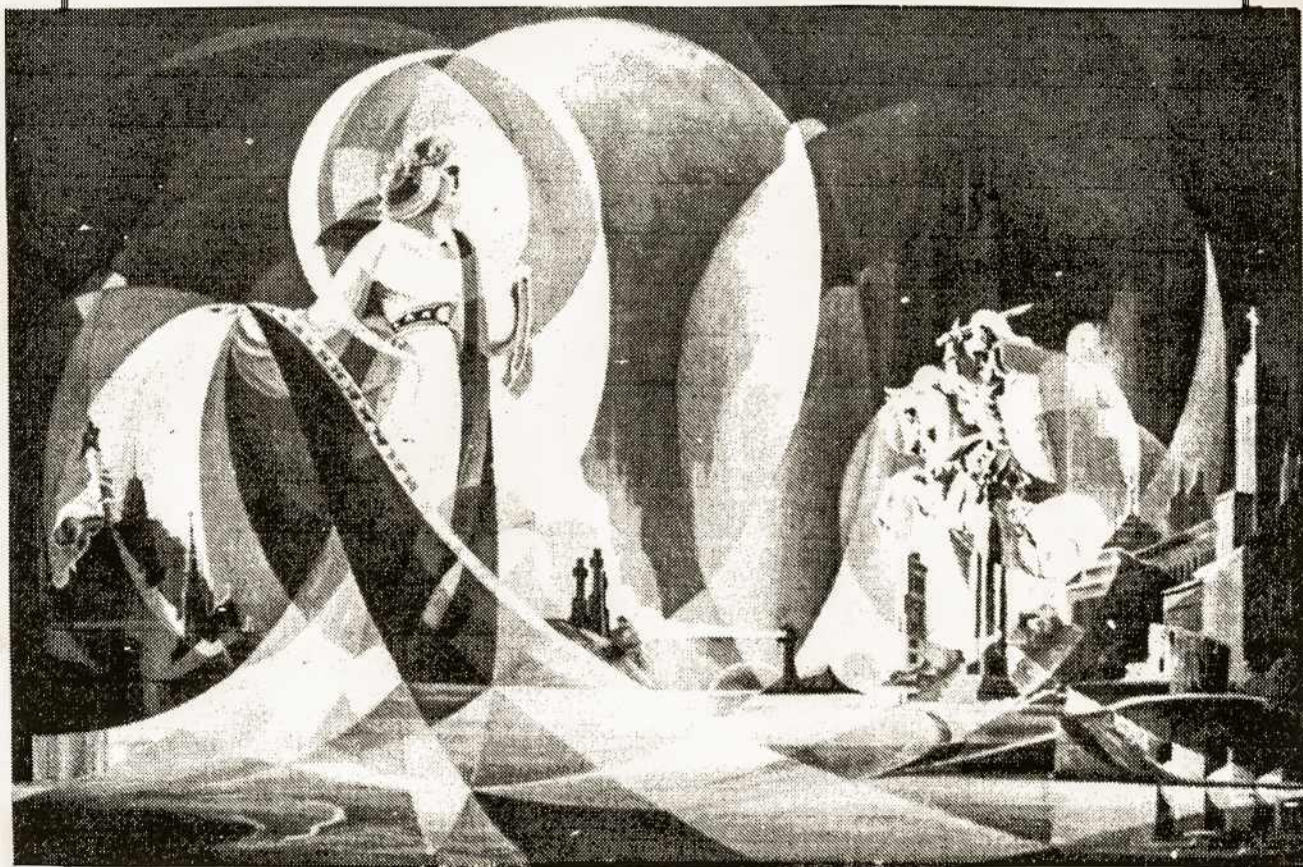




# *Vytis - The Knight*

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*Marijos Zeme - Mary's Land*

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

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**FRONT COVER:** "Marijos Žemė" – Mary's Land  
Painting by Jurgis Juodis

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## To My Fellow Knights

### September 8<sup>th</sup> is the feast of Our Lady of Šiluva.

In Šiluva crowds of pilgrims will gather throughout the novena to pray to Our Lady at the site where she first appeared in 1608. On this feast in 1991, Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius and the Chairman of the Parliament Vytautas Landsbergis entrusted Lithuania to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope John Paul II visited Šiluva and prayed in the chapel of the Appearance on September 7, 1993. The Šiluva Devotions are one of the most important religious and cultural events in Lithuania.

We in the United States have several shrines honoring Our Lady of Šiluva in the form of pictures, statues, windows, and altars. Prayers and processions take place in Chicago and other areas of the country at which many of us participate. Faustas Strolia HM composed the compellingly moving hymn recounting the story. It is almost 50 years ago that American Lithuanian Catholics sacrificed to build the beautiful shrine to Our Lady of Šiluva in the Great Upper Church of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. (With the stress of time, it presently needs rejuvenation and renovation through the assistance of the present Lithuanian community.) We anticipate a prayerful and joyous 50<sup>th</sup> celebration at which many of us will want to participate.

The Knights of Lithuania have honored Our Lady of Šiluva by publicizing her story in their website, spreading her devotion, and initiating the Our Lady of Šiluva Fund as one of its charities. Visit [www.knightsoflithuania.com](http://www.knightsoflithuania.com) for more information. When in Lithuania, be sure to visit Šiluva.

**September 8<sup>th</sup> is the feast of Our Lady of Šiluva**, and it is time to plan ahead on how we will celebrate this feast day in our areas and how we will share the treasure of this apparition with others.

*Sister M. Janine*

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### **GOOD NEWS!**

The Lithuanian American Council has just received word that the US Congress has passed the Shimkus resolution Con Res 128 calling on Russia to apologize for its 50 year occupation and relentless persecution of Lithuania and the other Baltic states. Thanks to all who have helped. We have worked on this for over a year with the Latvians and Estonians through our Washington, DC office and agency, the Joint Baltic American National Comm. (JBANC.)

Again, thanks and congratulations. Our efforts did pay off!

Saulius Kuprys  
Nat. President  
Lithuanian American Council ALTAS

## President's Message

As we prepare for a new beginning in the Knights of Lithuania year, we can reflect and be glad of the many and varied accomplishments of the past year. Our individual Councils continue to foster our beloved Lithuanian traditions, encompassing them in all aspects of our being – religiously, socially and culturally.

Our organization continues to receive numerous favorable compliments regarding the many worthy causes that we champion. We are held in high regard and rightly so, as our members work tirelessly for the good of those who need our assistance – both physically and financially.

However, we must continue to focus our energies on our own current domestic issue, primarily the continued support of those parishioners who sadly face the demise of their Lithuanian churches. It is important that we keep the resolve we agreed upon at the last Convention and rally to the support of those who are forced to deal with these closures.

Our Catholic religion and our Lithuanian parishes are so important to the very existence and meaning of the Knights of Lithuania. We need to continue to tread in the footsteps of our parents and grandparents who vigorously and outwardly professed their love of God and love of country.

On behalf of the entire Supreme Council, I thank each one of you so much for the gracious support and encouragement you have extended to all of us. Please know that we, too, offer our very best wishes to all our friends – the Knights of Lithuania

Vytiškai,

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

## Čikaga iškilmingai paminėjo romano „Džiunglės“ sukaktį

Birželio 23 dieną lietuviai gausiai susirinko prie Čikagos skerdyklų vartų literatūrinio paminklo paskelbimo iškilmėse. Minėjimas buvo suruoštas paminėti šimtmetį nuo Upton Sinclair romano „Džiunglės“ išleidimo. Jame vaizduojama lietuvių šeimos gyvenimas skerdyklų rajone.



### Dalyvavo apskrities ir miesto pareigūnai

Iškilmės atidarė John Daley, Cook County apskrities tarybos atstovas, dabartinio Čikagos mero brolis. Savo žodyje jis su didelia pagarba prisiminė visus tuos, kurie dirbo šiose skerdyklose, įskaitant jo tėvą, kuris daug metų taip pat buvo Čikagos meru. Jis toliau pristatė šios miesto apylinkės seniūną (alderman) James Balcher, kuris prisiminė didžiulį imigrantų įnašą į Čikagos miesto vystymąsi.

