



LCRA

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid LCRA NEWS

Newsletter of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid

the year of 2017

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

In 2018 let's continue together the initiative „Love one another“ John 13, 34-35

As we approach the end of the 56th year of the LCRA activity, it is important that we all contribute to the implementation of the LCRA. The Lithuanian Catholic Religious Assistance supports Catholic education, religious and charitable activities in Lithuania and in exile. Thousands of people thank you for the wonderful works of love that you have been able to accomplish thanks to your support and self-sacrifice, as well as with the help of the LCRA. During this calendar year, through the beginning of November, your support to the LCRA was \$51,384 dollars. We sincerely thank you! This year, the LCRA generously supported Catholic projects in Lithuania and abroad with \$800,000 USD!

This year, the LCRA Board of Directors supplemented its ranks at the annual Meeting by electing Fr. Nerijus Šmerauskas, Pastor of the Martyrs Parish of Mississauga, Canada, and a teacher of religion at the Toronto Maironio Lithuanian School. Also, Dr. Algirdas Lukoševičius from Brooklyn, NY - a longtime member of the Board of Directors of the LCRA and treasurer, was elected for the second term of office. Congratulations! We wish you a productive work at LCRA.

This summer, a huge Catholic event for young people took place in Lithuania - the Lithuanian Youth Day 2017 "Truth will make you free". For this event, LCRA donated a generous \$50,000 grant. Another significant event for Lithuania and its faithful is the

proclamation of Archbishop Theophilus Matulionis as a blessed one. On June 25, 2017 Archbishop Theophilus Matulionis was declared the Blessed One in Cathedral Square in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. For the beatification ceremony, LCRA donated \$20,000.

The coming year in Lithuania will be special. For the restored state of Lithuania, February 16 will be the 100th year anniversary of independence. Recalling the history and the suffering of Lithuanians to regain independence, together with God's blessing, we will understand 2018 as a year for the love of God and appreciation of the actions of our dear ones. In the name of Lithuania!

Sincerely yours,
Salvijus Kungys,
LCRAid administrator

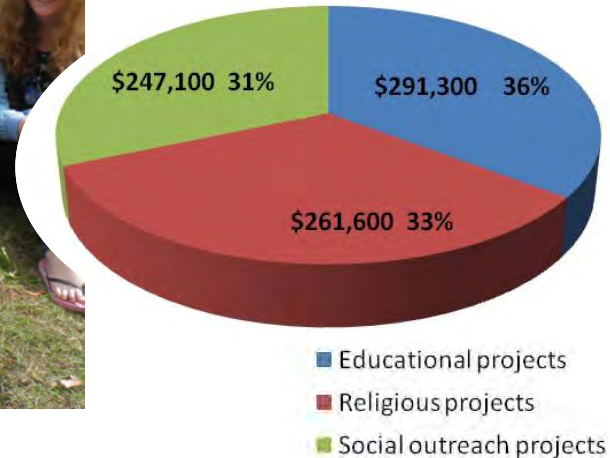


LCRA's NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2017 – 2018) AND ADMINISTRATION: Rev. John Puodžiūnas, OFM Finance Committee Chairperson, Rev. Vytautas Volertas, Vida Jankauskas, Tadas Gintautas Dapsys, Salvijus Kungys LCRA Administrator, Dr. Milda Palubinskas III Vice-President, Jūratė Žukauskienė Recording and corporate secretary, Archbishop Gintaras Grušas II Vice-President ex-officio, Rev. Raimundas Bukauskas OFM, Monika Sabalis Nominating Committee Chairperson, Rev. Gintaras Jonikas, Rev. Nerijus Šmerauskas, Josephina Senken LCRA Administrator's Assistant, Dr. Algirdas Lukoševičius LCRA Treasurer, Msgr. Edmond J. Putrimas LCRA Board of Directors Chairman ex-officio, Lithuanian Bishops' Conference Delegate for Lithuanian Catholics Abroad. (Missing, Bishop Paul A. Baltakis, OFM I Vice-President ex-officio and Vita Matusaitis).

2017 LCRA GRANT DISTRIBUTION



2017 grant distribution: fulfilling LCRA's mission total of 800,000 US dollars



LCRA AID

GRANTS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION, RETREATS AND MEETINGS

In 2017 LCRA granted \$257,000 for 118 various Catholic educational projects, retreats and seminars, as well as ongoing projects to foster activities for Catholic parishes and other Catholic organizations. Švč. M.Marijos Apsilankymo Parish in Trakai received \$2,500 in support of their 300th anniversary. The Archdiocesan Family Center in Kaunas received \$2,000 in support for a project - helping women who survived a crisis during pregnancy, abortion or childbirth. Your donations to LCRA touch many people and change lives. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all for your support. Please follow us and our projects on Facebook: Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid.

