



Holy Name Society Newsletter

Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

At the end of the Year of Faith, on Christ the King Sunday this past November, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Exhortation entitled "The Joy of the Gospel." I would boldly call this work the Magna Carta for the New Evangelization for our present age. There were certain aspects of this letter that impressed me deeply. Pope Francis is calling us to action as members of the Holy Name Society.

I was so impressed by the Holy Father's keen assess-

ment of the state of Faith in our present age. He challenges us as Catholics to realize that atheism is not the ultimate enemy we face in the battle of Faith; rather it is indifference and a search for God that many people undertake in all the wrong places. The Pope sees so many people who are desperate for the knowledge that God loves them and seeks them out, but yet He remains elusive to them. For us, members of the Confraternity of the most Holy Name of God and Jesus, get-

ting out the message of the Good News is the way we reach out to those who are searching for the presence of God and the assurance of His Love in their daily lives. We are the ambassadors of Christ. We are called to demonstrate that our Faith makes a difference in our individual lives, the lives of our family members, neighbors, coworkers and in our Church. The Holy Father states: "The parish is not an outdated institution, precisely because it possesses
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BLESSED FATHER JOHN GARBELLA, O.P. THEN AND NOW

"Out of the shadows and images of things into the light of truth." So reads the inscription on the tomb of John Henry Cardinal Newman, arguably the most outstanding Catholic witness to the Christian faith in the 19th century.

We are truly in the dark in so many ways. Light and darkness, shadow and substance, good and evil, right and wrong. There are so many images that come before us in our day. There is

a centrifugal movement in human affairs - a fleeing from the center and from which brings unity and peace. We do have, however, a power that brings us together once again - a centripetal force. That power is the love of God poured out into our being by Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior.

So there is no need to curse

"...there is no need to curse the darkness ... Rather, there is a crying need to light the lamp of faith and illumine the world ..."

the darkness as many do. Rather, there is a crying need to light the lamp of faith and illumine the world and all created beings in God's redemptive and sacrificial love.

But how can this be done? The answer is in the action of Jesus Christ who is BOTH God and man and who grants to special individuals the grace to share in Christ's work of

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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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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring soon will be here (we hope) to be quickly followed by summer and all that goes along with it. We have the season of Lent to help us make the transition. I encourage all Holy Name members to make a special emphasis this Lent on the holy name, Jesus.

This Lent, make time each day for the "Jesus prayer." Spend some time with the person by focusing on the name, Jesus. One of the simplest and most ancient prayers of the Church is the name, Jesus. Slowly repeating the name, Jesus, pushes distractions away like a snowplow after a new six inch snow. This clears space in our heart for Him. Is there a better prayer for Holy Name

members?

The NAHNS Spring Leadership Conference is scheduled for April 12th starting at 11 AM CDT. I encourage all diocesan and regional HNS leaders to join this teleconference to provide input and get an update on the activities of the National Society. It is also time to start thinking about the National Convention. This year's convention will be in Boston in from September 4th through the 7th. Check the NAHNS website (www.nahns.com) for details in April.

A special "thank you" goes out to all of YOU for all that you do to spread devotion to the Name of Jesus. I hear from many of you about various

Holy Name topics you are involved in and coordinating. It is such a blessing to be united with so many people who give of their time, talent and treasure to promote devotion to the Name of Jesus.

I encourage you to continue on in his Name! Even though there are hardships and unanticipated events that sometimes impede us in carrying out our apostolate, let us persevere. Let us constantly ask Our Lord what it is He wants of us. Let us then be willing to do it for his greater honor.

Thank you for all that you do in his name.

*Ron Schmitz
President, NAHNS*

BLESSED FATHER JOHN GARBELLA, O.P. THEN AND NOW

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healing and redemption. There are many examples of efforts to do just that; and I ask you to look at just one shining example.

It happened 800 years ago; in the sun-drenched land where the Lombard plain unfolds at the foot of forbidding Alps in the small village of Mosso Santa Maria, near the city of Vercelli. Here, a son was born in the Garbella family, an industrious and prosperous farming and agricultural stock. As a young man, John exhibited both learning skills and a solid

devotional inclination. He developed these aptitudes to such a degree that he was sent to one of the prestigious centers of learning in the 13th century: the University of Paris. He progressed so rapidly that he was on the verge of opening his own school associated with the university when Providence took a hand. In the tumultuous aftermath of a student riot that had begun with a student prank, the riot ended with killings and recriminations that, in turn, led to the closing of the university.

