

SODALITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2020

Present: Helen B, Kate B, Judith S, Colleen H, Liz S, Nan V, Lee M, Denise S, Ellen L, Celestine K, Patty B, Maureen W, Tracy M

I. Opening: 7:35 PM

- A. Prefect Kate B led the board in praying the *Hail Mary*.
- B. Liz S motioned to approve the November 20th minutes. Judith S seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

II. Old Business

- A. The board discussed the December 4th Mass, Investiture and General Meeting. The consensus was that all went very well, and that the Investiture should continue to occur at this Mass and General Meeting. Liz S thanked Kate B for remembering a new Sodalist to the Elizabeth Ann Seton unit who could not attend the Investiture. Helen B thanked the units involved with planning the Mass, the refreshments and the craft, especially Karen A.
- B. Denise S and Colleen H gave a final report on the 2019 Giving Tree. The project provided 896 gifts to 18 charities and nursing homes this year. However, approximately 130 gift tags were never taken from the display trees in the church gathering space, and in approximately 45 instances, tags were taken but gifts were not returned. As a result, the Giving Tree shoppers – primarily Denise, Colleen, and Rose W. – purchased 175 gifts over the last weekend in order to complete the project. The total cost of these gifts was \$4,693. The committee also incurred expenses of \$159 for supplies. Accordingly, total expenses for the project amounted to \$4,852. Sodality received donations to the project from parishioners in the amount of \$2,070, resulting in a net cost to Sodality of \$2,782. Both the number of gifts that had to be purchased by Sodality and the overall cost of the project were substantially higher than in prior years. A discussion ensued to consider various ways that these problems could be avoided next year. One suggestion for consideration was to cut back slightly on the number of gifts to be committed to various charities. Additional suggestions that were considered included holding back from the parish display trees items that are particularly difficult to find so that

they might be ordered online by Sodality at the beginning of the project, and giving out shopping assignments for such items to volunteer shoppers at the label meeting before the project begins.

Helen B brought up the issue of the reimbursement of shopper costs in instances in which the church tax-exempt ID had not been accepted by stores when it was presented. Helen moved that volunteer shoppers who had purchased items for the Giving Tree but were unable to utilize the church's tax-exempt card be reimbursed for their tax expenses. The example of Costco not accepting the St. Jane tax-exempt card was highlighted. Colleen H seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Colleen plans to submit to the parish bulletin a summary of some of the thank you notes received. All the project co-chairs were thanked and applauded for their tremendous effort in managing this event.

- C. The plans for the Fashion Show set for March 7, 2020, were presented by co-chairs Celestine K and Nan V. Celestine indicated that **Irresistibles**, the Wildwood Manor store which has provided the fashions in three prior years, will be this year's fashion partner again but will not be setting up an accessories table. Celestine may invite another entity to set up such a table. **Irresistibles** will be posting two signs in its store advertising the Fashion Show. Nan asked the group about the timing of the models' appearances at the Fashion Show, as well as sale of advertising space in prime spots in the program. She also detailed what the forthcoming parish bulletin announcements will be for the Fashion Show. Reservation and donation forms will be posted on the Sodality web page. Baskets from each unit should be delivered to Nan by February 16th. A Sign-Up Genius will be created to sell tickets after the 5:00 p.m. Vigil and 10:00 a.m. and noon Masses on February 8 and 9.
- D. Helen reported that Sodality's Christmas gifts for the parish staff were delivered shortly after the December General Meeting. A thank you note to Sodality from Fr. Giese was circulated among the board members present.
- E. Sodality's contributions to the Spiritual Bouquet for the Pope were sent in by Helen.
- F. Sodality Retreat planning is being handled by Kate B. She spoke with Fr. Gardiner and he is interested in moderating our retreat. No definite commitments have been made as to time and place at this

point, but the Bolger Center and the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America are possible sites under consideration. Kate will convene a planning committee at a later date.

Helen B made a motion that the bequest to Sodality from deceased Sodalist Mary Fay be used to cover the expenses of this retreat so that members can attend at no cost. Maureen W seconded the motion. Motion passed. It was further decided to invite Mary's daughter Shannon to the retreat, and to dedicate the Mass at the retreat to Mary.

