



Holy Name Society Newsletter

Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live (Dt: 30:19). This promise to ancient Israel testifies to the conviction that life is sacred and all life is to be protected. This is a legacy and promise not only to the Hebrews. The Sumerian code (2000 B.C.) has the earliest penalty prescribed for abortion. So too the Code of Hammurabi the Assyrian, Hittite, Persian, Greek and

Jewish law. From antiquity down to our present day, human life has been held up as a special treasure and gift. The Hippocratic oath in medicine bears witness to this and our own Declaration of Independence based on natural law and the confirmation of ages of human history clearly rings bold with the statement. *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created Equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are*

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Why is it then, indeed, how can it even be considered, that human life, especially the life of the unborn be so devalued and subordinated to interests far less basic and much less important in our current society.

What we find prevalent today is a terrible, amoral amnesia that so soon forgets the horror of the holocaust, the

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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.

2010 NAHNS NATIONAL CONVENTION

On December 15, 2009, Joe Lapointe, National Association of the Holy Name Society (NAHNS) President received an official invitation from the Most Rev. Michael Sheehan, Archbishop of Santa Fe, inviting the NAHNS to his diocese for the 2010 NAHNS convention. In a letter dated January 10, 2010, Joe Lapointe confirmed and accepted the invitation.

The 2010 national convention will be held in the Santa Fe area from

September 23rd through September 26th. Work has been initiated to firm up the details of where to stay, where



the meetings will be held, and how best to see the sites and enjoy the unique offerings of this area. The agenda for the convention and details regarding the hotel will be provided as soon as possible. Information will be provided about transportation options. For air travelers, the airports of Santa Fe (SAF) or Albuquerque (ABQ) are both good choices.

Let us join our prayers and good wishes together for a successful convention in the fall of 2010.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the first time in the 40 year history of the National Association, we are holding our national convention in the American southwest! I have been working with NAHNS 3rd Vice President Ron Schmitz since the 2010 National Holy Name Convention to find a venue for this year's convention. Several surveys were taken among those members who have attended the convention over the past two years to ascertain where they would like to meet this year. At the same time, National 1st Vice President Bill Harris was in contact with Region XIII (Wyoming; Utah; Colorado; Arizona and New Mexico) Vice President Benny Bachicha, about hosting the

convention in his region. The idea of hosting a national meeting or event in Region XIII first arose when Bill was NAHNS 2nd Vice President when his responsibilities included supervising the activities of the regional vice presidents.

I am pleased to announce that through the efforts of Regional Vice President Benny Bachicha, I received a letter from the Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop of Santa Fe, extending an invitation to our organization to hold the convention in his archdiocese. The convention will be held in Santa Fe from September 23rd to the 26th. This is going to be

a great opportunity to promote the Holy Name Society in this region. More information will be available in the near future. Please check the NAHNS website nahns.com for details on the convention as soon as they become available.

As we approach the season of Lent, we should use this special time in the liturgical calendar for spiritual growth and renewal. Lent offers each of us the opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. This is our calling as Catholic Christians.

Joe Lapointe
NAHNS President

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

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suffering and misery inflicted on innocent persons and is so blind as to permit the violence and persecution of the helpless with a total disregard for human life at all levels, from the unborn to the elderly to the dying. This continuing moral collapse has infected even the sacred state of marriage, the union in love for one man for one woman, so that now this precious gift is challenged.

Some might think, and even prefer, to simply draw the wagons together against the encircling foe or pull up the drawbridge and retire to the

safety of customs, laws, and any social or political fortifications that might promise a safe haven against the forces of evil. I do not think this is possible. It would be like putting a band-aid on a gaping wound. No, a profound healing is necessary. There is an old Gaelic blessing that describes the attitude:

May those who love us, love us.

And those that don't love us,

May God turn their hearts.

And if He doesn't turn their hearts,

May He turn their ankles

So we'll know them by their limping

AMEN

The hearts, minds, and souls of many must be altered to understand that all life is truly God's precious gift. Our current society is "limping along" on its current path. If the world is to regain its stride towards health and happiness, the dignity of life must be respected and protected – every where and at all times!

