

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for Us

St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women

February 2009

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

CCW Newsletter



St. Raphael Catholic Church



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Theresa McCormick

From The CCW President

Well it seems the CCW is a ball of fire (HOLY SPIRIT) with the start of 2009. Our Rummage Sale was a HUGE SUCCESS, thanks to Our Chairman Suzanne Kelley and ALL of you AWSOME, WONDERFUL LADIES of St. Raphael, who helped in so many ways with donations, setup, selling and cleanup. We are looking forward to our Mini Lenten Retreat and Fashion Show. Hope to see all of you at these events. THANKS again to ALL of you. Peace ~
Marlene A. D'Abramo

Shore Acres Nursing Home Sends Thanks

We would like to thank you all for the gifts that were given to us over the holidays. They were a blessing. Your gifts made us smile knowing that God has people who continue to think about others. Thank you, Bertha Kennedy, Activities Director. Thanks to all from all of us at Shore Acres for the wonderful gifts. Because of your kindness we had a very Merry Christmas. Best, Doc Nelson, Resident Council President.

Walk for Life

by Francesca McEntegart

I am the program coordinator for Pregnancy Plus Medical with Catholic Charities. I am the only staff member and I am assisted by volunteers.

We are having a Walk for Life fundraiser on February 28th at Crescent Lake. If you are interested

in being a walker and/or making a donation please call at 550-4236 or email me: fmcentegart@ccdosp.org. We are really trying to get the word out. Registration (\$20 includes a t-shirt and refreshments) is at 9am and the Walk is at 10 am. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you. God bless.

Fashion Show Date Change

There is a change on the calendar for our Fashion Show. Instead of February 14th, it is now scheduled for April 18th. More news to follow soon.



Father Benedict Groeschel *by Maggie Moren*

Father Benedict Groeschel will be speaking at Our Lady of Divine Providence House of Prayer on Saturday, March 14, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. His topic is "What St. Paul has to tell us about being Good Christians". There is a \$25 donation per person. Mass will be celebrated. Bring a brown bag lunch and drinks are provided. Registration closes on Tuesday, March 10th or when seating capacity is reached. For more information their website is: www.divineprovidence.org, or call 727-797-7412.

CCW Calendar 2008-09

Saturday	February 7	General Meeting
Wednesday	February 11	World Day of the Sick
Wednesday	February 25	Movie Room B 11:30AM – 2:30PM
Saturday	March 7	Lenten Retreat
Wednesday	March 25	Movie Room B 11:30AM – 2:30Pm
Saturday	April 4	General Meeting
Saturday	April 18	Fashion Show
Saturday	May 2	Installation of New Officers
Saturday	May 16	Mother's Day Tribute
Thursday	May 28	Pot Luck Supper
General Meeting Schedule:		September-May; 7:35AM Rosary, 8AM Mass, 8:30 Continental Breakfast, & Meeting



Mini Lenten Retreat

"A Retreat to the SPA" (Spiritually Personal Adventure. A day to PAMPER YOUR SOUL.) This year's CCW Mini Lenten Retreat will be at St. Therese's Byzantine Catholic Church at 4265 13th Ave. N on Saturday, March 7, 2009. Our CCW will meet as usual for the 7:30 AM Rosary and 8 AM Mass at St Raphael's. We will car pool to St Therese's Church for registration which will begin at 9:00 AM. Dr. Barbara Yastishock-Lutz will be the Retreat Leader, as she guides through a spiritually uplifting day including reflections on Icons, the Rosary and Readings. The Retreat will end at 3 PM. The cost is \$20.00 per person and will include a continental breakfast, lunch, beverages and snacks throughout the day. As a reminder of your retreat, you will make and take home an icon. GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF TIME. Send reservations to Marlene D'Abramo - 3800 Huntington St. NE St. Petersburg FL 33703 or place your check in an envelope marked "CCW Retreat" in the church collection basket. Make \$20.00 check payable to CCW. Deadline for registration is March 1, 2009.

