

OUR LADY OF MERCY HOLY NAME SOCIETY
HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK



Blessed John of Vercelli, pray for us

Minutes Members Monthly Business Meeting
Monday, November 10, 2008

President John Thomas called the November Business Meeting to order at 7:40 pm and then led the Society members in reciting the Holy Name Pledge. Frank White was asked to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 15 members and two guests in attendance.

President Thomas then asked for a motion to suspend the regular monthly business meeting, for Father Tom Tuite, our Moderator, had arranged a guest speaker for the evening, Sister Loyola, a member of the Congregation of the Infant Jesus.

Following Father Tuite welcoming introduction, Sister said she was pleased to be here, has heard a lot about Our Lady of Mercy and especially the Holy Name Society, which Society her Father had been a member.

Sister commenced her conversation by speaking about the arrival in 1905 of two nursing sisters of her Order from France. Not having a hospital residence to stay in New York City they joined forces with the Little Sisters of the Poor, Sisters who were then working with the indigent, a fortunate circumstance for in that situation their training proved invaluable.

In 1913 the Infant Jesus Congregation obtained from three doctors an old sanatorium located on a farm in Hempstead, which they converted into the first hospital on Long Island. And with the farm they were able to supply their own food for use in feeding their hospital patients.

By 1930 a more suitable building in Rockville Centre, for use as a hospital, was obtained, which then attached to St. Agnes Parish was the beginning of the present Mercy Hospital.

At this point Sister then diverted to telling some of her early childhood experiences, born in 1908, her family, living in Manhattan, and never having attended a Catholic School her education after Public School led to Hunter College in 1924 and a nursing career.

Speaking of her family and her own upbringing, her father occupation was a professional chef, it was for her a thrill having lived during these exciting times amid the growth of our country.

An early volunteer assignment while in college had her teaching English to the poor in upper Manhattan, an experience to her of extreme poverty among these new immigrant's.

While learning French in Hunter, a teacher acquainted her with the Infant Jesus Congregation then in Hempstead, who then working with the poor in Brooklyn were in need of a nursing and language teacher. Naturally this assignment led to her joining their Congregation.

Sister having lived one hundred years and well aware of the cultural change that have taken place during her lifetime, her thoughts related back to St. Matthew and his gospel and the confrontation two thousand years ago that came about with the coming of Jesus'.

Most significant she said is the culture of teaching today, its effect on the family, civil rights, unrest bringing about a whole new world, a scientific world that envisions solving all things.

Similar challenges, we the "church" now feel, the secularized world, globalization, the Moslem world and how in Pope John XXIII calling of the Vatican Council foresaw bringing the laity as part of a changed configuration.

In concluding her conversation with us, saying she spoke too long, Sister said, the Church is always in need of reform and the hierarchy through the Council is carrying this out.

Sister's two handouts, one on St. Matthew and his response to the Jewish people who questioned Christ's teachings and the other on the role of today's laity, both readings that challenge our understanding of today's worldly situations.

John Thomas, on behalf of the Society members, thanked Sister for coming, stating her dialogue had kept us all spellbound, so much so that he for one did not realize how long she was speaking. The enthusiastic applause from our members echoed his remarks.

John noted that Sister Loyola had brought with her a few copies of two books she has written, one "the first fifty years of the Nursing Sisters in New York", and how their healing services, mainly for the poor, were so resourceful. The other book, about the spirituality of Sister's that Sister has known.

Father Tom in thanking Sister for visiting with us this evening mentioned how a great source of holiness she has been to him and he felt also to her community. The hierarchy of the Church, he said, know of her, and have spoken of her regarding her insight as to what is going on within the Church's laity.

Father after introducing Sister Loyola's companion, Ms Eileen McMahan, a lay teacher from St. Mary's High School in Manhasset who he has known when he was at St. Rose in Massapequa said that if Sister's schedule is open, he would like her to return in the Spring and speak with us on St. Paul, who the Church this year is celebrating the 2,000th year of his birth.

