

Holy Name Society
Monthly Meeting
March 8, 2016

▪ **Official Opening Prayer for Meetings**

Grant me, O Merciful God, to desire eagerly, to investigate prudently, to acknowledge sincerely, and to fulfill perfectly, those things that are pleasing to You and to the praise and glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

- Remarks- Father Janton
- Reflection- Jose Russo
- Reports-
 - Treasurer – Bill Wagner

Old Business

- Pick April 2 or April 9 for install of cable for camera in Church
 - Clean choir loft and liquor cabinet same day
- Set location and time for meeting to discuss Reflections on 15 March

New Business

- Pasta Dinner – final steps

Important Dates

- HNS Mass **20 March** – Lector?
- Counting Collection **20 March**
 - Establish volunteers
- Next meeting 12 April
 - Establish person/process for Reflection at meeting on 15 March

Closing Prayer – Pledge

HNS Meeting	HNS Mass
15 Sept '15	20 Sept '15
13 Oct '15	17 Oct '15
10 Nov '15	14 Nov '15 @ 5 pm
22 Dec '15	20 Dec '15
Set up Nativity	
12 Jan '16	17 Jan '16
9 Feb '16	21 Feb '16
8 Mar '16	20 Mar '16
12 Apr '16	17 Apr '16
10 May '16	15 May '16
14 Jun '16	19 June '16

Reflection March 8-2016 By J. Russo

The reflection is based on the meaning of prayer in the Gospel and how that has been analyzed by Thomas Aquinas

1-There are four quotes in the gospel that tell us that prayer is a way to ask the Lord's guidance.

Matthew 7:7 *"Ask, and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you"*

Matthew 21:22 *"You will receive all that you pray for, provided you have faith"*

Mark 11:24 *"I give you my word if you are ready to believe that you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer, it shall be done for you"*

John 14:13-14 *"Whatever you ask in my name I will do"*

2-There are three quotes that faith and prayer are linked

Mark 9:29 *And he said to them, "This kind you can drive out only by prayer."*

Acts 9:40 *Peter first made everyone go outside; then he knelt down and prayed. Turning to the dead body he said, "Tabitha, stand up." She opened her eyes, then looked at Peter and sat up.*

The third one is from James 5:14-16

3-There are two main quotes on how we can thank God for the benefits that we receive

Ephesians 6:18 *"At every opportunity Pray in the Spirit, using prayers and petitions of every sort."*

Philippians 4:6-7 *"Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer".*

4-Thomas wrote two main treatises:

Summa contra Gentiles: To explain the Christian faith and defend it in hostile situations.

Summa Theologica: Explain the Christian faith to beginning theology students.

5- The Summa Theologica is composed of three major parts:

First Part: God existence and nature; the creation of the world, angels and the nature of man.

Second part : Part 1: *General principles of morality*

Part 2: *Morality in Particular, including individual virtues and vices*

Third Part: *The person and work of Christ; the sacraments, the end of the world.*

6-Thomas Aquinas makes a very good study of prayer in the Question 83 titled: Of Prayer
That is in the second part-part 2 of the Summa.

The main reason to bring Thomas into our midst is because the Summa was written to educate us in our faith.

In each part of the Summa Thomas wrote several Questions; in the case of Prayer is Question 83 that has 17 articles

These are the seventeen articles that Thomas analyze in this Question

1. **Is prayer an act of the appetitive or of the cognitive power?**
2. Is it fitting to pray to God?
3. Is prayer an act of religion?
4. Should we pray to God alone?
5. Should we ask for something definite when we pray?
6. Should we ask for temporal things when we pray?
7. Should we pray for others?
8. Should we pray for our enemies?
9. The seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer
10. Is prayer proper to the rational creature?
11. Do the saints in heaven pray for us?
12. Should prayer be vocal?
13. **Is attention requisite in prayer?**
14. Should prayer last a long time?
15. Is prayer meritorious? [*Article 16]
16. Do sinners impetrate anything from God by praying? [*Article 15]
17. The different kinds of prayer

7-We will concentrate in only two Articles:

Article 1. Whether prayer is an act of the appetitive power?

The main concern here is that prayer is an act of desire to be heard by God and according to the psalms (IX38) that say *"The lord had heard the desire of the poor"*; Therefore prayer is desire meaning that is an irrational act of our instinct to be heard. However Thomas analyzes this and he concluded that:

Speaking of prayer [This last paragraph refers to the Latin word 'oratio' [prayer] which originally signified a speech, being derived in the first instance from 'os,' 'oris' (the mouth).] as signifying a beseeching or petition, meaning that "prayer is a petition and therefore "to pray is to ask becoming things of God." **Accordingly it is evident that prayer, as we speak of it now, is an act of reason not an involuntary or instinctive process**
The bottom line is that praying or connecting with God is a rational act of the intelligence.

