

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2016

I. Opening

A. Prefect Poupee N. opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. by leading the prayer, "Sub Tuum Praesidum."

B. Mary B. moved that the minutes of the March Executive Board meeting be approved. Susie S. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

II. Old Business

A. Anniversary Brunch - The Anniversary Brunch, which was organized by the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit on behalf of Sodality, was a smaller, more intimate event this year, with four couples attending. After the 10:00 am. Mass at which the couples were honored, a champagne toast was celebrated in the living room of the rectory; the couples then joined Father Giese and Father Cusick for brunch in the rectory dining room. Father Giese expressed his thanks to the Sodality for organizing the event and for all the other work Sodality does for the parish. A thank you note from one of the celebrating couples was circulated among the board members.

B. Fashion Show - Final reporting for the Fashion Show indicated that the profit realized from the event was \$11,132.56. Thanks were again extended to Maureen G. and Kathy K. for chairing this successful fundraiser and to all who contributed to and attended the event.

C. April 24 blood drive - Maureen W. is coordinating the blood drive. Pre-event reminders have been sent to parishioners through various sources - unit chairs have contacted their members, the priests have been referencing the drive in the post-Mass announcements, and notices have been placed in the parish bulletin and on the parish website. All Sodality members are asked to promote the blood drive to encourage a good turnout.

D. Jr. Sodality essay contest - The participating Junior Sodalists have written their anonymous essays. Copies of the essays and the essay question have been transmitted to the members of the judging panel. After reading the essays, the individual judges will rank their top three candidates and send those rankings to co-president Ellen L. by April 26. The writer whose essay receives the most votes from the judges will be the winner of the \$2,500 scholarship. She will be asked to read her essay at the May General Meeting.

E. Upcoming unit responsibilities - The Junior Sodality will be responsible for the offertory procession and distribution of medals and prayer cards at the monthly Sodality Mass on May 1, when the May Crowning ceremony will be held (see below). The St. Monica Unit will represent our Sodality at the May Sodality Union Meeting. Unit chair Susie S. will inform co-presidents Ellen and Liz S. shortly as to which unit members will attend. The meeting will take place on May 7 at Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian parish, 1357 E. Capitol Street, S.E., Washington, DC. The Rosary will be prayed at 9:00 a.m., Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m., and the business meeting will follow. Liz will draft our report to the Sodality Union summarizing our Sodality's activities over the last two years.

III. New Business

A. Succession planning for the Executive Board - Prefect Poupee and treasurer Anne F. will retire from the Executive Board as of the May meeting; the board expressed its thanks to them for their work over the past two years. Candidates to succeed them have been identified and have agreed to stand for election; they are Karen S. for prefect and Lee M. for treasurer. Gail Q. made a motion for their election, and Poupee seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously that Karen and Lee be elected to join the board as prefect and treasurer, respectively. They will be announced to the Sodality membership at the May General Meeting, and their two-year terms will begin in July. Co-president Ellen L. will also retire from the Executive Board as of May. To date, no candidate to succeed her has come forward. Liz asked that Sodalists encourage members who may be interested in serving as co-president to contact her or Ellen as soon as possible.

B. May Crowning ceremony - The Junior Sodality's annual May Crowning ceremony will take place on May 1 after the 10:00 a.m. Sodality Mass (the girls are also responsible for handing out medals and prayer cards and carrying the gifts in the offertory procession for the Sodality Mass). If the weather is good, the ceremony will take place in the Mary Garden; in the event of rain, the girls will crown the statue of Mary in the church following Mass. Russell W. and the parish office have the music and program for the ceremony, and Ellen will follow up with Russell on this. Junior Sodality chair Kelley L. will meet with the Junior Sodalists before Mass and will conduct a blind drawing of the names of those present to determine who will crown the statue of Mary. The Junior Sodalists will process to their seats before Mass prior to the priestly procession carrying two roses each and wearing their medals (Gail Q. will obtain the flowers, which will be tied with blue ribbon); the flower crown will be carried on a silver tray. If the weather is good, the girls will process out of church to the Mary Garden as part of the priestly procession (after the readers but before the priest).

C. Mary Garden - To prepare for the May Crowning, Ellen L. and Elin H. have been weeding the garden beds. Elin, who designed the garden, has put together a revised planting plan, and the Sodality is in the process of buying the additional plants needed for the garden. De Chantal school teacher Matt D. will work with students from the school to bring the garden beautification project to fruition.

