"Even those who presume to call

themselves Christians often live

as though there is no need to

give honor and praise to the

Holy Name of God and Jesus."

THE HOLY NAME PLEDGE - MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE

This is the first of several articles that will appear in the NAHNS Newsletter and concentrate on the meaning and significance of the words of the Holy Name Pledge. This first installment covers only the initial sections of this important prayer for Holy Name Society members.

The Holy Name Pledge is a concise profession of our faith as members of the Catholic Church and as members of the Confraternity of the most Holy Name of God and Jesus – the Holy Name Society.

The Holy Name Pledge is one of the more significant prayers ever written for members of the Holy Name Society. Because we recite it frequently, we are very familiar with the words and may not always stop to consider the rich meaning and significance of the pledge. The pledge can be broken into the following parts; praise of the Most Holy Name of God and Jesus, our support for the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and all of its teachings; a promise to live out our faith and a dedication to honor the Sacred

Name of Jesus Christ — in words and works.

Let us examine

the rich meaning and significance of the words of the Holy Name Pledge.

The Pledge begins with the praise of the Holy Name of God and Jesus.

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy
Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ,
true God and
true Man.

Blessed be the Name of

Jesus.

This opening declaration is a statement of praise for God

and Jesus
Christ.
We recognize and
affirm that
Jesus
Christ, the
Son of God
has a divine

nature (true God) and human nature (true man).
Many deny or down play the existence of God. Atheism,
Agnosticism and apathy are rampant in our society. The
Divinity of Christ, the mys-

(Continued on page 6)

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

- Promotes the honor and glory of our Divine God and the personal sanctification of it's 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.

Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus - January 3rd

The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is Saturday, January 3, 2015.

Parish Holy Name Societies are encouraged to arrange with their pastors a special Mass or religious celebration and follow it with some kind of social event (e.g., breakfast, or donuts and coffee, or other local custom). By inviting parishioners to join members, the Society is publicized and there is the possibility of new members. Remember that we are predominately a Spiritual

Society.

Praised be the Name of Jesus!

Fr. Paul Sabo, Committee Chair Religious and Spiritual Renewal, NAHNS

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PAGE 2 NAHNS NEWSLETTER

"This is an exciting time but

also entails a significant

responsibility ... Please pray

that God's will be known and

heard by all participants."

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Message from the President

he National Association I of the Holy Name Society is in the early phases of a strategic planning process. This important process is intended to help the Holy Name Society leaders and members come to more fully know and understand the unique purpose (mission) God has for His Confraternity. With this purpose in mind, the Executive Leadership of the NAHNS will initiate a process that will enable the organization to prioritize and focus on three or four initiatives that will move this

Society forward toward fulfilling its great mission.

The main steps of the strategic planning process are:

Situational Analysis: What is the reality of the situation right now? This is normally documented in four aspects. From an organizational point of view, what are our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT).

Mission: What is our unique purpose within the Catholic Church? For what purpose does God want the HNS? What is God asking us to do that He has not entrusted to others?

Vision: If we accomplish and fulfill our mission, what would things be like or look like?

What does success in carrying out our mission look like?

Values: What value are we as an organization guided by? What values do we hold to?

Goals: After all of the above things have been identified and agreed to, the leadership team can then work to define the two to four most important goals for the next 2-5 years. What are the most important things we should be doing starting now to accomplish our mission, carrying us toward

the vision?
These goals need to be defined in a specific and measurable

manner. Implementation plans are then to be created which move us as an organization towards our goals, mission, and vision in a manner consistent with our values.

This is a process not a meeting. It will require significant effort by many of the Executive Leadership of the NAHNS spread over several months. The NAHNS Executive Board is leading this planning effort; they will be involved in all the steps along the way. The Executive Board will publish board-approved versions of each of the above items as we work our way through the strategic planning process.

I encourage you to track what

is happening at each step, provide input to the board if so moved, review the things being published by the board for each of the above, and let us know what you think of the planning effort. You should see something on this topic in each of the next few months over the winter and into the spring.

