



# Vytis - The Knight

March-April/kovas-balandis, 2006  
Vol. 92 - No. 2

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### *The Annunciation*

by Sister Mercedes Mickevičius, SSC, MFA  
*Feast of the Annunciation: March 25th*



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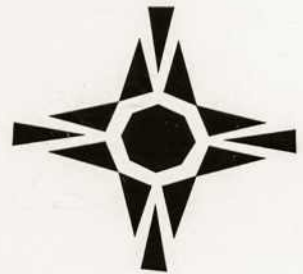
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**Mission Statement: The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of our ancestors, and knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March-April 2006

Dear Members,

During the month of March our members come together for several days of prayer and remembrance. On March 4 we reverently pray and solemnly commemorate the life and good works of St. Casimir, our organization's beloved Patron Saint.

March 11 marks the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the restoration of Lithuania's Independence. Many of our Councils participate in Masses of Thanksgiving and commemorative programs.

On Easter Sunday, April 16, we will joyfully celebrate the Risen Christ. Together with all the members of the Supreme Council I wish God's choicest Easter blessings on all of our Knights of Lithuania members and their families.

On April 27 we will remember our founding father, Mykolas Norkunas, who, on this date in 1913, organized our Knights of Lithuania organization.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars noting the deadline dates for Convention ads and registrations. Your Supreme Council is hosting this year's Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. We look forward to your participation in the business and social activities being planned. Our Conventions are so very important! We need you and your ideas to insure the future of our organization.

Happy Spring to All!!

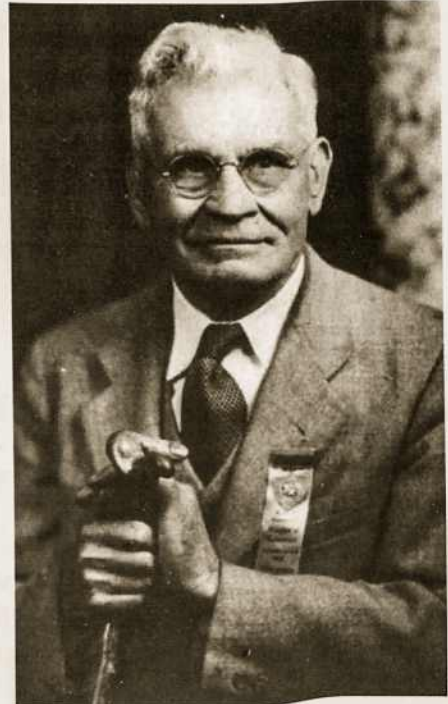
Vytiškai,

*Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.*

Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.  
President



**As we celebrate our organization's founding  
on April 27th we fondly remember  
our Founder and  
First Supreme Council President,  
Mr. Mykolas Norkūnas, H.M.**





To our Fellow Knights:

As the beautiful gift of Easter quickly approaches we wish to extend all our best for a wonderful Easter Season to all our fellow members and friends.

It is our sincerest hope that as we continue the transition of staff members and printer that you, our readers, have found the look and content of the first issue of 2006 to your liking. All of us are eager to keep *Vytis – The Knight* a “Must Read” for all of you. Please feel free to send on your comments both positive and negative. We can’t improve on what you like or fix what is broken without your input.

Now, we wish to request your help. As we begin planning the May/June issue we can’t help but think of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. With that in mind we are requesting that our readers send in photos, current or from days gone by, of Mothers with their children and/or Fathers with their children. Include everyone’s name and your council number and send them to us at the Vytis Office here in Chicago, IL no later than May 1, 2006. We’d like to do a collage on our K of L family as we celebrate these two holidays and need your help to make it a success. Now, find those photos and send them in. Looking forward to seeing them and hopefully including them in the next issue.

Vytiškai,

*Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC – Editor-in-Chief*

*Robert A. Martin, Jr. – Business Manager*

*Mildred Jagiella – Council News Editor*



**Wishing all  
our fellow  
Knights a  
Holy,  
Blessed and  
Happy  
Easter.**

**Council # 147  
St. Petersburg, FL**

***Calling all Interested  
National Convention Hosts***

It’s never too early to start thinking about hosting a National Convention. As your Supreme Council Trustees we’re calling out to all our councils and districts to begin thinking about hosting our 94<sup>th</sup> National Convention in 2007. If you’re interested please contact one of us and we will be happy to answer any questions and send along the bid form to you. Looking forward to hearing from everyone.

Vytiškai,

*Mary Beth Slakis & Joe Stiklius*

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## *Lithuanians in the News*

### **Helen Simanis of C-141 Honored by Diocese of Bridgeport, CT.**



Pictured L to R: Rev. Julio Lo Presti, JVE, Pastor St. George Parish Community, His Excellency Bishop William Lari, Diocese of Bridgeport, CT and Helen Simanis, member of C-141 Bridgeport, CT.

Helen Simanis of Knights of Lithuania Council 141, Bridgeport, CT was awarded "The Bridgeport Diocese of Service St. Augustine Medal of Service" in December of 2005. The medal is presented for extraordinary service to parish and church. The citation that accompanied Helen's medal read; "Faithful and active, totally committed to the parish. Helen has served in many capacities and never refused to do anything that needs to be done."

We congratulate Helen on this outstanding accomplishment and recognition from her diocese. Valio! Valio! Valio!

### **Jurgis Petkaitis Honored On His 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Information taken from an article written by Florence Morkus C-6

Jurgis Petkaitis of Council 6, Hartford, CT, was honored on Sunday, January 8, 2006 at Holy Trinity Church, Hartford, CT. He served as the church organist since 1949 thus becoming a very important part in the lives of the parishioners of Holy Trinity and the Lithuanian community of Hartford, CT. The celebration included many tributes and best wishes from the parish staff and various organizations.

Born in Lithuania in Pajevonys, Suvalkija, his family left Lithuania following the soviet occupation. They moved through Europe for several years arriving in the US in 1948 and settling in Hartford in 1949. Throughout his life Jurgis has remained active in Lithuanian culture and is responsible for starting choirs, hosting a Lithuanian radio hour and assisting Lithuanian Dance Groups. Congratulations, Jurgis, on 80 wonderful years and wishing you many more to come.



Jurgis Petkaitis of C-6 at his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.



# *Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council*

## *Lithuanian Affairs News and Views*

Balzekas Museum Event  
6500 S. Pulaski  
Chicago, Illinois 60629  
March 1, 2006

This event was presented by Lithuanian Consul General of Chicago, Arvydas Daunoravicius and the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture.

Ginte Damusyte, Lithuanian Ambassador- formerly to Belgium-now to NATO spoke on the topic: Afghanistan - Lithuanian troops in Ghowr Province. Ambassador Damusyte is the first Lady Ambassador appointed by Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus.

Speaking in Lithuanian, for the most part, and with slides, the Ambassador provided a very enlightening talk on the geography, terrain, and living conditions; the purpose and projects of the Lithuanian soldiers include establishing a safe water supply, controlling borders of the province from narcotic traffic, establishing an infrastructure for self-rule, education of multiple subjects to update residents to more modern conditions/standards. The troops rotate serving six-month terms.

Gower province received virtually no attention from Kabul until the Lithuanian efforts took place. President Valdas Adamkus has visited Gower province and Afghanistan President, Karzai, still hasn't been to the province.

Although Lithuania is a recently emancipated nation from Soviet subjugation, she is already active in reaching out to help others and to promote democracy.

Like soldiers globally, the Lithuanian troops experience hardships and a longing for home.

Contact letters are welcome to show appreciation to the soldiers for participating in the fulfillment of mutually beneficial partnerships with other nations and with our country, the United States.

Please take the time to write a note of appreciation to a Lithuanian soldier and send c/o Mildred Jagiella; P.O. Box 51; Leroy, Indiana 46355. The letter will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mildred Jagiella*

Mildred Jagiella, Chair  
Supreme Council Lithuanian Affairs Committee



Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council  
 Lithuanian Affairs Committee Report  
 A.L.T.A.S. Vasario 16-ta Minejimas  
 Maria High School, Chicago, Illinois  
 February 12, 2006

Marquette Park with the Darius Girenas monument and the site of the multiple Lithuanian achievements - Holy Cross Hospital, Sisters of Saint Casimir Motherhouse, Maria High School, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Lithuanian restaurant and commercial enterprises brought hundreds to the area to commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day.

With Mass at 10:30 A.M. at Nativity BVM Church, the Commemoration began. The main altar was dramatically draped with yellow, green, and red; The flags were prominent and were brought in by the Lithuanian National Guard who stood in formation to escort in the Mass celebrants - Fr. Anthony Markus, Pastor, Fr. Arvydas Peter Zygas, and Fr. Casimir Garbacz of the Office for European Catholics of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The choir filled the church with familiar Lithuanian hymns.

Following Mass, a delicious Lithuanian meal was served in the school auditorium.. A full hall socialized until time to travel to Maria High School on the next block.

Maria's auditorium is well-constructed with good visualization from all seats and many came early. Many Sisters of Saint Casimir occupied the balcony.

Evelyn Ozelis, President of the Chicago Lithuanian Council, opened the program at 1:00 P.M. Colors were presented by Don Varnas and Darius Girenas American Legion Posts; also, Lithuanian National Guard in Ex., Ramove and other Lithuanian organizations. Mrs. Ozelis then introduced the Program MC, Vida Brazaityte.

The National anthems of the United States and Lithuania were sung by Sol. Vaclovas Momkus and Margarita Momkiene, accompanied by Manigirdas Motekaitis. Remembrance of Freedom's Heroes followed.

The invocation was by Rev. Liudas Miliuskas, Pastor of the Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Home Church in Chicago.

Chicago Lithuanian School students read the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence and the Restoration of the Republic.

Arvydas Daunoravicius, Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania, greeted the attendees and the Reading of Convocation greetings followed.

The Honorable Thaddeus McCotter, The United States House of Representatives, of Detroit, Michigan was featured. Long a friend of Lithuania and a co-sponsor with Congressman John Shimkus of "Resolution 128", calling for an acknowledgement and apology from the Russian Federation for occupation on the Baltic States, the Congressman spoke warmly and briefly. His participation was truly an honor.

A presentation by Darius Udrys, President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community followed.

Saulius Kuprys, National President of the Lithuanian American Council, presented resolutions re: new democracies, Kaliningrad issues which were approved, unanimously.

After intermission, a beautiful program followed with Sol. Nida Grigalaviciute and Algimantas Barniskis, accompanied by Manigirdas Motekaitis. Delightful Lithuanian folk dances were performed by beautiful, young, spry "Suktinis Dancers", taught by Salomeja and Vidmantas Strizgauskas.

The program concluded with praise for a memorable event from the persons attending.

*Mildred Jagiella*

Mildred Jagiella, Chair  
 Supreme Council Lithuanian Affairs Committee



The resolution below was presented and passed during the Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration in the Gary, IN area. The Lithuanian Affairs committee encourages all our councils and districts to consider presenting similar resolutions in your local area.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **Recommending Demilitarization of Kaliningrad -which Neighbors Lithuania and Poland- to Promote Global Stabilization**

We, Americans of Lithuanian descent and friends, residing in Northwest Indiana, assembled on February 19, 2006, at the American Legion Post #430 in Merrillville, Indiana, to celebrate the 88th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence February 16, 1918, and its renewal on March 11, 1990, do hereby find:

WHEREAS, Global stability has already been increased by emerging new democracies; and

WHEREAS, Kaliningrad shares boundaries with Lithuania and Poland; and

WHEREAS, Kaliningrad residents have no history of hostilities with Lithuania and Poland; and

WHEREAS, Russia maintains enormous military assets in Kaliningrad; and

WHEREAS, armed Russian jet flights from St. Petersburg to Kaliningrad have violated airspace of Kaliningrad's peaceful neighbors; and

WHEREAS, a Russian jet recently crashed in Lithuania; and

WHEREAS, Kaliningrad residents are being used by the Russian Federation as pawns; and

WHEREAS, We Americans experienced the tensions of the Cuban Missile Crisis and understand living near unpredictable military arsenals,

Now, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

We Americans of Northwest Indiana of Lithuanian descent and friends do hereby encourage our President, State Department, and elected officials to present the pressing issue of the demilitarization of Kaliningrad to the Russian Federation and to concerned global participants for correction.

HAVING ADOPTED this resolution by unanimous vote, we have instructed the Chair of this assembly to send copies to George W. Bush, President of the United States, the State Department, the U.S. Senate and to the U.S. House of Representatives.



## Someone you should know!

Father Stephen Snoich, O.S.B - Coalminer's Son, Carpenter, member K of L C-144, Benedictine Monk.....

During a visit to Nativity BVM Lithuanian Church in Chicago, some Sisters of St. Casimir from their nearby SSC Motherhouse asked Father what led him to Saint Meinrad Abbey and the Benedictine community. Mildred Jagiella, a member of the Vytis staff and National Lithuanian Affairs chair, requested this article for the Vytis magazine....

I began by telling the Sisters that I was born in Shenandoah, PA, on the Feast of John the Baptist, during the late 20's as the country was going through the Great Depression. Baptism took place in St. George Lithuanian Church and John is my baptismal name. My late father, Stephen Snoich, wanted his first son to be named "Stephen", but my mother, Ann Snoich, insisted that their s first son who was born on the Feast of John the Baptist be named "John".

My dad was a coalminer who worked in the deep mines at the Maple Hill Coal Colliery owned and operated by Reading Coal and Iron Co. of Philadelphia. Mother worked as a seamstress for the Spout Garment Factory in Shenandoah. When three children came into the world, mother resigned from the garment factory to care for her children. Dad reached his eternal reward in 1974 and Mother followed ten years later.

