



# Saint Michael the Archangel SODALITY NEWS

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



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## WELCOME FROM THE SODALITY EDITOR!

**W**e made it through two plus years of the pandemic, an awful winter and lots of rain.

Then, there was Easter! What a great celebration we witnessed as more than 40 people received the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter vigil. *Praise God!*



Many of you have been with us as we continued our evangelization and prayer activities. The pandemic didn't stop us. It just changed how we met and how we worked. Thanks to our fearless Prefect, Ingrid Denis, and other Sodality leaders, we kept going and kept contributing. And, thanks to the leadership of Sodality member, Mary Ann Robertson, we raised money to help those in Ukraine. (See story on page 4.) God bless our tireless efforts.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PREFECT: FAREWELL AND GRATITUDE

By Ingrid Dennis

**A**s I reflect on these past two years as my term as Prefect concludes, an old French proverb comes to mind, “the more things change the more they stay the same.” In September 2020, our world was looking towards the promise of a vaccine that would hopefully put an end to the dreaded coronavirus or at least keep it at bay and that things would go back to “normal.” With great fanfare, the vaccine did arrive - a genuine blessing – and potential solution to slowing down the pandemic. Yet for more reasons than I can name, we recorded the one millionth death from Covid last fall. The police brutality which set the world on fire in 2020 continues and as we pass the two-year anniversary of George Floyd’s murder; we, the political “we,” have no appetite to pass the legislation named after Mr. Floyd. Violence continues to seep into every pore, and while we find ourselves paralyzed with grief, horror, and dissolution, we encounter yet another mass-shooting and even a variation on the mass-killing – the war in Ukraine. Mother Mary, have mercy on us!

Despite everything going on in the world and in our lives, our Sodality has been constant in dispensing the weapon Our Lady gave us to fight the evils threatening to swallow up the world as we know it, the Sodality Way of Life. Recently during the Orientation for New Members, a Sodalist articulated how the Spiritual and Apostolic elements of the Sodality Way of Life complement each other. To accomplish the Apostolic tasks that we are charged with doing, it is important to have a strong Spiritual life – faith. It can be easy to look at the two aspects of our lives as independent of each other, but there

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FELLOW SODALISTS & MODERATOR:

### April

Marguerite Wason, 6th

Evelyn Cobblah, 22nd

Joyce Bridgewater, 22nd

### June

Barbara Rigsby, 1<sup>st</sup>

Sister Kathleen Keller, 9<sup>th</sup>

Msgr. Eddie Tolentino, 10<sup>th</sup>

Janice Hamilton Outtz, 18<sup>th</sup>

Paulina Ogunshakin, 19<sup>th</sup>

Adele Biancarelli, 20<sup>th</sup>

Cecilia Flores, 22<sup>nd</sup>



**Congratulations to Deacon Ron Ealey and Mrs. Kitty Ealey on their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, June 2<sup>nd</sup>! GOD BE WITH YOU!**

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PREFECT

*Continued from page 1*

is a new strength that presents itself when viewed through the lens of mutual dependence. Our Lady provided our Sodality with the tools and resources through faithfulness to our Sodality programs and activities to function throughout the worse of the pandemic and to thrive. At the beginning of this period, the Sodality established a conference call and has prayed the Holy Rosary weekly with fellow parishioners to seek Mary's intercession. Sodality Moderator Monsignor Tolentino has led the prayer, as well as Deacon Ealey and Deacon Rodney. We welcomed five new members and adapted most of our activities and programs to the virtual platforms. Tea with Mary Under the Tent, the Communion Brunch, and the annual Parish Retreat were reconfigured to fit the virtual form but still retained some of their original flavors. Zoom made it possible for our Sodality to host individuals such as Sister Marcia Hall and Father Phil Tangorra which might have been otherwise prohibitive to host. The display of the replica of the Tilma of St. Juan Diego illustrated how as a Parish of many cultures we can come together to honor our Lady of Guadalupe and to remember we are one Church.

