

## Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2019

### I. Opening

A. Prefect Kate B. led the board in the prayer *Hail, Holy Queen*.

B. Maureen W. moved that the minutes of the November 2018 executive board meeting be approved. Judith S. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.

### II. Old Business

A. December General Meeting – The General Sodality Meeting in December was deemed to be very successful. The craft project of making three-dimensional snowflakes as holiday decorations for ManorCare Health Services – Bethesda was enjoyed by all and yielded all the decorations that were needed. The consensus of the meeting attendees was that having the Sodality investiture ceremony at the December meeting Mass was more appropriate and meaningful than having it at a Sodality Sunday Mass. The board agreed as a group that we will continue to conduct the investiture at the December meeting Mass in the future.

B. Sodality Christmas gifts to parish staff – Sodality presented 13 members of the parish staff with Christmas gifts. Treasurer Lee M. obtained the VISA gift cards, and Lee, Prefect Kate B., and Secretary Helen B. wrote the Christmas cards in which they were enclosed for delivery. Sodality has already received several thank you notes for these gifts, including notes from Father Giese and Jeanmarie K. in the parish office.

C. Giving Tree wrap-up – Denise S. and Colleen H. reported to the board about the success of the Giving Tree project. As a parish, St. Jane's provided 807 Christmas gifts to 16 charitable organizations for distribution. We did not provide gifts to the needy in the Shrine of the Sacred Heart community this year because staff turnover at that parish prevented the Giving Tree committee from obtaining a list of requests. This year, we received a substantial number of check and cash donations for the project from St. Jane's parishioners who were unable to shop but wished to support the project. These donations totaled \$3,052. Sodality volunteers shopped for approximately 105 gifts to cover requests that either were left on the trees in the narthex or were not returned to the parish by the deadline. The cost of these gifts totaled \$3,003.52. In addition, the project incurred costs of \$163.41 for supplies. However, because of the generous donations received from parishioners, the net cost of the project to Sodality this year was \$113.93. This is considerably lower than it has been in the past. Denise, Colleen, and Gretchen K. will write thank you notes to the parishioners who made the monetary donations to the project. Judith S., who is a member of the Ladies of Charity, noted that that organization gives Christmas gifts to Catholic residents of the Bethesda Health and Rehabilitation Center, which is one of the organizations that the Giving Tree project assists. She mentioned that there should probably be some coordination between the Ladies of Charity and the Giving Tree committee next year so that there is no confusion at the nursing home regarding which residents are receiving gifts from which organization.

D. Associates gift to the parish – Ellen L. reported that the Associates are ready to make their annual gift to the parish. After consultation with Father Giese, they are funding the purchase of two red dalmatics (vestments) for the parish’s deacons to wear on appropriate feast days.

E. Mary Garden – Ellen also reported that she had obtained the original plans for the Mary Garden from its designer, Elin H. She provided them to the board, and they will be stored in the Sodality file cabinet for future reference. Regarding the status of our acquiring a plaque to commemorate Sodality’s donation of the *Madonna della Strada* statue for the garden, Kate B. reported that she had identified a source for a reasonably priced plaque. She described it as a black sign approximately 8 inches by 5 inches that would stand on a black metal stake. It can be purchased from a Maryland company at a cost of \$45 plus shipping. Judith moved that the board approve this purchase. Maureen seconded the motion, and it was approved without objection. It was decided that the sign would read “Madonna della Strada - Gift of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Sodality Guild 2018.”

F. Status of Gabriel Project sign request – Lee asked Carol R. of the Parish Council if she knew anything about the status of Sodality’s request to Father Giese for permission to post a sign on the parish campus expressing support for the Gabriel Project. Carol indicated that she believed it had not been decided and that she would try to follow up with Father Giese. Maureen offered to inquire about the request with personnel in the parish office and ask if Sodality could receive a formal answer to the Executive Board’s May 2018 letter on the matter. Liz S. suggested that Lee send an email to the parish office to ask for a specific response to the letter so that everyone who needed to be aware of the final decision could be informed. Lee indicated that she would ask Emma K-T, our former President, for a copy of the original letter in order to include it in her email.

G. Miscellaneous – It was reported for the record that prior to the December 2018 Sodality Union meeting, the executive board took a vote via email whether to once again make a \$200 donation to the Sodality Union for its scholarship raffle in lieu of selling raffle tickets. Eight of the 13 members of the board voted in favor of making the donation, and no members voted in opposition. The motion carried without objection.

