



Holy Name Society Newsletter

Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

“THE CHRIST PSALM” IN HOLY NAME SPIRITUALITY

St. Paul, according to Acts 16: 9-40, established a Christian community at Philippi, the first such community in Europe. Philippi was named for Phillip II the father of Alexander the Great. It was a city of some importance in the Roman province of Macedonia, located in northern Greece. His letter to the Philippians was written while he was a prisoner, indeed in danger of death. The location of St. Paul’s imprisonment, and thus the date of his writing of the letter, is uncertain.

Recent scholars favor Ephesus, around A.D. 55. This beautiful letter reveals St. Paul’s deep feelings for those who dwelt in Philippi.

The letter to the Philippians incorporates a hymn about the salvation that God has achieved through Christ, the “Christ Psalm,” Phil. 2:6-11. The Jesuit scholar John McKenzie, S.J. wrote that the Letter to the Philippians contains the unique Christological hymn as one of the most remarkable monuments of primitive Christian faith.

The six verses of the hymn are six strophes enunciating the following themes: the divine preexistence of Christ, the abasement (*kenosis*) of His incarnation, the abasement of His death, the heavenly glorification of Christ, the adoration of the universe, and the new title (*kyrios*) won by the glorified Christ.

The Christ Psalm comes to its glorious conclusion in the words that should be dear to the heart of every member of

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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.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON’S BLESSINGS

Since his election last March, Pope Francis has been calling us to be a Church that is outward looking, realizing the command of the Lord Jesus to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Indeed, we are conscious of this calling given to each one of us in our baptism into the Catholic Faith. It is interesting to note that when Jesus first called his apostles, he invited them to “Come and see.” After they had spent three years with Him in His public ministry, after His death and resurrec-

tion, Jesus then commanded them to “Go and teach all nations.” Implied with the dynamic Jesus used for his apostles, we too realize the implicit need to first undergo our conversion and commitment to Him before we can actually be His witnesses to others. Our Holy Name Society spirituality is committed to this dynamic of conversion of

“... we realize the implicit need to first undergo our conversion and commitment to Him before we can actually be His witnesses to others.”

self, commitment to the Lord Jesus, and then concretely witnessing our Faith to others. When I celebrate the Rite of Confirmation, I tell the young people that when I encounter adults who are on the road to becoming Catholics, I ask them what brought them to our Faith. The answer is usually, “I know a Catholic person and felt drawn to the Faith

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new church year begins on December 1, with the first Sunday of Advent. The beginning of this new year ushers in renewed enthusiasm, optimism, and joy. This is true in the Church; it is also true within the Holy Name Society.

The newly elected and appointed NAHNS leaders have begun their efforts to lead the Holy Name Society. We seek enlightenment from the Holy Spirit, much like the original disciples of Jesus, to guide our steps in this important apostolate.

We are eager to get to the tasks at hand - to establish our goals and objectives for the upcoming year. We do this mindful of the long history of the Holy Name Society in conjunction with the recent positive efforts. And we consider—what is the unique purpose of the Holy Name Society?

At the core of the purpose is perhaps our NAHNS tag line: *spreading devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, yesterday, today, and forever.* Are actually doing this? How do our various actions, activities, tasks, and events accomplish this? Are

there things we should be doing instead of what we are currently doing that would more effectively spread devotion to the name of Jesus?

We have a tremendous and unique opportunity to proclaim the name of Jesus. The entire NAHNS leadership team looks forward to working with you in making the name of Jesus known, respected, and loved.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever more!

*Ron Schmitz
NAHNS President*

They name him Wonder-Counselor,

CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH CARE. DO I?

Redefinition of marriage by state legislators, erosion or outright loss of religious freedom by government policies and laws, refusal by political leadership to uphold constitutional protections, and the apathetic attitude of more and more Americans toward the moral decline of our society, makes it easier for us to retreat from our obligations as Christians, as Catholics, and as Holy Name Society members.

Perhaps we've thought to ourselves, "Why make an effort? What good would it do? I've prayed regularly (*or have I?*), and it hasn't done any good.

They're winning. We might as well just give up and just go along with everyone else."

Adversity brings out one's character. It brings out one's faith or lack of faith. Where do I really stand with my faith?

Actually, what it really comes down to is the

"Adversity brings out one's character. It brings out one's faith or lack of faith."

question, "Where do I really stand with Christ?" It's vital to be honest with oneself about this question. We must address it head on. We all are tempted to just avoid the ques-

tion and just hope that our problems, our country's problems, would just go away.

