

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for Us St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women

Newsletter March 2007

March Papal Intentions

General: That the Word of God may be ever more listened to, contemplated, loved and lived.

Mission: That the training of catechists, organizers and lay people committed in the service of the Gospel may be the constant concern of those responsible for the young Churches.

Lower Pinellas Deanery Installation

Lower Pinellas Deanery seeks to unite the women of the 18 Parishes in our deanery, so we can flourish and grow stronger in our faith as we love, serve and share. Currently, Blessed Trinity, Cathedral of St Jude's, Holy Family, Most Holy Name of Jesus, St Paul, and St Raphael are active members of the LPD. St Mary's is beginning a CCW this year. We have 469 members from our 6 active parishes. Two years ago, we did not have enough women able to serve as officers, so the LPD could not function. This year, the LPD reorganized with Louise Barrett, Gloria Nelson, and Tamara Harte- (presidents of St Raphael's, Holy Family and Most Holy Name, respectively) as interim co-Presidents. We have good news- we will elect and install officers on Fri. March 30th at Most Holy Name Parish in Gulfport. Come at 11am and bring a brown bag lunch. (We will have drinks.) We will vote for a slate of new officers and commission chairmen. Ann Kovach, Pres. of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, will install our new officers. Deacon Joe Grote is our Spiritual Moderator. We will also award the Handmaiden of the Lord Awards. The event will conclude by 1:30 PM. Please come to this very important event to show your support for the Lower Pinellas Deanery. The event is FREE, but you must RSVP to Louise Barrett 821-2561. _____

Kids! Q: Name the four seasons. A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans? A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Fashion Show

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Feb 17th "Cupid, Couture and Cuisine" a success. Our 220 guests enjoyed a salad bar, chicken divan, and strawberry shortcake. Models Kay Yennie, Mary Jo and Kate Cillian, Ethelyn Henderson, Marty Foreman, Donna and Courtney Condon, Gay Hagaman and her 3 year old grandson Mikey, Bernadette Bailey, and Gina Longino wore cute and varied fashions from Target, who sent Bridget Earl to MC. Best of all, our wonderful Fr. Anthony, modeled men's fashions to thunderous applause and surprised us with a cart wheel. Marlene D'Abramo chaired the event and kept the reservations in order. Mary Kay Heraty did a great job decorating. Maggie Moren was the model co-ordinator. Dolores Smith collected 23 nice prizes for our "Opportunities" and we made \$825. Mary Simoneau made our brochures. Kim Phillips gave models jewelry from the Lia Sophia line. Our other helpers, cooks and bakers include Carol Zimmerman, Cheryl Murphy, Lillian McClelland, Ava and Ursula Abner, Mary Kay Heraty, Terry Hamm, Dottie Santacaterina, Winnie Young, Mary Carlomagno, Ethelynn Henderson, Roseanna Costa, Barbara Dippelhoff, Mary Poulin, Celeste Brown, Joanie Martin, Mabel Sullivan, , Cherie Mainenti, Lynn Covert, Rosalie Ferrer, Suzanne Flatley, Margaret Peck, Mary Holland, Joyce Kubala, Robin Ahlquist, Teresa Hartley, Eileen Brady, Mary Brophy, Linda Champion and Glenda Haight. Our net profits for the day after expenses were \$3100.

Kids! Q: Give the meaning of the term "Caesarean Section" A: The Caesarean Section is a district in Rome

World Day of the Sick

Thank you to all who helped with a wonderful event on Sun. Feb. 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. We had a special Mass for all those who are sick and the health care workers who cared for them. Parishioners attended from Bons Secours and Shore Acres NH. Several were homebound and several have disabilities. Many people received the Anointing of the Sick after Mass. A lunch reception followed for about 70 people. Thank you to all who participated in the World Day of the Sick and all who prayed for the sick from afar, Mary Simoneau, Mabel Sullivan, Mary Baecher, Fran Clendenin, Dottie Santacaterina, Mary Stoft, Jessie Freeman, Matt Cillian, and Chris from Youth Group all helped meet and seat the sick who attended and served at the luncheon, cleaned up and in general made the event happen. Teresa Hartley, Cheryl Murphy and Jackie Finger worked in the kitchen. We had several food donations. The yummy veggies were from Brophy's Bistro right across the street, desserts from Panera's, rolls from Albertson, and devilled eggs from Antoinette Falk, Bernadette Bailey, and Lillian McClelland. Celeste Brown made the DELICIOUS tetrazini and jello salad. Thanks to the Disability Ministry Leader- Barry Marshall- who supplied extra wheelchairs and planning, Parish Council member Llyod Abentroth, and our greeter- Claudia Soucy. Thanks to Monsignor Caverly and Fr Anthony who anointed our sick and blessed this day. Mary Stoft, Marja Beaufait, Dr Hector Monforte, Dr Joseph Casadonte and Pat McGuire helped with the blessing of the caretaker prayer at each Mass. The 11:30 Choir was wonderful and we truly appreciate the beautiful music.

