



Holy Name Society Newsletter

Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD - BLESS HIS NAME

“O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord; bless his name.”

These words of praise to the honor and glory of God (Psalm 96) celebrate the great day of the coming of the Lord, a coming at Bethlehem, a coming into the hearts of all who welcome Him and His coming again in glory at the end of time. Foretold by the prophets, announced by an angel, proclaimed by the shepherds and revered by the wise men from the East, the Word has become Flesh and

dwells among us.

It gives me great joy to share with you the message of hope and love that must fill the hearts of all members of the Confraternity of the most Holy Names of God and Jesus. Like the light that dispels the darkness, so this “Good News” - the coming of Our Savior - is reason to rejoice. No wonder that almost all of the one hundred and fifty psalms make explicit mention of the Holy Name of God.

This light of grace can dispel the darkness of unbelief, of

ignorance and outright blasphemy toward all that is holy. On January 3 we celebrated the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. I offered a special Mass on that day asking blessings on the members of our Confraternity of the Holy Name both living and deceased. I urge all to pray the Litany to the Holy Name of Jesus and make reparations so that the Holy Name of Jesus will be honored, loved and preached to all who have not yet heard the Good News.

There are many reasons we
(Continued on page 2)

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.

SPIRITUALITY OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The spirituality of the Holy Name Society consists in promoting reverence for the Holy Names of God and Jesus. We should do this through prayer, through greater knowledge and understanding about our beautiful Catholic faith, through fidelity to the Magisterium of the Church, and through Christian action toward others by performing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Through these components, the Holy

Name Society provides us with a very real and concrete way to participate in the evangelization mission of the church.

Recently, the National Association of the Holy Name Society established a new committee called Life Marriage Family Youth (LMFY Committee) which is patterned after the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops committee Life, Marriage, Family Life, Laity,

and Youth. This committee exists to carry out the fundamental activities for putting faith into action.

The Committee focuses on Life because there is no other more basic, foundational principle than the right to live, especially for our weakest members of our society such as the unborn, the elderly, and the infirm. Marriage is a focus because married life between man and

(Continued on page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
FAITH FOR YOUTH - JUNIOR HOLY NAME SOCIETY	3
NAHNS NEWS	4-5
NAHNS PRISON APOSTOLATES	6
CONFESSION, ANYONE?	6

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am of French-Canadian descent, my father was born at Sherbrooke in the Province of Quebec, Canada. Sherbrooke is a city 150 kilometers (93 miles) east of Montreal. My grandparents on both my mother and father's side are also from Quebec and as such, we have many relatives in that part of Canada. As a child growing up we had many opportunities to visit my Aunt Helen who lived in Chomedey, Laval. Chomedey's proximity to Montreal made it an ideal summer vacation destination. On one of those vacations we visited Montreal and I had one of my most memorable moments - my first visit to Saint Joseph's Oratory on Mount-Royal. Ever since that first visit, every time I visited my aunt, I always made a pilgrimage to Saint Joseph's.

The reason I mentioned this little bit of family history is because last October the person most responsible for that great edifice was canonized.

Brother Andre Bessette was a member of the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Montreal. When he was accepted into the order, he was made porter at Notre Dame College and was known to say: "When I entered the community, my superiors showed me the door, and I remained there 40 years without leaving." Brother Andre was a most humble man with a great devotion to Saint Joseph, my patron saint. Of all the great members of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, it was this humble "doorman" that

became the first member of his religious community to be canonized.

The virtue of humility is one of the four cardinal virtues. Humility is the quality of being modest and reverential. As members of the Holy Name Society we should strive to always practice this virtue. As we enter into the season of Lent, might I suggest that we use this time of fasting and prayer to hone this virtue in our daily lives. May we raise our hearts and minds to God in humble thanksgiving and praise during this most holy of seasons.

Joe Lapointe
President NAHNS

If you would like to read more about Brother Andre's remarkable life, EWTN has a wonderful link with his biography. The web address is:
<http://www.ewtn.com/library/mary/broandre.htm>

SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD - BLESS HIS NAME

(Continued from page 1)

should rejoice and be glad and have great hope for the Holy Name apostolate. The recent revival of the Holy Name Society here in Saint Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco with fifteen new members recently inducted; the stirring and challenging message of the newly installed Archbishop of Seattle - who called on all those present at his installation to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and actively work to foster

love and respect for the Person of Jesus Christ give promise of the vitality of the Confraternity. The promising response to the technological advances the communications team of the NAHNS has implemented to more effectively disseminate information about the Holy Name Society; together with the ongoing spiritual and corporal works of mercy and service provided by our prison ministry teams; all contribute to our reason for singing out loud and clear in this New

Year: all praise and glory to His Holy Name.

