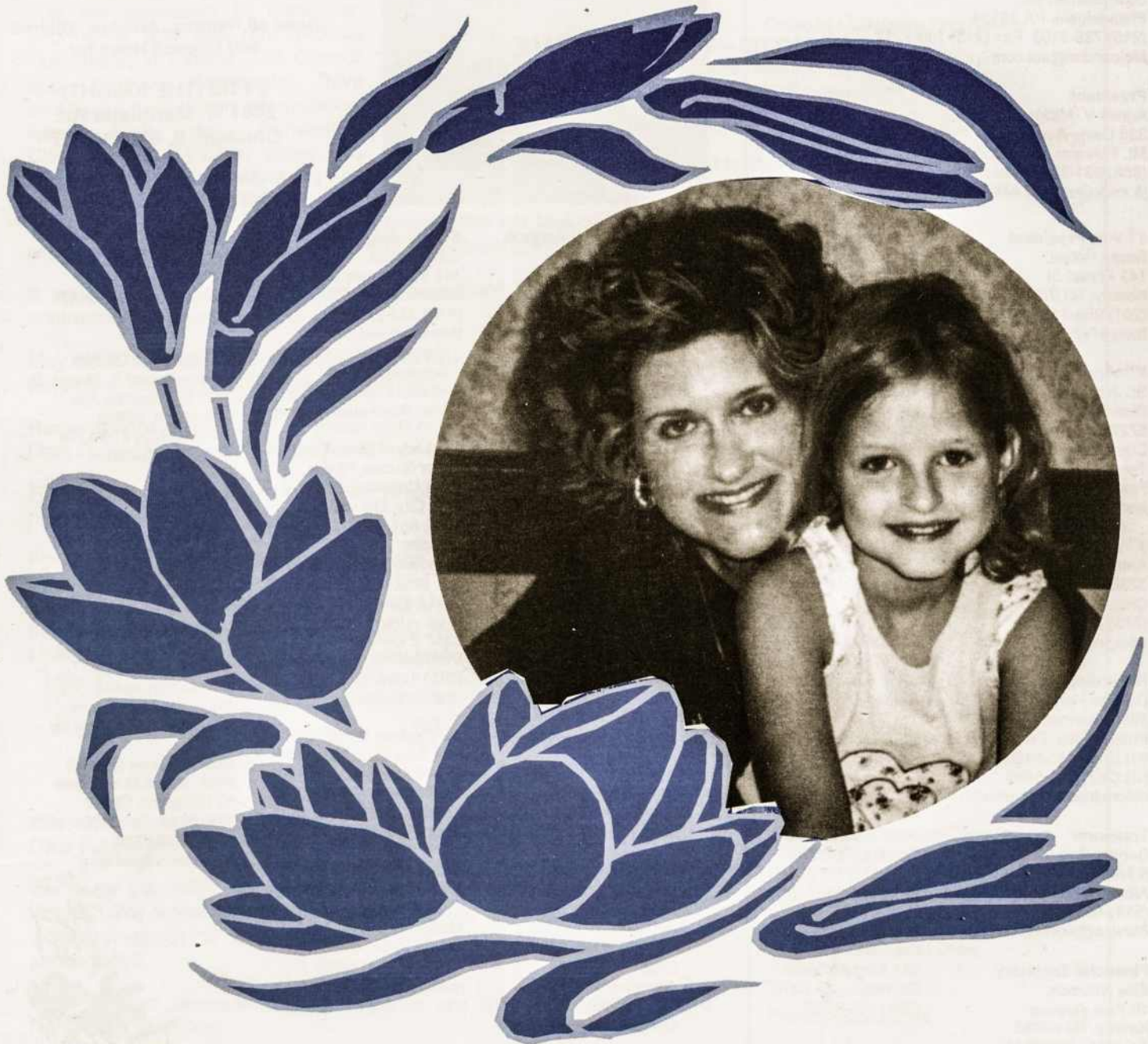




Vytis - The Knight

May-June / gegužė-birželis, 2006

Volume 92 - Number 3



*Wishing all our Mothers and Fathers all the best
as we celebrate their special day.*

*Mother's Day
May 14, 2006*

*Father's Day
June 18, 2006*

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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

May-June 2006

Dear Members:

The Supreme Council met on May 6 at which time they focused their attention to fine-tuning all the details that are necessary to insure an informative and well run National Convention in Florida. All Council and District Presidents have received a well-written informational letter from the Convention Chairpersons. Please share this information with your members and urge them to participate in this important yearly Knights of Lithuania event. We are looking forward to what could be one of our most important Conventions to date!



It would be so appreciated and very important to us to hear your comments on our new VYTIS.

May 14 is dedicated in honor of all mothers and June 18 is the day we remember our fathers. God bless them all!!!

Remember to pray also for all those who suffered in Lithuania during the Dark Days of June.

Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. Display the Stars and Stripes with pride!

Finally, please pay special attention to the two resolutions printed in this issue. Both are proposed constitutional changes and deserve your attention and consideration. They will be brought before the delegates of the 93rd National Convention this August for final discussion and vote. Make sure your delegates know how you feel.

Vytiškai,

Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.

Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.
President

Dear Fellow Members:

We hope you have been enjoying your latest issues of Vytis – The Knight. We would like to thank all those who have sent us your kind words, suggestions and thoughts about the magazine. We truly appreciate it.

Have a great summer and we hope to see everyone at this year's National Convention.

Vytiškai from your Vytis staff,

Sr. Johanna Marie, Mildred and Rob



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The Feast of St. John the Baptist

Joninės

June 24th

*A very popular Feast Day for Lithuanians, below is a history of the celebration taken with permission from the works of C-112 member, Danutė Brazytė Bindokienė's book, **Lithuanian Customs and Traditions**. We found it very interesting and wanted to share it with you. We hope you enjoy it.*

This is a midsummer feast celebrated since earliest unrecorded times not only in Lithuania but in most other European countries. After the spread of Christianity, this pagan festival was made to coincide with the Christian feast of St. John the Baptist. John the Baptist was a favorite saint in Lithuania, as seen from the large numbers of men bearing his name. Although the calendar boasts many other St. Johns, the people claimed they were all mere Johnnies and the real feast of St. John was on June 24th. It was this day that all Johns (Jonai) celebrated their names days.

The feast of St. John (Joninės) was the most joyous and popular summer festival. That day marked the year's shortest night and longest day. In fact, in Lithuania night almost never comes on St. John's: as the last rays of the sunset dim in the west, the east begins to lighten with the first beams of dawn. St. John's night was filled with omens and magic, secrets and dangers. It is famous for its bonfires. Bonfires are lit on hilltops to be more visible. When the Lithuanians were pagan, the bonfires burned all night to light the fields where evil spirits and witches flew about in order to harm the livestock and crops. The light of the bonfires frightens the ghosts away.

On St. John's night, witches and warlocks gather in special spots and hold banquets; afterwards they discuss how to do harm and mischief to humans. As they fly over the fields, they damage medicinal herbs by removing the healing properties, they dry cows' udders, sicken the sheep, put curses on the rye, flax and other crops. Consequently, diverse means were employed to protect nature and people's property against the witches' spells.

In more recent times, bonfires were lit for recreation. The young and old sang, danced and feasted at the bonfires. St. John's night was intended for the young who never slept that night in order not to miss the sunrise. For at dawn the sun once more "Dances" and changes color as it rises (as it does on Easter morning). It is very useful to see the "dancing" sun for it brings happiness and health all year. On St. John's night even water has miraculous powers. Bathing in flowing water or even rolling naked in the dewy grass will prevent all skin ailments – the skin will be white, clean and always appear youthful.

One more magic event takes place on St. John's night: the fern blooms. Country people, accustomed as they were to various natural phenomena and familiar with the flora around them, knew that all plants began from seed. They grow, bloom and produce fruit or seed, thus propagating themselves. Everyone knew that mushrooms had no seed (at least this is what people believed), but mushrooms were not really "plants". They were almost magical, suddenly popping up from the earth after a rain and just as suddenly vanishing. Small children and slightly simple-minded adults were teased and sent "to bring back or buy mushroom seeds."

But the fern was another matter. The plant was luxurious, green; it grew everywhere, especially in forests and damp fields: it was like other local plants though no one had ever managed to find fern seeds or see its flower. How did it propagate then? Therein lies the belief that the fern blossom is miraculous. The plant blooms at the most magical time of the year, St. John's night. Whoever finds that flower is able to understand the language of birds and animals and all the tongues of the world; he knows what others are thinking, where fortunes are buried and is able to see Death (he can tell who will live and who will die). These properties of the fern blossom are known not only to humans but to witches and all demonic creatures as well. They make every effort to seize the fern blossom for themselves. If a human sits among the ferns waiting for them to bloom on that night, the spirits, demons and witches use various methods to frighten and entice him to divert his attention away from the fern. As soon as the human glances away, the fern blossom opens and a spectre seizes it. There are stories about a man on St. John's night crossing a forest where ferns grow and accidentally finding a fern flower: the flower falls into his boot. Suddenly everything brightened, the man was able to understand the language of nocturnal birds and animals and even hear what the fireflies whispered to each other. He knew he had found the miraculous fern blossom! The stories usually end with the man sitting down to rest and removing his footwear – the magical flower falls out and all the miracles end ...

The fern's bloom is like a shiny, sparkling red or rainbow-colored light. It opens at exactly midnight on St. John's night. The flower can be plucked if a circle is traced around the fern clump with a mountain ash stick (for the mountain ash – šermukšnis – is a magical tree feared by evil spirits and witches. They can be warded off with a mountain ash stick) or any blessed silver object. Sit inside the circle and absolutely never move your eyes from the fern regardless of what happens around. The fern only blooms for a twinkling of an eye. As already mentioned, spirits and witches try to distract the person's attention. It appears they are always successful for a human has yet to find the flower of the fern...

On St. John's night people engage in prognostication in an effort to learn the future. A girl braids a wreath, stands with her back against a tree and throws the wreath over her head trying to hook it on a branch. The number of times it takes to succeed represents the number of years before she weds. Wreaths are made and given girls' and boys' names. They are thrown into the water (Preferably a stream). The ones that come together represent the boy and girl who will make a couple; if a wreath sinks, the person will soon die; if the wreath floats easily and does not snag on grasses or twigs the person's life will be happy and easy.

Young men and women link arms and jump over the bonfire's dying embers. If their arms remain linked, they will wed; if they jump effortlessly, if the smoke does not cause their eyes to water and their shoes or clothing remain unsinged, everything will go well that year: love, happiness and wealth awaits them. If the smoke causes the eyes to tear, much hardship (tears) will have to be borne.

