



Vytis - The Knight

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*I pledge allegiance
to the Flag, of the
United States of
America,
and to the Republic for
which it stands:
One Nation under
GOD,
Indivisible,
with Liberty and
Justice for all.*

**HAPPY
230th BIRTHDAY
AMERICA!!!**

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2005-2006**

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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.



*The Knights of Lithuania
is pleased to be sponsoring
the Holy Mass
in honor of the
40th Anniversary of the dedication
of the
Lady of Šiluva Chapel
in the
Basilica of the National Shrine
of the Immaculate Conception
Washington, DC*

*The Mass will be held in the
Great Upper Church
of the Basilica*

*on
Sunday, October 8, 2006*

*at
2:00p.m.*

All members, friends and guests are encouraged to attend this special celebration in honor of Our Lady's appearance at Šiluva in 1608.

For additional information about the Mass please contact:

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The propagation of Our Lady of Šiluva to the world is a special project of the Knights of Lithuania. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Washington, DC on the 8th as we pay honor to Our Lady.

Vytis Staff Notes

Dear Fellow Members:

Summer is here and convention is upon us. We do hope to see everyone in Florida for our 93rd National Convention.

All of us on the Vytis-The Knight staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your patience as we have transitioned Vytis over the last several months. We have made some major changes for Vytis; we hope you are happy with the results of those changes. We welcome your input, both positive and negative. We're working hard to make the magazine one that you enjoy and wait to receive issue after issue.

This issue contains what we think are some great articles and information. We hope you agree. We're always looking for feature writers. Please let that literary feel flow. We'll be happy to consider it for a future issue of Vytis.

Also, please remember that this year we will be marking the 40th Anniversary of the Our Lady of Siluva Shrine in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The Knights of Lithuania is sponsoring this Mass and plans are under way for what we're sure will be a memorable Mass. Please plan on attending. In anticipation of this special day we encourage all our members to remember Our Lady when you're offering your prayers. We've printed her prayer from Šiluva below for you.

Have a great rest of the summer and we'll be talking to you soon.

Vytiškai,

Your Vytis Staff

Sr. Johanna Marie

Rob

Mildred

Lithuanian Prayer to Our Lady of Siluva

**O Most Holy Virgin Mary,
Thou who didst appear to the
shepherds in the fields at Šiluva,
Thou whose tears did bathe the
rock where once an altar stood,
Thou who didst with plaintive
voice say: "You plow and seed
here where formerly my Son was
honored," grant that we, moved
by Thy tears, may once as our
Forefathers did, revive the spirit
of adoration of Thy Son in our
fallow hearts, strengthen the
tottering structure of the shrine
which is the family, and seek
forgiveness for the
negligences and sins of our
nation.**

**O Mother of God,
we desire to raise up
the glory of Your revelation
from forgotten ruins,
that we may all the more
honor Thee, the patroness
of our country, and with thy
help obtain for our nation
the spirit of a living Faith.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.



President's Message

My Dear Fellow Members:

Summertime is here and so is our annual Convention – the 93rd to be exact. We do hope that you plan to join your fellow K. of L'ers in Florida. The members of the Supreme Council have spent the last year planning for this event. We are sure that the delegates will consider these convention days a highlight of the K. of L. year.



Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas has been reassigned to London, England. He has always been a friend of the K. of L. and has been very supportive of our initiatives. We sincerely wish the Ambassador and his family the very best in their new home and country.

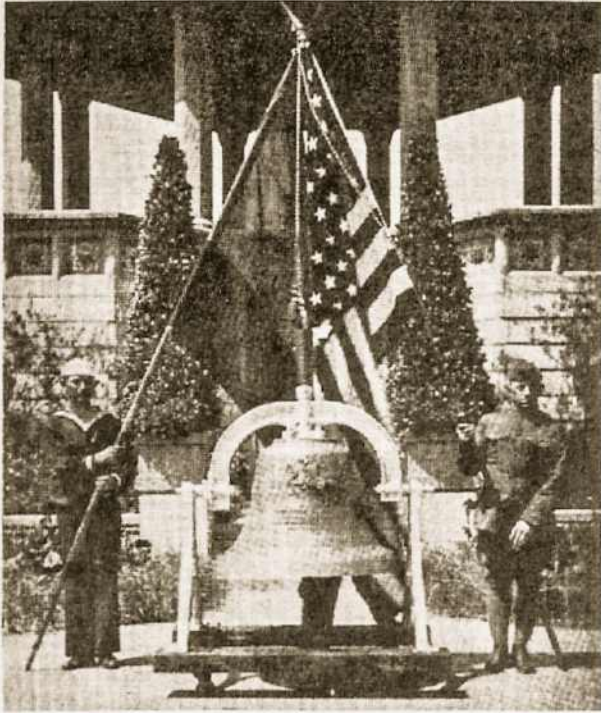
My personal thanks to all for your kindness and support during the past three years. It has been an honor and a privilege to represent the Knights of Lithuania. Our organization continues to flourish and retain its leadership status in the Lithuanian community. We can be justly proud of all our accomplishments.

Vytiškai,

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

Lithuanian American Liberty Bell (Laisves Varpas)

By Henry L. Gaidis



The Liberty Bell, donated by American Lithuanians to the War Museum in Kaunas, during its official presentation.

With the Lithuanian Proclamation of the Independence in Vilnius, on February 16, 1918, American Lithuanians quickly rallied in support for the new government. On March 13, 1919, twelve hundred delegates from various organizations representing some 700,000 American Lithuanians convened at the Third National Congress of Lithuanian-Americans in New York City, New York. They called for the United States to recognize the Independence of Lithuania and formed an executive committee to meet with President Woodrow Wilson. That meeting took place on May 3, 1918, where the Congress' adopted resolution asking the President to permit a Lithuanian delegation to attend the planned Peace Conference was presented. To demonstrate their loyalty to the United States, Lithuanian Americans held 4th of July parades across the country where they called for "Each Lithuanian in the spirit of Vytautas and Kosciusko" to champion the cause of freedom for all nations. These early Lithuanian Americans then continued to coordinate their political efforts to gain support for the newly established Lithuanian government through petitions, donations, contribution drives, and the sale of bonds. Through the efforts of the Lithuanian American community \$1,800,000 in Lithuanian bonds were purchased. With the

raised money, orphans were cared for, medical supplies provided, people fed, soldiers supplied, and the Lithuanian nation saved.

At every gathering of these early Lithuanian Americans the historic Vytis emblem of Lithuania was displayed in some manner or another. Realizing the importance the Vytis symbol held to these new immigrants, the Chicago National Convention, June 8-11, 1918, voted to authorize and fund the construction of a Lithuanian American Liberty Bell. The American Liberty Bell cast during the American War for Independence over time came to symbolize the freedom held so dear to every American to this day. This bell rang out the call for freedom and liberty in 1776 and gave hope to Americans in one of its most troubling hours. It was deemed fitting to have the bell made using the original Philadelphia 1776 Liberty Bell as its model. Such a liberty bell would be a fitting gift from Lithuanian Americans to their native land in its trying hour of independence.

The proposal for this bell came from Lithuanian American Lawyer, Jonas Bagdziunas (John Borden), who would later organize and head the committee formed to raise funds for the project. Borden and his able staff quickly went to work and raised the required funds from donations received from every Lithuanian community in the United States. Honorary bronze medals in the shape of a miniature



The bell as it was represented on a medal of days gone by.

Lithuanian American Liberty Bell hanging from a

Lithuanian tri-color flag ribbon of yellow, green, and red were awarded to those who contributed \$5 or more to the cause. Borden was so successful that the committee even after completely paying for the construction of the bell was able to donate a surplus \$8,536 to the Lithuanian Peace Delegation in Paris. Though this sum is minimal by today's standards it was more than enough to support the Lithuanian Peace Delegation for several months in those trying day while it was seeking recognition for a free and independent Lithuania.

The constructed Lithuanian American Liberty Bell weighted 1200 pounds and was virtually identical to the Philadelphia Liberty Bell. What made the new bell distinctively Lithuanian was the large historical Vytis emblem embossed on the one side and an inscription authored by Bronius K. Balutis a well known Lithuanian statesman who would later serve as Lithuania's envoy in Washington and London. The Lithuanian inscription "O skambink per amžius vaikams Lietuvos, kad laisvės nevertas, kas negina jos" proclaimed to the world that the bell would "Oh, ring through the ages for the children of Lithuania. One who does not defend Freedom is not worthy of having it."



The bell in the tower of the Kaunas War Museum.

On January 12, 1922, the Lithuanian American Liberty Bell was delivered to the seat of the Lithuanian government in Kaunas as the historical capital of Lithuania was then under Polish military occupation. As a result, the bell could not be installed in the Gediminas Castle where it had originally been intended. As a result, on February 21, 1922, General Vladas Nagius-Nagevicius and others proposed that the bell be installed in the belfry of the Vytautas the Great War Museum and the proposal accepted by the government.

