

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for Us

St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women

September 2009

<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

From Our Pastor

Please extend my sincerest gratitude to all members of the St Raphael's Council of Catholic Women for their generous building fund donation of \$3,113. The Council has been very supportive of the activities of our church and school during the past year and this gift is another reminder of that generosity and kindness. ..May God bless you all, Sincerely, yours in Christ, Monsignor Caverly.

CRHP by Mary Stoft

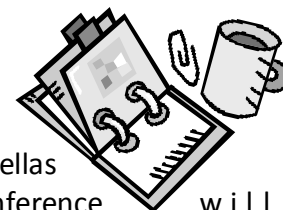
The women of Christ Renew's His Parish formation team extends an invitation to you to experience a "New Life in Christ." Come and enjoy the love and warmth of Christ Jesus as you join us Sept 12th & 13th for a well deserved weekend of faith, fellowship and spiritual renewal. You

will make new friends, rediscover and rekindle the fire within, no matter where you are in your faith journey. Contact Kathleen Roache (813) 732-6645 or Chris Winstead 481-3936 "Behold I make all things new." Rev 21:5.

LPD

Conference

The Lower Pinellas Deanery Fall Conference will take place October 31st at St Paul's from 8:45 AM to 2 PM. Our speaker will be Jackie Mallory on "Nourished by the Eucharist". Come for fellowship, encouragement and fun with other women from our Deanery. Luncheon Cost: \$12.00 per person. Deadline for reservation is October 24. Please make checks payable to LPD. Send to Bernadette Bailey 4701 Lansing Street NE, St. Petersburg FL 33703.

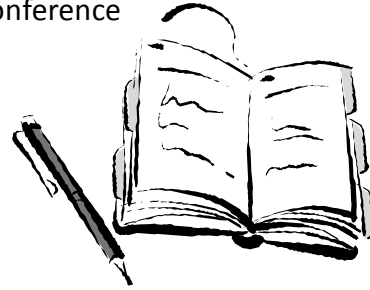


President's Message

Dear Sisters of the St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women, I hope you all had a safe and blessed summer. I know I did. My husband and I traveled to Rapid City, SD to visit with our grandkids, Brandon and Devin. What a trip, 4000 miles from St. Pete and back again. We visited the "Gateway to the West" Arch in St. Louis, MO and of course, a few water parks along the way. But now, it's time to get to work on a new Council Year. As your new president, I would like to thank all of you. It is an honor to serve St. Raphael's in such a special way. We have some exciting plans for the coming year, and the entire Board of Directors wishes to extend an invitation to you all to come and find out what we are all about. Are we just women who bake cookies, play cards, help the priests, and have meetings? Of course we are! But we're so much more. We're using our time and talents to help our fellow man and to promote Jesus Christ in everyone we meet. See you at our next meeting. I'm looking forward to meeting with all of you. ~ Claudia Soucy, St Raphael's CCW President

CCW Calendar 2009-2010

Saturday,	September 5	General Meeting
Sat-Sun,	September 12-13	Christ Renews His Parish Weekend
	Sept 22-Nov 1	"40 Days for Life"
Tuesday,	September 29	St. Raphael Feast Day
Saturday,	October 3	General Meeting
Saturday,	October 24	Game Day/Card Party
Thurs-Sun,	Oct 29-Nov 1	Parish Fall Festival
Saturday,	October 31	Lower Pinellas Deanery Fall Conference
Saturday,	November 7	General Meeting
Saturday,	December 5	Christmas Breakfast
Saturday,	January 2	General Meeting
Saturday,	January 16	Rummage Sale
Saturday,	February	General Meeting
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

40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life draws attention to the evil of abortion through the use of a three-point program: prayer and fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. 40 Days for Life takes a peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying out of His plan for the end of abortion in America. 40 Days for Life began in 2004, but seemed to gain momentum in the fall of 2007. Presently, there have been more than 466 campaigns, in 240 cities in

all 50 states plus Canada, Australia and Northern Ireland. That is over 215,000 participants and 1,561 lives confirmed saved. 40 Days for Life should: reduce the number of abortions in St. Petersburg, lead post-abortive women (and men) to healing programs such as Project Rachel, develop new pro-life leadership and funding and become an interfaith effort. Fall Campaign Dates: September 23 – November 1. Adapted from www.40daysforlife.com/clearwater. Call Maggie Moren 525-6873 for more information.



