

OUR LADY OF MERCY HOLY NAME SOCIETY
Minutes Membership Business Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2008

President John Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm., The Holy Name Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. In attendance were 23 Officers and members; excused was Vice President Frank Alfieri.

Minutes of the last meeting, January 14th, as recorded in the Society's Web site were accepted.

Correspondence received: a letter from the Diocesan Union's President, John Nagy thanking the Society's members for their most generous donation in support of their Christmas poster contest and for their Society's participation in the contest. Enclosed was a picture of the finalists in the Diocesan award program, six of whom were from our Society. Note: Our Lady of Mercy contributed \$100. in support of the year 2007 program.

Also, the Diocesan Union was grateful for our Society's renewal of membership in their organization.

Treasurer Report: John Thomas reported our Society bank balance as of 12/31 as \$4,560.18.; there were no disbursements during January; deposits were \$185.00 bringing our bank balance as of January 31st to \$4,745.18.

Committee Reports:

1) Membership -John Thomas, Chairman: John advised that membership as of the end of January was 293. with renewals so far 93 including replies from our honorary members. Total dues and contributions so far are \$1,455.00. John will work with Frank White in contacting our members who have not responded to our renewal correspondence. The Society had one new member last month, Bob Farrell who is attending another meeting tonight and asked to be excused from our meeting. John in welcoming another new member in attendance, Ray Badra, asked him to introduce himself. All present gave Ray a warm welcome.

2) Society Web Site –Herb Werner our Webmaster has added the prefect list exclusive of phone numbers for reasons of privacy. Frank White will contact Group Captains as to including their phone numbers.

3) Liturgical –John Thomas advised that 20 members attended Sunday's Corporate Mass.

4) Pro Life – John King attended the annual rally in Washington with ten others from the parish. In his report John mentioned the large crowd, the speeches and the march to the Supreme Court Building, a great day for all present. On their bus was a large group from St. Ignatius Parish. John read excerpts from the report of the rally that was published in the Long Island Catholic, including the message of support from President Bush's, a report much more detailed than what the media made mention.

John also advised he will attend in Albany the March 5th rally by the NY State Catholic Conference. He read excerpts from the Catholic Conference Committee policy re life issues

Bob Kentner read excerpts from Long Island Life News about Gov. Spitzer's proposed abortion bill. Known as RHAPP. L I Coalition for Life had forwarded Bob a petition asking our Society to sign opposing this legislation, which Bob with John Thomas approval passed around for signatures. Bob will return the signed petition to L I Life.

5) Catholic Action – Frank White, in a follow up to last month's discussion on OLM's Pro Life Committee non action regarding Gov. Spitzer's proposed legislation, found out that the OLM Committee had disbanded due the Chairlady, Joanne DeMarro, has moved from the parish.

However, she still felt it necessary, thru a memo to all OLM organizations including the Holy Name Society, that they should get involved regarding a Diocesan article concerning this legislation, an article to be published in our parish bulletin and a CD to be shown to all parish organizations. I contacted Father Blyman by memo in this matter but since the article was never published and nothing being done in the parish, I felt I should drop the matter. I now think the petition brought to the Society by Bob Kentner will suffice.

Incidentally, Joanne's weekly bulletin article, a reprint from other Pro Life publications, is sent to our parish as a service.

6) Homebound, Distressed and Ill – a listing of our known six homebound members, our five known ill members was passed around; there were no additions but a report on Jerry Peace, now a resident of Somerset Gardens Senior Living and the current status of those ill was given. Frank White, Committee Rep reminded the members that visits to those homebound are always welcomed and phone calls to the ill show our concern. One Our Father and one Hail Mary was said for these members.

7) Loving Memory –The Society's November 2007 Memorial Listing (1953-57) has 255 known members to have died; four members have since passed away, Joseph Ehlert, Steven Nazzaren o, Robert Lemenze and Jack Denker.

8) Parish Services – the "Parish Charity" of the Society. The value of donated paper products from the January meeting was estimated at \$40. Mary Ann Scott, Parish Coordinator, for this charitable service has asked that paper donations be continued for they are a necessity to those families assisted by the parish.