Vocation News *by Mike McBride*

Our Seminarian, Christopher McBride, had a long 3 week break. He came back to St Pete to visit family, friends, and youth at St. Raphael's. The first wedding Christopher ever attended was youth minister Jessie (Freeman) and Matt Cillian's in December. During Christopher's vacation he helped out where he could at St. Raphael's, visited with Monsignor Caverly and Father Spillet, and enjoyed Christmas with family. The McBride family participated in the Boy Scout Troop 219 long winter trip to the Florida Everglades and Eagle Scout Christopher was out there supporting his troop (and family) on the trip. Christopher ended the semester with a "B" average and is looking forward to starting the second semester. Christopher highly appreciates the letters received from parishioners at St. Raphael's. Please continue to write to Christopher and pray for him. (Christopher will celebrate his birthday February 15th. You can send him a card at St. John Vianney Seminary, 2900 S.W. 87 Ave, Miami, FL 33165-3244).



February Papal Intentions

General: That the Pastors of the Church may always be docile to the action of the Holy Spirit in their teaching and in their service to God's people.

Mission: That the Church in Africa may find adequate ways and means to promote reconciliation, justice and peace efficaciously, according to the indications of the Synod of the Bishops' Special Assembly for Africa.

Record time! Record numbers! Record funds!

By Suzanne Kelley

The Holy Spirit had His finger on the CCW's annual Rummage Sale January 17th from the record number of volunteers that just materialized to help with setup allowing the group to finish the Friday night setup in a record 2-hour time to the record number of donations from our very generous parish members to the record number of attendees who allowed us to accomplish the record funds raised of \$3,500 (and counting)!!! A glorious day and the helping hand (albeit a little late arrival) of Goodwill Services who were very appreciative to be the beneficiary of our left-over items topped the already successful sale! They have agreed to be our partner in this annual event which addresses a very heavy responsibility on the coordination group of what to do with the items left over! Goodwill is now our long term Rummage Sale partner!

Rummage sale items ranged from house wares to toys and of course, lots of clothes! Toward the end of the sale, CCW members Rosa Rodriguez and Carmen Marlowe pulled together leftover blankets and warm clothes for the migrant workers. We sent two walkers to the Free Clinic, rosaries to the nursing home and some baby clothes to Pregnancy Plus. Another fine ministry that the CCW was happy to help! All in all, a blessed day with blessed donations and helpers! Thanks to all!!

Eagle Project Needs Help

Hello, my name is Trevor Sasserath and I am a Boy Scout in St. Raphael's Troop 219. I will be carrying out my Eagle Scout project for St. Raphael's. In order to successfully complete the project I will need to raise \$1,355. I will be building moveable screens to hide the band equipment in the Old Church from view. As a fundraiser, I will be offering Village Inn pie coupons for a minimum donation of \$15 each after every Mass on January 31st and February 1st. For more information or to purchase the pie coupons without leaving home (I deliver) please contact me at 522-8435, or email me at tsasserath@gmail.com. The coupons will be available after the weekend as well.

Thank you for supporting my Eagle project to beautify our church. - *Trevor Sasserath*

Blessed Mother Project

by Ursula Abner

(Our Blessed Mother statue in the new Church went on a brief trip the last week of February so that the carpet in the alcove could be replaced by tile) Have you seen the tile in the alcove where the Blessed Virgin stands again in the new church?

It will be so nice when all is finished. The tile work was done by Carmen Marlowe and her husband's tile company, Floor Color Center, 9012 Seminole Blvd., 397-5509 and with such a reasonable price. (The Marlowe's donated the tile and materials and only charged for labor.)

With the tile replacing the carpet there will be no more sun fading, match burns from the candles and will be so easy to keep clean. To see the Blessed Virgin in her beautiful alcove is something of which all of us CCW members can be proud. When I asked where the statue of Mary was during this project, CCW member Kay Yennie and the project organizer Don Mattick said she was on vacation for a week.

