

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2017

I. Opening

A. Prefect Karen S. led the board in the Hail Mary as the opening prayer.

B. Secretary Helen B. noted that Amanda R., unit chair for the St. Elizabeth Seton Unit, had emailed to her a correction to the previously circulated draft minutes of the November 2016 executive board meeting, and that the correction had been made. Subject to that correction, Maureen W. moved that the minutes of the November 2016 executive board meeting be approved. Amanda R. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

II. Old Business

A. Parish Staff Christmas Gifts - Treasurer Lee M. reported that Sodality had delivered its annual Christmas gifts to the parish clergy and staff. The priests and several staff members have already sent notes of thanks to Sodality.

B. December General Meeting – Co-president Liz S. reported that the December General Meeting appeared to be a great success, and she expressed the thanks of the board to all who contributed to the planning and execution of the event. She noted using the craft-making session at the meeting to create Christmas-themed items that can be donated has proven to be very popular with the Sodalists who attend, and that the ManorCare nursing facility was very pleased to receive the decorations that were created and donated. The board expressed its sense that we should plan a similar activity for the 2017 December General Meeting.

C. Giving Tree Wrap-up Report – Denise S., chair of the Giving Tree, submitted a written report summarizing this year's program. Sodality distributed a total of 912 gifts to 17 organizations. Of these, Sodalist shoppers purchased 84 gifts to fulfill requests that had not been taken by parishioners or had not been returned by the due date. The total cost to Sodality of these gifts and necessary supplies came to \$1,907.84. However, these expenses were defrayed by \$285 in donations that were received from parishioners wishing to provide financial support to the Giving Tree effort. Thus, the final cost of the 2016 Giving Tree project was \$1,622.84. This amount is largely consistent with the costs we incurred for the project in 2014 and 2015 even though we had to purchase more gifts this year than we did in the previous two years. The Regina Coeli Unit, which has led the Giving Tree for the last several years, has requested that another unit come forward to co-chair the project in 2017 with an eye toward transitioning to take the project over in the future.

D. Sodality Donut Social – Sodality will be the featured parish organization at the donut socials held after the 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and noon Masses on Sunday, February 19. The donuts for the socials have already been ordered; the parish Social Life Committee (whose members are food-certified) will direct the event and Sodalists will assist them with food preparation and service. In addition to helping with serving and attending the event to chat with women who may be interested in joining Sodality, Sodalists are needed to set up Caulfield Hall prior to the 8:00 a.m. Mass and clean up after the event at approximately 1:45 p.m. Liz S. will send a volunteers sign-up link to the unit chairs for forwarding to their units.

### III. New Business

A. Fashion Show Update – The committee has been working hard to contact last year’s sponsors and solicit new sponsors to support the Fashion Show. The co-chairs have sent out solicitation letters to local businesses, and members are following up with telephone calls and personal visits. All units are asked to encourage their members to solicit ads and raffle/door prize donations from businesses they patronize. (If a business advertised in last year’s program, it has already been contacted.) Information about the Fashion Show and copies of all of the donation forms, as well as the seat reservation form, have been added to the Sodality website (thank you to Mary B., who manages our website). The featured store for the show will be *Irresistibles*, located in the Wildwood Shopping Center.

Flyers about the Fashion Show will be distributed after all the Masses on the weekend of January 28-29. Co-chair Kathy K. has requested that Junior Sodality members take on this task, and she is waiting for confirmation that they will be available. Reservation forms will also be inserted into all church bulletins to be distributed during the weekend of February 4-5. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets to the Fashion Show after Masses on the weekends of February 4-5 and 11-12. Liz will send a sign-up link for selling tickets to the unit chairs for forwarding to their units; please encourage unit members to sign up. Tickets will not be sold on the weekend of February 18-19 since that is the last weekend of the Cardinal’s Appeal, but flyers will be available at the Sodality table during the donut socials that weekend. The last day to make reservations for the Fashion Show is February 21. A link to make on-line reservations by credit card through Faith Direct has been added to the Sodality website (a one-dollar convenience fee is charged for this transaction).

Unit ads for the Fashion Show program need to be confirmed with the Fashion Show co-chairs by February 12. Unit raffle baskets need to be dropped off to Karen S. by February 14. The fifty percent deposit for the luncheon is due to Columbia Country Club by February 26. Arrangements are underway to complete that obligation.

B. Anniversary Brunch – The Anniversary Brunch, chaired by the St. Elizabeth Seton Unit, will be held on April 30. Father Giese has confirmed his availability on that date. Amanda R. has contacted Relish (which catered the November Communion Breakfast) about handling the brunch, and Relish has put a hold on that date for our event. Molly H. in the parish office will obtain the paperwork necessary to put Relish on retainer, which would facilitate our using the caterer during the next 18 months. The St. Elizabeth Seton Unit will staff the brunch using volunteers in two-hour shifts. They hope to be able to cover all necessary positions themselves, but will solicit additional Sodality volunteers to help with the event if necessary.

C. Upcoming Unit Responsibilities – The Sodality Union meeting on February 4 will be attended by members of the Regina Coeli Unit. The meeting will be at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 300 Ely Place, S.E., Washington, D.C. The time of the meeting has not yet been announced; Liz will check on that. Responsibilities for distributing medals and prayer cards and serving as gift bearers at the monthly Sodality Mass on February 5 will be handled by the St. Monica Unit.