### Apie Romano reikšmę kalbėjo ALTo pirmininkas

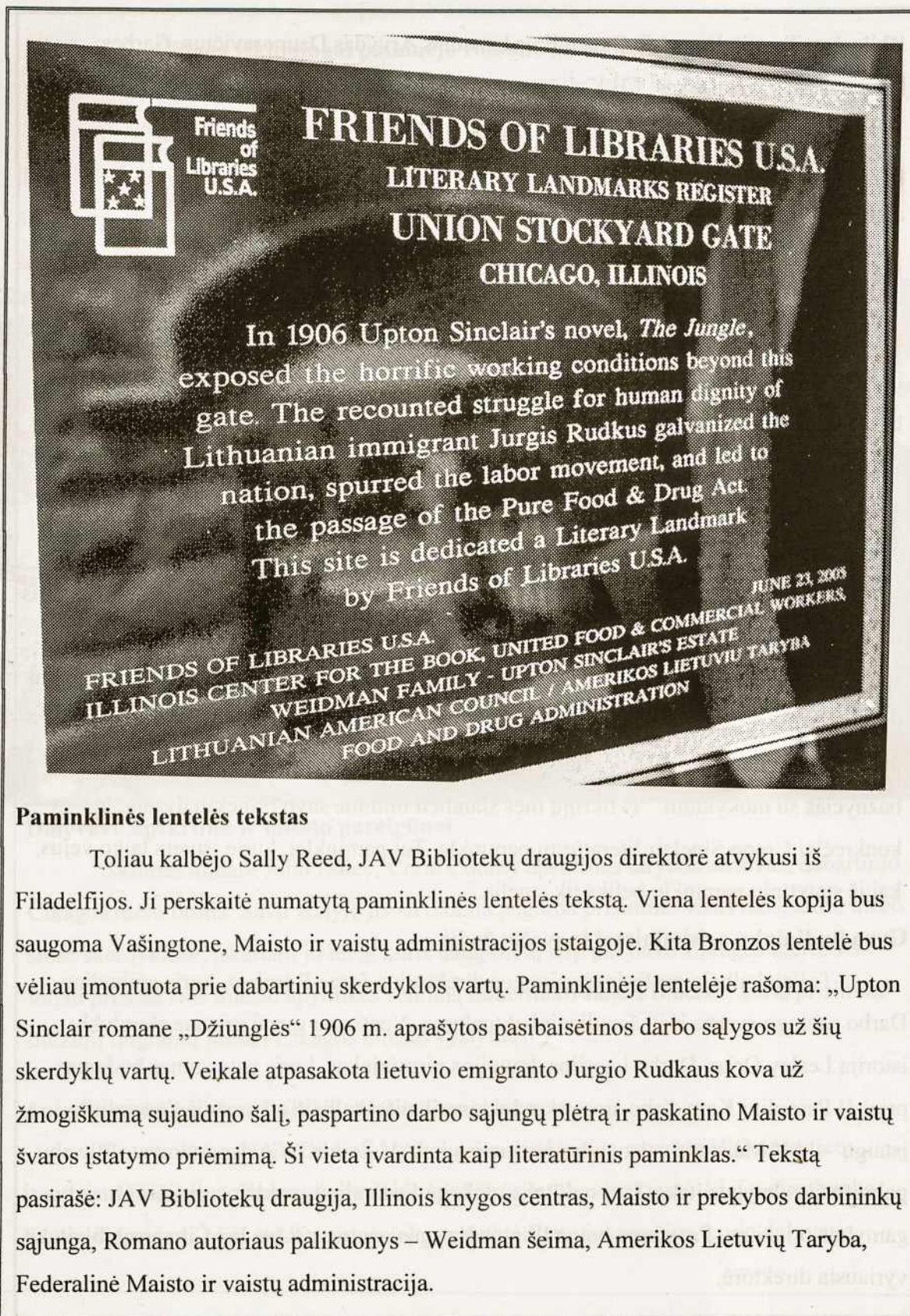
Rocco Staino, JAV Bibliotekų draugijos direktorius, atvykęs iš Connecticut, įvertino „Džiunglių“ romaną literatūriniu požiūriu ir toliau pakvietė ALTo pirmininką Saulių Kuprį tarti žodį. ALTo pirmininkas pristatė lietuvius svečius, kurie dalyvavo

iškilmėse. Tarp jų buvo LR Generalinis konsulas Arvydas Daunoravičius, Garbės konsulas Stasys Balzekas, LB Kultūros tarybos pirmininkė Marija Remienė, LB Vidurio Vakarų apygardos pirmininkė Ausrelė Sakalaitė, LB Brighton Parko apylinkės pirmininkė Salomėja Daulienė, Amerikos Lietuvių Romos Katalikų Federacijos apskrities pirmininkas Algis Kazlauskas, ALTo Fondo pirmininkė Matilda Marcinkienė.

ALTo pirmininkas Saulius Kuprys savo kalboje sakė: “Šiandien mes pagerbiame tūkstančius imigrantų darbininkų, kurie perėjo per šiuos vartus į 400 akrų plotą sudarančias Čikagos skerdyklas. Šiandien mes prisimename autorių Upton Sinclair ir jo istorinį kūrinį “Džiunglės”, kuriame pagrindinis veikėjas Jurgis Rudkus, tapęs pramonės laikotarpio įvaizdžiu, vaizduojantis žmogaus kovą prieš galingųjų ir turtingųjų vykdomą išnaudojimą. Bandykime suprasti tą laikotarpį, kokiomis aplinkybėmis Jurgis Rudkus atvyko į Čikagą. Jo tėvynė Lietuva buvo caristinės Rusijos okupuota. Jauni vyrai, norėdami išvengti tarnavimo rusų kariuomenėje, ieškojo prieglobsčio keliaudami į kitą Atlanto krantą. Taip pat Rusijos valdžia įsakė visas knygas Lietuvoje leisti tik rusiškomis raidėmis, vadinama kirilica. Lietuviškas knygas buvo galima spausdinti tik užsienyje ir slapta gabenti per sieną.” Savo kalboje ALTo pirmininkas pabrėžė, kad nepaisant sunkių darbo sąlygų skerdyklose, čia dirbantys lietuviai išvystė stiprą kultūrinį ir dvasinį gyvenimą. Jie leido tris dienraščius, skerdyklų artimose apylinkėse pastatė net šešias bažnyčias su mokyklom. “Iš tikrųjų mes šiandien minime savo protėvių dvasią, ir konkrečiai Upton Sinclair literatūrinį paminklą. Tai paminklai, kurie išters laiko vėjus, kai iš statytinių paminklų beliks tik smėlis.”

#### **Gyvo liudininko prisiminimai ir svečių žodis**

Toliau kalbėjo profesinės sąjungos direktorius Jorge Romirez, kuris apibūdino Darbo sąjungų svarbą ir jų šiandieninį aktualumą. Ypatingai gyvai pristatė skerdyklų istoriją Lesley Oriar, Darbo istorijos draugijos pirmininkas, kuris pats jaunas būdamas prieš H Pasaulinį Karą dirbo šiose skerdyklose. Toliau kalbėjo atstovai iš Federalinių įstaigų – JAV Maisto ir vaistų administracijos ir JAV Žemės ūkio departamento. Jie abu pabrėžė šios knygos įtaką, kuri radikaliai pakeitė Federalinės valdžios požiūrį į maisto gamybos priežiūrą. Programą baigė Illinois Knygos centro atstovė bei Čikagos bibliotekų vyriausia direktorė.



### Paminklinės lentelės tekstas

Toliau kalbėjo Sally Reed, JAV Bibliotekų draugijos direktorė atvykusi iš Filadelfijos. Ji perskaitė numatytą paminklinės lentelės tekstą. Viena lentelės kopija bus saugoma Vašingtone, Maisto ir vaistų administracijos įstaigoje. Kita Bronzos lentelė bus vėliau įmontuota prie dabartinių skerdyklos vartų. Paminklinėje lentelėje rašoma: „Upton Sinclair romane „Džiunglės“ 1906 m. aprašytos pasibaisėtinos darbo sąlygos už šių skerdyklų vartų. Veikale atpasakota lietuvių emigranto Jurgio Rudkaus kova už žmogiškumą sujaukino šalį, paspartino darbo sąjungų plėtrą ir paskatino Maisto ir vaistų švaros įstatymo priėmimą. Ši vieta įvardinta kaip literatūrinis paminklas.“ Tekstą pasirašė: JAV Bibliotekų draugija, Illinois knygos centras, Maisto ir prekybos darbininkų sąjunga, Romano autoriaus palikuonys – Weidman šeima, Amerikos Lietuvių Taryba, Federalinė Maisto ir vaistų administracija.



