



# *Vytis - The Knight*

93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention Issue

September - 2006 - rugsėjis

Volume 92 - Number 5



*Hail to Our Chief!*

*Elena Nakrosis*

*Supreme Council President*

**93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention Issue – September/rugsėjis, 2006**  
**Volume 92 No. 5**

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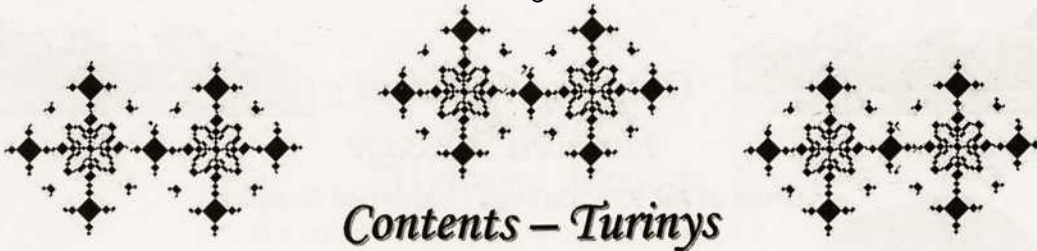
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**Special Note:**

To our readers – please be advised that while we are always happy to include any photos that you send us in issues of Vytis we are not able to send them back to you after publication.

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



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### Note from your Vytis Staff

*We hope you will enjoy this 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention Issue of Vytis. It took many members, many hours to record, write, photograph and compile the contents. All of us wish to thank each and every one of you who contributed to making this an issue to be proud of. Enjoy!*

*Sr. Johanna*

Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC  
Editor in Chief

*Rob*

Rob Martin  
Business Manager

*Mildred*

Mildred Jagiella  
Council News Editor

*Outgoing President's  
Farewell Message*

*Given at the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention Banquet*



*August 5, 2006*

*Rev. Monsignori, Convention Delegates and Friends,*

*I have been honored to serve as your National President for the past three years. During that time I have tried to do my best to represent the Knights of Lithuania in a professional and exemplary fashion.*

*I congratulate and salute our new President Elect – Ellie Nakrosis. I know that she, too, has the best interests of the Knights of Lithuania at heart. You can be sure that the Knights of Lithuania will continue its upward course under her leadership.*

*I sincerely thank the First Family – First Man John, - First Daughter Barbara and First Son Jim, who have stood by me and offered love and encouragement during my Presidential tenure. I know that the new First Family – First Daughters Becky and Cathy – will offer the same loving support to their mother and our new President Elect, Ellie!*

*Thank you all for your kindness and good wishes. God Bless the Knights of Lithuania!*

*Vytiškai,*

*Agnes*

*Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.*

*Past President*

*President's  
Welcome Message*

September 1, 2006

*Labas Vyčiai,*



*We have just had a very successful Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The Committee must be commended for a superb job!*

*I want to thank the delegates for electing me to serve as your President for the coming year. It is indeed an honor to be chosen for this position. I hope to be able to do as well as all those who have preceded me.*

*The Supreme Council that was elected by your delegates is very hard-working and capable to do an excellent job. With everyone's help and cooperation, we will have a successful year.*

*One of our main issues that we face as an organization is the ongoing loss of members, due mostly to death. My challenge to all of you is to keep active in the role of recruiting for the Knights of Lithuania, so as to ensure our survival and vitality in the American-Lithuanian community.*

*Again, thank you for your confidence in me.*

*Vytiškai,*

*Ellie*

*Elena Nakrosis*

*President*

# *93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention*

## *Greetings in Writing Received*

President George W. Bush

Audrys J. Cardinal Bačkis, Archbishop of Vilnius

Bishop Paul A. Baltakis, O.F.M., Lithuanian R.C. Apostolate in Diaspora

Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas, Embassy of Lithuania

Vaclovas Kleiza, LR Honorary Consul, Emeritus

Juozas Rygelis, President, American Lithuanian Cultural Archives

Rimas Chesonis, Honorary Consul of Lithuania, New York State

Rev. Msgr. Albert J. Contons, President – Lithuanian R. C. Priests' League of America and  
Honorary Member of the K. of L.

Arvydas Daunoravičius, Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago

Rev. Donald S. Petraitis, MIC, Provincial Superior, American Province of St. Casimir Marians  
of the Immaculate Conception

Jeanne Dorr, Lithuanian Orphan Care Board of Directors/Bridges Editor

Dr. Thorsteinn Gislason, Lithuanian Honorary Consul in USA, Salem, New Hampshire

Sister M. Bernadette Matukas, Provincial Superior, Sisters of the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Putnam, CT

Eugene C. Rainis, Mendham, New Jersey

Mindaugas Butkus, Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania in New York

Val Ramonis, Publisher/Editor, Lithuanian Heritage Magazine

T. Placidus Barius, O.F.M. Provincial Superior, Kennebunkport, Maine

Algimantas A. Karnavičius, Honorary Consul to the Republic of Lithuania,  
St. Petersburg, Florida

Sigita Balzekas, President, Lithuanian Foundation, Lemont, Illinois

Gabrielius Žemkalnis, President, Lithuanian World Community, Vilnius, Lithuania

Mary Rudis, United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Monee, Illinois

Saulius V. Kuprys, President, Lithuanian American Council

Saulius V. Kuprys, President, Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America

# *Knights of Lithuania*

## *93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention*

### *State of the Organization Report*

*by Agnes Mickunas, HM*

In accordance with Article XI, Section 2 of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution which states that the President prepares the Annual State of the Organization Report, the following is a summary of all reports that have been submitted. All delegates are urged to take home a set of these reports, read them and share the contents with your Council members.

#### **Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM**

- Msgr. Joe hosted the Supreme Council meeting in May 2006 with the assistance of Council 3.
- Monsignor also traveled to Lake Buena Vista, Florida in December 2005 to attend the Supreme Council meeting held there.
- A monthly Mass is offered by Msgr. Joe for deceased members of the Knights of Lithuania.
- Monsignor has always made time available to meet with the President when the necessity arose. Monsignor's counsel and advice have been most helpful.
- We are very grateful to Monsignor for his continued friendship and support.

#### **President - Agnes V. Mickunas, HM**

- I presided over three meetings – Pittsburgh, PA; Lake Buena Vista, FL; and Philadelphia, PA. The final meeting was held here at the Grosvenor yesterday, August 2.
- During the year I handled correspondence as it arose. I received invitations to participate in meetings sponsored by other Lithuanian organizations. On behalf of the Knights of Lithuania I extended greetings to each of them.
- Traveled to North Jersey with Irene Ozalis, the newly elected Chair of the K. of L. Foundation, and assisted with the orderly transfer of the Foundation's assets and records to her care. Ellie Nakrosis also assisted in this process. We are grateful to Ms. Ozalis for accepting the responsibility to Chair the Foundation and are

most thankful to Loretta Stukas for accomplishments realized during her tenure as Chair.

- I am pleased to report that the Vytis is being printed and mailed in a timely and efficient manner. To date, I have received positive feedback on the VYTIS issues that have been produced since the changeover that began with the December issue.

Sister Janine, our former Vytis Editor, unfortunately had to resign her position because of additional responsibilities as Co-Vocation Director of the Sisters of St. Casimir. In accordance with the Constitution I appointed Sister Johanna Shainauskas as Vytis Editor and Robert Martin as Business Manager.

- On March 5, I participated at the St. Casimir's Day celebration Mass in Gulfport, Florida. I was invited to address the Lithuanian community at the luncheon that followed at the Lithuanian Club. My remarks, in the Lithuanian language, were enthusiastically and warmly received. My thanks to Regina Juska-Svoba who assisted me in preparing my address.
- On April 23 I traveled to Putnam, CT to visit the K. of L. Archives Room. A Committee has been formed whose objective is to investigate hiring a professional archivist who, together with our own K. of L. Archives Committee, would catalog our important K. of L. historical records in an orderly and efficient manner. We owe a great debt of thanks to our Archives Chair and her Committee who continue to responsibly maintain our Archives to the best of their ability.
- Upon learning that Ambassador Ušackas was leaving the United States for a new assignment, I wrote and thanked the Ambassador for his friendship and support during his tenure here at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington. The Ambassador graciously replied and thanked the Knights of

Lithuania for all that we have done and continue to do for Lithuania.

- Maintained close contact through E-mail, telephone and letters with all the members of the Supreme Council.
- Kept in close contact with the Convention Chairpersons and Convention Committee during the past year. I can assure you that they have striven to assure a successful and productive Convention for your enjoyment.

#### **1st Vice President - Becky Pataki**

- Becky attended all the Supreme Council meetings for the year (Pittsburgh, Lake Buena Vista and Philadelphia).
- As mandated by Convention resolution, Becky maintains an up-to-date record of the term limits and expiration dates of Officers and Committee Chairs. She prepared this list for publication in the January issue of Vytis.
- Becky is part of this year's Convention Committee. She received and processed registration information and worked through all issues as they occurred with registrations. She contributed to the 2006 Convention Committee through E-mails and face-to-face meetings.
- In addition to her Supreme Council duties, Becky is active on both the Mid Atlantic District and Council levels.
- Becky serves as Treasurer for the Mid Atlantic District and is actively involved in the planning and execution of various Council 90 events.
- Becky has most certainly been an able and cooperative assistant to the President.

#### **2nd Vice President - Sister Johanna Shainauskas**

- Sister Johanna attended all Supreme Council meetings.
- Sister handled the required processes for membership in the Knights of Lithuania. All applications were verified and after approval were forwarded to the National Financial Secretary.

- Sister mailed a letter of welcome to each new member together with a Constitution and a small welcome gift.

- Sister Johanna will present Membership Awards at one of our Convention sessions.

- Sister is an active member of her Council and the Mid-America District. She is a member of the District Choir, serves as lector- cantor at Nativity B.V.M. Parish and is the secretary at the parish rectory.

- Sister Johanna has performed her duties responsibly and efficiently. We are pleased that she is a member of the Supreme Council.

#### **3rd Vice President - Andreja Deksnis**

- Andreja attended the Supreme Council meeting in Pittsburgh, PA and Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

- She has many innovative plans for our Juniors. Look for the "Juniors in Action" display which will be exhibited during this Convention. They will spend Friday at Walt Disney World. A formal Junior Convention meeting will take place on Saturday.

- Andreja plans to set up a program whereby each Junior will have a specific pen pal with whom to keep in contact throughout the year. A fundraiser will be conducted by the Juniors during the Convention, the profits of which will be sent to orphans in Lithuania.

- For the coming year Andreja plans to expand the "pen pal" program to all our Junior Councils so that there will be personal interaction among the Juniors in all of our Districts. Andreja will be contacting all the Districts and Councils who have Junior Councils. She will be seeking information in order to have an accurate and thorough count of all Juniors throughout our organization.

- This is Andreja's first term as 3rd Vice-President. She would certainly be appreciative to receive the support of all our Councils who have Junior Councils. Andreja has young, refreshing ideas. She is indeed an asset to our organization and we thank her for her enthusiasm to initiate a program for the further development of our Junior program.



#### **Recording Secretary - Dolores Herbert**

- Dolores attended the Supreme Council meeting in Pittsburgh and Lake Buena Vista.
- Dolores handled all the duties associated with her position. She prepared the minutes of each meeting and notified all Supreme Council members of upcoming meetings. Dolores makes sure that the appropriate copies of reports are available for all Supreme Council members at each meeting.
- Dolores prepared all the copies of the Annual Reports, Convention Schedule and other necessary information that are contained in the packets that each registered delegate receives at this Convention.
- In addition to all the above, she is Recording Secretary of the Amber District and is active in her own Council.
- Dolores is completing her first term as National Recording Secretary. She is a valuable asset to the structure of the Supreme Council.

#### **Treasurer - Bernice Aviza, HM**

- Bernice participated and attended all the Supreme Council meetings held during the year.
- All financial records and documents have been kept in proper order. All bills have been paid in a timely and efficient manner.
- Bernice is always very willing to be of assistance whenever she is requested. We appreciate her ideas and advice.
- Bernice is very active on both her District and Council levels.
- We are certainly appreciative to Bernice for the time and effort she has dedicated to our Knights of Lithuania interests.

#### **Financial Secretary - Elena Nakrosis**

- Ellie attended all the Supreme Council meetings in Pittsburgh, Lake Buena Vista and Philadelphia.
- Ellie updates the membership list. She handled the dues renewal forms expeditiously. In conjunction with this, Ellie provides an

updated mailing list for use by the Vytis personnel.

- She prepares and mails out the National Convention Mandate forms to all of the Councils and upon receipt, prepares and records the delegates' names for the Convention voting cards.
- Ellie is also a member of this year's Convention Committee. She took the responsibility of arranging all aspects of the Pre-Convention Trip.
- Ellie is very active on her Council and District levels.
- This is Ellie's first term as Financial Secretary. We thank her for her continued dedication to the Knights of Lithuania.

#### **Trustees - Mary Beth Slakis and Joseph Stiklius**

- Both Mary Beth and Joe have attended all Supreme Council meetings held during the past year.
- They have updated the Knights of Lithuania equipment inventory and report that their records are now current.
- Mary Beth and Joe will finalize their audit of all Knights of Lithuania financial records and will report their findings at the final Convention session.
- This past year has been especially busy for them as they are this year's Convention Chairpersons. They have expeditiously completed all the arrangements for our 93rd Convention. We truly thank them for all the time and effort dedicated to preparing and planning for our Convention here in Florida.

#### **Archives Chair - Frances Bumila**

- Frances has been responsible for overseeing and working with her Committee to maintain the K. of L. Archives.
- I am grateful to Fran who graciously agreed to meet with me in Putnam at our Archives facility. It was apparent to me that Fran and her Committee are a dedicated group and put in a great deal of time and effort in maintaining the Archives Room. The proper cataloging and recording of the K. of L.'s historical data and records is a very large and time-

consuming task. Fran is in agreement that professional assistance is necessary and would be most welcome.