Okay, so perhaps one's faith hasn't been strong. We've all experienced a weak faith at times in our lives.

Now is the time to be honest. Now is the time to recommit ourselves to more prayer. As others have said, "Our crisis is a crisis of saints." We need to become men and women of prayer; **a lot of prayer.**

We need to consistently recall our purpose as Holy Name

FROM A SMALL PARISH, MANY BLESSINGS

One example, of many, of the Holy Name Society members reaching out to provide direct support to a parish-based initiative is support of the Habitat for Humanity project from Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Meadow Lands, Pennsylvania.

The effort was centered on the support of a lady of that community in dire need of substantial home restoration work who was without the funds to get it done. The story clearly evidences the potential of parish-based works of mercy (“I was home-

less, and you provided Me shelter,”) led by members of the Holy Name Society of that parish.

Inspired by the call of the pastor, Father Carmen D’Amico; to his parishioners to sacrifice for someone in need, the members of the Holy Name Society rose to the occasion. Drawing on the membership of the confraternity, Mr. Michael Kubacki, as president, with the pastor and members of the Holy Name Society joined with other parishioners to collect donations of materials and money needed for the

project. The repairs were well beyond the capability or funds of the lady from Midland Chartiers Township to accomplish for herself.

Volunteers of men, women, and youth, working together, provided substantial work to bring the home to a livable condition. Father D’Amico said in observation of the response, “It is one thing to sit in church and another to live out of it.” George Pecharka, Holy Name Society Secretary, noted that this is not the only example of the Society’s work in this community. Mr. Brad-

ley, a parishioner, prays that others will follow this example set by the Holy Name Society and the parishioners of Our Lady’s church.

This story is a great example of what the Holy Name Society members can do from within their parish to make a difference for a community. As the lady in need replied, “God is good.” And his goodness shines through each of us.

Randy Duva, Financial Secretary, and Paul McKeough, Secretary, NAHNS

God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

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Society members which states:

“The Confraternity of the Most Holy Names of God and Jesus (Holy Name Society) promotes reverence for the Sacred Names of God and Jesus Christ, obedience and loyalty to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, and the personal sanctification and holiness of its members. Members are called to contribute to the evangelization mission of the Church and to make perpetual acts of reverence and love for our Lord and Savior.”

I know how easy it is to forget our purpose and to allow distractions to creep into our

lives. So, how do we better live out our purpose? As our Lord Jesus taught us and His Church continues to teach us, we must be people of prayer.

Pray, pray, and pray. Pray individually and as a Holy Name Society

parish chapter for the intentions of our Holy Father, for greater devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, and for the basic building blocks of society – the dignity of the human person from conception till

“So, how do we better live out our purpose? As our Lord Jesus taught us and His Church continues to teach us, we must be people of prayer.”

natural death, for the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage, for the protection of Catholic family life, and for the proper formation of Catholic Youth

and Young Adults. Let us make sure that we specifically pray for all of our needs in the name of Jesus. Let others see that we are men and women of prayer. Let others see that we’re not afraid to show our need for God.

Let our membership, from

the national level to the local parish Society, recommit ourselves to becoming Holy Name Society members of prayer. Daily praying of the rosary and the daily, prayerful recitation of our Holy Name pledge for the needs of life, marriage, family and our youth are two time-honored, foundational ways for our members to strengthen our faith individually and as a Holy Name Society. By doing so, we can better live out the purpose of our Society.

Richard Kehoe, Chair Life Marriage Family Youth Committee

“THE CHRIST PSALM” IN HOLY NAME SPIRITUALITY

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the Holy Name Society, verses 9-11: “*God bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

“By attributing to Jesus the divine title ‘Lord,’ the first confessions of the Church’s faith affirm from the beginning that the power, honor, and glory due to God the Father are due also to Jesus, because ‘He was in the form of God’ (Phil. 2:6), and the Father manifested the sovereignty of Jesus by raising Him from the dead and exalting Him into His glory” (Catechism 449).

The Christological hymn of Phil. 2:6-11 is combined with the cry of the publican (Luke 18:13) and the blind man begging for light (Mark 10:46-52)

and forms the “Jesus Prayer.” The most usual formulation, transmitted by the spiritual writers of the Sinai, Syria, and Mount Athos, is the invocation, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners.” By it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior’s mercy” (Catechism. 2267).