My two sisters, Ann and Theresa, and I attended the Roosevelt Elementary School and the J.W. Cooper High School. Both schools were within walking distance of our home on Emerick Street in the eastern part of Shenandoah and known as the First Ward. After high school, my sisters went on to study nursing and graduated with a registered nurse degree from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Philadelphia. I moved on to Philadelphia and entered the freshman class at St. Joseph College in Philadelphia. Our parents skimped and scraped and saved every penny for our education and when I found out what my college expense cost I decided not to return to college. Almost immediately the opportunity arose to join an apprentice carpentry program. Four years later I became a Journeyman Carpenter and worked with the John McShain Construction Company in Philadelphia. Eventually, I was made foreman for the McShain Co. I held this position until my entrance into St. Meinrad.

My early youth had many enjoyable experiences. During the summer months many of us guys - we called ourselves the Emerick Street Gang - played baseball on an empty lot behind Lokitis's Bakery which was across the street from my home. During the fall, football was the game of the day. During the cold winter months, Shenandiah's Volunteer Firemen sprayed the field with water so that we could ice skate and play ice hockey which was the challenging sport during the winter months. We also did a lot of skiing on the hills surrounding the First Ward. These hills, better known to the townspeople as coal banks, consisted of the rock and coal removed from the deep mines surrounding the town. Our skis were made from barrel stays that came from a fifty gallon wooden barrel. A strip of leather strap was nailed to the side of the barrel stay which held our shoe. The bottom of the barrel stay was rubbed with wax for speed - the final touch to our new set of skis. There was a forest of trees on top of the coal banks where we found the perfect limb to make a slingshot. Each one of us carried a slingshot in our back pocket.

There was a community bake oven built by the neighborhood coal miners. The oven, made of brick and mortar, was rather large - six feet high, eight feet wide and at least twelve feet long. There was a large opening at each end where two families could have use of the oven at the same time. Saturday morning was the beginning of bread baking. Every family in the neighborhood baked either bread or rolls. There was a shelf on the side of the oven where the first loaf of bread that came out of the oven was placed, along with a knife and a bowl of home-made butter. Several of the Emerick Street Gang arrived shortly after the bread that came out of the oven and was placed on the shelf. Cutting the warm bread was unsuccessful and so we pulled the bread apart and smothered the bread with butter. This was our early Saturday morning treat before our free day began.

Saturday afternoon we attended the local Strand Movie Theater where a movie of one of our cowboy heroes was being shown, along with a continuation of the weekly serial. We were all anxious to see what happened to our hero from the previous week's chapter. The movie was over early enough for



confession for those whose mother informed them to make sure we went to church and received the sacrament of penance.

During those early elementary school days, I was hired as a delivery boy by Joseph Zanecosky who owned and operated a butcher shop in the First Ward. My duties were much more than delivering groceries to a customer's residence. The job consisted of stocking shelves, cleaning the machines, butchering, and waiting on customers. Working in the store was an educational experience more than the money earned. Practically the entire First Ward frequented the butcher shop. During the summer months, the store was closed on Wednesday afternoon which was the customary half-holiday. The gang met after the closing of the store and we all headed to the Jiggers Dam for an afternoon of swimming. We looked forward to Wednesday afternoon of swimming and a special treat of BUM SOUP. We walked to the dam about three miles over coal banks and through a wooded area and our pockets were loaded down with the ingredients for the BUM SOUP. We all had a hand in the cooking and anxiously awaited this special treat. The recipe was a secret.

While working in Philadelphia, I went to confession to my parish church, St. Callistus, and the parish priest asked me if a vocation ever crossed my mind. I told father that priesthood was not my top priority, because I loved my carpentry trade. Father said that priesthood is not the only vocation; you must pray for a vocation. He went on to say that marriage is also a beautiful vocation, but you must pray. Although prayer was very important to me, I now prayed, asking God to help me decide my future. Before I knew it, St. Meinrad was introduced to me. St. Meinrad is a Benedictine Monastery located in the hills of Southern Indiana. After a letter was sent to the monk in charge of vocations, a return letter invited me to the Monastery. Several weeks later, I visited St. Meinrad and it was love at first sight. After a week, I returned to Philadelphia to my construction job with John McShain Construction Co. A few weeks later, I asked to be admitted into the Benedictine Community as a Candidate. After a very short waiting period, my Candidacy Program began in September and the following April, I entered the Novitiate. A year later, in April, three of us professed our Simple vows at which time I received my religious name of "Stephen". My parents and sister, Ann, were present and while professing my vows, I read my new name in a much louder voice so that Dad could hear me. My mother and sister said that dad's face just glowed; he finally had a son named "Stephen". Dad said that God is good.

During my Candidacy, the Archabbot asked me to supervise the building of a Water Filter Plant because the water supply was condemned. A minimal blueprint evolved into a completed Filter Plant during my Novitiate. Shortly after this project, the Archabbot asked me if I'd noticed the sign in front of the Archabbey Church saying, "MONKS WILL BUILD THE NEW GUESTHOUSE". Again, he asked me to supervise the building of the guest house, and, again, with minimal blueprints. When the Archabbot called the architect for more detailed blueprints, the architect responded that if that brother called himself a builder, he could build the Guest House with what he had. A few days later, many monks gathered at the site of the new guest house where the Archabbot had the ground-breaking ceremony. This took place in March of 1957 and the following month, April, three of us who entered the Novitiate together, professed our Simple Vows. I was not excused from my Novice responsibilities and tried to keep pace with these. Three years later, July 16, 1960, we professed our Solemn Vows and our families were the first ones to stay in the new Guest House.

Upon completion of this project, the Archabbot asked me to consider going to California where our Daughter House St. Charles Priory is situated and supervise the building of the Priory's Guest House. Today, St. Charles Priory is known as Prince of Peace Abbey. In July, 1962, we began excavating for the new building. Three years later the construction of the Guest House was completed, along with much of the maintenance of the buildings at St. Charles. When this work was done, I requested to return to St. Meinrad and begin studies in our seminary as a freshman in college.

The next four years of studies were challenging because I had been away from the classroom for eighteen years. Studying hard, I began to see light at the end of the tunnel at the end of the second year. Graduation from college was four years later and then on to Theology. By then, I had adjusted pretty well to learning skills and the next four years went much better. Ordination came on March 12, 1972.



Upon ordination, I was assigned as a supply priest, helping pastors in local parishes on weekends. In addition, I was asked to take care of the maintenance of the Monastery. Several years had passed when Archabbot Gabriel assigned me as Pastoral Associate to St. Benedict Church in Evansville, Indiana, now the Cathedral of the Evansville Diocese. The appointment to St. Benedict's lasted seventeen years, until July, 1993, when the Archabbot assigned me as Chaplain to the infirmed and retired Benedictine Sisters in the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana. This appointment lasted til July of 2004 when Archabbot Lambert assigned me to St. Augusta Church in Lake Village, Indiana, where I am pastor at the present time.

by Rev. Stephen Snoich, O.S.B., Pastor  
St. Augusta's Church, Lake Village, IN  
Knights of Lithuania, Council 144

*Please make a special note.*

#### **FOURTH DEGREE APPLICATIONS**

The Supreme Council Ritual Committee requests that all applications for the Fourth Degree be submitted before May 1, 2006. Any received after that date will be held for the following year.

If anyone needs to get in touch with me before April 1, 2006, please call: 1.561.242.0133 or write to me at the address below otherwise please send all correspondence to the address on the inside front cover.

Mrs. Lee Moore  
18 Easthampton A  
West Palm Beach, FL 33417

#### **VYTIS PUBLICATION DEADLINES:**



<b><u>Issue</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>
Jan./Feb. ....	January 1 <sup>st</sup>
Mar./Apr. ....	March 1 <sup>st</sup>
May/Jun. ....	May 1 <sup>st</sup>
Jul./Aug. ....	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
Convention .....	September 1 <sup>st</sup>
Sep./Oct. ....	September 15 <sup>th</sup>
Nov./Dec. ....	November 1 <sup>st</sup>



*Knights of Lithuania  
Foundation, Inc.*  
A Tax-Exempt Organization



## 2006 ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

**TOPIC:** Write an essay expressing your thoughts on:

**“What I do to Preserve Lithuanian Memories” or  
“My Most Memorable K. of L. Function”**

Each topic will be given the same attention.

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

**DEADLINE:** June 15, 2006. 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 that 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. Entries with less than 450 or more than 500 will be disqualified.

**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  
2nd Prize - \$200.  
3rd Prize - \$100.

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

**JUDGES:** One member of each K of L District, plus 2005 Contest Winner.

**MAIL TO:** Bernice Aviza  
8 Tremont Street  
Albany, New York 12205

**WINNERS:** Will be announced August 2006, during the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in Lake Buena Vista, FL. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.

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



*Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.**2005 Essay Contest**Honorable Mention (tie) Winner**by Stephanie Gutauskas (C-003)*TRUFFLING

Strong memories persist of childhood days spent "truffling," a sophisticated term my father used for gathering mushrooms. On several weekends in late summer and early autumn, my father drove the family out of the city, crossed a river, and motored along until he reached undeveloped wooded areas located beside less-traveled country roads. We'd disembark, enter the forest, and begin our adventure.

Our eyes drank in diverse aspects of our surroundings. Tracts of fallen leaves and spongy resilient moss carpeted the forest floor. Several species of birds, procrastinating from their annual migration, twittered in the branches overhead. Inquisitive squirrels poked their snoots here and there in search of acorns. Rabbits, startled by our approach, sprinted away toward safer haven. The persistent tortoise scuffled towards his winter home.

We, however, were not present to hunt animals. Our quarry was the mushroom, a staple of the Lithuanian diet. To us, wild mushrooms were delicacies, choice morsels to be savored along with our daily bread.

Like our Lithuanian ancestors who communed with nature, we scouted the woods for edible fungi. A slow pace and keen sight were needed to discover our prey. Knowledge of the characteristics of poisonous mushrooms like the toadstool prevented us from picking up toxic varieties. "Beware the shredded veil," my father would warn which meant we were to avoid mushrooms which possessed torn integument between cap and stem.

The mushrooms we prized were white in color with light tan caps reminiscent of turbans. Upon spotting these edible mushrooms, we stooped down, genuflected as if in reverence to the earth, cut our fungi away from the ground, and placed them into large paper bags. In a typical afternoon, we gathered several such bags of fungi.

At home, we pared away the dirt from the bottom of the stems and washed the fungi in preparation for cooking. What we didn't eat we froze and retained until Thanksgiving when my parents collaborated in making mushroom filling for our turkey. Their dressing, firm in consistency and mellow in flavor, was a gustatory delight.

Years later when land developers cleared away the roadside forests and eliminated our truffling grounds, we discovered a different kind of fungi at our local Lithuanian Fair: cookies shaped like mushrooms. With umbrella-like caps covered in chocolate icing, stems in white icing with poppy seeds clinging to the bottoms, these cookies startlingly mimicked reality.

Armed with a recipe and baking instructions from the vendors, mother and I boldly tried making spice-flavored, mushroom-shaped cookies ourselves. The all-day project yielded wonderful results. Our cookies, presented to friends and relatives, received rave reviews for both taste and appearance. One teenage acquaintance, a nature lover who received our cookie, actually drenched it in preservative and, when dry, placed it on her knickknack shelf for all to see.

Who would have believed that mushrooms, typical Lithuanian fare, could bring back such potent, pleasant memories?





## LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE CORNER

### EASTER - VELYKOS

JULIA SCHRODER, CHAIR

SUPREME COUNCIL LITH. LANG. & CULTURE

"Mommy do I have to get up? It's dark & cold." "Yes, its Easter & we have to go to Resurrection Mass." After getting dressed in my Easter outfit, we walked to church in the dark. It seems like all Easter mornings started off cold. The children sat in the last pew in the church, until Sister said take off your coats and line up. The priest would come out and go to the side altar where the statue of the dead laid out Christ was. He would start by singing in Latin, which after Vatican II, in Lithuanian, *Kristau Prisikele*. The church bells would ring, the incense would rise and the procession would start. By the time we passed the side altar - a miracle- the statue of the risen Christ was there. The choir sang *Linksmą Dieną mums prašvito* (A Happy Day Has Dawned for Us) as we walked around the church three times.

After Mass we went to my mother's parents' house. The whole family was there. Grandma had baked babka, cooked kilbasa and ham, and of course there were Easter eggs. The tradition was to see who would have the strongest egg. You would pick up an egg and tap it on your tooth to see if it was hard then you would crack with someone else's egg. The egg that didn't crack was the winner. The competition was strongest between my grandfather and his brother, Dominick. I remember the year the plastic egg came out. Dominick had a plastic egg and was cracking everyone's egg. Grandpa didn't like this. He said no egg could be that strong. When he found out that his brother had a plastic egg, he got so angry. I never heard my grandfather yell so much or so loud at his brother. All over an egg. We then went to Jersey City, to visit my father's family. My grandmother colored her eggs by boiling them in onion skins. Her cooking was better and we went home with enough food for the next day.

My mother's friend Tessie and her mother made *margučiai*. These eggs were not eaten but decorated with designs. Hot beeswax was used to make the design, and then the egg was placed in dye. More design was covered with the beeswax and the egg would then be dipped into another color. When the design was done, the beeswax was melted off, to show a beautiful design. My mother tried with much success. She had patience and was artistic. My attempts failed. I helped by melting off the wax when she was done. Maybe sometime in the future I might try to decorate the eggs this way. I have the stylus and some dye in my basement.

When I became Lithuanian Language & Culture chair, Rob Martin gave me a book- Lithuanian Customs and Traditions by Danute Brazyste Bindokiene. I was very surprised when I looked up Easter, that the traditions I experienced were in the book. This Easter be on the lookout for the *Vėlykų Senelė* (Easter Granny) who hides the Easter eggs for the children.



