

Sodality Executive Board Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2018

I. Opening

A. Prefect Kate B. led the board in the prayer *Hail, Holy Queen*.

B. Judith S. moved that the minutes of the September 2018 executive board meeting be approved. Lee M. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.

II. Old Business

A. Composition of 2018-19 executive board – Anne G. has volunteered to serve as webmaster this year. Karen S. will assist her with this task. They will consult with former webmaster Mary B. about what needs to be done. Items to be posted to the Sodality web page should be emailed to Anne and Karen.

B. Sodality calendar of events for 2018-19 – After contacting a potential speaker for our November event, Kate determined that her presentation would be more appropriate for a Communion Breakfast rather than a retreat. Therefore, it was decided that we will hold our traditional Communion Breakfast on November 4 rather than a retreat. See discussion below.

C. Mary Garden

1. Status of plaque acquisition to commemorate donation of *Madonna della Strada* statue – Kate has researched options for plaques, and there are basically three tiers of such markers. The first tier consists of markers of faux stone in the nature of a memorial marker; these generally cost about \$500 to \$900. The second tier of markers consists of simple metal plaques mounted on posts to raise them up from the ground and make them more easily readable; these generally cost between \$130 and \$200. The third tier of plaques, which are similar in design to those of the second tier, can be found on ETSY for more reasonable rates – generally between \$30 and \$60. The consensus of the board was that our plaque purchase should be made from the more reasonable options. Kate will do further research on the ETSY options and provide more information about them at the next board meeting.

2. Status of effort to refresh the plantings in the Mary Garden – Kate has spoken with eighth grade teacher Mrs. K. about the possibility of eighth grade students receiving service hour credit for weeding the garden under supervision. Mrs. K. was amenable to that idea. Gail Q. and Ellen L. offered to coordinate the weeding project on a Saturday in November. The Junior Sodality may also wish to participate in the project, and Helen B. will email Junior Sodality moderator Tracy M. to ascertain that group's interest in taking part. There will be another opportunity for students to participate in the project in the spring, when we will undertake to add new plantings to the garden after conferring with garden designer Elin H. about what plants would be appropriate to add.

D. Status of request to Father Giese for permission to display sign supporting Project Gabriel on parish campus – Lee has sent an email to Father Giese asking about this issue and is awaiting his response.

E. October 3, 2018 General Meeting – The first General Sodality meeting of the year on October 3 was well attended. Approximately 55 women came to the Mass, lasagna dinner, and business meeting. We conducted a successful food collection to obtain non-perishable items for the food pantry of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, and the items were placed in the collection basket in the gathering space of the church for pick-up and delivery to the Shrine the following day. Unfortunately, the food disappeared from the gathering space sometime during the morning of October 4 before the items could be picked up. Efforts by church staff to find the missing food were unsuccessful, and Father Giese has been informed of the disappearance.

III. New Business

A. November 4, 2018 Communion Breakfast – Kate has secured Rose Folsom to serve as the speaker for our Communion Breakfast after the 10:00 a.m. Sodality Sunday Mass. Her presentation, which will last approximately 45 to 60 minutes, will be “How to Cultivate the Garden of Your Soul (with Three ‘Must Have’ Virtues).” The breakfast should end at approximately 1:00 p.m. An announcement for the event will begin running in the parish bulletin this weekend. Rather than use a caterer, we will bring in prepared food from Balducci’s and Costco as a more cost-effective alternative. Father Giese has been apprised of the plan and agrees with it. (We will need a ServSafe-certified person on hand to supervise the food preparation and serving.) Kate will order and pick up the food. The cost of the breakfast will be \$25 per person, and interested persons may make reservations through Faith Direct or by sending their checks to Helen by the November 2 deadline. Lee and Helen will handle guest check-in at the door. We will need volunteers for set-up, food preparation, serving, and clean-up. Kate will set up a SignUpGenius link for this purpose, and Helen will include it in an email for unit chairs to send to their members to remind them about the breakfast and solicit their participation. Gail Q. has volunteered to make the floral arrangements for the breakfast.

B. Upcoming Sodality Union responsibilities – The Regina Coeli Unit will represent our Sodality at the Sodality Union meeting on November 3 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Washington, DC. At present, the Sodality Union has provided no information about the starting time for the liturgy or the meeting itself. The November Sodality Union meeting traditionally has honored deceased Sodalists, so we will provide Susan T.’s name to the Union so that she may be remembered at the Mass.

