

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2017

I. Opening

A. Prefect Karen S. led the board in a prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes.

B. Judith S. moved that the minutes of the January 2017 executive board meeting be approved. Maureen W. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.

II. Old Business

A. February Sodality Union Meeting – The Regina Coeli Unit represented our Sodality at the February 4 Sodality Union Meeting at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. Maureen W., who attended, noted that it was announced at the meeting that St. Augustine's Parish is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

B. Sodality Donut Social – Sodality will be the sponsoring parish organization at the monthly donut socials after Mass on February 19. Thanks to all who have already volunteered to staff the event; only one volunteer slot remained to be filled as of last Saturday. Membership chair Patty B. will set up the table with Sodality recruitment materials for interested women to review and take. We do not plan to sell tickets for the Fashion Show at the donut socials (unless sales to that point are especially low), but we will include on our display table the Fashion Show flyer with information on how to reserve a seat through the Sodality website.

C. *Chanticleer* – We expect to email the next edition of the *Chanticleer* soon. Julie M. has the various articles for assembly. When she sends the completed newsletter to Liz S., Liz will send it out electronically and then modify the format for print mailings to those Sodalists who do not wish to receive the *Chanticleer* by email. Thanks to all who contributed articles for this edition.

III. New Business

A. March 4 Fashion Show Update – The committee's final meeting was last week. Members are still recruiting sponsors to advertise in the event program. It has been a challenge to sell ads this year since some longtime advertisers are retiring and closing their businesses, and other private/family businesses are being bought out by corporations that limit their advertising. The board thanks all the Sodalists who have recruited advertisers for this year's program, as it is an important source of revenue for Sodality's work.

All advertising, donation, and invitation forms are featured on the Sodality website. The priority date for ticket sales for the Fashion Show has now passed, but tickets may still be purchased. Liz S. will check on the cut-off date for the electronic reservation feature so that it may be removed from the website at the appropriate time. The board expressed its thanks to the Sodalists who sold tickets after Masses earlier in February. Outstanding ads for the program for the Regina Coeli and St. Gianna Units have now been received. The deadline for submitting unit raffle basket items to the Fashion Show committee is February 18.

B. March 25 Morning of Recollection – Karen S. reported that Father Burney will be the featured speaker at the Sodality Morning of Recollection following the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, March 25. He is close to deciding on the topic of his talk and will let Karen know shortly so that it may be featured in the promotional announcements. The program in Caulfield

Hall will be advertised in the parish bulletin, is open to all parishioners, and will feature a light breakfast with refreshments from an establishment like Panera Bread. Reservations will not be required, but interested attendees will be asked to contact Karen so she can develop an approximate headcount. Karen asked that all Sodalists “talk up” the event so that we have a good turnout.

C. April 30 Anniversary Brunch – The St. Elizabeth Seton Unit is coordinating the parish Anniversary Brunch. Amanda R. reported that the caterer for the event, “Relish” (the same business that catered the Communion Breakfast), has already submitted a proposed menu for review and consideration. Relish will handle the set-up responsibilities at the rectory. The Seton Unit will handle the logistics for recruiting and assigning volunteers to staff the breakfast. An announcement inviting eligible couples to make reservations for the breakfast will be included in the parish bulletin in March. Liz S. urged Sodalists to encourage couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversaries to attend the brunch so as to create a better age balance of couples.

D. April 2 Blood Drive – Diane H. of the St. Monica Unit is chairing the parish Red Cross blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 2. The drive will be featured in announcements in the parish bulletin on the weekends of March 11-12, 18-19, and 25-26. The announcements will provide directions by which donors may make appointments to donate blood at specific times through the Red Cross website. Walk-in donors will be accommodated, but the Red Cross will staff the event based on the number of appointments that are made, so parishioners are encouraged to consider signing up ahead of time.

E. Junior Sodality Essay Contest - Co-Presidents Liz S. and Emma K.-T. will coordinate the essay contest with the Junior Sodality co-chairs, but volunteers are needed to help with developing the contest question and reading/ranking the essays. Celestine K., Gail Q., Maureen W., and Mary B. volunteered to assist with those tasks.

F. Upcoming Unit Responsibilities – Our Sodality will not attend the Sodality Union meeting on March 4 because it conflicts with the Fashion Show. The St. Elizabeth Seton Unit will handle medal/prayer card and gift bearer responsibilities for the monthly Sodality Sunday Mass on March 5. The Christ Child Unit will represent our Sodality at the April 1 Sodality Union meeting, which will be held at St. Thomas More Church, 4275 Fourth Street, S.E., Washington, DC. St. Gianna Unit members will staff medal/prayer card and gift bearer responsibilities at the Sodality Sunday Mass on April 2.

