

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for Us

St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women

February 2010 - Year for Priests

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

CCW Newsletter



St. Raphael Catholic Church



CCW OFFICERS

President:

Claudia M. Soucy

1st Vice President:

Rosemary Early

2nd Vice President:

Ava Abner

Recording Secretary:

Kathy Guckenberger

Corresponding Secretary:

Bernadine Quartetti

Treasurer:

Marty Foreman



Newsletter Editor:

Louise Barrett

Newsletter/Website Designer:

Theresa McCormick

Around Our Parish

Maria, or as she calls herself, "Ralph's elf", is a parishioner who volunteers 20-

30 hours per week assisting our maintenance staff with grounds beautification.

Maria has a green thumb and we usually see her weeding, pruning, or carrying endless bags of mulch. Maria says that working at St. Raphael's is like working in heaven's garden. Thank you, Maria, for all you do for our Parish family.



March Mini Lenten Retreat

March Mini Lenten Retreat will feature Fr. Julio from St. Mary's Church. All men and women are welcome. We will begin with Rosary at 7:30 AM, Mass at 8 AM, followed by a continental breakfast, our mini Lenten Retreat, and lunch. The Retreat will end at 2 PM. Cost for the retreat is \$10. Make check payable to CCW and drop in the weekend collection in an envelope marked "Retreat" or send to Ann Kovach 4915 Bay St. NE #322 St. Petersburg FL 33703. Looking forward to seeing you at the retreat.

February 13 Fashion Show

"Fabulous Fashions for Faith", a Fashion Show featuring clothes from Patchington's in Isla del Sol will be Saturday, February 13th. Doors open at 11:30, lunch at noon and Fashion Show at 1 PM. We will have Chicken Pasta Salad with a dessert buffet. Tickets are \$18 for adults and children 12 and under \$12. Make check payable to CCW and drop in the weekend collection in an envelope marked "Fashion Show" or send to Marlene D'Abramo, 3800 Huntington St. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703. We need helpers for cooking, making desserts, setting up and clean up. We also need door prizes. Contact Claudia Soucy 520-8502.



St. Raphael CCW President's Message

Dear Sisters of St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women:

Our January Rummage Sale was a complete success and I want to thank everyone who helped. We're now well underway with the planning of our Fabulous Fashions for Faith by Patchington of Isla Del Sol on February 13, 2010. I hope you all have made your reservations for a fun-filled afternoon of food, fashions, faith, family, friends and fun.

I just can't believe that February is upon us already. How does the saying go? "Thirty Days has September, April, June and November, all the rest have 29 or 30, but February has 28, sometimes?" Something like that, I guess, and of course, it's also the hardest to spell month. But more importantly, it is the month of Valentine's Day, the month of Love. I hope you feel the special Love of Christ in your heart and home on Valentine's Day and every day. I know with your help, we can spread this Love of Christ to each and every one of our sisters in this special Council. See you at the Fashion Show Luncheon. ~ Love to you all, Claudia Soucy

CCW Calendar 2010

Tuesday,	February 9	Pilgrimage to St John Vianney Seminary
Saturday,	February 13	Fashion Show
Saturday,	February 20	St. Raphael School Auction
Saturday,	March 6	Mini Lenten Retreat
	March 8-11	Parish Retreat
Saturday,	April 10	General Meeting
Thursday,	April 15	Lower Pinellas Deanery Spring
Saturday,	May 1	General Meeting
Mon-Wed,	May 3-5	DCCW Convention Tampa
Saturday,	May 15	Pot Luck Luncheon



General Meeting Schedule:

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

From the Pastor's Desk

St. Raphael School began Catholic Schools Week (January 31 to February 6) with a special 9:30 Sunday Mass on January 31st. The SRS children's choir sang, SRS children did the readings and provided altar servers. The School has many events planned for Catholic Schools week. On January 25, Matthew Kelly spoke on "The Role of Suffering in Our Lives" to a full Church. There will be a Parish Mission at our Church. A Vincentian Father, Fr. Robert Gielow, C.M., will speak at the March 6/7 weekend Masses. The Parish Mission will conclude March 11. I hope many of the ladies of CCW will be able to attend.

