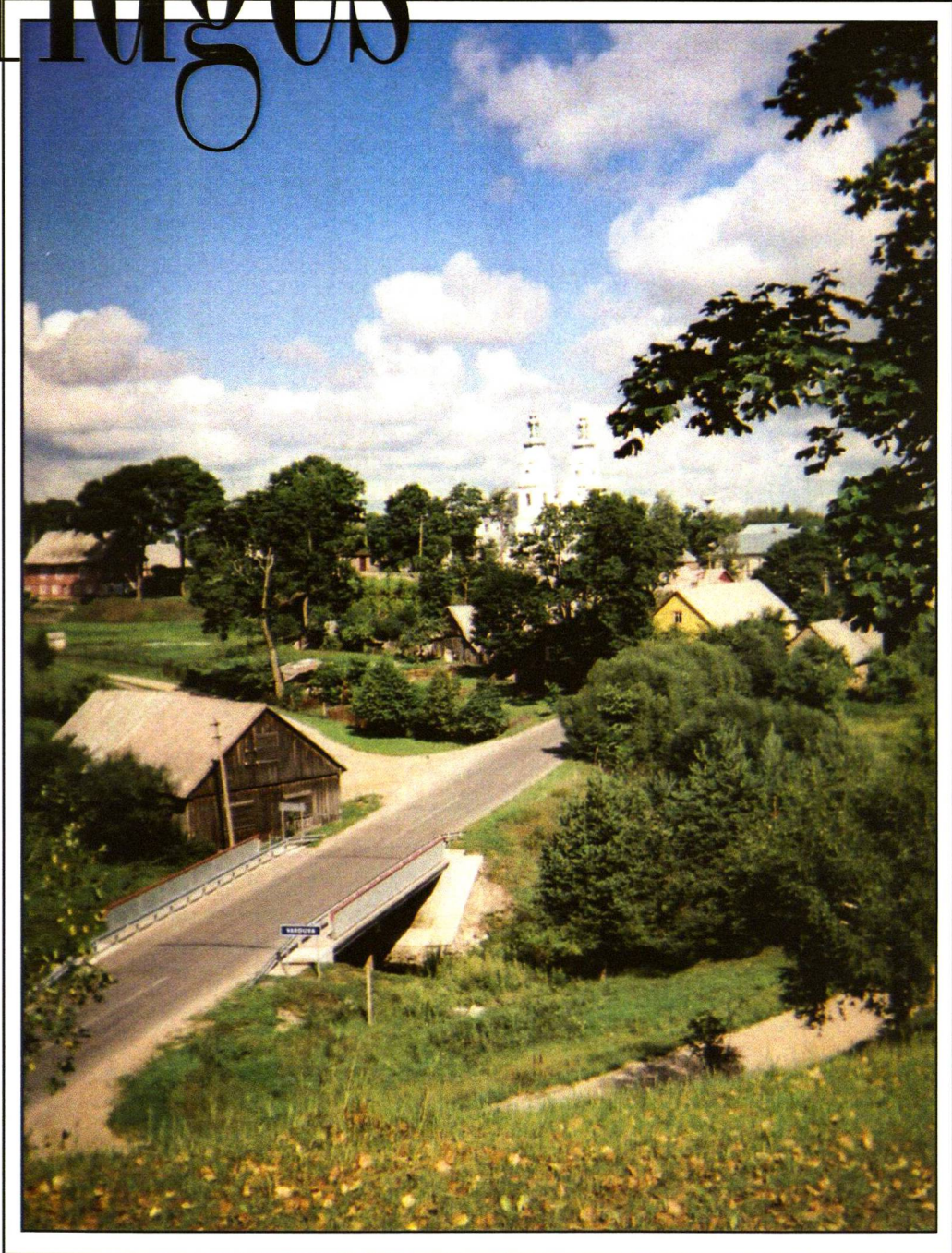


bridges

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2009



october 2009

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Letter from the Editor

I hope you enjoyed the special September issue. I do apologize that it came out later than usual but we had to overcome several obstacles. I always maintain that when Murphy's Laws were written they were geared with Bridges in mind. Actually I've added a few of my own laws such as jammed printers, uncooperative computers, and reams and reams of paper, but never the one sheet I need at that moment.

I would like to welcome Gema back once again. She is recovering and is now again working on Bridges.

I guess a teacher never leaves the classroom even after retirement and every time I hear from a young writer I am delighted. This month we have a wonderful article by Paulius Razgaitis. Very often we read stories about the great work our young people are doing for Lithuania. But I often wonder what they are doing for America. Paulius shows that you don't have to sacrifice one country for the other. We hope to read more from Paulius in the future.

I also want to apologize that we had a two month break between issues which covered Vytautas Kupcikevicius' memories of 69th St. Several of you commented that his article brought back your own memories of the area.

I do want to remind you that it is not too early to think about Christmas. For the person who has everything, or for the person who is interested in architecture or even for someone who wants to remember the Lithuanian impact on America, please consider the book, "Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America." It is written in both languages and has more than 350 photographs. It's the gift you will enjoy keeping on your coffee table for others to enjoy as well. You can see more information about the book at www.Lithuanian-American.org or refer to page 13 of the July/August issue of Bridges. Also, please consider a subscription to Bridges for someone you care about. You won't have to drive to the mall or even gift wrap it and it will continue long after the Christmas season is finished.

As we approach the fall and winter it seems the laid back summer days are behind us. Many of the Lithuanian churches and organizations will be hosting special events such as fairs, concerts and picnics (where weather permits). Think about availing yourselves to these many opportunities, especially if you have children. Something they see or hear might light the flame to interest them in their heritage.

As always, I wish to thank all the writers who contributed to this issue. Without you and your efforts there would be no Bridges.

Thank you for sharing your homes with us this month.

Jeanne Shalna Dorr

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* Cover Photo is by Ramune Kublius, from Illinois.

Back Cover and the Photo Album:

Ramune Kublius took some of the photos and others were taken by the staff and youth of the "Vilties Vėrinėliai" after school center in Žemaičių Kalvarija.

West 69th Street

Part 2

Editor's Note: In Part 1 the writer discussed the impact the Lithuanian neighborhood church, businesses and especially taverns had on the local population. One learned a way of life from being members of this large Lithuanian community. He continues to discuss those ways and how they influenced him.

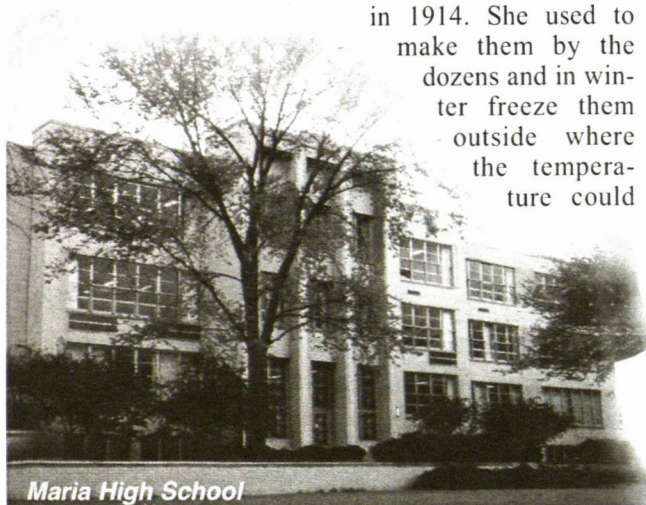
Special thanks to Mr. Vytautas Kupcikevičius for sharing his memories with us of a time gone by.

West 69th Street- Part 2

69th street taverns were a part of Marquette Park's Lithuanian community, the last 69th Street tavern opened in 1980. The only 69th Street bank went out of business and the building was sold and converted into a tavern. Actually it was a cocktail lounge, it was a clean, modern place, it had a fancy name, Knights Inn. It was a place where you could take your wife for a drink. The 69th Street did not need another tavern, but it survived and became a new member of the street.

In 1986 a small grocery store at 69th and Talman went out of business and my brother rented the store, remodeled it and his wife Marytė started a delicatessen store. She was an excellent cook and manager. The store was renamed Talman Delicatessen and in a few years it became a new proud member of 69th Street. It was a place where you could purchase all Lithuanian cold and hot dishes. Koldunai-lugan ravioli was the main selling product. Koldunai is a product which you can boil in water or beef stock for 5 minutes and have an excellent meal. Koldunai is not a Lithuanian dish, it is Russian, but we adopted it and are calling it our own. Today koldunai and cepelinai-potato and meat dumplings are main Lithuanian dishes. My koldunai story started in my mother's kitchen. She learned to make them in Siberia-Russia

in 1914. She used to make them by the dozens and in winter freeze them outside where the temperature could



Maria High School

reach 40 below 0. In Chicago every Sunday after church we used to stop at her house and eat koldunai for lunch. Since my brother's family lived in the same building, we all ate koldunai. This is where my, and my brother's children learned to eat koldunai and love them. Today my children and grandchildren still love koldunai, but my mother and Marytė are not here to make them and you cannot buy them on 69th Street. Lithuanian delicatessen stores are flourishing in the SW Chicago suburbs. Koldunai are for sale in Justice, Westmont and Orland Park. 69th Street without Lithuanian delicatessen and taverns is empty. I miss my mother's and Marytė's koldunai, Andrijauskas' beer and shopping at Parama.

