

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2018

I. Opening

A. Prefect Kate B. led the board in the *Memorare*.

B. Maureen W. moved that the minutes of the May 2018 executive board meeting be approved. Tracy M. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.

II. Old Business

A. Executive Board composition for 2018-19

1. The President's position on the board remains unfilled. No volunteers have come forward despite recruiting efforts. In the absence of a President, Prefect Kate B., Secretary Helen B., and Treasurer Lee M. are working together to fulfill the President's responsibilities.

2. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit Chair position – Liz S. reported that she will fill this role on a temporary basis.

3. Executive Board Contact List – A final review was conducted of the Executive Board contact list for 2018-19 and the listing was approved.

B. Unit Responsibility List – The unit responsibility list for the 2018-19 Sodality year, which was compiled by the board at the May meeting and previously circulated to the board electronically, was approved.

C. Draft Sodality Calendar for 2018-19 and plan for the coming year

1. Sodality Retreat – Kate has conferred with Sally D. about possible speakers for a Sodality retreat to be held in November in lieu of a Communion Breakfast. Among speakers under consideration are the Moderator of the Sodality Union, Father Pawal Sass, and author and speaker Rose Folsom, who has given presentations sponsored by the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. Ms. Folsom is giving a talk on September 22 at the St. John Paul II National Shrine, where Kate plans to speak with her. The board will discuss this matter further at the October board meeting. In connection with the decisions to be made concerning programs Sodality may sponsor this year, Kate has also begun to explore ideas for a Morning of Recollection in March and has approached Sodalist Colleen H. about giving a talk concerning her experiences with international adoption.

2. Fashion Show – Tracy M. and Karen S. have agreed to co-chair the 2019 Sodality Fashion Show, to be held on March 2 at the Columbia Country Club. They will meet with last year's chair, Cathy J., shortly to confer with her and receive the materials she has compiled for them. The country club has been reserved for the event date and a deposit has been paid. Cathy has also confirmed with the vendor *Irresistibles* that it will provide the clothes for the show. A new member of the St. Monica unit, Susan K., has volunteered to handle reservations for the event. Tracy and Karen explained that this year's fashion show will be a lower key event; they plan to focus on the fellowship side of the afternoon more than the fundraising aspect of the event program. While they will happily accept ads from local businesses with which the parish already has a connection, they will not aggressively solicit new

advertisers. Sodality units will continue to provide theme baskets for the raffle, but they will not have to pay for the ads they submit for the program. After Tracy and Karen hold the first organizational meeting of their committee, they will have more details to share.

3. Communion Breakfast – Whether Sodality will sponsor this event in November depends on the decision to be made regarding whether to hold a Sodality retreat instead. See discussion above.

4. Morning of Recollection – Whether Sodality will sponsor this event is also dependent on the decisions to be made concerning a Communion Breakfast and a retreat. See discussion above.

5. Investiture of new members – This year’s investiture will take place at the December General Meeting Mass. Kate and former prefect Karen S. will discuss the documents that need to be prepared for the ceremony. The names of new unit members who wish to be invested into Sodality should be submitted to Kate by the unit chairs. In order to further publicize Sodality and recruit new members, executive board officers and/or the membership chair will need to attend the various new parishioner meetings organized by the parish.

D. Sodality tithe to the parish – Lee reported that in July 2018, Sodality delivered a 10 percent tithe of \$3,450 to the parish.

E. New *Madonna della Strada* statue for the Mary Garden

1. The board expressed its thanks to former Sodality President Emma K-T for all her efforts to identify and obtain an appropriate statue of the Blessed Mother for the Mary Garden. The *Madonna della Strada* statue is now in place and is a beautiful addition to the parish campus. The board also expressed its thanks to parishioner Jose P. for installing the statue in the Mary Garden at no cost. Helen will send thank you notes on behalf of Sodality to Emma and Jose P. We will also explore with Father Giese whether he would like to bless the new statue.

2. When the executive board voted to purchase the new statue, the members also agreed that a dedication plaque should be affixed to the base of the statue reflecting that it is a gift of Sodality. Kate will research vendors that may be able to create the plaque. Any suggestions for specific language for the plaque should be provided to Kate.

