

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2016

I. Opening

A. The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Co-President Ellen L.

B. Joan W. moved that the minutes of the February Executive Board meeting be approved with the correction noted by Secretary Helen B. Susie S. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

II. Old Business

A. Fashion Show – The members of the Executive Board agreed that the Fashion Show was a great success. Co-Presidents Ellen and Liz S. expressed their thanks to co-chairs Maureen G. and Kathy K. and their Fashion Show committee for all their hard work. Liz noted that the committee's wrap-up meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, after which the committee will make a final report to the board.

B. Morning of Recollection – Ellen and Liz expressed their thanks to Prefect Poupee N. for organizing the event and obtaining our speaker, Mary S. of Regnum Christi. The board members who were able to attend the Morning of Recollection agreed that Mary was an excellent speaker. Liz and Ellen announced that Mary will make the notes for her talk available to Poupee so that we can post them on the Sodality website for all to share.

C. Upcoming Unit Responsibilities – Marcy P. and Sue S. of the Christ Child Unit will attend the April 2 Sodality Union meeting at St. Thomas Apostle Church. The Executive Board is slated to handle the medal/prayer card/gift bearer responsibilities for the 10:00 a.m. Sodality Sunday Mass on April 3. Amanda R. and Ellen have volunteered to help fulfill these responsibilities. If other executive board members are available to assist, they should contact Ellen.

III. New Business

A. Anniversary Brunch Update – So far, three couples have sent RSVPs to attend the brunch on April 10. If we have only a limited number of couples attending, we may need to consider moving the brunch to a smaller space in the rectory than we have used in prior years. The deadline for RSVPs is April 1.

B. Junior Sodality Essay Contest – The eighth grade Junior Sodalists who wish to participate in the essay contest for the Sodality scholarship will write their essays on April 15. The topic of the essay question has been decided, and Ellen will provide the question to Kelley L. immediately prior to the essay-writing session. Kelley will scan the essays, which will be numbered but not otherwise identified, and e-mail them to Ellen on April 16. Ellen, in turn, will forward the scanned documents by e-mail to the judges who will read and rank the essays. Liz, Ellen, and Mary B. have already agreed to participate on the judging panel, and Gail Q., Helen B., and Joan W. also volunteered to serve as judges. The panel members will each read the essays independently, rank them, and e-mail to Ellen the identifying numbers of their top three essays in ranked order by April 23. Ellen will inform Kelley of the identifying number of the winning essay so that Kelley can notify the winner and make arrangements for her to attend the May General Meeting to read her essay. The Sodality treasurer will send the scholarship check to the winner's Catholic high school in the fall.

C. Succession planning for the executive board – Co-President Ellen L., Prefect Poupee N., and Treasurer Anne F. will complete their terms and leave the Executive Board in May. In addition, Kelley L. will complete her term as the Unit Chair for the Junior Sodalists in May, and we likely will need women to help coordinate major events such as the Fashion Show and Plant Sale next year. Liz and Ellen asked that all Unit Chairs make it a priority to inform the members of their respective units about these upcoming vacancies as soon as possible and encourage them to consider volunteering to fill some of these critical leadership roles. Interested women should contact Liz for additional information or to express their willingness to serve.

D. April 24th Blood Drive – Maureen W. is coordinating the Red Cross Blood Drive at the church on Sunday, April 24. Mary B. will post a banner on the Sodality website with a link to the Red Cross sign-up process so that potential donors may schedule their donation times. The Unit Chairs are asked to promote the blood drive within their units and among other parishioners.

E. May General Meeting – The May General Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 4. The following activities are confirmed: Marco C. of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) ministries will provide a report about his experience this academic year as a campus minister; a representative of Christian Bling will attend and bring an assortment of jewelry for sale, which should provide gift options for Mother’s Day, Confirmation, and other special events; and the extra Smashbox favors left over from the Fashion Show will be awarded as door prizes. We also hope that the Junior Sodalist winner of the Sodality essay contest will be able to attend and read her winning essay.

F. Plant Sale Update – Colleen H., Chair of the Plant Sale, provided an e-mailed update on its status. Plant orders placed with Walnut Springs and Sun Nurseries have been confirmed. Tents have been secured for the event. Materials to “refresh” our wooden sign have been ordered, and it has been determined that additional signs from last year that we can re-use are in excellent condition. Colleen has lined up volunteers to pick up perennials and herbs on May 5 and to assist with the Friday delivery and set-up. Kim F. will assist with publicizing the sale through social media and in local news venues. Anne S. has offered once again to help with pricing and has asked Molly H. to reserve the parish’s credit card apparatus. The following steps are still left to do: print an ad to be distributed in the school “backpack mail”; place an announcement with Molly H. for the parish bulletin; set up a “Signup Genius” website to circulate to the Sodality units to solicit volunteers for the three-day sale period; ask Anne F. for a starting cash box and forward to her the invoice from Walnut Springs (as soon as it is received) to that Father Geise can sign the check needed at the time of delivery; provide Deacon M. with a list of our needs for tables, chairs, and a hose for the sale. Finally, we all need to pray for good weather on the weekend of May 6-8!

