

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

President John Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm; opening with the members recitation in unison of the Holy Name Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were 18 Officers and members. Society Vice President Frank Alfieri and Diocesan Delegate Herman Fleischer were excused. also 18 members for a total of 22.

Minutes of the last meeting, November 12th as recorded in the Society's Web site were accepted.

Correspondence received: a) note from Sister Eileen Lawlor thanking the Society for remembering her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a religious nun in her Order, the Sisters of Mercy and for our Christmas gift; b) a thank you letter from Father John for our Christmas gift; c) a note from the Buarotti family, in appreciation for the Society members who attended the Mass and wake of their late Father, long time Usher at our 9am Corporate Mass; 4) a letter from Father Blyman thanking the members of the parish organizations who assisted at the 5PM Christmas Mass. Father Blyman also sent a letter concerning this Tuesday's "Parish Fair Committee" meeting asking the parish organizations to have three representatives present for the occasion. John Thomas, Frank Alfieri and John King will represent our Society at the meeting.

Treasurer Report: John Thomas reported our Society bank balance as of 11/30 as \$5,335.45; disbursements during November and December were \$3,270.48 primarily the overall expense of the Christmas social, the Christmas and Msgr. Boesel's anniversary gift; deposits were \$2,495.21; the bank balance as of December 31 is \$4,560.18.

Committee Reports:

1) Liturgical –attendance at January's monthly Mass this past Sunday was 18. Imagine, if those attending would call just one other member, a member they know who is not present, Father Tuite would believe his regular message to join the Society has borne fruit.

2) Pro-life –Bob Kentner, Chairman: Bob spoke of the passing November 29<sup>th</sup> of Congressman Henry Hyde, Rep. Ill., the author of the Hyde Amendment which prohibited federal funding of abortion. His support of the Pro-life agenda will be missed.

Bob also informed us (L. I. Coalition for Life) of Governor Spitzer's proposed "Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act" S.5829, which would ensure that abortions are legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy, would allow abortions to be performed as out patients in clinics and eliminate conscience protection of religious hospitals which refuse to perform abortions. As Pro-life advocates, we were asked to make our protests heard in Albany.

3) Catholic Action - Frank Alfieri, Chairman: In the absence of Frank, Frank White asked Bob if our parish Pro-life people have initiated any protests re this measure. In discussion re the issue members stated that they have read about this controversial legislation in the L.I. Catholic but nothing about mobilizing parish protests that have been requested. John Thomas, Tom McKenna and others stated that our parish weekly bulletin has no info concerning Gov. Spitzer's measure, only an article on pro-life copied from a magazine. Note: Frank White will send Bob's article to the OLM pro-life people mentioning the Holy Name Society's interest in the matter, asking them to bring us up to date on their concerns and actions.

4) Christmas Poster Program –Ron Tralle, Chairman: Ron in thanking the members who helped make this year's program a success, a success with many more students participating (over 120 posters submitted) than in past year's, partially a result of teachers in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades giving extra credit for student participation. Ron said he would like in the future to start the program earlier and seek the cooperation of the art teacher and the religious ed leaders in the contest. The judging of posters was held December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ron was pleased by the attendance for the poster awards program, held Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. All the posters were on exhibition on the cafeteria walls and awards were presented to our winners. A continental breakfast was served to students and parishioners and he was pleased he thought by the crowd a most enjoyable social morning.

In the future some thought will be given to a community exhibition, an exhibition that had been held in local banks in the past. Tom McKenna mentioned the Christmas nativity display in the Hicksville Library, but most likely not suitable for our posters. Warren Scaglione suggested looking into the Plainview Library as a site for a display.

5) Membership –John Thomas, Chairman: John advised that the 2008 membership renewal campaign is underway with results encouraging but figures not available yet. Actual Society membership now total 292, active 211, including 102 honorary status members, men 65 and older. There are 81 inactive members, members who have not replied to our correspondence.

The members welcomed Bob Farrell, the Grand Knight of Joseph Lamb, who joined the Society this evening,

A letter was received from the daughter of Jonathan (Jack) Denker advising he had passed away in June. Jack was not active and therefore not known to the present members. His name will be added to our Memorial list.

6) Ill and Homebound –One Our Father and one Hail Mary was said for our members known to be homebound: Joseph Tatto, Jerry Peace, Bill Snyder, Andrew Betts; ill and recuperating: Peter Volpe, Michael Walsh, John Lombardi, John Agnoli, Tom Dunleavy, John Loughlin and Victor Caferra.

An update on each of these ill members was given at the meeting. It was recommended that those of us who are their close friends keep in touch by phone. A visit by us to our homebound members is also recommended.