Since the pandemic has eased somewhat, it has been a blessing for our Sodality to be able to participate in non-virtual activities, including food drives spearheaded by the Parish Council; the annual Rosary Rally outdoors, jewelry sale in the church vestibule to aid the Ukrainians, and return to church. The activities and programs of the past two years have been compiled into a report for submission to Sodality Union. Upon completion, the report will be emailed to all members.

It goes without saying that none of this would have been possible without the guidance of Our Lady. Our Moderator, Monsignor Tolentino, has encouraged us quietly, yet steadfastly, to continue our work in this uncertain terrain. Our Lady also provided me with supportive, inventive yet practical officers, and Executive Committee. Many thanks to Cecilia (Vice Prefect), Janice (Treasurer), Joyce

(Secretary), Vera, Cynthia, Yvette, Linda, Mary Ann, Peggy, Olga and Mardi for sharing your wisdom and expertise with me. Special thanks to the General Body because all Sodalists helped in making the past two years worthwhile to our Sodality, Parish, and community. I am forever grateful for the contributions of our Sodalists who have gone home to Our Father during the past two years: Jeanne Abel, Isidora (Dorie) Badua, Mary Ferber, Jackye Flowers, and Muriel Hanson.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Sodality as Treasurer and volunteering to work on various initiatives as they arise. Mostly, I am looking forward to working under the leadership of our newly elected Prefect, Cynthia Lewis! I envision that Cynthia will take our Sodality to new levels, but to do that she needs you and we know Our Lady will lead the way. **Thank you all!**

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### OUR SODALITY BOOK CLUB

By Joyce Sterling

*"When we pray, we speak to God, but when we read, God speaks to us." St Jerome*

Our hope as Catholics is that we all seek to bring about the preeminence of God in our lives by quietly reading the Scriptures and other spiritual books. Sodalists are encouraged to join a Sodality Book Club to enjoy the informative discussions and spiritual insights gained from participation.

As you consider joining a book club, the following guidelines might be helpful:

- Five to six members in a book club discussion group is considered ideal.
- Each member is committed to active participation.
- Select your platform: Zoom or conference call
- Select a facilitator to lead your group who allows each member to share. The facilitator is also responsible for developing a schedule for the reading and discussion of each book and sending information to each member outlining the schedule for reading and discussing each book.
- Solicit book suggestions from group members and/or other Sodality members and select a book.
- Pray both before and after book club meetings to ask the Holy Spirit to guide the discussions.

## TRIBUTE AND FAREWELL TO MARDI MAHER

By Virginia Montet

On Saturday April 22nd, two dozen Sodalists and family members gathered in a sunny community room in Silver Spring to pay tribute to ‘Mardi’—Martha Maher and wish her farewell as she moves to California. Mardi, who has been a pillar of our Sodality community for several decades, is leaving the area to live near her niece, Shana, and her two grand-nephews Jacob and Matthew. Shana shared how glad she was that Mardi is joining her family. “I’m the daughter she never had,” said Shana. Mardi raised Shana who lost her mother when she was young.

As Mardi never does anything halfway, she also retired the same week from a long career in DC. Deacon Curtis launched the farewell party with a lovely prayer that encouraged us to “continue Mardi’s work, creativity, commitment, and devotion. I challenge myself and every one of you to take what most constitutes Mardi’s contribution in your mind and make the contribution she would make,” he added.

Our time together was a rendezvous full of emotion and a rich potluck buffet! Mardi was showered with compliments, good wishes, and tearful accolades to the point that she didn’t know if she was to laugh or cry.

“You are my family! In twenty plus years, you make a lot of contacts with the Sodality,” she said with a smile. “I am enriched by being a member of the Sodality,” she professed.

Everyone was reminded of how Mardi always sent beautiful and thoughtful cards to Sodality members that she created herself. “She was always thinking about somebody else,” someone said. Old friends and colleagues, tears in their eyes, gave words of appreciation. “Mardi is sharp, witty, but never unkind. We spoke of everything, faith, music. You kept me grounded,” said a friend.

