



Holy Name Society Newsletter

Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH

There is little doubt that our Catholic Faith is under attack today and needs “defenders of the Faith.” But how are we as members of the Holy Name Society to accomplish this? The best way of defending the Faith is to live it and to practice it to the best of our God given ability. This is precisely the mission of Holy Name Society members. As Catholics, by reason of our baptism, we are entitled, and indeed commanded, to live our Faith and bear witness to the

message that Christ gave his apostles. As members of the Confraternity of the Holy Name of Jesus, our task and challenge is to bring the gospel message to a world that is thirsting and hungry for the message of love we have in our Catholic Faith. The apostle-evangelist John goes into great depth on this in his gospel, chapter 14, where we have Jesus’ priestly prayer at the Last

Supper. Read and meditate on this “last will and testament” Jesus offered at the Last Supper not just for those present but for all of us. As Holy Name members, we are especially committed, not just encouraged or “allowed”, to love God and love our neighbor; we are commanded to put the message of Christ into ac-

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“Our weapon is nothing more than the cross of Jesus Christ and his own example.”

CONFESS THE NAME OF CHRIST BOLDLY

The Sacrament of Confirmation “gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1303) This sacrament is provided to all of us to prepare us for times like the ones we are currently living through. It appears to be “open season” on the Catholic Church among the snipers and big game hunters of society. We are experiencing attacks on the sacra-

ment of marriage and the sanctity of human life. The Pope himself is under siege.

Defending the Faith is the duty of every Catholic and of Holy Name Society members in particular. Individually and in our parish Societies, Holy Name Societies need to spend the time and the effort to study our Faith so we can explain and defend it effectively. Armed with the truth; we can effectively joust with the critics.

There are various ways of defending our Catholic way of life. I know a young fire-

fighter who goes online to challenge the bigots who malign the Faith. Other people write “letters to the editor” to refute false statements about the Church in the newspaper. When Hilary Clinton came to Houston to receive an award from Planned Parenthood, about 400 pro-lifers held a prayer vigil outside the convention center where the banquet was to be held. Some groups purchase billboards to decry abortion. Some Catholic schools buy advertising in the media to invite families, to entice

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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

- Promotes the honor and glory of our Divine God and the personal sanctification of its members by acts of love and devotion to the most Holy Name of Jesus. This spiritual life of its members is a perpetual act of reverence and love.
- Promotes respect for the most Holy Name of God, faith in the Catholic Church and the Magisterium, loyalty to one’s country, and respect for all lawful authority, both civil and religious
- Our members perform the Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, shelter to the homeless, tend the sick, visit those in prison, and bury the dead; as well as the Spiritual Works of Mercy: to convert sinners, instruct the ignorant, counsel the wayward, comfort the sorrowing, bear adversity patiently, forgive offenses, and pray for the living and the dead on a parochial, diocesan and national level.

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DEFENDING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Many Catholics have found themselves in self-doubt and even embarrassed when they were confronted to explain or defend the Church's teachings on social issues. We should not in anyway feel this way. As Catholics we know that the Church has over two thousand years of history and numerous writings from the early Church Fathers, Saints, biblical scholars, and theologians that cover all the challenges we may encounter.

I attended a Catholic Elementary School and Catholic High School where we were challenged to read a little each day about our Church and our Catholic beliefs. If you take the time to read the writings of the Gospel writers John, Mark, Luke and Matthew you will gain a better understanding of Jesus Christ and the true teachings He left us.

When I was in Catholic school we read and learned a lot from a book known as the *Baltimore Catechism*. Our teachers always recommended we read a little each day from the bible and the catechism. Many of us have to admit as we grew older we set these books aside and became distracted by what was going on in the world around us.

Our Faith and our Church are constantly being challenged by so many believers and non-believers. It is imperative that each of us develop the knowledge to be able to defend our Faith boldly and without compromise. If we have a strong faith and belief in the teachings of the Church, and if we continue to pray with sincerity and confidence, we should be able to stand up to these attacks.