Joining St. Raphael

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 Jan. 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.

DCCW Ad Campaign

Publicity Chairman Pat Farley is in charge of the ad campaign for the DCCW Convention. If anyone would be able to help by putting an ad in the Convention Program, please contact Louise Barrett 821-2561.



February Papal Intentions

General: For all scholars and intellectuals, that by means of sincere search for the truth they may arrive at an understanding of the one true God.

Mission: That the Church, aware of its own missionary identity, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and to proclaim His Gospel to all peoples.

Vocation News

by Seminarian Chris McBride

December: I am enjoying my time on break to spend with my family. I just got back from seeing my grandparents, aunt, and cousins. It was a wonderful trip. It has been a wonderful time to reflect on my semester and recognize how far I have come since my freshman year. I have been wonderfully blessed by God. God has blessed me with much hope this semester. I am very grateful for your many prayers and thank you for your Christmas gift to me.

January: Thus far, life is going ok for me in the seminary. January was a hard month. I have a tough class load this semester and I am having a slight spiritual drought, but I am confident and know that God is still with me. We all go through spiritual droughts in our lives, but it is there when our faith is tested the most. Do we run away? Do we lose faith in God? Or do we return to God and tell him "God I am here even if I am struggling in prayer." The worst thing we can do is forget how much God loves us and desires to be with us. One of the quotes that struck me the most this month is this "The life of a Christian is a process of remembering God's love for us." This is fascinating knowledge. This is why we have the Mass. The Mass is about remembering, remembering God's love for us. Thank you for all your continued support and prayers.

Vocation News

by Seminarian Bob Angel

Greetings in Christ! As the formational journey marches on, I am reminded of the words in Psalm 46--"Be still and know that I am God". Through the distractions of our daily routines and obligations, we have a Creator who wishes us to take time to be still in Him, if only for a few minutes, to know His love and be a herald for others. May we support each other and be witnesses of a radical, compassionate love, which the world so desperately needs. God bless you all.



Visit our new St. Raphael Messenger

St. Raphael Messenger is a blog highlighting the numerous ministries in St. Raphael Catholic Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, through personal stories of parishioners doing God's work. The blog features ministries from seven areas: Faith Formation, Youth Ministries, Community Life & Outreach, Liturgy & Spiritual Life, Parish Life, Temporal Affairs and School Ministries. Articles may be submitted by anyone participating in a St. Raphael ministry. <http://saintraphaelmessenger.blogspot.com/> This month the messenger highlights one of our very own CCW members - go see who it is!



Church Life Committee

The Church Life Committee will be hosting new events throughout the year as we build our faith community. All are welcome! Please visit our new online parish calendar - the link is in the drop down link menu "Bulletin & News" at the top of our website or off the bulletin page!

From the Student Desk

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America. MARIA: Here it is. TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America? CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor? JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell "crocodile?" GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L TEACHER: No, that's wrong GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water? DONALD: H I J K L M N O. TEACHER: What are you talking about? DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

Joyce Jam Concert

January 8, the Parish Center was filled, bustling with all ages ranging from infants, children, teens, to adults and seniors. Monsignor began the night with a prayer for Joyce Kubala who is fighting metastasized breast cancer. Ron Knight opened the show, followed by several groups including our own Bernadette Zeender. Joey Talley, aged 16, initiated, planned and ran the event to benefit our sister in Christ, Joyce Kubala. The profits were \$5855, and we think it will pass \$6,000 as there are still T shirt sales. Joyce's family were present and felt very loved.

DCCW Convention

DCCW Convention Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday, May 3-4-5, 2010. This is a great event that is fun as well as educational. Hotel reservations can be made at Sheraton Suites, Tampa Airport, 4400 West Cypress Street, Tampa, Florida 33607, phone (813) 879-7196. Rooms are suites with breakfast included.