September Papal Intentions

General: That the word of God may be better known, welcomed and lived as the source of freedom and joy. Mission: That Christians in Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar, who often meet with great difficulties, may not be discouraged from announcing the Gospel to their brothers, trusting in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Two St Raphael Seminarians

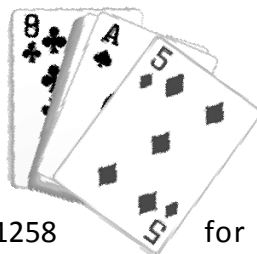
(from the Diocesan Website) St. Raphael's is blessed to have TWO seminarians this year: Chris McBride who will be returning for his second year and new seminarian Bob Angel. Altogether there are 8 new seminarians from our Diocese this year, bringing the total diocesan seminarians to 32.

"Bob is a native of St. Petersburg who has one younger brother. He attended Holy Family Catholic School and then went to Northeast High School where he was on the swim team. He then attended the University of Florida where he received a Bachelors of Arts in English and History. Bob then enrolled in the Fire Academy and was subsequently hired by the City of Tampa Fire Department. Looking to put out eternal flames, he decided to give up his career with the Fire Department in order to pursue the priesthood. He will be starting Pre-Theology I at St. John Vianney College Seminary in August. In his free time, he likes to play the guitar, lift weights, and go to the movies.

"Chris McBride was born in Providence, Rhode Island, but grew up in St. Petersburg. He has one older brother and one younger brother. He has been very involved in his parish of St. Raphael's as well as at his high school. He was a member of Student Government for four years at St. Petersburg Catholic High School. Chris graduated from St. Petersburg Catholic in 2008 and is now a sophomore at St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami. In 2008 he also became an Eagle Scout. He is an avid runner and was on both his high school's cross country and track and field team as well as holding a black belt in martial arts." <http://www.spvocation.org/seminarians.php>

Card Party/ Game Day

Mark your calendars for Oct 24. Lunch and fun for only \$10. Bring your friends. Ruth Mattick is the Chairman - contact her at 526-1258 more info or to help.



for

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

by Cherie Mainenti

Join us for the Wednesday Morning Bible Study beginning September 9, 2009 from 9:15-11:00 am. We will be studying Jeff Cavins Great Adventure Bible Timeline. It will run for 24 weeks. A schedule will be given out at the first meeting. Contact Cherie Mainenti at 642-6468 or fmaintenti@tampabay.rr.com to sign up. Please contact Lynn Denson for child care at lynn_denson@yahoo.com or 821-1131.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

by Suzanne Kelley

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study will begin Wednesday, September 16th 7:30- 9 PM in Room B. We will begin the study with the Book of the Acts of the Apostles and continue into the Gospel according to Luke sometime around the first of December. The format of the class will be as in the past with weekly lessons/questions and in-class group discussions with Father Spillett leading the class. The price of each study guide/answer sheet is \$16. Checks made out to St. Raphael Church or cash will be collected the first night. Please let me know if you'd be interested in the study. Looking forward to seeing everyone again and to another interesting year of study! Suzanne Kelley, 641-6575.

Lighthouse Media Project

by Julie Musselman

We at Lighthouse are starting a new project. We are creating discussion questions to go along with our more than 100 CDs. The questions (and answers) will be made available to over 2000 parishes so that small groups can form to have discussions about the CDs. Right now we are looking for generous souls who enjoy our CDs to help create the discussion questions. What is would involve is listening to any CD you pick and writing down 10-15 questions, noting the track that the answer can be heard in. Benefits include, getting to know your faith better and helping others learn theirs better too. Contact Julie at 526-5229.

