

OUR LADY OF MERCY HOLY NAME SOCIETY
Minutes Membership Business Meeting
Monday, October 15, 2007

President John Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm; opening with the recitation in Unisom of the Holy Name Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance; all Society officers were present, also 10 members for a total 14 of in attendance.

Minutes of the last meeting, September 10th were attached to today's Agenda.

Correspondence received: an E Mail from Ed Smith titled "The Stranger", a story about a newcomer accepted into a family's home, a stranger who had the attention of every one in the house, morning to night, day in and day out, but a stranger who on every occasion violated established principles and values of the home, thru language, drink, sex, you name it and no one objected or minded. Yes! You guessed right, TV was the stranger's name.

Frank Alfieri forward Ed's E Mail to Father Francis Kolenchery, now in Australia, a missal that his friends at Our Lady of Mercy are thinking of him. Father Francis, if you recall, was our Retreat Master for two of our Saturday retreats at Our Lady of Grace in Manhasset and who at one time served Blessed Mother Theresa as her personal Chaplain.

Treasurer John Thomas reported our bank balance as of 9/30 as \$6,424.90 after September disbursements of \$267. due payment of our annual Web-site fee and expenses for the September meeting; deposited were receipts (\$935.35) from the August Holy Name luncheon.

Committee Reports:

1) Liturgical/Catholic Action/Pro Life-Chairman Bob Kentner quoting from the National Pro-life letter advised that the Pro-abortion lobby is now pushing in Congress with Planned Parenthood support for tax-funded abortions and congressional support of Representative Gerald Adler, New York City and Senator Barbara Boxer, California.

Bob's bleak news led to a group discussion on the situation facing Pro-life supporters and the announced beliefs of the candidates in the coming Presidential election, none of whom are worthy of the Catholic vote. It was the opinion that as a group a stand should be taken against the anti-life segment, a Catholic Action stand thru our participating in legislative hearings, rally's, petitions, etc. and not only the life issue but also profanity on TV where rigid FCC barriers no longer seem to exist.

Frank Alfieri, who on Sunday attended Mass in another parish, mentioned that the priest's homily at that Mass was on faith and how thru our own faith we as lay people can make a difference. An example of faith that the priest gave was the 9/11 hijackers, whose faith in their cause made a difference, and now has totally changed the world.

Good examples of faith, Frank explained, are those who pray at an abortion clinic or the faith of those who respond to our legislatures when policies they pursue effect our religious beliefs; two examples, he said, of how our actions can make a positive difference.

2) Membership-Chairman John Thomas reported no change; 287 members of which 72 are long time inactive. Frank White advised contacting the 72 as to their interest in the Society and if no interest, drop them from the membership list. However, it was pointed out to Frank that Society membership is perpetual but if mailings or communication were to be discontinued that would be in order. It was suggested the Committee make one last personal contacts of those delinquent members.

3) Golf Committee: Frank Alfieri said he has been contacted as to his Chairing the newly formed Parish Golf Committee, a Committee, he responded, he is now only able to assist, due to present family responsibilities. Furthermore, he stated, his advice is available but the parish Golf Committee must have a minimum of ten active members.

4) Ill and or Homebound: Joseph Tatto, Joseph Ehlert, Jerry Peace, Bill Snyder, Robert Trenkle and Victor Iallegio, Leno DeMayo and Michael Walsh; an Our Father and Hail Mary was said for their recovery.

5) Deceased: Five brothers this past year; Alfred Williams, Joseph Schimek, Robert Pereira, Dominick Cardillo and Gerard Bettex to be remembered in our Memorial Mass, Sunday, November 11, monthly Corporate Mass. The families of these brothers have been invited to our breakfast this coming Sunday. A listing of all deceased brothers (255 names) will be published in the Sunday bulletin or the Dialogue.

6) Diocesan Union: Herm Fleischer, Delegate: Delegates to the DU will be meeting this Saturday, October 20 at Christ the King Parish. On their agenda is the Christmas Poster Contest and primarily the financing of this Diocesan program. As of now the DU does not have the \$800 for a full program, which was by necessity funded thru contributions from the parish Societies (\$700.In 2006). Most likely for this year's program to be approved advance in Society contributions may have to be requested.

