

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for Us

St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women

December 2009 - Year for Priests

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

CCW Newsletter



St. Raphael Catholic Church



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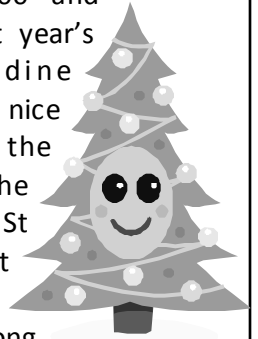
Joining St Raphael CCW

It's easy to join St Raphael's Council of Catholic Women. Simply drop an envelope marked CCW in the weekend collection. We need your name, address, phone, email address, birth day and birth month and a check for \$15 payable to St. Raphael CCW. Dues are payable after January 1 and late by June. Membership gets you to be part of a great group of women whose job it is to serve God in our family, Parish, community and world. We have a Mass intention said for our members monthly. You do what you can, when you can and this way, with over 230 members, we get a lot done for St Raphael's. Women of all ages, professions, interests and talents are welcome and urged to join.

Life isn't fair, but it's still good. When in doubt, just take the next small step. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger. The best is yet to come. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."

From the Pastor's Desk

Monsignor Caverly wishes all the ladies of St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Fun Fest was a great success. Thank you to all the ladies of CCW who helped and supported the festival. We will probably make around \$20,000 and look forward to next year's festival. Bernadine Quartetti had a very nice celebration at the Cathedral where she was awarded the St Jude medal for St Raphael's. Bishop Lynch, following a long illness, was able to pass out the awards and have his picture taken with each recipient. Bernadine was very grateful to receive the award. The Seminarians were home for Thanksgiving and will be home December 12 for the holidays. Both are very happy at the Seminary and doing well.



CCW President's Message

Dear Sisters of St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women: We have many activities planned in the next upcoming months and, of course, we cannot do it without your help. Our Evening Meal at Pinellas Hope will be on Thursday, December 10th. We have many volunteers to man our kitchen for the dinner to be served at 7:00. We would appreciate any prayers for the benefit of all the clients at Pinellas Hope that they receive our food for the nourishment of their bodies and also for their souls. Our January 2nd, General Meeting will feature a speaker from Catholic Charities "Kinship Care", a program that provides assistance to moms and their kids. Also, don't forget our PackRat Rummage Sale on January 16th in the Parish Center from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Coffee and hotdogs will be available for purchase. So, collect all your "treasures" and deliver them to the Parish Center on Friday, January 15th. Thanks to all who made the Christmas Party so successful and especially St. Nick for his special appearance. Blessings, Claudia Soucy

CCW Calendar 2009-2010

Thursday,	December 8	Holy Day of Obligation - Immaculate Conception
Thursday,	December 10	Cook Dinner for Pinellas Hope
Saturday,	December 12	Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe 8am Mass
Friday,	January 1	Holy Day of Obligation - Mary, mother of God
Saturday,	January 2	General Meeting
Saturday,	January 16	Rummage Sale
Monday,	January 25	Matthew Kelly Guest Speaker
Saturday,	February 6	General Meeting
Tuesday,	February 9	Pilgrimage to St John Vianney Seminary
Saturday,	February 13	Fashion Show
Saturday,	March 6	Mini Lenten Retreat
Saturday,	April 10	General Meeting
Thursday,	April 15	Lower Pinellas Deanery Spring
Saturday,	May 1, 2010	General Meeting
Mon-Wed,	May 3-5	DCCW Convention Tampa
Saturday,	May 15, 2010	Pot Luck Luncheon



General Meeting Schedule:

September-May; 7:35AM Rosary, 8AM Mass, 8:30 Continental Breakfast, & Meeting

Holy Days

What is a Holy Day of Obligation? These are special days set aside in our Catholic Church which we are called to celebrate by attending Mass according to Canon Law. In the US there are 6 Holy Day of Obligation each year. How privileged we are to belong to the Catholic Church with such special feast days. We have three Holy Days of Obligation coming up in the next month. Dec 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the USA. December 25, Christmas, is always a holy day for obvious reasons. Jan. 1 is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. These days celebrate special events in the life of our Church, the liturgies are always beautiful and it is a true privilege to be in Church on these Feast Days. It is following the law of LOVE that "obliges" us to attend these Holy Days, as our Lord himself, through the Church He founded, invites us to spend time with our God on these very special events in the life of all Christians. See you at Mass!

