

How to Start or Reestablish a Parish Holy Name Society

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO A SUCCESSFUL START

National Association of the Holy Name Society

**Confraternity of the Most Holy Name
of God and Jesus
The Holy Name Society**

It is the prayerful intent of the Holy Name Society to humbly follow in the footsteps of St. Dominic, Saint Bernardine of Siena and Blessed John of Vercelli to once again propagate to all of Christ's faithful a very special devotion to the most Holy Name of Jesus and to convince all to embrace this heavenly name and all it signifies.

Confraternity of the Most Holy Name of God
Canonically Established 1571

Confraternity of the Most Holy Name of God and Jesus
*Canonically established by Pope Benedict XIII
on 26th of May 1727*

Visit us on the web at nahns.com

Contact us at info@nahns.com

Published—September 2017

*Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus
Yesterday, Today and Forever!*

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Holy Name Pledge

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus
I believe, O Jesus,
That Thou art the Christ,
The Son of the living God.

I proclaim my love
For the Vicar of Christ on earth.
I believe all the sacred truths.
Which the Holy Catholic Church
Believes and teaches.

I promise to give good example
By the regular practice of my faith.
In honor of His Divine Name,
I pledge myself against perjury.
Blasphemy, profanity and obscene speech.

I pledge my loyalty
To the flag of my country
And to the God given principles
Of freedom, justice and happiness
For which it stands.
I pledge my support
To all lawful authority
Both civil and religious.

I dedicate my life
To the Honor of the Sacred Name
Of Jesus Christ,
And beg that He
Will keep me faithful
To these pledges
Until death. Amen

Starting or Reestablishing a Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society inspires people to begin or grow their personal relationship with Jesus through awareness, reverence and devotion to the Most Holy Name of God and Jesus.

The Power of the Name of Jesus is proclaimed and witnessed through the sincere love and reverence of the Holy Name in members' speech and actions. Individuals, families, communities - the world – are forever transformed.

Initial Steps

Starting or reestablishing a Holy Name Society in a parish is very exciting and rewarding. This booklet provides some suggestions and guidelines on how to get started in a step by step manner.

If you plus one or two others desire to start a new Holy Name Society or reestablish an existing Holy Name Society —what are the steps to be successful? This document will provide you and your team the steps and phases that will help make your Society a success.

Step 1 Create a Leadership Team. The Leadership Team is a small group of two to five people who will start the Holy Name Society at the parish. This group makes some initial decisions about the intended membership, plans the initial meetings, works to secure approval from the pastor, and works with other parish groups as needed to ensure they understand how the proposed new Holy Name Society group fits into the parish landscape.

Regarding the intended membership, you will need to decide if your parish Holy Name Society is for both men and women, or for men only. Some dioceses in the U.S. permit men and women members; some permit only men as members. Check with your Holy Name Society diocesan leadership or with the Regional Vice President responsible for your region (visit nahns.com).

Step 2 Secure Pastoral Support

You will need to secure the support and approval of your pastor. Some pastors may be concerned that this will create more work for themselves, and more work in the administration of the parish. Assure your pastor that all work will be done by Holy Name Society members and that the Society will be a spiritual benefit for the whole parish.

Steps 1 and 2 may sometimes be done together thus involving your pastor right from the very beginning. In any case a little give and take will often be required to ensure your pastor's complete support and approval. Make it clear to your pastor that you will not act without his permission, and that he does not have to attend all the meetings.

Step 3 Request a Charter

If your parish does not have an official Charter, you will need to contact the Confraternity Director of the Dominican Province where your parish is located. Details about this may be found on the Charter Information page of the National Association of the Holy Name Society (NAHNS) web site (nahns.com).

At the conclusion of these steps, you are ready to begin the next phase. The first three phases are important in the ongoing formation of the parish Holy Name Society. Each phase builds upon the decisions made in the previous phases and positions the Holy Name Society for continued success and growth.

Step 4 Core Team Meeting

Conduct the first meetings by inviting interested Core Team Members. This does not need to be broadly publicized, although it can be, as the group is still in the early formative stages. Mainly invite the Leadership Team members, the pastor if so desired, and anyone else who might be interested in the formative aspects of the parish Society. Topics to be discussed at the first sessions include meeting plans for the first year (frequency, date/time/duration), meeting content, leadership for year one (officers needed, plans for appointing/electing those officers), funding requirements and plans, communication plans, and plans for the second phase.

