

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for Us

St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women

January 2007

<http://st-raphaels.com/ccw.html>

Newsletter



St. Raphael Catholic Church

CCW Officers

President:

Louise Barrett
821-2561

1st Vice President:

Marlene D'Abramo

2nd Vice President:

Becky McBride

Recording Secretary:

Maggie Moren

Corresponding Secretary: **Roseanna Costa**

Treasurer:

Adela Vidal

January Papal Intentions

General: That in our time, unfortunately marked by many episodes of violence, the Church's bishops and priests may continue to indicate the way of peace and understanding among peoples.

Missionary: That the Church in Africa may become a constantly more authentic witness of the Good News of Christ and be committed, in every Nation, to the promotion of reconciliation and peace.

Fashion Show

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 17 at noon. We will have a delicious luncheon and strawberry shortcake followed by a Fashion Show put on by Target using CCW members as models. Marlene D'Abramo has agreed to chair this event. Please give any Door Prizes to Dolores Smith 526-9985. Send your \$15 check payable to St. Raphael CCW to Marlene D'Abramo, 3800 Huntington St NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703 or drop an envelope marked CCW Fashion in the collection basket.

Mother's Breakfast

New this year, Mary Holland is planning a breakfast for women with music and an inspirational speaker. Please join us Saturday, March 10. Details to follow next month.

Lenten Mini Retreat

Fr Bob Evancho from St. Therese Byzantine Church will lead our Lenten retreat on Sat March 3. It is a beautiful time to prepare for Easter and is open to men and women. We will begin with Rosary at 7:30 AM, Mass at 8 AM, continental breakfast, morning talks to prepare us to make a good Lent, and lunch at noon. Send your \$10 check payable to St. Raphael CCW to Louise Barrett, 820 24 Ave N St. Petersburg, FL 33704 or drop an envelope marked CCW Retreat in the collection basket.

Become a Member of CCW

If you would like to become a member of St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women (formerly called Guild). Please send your \$15 yearly membership in an envelope marked CCW to the church office. We need YOU!!! We are 244 paid members of whom 13 are life members, 5 honorary and 9 nursing home members. We range in age from our 20's to our 90's. We are retirees, homemakers, doctors, lawyers, two are expectant mothers, some newlyweds, and some recently widowed. Some are home bound and ill; some never leave the car pool line. All together we are Catholic Women working together to grow in faith, help our Parish and serve God's Church in the world.

Fr. Groeschel

Fr. Groeschel will present the "Spiritual Teaching of Pope Benedict XVI" on Saturday, February 10th from 9AM to 3PM at Our Lady of Divine Providence House of Prayer 711 South Bayview Ave, Clearwater. Call 724-9505 to register. Cost is \$25.

Breakfast Angels: Thank you, Cheryl Murphy, Winnie Young, Rosa Rodriguez and Mary Carlomagno for our continental breakfast. Thank you, Fran Parsons, our speaker from the Museum of Fine Arts on the topic "Angels in Art."

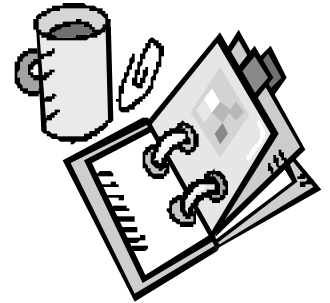
St. Raphael's CCW Online



See our very own CCW web pages and newsletters (new & archived editions) by going to <http://www.st-raphaels.com/ccw.html>. Thanks again to Theresa McCormick, our webmaster.

CCW Calendar 2006-07

Monday	January 22	Respect Life Night - "Spiritual March for Life"
Wednesday	January 24	Pontifax - Our Lady Queen of Peace Church New Port Richey
Saturday	February 3	General Meeting—Theology of the Body
Sunday	February 11	World Day of the Sick 11:30 AM Mass
Saturday	February 18	Fashion Show at Noon
Saturday	March 3	Lenten Retreat
Saturday	March 10	Mother's Tribute Brunch
Saturday	April 14	General Meeting—Jessica Freeman, Youth Minister
Saturday	April ???	Rummage Sale
Saturday	May 5	General Meeting/ Installation Breakfast
Sun-Wed.	May 6-9	DCCW Convention - Quorum Hotel Tampa
Thursday	May 24	Potluck @ Parish Center
General Meeting Schedule:		7:35 AM Rosary, 8 AM Mass, 8:30 Continental Breakfast, Meeting & Program



From the Pastor's Desk

Monsignor Caverly wishes each and every one of you a Happy New Year. The crowds at the Christmas Masses were really outstanding, especially at the 4 and 6 PM Christmas Eve Masses attended by many young families. In fact all the Masses were well attended except the 11:30 AM Mass which was in the middle of a rain storm. The Masses on New Year's Day were also well attended. This is very edifying for a Pastor to see so many of his parishioners attending Mass!

