



Journeys

SISTERS OF ST. CASIMIR

Vol. XXIV No. 3
Fall 2010

Venerable Servant of God

Written by
Sr. Margaret Petcavage, SSC
Vice-Postulator for the
Cause of Maria Kaupas

The word alone — “**VENERABLE**” — resounds with a feeling of loftiness, goodness and respect, that which is benevolent and holy. On July 1, 2010 Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed Maria Kaupas, our foundress, as “Venerable Servant of God” — a title which encompasses the very life of Mother Maria. Since that day unspeakable joy and thanksgiving have pervaded the hearts of the Sisters, their families and friends.

A Commission of nine theologians and several Bishops agreed unanimously that Mother Maria merits the title of “Venerable.” Their agreement was based on the “Positio,” a 702 page book describing her life, her ministry and her fervent love for the Lord and God’s people, all through the eyes of 54 witnesses, as well as others who had known her.

One theologian wrote in his vote, “Of course, as is altogether clear in the Positio, the Servant of



*Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas
Foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir*

God was not above all a Lithuanian who happened to be Catholic. She was a Catholic who happened to be Lithuanian...; she was altogether ready to serve people in the Church of any ethnic derivation.” He went on to enumerate her heroic virtuous life as seen through the response of several witnesses. He

wrote, “Finally we have this explicit testimony from an eyewitness when she testified, ‘Mother Maria had an extraordinary spirit of faith. She saw God in everything.’” Another testified, “I dare to think and affirm that Mother Maria was a saintly person, chosen for a special mission.”

As for Mother Maria’s

virtue of hope, the theologian stated that Mother possessed this in a heroic degree as was supported by a witness, “I am convinced that Mother Maria was a saint. She did practice virtue in a heroic degree. She had many hardships and heartaches yet always lived in the hope that God would be ready to help in all situations.”

Mother’s humility and compassion was outstanding. As one Sister stated, “She never showed anger, although she firmly and resolutely called upon the Sisters to bring our way of living into perfect conformity with Divine Law and the Evangelical counsels. When speaking with her she was consoling and made one feel the virtues which are attached to a mother’s loved name... She always manifested her tender solicitude and a loving insight into the needs of others.” Others commented on Mother Maria’s very humanness, “...she made sure recreation was provided for the Sisters. She had a good sense of humor. She enjoyed practical jokes and reading the comics.”

(“Venerable” continued on page 3)

Homily given by Rev. Tom Kasputis
Mass for the Beatification of Mother Maria – August 7, 2010
Fr. Kasputis is Pastor of St. Rene Goupil Parish, Chicago, IL

- All of us here know already that as of July 1st, Mother Maria has arrived one step closer to her universally recognized status as Saint
 - + from now on, she will be known as Venerable Servant of God
 - + all that remains to do is to identify and verify a miracle so that she can be beatified
- now I am sure that those responsible for making this call on what qualifies for a true miracle have their own particular standards and guidelines
 - + but my Biblical understanding of what a miracle is has always been ‘a sign that God is actively present, in love, creating the reality that allows a person to be whole and holy’
 - + this kind of healing and creative love is oftentimes mediated through contact with someone who affirms by their own faith that that kind of Divine love is accessible to everyone, and that nothing is impossible or beyond its power
- so where can we find that desired miracle? Just look around you!
 - + the miracle of God’s love made real is not a rare occurrence
 - + look at the thousands of women who Mother Maria touched with her own faith, good humor, encouragement and guidance and formed as religious
 - + look to those students who have been provided the environment to learn and become the people God created them to be
 - + look at those who are sick and afraid and have been comforted and loved and accompanied on their way to healing or their journey back to God
 - + look to the poor who are treated with kindness and respect and assisted in their immediate needs
 - + look to the immigrants who are welcomed and never shunned
- the prophet tells us that what we look for ‘presses on to fulfillment and will not disappoint...it will not be late’
 - + look to the living miracle of God’s love reaching out through this community and see here and now the miracle we seek happening every day because of the faith and connection with the spirit of Mother Maria Kaupas - Venerable Servant of God - and let us be thankful



Dear Friends,

July 1, 2010 began like any other day. In a day in the life of a Sister of St. Casimir, that means that by 7:00 A.M. most Sisters will have gathered in Chapel for Morning Prayer, and the Eucharistic Liturgy celebration to be followed by breakfast and then off to address

the work of the day.

For me, personally, by 8:15 A.M. I was at an off-site Maria High School Executive Committee meeting when someone interrupted to say that there was an important call for a 'Sister'. That had to be me! On the line was Sister Margaret Zalot announcing that the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, had declared Mother Maria VENERABLE SERVANT OF GOD! This wonderful news was released in the Vatican Press. We have waited so long to hear these words! Going back to the meeting, with tears of joy that could not be contained, I shared the awesome news with the committee members.

Upon my return to the Motherhouse, the Sisters and employees had already received the news and jubilantly lifted up their voices in praise and gratitude to God. Tears of joy flowed freely throughout the day, as we began to fully grasp the meaning of this proclamation. Our foundress, Mother Maria, has been raised to the heights of holiness! For the Sisters who actually knew her, this was profound!

The outpouring messages of congratulations and sharing in our joy began to be received from all over. Newspaper headlines echoed the Vatican announcement: **'Pope recognizes heroic virtues of founder of Chicago-based order', 'Another step toward sainthood', 'Pope cites Mother Kaupas', 'Sisters honor their Venerable Mother Maria', 'Destination: Sainthood', 'Cause Advances for Sister Who Founded Community in Mount Carmel.'**

What is the reason, you may ask, that we honor these 'holy people', 'the saints' who have journeyed on this earth as we do today? We need their heavenly assistance and the example of their lives. They were not born 'holy', but by using the gifts God gave them, they accomplished great things. By their ordinary lives, lived in love and fidelity, they became extraordinary. We, too, can follow in their footsteps by living good and holy lives, making that small difference in this world in which we live and that is so in need of compassion, justice, and peace.

Mother Maria's life exemplifies her love of God through her prayerfulness, her great faith, and her deep trust in Divine Providence. She displayed heroic love of neighbor through her compassion, her great sense of mis-

sion and willingness to respond to the needs of her time.

We extend our special thanks to you for praying for this Cause and ask that you continue to pray for Mother Maria's beatification and eventual canonization. We also invite you to ask Mother Maria's intercession, in hope of miracles that can be attributed to her care.

May these holy words of Mother Maria offer us a roadmap for our own journey toward holiness: 'Always more, always better, always with love.' Let us rejoice and give praise to God for this awesome and profound gift of Mother Maria!