On the west end the 69th Street was anchored by Holy Cross Hospital and Nativity BVM Lithuanian Catholic Church with grammar school. The church was one of the last built in the Chicago area. It was opened in 1955. For some reason, we, the second wave immigrants did not fit into the church community. Yes, we divided all our immigrants into groups: the first wave were immigrants who came before the Second World War, the second wave after the Second World War. We were political refugees, who left Lithuania to escape the advancing Russian army and Russia's communist regime. We were the DPs. The first wave immigrants consisted of persons, mostly men, escaping the Czar's Russian army and later people looking for a better life from already free Lithuania. The third wave were immigrants who came starting in 1990. They were looking for better life.

There was always friction between groups, even though we were all Lithuanian. I do not know how to explain this phenomenon, but it is there. The Nativity Church was built by the first wave, we DPs were too poor to take part in that undertaking. Our Lithuanian church was Holy Cross Church in Chicago Town of Lake neighborhood, located near the Chicago stock yards. This was the church we all went to on holy days and other special occasions. Only late in the eighties the Nativity Church became a Lithuanian church, embracing all three immigrant groups. It is amazing what a single person can accomplish, in this case an intelligent pastor united us all. We do not have those kind of priests any more, and we need them for our survival as Lithuanians.

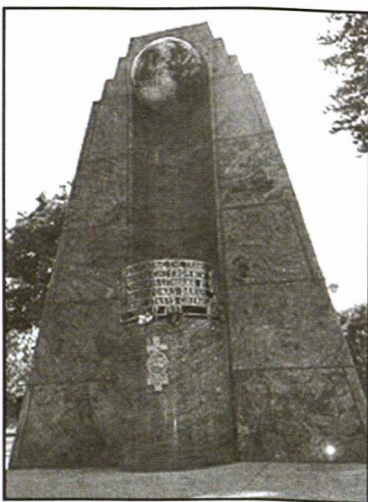
The other institution, probably more popular than Nativity Church was Parama grocery store. Two Lithuanian DPs opened a grocery store in an old building on the south side of the street. The street needed a store and the business flourished. After a couple of years at this location

the store expanded. A new building was built on the corner of 69th and Maplewood. It was a modern, up to date grocery store. It was a beautiful supermarket loaded with domestic and imported foods and drinks. Funny, but when we were in Germany, everything made in the USA was at a premium, but as soon as we settled in the USA everything made in Germany became a premium product. I remember one day meeting one of our contractors, probably after stopping in one of the street taverns, asking everyone in the store where he could find German eggs!

Parama stacked almost everything, but German eggs were not available. The store flourished, the owners, one capable businessman and the other an excellent public relations person, handled the business with skill and pride. Parama, English translation (Support) became a major institution of 69th Street life. For us, the DPs, the street was a school; a university of American way of life.

The Paulius hardware store taught us what we could do to improve our apartments. The Lekas funeral parlor taught us how to bury our parents. From all the lessons I had to learn, this was the strangest one. It was completely new. I still remember when my father died, the funeral director took me to a casket showroom to pick out a casket. The salesman, dressed in black, started to explain the features of the casket, but when he started to demonstrate how soft the springs were, I was ready to punch him, but I survived and learned another lesson.

Tulpe (Tulip) diner served well prepared meals. At Parama we learned to shop for food and at Azukas' drug store we learned that the drugstore was selling not only drugs, but also all kinds of goodies. The dentist took care of our teeth and the Nativity Church taught us how to pray and behave in church. It was strange when you had to pay a dime to get in. Men had to sit on the right side and women on the left. Also, women had to wear a head cover and modest clothing. We learned, or learned to ignore all the strange rules. While learning all those lessons we could take a break and stop in one of the taverns to refresh ourselves. Oh yes, the taverns and saloons also had a lesson; how to order a drink and how to drink it. We learned to drink whiskey with ginger ale and scotch with soda. We also learned that a screwdriver was not a tool and a boilermaker was not a pot to



Monument to Darius and Girėnas

boil water in. But we knew how to order and drink beer. After five years in Germany we did not need any instructions. We had our share of drinks, but we survived and did not become alcoholics.

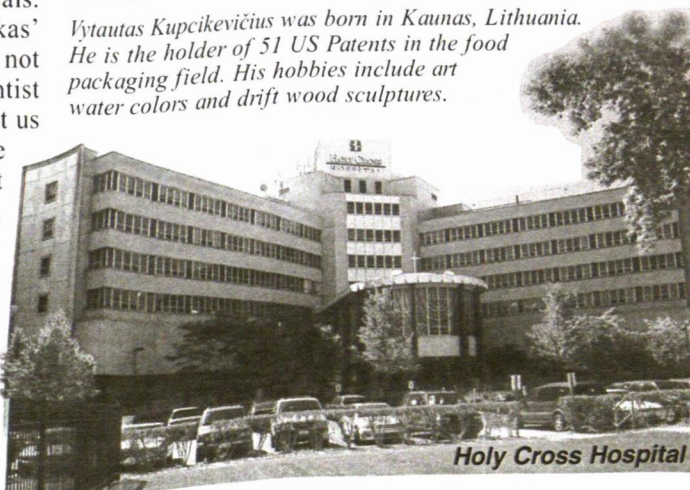
In the eighties the Chicago politicians finally recognized the Chicago Lithuanians and renamed 69th Street "Lithuanian Plaza Court." The street was repaired, trees were planted and the street acquired a new scrubbed look. Each summer Lithuanian Day was celebrated. All the establishments sold goods on the

street. Tents were built with tables and chairs. You could eat, drink and party outside. This was a glorious time for the street. The street was alive and the Lithuanian community was alive and flourishing. The street saw presidents and Pope John Paul II when he visited Chicago in 1977. We were all waiting to greet him standing on the street.

But time goes by and everything changes. Our lives have changed and the street has changed. Most Lithuanians moved away and slowly the businesses and taverns started to close. The street was dying. Today when you look down the street you can still see the Hospital and Nativity Church. Both have lost most of their Lithuanian identity. The buildings are still there, but the soul is gone. Putis tavern is still there, it was renamed to Gintaras (Amber). It is the only Lithuanian name left on the street. I do not know which was opened first, the old Nativity Church or Putis tavern. My guess is that the street started with Putis tavern and will end with it.

Vytautas Kupcikevičius

Vytautas Kupcikevičius was born in Kaunas, Lithuania. He is the holder of 51 US Patents in the food packaging field. His hobbies include art water colors and drift wood sculptures.



Holy Cross Hospital



Father Alfonsas Babonas

On Sunday, August 16, 2009, the Detroit Lithuanian community converged at St. Anthony Lithuanian Parish to bid "sudie" (farewell) to Rev. Alfonsas Babonas, who completed his 31 year service to St. Anthony Lithuanian Parish in Detroit, MI. Although the weather did not cooperate, it was hot and muggy, it proved to be a day of whirlwind emotions - that of sadness, yet happiness and a sense of loss, emptiness and grief.



Father Babonas with K of L 4th degree medal and Sauliu honorary medal

ST. ANTHONY LITHUANIAN PARISH BIDS NOT "SUDIE" BET "IKI PASIMATYMO" TO REV. ALFONSAS BABONAS

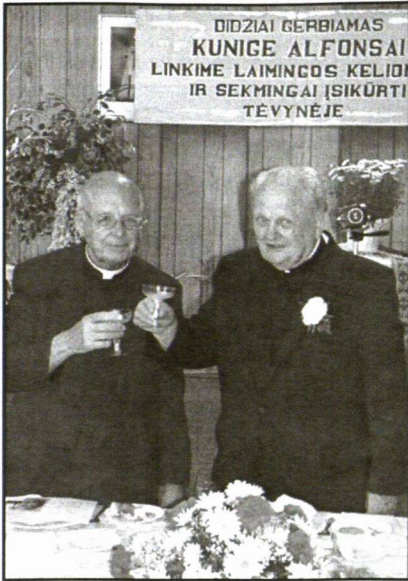
Father Babonas concelebrated his farewell Mass with his longtime friend and classmate, Msgr. Jonas Staškevičius, of Missauga, Canada. After a two year hiatus, organist and maestro Stasys Slizys (who served as organist for nearly 26 years at St. Anthony's parish) returned and re-established the church choir for this special occasion. The church choir sang beautifully as in the past and their voices resonated to the high heavens. In his homily, Msgr. Staškevičius stressed the fact the number of priests are decreasing not only in the US, but also in Canada and Lithuania. And the situation does not seem as if it will improve any time soon. Approximately 300 people filled the church for Fr. Babonas' farewell Mass. It was wonderful to see so many individuals fill the church, which has not been filled as this day since many decades ago. Mass was concluded with the parish choir singing "Plurimos Annos" (Franz Witt).