Fr. Thomas Hayes O.P.
NAHNS Spiritual Director

HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS

“Protecting the dignity of human life” thrusts us immediately into the battle between the culture of life and the culture of death. The dignity of human life must be protected because its opponents are gruesome and relentless - murder in all its forms, kidnapping and hostage-taking, human trafficking, drug dealing, abortion and some forms of sexual contraception. While we must

oppose all these and other matters like them, we shouldn't overlook the tiny but insidious germs that do lots of damage in small but destructive ways in our family life, our driving habits, our work environment, and public and civic life.

In families oftentimes, husbands and wives start to take each other for granted, they forget to be considerate, and

sometimes they even humiliate one another. Bad language and name-calling nibble away at each spouse's dignity, and a little of the culture of death seeps into the marriage. To protect the dignity of human life, spouses need to make a conscious effort to respect each other and to strengthen each other. There's no husband better than one honored by his wife; there's no wife better than one honored by

her husband.

Some children are exposed to verbal, emotional and sexual abuse. All of these things do grave damage to the dignity of their life and breed problems that appear later in their adulthood. I can't count the number of times I've heard, in listening to a troubled married couple, that one or the other spouse was told, in his or her

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WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, helping the homeless, visiting the incarcerated, etc. are all things each one of us can do to protect the dignity of human Life. Mary Mother of Captives is a very special ministry committed to helping to those who are incarcerated and their family members. We try to help them by writing letters of encouragement through the Pen Pal Program. We are in desperate need of 500 people on the outside to become a pen pal. The Pen Pal Program is based on complete anonymity. We code your name and use our PO Box as the return address and re-mail the letter from the inmate unopened. The Pen Pal Program is free to all who participate both in and out of the prison walls. There are over 2.3 million men and women who are incarcerated. Many

have lost family and friends through years of incarceration or imprisoned a great distance from home. The statistics

Catholic faith and the apostolate of the Holy Name Society tell us to practice the Corporal Works of Mercy. Not

command when He tells us “when I was in prison you visited me.” (Mt 25:36)

Prayer for Prisoners and Correction Officers

Most gracious Father, bless with your special care all penitentiaries and homes of refuge. Look with pity on those who are housed there. Guide and protect those who have returned to the world. Grant all of them true contrition for past sins, and strengthen them in their good resolutions. Lead them along from grace to grace so that by the help of the Holy Spirit they may persevere in the ways of obedience and humility, and in the struggle against evil thoughts and desires. Grant the Holy Spirit to those engaged in teaching and training them, that they might have a right judgment with respect to those entrusted to them. May they labor for love of your with deep humility and singleness of purpose, purity of heart and life, and true zeal for your glory and the salvation of souls. Give them faith and love to sustain them in disappointment, love and patience toward those under them, and in your own good time crown their work with an eternal recompense. Amen.

St Cyprian of Carthage, Bishop, Martyr and Doctor

show that 1 out of 31 has someone in prison or on parole/probation.

Why should we care? Our

some of them – *all of them.*

You can make a difference to someone who has lost everything. The Pen Pal Program is a great way to fulfill Jesus'

One inmate recently wrote, “I have been in search of Mary Mother of Captives for some time now. I just want someone to talk to. I know I've made mistakes, we all have, no one is perfect. I pray to become more of what God wants me to be. But I don't know what God wants me to be... I know I'm a good person and once someone gets to know me they will know too. I know the rules you have for the Pen Pal Program and will follow them...” - Jesse Greenburg N.N.C.C., Carson City, NV.

More information can be found on the Holy Name website at NAHNS.com under the **Prison Ministry link**. Please help!

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HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

New York Archdiocesan Union HNS

The Archdiocesan Union's Annual Family Holy Hour will be held on Sunday, April 25th at the Church of the Holy Rosary on Eastchester Road in the Bronx. The Holy Hour will be conducted in observance of the Year for Priests.

St. Claire of Assisi, Bronx HNS

Members will sponsor a Lenten Day of Recollection on Saturday, March 20th, at St. Claire's. The event will feature a talk on "Preparing the Body to Be Raised: Praying With Signs of Jesus In St. John's Gospel" by Fr. Joel Warden, Curate of the Oration Church of St. Boniface, and will conclude with Mass.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bronx HNS

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bronx HNS annual memorial Mass for Deceased Spiritual Director and HNS members was held in November. After the Mass, a Memorial Service was held in which family members of the deceased and HNS members tolled a bell for each of the deceased. The service concluded with prayers. Presentations are given at each of the monthly meetings. January's topic was "Covenantal Theology – What it Means to have a Covenant with God".