**Venerable Servant of God,
Mother Maria, pray for us!**

Sister M. Zymarska, F.S.C.
General Superior,
Sisters of St. Casimir

"Venerable" continued from page 1

The witnesses' words give but a brief glimpse into who Mother Maria truly was. It would take several volumes to further elaborate upon her deep faith, hope and love for the Lord and her compassion to all with whom she lived and met. A Sister's personal reflection on this venerable woman may best summarize her greatness.



... Charity found large room in her heart. It sealed her character with the stamp of true greatness. In her life, all was quiet — peace and delicate kindness. It was a pleasure to deal with her. One could always be so certain of full attention, a desire to understand, an ability to sympathize, a giving of self without stint. Those under her charge knew her to be a true MOTHER, with a heart full of love and deep interest. Acquaintances outside the convent knew her for a true friend. She forced herself on no one. She simply drew hearts by the warmth of the charity burning in her own. Her charity was all embracing yet detailed; above all there was no show of temper, the haste of impatience, or some indication of being played out. The secret of her loveliness of disposition and of her sweet power of peace was found centered in HIM, the GOD of her heart.

A Time for Rejoicing

August 15th dawned a beautiful day both outdoors and inside the Motherhouse where family and friends of our Golden Jubilarians gathered in a spirit of joy and celebration. Something very special and unusual about this year's Jubilarians, Sr. Joyce Ann Dopkin and Sr. Nilda Varanauskas, is that both are missioned in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Sr. Joyce Ann, born in the United States, has served in Argentina for over 40 years. Sr. Nilda, a native Argentine, has served there all her religious life in various capacities.

The Eucharistic Liturgy was celebrated by Rev. Anthony Pizzo, OSA. Father Pizzo is fluent in Spanish and has a great appreciation for the Sisters' ministry. He interspersed his homily and other parts of the liturgy using the Spanish language, delighting those present and reflecting the true character of the Sisters' lives and ministry in another culture. In addition to family and friends who traveled from various distances to celebrate this special milestone, the Sisters rejoiced in having three people who traveled from Argentina to be with them.

The Sisters of St. Casimir choir, together with the women who joined their voices to theirs, was directed by Sr. Theresa Papsis. Anna Belle O'Shea, a good friend of the congregation and alumna of Maria High School, played the flute and Mr. Thomas Tumino added to the musical selections with the sound of trumpet. All the music reflected the bilingual nature of the celebration. The choir and congregation even sang a verse of our beloved traditional



Sister Asunción Costantini and Argentine guests, Filomena Freire and Fabian Lopez, paid a surprise tribute to Sister Joyce Ann Dopkin at the Jubilee luncheon by singing hymns Sister Joyce Ann had composed.

hymn, "Come Thou Chosen of the Lord," in Spanish.

After communion, Srs. Joyce Ann and Nilda placed a candle on the Blessed Mother altar in remembrance of Sr. Rosemarie Tomasiewicz who was a member of their profession group and was called to her eternal home on July 3, 2000. They also placed a rose on the altar asking Mary "to present to God all the prayers, works, joys and sufferings that were woven into these years." Srs. Joyce Ann and Nilda then sang a hymn to Mary in Spanish, accompanied on the guitar by Sister Asunción Costantini, who ministers with them in Argentina.

Following the Mass, SSCs and guests were invited to a luncheon in the auditorium. A wonderful surprise awaited everyone as the Argentine guests entertained with songs and hymns from their country. They paid

tribute to Sr. Joyce Ann by singing some hymns that she had composed a number of years ago in both Spanish and English. At the end of their program, the singers announced that their last number would be something we could all join in singing. To everyone's astonishment, it was a traditional greeting song in Lithuanian, "Ilgiausiu Metu," that the Sisters had taught them in Argentina. How inspiring it is to see this kind of exchange and respect for each others' cultures!



(From middle left) Sister Joyce Ann Dopkin, Sister Asunción Costantini, and Sister Nilda Varanauskas who minister in Avellaneda, Buenos Aires, greet their Argentine guests (from left) Maria Alejandra Freire, Filomena Freire, and Fabian Lopez.

Our 2010 Jubilarians



(From left) Sister Nilda Varanauskas, Sister Joyce Ann Dopkin, and Sister Salvatore Ciuckyte are greeted by Sister Immacula Wendt, General Superior, on the occasion of their Jubilees. Sister Nilda and Sister Joyce Ann celebrated 50 years, and Sister Salvatore celebrated 60 years, of religious profession.

On August 16, 2010 the community joined Sr. Salvatore Ciuckyte in celebrating her Diamond Jubilee (60 years). This celebration reflected Sister's unique life story and her Lithuanian heritage. This time, "Come, Thou Chosen of the Lord," was sung in Lithuanian, as was a hymn to Mary. The cover of the liturgy booklet bore the beautiful image of "Our Lady, Gate of Dawn," one of the miraculous Marian shrines located in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The Eucharistic Liturgy was celebrated by Rev. Anthony Markus who highlighted some of Sr. Salvatore's life journey beginning with her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Casimir in Lithuania followed by her fleeing from her homeland as a result of the Soviet occupation. Father Markus praised Sr. Salvatore for her continued ministry and her com-

passionate response to the needs of the people whom she encounters. All the SSCs renewed their vows together with Sr. Salvatore, re-committing themselves to God in their life of community, prayer, and service.

The celebration continued with a banquet meal in honor of the Jubilarians. Sr. Immacula engaged the Sisters in looking back 50 and 60 years ago as to what the world was like, significant events, costs of things, and some trivia as well, and how, in the midst of that, three young women heard God's call and said "Yes!" Indeed, what has not changed for each of our Jubilarians as well as every Sister in the room is the love and commitment with which they began their life dedicated to God and to those whom God would place in their path, a love and commitment that has endured and deepened over the years.

Jubilarian Reflections

Sister Nilda Varanauskas Golden Jubilee – 50 Years

*I cannot thank God
and the community
enough for all . . .
they have given me.*



I was born in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. I got to know the Sisters of St. Casimir personally when I was 16. They had a summer camp in the mountains of Cordoba. I went there during two summers and what captured my attention was the beautiful spirit and the happiness that they exhibited. As time went on, I began thinking that I would like to be one of them and I asked to enter.

As soon as I received my teaching certificate, the community asked me to go to Chicago for my religious formation. There, I spent six months as a postulant and two years as a novice. Two months after first profession I returned to Avellaneda, Argentina and began to work in the parish school, Mother of Mercy. I ministered there for two years as a teacher and thirty-six years as principal of the school.