A story from Mother Theresa of Calcutta

by Rosa Rodrigue

At a seminary in Bangalore, a nun once said to me, "Mother Theresa you are spoiling the poor people by giving them things free. They are losing their human dignity." When everyone was quiet, I said calmly, "No one spoils as much as God himself. See the wonderful gifts he has given us freely. All of you here have no glasses, yet you all can see. If God were to take money for your sight what would happen? Continually, we are breathing and living on oxygen that we do not pay for. What would happen if God were to say, "If you work 4 hours you will get sunshine for two hours." How many of us would survive then?" Then, I told them, "There are many congregations that spoil the rich: it is good to have one that in the name of the poor, spoil the poor." There was profound silence: nobody said a word after that. Like Jesus, we belong to the whole world, living not for ourselves, but for others. The joy of the Lord is our strength. Dear Lord, help me spread your fragrance where I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through me, and be in me, so that every soul I come in contact with, may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only you.

CCW Art Field Trip

Terry Hamm, Claudia Soucy, Bernadette Bailey, Cheryl Murphy (hubby and two friends), Louise Barrett, Jane Winstead, Ann Kovach, Mary Carlomagno, Joan Grayson and Maggie Moren enjoyed lunch together and then went to "In a New Light", the art exhibit at FL International Museum on July 11. As Maggie put it, "The theme of the show was very eclectic. There were paintings, sculptures and mixed media...a presentation and celebration of contemporary Florida artists. Some of the over 125 pieces were breath taking. It was a wonderful experience and all of us had our own favorites. It is a collection that will provoke a response from you.

Report from Africa Mission

by Brother John Bailanda

(Bro John is in the Congregation of the Holy Cross and helps run a school in Uganda)

Living in Uganda, sometimes allows one to anticipate the June 3 Uganda Martyrs Day with much more vigor than elsewhere. Newspapers are getting more stories of pilgrims heading to the martyrs shrine. Some pilgrims walk 250 plus miles in a week or so. The last time I attended, I could not get any closer than a third of a mile to the Altar during the Martyrs Day Mass. An estimate of over 1million pilgrims were there by the eve of the day and the crowd was overwhelming. On my part, I promise to take more time at prayer, remembering the pilgrims and all the people who long so much for the Lord's out powering.

St. Anne, Bless My Family

My family is the heart of my life.

It is my little church. St. Anne, guard the members of my family against all physical and spiritual danger. You lived in the presence of your husband Joachim and your little daughter Mary.

Later you welcomed your son-in-law Joseph and above all your beloved grandson Jesus, our Savior.

May your family inspire our families.

May we remain united in a deep mutual love. If my family is broken by separation or divorce, remain for us the saint of tenderness and lead us to God.

St. Anne, you were a spouse, a mother, and a grandmother; bless all the members of my family.

Keep us faithful to the Lord.

May we remain attentive to the needs of other families. Protect all families. Amen.

(Prayer contributed by Amy Robison)

Vocation News

by Seminarian Bob Angel

"Greetings in Christ! It has been a wonderful and formative experience despite the short time that I have been at the seminary. God is truly at work here through the priests, faculty, and brother seminarians. Please keep us all in your prayers, as you all are continually in mine."

Thank You from Simoneau Family

"After the service for Mary, the ladies of CCW held a lovely luncheon in her honor. The extraordinary efforts made by the CCW members were both a comfort to her family and a welcome acknowledgment of all that Mary meant to the group. Her family wishes to express to each member their eternal gratitude for this gesture. It will always be remembered in the spirit of love and fellowship in which it was offered. Mary would have been proud."

CCW Member Death

CCW President elect, Mary Simoneau died after a three month battle with thyroid cancer. Mary was born in Caribou, ME, the oldest of five siblings. She spent two years living in England before moving to CT. She married and had her three children- Rose, Michael and Lisa. As a military wife, she lived in Germany, Kansas, and Kentucky. She also lived briefly MA before moving to FL 12 years ago. Mary's career included working for the Kentuckiana Girl Scout Council and as an insurance claims adjuster for

CIGNA and other companies. Mary's proudest moments, aside from her children and grandchildren, were her many years of service to the community. She volunteered in every capacity for the Girl Scouts of America, PTA and served on the Fort Knox School Board. Mary has also been involved in the life of many a church parish. She has been an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Communion for many decades. She has served most recently as 1st Vice President and was also President-elect for St. Raphael's Council of Catholic Women. She made CRHP and attended Bible Study. She was on the LPD Board and part of the Adoration and Nursing Home Ministries.

