



“Chantacleer” ● ● ●

St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Guild

Fall 2017

Executive Board

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Sodality Happenings

“And this will be a sign for you; you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12)

Dear SJC Sodalists,

It is that most special time of year again—where we encounter the amazement of the Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph, and poor shepherds adoring the newborn Child in a manger. When seriously contemplated, the angel’s announcement is joyfully overwhelming in its significance—*“for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10).*

The aim of every Sodalist is to love and serve Jesus through Mary, and live a way of life built on faith, hope, and charity. The women of our parish Sodality Guild help further God’s Kingdom by participating in a number of spiritual and social events. In doing so, they display Christian virtues, radiate healthy minds and hearts, and serve as leaders in their family, parish, and community settings.

Similar to the spiritual mission of ADW Sodality Union’s Executive Council as approved by the Archbishop of Washington—the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Sodality Guild Executive Board is entrusted to lead our group in a harmonious spirit of respect, cooperation, and generosity; to enhance our Sodalists’ spiritual life; and to inspire Sodalists’ to participate in the common good of God’s people.

On all these fronts, the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Sodality Guild is off to a beautiful start to our 2017–2018 year! All our units are volunteering their time, talents, and resources to supporting our parish, various charities, and one another in prayer, word, and deed. Our Executive Board is busy ensuring our events run smoothly. Our **Fall Mass and Lasagna Dinner General Meeting** was highly attended. There were 7 new Sodalists at this year’s November **Investiture Ceremony**. The **Communion Breakfast** featured **Mr. George Weigel**, an internationally renowned leader in the Catholic faith, as he shared his reflections and experiences as St. John Paul II’s official biographer. Many grateful thanks to **Karen Salah, Helen Bollwerk, Lee Malone, and Gail Quigley** for their leadership in these events.

We have several important upcoming activities. The first is the **Giving Tree** from 11/25–12/10/2017. Please be sure to select an ornament (or several!) and make someone’s Christmas season very special. Many thanks to both **Denise Sintetos** and **Colleen Hadigan** for leading this project and serving our parish, Sodality Guild, and the hundreds of poor, underprivileged, and needy in our community who will receive beautiful gifts this holiday season.



On the web, see us at
www.stjanedechantal.org/Sodality

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Sodality Happenings

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Our **December Mass, General Meeting, and Christmas Craft** is scheduled for Wednesday 12/6 @ 7pm. Please come join us for moving worship, holiday music, cookies, crafts, and fellowship in Christ! Following mass, we will have plenty of holiday cheer as **Regina Coeli Unit** leads us in a fantastic craft for donation to an area charity.

Please also join us at our monthly **Sodality Sunday** 10:00 am masses where St. Jane de Chantal Sodality affirm their commitment to Jesus and Mary in unified prayer with one another: 12/3/17, 1/7/18, 2/4/18, and 3/4/18. Our **Fashion Show** is scheduled for 12:00 pm March 3, 2018 at Columbia Country Club. Many thanks to **Cathy Johnson**, Fashion Show Chair, and **Anne Marie Fejka**, Reservation Chair, for their devoted leadership.

Our Sodality Guild does face some challenges. As an organization, we cannot thrive without volunteers consistently coming forward to serve in the model of Mary's 'fiat'. **A number of positions continue to remain available:** Co-President, Fashion Show Co-Chair, and Fashion Show Reservation Co-Chair. If these positions interest you, please contact me.

Fr. John McKay is retiring at the end of November. Fr. McKay served our parish for 8 years and led our parish's Hospital Ministry program. We are extraordinarily grateful for his tireless leadership and service to St. Jane's Parish and our Sodality Guild and will miss him greatly. Two priests will not be able to do the work of three priests, and as such—Sodality members and Executive Board members must come together in unity to help our Pastor so our parish is a place where Christ's love for neighbor is fully realized.

Dr. Carhart, a nationally prominent late-term abortionist, has opened a practice in Wildwood Medical Plaza. Please do all you can to pray for

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Update: Abortion Clinic Events

As you may be aware, Dr. LeRoy Carhart, a nationally prominent late-term abortion provider, moved into Wildwood Medical Center Building at 10401 Old Georgetown Road in mid-October. The lease is now one of lengthy duration and our community is beginning a period of extended witness to the dignity of life. **Fr. Geise has prepared a parish response, to begin with a Witness to Life Mass and Rosary Prayer procession on December 10, 2017.** The day is sponsored by the **Archdiocese of Washington's Department of Life Issues** (prolife@adw.org or 301-853-5318).

Information is summarized below. **Sodalists are highly encouraged to attend some or all of the planned events.**

What: Witness to Life Information Session, Mass, and Rosary Procession

When/Where: Sunday, December 10, 2017 at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church

ADW Department of Life Information Session:
11:15–11:45 am in Church

Witness to Life Mass: 12:00 pm in Church

Rosary Procession to Wildwood Clinic: 1:00–2:00 pm

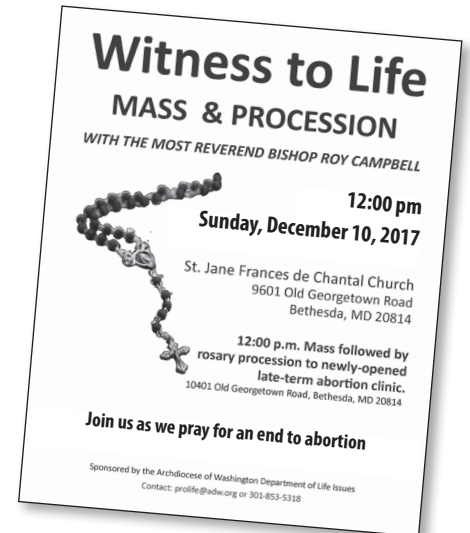
Rosary Procession back to Church: 2:00–3:00 pm

Who: *Archdiocese of Washington Department of Life Issues* will provide educational information to our parish about fighting abortion and how we can witness to life. **The Most Reverend Bishop Roy Campbell will be the presider at the 12:00 pm Mass.**

Prayer: Witnessing to life is a moral responsibility of all Christians. As St. Jane Frances de Chantal parish is the closest Catholic organization to Dr. Carhart's clinic, our parishioners are being called to fulfill this responsibility. Sodality members are asked to support the fight against abortion in whatever capacity they are able: i.e. masses, parish events, community and individual prayer, letter-writing, etc. While not all may have a call to walk in the prayer protest, it is expected that some form of increased prayer take place. Many humble thanks for your help and assistance in this noble effort.

“A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world.”

– St. John Paul II



From the Prefect

Dear Sodalists,

The 2017–18 year for Sodalists has many opportunities for friendship, fellowship, prayer and helping those in need, both physically and spiritually. One of the most comforting and prayerful rituals of the Catholic faith is the Rosary. It was given to St. Dominic by the Blessed Virgin Mary as a powerful means of conversion. We channel our prayers through Mary and Jesus to ask God's blessing. We need to be apostles of Mary, living Christian lives and praying for others. In this most holy season of Advent, please look for opportunities to pray the Rosary.

Another famous prayer that is unique to this season is the St. Andrew Christmas Novena. The first apostle called by Our Lord was St. Andrew, who then got his brother Peter to become Jesus' disciple too. The feast day of St. Andrew is November 30, which marks the start of a new liturgical year and the start of Advent. The Advent season is a time of anticipation, penance and prayer, and St. Andrew's Christmas Novena is a beautiful way to experience the holiness of Christmas. The Novena began over 100 years ago in Ireland, and is prayed for all four weeks of Advent (Nov.30–Dec 24). It is believed that whoever cites the Christmas Novena Prayer 15 times a day will obtain the favor requested. You can use your rosary beads to keep count of the prayers—one full decade, plus half of the next.

St. Andrew Christmas Novena

***Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which
the Son of God was born***

Of the most pure Virgin Mary,

at Midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, I Beseech Thee, O my God,

***to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of
Our Savior Jesus Christ,***

and of His blessed Mother. Amen

Please check St. Jane de Chantal's website and the church bulletin for events sponsored by Sodality. Please bring your friends so people can see what great things are happening. I wish all of you and your families peace, health and happiness this year and every year.