Financial Report

by Marty Foreman, CCW treasurer

Every year we send a report to the DCCW This year, reporting from March 1, 2009 - February 28, 2010, there were five categories adding together checks written and goods and services donated. The totals were: Church and Family Concerns - \$7254, Community and International- \$8853, Dues - \$1029, NCCW Project "Water for Life" - \$238 and Miscellaneous - \$1743. Included in these amounts are donations



besides cash donation to which we attach a dollar value. These donations include altar linen's made for the Church, over 30 coats collected for the homeless, clothing sent to Haiti, donations from the garage sale to Goodwill, 250 items made by the Knit Clickers, 107 gifts collected for Shore Acres NH , over 1000 rosaries made by our Rosary makers for international missions and rosaries for use in our Parish, and the value of the Pinellas Hope dinner we provided for 250 people.

The "Knit-Clickers" *by Ann Kovach*

The "knit-clickers" have had a busy season. Jeanette Abramo, Mary Carlomagno, Terry Hamm, Ann Kovach, and Angela Soucy produced over 250 knitted items in their outreach to the homeless, nursing home patients, the grieving and the infirm. Several 'hats for the homeless' and scarves were lovingly stitched. Many were given to the clients at Pinellas Hope for Christmas. Other recipients were the homeless who camp out under the overpass on 5th Avenue near St Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, migrants at San Jose Mission, and ASAP Homeless Shelter. Jeanette would be happy to share with you her Prayer shawl project. She knits these for the bereaved and for cancer patients. She says that God just seems to find people that can use these comforting wraps. Terry also knits sweaters for Guideposts. Ann knits lap robes and stoles for those in nursing homes. Presently, baby hats are being made and will go to Pregnancy Plus, as well as blankets as soon as a pattern is acquired. We would like to thank Ethelyn Henderson and Gabrielle Schneider who have donated yarn. Very special thanks to Lynn Edmonds, St Raphael Faith Formation Director, who delivers to these items. By the way, Lynn takes several items throughout the year to various agencies which care for those in need. She recently took several toys to ASAP that harbors abused women, their children, and provides housing for a three month period so they can get off the streets and into permanent housing. ASAP also provides a facility for showers and provides clean clothing. They can use and are grateful for any donations, including bedding, toiletries, dishes, silverware etc. Don't throw away; send it their way! If any of you would like to join us "knit-clickers", we will be happy to share patterns, You work at home at your own speed on your favorite knitting or crocheting projects. Ann Kovach 525-6875.



Matthew Kelly by *Marybeth Finster*

1.2 billions Catholics on the planet, 65 million Catholics in America... the sleeping giant was awake on Monday evening, January 25 to hear Matthew Kelly speak at St. Raphael's Church. There were over 1000 people with some even sitting on the floor. It was a wonderful event that bridged the old and young, Catholic and non-Catholic alike into one spot. The praise band rocked and the energy was felt by all. On the feast of St. Paul's conversion, Thank you to all for making this night truly a One body in Christ. Matthew Kelly also spoke with capacity crowds at St. Stephens in Valrico and St. John Vianney Church.

Pontifax a Success

On January 20th, Bernadette Bailey, Mary Beth Finster, Beth Scognamiglio, Pat Merman, Mary Poulin, Rosemary Early, Kathy Guckenberger, Claudia Soucy, Maggie Moren, Sue Ugan and Louise Barrett attended the annual Pontifax Day of Prayer for Christian Unity. Monsignor Caverly was the presider and we shared prayer with 11 clergy and about 120 Catholics, Episcopalians and Lutherans. Since 1989 these three groups, and their respective Bishops,

have worked together in sponsoring this annual day of prayer to increase mutual understanding and community service. The homilist was Lutheran Bishop Edward Benoway on the theme: "You Are Witnesses of These Things". He encouraged us to tell others about Christ.