After the farewell Mass, approximately 150 current and former parishioners and guests gathered in the specially decorated church hall to celebrate Fr. Babonas' farewell program and dinner. Each table with decorated with a Lithuanian juosta, floral centerpieces in the Lithuanian tricolors. At each place setting, a holy card depicting St. Anthony on one side and a photo of Fr. Babonas and his specially written prayer, on the opposite side. These holy cards were Fr. Babonas' gift to the participants. Along side the holy card, was a program with Fr. Babonas' picture and a juosta with "Birštonas"

(Father Babonas' home town in Lithuania) on it.

The farewell program host was Algis Zaparackas, the LR Honorary Consul in Detroit, former parish council president and current "Lithuanian Melodies" radio program producer. He greeted all the guests and lifting a champagne flute to honor Father Babonas, everyone toasted to Father Babonas and sang "Valio, ilgiausiu metu, valio." The guests at the head table were introduced: Fr. Alfonsas Babonas, Msgr. Jonas Staškevičius, maestro Stasys Slizys, Yolanda Zaparackas, and Mykolas Abarius. A special place at the head table was left for Rev. Richard Repšys, who, on 07/27/09, received confirmation of his assignment at St. Anthony Lithuanian Church, from the Archdiocese of Detroit, that effective 09/01/09, he would serve as St. Anthony's pastor. Unfortunately, the following day, 07/28/09, a tragic accident occurred claiming Fr. Repšio life. He was involved in a fatal drowning accident where he attempted to save his 13 year old nephew, and he and another adult cousin drowned. At his place setting was a framed photograph of Rev. R. Repšys, three candles and a yellow rose tied with a black ribbon. Anthony Litarski, a representative from the Archdiocese of Detroit attended Fr. Babonas' farewell celebration.

A. Zaparackas gave a biographical sketch of Fr. Babonas. Alfonsas Babonas was born on 09/06/1927 in Raseiniai, Lithuania. He attended the Lateran College in Rome and was



Rev. Alfonsas Babonas and Msgr. Jonas Staškevičius share a toast

ordained on December 22, 1962 for the Diocese of Kaunas. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy and then attended St. Casimir Lithuanian Pontifical College. In 1963, Fr. Babonas attained a licentiate in Theology and Philosophy. Fr. Babonas had various assignments in New Philadelphia and Minerviella, PA. In the Detroit area, he was assigned at the parishes of



K of L 4th degree medal is presented to Fr. Babonas

Divine Providence, St. Mary's and Our Lady of Victory. Fr. Babonas was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Detroit June 30, 1979, and assigned as pastor of St. Anthony Lithuanian Church. He attained senior priest status on August 17, 2009.

Rev. A. Babonas was the spiritual advisor to various organizations: BALFas, Lietuvos Šaulių Sąjungos Išėivijoje (Lithuanian National Guard in Exile), Švyturio jūrų Šaulių, "Dainava" youth camp, Sv. Anthony Altar Society, and of course, the K of L C-102. Fr. Babonas was also the administrator for St. Casimir Lithuanian Church in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, for several years. St. Casimir Lithuanian Church closed July 26, 2009.

Greetings from various organizations were received and read: Cardinal Audrys Juozas Bačkis, Archbishop of Vilnius (and Fr. Babonas' former classmate), Msgr. E. Putrimas, Lithuanian Bishops' Conference, Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, the Knights of Lithuania (Supreme Council, MCD and C-102 presidents), Detroit Lithuanian Journalists Association, "Žiburio" Lithuanian Saturday School and former BALFas directors, Lithuanian American Community and "Lithuanian Melodies" radio program.

Due to the shortage of clergy, Msgr. Putrimas could not participate in Fr. Babonas' farewell celebration. Instead, he relieved Msgr. Staškevičius so that he could attend and Msgr. Putrimas celebrated Mass in Missauga, Canada in Msgr. Staškevičius' place. However, Msgr. Putrimas still wished to participate in the celebration. He was contacted via telephone and Msgr. Putrimas gave his greeting and announcement over the loudspeaker. He congratulated Fr. Babonas on his retirement status and wished him a safe journey back home to Lithuania. Msgr. Putrimas then announced the late Fr. Repšys was

assigned to Št. Anthony's Church as pastor, but due to his fatal tragedy, St. Anthony was without a priest. It has now been determined that Fr. Gintaras Jonikas will serve as administrator to both Divine Providence Church in Southfield, MI and to St. Anthony Lithuanian Church in Detroit, MI, effective September 01, 2009.

After a delicious luncheon, the program honoring Fr. Babonas resumed. Maestro Slizys dedicated and led a sing a long of appropriate songs for Fr. Babonas' farewell: "Tėvynė Lietuva," "Aras," "Žemė Lietuvos" and "Brangiausias spalvos."



Presentation of gifts to Father Babonas

On behalf of the current and former parishioners and guests, the undersigned presented Fr. Babonas with farewell gifts: "Bažnyčia Lietuvoje" and "Žemaičių liaudies menas ornamentas: forma ir simbolika" books, a two sided picture frame - one side with a picture the building of St. Anthony Church and on the opposite side - a picture of Fr. Babonas celebrating Mass. Its inscription: "Šv. Antano bažnyčia, Detroit, MI, USA - 1979- June 30-2009- August 16" and a monetary



At his place setting was a framed photograph of Rev. R. Repšys, three candles and a yellow rose tied with a black ribbon.

gift - the profit of the farewell celebration.

Fr. Babonas was eligible to receive his K of L 4th degree in 2008. But due to the shortage of priests and the fact that there was no other clergy to relieve Father Babonas so that he could attend a convention closing Mass in 2008 or 2009, special approval for these extenuating circumstances was granted and Regina Juska-Svoba, HM, was authorized to accept the 4th degree medal and certificate on Fr. Babonas' behalf. On the special occasion of his farewell celebration, the undersigned presented

Fr. Babonas with his K of L 4th degree medal and certificate.

Fr. Babonas also received a special honorary medal from the Šaulių organization.

In his closing and last remarks to the parishioners and guests at St. Anthony Church, Fr. Babonas conveyed his deepest and heartfelt gratitude to everyone over the last 31 years. He reminisced how quickly the 47 years of his priesthood passed. He recalled that not too long ago a parishioner remarked that when Fr. Babonas first arrived at St. Anthony's, his hair was

darker and it had waves. Now his hair is grayer and the waves are gone. Time changes everyone and everything. We got along well with each other, like one big family. He stated he will miss the warm and loving relationship he shared with everyone.

We, the parishioners of St. Anthony Lithuanian Church and members of C-102 will remain ever grateful to Fr. Babonas for his long-term support and counsel. We wish Fr. Babonas all the best and many bright, happy and healthy days in Birštonas, Lithuania, surrounded by his family, friends and the beautiful Nemunas River. Maybe now you can rest and relax without worrying about deadlines, paperwork, financial statements, etc. Remember

us and pray for us, who are still left here at St. Anthony's and recall the good days and celebrations we all shared. God bless you and keep you, Rev. Alfonsas Babonas. We bid you not "sudie"-farewell, but "iki pasimatymo" - until we will meet again!

Regina Juska-Svoba

Regina Juska-Svoba, HMC-102 member and dedicated lifetime St. Anthony's parishioner

Continued from page 17 **What We Should Know About the Bible**

The stories of the Old Testament are the stories of Israel's religious growth. They prepare the way for Jesus, but they also mysteriously reveal our own personal story. The Bible leads us from creation to the most important person ever to be born, Jesus the Christ and to His Church. Reading the Bible will also help us to find the right way on which to travel to our eternal home. Everyone should be reading the Holy

Bible to obtain strength and blessings for our everyday lives. Reading the Bible is a fruitful prayer.

Sister Margarita Bareika

Sister Margarita Bareika belongs to the order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Lithuanian order in Putnam, CT. Sister Margarita is the Chair of the Religious Affairs Council of the Lithuanian American Community and is a regular contributor to Bridges.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 96th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

"Knights of Lithuania - At the Dawn of a new Century"



The majority of the delegates of the 96th National K of L convention after the closing Mass at All Saints/St. Anthony de Padua Church.

The Knights of Lithuania is a national Roman Catholic organization consisting of men and women of Lithuanian ancestry. Its motto is- "For God and Country." The Knights of Lithuania's primary focus is to foster, maintain and nurture an appreciation of the Lithuanian language, customs, traditions and culture among its members. It further stresses the importance of the beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church. The Knights are actively involved in programs to assist their less fortunate brothers and sisters in Lithuania. There are now three charity groups within the organization: K of L Foundation, St. Casimir's Guild, and Our Lady of Šiluva Fund. Aid to Lithuania, Inc. functioned from 1991 until it was suppressed in December 2007.

The Knights of Lithuania organization was founded by Mykolas Norkunas in 1913, in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Currently there are 46 councils in the United States with nearly 2,000 active members. A National Convention is held annually at different state sites. The Knights of Lithuania's Council 16, Chicago, IL, hosted the 2009 convention.

Pre-Convention Trip - Wednesday, August 05, 2009

For the delegates who arrive early to the conventions, a pre-convention tour is held. This year, the participants traveled

to Springfield, Illinois, to visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum .

August 06, 2009, Thursday

The opening 96th National Convention Mass was celebrated at the Drake Oak Brook (Wyndham) Hotel in Oak Brook, IL.