A conference call will take place on April 11, 2015 during which delegates to the NAHNS and (Arch)Diocesan Union leadership will get an update on the progress to date and provide input to the strategic plan.

The 45th NAHNS convention planned for September 17-20, 2015, in El Paso, Texas should see the National Association of the Holy Name Society move forward into the implementation phase of the goals and the respected plans.

This is an exciting time but also entails a significant responsibility. As we set the direction for the Holy Name Society, all members of the Confraternity of the Holy Name of God and Jesus must be open to and attuned to what God intends for His Society here in the 21st Century. Please pray that God's will be known and heard by all participants.

Blessed John of Vercelli, pray for us and for the future of the Holy Name Society!

Ron Schmitz President, NAHNS WINTER 2014 PAGE 3

HOLIDAY AND HOLY DAY TIMES

Dear Fellow Holy Name Members, I am grateful for the opportunity to write in our Newsletter that provides so much information and networking for Holy Name Society members across the Confraternity. As we journey through the days of Advent and Christmas, I wish you a Blessed Season imbued with the hope-filled longings of God's faithful people.

As you read this newsletter, no doubt you are in the midst of preparations for the celebrations of Christmas, New Year, Epiphany and those days when family and friends gather to share memorable times. It is so good to be with our loved ones, especially at this most tender part of the year. As members of the Holy Name Society, we realize the importance of these days for us who live our Catholic Faith and know the beauty of the Incarnation of our Savior. We realize, too, that there are many in our communities who, because of circumstances, do not share in

the hopes and dreams that we do. At this Christmastide, there are many opportunities to reach out to others through our food banks, giving trees, soup kitchens and other means of helping those who are poor, homeless and alone. When we truly love the Holy Name of Jesus, then we bring His presence to others just as He reached out to the poor and lonely.

On January 3rd, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. As we begin this New Year of 2015, let us join together in prayer honoring the Name above all names. May our prayer and devotion help us to bring the love of Jesus into our world in a concrete way. May the Holy Name of Jesus, our inspiration and guide, lead us closer to Him through our prayer and works, especially in this Holy Season!

A Blessed Christmas and New Year to you and your family!

Bishop Mitchell Rozanski, D.D.

MOST REV. MITCHELL ROZANSKI, D.D. NAMED NEW BISHOP OF DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

n August 12, 2014, at St Michael Cathedral, Springfield, MA, the newly consecrated ninth bishop of the Springfield, MA. diocese, Most Rev. Mitchell Thomas Rozanski, D.D., formerly Auxiliary Bishop to Archbishop William Lori, D.D., of Baltimore, MD provided his western Massachusetts flock the clear image of a man of learning and a shepherd for his people.

In the beautiful traditions of the ceremonies for apostolic succession, Bishop Rozanski, Episcopal Moderator for the National Association of the Holy Name Society, clearly evidenced his love of people and his concern for their spiritual welfare: "I am both humbled and honored to serve as



your bishop." "I really felt a sense of calm as I walked into the cathedral because I felt the people at prayer... When people are at prayer, there has to be a sense of calm and a sense of oneness with the Lord."

Speaking in three languages in the course of his homily, Bishop Rozanski said, at one point, in Spanish, that "Over these past years, I have experienced a church of great energy and joy in the Lord through the great faith of the Latino people. Please know that I am looking forward to getting to know you better and to celebrate our faith with you." Speaking of faith, Bishop Rozanski said, at one point in his homily,: "I am keenly aware of the need to reach out to those who have stopped practicing the faith for any reason, those who may have been hurt in any way, and to bring them back to the rich pastures that is our church."

