



LCRA

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid

LCRA NEWS

Newsletter of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid

the year of 2016

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Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid supports Catholic religious, educational and social outreach projects in Lithuania and its diaspora.

LCRA is continuing the initiative „Love one another“ John 13, 34-35

Dear Friends of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, as the Jubilee Year of Mercy draws to a close, I would like to share a word about our works, achievements, and expectations for the upcoming year.

Firstly, I would like to thank each and everyone you for making LCRA a part of your life. You are supporters of LCRA, follow its activities and help to shape the future of the organization. Thank you so much for your continued support! It has already been 55 years of successful existence for LCRA. It gives me great pleasure to share with you that LCRA granted \$843,135 to worthy projects in Lithuania and its diaspora!

Between the beginning of 2016 and November 1 of this year, LCRA received \$33,439 in donations. We are also grateful for the generous bequests of John J. Siaurusaitis (\$116,664), Thadius Navickas (\$10,680), Rev. Victor Skilandziunas (\$11,025), and Eufemija Steponis (\$28,571). May the Lord welcome all of LCRA's benefactors who have left this world. Their donations to the organization will bear fruit for many years to come.

At this year's annual members' meeting, two of LCRA new directors joined the ranks. We welcome Father Raimundas Bukauskas OFM, vicar and treasurer of St. Anthony Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunk, ME, and Tadas Gintautas Dabšys, active member of the Lithuanian community in Los Angeles, CA.

During this year's Song Festival in Baltimore we spread the news about LCRA's initiative "Love one another: John 13, v. 34-35. During our presentation we had a chance to present our projects, activities and achievements. LCRA organized a project Summer of Mercy as well as took initiative to be a part of the 50 year golden jubilee of The Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. LCRA in collaboration with New York Maironis Lithuanian language school took an initiative to share candy with Lithuanian orphaned children. "We love Lithuania and we want to share!" In total 75 pounds of candy were collected!

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LCRA's NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2016 – 2017) AND ADMINISTRATION: Rev. Gintaras Jonikas, Salvijus Kungys LCRA Administrator, Vita Matusaitis, Dr. Algirdas Lukoševičius LCRA Treasurer, Archbishop Gintaras Grušas II Vice-President ex-officio, Vida Jankauskas, Tadas Gintautas Dapsys, Josephina Senken LCRA Administrator's Assistant, Msgr. Edmond J. Putrimas LCRA Board of Directors Chairman ex-officio, Lithuanian Bishops' Conference Delegate for Lithuanian Catholics Abroad, Dr. Milda Palubinskas III Vice-President, Rev. John Puodžiūnas, OFM Finance Committee Chairperson, Jūratė Žukauskienė recording and corporate secretary, Rev. Raimundas Bukauskas OFM. (Missing, Bishop Paul A. Baltakis, OFM I Vice-President ex-officio, Rev. Vytautas Volertas, Monika Sabalis Nominating Committee Chairperson and Rev. Jonas Šileika OFM).

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2016 LCRA GRANT DISTRIBUTION

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We are getting ready for the upcoming year of 2017 and its biggest events. LCRA is looking forward to Lithuanian Youth Day 2017 "Truth will set you free!". Catholic summer camps will be held in many locations of Lithuania for children, young adults and families. LCRA keeps working on the Lithuanian Catechetical Center project, which provides religious textbooks for all Lithuanian schools. For full completion of this project \$124,282 is needed. Join us in remembering that we must "Love one another" John 13, 34-35, in this coming year of 2017.

Sincerely yours,
Salvijus Kungys, LCRA administrator



2016 grant distribution: fulfilling LCRA's mission
total of 843,135 US dollars



- Educational projects
- Religious projects
- Social outreach projects

LCRA AID

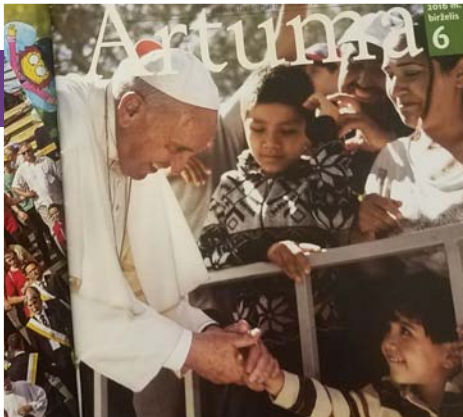
GRANTS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION, RETREATS AND MEETINGS