LCRA AID

SUPPORT FOR CATHOLIC MEDIA

In 2017 LCRA provided financial support to 22 media and 6 publishing projects. LCRA designated a grand total of \$111,500 to these wide-reaching projects. The internet news portal "Bernardinai.lt" continued to receive your support with a \$60,000 grant. The purpose of Bernardinai.lt- to search of truth, to try to get to know ourselves and the world we live in a little better, and to proclaim and testify Christian values through the use of modern means of communication to the public. The popular radio program „Mažoji studija“ received a \$5,000 grant. The Catholic children's magazine "Bitutė" received \$6,000. „Draugas“ Lithuanian World Wide News received a grant for \$8,000. "Lietuvių godos," which supports the Catholic Lithuanian community in Belarus, received a grant for \$4,000.



In the picture: Kostas Kajėnas Bernardinai.lt view operator, Andrius Nenėnas OFM Bernardinai.lt executive board member, Salvijus Kungys LCRAid administrator, Veronika Kimbrytė Bernardinai.lt director, Donatas Puslys Bernardinai.lt chief editor.

LCRA AID

GRANTS TO SUMMER CAMPS



LCRA supported 64 summer camps with a total of \$103,200 in grants in 2017. This summer 4,995 children enjoyed a happy and spiritually-strengthening experience thanks to your support. Šv. Kryžiaus Atradimo parish in Vilnius invited children to a summer camp titled, "Come all," in which 85 children participated and lasted the whole week. LCRA supported this camp with \$1,500 dollars. LCRA supported "Betzatos community" work camp for children with disabilities with \$2,000 dollars. All camp participants thank LCRA donors.

2017 LCRA GRANT DISTRIBUTION

LCRA AID

SUPPORT FOR CATHOLIC EVENTS

In 2017 LCRA provided \$120,400 in financial support to 43 Catholic events. Almost 5,000 Lithuanians participated this summer in Youth Days in Vilnius. LCRA designated \$50,000 dollars in support of Youth Days. The VIII Lithuanian youth days titled, "the truth will make you free," brought together young believers from all over Lithuania to Vilnius who together searched for truth, freedom, and answers to a variety of challenges. It was a joyous holiday for which we thank LCRA donors.



LCRA AID

AID TO CLERGY AND SCHOLARSHIPS

During 2017 LCRA appointed 50 scholarships for young Catholics. Scholarships range from \$500 up to \$1,000 U.S. dollars. A total of \$65,250 dollars were designated for scholarships in 2017. \$30,000 dollars were allocated to support Lithuanian Papal St. Casimir Priests College for student living expenses.



LCRA also distributed \$87,650 through 38 grant requests for equipment. St. Clara hospital in Utena purchased an industrial washing machine with funding from LCRA for \$3,000 dollars. Vydmantai St. John the Baptist parish in Telšiai diocese, which continues to be established, received support from LCRA of \$8,500 for liturgical articles. The Lithuanian Conference of Bishops received \$55,000 for various projects.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018!

Dear Friends of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and many blessings of Christ in the New Year!

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, “God is with us.” Mt 1:23. Let's proclaim this Good News with good works - Today, the Lord was born to us!

*LCRA Chairman of the Board Msgr. Edmond Putrimas,
LCRA Board members and Staff*



For a full 2017 Financial report (2/1/2016- 1/31/2017) 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>

Attention! It is a new way to donate – Corporate Matching Gifts. For more information go to www.LCRAid.org or www.givedirect.org

To donate by credit card or PayPal please go to www.LCRAid.org

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

If you would like to order LCRA 50th Anniversary book “A MOSAIC OF WORKS 1961-2011” or get LCRA's newsletter electronically, please send an email to info@lkrshalpa.org

*On June 22 Marytė Petrušytė - Grušienė went to the Heavenly Father.
She was buried June 28 in Verkiai Cemetery in Vilnius.*

On August 12th Pranas Andrius Grušas also went to the Heavenly Father. He was laid to rest in Verkiai Cemetery, next to his wife, Marytė.

In the loss of his parents, we express our sincere condolences to Archbishop Gintaras Grušas and his family and friends.

IN MEMORIAM



PLEASE DONATE TO LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID!