

AN OVERVIEW OF SODALITY AT SMM

Two years of lockdowns and restrictions have changed so many things and with the deaths of several of our long-time members, Sodality seems forever changed. So, a brief remembrance of our story seems appropriate.

The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary is one of the original ministries at SMM & was/is an organization for ladies in the parish for prayer and service. That service has ebbed and flowed with the times over the many years. Sodality always met for First Saturday Mass and rosary and our monthly meeting in the church hall for social time together with lovely refreshments and often a speaker. The First Saturday in May was celebrated with our annual Communion breakfast, usually at the DuPont Country Club.

Whenever there was a parish event involving the Bishop and/or extra priests (40 hours, Confirmation, etc.), the Sodality would prepare and serve the dinner. Our major fundraiser was the well-attended spring Fashion Show/Card Party and Raffle. The money raised was used for various parish needs and many donations. Sodality redecorated the rectory dining room after the nuns moved to a house in Sharpley. We purchased a paper folding machine to help with parish mailings. The machine cut the time needed for stuffing envelopes, affixing labels, and sorting by zip code. Sounds very old fashioned, doesn't it? We provided a traveling Mass kit for Fr. Graney when he was transferred. Over time, our fundraising was no longer essential, and the Fashion Shows ended. However, our First Saturday Masses and devotions continued, and we still met for social time, shared information, and refreshments. We no longer had elections of officers and for the last many years (before Covid our dear Jeanne Kaye held us together and we kept the most important part of the ministry alive and well, namely Fatima devotions for peace. Under Jeanne's direction a group of ladies met on the Monday after first Saturday to make mission rosaries. Jeanne was also instrumental in having rosaries for the first Communion classes and visiting the school and religious education children to tell the story of Fatima and the three little children. Her leadership can never be overstated, and she is very much missed.

And so, we must continue what is quickly becoming very evident in its importance ... prayer for peace! With the most recent re-consecration of Russia and Ukraine and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Pope Francis, as requested by Our Lady at Fatima, we will continue the First Saturday Mass and rosary to beg for peace and the conversion of our own country and the world. Please consider joining us for 8:30 Mass each first Saturday. I remember going with my sweet mother when I was little, and it was so special to pray with her and the ladies. Maybe you could bring your child with you to pray. The message was given in 1917 to three young children and the prayers of little children can change the world.

Please accept a sincere invitation to give Mary a small bit of time. You won't be asked for dues or be elected to an office or plan a fundraiser, but Our Lady will reward you for your gift. Come! Bring your family and storm heaven for peace!

Written by Madeline Rice 5/28/22