

***OUR LADY OF MERCY HOLY NAME SOCIETY***  
**Minutes Membership Business Meeting**  
**Monday, September 8, 2008**

President John Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Our Holy Name Pledge was recited in unison and John Thomas then led the Society members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll-call of Officers - present were President, John Thomas, Secretary, Frank White and Diocesan Delegate, Herman Fleischer. Vice Presidents, Frank Alfieri and Andrew Romano were excused. Honored Guest was our Pastor, Father Robert Blyman.

Agenda –agenda for the meeting was distributed to the members on signing in. There were 20 Officers and brothers of the Society in attendance.

Minutes of the social meeting, June 9th to be recorded in the Society’s web site, were accepted (copy available by asking the Secretary).

Correspondence- Secretary Frank White advised there was no correspondence received over the summer months.

Treasurer Report - John Thomas reported our Society bank balance as of September 1 - \$4,301.09; in his previous report May 1, the bank balance was \$3, 895.94 (a report was not made at the June social); overall disbursements for the four months May thru August was \$2, 195. 85; receipts deposited were \$2,601.

Details of John’s report were: In May, Cake Sale overall revenue incl. member donations amounted to \$1,462; \$2,004 deposits offset by \$526. in expenses. In June, net expenses were \$850. Incl. \$800 donation for the Parish “Family Fair”, the parish gift and the raffle basket, an electronic basket and the gift for Father John; the Society social expense was about \$50. after member donations. Also, in June the Society’s annual Catholic School Religion Awards, two \$100 gifts awarded to John Cunningham and Joseph Boninti, which were presented by Sister Joanne Deegan (checks written in August); in July the expenses and offsetting deposits were approx. \$100. each attributed to miscellaneous follow-ups associated with the Cake Sale and the Family Fair.

**Committee Reports:**

1) Membership-John Thomas, Chairman reported total to-date of 247 members, 187 on the active list of which 90 are honorary members and there are presently 60 non-active members- As of Jan 1st the Society listed 293 members, active and non-active, a difference of 46 members. The retention review of 92 non-active members found that 21 members have moved from the parish, there were seven deaths that the Society was not aware of and four members renewed their membership. The Retention Committee, Frank White, Chairman will now focus on reviewing the status of absent honorary members as to their present parish membership.

A program to recruit new members will be carried out in conjunction with the Society’s Christmas poster program.

2) Liturgical-John Thomas reminded us of our monthly Corporate Mass this coming Sunday and since it will be the Folk Group's special 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with an attendance of many of their previous members the Society will sit on the Blessed Virgin side of the Church.

Also, the Society will be the host for the Folk Group's breakfast following Mass in the School Auditorium. He requested those members present and he will be contacting other members, as many as possible to assist with this breakfast

Father Blyman, our guest this meeting, took the opportunity to express his appreciation to the Holy Name Society for all that they have done for the parish since he has been the pastor. He mentioned the Holy Family Prayer Garden, certainly a beautiful devotional shrine that blesses the parish and wanted us to know that he is supportive of our organization.

Also, Father informed us that Sister Suzanne will be leaving shortly for a new assignment and he is planning a reception for her on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. He asked that in conjunction with the Rosary Altar Society would our Society host this reception. John Thomas said he would get in touch with Mary Leonard of the Rosary Altar and get back to Father on this matter.

Finally, Father mentioned that he has asked Father Peter, who is in residence here, would he speak to the various parish groups along the lines of their spiritual growth. Father has a theological background and most certainly could energize our personal religious practices.

Father Blyman then excused himself as he had another meeting to attend.

3) Pro-life –Bob Kentner, Chairman brought to our attention the Pro-life differences between the Presidential candidates, John McClain and Barack Obama, as reported in the current issue of "Life News", a Long Island publication. Bob further informed us of two Pro Life bills now pending in the House of Representatives, the Sanctity of Human Life and Life and Conception Act, both of which if passed could lead to the overturn of Roe vs. Wade.

4) Catholic Action –John King, Chairman spoke about recent School budgets that failed and the aftereffects that faced the taxpayers. Governor Patterson is supporting additional funding from Albany of 9% to the Public Schools and a 2% reduction of mandated money to the Parochial Schools, programs that further affect our schools.

He also reminded us, Primary Day for the Republican candidates is tomorrow and our current Congressman, Peter King is facing a challenge from Robert Previti.

Finally, he heard on the radio a report that latest research studies have determined that stem cells experiments are no longer needed, that the same medical results are possible without them.

#### Old Business

June Social, Monday, June 9 -John Thomas speaking concerning our Society's year-ending social at the St. Dominic's Field House said in his view it was successful, felt all who attended, 25 members including our Moderator. Father Tom, were pleased as well and trusted that this year's Social "Honoree", Herman Fleischer and his daughter Mary, who was the Society's and Herman's surprise guest, had a most enjoyable evening. John expressed his thanks to Maurice Fasano for making the arrangements, absent tonight due his being on vacation, arrangements, which saved the Society about \$500 over and above expenses at an outside venue.

John will ask Maurice about possible arrangements at the Field House for our Christmas social before making reservations at La Famiglia, the venue last Christmas. He also has some beer, soda and wine remaining, which could if you wish be used for a raffle or kept for the next social.

