



*“To Jesus through Mary.”*

O Mother Mary, may you continue to bless our lives as we journey in faith, hope, and love. Be our model and guide as we live in the grace won by your Son Jesus, in His suffering and resurrection. May your motherly intercession for us bring healing, strength and renewal. O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners. Help us to bring all people to your Son, especially those in most need of His mercy. May our Sodality help us grow in your image as disciples of Jesus.

We pray this in His name. Amen.

# Biennial Report 2014–2016

Rev. Fr. Michael Briese, Moderator  
Olga Baeza, President

*“Come Holy Spirit! Help us to give ourselves entirely  
to Jesus through Mary.”*

[www.SodalityUnionADW.org](http://www.SodalityUnionADW.org)



# Sodality Union

June 2014- June 2016

Thank you to and God bless the extraordinarily gifted Executive Council consisting of our officers and standing and special committee chairs, as well as the Advisory Committee consisting of our Past Presidents.

## Fr. Michael Briese (November 2014 – June 2016)

**Elizabeth Colston**, Vice President  
**Robin Pilkerton**, Recording Secretary  
**Shelia Parker**, Treasurer  
**Margaret Johnson**, Apostolic Life  
**Lisa William**, Spiritual Life  
**Melody Atkinson**, Membership  
**Bernadette White**, Special Services

**Cecilia Flores & Rolando Villars**, Ways & Means  
**Doris Patterson**, Hospitality  
**Marie Brown**, Junior Sodality  
**Mildred Steptoe**, Program Coordinator  
**Darlene Jackson**, Public Relations  
**Rita Matory**, Historian  
**Colene Nelson-Harrison**, Parliamentarian

<i>Audrey Somerville</i>	1986-1988
<i>Doris Edelin</i>	1990-1991
<i>Phyllis Toliver</i>	1992-1994
<i>Joan Butler</i>	1994-1996
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<i>Elizabeth Coefield</i>	2008-2010
<i>Cindy Perry</i>	2010-2012
<i>Mildred Steptoe</i>	2012-2014



# Sodality Union

Archdiocese of Washington  
www.SodalityUnionADW.org  
2014-2016 Term



## **Moderator**

Rev. Fr. Michael Briese  
Holy Name of Jesus  
Washington, DC 20002

June 2016

Dear Sodalists:

## **President**

Ms. Olga Baeza  
St. Michael the Archangel  
Silver Spring, MD

## **Vice President**

Mrs. Elizabeth Colston  
Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian  
Fort Washington, MD

## **Recording Secretary**

Mrs. Robin Pilkerton  
Jesus the Divine Word  
Huntingtown, MD

## **Treasurer**

Ms. Shelia Parker  
St. Benedict the Moor  
Silver Spring, MD

## **Spiritual Life Committee**

Ms. Lisa Williams

## **Apostolic Life Committee**

Ms. Margaret Johnson

## **Membership Committee**

Ms. Melody Atkinson

## **Public Relations**

### **Committee**

Ms. Darlene Jackson

## **Program Coordinator**

Mrs. Mildred Steptoe

## **Hospitality Committee**

Mrs. Doris Patterson

## **Special Services Committee**

Mrs. Bernadette White

## **Ways & Means Committee**

Mrs. Cecilia Flores  
& Mr. Rolando Villars

## **Junior Sodality Committee**

Mrs. Marie Brown

## **Historian**

Mrs. Rita Rigor-Matory

## **Parliamentarian**

Mrs. Colene Nelson-Harrison

It is with great sorrow that I must resign as your Moderator. I am going to become the pastor at St. Mary Parish in Charlotte Hall, MD. I went there last weekend (May 21) for a Listening Session. We had over 50 parishioners. It is a parish of about 225 families. It is in rural southern Charles County. The parish was established by a Franciscan priest in the 1670s. Here I am an "urban cowboy" on my way to the country. No more cabs, buses or subways. No! Now, it is my new vehicle that will get me around. My truck has 4-Wheel Drive and other much needed equipment used in rural settings. BUT! The Sodality has been VERY fun, profound and fulfilling!

Mary always traveled with Jesus. She witnessed His healing, preaching and many miracles. Mary listened as her beloved Son approached the least among us, the vulnerable, the powerless and those without a voice. Mary witnessed what the Gospels tell us. Her beloved Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus did indeed remind all that our lives are to be lived in service to our Father. Mary understood this and lived out her vocation. You and I, and all Christ's modern disciples are called by our Lord to imitate His Holy Mother Mary. Let us hear the Gospel, and preach unto others not just by words, but also by HOW we live out our daily lives. May we imitate Christ and put our faith into action.

Mary reminds us that our own lives and all human life is sacred, precious and holy. Whatever you decide to do each day, walk in the company of Christ, listen in prayer and be the holy person our Lord calls each and all of us to be. Imitate Mary. Learn from Mary. Seek the Divine in your midst. Draw near to our Lord and in silence seek stillness and listen in prayer. Do this each day. Realize that all time is God's time and human history is but the unfolding of God's Kingdom here at hand. As Sodalists bring God's infinite love, mercy and justice into the lives of others. Wherever you journey, go forth in the company of Christ. Like Mary, follow our dear Lord. At the end of each day, go off to a quiet place, and in silence, pray and pray more. This is what Mary did. This is what we should do. Then in the company of our Lord, find stillness and rest.

Peace & Blessings,

*Fr. Michael Briese*

***“Come Holy Spirit! Help us to give ourselves entirely to Jesus through Mary.”***



# Sodality Union

Archdiocese of Washington  
www.SodalityUnionADW.org



2014-2016 Sodality Union Term

Dear Sodalists and Moderators and friends of Sodality Union:

Among the many gifts that we were blessed to receive this term are the beautiful reflections prepared for us by **our two Moderators during this term:**

**Fr. Brian Coelho** (through Autumn 2014)

**Fr. Michael Briese** (November 2014 – June 2016)

In his first Marian Reflection “Assumption of Mary, Hope for Humanity,” included with the August 2014 monthly letter, Fr. Coelho said, “I urge all of us to ask the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary, who is our Mother, who is very close to us, who understands our weaknesses, understands our difficulties in keeping the Word; and she will teach us how to obey, how to welcome God in our lives, how to come to our final destination.” In the Fall Father Coelho was reassigned to other Archdiocese responsibilities. We thank Father Coelho for his pastoral guidance during his assignment with us as Sodality Union Moderator. Change tends to be difficult, but we are blessed that Fr. Michael Briese was officially appointed as our “new” Moderator in November 2014, soon after he delivered a memorable homily on God’s gifts to us every minute of every hour of our day at the October Commitment Mass at the Shrine. Fr. Briese, a prolific writer, stepped right into the role, ever present at our Executive Council and General Meetings, beginning each with an Opening Prayer.

And, of course, we have been blessed this term with an extraordinarily gifted Executive Council consisting of our officers, standing and special committee chairs, and the Advisory Committee consisting of our Past Presidents, who together reflect that:

*Sodality is a Door to Spirituality and a Channel to Service.*

**Elizabeth Colston**, Vice President  
**Robin Pilkerton**, Recording Secretary  
**Shelia Parker**, Treasurer  
**Margaret Johnson**, Apostolic Life  
**Lisa William**, Spiritual Life  
**Melody Atkinson**, Membership  
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Thank you to our Past Presidents for your prayers and guidance throughout the term, offering assistance not only as active Executive Council members (Marie/Junior Sodality and Mildred/Program Coordinator), but to all presidents for serving as the Advisory Committee beginning in May 2014 when you graciously met with me to answer questions and offer words of wisdom from past experiences and words of hope for the future of Sodality Union.

During the term the Executive Council planned and prepared meetings and events with emphasis on bringing Sodalists ever closer **to Jesus through Mary** and to “unite the sodalities of the Archdiocese” in a bond of “common commitment.” It was heartening to see Executive Council members come together beautifully to realize event after event. It was evident from the start how innately kind and generous each Executive Council member is, recognizing in them that it is “**the driving force of God’s gifts which lead sodalists to goodness and social action.**” One small example from the start of the term was their charitable response in donating items for baskets to raffle sporadically throughout the term. Cecilia (Ways & Means) was showered with donations, which she in turn enthusiastically utilized to assemble beautiful baskets. Each Executive Council member is blessed with numerous gifts and generously shared their talents with a genuine spirit of joy.