3. The plantings in the Mary Garden need more regular upkeep. The description of the garden on the Sodality webpage provides a good explanation of the original plan for the garden and the types of plants that are included because of their connections to Mary. The board discussed various ideas concerning how to improve the tending of the garden, including requesting help from the Cub Scouts or Girl Scouts or from the Junior Sodality. It was also noted that the parish is in the process of organizing a garden club to work on other gardening projects on the campus. Maureen offered to reach out to Elin H., who planned and supervised the construction of the garden, to discuss the project with her, and Tracy offered to confer with her Junior Sodality co-chair Amy K. about having the girls help with the gardening.

F. Project Gabriel sign on parish grounds – At the May 2018 executive board meeting, the board approved a letter to Father Giese from Sodality seeking his approval for the erection of a sign on the parish grounds expressing support for Project Gabriel. The sign would be provided

by Project Gabriel. Emma K-T gave Father the letter after the last Parish Council meeting before the summer break. Since we have not received an answer concerning this request, Lee offered to ask Father about its status after the September Parish Council meeting.

III. New Business

A. October 3rd General Meeting

1. Mass – This Mass is staffed by the executive board. Bobby S. has been confirmed as the organist for all of our General Meeting Masses this year. Mary Margaret M. will serve as cantor for the Mass, and Gail Q. will serve as lector. Helen will draft general intention petitions for the Mass. Katie M. and Barny B. will act as altar servers. Kate will set up the medals and prayer cards table in the gathering space, and Sodalists who are available will help hand out the medals and cards. Nan V. has volunteered to serve as captain for the Mass and will set up the processional table and cups. Kate and Helen will be the gift bearers, and Tracy and Helen will serve as Eucharistic Ministers.

2. Lasagna Dinner – The dinner is open to all interested women in the parish, and we will use it as a recruitment tool. Membership chair Patty B. will bring informational materials about Sodality to have on display for prospective new members. Attendees will be asked to bring a non-perishable food item to supplement the weekly collection of food for the Shrine of the Sacred Heart food pantry. Maureen will contact Kathy P. about delivery arrangements for the food donations. Karen S. and Gina C. are in charge of the dinner itself. They will order meat and vegetarian lasagna, salad, and bread from Mama Lucia's and purchase red and white wine. We have an ample supply of paper goods and bottled water in the Sodality closet. Tracy will purchase cookies and brownies for dessert. Karen will purchase mums for table centerpieces. Maureen will act as our food supervisor, and Gina will be our certified bartender.

B. October Sodality Union Meeting – Because this meeting celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Sodality Union and is being observed with a special Mass at the National Shrine, we are treating it as open to all interested Sodalists and have not assigned a unit to attend. The first assigned Sodality Union meeting will be in November.

C. October 7 Sodality Sunday Mass responsibilities – The John Neumann Unit is responsible for distributing medals and prayer cards and serving as gift bearers for the October 7 Sodality Sunday Mass.

D. John Neumann Unit proposal to publish list of important Marian feast days – The John Neumann Unit has proposed that the General Sodality more generally publicize the important feasts of the Blessed Mother by publishing a list of them in the *Chanticleer* and including them on the Sodality webpage. Sodalists Mary H. and Willie C-L have offered to put together the list. After discussion of the proposal, Maureen moved that the list of Marian feasts be added to both the *Chanticleer* and the webpage. Tracy seconded the motion, and it passed without objection.

E. Proposal to change the start time of executive board meetings – Helen pointed out that because of commuting issues and family obligations, a number of members of last year's executive board had difficulty arriving by the 7:00 p.m. start time that has been observed for the last several years. She proposed moving the start time of the meeting to 7:30 p.m., noting that

the John Neumann Unit had made a similar change to its meeting time this year to better accommodate its members. After discussion of the proposal, Maureen moved that the start time of executive board meetings be moved to 7:30 p.m. Tracy seconded the motion, and it passed without objection.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect – Kate indicated that she had addressed the issues she wished to raise at earlier points in the meeting (see above).

