

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for Us

St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women

March 2010 - Year for Priests

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

CCW Newsletter



St. Raphael Catholic Church



CCW OFFICERS

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St. Raphael Fish Fry Dinners

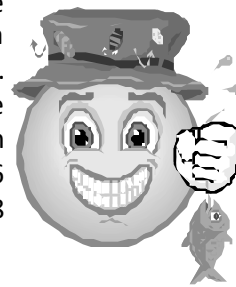
On the first Fish Fry Dinner of this season, the Parish Center was packed with people of every age; both parishioners and non parishioners. The kids had a glorious time playing outside, and the everyone had plenty of time to eat the delicious food and visit with old friends and make new friends. There is pizza as an alternative for those who prefer it. There was a 50/50 and someone left \$90 richer. These Fish Fries are sponsored by the Youth Group. Come eat with your parish family on Friday March 12, 19 and 26 from 5 to 7:30 PM. Adult tickets cost \$8 and children tickets are \$4.50.

April Meeting, 2nd Saturday

Due to the Easter Holy days, our usual meeting date- the first Saturday of the month in April will be rescheduled to Apr 10th, the 2nd Saturday. See you then.



We will have a speaker from the Free Clinic and ask that you bring a non perishable food item to donate.



St. Raphael CCW President's Message

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

Happy Birthday to.....Us! The National Council of Catholic Women is ninety years old on March 10, 2010. In the 1920's, the National Council of Catholic Women was founded under the umbrella of the U.S. Catholic Bishops who recognized the important work done by Catholic women during World War I. In the 40's, members volunteered and worked to create the War Relief Services to help children in war-torn Europe. In the 50's, we expanded our international ties with the World Union of Catholic Women and launched the Military Council of Catholic Women to support military spouses during the Korean and Cold War. In the 60's, there was a church renewal and our members stepped forward to take on leadership roles in the Church. Mother Theresa's mission to God's poorest was our focus with the Madonna Plan, allowing her to send many of her sisters to help in the streets of Calcutta. The 70's, were a time the Council reached out to improve women's health where we established a Breast Cancer Education Program. In the 80's and 90's, our Council continued with programs addressing the concerns of Catholic women when the Mothers Outreach to Mothers was formed. Today, the National Council of Catholic Women is still committed to helping Catholic women work, pray and become an extended network of service and support to one another and also the world in which we live. (Taken from "A Brief History of NCCW" by Donna Sanders) So, Happy Birthday to us all and may Mary, our Lady of Good Counsel, continue to guide us and be at our side to nurture our organization and our souls as we inspire each other to work in the service of our Lord, her Son. ~ Love to you all, Claudia Soucy

CRHP- Christ Renews His Parish Weekends

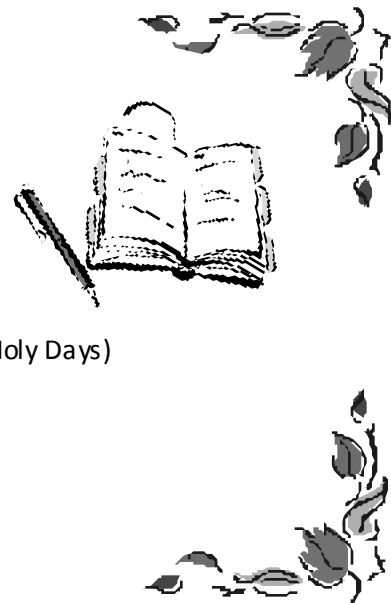
If you have never made a Christ Renews His Parish Weekend, this is a perfect opportunity. There will be a women's weekend on March 13-14. Please call Debbie Craig 580-8040 for more info or Bill Reidy 686-0949 for the men's weekend on March 20-21.

CCW Calendar 2010

Mon-Thurs,	March 8-11	Parish Mission 7PM Mass
Thursday,	March 11	The Light is On for You—Confessions 5-8PM
Friday,	March 12, 19, 26	Fish Fry, Parish Center
Sat-Sun	March 13-14	Women's CRHP Weekend
Sat-Sun	March 20-21	Men's CRHP Weekend
Sunday,	March 28	Bunny Breakfast, Parish Center, Youth Group
Sunday,	April 4	Happy Easter
Saturday,	April 10	General Meeting (2 nd Saturday due to Easter Holy Days)
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



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>. Parishioners that have been highlighted in the St. Raphael Messenger: Niki Smith, Reader ministry; Jessica Cillian, Youth ministry; Bernadette Bailey, Bereavement ministry; Don Mattick, Cursillo ministry; Louise Barrett, Hospitality ministry; and Theresa McCormick, Webmaster ministry.

