

SODALITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

November 17, 2021

Meeting was held at Seton Center

Present: Helen B, Anne Y, Kathleen R, Nan V, Celestine K, Patty B, Lee M, Liz S, Ellen L, Colleen H, Kate B and Maureen W

- I. Opening: 7:30 p.m.
 - A. Prefect Kathleen R led the board in praying the *Angelus*.
 - B. Kate B made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2021 board meeting. Lee M seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

- II. Old Business
 - A. November 7, 2021 Communion Breakfast – Many positive comments were offered about the event and especially about the presentation by speaker Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton concerning de Chantal school’s performance during the pandemic. Liz S made a motion to increase the previously discussed honorarium to \$150.00. Kate seconded the motion and it was approved.
 - B. 2022 Fashion Show – Celestine K and Nan V reported on the status of event plans. The Fashion Show will be an in-person event. They noted that Columbia Country Club has no restrictions currently on numbers or format. Our fashion partner will be J. Jill from Montgomery Mall. Nan and Celestine are actively recruiting models, and they requested suggestions for this role. The color scheme for the event will be a light seafoam green. This year’s menu will consist of two courses instead of three since Columbia has revised its offerings in our price range. Nan reported that they are still working on the logo for the event. Units will be asked to provide their raffle baskets by February 14. The next Fashion Show committee meeting will be December 7.

- C. 2021 Giving Tree – Colleen H reported that online purchases through Amazon from the Sodality Wish List have already begun. She noted that in addition to announcements in the parish bulletin, she has added specific outreach to school parents through the *Duke Scoop* e-letter. No supply chain delivery issues have been experienced at this point.
- D. December 1, 2021 Sodality Mass and General Meeting – It has been decided that we will hold an in-person meeting in Caulfield Hall following the Mass. Maureen W reported that the Regina Coeli Unit will not lead the customary snowflake craft-making session. However, the board decided that a more socially-distanced activity would be possible during the meeting – *i.e.*, writing Christmas cards to the Sisters of Charity. Colleen indicated that she and Denise would bring the list of the sisters’ names to the meeting. Helen B asked board members to bring any Christmas cards they could donate for this effort. Liz S offered on behalf of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit to provide Christmas pens to the Sodalists who attend to use in writing the cards.
- E. November 6, 2021 Sodality Union Meeting – On behalf of the Regina Coeli Unit, Maureen W attended this meeting, which was held over Zoom. The main news to report was that the due date for the Spiritual Bouquet for Pope Francis is December 4. Helen will send out reminders to the unit chairs for their members’ prayer pledges.
- F. Sodality webpage – The webpage is being managed by Patty B. She is learning the new platform and has accomplished much already. More information will be added soon.
- G. 2022 Red Cross Blood Drive – The St. Monica Unit is still attempting to work out a date with the Red Cross. After Fr. Giese approved holding the drive on a Saturday in April (since the Red Cross no longer holds community drives on Sundays), the Red Cross indicated that all of its April 2022 Saturdays are booked. They have now indicated that they would only hold a drive on a weekday. Given the conflict this could pose with carpool, Helen will need to confer further with Fr. Giese.

III. New Business

- A. Christmas gifts for parish staff – The board discussed gift card amounts and recipients. Colleen made a motion to approve the proposed amounts, and Anne Y seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- B. Sodality Unit checking accounts – Most units reported that they do not have checking accounts to maintain their dues. We have been reminded by Fr. Giese that the archdiocese prefers that parishes limit the number of their bank accounts and that Fr. Giese must sign checks for \$1,000 or more. The units that have checking accounts will confirm that the accounts are maintained under the church's EIN and that Fr. Giese is a signatory. It was noted that unit bank accounts hold amounts well under \$1,000.
- C. Sodality publicizing of events/programs of other parish organizations – Noting that Sodality often receives requests to publicize events or activities sponsored by other parish organizations, Helen raised with the board the extent to which Sodality should undertake that responsibility. After much discussion, it was agreed that Sodality channels will normally be used only to publicize Sodality events or matters pertaining to Sodality members, parish programs to which Sodality is contributing, or information that the pastor/Parish Council has requested be disseminated. Dissemination of information about other parish activities will require approval by the Sodality Board.
- D. Upcoming Sodality Union matters – Items that need to be provided to the Union for their December 4 meeting are our contributions toward the Spiritual Bouquet, a list of living Sodalists (who will be honored at the meeting), and a donation for the Mass for shut-ins. The board once again approved sending a list of the names of our current members to the Sodality Union. Colleen moved to donate \$100 for the Mass for shut-ins, and Kathleen seconded the motion, which was approved. Kathleen asked the unit chairs to forward to her by December 1 the prayer pledges of their members for the Spiritual Bouquet.
- E. March Lenten Morning of Recollection – Prefect Kathleen is considering presenting a hybrid version. The Zoom event we held last March was well received and attended.

Kathleen indicated that she is open to suggestions for a speaker.

- F. December 5 Sodality Sunday Mass – This Mass will be responsibility of the John Neumann Unit. Helen reported that they have the positions covered.
- G. December 4 Sodality Union meeting – This Zoom meeting will also be covered by the John Neumann Unit, which has identified which of its members will attend.
- H. January 2, 2022 Sodality Sunday Mass – This Mass will be responsibility of the Regina Coeli Unit.

IV. Reports

- A. Prefect: Kathleen had nothing additional to report beyond what has been covered above.
- B. Treasurer: Lee reported that there is a balance of \$25,912.52 in the treasury.
- C. Units
 - 1. Christ Child: Gail Q reported by email that the group asks for prayers for a member with health problems.
 - 2. John Neumann: Helen reported that the unit had met the preceding week. Their charity for that meeting was the Gabriel Project of Montgomery County. They discussed the unit's December Sodality responsibilities and members volunteered to cover them. They plan to meet again in February 2022.
 - 3. Regina Coeli: Maureen reported that due to the pandemic, the unit will continue its Christmas card writing to ladies at Maplewood Park Place in lieu of holding the Christmas Tea. All unit members participated in this event last year.
 - 4. St. Monica: No report.
 - 5. St. Gianna: No report

6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Liz reported that they will hold a hybrid meeting on November 28.
 7. Associates: Ellen L reported that there has been no information yet from Fr. Giese about what gift he would like the Associates to provide to the parish this year. She also indicated that she would like to see commemorative plaques placed at both the Madonna Della Strada statute and the Sacred Heart statue indicating that Sodality donated the statues to the parish. She is looking for appropriate plaques to suggest to the board.
 8. Junior Sodality: Kate reported on the very successful Halloween candy collection the girls conducted for Operation Gratitude. They collected over 300 pounds of candy. Operation Gratitude designated the Metropolitan Transit Police (MTP) as the Junior Sodality's partner to receive the candy, which they use in their community outreach programs. Uniformed MTP representatives met in the church parking lot with Kate and some of the Junior Sodalists to receive the candy, and Fr. Giese also took part in the meeting. The MTP representatives presented the Junior Sodality with an impressive set of badges for their efforts. In response to Kate's inquiry of what should be done with the badges, the board decided that the Junior Sodality should present them to Fr. Giese as the leader of our parish. Kate and some of the girls will present them to Fr. Giese at the December General Sodality Mass. The next meeting for the Junior Sodalists will be in December.
- V. Closing Prayer: The board ended the meeting by praying the *Our Father* at 9:12 p.m.