Commenting on his pectoral cross, a replica of the cross used by St John Paul II, a gift from Archbishop Lori, Bishop Rozanski commented that it is a constant reminder for all of us "of the Poland that suffered so much under atheistic regimes yet thrived because of

(Continued on page 7)

PAGE 4 NAHNS NEWSLETTER

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

During any month between issues of the NAHNS Newsletter, there are numerous associates who die: family members, good holy priests, both secular and of a religious community, including our beloved Dominican friends. Even if we were aware of each of them or members of their extended families, it would not be possible to identify each of them by name. However, as there are some of these associates who have made particularly positive contributions to the Holy Name Society across a broad geographical landscape, we do need to and want to give mention to them. Since our last newsletter, two such individuals have gone on from their friends, families, and associates for whom we especially pray and ask that they pray for us and for the associates: past, present, and future of our confraternity. May their example continue to inspire us and challenge us to make a difference in His name.

Father Robert Botthot, O.P., Dominican Province of Saint Albert the Great, and former Spiritual Moderator for the Chicago Archdiocesan Holy Name Society has died. His life and contributions to the Holy Name Society across the Chicago Archdiocese was recently celebrated at Saint Vincent Ferrer Church, River Forest, Illinois.

Mr. William (Bill) Whitman Harris, Jr., 81, parishioner of Our Lady of the Fields Parish, Millerville, Maryland, and immediate Past President, National Association of the Holy Name Society, of Severn Park, Maryland, died on November 3, 2014, leaving his wife Judy, herself a faithful supporter in all of his work. Bill, a friend to many, exemplar to other Holy Name Society leaders, and faithful follower of His Lord, was a graduate of West Point and an Air Force pilot before establishing, with his associates, a private sector venture.

Father Thomas Hayes, O.P., NAHNS Spiritual Director-Emeritus, has called on the National Holy Name Society to provide a fitting tribute to Bill, as he plans to do the same at the Saint Jude Shrine in San Francisco. Father Tom writes: "We will always remember Bill as firmly dedicated to "the cause" and as an outstanding representative of a fine Catholic family man, dedicated to our Catholic faith and of service to his country and community. We shall indeed miss him, but I am consoled by reflecting what Saint Dominic told his brethren when he was dying, that he would be of more benefit to them in heaven than with them on earth. I am also recalling from the Confessions of Saint Augustine as he was recounting the death of his mother, Monica. She told her son not to worry about where to bury her. All she wanted was to see him come into the Faith; for him and his brother Adeodatus to live that Faith. Bill provided an outstanding example of living the Faith; communicating the Faith; and bringing honor and glory to

the Name and Person of Jesus Christ. Bill, I hope [as do all your Holy Name Society associates and many friends] you can help us and the cause to which you were so devoted through the mercy and goodness of God..."

Chicago Area Holy Name Society

The Chicago Area Holy Name Society recently celebrated its 34th Annual Spiritual Assembly. Stan Baran, President, Chicago Area Holy Name Society, wished to thank everyone present gathered together to both praise and honor Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

St. Pascal's parish stepped up at the last minute to host this most important celebratory event. The strength and abilities of any organization depend on the involvement of its members. Led by Dave O'Neil, St. Pascal made it possible for our banners to once again fly high.

Thanks also to the spiritually committed men of the Knights of St. Peter Claver, the Knights of Columbus, the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, and those who brought the Sacred Heart Statue of Our Lord. Each of these actions help advance the glory and honor of the Spiritual Assembly to Our Savior, Jesus.

Lou Rexing and Manuel Moyado were thanked for their past and continuing contributions for their many unceasing efforts.

We acknowledge that the member parishes attending are the true measure of Spiritual Assembly success. The CAHNS Board expressed thanks for their support with ads and taking the time and effort to join St. Pascal in this event during their 100 year anniversary.

Every year a homilist is invited to not only remind us of whom and what we are and do, but for Whom we do it. This year Fr. Tom McCarty, Principle at St. Rita High School was the speaker. Fr. McCarty gave an inspiring and motivational talk from his heart — it was most assuredly guided by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we fear for the future of our Faith, we wonder and worry about who will be the leaders of the Catholic Faith tomorrow. Knowing that men like Fr. McCarthy are tasked with shaping the minds and hearts of the young men who will be those leaders, we can all be reassured.

