

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 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 September board meeting. Maureen W. moved that they be approved. Ellen L. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.

II. Old Business

A. October General Meeting – We had a strong turnout for the October General Meeting. The Mass was lovely, the lasagna dinner was great, and many people stayed for the full evening. Co-president Emma K-T expressed the board's thanks to Karen A., who handled clean-up of the altar after Mass. Using a table in the narthex to promote Sodality and the dinner after Masses the weekend before the meeting was a very successful strategy. A number of new women attended the dinner to learn more about our organization. Membership Chair Patty B. reported that seven women signed up to join Sodality at the General Meeting. Patty followed up with them afterwards and reported that one is joining the Christ Child Unit, a couple may become Associates, and the rest are joining the St. Gianna Unit.

B. Sodality Directory – As of this meeting, we have received feedback from all units on the Sodality directory. Anne F. asked for clarification as to whether a woman must be a dues-paying unit member to be listed. The board concluded that the answer to that question is yes. Ellen L. noted that when she raised this question regarding the Associates membership at the beginning of the directory project, then-Co-president Liz S. told her that if Associates had not paid dues in three years, they should not be included the membership list. As a result, Ellen reported, the Associates list is approximately half of what it had been. We still need to decide how many paper copies of the directory should be printed – each unit is asked to provide that information for its membership (the general consensus is that most members will use an electronic copy of the directory). We must also create a cover for the paper directory – Patty B. needs to obtain a graphic of the church's Sodality rose window for this purpose. Patty and Emma will contact Julie M., who produces our *Chanticleer* newsletter, to make sure she can disseminate the *Chanticleer* electronically using the spreadsheet format of the directory.

C. Sodality Union updates

1. Anne F. attended the October 7 Sodality Union Commitment Mass and Rosary at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception as a representative of our Sodality.

2. Our Sodality Union dues for this year and our donation to the Mass for Shut-Ins program have been paid.

3. We have canvassed the units for the names of Sodalists who have died since November 2016. Secretary Helen B. will provide those by October 21 to the Sodality Union's Apostolic Life Chair so that they may be remembered at the Mass for Deceased Sodalists on November 4.

4. Our Sodality's offerings for the Sodality Union Spiritual Bouquet for the Holy Father are due at the next board meeting on November 15. All unit chairs are requested to

canvass their members before the meeting so that we can provide our numbers to the Sodality Union by the November 18 due date. Helen will send the Spiritual Bouquet form to the unit chairs to assist the process.

5. The John Neumann Unit will attend the next Sodality Union Mass and meeting on November 4 at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Silver Spring. The time of the Mass has not yet been posted on the Sodality Union website.

6. As it does every year, the Sodality Union requests that we provide a list of the names of our living members to the Union for its Book of the Living so that they may be recognized at its December 2 meeting. We have done this in the past (names only, with no other identifying information). We will use our current directory to create the list.

7. The Sodality Union is sponsoring a family pilgrimage to the Museum of the Bible on December 16. Cost of the event is \$12 per person.

8. The Sodality Union's annual Lenten Retreat will be held on the weekend of March 9-11, 2018, at the Washington Retreat House.

D. Alcohol/Food Server certifications – We are continuing to collect copies of the certifications so that we can have them on file in order to plan Sodality events. Any Sodalists who have completed this training are asked to provide copies of their certificates to Helen.

### III. New Business

#### A. Announcements

1. Legion of Mary follow-up – Father Giese has decided that establishing a chapter of the Legion of Mary in the parish would be too much for the parish to handle given all of the other organizations and events we have.

2. Sodality Doughnut Social – Sodality will be the featured ministry at the February 18, 2018, parish doughnut social after the 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and noon Masses. Patty B. will take the lead in making arrangements and soliciting volunteers to staff the event.

3. Associates Donation for 2017-2018 year – There are two possible projects to which the Associates donation could be dedicated this year. The first would be an effort to improve the lighting in the choir entrance to the church. The second would be repair or replacement of the statue of the Blessed Mother in the Mary Garden, which is in a high-visibility area and has suffered significant weather and mold damage and cracks in the structure. The consensus of the board was that the Mary statue project was the more appropriate one for Sodality to pursue. Sodality will research both repair and replacement options for the statue, and Father Giese will have final approval of the choice that is made. He has asked that if a new statue is obtained, it be a Madonna and Child statue. Emma has contacted Kinnaid Memorials in Thurmont, MD to obtain estimates of repair/replacement costs. It was also noted that we should check with the parish school concerning the costs of repairs that have been made to statues in the school. Ellen suggested that we also check costs for a more durable, non-stone statue.