A person or persons should be assigned to obtain the following information and connect with resources that will aid your formation. The following items should be completed in the First Phase.

Key Action Items:

- Find out whether there is an (Arch)Diocesan Union. If so, ask if there is a person that can assist your startup. Invite them to your upcoming meetings.
- Find out which Holy Name region you are in (nahns.com). Contact the Regional Vice President; ask for assistance.
- Get the name of the nearest successful Holy Name Society and invite the President to your second meeting.
- Obtain a model Constitution and Bylaws for a Holy Name Society parish from the national web site or from the other contacts you have made.

Step 5 Planning

The Second Phase is about continuing the formation work of Phase 1 and begins your advertising and marketing efforts. Ideally you would have a neighboring Holy Name president, a diocesan representative and/or a Regional Vice President in attendance to assist with the startup planning.

During the Second Phase, you should finalize your thoughts on content for the initial parish-wide meeting, specifics for local membership dues, and the communication plan for the initial parish-wide kick-off meeting.

Review information available in the NAHNS Supply Store (nahns.com). Also get information, tools, support and ideas via the national web. Visit the website frequently for key information (nahns.com).

During the Second Phase, you should review and prepare a Constitution and Bylaws for your parish Society and review with your Spiritual Moderator.

Step 6 Kick-Off

The initial parish wide meetings are the first meetings that are open to all potential members. During these meetings you should explain what the Holy Name Society is, what the benefits of membership are, what your parish Holy Name Society will do, and how people can get involved. You should initially work to sign members up as Novice Members of the Holy Name Society. Over time, as several novice members come on board, work with your pastor and Spiritual Moderator to plan and hold an Induction Ceremony to bring all those Novice Members into full membership as Professed Holy Name Society Members. This is done at an altar erected to the Holy Name using the official induction ceremony. Details can be found at (nahns.com).

Following the parish-wide meetings, your leadership team should continue to plan and organize the first year's meetings and activities. You should continue to bring new people in as members. And, you should seek assistance from your pastor / Spiritual Moderator and other Holy Name Society resources as you move forward.

Suggestions

The Holy Name Society is primarily a spiritual organization. The general purposes are to promote reverence for the Name of God and Jesus, promote sanctification of its members, foster observance of the Holy Name Pledge, and perform Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy as individuals and as a Holy Name Society group. Most of your meeting time should be aligned to one or more of the above items.

A key theme that should be used for the parish Holy Name Society is the acronym PLUS—which stands for Pay, Learn, Unite and Serve in Jesus' Name" "Holy Name PLUS." Try to incorporate all four of these into your events and you will be successful.

Meetings should be planned a year in advance with a blend of spiritual and educational talks, religious studies, spiritual events such as retreats or vigils, and social events. The officers should meet before or after the general meetings and handle routine business.

Have at least one big project which will identify your Holy Name Society. Maybe it's a social problem like obscene literature or a spiritual project like a retreat or all night vigil - make it big and throw all your energies into it.

Pray. Be willing to change. Seek to help others, and always remember that we do all for the greater glory of God.

Key Steps to Successful Initiation

The initial phase can be called the Anticipation Phase. This Phase includes all of the “behind-the-scenes” preparatory work necessary for launching a parish based Holy Name Society. The three most essential tasks during the Anticipation Phase are the formation of the Core Team and the “seeding” the parish.

Check List

- Receive Pastor Approval
- Contact Holy Name Society Parish Regional VP
- Order Parish Holy Name Society Start-Up Kit Materials – Order online at NAHNS.com—Store
- Select Leadership Team—define key roles and responsibilities
- Form Parish Holy Name Society Core Team
- Obtain Parish Charter – Determine if Parish Charter Previously existed
- Train Leadership Team and Pastor / Spiritual Moderator on Obligations and Benefits of Membership in Confraternity
- Schedule Initial Leadership Meeting
- Order Promotional Materials – NAHNS Online Store
- Pray for the Success of the Confraternity – Start Novena to Holy Name of Jesus
- Determine Start Date, Time, and Location
- Develop a Schedule of Activities based on the PLUS Framework (Prayer, Learn, Unite, Serve)
- Begin “Seeding” the Parish
- Schedule your initial meetings and begin advertising and marketing your event(s)
- Ask your parishioners to pray for the success of the Society

One of the keys to success is to contact the Holy Name Society Regional VP and ask for help to successfully pass through each of the phases of the Holy Name Society initiation.

