



“Chantacleer” ● ● ●

St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Guild

Spring 2015

Executive Board

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Contents

From the Co-President	2
Update: St. Gianna Unit	3
From the Prefect	3
Save the Date: May 6 th	3
In Memoriam	4
Prayer Tree	4
Fun at the Fashion Show & Luncheon	4

Sodality Happenings

Sodality has enjoyed so many exciting events since the last Chantacleer was published! Before we move on to coming events, we want to recognize the efforts of those who worked so hard to bring two recent, major Sodality undertakings to fruition.

First we must remember the committee of wonderful women who worked tirelessly during the busiest time of the year to ensure that our parish's Christmas Giving Tree would be a huge success. We are so grateful to these ladies who organized the many and varied requests for items for the Giving Tree, and then collected, sorted, and delivered to several dozen charities in the metro area the hundreds of Christmas gifts donated by generous St. Jane de Chantal parishioners. Many thanks to **Denise Sintetos, Kathy Pascale** and **Gretchen Koch**, who with help from **Kathy Kitzinger** and others made possible a happy Christmas for so many.

In spite of the seemingly unending snow, we celebrated spring at our Fashion Show and Luncheon on March 7. It was wonderful to see all the spring colors in the clothes, the vibrant flowers in the table centerpieces, and, especially, all the smiling Sodalists. We are thrilled to have had such a large turnout for this event. **Maureen George** and **Judy Smith** led a well-organized team of women to make the day a success. We raised close to \$10,000 to help fund our programs and projects throughout the year. We are greatly indebted to Maureen and Judy and their team for their herculean efforts, and to all of the Sodality Units for their generous and enticing raffle basket donations.

Our Prefect, **Poupee Nisos**, coordinated the Sodality's Morning of Recollection, held on Saturday, March 21, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Our speaker was Sister Patricia Mood of the Dominican Retreat House. It was a wonderful event.

The **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit**, along with **Fr. Giese**, will host the parish's annual Anniversary Mass followed by brunch in the rectory dining room on Sunday, April 26. All couples of the parish celebrating 25, 40, 50 and 60+ years of marriage this year were invited to observe their wedding anniversaries in this special way.

Also on Sunday, April 26, **Maureen Wilkerson** once again chairs our Red Cross Blood Drive from 8:00 until 2:00 in Caulfield Hall. There is a desperate need for blood donations making this an extremely important event.

In April the eighth grade Junior Sodalists are invited to compete in an essay contest for a \$2,500 scholarship to be used at a Catholic high school. The topic of the essay is chosen by the Sodality Executive Board, and the contest winner, who will be selected by a committee of Sodalists, will be announced at our final General Sodality meeting on Wednesday, May 6.

Organization of this year's Sodality Plant Sale is in the very capable hands of **Colleen Hadigan**. She is hard at work pulling a team together to bring

continued on the next page



On the web, see us at
www.stjanedechantal.org/Sodality

Sodality Happenings

cont'd from page 1

us flowers and herbs for our gardens. Lots of volunteers are needed for this three-day event, which will take place on May 1, 2 and 3. Keep your eyes open for an email sign up request. Please volunteer to help—a green thumb is not a requirement!

During the same weekend, our Sodality will host Sodalities from churches around the Archdiocese of Washington for the monthly Sodality Union Mass on Saturday, May 2, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We have hosted this meeting only a few times in the past, and many volunteers will be needed to support the event. Fr. Giese will offer Mass and will include group recitation of the Rosary and an indoor May crowning of the church statue of the Blessed Mother by the Junior Sodality. We will serve a delicious brunch for the many visiting Sodalists in Caulfield Hall after the liturgy, and the Sodality Union's monthly business meeting will follow immediately thereafter. Everyone is invited, and all volunteers will be greatly appreciated.

On Sunday morning, May 3, the Junior Sodalists will conduct the parish May crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother in the Mary Garden immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. It is lovely to see the young women of our parish participate in our devotion to the Blessed Mother.

To end our Sodality year, our final Mass and General Meeting will take place on Wednesday evening, May 6. Mass is at 7:00 p.m. followed by the business meeting with refreshments in Caulfield Hall. Christian Bling will join us to sell their trendy and beautiful Christian jewelry for Mother's Day and graduations. In addition, we will raffle off a gift card and hope to have Irish dancers back again to entertain us. Come join your Sodality friends to mark the end of an eventful year with an evening of prayer, food, and entertainment!

– Ellen Larsen, Co-President

From the Co-President

Hello Ladies,

I hope that you are all enjoying the warmer temperatures. I think the Fashion Show formally marked the first day of spring weather. As those of you who attended the show already know, it was a spectacular success. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Maureen George and Judy Smith for all of their hard work.

I had a meeting with Brother Ed Adams a couple of weeks ago, and our discussion was so relevant that I'd like to share it with you. Brother Ed is St. Jane's Evangelical Outreach Coordinator. He is a man of great wisdom and kindness who is deeply devoted to our parish and his role as an evangelist.

