



Holy Name Society Newsletter

Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

RETURN OF THE MAGI

There are many who mark the Christmas Season with frantic and ineffective efforts to capture the meaning and enjoy the value of Christmas. Too many times we have trivialized, commercialized and so distorted this event that one can hardly recognize its true meaning. The opportunity for peace, justice and love it offers us is lost in the chaos. Think of it: "God with us", Emmanuel, what a gift of love from a loving God! God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ has taken on our

human nature, united it with His Divine nature and placed this gift before us - all of us without condition. It is marvelous and mind-boggling. God Himself is with us!!

The very laudable work of members of the Holy Name Society is to promote the true awareness of this special

"Under this banner and by this motto we encourage people to look into their own lives, into their hearts and engage themselves in the search for peace and happiness found only in Jesus Christ."

liturgical season. Keeping Christ in Christmas is certainly a commendable and worthy apostolic work, especially for members of the Holy Name Confraternity. Under this banner and by this motto we encourage people to look into their own lives, into their hearts and engage themselves in the search for
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A MAGICAL SEASON - A TIME OF MIRACLES

The Christmas Season, both in the secular and the sacred sense, really is a many-splendored thing. The secular world, without even knowing why, happily goes crazy at Christmas time with decorations, parties, gift giving and holiday music. Without the light of faith, they call it a magical season... a time of miracles.

"Without the light of faith, they call it a magical season... a time of miracles."

Enlightened by faith, however, believers rejoice in the coming of the Lord of History, the Light of the World,

the Savior named Jesus the Christ. From Christmas Day till the Solemnity of the Baptism of Jesus, the Church marvels at the great wonder of the Incarnation, namely, that the Word became flesh to dwell among us, and His Holy Name is Jesus.

Keeping Christ in Christmas presupposes that we keep Advent in Advent. As the first season of the liturgical year, Advent focuses our life

on faith and prayer. In early Advent we focus on the final coming of Christ at the end of the world, and then, in the last nine days before December 25th, Advent orients us toward the birth of Christ. In those last days of Advent, we lovingly remember St. Joseph's dream and the angel's instruction that Mary's Child is to be named Jesus (Mt. 1:20-21).

Keeping Christ in Christmas means that, after we maximize energy in our faith and prayer in the Advent Season,
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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

- Promotes the honor and glory of our Divine God and the personal sanctification of its members by acts of love and devotion to the most Holy Name of Jesus. This spiritual life of its members is a perpetual act of reverence and love.
- Promotes respect for the most Holy Name of God, faith in the Catholic Church and the Magisterium, loyalty to one's country, and respect for all lawful authority, both civil and religious
- Our members perform the Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, shelter to the homeless, tend the sick, visit those in prison, and bury the dead; as well as the Spiritual Works of Mercy: to convert sinners, instruct the ignorant, counsel the wayward, comfort the sorrowing, bear adversity patiently, forgive offenses, and pray for the living and the dead on a parochial, diocesan and national level.

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THE NAME OF CHRIST IS IN THE WORD CHRISTMAS

It seems unthinkable, to say the least, that Christmas would be celebrated with little regard for Christ precisely because the name of Christ is in the word Christmas. But we all know how easy it can be to forget Christ amidst the noise, the merrymaking, the gift giving, the glitter and colorful lights that Christmas season brings along. It betrays that human weakness of superficially going on through life without any effort of knowing more, or asking as philosophers would do: why?

In our current culture; Christmas season has become just a celebration without Christ. Like a wedding reception that merrily goes on without the presence of the bride or groom whose absence does not seem to make a difference. Or like a birthday celebration where little attention is given to the person with the birthday.

The truth is that, in many shops and malls, we see the seemingly systematic removal of Christ from Christmas.

Even some churches are full of decorations of all kinds with the crib or nativity scene glaringly absent. So truly to say *keep Christ in Christmas* is a much needed reminder. After all, forgetfulness is fast becoming a trait of our jet-set culture. Let us make our Christmas a religious celebration by holding up high the real reason for the season – Jesus coming to us!