Lenten Mini Retreat

Thank you to Fr Bob Evancho from St Therese Byzantine Church for inviting us to his Parish for our Lenten mini-retreat on Sat March 3. What a beautiful day. St Therese hosted 58 of us from St Raphael's. We had a chance to learn about the Byzantine Rite.

Kids! Q: What are steroids? **A:** Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

An Evening through Europe

100 very blessed Parishioners made a "trip to Europe" in one easy journey to the Longino's Venetian Isles home. Gina and Mike divided their 6,000 sq ft palatial abode into areas with wine, food and entertainment from France, Italy, Spain and Ireland. Guests had a "passport" to visit each country. France, on the top floor, had gaming tables, chateau briande and all kinds of cheeses. Italy was in the huge kitchen with Dan Bates playing the mandolin and we had our choice of pasta dishes. The nearby dining room table full of desserts was outstanding. Spain was on the balcony overlooking the pool, with a musician making the perfect night air sparkle with the sounds of Spain and there was delicious Spanish food! Ireland was in the main living room on the entry level with Jack McGuire playing Irish tunes 'til midnight and the fare was potatoes and succulent lamb! The ground level had an area for the silent auction. The Longino's went to great time and expense, and the evening raised \$16,000 dollars for our Parish. Thank you, Longino's for your hospitality and generosity. This was a five star party.

Focus 11

Thank you to all our cookie bakers- Ruth McDonald, Maggie Moren, Ofelia Hoepner, Mary Poulin, Winnie Young, Angela Soucy, Dolores Smith and Mary Simoneau. We hope that all our Youth will consider God's call to them and we pray for many priests and religious.

Christ Renews His Parish

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) women's weekend is scheduled for March 17-18th. It is a wonderful way to feel a part of the Parish, meet women who will become your friends, and get closer to Jesus. It is a time to be pampered, pray, listen and have fun. Food is delicious and the weekend without charge. Call Terri Meyer (327-7977) if you are interested in attending, or know someone who would like an invitation sent to them. If your husband would like to attend a Men's CRHP Weekend April 28-29th, call Brian Talley (520-7390).

Kids! Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes. **A:** Premature death

From the Pastor's Desk- Monsignor Caverly

The Evening in Europe at the Longino's home did a lot of good for our Parish. About 100 parishioners had the opportunity to get to know one another in a relaxed setting. It would be wonderful if other families did some event like this one, building our community and assisting our Parish financially. The CRHP weekend will be March 17-18. They are looking for candidates to make the weekend. School enrollment is taking place right now. This year, our enrollment numbers are higher. We have 230 registered already for next year. Please continue to prepare for Easter. Daily Mass attendance is very good. You can also prepare for Easter by participating in the Way of the Cross (Fridays at 7PM). Cardinal Wuerl in Washington DC is blanketing the city with advertisements on buses, subway cars, a billboard, radio and in 100,000 brochures in an effort to get people back to the confessional. The slogan "The Light is On for You" - highlights the church's desire that Catholics return to the sacrament of Penance which is meant to keep them holy and close to God.

Elections

The nominating committee (Lu Perrin, Dottie Santacaterina, and Claudia Soucy) presented the following slate for the term of office beginning in May 2007 to May 2009. For President- Marlene D' Abramo, for 1st Vice President-Mary Simoneau, for 2nd Vice President-Gina Longino, for treasurer-Barbara Dippelhofer, for Recording Secretary- Kathy Guckenberger, for Corresponding Secretary-Roseanna Costa. Nominations from the floor are permitted, but the nominee must have prior approval from the Pastor according to our by-laws. Elections will be at our April General Meeting. Thank you to the ladies who have agreed to serve our CCW as officers.

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. Drop it in the Sunday collection.

Fish Fries During Lent

The school sponsored fish fry dinners will be every Friday starting on February 23rd through April 6th. Details are in the bulletin.

St Raphael CCW Financial Report

Thanks to the generosity of our members and their hard work- and last year, a \$10,000 bequest from Margaret Connelly- here is our financial report from Mar. 2006- Mar. 2007. Church and Family donations \$23, 061.48, Community and International donations \$2,794.87, Dues to LPD, DCCW, and NCCW \$677, NCCW Projects (Water For Life) \$344, Misc donations \$902. Our total cash and other donations was \$27,779.35. Thank you, CCW.