## *The Art of the Lithuanian Egg*

*By Giedra Gustas C-133 Los Angeles, CA*



During the convention of 2000 and again last year during the Spring 2005 Mid-America District Meeting in Los Angeles, CA our members were treated to a display and quick class on the art of creating Lithuanian Style Easter Eggs. Our "instructor" was none other than



C-133 member, Giedra Gustas. As Easter is quickly approaching we would like to share with you some of the wonderful lessons we learned from Giedra.

### Marble Eggs

Place a handful of shredded yellow onionskins in the middle of a 9" piece of muslin (you may also use fabric from an old sheet or shirt), place the egg in the middle of the pile of onionskins. Bring all four corners together; twist it tight around the egg, making sure that the onionskins cover most of the egg.

Twist the fabric to make a secure bundle. Secure it with a rubber band or thread. Using rubber bands or threads, wrap the entire bundle, so that the onionskin is flush against the egg.

Cook the eggs in a saucepan; add ¼ cup vinegar to the water, to release the dyes from the onionskins. Once the eggs are cooked, rinse under cold running water. Remove the rubber bands or string. Carefully remove the onionskins.

For a more colorful "Margutis", after cooking the egg, but before unwrapping it, dip the egg in blue or green dye for a few seconds. The lighter portions of the "marble" will take on this additional hue.

### Leaf Print Eggs

Leaves of rue, carrot tops or other small leafed plants are places in warm water to wilt them slightly. The leaf is placed veins down on the egg. A 9" square piece of panty hose or netting is stretched over the egg. The egg is brought up into the panty hose; the panty hose is brought around to the back and twisted tightly around the egg. The panty hose is secured with a rubber band or a twisty-tie.

The egg may be boiled with onionskins or dyed with food coloring or Easter Egg dyes. It is first dipped in one color. Be careful to submerge only the egg, not the panty hose "Tail" in the dye. After a few seconds remove the egg from the dye, pat it dry. Then with the ball of your thumb, "skooch" the panty hose at the edges of the leaf slightly.

Then, dip the egg in a contrasting color. Leave it in this color a bit longer. Remove the egg from the dye, pat it dry, cut the rubber bank or remove the twisty-tie, remove the panty hose, pat the egg dry again. Enjoy the results!

### Wax Resist or Batik "Margučiai"

Using a pin or stylus melted wax is applied on the un-dyed egg, covering or creating the portion of the pattern which is to remain white. The next portion of the pattern is now ready to be waxed.

The egg is dipped in the dye of your choice, working lightest color to darkest color. The portion previously waxed remains white. You may now add additional patterns of wax to the egg.

The egg is dipped in the next color. The original waxing remains white, the next waxing remains that color. Additional patterns may be waxed onto the egg. The egg is again dyed in a color darker than the last. You may add as many colors and waxings as you choice. We recommend starting with yellow, then adding green and finally dyeing in red.





## *Knight Life*



Photo - Left: Members of K of L Council 6, Hartford, CT. Taken on February 14<sup>th</sup> at their February Meeting – Beach Party. Their Council President, Frank Kadis can be seen on the right wearing a “Mad Hugger” shirt.



Photo - Right: K of L C-143, Pittston, PA, Flag raising on February 16<sup>th</sup>. L to R: Janet Palladino, Genevieve Dajnowski, Jean Kapochus Mihalick, Mary Ann Cipolla, Helen Karpovich, Marie Lauck, Mary Aberelli and Paul Patrick.



Photo – Left: K of L C-26 members, Virginia Walent and Al Seilius enjoying themselves at their council Christmas Party.



## *Knight Life*

Photo - right: Several members of the new board of K of L Council 26, Worcester, MA. L to R: Seated: Ruth Gadilauskas, Standing: Barbara Thompson, Teresa Adomavicius, Rita Margosian, Vivian Rodgers, Ruth Sarafinas, Rev. Richard Jakubauskas; Back row: Alan Bulejck and Raymond Jakubauskas.



Photo - left: Members Paul and Jean Grabauskas of C-26, Worcester, MA admiring a holiday display at the LaSalette Shrine.



Photo - right: K of L C-26 President, Vivian Rodgers, proudly displays the Vytis logo given to our council. It was painted by our member, John Putis, who recently moved to California.



*Amžinai Atilsis*

*The Knights of Lithuania fondly remembers Honorary Member,  
Alexander Wesej, Council 109 (Great Neck, NY)*



Star and Al Wesej, HM.

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Honorary Member, Alexander Wesej, Council 109, Great Neck, NY. Al returned to our Heavenly Father on Tuesday, November 29, 2005. Al served as our Supreme Council President from 1965 to 1968 in addition to all that he did for his Council and District. Because of Al's dedication to and love of his Lithuanian Ancestry and the Knights of Lithuania the delegates of the

1974 National Convention in Detroit, MI, elevated Al to Honorary Membership. Al's passing follows shortly after that of his wife of 64 years, Star, on Thursday, October 13, 2005. Below is a beautiful tribute to Al and Star written by fellow Council 109 member, Nancy Kober Leddy. Nancy is not only a member of C-109 but is also the daughter of Mary, HM and the Late Tony Kober also of C-109.

**IN MEMORIAM  
AL and STAR WESEJ-VASILAUSKAS**

Al Wesej, former National President of the Knights of Lithuania, died November 29, 2005. Born to Lithuanian parents in Great Neck, New York on January 17, 1916, he lived in that town his entire life, attending both grammar and high school there, but straying a bit west to attend Columbia University in NYC. He was buried in All Saints Church Cemetery in Great Neck next to his life-long partner of 64 years, Star, also a long-time K. of L. member, who had preceded him in death only 7 weeks earlier on October 13, 2005.

Star, a Lithuanian-American young lady, came to Great Neck from Maine where she found, in addition to a welcoming Lithuanian community, her future life-partner. They married and lived only a few blocks from the house where Al was born. Impelled by a love of nature, encouraged by a gift for nurturing it and most likely prompted by the necessity of an income, Al and Star opened their gardening business on the same property as their home, naming it The Great Neck Garden Center. With the support of their surrounding Lithuanian and American community, a little insight and a talent for business, Al and Star worked tirelessly making this a most successful nursery/landscaping business on the North Shore of Long Island, New York. Committed to the Great Neck community, Al and Star decorated their Village with American flags on Flag, Memorial, Veterans and Independence Days. During the holiday season, Santa and his reindeer magically appeared in the village park, while a crèche graciously adorned the St. Aloysius Catholic Church lawn. In the 1950s, Al organized the Great Neck Businessmen's Association, founded the St. Francis Society (a men's club) and the Benevolent Society (a sons and daughters club).

Dedicated to his Lithuanian heritage, Al founded and was President of the Great Neck Knights of Lithuania C-109 some time in the 1930's. Under his lead, membership expanded into neighboring



communities on Long Island, and the friendships forged there extended up to now. Star meanwhile planted the seeds of her new life in Great Neck after her fruitful excursion from Maine, digging in deep, lending support and sustenance to her immediate environs, a good part of which included Council 109. The meetings were always held in Great Neck – usually near or at the Wesey's home, as were the K. of L. picnics and softball games (equipment and lots of food supplied by the Wesseys). K. of L. dances were held down the road at Kozmocius's Hall and so were the many rummage sales, communion breakfasts, and whatever-else-we-got-together-for events. While Star was the "home team" custodian, helping infuse C-109's core with a bond that transcended its membership, Al reach beyond. During Easter and Christmas, Al was the envoy who abducted the urban (Brooklyn and Maspeth) Lithuanian priests out to the country, driving them to every Lithuanian home to receive its holiday blessing. When the K. of L. District met beyond the borders of Long Island or New York, it was Al who ensured that C-109's vociferous delegation was represented and transported to and from home base. Most notably, he was proudly its National President, attempting in the best way a man of his generation could, to support, encourage and maintain a culture precariously balanced between assimilation and annihilation. As National President, he encouraged local members to participate on a national level, widen their perspectives and see how other members were keeping Lithuania alive. He ventured further into other states, presided over Board meetings, attended national conventions, and especially enjoyed meeting and exchanging ideas with Lithuanians all over the country. Knowing that participation in the K. of L. was his key to a Lithuanian lifeline, he was proud to be able to finally travel to Lithuania and meet the people who shared his heritage. Al, an Honorary Member, remained a stalwart champion of Lithuanian causes both here and in Lithuania, always extending a helping hand in a nurturing gesture. Al and Star's loyalty to and love of the ethnicity which had shaped their lives, remained constant and steady. Their experience and knowledge in caring for and reaping from the earth taught them about the potential of the land's deep promise. Just as recently as a few years ago, Al and Star donated a storage building, capable of storing the agricultural machinery and farm items, to Lithuania's Auksučiai Foundation, a 390 acre farm located in the County of Šiauliai, focused on helping small-scale Lithuanian farmers/forestland owners to become self-sufficient and competitive in a free market economy.

Once upon a time, the Wesey's home sat on a wedding-cake-like hill, surrounded forever by fluffy, flowering plants, bushes and trees. Grassy mazes and paths led up a hill where an old-fashioned squeaky, wooden tool-shed housed hand tools, shovels, buckets and hoses, standing in service to their earthy duty. The back-half of the property dipped down dusty roads past several garages sheltering trucks, machinery, dirt piles and compost, gravel and rocks. The nursery building sat at the front of the property by the street for over 50 years, with abundant greenery and hanging plants curling out onto the street. During the Christmas holidays, rows of snow-capped trees rested along a graceful white iron fence, the other side of which was dotted with wreaths decorated with big fat bows. Inside the home, you'd be met by the wafting scents of seasonal flowers – or a Christmas tree next to the crackling fire – and you'd find yourself captured by the welcome. Deeper inside, amidst old-friends laughing, you'd be lured kitchen-ward, enticed by the swirling and seductive aroma of things fresh-baked. Gliding past the dining room and down a few steps, you'd (sometimes) pass a bunch of new-born puppies, yipping and cuddling on soft blankets (if you really liked one, you were free to take it home) but at the end of your intoxicating little journey, you'd find Star unveiling a luscious treat from the oven – to be served up warm and chewy at the end of the K. of L. meeting which, of course, was being conducted by Al in the dining room! Once upon a time, that is how it really was.

A few months ago, each of their funeral processions made its way to the cemetery, passing their former home on that piece of land which, a long time ago, became saturated with care and generosity, love and laughter, good-will and kindness. The property has been recycled into a large community of new families and beautiful homes, and one of the streets preserves the family name. Next door, a temple of worship has been built, and every evening, a beautiful Star etched in stained glass twinkles over Al's "Wesey Court". Now upon this time, this is how it really is.

Al and Star, thank you and Su Diev.

Written by: Nancy Kober Leddy





*The Knights of Lithuania are Blessed with  
the following New Members this Year ..  
Welcome!*

*Marilyn B. Galek C-6  
Jurate Valiunas C-10  
Catherine Geisbush C-16  
Peter Raskaiskas C-17  
Veronica Yuscavite C-17*

*Eric Kaupinis C-19  
Marcia A. Perednia C-27  
Jeffrey Michael Padell C-27  
Mrs. Marcia Murphy C-29  
Bruce Sokolowski C-30*

*James M. Kwader C-46  
Michelle R. Kwarer C-46  
Roma Kraukalis C-63  
Edvardas Senkus C-63  
Victoria Wintersberger C-71*

*Ric Wintersberger C-71  
Lisa Phillips C-82  
Erin V. Petkus C-96  
Jean Christman C-100  
Joseph DeCesare C-103*

*Catherine DeCesare C-103  
Ann Birute Golbert C-103  
Eleanor Kazas Constantinous C-110  
Soturis Constantinous C-110  
Stephanie Constantinous C-110*


*Christine Constantinous C-110  
Tonny Constantinous C-110  
Richard Kazas C-110  
Ramute Kazas C-110  
Charlotte Adomaitis C-110*

*June Klosis Guida C-110  
Loretta E. Villanueva C-110  
P. Vilanueva C-110  
Pauline Wolyniec C-110  
Rev. James H. Smith C-135*

*Ann Patricia Damalakes C-144  
Anthony J. Righus, Jr. C-144  
James R. Hess C-144  
Peg C. Hess C-144  
Dorothy A. Setcavage C-144*

*James Setcavage C-144  
Antoinette Pancerella C-144  
Peter Teresavage, Jr. C-144  
Ann M. Finkle C-146  
Aldona Stasiukevicius C-147*

*Kristina Jusinas C-147  
Astra Marcinkeviciene C-152  
David Plesic C-153  
Loretta M. Plesic C-153  
Ona M. Mehler C-153*





## 93<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

### About the site of our Convention Opening and Closing Masses.



The beautiful "Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine" in Orlando, Florida will be the site of our convention's Opening and Closing Masses. We are very grateful to Fr. F. Joseph Harte, Director of the Shrine, for allowing us to use this true gem in the Tiara of the Catholic Faith for our services. At this time we especially wish to invite all our members of the clergy to join us for the convention,

especially its religious services. Of special note though, if you are able to be with us,

the Archdiocese of Orlando requires all members of the clergy, regardless of rank, to provide a letter of recommendation from your local bishop to Fr. Harte in order to be able to concelebrate the Masses at the Shrine. We also wish to remind everyone that the Closing Mass on Sunday will be held at 1:30p.m. If you will be leaving for home on Sunday please plan your flights accordingly. As we did at our last convention in Orlando we will attempt to arrange for one of the buses to go directly to the airport from the Shrine after our conclusion there, provided we have enough interest/need for this service. Finally, a big thank you to those dedicated members who have generously agreed to underwrite the stipend required for using the Shrine. Your generosity makes it possible for us to hold our opening and closing services in a location befitting their importance to us as a Catholic organization.