The Lithuanian American Liberty Bell first rang out on February 16, 1922, in commemoration of the 1918 declaration establishing the Republic of Lithuania. On that occasion, the Reverend Juozas Tumas-Vaizgantas consecrated the bell and gave a historical sermon. Petras Vilešis, the oldest "aušrininkas" in Kaunas and an indispensable veteran of the War of Independence was given the honor of ringing the bell. The insignia of the Lithuanian Liberty Bell was used to raise funds for Lithuania's Invalid War Veterans and miniature Liberty Bell lapel pins given to donors in a similar fashion of the way funds were raised for the bell itself.

Four smaller bells, named in honor of various historical Lithuanian battlefields, were added to the belfry on the tenth Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence and the bells ringing sounded out during all important national holidays until the nation was occupied during World War II. On August 1, 1940, the Lithuanian national flag was ordered removed from the Museum belfry and the bells became silent through the Nazi and Soviet occupation. In 1956, Viktoras and Giedrius Kuprevičius resumed ringing the four battlefield bells to provide continued hope to the nation. However the Liberty Bell remained silent during the fifty years of oppressive Soviet occupation.

On February 16, 1989, when the Lithuanian national flag was again raised above the tower the long silent Lithuanian American Liberty Bell rang out the call of Freedom and in mourning for the thousands that had perished in its defense. The restored Republic of Lithuania has featured the Liberty Bell on a stamp and unissued 500 litu bank note signifying the nation's continued respect for this symbol of freedom. Today visitors to Kaunas can hear the Concerts of the Kaunas Carillon Bells so long silent during Soviet occupation. The Lithuanian American Liberty Bell given as a gift by immigrants to their homeland so many years ago still rings out its dream for Freedom and Liberty.

Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, HM Celebrates 65th Anniversary Of Priestly Ordination



Fr. Zak offers Holy Mass on the occasion of this 65th Anniversary at nativity B.V.M. Parish



Fr. Zak distributes communion to C-112 Member, Diane Svehla during the Anniversary Mass.

Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, HM, celebrated an extraordinary milestone in his priestly life on Sunday, May 21, 2006, being the 65th anniversary of his ordination! Father is the long-time Spiritual Advisor of the Mid-America District and member of Council 112, Chicago, Illinois. Having been a former pastor of Nativity B.V.M. Parish, Father "Zak", as he is affectionately called, offered Mass at the church that day in celebration of this wonderful anniversary. Afterwards, Father was greeted and congratulated by the parishioners during a reception in the parish hall.

An interesting fact to note about Father Zak is that he holds the distinction of being the youngest man every ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago. We wish Father our heartiest congratulations and all our prayers that God will continue to shower him with many blessings and good health for many years to come. We also thank him for the many years of faithful service he has given to God, his people and especially the Knights of Lithuania.

Ad Multos Annos!



Fr. Zak prepares to cut his anniversary cake in the Parish Hall at the reception.



Parishioners, K of L Members and friends pose for a photo with Fr. Zak at the reception.



Welcome
to Our Latest New Members

Council 3

Patricia Caltabiano

Council 6

Dala Bansavich
Linda Ann Bansavich
Leon John Farr
Corinne C. Longo

Council 7

Henry Kachergis
Eric Narkevicius
Blanche Petkus
Algirdas Saulaitis
Vincas Skladaitis
Marija Stankus
Bill Stokes
Janet Stokes
Edward P. Zuraitis

Council 30

William J. Miller

Council 78

Deanna Penkus Nealey
Richard H. Nealey
Frank S. Ulcickas

Council 110

Jackie Abramaitis
Joseph Abramaitis
Romas Kezys

Council 112

Paticia Knox
Thomas Knox

Council 133

Dalia Anelauskas
John Paul Carobus, II
Rev. Tomas Karanauskas
Richard Maurutis McGrath
Aida Mikalauskas
Jeannie Peters
Maria Russel
Shea Patrick Vitartis
Robert M. Wallak

Council 136

Deacon Jerry Grigaitis
Betty J. Parker
Joan F. Parker
Christine B. Tambasco

Council 143

Mary Abarelli
Sarah Jean Cannon
David Cipolla
Paul Patrick
Marion Perks
Robert P. Warnagiris

Don't Forget!

***We always
have room for
more
members!***



Lithuanian Affairs

News You Should Be Aware Of!

Below is a letter that we received. This is such an important topic for all Roman Catholics of Lithuanian Descent that we wanted to share it with you in its entirety. After reading it, please consider their request and send a letter on their behalf. We've provided some address info for your convenience.

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Archbishop of Philadelphia
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Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299
Fax: 1.215.587.3907

Most Rev. Edward P. Cullen, D.D.
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Allentown, PA 18104

Knights of Lithuania

Anthracite Council 144



May 26, 2006

Lithuanian Affairs
Vytis Church
2601 W. Marquette Road
Chicago, IL 60629-1817

St. George's Church, Shenandoah, Pa. is the oldest Lithuanian Parish in the USA. The Parish was established in 1872, and the cornerstone of the present church was laid in 1891. Since 1872 the Parish has continuously served the spiritual needs of the Lithuanian-Americans of the region. Lithuanians first arrived in the Shenandoah in 1869.

The first Lithuanian-Catholic Church was constructed in 1872, the first Pastor was Father Andrew Stravinskias. The church was named St. Casimir's in honor of the Patron Saint of Lithuania, St. Casimir. Father Strupinskias was transferred in 1877 and the appointment of the new Pastor was Fr. Alexis Lenarkiewicz who could only speak Polish. The Lithuanian parishioners were not pleased and left St. Casimir's to build a new Church. There was opposition from Fr. Lenarkiewicz but with the assistance of Rev. Alexander Burba, a member of the Lithuanian Intellegentia who came to America in 1889 and was serving in Mahanoy City at the time, was authorized by Archbishop Patrick J. Ryan of Philadelphia to form a Lithuanian congregation in Shenandoah. On October 25, 1891 the cornerstone was laid and St. George's Church was built.

St. George's is a beautiful Church, it is like a small Cathedral. It is threatened to be closed and the people of Schuylkill County are praying that it will remain open. Letters have been sent to the Bishop of Allentown from Lithuanians all over the region. Anthracite Council 144 is doing all it can to keep St. George's open. It is the largest Church in Shenandoah and has kept the Lithuanian traditions alive all these past years.

We ask the help of all Vyciai to help save the oldest Lithuanian parish in the USA, St. George's Lithuanian Church in Shenandoah, Pa.

Anna Klizas Wargo
Anna Klizas Wargo, F.M.
Secretary, C144

For more information contact: The Committee / P.O. Box 364 / Shenandoah, PA 17976 or Email: committee364@mail.com.

PRAYER SYNERGISM: The parishioners of St. George's Church, Shenandoah, pray the rosary in front of the church on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM that the church reopen and stay open. Please join them in prayer..... at the same time, if possible.

National Lithuanian Affairs Chair, Mildred Jagiella

*Congratulations to our
Silver and Golden Knights*



Ed and Maria Deksnis of Council 112, Chicago, IL, sealed the deal all over again as they celebrated their 25th Anniversary with family and friends.

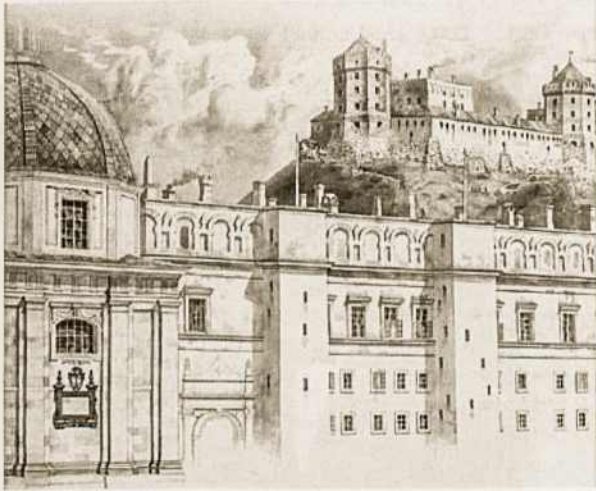


Joe and Bette Ann Liedzius of Council 6, Hartford, CT, recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They are pictured above while aboard a Disney Cruise.



Royal Palace of Lithuania

by Regina F. Narusis, J.D., Chairman of the Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the U.S.A.
Accompanying photos and images borrowed with our gratitude from www.lvr.lt.



During the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, there stood in Vilnius, Lithuania adjoining the Cathedral; the Royal Palace called "Valdovų Rūmai". It was a time when Lithuania was one of the largest nations in Europe with its borders stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. The palace was the cultural, administrative and religious center of Lithuania. It was the place of leadership, courage and even romance. Vytautas the Great is said to have planned the battle of Žalgiris from there, royal weddings and even the first operas in Lithuanian were performed there. Grand Duke Jogaila, together with Vytautas the Great, pronounced the Catholic baptism of Lithuania from the Palace. St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania lived there.