### III. New Business

A. Fashion Show status report – Tracy M. and Karen S. reported that planning for the event is continuing smoothly. The date for the Fashion Show is March 2, and it will once again take place at the Columbia Country Club, which has been reserved. The ticket price for the show this year will be \$50 per person. Tickets can be purchased online through a link to Faith Direct or by mailing the reservation form to Susan K. Credit card ticket purchases incur a \$1.50 per ticket service charge. Patron donations this year will remain \$20 and can also be made online. Reservation fliers and advertising and in-kind donation forms are being finalized and should be ready by the end of the week. They will be posted on the Sodality web page for broad access. Sodalist Mary F. has designed a new Fashion Show “Lady” logo for our forms. The color scheme for the event will be royal blue and white, to honor the Blessed Mother. Alice T., daughter of Sodalist Margaret T., has again volunteered to donate make-up favors for the guests.

This year's favors are produced by BH Cosmetics. The Christ Child Unit will again create the floral centerpieces for the tables, and the de Chantal Gardening Club has offered to provide floral arrangements for the raffle basket area and stage. Unit raffle basket donations, as well as door prizes, should be delivered to Kathy K. by February 10, accompanied by a description. Sodality unit ads for the Fashion Show program will be without cost this year; they also are due by February 10 and should be sent to Karen S. Tracy has asked many former business advertisers to purchase ads again this year, and some have already committed. The ad prices this year will be the same as last year. The event announcement for the parish bulletin has been completed. We will pass out reservation fliers after all Masses on February 2-3 and sell tickets in the narthex after all Masses on February 9-10 and 16-17. We will also need volunteers to sell raffle tickets at the Fashion Show. Tracy will send a SignUpGenius link to the unit chairs so that they can forward it to their units to seek volunteers for these tasks. Our Sodality models have been lined up, but we are still seeking Junior Sodality models. Jane M. and Peggy W. are coordinating the models this year.

B. Morning of Recollection status report – Kate reported that our speaker this year will be Colleen H. She is working with the parish office to reserve a good date for the event.

C. Time and Talent Fair – Patty B. is coordinating Sodality's participation in this event, which will take place after all the Masses on the weekend of February 23-24. As in the past, Sodality will have a table with information materials for distribution, and we will need volunteers to staff the table, greet people, and answer questions at each session and to clean up the table after the last session following the 5:00 p.m. Mass on February 24. Patty will send a SignUpGenius link to the unit chairs to forward to their members for this purpose. She will set up the table and provide the information materials. Kate volunteered to make a new poster with pictures and information for the event.

D. Recent Sodality Union meetings – Judith S. of the John Neumann Unit attended the December Sodality Union (SU) meeting, which was held at St. Gabriel's Church in Washington, DC. She delivered the check for our \$200 donation to the SU scholarship raffle. While at the meeting, she met Barbara C., the membership chair for the SU, who said she would provide our Sodality with a copy of the SU directory at the February meeting. (No SU meeting was held in January 2019.)

E. Sodality Union Spiritual Bouquet for the Pope – Helen B. reported that she had forwarded to the SU Spiritual Life chair our Sodality's pledges for the SU's 2019 Spiritual Bouquet for the Pope. In all, our Sodality members pledged 54 Masses, 6 Holy Communions, 85 Rosaries, 10 Divine Mercy prayers, and 117 other prayers for this spiritual gift to His Holiness.

F. Upcoming Sodality Union responsibilities – The St. Monica Unit will attend the SU meeting scheduled for February 2, 2019, but as yet, the location of the meeting has not been announced. Tracy will continue to check the SU website to determine what church will host the gathering. We will skip the March SU meeting because it conflicts with the Fashion Show.

G. Upcoming Sodality Sunday Mass responsibilities – St. Gianna will staff the Sodality Mass on Sunday, February 3, 2019. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will staff the Sodality Mass on

Sunday, March 3, 2019. Liz S. indicated that since the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit was scheduled to cover the January 2019 SU meeting, which was not held, the unit would be willing to help with coverage of other responsibilities if needed.

