

**OUR LADY OF MERCY HOLY NAME SOCIETY  
HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK**



**Blessed John of Vercelli, pray for us**

**Minutes Monthly Business Meeting  
Monday, April 13, 2009**

President John Thomas called the Business Meeting to order at 7:30 pm sharp, asking those present to stand for first the "Holy Name Pledge" and then the "Pledge of Allegiance" to our Country.

The agenda for the meeting had been distributed to the members on signing in. There were 15 Officers and brothers of the Society in attendance.

A Roll Call of the Officers was made and all present except Vice Presidents, Frank Alfieri and Andrew Romano, both excused.

President Thomas announced that for this evening's program the Society has a guest speaker, Sister Loyola, a member of the Congregation of the Infant Jesus, and he asked for a motion to suspend the Business Meeting for Sister's presentation.

The motion was made, seconded and approved after which John welcomed Sister Loyola asking Father Tom Tuite to introduce Sister to our Society members.

Sister Loyola selflessly said she was so pleased to be invited and looked forward to addressing us on a subject that she was most enthusiastic about, St. Paul and his Christianization journeys among the gentiles.

Sister first distributed two handouts, a map outlining Asia Minor and the land that St. Paul visited just a few years after the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Our Lord and a paper giving a brief description of Paul's early life and an explanation of the well known letters attributed his name.

Sister emphasized the difficulties in traveling at that time, for everyone walked; their animals carried the burdens and if travel was in caravans that was even slower due the need to feed and rest the camels. etc.

Saul (Paul) was born in Tarsus (modern day Syria) and about ten years younger than Jesus. He was of the tribe of Benjamin and his given Jewish name was Saul. Paul as his name is now known was his the Greek name. His parents were well educated in Jewish traditions and he besides his family background received a Greek education.

Saul was in Jerusalem at the time of the stoning of St. Stephen and during this period was when he began his persecution of the followers of Christ.

Saul while on the road to Damascus was struck by the voice of God speaking to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me". From that moment his conversion took place and on returning to Jerusalem he met with Peter and the Apostles in preparation for his labors among the gentiles.

However, Sister Loyola explained, his and the Apostles teachings were in those days limited to word or mouth for very few could either read or write. His numerous letters, letters that we are familiar with were written by his traveling companions, Barnabas and Timothy to name two, to be relayed or repeated to the people, Jews and gentiles who they had been spending time with.

Timothy, one of these companions was a former slave. He was able to read and write for slaves were the property of the well educated and of course thru that class of bondage obtained a learning experience.

Saul now Paul in his travels to the cities of Asia Minor, related in the "Acts of the Apostles", the fifth book of the New Testament, met not only with the non-Christian people, who were then known by the Jewish people as gentiles, but also met with the Jews of these communities,. Jews whom he had to be convince that Christ had come to save all people.

Paul stayed in a city just long enough to establish a Christian community before again moving on, many times by a sea voyage such as to Phillipi in Macedonia and Thessalonica in Greece.

Accompanying Paul on his first voyage to Rome was Luke, the author of one of the Gospels. During this voyage they were shipwrecked, but all being saved was believed to have been a miracle.

From Rome he reportedly sailed for Spain, but little is known of this journey.

Although Sister did not speak in length on Paul final visit to Rome and his execution at an age of about 63, her thoughts on this unusual Saint certainly whetted our desire to learn more of the revelations that were unveiled through his journeys.

On concluding her lecture Sister congenially engaged with us about her enthusiasm for Saint Paul, replying to our interests in his life. But Father Tom, thinking of Sister's age (101 in July) and the length of her talk and knowing the many questions expected thought it best to hold everything for another visit.

John Thomas, on behalf of the Society, thanked Sister Loyola for coming, invited her back anytime and wished her a most happy birthday.

Sister Loyola and her companion, Ms. Eileen McMahon, a teacher at St. Mary's in Manhasset left with our thanks and best wishes for a safe trip home.

John Thomas reopened the Society's April Business Meeting, advising that due the lateness of the evening discussion will be limited to matters at hand. All were in agreement with his decision.

First order of business was his Treasurer's Report: The Society's balance as of 3/1/09 was \$3,441.86; receipts during the month \$565.13 - \$325 from 13 Society members attending the retreat, \$240 year 2009 dues and .13 cents interest; disbursements \$975. - \$50 Diocesan Union dues, \$15 Mass card for John Kaminski and \$910 for the retreat at Our Lady of Grace and the gratuity to our retreat leader, Father Roderick Ermatinger. The Treasury balance as of March 31 is \$3,031.99.

