

OUR LADY OF MERCY HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Minutes General Membership Business Meeting

Monday, September 10, 2007

President John Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm; opening with the recitation of the Holy Name Pledge; all Society officers were present plus 12 members.

The June year ending social meeting held at the “Main Event”, recognized Frank Alfieri, Past President and Chairman of the Golf Committee, our guest of honor. We welcomed him and his two sons, Joseph and Michael. Minutes were not taken.

Correspondence received during the summer; a thank you letter from the St. Vincent DePaul Society and a parish bulletin acknowledgement from Mary Ann Scott, Parish Services, each of whom were recipients of \$1000. for use in their parish programs; also a thank you letter from Nolan Reynolds of the Youth Ministry for our Society’s contribution in recognition of their member’s assistance at the Golf Tournament; finally a thank you letter from Marisa Lent, a June OLM graduate, who was a recipient of the Holy Name Society’s \$100. honors award.

Treasurer John Thomas reported our bank balance as of 8/31 as \$5,696.55 after disbursements of \$18,280. during August to the parish and other programs; receipts during the month from various sources totaled \$1,302.85; during July receipts were \$119.99 and disbursements \$65. Year 2008 membership letter is to be sent soonest.

Committee Reports:

1) Liturgical/Catholic Action/ Pro Life –Chairman Bob Kentner was excused; Corporate Mass attendance Sunday, September 9, those members in the procession or joined the Society in the pew for Mass -15.

2) Membership –Chairman John Thomas; reported a total 287; 213 active either dues paying or honorary; 72 inactive, members who fail to respond to the mailings; goal this fall 13 new members, which he thought obtainable if our meetings can be focused on topics relating to interests of our younger parishioners.

An updated “Prefect List” distributed; the importance of members maintaining their membership active emphasized.

John noted for our concern the names of those inactive members asking if anyone knew of them. He will attempt to locate and inquire why their lack of interest in the Society.

3) Golf Committee –Chairman, Frank Alfieri –led discussion regarding future of the tournament relating to Sunday’s bulletin that the outing would now be a parish function; He stated the Society would serve as consulting basis to a parish Golf Committee.

This year the Society kept \$1500.of the golf proceeds for use in various programs- the Communion Breakfast, Poster Contest; the balance profit was turned over to the parish.

Frank also answered member's questions re his and/or the Society's role in the new Golf Tournament, questions such as profit to be finalized with a parish committee.

3) Ill and homebound -7 names listed in meeting agenda; no homebound additions noted but Bob Trenkle's name was added to the list.

4) Deceased-three members listed in agenda for year 2007; added Dominick Cardillo - inactive list' Society advised of his demise thru family's return call on receipt of a lunch invitation; an Our Father and Hail Mary was recited for their spiritual intention.

5) Diocesan Delegate -Herm Fleischer reported DU poster contest on hold; possibility of down-sizing contest as funding for awards not available; DU recommends continuation of parish contests.

John Thomas noted that our poster contest will be held and he will look into forming the usual Committee to run the program. School and Religious Ed promotion is necessary.

Frank Alfieri led the evening's discussion, which for the better part related to the Society and its activities, past as well as present and the need to activate programs that obtain, attract and keep new younger members interested; members who have children in the school or religious ed are necessary.

Frank pointed out how in the past the Society had established a record for accomplishments, achievements that involved as participants the whole parish family. At that time we did attract younger men and their families thru programs in which we welcomed the parish to our activities; the New Years Eve Party, the Halloween Party, Monday Night Football Night as examples. He stated we fail to keep them interested. In conclusion the felling was that the Society meeting's need to focus on boarder topics, family topics, a variety of topics that will intrigue more people.

John Thomas made reference to the luncheon at La Famiglia recognizing Our Lady of Mercy's "Holy Name Man of the Century", Frank White. A plaque was presented to Frank, which he brought to this meeting; John also noted citations from both the Town of Oyster Bay and the Nassau County Legislature that were presented to Frank and a letter from President George Bush that is forthcoming. Frank thanked everyone for this honor; stating everything he has done for the Society has been a labor of love; also he thanked his wife and family for their support.

John Thomas following discussion re Columbus Day holiday and the school closing that weekend postponed the Society's October Corporate Mass and the Installation of Officers Ceremony until Sunday October 21st, the Ceremony to be held just before the conclusion of Mass; the usual breakfast brunch for the members and family catered by Fireside will be held after Mass; Frank White advised that to enable parishioners follow the Installation Ceremony copies will be available in church. John saw no need for postponing the October meeting, which will be Monday the 15th.

Memorial Mass for all our deceased brothers is Sunday, November 11th. Frank White pointed out that the families of our more recent deceased brothers in the past have been

invited to a breakfast which this year would mean two consecutive breakfast's. John Thomas will make a decision on inviting these families to the October breakfast.

Offertory for ill or deceased family members and friends-Kylie MacDonald (dec.-Ray Drago's grandson), Margaret O'Dell, Susan Berger, Judy O'Connors (dec.), Phyllis Hart, Lauren Gordon, Ann DiCandia, Karen Caporale, Robert Hegormiller, Mary Lou Haggerty, Georgette Coffey, Veronica Portara, Andrea Romano, Rosalie Romano, Vincent Romano, Mary Causler (dec.), Peter Nicolard, Rose Rizzotti, Diana Ferreira, and Jo Jinbriglia. An Our Father and a Hail Mary was said for their recovery.

John Thomas, on completion of the agenda, opened the meeting to discussion by the members. Andrew Romano, our newest member, reflected on his reason for joining the Holy Name; having a daughter in school it seemed right for him to become involved at OLM. Having this in mind he expressed the idea of a Holy Name Ministry, a Society with activities that included the kids, father and sons or daughters; call it a guilt reaction. Also, he knows of Societies that reach out to others, charity-wise like Parish Services. Andrew's thoughts generated numerous ideas like the family breakfast once so popular, a Holy Name Mass that included the entire family, fathers participating in parish assistance programs. The Chair and Officers thanked Andrew for his contribution to this meeting.

Father Tom in his closing remarks elaborated on the discussions just concluded, outlining his thoughts re what the assembled brothers had contributed on programs that would reach out to the fathers in the parish. Relating to his involvement as a youth in his parish Society, he believed setting aside a Sunday afternoon with a speaker on Catholic issues relating to both fathers and youths. A barbecue or similar program concludes the day.

Father said he could arrange for a speaker. We make it an open meeting elaborating on the subject material and with planning ahead for an audience it would be successful. Frank Alfieri in agreement said regrettably our successful family programs were dropped. He then mentioned the Youth Ministry, their willingness to be of assistance when needed. It was felt by many that our programs could be coordinated with the Youth Ministry.

Other suggestions Father had regarded programs previously successful, such as the family breakfast, bowling nights that were enthusiastically received but now with the purpose of benefiting something, e.g. Parish Services, the food pantry, the generator for the priest from India. Vic DeSalvo thought programs with an incentive; say a Dance Instructor should be tried.

Father Tom then said he would like from us soonest the parish calendar available dates that the Society could use for programs and he will put out feelers for guest speakers.

On another subject Father mentioned and both Frank Alfieri and Joe Allison concurred basis their experience that Parish Services most needed contributions of paper products. It was agreed that at our next meeting admission would be a roll of either toilet paper or paper towels and the prefect system would be used to alert the members.

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, seconded by Tony DiCandia.