Sincerely,

– Karen E. Salah, Prefect 2017–2018



Join the Witness to Life Mass & Procession

Sodality Happenings

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this intention, and generously donate your time and talents to whatever parish and unit events may be scheduled in this regard.

Despite these challenges, we know the angel's good news ***"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord"***, (Luke 2:11) provides all that is needed to move forward in faith, hope, and love.

In closing, I wish to thank each and every one of you for the precious gift of your presence in our organization. No matter if you serve in big or small ways, your service is a blessing and immensely treasured. While this is an extraordinarily busy time of year, we always have time to say a prayer for one another and to greet each other with the spirit of Christmas joy. Please be assured of my prayers of thanksgiving to God for each of you and the beauty you bring to St. Jane de Chantal parish. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

– Emma Kurnat-Thoma,
President 2017–2018

ADW Pastoral Letter

On November 1, 2017, Archbishop Donald Cardinal Wuerl released a letter on racism that is extremely powerful and insightful. The letter challenges us to recognize and address the sins of racism. In his letter, he notes that harmony as a human family is core to our beliefs as Catholics, and our faith calls us to confront and overcome racism. A wound to that unity is the persistent evil of racism. Racism can be subtle as well as direct. To address racism, Cardinal Wuerl notes that we must recognize it exists, and that there is something we can do about it by clearly rejecting it. All God's children were made in

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Update: John Neumann Unit

The John Neumann Unit ("JNU"), currently 18 members strong and composed of women who come from a variety of life and professional experiences, continues to be an active and enthusiastic component of the St. Jane de Chantal Sodality. This year, two of our members serve in leadership positions on the Sodality Executive Board. Our shared belief in and support of the Sodality's missions of faith and charity bind us together and have helped us to forge wonderful friendships that have endured and grown closer over the years.

The JNU meets four times during the Sodality year, usually at a member's home, in addition to supporting the General Sodality at its quarterly meetings. We begin each unit meeting with the recitation of a Rosary that we dedicate to the special intentions expressed by the members of the unit. This special communal prayer helps us to focus on the primary reason we are Sodalists and fosters our special devotion to the Blessed Mother. During the business meeting that follows, we plan how we will support the General Sodality's spiritual and charitable efforts, and we also carry out our own charitable projects.

At each JNU meeting, we collect funds and needed supplies for donation to various charities and Catholic religious organizations. In several instances, these are groups with which we feel a special connection because our members are already involved in their efforts. Over the last several years, the JNU's charitable projects have included providing baby clothes and supplies to Birthright of Montgomery County; monetary donations and "wish list" items to the Little Sisters of the Poor of Washington, D.C.; monetary donations to St. Martin's Ministries on the Eastern Shore, the St. Martin's Cloak Guild of de Chantal parish, and the Misericordia community in Chicago that provides care for developmentally challenged persons; food items and household supplies to the Fisher House Complex at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, which houses the families of wounded warriors while their loved ones are treated at the hospital; and monetary donations and art supplies to the Bethesda Health and Rehabilitation Center. After we conclude the business meeting with a closing prayer, we enjoy our social time together, sampling the always tasty array of treats provided by the members and catching up with each other's news. We members of the JNU feel extremely blessed to be part of the spiritual fellowship and charitable work of the General Sodality and of our close-knit unit.

– Helen Bollwerk, John Neumann Unit

ADW Pastoral Letter

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God's likeness. There is no basis that someone is made more in God's image than another. The call to Unity is rooted in grace, and through Christ we are one. His Eminence asks us to renew the commitment to drive racism out of our hearts and communities. The letter is attached or you can reference it at the web address below. As Sodalists, we can accept this challenge and view all human beings as equal and in the image of Christ.

<http://adw.org/november-2017-pastoral-letter/>

– Summary prepared by
Patty Bubar, Regina Coeli Unit

We're on the Web!
See us at www.stjanedechantal.org/Sodality