*The year was 1979; the setting, Central Florida - an emerging crossroads for visitors from all nations. Among those coming to the Orlando attractions each year were many Catholics. In seeking to provide for their spiritual needs, the Diocese of Orlando arranged for masses at an area hotel. As the number of visitors grew, additional hotel Masses were scheduled. And to direct this unique "tourist ministry," Bishop Thomas Grady named, in 1975, the pastor of Orlando's Holy Family Parish, Father F. Joseph Harte.*

*The new apostolate was soon thriving. But looking at projections that forecast as many as 30 million annual visitors to the Orlando area, Fr. Harte realized that makeshift hotel facilities would no longer be sufficient.*

*Far more compelling, Bishop Grady and he saw before them an extraordinary opportunity to reach greater numbers of men, women and children -- embracing them with the Good News of Jesus Christ. And, echoing the newly inaugurated Pope John Paul II's call to "open wide the doors to Christ," Fr. Harte envisioned a permanent facility ... a spiritual oasis where the faithful could share in the Holy Mass, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament and meditate amidst the prayerful serenity of God's preserve.*

*Fittingly, in 1979 -- the silver anniversary of the Papal encyclical establishing the Coronation of Mary as a memorial feast of the Church -- this, the last great shrine of the Second Millennium, was to be named under the patronage of Mary, Queen of the Universe.*

*On December 8, 1984, the feast of the Immaculate Conception -- ground was broken for the first phase of construction. Within two years, the initial facility was completed.*

The above information has been borrowed from the Shrine's extensive website for your reading pleasure. We encourage you to visit their site for more information at [www.maryqueenoftheuniverse.org](http://www.maryqueenoftheuniverse.org).





**Knights of Lithuania**  
**93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention**  
**August 3-6, 2006**  
**Host: Supreme Council**

Dear Members:

*This year we, the Knights of Lithuania, will be holding our 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in beautiful Lake Buena Vista, Florida from Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Our convention hotel will be the wonderful Grosvenor Resort in the Walt Disney World® Resort, site of our memorable 2001 National Convention. We look forward to welcoming everyone once again to this magical family friendly location.*

*As we have in the past we will be once again sponsoring a convention program book. This annual convention keepsake is a great place to greet your dear old friends, welcome new ones and celebrate another great year for the Knights of Lithuania. We ask that you consider placing a greeting/ad in this year's program. What a great way to say labas to all your friends as they come together for another K of L Convention.*

*This year we are happy to announce that we will once again be able to keep the prices for these treasured greetings and ads the same as they have been for the last few years.*

*Hoping to be able to include your greeting in this year's convention program book.*

Vytiškai,

The 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ \$120.00 Full Page  
 (8½" x 11")

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 Half Page  
 (8½" x 5 ½")

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 Quarter Page  
 (4¼" x 5 ½")

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Patron  
 (3 Lines Only)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Friend  
 (Name & Council # Only)

Please feel free to submit your ad on a separate piece of paper or use the space below for your copy and we'll set it up for you. (Camera-ready copy or computer files are always welcome.)

**DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 30, 2006**

Write your copy here:

Make checks payable to: **Knights of Lithuania**

Mail greetings/ads with payment to:  
**Rob Martin, Program Book Chair**  
**3420 South Lituanica Avenue**  
**Chicago, IL 60608-6720**  
**1.773.376.4779 (Phone/Fax)**  
**Amerlith1@aol.com (Email)**

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**Knights of Lithuania**  
**93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention**  
**August 3-6, 2006**  
**Host: Supreme Council**

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**

(PLEASE PRINT)

**Convention Site:**  
 Grosvenor Resort  
 1850 Hotel Plaza Boulevard  
 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830  
 Reservations: 1.800.624.4109  
 Rate Code: Knights of Lithuania  
 www.grosvenorresort.com

Room Rate: \$85.00 per night per room  
 (\$105.00 Approximate cost per room  
 per night including taxes & fees)  
 Rate valid for reservations made  
 through June 30<sup>th</sup>. After July 1<sup>st</sup>  
 rooms and rate subject to  
 availability. This rate is also  
 available three days before and  
 after the convention.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Council # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Early Registration – By June 30<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$200 per person Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Late Registration – After July 1<sup>st</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$230 per person Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Registration – By June 30<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100 per Junior Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Registration – After July 1<sup>st</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$115 per Junior Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Junior: \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Junior: \_\_\_\_\_ Council #: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please put information for additional Juniors on a separate sheet.)

**Convention Registration Includes (For Adults):** Bus service for events as needed, Thursday Evening Get-Together at “Disney’s Spirit of Aloha Dinner Show”, Friday and Saturday Morning Continental Breakfasts, Saturday evening banquet & Sunday Farewell Breakfast Buffet. (Special note: Please be advised that due to Church Mass Schedule our Convention Closing Mass on Sunday is scheduled for 1:30p.m.)

**Convention Registration Includes (For Juniors):** Includes all mentioned in Adult Registration and Junior Outing on Friday to Magic Kingdom Park from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m..

**Pre-Convention Activity: The Holy Land Experience**

Wednesday, August 2, 2006: Cost - \$45.00 per person / \$30.00 per Junior

Cost includes transportation to The Holy Land Experience, Entrance and Tour. Lunch is on your own while we are there. Please refer to the information on this unique activity on page 15 of this issue of Vytis.

Number of adult participants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00 Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Junior participants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed (Registrations and Pre-Convention Activities) Amount \_\_\_\_\_**

Make checks payable to:  
**Knights of Lithuania**

Mail checks and completed registration forms to:

**Becky Pataki, Registration Chair**

**142 Forest St**

**Kearny, NJ 07032**

Phone: 1.201.955.1122 / Email: Bxtrp97@yahoo.com



## 93<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

### A little bit about our Get-Together Evening



Photo borrowed with our gratitude from the Walt Disney World website.

Thursday evening will see us traveling to the tropical Walt Disney World Polynesian Resort to partake in their Spirit of Aloha Dinner Show. After a short ride over from our hotel guests will feast on an all-you-can-eat banquet featuring some of the best food inspired by the tropics. From appetizers to dessert a plentiful variety awaits us. While beer, wine and soft drinks are included a cash bar will be available should the mystery of the islands over take you and you want to try something a little more exotic to drink this evening.

The open-air dinner theater provides the perfect backdrop to what promises to be a wonderful evening for all who attend. Good food, good drink and good friends, what more could you ask for. Well we'll tell you. As dinner winds down, the stage lights go up on a spectacular review of South Seas island culture including fire twirlers and dancers. Don't be surprised if you get asked to join in the fun and show off your hula ability. A great evening awaits us; we hope to see you there.



Photo borrowed with our gratitude from the Walt Disney World website.

### Our Junior's Outing on Friday – Magic Kingdom® here they come!



there they will have the opportunity to ride the rides, play games and enjoy all that the park has to offer before returning to the hotel mid-afternoon to rejoin their families. We'll make sure that they get their hand stamped in case you decide to head back over with them for the rest of the day. The outing promises to be fun for all who attend. We're sure your junior won't want to miss it.

Our junior members will be busy during this convention. Not only will they attend their convention session but they will venture out to Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom Theme Park on Friday for some fun and excitement. The juniors will leave the hotel under the watchful eye of our National 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Andrea Deksnis, and her able-bodied assistants early in the morning and head over to the park. While







## Lithuanian Recipes



Spring is here! And so are some great recipes compliments of the Sisters of St. Casimir's "Jubilee Gems". Enjoy!

### **Cold Beet Soup (Šaltibarščiai)**

From Mrs. Felice Gilmore

#### Ingredients

2 beef bouillon cubes  
1 c. boiling water  
1 qt. buttermilk  
½ pt. sour cream  
1 lb. jar pickled beets  
2 hard-boiled eggs  
1 cucumber (pared)  
4 scallions (onion & tops)  
4 radishes (sliced) (optional)  
½ c. dill pickle juice (optional)  
Salt to taste

#### Directions

Dissolve beef bouillon cubes in boiling water and set aside to cool. When cooled, add buttermilk, sour cream, and juices of pickled beets and dill pickles. Cut up beets in julienne fashion, slice the eggs, cucumber, scallions and radishes and add to liquid mixture. Add salt, if necessary. Chill well before serving. (This is delicious served with hot, boiled potatoes.)

### **Potato Mushroom Roll (Bulviu Vyniotinis Su Grybais)**

From Mrs. Petras Dauzvardis

#### Ingredients

20 medium potatoes  
Milk  
¼ lb. dried mushrooms  
2-3 onions  
2 T. sour cream  
Salt and Pepper  
½ c. potato flour  
Flour

#### Directions

Boil potatoes in jackets until done. Cool, peel and mash. Stir in potato flour, salt to taste, and add enough milk to make dough stiff enough for kneading. Knead until dough does not stick to hands. While potatoes are boiling, wash mushrooms thoroughly and bail in water. Remove from water, cut in thin strips. Peel and cut onion in small pieces, boil until soft in the same water in which mushrooms were boiled. Strain, combine onions, mushrooms, sour cream, about a tablespoon of liquid in which mushrooms were boiled. Fold into dough. Bake in loaf pan at 300° until golden brown.

### **Fried Lithuanian Cheese Slices (Keptas Suris)**

From Mrs. Ona Stasaitis

#### Ingredients

1 egg  
Salt  
3-4 T. milk  
3-4 T. Flour  
Cheese (sliced in ¼ in. pieces)  
Bread crumbs

#### Directions

Beat egg. Add salt, milk and flour. Dip each slice of cheese in batter, then in bread crumbs. Fry in hot fat or butter. Serve with sour cream or sprinkled with sugar.



## TEST YOUR LITHUANIAN KNOWLEDGE CONTEST

### The answers to last issue's questions.

1. Who wrote the Lithuanian National Anthem?  
**A: Dr. Vincas Kudirka**
2. What colors make up the national flag of Lithuania and how are they arranged?  
**A: Three equal strips: Yellow on the top, Green in the middle and Red on the bottom.**
3. Who was the first president of Independent Lithuania?  
**A: President Antanas Smetona**
4. Who was the first seated President of the United States to visit Lithuania?  
**A: President George W. Bush.**
5. What are the names of the regions of Lithuania?  
**A: Aukštaitija, Žemaitija, Suvalkija and Dzūkija**

So, how did you do? Here's the score for those who sent their answers in.

Out of a possible 10 points:

Richard Lukminas (C-7 )	10 Points
Leona Sawka (C-6)	8 Points
Marie Laske (C-74)	7 Points

### This issues questions. (12 Points Possible)

1. What site in Lithuania was destroyed several times by her former communist oppressors because of its outward display of the people's faith in God yet it has always managed to be rebuilt?
2. What is considered by many to be the holiest city/town in all of Lithuania? What year's events caused it to become so? Why?
3. What city currently serves as the capital of Lithuania? Has any other city ever served as the nation's capital? If so, which city?
4. What was the name of the two airmen who first set out to fly to Lithuania from the United States? Which city did they start their journey in? What was the outcome of their trip?
5. After the re-establishment of Lithuania's Independence in what year was her first Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival held?

There you have them! Play along and good luck. Remember, if you want to enter the contest you need to send your answers in by May 15<sup>th</sup> to Vytis – The Knight, Lithuanian Knowledge Contest, 2601 West Marquette Road, Chicago, IL 60629. Please be sure to include your name and council number.

### Special Announcement – Lithuanian Language Courses this Summer

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Lithuanian language courses at Camp Dainava, Manchester, MI will take place August 6-13, 2006. These one-week intensive courses, operation under the auspices of the Lithuanian Educational Council of the USA, are designed for beginners, intermediate, advanced students or those wishing to refresh their Lithuanian. The courses are taught by experienced instructors in vacation-like surroundings and atmosphere. There are no limitations regarding age or formal education. For more information please contact Vytautas Jonaitis, 1332 Sprucewood Drive N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504, phone 1.616.453.7549, email: vjonaitis@juno.com. Information is also available by searching the web for Dainava language courses.



## Knight Life



eft: K of L C-6 Beach Party Gals.  
L-R: Marilyn Galer, Kristine  
Serkjnsa, Florence Morkus and  
Dala Bansavich

Right: K of L C-10 Kitchen Co-  
ordinators: Armand & Pamela  
Bouthilier



Left: K of L C-10 Christmas  
Gathering. Master of  
Ceremonies, Bill Wisniauskas  
reading the Christmas Gospel of  
Luke, in Lithuanian, as our Pastor,  
Rev. Stephen Johnson, listens.



## TEST YOUR KNIGHT EDGE CONTEST

# *Knight Life*

Right: K of L C-10 Christmas Gathering L-R: Brone Wisniauskas, Brone Qualters and Pamela Bouthileir



Left: K of L C-82 Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration Luncheon. L-R: Justin Jagiella, C-82 President; Robert Martin, Jr., MAMD President; Birute Vilutis, Lith.-Amer. Comm. Of East Chicago, IN President; Mildred Jagiella, SC Lith. Affairs Chair; Msgr. Ignas Urbonas, HM, C-82 & C-157 Spiritual Advisor; Evelyn Ozelis, C-36 President and Event Guest Speaker; and Sr. Janine Golubickas, SSC, Past Vytis Editor.

Right: K of L C-102 New Years Anniversary Celebration. Bishop Quinn of the Detroit Diocese talks with Regina Juska-Svoba, ATL President, during the celebration. Rev. Babonas of St. Anthony's Parish, Detroit, MI, looks on.