During that time I studied Religious Education, and also received a BS degree in math, physics and chemistry. I returned to Chicago to prepare for and make perpetual vows. Back again in Argentina I studied Religious Education for Adolescents and formed a youth group in the parish. As time went on, I saw the need for studying psychology to better deal with the teachers, parents and students. I applied to the Jesuit University for studies in labor, educational and clinical psychology. I worked part time for seven years in a Public Neuropsychological Hospital and also used what I had learned in my ministry, in private practice, and as formation director.

My life during these fifty years as a Sister of St. Casimir has been the best choice that I could make for myself. I cannot thank God and the community enough for all the support, patience, and loving care they have given me that have enabled me to serve others. As I look back over these fifty years of my religious profession, I feel that time has gone so fast. I always want-

ed to have a "special one and only love" for my entire life and I feel that Jesus looked at me and said, "I care for you. Be mine always." The graces He has given me through the Sisters of St. Casimir helped me to mature in His love and to fulfill this, my deepest desire.

Since the time our Community began the process of deepening our knowledge of Mother Maria Kaupas, I began to know more of her love, sacrifice, self-giving and spirit of prayer. I hope and pray that she will always be at my side, guiding me, blessing our Community, our families, and our associates, and sending new vocations to our Community.

Sister Salvatore Ciuckyte Diamond Jubilee – 60 Years



*I trusted God
and remained
faithful to
His voice.*

With a joyful and grateful voice I can exclaim, "God, how great Thou art!" So, on my Diamond Jubilee, I would like to express my deep gratitude to God, my religious community, my family and friends, for all that you are and have been as I journeyed the past sixty years as a Sister of Saint Casimir.

God certainly works in mysterious ways. I was born in Strazdziai, Lithuania, the seventh of nine children. My call to be a religious came at an early age and was answered by entering the Sisters of St. Casimir in Pazaislis.

Suddenly I was caught in a whirling of war which brought much fear, avoiding bombs, digging ditches, dodging bullets, and fleeing to Germany while a postulant. When the war ended, there was no hope of returning to my homeland and a request was made to join the Sisters of St. Casimir in America. Thus, life in Germany ended in August 1947 and tears of joy filled my eyes when the Statue of Liberty became visible as we approached the shore. It took seven long years before I so gratefully and joyfully made my profession as a Sister of St. Casimir in Chicago.

From early youth, I trusted God and remained faithful to His voice. Everything is possible with God's help and He will always be there for us, surrounding us with His love.

Jubilarian Reflections

Sister Joyce Ann Dopkin Golden Jubilee – 50 Years



Jubilee: a time for rejoicing, thanking, re-setting, and going forward. You know it is coming. You are preparing for it; and then somehow it is intensely there and the joy and love of the Sisters, family and friends who share this moment is stamped upon your heart. You know it is all the Grace of God.

Fifty years of Grace.

I think back on how my family was always a special source of strength for me. Their faith, their example and their love gave me new fuel for the journey each time I visited with them. That is why I was so happy to have them at “my house” to celebrate this joyful moment with me.

I think back to the Sisters who taught me in my early childhood, those who let me help them and made me feel that I had something to give.

I think back to those who walked with me in my time of discernment, those who guided my first steps in religious life and in the apostolate both in the U.S. and in Argentina.

I think back to the generous love of the Sisters who helped us prepare for our jubilee celebrations. They spared nothing to make it a memorable day; preparing the liturgy, the banquet, the accommodations for the visitors and joyfully giving of their time and themselves.

And as I look to the future I can only say: God bless them all and help me to “measure up” to so much Grace received.

*Whenever we
think of you
we thank our God—
and when we pray for you
we always pray with joy.*

I think back to the beginning when on the eve of first vows, this poem took shape in my head and heart:

I kneel before the King of Kings
Who soon I am to wed
And though I wait quite anxiously
These thoughts pass through my head.

Can I be all He'd have me be?
Do all He'd have me do?
Can I consider each command
As what He'd have me do?

And poverty will be my lot.
Can one as weak as I
Presume the strength to free my heart?
Or even dare to try?

And can I keep my heart for Him?
To be His special place?
And work each day to raise for Him
A spiritual race?

Alas, alas my heart cries out
Take all, take all I'm Thine!
And suddenly there is no doubt.
His hand is clasp mine.

*And now, as I celebrate
my Golden Jubilee, I add...*

Now Fifty Years have flittered by
Yes, Fifty Years of Grace
And with a grateful heart I say:
“This surely is my place!”

— Sr. Joyce Ann Dopkin

Celebrating 103 Years of the SSC Founding

On August 28, 2010 the Sisters of St. Casimir were joined by about 200 people to celebrate the 103rd anniversary of their founding. The day was made all the more significant and meaningful because of the recent proclamation of Pope Benedict XVI that their foundress, Mother Maria Kaupas, was now to be known as Venerable Servant of God.



A number of people who had never attended the monthly Masses at the Motherhouse praying for the beatification of Mother Maria had read about her in the paper and decided to come. Needless to say, the Sisters were pleased to see the circle of friends ever widening and the life and spirit of Mother Maria becoming an inspiration in others' lives.

The Sisters were honored to have as celebrants of this Eucharistic Liturgy Most Reverend John R. Manz, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, and Most Reverend Ruben Frassia, Bishop of Avellaneda-Lanus, Argentina, the diocese in which our Sisters live and work. Both Bishops are good friends of the congregation and very supportive of their ministry.

Before the Mass ended, Bishop Frassia greeted those assembled with this simple, but profound message:

*This is the history of salvation.
 God created us. God redeemed us.
 God sanctified us.
 He called us to live in Him
 and to fulfill a mission.
 He is alive. He is near us.
 He walks with us.
 We must have confidence in Him.
 We must have hope.
 We must not have fear, and we must
 "love always," "always better," —
 Do all with love,
 as Mother Maria said.
 May the Virgin, Our Lady of the
 Assumption, give you the joy of doing
 always "what Jesus tells us."
 That is always what is best.
 Amen.*



After the liturgy, everyone was invited to a festival in the auditorium where they enjoyed coffee and homemade bread, Mexican food, hot dogs, and the ever popular Lithuanian "kugelis." Breads, bacon buns, and homemade bakery goods were on sale and a variety of booths were available for buying articles or taking chances to win a prize. The grand raffle winners were selected.

The Sisters are grateful for all who support them and who often express how their lives have been touched by their contact with our community. May God be praised!

Thank You!

The Sisters of St. Casimir extend their gratitude to you, their friends and benefactors, for your support and generosity of heart in our 2010 Founders' Day celebration. It was a successful event because of your participation in many ways — your presence, monetary gifts, and love for our community over many years.

We are happy to share with you the results of the day:

*Income: \$26,533.28
 Expenses: \$3,671.95
 Profit: \$22,861.33*

A special thank you to the Founders' Day Committee who planned the event: Sr. Grace Ann Kalafut, Chair, and Sisters Dolorine Lopez, Genevieve Kripas, Rita Marie Kerdock, Lawrence Puishys, Mary Louise Andrulonis, Theresa Dabulis, and Lucille Ann Bandyk.

