



Holy Name Society Newsletter

Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

THE FAMILY - FUTURE OF HUMANITY

Have you ever been in a situation that was dire; like a boat that's taking on water in a terrible storm? In spite of your best efforts to bail, the water continues to rise. You see what's happening before your very eyes and realize that things are going from bad to worse. You feel increasingly distressed about the deteriorating situation. You feel fatigued, powerless and helpless. The family which is the irreplaceable foundation of culture and society is like this boat. At this period in time, we may all feel overwhelmed by the forces arrayed against the family.

So what does one do? Do we give in to despair and give up or just rely on our own efforts to save the boat from sinking? As Catholics and as members of the Holy

Name Society, our response is first and foremost to call on the Holy Name of Jesus for His assistance. The more that our culture wants to remove the name of Jesus, the more that we must respond by prayerfully invoking His Name. We need to listen to what Christ, through His Church, teaches us continually about the family. By doing so, then we can have a firm footing to speak the truth about family and to attract others to our message of hope.

Let us recall the words of St. John Paul II, whom Pope Francis has called the Pope of the Family, and what he had

to say about the family:

"The future of humanity passes by way of the family.... It is therefore indispensable and urgent that

"The more that our culture wants to remove the name of Jesus, the more that we must respond by prayerfully invoking His Name."

every person of good will should endeavor to save and foster the values and requirements of the family."

"I feel that I must ask for a particular effort in this field from the sons and daughters of the Church. Faith gives them full knowledge of God's wonderful plan: they therefore have an extra reason for caring for the reality that is the family in this time of trial and of grace."

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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.

44TH NATIONAL NAHNS CONVENTION REFLECTION

The 44th National NAHNS Convention convened September 4-6, 2014, at the beautiful Miramar Retreat Center, Duxbury, MA. Located 35 miles south of Boston on the Kingston Bay, this would be our home away from home

for a few days and an opportunity to pray, build a community of devoted leaders with an awesome tradition and a challenging opportunity to be better prepared to make a positive difference in our parishes and (arch) dioceses.

Hosted by the priests and brothers of the Society of the Divine Word, and blessed with incredible weather, the delegates and their spouses soon settled in for a much needed renewal of body, mind, and spirit. The con-

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many of us recently attended the 44th annual NAHNS convention in Boston. The days together were filled with tours, meetings, prayer, and fellowship. It was a great opportunity to access the present state of the Holy Name Society while building plans for the future.

*“What is the Holy Name Society?
What do Holy Name Society people do?
Why would someone want to be
involved in the Holy Name Society?
These are the right questions
o be considering.”*

In many ways the organization is in transition from “what was” towards “what should be.” This is evidenced in several ways. The various reports and comments from the delegates and committees chairs indicated that as an organization we are in a transition. Turnover in leadership positions throughout the organization are a further sign

of this. For example, the report filed by the Blessed John Committee called for the building up of a totally new set of committee members to carry the cause forward for the next decade.

In the midst of this transition, many of us find ourselves asking – what is the Holy Name Society? What do Holy Name Society people do? Why would someone want to be involved in the Holy Name Society? These are the right questions to be considering. Each of us likely has an answer. Our challenge is to answer not as individuals but rather as an entire organization.

Toward that end, the NAHNS Executive Board has taken on the task of creating a strategic plan for the organization. Through this plan, we will attempt to answer these high level questions by agreeing upon and then articulating our mission and vision. This will then be supported by identified initiatives and plans that move us towards the desired state. Our hope is to get the main pieces of this plan in place over the next year.

The convention helped highlight the collective need for this and spurred us towards action. We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Blessed John of Vercelli in these efforts.

*Ron Schmitz
President, NAHNS*

44TH NATIONAL NAHNS CONVENTION REFLECTION

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vention program seamlessly blended fellowship, association business, and, most importantly, spiritual development: Mass, Divine Office, Holy Hour, and other individual and group prayer.

Certainly, Mr. Joe Lapointe, Past President, Boston Archdiocese of the Holy Name Society and his team had gone all out to make this convention a restorative experience for all.

We also welcomed Mr Lapointe’s long time friends, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Barkhouse. Ed is the newly appointed Director of the NAHNS “Store.”

We were especially blessed with the presence of Father Tom Hayes, O.P., Spiritual Director-Emeritus. It was clear as the program proceeded that these two men of God, Fr. Hayes and NAHNS President Ron Schmitz, had been closely collaborating, along with others in the leader-

ship of NAHNS. Ron had come to Miramar with a vision of renewal and a program to be considered by each of us. While we did indeed miss Bishop Mitch Rozanski, D.D., our Episcopal Moderator, because of other challenging responsibilities as the newly appointed Bishop of Springfield, MA., his words were sent through Ron and much appreciated by all.