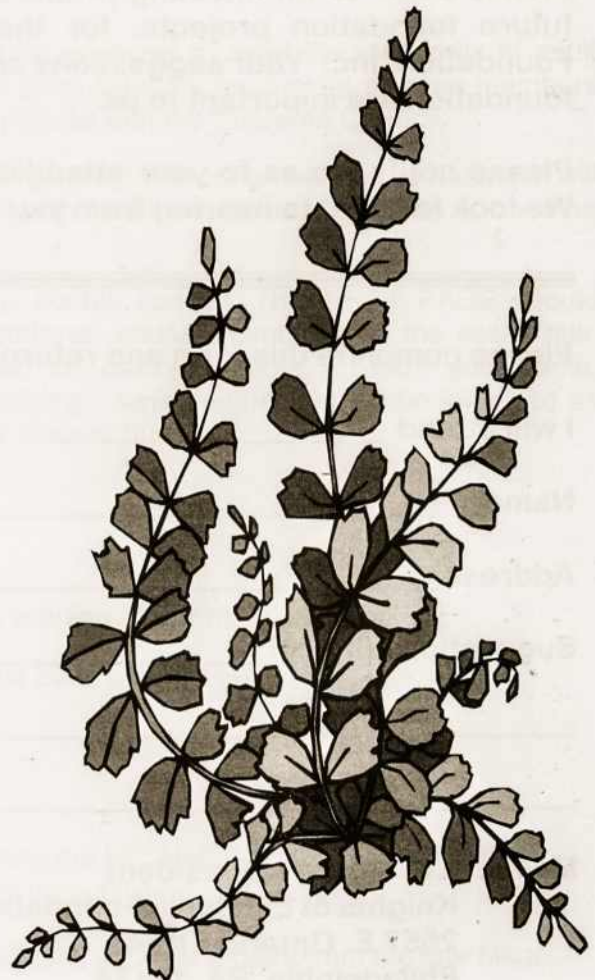
At a time when people relied in their daily lives more on folk medicine than on manufactured drugs, the eve of St. John's was vital for gathering medicinal plants. It was believed that witches destroyed the power of such plants on St. John's night. On the eve, women, children and older men (who had less farm work) went into the fields, bogs and forests to gather medicinal plants, enough to treat not only humans but also livestock all year. They picked chamomile, centaury, marsh trefoil, wormwood, thyme, valerian, fennel, mint, rue (people believed that the rue cured 99 illnesses), and other local medicinal plants.

The plants were carefully tied into bundles, dried, hung in the attic and later sorted and put away for

winter. They were used in many ways: brewed as tea, immersed in whiskey, crushed and mixed with grease, etc.

The omens of St. John's night no longer hold life-or-death meaning for us as they did in ancient times, but we can take pride in them, try them out just for fun and to diversify a midsummer night's festivities. Bonfires and fireside refreshments are an essential part of St. John's night. It is also a good opportunity for Lithuanian songs about youth and love as well as terrifying stories about witches, soothsayers, evil demons and the fern blossom. Children are intrigued by the magic aura of the fern flower, especially when they are asked: "And what would you do if you found the fern's blossom? How would you use the magic powers?"

Linksma Joninés Diena!



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



ATTENTION -----ATTENTION -----ATTENTION

**All Members and Board of the
Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.**

A meeting of the Membership and Executive Board of the Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc. will be held at the Knights of Lithuania 93rd National Convention at the Grosvenor Resort in Lake Buena Vista, FL. The date, time and location of room will be announced at the Convention.

Please come to the meeting prepared to exchange ideas on past, current, and future foundation projects, for the betterment of the Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc. Your suggestions and your help in getting new members for the foundation are important to us.

Please notify me as to your attending the meeting or not, as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.



Please complete this form and return by July 15, 2006.

I will attend _____ I will not attend _____

Name _____ Council No. _____

Address _____

Suggestions (If any) _____

**Mail to: Irene Ozalis, President
Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.
2557 E. Ontario Street
Philadelphia, PA 19134**

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Foundation, Inc.
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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 93rd 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 Context

Honorable Mention (tie) Winner

by Brone Wisnauskas (C-010)



My early childhood remembrances of Easter season festivities in Lithuania began with Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday the women carried juniper branches to church and the men long willow branches. A site to behold – like a forest! During Holy Week we did our spring cleaning, the family enjoyed the “pirtis” steam bath. The holiday baking was done on Good Friday. On Holy Saturday the meat dishes were prepared. Also, we colored and decorated the “Margučiai”, which I learned at an early age from Mother. All adult family members went to church for the all night vigil. This included a replica of Christ in the tomb, guarded by young village men and the Choir leading in the singing.

At dawn on “Velykos” a solemn procession with the Risen Christ, victorious over death, heralded the beginning of the Resurrection Mass. A race home followed Mass to a great breakfast. We observed the 40 days of Lent and fasting and self denial. We were ready for a fest!

On a white linen table cloth, was a center piece of an Easter Lamb Cake and our colored eggs and “Margučiai”. The menu consisted of homemade “dešros”, “koselena”, ham, horseradish, cheese cake, and “piragas” and to wash it all down, “Krupnikas”. Our Easter festivities and traditions continued until Low Sunday. The village women would exchange loom patterns during this season.

I remember the celebration of St. John’s night, “Joninės”. After dark we would light a bonfire on the largest hill in the village. We

sang, danced and feasted and made merry until midnight. Then we searched for the fern blossoms, “papartis”, which is said to bloom at midnight. We never managed to find one. It was our most joyous and popular summer festival.

I recall with joy making wreaths from birch branches and field flowers to adorn the heads of our cattle on the feast of Pentecost, “Sekminės”, the shepherd’s feast day. My youngest brother, the shepherd, had a break from his duties and was guest of honor at our celebration. He made his own horn out of willow, which he used during his days as shepherd of our flock. My father made a swing that was attached to a tree and was decorated with green branches. It was a treat to us youngsters as we did not have the amusements of today.

I remember as a young girl, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, “Žoline” and the blessing of flowers. The women carried large bouquets of field and garden flowers to be blessed at church. They were later dried to protect the home and barns from fire and lightning. It was a beautiful site to behold. The custom should be preserved in our parishes.

I recall the three day village weddings, Christenings and our beautiful and traditional “Kučios”.

I hold dearly these Lithuanian memories, customs and traditions that contain such symbolism and should be passed on and preserved for future Lithuanian generations.



MID-AMERICA DISTRICT SPONSORS 46TH ANNUAL "MEMORIES OF LITHUANIA" BANQUET HONORS DAINAVA ANSAMBLIS

On Saturday, February 4th, the members of the Mid-America District and guests gathered at The Sabre Room in Hickory Hills, IL for the 46th



Dainava Ansamblis President, Kestutis Sušinskas is escorted into the banquet by Theresa Strolia of C-157.

Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet. Over 150 people braved an ice storm to gather together to celebrate Lithuania's independence with this annual event. All those present enjoyed a great meal, refreshments, great

conversation and great music. After the introduction of

the head table the evening was begun with the singing of the National Anthems of the United States and Lithuania the Invocation was given by Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, HM, District Spiritual Advisor. Our MC for the evening was Mr. Juozas Polikaitis who did a fabulous job in both Lithuanian and English.



Dainava Ansamblis Director, Darius Polikaitis is escorted into the banquet by Donna Juratis of C-157.



Paul and Thomas Strolia, C-157, provided our Cultural Program during the banquet.

occasion. Following greetings we were treated to a wonderful musical program by Paul and Thomas Strolia



Members of the Dainava Ansamblis pose for a photo with Consul and Mrs. Kleiza following the award presentation.

of Council 157, Lemont, IL. Paul and Tom performed many of our old favorites and some new favorites much to the delight of the crowd. As the cultural program concluded it was time for our annual award presentation. The District was honored to present their

2006 Award of Distinction to Dainava Ansamblis. Dainava is celebrating their 60th Anniversary this year and is one of the premier Lithuanian Choirs in the United States. They have continually served the Lithuanian Cause with their gift



Rev. Anthony Markus, C-112, recites the Benediction.

of song for these many years and were truly deserving of this honor. Their Choir Director, Darius Polikaitis and Choir President, Kestutis Sušinskas gave a moving acceptance speech, during which they thanked the Knights of Lithuania for honoring their Choir and also for the work that the Knights have done and continue to do for the Lithuanian cause as well. All too soon the program drew to a close and we were led in Benediction by Rev. Anthony Markus, Spiritual Advisor of C-112 and Pastor of Nativity B.V.M. Parish, Chicago, IL. Dancing

We were honored to have with us Honorary Consul Vaclavas Kleiza and his lovely wife, Asta. Consul Kleiza, our 2005 Award recipient, gave a wonderful greeting to the Knights on this special



MAMD President, Rob Martin, presents the 2006 Award of Distinction to Darius Polikaitis and Kestutis Susinskas.

to the music of the Barniškis Orchestra followed for everyone's enjoyment. A great time was had by all. We look forward to many more banquets in the future.

2006 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP DESIGNEE

TERESA F. STROLIA

COUNCIL 157 - LEMONT, IL



Theresa (Pupinik) Strolia was born on Chicago's north side and benefited from the education provided by the Sisters of St. Casimir at St. Michael's School. She graduated from Josephinum High School and has a B.A. from Mundelein College. Her membership in the Knights of Lithuania began in the late 1950's during her high school years, when, as a member of Council 5 in St. Michael's Parish, she quickly became active as chairperson of committees for fundraising, dances, picnics, hayrides, bingos, hosting March 4th St. Casimir celebrations and communion breakfasts. During these years she also held various council offices and worked hard on numerous other council projects.

In 1962, Theresa married Faustas Strolia, HM, director of the Mid-America District Choir. The Knights of Lithuania 4th Degree was conferred upon Theresa in 1966 when she was a member of Council 36. She assisted in organizing the ILL-IND District Juniors in 1976. While she and Faustas were raising four sons, her national level involvement included Financial Secretary and six years as Vytis Council News Editor.

Theresa helped to organize Council 157, a new council in Lemont, IL, where she served as Recording Secretary. She is also the current First Vice-President of the Mid-America District, having also been Recording Secretary and

Corresponding Secretary. In addition, Theresa is a member of the MAMD Institute and the national St. Casimir's Guild. She is also Secretary of the Our Lady of Siluva Fund. The Knights of Lithuania conventions have also benefited from Theresa's presence as she served on committees such as Mandate and Resolutions as well as Presidium Recording Secretary. During recent years she has been Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee.

When the Chicago District hosted the national convention in 1964 and 1980, she was a member of the committee. When Council 36 hosted the National Convention she was the Registration Co-Chairman.

Theresa was an economist for the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, from the time she graduated from college until she retired.

She has been a member of the MAMD Choir since 1960 and held several offices during the last 40 years including Secretary and Librarian. She gave her time and talent to assist Faustas in his many projects.....making two records, various TV movies for Lithuanian TV and three videos which include "Our Lithuanian Heritage" which tells the story of the Chicago area Lithuanian Churches built by our Grandparents. Theresa did all the research on these churches. Choir participation has resulted in numerous trips throughout the United States and Canada as well as participation in the 1994 and 1998 Song Festivals in Lithuania.

Theresa has organized pilgrimages to shrines for the Mid-America District. She began with a trip to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Other pilgrimages include shrines in Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri. While she continues her active involvement in the Knights of Lithuania, Theresa's favorite past-time is being with 12 grandchildren.

This is only a brief synopsis of Theresa Strolia's service to "God and Country" and we believe that she is worthy of the title "Honorary Member".

2006 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP DESIGNEE

WALTER SVEKLA**COUNCIL 3 - PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Walter Svekla has been an active member of the Knights of Lithuania Council 3, Philadelphia, PA since 1957. He received his 4th Degree at the 1967 National Convention.

