

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



Blessed John of Vercelli, pray for us

**Minutes Monthly Business Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009**

President John Thomas, due to illness, was unable to attend the March Business Meeting and Vice Presidents, Frank Alfieri and Andrew Romano were excused. In their place Secretary, Frank White, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Our Holy Name Pledge was recited in unison and the Society members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of Officers: The Society's Diocesan Delegate, Herman Fleischer, was present.

Agenda –agenda for the meeting was distributed to the members on signing in. There were 14 Officers and brothers of the Society in attendance.

Minute's –Minutes of the February 9th Regular Monthly Meeting as recorded in the Society's web site) were accepted. Copies were not available for members not linked to the Internet but Frank White advised that copies would be sent on request.

Correspondence –received in February: a thank you card from the family of Tom Cornish thanking the men of the Society for their presence at his wake and Mass; an E-mail reply from the National Association in answer to our request to link the Society's with their web-site. National's is in the process of redesigning their web-site and Our Lady of Mercy's Society will be added when they are on-line; Note: National website is: www.holynamesociety.info; also received was a promotional advertisement from Plaza Theatrical Productions in Oceanside seeking our interest in their theatre programs. The Society members as a body showed no interest but some members took a copy of their flyer.

Treasurer Report - John Thomas, Treasurer, had forwarded his February report and it was included in the Agenda. The bank balance as of January 31, 2009 -\$2,691.75; Disbursements- February "none"; Deposits -\$750. dues; Interest on the account 17 cents; giving us a bank balance as of February 28, 2009 -\$3,441.86.

Committee Reports –

1) Membership- welcomed was Joseph DeVito a potential new member of the Society. An application will be forwarded from John Thomas, Membership Chairman. Membership as of 3/1/09 is 241; active -189 incl. 92 honorary members; non-active - 52.

2) Liturgical –Corporate Mass Sunday, March 8 -attendance 17;
John King inquired if any further info was available concerning the Ministries Appeal's tape shown at Mass on March 1st, a tape program which dissatisfied most members and thought to be a distraction from the Mass; Rich Pawlowski said he understood other parishes did not show the tape. No new information was forthcoming.

The members who attended the annual Retreat Saturday, March 7th concurred that it was spiritual rewarding. Father Roderick Ermatinger, our retreat leader discourse was on "Mercy and Holiness" most fitting not only for the season of Lent but topical in today's circumstances; unfortunately attendance should have been greater. Frank White will recap the day and prepare a paper for discussion at a forthcoming meeting.

Frank also called our attention to the Parish Lenten Services on Wednesday. Father Blyman will be the Presenter this Wednesday.

3) Sick and Vigil –Monthly report listed four homebound: Bill Snyder, Jerry Peace, Peter Volpe, John Loughlin and six homebound ill members: Joseph Tatto, Andrew Betz, John Dolan, James Steinhauser, Charles Masterson, Stephen Tipa and Vincent Genna; and six ill members: Msgr. Boesel, open heart surgery, Deacon Anthony, heart condition, Bob Kentner, eye surgery, John Allasio a former member, open heart surgery, John Agnoli and Vincent Genna both ill. John Thomas was added to the listing. Rich Pawlowski said he spoke at the Lenten Service with Deacon Jack now recovered from illness. Deacon Jack told him that Deacon Anthony is seriously ill. This year's deceased member listing: four inactive members, Bob Spinella, George Lewis, Louis Stenglein and John Kaminski.
One hour Father and one Hail Mary was said for those ill and for all deceased members'.

Frank White mentioned the Society Easter cards were signed at the Retreat and as is the custom Committee members will bring them when visiting our ill and homebound brothers.

4) Pro Life – in the absence of Bob Kentner there was no report.

5) Catholic Action -John King reported on the injustice that the Markey bill now being debated in Albany would cause. The bill would suspend the Statue of Limitations on sexual abuse cases bur with the exception of the Public schools and other public institutions. An alternative bill the Lopez bill would provide equal justice for all and not discriminate against Catholic schools and institutions.

John, actively involved on the intolerance of Albany and Washington legislatures, presided over the member's discussion of the bigotry now in the forefront.