Summer Fair, July 30-August 2- John Thomas reported on our Society's participation at the Fair, the many members who volunteered, whose assistance he felt certainly helped in its success. He mentioned that he and Frank Alfieri obtained at P C Richard the Society's gift, a "boom box", a portable VC player and a cassette for our Electronic Basket, a basket that was part of the parish raffle.

Father John Reception, Sunday, June 15 –The Holy Name Society and the Our Lady of Mercy Council sponsored the reception; the Knights hosted the reception, our Society helped with the expenses and in addition gave Father a monetary gift of \$100, a gift approved at the April meeting. Father John, on returning to India, will write us concerning assistance in sponsorship of a child in his country. His request, when received, will of course be reviewed at a Society meeting.

#### New Business

Programs in Mind – John Thomas spoke of the pancake breakfasts that the Society has sponsored for the parishioners on previous occasions. Also there was the continental breakfast served as part of the Christmas poster awards program, an affair that included for the Parish Pantry approx. \$160 in cash and product donations from those attending.

Donations of cash and paper products to the Parish Pantry from our members and guests at our meetings and affairs for the year ending in June were valued at \$455. John will look into arranging a date on a future third Sunday, the Sunday of the Family Mass for another breakfast.

Prefect List – Frank White has updated the list and passed around a copy for the members to review. He will ask that the list, without phone numbers, be published in "The Dialogue", the purpose being that all Society members are aware of the solace transmitted through the presence of these Society volunteers at a wake when death occurs. Prefect members will receive a copy with phone numbers at the next meeting.

Honorary Member – Frank White recommended that Charley Masterson, now disabled, be honored with "Honorary Membership" in the Society. The recommendation is two-fold, firstly, Charley despite results of the terrible accident he has endured for more than thirty years who up until recently was a regular with the "Folk Group", a group most considerate to us at our monthly Mass and lastly, Charley's father now deceased was most active with our Society since its inception. A motion by Victor Ialeggio to admit Charles Masterson as an Honorary Member of the Holy Name Society was unanimously approved. John will present Charley with his membership card at the Folk Breakfast.

Folk Mass - John Thomas knowing of the 40th Anniversary of the Folk Group advised that he offered the services of our Society, plus our sponsorship, for their anniversary breakfast this coming Sunday, September 14. On having approval from the Society members, he said he will make all arrangements but does need assistance with the breakfast from as many brothers as possible. Those present assured him that he would receive the necessary help.

Other Programs – John Thomas said he has in the works for this coming year a) the annual retreat with possibly Father Blyman as our speaker; b) the Memorial Mass breakfast with Father Peter as speaker. c) Frank White will prepare the listing of deceased members for the Mass and the entire list of deceased Society members for "The Dialogue".

Christmas Poster Program –Ron Tralle, Chairman – Ron suggested that the poster contest be held Monday, December 6 (December 8) and the Awards program the following Sunday, December 12 (December 14). The Society Christmas Social will be the following Monday. John Thomas will confirm the recommended dates with Cathy Mahoski, the Director of Parish Systems.

#### Offertory

Homebound - Bill Snyder, Joseph Tatto, Jerry Peace, Peter Volpe, John Loughlin, Andrew Betz and Tom Cornish.

Ill – John Dolan, James Steinhauser, Leo Zyszkowski, Bob Quinn and Leo Long.

In Remembrance – Bob Trinkle, John McCaffery, William Nalepa and seven non-active members  
One Our Father and a Hail Mary were said for our homebound, ill and deceased members.

Ill Non-members –family members and friends: Monique Moran, Kristian Koenig, Lauren Gordon, Anthony Minuto, Jonathan Espaiccat, Concepcion Marvero, Hope Dybec, Georgette Coffey, Carol Viscardi and the troops in our armed forces and the hurricane victims.

One Our Father and a Hail Mary were said for our ill family members.

Discussion followed regarding the Society budget and finances. Our Treasury of approximately \$5, 000 will carry us over to next year, supplemented by proceeds from the Cake Sale. There has been no word on the golf outing, proceeds of which if when held will go to the parish. John Thomas, who attended a golf meeting in the Spring, advised that if held in October by this time 75% of golfers should have been signed, sponsorships and tee signs sails completed but to his knowledge nothing has been finalized. The belief held is that the tournament has been postponed. The Parish Fair scheduled for next year and Rich Soto, a Committee member, suggested that they should have a booth to sign up golfers. Discussion ended with a tale from Warren Scaglione about God and his dog, a monkey, cow and man, which was very humorous. Warren would be pleased to get us all a copy.

Diocesan Union – Herman Fleischer, Society Delegate, advised there would be a meeting, Saturday, September 20 at Christ the King in Commack. The presidents of all the Societies have been asked to attend. The agenda will discuss arrangements for the Memorial Mass for all deceased Holy Name brothers at St. Agnes Cathedral, Sunday, November 16 and plans for the Christmas poster program.

Spiritual Guidance - Father Tom first informed us that with the Anniversary Folk Mass on Sunday, Father Blyman would be celebrating the Mass.

Father then reminded us that today the Church was celebrating the Feast of the Birth of Our Blessed Mother and we should keep in mind that she is a role model for all of us.

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”.

Motion to close was made by Ron Tralle, second by Victor Caferra.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank  
Frank White, Secretary

Meeting Social -attendance drawing \$10. #18 Lee DiMeo