- G. Helen reported that Elizabeth S has indicated interested in spearheading outreach to parish school moms. Tracy M will get in touch with her about this.
- H. The December Sodality Union meeting and Mass at Mt. Calvary Catholic Church in Forestville, MD was attended by Joan W and Pat D from the John Neumann Unit. The de Chantal Sodality's contribution to the Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Fund was acknowledged at the meeting. The Spiritual Life chair of the Sodality Union discussed the Spiritual Bouquet for the Pope and the Union's Traveling Madonna. The February Sodality Union meeting will take place at Holy Family Church in Mitchellville, MD.

III. New Business

- A. The Morning of Recollection will be held March 28. The speaker has not yet been finalized.
- B. The Time and Talent Fair has been set for February 22 and 23. Patty B will send out a Sign-Up Genius for volunteers.
- C. There is evidence of animal damage to the door of the Sodality closet in the kitchen off Caulfield Hall. Ed B will set traps and get an animal inspector. Helen B will ask for volunteers to clean out the closet once that has been completed. Several ladies volunteered to help. Liz S made a motion that Sodality purchase containers that can be labeled so that items will have a designated place for storage and also be less attractive to any pests. Celestine K seconded the motion. Motion passed. Liz also noted that Sodality will have to think about how to configure its closet and what type of shelving should be purchased for it when planning begins on renovations to Caulfield all.
- D. Upcoming Sodality assignments: Patty B provided an article for the "Sodality Spotlight" on the Regina Coeli Unit for the January parish

bulletin. The St. Monica Unit will submit an article for publication in February. Future articles will be discussed at a later date. 2/2/20 Sodality Sunday Mass— St. Gianna; 2/1/20 Sodality Union Meeting— St. Monica.

- E. Miscellaneous: Thank you notes for Mass cards were received from Kathleen R and Anne Y. They were circulated to the board. The article on Sodality that appeared in the December edition of *Our Parish Times* was also circulated among the board members. Liz S reminded the group about maintenance aspects of the kitchen.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect—Kate B: Nothing beyond above-referenced events.

B. Treasurer – Lee M: The current balance in the treasury is \$34,219.51.

C. Units:

1. Christ Child—Gail Q. was unable to attend the meeting but reported via email that the unit will meet in February and will discuss its Fashion Show basket. They are planning once again to donate a Tea for Four at Strathmore. Two members of the unit who had been unwell are improving. Gail also asked that Sodalists continue to send their prayer requests to the unit.
2. John Neumann—Judith S: Nothing new to report.
3. Regina Coeli—Maureen W: The Christmas Tea on December 8 at Maplewood Park Place was a happy success. Three Junior Sodalists came to lead the ladies in a variety of Christmas carols. Vivi A., Sodalist and resident at MPP, reminded the group that it was the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, and everyone sang a patriotic song in remembrance. Vivi also presented her traditional creative lyrics for a song to thank the Regina Coeli Unit. A home Mass is tentatively set for midwinter. The unit will again be preparing and serving dinner at UMD Catholic Student Center on February 19.
4. St. Monica—Tracy M: Unit will provide dinner at UMD Catholic Student Center on February 26. They are still waiting for a date at the DC Diaper Bank.
5. St. Gianna – Colleen H: Kate and Colleen got together for lunch and a rosary. The unit has purchased kits to make rosaries and

has booked a tour of the Basilica at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on February 22.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton—Liz S: Nothing new to report.
7. Associates—Ellen L: Ellen reported that she is involved in going through a box of historical papers about Sodality. She made a motion that Sodality obtain Mass cards for the intentions of each individual Associate who contributed more than \$50 to the Associates' gift to the parish this year. Eleven Masses would be said. Judith S seconded the motion. Motion passed.
8. Junior Sodality—Tracy M: About 20 Junior Sodalists caroled at Maplewood Park Place in a very well attended event in their lobby. The girls mingled with the residents as they enjoyed Christmas cookies afterward! On February 4, the Junior Sodalists will make sandwiches for Bethesda Cares. They will also make valentines for NICU babies. The girls plan to do a garden clean-up in the Mary Garden on April 3 or April 25. They would also like to plant new flowers there in the spring and hope to host a bake sale to raise money for that project. They are looking ahead to the essay contest in the spring.

V. Closing Prayer

The board ended the meeting by praying the *Memorare*. 9:10 PM