

SODALITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 20, 2019

Present: Helen B, Kate B, Judith S, Colleen H, Liz S, Nan V, Gail Q, Lee M, Kathy K.

I. Opening: 7:35 PM

- A. Prefect Kate B led the board in praying the *Hail Mary*.
- B. Colleen H motioned to approve the October 19<sup>th</sup> minutes. Judith S seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

II. Old Business

- A. October 27<sup>th</sup> Communion Breakfast had approximately 38 attendees. The feedback was very positive and the food was well liked, per Kate B. The committee thanked Colleen H for her talk. Kate B and Kathy K reported that the hall set-up was not completed as requested. It was suggested that the price for the breakfast might be lowered next year. The food cost \$367 and the flowers \$60 for a total of \$427. Lee M has deposited \$750 in proceeds from the Communion Breakfast, and there is an additional \$150 in Faith Direct payments to be remitted to Sodality. However, Colleen did not take her honorarium for her talk, so we did not have to cover that typical expense this year.
- B. The Giving Tree committee has everything ready. All requests from the representatives of the various charities are in, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student has prepared all of the yarn for the donation ornaments, the tree set-up has been scheduled, and the announcements are set for the bulletin. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders need to be secured for help in sorting the gifts. The label-making meeting will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The Sasha Bruce Youthwork has new representatives who would like to talk and make a presentation at Mass. Regarding this request, Helen conferred with Father Giese, and he is amenable to having representatives of the charities available in the gathering space after Mass to thank parishioners for participating in the Giving Tree. If this can be arranged, it was agreed that it would be best to schedule the charities to come for a Mass on sorting day, if possible.
- C. The December General Meeting and Investiture Ceremony is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>. There are three women scheduled to be invested and it is possible that another women from the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit will be invested. The Mass will be staffed by the John

Neumann Unit, and the refreshments, decor and the craft are being organized by the St. Monica, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and Regina Coeli Units.

- D. Christmas gifts for the parish staff from Sodality were determined. Lee M will purchase the gift cards and they will be delivered to the parish office.
- E. Several units provided their pledges for the Sodality Union Spiritual Bouquet for the Pope. The pledges of the remaining units are due to Helen B by Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.
- F. Sodality Retreat planning is being led by Kate B. She spoke with Father Gardner, and he is interested in moderating our retreat. The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Northeast Washington has rooms available for retreats, as well as a kitchen. The facilities can be rented for \$500. Kate B will meet with her committee and start to make the necessary decisions.
- G. A new parishioner coffee was held by the Parish Council on October 20<sup>th</sup> as part of the monthly parish coffee and donuts social after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Because there were many people in attendance, it was difficult to identify the new parishioners since no one wore name tags. Helen B and Membership Chair Patty B attended the coffee and were able to reach out to one new parishioner. The Parish Council realizes that the way the event was organized was not an ideal situation. The next coffee will not be until February, when the Time and Talent Fair will also be held. It was decided that "face to face" meetings with new parishioners are better than emails. It is unclear exactly what parish information is being sent to new parishioners to help them identify what organizations they might be interested in joining.
- H. The topic of outreach to parish school moms by Sodality was tabled since Tracy M was unable to attend the board meeting.
- I. The newest Sodality Directory with updates has been distributed by Patty B to the unit chairs via email. It will be updated continually, as needed.
- J. The November Sodality Union meeting and Mass was attended by Gina C. The names of deceased Sodalists were read and a bell was rung after each name. Father Pawel Sass, the moderator, spoke about the Synod on the Amazon. He also emphasized the importance of not relying on CNN news for accurate information concerning the Vatican. The Sodality Union will distribute tickets for their scholarship raffle at

the December meeting. (We have made a \$200 donation to the raffle in lieu of selling tickets) The Union will hold a retreat at the Washington Retreat House, on March 13-15, 2020. You can go for one day or the weekend. Helen B will send a notice about the retreat to the unit chairs.