John went home fully prepared to pursue intellectual pursuits

with academic credentials that were much appreciated in his native city. There another providential event occurred. These early years of the 13th century were witnessing a new phenomenon in the religious life of Christendom. Two new religious orders were in their earliest stages of development. The Dominicans, founded by Saint Dominic, a Spanish canon, was assisting his bishop on an ecclesiastical mission to the northern part of Europe. The Franciscans, founded by Francis of Assisi was the second of these orders. These two were turning the usual notions and practices of reli-

IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME

His name is St. Dismas, but he is better known as the Good Thief. His cry of repentance while hanging next to Jesus at Calvary guaranteed him eternity in paradise. This patron saint of prisoners and reformed thieves gives hope to inmates across America through the Saint Dismas Holy Name Society Metanoia Retreats.

The prison ministry program of the National Association of the Holy Name Society takes many forms and approach its ministry in a myriad of manners, each responsive to the Holy Spirit and with the intent to provide support and spiritual renewal to men and women housed in prisons across the United States.

The Saint Dismas Metanoi Retreats, initiated by Harry “Bud” Cope has been dedicated to prison ministry longer than most Holy Name Society apostolates and has the support of NAHNS as it continues

its work. Mr. Cope is from Epiphany of Our

Lord Church, Monessen, Pennsylvania. “Bud” was first inspired to take action after making a Cursillo retreat in 1970. After asking God how he could live out his newfound Christian fervor, Cope says he felt the Lord leading

him to answer the invitation of a neighbor who was working at a nearby prison.

The goal of the retreat (or “metanoia”) experience is to awaken the Body of Christ alive in the heart of the prisoners and lead them to a personal “changing of vision” or conversion to Jesus Christ.

By offering retreats in prisons, the participants witness and teach our Catholic faith, share the Holy Gospel according to Christian faith, and create a sensitive, charitable atmosphere so prisoners [and team members] both experience the

dignity and love of Jesus Christ.

The experience of the leaders of this team extends over thirty years across Federal, State, and County prisons. The Saint Dismas Holy Name Society Prison Ministry, founded by “Bud” has grown over more than thirty years into a national Catholic outreach program to the incarcerated many prisons around the country. These retreats have touched the lives of thousands of prisoners: men, women, and teens, and have fostered many conversions through the proclamation of the Gospel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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gious life upside down. Both were founded with the idea of apostolic simplicity and directness in imitation of the life and Jesus and his apostles.

Both the teachings of the faith and the traditional ways of the religious life emanating through that faith were beginning to be seriously challenged by groups who yearned for pure Gospel values. Many religious leaders of the day were often not equal to the high vocation they represented, and they often set a poor example for ordinary people. These conventual clergy of the time were most

often poor shepherds of a suffering, spiritually malnourished flock. These poor shepherds were often leading their flocks astray. What was needed was a reinvigorated understanding and knowledge of the Christian faith and practice and a good example from those who were leading the people in pursuing those goals. The result was ignorance of the faith, error in doctrine, and poor service for the flock in many ways.

So Dominic and Francis, inspired with God’s grace, saw the need for an educated flock who knew their faith, could

communicate it intelligently, and could witness it accurately. Thus emerged two great religious orders in the Church following two avenues on the same road. The friars represented something entirely new and different, and they provided an effective challenge to the religious decline and malaise of the day. It was in this environment that John returned home to Vercelli.

“Dominic and Francis, inspired by God’s grace, saw the need for an educated flock who knew their faith, could communicate it intelligently, and could witness it accurately.”

Back in Vercelli, John soon presented a challenge to his own academic and scholarly career. A certain friar, Jordan of Saxony, came to Vercelli as he progressed through the university towns, preaching and very effectively and seeking recruits to abandon their own worldly careers and join the Dominican Order. He had succeeded Saint Dominic as the Master General, head, of the Dominicans. Wherever he went, literally

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THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

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great flexibility; it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community.” Many people can see our physical parish plants with the church, offices, schools and Religious Education centers as they drive by or walk by these buildings. But Pope Francis calls us to witness that these buildings have a purpose and that it is God’s people who bring them to life.

Our devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus spurs us to deepen our relationship with the Lord through prayer and to make that prayer concrete in our actions. As ambassadors of the Holy Name, we bring the presence of Christ to all whom we meet by our attitude of reverence, respect

and joy that we find in Christ. Our Holy Name Societies may take on different Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy in our parishes, but it is precisely in this flexibility that we can respond to bring the message of Christ to others.

