



“Chantacleer” ● ● ●

St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Guild

Fall 2014

Executive Board

Maria Cornelius
Ellen Larsen
Co-Presidents

Poupee Nisos
Prefect

Liz Strand
Secretary

Anne Marie Fejka
Treasurer

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Sodality Happenings

The new Sodality year has begun and we have an event-filled calendar!

The Time and Talent Fair was on September 20th and 21st and **Patty Bubar**, our Membership Chair, along with her team of volunteers, met a number of women who were interested in joining. The new Sodalists have been placed with the units that seemed the most appropriate based on their interests. We are grateful to have these new sodalists join us.

Patty Bubar and **Julie MacDonald** put their expertise together to design and print a new Sodality brochure that does a wonderful job of describing the mission of Sodality. The new brochure was distributed at the Time and Talent Fair and has been very well received. Copies can be found in the church's gathering space. A great big thank you for Patty and Julie for creating a wonderful brochure that describes Sodality as a way of life by having a deep devotion to Mary.

The Sodality website has been revised and embellished by our new "Webmaster", **Mary Bender**. The new website can be accessed from the home page of the parish website which is www.stjanedechantal.org. On the home page, click on the tab that says SODALITY. This new site will be updated with current events and other important news. We are very grateful to Mary for taking on this monumental new role.

We held our first General Meeting and Lasagna Dinner on October 1. It was well attended and hardly a scrap of lasagna was left. Fr. Giese said Mass after which we gathered in Caulfield Hall for dinner and our first meeting. **Maria Cornelius** introduced the new board members. **Ellen Larsen** is her co-President and **Poupee Nisos** is continuing as our Prefect. **Liz Strand** is serving her second year as Secretary. **Suzie Nalls** kindly agreed to start the year as our Treasurer, but as of this issue, we introduce our new Treasurer, **Anne Marie Fejka**. We were joined once again by members of Junior Sodality, chaired by **Kelley Lennon**. Kelley would love to have some help for meetings and events with the girls in Junior Sodality this year. If you would like to help, please let Kelley know.

Our Communion Breakfast was on November 2, chaired by **Poupee Nisos** our Prefect. The speaker, Melissa Overmyer, is the founder of the Georgetown Women's Bible Study and is on the Board for Walking with Purpose. Her inspiring talk was greatly enjoyed at this lovely catered event.

Denise Sintetos, **Kathy Pascale** and **Gretchen Koch** are once again chairing the Giving Tree. This is the largest outreach project that Sodality does each year, providing gifts to over 1,000 people in the community. The label making meeting kicks off the event on Thursday November 20th and the trees will be set up in the gathering area starting Saturday November 29th. Volunteers are needed to sort and bag the gifts on Sunday December 14th after each of the Masses. Please volunteer to help with this very important project. Thank you Denise, Kathy and Gretchen for all of your time and hard work.

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On the web, see us at
www.stjanedechantal.org/Sodality

Sodality Happenings

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The next General Meeting and Mass will begin at 7:00 on December 3. Following Mass we will have refreshments in Caulfield Hall and will be making Christmas cards and writing notes to members of the military. We will be joined once again by a representative from Christian Bling who will be selling beautiful faith inspired jewelry just in time for holiday gifts. Please join us for this festive event. To get a preview of the jewelry, log onto www.ctbling.com.

On Sunday February 15th Sodality will be sponsoring the donut socials after Mass. Please join us to talk with parishioners about Sodality and the wonderful service projects the units are working on. This is a great opportunity to attract new members.

Maureen Wilkerson has offered to chair a parish-wide blood drive in the spring. A parish email will be sent out with the date. Please stay tuned. Thank you Maureen for helping the Red Cross and bringing this event to St. Jane DeChantal.

Our annual fundraisers will be here before you know it. We have two new chairs for the Fashion Show: **Maureen George** and **Judy Smith**. The planning for this event, which is Saturday March 7th, started in the summer and is now in full swing. **Colleen Hadigan** will be chairing the Plant Sale this year, which will be Friday May 1st to Sunday May 3rd. The funds raised by these two events fund Sodality's budget for the entire year. Please get involved and volunteer!

