Church, East Walpole. We will next meet on June 12.

Pres Charles Trečiokas and his wife, Carol, have been diligent in their attendance and attention to the NED Board meetings and also participate in many events held by our neighboring K of L councils in South Boston and Brockton.

Member S. Betty Skricki had a most busy Easter week with her family and enjoyed a visit from her 2 grandchildren and their parents.

Sandra Melish is not only an active participant in our K of L happenings but will be heading to Falmouth to take part in 4 days of meetings and events for the Emblem Div. of the Elks. Ramona Gonski has just finished her noble tour of duty caring for 7 kittens and has found good homes for all.

George and Birute Barton have left for their 6-month stay at their home in Kaunas, Lithuania. George will present Fr. Griganavicius with a donation for the Resurrection Church (Prisikelimo Baznycia) in Kaunas as a memorial to



## Death of Our Dear Vytis Correspondent... Council - 143



Mary Ann Mihalick Connor in her Lithuanian Attire  
receiving her 2<sup>nd</sup> degree

Mary Ann Mihalick Connor was the Vytis correspondent for Council 143. She died from cancer on Easter morning. It was very fitting that Mary Ann should have been resurrected with the Lord on Easter morning, because she loved Easter so much. A few weeks before she died, she remarked that she hoped God certainly must still have plans for her. We prayed to Mother Maria, asking her to intercede for Mary Ann so she would have healing, but unfortunately it was not meant to be.

Mary Ann was a member of C-143 for six years. She received her second degree, and was working on her third. Mary Ann was 48 years old, and the mother of two daughters, Rachel 14, and Sarah, 12. She loved the Knights of Lithuania and would proudly wear her national costume as often as needed. She and her daughters would bake the "ausukes" for Kucios. They loved baking them. She was teaching them how to be proud Lithuanians.

Mary Ann was a teacher at Kingston Catholic School in Kingston, NY. She was very active in her church and her community. She was a lector, active with the women's clubs and did volunteer work with the youth. Mary Ann set a good example for her children as a Knight of Lithuania, as her youngest daughter, Sarah, would like to become a junior knight some day. Sarah was highly impressed with the K of L functions that she attended with her mother. Mary Ann will be truly missed.

~Jean Kapochus Mihalick  
President, C-143, Pittston

## A Special Expression of Sympathy...

Papal Nuncio to Lithuania  
Archbishop Dr. Peter Stephan Zurbriggen  
T. Kosciuskos g. 28  
LT-01100 Vilnius  
Lietuva/Lithuania

Your Excellency,

Joining in prayer with all Lithuanian Catholics living outside of Lithuania and with all Catholics throughout the world, we ask Almighty God to grant eternal rest to His Holiness Pope John Paul II together with all the saints.

We thank the Lord for granting Pope John Paul II the opportunity to lead the Catholic Church for XXVI years; he was a missionary with an apostolic charisma, who evangelized as he traveled to so many different countries. He touched the hearts of many, especially the young, the suffering and prisoners of conscience. By proclaiming the Gospel he stressed the importance of human dignity and the culture of life.

In a fatherly way, he often met with Lithuanian pilgrims visiting the Vatican, especially in 1984 when Lithuania celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Casimir, its patron saint; and again in 1987 when Lithuania celebrated 600 years of Christianity. He always took the opportunity to extend his greetings to Lithuanian communities during his apostolic journeys around the world.

On a personal note, I am also very grateful to His Holiness Pope John Paul II who ordained me to the priesthood twenty years ago at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Msgr. Edmond J. Putrimas  
Lithuanian Bishops' Conference Delegate  
for the Apostolate of  
Lithuanian Catholics Abroad



our beloved Fr. Bill Wolkavich. Although Albie and Leonora Jarvis were happy to return home from Florida. They were glad to have missed many snow storms this winter.

We look forward to seeing our fellow New England KofL'ers at the retreat in Kennebunkport, Maine, June 24, 2005. Iki pasimatymo. Likit sveiki.

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

After Mass and lunch, Pres Barbara Schmidt opened our January meeting. Plans were formulated for the upcoming Independence Day celebration in Feb and the annual St. Casimir's Communion breakfast in March. Barbara reported that our Pastor, Fr. LoPresti, remembers at Mass any deceased member the day after he is notified of their passing. He also attends the wake service whenever possible.

