

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2019

(Note that the board met on Thursday, February 21st, rather than on the scheduled date of Wednesday, February 20th, due to inclement weather on the 20th.)

I. Opening

A. Treasurer Lee M. led the board in the *Hail Mary*.

B. Maureen W. moved that the minutes of the January 2019 executive board meeting be approved. Ellen L. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.

II. Old Business

A. Fashion Show update – Tracy M. was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a written report noting that the planning for the Fashion Show is going well. The proof for the event program should be ready for review tonight or tomorrow. The committee has received many raffle items and door prizes, all of which look terrific. Final decorating touches to the prize baskets and raffle ticket boxes are being made. Tracy and Karen have finalized their floor plan, raffle table, and table linen requests with the Columbia Country Club staff. They are requesting additional lighting for the tables where *Irresistibles* will be selling their clothes and accessories. Gail Q. and her assistants from the Christ Child Unit will create the table centerpieces. Lee will deliver the check for the \$5,000 deposit to Columbia this week. We must give Columbia our final guest count by next Wednesday, along with any special dietary requests. Ticket sales are continuing. Susan K. had received 164 reservations as of February 19. Leo D. has been confirmed to serve as our pianist to provide music during the luncheon. Maria C. is arranging transportation to the event for women who reside at Maplewood Park Place. The model fittings are taking place this week and all is going well there. One of the Junior Sodalist models had to withdraw when it turned out that she is too small to wear the sizes available at *Irresistibles*. However, another Junior Sodalist has been recruited to take her place. Tracy and Karen are in the process of putting the finishing touches to the run of the show.

Ellen L. noted that she will be assisting the models during the show and reported that she has been in contact with Jane M. and Peggy W., who have coordinated the models' fittings. She has suggested that the Junior Sodalist who had to withdraw from modeling be given some other special task during the Fashion Show to enable her to take part in the proceedings. Ellen indicated that Jane will contact Tracy about that possibility.

B. Morning of Recollection update – Prefect Kate B. was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a written report. She called the parish office to inquire about reserving Caulfield Hall for a Morning of Recollection date, but Molly H. was out of town. Kate will call her again next Monday to work out the scheduling.

C. Time and Talent Fair update – Patty B. reported that the Parish Council's planning for the event this coming weekend has gone very smoothly. They have updated their list of points of

contact for each parish organization, developed a detailed layout of table assignments within Caulfield Hall for the event, and made arrangements for refreshments (pizza after evening Masses, doughnuts after morning Masses) to be available during each of the Fair's sessions. Patty will continue serve as Sodality's point of contact for the T&T Fair. She has sent out a SignUpGenius link to the unit chairs for forwarding to the members of the General Sodality, and coverage for the Sodality table after all the Masses is almost finalized. Secretary Helen B. will set up the Sodality table on Saturday afternoon before the 5:00 p.m. Mass, and Patty will handle clean-up after the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday. Each organization's display will include cards provided by the Parish Council that interested persons can fill out and leave at the table to request additional information or indicate interest in joining the organization. Patty has made copies of the Sodality calendar and unit summaries for the table, and these will be available along with the Sodality brochure. Kate has been working on a new poster for the Sodality table to update the old poster we have been using for many years. Helen distributed page-sized copies of Kate's current draft to the board for review, and everyone agreed that it was very attractive and eye-catching. Helen noted that if any members of the board have suggestions for modifications or additions to the poster, they should contact Kate by tomorrow morning in order for her to consider and incorporate them.

