



“Chantacleer” ● ● ●

St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Guild

Spring 2011

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Sodality Happenings

Our second sponsored **Red Cross Blood Drive** was held on Sunday, February 27th. It was a successful day for blood donations, and there were people, mostly parishioners, in line to donate the entire day. Nearly 40 pints of blood were donated. Many thanks to those of you who donated blood at this time when the blood banks are in dire need. Also, we offer a sincere thank you to **Maureen Wilkerson** for organizing this event.

The annual **Fashion Show and Luncheon** was held at Columbia Country Club on Saturday, March 5th, and it was a beautiful day. Every possible seat was taken, and every Sodality Unit was represented. The baskets and raffle items were creatively displayed and offered a useful and exciting array. The event was a highly successful fundraiser, with profits at \$9,745 (\$2,300 more than the profits from last year), and as you know, these profits help support the charitable efforts of our Sodality Guild. It takes an enormous amount of planning and organization to prepare for this occasion, and we are very grateful to our Co-Chairs, **Shannon Harris** and **Catherine Tomsheck**, along with the many other volunteers whose hard work, enthusiasm, and organization made this event possible. It was a perfect day, down to every detail! :)

We celebrated our **Monthly Sodality Mass** on Sunday, March 6th at the 10 o'clock service. There was a good number of Sodalists in attendance, and it is always nice to see a significant group standing to collectively recite our Sodality Prayer.

Our annual **Morning of Recollection** was held on Saturday, March 26th. We began by attending 8 o'clock Mass together; then we gathered downstairs in Caulfield Hall for a light breakfast, inspirational Lenten talk, and reflection. This prayerful and reflective experience offered a perfect opportunity for us to join together, grow on our Lenten journey, and prepare more fully for the celebration of Easter.



Shannon Harris (left) and Catherine Tomsheck (right) pose with Kathleen Wilks, CAbi clothing representative, during the Fashion Show.

Update: Regina Coeli Unit

The month of November was extremely busy for our unit. On November 3, our members hosted a dinner for students at the University of Maryland Catholic Center. Over 100 students attend mass at 5:30 on Wednesday evenings and then enjoy dinner in a community room at the center. We prepared our favorite side dishes, salads, desserts and then served them with hot dogs for a pot luck dinner. It is a little bit of home for the students, who greet us with hearty thanks.



On November 6, two of our unit members attended the Sodality Union mass at St. Augustine Church on V St., in the District of Columbia. At the November union mass, all of the deceased sodalists are remembered.

Many unit members helped with set up and served at the annual Communion Breakfast on November 7. We enjoyed the lovely breakfast, and the inspired performance by Anita Gutschick.

On November 18, we gathered in Caulfield Hall for our "label meeting." This marks the beginning of the Giving Tree, a month long project that involves the entire parish. Over 1,000 gifts are collected, sorted and distributed to area charities for the Christmas holiday. We also welcomed three new members into our unit: Tembi Chikosi, Judy Dorsett, and Mauri Sagnay.

– Denise Sintetos

From the President

Dear Sodalists,

Lent is a time of preparation, in which we are called to listen more diligently to the word of God and devote ourselves more fully in faith through earnest prayer and reflection. In this way, we may participate more completely in the celebration of Easter.

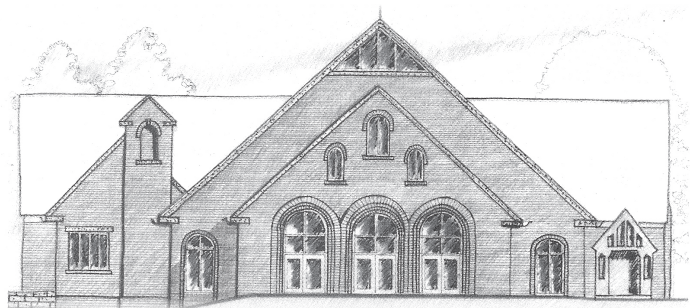
As we continue our Lenten journey, let us look to the Blessed Mother as our perfect role model. The words of Jesus, dying on the cross were, "Behold your son...Behold your mother," (*John 19:26-27*). Jesus entrusted the Blessed Mother to his disciples to be honored and revered, and she was entrusted to the disciples as their mother. She was the precious gift given to the disciples by Jesus.

She stood by her son at the foot of the cross, and she mourned his agony. Yet she fulfilled her role in the prophecy with faith and courage. She suffered with her son, just as we suffer when we are faced with adversary. She was and is the perfect disciple.

During this season and always, let us ask for the Blessed Mother's intercession in guiding us to lead our Christian lives more fully.

May God's blessings be with you,

– Karen Atabek



Founded in 1950, St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish is a community of nearly 2,000 families. Its primary purpose is to enable its members to live the life of Jesus Christ, to share their God-given talents for the benefit of each other and of society and to pass on to their children the rich gift of their Catholic Faith.