*Fr. Reynaldo J. Adalid, OP
Priory of Santo Thomas,*

IN GOD WE TRUST

When we look at our coins and paper money we see printed, "In God We Trust". If we put our trust in God from all walks of life and different faiths then why not put our trust in his only Son, Jesus Christ. He was born on Christmas Day in a small humble stable. God gave Our Blessed Mother Mary the most beautiful gift that he could have given to her and to all of us, His only Son named Jesus Christ. When Jesus was born, the love God had for mankind was manifested for all of us. As the "Three Kings"

came from afar to praise and honor him with their love and gifts we too should show our appreciation to each other by some token in the form of a gift. When you come to celebrate Christmas Mass come a little earlier than normal, bless yourself with Holy Water, genuflect in front of Jesus in the tabernacle before entering the pew, and spend several extra minutes in prayer - give Him glory, thanks and praise.

Don't be afraid to wish a Merry Christmas to everyone you meet. This is the season

to call someone you haven't spoken to in awhile or just send someone a Christmas card with a warm personal greeting. I personally know that hearing from people at this time of the year makes me feel very good inside, I feel that others do care about me. May our dear Lord continue to bless all of us during this Advent Season and remember to pray for all the people around the world who have suffered in some way this past year. Blessed be the Name of Jesus!

*Raymond W. Zientara
Buffalo DUHNS*

The "Keep Christ in Christmas" Committee is selling the following items to help raise awareness and to provide needed funds to support the Evangelization message of the Holy Name Society. This is a project of the NAHNS and the profits will be sent to National.

Christmas Seals Christmas Is Christ's Birthday	\$2.00/sheet
Bumper Stickers "Keep Christ in Christmas"	\$0.75/each
T-Shirts "Keep Christ in Christmas"	\$10.00 & up
Magnets "Christmas Is Christ's Birthday"	\$5.00/each

Send your orders to:

Pete Carbone
102 W. Howe Rd.
Tallmadge, Oh. 44278
Phone: 330-633-6884
HolyNamePete@aol.com

RETURN OF THE MAGI

(Continued from page 1)

peace and happiness found only in Jesus Christ. Whether by stickers, signs, or other means we let others know that Christ is the center of our Christmas festivities. Yes, by all means we must, "Keep Christ in Christmas."

In order to understand this mystery, appreciate it more ourselves and present it more effectively to those who have not yet heard the message of the angels, we might do well to consider a variation of the theme and launch an effort to BRING BACK Christ to Christmas. It is so sad to observe the ineffable greatness and richness of this wonderful

gift of God distorted, defiled and even dismissed. I have often seen, the day after Christmas, the tree once gloriously decorated stripped to the bare branches and tossed out at the street corner for the

garbage collector to haul away. What joyful anticipation went into preparing the tree, a symbol of the Christmas festivities, and how sad to see it treated in such a fashion, as though the great expectations were not realized. Might this be seen as a kind of symbol for Jesus Himself, stripped and nailed to the trunk of a forlorn tree? Does

this betray a certain embarrassment or even lack of faith in what the Christmas tree symbol represents? Is it a

"The human heart cannot be deprived of its "homing" instinct. Just like the Magi, those wise men of old, we too are seeking the sign that will lead us into God's presence."

consequence of an uncertain or guilty con-

science? Or, is it just one more example of the secularization of our society?

Today there are efforts to hide Jesus, to keep him out of sight and out of mind, at least in the public arena. The forces of evil use every instrument at hand to make sure Jesus does not have any place in our lives and they try to banish Him

from the public scene.

The human heart cannot be deprived of its "homing" instinct. Just like the Magi, those wise men of old, we too are seeking the sign that will lead us into God's presence. As members of the Confraternity of the Names of God and Jesus, we must serve as the wise men from the east did so many years ago. We need to imitate the Magi, and though the journey may be difficult and dangerous, we too have the responsibility to work by deed and by example to KEEP CHRIST in Christmas and to BRING HIM BACK from wherever He has been exiled.

