

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2016

I. Opening

A. Co-President Liz S. opened the meeting with the Hail Mary.

B. Maureen W. moved that the minutes of the November board meeting be approved. Mary B. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

II. Old Business

A. Christmas gifts - Liz thanked Treasurer Anne F. for sending the Sodality's Christmas gifts to the parish staff.

B. December General Meeting - Co-Presidents Liz and Ellen L. thanked all the Sodalists who contributed to the success of the December General Meeting. In particular, they recognized the members of the Regina Coeli Unit for leading the Christmas craft-making session, in which Sodalists made large, paper-sculpture snowflakes that were donated to the Manor Care nursing home as holiday decorations. The staff of the nursing home expressed their gratitude for these decorations, noting that they made the halls of the facility very festive.

C. Giving Tree wrap-up - On behalf of the Giving Tree committee, Denise S. submitted a written report summarizing this year's Giving Tree experience. The 2015 Giving Tree project provided 902 gifts to 14 charities, two nursing homes, and the Sisters of Charity retirement home. Of this total, only 68 gifts had to be purchased by the Sodality after the gift drive to fulfill requests that were not undertaken by parishioners or for which the gifts were not returned by the deadline. Compared to the number of unfulfilled gift requests that Sodality satisfied after the fact when we undertook to provide more than 1,000 gifts to charities, it appears (based upon our experiences of the last three years) that capping our project at 900 gifts is more manageable. Most gifts this year were delivered to the charitable organizations by Tuesday, December 15, two days after the gift return deadline. The Giving Tree committee has received many lovely thank you notes from various charities that we assisted. (These have been posted in the Gathering Space of the church so that all parishioners can read them and see the impact of their generosity. A note thanking parishioners for their support of the project will also be published in the parish bulletin.) The Sodality's gross cost for this year's Giving Tree came to \$1,682.97, but thanks to two donations the project received totaling \$300, the final cost for the project was \$1,382.97. Denise noted that she had received an inquiry from a parishioner asking whether Sodality would accept monetary donations for the needs of the Giving Tree from persons unable to shop for specific requested gifts. Denise supports that idea and recommends it be incorporated into planning for the Giving Tree. Liz noted that the Giving Tree committee and the Executive Board will need to consider this issue and make a decision prior to implementation of next year's Giving Tree project.

D. Sodality Donut Social - Sodality will be the spotlighted parish ministry at the pizza/donut socials after all Masses on the weekend of February 20-21, 2016. Liz will contact Membership Chair Patty B. to obtain copies of Sodality's promotional materials for the event. Fashion Show co-chairs Maureen G. and Kathy K. agreed that we should sell tickets to the March 5 Fashion Show at this event. Volunteers from the Executive Board will be needed to staff the Sodality table at the socials and clean up after the event. Liz will send an electronic sign-up link to the board.

III. New Business

A. Fashion Show update - The committee has met several times and is working hard to contact last year's sponsors and add new ones. Each unit is asked to take responsibility to obtain ads from three new advertisers (or bring back old advertisers who have previously dropped out) for the Fashion Show program. Liz and Ellen and the Fashion Show co-chairs expressed their gratitude to website administrator Mary B. for posting the community partner letter and advertising/in-kind donation forms on the site for easy access by the members of Sodality. Fashion Show tickets will be sold after all the Masses on the weekends of February 6-7 and 14-15, 2016, in addition to the sales at the pizza and donut socials. A call for volunteers and a sign-up link will be e-mailed to the unit chairs for forwarding to all unit members in an effort to obtain coverage for ticket sales after all Masses. Unit ads must be confirmed with Fashion Show co-chair Maureen G. by February 10. Unit raffle baskets must be delivered to Karen S. between February 12 and 14.

B. Anniversary Brunch - Liz has been working with Father Giese to nail down a specific date in April for the Anniversary Brunch, which is held in the rectory dining room for celebrating couples after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. She has requested April 10 as a first choice and has suggested an alternate date of April 3 if the 10th does not work with Father Giese's schedule.