G. Pastoral Council Announcements – There has been much appreciation expressed for the public recitation of the Rosary that the Regina Coeli Unit has been sponsoring one Wednesday per the month at 7:00 p.m. in the church. These Rosaries will continue to be held during Lent notwithstanding the fact that confessions are also being heard on Wednesday evenings. On a related point, the parish will schedule “carpool confession” times during Lent (as it did during Advent) so that parents waiting for their children in the afternoon carpool line can go to confession while they wait.

Father Giese is retiring from military service at the end of March. He has expressed his thanks to the parishioners and parish organizations for their willingness to accommodate his military obligations while serving as pastor at de Chantal. The Parish Council plans to hold a reception, hosted by the Parish Life Committee, to honor Father Giese on the occasion of his military retirement. Liz S. made a motion that Sodality make a financial contribution to the

reception to assist with the costs of the event. Celestine K. seconded the motion, and it was passed without objection.

#### IV. Reports

A. Prefect – Karen reported that the February 5 Sodality Sunday Mass was well attended. Lee M. has purchased additional Miraculous Medals for Sodalists to wear at the Sodality Sunday Mass and other Sodality Masses. Because it is not always clear to some parishioners arriving for the Sodality Sunday Mass that the medals are intended for the use of Sodalists, Karen now suggests that instead of leaving the medals out on the Sodality table in the gathering space during the Mass, unit members who are handing out medals and prayer cards to Sodalists put any remaining medals away before they go in to attend Mass.

B. Treasurer – The current balance in the treasury is \$19,259.94. Thanks to the assistance of Anne S., Sodality has now been reimbursed for the final three test Communion Breakfast reservations that were made through Faith Direct. Dues from Sodalists who missed unit organizational meetings in the fall are trickling in to Lee. She still has yet to receive dues from the Regina Coeli and St. Elizabeth Seton Units.

#### C. Units

1. Christ Child – The unit is now meeting on a quarterly basis and will next meet tomorrow at the Seton Center. Members of the unit will assist Gail Q. in assembling the floral centerpieces for the Fashion Show. The unit's raffle basket will include two tickets to a performance at Strathmore Hall donated by a member who has season tickets.

2. John Neumann - The unit met last week in Caulfield Hall. Most of the meeting was devoted to Fashion Show business, and the unit's contributions to that event are complete and ready for submission to the committee. The group's charity project for the meeting involved the collection of financial donations for the benefit of Saint Martin's Ministries on the Eastern Show. At its April meeting, the group will collect contributions for the Misericordia Residential Community in Chicago for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

3. Regina Coeli – The unit recently sponsored a home Mass for its members at the home of Tembi C. On February 1, they served dinner to approximately 120 students at the Catholic Center of the University of Maryland following the student Mass. The evening's program included a well-received talk by a priest analyzing the pros and cons of assisted suicide. On February 4, the unit represented our Sodality at the February Sodality Union meeting, and on Wednesday evening, February 8, members led the monthly evening Rosary in the church. The unit will continue to lead these Rosaries on the second Wednesday evening of the month for the rest of the Sodality year. Regina Coeli is donating an iPad and a selection of restaurant gift certificates as its raffle prizes for the Fashion Show. Denise S., who has chaired the Giving Tree project for the Regina Coeli Unit for a number of years, has requested that a second unit consider sharing organizational responsibility for the Giving Tree this coming year in preparation to take over responsibility for the project in the future.

4. St. Monica – The unit will meet in March to plan a home Mass and select a charitable project.

5. St. Gianna – At its Christmas party in December, the unit collected diapers for five new mothers in the group. The members hope to meet again in March. The unit will once again donate a Kate Spade purse as its raffle prize for the Fashion Show. The raffle basket will also include a Kate Spade wallet as well as perfume and makeup items.

6. St. Elizabeth Seton – The unit seeks to meet on a monthly basis and will next meet on February 26. They will again donate a spa basket as the unit raffle prize for the Fashion Show; Anne F. has assumed leadership responsibility for organizing this donation. One of their unit members is organizing an invitation to author and parishioner George Weigel to deliver a talk open to the parish in September. Father Giese has approved the plan.

7. Associates – Ellen L. has submitted dues for an additional two Associate members. A check for \$926 representing the Associates' contribution toward the second electronic message board for the gathering space has been delivered to the parish.

8. Junior Sodality – The unit has submitted its raffle prize donation – a Tiffany necklace – to the Fashion Show committee.

#### V. Closing Prayer

The meeting ended with the recitation of the Memorare.