The invocation of the holy Name of Jesus is the simplest way of praying always. When the Holy Name is repeated often by a humbly attentive heart, the prayer is not lost by heaping up empty phrases, but holds fast to the Word and brings forth fruit with patience. This prayer is possible “at all times” because it is not one occupation among others but the only occupation: that of loving God, which animates and transfigures every action in Christ Jesus (Catechism 2668).

Prayer impels us to ministry; it impels us to empty our-

selves of our own selfishness; it impels us to serve others in authentic ministry. Intrinsically linked to the sacramental nature of ecclesial ministry is its character of service. Entirely dependent on Christ Who gives mission and authority, ministers are truly “slaves of Christ” (cf. Romans 1:1) in the image of Him Who freely took “the form of a slave” (Phil. 2:7) for us. Because the word and grace of which they are ministers are not their own, but are given to them by Christ for the sake of others, they must freely become the slaves of all (cf. 1 Cor. 9:19) (Catechism 876).

The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are key Holy Name Society ministries. The works of mercy are charitable action by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, and comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing

wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God (Catechism 2447).

Through faithful prayer and authentic ministry, we achieve what St. Paul instructed the Philippians to do in the verse before the Christ Psalm: “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). As apprentices in Holy Name spirituality, we can thus confess both in faith and in works that “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:11).

*Rev. Paul Chauvenac, Pastor,
St. Justin Martyr Parish,
Houston, Texas*

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON’S BLESSINGS

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through him/her.” What testimony this is for those who truly live the Catholic Faith to its fullest and are able to draw others to Christ.

Blessed John of Vercelli knew of the importance of conversion and commitment to Jesus Christ when he established the

Holy Name Society. As members, we are challenged to bring others to Jesus by our lives of Faith and witness. We are also challenged to help others deepen their commitment to Jesus through the spirituality of the Holy Name. If we take the advice of Pope Francis, we will not turn inward, but seek to bring the solid spirituality we are given

to others. By both personal edification and the witness of our works in our parishes and communities, we will fulfill our baptismal call and the goal of the Holy Name Society.

We have great joy in following Christ and giving glory to His Holy Name. Let us share that joy through personal invi-

tation to others, inviting them to “Come and See.”

May this Advent Season and Christmas bring joy and peace to you and to your families.

*Most Reverend Bishop Mitchell T.
Rozanski, D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop, Baltimore, MD
Episcopal Moderator, NAHNS*

NAHNS NEWS

Cause of Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli Update

The Committee for Promotion of the Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli has received recent encouragement in several key areas.

First, there are key Dominican Order leaders who have expressed increased interest in the Cause for Blessed John.

Second there is a clear indication that the Cause was, in fact, accepted for further processing by Pope Pius IX and, therefore, should be a base for further progressive development.

Third, there are substantive research materials that have been developed by Fr. William Crandall, O.P. and others that have not yet been published that should shed important insight to the appropriateness of canonization of this man of God.

There has been important data brought forward of a favor/miracle that would have substantive influence in the final approval of Blessed John's continuing influence. There is an increasing awareness that

Blessed John's mission and apostolic accomplishments are in tune with current needs of the faithful and provide an emphasis for current evangelization.

The committee members ask that all Holy Name Society members continue to pray and share their Faith in Blessed John by public celebrations of Mass.

Auxiliary Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski elected to USCCB Committee Chair

The U.S. bishops at their fall general assembly in Baltimore elected new leaders, discussed a second collection in their dioceses for typhoon relief in the Philippines, reviewed efforts to defend traditional marriage and religious liberty, and approved development of a statement on the dangers of pornography.

Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, NAHNS Episcopal Moderator was also elected chairman of the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Prison Ministry Update

Mr. Bud Cope, chairman for the NAHNS Metanoia Prison ministry, was recognized at the 2012 NAHNS national Convention with the Association's Humanitarian Award, for Bud's unrelenting 35 plus years of apostolic ministry.

Bud continues to expand the scope of his service into new areas of the country by offering his service to coordinate Metanoia retreats and other spiritual services into all areas of the United States.

The NAHNS Apostolate of the Metanoia ministry of spiritualization of those imprisoned, was active during the 2013 Convention in the Pueblo. The committee met on the evening of September 25 for the purpose of exploring the possibility of providing a retreat during the summer of 2014 in the Pueblo Diocese. Among those participating, in addition to Prison Ministry Committee members were Father Mario Marconi, Diocesan Prison Ministry Apostolate

and Deacon Dan Leetch, Pueblo Bishop's Pastoral Associate for Institutional Ministry.