Pastoral Approval

Every Parish Holy Name Society must receive the pastor's approval before any further steps are taken. Once the pastor's approval has been received, it is not necessary for him to be the main contact or the "driver" behind the program. Nonetheless, his visible support greatly contributes to the success of the Society within the Parish.

- **Best Practice:** *The pastor's visible support combined with an active Leadership Team frequently doubles the number of members actively involved in the parish Society.*

Phase of Initiation of a Holy Name Society

Parishes pass through four distinct phases while beginning a Holy Name Society. Each of these phases is critical to the overall success of Holy Name Society and is characterized by its own set of challenges and opportunities.

1) Register your Parish Holy Name Society with the NAHNS.

Contact the Holy Name Society Regional VP to have your parish registered. The Regional VP can be a valuable resource or put you in touch with information and resources to help you start or reestablish your parish Holy Name Society.

The leadership team members should read all of the information available on the Holy Name Society from the NAHNS website (nahns.com)

2) Form a Core Team

A successful effort will require a small Core Team to drive the success of the Holy Name Society. A Core Team is typically composed of five members. Of these, the two most critical positions are the Core Team Leader (President) and the Activity Coordinator. Their tasks are as follows:

Core Team Leader: Has the responsibility of not only coordinating the Core Team and overall program, but also interacting with the pastor and the other Core Team members. The Core Team Leader should have adequate computer and Internet skills to help communicate electronically the meeting dates and times and obtain key information from the NAHNS website (NAHNS.com).

Activity Coordinator: Has the responsibility of coordinating religious and spiritual activities for the members. This position is critical since well-run religious and spiritual activities are critical to the long-term success of the parish Society.

Membership Coordinator: Has the responsibility to make sure that every person who signs up for the Holy Name Society on the registration card is then input into the online database. Once the program begins, he is in charge of the registration table where there

should always be registration cards and information materials available for any new or potentially new member.

Financial Coordinator (Treasurer): Has the responsibility to make sure there is a mechanism for collecting membership fees and funds for the materials used and given to members. Most parishes will require a strict accounting process for collecting and distributing funds for a new parish organization. This person should be detail oriented and keep excellent records in funds collected and disbursed and be able to communicate this with the parish financial administrator or pastor when requested.

Communication Coordinator: Has the responsibility for coordinating the advertising and communication of special events held by the Society. This person should have good marketing skills to ensure events are well planned and communicated to your target audience.

- **Best Practice:** *It is important to have a wide variety of members on the Core Team so as to appeal to all age groups. The age of most importance is the age group you are most interested in recruiting. The Core Team becomes the “face” of the program, which will become critical during the Attraction Phase.*

3) Determine Start Details (Date, Time, Location)

Most Holy Name Society programs begin the first or second week of September. The Fall semester runs 13 weeks and should be completed by mid-December before the major rush of Christmas. The Spring semester typically begins in the middle of January and finishes near the end of April.

All things being equal, experience shows the optimal time to start your first meeting is on an early morning weekday. Although evening and weekend sessions have been run successfully, they typically encounter more scheduling conflicts—both for the individual members and with parish facilities.

Once the schedule has been finalized, the Communication Coordinator should be notified so that the marketing and communications activities can begin and have time to be successful.

4) Selection of Additional Core Team Members:

As a rule of thumb, Holy Name Societies typically attract approximately 5% of the target members registered in the parish. Enough Core Team Members should be chosen so that the person to person invitations have an opportunity to be successful.

Each Core Team member should personally contact ten different members to inform them about the start of Holy Name Society. When this is done, 40–80 members will already know about the Society before the official promotional campaign begins. This is one of the most critical aspects of ensuring a successful program.