Cynthia Lewis, our future prefect, took the role of master of ceremony and asked everyone to say a word of appreciation about Mardi. Some recalled “her deep love of Mary,” some remembered how,

during our weekly Rosary call, she always invited us to “pray for the Church in China!” Our prefect, Ingrid Denis, reminded us how Mardi was the first to get all the answers correct on a Catholic quiz.

Thankfully, after some tears and laughter, it was time to find comfort in the potluck which included: fried chicken, mac and cheese, fruit salad, pasta salad, and pecan pie. Mardi, who will keep the same email address, promised to keep in touch and to pop in on the Rosary call when she can. Others were already looking for a pilgrimage to California to visit her.



*Mardi surround by friends during the festivities*



*Jeridah, Mardi and Olga*

**MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS:** Let us commit to pray the Rosary every day asking our Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, to pray for us and give us peace in Ukraine and around the world. Our prayers for peace are very much needed as we reflect on the gun violence in the United States and Ukraine.

**ST. MICHAEL’S SODALITY HELD A FUNDRAISER FOR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN UKRAINE**

By Mary Ann Robertson

For two weekends in March, members of the Sodality of St. Michael the Archangel raised money for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine by selling jewelry after Masses. Advertised within the parish as “Jewelry for Ukraine,” most of the jewelry was created by a parishioner who originally came from Poland. Thanks to a combination of sales and donations, the amount raised was more than \$3,000. The money was sent to three organizations: Catholic Relief Services/Ukraine, the Knights of Columbus Charities—Ukraine Solidarity Fund, and the World Central Kitchen. We are so proud of our Sodality sisters who participated in these efforts and our very generous parishioners.



*Prefect Ingrid Denis, Sodalitys, Mary Ann Robertson, Jacqueline Mendoza and Debra Rodney at the fundraiser*



*Mother Mary, pray for us and guide us in our work to bring others to you, and Jesus.*

**SODALITY NEWS:** Editor, Janice Hamilton Outtz  
Committee Members: Joyce Sterling and Virginia Montet

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR LAST SODALITY MEETINGS**

By Joyce Sterling

*“Do all you can for the glory and honor of God.”*  
Mother Mary Lang

- **Rosary for Peace in Ukraine and World Peace**  
The recitation of the Rosary at the March Sodality General Body Meeting was dedicated to peace in Ukraine and peace in the world.
- **Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary**  
Monsignor Tolentino spoke at the March Sodality General Body Meeting on “Reflections on the Total Consecration.” Sodalitys also shared their poignant personal experiences of Mary being our Mother and/or Mary representing for us the fullness of what it means.
- **Membership Campaign**  
The Membership Committee distributed Miraculous Medals on Sunday, May 6, to promote increased interest in Sodality. The committee has also designed a Sodality brochure.
- **The Nominating Committee**  
The Nominating Committee successfully conducted an election for new Sodality officers: Cynthia Lewis, Prefect, Janice Hamilton Outtz, Vice Prefect, Ingrid Denis, Treasurer, and Joyce Sterling, Secretary.
- **The Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Fund**  
The Sodality made a \$450.00 donation to the fund.
- **The Newsletter Committee**  
The Newsletter Committee is excited to welcome new Sodality Virginia Montet to the team.

**CHECKING IN WITH OUR SODALITYS AND FRIENDS:**

By Joyce Sterling

*Please keep the following persons in your prayers:*

Msgr. Eddie Tolentino	Deacon Curtis Rodney
Deacon Ron and Kitty Ealey	Elsie Pemberton & Family
Deacon Carlos Hernandez	Frances Gapp (moved)
Sonia Melendez and husband Benny Melendez	Ann Jackson and husband Basil Jackson
Joseph Morris (husband of Elena Morris)	Paul Molloy (husband of Jane Molloy)
Mary Jane Eldridge	Barbara Rigsby
Joyce Bridgewater	Mardi Maher (moved)