The Morning of Recollection is Saturday, March 21st so please mark your calendars. This event follows the 8:00 am Mass — stay tuned for more details. **Liz Strand**, **Mary Bender** and the St. Elizabeth Seton unit will be chairing the Anniversary Brunch held on April 19. This special event will be held at the rectory as it was last year, and it was a huge success.

Please join us, participate, volunteer and get involved!

From the Co-President

Hello Ladies,

Let me start by saying that I am truly humbled to be working with such a wonderful group of women. Sodality is special for many reasons. As our beautiful new brochure says so eloquently, "Sodality is not just another club to join, it is a way of life". It is made up of women who share their faith, who feel driven to help others in the community, who support each other, pray for each other and support the parish. I'm inspired on a regular basis by the talented and wonderful people that make up this group.

Our year got off to a wonderful start with great attendance at our first Mass and General Meeting. We were thrilled to see so many existing members from every one of our units. In addition we welcomed a number of new members — many of whom joined after learning about Sodality at the Time and Talent Fair. We know that St. Jane DeChantal already has one of the largest and strongest Sodality Groups in the area, but the fact that we continue to grow goes to show that we are fulfilling an important spiritual need.

Our units are all working diligently on varying community service projects ranging from reaching out to help pregnant women in crisis, to helping the poor and hungry in our community. We should all be very proud of the things that we accomplish throughout the year.

At this time of year, we turn our thoughts to those things that we are grateful for. I'd like to thank the Executive Board and our Unit Chairs for all of their time and hard work. Thank you to our members for actively participating, for supporting our fundraisers and for volunteering your time. Throughout this busy season, continue to pray for and support each other.

Enjoy the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season!

— Maria Cornelius, Co-President

If you have a sewing machine and are interested in helping with baptismal bibs, please contact Ellen Larsen at (301) 530-8393, ellenlarsen2000@yahoo.com.

Update: St. John Neumann Unit

Despite its relatively limited size, the St. John Neumann Unit (JNU) is an active and enthusiastic component of the St. Jane de Chantal Sodality. The unit's current membership numbers approximately one dozen women, including new member Mary "Mike" Slattery, whom we welcomed in the spring of 2014. Our shared belief in and support of Sodality's missions of faith and charity bind us together and have helped us to forge wonderful friendships that have endured and grown closer over the years as we have experienced many happy and some sad life events.

The JNU meets four times during the Sodality year, usually at a member's home, in addition to supporting the functions of the General Sodality. In order to better share meeting responsibilities, we have adopted a practice by which members volunteer to serve at individual meetings as host, recorder, or facilitator. Under this arrangement, the host provides the meeting site (or assumes responsibility for set-up if the meeting takes place in church facilities) and coordinates refreshments for the meeting. The facilitator prepares the meeting agenda after consultation with the unit liaison (our version of the unit chair), leads the Rosary, and runs the meeting. Finally, the recorder takes notes at the meeting, prepares a summary (the minutes) of the meeting that includes a list of any action items that need follow-up by the unit, and e-mails the summary to the unit members before the next meeting. This division of responsibility has worked very well for the JNU and has fostered more active involvement by all of the members of the unit.

Each unit meeting begins with the recitation of a Rosary that we dedicate to the special intentions expressed by the members of the unit. This time of communal prayer helps us to focus on the primary reason we are Sodalists and fosters our special devotion to the Blessed Mother. During the business meeting that follows, we plan how we will support the General Sodality's spiritual and charitable efforts and carry out our own charitable projects. At each meeting, JNU members collect funds and needed supplies for donation to various local charities or Catholic religious organizations. During the last two years, the JNU's charitable projects have included providing baby clothes and supplies to Birthright of Montgomery County, monetary donations and "wish list" items to the Little Sisters of the Poor of Washington, DC, and food items and household supplies to the Fisher House Complex at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, which houses the families of wounded warriors while their loved ones are treated at the hospital. After the business meeting is concluded with a closing prayer, we enjoy our social time together, sampling the tasty treats everyone has brought and catching up with each other's news. The members of the JNU feel blessed to be part of the spiritual fellowship of the General Sodality and that of our close-knit unit.