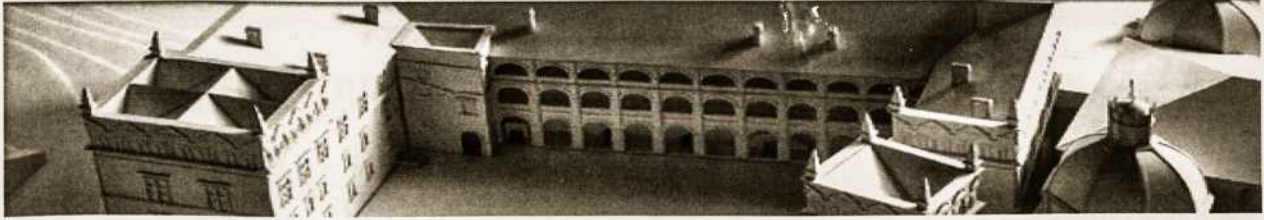
The buildings were originally built in the 14th century in the Gothic style. Due to a fire in 1419, the Palace was rebuilt, renovated and substantially expanded on the 1520's now in the Renaissance style. It was seriously damaged by the Muscovite forces in 1655 and razed by the Russians in 1799-1801. The Russians, who occupied Lithuania at that time, by the order of the Tsar razed the Palace in order to destroy the most visible symbol of Lithuania's statehood.

Although archeological research at the site commenced in 1987, it was not until after the reestablishment of Lithuania's independence on October 17, 2000 that the Lithuanian Parliament enacted a statute ordering the reconstruction of the Royal Palace by the year 2009, in time for the celebration of the Millennium of the first mention of Lithuania in the written records.

The Royal Palace ground breaking ceremonies took place in Vilnius on May 10, 2002. The Palace will consist of a quadrangle of four three story wings enclosing a courtyard. Each year since the year 2000, the Lithuanian government has appropriated large sums of money to rebuild the Palace buildings. The reconstruction work has been proceeding carefully and expeditiously. The large south wing is almost completed. It is expected that the stucco overlay of the exterior walls on the south wing will be done this summer. The west wing, which borders the back of the Cathedral, is also well along to being completed. The east wing will incorporate the still standing building walls of the old Palace. Because of the need to have access to the courtyard, the north wing will be the last to be completed. A visitor's reception center, including cloakroom, auditorium and souvenir shop will be located under the interior courtyard of the Royal Palace, where visitors will also be able to see the original Palace stonework and masonry construction.

The Royal Palace is to serve as a cultural, educational and national ceremonial center and museum. The interior plan is now in the process of being developed. However, some of the preliminary interior work has already begun. Impressive gothic arches have been completed in four of the halls on the first and second floors of the east wing. Historians and archeologists are continuing to research from the archeological artifacts recovered at the Palace site what kind of floor, ceiling, door, window and fireplace styles were in each area of the Palace in order to duplicate them as much as possible. It is expected that the construction of the Royal Palace will be completed in 2008, whereupon the remaining interior work will commence. It is scheduled to be fully completed and opened to the public on July 6, 2009. This is a historic heritage project of great importance to all Lithuanians wherever they may live. It will shine as a visible statement of our pride in our Lithuanian heritage, the survival of the Lithuanian nation and its hope and faith in the future.

In August of the year 2000, a group of private citizens in Lithuania, formed a Royal Palace Restoration Foundation to raise private funds to help the Lithuanian Government finance the project. The founders are well known individuals living in Lithuania and abroad. In the summer of 2003, the Royal Palace Restoration Committee for



the U.S.A. was founded. Later that same year, the U.S.A. Committee became affiliated with the Lithuanian Foundation to work together to assure U.S. donors that their donations will be recognized by the Lithuanian government and to represent the interests of the Lithuanian Americans.

The Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the U.S.A. is headed by Regina F. Narusis. The Committee's treasurer is Gediminas Damasius. The Committee consists of the secretary Skirmante Migliniene, press representative Vaiva Ragauskaitė, for cultural affairs Maria Remiene, for educational affairs Vida Raveniene, for grant funding Milda S. Napjus and chairman of the Lithuanian American Hall commission Violeta Rutkauskiene.

It is our goal to have one hall named the Lithuanian American Hall. A plan has been developed conceptually for such a hall to present to the world and Lithuania the contributions of the Lithuanian Americans to Lithuania's statehood. That plan has been submitted to the Lithuanian planning committee for their review and consideration.

The purpose of the Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the U.S.A. is to educate the Lithuanian Americans regarding the history and greatness of the Royal Palace of Vilnius and to raise funds to aid in the restoration and furnishing of the Palace. The educational affairs member of the U.S. Committee, Vida Raveniene, has prepared student projects for the Lithuanian Saturday morning schools. Or press representative Vaiva Ragauskaitė and other members of the Committee have written in the Lithuanian press about the history and occupants of the Palace. The Committee has prepared flyers and distributed them at various Lithuanian events.

As of December 30, 2005, the U.S. Committee has netted contributions the sum of \$139,592.00. All of

these funds are held here in the United States either on deposit at a bank or invested in Certificates of Deposit. The only funds the committee has spent so far have been for stationary, postage, bank and brokerage expenses and for an advertisement in the Lithuanian "Song Festival" program in Chicago on July 2, 2006. Most expenses, particularly such as travel and telephone calls, have been donated personally by the Committee members. Last fall the Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the U.S.A. was advised that a Lithuanian American named Ona White of Florida had passed away and left her entire estate to the Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the U.S.A. Her estate is now in probate in Florida. These additional funds will be a good beginning to furnish a Royal Palace Hall in the name of Lithuanian Americans.

Persons desiring to donate to the restoration of the Royal Palace may do so by making a check payable to: The Lithuanian American Community – "Valdovu Rumu" and mailing it to the Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the U.S.A. at 5600 Claremont Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60636. The donation is tax deductible. Our treasurer, Gediminas Damasius will send each donor a receipt for the donation and the Royal Palace Restorations Foundation in Lithuania will post the donor's name and gift on its web-site, which is www.lvr.lt. For every gift of \$380.00 the donor will receive a testimonial certificate as Builder from the Royal Palace Restorations Foundation in Lithuania. For any donation in the sum of \$3,800.00 the donor will receive a certificate as Honored Builder and every donor of \$38,000.00 will receive a testimonial certificate as Great Builder. All donations of whatever amount are welcome and will be recorded and displayed in the Royal Palace. Everyone is invited to become a part of this very historically significant project. Contributors can proudly say that they helped rebuild the symbol of Lithuania's statehood.





Lithuanian Recipes



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

Bacon Buns (Bandeles Su Lašiniai)

From Mrs. Marcella Pekeltis

Ingredients

1 ½ lbs. Bacon
 ½ c. Ham (chopped or ground)
 1 Onion (chopped)
 1 tsp. Salt
 ½ c. Warm Water
 ¼ lb. Margarine
 1 pkg. Yeast
 ½ c. Sugar
 1 ½ c. Milk
 2 Eggs (beaten)
 6 c. Flour

Directions

Put margarine in milk and heat until melted. Cool. Add yeast and eggs. Stir and add flour; knead and divide in 2 pieces. Roll out each piece ¼ in. thick. Use a large glass or a cookie cutter dipped in flour for shaping the buns. Put 1 T. of filling at one end. Brush one edge slightly with water, fold over and shape into a bun. Place on greased cookie sheet. Keep in a warm place until double in size. Bake in a 400° oven for 25 minutes.

Cottage Cheese Zeppelins (Varskes Cepelinai)

From Mrs. Ann Marie Juraitis

Ingredients

7 Boiled Potatoes (mashed)
 7 Raw Potatoes (finely grated)
 2 c. Cottage Cheese
 1 Egg
 ½ tsp. Salt
 1 tsp. Caraway Seed (Optional)

Directions

Mix together by hand the grated and mashed potatoes. With a large glass dipped in flour cut into round or oval shaped pieces. Combine cheese, egg, salt and caraway seed. Place a generous tablespoonful on each round. Fold over, press edges together and shape into an oval shaped dumpling. Boil in rapidly boiling salted water for about 15 minutes. Lift out with slip spoon. Serve with melted butter or sour cream.

Cucumbers with Sour Cream (Agurkai su Grietine)

From Mrs. Joan Klevinskas

Ingredients

1 Medium size Cucumber
 (sliced thin)
 1 Small Onion (sliced very thin)
 ½ tsp. Salt
 Pinch Pepper
 2 Dashes Paprika
 1 ½ tsp. Sugar
 1 T. Vinegar
 ½ c. or more Sour Cream
 1 T. Green Onion Tops
 (cut in ½ in. pieces)

Directions

Slice cucumber and onion. Combine all other ingredients and pour over cucumber and onion. Cover and chill about 15 minutes before serving. This dressing may be used on cole slaw or other salad vegetables.

TEST YOUR LITHUANIAN KNOWLEDGE CONTEST

The answers to last issue's questions.