From this initial "Breaking of Bread," the development of a specific mission at the Freemont, Colorado prison has become a process of "how will we do this."

The Freemont Colorado facility is a medium security facility in a county complex of several progressively secure prisons. It is here, provided logistical details can be worked through' that a team of Holy Name Society members will come together to bring the Lord's comfort to the imprisoned. Prayers for the spiritual success of this mission are needed.

Bud Cope's daughter, Kathleen, has joined the committee as co-chair. The committee also recognized Father Tom Hayes, O.P for his many years of support of this apostolate.

NAHNS SUPPLIES AVAILABLE ONLINE

The new on-line webstore is operational in Phase 1 through the NAHNS website. Several items are now stocked for immediate delivery and

free two day shipping is available for Amazon Prime members for several items. Phase 2 implementation is in the works as there is more devel-

opment to come over time. Please visit the NAHNS website nahns.com to learn more and to access the store. Special order items are still ful-

filled by the Supply Store Manager, Mr. John Chaklos. John will continue as Store Manager during the multi-phase transitions.

THE 43RD ANNUAL NAHNS NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

The 43rd Annual NAHNS National Convention was held in Pueblo, Colorado from September 26th through the 28th.

The NAHNS is deeply grateful for the invitation from Bishop

Fernando Isern, (Retired) for his generous invitation to host the 2013 Convention in the beautiful mountain setting of the Diocese of Pueblo.

In addition to Bishop Isern, we thank the diocesan staff

and the people of Pueblo who made this a most special experience.

Outstanding in his hospitality, we thank Mr. Joe Cristman of the diocesan staff for extraor-

dinary support and going the extra length to make this convention a most successful one.

Below are listed some of the highlights from this year's convention.

Increased Coordination with Dominican order and US Catholic Bishops Conference

There has been a progressive development in the relations between the American Dominican Order and the National Association. This effort has been led by Fr. Thomas Hayes, O.P. and William Harris. Closer ties with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is the aim of the current Executive Board. This effort is being led by William Harris and the NAHNS Episcopal Moderator, Bishop Mitchell Rozanski, Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop. These two advancements bode well for the NAHNS both short term and long term. There is an increasing awareness that as the focus of the Holy Name Society migrates to a more spiritual orientation and direct commitment to pastoral support and parish activity, that the relevance of the Holy Name Society can play a more vital role in the Catholic Church both in the United States and on the world-stage, especially in Australia and in the Philippine Islands.

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Spiritual Enrichment

During the 43rd Annual National Convention we were blessed indeed to have the presence and active participation of our Episcopal Moderator, Bishop Mitchell Rozanski, Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop; Dominican friars: Father Tom Hayes, OP, "Spiritual Director Emeritus," standing in for Father Stephen Carmody, OP, former postulator for the Cause for Canonization for Blessed John of Vercelli, and current Spiritual Director. Fr. Carmody was recovering from open heart surgery. Also in attendance was Father Paul Sabo, OP, of Buffalo, NY, who is active with the Holy Name Society in that Archdiocese and in Western Canada; and Father John McLaughlin, currently on faculty of the diocesan seminary in Boston, Massachusetts. Fr. McLaughlin has a gifted singing voice and provided spiritual depth and a bit of Irish cheer to every situation. Father Andrew Fischer, our host from our excellent Pittsburgh 2012 convention, and pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Moon Township, PA, also provided great spiritual enrichment to

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Strengthening Key Committees

The Marketing Communications Committee; the NAHNS Prison Ministry Committee; the Life, Marriage, Family, and Youth (LMFY) Committee, the Religious and Spiritual Renewal Committee; and the Blessed John of Vercelli Committee all held meetings during the convention and the Executive Board and the delegates all voiced continued support of these key committees. The Marketing Communications Committee initiatives include continuing the update of association publications, most particularly the "Start Up Kit" materials for new confraternities in their early phase of operations; reorienting the NAHNS newsletter so that it is more proactive and informative of affairs in the national association; and extending continued support to (Arch)Diocesan and parish Holy Name Confraternities with the newly established and operational on-line "webstore."