Year for Priests Pilgrimage to St John Vianney Seminary

260 people in 6 buses from all over the Diocese to made a pilgrimage to St John Vianney Seminary in Miami on Feb. 9. Our diocesan seminarians were incredibly excited about their "people" making this pilgrimage in their honor. They made a special DVD on seminary life which we viewed on the bus. They were waiting for us when the busses arrived, cheering and waving, and they escorted us to breakfast. We had an orientation, tours, lunch with the seminarians, Mass and prayers. Louise Barrett and Becky McBride, mother of Seminarian Chris McBride had the honor of representing St Raphael's. St Raphael Seminarian Bob Angel was very happy to share the good news about his brother, Danny, who has been accepted into the program and will also be studying at St John Vianney in August.

Focus 11 Cookies

Our Diocese puts on an annual vocation awareness program for kids in 5th grade called Focus 11. Thank you to our cookie bakers from St. Raphaels: Robin Ahlquist, Saunya Talley, Linda Champion, and Amy Robison. Linda Champion volunteered at the Focus 11 event and delivered cookies from all the Lower Pinellas Deanery including our cookies.



March Papal Intentions

General: That the world economy may be managed according to the principles of justice and equity, taking account of the real needs of peoples, especially the poorest.

Missionary: That the Churches in Africa may be signs and instruments of reconciliation and justice in every part of that continent.

Shoes for the Poor *by Kelsey Langston*

I am a Junior at the Academy of the Holy Names High School in Tampa. I will soon be leaving for a week-long mission trip to La Victoria, Dominican Republic. Every year, the missionaries from Academy reach out the community, requesting shoes for the children and adults of La Victoria. Without these shoes, the adults cannot work and the children cannot go to school. Thanks to your overwhelming support I received over 200 pairs of shoes from all of you. Thank you so much. I will tell you about my experience when I return. This is the 11th year that Academy of the Holy Names has sent a group of missionaries to La Victoria.

This is from the website: www.SeedsofHopeforLaVictoria.org. On the first trip in 2000, "the group was shocked by the inhumane conditions in which these families lived; many of the adults and children were severely malnourished, the children had distended stomachs due to parasites, hygiene was almost non-existent, rotting teeth ruined their smiles, they had no running water, dirt floors huts were constructed with mismatched pieces of tin full of holes and others were made of palm fronds...most of them makeshift shelters barely fit to shelter farm animals." Thank you, Kelsey, for helping these people at La Victoria.

March for Life *by Maggie Moren*

Despite the cloudy skies, cool weather and gusty winds, a large number from St. Raphael's came to Crescent Lake Park for the 2nd annual Walk for Life on Feb 6th, a fund raiser for Pregnancy Plus. Special t-shirts were handed out to those who raised \$100 or more. There were games for children, "Tebow" patches on the faces of the walkers with their favorite Scripture verse, fruit, donuts, coffee, and water for the walkers, and wonderful fellowship before and during the walk. Fr. Bob Gangolu from St. Paul's led the March for Life and the Rosary (all four mysteries were recited) as the walkers paraded around Crescent Park two times. Many people witnessed us walking and praying. It was like St. Francis and his friars who would walk through the town of Assisi, their presence was a teaching to the people. The amount raised was \$4,300. These funds help support the Pregnancy Plus Clinic which helps mothers who are abortion minded by mentoring, showing a sonogram of their baby, providing clothing, toiletries, furniture and many other needs for the mom and her baby. Many gave generously and sponsored me and other St. Raphael walkers. Know that your dollar is keeping a child alive and saving the mother from making a drastic mistake. God bless you all, thank you St. Raphael family!

From the Pastor's Desk

Our parish mission will begin with talks at the weekend Masses March 6/7 by Father Robert Gielow, CM, a Vincentian who conducts parish missions. Each evening, beginning Mon. Mar 8 to Thurs Mar. 11, there will be a special Parish Mass at 7PM and homily designated to increase our spirituality. On Thur. Mar 11, Bishop Lynch has asked that every Catholic Church in the Diocese of St. Petersburg turn on its lights and open its doors for the Sacrament of Reconciliation between 5 PM and 8 PM. I encourage the ladies to attend these events.

I will be the Pastor Emeritus, effective July 1. I am grateful to the Lord for my 45 years in the Priesthood. We have good news as a third young man from our Parish will be entering St John Vianney Seminary in August Danny Angel will join his brother Bob Angel and Chris McBride as they continue the discernment and formation process for Priesthood. I attended the Catholic Foundation Banquet at the Grand Hyatt in Tampa with Bishop Lynch and guest speaker Archbishop Dolan of NY. There were over 500 in attendance. I was also able to attend our St Raphael School Auction that same evening. Our auction was very successful.

Member News

- ▶ Surprise for CCW member Marlene D'Abramo on her birthday: February 4th was my special birthday and my best friend Anita and her husband John drove down from CT to help celebrate my special day. Also, that afternoon my door bell rang and there stood my son Anthony and daughter-in-law, Zandra down from CT. Thank the Lord I don't have heart problems! The next day, my daughter Gina and son-in-law Mike had a surprise party at their house, along with my daughter Elisa and son-in-law Patrick also from CT with a my grandkids and great grandkids and a few friends. It was a wonderful party.
- ▶ From CCW member and proud parent Robin Ahlquist, My 12 year old daughter Raquel has joined the Youth Praise Band. She has been in it for a few months now.
- ▶ CCW Member Lily Riconda would appreciate visitors. She is at Nurse's Helping Hands, 7191 71st Street/Belcher Road.

May DCCW Convention

The Annual DCCW Convention is Mon/Tues/Wed, May 3-4-5 at the Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport. Please consider attending this fun and informative event. Sun. May 2 at 7 PM we will have the "Deanery Derby" with dinner (Chicken) \$28. Mon. May 3 registration is at 8 AM (\$15 one day registration) with 9 AM Mass, a business meeting and our keynote speaker, Judy Powers, 10:30- noon. The first workshop is at 1:15- 2:30 Taking Care of the Caregiver, Family and Community Workshop, followed at 2:45- 3:30 with the International Workshop. The Rosary is at 3:45PM with a break until the 7 PM dinner \$28.50 (Flank steak/Vegetarian) and Monday Night Fun Night when we wear "Jammies" and listen to old time radio entertainment. Tues. May 4 registration is at 8 AM (\$15 one day registration) with 9 AM business meeting. 10:45- noon is the Church and Legislation Workshop and 1:30- 3:00 is the Organization Workshop. The Bishop's Mass is at St Patrick's at 4:30 PM, followed by the 7 PM Bishop's Banquet \$32.50 (Roast Pork/chicken/vegetarian). Wed. May 5 (three day registration is \$35) we have 9:30 -11 AM-closing business meeting and 11 AM closing Mass. 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. Call Louise Barrett 821-2561 for more information. Reservation deadline is April 12th.

Collections to Make a Difference

- ▶ Boxtops for Education- Save your "Boxtops for Education" for our St Raphael School. One of our members, Marty Foreman, clips a baggie w/ a magnet right to the front of your refrigerator and drops in the box top every time you see one on a Betty Crocker or General Mills box. When you collect a bunch, turn them into the school office. Our school gets 10 cents per label and that really adds up.
- ▶ You can save greeting cards/Christmas cards- the front and backs, empty medicine bottles, old glasses, and used stamps for distribution to worthy causes. Bring them to the CCW meeting or give them to Roseanna Costa who delivers them.
- ▶ Long sleeved shirts for farm workers- Donations will be collected between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday. Help St. Raphael's Faith Formation Program (CCD) collect long-sleeve cotton shirts for men and women who work in the fields in Florida. Farm workers are regularly exposed to pesticides. Contact with these pesticides causes skin irritation and can cause

more serious health problems if prolonged. They wear long sleeves to protect themselves from these pesticides as well as from the heat and the skin irritants in the plants.

Fashion Show a Fabulous Success

What a great event, over 110 attended our show, "Fabulous Fashions for Faith", featuring fashions from Patchington's. We enjoyed chicken pasta salad, spinach strata, and assorted breads, with a dessert buffet. Our models were Marybeth Finster, Ethelynn Henderson, Roseanna Costa, Jo Burkhart, and Pat Merman. We had a special appearance by Fr Spillett with little Mickey (Marty Foreman's dog). Our children who modeled were Heather, Ashley, Julia and Ryan Finster, Rachel Early, Anna and Olivia Loxton and Abigail Knepprath. We made \$1,600 profit at this community building event. So many signed up to help, and many more just pitched in when they got there- and we are so grateful. Thanks, Maggie Moren, Eileen Brady, Marlene D'Abramo, Mary Wilson, Rosemary Early, Jo Ann Burkhart, Celeste Brown, Claudia Soucy, Louise Barrett and Terry Hamm for helping in the kitchen (and some of those who stayed to set up as well). Thanks to the maintenance men who stayed late to set up our tables, and Gail Brazzell, Bernadine Quartetti, Bernadette Bailey, Kathy Guckenberger, Jeanette Abramo and Ursula Abner who helped Claudia Soucy transform the Parish Center which looked stunning. We even have a runway for the models. Dessert bakers included Toni Matthews, Bernadette Bailey, Gail Brazzell, Mary Wilson, Ursula Abner, Adela Vidal, Mary Poulin, Bernadette Zeender, Cheris Mainenti, Yolanda Gallagher, Kathy Condon, Ava Abner, Maggie Moren, Robin Ahlquist, Marybeth Finster, Terry Hamm and Celeste Brown. Day of show extra helpers in the kitchen saved the day- thanks to Pat Merman, her sister Barbara Merman from Philadelphia, and Kathy Condon. Our leader for all this was CCW President and Fashion Show Chairman Claudia Soucy. Kathy Guckenberger, ably assisted by CCW 1st VP Rosemary Early, did an amazingly professional job making our opportunity baskets. Thanks to all our members who made donations for these baskets- Robin Alquist, Bernadette Bailey, Jo Boyles, Rosemary Early, Marybeth Finster, Marty Foreman, Kathy Guckenberger, Sandy Imbriani, Ann Kovach, Melissa Kraus, Denise DuBord, Margaret Peck, Addys Sasserath, Claudia Soucy, Bernadette Zeender, Kim Loxton, Mary Wilson, Gail Brazzell, Melissa Kraus. Addys Sasserath provided make up with Mary Kay products. Of course, teens Anthony Fernandez and Trevor Sasserath looked great dressed up with suits and ties as they stood by the runway to assist our models. They also helped with serving and cleanup. Looking forward to our Fashion Show next year.

10 Books by Matthew Kelly

This is from an email by Matthew Kelly who recently spoke at our Parish, "During my recent talks I spoke about the importance of spiritual reading. I also offered to email a list of ten books to anyone who was looking for some direction in this area. A spiritual director has the opportunity and the privilege to suggest books specifically to suit a person's place in the journey. In this case, I do not have that luxury and have tried to put together a list for a very large group of people at varying places in the journey. The criteria I have used in putting this list together are as follows. I have tried to suggest books that would: 1. Renew our spiritual orientation by reminding us that we are each called to become the best-version-of-ourselves. 2. Give us the practical tools to grow in the spiritual life. 3. Awaken our spiritual senses and inspire us to focus more of our time and efforts on the spiritual life. The list is not perfect, but these are great books. Please try not to judge the list. On a practical note, I would suggest reading them in the order presented below. I have not ranked them in order of preference, but rather, in the order I feel would be most beneficial to the reader. I am assuming that you have already read *The Rhythm of Life* and *Rediscovering Catholicism*, otherwise I would encourage you to read them in order to understand the context in which I am recommending these other titles. Remember, fifteen minutes a day of good spiritual reading a day... not two hours today and none for two weeks... Our lives change when our habits change. 1. *Let Your Life Speak* by Parker Palmer.

2. *Back to Virtue* by Peter Kreeft. 3. *Three Philosophies of Life* by Peter Kreeft.

4. *As a Man Thinketh* by James Allen. 5. *He Leadeth Me* by Fr. Walter Ciszek, S.J.

6. *Conversation with Christ* by Peter Thomas Rohrbach. 7. *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. 8. *Man's Search for Meaning* by Victor Frankl. 9. *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. 10. *Abandonment to Divine Providence* by Jean-Pierre De Caussade.

You can order all of these titles from the foundation by calling 513-221-7700.

March for Life *by Maggie Moren*

Despite the cloudy skies, cool weather and gusty winds, a large number from St. Raphael's came to Crescent Lake Park for the 2nd annual Walk for Life on Feb 6th, a fund raiser for Pregnancy Plus. Special t-shirts were handed out to those who raised \$100 or more. There were games for children, "Tebow" patches on the faces of the walkers with their favorite Scripture verse, fruit, donuts, coffee,

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New Members and Dues

Our annual \$15 CCW dues are due in April. So far Fanny Abad, Judy Birins, Fran Clendenin, Jean Feldhaus, Gay Hagaman, Lynne Hensley, Alex Ray, and Jane Scarpino have paid their 2010 dues early. Last year we had 212 people pay their dues to become CCW members in addition to our life and honorary members. These dues cover many items in our yearly budget. The CCW dues envelope will be in the April envelopes from church. You can also pay the dues early in any envelope marked "CCW Dues". One of the main advantages of being a life member is that Louise Barrett, Antoinette Falk, Vivian Frank, Madelon Healy, Ann Kovach, Colleen Lally, Melissa LeClair, Irene Lewis, Grace Matos, Ruth Mattick, Bernice McCune, Linda Mims, Charlotte Overbey, Anastasia Rossi, Gerry Sweet, Mary Margaret Winning, and Winnie Young do not have to remember to pay dues ever again! Those in nursing homes are exempt from dues and are honorary members. If you cannot afford the \$15 dues please contact President Claudia Soucy. Thank you in advance for paying your dues as soon as possible.