Article 13. Whether attention is a necessary condition of prayer?

This article is important because I remember that in a previous meeting some of us brought the problem to be concentrated in the praying and avoid mind wandering

Objections. It would seem that attention is a necessary condition of prayer. It is written (John 4:24): "God is a spirit, and they that adore Him must adore Him in spirit and in truth." But prayer is not in spirit unless it is attentive. Therefore attention is a necessary condition of prayer.

Reply to Objection. To pray in spirit and in truth is to set about praying through the instigation of the Spirit, even though afterwards the mind wanders through weakness.

Reply to Objection. The human mind is unable to remain aloft for long on account of the weakness of nature, because human weakness weighs down the soul to the level of inferior things: and hence it is that when, while praying, the mind ascends to God by contemplation, of a sudden it wanders off through weakness.

8-Reflections of each member of the HNS of their personal experiences in praying

Date: March 8, 2016
To: OLH of C HNS
From: Tito P. Di Vito
RE: Up Date Blessed John of Vercelli Fund

I would like to take the time and bring the membership up to date on what has taken place regarding the Blessed John of Vercelli Fund these past several months, ending this past month of February 29, 2016.

There is now a new Chairman for the Cause for the Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli (CCBJV) for the National Association of the Holy Name Society (NAHNS). He is Carroll Pupa from the Archdiocese of Baltimore MD. He was officially appointed in September 2015. Carroll had been attending, for the past several our Annual Mass for Blessed John, here in Abington, PA. In addition, in Philadelphia, PA. He has been a staunch supporter of the cause of Blessed John for several years in his own Archdiocese. Carroll makes the sixth Chairman for the cause since the initial Chairman, Edward Cuffe was appointed by the delegates at a NAHNS Convention in 1979 in Pittsburgh, PA. Since that year there have been a total of six Chairman's for the Cause.

The BJV account, that has been located at the Police and Fire Federal Credit Union (PFFCU), in Philadelphia, PA since 2005 has now been closed as of end of February, 2016 and the funds sent down to the new chairman for his handling and control. The total amount that has been transferred down to Carroll was over \$11,000.00

Let me give you a run down on the past history of this BJV Fund.

- 1) Starting in 1980, Ed Cuffe and I raised over \$18,000.00 for the cause, in speaking engagements and in numerous fund raising efforts.
- 2) There was only a Line Item made on the Financials to indicate the raised.
- 3) Over the years, the NAHNS used these funds to pay General Expenses.
- 4) In 2005 an extensive audit was undertaken and it was reported to the delegates of that years NAHNS Convention that all but \$25.00 of the \$18,000.00 was accounted for.

5) At that year's NAHNS Convention, in 2005, the delegates approved that a separate BJV Fund be established by the current chairman for the cause, at a bank of his choosing. Tito P. Di Vito was the chairman at that time.

6) Also at this convention, it was voted on, by the delegates, that \$100.00 a month be sent from the NAHNS to the BJV Committee, until the entire \$18,000.00 was received. The current balance that is now due, by the National is a little over \$5,000.00.

7) The account at the PFFCU has been closed as of February 29, 2016.

8) Expenses incurred as a result of promoting the Cause for Blessed John have been paid out of the BJV Account.

9) The new chairman has been advised verbally, that he will be informed as to the proposed future expenses of the Annual Mass, as the chairman becomes aware of the. Last year's Estimated were \$1,000.00 and they came in at \$800.00. Joseph Phillips has done an outstanding job in cutting the U.S. Post Office Mailing Expense down to where it may come in at almost Zero.

10) In the past the chairman for this Annual Mass has submitted his own financial report sometime after the conclusion of the Annual Mass. I will leave this reporting to the current chairman of the Annual Mass and Carroll Pupa.

11) A Spread Sheet has been completed by the outgoing Treasurer for the BJV Fund here in Philadelphia, Bob Leso, and it has been sent on to Carroll Pupa. This spread sheet is not attached but if anyone would like a copy please advise the undersigned and I will see that a copy is mail to them.

Should anyone have any questions I will be glad to answer them at this time.

Yours in His Holy Name,

Tito P. Di Vito