Internet Sayings

- Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
- How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
- Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.
- Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
- Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- Aspire to inspire before you expire. My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine. ---
- Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.
- Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.
- The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere. --
- God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question. I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

Sick by Lu Perrin

Irene Ellie, Joan Harrison, Ginny Hansen, Ester LaVangie, Bill and Deborah Scanlon, Mac Bailey, Rose Grado, Joe Kolb, Bill Covert, Rod Moren, Ellie Jennings, Margaret Racila, John Birins, Eleanor Alderson, Gerry and Ann Walsh, Bud and Ardith Rutland. 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: Marion Lagan, Nancye Barrett, Helen Bishop, and Bette Hyslip.

Deceased by Bernadette Bailey

Please pray for the who have died this past month- Pauline Hadfield, Thomas Tatasciore, Eugenia Gallagher, May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Member's Relative Deaths:

-Our sympathy to member Yolanda Gallagher on the death of her mother in law. Eugenia Gallagher, lived 103 years and died a peaceful death on Jan.28. She is survived by her daughters Patricia Frisch and Sr Joan Gallagher (Sisters of Charity of Richfield, Oh.) and her sons Charles Gallagher and Richard and Yolanda Gallagher, 13 grandchildren 25 great grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren. She will be in their hearts and prayers and they will continue to honor her tradition of praying to our Holy Mother and of saying the Rosary faithfully.

-Our Sympathy to member Mary Valle on the death of her brother, Thomas Tatasciore. Thomas, 46, died Feb. 1. He came here in 2001 from CT. He owned T&T Mobile Auto Detailers. He was a member of Knights of Columbus. Survivors include his wife of 18 years, Colette; three brothers, Robert, Frank, and Joseph; two sisters, Rosanne Brown and Mary Vallee and his mother Rose. He will be missed by his very loving family.

- Our Sympathy to Gerry Sweet on the loss of her sister, Mildred Caldwell of Inverness, FL on Jan.2. Mildred was a graduate of St Paul School

March Birthdays

1 Gina Longino, Molly Sanger
5 Therese Johnson
8 Cymbre Lom, Pat McGuire
10 Irene Ellie
11 Ginny Hansen, Donna Lynch
12 Josephine McFarlane
13 Sharon Kimball
14 Marty Foreman
15 Kristin Leary, Jeanne Weber
16 Barbara O'Neil, Yvonne Thompson
26 Kathy Calcutt
27 Kathy Guckenberger, Addis Sasserath
28 Kathy Condon
31 Jill Monforte

Member News

-From Marlene D'Abramo- "Our Daughter, Elisa got married to Patrick Kelly on August 4th in Ct. in a civil ceremony. We were delighted that on Feb. 9th Elisa and Patrick had their marriage blessed by Fr. Anthony at a beautiful Mass and ceremony at her sister Gina Longino's house. About 20 people attended this wonderful occasion and then we all went out to supper at the Feathersound County Club.

-From member Kritin Leary- "A big thank you for all of your prayers! Elias was born on Fri. Feb 23. He is 8lbs 10oz and 21 1/2 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great. God has blessed us once again! We are so grateful for his love and care! Love to all and thanks again for the prayers!

-New member, Mary Simoneau, has three children and two grandchildren. She has lived in FL nine years. Mary loves to travel, to read, and listen to Music. She has become very active in the Parish since being on the Team for CRHP and a member of CCW. Mary has used her computer skills to help with the World Day of the Sick and the Fashion Show.

-Welcome to new member Toni Mathews, mother of member Cymbre Lom.

Kids! Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g., abdomen.) **A:** The body is consisted into three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels, A, E, I, O, and U.

Practices for Lent Conversion through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

It's hard to believe that Ash Wednesday has snuck up on us like a thief in the night, but here we are ready to turn over a new spiritual leaf again. Lenten conversion is not a superficial renewal like cleaning an old painting or varnishing an antique chair. These are renovations but are not conversions! What the Lord wants is not just the change of bad habits and worldly vices; He wants a clean soul and no half-measures will do. And for that, we are given a forty-day discipline to train us to cleanse the *inside* of our souls and make them ready for the Lord.

Lenten house cleaning proceeds according to an age-old spiritual discipline of the Church: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Not ironically, the reason for a three-fold spiritual discipline is that we have a three-fold soul. The "faculties" of the soul are mind, imagination (i.e., emotions) and will, what St. Augustine called the "internal trinity" sixteen centuries ago. As such, the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are directed toward converting and renewing our inner powers: prayer enlightens the mind, fasting matures the emotions, and charity strengthens the will.

