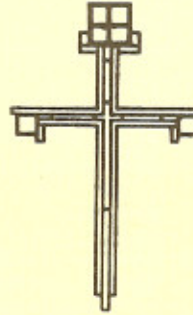




Gerald L. Lewis
Pastor, St. Raphael the Archangel



St. Raphael Catholic Church

5801 Falls of the Neuse Road Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

919/876-1581

All Saints Day, 1987

The Saint Raphael Parish Family

My dear friends:

We have come a long way together - it has been a difficult and, at times, even a tedious task - but tonight, with the Grace of God, we have arrived.

I congratulate you and thank you, for you have been challenged and found worthy. October of 1983 seems so long ago, or was it just yesterday!!! Did any of us truly know what we were undertaking when we were called and said 'yes' to forming a building committee? But, say 'yes' we did, and we met at Christmas time and in the summer, in the snow and in the freezing rain, we met when we would have rather been playing, or even praying and soon we had a plan and now we have a building, which we call Sanctuary, for truly it is--God's home for this parish family. The Building and Planning Committee has been a constant source of support and encouragement during all these months.

When called upon to support this Adventure we responded and this parish family can be proud of its response. Under the leadership of our capable Development Committee, leaders and captains and workers, alike, we provided the funds to begin this project. Over a thousand families responded to our appeal, and you responded most generously.

Much is left to be done - we know that - but tonight, we rejoice in each other and what we have accomplished in the Lord. Let us be thankful!!!

We are grateful to Bishop Gossman for dedicating this Sanctuary tonight, for the trust that he extended as we embarked on this Adventure in Building Church. We thank him for the guidance and support he gave, especially through his Finance Council and Building and Real Estate Commission.

To all of you, I say thanks; your numbers are too many to be named at this moment, but you are named in my heart and in my prayers. Father Tully and the entire Ministry Team join with me in these sentiments. Please accept our love and prayers, our thanks and congratulations.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Father Gerald L. Lewis
Pastor