The opening Mass was concelebrated by the Knights of Lithuania's Supreme Council spiritual advisor monsignor rev. dr. Joseph Anderlonis, Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, former rector of the St. Casimir Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome, Italy, Msgr. Petras Siurys, current rector of the St. Casimir Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome, Italy, Rev. Anthony Markus, and pastor of Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary of Chicago, IL. The opening Mass was for the intention of the Knights of Lithuania.

The theme for this year's convention- *"Knights of Lithuania- At the Dawn of a New Century."*

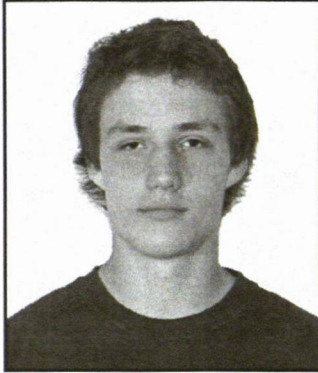
The first convention session was held at the hotel (as were all subsequent sessions). The Supreme Council Officers processed into the meeting room and introduced. The National, Lithuanian the K of L Anthems were sung. K of National President Elena Nakrosis officially opened the

Continued on page 18

here at home

Paulius Razgaitis

MEET OUR YOUNG WRITERS...



Paulius Razgaitis

**“Love is
Shown
in Deeds
Rather
Than in
Words”**

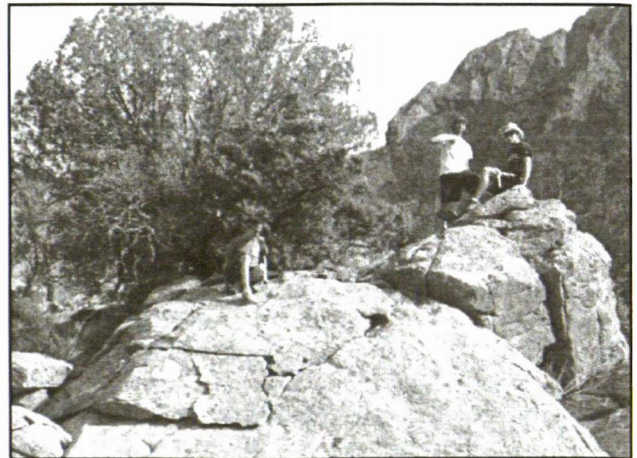
This June, a group of eight St. Joseph's Prep Seniors from Philadelphia, PA, three Camden, NJ youth, and two chaperones journeyed to the border region of New Mexico for a community service trip. This expedition, however, did not conform with the traditional notions of community service, in which one is required by law to work or labor as a punishment for a crime or misdemeanor. This service trip was carried out according to the belief of St. Ignatius, that “love is shown in deeds rather than in words.” Students are invited to become “men for others” by educating their minds and hearts to horizons beyond their previous experience and into the world beyond the one they know.

The cynosure of the trip was Camp Si Podemos!, a day camp in the town of Chaparral, New Mexico, roughly twenty miles north of El Paso. The camp is organized by the Sisters of Assumption, four compassionate nuns who permanently reside in the border town of Chaparral. The St. Joseph's Prep group joined with local high school students as camp counselors for the week long duration of the camp. The camp is for kids ages 4-13, and is free to attend. Some of the children speak little to no English, so it was important for everyone in our group to have at least a minimal experience with the Spanish language.

Along with working at the camp, we had the opportunity to learn more about the town of Chaparral, and gain first hand experience about immigration and border issues. Due to the fact that it is a haven for undocumented immigrants, Chaparral is often ignored, under-funded, or discriminated against by federal and state governments. It is not uncommon to find a family of eight living in a trailer, supported by the eldest

siblings who have to drop out of school to work because one or both parents have been deported or cannot find a job. There are horrid stories of racism and death. Only recently, an old man was shot and killed by a police officer for no apparent reason, and his body was left in the street all day long.

Although the town is rife with problems from drugs, gangs, and unemployment, the people find joy and happiness in their lives. Families were overjoyed to have our group of thirteen over for dinner, to swim in their pool, or simply just to talk and tell their stories. Everyone was extremely generous, and those who had nothing to give always shared a smile and a cheery demeanor. The strong community bond is due largely to the efforts of the four sisters of the Assumption. They help minister to the sick and the downtrodden in the town they affectionately dubbed “Chapa.” They also make free legal services available to people whose family members have been deported, and help all the undocumented immigrants achieve legal residency in the United States. Although they help to grieve the town's sorrows, they also rejoice in the good things that happen in Chapa. Just a few weeks before our arrival, the town celebrated the first graduating class of Chaparral High School. Many of these graduates will go on to study at New Mexico State University, and most are the first in the family to go to college, let alone finish high school.



The group hiking at Aguiere Springs

We had ample time for reflection on the multitude of issues that we saw before us each day, yet the nightly deliberation and contemplation often yielded more questions than answers: Why do we shun and look down upon Mexican immigrants, when our grandparents were in the exact same situation as the Mexicans find themselves in today? Why does our society equate



The group waiting at the airport after a game of wiffleball

themselves are healed; when one gives companionship, they themselves receive companionship; when one uplifts and encourages, they themselves are uplifted and encouraged; and when one enlightens, they are themselves enlightened.

Paulius Razgaitis

Paulius Razgaitis is a senior at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia, PA where he plays varsity lacrosse and writes for the school newspaper. He enjoys playing basketball, reading, and works at the local ice cream shop. After he finishes high school, he plans to go to college to study medicine, but has not yet chosen where he wishes to pursue his academic goals.

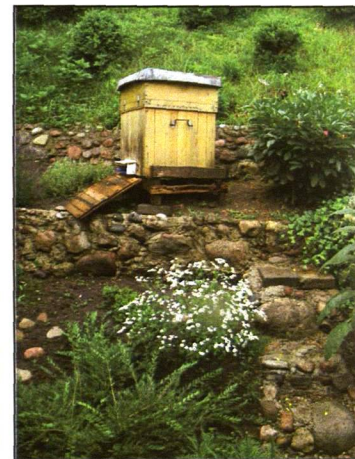
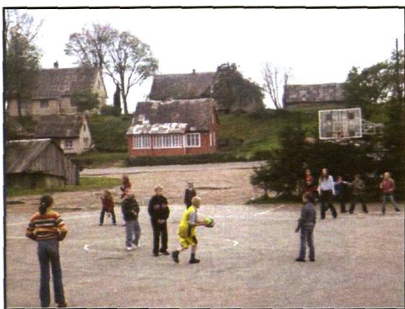
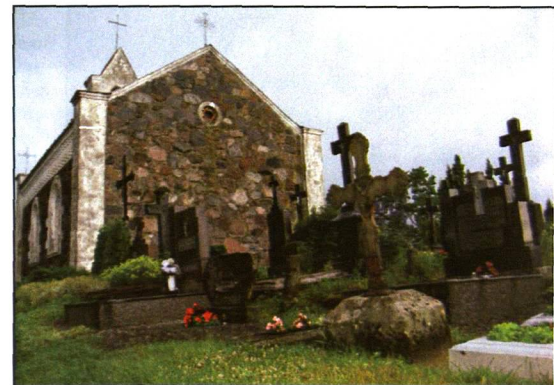
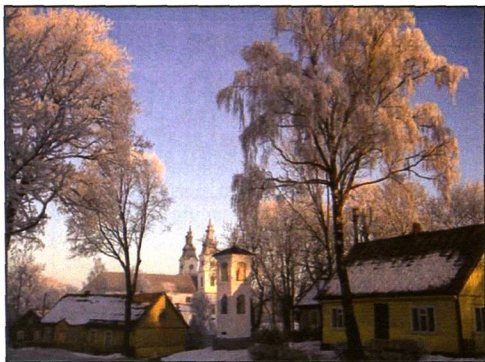
riches and materialism with happiness, when this lowest class in our society finds joy and happiness in the simple pleasures of life? The trip was an eye opening experience for our whole group, and I strongly encourage anyone and everyone to participate in acts of service and charity to those less fortunate, for God is in all things. I guarantee you will always receive much more than you give, for when one becomes a healer, they

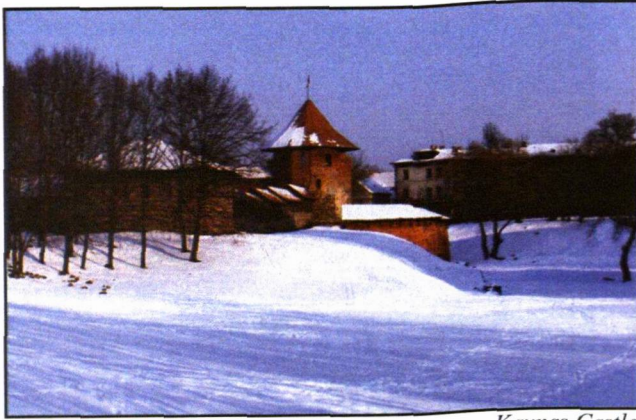


The beautiful scenery of Chaparral, New Mexico

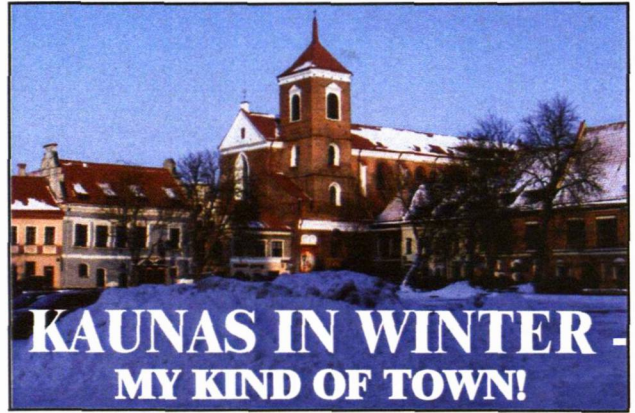


Last day of the trip; posing outside the nuns' residence





Kaunas Castle



Kaunas Cathedral in the winter

In the September 08 issue of Bridges, I reflected upon my numerous trips to Kaunas, discussed the beauty and cultural richness of the city, and I proclaimed it to be my kind of town! During the winter of 2009, my love of Kaunas was put to a severe test as I traveled to Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) for another teaching stint. I survived and came away with a renewed respect for Kaunas and its people.