Nancy Pawasauskas presented the 1st degree to Linas Stasaitis, Joseph Stulas and Daivis Valenta; 2nd degree to Gary Anderson, Richard Haux, Laurynas Misevicius, Sister Patricia Rickis, Anna Ross, Vytautas Vaikutis and Alvin and Florence Zikaras.

My husband and I were pleasantly surprised by the members on the event of our 60th wedding anniversary. We were married at St. George's Church on Jan. 25, 1945. Fr. LoPresti gave us a beautiful blessing; we were toasted with wine; I was presented with beautiful roses. The members sang the traditional, appropriate songs.

Our Feb Independence Day celebration was a great success. The Lithuanian American Committee co-hosted the event. At Mass, the KofL officers - several in Lithuanian dress - marched in procession preceded by the American and Lithuanian flags. Helen Janiunas did the readings in Lithuanian and led

us in song. Lunch followed with a large variety of sandwiches and desserts prepared by the KofL ladies. Fr. LoPresti opened the meeting with a prayer, followed by both National Anthems. We also sang "Happy Birthday" to our Vicar Fr. Randle. We were honored to have 3 notable speakers address the members and guests - Mrs. Vivian Rogers, NED Pres; Jonas Cekuolis, member of Lithuanian Seimas and Foreign Affairs Committee and Sigita Simkuvienė-Rosen - producer-director of the play which followed the speakers. Each spoke of the great progress Lithuania has made since she gained her freedom. We should support her efforts in any way we can and be very proud of our heritage.

The Vetra dancers of New Haven performed several dances. The Lithuanian Theatre Group performed the one-act comedy "Zenteliai" or "Son in Law". The actors did a great job improvising so that it was easy to follow the story line even if you didn't understand the spoken word.

HM Clemencine Miller was in charge of collecting the donations for the various charities to aid Lithuania or the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Putnam, CT.

Condolences to the family of Peter Radzwillas who passed away in January. Although poor health kept him from the meetings, he always kept up his membership.

### **MidAtlantic District**

#### **C-152 E. Long Island Toni Sakal**

Our Christmas Party was a big success. It was held at the Riverhead Polish Hall. Food, music, and prizes were enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who helped. Some of our Juniors helped to sell chances. St. Casimir's Day celebration was held.

We celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Ostrobrama in Cutchogue. A luncheon was held at the Senior Citizens Hall. Florence Ostrowski and her girls provided us with a delicious variety of foods. They can cook for me, anytime! We had elections and all officers remained the same.

### **Mid Central District**

#### **C-19 Pittsburgh Len Barcoucky**

Good weather, good food, good friends combined for St. Casimir's Celebration

No matter how cold or snowy the winter, good weather seems to prevail in Pittsburgh when the Sisters of St. Francis and the Knights of Lithuania get together to remember St. Casimir. That was the case again, this year when members of C-19, their friends from the Lithuanian Citizens Society of Western Pennsylvania and the nuns marked his feast day with a Mass and brunch. The annual event was held Feb 27 at the order's chapel and Motherhouse in Whitehall.

The Rev. Edward Suhoza celebrated Mass, while Sister J. Lora Dambroski served as lector.

The offertory included a procession and presentation of gifts associated with St. Casimir - his portrait, a cross, a lily, a crown of thorns and a royal crown. Taking part in the procession were Mathilda Milauskas, Dalia Yucius, Lorraine Yucius, Brian and Rita Johnson and their sons, Brian Jr. and Justin.

Organist Patti Donohue Burns led the singing of several Lithuanian Hymns, including "Marija, Marija", "Pulkim ant Keliu" and "Jezau pas mane Ateiki".

Honorary Member Bill Kolicus led the singing of Lietuvos Himnas and "God Bless America".

The brunch, prepared by dietary director Bonnie Wright and her staff included Lithuanian-style sausage and bacon-filled buns.



Sister Marian Blodis and Len Barcoucky once again coordinated the event.

