

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Over the last several days, I have been thinking of the activities that our parish offers right now or will offer in the near future. Some of these activities deal more with the individual, some with the parish at large, and still others with the world outside our parish.

The parish as a community of faith exists so that its members may, first of all, deepen their relationship with God through Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit. The most important act that is characteristic of the Christian life is to celebrate the liturgy of the Lord as a community. There are, of course, other opportunities for prayer that the parish offers, notably our chapel with perpetual exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. There is always space for more adorers.

The Jesuits on the staff offer spiritual direction. The priests are also available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation; all one needs to do is to make an appointment. There is also the possibility of making the “Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola in Daily Life,” for those who are too busy to go away to a retreat house.

One new program that will be offered to the mothers of the parish is “Familia,” an opportunity to grow as a Catholic and as a Catholic mother. Suzanne Cangelosi deserves our thanks for bringing this program to Holy Name.

We have an extremely active Society of St. Vincent de Paul. For well over a hundred years, our Vincentians have brought aid and comfort to the poor of our area. Our members periodically serve a meal at Ozanam Inn, indicating their concern for those who have so little.

At the direction of the archbishop, Holy Name, like every other parish, has established a racial harmony committee. I am personally hopeful that this committee will form a foundation for our parish to become more involved in the area of social justice. St. Vincent de Paul feeds the hungry. Delving into concerns of social justice will help us to understand why so many are hungry and what we can do to change a system that leaves so many in poverty.

In conjunction with St. Stephen Parish, we have initiated a uptown youth ministry. More than a year ago, Archbishop Hughes indicated that ought to be an outreach to youth in our area. Through the work of youth minister Julie Ginther and the success of our Youth Mass on Sunday evenings, we hope to be able to reach out to more teenagers. It is gratifying to see college-age students and twenty-somethings finding a home for worship at our Sunday evening Mass.

Because it happens with such smooth organization, it may be possible to forget our “Liturgy of the Word for Children” at the ten-thirty Mass on Sunday. I find it inspiring to see the young people march up the steps to the sanctuary, ready to hear God’s word in their language.

These are some of the programs to be found in our parish—and I have not even mentioned Holy Name of Jesus School. These programs will bring people to Christ only insofar as you are involved. Programs like these demand human cooperation and generosity.

I pray that we will all work together to help Holy Name grow in every way possible as a community of faith, hope, and love. Our parish name is the name of Jesus. The name means “one who saves.” Let us in every possible try to be like the one whose name we bear. Let us pray together for that grace.

In our Lord,
Donald A. Hawkins, S.J.
Pastor