



# Holy Name Society Newsletter

*Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus*

## PARDON AND PEACE

**H**ow many times have you heard the expression, "I beg your pardon." And how many times have you personally said that. But do those words really accomplish their true meaning. Do we think very much of what they imply whenever we hear or say them? Or are they just another form of polite conversation, one of those expressions which can

readily roll off the tongue without much meaning - just a convenient social convention. Too many times we have found to our sorrow that all too easily we can use words that are bereft of any solid meaning, or can be twisted, distorted and watered down until they lose any significance. If there is no solid basis in the words we use then what chance

have we to communicate their true meaning? So when we offend someone do we really mean it when we say: I beg your pardon?

During this past season of Lent, we were given a special time when our focus should have been asking God's pardon for those times we have failed him, and

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## FACETS OF A LOVELY GEM

**"T**urn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." These words, which reflect Jesus' own preaching (cf. Mk 1:14-15), were said millions of times by deacons, priests, and bishops throughout the world when they marked the faithful with a cross of ashes on Ash Wednesday as the Church entered the solemn season of Lent. These same words were heard and heeded by multi-millions of believers as "Christ's call to conversion continues to resound in the lives of Christians. This second conversion is an uninterrupted task for the whole Church..." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1428).

The first conversion, of course, is Baptism.)

This "uninterrupted task," this "second conversion" is the context of the importance of penance, reconciliation, and confession in our busy Catholic life.

These matters are important because Christ's life, death, and resurrection are important. In penance, reconciliation, and confession, we respond to Christ who died and rose to save us from sin. Deeply and truly, in His Holy Name we trust.

Even before Christ was born, the angel reassured St. Joseph and told him to name Mary's Child "Jesus, for He

will save His people from their sins" (Mt 1:21). From the very beginning, the Name of Jesus was associated with salvation! After His baptism, Jesus went to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mk 1:14-15). Just before Christ ascended into Heaven, He said to the apostles, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer, and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in His Name to all the nations..." (Lk 24:46-47). Our ongoing conversion

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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 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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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**G**reetings to all my brothers and sisters in the Holy Name of Jesus. The theme of this newsletter is *"The Importance of Penance / Reconciliation / Confession"*. During the Lenten and Easter Seasons, this should bring to mind our obligation to receive the Holy Eucharist at least once a year (Canon 920) between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday - our "Easter Duty". Although there is not a canonical requirement to confess all sins once per year (canon 989 speaks only of the requirement to confess "grave" sins annually), we should all be properly prepared before receiving the

Eucharist, through the sacrament of reconciliation.

I have found, for one reason or another, that I have not always availed myself of the Sacrament of Penance as often as I would like. Perhaps, you are in this same situation. The importance of making a good confession is that it reconciles us with God in loving friendship and restores us to his grace. As Holy Name members, we promote the frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and encourage all members to receive the sacrament at least once a month to coincide with their

monthly corporate communion.

Finally, I would like to leave you with these thoughts. I have found that after I make a good confession, it is followed by a feeling of peace, joy, serenity and spiritual consolation. This feeling of euphoria can transcend into our daily lives and have a profound effect on how we think about and deal with others. Remember, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Joe Lapointe  
NAHNS President*

## PARDON AND PEACE

*(Continued from page 1)*

acted badly toward other people as well. Not just lip service, but a deep down and heartfelt desire to receive a

pardon for our sins and to be reconciled with Him and with our

fellow human beings. Surely *any time* - not only during the Lenten season - is the acceptable time, not just for saying I beg your pardon, but really doing something about it. This is how we can receive true pardon and lasting peace.

We say that we are followers of Christ, and so we must go through the way of OUR cross

as Jesus taught us HIS Way of the Cross, a way of forgiveness of others who have injured us, not just words or actions that are no more than an empty "I beg your pardon." There is no

doubt that the way of Christ is challenging and difficult. God's grace

makes it possible for us to accept it. The challenge is that it goes against the grain of contemporary cultural values. For those immersed in these it makes very little sense. And the difficulty is that we have to rise above these values weighing in on all sides and at the same time overcome our own weakness. But when we do meet the challenges and con-

quer the difficulties then we truly find pardon and peace.