## Knight Life



Left: K of L C-96 Christmas Dinner.  
L-R: Robert Pant, George & Frances  
Mikalauskas and Joan Kavalauskas

Right: K of L C-96 members Janina  
Bucmys with her Christmas  
poinsettia and Frances  
Mikalauskas.



Left: K of L C-96 during their Holiday  
Christmas Caroling. Lower Group L-  
R: Eloise Berczelly, Frances  
Mikalauskas, Norma, Michael & Erin  
Petkus, Mary Agnes & Elena  
Mikalauskas. Upper Group L-R:  
Andrew Berczelly, George  
Mikalauskas, Michael Pant, Molly  
Haas, Robert Petkus, Connie Geiger,  
Tommy Petkus, Kristina  
Dambrauskas, Jim & Eric Geiger and  
Anne Louise Tucker.



## Remembering Days Gone By

Below are remembrances and thoughts that some of our members have shared with us. We're sure many of us have similar memories that these recollections will recall. Feel free to write them down and send to us. We'll be happy to consider them for future issues of Vytis.

### Memorials of Days Gone By

by Vincukas

I must have been about 10 or 12 when my father, as a member of the Sons of Lithuania, according to their constitution had to attend a member's wake. He took me along. It was held in the home as at that time parlors were not in service. An elderly woman, as we had no priest in our parish at that time, led in the recitation of the rosary, followed by a hymn of lamentation. We all sat quietly and spoke in low voices. It was very somber, not like the wakes today. Before midnight, a spread of food and drinks was prepared for us, as a second group of four members arrived to stay until 6:00 AM. This is no longer practiced with the advent of parlors, but still fashionable in rural Lithuania.

### Lithuanian Independence and Anthem

as told by Dalia Dzikas, Hartford, CT  
reported by Florence Morkus

February 16, 1918, Lithuanian Independence Day, as reported on the Lithuanian Radio Hour, by Al Dzikas, a KofL'er, that in Vilnius for the 88th anniversary celebration, the officials raised the national flags of all three Baltic States at Daukantas Square in Vilnius and a Holy Mass was held at the Cathedral. The celebration ended with a solemn commemoration at the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theater and a concert at Cathedral Square, where Vilnius Mayor, Arturas Zuokas, spoke.

The Lithuanian National Anthem was composed by Dr. Vincas Kudirka. He actually wrote it as a poem, "Tautiska Giesme" (National Hymn). It was first published in 1898 in the newspaper, "Varpas" edited by Kudirka. He did not intend that his poem become the Lithuanian Anthem. He did not live to see the Declaration of Independence and never knew that his "National Hymn" had become the foremost and greatest expression of love for one's land - the National Anthem.





## District & Council News

### New England District

#### New England District News

##### Carol Treckiokas

On December 18, 2005, Council 1 of Brockton under the leadership of Veronica Bizinkauskas sponsored their annual Kucios at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent. About 88 members from six councils attended, including Past Spiritual Advisors Fr. Shakalis and Msgr. Contons, New England District Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Zukas, and NED President Vivian Rodgers. All enjoyed a delicious meatless meal and good fellowship. Sr. Angela explained the various customs. The traditional table was set with straw and a cross laying on it. We began by sharing plotkeles with one another and invoking God's blessings and then sharing an apple. Then we proceeded to eat bisque, poppy seed milk (aguonu pienas) with slizikai, herring, baked fish, sautéed mushrooms, and potatoes. We had yummy cranberry pudding for dessert.

The latest news is that St. George's Church, rectory, and convent in Norwood, MA, have been sold and will be developed into eleven condominiums, much to our chagrin.

We are praying for the recovery of Al Rodgers, Vivian's husband.

#### C-6, Hartford, CT

##### Florence Morkus

"Happy New Year, 2006!" Hartford, CT, in January, is very cold and we were blessed with mild temperatures for our first meeting.

Spiritual Advisor, Rev. John Rikteraitis, opened the meeting with a prayer and then wished the new officers a successful

year working together for the good of the KofL and also thanked the retiring officers for a job well done.

The officers took the oath of office from Fr. Rikteraitis and the following were installed: Pres, Frank Kadis; 1st VP, Medalyne Ratcher; 2nd VP, Kay Urban; Rec Sec, Shirley Musumeci; Treas, Catherine Salka; Fin Sec, Jonas Kasputis; Ritual, June Grenier; Trustees, George Petkaitis and Joseph Liudzius; Lithuanian Affairs, Bette Ann Liudzius; Cultural, Dalia Dzikas; Social, Lillian Joseph; Sgt-at-arms, Brian Daigle; Telephone, Wanda Kruk; Hospitality, Leona Sawka and Kristina Serksnas; Sick & cheer, Melvina Klebauskas; Vytis corresp, Flo Morkus; Choir & Language, Jurgis Petkaitis.

Our faithful member, Richard Bansoverh, Sr., passed away Jan 2. Our sympathy goes to the family and his sister, Madelyn Ratcher, also a KofL'er. President Frank Kadis presided at the Ritual and many members attended the wake.

We welcomed a new member, Marilyn Galek, and hope to see her many times.

The Holy Trinity church organist and our KofL'er Jurgis Petkaitis received a warm reception for his 80th birthday, Jan 8 in the church hall. There was Fr. Albin Gurklis, Fr. Charles Jacobs, the parish organizations, family and friends who all sang "Ilgiausiu Metu". A special 80th Birthday Juosta was draped around Jurgis. We enjoyed good food, especially the Ragelis that was cut up by George's wife, Irene, also a KofL'er.

Cultural chair, Dalia Dzikas, as always, prepared an interesting

presentation on the "Eglute" Christmas Tree, decorated with glass ornaments, cookies, and candy. They lighted real candles on the tree but only on Christmas Eve, as they were dangerous. The tradition came from Germany to the countryside.

Jan 13, 2006 is 15 years since the Soviets stormed the TV tower in Vilnius in 1991 and 14 youths died, defending their homeland's freedom. They are all buried side by side. When Pope John Paul visited Lithuania in 1993, he visited the graves and placed a spray of flowers. We shall always remember that fateful day in 1991 and the brave heroes.

Lithuanian Affairs, Bette Ann Liudzius, reported on the new progress in Lithuania. They now have the new Ramada Inn and a super modern Mall - AKROPOLIS - in Vilnius.

We all enjoyed a warm Beach Party for the Feb meeting, although it was frigid cold outside with almost 2 feet of new snow. There were straw hats and beach umbrellas and lots of good food prepared by Leona Sawka, Judy Landers, Irene Cerlinka, Francie Ambrose, and Angela Balskus.

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Rikteraitis opened the meeting with a prayer and wished everyone a happy, warm evening. A letter from Fr. Jacobs thanked everyone for their generosity in donating food and other articles to help the needy in surrounding community shelters. Father also installed a new member Dala Bansavich and we welcomed her.

Dalia Dzikas spoke on Lithuanian Independence Day in



Lithuania and of the Lithuanian Anthem.

Get well wishes go out to Alyce Gegesky, Regina Pilvelis, and Leo Tajmajer.

Our deepest sympathy to William Krammos family and his brother, Joseph Krancunas, both KofL'ers.

The first KofL Bingo in Jan turned out to be a successful fund-raiser. There were many lucky winners.

Linksmas Sv Velykas Visiems!

### **C-10, Athol-Gardner**

#### **Vincukas**

The following slate of officers were elected: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis; Pres, Henry Gailunas; VP, William Wisniauskas; Rec Sec, Pamela Bouthelier; Treas, Nellie Melaika; Fin Sec, Marie Colo; Marshal, Richard Gataitis; Ritual, Maryann Langlois; Cultural, Brone Wisniauskas.

Helen Simkunas passed on to her eternal reward on Nov 27, several days before her 90th birthday. Born in Butiskis, Lithuania, she attended all our functions until her health failed. She was a good cook and had a green thumb. The Ritual was well-attended and a KofL honor guard honored her at the funeral and a juosta was placed on her coffin by Brone and Gladys Richardson. Sudiev, Elenute.

Two weeks later, our Vince Kulisanski died at age 57, in Athol. He attended Elenute's Ritual and who would have thought the Lord would call him home so soon. His funeral Mass and Ritual was well-attended. Vince was a call fireman for 35 years and a large delegation of firemen attended the funeral

along with a fire engine and blew the alarm in his honor at the cemetery. He was very active at St. Francis parish. Rest in Peace, Vince.

Two days later, we lost Robert Palulis, 74, of Orange. His funeral Mass was held at St. Mary's, Orange.

Our annual Kucios was held at St. Francis on Dec 18, with about 70 in attendance. Deacon Jim Couture read the Christmas Gospel of Luke and Bill Wisniauskas, in Lithuanian. Pastor Stephen Johnson read the meaning of Kucios and blessed the plotkeles and distributed them to all. The lights were dimmed and co-chr Sophia Fiorentino lit the Advent candles in memory of our deceased members - and they are many. An excellent meatless meal which included excellent fish chowder prepared by Ed Lepkowski, baked haddock, kugelis, herring, various casseroles, cheese virtini's, kapusta, and calorie-loaded Christmas pastries and tea. Wine was served by Richard Gatautis. Following dinner, games of chance were in charge of Brone Wisniauskas. A Lithuanian-style Christmas tree adorned the hall and the tables were decorated with candles and evergreens. The pastry table was also beautifully decorated. Armand and Pamela were excellent kitchen co-ordinators; co chairmen Sophia Fiorentino and Brone Wisniauskas, MC Bill Wisniauskas,,,,, thank you, parents, for passing down to us this rich Lithuanian tradition to all of us who hold it dearly. The local press carried a lengthy article on our Kucios.

Get well wishes are extended to shut-ins and home-bound members - Frances Burba, Ann

Ambrose, Ann Gatautis, and Martha Aleson.

On the move were Roberta Landry, Nellie Melaika, and Lillian Genaitis Erickson.

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

#### **Ruta**

President, Vivian Rodgers, thanked everyone who brought food for the Pernet Group which helps people in need. Every year our council collects canned goods, etc. to help these families have a Happy Thanksgiving.

In November, Fr. Jakubauskas installed our new slate of officers: Pres, Vivian Rodgers; VP, Ann Leseman; Treas, Ruth Gadilauskas; Fin Sec Marion Racicot; Rec Secs, Barbara Thompson and Alan Bulejcik; Trustee, Bill Leseman; Vytis corresp, Ruth Sarafinas; Lithuanian Affairs, Raymond Jakubauskas; Sgt-at-arms, Teresa Adomavicius; Sunshine, Rita Margosian; Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Richard Jakubauskas. We look forward to another great year of fellowship and helping others in need. We were delighted to have Ann Jandron at our meeting. She is one of our newer members. Her husband is Paul.

At the Fall NED Convention, some of our council members were re-elected to the following positions: Pres, Vivian Rodgers; Treas, Marion Racicot; Ritual, Ann Leseman. Congratulations are extended to them!

We were able to send a very nice amount of money to the Lithuanian Orphans in Lithuania. This money was earned from our Penny Sale and some extra money that was generously donated by our members. Every year we hold a money-raising activity to help these orphans.



Our Christmas Party was held at Maironis Park. Everyone was in a festive mood. Vivian Rodgers and her committee did a fantastic job to ensure a good time was had by all. There were hors d'oeuvres, a delicious buffet, a visit from Santa and his helpers distributing gifts to all the attendees and the singing of Christmas carols in English and Lithuanian. It would not be a Christmas Party until Al Seilius directed the "Twelve Days of Christmas" with 12 "top singers" from our group. It was a fun afternoon and all were put in a Holiday mood.

A large contingent of our council members joined a tour from another church and we visited a mansion in Newport, Rhode Island, had lunch at a seaside restaurant and then on to the LaSalette Shrine to attend a Mass and enjoy the spectacular exhibit of Christmas lights. If you ever have an opportunity, one should try to go to LaSalette at this time of the year. It is very rewarding and helps one to focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

This has been a bad winter for many of our members - Al Rodgers, Francis "Dugan" Degutis, Irene Markevicius, Ann Morkunas, Elaine Salkaus and her father, Joe, Albina Kondrotas, Aldona Waska - get well wishes to all.

With sadness, we report that Eva Grudzinskas passed away. She was a longtime member of C-26 and was with us for many years. She held a Fourth Degree. Her son, Albert, is also a member of our council. We extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to the family.

Ann Leseman is a member of a Schola Choir Group. They sing

Gregorian chants which is very difficult. The music is very beautiful. They tour and sing at various Masses, Vespers, and give concerts. In fact, Bishop Reuger was at St. Casimir's recently, and they sang at this Mass. After the Mass, our council hosted a reception honoring the Bishop, in the parish hall. Al Seilius is also using his singing talent to bring joy to the members at the Worcester Senior Center. He, along with his pianist, Carl Lind, entertain the members twice a week with music from the 40's. Al also acts as an MC with some stories and jokes.

At our Feb meeting, we celebrated Valentine's Day with a potluck supper. As usual, our members outdid themselves with delicious creations, including a wonderful kugeli. Valentine Sweethearts for the evening were selected by random drawings. The winners were: Chuck Sarafinas and Elaine Salkaus. A gift was given to each.

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

In May we were honored to have violinist Edyte Orlinyte and her string quartet from the Fairfield County Symphony Society perform Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" in loving memory of Pope Paul II at a benefit concert for St. George's Church. The concert was performed in the church and was well-attended. We are very fortunate to have Edyte play at our monthly Mass whenever her schedule permits.

We had our annual picnic in August at the lovely home and grounds of Bill and Marie Brilvitch. The weather was perfect and members contributed a large variety of food. John Balcius provided music from his wonderful

collection of Lithuanian records. A fund-raising raffle of gifts donated by the members was conducted by Peter Balcius, our perennial MC. We were happy that our priests and sisters were able to attend. Rev. Jose Rebaque, our former parish administrator, paid us a surprise visit. He is now located in the near-by town of Shelton.