— Helen Bollwerk, Unit Chair

From the Prefect

Dear Sodality Sisters:

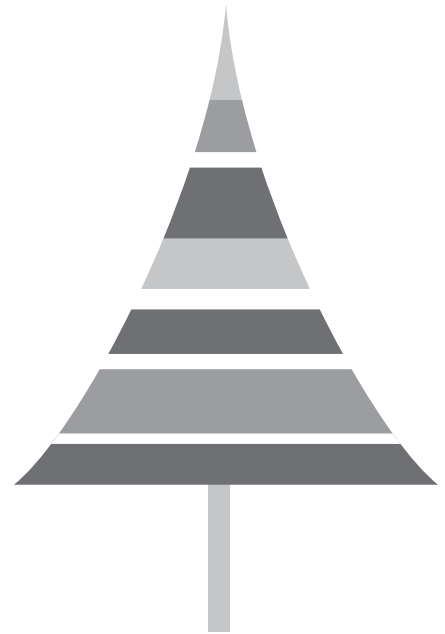
Fall is upon us and the sky is melancholic. The sadness of the weather reflects what our brothers and sisters in the Middle East are experiencing. Leaving everything behind because of their beliefs is hard enough. Not knowing their destination, just escaping with their children, their parents and grandparents and just a few possessions is devastating.

I know about their heartbreak. I had to escape Cuba because of my convictions. The fear has never left me. However, I was able to leave on an airplane and was greeted by the warm arms of my aunt in Mexico.

We, who are free to worship let us, go alongside them with our prayers and our resources to show them the love of God with our actions.

— Poupee Nisos, Prefect

The Giving Tree



Support Sodality's largest outreach project of the year — take a tag and donate a gift!

In Memoriam

Esther Ramos, Mother of Sodalist Cecilia Lewis

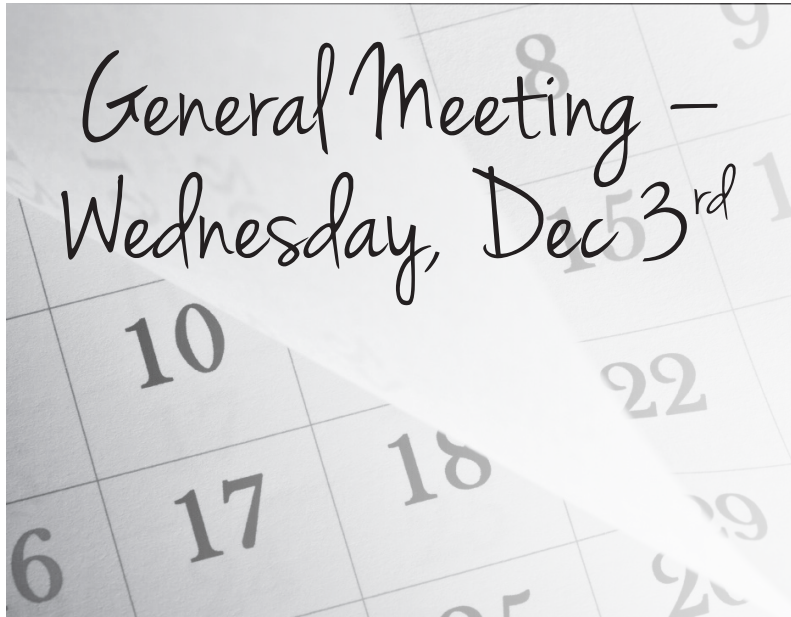
Francis C. Sapienza, Father of Sodalist Mary D'Antonio

Publication Information — To submit an item, please email Julie MacDonald at jackjuliemac@aol.com.

Prayer Tree

The Christ Child Unit has offered to become Sodality's go-to unit for prayer requests. If you have an important event or circumstance in your life that needs prayers, contact Gail Quigley at gailq@verizon.net.

fyi ... Set one of your radio stations to 91.9 FM WGTS. This is a contemporary Christian station that is truly inspiring.



**General Meeting -
Wednesday, Dec 3rd**

Please join us for Mass at 7:00 pm followed by the meeting in Caulfield Hall. Refreshments provided by the St. Monica Unit.

We will be writing Christmas cards and letters to members of the military to be distributed by Operation Gratitude.

Our friends from "Christian Bling" will be there to showcase their beautiful faith-inspired jewelry which could make wonderful Christmas gifts. To preview their collection, go to www.ctbling.com.

We're on the Web!
See us at www.stjanechantedchanthal.org/Sodality

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