

St. Raphael the Archangel

NEWSLETTER FOR PARISHES NAMED FOR ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL TO
EXCHANGE IDEAS ON ENCOURAGING UNDERSTANDING AND DEVOTION

The Newsletter

By Frederick A. Hodes

This is the fourth issue of the St. Raphael Newsletter. Its purpose is to share information on devotion to our patron, St. Raphael the Archangel. Since Vatican II, devotional practices to saints have fallen out of fashion. This newsletter hopes to stir conversation about the proper approach to devotion to our patron saint.

Few patron saints are the central figure in a book of the Bible as Raphael the Archangel is in the *Book of Tobit*. Perhaps the book's style and some of the events, such as the driving out of a demon, do not sound "modern." But the theme of God's concern for and intervention in the affairs of the just Tobit, reflected by St. Raphael's guidance of Tobias and intervention on behalf of Sara, should be emphasized and made attractive for today's Christians.

Please share with us any devotional items such as artwork (pictures of statues, stained glass windows, etc.), prayers, and hymns.

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A Pastoral Visit and St. Raphael the Archangel

by Irma C. Godfrey

Following an official visit to Mexico City, an historic thirty-hour Pastoral Visit brought our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, to St. Louis, Missouri on January 26 and 27, 1999. Both cities joyously welcomed the Pope as he highlighted the "new evangelization" in the Americas.

The nine months of intense planning by the Archdiocese of St. Louis successfully addressed countless details and strategies related to special activities, active participation by local and national dignitaries and communities, security, and extensive media coverage.

On January 27, the Pope was present at the momentous Ecumenical and Interfaith Prayer Service at the world-renowned Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, called by Pope Paul VI "the outstanding cathedral of the Americas." More than 2000 attended, including leaders of the Protestant, Muslim, Latter Day Saints, Buddhist, Eastern Orthodox, Confucianism, and Hindu faiths.

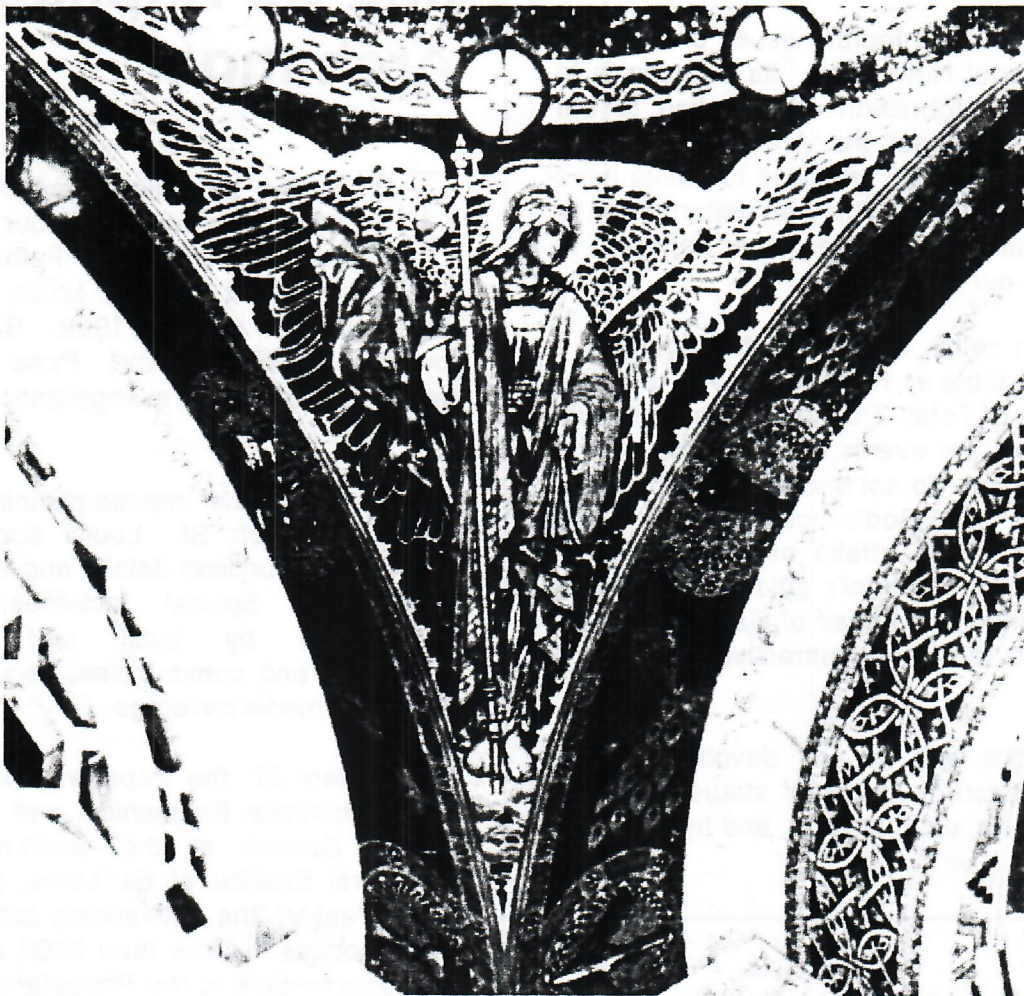
It took over seventy-five years to complete the extraordinary mosaics which grace the