Rummage Sale by Suzanne Kelley

We will have the St. Raphael Catholic Church CCW Annual Pack Rat Rummage Sale on Sat. Jan. 16, 8am to 1pm. The setup/drop off will be Fri. Jan.15 from 4pm to 8pm. Volunteers are needed for setup and sorting on Friday. Volunteers are needed for day of sale and clean up on Saturday. GoodWill will pick up our leftover treasures by 2pm Saturday. Call Suzanne Kelley for questions/to volunteer at 641-6575; or email suzkelley101@yahoo.com.



December Papal Intentions

General: That children may be respected and loved and never be the victims of exploitation in its various forms.

Mission: That at Christmas the peoples of the earth may recognize in the Word Incarnate the light which illuminates every man and that the Nations may open their doors to Christ, the Savior of the world.

Dinner for Pinellas Hope *by Celeste Brown*

Plans are underway for the 'Dinner for Pinellas Hope' on December 10th. Eighteen members have signed up to help, and we are told to prepare for 300 people at this time of year. So, there will be much cooking going on beginning December 8. Members will be asked at the Christmas breakfast to take home a pan and a cake mix and return them baked on Dec. 9.

The menu is as follows: roasted loin of pork, cornbread dressing, gravy, applesauce,

green beans, salad, rolls, and cake for dessert. "Pinellas Hope is a temporary tent shelter facility for street homeless men and women. Started in 2007, the program has served more than 577 clients and transitioned more than 49% out of homelessness. On site case managers assess client's needs and connect them to essential support services to transition them out of homelessness." (Catholic Charities Web page)

Rummage Sale *by Suzanne Kelley*

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Spaghetti Dinner a Success

Thanks to all who were able to attend the Nov.15 spaghetti dinner. 175 dinners were served and \$1092 profit collected for the new refrigerators. Thanks to the Parish Life Committee, Jack and Lisa Lyons, Allen and Niki Smith, Ken and Lauren Dandar, CCW members including Celeste Brown, THE COOK, Marty Foreman- ORGANIZER, Suzanne Kelley, Pat McGuire, Gail (and Rod) Brazzell, Ursula and Ava Abner, and Jo McFarlane, and parishioners Rick Brooks and Karen Haraminac, and all who brought desserts or helped in any way!

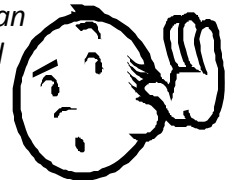
Fun Fest

Our second annual Fun Fest October 28- November 1 was a huge success. There was something for everyone including rides, great food, entertainment, a garage sale and bingo. The Fun Fest main organizers were St Raphael School parents Andrea Vigrass and Erica Ozkan. Some of the CCW members who worked under Rosemary Early to help serve at the delicious spaghetti dinner were Kathy Guckenberger, Carol Kettlestrings, Jo Boyles, Mary Wilson, and Maggie Moren. Marja Beaufait sold hotdogs and Marty Foreman and assistants Ursula and Ava Abner helped count the money. Also thanks to CCW members Kim Early, Gay Hagaman, Donna Condon, Mary Brophy, Therese Johnson, Angela Soucy and Chris Pelletier. Thank you to all others who made this huge event a great success. Early estimates put the profits over \$20,000.

Florida International Museum Quilt Exhibit

Our CCW is organizing a luncheon and field trip to the Florida International Museum Quilt Exhibit on Thur. Jan 7. We will meet for lunch at noon and visit the museum as a group around 1:15 PM. Group price of ten or more is \$5 per person. We will "view dozens of quilts from the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, which chronicles the history of the art quilt movement from 1980 to the present. Nationally recognized quilt artists bring the quilt from the bed to the wall. Also, see a selection of the best from Pinellas County's quilt guilds and explore the influences of history and tradition as local quilters combine contemporary materials and subject matter with age-old techniques. Both exhibits run Nov. 6-Jan 10." (FIM website) Call Louise Barrett 821-2561 to sign up for this fun event.

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other, 'Windy, isn't it?' 'No,' the second man replied, 'it's Thursday.' And the third man chimed in, 'So am I. Let's have a beer.'