Committee Reports –cont.

6) Diocesan Union – Herman Fleischer not having received the Diocesan Final Christmas Program report, Frank White, Secretary, Diocesan Union gave a brief synopsis of the information it contained. Financially the program was solvent; operational expenses plus the award prizes totaled \$715 offset by \$775 in contributions from our associate Societies plus an additional \$260 gifts from friends of the Holy Name. Societies and schools participating were eleven (1 more than Year 2007); in grade level eligibility 69 posters were submitted. The Diocesan Union is confident that the program will continue.

Frank also spoke about his attendance at the North Shore Firemens Communion Mass and Breakfast in Manhasset, Sunday, March 7th; Mass was at St. Mary's and breakfast at their Valley Firehouse. A tremendous turnout of firemen, say 500 at least, from the North Shore Fire Departments. The men processed into Mass at St. Mary's, most inspiring. He will inquire as to why other Nassau Departments are without Holy Name Societies.

As to an inquiry of local Holy Name Societies by Richard Pawlowski, he was informed there are none and just 21 in total for the Diocese. Father Tom gave us some background on the Holy Name Societies in the Diocese and the effort his Father, a past Diocesan President, had put into in building the organization. Father Tom said that he recalls his Father, Tom Tuite, making many visits to the pastors of the churches in Suffolk County as to their parish Holy Name Society. On many occasions the pastors were sympathetic but left it up to the men in the parish as to forming a Society. Father Tom thinks the Holy Name will in time become strong. Richard Pawlowski inquired as to Bishop Murphy support of the Holy Name. Frank White said the Bishop has responded on occasions to Diocesan programs but has yet to schedule a special meeting with the Diocesan Union. St. Agnes Parish no longer has an active Society.

Old and New Business:

Annual Society Retreat –the retreat had been covered in the member's discussion on liturgical activities. However, Father Tom, who when a curate in St. Aidan's did become acquainted with the Legionaries of Christ, the Order that Father Roderick Ermatinger belongs to. Father spoke on the work that the Order undertakes. It was of interest to learn from Father that there Seminarians, who are called Brother's, are ordained in Rome by the Pope.

In April, Father Tom has arranged for Sister Loyola to be our guest speaker and Father said she is looking forward to speak with us.

Frank White advised that there would be elections for Officers of the Society in May. He will recommend to John that two or three of our past Presidents be asked to serve on the Nomination Committee.

Old and New Business (cont.):

In discussion on the Communion Breakfast, Father Tom thought it was a very good idea that it be held and held even if the turnout is small. The consensus of those present was to hold it in the school cafeteria.

On our personal assistance to Parish Services, Father recommended that we continue with bringing paper goods, always an ongoing need in the pantry.

Other than knowing that John Thomas has scheduled the Cake Sale for May 16-17, a Committee has not been organized.

Finally, John Thomas had received correspondence indicating one of the visiting priest's who formerly served in the parish has asked for a donation for his home parish. He will put that request on next month's agenda. Warren Scaglione inquired about a gift for Father Peter who is leaving in May. He was advised to ask that question at the April meeting.

Offertory for non members ill or deceased: George Laimpertes (dec.), Kevin Heenan, Anita Zeller, Georgette Coffey, Karen Caporale, Lauren Gordon, Geraldine Pawlowski, Phyllis Hart, Billy Christiansen, Carol Viscardi, Lucille DeMeo and the members of our armed forces.

One Our Father and One Hail Mary were said for the recovery and the health of our ill non-members and for the repose of the souls of the man who died.

Moderator's Spiritual Guidance- Father Tom said he was pleased to see that a Communion Breakfast was planned. He recommended that it be a family affair.

In answer to an inquiry about the Sunday 10:30 Mass receptions, Father told us that it is a parish goal to bring together by grade the school and religious ed children with their families as a group not only at Mass but at a following social. He knows that the Holy Name Society and the two K of C Councils are only organizations put in a position to support this parish endeavor and knows that it is an imposition to frequently call on these same groups for assistance. There was some unhappiness about the situation.

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 Rich Pawlowski, second by Warren Scaglione.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank
Frank White, Secretary