2010 FOUNDERS DAY GRAND RAFFLE WINNERS

Grand Prize - \$1,000: Jo Ann Davis, Chicago, IL; 2nd Prize - \$500: Mary Anna Gercius, Palos Hills, IL;
 3rd Prize - \$500: Alcantara Family, Burr Ridge, IL; 4th Prize - \$500: Nancy M. Shotas, Chicago, IL;
 5th Prize - \$250: Mrs. Betty J. Schaefer, Midlothian, IL; 6th Prize - \$250: Chester Krupski, Willowbrook, IL

SSCs and IHMs — A Covenant Relationship

July 22-25, 2010 the leadership team of the Sisters of St. Casimir (Sisters Immacula Wendt, Regina Marie Dubickas, Margaret Zalot, and Theresa Dabulis) and Sisters Mary Louise Andrulonis, Margaret Petcavage, Maureen Juozapavicius, Grace Ann Kalafut, Dolorine Lopez, Lorraine Siminas, and Nancy Streitmatter traveled to Scranton, PA to take part in the assembly of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The IHM Sisters have always been a treasured part of the founding story of our Congregation as they are the community, under the leadership of Mother Cyril, IHM who welcomed Mother Maria and her first companions and provided the religious formation, guidance and support well beyond our founding years.

TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY



The relationship between Mother Maria and Mother Cyril, IHM lasted throughout all of Mother Maria's lifetime and continued in various ways between the two congregations. In recent years this relationship has been renewed and deepened in a new way through a covenant relationship. This is not a merger as some congregations have entered into with one another but a commitment in which each congregation retains its own unique identity and autonomy while intentionally seeking ways to journey together, to enhance each other's capacity to achieve their mission and fulfill their founders' vision well into the future.



In March 2010, the IHM leadership team participated in the SSC Community Days and the celebration of the Feast of St. Casimir. They presented who the IHMs are today, their mission and spirit and their vision for the future. In July, the SSC leadership team was asked to make a similar presentation to the IHM Sisters at their Assembly Days.



Sisters of St. Casimir bless the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as they participate in the IHM Assembly Days. Shown from left: Sisters Dolorine Lopez, Margaret Petcavage, Nancy Streitmatter, Margaret Zalot, Lorraine Therese Siminas, Theresa Dabulis, Regina Marie Dubickas, Immacula Wendt, and Grace Ann Kalafut.

SALT OF THE EARTH, A DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP

After the presentation, all the Sisters participated in a very meaningful ritual of the IHM/SSC Covenant. The readings focused on the symbolism of salt.

“You are the salt of the earth.” (Mt 5, 13)

“It is not might that will finally save us. It is power like salt, giving ourselves over to the flavor of the Holy.” (Jan Richardson)

There was also a reference to a Lithuanian wedding tradition in which the bride and groom are met at the reception with bread and wine and salt, reminders that work, tears, and joy are part of every life. Salt symbolizes tears but also has its preservative quality; life has its struggles, but we must be faithful.

The leaders of both religious congregations sprinkled some salt into two decorative boxes, one for each congregation to keep as a reminder of our deepening relationship.



Sister M. Immacula Wendt, SSC (left), General Superior, Sisters of St. Casimir, and Sister Therese O'Rourke, IHM, President, Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, sprinkle salt into two keepsake boxes to symbolize the deepening relationship between their communities.

Sisters of St. Casimir in Lithuania

Reflection on the celebration

by Sr. Theresa Dabulis, SSC

The year 2010 marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of St. Casimir in Lithuania. The Congregation was founded on November 18, 1920 in Pazaislis, Lithuania. In preparation for this commemoration, the Sisters planned two events on July 5, 2010 — first, the Liturgy of the Eucharist in Ramygala, where Mother Maria Kaupas was baptized and worshipped, and second, the blessing of a monument on the Kaupas homestead in Gudeliai.

SSCs OF CHICAGO JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Sr. Salvatore Ciuckyte and I traveled from Chicago to Lithuania to be a part of the celebratory activities. What joy it was to take part in the celebration with the Sisters! It was fitting for Sister Salvatore, a Sister of St. Casimir of Chicago who began her religious life with the Sisters of St. Casimir in Lithuania, to be present for this occasion. She was forced to flee Lithuania during World War II and eventually joined the Sisters of St. Casimir in the United States.

July 5, 2010 was a beautiful sunny day and there was excitement in the air as the Sisters of St. Casimir at the monastery in Pazaislis readied themselves for the celebration at Ramygala and Gudeliai to honor their foundress, Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas. Sisters were coming in from their missions to take part in this event as a community. They made sure we had the flowers, holy cards of Mother Maria and refreshments on the bus before we began our journey to Ramygala, our destination.

As we left Pazaislis, the Sisters prayed for a safe journey and asked for God's blessings on this day and all those who would be with us for the celebration. We sang, reminisced, and enjoyed each other's company. I happened to be sitting next to Sister Jurge, one of the first Sisters of St. Casimir of Lithuania whom I met on my initial visit to Lithuania in 2003, so there was much to share.



A beautiful liturgy was prepared at St. John the Baptist Church in Ramygala, where the Kaupas family worshipped.

RAMYGALA — MASS AND CEMETERY VISIT

When we reached Ramygala we stopped to pray and pay our respect at the gravesite of the Kaupas family. Sisters Vitalija and Beata placed a bouquet of flowers at the grave as we sang "Viespaties Angelas" (The Angelus), an old Lithuanian tradition. As we walked in the cemetery, one could sense the sacredness of the place, and could not help but marvel at the beauty and care with which the Lithuanian people remember their deceased loved ones.

We arrived earlier than expected at the church of St. John the Baptist which gave us an opportunity to walk around the grounds and prepare for Mass. The Sisters



Sr. Vitalija, places a bouquet of flowers at the Kaupas family gravesite.

were happy to see that the church was filled to capacity with family, friends, and parishioners. There was a picture of Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas placed at the side of the altar. Sisters Lidija and Sylvia had prepared a beautiful liturgy. The General Intercessions included prayers and a slideshow of the Kaupas family, Father Milukas, Father Staniukynas, Mother Cyril, IHM, Sisters of St. Casimir in the United States, and Sisters of St. Casimir who were nieces of Mother Maria and were born in Ramygala. We also prayed for vocations. Throughout the Mass, one slide remained near Mother Maria's picture highlighting her words: "Always more, always better, always with love." Sister

Salvatore and I were honored to be in the offertory procession.