Community Concerns

Our Chairman for Community Concerns Commission, Rosa Rodriguez, regrettably resigned as Commission Chair due to health problems. Rosa served for several terms as Community Concerns Commission Chairman doing a fabulous job connecting us to the migrant workers in Ruskin. She organized clothing drives and our CCW helped provide several Thanksgiving dinners to migrants. Thank you Rosa, for your dedicated service.

Vocations Enrichment Team

We currently do not have a Parish Vocation Enrichment Team at St. Raphael's. Is anyone able to serve in this ministry to promote vocations and support our two Seminarians? Contact Louise Barrett 821-2561.

Rummage Sale Great for "Pack Rat Syndrome"

So many people helped set up, made donations, helped worked the actual sale, and cleaned up that it would be impossible to name everyone without accidentally forgetting someone, so thank you each person who was able to help in any way. We netted \$2843.87 and many, many shoppers went home with treasures. Ladies connected to a Haitian Church in Tampa took clothing that will be sent directly to Haiti. Mary Brophy Lee and helpers did an amazing job helping us with clean up. Goodwill took the leftovers and all was cleaned up by about 3PM.

Special thanks to Suzanne Kelley- Chairman, Amy Robison who supplied the newspaper ad that drew in our buyers, and of course, our CCW President Claudia Soucy who did a magnificent job coordinating the food and keeping the whole thing running smoothly. A fine time was had by all.

Florida International Museum Quilt Exhibit

Our CCW luncheon and field trip to the Florida International Museum Quilt Exhibit on Jan 7 was a huge success. We met for lunch at the Museum of Fine Arts Café. The food was superb, (we practically licked our plates clean), and the desserts big enough to sink a ship. At the FIM, Lynn Edmonds, Claudia Soucy, Jane Winstead, Lillian McClelland, Margaret Peck, Carol Zimmerman, Terry Hamm, Bernadette Bailey, Sue Koch and Louise Barrett listened to a presentation by one of the quilt artists. The show had not only traditional quilts, but also "textile art". The pieces were stunning. Consider joining us on our next field trip to the Stage Costume Show at the FIM this Spring. Date TBA.

Member News

- ▶ New CCW member: I'm Barb Alderfer. I moved to St. Petersburg with my husband, Earl, 3 years ago and we just joined St. Raphael's. We love the parish, it is very much like our parish in Fort Wayne, IN...active, friendly and deeply rooted, spiritually. We have 3 daughters up North and 4 grandchildren. I work out of my house as an alterations specialist and a toy designer, and have developed a line of machine washable stuffed toys. My company is ST PETE STYLE. I love music and have cantered most of my life. From time to time the Holy Spirit has inspired me to write songs. Although we moved here because we both lost our jobs, Earl and I feel that God had a hand in it and has blessed us abundantly. I like to thank Him every chance I get. I am most grateful for the Wednesday Adoration. What a blessing! We thank everyone for making us feel welcome.
- ▶ From CCW member Bernadette Bailey: I'll be in Mission, KS (suburb of Kansas City) Feb 18-25 with my three grands while their parents are in Miami, FL on a business trip. On Jan 29 KC has a high temperature of 20 degrees with snow! I've already sent my snow boots, a big fleecy robe & flannel pjs. Dana (15), Dorian (13), Liam (8) will help me make cinnamon rolls, something chocolate and, oh yeah, we might be shoveling snow too. My Grandmom motto is, "Spoil them and return them."
- ▶ New CCW member: Sandy Imbriani: My birthday is July 6th. I have been married for 45 years. I am retired from Pinellas County Schools and working part-time at St. Raphael School. We have four grown children, and one lovely granddaughter. I'm blessed to be close to all of them.
- ▶ From CCW member Cherie Mainenti- I started harp lessons. I acquired a "traveling" or "Celtic" harp that is quite lovely and stands about 3feet tall. I'm re-learning how to read music since it's been about 28 years since I was a Jr Pitchfork (9th grade chorus at St Pete High) and even longer since I played clarinet in the 4th grade. When I finally get comfortable playing, I intend to enroll in a program called Harp for Healing. It deals with harp therapy to help the sick and dying. Taking Communion to Mary Simoneau while she was dying of cancer really changed my life. I saw God's grace so clearly and wanted to do something in addition to taking Communion that would make the dying process a little easier.
- ▶ From CCW member Mary Wilson: My husband, Eric, surprised me with a short trip to New Orleans for our anniversary in January. We were married there 41 years ago. We had such a wonderful time eating, shopping, visiting a few relatives, and eating some more! We brought back a couple of King Cakes & lots of great memories.
- ▶ CCW Member Mary Wyatt Allen: Won an award from the St. Petersburg Museum of History Guild and which says "In Grateful Appreciation for Your Years of Outstanding Dedication & Leadership."
- ▶ From CCW member Marty Foreman-I'm going skiing in Jackson Hole, WY. I'll be thinking of everyone in the beautiful snowy mountains.
- ▶ It was great seeing CCW members Margaret Bonanno and Mary Montecki back in Church following post hospital recuperations.
- ▶ CCW Member Gina Longino will be in Haiti for ten days with a team of doctors and nurses from the Sarasota area to assist the victims of the earthquake.
- ▶ CCW Member Ginny Hansen has been moved to a nursing home in Los Alamos NM to be near her son and his family. Ginny served as Sacristan in our Parish for many years
- ▶ CCW Member Alex Ray has moved back to St Pete to be close to her daughter after living a few years in Bradenton. Welcome back, Alex!
- ▶ CCW Member Lily Riconda has moved to an assisted living facility. Her new address is Nurse's Helping Hands 7191 71st St. N Pinellas Park, FL 33781.