*Paul McKeough
NAHNS Secretary*

THE FAMILY - FUTURE OF HUMANITY

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“They must show the family special love. This is an injunction that calls for concrete action.”

“Christians also have the mission of proclaiming with joy and conviction the Good News about the family, for the family absolutely needs to hear ever anew and to under-

stand ever more deeply the authentic words that reveal its identity, its inner resources and the importance of its mission in the City of God and in that of man.”

Let us be messengers to our own Holy Name Societies of God’s love for the family and unabashedly demonstrate to others that the ideal family for the betterment of the chil-

dren, if at all possible, is led by a father and a mother. As bishops meet for an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to address the profound challenges facing families and those who provide pastoral care to them, let us call on the Holy Name of Jesus to enlighten our shepherds in this critical task that lies before them.

As members of the Confrater-

nity of the Holy Names of God and Jesus, let us pray together, learn our Catholic Faith together, and take action together. We are not powerless or hopeless and together we will never get tired or fatigued – for in Christ all things are possible!

*Richard Kehoe
NAHNS Life Marriage Family
Youth Committee Chair*

POWER OF PALANCA

‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food...in prison and you visited me.’ Matthew 25:34-36

Palanca is a Spanish word which means to give lift, to rise, to leverage. Leverage over a fulcrum allows 100 pounds to lift 200 or more pounds. The little bit of effort in writing a *Palanca* letter turns into a lift in spirit of 100 fold or more.

Palanca is the word used in Metanoia Retreats to describe the effect of a letter of encouragement has on a person making a religious retreat. On a retreat, a new retreat participant can be overwhelmed, brought to tears by *Palanca* from family and friends, but in some ways, even more so by those from

complete strangers.

Retreat members who are familiar with the process, look forward to these letters from their loved ones and when they don’t come, it is quite depressing; this often sends emotions into a freefall.

The incarcerated who attend a Metanoia Retreat who receive a *Palanca* share a wonderful, moving experience.

Writing letters of encouragement and praying for the person is a blessed thing to do - a Corporal Work of Mercy.

Men or women in prison making a spiritual retreat - answering their personal call from God - are often unsure,

even afraid, as they face their true-self, their spiritual-self, for maybe the first time in a prolonged period.

Your letter will mean the world to them. Right at this moment, you are being called to help someone. Please say YES! You can do it from the comfort of your kitchen table.

You can do a prison ministry without leaving your home. We prayerfully ask that you

please take some time to reach out to the incarcerated soul who is on a personal journey with God.

Tips for writing *Palanca*:

The next Metanoia Retreat is scheduled at the Union Super-Max prison in Starke, FL on

December 1st and 2nd. If you feel drawn to do so, please send your *Palanca* before Thanksgiving.

A Metanoia retreat is also being planned for the Women’s State Prison in Loxley, Alabama, so please write your letters now.

Do not use your last name or address on the letter. Each letter should be un-sealed. Send the *Palanca* letters to Harry “Bud” Cope.

Send by email to:
budcope@comcast.net

Or send by mail to:
Metanoia Retreat Palanca Letters
c/o Mr. Harry “Bud” Cope
1823 Service Lane
Monessen, PA 15062

Your letter will show the recipient that God loves him so much that He moved a

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“Palanca is a Spanish word; it means to give lift, to rise, to leverage. ... the word used in Metanoia Retreats to describe the effect a letter of encouragement has on a person making a religious retreat.”

2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION SUMMARY

The retreat center at Miramar was very conducive to both NAHNS business and our Spirituality due to the fact that the Chapel was there. Morning and Evening

Prayer was led by Ron Schmitz and of course there was Mass daily.

Joe Lapointe and other local attendees remarked that we

enjoyed the best weather of the summer while we were there – clear skies, warm (not hot), no rain, and warm breezes from the Atlantic. God be praised!