1. Which famous religious painting is regarded by most of the world to be of Polish descent even though the original work currently resides in Lithuania?

A: The original painting of The Divine Mercy hangs in Vilnius, Lithuania.

2. What name is Lithuania's currency known by?

A: Litas

3. 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?

A: The document is known by several names, all of which are correct. They are: Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, the Hitler-Stalin Pact, the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact or the Nazi-Soviet Pact. The Pact was signed in 1939.

4. Which very popular movement/organization came into being in large part due to Mikhail Gorbachev's policies?

A: Sajūdis (Sajūdis Reform Movement)

5. On what date did Lithuania officially join the United Nations?

A: September 17, 1991

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

Out of a possible 10 points:

Leona Sawka (C-6) 8 Points

Richard Lukminas (C-7) 6 Points

Marie Laske (C-74) 6 Points

Well Done All!

Cumulative Total So Far

Richard Lukminas (C-7) 27 Points

Leona Sawka (C-6) 27 Points

Marie Laske (C-74) 24 Points

This issue's questions. (12 Points Possible)

1. Who united the Lithuanian ethnic lands and established the state of Lithuania? In what year did he, after embracing Christianity, accept the crown from the Pope and become Lithuania's King? How many Kings have ruled Lithuania throughout her history?

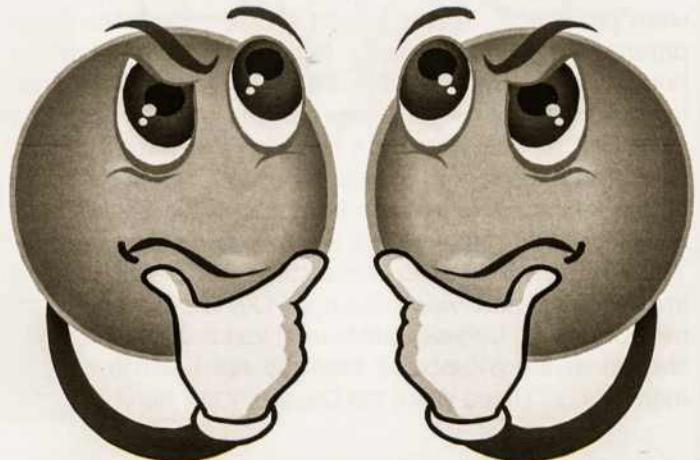
2. Which ruler of Lithuania brought the greatest military and political prosperity to the country? What was his Title? During which years did he rule?

3. In what year was the first Lithuanian periodical published? Who organized it? What was it called?

4. In what year does the name of Lithuania first appear in written records? In which documents did it appear?

5. What percentage of her population has it been calculated that Lithuania lost during the time period of 1940-1953?

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 September 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.



***A Special Monstrance
Blessed by Pope John Paul II
visits Nativity B.V.M.
Lithuanian Parish
in Chicago, Illinois***



On May 15, 2006, Nativity B.V.M. Parish accepted the invitation by the Eucharistic Adoration Association of the Archdiocese of Chicago, to accept the special Monstrance which was blessed by Pope John Paul II. A special Mass was offered that morning, and both, adults and the school children took turns with adoration hours throughout the morning. At about 1:30p.m. with Father Tony Markus, Pastor, and Father Arvydas Žygas, associate pastor leading, all went in procession to the neighboring St. Adrian's Church, to bring the Blessed Sacrament there for the next group to the take up the hours of Adoration. This was the procedure throughout the Archdiocese, as the words of Pope John Paul II encouraged all, "Your faith will help you realize that it is Jesus Himself Who is present in the Blessed Sacrament, waiting for you and calling you to spend one special hour with Him each week".

Reminiscing with Vincukas

July/August 2006

I remember the old-fashioned player piano that we were allowed to play on weekends and special occasions. We were the only family in the neighborhood who owned one and were proud of it. It was played and all sang when it was my parents turn to hold those traditional "vakaruškos" at our home. Father bought all the old Lithuanian folk songs and the latest English ones - and one special one for Sis, "Daddy's Little Girl" as she was dad's favorite. We were 3 boys in the family and thought she also was very special. When Sis began taking piano lessons from our parish Sisters, dad had the player unit removed, as Sis was neglecting her lessons. Years later, we tried to reassemble the player unit, but an irreplaceable part was missing. Our dear friend of happy memory, Dave Lucas's father attached an Electrolux vacuum cleaner to the player and then did not need to be pumped manually..... Those Were the Days!



Knight Life

Right: Rev. Raymond Jakubauskas, Spiritual Advisor of Council 26, at St. Casimir's Church, Worcester, MA at the Board meeting of the New England District.



Left: Council 26 at Maironis Park Picnic: Door Prize Table Workers Teresa Adomavicius and Olga Kersis

Knight Life



Left: Council 26 at Maironis Park Picnic – Bake table workers: Eleanor Gadilauskas, Ruth Gadilauskas, Ginny Puris and Christine Delonis



Right: Council 26 at Maironis Park Picnic – Some of the cooks and kitchen help: Lillian Kondratas, Arthur Rodgers, Arthur Racicot, Marion Racicot, Vivian Rodgers, Bill Leseman and Irene Markevicius



Left: Council 26 at Maironis Park Picnic – Ready to sell tickets for the meal: Vitty Gadilauskas.



District & Council News

Amber District

C-144 Anthracite Ona

We lost one of our best, Joseph Martunas. Joe was our long-time Lithuanian Affairs Chairman. He came to each meeting with an excellent report. He was with us at the beginning of our Council and did so much. He worked in the kitchen for Lithuanian Days and never missed a meeting until he became too sick. He was there whenever he was needed, the first to help financially and to offer his services. He was a true Gentleman. We're sure he was greeted in Heaven by his beloved Pauline and all our Heavenly Knights. Amzina Atsilsi, Juozai, mes niekad nepamirsime tave.

We are now preparing for the 92nd Lithuanian Days which will be held at the Schuylkill Mall in Frackville August 12 and 13. President Larry Domalakes is coordinating the affair. We welcome all our brother and sister Knights to attend. As always, there will be good Lithuanian food, entertainment, sales of Lithuanian items, and a beautiful display from our Lithuanian Cultural Center and Museum.

Each meeting, Cultural Chairperson Meredith Domalakes presents an interesting talk. This month she spoke on Lithuanian Folk Medicine and everyone enjoyed and laughed a little with some of the remedies. Meredith will be graduating from Cardinal Brennan High School with honors and will be leaving us for college in the fall. Her sister, Annie, will take her place and we are sure she will be as interesting as her sister.

We are all worried about the closing of St. George's Church in

Shenandoah. St. George's is the oldest Lithuanian Parish in the United States and is as beautiful as a Cathedral. It is the most beautiful church in Schuylkill County and the largest in Shenandoah. Please pray with all of us that this old Lithuanian Parish will reopen.

Many of our older members are sick or in nursing facilities. Our prayers are with them all.

As summer approaches, we will be working to make Lithuanian Days another success both financially and socially. Those days are really Lithuanian Days. We are the children and grandchildren of the early Lithuanian immigrants and the love of all things Lithuanian has been instilled in our hearts and we, in turn, have instilled them in our children's hearts. From the earliest days when the Priests League held Lithuanian Days, the profits went to Lithuanian causes. When they no longer were able to continue, they asked Council 144 to take over and we have continued, as they did, helping Lithuanian causes. A donation is always given to the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome. Msgr. Bartkus was one of our founders. Our Lithuanian Humanitarian Aid Committee - under the leadership of Bernice Mikatavage - has done much for the poorest schools in Lithuania, have assisted in the Convents there, and in many other ways. God and St. Casimir have been good to us.

Mid Central District

C-25 Cleveland, OH Ursula Kunsitis

Congratulations to Nellie Samas, our Sunshine Lady, on winning the May 50/50 raffle with the 2nd place going to Dick Marks - delicious pierogies! Joe Ivoska was truly surprised to be the winner of the

June raffle - perhaps your luck is changing, Joe!

A STANDING OVATION to DICK MARKS on pulling together the May 19-20 MCD District Meeting and Bowling Tournament in Cleveland. We had 8 teams competing with Dayton winning the Traveling Trophy. Detroit is to be commended on making the decision to have Dayton receive the Trophy as this was a make-up team consisting of Detroit and Dayton! We would like to thank the 50-some members and friends who attended this weekend. We enjoyed your enthusiasm and company and were happy to see so many dancers enjoying the 2 pc. band at the Saturday evening dinner at the Lithuanian Club. Also, thank you for your wonderful participation at the Friday evening Social and Chinese Auction.

Congratulations to Frank Joga, C-25, who was presented with his Third Degree at the Saturday Mass by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas. Frank was also the winner of the District Meeting 50/50 raffle on Friday.

It was like "Old Times" having Nelda and Charlie Machutas in town to participate in our Bowling Tournament and other family functions.

Thank you to all who participated at the June 4th Coffee Hour at OLPH Church. Another success!