D. Lenten Retreat – Liz asked if anyone has signed up for the Sodality Union Lenten Retreat to be held on the weekend of March 10-12. Unit chairs need to check with their units. They were asked to let Liz know if any of their members have made reservations for this event.

E. Upcoming issue of the *Chanticleer* – Co-presidents Liz and Emma K.-T. have been working on articles for the next issue of the *Chanticleer*, which is scheduled to be distributed in February. The John Neumann Unit is slated to submit an article as well. We hope to distribute this issue of the *Chanticleer* electronically. If unit chairs are aware that any of their members' emails have changed since they were submitted to Liz last year for our updated directory, please let Liz know as soon as possible.

#### IV. Reports

A. Prefect – Karen will attend the February 5 Sodality Sunday Mass and assist the St. Monica Unit with distributing medals and prayer cards. She noted that the Sodalist's Prayer has not been included as part of the Mass in recent months, but she hopes that time will permit its inclusion at this Mass. The Sodality Lenten Morning of Recollection is scheduled for March 25. Karen has contacted Father Giese to request that either Father Burney or Brother Bonaventure serve as the speaker for the morning. She will also confirm that Caulfield Hall has been reserved for the event. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. Finally, noting that the annual Junior Sodality scholarship essay contest will be held in May, Karen asked board members to think of ideas for possible essay questions and consider volunteering to serve as judges. She will send a sign-up link for this purpose closer in time to the event.

B. Treasurer – Lee reported that the current balance in the treasury is \$24,341.59. She has just sent checks to the Sodality Union to make donations to the Union's scholarship raffle and to the Mass for Shut-ins program. The parish accountant has prepared checks to reimburse people who made eight test reservations through Faith Direct for the November Communion Breakfast, but three additional test reservations remain to be reimbursed. Dues from the units continue to be submitted. Lee has just received dues from the St. Monica and St. Gianna Units. Dues are still needed from the Regina Coeli and St. Elizabeth Seton Units and from Junior Sodality.

#### C. Units

1. Christ Child – The unit had nothing new to report since the last executive board meeting. They will meet again soon. Unit chair Gail Q. is recuperating from injuries suffered in a recent fall but expects to be up and about soon.

2. John Neumann – The unit has not met since the last executive board meeting and has nothing new to report. They will meet again in February.

3. Regina Coeli – The unit has been particularly busy since the last executive board meeting. It chaired the Giving Tree project in November and December. On December 3, the unit hosted a Christmas Tea at Maplewood Park Place for Catholic women living in the facility that was very well attended and drew more than 30 women. Father Brice also attended. Members of the unit led the Christmas craft-making session at the December General Meeting on December 7. On December 9, the unit held its annual Christmas party at the home of member Kathy K. On January 20, the group will attend a home Mass celebrated by Father Burney at the home of member Tembi C. On February 1, the unit will serve dinner to Catholic students at the University of Maryland Neumann Center after evening Mass. This event usually draws about 170 students. Finally, since the fall the group has been leading recitation of the Rosary in the Church at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. The Rosary is open to all

parishioners and is publicized on the Sodality website. It has drawn 10-12 people each time. The next Rosary is scheduled for February 8, 2017.

4. St. Monica Unit – Under the leadership of member Kim B., the unit provided refreshments for the December General Meeting. Diane H. is spearheading the unit's coordination of the parish blood drive, which will be held on Sunday, April 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The members are working to organize a home Mass which they hope will take place in February.

5. St. Gianna – The unit held a holiday get-together and meeting in December. On December 5, unit co-chairs Celestine K. and Kate B. attended the Sodality Union meeting as representatives of our Sodality. The group is struggling with its plans to hold a bake sale given the restrictions that now apply to such events, but it has other projects in the works for later this year. Unit members provided dinners to the families of new mothers in the group, and they are praying for the intentions of a unit member in the military who is about to be deployed. They will also assist unit member Colleen H. with the Sodality Plant Sale that is scheduled in May.

6. St. Elizabeth Seton – The unit is planning the Anniversary Brunch and making plans to transition to a new unit chair in the next Sodality year. The group asks the Sodality to pray for one of their members who is having medical problems. They continue to read and discuss their book club selection, *Faith, Reason, and the War Against Jihadism*.

7. Associates – Ellen L. reported that she has received all the donations to help defray the cost of the second electronic message board for the narthex that the Associates undertook for their parish donation this year. Treasurer Lee M. will work with Ellen to prepare the check to be given to Father Giese in the name of the Associates.

8. Junior Sodality – No report was submitted.

## V. Miscellaneous

Webmaster Mary B. submitted a written report noting the recent updates to the Sodality website. The slideshow on the parish main page has been updated to include the February 8 Sodality-sponsored Rosary. The Rosary and the February Sodality Mass have also been added to the events calendar on the main parish page. On the Sodality page, Mary has added the Fashion Show invitation and ticket information as well as the donation forms. The Fashion Show will be added to the slideshow on the main parish page at the end of January to coincide with distribution of the flyers. Emma K.-T.'s name has been added to the Sodality officers page. Mary asked that notice of any upcoming Sodality events to be publicized in the church bulletin be forwarded to her so that she can include them on the website.

## VI. Closing Prayer

The meeting ended with recitation of the Memorare.