

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2017

I. Opening

A. Prefect Karen S. led the board in praying the Rosary.

B. No additions or corrections were offered to the minutes of the April board meeting. Lee M. moved that they be approved. Maureen W. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.

II. Old Business

A. Plant Sale – Co-presidents Liz S. and Emma KT expressed the board’s deepest thanks to Plant Sale chair Colleen H. Colleen submitted a written report reflecting that tentative numbers (not including the final readout of the charge machine) indicate Sodality made a profit of just over \$5,000 once late purchases were accounted for; this was a great success, especially considering how cold and wet the weekend was. She offered her thanks to everyone who assisted with the sale, especially Anne Strand, as well as the women who drove to Sun Nursery to pick up plants, those who unloaded the truck of plants on Friday morning, and the “rogue planters.” Colleen noted that she is still searching for an interested Sodalist to chair the sale next year. She will walk her successor through the process and indicated that a future chair should be assured that Sodality members are incredibly involved and helpful in this project and that the time commitment is a limited one focused primarily on the weekend of the sale itself. Liz and Emma asked the unit chairs to urge their members to consider volunteering to chair next year’s sale.

B. May 3rd General Meeting – Liz and Emma thanked the St. Gianna Unit for staffing the General Meeting Mass and St. Gianna and Regina Coeli for providing delicious refreshments for the meeting. It was well attended and we celebrated Sodalist Helen F.’s 100th birthday with a lovely cake. Another highlight of the meeting was provided by Junior Sodalist Isa W., winner of the Junior Sodality essay contest, who read her prize-winning essay. We were delighted that Isa’s whole family came to the meeting to hear her present her essay.

C. Wrap-up of Junior Sodality essay contest – As noted above, Isa W., who will be attending Georgetown Visitation next fall, was the winner of the essay contest. To ensure that there is no confusion in Visitation’s accounting office, treasurer Lee M. will wait until August to send the check for the scholarship to the school so it can be credited properly. The Junior Sodality chairs have inquired whether Sodality would consider splitting the \$2,500 award to fund more than one scholarship. It was decided that this is a matter that can be considered once the 2017-2018 board begins meeting in the fall. Mary B. suggested that in the future, Sodality could consider adding a component to the essay question asking the writers to discuss an activity the Junior Sodality undertook that was relevant to the question and how participating in the activity affected the writer. Other suggestions to be considered in the coming year included whether the winning essay should be posted on the Sodality website (with the writer’s permission) and whether the scholarship winner’s name should be submitted for publication in the parish bulletin.

III. New Business

A. Review of Sodality calendar for 2017-2018 – The executive board reviewed a draft calendar for the upcoming Sodality year and assigned unit responsibilities for the various events, including Sodality Masses, Sodality Union meetings, and General Sodality meetings.

B. Transition to new board members – As of the present, no volunteers have come forward to offer to serve as executive board co-president and secretary to succeed Liz S. and Helen B., respectively, whose terms are ending this month. Efforts will continue over the summer to identify women who are willing to take on these responsibilities. Emma KT is prepared to start the new Sodality year in the fall without a co-president, if necessary, while continuing the search. Helen offered to continue in the position of secretary next year if a successor is not identified. The current executive board contact list was circulated to permit members remaining on the board to confirm or update their contact information and identify new unit chairs for the coming year.

C. Tithe to the parish – The Sodality has traditionally donated a tithe to the parish after the end of the fiscal year in June. It is a donation amounting to 10% of the balance in the Sodality treasury at the end of June (after subtracting the amount of the Junior Sodality essay scholarship, which is paid in August). Judith S. moved that we continue the tradition this year, and Kate B. seconded the motion, which passed without objection. Accordingly, the tithe will be paid after the end of the current fiscal year.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect – Karen reported that the Junior Sodality May Crowning ceremony went beautifully, and that church organist Andrew V. commented on how nice it was. Karen is working with Emma to identify a speaker for the Communion Breakfast in November.

B. Treasurer – Lee reported that as of the date of the executive board meeting, the balance in the Sodality treasury was \$34,919.94 (the balance did not include \$215 in dues from units that she received at the board meeting). Accounted for in the balance was a payment of \$1,280 to Relish Catering for the Anniversary Brunch. Lee further noted that, to date, plant sale deposits totaled \$7,122.61 and expenditures related to the plant sale amounted to \$5,897.93, for a net profit on the sale of \$1,224.68. However, these figures did not include the proceeds of plant sale credit card sales, which were projected to be sizable based upon the number of credit card transactions that occurred. Lee explained that Colleen would have a final number for those credit card payments before we received the check conveying those proceeds. (See above report concerning the Plant Sale.) Following Lee's report, the board discussed the expenses for the Anniversary Brunch. It was noted that the payment to Relish Catering covered a meal for 10 persons and included a staffing fee of \$500 for two cooks. It was decided that when planning takes place for the 2018 Anniversary Brunch, the board should revisit Relish Catering's charges and decide whether some other vendor might be more cost-effective. It was further noted that several of the expenses of the brunch were covered by donations from the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit (e.g., for printing, supplies, and champagne for toasts).

C. Units

1. Christ Child – The unit plans to meet on the day after the executive board meeting. Christ Child member Barbara B. recently passed away and will be buried at Arlington

National Cemetery. Six members of the unit plan to attend the service. They will have their end of year luncheon at Tower Oaks on June 14.

2. John Neumann – The unit has not met since the April executive board meeting. A new member, Jane M., plans to join the unit in the fall. Another woman has expressed some interest in joining the unit but is still considering whether to do so.

3. Regina Coeli – The unit led the monthly parish Rosary on May 10 in the Mary Garden (since they did not have the current code to open the church). The members plan to hold a potluck dinner on June 7. The unit has a confirmed total of 33 members and has agreed to chair the Anniversary Brunch in 2018. Gina C. and Maureen W. will continue to serve as unit co-chairs for the upcoming Sodality year.

4. St. Monica – The unit will meet next weekend at the home of member Debbie R. At the meeting, they will collect feminine hygiene products to donate to homeless and underprivileged women in need through the Diaper Bank in Silver Spring. The parish Red Cross blood drive was a success and the unit will chair the event again next year.

5. St. Gianna – The unit co-chairs are working to coordinate a time for the group's final meeting of the year and are aiming to schedule it during the first week of June. Celestine K. is stepping down as co-chair. However, Kate B. will continue as co-chair next year and Celestine will continue to be active in the unit. They are looking for a new co-chair to work with Kate.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – The group held a meeting in April to plan for the Anniversary Brunch, which went well. They have finalized their leadership structure for the coming year. Amanda R. is stepping down as unit chair, and Anne F. will serve as the unit communication officer and attend executive board meetings. Liz S. will serve as the unit's meeting leader, and Mary B. will serve as unit treasurer and assist with other needs.

7. Associates – No report.

8. Junior Sodality – No report.

V. Miscellaneous

Outgoing co-president Liz S. bid the executive board good-bye and thanked the board members for their hard work this year. The board likewise thanked Liz for her faithful and tireless service.

VI. Closing Prayer

We prayed the *Memorare* for the intentions of all Sodalists.