

OUR LADY OF MERCY HOLY NAME SOCIETY
Minutes Membership Business Meeting
Monday, April 14, 2008

President John Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Our Holy Name Pledge was recited in unison. John Thomas then led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call of Officers was made and all were present except Vice President Frank Alfieri, who was excused. The agenda for the meeting was distributed to the members on signing in, 23 Officers and brothers of the Society. John Thomas welcomed to our Society, a new member, Paul Rafuse, who was recommended for membership by Victor Caferi.

The minutes of the last meeting, March 10th, recorded in the Society's web site, were accepted.

There was no correspondence received since the last meeting.

Treasurer Report: John Thomas reported our Society bank balance as of March 1 as \$3,880.59; there were no disbursements during March; deposits of \$50.16 included a \$50 check never cashed resulting in a balance of \$3,930.75 as of April 1.

Committee Reports:

- 1) Membership - John Thomas, Chairman: John advised no change since last month, the total 293 with the addition of two new members in January and February. John advised that with Frank White, Retention Chairman, all members in arrears since the year 2000 will be personally contacted as to retaining their active membership.
- 2) Retention - Frank White advised that 17 letters have been sent to members in arrears. Of three returns so far, one member had died, one prefers to remain inactive and one letter was returned, not able to be forwarded. In addition there were three inactive members without current addresses, the Rectory having no record of their parish membership. It is possible they were transients never registered in the parish.
- 3) Nominations - Ed Smith, Chairman reported the Committee's slate of Officers for the year 2008-09 as follows: President/Treasurer, John Thomas; 1st Vice President, Frank Alfieri; 2nd Vice President, Andrew Romano; Secretary, Frank White and Diocesan Delegate, Herman Fleischer. Ed asked for floor nominations but none were received and as per the Constitution, he will present the slate at next month's meeting prior to the elections to be held.
- 4) Society's web site - Herb Werner, Webmaster: Herb reported the web site has been up dated with our current activities. The minutes of the March meeting are posted and news of Society meetings, the parish pantry and the forthcoming Cake Sale are shown on the events page. He reminded members in viewing the web site to click on all pages and events for detailed information.

- 5) Liturgical: attendance at yesterday's monthly Corporate Mass was 15. John Thomas, in speaking of the recitation of the Holy Name Pledge, was pleased that the entire body of men present for the Mass stands but noted that it would be more telling had they previously joined us in the pews. We will keep trying.
- 6) Pro Life - John Thomas asked John King to up date us on the urgent request of Mrs. Mary Murray, Parish Pro Life Committee. Mrs. Murray had informed John King that the NYS Catholic Conference had asked that Gov. David Patterson and our Senatorial representatives in Albany be contacted concerning the Pro Life opposition to the RAPP bill, now pending Senate approval. She requested Society members to download the necessary wording from their website and then E mail these legislators. John King further suggested for future needs that our members be regular recipients of the Catholic Conference newsletters, a letter sent thru the Internet.
Bob Kentner quoting from "Life News" the monthly newsletter of Long Island Pro Life elaborated on the effects that the RAPP bill would have on Catholic hospitals, should it be passed into law. He also suggested our members could subscribe to this newsletter by contacting the Long Island Pro Life Coalition. On another matter Bob mentioned that the Vatican has condemned the decision made in the Teri Schivaro case as "arbitrarily hastened" and called the removal of her feeding tubes a violation of the principles of Christianity and civilization.
- 7) Catholic Action: John King brought to our attention that the N Y State budget recently passed has increased funding for public schools while reducing the expenditure for Catholic Schools another form of injustice to our schools. At present a list of his contacts receive this information but he would like to add brother Holy Name men to this listing.
Tom McKenna wished to congratulate the Hicksville Library for their display in the lobby showcase during March on St. Ignatius School.
- 8) Homebound and Ill: One Our Father and a Hail Mary were said for Joseph Tatto, Jerry Peace, Bill Snyder, Andrew Betz, Peter Volpe, John Loughlin and Tom Cornish –home bound and John Agnoli, Mickey Walsh, Dave Livingston, Leo Zyszkowski and all other ill brothers of the Society kept in our prayers.
- 9) Deceased: Paul Utz, a long time regular member of the Society, not active in past years, passed away March 13th. The brothers on the Prefect List held the Holy Name wake March 14 in Wagner's Plainview Funeral Home and the Honor Guard served at his Mass the following morning, which was said by Msgr. Boesel.

Parish Pantry John Thomas asked that any member who this evening had forgotten a donation for our monthly charity to please leave a gift in the Annex. Last month Mary Ann Scott valued gifts received at the meeting at \$40.