- Father, thank you for your spiritual leadership, for your Marian Reflections and many writings that personally accompany me to Holy Hour! Thank you for celebrating Mass for us at the October 2014 Commitment Mass at the Shrine and for leading us through the Holy Door of Mercy at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in April 2016; and for the Sodality Prayer that beautifully expresses our Sodality commitment! For this to you and Fr. Paul DiSiano who offered some edits, we thank you!
- Lisa (Spiritual Life Committee Chair), thank you for planning beautiful spiritual retreats with Fr. Coloton in 2015 and Fr. Sass in 2016; for the lovely Mass programs and other details involved in organizing the annual Commitment Day Masses at the Shrine; for your commitment to the TV Masses at the Shrine by encouraging donations to and attendance at the filming of the Masses “sponsored” by Sodality Union among other organizations like the Knights of Columbus. Sodality Union has been able to donate over \$3000 these past two years to help with the taping of the TV Masses; and for sharing your deep faith that included assembly of the Spiritual Bouquet to the Holy Father to which the Holy Father’s office responded graciously.
- Margaret (Apostolic Life Committee Chair), thank you for scheduling speakers at our meetings, for organizing Christmas donations for area charities, for working with Doris who donated Our Lady of Fatima statue, to bring to Sodality Union our Traveling Madonna and

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Robin who donated the lovely carrying box, and for working with Junior Sodality and Orientation planning Committees and for your many, many other apostolic works.

- Doris (Hospitality Chair), thank you for being an fine example of Mary/Martha—attentively and quietly organizing the Christmas luncheons, which this term included Sodality Prefect and Moderators, and other special luncheons; and for always being an example of warm hospitality welcoming Sodalists and friends at special Masses and meetings. The role of the Hospitality Committee Chair always brings to mind how Jesus always showed hospitality, always thinking of feeding the crowds. Thank you to Doris and her lovely committee members for always bringing much joy through your welcoming spirit of hospitality, always feeding us!
- Cecilia and Roland (Ways & Means Committee Co-chairs), you brought a spirited energy (and a raffle drum!) to the Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Fund through the annual raffles leading us to raise over \$11,000 this term. And thank you for assembling beautiful baskets with meaningful themes toward the scholarship fun. Plus, succeeding in organizing us administratively by exhaustively researching the lowest cost of ticket printing service and Lottery Board’s requirements, as well as inviting Archdiocese representatives to further explain the needs of the area’s schools’ youth and always assisting other committees with your artistic talents. Thank you!
- Bernadette, Special Service Committee Chair, you poured your love in planning meetings while serving as Program Coordinator for a few months and as Special Services organizing area pilgrimages to see the memorable Picturing Mary Exhibition at the Women in the Art’s National Museum, the Marian Pilgrimage at the Franciscan Monastery and the Holy Door pilgrimage on this Jubilee of Mercy! Thank you!
- Melody, Membership Committee Chair, you carefully logged and tallied our attendance to ensure we complied with this year’s officers’ elections, and offered to assist in many ways, including chairing the 2015 Orientation Committee and the meeting calling for a nominating committee; plus, always offered supportive, artistic and constructive advice to the Executive Council. Thank you!
- Marie, Junior Sodality Committee Chair, you and your committee spent much precious time each year scheduling events for the area’s youth thoughtfully planned to coincide with the Holy Father’s encyclical on the environment; publicizing Junior Sodality and Sodality in general with timely themed t-shirts that made their way throughout our parishes. Thank you!
- Mildred, Program Coordinator, thank you for willingly assisting as coordinator after your busy 2012-2014 term as President, for working diligently to schedule Sodality host parishes this term, for the detailed planning for the Commitment Mass in 2015, and for preparing us with host parishes through December 2016.
- Darlene, Public Relations Committee Chair, thank you for your lovely newsletters and educational quizzes at meetings throughout the term, for proposing a 5-point program to invite inactive Sodalities to join/rejoin Sodality Union, and for lending your artistic talents to several committee events.

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- Rita, Historian, thank you for your work with Darlene to document the term's events and for your enthusiastic interest to learn as much as possible about Sodality.
- Colene, Parliamentarian, thank you for your knowledge and inquisitive mind during general and Executive Council meetings to keep us on track procedurally.
- Thank you to all our host parishes this term: St. Philip, St. Augustine, St. Mary of Piscataway (2014), St. Francis Xavier (Feb 2015), St. Michael (Mar), St. Luke (April), St. Jane Frances de Chantal (May), St. Elizabeth (June), St. Joseph in Largo (Sept), Holy Family (Nov.), Mount Calvary (Dec.), St. Benedict the Moor (Feb. 2016), St. Hugh of Grenoble (Mar.), St. Thomas Apostle (April), Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian (May), St. Bernardine of Siena (June) of these parishes. You each hosted Sodality Union Masses and meetings in a unique, beautiful way, welcoming us warmly to your parish "homes." And may we remember in prayer all the beloved Sodalists who were called home over the past to year rest in God's eternal embrace.
- Our officers, Liz, Robin and Shelia, for your spiritual and professional talents in your respective offices. I thank you for the first few meetings when you made yourselves available to meet prior to our scheduled Executive Council meetings to talk over our plans and dreams for the term. Thank you to your talents and commitment to Sodality, we are blessed to have shared much this memorable term.
- Cindy, President 2012-2014, thank you for your gracious response to lead the Executive Council and parish Prefects in a *July 2015 Strategic Planning* meeting where Sodality Union's efforts were evaluated, resulting collectively in five important indicators of vitality that were recommended and carefully considered the remaining of the term with the help of the Holy Spirit; and for "always" being there.

In response to the recommendations resulting from the Strategic Planning meeting—that included (1) growing in our understanding of the meaning of **"to Jesus through Mary"** and (2) gaining further knowledge on devotion to our Blessed Mother—we are thankful that many prepared for the Marian Consecration through *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Fr. Gaitley, which we then celebrated together on December 12, 2015 at St. Philip the Apostle prior to our Christmas luncheon. I pray that this devotion will continue to grow and spread throughout our Sodalities and parish communities, and hope that Sodality Union continues being a resource for this devotion. This Marian Consecration has personal meaning because the prayer calling the Holy Spirit to "help me to give myself entirely to Jesus through Mary" was the source of the term's theme. It is a powerful prayer and this Marian way of life was evident in the Executive Council's response to all duties and responsibilities.

This being the *Jubilee of Year of Mercy* (December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016), we were blessed to have passed through the **Door of Mercy** together as a faith community after Mass celebrated by Fr. Briese at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in April 2016. We also had an opportunity to take part in the Consecration to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday after preparing by reading Fr. Gaitley's *33 Days to Merciful Love*. I pray that more Sodalities and their parishes will continue to experience these transforming devotions to bring us ever closer to *Jesus through our devotion to Mary* and from the Morning Glory Consecration Prayer offer the following: *Let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for bring the greatest possible glory to God.*

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In response to the recommendations for (3) more interactive meetings/events and (4) a “how to” kit on how to live a Marian Way of Life, we invited Sodalists and were delighted at the response from individual Sodalists to lead us in the closing prayer, Litany of Loreto, at general meetings each month. We were also blessed, for example, with an eager offer from one of our fellow Sodalists to participate more actively in Sodality Union. Providentially, as devotee of Marian Consecration, she shared with us her expressive writings on *33 Days* as we prepared for Consecration.

Further in response to making meetings/events more interactive, we were graced with the company of Prefects and Moderators at our Christmas Luncheon. We welcomed Prefects (and are thankful for their input!) at the mid-term strategic planning meeting. We gathered “virtually” as Sodalists from many parishes to participate in the Archdiocese’s “Walk with Francis” campaign in anticipation of the Holy Father’s visit to Washington. We were also delighted to welcome the Holy Father with a message in the *Catholic Standard* on behalf of active parish Sodalities during his 2015 visit.

We took under advisement the request for a “how to” kit in living a Marian way of life, and consequently patterned the September 2015 Orientation sessions on the Sodality Union Manual. The Manual not only outlines our history and bylaws, but it presents the beautifully written objectives of Sodality (sprinkled throughout this report), the ways to model our efforts centered on *Jesus through Mary*, the responsibilities of officers and committees and a candidate formation program. Reintroducing the treasures found in the Manual to remind us of this priceless resource was welcomed by attendees at Orientation 2015.

Foreseeing everyone’s desire for wider participation and growing in knowledge in Sodality’s function, the 2014 Orientation was structured to open the orientation topics on the duties and responsibilities of the officers and committees to all attendees. It began with presentations by Past Presidents Barbara Bechet and Phyllis Toliver to the general assembly on the Sodality Way of Life, followed by a panel presentation by current officers and committee Chairs on the role of the officers and committees before breaking into smaller to allow for questions and answers specific to each topic.

It was a personal joy to prepare for the 2014 Orientation attendees a handout generally based on St. Ignatius Spiritual Exercises on “*How can a journal lead me closer to God?*” I continue to invite you to grow in the joy of your faith by maintaining a journal of your spiritual journey as you do all for the greater glory of God.

A couple Sodality Union’s annual events—support of TV Masses for the homebound and Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Fund—offer opportunities for us to “live” a Marian way of life, *A Sodality Way of Life*. An increased commitment to attending the taping of TV Masses as parish communities and planning parish Sodality events that promote our commitment to the area’s youth by increasing participation in the Cardinal Hickey Scholarship raffle, as well as planning as a parish Sodality to attend Sodality Union’s Annual Lenten Retreat are wonderful spiritual and apostolic annual events that **foster deeper spiritual formation**.