After Mass, before we boarded the bus to Gudeliai. I thought of Mother Maria and how special this parish was to her family. Her parents loved God dearly and passed on that deep faith to their daughter. She in turn passed it on

Celebrate 90th Anniversary of Founding



Sr. Theresa Dabulis stands beside Sr. Salvatore Ciuckyte as she renders an inspiring tribute during the blessing and dedication of the monument marking Mother Maria's birthplace.

to her Sisters and they in turn are passing it on to all those whom they encounter.

GUDELIAI — MOTHER MARIA'S BIRTHPLACE

After a short time, we arrived at the village of Gudeliai, the homestead of Mother Maria for the blessing of the monument. The inscription on the monument reads, "Here was born Mother Maria Kaupas Foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir." Everyone gathered near the monument. It was a sacred moment indeed when Father Edmundas Rinkevicius, the pastor at St. John the Baptist Church, prayed and blessed the monument.

Sister Salvatore gave an inspiring tribute to the Sisters which began with these words, "In the name of the Sisters of St. Casimir in America, Sister Theresa Dabulis and I would like to express our warm greetings and prayers that God would bless and protect the Sisters of St. Casimir in Lithuania and the beloved birthplace of our Venerable Mother Maria Kaupas."

Sister Lidija, the General Superior of the Sisters of St. Casimir in Lithuania, expressed her deep gratitude to the pastor, Father Rinkevicius, and all those involved in making this event possible, and invited everyone to the parish hall for refreshments and entertainment. The blessing of

the monument concluded with everyone singing "Lietuva Brangi" ("My dear Lithuania"). To this day I cannot hear this song without shedding a tear.

HEARTFELT MEMORIES

You had to be there to sense the love Lithuanians have for their homeland. Tears filled my eyes as I felt connected in the depths of my being to these people since Lithuania is the birthplace of my mother and the country where my father grew up. At that moment I felt as if it was my homeland as well. Before leaving, everyone was given a leaflet of Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas and was invited to place a flower near the monument.

At the reception in the parish hall, Sister Martyna, Lithuanian SSC, entertained the guests with a humorous impersonation of a spinster talking about all the events that had occurred: the special liturgy honoring Mother Maria Kaupas, the blessing of the monument, the Sisters from Pazaislis and America, all the visitors, and the special "Goat Parade" at the town festival. Outside the parish hall, the musicians from the Ramygala Cultural Center added a joyful note to the day.

It seemed as if the whole town of Ramygala was celebrating and enjoying the day. Families were coming with their children to see the special "Goat Parade". I think Mother Maria would have been right there petting the goats with the children for she was truly a human, wholesome, and holy person.



A young child is introduced to Mother Maria.



Fr. Edmundas Reinkevicius, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Ramygala, Lithuania, blesses the monument marking Mother Maria's birthplace.

Missioning —

"We ask you to continue the legacy of Mother Maria"

The end of summer marks the beginning of a new ministry year. Each Sister of St. Casimir received her "mission" for the coming year in a special service in the Motherhouse chapel on August 21st. On September 3rd, Sister Immacula Wendt, General Superior, missioned the faculty and staff of Maria High School to carry on their special educational mission at Maria High School with a blessing from the Sisters of St. Casimir who were present. Similarly, the leadership of Holy Cross Hospital was missioned during September 14th celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and the faculty and staff of Villa Joseph Marie were missioned at an all school liturgy on September 17th. Motherhouse staff will be missioned at the beginning of 2011 as will the Sisters missioned in Argentina who begin their new apostolic year in March.



Sr. Lourdine Ramoska receives her "mission" for the coming year from Sr. Immacula Wendt, General Superior, assisted by Sr. Theresa Dabulis, Council Member



Maria High School opening liturgy and missioning.



Sr. Regina Dubickas at Maria High School

After the all school liturgy and missioning at Villa Joseph Marie and Maria High School, the Sisters presented each student with a pamphlet which included prayers and background information about Mother Maria, who had recently been declared Venerable Servant of God.



Sr. Margaret Zalot at Villa Joseph Marie



Holy Cross Hospital Leadership



Sr. Immacula and Villa Joseph Marie faculty and staff.

Sisters of St. Casimir U.S. Associates Renew Their Commitment



They are all different people, each one an individual. They are married, single and widowed. They are professionals, retirees, parents and grandparents. They reside in Chicago, Chicago suburbs, New Mexico, Iowa, Minnesota and Texas. But they have all found a spiritual center in their association with the Sisters of St. Casimir. As Anna Zurlo expressed it, "I felt the welcome, the call, the minute I walked through the door."

The Sisters of St. Casimir Associates is a joining together of men and women, whose lives have been touched by the Sisters, and who wish to share in the Sisters' spiritual mission. Many have been educated by the Sisters and all have been inspired by them as they pursue their various ministries in the spirit of Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas. Cecilia Hirtzel's association with the sisters is typical of many Associates. "I worked with the Sisters

in my parish, and through them I came to know about Mother Maria. As time went on, I found I wanted to understand more about her life and work. Through my association I have found a place of calm in my life." Mary Anna Gercius feels that she has been "associated" with the Sisters since her birth at Holy Cross Hospital. A person active in many church and community affairs, she still felt the need to deepen her connection to the sisters.

For the eighteen active, five deceased, and three candidate Associates, affiliation with the Sisters is more

than joining an organization. Many Associates are also members of the SSC Auxiliary and other very worthwhile and essential organizations. As members of the Associate program, they choose to journey even more closely with the Sisters as they live out Mother Maria's mission. Association with the Sisters supports them in meeting the challenges of their everyday lives with spirit and grace. Associate Director Sr. Marilyn Karpovich applauds the openness of the Associates, and feels that in helping others with their spiritual growth, she has deepened her own.

Association means many things. For Therese Jones

and Mary Ann Pater, it is an opportunity to add a deeper dimension to their lives, a challenge to self. For New Mexico resident Grinny Walton, and Iowa resident Karen Naumes it is the unconditional love shown by individual Sisters like Sr. Delphine, Sr. Jean, Sr. Johanna Marie and the community at large. But perhaps the best reason for association was expressed

by Antoinette Paciora when she said that in her association with the Sisters she sees the Providence of God. On September 26th, the Associates stood before the Sisters of St. Casimir to commit or renew their commitment. Despite their different life-styles, politics and experiences, the Associates remain one in their faith in God's Providence. And they continue to seek others who are interested in journeying with them.