At the Council level, Walter has held the office of President – 2 years; Vice-President – 4 years; Recording Secretary – 1 year; Financial Secretary – 2 years; Trustee – 3 years; Treasurer – '65, '66, '70, '79 and from '90 to the present for 14 consecutive years. He was a member of C-3's Choir in the '60's under the direction of Stanley Petraitis, Choirmaster. Walter also participated in C-3's many shows and musicals.

Walter served on most of C-3 Committees which includes the Lithuanian Affairs Letter Writing Committees of the '60's. In addition he has also served on their Ritual, Cultural, Council Anniversary Celebration, Picnic, Christmas Party, St. Casimir's Day, Dinner Dance, Bazaar and numerous other committees. He has performed the duties of Emcee at C-3's Annual Kucios numerous times. Walter was an active committee member of the National Conventions held in Philadelphia, PA in '58, '68, '83 and '99.

Walter was a delegate many times to the former NY-NJ District Conventions as well as the current Amber District. He was a participating member of the District Ritual Committee in '63. When the District Conventions were held in Philadelphia, Walter was always an active committee member and worked diligently assisting in the preparatory activities needed to ensure a successful event.



On the National level, Walter was a member of the Scholarship Committee from '67 to '75. In August '75 he assumed the Chairmanship of the National Scholarship Committee for the next six years until '81. At that time scholarships were awarded based on annual donations and not from large bequests as is the case today. The highlight of Walter's Chairmanship was a joint effort with George Mikalauskas of C-96, Dayton, OH, in '79 and '80. George crafted and donated a large Wayside Cross to the Scholarship Committee. Councils and individuals were given the opportunity to win this shrine by donating \$100. This effort spurred scholarship donations for many years. In addition, Walter also served as Supreme Council Trustee from '65 to '66.

Walter attended almost all of the National Conventions since becoming a K of L'er. He was a Council 3 delegate for most of them. During these years of attendance he served as Convention Sergeant-at-Arms; worked on the Resolutions Committee; participated as a National Financial Committee member; and was Emcee at the Convention Closing Banquet in St. Petersburg, FL in '91. Walter served as Parliamentarian of the National Convention in Secaucus, NJ.

Walter attended St. George School and served as an altar boy from grade school until he graduated from College. He attended Northeast Catholic High School and went on to achieve a degree in Engineering from Vilanova University and a Master's Degree from Drexel University. Walter served a stint in the U.S. Army and upon his discharge went to work for the Dept. of Defense at the Frankford Arsenal. After 40 years of service he retired in July '99.

Walter and his wife, Irene, and sons, Walter Jr. and Andrew, live in Cherry Hill, NJ. All are members of Council 3.

Walter Svekla continues to be a loyal and responsible Knight. He is a prime and outstanding example of one living up to the K of L motto "For God and Country" and worthy of the title "Honorary Member".

*Council 147 – St. Petersburg, Florida
St. Casimir's Day Celebration
and 4th Degree Presentation*

By Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan



L to R: Kan. Bernardas Talaisis, Supreme Council President Agnes Mickunas, HM, 4th Degree Recipient Valeria Lescinskas, C-147 President Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan and Kun. Dr. Matas Cyvas.

Dinner followed at the Lithuanian Club in St. Petersburg with introductions by Marilyn Lenihan and Agnes Mickunas. A short talk about St. Casimir was given by Kan. Bernardas, and poetry was read by Valeria Lescinskas. Valeria's two daughters, Loreta Jarasius and Nijole Rubas, visited from Chicago for this most important event in their mother's life.

Sunday, March 5, 2006, was our Feast Day of St. Casimir Celebration. For all of us in Council 147, St. Petersburg, Florida, it started with 1:00p.m. Mass at Most Holy Name of Jesus Church in Gulfport, Florida, concelebrated by Kun. Matas Cyvas and Kan. Bernardas Talaisis. It was an especially momentous occasion with the bestowment of the Fourth Degree upon Valeria Lescinskas. At the beginning of Mass, Mrs. Lescinskas was escorted up the aisle by the Supreme Council President, Agnes Mickunas, HM, and the President of Council 147, Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan.



L to R: Michael Lenihan, Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan, Nijole Rubas, Valeria Lescinskas, John Mickunas, Agnes Mickunas, HM, and Loreta Jarasius.

*Council 74 – Scranton, Pennsylvania
Lithuania's Flag Flies Proudly in honor
of Lithuanian Independence Day*

by Marie Laske



Members of Council 74 and guests pose for a photo with the Lithuanian Flag at the Scranton, PA Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration.

Knights of Lithuania Council 74 raised the Lithuanian flag at Scranton City Hall for Lithuanian Independence Day. Mayor Chris Dougherty read the proclamation and Msgr. Peter Madus blessed the flag. The Lithuanian history was read by Jean Kavelines, Jim O'Neil, Vyto Shimkus, Robert Gilbert and President Betty Kwater and John Morris from Forest City.

Many city dignitaries from Scranton attended including Janet Evens, Susan Pate, Judy Gatelli, Bill Courtright and Mike Washo. Richard Laske served as chairperson for the event assisted by C-74 President Marie Laske. Our sincerest thanks to all you came. Following the ceremony refreshments were served.

Knight Life



Members of the Amber District Ritual Committee present Beverly Bennett with her 3rd Degree during the Amber District Spring Meeting hosted by Council 46 – Forest City, PA. L to R: Barbara Miller, Beverly Bennett, Irene Ozalis and Jean Mihalick.



Members of C-74 – Scranton, PA attending their Mass and Communion Breakfast at St. Joseph's Church.

Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council

Lithuanian Affairs News and Views

First, thanks to all who are energizing issues relating to Lithuania and Lithuanian American events. Your work has been fruitful, recognized, and appreciated. Please continue. The need for attention has never waned, although issues have changed.

The anniversary of the June tragedies / deportations is approaching. Please use your outlets to remind the world of these events, be it by letters to legislators, city officials, or a brief note to local newspapers, etc. Continuing action to remember these events keeps a perspective open and helps prevent reoccurrence. World opinion doesn't "just happen"; it is shaped by information.

I hope that you all digested the request for letters to Lithuanian soldiers in Afghanistan in the Mar/Apr Vytis. We are free to voice our support and appreciation to those in uniform who promote peace. Our American soldiers are also not to be forgotten and prayer circles or K of L meeting prayers are powerful protection for our troops. Many Knights have close ones in harm's way in distant lands. Pray for them.

The demilitarization of Kaliningrad is a topic for continuing follow-up.

The status of Lithuanian churches closing is a continuing need for attention.

Former KGB-Man, Russian President Putin continues to be unpredictable, irresponsible, and destructive to goals of world stability. Monitor news of Russian activities. Please check Jbanc.org - Baltic link BAFL news.

The rigged elections which took place in Belarus (Moscow's Lukashenko took over 80% of the vote?!?) continue to present a daunting problem. Some news reports stress that Russian missiles transported to Belarus are headed toward Iran. Stressors multiply at the hands of Putin.

The Russian Federation continues to refuse to recognize the forceful subjugation of the Baltics and also refuses to discuss compensation for the occupation.

The relatives of thousands of Polish soldiers (and others) massacred in Katyn Forest "by Josef Stalin" are initiating legal action against

Russia in the European Court of Human Rights. Some 15,000 bodies have been found and the rest are thought to be still buried in secret mass graves.

Addictive personalities and alcoholism continue to plague the Baltics.

Human trafficking has been addressed but continues. Slavery exists.

The Victims of Communism Memorial continues to progress. Recently, Estonia made a large donation. Although the project had started somewhat chaotically, completion is near and the dedication is expected this fall. On April 26, the Foundation honored former president of Poland, Lech Walesa.

The Lithuanian Parliament is having some significant upheavals. May the cool heads prevail.

The dandelions - valued in Lithuania - are everywhere. Those yellow fields beautiful or baaaad? ☺

Respectfully submitted,

Mildred Jagiella

Mildred Jagiella, Chair
Lithuanian Affairs
Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council

VYTIS PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
Jan./Feb.	January 1 st
Mar./Apr.	March 1 st
May/Jun.	May 1 st
Jul./Aug.	July 1 st
Convention	September 1 st
Sep./Oct.	September 15 th
Nov./Dec.	November 1 st

Knight Life



Presentation of plaque to Congressman Peter Visclosky for his support of Lithuanian causes by Northwest Indiana Organizations: (L to R) Joseph Neverauskas, Vice President Lithuanian American Community of U.S., East Chicago, Indiana Chapter; Birute Vilutis, President of Lithuanian American Community of US, East Chicago, Indiana Chapter; Congressman Peter Visclosky; Mildred Jagiella, Lithuanian Affairs Chair, Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council; Joanna Rudzevicius, President of Knights of Lithuania Council 82, Gary, IN; and Vytautas Markevicius, Vice-President of Lithuanian American Council of Lake County, Indiana.



Leona Sawka from C-6 of Holy Trinity Church in Hartford, CT receives St. Joseph's medal for outstanding service. Here Leona is pictured with Archbishop Mansel at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford, CT. Congratulations!

Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council
Lithuanian

Proposed Resolution for Term Limits for Chairmen of Supreme Council Committees

We, members of Knights of Lithuania Council 82, Gary, Indiana, gathered at Dyer-Schererville Library, October 8, 2005, presented this Resolution for Term Limits for Chairmen of Supreme Council Committees:

WHEREAS ... currently, the chairmanship position of Lithuanian Affairs, Lithuanian Language and Culture, Publicity and Archives Committees on the Supreme Council are elected each year but have no term limits set on them, and

WHEREAS ... all Officer positions on the Supreme Council are limited to three consecutive terms, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED ... that these Chairmanship positions be subject to the same term limitations that are currently set for all Officers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED ... that if approved, this ruling will take effect beginning with this year's elections.

Chairman called for member vote and the resolution was passed, unanimously, and the Secretary is directed to send copies of the resolution for Supreme Council consideration to Agnes Mickunas, HM, President of the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council, and to Dolores Herbert, Secretary, Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council.

Submitted Joanna Rudzevicius, President, Knights of Lithuania Council 82, Gary, Indiana.

Proposed Resolution to change Term Lengths of Supreme Council Trustees

We, the Presidents of the Amber, Mid-America, Mid-Atlantic, and New England Districts, present this proposed change to the constitution regarding the term of office of Supreme Council Trustees. We have presented this to the members of the Supreme Council during their meeting on May 6, 2006 in Philadelphia, PA at which time they voted to endorse it as well. We now present it to you our membership for your consideration.

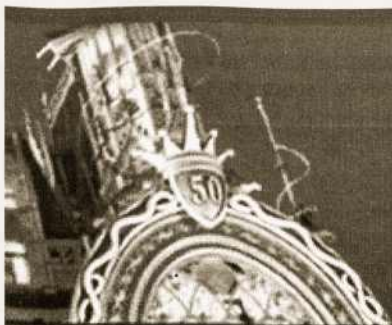
WHEREAS.....the constitution currently calls for two trustees as members of the Supreme Council; and said trustees to be elected each year allowing for three consecutive terms per trustee, this has caused from time to time for the trustees to be elected concurrently, which does not allow for proper training of the trustees from a senior elected trustee to a junior elected trustee. And as currently the duties of the trustees include the auditing of all nationally held funds which is a most important service to the organization and is deserving of having an experienced trustee in office at all times,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED.... That the delegates of the 93rd National Convention vote to change the term of each trustee to one consecutive term of three years and these terms not to be served concurrently. And that in the event of a trustee's resignation, their replacement only fulfills the remaining term.