Now is the time for all of us individually and in our parish Holy Name Societies to reflect

on our Catholic education. Have I shown others by my example that I believe my Faith is strong and does not have to be defended? My personal suggestion to everyone is to remember it is not too late to begin these religious and spiritual practices. Collectively let's make a promise to ourselves by starting today. Let's get to confession frequently (monthly is recommended), receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at Sunday and daily Masses, reach for the Bible and read the Gospels. Dust off your Catholic Catechism and relearn your faith with the intention of being able to defend it whenever you are challenged.

*By Ray W. Zientara,
Executive Director
Diocese of Buffalo
Asst. Region II National Vice
President*

CONFESS THE NAME OF CHRIST BOLDLY

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them, to give their children a Catholic education.

As Catholics, we are all called to love our enemies, including those who attack the Church; we must pray for them, for their conversion, and their salvation. If the best defense is a good offense, then we dilute and deflect the attacks of Church critics by living a Catholic life in joyful witness for Christ and His truth confessing the name of Christ

boldly. As St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel... and when necessary use words." Holy and enthusiastic lives are the best defense of the Catholic Faith.

We don't want to be like those who take up arms when their founder is caricatured in a cartoon, but neither should we allow our beliefs and way of life to be misrepresented in public or private. A

love of our Faith, a good sense of humor, and the strength of the Holy Spirit will help us "to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross."

*Rev. Paul Chovanec,
Pastor, St. Justin Martyr Parish,
Houston, Texas*

"If the best defense is a good offense, then we dilute and deflect the attacks of Church critics by living a Catholic life in joyful witness for Christ ..."

DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH

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tion. By our example, we can become Defenders of the Faith.

Some would like to see the Church more militant, take up arms and do battle like an armed force. But that is not the way of Christ and his Gospel message. Our weapon is nothing more than the cross of Jesus Christ and his own example. Think of that tense moment in Gethsemane when Jesus told Peter to put aside the sword and then healed the man whose ear Peter had cut off. On many occasions, the Church has been in just such a position to use brute force or extreme measures to defend the Faith, but has never suc-

cumbed to this temptation. No, the Faith has been served best when eschewing force and the weapons of the world. The Church has relied on the spiritual resources at its disposal, spiritual explanations of learned theologians and scholars, the blood of the martyrs, the labors of the missionaries and the faithful witnesses to the Faith - these individuals live their vocations with humility, faith, hope and charity. This is how the Faith is transferred and defended.

There is a tendency today to dismiss the Church and all it stands for as outmoded, as dying, if not dead. The siren song of a secular society makes its appeal especially to the young. Despite the efforts

of many dedicated individuals and catechetical programs, we must admit the sad fact that the true teachings of the Church have not been embraced by a large percentage of society. There is no reason to panic or to think that there is nothing we can do about it. The Church has been in this position before. We must remind ourselves that the gates of hell will not prevail. Besieged and battered we can and will beat the challenge. But remember that God asks us to do what is in our power! Here the Holy Name Society and its members must stand-up and be counted by living up to our long tradition and heritage of faithful prayer, obedience, perseverance, commitment

and dedication to bring Jesus Christ into the lives of people by our example and our witness.

C. K. Chesterton noted that it is not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting; it is simply that Christianity has not been tried. Oh, there have been efforts, but they too often only scratch the surface and do not get into the heart of the Christian Faith. Some are distracted too, by peripheral and ephemeral issues. I do believe the answer to the question: How do we defend the Faith? Is answered, and very simply: Live it in word and deed in wholehearted efforts.