Fr. McCarthy reminded us all, indeed challenged us to "Spread the Word of Jesus", for the membership of the Confraternity to grow our membership, to bring others to the Holy Name Society – to Our Lord, Jesus. The "Word" is the Bible, and much more. It is the examples Jesus left us, the way we are supposed to be, the way we are to reach out to others, like His Apostles and early disciples for the purpose of bringing all to the reward of Salvation he gained for us by His Suffering and Death on the Cross.

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HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

Buffalo Diocesan Union HNS

In Christianity, Christmas is the festival celebrating the Nativity of Jesus, the Christian belief that the Messiah, fore-told in the Old Testament's Messianic prophecies, was born to the Virgin Mary. According to biblical accounts found in Matthew and Luke, Jesus was born to Mary, assisted by her husband Joseph, in the city of Bethlehem.

According to popular tradition, the birth took place in a stable, surrounded by farm animals, though neither the stable nor the animals are specifically mentioned in the Biblical accounts. However, a manger is mentioned in Luke 2:7 where it states: "She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Early representations of the nativity placed the animals and manger within a cave (located, according to tradition, under the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem). Shepherds from the fields surrounding Bethlehem were told of the birth by an angel and were the first to see the child.

The Gospel of Matthew describes a visit by several Magi, or astrologers - Balthazar, Melchior, and Casper - who bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the infant. The visitors were said to be following a mysterious star, commonly known as the Star of Bethlehem, believing it to announce the birth of a king of the Jews. The commemoration of this visit, the Feast of

Epiphany, celebrated on January 6, is the formal end of Christmas season in some churches.

Prior to Christmas Day, the Eastern Orthodox Church practices the 40 day Nativity Fast in anticipation of the birth of Jesus, while much of the Western Christianity celebrates four weeks of Advent.

In some Christian denominations, children perform plays re-telling the events of the Nativity, or sing carols that reference the event. Some Christians also display a small re-creation of the Nativity, known as Nativity scene or crèche, in their homes, using figurines to portray the key characters of the event. Live Nativity scenes and tableaux vivants are performed using actors and animals to portray the event with more realism. Nativity scenes are traditionally set in a barn or stable and include Mary, Joseph, the child Jesus, angels, shepherds, and the Three Wise Men.

The December 25 date for Christmas may have been selected by the church in Rome in the early 4th century. At this time, a church calendar was created and other holidays were also place on solar dates. "It is cosmic symbolism... which inspired the Church leadership in Rome to elect the winter solstice, December 25, as the birthday of Christ."

May all the blessings of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas and may his divine presence enrich your life throughout the New Year.

Mr. Raymond Zientara and Father Paul Sabo

Bienventus a la Sociedad del Santo Nombre de Jesus

This is a short history of Puerto Rico and the Holy Name Society's development there.

The recent history of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico begins on 18 October 1898. On that day, the Spanish government turned this Caribbean land over to the United States, concluding the short but important Spanish-American War. In 1917, the United States granted citizenship to the residents of Puerto Rico which continues today. In 1952, Puerto Rico became an autonomous commonwealth with full United States citizenship with all of the rights, laws, holidays, money, and armed forces and court access. It is here that the Holy Name Society in Puerto Rico has developed.

In 1909, in the small town of Catano, a group of young men founded a movement called, in English: "Sweet Name of Jesus." In 1920, my town, Bayamon, founded a Sociedad del Santo Nombre de Jesus. Just two years later, 1922, Father Jordan Raemakers, O.P. requested and received authorization from Archbishop Jorge Caruana for all of the parishes in Puerto Rico to establish their own Holy Name Society chapters.

In 1973, Pope John Paul II named His Eminence Luis Aponte Martinez the first Puerto Rican cardinal. Cardinal Martinez is a member, leader, and advocate of the Holy Name Society across the islands of Puerto Rico and has fostered development of the confraternity in many of the 230 parishes in the commonwealth.