D. Gabriel Project sign update – Helen reported that, as the board had decided at the January meeting, she drafted a letter to Father Giese to request a decision concerning Sodality's May 2018 request to erect a sign on the parish campus near Old Georgetown Road expressing support for the Gabriel Project. She delivered the letter to the parish office on February 8, along with a copy of the board's original letter that former President Emma K-T had signed and delivered last May. At the end of the day, Father Giese telephoned Helen and indicated that he had approved the request with some modifications. Rather than have a permanent sign, Father Giese prefers that the parish display a large canvas banner, similar to the size and type that is used during the Advent season for the archdiocesan "Find the Perfect Gift" campaign, and exhibit the banner intermittently during seasons when it would have particular impact – *e.g.*, around Mother's Day, during Our Lady's month of October, and in January in connection with the annual Right to Life march. He believes that it will have more impact when used selectively rather than as a fixture that people who regularly pass the church will cease to notice. Father has contacted Bud and Diane R., who head the Gabriel Project, and they have indicated their willingness to create the sign for the parish at no cost. Father asked that we contact head of facilities Ed B., who can measure the "Find a Perfect Gift" banner and give us the appropriate dimensions, and that we then provide them to Bud and Diane.

III. New Business

A. Anniversary Brunch planning report – Maureen W. reported that she called the parish office this week to try to finalize a date for the brunch, but as noted above, Molly H. was away. Scheduling the event this year is complicated by the fact that Easter is so late in April. Maureen will follow up with Molly after she returns to find a date that works with Father Giese's schedule. It is possible that the brunch will have to be held after Easter. Maureen and Gina C. will coordinate the brunch.

B. Parish Red Cross Blood Drive planning report – Tracy reported that the St. Monica Unit’s planning with the Red Cross for the drive on April 14 in Caulfield Hall has proceeded smoothly. Diane H. and Debbie R. are once again organizing the event.

C. Plant Sale planning report – Colleen H. sent a written report indicating that planning for the Plant Sale will begin in earnest on March 1, as is her tradition. She will again order flowers, vegetables, and herbs from Walnut Spring and Sun Nurseries. Colleen asked that Sodalists watch their email inboxes for requests for volunteers to staff the sale on the weekend of May 3-5.

D. Junior Sodality Essay Contest planning report – Kate reported she has reached out to Kim F. and Tracy about beginning to plan for the essay contest. Once Tracy’s obligations with the Fashion Show are over, they will get together to discuss this year’s plans.

E. Upcoming Sodality Union responsibilities – We skip the March Sodality Union meeting on March 2 because it conflicts with the Fashion Show. The St. Gianna Unit is scheduled to attend the April 6 Sodality Union meeting, which will be held at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 1908 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20002 (time to be announced).

F. Upcoming Sodality Sunday Mass responsibilities – The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit will staff the Sodality Sunday Mass on March 3, 2019. The Executive Board is scheduled to staff the April 7 Sodality Sunday Mass. Volunteers will be solicited at the March board meeting.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect – Kate had nothing to report in addition to her matters that were covered during earlier points in the meeting (see above).

B. Treasurer – Lee reported that the current balance in the Sodality treasury is \$24,553.02, before paying the catering cost for the annual Christmas tea the Regina Coeli Unit hosted at Maplewood in December 2018. The \$5,000 deposit check for the Fashion Show was delivered to Columbia Country Club today. Now that all the Associates’ dues and gifts have been submitted, she is ready to write the check for this year’s Associates gift to the parish. Lee also noted that since we have received no feedback from the parish accountant, it appears that the audit of Sodality’s books was uneventful.

C. Units

1. Christ Child – Gail Q. reported that the unit met on February 7 at her home, and eight of the ten active members attended. They approved the unit ad for the Fashion Show program and planned the unit raffle basket. It was delivered to Kathy K. on time. Since the unit generally meets three times a year, the group will likely have one more meeting before the end of the Sodality year. Gail requested prayers for a Christ Child member who injured her shoulder and broke a bone and is currently using a soft cast. Gail also noted that she and her floral assistants had hoped to obtain cyclamen plants to use as centerpieces for the Fashion Show

tables, but have learned these plants are not available as it is too late in the season to obtain them. Accordingly, they will use hydrangea flowers in the centerpieces.