**C-25 Cleveland, Ohio  
Ursula Kunsitis**

C-25 celebrated St. Casimir's Day on March 6 at OLPH Church. We would like to thank our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Gediminas, for officiating at the Mass and to the flag-bearers, Frank Joga and Jim Thompson and also to the gift-bearers: Todd Craig, Theresa Capuria, Dolly Oberaitis, Nellie Samas and Eleanor Bendokas. The following were present: Joe Ivoska, Ray Vanagas, Gene and Ursula Kunsitis, Vyto Staskus, Irene and Paul Chalko, Ben Karklius, Joan Thompson and Cliff and Catherine Schneider. After Mass, we visited the Coffee Hour and Bookstore. A delicious luncheon followed at Finamore's Restaurant. Pres Theresa Capuria made all the arrangements and that each table had the necessary libations. Job well-done!

Dick and Jean Marks enjoyed their Easter in Montana, visiting daughter, Mary Beth and son-in-law, Randy. Even though still battling the effects of the flu, Fr. G. Kijauskas managed to conduct very beautiful and inspiring Holy Week and Easter Services. The Easter lilies were just gorgeous. Thank you, Father, for all your efforts! Please stay well!

Our council would like to take this opportunity to thank Betty August for her Mass offering for deceased C-25 members on April 3 at OLPH. Aciu labai!

Cathy Kaczmarek still has another 2 weeks in confinement. To Kathy and all our house-bound members, you are all in our prayers and thoughts.

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

C-96 celebrated St. Casimir's Day on March 6 at 10:30 am Mass at Holy Cross Lithuanian Church. With Gary

Thiele carrying the council's cross, created by George Mikalauskas, members were led into church. Our Junior Knights Alex and Nathan Fletcher, Erin and Tommy Petkus, were the Offertory Bearers. Following Mass, a special reading was presented by JoAnn Thiele followed with Stefanija Rastikis leading the members in the Litany to St. Casimir in Lithuanian. Singing the Vyciu Himnas closed out the services. Members then headed to the Old Country Buffet for breakfast/brunch and the council's monthly meeting. JoAnn and Gary Thiele must be thanked for chairing the St. Casimir's Day event and doing a great job!

Our Palm Sunday Bake Sale held on March 20, 2005 proved to be very successful, thanks to our Chair, Danny Tucker, a first for former Junior Knight and now a regular council member and Anne Louise Tucker. The council also sponsored the parish's Koffee Klatch. Donations by the membership, sale of baked goods and general participation by members and parishoners helped in the success. Council members who were winners in the raffle that was held were Alice Petkus, Joan Kavalauskas, Joyce Berczelly, Elaine Pacovsky, Elena and Mary Agnes Mikalauskas!!

Elinor Sluzas HM, Chair of the SC Honorary Membership Committee and Our Lady of Siluva Committee, Fran Petkus HM and MCD Pres Michael Petkus returned home safely from the Supreme Council meeting of April 16, 2005, held in Pittsburgh, PA, hosted by C-19 and the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God. It was a very busy meeting with the order of business getting completed in good time. The good Sisters certainly made our stay very enjoyable with good food and their warm smiles. Many on the Board had some of the Sisters for teachers in their various schools. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, KofL National Spiritual Advisor, held Mass at the convent. The hotel where the convention is being

held was beautiful and the personnel were most helpful. We had a surprise cake for Elinor on the occasion of her birthday!

A very warm welcome to our 2 newest members, Jennifer F. Usalis and her sister, Katherine M. Usalis. Jennifer is a student at the University of Dayton while Katherine attends McCauley HS in Cincinnati, OH. Looking forward to meeting you both soon, in person!!

It is good to know that Raymond and Mildred Steinbrunner were not hurt when their home was seriously damaged by fire, recently.

Helen Vaitkus had a wonderful visit with her son, Steven, and grandchildren Julie and Justin when they came to the States from their home in Germany!

Our deepest sympathies go to the family of Josephine Zilinskas. Josephine died, suddenly, on April 6, 2005. She had been residing at an Assisted-Living facility the past few years and looked forward each year to the council's Annual Christmas Caroling visit. Josephine has been most generous not only to the council but also to the Knights of Lithuania Aid to Lithuania, Inc. May she rest in the peace of our Lord!!