D. May 4th General Meeting - The St. Gianna Unit will provide the various ministers needed for the May 4 General Meeting Mass. Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by the St. Gianna, St. Monica, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Units. A notice about the meeting has been placed in the church bulletin, and unit chairs are asked to encourage their members to attend. Door prizes will be given away during the evening and several activities have been confirmed: The Junior Sodalist essay contest winner will read her prize-winning essay. Marco C. of de Chantal parish, a member of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), will give a talk describing FOCUS's ministry efforts and his experiences as a FOCUS missionary this past year at George Mason University. Christian Bling will have a table of its religious jewelry available for sale (Sodality will receive a percentage of the profits). Finally, the outgoing members of the Executive Board will be honored and the new board members will be introduced to the Sodality membership.

E. Pope Francis House Project - Sodality Membership Chair Patty B. received an email from a representative of Habitat for Humanity in Washington, D.C., inquiring whether de Chantal parish would consider supporting Habitat's project of rehabilitating as affordable housing a structure on 60th Street in the District to serve as four one-bedroom condominiums for low-income residents. The project is to be named Pope Francis House and has been initiated based upon a \$60,000 donation to Habitat by an anonymous donor wishing to honor Pope Francis by engaging the Catholic community in charitable work. The donor has challenged Habitat to raise matching funds, and Habitat is seeking both monetary support and volunteer construction labor for the effort from Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese. After discussion, the board decided that the matter should be referred to the Parish Council and discussed with Father Giese at the next council meeting. To that end, co-president Liz will forward the email Patty received to the appropriate council members. Co-president Ellen made a motion that Sodality contribute \$200 to Habitat for the project if the Archdiocese and the Parish Council approve participation in the endeavor. Poupee N. seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Gail Q. suggested that, if participation in the project is approved, a notice about it be placed in the *Chanticleer* to inform members of Sodality about the effort.

F. Plant Sale update - Colleen H. reported that the plants for the sale have been ordered from Sun Nurseries and Walnut Springs Nursery, notices have been placed in the parish bulletin, and Kim F. of the St. Gianna Unit has placed ads about the sale in social media. The inventory will be largely the same as last year. Colleen has been in touch with treasurer Anne F. regarding preparation of the check needed to pay for the plants. Elin H. has selected some plants for the Mary Garden as well. The Sign-Up Genius posting for volunteers is 67% full, and Colleen is aware of several Sodalists who have not yet signed up but have promised to work. The sale will extend from Friday through Sunday, and we will especially need help on Sunday, which is Mother's Day. The parish is aware of our need for tables, and the Boy Scouts will set up the tents for the sale on Friday morning.

G. June Sodality Union meeting - A discussion was held as to whether we need to send a representative to the June Sodality Union meeting. This meeting does not occur every year, but it is being held this year to vote in the slate of new officers for the Union. The Executive Board decided not to send a representative to the June meeting. Co-president Liz will provide the summary of our Sodality's activities to Susie S. so that the St. Monica representative can take the required copies to the May Union meeting.

H. Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Co-presidents Liz and Ellen will prepare a list for the Parish Council of the Sodality Executive Board members and chairs of major Sodality fundraisers for the volunteer dinner invitation list. If unit chairs are aware of any other Sodality members who have undertaken special projects that should be recognized, they should send those names to Liz and Ellen as soon as possible.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect - Poupee noted that our supply of Sodalists' Prayer cards is dwindling. She asked that unit chairs request their members to bring to the May General Meeting any prayer cards that may inadvertently have been taken home after Sodality Masses. Liz asked that unit chairs also remind their members to bring to the meeting any Sodality Miraculous Medals that may inadvertently have been taken home as well. Joan W. volunteered to have more copies

made of the Sodalist's Prayer cards after we have tallied the number available following the May General Meeting. Poupee also noted that we will need more Miraculous Medals, holy cards, and certificates for the November 2016 investiture ceremony.

B. Treasurer - Anne F. has received dues for one additional Sodalist. She circulated an updated profit and loss spreadsheet for the Sodality bank account indicating that the balance in the account as of the date of the Executive Board meeting (April 20, 2016) is \$26,518.22.

