

SUMMER CAMP JOY

There is probably not one child, teenager or even parent who would not like to attend a summer camp where one can enjoy nature, partake in meaningful programs, socialize and even have time for spiritual reflection. The invariably universal response upon returning from camp is "Can we go again next summer?" Since children, teenagers and young adults are a priority for LCRA, financial aid was gladly given in 2010 to 48 summer camp requests.

Kybartai Youth Center received financial aid for summer camps and other programs but unfortunately not all of the children who wanted to go were able to do so. The center's administrator, sr. Bernadeta Mališkaitė, is hopeful that next year more money will be forthcoming and everyone will be able to attend. You, dear reader, can help now by making a generous donation.

Vilnius Archdiocesan CARITAS has a chapter called "Vilties Angelas" (Angel of Hope) that runs a day care center for high risk children and youngsters in Vilnius. Every summer they organize a camp and the participants are very happy to be a part of this program.

Kaišiadorys diocese CARITAS works in conjunction with a group to care for youngsters from asocial, poor families and this summer organized a children's camp "Būkim Draugai 7" (Let's Be Friends 7). Various programs, good food and lots of fun were enjoyed by all campers.

St. Jacob the Apostle parish in Jonava organized a very successful summer camp for its children that was enjoyed by all! They all send their thanks for your support.



A camp leader helps a younger camper navigate rope barriers



Young campers try their luck fishing.



Campers learn how to pray the rosary



Campers and their leaders enjoy a snack in the park

DIFFICULT TIMES FOR STUDENTS

The ongoing financial crisis has forced the reduction of student scholarships. LCRA, aware of the difficult times, awarded 114 scholarships valued at over \$124,000.00. Scholarships were given to students in Lithuania, Austria and Rome. Financial help in the sum of \$25,000.00 was provided to the **Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome** to help defray the cost incurred by Lithuanian clerics seeking higher degrees. A request was received from **Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University's Catholic Theology department** to assist outstanding students who were in financial straits. The department was awarded \$10,000.00. The students remember benefactors in their prayers. Tadas Jarusevičius writes: "Thank you very much...I'll remember you in my prayers". Veronika Rakauskaitė writes: "...I will remember your generosity and try to help others. Thank you". Indrė Zapolskaitė: "God bless you all!"



Indrė Zapolskaitė

Tadas Jarusevičius



The president of LCRA, Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, and all the Directors and employees extend their sincerest and most meaningful wishes to all for a blessed Christmas and a prosperous, peaceful New Year!

During the last year LCRA awarded a total of **\$1,819,970.00** to various projects.

In memoriam — Rev. Zenonas Smilga, a long time LCRA Director, died at the Matualitis Nursing Home in Putnam, CT on March 16. May he rest in peace!

LCRA's Annual report for fiscal year 2010 (02/01/2009-01/31/2010) is available upon request at LCRA's office — 64-25 Perry Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378-2441.

Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, president of LCRA, offers Holy Mass for living and deceased benefactors every Tuesday.

Please remember LCRA when making out your will, to be able to participate in the work of LCRA on behalf of the Church in Lithuania.

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid
64-25 Perry Avenue
Maspeth, NY 11378-2441

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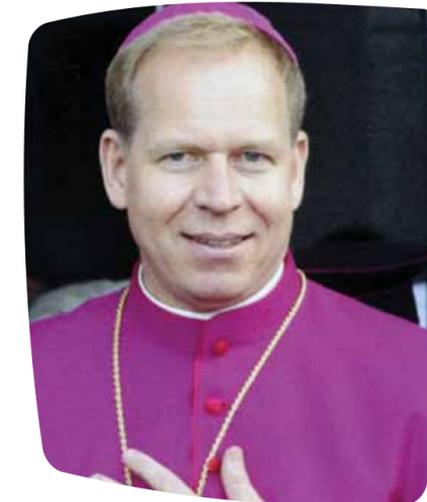
LCRA NEWS