To continue growing and sharing in the Sodality Way of Life, we are grateful for the opportunity over the last couple of years to participate in the Archdiocese Women's Conference. Sodality Union participated during the planning of the Conferences and was blessed to lead the Rosary in 2015 before Mass and to assist both years as facilitators at various presentations,

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introducing the speakers and being available to assist attendees. We thank all who visited and/or assisted with the Sodality Union table at each conference.

Among Sodality objective's is to ***unite Sodalities of the Archdiocese in a fourfold bond of community: a common commitment, a common way of life, a deep concern for all; and a filial love for Mary.*** I am hopeful that we, collectively, work to improve communications among Sodalities by facilitating the opportunity to share information about parish Sodalities' events. Offering a table at general meetings where parish Sodalities could share information about retreats, pilgrimages and other events, is an effort that regrettably did not materialize this term. I propose to the incoming administration to include this request for an informational table as we work with host parishes this coming term. And, of course, we are hopeful that Sodalities become more increasingly comfort submitting requests to [ExecCouncil@sodalityunionadw.org](mailto:ExecCouncil@sodalityunionadw.org) to post events on the Membership page of the web site. Increased communication will invite us to celebrate more events together.

During the term, cards to priests upon their ordination, priests assigned to new parishes, and celebrating their anniversaries were sent as often as possible. I will also remain hopeful that you continue to pray for priests as we recall the words of St. John Vianney: "Without the priest, the Passion and Death of our Lord would be of no avail.... What use would be a house filled with gold, were there no one to open its doors?"

In response to the immediate Past President's request in her closing report, the Application for Sodalities was completed and is available on the web site. It was also shared with Sodalities for completion in one of the term's monthly letters. The application is a start to a package we can continue to assemble to welcome back inactive Sodalities and to invite new Sodalities to form. It is everyone's hope to reach inactive Sodalists and parish Sodalities (5th recommendation). I am hopeful that with assistance the officers and perhaps from Past Presidents this will become one of the upcoming term's goals. The web site launched this term ([www.sodalityunionadw.org](http://www.sodalityunionadw.org)) is available as a source to reach all Sodalists—active, inactive and prospective Sodalists—and become a good resource. As we continue this effort, we can reflect on words from the Holy Father's Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel* which tells us that there is a "Marian 'style' to the Church's work of evangelization."

As we prepare for the future of Sodality Union, we anticipate celebrating our 100th Anniversary in 2018! I thank our outgoing officers for their faithful commitment to the promises Sodality and I invite us all to keep our incoming officers for the 2016-2018 term in our prayers:

**Shelia Parker**, President

**Margaret Johnson**, Vice President

**Robin Pilkerton**, Recording Secretary

**Cecilia Flores**, Treasurer

May they remain in our Blessed Mother's most pure heart and under her protective care. I encourage us all to support Sheila, Margaret, Robin and Cecilia in the effort to gain full membership of ALL Sodalities in order that we may all share and celebrate our Marian spirituality throughout the Archdiocese, especially as we approach our 100th Anniversary!

It saddens me deeply that Father Briese's term as our Moderator is coming to an end, but he is assured of our prayers. May Father Briese continue to be the holy example he has been for

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Sodality as he continues in his priestly vocation. We now look forward to welcoming our incoming Moderator, Fr. Pawel Sass, with words for all of us to ponder from **Father Briese's May Marian Reflection:**

Mary took nothing for granted. She knew God had indeed kept His divine promise to send forth the Savior of the world. Mary knew from the beginning. She understood that Her beloved Son was in fact sent by the Father. Mary realized that there is indeed a season of the heart—a Sacred Heart—a season which was fulfilled in Mary's beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. The season of the heart is that time we give over to the Divine. Mary did this and so can we. There is within you, me and all who freely choose, a season of spiritual harvest. It is a season in which the Light of The World shines brightly bringing forth greater faith, greater hope and greater love. Mary understood this. Do we?

Thank you all for the countless blessings received while serving as your Sodality Union President this term. Thank you for sharing in your joyful celebrations throughout the past two years. "May the sweetness of [the Mother of Mercy's] countenance watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God's tenderness." (*Misericordiae Vultus.*)

That we may continue to always pray for peace and reconciliation in the world, and always for each other, our Moderators, all priests, religious and seminarians.

I will remain in prayer with you  
to Jesus through Mary,

*Olga Baeza*  
President

***"Come Holy Spirit! Help us to give ourselves entirely to Jesus through Mary."***

**Vice President's Report  
to the Executive Council  
of the Sodality Union**

It has been a pleasure and an honor for me to serve on the Executive Council of the Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington as Vice President from 2014 to 2016. This position allowed me to get better acquainted with the wonderful women who serve on the Executive Council and their great work in the name of Our Blessed Mother.

Working with the Sodality Union has been a part of my family history. My mother, Elizabeth G. Hill served as President of the Sodality Union in the early 1970's. Service and prayer in the name of Our Blessed Mother is expected.

In keeping with the guidelines as outlined in the Sodality Union Manual I have had opportunities to partake in many experiences. The Vice President must show flexibility and the capacity and willingness to do a variety of assignments. I have had the opportunity to chair one of the Executive Board meetings in the president's absence. I have also taken the notes for the Executive Board meeting in the secretary's absence. At many of the general meetings I have read reports for various members of the Executive Council and I have introduced some of our guest speakers and presenters. During Executive Board meetings I have listened attentively and hopefully have made some worthwhile contributions to the discussions. As vice president I have retained copies of documents and manuals which will be turned over to the next administration. I also participated in the strategic planning meeting that was held last summer.

Highlights of the past two years have included the trip to Saint Clements Island in Southern Maryland for the celebration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Washington. Mass was celebrated on the island by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl. Our annual October pilgrimages to the Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for Commitment Day Mass was a highlight each year. Our most recent visit to the Basilica to celebrate Mass and pray at the Door of Mercy was also inspiring. Visiting a number of parishes for our monthly meetings has given me the opportunity to interact with Sodalists from all parts of

the Archdiocese. Our annual Lenten Retreat at the Washington Retreat House continues to be a source of renewal and inspiration.

I would like to personally thank President Olga Beaza for her outstanding leadership and commitment to the Sodality Union. I commend her quiet determination and diligence for the continued success of the organization as we pray "To Jesus through Mary".

Finally a thank you to Father Michael Briese who serves as our untiring and inspirational moderator. Thank you for the books, the talks, and the blessings you have bestowed on us. A special thanks for our Sodality Union Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Colston



### Recording Secretary

I was elected in May of 2014 to serve the Sodality Union for the 2014 - 2016 term. As Recording Secretary, I ensure that minutes of each General Meeting and Executive Council Meeting are recorded and kept in order for future reference. The Recording Secretary also maintains a file for the Consent to Publish for members of the Sodality Union. The Recording Secretary also assists other members of the Executive Council to monitor the web page and e-mail for the Sodality Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Pilkerton



# Sodality Union

## ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON



### TREASURER'S 2014-2016 BIENNIAL REPORT

The Treasurer' position for the *Archdiocese of Washington Sodality Union* is governed by the rules and regulations of the Archdiocese of Washington and the Sodality Union's Bylaws. The Sodality Union functions under the tax-exempt ID of the Archdiocese of Washington. As such, the Sodality Union's bank accounts are held in banks approved by the Archdiocese and subject to audits since all funds collected are under the tax-exempt ID of the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese of Washington submits all required reports to the IRS. **Article VI – Finance** and **Article VII – Duties of Officers** in the *Manual of the Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington*, specifically address the responsibilities and duties of the Treasurer.

Summarily, the Treasurer is the custodian of the Sodality Union's funds and is bonded, along with the President and the Moderator, to handle and distribute the Sodality Union's funds. The Sodality Union maintains two (2) bank accounts, namely:

1. The Archdiocese of Washington Sodality Union Account, which contains all General Operating Funds; and
2. The Archdiocese of Washington Sodality Union Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Account, which contains all proceeds from the annual Raffle and donations towards the scholarship.

Subaccounts were maintained in the Sodality Union – General Operating reports for monies collected for specific purposes, such as: Jr. Sodality, Basket Raffles, Luncheons, and Mass for Shut-ins. This allowed the designated collected funds to be realized and expended correctly.

#### DUTIES:

**Bank Forms.** One of the initial duties of the Treasurer is to obtain the bank forms from the Archdiocese's Finance Department for the Moderator, President, and Treasurer to sign. The form is returned to the Archdiocese for their recording and submission directly to the bank. The Archdiocese ensures that all appropriate signatures are obtain from the Archdiocese staff, such as Bishop Barry Knestout, Vicar General, and Bishop Martin Holley.

