

Purpose

The Philadelphia Archdiocesan Holy Name Union (PAHNU) is made up of the individual Philadelphia Parish Holy Name Societies. The PAHNU mission is to support the individual Philadelphia societies and their members, by promoting continuing devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, and supporting individual personal spiritual growth.

The PAHNU through membership with the National Association of the Holy Name Society (NAHNS) also updates the individual parishes and members on updates from the NAHNS on various issues.

In addition the PAHNU continues to support and promote Philadelphia traditional celebrations, such as our “*2nd Saturday Masses each month for the Cause for the Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli*” at the individual Parishes each year since 1975, and our “*Annual Mass for the Cause for the Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli*” since 1979. Also some of our parishes have continued to celebrate an annual “*Holy Name Society Communion Breakfast*” in the November time frame, some of which have been being celebrated continuously for over 100 years.

The Confraternity of the Most Holy Names of God and Jesus (Holy Name Society) promotes reverence for the Sacred Names of God and Jesus Christ, obedience and loyalty to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, and the personal sanctification and holiness of its members. Members are called to contribute to the evangelization mission of the Church and to make perpetual acts of reverence and love for our Lord and Savior. The apostolate of the society is to assist in parish ministries by performing the Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry, to 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.

History

Pope Gregory X, in 1274, requested John Garbella (Blessed John of Vercelli), who was the Dominican Master General from 1264 to 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 priory to Dominican priory preaching all over Europe. Blessed John lived from 1205 to 1283. John was born around 1205 in the village of Mosso Santa Maria near the Vercelli area of Lombardy in Northern Italy. His Feast Day is December 1st & the “Holy Name of Jesus” feast day is January 3rd.