- ***Avoid This:*** *Failure to Form a Core Team of 5 or more: Experience shows that Core Teams with only 2–4 active men struggle throughout the Holy Name Society initiation process, with the number one issue being attendance and retention. A large Core Team where everyone understands their specific roles avoids placing too large a burden on any one person and is critical to the success of the Society.*
- ***Avoid This:*** *Failure to Diversify Core Team Men: The members of the Core Team become the “face” of Holy Name Society. Experience shows that when the Core Team members are drawn from too narrow a socio-demographic group, then the program is only able to draw men who are from the same socio-demographic group. It is important that the Core Team have members representing many demographic groups. Since Holy Name Society has had tremendous impact on men who are still actively parenting, it is strongly recommended that someone from that demographic group be given an active and visible role on the Core Team.*

5) Core Team Training

The Core Team Leader should determine the best manner for obtaining Core Team program training. A session could be scheduled with the Regional VP or a local parish Holy Name Society President to answer all questions. In the absence of a Regional Vice President the Core Team Leader can obtain key information from the NAHNS and distribute materials to the Core Team and schedule sessions to read and review the materials.

Plan a meeting for all the Core Team Members to cover all the basic information on the Holy Name Society—Obligations of Members, Benefits of Members, Pray, Learn, Unite and Serve Framework to be worked into each activity of the Society. Discuss Roles and Responsibilities and potential fund-raising activities that may be necessary to raise money for the Society.

- ***Avoid This:*** *Failure to Train the Core Team: When the Core Team members do not understand their roles and responsibilities or the key aspects of being a member of this special Confraternity of the Catholic Church, numerous issues are encountered, and unnecessary stress is placed on Leadership Team.*
- ***Avoid This:*** *Failure to Follow the Holy Name Society PLUS Framework: The Pray, Learn, Unite and Serve (PLUS) framework has been developed based on the experiences from numerous parishes. Failure to follow this process results in numerous problems that could have easily been avoided. In the worst case, it actually endangers the success of the Holy Name Society and its ability to transform members’ lives.*

6) Order Promotional Materials

A full complement of promotional materials has been professionally developed for the Holy Name Society. In all cases, the expenses associated with promotional materials are the responsibility of the new Society. Promotional Materials should be ordered early to aid in “seeding the parish.”

Bulletin Inserts: Full page/full color bulletin inserts are typically run on the three weeks prior to the launch date of Holy Name Society sessions. The bulletin inserts should have a place clearly marked to highlight the host parish name, location, date and time of the session(s).

- **Best Practice:** *Repetition in advertising is extremely important. Run the bulletin insert for three consecutive weeks. Order inserts to cover all three weeks at the same time and save on printing costs.*

Trifold Brochures: These are intended to be handed to people upon personal contact. Personal contact is the most important means of attracting men to Holy Name Society. Typically, over 75% of the members attending the initial sessions do so because someone personally invited them.

- **Best Practice:** *Order enough trifold brochures to divide among the Core Team members and Small Group Leaders so that they can effectively “seed” the parish. A rule of thumb is to order enough trifold brochures to cover 10% of your parish. Example: If your parish has 2,500 families, order 250 trifold brochures.*
- **Avoid This:** *Failure to Order Advertising Material on Time: Failure to order Holy Name Society program materials on time results in increased shipping costs, increased stress on the Core Team members and the potential delay of the program.*

Registration Cards: These cards may be placed in the pews (provided pastor approval has been obtained) and/or provided on a Registration Table to register members after Masses during the Promotional Campaign. Individual registrations made on the registration cards will need to be entered into the Communication Coordinators registration system by members of the Core Team.

Outdoor Banner/Posters: Full color, high graphics resolution banners and posters can be developed to be placed at appropriate locations to bring additional visibility to the Holy Name Society.

7) Pray for the Success of the Holy Name Society

Prayer is the hidden but necessary ingredient for the success of Holy Name Society. Holy hours, Rosaries, Masses and private prayers are great means to aid in the success of your Society.

Encourage the Parishioners to Pray for the Success of the Holy Name Society; Ask the entire parish to pray for the success of the Holy Name Society. Ask the pastor if special petitions can be written and read at Daily Mass and Weekend Masses for the success of the Holy Name Society a month before the first session.

- **Avoid This:** *Failure to spend time in prayer: Make sure all members of the Core Team spend personal time in prayer and schedule some group time to pray for the success of the Society.*

A successful Anticipation Phase includes fulfilling all items on the checklist, creating an atmosphere of excitement and commitment from the Core Team and creating a “buzz” within the parish about Holy Name Society.