From the Pastor's Desk *by Monsignor Caverly*

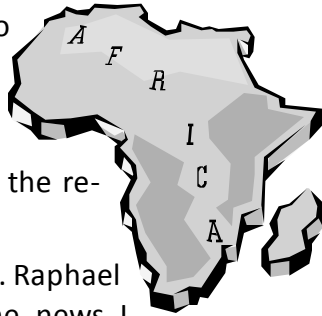
Our Bishop is in the process of surveying all the parishes in the Lower Pinellas Deanery. Selected parishioners spoke at each Jan 24/25 Mass about the need to evaluate the status of our parishes in light of declining numbers of priests available. The Chancery Office will be working with St Raphael's to consolidate the results from the surveys which are done online. Volunteers will assist St Raphael office staff by inputting the results from surveys done by hand. Thank you for co-operating in filling out a survey. The Rummage Sale was a huge success. There was something for everyone! Lent begins Feb. 25th. I would like to encourage each Parishioner to do something extra during Lent. Families might say the Rosary together. Those who are able could attend daily Mass, Stations of the Cross or Adoration. Remember to go to Confession during this penitential time. Once again, thank you ladies of the CCW for all you do for St. Raphael's Parish.



Uganda Mission

by Bro. John Bailanda CSC

(Our CCW sent some funds to support a program with the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Uganda with the Junior Legionares - here are the results)



I wish to share with the St. Raphael Council Catholic Women the news I have received this morning. On 17th January, the grade seven national exam results were announced for the class of 2008 and I was very anxious to know how the kids we sponsored fared. The national news showed that upcountry schools did not perform well and girls suffered more than boys.

This morning I was given the details for Kamukumbi Primary School. One kid obtained a first grade, that is, a distinction which will enable him/her get into any of the best high schools with ease as long as the parents can afford the costs. 15 other kids got second grade and 9 got third grade. They all qualify to join high school. Our school was second best in a sub-county region that has 14 schools. That is a great improvement from the previous years and it means the program for the Junior Legionares paid off. We had 17 kids in the program who did national exams and so the program for the class has been applauded for the success. I wish to thank all of you and ask you to keep it up. Happy New Year.

Thoughts of the Day

- A sharp tongue can cut your own throat.
- If you want your dreams to come true, you mustn't oversleep.
- Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.
- The best vitamin for making friends..... B1.
- The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.
- The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge..
- The thing you can give and still keep...is your word.
- You lie the loudest when you lie to yourself.
- If you lack the courage to start, you have already finished.
- One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.
- Ideas won't work unless 'you' do.
- Your mind is like a parachute, it functions only when open, but don't be so open minded that your brains fall out.
- The 10 commandments are not a multiple choice.
- The pursuit of happiness is the chase of a lifetime! It is never too late to become what you might have been.
- Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle
- Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs."
- Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

February CCW Member Birthdays

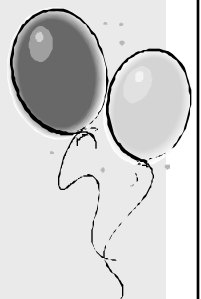
2 Mary Montecki
 2 Kay Yennie
 4 Gail Brazzell
 4 Marlene D'Abramo
 5 Ruth McDonald
 6 Frances Lema
 6 Winnie Young
 8 Mary Wyatt Allen
 8 Joyce Kubala



8 Kathy Grote
 8 Deborah Scanlan
 10 Florence Santi
 15 Sara Galiger
 15 Jovita Tuazon
 16 Jean Feldhaus
 16 Julie Grammatica
 17 Elsa Tugman
 19 Cheryl Anderson



20 Marja Beaufait
 21 Dorothy Panko
 24 Fran Clendenin
 24 Debbie Craig
 24 Viginia Kish
 25 Marie Margle
 26 Denise DeBord
 26 Rose Grado