As you continue your Easter celebrations, be of good heart and have the courage to struggle through this following of Christ's way. When you ask for pardon really mean it and you will find pardon and peace. Recall the Lenten hymn we prayed:

*Take up your cross and follow Christ.*

*Nor think til death to lay it down;*

*For only he who bears the cross*

*May hope to wear the glorious crown....*

*Fr. Thomas J. Hayes O.P.  
NAHNS Spiritual Director*

*"There is no doubt that the way of Christ is challenging and difficult. God's grace makes it possible for us to accept it."*

## FACETS OF A LOVELY GEM

(Continued from page 1)

is our response, in penance, reconciliation, and confession, to Christ Himself and to the preaching of the Church He founded.

Jesus' call to penance aims first of all at conversion of the heart. Inner repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return to God with all our heart. The human heart is converted by looking upon Him whom our sins have pierced. Interior conversion then urges expression in outward works of penance. (cf.

Catechism, 1430-32). With this inner penance alive in our heart, we can effectively engage in gestures of external penance, e.g., the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

Our works of penance are offered to

God in union with Christ's redeeming life, death, and resurrection, and, through our submission to Christ, His redemptive work permeates ours and gives it value in God's sight.

*"Inner repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return to God with all our heart."*

One shining example of inner conversion that led to external penance is the case of Zacchaeus, the tax collector of Jericho (Lk 19:1-10). Zacchaeus, unburdened by hon-

esty, must have been a typical tax collector of his time. He heard about Jesus, climbed a tree to see Him, and accepted Jesus' offer to visit him. Zacchaeus acknowledged his own sinfulness, repented, and began to do works of justice and mercy in reparation for his sins. Zac-

chaeus can mentor us in matters of penance, reconciliation, and confession. (The elements of the story of Zacchaeus are a paradigm of the Sacrament of Penance.)

One of the noteworthy works of penance is the labor of reconciliation. Our world needs so much healing! Rare is the person who is not at odds with someone. While there are legitimate differences of opinion in life, the issue here is the matter of charity. When relationships collapse and charity gets lost, the next effort

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## A HEALTHY EXERCISE FOR THE SOUL

One problem that has slowly grown through the past years is the lack of appreciation and of awareness of the need for the sacrament of reconciliation or confession. Whereas we now have a remarkable number of communicants we however have a fast diminishing number of faithful going to confession. The problem has been aggravated by the seeming reluctance of the faithful to admit that there is a problem... Life goes on as if this problem will simply go away or will solve itself. Now, this might just give way to the admission that indeed confession is not that necessary. As a priest I find it stressful to give communion to big crowds many of whom I am almost certain have not been to confession for a long

time or who simply believe that it is okay to receive communion without going to confession even with grievous sins. Hearing confessions must have revealed this reality to many of my fellow priests. The great fear is that we might just end up shaping our belief ultimately based on what we are doing and not on what we believe. ...dogma being shaped by our morals when it should be the other way around.

Admittedly confessing one's sin is not an easy thing to do. It demands real self renunciation. It is an act of humility, of admission of one's guilt which demands a lot of self abnegation, self denial which after all is one of the demands of discipleship. The thrust of

the modern world to give importance to self, to elevate self to a pedestal, to be so protective of self, to seek for self satisfaction, self gratification – all of which modern advertisements promote thus making self denial more repugnant and less attractive.

Probably, however, the real reason for this unpopularity of confession is the deep seated lack of the sense of sin which has been battering the Church for decades now. Despite the warnings of the Church, this lack of the sense of sin continues to grip our Christian world. Sins are committed, unacknowledged and therefore left unrepented. Sacrilegious communions are the result. This has to end. The mercy and subsequent for-

giveness of the Lord must be sought after and it is readily available to us in the ordinary way through the sacrament of reconciliation.

This sacrament is a most healthy exercise for the soul. For indeed, to admit one's faults leads us to accept in all truth our real status. And from this genuine knowledge of self we can proceed to self improvement. Truth about ourselves is vital otherwise we might end up building on sand. Receiving the sacrament of reconciliation "forces" us to face our real self and makes it humbly accept the infinite mercy of God.

*Fr Rey Adalid, O.P.  
Holy Name Society- Philippines*

## HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

### **New York Archdiocesan Union HNS**

Following a prayer service, the New York AUHNS held its Executive Committee meeting April 16th at the Church of St. John the Evangelist.

The Archdiocesan Union held its Annual Family Holy Hour on April 25th at the Church of the Holy Rosary in the Bronx. The Holy Hour was conducted in observance of the Year for Priests. Awards were presented.

### **St. Clare of Assisi, Bronx HNS**

Society members sponsored a Lenten Day of Recollection March 20th at St. Clare's. Father Joel Warden gave a enlightening presentation on Preparing The Body To Be Raised: Praying With Signs Of Jesus In St. John's Gospel.