We resume our meetings in September. Discussions were held on how best to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. George's. Our pastor, Rev. LoPresti, is anxious to gather as much past history and artifacts as possible. He is seeking pictures, stories, and records of past events. A committee is being formed to assist him. It is planned to be a year long multi-cultural event.

In Oct, the nominating committee presented the slate of officers for the coming year. We were fortunate that so many of the present board agreed to serve for another year. Pres, Barbara Schmidt; VP, Marie Brilvitch; 3rd VP, Peter Balcius; Treas, Patricia Silk; Sec, Helen Simanis; Fin Sec, William Balcius; Trustees, Linas Stasaitis, Claire Carroll; Sgt-at-arms, Mary Spellman, Peter Balcius; Ritual, Nancy Pawasauskas.

Our Kucios celebration was well-attended by members, their families, and friends. Cloth tablecloths, holly and candles, the customary straw and apples decorated the tables. After the breaking of plotkeles, we sat down to fruit cup and Barbara Schmidt's home-made beet soup. We then proceeded to the buffet table where Nancy Pawasauskas had prepared fish filets and members brought in the customary dishes for



Christmas Eve. Coffee, tea, and dessert followed.

Our year ended on a great high when our secretary, Helen Simanis, was honored by St. George's Church and the Diocese of Bridgeport for her "devotion and service to her parish and church". At Mass at St. Augustine's Cathedral, Bishop William Lori presented Helen with the St. Augustine Medal of Service honoring extraordinary service to church and parish. There were honorees present from every church in the Diocese. Helen has been a very important part of our church. Helen received a second honor when she was inducted into the Third Order of the Word Incarnate. It is the religious order of Sisters from Argentina that serve our parish. Helen has helped the Sisters in numerous ways since their arrival from Argentina.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to our members who are ill, have undergone serious surgeries, and to those who have had to move to nursing homes or assisted living residences. This year we also mourn the loss of one of our former council presidents, George Radzwillas, and Rev. Albert Zanevich. Fr. Zanevich served at St. George's in the 40's and 50's. Several members attended his funeral services.

### **Mid Atlantic District**

#### **C-29 Newark, NJ Rita Sussko HM**

Greetings and a HAPPY, HEALTHY 2006 to all our fellow Knights.

The first Sunday of September was our first meeting of the season. Vytautas Miknevicus

and Rita Sussko HM, Nominating committee, presented the slate of officers to be voted upon at the October meeting.

Ed Rimelis, Council 29's Lithuanian Cowboy, sponsored a Western Jamboree for the benefit of Holy Trinity/Epiphany Church. Along with his committee of KofL'ers they held a very successful affair and plan to repeat it in the Spring.

Honorary members Loretta Stukas and Rita Sussko attended the 92nd National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Council-19 convention committee could not have been more hospitable. The convention was one of the best and, of course, we went home feeling happy for having experienced renewal of friendships from past conventions. Hope to meet again in Florida.

At our October meeting we welcomed back the former Executive Board with the exception of two changes. Our former President, Harold Kaminskas, resigned for personal reasons; therefore, Marie Guoba who was formerly Vice-President is now President and our newly elected Vice-President, Edward Rimelis; Recording Secretary Susan Reardon; Financial Secretary, Rita Sussko HM; and Treasurer Emilia Sadonis. Committee Chairpersons are appointed by the President and our Spiritual Advisor is Monsignor George Lutz. Congratulations to the 2006 Board.

We previously were going to cancel our Annual Dinner and Dance, but because of popular demand a date of November 6th was set. Through the hard work

of the committee chaired by Rita Sussko HM, a successful affair was held: Ada and Domas Andruska, Marie Guoba, Vytautas Miknevicus, Marcia Murphy, Ann and Frank Pokol, Helen Radisch, Ed Rimelis, Helen and John Sisak. Marie Guoba and Helen Sisak prepared the cocktail hour. Many beautiful raffle gifts were donated, including Lithuanian artifacts by our late member, Vaclovas Kiukys; ceramics by Marcia Murphy and an original oil painting by Domas Andruska. Stasys Telsinskas provided the music for dancing. From all the good wishes, we know a good time was had by all.

Sadly, in November, we lost another of our most beloved members, Virginia Kaminskas. She served on most every committee and was always a generous contributor. She will be greatly and sadly missed. Dear "Jean", Amzina Atsilis.

In lieu of a Christmas Party in December we held a "Holiday Social" on January 1st. This was hosted by Marie Guoba and again it must be said she did a great job, with plenty to eat and drink and also a friendly get-together for us to begin the year!

GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS TO ALL IN 2006.

#### **C-147 St. Petersburg Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan**

On October 4, 2005, C-147 held a meeting at the Lithuanian Club Hall in St. Petersburg, Florida. President John Jonaitis gave an excellent summation of his visit to the 92nd Annual Convention in Pittsburgh in August. He included a discussion of the different meetings of the councils and also the sight-seeing tours.

This meeting called for the election of new officers for the



year 2006. After many years of faithful service, longtime president, John Jonaitis has decided to retire due to family commitments. After a discussion and voting, the Officers Roster for C-147 for the year 2006 are: Rev. Matas Cyvas, Spiritual Advisor; Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan, President; Anthony Gudonis, 1st VP; Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan, Rec Sec; Birute Cierniak, Treas; Violet Kraujalis, Fin Sec; Elena Jurkynas and Valeria Lescinskas, Trustees; Committee Chairpersons will be Dolores Jonaitis, Ritual; Alfas Shukis, Lithuanian Affairs; Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan, Public Relations and Vytis correspondent. Ritual committee consists of Irena Diktanas, Dolores Jonaitis, Petraitis Antanina, and Valeria Lescinskas.

Council 147 is looking forward to the 93rd Annual Convention which will be held in our great State of Florida in the Disney World Orlando area in August, 2006!

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Spiritual Advisor Rev. Matas Cyvas, and refreshments provided by members were enjoyed by all.

### **C-152 Long Island**

#### **Toni Sakal**

Our fall season has been full and joyful. We hosted the MidAtlantic District meeting in October. We are especially proud of our Juniors who helped in serving the luncheon. Thank you to Florence Ostrosky for her work on the meeting.

The Chinese Auction in November was enjoyed by all. Agnes Marma and Charlene Zorskis did the auctioning, to everyone's delight.

Our annual Christmas Party at the Polish Hall was a success. Juniors Victoria, Heather, Mark, Anthony, Zachary, Jonas, and Justas were on hand to help sell over \$400.00 worth of chances.

We ask for prayers for many of our sick members.

March will bring the annual St. Casimir's Celebration with Mass and food, of course. Blessings to all.

### **Amber District**

#### **C-3 Philadelphia**

##### **Victor Stepalovitch**

Jan 8th, 20 members of C-3 attended a concert at St. Andrew's Lithuanian Church, followed by a lunch at the "Spaghetti House".

Feb 25th we attended a banquet at St. George's Hall. This event, each year, ushers in the beginning of Lent.

The following day, we attended Lithuanian Independence Day. The day started with 10:30 AM Mass at St. Andrew's Church, followed by activities at the Lithuanian Music Hall at 2:00 PM. Victor Stepalovitch carried the Council Flag at the procession.

March 6th, our council celebrated St. Casimir's Day, starting with Mass at 11:00 AM with a brunch afterwards, then our monthly meeting at St. George's Hall. Following members received 1st Degrees: Julia Janeczek, Ann Koenig, and Albina Fox. 2nd degrees were awarded to Tony and Mary Pacesa and Ruth Wallaski.

March 12th, many of us travelled to Easton, PA to St. Michael's Church for the Amber District

meeting, beginning with Mass at 10:30 AM, lunch at 12 noon, followed by the meeting. This was also Amber District's St. Casimir's Day celebration. At this meeting, third degree was awarded to our own Ann Petraitis.

Agnes and John Mickunas and Victor Stepalovitch vacationed in Florida during the month of March. Hope you had a wonderful time.

For the April meeting social, our members attended a dinner-show, "Annie Get Your Gun" at the Lithuanian Music Hall. All had an enjoyable evening.

All of our members hope that all councils had a happy, enjoyable "Happy Easter".

### **C-46 Forest City**

#### **Betty Kwader**

In Sept, 2005, instead of a picnic, we attended Mass in a body and then had breakfast together at the Candle Light Inn. There were 24 people including members and guests. Thanks to John Morris for reservations.

Josephine O'Peka has offered to be our Lithuanian Affairs Representative and has been reading "The Jungle", a book about immigrants who settled in Chicago and worked in the stockyards. Josephine will give us a report at a later date.

The Oct Amber District meeting in Binghamton was attended by John and Amelia Morris and Frank and Betty Kwader. Frank was elected Trustee for three years.

Word was received that we have a 10 year old boy named "Gint" as our sponsor child. A Christmas box was sent by our council. Thanks to Josephine O'Peka for collecting, packing,



and sending the package. A very generous donation was received from the SNPJ Lodge #124 in Forest City to help with gifts for our boy. A \$25 cash birthday gift was sent to Gint. Betty Kwader's Women's Club sent their annual gifts to a school in Prienai. Frank and Betty also sent boxes of gifts to their sponsor child family in Birstonas. Our Dec 4, 2005, Christmas dinner at the Crystal Pines was attended by 22 people. It was a great affair and enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to John Morris for the arrangements for the delicious roast pork dinner.

Our first meeting of the new year was on Feb 5. We had lost two members and were able to welcome two new members - Michelle and James Kwader. Plans were made to attend Mass and breakfast in a body on March 5 to celebrate St. Casimir's Day. We will offer the Eucharist bread and Wine at St. Joseph's 8:30 AM Mass and then have breakfast at the Whistle Stop.

Three Forest City members - John and Amelia Morris and Betty Kwader - attended the Independence Day flag raising on Feb 25 at City Hall in Scranton, hosted by Marie and Richard Laske of C-74. Msgr. Madus blessed the flag and Mayor Dougherty read a proclamation for the occasion. Marie and Richard have been hosting this most important event for many years. Refreshments were served and a short program was held.

Congratulations are in order for James McCusker of C-46. Jim has been elected President of the Pennsylvania State Firemen's Association. We are very proud of our fellow member and akk that he does!

#### **C-74 Scranton Marie Laske**

We went to Forest City - Marie and Dick Laske, Jean Kavalines, Jim and Romain O'Neil - and had a very pleasant Sunday meeting. We considered joining councils but we decided the distance was too far, especially in the winter.

Lately, our council had meetings at local restaurants. They have gone well. We are trying to enlarge our group.

We had our flag raising this year at the Scranton City Hall. It was held later because Marie and Dick had to go to Florida to attend the funeral of Marie's brother, Michael Sarnowski. Msgr. Peter Madus blessed the flag. Mayor Dougherty read the proclamation. The Knights who attended were Jim O'Neil who spoke on the history of Lithuania; Jean Kavalines spoke about the Patron Saint, Saint Casimir; Helen Cravath, Mr and Mrs Vito Shimkus, Betty Kwader, and Mr and Mrs John Morris from Forest City. We had many city officials. We ended the flag raising by singing the Lithuanian anthem, then refreshments were served.

#### **C-143 Pittston Jean Kapochus Mihalick**

C-143 completed their reorganization year with their Kucios celebration. It was a very moving affair and was limited to members, clergy, and guest escorts for those who needed assistance. It was held at St. Casimir's Church Hall in Pittston. Monsignor John Bendik gave the invocation; Fr. Peter Alisaukas blessed the plotkeles. Casimir Kizis gave the toast. Our chief decorator, Yvonne Branass - with the help of other members - decorated the hall elegantly and Yvonne outdid herself, once

again, with the beautiful programs. The members all participated in this covered dish celebration. They broke bread together - shared the plotkeles with each other and delicious Kucios food. They sang songs and had a drink of Steve Soha's home-made Vyritos. Martha Warnagiris and Mary Pam Smith led the group in the singing of carols and distributed gifts to all present. Peggy Yanklunas did a reading on Christmas Eve in Lithuania. Each member and each guest put an ornament on the Memory Tree. This was followed by the singing of "Silent Night" by Mary Pamela Smith. Benediction by Rev. Hugh McGroarty followed. All in all, it was a beautiful Kucios - one that will be remembered for a long time.

The New Year began with the installation of officers: Pres, Jean Kapochus Mihalick; VP, Helen Karpovich; Rec Sec Mary Pam Smith; Fin Sec, Martha Warnagiris; Treas, Mary Ann Cipolla; Lithuanian Affairs, Peggy Yanklunas; Lithuanian Culture, Martha Warnagiris; Vytis corresp, Yvonne Branass; Historian, Ursula Danoski; Ritual, Jean Mihalick; PR, Clem Jasonis; Trustees, Marie Lauck, Anna Walatkas and Patricia Weiksner; Sgt-at-arms, Casimir Kizis, Jr; Sunshine, Pam Smith; Contacts, Eleanor Bellanco, Pam Smith, Marie Lauck, and Mary Ann Cipolla.

The annual Lithuanian Independence Day/Flag-raising took place at Pittston City Hall on Feb 16, 2006. In conjunction with Pittston City, twenty Lithuanian flags flew from poles throughout the city during that week. It made the Lithuanians so very proud of those flags flying. Members of C-143 attended the flag-raising ceremony which was held in



front of City Hall. Mayor Joseph Keating was kind enough to direct traffic so that we could have a special ceremony. The assembly began by singing the Lithuanian national anthem. One of our strongest supporters, Monsignor John Bendik of the St. Casimir's/St. John's/ St. Joseph's Church Community gave the invocation. Proclamations were from Mayor Joseph Keating of Pittston, Gov. Ed Rendell, Congressman Paul Konjorski, Senator Musto and Representative Thomas Tighe. There was a closing prayer by Fr. Peter Alisaukas, after which the assembly sang the American National Anthem.