Diocesan Union –Herman Fleischer, Society Delegate to the Union, advised that the January awards program was the last meeting of the Diocesan organization. He passed on to Frank White the two checks, for the poster contest donation and the membership renewal, to be given to their Treasurer, Ken Shelby.

Unfinished Business:

Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, February 17- John Thomas, Chairman, Ron Tralle and John Lombardi, Co-Chairmen –John said breakfast will be served after all the Masses and once again all families are invited their only expense a gift for the parish pantry, paper goods or a monetary donation. He passed around a sign-up sheet for those members able to assist his Committee that morning. The morning is to be split into 3 sessions, which will facilitate the time each volunteer is asked to give so as not to be too much a burden for anyone.

Ron Tralle suggested that Mary Ann Scott, Parish Services, be invited to attend, a tangible representative showing their appreciation for the parishioner's donation. Frank White will call her, inviting her and maybe she will say a few words on this occasion.

Holy Name Retreat, Saturday, February 23, Our Lady of Grace Center, Manhasset - Chris Flatz, Chairman, was unable to attend the meeting but advised John Thomas that Father Maurice, a New York Archdiocesan priest is to be our Retreat Master. Chris promises a most rewarding experience for those who attend and is looking forward to a large number attending. The Retreat will close with Mass at about 4:30 pm.

John passed around a list for those planning on attending to sign. A donation of \$25 covers our continental breakfast, our lunch and a donation to the Center. The Society will take care of a monetary gift for Father Maurice. Anyone needing a car ride meet in the Church parking lot at 8:30 am.

New Business:

The Society's Constitution – Frank White said he has spoken with John Thomas about Our Lady of Mercy's Holy Name Society's Constitution, the official document that governs the business and activities of our Society. According to Society records it was last updated and approved in April 1982. Frank said it would be appropriate to post the Constitution on our Web Site after the membership reviews and makes any necessary changes.

He then recommended three Constitution changes: a) that the Constitution state it is a male organization because it operates more smoothly in that manner and b) membership dues be payable basis a calendar year rather than a fiscal year as is the present custom and c) that the December and June meetings be specified as social meetings but at the discretion of the President.

Also, he recommended that the Society's calendar and Web Site include Diocesan Union activities, an inclusion that would strengthen the entire Holy Name organization.

Frank did not have copies of the Constitution available for the members, necessary for their perusal, but following discussion the feelings were that these were not significant changes. John Thomas therefore tabled any decision on revisions until the next meeting when he will have copies of the April 1982 Our Lady of Mercy Holy Name Society Constitution for the membership.

Golf Outing

The annual Msgr. James E. Boesel Golf Tournament, a Holy Name activity, will now be a parish fund-raiser and will be held Monday, October 6 at the Cold Spring Harbor Country Club. There will be a Parish Committee meeting Tuesday, February 19 and anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Mike Romenick advised he has been talking with Frank Alfieri about a Society golf outing and has approach the people at Eisenhower Park concerning dates, times, prices, etc. Basis the lunch, snacks, open bar the cost would be about \$175 per golfer with tee off starting at the first hole and not a shotgun start, which Eisenhower requires 100 golfers. He and Frank will develop more definitive plans for our next meeting, as well as seeing how much interest there is before setting a date.

Offertory

One Our Father and a Hail Mary was said for all ill family members and friends of the Society: Margaret O'Dell, Karen Caporale, Marge Barton, Lisa Thornton, Margaret Fitzsimmons, Father James McLaughlin, Kiley McDonald, Maureen Geier, Lydia Degman, Carol Viscardi, Dawn Connors, Mary Lou Haggerty, Pat Peace, Frank Garosso, Sr., Karen Benuntone and our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Father Tom prior his closing instructions asked if we had heard the one about the western union, the marriage of a cowboy and a cowgirl.

Then Father in speaking of our Lenten journey and the usual things we do each year mentioned the daily reflections in last week's bulletin insert that hopefully we are reading and noticing where the text is taken, open that scripture for further reading. Also, as a reminder there is a prayer service on Wednesday and Stations of the Cross on Fridays.

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

Motion to close was made by Ed Smith, second by Joe Allison.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Secretary

Meeting Social -attendance drawing \$10. #11 Victor DeSalvo