Congratulations to our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas, who celebrated the 46th Anniversary of his Ordination on Fathers' Day! Many more happy, healthy, successful years, Father!

Congratulations to Dick and Jean Marks on their 56th Wedding Anniversary, June 24th.

We were saddened by the passing of our member Paul Chalko on June 4th. Our deepest condolences to his wife, Irene, and their children, Christopher and Paula and their families. Besides practicing law, he loved music, playing the violin, and singing in the choir at St. Dominic's Church for many, many years. He also was very proud of his heritage, visiting Lithuania many, many times. In fact, a few years back, he took 11 members of his family on a trip through Lithuania, ending with a visit to the Lithuanian "White House" and meeting the Lithuanian President! May you Rest in Peace, Paul - you will be missed by many!

Congratulations to Dolly Oberaitis on becoming a Great Grandmother of 6 when she was presented with Great Granddaughter, Natalie, on June 16th!

Council meetings will resume in September. Wishing you all a Pleasant Summer!

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

A tradition for our council each Mothers' Day has been a Mass for the living and deceased mothers of our council members and also a time our Junior Knights pay special homage to our Blessed Mother. On May 14, our Junior Knights led the procession into church with the singing of the "Hymn to Our Lady of Siluva". Junior Knight Gabriella Pant had the honor this year of placing the wreath of flowers on our Blessed Mother's head and the other Juniors had flowers for our Blessed Mother, also. After prayers, the Mass began with our Juniors Adam and Nathan Fletcher being Offertory Bearers. Following Mass, the Juniors and their Advisors, Christine Fletcher,

Michael Petkus along with their helpers Norma and Erin Petkus and Alex Fletcher, prepared a wonderful breakfast brunch for all to enjoy.

Council members George, Frances and Elena Mikalauskas, Fran, Michael and Norma Petkus, Anne Louise and Daniel Tucker, all returned home from the Mid Central District's Spring Convention/Sports weekend of May 19-20 with nothing but praise for our host C-25, Cleveland, for the wonderful well-planned weekend they had. The meeting went well with no major incident other than trying to encourage more members of the district to be part of the 93rd National Convention Presidium and on the Supreme Council Board. As to the bowling tournament, C-96 came in last place but there was a combination team of Joe Guerriero and George Kayganich of C-102 Detroit with C-96 members Anne Louise and Danny Tucker and they came in First Place!! Big money winner with having two games rolled pulled in the Mystery Frames was Fran Petkus! You must understand the mystery round is not determined by your score but if your game bowled is pulled from a matching number! You could bowl a 20 and win!

The MCD has three moneymaking projects throughout the year - each council has yearly district dues; 50/50 raffle at our district meetings and our big money raffle in the spring of which there are two draws. Our own Irena Gecas-McCarthy of Garden City, NY, was the first prizewinner this year. Congratulations!!!

Congratulations go to John and Joyce Berczelly on the arrival of their first grandchild, Riley Joseph Glaser. Happy uncle for the first time Andrew Berczelly with Eloise A. Berczelly, a first time great grandmother.

Congratulations to Elinor Sluzas, HM, upon receiving the Kiser High School Alumni Roll of Honor Award!!! This award is presented to graduates who accomplish extraordinary contributions to society!

Congratulations go to our high school graduates Erin Petkus and Joseph Berger. Erin will continue her studies in biochemistry while Joseph will be furthering his education at Bowling Green U., of Ohio. Erin made a promise to herself. When she graduated from high school she would have her hair cut. Well, Erin did just that by having fourteen inches cut off and donating it to "Locks of Love", a special cancer program for children!!!

Our deepest sympathies go to the family of August (Gus) Blum. Gus had been a council member for many, many years. A quiet man but always with a smile for everyone. His family includes Elinor Sluzas, Rita Ambrose and many others in the council. As he joins his beloved Mary Ann, may he rest in the peace of the Good Lord!

Mid Atlantic District

C-90 Kearny, NJ
Becky Pataki

Although we haven't had an article in the Vytis in a little while, C-90 has been rather active, as usual.

In March, the council hosted a Potato Pancake Dance. This very successful event boasted entertainment by Joe Thomas who wowed the crowd, as usual. In addition to the great entertainment, guests were treated to our delicious potato pancakes! A special thank you to our hard working Committee

members who made this event a great success!

Plans are in the works for C-90 to have a barbecue at the end of this summer. Sunday, September 4th is the day of the party! We are looking forward to enjoying this end of summer family event. Please let Becky Pataki know if you and your family will be attending.

C-90 had adopted a small Lithuanian boy, Darius, about ten years ago. Throughout the last decade, we were fortunate to experience his growth and progress from a small child into a young man. Some members even met him while in Lithuania. Now, as a man, Darius can manage for himself. To continue on with our efforts to support Lithuania, C-90 will be adopting another child. This one will be a girl. We are hoping for a long and warm relationship with her.

September will see C-90 nominate the slate of officers for the next year. Elections will be in October. Bring your nominations to the September meeting and make sure to vote in October!

To aid the ongoing project of supporting Lithuania, C-90 is still collecting cancelled stamps. We are planning on sending out this year's collection at the end of June. All members who have stamps to be contributed should bring them to the next meeting.

Members of C-90 have also been very active in supporting the MidAtlantic District's recent fund raisers. The Tea-less Tea Party brought in a profit of almost \$2,000. This program allowed not only C-90 members to participate, but members from all over the district.

The current fund raiser is selling Lithuanian note cards. These cards were designed by C-136 member, Bernice Aviza. These beautiful cards are selling for \$5 for a pack of five. Two C-90 members are handling all contact for these cards and many C-90 members have supported this program by purchasing card sets.

New England District

C-6 Hartford, CT Florence Morkus

At our April meeting, Spiritual Advisor Rev. John Rikteraitis said the opening prayer. It was good to see Alyce Gegeky and Kristina Serksnas back at the meeting, rested and ready-to-go. Our sympathy to Alyce on the loss of her brother, Stephen. May his soul rest in peace. Congratulations to Betty Ellis on receiving the 2nd Degree. Cultural, Dalia Dzikas gave us a copy of "Vyciu Hymnas" and pronounced the words line by line and then gave us the English translation.

Betty Ann Liudzius sent a big thank you for the success of St. Andrew's Pancake Sale.

Sr. Mary Joan of Arc KofL'er will celebrate her 90th birthday in Pittsburgh convent. Congratulations and God Bless.

At the NED convention in New Haven, C-6 members Lillian Joseph, Judy Landers and Leona Sawka received their 3rd Degrees at the beautiful St. Augustine Church in North Branford, CT. Congratulations!

On May 7, our beloved Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John Rikteraitis, celebrated his 50th year of Ordination (1956-2006) at St. Andrew's Church, New Britain, CT.

Congratulations, Father! Ilgiausiu Metu!

At the May meeting, Father passed out a copy of the Mass in Lithuanian to members and goes over a section each month so that those who have difficulty following the Mass in Lithuanian are assisted.

President Frank Kadis announced birthday celebrations for Carol Balskus, Wanda Kruk, and Lillian Joseph.

Cultural Chair, Dalia Dzikas, talked about May being the Blessed Mother's month and the Lithuanian tradition of saying the Litany. She also talked of Pentecost.

Chicago's Song Festival in July will include Choir members from St. Andrew's Church in New Britain.

Kay Urban reported on the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Siluva in Washington, DC and there are but few bus seats left.

Fr. John Zabelskas celebrated his 50th year of ordination in Houston, TX; Cousin, Florence Morkus attended.

Navy women members drove in the Memorial Day Parade and other uniformed members marched in Wethersfield, CT.

At our June meeting Pot Luck we had Kugelis, much to our delight, baked by several brave souls, even though the weather was uncomfortably warm. The best home-made raisin bread was baked by our President Frank Kadis. Aciu Labai!

Congratulations to Joe and Bette Ann Liudzius on their 50th Anniversary, celebrated with Mass

at St. Andrew's Church in New Britain.

Helen Klimas is at home recuperating and is feeling much better. Hope to see you soon.

Dalia Dzikas, Cultural, spoke of the June tragedies/deportations in Lithuania in 1940. May their memories not be forgotten.

Betty Ann Liudzius brought an interesting book, "Search for Freedom" by Marijona Venflauskaite-Boyle, about a Lithuanian Captain who defected from the Russian Navy.

As Social Chair, Lillian Joseph reported the show "Lil Abner" and the Saratoga Races.

Holy Trinity Parish celebrated Fr. Charles Jacobs 20th Anniversary of Ordination after Mass with a Pot Luck Supper. Congratulations, Father! May God Bless You with Good Health and much Happiness.

Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John, closed the meeting with "I will be with you all days until the end of time".

Have a safe, happy and restful summer.

C-10 Athol-Gardner Vincukas

A sincere aciu to Isabel Peterson and helpers for the excellent KofL Spring Convention in N. Branford, CT, sponsored by the New Haven Council.