In another section of the “Joy of the Gospel,” Pope Francis challenges both the ordained and laity who work in parish ministries not to become tempted by the crisis of individualism, of identity and of a cooling fervor of spirit. Clearly, the Holy Father knows how strong and pervasive the temptation of individualism is in the world. In the Church, this is manifest when pastoral workers believe that all the work depends on them and forget that it is God who blesses our efforts. The crisis of identity appears when we fall into the temptation of

individualism. We must never forget that we belong not only to a parish, or just to a religious confraternity such as the Holy Name Society, but to the whole Church spread throughout the world. The cooling of fervor happens when we rely too much on ourselves and not on the power of Christ as He works through His Church. These temptations can affect not only the ordained and the men and women in consecrated life, but all Catholics when we fail to put our lives in perspective according to Christ and His Church.

We are given great strength in serving Christ through the Holy Name Society. There are many temptations of individualism, identity crises and a cooling of fervor. But if we truly heed the Holy Father’s words, then we know we

have the inspiration of the Holy Name of Jesus itself.

I take great heart in this observation of Pope Francis: “The New Evangelization calls for the personal involvement on the part of each of the Baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now to be actively engaged in Evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that Gospel of Love.”

May we, who profess special devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, heed the Holy Father’s words as we seek out those who need to find new hope and strength in that saving Name.

*Bishop Mitchell Rozanski, D.D.
Episcopal Moderator, NAHNS*

NAHNS NEWS

NAHNS Webstore Update

The Holy Name Society webstore has been up and running for approximately four months. The initial set of products placed into the webstore in early October 2013 included HNS printed materials, badges and buttons. The next group of products included plaques, awards and jewelry. Recently, HNS clothing was added. At this moment, there are 117 different products offered via the HNS webstore. The next

group of products to be added will be the Blessed John items. Look for those items via the HNS webstore in the May 2014 timeframe.

The volume of orders placed via the webstore continues to increase each month. NAHNS received nineteen orders via the webstore in January 2014. This is the highest monthly total since the launch of the webstore. Orders also continue to come in

to the supply store through the mail as they have in the past. Interestingly, the number of orders being received through the mail has not significantly decreased yet. Which means the webstore is attracting new buyers of Holy Name supplies. This is truly good news!

As the implementation continues, the webstore will be the place to go to for information on official HNS supplies.

New products will continue to be added. More advanced features of the webstore will be explored and implemented. This could include special promotions and perhaps even HNS fund raising capabilities. The early success and increasing use provides a good foundation for bigger and better things in the future.

Visit the online store today www.nahns.com and click the Store link.

NAHNS NEWS

NAHNS Spring Leadership Conference

The Executive Board has set the date for the Annual Spring Leadership Conference which will be held via conference call on April 12, 2014, at 11am CST. Agenda items include: an update of recent developments in the cause for canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli; planning status for the 44th Annual NAHNS Convention, to be hosted by the Archdiocese of Boston at a well-respected area retreat house from September 4th to the 7th.

Archdiocesan Union of New Orleans

The Archdiocesan Union of New Orleans advises that two of their long term associates and leaders have recently died, Mr. Albert "Ben" Rafael, Jr. and Mr. Vergel A. Duplessis. Both gentlemen were active in their parish and archdiocesan Holy Name Society programs and especially dedicated to establishing and developing an archdiocesan union Radio Rosary program that also included recitation of the Rosary from E.L. Hunt Prison, Convent, LA, and recently was extended for worldwide broadcast.

Rockville Centre Diocesan Union HNS

Mr. Salvatore A. Pezzolanti, long time member and leader in the Holy Name Society of Saint Luke Parish, Diocesan Union of Rockville Centre, New York, and the National Association of the Holy Name

Society died December 19, 2013. For his service to parish, Church, and country, Mr. Pezzolanti will be remembered with much respect.

Archdiocesan Association HNS, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

The Archdiocesan Association of St. Paul and Minneapolis (AAHNS) held a special mass for Holy Name members on the Feast of the Holy Name, January 3rd. The mass was celebrated by the diocesan Spiritual Moderator, Fr. Robert Grabner, at the Church of St. Mary in downtown St. Paul. Several ceremonies were performed in conjunction with the mass including the Induction Ceremony for profession for new HNS members, renewal of HNS promises for existing members, and a special induction ceremony for the new Archdiocesan HNS Executive Board Officers.

