

SODALITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

May 20, 2020

Present: Helen B, Kate B, Liz S, Lee M, Gail Q, Maureen W, Ellen L, Patty B, Judith S, Tracy M, Kathy K

- I. Opening: 7:35 p.m.
 - A. Prefect Kate B led the board in praying the *Memorare*.
 - B. The March minutes needed to be amended to include the presence of Judith S at that meeting. With that change made, Tracy M moved to approve the March 18th minutes. Kate seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
 - C. Judith motioned to approve the April 2020 Sodality Executive Board Action Memorandum. Maureen W seconded the motion and the memorandum was approved.

II. Old Business

- A. Junior Sodality essay contest – Kate announced that Katie M was the winner of the Junior Sodality Essay Contest and read the essay question for the record: As Catholics, we are called to serve and minister to others in and out of church. Social distancing makes this difficult. How can we live our Catholic faith and continue serving when we can't gather in-person? What creative ways have you found to serve?

Katie read her winning essay and thanked the Sodality board for her scholarship award and for the flowers the board sent to her. President Helen B congratulated Katie, who will be attending Georgetown Visitation, and expressed her regret that the members of the board were unable to honor her in person. Kate thanked Sodalist Kim F for designing the essay question. Helen requested that the board retroactively approve the flowers that were sent to Katie for her win. That motion was made and passed unanimously.

Kate noted that this year there were only six participants in the contest, while last year there were many. Because of the cancellation of in-person classes this year due to the pandemic,

the essay contest was conducted virtually, and the participants wrote their essays over a weekend. Tracy suggested that this could have contributed to the lower number of participants. Kate noted that all of the essays submitted this year were very good and that it had been difficult for the reviewers to decide between the two best essays to choose a winner. She further noted that this situation had occurred previously. Kate proposed that in the future, the board also award an honorable mention in the essay contest with a second, smaller scholarship. Maureen concurred, noting that the contest is not only about a monetary award, but also about the acknowledgement of the writer's efforts. She moved that in the future, the winner be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship and the honorable mention writer receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Gail Q seconded the motion and it was approved. Helen expressed Sodality's thanks to Kate for supervising the essay contest and to the board for establishing the new scholarship.

- B. Sodality charitable donations – Helen reviewed Sodality's recent monetary donations to Catholic Charities and the Shrine of the Sacred Heart. The board discussed whether Sodality should make additional donations to address food insecurity during the coronavirus pandemic. Donating to St. Martin's Cloak was discussed as that ministry is now in need of monetary donations. Helen suggested that making a donation to St. Martin's Cloak at this time would be a good way to show our support and that the board could revisit making additional donations to other groups later if the pandemic continues. Liz S moved that Sodality make a \$500 donation to St. Martin's Cloak. Lee M seconded the motion and it was approved.
- C. Sodality Retreat – Helen opened a discussion concerning the future of the Sodality Retreat. Kate explained that plans for the event are on hold until we see what happens with the pandemic in the fall. Tracy suggested that gatherings would be difficult since many Sodalists are in the vulnerable population. She asked if we could consider a Zoom meeting. Kate indicated that she could reach out to Father Gardiner about options. It was decided that the board would table the issue until the fall.

III. New Business

- A. Succession Planning for 2020-2021 Sodality Year – The terms of the prefect and treasurer come to an end this month.

However, Kate and Lee are willing to extend their terms, which would mean that all five board officers would remain in their present positions. Helen agreed that while we need new people and ideas on the board, stability in leadership is needed at this time given the circumstances we face due to the pandemic. Helen made a motion that the officers remain the same for next year. Gail seconded the motion and it was approved. Kate asked that Sodalists inform her of any women they know who would like to join Sodality. Helen requested that board members advise her of any changes to their contact information.

Unit Chairs for 2020-2021 year:

Christ Child: Gail Q will remain in her position.

John Neumann: Joan W will to co-chair the unit with Judith S.

Regina Coeli: Maureen indicated that the unit had not discussed next year's leadership roles.

St. Monica: Tracy will remain in her position.

St. Gianna: Colleen H was not present at the meeting (she subsequently advised Helen that she will remain as unit chair).

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Liz is hoping the unit leadership will be shared next year. For now, she will remain as unit chair.

Associates: Ellen L will remain in her position.

Junior Sodality: Debbie R will remain and she is looking for a co-chair to join her in working with the girls next year.

- B. Helen thanked Tracy for her work with the Junior Sodalists over the last several years and stated that she has been an inspiration to the girls.
- C. 2020-2021 Unit Responsibility List – The unit responsibilities for next year were reviewed and apportioned among the units.
- D. 2020-2021 Sodality Calendar – The calendar of events for the 2020-2021 Sodality year was considered and completed.
- E. A discussion was held to determine if there was interest in the Sodality leading a live-streamed Rosary in the Mary Garden. Due to the large number of online rosaries available in the Archdiocese, it was decided that another online recitation of the Rosary by Sodality is unnecessary.
- F. The amount of the Sodality tithe to the parish was discussed. Due to the pandemic, the parish is facing some financial difficulties. Helen raised the question whether the Sodality

tithe should be increased this year. Lee reported that the bank balance would be \$34,327, after payment of the Junior Sodality essay scholarship award. The standard tithe amount is 10%, which would be a donation of about \$3,500. After discussion, Helen made a motion that we tithe a one-time contribution of \$5,000 this year. Tracy seconded the motion and it was passed.

- G. The June 2020 Sodality Union Meeting will be held by telephone call-in. Helen will cover this.
- H. Miscellaneous: Liz asked if there was any interest in the Sodality organizing a fall fundraiser to sell mums and bulbs. After discussion, it was decided that this is a good idea but due to the coronavirus, it will have to wait. We can revisit this idea at the end of summer.

IV. Reports

- A. Prefect: Nothing additional to report beyond what had been covered earlier in the meeting.
- B. Treasurer: The balance in the treasury is \$34,327, after recent payments.
- C. Units:
 1. Christ Child: Gail reported that the unit members communicate frequently. They also participate in a chat and a prayer chain. No recent meeting.
 2. John Neumann: Judith reported that the members are holding a meeting via email. It takes a long time.
 3. Regina Coeli: Kathy K stated that the unit had nothing new to report.
 4. St. Monica: Tracy indicated that there was nothing new to report. She mentioned that a unit member's daughter is a nurse working on a Covid 19 unit. She asked us to keep her in our prayers.
 5. St. Gianna: Kate B stated that there was no news to report.
 6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Liz reported that the unit met virtually every month although a number of the members do not have computers. They really enjoyed the book they read last month. The members have many prayer intentions and are looking forward to being together again. Their

- meetings are concluded with a prayer for people living alone. The members find it very meaningful.
7. Associates: Ellen reported that the members are interested in cleaning up the Mary Garden with the Junior Sodalists. Rose bushes need to be removed and a new bench is needed. Ellen will suggest this to Father Giese. Also, coins are being left at the Mary Garden. Ellen will also check with Father Giese to see if a box can be placed in the garden for donations.
 8. Junior Sodality: Tracy reported that they had to cancel their DC Diaper Bank service visit due to the pandemic. The essay contest is completed.

V. Closing Prayer

The board ended the meeting by praying the *Hail Mary* at 9:52 p.m.