

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2016

I. Opening

A. The meeting was opened with the “Hail Mary.”

B. Mary B. moved that the minutes of the January board meeting be approved, Celestine K. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

II. Old Business

A. Fashion Show Planning Update - Maureen G., Fashion Show co-chair, reported that as of day before the Executive Board meeting, approximately \$5,500 worth of ads had been sold for the Fashion Show program, 14 in-kind donations had been received, 23 persons had made patron donations, and 114 tickets to the luncheon had been purchased. Maureen asked the unit chairs to urge their members to take out personal ads in the program; quarter-page “business card” type ads are \$75. All unit ads except for that of the Christ Child Unit have been received; the latter ad is in process and will memorialize the unit’s recently deceased members. Tickets to the Fashion Show will be sold this coming weekend (February 20-21) at the pizza and donut socials following the Masses at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and the 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and noon Masses on Sunday. Liz. S. provided an update on unit raffle baskets. The raffle baskets provided by the Christ Child, John Neumann, Regina Coeli, and St. Gianna Units have been received by the committee. Tracy M. is in the process of collecting member donations for the St. Monica basket and will provide it to the committee shortly. The basket committee will meet on February 18 arrange the baskets. Maureen expressed her thanks and those of Fashion Show co-chair Kathy K. for the efforts all Sodalists have made to support the Fashion Show.

B. Sodality Donut Social - Sodality is the featured parish ministry at the pizza and donut socials following the Masses on February 20-21. Co-Presidents Liz S. and Ellen L. thanked all the volunteers who signed up to cover the Sodality table at these events and to clean up after the socials. All slots have been covered.

C. Collaborating with Boy Scouts on projects - A brainstorming meeting was held to consider how Sodality might work with the parish Boy Scouts to complete needed improvements to the Mary Garden. This collaboration is still in the development stage. It is hoped that new flowers can be planted before the May Crowning. Other issues that must be discussed include lighting improvements and repairs to the statue of Mary. One additional project being considered by the Boy Scouts would involve rebuilding the Sodality closet when the kitchen outside Caulfield Hall is remodeled. It is believed that the closet renovation could be a project for an Eagle Scout. The remodeling of the kitchen, however, will not take place until sometime in the future.

III. New Business

A. Morning of Recollection Update - Liz and Ellen thanked Poupee N. for obtaining a

speaker for the Morning of Recollection on March 12 and for creating a poster publicizing the event. The poster will be displayed on an easel at the pizza and donut socials on February 20-21 and thereafter in the Gathering Space of the church. The speaker for the Morning of Recollection will be Mary S., a consecrated woman of Regnum Christi. She is still deciding on the topic for her talk. Liz and Ellen asked the unit chairs to remind their members about the Morning of Recollection and urge them to attend. Executive Board members will be needed to help with clean-up after the event.

B. Anniversary Brunch Status Report - The date for the Anniversary Brunch has been finalized as April 10. Mary B. reported that an announcement about the event for the church bulletin will be sent to Molly H. this week for publication. The brunch committee hopes that the announcement can be included in the bulletin earlier than it was last year to facilitate receiving timely RSVPs. Liz S. suggested that the announcement begin running on the weekend of March 5-6 and that the RSVP deadline be April 1.

C. May General Meeting - The last General Meeting of the year is on May 4. Our guest speaker will be Marco C., a parishioner and campus minister at George Mason University for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). A jewelry vendor - either Christian Bling or another vendor who contacted Sodality in connection with the Fashion Show - will be at the meeting with a selection of jewelry for sale. The Junior Sodality essay contest winner will read her essay at the meeting. Liz and Ellen are working on a topic for the essay contest now. Essay entry readers will be solicited at the March Executive Board meeting.

D. Upcoming Unit Responsibilities - We will not send a representative to the Sodality Union Meeting on March 5 because it conflicts with our Fashion Show. On Sunday, March 6, the St. Gianna Unit will be in charge of medals, prayer cards, and presentation of gifts at the monthly Sodality Mass.

E. Succession planning for the 2016-2017 Executive Board - Ellen and Poupee will be leaving the board in May when their terms in office expire. It is time to start considering candidates to fill their terms as officers for the next two years.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect - Poupee had nothing to report beyond the matters she discussed in connection with the Fashion Show and Morning of Recollection.

B. Treasurer - Anne F. was unable to attend the Executive Board meeting due to a conflicting prior commitment, but indicated by e-mail that she would provide an extensive report concerning the Fashion Show at the March Executive Board meeting.