### **Corpus Christi, Port Chester HNS**

Members of the Corpus Christi Holy Name Society participated in and helped serve at a Family Gathering catechesis session in March. The occasion was used to honor the parish priests in the observance of the Year for Priests. All parish societies presented gifts and cards to each priest. 75 persons attended the society's Communion breakfast in March.

### **Blessed Sacrament, Staten Island HNS**

Members marched with a contingent of Blessed Sacrament parishioners in the Staten Island Saint Patrick's Day Parade. The Society also participated in the March 9th "Catholics at the Capital" event in Albany.

### **NYC Police Department, HNS**

The 92nd Annual Communion Mass was held the morning of April 18th at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. At the breakfast which followed, various members of the Department were honored.

The Society is co-sponsoring an eleven day Holy Land Interfaith Tour in June.

### **Immaculate Conception, Bronx HNS**

Five new members were formally received into the Society in the February Holy Name Mass celebrated by Father John LoSasso, OFM Cap, and assisted by Deacon Victor Tosi, Spiritual Director.

### **St. Thomas / Otisville Correctional Facility HNS**

During a Eucharistic Service in January, Spiritual Director Deacon Eugene Bormann installed the society's new slate of officers.

### **Brooklyn Diocesan Union HNS**

The Benediction and General Meeting was held March 7th at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Brooklyn. The next Benediction and General meeting will be held at Saint Pascal Baylon Church in St. Albans, May 2nd.

The Annual Mass and Communion Brunch for Deceased Members of the Brooklyn DUHNS was held at Our Lady of the Snows Church in Floral Park, March 20th. Bishop Ignatius Catanello was the celebrant and Msgr. Kieran Harrington was the guest speaker.

The Day of Recollection for the Astoria area Holy Name Societies was held at the St. Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset, Long Island.

Southeast Queens Catholic Men's Group teamed up with Our Lady of the Light Parish to attend a Men's Spiritual Retreat in Graymoor, Garrison, in February. The retreat was under the direction of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.

On February 21st, the Brooklyn DUHNS held its Recognition Mass at St. James Basilica-Cathedral, with Bishop Catanello as the celebrant.

Holy Name Societies at Saint Clement Pope Church in Queens, St. Catherine of Alexandria, and Our Lady of Perpetual Hope in Brooklyn were reactivated.

### **NYC Fire Department, HNS**

The 86th Annual Communion Mass and breakfast was held April 11th. The Mass was celebrated at Saint Patrick's Cathedral with breakfast following in which a number of Department members were honored and drawings for the Society's scholarship awards were conducted.

### **Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bronx HNS**

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Mount Carmel sponsored the annual Parish Men's Retreat on the weekend of April 30th at the Cardinal Spellman Retreat House in the Bronx.

### **Church of Saint Anne, Fairlawn, New Jersey HNS**

The 70th Annual Communion Breakfast was held March 14th. Saint Anne's Rosary Society helped celebrate with procession and guest speaker.

The Society continues to promote the Pennies From Heaven program, helps sponsor the Mother's Day Celebration, and will help out at the Ministry Fair at the end of May.

The Junior Confraternity of the Holy Name Society of Saint Anne's assists in the spiritual formation of youth from the ages of 9 to 19. The program hopes to help them grow as young men and women of faith and prayer.

## HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

### Holy Family Church, West Newton, PA HNS

The Holy Name Society of Holy Family Church sponsored and lead the men's prayer service on Holy Thursday.

Each married woman attending Mass on Mother's Day received a flower by the Holy Name members as their tribute to motherhood.

### Buffalo Diocesan Union HNS

The third Saturday of every month the Holy Name Society Diocesan Union sponsors an hour of adoration at St. Katherine Drexel's from 9 to 10pm.

May 2nd at the Cathedral, the Holy Name Society sponsored a special devotion to honor our Blessed Mother.

The 28th Annual Family Day at the Ball Park will be held August 8th.

The Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies of Buffalo is sponsoring the annual Msgr. Maquire Scholarship Essay Contest. The contest has been held annually since 1969, in memory of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Maguire who was the Diocesan Moderator for 47 years. The contest is open to all Catholic students in their Senior year in the Diocese of Buffalo during the 2009-2010 academic year. This year's topic is: "What is My Mission In Life as a Member of the Roman Catholic Church"

### Holy Family Church, Latrobe, PA HNS

Three new members were recently inducted into the Holy Name Society of Holy Family Church. They have given their promise of loyalty, devotion, and love for the Sacred Name of our Savior.