### Dalyvavo žiniasklaidos atstovai

Abu pagrindiniai Čikagos dienraščiai „Chicago Tribune“ ir „Chicago Sun-Times“ atsiuntė savo atstovus su fotografais. Taip pat dalyvavo „Lietuvos ryto“ atstovas Algis Vaškevičius. Iškilmes filmavo Amerikos lietuvių televizijos vadovas Arvydas Reneckis. ALTo įstaiga perdavė spaudos pranešimą Lietuvos žiniasklaidai. Čikagos Knygos centras dalyviams dovanojo kasetėse įkaltą visą romaną, išleistą Blackstone leidyklos.

Iškilmių programa neužsitęsė ir dalyviai dar ilgai kalbėjosi su svečiais ir dalinosi prisiminimais apie tuos laikus, kai per šiuos vartus žygiudavo tūkstančiai lietuvių.



*ALTo informacija*

**Chicago Commemorates the Centennial of Upton Sinclair's novel, "The Jungle,"** in which is described the life of Lithuanian families who lived in the stockyard area and worked in the slaughterhouses. Various dignitaries were in attendance. John Daley, Cook County District Board Rep., (brother of the Mayor.) In his speech, he respectfully remembered all those who worked in the stockyard slaughterhouses, including his own father, who was also Mayor of Chicago for many years. James Balcher, District Alderman, also addressed those gathered and remembered the contribution of the immigrants to the growth and expansion of the city of Chicago. Rocco Staino, Director of the organization, "Friends of Libraries USA," who arrived from Connecticut, in his address emphasized the great literary value of "The Jungle." He then invited the president of ALTAS, Saulius Kuprys, to address the assembly. Saulius then introduced the guests who participated in the ceremony, among whom were the General Consul of the Lithuanian Republic, Arvydas Daunoravicius; Honorary Consul, Stanley Balzekas; Lithuanian Cultural Community Board Rep., Marija Remiene; Lithuanian Community Mid-west Association president, Salomeja Dauliene; President of the American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation, Algis Kazlauskas; and President of the American Lithuanian Foundation, Matilda Marcinkiene.

Saulius Kuprys then led the participants to visualize how young men, such as one of the main characters of "The Jungle," Jurgis Rudkus, came to Chicago from across the Atlantic in order to avoid obligatory service in the Russian army, and sought shelter here.

In spite of hard work under unbearable conditions in the stockyards, the Lithuanians developed a strongly spiritual and cultural life. They published 3 daily newspapers, and built six churches and schools in the surrounding area. "Today, we truly commemorate the spirit of our forefathers, as well as the literary work of Upton Sinclair, a work which is definitely a monument which will withstand the winds of time, when other concrete memorials will disintegrate into sand."

The memorial plaque reads as is illustrated on the opposite page (6). One copy will be kept in Washington, at the Food & Drug Administration Institute. The other bronze plaque will be mounted on the historical stockyard gate, through which so many thousands of our Lithuanians daily passed to work.

*-Altas Information-*



**Mid-America District Commemorates Lithuania's Independence Day with their 45<sup>th</sup> Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet.**

On Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> the members of the Knights of Lithuania Mid-America District hosted their 45<sup>th</sup> Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet at the lovely Chateau Bu-Sche', Alsip, Illinois. Two hundred members, guests and friends



gathered for this wonderful event as we not only celebrated Lithuania's Independence but also to honor an outstanding Lithuanian with our Annual "Award of Distinction". This year's recipient was our very own Honorary

Consul, Vaclovas Kleiza. Consul Kleiza, member of Council 112, is a shining example of Lithuanian patriotism and a true leader in promoting the Lithuanian cause both here in Chicago and around the world. He has served as Lithuania's Honorary Consul in Chicago for the past twenty years, several of which serving the Lithuanian people in Chicago when their homeland was oppressed by the now defunct Soviet Union. We are truly honored to have him with us here in Chicago and wish him all the best as he continues to serve in the future.



The evening began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. During the cocktail hour guests



were treated to a wonderful concert of Lithuanian Music performed by our very own Knights of Lithuania



Choir. Under the direction of Faustas Strolia, HM, the choir thrilled everyone

with a great selection of old and new songs. The choir was happy to perform a selection of Lithuanian Scout Camp songs which Faustas arranged personally. All too soon it was



time for dinner and guests took their seats for



our impending feast. District Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, HM, served as our Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Fr. introduced Honorary Member, Ann Marie Kassel, C-157, who lead the singing of the national anthems of Lithuania and the United States. Rev. Jaunas Kelpas, Spiritual Advisor to Council 36, said the evening's invocation. After a brief welcome from District President, Rob Martin, dinner was served.



As dinner was concluding greetings were given by The Honorable Vygaudas Ušackas, Ambassador of Lithuania, The Honorable Arvydas Daunoravičius, Consul General of Lithuania, His Excellency Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevicius, Archbishop of Kaunas, Lithuania, and Supreme Council

President, Agnes Mickunas, HM, all of whom where with us for the evening's festivities. The 2005 Award of Distinction was then presented to Honorary Consul Kleiza. During his acceptance Consul Kleiza thanked the Knights of Lithuania for all that they have done and continue to do to aid and promote the Lithuanian Cause.



The Consul was then presented with a special decree from the Lithuanian government by Consul Daunoravičius. The official program was concluded with Benediction which was offered by Rev. Anthony Markus, Spiritual Advisor to C-112 and the new pastor of Nativity B.V.M. Parish. The evening was then opened up for dancing to the music of the Barniškas Orchestra which entertained for the remainder of the evening. A great time was had by all.



The Mid-America District Board wishes to thank all those who joined us for this special evening, especially our honored guests who traveled from Kaunas, Washington, DC and Philadelphia. We look forward to celebrating more banquets in honor of Lithuania's Independence in the future.

*Rob. Martin Jr.*



*Agiausiu Metu!*

*Ad Multos Annos!*

It's just incredible! Here is Monsignor Ignatius Urbonas, celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priestly ordination...yes, seventieth, and he is also anticipating his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. What a true blessing of God to have him ministering to His people for so many years.

Here (below) we see him at his special celebration after Mass, with some of the Sisters of St. Casimir who were present for the occasion. From l.tor.: Sr. M. Tarcisia; Sr. Genevieve; Sr. Regina Marie; Monsignor I. Urbonas; Sr. M. Immacula, Gen Supr.; Sr. Theresa Papsis; and Sr. Stella.

Congratulations, Monsignor!



## JBANC Meets with Rep. Alcee Hastings on Eve of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session

**Washington DC (JBANC)** ---Members of the Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. (JBANC) met on June 28<sup>th</sup> with Congressman Alcee L. Hastings to discuss the upcoming session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCEPA). Hastings, a Florida Democrat, is the current President of the Assembly. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the OSCEPA is being held in Washington DC on July 1-5.

At last year's meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, the Assembly passed a resolution critical of the minority situation in Latvia and Estonia. JBANC sharply contested this assessment as unfair in singling out the two Baltic countries, not taking into account the efforts of those governments to improve the civil society climate, and not explaining the historical background. JBANC presented Rep. Hastings with a briefing packet with current information about civil society in Latvia and Estonia. In addition, there was information about President Bush's recent trip to Latvia; along with the recent resolutions in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the European Union, seeking Russia's acknowledgement of Soviet crimes. There was also information about the plight of the Maris, a Finno-Ugric minority living in Russia, who have been the brunt of increasing human rights violations.

JBANC also appealed to Congressman Hastings to support H. Con. Res. 128, the House legislation introduced by Congressman John Shimkus (R-IL) supporting a Russian admission of the occupation of the Baltics. The Russian Federation continues to deny this fact; an ongoing effort to change the historical record. In a letter to Rep. Hastings, JBANC chair, Lya Karm, wrote that goodwill could instead "help Russia come to terms with its own past, which is critical for dealing with the future. This is vital not only for Russia's neighbors, but for Russia's own interests."

Now with 27 so-sponsors, it is expected that H. Con. Res. 128 will be voted on in the coming weeks. If in mid-July, it would be timed with the traditional Captive Nations Week, and also the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 23<sup>rd</sup> of the foundation of the U.S. policy of non-recognition of the Soviet occupation and take over of the Baltic countries. The Senate has already passed their version of the legislation on May 19.

The OSCEPA is composed of parliamentarians of over 50 countries from Europe, along with the U.S. and Canada. This meeting will be the first such session ever held in the United States. The Assembly

evolved from the first Helsinki Conference meeting in 1975, which now marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that first extensive Cold-War era discussion on security, human rights, and other issues.

Alcee Hastings was first elected to the House in 1992, and has long served as a Commissioner of the CSCE (or Helsinki Commission,) the U.S. government agency monitoring and encouraging compliance of the Helsinki Accords and other commitments to the OSCE. Commissioners serve from the Executive branch along with nine Senators and nine House Members. The current chairman is Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS), with House co-chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ). The organizations continue to focus on human and religious rights issues, election monitoring, human trafficking, and promotion of democratic values in Belarus, Moldova, and elsewhere.