Old & New Business

1) John Thomas advised that the Installation Ceremony for our Society's incoming Officers will be held this Sunday following the 9 AM Mass. We were unable to have the ceremonial procedures printed in the bulletin, due to space limitations, but Sr. Eileen ran-off 100 copies for distribution to the parishioners attending this Mass. Ron Tralle will serve as Chairman for the ceremony, calling on President John Thomas to come to the altar, then ask the other Officers and members to assemble at the altar. A breakfast for 60 for all members of the Society and their families, catered by Fireside of Huntington, will follow in the school cafeteria.

2) Details re the Society's annual Mass for deceased members was covered in Committee reports by the Vigil Committee.

3) Christmas Poster Contest is to be chaired by Ron Tralle. The contest date will be Monday evening, December 3rd and the awards program Sunday, December 9th following the 9am Mass. All poster contestants and their families will be invited and a continental breakfast will be served.

Two situations concerning the program circulated around the room, a) the DU suggested theme is "Christmas is the birthday of Jesus" and b) the need for parish children to participate in the contest.

Our delegates to the DU were instructed to advise their poster Committee that OLM did not see the necessity for DU contest entries to include the long wording as long as the poster emphasized the theme.

On the significance of student failure to participate, Ron Tralle's feeling was that the school fails to get involved in this matter. He further felt that the school exists to strengthen our children's Catholic faith and that this program was a religious learning tool for student and family.

Ron will get a poster flyer distributed in the next two weeks and at that time approach both the school and Religious Ed about the possibility of their giving an incentive in this matter of contest posters participation.

4) John Thomas, reporting that Sister Eileen Lawlor and Sister Joan Doody now celebrating sixty years in the Sisters of Mercy Congregation, asked for a motion to send each a \$100. gift in recognition of this illustrious event. A motion, by Richard Pawlowski, second by Ed Smith, that this was a most appropriate gift was approved.

5) John also brought to our attention the "Virtuous Program", a training program for the protection of our children now mandated by the Diocese for all who have children in their care. His feeling, being the Society has a student poster contest with individual students in our care under parental supervision, was that our members should take this training. It was left at that but hopefully our members would take the course.

6) John's third new business item was the parish 50/50 "raffles" meeting that he was asked to attend. He had anticipated that the parish organizations will be asked to sell "raffles" on the weekends after all the Masses and our weekend is November 3-4. Volunteers are needed and he will arrange a plan for our assignment. However, the meeting was essentially a "Parish fair" organization meeting to plan next summer's parish fund raiser, a fair with rides, booths, etc., that will require 150 volunteers. The Parish Fair Committee will be calling on all organizations for assistance.

7) Frank White mentioned, under new business, the pro-family film "Bella" opening the weekend of October 26 and asked if we as a Society would consider promoting this movie as a means our Society would be reaching out to the parish. Frank's idea was to sponsor or just support the teenagers of the "Youth Ministry", who as a group could attend this movie. Frank regretted info on theaters showing the movie so far was

unobtainable. However, Frank Alfieri in supporting the idea said he and Frank could follow-up with the Hicksville Theatre as to dates, group rates, etc.

There was no additional new business but John Thomas did say that he was pleased with the success of our “meeting admission ticket” idea, paper products for Parish Services. He would like to continue with our paper donation plan and even hold another “pancake breakfast” with paper or food as the admission price.

Ron Tralle suggested the Christmas Poster Awards program for the pancake breakfast. Father Tom recommended paper be continued this year and next year another product suitable to Parish Services.

Offertory

One Our Father and a Hail Mary was said for all of our ill family members and ill friends of the Society members; Robert Peace, Virginia Nicolard, Mary Regina, Irene Allison, Dan Richie, Rose Rizzotti, Father Basil, Rosalie Romano, Lauren Gordon, Jo, Imbriglio, Tom and Jack Constable, Carol Viscardi and Mary Finnegan.

John King spoke with Carmine Seravalli, a member of the Rectory Staff as to attending our meetings. He promised to come soonest.

John Thomas then turned the meeting back to Father Tom for his closing remarks. Father Tom brought us up to date on the Diocesan vocation situation and compared our Diocese with the shortage of priests in upstate New York where parishes are now being combined. At least this coming June from our Seminary there will be nine priests ordained but just one or two the next few years. Additionally, Father is making arrangements for a guest speaker for a future meeting.

Before concluding the meeting the members recited in unison Father Tom’s prayer for vocations and sang the Holy Name hymn, “Holy God We Praise Thy Name”. Motion to close was made by Ed Smith, second by Dave Livingston.