— Susan Binkis, SSC Associate

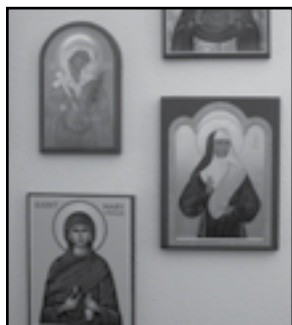


Sisters of St. Casimir Associates pause in the SSC Motherhouse Chapel after the commitment ceremony held on September 26th. From left, 1st row: Anna Zurlo, Maria Sandoval, Antoinette Paciora, Andrea Gayton, Susan Binkis, Mary Anna Gercius, Cecilia Hirtzel, and Loretta Ezerski. Back row: Sr. Marilyn Karpovich, Associate Director, Mary Ann Pater, Grinny Walton, Irene Salgado, Ginger Madden, Karen Naumes, Therese Jones, Mary Ann Duszcz, Paul Binkis, and Sr. Immacula Wendt, General Superior.

Along the Way

Women of the Church

A remarkable display of 188 icons of distinguished women can be found in the state-of-the-art library at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. Library director, Fr. Don Joyce, OMI, envisioned a way to preserve and honor the women in our church—



An icon of Mother Maria (right) is displayed among icons of other holy women in the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas.

yesterday, today and tomorrow. Along the library stairway are displayed icons of holy women which were donated by the employees, priests, and visitors. Sister Margaret Petcavage, who ministers at the Oblate School, asked Father Don if he would accept an icon of Venerable Maria Kaupas, to which he readily agreed.

The display begins with a most beautiful oil painting of Mary, entitled “Mother of All the Living.” Knowing that Father Don was also going to focus on icons of Our Lady, Sister Margaret asked Father Tony Markus in Chicago if he had any of a Lithuanian Madonna. Father Tony donated a lovely picture of “Ausros Vartai” – in English “Gate of Dawn” – which is presently located in a small chapel over the city gates in Vilnius, Lithuania. Father Don loved this picture and placed it prominently near the listing of donors.



Sr. Priscilla Torres, OP, student, assists as Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, OST President reads the prayer blessing the icons. The picture of a Lithuanian Madonna, “Gate of Dawn”, can be seen in the background.

MHS Dean Finds Mother Maria’s Spirit Alive in Argentina



Sr. Joyce Ann Dopkin, Faith L. Walls, Sr. Nilda Varanauskas and Sr. Asunción Costantini reunite and reminisce at the Jubilee Celebration.

In June, Ms. Faith L. Walls, Dean of Students at Maria High School, fulfilled a dream by living, praying and working with the Sisters of St. Casimir in Argentina for three weeks this summer. Her intention was to practice Spanish, but she soon realized that her experience was to be a spiritual and personally fulfilling journey as well. A key element to this was learning more about Mother Maria Kaupas through the lives and ministries of the Argentine SSCs. Faith reflects, “I am moved by the life of Mother Maria ... she is a role model for me... When I greeted the Sisters from Argentina before their Jubilee celebration began, it was as if I had seen them the day before. Going to Argentina two months prior had given me an even better idea how the mission of Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas is still alive and well. The Sisters must have been overwhelmed with an indescribable amount of joy to be celebrating their 50th year as Sisters of St. Casimir. I’m so happy to have been able to introduce my family to them and share in their celebration.”

*"Always more,
always better,
always with love."*

— Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas

Along the Way

New SSC Website Launched

July 1, 2010 marked the day the new SSC website went "live." It was fitting that the site would get "hits" from all across the world that day as news about Mother Maria came across the Vatican wires and people were eager to learn more about the now Venerable Servant of God Maria Kaupas. The Sisters at the Motherhouse had live demonstrations on the new website and were encouraged to check out the new site and encourage their friends and relatives to do the same.



Sister Paulissa Puisis is guided through the new website with the assistance of Sister Margaret Zalot, SSC Technology Coordinator, and Paula Schultz, Webmaster.

St. Joan of Arc Presents 15th Annual SSC Award

On June 3, 2010 St. Joan of Arc School in Aberdeen, Maryland presented its 15th Annual Sisters of St. Casimir Award to two eighth grade graduating students who were honored as co-recipients of this year's award.

The Sisters of St. Casimir ministered in St. Joan of Arc School for over 40 years, from its earliest beginnings in 1954 through 1997. In 1996 Sister Ann Therese, serving as the last SSC principal of the school from 1984 - 1997, instituted the Sisters of St. Casimir Award. It was



Sr. Ann Therese Radziunas, former Principal, is still remembered fondly at St. Joan of Arc School in Aberdeen, Maryland.

her desire to present this award each year to a graduating eighth grader who exemplified those qualities exhibited by St. Casimir during his lifetime and depicted in his emblem: the Lily representing love, the Crown representing Faith and Fidelity, and the Sword representing courage.

The Award, which is presented each year at graduation ceremonies, is based on the student's spirituality, community service and attitude.

SSC Employee Publishes Gift for the Bereaved

The Sisters of St. Casimir are happy to announce that Paula Staisiunas Schultz, SSC Communications Project Manager, has published a collection of daily quotations specifically selected for those in the depths of grief. The format is such that it can begin any time to bring hope, comfort and companionship every day of the year. Its unique design offers space each day for jotting down thoughts and feelings that can be revisited again and again.

As a lifetime collector of inspirational sayings, Paula naturally turned to this wisdom as part of her personal healing journey after the sudden death in 1999 of her newlywed daughter, Melissa, and son-in-law, Jeff. Her reflections on loss and healing have appeared in various bereavement publications. She and her husband have ministered as grief support facilitators and presenters in the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Sr. Jean Girzaitis (left) and Sr. Delphine Grigas congratulate Paula Schultz, SSC Communications Project Manager, upon the publication of "Words for the Journey". Sr. Delphine, a former pastoral minister and who herself has published a book of quotations, was especially interested in the project.

The perpetual calendar, *Words for the Journey: Daily Reflections for Those Who Grieve*, is published by Ministry of the Arts, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and can be ordered by calling (800) 354-3504 or by visiting their website: www.MinistryOfTheArts.org.

Along the Way

SSC Employee Picnic — Fun for Everyone!

The SSC employees indoor/outdoor "pot luck" picnic was held October 9, 2010 on the Motherhouse grounds. The Sisters donated the hot dogs and hamburgers and the

employees took care of the rest. The day was warm and sunny – great weather for the hayrides provided by John Delaney, Chief Engineer. From face painting to polkas, the day was filled with fun and good cheer. Thank you to everyone who participated, and who contributed to this wonderful day!



At Journey's End — *Eternal Days Beginning*

Sister Madeleine Bunevicius, SSC November 30, 1928 – July 6, 2010

Sister Madeleine was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, to Joseph and Ann Bunevicius who were blessed with eleven children. She attended St. Joseph Elementary School, Scranton, where she was taught by the Sisters of St. Casimir. Sr. Madeleine often identified herself as a "coal cracker's daughter" who with her brothers and sisters learned the basics of the Catholic faith at home.