If passed by the delegates of the 93rd National Convention this resolution takes effect with this year's elections allowing for one trustee to be elected to a two year term and one to be elected for a full three year term so that the proper rotation process can be implemented.

This resolution will change Article X, paragraph 4 of the Constitution to read:

A Supreme Council Officer is elected for a one year term and can succeed himself or herself for only two additional successive years, except for Trustees who will be elected for three year terms and these terms not to be served concurrently.



Write Your Own WALT DISNEY World Ticket!

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Welcome Delegates and Attendees of the Knights of Lithuania 93rd National Convention.

Please visit the link on our K of L website for ticket options and pricing or call the number below. Please be sure to identify yourself as a convention guest to get these rates.

How's this for a dream come true? You're just in time to catch the *Happiest Celebration On Earth* – the biggest celebration in Disney history. And to help you see it all, our special Meeting/Convention Theme Park Tickets are designed to accommodate any agenda. So be sure to buy in advance, as these tickets are not available at the Theme Park ticket windows!

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-  Choice of tickets to fit your needs - choose from "After 2pm" or "After 4pm" or the Multi-Day Meeting/Convention Tickets.



To Order Tickets:

Call 407-566-5600 or Order Online >>

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Lights, Motors, Action™ Extreme Stunt Show





Knights of Lithuania
93rd National Convention
August 3-6, 2006
Host: Supreme Council

Dear Members:

This year we, the Knights of Lithuania, will be holding our 93rd National Convention in beautiful Lake Buena Vista, Florida from Thursday, August 3rd to Sunday, August 6th. 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 93rd 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)



Knights of Lithuania
93rd National Convention
August 3-6, 2006
Host: Supreme Council

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Council # _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Early Registration – By June 30th: _____ @ \$200 per person Amount _____

Late Registration – After July 1st: _____ @ \$230 per person Amount _____

Junior Registration – By June 30th: _____ @ \$100 per Junior Amount _____

Junior Registration – After July 1st: _____ @ \$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

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 30th. After July 1st
 rooms and rate subject to
 availability. This rate is also
 available three days before and
 after the convention.

93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Please note that this schedule is printed as a guideline and is not to be considered final.
The Final and Official schedule will be printed as part of your convention packets.

Tuesday – August 1, 2006

Convention Registration – 4:00p.m. – 6:30p.m.

Wednesday – August 2, 2006

Convention Registration – 9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Bus for Pre-Convention Tour begins boarding – 9:30a.m. – In front of Grosvenor Hotel

Pre-Convention Tour – 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. – The Holy Land Experience

Supreme Council Meeting – 8:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. – At Grosvenor Hotel

Thursday – August 3, 2006

Convention Registration – 9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Buses for Convention Opening Mass begin boarding – 9:00a.m. – In front of Grosvenor Hotel

Convention Opening Mass – 10:00a.m. – Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine - Buses will return to the hotel at the conclusion of the Mass. Special Note: All K of L members of the clergy are always welcome and invited to concelebrate our Convention Masses. However, please be advised that the Diocese of Orlando, FL requires that all clergy bring a letter from their local bishop allowing you to participate in the Mass(es) in their Diocese. The shrine strictly enforces this policy.

First Plenary Session – 1:30p.m.-5:30p.m. – At Grosvenor Hotel

Buses for Convention Get Together begin boarding – 7:00p.m.

Convention Get Together – 8:00p.m.-11:00p.m. – *Disney's "Spirit of Aloha" Dinner and Review* - Dinner will be served "Family Style" and is all inclusive. In addition soft drinks, beer and wine are also included. Should you prefer something a little heartier to drink a cash bar is available. Buses will return to the hotel at the conclusion of the show.

Friday – August 4, 2006

Convention Registration – 9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Morning Mass – 8:00a.m. – At the Grosvenor Hotel

Continental Breakfast – 8:45a.m.-9:45a.m. – In the Hospitality Room at the Grosvenor Hotel

Junior Outing – 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. – At Magic Kingdom Park

Second Plenary Session – 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. (No lunch break).

Ancillary Organizations and Committees will be scheduled to meet at the end of the Second Session. Exact times to be announced.

Rest of the day is free to enjoy the area on your own.

Movie Night – 7:00p.m.-9:00p.m. – In Hospitality Room at Grosvenor Resort. - This is optional and intended for those who don't wish to venture out of the hotel. Exact titles to be posted at convention time.

Saturday – August 5, 2006

Convention Registration – 9:00a.m. – Noon

Morning Mass – 8:00a.m. – At the Grosvenor Hotel

Continental Breakfast – 8:45a.m.-9:45a.m. – In the Hospitality Room at the Grosvenor Hotel

Convention Banquet Final Table Seating Requests Due – 10:00a.m.

Third Plenary Session – 10:00a.m.-3:00p.m. (No lunch break).

Supreme Council Elect and V.I.P. Cocktail Party - 5:30p.m.-6:30p.m. – In the Hospitality Room at the Grosvenor Hotel

Convention Banquet – 7:00p.m.-12:00a.m. (Cash Bar) – At the Grosvenor Resort

Sunday – August 6, 2006

Supreme Council Elect Meeting - 8:00a.m.-10:00a.m. – At the Grosvenor Resort

Farewell Buffet Brunch – 10:00a.m.-Noon – At the Grosvenor Resort

Buses for Convention Closing Mass begin boarding – 12:30p.m. – In front of Grosvenor Hotel

Convention Closing Mass – 1:30p.m. – Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine - The Convention Photo will be taken right after the Mass. A suitable location at the Shrine will be used.



Lithuanian Recipes

We hope you enjoy these great recipes compliments of the Sisters of St. Casimir's "Jubilee Gems". Enjoy!

Bacon Bread (Duona Su Lašiniukais)

From Miss Marge Rudaitis

Ingredients

1 c. Milk
6 T. Butter
¼ c. Sugar
½ tsp. Salt
1 oz. Cake Yeast
¼ c. Lukewarm Water
1 Egg (well beaten)
3 c. Flour
¼ lb. Bacon (diced finely)

Directions

Heat milk and add butter, sugar and salt. Let cool to luke-warm. Add yeast which has been dissolved in lukewarm water. Add egg and flour or just enough to make a dough firm enough to knead. Knead until it no longer sticks to board and is smooth and elastic. Let rise until double in bulk; then punch down and add bacon. Knead again, to mix in bacon. Place in two oiled pans, let rise again until double in bulk. Bake at 350°-375° about 1 hour or until done. Yield: 2 loaves.

Honey Cake (Meduolis)

From Mrs. Ann Juraitis

Ingredients

6 egg yolks
1 c. white sugar
1 c. hot honey
1 c. oil
1 tsp. vanilla
2 c. flour
1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. cloves
6 egg whites (beaten)

Directions

Beat egg yolks; add sugar; beat till thick. Add oil, hot honey, vanilla and blend well. Mix dry ingredients and add to first mixture, blending well. Fold in egg whites. Pour in an angel food pan and bake in a 325° oven for 1 hour.

Cottage Cheese Squares (Varskeciai)

From Mrs. Mary Slapkus

Ingredients

2 lbs. cottage cheese
2 c. flour
½ lb. butter (melted)
6 eggs
2 tsp. salt

Directions

Mix together about ingredients except the butter and form into a ball and place in refrigerator overnight, or leave in freezer section for 1 hour. Cut ball or dough in 4 parts. Form 4 balls and roll out dough to desired thickness. Cut into 2 inch squares and cook in boiling water for 5 minutes. When cooked remove from water. Pout melted butter over them and serve hot with melted butter poured over them and mixed gently.

TEST YOUR LITHUANIAN KNOWLEDGE CONTEST

The answers to last issue's questions.

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?

A: The Hill of Crosses

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?

A: Šiluva / 1608 / The Blessed Mother appeared

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?

A: Vilnius / Yes / Kaunas

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?

A: Steponas Darius and Stasys Girenas / They departed from New York / Their plane crashed in Germany

5. After the re-establishment of Lithuania's Independence in what year was her first Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival held?

A: 1994

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

Out of a possible 11 points:

Richard Lukminas (C-7)	11 Points
Leona Sawka (C-6)	11 Points
Marie Laske (C-74)	11 Points

Well Done All!

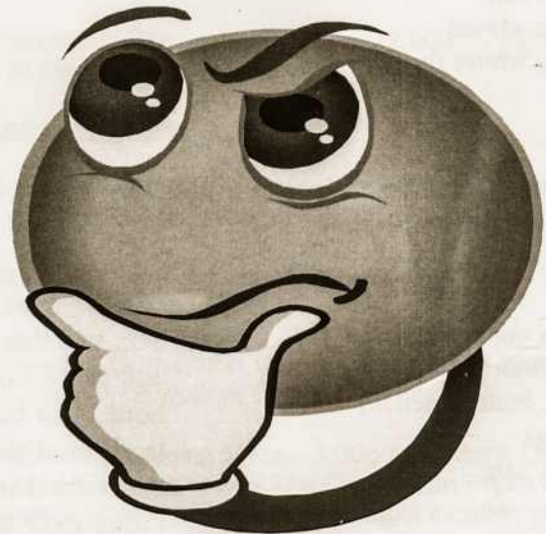
Cumulative Total So Far

Richard Lukminas (C-7)	21 Points
Leona Sawka (C-6)	19 Points
Marie Laske (C-74)	18 Points

This issues questions. (10 Points Possible)

- Which famous religious painting is regarded by most of the world to be of Polish decent even though the original work currently resides in Lithuania?
- What name is Lithuania's currency known by?
- What was the document between Russian and Germany called that in effect placed Lithuanian first under German control and then under Russian? In what year was it adopted?
- Which very popular movement/organization came into being in large part due to Mikhail Gorbachev's policies?
- On what date did Lithuania officially join the United Nations?

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 July 10th to Vytis – The Knight, Lithuanian Knowledge Contest, 2601 West Marquette Road, Chicago, IL 60629. Please be sure to include your name and council number.



Knights Life



Councils 26 and 116 hosted the refreshments for the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration at St. Casimir's. Members of the committee are: L to R: (C-116) Rita Skamarack, Irene Adamaitis, Dorothy Komosky, Irene Adamaitis, Jr. And Dorothy Sinkavitch; (C-26) Vivian Rodgers, (back row) Arthur Racicot, Marion Racicot and Al Bulejck.

Remember When



... Not all that long ago this type of sign was an important part of our work for the Lithuanian Cause.

C-10 Member, Richard Genaitis, owner of Rite Media, had this sign erected in Florida near Disney World® during the *Cold War* with the Soviet Union. Thankfully today these types of signs aren't needed but we must always remember and be ready to offer our assistance.

PENTECOST - SEKMINĖS

June 11th

Here again printed with permission from the works of C-112 member, Danutė Brazytė Bindokienė's book, **Lithuanian Customs and Traditions** is a bit more about our Lithuanian Culture and the observances of this time of year. We found it very interesting and wanted to share it with you.

