

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2018

I. Opening

A. Treasurer Lee M. led those present in praying the *Hail Mary*.

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

II. Old Business

A. Mary Garden

1. Nothing further has been done at this time about researching a commemorative plaque.

2. Weeding Project - The Junior Sodality now plans to weed the Mary Garden in the spring rather than in the fall.

B. November 4 Communion Breakfast Wrap-up.

Lee M. reported that 22 people attended the breakfast. Twenty-four people had paid. She is still waiting for the Faith Direct money to come in. Lee said that we made a little money. Rather than hiring a caterer, we bought food from Costco and Balducci's. It was agreed that the speaker, Rose Folstrom, gave a good presentation on "Growing Virtues."

C. Parish Time and Talent Fair

The parish's plan is still to hold the fair in January or February. During the board's discussion, it was agreed that it would be useful to hold another Light Bulb Exchange and that it would make sense to coordinate this event with the Time and Talent Fair. Fr. Giese would have to approve having the two events take place together. Scheduling with the Department of Environmental Protection, which runs the Light Bulb Exchange, cannot be done until a date is decided on for the Time and Talent Fair.

D. Project Gabriel Sign

There has been no further progress on this matter. We are still waiting to hear back from Fr. Giese as to whether or not a sign can be installed on the parish property.

Clarification was given about the difference between this sign and the banner-like signs that the Right to Life marchers hold during their processions. While the latter would also contain information about the Gabriel Project, the former - and more permanently installed sign - would remain in one place and would be visible from Old Georgetown Road. It would be large enough that the writing would be readable by those passing by on foot or in cars.

III. **New Business**

A. December General Meeting

1. *Investiture Ceremony*

Two more names were provided at the meeting of women wishing to be invested. Unit chairs should follow up directly with either Kate B. or Karen S. about additional names.

2. *Liturgy*

The John Neumann Unit has taken care of staffing the liturgy.

3. *Refreshments*

Tracy M. explained that the St. Monica Unit has decided that there should be a greater variety of refreshments, and so they are going to use Sign Up Genius to coordinate the food items. Liz S., in her emailed report for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit, wrote that members of the unit would confirm at their November 30 meeting who is bringing what in the way of drinks and paper goods. Ellen L. volunteered to be the certified bartender for the event.

4. *Christmas Craft*

Once again, the craft will involve making paper snowflake decorations for donation to the ManorCare nursing home. The Regina Coeli Unit will organize and conduct the craft. An email should go out to unit chairs to remind people to bring tape and scissors. The meeting and craft session will be open to the Junior Sodalists, and Tracy M. expects some girls to attend.

B. Christmas Gifts to Parish Staff

Since a list was not available at the board meeting of the staff members who received gifts last year, Tracy M. made a motion that we follow this year the procedures we used last year. Maureen W. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

After further discussion about who would get what, Joan W. made a second motion that we allow Lee M. as our treasurer to act at her discretion to decide pro-rated amounts for newly hired and auxiliary staff. Maureen W. seconded the motion, and it passed. It was suggested that Lee email to board members the list of who will receive gifts so that it might be reviewed to make sure that no one is left out.

The board also discussed how to handle the fact that Director of Liturgy and Music Russell W. has announced that he will be leaving the parish before Christmas to take a new position. Lee moved that Sodality give him a gift in the event the parish holds a farewell reception in his honor. Maureen seconded the motion, and it passed.

C. Associates Gift

A lengthy discussion was held about the annual Associates gift to the parish. Ellen has not yet received a definitive answer from Fr. Giese as to what his ideas for a gift might be. Board members present agreed that the gift should be something that directly benefits the church. It was suggested that Ellen speak with Sally D. to ask whether the Seton Center Religious Education programs have specific needs that the Associates gift might address. It was left that the matter of the Associates Gift remains as "pending."

D. Giving Tree

Both Colleen H. and Denise S. emailed their reports. Colleen wrote that the Giving Tree seems to be on target. We have contacted all our usual charities for their wish lists, and many have been returned. The due date for the wish lists was November 9. Colleen wrote that the Giving Tree leaders were working on making the gift labels for the various charities, and that Religious Education and de Chantal 8th graders were being lined up to help set up the trees and organize the gifts when they come in.

Denise added that they were preparing for the November 15 label-making meeting. She wrote that the project distributes about 900 gifts to 17 different charities. She attached the list of event dates to be shared with unit chairs, and also the chart that shows all of the groups to whom we send gifts and the numbers of gifts needed.

Tracy M. said that nine Junior Sodalists would be coming to help at the label-making meeting.

E. Fashion Show

Karen S. and Tracy M. have met with Maria P. and Diane E. of *Irresistibles*. They will have another meeting with them in January. The models will meet with the *Irresistibles* ladies three weeks before the event.

Tracy will send unit chairs a request for baskets and ads for the event program.

Karen and Tracy have decided that the color scheme for the Fashion Show will be yellow (the color of the Columbia Country Club ballroom) and periwinkle/lady blue (for Our Lady.)

Karen has a connection at American Plant and will follow through with them on the table centerpiece decorations. The committee is trying to economize and also stay "green."

Julie M. will check on stock for the programs.

There will be a meeting at 10:30 a.m. on December 12 at the Columbia Country Club with Gail Q. and the facility staff to discuss the menu.

F. Upcoming Sodality Union Responsibilities

1. December 1, 2018 – Judith S. of the John Neumann Unit will attend. She is still hoping to find someone to accompany her.
2. January 5, 2019 - No update was available on attendance by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit members.