Meeting with Hastings and his Chief of Staff, Fred Turner, were Estonian American National Council President, Mati Koiva, American Latvian Association Vice-President, Dr. Juris Mezinskis, along with Dalia Grobovaite and Karl Altau of JBANC.

The Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. represents the Estonian American National Council, Inc., the American Latvian Association, Inc., and the Lithuanian American Council, Inc.



Lithuania's first self-adhesive stamps also are its first Greetings stamps. These booklet stamps were issued Jan. 29.

**LITHUANIA**—Jan. 29: Greetings, booklet of eight 1-litas self-adhesive stamps with two different designs of flowers and the Lithuanian word for "congratulations." Designer, G. Laziniene; offset, Hungarian State Printing Office; 280,000 sets.

Feb. 5: Sartai Horse Race, 1 litas, horses race across ice of Lake Sartai. Designer, K. Katkus; offset in sheets of 50, Hungarian State Printing Office; 300,000.



Lithuania issued this stamp Feb. 5 to honor the Sartai Horse Race, traditionally held on ice-covered Lake Sartai.



**Mid-America District commemorates St. Casimir's Day in Los Angeles.**

This past March 4<sup>th</sup> saw the members of the Mid-America District traveling to Los Angeles, California for our Annual St. Casimir's Day Commemoration and Spring District Meeting. Twenty-three Knights from the Chicagoland area joined their fellow Knights in LA for a great weekend that included attending Mass at St. Casimir's Church, touring the new Our Lady of the Angeles Cathedral, visiting with friends, especially our very own Ruta Lee who was starring in the Musical Review, "Senior Class...A Review of the Golden Years", taking in the local Lithuanian Scout's Festival and a great meeting and luncheon attended by over 60 K of L'ers.

The fun began on Friday as we out of towners arrived in Los Angeles. We were greeted at the airport by Council 133 President, Maryte Sepikas, who welcomed all us to LA in true Lithuanian style,



by presenting all of us with beautiful red roses. After we gathered our luggage and picked up our cars we were off to the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angeles. The cathedral is new to the LA skyline and is certainly a modern wonder. Though modern in its design the building keeps to Catholic traditions wonderfully and is an inviting house of worship. It



also has its "Lithuanian" input as well. Both inside and outside you will experience the Lithuanian culture.



Outside the fountain in front of the entrance contains the phrase "I will give

you living water." is carved into the fountains base in 33 different languages. It was great to read right in the center "Aš tau duosiu gyvojo vandens".



Inside the cathedral Lithuania is represented once again by full body portraits of St. Casimir and Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis

worked into the tapestries that fill the cathedral walls. The lower level of the building is home to a peaceful crypt containing the remains of St. Vibiana and enough room for 7,000 faithful to rest for all eternity. Though the weather dampened our bodies the beauty of the visit and tour couldn't dampen our spirits. After leaving the cathedral we stopped for a quick snack, prepared by Maryte, before going to our hotel to check in. Later that evening those who felt up to it went for dinner.

Saturday morning we awoke to California sunshine and enjoyable mild temperatures. After breakfast we loaded up the cars and were off to St. Casimir's Parish for our meeting and luncheon. After an opening prayer by their pastor, Fr. Anužis, and a welcome greeting by council president, Mayte Sepikas, our meeting began. The meeting was informative and much



was accomplished. During the meeting the District's Recognition Award was presented to several of the members who

have demonstrated their dedication to their council and the district. The meeting concluded just in time for lunch. As we prepared for lunch, as is our custom, we began with the presentation of the

3<sup>rd</sup> Degree to those members who have reached this level of our organization. It was nice to see our Ritual Chairlady, Georgiana Macke, present the degrees to Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC of Council 112 and Aldona Zajauskas of Council 16. Both of these ladies truly deserve our admiration and thanks for their hard work that brought them to this honor. Congratulations to all of the days award and degree recipients. A beautiful home-made Lithuanian family style



dinner was served with all the trimmings. Believe me no one could say they left hungry. Both during and after lunch a wonderful display and demonstration of the art of Lithuanian Easter Eggs was given by C-133 local "Egg-spert", Giedra Gintas, a display of Lithuanian Poetry was also presented. Both were well

received and truly appreciated. They put the finishing touch on a great meeting.

Soon we were once again off to our cars for the two hour drive to Palm Springs, California to visit with our favorite actress, Ruta Lee, member C-133. Along the way we got to see the California Windmills, if you ever get the chance go to see them they are truly a marvel to see. Ruta was appearing in a production of Saul Ilson's "Senior Class...A Review



of the Golden Years" at the Cinemas Palme D'Or in Palm Desert and 35 of us had the opportunity to

take in the show. Let me tell you it was well worth the trip. The show was unbelievable and all of us enjoyed it. All of us encouraged Ruta to take the show on the road, this truly was a production people all over the country would enjoy. From our great seats in the first three rows, center, we had the chance to see Ruta and her co-stars, Anna Maria



Alberghetti, Julius La Rosa, Marcia Rodd, Steve Rossi and Ronnie Schell. The show was a smash and as

the actors took their final curtain call Ruta asked the audience to join her in welcoming the Knights of Lithuania to Palm Dessert. She explained that she was a member of the organization, the great work the K of



L does and how we were in LA for our district meeting and drove over just to see the show. The K of L receive a round of applause from the audience. Following the show the cast greeted everyone in the theater lobby, signing autographs and posing for photos. Afterwards she invited all of us back to her home in Palm Springs for cocktails and munchies. Ruta and her husband Webb are wonderful hosts and graciously welcomed all of us into their home. While we were there we celebrated the birthdays of Ruta's cousin Onute and Faustas Strolia, HM. During the visit we were

honored to present Ruta with our district's Recognition Award for all she has done for the local, district



and national K of L throughout the years. All too soon it seems it was time to go as we had to return

to LA. We left Palm Springs with many wonderful memories and all our thanks to Ruta for inviting us.

Sunday morning we gathered at St. Casimir's Church for our St. Casimir's Day Mass. The Mass



was said in Lithuania by the pastor, Fr. Anuzis. District President, Rob Martin and Vytis Business Manager, Sr. Johanna Marie were honored to be asked to be part of the offertory procession. The Parish Choir, under the direction of Victoras Ralys, was superb and a real treat for all of us to hear. St. Casimir himself, I'm sure, was pleased and proud. At the conclusion of Mass we walked to the parish grounds for the opening of the Lithuanian Scouts Festival. The festival was great, under clear blue, warm and sunny skies. One of the highlights, of course, was the wonderful food. Members truly enjoyed themselves dining once again on great home cooking, and the desserts were awesome.



As the festival wound down we decided it was time to leave so we bid farewell to St. Casimir's and headed out. The afternoon was on your own so some members decided to go to see the oceanfront and enjoyed the beautiful views the California Coast line has to offer. Others traveled to Universal Studios Theme Park for an afternoon of fun and adventure. Finally, still others decided to take a driving tour of Los Angeles with our very own Maryte as tour guild. Linking up two vans by walkie talkie we tour the streets of LA with Maryte

pointing out many famous spots and buildings. Of special interest was a trip to Forest Lawn Cemetery. The burial place of the stars is truly worth the visit. The cemetery is on the hillside and the views are remarkable. Within the cemetery grounds are several chapels and mausoleums. The art in these buildings is not to be believed. In one chapel Christ's crucifixion is viewed in the painting "The Crucifixion" by Polish artist Jan Styka. The painting is 195 feet wide and 45 feet tall. The presentation that went along with it was tremendous and concludes with the viewing of the painting "The Resurrection" which is roughly 1/3 the size of the first. In the main mausoleum was a stained glass reproduction of the Last Supper by Rose Caselli-Moretti, which was truly a marvel to see.

Using Da Vinci's original drawings Ms. Moretti has recreated this masterpiece to perfection. Has it was the Lenten season seeing these three works of art were all the more meaningful to see. As our city tour continued we visited the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion with its entrance sculpture created by a Lithuanian artist, the new Disney Music Hall and a brief return to the cathedral for those who's flight on Friday prohibited them from seeing it. Evening was upon us and we went



back to the hotel to relax for an hour before our next adventure. Council 133 K of L'er, Regina Heller, invited us to her home for a farewell

party. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all of us who were up to attending. Good food, good drink and good friends, what more could we ask for. For a little Pre-Easter fun, Maryte provided all of us with Easter Bunny headband. Our members, who know how to have a good time, had a great



time posing for pictures in our "Easter Bonnets". A perfect ending to a perfect weekend. Alas once again, the sandman was calling and we headed back to our hotel for the evening.