Through the course of the year, the Holy Name Society chapters are active in celebration of many of the holidays, even as they are in the States. They are also active in many spiritual activities, most especially the recitation of the Rosary in different homes every Wednesday night and on radio stations every second Monday of the month. Monthly Holy Mass and meetings are the norm, highlighted by monthly televised Holy Mass. Standard practice across the islands is for the Holy Name members to participate annually in two retreats, two all-night vigils, and three Holy Saturday Church visits.

The Holy Name chapters are also active in multiple ministries in support of the host parish; providing assistance to the needy; and responding to other needs as the Lord commands. The Society in Puerto Rico is especially fond of one of their own, Carlos Manuel Rodriquez (1918-1973), from the village of Caguas. While limited by an illness onset while a high school student, Carlos Manuel spent his life in the joyful service of the Lord as a gifted spiritual writer, musician, and facilitator for the startup of several programs including Holy Name Societies which are still active to this day. Carlos was raised to the altar as a blessed by Pope John Paul II in 2001.

Pascual Tirado Bayamon, Puerto Rico HNS PAGE 6 NAHNS NEWSLETTER

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - LITURGY OF THE HOURS

A re you looking for prayer that can be done alone or in groups, with your priests, deacons, and religious, any time of the day that is new yet traditional all at the same time? The Liturgy of the Hours is your answer.

The Liturgy of the Hours or Divine Office has its roots deep in the Old Testament. It evolved from the prayers of the priests in the line of Aaron (Genesis, Exodus). This became, in modified form, the prayer of the Israelites while away from the temple during the exile (Kings, Chronicles). The Book of Acts mentions that the early Christians prayed at set hours throughout the day. St. Benedict's rule called for prayer at set hours throughout the day and night.

More recently, Vatican II encouraged praying of the Liturgy of the Hours by the lay faithful.

In days past, it was very difficult to start praying the Liturgy of the Hours. The only real way to learn was to have someone show you how to do it and to pray it with you for several days. While that is still helpful, technology has greatly lowered or even removed the barriers of getting started.

Here are several great ways to get going:

Visit the website (www.divineoffice.org). On this site you will find the prayers for various hours of the day (morning, midmorning, noon, midafternoon, evening, night, others). Just click the tab for the hour you want to pray; there you will see everything laid out for you for that hour (Note: "hour" does not mean an hour of prayer but rather an approximate time of the day that prayer is for). It is very easy;

it is all right there. Just start praying! Also, they have audio files (mp3) available for each of the hours which can be listened to online or downloaded for playback later.

This is also helpful as a learning tool! The audio downloads are handy to listen to while driving on a long

trip. The cost of all this? It is free.

Another option is an easy to use App for your smart phone (*iBreviary*). This is a free downloadable app for Apple, Android and Blackberry smart phones or tablets. Once

downloaded, it contains all the prayers for the various hours of the day within the Liturgy of the Hours. Like divineoffice.org, just go to the hours you

Hours. Like divineof-fice.org, just go to the hours you want to pray and start praying. This app also includes all the readings and prayers for

iBreviary

THE HOLY NAME PLEDGE - MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE

(Continued from page 1)

tery of the Incarnation is ignored, repudiated and even challenged by ever increasing numbers. Even those who presume to call themselves Christians often live as though there is no need to give honor and praise to the Holy Name of God and Jesus.

As members of the Holy Name Society we realize it is our responsibility to privately and publicly give honor and praise to the most Holy Name of God and Jesus. The next phase of the Pledge is our personal proclamation in our belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ.

I believe, O Jesus
That Thou art the
Christ, The Son of
the Living God.

In this statement we repeat the act of Faith first spoken by Simon Peter.

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say

John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of

the prophets."
He said to them, "But who do

you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Mt. 16:13-16)

We join St. Peter in reaffirming our deep Faith in Jesus Christ every time we recite these words. Today, as then, there is no more perfect act of Faith.

daily Mass, and many other

"As members of the Holy Name
Society we realize it is our responsibility to privately and publicly
give honor and praise to the most
Holy Name of God and Jesus."