Obligations of Members

All who are professed members of the Holy Name Society must:

- Praise and glorify God by fidelity to prayer, especially by both private and public Holy Name devotions and as far as it can be done, bring others, particularly those committed to the member's care, to know and honor the name of God.
- Recognize His divine authority and believe that all power on earth, civil and religious comes from Him and respect and promise to obey all lawfully constituted authority.
- Proclaim love and obedience to the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on Earth.
- Believe all the sacred truths, which the Holy Catholic Church believes and teaches and to educate themselves and all those in their care in these truths.
- Promise to strive for perfection by frequent reception of the sacraments, daily prayer, spiritual reading, acts of penance and mortification, and fraternal charity - "You must, therefore, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Mt 5:48.
- In honor of His Divine Name, avoid disrespect to the name of God, of Jesus, and of what is sacred and should abstain from all improper language, such as blasphemy, perjury, profanity, cursing, obscene speech and indecency, and as far as prudence permits induce others to refrain from such insults to God and immorality. – "Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name." Mt 6:9
- Avoid any conduct that would be scandalous or cause or tempt others to ridicule or despise the Catholic faith or the Confraternity – lest it be true "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." Rom 2:24.
- Fulfill all the obligations of membership in the Mystical Body of Christ, the Catholic Church, according to one's state in life, as well as the specific obligations of membership in the Society, particularly attendance at all devotional events.

It should be noted that regulations imposed do not bind under the pain of sin. Members of the Confraternity as a matter of honor and obedience should live up to these regulations. They should also, in all of their activities, as members, be mindful of the divine law of charity.

Spiritual Benefits of Membership

All Professed Members of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Name of God and Jesus, while faithful to their obligations share in all of the blessings from the Masses, good works, preaching, teaching and the manual labor of the Dominican Order. This includes a share in the thirty-three Masses which each Dominican is bound to say every year for the souls of the departed brethren.

The Sacred Penitentiary, in response to the petition of the Dominican Order, granted a plenary indulgence to the members of the Most Holy Name of God and the Most Holy Name of Jesus, on the following occasions:

- The day of the member's induction into the Confraternity
- Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ - Christmas Day
- The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and the Holy Name of Jesus (January 1)
- Resurrection of the Lord - Easter Sunday
- The Solemnity of Christ the King (Last Sunday in Ordinary Time – last Sunday prior to the start of the Season of Advent)
- The Annunciation of the Lord (March 25)
- The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)
- The Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker (May 1)

The following partial indulgences are particularly applicable to faithful Professed Members of the Holy Name Society who:

- In the performance of their duties and in bearing the trials of life, raise their mind with humble confidence to God, asking – if only mentally – some pious invocation. "Blessed be the name of God", and similar invocations of devotion to the name of God would be applicable in this grant. (cf. The Decree in the Apostolate of the Laity, 4.

"Whatever you do in word or work, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him").

- In a spirit of faith and mercy give of themselves or of their goods to serve others in need.
- In spirit of penance voluntarily deprive themselves of what is licit and pleasing to them.
- Recite the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus.
- Wear the Holy Name emblem – properly blessed by any priest.

(Reference the Enchiridion of Indulgences given by the 1968 Decree of the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary for all the requirements necessary to obtain Indulgences)

Holy Name Society—A Confraternity

The Confraternity of the Holy Name of God and Jesus, popularly known as the Holy Name Society, is fundamentally and essentially a spiritual organization for Catholics. It is canonically erected to the Dominican Order. Its purpose is to assist the members of the confraternity grow in holiness, achieve their salvation, and zealously labor to build the Kingdom of God here on earth by practicing and spreading devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

There is nothing extraordinary expected or demanded of Confraternity members. They are asked to be faithful to their religious duties and to perform some of them in union with fellow members of the Society. For this corporate activity and their spiritual and corporal works of mercy, members of the Holy Name Society receive special indulgences.

Basically, spiritual but zealously active, embracing Catholics from all walks of life, this Confraternity under the guidance of its Spiritual Moderators renders service to the Church, while bestowing uncounted blessings on its members.