After attending Villa Joseph Marie High School in Holland, Pennsylvania, Sr. Madeleine entered the Sisters of St. Casimir Congregation in June, 1945. She pronounced her religious vows on August 15, 1948.

During the first 20 years of her teaching career, Sister Madeleine taught first grade in schools conducted by the SSCs in Illinois, Ohio, Florida, and Pennsylvania. She attended workshops, read profusely about art, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Marywood College, Scranton, Pennsylvania, and later, a Masters Degree in Art from Notre Dame University.

In 1968 Sister Madeleine was assigned as art teacher and chair of the Art Department of Villa Joseph Marie High School, Holland, Pennsylvania. During her 40 years in the art department, her students undertook impressive art projects decorating walls, windows and chapel doors.

Her greatest personal undertaking was restoring Maria Hall, the mansion on the Villa Joseph Marie campus that served as a boarding school and convent when the Villa first opened in the 1930s. The Maria Hall restoration reflects the talent and beautiful artistry of Sister Madeleine's creativity. It is now used by the school as an elegant gathering place for various functions.

Sister Madeleine served on the Executive Board of Bucks County Educators Association for a number of years. She was a volunteer in Northampton Township's Park and Recreation Programs and dedicated a part of a summer as a counselor at Beacon Lodge Camp for the Blind in Lewistown, serving as a lifeguard at the camp. Every Saturday Sister brought money she had collected during the week to a shelter in Philadelphia, and weekly prepared sandwiches for the poor.

Sister Madeleine retired from teaching in 2006 and in 2008 came to live in the Motherhouse infirmary. On July 6, 2010, she was called to her eternal home to meet the God whom she had faithfully served for 62 years.

Sister Mildred Penkunas, SSC October 30, 1908 – July 8, 2010

Sister Mildred was born in Minersville, Pennsylvania to Adam and Anna Penkunas. Soon after her birth, Father Staniukynas was visiting the parish while soliciting funds for the Sisters of St. Casimir and heard the good news of her birth. He said to her father, "We hope that your baby daughter may someday become a Sister of St. Casimir." In later years, Sister Mildred felt that Father Staniukynas had influenced her vocation.



At the age of 14, she began to think seriously about becoming a Sister of Saint Casimir. Since she lived on the same street as Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, her mother, who was a very spiritual woman and a great influence in her life, encouraged her to attend daily Mass. She would remind her daughter to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

The pastor, Monsignor J. Karalius, encouraged Sr. Mildred in her decision. With her parents' blessing she entered the Sisters of St. Casimir and in 1928 joyfully pronounced her religious vows.

During her eighty-two years of dedicated service as a religious, Sister Mildred served in various capacities. Her teaching career of fifty-five years began and ended with the "little ones" in the primary grades. Her heart was filled with thanksgiving to God for being able to lay a strong foundation of good study habits in the pupils she taught. Sister served in elementary schools conducted by the SSCs in Chicago, Baltimore, Rhode Island, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

When Sister Mildred retired from teaching in 1983, she became an active retiree easing into the role of payroll clerk at St. Joseph Home for the Aged in Holland, Pennsylvania. After that, she helped out in many other ways, one of which was to provide a handmade monthly calendar to the residents, enabling them to keep abreast of daily events. No matter what Sister was assigned to do, she did it with a willing heart and a deep spirit of faith.

In 2008 Sister Mildred, now living at the Motherhouse, proudly celebrated her 80th Jubilee. In reminiscing, she wrote: "As I think back over all these years, I ask myself, 'would I have changed anything?' The answer is 'No!' My love remains strong and my dedication to God never falters in this the autumn of my life. I thank you, Lord."

At Journey's End — *Eternal Days Beginning*

Sister Mary Frances Caplins, SSC

formerly Sister M. Richard

January 29, 1918 – August 21, 2010



Sister Mary Frances was the third of five children born to Vincent and Veronica Caplinskas (Caplins) in Baltimore, Maryland. From the first time that she met the Sisters of Saint Casimir at St. Alphonsus Elementary School, Baltimore, she fell in love with them. They were her ideal and inspiration. By the time Sr. Mary Frances was in the sixth grade she

began to think about becoming "one of them." When she reached the eighth grade, her mind was made up — she was going to become a Sister of Saint Casimir.

Sr. Mary Frances left Seton High School in Baltimore and completed her senior year at St. Casimir Academy in Chicago. Two of her close friends, who later became Sister Alice Juskelis and Sister Xavier Keydish, entered as postulants with her.

On August 15, 1937 Sister Mary Frances pronounced her religious vows as a Sister of St. Casimir and was assigned to teach at Holy Cross School in Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania. Her first year was a success; in a letter, Mother Maria complimented her on being able to control the lively Mt. Carmel boys. From then on, teaching from grades 3 to 12 was to be Sister Mary Frances' ministry. She taught all across the country in schools conducted by the Sisters of St. Casimir: in large cities such as Chicago and Philadelphia; in the small New England cities of Worcester, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island; then for ten years in the sunny Southwest cities of Clovis and Roswell, New Mexico; before traveling back east to Cleveland, Ohio, and Holland, Pennsylvania, and Aberdeen, Maryland. The last thirteen years of her teaching ministry were spent teaching math to junior high students at St. Joan of Arc School in Aberdeen, Maryland.

Sister Mary Frances earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Marywood College, Scranton, PA and a Master in Secondary School Science, from Villanova University, Villanova, PA. After sixty years of teaching, she retired in 1998. Among her jubilee notes she wrote that the greatest highlight in her religious life was the privilege of having known Venerable Mother Maria Kaupas.

During her later years in the SSC Motherhouse Infirmary, after completing her meal or coming out of her room, Sister Mary Frances would ask, "Where do I go now?" She will not have to ask that question again. When our loving God called Sister to her eternal home, He was waiting to embrace her lovingly and to tell her reassuringly that she was home where she belonged.

Sister M. Clarissa Jablanskas, SSC

November 16, 1914 – August 30, 2010

Sister M. Clarissa Jablanskas was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Joseph and Eugenia Jablanskas. At age 14 she knew that she wanted to become a religious. Though it was difficult to leave her parents and her sister, Eleanor, Sr. Clarissa traveled to the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse in Chicago where Mother Maria Kaupas accepted her. Four years later in 1932, Sr.



Clarissa pronounced her first vows as a Sister of St. Casimir.