The AAHNS held their 12th Annual Apologetics Conference on the afternoon of Saturday, February 8th, at the Church of St. Raphael in Crystal, MN. The featured speaker was Jim Burnham, a nationally known Catholic apologist, speaker, radio personality, and author. His book series "*Beginning Apologetics*" has helped many Catholics and non-Catholics better understand Church teachings.

Two New Special Committees Approved

The Board has recently approved the addition of two Special Committees: the Hispanic Outreach Committee and the National Convention Planning Committee. The Hispanic Outreach Committee purpose is to promote and support development of the Holy Name Society among Spanish-speaking Catholics and to oversee translation of selected NAHNS materials from English to Spanish. The board also has substantial completed development of NAHNS priority administrative and program goals, a project begun with group participation during the 42nd Annual NAHNS Convention. Among the highest priority of these goals are to continue active fostering of positive relations with USCCB and with the Dominican Order in the United States; the development of effective communications tools and techniques across the full scope of the Holy Name Society activity; and to continue to develop effective literature for spiritual development of its members.

Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS

From the Diocesan Union of Cleveland, Ohio, we learn of the death of Mr. Thomas A. Laverty of Akron, Ohio, who died 100 days prior to his 100th birthday. Having served his family, Holy Name Society confraternity, community, and state over the years, he will be missed by many.

Saint Alphonsus HNS, Davenport, Iowa

June 11th, 2014 marks the 100 year anniversary of the establishment of The Saint Alphonsus Holy Name Society. Founded under the guidance of the Rev. George Hild, C.S.s.R, the confraternity began with a total of 39 members.

As the new church building was completed new stained glass windows were installed in 1916. Two were donated by friends, and the rest were given by the Holy Name Society and the Ladies' Sodality. The original windows remain in place today, one of which bears the Holy Name Society initials "HNS".

The Holy Name Society has a legacy of service to the parish. From its beginning on Sunday, June 11, 1914, St. Alphonsus Holy Name Society has served its parish faithfully, making a difference from its first days. This Holy Name Society chapter in Davenport, Iowa, continues its parish service filling the roles of ushers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, choir members, committee members, and volunteering at the various parish functions. From the beginning though, the Holy Name Society has supported Catholic education and promoted the teaching of the Catholic faith. Today the Holy Name Society remains an active and viable part of parish life at Saint Alphonsus church.

IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME

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Last September, NAHNS was hosted for its annual national convention by the Diocese of Pueblo, Colorado. One activity conducted during this time was a meeting with members of the Pueblo Diocese committed to prison ministry. The topic was how to gain added support for an even greater spiritualization, evangelization, (re)dedication of the prisoners to the Lord. The team led by Bud Cope were invited to return in the summer of 2014 to provide a retreat program in one of the prisons in the diocesan area of responsibility. This was a substantial climax to our work for the week and was perceived by the participants as perhaps a call to assist another

ministry team to follow through with the invitation.

The specific goal of this apostolate is to provide a three day program in support of the

prisoners at Fremont State Prison, Canon City, Colorado during early summer. Because many of the participant prisoners are not Catholic, the intent is not to proselytize but to provide for a sharing of the faith from the team members.



The team brings in only bibles, crosses, prayer books, and note taking materials to

the prisons and leaves aware of having made a spiritual difference.

The diocesan chaplain for prison ministries has already secured approval of the current diocesan administrator. Father Mario, who has said Mass at this prison to over one hundred men weekly, has said that the men are indeed ex-

cited about the prospects for this retreat. Father Mario has arranged for lodging and for other needed support.

However, the retreat cannot happen without funding for travel and basic program expenses. It is estimated that the cost will be about \$3,500 for prisoner program supplies (100 prisoners at \$35 each) and an additional \$600 for round-trip transportation of two program leaders. If you are interested in making a donation to this special apostolate, please visit the NAHNS website and look under Prison Apostolate for contact information. May God reward you.

Bud Cope and Paul McKeough

NAHNS ON RELEVANT RADIO: THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

The NAHNS president, Ron Schmitz was interviewed live by Drew Mariani on Relevant Radio on the Feast of the Holy Name, January 3, 2014. This is a transcript of portions of that interview.

Drew: How did the Church get started with devotion to the Holy Name?

Ron: Devotion to the Holy Name goes back as far as the Church and even beyond that.

