

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
and the
Philadelphia Archdiocesan Holy Name Union (PAHNU)
Procedure concerning the Veneration of the
“Relic of Blessed John of Vercelli”

History

- The Relic is a “two inch piece of wood off the back of the Blessed John walking stick”, which dates back to around the year “1280”.
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- Pope Gregory X, in 1274, requested John Garbella, Dominican Master General (1264-1283) (Blessed John of Vercelli) (1205 -1283) to undertake a campaign to make the Holy Name of God, and that of his Son, more honored by the faithful. He traveled by walking from Dominican house to Dominican house preaching all over Europe.
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- The Society of the Holy Name was formed to combat blasphemy and profanation of the “*Holy Name of Jesus*”.
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- **Location**

As of December 9, 2016 the “Relic” is located at the rectory, or church, of Our Lady Help of Christians (OLHC) parish, located at 1500 Marian Road, Abington, PA. The goal is to have the “relic” permanently displayed within the OLHC Church in the near future.

Veneration Schedule

- The Holy Name Society (HNS) of OLHC will have the relic venerated at their monthly Sunday Mass, which is currently the third Sunday of the month at the 10:30 AM Mass.
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- It may also be venerated at the PAHNU traditional (since 1975) “Second Saturday Mass” which is celebrated once a month, rotating among Philadelphia Archdiocesan Parishes which have, or propose to have, a Parish Holy Name Society.
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- It will be venerated at the traditional (since 1979) PAHNU “Annual Mass for the Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli”, of which the 38th Anniversary Mass is currently scheduled for October 8, 2017.

**Instructions for requesting the Relic to be borrowed and or venerated at a
specific location or Church**

- Requestor should contact the President of the PAHNU, or designated person, with the following information:

Requestor Name, affiliation, US Postal address, email address, cell phone number, references if requested.

Reason for request such as a Convention, Special Event, Sick Person, etc.

Dates for Pick up and return of Relic at OLHC Parish.

- The PAHNU will contact the “OLHC Coordinators” with the details and ascertain if they should approve the request.
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- If and when approved the PAHNU will advise the “OLHC coordinator” and “requestor”.
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- The requestor will be personally responsible for the safe keeping and security of the RELIC and will be financially responsible for any and all damage or mishandling of the relic, or traveling case.
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- The “requestor” of the relic will submit a “detailed written report” as to all of the circumstances concerning the veneration of the relic, such as: dates, specific locations, church name, individual names, address, etc. and reasons for veneration. This documentation is required to substantiate any potential “favors” which may result. This information will be maintained by the “OLHC Coordinators” in “paper” & “digital” form.
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- Donations would be appreciated to assist with PAHNU & OLHC associated expenses.
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- **OLHC Coordinators**

- The coordinators will have authority from the OLHC Pastor and PAHNU President to have access to the relic. They will maintain written (Digital and Paper) records concerning the relic. They, or their designated representative, will be responsible for the logistics of the relic to approved requestors, and they will be responsible to inspect the relic on its return to ensure no damage, etc.
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- **Contact Data**

- **OLHC Coordinators:**

- Bill McLaughlin: wcm@stevenslee.com – 215 385 1335
- Joe Phillips: pahnul@comcast.net – 267 934 9876
- **Current President of PAHNU**
- David Reichert: dreichert@vtssales.com – 610 574 5811