

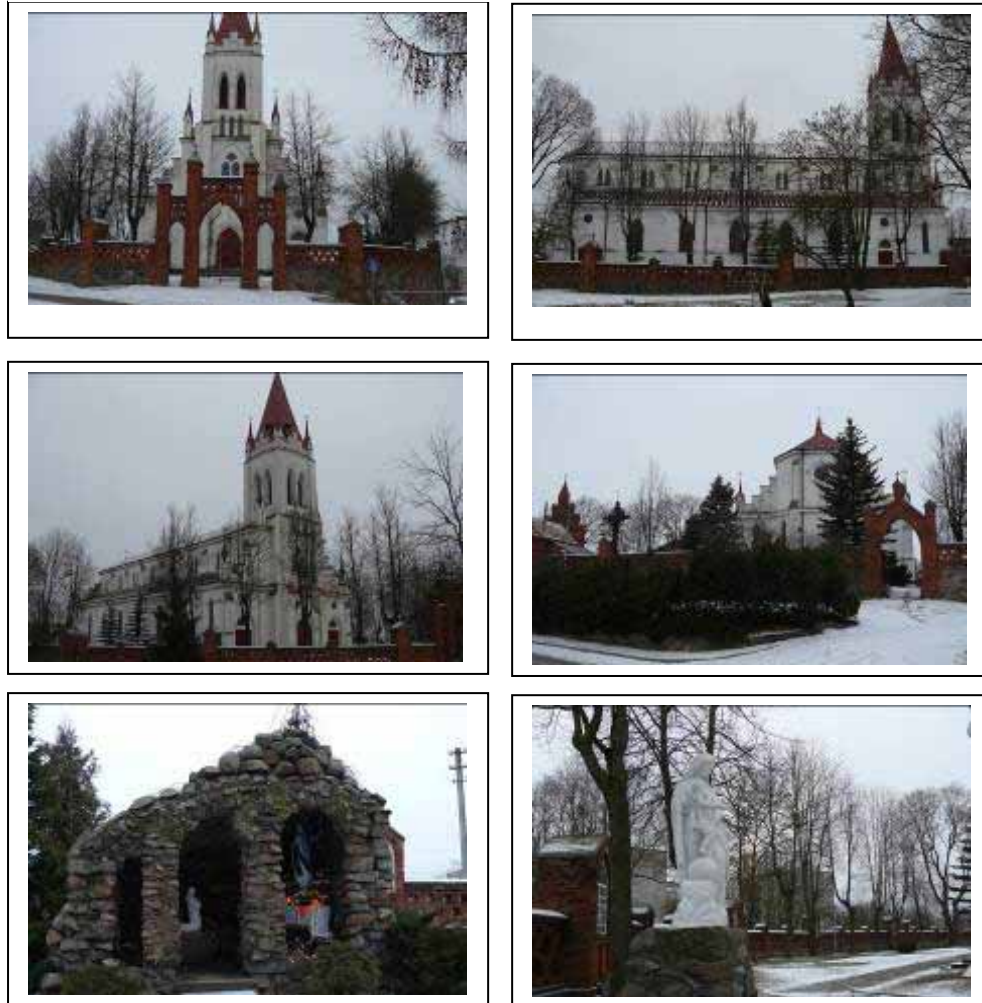
# LOORA

Living With Our and Others' Religions  
Together in Diversity

## Questionnaire

Location:	Lithuania	Kuršėnai Pavenčiai secondary	LT-01
	Country	School	Serial number

## Photos



## Description

St. John the Baptist catholic church, built on the hill and dominating the scenery of the town, has been the main architectural monument of Kuršėnai since 1933. Its tower, destroyed during the Second World War and rebuilt in 1999, has become a symbol of restoration of independence and hope.

The church was built according to neogothic traditions in combination with other styles. The shape of the church is not a cross, but a rectangular. The proportion of width and length is 1,6, which is considered a golden or divine proportion. The same proportion is characteristic to central and side naves. The interior décor is a mixture of various styles.