- Fran's continuing cooperation and dedication to her responsibilities as Curator for our Knights of Lithuania memorabilia and history is certainly commendable. I hope that we can continue to count on Fran's work and efforts in this area.

#### **Honorary Membership Chair - Elinor Služas, HM**

- Elinor will meet with the members of the Honorary Membership Committee at this Convention. During the year she maintains telephone contact with her Committee.
- In accordance with Knights of Lithuania policy Elinor submitted to Vytis the biographies of the members who are scheduled to receive Honorary Membership at the 93rd Convention.
- Elinor is well qualified to handle this position. We are extremely grateful for her dedication to this challenging position.

#### **Lithuanian Affairs Chair - Mildred Jagiella**

- During her first term Mildred has compiled Lithuanian Affairs contact lists – both E-mail and postal addresses; structured return to grassroots intent and participation; wrote letters to legislators, newspapers, etc. as indicated by current issues regarding Lithuania.
- Mildred processed condensed, filtered E-mail news service; mailed and E-mailed distribution of news, actions, as indicated; monitored JBANC alerts.
- Also, Mildred monitored closings of Lithuanian Catholic Churches, i.e. St. Peter, South Boston; and St. George, Shenandoah, PA. A separate report will be presented during the Convention.
- Mildred diligently researched possible eligible recipients for our Friend of Lithuania award. No worthy candidates have been approved for this year.
- Mildred has pursued all avenues in the dissemination of Lithuanian Affairs news to our members. She has actively requested donations to the Father Jutt Fund which is

used to cover expenses generated by mailing newsworthy information to K. of L. members.

- Mildred has proved to be an excellent person to handle this position. We applaud her enthusiasm and motivation for the good of the K. of L.

#### **Lithuanian Language and Cultural Chair - Julia Schroder**

- Julia has been in contact with the Basilica personnel in Washington, DC regarding arrangements for the upcoming 40th Anniversary celebration of the Shrine of Our Lady of Šiluva. The Mass has been scheduled for 2:00 PM in the Main Basilica on Sunday, October 8, 2006.
- Julia has attended all Supreme Council meetings.
- She submitted an article describing Easter traditions in Lithuania. This was printed in the March-April issue of VYTIS.
- Julia also serves as Secretary of the Mid Atlantic District and is an officer of her Council.

#### **Public Relations Chair - Regina Juska-Švoba**

- Regina has continued to submit to the Lithuanian press outstanding publicity articles of all K. of L. events. Her synopses of National Convention sessions, Supreme Council meetings and weekend events, District pilgrimages and individual Council news keep the name of the Knights of Lithuania in the limelight.
- Regina's untiring work on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania earns her our gratitude. We admire her dedication as the K. of L's official news reporter.
- She continues to maintain ongoing telephone contact and E-mail communications with the Supreme Council, Mid Central District members, editors of the Lithuanian and American Lithuanian press and producers of the local radio programs relative to press coverage concerning the K. of L.
- Regina is always willing to share her knowledge and expertise with the Lithuanian language. She makes herself available when asked for assistance in translating newsworthy items.

- Regina has attended all Supreme Council meetings. She is active on her local Council and District levels.

#### **Ritual Committee Chair - Lee Moore**

- Lee attended and participated at the Supreme Council meeting in Pittsburgh last August and in Philadelphia in May 2006.
- During the past year Lee has efficiently maintained all Ritual records and responded to all correspondence directed to her attention. Lee has kept in touch with the President during the year.
- All the revised Ritual sections of the Knights of Lithuania Manual have been distributed to each Council.
- A total of 62 degrees has been processed this year.
- While in Florida, Lee participates in Council 153 activities. At the St. Casimir Mass sponsored by Council 153, Lee, along with Msgr. Contons, conducted an approved 4th degree presentation.
- In addition to her National duties, Lee serves as President and Ritual Chair of C-86 and Ritual Chair for the Mid-Central District.
- Lee is an asset to the National Board and we are grateful for the work she does for the Knights of Lithuania.

#### **Scholarship Committee Chair - John P. Baltrus**

- John was able to attend one Supreme Council meeting during the past year.
- John monitored the progress of the two recipients from 2005 and processed the second-half payments after both showed satisfactory progress after the first semester.
- An announcement was placed in VYTIS soliciting applicants for the scholarships to be awarded at the 2006 National Convention. Information and applications were also placed on the K. of L. website.
- John, along with his committee, thoroughly reviews all applications and accompanying documentation. This year's scholarship recipients will be announced at the closing Convention Banquet.

- We are grateful to John for his interest and diligent work as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. John also serves as President of his Council and participates actively in his District.

#### **Aid to Lithuania, Inc. - Regina Juska-Švoba, President & Robert Boris, HM, Board Chair**

- ATL continues to be under the wise direction of both Regina and Bob.
- Their detailed report is in the delegates packets. It is most evident that their time and energies are spent continually monitoring the needs of the various funds under their direction.
- ATL's 15th Anniversary newsletter was prepared and mailed to 1,700 donors from the mailing list.
- ATL Officer's Meetings are held monthly. Their annual Board of Directors meeting will take place during this Convention.
- A full annual report will be presented to Convention delegates.
- During the year telephone and E-mail contact is maintained with the Officers and in-country representative in Lithuania on at least a biweekly basis to discuss, coordinate and direct the day to day activities of ATL.
- We thank Regina and Bob for their dedication to this important arm of the Knights of Lithuania.

#### **Knights of Lithuania Foundation Inc. - Irene Ozalis, President**

- At last year's Convention in Pittsburgh Irene Ozalis accepted the responsibility to Chair the K. of L. Foundation.
- For the past year Irene has worked to initiate and finalize the orderly transfer of the Foundation's finances and records to her care. She has worked with Ann Marie Kassel, the Treasurer, to insure that all financial records are in good order.
- The Foundation continues sponsorship of the Karklius Scholarship. Irene has been in contact with the Scholarship Committee Chair to insure a good working relationship.

- Irene has been in contact with Saulius Kuprys, Legal Advisor, regarding important issues which she wishes to resolve.
- The Annual Foundation Meeting has been scheduled during this Convention. Recommendations and decisions will be discussed and resolved during this upcoming meeting. A detailed report will be presented to the delegates at one of the Convention sessions.
- Irene has worked diligently to become familiar with all the workings of the Foundation. We are most grateful for her dedication to this project.
- The annual meeting for all Committee members is scheduled during this Convention. She has a full agenda to be presented to the members.
- Elinor will give a report to all the delegates during her presentation at one of the Convention sessions.

**St. Casimir Guild - Anna Klizas Wargo, HM, President**

- The main project this year was soliciting contributions to refurbish the student's rooms at the College. A total of \$8,675.00 was received and forwarded to Rome.
- During the year 590 Masses were requested and forwarded to Msgr. Bartkus along with the Mass Stipends. The Mass stipends received by the Student Priests and Priests at the College are needed to help them pay for their personal expenses.
- A total of \$40,000.00 in donations was forwarded to Rome. This includes the donations for the room refurbishments at the College.
- Anna will meet with members of her Committee during this Convention. She will give her report during one of the sessions. We thank Anna for all she does for the benefit of St. Casimir Guild and the Knights of Lithuania.

**Our Lady of Šiluva Fund - Elinor Služas, HM, Chair**

- Elinor keeps in contact throughout the year with committee members and the Supreme Council on all matters pertaining to the Our Lady of Šiluva Fund project
- Elinor reports that the Our Lady of Šiluva website is garnering much attention. In addition, Elinor gave permission for the information on our website to be translated and put on the Spanish International Website.

**Amber District - Dianne Drumstas, President**

- Dianne conducted three District meetings. The fall meeting was held in Binghamton, NY; in March the St. Casimir Day District Meeting and celebration was hosted by the Lehigh Valley Council. On June 4 Shamokin served as hosts.
- Dianne attended two Supreme Council Meetings. She worked, along with the other District Presidents, to prepare the slate of candidates for the upcoming election at the National Convention.
- On May 29, 2006 Dianne presented an informational Lithuanian Display at the High School where she works. This was part of the Philadelphia School District Multi-Cultural Day.
- Dianne also serves as Recording Secretary in her own Council. Dianne attends many Lithuanian religious and cultural events in the Tri-State Area.
- Dianne's work as President of the Amber District has generated pronounced support and participation. She serves the District and the Knights of Lithuania well and is truly an asset to our organization.

**Mid-America District - Robert A. Martin, Jr., President**

- Rob reports four quarterly Board meetings and 4 quarterly District Conventions were held. Their meeting day usually includes festivities like luncheon picnics, a Christmas Party, St. Casimir Day luncheon – all of which make an interesting and social day for the delegates.
- Rob was Chairman of the 46th Annual Memories of Lithuania Banquet on February 6, 2006. The MAMD District sponsors this annual event. This year's banquet honored the Dainava Ensemble for their 60 years of preserving the beautiful Lithuanian music through their gift of song.

- Rob reports that activity abounds in the MAMD. Members support the ALTAS Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration, the Lithuanian Opera Chorus, and the Sisters of St. Casimir Picnic in July. The District members participate in an annual Pilgrimage Weekend.
- Rob continues to update the Knights of Lithuania website. We commend him and thank him for his work, which is no slight task, in maintaining such a creative and informative website.
- He takes the lead, together with the remaining District Presidents, in preparing the proposed slate of officers for the coming term as well as the slate for the Convention Presidium.
- In addition, Rob handled this year's Convention Program Book. On his own he contacted additional subscribers, other than our own K. of L. Councils, in an effort to increase interest and support for our Convention.
- We thank Rob for his work throughout the year for the Knights of Lithuania.

**Mid-Atlantic District - Cathy Nakrosis, President**

- Cathy worked on the Nominating Committee to complete the proposed election slate for the 93rd National Convention.
- Cathy is also on the Registration Committee for this 93rd Convention.
- Cathy attended the Supreme Council meetings in Pittsburgh, Lake Buena Vista and Philadelphia.
- She attended and presided at the Fall MAD meeting in Eastern Long Island. Also she contributed to the planning, execution and success of fund-raising activities for the District.
- Cathy is active as Financial Secretary for Council 90 and attends the monthly Council meetings and activities. We thank Cathy for all she does for our organization.

**Mid-Central District - Michael Petkus, President**

- Michael presided at the Fall and Spring meetings of the Mid-Central District. Council 102 hosted the Fall Convention/Pilgrimage

Sept. 29 to Oct. 1. The Pilgrimage took place at the Sweetest Heart of Mary Church which has an interesting history. Closing Mass was held at St. Anthony's. He reports that prior to Mass each Council lit a candle and read the names of their deceased members.

- Council 25 hosted the Spring Convention/Sports Weekend May 19 -20. There were 8 teams in the bowling tournament.
- Michael reports that the Mid-Central District and all the Councils continue to be active and supportive of Knights of Lithuania projects.
- Michael volunteered to work on the Transportation Committee for this Convention.
- Michael continues his responsibility as MCD President, 3rd Vice President for his Council and is an active member of the Holy Cross Lithuanian Roman Catholic Parish Church Committee.

**New England District - Vivian Rodgers, President**

- Vivian coordinated the NED Annual Cultural Festival held in Maironis Park in October 2005. This brings together all the NED Councils for a day of sociability, Lithuanian food, and a large raffle.
- She presided over the NED Board Meetings held in August 2005 and April 2006. Vivian presided over the NED Fall Convention in Lawrence, MA and the Spring Convention in Bridgeport, CT.
- Vivian was instrumental in getting over \$2,600 in donations from the NED Councils as well as private donors for the project of renovating the rooms at the Pontifical College in Rome.
- In addition, Vivian coordinated the annual NED retreat in June held at the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, Maine.
- Vivian attended the Supreme Council meeting in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia
- Vivian is a true K. of L'er. We thank her for her dedication to our organization.

**Legal Advisor - Saulius V. Kuprys, Esq.**

- Saulius prepares the Knights of Lithuania annual filings with the IRS and handles all issues relating to such filings.
- Saulius has handled numerous legal issues during the past year. His knowledge and expertise benefit the Knights of Lithuania.
- We thank him for his willingness to assist and serve the needs of the Knights of Lithuania.

**Vytis - Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC, Editor-in-Chief/Robert Martin, Business Manager**

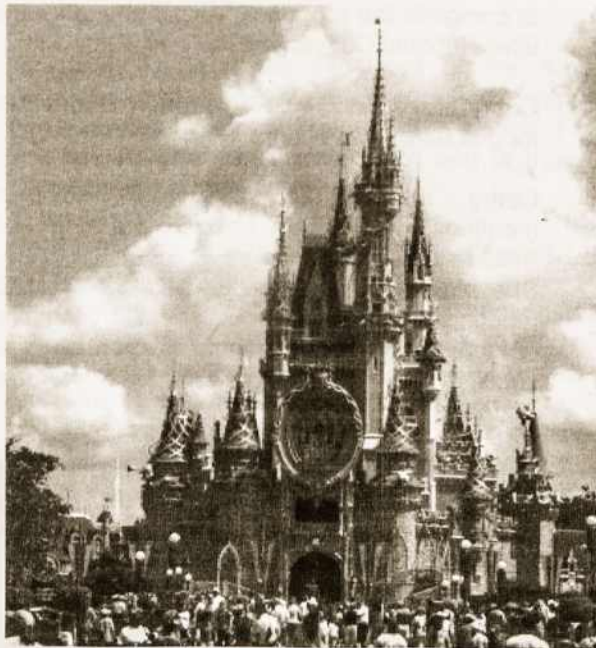
- Because Sister Janine resigned her position as Vytis Editor, due to personal obligations, in December 2005 I appointed Sr. Johanna Marie as Vytis Editor and Robert Martin as Business Manager. These appointments were approved by the Supreme Council. The Vytis Staff is completed by Council News Editor, Mildred Jagiella. We are grateful to Sister Janine for her part in completing a smooth transition.
- Due to problems with printing deadlines at Lithuanian Catholic Press the Supreme Council made the decision to move the printing of Vytis to a new printer, Russ' Print Shop of Hebron, Indiana.
- The Vytis Staff has applied to the U. S. Post Office to move our mailing office from the Chicago Post Office to the Valparaiso, IN Post Office. They have taken care of the annual filing with the US Postal Service and have addressed all expenses and bills associated with Vytis.
- Sister Johanna and Rob have worked together since their respective appointments to produce a Vytis magazine that is of professional quality and appearance. I am sure we all appreciate the receipt of our magazine on a timely and regular basis.
- Our thanks to Sister Johanna and Rob for accepting this huge task and responsibility.

**In Conclusion**

- Each year presents new challenges and the past year was no exception. I can assure you that your elected Supreme Council did their very best to properly address important issues that required our attention.

- There are two big ticket items that must remain on our agenda this coming year. The first is the state of our K. of L. membership. We must devise a strong and cohesive platform that will generate enthusiasm and interest for prospective qualified applicants to join our organization.
- The second item is the fate of our Lithuanian churches. We must continue to rally to the support of our Lithuanian parishes who are threatened with closure by Diocesan hierarchy. We need our churches in order to maintain our Lithuanian culture and heritage.
- It has been a privilege to work with the members of the Supreme Council this year. We are all very different personalities but it is that difference that allows each of us to contribute new ideas and suggestions that ultimately benefit our Knights of Lithuania organization. Each Supreme Council member has contributed their very best effort in fulfilling the responsibilities of their elected position.
- And thank you, the delegates of this 93rd National Convention, for your part also in continuing the proud traditions of the Knights of Lithuania.

*Agnes V. Mickunas, HM.  
President*



Wow! Some people, or should I say mice, know how to live.  
Guess a mouse's home is his castle!

## 2006-2007 Supreme Council



Front Row (L to R): Dolores Herbert – Recording Secretary; Bernice Aviza, HM – Treasurer; Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM – St. Casimir Guild, Inc. President; Elena Nakrosis – President; Becky Pataki – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM – Spiritual Advisor and Frances Bumila – Archive Chair.

Back Row (L to R): Cathy Nakrosis – Mid-Atlantic District President; Andrea Deksnis – 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President; Irene Ozalis – K of L Foundation, Inc. President; Lee Moore – Ritual Chair; Regina Juska-Svoba – Aid to Lithuania, Inc. President & Public Relations Chair; Elinor Sluzas, HM – Honorary Membership Chair; Michael Petkus – Mid-Central District President; Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President & Vytis Editor-in-chief; Joanna Rudzevicius – Trustee and Aldona Zajauskas – Financial Secretary.

*Not pictured: Rita Sussko, HM – Trustee; Barbara Miller – Scholarship Chair; Saulius Kuprys, Esq. – Legal Advisor; Robert Martin, Jr. – Mid-America District President & Vytis Business Manager; Mildred Jagiella – Lithuanian Affairs Chair; Julia Schroder – Lithuanian Language & Culture Chair; Dianne Drumstas – Amber District President; Rev. Anthony Markus – Our Lady of Siluva Fund, Inc. President and Vivian Rodgers – New England District President*



### Years of experience?

Some of our Past National Presidents on hand to welcome our new President into the group.

L to R: Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM (1988-1991), Elena Nakrosis (Newly Elected), Rob Martin (2000-2003), Agnes Mickunas, HM (2003-2006), Frances Petkus, HM (1991-1994).

# Pre-Convention Tour The Holy Land Experience





## Pre-Convention Tour The Holy Land Experience

by Mary Beth Slakis



On Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, thirty-four delegates of the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention loaded a bus from a hot, humid, sunny climate at the Grosvenor Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Our chairperson for the outing was Ellie Nakrosis and a fine job she did.

We arrived in the Holy Land where we were met by Moses and took advantage of a perfect photo opportunity.

Entering through the gates we commented, "Would there be enough to occupy us for our five hour stay?" Much to our delight and surprise the day passed far too quickly and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Our first stop within the gates, after the gift shop and necessary room, was to hear the park's director speak on the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls. He related to us the chronology from how the scrolls were found quite by accident to their being authenticated and studied. This open air presentation was quite interesting and informative.

As his talk concluded all were glad to hear that the next "show" was about to start inside the air-conditioned theater to our right. As we invaded the theater we were quickly refreshed by the more desirable temperature and prepared for a presentation on ancient high priests and the ritualistic care of the Ark of the Covenant. All were amazed at what care the Ark was given when it was still among us. We all left with a better understanding of this time in history.

Next we moved on to see a movie on the story of Abraham and his willingness to sacrifice his only son. The movie also spoke of the siege of the Jerusalem by the Romans and the sacrifices made for the Lord then as well.

It was now time for lunch and everyone was ready for a bite to eat. The wonderful establishment there provided something for every taste from that period to a more modern cuisine. Everyone was able to find something to enjoy.

Some of our attendees were able to take in the Holy Land's Scriptorium and its large amounts of ancient and authentic religious writings. The Scriptorium is the largest in the world to date and was enjoyed by those who were able to visit it.

As time was now running short, choices had to be made on what to see next. Many chose the live review on music used to praise God through the years. After viewing their scale model of Jerusalem as it would have been during the time of Christ we filed into the theater. This extremely well done performance left everyone in a motivated, uplifted and spiritual mood.

All too soon it was time to depart as our bus had arrived to take us back to the Grosvenor. So, after stopping to help the gift shop's economy we loaded up and headed back to the hotel.

A truly holy experience was had by all.

# REPORT OF ATTENDEES AT THE 93rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

*Held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Lake Buena Vista, FL*

*August 3-6, 2006*



The Mandate Committee: Elena Nakrosis, Chair, Georgianna Macke, Toni Sakal, Arlene Stiklius, Lee Moore and Lillian Greymas.

**Please be advised that this year's convention consisted of 3 sessions.**

**Supreme Council in attendance:** Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis HM, Agnes V. Mickunas HM, Becky Pataki, Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas SSC, Andreja Deksnis, Dolores Herbert, Bernice Aviza, Elena Nakrosis, Mary Beth Slakis, Joseph Stiklius, Robert A. Martin, Jr., Frances Bumila, Julia Schroder, Mildred Jagiella, Elinor Sluzas HM, Regina Juska-Svoba, Lee Moore, Irene Ozalis, Anna K. Wargo HM, Cathy Nakrosis, Michael Petkus, and Vivian M. Rodgers,

**Honorary Members in attendance:** Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, Bernice Aviza, Msgr. Algirdas Bartkus, Veronica Bizinkauskas, Ann Marie Kassel, Agnes Mickunas, Frances Petkus, Estelle Rogers, Elinor Sluzas, Faustas Strolia, and Anna K. Wargo.

**Council Rosters and sessions attended:**

**C-1 Brockton:** Maryte Bizinkauskas-3, Veronica Bizinkauskas-2, Vilija Bizinkauskas-2.

**C-3 Philadelphia:** John Mickunas-3, Irene Ozalis-3, Mary Pacesa-3, Tony Pacesa-3, Irene Svekla-3, Walter Svekla-3.

**C-6 Hartford:** Arlene Stiklius-3, Joseph Stiklius-3.

**C-16 Chicago Bridgeport:** Diann Martin-3, Aldona Zajauskas-3, Frankie Zajauskas-2.

**C-17 So. Boston:** Phyllis Gendreau-3, Francis Markus-3, Barbra Trybe-3.

**C-19 Pittsburgh:** Len Barcoucky-2.

**C-26 Worcester:** Alfred Rodgers-3, Vivian Rodgers-3.

**C-27 Norwood:** Carol Treciokas-3, Charles Treciokas-3.

**C-30 Westfield:** James Rogers-3, Marcia Rogers-3.

C-36 Chicago Brighton Park: Glen Perutis-1, Sr. Margaret Petcavage-3.

C-50 New Haven: Isabel Peterson-3.

C-82 Gary: Sr. Janine Golubickis SSC-3, Joanna Rudzevicius-3.

C-86 DuBois: Kevin Moore -3, Lee Moore-3, Mimi Moore-3.

C-90 Kearny: Cathy Nakrosis-3, Rita Ochs-3, Becky Pataki-3.

C-96 Dayton: Erin Petkus-3, Michael Petkus-3, Robert Petkus-3, Elinor Sluzas, HM-3, Ann Marie Sluzas-Berger-1.

C-102 Detroit: Regina Juska-Svoba-3.

C-103 Providence: Sophia Sakalys-3.

C-110 Maspeth: Julia Schroder-3.

C-112 Chicago Marquette Park: Andreja Deksnis-3, Maria Deksnis-2, Regina Juskaitis-3, Patti Knox-1, Sr. Theresa Papsis, SSC - 3, Vitas Paskauskas-3, Cynthia Paskauskas-3, Sr. Johanna Shainauskas SSC-3, Bob Svehla-3, Diane Svehla-1, Julie Zakarka-3.

C-133 Los Angeles: Josephine Barzda-3.

C-136 Hudson-Mohawk: Bernice Aviza, HM-3.

C-144 Anthracite: Anna K. Wargo HM-3.

C-147 St. Petersburg: John Jonaitis-3, Marilyn Lenihan-2.

C-152 Eastern Long Island: Antoinette Sakal-3, John Sakal-3.

C-157 Lemont: Ann Marie Kassel, HM-3, Georgianna Macke-3, Faustas Strolia HM-3, Theresa Strolia-3.

Amber District: Lillian Greymas-3, Dolores Herbert-3.

Mid America District: Mildred Jagiella-3, Robert A. Martin, Jr.-3.

Mid Atlantic District: Elena Nakrosis-3, Christopher Schroder-1.

Mid Central District: Paul Moore-3, Ann Louise Tucker-3.

New England District: Frances Bumila-3.

Guests: Barbara W. Sokolowski C30-3, Donna Juraitis C157-2, Peter Zansitis C16-3, Blanche Goodstein C1-3, Fr. Tomas Karanauskas C133-1, George Bumila, Jr. C1-1, Andrew Svekla C3-2, Mary Maresca C112-1, Elenore Yundul C112-1 and Irene Rogers C-112.

Juniors: Lauren Peterson C-50, Alex Deksnis C112, Liza Macke C-157, Kortnee Kristine Zajauskas C-16, Tyler Zajauskas C-16, Jonathan Moore C-86, Justin Moore C-86, Peter Barcousky C-19, Thomas Petkus C-96, Lexie Rudmin C-16 and Keith Westerling C-136.

Respectfully submitted,

Convention Mandate Committee  
Elena M. Nakrosis C-90,  
National Financial Secretary, Chairperson  
Georgianna Macke C-157  
Lee Moore C-86  
Antoinette Sakal C-152.  
Lillian Greymas C-3  
Arlene Stiklius C-6



Above and below: Members socialize over breakfast before heading down to the sessions.



# Our Opening and Closing Masses <sup>20</sup>

By Sr. M. Janine Golubickis, SSC

Welcome to Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine. This 2,000 seat Shrine Church, a very short ride



away from the hotel, was the location of the Knights of Lithuania opening and closing Masses for the 2006 Knights of Lithuania national convention. Upon arrival we view the tranquil walkways, fountains and outdoor gardens which lead to the magnificent bronze sculpture of the Mother and Child created by renowned artist

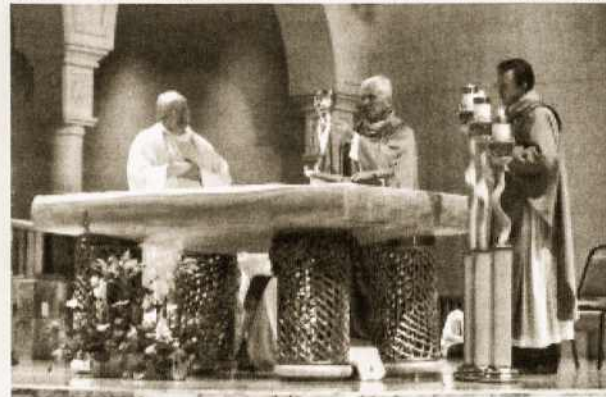
Jerzy Kenar. The art piece Mary Queen of the Universe enclosed with 3,300 names of Shrine Associates was created by Jill Burkee from pure white marble from Carrara, Italy and stands 8 feet high at another end of the Shrine facility. Either before or after Mass a visit to the Gift Store is a must for religious articles, gifts and souvenirs. Time does not allow us to visit the Shrine Museum and the beautiful outdoor Rosary Garden.

Once inside the beautiful and sacred structure, we see the inspirational stained-glass windows depicting the story of God's love for man, and Mary's place in God's plan for salvation. Behind the sanctuary lies a specially designed Blessed Sacrament Chapel with



perpetual adoration for worshippers to commune with the Lord.

In this large and breathtaking church the Opening Mass took place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday,



August 3, 2006. Down the long center aisle processed Msgr. J. Anderlonis, HM, National Spiritual Advisor (C-3), with Rev. Anthony Markus (C-112), Rev. Tomas Karanauskas (C-133) and deacon Vitas Paskauskas (C-112), together with the other liturgical ministers. The music and Eucharistic ministers were provided by the shrine, and we sang two hymns from the K of L Liturgy booklets. The convention proceedings could now continue with God's blessing.

