



# Saint Michael the Archangel SODALITY NEWS

*“To Jesus Through Mary” – Behold Your Mother*



Volume 1, Issue 4

September 2021

**WELCOME!** We would like to invite you to give a written testimony. Has Mary interceded for you? Has your life changed because of your relationship with Mary and her son, Jesus? This is an opportunity for you to share your story which we were called to do. Think about those who might be moved when they hear from you. We can provide help with writing if needed. Email or call Janice ([janicehamiltonouttz@gmail.com](mailto:janicehamiltonouttz@gmail.com); 301 502-5367).



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FELLOW SODALISTS:

### July

Sharon Majorowitz-July 12      Cheryl Chesser- July 13  
Cynthia Lewis-July 22      Chanda Chola-July 22  
Gertrude Nwachukwu- July 28

### August

Mary Jane Elridge-August 4      Debra Rodney-September 5  
Angela King-August 5      Joyce Sterling-September 19  
Helena Kobbah-August 19      Frances Gapp-September 24  
Elena R. Morris-August 28

### September



## CHECKING IN WITH OUR SODALIST AND FRIENDS ...

**Please keep the following Sodalists and Friends in your prayers:**

Joyce Bridgewater	Ann Jackson and Husband
Jacqueline Stines	Basil Jackson
Sister Kathleen Keller, SNJM	Barbara Rigsby
Deacon Ron Ealey	Mary Jane Eldridge
Deacon Curtis Rodney	Mary Ferber
Joseph Morris (Husband of Elena Morris)	Elsie Pemberton and Family
Paul Molloy (Husband of Jane Molloy)	Sonia Melendez and Husband Benny Melendez

## THOUGHTS ABOUT THE BLESSED VIRGIN MOTHER AND WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON—A TESTIMONY

By Janice Hamilton Outtz

I was first attracted to the Sodality by the women of Holy Comforter – Saint Cyprian Catholic Church in Washington, DC. I liked what I saw in those women. At first, I didn't know what it was about them that made me take notice, but I came to realize it was their love and respect for the Blessed Virgin and, of course, her son, Jesus. So, I joined the Sodality and learned a lot; things like, the Sodality holds the Blessed Virgin up as the highest ideal of womanhood and that Christ is the Center of the Sodality's devotion. After a while, I came to St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church and saw something very similar in the Sodalist here. I wanted to be a part—to *belong*. I was struggling. So, I joined the Sodality at St. Michael's. I had work to do so I prayed and tried my best to work on an even more personal relationship with Mary—the rosary every day, daily Mass often and prayers. She is the mother of **God**, I kept reminding myself. It was a difficult time for me.

At some point, while praying to Mary and trying to connect, I started thinking about what we had in common. I needed to connect to Mary, the woman, the mother. I came up with these connections:

- We were both young mothers (she was a mother at an earlier age than me though).
- Our first born were both boys—Jesus and Jabari.
- We doted on our sons! Yes, I know she did as I did.
- I grew up poor, not as poor as Mary, but poor by Louisiana standards.
- She loved her family as was evident by her traveling while pregnant to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. I love my family dearly and will do

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## A TESTIMONY

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- anything for them.
- I loved how she pulled rank at the wedding at Canaan when they ran out of wine. She told her son “They have no more wine.” When he said, “what does that have to do with me?” I am more than a little sure, she gave him that “look.” I smile just thinking about it. I gave my son the “look” often in church and he would immediately straighten up. When Mary gave Jesus the “look,” she followed by saying to those around him, “do whatever he tells you.” No more words were needed. Powerful!!!
  - Mary’s son was killed tragically and so was mine, both, at the age of 32. Mary was devastated and so was I. I prayed even more to Mary for her to intercede to her Son for me, *for my life*.
  - Mary consoled the disciples after Jesus’ death. I consoled my son’s friends when they called upon me after he was taken away. It was an unbelievably hard time.

Yes, I’ve gotten closer to Mary, but I still have a way to go. I can testify that Mary heard my prayers and interceded on my behalf. I am here 12 years later after my son was taken away because of God’s grace and Mary’s intercession. I am here five years after my husband of 44 years passed. I am grateful beyond words and will continue to work to build my relationship with Mary and of course, her son. I pray for the courage of Mary. I pray for the trust of Mary. I pray for the faith of Mary. We saw all these things in her life. I will continue to pray for Mary’s love and for her to intercede on my behalf to her son. I believe now more than ever, **God Has a Plan** even for me.



## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

By Joyce Sterling

**A**s we look back over the past year, we have truly been through trying times. We have been confronted with circumstances that have tested both our stamina and our faith. Health concerns, deaths, political turmoil, and natural disasters have plagued both our country and the entire world. Despite these trying times, the St. Michael’s Sodality has continually offered many opportunities for Sodalists to connect with each other and with our community to increase our devotion to our Blessed Mother.

In the spring of 2020, the St. Michael the Archangel Sodality extended an invitation to our church community to pray a Novena to Our Lady of Monte Berico to pray for an end to the pandemic and for victims of the coronavirus pandemic and for the protection of others especially health care and essential workers. Our Lady of Monte Berico stopped a plague that was ravishing Italy in the 1400’s. In the image of the Madonna of Monte Berico, our Lady is protectively wrapping children and people under her mantle. Through this Novena and our prayerful intercessions, our Blessed Mother has lovingly helped and guided the Sodality in the following activities:

- A weekly Saturday morning Rosary which includes a First Saturday Devotion
- A weekly Saturday and Sunday Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer
- Participation in the National Rosary Rally
- Virtual presentation of Tea with Mary Under the Tent to increase our knowledge of Mary and share her story with others
- Presentations on St. Josephine Bakhita and Mother Mary Lange in honor of Black Catholic History Month
- Honoring the Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a multicultural Rosary and St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church ceremony
- The Sodality has continued to offer opportunities to pray the following six novenas: Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Solemnity

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## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

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of St. Joseph, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Novena to the Holy Spirit, and the Novena for the Feast of the Assumption.

