

SODALITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
March 18, 2020

Present by teleconference due to the coronavirus emergency: Helen B., Kate B., Lee M., Nan V., Patty B., Debbie R., Tracy M., Liz S., Celestine K., Ellen L., Colleen H., Gail Q., Judith S., and Maureen W.

- I. Opening: 7:35 PM
 - A. Prefect Kate B. led the board in praying the *Hail Mary*.
 - B. Lee M. made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2020 board meeting. Ellen L. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

- II. Old Business
 - A. Fashion Show – A final report was submitted by co-chairs Nan V. and Celestine K. They indicated preliminarily that usage of Faith Direct went smoothly. In total, we received 194 reservations. The total charge for use of the Columbia Country Club (CCC) was \$8,180.36. The invoice for the final balance of \$2,780.36 has been sent to Lee, who will prepare the check for Fr. Giese’s signature. Final numbers for expenses and income have not yet been calculated. Thank you notes have been sent to the donors and advertisers. Several suggestions for this year’s Fashion Show were adopted and worked well, *i.e.*, use of pastel paper for reservations, inclusion of a line on the reservation form for mother/daughter seating, reduction in the number of reservation flyers, and inclusion of gluten-free and vegetarian meal choices. Nan and Celestine have graciously offered to co-chair the Fashion Show again next year and are already thinking about improvements for 2021. They plan to further reduce the number of printed reservation forms and to include the fashion vendor’s name on the various forms.

- B. Time and Talent Fair – Patty B. reported on this event, which took place on the weekend of February 22-23. Sodality had a very attractive table displaying its poster board, pamphlets, and helpful information as well as examples of the cosmetics favors that would grace the tables at the Fashion Show. Reservation flyers for the Fashion Show were also available. Many Sodalists volunteered to staff the table, and several women stopped by to obtain information. Three of them provided their contact information, and follow-up contacts have been made. If/when these women indicate they would like to join Sodality, Patty will contact the appropriate unit chair.
- C. March 28 Morning of Recollection – Kate informed the board that the event had been cancelled after consultation with the parish office due to the current social distancing/attendance density limitations on gatherings.
- D. Sodality Retreat Planning – Kate reported that she met with her committee on March 11 and they brainstormed ideas for a day-long retreat. She will talk to Father Gardiner, our preferred facilitator, about the ideas.

III. New Business

- A. Parish Red Cross Blood Drive – It is scheduled for April 5. Debbie R. is organizing the event and has been in touch with Molly H. to provide the information needed to publicize the drive within the parish. The board discussed whether or not new Archdiocesan and State of Maryland guidelines on social distancing and attendance density will allow us to hold the event in Caulfield Hall. The consensus of the board was that we should go forward if at all possible, but that the final determination whether the event is feasible will be up to the Red Cross and Fr. Giese. (Ultimately, the event was cancelled after the board meeting due to these considerations.)
- B. Anniversary Brunch – The event is scheduled for April 26. Maureen W. suggested that given the age demographic of the usual attendees, it would be wiser

not to hold the brunch at this time given the coronavirus emergency. The board agreed it would be best to postpone the brunch until the fall, preferably on a date in September that is convenient for Fr. Giese's schedule. Helen B. said that she would check with Fr. Giese about this plan.

- C. Junior Sodality essay contest – Tracy M. and Kate reported that the contest can be conducted online since the number of eighth grade girls eligible to compete is relatively small this year. Kim F. has several ideas in mind for an essay topic. The chosen question can be emailed to the girls in the second week of April and they will be given one week to return their essays to Kate, who will send the anonymous responses to the judges for their review. Debbie, Celestine, Helen, and Gail Q. volunteered to serve as judges.
- D. Plant Sale – This fundraiser is scheduled for May 1-3. We need to place our orders for plants this week if we plan to hold the sale. Chair Colleen H. opined that we will likely still be dealing with the consequences of the coronavirus in early May. Discussion ensued, and it was unanimously decided to cancel the event for this year given the uncertainty of future circumstances.
- E. May Crowning Ceremony – This event is scheduled for May 3 as part of Sodality Sunday. The board decided to table planning for the event on that date in light of the coronavirus emergency, with the understanding that it may have to be cancelled altogether. If the situation improves later in the month, we could hold a May Crowning ceremony on a subsequent May Sunday.
- F. May 6 General Sodality Meeting and Mass – Planning was tabled. If church services resume by early May, we will hold the event as scheduled; if services resume in June, we will hold it then. Otherwise, it will be cancelled.
- G. Upcoming assignments: a) the April Sodality Union meeting has not yet been cancelled on its website, but it likely will not be held given the coronavirus emergency; b) the Sodality Spotlight and other Sodality submissions for the parish bulletin were cancelled

- H. April 15 and May 20 Sodality Executive Board Meetings – Planning for these meetings was put on hold; arrangements will be made as situations allow.
- I. Planning for Sodality closet in future Caulfield Hall kitchen renovation – Helen asked for volunteers to serve on a committee with her to plan for future renovation of the Sodality closet in the Caulfield Hall kitchen. Liz S., Gail, Ellen, and Lee volunteered to help with planning for the remodeling.

IV. Reports

- A. Prefect: Nothing to report other than matters already covered.
- B. Treasurer: The current balance in the treasury is \$38,915.88. The check to CCC for the balance of payment for the 2020 Fashion Show (see above) was delivered to the parish office today for Fr. Giese's signature. An additional check for the \$400 deposit to reserve next year's date for the Fashion Show will be sent to CCC separately. To date, this year's Fashion Show has earned \$4,546.37. Additional payments made through Faith Direct and credit cards will come later (likely in April). Anyone having Sodality expenses to submit for reimbursement should contact Lee.
- C. Units
 - 1. Christ Child—Gail Q.: There is nothing new to report for Christ Child. Gail expressed her thanks to Gina C., Maureen G., and Kathy K. for their help with the Fashion Show centerpieces.
 - 2. John Neumann—Judith S.: The unit has not met since the last board meeting, but many members attended the very successful Fashion Show co-chaired by unit member Nan V. The unit's last meeting of the year is scheduled for April 21. The group has not yet begun to discuss whether or how to hold the meeting.

3. Regina Coeli—Maureen W.: A home Mass was celebrated by Fr. Giese at the home of Maria C. on March 10. On February 19, the unit prepared and served a dinner at the Newman Center at UMD. Fr. Gardiner celebrated the Mass. Approximately 200 students attended the dinner.
4. St. Monica—Tracy M.: The unit served a dinner for students at the UMD Newman Center on February 26. The group's April appointment to help at the DC Diaper Bank was cancelled. As noted above, Debbie is coordinating the parish blood drive.
5. St. Gianna—Colleen H.: Nothing to report.
6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton—Liz S.: The unit met by conference call on Sunday, March 15. Six women participated. The group discussed how much they had enjoyed the Fashion Show. Liz shared information on ways to stay virtually connected, and the members discussed ideas for moving forward in the era of social distancing. They also spent approximately an hour discussing their book club selection. The group concluded the meeting by listing prayer intentions and praying together. They are planning a virtual meeting for April.
7. Associates—Ellen L.: Members of the Associates continue to be interested in working to maintain the Mary Garden. Contingent on the course of the coronavirus emergency, they would like to undertake the following activities: coordinate with the Junior Sodality to clean up the garden in time for the May Crowning ceremony; find an appropriate volunteer to remove approximately six dead rose bushes; work with Colleen to order appropriate plants for the garden; evaluate the state of the garden bench; and consider the propriety of installing a permanent donation box in the

garden (coins are sometimes left by Mary's statue).

8. Junior Sodality – Tracy M.: At their meeting on March 6, the Junior Sodalists played Rosary Bingo. The girls also wrote letters to aging/shut-in people wishing them a happy spring. Debbie will organize the eighth graders' essay contest with Kate. The rest of the girls' activities are on hold due to the coronavirus emergency.

V. Closing Prayer

The board ended the meeting with a prayer at 8:17 PM.