South Bronx District, Bronx Division HNS

More than 300 people participated in the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King in the parish of Our Savior in November. After the Mass, select members were presented with the Union's Awards of Achievement. Seven new members were received into the Society with all members joining in the recitation of the Holy Name Society Pledge.

St. Frances De Chantal, Bronx HNS

St. Frances De Chantal, Bronx Annual Nocturnal Adoration parish Mass was celebrated on December 12th. More than one thousand hours of adoration to the Blessed Sacrament were offered in 2009.

The HNS sponsored a parish blood drive on December 20th – over 60 pints of blood were collected. The blood drive was dedicated to the memory of past president James F. Quinn, blood drive co-captain who passed away in November of 2009.

St. Mary's / Fishkill Correctional Facility, Fishkill, NY HNS

A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent 2009 were held by the Roman Catholic Community at Fishkill Correctional Facility. Past HNS President Daniel Hiraldo coordinated the event.

Brooklyn Diocesan Union HNS

The Annual Holy Name Recognition Mass was held at St. James Cathedral-Basilica in Brooklyn on February 21st. The Most Reverend Bishop Ignatius A. Catanello, DD PhD was the main celebrant. The Mass was televised live on NET (New Evangelization Television).

The Annual Communion Brunch in memory of deceased members is set for Saturday, March 20, at Our lady of Snows Church in Floral Park. The guest speaker will be Msgr. Kierman E. Harrington, Associate Publisher of the "The Tablet" and Vicar of Communications.

Sunday, March 7th the Holy Name of Jesus Church will host the Benediction and General meeting. Reverend Gary Rogers, Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church, will lead the Benediction.

A Day of Recollection was held on February 6th at St. Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset.

New Rochelle Fire Dept. HNS

The New Rochelle Fire Department is conducting its 5th Annual Communion Mass and Breakfast, April 25th, at Holy Name Church in New Rochelle. New firefighting equipment will be blessed at the Mass.

St. Francis Xavier, Bronx HNS

Eight large bags of gifts were delivered to the Williamsbridge Manor Nursing Home as part of the "Giving Tree" gift drive in December.

Members continue to support and develop the parish website on which is published information on the parish societies.

The HNS sponsored the annual Parish Men's Retreat at the Passionist Spiritual Center in January.

Family Catholic Church of New Braunfels, TX HNS

The Family Catholic Church Holy Name Society of New Braunfels celebrated their "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign with parishioners after masses on Sunday, December 20th. The event was held to encourage all parishioners to focus on their families and friends and to keep Christ at the center of their Christmas.

Washington, D.C. Archdiocesan Union HNS

On Saturday, March 13th, Joseph W. Latchford, Jr. will form the first Holy Name Union in 35 years in the Washington, D.C. area. The program will be directed by Gerry Novak, twice past National President of the National Holy Society. Seven parishes have been invited to join the union.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

Buffalo Diocesan Union HNS

The Annual Convention was hosted by the St. Andrew Parish Holy Name Society. Fr. Joseph Porpiglia, pastor of St. Benedict's parish, spoke on his experiences as a chaplain in Afghanistan. Carmen A. Colao and Chip Mussen, from Catholic Cemeteries gave a presentation.

Plans are being developed for the Diocesan Union HNS to participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on March 14th. The theme for the Msgr. Joseph E. Maguire Scholarship Essay contest is "What Is My Mission In Life As A Member Of The Roman Catholic Church". The scholarship is open to all Catholic school students in their senior year of high school. The contestants are requested to write a 500 to 600 word essay on the topic. The winners receive funds to defray the cost of their Catholic Education.

An hour of Eucharistic Adoration is held every third Saturday of the month at St. Katherine Drexel Parish.

Corpus Christi, Port Chester HNS

The annual Communion Mass and Breakfast will be held Sunday, March 7th. The guest speakers will be Fr. Donald Delaney, S.D.B, Parochial Vicar, and Ms. Debbie Messina, who is involved with Eldercare.

Holy Family Parish, Latrobe, PA HNS

A Men's retreat will be held at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center from March 19th to the 21st. This year, 2010, marks the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Holy Name Society of Holy Family Church. All members are encouraged to attend the spiritual activities planned by the parish HNS during this special year.