cathedral. Produced by twenty artists, the mosaics cover 83,000 square feet with over 41,500,000 pieces of tesserae in more than 8,000 shades of color. Visitors from throughout the world (exceeding 200,000 annually) have been inspired by the beauty of the mosaics and their vital messages in faith, art, and history.

The St. Raphael Historical Society of the Church of St. Raphael the Archangel in St. Louis encourages devotion to God's messenger, St. Raphael. It seeks opportunities to promote spiritual relationships

with its Patron Saint.

In anticipating Pope John Paul II's Pastoral Visit, the Historical Society focused its attention on the Cathedral's magnificent mosaic of St. Raphael. Realizing that the mosaic would be viewable by the Pope and diversified congregation during the truly historic Ecumenical and Interfaith Prayer Service, the Society was pleased and grateful that the mosaic of St. Raphael was a source capable of contributing to the spirituality of the Pope's Pastoral Visit to St. Louis!



St. Raphael the Archangel as depicted in the mosaics of the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica.

Image courtesy of Matthew Connolly, photographer, (314) 966-9998 and the St. Raphael the Archangel Parish Directory, a production of Olan Mills, Inc. 1-800-845-1157.

St. Raphael Parish in Dubuque, Iowa

by Dorothy Feldmeier

St. Raphael Parish has a long and rich history that reaches back to 1833, when Father Charles Van Quickenborne celebrated Mass in the waterfront home of a Mrs. Bruphy. This was the first service of any denomination to be held in what is now the State of Iowa. Father Samuel Mazzuchelli came in 1835, and designed and built the first church, which was completed in 1836. In 1839, Bishop Mathias Loras arrived, and the church was then raised to the status of a cathedral. In 1843, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary came to Dubuque from Philadelphia and began the first Catholic school. A Catholic school was part of the history of the parish until 1976 when it was closed. In 1857, Bishop Loras made plans to build a much larger Cathedral Church. This is the present Cathedral Church which was dedicated on July 7, 1861. A burial chapel for the Bishop of Dubuque is located in the basement of the church, where seven bishops and archbishops are buried, including Bishop Mathias Loras. The Cathedral Church was renovated several times, most recently in 1986. The church organ was restored at that time also.

Please send St. Raphael prayers, devotions, pictures, sketches of artwork - traditional or modern, so we can share these with other St. Raphael parishes. Also describe any parish celebrations for the Feast of St. Raphael. (Send your Bulletin announcement describing the event.)

Please send to us:

St. Raphael the Archangel
6047 Bishops Place
St. Louis, MO 63109
(Attention: Historical Society)

St. Raphael Hospital New Haven

by Evelyn Cuba

A hospital in New Haven, CT, named in honor of St. Raphael the Archangel, was recently the recipient of a statue of Fr. Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus. The statue was placed at the entrance to the McGivney Center for Cancer Care.

A Hymn for St. Raphael

A parishioner of Saint Raphael in St. Louis, Carol Krings Hodes, has prepared a hymn to St. Raphael the Archangel for the parish's 50th Anniversary in the year 2000. The lyrics are original, set to the well-known hymn, "All Glory, Laud and Honor," with text by St. Theodulph and music by Melchior Teschner. The hymn is printed on the following page and is public domain, so please feel free to copy and use it. Just credit Mrs. Hodes as the lyricist. If you decide to use the hymn, please let us know.

ST. RAPHAEL ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

<http://www.raphael.net/>

A site dedicated to the study of the angels with special attention to the work of St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelic Doctor).

<http://www.straphael.net>

A site for Catholic singles with a nice graphic of St. Raphael on the home page.

<http://www.st.raaphael.org/>

St. Raphael the Archangel Church in Oshkosh, WI.

ST. RAPHAEL ARCHANGEL

Music: Melchior Teschner

Words: Carol Hodes