Newsletter of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid
Winter 2010

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid

A NEW BISHOP FOR LITHUANIA

Msgr. Gintaras Grušas, a member of LCRA's Board of Directors, was consecrated Bishop on September 4, 2010 in the Cathedral of Vilnius, Lithuania. With the resignation of the current Ordinary, Bishop Eugenijus Bartulis, he was appointed Ordinary of the Lithuanian Armed Forces. The new bishop was born in Washington, DC, in a Lithuanian family and from childhood he joined various Lithuanian and Catholic groups and events. After finishing his studies in Rome he was invited to work in Lithuania where in addition to his many duties he also took on the duties of the general secretary of the Lithuanian Bishops Conference. LCRA applauds the new bishop and prays that the Holy Ghost, having endowed the new bishop with consecratory graces, will continue to watch over him, inspire him, and keep him healthy and strong as he begins to shepherd the sheep given into his care. May the word of God and the nobility of the work by the new bishop be an inspiration to the youth of Lithuania, the most important priority of LCRA.



H.E. Bishop Gintaras Grušas

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

2011 will mark the **Golden Anniversary of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Inc.** To honor this momentous occasion a special historical booklet will be published. Everyone is invited to read the booklet, designate a gift and join LCRA in a prayer of thanksgiving to Almighty God for blessings received during the 50-years of service to Lithuania, the Lithuanian Catholic Church and its people.



Signing of the documents of incorporation (l.to r.) Msgr. John Balkūnas, Bishop Vincentas Brizgys, Rev. Norbert Pakalnis and Msgr. Juozas Končius

INSPIRATIONAL ACTIVITIES

During the last 12 months, with financial help from LCRA, fantastic projects and activities were carried out by various groups and organizations.



Enjoying a dip in the Baltic Sea

St. Anthony's Day Care Center works with children (7-17 years) from Kretinga and the surrounding rural areas. Many from families receiving government support and with serious problems (physical or mental abuse, alcoholism, etc.). LCRA provided funds for the purchase of an automobile to transport the children, the renovation of a warehouse and qualified personnel so that the children can be taken care of in a dignified manner, conducive to learning about God and His love and compassion.

St. Joseph's Temporary Foster Home, run by the sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Marijampolė, has a program called "Šaltinėlis." It strives to teach the children productive ways to spend their time.

Through pilgrimages, excursions and lectures, the children start to participate in various cultural and religious programs, activities and events and learn to use their free time more wisely.



All dressed up for a carnival

Kybartai Youth Center has many religious, evangelical, patriotic and national programs. Due to the fact that the world milieu is not conducive to these ideals, the center strives to nurture and impress these values upon young minds.

Easter morning procession in the Kybartai Church



Holy Cross Residence in Vilnius (administered by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception) has initiated a program called "Children of the Old City" to minimize the impact of poor surroundings on children living in high-risk, asocial families. The program seeks to instill good habits, social, psychological and spiritual skills so the children can learn how to live with each other, socialize and become upstanding, moral community members.



Children on a day trip in Vilnius with their leader

The **Pilgrimage Center of John Paul II** in Šiluva seeks to help the faithful find the gifts of the Holy Ghost in their daily lives and use them to follow Christ and be witness to the Gospel in today's world. There is a desire to make sure that pilgrimages continue to be organized in Lithuania. The center is most grateful for the \$5,000.00 grant to help them pursue their goals.



A moment before departure on a pilgrimage



A Religion teachers seminar in Alytus

The Vilkaviškis Diocesan Catechetical Center organized retreats, excursions, seminars and conferences for religion teachers in public schools.

It is hoped that these events will inspire the teachers to become more involved in their work, give forth extra effort and excel in their jobs.

The **Convent of the Sisters of the Assumption** was given a special grant of \$15,000.00 for their project "Atmink" ("Remember"). The purpose of the project was to organize a 20-day expedition to Siberia to record the horrific history of deportees in Comia prisons and other notorious places. This terrible period should never be forgotten!