*Fr. Thomas Hayes, OP
Spiritual Director, NAHNS*

A MAGICAL SEASON - A TIME OF MIRACLES

(Continued from page 1)

we willingly enter the spiritual movement and progression that leads from the celebration of the human birth of Jesus to the revelation of His divinity in the Epiphany, His Baptism, and Wedding feast of Cana, His first miracle.

The liturgies of Christmas Day show us the human birth of our Savior, virginally conceived in Mary's womb by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. The following Sunday

teaches us that His family is indeed a Holy Family. The eighth day of Christmas, January first, acknowledges that Mary is the mother not only of a darling baby boy but the

"With the light of faith, however, believers rejoice in the coming of the Lord of History, the Light of World, the Savior...."

Mother of God, and this feast says as much

about Christ as about Mary. Then we celebrate the glorious feast of the full revelation of Christ's divinity - the Epiphany.

Over the centuries, January 1st has evolved as a feast day.

At first, it was simply the octave of Christmas. Later, in the 4th century, it became the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. In the Middle Ages, it came to be celebrated as the feast of the Circumcision (and the naming) of Jesus (cf. Lk. 2:21).

Many centuries ago, the Epiphany used to commemorate three epiphanies or manifestations of Christ's divinity-- His revelation to the magi, His Baptism, and His first miracle at the Wedding Feast of Cana. At the end of the Christmas Season, we still celebrate the feast of Christ's

Baptism. The progression from recognizing Christ's human birth to adoring His manifest divinity takes us from Christmas Day all the way to the feast of His Baptism in early January.

Keeping Christ in Christmas means staying with the Church, thinking with the Church, praying with the Church, and marveling at the Word Who became flesh to dwell among us - Jesus Christ. Blessed be His Holy Name!

*Rev. Paul Chovanec, Pastor,
St. Justin Martyr Parish,
Houston, TX*

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

New York AUHNS

The Archdiocesan Union's Annual Family Holy Hour will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at the the Church of Corpus Christi in Port Chester.

At his behest, a packet of manuals, application forms, and Holy Name informational materials were sent to Monsignor Donald Sakano, pastor of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral, in an effort to reactivate the Holy Name Society there. A group of fifteen men, under Joseph Figliolo, have already been meeting to bring this about.

Blessed Sacrament, Staten Island HNS

Members continued to coordinate fund-raising activities for the Monument/Memorial for the Unborn on parish grounds, and made sizeable contributions to the Blessed Sacrament Educational Endowment Fund and the Special Olympics event.

Monsignor Peter G. Finn, pastor and spiritual director, spoke at both September and October meetings and continues to provide outstanding spiritual support for the Society. Another new member was recruited in September.

Members attended the wakes and sent Perpetual/Healing Mass cards to the families of deceased members.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Elmsford HNS

"Under the leadership of President Michael Fanelli", writes Secretary Al Paloscio, "we have embarked on an effort to promote and encourage new membership and to sustain a vibrant and vigorous Society." Five new members were added to the Society.

The annual Spaghetti Dinner, which is the chief source of revenue and enables the members to financially contribute to the parish and school - as well as other institutions in need - was held in October.

The annual District Thanksgiving Day Memorial Mass and Breakfast will be hosted this year by Holy Rosary's Holy Name Society.

St. Teresa, Staten Island HNS

The annual Corporate Communion Mass and Breakfast was held in September. The new board members prepared and served a "welcome back" breakfast for members following the Mass.

Rockville Centre DUHNS

The Annual Memorial Mass for Deceased Members of the Rockville Centre Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies will be held on Sunday, November 16 at St. Agnes Cathedral. Mass was followed by refreshments in the Pastoral Center.

St. Frances De Chantal, Bronx HNS

63 persons turned out for the Parish Blood Drive conducted by the Holy Name Society of St. Frances De Chantal. The parish was among the seventeen parishes honored at a special Mass and reception by the Archdiocese for having collected 200 or more pints of blood in the Archdiocese's 200th anniversary year.

Sixty men and members of their families attended the Society's annual dinner.