*Fr. Thomas J. Hayes, O.P.
NAHNS Spiritual Director*

REMAIN IN MY LOVE

In the holy Gospel according to St. John, Jesus tells his disciples, "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love..." (Jn 15:9-10). Extremely powerful words of encouragement for each of us, as we hear that our Lord and Savior has the same love for us that the Father has for his only begotten Son. Yet, these words also place a condition on this love. Jesus tells us that to remain in this love we must keep his commandments. He goes on to explain that his commandment is, "Love one another as

I have loved you." (Jn 15:12) He then leaves his disciples with a clear message of how he wants them to live their lives, "This I command you, love one another." (Jn 15:17)

To show true love to someone means bringing that person into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and allowing that person to experience His love. If we are to follow Jesus' command we must labor to ensure our brothers and sisters in Christ remain in this special love. This requires that the true teachings of Jesus Christ are presented accurately, consistently and with

charity. The Catholic Church, the Bride of Christ, is the institution that Jesus left to ensure that His message would be available to all and would remain with us - until the end of the age.

Unfortunately, in today's society, the Catholic Faith and the Catholic Church are under constant attack. The most recent attacks on the Faith are

coming from those who are trying to deny the fact that the sacrament of marriage is

God's plan for **one man and one woman** - not two men or two women. The other attack emanates from

the Executive Branch of our own government via the White House, which is trying to elevate the culture of death to an ever higher level by increasing efforts to deny the sanctity of human life, e.g. Freedom of Choice Act

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"Our moral conscience requires that we give witness to the whole moral truth taught to us by the Church."

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

New York AUHNS

The Archdiocesan Union HNS Annual Family Holy Hour entitled, *Saint Paul and the Eucharist*, was held on April 26 at the Church of Corpus Christi. Archdiocesan Union Awards were presented at a special reception following the Holy Hour.

St. Margaret Mary, Bronx HNS

The Ghanaian Community of Saint Margaret Mary's Parish will officially inaugurate their branch of the Holy Name Society and hold installation of officers and reception of members on Sunday, June 21st. All Holy Name members are invited to attend the ceremony followed by dinner.

Holy Family Church, West Newton, PA HNS

The Holy Name Society of Holy Family Church helped celebrate Mother's Day by providing each married woman attending Mass with a linen flower as a gift of respect.

New Rochelle Fire Dept. HNS

The 4th Annual Communion Mass and Breakfast was held at Holy Name Church on May 17th. Fr. Martin J. Biglin, Department Chaplain and Spiritual Director, conducted a course in March for department members, active and or retired, that are interested in becoming Eucharistic Ministers.

St. Francis Xavier, Bronx HNS

The St. Francis Xavier HNS distributed flowers to all women in attendance at Mass on Mothers Day. Monthly spiritual readings are being held to help members grow in holiness and obtain their personal sanctification. Fr. Mathew Furey is the Spiritual Director.

Brooklyn Diocesan Union HNS

The Brooklyn Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies held their Annual Mass for the deceased members of all Holy Name Societies on May 9th at Mary Queen of Heaven R.C. Church. Approximately 160 people attended the event and the Member of the Year Award known as The Hank Stuetz Award and a special achievement award were presented. The guest speaker was Sr. Terry Agliardi, currently on the staff of St. Thomas Aquinas, Flatlands section of Brooklyn who spoke on the Eucharist.

Plans are being developed for a Diocesan one day Retreat with a bishop as our guest speaker sometime this year.

A special fundraising effort called "Bottles for Change" is in progress. Baby bottles are given out to parish contacts and each parish is asked to fill them with coins. The money raised is donated to Bridge to Life, a Catholic organization that helps women who are pregnant and need assistance.

NYC Fire Department HNS

Over 800 firefighters, members of their families and guests participated in the New York City (Manhattan-Bronx-Staten Island) 85th Annual Communion Mass and Breakfast at St. Patrick's Cathedral. His Excellency, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan was the celebrant. Msgr. Marc A. Filacchione and Fr. Christopher Keenan, co-spiritual directors of the Fire Department Holy Name Society, and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta were in attendance and were recognized by Archbishop Dolan.

Following Mass, the firefighters, family members, and guests paraded behind the Cathedral Girls High School Marching Band to the New York Hilton Hotel for breakfast. Archbishop Dolan gave the invocation and Fr. John Michael Lee, C.P., Director of the Bishop Molloy Retreat House was the guest speaker.