Dick Gatautis of C-10 participated in the annual River Rat Race held recently in Athol on the Millers River. His canoe overturned in the turbulent water but he and his son continued and finished in 100th place out of many participants. Hundreds view the annual event that begins at St.

Francis Church. There is always another year, Dick!

Congratulations to Zivile Balciunas of Lithuania who finished 10th in the women's division of the Boston Marathon. She was honored at St. Peter's in So. Boston.

'Also to Aras Baskauskas, the million dollar recipient of the "Survivor" game. The outgoing, compassionate Aras is a yoga instructor in CA, a former professional basketball player, and by the way, girls, this handsome Aras is a bachelor.

90th Birthday greetings are extended to a very special priest, Rev. John Petrauskas, M.I.C., native of Gardner, reached this milestone on May 13. He is stationed at Marianapolis Prep School in Thompson, CT where he was headmaster for years and also was co-Pastor of St. Casimir's, Worcester. Wishing you continued good health and the choicest of blessings.

Sympathy is extended to Ann Ambrose's two daughters on the death of their dear mother. Ann was a longtime member of our council, was well-liked, and will be missed. Funeral Mass was held At St. Francis, May 20. Our Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis, celebrated Ann's beautiful Mass and gave a great homily. Ann's daughter Debbie Meter and granddaughter, Cynthia, are KofL members of C-142, Washington, DC. Rest in Peace, Ann.

A beautiful concert was held at the Whatley Chapel, recently, that featured Liveta and Petras Kazlauskas of Lithuania. Council members attending were Henry and Brone Gailiunas and Jurate Valiunas. Jurate attended a nurses' conference in Lithuania in June and had time to visit with mother and family in the Siauliai area.

At the June meeting at the Lithuanian Club on Kendall Pond, the 37th Anniversary of Pam and Armand Bouthillier was observed with a Champagne Lunch. Wishing this great couple many more years of beautiful wedded life and blessings.

Doctor Marie and sister, Margaret, Shatos attended their cousin's wedding in California, recently; also attending was friend KofL'er Jackie Doherty.

The Bouthilliers were so impressed with the Lithuanian Easter egg games held at our April meeting that they reenacted them at their family Easter festivities that were enjoyed by young and old. Armand has Lithuanian spirit, Bravo Armand!

C-26 Worcester, MA Ruta

The May meeting started off with a "make your own sandwich / grinder" night theme. Arthur and Marion Racicot and Lillian Kondrotas were the hosts. A great selection of meats were offered along with bulkies, rolls, and all the fixings you could possibly imagine to compliment everyone's sandwiches. Potato salad and coleslaw were sides and tasty homemade desserts finished off the meal. Dagwood Bumsted would be envious if he could see the creations our members made.

We were pleased to have John Putis, now living in California, attend our meeting. He was visiting relatives here. Unfortunately upon his return to CA, he had to have some surgery. Rita Margosian is still sick and would appreciate receiving some cards. Carol Grigas is recuperating at home. Al Seilius is now well on the road to

recovery. Anthony Collins is now at Radius House.

Our June Indoor Picnic at Maironis Park was a great success. It is a time for our members to work together on this annual project. Vivian Rodgers thanked all the members who worked, donated pastry and prizes and attended with their families and friends. As usual, the Lithuanian food was the hit of the event. We had people coming from other parishes just to have the wonderful Lithuanian dinner that was being offered.

Ray Jakubauskas, Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson, has been speaking on various parts of Lithuanian history. We enjoy hearing about these events and he gives us a better understanding of our heritage.

Congratulations to Al Bulejcik in his successful participation in the rifle and pistol competitions in Virginia. The only thing was that when they found out how well he shoots, they had him acting as an instructor. There are some more meets coming up and he hopes to participate more in these competitions.

Ann Leseman just turned 90 years old. Her family and friends gave her a wonderful surprise birthday party. At our meeting, she was also honored for reaching this great age. She is very active in church and community affairs.

Her husband, Bill Leseman, was also celebrating his birthday in a few days. Everyone stood up and sang "Happy Birthday" to both of them and wished them many more.

To end the June meeting on a summery note, all the attendees had the opportunity to make their own ice cream sundaes. This was certainly not a night to count calories. Everyone was wished a safe and enjoyable summer.

C-30 Westfield, MA Barbara

Our council was saddened by the loss of two of our members within weeks of one another. Our council member Wanda Sokolowski passed away on May 17, 2006. She was a very new member of our Knights and was awarded the first degree, posthumously, on June 11, 2006. She was an active person in St. Casimir's Church and always helped in the Lithuanian sausage making. She was one of the "casings washers" and also one of the many potato peelers in the Kugelis making. As a new member of the KofL she enjoyed attending the New England District conventions, the picnic in Putnam, CT, and the Lithuanian Cultural Festival at Maironis Park where she helped our council by making beads and teddy bears with Lithuanian flags.

Our other council member, Helen Minkalis, died on June 1, 2006. She was a member for over forty years and held a fourth degree. She was

involved by always attending the NED Spring and Fall Conventions, the retreat in Kennebunk and many other activities. At our recently closed St. Casimir's Church, she was a diligent worker as the council made both Lithuanian sausage and horseradish. She was a good cook and helped our council host the NED Fall Convention in Westfield in 2001. Her devotion to the KofL and her encouragement to our new members will be missed.

For both of these members, our KofL conducted a prayer service and placed a white carnation. Also, Masses from the KofL will be said. Helen and Wanda will be missed in both the KofL and their Rosary Sodality. Their dedication, devotion, and diligent hard work will be remembered. May they rest in peace and be forever united with their loved ones.

Our retreat at the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunk, Maine, was attended by about 35 members who thoroughly enjoyed Aldona's fabulous breakfasts and dinners. Msgr. Contons, Spiritual Retreat Master, gave much spiritual inspiration to all members.

Now, we are all looking forward to the 93rd National Convention at "Mickey's". Marcia, Jim, and Barbara, enjoy the festivities.

Don't forget the deadlines

We love being able to include your articles and photos but in order to get the Vytis to you on a regular basis we have to follow the publication deadlines below. Looking forward to printing what you send us.

Jan/Feb – Due by January 1st

Mar/Apr – Due by March 1st

May/June – Due by May 1st

Jul/Aug – Due by July 1st

Sep/Oct – Due by September 15th

Nov/Dec – Due by November 1st

Convention – Due by September 1st

Mid-Central District Spring Meeting and Annual Bowling Tournament



Top: Mid-Central District Bowlers during the Bowling Banquet.

Middle: The Banquet's musical entertainment was provided by Ron Stark and George Wilson.

Bottom: The 1st Place Champs with the Traveling Trophy – George Kayganich, Joe Gurierro (Both from C-102/Detroit, MI) and Anne Louise Tucker and Danny Tucker (Both from C-96/Dayton, OH).

Mid-Central District Spring Meeting and Annual Bowling Tournament

by Regina Juska-Svoba, Public Relations Chair

On the weekend of May 19-20, 2006, all roads led to Cleveland, OH, for the Mid-Central Districts Spring Meeting and Bowling Tournament, which was hosted by Council 25, Cleveland, OH. It was a wet and rainy drive in for most of the out of towners. Friday evening, approximately 50 delegates, local K of L members and guests converged at the Comfort Inn for a get acquainted and welcome back get-together. Theresa Cupuria, Council 25 President and the energetic and enthusiastic committee greeted the guests with an abundance of good and filling sandwiches, salads and decadent sweets. So that no one would feel the effects of the cooler spring weather, "medicinal libations" warmed everyone. It was good to see and "catch-up" with many of the members who we have not seen in the last six months.



A Chinese raffle was conducted, where the gifts were wonderful and plentiful. And again, Lee Moore, Council 86, won three beautiful Lithuanian gifts (an amber rosary, juosta and a doll dressed in the traditional Lithuanian costume). Lucky you!

Some members and friends lingered on after the get-together for some friendly and competitive card games.

The District meeting was held on Saturday, May 20th. George Mikalauskas, Council 96, Dayton, OH, led the members in an opening prayer. The meeting was conducted by the Mid-Central District President, Michael F. Petkus, Council 96, Dayton, OH. Theresa Cupuria, host council president warmly greeted all the members and guests and wished everyone a good meeting, competitive bowling and an enjoyable stay in Cleveland. Copies of the meeting minutes from the Fall 2005 meeting were prepared and readily available to all the delegates thanks to the ever efficient district recording secretary, Frances R.

Petkus, HM of Council 96, Dayton, OH. The district officers, council president, committee chairs and ancillary charities representatives reported on their biannual activities.

District delegates to the 93rd Convention were selected (Paul Moore of Council 86, DuBois, PA and Anne Louise Tucker of Council 96, Dayton, OH). The convention will be held in Orlando, Florida on August 3rd to 6th.

The upcoming Fall Meeting and Pilgrimage will be conducted on September 29th and 30th. It will be hosted by Council 86, DuBois, PA. The 2007 Spring Meeting/Bowling Tournament will be hosted by Council 19, Pittsburgh, PA. The dates will be announced in the upcoming months. Paul Moore, Council 86 of the mandate committee reported that in total there were 27 participants (20 delegates and 7 guests) who represented 4 councils (Cleveland, Dubois, Dayton and Detroit) and attended the meeting.