Let us not curse the darkness; but light the candle of faith hope and love. Let us encourage a renewed devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus and exercise the gift of our Holy Name membership! Together let us sing a new song to the Lord and bless his most Holy Name!

Father Thomas Hayes O.P.
Spiritual Moderator, NAHNS

FAITH FOR YOUTH - JUNIOR HOLY NAME SOCIETY

There is an Apostolate within the Holy Name Society which can be of great benefit to students who are in their most formative years. It is called a Junior Holy Name Society (JHNS). To start a JHNS in a Catholic School requires several key steps and several dedicated individuals.

The process begins with a representative from the local Holy Name Society contacting the pastor of the parish in which the Catholic School resides. This representative

should be willing to act as an intermediary between the local Holy Name Society and the Junior Holy Name Society which is being formed. After permission is obtained from the pastor, the Holy Name Society representative should contact the principal of the Catholic Grade School to determine if she/he is willing to sponsor a JHNS. One of the teachers in the school should be requested to act as the moderator of the JHNS. Guidelines for membership should then be established

with the principal, parish Holy Name Society representative and the teacher moderator.

The requirements for joining the Society should be communicated to the teachers, parents and students. Some suggestions that have worked well in the past have been asking the students to write an essay explaining why they want to join the Society, obtaining written permission of parents or guardians and obtaining an endorsement of the

Principal of the students wishing to join the JHNS.

Once the guidelines are established, a membership drive in which the Holy Name Society representative visits the school classrooms inviting students to become members of the JHNS should take place. Signs, posters, pamphlets, etc. should be used to get the proper information in the hands of students, teachers and parents. The local Holy Name Society could be con-

(Continued on page 7)

SPIRITUALITY OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

(Continued from page 1)

woman was established by God and is a sign of the marriage between Christ and His Church. The Family is important because the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph provide a model of a holy, Christian family that our society needs to respect and emulate. Supporting the formation of Catholic Youth is vital because they truly are the future of the Church, and they need an authentic Christian example to support and lead them in the right direction.

As we look about us, we see these cultural pillars under attack by our increasingly secularist culture. As Catholics, we need a safe haven where we can feel supported as we confront a society that is so often indifferent and even hostile to our beliefs. We

need a tangible and practical vehicle to help us address these four foundational issues. With this in mind, the Life Marriage Family Youth committee was formed.

First and foremost, we need your daily

prayers. Please ask God to protect life, marriage, the family, and our youth from the onslaught of secularism. Ask Him to instill in us a greater respect for all four of these critical areas.

Second, we need to educate ourselves on how the Church views human life, marriage, family, and youth. The LMFY Committee will do our part

by including the teachings of our church in future newsletters, e-mails and through the new Blog. We encourage all Holy Name Society members to take the initiative and utilize

Catholic resources that provide solid, authentic un-

derstanding of these issues.

Third, we need to act with courage, both individually and as Holy Name Society parish chapters, to stand up for the weak and defenseless.

Through our prayers, educational efforts, and our Christian witness, God can work through us to bring the message of truth and hope about life, marriage, family, and

youth.

As we grow in greater reverence and love for Jesus and a desire to serve others, may others be drawn to our Lord. May they want to know what this "Holy Name Society" is all about, and how they can become a part of this important apostolate.

What a wonderful gift the Holy Name Society is to each of us! What a wonderful gift the Holy Name Society is for the Church and for our culture!

Praise be the Name of Jesus Christ! Today, Tomorrow, and Forever!

*Richard Kehoe
Committee Chair,
NAHNS Life Marriage Family
Youth*

"... we need to act with courage, both individually and as Holy Name Society parish chapters, to stand up for the weak and defenseless. Through our prayers, educational efforts, and our Christian witness, God can work through us ..."

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

New York Archdiocesan Union HNS

The Richmond Division of the Archdiocesan Union HNS held their Annual Corporate Communion Mass and Breakfast at the Church of St. Peter in Staten Island on January 30th. His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan was the celebrant and the guest speaker. Award presentations for Appreciation and Achievement were made to those members who have made significant contributions to the promotion and development of the Holy Name Society.