Monday morning came and we had to bid farewell to sunny California and return home. After checking out of the hotel and saying our goodbyes to Maryte, who came to see us off we returned to the airport for our flights home.

A great time was had by all. We wish to thank the members of Council 133, Los Angeles, for hosting this year's St. Casimir's Day and offer our special thanks to Maryte Sepikas for pulling it all together. The LA Knights are out of sight. Can't wait to come back and do it again.

## Points to Ponder..

- There are those who think they are free of all prejudices just because they hate everyone equally.
- When people are serving, life is no longer meaningless.
- The best thing about the future is, that it only comes one day at a time.
- The first thing some people do in the morning is brush their teeth and sharpen their tongue.
- If at first you don't succeed, well, so much for skydiving.
- Nothing is more difficult than trying to find something wrong with yourself.
- A hammer may miss the mark, but a compliment, never.
- Most of us know how to say nothing. Few of us know when.
- To get back on your feet, miss two car payments.
- There are days when it takes all you've got to keep up with the losers.
- Grey hair is a blessing. Ask any bald man.

## Congratulations!



Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Kwader

Frank and Betty Kwader, South Montrose, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Saturday. They were married February 12, 1955, in Holy Name of Mary Church, Montrose, by the late Rev. Norman J. Irwin.

They were attended by: Rose Marie Federico, cousin of the bride; Barbara Jean Klecz, niece of the bride; Richard Doyle, nephew of the bride; and the late Thomas Joyce.

Mrs. Kwader is the former Betty A. Bartkus, daughter of the late Stanley and Veronica Bartkus. Prior to retirement, she was employed by Allied Signal, South Montrose.

Mr. Kwader is the son of the late Stanley and Anna Kwader. He is a veteran of the Korean War. Prior to retirement, he was employed at Penelec, Montrose. **Mr. Kwader is the President to K of L Council - 46, Forest City.**

The couple has three children: Frank E., Dimodk; Catherine Pipcho, Clarks Summit; and James M., Mayfield. They also have five grandchildren.

They will mark the occasion with a renewal of vows at Holy Name of Mary Church, and a party, hosted by their children, is planned.



## SAND & STONE

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand:

TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE.

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone:

TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE.

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?"

The other friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away.

But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN THE SAND AND TO CARVE YOUR BENEFITS IN STONE.

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

Do not value the THINGS you have in your life. But, value WHO you have in your life!

## God won't ask...

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house, but He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, but He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, but He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was, but He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had, but He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin, but He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation, but He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.

God won't ask how many people you forwarded this to, but He'll ask if you were ashamed to pass it on to your friends.

## In Memoriam...

Council	Name	City	State	Date of Death
1	Edward	Cominski	Brockton	MA 6/8/2005
5	Loretta	Grigaliunas	Forest Park	IL 5/8/2005
25	Elizabeth	August	Canton	GA 5/8/2005
72	Freda	Hanson	Rochester	NY 3/12/2005
96	Annadel	Miller	Troy	OH 5/23/2005
102	Joseph	Stark	West Bloomfield	MI 6/26/2005
103	Edward	Guravskas	Providence	RI 7/17/2005
133	Albert	Audick	Granada Hills	CA 1/1/2005
133	Msgr. Algirdas	Olsauskas	Los Angelas	CA 1/1/2005
143	MaryAnn Mihalick	Connor	Lake Katrine	NY 3/27/2005
143	Frances	Shoppel	Exeter	PA 5/6/2005
152	John	Bodnevich	Scottsdale	AZ 4/30/2005
152	Helen	Ceponis	Smithtown	NY 7/12/2005
157	Lucille	Kazunas	Palos Hills	IL 7/4/2005
157	John	Maluska	Palos Park	IL 5/24/2005

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK

January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Our faith and knowledge meet in many places... in church, in the work place and definitely in the home...and in various countries. This year, "Faith in Every Student" spread to other countries, through the Olympics at St. Francis School in Lake Station, Indiana. For our children, the work place is in school, learning of the various life and customs of people in other lands. Some of the countries chosen were, Ireland, Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Lithuania, Germany, Poland, Greece, Italy, Spain, England and Puerto Rico. Each teacher was given a family of ten students consisting of one child from each grade, K to 8<sup>th</sup>. The teacher, pretending to be the parent, had the children look up information about the country, population, industries, arts and literature, religion, customs and education, etc., and give a presentation to the entire student body. The students really got involved in their country and were amazed at the many trials and hardships that crossed their lives. Many found artifacts of their respective country, such as jewelry, tapestry, original clothing, etc. Some baked pastry typical of their country was also enjoyed and shared with other countries. A wonderful time was had by all, as seen by the three little girls who did a dance of the Lithuanian style.

Catholic education sheds light on more than just science or math. It helps instill the self-esteem, respect for others, and real spirituality that tomorrow's adults will need to create a brighter future.

Following is a "rap" song the students made and included in their presentation:

### Lithuania

Lithuania is our country's name...ahuh, ahuh.  
Lithuania is our country's name...  
It's full of honor and of fame  
Ahuh, ahuh

It's located by the Baltic Sea,...ahuh, ahuh.  
It's located by the Baltic Sea...  
Many lakes and rivers all can see  
Ahuh, ahuh

\*\*\* (A student, Neville, gives History)\*\*\*

The language has a melodious sound...ahuh,  
ahuh

The language has a melodious sound...  
It reflects the nature of the people all around  
Ahuh, ahuh

They teach their children to dance and  
sing...ahuh, ahuh  
They teach their children to dance and sing  
The sounds of joy through choruses ring  
Ahuh, ahuh

Education is stressed to young and old...ahuh,  
ahuh

Education is stressed to young and old  
Success in studies is a gift untold  
Ahuh, ahuh

Now you may think this is the end  
Ahuh, ahuh

Now you may think this is the end  
**And there isn't**

(all bow together)

*Sister M. Celina Tomasio*  
and

*Sister Marjaleen Kelley, S.H.C.*  
323 Madison Ave.  
Hobart, IN 46342

**Apie Lietuvą sužinojo St. Francis Katalikų mokyklos mokiniai**, (arba Lietuva ir St. Francis Katalikų mokykla, Lake Station, Indianoje.)

Sausio 30 – vasario 5 dienomis, St. Francis Katalikiškoje mokykloje vyko katalikiškų mokyklų savaitė, šūkiu, "Faith in Every Student." Ši šūkj mokiniai turėjo paskleisti po įvairias šalis. Mokykloje užvirė darbas. Visa mokykla susikirstė į "šeimas:" po vieną mokinį iš kiekvienos klasės. Amžiaus skirtumas šeimose buvo didelis: nuo ikimokyklinuko iki aštuntoko. Lietuvą pasirinko vienuolių Seselės Celinos ir Seselės Marjalinos vadovaujama "šeima." Mokiniai studijavo pasirinktas šalis: istoriją, kultūrą, papročius. Lietuvą studijuojanti šeima ypač susižavėjo tautiniais drabužiais if lietuviškų gintaru.

Iš šiaurės Vakarų Indianos Lietuvių bendruomenės prezidentės Birutės Vilitis pasiskolintais tautiniais drabužiais buvo pasipuošusi šeštos klasės mokinė – vedančioji,

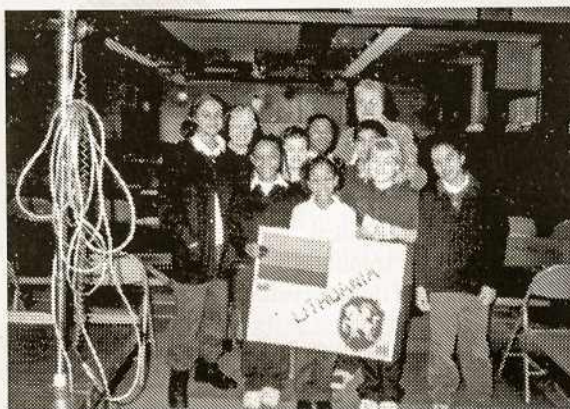
Brittany. Seselės Marjaleen žodžiais, “ji jautėsi kaip karalaitė, nes tiek mokiniams tiek mokytojams norėjos paliesti, jos originalius ir nematytus lietuviškus tautinius drabužius.” Mokiniai klausėsi lietuviškų sutartinių, grojant liaudiškai muzikai bandė šokti polką. Lietuvą studijavusi “šeima” sukūrė dainą apie Lietuvą ir ją atliko.