C. Units

1. Junior Sodality - Unit chair Kelley L. is still working to recruit a new chair for the Junior Sodalists for next year. A discussion was held concerning the investiture procedures for Junior Sodality that have been followed for the last several years. These have included investing sixth grade girls rather than having them wait until eighth grade to be invested. The board thanked Kelley for all the work she has done with the girls during her tenure as unit chair. All agreed that the Junior Sodalists have been very prayerful and attentive.

2. Christ Child - Marcy P. and Rachel K. attended the April Sodality Union meeting at St. Thomas Apostle Church on behalf of our Sodality and submitted a written report of the meeting. The slate of nominations for new officers for the Sodality Union was announced; election of officers will take place at the May meeting, and they will be installed at the June meeting. The Sodality Union also noted that a pilgrimage to the Holy Door of Mercy at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will be held on April 30, and that a Day of Recollection will be held at the Washington Retreat House on May 28. The Christ Child Unit's next meeting will be the day after the Executive Board meeting. A new prospective member who has been in contact with Membership Chair Patty B. has been invited to the meeting. At the meeting, the members will discuss a possible new charitable project to undertake in addition to their prayer project. Although a number of their members are now house-bound, there are still 6-7 active members in the unit.

3. John Neumann - The unit met on April 12 and the meeting was very well attended. Joan W., Mary H. and Helen B. reported on their meeting with members of the St. Monica Unit to explain alternative unit leadership structures. One of the John Neumann Unit (JNU) members suggested that JNU invite members of St. Monica to a unit meeting next year so they can see how the JNU model works in practice. Unit members were encouraged to participate in the various upcoming General Sodality events, including the Plant Sale, blood drive, and May General Meeting. The group expressed its gratitude to member Lee M. for agreeing to serve as Sodality treasurer. The charitable project for the April unit meeting focused on the parish's St. Martin's Cloak organization, and monetary donations for its work were collected. A discussion was held as to how JNU might further support St. Martin's Cloak, and a possible project in that regard was referred to St. Martin's Cloak for its consideration. The rotating unit leadership roles for the upcoming Sodality year beginning in September were discussed and filled; three of four charitable projects for the upcoming year were agreed upon, and the fourth will be decided in the fall. Joan W. stepped down from the position of unit contact person (unit chair), and Judith S. agreed to fill the position for the next two years. Mary Margaret M. mentioned that she would approach the Executive Board about inviting Sister Rose, a Visitation sister from Kenya who teaches at Visitation High School, to speak at the October General Meeting about the school for girls she is helping to build in Kenya.

4. Regina Coeli - The unit has not met since the last Executive Board meeting. Gina C. and Maureen W. will continue to serve as unit co-chairs for the next Sodality year. The group is supporting Maureen's work in organizing the parish blood drive.

5. St. Monica - The group is still working out a date for its planning meeting for next year. One unit member has expressed strong interest in taking over responsibility for future parish blood drives based upon the explanation of that process that Maureen W. has provided.

6. St. Gianna - The unit has not met since the last Executive Board meeting. The unit co-chairs are soliciting volunteers to help with the May General Meeting Mass and refreshments. They are also planning an end-of-year unit meeting/party in early May.

7. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - The unit met on the Sunday before the Executive Board meeting and finished discussing their book selection for the year. At their March meeting, the group held a pilot clothing drive for the Dress for Success charity which yielded five bags of clothes for donation. The unit hosted the parish Anniversary Brunch earlier in April and is considering undertaking a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD.

8. Associates - Two additional women have submitted their dues for this year.

V. Miscellaneous

Sodality Directory - The directory will not be finished before the end of this Sodality year, but Liz will work on it over the summer. She has obtained a list of all those who are receiving the *Chanticleer* by mail and will integrate that information with the directory list. Liz noted that the costs incurred by Sodality for *Chanticleers* that are returned to sender as undeliverable are greater than those for the original mailing.

May Executive Board meeting - The May meeting will be the calendar meeting for the upcoming year. It would be very helpful if both old and new board members would attend this meeting to maximize the flow of information and resolve any outstanding questions. The board will also vote on Sodality's tithe to the parish at the May meeting.

VI. Closing Prayer

Ellen led the board in the closing prayer, "Most Lovable Lady," and the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.