7) Vigil—(Eternal Rest ejaculation) since our November meeting the Society members attended the wake and funeral Mass for Joseph Ehlert and Stephen Nazzareno. Also, we learned Robert Lemenze, who had moved from the parish, had passed away and now have added Jack Denker to our Memorial list.

8) Parish Services -John Thomas advised that Mary Anne Scott, in thanking us for our monthly contributions of paper product, said paper products are always needed. Our estimate of the \$50 value of our donation is approximately correct but it is the thought that counts, she said. Note: Our members who are unable to attend the meetings will be asked to make their donation at the parish bins on “Holy Name Sunday”.

Diocesan Union –in the absence of Herman Fleischer, who was ill and was unable to attend the Diocesan Christmas Awards Program at SS Cyril & Methodius Parish, Deer Park, his report was given by John Thomas and Frank White. John was present for the program along with all the Diocesan Societies presidents, honored guest on this occasion and John and the other presidents on being introduced were asked to say a few words to those present, the students and their families.

Our Lady of Mercy had four Diocesan 1<sup>st</sup> place winners and two 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in the Diocesan contest each present to receive their trophy from the Diocesan officers.

John Thomas read the letter from the Diocesan Union, sent to all the Societies asking for renewal of Diocesan membership and a donation to the Diocesan Union to cover expenses of their poster program. Ron Tralle asked Frank White how many Societies there were to which Frank advised 18 parish Societies and three Service Societies, the Nassau and Suffolk Police Societies and the North Shore Firemen.

Diocesan membership renewal, which is \$50., was approved by a voice vote.

As to an Our Lady of Mercy Christmas poster contribution to the Diocesan Union, Frank asked for our member’s thoughts on the amount they felt that should be given. In answering inquires asked about last year’s donation, he advised it was \$100., an amount that John Thomas thought that could be contributed -\$100 was approved by a voice vote.

### Old Business

- a) Herb Werner was unable to attend the meeting but advised he will continue to update the Society's Web Site. He would like the members to download the site's info. Frank White advised he has researching historical info for the site, which he will pass on to Herb.
- b) Poster Contest Awards Breakfast was covered in Ron Tralle's report.

### New Business

c) March for Life Rally –Rich Zavada, Parish Coordinator could not attend our meeting but he sent word that the bus to the rally will leave the OLM parking lot at 5:30 am Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The cost will be \$20. per person. John King said he will be going and hoped that this Sunday's publicity might attract more parishioners. Discussion then centered on the reason so few from the parish attend, the long-winded speeches, the march for those elderly but it was not a good idea for the OLM school students unless their parents attend.

d) Pancake Breakfast - John Thomas informed us that our annual family pancake breakfast is planned for Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> in the school cafeteria. As is our custom it will be open to all the parishioners after all the Masses. However, admission will be a donation of paper goods or sundry supplies for the Parish Food Pantry.

e) Society Retreat – Chris Flatz, Chairman: John Thomas in Chris's absence informed us that Chris has arranged for our seventh annual retreat, is to be held at Our Lady of Grace Center, Manhasset, Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be the usual \$25 donation covering breakfast, lunch and our donation to the Center; reservations are necessary, call John Thomas. Also, the retreat is open to any man in the parish or a friend as well.

f) Cake Sale – This annual fund-raiser will be held; the date is not firmed pending other parish programs. John King suggested as a possibility, since the parish has taken over the Golf Tournament, that a smaller less expensive golf outing be held as a Society fund-raiser but obtaining golf facilities is a problem.

g) Communion Breakfast –the parish calendar has the second Sunday in April as a Holy Name Society Communion Breakfast. Note: a Holy Name Communion Breakfast with a guest speaker has always been a Society fixture. Member suggestions will be welcomed in this matter and it can be included for discussion at next month's meeting.

Discussion then centered on possible Society activities, a family bowling tournament, a chess challenge, a car wash, parish dances but to be a monetary success a sponsor is necessary. Maurice Fasano suggested that an operating budget is necessary before planning activities and donations to see how much funds are necessary. Discussion will continue at the next meeting in February, Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Offertory

One Our Father and a Hail Mary was said for all ill family members and friends of the Society: Phyllis Hart, Marge McKenna, John & Eileen McCaffery, Vincent Romano, Madeline C., Rosalie, Tom Holt, Julia King, Karen Caporale, Mary Lou Haggerty, Betty Asofsky, Richard Elliot, Sister Reparatrice, Deacon John McGowan and all cancer sufferers and our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Father Tom commented in his closing remarks on Diocesan vocations, that January is vocation month and our Seminary after the June ordination of six priests for the Brooklyn and Rockville Centre Diocese the last for many years to come. He thanked us for closing our meetings with the vocation prayer.

Also, as to an inquiry about the Latin Mass, he expects that the priests first will have to take refresher courses. For now all seminarians must be fluent in Spanish.

The meeting concluded 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