We love our members and hope you can get a friend to join this April. We are conducting our annual membership drive. Ideally, we would like all the women of St Raphael's to consider becoming a CCW member. We welcome "New Members" Barbara Alderfer, Sandy Imbriani, Pat Merman and Jocelyn Pedalino who have also paid the 2010 dues. Please consider asking a parish friend to join our ranks. We have great meetings and events, and most importantly, we want our women to feel the advantages of "belonging" to a group that cares about and nurtures them. Let's all try to bring in one new member each!

In Your Prayers . . .



Sick by Lu Perrin

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bishop Lynch, Bernice McCune, Rebecca Lettelleir, Louis Bonsey, Betty Burke, Alice Leary, John Lee, Jane Ellis, Joyce Kubala, Karen Cocker, Ryleigh Russo, Margaret Swing, Kay Tolhoek, Joe Kolbe, D J Thompson, Joan Priest, Chris Winstead, Elba Todd.

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

Deceased by Bernadette Bailey

Please pray for those who have died during February- Michael Nusca, Ann Theresa Coppola (mother of Fr Anthony), members of the Tellechea family- Marta and Alberto, Rosa, and Francisco, Eileen Amedro, and CCW member Catherine Valette. May 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 Member Dies

CCW member Catherine Valette, 91, died Feb. 9. Born in Walhalla, ND, she came here in 1988 from Los Angeles. Catherine was a member of St. Raphael's, our CCW and Sigma Delta Chi. She is survived by daughters, CCW member Denise DeBord, Jeanne M. Breunig, and Renee Valette, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Catherine had a great sense of humor and a deep faith. We will miss her.

CCW Family Members Die

Our condolences to CCW member Beatriz Crespo who lost several family members in a short time. Her sister Rosa Tellechea died, and shortly after, Beatriz also lost her nephew, 46 year old "Pac" Tellechea and then Pac's parents, Marta and Alberto Tellechea died shortly after. This is a tremendous amount of grief for one family and our prayers are with you.

Nursing Home Ministry by Linda Champion

I have been involved in various ministries and this has been the most rewarding despite my reluctance since it put me completely out of my comfort zone. When asked to be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion by Fr. Mike Smith, my initial response was only at Mass as I couldn't possibly visit the homebound or nursing home. Within a few months, I was asked to visit someone recovering from surgery. I reluctantly agreed and enjoyed my visits. Next, God asked me to see an elderly woman who I visited every Sunday for more than a year until her death. I grew close and was very sad when she died. I needed a break but God didn't let me stay away for long. I have been participating in our ministry at Shore Acres Nursing Home for several years and have grown close to these friends. Some have died and I am thankful that I could bring the Eucharist and pray with them during their final days on earth; others I have enjoyed knowing for years. Many roommates, who initially didn't want to pray when I visited a Catholic resident, now join in our prayers and asked to be blessed. We've experienced baptisms and confirmations. I know my residents look forward to my visit and I am amazed at the self satisfaction and peace I enjoy on my Sundays. These folks are truly some of the "least of my brethren" that Jesus calls us to serve. Jesus asked his disciples to pray with Him during His last hours. We are given this unique opportunity to do the same. I pray that you will open your heart to this ministry that only requires a couple of hours each month. You will be richly blessed too. Call Louise Barrett 821-2561 to volunteer.

April 15 LPD Spring Conference

Sign up for a great day Thursday, April 15 at Blessed Trinity (1600 54th Av S, St Pete) for the Lower Pinellas Deanery Spring Conference. The theme is "Sent to Serve" and our guest speaker will be speaking about human trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors. Registration is \$13 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Gathering together with women from other Parishes in the Lower Pinellas Deanery is always an enriching experience. Plan to attend this day of friendship, fun and spiritual growth. Send your \$13 check payable to St Raphael CCW to Bernadette Bailey 4701 Lansing St NE St Pete FL 33703, or drop in it the collection in an envelope marked LPD Conference. See you there!