



# Saint Michael the Archangel SODALITY NEWS

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



Volume 2, Issue 2

March 2022

## WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR

Are you like me and can't wait for Spring? The smell of flowers, walks in the sunshine and warm weather. We must hold on and know that it is coming. We can use this time to prepare for Easter. That, too, is coming and what joy! Now, Lent offers us a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Let us use our time wisely and call on our Blessed Mother for guidance and let's listen attentively to God's voice.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO OUR FELLOW  
SODALISTS:**



### January

Olga Baeza –January 9      Ingrid Denis –January 17  
Lemlem Araya –Jan. 20      June Dublin –Jan. 26  
Vera Joseph –Jan. 27

**February: Veronica Okolonta –February 2**

**March: Ann A. Jackson –March 19**

## CHECKING IN WITH OUR SODALISTS AND FRIENDS

By Joyce Sterling

### *Please keep the following persons in your prayers:*

Joyce Bridgewater	Mary Jane Eldridge
Jacqueline Stines	Mary Ferber
Sister Kathleen Keller, SNJM	Elsie Pemberton & family
Deacon Ron Ealey	Benny Melendez
Joseph Morris (husband of Elena Morris)	Ann Jackson and Husband Basil Jackson
Paul Malloy (husband of Jane Malloy)	Sonia Melendez & husband Benny Melendez
Jim Robertson (husband of Mary Ann Robertson)	

## INTRODUCING DEACON OSCAR MENDEZ

By Janice Hamilton Outtz

Deacon Oscar Mendez was born in San Salvador, El Salvador and migrated to the United States when he was 17 years old. When Deacon Mendez first arrived in the United States, he did not speak English and since he had finished High School in El Salvador he had to learn English in the ESOL Program at night. He did and was successful.

The Deacon is married to Cindy Mendez, the Administrative Manager for St. Michael's. They have been married for 12 years and have three beautiful little boys.

Deacon Mendez has been attending Saint Michael the Archangel Church since 2001. He participated in the Young Adults ministry and attended two World Youth Day conferences: the first in Toronto, Canada, and the Second in Cologne, Germany. The Deacon reports that it was in Germany that he first experienced an encounter with our Mother the Virgin Mary.

The Deacon reports that it was an amazing experience while doing Lectio Divina with the group in Germany. He told us that one day they were meditating on Matthew, Chapter 2, which is the visit of the Magi. Verse 11 says "and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage." While meditating, the Deacon says he had an insight—a voice in his heart that said, "the mother is important, and she is also your mother." Deacon Mendez says he kept that voice in his heart and almost 20 years later, he can say that it was his first conscious encounter with our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

*Continued, next page*

## INTRODUCING DEACON OSCAR MENDEZ

*Continued, from page 1*

While attending Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Deacon Mendez tells the story of meeting Deacon Ronald Ealey and his wife Ms. Kitty Ealey and his road to the Diaconate. “They set a great example as a married couple and how Deacon Ealey carried out his diaconal ministry. One day, while working at the parish, Deacon Ealey approached me and asked me if I saw myself serving God as a Deacon. I said to Deacon Ealey that the idea had crossed my mind on a couple of occasions.”

Deacon Mendez told how he attended the “Come and See” meeting hosted by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington with Deacon Ealey. The coordinators of the diaconal program at that time told him that he was too young and that he needed to have been married for at least five years before becoming a deacon. They also told him that he should continue his life the way he was living it. Deacon Mendez continued to visit his spiritual director and continued spiritual guidance with Monsignor Tolentino and Deacon Ealey.

Years later, in 2016 he was accepted to the Permanent Diaconate Program with the support of Monsignor Tolentino, pastor at Saint Michael’s Parish and on June 20, 2021, was ordained a Permanent Deacon in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. St. Michael’s Parish welcomed Deacon Oscar Mendez warmly when he was assigned to St. Michael the Archangel as a Permanent Deacon. The Deacon assisted Msgr. Tolentino at Mass the day after he was ordained and delivered his first homily as Deacon. **Welcome Deacon Mendez!!!**



Ordination of Deacon Oscar Mendez, June 20, 2021



Deacon Mendez delivers his first homily at St. Michael’s

## THE SODALITY’S SATURDAY ROSARY MEDITATIONS

By Janice Hamilton Outtz



**D**id you know that the Sodality gets together by phone every Saturday morning at 9:15 am to pray the rosary? On Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, we were blessed to have Deacon Curtis Rodney lead us in the Rosary. There were about 13 of us in attendance for this special time. Deacon Curtis included the Mass readings for the day and encouraged us to “listen.”

Many Sodality members expressed their heartfelt gratitude for Deacon Curtis’ time with us. It was a joy! All are welcome to join us in prayer on any Saturday. Please call 605.562.0400; Access code: 1941905.

## THE SODALITY – “SOCKS FOR SOULS”

By Janice Hamilton Outtz

St. Michael the Archangel Sodality was honored to join with St. Michael’s Knights of Columbus (Council 15084) in the recent “Socks for Souls” Drive. When the announcement went out to our parishioners for help, Sodality members thought it was a great opportunity to join with the Knights and contribute to the efforts. Socks are the number one requested and least donated item in homeless shelters. The Sodality was pleased to donate more than 100 pairs of socks for women and men. The Knight’s Campaign will continue until mid-March.



*Sodality Member, Janice Hamilton Outtz presents socks from the Sodality to Knights of Columbus Grand Knight, David Bludis*



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

## WHAT SODALITY MEANS TO ME TO JESUS THROUGH MARY



Sodality means **S**piritual and Personal Growth

Sodality means **O**bservation of Liturgical Seasons

Sodality means **D**ays of Recollection and Retreats

Sodality means **A**postolic Works

Sodality means **L**ife of Prayer

Sodality means **I**mitation of Mary’s Virtues

Sodality means **T**otal Consecration to Jesus Through Mary

Sodality means **Y**oked together with Disciples of Christ

By Joyce Sterling

## SODALITY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By Joyce Sterling

- In December, Sodalists journeyed together on a pictorial pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Sodalist Cheryl Chesser.
- Senior Sodalist Joyce Bridgewater gave an inspirational talk on her devotion to Our Blessed Mother.
- The Sodality provided donations and gifts to clergy in December. Donations were given to: Shepherd’s Table, Little Sisters of the Poor, Gabriel Project, and children and families in our parish.
- During February, Sodalists prayed the novena to Our Lady of Lourdes.

*Continued, next page*

## SODALITY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*Continued from page 3*

- Sodalist held a virtual prayer service for recently deceased Sodalist Mary Theresa Henrique.
- In addition to praying the rosary every Saturday morning, the Sodality gathers for Evening Prayer every Saturday and Sunday evening at 6 pm.
- On February 20, Sodalists began a 33-day devotion of Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary. It will end on March 25 (The Annunciation).

## MARCH MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN. . . AND MENTOR SODALISTS SHARING “THE SODALITY WAY OF LIFE”

By Cynthia Lewis

Our Lord went out to the highways and byways of Galilee and Jerusalem to share the Good News. Now is our turn to invite and welcome those in our pews to delve deeper into their Catholic faith and know Our Blessed Mother Mary and her role in God’s plan of salvation. We invite you to take an active role in your Sodality’s March Membership Campaign which kicked off the first Sunday of this month. The outreach planned for that day is an invitation to parishioners to the General Body fellowship on March 6th, a Sodality Table after Mass where they can get more information, and giveaways of the blessed Miraculous Medals.

You can share a Sodality Introduction Card with your pew neighbors at Mass during the Membership Campaign (cards are available for you on March 1<sup>st</sup>). Also, check out the Sodality’s enhanced presence on the parish website and refer parishioners there. On the “Ministries, Community” site, the Sodality page provides contact information, a description of our mission, the Sodality Newsletter, highlights of the 2021 Sodality Communion Brunch, and a group photo. Under “Events and News” the Sodality’s weekly Rosary Prayer Group and call-in instructions are provided.

Our Lord also spent time teaching His inner circle of friends. The Sodality Mentors who will partner with our new Sodalists during their first year of membership are Peggy Hannah (Jacqueline Mendoza); Linda Jordan (Doreen Joseph); Debra Rodney (Virginia Montet), and Yvette Robinson (Paulina Ogunshakin).

Let us pray that our collective efforts will continue to inspire loving believers to join and persevere in solidarity under Mary’s banner!

## ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SODALITY HONORS OUR BLESSED MOTHER

By Cynthia Lewis

In honor of Our Blessed Mother Mary, St. Michael the Archangel Sodality will usher in the month of May by hosting the 73rd Annual Sodality Communion Brunch on Sunday, May 1, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. The event will be held virtually for the second year and will proudly feature Father Robert Boxie III as our guest speaker. Father Boxie is chaplain at Howard University and the priest-in-residence at Immaculate Conception parish.

The brunch will feature Marian hymns and liturgical dance to pay tribute to Our Lady with Sodalists and parishioners gathered to witness to her loving care and powerful intercession. The popular Sodality Communion Brunch is one way the Sodality helps to promote Marian spirituality in the parish. Those who register will be offered various donation levels to select from as a contribution to this parish fundraiser. The Sodality motto is "To Jesus Through Mary." The Sodality is guided by our pastor and moderator Monsignor Eddie Tolentino, and Prefect Ingrid Denis.

