



NEW YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT

# HOLY NAME SOCIETY

MANHATTAN ♦ BRONX ♦ STATEN ISLAND

FALL

CHAPLAINS

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[www.nyfdholynamesociety.com](http://www.nyfdholynamesociety.com)

2010

PRESIDENT: Joseph R. Bryant

EDITOR: Susan L. Hovestadt

## TO WHOM SHALL WE GO

### *A Reflection on the Holy Name of Jesus*

*By Archbishop Timothy Dolan*

*It really put me off, his constant reference to "Jesus." He was an energetic, happy, friendly, brother-priest, ten years older than me, in residence at the parish where I was assigned as a newly ordained priest. He was gone all day long teaching at a nearby Catholic high school, and we quickly grew to be good friends.*

*Thinking back, he really was, unofficially, what we would now term a "mentor" for me. But it still grated on me, his frequent conversations about "Jesus." Not that he was overtly pious. Far from it, really. Holy! Yes. Pious? No. But his speech was peppered with the name "Jesus." He would tell me how he spent time with Jesus each morning; he would ask me what I thought Jesus was saying to us in the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday; he encouraged me to become a part of his "Jesus Caritas" group and he would often invite me to pray with him and speak to "Jesus". Not that he was bragging or anything. It seemed to come rather naturally.*

*As I reflect on it now, I know why it got on my nerves. The tenor of my own religious upbringing was that we would refrain from using the "Holy Name of Jesus." Thus, I would speak of "Our Lord" or "Christ." He was this Guy speaking of "Our Lord" on a first name basis!! You would think they were the best of friends!! You would think they had known each other all their lives!! He almost sounded like a TV preacher.*

*Until it dawned on me: I am on a first name basis with Christ, too. I consider "our blessed Lord" my best friend! I have known "our divine Savior" all my life! So, guess what? I started calling Him "Jesus," and since then, never, ever pass up the chance to say His Holy Name.*

*His is the name above every other! By His name we are saved! At His Name every knee should bend. He wants us to call Him by His first name, and He wants us to introduce Him to others. He wants us to be familiar with Him, to be intimate with Him, to speak of Him by name.*

*From Letter sent by our Archbishop Timothy Dolan*

*Christopher Keenan, OFM, Chaplain*

**Congratulations Once Again to Our 2010 Men of the Year!**



Picture from Left to Right: Commissioner Salvatore Cassano, Honoree Capt. Jim Ellson - Ret., Honoree BC Jack McDonnell - Batt 11, Chief of the Dept. Edward Kilduff, and President Joe Bryant

### **Mysteries of Faith**

Our Catholic faith provides many mysteries to contemplate as we discern how to live our Christian calling. Hope is a theological virtue on one hand and presumption of our salvation is an offense against the Holy Spirit on the other. We are told that we are to live our faith in the market place and evangelize others at every opportunity, yet we remain sinners that are considered hypocrites or phony by many. What are we to make of it all? When I read the scriptures or recite traditional prayers, thoughts come to me that make perfect sense at first and then when I dwell deeper, these ideas don't seem realistic.

One of these contradictory mysteries came from a reading of the Gospel of St. John. As I read chapter 4 about Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well I learn that Jesus offers us spiritual water that wells up inside us and once we receive this living water we will never thirst again. If Jesus offers us this wellspring of eternal water He possesses it Himself, so how do I understand what I read in chapter 19 when dying on the cross Jesus calls out "I thirst." I read 15 chapters ago that "you will never thirst again" in John 4:14 and yet Jesus, the Son of God, proclaims His thirst (John 19:28). How can it be? My initial thought was that the Holy Spirit left the body of Jesus on the cross and did not return until the Resurrection. God, the only Being that was not created has always existed, is eternal and cannot die, yet the Gospel of John tells us Jesus gave up His Spirit (19:30). Does that mean for three days Jesus was not God or that the human and divine natures of Jesus were separated? That does not sound like

authentic Christian doctrine: that the body taken down from the cross was not both human and divine. Didn't two Church councils correct the mistakes of some 4<sup>th</sup> century bishops by stating that Jesus was human and Divine? This is what we profess every Sunday when we recite the Nicene Creed. Jesus is the Son of God, so the body taken from the cross had to have both natures. Am I saying that God did die? This can't be! My limited understanding doesn't allow me to grasp the complexities of God's plan. Maybe Jesus said the words "I thirst" so someone would give Him a drink of vinegar and Psalm 69:21 would be fulfilled. Another mystery of our faith is the Immaculate Conception of Mary. By a singular grace God placed in Mary a soul that was not stained by original sin. Because Mary never sinned her entire life she was the worthy vessel, the ark, who brought forth the Savior. Original sin is not mysterious; a quick glimpse of human affairs makes it obvious that we sin. The mystery is: why did God create us capable of sinning, or better, why do we sin after our baptism, which washes away our original inclination to be selfish? Is it a mystery that God placed a pure soul in Mary before the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary, which wiped away the effects of original sin? We think in sequential order, the chicken cannot come before the egg, but reality assures us some hen laid that first egg. The real mystery is why GOD doesn't create us all with immaculate souls so we can live in a sinless world. The answer is, He did!, but He also gave us, and all creation, free will and that will lets us choose to do right or wrong, good or evil. Adam and Eve, and most of us, did disobey God's commands and sin entered the human race. When I first wrote that sentence I wanted to say "entered