G. Upcoming Sodality Sunday Mass Responsibilities

1. December 2, 2018 Mass – St. Monica Unit is ready.
2. January 6, 2019 Mass – Regina Coeli Unit is ready.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect

Kate B. emailed Lee M. concerning a notice she had received about retreats at the Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center. She plans to follow up with this center for our Sodality's retreat.

B. Treasurer

Lee M. reported that the current balance in the Sodality account is \$30,190.38. The expenses for the Communion Breakfast totaled \$483.58. Checks for attendance totaled \$425.00. We are still waiting for the check for six tickets paid for through Faith Direct. Two people paid but did not attend. So far, the General Sodality has only received dues from the Christ Child and John Neumann Units. Unit chairs present at the meeting said they would take care of getting their unit dues to Lee.

C. Units

1. *Christ Child* – Gail Q. emailed an apology for not being able to attend the board meeting and asked for prayers for two of the Christ Child Unit members who are in poor health.

2. *John Neumann* – Judith S. reported that the unit had met the evening before. The group opened their meeting with the Rosary. Willie C., the host for the meeting, provided a beautiful Marian icon (Our Lady of Schoenstatt) for the group's prayer time. They reviewed unit responsibilities and confirmed that members are set to staff the Mass for the December General Meeting on Wednesday, December 5. Judith will attend the Sodality Union Meeting on December 1. Checks and cash were collected from JNU members to support the meeting's designated charitable project – the parish's St. Martin's Cloak Guild. The unit members decided to go ahead and submit their offerings for the Spiritual Bouquet for Pope Francis. (Traditionally the Sodality Union has collected these offerings from all member

guilds to send to the Pope, so the JNU members went ahead and made their pledges, which they will carry out regardless of whether the ADW Sodality Union continues this tradition this year.) Unit members also expressed interest in learning about any progress that had been made concerning the installation of a Project Gabriel sign on the parish grounds, and about upkeep on the Mary Garden. In addition, the group discussed the unit's work to advance devotion to Mary. Judith brought to the executive board a list of Marian feasts compiled by JNU members for posting in the *Chanticleer* and on the Sodality website. She asked to whom this list should be submitted, and it was suggested that she reach out to Anne G. and/or Jamie C. Judith also shared a page of three Marian prayers, copies of which were distributed at the JNU meeting.

3. *Regina Coeli* - Maureen W. reported that the following events are being coordinated by the unit:

Karen A. is coordinator for the Christmas craft for the General Meeting on Wednesday, December 5.

Maureen W. is coordinating the Christmas Tea at Maplewood Park Place, to be held on Saturday, December 8. She explained that all the Catholic ladies at MPP are now invited to the tea, rather than just members of certain Sodality units. Over the last five years, the number of those invited has grown to 56, although not all are able to attend. As Maplewood now requires that the facility itself provide the food and beverages for the tea rather than allowing these to be brought in by the Regina Coeli Unit, the cost for the tea has increased significantly. It is now \$10.00 a head. Maureen is going to try to negotiate a lower cost.

(Members present at the executive board meeting recognized that this expense is a significant amount to draw from a unit bank account. Given that the event serves as a nice outreach from the parish to these ladies, that some of them might not meet otherwise, and that many of the ladies are still connected to Sodality, it was decided that unless Maureen is able to negotiate a *much* lower price, the General Sodality should help financially with the Annual Christmas Tea. Lee M. moved that the General Sodality contribute up to \$250 towards the tea. Tracy M. seconded the motion, and it passed.)

There will be a Regina Coeli Unit Christmas Party at the home of Kathy K. on Friday, December 7, 2018.

The unit plans to have a home Mass in January or February.

The group will provide a dinner for the Neumann Center at the University of Maryland on Wednesday, February 20. (Tracy M. noted that, if the Regina Coeli Unit members are amenable, the members of the St. Monica Unit would also like to provide a dinner for the students. Maureen indicated that this would be absolutely fine and would be very much appreciated by the staff and students of the Neumann Center.)

Gina C. and Maureen W. will coordinate the Anniversary Brunch in April.

4. *St. Monica* – Tracy M. reported that the unit has met. They will send a Sign-Up Genius link to their members after Thanksgiving as a way to organize the refreshment donations for the December General Meeting. The unit members are all set to attend the Mass and participate in the craft session. They also will be volunteering at the DC Diaper Bank in the second or third week of January. As noted above, the St. Monica Unit is considering providing a meal to the UMD Neumann Center. (Maureen W. added here that the students there are very helpful in cleaning up after the meal. She clarified that the dinners are held on Wednesday nights after a Mass and noted that not everyone who comes to the dinner attends the Mass.)

5. *St. Gianna* – Regina S. emailed her apology for not being able to attend the board meeting and said that the unit did not have anything to report at this time.

6. *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton* – Liz S. was unable to attend the board meeting but emailed the following report. The unit will meet on Friday, November 30 for an Advent-themed meeting. They will read an Advent reflection and make spiritual Advent calendars. At that time, they will confirm who is bringing which beverages, cups, napkins, etc. for the General Meeting on December 5. A few members also hope to attend the Giving Tree label-making meeting.

7. *Associates* – Ellen L. hopes to talk with Fr. Giese soon about the Associates annual gift to the parish.

8. *Junior Sodality* – Tracy M. reported that at their first meeting, the girls walked over to the Mary Garden. They saw the new statue of the Madonna and prayed the *Hail Mary* before it. There was unanimous interest in helping to tidy up the garden in the spring. The Junior Sodality dues have been collected. Nine girls will come to the label-making meeting, and some girls are interested in participating in the Christmas craft at the December General Meeting.

V. **Closing Prayer**

Lee led those present in praying the *Memorare* to close the meeting.