Statement of the Catholic Bishops on the 37th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

January 22, 2010

Approaching the somber anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision that declared an unborn child has no constitutional protection, we have a glimmer of hope as surveys of the American public indicate the overwhelming majority do not believe in unrestricted access to abortion. Over 80% of those polled in two surveys, one by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the other by the Knights of Columbus, believe abortion should be illegal or significantly restricted. Reflecting on a 2009 report by the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute that over one billion babies in the womb have died worldwide, averaging one death by abortion for each second of the year, we continue to work and pray for the day when every unborn child will be welcomed. The growing numbers of crisis pregnancy centers, predominately staffed by volunteers, speaks to this vital outreach to pregnant women and their children who need our physical and spiritual support. We reach out to you, our brothers and sisters, who have participated in an abortion and urge you to come back to full communion with the church. Just as we all seek God's forgiveness for our failures, Project Rachel and Rachel's Vineyard offer hope and healing for those suffering from past life altering decisions.

Our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, continues to speak out about the life of a human person as a gift from God and not a "mere human product". In addressing Brazilian bishops in November, 2009, the Pope explained, "the conviction of right reason and the certainty of faith that the life of the human being, from conception to natural death, belongs to God and not to men, confers on it that sacred character and that personal dignity that arouses only one correct legal and moral attitude, that is, one of profound respect."

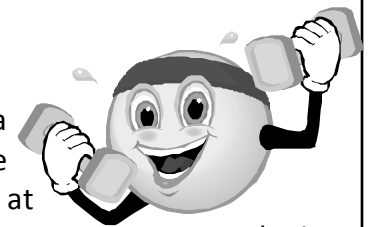
In Florida, the rate of abortion has decreased for the second year in a row. We will continue to advocate for legislation that protects life including the re-

quirement for women to view an ultrasound of their baby prior to an abortion and maturity standards for judges hearing a minor's request for a judicial bypass of parental notice for an abortion. Let us continue to pray unceasingly for the day when Roe v. Wade will be overturned and all human life will be protected from the moment of conception.

Archbishop John C. Favalora, and Bishops Victor Galeone, Robert Lynch, Thomas Wenski, John Ricard, SSJ, Gerald Barbarito, Frank Dewane, Felipe Estévez, and John Noonan.