C. November Sodality Sunday Mass – The Christ Child Unit will handle medals/prayer cards distribution and gift bearer responsibilities for the Sodality Sunday Mass on November 4.

D. Time and Talent Fair – The Parish Council has now proposed holding the Time and Talent Fair in November. More information will be forthcoming, and volunteers will be needed to staff the Sodality table.

E. Status of John Neumann Unit proposal to publicize Marian feast days in the *Chantacleer* and on the Sodality web page – Mary H. of the John Neumann Unit has researched the major Marian feast days and is preparing a document summarizing the dates that can be posted to the web page and included in the *Chantacleer*.

F. Miscellaneous

1. The investiture of new Sodalists will take place during the Mass at the General Meeting on December 5. Unit chairs should forward Kate the names of their members who wish to be invested as soon as possible. Helen will include a reminder concerning this in the email she sends to the unit chairs about the Communion Breakfast.

2. Kate and former Sodality president Liz S. will confer about arranging access for Kate to Sodality's shared document library.

3. Tracy M. indicated in a written report that she and Karen S. will be meeting soon about plans for the March 2, 2019 Fashion Show, but they already have volunteers to help with models, registration, and publicity.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect – Kate indicated that she had addressed all of the issues she wished to discuss earlier in the meeting (see above).

B. Treasurer – Lee reported that the balance in the treasury as of the date of the executive board meeting is \$30,183.96. To date, reimbursements of expenses for the lasagna dinner total \$848.45; however, there are still outstanding expenses for desserts that need to be reimbursed. The John Neumann Unit has paid its dues to the General Sodality for this year. Lee noted that the recent parish financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, contained incorrect information in certain respects about Sodality's finances. Sodality paid \$4,330 for the *Madonna della Strada* statue for the Mary Garden, and also contributed a tithe to the parish of \$3,630 in July 2017. In addition, donations to Sodality to support the December 2017 Giving Tree totaled \$1,315, rather than \$1,915 as indicated in the report.

C. Units

1. Christ Child – The unit has met since the September executive board meeting. They have an active core group of eight women, as well as a couple of members who are unable to leave their homes to attend meetings. They have collected their annual dues and plan to add the St. Michael Archangel prayer to their regular prayer roster. The unit had a good turnout for the October General Meeting and lasagna dinner. Their next meeting will be in February, and the unit members plan to help Gail with the centerpieces for the Fashion Show in March.

2. John Neumann – The unit has not met since the September executive board meeting and has nothing new to report.

3. Regina Coeli – Five people attended the unit’s monthly parish Rosary recitation in the church on Wednesday, October 10. The unit had good attendance at the October General Meeting and lasagna dinner, and has finalized its plans for representing the Sodality at the Sodality Union meeting on November 3. Regina Coeli members will help with the Giving Tree label-making meeting on November 15, and they are working on plans for their annual Christmas tea for women residing at Maplewood Park Place. Karen A. of the unit will lead the Christmas craft activity at the December General Meeting, and the unit will celebrate the holidays with a Christmas party at the home of member Kathy K. on December 7.

4. St. Monica – The unit held its first meeting of the year at Kerry M.’s house and assigned duties for the first part of the year. They discussed the upcoming investiture, and Tracy M. will soon send Kate the names of any members who wish to be invested this year. The group is set to provide food for the December General Meeting. They plan to have their next unit meeting in the December/January time frame.

5. St. Gianna – The unit held its first meeting on September 28, and the members discussed their overarching goals for the year. They plan to focus this year on increasing membership and involvement in the unit by reaching out to members who have not participated recently and by bringing in new members, as well as by holding one or two events to increase unit engagement. Ideas for such events included a home Mass, a holiday party, and/or a play date during Lent during which members could go to confession while their children play in the basement of the church under the supervision of other unit members.

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – The unit has sent out a survey to its members to develop information about the best dates for its meetings, measure members’ interest and willingness to cover various responsibilities, and solicit suggestions for the book the members will read and discuss this year. The group had a good turnout for the October General Meeting, and five members were able to stay for the lasagna dinner. Champa S. delivered to the Shrine of the Sacred Heart the school supply donations parishioners contributed during the unit’s drive on behalf of the children’s Faith Formation program at the Shrine. The supplies were very warmly received and are much appreciated by the staff of the program.

7. Associates – The group has a potential new member for investiture. Ellen L. is waiting to hear from Father Giese about his ideas for this year’s financial gift to the parish by the Associates.

8. Junior Sodality – The group will hold its first meeting of the year on Friday, October 19. They are looking forward to a busy year.

V. Closing Prayer

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