New Rochelle Fire Department HNS

The New Rochelle Fire Department HNS is now in their 6th year of operation following a three decade period of silence.

The annual Communion Mass and Breakfast is planned for March 20 at the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus in New Rochelle.

Work continues on strengthening and growing the organization. The HNS provides gifts and food to families at Christmas, provides support to members when they or a loved one is sick or injured and providing prayers, Bibles and support to members or their family members when a loved one is deceased.

San Antonio Archdiocesan Union HNS

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Uvalde, Texas will sponsor the March Hour of Prayer on March 27th.

Armando Aranda is the contact for the Sick and Vigil Committee for the Archdiocesan Union – this committee helps HNS members keep aware of members that are deceased or who are ill or injured and in need of prayers and material support.

St. Lucy Parish HNS

St. Lucy Parish HNS recently completed a reactivation and recruiting effort to promote membership in the Holy Name Society. Brother Cintron and Fr. Pergini, pastor and Spiritual Director of the parish HNS were instrumental in this revitalization effort.

Baltimore Archdiocesan HNU

The Baltimore Archdiocesan Holy Name Union celebrated their 31st Annual Memorial Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday, November 7. Twelve Holy Name Societies were present and five with their banners processed into the Basilica.

Buffalo Diocesan Union HNS

The 31st Annual Day of Recollection sponsored by the District 8 Holy Name Society was held at St. Andrew's parish, Crocker and Reiman Streets, Sloan, New York on Sunday, March 6th.

The International Holy Name Society Breakfast is scheduled for March 27 at the Church of St. Benedict located at Eggert and Main Streets in the Eggertsville area of Buffalo. This event provides an opportunity for members of the Holy Name Society from Canada and the Buffalo diocese to meet for Mass and breakfast. Fr. Sabo, Spiritual Moderator for the Buffalo Diocesan HNS is assisting in the coordination of the event.

The Diocesan Union HNS will March in the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 17th. The parade route is on Delaware Avenue Niagara Square to North Street.

The Diocesan Union HNS sponsors the Msgr. Maguire Scholarship Essay Contest. It is open to all Catholic Students - public, private and Catholic - in their senior year of High School in the diocese of Buffalo. Contestants must write a 500 to 600 word essay on a designated topic. This year's topic is, "What are the pressures of living a religious life in today's secular and materialistic world."

Brooklyn Diocesan Union HNS

The Annual Holy Name Recognition Mass was held on Sunday, February 20 at the St. James Cathedral-Basilica in Brooklyn, New York.

The Annual Communion Brunch in Memory of Deceased Members is scheduled for March 26 at the Church of the Resurrection, Brooklyn.

The Brooklyn Diocesan Union HNS established a program named, "Bottles for Change" where members are asked to deposit their loose change in specially designated bottles. Last year over \$560 was donated to "The Bridge of Life, Inc." This organization assists needy mothers, their babies and children throughout the five boroughs with counseling and spiritual assistance.

The April Benediction and General Meeting will be held at the Church of St. Thomas Aquinas beginning with Benediction.

St. Frances De Chantal, Bronx HNS

On the 2nd Saturday of each month a group of Holy Name Society members assist at the soup kitchen operated by the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal on East 113th Street, Manhattan. Fr. A. Robert Quarato is Pastor and Spiritual Director of the parish HNS.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

Chicago Association HNS

Lenten Morning of recollection and the Annual General Membership meeting was held at the Church of the Holy Cross Immaculate Heart of Mary on February 19th.

The Chicago Area Holy Name Society is holding its 31st Annual Spiritual Assembly Mass on June 10, 2011 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, 7211 West Talcott, Chicago, Illinois.

This event brings together over fifty parish Holy Name Societies from throughout the Archdiocese. Each year hundreds of Holy Name Society members and their friends and families unite together in an outdoor procession followed by a special Mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal Francis George.

This year's event concludes with a reception and a dinner. A special raffle is currently being held to help raise funds for the event.

If you would like to take out an advertisement in the program book used for this event, contact Paulo Benson at paulbnp@hotmail.com or via phone at (312) 576-9135. To obtain more information on this event contact Louis Rexing at Rexing@aol.com and visit the CAHNS website at chicagoholyname.org.

Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS

Lorain County Deanery – The Annual Lorain County memorial Mass for deceased members of the Holy Name Society was held on November 9, 2010 at the Chapel of Holy Spirit parish in Avon Lake, OH. Fr. Gerald Keller was the celebrant.

The Southern District Deanery will sponsor a Mass and Holy Hour for the Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli at St. Mathews Church, Akron, OH on March 27th.

Members of the Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS attended the National March for Life in Washington, DC - "a day of penance and prayer on the occasion of the anniversary of Roe v Wade." Members joined Christians from all over the country to offer their prayers and witness for the innocent, unborn whose lives are taken by the growing culture of death in America.

The Diocesan Union's 64th Annual Convention was held on February 19th at Holy Spirit Church in Garfield Heights, OH. Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Anthony M. Pilla. For the 12th straight year, members of the Holy Name Society will publicly give witness of their love and respect for the most Holy Name of Jesus by marching in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on Thursday, March 17th.

NAHNS News

The Annual Bishop's Brunch to raise funds to support the Seminarians will be held on March 20.

This has been an annual event since 1982. Holy Name Society has been an active participant for the past ten years.

St. Paul and Minneapolis AAHNS

The Archdiocesan Association of HNS sponsored the 9th Annual Apologetics Conference featuring Mark Shea from Catholic Answers. Mark is a nationally known Catholic Apologist, speaker, author and has a popular blog.

Mark gave two talks on the Catholic Faith and answered questions from the attendees. The annual apologetics conferences provide an opportunity to spread the teachings of the Catholic Church and also promote membership to the Holy Name Society within the archdiocese.

The Annual Spring Awards banquet is scheduled for May 21st. This event provides an opportunity for members of parish Holy Name Societies to recognize members for their hard work and efforts to promote devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus.

The 2011 National Convention of the National Association of the Holy Name Society (NAHNS) will be held from September 21 through September 24, 2011. The theme for this year's convention is "Service In His Holy Name". The Baltimore Archdiocesan Holy Name Union is hosting the convention; the BAHNU is celebrating 100 Years of faithful service to the Church in 2011.

Lodging for the convention is available at the Tremont Plaza All Suite Hotel. A special rate of \$119 + tax per night has been arranged. The registration fee for the convention is \$275 if received before 9/1/2011.

If you would like to take out an advertisement in the Program Book, please mail a check to 2011 NAHNS Convention, c/o Nancy Novak, 7616 Carson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21224.

For more information on the convention please contact, Mr. George Parker at 410-987-4979 or via e-mail at gfparser@verizon.net or Mr. Bill Schummer at 410-923-2596 or via e-mail at weschummer@comcast.net. Additional information will be available on the NAHNS website – nahns.com under the Convention link.

NAHNS PRISON APOSTOLATES

One of the awesome things about Sacred Scripture is the way it creeps up on you. You can read a passage or hear it read a hundred times and each time something new springs out. Or like an onion, another layer gets peeled back. Sometimes a message or meaning is so obvious, so in-your-face, that you wonder how you could have missed it.

One day, I had one of those moments while I was reading Matthew's account of Judgment Day, as illustrated by the Separation of the Sheep and Goats, and became finally, understandably disturbed by its implications.

Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

"Then they will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'

Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' (Mt 25:31-46)

Ouch.

Another awesome thing about Sacred Scripture is that it speaks to you where you live. And that day, it really struck home. That day, I realized that there were no two ways of looking at this parable - these works of mercy are imperative to obtaining eternal life. Feed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Welcome the stranger. Clothe the naked. And visit the imprisoned. "Oh, my!" I thought, "That last one may be a bit out of my comfort zone."

But a 'call is a call' and Christ never said that discipleship was going to be comfortable.

Thank Goodness, the Holy Name Society sponsors a pair of wonderful outreach programs to allow its members opportunities to "visit the imprisoned": one serving the spiritual needs of Catholic inmates through potentially life-changing retreats, and the other fulfilling a temporal need by providing them with regular, personal contact via letter writing.

Time to time we all need to retreat from the world - to step back and regain our perspective and remember what's really important in life. The **Metanoia Retreats** provide a conduit through which the Holy Spirit can work in the lives of those behind bars. The retreats allow prisoners the structure for a sometimes profound conversion experience - to be freed from the heavy burdens of their day-to-day, to withdraw from their surroundings if only for a weekend, and to see and hear God with greater clarity.