On Pentecost the entire Christian world commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit. Ancient Lithuanians, while still pagans, celebrated at this time of year a spring and plant festival many of whose customs have been shifted to today's Pentecost. In fact, many Lithuanian feasts are a happy combination of old-pagan and new-Christian methods of celebrating. They do not compete or interfere with one another, but engender very rich and beautiful traditions which embellish the nation's countenance.

The plant which best represents Pentecost is the young, verdant, fragrant and newly sprouted birch. It was mandatory to decorate homes at Pentecost with birches or at least birch branches. Two young birches were placed on either side of an entry door to ensure that the resident spouses will live in harmony all year. People inserted birch branches under the roof of at least along the ceiling so that when the Holy Spirit (which was pictured as a white dove) flies into the home it has a place to perch and rest. Then every member of the household will live in peace, will be happy and successful.

After Pentecost the birch branches and other greens are not discarded: they are dried and reverently kept all year. Smoke from such dried birch branches can frighten evil spirits away and protect a newly erected building from all evils; it is capable of turning aside a dark storm cloud, etc.

The Pentecost table laden with food is also decorated with birch branches. The focal dish is scrambled eggs. In certain Lithuanian regions the homemaker made cheese and meat dumplings (*virtinukai*). Every person in the family had to eat a minimum of seven dumplings to ensure good health all year.

In the past, Pentecost was a special feast for shepherds. They ate, amused themselves and took a rest from tending their flocks that day. The night before, they made wreaths from wild flowers that dotted all meadows. These garlands they draped on the cows which were driven home so adorned. For this the farmer's wife gave them gifts. Although we no longer have shepherds or herds of cattle, we still have the saying aimed at a woman or girl wearing too many flowers (a very flowery dress or hat or a huge flower corsage) that she is "wreathed like a cow at Pentecost."

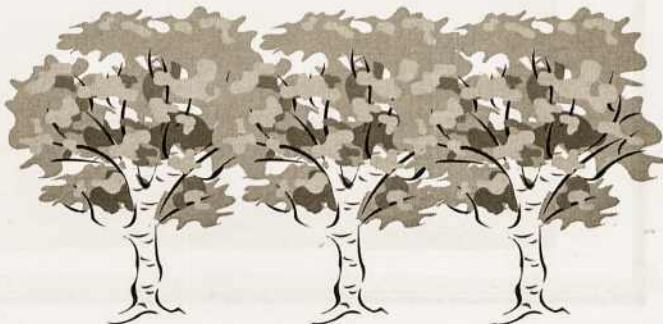
Because shepherds were usually children (up to 13 or 14 years old, or sometimes only 10-11), Pentecost can easily be turned into a special feast for children.

First, children must make every effort to rise early. If a person sleeps late on Pentecost, he'll be sleepy, lazy

and sluggish all year. Children should be hit lightly with a green birch branch to make them alert, happy and healthy. Because shepherds received gifts on Pentecost, small presents may be prepared for the children, especially sweets (shepherd gifts were usually eggs, cake, special buns and sometimes even money).

On Pentecost, children are allowed to cook breakfast in the form of scrambled eggs for the entire family. Friends of the children and neighborhood boys and girls may be invited to the Pentecost festivities. If we wish to keep the old Lithuanian shepherd tradition, the children of several families may assemble in one home, each bringing a dish personally prepared for the feast (mother can help, of course). For their feast, shepherds cooked their food outside over a bonfire; this is a fine opportunity to hold the celebration by a bonfire, cook sausages, barbeque, etc. To make it more fun the children can organize a "Pentecost orchestra" imitating the music of shepherd horns, flutes, whistles and other instruments. This is easily accomplished by purchasing inexpensive horns, mouth harmonicas, reed-pipes and other similar instruments, one for every child. In Lithuania, of course, the shepherds played on pipes and whistles they made themselves from willow bark, but we can make do with store-bought toys.

On Pentecost, it is also customary to swing on swings. A swing was attached to a tall tree in the yard, the ropes decorated with greens and flowers. Your people swung and sang. All in all, Pentecost is best celebrated outdoors, in the woods or fields. Young people assemble, bring food and drink, hire a musician and spend the day in nature. The girls attempt to learn who will love them, whom they'll wed. They fashion wreaths from field flowers, then attach to some a piece of paper bearing a boy's name. One wreath has their own name. In the evening, the wreaths are placed in water (a pond, pool or even a bathtub filled with water). In the morning the girl looks to see which boy's name is next to hers. This will be her intended. If the girl's wreath floats by itself, she will remain unattached all year. It is a bad sign if the girl's wreath sinks: she will fall gravely ill that year, will be unhappy or may even die.



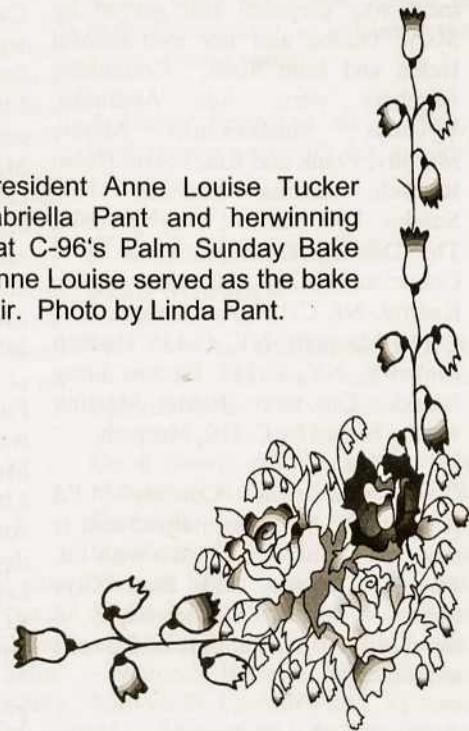
Knight Life



Members of the C-96 Ritual Committee take a photo with their newest 1st and 2nd Degree members. L to R: Frances Mikalauskas, 1st Degree Recipient Daniel Tucker, Eloise A. Berczelly, 2nd Degree Recipient Andrew Berczelly and Frán Petkus, HM. Photo by Joyce Berczelly.



C-96 President Anne Louise Tucker with Gabriella Pant and her winning basket at C-96's Palm Sunday Bake Sale. Anne Louise served as the bake sale chair. Photo by Linda Pant.



District & Council News

Mid-Atlantic District

Mid Atlantic District Rita Sussko, HM

Labas from Council #29 Newark, New Jersey!

On Sunday, March 5th, 2006, we celebrated our St. Casimir's Day Communion Breakfast and also hosted the Mid Atlantic District Convention. District Vice President, Rita Sussko, HM, conducted the meeting in the absence of District President, Cathy Nakrosis, due to the demise of her beloved Dad, John Nakrosis, who served as Trustee for the District for many years. Our condolences go out to the Nakrosis family. He will be missed.

C-29's gracious President, Marie Guoba, welcomed the Delegates and Guests. Our Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. George Lutz, gave the Invocation after which a delicious, home-cooked meal was prepared and served by Marie Guoba and her ever-faithful Helen and John Sisak. Committee members were: Ada Andruska, Vytautas Miknevičius, Marcia Murphy, Frank and Ann Pokol, Helen Radisch, Emilia Sadonis, Rita Sussko, HM, and Al Przybylowski. The District was represented by 6 Councils: C-29, Newark, C-90, Kearny, NJ, C-100 Amsterdam, NY, C-110 Maspeth, NY, C-136 Hudson Mohawk, NY, C-152 Eastern Long Island. Our next District Meeting will be hosted by C-110, Maspeth.

Our "Lithuanian Cowboy" Ed Rimelis had been hospitalized and is now in a Rehab Center. We wish Ed, Joseph Chapulis and Eva Zilys improved health. We are happy to say that Joe Daniel is well on the road to recovery.

C-29 Ritual Chairperson, Helen Radisch, presented 3rd Degree

Medals and Certificates to 3 candidates: Msgr. George Lutz and John Sisak C-29 and Julia Schroeder C-110. Congratulations to all!

From Council #29- a HAPPY, HEALTHY Spring and Summer is wished to all our fellow Knights.

See you in Orlando!!!

C-110 Maspeth, NY Julia Schroeder

In November, we had an installation of new officers: Pres, Dr. Paul-Michael Kazas; 1st VP, Julia Schroeder; 2nd VP, Dr. Giedre Kumpikas; Treas, Mary Stungury; Sec, Christopher Schroeder; Fin Sec, Zina Budris.

Our annual Kucios in December was a success, as usual.

At the MAD meeting in March, the 3rd Degree was given to Julia Schroeder and at our Council's St. Casimir celebration the 3rd Degree was given to Ann Kingsley.

Due to a snow storm in Feb, the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration was postponed until March 12. Our women wore their Lithuanian costumes when they brought the gifts to the altar during Mass. A large group of Knights attended the program hosted by the Lithuanian American Community following the Mass.

Future events: May 28 the Knights will take part in the Maspeth Memorial Day Parade; June 25, C-110 will host a reception honoring Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas. The day will begin with the 11:30 Lithuanian Mass at Transfiguration RC Church. The reception will be at 1:00 PM in the parish hall.

C-147 St. Petersburg Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan

On Wednesday, Dec 7, 2005, C-147 held a meeting at The Lithuanian Club Hall in St. Petersburg, FL. This was the first meeting under the direction of the new President, Marilyn Kraujalis Lenihan. Prayer was led by Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Dr. Mathew Cyvas.

We are sad to report that member Vladas Gelazius died October 29, 2005. Vladas held the office of Sergeant at Arms. May he rest in the Peace of the Lord.

At the meeting we discussed the ways in which we might increase membership and attendance. Changing the meeting days was discussed at length with the conclusion that the current meeting times are good for most, but telephone reminders to the members would increase the likelihood of attendance.

It was decided that at our Feb meeting we would discuss the St. Casimir celebration Mass on March 5, 2006, at Holy Name Church in Gulfport. At that Mass, we will be conferring Fourth Degree upon Valeria Lescinkas as she was unable to travel to the Pittsburgh National Convention.

Fr. Cyvas had brought Christmas wafers for the members that would be having Kucios Christmas Eve.

Looking forward to a rewarding and blessed 2006, we wish all councils a Happy New Year!

C-152 Eastern Long Island - Toni Sakal

We have learned from the public press that Navy Commander Matthew Martin II, son of council member, Matthew Martin, has received a Master of Science degree in National Resourcing

Strategy. Commander Martin has been in Naval Aviation for 17 years. Congratulations!

We are also pleased to report that Sgt. Steven Dykowitz, great-nephew of Peter, our council member, has returned from Iraq, safely. Thank you for all your prayers.

We mourn the loss of Muriel Lofmark. We will miss her.

A few other members are in need of prayers: Frances Foster, Marvin Cohen, and Lillian Benson. Hope they feel better soon.

On a brighter note, John and Toni Sakal are the proud grandparents of their 12th grandchild. Matthew Wagner was born 8 weeks early and weighed 4lbs. 15oz. Mom, Ann Marie, and baby are doing well.

The Council will be having their annual picnic in July.

Hope to see you at the National Convention in Florida!