St. Casimir's Mugė (Kaziuko Mugė)



Santakos Parkas



Old Town in the winter



Musicians and dancers at St. Casimir's Mugė (Kaziuko Mugė)



Crowd at Užgavėnės



Author with beautiful Lithuanian women at Užgavėnės (L-R Viktoriya Šimaitytė, the author, Zenona Šimaitienė, and Greta Šimaitytė)

For the last four years I have lived in the Green Valley area of Southern Arizona, which is about 20 miles south of Tucson and about 40 miles north of the US-Mexico border. I have grown accustomed to the delightful sunshine, warm weather, and low humidity of my new residence. Thus, stepping outside of the Vilnius airport in the middle of February into the cold, snow, and bleakness was a bit of shock for me. I had played golf two days earlier in the warmth and sunshine of Arizona and now I was confronted with being in some sort of polar region.



Wedding Party on the banks of the Nemunas River

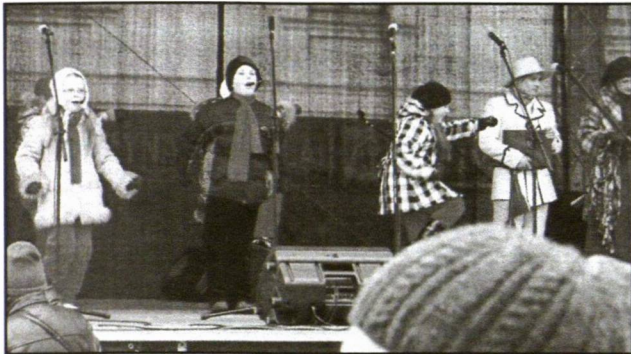
Arriving at the VMU guesthouse in Kaunas, the radiator heat in my room was supplemented by a space heater at my request. Even after an hour, I was still cold. In the evening of my first day in Kaunas, I made my way despite the frigid weather and the icy walkways to a tavern (the Skilautas) in Old Town to meet some friends. After a few rounds of alus and catching up on things, I asked my friend, Sigitas, if it was always this cold at this time of year. Sigitas responded that he loved the cold weather and snow, and this was the first "nice" winter Kaunas had experienced in the last few years. I thought, "You have to be kidding" or that Sigitas had been overcome by some sort of "snow madness."

Over the next couple of days, I tried to stay warm in my room with an additional space heater that I had borrowed and I ventured out into the Kaunas bleakness and cold only when necessary. Finally on a Saturday morning, the sun was bright in the sky and I decided I should get out and enjoy the sunshine. When I got to Rotušės Aikštė, I discovered that I was not alone as a number of other folks were out and about. Walking in the snow of the adjacent Santakos Parkas, I saw couples holding hands, families just walking, and kids on sleds. On the banks of the Nemunas River, I spotted a wedding party standing around a fire and drinking some alcoholic beverages, so this is what Lithuanians do on a sunny winter day!



Musicians and dancers at St. Casimir's Mugė (Kaziuko Mugė)

The next day, I was invited by Will Gordon, an American friend living in Kaunas, to join him, his girlfriend, and her family, to experience Užgavėnės in nearby Rumšiškės. Sunday arrived, while it was rather cold the sun was shining brightly. I prepared by putting on two sweatshirts under my winter coat and "long johns" under my fleeced winter pants. Much has been previously written about Užgavėnės, so I need not go into detail. However, there are some highlights to report about my experience. Hot beer mixed with honey, did not seem "right" to me. However, after a few mugs, this delightful mixture worked rather well to give me a warm glow to enjoy the winter festivities. I was encouraged to roll in the snow as a means to help usher in an early spring. Whether folklore or being made a fool of, I did the snow roll and much to my surprise I enjoyed it. Having lived in New Jersey for nearly thirty years before my relocation to Arizona, I have acquired a fondness for bagels. Part of the Užgavėnės experience is to wear and eat a Lithuanian delight that looks and tastes like a bagel. Also available were traditional Lithuanian dishes sold by numerous vendors and I took the opportunity to sample some of the dishes. At the end of the day there must have been several thousand Lithuanians standing in the snow and cold and watching the large bonfire. I was a part of the crowd. As I enjoyed a cigar, I pondered that I had participated in a uniquely Lithuanian event. Hot beer and honey, bagels, good food, cigars, and rolling in the snow; Užgavėnės should be on every Lithuanian-American's "must do" list.



Young singers at St. Casimir's Mugė (Kaziuko Mugė)

Wednesday, March 4 arrived and I dutifully attended morning Mass at the Kaunas Cathedral to celebrate St. Casimir's Day. The Mass was well attended, but in all other respects the day was just like any ordinary day in Lithuania. I was surprised that in this heavily Roman Catholic country, the patron Saint of the nation was seemingly not honored and celebrated. That evening, I mentioned this observation to my class; the response was to wait until the weekend.



Crowd at Užgavėnės enjoying large bonfire

On Friday morning, March 6, I had to go into New Town to attend to some business. As I left Old Town and entered New Town through the underpass walkway, I noticed vendors arriving and some were already putting up their stands. In the center of New Town, I came upon a vendor of hot beer and honey ready for business. Needless to say, I stopped and enjoyed a couple of mugs and I ate a cepelinai. As I approached Miesto Sodas on my way back to Old Town, I heard what seemed to be country music. I had come upon a free concert performed by the Lithuanian singer-musician, Jonis, and his group. I lingered for a while to enjoy the Lithuanian country sound. As I resumed my walk, I realized I had just experienced the beginnings of the St. Casimir Mugė (Kaziuko Mugė) in Kaunas. Yes, there was much more to the Mugė as I discovered when the weekend finally arrived.

Saturday, March 7, I walked into New Town for an early lunch and to meet a friend. From one end of New Town to the other, I discovered vendor stands, numerous shoppers, and many passer-bys. Food, drink, varieties of sausages, leather goods, wood carvings, clothing, souvenirs, singers, dancers, and multitude of other items were everywhere. I noted the location of a few stands that caught my interest with the intent of returning on my way back to Old Town. An hour later, it was wall-to-wall people, and I couldn't easily get close to any vendor stands. It took me over an hour to get back to Old Town; albeit I made a couple of stops to see and listen to the Lithuanian traditional dancers and musicians. The next day after Sunday Mass at the Cathedral, I made a bee line to New Town to make my purchases and enjoyed some drink and food before the crowds arrived. What a wonderful experience, seeing Lithuanians getting out and actually enjoying this winter weekend. The St. Casimir Muge in Kaunas is another "must do" and delight for the true shopper or anyone who just enjoys the Lithuanian culture.



Singers at St. Casimir's Mugė (Kaziuko Mugė)

In Kaunas there are some diversions away from the winter elements. The massive Akropolis offers indoor mall shopping, eating, and a multiplex cinema. The cinema is a nice interlude for non Lithuanian speakers as most major American films are in English with Lithuanian subtitles. English has many nuances that may elude the non-native speaker and it is interesting to note whether the Lithuanian audience laughs at the same jokes in an American comedy movie as the English speaker. Of course, there is the Kaunas Žalgiris basketball experience. During this recent trip one of my students invited me to attend a Žalgiris game. On game day at the arena, I asked him where we would be sitting. He pointed to a spot behind the basket and responded that we would be standing in the area, despite the fact that the area had seats. This is where the Žalgiris "bleacher bums" viewed the contest. Throughout the game, the fans dressed in their finest Žalgiris attire stood, shouted slogans, sang, banged drums, and generally had a great time.

While I have attended several Žalgiris games before, this time I had a very different perspective as I was with the “die hard” fans.

Basketball may be a religion to some in Kaunas, but I discovered something new along the streets of Kaunas – the Hara Kristanas. Every Saturday, a small group of Kristanas dressed in their orange colored robes parade and chant along the streets of Old Town and New Town. Without getting into the theology of the matter, I truly admired them as to me it was almost arctic cold as they paraded and chanted along the streets. I wondered whether I would be willing to endure that sort of cold to proclaim my Catholic faith. I also encountered American Mormons. As noted in my September 08 article, I look forward to meeting Mormon missionaries on the streets of Kaunas and engaging them in conversation about what is going in America and sharing with them my Lithuanian experiences. Since my arrival in Kaunas during this trip, I had looked unsuccessfully for the tell-tale black outfits worn by young folks in their early 20s. Finally on my last full day in Kaunas I met two young male Mormon missionaries. We chatted for a half hour about American sports and Lithuania. It was nice to encounter something familiar as I neared the end of my Kaunas winter adventure.