Our St Raphael School is open after the holidays and doing well. We hope for increased attendance in the coming year. Plans for the old Church are moving ahead as a team of several parishioners are working with the architect who is planning a chapel, classrooms and a Youth Room. We will be having a stewardship drive beginning in late January or February.

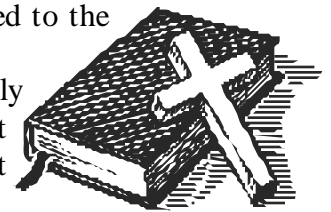
From Father Anthony

After the Christmas Masses were complete at St. Raphael's, I drove over to Pinellas Jail and celebrated Christmas Mass for the men who were incarcerated. It was a joyful penance I offered to the Lord. The time spent with them was like time spent with the Lord.

As Roman Catholic Christians we are against the death penalty unless it is the only effective way of defending human lives against the unjust aggressor. (CCC 2267). But due to the sufficient and non-lethal means which are available to defend and protect people's safety, most often the death penalty is unnecessary. The Church stands by this doctrine reminding us that while the state renders the unjust aggressor incapable of doing further harm while they are incarcerated, the state has not taken away from them the possibility of redemption. Many times men do take the time to discover for themselves Jesus Christ. Not all criminals are in jail and not all criminals are unholy.

Personally, I find this an important asset to my faith. Jesus Christ came to give life, not to destroy life. But so often as a Church, we find it easy to dictate as to how society should be run while we do nothing to bring it about. Do we walk the talk or simply talk – blah blah blah!

There are only three priests in this county who are willing to give up an hour or so a month to celebrate Mass for the men in prison. If the Church is so concerned about keeping criminals alive so that they can be redeemed, then where is the Church in this redemption process? How can we expect these men to be redeemed without the Church? These men need to be catechized and forgiven. They will determine how much of a reward we receive in case we have forgotten, "When I was in prison, you visited me." Matthew 25.36. There is no greater gift that can be given than love.



St. Raphael Catholic School News

- St. Raphael Catholic School students, teachers, parents, Miss Wostbrock, and Fr. Anthony Coppola marched in the St. Petersburg Lion's Club Santa Parade on December 2nd with a walking nativity, school angels, and four cars with riders representing academics, sports, arts, and faith. It was quite an inspirational experience watching Fr. Anthony blessing and praying for everyone throughout the streets of St. Petersburg!
- Miss Wostbrock and 31 students who achieved the Principal's List or Honor Roll during the first trimester went bowling at Sunrise Lanes. Hopefully, even more students will be inspired to achieve these goals next trimester.
- Dr. Dennis Ryczek and parent volunteers conducted a vision screening for our students on December 5th. Twenty percent of our students were identified as needing further vision screenings. This was obviously a very valuable service provide to our school.
- On December 11th there was a school wide reconciliation service for our 3rd-8th grade students and faculty members.
- The Christmas Concert on December 12th was a huge success! Mr. and Mrs. auf dem Kampe did a wonderful job orchestrating this performance. It was standing room only. The singing and instrumental performances of our students was truly an inspiration for all.

International Gala

Mike and Gina Longino are hosting an "Evening through Europe" featuring the sights, sounds, and flavors of Ireland with Irish Folk Music by Jack McGuire, Spain with Flamenco Music by Victor Moreno, Italy with Mandolin Music by Dan Bates and France/ Monte Carlo with Gaming Tables. There will be an International Dessert Room and a Silent Auction table. This Gala will be Saturday, February 24 from 7:30 PM to Midnight at 2003 Carolina Circle NE. Tickets are \$125 per person and 100% of ticket sales will go to reducing the building debt for the Church and converting the old Church into classrooms, a chapel and a youth group room. Catering is by Delectables Fine Catering. Wines will be available for purchase with a portion of sales returned to the Church!

Migrant Report *by Rosa Rodriguez*

On behalf of the migrants from Ruskin, thank-you to all who donated clothes, toys, and books for Christmas. Since we had over 30 big bags, it took the social worker two trips to transport all the items. Thanks, too, for all the Thanksgiving donations you gave at our November meeting and to me privately. I went Thanksgiving shopping for the migrants with their social worker. We spent \$300+ on groceries including 7 turkeys. The migrants had a dinner and each family received a bag of groceries to take home. The turkeys were given away by a free raffle and everyone went home happy!

