

SODALITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
September 16, 2020

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom

Present: Helen B, Gail Q, Maureen W, Lee M, Nan V, Colleen H, Helen B, Patty B, Denise S, Liz S, Celestine K, Ellen L, Debbie R, Judith S, Gina C, Kathy K

- I. Opening: 7:38 p.m.
 - A. President Helen B led the board in praying the *Hail Mary*.
 - B. Ellen L made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020 board meeting. Maureen W seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

- II. Old Business
 - A. Contact information for the 2020-2021 executive board. If any changes need to be made, please email Helen the information and she will send out the corrections. Debbie R informed the board that Donna Owens has agreed to be the Junior Sodality co-chair. She will forward her information to Helen.
 - B. Farewell gifts – Sodality sent gift cards to Molly H., Jeffrey P. and Fr. Chip, all of whom left the parish over the summer, to thank them for their service. Father Chip sent a thank you note of appreciation.

- C. Thank you notes—Notes were received from Catholic Charities, Shrine of the Sacred Heart and St. Martin's Cloak for Sodality's monetary donations in spring 2020.
- D. Revisions to 2020-2021 Sodality calendar - Will be discussed later in the meeting.
- E. Revisions to 2020-2021 Unit Responsibility List - Will be discussed later in the meeting.

III. New Business

- A. Current expectations for fall events in the parish—Helen met with Father Giese. He expects that only limited get-togethers will be able to occur in the fall due to the pandemic. With the flu season starting, he does not expect that very much will open. Things will be different or truncated.
- B. March 6, 2021 Fashion Show - After much discussion concerning the possibility of hosting the annual Sodality Fashion Show, the discussion was tabled by President Helen until the October Executive Board meeting. In the interim, Gail Q will talk to the catering manager at Columbia Country Club concerning a time frame for cancellation. Sodality has already paid the deposit for the 2021 Fashion Show. Liz S will calculate the number of attendees needed to make the Fashion Show cost effective.
- C. 2020 Giving Tree—Colleen H and Denise S presented a proposal to Helen and she shared it with Father Giese. Denise explained that the Giving Tree was over-extended last year with the 900 gifts it committed to provide. The

goal this year is to get below 500 gifts and decrease the number of drop-offs. The new plan will continue to support 18 groups. Colleen assured the board that all charities would be getting something. Eleven groups will receive gifts. Seven groups will receive monetary support. Colleen explained that due to the limited presence of parishioners in church this fall, the number of trees in the narthex will be decreased, and they will be used primarily as a reminder that the Giving Tree project is active and that financial contributions to the project can be made by mail or through Faith Direct. Colleen will create a master Wish List of the requested gifts and post it on Amazon under the Giving Tree title. Parishioners will be able to order gifts from the list, and these will all be shipped to Colleen. At the end of the project, the Giving Tree team will sort and bag the gifts and prepare them for delivery. Monetary donations to the project will be aggregated and then divided among the seven remaining organizations. Father Giese approved our request to begin the process in mid-November to allow sufficient time for shipping of items and processing at the end. The information about the Giving Tree Wish List and financial donations will appear in the bulletin beginning in early November, and the project will close on December 6, 2020. Hopefully, this new plan will allow us to better manage the process and place earlier orders for gifts that are not being ordered by parishioners. The delivery of the gifts to the various organizations will remain the same.

- D. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton school supplies drive for Shrine of the Sacred Heart religious-ed program—Liz stated that the unit is working with Sacred Heart, which is preparing a wish list of supplies for its program that will begin classes in October. As with the Giving Tree, Sodality will publicize the Sacred Heart wish list, and gifts purchased by parishioners will be shipped directly

to the Shrine by Amazon. Helen expressed thanks to Liz S and Champa S for spearheading this project.