#### **Mid Central District**

##### **C-25 Cleveland Ursula Kunsitis**

We ended 2005 with 20 members and friends enjoying their annual Christmas Party at the Croatian Center featuring the "zany" Ozark Jubilee from Branson, along with a family-style dinner. You have to admit, we did get some good laughs! Thank you, Madam President, for making all the arrangements and for the lovely White Angels! We are only sorry that more of our members were not able to join us.

Fr. Dale Yurkovic from Livingston, MT - home for a Christmas visit with his parents - was invited to offer Mass at the Slovenian Home for the Aged where his mother, Lillian, is a resident. Dick and Jean Marks were among those attending and said that it was a very memorable experience. The residents were so happy to meet Fr. Dale. January found Fr. Dale and Steve Yurkovic back in Czechoslovakia for another family visit.

Vyto and Angela Staskus are enjoying Palm Desert, CA for an extended visit with friends. Dick and Jean Marks are on their way to Sunny Florida where they will be touching bases with Cleveland snowbirds and friends!

Congratulations and best wishes to Joe and Ann Ivoska who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Feb 23. Many more happy, healthy years to you both!

On Feb 10th, John Andrulis celebrated his 90th birthday and was so delighted with the 50+ cards he had received from his many friends, but on Feb 17th John lost the battle he had been fighting for the past two years. He was a Fourth Degree member and was a member of our council for nearly 50 years. On Feb 23rd, 11 members attended the KofL prayer service led by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas, who also officiated at the funeral Mass the following day. Our deepest sympathy to Mary Jane Meyerholtz, Jack, Kenneth, Michael, and Deborah Hill and their families. May you Rest in Peace, John. You will be missed by many.

Lithuanian Independence Day was celebrated Feb 25 and 26 at OLP Church. The Guest Speaker was Vygaudas Usackas, Lithuanian Ambassador to the US. The program featured the Lithuanian Folk Dance Group Grandis from Chicago. They were fantastic, especially the "black hat" dancers. Dancing to the music of the Rimtas Kasputis orchestra followed.

Happy Easter and Spring to all our house-bound members and fellow Knights!

##### **C-96 Dayton, OH Frances Petkus HM**

December 4th saw C-96 members starting off their holiday season with our Annual Christmas caroling to the elderly and shut-ins of our parish. There were 24 poinsettias distributed with many picking up their flower following Mass on Sunday. Our out of town elderly shut-ins received their gift via mail. As we visited member parishioners, Mary Agnes Mikalauskas, with her guitar, led us in singing English and Lithuanian carols. We must have sounded pretty good as requests were made for more songs. Also putting the program together was Frances Mikalauskas. After the last stop members headed back to the church hall where Social Chair Elaine Pacovsky and Laretta Pant greeted the carolers with a warm dinner of lasagna and all the trimmings. Our monthly meeting followed. This is one of the very special events we have in the council. We always seem to receive as much as we give.

Council President Anne Louise Tucker and Mary Agnes Mikalauskas made all the arrangements for our Annual Christmas Dinner which was held on Dec 7th at the Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant. Turnout was good with Lithuanians from the Cincinnati area joining us for a warm evening of Christmas sharing and getting acquainted with each other. In lieu of a gift exchange an envelope was passed with the donations being sent to Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

Dec 18th saw Holy Cross' Cultural Committee hosting the Annual Kucios Supper. MC for the evening was Elinor Sluzas HM. Dinner began with prayers led by Fr. Michael Holloran, the lighting of the candle and



readings from the gospels. This was followed with sharing of the plotkeles, apples, and the twelve course dinner including fresh crab stuffed salmon prepared by Elinor. Fr. Dwight Campbell led us in the true meaning of the Twelve Days of Christmas in song and words. Cost for the dinner was non-perishable food or monetary donations for Old North Dayton Food Pantry.

At our Feb 5th meeting Social Chair Elaine Pacovsky had special treats for us while Anne Louise Tucker had dessert. (At our January meeting Elaine also prepared wonderful soup to warm us and goodies.) One of the main items on the agenda was dispersing of our Annual Charity Fund. This fund comes from 10% profit of any moneymaking project throughout the year, 50/50 council monthly raffle and donations from the membership. This year's fund went to the following: Sarysis of Holy Cross Church, Holy Cross Cultural Committee, Old North Dayton Food Pantry, Lithuanian College in Rome, Our Lady of the Rosary in Old North Dayton (many of our members attended grade school there), Supreme Council Scholarship Fund, and Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

On Friday, Feb 17th and Sunday, Feb 19th, Miami Valley Catholic Church Musicians held a "Musical Celebration of Diversity and Unity". Our wonderful choir at Holy Cross was part of this special event. They sang in Lithuanian "Sveika Marija", "Pergales Kristui" and in English, the "Hymn to Our Lady of Siluva". A very moving program. Two thirds of the choir are KofL members and is under the direction of our own Connie Geiger.

On Sunday, Feb 19th, the Lithuanian community of Dayton

held its Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Lithuania's continued freedom. At the close of Mass the Lithuanian National Anthem was sung. Everyone then headed to the church hall for a special Coffee Brunch hosted by Sarysis of Holy Cross. Sarysis President, Elaine Pacovsky, along with Judith Petrokas prepared the wonderful food for this special occasion. Donations were collected for Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

Through the suggestion of George Mikalauskas, council activities from the past forty plus years that had been put on film by the council have been converted into a DVD. After many trials and errors the project has come to fruition. Robert Petkus began the formation of the project and Mary Agnes Mikalauskas finalized it. Anyone who would like a copy may contact Mary Agnes Mikalauskas- 224 Rita St- Dayton, OH 45404 - (937) 461-7139. Cost is \$20 plus shipping.

Get well wishes go out to Rita Ambrose, Eloise Berczelly, August Blum, Connie Geiger, Ida Kavy, Ann Kondrotas, Elaine Pacovsky, Linda Pant, Alice Petkus, and Honorary Member, Elinor Sluzas. Get well quick as Spring is coming along with warmer weather.

A very warm welcome to our newest council member, Erin Petkus. Erin has moved up to the regular council after being a Junior Knight for many years!

Noted on a church marquee - The More You Know- The More You Grow!

Blessed Easter to one and all!

### "SMILES WITHOUT WRINKLES"

from Leondas J. Galinskas  
C-102



Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up.



It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker.



I've still got it, but nobody wants to see it.



Work is for people who don't know how to fish.



Do you know the real reason we can't have the Ten Commandments in a courthouse? You can't post "thou shalt not steal," "thou shalt not commit adultery" and "thou shalt not lie" in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians. It creates a hostile work environment.



These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief."





**AID TO LITHUANIA**  
**Donations for the period July 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005**  
**\$50,000.00**

Mjr. Anne S Krizinauskas, USA Ret., Mesa, AZ  
 (Krizinauskas-Schcavage- Seminary Scholarship Fund)

**\$2,000.00**

Mr & Mrs. A Alexander (Sem.Fund) Torrington, CT  
 Miss A T Baronas (Sem.Fund) Colonia, NJ  
 Mr A Baron (Sem.Fund) Colonia, NJ  
 Mr L Kapochus (Telsiai Sem. IHO Dr.Emilija Montviliene &  
 Caritas Volunteers) Milmay, NJ

**\$300.00 to \$400.00**

Ms Patricia Zyren (Comerica Bank Award IHO Patricia Zyren) Melvindale, MI \*  
 K of L-Mid-America District, Chicago, IL \* Miss A T Baronas (Sem.Fund IMO Rev. Al  
 Zemeikis) Colonia, NJ \* Mr W Balchunas , Linfield, PA \*

**\$100.00 to \$275.00**

St. George Parish, Philadelphia, PA\* K of L-Mid-America District (Trade School)Chicago, IL \*  
 K of L-Mid-America District (Mo.Teresa Shelter)Chicago, IL\* K of L-Mid-America District  
 (Sem.Fund) Chicago,IL \* K of L C-110 (Trade School) Maspeth, NY \* K of L C-110,  
 Maspeth, NY \* K of L C-110, (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Maspeth, NY \* K of L C-112, Chicago  
 IL-Marquette \* K of L Amber District, Philadelphia, PA \* Mr L Kapochus (IMO Anna M  
 & Frank A Kapochus) Milmay, NJ \* Juliann D Majeski (IMO Frank A & Anna M Kapochus)  
 Aston, PA \* Rev.Msgr. A Contons, HM, Humarock, MA \* K of L C-86, DuBois, PA \*  
 K of L New England District (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Worcester, MA \* K of L C-153,  
 Treasure Coast, FL \* Mrs M Walters (Trade School IMO Rimgaudas Svoba) Mission Viejo,  
 CA \* Regina Juska-Svoba (Trade School IMO Rimgaudas Svoba) Madison Heights, MI \*  
 June V Grenier (Trade School IMO Justina Grenier) Wethersfield, CT \* Mr & Mrs M Berger  
 (Caritas-Mo. & Children's Home) Dayton, OH \* Joseph Berger (Caritas-Mo. & Children's  
 Home) Dayton, OH \* Rita Karrytais, Worcester, MA \* Karen Vyte Kapochus (Caritas-  
 Marijampole IMO Marilyn, Daina & Kark Kapochus) Cologne, NJ \* Leonard Kapochus  
 (Caritas-Marijampole IHO Dr.Emilijas Montviliene & Caritas savanoriai) Milmay, NJ \*  
 Leonard Kapochus (Caritas-Marijampole IMO Mary Ann Mihalick Connor) Milmay, NJ \*  
 Mr & Mrs C Petronis (Trade Schol IMO John & Vera Gestite) Philadelphia, PA \*  
 Dorothy Machonis (IMO Phil Machonis) Glen Mills, PA \* Mr W Mameniskis (Mo.Teresa  
 Shelter IMO Violet Mameniskis) Glenside, PA \* Jean Kapochus Mihalick (IMO Mihalick,  
 Kapochus & Petrauskas Families) Larksville, PA \* Jean Kapochus Mihalick (IMO Mary Ann  
 Mihalick Conner) Larksville, PA \* Miss J Barzda, Beverly Hills, CA \* Mr W Balchunas  
 (Sem Fund( Linfield, PA \* Mrs C Kurpowic, Detroit, MI \* Mr R Kurpowic, Detroit, MI \*  
 Dr G Austin (Sem.Fund) Short Hills, NJ \* Phyllis Pelletier (IMO Ieva Saltupiene) Alsip, IL \*  
 K of L-Mid-Central District, Dayton, OH \* Regina Juska-Svoba (Trade School IMO Rimgaudas  
 Svoba) Madison Heights, MI \* Amer.Lith.Council of Lawrence, MA (Trade School IHO  
 Lithuania's Independence \* Mr R Leparskas (IMO Antanina Leparskas) Warren, MI \*



**\$50.00 to \$75.00**

Rev.Msgr.J Anderlonis, Philadelphia, PA \* K of L C-110, (Sem.Fund) Maspeth, NY \*  
 K of L C-3 (Trade School) Philadelphia, PA \* K of L C-3 (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Philadelphia, PA  
 \* Mrs A Bunikis (IMO Frank Bunikis & Anna Uznis) Beaverton, OR \* Mrs A Bunikis  
 (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Frank Bunikis & Anna Uznis) Beaverton, OR \* Mr & Mrs J Stiklius  
 (Trade School) Waterbury, CT \* Mr & Mrs J Stiklius (Sem.Fund) Waterbury, CT \*  
 K of L C-90, Kearny, NJ \* K of L C-26 (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Worcester, MA-St.Casimir \*  
 K of L MidAtlantic District, Kearny, NJ \* John Antanavicius, Mt. Vernon, NY \*  
 Edmund Cook, Mt. Vernon, NY \* Joseph P. Kscenaitis, Mt. Vernon, NY \* Millie J Pietz,  
 Mt. Vernon, NY \* Dolores Wainauskas, Oak Lawn, IL \* Mr J Jonaitis, Gulfport, FL \*  
 Mrs E Rodgers, Oak Lawn, IL \* Mr & Mrs J Nakrosis, Kearny, NJ \* Dorothy M. Wilson &  
 Elizabeth Wilson Byrnes, Broomall, PA \* Anthony & Mary Pacesa (IMO Anna & Stanley  
 Kweder) Mantua, NJ \* Alberta A Weigand (IMO Deceased members of C-3) Thorofare, NJ \*  
 Helen Karpovich (IMO Karpovich & Kapochus Families) Wilkes-Barre, PA \* Ms E Dapkus  
 (IMO Charles V Zaremsky & John & Mary Dapkus) Hamden, CT \* Frances Skurzynski  
 (IMO Andrew A Skurzynski) Southampton, PA \* Josephine O'Peka (IMO Anthony & Anna  
 Swedersky) Forest City, PA \* Mary Labadis (IMO Bill & Helen Labadis) Gilberton, PA \*  
 Mrs E Sluzas, HM (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Josephine Zilinskas) Tipp City, OH \* Mr & Mrs J  
 Gilvydis (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Franklin, MI \* Albina Zemaitis (IMO Cecile G Kincinas C-13)  
 Chicago, IL \* Ms C Kasulis (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Harry & Richard Smiles) Newark, DE \*  
 Mr & Mrs A Bunikis (IMO Frank Bunikis) Phoenix, AZ \* Leonard Kapochus Family  
 (IMO Kenny (mailman) Wanco) Milmay, NJ \*