B. Treasurer – Lee reported that the balance in the Sodality treasury as of September 17, 2018, was \$31,047.41. She noted that the Sodality's financial statement for the 2017-18 fiscal year was submitted to the parish office in July along with the payment of the tithes (see above). Income received by Sodality in the 2017-18 year included membership dues collections of \$810, Fashion Show earnings of \$8,776.41, and Plant Sale earnings of \$6,076.94. The major expenses of the year were as follows: Communion Breakfast - \$2,220.50; Anniversary Brunch - \$689.80; gifts - \$1,500; Giving Tree - \$598.84; Junior Sodality Scholarship - \$2,500; Morning of Recollection - \$414.44; contributions to parish and Sodality Union - \$4,180; and purchase of the *Madonna della Strada* statue - \$4,330. Due to the purchase of the statue, we ended the fiscal year with a net loss of \$1,809.67.

C. Units

1. Christ Child – The unit meets on a quarterly basis now, and it ended the 2017-18 year with a lunch at the Columbia Country Club. They recently lost a member with the death of Susan T. They have sent Mass cards to her family, and the board will do so on behalf of the General Sodality as well. The group's first meeting of the new year will be next Thursday, at which time the members will discuss their project for the year.

2. John Neumann Unit – The unit held its first meeting of the year last week and collected donations of supplies for the Fisher Houses. The members reviewed the unit's responsibilities for the year and volunteered for the various tasks. As noted above, members Mary H. and Willie C-L proposed that the General Sodality publicize the major Marian feast days and volunteered to provide a list of these dates for consideration by the board. In follow-up to the discussion held at the May General Meeting about the future of Sodality and the ongoing difficulty of finding volunteers to serve in leadership positions, the unit discussed the changing nature of Sodality's responsibilities to the parish, noting that some of the functions Sodality served in years past are now fulfilled by organizations such as the Parish Council. The group also questioned whether Sodality has emphasized fundraising too much in recent years instead of focusing on enriching the spiritual lives of its members.

3. Regina Coeli – The unit held its first meeting the night before the executive board meeting and discussed a number of projects for the coming year. The members will coordinate the Christmas craft for the December General Meeting, sponsor a Christmas Tea at Maplewood Park Place for the women residing there, provide dinner for University of Maryland students at the university's John Neumann Center in February, chair the parish Anniversary Brunch again this year, and continue to lead the Rosary for interested Sodalists and parishioners in the church every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. In addition, the group plans to hold a unit Christmas party at the home of one of its members, as well as a home Mass in

January or February. A member of the unit has also volunteered to serve as the Sodality webmaster, if needed.

4. St. Monica – The unit closed the last Sodality year by holding a home Mass celebrated by Father Burney and hosted by one of its new members. The group will hold its first meeting of this year next Wednesday evening. At that time, they will assign the various tasks for which the unit is responsible this year and set a date for a service project at the DC Diaper Bank.

5. St. Gianna – The unit has two new co-chairs this year who will share leadership responsibilities. The group's first meeting will be next Friday, at which time the members will map out their year.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – At the unit's final meeting of last year, the members who attended discussed surveying the group for ideas concerning how to better structure the unit and focus its plans for the 2018-19 year. In August, the unit held a parish-wide drive for school supplies for the religious education program at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart. The drive was very successful and received many contributions of much-needed items. When the group holds its first meeting this year, the members plan to discuss how best to staff the unit's responsibilities, including identifying those who will be responsible for communicating internally and externally on behalf of the unit, and consider possible new meeting times to facilitate members' attendance.

7. Associates – No report.

8. Junior Sodality – Tracy M. and Amy K. will continue to serve as adult co-chairs for the group this year. Their first meeting will be held on October 19, and Tracy and Amy have sent several emails to solicit new members among the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls. During the year, the girls will continue their work with Bethesda Cares and the Yellow Ribbon Society, and Amy is exploring the possibility that the girls may be able to establish pen pal relationships with some of the elderly women residing at Maplewood Park Place.

V. Closing Prayer

Kate led the board in the *Hail Mary* to close the meeting.