Beginning in June, the Holy Family chapter will be taking part in a year-long celebration of their 100th anniversary. In 1910 the Holy Name Society was formed in Holy Family Church by Father Phillip Best. That year, 51 devoted men joined the HNS. Today the membership has grown to over 200.

The HNS sponsored a Holy Thursday Pilgrimage in which a decade of the rosary was recited at each of 5 parishes: St. Joseph Church in Derry, St. Martin's in New Derry, St. Rose in Bradenville, Holy Family Church in Latrobe, and ending at St. John's Church in Latrobe.

A bus trip to visit St. Anthony's Chapel in Pittsburgh and St. Paul's Cathedral in Oakland was conducted April 24th. St. Anthony's Chapel - dedicated to "The Wonder Worker" St. Anthony of Padua - houses a vast collection of relics and has been designated as historical landmark.

The Holy Name Society's Annual Blood Drive will be held June 5th at the American Red Cross Chapter House .

### Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS

It has been almost 24 years since the Cleveland Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies was given approval to rededicate its efforts on behalf of the canonization cause of Blessed John of Vercelli. The Society has been blessed with over 110 Masses and Prayer Vigils hosted by parish Holy Name Societies each month. The Diocesan Union appreciates the efforts made on behalf of the canonization cause by all of its members.

The Traveling Rosary for World Peace sponsored by the Southern District Deanery, was held April 11th at the Greenview Inn Nursing Home in Uniontown, and is held the 1st Sunday of every month. On May 2nd, it was held at Queen of Heaven Church in Uniontown, and on June 6th, it will be held at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Norton.

The Northwest Deanery hosted the 42nd Annual Awards Banquet on April 24th at St. Emeric Church. Awards to recognize the outstanding Society, Spiritual Director, and Member of the Year were presented.

Prayer vigils are scheduled for the East Deanery in June, the Lorain Deanery in July, the Lake-Geauga Deanery in August, the Northwest Deanery in September, and the Southern Deanery in October.

### Chicago AHNS

Our Lady of Victory Parish hosted a multi-parish mission on the northwest side. The evenings of March 8th-10th brought together members of St. Bartholomew, St. Pascal, and St. Genevieve parishes to hear Father Dominic Grassi giving talks on Hearing, Understanding, and Responding. The sacraments of Reconciliation and the Mass were offered as well as programs for children and teens. The 3rd night of the mission was sponsored by the Holy Name Societies of all four parishes.

Officers Board Meeting was held January 27th at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. The General Membership Meeting was held February 20th at St. Cletus Parish after morning Mass.

The Spiritual Assembly is planned for Friday, June 11th at St. Priscilla Parish on W. Addison.

The 2010 Chicago Area Holy Name Society Evening of Recollection was held March 8th at St. John Brebeuf Parish in Niles.

Holy Name men were in attendance at the successful Chicago Catholic Men's Conference "Be Men of Courage: Be Strong", March 20th at the Rosemont Convention Center. The conference was led by Father William Casey, Father Jim Goode, Patrick Madrid, Curtis Martin and Hector Molina. Mass was celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Francis George.

## HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

### Baltimore Archdiocesan Union HNS

The 99th Annual Archdiocesan Holy Name Convention will be held May 16th at the Transfiguration Community Parish in Baltimore. The theme for this year's convention is: "Quality of Life – Through Christ"

Two Societies have started Junior Holy Name Society chapters and the Union is presently working with several parishes to establish or

revitalize Holy Name Societies.

The Quarterly Meeting was held March 21st at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Baltimore.

Holy Name Night with the Orioles at Camden Yards will be held Friday, August 6th. Spiritual Director, Father Michael Carrion, was selected to sing the National Anthem.

### San Antonio, TX Archdiocesan Union HNS

The February 28th Hour of Prayer was held at St. Henry Parish. There were approximately 100 faithful members, families, and friends in attendance. The event was hosted by the Holy Name Society of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

The pastor of St. Henry's, Father Emil Wesselsky, warmly welcomed all who attended. Deacon Jimmy Rodriguez gave an outstanding homily.

Bishop John Yanta, retired bishop of Amarillo, celebrated the Mass and was guest speaker at the Day of Reflection held March 13th at the Oblate Grotto Center. Father Richard Pena led the Stations of the Cross.

The Archdiocesan Union of San Antonio celebrated the Feast of Divine Mercy, April 11th, at the Grotto in San Antonio.