There is something special about the look of newly fallen snow lying upon a city and its streets. In the crisp air the snow serves as a blanket and hides many of the city’s blemishes. Kaunas is no different. Kaunas is truly beautiful in the newly fallen snow and there is something magical about the city. When the winter sun slowly begins to reveal what lies under the snow blanket, the blemishes of Kaunas as any city are again brought to light. On the other hand, the true character of the city remains with residents who thrive and enjoy the winter weather. As I was on my departing plane on the Vilnius airport runway, it began to snow. Part of me just couldn’t wait to get back to the sun and warmth of Southern Arizona; another part of me wondered whether the new snow would blanket Kaunas and give its residents another opportunity to enjoy the “nice” winter. Yes, Kaunas is my kind of town any time of year!

John J. Chernoski (Cerniauskas)

John J. Chernoski (Cerniauskas) is a retired attorney. He resides in Green Valley, AZ.

TRIVIA QUESTION

(No.31)

Who are the largest minority in Lithuania ?

- (a) Russians (c) Roma
(b) Poles (d) Belarusians

Answer to Trivia Quiz
on page 19

What We Should Know About the Bible

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path” (Psalm 119)

Many religious books are written to tell us what people think about God. The Bible is a different book. The Bible is a message from God. The writers of the Bible report things by stating “this is what the Lord says.” The writers made clear to us that what they said and wrote was not something they themselves thought. What they wrote and said was God’s message to all people.

The Bible is very old. It is really a collection of 66 different books that were written by many different people. The first books of the Bible are nearly 3,500 years old. God did not wait until the time of Christ to give Himself to the world, He spoke to some prophets before that. The Bible says, “all scripture is given by God” (2 Timothy 3:16), “men led by the Holy Spirit spoke words from God” (2 Peter 1:21). God did not speak the exact words to be written down by the Bible writers. What they wrote was the exact message God intended to share. Because of divine inspiration what the Bible says is true for our message from God to His people. Only the Bible reveals things that without it we would not be able to know.

Prophecy gives us this kind of proof. God told Isaiah, “At the beginning I foretell the outcome....” (Isaiah 46:10). The Bible talks about many things that were to happen in the future. The prophet Micah named the town where Jesus would be born 700 years later. (Micah 5:2). And Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The prophet Isaiah described Jesus’ death (Isaiah 53). He died on the cross. Everything happened just as the Bible predicted. Only God knows the future. What the Bible says is true- and it really is a message to us from God.

Jesus trusted the Bible as God’s Word. When talking about the Old Testament Jesus said, “Surely you have read what God said to you” (Matthew 22:31); Jesus also said “ You should believe everything the prophets said” (Luke 24:25). The Bible is the only book inspired by God. It is also important because of what it tells us. The Holy Bible is not a book just for learning things. It is a guide; it shows us how to live. The Holy Bible tells us how we can know God and become His friend. From the Bible we can find out how much God loves us and we can learn how to love God in return. The Holy Scripture tells the story of how God has revealed Himself to people. From the creation onwards He permits Himself to be known all people who faithfully follow their consciences. Jesus Himself loved and taught the Jewish Scriptures as the Word of His Father. “ I have come not to abolish the law and the prophets, but to fulfill them” (Matthew 5:17).

Continued on page 8

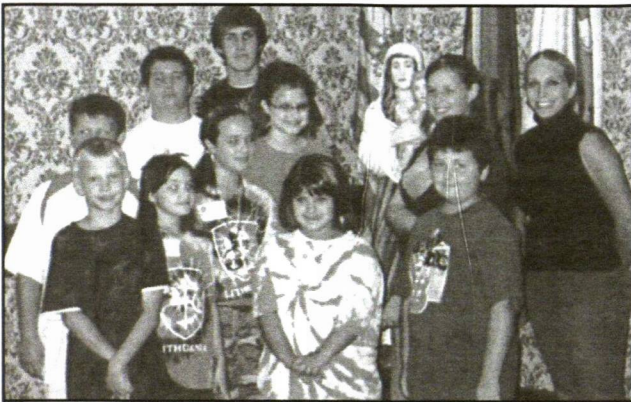
knights of lithuania

continued from page 9

K OF L 96th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION



Msgr. dr. Joseph Anderlonis, spiritual advisor to the Knights of Lithuania organization, Dr. Cathy Karl, director of the St. Ignatius College Prep, after the receipt of the "Friend of Lithuania" award, on behalf of the school. Also, Bernice Aviza, newly elected Supreme Council president and John Mankus, Lithuanian Affairs chairman.



The K of L juniors with their "leader" third vice-president (working with the youth) Erin Petkus.



A partial representation of the Honorary members of the K of L organization during the banquet.

convention and gave a comprehensive state of the organization report. National treasurer and honorary member Bernice Aviza gave the financial report of the organizations. Thirteen greetings from various honorary counsels, religious orders, American Lithuanian publications were received and read.

The first panel presentation was made by Indre Tijunelis, president of the "Saulute" - Sunlight Orphan Aid for

Lithuania. Mrs. Tijunelis gave a comprehensive overview of the program. The non-for-profit organization was established in 1993 and it financially helps orphans, abandoned children, needy families and children with special needs. The organization also assists with meals in schools and soup kitchens and assists needy students in Lithuania. "Saulutei" has a sponsor a child program, which is a tax deductible \$360.00 donation to sponsor a specific child for one year. The donor receives a biographical sketch about the youngster they wish to sponsor. There also may be reciprocal communication with the child. Mrs. Tijunelis further stated that there are established "Saulute" chapters in Florida, Illinois and Michigan.

Mrs. Tijunelis' colleague Robert Duda offered some insight into his visits to Lithuania and his and his colleague's, nurse anaesthetist Ginger Houghton's help to the needy children of Lithuania, by providing various medical equipment and supplies to the various Lithuanian families, orphanages and schools. Both he and Ginger Houghton have been working with "Saulute" and Mrs. Tijunelis since 1996. As a gesture of gratitude for all their assistance rendered to the children and families in Lithuania, Mrs. Tijunelis presented Mr. Duda an "amber flower" for him and Ms. Ginger Houghton.

The evening get-together was held at the Greek Islands Restaurant, where the K of L members feasted on wonderful Greek delicacies. After our dinner we took a trolley ride for an "International Tour. We traveled through "Little Italy" and Chinatown. The illumination tour of the downtown area of Chicago was beautiful.

August 07, 2009, Friday

During the second plenary session, membership vice-president, Becky Pataki announced that during the past year, 68 new members joined the K of L organization. It is fervently anticipated that each member of the K of L organization recruits at least one new member by the next convention in 2010.

Irene Ozalis, President of the Knights of Lithuania Foundation, an ancillary arm of the K of L reported about the last fiscal year. A resolution was passed in order to use the principal funds of the Foundation's assets to distribute for various worthy causes. Ms. Ozalis announced that during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, donations will be made to the following: St. Clare Hospice in Utena, Lithuania, Lithuanian Children's Relief, National Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for Our Lady of Šiluva Chapel in Washington, D.C., the international Lithuanian daily newspaper "Draugas," JBANC., A.P.P.L.E. organization, Our Lady of Šiluva fund for the establishment of a website in another language about Our Lady of Šiluva, Servants of the Lord-a Lithuanian mission, Christmas gifts for Orphan Care, St. Casimir Convent in Pažaislis, Lithuania, "Saulute," to

sponsor an orphan for one year, increased stipend amount for K of L juniors and start up funds for a K of L council, who agrees to host a National Convention.

Further, Ms. Ozalis announced the three winners of the annual essay contest: first place - Natalia Padalino; second place - Andrea Deksnis; and third place - Rev. Arvydas P. Rygas.

Mark H. Bell, President of the ancillary program, St. Casimir's Guild, gave a thorough annual report about the Guild's past year's activities and the support to the St. Casimir's Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome, Italy. He informed the delegates that St. Casimir's Guild was gifted with two bequests totaling \$150,000.00. There were 540 Mass requests made. M. Bell explained that the Mass requests can be made for special intentions, health and sympathy. M. Bell further explained that this year the St. Casimir's Guild is celebrating its 20 years of existence. The first St. Casimir's Guild meeting was held on August 05, 1989, during the 76th National Convention. St. Casimir's Pontifical College celebrated its 60th anniversary of existence last October 26-28, 2009. For the milestone celebration, a special documentary film was made in both the Lithuanian and English languages. A special jubilee medal was also struck for the anniversary celebration.

Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, former rector of the St. Casimir Pontifical Lithuanian College and Msgr. Petras Siurys, current rector of the St. Casimir Pontifical Lithuanian College were introduced to the delegates. They gave the second presentation to the delegates and guests of the convention. Both former and current rectors spoke about the 60th anniversary celebration of the St. Casimir Pontifical Lithuanian College. Cardinal Audrys Juozas Bačkis, Archbishop Metropolitan of Vilnius participated in the celebration. During the past 60 years of its existence, 300 Lithuanian student priests studied at the College. Both Msgr. Bartkus and Msgr. Siurys thanked the K of L organization for their ongoing support of the St. Casimir Pontifical Lithuanian College. As a gesture of gratitude, Msgr. Siurys presented the K of L organization with a commemorative jubilee medal.

The cultural evening, "The Sights and Sounds and Flavor of Lithuania, an evening at the Balzekas Museum" was featured. K of L member and the Republic of Lithuania's Honorary Counsel in Florida, Stanley Balzekas, Jr., was gracious to open his museum for the K of L members to enjoy. The delegates and guests had the unique opportunity to visit this vast historical museum filled with Lithuanian artifacts (wood carvings, amber jewelry, pictures, history books, textiles, photographs, paintings, etc.). The Balzekas Museum can be considered the largest Lithuanian museum housing the biggest collection of Lithuanian artifacts, outside of Lithuania. We visited several galleries: "Lithuanians through the Ages," "Honored Lithuanians," children's museum and

"War after War."

August 08, 2009, Saturday

Rev. Anthony Markus, pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Chicago, IL, and the president of Our Lady of Šiluva Fund, Inc., one of the K of L's ancillary organizations, gave a comprehensive presentation on the status of the 400th Anniversary (1608-2008) of the apparition in Šiluva, Lithuania celebratory and commemoration plans. Over the past year (2008), many celebrations throughout the Lithuanian community in the US, Canada and Lithuania occurred.

Commemorative souvenirs have been produced in hopes of spreading the word of Our Lady of Šiluva. These include: shirt patches, window clings, pins, pictures, silver and 14k. gold medals of Our Lady of Šiluva and a DVD of the 2008 celebration in Chicago, IL).

The history of Our Lady of Šiluva continues to be promoted on the official website www.ourladyofsiluva.com. The history has been translated in the Polish and Spanish languages to promote further dissemination about Our Lady of Šiluva.

The third presentation was given by John Mankus, K of L Lithuanian Affairs Chair, Bernice Aviza, Honorary Member of the K of L and National Treasurer and Robert Duda. They spoke of the different aspects of the "State of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Economy." The panel presentation was interesting and most informative.

Erin Petkus, the organization's third vice-president (working with the junior/youth members), gave a power point presentation about the junior K of L member's activities. This year 11 junior members participated in the National Convention. The youth were busy and active during the convention. The juniors demonstrated a new Lithuanian dance that they learned- "Klumpa koja." After their program, each of the juniors received their conventionship stipend and certificate. The juniors held a fund-raiser by selling raffle tickets to support the "Saulutė" foundation, for its ongoing projects assisting the Lithuanian orphan children.

Elections of the new 2008-09, Supreme Council were held. Bernice Aviza, Council 136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY, was unanimously elected as president to lead the K of L organization.

The formal sessions were concluded with the singing of the Vyciu hymn.

Banquet

After every K of L National Convention completes the working sessions and elects a new Supreme Council for the next year, a celebratory banquet is held. So, too, the 96th National Convention celebrated with a formal banquet. Approximately 120 delegates, guests and family participated. The host for the evening was Ken Rudmin, banquet convention chair.

knights of lithuania

After a delicious dinner, Rita Johnson, representing the K of L Scholarship committee, presented this year's scholarship monetary awards to:

Becky Pataki, C-90, Kearny, NJ -	\$2,500.00
Zachary Miller, C-141, Bridgeport, CT -	\$2,000.00
Stephanie, Couitt, C-103, Providence, RI;	
Vika Rimkunas, C-136, Schenectady, NY -	\$1,500.00
Natalia Padalino, C-112, Chicago, IL -	\$ 500.00
Debbie Miller, C-72, Binghamton, NY -	\$1,200.00
Anne Domalakes, C-144, Anthracite, PA -	\$1,200.00
Meredith Domalakes, C-144, Frackville, PA -	\$1,200.00
James Ditsin, C-72, Binghamton, NY -	\$ 500.00

The "Friend of Lithuania" award was presented by John Mankus, Lithuanian Affairs chair to St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, IL. Accepting on behalf of the school was Dr. Kathy Carl.

The "Friend of Lithuania" is an award that is presented to non-Lithuanians who have given much time, effort, energy and financial support for Lithuanian causes and Lithuania's people. In the past the award was given to congressmen, senators, teachers, doctors and other professionals.

During the past 70 plus years, the Jesuits of the Lithuanian, the Chicago Providence and St. Ignatius College Prep shared a special bond, and cooperatively, they have made a huge difference for Lithuanians. During the 140 year existence of the St. Ignatius College Prep, the school had an ongoing history of educating students from the Lithuanian community

throughout the Chicago area, before and after the war.

The formal portion of banquet closed with words from K of L outgoing president Elena Nakrosis. She wished the newly elected president Bernice Aviza much success. Bernice Aviza thanked the delegates for electing her. Musical entertainment for dancing livened the rest of the evening.

August 09, 2009, Sunday

The closing Mass was held at St. Anthony/All Saints Church. It was celebrated by Msgr. dr. J. Anderlonis, Msgr. Al Bartkus, Msgr. Petras Siurys and Rev. A. Markus.

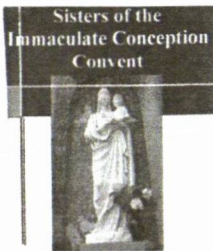
Prior to the celebration of the Mass, the organization's members who earned their 4th degrees gave the oath and received their medals. The Supreme Council elect gave their oath of office.

The 2009 National Convention and sessions were productive and fruitful. It was good to see and nurture special friendships of members known for many years and establish new acquaintances and contacts. It was a special time of sharing and catching up. The official convention photograph was taken and the closing lunch consisting of traditional Lithuanian delicacies, followed in the church hall.

The 97th National Convention will be hosted by the Council 72 in Binghamton, NY on August 05-08, 2010.

Regina Juska-Svoba

Regina Juska-Svoba is the Public Relations Chair of the Knights of Lithuania.



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HOW WHISKEY ORIGINATED

KAIP ATsirADO DEGTINĖ

Author: A Lithuanian Tale Told by Pranas Sasnauskas in
"Lietuviu Sakmes"

English translation by Gloria Kivytaitė O'Brien

"Gyveno karta neturtingas, bet geras žmogelis. Išėjęs dirbti, jis lėtai krutėdavo, nesukubėjo ir nesiplėšė....."

HOW WHISKEY ORIGINATED

Once there lived a poor but good man, Antanas. When working, he moved slowly, never hurrying, always acting calmly. He neither cursed, nor berated anyone.

This displeased the devil, and he considered how he could seduce this man to anger or cursing. One Sunday morning he sneaked up to the man's house and waited. Soon the man, dressed in his best clothes, left the house and headed off to church. He walked in silence, enjoying the bright sunshine and hymn-like birdsong. And the devil circled the man, doing mischief: Tripping him up, loosing a cloud of mosquitoes toward his nose, even punching him in the side. But the man did not react -- he remained silent. The devil was furious, that the man should be so patient, and jumping toward him, he shoved the man so hard that he fell head-first into a ditch. The fellow rose from the ditch, filthy, his clothing muddy, remarking: "Must have been the devil that brought me here!" -- And went on his way.

The devil was pleased that Antanas had spoken his name (which was a bit like cursing in those days), and he rattled off to Hell, to boast of this achievement before his Superior. But this Superior became angry when the devil had described his feat.

"You fool! Instead of leading this man into temptation, you have done him a wrong -- you soiled his clothing. That was a poor man, who has no other holiday clothing. Go and work for him to pay him back for those clothes. And while you are working for him, maybe you can be smart enough to find a way to tempt him."

The devil returned to the man's farm, and offered to work for him.

"I don't need a helper" -- Antanas answered. "On my own, I barely earn enough to keep myself and my children, and you think I should hire a helper No, I will not take you."

"Take me take me I will work for no pay."

He talked, and talked, and finally succeeded. Antanas

agreed to take him on as a helper.

"So now, what kind of work shall I give you?"

"Go to the landlord, and make an agreement with him, to allocate that large outlying field to you -- the one with all the tree stumps -- and we will clear it and sow wheat."

Antanas was mystified, but went to the landlord with this request. The landlord was greatly pleased to finally find a man fool enough to work that particular field, and quickly agreed. The man was amazed, on his return home, to find that his helper had already pulled out all the tree stumps and had them neatly stacked.

All on his own, he had harnessed a bedraggled little horse, and was busily plowing the field, raising clouds of dust. Soon the soil was prepared, the wheat was sowed, and quicker than a wink, green shoots had everywhere appeared.

After a while, the landlord was riding around his property and passed by this field.

He and his coachman were rendered breathless by the sight. Everywhere they looked, the soil was neatly plowed, crops, green and golden, waved in the breeze, and tree stumps were neatly stacked. The two of them looked, and looked, and gaping, fell with the carriage into a big muddy puddle. Though the coachman whipped the horses, that did no good -- they began to sink into the mud. The farmer's helper approached them and shouted:

"Well, my lord, it looks like you'll sink pretty soon, that is, unless my horse will pull you out."

