



'Chantacleer'

St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Guild

April 2010

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Sodality Happenings

As a collaborative group, we have been involved in many endeavors over the past few months as we reached out to others in our community.

We had a fairly large group of women come together for our **December Mass and General Meeting**. Monsignor graciously led us in mass, followed by a lovely Christmas reception and craft activity. Canned foods were collected for the Sacred Heart Parish in Washington, DC. Sincere thanks go out to the women of the Christ Child Unit for providing the festive decorations and delicious food for the evening. Also, many thanks to Jeanie Blomquist and Monica Westrick for planning and overseeing the craft.

Once again, the **Christmas Giving Tree** was a successful endeavor that provided gifts and necessities to those in our community who may otherwise go without during the holiday season. Terri Smith and Barbara Coppola gave so graciously of their time and energy, along with the efforts of numerous others, in the coordination of this effort. Thank you to everyone who played a vital role in this important undertaking.

We had seven Sodalists from our parish participate in the **Dominican Retreat** in McClean, VA over the snowy weekend of January 29th–31st. It was wonderful to have St. Jane de Chantal so well represented.

Our efforts included providing refreshments for several gatherings. We provided snacks and breakfast for the seminarians who traveled from Boston to attend the Right to Life March. We supported the Social Concerns Committee by providing platters of food and beverages for the Sacred Heart Parish Memorial Service for the people of Haiti. In addition, we provided refreshments for the Ecumenical Sunday Gathering that our parish hosted.

Thank you to Maureen Wilkerson, who organized a second **Red Cross Blood Drive** at our parish. At a time when the demands are great, it is good to support this cause.

The **Fashion Show and Luncheon** was a huge success, and the afternoon was enjoyed by all. Fashions by CAbi were modeled by our own beautiful Sodalists! Many lucky women went home with beautiful baskets and door prizes. Many thanks to Shannon Harris and Catherine Tomsheck, co-chairs of the event, for kindly giving of their time and talent, along with many other volunteers, who worked together to make this occasion so successful.

The **Morning of Recollection** was held on March 27th, and we had 25 Sodalists participate. We began the morning with mass, followed by a light breakfast and a very inspirational talk given by Father Charles Sikorski, President of the Institute for the Psychological Sciences. He spoke about the final words of Jesus and we were enlightened by Father's thoughtful reflections as we prepared to enter Holy Week.

The annual **Anniversary Brunch** was held on April 18th, and six parish couples, who were celebrating milestone anniversaries, were honored. Many thanks to Mary Hand, chair of the event, and numerous other volunteers.

All of our units continue to work faithfully and diligently to serve others in the name of our Blessed Mother, Mary. A sincere thank you to all!

Spotlight: John Neumann Unit

The John Neumann Unit has experienced some changes this year. Several of our members have made the transition to Associate status, and some others have moved out of the area. However, we also welcomed two new members to the unit. All in all, while our active membership is now a little smaller, we continue to be enthusiastic about our involvement in Sodality, and we cherish the fellowship and mutual support that we share.



Over the last several years, the Unit has undertaken a variety of charitable projects serving a number of different communities. These have ranged from making fleece blankets for young hospital patients and homeless children and donating food supplies to the pantry of the Children(s) Inn at the National Institutes of Health to sponsoring a bake sale for the benefit of the Life Skills Workshop and providing a baby shower for a needy expectant mother at the National Center for Families and Children. We have found that engaging in defined projects of limited duration fits in well with our hectic schedules and allows us to assist a broad range of worthy charitable programs. This year, the unit(s) project is to provide school supplies to the religious education program at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, DC, which provides religious training to about 500 children and so is in constant need of education supplies. Assisting this program has given us a new appreciation of our own blessings and a new respect for the dedication of those who teach the Catholic faith to the next generation under difficult circumstances. We feel privileged to assist this effort.

— Helen Bollwerk

image above from www.cssr.com

From the President

Dear Sodalists,

After experiencing the heavy, yet beautiful snowfalls that engulfed our area this past winter, spring is now upon us with a welcomed splendor! With it brings a time for growth and renewal.

The Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion, and in May we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. As we continue to celebrate Easter, Mary's exceedingly strong faith and will to serve God allow us to reflect upon our own devotion. How difficult it must have been for the Blessed Mother to watch her son suffer, and yet how devoted she was to accept that the scriptures must be fulfilled!

Always, but especially during the month of May, let us ask the Blessed Mother for her protection and grace so that through her holy intercession, we may imitate her in her faith, devotion, and love of others.

Our final mass and general meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 5th, and I hope to see you there.

May God's blessings be with you!