It appears that the NAHNS will be rejuvenating the Blessed John of Vercelli Cause for Canonization. The effort also includes transfer of all

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EVANGELIZATION AT ST. PASCAL PARISH, CHICAGO

A “Spiritual Assembly” of religious organizations was recently held with several Chicago parishes, hosted by St. Pascal Catholic Parish, and under the auspices of the Chicago Archdiocesan Holy Name Society (CAHNS). In his expression of appreciation to organizers and participants, Fr. Tom McCarthy, Principal, St. Rita High School gave the homily. The words spoken out

to the assembly were clearly motivated from internal inspiration from a heart most assuredly guided by the Holy Spirit. “When I fear for the future of our Faith, I worry about who will be our leaders of tomorrow. Knowing that men like Fr. McCarthy are tasked with that, shaping the minds and hearts of the young men; who will be those leaders I pray for, I am reassured.

What about the rest of us? Fr. McCarthy reminded us all, indeed challenged us to “Spread the Word of Jesus, for us to grow our membership, to bring others to Our Lord Jesus,” and, for us, through the Holy Name Society.

Those who profess IN HIS NAME are called to prayer and devotion; to unity from

family to parish, to community both locally in our neighborhood and more universal, in the country and across the world; to actions, drawn from our centeredness on the Lord in everything we do.

*Stan Baran,
NAHNS Regional Vice President
Chair of Regional Vice President
Committee*

PARISH HNS PRO-LIFE ACTIVITY

Ronnie Rome, President, Baton Rouge, LA Our Lady of Mercy Parish Holy Name Society reports that they have recently had yet another successful weekend cursillo retreat with the Women’s Correctional Institute, St. Gabriel, LA. The meals were cooked in coordination with Knights of Columbus Council 969; and, from all reports everything went well. God be praised.

The OLOM confraternity has initiated and participated in several ministries over the past months. An early-on program involves ministering to those recently released from prison and in transition

back to more normal routines and paid employment. Coordinating with two Knights of Columbus Councils, OLOM HNS alternates for the preparation of a home-cooked meal and fellowship at a half-way facility called “Joseph House,” a program managed from Baton Rouge Diocese Catholic Charities.

OLOM HNS also hosts a weekly rosary prayer for unborn and aborted children and their parents. This program, conducted immediately after Friday morning Mass, has been growing and is now being imitated by others in the diocesan area. Another example of praying for an end to

abortion and praying for families, individuals struggling with the decisions concerning abortion is in conjunction with the New Orleans Holy Name Society “Radio Rosary.” That program, now with world wide accessibility, has a nearly 50 year history in the New Orleans area Holy Name Society and has recently been extended with participation from OLOM HNS.

One final example of supporting the Church’s “Family and Evangelization” mission is the Baton Rouge-area “40 Days for Life” program. As one of the few abortion clinics in Greater Baton Rouge happens to be within the geographical

boundaries of OLOM, the parish and the Holy Name Society make a determined effort to be strong participants in witnessing for life and in supporting and encouraging a nearby facility that is providing an alternative to abortion with counseling and clinical services that are Pro-Life. Each of these ministries can be adopted by a parish Holy Name Society with a bit of effort.

With the Friday morning Rosary recitation, the participants have added a prayer, adapted from a homily by Saint Pope John Paul II, 7 October 1979.

NAHNS MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Marketing Communications Committee of the NAHNS recently prioritized its activities and presented the prioritized list to the NAHNS Executive Board and all of the delegates at the 44th Annual Convention. The Committee is working on updating the recently published “Official Book of Ceremonies” to add special prayers

for the sick, the dying and the deceased members of the Holy Name Society. The second priority of the Committee is to update the “In His Name” book of the Holy Name Society. Two versions of the updated book are planned, a shorter version that will have just the basic information and prayers of the Holy Name Society – similar

to the current version of the book. The second version will be an expanded or Confraternity Edition of the book that will contain additional prayer, scripture and writings from the saints on the importance of devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. Both versions of the book will come in a larger format – the size of the books will be increased from

the current 3” by 5” format to a 4” by 7” format with a larger font type to increase readability. The new versions are planned to be published in 2015 and will be available through the NAHNS Supply Store when they are available.

*Mike Gores, Director
NAHNS Marketing Communications*

BLESSED JOHN OF VERCELLI COMMITTEE

The Blessed John of Vercelli Committee’s present status and direction was recently reviewed. Paul DiVito prepared a status report and the need for substantial change. Summarily, Mr. DiVito reports that due to age and increasing debility, the present leaders of this com-

mittee are unable to continue their mission as they have in past years. To facilitate changes needed to continue the mission of devotion to the Patron of the Holy Name Society, the current committee asks to be relieved, substantially, of their responsibilities.

In support, the Executive Board members offered to assist in this transition over the coming months. Specifically, draft biography research records, compiled by Fr. William Crandall, have been temporarily transferred to Mr. McKeough. Other records are in the process of being

relocated to appropriate archives at the Providence Priory in Washington, D.C.

