

# 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 tenth issue of the *St. Raphael Newsletter*, whose purpose is to share information about devotion to our patron, St. Raphael the Archangel. Immediately after Vatican II, devotional practices to saints fell out of fashion. In recent years, devotion to and prayers requesting the intercession of the saints (and angels) have become more prevalent. This newsletter hopes to encourage ideas about devotion to the Archangel Raphael.

Thanks to everyone who has sent Sunday bulletins, newsletters, and parish newspapers in the past. Several parishes have sent us their anniversary books. Many items of interest have come our way, including pictures of various St. Raphael Churches and newspaper clippings. Prayers and devotional items along with religious art (of all forms) remain our main focus, although we do enjoy receiving articles about national and international St. Raphael locations.

We need your input. Please share with us any devotional items such as pictures of statues, stained glass windows, and other forms of artwork. We especially hope for original compositions of prayers or hymns. The *Newsletter* also invites parishes to send copies of their Sunday bulletins so we can learn about the various St. Raphael parishes around the United States.

## New Pastor for St. Raphael in St. Louis

On July 1, 2005, Msgr. William A. Drennan retired as pastor of St. Raphael in St. Louis. He had been pastor here for seventeen years and celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as a priest. He will reside as a retired priest in a parish in west St. Louis County.

It was at Msgr. Drennan's suggestion that this parish formed a history society to organize the miscellaneous aspects of parish history. He also encouraged the idea of this *Newsletter* to communicate with other St. Raphael parishes in the country.

The new pastor of St. Raphael in St. Louis is the Rev. James Grady. He has approved this issue and the purpose of the *Newsletter*.

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## Fire Damages the St. Raphael Cathedral at Madison, Wisconsin

In the early morning of March 14, 2005, fire began in the steeple area of the St. Raphael Cathedral in Madison, Wisconsin. The fire soon spread though the entire roof. The burning remains fell into the church and destroyed, damaged, or blackened the rest of the church. A transient arsonist had set the fire and offered no real motive for his actions.

The Cathedral had just replaced the original steeple with a new one. The parish had celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the corner stone.

The stone church, begun in the 1850s, became a cathedral when Pope Pius XII created the Madison diocese in 1946. In 1954, the Church was renovated to meet the needs of a cathedral. There was another major renovation in 1973 to conform to the liturgical renewal called for by the Second Vatican Council.

In view of the extensive damage, it is not known at this time what the diocese will do about the structure. Currently, its parishioners are meeting at another location.

### We want to hear from you!

Do you have a parish celebration for the feast of St. Raphael? Send us your bulletin announcement describing the event.

## St. Raphael Web Sites

Many St. Raphael parishes and schools have created interesting web sites. Many are very elaborate and contain pictures of buildings, parishioners, and students.

These web sites can be very impressive advertising tools for the parish or school. For example, the Los Angeles School web site appeared to be very well done for promotional purposes.

In some cases the diocese has created an overall web site that leads to the individual parish site.

For those surfing the web, it will help if each St. Raphael parish clearly indicates on the home page its location.

Have any St. Raphael parishes recently produced new web sites – either for the parish or the school? We are always grateful for your responses. Please continue to help us. Your input this fall will be next year's issue.

## St. Raphael in New Orleans !!!!

The St. Raphael parish in New Orleans appears to be located near Lake Pontchartrain in the area inundated by the canal breaches. It appears that the church was surrounded by water; the houses were ruined.

Please pray for these parishioners and all the Gulf Coast hurricane victims.

## St. Raphael Patronage

According to a web site ("Catholic-forum"), the Archangel Raphael is the patron of an incredible list of persons, places, and causes:

- travelers
- sick people
- mentally ill people
- blind people
- doctors
- druggists
- pharmacists
- young people
- lovers and love
- those with eye problems
- those seeking a marriage partner
- Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa
- Archdiocese of Seattle, Washington

There are probably other groups who have the Archangel Raphael as their patron. If you know of any such cause or group, please pass this information along to the *Newsletter*.

Please send St. Raphael prayers, devotions, pictures, sketches of artwork – traditional or modern – so we can share these with the other St. Raphael parishes.

Please send to:

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

## St. Raphael on the French Riviera

If one does a search on the web for "St. Raphael," one quickly discovers that there is a town of St. Raphael on the French Riviera. The town is quite ancient and has its roots deep in prehistoric times. It served the Romans as a resort. The location first got its modern name in the Eleventh Century. The town boasts an archaeological museum, which displays numerous artifacts from the area. Its place on the Mediterranean makes it a modern tourist spot.

Also on the web, one discovers that there is a St. Raphael Hotel on the island of Cyprus.

Have any of the newsletter readers who are world travelers come across a St. Raphael in their travels?

## St. Raphael in Nigeria

The *Redemptorist Newsletter* of June/July 2005 contains an article, which refers to a new church in Lagos named for the archangels Raphael, Gabriel, and Michael. The Church is apparently still under construction.

## St. Raphael in Los Angeles

The St. Raphael parish in Los Angeles is located in the inner city. The parish maintains a school, which serves some 300 children. It has been praised for its commitment to education at a time when many inner-city Catholic schools are closing. It has succeeded in finding financial support to provide computers, books, and operating expenses along with tuition support for more than sixty of the students. Recently, the John and Dorothy Shea Foundation provided a grant for a 9,000 square-foot parish center addition.

How many other St. Raphael parishes are in the inner-city?

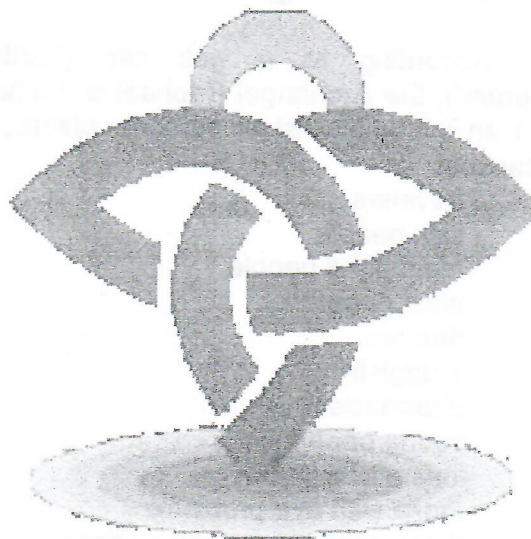
## St. Raphael in Baghdad, Again

Last year the *Newsletter* reported about the Saint Raphael Hospital in Baghdad, located across the river from the green zone headquarters of the U.S. forces and the new Iraqi government. The 86 bed, three story hospital is run by the Dominican Sisters. It is still very much in operation and has recently received medicine, medical supplies, and a generator (needed because of the constant failure of electrical power in the capital) from the Order of Malta. Despite the unsettled conditions, the hospital is expanding by adding an out-patient clinic. It continues to serve the civilian population of the city and the rural regions around Baghdad.

In view of the ongoing problems there, we should remember the hospital and its staff and patients in our prayers.

## St. Raphael Logo

The St. Raphael in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, has an interesting logo on its web site.



The head is bright yellow, the body, orange. The center of the circular base is orange with lighter orange bands surrounding it. The outermost band is bright yellow. It is quite a representation of our patron.

## Need Your Input

**As you can see, this issue is heavy on "news" and light on devotional material. We need your input for such prayers, devotions, and liturgical art connected with St. Raphael The Archangel.**

**If you do not have these items to contribute, please send us a copy of your parish bulletin so we can use it in next year's edition.**