C. Units

1. Christ Child Unit - The unit now meets three times per year. It last met in late

January in the Maplewood Park Place party room, thanks to the sponsorship of unit members Barbara B. and Sue S. This location made it possible for some of their more frail members to attend the meeting. The unit is working to identify an in-parish ministry that the members may undertake and is interested in recruiting new members. They also need to set up a phone tree to facilitate communication. The unit will meet again in the spring, either at Maplewood (if sponsored) or at the Seton Center. Their raffle basket for the Fashion Show will include a tea at Strathmore Mansion and tickets to *Porgy and Bess* at the Music Center at Strathmore.

2. John Neumann Unit - The unit met in the Scanlan Meeting Room on February 9. Their charitable project for that meeting involved collection of financial donations for Saint Martin's Ministries on the Eastern Shore. The unit has finalized its Fashion Show raffle gift card donations for a "Dine Around the World" theme. Anne S. has developed some ideas for presentation of the raffle baskets. Anne also reported to the unit on the ceremony for parishioner Nadja W. as she was promoted to Major General for the U.S. Army Medical Command. The unit's final meeting of the year will be in April, when its charitable activity will support the parish's St. Martin's Cloak organization. Joan W., Mary H., and Helen B. will meet with members of the St. Monica Unit in the coming weeks to explain how the John Neumann Unit has modified its organizational and leadership structures in recent years to share responsibilities more equitably within the unit.

3. Regina Coeli - The unit submitted a written report as its members were providing the post-Mass dinner for students at the University of Maryland Newman Center at the time of the Executive Board meeting. The coordinator for that event was Paula R. The unit has served nearly 200 students at such dinners over the past several years. On February 6, Gina C., Maureen W., and Tembi C. attended the Sodality Union Mass and meeting at St. Benedict Moor Parish in Northeast Washington, DC. The event was very well attended. On February 26, the unit plans to have a home Mass celebrated at Karen A.'s house with a potluck dinner to follow. Father Cusick will celebrate the Mass. The unit's Fashion Show raffle baskets will consist of (1) an Ipad Mini 2 with retina display and (2) gift certificates to Old Angler's Inn and Black Market Bistro. The unit also will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive at St. Jane's on Sunday, April 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

4. St. Monica - The unit is gathering its Fashion Show raffle donations together and will provide them to the committee shortly. Susie S. will set up a meeting of St. Monica members with Joan W., Mary H., and Helen B. to discuss ways to modify the organizational and leadership structures of the unit to share responsibilities more equitably. The unit is considering taking on the responsibility of running a parish blood drive, which currently is handled by Maureen W. of the Regina Coeli Unit. Maureen will be invited to participate in the meeting with the John Neumann Unit members.

5. St. Gianna - The unit has not met since Christmas but plans to meet on February 22 at Crossway Community, the charity St. Gianna has chosen to support this year.

The organization provides apartments for single mothers, day care for their children, and educational opportunities for the mothers. Six to seven unit members have already committed to attending the meeting and tour at Crossway Community. The unit will be responsible for staffing the Sodality Sunday Mass on March 6. Their raffle basket for the Fashion Show will be a Kate Spade purse containing a number of smaller Kate Spade items.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - The unit met on January 29. The members have donated a Red Door Spa gift certificate and massage therapy items for their Fashion Show raffle contribution. They have also obtained three new ads for the Fashion Show program. Two new members have joined the unit. The group is exploring the possibility of working with the Dress for Success program as a charitable endeavor and will meet again on February 21 to plan for the parish Anniversary Brunch.

7. Associates - Two Associates, Nan V. and Willie L., have decided to move from Associate status to join the John Neumann Unit as active members.

8. Junior Sodality - A written report was submitted by e-mail on behalf of Junior Sodality. Kelley L. has sent Kathy K. a list of 10 eighth grade Junior Sodalists who will participate in the Fashion Show; Kelley is waiting to hear from two or three more girls about their availability. The Junior Sodality is donating a Tiffany Double Heart Tag pendant necklace to the Fashion Show raffle. On February 8, a group of eight Junior Sodalists made 100 sandwiches for Bethesda Cares. The Junior Sodality will help stuff envelopes for the Parish Council election before Easter. Kelley noted that the Junior Sodality essay contest question still needs to be finalized. The eighth grade girls will write their essays on April 15.

V. Miscellaneous

Mary B. provided an update concerning the Sodality website. The website indicates that the cutoff date for ticket sales for the Fashion Show is this weekend, February 20-21. Poupee provided the flyer for the Morning of Recollection to Mary for inclusion on the website. Mary will update the website with a teaser about the Morning of Recollection to attract interest.

VI. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with the "Prayer for the Helpless Unborn."