Member News

- ⌘ From CCW member Jane Winstead: My son, Tommy Lightkep, finished Fire College and graduated on December 11. He took his state tests on January 4 and 5. He passed with high scores and has the title of a State Certified Fireman. He will be continuing his education so that this will give him a better opportunity to get a job. After he finishes his education he will be eligible to move up in rank and hopefully someday become a Fire Captain or a Fire Chief. Wendell and I are so very proud of Tommy's accomplishments.
- ⌘ From CCW President Marlene D'Abramo: What a great privilege it is to be a grandparent and great-grandparent. On January 24th, my husband Sonny, and I went to see our grandson Michael and great grandson Tyler race their Pine-wood Derby cars at Cub Scouts. It brought back memories of when our son, Anthony was in Cub Scouts. Grandson Michael came in second in his den!
- ⌘ Flo Santi's will be celebrating her 90th birthday on February 10th. Congratulation, Flo, on a life well lived and for all you have given to our Parish over your many years here!
- ⌘ Susan O'Gara will be playing Vera, Mame's actress friend, in Auntie Mame at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater in Gulfport the first two weekends of March.
- ⌘ From Rosa Rodriguez: I looked up at the pecan tree where there were two squirrels on the branch, one in front of the other sitting up. One was holding a pecan between his paws, the other one very attentive looking at it as if they were playing ball. Ah. My dog Rachael, a dachshund with shaggy long ears, gets a good workout chasing lizards. She runs fast after them but they are always faster. One day a cat was at the end of the lizard run and Rachael jumped over the cat who did not even move. The cat was enjoying watching the show.
- ⌘ From Rosa Rodriguez: Update about earthquake in Costa Rica, my country. The earth-

quake occurred near the Poas Volcano, 18 miles from my brother's home. There is a fault and it was 7.8 on the Richter Scale. It happened at 1:30pm when tourists were driving in that area and there are hotels, etc. The worst were the 4 mudslides that entombed several people. They were able to rescue some but others were too far under mudslides. Costa Rica has several faults and volcanoes of which 5 are active. The country is small so please continue to pray.

- ⌘ From CCW member Stephanie Graham: Please put the information in the newsletter and online to encourage people to write to Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez and Rep. Bill Young to raise their voices against the FOCA legislation. This is an important bill, one which if passed will have horrible effects on our country's future, on the unborn, hospitals and healthcare professionals, parents and children. Please encourage everyone to write, call and have their friends and neighbors do the same.

More thoughts of wisdom . . .



- A penny saved is a government oversight.
- The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.
- The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.
- The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
- Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are "XL."
- The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.
- There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.
- Life is too short to wake up with regrets. Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a second chance, grab it with both hands. Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would be worth it.

In Your Prayers . . .

Sick by Lu Perrin

Karen Cocker, Francis and Louise Halsmer, Warren Debord, Mary Butson, Sheila Barry, Joe Kolbe, Bill Priest, Eileen Edwards, Esther LaVangie, Ginny Hanson, Jennie Zsampar, Truus Stuier, Susan Neitz, DJ Thompson, Margaret Swing, Ryleigh Russo, and Ann Walsh



Church she served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and was active in the Adoration Ministry, Homebound and Nursing Home Ministries, on the Board of the Council of Catholic Women, a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Loved by all who knew her, innumerable friends and extended family will miss her dearly.

Nursing Homes: Shore Acres: Sue Silas, Stephanie Gowdy, Dottie Soots, Susan Neitz, Dinah Shepard, Fran Davis, Thomas Kunkler, Norman Vanest. *Maria Manor:* DJ Thompson, Juliette Schiavi, Other: Nancye Barrett and Bette Hyslip.