**Check and Payment Process.** Requests for expenditures of funds, after approval by the Executive Board and/or General Body, were submitted on the **Voucher/Check Requisition** form. The form was generally prepared by the requester and approved by the Committee Chair and President or Moderator. After approval was given for the expenses to be incurred, the Voucher/ Check Request Form was used to record the following:

- Request for Funds
- Purpose
- Details of the Expenses based on the receipts
- Person Requesting and Approving
- Check Number of the payment

The Voucher/Check Requisition form are a part of the Treasurer's official records and is required as documentation for every expenditure.

All checks must be signed by two (2) of the approved bonded officers. Checks issued under \$500 were signed by the Treasurer and the President or Moderator. All checks issued at \$500 or more were signed by the Treasurer and the Moderator.

All payments by check are copied and attached to the deposit slips. Receipts are available and were initially issued. A receipt book is now a part of the Treasurer's tools in recording payments.

In September 2015, Payments Slips were provided to all Prefects to utilize in the submission of the payment of their dues and/or donation for the Mass for Shut-ins. This assisted in maintaining the correct name of the parish since there are more than one parish with the same name, such as St. Mary's, and remains a part of the documentation of the parish sodality payment.

Also, a roster was maintained on a yearly basis of the affiliated parish sodalities that documented payment of annual dues of \$60 and donations for the televised Mass for the Shut-in.

**Reports.** The Treasurer provided a *Monthly Financial Report* for both bank accounts at the Executive Council and General Body Meetings. The Financial Reports are the result of the reconciliation of the bank statements with the checkbook, deposits, and Treasurer's records. Copies of the bank statements were distributed monthly to the Moderator and President with their Financial Report. Copies of the Financial Reports were distributed to the Moderator, President, Vice President, Secretary, and the Executive Council. Copies of the Financial Report were distributed to the General Body twice a year. All Financial Reports are a part of the Treasurer's official records. In addition, an *Annual Financial Report* is due in June of each year. All records will be given to the incoming Treasurer, after the election and the biennial audit which must be completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>. The *Audit Report* will be presented to the incoming Executive Council at its first Board Meeting. Copies of all reports will be submitted to the Archdiocese of Washington Finance Department.

In addition, the Treasurer worked closely with the Ways and Means Committee. As we begin the new year, the Treasurer will assist in preparing the annual budget.

If you have a penchant for numbers, accuracy, and preparing timely and detailed reports that allow others to understand the financial transactions, let the Holy Spirit guide you as the Treasurer.

Thanking you for your patience and understanding and praying God's Blessings through His Son, Jesus Christ led by our Blessed Mother, Mary.

It has been my honor and a blessing.

Shelia C. Parker, Treasurer  
July 2014 – July 2016

**Spiritual Life Committee Biennial Report**  
**June 2014 – May 2016**



I was appointed as Chair of the Spiritual Life Committee. I would like to thank all Sodalists for prayerfully participating in all of the spiritual activities, prayers and journeys to Jesus through Mary.

During this term our Spiritual Bouquets to His Holiness Pope Francis totaled 154,548. Some of our sacrifices included Masses, Rosaries, Eucharistic Adoration, Novenas, Liturgy of the Hours, Divine Mercy prayers, and many more.

Our 2015 Lenten retreat was lead Fr. Paul Colloton, OSFS. The theme was Mary's Way of the Cross and our conferences: *Help Us Hear Your Voice, Like Mary; Mary Pondered These Things in Her Heart; Jesus Meets His Mother and Behold Your Son! Behold Your Mother!* The total number of attendees was 52.

Our 2016 Lenten retreat was lead by Fr. Pawel Sass. The theme focused on this Jubilee Year of Mercy and our conferences: *Totus Tuus "I am all yours Mary!; The Love and Mercy of Two Hearts: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Most Merciful Mother – Apparition of Mary in Guadalupe, Mexico; and Encounter the Mercy of God in the merciless times – The Year of Mercy, the Only Response to the Hurting World.* The total number of attendees was 88.

I offer continued prayers for all of our Sodalists, the Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington and our Priests, Deacons and Seminarians.

**Respectfully & Prayerfully Submitted:**

**Lisa Williams**  
**Chair, Spiritual Life Committee**

Sodality Union of the Archdioceses of Washington, DC

**Apostolic Life Committee Biennial Report - 2014-2016**

The *Manual of the Sodality Union* cites the duties of the Apostolic Life Committee as: a.) Developing a way of life that is committed to the services of the Church in areas dealing with the needs of the people of God; 2.) Encourage active participation in Visiting Programs that will help fulfill the needs of those residing in hospitals, nursing homes, and other institutions; 3.) Develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of the people of other countries, their customs and their religions through programs, conferences, and home related activities; and, 4.) Maintain a list of speakers and Retreat Masters in coordination with the Spiritual Life Committee. (See Page 22.)

The Committee's approach to fulfilling the duties of Apostolic Life was to conduct activities in accord with the actions of the Apostles, i.e., to promote activities that encouraged the development of a spiritual life, that benefit the poor, and assist other Committees with their activities. In my presentation at the 2015 Orientation Meeting, I advised the attendees that if they make the Corporal Works of Mercy their guidance they will easily fulfill the expectation of an apostolic life.

My first activity as Chair of the Apostolic Life Committee was to assist with the preparation for the 2014 Orientation Meeting. This was a good learning experience because I acquired first hand knowledge of the workings of the other committees saw how the projects of the committees can support each other. Most of the activities of Apostolic Life are carried out in conjunction with other committees.

In regards to administrating to the people of God, the Committee coordinated the collection of food and clothing items, and money for the yearly donation to an organization dedicated to helping the poor. The past two years, the donation was given to Catholic Charities of Washington, DC. The items were very gratefully accepted at the St. Francis Xavier Church location.

This year, we initiated another help program, viz., Little Dresses for Girls in Africa. Sodalists who participate in this initiative will make dresses for young girls in Africa, Haiti, and Appalachia who are orphans or very poor. Directions for making the dresses were provided, however, Sodalists are free to use their own patterns. This project will continue during the summer months. It is reported that if the children look cared for they are less likely to be abused or exploited. The dresses will give the children hope and encouragement because they will know that someone cares for them. Short pants can also be made for little boys. Hopefully, this will be a continuing project.

To provide assistance to Sodalists in development of a spiritual life, we instituted a Traveling Madonna. A Sodality takes the Madonna to its Parish for a month; during that month Sodalists are encouraged to take the Madonna home for a week, or other length of time, display her and pray the Rosary and other prayers each day alone or with the family. Rosaries and Prayers are included in the container with the Madonna. Having the

Madonna present in the home will be a spiritual focal point for the Sodalist and her/his family.

The Apostolic Life Committee assisted the Junior Sodality with its Essay and Poster contest. Children in Parochial and public schools were asked to write an essay or make a drawing in recognition of Pope Francis' Encyclical, Laudatio Si, on the care of the earth and help to the poor. This activity was conducted both years and generated good participation. The particulars of the activities are contained in the Jr. Sodality submission.

The Committee secured speakers for the majority of the General Meetings to provide information for the spiritual development of the Sodalists. The presentations dealt with Marian topics or, this, year Divine Mercy. This activity is coordinated with the Spiritual Life Committee. The Committee is currently collecting names of speakers to prepare a listing or booklet of speakers for distribution to the Sodalities. We are aiming to have the listing or booklet available for distribution at the 2016 Orientation.

An outstanding activity that the Vice President, Public Affairs Chairperson, and Apostolic Life plan to complete this summer is an information notice to nonaffiliated parishes to let them know of the Union's existence, provide information regarding activities, and extend an invitation to the Orientation Meeting .

I have enjoyed chairing this committee. I made the Corporal Works of Mercy my guidepost and let the Holy Spirit guide my actions. I would like to continue as a member of the Apostolic Life Committee.

In summary,

“Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.” (John Wesley, Anglican Priest.)

Special thanks to all who assisted me in this position. May God bless you.

Margaret Johnson  
Chair Apostolic Life Committee



Sodality Union  
Archdiocese of Washington  
www.SodalityUnionADW.org

**Special Services Biennial Report  
2014-2016**

I began this term as temporary Program Coordinator before assuming my appointment to the Special Services Committee. During this term, the Sodalists (and friends) participated in three spiritual quests.

December 17, 2014

**MEET MARY**, an exhibit highlighting sacred paintings-artifacts created by women of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many of the famous masters included in this exhibit had its first showing in the United States. The highlight was to have a retired (State Department) Italian Consultant in our group who further explained exhibits. Most of the 21 participants were able to see the masters up-close and without the crowds existing in their own European habitat.