4. Carhart abortion clinic in Wildwood Medical Center – Emma reported that a late-term abortion clinic that previously operated in Germantown, MD has just opened in Wildwood Medical Center on Old Georgetown Road, within the confines of St. Jane de Chantal parish. A demonstration against the operation of the clinic was held on its opening day, and a number of members of the parish participated. A lengthy discussion was held as to what Sodality should do to oppose operation of the clinic. Emma reported that she has conferred with Father Giese, and he is awaiting official information about the matter from the Archdiocese to assist with developing a parish response plan. She will also check with the parish Right to Life group. Noting the very strong feelings and possibilities for violence that this issue arouses, Emma urged everyone to be easy with others in dealing with the issue and not to allow themselves to be “overcome by the darkness.” Suggestions for action included praying the Rosary, fasting, offering Mass intentions, and engaging in letter writing campaigns, both to the Maryland legislature to amend the law that permits late-term abortion and to the landlord of the Wildwood Medical Center to urge the closing of the clinic. Maureen volunteered to prepare a template for a legislative letter. Emma will prepare a one-page information sheet to send to all members of Sodality about the opening of the abortion clinic and things Sodalists can do to work for its closing.

B. Communion Breakfast/Investiture Ceremony for new Sodalists – An announcement advertising the breakfast will be in the bulletin and on the parish electronic message boards beginning this weekend. Listed contacts for information will be Karen, Emma, and Helen. Online reservations will be available through Faith Direct. On the Sunday before the breakfast, Karen will be in the gathering space of the church after all Masses to take reservations. The charge is \$30 per person. The caterer for the breakfast will be Relish. Our speaker will be George Weigel, whose talk will focus on his experiences as St. John Paul II’s biographer and on St. John Paul’s Marian piety. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, clean-up, guest check-in, and flower arrangement. Gail Q. volunteered to arrange flowers, and Eve Marie S. has offered to help. Gail will follow up with her. Lee M. will check in guests on the morning of the breakfast. Karen needs the names of all new investees by October 27 (one week ahead of the investiture).

#### C. Upcoming events

1. Fashion Show planning meeting – The first planning meeting will be held in the Seton Center on October 25, 2017.

2. Giving Tree label-making meeting – This event will take place in Caulfield Hall on November 16, 2017. Karen reported that she has been contacted by the St. Martin’s Cloak Guild of the parish to ask how its needy clients may be included in the Giving Tree.

3. December General Meeting – The December General Meeting and Christmas craft session will take place on December 6, 2017, in Caulfield Hall.

#### IV. Reports

A. Prefect – Karen noted that all of the matters she had to report had been covered in the discussions listed above.

B. Treasurer – Lee reported that as of the date of the executive board meeting, Sodality has \$32,508.73 in the treasury. A \$60 overpayment from the March 2017 Fashion Show has

been treated as a donation since the reimbursement check that was offered more than six months ago was not cashed. Lee has received \$55 in dues from the Christ Child Unit and \$65 in dues from the John Neumann Unit. All other units need to forward their dues to Lee.

C. Webmaster – Mary B. has been working to update the Sodality website and has included an announcement about the Communion Breakfast on the main page of the church website and on the Sodality page of the website.

#### D. Units

1. Christ Child – The unit has gained two new members. It will meet two to three times this year. The group met the day after the September board meeting. They collected dues and shared information. Things are going well. Gail submitted the name of former member Barbara B., who passed away earlier in 2017, for remembrance by the Sodality Union at its November Mass for deceased Sodalists.

2. John Neumann – The unit met in September before the last board meeting, and its next meeting will be in November. Its charity at that meeting will be St. Martin's Cloak. The unit traded Sodality Union dates with the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit and will represent Sodality at the November 4 Mass and meeting.

3. Regina Coeli – The unit continues to lead the parish Rosary every second Wednesday in the church at 7:00 p.m. The group is considering a letter-writing campaign concerning the Carhart abortion clinic. Regina Coeli will sponsor its annual Christmas Tea at Maplewood Park Place on December 2 for all registered de Chantal women residing there. Denise S. of the unit and Colleen H. of the St. Gianna Unit will co-chair the Giving Tree project this year. Interested volunteers can contact them to sign up to help. As noted above, the label-making meeting will be on November 16. The Giving Tree will begin on November 25 and run through December 10. Gifts will be sorted and bagged from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 10. On December 11, shoppers will purchase missing gifts on behalf of Sodality, and they will be wrapped and sorted on December 12. Volunteer drivers will deliver the gifts to the designated charities on December 13 and 14.

4. St. Monica – The unit had seven members at the lasagna dinner. The group will next meet at the DC Diaper Bank for a service project. They will need one hard copy of the Sodality directory.

5. St. Gianna – The unit had its first meeting in September and had a group of 10 women attend the lasagna dinner. Several women have expressed interest in joining the unit. They are considering a new charity with which to work this year – possibly the National Children's Center. They will hold a Christmas party and are organizing a meal sign-up to assist a member with a new baby.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – The unit met the Sunday before the board meeting, and they have one potential new member. They have selected a new book for their book club program. One member of the group can assist with refreshing items in the Sodality closet, and unit chair Anne F. will provide her name to the board.

7. Junior Sodality – Amy K. is still looking for a co-chair to help with the girls. No regular meetings will be scheduled until a second co-chair is in place.

8. Associates – Nothing new to report beyond what was noted above.

V. Closing Prayer

We prayed the *Memorare*.