

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 2014

I. Opening

- A. Meeting was opened with a Hail Mary
- B. Handouts included an updated calendar with unit responsibilities. Colleen provided refreshments.
- C. Motion to approve the May minutes was offered by Colleen and seconded by Mary.

II. Old Business

- A. Suzi will serve as an interim Treasurer until a new one is found.
- B. Sodality Union Meeting – Mary and Maria attended and got helpful hints on running board meetings. In the coming year, the objective is 90 minute meetings. As needed we will create sub-committees to focus on topics needing further work, research, or discussion. Ellen and Maria will trade off on leading the meetings.
- C. Calendar of events will be distributed at the Time & Talent Fair and at the Oct. 1 General Meeting.

III. New Business

- A. Calendar was reviewed. There were no changes to unit assignments.
- B. Thanks to Mary Bender, the new website is up and running. She is still working on test pages and appreciates any feedback. She will also keep the calendar on the site updated. The General Meeting is being promoted. The goal is to have the remainder updated by the Time & Talent Fair. Patty was asked to send some photos for adding as well. Contact information for board members (email only) will be on the website. Patty also provided some other material on the rosary for addition to the website.
- C. Time & Talent Fair – Gail volunteered to work the final mass still needing coverage. There will be fliers, calendars and brochures available to distribute. Patty was asked to send the information about staffing the booth to the volunteers.
- D. New directory / Chantacleer email distribution – A template for collecting the necessary data was sent out over the summer. It can also serve as an easy way to record unit information and dues collection since we are aiming for dues from all units by December. It can also be a way to identify who has fallen away from the unit to re-engage them or offer them to move to associate membership.
- E. Sodality Union Mass and Meeting Request – The Union has asked us to consider hosting one of the meetings in the Spring. A discussion was had, and the board concluded that we should pursue the opportunity since we are such a blessed group. It will be a big

commitment of both time and financial resources and all units will need to assist. May 2 and June 6 are the best months. Maria and Ellen will follow-up by speaking to Fr. Geise about it, and we will need to use both the Church and Caulfield Hall.

F. Potential new Statue for the Mary Garden – Joan spoke to the group about considering adding to the garden a statue to serve as a point of reflection for parents who have lost a child. As Mary is Mother of all of us, the Mary garden is a logical place for the reflection that comes when one loses a child or grandchild. A small cherub was suggested; it is not to represent a baby however. Possibly a plaque to explain it would be needed. The decision was made to create a sub-committee to explore this idea further. It was suggested the committee reach out to Ellen Haiga who was instrumental in establishing the garden. Colleen volunteered with Joan and Maria for the committee. Others who are interested are invited to join.

G. General Mass, Meeting and Lasagna Dinner on Oct. 1 – We will collect non-perishable food at the meeting as a charity project along with the business meeting. The Religious Education families are getting fliers inviting the women to attend. We will share both the brochure and the revitalized website. We also will have suggestion slips as a way of collecting feedback as part of the revitalization efforts. Dinner will be provided by Mama Lucia. A discussion was held about what additional supplies we need (cups, water bottles, ice, etc.) Colleen will provide centerpieces to promote the need for a plant sale co-chair. Food will be delivered at 6:30 and set up will be occurring. Mass is at 7 p.m. Mary will read at Mass. Patty will be an Extraordinary Minister and will see about asking Karen to assist. Colleen will ask her son and Celestine's son to serve. The junior sodality will be meeting while the women are at Mass and they will serve the dinner. Poupee and Ellen will bring up the gifts.

H. Communion Breakfast – Gail will help Poupee in finding a speaker. Liz will contact Molly about renewing the retainer so we can contact the caterer of Breakfast and Brunches. Investiture packets will need to be made. Maria will look into having fliers or a poster.

I. Giving Tree – No Changes from last year. The organizers will be invited to the next board meeting.

J. Fashion Show – Co-chairs will be invited to the October meeting to talk about their plans and enlist the unit chairs in recruiting women to serve on the planning committee. One to two people per unit are needed.

K. Other major events – Anniversary Brunch and Plant Sale leaders are okay at this time.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect – There is a time change to the next Union meeting. Unit attending is aware.

B. Treasure – no report.

C. Christ Child Unit – The unit meets on 9/18 at the Seton Center. The grandmother of the Spring Essay contest winner will be joining their unit, as well as a friend of Poupee. They continue to welcome prayer requests from the units which can be sent to Gail via email.

D. John Neumann Unit – They met last Tuesday with nine of 12 active members attending. They brought donations of baby items for Birthright of Montgomery County as their charitable project, collected dues, reviewed the General Sodality calendar for the year and discussed who would cover JNU's General Sodality obligations in November at the Sodality Union meeting and Sunday Sodality Mass, and discussed possibilities for upcoming charitable projects for the February and April 2015 meetings (will assist the Fisher Houses with donations at the November JNU meeting). The charitable groups discussed for future projects included (1) St. Martin's Ministries on the Eastern Shore of Maryland (staffed by a group of nuns who oversee a food bank, clothes distribution facility, and a shelter); (2) supporting with monetary donations the fundraising efforts of a Visitation Sister from Kenya who is in residence at Georgetown Visitation and raises money for a girls school back in Kenya; and (3) providing funds to cover art supplies for an artist who gives free art classes for elderly and disabled residents at Grosvenor Nursing Home and currently provides all of the supplies herself. They are to be the featured unit in the next Chantacleer, and will get their article to Julie MacDonald by the end of October.

E. Regina Coeli - Maureen Thomas and Patty will be the chairs of the unit. Their first meeting is Monday Sept. 22nd. They will review the calendar for the year and discuss the ongoing projects including the Giving Tree, collection of food every weekend for Assumption Parish and serving food to the students at the University of Maryland Catholic Student Center. We will also discuss any ideas for new projects. A very big thank you will go to Anne Yoeckel for her leadership of the unit with Maureen over the last two years. They will be collection and updating their contact info on the template at the meeting. Dues will also be collected.

F. St. Monica Unit – Suzie Shook will host their next meeting on October 7.

G. St. Gianna Unit – Julia L. had her baby and their August meeting was a shower for her and Michelle. It was well attended. They arranged meals for a member who lost her father. Their next meeting is the 22nd.

H. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit – Their first meeting is the 20th.

I. Associates – Ellen is working on getting from Fr. Geise what they will fundraise for in their annual mailer.

J. Junior Sodality - Kelley is pretty much going to run it like she did last year. She will be asking for volunteers to be the lead for some of the activities. For example have an 8th grade mother be the lead for All Souls and May Crowning, as well communicate that any of the mothers can host a meeting after school in addition to what is on the calendar if they are

interested in working with the girls. She will also be asking for someone to step in as a treasurer for Michele Andrews. First meeting will be October 1 while Sodality is at Mass and the girls will serve like last year. She will encourage the girls to attend the investiture and she is gathering the names. Kelley proposes that the essay contest be after spring break. She has tentatively put the essay contest down for Friday April 24th. It is a half day at school so it may be more convenient for the girls. Kelley could get the essays to Maria over the weekend and the reading committee could have a winner by May 2. Their second choice for a date is March 13th, also a half day.

Kelley also requests unit chairs to ask any of their members if they have an interest in running a Jr Sodality meeting. It would be a nice opportunity for the women of the parish to get involved with the girls development and devotion to Mary. It can be whenever the member would like.

V. Closing

The meeting closed with a prayer provided by Poupee. The next executive board meeting is October 15th.