Ritual Chair, Lee Moore, Council 86, reported that Frank Joga, Council 25, would receive his 3rd Degree.

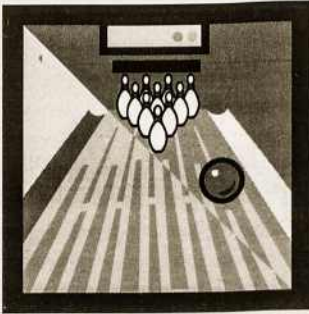
Frank Joga, Council 25, was the lucky recipient of the 50/50 raffle drawing (\$53.00). Congratulations to you, Pranuk!

The meeting concluded with a prayer led by George Mikalauskas and the singing of the Vyciu Hymnas.

All energies were in high gear for the afternoon bowling tournament.

Eight bowling teams participated in the heated competitions at the Freeway Lanes. Those who participated or watched had a great time.





On Sunday, Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help was celebrated by Rev. G. Kijauskas. The Dinner that followed was held at the Gintaras Room of the Lithuanian Club. The dining room is truly an authentic Lithuanian treasure. The focal point is the intricately detailed six foot carved wayside cross. Numerous wood carvings decorate all the walls. Two small shadow boxes containing decorated Easter Eggs and a third large shadow box containing an amber necklace, Lithuanian stick pins, table runner, a miniature dancing couple and a chunk of amber also decorated the walls. There were paintings, prints and a map of Lithuania. The atmosphere was cozy and almost felt like we were back in Lithuania. The dinner and desserts were delicious and filling.

Sam Perritino, Council 102, stated that 8 teams participated in the bowling tournament. He thanked the members for their active participation and then announced the bowling awards. Congratulations to all the following: Jerry Perritino, Council 102, ladies actual high series – 462, and Jim Szumny, Council 102, men's actual high series – 534. The team event and the traveling trophy were split by Joe Gurierro's Team #3, Council 102, Detroit, with a score of 2312 points. (The team consisted of Joe Gurierro and George Kayganich of Council 102 and Anne Louise Tucker and her son Danny Tucker of Council 96.) In second place with 2275 points was Dolly Oberaitis' Team, Council 25, Cleveland. Third place was won by team #2, Council 102, Detroit, Jerry Perritino's team with 2220 points. The winners were satisfied and happy with their prizes. Norma Petkus, Council 96, and Sa Sherman, were the high achievers for the lowest

scores 73 and 84 points, respectively. You will do better next year!

The winners of the Mid Central District raffle were announced: Irena McCarthy, Council 95, Dayton, OH, won the first prize of \$200.00; and Anna Kedrie, Council 19, Pittsburgh, PA, won the second prize of \$100.00. Congratulations to the lucky winners!

On behalf of the district, President Michael Petkus expressed a heartfelt thanks to all delegates and guests who attended, participated and supported the district's weekend activities! Thanks to Council 25 for hosting a well organized and fun-filled weekend. It was a wonderful and memorable weekend, and a special time of sharing and remembering.

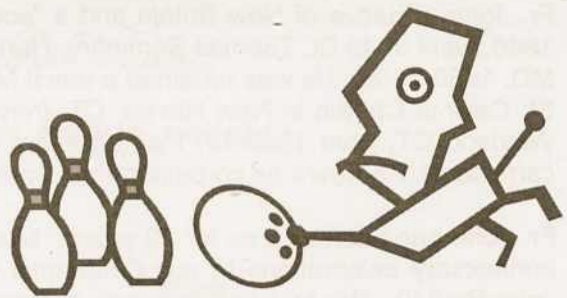
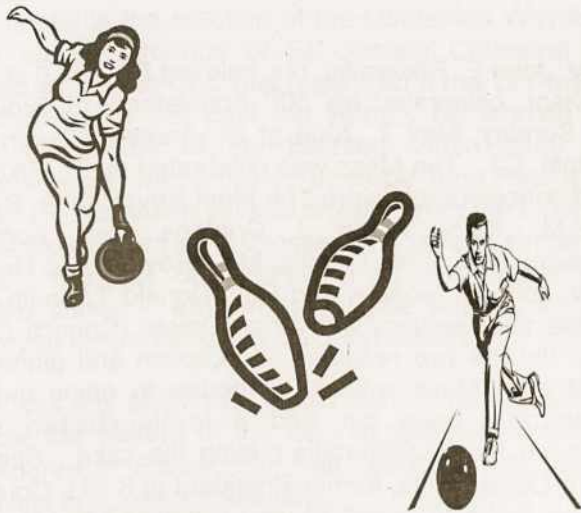


Since the business and sports portions for the weekend were concluded, it was time for some musical entertainment by Ron Stark (on accordion) and George Wilson (on Guitar). Couples were twirling and dancing to the beat of the varied tempo music. The Cleveland girls (Jean Marks, Dolly Oberaitis and Joan Ortman) showed the audience how to really "get down and rock and roll!" The look on Richard Marks' face when he saw Jean with her "hair down" was priceless!

After a successful and productive meeting and bowling tournament, delegates bid their farewells to one another, wished each other a safe return home, and until we gather again at the National Convention in Lake Buena Vista, FL (08/03-06/06) and in September in DuBois, PA, for the Fall Meeting and Pilgrimage!



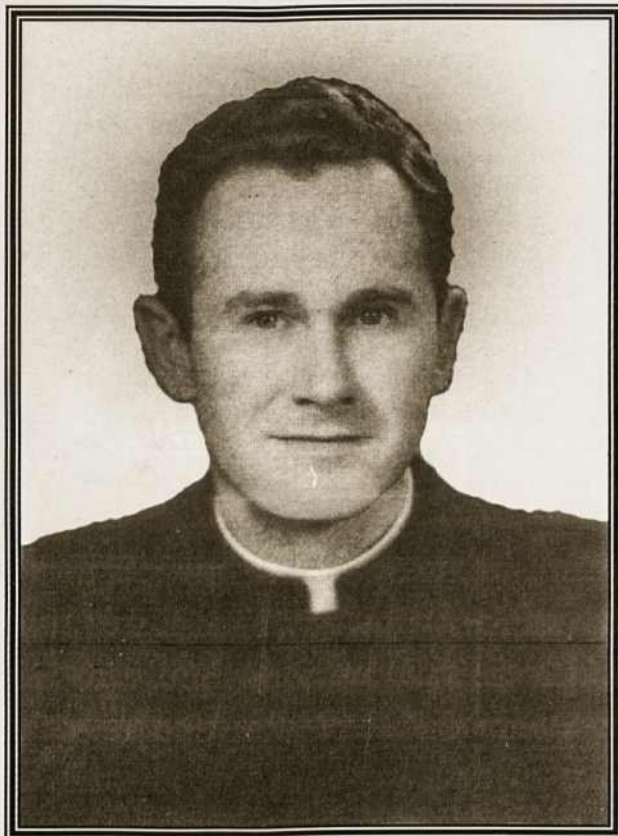
Mid-Central District Spring Meeting and Annual Bowling Tournament



Top: The Cleveland Trio – Jean Marks, Joan Ortman and Dolly Oberaitis (in back) "Get Down" to the music.

Left: Ritual Chair, Lee Moore presents Frank Joga, C025 with his 3rd Degree Certificate. Next to Frank is Mrs. Joga.

***Rev. John Edward Rikteraitis
Celebrates 50 years
of Priestly Ordination***



May 10, 1956

Rev. John E. Rikteraitis, our beloved Council 6 Spiritual Advisor, celebrated his 50th Anniversary of Ordination on Sunday, May 7, 2006 at St. Andrew Church, New Britain, CT. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Rikteraitis and concelebrants were The Most Rev. Paul A. Baltakis O.F.M., Msgr. Albert J. Contons, Rev. Augustine Giusani, Rev. Albin Gurklis, MIC, Rev. Harold Heinrich, Rev. John R. Moskus and Rev. Donald T. Smith. One of the altar servers was Brian Daigle (Council 6) who also did the two readings. Reception and dinner was held after Mass with a full house to enjoy delicious appetizers, open bar and a lovely chicken dinner followed by Fr. Rikteraitis cutting the cake. Speakers were Gene Ziurys, former President of K of L Council 6, Cathy Salka, (Council 6) who organized the festivities and the Most Rev. Paul A. Baltakis, OFM.

Here are some of the kind words spoken about father at the celebration:

"On this notable day of May we come together to celebrate the retirement of Father John E. Rikteraitis. To tell you a little of what he has accomplished would require a book but ... we'll try.

Fr. John was ordained by Archbishop Henry O'Brien in the old St. Joseph's Cathedral, the last class before it burned down.