Lietuvių “šeima” paruošė originalią parodėlę: ant lininės staltiesės apdengto stalo puikavosi papuošalai iš gintaro, iš medžio išdrožtas rupintojėlis, lietuviškos monetos, knygos apie Lietuvą. Žavėjosi labai kokybiškais nuotraukomis, ypač kryžiaus kalnu.

St. Francis mokyklos mokiniai dabar žino, kad prie Baltijos Jūros yra tokia šalis, Lietuva, ir kad jos žmonės kalba lietuviškai. Daugelis mokinių išmoko lietuviškai pasisveikinti ir padėkot.

*Rūta Sidabras*

**8006 Schreiber Dr.  
Munster, IN 46321**



## TĒVYNĒS LAUKAI



O Lietuva mano brangi,  
Kur debesys plaukė pilki.  
Užtėmdė saulės spindulius skaisčius.

Ten dobilų žalių laukai  
Ištroškę saulės spinduliu  
Vaitojo apnešti dulkių svetimų.

Ramunės ašara gailia  
Drekino žemę paslapčia  
Ir guodė Dobilą raudoną.

Rugegėlės melsvi žiedai,  
Šnabždejo tyliai paslapčia  
Kažko liūdnei vaitojo viena.

Ilgai liūdejią miežių ir avių laukai  
Sunkių dirvonų skriaudžemi  
Vyko pas Rūgį pasitarimui.

Rugys visų javų narsus karys  
Neleis dirvonam užvaldyt,  
Pakvies žirgus suart dirvonus.

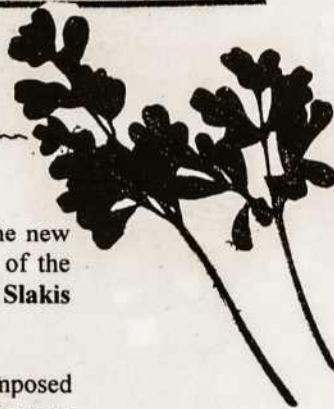
Kvietys karalius ant visų javų,  
Sukvies gėleles iš visur  
Ir puoš laukus Tėvynės žemę.

*Valeria Lešinskienė*  
C-147, St. Petersburg, Florida

### A FEW TIMELY REMINDERS...

If any K of L members need copies of the new updated constitutions, please contact one of the **Supreme Council Trustees...Mary Beth Slakis or Joe Stiklius.**

Articles for the Vytis should be sent composed and complete. We can edit, but cannot assume responsibility for composition, nor can we guarantee return of photos. Your contributions are greatly appreciated; however, articles from other newspapers and magazines cannot be used without permission.



# RIZIKA

How well did you do?

## Answers to Questions – Set 1

1. What happened in Lithuania in 1918, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>?

**Lithuania's Independence was declared.**

2. By what country was Lithuania occupied until its declaration of Independence?

**It was occupied by Russia (the Czar.)**

3. What other neighboring country, together with Lithuania, was occupied for over 100 yrs?

**Poland was occupied for over 100 yrs.**

4. During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Lithuania was a great kingdom. What was the name of the Lithuanian king?

**The name of the King of Lithuania was Mindaugas.**

5. What was the name of his wife, the Lithuanian Queen?

**Her name was "Morta" (Martha.)**

## Answers to Questions – Set 2

6. One of Mindaugas' sons was a Russian orthodox monk. What were the names of the other two princes?

**The other two princes were Ruklis and Rupeikis.**

7. Who was the second great duke who prepared himself to be crowned as the King of Lithuania? Vytautas the Great prepared himself for his coronation as King of Lithuania.

8. In what year was Mindaugas crowned as the King of Lithuania and Lithuania being the kingdom?

**Mindaugas was crowned as King of Lithuania in 1253, with Lithuania being his kingdom.**

9. What was the date set for the coronation of Vytautas the Great?

**It was September 8, 1530, which is now celebrated as a National holiday.**

10. Who was the Lithuanian woman who was the queen of the Federation of Lithuania and Poland? She was **Barbora Radvilaite, wife of King Zygmantas Augustus, the king of Poland and Lithuania.**

*Bronius V. Krakys*  
Council – 3, Philadelphia, PA

# JACK SHARKEY



Jack Sharkey, born October 6, 1902 in Binghamton, New York, United States – died August 17, 1994 in Beverly, Massachusetts, was a heavyweight boxing champion.

Born in an era when prizefighters, actors and others in the public spotlight adopted an “American-sounding” pseudonym, **Josef Paul Zukauskas** took the family name of a popular retired Irish boxer and future Hall of Famer, “Sailor Tom” Sharkey (1873-1953).

In 1929, in a fight held in Yankee Stadium, Jack Sharkey knocked out the former light-heavyweight champion, Tommy Loughran to win the United States heavyweight title. His victory earned him the opportunity to fight for the vacant world title against the German contender, Max Schmeling. In their June 12, 1930 championship fight, Sharkey was disqualified in the fourth round after delivering a punch that landed below Schmeling’s belt. This is the only occasion in boxing history when the heavyweight championship was won by disqualification.

In October of 1931, Sharkey defeated the highly regarded Italian heavyweight, Primo Carnera, and was then given another chance to fight for the title. On June 21, 1932 at the Madison Square Garden Bowl in Long Island City, New York, Jack Sharkey defeated Max Schmeling in their rematch to win the world Heavyweight Boxing Championship in a very controversial split decision.

Sharkey lost his championship on June 29, 1933 in his second fight with Primo Carnera.

In 1994, Jack Sharkey was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

(From: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.)

Additional websites:

<http://www.antekprizing.com/sharkey.html>

<http://www.cyberboxingzone.com/boxing/jack.htm>



## *More Points to Ponder...*

– The ladder of success may now be an elevator, but it’s still self-service.

-One nice thing about egotists - they don’t talk about other people.

-If you were to list the ten smartest people you know, who would be the other nine?

-A frog is the only living thing that has more lives than a cat. It croaks every night.

-There are those who are not the life of the party until they leave.

-Talk to a man about himself and he will listen for hours.

-Do you ever feel as though you are going through life in the fast lane and you can’t find the off ramp?

-Lend only what you can afford to lose.

-God often visits us, but most of the time we are not at home.

-Remember, a top banana is supported by the rest of the bunch.

- A picture of a jail should be painted on every safe.

-Even a small star shines in the darkness.

-The only one who got everything done by Friday is Robinson Crusoe.

## MORE THINGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME:

-My mother taught me to **APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE**. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

-My mother taught me **RELIGION**. "You better pray that comes out of the carpet."

-My mother taught me about **TIME TRAVEL**. "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

-My mother taught me **LOGIC**. "Because I said so, that's why."

-My mother taught me **MORE LOGIC**. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

-My mother taught me **FORESIGHT**. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

-My mother taught me **IRONY**. "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

-My mother taught me the science of **OSMOSIS**. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

-My mother taught me about **CONTORTIONISM**. "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

-My mother taught me about **STAMINA**. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

-My mother taught me about **WEATHER**. "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

-My mother taught me about **HYPOCRISY**. "If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"

-My mother taught me the **CIRCLE OF LIFE**. "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

-My mother taught me about **BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION**. "Stop acting like your father!"

-And my favorite: my mother taught me about **JUSTICE**. "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

### "Smiles Without Wrinkles"

I know why Superman left Krypton. Earth was the only place he could get steroids.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Cable TV they have a weather channel – 24 hours on weather. We had something like that where I grew up. We called it a window.

\*\*\*\*\*

An aged farmer and his wife were leaning against their pigpen when the old woman wistfully recalled that next week would mark their golden wedding anniversary. "Let's have a party," she suggested. "Let's kill a pig." The farmer scratched his head. "Gee, Ethel," he finally answered. "I don't see why the pig should take the blame for what happened 50 years ago."

\*\*\*\*\*

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have often thought of making a fitness video for folks my age. I would call it "Pumping Rust."

\*\*\*\*\*

*Leonidas Galinskas - C-102*

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### GETTING INTO HEAVEN

After a long illness, a woman died and arrived at the Gates of Heaven. While she was waiting for St. Peter to greet her, she peeked through the gates. She saw a beautiful banquet table. Sitting all around were her parents and all the other people she had loved and who had died before her. They saw her and began calling greetings to her. "Hello!" "How are you? We've been waiting for you!" "Good to see you!"

When St. Peter came by, the woman said to him, "This is such a wonderful place! How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word," St. Peter told her.

"Which word?" the woman asked.

"Love."