The patroness of the parish, St. Jane Frances de Chantal (1572-1641) was a French woman who worked with St. Francis de Sales. She founded the Visitation Order of nuns dedicated to the virtues of Mary and works of charity toward the sick and the poor. The Visitation Convent on Old Georgetown Road (now part of NIH) was the first home of the parish.

From the Prefect

Dear Fellow Sodalists,

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of our Lenten journey. The 40 days of Lent provides us with a special opportunity to strengthen our relationship with God through the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and alms-giving (acts of charity). Prayer helps us reflect upon Jesus and his suffering on the cross as the source of our own salvation. Fasting or similar acts of penance where we "give up" something we enjoy (like our usual grande no-whip soy lattes or that weekly TV series we cannot miss), help us to exercise self control and detach from worldly distractions. Finally, acts of charity assist those in need while demonstrating gratitude for the good fortune God has bestowed upon us.

In observance of Lent, the Sodality sponsored its annual Morning of Recollection on Saturday, April 26th. Our speaker was Joan Knetemann, Director of Institutional Advancement for the Washington Theological Union or "WTU". WTU is a Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry in DC and it educates seminarians and religious as well as lay people for ministry. Joan spoke to us about recognizing and celebrating the Paschal Mystery in our own lives as we encounter suffering, death and transformation.

As we enter into Spring and move closer to celebrating the Paschal Mystery collectively at Easter, we can think of Lent as a period of "spring cleaning" for our souls. (In fact, the term "Lent" derives from the old English term for "spring.") By focusing on the traditional Lenten observances of prayer, fasting and alms-giving, or by taking other steps that have a spiritual significance to us, we can each find a personal way to take advantage of the opportunity that Lent affords us to deepen our faith and commitment to God.

Peace and blessings,

– Carla Marcolin Geils

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to make the Sodality's Glorious Garden Sale a successful and fun event!



*Sometimes angels skip around
And in their blissful state of glee
Bump into a daisy or sweet pea.*

– J.L. Adams

Update: Margaret Mary Unit

The women of the Margaret Mary Unit are active and involved in the life of the guild and the parish. At our unit meeting on January 13, Father Alves joined us and said mass. This meeting, held at the home of Maureen Thomas, kicked off a busy spring for the unit.

On February 5, unit members represented the guild at the Sodality Union Mass and Meeting. Anne Gemunder and Colleen Thompson attended the Mass at St Martin of Tours Church in DC. The mass was well attended. The program at the general meeting included a Tribute to the Oblate Sisters of Providence that was performed by Sodalists and Junior Sodalists.

On Sunday, February 13, the unit hosted its 2nd Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser at the Bottle Shop in Rockville. This was a fun event that brought together sodalists for an enjoyable afternoon and raised funds for on-gong projects at Sacred Heart parish.

Following the successful fundraiser, the Margaret Mary and John Neuman units combined knowledge and resources to provide the Sacred Heart faith formation program with Spanish language bibles. The bibles were given to the children in the Confirmation preparation class and will be used in preparation for the sacrament.

For the Sodality Fashion show, members collected gifts and money to provide two baskets, Pretty in Pink and a color Nook e-Reader for the annual fundraiser.

In late March, the Margaret Mary Unit was responsible for the Sodality Morning of Recollection. Members attended the Mass and breakfast and enjoyed the presentation by Joan Knetemann of the Washington Theological Union.

As the year progresses, Unit members will be involved with the Annual Plant Show as well as other activities, continuing to share their common interest in spiritual development and serving their families, parish and community.

– Colleen Thompson



Remember in Prayer

Rev. Alan Helwig

In Memoriam

Deacon David Allen

Did You Know...?

A chanticleer is a male domestic fowl or rooster. In French, Chanticleer means "sing clear", and we use this as the symbol for our newsletter. Years ago, our Sodality Guild decided to personalize the name of our newsletter; therefore choosing to spell it "Chantacleer" for a more personal flare.

Publication Information — The 'Chantacleer' is published four times a year. The summer issue will be mailed in late June/early July 2011. To submit an item for publication, please email Julie MacDonald at jackjuliemac@aol.com.

Preface to the Marian Lenten Mass

*Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.*

*At the foot of the cross of Jesus,
by his solemn and dying wish,
a deep bond of love is fashioned between
the Blessed Virgin Mary and his faithful disciples:
the Mother of God is entrusted to the disciples
as their own mother,
and they receive her as a precious inheritance
from their Master.*

*She is to be forever the mother of those who believe,
and they will look to her with great confidence
in her unfailing protection.*

*She loves her Son in loving her children,
and in heeding what she says
they keep the words of their Master.*

*Through him the angels of heaven
offer their prayer of adoration
as they rejoice in your presence for ever.
May our voice be one with theirs
in their triumphant hymn of praise. Amen.*

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