2. John Neumann – Judith S. could not attend the meeting but submitted a written report. The John Neumann Unit met on February 12 at the home of Nan V. Mary H. led the meeting. The group's charitable project for the meeting involved collecting monetary donations for the Misericordia Heart of Mercy residential program in Chicago, which serves persons suffering from disabilities, including a relative of one of the unit members. Judith reminded the group of the need for volunteers to help sell Fashion Show tickets and to staff the Sodality's Time and Talent Fair table. Unit members reported on the items that had been obtained for the group's two Fashion Show raffle baskets. One raffle basket will offer a Michael Kors tote bag. The second, a wine and cheese-themed basket, will consist of gift cards from Balducci's and Beer, Wine & Co. accompanied by a slate cheese board and cheese markers set. Unit member Mary Margaret M. reported that in addition to donating a gift card for the basket, the management of Beer, Wine & Co. took an ad in the Fashion Show program. The baskets were delivered to the Fashion Show committee on time. The unit will meet again in April.

3. Regina Coeli – Maureen W. reported that due to the snow and ice storm on February 20, the unit had to cancel its planned dinner for the students at the University of Maryland's John Neumann Center. Regina Coeli will donate two raffle baskets for the Fashion Show. The first will be a full-sized iPad; the second will be two \$50 gift certificates to Pinstripes. The unit has changed the gathering time at which its members host the recitation of the Rosary in the church from the second Wednesday of the month to the third Wednesday of the month. The change has already been noted on the Sodality page of the parish website.

4. St. Monica – Tracy M. submitted a written report. Twelve members of the unit met at the DC Diaper Bank on January 12 to assist that organization with packaging donations of diapers, infant supplies, and feminine hygiene products for needy families. The group also will serve dinner to Catholic students on May 8th at the John Neumann Center at the University of Maryland. Tracy represented our Sodality at the February 2 Sodality Union meeting at St. Columba's Church. The meeting featured a dynamic speaker who gave a talk about archdiocesan youth evangelization. The Sodality Union is working on developing a grass roots approach to reach young Catholics who want to attend Mass and activities but do not feel that they are part of the Catholic community. It was noted that Pope Francis has made reaching out to youth and keeping them engaged a priority for the Church. The Union would like to find mentors in parishes who would be willing to open their homes to small groups of young people and nurture their sense of community. The Union leadership also discussed plans for the Union's annual retreat on March 8-10 and ways to improve their annual scholarship raffle. Tracy obtained a copy of the Union's membership directory from the Membership Chair and delivered it to the executive board.

5. St. Gianna – No report.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – The father of one of the unit's members recently passed away, and the unit sent flowers to the funeral home and delivered a Mass card to the family. A member of the unit also served as a representative of the group for the evening prayer

service at the wake. Six members of the unit met on February 10 at the home of Anne F. They chose their basket for the Fashion Show, which will consist of a gift card to the Red Door and an orchid plant. The members also reflected on two readings chosen for the meeting and discussed the “Daily Examen,” a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God’s presence and discern his direction for us. They considered how to incorporate the Examen into their routines so as to use it to prepare for a successful Lent. Finally, they prayed the Rosary with a special intention for their member’s deceased father. The group has two volunteers lined up to staff the March 3 Sodality Sunday Mass and hope to recruit at least one more helper. They expect to have a good turnout at the Fashion Show.

7. Associates – Ellen L. reported that she has now submitted all the checks from the Associates for their dues and annual gift to the parish. She intends to obtain Mass cards to thank the eight women who contributed \$50 or more to the Associates gift.

8. Junior Sodality – Tracy reported that the Junior Sodalists held a meeting in early February at which they played Christian trivia “Family Feud” style. In addition, they picked two girls to serve as models at the Fashion Show and discussed the upcoming Mary Garden clean-up project. They may also do a volunteer session at the DC Diaper Bank. The eighth-grade girls are gearing up for the Junior Sodality essay contest.

V. Closing Prayer

The board prayed *The Memorare* to close the meeting.