Happy Summer and we'll see you in Pittsburgh, PA!!



**"SMILES WITHOUT  
WRINKLES"**  
-by Leondas J. Galinskas

When I was young  
Pursuing my vocation,  
The initials R and R  
Stood for rest and recreation.

But, as the years flew by  
And I aged with grace,  
Those letter now mean  
Repair and Replace.





**Council 147****St. Petersburg, FL****Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan**

This has been a very busy couple of months for members of Council 147! Our general meeting was held on February 21, 2005, at 2pm. The meeting was called to order by President, John Jonaitis. Prayer was led by Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Dr. Matthew Cyvas. Minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary, Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan.

A discussion followed, and plans were made for St. Casimir's Day celebration Mass on Sunday, March 6, 2005, with dinner following at the Lithuanian American Club.

The Social Membership proposal and letter were read in English by Marilyn Lenihan, and in Lithuanian, by Pres. John Jonaitis. A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of social membership. The vote was taken and documented on the submittal letter to the Supreme Council.

Birute Cierniak was sworn in by Rev. Dr. M. Cyvas as a new member, after acceptance of her membership application by the Supreme Council.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments provided by members were enjoyed by all. On Sunday, March 6, the St. Casimir's Day celebration began with 1 pm. Mass at Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Gulfport, FL. The Mass was concelebrated by Rev. Bernardas Talaisis and Rev. Dr. Matthew Cyvas. An honor guard of members carried in the Lithuanian flag, K of L flag, and the US flag. Gifts were brought up to the altar by visiting President of the Supreme Council, Agnes Mickunas. A dinner was held following the Mass, at the Lithuanian

American Club off 49<sup>th</sup> St. in St. Petersburg. Fr. Bernardas Talaisis gave a talk on St. Casimir, and Council President, John Jonaitis introduced Supreme Council President, Agnes Mickunas, who gave a welcoming speech in English and Lithuanian. The entertainment for the afternoon was provided by an ensemble of nine beautiful Lithuanian ladies singing Lithuanian songs. (Please refer to photo included in this issue of Vytis.)

Many members of C-147 attended a concert Friday, March 11, 2005, performed by "Herald," a Vocal Arts Ensemble, sponsored jointly by the Lithuanian American Club of Florida, and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania, at the Lithuanian American Club in St. Petersburg. Many dignitaries and consulates were in attendance and introduced to the audience. The singing included music of Lithuanian composers. A post-concert reception was sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States, hosted by Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas. Also, the SPIFFS Folk Fair was held the weekend of March 18, 19 and 20, in St. Petersburg. SPIFFS is an acronym for the St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society ([www.spiffs.org](http://www.spiffs.org)). A contingent of young Lithuanian dancers known as, "Mikitukas," performed at the fair.

As stated previously, this has been a very active season for the Council, with many "snowbird" members attending these varied events. Looking forward to a successful 92<sup>nd</sup> National Convention!

*Millie's Patarimai...*

**Nuo giedravalkčio...** Pririnkti sliėkų, nuplauti, užpilti cukrumi ir palaikyti orkaitėje kol ištirps cukrus. Iškošta skystį gerti.

Taip pat sliėkus galima apibarstyti druska; išsiskyrus skysčiui, jį nukošti ir lašinti po vieną lašą į akis, kad ištirptų giedravalktis. Po dviejų savaičių gydymo, giedravalktis turėtų pranykti.

Senovėje, nuo **gerklių kataro**, pasireiškiančio užkimimu, naudodavo tokį mišinį: vieno kiaušinio trynys ir vienas šaukštas medaus dedamas į stiklinę karšto pieno – gerti iš ryto, nevalgius. Sloga ir gerklės skausmas buvo gydomi karšta salavijų (sage) arbata, į kurią dėta medaus ir truputis acto. Gerdavo po valgomą šaukštuką 6-12 kartų per dieną, ja taip pat buvo skalaujama gerklė.

Sergant **džiova**, **bronchitu**, **plaučių uždegimu**, **esant ilgalaikiam kosuliui**, rekomenduojama paimti 1300 g. liepų medaus, 1 stiklinę susmulkintų alijošiaus lapų, 200g. alyvų aliejaus, 150 g. beržo pumpurų, 50 g. liepos žiedų.