Description of a Member

A member of the Holy Name Society is a practicing member of the Catholic Church who through devotion to the Name of Jesus Christ is inspired to holiness and sanctification, who through a personal commitment to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, labors to spread the Kingdom of God here on earth for the greater glory and honor of Jesus Christ.

What are the Charisms of Holy Name Society?

Canonical ties to the Order of St. Dominic give members special charisms that stem directly from the holiness, preaching, teaching, and good works of the many religious who have consecrated their lives to Jesus Christ as Dominicans. In a very special way members share in the tireless zeal for the salvation of souls of St. Dominic, the unsurpassed intellect and humility of St. Thomas Aquinas, and the sanctity and holiness of Blessed John of Vercelli. The Holy Name Society has been adorned with privileges, indulgences, and other apostolic graces by Pope Pius IV, Clement VIII, Innocent XI, Benedict XIV, Pius X, and Paul VI. The Magisterium of the Church has uniquely positioned the Holy Name Society within lay apostolates in the Church. These indulgences come from the abundance of graces won for mankind by the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

What is the Apostolate of Holy Name Society?

The Holy Name Society promotes reverence for the Sacred Names of God and Jesus Christ, obedience and loyalty to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, and the personal sanctification and holiness of its members. Members are called to contribute to the evangelization mission of the Church and to make perpetual acts of reverence and love to our Lord and Savior. The apostolate of the society is to assist in parish ministries by performing the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Corporal Works of Mercy are those that tend to bodily needs of others. They are to: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead.

Spiritual works of mercy are to: instruct the ignorant (teach the faith), counsel the doubtful, admonish sinners, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted and pray for the living and the dead.

Members of the Holy Name Society – both individually and collectively in parish Societies – are called to build the kingdom of God by practicing and spreading a special devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

Holy Name Society members through their spiritual and corporal works of mercy labor to become like the good servant (Mt 25:21) not the unprofitable servant (Lk 17: 10) or the useless servant (Mt 25:29).

Canonical Requirements

When a parish wishes to establish a Society, the Pastor or Spiritual Moderator requests a “charter” from the Confraternity Director of the Dominican Order in the appropriate Dominican Province. The Charter is an ecclesiastical document and as such is issued in the name of the church. The Charter is issued “in perpetum” (forever), should the Charter be lost or destroyed, the canonical status of a parish Society is not affected.

Each parish Holy Name Society must be properly chartered by the Dominican order. Also, if the local Holy Name Society spans several parishes, (example: New York Firefighters, south Miami Beach, southeast Metro Junior HNS, etc) a charter will need to be properly issued for at least one of the parishes that falls within the scope of the Holy Name Society. A charter may be issued under the title of a church or a chapel in which the Blessed Sacrament is usually reserved and access to public worship is usually available.

The Dominican Confraternity Director of the Dominican Province is responsible for issuing the charter. You may find the appropriate contact for your region by going to the National Holy Name Society web site – nahns.com.

The second canonical requirement of the Society is keeping the names of all Professed Members in a permanently bound book. This book is referred to as a Holy Name Register. Special Holy Name Registers may be obtained from the National Association of the Holy Name Society Supply Office. The register should be kept with the other official records of the Society.

A special induction ceremony is required for a person to become a Professed Member of the Confraternity of the Holy Name of God and Jesus.

Since the Society is an Indulgenced Confraternity of the Church, the above mentioned canonical requirements must be met in order that the members of the Society may receive all of the spiritual benefits.

Formation of Members

Membership into the Holy Name Society is restricted to Catholics in good standing with the Church as defined under Canon Law. (Can. 316 §1)

Candidates must be 18 years of age to become a Professed Member in the Confraternity of the Holy Name of God and Jesus.

Before induction as a Professed Member at the formal Induction Ceremony, recruited candidates or novitiates, must learn about and understand the Obligations of Membership in the Confraternity.

During their novitiate (trial period), novice-members should demonstrate their sincerity and commitment by attending all spiritual conferences, devotional activities and assemblies.

The Spiritual Moderator of the parish Society should contact each of the novice-members to assist them in learning the History, Purpose, Mission, Spiritual Benefits of Membership, Obligations of Membership and the Holy Name Pledge before the formal Induction Ceremony. They should be given a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Parish Society, so they fully understand the purpose of the Confraternity and how it is governed.