Correspondence included a letter from Father Benet, dated November 22, who is now an Associate Pastor at Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport. Father recently visited his homeland, Nigeria and the Holy Family orphanage, an institution in need of financial assistance. John asked for a motion that the Society make a donation; the members agreed that \$100. was appropriate and approval was given.

John also received from the Diocesan Union, a letter thanking our Society for renewing our yearly membership in their organization. Included with the letter was their official document verifying that Our Lady of Mercy Holy Name Society is an associate member of The Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies for the Year 2009.

John next reviewed the monthly listing of our Ill and Homebound members, Bill Snyder, Jerry Peace, Peter Volpe, John Loughlin, Joseph Tatto, Andrew Betz, John Dolan, James Steinhauser, Charles Masterton, Steve Tippa, Msgr James Boesel, Deacon Anthony D'Auria, Vincent Genna and John Allasio (moved, now out of State). Additionally, Father Tom advised that Mickey Walsh is in rehab and should be included in our prayers.

John was advised by the Sick and Vigil Committee of our ill members health, each having been visited during the Easter Season and given or left the Society Easter cards, signed by the members at our March 7th Retreat.

Father Tom said James Steinhauser, a seriously ill brother, was home from the hospital last week and on his visit again anointed him. Note: James passed away a day later.

The non-members ill on our Offertory List included Julia King (deceased), Lauren Gordon, Anthony Previte, Carol Viscardi, Geraldine Pawlowski, Anita Alvano and the members of our armed forces.

John asked that we remember all our members ill and homebound and the non-members in our prayers and that an Our Father and Hail Mary now be said in unison for their well-being.

John did not have a membership report as such; he is still receiving Year 2009 renewal dues from our members..

The Nomination Committee, Frank White and Ed Smith, have as yet not completed a slate of Officers for the Holy Name Year 2009-10. Frank is hopeful that next month they will have a slate and can hold our called-for Constitutional election.

Herman Fleischer, Diocesan Union Delegate, distributed copies of the Diocesan Union's April report, a monthly report made to their member Societies. The April report was their Fiscal Report for the past year, April 2008-March 2009. Also, the report included their budget for the coming year. There wasn't any discussion on the report but Frank White, who signed the report, said he would reply to any questions our members had.

New Business – The annual Society Cake Sale will be the weekend of May 16-17. A letter will be sent to the membership requesting their support; a flyer will be inserted in the bulletin asking for our parishioners support.

Next on the agenda was the May Communion Breakfast and the proposal that it be the conventional Holy Name breakfast. A lively discussion followed as to the date, a caterer, an outside venue, etc. all resulting in a Sunday, May 31 agreement which John Thomas said he will check as to the availability of the cafeteria.

A suggestion by Joe Allison that we obtain the same caterer as Joseph Lamb Columbiettes have used was well received, which John Thomas said that he will follow-up on.

John mentioned that he had received an E-mail concerning the Parish golf outing, now called the "Pastor's Golf Challenge", which he has forwarded to our members via the Yahoo Group. A number of members who have seen John's E-mail, were surprised that any sponsors of the tournament are to make checks payable to the Holy Name Society and mailed to Carmine Serravalli at the Rectory.

Another lively discussion followed as to the event and our responsibility for the Tournament but since it is a Parish Committee's tournament, the Holy Name Society will be supportive. John suggested that we sponsor a Tournament Hole - \$250.; a motion was made, it was seconded and approved.

As no one had any further business to discuss, John asked Father Tom if he would give us his counsel and guidance.

Father thanked us for the kind reception we gave Sister Loyola on her lecture that evening and knowing Sister very well, he said she was most happy to be able to speak with us. Also, he thanked us for the offering that was given to Sister.

Father also mentioned and asked if we had seen the article and pictures on the new Priest's Residence, pictures with Father Gartner included, that were printed in the last week's issue of the Long Island Catholic. Father Tom said he sees Father Gartner quite often, Father is well but please keep him in your prayers.

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".

The meeting adjourned and a motion to close was made by Herb Werner, second by Bill Himmel and approved by the members.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank  
Frank White, Secretary