Nuplautos verdančiu vandeniu alijošiaus lapus dešimt dienų palaikyti šaldytuve. Ištirpinti medų ir sudėti susmulkintus alijošiaus lapus. Mišinį palaikyti garuose. Atskirai dviejose stiklinėse vandens išvirti beržų pumpurus ir liepos žiedus. Virti 1-2 minutes. Nukošti, skystį supilti į atvesusį medų. Sumaišyti ir supilti į du stiklainius. Į kiekvieną stiklainį pripilti lygiomis dalimis alyvų aliejaus. Laikyti vietoje. Gerti po valgomą šaukštą tris kartus per dieną. Prieš vartojimą, suplakti. Vaikams po arbatinį šaukštelį tris kartus per dieną.



## Play *RIZIKA* ~

### *Lithuanian Jeopardy*

By Bronius Krokys, C-3

**Object of the Game:** To grow in (or test) your knowledge of Lithuanian history and related events by playing Rizika.

**Goal:** 70-75 points by year's end.

**Scoring:** 5 points for each correct answer.

**To play:** Find the answers to the questions from the Lithuanian Encyclopedia, a person, or internet, and record your answers.

Check your answers in the next Vytis issue and keep track of your points.

(Please accept our apology for having omitted the questions in the last issue of Vytis,) so here are

### *Your RIZIKA questions ~* *Sets 1 and 2*

Knowledge about Lithuania, your historical Fatherland. See how many of the following questions you are able to answer:

#### Set 1.

1. What happened in Lithuania on February 16, 1918?
2. By what country was Lithuania occupied until her Declaration of Independence?
3. What other neighboring country, was also occupied together with Lithuania? More than a hundred years?
4. During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Lithuania was a great kingdom. What was the name of the Lithuanian king?
5. What was the name of his wife, the Lithuanian queen?

#### Set 2.

6. One of Mindaugas' sons was a monk in the Russian Orthodox Church. What were the names of the other two princes?
7. Who was the second Grand Duke preparing himself to be crowned as the King of Lithuania?

8. In what year was King Mindaugas crowned as the King of Lithuania, thus making the state of Lithuania a kingdom?
9. What was the date set for the coronation of Vytautas the Great?
10. Who was the Lithuanian woman, queen of the Federation of Poland and Lithuania?

Good Luck! Geros sekmės!

### *A "Catholic Dictionary"* *- by Father James*

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

BULLETIN: Your receipt for attending Mass

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip sync.

HOLY WATER: A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.

HYMN: A song of praise, usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Mass, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

INCENSE: Holy smoke!

JESUITS: An order of priests known for their ability to find colleges with good basketball teams.

JONAH: The original "Jaws" story.

JUSTICE: When kids have kids of their own.

KYRIE ELEISON: The only Greek words that most Catholics can recognize besides gyros and baklava.

MAGI: The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in Catholic Churches.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of Mass consisting of: altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

RECESSIONAL: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of Mass - led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.

RELICS: People who have been going to Mass for so long, they actually know when to sit, kneel and stand.

TEN COMMANDMENTS: The most important Top Ten list not given by David Letterman.

USHERS: The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.



# *Knight Life...*



As part of their preparation for this year's national convention in Pittsburgh, members of C-19 have been gathering memorabilia and putting together display boards illustrating the history of the organization in southwestern PA. Catherine Whitmer, Rita Johnson, Brian Johnson, Jr., Patricia Beyer and her mother, Alice Lewellen, got an early look at the display. It was set up during this year's St. Casimir's celebration, which was held at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis in Whitehall, near Pittsburgh.