The LMFY Committee reach and influence will be in-

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New Board Elected

Election of Board members was a significant and important part of the Convention itinerary. Ronald G. Schmidt, was elected the new President of the Executive Board. Ron is from the St. Paul – Minneapolis Archdiocese and most recently served on the Executive Board as the First Vice President. Ron replaces William Harris who remains on the Board as the Chair of the Executive Advisory Committee. Pete Carbone was elected as First Vice President. Pete moved up from Second Vice President to take his new position. Gerry Devine remains on the Executive Board as the Second Vice President and John Bradley joins the Executive Board as the new Third Vice President.

Paul McKeough was renewed on the Board as the Secretary and Randy Duva remains on the Board in the position of the Financial Secretary. In addition, the Constitution of the NAHNS was amended to add the Marketing Communications Director position to the Board as a full voting member. Mike Gores was

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Increased Coordination

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Quoting Bishop Rozanski, from "The Communicator" newsletter of the Baltimore Archdiocesan Holy Name Union, October, 2013: "In so many ways, the witness of the Holy Name Society is needed more than ever in our world and particularly in our country. The devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, acknowledging Him as Our Savior, is the base for a life dedicated to prayer and good works. As individuals, we may feel helpless at times in trying to better our world, but as a group, we build on one another's strengths and assistance to address the needs of our communities."

Strengthening Key Committees

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Increased through more effective distribution of the LFMY Bulletin and development of Spanish-language resources.

In addition, the Religion and Spiritual Renewal Committee has targeted development of a revised Spiritual Director Guide, beginning with a draft revision from Father Paul Sabo, O.P. and a major undertaking to update "In His Name" the primary spiritual guide for members of the Holy Name Society. All of the committees look to increase active membership in the coming year for more effective communication across the Society.

Spiritual Enrichment

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the activities. In nearly every session, we could count on valuable insights from one or more of these men of God.

The convention provided an intensely spiritual few days for everyone who participated. Beginning with concelebrated Mass each morning, through the sharing of experiences, and development of plans for moving forward, these few days were rich in insight, increased

fellowship, and a clearer sense of the paths ahead.

Certainly, in terms of new ventures, these few days in the mountains of Colorado convinced many delegates of the opportunities we have as a Society to participate in building up the Kingdom of God through Hispanic Outreach and through outreach to our young people for their personal and spiritual development. The delegates from El Paso, Texas were very forthcoming about their successes and convincing that we should move these initiatives forward.

New Board Elected

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nominated to remain in this position.

Stan Baran, Region Vice President from Chicago, IL was selected by the Regional Vice Presidents to be their representative to the NAHNS Executive Board.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

How do we follow in the footsteps of Blessed Father John Garbella, O.P., and of the great Saint Dominic? "Follow me," words from Jesus, the Christ, to His disciples. These words were chosen as a point of inspiration for the NAHNS by our immediate past president, William Harris,

as a uniting theme for the recently concluded 43rd Annual NAHNS Convention in Pueblo, Colorado. The NAHNS had been invited there by the bishop of the Diocese of Pueblo, Fernando Isern, now, due to health issues, retired. His comment, over two years ago, was that he had a high

devotion to the ministry and the spreading of devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. "I would heartily welcome creating further opportunity for men and women, young and old, to gather here for prayer and services across our parishes and for our Diocese as a whole." And so we did.

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LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

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Unfortunately, because Bishop Isern became seriously ill, he went into convalescence away from Pueblo, and did not have the opportunity to experience first hand the bounteous results of his invitation as people from across the country gathered there in Pueblo.

We will perhaps most remember the mode of constant prayer and reflection on our commitment and on the chal-

lenges ahead in the Lord's vineyard; where ever we go we can draw strength from this experience.

Next year we will gather to reflect

again on our role and contribution to Holy Mother Church and our devotion to the Lord Jesus. Then we will be at the Miramar Retreat

"Our Holy Name Society members, whether as novice or professed, man or woman, young or old, can be a light, together with thousands of associates across this great country ... and beyond."

House, Duxbury, Massachusetts, Archdiocese of Boston. Over the next year, the focus of our efforts and of this

Spirit experienced in Pueblo. Our Holy Name Society members, whether as novice or professed, man or woman, young or old, can be a light,

together with thousands of associates across this great county - and even beyond: in the Philippine Islands, Australia... where ever the Holy Name message takes root, grows, and flourishes.

In our contact with whom-ever, all of us should be in joy through the sharing with Our Lord, His Blessed Mother, as we respond to His call: "Come follow Me...."

*Paul McKeough
NAHNS Secretary*



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