— Karen Atabek

Mark your calendars for the Annual Sodality Plant Sale! Friday, April 30th through Sunday, May 2nd



Want instant color for your springtime celebrations? Think DeChantal Sodality PLANT SALE! Thinking of planting a Mary Garden or Children's garden this year? Want to add some herbs or attract butterflies? This year's Sodality Plant Sale has what you need!

Going to be out of town that weekend? Not a problem, please send us your orders or tell us what you need and we can fill the order online and have it ready for pickup on Monday or deliver it with a small fee for delivery! Please email Maureen with any questions or order requests.

A new feature this year — Montgomery County Master Gardeners will have a booth set up and be available for several hours each day to answer your planting questions. See the Sodality website for exact schedule!

This year's sale will have an exciting array of *NEW* perennials for shade and sun, a variety of herbs, bedding annuals, a wide selection of tomato plants and everyone's favorite — hanging baskets! Junior Sodality will be selling their hand painted pots full of colorful annuals and we will have a new item this year — gardening aprons designed by a Sodalist!

All proceeds benefit the charitable works of the St. Jane De Chantal Sodality Guild. **See the back page for sale hours.**

From the Prefect

Dear Fellow Sodalists,


I hope you all had a blessed and joyous Easter. The celebration of the Easter Vigil marked the beginning of our fifty-day Easter season which will end on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. The season is one of new birth and new beginnings. It is a season of grace and thanksgiving for the salvation we have received as a result of our Lord's resurrection. The beautiful spring days we are enjoying are a perfect reflection of this time of rejoicing in the Church.

The Easter season is also a time of great activity for our Sodality. On the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday, we welcomed Father Charles Sikorsky as our speaker for our Morning of Recollection. Father Charles's talk concerned the seven separate times Jesus spoke while being crucified on the cross and the special significance of His words. His talk gave us a wonderful basis for reflection and prayer as we headed into Holy Week.

At our final general Sodality meeting of the year, on May 5th, we will have a presentation on the 12 sacred oils used in the Bible. We will discover the origins of oils such as sandalwood, cassia, cedarwood, and Rose of Sharon and learn how they were used in biblical times for healing, prayer, and the laying on of hands. I hope that you all will be able to join us for this special ending to our year.

Peace and blessings,

– *Carla Marcolin Geils*



Marian Prayer for the Easter Season

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia,
 For he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,
 Has risen, as he foretold, alleluia;
 Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
 For the Lord has indeed risen, alleluia.

God our Father, you give joy to the world by the
 resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
 Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin
 Mary, bring us to the happiness of eternal life.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Spotlight: Regina Coeli Unit

Regina Coeli is an active group with a project for every season. Two years ago, Sodality was asked to serve a dinner at the University of Maryland Catholic Center. Last year we began doing this as a unit. In October, we prepared and served



dinner to about 150 students at the University of Maryland Catholic Center. The students have a lovely tradition; they meet each Wednesday for an evening of prayer, mass, and a communal dinner. We are warmly greeted by our old friend, Fr. Ingels, and by the students who are very polite and thankful for a simple meal. Although our February 10 date had to be cancelled, with a little luck, we hope to serve one more dinner this spring.

The months of November and December are our busiest months as our unit coordinates the Sodality Giving Tree program. We love this project because it captures the spirit of the season so beautifully. Our unit also takes time to enjoy the holidays with a Christmas party that is not to be missed.

We round out the winter by supporting the Red Cross Blood Drive. Then we look forward to spring. As members of Sodality, I think we all feel that the Mary Garden is a beautiful and special place. In the spring, our unit will gather in the Mary Garden to help with clean up and planting. Next on our list, we would like to give support to Aunt Haddie's Place, a foster home for teenage boys.

– *Denise Sintetos*

Remember in Prayer

Rev. Alan Helwig

In Memoriam

Mary Casey, sodalist

Bernadette Klecker, sodalist

John Pekar, husband of sodalist Marcy Pekar

Robert Susil, son-in-law of sodalist Joan Weigel

Publication Information — The 'Chantacleer' is published four times a year. To submit an item for publication, please email Julie MacDonald at jackjuliemac@aol.com.


Upcoming Events



Friday/Saturday/Sunday, April 30–May 2
Plant Sale

Sunday, May 2
10:00 am
Mass, May Procession, and May Crowning


Wednesday, May 5
7:00 pm
Mass and General Meeting



Mark your calendar for the Annual Sodality Plant Sale!

Friday, April 30th noon–5:00 pm
Saturday, May 1st 8:00 am–6:00 pm
Sunday, May 2nd 8:00 am–6:00 pm

All proceeds benefit the charitable works of the St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Guild.



We're on the Web!
 See us at www.dechantalsodality.org

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