

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2015

I. Opening

A. Co-President Ellen L. opened the meeting with the “Autumn Prayer.”

B. Anne F. moved that the minutes of the October board meeting be approved, Susie S. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

C. Fashion Show Planning Update - Maureen G., Fashion Show co-chair, reported on progress in planning the March 5, 2016, Fashion Show. Maureen and other members of the committee have met with the catering staff of Columbia Country Club (CCC) to discuss the meal for the luncheon. The CCC suggested that we serve vegetable quiche as the main course of the luncheon, with potatoes, salad, and a dessert medley including the CCC’s lemon pie. The parish’s credit card scanner will be used to sell tickets for the Fashion Show, and the committee determined that the cost of the tickets should remain at \$45. However, the cost of a Patron donation this year has been increased to \$20, up from the \$10 level that has existed for many years. Similarly, since the charges for the various sizes of program ads have remained the same for many years, the committee determined that it is appropriate at this time to increase the costs of all of the larger ads by \$25 but leave the quarter-page ad at \$75. This year, the program will also include a new category of personal ads through which individuals or families can express their support for the Sodality and the Fashion Show. The committee further recommended that each unit be tasked with identifying three businesses that have not previously advertised in the Fashion Show program (or have not advertised in the program in recent years) and soliciting those businesses to purchase ads. Ad sponsorship and in-kind donation forms will be available on the Sodality web site after the December General Meeting so that all Sodalists will be able to access them. The clothing vendor for the Fashion Show will be Etcetera. The committee is conferring with the vendor’s representative to see if she can come to the December General Meeting.

II. Old Business

A. Communion Breakfast - Ellen reported for Poupee N. on the outcome of the breakfast. The speaker, Glory D., gave an excellent talk on mercy that provided a very helpful introduction to the Year of Mercy that Pope Francis will proclaim in December. In order to implement the decision made at October’s Executive Board meeting, beginning in 2016, the Membership Chair will verify the parish membership status of all women who seek investiture into Sodality. Celestine K. reported that several members of the St. Gianna Unit expressed interest in obtaining copies of Glory’s talk. Poupee will be asked to facilitate that with Glory.

B. Funeral of former de Chantal School principal, Sr. Mary Donald - The board expressed its thanks to Patty B. for attending the funeral in Pennsylvania of St. Mary Donald. Although Patty was unable to attend the Executive Board meeting, she sent a written report about the funeral. She indicated that she was happy to represent the Sodality and the parish and noted that two Masses will be offered at de Chantal for the repose of Sister’s soul. It was also reported that Sister’s eulogy will likely be posted on the homepage of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill at www.scsch.org.

C. Spiritual Bouquet for Sodality Union's Christmas Offering to Pope Francis - The prayer tally is due to the Sodality Union on Friday, November 20, 2015. Prayers must be completed by the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2016. The John Neumann Unit reported that its members had pledged 30 Masses; 80 Rosaries; 5 recitations of the Prayer of St. Francis; 30 recitations of the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers; and one Sacrifice in satisfaction of a "Walking with Francis" pledge. The Regina Coeli Unit pledged 148 Our Father and Hail Mary prayers, 11 Rosaries, and one additional decade of the Rosary. The remaining units had not polled their members, but agreed to commit to the following tallies: St. Monica, 100 Rosaries and 30 Masses; St. Gianna, 100 Rosaries and 50 Masses; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 20 Rosaries and 80 Masses; the Christ Child Unit, 50 Rosaries; and the Associates, 43 Rosaries and 43 Masses.

III. New Business

A. Giving Tree - Plans for the Giving Tree are as follows: the label-making meeting will be held on November 19, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in Caulfield Hall; the trees with the gift tags will go up in the gathering space on November 28; and the gifts will be due by November 28. Kelley L. has indicated that several Junior Sodalists will come to the meeting with their mothers to assist with the label-making.

B. December 2, 2015, General Meeting - Unit responsibilities for the meeting were confirmed. John Neumann Unit members have volunteered to cover the various roles required to assist with the Mass, and the altar boys and organist for the liturgy have been confirmed (treasurer Anne F. will provide the gratuities for the altar boys and organist). The St. Monica Unit is coordinating refreshments for the meeting and will also provide paper goods and drinks. The Regina Coeli Unit will lead the Christmas craft-making session, in which we will make large, three-dimensional snowflakes to decorate the Fernwood Nursing Home. Sodalists who plan to participate should be reminded to bring staplers and scissors. No individual monetary donations are required for the craft materials. If the Fashion Show vendor is able to attend the meeting, arrangements will be made to display her wares.

C. Christmas Gifts to Parish Priests and Staff - The list of parish personnel who assist Sodality throughout the year was reviewed, and decisions were made concerning the gift cards Sodality will give to them for Christmas.

D. Upcoming Unit Responsibilities - The responsibilities for the following upcoming events were confirmed: the December 5, 2015, Sodality Union meeting will be covered by the St. Gianna Unit, the December 6 Sodality Mass will be covered by the St. Monica Unit, and the January 3, 2016, Sodality Mass will be covered by the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit.