February 11, 2016

Marian Pilgrimage to the Franciscan Monastery for the **Crown Tour – Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day**. Many Sodalists took part in a spiritual journey in Christ –the act of consecrating oneself to Jesus through Mary, **33 DAYS OF MORNING GLORY**. (book) This personal retreat always ends on a Marian Feast Day. 44 Pilgrims, representing 13 parishes participated in spite of the temperature of 21 degrees.

April 30, 2016

**DOOR OF MERCY**, our final spiritual journey brought us to the path our Holy Father, Pope Francis, establish here at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. 51 Pilgrims sought passage through this Door seeking the mercy of God during this Jubilee year of Mercy.

A Pilgrimage understood to be a physical journey with a spiritual goal. The components include: prayers, music/song, reconciliation and Mass. When we set out to seek God in this way many graces are obtained.

It has been my pleasure to serve the members of our Union and appreciate the support that each of you gave directly or indirectly to the success of the Special Service Committee. Thank you.

Bernadette White, Chairperson  
St Gabriel-dc (Parish)

“Come Holy Spirit! Help us to give ourselves entirely to Jesus through Mary.”

# SODALITY UNION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE BIENNIAL REPORT - 2014-2016

According to the Sodality Union Manual the Hospitality Committee is to “develop a spirit of sociability among sodalities by planning, organizing and executing arrangements for special occasions”.

This committee planned, organized and facilitated registration of attendees, in an orderly, timely manner, for the Orientation/Training Meetings, in September 2014 and 2015. This was made possible due to the valuable assistance of Sodalists from the General Body, Past Presidents, and Committee and Council Members who willingly gave of their time.

Before becoming chairperson, it had been brought to my attention that sodalists who attended the general meetings were feeling left out. With that in mind, I requested and the Council agreed in 1914 to offer sodality prefects and their moderators the opportunity to attend the Annual Sodality Union Council Christmas Luncheon. Many did participate in the 1914 and 1915 Christmas Luncheons, which were held at Andrews Air Force Base Club; much positive feedback was received.

This committee planned, prepared and served breakfast and lunch for the Sodality Union Council Planning Meeting in July, 2015. Prefects and/or their representatives attended and actively participated in this meeting during which ideas were shared and decisions made.

The last big task for this committee is executing arrangements for our June Luncheon, which is now held biennially rather than annually. At this luncheon the changing of the guard occurs and it is usually very well attended.

I am grateful to my committee members, Ann Friday and Kathleen Perry, for their unwavering assistance and helpful suggestions. I think the expectations for this committee were met. I

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and chatting with so many Sodalists and working with the Council Members during my tenure as chairperson. I learned a lot and will always remember the love and kindness witnessed. I pray that Mother Mary will continue to spiritually guide us in our future endeavors.

Doris W. Patterson, Hospitality Committee Chairperson



## **SODALITY UNION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON**

### ***The Junior Sodality Biennial Report – 2014-2016***

***The Junior Sodality Committee started out the past two years co-chaired by Sodalists Marie H. Brown of St. Francis Xavier, D. C. and Fred Neal of St. Luke, DC. The Junior Sodality has enjoyed many projects and programs during its existence. Many wonderful Sodalists have served at Chairperson. We recognize especially, Sodalist Maxine Hart of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, DC, who coordinated the Bible Quizzes we shared. We continue to thank the many Sodalities for their participation in the Bible Quizzes.***

***The idea to have a 2015 Junior Sodality Essay Contest was accepted. Sodalist Margaret Johnson suggested that we concentrate on Climate Control since the effort to preserve our Earth was being presented and accepted by many world organizations, including the Catholic Church. The Sodality Union's Executive Board placed the Essay on our agenda.***

***Our 2015 Essay theme was "What Can I do to Preserve the Earth?" Our 2016 Essay theme was "What Can I Offer in Sacrifice to Help the Poor and Help Save the Earth?" Our 2015 theme was influenced by climate control and our recognition of the problem. Our 2016 theme was influenced by the enlargement of the issue and the involvement of the church in seeking a resolution that would benefit all people. The planned visit of the Pope caused us to expand our effort to involve more youth, thus, the T-shirt idea was included.***

***The Junior Sodality asked for volunteers and many Sodalists joined the effort. The Sodalities with access to youth groups joined in, as well. We are pleased to report that in 2015, we received forty-seven essays. The first and second place winners received a token of our appreciation that was donated to the Junior Sodality. In 2016, we received more than eighty essays and sold more than one hundred and fifty t-shirts. The proceeds from the shirts underwrote some of our administrative cost and was given as a remembrance to the first and second place winners.***

***All of the young people were given a certificate of participation and we thank them!***



*We have shared with the Sodality Union the names of all of the dedicated volunteers, winners and participants. We thank Fred Neal for his assistance in 2015 and offered prayers when he could no longer participate.*

*And special thank you to all Sodalists  
who made this event a success!*

**Judges:**

Margaret Johnson (St. Mary in Landover),  
Evelyn Rattley (St. Benedict the Moor), Nicki Gebrehiwot  
(Holy Comforter St. Cyprian), Lois Bowman (St. Francis Xavier),  
Carol Floyd (Assumption Catholic Church), Joyce Thomas (St. Luke), and  
Sheila Washington (St. Francis de Sales)

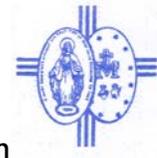
**Special artistic contributions:**

Darlene Jackson

**General assistance and support by:**

William Michael Cunningham, Wanda Rose, Alice Wilson, Cathy Burton,  
St. Francis Xavier Youth Group AND Sodality,  
Fr. Jim Boccabella (Pastor, St. Francis Xavier),  
Fr. Michael Briese (Moderator, Sodality Union), and  
to each of the participating parishes and schools of the Archdiocese, as well  
as the families of each of the participants.

***Marie H. Brown, May 2016***



**The Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington  
Biennial Report  
Ways and Means Committee Report**

**Members:**

Cecilia Flores – Committee Lead  
Rolando Villars – Committee Co-Lead

Alice Wilson – Committee member  
Shelia Parker - Treasurer

**Summary**

The 2014-2015 year began with guidance from the President to reduce the printing costs (over \$1400) and the Vice voiced a frustration of having to fold tickets in quarters. Further recommendations were received from Sodality representatives at the annual orientation where they expressed a desire to have the tickets before the holidays.

Vendor quotes for printing were gathered and analyzed to print 24,000 tickets, the amount which had historically been ordered. The best price quoted was from A-Z Printing, an on-line vendor, at \$579 for single tickets padded in books of 500's for ease in distribution. Tickets were ordered on index card stock which eliminated the need to fold the tickets to prevent them from sticking to each other as was the case with the lighter paper. This lower price reduced the expenses by almost \$1000. Tickets were delivered in time for the Dec 2014 General meeting.

An information paper was drafted and provided to the Sodalities. It contained administrative information on the drawing date & location, ticket turn in date, examples of bulletin announcements, 30 second "elevator" speech about the raffle, to assist in the raffle ticket sales and inform on the Tuition Assistance Fund.

The drawing was conducted on April 11, 2015 at St Luke Catholic Church in Washington, DC and the winners were:

Name	Prize	Amount	Sodality
C. Phifer	1 <sup>st</sup>	\$500	St Frances De Sales
A Ford	2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$300	St Joseph
S Carter	3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$100	Holy Comforter
F Shaw	4 <sup>th</sup>	\$100	S Joseph
J. Gonzalez	5 <sup>th</sup>	\$100	St Michael the Archangel

A survey was conducted at the June 2015 meeting to identify what went well and areas to improve the fund raising efforts. Those recommendations were analyzed and courses of action developed to execute for the next raffle fund raising season scheduled for FY 2016.

The 2015-2016 year began with the implementation of the recommendations received from the survey and expressed during the previous year general meetings and the addition to the committee of a volunteer Ms. Alice Wilson.

1. **Recognize the Top 3 Sodality Raffle Ticket Sales:** The Top 3 for 2015 were recognized at the Sodality Union Orientation General Meeting conducted in Sep 2015. They were: St Michael the Archangel (1275), St Joseph, Largo (1100) and St Hugh Grenoble (1000) which represented 33% of total ticket sales for 2015.
2. Provide the **information paper** earlier in the season to assist in planning a successful fund raiser. The information paper was provided during the September Orientation and put on the web site as a reference. A Frequently Asked Questions section was added to answer some frequently asked questions.

3. **Raffle Gift Baskets** –It was recommended that gift baskets be used as a quick and easy way to raise funds. We had 4 planned gift basket raffles: September (Marion theme), December (Holiday) Feb (Valentines) and May (Marion) that was moved to June. All raffles had great participation and raised funds over the value of the basket contents.
4. **Issue the Tickets before the Christmas Season:** Tickets were issued at the November 2015 General Meeting before the Thanksgiving holiday.
5. Get a **speaker to talk about the ADW Tuition Assistance Fund**, at a General Meeting. Mr John Butler, Secretary for Development, ADW, came to our October 2015 General Meeting and provided an information brief, on the Catholic Education Foundation (CEF), Tuition Assistance Fund. This briefing included student testimonials, demographic information and schools that have benefitted from the tuition assistance, which was expressly asked at the June 2015 general meeting when Mr D'Antoni, of the ADW, accepted the 2015 donation check.