CCW Commission Chairmen 2009-10

Organization: Chris Winstead

Legislative: Lu Perrin

Spirituality: Ave Abner

International: Rosanna Costa

Family & Publicity: Adela Vidal

Community: Rosa Rodriguez

Respect Life: Winnie Young & Maggie Moren

Year for Priests *by Pope Benedict*

This is the beginning of a letter of his Holiness Pope Benedict proclaiming a "Year for Priests" on the 150th anniversary of the death of the Curé of Ars, St John Vianney. "Dear Brother Priests, on the forthcoming Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Friday 19 June 2009 – a day traditionally devoted to prayer for the sanctification of the clergy – I have decided to inaugurate a "Year for Priests" in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the "dies natalis" of John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests worldwide. This Year, meant to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a stronger and more incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world, will conclude on the same Solemnity in 2010. "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus", the saintly Curé of Ars would often say. This touching expression makes us reflect, first of all, with heartfelt gratitude on the immense gift which priests represent, not only for the Church, but also for humanity itself. I think of all those priests who quietly present Christ's words and actions each day to the faithful and to the whole world, striving to be one with the Lord in their thoughts and their will, their sentiments and their style of life. How can I not pay tribute to their apostolic labors, their tireless and hidden service, their universal charity? And how can I not praise the courageous fidelity of so many priests who, even amid difficulties and incomprehension, remain faithful to their vocation as "friends of Christ", whom he has called by name, chosen and sent?

I still treasure the memory of the first parish priest at whose side I exercised my ministry as a young priest: he left me an example of unreserved devotion to his pastoral duties, even to meeting his own death in the act of bringing viaticum to a gravely ill person. I also recall the countless confreres whom I have met and continue to meet, not least in my pastoral visits to different countries: men generously dedicated to the daily exercise of their priestly ministry. Yet the expression of Saint John Mary also makes us think of Christ's pierced Heart and the crown of thorns which surrounds it. I also think, therefore, of the countless situations of suffering endured by many priests, either because they themselves share in the manifold human experience of pain or because they encounter misunderstanding from the very persons to whom they minister. How can we not also think of all those priests who are offended in their dignity, obstructed in their mission and persecuted, even at times to offering the supreme testimony of their own blood?" Full text and much more at the Vatican website- <http://www.vatican.va/>

In Your Prayers . . .

Sick *by Lu Perrin*

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bishop Lynch, Ryleigh Russo, Margaret Swing, Kay Tolhoek, Karen Cocker, Brad Hartley, and Beatriz Crespo, *Homebound and Nursing Home*: Nellie and Charles Bonitati, Truus Stuimer, Eileen Edwards, Esther Lavangie, Ginny Hansen, Susan Neitz, Tom Kunkler, D J Thompson, Catherine Vallette, Julie Schiavi, Lily Riconda, Fran Davis, Martha Farrell, Dottie Soots, Montile Sutterlin, and Ann Walsh.

Deceased *by Bernadette Bailey*

The following persons died during the months of May, June, July and August. Nancye Barrett, Richard Early, Andrea Thomson, Alma Henz, Irene Soden of the DCCW, Bob Twitty, Joseph MacDougald, Susan Thurston, Mary Simoneau, Diane Ludes, Patricia Gilbert, John DeCosmo, Julie Taylor, Joe LoPreste, Raymond DiSerafino, Mary Ann Smelter, John Moran, Ralph Quartetti and Maryann Schmidhammer, May the souls of and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

CCW Member Death

Alma Henz died May 2ns with the grace of the Sacrament of the Sick and surrounded by her four living children. Alma was born in MN. She entered the business world as a fashion model in the 1930s and representing her company in the St. Cloud pageant was selected "Miss St. Cloud". Alma married William in 1935 and raised five children. Alma was an active volunteer with the Florida Orchestra Guild, St. Anthony's Guild, St. Raphael's Guild and the Women's Chamber of Commerce and PEO. For 15 yrs Alma managed her daughter's fine clothing store Ten Downing. Alma was a wonderful mother who showed her children an example of abiding faith, unconditional love, the meaning of sacrifice, the re-

sponsibility of being good stewards and citizens and, in the tradition of St. Benedict, how to "work and pray". She is survived by her children and their spouses: CCW member Yvonne Thompson (Don J), William J. Henz (Jacquelyn), Charles A. Henz, Suzanne Ratledge (Jerry) and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