E. Miscellaneous - Liz S. reported that Ellen had purchased a variety of much-needed kitchen implements and supplies for the Sodality closet in the parish kitchen. The board thanked Ellen for doing so.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect - Poupee was unable to attend the meeting and no report was made.

B. Treasurer - Anne provided an update on unit dues payment. Since her report at the October meeting, the St. Gianna Unit has forwarded dues for 11 members in two batches, the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit has forwarded dues for six members, and the Associates have forwarded dues for 26 members as well as donations totaling \$495. The Christ Child and Regina Coeli Units have not yet submitted their dues. Anne further reported that we received \$950 in payment for reservations for the November 1 Communion Breakfast, and that our expenses for the event totaled \$1,242.88, including charges for catering, flowers, signs, and the speaker honorarium. The caterer, Breakfasts and Brunches, was paid \$850 including tax, tip, and travel fees. It was noted that Breakfasts and Brunches has completed all the necessary Archdiocesan catering paperwork and is on retainer to the Archdiocese. If we wish to consider other caterers for next year's Communion Breakfast, we need to identify such businesses early next year in order for such caterers to complete the necessary vetting process.

C. Units

1. Christ Child Unit - Unit member Joan R. passed away in early November and her memorial service will likely held on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Unit member Mary P. is also reported to be very ill (Mary passed away the week after this board meeting). Two other unit members are in nursing care at Maplewood, and another is in a rehabilitation facility. These events have been difficult for the unit's members, and they are sad. On a positive note, an attendee at the Communion Breakfast expressed interest in joining the unit. The members who can will attend the tea at Maplewood Park Place that is being hosted by the Regina Coeli Unit in December to celebrate the members of the original Regina Coeli Unit. In the coming weeks, Gail Q. will try to organize a unit meeting of those members who are able to attend.

2. John Neumann Unit - The unit met on November 10, 2015, and welcomed a prospective new member. The group fulfilled its responsibilities at the November 1 Sodality Mass and the November 7 Sodality Union Meeting. The report of Lee M. and Mary H., who attended the Sodality Union meeting at Holy Family Catholic Church in Hillcrest Heights, MD, was summarized. The Sodality Union recognized the de Chantal Sodality with a certificate of appreciation for its participation in the Union's activities in the 2014-2015 year. The certificate was delivered to the Executive Board. At its November meeting, the unit collected financial and in-kind donations to support the art therapy program at the Bethesda Health and Rehab facility. The charity to be supported at the unit's next meeting in February will be St. Martin's Ministries on the Eastern Shore. The unit is considering various options for its Fashion Show raffle basket, including a "dine around the world" restaurant theme.

3. Regina Coeli - The unit is set to lead the Christmas craft at the December 2 General Meeting. Maureen W. is organizing the December tea at Maplewood Park Place in

honor of the original Regina Coeli Unit and the Christ Child Unit. Unit member Karen S.'s late husband will be honored on November 20 by his former Merrill Lynch colleagues with a reception and pancreatic cancer fundraiser - "Tuxes for Tony" - at Pike and Rose. All Sodalists are welcome.

4. St. Monica - The unit will be ready to provide refreshments for the December General Meeting. The members are working on updating their roster and are thinking about their Fashion Show raffle basket, which will be a restaurant basket like the one they donated last year. Unit Chair Susie S. will draft a Chanticleer article about the unit for the February issue.

5. St. Gianna - The unit met one week prior to the board meeting and is rotating its meeting night this year. Five people attended the most recent meeting, three of whom had not attended the first meeting of the year; it appears that rotating the meeting night is helping to draw broader overall attendance. So far, they have collected dues from 12 members. The December General Meeting will count as the unit's December meeting. St. Gianna's upcoming charitable projects include continuing to work with the Crossway Community that helps mothers with young children. In December, the unit will collect gently-used kitchen items and make care packages of sugar cookie ingredients and cookie cutters for the Crossway Community. The unit will also support a coat drive sponsored by the John Carroll Society. For their book discussion activity this year, the members have chosen the book *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - The unit plans to meet on Sunday, November 22.

7. Associates - Most of the Associates have sent in their dues, although it is expected that a few more will straggle in. Ellen has not had much response from the Associates concerning how they wish to be listed in the Sodality directory. She and Liz will work on this issue.

8. Junior Sodality - Three girls were invested at the Sodality Investiture Mass on November 1. The girls put up the November Wall of Remembrance at the school, and the group is scheduled to go caroling at Maplewood before Christmas. The Junior Sodalists will be invited to attend the December General Meeting and will help at that event. The group has a new treasurer and their Sodality dues are forthcoming. In January, the girls will make a meal for the homeless. Liz is working on confirming a date on which the Junior Sodalists can participate in a Sodality Union Mass and meeting.

V. Closing Prayer

Ellen led the board in the prayer "God of Seed and Harvest." The meeting was then adjourned.