On Sunday, August 6, 2006 we





returned to this beautiful house of worship for our Closing Mass at 1:30 p.m. Following the last regular Sunday Mass, having completed the work



of the K of L 93<sup>rd</sup> national convention, happy delegates and friends gathered to thank God for our time together in Lake Buena Vista, FL. Msgr. A. Bartkus, HM (C-144), who arrived from Rome, joined Msgr. J. Anderlonis, and deacon Vitas Paskauskas for the closing liturgy. Msgr. A. Bartkus is the rector of the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome.



Before the Liturgy began, two new fourth degree candidates, Diann Martin of C-16 and Sr. M. Theresa Papsis, SSC of C-112, were received and the new Supreme Council pronounced their oaths of office for the 2006-2007 year. When the Mass concluded, the Knights of Lithuania sang the organization's anthem. The official convention photo was taken on the steps before the altar. How fitting!



*Thursday Night's Get-Together  
Our Polynesian Luau and Show*



## Thursday Night Get-Together

by Rob Martin



Members gather to enter the Luau Cove.

With our Opening Mass and 1st Plenary Session completed evening was about to be upon us. As the sun began to set it was time for us to prepare for our evening Get-Together. All our delegates and friends were anxious to board our motorcoaches for the quick ride over to Disney's Polynesian Resort for their "Spirit of Aloha" Luau and Show. Though the skies threatened us with rain not a drop fell on what was to be a wonderful night for all. As we arrived, guests were presented with a traditional Hawaiian Lei by the hosts and hostesses. After a short wait we were escorted to our seats on the main floor of Luau Cove. It wasn't long before the food was being served and refreshments were flowing. As we dined on all you can eat Salad and Pineapple and enjoyed our drinks the show was underway. A wonderful evening of entertainment started with some



The show gets underway.

modern Hawaiian song and dance. Everyone was enjoying the show so much, that when the opportunity presented itself to be part of it, many of us joined in, especially our juniors. Everyone

cheered as our National Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Anderlonis, jumped up on the stage and joined in dancing the hula for the crowds. As the first act concluded, dinner was served.

Piles of Bar-b-que Ribs and Chicken with all the trimmings were served, much to our gastronomic enjoyment. As we continued to eat, the show continued. At this time it was time for some more traditional Polynesian dancing as the performers gave us a sample of various island dances from Hawaii to Fiji. Who knew so much meaning was displayed in the artist movements of the dancers.

As act two concluded, the lights dimmed and lava



The Polynesian Fire Dancer.

flowing volcanoes could be seen erupting all over the cove. Well the lava turned out to be Raspberry Sauce and the volcanoes, our delectable chocolate desserts.

What a perfect end to a perfect meal.

As we finished

our meal the final act of the show began. This segment included tribal dance and breathtaking fire dancing. Everyone watched in amazement as the dancers twirled fire above themselves, under themselves and all around themselves. A truly perfect ending to what was a great evening.

All too soon it was time for us to head back to the hotel. We all left with many wonderful memories of a spectacular evening of good food, good beverages, great entertainment and most importantly, great friendships, both new and old. A big thank you goes out to the Disney staff for providing us with such a great Get-together. Finally a special thank you goes out to Janine Gomez of Disney Event Services for suggesting the Luau to us and making all the arrangements for us. AĀIŪ and ALOHA!



## Honorary Membership



Honorary Members 2006 Official Photo: L-R Front Row: Estelle Rogers, HM, Ann Marie Kassel, HM, Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM, Theresa Strolia, HM, Walter Svekla, HM, Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM and Rev. Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, HM. L-R Back Row: Bernice Aviza, HM, Frances Petkus, HM, Faustas Strolia, HM, Elinor Sluzas, HM, Veronica Bizinkauskas, HM and Agnes Mickunas, HM

This year the Honorary Membership Committee bestowed Honorary Membership on two of our members. Theresa Strolia of Council 157 Lemont, IL, and Walter Svekla of Council 3 Philadelphia, PA. Both of these hard working members are very deserving of this, the highest honor our organization can bestow on a member. Their biographies outlining their worthiness for this honor were published in the May-June Issue of *Vytis* in accordance with the constitution. The presentation was made by Committee Chair, Elinor Sluzas, HM of Council 96 Dayton, OH during the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention Banquet.

Following the banquet they joined our other Honorary Members present at the convention for a group photo. Celebratory parties continued in to the early hours of the morning. Congratulations Terry and Walt.

The committee asked everyone to remember longtime member and friend, Loretta Stukas of Council 29 Newark, NJ, in their prayers. Loretta has been very ill recently and we pray for a speedy recovery for her.

The committee also announces with sadness the loss of three of our Honorary Members this past

year. They are: Alexander Wesley, HM of Council 109, Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, HM of Council 112 and Anne Mitch Mutulavich of Council 52. May their souls and all the souls of our faithful departed rest in peace.

The committee also held its annual meeting during the convention. During that meeting they discussed candidates that they have received for consideration. Following this meeting Committee Chair, Elinor Sluzas, HM, presented their recommendations to the convention delegates. This year the committee recommended the name of Robert A. Martin, Jr. of Council 16, Chicago, IL, for Honorary Membership. The motion was accepted by the delegates during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session of the convention and voted on. The motion passed. Honorary Membership will be bestowed upon Rob at the 94<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Brockton, MA in 2007. Congratulations Rob.

The committee encourages all councils and districts to consider recommending worthy Knights for Honorary Membership. Please feel free to contact your District Committee Representative or the Committee Chair should you have any questions regarding how to submit a candidate.





# Our 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in Photos



# Our 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in Photos



Walter Svekla, HM with Elinor Sluzas, HM at presentation. By the way did we tell you he's from Philadelphia – Council 3?



Theresa Strolia, HM, Lemont, IL – Council 157 with Elinor Sluzas, HM at presentation.



# Our 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in Photos



# Our 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in Photos



## Our Convention Plenary Sessions

by Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC

The theme for this year's Knights of Lithuania Convention was "T.E.A.M." (Together, Everyone Achieves More). With this thought in mind our convention began.

### The First Plenary Session

The session was opened by National President Agnes Mickunas, HM. After the Opening Prayer by Msgr. Anderlonis, HM and the singing of the Anthems President Mickunas called on National Recording Secretary, Dolores Herbert, for the roll



Convention Committee Co-Chairs, Mary Beth Slakis and Joseph Stiklius.

call of Supreme Council Members. The presidium was then elected and took control of the convention business. The session was presided over by Vivian Rodgers, with approximately 83 delegates and guests in attendance. We received greetings from Ruta Lee, which was delivered by Maryte Sepikas of C-133 on her behalf. Maryte also informed us that Ruta will be receiving her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Tuesday, October 10, 2006. Bishop Jonas Ivanauskas sent greetings which were delivered by Rev. Thomas Karanauskas, from St. Casimir Parish in Los Angeles. Bishop Ivanauskas spoke on the upcoming celebration of the 400-year anniversary of the apparition at Siluva, Lithuania, which will take place from September 8-15, 2008. The Holy Father and Chicago's Francis Cardinal George have both been invited for this special occasion. Several priests have been assigned to coordinate plans in Chicago at Nativity B.V.M. Parish which is dedicated to Our Lady of Siluva. The Knights of Lithuania has also been asked to be part of this

committee. Finally, Sr. Margaret Petcavage, SSC, presented greetings on behalf of the Sisters of St. Casimir.

The State of the Organization Report was then



given by K of L Supreme Council President, Agnes Mickunas, HM. Agnes delivered the presentation which was also printed and displayed on a large screen for us via PowerPoint.

National Treasurer, Bernice Aviza, HM, then presented the Treasurer's Report. The presentation included the Balance Sheet, Summary of Income and Expenses, and the Proposed Budget for the coming year.

The names of those who sent Written Greetings were then read. It was announced that the written greetings would be available to anyone wishing to see them. The



approval of the Minutes of the 92<sup>nd</sup> National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, the Resolutions Committee Report and the Donation's Committee Report followed.

Our National Lithuanian Affairs Chair, Mildred Jagiella, presented her report that highlighted the possible closing of St. George's Church in Shenandoah, PA. As the K of L had previously adopted keeping a watchful eye on such matters all listened intently. Mildred informed us that assistance has been requested to help prevent this from happening as it has happened to other Lithuanian founded Churches in the past.

There being no further business this first day the session was closed with a prayer.

### The Second Plenary Session



Presidium Chair and Co-Chairs: Vivian Rodgers, Michael Petkus and Elena Nakrosis..

The session was called to order by Presidium Co-Chair, Elena Nakrosis. After an opening prayer the first item up was the Annual Awards for New Memberships. The awards were presented by Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC, National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Membership. This year's awards for the top councils went to C-144 with 20 new members, C-133 with 10 new members and C-7 with 9 new members. In the Individual Category the awards went to Maryte Sepikas, C-133 with 10 members, Dr. Paul Kazar, C-110 with 9 members and Marion Wydra, C-144 with 7 members.



Greetings/Donations Committee: Erin Petkus, Anne Louise Tucker and Sophia Sakalys.

The session continued with a very inspiring panel presentation, given by Sr. M. Margaret Petcavage, SSC, about the life of the Foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir, Servant of God, Mother Maria Kaupas. Ritual Chairperson, Lee Moore, gave the yearly report on degrees. During the past year we processed 62 degrees with 4 persons receiving their 4<sup>th</sup> Degree during the convention. The Nominations Committee then presented their slate of candidates for the coming year. Elinor Sluzas,

HM, Chair of the Honorary Membership Committee then presented the committee's report for this year. She reported that at this convention Theresa Strolia of C-157 and Walter Svelka of C-3 would have Honorary Membership bestowed on them at the convention banquet. She continued that the committee had met and was recommending the name of Robert A. Martin, Jr. of C-16 for Honorary Membership. Elinor then read his biography to the delegates. A motion to accept the committee's recommendation was made and accepted by the delegates. The presentation of Honorary Membership to Rob will



Presidium Secretaries: Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC, and Irene Svelka

be made during the banquet at the 2007 National Convention. The aid to Lithuania Annual Report was given by Regina Juska-Svoba, President. The Resolutions Committee then presented resolutions received for the delegates to consider. This was followed by the Report of the Greetings/Donations Committee. The session was closed with a prayer.

### The Third Plenary Session

The session was led by Co-Chair, Michael Petkus, with 83 delegates in attendance. The St. Casimir Guild Report was given by Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM, President, followed by a few words from Msgr. Al Bartkus, HM, Rector of the Pontifical College in Rome. Msgr. Bartkus greeted all the "Vyčiai, Vytės and Vyčiukai," and then told of the needs of the Villa Lituania for the coming year. Elinor Sluzas, HM, then gave the Our Lady of Siluva Report. During her report she spoke of the work that is ongoing within the committee. She also announced that Rev. Anthony Markus, C-112 member and pastor of Nativity B.V.M. Parish in Chicago, will be taking on the position of President for the committee.

Next, our juniors, under the direction of Andrėja Deksnis, gave their annual presentation on their experiences at the convention. The juniors



Sr. Margaret Petcavage, SSC, our Panel Presenter, address' the delegates.

delighted everyone with their lively presentation which included a visit from Mickey and Minnie. Andrėja reminded everyone that the juniors were still conducting their fundraiser raffle and would be happy to sell additional tickets to anyone who would like them.

National Trustees, Mary Beth Slakis and Joseph Stiklius, reported that Council 1, Brockton, MA, had offered to host the 2007 convention. A motion to accept was made immediately and approved



Our Sergeants-at-arms: Al Rodgers, Paul Moore and John Sakal.

unanimously. Anne Louise Tucker of Council 96, Dayton, OH, then presented a bid to host the 2008 Convention in Dayton, OH. She then gave a short verbal presentation followed by a video on the proposed site and its many local attractions. A motion to accept was made and approved.

The Financial Review Committee then presented the resolutions that concerned donations from the organization that were received during the convention. The committee made their

recommendations and the delegates approved the donations as presented. Erin Petkus informed us that the Greetings/Donations Committee had taken in over \$22,000.00 at this time. Council 19 member, Len Barcoucky then presented greetings from Pittsburgh. There being no additional business a motion to close the session was approved. The session adjourned after the singing of the Vyčiu Himnas. Everyone then departed to get ready for the Saturday Evening Banquet.



John Mickunas raises a question during the convention meetings.



Delegates listen to the proceedings during the convention sessions.

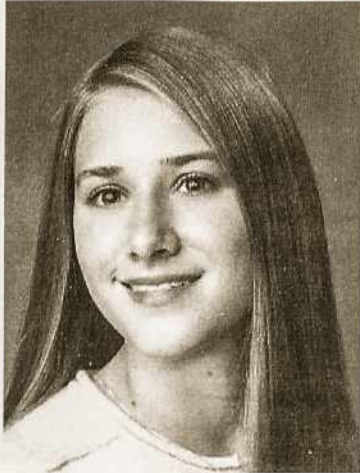


Anne Louise Tucker, President of Council 96 Dayton, OH, invites the delegates to their fair city in 2008 for the National Convention.

## 2006 National Scholarships

by John Baltrus

The Scholarship Committee received an unusually large number of applications this year compared to recent years. There were several excellent candidates and the Committee had a difficult time selecting the top awardees. This year a record amount (\$9,000) of scholarships were awarded.



**Meredith Domalakes**  
Council 144

This year's highest ranked candidate was Meredith Domalakes of Anthracite Council 144. Meredith started out as a Junior Member and is now Cultural Chairman of C-144. One of her favorite activities is helping the council prepare for their annual Lithuanian Days Celebration.

