

**Homily Outline for the Chicago Association of Holy Name Societies
44th Annual Spiritual Assembly
and the
100th Anniversary of the Saint Constance Holy Name Society
at
Saint Constance Church of Mary, Undoer of Knots Parish
Chicago, Illinois**

June 22, 2024

**† Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

- I. It is good to be here at Saint Constance Church of Mary, Undoer of Knots Parish, where I served as Pastor for 2½ years from 2001 to 2003.
 - A. I still use the crozier given by the parish as a gift to me.
 - B. The image of the steeple of St. Constance Church engraved in the node of the staff is a visual reminder to me and I think of you every time I use it.
- II. We have several occasions to celebrate today.
 - A. This is the 44th Annual Spiritual Assembly the Chicago Association of Holy Name Societies. Welcome!
 - B. Today also happens to be my names' day.
 1. In Poland, one's name day or *imieniny* is more important than one's birthday.
 2. I was baptized Thomas John and today is the feast day of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, so I have the rare privilege of having the name day for both my first name and my middle name on the same day!
 3. Today is also the 14th anniversary of my installation as Bishop of Springfield in Illinois.

C. The main reason we are here today at Saint Constance Church is because we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Saint Constance Holy Name Society

1. St. Constance was established in 1916 as an offshoot from Our Lady of Victory Parish to provide for the pastoral care of the growing the Polish community on the northwest side of Chicago.
2. The St. Constance Holy Name Society was established eight years later, on May 23, 1924.
3. By decree of the Cardinal, St. Constance Parish and St. Robert Bellarmine Parish joined on January 18, 2022, to become a new parish, now known as Mary, Undoer of Knots Parish. As such, the organization hosting this event is now the Mary, Undoer of Knots Holy Name Society, but we cannot overlook our 100-year history.
 - a) I am grateful to your pastor, Father Robert Lojek, for hosting us.
 - b) I also thank Jim Gordon, President of the Mary, Undoer of Knots Holy Name Society, for welcoming all of us here today.
4. In the 1960's, St. Constance HNS membership was up to 100 and they were very active in the works of the parish. Now down to 20 members, they remain active in parish endeavors, and are responsible for regularly delivering donated food to Mary of Providence on Austin Avenue, a nonprofit facility helping people with developmental disabilities.
 - a) Parishioners are invited to join the Mary, Undoer of Knots Holy Name Society for their monthly breakfast meetings.
 - b) They hold pancake breakfasts to encourage parish-wide fellowship, they host occasional Mornings of Recollection--typically during Advent and Lent--for men in the community, and they make yearly monetary donations to charitable causes.
 - c) As stated in the HNS Pledge, we dedicate ourselves "...to the honor of the Sacred Name of Jesus Christ." Hence, our Society's primary work--professing the name of Jesus--goes on now, just as it did 100 years ago.

III. Our readings today are from the Memorial Ss. Thomas More and John Fisher.

A. "Beloved, do not be afraid that a trial by fire is occurring among you"
(1 Peter 4:12-19).

B. Responsorial Psalm: "Those who sow in tears will reap rejoicing"
(Psalm 126).

C. Gospel: "Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matt. 10:34 - 11:1).

D. We see these scripture passages exemplified in Ss. Thomas More and John Fisher, who gave their lives in witness to the truths of our Catholic faith.

E. May we draw strength from their example, giving witness to the Sacred Name of Jesus Christ in all that we say and do.

IV. May God give us this grace. Amen.