Member News

- From CCW Member Roseanna Costa: Bob and I will be spending our Thanksgiving in Sweetwater, TN with Bob's Sister Gloria, her husband, son and other family members who will be visiting. We are looking forward to going.
- From CCW Member Antoinette Falk: My daughter Anne Falk, 27, a lawyer practicing in Fort Lauderdale, will be married to Chris O'Connor on December 12 this year in Reston, Virginia. We will be flying there to attend the wedding.
- From CCW Member Mary Wilson: I spent November 13-15 at a festival retreat in St. Augustine at Our Lady of Hope Community. It is a wonderful place where people with addictions live, work, and pray together. My son, Jason has been there for eight months. It was such a blessing to see him and the work he did on a beautiful musical stage production of The Prodigal Son. Our Lady of Hope Community began 23 years ago in Italy and was founded by Sister Elvira who is still very active in this ministry. It is free and all the guys and girls live on providence. We are truly blessed to have this holy place. The only one in the U.S. is right here in Florida.

Welcome New Parishioner Wine and Cheese Social

Thank you each and everyone who was able to participate. Thank you for your time and the AWESOME food. Thank you for those who were able to come early to help and those who stayed late to pick up and everyone in between who spent time talking to the new parishioners and getting to know each other even better!! We had 40 ministry leaders/active parishioners and 17 new parishioners who attended. Our CCW members who helped: Celeste Brown, Pat McGuire, Marty Foreman, Suzanne Kelley, Gail Brazzell, Ursula and Ava Abner, Bernadette Bailey, Debby Reidy, Rosemary Early, Kathy Guckenberger, Carol Irwin, Barbara Miller, Maggie Moren, Chris Pelletier, Barb O'Neil, Mary Poulin, Vicki Nelson, Mary Stoft, Sue Ugan, Jane and Chris Winstead, Eileen Brady and Louise Barrett. Thank you, CCW!

CCW General Meeting in January

Please attend the next CCW General Meeting on January 2. Our speakers from Catholic Charities will be talking about the "Kinship Care" program which serves the needs of children and families. New members are always welcome.



St Jude's Medal 2009

The Saint Jude Medal was established in 1999 by our Bishop Lynch to recognize the contributions of laity throughout our diocese. The individuals (who are recommended by their Pastor) have given "exemplary service and shown extraordinary dedication to their parish". Congratulations to CCW member Bernadine Quartetti who was awarded the 2009 St Jude Medal for St Raphael's Parish on the Feast of Christ the King, Nov. 22. Bernadine has served St. Raphael's since 1972 when she and her husband Ralph, and 4 children moved here. Bernadine and Ralph did Baptism preparation with new parents, and worked for many years in RCIA. Bernadine now serves as a sacristan and vacuums the Church each Sat. with a group of women called the "Holy Hoovers". Bernadine is the corresponding secretary for CCW and recently was commissioned as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Bernadine is a talented artist who has studied iconography. Two of her beautiful icons are displayed in the Old Church and Meeting Room B. Bernadine is also a talented interior designer. She and her husband Ralph planned the décor, built the window dressings and painted Room B. Bernadine is also responsible for the décor in the women's restroom and handicapped bathroom. Bernadine loves animals and volunteers at Pet Pal, a rescue group for dogs. Bernadine's beloved husband Ralph, who died on Aug. 29 was a part of all Bernadine did at St Raphael's. We are honored to have Bernadine recognized for her faith filled love and service to St Raphael's Parish for over 35 years. Past St Jude's Medal Recipients include Don and Ruth Mattick (08), Vivian Frank (07), Lu Perrin (06), Ofelia Hoepfner (05), Terry Hamm (04), Bernadette Bailey (03), Celeste Brown(02), Truus Stuimer (01), Ginny Hansen (00), Jeanette Bolich (99).

Vocation News

by Seminarian Bob Angel

As we walk on the path of hope and healing this Advent season, let's keep Christ in focus amidst the tornado of our daily responsibilities and distractions. How hard it is to begin exercising again when we let our muscles go un-used, and so our prayer "muscles" atrophy when we lose sight of our God and His desire to spend time with us daily. As we finish up with exams and papers here in Miami, you will all be in my prayers this Advent. Christ is coming!