We then acknowledge the apostolic nature of the Catholic Church. That Jesus entrusted His Church to

the guidance of St. Peter and that through Apostolic succession this responsibility and authority has been handed down to our current Pope - Our Holy Father — The Vicar of Christ on Earth.

[To be continued.]

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prayers and blessings. It is handy reference for daily prayer.

Laudate is another free
Catholic Prayer
app that is available for all iOS
and Android
phones and tablets. This is a
very popular
Catholic App
that contains the
Liturgy of the

Hours as well as many other Catholic prayers, including the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and Mass readings for the day. This app is very easy to use and is also free.

Another good way to get started is to find someone who is praying Liturgy of the Hours and ask for help. Most will be very happy to help you learn and also to pray with you. These people usually have tools

> (books, websites, apps) in their prayer kit that they can point out to you or share with you. This has always been and still is a good way to get started and can work well

in conjunction with the two items listed above.

The only other thing to do is to start. It is common for people just beginning to be concerned about praying Liturgy of the Hours wrong. Don't worry about that! God is pleased

with your efforts and prayer. Over time you can pick up the finer points. Whichever hour you pray, know that thousands of people are praying that same hour with you. And thousands of others around the world have either prayed that same hour just ahead of you or will be praying it just a few minutes after you.

Consider praying the Liturgy of the Hours with your parish Holy Name Society. Advent is a great time to start this powerful prayer of the Church. The liturgy-of-the-hours truly is the prayer of the Church and has the power to transform you and your parish Society members.

Ron G. Schmitz President. NAHNS

"... you're a great witness to the

gospel by being pro-life ... because

when we do that we really bring

God's love into the world."



Laudate

MOST REV. MITCHELL ROZANSKI, D.D. NAMED NEW BISHOP OF DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

(Continued from page 3)

the Catholic faith... We have relied on the help of God in the past and we will continue to do so in the present and in the future, knowing that the Good Shepherd who watched over Poland during years of trial gives us joy to witness our cherished faith to others."

In other remarks, Bishop Rozanski, speaking in Polish, said that "We pray those who have been harmed by clergy or representatives of the Church may

find peace of mind and heart." Meeting with the press after the installation ceremony, Bishop Rozanski said: I believe

as bishop I show the way to lead, to reach out to victims of sexual abuse."

Speaking to

the issue of the sacredness of life, the bishop said that "My message is you're a great witness to the gospel by being pro-life and by a standing up for life... Because when we do that we really bring God's love into the world... As a church,

what we are saying is that God made us male and female, and that the institution of marriage is so crucial...It

is a sacrament of the Church. If the sacrament is well lived, then the children and future generations will benefit."

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SPREADING DEVOTION TO THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

CHANGE TO THE NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION COMING IN 2015!

The delegates to the Annual Convention of the National Association of the Holy Name Society (NAHNS) voted to rely more heavily on the more timely, efficient and cost effective communications. Beginning in 2015 this Newsletter will no longer be mailed to subscribers. The current cost of printing, bulk mail sorting and postage for delivering this newsletter is now approaching \$2 per issue per subscriber.

The Fall 2015 issue of this newsletter will be the last issue of the Newsletter to be

mailed. The newsletter is currently available on the NAHNS.com website for free and it is e-mailed free

to members who sign-up to receive e-mail communications from the NAHNS. This free service is available on the NAHNS.com website. All you need to do is provide



ceive issues of the Newsletter as soon as they are completed. They will be delivered di-

rectly to your e-mail in-box.

The NAHNS Marketing Communications Director is also working to update the NAHNS website to make it more smart phone and tablet friendly so you will be able to effortlessly find and access the newsletter where ever your daily travels take you.

Mike Gores, NAHNS

Marketing Communications

Director



www.nahns.com