

2025 ANNUAL LCAS MEMBER MEETING

The 2025 annual Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Sciences (LCAS) member meeting took place on Saturday, September 13. The meeting was virtual, using ZOOM.

The meeting was attended by 20 people from various states of the U.S.A. and from Lithuania. The annual LCAS meeting is an opportunity to hear Lithuanian academicians, researchers and writers speak about their work without leaving the house.

The first lecturer was Dr. Audra Nakaitė-Dugandzic. She received her doctorate in Sociology at Notre Dame University and currently is professor of Religious Studies at St. Mary's Seminary-University in Maryland. She spoke of the liturgical battles in the Catholic Church after Vatican II.



Dr. Nakaitė-Dugandzic.

These battles continue globally, even now. The chief cause of these battles are two seemingly irreconcilable views on what it is to be sacred. These two views may be called vertical and horizontal. Those who understand the sacred as a vertical relationship emphasize the worship of God. Those who understand the sacred as a horizontal relationship emphasize the love of God.

During the ensuing discussions Dr. Nakaitė-Dugandzic pointed out that heresies often started when one aspect of faith was emphasized to the exclusion of others, e.g., Jesus' divinity was emphasized and his humanity downplayed, or vice versa. In the first case people preferred to forget Jesus' passion and death on the cross. In the second case they preferred to forget about Jesus' miracles, especially about his resurrection.

The second lecturer was Dr. Varpas de Sa Pereira. Dr. de Sa Pereira earned his Ph.D. in Psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Prior to that he served in the Marine Corps and was a special operations officer in the war on terrorism in Iraq and

Afghanistan. After retiring from the Marines he decided to study Psychology. Currently he serves as a staff psychologist at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Dr. Varpas de Sa Pereira.

War veterans experience psychological trauma when they attempt to integrate back into civilian life. Their experience is called “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder” or “Adjustment Disorder.”

But Dr. de Sa Pereira suggests a different approach to this problem. In his view these problems should not be viewed as a disorder. He has published a book titled “Warrior Withdrawal” in which he draws a parallel between detoxification and a warrior’s return to civilian life. The word “withdrawal” emphasizes this parallel.

At Boot Camp warriors experience personality-changing training. It gives the warrior a clarity of purpose – to find and destroy the enemy. This training is essential in helping the warrior survive combat.

But when the warrior retires from the army, he does not receive training that would supply him with clarity of purpose in civilian life. This is especially traumatic to those who joined the army before the age of 26.

LCAS holds annual member meetings during which Lithuanian academicians present their ideas their work. That is a way of giving them a forum in which they can feel a part of a community which appreciates and values their work.



Dr. Mirga Girniuvienė.

LCAS is also responsible for ALKA, which is the second largest Lithuanian archive outside of Lithuania, as well as the disbursement of the Dr. Juozas Kriaučiūnas scholarships.

This year LCAS president Dr. Mirga Girniuvienė provided some details about the work going on at ALKA. She applauded the support ALKA receives from Lithuania, especially from the Lithuanian Central State Archives, which sends professional archivists to ALKA to organize the huge collection of archives held there. A year ago ALKA was

honored with a visit by Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda. She shared LCAS' determination to support his efforts in advancing culture in the various regions of Lithuania.

Please visit the LCAS website at www.lkma.org to learn more about its mission and its work.



ALKA.

Mirga Girniuvienė, LCAS President