Amber District

Amber District Meeting C-46-Forest City, PA Betty A. Kwader

On March 5, 2006, in honor of St. Casimir's Day, we attended Mass in a body at St. Joseph's Church. There were 16, including three guests from Scranton - Marie and Richard Laske and Jim O'Neil. A wonderful time was had by all.

On March 12, 2006, the Amber District meeting was held in Easton. It was attended by Frank and Betty Kwader and Beverly and Donald Bennett. There were about 60 people for the Mass and meeting. Our treasurer, Beverly Bennett, received her third degree medal and certificate. Bev has been a member for 28 years

and an inspiration to all with her participation. We are all so proud of Beverly and offer our sincere congratulations.

Our April 2nd meeting was attended by 8 members and one guest. Get well wishes go out to Ann Cyzeski. Get well soon, Ann. John Morris provided St. Casimir prayer cards for the Amber District Meeting in March and for our council. What a nice way to open our meetings. We have received a generous donation again from the SNPJ Lodge #124 of Forest City to help support our Lithuanian Orphan Care Sponsor Child, Gyntis. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

The June Amber District Meeting will be held in Shamokin. Plans will be made for attendance during our May meeting.

Plans are underway to attend the Oct 8, 2006 Mass in the Basilica in Washington, DC, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the chapel of Our Lady of Siluva.

A very impressive ceremony was held on March 12 by the District Ritual Committee consisting of Barbara Miller, Irene Ozalis, and Jean Mihalick to present 11 participants with their 3rd degree medal and certificate. Recipients were Beverly Bennett-C-46; Benedict Aponavicius, C-63; Lawrence Domalakes C-144; Paul Domalakes, C-144; Lillian Klinosky, C-63; Blanche Kohanski, C-63; Joseph Kohanski, C-63; Ann Petratis, C-3; Helene Shaulis, C-63; Margaret Yanklunas, C-143; Jacob Zansitis, C-63. Congratulations to all the recipients!

C-74 Scranton, PA Marie Laske

Richard and Marie Laske and Jim O'Neil attended St. Joseph's Church for Mass and Communion Breakfast. The choir sang "Pulkim ant keliu" and "Sveika Maria" so beautifully that we all had a lump in our throats

and tears in our eyes. This is what memories are made of. President Betty Kwader and husband of Forest City carried the gifts. The Forest City Knights of Columbus joined us at Mass. Parochial Vicar Rev. Thomas J. Sokolowski PhD celebrated the Mass and spoke a beautiful sermon. The weather was great... no snow, just beautiful sunshine. After Mass we all went to the Whistle Stop Restaurant for a delicious breakfast. A very good time was enjoyed by all.

Della Zvirblis and Nell Bayoras Romanas who are home-bound need prayers from our faithful Knights.

Our Happy Wanderer, Margaret Clegg, is on the road again, to Florida for 2 months. Ruth Yanish visits all over the US with her daughters and son, Dr. Michael.

Plans are all ready for the Lithuanian Mass St. Ann's Day, July 26, 3:30 PM, at St. Ann's Basilica in West Scranton in the lower church. Our dedicated Father Clem Kasinskas comes in from Connecticut to celebrate the Mass. Please come.

A Happy Spring to all and may God shower you with his greatest blessings.

C-143 Pittston, PA Jean Mihalick

The Welsh have St. David; the Irish have St. Patrick and the Lithuanians have St. Casimir.

On a sunny, cold, balmy, windy March 5th, KofL C-143 and the St. Casimir's community joined together at 11:00 AM to celebrate a Mass in honor of our Patron Saint, St. Casimir. They also honored one of the Knights with the 4th Degree - Marcella Bartoli. Marcella was born on St. Casimir's Day, 92 years ago. Monsignor John Bendik and

Father Peter Alisauskas were the celebrants of the Mass. Mass intentions were also for the deceased and living members of the KofL.

Casimir Kizis and Steve Soha led the St. Casimir's Day procession into church, carrying the American and Lithuanian flags. The offertory procession began with the placement on the altar of 3 vigil candles - yellow, green and red, Lithuania's colors- in memory of the five members who died this year and for all the deceased members. Mary Amberelli carried the yellow vigil candle; Paul Patrick, the green; and Mary Pam Smith, the red. This was followed by Peggy Yanklunas with the picture of St. Casimir; Patricia Weiksner carried the Lily which symbolizes the purity of St. Casimir; the picture of Ausros Vartai Maria was carried by Anastasia Stanley; Vytis, the Knight, state emblem of Lithuania, and symbol of valor was carried by Ursula Danoski. The Wayside Cross Shrine which dots the Lithuanian countryside which is a reminder to raise minds and hearts to God in thanksgiving, was carried by Helen Karpovich. The wine, water, and hosts were carried by Marcella Bartoli; Mary Ann Cipolla and Jean Mihalick, Anna Walatkas, Clement Jasonis and Celestine Swantkowski were the Spiritual Observers. The narrator and lector was Carol Kizis. Following the Mass, the group held a luncheon meeting at Coopers. Invocation and remarks were given by Fr. Pete and remarks also by Msgr. Bendik. Readings of St. Casimir were given by Genevieve Dajnowski and Marion Perks. The oath of office was administered to 3 new members by Fr. Alisauskas. They were Mary Aberelli, Dave Cipolla and Paul Patrick. Fr. Hugh McGroarty finalized the program with spiritual prayers of the Benediction.

C-144 Anthracite, PA Ona

St. Casimir's Day was celebrated with a Mass at Annunciation Church in Frackville, followed by a luncheon in the church hall. The procession into church was led by the flags. President Larry Domalakes was lector and the Offertory gifts were carried by members.

A delightful luncheon followed. Cultural Chairman Meredith Domalakes spoke on the life of St. Casimir and Chuck Grabosky spoke on the way St. Casimir's Day is celebrated in Lithuania, today. Pastor of Annunciation Church, Fr. Dominic Kalata, gave the invocation and benediction. Thanks to all who worked for this beautiful day.

The following week President Domalakes, Paul Domalakes, Elsie Kosmisky, Evelyn Prep, Anna Snoich, Helen Paskey and Anne Wargo attended the Amber District Meeting in Lehigh Valley. It was another beautiful St. Casimir's Mass. President Domalakes and Paul Domalakes received their Third Degrees. Our thanks to Lehigh Valley for their hospitality.

New members were installed at our Feb meeting by Ritual Chairman, Evelyn Prep. Installed were Anthony Rightus, Jim and Margaret Hesse, Antoinette Pancerella, Dot and Jim Setcavage and Annie Domalakes. She explained the point and degree system and presented each with a Lithuanian and American flag pin.

Members voted to send an Easter basket of food to a poor family in Alytus. They also voted to send \$200 to help the Lithuanian Little League Team that will be playing in California. It was reported that all the packages we sent to Lithuania were received.

Our Meredith Domalakes received another reward for her scholastic abilities. She was honored with the Bishop's Scholar Award. We are so proud of Meredith. She has been an exceptional Cultural Chairman with an interesting topic on Lithuanian customs each month. We will be losing her as she will be going to college in the fall to further her education. When she leaves, Annie Domalakes, a student at Cardinal Brennan High School, will take the job of Cultural Chairman. It is so rewarding to have these young people take such interest in their Lithuanian heritage.

We will again be awarding scholarships to students in the local Catholic Elementary Schools. They must be of Lithuanian heritage. Our council encourages Catholic education and feel we are doing something by presenting these scholarships.

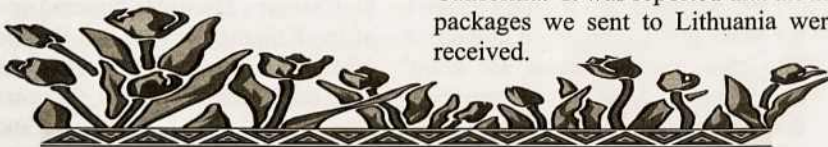
The council is starting to prepare for Lithuanian Days which will be the 12th and 13th of August. This will be the 92nd continuous Lithuanian Days and we hope it will be better than ever.

We send best wishes to our Vyciai family for a Happy Easter and a beautiful spring.

Mid Central District

C-25 Cleveland, OH Ursula Kunsitis

C- 25 celebrated St. Casimir's Day by attending Mass on Sunday, March 5, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church with our Spiritual Advisor. Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas, officiating at the Mass. Attendees were President, Theresa Capuria, Frank and Eugenija Joga, Cathy Kaczmarek, Gene and Ursula Kunsitis, Dolly Oberaitis, Nellie



Samas, Stella Sankal and Ray Vanagas.

Congratulations to Steve Yurkovic who was the winner of our 50/50 raffle held at our April Council Meeting where plans were finalized for the MCD Spring Meeting and Sports Weekend!

Welcome home to Sunbirds Helen and Bill Jakubs!

Eleanor Bendokas, Irene Chalko, Nellie Samas and Ann Wallis once again tried their luck at Greektown. Better luck next time, Ladies!

Congratulations to Gene Kunsitis on being accepted at the Spring Gates Mills Juried Art Show and also on selling his watercolor at the Patrons' Party!

Our deepest sympathy to Nelda Machutas and her family on the loss of her brother, Ronald Miller, who passed away in Arkansas this Spring.

A special HELLO to Helen Garnis, Vince and Marion Gray, Fran Pranskevich, Rose Rew, Stella Sankal, Adelle Zupka Tanner, Helen Valley and Lillian Yurkovic. You are all in our thoughts and prayers!

A Happy, Healthy Summer to All!!

C-96 Dayton, OH Frances R. Petkus, HM

Continuing with tradition, C-96 held its Annual St. Casimir's Day Celebration on March 5th, this year. Joseph Fletcher led the members into church with the council's handcrafted cross created by George A. Mikalauskas, which was then placed by the St. Casimir's altar. Father Mike's homily covered insight into the life of St. Casimir - not so much his royal life - but St. Casimir's love of justice, the needy and unfortunate. Our Junior Knights - Alex, Adam, and Nathan Fletcher and Tommy Petkus were Offertory Bearers. At

the end of Mass, Stefanija Rastikis led us in the Litany to St. Casimir, in Lithuanian. This was followed with the presentation of the First Degree to Daniel Tucker; Andrew Berczelly received the Second Degree. Congratulations to both! Singing of the Vyciu Himnas closed the program in church. Members then headed to the church hall for a delicious luncheon that was catered by Elaine Pacovsky and Judy Petrokas. No one went home hungry!! Our monthly meeting closed out the day.

Congratulations must go to Anne Louise Tucker and her committee, husband Ronald and son Daniel, for a very successful Palm Sunday Bake Sale on Sunday, April 9, 2006. Included was Koffee Klatch for the parish. We can't thank the membership enough for all the donations, purchases and general participation. Council winners in the various raffle items were Elinor Sluzas, The Mikalauskas' Frances, Elena, Mary Agnes, Robert Petkus, Elaine Pacovsky and Linda Pant. In the raffle for the younger parishoners, winners were Gabriella and Andrew Pant and Tommy Petkus!!!

With input from Elinor Sluzas from her recuperation "home", the Petkus', Fran, Michael and Norma and Elinor's family, Frank and Karolyn Ambrose, pulled together in preparing the Jambalaya and Special Buttered Bread pudding, New Orleans style, for the Four Parish Fourth Annual MardiGras on March 25th. Once again, it was an evening enjoyed with participation of all four parishes under the care of Fr. Michael Holloran!!