She was an honors student at Cardinal Brennan High School, ranking second in her class. There she participated in the chorus, Pro-life Club, Rotary-Interact Club and Relay for Life Team among many other activities. She received numerous awards for her academic achievements including the Bishop's Catholic Scholar Award and the Kodak Leadership Award. She is described as responsible, faithful, dependable, and of a serious attitude with high moral and leadership qualities. Meredith has also shown great responsibility in performing her duty as a student and helping with her parish's activities. Meredith plans to attend college and major in Theater. She will receive a \$2,000 scholarship from the Alice Karklius Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The next two scholarships were awarded to Vilija Bizinkauskas of C-1, Brockton, and Erin Petkus of C-96, Dayton, who were ranked equally. Vilija started out as a Junior member at age 5 and was their council's Junior Coordinator for three years. She participates extensively in her council's activities as well as volunteering for Lithuanian Children's Relief. Last summer she helped her council's junior members raise over \$1,000 to send to a school in Lithuania in need of simple supplies. She has been a member of the Lithuanian Girl scouts, her local Lithuanian dance group, and she

has attended Lithuanian Saturday School for 11 years and can speak Lithuanian fluently. She is also an honors student, ranking in the top 8% of her class. She has received the Presidential Award for academic excellence and the John and Abigail Adams Award for outstanding MCAS scores. One of her references states that she is a Lithuanian Patriot and that her generosity of time and spirit is a fantastic example of Christian Charity, with her choice of studies reflecting this. She will attend Farmington State College's Human Nutrition Program. Vilija will receive a \$1,750 scholarship from the Sviklas-Tamulevich Scholarship Fund.



**Vilija Bizinkauskas**  
Council 1



**Erin Petkus**  
Council 96

Erin became a junior member of her council in 1993. She takes part in almost all of her council's many activities and has attended several National Conventions. She participates in both Scottish and Lithuanian folk dancing and is vice-chairperson of the Dayton International Festival. She was selected as Miss A

World A'Fair in 2004. Erin is an honors' student. She is a member of the Society of Academic Excellence. She was president of her school's science club and she has been a volunteer for Special Olympics. She has impressed others by using her determination to reach goals, that seem almost impossible, but she chips away at them until they have been accomplished. Erin will attend the



College of Worcester for Pre-medical studies. Erin will receive a \$1,750 scholarship from the Sviklas-Tamulevich Scholarship Fund.



**Keith Westerling**  
Council 136

The next two scholarships were also awarded to equally ranked candidates. One of those is Keith Westerling of C-136, Hudson-Mohawk. Keith has been a member of the K of L since 1996 and is vice-president of his junior council. He has participated extensively in Lithuanian Affairs and is a member

of a Lithuanian dance group. He is a teacher in religious education classes, as well as being an Eagle Scout. He has received various academic honors and has been on the Principal's List. One of his teachers wrote that Keith is well liked by his peers, as well as by the other teachers; his two most important characteristics are his reliability and his dependability. He will attend the State University of New York Institute of Technology in Utica to study computer engineering technology and electrical engineering technology. Keith will receive a \$1,250 K of L scholarship.

The other award winner at this level is James Distin of Council 72. James joined the K of L as a junior member in 1997. He has participated in various K of L activities including district meetings and cultural workshops. He also has represented Lithuania at local heritage Masses. He participates in



**James Distin**  
Council 72

many sports and clubs and has had the honor of playing for the Binghamton Youth Symphony Orchestra. He has spent numerous hours volunteering for the Union Volunteer Emergency Squad. He has been on the honor roll at his school and has been accepted into the National Youth Leadership Forum of Medicine. James has been described as a very intelligent young man with an aptitude for science. He will be attending Broome Community College before moving on to Binghamton University to major in Biology. James will also receive a \$1,250 K of L Scholarship.

The final two scholarship awardees are repeat winners. The first is Ericka Fryburg of C-103, Providence. Ericka will be a junior at Quinnipiac University and is majoring in biology. She has maintained an excellent academic record and continues her activities with the Knights of Lithuania. She also continues her active participation in the university's Catholic Campus Ministry Pastoral Leadership Council and has taken a leadership role in other religious activities on campus.



**Ericka Fryburg**  
Council 103

Adam Westerling of Council 136 is the other repeat scholarship awardee. Adam has been awarded the Karklius Scholarship in each of the previous two years. He is currently majoring in computer science at Siena College. Adam has continued to be an active member of his council; packing medical supplies for Lithuania, dancing in the Festival of Nations and participating in Lithuanian Day celebrations. He is also a Eucharistic Minister and Catechist. Both Ericka and Adam will receive \$500 scholarships this year.

Outgoing Scholarship Committee Chair, John Baltrus thanks everyone for their support of the Scholarship Committee while he was chairman. The committee members have selected Barbara Miller as chair of the committee for the coming year.

## 2006 National Convention Resolutions

by *The Resolutions Committee*

*Bernice Aviza, HM, Elinor Sluzas, HM,*

*Sr. Janine Golubickis, SSC & Maryte Bizinkauskas*

### **Subject: Congratulations – Camp Dainava, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

We, the members of the Knights of Lithuania, a fraternal Catholic organization, which has been in existence since 1913, gathered at the 93rd National Convention in Orlando, FL present the following resolution:

WHEREAS Camp Dainava, located in Manchester, Michigan, this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary of existence, has been a cultural and social setting and camp grounds for various Lithuanian and Lithuanian American organizations: the scouts, Catholic youth organization, teachers, etc. Camp Dainava offers annual summer Lithuanian language courses to non-Lithuanian speaking participants of Lithuanian descent. The site is used for various gatherings, meetings, conferences, picnics.

WHEREAS members of the Knights of the Lithuania from different states have experienced Camp Dainava and participated in several of the many offered programs.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Knights of Lithuania, offer heartfelt congratulations to the Officers and Board of Directors who operate Camp Dainava. Congratulations on 50 years of providing a haven and a social setting for those who visit and use the camp site to grow culturally and socially and participate in the many programs offered to expand their horizons intellectually.

Submitted by: Regina Juska-Svoba, SC Public Relations Committee Chair. Read at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

### **Subject: Congratulations – Sisters of the Immaculate Conception**

Whereas the American mission of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception was started in 1936 in Putnam, CT and the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, B.V.M. are celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this occasion in 2006,

Whereas the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have provided great service to Lithuanian immigrants and American Lithuanians during these years of service through their

Putnam, CT community and nursing home, their parish missions and youth ministry in Lemont, IL, and their summer camp program Camp Neringa.

Be it resolved that a congratulatory greeting be sent to the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, B.V.M. on this momentary occasion.

Submitted by: Bernice Aviza, HM – C-136, Hudson-Mohawk. Read at the 2nd session. **The resolution passed.**

### **Subject: Congratulations – Sisters of St. Casimir**

Whereas the Sisters of St. Casimir were founded in 1907 to serve the spiritual needs of the Lithuanian immigrants and they have continued to serve the Church in Lithuania, the United States and Argentina by providing education, nursing and pastoral care in parishes, schools, nursing homes and hospitals.

Whereas the Sisters of St. Casimir are beginning their 100 year celebration on August 26, 2006, to thank God for the blessings received and the good works produced "for God and Country". The Sisters have been guided by the charisma of their foundress, Mother Maria Kaupas, Servant of God.

Be it resolved that a congratulatory greeting be sent to the Sisters of St. Casimir wishing them God's blessings on their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Submitted by: Bernice Aviza, HM – C-136, Hudson-Mohawk. Read at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

### **Subject: Gratitude to DARBININKAS**

Whereas, "Darbininkas", weekly newspaper publication which was founded in Boston in 1915 and taken over by the Franciscan Fathers in 1950 and transferred to Brooklyn, NY, published news articles about the Knights of Lithuania organization, its ancillary groups and K of L activities, who, on 12/28/2001, ceased publication temporarily and restarted in 03/2002, as a monthly newsletter, who still continued to publish K of L

activities, stopped publication in the US effective July 01, 2006. Darbininkas will now be published by the Franciscans at their cultural and social activity center in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Be it resolved that the Knights of Lithuania offer their heartfelt gratitude for Darbininkas' years of support and ongoing attention in printing K of L news and related information and activities during its years of existence.

Submitted by: Regina Juska-Svoba, SC Public Relations Committee Chair. Read at 2<sup>nd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Congratulations to HM Algerd Brazis**

Whereas, Algerd Brazis is an Honorary Member of the Knights of Lithuania and he many times served as President of the Mid-America District

Whereas, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival in Chicago, IL; Algerd Brazis was presented the Presidential Medal from Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania

Be it resolved that the Knights of Lithuania gathered for the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in Lake Buena Vista, FL congratulate Algerd Brazis for this auspicious award.

Submitted by: Faustas Strolia, C-157, Lemont, IL. Read at 2<sup>nd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Term Limits for Chairman 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 by: Joanna Rudzevicius, President, C-62, Gary, IN. Read at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session. **The resolution was defeated.**

**Subject: Change Terms Lengths 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 Trustee& 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 93<sup>rd</sup> 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

Submitted by: Nominating Committee (District Presidents). Read at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Petition for Re-Opening of St. George Parish, Shenandoah, PA**

We, Knights of Lithuania Delegates to the 93rd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, meeting in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, August 4, 2006 do say

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania adopted a policy during the 2004 National Convention to assist Lithuanian Catholic Churches at risk of closing, and

WHEREAS St. George's Parish in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, was abruptly and unexpectedly closed and a chain link fence installed around the church on May 14, 2006 and

WHEREAS St. George's Parish is the first Lithuanian Parish in the United States built by Lithuanian immigrants in extreme hardship and sacrifice, demonstrating their great Love of God and

WHEREAS St. George's is a historic Lithuanian treasure in the United States and

WHEREAS future generations of Americans of Lithuanian descent will suffer an unbelievable loss and

WHEREAS the Friends of St George's committee is actively seeking to re-open St. George's permanently, therefore,

Be it resolved that the Knights of Lithuania extend whatever assistance is possible to the Friends of St. George and continue all efforts to prevent loss of St. George's Parish Shenandoah, an irreplaceable Lithuanian treasure.

The resolution having passed by the Knights of Lithuania, the President of the Knights of Lithuania and the Chairperson are directed to send a copies to Most Rev. Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio, His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Most Rev. Edward P. Cullen, Bishop of Allentown, Pennsylvania and Rev. Bernard Flanagan, Pastor of St. George 's, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania.

Submitted by: Mildred Jagiella, SC Lithuanian Affairs Committee Chair. Read at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Donation – Museum of Lithuanian Royalty**

WHEREAS the Royal Palace of Vilnius is being reconstructed according to the original to serve as a museum of Lithuania's royalty and

WHEREAS funding is being requested for this worthwhile project. Donors that provide a donation of \$360 are considered as "Builders".

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania become "builders" by donating \$360.00

Submitted by: Robert A. Martin, Jr. – Council 16. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The motion passed.**

**Subject: Donation to Draugas**

Whereas, DRAUGAS, the sole Lithuanian Catholic daily newspaper in the United States, that has been in existence for the last 97 years, and publishes news items and photographs relative to the Knights of Lithuania's activities and projects with pronounced consistency,

Be it resolved, that as a gesture of appreciation and support, a donation in the sum of \$200—be given to DRAUGAS.

Submitted by: Regina Juska-Svoba, SC Public Relations Committee Chair. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed after being amended. Amendment: Dollar amount**

**changed to \$100 by the Finance Committee recommendation.**

**Subject: Donation to Dirva**

Whereas, Dirva, the Lithuanian National weekly newspaper that publishes the Knights of Lithuania organization's activities with consistency, as a gesture of appreciation and support,

Be it resolved, that as a gesture of appreciation and support, a donation in the sum of \$100 be given to DIRVA.

Submitted by: Regina Juska-Svoba, SC Public Relations Committee Chair. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Donation to VYTIS**

Whereas, Vytis, the official bimonthly publication of the Knights of Lithuania, as a gesture of appreciation and support,

Be it resolved, that as a gesture of appreciation and support, a donation in the sum of \$100 be given to VYTIS.

Submitted by: Regina Juska-Svoba, SC Public Relations Committee Chair. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Donation to Aid to Lithuania**

Whereas, Aid to Lithuania, Inc. is an ancillary arm of the Knights of Lithuania, established in 1990, for the last 16 years has provided continuous assistance to our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Lithuania through the generous donations received from benefactors throughout the United States.

Since all of the donated funds to ATL are used for the benefit of the Humanitarian needs as well-as specified funds for the support of the seminarians studying at the St. Joseph Seminary, Mother Teresa's Homeless/Emergency Shelter,

Angel of Hope (Angelo Vilites) Day Care Center, homes for unwed mothers and their children (Motinos ir Vaiku Centras), the Betanija Soup Kitchen and vocational training at the Vilnius Handicraft Centre/Trade School:

It is vital that ATL continues to receive the monetary support of the delegates of the National Convention when available funds are designated at the plenary sessions of the National Convention each year.

Therefore, Aid to Lithuania, Inc., hereby humbly requests that the delegates of the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention gathered here in Lake Buena Vista, FL, approve and donate the maximum of \$1,000.00 for the ongoing support to allow ATL to continue to carry on the stated goals of providing aid to the needy people of Lithuania.

Submitted by: Regina Juska-Svoba, SC Public Relations Committee Chair. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Donation to St. Casimir's Guild**

Be it resolved that the delegates to the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania assembled in Lake Buena Vista, FL continue to show our support to the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome, Italy with a donation of \$1,000 through St. Casimir's Guild.

Submitted by: Anne Klizas Wargo, HM – President – St. Casimir's Guild, Inc. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Donation to Lithuanian Children's Relief Fund**

Be it resolved that the amount of \$1000 be donated to Lithuanian Children's Relief Fund.

Submitted by: Council 1, Brockton, MA. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Donation to Our Lady of Siluva Shrines**

WHEREAS 2008 is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady at Siluva and

WHEREAS 2006 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Our Lady at Siluva Shrine at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC

BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of \$220 be donated to each of the Our Lady of Siluva Shrines, in Lithuania and in Washington, DC.