Holy Comforter HNS Washington D.C.

The Holy Name Society of the Church of the Holy Comforter helped the parish celebrate its 103rd Anniversary on May 9, 2009. The monthly Holy Name Mass is celebrated on the second Sunday of each month at the 8 am Mass.

The Annual Father's Day Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, June 21st. starting at 8 am.

Chicago Association of the HNS

The General Membership Assembly for the Chicago Association of the HNS was held on Saturday, May 16 at the Church of St. Priscilla in Chicago.

The 2009 Spiritual Assembly will be held at St. Constance parish in Chicago on Friday, June 12th. The annual CAHNS Man of the Year Award will be presented following the Spiritual Assembly in Boroczky Hall.

Buffalo Diocesan Union HNS

The members of the Buffalo Diocesan Union HNS supported the Diocesan Marian Tribute on Sunday, May 3rd at St. Joseph Cathedral. A special Prayer Service to honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus was held.

The membership drive was held throughout the month of March across the entire Diocese. A letter was sent to all parish pastors asking them to place a special parish bulletin announcement promoting membership in the Holy Name Society.

Eucharistic Adoration is scheduled for Saturday June 20th at St. Katharine Drexel parish from 9 to 10 pm.



JHS

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

San Antonio Archdiocesan Union HNS

The San Antonio Archdiocesan Union of Holy Name Societies held their annual Day of Recollection on March 14th at the Oblate Grotto Center in San Antonio. The day ended with the Stations of the Cross on the grounds of the Oblate School of Theology. The monthly Hour of Prayer was held on March 22nd at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Uvalde, Texas. The February Hour of Prayer was held at St. Henry's Catholic Church and was sponsored by the Blessed Sacrament Holy Name Society. These two parishes have joined forces the past two years to sponsor the February devotions. Msgr. Emil Wesselsky, Pastor at St. Henry's, gave the welcoming address. Deacon Peter R. Olivares from St. Henry's was the Master of Ceremonies. Fr. Richard Pena, Spiritual Moderator of the San Antonio Archdiocesan Union HNS

gave the homily. Over 115 members, family, and friends attended the Hour of Prayer.

An Hour of Prayer is scheduled for June 28th at the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in St. Hedwig, Texas. A special Memorial Mass was celebrated at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio on May 25th. On Sunday, April 19th, members of the San Antonio Union HNS gathered for a special prayer service at the Grotto on the grounds of the Oblate Seminary. The prayer service included the recitation of the most Holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS

A membership drive was recently completed by the

Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS. Jun Nugent is the new President of the Union.

The 62nd Annual Diocesan Convention for the Southern District Deanery was held at St. Eugene's Church in February. The Southwest Deanery HNS held its annual awards banquet on April 19 at Corpus Christi Parish in Cleveland. The East Deanery HNS held its 26th Annual Rev. Fr. George L. Vituj Award Banquet on April 26th at the Center for Pastoral leadership in Wickliffe. St. Paul's parish HNS was the host of the event.

The Church of St. Christine HNS hosted the 104th Mass and Prayer Vigil with Benediction in honor of Blessed John of Vercelli. 76 people attended the event. Fr. Edward J. Smith celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and gave a very powerful homily.

St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocesan Association HNS

The Annual Spring Awards Banquet was held on May 2, at the Church of the Holy Cross in Northeast Minneapolis. The Annual Man of the Year Award was presented following a short program. Proceeds from the event are designated to support a new Holy Name Society being developed from a combination of seven separate parishes in the Northeast part of Minneapolis.

New ByLaws were approved by the Executive Board during the May meeting. The new ByLaws were required to support the new Constitution ratified by the general membership last October. The new Constitution and Bylaws were developed to help the Executive Board meet the challenges of promoting the Holy Names of God and Jesus in today's society.

2009 NAHNS National Convention Registration - Thursday, October 8th - Sunday, October 11th Sponsored by the Archdiocesan Union of Holy Name Societies of Boston

Advanced Registration Requested: Please register early! Registration must be received on or before **September 15, 2009**. For more information e-mail: jw13148@aol.com

Registration is **\$400** per person, double occupancy. For non-voting delegates or spouses, there is an additional **\$25** fee if you want to participate in an optional tour on Friday. The registration fee for a single room is **\$500**.

Registration Information:

Please include a check payable to: **2009 NAHNS Convention**

Name(s): _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone # (_____) _____ Email: _____
 Parish: _____ (Arch)diocese: _____

Mail to:

**2009 NAHNS Convention
 c/o Edward Barkhouse
 301 Franklin Street, Unit 3
 Hanson, MA 02341**

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

New Holy Card - Blessed John of Vercelli

After a world wide search for an authentic image of Blessed John of Vercelli, which included the Vatican, for paintings, pictures, and images of Blessed John of Vercelli, one was finally selected.

After detailed examinations and discussions, it was agreed by all committee members to accept a photograph taken by Rev. William Crandall, now deceased. Father Crandall had taken this photograph of a painting which was in a Dominican Convent located in Vercelli, Italy.

Approval of the picture had to be obtained by the Most Reverend Carlos Aspiroz-Costas, O.P., Master General of the Dominican Order thru Rev. Stephen Carmody, O.P., Vice Postulator for the Cause for Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli and Rev. D. Dominic Izzo, O.P., Provincial for the Province of St. Joseph. All approvals were obtained, including permission from Rev. William Crandall, for the National Association of the Holy Name Society to use his picture. This image is now the official picture of Blessed John of Vercelli to be used on Holy Cards promoting the canonization of the patron of the Holy Name Society.

The new Holy card can be ordered from the NAHNS Supply Store as part number 922. Price is .20 cents each and \$18.00 for 100. # 907 Blessed John of Vercelli

Prayer Card (Picture of Relic) and #902 Blessed John of Vercelli Prayer Card (Picture of Blessed John of Vercelli) have been discontinued.

NAHNS to Host Online Auction - Proceeds go to Spread Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus

The National Association of the Holy Name Society (NAHNS) will be hosting an online auction in October, 2009. Proceeds from the online auction will fund the creation of new communication, evangelization, and promotional materials, which will enhance the organization's ability to implement its mission - spreading devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus.

The funds raised will not only boost the NAHNS's ability to spread devotion to the Holy

Name of Jesus, but will give members across the country a way to easily participate in and support this activity.

There are two major steps in this online auction. First, Holy Name Society members, friends and supporters are encouraged to donate items for the auction. This may be done starting immediately by going to the auction web site and clicking the link "Submit a Donation."

The second major step is the actual online auction which takes place on the auction web site during the month of October. The web site for the auction is:

[http://
auctions.readysetauction.com/
nahns/](http://auctions.readysetauction.com/nahns/)

Holy Name Society members, friends and supporters are encouraged to donate items

for the auction at this time. Possible donation items might include use of a vacation property or timeshare, travel, lodging, religious goods, books, DVDs, tickets to sporting or cultural events, sports or nature outings, electronics, gift certificates, or other items of interest to fellow Holy Name Society members. We encourage different parts of the country to get creative and put together interesting donations unique to your area of the country.

Anyone can make a donation by going to the web site, clicking "Submit a Donation," and providing the required information (description, value of the item, your name and contact information).