the world'' but I realized sin had already entered the world when Satan and other fallen

angels were expelled from heaven because of their poor use of their free will.

People are not inherently evil, actually we are prone to good, but when the wrong choice is made that is evil. There are no victimless crimes:

somebody gets hurt when a bad choice is made. One victim is the sinner, other victims are the sinners' children and descendents (cf.

Deuteronomy 5:9). A victim that is rarely thought of is the mystical body of Christ. Every time we choose not to follow the path God intended for our lives we damage the mystical body of Christ, by not fulfilling our role in God's magnificent plan.

Some mysteries are unsolvable on earth. Why do the innocent suffer? The quick answer is greed, corruption, or our disregard for fellow humans and creation. That does not explain why a just God allows the consequences of bad behavior to effect innocent parties. When people suffer hardship, the death of a loved one, a crisis in health, finances, or experience a catastrophe they tend to lean on God for assistance to get through the crisis. Maybe God allows suffering because it draws us to Him. Does that explain the existence of evil? Especially evil spirits that delight in the wrong choices we make. I suppose it proves the unfathomable mercy God has for all His creatures, but why not isolate such evil so that it cannot wreak the havoc it does?

My parents taught me the Catholic Church was my way to salvation, and separated the Divine aspects of the Church from the human. I am convinced that Jesus Christ is essential for the salvation of the world. I cannot say that every person has to be a practicing Catholic to be saved. The Gospel states, "salvation is from the Jews," (John 4:22), which makes sense because of

the promise God made to Abraham when they entered into their covenant (cf. Genesis 12:3). We also have a Gospel commission from Jesus to "Go and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (Matt 28:19). Jesus expects us to teach the entire world Christianity. The sacrifice of Calvary is an everlasting covenant, which may surpass an older covenant, but the old is not eliminated. God does not break His covenants. Catholics work toward the salvation of the world by improving conditions in the here and now, and proclaiming eternal life with Jesus in the thereafter. We act in unison with the entire human race, Jesus included, for the salvation of our world. One role we are all called to fulfill is to bring peace to the world by our actions.

We are amateur theologians, ecologists, social workers, and especially teachers as we practice our faith. Not that we can expect to solve all of the world's problems or the mysteries of life as we contemplate our path. We choose our little niche and do the best we can with the abilities God has given us to discern His will. If we fail, we persevere, knowing our efforts are pleasing to God.

—Tom Roche

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In the middle of October each company will receive a letter asking you to support the 2011 Holy Name Society Communion Breakfast journal. Please consider purchasing a full or half page ad offering our scholarship winners your congratulations. The donations we collect from the journal will provide more money for scholarships to students. Please pay your dues to make sure your children & grandchildren are eligible to win a scholarship.

## ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

### Father Julian Deeken

Sunday November 7, 2010

9:30 am at

St. Francis of Assisi Church

135 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Manhattan

(Across from Engine 1 & Ladder 24)

## WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2010

Rosary to precede the Mass @ St. Francis of Assisi

9:00 am

We will begin at Engine 1 & Ladder 24

For more info please call:

Steven McDonald (347) 386-9400

Bill Schillinger (917) 902-6689

John Bates (516) 238-0952

[www.firefamilytransport.org](http://www.firefamilytransport.org)

## DUES

*Reminder to Members*

*Please forward your dues to:*

Joe Brosi

23-37 207<sup>th</sup> Street, Bayside, NY 11360

Retired Members:

Joe Kelly

12 Bass Street, Staten Island, NY 10314

*(Please note Dues is now \$10.00)*

## 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BLUE MASS

for

NYC FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE

OFFICERS

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10, 2010 at 1:30 PM

St. Peter's Church in Lower Manhattan

For more info please call:

Buddy Ducalo (917) 842-6110

Bill Schillinger (917) 902-6689

## High School Scholarship Test

Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Commencing 8:30 a.m.