Holy Mass celebrated in a Vorkuta cemetery

BOOKS FOR LIBRARIES

Books for Libraries is a special project started in 2009 that has seen a large number of libraries receive good quality books from the "Catholic World Publications" publisher in Vilnius. In the West books are no longer sought after as much as they used to be, but in Lithuania the need for good books continues to exist. LCRA is happy to respond to this need by working with the Catholic publisher and the Lithuanian Catechetical Center to be able to provide a large numbers of books for various libraries. Over \$200,000.00 has been spent on this project so far and the project will continue in the future. A \$1,4000.00 grant was given to the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome upon their request to purchase books for their library. \$80,000.00 was given to the Lithuanian Catechetical Center so that quality books, teaching aids and other necessary inventory for the public school Catholic Religion departments could be purchased and the offices well equipped. This project is ongoing and donations to LCRA would be greatly appreciated.



Rokiskis public library proudly shows off recently delivered boxes of books.

"Ateitininkai" Federation's many divisions and chapters celebrated with much fanfare the 100th anniversary of the organization. The culmination of the celebration process was a special congress held in Vilnius with a summer camp in Berčiūnai to finalize the end of the celebration. There were also many other events: local summer camps, outings, contests, exhibits, TV and radio presentations. LCRA sends its heartiest congratulations to "Ateitininkija" on such a precious jubilee and is very proud to provide financial assistance to help the organization.



H. E. Bishop Jonas Boruta with some young people by the Lithuanian cross in Kęstaičiai (photo by Jurgita Paulauskaitė)

THE PRESS

LCRA continues to support worthy endeavors in various fields of communication. Financial support was given to the following: Internet newspaper www.bernardinai.lt — \$60,000; An Internet website that gathers all information about Catholic events www.tikiu.lt — \$5,000; XXI Amžius, a biweekly Christian outlook newspaper — \$30,000; a new newspaper "Katalikas" (The Catholic) — \$3,000; A weekly cultural newspaper "Žemaičių Saulutė" — \$3,000; Monthly newspaper "Lietuvių Godos" (distributed free of charge to Belarus Lithuanians) — \$20,000; Magazine of monthly readings from the New Testament "Magnificat papers" — \$4,000; Marian Helpers Center \$3,617, which published a book "Jis padovanojo man būtį" by rev. Kęstutis Trimakas, celebrating his 50th year as a priest; "Apyaušris", Publisher of Christian books — \$5,000, publish biography of rev. Česlovas Kavaliauskas. All of these important projects were helped financially because you cared enough to give. We hope that you will continue to do so in the future.



Andrius Navickas, editor-in-chief of Bernardinai.lt

20 YEAR JUBILEE

This year diocesan Catechetical centers celebrated the return of religious education to a soviet/atheistic public school system. Catechetical Centers are responsible for providing qualified Religion teachers and assisting in their growth. The Šiauliai Center celebrated by sponsoring a contest entitled "Go Into the World and Proclaim the Gospel". The Vilnius archdiocesan Center honored the best Religion teachers in the archdiocese. Telšiai center created a film about the first Religion teachers in the public school system in addition to many other events. The Kaunas, Panevėžys and Kaišiadorys centers celebrated with various events. All were financially assisted by LCRA.



Opening of exhibition "Akimirka" in Marijampolė



2010 LITHUANIAN YOUTH DAYS IN PANEVĖŽYS

Youth Days is one of the most important Catholic gatherings in the world. It is a time for young Catholic people to come together to celebrate their faith and feel the joy in being with others who are true followers of Christ. In Lithuania the youth days was first organized in 1997 as a pilgrimage from Our Lady of the Dawn Gate in Vilnius to the church in Trakai. The number of participants kept growing — this year over 7,000 celebrated their faith in Panevėžys. Hundreds of families opened their doors and took in guests for the night. 300 volunteers eagerly answered questions and nearly 100 priests went out to hear confessions! For this very special event LCRA granted the organizers \$63,000.00. Your donations made this event very special, so please keep on giving to LCRA.