Submitted by: Finance Committee. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Donations to Religious Communities**

Be it resolved that the amount of \$200 be donated to each of the following religious communities: Sisters of Jesus Crucified, Sisters of Saint Casimir, Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God and Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

Submitted by: The Supreme Council. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed after being amended. Amendment: *The Finance Committee recommended that the dollar amount be changed to \$225.00 each.***

**Subject: Thank you – Convention Host – Supreme Council**

Whereas, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania served as the hosts of the 93rd annual Knights of Lithuania National Convention; and

Whereas, in so doing, the Supreme Council, accepted and fulfilled a very demanding task;

Be it resolved that the delegates to the 93rd Knights of Lithuania national convention extend their warmest appreciation and gratitude to Supreme Council and the entire committee for their hard work, diligence and hospitality in their preparation and presentation of this convention.

Submitted by: Resolutions Committee. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Thank you – Convention Presidium**

Be it resolved that the delegates to the 93rd Knights of Lithuania national convention extend their warmest appreciation and gratitude to the presidium and its committees for their hard work, diligence and dedication in the conduct of this convention.

Submitted by: Resolutions Committee. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Thank you – Outgoing Supreme Council**

Be it resolved that the delegates to the 93rd Knights of Lithuania national convention express on behalf of themselves and the general membership, their deepest gratitude for the 2005-2006 Supreme Council for his dedicated service to the organization and support of the ideals of the Knights of Lithuania.

Submitted by: Resolutions Committee. Read at 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**

**Subject: Thank you – Grosvenor Resort**

Whereas the management and the staff of the Grosvenor Resort Hotel, Lake Buena Vista, FL demonstrated hospitality, courtesy, and cooperation during our 93rd National Convention;

Be it resolved that the Supreme Council President send a letter of appreciation and thanks on behalf of all the delegates.

Submitted by: Resolutions Committee. Read at the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. **The resolution passed.**



Convention Co-Chair, Marybeth Slakis, Celeste Luchsinger and Fr. Tony Markus cool their feet in the Seven Seas Lagoon after the luau.

# 2006 National Convention Donations

by The Greetings/Donations Committee

Sophia Sakalys, Anne-Louise Tucker, Erin Petkus

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

Sophia Sakalys - \$10.00 *Total donations collected - \$10.00. Total Pledges received: None* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ 10.00.**

### Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

Anne Baronas - \$4,000.00 (2000-Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund & 2000 Telsiai Seminary Scholarship Fund); Len Kapochus - \$2,225.00 (2000-IMO Kapocius & Mihalick Families for Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund, 25-Rumbonyys Sr. Citizens & 25-Rumbonyys Children's Home IMO Dorothy & John Kapochus, 25-Srs. of St. Casimir in Pazaislis IMO Anna & Frank Kapochus, 25-Caritas Vilkauskis, 25 each to Srs. of Jesus Crucified, Srs. of St. Casimir, Srs. of St. Joseph & Srs. of Immaculate Conception all IMO Petranskas & Kapochus Families, 25 for Siluva Shrine in Lithuania IMO Ann Monahan); Anthony & Petronella Alexander - \$2,000.00 (Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund); Anthony Baronas - \$2,000.00 (Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund); Rev. Msgr. Albert J. Contons, HM - \$2,000.00 (Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund); Knights of Lithuania Mid-America District - \$1,000.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 112 - \$270.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Knights of Lithuania Amber District - \$200.00 (IMO Deceased of the Amber District); Algird, HM & Aldona Brazis - \$100.00 (IMO Bruno Skotas & IMO Valerie Stanaitis for Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund); Frances Bumila - \$100.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 3 - \$100.00 (IMO Deceased of C-3 for Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Knights of Lithuania Council 16 - \$100.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 153 - \$100.00; Knights of Lithuania New England District - \$100.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Mary Labadis - \$100.00 (IMO Bill & Helen Labadis - Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Jean Mihalick - \$100.00 (IMO Mihalick, Connor, Kapockus & Petranskas Families); Kevin & Mimi Moore - \$100.00; Rita Ochs - \$100.00; Joseph & Arlene Stiklius - \$100.00 (IMO Vincent Stiklius); Bernice Aviza, HM - \$50.00 (IMO Elizabeth Aviza); Josephine Barzda - \$50.00 (IMO Agatha & John Barzda); Aldona Bunikis - \$50.00 (25-General Fund & 25-Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters Both IMO Frank Bunikis); Knights of Lithuania Council 26 - \$50.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); John Jonaitis - \$50.00; Knights of Lithuania Mid-Atlantic District - \$50.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Anthony Pacesa - \$50.00 (Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund); Dolores Wainauskis - \$50.00 (25-Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School & 25 General Fund); Regina Juskaitis - \$40.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Julie Zakarka - \$40.00 (20-IMO Vladas Paliulionis for Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School & 20-Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Dawn Maknys - \$35.00 (IMO Marilyn [15th Anniv.] & Daina Kapochus for

Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School); Lillian Greymas - \$25.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); L & L Sales, Inc. - \$25.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Francis Markuns - \$25.00; Lee & Paul Moore - \$25.00; Irene Ozalis - \$25.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Frances Petkus, HM - \$25.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Estelle Rogers, HM - \$25.00 (IMO Eleanor Laurin); Sophia Sakalys - \$25.00 (IMO Deceased of C-103); Irene & Walter, HM Svekla - \$25.00 (In honor of Agnes Mickunas, HM as she completes 3 years as National President): *Total donations collected - \$15,535.00. Pledges received: Joe Berger - \$100.00 (Women & Children's Home); Mark & Annamarie Berger - \$100.00 (Women & Children's Home); Knights of Lithuania Council 86 - \$125.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 90 - \$50.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Knights of Lithuania Council 110 - \$350.00 (150-Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School, 100-General Fund & 100-Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Becky & Paul Pataki - \$25.00 (Homeless Shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters); Theresa, HM & Faustas HM Strolia - \$20.00 (St. Francis Hospice): *Total pledges received - \$ 770.00* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ 16,305.00.***

### Fr. Jutt Fund for Lithuanian Affairs

Knights of Lithuania Mid-America District - \$250.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 3 - \$50.00; Agnes, HM & John Mickunas - \$50.00; Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM - \$25.00; Francis Markuns - \$25.00; Irene & Walter, HM Svekla - \$25.00 (In honor of Agnes Mickunas, HM as she completes 3 years as National President): *Total donations collected - \$425.00. Pledges received: Theresa, HM & Faustas HM Strolia - \$20.00: *Total Pledges received: \$20.00* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ 445.00.***

### Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.

Frances Bumila - \$100.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 3 - \$100.00 (IMO Deceased of C-3 - For immediate use); Knights of Lithuania Council 153 - \$100.00; Mary Labadis - \$100.00 (IMO Bill & Helen Labadis); Rita Ochs - \$100.00; Joseph & Arlene Stiklius - \$100.00; Bernice Aviza, HM - \$50.00 (IMO Elizabeth Aviza); Knights of Lithuania Mid-Atlantic District - \$50.00; Lillian Greymas - \$25.00 (For immediate use); Lee & Paul Moore - \$25.00; Irene Ozalis - \$25.00 (For immediate use); Sophia Sakalys - \$25.00; Irene & Walter, HM Svekla - \$25.00 (In honor of Agnes Mickunas, HM as she completes 3 years as National President - For immediate use: *Total donations collected - \$825.00. Pledges received: Knights of Lithuania Council 86 - \$125.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 90 - \$50.00; Elena Nakrosis - \$25.00: *Total pledges received - \$ 200.00* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ 1,025.00.***

**Knights of Lithuania Juniors**

Joseph & Arlene Stiklius - \$100.00; Frances Bumila - \$50.00; Maria Deksnis - \$20.00; Sophia Sakalys - \$10.00: *Total donations collected - \$180.00. Total Pledges received: None* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ 180.00.**

**Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund**

Bernice Aviza, HM - \$50.00 (IMO Elizabeth Aviza); Frances Bumila - \$50.00; Frances Petkus, HM - \$25.00 *Total donations collected - \$125.00. Total Pledges received: None* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ 125.00.**

**Our Lady of Siluva Fund, Inc.**

Frances Bumila - \$100.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 16 - \$100.00 (Shrine in Washington, DC); Knights of Lithuania New England District - \$100.00 (Lithuania's Shrine); Cathy Nakrosis - \$100.00 (50-General & 50-Shrine in Washington, DC); Joseph & Arlene Stiklius - \$100.00; Bernice Aviza, HM - \$50.00 (IMO - Elizabeth Aviza - Shrine in Washington, DC); Knights of Lithuania Council 26 - \$50.00 (Shrine in Washington, DC); Knights of Lithuania Council 36 - \$50.00; Knights of Lithuania Mid-Atlantic District - \$50.00 (25-General & 25-Shrine in Washington, DC); Anthony Pacesa - \$50.00; Regina Juskaitis - \$40.00; Dawn Maknys - \$35.00 (IMO Julie Kowrak & Joe Drumstas); Josephine Barzda - \$25.00 (IMO Eleanor Barzda); Phyllis Gendreau - \$25.00; Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM - \$25.00 (Shrine in Washington, DC); Francis Markuns - \$25.00; Frances Petkus, HM - \$25.00; Maria Deksnis - \$10.00; Sophia Sakalys - \$10.00 (Shrine in Washington, DC); *Total donations collected - \$970.00. Pledges received: Knights of Lithuania Council 90 - \$50.00 (25-General & 25-Shrine in Washington, DC); Knights of Lithuania Council 110 - \$50.00 (Shrine in Washington, DC); Elena Nakrosis - \$50.00 (25-General & 25-Shrine in Washington, DC); Becky & Paul Pataki - \$25.00 (Shrine in Washington, DC); Theresa, HM & Faustas HM Strolia - \$20.00: Total pledges received - \$ 195.00* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ 1,165.00.**

**St. Casimir Guild, Inc.**

Frances Bumila - \$1,000.00; Knights of Lithuania Mid-America District - \$1,000.00; Knights of Lithuania Amber District - \$200.00 (IMO Deceased of the Amber District); Bernice Aviza, HM - \$165.00 (50-IMO Elizabeth Aviza, 65-In honor of Fr. Matas Cyvys & 50-In honor of Fr. Stan Swierzowski); Knights of Lithuania Council 3 - \$100.00 (IMO Deceased of C-3); Knights of Lithuania Council 16 - \$100.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 153 - \$100.00; Mary Labadis - \$100.00 (IMO Bill & Helen Labadis); Rita Ochs - \$100.00; Joseph & Arlene Stiklius - \$100.00 (IMO George Zorn, Sr.); Algird, HM & Aldona Brazis - \$50.00 (IMO Bruno Shotas); Knights of Lithuania Council 36 - \$50.00; Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM - \$50.00; Agnes, HM & John Mickunas - \$50.00; Knights of Lithuania Mid-Atlantic District - \$50.00 (Library Fund); Cathy Nakrosis - \$50.00 (Library Fund); Sophia Sakalys - \$50.00 (IMO Vytautas Sakalys); Dolores Wainauskis - \$50.00; Dawn Maknys - \$35.00 (Pontifical College in Rome Guest House IMO Philip Machonis & Ray Pikis); Josephine

Barzda - \$25.00 (IMO Frances Barzda); Phyllis Gendreau - \$25.00; Lillian Greymas - \$25.00; Francis Markuns - \$25.00; Irene Ozalis - \$25.00; Frances Petkus, HM - \$25.00; Estelle Rogers, HM - \$25.00 (IMO Albert Jundul); Julie Zakarka - \$20.00: *Total donations collected - \$3,595.00. Pledges received: Knights of Lithuania Council 86 - \$125.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 110 - \$100.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 90 - \$50.00 (Library Fund); Elena Nakrosis - \$50.00 (25-General & 25-Library); Becky & Paul Pataki - \$50.00 (Library Fund); Theresa, HM & Faustas HM Strolia - \$20.00 : Total pledges received - \$ 395.00* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ 3,990.00.**

**Vytis – The Knight Magazine**

Joseph & Arlene Stiklius - \$100.00; Algird, HM & Aldona Brazis - \$50.00 (IMO Valerie Stanaitis); Agnes, HM & John Mickunas - \$50.00; Regina Juskaitis - \$20.00; Sophia Sakalys - \$20.00: *Total donations collected - \$240.00. Total Pledges received: None* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ 240.00.**

**Other – Camp Neringa**

Knights of Lithuania New England District - \$100.00: *Total donations collected - \$100.00. Total Pledges received: None* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$100.00.**

**Other - Lithuanian Children's Relief**

Frances Bumila - \$100.00; Knights of Lithuania Council 153 - \$100.00; Mary Labadis - \$100.00 (IMO Bill & Helen Labadis); Kevin & Mimi Moore - \$100.00; Knights of Lithuania New England District - \$100.00; John Jonaitis - \$50.00: *Total donations collected - \$550.00. Total Pledges: Knights of Lithuania Council 86 - \$125.00; Theresa, HM & Faustas HM Strolia - \$20.00: Total Pledges received: \$145.00* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$695.00.**

**Other – Sisters of St. Casimir**

Frances Petkus, HM - \$25.00 (Maria Kaupas Fund): *Total donations collected - \$25.00. Total Pledges received: None* **TOTAL DONATIONS: \$25.00.**

**Donations Received: \$22,580.00.**

**Pledges Received: \$1,725.00.**

**Grand Total All Donations: \$24,305.00.**

**Sincerest thanks to all those who contributed to all our charities and special causes at this year's convention. Your generous support allows us to continue the good works we have undertaken. Ačiū!**





## Junior's Convention Report

by Andreja Deksnis

This year's convention in Orlando, Florida gathered 16 juniors. Some old friends from previous conventions, others- first timers, but in short time all were fast friends. The days were full of fun, laughter, and good memories.