Vocation News

by Seminarian Chris McBride

As this semester is coming to a close I am looking back on the differences between this year and last year. I have recognized more maturity and growth in my discernment. It is exciting. I have had a very good semester and I am looking forward to spending time with my family over Thanksgiving. Christmas is just around the corner too, so I am gearing up to prepare for the coming of Jesus. I have had great conversations with my RCIA class. The kids are doing well and they are getting excited for Christmas, as I already am. I look forward to spending my Christmas break at home with my family and parish. I hope you are all doing well. God Bless.

I hope all is going well for you and CCW. Thank you for all your support!

27th Annual Jingle Bell Run

Imagine thousands of people walking, running and jogging along St. Petersburg's waterfront. It's nighttime, the course glows with luminaries and the sound of sleigh bells fills the air. Men, women and children join in the holiday spirit at Boley Centers' 27th Annual Jingle Bell Run. Come early and stay late! Live music will be played on the first floor rear patio of the Pier and along the candlelit course. Through December 8th, you may register in person and receive your official Jingle Bell Run shirt and bells at the locations Boley Center 445 31st St. N., 821-4819.

Year for Priests Pilgrimage to St. John Vianney Seminary

There will be a pilgrimage to St John Vianney Seminary in Miami on Tues. Feb. 9. Buses will be leaving from St. Jude in St. Petersburg. The cost is only the bus fee of \$20. We will leave very early and eat lunch at the Seminary, tour, attend Mass and prayers. We return the same day. If interested, contact the Louise Barrett at 821-2561 so we can have a large group from St Raphael's to visit our Seminarians Chris McBride and Bob Angel.

Celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is Saturday, Dec. 12th. This day commemorates the 1531 appearance of the Blessed Virgin to a peasant, Saint Juan Diego, at Tepeyac, a hill northwest of Mexico City. The Blessed Mother miraculously left a beautiful image of herself wearing an Aztec robe on a fiber tilma which resulted many conversions. We will celebrate this Feast Day at 8 AM daily Mass, followed by blessing of your statues and pictures of the Blessed Mother. Refreshments will be served after Mass in Room B. All are invited to honor the Mother of God.



Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, 'Now don't get mad at me .. I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is.' Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, 'How soon do you need to know?'

In Your Prayers . . .

Sick *by Lu Perrin*

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bishop Lynch, John Lee, Joyce Kubala, Karen Cocker, Jeannette Abramo, Rachael Blair, Ryleigh Russo, Margaret Swing, Kay Tolhoek, Joe Kolbe, Catherine Vallette, Margaret Bonanno, Ruth McDonald, Sue Brady, Mike Heraty, Francis Halsmer, Leo Holland, and Tina Quintana.

Homebound and nursing home: Nellie and Charles Bonitati, Truus Stuimer, Eileen Edwards, Ginny Hansen, Susan Neitz, Tom Kunkler, DJ Thompson, Julie Schiavi, Lily Riconda, Montile Sutterlin, and Ann Walsh

Deceased *by Bernadette Bailey*

May the souls of CCW member Martha Farrell, Muriel Anderson, Alicia Mosher, Antonio Geronilla, Geraldine Graffum, Ed Ronayne and Dottie Soots and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

CCW Member Dies

CCW Member Martha Farrell, 87, died Nov. 13. Martha was born in Indianapolis, IN, and moved to FL in 1953. She was a nurse, and also had a career in real estate and was a homemaker. Martha was preceded in death by her husband, George, and her children, Jeanne Farrell and Frank Farrell. Martha is survived by her daughter, Kathi Farrell Ward of St. Petersburg and son, Michael G. Farrell of Richmond, VA. Martha was very active in our parish for many, many years and was part of the founding group of families that moved from St Joseph's parish when St Raphael's began. Most recently, even when homebound, Martha was a caller for our phone tree.