CCW Member Death

CCW Member Mary Ann Smelter was born in Cleveland, OH, married Kenneth Gene Smelter, and had three children. She was a registered nurse for many years but left that profession to work for Eastern Airlines - so that she could travel the world. She lived in Isla Del Sol for about 20 years before she moved to Northeast, St. Petersburg. She joined St. Raphael's Church in 2004. She was professed as a Secular Franciscan in 1991 and worked at the United Nations representing the Franciscans and their way of life. She was a volunteer at Daystar for many years until her stroke in 2001. She had suffered greatly over the past 8 years but she always had a smile on her face and loved being with people. Getting to know the people from CCW and Bible study meant a lot to her. She will be missed. A memorial Mass will be said for her at St. Raphael's Church on Sat., Nov. 7th, followed by interment at Bay Pines National Cemetery.

CCW Member Relative Deaths

Our deepest sympathy to CCW 1st VP Rosemary Early on the loss of her beloved husband, Richard on May 16th and to CCW Corresponding Secretary Bernadine Quartetti, on the death of her husband Ralph, on August 29th. Our sympathy to CCW member Mary Beth Finster on the loss of her father, Raymond DiSerafino. Our sympathy to CCW member Therese Johnson on the loss of her husband's sister Susan Thurston.

Member News:

- ⌘ CCW member Barbara and her husband Greg Creamer are the proud grandparent's of Peter Gregory Devinny. Born 8/4/09, 8lbs 13 oz to their daughter and husband Julie and Sean Devinny in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Barbara just returned home after babysitting the other 3 siblings.
- ⌘ CCW member Roseanna Costa and her husband Bob have been in NY for the summer and will be returning after Labor Day. While they have been there they have been enjoying their stay visiting family and old friends and traveling a little too.
- ⌘ CCW member Kim Loxton writes, "My daughter Olivia made her 1st Holy Communion July 5th in Fort Wayne, IN. My childhood priest graciously welcomed her into his parish to perform the Sacrament so that Olivia could celebrate with family.
- ⌘ CCW member Louise Barrett writes, "Thank you so much to all who attended the funeral service for my mother-in-law Nancye, and for the cards and prayers. Nancye died May 6th in my home with Hospice."
- ⌘ Eileen Sousa writes, "I'm heading north to my home in Salem N.H. on May 12th can't wait to see my children and 8 grandchildren. See you in the fall. Love and Prayers
- ⌘ CCW member Marlene D'Abramo writes, "This past June, Sonny and I and Our granddaughter Sarah Longino, who finished eighth grade at Shorecrest, went on a motor trip to CT to see our granddaughter and cousin graduate from eighth from St. Bridget's School in Cheshire. We were there for about two weeks, visiting with relatives and many friends. It was a very nice trip except for the rain. It rained every day, but two! CCW member Linda Champion's son, Chris, graduated from St. Pete Catholic (SPC) in May and attends the U of FL studying Finance with a desire to attend law school. He and Kevin Steele received SPC's top St. John Bosco Award for exemplifying the goal of Salesian education,

through "service to the school community through kindness, humility, and selfless generosity." Chris was also the recipient of the St. Petersburg Rotary Youth Award for outstanding scholarship, character and service, as well as INVEST and Bright Futures scholarships. His classmates voted him Most Likely to be President. Congratulations, Chris!

- ⌘ Congratulations CCW member Cheryl Murhpy: On Aug. 20 St. Raphael's Church was honored to have world famous Unkyoung Kim, Brent Douglas, and Cheryl's son, Brendan Murphy play the viola, violin and piano in a free concert. The donations went to Alpha house and the St. Peter Free Clinic.
- ⌘ CCW member Theresa McCormick's son, Joseph, is leaving September 6th for a year long (hopefully not longer) tour in Afghanistan. Sgt.. McCormick is an Army medic on the Blackhawk helicopter (he is the one dangling from the rope!). Joe's mission will also be to provide medical care to the poor Afghanistan children and people. I will be spending more time in SC visiting my 2 young grandchildren and daughter-in-law who will be missing their dad/husband tremendously! Let us keep those servicemen/women in our prayers every day, wherever they are; their sacrifice comes at a significant cost to not only themselves but their families.