Congratulations go to Erin Petkus who has moved into the regular council after being a Junior Knight for many years. Erin took her Knights of Lithuania Oath at the meeting of April 2, 2006. Robert Petkus was presented with his Second Degree at the meeting. Congratulations!!!

The Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute of the University of Dayton, Ohio, held a special project from April 1- May 12, 2006 featuring "The Passion in Wood and Straw". C-96's George A. Mikalauskas was invited to be a part of the project, featuring his carved Lithuanian crosses. Congratulations!!

Get well wishes are sent to our Glendale, Arizona member, Joseph Boeke, Helen Vaitkus and Mary Agnes Mikalauskas.

Deepest sympathies go to the Kondrotas Family on the loss of their mother, Ann. Ann, who was 90 years young, had been active when she and her husband were in better health.

Also, our deepest sympathies go to the Vangas Family on the recent loss of their mother, Frances. The past few years Frances joined our out of town membership list when she and husband, Charles, moved to Tampa, Florida. Fran was the accordionist who accompanied our Lithuanian Dance groups in the 1950's and 1960's.

May Ann and Frances rest in the peace of our Lord as they join their husbands.

Belated Happy Mothers' Day with Happy Fathers' Day to follow!

New England District

New England District C. Treciokas

Reverend John Rikteraitis, Spiritual Advisor of C-6 of the Holy Family in Hartford, CT celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood with a celebration at St. Andrew's Lithuanian Church in New Britain, CT on May 7, 2006

Knight Life



Ann Marie Juraitis, President of Council 157, Lemont, IL welcomes the members of the MAMD to the Annual St. Casimir's Day Mass, Luncheon and Spring District Meeting. Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, HM, MAMD Spiritual Advisor, listens to her greetings.



Council 157, Lemont, IL members (L to R): Georgiana Macke, Gigi Maluska and Irene Macke, serve up a great home cooked meal for all the attendees of the MAMD Annual St. Casimir's Day Luncheon.

with a Mass in Lithuanian. God bless you, Father.

Last year, Vivian Rodgers, our District President from Worcester C-26 received the St. Joseph's medal for outstanding service. This year, Leona Sawka from C-6 of Holy Trinity Church in Hartford, CT received it. Congratulations to you!

New England District Convention News:

Fifty-nine people were greeted by President Isabel Peterson when they attended the Spring KofL Convention on April 23, 2006 at St. Augustine Church in North Branford, CT, hosted by C-50 of New Haven. Erica Friburg of C-103 from Providence, RI, was a guest. She is the recipient of a NED scholarship attending Quinnipiac college and came to thank us.

Six members received their third degree medal: Stan Wasil and Dorothy Ausevich from C-27 in Norwood, MA; Judy Landers, Alice Gizesky, Lillian Joseph and Leona Sawka from C-6 in Hartford, CT.

Dave Boucher from Lawrence was Sergeant-at-Arms. Marcia Rogers from Westfield read the Secretary's report for Fran Bumilla. Marion Racicot from Worcester read the treasurer's report. Larry Miscevicus from Bridgeport, CT, gave a report on Lithuanian Affairs. Dave Boucher gave a report on the Fall Convention on September 18, 2005. Marion Hobitz gave the report on the Cultural Festival on October 16, 2005 at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury.

Anna Maria College in Paxton, MA, hosted a girl from Lithuania who has since finished her education and returned to Lithuania. NED councils have donated generously for room renovations at the Pontifical College in Rome. Donations were also made to Camp Neringa, Lithuanian Children's Relief Fund, Our Lady of Siluva Shrine in Siluva and to the

homeless shelter in Lithuania sponsored by the Sisters of Mother Teresa. Many are planning to attend Brockton C-1's Extravaganza for an evening of wine, music and song on May 6 for the Lithuanian Children's Relief Fund.

Worcester and Hartford are chartering buses for the pilgrimage to Our Lady of Siluva's chapel in the National Basilica in Washington, DC on Oct 8. - Oct. 15, 2006 is the NED Cultural Festival at Maironis; Oct 15 is also the 100th anniversary of St. George's Church in Bridgeport, CT. June 23-25 is the NED retreat to Kennebunkport. The District flag was transferred from C-50 to C-27.

C-6 Hartford, CT Florence Morkus

The March meeting started early with a bingo presented by the CT Light and Power Co. Lucky members enjoyed winning the bingo prizes from CL&P.

Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John Rikteraitis opened the meeting with a prayer. Later, Father celebrated Mass in honor of St. Casimir's Day.

Cultural: Dalia Dzikas gave a report on the life of St. Casimir.

We extend our congratulations to Leona Sawka on receiving the St. Joseph Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation. On March 19, 2006, Archbishop Mansel presented the medal at the Cathedral of St. Joseph during a prayer service.

Father Albin Gurklis celebrated another birthday. May God continue to bless him with many more years of good health and joy. Ilgiausiu Metu!

The following members received 1st Degrees: Irene Belanger, Irene Celinka, Melvina Klebauskas and Arlene Nolan.

2nd Degrees to: Vivian Jakabaitis, Frank Kadis, Jonas Kasputis, Bette Ann Liudzius and Joseph Liudzius.

For Lithuanian Affairs, Bette Ann Liudzius presented a new international magazine, "Lithuania Today".

At the annual Scouts' Fair ("Muge"), the KofL Tee shirts and jewelry were sold by Judy Landers, Leona Sawka and Shirley Musumeci - for a good profit.

Nominations and elections are to be September, 2006.

Get well wishes go out to Kristina Serksnas and Alyce Geesky.

A former KofL'er and long-time parishoner of Holy Trinity, Leo Mazotas died March 21 at the age of 96. May his soul rest in peace. Our sympathy goes to family.

C-7 Waterbury, CT Adele Klenske

We have been remiss in our correspondence to the Vytis, but here we are, again, and hopefully we will be more faithful with our council news in the future.

We celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day on Feb 16. Ray Snyder, Jr., a KofL member was the honorary Mayor For A Day. Ray is the son of the late Ray Snyder, Sr., who was once a bona-fide Waterbury mayor. The yearly ceremony was held at the Waterbury City Hall with the raising of the Lithuanian flag in the courtyard followed by speeches in the aldermanic chambers and winding up with coffee, cake, and pastries (compliments of the City). Our President, Linas Balsys was Master of Ceremonies. The event was attended by Ray's wife, Mary, as well as his family members. There was a good turnout of the Lithuanian community as well as many others. Thank you to all who support this worthy and meaningful event.

Starting last October, a group of KofL ladies formed a craft group, organized by Betty Bebrin. We started out by making Halloween and Christmas pins, which sold fairly well and then during March, we worked on Easter pins which sold extremely well. Our Betty turned out to be a one woman sales force, selling most of the pins. A friend of Zita Smolskis, from Stratford, donated a very large amount of supplies to craft these pins - for which we are very grateful. That certainly helped with the profit margin. We all enjoyed these craft sessions since it gave us an opportunity to socialize and share a cup of tea. The women included: Rose Dubauskas, Ann Valuckas, Ann Kundrotas, Doris Blinstrubas, Doris Snirpunas, Ann Vicas, Vera Puzas, Betty Bebrin and Adele Klenske. Special thanks to Vera and Rose who made many pins on their own, in their homes.

On April 2, we had another of our now famous Pancake Breakfasts. Chaired for the 3rd time by Marlene Shea and assisted by Barbara Kenausis, our champion bacon and sausage cook Marlene our pancake flipper and the other kitchen help included Richard Dubauskas, Bob Orintas and Adele Klenske. Servers and odd jobs were taken care of by many to whom we are thankful.

Our June meeting will be a Pot Luck Supper Affair, then So long until Fall - our wishes for a healthy, happy summer to all!!

C-10 Athol-Gardner Vincukas

Our council celebrated the Feast of St. Casimir, our Patron, by attending the 10:45 Mass in beautiful St. Francis, on March 5. Rev. Adam Reid, assistant Pastor - whose mother happens to be Lithuanian - offered Mass for our deceased members. Deacon Paul Mello was the homilist. Nellie Melaika and Dick Qualters

brought the gifts to the altar. Organist Theresa Gabis and choir were outstanding. Our National Hymn was played at the end of Mass. Sixteen KofL'ers enjoyed dinner at the local Chinese restaurant.

On March 12 - the anniversary of the second restoration of Lithuanian Independence - a Mass was offered at St. Francis by our KofL for those who gave their lives for her freedom.

Let us pause and remember Fr. John C. Jutt, former Pastor, on the 35th anniversary of his untimely death. In 1946 he formed the Lithuanian Affairs Committee that kept alive the Lithuanian cause of freedom against Soviet oppression. Sadly, he did not live to see his cherished dream of a free Lithuania. Rest in Peace.

Health wishes are extended to Ann Ambrose and Frances Burba who are convalescing in local nursing homes.

C-17 So. Boston, MA Regina

St. Casimir Day was celebrated by Pastor Stephen Zukas at St. Peter Lithuanian Church on March 5, 2006. A procession of C-17 members was led by Acting President, Florence Zaleskas and Flag Bearer, Bill Olevitz. Florence is filling in for President Frank Markuns who is vacationing in Florida with family and friends.

After Mass all the parishoners were invited to the church hall to partake of the "kavute". A most splendid brunch had been prepared by Florence Zaleskas and her capable committee of officers and members. The extensive menu pleased us all. Aciu visiems darbininkams!

Also celebrating with us were C-27 members. Despite the closing of St. George Lithuanian Church of Norwood, members are still active in their community. Nice to see you all.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Ruth Slanina who passed away in February, 2006. She leaves behind her devoted husband, Joseph, and daughters Sr. Mary Ruth and Donna. Ruth was sister of our own former Pastor, Msgr. Albert J. Contons. SuDiev, Ruth.

Long-time C-17 member Eleanora "Lou" Mikalonis, sister of Mildred Daniels, now resides in Bay View Residence. Lou recently celebrated her 90th birthday with her family and friends. At the same residence is another longtime C-17 member, Joseph Januskevich, brother of Ann Norinkevich.

Sveiki sulauke Sv. Velyku. Iki kita karta.

C-26 Worcester, MA Ruta

Our annual Penny Sale was held for the benefit of our orphan that we are supporting in Lithuania. We are very pleased to say that with the money from the sale and extra donations we were able to fulfill our pledge.

Because we sent the orphanage mittens, scarves, and various winter items during the Holiday Season, we received a very nice thank you note along with a picture of the 48 children that they care for. What a handsome group! We are so pleased that we can help support the Kedainiu Vaiku Globos Namai - Orphan Home in their worthwhile work.

Francis (Duggan) Degutis and Ann and Bill Leseman were recognized for their excellent work for St. Casimir's Parish by Fr. Jakubauskas. A gift was given to each. At the Parish Dinner, Ann was recognized, again, for all the extra work that she does for the

Parish and was awarded one of the famous "blue jackets".

Al Bulejcik will be participating in the Rifle and Pistol Competitions that are coming up. These are Navy Fleet Matches in Dam Neck, VA. They will be shooting from 200-500 yards. He estimates 200-250 competitors. We wish him well and hope he is among the winners.