Deceased by Bernadette Bailey

The following persons died during the months of December and January. May the souls of Ella Newmann, (mother of Carol Zimmerman), Mildred High, (mother of Linda Champion), Edward Marusarz, Edwin Babor, Jessica Marie Colihan, Charlotte Manion, Clement Kirk, Ninfa Ester Bermudez (mother-in-law of Kelly Bermudez) and Jack Vanderbleek, father-in-law of Cathy Vanderbleek, and Dottie Santacaterina rest in peace.

CCW Member Dies

CCW member Dottie Santacaterina departed in peace on December 30 in the loving arms of her family. She was born in Brooklyn, NY, resided in Somers, CT, and relocated to St. Petersburg 12 years ago after the death of her husband Anthony, the love of her life. A devout Catholic and dedicated mother, Dorothy leaves behind her son Frank and his fiancé Anna Papa of Enfield, CT; grandson Anthony; former daughter-in-law Cheryl; cousin Florence Gentile and son Bob; along with 8 great-great; 18 grand, and 10 nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sisters CCW member Fran Avenoso, Rose, and Evelyn. Dorothy was a compassionate, vivacious and loving woman who had a gift for helping others. She generously contributed her time and financial support to countless charitable organizations. An active parishioner of St. Raphael

CCW Members Mothers Die

From CCW member Carol Zimmerman: "My Mom (age 97) took her journey to heaven. Her name is Ella Neumann. She died January 3 in Jefferson City, Mo. I have 3 sisters and we were all there with her. Her passing was very peaceful. God was so kind to her and all of us. I look to heaven and see her smile. Thank you for your prayers."

From CCW member Linda Champion: "Thank you for the outpouring of sympathy to me and my family upon the death of my mother, Mildred High. I very much appreciated the prayers, Masses, cards and other condolences. Mom was a charter member of her 51-year old parish and remained active until the end. Six priests concelebrated her beautiful funeral Mass in a loving tribute to her life. She is now enjoying eternal life with our Lord, her family and friends. God bless you."

Respect Life Prayer Service

CCW members Maggie Moren, Winnie Young, Louise Barrett and Joan Dirgl from St Paul's attended the prayer service honoring life held at Espiritu Santo Church on January 22, the 36th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade decision. There was music, Liturgy of the Word, reflections and prayers, and a rosary candlelight procession to the 256 "Crosses for Life" and the Shrine of the Unborn. We joined in prayer and solidarity with Christians across our country who were participating in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on this same date. The temperature was cold by FL standards, but the crowd of over 200 who attended was warmed by God's love and the hope for the unborn who may one day no longer face the danger of abortion.



Freedom of Choice Act by USCCB



Writing to all members of Congress on September 19, Cardinal Justin Rigali warned against enactment of the proposed "Freedom of Choice Act" or "FOCA" (S. 1173, H.R. 1964).

"Despite its deceptive title," he wrote, "FOCA would deprive the American people in all 50 states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry. FOCA would coerce all Americans into subsidizing and promoting abortion with their tax dollars. And FOCA would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government to reduce abortions in our country."

Cardinal Rigali, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, wrote that under FOCA "abortion on demand would be a national entitlement that government must condone and promote in all public programs affecting pregnant women." While some have said the bill would simply codify the Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, he added, supporters of FOCA say it "would sweep away hundreds of anti-abortion laws [and] policies" that are now in effect because they do not conflict with *Roe*. These include bans on public funding of abortions as well as "modest and widely supported state laws" protecting women's safety, informed consent and parental rights.

With his letter, Cardinal Rigali enclosed a legal analysis by the bishops' Office of General Counsel documenting the extreme legal impact of FOCA. "Members of both parties have sought to reach a consensus on ways to reduce abortions in our society," wrote Cardinal Rigali. He cited laws restricting and regulating abortion, and "bipartisan legislation providing practical support to help women carry their pregnancies to term, such as the Pregnant Women Support Act (S. 2407, H.R. 3192)," while noting evidence that programs promoting access to contraception do not generally reduce abortions. "However," wrote Cardinal Rigali, "there is one

thing absolutely everyone should be able to agree on: We can't reduce abortions by promoting abortion.... No one who sponsors or supports legislation like FOCA can credibly claim to be part of a good-faith discussion on how to reduce abortions." Cardinal Rigali urged all members of Congress "to pledge their opposition to FOCA and other legislation designed to promote abortion," so that "we can begin a serious and sincere discussion on how to reduce the tragic incidence of abortion in our society."