## FACETS OF A LOVELY GEM

*(Continued from page 3)*

should be earnest attempts to reach at least some level of reconciliation. Jesus tells us plainly, "If you are going to offer your gift at the altar and there recall that your brother has something against you, leave your gift before the altar, and go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Mt. 5:24).

In this regard, Vietnamese Catholics have a wonderful custom. Along with the Asian world, they celebrate the Lunar New Year with great joy and festivity. (This year, it was Feb. 14th.) One of their most cherished customs is to resolve all feuds, quarrels, and disagreements before the end of one year so as to celebrate the New Year with peace and harmony especially within each

family. They could mentor the world in the matter of practical and effective reconciliation.

Penance and reconciliation are related to the matter of confession, both in the general sense of that word (i.e., "to admit or acknowledge") and specifically in the sacrament nicknamed "confession." Fundamentally, the sacraments are acts of worship addressed to God, and in the Sacrament of Penance, we praise and acknowledge God's greatness and His mercy. We confess our sins to the only One who can do anything about them. Like Zacchaeus of old, we too want to see Jesus, we "climb a tree" or do what it takes to find Him, we accept His invitation, we admit and renounce our sins, and in His great mercy He comes to stay in our house, and then we set

about doing the penance which was assigned to us. All of this is part of the uninterrupted task of the second conversion that must continue in the history of the Church and in the life of each Catholic.

St. John Vianney (1786—1859), the "Cure of Ars," is another shining example of penance, reconciliation, and confession. In 1995, the choir of St. John Vianney Parish, Houston, TX, led by a wonderful organist named Catherine Sahinen, made a pilgrimage to Ars, France, to visit the parish of their patron saint. Their pastor, Msgr. Joseph Crosthwait and I (their former parochial vicar) accompanied them. Monsignor and I made a point of locating the very confessional in which St. John Vianney had heard so many confessions over the years of his pastorate there.

Shy about touching the venerable confessional, I hesitated and drew back from it. Much to my astonishment, Msgr. Crosthwait took me by the shoulders, turned me around, and sat me down in the very seat in which the saintly confessor had sat so many times! I was disconcerted at the time, now, many years later, I often think of sitting in that holy place, and it inspires me to try to be a good confessor especially in the Lent of this Year of the Priest.

Turning away from sin, being faithful to the gospel, ongoing conversion, penance, reconciliation, and confession are facets of the lovely gem which is the Church. May they shine ever more brightly this Easter Season!

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

## THE JESUS PRAYER

**M**any religious cultures use litanies as a method of praying. The word 'litaney' literally means, 'petition' - or 'rogation' in Latin. Litanies are made to be repeated; single or like phrases recited, sometimes chanted over and over again ('re-petition') so that the person praying is caught up in the prayer itself. During the recitation of the Divine Praises, for example, the celebrant says, "Blessed be the name of Jesus," which is then echoed by the faithful.

The Orthodox practice it as the constant prayer that St. Paul speaks of in his first letter to the Thessalonians (5:17), where prayer is kept on the lips and in the hearts of believers at all times. They call this 'prayer of the heart' - prayer that fills the entire consciousness; spontaneously offered by the whole being and not forced by only the lips or the intellect. Furthermore, if recited continually and with perseverance and recollection, the heart and intellect become one

and the prayer in a sense offers itself.

The constant repetition of the name of Jesus or 'Invocation of the Name' is now known as simply, The Jesus Prayer.

*"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."* - this drawn from the publican's prayer from the parable in Luke's gospel (Lk 18:13).

It is often said as naturally and continually as breathing, although quite different than practicing yoga or reciting a far-eastern mantra, since it places Jesus, the living God, at the center.

Contained therein is a uniquely clear (and perhaps the shortest) summation of the Christian faith: Jesus is declared by name to be the Christ, the Anointed one of God, as well as being the Lord of our lives. He is furthermore declared to be the Son of God, and therefore

divine. He is also declared to be in the position of judgment and mercy. Lastly, we confess to be sinners requiring His grace.

The Catechism has this to say about the prayer: "By it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior's mercy." (CCC:2667)

We as Holy Name members need not be reminded of the respect, love, and devotion due and the power in recitation of the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

We could do well by acknowledging our human weakness in imitation of the faith and humility of blind Bartimaeus as he similarly called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" and when asked what he wished, replied simply: "Lord, that I may see." (Mk 10:46-52)

*Bill Rysavy, Archdiocese of St. Paul / Minneapolis HNS*

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## PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

**I**t 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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