Tickets printed for this fund raising year were decreased from 24,000 to 17,000 to reduce waste and cost but still position us to sell beyond 15,525 tickets needed to achieve the FY 2016 targeted goal of \$6100 after expenses for the ADW CEF. A-Z Printing was used again and the reduced ticket count decreased the printing cost to \$496.00.

The Drawing was conducted on April 2, 2016 at St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Washington DC and the winners were:

Name	Prize	Amount	Sodality
C. Rank	1 <sup>st</sup>	\$500	Jesus the Divine
A Caracelli	2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$300	St Thomas the Apostle
G Garre	3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$100	St Michael the Archangel
N Oranye	4 <sup>th</sup>	\$100	St Frances Xavier
C. Perry	5 <sup>th</sup>	\$100	St Hugh Grenoble

We experienced growth in Sodality participation and ticket sales from 2015 to 2016 as shown in the table below.

Comparison of Raffle Fund Raising Efforts between 2015 and 2016			
	2014-2015	2015-2016	Remarks
<b>Tickets Sold</b>	10,514	12,745	FY 15 includes 119 tickets with 100% proceeds (\$119) applied towards Tuition Assistance and FY 16 includes 346 (\$346.00). These are from sales at events such as General meetings, Catholic Women's Conference etc.
<b>Participating Sodalities</b>	26	29	Ticket Sales
<b>Donations</b> Parish/Sodality Individual	2 - \$300.00	3 - \$350.00 1- \$100.00	Sodality and Individual Cash donations
<b>Funds Raised</b>	\$5616.50	\$6988.50	Expenses have not been deducted from these totals
<b>Expenses</b>	\$1697.25	\$1661	These expenses do not include the \$1265 bond, which is reimbursable after submitting the Financial report.
<b>Proceeds</b>	\$3919.25	\$5327.50	After expenses
<b>Amount Donated</b>	\$6100	TBD	FY 15 donation was assisted with funds from general funds.

**The Top 3 for the 2016 Raffle Ticket Sales** were: St Joseph, Largo (1579), St Michael the Archangel (1421) and St Hugh Grenoble (1000) which represented 31% of total ticket sales.

## Lessons Learned

### FY 2015:

- Compute the odds correctly - divide the number of prizes by the # of tickets printed i.e.  $24,000/5 = 1$  in 4800 odds of winning. DC Lottery indicated that SU had incorrectly calculated the odds in the application in previous years.
- Sell the tickets for one price versus \$1.00 a ticket and the book of 3 for \$2.00 printed on the ticket in previous years. DC regulation Title 30, 1502.3 states: "The price to the public of all tickets for any one raffle draw shall be in one fixed amount."
- There is no need to fold tickets and there are no rules on the disposition of unsold tickets. (Mr Jeff Anderson) We just need accountability on what was sold and unsold for the Financial Report.
- You need to backward plan from the planned target date of issuing raffle tickets to ensure that the license application and the required checks for the license and bond are submitted in a time to meet your milestones. The application has to be approved before you can let the printer print the tickets.
- It is easier and faster to pay out of pocket, and ask for reimbursement from SU afterwards, for the Certificate of Good Standing, which can be gotten on line with no wait period if paid electronically. Also, the best printing prices quoted were from on line vendors.

### FY 2016:

- Keep a copy of cancelled checks from DC Lottery. We have experienced a delay in getting the \$1265.00 refund from the 2015 license because DC Lottery can not validate they cashed the check.
- Submit the Financial Report and the memo to the DC Lottery requesting the Bond Refund at the same time. Ensure that the memo requesting the Bond Refund include the banking information and a copy of the Voucher and the Financial Report to help reduce delay in getting the refund.

### Recommendations:

- Continue to find ways to reduce expenditures in printing, as it is the only expenditure that cost savings can be found as the DC License, the Good Standing Certificate and the bond are out of our control.
- Look at other options for raising funds such as emphasis on the cash donation option of participation. Donating cash might be more appealing to Sodalities not interested in the fund raising aspects for their own Sodality, or even individual donations that could be provided a letter verifying the donation for tax purposes.
- Continue to find ways to improve the raffle fund raising process by either conducting a survey or getting feedback from the Sodalities.
- Investigate the possibility of the James Cardinal Hickey account getting a bank card to use to pay for expenditures like the Good Standing Certificate or even on line printing.



# Sodality Union



Archdiocese of Washington

## 2014-2016 Biennial Report Membership Committee

Attendance was taken at Business Meetings, attendance was not taken at the two Orientation Meetings, the two Commitment Days held at Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception nor the May Business Meeting in 2016.

Every effort was made to maintain an accurate count of attendees. At each meeting it was stressed that the attendance cards were needed to be filled out completely and returned to count toward the four meetings to vote in the April Elections.

The following shows the number of Attendance Cards returned at each meeting:

<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cards</u>
St. Augustine	11/01/14	120
St. Mary's Church of Piscataway	12/6/2014	95
St. Francis Xavier	2/7/2015	122
St. Michael the Archangel	3/8/2015	67
St. Luke	4/11/2015	117
St. Jane Frances de Chantal	5/2/2015	75
St. Elizabeth	6/6/2015	77
Holy Family Hillcrest	11/7/2015	110
Mt. Calvary	12/05/15	91
St. Benedict the Moor	02/06/16	101
St. Hugh of Grenoble	03/05/16	96
St. Thomas the Apostle	04/02/16	57
Total		1128

The number of ballots mailed out was 140. This number includes Prefects from member Sodalities.

The Sodalities with the largest attendance:

1<sup>st</sup> Place

St. Benedict the Moor, Washington, DC

2<sup>nd</sup> Place (3-way-tie)

Holy Comforter St. Cyprian, Washington, DC

St. Michael the Archangel, Silver Spring, MD

St. Thomas More, Washington, DC

Certificates will be presented at the June 2016 Sodality Luncheon.

I continue to pray for the success of the Sodality and good health of it's members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melody Atkinson – Membership Chair 2014-2016

*Come Holy Spirit! Help us to give ourselves entirely to Jesus through Mary.”*



## HISTORIAN'S BIENNIAL REPORT

2014 – 2016

The theme for the 2014-2016 biennium was “Come Holy Spirit! Help us give ourselves entirely to Jesus through Mary.”

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, installation of new officers for the Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington took place at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center.

### The newly installed members are:

**President:** *Olga Baeza* (St. Michael the Archangel, Silver Spring, MD)

**Vice President:** *Elizabeth Colston* (Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian, Washington, DC)

**Treasurer:** *Shelia Parker* (St. Benedict the Moor, Washington, DC)

**Recording Secretary:** *Robin Pilkerton* (Jesus Divine the Divine Word, Hunting-Town, MD)

### Committee chairpersons appointed are:

**Parliamentarian:** *Colene Nelson-Harrison* (Teresa of Avila, Washington, DC)

**Historian:** *Rita Matory* (Nativity, Washington, DC)

**Program Coordinator:** *Mildred Steptoe* (Teresa of Avila, Washington, DC)

**Spiritual Life Committee Chair:** *Lisa Williams* (St. Gabriel, Washington, DC)

**Apostolic Life Committee Chair:** *Margaret C. Johnson* (St. Mary, Upper Marlboro, MD).

**Membership Committee Chair:** *Melody Atkinson* (St. Joseph, Largo, MD)

**Junior Sodality Committee Co-Chairs:** *Marie Brown* (St. Francis Xavier, Washington, DC)

**Ways & Means Committee Co-Chairs:** *Cecilia Flores and Rolando Villars* (St. Michael the Archangel, Silver Spring, MD)

**Hospitality Chair:** *Doris Patterson* (St. Columba, Oxon Hill, MD)

**Special Services Chair:** *Bernadette White* (St. Gabriel, Washington, DC)

**Public Relations Chair:** *Darlene Jackson* (St. Augustine, Washington, DC)

**September 6, 2014 - SODALITY ORIENTATION DAY – workshop St. Phillip the Apostle Catholic Church, Camp Spring, MD**

Rosary

Mass

**October 4, 2014 COMMITMENT DAY – Basilica National Shrine, Washington, DC**

Rosary

Mass

**November 1, 2014 – GENERAL MEETING – St. Augustine Catholic Church, Washington, DC**

Rosary

Mass

Apostolic Life – Book of Remembrance Presented

Book of the Deceased Sodalists

**December 6, 2014 – GENERAL MEETING – St. Mary of Piscataway, Clinton, MD**

Rosary

Mass

Spiritual Life – General Meeting

Book of the Living Presented

Raffle Books Distributed

Annual Christmas Party – Andrews Air Force Base

***NO GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 2015***

**FEBURARY 7, 2015 – GENERAL MEETING – St. Frances Xavier Catholic Church,  
Washington, DC**

Celebrant: Rev. Jim Boccabella

Co celebrant: Rev. Michael Briese

Rosary

Mass

General Meeting

Junior Sodality

Essay/Drawing Event

Ways and Means

Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Fund Raffle

Sodality Union News – Valentine's Day

**MARCH 13 – 15 2015 – SODALITY UNION ANNUAL WEEKEND LENTEN RETREAT  
WASHINGTON RETREAT HOUSE, WASHINGTON, DC**

Retreat Master and Spiritual Director – Rev. Paul Colloton, OSFS

Topics: Mary's Way of the Cross – Spiritual Journey in the Anticipation of  
the Joy of Easter

***APRIL 4, 2015 – NOT IN ATTENDANCE – ON TRAVEL***

**MAY 2, 2015 – GENERAL MEETING – ST. JANE FRANCES De CHANTEL CATHOLIC  
CHURCH, BETHESDA, MD**

Rosary

Mass

General Meeting

**JUNE 6, 2015 – ANNUAL SODALITY UNION LUNCHEON MEETING – ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH – ROCKVILLE, MD**

Rosary

Celebrant: Msgr. John F. MacFarland

Topic: Mother Mary – Guest Speaker – Edward D’Anfoni – Archdiocese of Washington, DC – Cardinal Hickey Archdiocese General Scholarship Fund

**September 5, 2015 ORIENTATION DAY – Workshop St. Joseph Catholic Church, Largo, MD**

Celebrant: Rev. Ray E. Campbell, Jr. Celebrant

Concelebrants: Rev. Michael Briese and Rev. Arron Duneshi

Indicators of Vitality

- Workshop, education, community life service and administration
- Initiated the “Traveling Virgin” devotion Our Lady of Fatima

**October 3, 2015 COMMITMENT DAY MASS – Basilica National Shrine**

- Rosary Mary’s Garden
- Spiritual adoptee (religious order, or priest)
- Marian Consecration
- 33 days to Glory St; Louis de Montfort
- Raymond Kolbe, Mother Theresa. St. Pope John Paul
- Walk with Pope Francis Pledge

**November 7, 2015 – GENERAL MEETING – Holy Family Catholic Church, Hillcrest Heights, MD**

Celebrant: Rev. Kevin Regan

Co celebrant: Rev. Michael Briese

Presentation: Br. Leonard Konopka of Immaculate Conception

Topic: “Mary and Example of Mercy and Altruism

Apostolic Life – Book of Remembrance

Book of the Deceased Sodalists

Prayers for Deceased Sodalists

Catholic Charities

Socks 449 pairs of socks

Food

- Dresses for Africa
- Resource of Speakers List

Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2015 Women's Conference St. Luke Catholic Church

Theme: "The Gist of Womanhood"

Speakers: Topic "Pass the Salt"

(Serving, Accountability, Love, Teaching)

Topic "Being Self while dancing to the expectations of a Social World"

**December 5, 2015 – GENERAL MEETING – Mt. Calvary Catholic Church  
Forestville, MD**

Rosary

Celebrant: Rev. Everett Pearson

Spiritual Life

Book of the Living presented

Spiritual Bouquet sent to Pope Francis

Prayers for Seminarians, Priests

Presentation

John Butler Secretary for Development, Archdiocese of Washington

"A collaborative effort between Catholic Education Foundation and Countless generous donors through Out the Archdiocese of Washington"

**December 12, 2015 – ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY – Andrews Air Force  
Base (\$25.00/person)**

***NO GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 2016***

**February 6, 2016 – GENERAL MEETING – St. Benedict the More Catholic Church, Washington, DC**

Rosary

Celebrant: Rev. Andrew Royals

Presentation: Junior Sodality Essay/contest

Committee Chair: Marie Brown

“What can I offer in sacrifice to help the poor and help save the earth?”

**February 11, 2016 - PILGRIMAGE TO THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY, Washington, DC**

**February 27, 2016 – Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women ADW Women’s Conference**

- Living the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in your parish
- Remembering God’s Mercy
- Charity begins at home
- 25 years of Project Rachel

**MARCH 5, 2016 – St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church, Greenbelt, MD**

Rosary

Celebrant: Rev. Walter Tappe

Deacon: Desi Viktor

**MARCH 11 – 13 – 2016 - ANNUAL SODALITY UNION LENTEN RETREAT – WASHINGTON RETREAT CENTER Washington, DC**

Retreat Master and Spiritual Director Rev. Pawal Sass

Topic: Divine Mercy for this Year of Mercy opened by Pope Francis

Ways and Means

- Turn in Raffle Proceeds
- Letter from Pope Francis
- Thanking the Sodality Union Members for the Spiritual Bouquet

**APRIL 2, 2016 – GENERAL MEETING – ST. THOMAS the APOSTLE, WASHINGTON, DC**

Rosary

Celebrant: Rev. Richard A. Mullins

Topic: Miraculous Medals Prayers

**APRIL 30, 2016 – SHRINE FOR OUR DOOR OF MERCY**

Confessions: St. Anthony Mary Claret Chapel

Celebrant: Fr. Michael Briese at Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Procession Holy Door of Mercy

Sodality Union Annual Lenten Retreat

Attendees whole weekend \$29.00

Saturday only \$50.00

Spiritual Director Fr. Paul Sass

Annual Luncheon June 4, 2016 – St. Bernardine  
of Siena

Winners of Raffle Drawing – 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> place

Nominating Committee Accepted and Approved by Fr. Briese

Spiritual Life

2015-2016 Contribution for Mass for Shut-ins (\$2,000.00)

Hospitality

Annual Luncheon June 4, 2016

St. Bernardine of Siena Catholic Church, 2400 Brooks Drive, Suitland, MD

Ways and Means

- Raffle Drawing Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Fund

- Raffle Baskets

Due May 2016 The Sodalist Biennial Reporting 2014-2016

Due for distribution June 2016

Announcement for officers done in this meeting

**MAY 7, 2016 – Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian, Washington, DC**

**JUNE 4, 2016 – ANNUAL LUNCHEON - St. Bernardine of Siena, Suitland, MD**

Installation of Officers 2016 - 2018

*Rita R. Matory,*  
Historian

Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington  
Parliamentarian Report of  
Activities completed for 2014 – 2016

The following activities were completed:

- Served as an advisor on parliamentary procedure to the President
- Assisted Committee Chairpersons in their planning and/or parliamentary procedures when requested
- Answered member questions and gave advice when asked
- Participated in the Parliamentary Session for Orientation Day, and
- Carried out other duties as assigned and requested by the President

In addition, the Parliamentarian completed outreach to the following local organizations:

- St. Teresa of Avila Sodality
- East of the River Revival Committee (Bylaws Sub-committee)

Respectfully submitted by,  
S. Colene Nelson-Harrison  
May 19, 2016



# Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington

*"Come Holy Spirit! Help us to give ourselves entirely to  
Jesus through Mary."*

[ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org](mailto:ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org)

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## About Us



## WHO WE ARE — “COME AND SEE”

The Archdiocese of Washington Sodality Union, organized in 1918, consists of approximately 67 affiliate parish Sodalities.

Our Lord Jesus asked the first apostles, and continues to ask His present day disciples, “What do you seek?” (John 1:38). In response to His invitation to “come and see” (John 1:39), each first Saturday of the month from September through December and February through June, Sodality Union journeys on a

**spiritual pilgrimage** to a different parish in the Archdiocese. (JOIN US on our monthly pilgrimages!) We gather in prayer and fellowship, and assemble to conduct the organization's order of business at a host parish.

With the **Holy Eucharist as the summit**, and through devotion to and in imitation of the Blessed Mother, Sodalists embrace healthy habits of mind and heart, as well as Christian virtues to be good and faithful citizens, and courageous and understanding leaders for our families, our parish communities and the greater society.

The aim of each Sodalist is *to love and serve Jesus through Mary*—our holy and humble model—and to achieve Spiritual growth and depth, using the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius that invite us to encounter God in our daily lives.

Sodality Union is **led by the Executive Council**, whose members are elected officers, appointed Committee Chairs, the Advisory Committee comprising of Sodality Union's past Presidents, and the Spiritual Moderator appointed by the Archbishop.

The Executive Council is entrusted to lead the group in a harmonious spirit of cooperation, generosity and respect; to enhance Sodalists' spiritual life; and to engage each Sodalist in service for the common good of God's people.