HNS members regularly participate in the All Night Vigil and Adoration held on the first Friday of each month, beginning with Mass at 8 p.m. and continuing through Saturday morning.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Shrub Oak, HNS

The Holy Name Society of Elizabeth Ann Seton has a full slate of events scheduled for the rest of 2008-2009: Holy Hour and Dinner in October, Memorial Mass and Dinner, and the Father/Son/Daughter HNS Basketball Night in November, Christmas decorations inside/outside of the church and Homebound Visitations in December, Annual Retreat in January, Peekskill Soup Kitchen in February, Communion Brunch in March, Holy Hour and Dinner in April, and the Golf Outing in June.

Corpus Christi, Port Chester HNS

The August Holy Name picnic in Crawford Park was attended by 90 persons and the September Pasta Night was a huge success.

An all day retreat with Mass, breakfast, lunch, and a guest speaker will be held in January at the Sisters of Divine Compassion in White Plains.

Renzo, a Filipino youth that the Society has been sponsoring for the past several years, recently wrote the members to tell them about his schooling and summer activities.

The Corporate Communion Mass was held in September and new member, John Storino, was inducted into the Society.

The members agreed to host the Archdiocesan Union's 2009 Family Holy Hour, which was approved by the pastor and spiritual director, Father Thomas E. Ruekert, S.D.B.

St. Bartholomew, Yonkers HNS

Over 200 persons attended the Society's Second Annual Steve Hickey Oktoberfest last month in the McManus Parish Center. The celebration was named for Steve Hickey, a former member who inspires the Society by his commitment to the Christian community by established affordable housing for immigrants.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

St. Eugene, Yonkers HNS

Members of the St. Eugene Holy Name Society participated in the parish's Forty Hours Devotion and candle-light procession in October and will join in the "National Night of Prayer" after the 7:30 p.m. Mass on December 8th.

Holy Name members also take part in the CYO Masses on the third Sunday of each month and provide refreshments afterwards.

The members will continue to sponsor the "troop phone cards" for service personnel in the military.

The Society is conducting its annual coat and coffee drive at the end of the year for the benefit of Casa San Juan, in Yonkers. 600-700 coats and hundreds of cans of coffee are collected and delivered each year.

Bergen County Federation HNS

St. Anne's Holy Name Society, Fair Lawn, NJ, celebrated their 69th annual Communion Mass on Sunday, November 9th, honoring Blessed John of Vercelli. Betty DeFusco, former president of the Rosary Society of St. Anne's, was the featured speaker.

Eucharistic Adoration is held the second Friday of each month at St. Anne's parish and all Holy Name Society members are encouraged to spend an hour with our Eucharistic Lord.

South Bronx District, Bronx Division HNS

The annual Feast of Christ the King observance will be held on Sunday, November 23, at St. Luke's Church on East 168th Street. The outdoor procession and recitation of the Rosary will be followed by Mass. Dinner will follow.

The District held its annual retreat in September at the Church of S. Margaret Mary. Forty three members, from the parishes of Christ the King, Immaculate Conception, Our Savior, St. Anselm, St. Luke, and St. Margaret Mary participated in the event.

The theme of the retreat was "The Catholic Moral and the Ten Commandments." Father Francis G. Skelly, pastor and spiritual director of Immaculate Conception parish led the opening prayers; Father Robert Arce, pastor and spiritual director of St. Margaret Mary, gave the first talk and celebrated Mass; Deacon Apolonio Mejias of St. Anselm parish gave the second talk; and Father David Guzman, pastor and spiritual director of Our Savior gave the third talk.

Cleveland DUHNS

The Bishop's Spiritual Bouquet will be presented to Bishop Lennon December 14th at the Corporate Communion Sunday for all Holy Name Societies.

The 53rd Annual Bishops Awards Dinner sponsored by the Southern District Deanery was held October 26th at Guy's Party Centre in Akron. The keynote speaker was Bishop Richard G. Lennon. The awards dinner was to honor the beloved shepherd of the Cleveland Diocese and to publicly acknowledge the many generous contributions of time, talent, and resources of Holy Name Society members throughout the eight-county Cleveland Diocese.

The Awards Dinner for the Central Deanery hosted by the St. Hyacinth Holy Name Society was held October 12th.

