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 “Do 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 “Vilko Angelai” (Angels 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.

Kaisiadoris diocese CARITAS works in conjunction with a group to care for youngsters in Vilnius. Every summer they organize a camp and the participantas are very happy to be a part of this program.

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 best wishes to all for a blessed Christmas and a prosperous, peaceful New Year!

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 award outstanding students who were in financial straits. The department was awarded $10,000.00. The students remember benefactors in their prayers. Tadas Jurševičius writes: “Thank you very much...I’ll remember you in my prayers”. Veronika Rukšaitė writes: “...I will remember your generosity and try to help others. Thank you”. Indrė Zapolskaite: “God bless you all”.

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

In memorial — Rev. Zenonas Šmita, a long time LCRA-Director, died at the Maticas Nursing Home in Pulmėnai, LT on March 10. May he rest in peace!

LCRA’s Annual report for fiscal year 2010 (03/01/2009-03/31/2010) is available upon request at LCRA’s office — 44-26 Perry Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378-2441.

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

Please remember LCRA when making out your will, 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

The Vilnius diocese Catechetical Centers are responsible for providing qualified religious education to a soviet/atheistic public school system. This year diocesan Catechetical Centers celebrated the return of religious education to schools. Important projects were funded to continue this important work and to help the centers do so in the future.

**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 the project so far and the project will continue in the future. A $1,400.00 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.

**BOOKS FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY**

The Vilnius diocese Catechetical Centers are responsible for providing qualified religious education to a soviet/atheistic public school system. This year diocesan Catechetical Centers celebrated the return of religious education to schools. Important projects were funded to continue this important work and to help the centers do so in the future.

**THE PRESS**

LCRA continues to support worthy endeavors in various fields of communication. Financial support was given to the following: International Catholic magazine — $50,000; An Internet website that gathers all information about Catholic events www.liku.lt — $5,000; XXI Ambra, a townswy Christian newspaper — $30,000; a new newspaper “Kateliukas” (The Catholic) — $2,500; A weekly religious newspaper “Žemaičių Saikų” — $5,000; Monthly newspaper “Lietūvų Gėlės” (distributed free of charge to Belarus Lithuanians) — $20,000; Magazine of monthly readings from the New Testament “Magistratų paprasčiai” — $4,000; Marian Helpers Center “5,617, which published a book “Man, man būti!” by rev. Napolita Tirtahk, celebrating his 50th year as a priest; “Apyaušris”, Publisher of Christian books — $5,000, published biography of rev. Jonušas 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.

**2010 LITHUANIAN YOUTH DAYS IN PANEVĖZYS**

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 Damien Gate in Vilnius to the church in Telšiai. The number of participants kept growing — this year over 7,000 celebrated their faith in Panevėžys. Hours of talks opened their doors and took in quests for the night. 300 volunteers eagerly answered questions and more than 100 priests went out to hear confessions! For this very special event LCRA granted the organizers $65,000.00. Your donations make this work special, so please keep on giving to LCRA.