

# SODALITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

October 21, 2020

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom

Present: Helen B, Gail Q, Nan V, Kate B, Patty B, Denise S, Lee M, Celestine K, Colleen H, Liz S, Judith S, Kathy K.

## I. Opening: 7:33 p.m.

- A. Prefect Kate B led the board in praying *Hail Holy Queen*.
- B. Judith S made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2020 board meeting. Kate B seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

## II. Old Business

A. 2021 Fashion Show – Nan V informed the board that the catering manager at Columbia Country Club has told us that under current rules, we would be limited to 96 (as opposed to 200+) people at a sit-down lunch and that a “walk around” raffle and cocktail hour would not be permitted. It would only be possible to get a drink in the lounge and return to your seat. Gail Q informed the board that the club has indicated we can cancel without penalty and it would honor our March 2021 date for 2022 if we decide to do so. Colleen H expressed the view that we should cancel now. Celestine K and Nan are researching the availability of virtual raffle websites we could use to raffle our gift baskets online. Gail explained that the Christ Child Society is using such a website for its current virtual fundraiser, which also includes web-based presentations in addition to raffles, but the

platform is very expensive. It was suggested that in addition to the raffles, we could present a video showing Sodality models wearing favorite outfits they have purchased. The HSA used its own website for its recent fall festival, which included virtual raffles. Some organizations use websites that hold auctions instead of raffles, but Helen noted that big ticket items are necessary for a successful auction. Judith expressed concern that a virtual event would not work because the Fashion Show is basically a social event. The board also discussed the possibility of using Caulfield Hall or the church to hold a socially distanced raffle event, but Celestine stated that she and Nan do not anticipate holding an in-person event. They will be looking at options for a virtual event. Denise S asked if the Fashion Show date could be pushed back to May 2021 to allow for an outdoor event. Helen opined that May is not feasible due to the Plant Sale, but we could look into June. Gail will check with Columbia Country Club about the possibility of hosting an outdoor event in June and to cancel the indoor space. Nan will check with Julie M about the logistics of producing a virtual program and how to solicit ads for such a program.

B. 2020 Giving Tree – Denise and Colleen stated that plans for the Giving Tree are moving along well. They are contacting the organizations to explain the changes to this year’s project, including whether they will receive individual gifts or a monetary donation. The project announcements will be published in the church bulletin starting November 1, 2020 and the new dates and procedures will be explained. Colleen will create and monitor the Amazon Wish List, which will include tissue paper and gift bags for packaging gifts. They will place two trees in the narthex in mid-November with informational tags to remind parishioners about the project. The Regina Coeli Unit has volunteered to assist with the organization and bagging of gifts on 12/12 and

12/13, 2020. Kathy K will coordinate the deliveries. Colleen explained that monetary contributions received will be divided among the organizations according to need and size of the organization or be used by Sodality to buy gifts not purchased by parishioners. Helen expressed the board's thanks to Denise and Colleen for their continued work on the Giving Tree.

C. 2020 Shrine of the Sacred Heart school supplies drive - Liz S reported that the Shrine has established an Amazon Wish List link. It has approximately 100 items and many are very inexpensive. It was decided that Helen would share the information about the drive with the Unit Chairs once the link is ready to go live, and the chairs will share it with their members.

D. Sodality Sunday Masses and October 7 General Sodality Mass and Meeting – Helen thinks that we should continue to observe the Sunday Sodality Masses to allow people the opportunity to participate in Sodality. Fr. Giese will recognize Sodality at the Masses. Attendance at the October 7 General Meeting was better than expected.

E. 2020-21 Sodality Union Meetings – Helen reported that the SU's website has not been updated yet, and neither Kate nor Helen have received any communications from the SU officers. They apparently held a Commitment Mass in October, but we were not apprised. The Regina Coeli Unit is responsible for the November Union meeting. Helen B will contact the chairs with any new information she receives about that meeting.

### III. New Business

- A. New parish website – Helen and Anne G have updated and signed off on the Sodality portion of the new parish website, which will be hosted on a new platform. It will be more user friendly.
  
- B. Chantacleer – The *Chantacleer* newsletter has not been published for the last couple of years. Helen proposed that it be revived and that it be published twice a year, in the Fall and the Spring. It previously was published four times a year before it was reduced to three editions in the last year of its publication. Judith asked about the *Chantacleer's* purpose. Helen explained that it is intended to help members stay connected with Sodality and inform them of events. Patty B distributes it electronically to most members using the database of their email addresses. However, some members receive the newsletter via postal mail. Helen will check with Julie M to inquire whether she is willing to continue publishing the *Chantacleer*, and she and Kate will write articles for the first publication.
  
- C. Future Executive Board meeting options and venues – Helen explained that the Parish Council met in person in Caulfield Hall for a socially distanced October meeting and asked the board if meeting in person is a viable option for Sodality. The board decided that we would continue with Zoom meetings at this time.
  
- D. Sodality closet in Caulfield Hall kitchen – Helen, Gail, and Liz have measured the existing Sodality closet in preparation for discussions concerning its

renovation. The space does not meet all of our needs. The whole kitchen area will be re-configured as part of the Caulfield Hall renovation. Helen, Gail, and Liz will tell Fr. Giese and Lisa T our needs in order to determine the amount of space we require and the cost. Kate questioned why this cost was not included in the Capital Campaign, which includes the renovation of Caulfield Hall.

- E. December 2, 2020 Sodality Mass, General Meeting and Investiture – No new prospective members are known at this point. Kate needs to know by mid-November if there will be any new members to be invested this year.
- F. Miscellaneous – Patty is going to send the Sodality Directory to the Unit Chairs for review. All changes should be sent to Patty. Helen opined that updating the directory once a year is adequate.

#### IV. Reports

- A. Prefect: Nothing to report in addition to items already covered.
- B. Treasurer: There is \$27,889.47 in the Sodality treasury. Lee M has received dues from the Christ Child and John Neumann units.
- C. Units:
  1. Christ Child: Gail reported that the members held a meeting outside. They were happy for the updates. Two members went to the Sodality Mass and General Meeting and were happy to have had the opportunity.
  2. John Neumann: Judith reported that the unit held an informational meeting via email. Their charity for the meeting was the Fisher House at

Walter Reed Military Hospital in Bethesda. Monetary donations were collected and mailed. It was decided that the email format did not work as well for the September meeting as it had last time and the group will most likely try Zoom for their next meeting.

3. Regina Coeli: Gina C sent a report. The unit met via Zoom, and nine members joined the meeting. Unit matters were discussed. Susie N is collecting dues and will send them to Lee. The unit members are planning to help with the Giving Tree sorting on December 12th and 13th.
4. St. Monica: No report.
5. St. Gianna: No report.
6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Liz reported that the unit will meet on Sunday, October 25, 2020. They are trying to meet in a parking lot to maintain social distance.
7. Associates: Ellen L submitted a report. She plans to send out the dues letter to the Associates in which she will also explain Fr. Giese's request for support this year to fund the parish Boy Scouts' project to build an outdoor altar and worship space outside the Seton Center. Ellen also plans to be in touch with the leader of the Boy Scouts regarding help with cleaning out the Mary Garden
8. Jr. Sodality: No report.

V. Closing Prayer: The board ended the meeting by praying the *Hail Mary*. 8:45 p.m.