Exercise Tips

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides, and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks. Then try 50-lb potato sacks, and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato sack in each hand, and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level.) After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each sack.



Are you talking to me?

I pulled into the crowded parking lot at the local shopping center and rolled down the car windows to make sure my Labrador Retriever Pup had fresh air. She was stretched full-out on the back seat and I wanted to impress upon her that she must remain there. I walked to the curb backward, pointing my finger at the car and saying emphatically, "Now you stay. Do you hear me?' Stay! Stay!' The driver of a nearby car, a pretty blonde young lady, gave me a strange look and said, "Why don't you just put it in PARK?"



In Your Prayers . . .

Sick *by Lu Perrin*

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bishop Lynch, Bernice McCune, Mary Montecki, John Lee, Joyce Kubala, Karen Cocker, Rachael Blair, Ryleigh Russo, Margaret Swing, Kay Tolhoek, Joe Kolbe, Jack Nugent, Mary Donatelli, Eileen Anemedro, Virginia Williams, Dorothy Connor, Lillian Petrocco, Catherine Valette, Sue Brady, and Francis Halsmer.

Homebound and nursing home: Nellie Bonitati, Truus Stuimer, Eileen Edwards, Ginny Hansen, Elsa Tugman, D J Thompson, Julie Schiavi, Lily Riconda, Montile Sutterlin, and Ann Walsh

Deceased *by Bernadette Bailey*

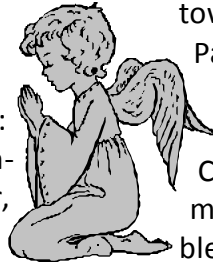
May the souls of CCW member Ruth McDonald, Francis Synott, (father of Barbara Dippelhofer), Henry Carlomagno (Mary Carlomagno's husband), Elisa Rodriguez, Charlie Bonitati, Frank Coppins, Marcella Miller, and William Uhler and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen. Our deepest sympathies to all who have lost a beloved family member.

CCW Family Members Die

CCW member Barbara Dippelhofer's lost her father, Francis Synott on December 14th. His funeral service was Jan 2. CCW member Mary Carlomagno's lost her husband Henry on Dec. 26th. His funeral Mass was Jan 30. CCW member Nellie Bonitati lost her husband Charlie on January 10. His funeral Mass was January 14th. Charlie was also CCW member Judy Roberge's father. Our deepest sympathies to all of you on your tremendous loss. May God comfort and console you.

CCW Member Dies

CCW Member Ruth McDonald, 84, died January 1 at home after brief hospitalization. Ruth was born in Cedarhurst, NY, she came here in 1980 from Brick-



town, NJ. She was an active member of St. Raphael's Parish and a volunteer at Bayfront Medical Center. Ruth was a member of St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women for over 26 years. Ruth helped CCW with innumerable functions. Ruth was a member of "Christ Renews His Parish", a home Bible study group for Renew 2000, a Reader, in the hospitality and phone tree ministries, held offices on the CCW Board and supported the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Conventions. She participated in the Summer Talent Shows for many years. She was a member of the Suncoast Classical Clowns. She and her husband Jack volunteered at the Pier weekends to entertain tourists and children. She was preceded in death by her beloved Jack. Survivors include her four sons Christopher, John Jr, Paul, and Rick, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. We will miss Ruth's smile, willing hands and kind heart.

Stormy Weather...

A young naval student was being put through the paces by an old sea captain. "What would you do if a sudden storm sprang up on the starboard?" asked the captain. "Throw out an anchor, sir." replied the naval student. "What would you do if another storm sprang up aft?" asked the captain. "Throw out another anchor, sir." answered the student. "And if another terrific storm sprang up forward, what would you do?" asked the captain. "Throw out another anchor." replied the student. "Hold on," said the Captain. "Where are you getting all your anchors from?" The naval student replied, "From the same place you're getting all of your storms, sir."

No Parking

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."