

## **FUN-Raising Council Style or Food is not JUST for Eating!**

**TRY BREAD INSTEAD...** With many families taking a hard look at sweets and extra sugar, breads are a perfect alternative to the usual bake sale items. Whole wheat or multigrain and oatmeal sell out quickly, as well as the familiar nut or “fruit” breads such as banana, raisin and pumpkin. Another great “rediscovered” fruit is the dried plum—what we always called a prune! Prune bread is a delicious breakfast treat. *Advertising Note: Be sure to advertise the sale highlighting delicious and healthy eating and bake breads in both small and large loaves.*



**A BAKE-LESS SALE TWO WAYS!** (1) You can hold a Bake-less Sale at any time during the year, but during Lent sacrifice is an added benefit. Set a lovely table with a lace tablecloth and beautiful (but empty) cake plates....silver and glass. Small colorful “tents” can be placed on each (empty) plate suggesting different amounts to donate; “Coconut Cream 4 Layer Cake \$12,” “Triple Chocolate Walnut Brownies....\$1 each or 6 for \$5,” or “German Chocolate Cake \$8.”

You might even include a photo! (2) Another fun Bake-less Sale can also be done through a membership mailing---totally painless except the cost of stamps!

*Added bonus: make this a 50/50 fun-raiser, half for Council funds and half for a local food ministry ~ and advertise accordingly.*



**COOK BOOK SALES** will attract more attention if you have one of the cookie recipes prepared for tasting! *Hint: Prepare bite sized cookies!*

**WATER CARAFE GUESSING GAME....** Resurrect an old time game. Fill the carafe with stones, marbles, coffee beans, Skittles, jellybeans, kisses, bubble gum---anything small that is hard to count! Make each guess a quarter or \$1 ---know your participants! *Make it meaningful: Give the winner a prize and send the rest to the NCCW/CRS Partnership Program WATER FOR LIFE. If done at an adult only event, the carafe and a bottle of wine make a great prize!*

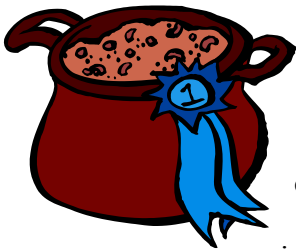
**AUCTION your best COOKS!** Enlist the pastor, principal, CCW President, deacon and his wife....once you have at least 6-8 volunteer cooks (or cooking teams,) auction off “A Meal for 8” delivered, ready to serve to the participants’ home. (Of course the cooks determine the menu they are willing to provide before the auction.) The hostess sets her own table and invites her guests. Meals are delivered in throw away containers ready for the hostess’ serving dishes---so once the meal is delivered, the cook is done!! If you have ethnic diversity within your parish, try it with an international theme. *Hint: Remind bidders what it would cost to take 8 adults to a restaurant!*



**PARISH FESTIVAL/CARNIVAL/GAME DAY....** Whatever your parish calls it---the gathering of your entire parish for activities aimed at fun and fundraising. Sponsor a “booth” with relay races using cooking utensils. Change the relay on the hour! Carry a golf ball on a pancake turner. Carry a measuring cup full of water to fill a quart jar. Carry a carrot up, peel it, bring it back. Build a tower of cookies. *Connect to a specific parish need: a freezer for the parish food pantry or a new stove for the kitchen.*

Host a **BEST SNACK CONTEST**.....have different categories “Healthy and Delicious,” “Fix it in 5 Minutes,” “Kids Will Love It,” “Perfect for Travel,” “Tailgating Treats,” and “Chocoholic’s Choice.” Each contestant decorates their own table (less work for the organizers!) Prizes should be creative and funny----not monetary!! Search the local discount/dollar store or, maybe SOMEONE in your group is crafty enough to make prizes! Combine this kind of fun-raiser with a family friendly movie or hands on activity for a meeting no one will forget.

**Membership outreach bonus:** *Hosting does not mean that ONLY active council members can participate! This is a perfect family activity and opportunity to invite parish families to enter the contest---and of course have a handy flyer with your Mission Statement, the Prayer to OLG and upcoming Council Meetings for potential members!*



**COMPETITION!** Host a **Chili Cook Off**.....the winner gets bragging rights and their name on a plaque....that makes it an annual event!!! Each year, simply add the name of the new winner. Remember to enlist different kinds of chili---white bean chicken, vegetarian, all meat (no beans)---ask the cooks to bring their chili in a crock pot and use VERY small containers for tasting so all can be served. **Possible Option**—*if your Council is organized into circles or guilds, invite each one to enter!*

**MEATLESS MEALS**....Great Lenten fun-raiser! Prepare and sell freezable meatless entrees (in both 2 and 4 serving sizes) after masses during Lent. Plan a preparation party in the church kitchen----and gather together to prepare and package a different meal each week! Try homemade vegetable or 15 bean soup, tuna noodle casserole, salmon patties, or spinach and cheese quiche (without bacon!) Match the price you charge to the ingredients and serving size. **Great Ideas:** *Always try to have ingredients donated. A promise of advertising is sometimes enough for local merchants to provide an essential ingredient. (on each label of the salmon cakes “Sponsored by Phil’s Seafood, YourTown, SC.”) And of course somewhere on each meal is a label saying LOVINGLY PREPARED BY THE COUNCIL WOMEN OF (ST MARY) PARISH. And ask a woman who can’t be part of the cooking team to make labels for you!*



**REMEMBER:** whichever fun-raiser you choose to...

- ❖ Keep your Council Name included and displayed.
- ❖ Divide tasks and responsibilities to involve as many members as possible.
- ❖ Make Membership Outreach a part of your plan.
- ❖ Look for bonus opportunities and connections.
- ❖ Build relationships with local businesses and/or services.
- ❖ Advertise BEFORE and AFTER with facts and photos.
- ❖ Thank everyone, every time for everything!