To become a Professed Member of the Society requires making public professions at a special Induction Ceremony. After the Induction Ceremony the candidate becomes a Professed Member in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Name of God and Jesus and now obtains the graces, indulgences, rights, privileges and Spiritual Benefits of Membership.

The names of the Professed Members must be written in ink in the Official Register of the Holy Name Society. The Spiritual Moderator or the priest conducting the induction ceremony should sign and date the page containing the signatures. After the induction ceremony the candidates become Professed Members in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Names of God and Jesus and now obtain the graces, indulgences, rights, benefits and spiritual benefits of membership.

Fidelity to the Catholic Church

“No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother.” — St. Cyprian

Members of the Holy Name Society - believe that the Catholic Church - the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church - is the one true Church founded by Jesus Christ.

We believe Jesus Christ is the invisible Head of the Catholic Church - our Pope, the Vicar of Christ on earth and the direct Successor of the Apostle Peter, is the spiritual guide and shepherd of the Catholic Church.

We believe the Church is Christ's Body on earth, it is protected by the promise of Jesus Christ to be guided by the Holy Spirit, protected from all error, and victorious over evil as He says “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18).

In this Third Christian Millennium, the Holy Name Society is committed to the New Evangelization proclaimed by our Holy Father of blessed memory, Pope John Paul the Great, to take advantage of this “springtime” for the Church and the unprecedented opportunity we have to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our apostolate to spread devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus is intended to give a tangible, visible witness to Christ and His Church.

The Holy Name Society is committed to helping its members grow in holiness through devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Members in this confraternity are called to be leaders and to follow the footsteps of St. Dominic and St. Bernardine of Siena and all the saints to strengthen themselves with the Most Holy Eucharist, cleanse themselves in the sacrament of penance, nourish their souls on Sacred Scripture, increase their desire of divine love through prayer, and lead their families, friends, neighbors and coworkers by their acts of charity and piety.

Prayers for Vocations to Holy Name Society

Most Divine Jesus, we ask in Your Most Holy Name that You bless those that have heard Your call to the Confraternity of the Most Holy Names of God and Jesus and have answered it with faith, hope and charity.

We pray that You will open the hearts and minds of many more whose souls are stirred by the sound of Your voice and the invocation of Your Name. Please bring these souls into this Confraternity. We ask that You grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

National Association of the Holy Name Society

The National Association of Holy Name Society (NAHNS) was formed on February 1, 1970 when the Dominican Order formally transferred governance and organization of the Confraternity to the lay members of the Holy Name Society in the United States and Canada.

All Archdiocesan and Diocesan Holy Name Unions, Federations, Vicariates or Associations are encouraged to join the National Association - to work together in fraternal charity to promote honor, reverence and devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus. The NAHNS organization is basically simple: each Union which acts with ecclesiastical approval and is not delinquent in dues has one vote in the Association as do the voting members of the Leadership Board (per Constitution and Bylaws ratified September 2011).

The Association has a network of Regional Vice Presidents who attempt to strengthen existing Holy Name Societies, start new parish Societies and Diocesan Unions, and take many other steps for the glory of the Sacred Name of Jesus Christ.

The NAHNS Exists to:

- Promote reverence for the Name of the Most Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and to praise and venerate the Most Holy Names of God.
- Promote sanctification of Holy Name Members by the frequent reception of the sacraments and by faithful correspondence with the grace of their state of life;
- Foster observance of the promises in the Holy Name Pledge;
- Cooperate with the hierarchy of the Holy Catholic Church in its collegiate unity with our Holy Father, the Pope;
- Cooperate with the National Spiritual Director and the (Arch)Diocesan Unions, Federations and Associations in the United States and Canada;
- Promote the founding and strengthening of Archdiocesan and Diocesan Unions, Federations, Vicariates and Associations;
- Provide a means of effective communications and coordination among Archdiocesan and Diocesan Unions, Federations, Vicariates and Associations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Philippines and Canada;
- Publish, manage and distribute materials that promote devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus and membership in the Holy Name Society;
- Publicly proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Power of His Most Holy Name and in His Name foster meaningful spiritual programs and perform spiritual and corporal works of mercy;