Reverend Kevin Liebhart. Pastor and Spiritual Director of St. Justin Martyr Holy Name Society, gave a powerful homily at the monthly (102nd!) Prayer Vigil. St. Albert the Great parish hosted the Mass and Vigil in October and the East Deanery in November. The Central Deanery will host the Feast Day of Blessed John of Vercelli on December 1st.

The Holy Name Society of Holy Name Church joined with Morality in Media, Inc, to observe WRAP Week, October 26th through November 2nd. The WRAP (White Ribbon Against Pornography) Week is intended to educate the public about the extent of the pornography problem in the media today.

San Antonio AUHNS

The Diocesan Union Annual Awards Banquet was held on October 18th at the Ft. Houston Golf Club in San Antonio. A special Deceased Memorial Mass was held on November 2nd at St. Gregory the Great Church in San Antonio. On November 23rd the Christ the King Procession and Hour of Prayer will be held at the Church of St. Gabriel. The Feast of Blessed John of Vercelli Memorial Mass will be celebrated on December 7th at the Chapel of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

Buffalo DUHNS

The Diocesan Annual Awards Banquet was held October 19th. Bishop Edward U. Kmiec, Bishop of Buffalo was the honored Guest. The Buffalo Diocesan Union HNS supported the White ribbon Against Pornography (WRAP) activities from October 26th through November 2nd by asking members to wear the white ribbon in support of this effort. Information on this important apostolate is available at www.wrapfamily.com and www.moralityinmedia.org

On November 30th the Diocesan Union will be holding the Healing Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Lewiston, NY. The Diocesan Union sponsors an hour of Eucharistic Adoration on the third Saturday of each month at St. Katharine Drexel Parish from 9 - 10 p.m.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

Metuchen Diocesan Union HNS

Members, spouses and friends of the Metuchen Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies attended a Memorial Mass with Bishop Paul G.

Bookowski as the principle Celebrant, Sunday, Nov. 2 at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish in Bridgewater, N.J. Father Chester H. Carina, the Society's spiritual moderator and pastor of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Old Bridge, N.J., was the homilist.

The Mass opened the Society's 23rd annual convention and was followed by a business session with 70 members working in small study groups. Their discussions produced subjects for growing Holy Name membership that will be presented to the Diocesan Union Executive Board to formulate a mission statement. The Society consists of Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren, N.J. counties.



The Union also re-elected Frank G. Brzychcy as president and chose Joseph Pagano as secretary. Jason Zjawiony, newly elected president of the Middlesex County Federation of Holy Name Societies, serves as a vice president.

St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocesan HNS

The Archdiocesan Association of HNS ratified a new Constitution at the October General Membership Assembly. The previous constitution was written in the early 1970's and required updating to reflect the changes in the organization. The vote was unanimous by the delegates and members present.

An All-Night Vigil of prayer and reparation was sponsored by the Holy Name Society of the Church of St. Augustine on November 7th and 8th. This is an annual event held in conjunction with the World Apostolate of Fatima. Men from the Society lead the faithful in prayers throughout the night, which concludes with the Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This is one of the 12 monthly All Night Vigils scheduled by the World Apostolate of Fatima in the Archdiocese each year.

NAHNS Communications Office

Cleveland Cosum has been named the new Director of Communications for the NAHNS. Cleveland replaces Gerard F. Novak from the Diocese of Baltimore. Cleveland can be reached via e-mail at cleveland399@yahoo.com or via mail at 1227 Carroll Street, Baltimore, MD 21230-3302 or via phone at (410) 385-2255.

A new e-mail address has been established to improve communications across all members. If you would like to get information on key NAHNS issues and events send an e-mail to the new address: info@nahns.com. A new website is also being developed to enhance information on devotions to the Holy Name of Jesus and to be a vehicle for improving information flow across the NAHNS.

2009 NAHNS National Convention

The 2009 National Convention has been scheduled for October 8 through October 11, 2009 at the Miramar Retreat Center, Duxbury, MA. The convention will be hosted by the Boston Archdiocesan HNS. More information will be coming out in early 2009.

NATIONAL HOLY NAME SOCIETY SUPPLY OFFICE

Available for Christmas!