Assurance was given that the NAHNS Store will continue to provide both devotional writings and articles relating to Blessed John.

NAHNS CONVENTION AWARDS

Mr. Joe Lapointe, Past President Boston Archdiocesan Union of the Holy Name Society Convention Chair, was recognized with the NAHNS Award for his exceptional leadership, team building, and hard work with the 44th Annual NAHNS Convention. The National NAHNS Award was also presented to Mr. Bill Harris, also Past NAHNS President.

The Fr. McKenna Award, established in 1950, was presented to Fr. Thomas Hayes, O.P. for his many years of

Distinguished Service to the Holy Name Society.

Of especial note was the recognition of Fr. John McLaughlin. Long a close friend and tireless worker for the Holy Name Society, Fr. McLaughlin, with many of his family and friends present was awarded the Shield of Blessed Gregory X, Crusader, as established in 1930, for his outstanding service in promoting and contributing to the Holy Name Society. Mr. Michael Buehler, Chicago AUHNS, received, posthumously, the

Distinguished Service Award, established 1977, for his years of service.

Our Lady of Field Parish Holy Name Society, Baltimore, MD. was recognized as a “keystone” and model of exceptional devotion and program excellence.

The final national recognition of the evening, the Louis C. Fink Literary Award was presented to the Buffalo Diocesan Union leaders: Fr. Paul Sabo and Mr. Ray Zientara for continuing excellence in their

publication of the “The Buffalonian” (Diocesan) newsletter. The convention host Boston archdiocesan union leadership also recognize three individuals with the “Man of the Year” Award: Mr. Jim Lucid, Sacred Heart Parish, Weymouth, MA., Mr. Edward Tausevich, St. Clare Parish Braintree; and Mr. John Buson, St. Joseph Parish, Quincy, MA. for exceptional community service and parish program leadership.

*Pete Carbone
NAHNS First Vice President*

POWER OF PALANCA

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stranger, YOU, to support him or her personally.

Metanoia retreats are presented by a team of Holy Name Society members to incarcerated men and women in prison who are actively walking their personal journey with God. You can give great support and encouragement with just a letter.

On the afternoon of the first day, after much prayer, discussions and fellowship, the retreat participants are given these letters of encouragement, called *Palanca*.

Your note is a note of encouragement – let them know they

are moving closer to God and you are happy for them. Address each letter as follows: *Dear Christian Bother* or *Dear Child of God*, depending on the retreat. Sign the letter with your first name only to keep it personal.

By praying first; God will give you the words to write. Keep it short.

Example: *Attending a two day retreat is a major commitment and shows that you are answering a call from God, that's wonderful. I know that God will bless you and bring you closer to Him.*

Tell them that you will do something special - a prayer or a sacrifice for their personal

success and the success of the Metanoia retreat. Maybe you'll give up sweets all that weekend, or say a Rosary, or read the Bible.

Example: *As a gesture of my love and support I will read the letter of James in the Bible this weekend, and I will dedicate it for you and the success of the retreat.*

YOU DO NOT WANT CONTACT. The letter should be personal, one Christian talking one on one to another, but **DO NOT GIVE YOUR FULL NAME. DO NOT GIVE YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER.**

Write one letter, or two, or a

dozen, whatever you write will be welcomed and cherished. An average prison retreat has 30 people, but could have up to 40.

Almost everyone is moved so much that they say this is one of the most powerful times of the retreat. You see, your *Palanca* - lever - shows a retreat participant that God loves them so much that He has moved strangers to not only pray for him, but sit down and write a letter.

May God bless you;

*Harry "Bud" Cope, Chair
NAHNS Metanoia Retreat Prison
Ministry*

PRAYER TO END ABORTION

Almighty God, Our Father, You have given us life and intended us to have it forever; grant us Your blessings. Enlighten our minds to an awareness and to a renewed conviction that all human life is sacred because it is created in Your image and likeness. Help us to teach by word and the example of our lives that life occupies the first place, that human life is precious because it is the gift of God whose love is infinite. Give us the strength to defend human life against every influence or action that threatens or weakens it, as well as the strength to make every life more human in all its aspects.

Give us the grace...

- When the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, to stand up and proclaim that no one has the authority to destroy unborn life.
- When a child is described as a burden or is looked upon only as a means to satisfy an emotional need, to stand up and insist that every child is a unique and unrepeatable gift of God, a gift of God with a right to a loving and united family.
- When the institution of marriage is abandoned to human selfishness or reduced to a temporary conditional ar-

angement that can easily be terminated, to stand up and affirm the indissolubility of the marriage bond..