"So where is that horse of yours?" Said the landlord.

"Right here!" The fellow answered, leading forth the scrawny little horse.

"Is this a joke? That invalid? That corpse? - will pull out horses and carriage?"

"Don't worry, my lord, all will be well. But as payment for my help, you will have to sign over this land, that used to be a field of tree stumps, to my patron, the farmer. If you refuse, you yourself will sink into the mud with your carriage."

The landlord realized that this was no joke, and agreed.

The devil tied his horse to the landlord's carriage and

shouted some devilish words, and in a couple of seconds, the landlord's carriage and horses stood on dry ground.

"Some damned devil must have helped you with this!", the angry landlord spat and hurried back home.

And Antanas, standing nearby, began to thank his helper: "I have become a wealthy man through your work! Now I will at least be able to live comfortably."

The devil just smirked, and told him, "Well, I have completed all the work, and today I will leave you. Now, you own much land and will have a beautiful grain harvest, and can compete with the landlord as to wealth. And I am going home."

Of course, he didn't mention that for him, home is Hell.

"But how can I repay you?" asked Antanas.

"Well, why not have dinner together? I'll make a nice drink, and we'll sit around, drink a little, talk a little." Antanas agreed.

So the devil took a bag of rye flour, mixed it up with other things, caused it to ferment, and by that evening he had a big batch of whiskey. Finally the devil and Antanas sat down together, talking and drinking whiskey. Antanas drank, and frowned, and didn't understand whether the drink tasted good, or not, but he drinks, and wants more. Eventually, they were both drunk, and began to sing.

Some neighbors, hearing the singing, came to have a look. The devil offered them some whiskey. They all got drunk, and began to curse and spout foul language, and push each other around. And the devil inflamed them: Here, he would stretch out a leg to trip someone, there he would push another into a corner, and there again, he would scream into someone's sensitive ear.

He left them all fighting with one another, and hurried happily home to Hell. There he was congratulated by his Superior, for having found a good way to set people against each other.

English translation by Gloria Kivytaite O'Brien

Gloria Kivytaite O'Brien is a frequent contributor to Bridges. She grew up in Brooklyn, Annunciation Parish. Gloria can be contacted at Senaboba@aol.com.

ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

Trivia Quiz on page 17

Source: Wikipedia ,the free encyclopedia.

ETHNIC COMPOSITION

"The population of Lithuania stands at 3.3662 million, 86% of whom are ethnic Lithuanians who speak the Lithuanian language (one of the two surviving members of the Baltic language group), which is the official language of the country. Severable sizable minorities exist, such as Poles (6.3%),Russians (5.1%), and Belarusians ((1.1%).

Poles are the largest minority, concentrated in southeast Lithuania (the Vilnius region). Russians are the second largest minority, concentrated mostly in two cities. They constitute sizable minorities in Vilnius (14%) and Klaipėda (28%), and a majority in the town of Visaginas (52%). About 3,000 Roma live in Lithuania, mostly in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Panevėzys: their organizations are supported by the National Minority and Emigration Department."

Edward Shakalis

Eward Shakalis is a retired Electrical Engineer and a ham radio operator. He and his son Rick run "The Lithuanian Open" golf tournament.



Lithuanian-American Community

CONTACT INFORMATION:
WEBSITE

WWW.LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN.ORG

TELEPHONE

800-625-1170

Aruna LT

24h 7d.



AUTOMOBILIŲ NUOMA - CAR RENTAL

REZERVACIJOS TEL. PHONE FOR RESERVATION
+370 640 22 916

www.aruna.lt

Calendar of Events for October- November- December, 2009

Please verify all events as places & times are subject to change.

OCTOBER

October 9-11, 2009

Neringa Walk- a-Thon
www.neringa.org

October 10, 2009 - 6:00 pm
Annual Fall Ball - Saturday -
Marine Corps Air Station
Officer's Club,
Miramar, San Diego
San Diego Chapter LAC

October 11, 2009 - 2-5pm
KC Lithuanian Community
Picnic - Wyandotte County
Park, Shelter J,
Bonner Springs,KS.

October 18, 2009 - 1pm
Lithuanian Fall Picnic in
Chandler (Phoenix Area),
Arizona Tumbleweed Park-
South Mountain Pavilion
2250 South McQueen Road
Chandler, AZ 85249
Kugelis, Lithuanian style
sauerkraut, sausage, &
desserts as well as Lithuanian
beer will be served. Please
bring a prize for our loterija.
Contact Mark Andrew Shoban
at (480) 802-3765 or
mashoban@yahoo.com
for further details.
Sponsor: ARIZONA CHAPTER
OF THE LAC

OCTOBER 20, 2009 - 7-9pm
Philadelphia Amber Roots
Lithuanian Heritage Club
Sing-a-Long
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave
Philadelphia, PA
Use side door on Tilton Street
Info: milliemarks@aol.com
or 610-497-5469

OCTOBER 24, 2009 - 3.00 pm
Krupnikas class
Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall,
1151 S Galena St.
(just west of Mississippi & Havana)
Denver, CO 80247
Info:
www.coloradolithuanians.org
Sponsor: Colorado
Chapter of the LAC

NOVEMBER

November 1, 2009 -11:00am

Rudenėlio Šventė/Fall Fest
Bear Creek Park, pavilion #3 -
Volleyball, relay games, and
singing songs (accompanied by a
guitar or two). Pot-luck event so
please bring food enough for
your family. Please bring
charcoal and skewers if you
plan on using the BBQ grill.
Info:
www.houstonlithuanians.org
Sponsor: Houston Chapter of
the LAC

November 2, 2009 - 12 noon
All Souls Remembrance
Mass will be held for our
dearly departed members of
our community at Our Lady of
Assumption Church,
76 Wianno Ave., Osterville, MA.
After Mass we will meet at
St. Francis Cemetery in
Centerville for prayers and
the traditional lighting of
candles at the gravesites of
our members.
Info: contact Regina Petrutis,
regina-pet@comcast.net.
Sponsor: Cape Cod Chapter of
the LAC

November 7-8, 2009 -
12 Noon -6pm
Lithuanian Festival (Mugė)
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19134
Admission - \$1.00
Lithuanian food, music,
vendors and much more
Fun for the entire family
Info:
ewashofsky@verizon.net.

November 17, 2009 - 7pm
Philadelphia Amber Roots
Lithuanian Heritage Club
Meeting
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, PA
Use side door on Tilton St.
Info: milliemarks@aol.com
or 610-497-5469

November 21, 2009 -10-4pm
Margarita's Mugė -
Lithuanian Holiday

Marketplace - Lithuanian
Foods, Arts, Crafts and Music.
Lenexa Community Center
Lenexa, KS.

November 29, 2009 - 1:00 pm
**LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS
TREE LUNCHEON**
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish,
9728 W. Palmeras Drive,
Sun City, AZ
Traditional food, Christmas
music, Christmas tree
decorated with Lithuanian
straw ornaments & activities
for children
Info:
mashoban@yahoo.com.
Sponsor: Arizona Chapter of
the LAC

DECEMBER

December 6, 2009 -3-6pm
KC Lithuanian Community
Christmas Party **Kūčios** Table
Traditional Christmas Eve
Dinner - Folkdancing, Music,
Games. Davis Hall, Wyandotte
County Lake Kansas City, KS.
Info: www.kclith.org
Sponsor: Kansas City Chapter
of the LAC

December 6, 2009 - **Kūčios**
Transfiguration Church
Maspeth, NY
Reservations: 718- 849-5725

December 6, 2009 - 2:00 pm
Lithuanian Traditional

"Kūčios" McKeon Center
Mission San Luis Rey
4070 Mission Ave.
Oceanside, CA 92054
Info: www.lithsd.org
Sponsor: San Diego Chapter
of the LAC

December 8, 2009 - 7 to 9 pm
(Tuesday) Annual **Kūčios**
Bring a Lithuanian dish
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave
Philadelphia, PA
Use side door on Tilton Street
Info: milliemarks@aol.com
or 610-497-5469

December 11, 2009 (Friday)
Lasagna Take-Out Dinner
4-6pm (pick up)
To order please
call 412-885-7232
by December 7
Sisters of St. Francis of
the Providence of God
Pittsburgh, PA.

December 12, 2009 - 2:00pm
Christmas Social
Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall
1151 S Galena Street
(just west of Mississippi & Havana)
Denver, CO 80247
Info:
www.coloradolithuanians.org
Sponsor:
Colorado Chapter of the LAC

Lithuanian-American Community MARKETPLACE

Coming soon....

.....information on how to acquire various Lithuanian cultural items and other products such as DVD of the 2006 Lithuanian Song Festival in Chicago, DVD of the 2008 Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in Los Angeles, DVD of the 2008 Lithuanian Theater Festival in Chicago and CD's of various Lithuanian artists. In the meantime, information is available from the Bridges office: Rimas Gedeika, 78 Mark Twain Dr., Hamilton Sq., NJ 08690
Email: GedeikaR@aol.com

bridges

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