

# SODALITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

April 21, 2021

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom

Present: Helen B, Kate B, Lee M, Gail Q, Colleen H, Judith S, Liz S, Maureen W, Ellen L, Betsey R

- I. Opening: 7:36 p.m.
  - A. Prefect Kate B led the board in praying *Hail Holy Queen*.
  - B. Ellen L made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 board meeting. Judith S seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
  
- II. Old Business
  - A. Plant Sale – Colleen H reported that the sign-up sheet for volunteers for the April 30-May2 sale was filled. All plants have been ordered, and the order has been checked. She reported on the efforts of Anne S and Marsha D concerning the credit card machine and tent. Due to continued concern about the Coronavirus, Colleen described the steps that will be taken to maintain social distance among persons on site, provide hand sanitizer, and utilize face masks. Gail Q asked if there would be a Mary statue raffle this year. Colleen indicated that in order to simplify matters, we will not hold a raffle this year as part of the sale.
  - B. Milestone Anniversaries Mass – Maureen W reported that seven anniversary couples from 2020 and 2021 were honored at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The names of all the couples were read to the congregation. Four of the seven couples attended the Mass in person and received a special blessing from Fr. Giese. Commemorative certificates and long-stemmed white roses were distributed to the attending couples after Mass. The certificates will be mailed to those couples who were unable to attend. Helen B added that Fr. Giese was pleased to have this event, although modified, held this spring.

- C. Junior Sodality scholarship essay contest – Kate reported that the event is scheduled for April 22, 2021. Kim D provided the question for the essayists. Kate and Gail will serve as reviewers, and Kate will get in touch with Mary H who has previously served as a reviewer. It is expected that between five and seven girls will participate, and Kate and Tracy M will proctor the writing session, which will be held in Caulfield Hall after school. The first prize will be a \$2,000 scholarship to the winner's chosen Catholic high school, and the second prize will be a \$1,000 scholarship to that winner's chosen Catholic high school.
- D. May 2 Junior Sodality May Crowning – Debbie R and Donna O have recruited several Junior Sodalists to participate in the May Crowning ceremony in the Mary Garden after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. An eighth-grade girl will crown the Madonna statue, and the rest of the girls will carry roses in the procession that will be placed into a vase before the statue. Kate B will purchase roses at Costco, and Helen will provide a vase.
- E. 2021-2022 Executive Board Transition – Anne Y has agreed to serve as Co-President with Helen, and Kathleen R has agreed to serve as Prefect. Kate offered to help the new Prefect in transition and with development of more Zoom retreats for the upcoming year. In connection with changes of unit leadership, Tracy M will step down as unit chair of St. Monica and be replaced by Betsey R. Liz S reported that Sally D is considering joining her as co-chair for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit. Debbie R will step down as co-chair for the Junior Sodalists. It is hoped that Debbie O will continue as a leader for another year.
- F. May 5, 2021 Mass and General Meeting – Helen reported that the meeting will be held in the church immediately after the Mass. Gail offered to be lector. Helen thanked Gail for always be available to be our lector, as well as to conduct the executive board's Zoom meetings. Lorraine K will be the cantor, and Bobby S will be organist. The Junior Sodality essay contest winners will read their essays, and Helen will announce the new officers for the coming year to the membership. Colleen plans to sell after the meeting any plants that may remain from the Plant Sale.

- G. *Chanticleer* revival – Helen reported reaching out to Julie M. It is hoped that we will have an issue out by the end of May or early June to cover the past three years: events, essay winners, members in memoriam, Prefect letter and President’s letter. Helen invited any ideas for this effort.
- H. Blood Drive – A Sodality announcement urging parishioners to donate blood is running in the parish email and bulletin. The message also appears on the electronic bulletin boards in the church. The announcements include links to the local Red Cross Blood donation site as well as to the National Institutes of Health blood services web page. A return to an on-site blood drive at De Chantal may be possible in the upcoming year.
- I. Report of the April Sodality Union meeting – Gail reported that the meeting was held by Zoom. The moderator, Fr. Sass, was unable to attend the meeting. Gail reported that the Church of the Nativity collected over \$700 for the Central Union Mission in DC. She explained that the proceeds from the raffle fund the Cardinal Hickey Scholarship. The Sodality Union had a discussion about how to ratify changes to its bylaws. They are waiting for approval from the Archdiocese. Other topics of discussion were the SU’s upcoming May Procession and upcoming May 1 Zoom meeting.