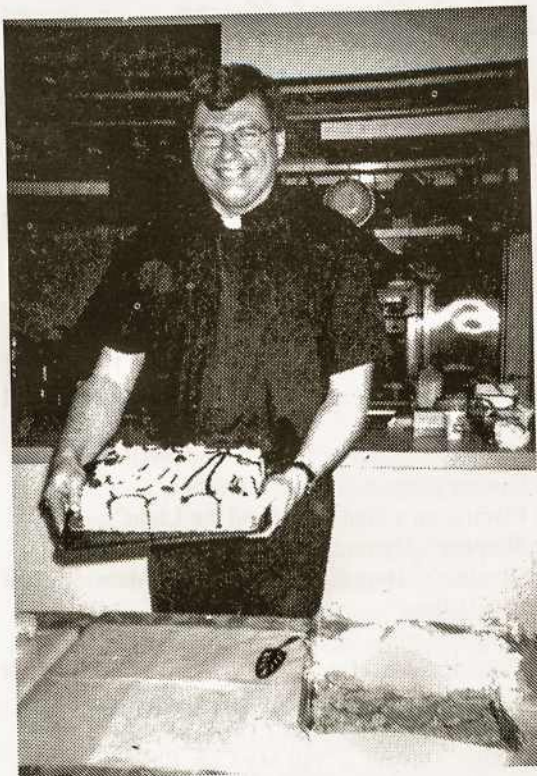
The Berželis Dance group from Hartford – as they performed at the Lithuanian Independence Day program in Athol, in Dec. of 2003.



Present at the Lithuanian Flag Raising event are, L. to R.: Jean Mihalick, co-chair; Rev. Navy Kuman; Mary Ann Cipolla, co-chair; Clem Jasonis, Public Relations.



# Knight Life...



**"ILGIAUSIU METU"** – Father Steve Zukas, Spiritual Director - C-17, St. Peter Lith. Church, So. Boston, MA celebrates his birthday with his Council – Valio!

Mathilda Milauskas, Rose Carroll and Agatha Bender enjoyed the Lithuanian sausage and bacon buns at the brunch following Mass during the St. Casimir's Day celebration. The event was sponsored by C-19 and the Sisters of St. Francis.



Hartford C-6 member, Tomas J. Nenortas, at the Bookworm, West Hartford, CT, signing his newly published book, *Victorian Hartford*, a postcard history series.



## The Humor Hotline

### Only in America...

- do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
- do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke.
- do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.
- do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.
- do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.
- do we use the "politics" to describe the process so well: 'Poli' in Latin meaning 'many' and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures.'
- do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

### Ever wonder...

- Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
- Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- Why don't you ever see the headline, "Psychic Wins Lottery?"
- Why "abbreviated" is such a long word?
- Why it is that doctors call what they do "practice?"
- Why lemon juice is made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?
- Why the man who invests all your money is called a broker?
- Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
- Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
- Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
- Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?
- You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?
- Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- Why are they called apartments when they're all stuck together?
- If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?
- If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

## A Bit of Hymnal Humor...

- The Dentist's Hymn..."Crown Him With Many Crowns."
- The Weatherman's Hymn..."There Shall Be Showers of Blessing"
- The Contractor's Hymn..."The Church's One Foundation"
- The Tailor's Hymn..."Holy, Holy, Holy"
- The Golfer's Hymn..."There is a Green Hill Far Away"
- The Politician's Hymn..."Standing on the Promises"
- The Optometrist's Hymn..."Open My Eyes That I Might See."
- The IRS Agent's Hymn..."I Surrender All"
- The Gossip's Hymn..."Pass It On"
- The Electrician's Hymn..."Send the Light"
- The Shopper's Hymn..."Sweet By and By"
- The Realtor's Hymn..."I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop"
- The Pilot's Hymn..."I'll Fly Away"
- The Psychiatrist's Hymn..."Just A Little Talk With Jesus"
- The Postal Worker's Hymn..."So I Send You"
- The Waiter's Hymn..."Fill My Cup, Lord"
- The Gardener's Hymn..."Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"
- The Shoe Repairer's Hymn..."It is Well With My Soul"
- The Travel Agent's Hymn..."Anywhere With Jesus"
- The Geologist's Hymn..."Rock of Ages"
- The Hamatologist's Hymn..."Are You Washed in the Blood?"
- The Librarian's Hymn..."Whispering Hope"

### MSPELLING PRBLM

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabridge Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttair in waht oredr the ltteers in a word are, the olny tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sittl raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

- by Leondas J. Galinskas C-102



## OI NEVERK, MATUŠĖLE!

Oi neverk, matušėle, kad jaunas sūnus  
Eis ginti brangiosios tėvynės!  
Kad pavirtęs, kaip ąžuolas girių puikus,  
Lauks teismo dienos paskutinės.