The woman correctly spelled love, and Saint Peter welcomed her into heaven. About six months later, St. Peter came to the woman and asked her to watch the gates of heaven for him that day. While the woman was guarding the Gates of Heaven, her husband arrived.

"I'm surprised to see you," the woman said. "How have you been?"

"Oh, I've been doing pretty well since you died," her husband told her. "I married the beautiful young nurse who took care of you while you were ill. And then I won the lottery. I sold the little house you and I lived in and bought a big mansion. And my wife and I traveled all around the world. We were on vacation and I went water skiing today. I fell, the ski hit my head, and here I am. How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word," the woman told him.

"Which word?" her husband asked.

"Czechoslovakia."

## District & Council News

### New England District

#### C-27 Norwood, MA Zaibas

On Memorial Day, C-27 members and many former parishoners from the now closed St. George Lithuanian R.C. Church of Norwood, MA, met at the Norwood Cemetery for the formal dedication to the statue of St. George. Fr. Lucey and Fr. Clem spoke to the crowd about the great spirit and friendship which is still a part of all the parishoners of St. George's.

George Barton, a resident of Kaunas, Lithuania, wrote that he had presented Rev. Vytautas Grigavicius with the large donation as a memorial to Fr. Wm. Wolkavich. This gift was accepted with heartfelt thanks by Fr. Grigavicius and will be used in the continued renovation of the Kristaus Prisikelimas Cathedral in Kaunas. *Lai gyvoja Vyciu nariai C-27!*

#### C-26 Worcester, MA Ruta

Prior to the May meeting, a lunch was served. It was Make Your Own Club Sandwich Evening. Everyone was definitely satisfied with their creations. Our Anne Leseman, Chairperson of the NewEngland District Ritual Committee conferred the First Degree to: Ann Frederico, Paul and Jean Grabauskas, Raymond and Terese Jakubauskas, Danute Minor, Barbara Thompson, and Dorothy Zalieckas. Fr. Jakubauskas opened the installation with a prayer and led everyone in the Apostles' Creed. The Star Spangled Banner and the Lietuvos Himnas were sung by all. Lillian Kondrotas visited Allen, Carla, and 10-year old granddaughter, Kiela, in El Paso, TX.

Aldona Waska and Lillian Kondrotas will be attending their 60th high school

class reunion at the Holiday Inn in Worcester. They graduated from Commerce High; it seems like only yesterday that they graduated.

Ann Bacinskas is home now after a recent hospitalization.

Recently, Mary Lovett celebrated her 95th birthday at a local restaurant with family and friends.

Barbara Thompson will be singing as cantor at the Mass for the Lithuanian Women's Federal Society who are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Barbara and Ernie Pantos are the proud grandparents of their first grandchild, Nicole Grace Berger.

With great sadness, we report that Steve Walinsky, Sr., passed away. Only 3 months ago, his lovely wife, Anna, died. Steve was a Fourth Degree member of the KofL and was a long time member of C-26, was very active and held various offices throughout the years. Whenever help was needed, he was there. Steve and Anna were a wonderful team. Our sincere condolences and prayers are offered to his family.

Anne Leseman's birthday was last week and Bill's is this week. At the end of the meeting they were surprised with a birthday cake and everyone sang the birthday song.

Aldona Waska is now home from the hospital.

Joseph Brazauskas recently transferred to Notre Dame Longterm Center in Worcester. Leonard Matulis lives there, as well, so they can spend some time visiting each other.

Our members were interested in visiting the City of Worcester's jail, especially since the new sheriff, Guy Glodis, is a member of our council.

Tommy and Gary Grabauskas will be visiting their parents, Paul and Jean, in Aug. They are coming to attend a family wedding and a reunion with family and friends.

This summer, Steve Walinsky, Jr., visited his son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Kathleen, in Vail Colorado. His daughter, Lynne Jalbert, and her family accompanied him.

Ann and Fran Frederico will leave for Alaska in Aug.

Ruth and Vitty Gadilauskas will spend a lot of time in Maine with their children and grandchildren.

Carol Grigas bicycled from Boston to Provincetown, the tip of Cape Cod. This was to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Research Organization. Carol, we are very proud of you.

With great joy we learned that Vivian has been re-elected Pres of NED. She does an excellent job.

We welcomed a new member, Al Bulejeik. He was in the Coast Guard for 26 years and has been all over the world, but best of all, he was in Lithuania when Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia broke away from Russia.

Our Annual Picnic at Maironis, in June, was a huge success. Many members and guests attended. Vivian thanked the kitchen help, servers, meal ticket sellers, bake table, fish pond, 50/50 raffle and publicity.

On Nov 5 and 6, the St. Casimir Parish Fair will take place. We hope that many members and guests will attend this important event.

#### C-78 Lawrence, MA Jim Ouellette

Our council meets 1st Sunday of the month after the 11:00 Lithuanian Mass that is celebrated at Corpus Christi Parish in Holy Rosary Church by our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Albin Janiunas. The Mass is conducted in the lower church. We are fortunate and grateful that Father is able to travel from Cambridge to Lawrence each month to celebrate the Mass.

We continue to pray for the complete recovery of one of our newest members, Loretta Janus. Loretta is Fr. Albin's driver and has been performing the duties of sacristan. Loretta was brutally attacked outside Fr's residence in Cambridge, the victim of a would-be robber. We hope and pray that Loretta can join us again, real soon.

Long time and devoted member, Marion

Hobitz is recovering from surgery. We wish Marion a full and speedy recovery. We are happy to report that Julia Grauslys is recovering. Julia and her family travel from Hudson, N.H. to join us each month.

On Easter Sunday, we had the traditional Lithuanian Resurrection Mass with procession. Attendance was good at this celebration.

We started our May meeting by celebrating Fr Albin's 81st Birthday and 56 years of ordination. Congratulations to Father with best wishes for many more years.

Condolences to Fr. Albin on the recent loss of his brother, Anthony. Father concelebrated the funeral Mass for his brother at Immaculate Conception Church on Cambridge with its Pastor, Fr Simeon Saulenas. Several KofL members were in attendance.

The recent issues of Lithuanian Heritage Magazine had feature stories on Resurrection Church in Kaunas, Lithuania. To this Church we shipped the statues, stations of the cross and vestments from our closed parish of St. Francis of Assisi. It was great to read about the renovation project. We are anxious to see pictures of our beautiful artifacts in their new home.

In closing, we look forward to hosting the NED Meeting in September.

We wish a safe and enjoyable summer to all!

## Mid Atlantic District

### C-29 Newark, N.J. Rita Sussko HM

Greetings to our fellow Knights from C-29. This has been a quiet year for us and unfortunately illness does prevail.

Our regular meetings are 1st Sunday of month following the 10:15 Mass.

On April 3rd, Harold Kaminskas, Marie Guoba, Ada and Domas Andruska, Helen Rdisch and Rita Sussko HM attended the MidAtlantic meeting in Kearny, NJ. The meeting was well-conducted by our new president, Cathy

Nakrosis and much was accomplished. The next meeting will be hosted by C-29 in May 2006.

Our final meeting of the season was held on June 6th at which time we enjoyed a social of good, prepared and served by our usual hard-working Chefs Marie Guoba, Helen and John Sisak and Ed Rimelis. Dessert was donated by members.

We welcomed back Adele Satkus who is finally convalesced from a long illness.

We were pleased to see Loretta Stukas HM who became ill while visiting Chicago.

We miss our dear member Virginia Kaminskas who is seriously ill. Please pray for her.

Lithuanian Affairs and Culture Chairperson Vytautas Miknevičius distributed a pamphlet with the biography, prayer, and picture of Adele Kirsyte who was sentenced to severe hardship, punishment and labor in Siberia, mainly because of her Catholic faith and teachings. He also distributed the new KofL brochure describing our organization, with the hope of recruiting new members.

On Sept 11 our Lithuanian cowboy, Ed Rimelis, will again hold his Annual Jamboree for the benefit of the Church. Everyone is invited to attend to enjoy good Country Western music and refreshments are available. Price of admission is \$5.

Our Annual Dinner and Dance held in October of each year has been cancelled. Members who will attend the National KofL 92nd Convention in Pittsburgh are looking forward with enthusiasm to seeing old friends and a memorable time. Best wishes to Council 19.

God Bless You and Keep You Healthy, Safe, and Happy!

## Mid Central District

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

Elinor Sluzas, HM, Chair of the SC

Honorary Membership Committee, Michael Petkus, MCD President and Fran Petkus HM returned home from the Supreme Council meeting of April 17th bringing updated information from the Board to the council. They stated the convention hotel was beautiful and C-19 is ready to greet the delegates and guests in August.