For our post-meeting enjoyment and Sister and Ms. McMahan's pleasure, John Thomas had some drinks, cookies and cake, etc., which our guests enjoyed as they carried on their conversation with individual members.

Following most pleasant camaraderie among our guests and the men of the Society, John re-opened the business meeting, for he wished to bring to our attention a number of items coming up before our Christmas sabbatical.

Firstly, the Society is financially secure with \$3,800 in our treasury at the end of October.

Also, John had an E-mail regarding tomorrow's night Parish Fair Meeting. He asked if someone could attend, for he had previous plans. But with such a short notice no one was available.

In addition, Fred Anderson was looking for volunteers this Friday afternoon to assist with setting up the auditorium in preparation for the Andy Cooney show that evening. Fred had asked if anyone were free, would they join him and his Committee at 3 pm.

Additionally, Ron Tralle reminded us of our Society's forthcoming program, the Christmas theme poster contest, on Friday, December 5th and the poster awards program with a continental breakfast, Sunday morning, December 14th, following our monthly Corporate Mass. John then reminded us of the Parish Christmas tree lighting Saturday morning the 6th, and of course the Society Christmas social Monday, December 15th at the St. Dominic's Field House, Brookville beginning at 7pm.

Herman Fleischer advised us that the Diocesan poster contest would be Saturday afternoon, December 6th at Christ the King Parish and the awards program in January. Our Lady of Mercy winning posters would be entered in that program.

Frank White brought to our attention that ten men are now on our sick list, in addition to the four homebound members: ill are Joseph Tatto, Andrew Betz, Tom Cornish, John Dolan, James Steinhauser, Charles Masterton, George Lewis, Bob Donlon, Frank Donahue, and Steve Tipa. Also, tonight we were asked to pray for non-members, Lauren Gordon, Tom Conway, Hope Dyrec, Georgette Coffey, Roe Catelano, Phyllis Hart, Jonathan Tspailat, Anthony Minuto, Simian Winburn, Walter Winburn and Carol Viscardi. An Our Father and Hail Mary were said for all these ill persons.

John Thomas thanked all who attended our annual Memorial Mass for deceased members, ten who had died this past year and whose names he read at the conclusion of Mass: Joseph Ehlert, James Harkins, Robert Lemenze, Aulisse Margiotta, John McCaffery, William Nalepa, Stephen Nazzareno, John Prokopek, Bob Trenkle and Paul Utz.

Following Mass two of the families of these deceased brothers, the Nalepa family and the McCaffery family attended our reception, the Mass and reception to which all the families had been invited.

John especially thanked his Reception Committee, John Lombardi, Warren Scaglione, Steve Erikson, Michael Erikson, Peter Janson, Ray Drago, Ron Tralle and Tom McKenna for their assistance that morning.

Father Tom mentioned that both Sister Pat and Sister Jeanne are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary as members of their Order, Our Lady of Mercy. A gift will be sent from the Society.

Father also mentioned that Sister Loyola, who lives at St. Joseph Villa on the grounds of Mercy Hospital, reads the New York Times, cover to cover every day, and since the copy usually has had cut-outs by the time she gets it, he has given her, her own subscription.

It is interesting, Father said, that St. Joseph Villa where Sister lives is designed for assisted living once all the few Sisters living there have passed on. Meantime it is a luxury villa with living and bedrooms with private bath for each Sister.

Father also said he celebrated with Father Gartner, father's eight-right birthday. He and all the retired priests will be moving to Amityville to the Dominican Village. St. Pius Seminary where they use to live is in poor condition and has been sold to a developer.

In other discussion at the conclusion of the meeting Frank White spoke about his program to encourage flying of the American flag at home by our members on a regular basis. John King spoke about the "Keep Christ in Christmas" program of the Knights of Columbus, a theme different from the poster contest theme, "Christmas is Jesus' Birthday".

The meeting ended with the prayer for vocations and the singing of our Holy Name hymn "Holy God We Praise Thy Name". The meeting closed with a motion by Warren Scaglione, seconded by Victor De Salvo and Victor Caferra.

The attendance award was not presented that evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank

Frank White, Secretary