The bible offers many examples in the Old and New Testaments of devotion and prayer involving the holy names of God and Jesus. Our Holy Name Society traces its roots back to Pope Gregory X in the year 1274. At that time, the Pope specifically called for devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus as the remedy for errors and heresies of the day. Those included lack of reverence for Jesus and his Church, misuse of the holy name of Jesus, confusion as to

the divinity of Jesus, and lack of belief in his Church. The Pope charted the Dominicans with the task of spreading devotion to the Name of Jesus to combat these errors. The Dominicans did and continue to carry this forward. Also, the Franciscans were very active in promoting devotion to the Holy Name. Some notables in that regard were St. Bernadine of Siena and St. John Capistrano who both tirelessly promoted devotion to the name of Jesus.

Drew: What are some forms of devotion?

Ron: Over the years there have been many ways of offering devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. One of the most common and most ancient is the Jesus prayer – simply repeating the name of Jesus slowly. Or, saying it three times in succession. Other forms of this include praying the phrase “Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me.”

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JUNIOR HOLY NAME SOCIETY

A few years ago when I was Pastor at St. Jerome Church in Cleveland, Ohio, we supported a Catholic grade school with over two hundred students. Most of the children were Catholic, but many were of other Christian denominations. Our school had many opportunities for students to participate in scouting and sports activities, and we were looking for some way to involve our students in some spiritual activities. So we began the Junior Holy Name Society at St. Jerome School.

One problem that existed is that the bylaws of the Holy Name Society had an age requirement, and also required that members be practicing Catholics. We made a decision at that time to model our school organization upon the mission and goals of the Holy

Name Society. This would enable all students who wanted to participate to do so. We were hoping that someday this would lead them to join the "official" Holy Name Society as an adult. We called this organization the Junior Holy Name Society of St. Jerome School.

We opened membership at first to the seventh and eighth grade students, but later expanded it to fifth and sixth grade students. In a period of three years we had over fifty members. In order to join, members had to write an essay about what the Holy Name of Jesus meant to them, they had to get their parents' permission, and they had to get the endorsement of the school principal.

We held an installation Mass each year in front of the entire

student body. Each member received his/her Holy Name pin at this ceremony. We then had an election of officers with the older students being President and Vice President.

Meetings were held during the school lunch hour. The students came up with ideas on how they could spread the love of Jesus in our school. They also worked on "service projects" to help the needy. Our school Principal and Vice Principal assisted with the meetings and service projects. We also had some fun social activities for the members, too.

Prayerfully consider forming a Junior Holy Name Society at your parish.

*Fr. Thomas Haren
Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS*

BLESSED FATHER JOHN GARBELLA, O.P. THEN AND NOW

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hundreds of promising bright students were attracted to his call to join the Dominican way of life. The university leaders did not like it; they were losing their best students.

Faced with this situation, John

Garbella was asked to intervene to dissuade students from going off to join the Dominicans. He agreed to go and hear out this Jordan of Saxony. The reply he came back with is legendary. "Leave me go," he cried - "I am going to God." Thus, the university world lost one of its luminaries, and the

Dominican Order – and the Church – gained one of its most outstanding champions, becoming an example of what Pope Innocent III described as "champions of the Faith and true lights of the world."

Father Thomas Hayes, O.P.

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SPREADING DEVOTION TO THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

HNS ON RELEVANT RADIO: THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

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Or, "Jesus and Mary, I love you, save souls." *The Wonders of the Holy Name*, a book published by Tan Books (now part of St. Benedict Press), provides many more variations of the Jesus prayer. Another form of devotion is the Litany of the Holy Name. Within the Holy Name Society, we practice many additional devotions such as novenas, vigils, retreats, and holy hours.

Drew: It seems like the name has become a slang word in our world.

What can we do to take that back and restore the sanctity of the name of Jesus?

Ron: There is no magic wand that we can wave and do this immediately. It will take time, and will need to be done person to person. We (Holy Name Society members) encourage all people to start with these four things:

1. Be a good example. Clean up your speech and actions. Always treat the holy name of Jesus with respect and reverence.

Give good example through your words and actions.

2. Bow your head at the Name of Jesus. All Catholics are encouraged (minor rubric of the Church) to bow their head slightly whenever they hear the name of Jesus. This is a great way to show devotion, to get people thinking, and to get the conversation started.

3. Repair the offenses. Offer prayers and mortifications specifically to repair the offenses made to the holy name of Jesus. Anything we do (prayers, sufferings, sacrifices, alms giving) can be offered to our Lord for this cause.
4. Get involved. Join the Holy Name Society. Join your efforts with others to promote devotion to the holy name of Jesus.



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