IV. Reports

A. Prefect – Poupee was unable to attend the Executive Board meeting and no report was made.

B. Treasurer – Anne F. indicated that technical difficulties had precluded her completing the update of Sodality’s books before the meeting, but she was able to report estimated information in general categories. We received approximately \$19,000 in income from the Fashion Show. Broken down, Sodality received approximately \$9,500 in ticket sales for the

event, \$710 in patron donations, \$3,300 in raffle ticket sales, and \$6,300 in proceeds from sales of program ads. Estimated expenses for the Fashion Show were approximately \$9,000. We have also been promised a donation that, based on the donation received last year from the same anonymous donor, would likely be approximately \$5,000. Anne sent a check for \$1,000 to the parish on behalf of the Sodality Associates to reimburse the cost of regilding the altar tabernacle. She also sent a second check to Regnum Christi as an honorarium for the speaker at our Morning of Recollection.

C. Units

1. Junior Sodality – Junior Sodality’s participation in the Fashion Show was a huge success. On March 16, seven Junior Sodalists assisted the parish by stuffing envelopes for the Easter mailing; the girls finished two-thirds of the envelopes that day and a group of eighth grade Junior Sodalists returned the following day to finish the project. Both Father Giese and Father Cusick stopped by to express their thanks to the girls for their assistance. The girls’ next projects are the Sodality essay contest and the May Crowning ceremony, both of which involve the eighth grade girls who will be graduating in June. The Junior Sodalists will assist with the Plant Sale if needed. Kelley L. is still looking for a successor to take over the role of Unit Chair for the Junior Sodality next year. She asks that board members pass along to her the names of women they know who may be interested in serving in this leadership role.

2. Christ Child Unit – Two members of the Christ Child Unit, Alice R. and Jean D., passed away within the last month and will be greatly missed. Gail Q. assisted with the Sodality table at the parish donut social following the 10:00 a.m. on February 21. Gail, Poupee, and Marcy P. arranged the floral centerpieces for the tables at the Fashion Show. Four members of the unit attended the Fashion Show and brought a number of friends with them to enjoy the event. The unit plans to hold its next meeting in April at Maureen P.’s home. Approximately six members remain active, and a couple of new women have expressed interest in joining the unit.

3. John Neumann Unit – The unit has not met since the last Executive Board meeting, but will meet again in April. The group’s charity for that meeting will be the parish’s St. Martin’s Cloak organization. Joan W. assisted with the Sodality table at the parish donut social following Mass on February 21 and spoke with a few women who might be interested in joining Sodality.

4. Regina Coeli – The unit members who attended the Fashion Show had a lovely time and applaud the Fashion Show co-chairs and their committee for their efforts. A number of unit members served dinner to students at the Catholic Student Center of the University of Maryland (UMD) at College Park on February 17. The evening was coordinated by Paula R. and was greatly appreciated by the large number of UMD students who participated in the Mass and dinner. Karen A. and her husband recently hosted a lovely evening in their home for the unit’s members, starting with a Mass celebrated by Father Cusick and followed by dinner. Maureen W. is coordinating the parish blood drive on April 24 and is hoping for a good turnout. The unit’s members will be available to assist with the Plant Sale and any other activities for which their support is needed.

5. St. Monica – On March 10, Unit Chair Susie S. hosted a meeting to facilitate discussion by four members of the St. Monica Unit with three members of the John Neumann Unit about a type of unit organizational structure that shares leadership responsibilities among

unit members. In addition, Maureen W. of the Regina Coeli Unit attended the meeting to discuss the parish blood drives she has organized so that the St. Monica Unit may consider whether this is a program its members may wish to coordinate in the future. The meeting was very productive, and Kerry M. will contact the broader unit membership and host a follow-up meeting to discuss these leadership and activity options. The unit will submit an article about its activities for the fall edition of *The Chanticleer*.

6. St. Gianna – Celestine K. and Cathy Jo R. of the unit distributed medals and prayer cards and served as gift bearers at the March 6 Sodality Sunday Mass. The unit's February meeting took place at Crossways Community (St. Gianna's charitable project for this year). The members toured the facility and developed some additional ideas for ways they can help the organization. As a result of their experience, the unit submitted an ad about Crossways Community that was included in the Fashion Show program. The unit had a good turnout for the Fashion Show; members and their guests made up two tables at the luncheon. As a result of their outreach, three new members have joined the unit. They will hold their next meeting sometime in April.

7. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – The unit held its February meeting at Amanda R.'s house and it was well attended. The members are busy planning the parish Anniversary Brunch. Their next meeting will take place on March 20, at which time they will hold a clothing drive within the unit for Dress for Success. They expect to have three new members attend the March meeting, and several current members may also be bringing friends.

8. Associates – Ellen L. has met three women in recent weeks at parish functions who are considering joining Sodality; one of them expressed interest in becoming an Associate.

V. Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned following a closing prayer.