Up to 6000 people can pray in the church at one time. The parish population at the moment is about 24.000.

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Position of the object

The church is located in Vydūnas street, right in the centre of the town. It was built in the place of an old wooden church.



Size

Height: 15.80 m,  
Tower - 37.43 m  
Length – 48.00 m  
Widht – 30.00 m

Materials

The church is made of concrete.  
The roof is made of red tin.  
The tower – half concrete, half bricks.

Date of building/  
epoch:

The church was built in 1933 replacing an old wooden church that burnt in a fire. Churchyard was built in 1899.

Architect/  
artist:

Vaclovas Dambrauskas initiated the building of the church,  
Grigorijus Gumeniukas designed the building,  
Vladas Čižauskas designed the altars,  
Benediktas Gričius made the altars.

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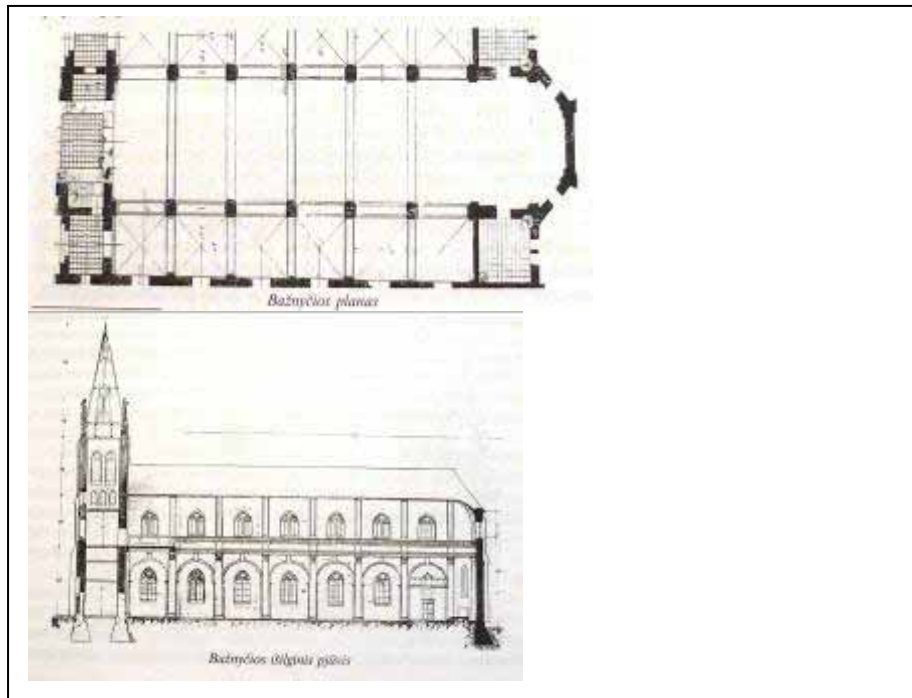
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Renovation,  
restoration  
(when, by whom,  
who paid, why?):

During the Second World War, German soldiers arranged a place for shooting and snipers in the tower of the church and the tower was destroyed by Russian army.

Parish priests J. Montvidas and S. Ilinčius wanted to restore the tower, but the soviet authorities forbade it. Then in 1991 the reconstruction project was prepared. In 1998 the fund was established to raise money for the reconstruction of the tower. Contributors were local people, authority and the parish. On 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1999 the new tower was sanctified.

Sketch plan:



Interior

Picture	Name	Function
	Central nave	The space for the people to sit and pray.

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	<p>Main altar with tabernacle</p>	<p>The most important part of the church with the holy symbols and eternal light.</p>
	<p>Main altar</p>	<p>A place where a priest celebrates mass.</p>
	<p>Side nave with side altars and pews.</p>	<p>For the people to sit and pray.</p>
	<p>Pulpit</p>	<p>A place where a priest preachers a sermon.</p>

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	<p>Organ</p>	<p>An instrument used to play during the church service.</p>
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