- When the value of the family is threatened because of social and economic pressure, to stand up and reaffirm that the family is necessary not only for the private good of every person, but also for the common good of every society, nation, and state.
- When freedom used to dominate the weak, to squander natural resources and energy, to deny the

basic necessities to people, to stand up and reaffirm the demands of justice and social love.

Almighty Father, give us the courage to proclaim the supreme dignity of all human life and demand that society itself give its protection.

We ask this in Your name, through the redemptive act of Your Son in the Holy Spirit. Amen

*Ronnie Rome, Paul McKeough,
Mike Luckett
Our Lady of Mercy HNS
Baton Rouge, LA*

FAMILY AND EVANGELIZATION

The USCCB has recently written of the implementation of plans announced by Pope Francis in 2013 for an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, for 2013-2014, on topics related to the family and evangelization. Follow up synods by an Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2015 on the same topics

Especially in this context, I find a renewal of basic mission for the men and women of the Holy Name Society confraternities across America of extraordinary timeliness and times of opportunity to give witness to the sacredness of all life, from within our families to across our communities. It is perhaps in this context that the example of Blessed Father John Garbella, O.P., as he prayed and witnessed to 13th century Europe is particularly relevant in 21st century America.

With reference to the Extraordinary Synod, the Code of Canon Law describes this as a

convening of bishops to “deal with matters which require a speedy solution.” What are the matters on which these bishops are being called to focus: family and evangelization by members of the Church, laity and clergy.

The theme of these first meetings will be on the “pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization.” Thus, the focus will be to “thoroughly examine and analyze [available materials] in order to respond to the new challenges of the family.” In June 2014, *Instrumentum Laboris*” was released containing the results of the earlier consultations and provides a substantive reflection on the major challenges facing the family today. These challenges are developed in the pastoral context of providing guidance for today’s individuals and families so they are better prepared to confront the challenges of the current time with the light and strength that comes from the gospel. The following is the prayer provided by Pope Fran-

cis (12 December 2013) to guide us during these times of Church Discernment:

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn in trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too, may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel, and small domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection, and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family and its beauty in God’s plan. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph: graciously hear our prayer.

*Paul McKeough
Editor, NAHNS Secretary*

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2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION SUMMARY

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files and documents of that committee, be archived at the Dominican Providence College. Fr. Tom Hayes OP is championing that challenge.

Our future convention sites will be in El Paso TX in 2015, San Antonio TX in 2016, Min-

neapolis, MN in 2017, and Philadelphia, PA in 2018. Of special and most welcome attention for Regional Vice Presidents are the following:

- The cost of printed materials for us include not only the low-cost pamphlets from the NAHNS store but now also the revised start

up kit for only \$6.00.

- The Marketing Communications Committee has agreed to investigate the cost of two portable promotional displays which Vice Presidents may utilize when attending and promoting the Holy Name

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
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2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION SUMMARY

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Societies at Diocesan and Regional assemblies, conferences, and other opportunities. The proposed concept is they will be made available for rent through the NAHNS Store. The fee would be minimal, but the cost of shipping would be the responsibility of the Regional Vice President.

- The consistent guidelines for introducing and promoting the Holy Name Society have been ap-

proved. We however, are tasked with drafting and presenting them for approval.

- Now that NAHNS has received 501c3 tax status, the National will establish a central non-for-profit mailing permit. Every NAHNS Union and the Regional Vice Presidents will be able to use the permit, with minimal annual fees, for mailing of 200 pieces or more. This can be key to both individual and union growth.

- Bishop Rozanski, the NAHNS representative to the USCCB, was unable to attend this convention due to conflicts with the schedule he assumed as the new Bishop of Springfield, MA. I have urged that representation should include his promotion of the HNS directly to all of the other Bishops when the occasion permits. Additionally, our NAHNS President or designee should be at those assemblies with one of our new promotional displays as are the many other organi-

zations seeking their attention and involvement.

We learned at the convention that there are two vacancies in our ranks; Joe Latchford and Ned Pascua both announced their resignations as Regional Vice Presidents. Any input regarding possible candidates is greatly appreciated.

Once again, thank you for all you do for NAHNS and Our Savior, Jesus.

*Stan Baran,
NAHNS Regional Vice President
Chair of Regional Vice President
Committee*



www.nahns.com