C. Upcoming Unit Responsibilities for the General Sodality - The Regina Coeli Unit will cover both the Sodality Union meeting on February 6 at St. Benedict the Moore parish in Northeast Washington, D.C., and the monthly Sodality Mass on February 7.

D. Mary Garden - Several years ago, arrangements were made for the group that handles landscaping services for the parish to tend to the landscaping needs of Sodality's Mary Garden. However, the current landscaping company is not tending to the garden. The parish Boy Scout troop is looking for a project and has offered to take over that responsibility; Sodalist Kim F. has raised this possibility with Father Giese. Liz and Ellen have proposed that the Boy Scout's parish liaison, Matt D., meet with Elin H., who created the concept of the Mary Garden and supervised its planting, and Joan W. to discuss how this landscaping project might be handled as an ongoing partnership between the scout troop and Sodality.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect - Poupee N. could not attend the meeting and so no report was provided.

B. Treasurer - Anne F. reported that the current balance in the treasury is \$12,584.85, after payment of the expenses for the Giving Tree. The St. Monica Unit has forwarded \$25 in dues so far from its membership. A check representing a bequest for support of the Christ Child Unit of Sodality from the estate of deceased Sodalist Jean S. was inadvertently made out to the parish; Sodality must contact the church's accountant to make arrangements for the amount of the bequest to be reimbursed

C. Units

1. Christ Child Unit - No report.

2. John Neumann - Former unit member Nan V., who had taken Associate status, is returning to the John Neumann Unit as an active member. Willie C., also an Associate, and parishioner Eva C. are considering joining the unit. John Neumann membership was well represented at the December General Meeting. The unit's next meeting will take place on February 9. The charitable project for that gathering will be providing monetary support for St. Martin's Ministries on the Eastern Shore. The group will once again place an ad in the Fashion Show program, and its raffle basket for the event will include restaurant gift certificates for a "Dine Around the World" theme.

3. Regina Coeli - The unit held a tea at Maplewood Park Place on December 6, 2015, for members of the original Regina Coeli Unit, many of whom now reside at Maplewood. Approximately 22 people attended, and the party brought much enjoyment to the guests. The unit also held its annual Christmas party in December. In February, the unit will come together at Karen A.'s house for its annual home Mass.

4. St. Monica - The unit provided refreshments for the December General Meeting and assisted in setting up for the event. Three members of the unit also covered medal/prayer card/gift-bearer responsibilities for the December Sodality Mass. The group is now focusing on what raffle prize it will provide for the Fashion Show.

5. St. Gianna - Celestine K. of the St. Gianna unit attended the Sodality Union meeting on December 5 at Mt. Calvary Catholic Church in Forestville, MD to represent the de Chantal Sodality. The unit has not met formally since its December meeting, but plans to meet again soon. In the meantime, members have been busy providing two weeks' worth of meals to help out the family of one of its members who recently had a new baby. This year, the unit members plan to read and discuss the book, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - The unit last met on November 22, 2015. The members discussed working with the group Dress for Success as a service project and selected a book for discussion this year. The group also has attracted some likely new members. On January 3, 2016, unit members handled responsibilities for the January Sodality Mass. In addition, the unit has submitted an article about its activities for publication in the *Chantacleer*. They plan to meet next on January 24 if they are not snowed out.

7. Associates - This year's donations by the Associates for their gift to the parish totaled \$990. This amount should cover the full cost of regilding of the tabernacle. The Sodality is now ready to present the check to Father Giese, and Liz will draft a cover letter for the gift. Ellen suggested that Sodality have a Mass said for each of the Associates who donated over \$50 toward the gift. A motion to this effect was made and seconded.

8. Junior Sodality - No report.

V. Miscellaneous

Discussion was had regarding how to acknowledge the bequest to Sodality by the estate of deceased Sodalist Jean S. and donations made to Sodality on behalf of deceased Sodalist Mary P. Ultimately, it was decided that these generous gifts would be noted in the *Chantacleer*.

VI. Following a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned.