

**OUR LADY OF MERCY HOLY NAME SOCIETY**  
**Minutes Membership Business Meeting**  
**Monday, November 12, 2007**

President John Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm; opening with the recitation in unison of the Holy Name Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance; all Society officers were present, also 18 members for a total attendance of 22.

Minutes of the last meeting, September 10<sup>th</sup> were recorded in the Society's Web site.

Correspondence received: a) note from Sister Joan Dowdy thanking the Society for remembering her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a religious nun in her Order, the Sisters of Mercy; b) note from the Scheme Family thanking the Society for remembering with a Mass their late husband and father and a Holy Name brother; c) letter from Father Blyman re this year's Christmas 5 pm Masses, the Masses that are the most crowded at Christmas and presumably attended by many who infrequently attend Mass. Father Blyman asked that our Society and the two Knights of Columbus Councils form a welcoming team of 20 or so men who would give all parishioners a warm welcome as they arrive for Mass. Also, this team will provide traffic control in the parking lot. Father Blyman's request was taking under advisement pending further input in this request.

Treasurer John Thomas reported our Society bank balance as of 10/31 as \$6,181.22 after October disbursements of \$244; the account was credited with 32 cents interest.

Committee Reports:

- 1) Liturgical –attendance at the November monthly Mass our annual Mass remembering our departed brothers was 16, not a very good showing especially considering the significance of this Mass.
- 2) Pro Life -Bob Kentner, Chairman: Bob read from a letter received from the New York Pro-Life organization concerning back-door efforts of the euthanasia crowd to legislate against medical support for our Senior citizens. Other measures under consideration are lobbying against taxpayer funding of medical costs, which would deny seniors including baby boomers the right for obtaining medical attention, both measure that relate with euthanasia.
- 3) Catholic Action -Frank Alfieri, Chairman: Frank was given Bob's report for further consideration as to our Society's response in the matter.
- 4) Christmas Poster Program – Ron Tralle, Chairman: Ron said the poster contest will be Monday December 3rd beginning at 7 pm and the follow-up exhibition and awards program Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> both in the school cafeteria. Ron has arranged for a flyer to be distributed in the school and in the Religious Ed classes and was published in Sunday's bulletin, a flyer which details the contest procedures, etc. He asked for an altar announcement this Sunday and the flyer to be re-published next Sunday.

Also, there will be a “continental breakfast” that Sunday following our 9am monthly Mass associated with the presentation of awards that is open to the entire parish. But for these two programs he will need many Society volunteers and asked that we all participate.

5) Membership –John Thomas, Chairman: John reported no change in membership; total is 287. The Year 2008 membership renewal letter is being prepared and will be mailed by next week. There are 72 inactive members who will be asked to renew.

6) Ill and Homebound –Frank White, Chairman: Frank reported seven members requiring our prayers, three of whom are pretty much homebound: Joseph Tatto, Bill Snyder and Joseph Ehler; also Jerry Peace, Robert Trenkle, Leo DiMeo and Michael Walsh. Victor Ialeggio who was present for the meeting asked to be removed from the list. One Our Father and Hail Mary was said for their recovery.

7) Vigil –Frank White, Chairman: Frank reported five deaths in the Society this past year: Alfred Williams, Joseph Schimek, Robert Pereira, Dominick Cardillo and Gerard Bettex. They were remembered in our Memorial Mass Sunday and will be included in our list of deceased Society members (255) to be published in the November “Dialogue”. The families of these deceased brothers were invited to the Mass and to sit with the Society but regrettably none attended. None of these five brothers had been participating in Society activities for some time.

#### Diocesan Union Report

Herman Fleischer, Society Delegate said that with Frank White he attended the Diocesan Fall Meeting, Saturday, October 20. Herm reported the main order of business was their upcoming Christmas poster program, all other matters mostly routine. After much discussion on how to finance the program the good news was that thru the generosity of two members, expenses would be cut and the DU could then be able to fund the program, maintaining its high standards.

However, there was considerable controversy over the wording of the theme and the wishes of our Society that the poster theme would suffice without wording. The Delegates objected to our suggestion and they voted that the wording was necessary. In conclusion, the wording is necessary but the theme was revised to “Christmas is Jesus’ Birthday” as more appropriate.

In our meeting’s discussion of Herm’s report, Ron Tralle said that although our posters still would not require the wording, somehow we would participate in the Diocesan contest.