The hymn to Our Lady of Siluva, lyrics and music by Faustas Strolia HM, opened our Annual Mothers' Day Mass sponsored by our council's Junior Knights on May 8th. The honor of Crowning Our Blessed Mother was Junior Knight Nathan Fletcher. The Juniors were the acolytes, readers and Offertory Bearers for the Mass which was offered for the living and deceased mothers of C-96. Following Mass everyone headed to the church hall for a special brunch prepared by Junior Advisors Christine Fletcher, Michael Petkus and the Juniors.

Recently all four parishes under the care of Fr Michael Holloran held a special Mass for Pope John Paul II at St. Adelbert Church. The services were beautiful and with each community in its native costume added to the occasion. Erin Petkus in her Lithuanian costume, represented the Lithuanian community.

The MCD holds its Spring Convention/Bowling Tournament the 3rd weekend of May. The National Hamvention, which held its event in Dayton the 2nd weekend of May, recently switched to the 3rd weekend of May. With this event covering facilities within the 50 mile radius of Dayton bringing in better than 25,000 people, C-96 had a problem hosting the district in May. Thanks to the Thieles, JoAnn and Gary, we moved our site to Port Clinton, OH, located off Lake Erie With 50 plus participating we had a wonderful time the weekend of May 22. The weekend began with a get-together at the hotel's party room where there was plenty to eat and fun had by all. Many were winners from the prize table with Regina Juska-Svoba the highest "bidder" at the silent auction donation.



This was a hand crafted Lithuanian Dancer made and donated by Elinor Sluzas HM.

The district meeting, conducted by District Pres Michael Petkus, went very well with no major issues and all reports presented, it was just under an hour! It was agreed to change the title of the spring weekend to MCD Spring Convention/Sports Weekend. C-96's Toledo, OH, member, Josef Cernevicius took the KofL Oath just before the close of the meeting. It was also the first time we had the opportunity to meet Josef! The meeting's 50/50 raffle winner was C-102 member, Joseph Guerriero!

There were six four "manned teams" having fun bowling and visiting. The 3 Dayton teams came in the bottom half of the winners - out of the money - except for Junior Knight Tommy Petkus who was on the 3rd place team! C-96 members who came into money in the individual "pot" were Michael, Robert and Erin Petkus and Mary Agnes Mikalauskas. Congratulations! Those members who played put-put golf had a great time, also. The only one to make two holes in one was 5 year-old Gabriella Pant! Way to go!

Our District Mass was held at Immaculate Conception Church at 5PM Following Mass SC Ritual Chair Lee Moore held presentation of the Fourth Degree Medals to Elaine Pacovsky and Lauretta Pant. Congratulations to the both of you!! At the closing banquet winnings were presented by C-102 Sam Perritino who is always willing to handle the details of bowling for all the councils in the district. Aciu Labai!!!

C-25, Cleveland, volunteered to host the 2006 Spring Convention/Sports Weekend! With the banquet being held at the Moose Lodge in Port Clinton, the president of the district had to kiss the Moose's head!!! Michael Petkus had no trouble climbing up and fulfilling this tradition! One of the winners of the District's Annual Raffle was our SC President, Agnes Mickunas!!!

Our deepest sympathies go to the

family of Annadele (Miller) Milaskavitz who was called to be with God on May 23, at 98 years young; niece Anne Louise and Ronald Tucker and Daniel Tucker. May Annadele rest in the Peace of the Lord.

Special congratulations to former C-96 member Frank Petrauskas HM and his wife, Irene, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary!!!

## Amber District

### C-3 Philadelphia, PA Victor Stepalovitch

This past summer has been a very busy one for C-3 and its members.

In May our National Supreme Council Spiritual Advisor, Monsignor Joseph Anderlonis, and his brother, Andrew, took a trip to Germany and had a wonderful time. Both came back well refreshed.

June 11th, Marge and Charles Petronis traveled to Maine where they attended ceremonies honoring their son, "Chuck", as Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard in Maine.

June 12th, our council had their final meeting before adjourning for the summer months - it was in the form of a picnic. Members all brought a covered dish and assorted beverages. As usual, our favorite Chef John Mickunas was cooking up his favorite delicacies, while Tony Pecesas showed the final part of his video of our last trip to Lithuania.

On June 16,17,18,23,24,25, at St. George's Bazaar, Irene Ozalis, Lillian Greymas, Diane Drumstas, Dolores Herbert, Victor Stepalovitch, Ausra Maknys, Stephany Gutauskas, Irene Starewicz, and Ann Marie Jaskel were all seen working in the kitchen and various other stands, while Stanley and Ann Petraitis along with Julie Janyszek worked on the Financial Committee.

June 26th had many of us attending the Avenuers' Mummies Club in South Philadelphia to attend the Amber District Meeting.

In August, many of our members attend the National Convention in Pittsburgh where they are able to enjoy many of our friends from other councils whom we have not seen for a year. All have an enjoyable time.

C-3 hopes that all councils have a wonderful, enjoyable summer, as we did

### C-30 Westfield, MA

Welcome Summer! Four members of our council attended the New England District's Annual Retreat on June 24, 25, 26, at the Franciscan Guest House in Kennebunkport, Maine. Msgr. Albert Contons conducted our retreat, and on Saturday, the Mass was for all living and deceased K of L members. The estate, purchased by the Lithuanian Franciscans in 1947, is on sixty acres along the banks of the Kennebunk River. It has St. Anthony's Monastery, outdoor shrines, a salt water pool, walking trails and all guests are treated to a fabulous Lithuanian breakfast. This spiritual retreat is within walking distance of the beach and the village of Kennebunkport. All K of L retreat attendees were given a commemorative photograph of the group.

Again, some of our council attended the Lithuanian Friendship Day on Sunday, July 24, in Putnam, CT at the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Convent. There was a Liturgy of the Sacred Mass in Lithuanian and a host of activities, including delicious Lithuanian and American foods, booths with many Lithuanian gifts and articles, plus entertainment.

One of our council members is traveling to Lithuania on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. It is her first trip, and we know she is excited about this vacation. She has been studying all about the cities to be visited and trying to master some basic Lithuanian phrases. Happy holiday Barbara and traveling companion, Phyllis, from C-17. Laimingos keliones!

## TIME FOR SUFFERING

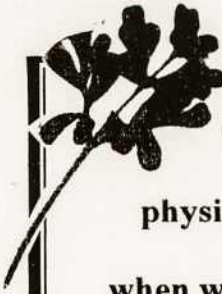


**Suffering is an evil, although it can have redemptive results. No one is exempt from suffering in some form or other. We sometimes reproach God for allowing pain to surface or dominate our lives. The questioning we do and the resentment we feel are not fruitless if they help us learn something about ourselves, God and the world.**

**To accept suffering when all other avenues have been explored may lead to the understanding needed to surmount our pain. This understanding can then be extended to others who are also suffering.**

**Suffering is not a punishment nor is it the will of God. It happens because of a weakness in our bodies, hearts, minds, or spirits. Or we may suffer because of an infirmity in our neighbor who vents displeasure or hatred upon us. Then, too, accidents inflict pain that lead either to capitulation, self-pity, or determined survival.**

**If pain is unavoidable, one can follow the Savior's patience, courage and faithfulness when he, too, suffered hunger, fatigue, betrayal, accusations, misunderstandings and misrepresentations. At those times, suffering can become a time for transformation.**



Suffering has the power  
to destroy the wholeness of a person.  
Its viciousness can attack our being  
physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually.  
But it can overpower us only  
when we are so numbed, resentful, impatient, angry  
that we give it such control  
that it disconnects us from our essence.

We wonder what good there is in suffering  
when razor-sharp pain  
damages the fabric of the body  
and hacks away at the soul and spirit?  
How difficult it is then to understand God's love in this.  
Yet, after denial makes way for acceptance  
the way is made ready for attitudes  
of faith, surrender and growth.

When suffering takes on meaning,  
it ceases to be suffering,  
becoming a redemptive sacrifice,  
breaking our restless hearts open,  
allowing compassionate entrance  
into the hurting parts of self.  
Suffering also gives one courage  
to invite the human God to suffer along with us.

Broken, jagged, life's pieces can lie in memory  
thrusting pain spear-like  
to split our hearts wide open,  
stealing our serenity.



.....Loretta Giržaitis

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**Gentle words flutter to bring hope.**  
**"My peace I leave with you."**  
**This promise nudges acquiescence**  
**to follow Christ: the Way, the Truth, the Life.**

**The covenant is sealed.**  
**Our hearts are in Christ's hands.**  
**Christ makes us whole again.**