All Hallows High School

111 East 164<sup>th</sup> Street

Bronx, NY 10452

(between Walton Ave & Grand

Concourse)

High School Scholarship applications will be available only after September 29<sup>th</sup> from our Scholarship Chairman, Bill Treanor (718-885-0648) or at 98 Bay Street, Bronx, NY 10464. Completed applications must be returned by November 24, 2010.

Scholarship Winners!

L to R: Chief of the Dept. Edward Kilduff, Patrick McNally, Elles Spillane, Henry Little, Scholarship

7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 9-11 FATHER MYCHAL F.  
JUDGE

Chairman Bill Treanor, Christa Accardi, Noah Kilduff,  
Commissioner Salvatore Cassano  
Stand up for LIFE

***“What Can One Person Do?”***

Coming to Long Island this October...

Pro-Lifers will have an opportunity to participate  
with family & friends, with people of all faiths, with  
people of all ages, in a huge public statement for life.

*Sunday, October 3, 2010*

*2:00 PM - 3:30 PM*

*(rain or shine)*

*Along Route 25 & Route 110*

*Huntington, Long Island*

*and*

*LIE exit 70S & County Road 111*

*Manorville, LI*

*Signs will be distributed at site and will read:*  
ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN  
LOVE THEM BOTH

Call Ann 631-754-9141 or Bob 631-732-0426  
or go to [www.ProLifeLI.org](http://www.ProLifeLI.org)



I am writing this article on the feast of the Assumption. This is the day that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was raised up to heaven body and soul. She was a young mother who spent most of her life in the company of her Son.. Jesus spent 30 years at home and Mary followed him for the 3 years of his public ministry. After her death, her body was incorruptible and she was assumed into heaven. She had spent her whole life working toward that goal, to spend eternity with God the Father and Jesus her son in the presence of the Holy Spirit. She set an example for all of us to follow.

### **Come for a "24"**

*We, on the other hand find ourselves so*

The new "24" hour format is being introduced to help those members who have limited time available to make a full retreat, at the Bishop Molloy Retreat House. On Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> you may come for the day, come for a meal, or come for a conference. What ever you decide you have time to come for!

concerned with the things of this world. We might say that Mary lived in a simpler time and that it was easier then. Just look at the schedules we have. We work shift work which includes nights and weekends, in most cases our wives work. We have children involved in many activities. In many cases we are just as involved in their activities. We care for parents. There are so many social obligations. Everyone of us has a full calendar.

When can we find some time for God and things spiritual. Hopefully, we attend mass with our children so that they have an opportunity to develop their faith. What else do we do? What are we doing to develop our own faith? How much time do we have?

It is believed that the Virgin Mary died at an early age. She spent all of her life preparing for death by totally dedicating her life to the Father. When death came she was ready.

There is a point in time when we are born. That begins our physical life line. That line ends with our death. We have another life line, a spiritual one. It began on the day of our baptism, which united us with Jesus, and goes through death to eternity. Which is more significant? Shouldn't we be focusing more time on being totally faithful to our Father?

To stop the clock to be able to take a serene look at our direction would be very wise. The Holy Name Society retreat gives us such an opportunity. In a spiritual atmosphere, in the company of our brothers, we can spend one or two days looking for answers and direction. If we haven't started yet, this is an excellent, a safe, and an enjoyable way to do so. Please join us. We need you! You need us!

Steven Dmato

### Will You be Remembered?

The glorious history of the Catholic Church has existed over 2000 years. It's history lives on today in these present times by the acts of many outstanding Catholics. **Mother Angelica** has used the television via EWTN to bring the Catholic Church into each catholic home, and make our religious beliefs knowledgeable for all with interviews and holy programs. **Sister Mother Teresa** of calcutta the Diminutive Catholic nun has cared for the poorest of the poor and always displayed her faith and selfless dedication for others. Saint Damien born in Belgium and as a Catholic Missionary went to a leper colony in Molokai to assist and teach the Catholic faith to the lepers. He died from Leprosy and was declared blessed on June 4<sup>th</sup> 1995. The efforts of **Father Michael J. McGiverny** the founder of The Knights of Columbus. The High regard in which the Knights are held has been shown when its membership reached **1.8 Million Members**. The knights are the most active service organization in the world today. These are just a few blessed people who continue Gods teaching during our lifetime. In your small

*Captain Timothy  
Stackpole Annual  
Retreat  
at the  
Bishop Molloy  
Retreat House  
from Supper on  
Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010  
through  
Breakfast on  
Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010*

Call now and make your reservations:  
**Bishop Molloy Retreat House**  
**718.739.1229**

way you can join Gods army. By attending your firefighters retreat at the Bishop Malloy Retreat House. No small effort will be forgotten. We may not be called to become Giants in the church but the combination of individuals can accomplish powerful acts and will be remembered.

**-Ret. Batt. Chief Jim Schuppel**