The full text of his letter can be found at www.usccb.org/prolife/FOCARigaliItr.pdf. The legal analysis of FOCA by the USCCB Office of General Counsel is at www.usccb.org/prolife/FOCAanalysis.pdf. For media inquiries, e-mail us at commdept@usccb.org Department of Communications, 3211 4th Street, N.E., Washington DC 20017, Tel. (202) 541-3000 © USCCB. All rights reserved.

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Kids in Church

- After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."
- A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."



Statement of the Catholic Bishops of Florida on the 36th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

January 22, 2009

As we mark the inauguration of a new president for our nation, we pause to reflect on the state of our country where over 50 million of our brothers and sisters have been denied their right to life. While Roe v. Wade instituted abortion on demand, Doe v. Bolton defined health exceptions so broadly that any restrictions could be avoided at any time during a pregnancy. Disappointingly, Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992) reaffirmed Roe, though it did permit greater regulation of abortion. Likewise, Gonzales v. Carhart (2007) offered some hope by upholding the partial birth abortion ban, but abortion on demand is still the law of the land. Pope Benedict XVI has said, "The fundamental human right, the presupposition of every other right, is the right to life itself." However, our nation unjustly allows laws that dictate who is worthy of life, defying God's natural law of how life is created.

Surveys of the American people show their increasing discomfort with abortion on demand and the idea that abortion is the solution for a woman with an unexpected pregnancy. The truth is abortion kills not only the tiny child conceived in the womb but also injures the mother, leaving her to cope with the emotional and physical pain. A father involved in an abortion decision must also deal with post-abortion feelings of sadness and depression. We offer our thanks to the men and women who support and serve at crisis pregnancy centers and encourage parishes to help pregnant women and their children through the Gabriel Project.

If you or your loved one have participated in an abortion and want to reconcile with the Church, our Catholic priests are available to offer the sacrament of reconciliation as an instrument to healing and peace. The Church also offers Project Rachel and Rachel's Vineyard where you will receive nonjudgmental acceptance and feel God's unconditional love.

At the present time, we are very concerned about the revival of anti-life legislation, such as the Free-

dom of Choice Act and/or individual proposals based on its many elements. If enacted, these bills could deprive states of the right to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry. These proposals could force all Americans to subsidize abortion with their tax dollars, counteracting any and all efforts by government and others of good will to reduce the number of abortions in our country.

Current laws restricting abortion such as parental notification, informed consent, the demand for partial-birth abortion and protection of infants born alive after a failed abortion must be upheld and maintained. Our concern includes the potential for abortion clinic deregulation and mandated federal funding. This unease extends to the potential destruction of freedom of conscience protections for doctors, nurses and health care workers whose personal convictions prevent cooperation in the killing of unborn children and the threat of requiring Catholic health care institutions to provide abortion on demand. Faithful Catholics and responsible citizens must oppose any and all attempts to incrementally pass these destructive and evil laws. (www.flacathconf.org/federallifelegislation.htm)

There can be no freedom, justice or peace while we continue to deny the rights of members of the human race. Let us continue to build a culture of life starting with protection for the most vulnerable human beings, the unborn.

Archbishop John C. Favalora, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski, Bishop Frank J. Dewane, Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, Auxiliary Bishop Felipe J. Estévez, Bishop Robert N. Lynch, Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, JCL, and Auxiliary Bishop John G. Noonan.
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Happy Valentine's Day