On Thursday after the opening Mass the juniors met for their first session. During the session they created 'Knight in Action' posters. The posters were a collaboration of pictures of the Knights of Lithuania juniors from the past 25 years of conventions. These posters were then on display for all to see. Both new and old members enjoyed the pictures; some even had a good laugh. After the session, the juniors went to sell the first of the



raffle tickets which they continued to sell throughout the weekend before getting ready for the Luau. At the luau the juniors let loose and some even joined in on learning a few Hawaiian dance moves.



We departed from the Grosvenor Resort the next morning at 9:45 am for a day of fun and excitement at Magic Kingdom. There we enjoyed a variety of water rides, roller coasters, and of



course, the Disney classics. I'd like to thank Maria Deksnis, Andrew Svekla, and Frankie Zajauskas for chaperoning and Rob Martin for being photographer. It was a wonderful day and some even returned to the park later that evening to finish off their day.



'When you wish upon a star...' played to a picture slide show representing what the juniors had been doing the past 2 days at the Saturday session.



Also, Liza Macke, Lexie Rudmin, and Courtney Zajauskas sang a modified version of 'It's a small

world' written by Len Barcousky for the juniors. Mickey and Minnie Mouse (Alex Deksnis and Lauren Peterson) even stopped in to say hello! Before we met with the Knights of Lithuania members, Fr. Tony Markus came to talk with the juniors, incorporating both their religion and Lithuanian culture. We would like to thank him for his insight and interesting discussion. After our



part of the morning was over, the juniors broke free to participate in an array of activities before meeting back to sit together at the Saturday night banquet.

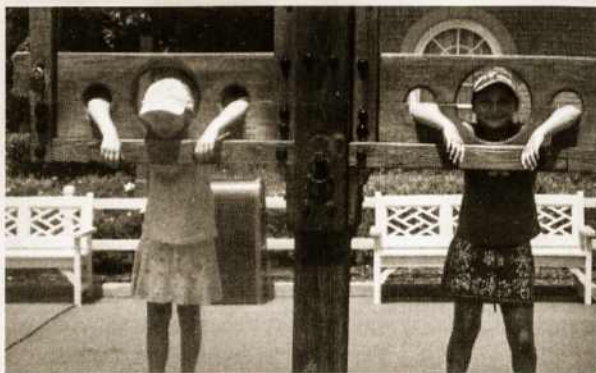
The last of the raffle prizes were drawn at the Sunday brunch, where the juniors eagerly sold the



last of the raffle tickets, selling a total of \$670.00! We have already donated the money to the Saulute Organization working with Bob Duda for Lithuanian orphanages. We would like to thank all of you who donated to the raffle and especially Diann Martin, Mary Beth Slakis, Mildred Jagiella, Sr. Jeanine Golubickis, and Frances Bumila for their wonderful donations to the Juniors. The raffle would not have been possible without your generosity!

During both the opening and closing Masses the juniors were involved as altar servers and bringing up the offertory.

The days together in Walt Disney World ended far too soon and I thank my juniors for their enthusiasm and dedication. Can't wait to see everyone at the 94<sup>th</sup> National Convention next year in Brockton!



## *Aid to Lithuania, Inc.*

*by Regina Juska-Svoba*



Gerbiamieji svečiai, dvasiškiai, Lietuvos Vyčiai,

Distinguished guests, clergy, fellow Knights and delegates:

On behalf of Robert Boris, HM, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Aid to Lithuania, Inc., I extend his, the Board of Directors and the Officers' greetings to all of you gathers at the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention. Bob sends his sincerest regrets of not being able to participate in the Convention business and has asked me to address the National Convention and present the ATL annual report.

Last year when I presented the annual report to the delegates in Pittsburgh, the original site of the formation of the ATL committee in 1990, I announced that ATL was celebrating its 15 years of assisting our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Lithuania. A request for continued financial support was made on this special occasion. And, again, as always, the Knights of Lithuania and their friends came through. During last year's convention, \$15,203.00 was donated; several donations arrived after the convention. A total of \$15,748.00 was received. What a wonderful sum to mark ATL's anniversary! Thank you for your kindness, generosity and continued emotional and spiritual support and financial assistance. A special thanks and acknowledgement is due to ATL's Board Member, Robbie Martin, for preparing the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of the annual ATL newsletter. His gift of time, energy,

professionalism and creativity are truly appreciated, and we thank you, Robbie, for your efforts in preparing the annual newsletter into a beautiful keepsake memento of the history of ATL, its projects and accomplishments.

Since its inception 16 years ago, 92 forty foot long containers of vitally needed medications, medical supplies and equipment, computers, clothing, have been shipped to Lithuania. To get these supplies to the people most needing them, ATL pleaded for your support and you responded wholeheartedly. No shipments were ever turned down due to ATL not being able to pay for the transportation costs. When the financial well went dry temporarily, an "Angel" was found to help fill in up. In some cases, the very medical organizations contributing the supplies saw our desperation and funded the shipments. The contents of St. Peter's Church in Detroit were shipped to Rev. Leonas Jakimavičius in Alytus for his new church, Our Lady, Help of Christians Church. The contents consisted of pews, altars, statuary, liturgical vestments and a pipe organ. Also, the pews, statues and Stations of the Cross from St. Casimir's Church in Pittsburgh and the pews, which seated 1,200 people from Our Lady of Sorrows Church in the Detroit area, were shipped to Bishop Juozas Žemaitis in Vilkaviškis. The total dollars' worth of these containers in an incredible and astounding \$72,000,000.00! Who could have and would have thought at that time that so much could and would be accomplished?

The contents of the subsequent containers were distributed to: Caritas-Kaunās, Vilnius and Marijampole, St. James Hospital in Vilnius, the University of Vilnius Hospital in Vilnius, Kaunas Catholic Maternity Hospital in Kaunas, St. Clare's Hospice in Utena, the Children's Day Center-"Angel of Hope" (Angelo Vilties Centras) in Vilnius, the Family Center in Vilnius, Betanija Soup Kitchen in Vilnius.

The major source of the donations of medicine, Catholic Medical Mission Board in NY, has not been able to provide medications for the last 4 years as the medicines continue to be diverted to nations most in need and those that have suffered devastation and tragedies.

Due to the non-receipt of medicines and medical supplies, and lack of container shipments, ATL refocused its purpose for the humanitarian aid

program. New needs emerged and we were called upon to further respond to them. On an ongoing basis, ATL provides financial assistance to the following Caritas programs: the Betanija Soup Kitchen, the "Angel of Hope" Day Center (Angelo Vilties Centras) and the Mothers and Children's Center. Donations to youth programs, parishes needing help or sponsoring events are made by donor requests or specific bequests.

The second ATL sponsored program in the Seminary Fund. Future priests are prepared to meet the challenge of Lithuania's great need for spiritual renewal. ATL, in cooperation with the archbishop of Vilnius, Audrys J. Cardinal Bačkis, initiated a program, whereby a seminarian studying at the St. Joseph's Seminary in Vilnius, would be "adopted" by donors willing to provide an annual scholarship of \$2,000.00/per for 6 years of studies. Enrollment is down from 80 students. There are approximately 60 students enrolled in the seminary. Since its inception in 1999 until May 20<sup>th</sup> of this year, there have been 101 adoptions at \$2,000.00 each, 229 misc. donations (under \$2,000.00), the establishment of the Baronas Family Scholarship Fund and the newly established Krizinauskas/Schuvacage Scholarship Fund. The total amount received in the last 7 years totals \$456,594.74. Since 2002 to present, 18 young men were ordained priests. Of these, 3 were ordained priests during the 2005-2006 fiscal year. According to Cardinal Backis, currently there are 116 diocesan priests in Vilnius, while 10 years ago, there were approximately 100. Moreover, the priests are very young. Cardinal Backis states that 65% of the priests are less than 40 years old. "The age of the clergy will not be so important for the future as the fact that they are faithful to their vocation and are apostles of the new Evangelization," Cardinal Backis stated during a recent interview with ZENIT after participating in the adlimina apostolorum visit of the Bishops of the Episcopal Conferences of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuanian in June.

Last November, Mgr. Anne Krizinauskas, Retired USA, a staunch supporter and benefactor of the St. Joseph's Seminary made a substantial donation of \$50,000.00 for the establishment of the Krizinauskas/Schucavage Scholarship Fund for deserving seminarians in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year of studies at the St. Joseph Seminary in Vilnius.

ATL's third sponsored program is Mother Teresa's Homeless and Emergency Shelter, which opened

its doors in the Fall of 1999. Mother Teresa's Homeless and Emergency Shelter continues to provide religious and humanitarian aid activities. The Shelter provides room, board and meals to approximately 125 homeless people in Vilnius. The sisters render medical, material and spiritual assistance and guidance to the individuals. The homeless, those who are capable, can prepare their own meals in the kitchen, launder their clothing, socialize with others, read the press, and watch television. The Shelter provides a safe and warm haven for adult males and females who have little or nothing. The Sisters medically treat and care for the residents on the Shelter. They also help the individuals complete and prepare various documents, provide the sick with the most needed medication, assist in getting the ill hospitalized and assist the ill in renewing their relationships with family and friends. On Sundays the Sisters organize religious studies and activities. During the last fiscal year \$7,500.00 was donated to the shelter; of that sum, \$2,000.00 was designated for Easter meals for the residents of the shelter, who, otherwise, would not have had any Easter celebration and gathering with others.

The Vilnius Handicraft Centre (Vilnius Trade School) is ATL's 4<sup>th</sup> program. The Trade School opened in 2001. Currently there are 18 students from large families, those who are somewhat physically or mentally challenged and some adults study and live in the facility. The trade school established the following curricula: culinary arts, wood carving, art and furniture restoration, sewing, knitting and crocheting, metal work, printing, electrical work, auto mechanics, jewelry repairs and computer programming. The culinary arts program is by far the most popular of the studies. The practical work is done next door to the Trade School, where the Betanija Soup Kitchen is located. Local masters in their respective area of expertise teach the students a skill so that they can become independent and employed adding to the success of Lithuania today.

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, ATL dispersed various donations in Lithuania. For the General /humanitarian fund, \$2,000.00 was sent to the Betanija Soup Kitchen for Easter meals; \$250.00 was given to the "Vilties Angelo" Centru (Angel of Hope Day Center); \$200.00 was sent to the Mother and Children's Center; \$9,000.00 was slated for the Telšiai Seminarians; St. Clare's Hospice in Utena, where Sister Dolorita Butkus and Sister Michele Garas of the Sisters of St. Francis Providence of God continue their mission,

\$1,000.00 was designated. \$13,710 was sent to Cardinal Bačkis for the seminarians studying at the St. Joseph's Seminary. \$7,500.00 was designated for the Mother Teresa's Homeless and Emergency Shelter. Of that sum, \$2,000.00 was used to provide Easter meals for the local homeless people. \$7,500 was forwarded to the Vilnius Trade School. In all, \$41,710.00 was distributed among the 4 funds ATL supports. Again, thanks to all of our ongoing supporters for your continued generosity.

Last year ATL was fortunate to receive donations through the estates of generous benefactors. The estate of Dr. Aldona Rugis, M.D., of Florida, designated \$3,000.00, which was slated for the Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter; and \$5,000.00, which was received from the estate of Vladas Jomantas of Detroit, which was designated for the Vilnius Trade School.

Last fall, Victoria Wintersberger of Brookfield, Wisconsin, read about the K of L organization and ATL on the internet, joined the organization and sent a generous donation of \$5,000.00 in support of the Telšiai Seminarians. Truly an unexpected member and a most surprising and generous gift!

ATL's primary sources of income are derived from donations that are received at the K of L National Convention, the ATL annual newsletter, councils and districts that solicit donations during the Lithuanian Independence Day (February 16<sup>th</sup>) commemoration, and in memory of deceased family and friends. Some donations are still received as a result of employer matching funds and from estates of deceased K of L members or friends. In the past, ATL received several generous donations through stock issues.

ATL's most notable achievement over the last 16 years is getting people involved. High level personal involvement and volunteerism from all corners of the United States has sustained its mission. It is individuals' voluntary commitment and participation coupled with donor generosity and the ongoing support of the Knights of Lithuania that has brought about outstanding success.

If ATL is to continue this great work of Christian charity, we must all participate, work together harmoniously and support each other's efforts. Please continue to reach out and support the ATL program of your choice.

In closing, ATL is appreciative to all the delegates of the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention, Supreme Council, local councils and districts for your ongoing support, counsel and camaraderie.

Thank you for your attention. Ačiū už dėmesį.

## *National Ritual Report*

*by Lee Moore*

At the closing Mass of the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention, held at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine in Orlando, the Fourth Degree was presented according to the Knights of Lithuania Ritual.

Candidates were presented at the Altar by Lee Moore, Ritual Chair and Georgianna Macke and Lillian Greymas, members of the committee.

Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM, began the ceremony with a greeting and then administered the Oath in Lithuanian to candidates Diann Martin, C-16 Chicago, IL and Sr. Theresa Papsis, C-112 Chicago, IL. Medals were blessed by Msgr. And presented to the candidates along with their certificates. The closing prayer followed and the new Fourth Degree members were greeted by a round of applause.

The newly elected Supreme Council officers came forward to take the Oath of Office led by Msgr. Joe. Mass then followed.

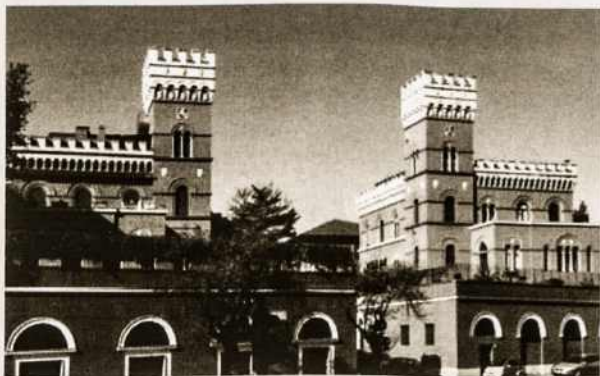
## *Friday & Saturday Masses*

*by Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM*

Our Friday and Saturday Masses were held in the hotel with Msgr. Anderlonis celebrating the Masses. Friday, Fr. Tony Markus concelebrated and Deacon Vitas Paskauskas assisted. Saturday, Msgr. Al Bartkus, HM, also concelebrated. Msgr. Anderlonis' homilies at both Masses were, as always, exceptional. The singing of our beautiful Lithuanian Hymns was led by Ann Marie Kassel, HM. All who attended the Masses couldn't help but leave feeling fulfilled.