Brother Ed's message to me was simple and powerful. As good Christians and members of this parish, we all have a missionary role to "bring the good news of salvation to all the world." He pointed out that many people may view this as the job of the clergy, but in fact everyone has a role to play in making people feel welcomed and invited to share in our joy as Christians.

As I considered this further, I thought of many ways that we, as members of Sodality, can carry out this mission. We can identify people in our lives who may be open to attending church with us if they have fallen away from religion. We can attend the church donut socials and introduce ourselves to people we don't recognize to make them feel welcomed, share what we love about St. Jane de Chantal Parish, and encourage them to get involved. We can welcome women we encounter to a Unit meeting or a Sodality event so that they can feel the warmth of our community. All of these are simple ways by which we can carry out our evangelical mission.

I feel so very blessed to be part of a wonderful group like Sodality, in a deeply rooted community like St. Jane de Chantal Parish. Our Sodality is made up of wonderful women from all walks of life and of various ages, all of whom are united by the common goal of wanting to make a difference in their community and share their Christian faith with others.

I hope that you and your families had a wonderful Easter. Sodality has a lot of events coming up in the next few months, and I look forward to seeing all of you.

With Much Love and Gratitude,

– Maria Cornelius, Co-President

PLANT SALE

..... MAY 1-3

Update: St. Gianna Unit

The St. Gianna Unit is made up of woman with young and school-aged children. Our vision is to help other mothers and their families. In the Fall, we treated two of our own unit members with a double baby shower to help with the arrival of their new babies. Then we adopted a new charity as part of our mission. We have connected with the **Crossway Community** (<http://www.crossway-community.org>) located in Kensington, MD. They are an intergenerational, community-centered, and asset-based program where residents live, learn, and work together. They provide both mothers and their children with high-quality housing, education, and mentoring simultaneously, in one place. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, the St. Gianna members collected gently used and new kitchen items, such as pots and pans, placemats, table cloths, and other kitchen utensils to donate to Crossway, so the women can have well stocked kitchens to cook for their families. When our Sodality Executive Board heard about our donations, they offered to donate Sodality's 100 place setting of stoneware dishes and cutlery that had been in storage since the church renovations. On the right is a picture of Sodalist **Noreen Crawford**, receiving the dishes on behalf of Crossway (where she works).



Crossway is so grateful to the generosity of St. Jane De Chantal's Sodality because they are planning to start a catering business that will employ some of the woman in their program and these dishes will start them on their way.

All these kitchen donations put the St. Gianna's women into a baking mood, so we came together to host a bake sale after all of the masses Super Bowl weekend. Clearly, St Jane De Chantal community was happy for the treats, we raised \$680 for the Gabriel Project.

– Celestine Kish, St. Gianna Co-Leader

From the Prefect

Wasting Time with God

What do you do when you are with your best friend? Just sitting "doing nothing" but sharing each other's company is wonderful! Just wasting time with one another.

Our Lord Jesus is waiting for you to develop a friendship with Him. He is longing to tell you how much He loves you. We keep ourselves busy "doing things for Him". We make novenas, say prayers found on the back of holy cards, pray the rosary and follow the Liturgy of the Hours. These devotions are wonderful, but why not include a simple dialogue with the Lord. Listen to Him speaking to you. Sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament and simply adore Him. It changes lives. It is a unique experience—guaranteed.

When was the last time you shared with Him your inner most thoughts, desires, joys, plans and sadness? Remember, He is waiting to be your best friend and spend time with you "doing nothing". Just loving each other.

– Poupee Nisos, Prefect

Save the Date!

Wednesday, May 6

**Final General Meeting of the year
following Mass at 7:00 pm**

➔ Christian Bling

➔ Gift Card Raffle

➔ Junior Sodality Essay Winner

MAY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						31	

LET US
KNOW!

*If you have a sewing machine
and are interested in helping
with baptismal bibs, please contact
Ellen Larsen at (301) 530-8393,
ellenlarsen2000@yahoo.com.*

In Memoriam

- Claire Davis, Sodalist
- Gregory William Kramlich, Father of Sodalist Maureen Bailey
- Helen Thompson, Sodalist
- Mary Weitzel, Sodalist
- Catherine Williamson, Sodalist
- Sally Wright, Sister of Sodalist Barbara Benson

Prayer Tree

The Christ Child Unit has offered to become Sodality's go-to unit for prayer requests. If you have an important event or circumstance in your life that needs prayers, contact Gail Quigley at gailq@verizon.net.

fyi ... Set one of your radio stations to 91.9 FM WGTS. This is a contemporary Christian station that is truly inspiring.



FUN AT THE Fashion Show and Luncheon

FUN AT THE



We're on the Web!
See us at www.stjanedechantal.org/Sodality

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