Further discussion then centered on the awards our Society would give. Richard Pawlowski questioned the “Best in Show Award” which he said always goes to a student in a higher grade. Following a number of suggestions, Andy Romano suggestion of a three layer grand prize (kindergarten, first & second; third, fourth & fifth and then the last three grades) was adopted). Ron Tralle and John Thomas agreed on \$25. first place prize and \$10 and \$5 for second and third place.

### Old Business

- a) John Thomas said the Liturgical report covered Sunday's Memorial Mass; the listing of our deceased brothers will be in "Dialogue".
- b) the Web-site is being brought up to date, the minutes of the meeting are now posted and we should hit the site frequently. Herb Werner, pending establishing individual passwords, will put the prefect system on the web. Society events are to be up dated as well. Frank Alfieri has redesigned the Golf Outing page and that is updated.
- c) John thanked everyone who assisted with the 50/50 this weekend.

### New Business

- a) Frank Alfieri said that the "Parish Fair Committee" requested and he gave on behalf of the Holy Name Society a list of three fundraisers to be considered. He listed 1) the golf tournament; 2) the 50/50 and 3) one other which he could not recall, the only Committee suggestions they received.
- b) John Thomas said the Society, the Rosary Altar Society and the Knights of Columbus Councils were asked to donate \$500 each in support of the "Workers Party", December 15th. A motion to donate the \$500 was passed with a proposal that the membership letter invite all our brothers to attend.
- c) John Thomas advised that the Society's December meeting will be the Christmas Party, Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 7pm at LaFamiglia and the cost will be kept to \$25 per plus a gift for the grab bag.
- d) John also mentioned that the Retreat this year would be February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Chris Flatz will coordinate the program and arrange for the guest speaker

Frank Alfieri with the approval of the Chair then asked to open discussion on a concern of his regarding parish fund raising plans. Frank stated he has had two meetings with Father Rich, who he said is now the parish liaison for fund raising. He said he told Father Rich that the golf tournament to be successful needs 128 people, Committees for marketing, sponsorship and raffle. Also, the need for a more appropriate date for the golf tournament, which John Venditto told him he could work with us on an October date.

In addition, Frank told Father Rich that parish Societies hitting the local business continually for contributions is counter productive. Businesses need to be informed that just the parish would seek a donation and that only once a year. Vis-à-vis parish/society, I expect to hear more from Father Rich on this matter.

Frank stressed one more point, it seems to him that the parish is missing the mark on leadership: Mass attendance down; new membership in our organizations stagnant; uninspiring Society's activities. The Holy Name Society once had been "movers in the parish", the New Year's Eve Party, the Halloween Party, the Holy Family statue, even the parish Christmas tree was thru our initiative. You and I, Frank said must now jump-start our organization, keep up our parish and I am praying for the health of Our Lady of Mercy.

Father Tom, in his closing remarks noted the thoughts, the comments that Frank Alfieri and others had just made, while reminding us that Our Lady of Mercy is our spiritual home. We may leave for a while but one day in unfamiliar places we will want to come home. He thanked us for our loyalty to our Society, for keeping our roots in the parish and believes that thru our families we are keeping the parish going.

Father then asked us to keep our Deacon, John McGowan in our prayers. He is in St. Francis Hospital, seriously ill but has very good spirits on his visit to John and is confident of his speedy recovery. John Thomas said a Mass card would be sent to John McGowan from the Society.

Before getting to the Offertory, many members spoke about the engaging critique just held and led with their ideas to invigorate the Society, such as a membership letter to the school fathers, family breakfast, Monday Night football and even holding our monthly corporate Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 10:30. Also, a question was raised as to the Christmas tree lighting, which John Thomas said he would look into.

#### Offertory

One Our Father and a Hail Mary was said for all ill family members and friends of the Society: Deacon John McGowan, Carol Viscardi, Irene Allison, Karen Caporali, Marylou Haggerty, Georgette Coffey, James, Crofton, Jane Abruzzo, Kevin O'Rourke, Mark McDonnell, Edith Ialeggio, Lydia Mattson, Ann DiCandia, Robert Hegermille, John McCaffery, Phyllis Hart, Tim Snee, Lauren Gordon, Rose Rizzotti, Mary Regina, Jo and Terry Cypolla.

Before concluding the meeting the members recited in unison the prayer for vocations Father Tom has asked we recite and then sang the Holy Name hymn, "Holy God We Praise Thy Name".

Motion to close was made by Ed Smith, second by Dave Livingston.

Respectfully submitter,

Frank White, Secretary