Prayer: First and foremost, take time each of the forty days of Lent to pray and don't miss a day. Whatever way you pray best, do *more* of it. Prayer purifies the mind and opens the intellect to the Truth. This does not mean that we have to enter a PhD program to be Christians. Prayer is a universal discipline and anyone can exercise his mind with it to great effect. Years ago when I was in a rural migrant parish, the little Guatemalan ladies who walked sometimes miles every day to the church to pray before the statue of the Virgin of Guadalupe would put me to shame by their intensity of prayer - their prayer was pure and devotional and, as a consequence, their minds were much more attuned to the Mind of God than their busy pastor!

Fasting: Don't neglect this practice during Lent - in fact, do more than the minimum because it's good for the soul! The discipline of fasting aims to reorder the disordered emotions and appetites of our inner life. Eating less or missing a meal never hurt anyone - especially in food-abundant America. However, the benefits are enormous in chastened desires and a tangible sense of dependency upon God.

Almsgiving: The human will becomes mature by learning to make sacrifices for higher goods and purposes, but the spirit of sacrifice is by no means a natural inclination to most humans. However, choosing to put the good of others first can be learned through training in selflessness which is what the discipline of "almsgiving" is about. Almsgiving trains us to think and act generously as our way of life. It is the training of the will to renounce self for the good of another, and Lent gives us forty days to practice it more intensely.

The truly magnanimous souls of our Church's history were those saints who knew the need for discipline in all these areas and practiced them heroically. Such a soul is not given at birth; it is cultivated through a deliberate striving for that inner integrity that we all desire. The Church has the formula to achieve it: prayer, fasting and almsgiving - nothing is more salutary - or more challenging - for that program of inner conversion, but it is the formula that makes us whole. Sincerely Yours in Christ, Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer President, Human Life International Human Life International e-Newsletter Volume 01, Number 56 | Friday, Feb. 23, 2007 www.hli.org. Used with Permission

More Lenten Practices:

adapted from TAN Books & Publishing (www.tanbooks.com).

Every Lent, Holy Mother The Church advocates certain pious practices that her children should perform to satisfy their requirements to do penance, to pray, to perform good works, to make reparation for their sins, and to further the apostolic work of the Church... The primary purpose of Lent, of course, is to help us become truly holy -and we should work toward this goal during Lent by extra prayer, penance, good works, almsgiving, attendance at Mass and reception of the Sacraments (the chief sources of grace).

Some Ideas:

- Abstinence: This is the giving up of something we like to eat, drink, smoke, use, etc. (All Catholics 14 and over are currently required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.) We can abstain from (give up) meat on days other than those required, give up candy, sweets, dessert, pop, gum, coffee, tea, smoking, beer, wine, hard liquor, eating between meals, and/or our favorite foods and drinks, etc.
- TV: We can drastically limit our TV viewing, give up favorite programs or eliminate it altogether.
- Prayer: The daily Rosary.
- An extra Mass or more each week. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest prayer there is.
- A Holy Hour, once a week, twice a week, or each day.
- Pray for those in Purgatory, those who are in danger of dying without being in the state of Sanctifying Grace, anyone you may have had the misfortune to lead into sin, an end to abortion, for peace in the world. -Go to Confession
- Examine your conscience every night: Review the day and what you did and did not do that might have displeased God; then, keep these things in mind for your next confession.
- Do penance: Perform good works: visit the sick, people in nursing homes, take someone to Mass with you on Sundays, get someone with a marriage problem to see a priest.
- Give alms: Increase your donation at Church, support the Annual Pastoral Appeal, Catholic schools, crisis pregnancy centers, local soup kitchens.
- Do Apostolic work: Take someone to Mass or confession with you. Invite someone to become a Catholic. Get a priest to visit a fallen-away Catholic, especially an elderly one. Distribute Catholic books and booklets. Distribute prayer cards and leaflets.
- Engage in spiritual reading: from a good Catholic book, the Bible or the life of a Saint
- Consecrate your life to God and renew the consecration each day or consecrate yourself to God through the Blessed Virgin Mary

Alligator Shoes

A man was on vacation in the depths of Louisiana and he wanted a pair of genuine alligator shoes in the worst way, but was very reluctant to pay the high prices the local vendors were asking. After becoming very frustrated with the "no haggle" attitude of one of the shopkeepers, the man shouted, "maybe I'll just go out and get my own alligator so I can get a pair of shoes made at a reasonable price!" The vendor said, "By all means, be my guest. Maybe you will run into a couple of men who were in here earlier saying the same thing. "So the man headed into the bayou and a few hours later came upon two men standing waist deep in the water. He thought, "Those must be the two men the guy in town was talking about." Just then, the man saw a tremendously long alligator swimming rapidly towards one of the men. Just as the alligator was about to attack, one of the men grabbed its neck with both hands and strangled it to death, dragged it on shore and flipped it on its back. Laying nearby were several more of the creatures. One of the men then exclaimed, "Hey, this one doesn't have any shoes either!"