## St. Casimir Guild, Inc.

by Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM



Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM, gave the St. Casimir Guild, Inc. report at the Saturday morning session. She reported the Student Room Renovation project was successful. She thanked all who contributed to this project.



St. Casimir Guild, Inc. President, Anna Klizas-Wargo addresses the delegates.

Two new board members were approved. Frances Petkus, HM to replace Mark Bell from the Mid-Central District and Becky Pataki to replace Loretta Stukas, HM from the Mid-Atlantic District. In addition Msgr. Albert Contons, HM, was asked to join the Board representing the Lithuanian Priests' League. The other members are Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, HM, Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, HM, Victor Stepalovitch representing the Amber District, Theresa Strolia, HM, representing the Mid-America District, and Joseph Stiklius representing the New England District.

Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM, serves as President and Lillian Greymas (C-3) serves as Secretary-Treasurer.

Members were again encouraged to utilize the Mass Requests from the college. The stipends go to the Student Priests who depend on these for their expenses in Rome. Mass cards can be obtained by contacting Anna.

With grateful thanks for all who have contributed to the college in any way, she turned the rest of the report over to Msgr. Al Bartkus, HM, Rector of the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome.

Msgr. thanked the Knights of Lithuania for all they have done for the College since the National Convention in 1975 when the organization adopted the college. All at the college are most grateful for all we have done since that time. Without the help of the K of L many of the projects could not have been completed. With this assistance the College and Guest House have been very much improved.

He told the members of all the improvements made. The students that are sent to the Pontifical College from Lithuania are the brightest. They are newly Ordained Priests who are sent to Rome for advanced studies. This year 15 young Priests will study in Rome. They are most grateful to the Knights of Lithuania for assisting them in their studies by requesting Masses and by the donations given to keep the college up. This year's project is to update the Library. New, expensive books have to be purchased for the students each year with the many changes with



the church. Computers must also be updated regularly. It costs approximately \$5,000.00 yearly to update the library.

Msgr. Bartkus closed by again thanking everyone for all they have done for the college.

# Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.

by Irene Ozalis

The Knights of Lithuania Foundation met for its Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 3, 2006, prior to the First Session of the 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention. The meeting was well attended by the Foundation members, and many ideas were enthusiastically discussed.



K of L Foundation Officers listen as members present ideas for the coming year.

The Foundation was established in 1983, as an endowment fund of the Knights. It is meant to be a back up for the Knights and helping Lithuania and Lithuanian projects in the name of the Knights of Lithuania. According to its by-laws, all donations are invested and only interest and dividends earned are spent for donations, expenses, etc..

Anyone donating at least \$100.00 is considered a voting member and has a voice in Foundation decisions. Anyone donating \$5,000. or more, may designate how the interest from that investment is to be spent, within the confines of the Knights of Lithuania goals. Such special donations have been made thus far by the following:

- o Ben Karklius - \$25,000., for use for a special annual scholarship
- o Msgr. J. Prunskis, HM - \$10,000, for use in conducting an annual Essay Contest for members
- o Larry Svelnis, HM - \$5,000, for use in special needs of the K of L Archives Committee.

This year we received a very generous donation from the Estate of Julia K. Glynn in the amount of \$58,500.

The Current Officers and Board Members are:

President – Irene Ozalis  
 Vice President – Walter Svekla, HM  
 Secretary – Bernice Aviza, HM  
 Treasurer – Ann Marie Kassel, HM

Legal Advisor – Saulius Kuprys

Directors: Barbara Schmidt, Arlene Stiklius, Lee Moore, Anna Klizas Wargo, HM and Irene Svekla



Foundation members listen during their annual meeting.

Donations for 2006 – 2007

\$800.00 each is being donated to the following:

- o The Kaimas Fund – a camp for village children
- o St. Clare's Hospice – laundry project
- o Regute (make a wish foundation for terminally ill children and their families)
- o Friends of St. George's Church , Shenandoah, PA

\$2,000.00 is available for the Karklius Scholarship, which will be awarded under the auspices of the K of L Scholarship Committee.

This year's essay topics were: "What I do to Preserve Lith. Memories" or "My Most Memorable K. of L. Function"

The winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize (\$300)–Joanne Antanavage Shea C-144
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (\$200)–Sr. Helen Ivanauskas CJC C-1
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (\$100)–Stephany Gutauskas C-3

All winning essays will be printed in the *Vytis* during the year.

Since we only received 4 essays this year – future monetary prizes will be based on the number of entries received. Also, we are encouraging our Juniors to write essays in the Junior Category, with monetary prizes depending on number of essays received.

Members are urged to be generous with the Knights of Lithuania Foundation, keeping in mind that an investment in the Foundation is an investment in the Knights of Lithuania future.

# Our Lady of Šiluva Fund, Inc.

by Theresa Strolia, HM

## Minutes of the August 4, 2006 Meeting of the Our Lady of Šiluva Fund.



The meeting of the Our Lady of Šiluva Fund was opened by Elinor Sluzas, HM at 1:25 p.m. with a prayer. As the minutes of our 2005 meeting were printed in *Vytis* only a summary was presented. Fran Bumilla moved and Fran Petkus seconded to accept the minutes as printed. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Richard Niedvares is currently undergoing treatment for a serious heart condition and therefore sent his report. Our current balance is \$7225.88. (See attached). The account has been charged a dormancy fee, which we feel should not happen. A motion was made (Ellie Nakrosis) and seconded (Mary Beth Slakis) to instruct the treasurer to withdraw ten dollars the first month, deposit five the second, and five the third month, so that this fee need not be paid. Motion carried.

**Old Business** – President, Elinor Sluzas has printed 1000 cards and as per last year's plan, will distribute 500 to the Immaculate Conception Basilica gift shop, where any profits would go to the upkeep of the shrine. Elinor also discussed donating an additional 500 to the Our Lady of the Universe Shrine in Florida. We discussed distributing cards to the Districts so that they could be left at various shrines throughout the country as we attend pilgrimages at various places. These cards will be available at a cost. It was moved (Becky Pataki), seconded (Maryte Sepikas) and approved to print and laminate an additional 1000 cards for future distribution.

**New Business** – Elinor was contacted by the Auxiliary Bishop of Kaunas, Jonas Ivanauskas regarding the 400 anniversary celebration in the year 2008 of the apparition at Šiluva. He asked whether the K of L could promote the celebration. Elinor wants to add the Lithuanian version of the hymn to the website and to promote the hymn's use for this celebration. She also offered the use of our website to the Bishop in order to forward information about the coming celebration to English speaking Catholic publications in the U.S. and Canada via e-mail.

We discussed having a medal struck of Our Lady of Šiluva in time for this celebration. Father Tony Markus offered to look into the possibilities. If possible we will go forward with these medals and advise District Presidents of their availability and cost.



Becky Pataki suggested that we consider making a CD of Mary hymns in conjunction with the anniversary. Faustas Strolia offered to look into the possibilities.



Election of Officers - The following officers were elected for the term 2006-2007: President: Father Tony Markus C-112 / Vice President and Web-site Coordinator - Elinor Sluzas, HM C - 96 / Secretary - Terry Strolia, HM C - 157 / Treasurer - Richard Niedvares C - 16\* / Co-signatory - Evelyn Ozelis C-36. The following will be District Representatives for this year: Amber District Representative - Anna K Wargo, HM C- 144 / Mid-America District - Theresa Strolia HM C- 157 / Mid-Atlantic District - Cathy Nakrosis C - 90 / Mid - Central District - Fran Petkus, HM C - 96 / New England District - Fran Bumilla C - 1. The following also serve on the board or in an advisory capacity: Supreme Council President, Ellie Nakrosis C - 90 / Spiritual Advisor - Msgr. J. Anderlonis, HM C - 3 / Joe Chaplick C-142 Washington is a special representative to the National Shrine in Washington. / Maryte Sepikas C- 133 Los Angeles is a special representative for the Šiluva project at the Lithuanian Days Fair in Los Angeles.

Bernice Aviza informed us that a newspaper in Albany, NY listed the Our Lady of Šiluva website as its website of the week.

Faustas Strolia was contacted by Marijos Radija in Kaunas. Kun. Volskis asked permission to play the Šiluva hymn on the radio, which, of course, he gave. Kun. Volskis also asked for a translation

into Lithuanian, which Faustas also sent. Marijos Radija then proceeded to record a Lithuanian version to play on their station.

Maryte Sepikas said she will feature Our Lady of Šiluva at a prominent display during the St. Casimir Lithuanian Fair this October in Los Angeles.

There being no further business a motion was approved to adjourn the meeting. (Ellie Nakrosis moved, Mary Beth Slakis seconded).

Meeting Attendees: Terry Strolia, HM / Elinor Sluzas, HM / Faustas Strolia, HM / Mary Beth Slakis / Fran Bumilla / Veronica Bizinkauskas, HM / Phyllis Gendreau / Ellie Nakrosis / Rita Ochs / Becky Pataki / Cathy Nakrosis / Julia Schroeder / Agnes Mickunas, HM / Bernice Aviza / Rev. A. Markus / Msgr. J. Anderlonis, HM.

\* Following the convention we learned of the sudden and sad loss of our Treasurer, Richard Niedvares C-16. The position of Treasurer for the coming year will be filled by Mary Beth Slakis C-16.

Respectfully submitted Terry Strolia, HM, Secretary



Scholarship Recipients with Presenter, Bernice Aviza, HM at the Convention Banquet:

1. Erin Petkus
2. Vilija Bizinkauskas
3. Keith Westerling



## The Convention Banquet

by Frances R. Petkus, HM

It was wonderful seeing the room where all our sessions were held turned into a formal dining room for the Knights of Lithuanian Convention Banquet. Members gathered together prior to dinner for the social hour reminiscing events of the convention, sharing thoughts of family, old and new friendships made. As the head table, honored guests and Supreme Council Officers were escorted into the banquet, delegates and guests greeted them with a hearty round of applause. Master of Ceremony, Joseph Stiklius, introduced the Knights of Lithuania National Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM, for the invocation. To the sounds of soft dinner music all enjoyed their prime rib or seafood dinner, which was elegantly served, especially the fish that was served in a puff pastry shell in the shape of a fish. The dessert, a wonderful chocolate mousse cake, topped off the dinner. Following dinner Honorary Membership Chair, Elinor Sluzas, HM, prior to introducing this year's new Honorary Members, asked for prayers for Honorary Member, Loretta Stukas, who is having serious medical problems. Elinor then introduced and presented the Honorary Membership Medal to our newest recipients, Theresa Strolia of Council 157, Lemont, Illinois, and Walter Svekla of Council 3, Philadelphia, PA. Each shared their personal thoughts upon receiving this Honorary Award.

With Supreme Council Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Chair, John Baltrus, unable to attend, Bernice Aviza, HM, has the pleasure of being presenter to this year's scholarship recipients. Bernice also asked for prayers for Council 100, Amsterdam member, Polly Ziausys. Polly and her

husband, Edward, have these many years sponsored medical supplies to Lithuania. As a dedicated Junior Knights supporter and advisor it was an emotional time for Bernice, as she knows so many of the young members receiving the scholarship award this year. Recipients were: Meredith Domalakes, Anthracite C-144; Vilija Bizinkauskas, Brockton C-1; Erin Petkus, Dayton C-96; Keith Westerling, Hudson-Mohawk C-136; James Dustin, Binghamton C-72, Ericka Fryburg, Providence C-103; and Adam Westerling, Hudson-Mohawk C-136.

Our "retiring" President, Agnes Mickunas, HM, shared a few words covering the past three years of her term thanking the membership for their support and friendship. Agnes especially thanked her family, John, Barbara and Jim, for always being there and for their patience. In turning over the "gavel" to our new National President, Ellie Nakrosis, Agnes wished her well. Ellie in turn thanked the delegates for giving her this special opportunity to serve the Knights and looks forward to working with the members. Ellie in turn, asked her family for their patience and support. Mary Beth Slakis, co-chair of the national convention, as was Joseph Stiklius, had words of thanks to the delegates and guests for sharing the time together. Msgr. Anderlonis closed the banquet with prayers of thanksgiving. In rounding out the evening our "younger" members, from 5 to almost 90, tore up the dance floor to taped music with their YMCA, Electric Slide, Shout, Etc.! The evening then ended with many enjoying time together at the room parties.



## The Convention Farewell Brunch

by Bernice Aviza, HM

Sunday morning, K of L'ers joined together for a final farewell brunch. The Grosvenor provided a delicious sampling of fresh fruits along with traditional pancakes, eggs, sausage and bacon.

The juniors greeted everyone and attempted to use the new Lithuanian words they had learned during the convention. They asked us if we slept well and if the food was good. They also continued to sell their raffle tickets. The final raffle prizes were

awarded. The big winners were Frances Bumilla of C-1 Brockton, MA and Joanne Rudzevicius of C-82 Gary, IN, winning the Lithuanian Doll and Mickey Mouse afghan, respectively.

As we finished eating, we all realized that the few days we had been together were coming to a close. We assured each other that we would keep in touch and see each other next year in Brockton...



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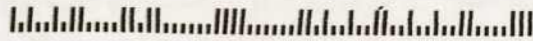
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