### III. New Business

- A. Sodality funeral expenditures – Helen reported that following up on an email notice to the board, she sent an arrangement of blue hydrangeas and white roses on behalf of Sodality for Mrs. Sylvia Giese’s funeral. Fr. Giese sent a thank you note to Sodality for the flowers and for the perpetual enrollment at the Basilica of the National Shrine for his mother. Helen asked that the board ratify the expenditures for these items purchased on behalf of Sodality. Liz seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.
- B. May and June Sodality Union meetings – We don’t usually attend the May Sodality Union meeting because it conflicts with the Plant Sale. The St. Gianna Unit is scheduled to cover the June meeting. Kate offered to attend that meeting, which will be held via Zoom.

- C. May 19, 2021 calendar planning meeting – Helen reminded the officers and unit chairs that the May executive board meeting will plan the calendar for the 2021-2022 Sodality year. All units should be represented at the meeting in order to volunteer for the various responsibilities that will need to be covered. The meeting will be conducted over Zoom.
- D. Mary Garden refresh – Ellen reported that the rose bushes and butterfly bushes near the statute of Mary are overgrown, and that a dead boxwood in the garden needs to be removed. The Junior Sodality hopes to help with this problem by holding a weeding project in the garden, possibly on May 7. Ellen noted that she had approached the Boys Scouts to ask whether they might be able to remove the dead vegetation, but they were unable to assist with that need. She proposed getting an estimate for removal of the dead bushes from a landscaper that she knows. However, Colleen opined that Sodalists who are gardeners should be able to remove the dead bushes and prune the remainder. Maureen suggested that she coordinate with Colleen to get the bushes trimmed and the dead boxwood removed before the May Crowning on May 2. She specifically offered to weed the lily of valley section which she had donated from her mother's garden many years ago. Gail offered to oversee the Junior Sodalists' weeding project.
- E. Request to Sodality to host a book signing-signing event – Ellen reported that a member of the parish has written a young adult book about the lives of the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, and that the author approached her to ask if Sodality would be interested in hosting a book-signing event for the parish as a Sodality fundraiser. The details of the proposal were that Sodality purchase a certain number of copies at a discount, and then sell those books at the list price at the book-signing, keeping the profit. In discussion, it was noted that Sodality has not sponsored such an event in the past, and that it is now very close to the end of the Sodality year, making it difficult to schedule such an event. The consensus of the board was that such a book-signing is more properly a parish event, as other book-signings by parishioners have been in the past, and that the author should approach the Parish Council and Fr. Giese about holding such an event. Helen indicated that

she would send an email to the author explaining the Sodality executive board's decision.

#### IV. Reports

- A. Prefect: Kate had nothing additional to report beyond what has been covered above.
- B. Treasurer: Lee M reported that there is a balance of \$27,332.21 in the treasury before the expenses for the Plant Sale. She will make arrangements for the cash box for the Plant Sale.
- C. Units
  - 1. Christ Child: Gail reported that there was nothing new to report. One of the Christ Child members who recently underwent hip surgery is doing well.
  - 2. John Neumann: Judith reported that the unit had met on April 20, 2021. They made plans for the upcoming year. Their charity for the meeting was St. Martin's Cloak.
  - 3. Regina Coeli: Maureen reported that the unit held a Zoom Rosary in Holy Week. Gina C and Maureen arranged for the commemorative certificates and white roses for the couples honored at the Anniversary Mass. A unit member is experiencing a return of breast cancer, and prayers are requested for her.
  - 4. St. Monica: Betsey R reported that the unit continues to support the DC Diaper Bank.
  - 5. St. Gianna: Colleen reported that one unit member has moved to Holy Redeemer parish and another member has decided to leave the unit to take Associate status in Sodality.
  - 6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Liz reported that the unit met by Zoom on April 18, 2021. They finished the discussion of their selected book. They plan to have a May meeting outdoors. Champa S made a presentation about sponsoring prayer services for the parish on major Marian feasts. The unit agreed to plan a service for the Feast of the Visitation on May 31. If that is a success, the unit will report on the service to the executive board in the fall so that the board can consider whether to sponsor

additional services for the parish on behalf of Sodality.

7. Associates: Ellen had nothing additional to report beyond what has been covered above.
8. Junior Sodality: The girls sent thank you notes to the medical professionals at Suburban Hospital for all their work during this pandemic. On April 17, they conducted a food drive and collected 559 pounds of food for Bethesda Helps. They will participate in the May 2 Marian Crowning, and on May 7 they will conduct a weeding project in the Mary Garden after school. The eighth graders will participate in the essay contest on April 22, 2021 under Kate's direction.

- V. Closing Prayer: The board ended the meeting by praying the *Hail Mary*. 9:14 p.m.