Diocesan Union: Herm Fleischer, Our Lady of Mercy Delegate, spoke on the DU's recent report on the status of their organization. There are presently 18 active Diocesan Holy Name Societies who paid Year 2008 dues amounting to \$557., money that is tabled for the year's operations. This status was compared with Year 2007, 18 Societies and dues of \$533. Indicating possible increases in membership. He also mentioned a disturbing figure, that in the past few years six Societies are no longer active or are failing to stay in contact with the Diocesan Union.

Frank White, Diocesan Union's Secretary, said that the organization is preparing to update their Society survey, a survey periodically conducted to keep them informed of all Holy Name activities in the Diocese. Hopefully there will be a report next month.

Unfinished Business:

Cake Sale: John Thomas has cleared with the Rectory the weekend of May 17-18 for our annual fundraiser. A letter will be going out to the members asking for their support and contribution. For the raffle Maurice Fasano said he will donate an Italian Basket and Dave Livingston will contribute a Garden Basket. A flyer to inform the parishioners of this event will be inserted in the bulletin.

Altar Servers Breakfast April 6: The breakfast is presently co-sponsored with Our Lady of Mercy Council. John Lombardi reported there were about 100 Altar Servers and their parents at the breakfast. John Thomas said the following Holy Name men assisted him and John Lombardi that morning: Ron Tralle, Maurice Fasano, Steve Erickson, Mike Romenick, Peter Cherry, Dr. Vincent Genna and others. At the Mass preceding the breakfast, Father Blyman and Father Rich held a ceremony for the new and older Altar Servers.

Golf Outing: There was no report by the Unofficial Committee looking into a possible Holy Name golf outing. John Thomas advised that the Parish Golf Tournament is to be held in October at the Cold Spring Harbor Golf Club.

Summer Fair: Bob Farrell advised there will be a Parish Meeting this Wednesday. Our Society and all parish organizations will be asked to sponsor a booth. John Thomas said all volunteers at the Fair and other activities will have had to take the Diocesan Virtus Protection Training Program. The Rectory has asked for a list of the active members of the Society. Information on the sessions is in the bulletin.

New Business:

Holy Name Sunday: Next month due Mothers Day, the second Sunday, our monthly Corporate Mass will be the third Sunday, May 18th. The day will tie in with our Cake Sale weekend. The monthly meeting will still be held the second Monday.

June Social: Maurice Fasano has suggested and offered thru his contacts with St. Dominic's in Oyster Bay that this year's social be held at the St. Dominic's Field House on Northern Boulevard. The Society could either have the affair catered or could bring their own food and drinks. The cost for our members would be kept to about \$35. There would be no expense for the Field House. The date will be Monday, June 9th and Maurice will confirm the day with St. Dominic's.

Other: Ed Smith had an E mail from Frank Alfieri and Chris Flatz concerning a day of reflection being held Saturday, May 24th at Old St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City with Father Richard McAlear (OMI) on the healing love of Jesus Christ. Chris said the men of our Society who may wish to participate in this day are most welcome to attend. For further information call Chris (364-4942).

John Thomas was informed by Father Blyman that Sunday, June 15th there would be a parish reception for Father John who will be leaving. Our Society along with the Rosary Altar Society and Our Lady of Mercy Council, K of C have been asked to sponsor this reception. John asked for a motion to make a monetary gift for Father John, which when made by the members was approved for \$100.

Offertory:

One Our Father and a Hail Mary was said for all ill family members and friends of the Society: Frank Grasso, Sr., Phyllis Hart, Lauren Gordon, Lucille DiMeo, Lorenzo Castenano (deceased), Hope Dabec, Jane Geraghty and Father Basil Colasito, who is recuperating from a quadruple by pass.

Frank White mentioned that on behalf of the Society he wrote Father Colasito thanking him for his blessing he gave to our Society that was included in his bulletin prayer of March 26th. Father Tom has visited Father Colasito, when he was in the hospital and since then.

In introducing Father Tom for his closing instruction, John Thomas thanked him for saying the Mass for the Society on Sunday. Additionally, Victor Caferra thanked Father for his homily Easter Sunday concerning the Apostle Thomas and we the doubting Thomases.

Father then spoke with us on the coming visit of Pope Benedict, that besides praying for the success of his visit and for a safe trip it was important that more people receive his message of being faithful to our faith.

Father in replying to questions about who were to attend the Mass, etc., priests and laity, mentioned that the priests of the Diocese were entered in a special lottery to select the number that could attend at Yankee Stadium. Also, each of the parishes received three tickets for their parishioners.

Before closing the meeting the members recited in unison the prayer for vocations and sang the Holy Name hymn, "Holy God We Praise Thy Name".

Motion to close was made by Ed Smith, second by Warren Scaglione.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Secretary

Meeting Social -attendance drawing \$10. #5 Warren Scaglione