Fr. John, a native of New Britain and a "son" of St. Andrew's Parish, served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1946, went on to St. Thomas Seminary, Hartford, CT, 1946-1949, and then to St. Mary Seminary, Baltimore, MD, 1950-1956. He was ordained a priest May 10, 1956. From 1956-1964 he served as assistant pastor at St. Casimir Church in New Haven, CT; from 1964-1969 as assistant pastor at St. Francis of Assisi, South Windsor, CT; from 1969-1971 as assistant pastor at Holy Trinity Church in Hartford, CT; and in 1971 he came to St. Andrew's as co-pastor, then pastor in 1976.

Fr. John has been with us for 29 years. Much has happened at St. Andrew's over those years from parish anniversary celebrations to our Centennial Celebration (which included the presentation of gifts to Pope John Paul II). We had projects such as: renovation the church, Parish Hall, and Friendship Center as well new sidewalks, purchasing the parking lot (and paving it), the new church roof, new reconciliation rooms, church carpeting and more recently Rectory spruce-up. These are just a few of the projects he has accomplished.

In addition he has initiated special service such as an Annual Mass for Deceased Parishioners, Anointing of the Sick, Wedding Anniversary Mass, Tenebrae, regular TV Masses and more. As a community we have St. Andrew's Month, Tag Sales, Pasta & Races and Dinner Club.

Father has not limited his involvement just to St. Andrew. In 1977 he was elected president of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests' League of CT; also in 1977 he was elected vice-president of the

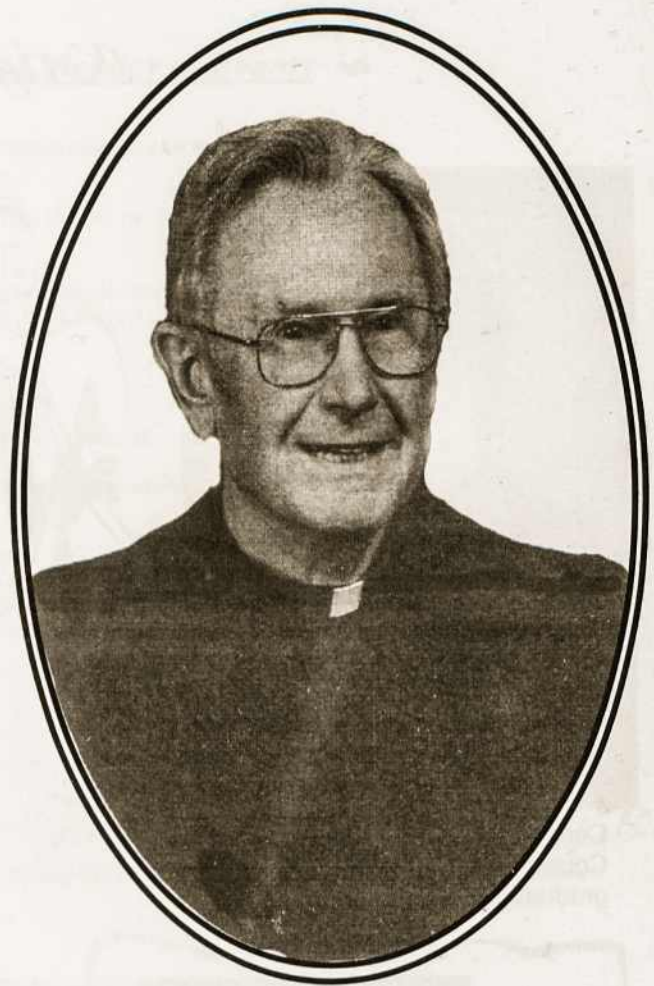
Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests' League of America and recently its treasurer; in 1984 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Religious Aid Society and helped initiate the formation of the CT Lithuanian Catholics (CLC) and has been its president all but two years. He was instrumental in the erection of the Lithuanian Wayside Cross on the grounds of St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford where the CLC has organized a day of Prayer for Lithuania for the past ten years. He worked to return the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Lithuania which was crowned by Pope John Paul II at Siluva. He has taken several crosses from the USA to be erected on the Hill of Crosses, the unique shrine in Siluva. Here at St. Andrew a Kopyltstulpis - an elevated shrine - was erected in the parking lot (in memory of his parents, Mary & John Rikteraitis).

There isn't any project he would not accept if it would promote the welfare of the Church, the Archdiocese, St. Andrew's Parish, for all people, especially Christians and, yes, Lithuanians.

His exuberance and work ethic puts him in a special class. Father, you are above all a priest of God. Your love of the Mass and service to his people show in all you do.

We are fortunate to have had you in our lives.

Have a glorious and happy retirement. You deserve the best."



May 7, 2006

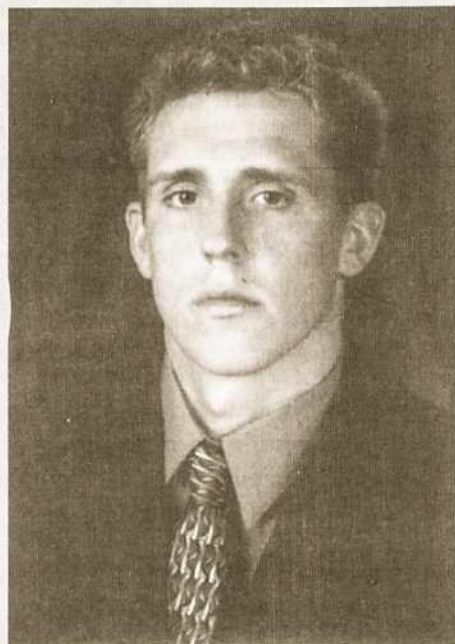
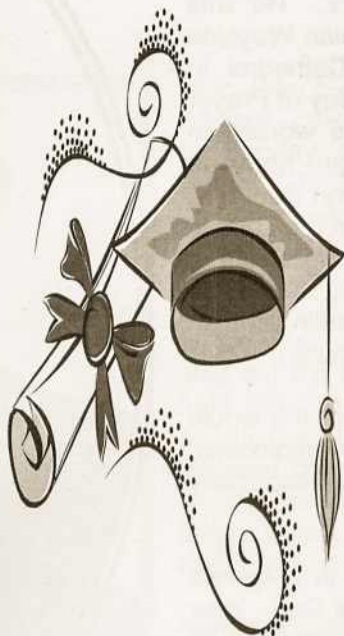
*Congratulations Father Rikteraitis,
Here's wishing you 50 more happy years!*



Knight Life



Congratulations to Erin Petkus of Council 96, Dayton, on her recent graduation from High School.



Congratulations to Joseph Berger of Council 96, Dayton, on his recent graduation from High School.



L-R: Judy Landers, Rev. Kevin Donovan, Leona Sawka and Lillian Joseph.

Knights of Lithuania Calendar of Events

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
- 12th & 13th The 92nd Annual Lithuanian Days at the Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, PA

September 2006

- 4th Labor Day
- 4th Council 90 Bar-B-Que
- 11th Our Lady of Siluva Mass and Procession – Nativity B.V.M. Parish, Chicago, IL
- 16th Mid-America District Bowling
- 17th Council 96 Annual Cemetery Visits – Calvary Cemetery, Dayton, OH – Immediately following the 10:30a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Church
- 20th Council 90 Meeting – 7:00p.m. at the LCCC in Kearny, NJ
- 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
- 18th Council 90 Meeting – 7:00p.m. at the LCCC in Kearny, NJ
- 21st Mid-America District Bowling

November 2006

- 1st All Saint's Day
- 2nd All Soul's Day
- 11th Veteran's Day
- 12th Amber District Meeting & Elections in Philadelphia, PA. C-3 hosting this meeting. Call Dee Herbert @ 1.215.241.2135 for more info, or e-mail her on doloresherbert@Verizon.Net
- 15th Council 90 Meeting – 7:00p.m. at the LCCC in Kearny, NJ
- 18th Mid-America District Bowling
- 23rd Thanksgiving Day

December 2006

- 10th Council 90 Kucios Celebration
- 24th Christmas Eve
- 25th Christmas Day
- 31st New Year's Eve

January 2007

- 1st Happy New Year to One and All

February 2007

- 11th Annual St. Casimir Day Flag Raising – Council 90, Kearny, NJ
- 14th Valentine's Day
- 16th Lithuanian Independence Day – Valio Lietuva!
- 18th President's Day

March 2007

- 4th St. Casimir's Day

April 2007

- 23rd St. George's Day

May 2007

- 13th Mother's Day
- 28th Memorial Day

June 2007

- 13th Flag Day
- 17th Father's Day



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The New Colossus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame
 With conquering limbs astride
 from land to land;
 Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
 A mighty woman with a torch,
 whose flame is the imprisoned lightning,
 and her name Mother of Exiles.

From her beacon-hand glows world-wide
 welcome; her mild eyes command the air-
 bridged harbor that twin cities frame,
 "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!"
 cries she with silent lips.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled
 masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched
 refuse of your teeming shore, send these, the
 homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

by Emma Lazarus, New York City, 1883