Sixty years of Sister Clarissa's religious life were spent in the ministry of education. She touched the hearts and minds of children in the upper grades in elementary schools conducted by the Sisters of St. Casimir in Chicago, Illinois, Roswell and Clovis, New Mexico, in many small mining towns as well as the large cities in Pennsylvania, in Nashua, New Hampshire, Baltimore, Maryland, and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Sister also taught on the secondary level at Villa Joseph Marie High School in Holland, Pennsylvania. With dedication, love, and patience, she served both as principal and teacher at the following schools: Nativity B.V.M., Chicago, IL; St. Norbert, Northbrook, IL; Sacred Heart, New Philadelphia, PA; and St. Casimir, Nashua, NH.

In 1990, Sister Clarissa retired to Villa Joseph Marie where her days were filled with numerous services. She supervised study periods at the high school, assisted in the school library, and cashiered in the cafeteria. She found time to make many friendly visits to the residents of St. Joseph Home, which was on the same campus as the school. Her leisure activities included crocheting, needlepoint, and reading.

When asked at her Jubilee what some of her outstanding blessings in religious life were, Sr. Clarissa mentioned the following: the moral support of the Sisters in Community and the many opportunities given for her intellectual and spiritual growth (Sister earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Loyola University, Chicago, IL, and a Master of Arts Degree from Villanova University, PA.) She also cited the many opportunities she had to serve others through the use of her talents.

In 2002 Sr. Clarissa came to live at the SSC Motherhouse in Chicago where she continued doing what was within the possibility of her age and health. Much of her time was spent with the Lord in chapel praying for the needs of the Community, the people who asked for prayers, for the world, and her loving family.

Fr. Jose Lucchesi *Rest in Peace*

In our last issue of Journeys we posted a picture of Fr. Jose Lucchesi, a Carmelite priest who ministered in Peru and whom Sr. Margaret Petcavage and other Sisters assisted by collecting and packing boxes of religious articles and household items to be shipped to a remote area of Peru. On June 30th, Fr. Lucchesi died suddenly of a heart attack on his way back to his mission. Please remember this dedicated missionary priest in your prayers. The following are highlights from a letter we received from Michael Sgarioto, O. Carm., after Fr. Jose's death.



Dear Family and Friends,

. . . Shortly after his death, his body was brought to the cloistered Carmelite convent where Bishop Mario Busquets celebrated Mass of Resurrection. José was a very good friend and benefactor of the nuns, and they were very grateful to be able to celebrate the Eucharist one last time with him.

Fr. José's body was then moved to the town of Corire, where he had been pastor for the last four years. His body was waked in the church that José built. Mass was celebrated every hour by priests who came from throughout the prelature of Chuquibamba to pay their respects to their dear friend.

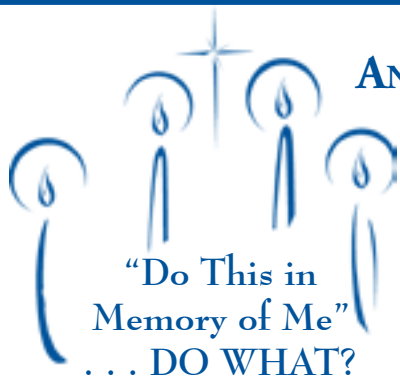
Fr. José's casket was carried on the shoulders of hundreds of young and not so young men through the town to rest at the schools where José made a deep impression during his brief time there. The testimony, prayer and deep feeling of the students and teachers were truly inspiring.

The casket was brought to the center of town where speeches, testimonies and felt words were pronounced by directors of schools, parish officials, and the mayor of Corire. Everyone who spoke mentioned José's passionate insistence about faith and participation in the life of the Church.

Upon seeing the outpouring of emotion and solidarity by the townspeople, it was decided that the final Mass of Resurrection would not be held in the church but in the town's sport coliseum. As the funeral cortege made its way to the coliseum, all sang and prayed in unison. At one moment a cassette of music played through the loud speakers, and we were serenaded by José's own voice as he sang Marian hymns that had been recorded some time ago.

When we arrived at the coliseum, the space was filled with over 2,500 persons. Bishop Busquets along with thirty priests, two deacons and several seminarians filled the makeshift sanctuary. Music was led by the parish school choir, while readings and prayers of the faithful were proclaimed by friends and associates of Fr. José. A Maltese priest of the Society of St. Paul and vicar to bishop Busquets preached an inspiring sermon . . . After communion the bishop spoke poignantly of José's generosity and kindness to all. . . . Diocesan priest from Lima, Fr. Rafael Reategui, spoke of his friendship with José . . . [and] of José's friendship with the priests and the Cardinal Archbishop of Lima, Juan Luis Cipriani. The bishop asked me to speak on behalf of the Carmelite Order, and I took the opportunity to remind everyone that Jose was blessed with a loving family who by their support and love shared his missionary vocation. The Carmelite Order that introduced him to our beloved saints and guided him in his love of the Blessed Mother was another blessing in his life. . . .

May Joe Lucchessi rest in peace.



AN ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER



SATURDAY

DECEMBER 4, 2010

Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse

9:30 AM

Mass for the beatification of Mother Maria

Coffee and refreshments after Mass

11:15 AM – 3:00 PM

Advent Day of Prayer

REGISTER BY NOV. 29, 2010

Please mail completed form to:
Ms. Paula S. Schultz
SSC Communications Office
2601 W. Marquette Road
Chicago, IL 60629

Rev. Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____

PHONE: _____ AMT. ENCLOSED: _____ (please indicate) — CASH — CHECK

Donation for the Advent Day of Prayer is \$15.00 (this includes lunch)

Make checks payable to: Sisters of St. Casimir

Journeys

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Chicago, IL 60629

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Permit No. 42
So. Suburban, IL

JOURNEYS is published by
The Sisters of St. Casimir

This publication is sent free of charge to relatives, friends and benefactors of the Sisters of St. Casimir. We thank you for the voluntary donations that you send to help us defray the cost of printing, postage and handling.

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Prayer of Petition

Gracious God, we praise and thank you for your faithfulness and love. You have blessed us with the example of your servant, Maria Kaupas, whose deep faith in your presence, love for the Eucharist, and zeal in fostering the faith life of others continue to inspire us. Through her intercession, we pray that _____. Help us to continue life's journey with a heart filled with a profound faith in You and that trust which is born of love. We ask this through Jesus our Lord and the power of the Spirit. Amen.

With Ecclesiastical Approbation
Archdiocese of Chicago
July 26, 2000

*For favors received through the intercession of Mother Maria, Kindly inform:
General Superior, Sisters of St. Casimir. (773) 776-1324*

Please Join Us!

DECEMBER 4, 2010

9:30 Mass for the beatification of Mother Maria
11:15 - 3:00 Advent Day of Prayer (see inside for details)

JANUARY 8, 2011

9:30 Mass for the beatification of Mother Maria