New Member by *by Kim Early*

I work as a relationship manager at Sabal Trust Company. In addition to working with clients, I am also the head of the personnel and marketing departments. My husband is Richard Early, St. Raphael Catholic School graduate. We have three children, Alexandra (14), Rachel (9) and Elizabeth (8) University of Florida Alumni I have been involved in St. Raphael School over the past years by being elected to SAC, President of the Home and School Association and chairing several auctions. I have lived in St. Petersburg since 1989. I joined CCW in order to become more informed about the Parish and to help bridge the church and the school.

Year for Priests- *an Interview with Fr. Karol*

Fr. Karol Bujnowski first came to St Raphael's in the summer of 2002 to assist at our Parish while Monsignor Caverly spent his summer vacation in Ireland. Fr Karol assisted at St Timothy's in Lutz the summer of 2003, but has been back to St Raphael's each summer since 2004. Fr. Karol was born and raised in Poland, with an older brother and a younger sister. His father died when Fr Karol was 16. His mom and brother family still work the farm where Fr Karol grew up, which Fr Karol says, "Was a very nice life." In his very young years, when Poland was still under Communist rule, the Catholic Church was the place of freedom, the place where people could hear the truth. 95% of the Polish people are Catholic and Fr. Karol says the faith was always very strong. In those days, the Communist government was afraid to do anything against the Church in Poland, though they sent spies to the Churches to listen to what was being said in the homilies. Fr. Karol entered the seminary right after finishing secondary school. He says, "Each vocation is a mystery, each person quite different." He "just knew" the priesthood was "his way", and has never had a particular revelation as much as a sense of knowing. After ordination, Fr. Karol worked at a parish for one year. Fr Karol's Bishop sent him back to school where Fr. Karol obtained his PH.D in Dogmatic Theology. His dissertation was about the mystery of human nature. Fr Karol now teaches at a seminary in Poland with 60 men in formation for the priesthood, where he is also the prefect of students.

Fr. Karol's favorite saint is Padre Pio because he was a priest for whom the Holy Mass was the center of his life and Mass meant everything to him. Padre Pio said that without Mass he could not live a day. Sometimes Padre Pio stood at the altar for two hours while his stigmata were bleeding. The Mass is truly a first and foremost a sacrifice as Jesus hung on the cross for us and Padre Pio was conscious of that great gift of supreme love. For Fr. Karol, his greatest reward of his own priesthood comes from saying Holy Mass, a mystery contained in the nature of priesthood. Fr Karol also finds it very rewarding to lead people to God.

What does Fr. Karol love about coming to Florida during his two month summer break? "Beach, weather, climate, and the people." He added, "The priests here are very special. I have gotten to know Monsignor Caverly, Fr. Spillet, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Smith, Fr Kovanis, and Fr. Gonzalez. They have welcomed me and they are very good priests and kind men." We are very blessed that Fr. Karol responded to God's call to priesthood. Thank you, Father Karol for all you have done for our Parish for the past several summers. May God continue to bless you as you shepherd his people.



Vocation News

by Seminarian Chris McBride

First off it has been a joy to get some time to reflect on the year. I began with a few weeks of relaxing and being around my family. In the beginning of June I started to work at Amir's Academy of Martial Arts for Summer Camp. I have a long history there. I have been going there ever since I was seven years old until I left to go to the Seminary last year. This is the third year I have worked at the Summer Camp. I really enjoyed working with the kids. I love kids. They seem to bring out the best in me, but I say that about people overall. I am a people person. My last day of work will be August 18th. I will be leaving to the Seminary on August 20th.

I got a chance to take a week to take a vacation to Philly to see one of my best friends. I had a blast and it was refreshing to recollect myself since during the summer I get out of normal routine. I must say though the best part about this summer was being around my family. I got to see my grandmother on my father's side, my grandfather on my mother's side, one of my Aunts, and Uncles. It has been a joy. It is not until you're away from your family that you learn to appreciate what they mean to you. After this summer I have realized exactly how important family is to my life. I am excited to go back to the Seminary this year. I appreciate all your prayers and support. Thank you!