37th Annual March For Life Pilgrimage, Washington, D.C.

On January 21st and 22nd, 2010 Holy Name Society members from parishes up and down the east coast joined thousands of Catholics – seminarians, religious, youth and young adults in Washington, D.C. to pray publicly on behalf of the unborn and their parents and families. Their prayers of intercession were to open the souls, minds and hearts of our nation and its leaders in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our government to the fullness of the Gospel of Life – to protect the helpless unborn and stop abortion.

St. Bartholomew, Yonkers, NY HNS

The traditional Mass for deceased members was held on Thanksgiving Day.

The annual blood drive produced over 80 pints of blood.

Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS

The Men's Lenten Retreat Day, directed by Rev. Gerard Gonda, will be held on Saturday, March 13th at St. Brendan Church on North Olmstead.

The 63rd Annual Diocesan Union Convention was held February 20th at Assumption of Mary in Broadview Heights. The speaker will be respected author and educator, Charles Spinner, who will give a talk on "The Power of Prayer as Told in His Book: Prayer to The Heavens From The Stars."

On March 17th, members will march in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, publicly attesting their love and respect for the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

The 109th Mass and Prayer Vigil was hosted by the Corpus Christi Church Holy Name Society. The evening began with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Living Rosary, and Benediction. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Paschal Petcavich, O.S.B., who gave a powerful homily about Blessed John of Vercelli.

The 110th Mass and Prayer Vigil was hosted by St. Mary of the Assumption parish. Fr. John Kumse celebrated Mass and gave a wonderful homily on the life of Blessed John and how it relates to us today.

San Francisco, CA Archdiocesan Union HNS

Felix Ad Sablad, past president of the San Francisco Archdiocesan Union of the Holy Name Society and past president of the NAHNS passed away in January. Felix was the first Filipino-American national president of the NAHNS at the 31st Annual national convention held in Boston, Massachusetts in 2001. Felix also served as editor for the NAHNS newsletter. Eternal rest grant unto Felix, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him. May Felix rest in peace.

Chicago AHNS

Our Lady of Victory parish is hosting a Lenten mission, March 8-10, co-sponsored by the area Holy Name Societies of St. Bartholomew's, St. Pascal, St. Genevieve, and Our Lady of Victory. Fr. Dominic Grassi will be speaking on the theme of "God's Call to Be Church."

Two more parishes were added to the Chicago AHNS: St. Cletus in LaGrange and St. Raphael the Archangel in Antioch. Welcome!

St. Priscilla parish on West Addison is hosting the 30th Annual Spiritual Assembly & Procession of Banners on Friday, June 11th.



HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

Archdiocese of St. Paul / Minneapolis HNS

The Holy Name Society of the parishes of Holy Trinity and St. Augustine in South St. Paul held its 7th Annual Apologetics Conference in January. This year's speaker featured Patrick Madrid, noted Catholic Apologist, author of the "Surprised by Truth" books, and host of EWTN TV and radio programs on the Catholic Faith. Approximately 200 people attended the conference. Plans are being devel-

oped for next year's conference to be part of the AAHNS Annual Speaker series which is being used to promote the Holy Name Society to parishes across the Archdiocese.

San Antonio, TX Archdiocesan Union HNS

The Feast of Blessed John of Vercelli Memorial Mass was held on December 6th at the Chapel of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. The celebrant was Fr. Einer R. Ochoa, Pastor of St. Agnes Church.

Deacon Jimmy Rodriguez, Assistant Spiritual Moderator and Deacon Frank Martinez from Blessed Sacrament Parish were the assistants.

St. Henry Catholic Church and Blessed Sacrament Parish HNS co-hosted the February Hour of Prayer service on February 28th. The service was held at St. Henry Church in San Antonio. The March Hour of Prayer will be held on March 28th at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Uvalde.

The Archdiocesan Union HNS

of San Antonio initiated a Blessed John of Vercelli Canonization Cause Prayer petition program in 1994. At each of the hours of prayer, members are encouraged to write a prayer petition, asking for help from Blessed John or praying for his canonization. These petitions are collected and placed at the foot of the altar during each Hour of Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. In 2009 over 670 prayer petitions were collected at these special Hours of Prayer.

HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS

(Continued from page 3)

childhood, "You're stupid, you'll never amount to anything." There went the dignity of their life! No wonder that later they struggle to be generous or resilient. Demoralizing the young is especially reprehensible. Children are to be protected at all times – for Jesus asked all of us to "let the children come to me".

In driving motorized vehicles, the dignity of human life can really take a beating. Driving recklessly or under the influence of alcohol or drugs can and often does lead to the injury or destruction of a life. I remember once driving behind a car that had a sticker on its bumper. The sticker read "Honk if you love Jesus," so I honked. What do you think happened next? Well, I hate to tell you, but I got the classic

salute in the rear view mirror! I guess the driver forgot what his bumper sticker said. Being a safe, law abiding, defensive and considerate driver, on the other hand, is a way of protecting the dignity of human life.

The workplace can be a place where the dignity of human life can be compromised. A fair day's wage for a fair day's work is vital and important to protect the dignity of the worker – everywhere workers are asked to labor. Employers and the employee both have a major responsibility to make sure they live up to their end of the bargain. Employees and employers must transact their work in a moral, ethical and lawful manner at all times and in all places. At the personal level harassment – sexual, racial or religious can make short work

of the dignity of human life. Bosses need to learn how to correct employees discretely and without humiliating them. Gossip is also deadly and does incalculable harm and should never be tolerated. Protecting the dignity of human life in the work place is a full time job, but when bosses and employees feel secure, they are free to be more productive.

These same issues are important in countless other human interactions...in schools between students, in hospitals between patients and the medical staff, in athletics among officials, players, coaches and fans, in civic organizations, and in the political process. The dignity of human life and of the human person is a non-negotiable value in the Catholic approach to daily living.

In Holy Name spirituality, the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy are practical ways of protecting the dignity of human life. Each Work of Mercy opposes one of the many things that attack the culture of life, and we can all protect and advance it by practicing these basic rules of moral living.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1706) offers us this wonderful summary of the whole matter: "Living a moral life bears witness to the dignity of the person."

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

*M. D. Gores, Co-author
Archdiocese of St. Paul /
Minneapolis*

CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION OF BLESSED JOHN

In a meeting in May 2009 with The Very Revered D. Dominic Izzo, O.P. Prior Provincial, Providence of St. Joseph, T. Paul DiVito agreed to write the History of the Cause for Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli.

T. Paul DiVito was the fourth Chairman of the Cause for Canonization of Blessed John and he has a wealth of information and documentation in his files. He also worked closely with the three previous chairmen: Edward Cuffe, John Famerie and O. Robert Miller - all three now deceased. Edward Cuffe was the initial Chairman and instrumental in proposing the Cause for Canonization of our founder to the National Association of the Holy Name Society. The NAHNS adopted the cause as their primary objective at a National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA in September 1979.

T. Paul DiVito, as Archivist, now needs the support and assistance from all: Archdio-

ceses, Dioceses, Parish Holy Name Societies and any individual that has knowledge of the History of the Cause for Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli. Detailed and historically accurate information on what was done in the past and what is being done now is requested. Information should be submitted to T. Paul DiVito on the following topics and any other topics pertinent to the Cause for Canonization:

1. Holy Hours in support of the canonization.
2. Novenas for canonization.
3. Articles appearing in Archdiocesan and or Diocesan level newsletters.
4. Masses in Support of Canonization.
5. Submission of favors; both large and small.
6. Petitions for canonization - signed and unsigned.

7. Prayer meetings.
8. Distribution of prayer cards.
9. Display in homes of statues, pictures of Blessed John.
10. Distribution and use of relics of Blessed John.

He needs the help of all individuals that may have any information regarding the movement of the Canonization Process since its inception.

Please submit your information to:

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All support of this effort is greatly appreciated.

Blessed John of Vercelli pray for us!

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PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

It is recommended that The Peoples' Prayer for Priests be recited throughout the Year (June 19, 2009 through June 19, 2010) for all Priests. It is recommended that Holy Name Society members recite this prayer at all Holy Name Society sessions, assemblies, and conferences.

Dear Lord, we pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your Priests and

through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your Priests to follow her own words,

"Do whatever He tells you." (Jn 2:5)

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls.

Amen



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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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