### III. New Business

- A. The Fashion Show planning is underway per Nan V. Lee M will handle the reservations, Jane M is seeking models, and Margaret T's daughter will provide favors (if available). Nan V and Celestine K have the forms ready to go as soon as some information is obtained from Julie M.
- B. The church lock-up times have been changed. Father Giese locks the church at 5:00 p.m. in winter and 6 :00 p.m. in summer. This affects the Regina Coeli monthly rosary, which is not well attended. Gail Q suggested that the attendance might improve if the rosary was for a specific intention. Helen will look into getting a key from the parish office to facilitate Sodality's use of the Scanlon Room.
- C. The March for Life is scheduled on January 24, 2020 and the Parish Council will be in involved in hospitality tasks for high school students coming to Washington from out of town to attend. The Sodality's assistance with these tasks might be needed.
- D. The parish website is being updated and modified. The Sodality page disappeared for a while during the update, but it is now back on the website.
- E. Upcoming Sodality assignments: There was no room in the November parish bulletin for the "Sodality Spotlight" article. John Neumann's article will therefore move to December and Regina Coeli's article will move to January. Future articles will be discussed at a later date. 12/1/19 Sodality Sunday Mass—St. Monica; 12/7/19 Sodality Union Meeting—John Neumann; December bulletin announcement—John Neumann; 1/5/20 Sodality Sunday Mass—Regina Coeli; January bulletin announcement—Regina Coeli.
- F. Miscellaneous: No items.

#### IV. Reports

- A. Prefect—Kate B: The Morning of Recollection will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>. She is looking for a speaker.
  
- B. Treasurer –Lee M: The current balance in the treasury is \$37,511. 52. We forwarded to the Sodality Union \$60 for dues and \$200 for the scholarship raffle. The Associates have submitted their dues to Lee and \$450 in donations for their annual parish gift.
  
- C. Units:
  1. Christ Child—Gail Q: The unit’s members are older and have been experiencing illnesses. Gail asked that we please keep them in our prayers. The members are getting together to see a Sodalist who moved. They will have a meeting in January.
  
  2. John Neumann—Judith S: The unit met recently and discussed ways to increase the level of Marian devotion in the parish. The members would like to have a regular Marian hymn sung at the end of the Mass, preferably every week but at least on Marian feast days. They asked that the Board consider making such a request to Father Geise. The unit also asked if the Junior Sodalists could announce the Marian feasts at school, lead a short prayer during announcements, and possibly place flowers in front of the Mary statue. The Junior Sodality chairs will be asked to check into this.
  
  3. Regina Coeli—Kathy K: The unit is hosting a Christmas Tea for Catholic women residing at Maplewood Park Place on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The board was asked if the General Sodality would assist in sharing the costs of this event, as was done last year. Liz S made a motion that the Sodality donate \$250 to fund this project. Kate B seconded the motion, and all voted in favor of it. The board will revisit the cost of the tea in January to see if a larger donation is needed. The unit will have a home Mass in midwinter. No date is set yet for this event.
  
  4. St. Monica—Report submitted: The unit is set for providing refreshments for the December Sodality Mass and General Meeting.
  
  5. St. Gianna –Colleen H: The unit will be making rosaries in January. They are intended for inclusion in new parishioner welcome packets and/or for newly baptized babies of the parish. The unit members will hold a rosary and lunch on 12/8 as well as a lunch and a tour of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the

Immaculate Conception on 2/23. They also plan to donate roses to the National Children's Center on Valentine's Day so that the children helped by the Center can give them as presents to their mothers.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton—Liz S: The unit currently has 8 members and perhaps one new member. Six women attended their last meeting and they welcomed one new member. The group has decided to read "Letters to My Lord" by Father Daniel Lord as its discussion book this year. Liz gave a hard pitch for the Time and Talent Fair. The unit's members suggested Sodality's table at the Fair could be snazzier. Liz will be stepping down as unit chair at the end of this Sodality year.
7. Associates—The gift from the Associates of \$450 will be directed toward the Capital Campaign fund for renovation of the Caulfield Hall kitchen. One Associate will be invested in Sodality at the December Mass. Helen B added that a Mass card was sent by Sodality to Associate Pat C on the death of her husband.
8. Junior Sodality—Report submitted: The girls had a meeting on 11/8 and Father Geise spoke about life in the military. They collected leftover Halloween candy at school and donated over 70 pounds of candy with handmade cards to Operation Gratitude, which ships care packages to service members who are deployed. The next meeting is 12/13 when the girls will go caroling at Maplewood.

V. Closing Prayer

The board ended the meeting by praying the *Memorare*. 9:15 PM