Contact: Ron Schmitz,
Online Auction Coordinator
ron@nomensanctum.org

Participate in the NAHNS Online Auction! A Fundraiser for NAHNS

- **Donate Items**
May through September
- **View Online Catalog**
- **Bid Online**
Month of October

This auction raises funds to help HNS spread devotion to the most Holy Name of Jesus

Make a donation now! Suggested Donation Items

- Travel
- Lodging
- Airfare
- Use of your vacation property/timeshare
- Religious Items
- Food (non perishable)
- Tickets
- Theater
- Sporting Events
- Sporting Goods
- Outdoors Items
- Electronics
- Gift Cards
- Services

NAHNS Online Auction

To donate online (now), view online catalog and/or place a bid (in Oct) go to:
<http://auctions.readysetauction.com/nahns/>

REMAIN IN MY LOVE

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(FOCA) and similar bills. The Catholic Church in her efforts to respond to these falsehoods has come under significant criticism.

As members of the Confraternity of the most Holy Names of God and Jesus, we frequently recite the Holy Name Pledge where we “promise to give good example by the regular practice of our faith” and to believe all the sacred truths taught by the Holy Catholic Church. These pledges require us to stand up against those who would mock, ridicule, persecute or deny the truths of Christ Jesus as taught and proclaimed by the Catholic Church. Our moral conscience requires that we give witness to the whole moral truth taught to us by the Church. We cannot sit on the sidelines and watch our neighbors fall out of God’s love by their uninformed and misguided beliefs.

Individually and collectively together as members of this

spiritual confraternity we need to arm ourselves to defend the Bride of Christ. We do this by first educating ourselves on the teachings of the Church on these social and political issues. Referencing the Catholic Catechism to determine the truth of the

Church on these issues is an excellent place

to start. You can also refer to documents published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. These documents can be found on the web at www.usccb.org.

Then we must do all in our power, in accordance with our state in life, to defend the Church and her teachings. We can do this by praying for God’s mercy and enlightenment for those who are championing these immoral issues. We can also write letters and e-mails to our congressman,

sign petitions, donate money and/or time to Catholic organizations taking up the fight against these immoral issues. We can and we must vote for politicians that will represent us by upholding these fundamental Catholic teachings.

We must do all we do out of love for our neighbor. It must be love that drives us to want all of those misinformed and misguided individuals

to experience the love of Jesus Christ. Jesus told his disciples, “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain...” (Jn 15:16). Jesus chose each of us and requests that we “bear fruit” by living our Catholic Faith and being a witness to the love of Christ. He asks this of all of us who desire to remain in His love.

M. D. Gores
Archdiocese of St. Paul / Minneapolis HNS

“... we must do all in our power, in accordance with our state in life, to defend the Church and her teachings. ... We must do all we do out of love for our neighbor.”

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THE HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS

July 2009

General: That the Christians of the Middle East may live their faith in full freedom and be an instrument of peace and reconciliation.

Mission: That the Church may be the seed and nucleus of a humanity reconciled and reunited in God’s one and

only family, thanks to the testimony of all the faithful in every country in the world.

August 2009

General: That public opinion may be more aware of the problem of millions of displace persons and refugees and that concrete solutions may be

found for their often tragic situation.

Mission: That those Christians who are discriminated against and persecuted in many countries because of the name of Christ may have their human rights, equality and religious freedom recognized, in order to be able to live and profess their own faith freely.



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SPREADING DEVOTION TO THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

2009 National Holy Name Convention

October 8 - 11, 2009

Advertising Rates & Advertising Registration Form

2009 National Convention Program Book

Please show your support of the 2009 National Holy Name Society Convention by placing an ad in the convention program book. The convention program book is delivered to people who attend the activities of the convention. Ads can be placed by individuals, groups, Diocesan/Archdiocesan or Parish Holy Name Societies, or by businesses.

	Full Page Ad - \$150
	Half Page Ad - \$75
	Quarter Page Ad - \$50

Digital pictures or digital images may be included in Full, Half, and Quarter Page Ads at no additional charge. **Deadline is August 15, 2009.** Send electronic ad copy and artwork to: jwl3148@aol.com, or mail paper copy to the address below::

Please include a check payable to: **2009 NAHNS Convention**

Advertiser Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone # (_____) _____ Email: _____

**2009 NAHNS Convention
c/o Edward Barkhouse
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www.nahns.com