Taip nelaužyk sau rankų, kaip beržo šakas  
Kad laužo užrūšintas vėjas;  
Tau dar liko sūnų; ką tėvynę praras,  
Antros neišmels apgailėjęs.

Ten už upių plačių žiba mūsų pulkai:  
Jie mylimą Lietuvą gina;  
Kam nusviro galva, tam dangaus angelai  
Vainiką iš diemantų pina.

Daugel krito sūnų, kaip tų lapų rudens:  
Baltveidės oi verks, nes mylėjo!  
Bet nei bus, nei tekės Nemune tiek vandens,  
Kiek priešų ten kraujo tekėjo.

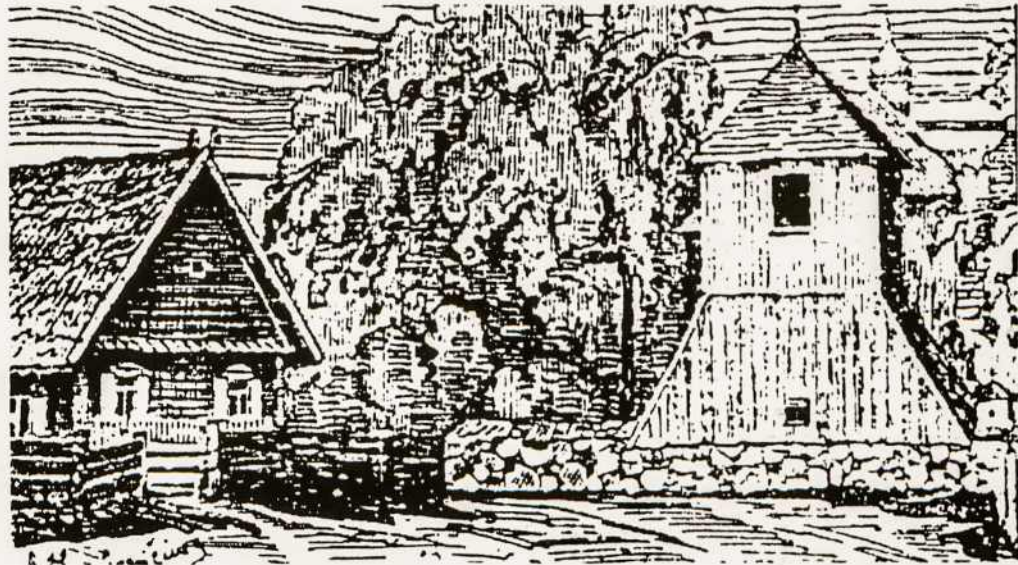
Vedė Vytautas ten didžiaviryų pulkus  
Ir priešų sulaužė puikybę:  
Už devynias mares, už tamsiuosius miškus  
Išvarė kryžiuočių galybę.

Saulė leidos raudona ant Vilniaus kapų,  
Kai duobę kareiviai ten kasė,  
Ir paguldė daug brolių greta milžinų,  
O Viešpats jų priglaudė dvasią.

O neverk, matušėle, kad jaunas sūnus  
Eis ginti brangiausios tėvynės!  
Kad pavirtęs kaip ąžuolas girių puikus,  
Lauks teismo dienos paskutinės!

*by Maironis (Jonas Mačiulis) - 1895*

*Here the author urges the mother of a young soldier not to cry because he is going to war. "He will become as a fallen oak, who will wait for the final judgement."*



*Love and Prayers to All Our Dear Mothers!  
Sveikiname visas mamytės. Motinos Lietuvos  
proga!*

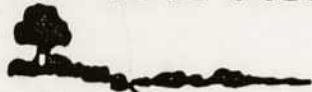


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## THE ROAD of LIFE



"i expect to  
 pass through this  
 world but once.  
 Any good therefore  
 that i can do  
 or any kindness  
 that i can show  
 any fellow creature  
 let me do it now...  
 for i shall not  
 pass this way again"