In 2016 LCRA granted \$204,200 for 125 Catholic educational projects, retreats and seminars. The Ministry to the Incarcerated of the Panevezys Diocese received a grant of \$1500 in support of their organized retreats in corrections institutes. LCRA is committed to compassion and a new beginning for the incarcerated. Showing LCRA's commitment to supporting youth, the Catholic organization "Ateitis" received a grant of \$3000 for training volunteer youth counselors to work in camps and at events. The Catholic Divorce Ministry "Bendrakeleiviai" received a grant of \$8000 for its work with families in crisis. LCRA feels it is essential to support families struggling with adversity. Your donations to LCRA touch many people and change lives. A heartfelt THANK YOU.

LCRA AID

SUPPORT FOR CATHOLIC MEDIA

In 2016 LCRA provided financial support to 23 media and 20 publishing projects. Due to the wide reach of these projects the grant total reached \$163,600. The internet news portal "Bernardinai.lt" continued to receive your support with a \$60,000 grant. The popular radio program „Mažoji studija“ received a \$8,000 grant. The Catholic children's magazine "Bitutė" received \$5,000. „Draugas“ Lithuanian World Wide News received a grant for \$6,000. "Lietuvių godos", which supports the Catholic Lithuanian community in Belarus received a grant for \$6,000.



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GRANTS TO SUMMER CAMPS



68 summer camps received total LCRA grants of \$149,535 in 2016. This summer 6,076 children enjoyed a happy and spiritually strengthening experience thanks to your support. Lithuanian Catholic Women's Association for Children and Youth Support Centre (Vilnius) received \$ 5,000 grant from LCRA to organize a summer camp for foster home children. Zapyškis St. John the Baptist Parish (Vilkaviskis diocese) got \$ 2,000 grant for 70 campers, for youth summer camp "Spread the love wherever you are" (Ref. Mother Teresa). 6,076 happy campers are grateful to our generous LCRA donors!

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SUPPORT FOR CATHOLIC EVENTS



In 2016 LCRA provided \$94,800 in financial support to 21 Catholic events. This summer 2,000 young people from Lithuania participated in World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. LCRA gave a grant of \$40,000 . "Two weeks in a foreign country for World Youth days gave me a new perspective on life. Time for prayer had the greatest impact. Prayer was deeper, more precious and more intimate than before . We felt such unity as we praised, thanked and glorified God. It's something you have to experience for yourself, such a powerful experience is hard to put into words. In Mercy Square we slept under the stars with thousands of brothers and sisters! An indescribable emotion of loving one's neighbor! Felt again the following day upon celebrating the Eucharist with a few million people with a single purpose. That was when I felt that differences of ethnicity and race melt away. What remains is humanity, mercy and love. I am so grateful for my experience at World Youth Days, which left me with a heart full of compassion, peace and joy. Thank you God, that You are with me." *Agne from Elektrenai (Lithuania)*

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AID TO CLERGY AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome, Italy received \$34,000 to support the priests and seminarians staying there during the course of their studies. LCRA also supported 36 Catholic university students with scholarships of \$500. Overall in 2016 LCRA gave \$78,500 for scholarships to catholic students.



LCRA also distributed \$92,500 through 40 grant requests for equipment. Vydmantai St. John the Baptist parish, which is a new parish in Telsiai diocese, received \$6,000 grant from LCRA to buy necessary furniture. The Lithuanian Conference of Bishops received \$60,000 for various projects.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017!

*Dear Friends
of Lithuanian
Catholic Religious Aid,*

*We wish you a very Merry Christmas
and many blessings in the New Year!*

“A CHILD IS BORN TO US! A SON IS GIVEN TO US!
AND HE WILL BE OUR RULER. HE WILL BE CALLED,
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD,
ETERNAL FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.”

ISAIAH 9,6.

LCRA CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

MSCR. EDMOND PUTRIMAS, LCRA BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF



For a full 2016 Financial report (2/1/2015- 1/31/2016) please contact the LCRA office. Please remember LCRA in your estate planning so that your important work supporting Catholic educational, religious and social outreach projects in Lithuania and its diaspora might continue. Please send us your email address to get more often information about LCRA projects and work. All donations are tax-exempt to the full extent of the law. **LCRA's Tax ID: 11-2326652**

Please support us with every purchase through Amazon Smile.
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-2326652>

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If you are a Federal Employee, please donate to LCRA through the „Combined Federal Campaign” program.
LCRA code: 10019



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