

# Preserve St. George and Lithuanian Heritage

## **Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States of America**

“The Church is also significant and priceless as part of the Lithuanian heritage in the United States. The Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the Protection and Preservation of Certain Cultural Properties has already come into force and Lithuania intends to make use of it in such cases as St. George.” (Entire letter is included in this packet)

**The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)** has determined that St. George Church is of statewide and national historical significance.

## **Resolution by the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America**

to Petition for the Permanent Reopening of St. George Parish Church, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania

## **Resolution by the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council**

to Petition for the Permanent Reopening of St. George Parish Church, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania

## **Lithuanian Partnership with Pennsylvania**

The partnership between Pennsylvania and the Republic of Lithuania was initiated in 1993. This now involves the Military exchange program and Business Leaders exchange program. A Sister Cities program is being developed with Schuylkill County through the local Knights of Lithuania #144. Shenandoah and St. George Parish Church will be part of this Sister Cities program.

## **Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area**

P30: “Perhaps the “crown jewel” of the Schuylkill County Lithuanian Catholic churches is St. George in Shenandoah. This beautiful Gothic church with its original altars decorated in gold and white, contains the statues of the Twelve Apostles in the lower portion of the main altar with statues of St. George and other saints above the apostles. Fifteen murals on the ceiling above the main aisle depict the Mysteries of the Rosary, and their titles and those of the Stations of the Cross are written in Lithuanian. If I did not know my current location in space, St. George Church could have easily been in a Lithuanian city.”

## **“Little Lithuania, USA” Schuylkill County, PA. By John J. Chernoski (Cerniauskas)**

### **P14: Lithuanian Heritage Magazine (May /June 2004)**

“During this first wave of Lithuanian immigration, Schuylkill County was essentially the center of Lithuanian activity in America and Shenandoah was its “Capital City” **The Knights of Lithuania** sponsors the annual Schuylkill County Lithuanian Days and includes **The Lithuanian Partisan Living History Group**. This festival has its origins in 1914 when the local Lithuanian community came together in celebration during the Feast of the Assumption, a major Lithuanian religious holiday. St. George Church has special events for the visiting Lithuanians from everywhere in the USA (and Lithuania) who continue to visit their friends and relatives.

**Citations from:**      **Tim Holden**                      **(US House of Representatives)**  
                                 **James J. Rhoades**              **(Senate of Pennsylvania)**  
                                 **Neal P. Goodman**              **(State Representative)**