We asked our students what they love about St. Raphael Catholic School:

"We like SRS because we learn a lot, we have great teachers, we go to Mass, we have fish fries, we have a fun playground, St. Raphael is the patron saint of medicine and it makes me feel safe, we have 30 minute lunch time. It is fun, I like the classroom jobs, we receive a blessing from the priests, we learn about saints. It is special because everyone is nice and kind. I like recess and the balls we get to use! Because my teacher is always so happy, she even makes math fun. You get to see and play with your friends, especially kickball. I like my Principal. The beautiful carpet, the sturdy fences and playground are great. The faculty represents the love we have for God. I know what will happen next, where I feel safe and secure. It's where 51% of my friends reside, where I grow with and through faith and love, and where I learn to come closer to Jesus. St. Raphael means to me FUN, period! It's so great to learn math, reading and so on in the most exciting way possible. We are a family and children of God. We are a holy and peaceful school, and our staff is the best! There is something for everyone! Student council, Jr. and Sr. Band, Choir, Sports. The Choir sings so well! We all love

to be in the choir. It does not matter if you have an average voice; it matters that we are praising Him and singing for joy. God loves to hear our voices. Remember another way of praying is singing! I love St. Raphael so much because of all the stuff we do here. Like the sports and even church. I love singing in church. Our church is the BEST. Ok, back to the sports, our coach is the BEST of all. He might be in a wheelchair, but he works us hard. Everyone is really nice and no one makes fun of others. The teachers really take time to make sure you understand what they are teaching. I have only been going here for three days. I love going to SRS because I've been going here since 1st grade and I get to see my best friends everyday. The teachers here are so great and they are always so poised. I really love the music program here. Also the after school sports are fun and it motivates kids to get good grades. The best thing about SRS is getting to know our God better. It is true we are #1. I love how each teacher knows my name and knows a little something about me, and I love having friends whom I can count on. I also love having a good school that I feel protected in."

In Your Prayers. . .

Sick by Lu Perrin

Please pray for our sick: Dennis Zawodski, Jeannette Abramo, Ellie Jennings, Mac Bailey, Adele Buchta, Joe Kolb, Margaret Racila, Margot Morcillo, Esther LaVangie, Ginny Hansen, Deborah and Bill Scanlan, John Birins, Eleanor Alderson, Gerry and Ann Walsh

Nursing Homes: *Shore Acres*: Dottie Soots, Susan Neitz, Lynn Shepard, Fran Davis, Thomas Kunkler, Norman Vanest. *Maria Manor*: DJ Thompson, Juliette Schiavi, Mary Palmer, Rita Hall, Ernest Anderson. *Other*: Charlotte Edwards, Jenny Milo, Marion Lagan, Nancye Barrett, Helen Bishop, and Bette Hyslip.



Deceased by Bernadette Bailey

Please pray for the who have died this past month-Mark Clendenin, Jennie Milo, Frank Mainenti, Mildred Caldwell, Betty Schmidt, and Bernadette Lussier. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

World Day of the Sick

We will have a special Mass for all those who are sick and the health care workers who care for them on Sun. Feb 11th at the 11:30 AM Mass. Health Care workers and caretakers of the sick will be blessed at all the Masses. Anointing of the Sick will be available only after the 11:30 Mass. A lunch reception will follow for the sick and their families. To pre register for the Sacrament of the Sick and the luncheon call Louise Barrett at 821-2561.

Community Concerns by Rosa Rodriguez

On Compassion - some people say that compassion is a quality, others say that it is something you are born with, but I think that compassion is something all of us have just there, in us. Sometimes we are so busy, that we do not see who needs our compassion. Jesus, when He walked with the Apostles preaching, had compassion for everyone including the people with leprosy.

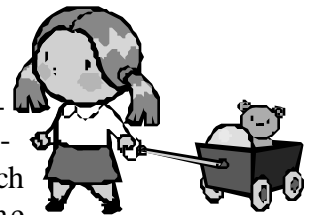
We are so blessed that we have enough and more, so it is fulfilling to share and give those who appreciate our handouts.

Internet Humor

A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the young boy and said, "My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!" "I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply. The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel. By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, you will be more comfortable now." As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her . . . "Are you God's wife?"

A Special Promise

It was the day AFTER Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking at the manger scene, when he noticed that the baby Jesus figure was missing from the cradle. He immediately turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon walking down the street. And in the wagon, was the figure of the infant Jesus. So he walked up to the boy and said, "Son, where did you get that little baby Jesus that's in your wagon?" The little boy replied, "I got him from the church." And why did you take him?" asked the pastor. The little boy replied, "Well, about a week before Christmas, I prayed and I told Jesus if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride in it!"