**\$25.00 to \$35.00**

Mary Chernoski, Trenton, NJ \* Mr A Gibbs (Trade School IMO Peter Gibbs)  
 East Newark, NJ \* Carol Lawson (IMO Mary & Bronic Acos) Newtown, CT \*  
 Mr & Mrs. Michael Shea (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Joe Stark) Bloomfield Hills, MI \*  
 Mr K Dennis (Sem.Fund) Chicago, IL \* Mr Robert Boris (IMO Joe Stark) Fort Lauderdale,  
 FL \* Sonias Skricki (Trade School) Norwood, MA \* Sonia Skricki (Mo.Teresa Shelter)  
 Norwood, MA \* Mrs J Zakarka (Trade School IMO Albert Zakarka) Oak Lawn, IL \*  
 Mrs J Zakarka (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Albert Zakarka) Oak Lawn, IL \* Michael Petkus,  
 Dayton, OH \* Michael Petkus (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Dayton, OH \* Leonard Kapochus  
 (Sr.Danute Sabiniute, IMO Leo, John & Anthony Kay) Milmay, NJ \* Leonard Kapochus,  
 (Rev.Leonas Jakimavicius, IMO Leo, John & Anthony Kay) Milmay, NJ \* Dawn Maknys,  
 (Sem.Fund IMO Marilyn & Daina Kapochus) Philadelphia, PA \* Anna M Radzavage (IMO  
 Domicela Misunas) Shenandoah, PA \* K of L C-16, Chicago, IL-Bridgeport \* K of L C-29,  
 Newark, NJ \* K of L C-72, Binghamton, NY \* Mrs S Sakalys (IMO Vytautas Sakalys,  
 East Greenwich, RI \* Mr & Mrs P Moore, Clearfield, PA \* Ms I Ozalis (Mo.Teresa Shelter)  
 Philadelphia, PA \* Ms L Greymas (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Philadelphia, PA \* Jean Kapochus  
 Mihalick (Caritas-Marijampole IMO Anna MaeKapochus) Larksville, PA \* Mrs M Kincius,  
 Chicago, IL \* Mr & Mrs W Svekla (Trade School) Cherry Hill, NJ \* Mrs F Petkus  
 (IMO Sabina Henson) Dayton, OH \* M.B.Slakis (IMO AlbertSlakis) Tinley Park, IL \*



Mr & Mrs A Rodgers (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Worcester, MA \* Len Kapochus (IMO Adolfinas Sarcewicz) Milmay, NJ \* John Sudaitis, Egg Harbor City, NJ \* Mr & Mrs J Mickunas, Mt. Ephraim, NJ \* Mary Labadis (IMO Marcella & Joseph Labadis) Gilberton, PA \* Catherine Applegate, Stafford, VA \* Mr & Mrs M Lederer (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Atco, NJ \* Mr & Mrs A Pastore (Trade School) Lowe Gwynedd, PA \* Edward M Budelis (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Juozas & Magdalena Budelis) Eldersburg, MD \* Ruth B Lacek (IMO Mr & Mrs Jonas Bogdziunas) Plymouth, PA \* Elsie Kosmisky (Sem.Fund) Frackville, PA \* Mr & Mrs J Bogdon (IMO John & Paul Bogdon) Saverna Park, MD \* Charles Sulmar & Donna, Springfield, PA \* Mr & Mrs T Dorr, Riverton, NJ \* Ruth T Margis (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Charles Margis) Media, PA \* Joan Iwasko (IMO S & C Kibauskas) Rio Grande, NJ \* Mr & Mrs S Adams (IMO Mary & John Kapochus & Peter Kairnsta) Fountain Hills, AZ \* Mr & Mrs V Cuprewich, Lindan, NJ \* Helen Medley, New Haven, CT \* Len Kapochus (Caritas-Marijampole IMO Hugh W Guthrie) Milmay, NJ \* Mrs F Bumila, Raynham, MA \* Mrs F Bumila (Trade School) Raynham, MA \* Mrs F Bumila (Mo.Teresa Shelter) Raynham, MA \* Mrs F Bumila (Sem.Fund) Raynham, MA \* Mrs A Gibbas (Trade School IMO Peter Gibbas) East Newark, NJ \* Mr K Dennis (Sem.Fund) Chicago, IL \* Margaret Allen (IMO Warren Allen) Cape May, NJ \* Mr K Dennis (Sem.Fund) Chicago, IL \* Mr & Mrs C Sulmar Springfield, PA \* Mrs A Gibbas (Trade School IMO Peter Gibbas) East Newark, NJ \* Mary Spelman (Sem.Fund IMO Petrone Petchkis) Milford, CT \* Mrs A Bunikis (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Frank Bunikis) Beaverton, OR \* Mrs A Bunikis (IMO Frank Bunikis) Beaverton, OR \* Mr A Osteika (IMO Valentina Osteika) Warren, MI \* Mr A Osteika (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Valetina Osteika) Warren, MI \* Dr & Mrs A Norvilas, Oak Lawn, IL \* Mr & Mrs J Bogdon (IMO John & Paul Bogdon) Severna Park, MD \* Mr L Bogart (IMO Anna & Peter Bogaciunas) Bloomfield Hills, MI \* Mrs A Gibbas (Trade School IMO Peter Gibbas) East Newark, NJ \* Mr L Kapochus (IMO Gerof Bokma) Milmay, NJ \* Mrs B Stoskus (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO John Stoskus) Cranston, RI \*

#### Under \$25.00

Ms U Gelczis (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Charles B Nakrosis) Athens, GA \* Mrs.A Bunikis (IMO Joe Stark) Beaverton, OR \* Mrs S Staknis (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO C A Staknis) Kearny, NJ \* Mrs F Petkus, Dayton, OH \* Lucille Traska, Dayton, OH \* Helen L. Vaitkus (IMO Annadelle A Milaskavitz) Vandalia, OH \* Mrs F McNichols (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Audrey Krusnis) Burbank, IL \* Mr & Mrs H Pant, Fairborn, OH \* Cathy Nakrosis, Kearny, NJ \* Mr & Mrs F Strolia (Mo.Teresa Shelter IMO Herculis Strolia) Oak Forest, IL \* Frank, HM & Irene Petrauskas, Baldwinsville, NY \* Mary Anna Gercius, Palos Hills, IL \* Elizabeth Sprow (IMO Anthony Yanovitch) King of Prussia, PA \* Maria Deksnis, Chicago, IL \* Leonard Kapochus, Jr. (IMO John V Kaposich) Oroville, WA \* Joan Maniscalchi (Sem.Fund IMO Phillip Maniscalchi) Glendale, CA \* Len Kapochus (IMO RosalieKizis) Milmay, NJ \* Jean Kapochus Mihalick (IMO Rosalie Kizis) Larksville, PA \* Helen Karpovich (IMO Rosalie Kizis) Wilkes-Barre, PA \* Paul Wislock, Mt. Carmel, PA \* Len Kapochus (IMO Vytasutas Sakalys) Milmay, NJ \* Helen Karpovich (IMO Mary Ann Michalick Connor) Wilkes-Barre, PA \* Stephany Gutasukas (IMO Stephany & Victor Gutasukas) Philadelphia, PA \* Ruth A Wallash, Aldan, PA \* Albert J Gustaff, Frederick, MD



Bronius V Krokys, Philadelphia, PA \* Jean Kapochus Mihalick & Helen Karpovich (IMO Julia Atmonavage) Larksville, PA \* Mrs F McNichols (Mo. Teresa Shelter IMO Bob & Celeste Miller Family) Burbank, IL \* Emilia Sadonis (Sem. Fund IMO Antanina Skruodys) Verona, NJ \* Mrs F McNichols (Mo. Teresa Shelter IMO Anton Sirbin) Burbank, IL \* Leonard Kapochus, (IMO Josephine Sabalis) Milmay, NJ \* Jean Kapochus Mihalick (IMO Josephine Sabalis) Larksville, PA \* Jean Kapochus Mihalick (IMO Kenneth A Wanco) Larksville, PA \* Helen Karpovich (IMO Josephine Sabalis) Wilkes-Barre, PA \* Ms F McNichols (Mo. Teresa Shelter IMO Ken & Joyce McNichols) Burbank, IL \* Mrs S Staknis (IMO C A Staknis) Kearny, NJ

### A Special Visitor for a Special Occasion By Regina Juska-Svoba



Bishop Quinn of the Archdiocese of Detroit Celebrates a New Year's Day Anniversary Mass at St. Anthony's Church there. Fr. Babonas concelebrates.

On Sunday, January 1, 2006, St. Anthony Lithuanian parish in Detroit, MI, hosted special celebrations – the beginning of New Year, the parish's 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of C-102 (home based at St. Anthony's) and Aid to Lithuania Inc.'s 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With such special occasions, a special visitor participated in the events. His Excellency John M. Quinn, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, concelebrated two Masses with the parish pastor Rev. Alfonsas Babonas. The 9:00a.m. Mass was concelebrated in the English language, while the 10:30a.m.

High Mass, was concelebrated in both Lithuanian and English. The church choir led by choirmaster Stasys Stizys sang beautifully. In his sermon, Bishop Quinn remarked that he was so pleased to see that St. Anthony's was filled with many faithful parishioners, in spite of many New Year's Eve celebrations the night before. He congratulated Rev. Babonas on serving and leading St. Anthony's Church for the last 27 years.

After Mass nearly 100 current and former parishioners and friends gathered in the tastefully holiday decorated church hall for the New Year's celebratory program and luncheon. ATL President, Regina Juska-Svoba, read a greeting received from Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit, congratulating Father Babonas, the parishioners, K of L C-102 on their 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Aid to Lithuania, Inc., who recently celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



Bishop Quinn, Regina Juska-Svoba and Fr. Babonas pose for the camera at the Multi-Anniversary Celebration.



In his address, Bishop Quinn thanked Father Babonas and the parishioners for allowing him to be an integral part of the Lithuanian New Year's Day celebration. Again, he congratulated Father Babonas in leading St. Anthony Lithuanian Church for the last 27 years and he wished him much health, energy and strength to lead St. Anthony's for another 50 years! His Excellency John M. Quinn disclosed his Irish heritage, but stated that whenever he will visit St. Anthony Lithuanian Church, he will feel honored to be an "Honorary Lithuanian".



Bishop Quinn admires one of the beautiful gifts presented him by St. Anthony Parish during his recent visit for their Multi-Anniversary celebration.

As mementos of his visit to St. Anthony Lithuanian Church, Bishop Quinn was presented with several gifts – the history of St. Anthony's Parish book ("*Šv. Antano Parapija*" – 1920-1995), a wood carving of the Blessed Mother, which is the replica of the Blessed Mother at the Gates of Dawn in Vilnius (Aušros Vartų Marija) and "Prince of Peace", written by Rev. Stasys Maziliauskas.

The celebration was both successful and financially profitable for the parish. During these current days where parishes are closing and/or merging, it is on a happy note to state that St.

Anthony Lithuanian Church in Detroit, MI, will remain open for as long as Rev. Alfonsas Babonas is healthy and able to lead his parishioners. Although the church community is mature in age, the parishioners are quite busy and very active. Many organizations function within the confines of the parish: the Parish Council, Altar Society, K of L C-102, ATL, BALFAS (United Lithuanian Relief Fund, Chapter 76), Švyturio jūrų šauliai (Lithuanian National Guard in Exile), the church choir (who recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary under the directorship of choirmaster Stasys Sližys). Dārius and Gireno (social club), and Birutietės (A women's club). An elementary (1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) functioned from 1927-1971 and the children were taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Pittsburgh, PA; a Lithuanian Saturday school functioned from 1950-1967, whereupon both schools closed due to many families relocating to the suburbs.

Nearly every Sunday, some activity abounds. There is a functioning cafeteria in the church hall where many of the parishioners meet and socialize with coffee and cake after the Masses. All Lithuanian holidays are still celebrated and commemorated. Whenever you're in Detroit, please stop by, we would like to welcome you! You will be met with friendliness and enthusiasm.





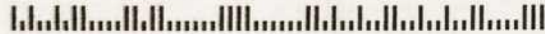
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**Knights of Lithuania Calendar of Events**

**March 2006**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ash Wednesday
- 4<sup>th</sup> St. Casimir's Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic District Spring Convention. Hosted by Council 29, Newark, NJ.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District St. Casimir's Day Mass, Luncheon and Spring Meeting, Hosted by Council 157, Lemont, IL
- 12<sup>th</sup> Amber District Meeting, Hosted by C-63 Lehigh Valley
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District Bowling
- 19<sup>th</sup> C-141 St. Casimir's Day Celebration— Starts at noon at St. George Church, 443 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT. For additional information contact B. Schmidt.

**April 2006**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday
- 16<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Mid-America District Bowling

**May 2006**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Meeting. Host: Council 3, Philadelphia, PA
- 14<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Mid-Central District Spring Meeting and Bowling Tournament. Host Council 25, Cleveland.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District Bowling
- 29<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day

**June 2006**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Flag Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> Father's Day

**July 2006**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian Song Festival in Chicago, IL. Check <http://lithuaniansongfest.org> for more information.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day – God Bless America!

**August 2006**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention. Lake Buena Vista, Florida, hosted by your Supreme Council

**September 2006**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Labor Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District Bowling

**October 2006**

- 8<sup>th</sup> 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Mass of the Our Lady of Siluva Chapel at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> Mid-America District Bowling

**November 2006**

- 1<sup>st</sup> All Saint's Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> All Soul's Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District Bowling
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Thanksgiving Day

**December 2006**

- 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve

**January 2007**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Happy New Year to One and All

**February 2007**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian Independence Day – Valio Lietuva!
- 19<sup>th</sup> President's Day



**He is  
risen!**

**Linksmų  
Šv.  
Velyku!**