Danute Miner is taking English classes and is progressing very well. We are very proud of her. Keep up the good work!

Dorothy Lalone's son recently passed away, suddenly, in Anchorage Alaska where he lived with his wife. He was only 52. This summer Dorothy's other 4 siblings will be going to Alaska for a special memorial service.

Albina Kondrotas's brother, Daniel Benuskevich, recently passed away. We extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to both of these families.

Ray Jakubauskas brought a wonderful DVD on Lithuania and this was shown to the members after a meeting. This film was done very well and the beauty of Lithuania with its people and culture was inspiring. For those of us who have never been there, it made us want to go. And, for those lucky enough to have visited Lithuania, it brought back fond memories.

After the Mass honoring Lithuanian Independence Day at St. Casimir's, C-116 and C-26 hosted the refreshments for the reception that followed. The committee consisted of C-116: Rita Skamarack, Irene Adamaitis, Dorothy Komosky, Irene Adamaitis, Jr., and Dorothy Sinkavich. C-26: Vivian Rodgers, Marian Racicot, Arthur Racicot and Al Bulejcik. The Lithuanian American Community - Bendruomene- were in charge of the program.

We were so happy to welcome Al Rodgers and Aldona Waska back among us. They are both recuperating very nicely. Rita Margosian is now among the sick. Cards to cheer her would be appreciated.

Paul and Jean Grabauskas just returned after a month in Phoenix, AZ. They were visiting their sons, Tom and Gary.

Ruth and Vitty Gadilauskas celebrated Easter early this year. Their two daughters and their families will be leaving for London, England, to visit Joan's son, Andrew, who is attending Sussex University. Not only has he been working hard with his studies, but also has travelled to various places in Europe. He is in a student exchange program and will return to George Washington University soon.

C-30 Westfield, MA Barbara

Happy Spring and Summer to all Knights. Our small council engaged in two very important activities so far this year. First, during the Christmas Season, we collected a huge amount of socks and underwear for the Lithuanian orphaned children. We posted notices in our church bulletin and we received help from Sr. Marcella, our faithful, devoted sister who asked her 6th grade religion class to donate. The overwhelming generosity both in socks and underwear and monetary donations was greatly appreciated. They were delivered to Sr. Helen Ivanauskas at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent in Brockton in January. We hope all the Lithuanian children will be warm in their new attire.

Our second endeavor was the making of Lithuanian sausage on April 1st for the Easter Holiday. Our council has two new co-chairpersons - Janet Thyberg and Barbara Sokolowski. This event- at St. Casimir's for many

years and now at St. Peter and St. Casimir has always been a very successful event. This year, with the help of Marcia and Jim Rogers and 12 other extremely competent workers, we peeled and chopped 36lbs. of onions, mixed 26 bags of spices and made over 650 lbs. of Lithuanian sausage. Orders were taken in advance and all sausage was sold. Once the sausage day was over, all our workers were exhausted, but admitted to having fun in the midst of casings, onions and sausage. All in all, we hope to do it again next year - hopefully with more workers.

Our prayers go out to all our home-bound members - Corky, Cookie, Adele, Esther and Charlie and Wanda. You are in our prayers every day.

We wish all Knights of Lithuania members a sunny summer and a great 93rd National Convention, visiting Mickey and the gang in Florida. Say hello to him for all of us not able to attend this year's convention.

C-141 Bridgeport, CT Florence Zikaras

We celebrated the 88th anniversary of Lithuania's Independence with a Mass of thanksgiving on Feb 18. A violin recital followed in the church with Edita Orlynyte and the String Quartet from the Fairfield County Symphony Society. They played selections from Bach and Vivaldi. Edita was born in Vilnius and played with the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra. She came to this country 10 years ago, plays with several orchestras in the area and gives violin lessons.

Lunch was served in the undercroft of the church. We were privileged to have Algimantas Misevicius, Consul of the Republic of Lithuania, as our guest speaker. He

spoke of the economic progress the country has made and the "growing pains" she is experiencing as a Republic. He answered many questions from the audience. We were happy to greet so many guests from the neighboring towns.

St. Casimir's Day was celebrated March 19 with our usual monthly noon Mass. Dinner followed in the church hall. Nancy Pawasauskas made 135 cabbage rolls. Her kitchen assistants were Linas Stasitis, Barbara Schmidt, Pat Silk and her grandsons, Derek, 10, and Chris, 6. The boys were a great help in moving chairs, setting the tables, and acting as errand boys. The adults were impressed.

Marie Brilvitch gave a short history on St. Casimir and Rev Julio LoPresti, the Pastor, gave the invocation. Peter Balcius conducted the raffles. Donations were accepted for St. Casimir Guild and the Lithuanian Children's Relief Fund.

We mourn the loss of Frances Marlin, a long-time member, who died in March. Condolences go out to her husband and daughters.

Remember Stefa Vaikutis who is gravely ill in your prayers.

Apologies to Bill Brilvitch, our fin sec.... I gave him a new name in the last column. Sorry, Bill, another senior moment on my part.

MidAmerica District

C-82 Gary, IN Daisy Talley

On February 19, a warm welcome to a great crowd was given by Justin Jagiella, President of Lithuanian American Council, Lake County, IN, to celebrate the 88th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence Day at the American Legion Post 430, Merrillville.

After the pledge of allegiance and the anthems of both America and Lithuania, Mistress of Ceremonies Birute Vilutis, President of the Lithuanian American Community of US, Inc., East Chicago, greeted the people.

Prayer for those who have died for the cause of freedom was offered by Monsignor I. Urbonas. Monsignor continues to travel from Lemont for his former parishoners.

A traditional Lithuanian dinner was served; Loreta Raudonis Vician was in charge.

An address was given by Evelyn Ozelis, President of KofL council 36 and President of Chicago's Lithuanian American Council, with special attention of issues for Lithuanian youth.

Greetings were extended by Sr. Janine Golubickis, SSC; Robert Martin, MAMD President, and Joanna Rudzevicius, President of KofL council 82.

Mildred Jagiella gave a report about the K of L Lithuanian Affairs Committee.

After reading the newspaper notice, a surprise guest was the Mayor of Lake Station, IN, who is of Lithuanian heritage.

After benediction by Monsignor Urbonas, "God Bless America" was sung in American and Lithuanian - the translation by Faustas Strolia, HM, who honored us with his attendance, along with wife, Terry.

Entertainment was provided by Bronius Muras, accordion virtuoso, after singing "Brangi Lietuva".

C-157 Lemont, IL Terry Strolia

Our council started the year on a sad note, with the loss of six of our

members. John Maluska, Lucille Kazunas, Algis Liepinaitis, Walter Tenclinger, Vera Paukstis and Benedict Nauseda were all called home by the Lord to their Eternal Reward. May they Rest in Peace.

Our elections were held at the September meeting with the following results: President, Ann Marie Juraitis; Vice President, Georgianna Macke; Recording Secretary, Ann Marie Kassel, HM; Corresponding Secretary, Donna Juraitis; Financial Secretary, Irene Macke; Treasurer, Chuck Macke; Trustee, Ben Nauseda; and Sgt-at-Arms, Terry Strolia

Our first event was to participate in the annual hayride at the Jagiella Farm, sponsored by C-82, Gary, IN. This is mainly for juniors, but oldsters also have a great time. We appreciated their usual outstanding hospitality. In November we attended the Mass for the deceased members to keep in mind all those dear to us who have passed on. This was hosted by Chicago council 36, followed by a pancake breakfast in the Church Hall.

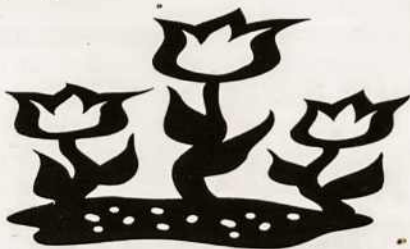
We were introduced to the idea of writing letters to appropriate people in support of issues in which the Knights take an interest by National Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson Mildred Jagiella. This activity has been continued by our council chairperson, Barb Kotlar, who brings us current issues, addresses, stationery, etc. We write these letters at the conclusion of our meeting. Several members reported receiving replies from our senators at the most recent council meeting.

In December we sponsored our annual Kucios on December 6th at the Lemont Library. This was a very successful event with about 40 in attendance. All who attend contribute a dish, which leads to an excellent assortment of traditional dishes. Decorations were tastefully

done by Barb and Dick Kotlar. Donna Juraitis held the raffle and also included gifts to each junior in attendance. Faustas Strolia, HM, led us in a sing-a-long of Christmas carols, both in Lithuanian and English. Thanks to all members who also participated in set-up and clean-up to make everything go smoothly.

In March our council hosted the annual St. Casimir's Day Mass and celebration. This event was held at nearby Alvernia Manor, a Franciscan Retirement Center, where we were able to use their chapel for the opening Mass led by celebrant Rev. A. Zakarauskas, HM, and District Spiritual Advisor. Juniors Lexie Rudmin and Liza Macke participated in the liturgy. Georgianna Macke was lector. Faustas Strolia, HM, played the organ with Ann Marie Kassel, HM, as cantor. We then moved to the outstanding dining room with windows overlooking the beautiful valley of the DesPlaines River and Cal Sag Channel. We were very happy with the catered meal provided by A. Soliunas, especially the kugelis and tortas. The meal was followed by the Quarterly Mid-America District Meeting. All present were welcomed by C-157 President, Ann Marie Juraitis. She introduced us to Sister Genevieve, the Administrator of Alvernia Manor who also welcomed us and gave some background about the location. About 40 members attended the event.

We are looking forward to the summer District Picnic to be held once again at the Jagiella Farm in July. May you all have a fruitful spring and summer season.



Knights of Lithuania Calendar of Events

May 2006

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

June 2006

- 10th Mid-America District Summer Meeting hosted by Council 112, Chicago, IL at Seklycia Restaurant
- 14th Flag Day
- 18th Father's Day

July 2006

- 2nd 8th Lithuanian Song Festival in Chicago, IL. Check <http://lithuaniansongfest.org> for more information.
- 4th Independence Day – God Bless America!
- 9th Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse Picnic, Chicago, IL
- 16th Mid-America District Annual Family Picnic at the Jagiella Farm in Hebron, IN.

August 2006

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

September 2006

- 4th Labor Day
- 16th Mid-America District Bowling
- 17th Mid-America District Fall Meeting – Host Council 82, Gary, IN

October 2006

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

November 2006

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

December 2006

- 24th Christmas Eve
- 25th Christmas Day
- 31st New Year's Eve

January 2007

- 1st Happy New Year to One and All

February 2007

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

March 2007

- 4th St. Casimir's Day

April 2007

- 23rd St. George's Day



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Celebrate Your Moms!

Celebrate Your Dads!

Celebrate Your Family!

On Our Front Cover: Georgianna and Liza Macke
 of Council 157 - Lemont, IL

On Our Back Cover: The Petkus Family of Council
 96 - Dayton, OH (circa 1967).
 Michael, HM (Deceased), Fran HM,
 Mike and Thomas.



Have a happy, healthy and safe summer!

***Remember; even though you may
 go on vacation this summer
 don't take a vacation from God,
 He misses seeing you on Sunday!***