- Pocket Pledge Calendar: (#703) wallet-sized - laminated - \$0.12 ea or \$11.00 per 100
- "Keep Christ in Christmas" bumper stickers: (#301) - blue with red and white lettering - English or Spanish - \$0.35 ea
- Holy Name Rosary: (#855) - black - in gift box - \$20.00
- Much more!

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PRAYER TO BLESSED JOHN OF VERCELLI

God our Father, You raised Blessed John of Vercelli to leadership in Your church and made him an apostle of the Holy Name of Jesus, Your divine Son. We ask of you, through the intercession of Blessed John, a renewal of devotion to Your son among ourselves and our fellow men. May all men come to know, to love and to reverence the most Holy Name of Jesus - "So that at Jesus' name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD"

JESUS' BIRTHDAY

The family had gathered for the customary Christmas Day get together. About twenty five people had assembled for the festivities including food, presents, and games. The day started with a prayer and a reading from the beginning of Luke's gospel about the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Things seemed to be going along well. All of a sudden, one of the non-believing family members said in a loud voice, "It is not Christmas that brings us together today, it is our strong family ties. That is the reason we get together." I was formulating a careful, succinct and firm response while one of the kids simply said, "It is Jesus' birthday. That is why we are here."

It is sometimes easy to forget why we do all the things we do for Christmas. When confronted with the situation, we often are not sure what to say, or we search for complicated explanations that will constrain any possible rebuttal. Yet, the simple fact and response is normally the best – "It is Jesus' birthday. That is why we are here."

A local retailer had been offering a variety of Christmas sup-

plies each holiday season. He never really promoted his offering much but stocked an increasing variety of goods each season. One year, he decided to make a major marketing push to let the community know that he had everything they needed at one easy stop. The first year he marketed his wares as the things people would need for the holidays. Business was good; people came and shopped; they bought most of what he offered.

While preparing the marketing campaign for the next year, he started thinking that promoting the offering as a holiday offering just didn't seem right. This was about celebrating Christmas. But if he marketed his shop as a Christmas store, some people might be upset. Some people who shopped at his store in previous years might not return; thus it could hurt business. He thought about this for a while but then decided he would not be bashful about marketing it as that.

Up went the signs "Christmas Shoppe – everything you need for Christmas." He promoted his store via ads on radio, TV and on large bill boards

around town. People that were looking for Christmas items knew exactly where to go. A few people specifically asked him, "Don't you mean holiday shop, and holiday supplies?" He politely said, "No. This is a Christmas shop - everything you need to celebrate Christmas. You will find our offerings useful for other celebrations too, but this is the Christmas Shoppe."

That dilemma and decision was made over fifteen years ago. Since that time, this store has continued to stock, sell and promote everything for Christmas. Business has been great at the Christmas Shoppe and continues to grow each year.

Thinking of these two situations and how the people involved responded has always helped me focus on the birth of Jesus each Advent. As we travel through the days ahead, we'll each have an opportunity, some subtle, some not so subtle, to remind people to keep Christ in Christmas. May the Holy Spirit give us the strength, words and actions to make the good news known when the opportunity arises.

Ron Schmitz
St. Paul / Minneapolis AHNS

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FEAST OF BLESSED JOHN OF VERCELLI

Blessed John was Born John Garbella around 1205 at Capa Mostro (near Vercelli), Italy; died at Montpellier, France, on November 30, 1283. He was the 6th Master General of the Dominican Order. Blessed John of Vercelli is considered the patron of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Names of God and Jesus due to his zeal for promoting devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. His Feast Day is December 1st. Please use this day to pray to Blessed John for intercession to help your Holy Name Society carry out our mission of Spreading Devotion to the Name of Jesus Christ. **Blessed John of Vercelli – Pray for us!**



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

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**NAHNS Evangelization
Fund**

Donations are being accepted to help promote the efforts of the NAHNS to promote devotion to the most Holy Name of Jesus. If you would like to remember the NAHNS in your will or would like to make a tax deductible donation to the NAHNS, please contact:

**NAHNS Evangelization
Fund**

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www.holynamesociety.info