

# SODALITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

February 16, 2022

Meeting was held at Seton Center

Present: Helen B, Anne Y, Kathleen R, Patty B, Lee M, Gail Q,  
Liz S, Ellen L, Colleen H, Gina C, Judith S and Maureen W

- I. Opening: 7:33 p.m.
  - A. Prefect Kathleen R led the board in praying the *Angelus*.
  - B. Judith S made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2022 board meeting. Ellen L seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
  
- II. Old Business
  - A. Disbursement of surplus Giving Tree financial donations – The board discussed the fact that financial donations to the 2021 parish Giving Tree project continued to arrive through the end of December, after the disbursement of financial gifts and the purchase of in-kind gifts for the various charities in time for Christmas. Liz S made a motion to earmark the late-arrived \$935.00 for the 2022 Giving Tree project. Maureen W seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote for the motion.
  - B. Lenten Morning of Recollection – Kathleen gave an update about plans for the event. With Fr. Giese’s agreement, it will be held in person on Saturday, April 9, 2022, in Caulfield Hall following the 8:30 a.m. Mass. A light breakfast will be served. Speaker Linda Rozell, author of *Journeys with a Tin Can Pilgrim*, will give a talk about her lay evangelization experiences as she travels around the country. An announcement will be provided to the parish office for inclusion in the bulletin and parish email.
  - C. Sodality fellowship opportunities – Anne Y presented options for two spring events.

1. On the morning of Saturday, April 30, Sodality could offer coffee and donuts to Sodalists and their guests as they shop at the Plant Sale. This event could also serve as a way to welcome women interested in joining or learning about Sodality. It would be held alongside the Caulfield Hall southern entrance, under cover if necessary, and slightly removed from the Plant Sale itself.
2. The May 4 General Meeting could be held as an outdoor social event. If wine were to be served, a certified server would have to be present. No board member has a current certification, but several women offered to pursue the online training available through Montgomery County. Colleen H made a motion that costs of the certification be reimbursed by the board, and Judith seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote for the motion.

D. Report of February 5, 2022 Sodality Union meeting – A written report was submitted by Betsey R, who attended for the St. Monica Unit. The Union is organizing its procedures to solicit nominations for its board. The SU continues discussion about the relocation of the Cardinal Hickey scholarship tuition raffle drawing from Washington DC to a parish in Prince George’s County. The group has also undertaken a project of making dresses from pillowcases for girls in Malawi. Helen B circulated the flyer the SU provided to the various member Sodalities. She will email the information and instructions for this project to the unit chairs for distribution to all Sodalists so that those interested may participate.

E. Blood Drive wrap-up – No drive will be held at the parish this year for the reasons discussed at prior board meetings. A recent request from NIH to the parish will likely result in the publication in parish bulletins that donations can be made by appointment at the Clinical Center at NIH. The Fishers Lane site is also an option at which to donate platelets. The need is great.

### III. New Business

A. Ideas for better integration of new members into Sodality and Sodality units – Helen, Gail Q, and Maureen reported

that in their respective parish synod Zoom groups, participants voiced views that Sodality is a closed group and does not welcome and integrate new members effectively. The discussion broadened to also cover concerns expressed by parents of public school students that their children are excluded from parish youth activities. Ideas about ways to enhance hospitality efforts were presented by several board members. Liz suggested that when a unit is responsible for the monthly Sodality Mass, unit members could go out of their way to greet new people. Maureen suggested that name tags be used at Sodality events to make it easier to identify and converse with new members/women seeking information. Patty B offered to be a greeter at events and commented that lists of new parishioners have not recently been generated by the rectory. Helen stated that she would contact the Pastoral Council about having that information provided to Sodality by the parish office as a regular matter so we can reach out to new women in the parish. It was also noted that the organizational structure of units has historically emerged from the younger parish school parents. This type of unit formation has not occurred in a very long time, and the board was encouraged to think of how this process could be restarted.

- B. Transition Planning for 2022-23 Sodality board – Helen asked for suggestions of women who would be good candidates to be approached to serve as incoming co-president with Anne next year. Regarding other officer positions, Maureen W indicated that she and Kathy K could continue as secretary. Lee M graciously agreed to continue as treasurer. Kathleen R will still be in her current term as prefect. Helen also asked unit chairs to confirm the status of chairs for their units for 2022-23.
- C. Planning for the Milestone Anniversaries Mass/Brunch – Maureen reported that the Anniversary Celebration will be observed at the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 24. The date has been confirmed with Fr. Giese. Certificates and flowers will be distributed to the couples as was done last year. There will again be no in-person brunch, but we hope to be able to add that celebration back to the event next year.
- D. March 5, 2022 Sodality Union Meeting – Helen will attend this meeting, which will be held over Zoom. No unit was assigned as we usually do not attend it due to the fact that

our Fashion Show has traditionally been held on the first Saturday in March.

- E. March 6, 2022 Sodality Sunday Mass – The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit will have responsibility for this Mass.
- F. Miscellaneous – Helen reported that the Pastoral Council is considering holding the Time and Talent Fair on the weekend of March 12-13, 2022. She will follow up to confirm whether this date is firm.

#### 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 \$26,394.00 in the treasury.
- C. Units
  - 1. Christ Child: Gail reported that she may try to set up an outdoor meeting or perhaps a Zoom meeting for her unit.
  - 2. John Neumann: Judith reported that the unit had met the preceding week. Their charity for that meeting was Misericordia Heart of Mercy in Chicago. The unit has already discussed the pillowcase dress project.
  - 3. Regina Coeli: Gina C reported that the unit will resume providing dinner at the UMD John Neumann Center on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022. She has set up a Sign-Up Genius for food donation. Students and staff at UMD have recently been handling much of the serving of the food.
  - 4. St. Monica: Nothing to report.
  - 5. St. Gianna: Nothing to report
  - 6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Liz reported that they will hold a meeting at the end of this month. Rather than reading a book for discussion this year, the members

have been listening to podcasts to fuel their discussions. Their current program is a podcast produced by a young mother. Gail suggested that more resources could be available from the Catholic Information Center.

7. Associates: Ellen reported that nine Associates donated \$50 or more to this year's Associates gift to the parish. She asked that Mass cards be given to each of the nine donors and also noted that she had obtained a Mass card for a deceased Sodalist. In total, Ellen requested that \$100 be reimbursed. Liz made a motion to reimburse these costs and it was seconded. There was a unanimous vote for the motion.

Ellen also brought for the board's consideration pictures of possible markers for both the Madonna statue in the Mary Garden and the statute of the Sacred Heart at the Caulfield Hall entrance. Helen proposed that a small group of board members evaluate the options as to size and color in order to make recommendations.

Helen also noted that the new altar cloth recently purchased by the church cost only half of the \$1,150 amount donated by the Associates this year. The board discussed how the remainder of the money should be spent. Given that it appeared the Associates considered the purchase of new altar linens a particularly good use of the funds, it was decided that Helen should approach Fr. Giese to ask what other such items the church needs.

8. Junior Sodality: No report

- V. Closing Prayer: The board ended the meeting by praying the *Hail Mary* at 9:20 p.m.