Youth Group News by Kim Phillips

Thank you from the Youth Group for all the support on the sales of the cookie dough, ornaments and the dinner. The teens raised quite a bit for their accounts as well as for the Youth Group program. If interested, we still have a few ornaments left that can be delivered.

Papal Message for World Day of the Sick

Here is an excerpt from Benedict XVI's message for the World Day of the Sick, to be observed on Feb. 11, the principal venue being Seoul, South Korea. Dear Brothers and Sisters, ...Once again the Church turns her eyes to those who suffer and calls attention to the incurably ill, many of whom are dying from terminal diseases. They are found on every continent, particularly in places where poverty and hardship cause immense misery and grief. Conscious of these sufferings, I will be spiritually present at the World Day of the Sick, united with those meeting to discuss the plight of the incurably ill in our world and encouraging the efforts of Christian communities in their witness to the Lord's tenderness and mercy....The Church wishes to support the incurably and terminally ill by calling for just social policies which can help to eliminate the causes of many diseases and by urging improved care for the dying and those for whom no medical remedy is available...Here I would like to encourage the efforts of those who work daily to ensure that the incurably and terminally ill, together with their families, receive adequate and loving care... Many such individuals -- health care professionals, pastoral agents and volunteers -- and institutions throughout the world are tirelessly serving the sick, in hospitals and in palliative care units, on city streets, in housing projects and parishes. ...I now turn to you, my dear brothers and sisters suffering from incurable and terminal diseases. I encourage you to contemplate the sufferings of Christ crucified, and, in union with him, to turn to the Father with complete trust that all life, and your lives in particular, are in his hands. Trust that your sufferings, united to those of Christ, will prove fruitful for the needs of the Church and the world. I ask the Lord to strengthen your faith in his love, especially during these trials that you are experiencing. It is my hope that, wherever you are, you will always find the spiritual encouragement and strength needed to nourish your faith and bring you closer to the Father of Life. Through her priests and pastoral workers, the Church wishes to assist you and stand at your side, helping you in your hour of need, and thus making present Christ's own loving mercy towards those who suffer. ...From the Vatican, 8 December 2006.

Pontifax Day of Prayer

Pontifax is a Latin word which means "bridge builders". The Diocesan Council of Catholic Woman, the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Southwest FL and the Lutheran Women's Synod of the ELCA sponsor a day of shared prayer on Wed. Jan 24th. We will car pool to Our Lady Queen of Peace Church at 2002 Allamanda Drive in New Port Richey. Call Louise Barrett 821-2561 to arrange a ride. We will leave about 8:30 AM from St Raphael's Church, refreshments start at 9:30 and the service is at 10:00. We will stop for lunch on the way home. Pray that one day soon we may be one again.

Respect Life *by Maggie Moren and Winnie Young*

Please join together as a praying community on Mon. Jan. 22, at 7:30 p.m. for a special Spiritual Walk. We will all be joining "spiritually" with those who are up in Washington D.C. walking for the end of Roe vs. Wade. Although we are unable to be in Washington DC physically, we can be there as a strong prayerful community in spirit. Fr. Anthony will hold this special prayer service. 34 candles, each representing one of the 34 years since Roe vs. Wade has been legalized, will be placed in front of the altar. There will be readings from the Gospel, a brief homily, silent prayer in front of each candle, and a red rose laid in front of each candle. We ask you, your families, and friends to please come and participate in this prayerful event. Our prayers joined together are powerful and together we can help stop this abomination. God bless you all.

Focus 11

Each February for the past 6 years, the Diocese of St. Petersburg has sponsored the FOCUS 11 Vocation Project. This high energy initiative focuses on High School Juniors (11th grade) the first day and then 6th graders (11 year olds) the next two days. It has proven itself to be a great success. When we began this program, we initially targeted only those students in Catholic schools. The last several years we have expanded these days to include students outside of Catholic schools. We expect over 1100 sixth graders to participate in this year's 6th grade days and over 500 juniors to be present on the 11th grade day. We need help baking cookies for those 1600+ kids. Call Louise Barrett at 821-2561 for details.