The **Mary Mother of Captives Pen Pal Ministry**

provides members a secure/private program to correspond with those behind prison walls. Depending on the individual and particular circumstances, correspondences may range from the routine to the deeply spiritual. The prisoners welcome the distraction as well as the friendship - they appreciate the escape, the hope, the encouragement and the window to the outside world that their pen pals provide.

(On a personal note, letter writing has provided me with an outlet to compose my thoughts and share my faith - to plant a seed that may one day sprout and bear abundant fruit. I also find my own relationships with God and my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ growing as a result.)

I encourage all Holy Name Society members to become active in one of these special works of mercy.

*Bill Rysavy
St. Paul/Minneapolis
Archdiocesan HNS*

CONFESSION, ANYONE?

The season of lent is now here. This is one of the two penitential seasons of the Liturgical year. It is a wonderful time to receive the Sacrament of Penance. When Jesus instituted this Sacrament, He knew what sin could do to our relationship with God and with our families.

When we take time to confess our sins, we have the opportunity to make changes in our lifestyle. This is very important if we truly want to become good Catholic role models.

Most of us, at some time or another, have been scandal-

ized by the actions of a Catholic who we looked up to and admired. Sometimes, we may even have been that Catholic. The Sacrament of Penance gives us all a chance to make up for that scandal. It is the way Jesus gave us to be forgiven for our sins.

During the Season of Lent there will be many opportunities to confess our sins. Please take advantage of this wonderful Sacrament - it can truly change your life!

*Fr. Thomas Haren,
Moderator
Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS*

FAITH FOR YOUTH - JUNIOR HOLY NAME SOCIETY

(Continued from page 3)

tacted to provide Holy Name materials for the new members (Holy Name Pins, Holy Name Pledge cards, etc.).

At the conclusion of the membership drive, a special all School Mass should be arranged at which the new members are inducted into the Society using an official ceremony. The induction ceremony should be provided by the parish Holy Name Society.

The Junior Holy Name Society in St. Monica School in Garfield Heights, Ohio was founded about five years ago for the seventh and eighth grade students. It was open to both boys and girls. In order to join, the students were required to write an essay about the meaning of Jesus Christ in their lives. The new members

were inducted into the Society at a Mass attended by all of the students of the school. At this Mass they recited the Holy Name Pledge, and received their Holy Name pins.

Several teachers in the school volunteered to act as Moderators for the Junior Holy Name Society. Due to the difficulty of meeting after school, it was decided that meetings would take place during the lunch time recess period. The students elected officers who worked closely with the teacher moderators. At the meetings the students organized spiritual and service projects. Some of the projects included: visiting a Children's Hospital with gifts, volunteering at a Catholic Clothing Distribution Center, collecting items for American

troops stationed overseas, putting together "finger rosary" packets for school children, marching as a JHNS in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, and participating in special retreats designed for the JHNS. Every meeting included prayer and the recitation of the Holy Name Pledge.

Over the years, the students who have joined the JHNS have acted as good role models for the rest of the students at St. Monica School. The parish Holy Name Society has actively supported their efforts – with time, talent and treasure. It is wonderful seeing both our young students and our adult members sharing their love for Jesus in the Holy Name Society.

*Fr. Thomas Haren, Moderator
Diocese of Cleveland HNS*

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TIPS FOR RUNNING A JUNIOR HOLY NAME SOCIETY MEETING

- The teacher moderator should work closely with the Students to establish a good time for the monthly meetings (e.g. school lunch hour). This will allow for full participation of the Students that desire to be part of the JHNS.
- The teacher moderator should encourage students to elect officers for the new JHNS (President, Vice President, Secretary, etc.)
- The Student Officers should be encouraged to work together to develop a formal agenda for each meeting. The agenda could include service or spiritual projects in which the students could participate. The agenda could occasionally include some "fun" events for the members (eg. pizza party).
- The Student Officers should be allowed to run the meetings as best they can from the agenda. (Student meetings may not be as organized as are Adult meetings, but this is helpful for leadership training). During the meetings the teacher moderator should feel free to add comments as required.
- When possible, the spiritual or service projects that are being planned should be scheduled during the meetings to allow full participation.
- Meetings should begin with Prayer and end with the Holy Name Pledge.



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NAHNS Evangelization Fund

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