#### IV. Reports

A. Prefect – Kate indicated that she believes Sodality should go forward with planning a day-long retreat for Sodalists this year to strengthen the fellowship of our members and focus on our spiritual lives, as had been discussed favorably at the May 2018 General Meeting. She has been in contact with Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center and learned that the only date it has open in 2019 is Sunday, September 23. She asked the Center to hold that date for us. If we have fewer than 50 attendees, the cost would be \$500. If we have 50-100 attendees, the cost is \$600. These prices do not include food costs. Kate will be our coordinator if we decide to go forward. She opined that Sodality should cover the cost of the event, but perhaps ask attendees to pay a small fee – perhaps \$30 – to defray some of the expenses. She asked that women interested in helping her to put together a program for the day contact her. Judith, Maureen, and Regina S. volunteered to work with her on the project.

B. Treasurer – Lee reported that the balance in the treasury as of the date of the executive board meeting was \$29,625.99. She confirmed that total donations from parishioners to the Giving Tree amounted to \$3,052, and that the net expense to Sodality for that project was \$113.93. The total amount of the Associates' gift to the parish this year is \$915. The Sodality's financial books were delivered to the rectory for the scheduled audit and they balanced.

#### C. Units

1. Christ Child – Many members of the unit attended the December General Meeting, Mass, and investiture, and participated in the snowflake-making craft. The unit extended its thanks to the Regina Coeli Unit for hosting a lovely tea at Maplewood Park Place on December 8. Many Christ Child Unit members attended and enjoyed the day. The unit usually meets in February to plan its Fashion Show basket and ad and discuss its involvement in creating the floral arrangements for the tables. They are awaiting further input from the Fashion Show Committee on these matters. The group continues to pray for the sick and deceased members of the parish as well as any other intentions they receive.

2. John Neumann – The group has not met as a unit since November and has nothing new to report, although a number of members attended the December General Meeting. They will meet again as a unit in February before the next board meeting. In the meantime, they will organize their Fashion Show donations via email.

3. Regina Coeli – The group held a unit Christmas party at the home of Kathy K. on Friday, December 7. The following day, they hosted a Christmas tea at Maplewood Park Place, which was attended by approximately 40 people. Father Donald Brice gave a talk about St. Nicholas. The unit also covered the Sodality Sunday Mass on January 6, 2019. On February 20, 2019, the group will serve dinner at the University of Maryland's John Neumann Center, and

in April, they will host the parish Anniversary Brunch. The unit also has expressed interest in assisting the DC Diaper Bank, with whose mission the St. Monica Unit has become involved.

4. St. Monica – The unit will gather next week at the DC Diaper Bank and will complete a service project for the organization in addition to holding a meeting. The group is considering becoming an ambassador for the Diaper Bank to help with its mission of assisting needy families to obtain diapers and infant supplies as well as feminine hygiene products. Tracy M. noted that the Diaper Bank accepts assistance in the forms of monetary and in-kind donations as well as time. The unit's Fashion Show raffle basket will be a collection of restaurant gift cards. They also plan to serve one or possibly two dinners at the Catholic Student Center at the University of Maryland.

5. St. Gianna – The unit chairs plan to contact the unit's members this weekend via email to prepare for staffing the February Sodality Sunday Mass and organizing its raffle basket for the Fashion Show. They also hope to conduct personal outreach to help revive the unit, explain its mission and goals, solicit dues, and energize the members to plan the group's projects for the upcoming months. The members may be interested in providing assistance to the DC Diaper Bank. On April 6, the unit is scheduled to attend the SU meeting on behalf of the General Sodality. They also hope to plan a home Mass on Mother's Day (May 12) and possibly collect items for a charity at that time.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – The unit met in December to read reflections and make adult Advent calendars to prepare for the coming of the Christmas season. They will meet again on February 10 to collect the items for their Fashion Show raffle basket. In March, they will attend the Fashion Show, and in April, they will hold another meeting. The unit submitted \$55 in dues to Lee.

7. Associates – Four Associates have passed away recently. They were Mary Lou R., Pat S., Mary F., and Lorraine O. Ellen has sent Mass cards to their families.

8. Junior Sodality – The girls will meet on February 5. They will have two models for the Fashion Show and will donate a raffle basket. They plan to work in the Mary Garden in the spring. Sodalist Kim F. will organize the Junior Sodality essay contest this year. She will put together a committee to review the entries.

## V. Closing Prayer

Kate led the board in the *Hail Mary* to close the meeting.