- Sodality Lectio Divina small group devotions and discussions for both Advent and Lent
- Sodality Book Clubs have offered Sodalists and friends the opportunity to connect and engage in discussions of books related to the Rosary, Saints, and other matters of faith.
- Sodality Annual Day of Recollection which was a virtual and in-person retreat. A donation of \$425 was given to Shepherd's Table from the proceeds.
- The 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sodality Communion Brunch. Two thousand dollars was donated to St. Michael's from the proceeds.
- Sodality Consecration to Jesus Through Mary (February 29-March 25-Feast of the Annunciation)
- Sodality Consecration to St. Joseph in this Year of St. Joseph (September 30- November 1-All Saints Day)

Thank you, Mother Mary, for accompanying us in our work. Mother Mary, pray for us.

## SALUTING A WOMAN OF FAITH—MARY JANE ELDRIDGE

Sodalist, Mary Jane Eldridge turned the wonderful age of 100 in August. We wished her a very **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Several members of the Sodality reflected on Mary Jane's contributions to the Sodality and the wonderful woman that she is.

Her faithfulness and service has been an important fixture at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church for decades. Mary Jane served more than once as the Regent of the Sodality as well as many other leadership roles. She is also remembered for doing everything from cleaning the church and Sacristy to laundering all the linens used at Mass. If something was needed, St. Michael's could count on Mary Jane "doing her part." As Msgr. Tolentino stated recently,

"She is easily one of the women who follows Jesus and cares for Him. She is also one who seeks and finds Him in others." We are grateful for this wonderful role model.

## CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

By Joyce Sterling

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, declared a "Year of St. Joseph" from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021. This announcement celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. The Church has also issued a decree granting plenary indulgences for this year. This plenary indulgence removes all temporal punishment due to sin. A plenary indulgence is granted under the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Holy Father's intentions) to the faithful who, with a spirit detached from sin, honor the Year of St. Joseph in any of the following ways:

- Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Our Father
- Perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy
- Recite the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples
- Entrust their daily work to the protection of St. Joseph
- Invoke with their prayers the intercession of St. Joseph
- Pray an approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph
- Participate for at least one day in a spiritual retreat that includes a meditation on St. Joseph
- Pray any lawfully approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph on a Wednesday, the day traditionally dedicated to St. Joseph
- Pray an approved prayer to St. Joseph on the 19<sup>th</sup> of any month
- Recite the Litany of St. Joseph for persecuted Christians

In addition, the gift of plenary indulgence extends particularly to the elderly, the sick, the dying, and all those who for legitimate reasons cannot leave their homes. They can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from sin and have the intention as those who for legitimate reasons cannot leave their

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## CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

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homes. They can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from sin and have the intention as soon as possible of going to Confession, receiving Holy Communion, and performing an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

## THANK YOU!!!

This summer, our Sodalists had the wonderful opportunity to gather poolside at the home of Linda Joseph, sister of Sodalist Vera Joseph. We were blessed with sunshine and a wonderful bar-b-cue meal and a chance to cool off in the pool.

It was so good to see our Sodality sisters in person and catch up. We were surprised to hear that the invitation from Vera and her family was offered as a thank you to the Sodality of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church for their support when they lost their mother earlier in the year. Those of us in



attendance agreed that thanks were not needed. As Janice said, "we are family."

## SODALITY ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

By Joyce Sterling

*"Prayer is the best weapon we possess, the key that opens the heart of God. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips, but with your heart."*

Padre Pio

- Members of the Sodality attended a memorial service for Sodalist Jacquelyne Flowers at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church on June 3, and the burial service at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery on July 12.
- Sodalists joined the World Apostolate of Fatima's Mass for the repose of the soul of Sodalist Muriel Hanson on Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Raphael's Catholic Church in Rockville, Maryland.
- On July 5, 2021, Sodalists joined together to pray the Rosary in solidarity with fellow Sodalist Chanda Chola and the people of Zambia for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic and for all who have died from COVID19 and for an end to the surges in the United States and globally. Sodalists also prayed for the equitable and speedy distribution of vaccines to all countries in need.
- Sodalists attended seminars conducted by Seminararian Vincent Wu on the Foundations of Catholic Social Teachings (June 7 – July 12).
- Sodalists enjoyed a virtual movie night showing of a documentary entitled, "God's Doorkeeper, St. Andre Bessette" on the life of St. Andre Bessette, the Miracle Worker of Mount Royal, Canada on July 31<sup>st</sup>. St. Andre Bessette was devoted to St. Joseph and healed many people through the intercession of St. Joseph. This was excellent preparation for our Consecration to St. Joseph scheduled to begin September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Sodalists participated in a Catholic Trivia Game Night on July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Sodalists are enjoying Summer Book Clubs.

**SODALITY NEWS:** Editor, Janice Hamilton Outtz and Joyce Sterling Committee member