- E. October 4, 2020 Sodality Sunday Mass (and subsequent fall Sodality Sunday Masses)—The Unit Chairs polled their members to ascertain if there was a willingness to attend the 10:00 a.m. Sodality Sunday Masses on the first Sunday of the month. The results were that approximately 50 percent of Sodality members would be willing to attend Sodality Sunday Masses. Helen explained that the procedures would be different, i.e. there would be no need to distribute medals and prayer cards since we cannot share such items, and there would be no procession with the gifts. Father Giese is willing to start treating the 10:00 a.m. Mass on the first Sunday of the month as the Sodality Sunday Mass, but for now does not intend to have Sodalists who are present recite the Sodalist's Prayer. If Sodality members are unable to attend the Mass in person, they can participate in the liturgy through the live-streamed Mass.
- F. October 7, 2020 General Sodality Mass and Meeting—The Unit Chairs also asked their members how many would be willing to attend Sodality Masses and General Meetings. Again, approximately 50 percent of members expressed willingness to attend. The first of these events is scheduled for October 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Father Giese is willing to celebrate the Mass and has approved having our business meeting in the church thereafter. The larger space will accommodate more social distancing than Caulfield Hall. Gail Q agreed to be the lector and Bobby S has agreed to play the organ.
- G. 2021 virtual Sodality Union Meetings—At this point, there is no information on the Sodality Union website concerning meetings for the coming year. The new president has stated that all meetings will be held virtually or via conference call. Helen shared that conference call meetings are not very beneficial for

visiting participants due to the fact that people who do not attend regularly have difficulty identifying who is speaking. All units have been assigned a Sodality Union meeting to attend. When the Sodality Union decides how and when the meetings will be held, Helen will inform the unit chairs. Liz will cover the October Sodality Union meeting for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit. Gina C opined that it is important for us to support the Sodality Union.

- H. Junior Sodality Operation Gratitude Project—The Junior Sodalists collect Halloween candy and send it to Operation Gratitude, which packages it into gifts for the military, hospital employees, and first responders. There used to be collection boxes where the Junior Sodalists could deliver their collected candy, but these have been deactivated due to the pandemic. Consequently, the Junior Sodalists would have to pay for shipping to get the candy to Operation Gratitude. Debbie R requested that Sodality sponsor the shipping cost for this drive. The cost would be approximately \$150-\$200. Maureen W moved to approve this proposal. Judith seconded the motion and the proposal was approved.
- I. Miscellaneous—Sodality has sent a Mass card to Sodalist Collette M's family to express our condolences on her passing.
- J. Helen reviewed the decisions made during the meeting in regard to the Sodality Calendar and Unit Responsibilities.

--There will be no unit responsibilities for the first General Meeting and Mass on October 7. The issue will be revisited before the December General Meeting and Mass.

--Sodality Union Meetings -- Waiting for their plan.

--There will not be a lasagna dinner or Communion breakfast this fall due to the pandemic.

--Bulletin Announcements: Liz moved to table for the time being the rotating unit responsibilities of preparing parish bulletin announcements about individual units for the parish bulletin. The board agreed that this is appropriate under the circumstances. However, Gina proposed that Sodality run a bulletin announcement inviting women in the parish to consider joining Sodality, and the board adopted her suggestion. Membership Chair Patty B and Helen agreed to be listed in the announcement as points of contact for interested women. Helen thanked Gina for her good idea.

--The Giving Tree information, including new dates, will be published in the bulletin.

IV. Reports

A. Prefect: No report.

B. Treasurer: Lee M—The treasury balance is \$27,829.41 after recent payments of \$5,000 to the parish and \$400 for farewell gifts to parish staff.

C. Units:

1. Christ Child: Gail Q: The unit is meeting outdoors for lunch next week. Dues will be mailed.
2. John Neumann: Judith S: The unit postponed its meeting until after the executive board meeting. They will meet via email and will collect

- monetary donations for Fisher House. They will mail their dues.
3. Regina Coeli: Gina C: The unit has not met yet. They will plan a meeting and collect dues. Maureen W added that the annual Christmas Tea at Maplewood has had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.
 4. St. Monica: No report.
 5. St. Gianna: Colleen H: The unit has not met yet. The first meeting will be a Zoom meeting. They are looking at supplying head phones to the National Center for Children and Families as these items are featured on the organization's back-to-school wish list.
 6. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Liz S: Has already reported on the unit project for the Shrine of the Sacred Heart. The unit held a socially distant backyard meeting and will do the same for the next meeting.
 7. Associates: Ellen L: Has not been able to follow up on helping with the Mary Garden. Will follow up prior to the October meeting. Ellen requested that Helen find out from Father Giese his preference for this year's gift to the parish from the Associates.
 8. Junior Sodality: Debbie R: Has already reported.

V. Closing Prayer: The board ended the meeting praying the *Memorare*.