CCW Members Relative's Deaths

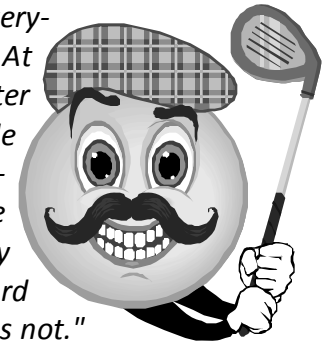
Our deepest sympathy to CCW member Antoinette Falk on the death of her father, Antonio Rivera Geronilla, who died Nov.6. Antoinette was able to make the trip to the Philippines to be with her dad



in the hospital prior to his death. CCW Member Mary Hanlon was able to be with her mom, Geraldine Graffum who passed away out of state on Dec. 1. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

A Hole in One

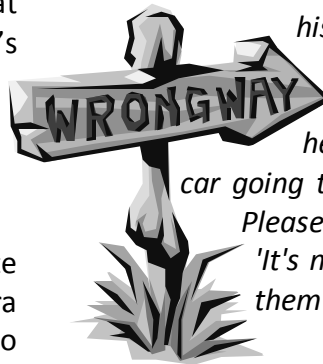
Father Norton woke up Sunday morning and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So... he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to say Mass for him that day. As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish. Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church! At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."



Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. IT WAS A 420 YARD HOLE IN ONE! St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

* * *

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, 'Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!' 'Heck,' said Herman, 'It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!'



Matthew Kelly

Save the dates! Internationally acclaimed speaker Matthew Kelly will be at St Stephens in Valrico, Sunday Jan.24 at 7 PM (Becoming the Best Version of Yourself), St Raphael's on Monday, January 25th at 7PM (Making Sense of Suffering) and at St John Vianney on St. Pete Beach Tuesday, January 26th at 7PM (A Call to Joy) . Matthew Kelly was born in Sydney, Australia, where he began his lay ministry in 1993. Since that time he has travelled in more than 50 countries and spoken to over three million people. He has written twelve books which have appeared on the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and USA Today bestseller lists. His titles include: The Rhythm of Life, The Seven Levels of Intimacy, The Dream Manager, Building Better Families, and Rediscovering Catholicism. The majority of his work today is here in the United States speaking to students, lay adults, priests and seminarians. He also leads numerous retreats every year, both in the United States and abroad. In addition to his spiritual ministry, which occupies 80% of his time, Kelly is also a partner at Floyd Consulting, a Chicago based management consulting firm.



During his presentations on January 25 & 26, 2010, he will discuss the challenges and opportunities we experience in our quest to become the-best-version-of-ourselves. Do you feel stressed? Overwhelmed? Have trouble experiencing joy in your daily life? Have you ever wondered why? Are you just going through the motions? Do you feel your world is in a delicate balance that would fall apart if you didn't keep going at break-neck speed? Are you wondering where your passion and energy have gone? Is everything just another obstacle keeping you from living the life you want to live? Slow it down...pace yourself...take a deep breath...you are not alone...and the life God has dreamt for you is waiting. All you have to do is show up. In his talks, Matthew Kelly will share about a time in his life when he experienced this common and often unspoken struggle. He will reveal what he has learned along his spiritual journey and how he overcame this battle that we all find ourselves immersed in at one time or another. Most of all, he will share with us the deep, lasting joy he has found and show us the way, recognizing the fact that it has been a tough year for many people in many ways. Many have experienced unemployment, others have lost a love one, everyone has had some type of financial setback, and nobody has been untouched by the growing effects of cancer in our society. Suffering is real. We live in a culture that says ease the pain with medication, distraction of entertainment, or any number of addictions. How do we make sense of suffering as Christians? How can it help us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves? Matthew Kelly is devoted to inspiring people to become what he describes as the-best-versions-of-themselves by attending to their legitimate needs in four areas: physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual. He motivates people to see the challenges and opportunities of their everyday lives in a new light, looking beyond the culture's preoccupation with speed, noise and activity to pursue a life of deeper meaning, emphasizing that "who you become is infinitely more important than what you do, or what you have."

Who should attend? People of all ages 12 years and up...parents and children, husbands and wives, boy-friends and girlfriends...single or married...young or old...these presentations are about living every day with passion and purpose! Kelly's core message, invites listeners to become the-best-version-of-themselves. Kelly convincingly communicates this message as God's desire for each of us. And he insists it is also the desire of parents for their children, husbands and wives for each other, CEOs for their companies and employees, pastors for their parishes, and managers and lay ministers for those they lead and instruct. This message of becoming the-best-version-of-yourself, inspired by Vatican II's universal call to holiness, allows Kelly to present the genius of Catholicism through his seminars and writings in a way that is disarmingly simple and yet, deeply profound. To learn more about his work, please visit: www.matthewkelly.org; www.floydconsulting.com; and www.dynamiccatholic.com. Contact Marybeth Finster (521-1957 H) for questions.