



Journeys

SISTERS OF ST. CASIMIR

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Celebrating 90 years of SSCs in Lithuania

With hearts filled with great joy and expectation, Sisters Immacula, Regina Marie Dubickas, Margaret Petcavage, and Theresa Papsis traveled to Lithuania to celebrate with the Sisters of St. Casimir in Pazaislis the 90th anniversary of their founding. The celebration was set for November 18, 2010 and commemorated the actual month and day (November 18, 1920) when Mother Maria with four Sisters of St. Casimir— Sisters Immaculata, Anna Marie Rakauskas, Angela Braskaite, and Catherine Balcaitis— made their way to Lithuania to establish the congregation there. Mother Maria wrote in her journal that they thanked God for the privilege of being able to serve the Lithuanians in their homeland.

How wonderful and symbolic that 90 years later, four SSCs again make the journey to Lithuania, this time to celebrate the life and accomplishments of the Lithuanian Sisters of St. Casimir. But what a difference it was in the mode of travel and in what they would find. The first Sisters found the Pazaislis monastery in ruins as a result

of World War I. The church was without a roof and windows, the buildings and living quarters were in shambles. The Sisters set about the task of restoring the ensemble of buildings which are among the most beautiful examples of baroque style architecture in Lithuania and Europe constructed in 1712.

During World War II the Sisters were banished from their home and scattered to all parts of Lithuania to live their religious life secretly. In 1990 when Lithuania regained its independence, Pazaislis ("Celebrating 90 years" continued on page 14)



Above: Sisters of St. Casimir from Chicago join the Sisters of St. Casimir in Lithuania in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of their founding. The Chicago SSCs brought with them an original artwork depicting the SSC Chicago Motherhouse and SSC Lithuania Pazaislis Center, linked by Mother Maria, St. Casimir and Our Lady of Fair Love.

Right: Sisters who left Chicago in 1920 to initiate a mission in Pazaislis, Lithuania. Seated left is Mother Immaculata, seated right is Mother Maria. Standing from left, Sisters Catherine, Anna Marie and Angela.