January Birthdays

- 3 Ann Dinapoli
- 3 Glenda Haight
- 3 Lila Methot
- 5 Carol Kettlestrings
- 5 Nan Terrill

- 6 Lynette McSorley
- 7 Jeanne Larrison
- 8 Terry Hamm
- 9 Yolanda Gallagher
- 9 Sonya Talley



- 15 Gay Hagaman
- 17 Rosemary Early
- 25 Mary Frances Wright
- 27 Marie Sakkis
- 28 Judy Birins



Natural Family Planning

There will be a free lecture to address issues relevant to women in all phases of their reproductive lives. Dr. Hilgers, renowned OB/GYN Physician and Expert in Reproductive Medicine, will discuss his innovative diagnosis and treatment approach to common gynecological and reproductive health problems, such as dysfunctional uterine bleeding, premenstrual syndrome, polycystic ovarian syndrome, recurrent ovarian cysts, endometriosis, infertility, recurrent miscarriage and premature birth. His treatment approach, "NaProTechnology" was developed from 30 years of research with couples using the Creighton Model System. "NaProTechnology" is completely natural and helps couples monitor fertility according to the beautiful teachings of our Catholic Church. The date is Saturday, February 3rd, 2-4 PM at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Higgins Hall – St. Thomas Room, 5225 N. Himes Avenue, Tampa.

Member News

- New CCW Member Yolanda Gallagher is a native of Colombia, South America. She taught Spanish there to high school students. Yolanda is married to Richard Gallagher from Cleveland, OH. They have one daughter, Vivian Wilsey, who is a Speech Pathologist in Canterbury School where her two children attend. The oldest, 7, is in our Parish Sunday Religion classes. Yolanda taught Spanish as a volunteer for the Diocese Office in 1978, when they moved to St. Pete from CA. Later, she worked for the J.W.B. License Board in the Department of nutrition for young children. They belonged to Holy Family Parish for 28 years. They moved two years ago into the Northeast area in order to be near their daughter. Since then, they belong to St. Raphael's Parish which they enjoy very much.
- Hello and Happy New Year to all! My name is Mary A. Baecher. I've been a member of St. Raphael's since 1973. My late husband, Joseph Baecher, died in 1992. We were married for 27 years. We have 4 lovely daughters: Resa, Heidi, Tami & Jenna; and 7 grandchildren. So, like so many of you - I am truly blessed!! I am a therapist for teenage boys, who are incarcerated in DJJ programs - I currently work in Bradenton. Please pray for all young people - indeed all people who are incarcerated: That they will find ways to rebuild their lives, and that they will be offered opportunities to begin again.
- Mary Vallee runs a support group for Depression and Mood Disorders. The website is <http://freewebs.com/mary33764/> where there is more info about meetings. Depression and other mood disorders are very serious problems and help is available. Mary's family lease is running out and they are looking for a three bedroom house to rent.
- Roseanna Costa went to NY over the holidays and had a lovely time with her husband visiting their family.
- New member, Michelle Cehula Fello, and her husband, David Lee, recently traveled to their hometown of Warren, OH. While there, they attended Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church where they were married 35 years ago on Feb. 12.
- On Dec. 13, Gina Longino hosted a Christmas Brunch for the Wednesday Morning Bible Study and Women of Grace study groups. Over 60 women attended along with Monsignor Caverly and Father Anthony. All enjoyed a potluck meal and fellowship despite a rainy morning!
- The Kansas City Baileys spent a week at Christmas with Grandmom Bernie (Bernadette Bailey) and Grandpa Mac. Our activities included cookie baking, Scrabble, hors d'oeuvre parties on the lanai, Midnight Mass with Lisa, Dana Dorian, and 9:30 Mass with Bryan and Liam. Dinner for 12 on Christmas included our families and Lily Riconda who is part of our family celebrations. Christmas was holy, happy, and hectic. Now the house is quiet and we've settled down for a long winter's nap!
- Former parishioner Frances Graham (mother-in-law of member Stephanie Graham) turned 90 on Jan. 6th. She has survived a bullet lodged next to her heart, being run over by a car, colon cancer, several heart attacks, 2 hip surgeries and is still smiling, going to church and playing bridge every week! Friends who would like to drop her a card can send it to Frances Graham, Richmond Place, 3051 Rio Dosa Drive, Apt. # 328B, Lexington, KY 40509.
- Rosa Rodriguez writes that her daughter Carmen and family went to GA and NC mountains for snowboarding and skiing, then coming back and spending 2 days anchored in Shell Island near Tierra Verde.
- Ann Kovach visited her daughter Michele who lives in Singapore but was in AZ. Michele looks well and is really excited about her new job and its challenges. She will represent her Thunderbird Universtiy (MBA degree-global) in SE Asia: Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam etc. She will be responsible for organizing alums and fund raising.