Sodality Union unites **the voice of parish Sodalities** and encourages participation in the many spiritual and apostolic events sponsored and celebrated throughout the year by the group and by the individual parish Sodalities.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Archdiocese of Washington Sodality Union, a Marian organization, fosters spiritual and apostolic unity among the Church of the

Archdiocese; and promotes a Sodality Way of Life, a pathway to Jesus through Mary—built on Faith, Hope and Charity—“*for the Greater Glory of God.*”



## **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2014-2016**

**Moderator:** *Rev. Fr. Michael Briese* (Holy Name of Jesus, Washington, DC)

**President:** *Olga Baeza* (St. Michael the Archangel, Silver Spring, MD)

**Vice President:** *Elizabeth Colston* (Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian, Washington, DC)

**Treasurer:** *Shelia Parker* (St. Benedict the Moor, Washington, DC)

**Recording Secretary:** *Robin Pilkerton* (Jesus Divine the Divine Word, Huntingtown, MD)

**Parliamentarian:** *Colene Nelson-Harrison* (Teresa of Avila, Washington, DC)

**Historian:** *Rita Matory* (Nativity, Washington, DC)

**Program Coordinator:** *Mildred Steptoe* (Teresa of Avila, Washington, DC)

**Spiritual Life Committee Chair:** *Lisa Williams* (St. Gabriel, Washington, DC)

**Apostolic Life Committee Chair:** *Margaret C. Johnson* (St. Mary, Upper Marlboro, MD)

**Membership Committee Chair:** *Melody Atkinson* (St. Joseph, Largo, MD)

**Junior Sodality Committee Co-Chairs:** *Marie Brown* (St. Francis Xavier, Washington, DC)

**Ways & Means Committee Co-Chairs:** *Cecilia Flores and Rolando Villars* (St. Michael the Archangel, Silver Spring, MD)

**Hospitality Chair:** *Doris Patterson* (St. Columba, Oxon Hill, MD)

**Special Services Chair:** *Bernadette White* (St. Gabriel, Washington, DC)

**Public Relations Chair:** *Darlene Jackson* (St. Augustine, Washington, DC)

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Past President's Term and Name**

1986-1988	Audrey Somerville
1990-1991	Doris Edelin
1992-1994	Phyllis Toliver
1994-1996	Joan Butler
1996-1998	Graciela Stevens
1999-2001	Barbara Bechet
2002-2004	Alice D. Wilson
2004-2006	Katie Jackson
2006-2008	Marie Brown
2008-2010	Elizabeth Coefield
2010-2012	Cindy Perry
2012-2014	Mildred Steptoe

CONTRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS to our recently elected officers for 2016-2018

President: Sheilia Parker

Vice President: Margaret Johnson

Secretary: Robin Pilkerton

Treasurer: Cecilia Flores

CONTACT US at [ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org](mailto:ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org)

***PRAY THE ROSARY!***



## GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

[2015-2016\\_SUCalendar\\_of\\_Events\\_as\\_of\\_2016\\_May.pdf](#)  
347.7 KB





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## **Moderator's Corner**

*FR. MICHAEL BRIESE*

**2015-2016 MARIAN REFLECTIONS  
& MESSAGES**

### **Mary in the Summer**

I think Mary welcomed the summer months...a season that followed the very busy Spring months when farmers had to till the soil, plant the seeds and irrigate the upcoming crops. Mary witnessed all this ancient agricultural activity. It was another time...a time when the combination of soil and water made possible the growth and actual existence of all human life. Remember, there was no heavy machinery, mechanical transportation or modern modes of time management. All ancient farming was labor intense! Mary witnessed all this. It was the way of their

society...a way in which God blessed His chosen people with great harvests and an abundance of food and merriment. Mary saw this and witnessed God's many, many blessings. Summer was that season when Mary and her counterparts could find solace, relaxation and time to enjoy one-another's company.

Mary probably enjoyed walking along the lakeside, or along the various trails that took one from one village to another. Mary was one who saw the beauty of God all around her: In the breaking of the dawn, throughout the passing of time and the change from afternoon into the evening, Mary knew in the very depths of her heart that God indeed did smile with favor upon His chosen people.

Mary took nothing for granted. She knew God had indeed kept His divine promise to send forth the Savior of the world. Mary knew from the beginning. She understood that Her beloved Son was in fact sent by the Father. Mary realized that there is indeed a season of the heart---a Sacred Heart---a season which was fulfilled in Mary's beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. The season of the heart is that time we give over to the Divine. Mary did this and so can we. There is within you, me and all who freely choose, a season of spiritual harvest. It is a season in which the Light of The World shines brightly bringing forth greater faith, greater hope and greater love. Mary understood this. Do we?

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## Easter Reflection

### OH! ANCIENT DAY

Mary's heart was broken. The apostles were in hiding. A guard stood near the tomb. The darkness of night surrendered unto the breaking dawn, and red rays pierced through the ancient sky. Dawn brought forth that ancient morning when time stopped and human history was transformed by God Himself as He reached down into the tomb and raised up for us His Son Jesus Christ--The Light of the World.

The tomb was empty. Mary and the apostles ran to the empty tomb! They knew in their hearts and minds that the new day had brought forth the Risen Christ. Indeed, He had fulfilled the ancient words of the prophets. Death and its sting had been overcome by infinite Divine Love. Sin had been conquered by redemption and eternal life. Divine mercy had fallen upon humanity, and the human spirit was renewed by Hope.

On that ancient morning, the Risen Light of The World brought forth the Good News. He had proclaimed freedom for prisoners, healing for the brokenhearted, hope for those in despair, forgiveness for all who choose to believe and reconciliation among enemies. Indeed, on that ancient day, morning had broken, the tomb was empty, and the Light of The World had risen in New Life.

### **THIS LENTEN JOURNEY - February**

This great Season of Lent, treat Lent like a training season for the spiritual life. This LENT make time for prayer, to attend Mass more often, to read Scripture, to live your daily life with a greater awareness of our Lord's presence in your life toward the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Our good and gracious Lord speaks to us. But! If we do not listen, we will not hear Him and if do not look we will not see the Lord. Listen in prayer. Persevere in prayer. Look out to the creation surrounding you and see the signs of God that are not all around us.

LENT is a great season to get into better spiritual shape. We need to give it our best; otherwise the spiritual life will seem too hard. And so our Lord calls us to give it our best, to really try and to persevere in our spiritual journey. This LENT open your heart, mind and spirit to the ways of Jesus

Christ. Before you get angry at someone, take a step back, hold your tongue and ask what Christ would say or do. Before you ignore a somewhat bothersome family member or friend, ask what Christ would do? Before you find yourself indifferent toward another person, ask what Christ would do? What would Christ do is the question we can ask during LENT but also throughout the year.

Our faith is a vibrant faith, a faith to be lived out by putting our faith into action and we have a faith paid for by countless generations who came before us. This life you have a sacred and holy life, a precious life, a life granted by God out of pure, infinite and divine love. This very hour is a holy hour and this day is a holy day because God grants us this lifetime. We did nothing to earn this life. May LENT bring us greater faith and may we be humble enough to come before our Lord in spirit of thanksgiving. May LENT inspire you, bring you and your loved ones many blessings and may LENT renew you. And let us always remember to give thanks to our Lord and God.



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## **OUR HOLY MOTHER - January 2016**

This New Year we at Holy Name Parish have begun a new part-time position to serve persons with disabilities. We do this precisely because our Lord reminds us, the whole Church to assist the least among us. Often they are vulnerable, powerless and without a strong voice in our society. Mary reminds us that her only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ was very often in the company of those who had disabilities and were among the powerless in

society. I ask you to join together as an army of Pray-ers and lift up your prayers in support of this new ministry. Give thanks to God for all we have and all the ways in which we can lift up our faith.

Like Mary follow closely in her footsteps. Pray and pray more. Love, even when love is undeserved or unearned. Be willing to feed the hungry, care for the sick and to bring God's Word into your relationships. Mary realizes that graces are necessary for one's salvation. So, like Mary, go out into this sometimes terrible world, and remind others that God's many graces permeate their heart and mind and spirit. Like Mary, choose life and the goodness of life. Live in ways that imitate Christ and the His Holy Mother Mary.

Like Mary pray for others. Mary understood, even as a young adult that prayer is a God-given gift, a God-given power that no one can take away from us. Indeed, armies and navies will come and go, tyrants and oppressive kings will also come and go, but the power of prayer cannot be destroyed! Mary realized this as a youngster.

We can make a difference in the lives of those with disabilities and those who are poor. This year, let us be modern disciples of Christ by being people of mercy. Go into your heart and with the guidance of Mary draw closer to our Lord. Then ask yourself, "This year, how can I help persons with disabilities or the poor among us?" Then pray and wait in a spirit of expectation. And listen as the Lord speaks to you. Then give thanks to Mary and her Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **ADVENT AND MARY - December 2015**

Our faith teaches us to follow in the footsteps of Mary from when the Archangel provided Mary with the Annunciation to the late cold night when in the company of Joseph, Mary brought into this world, the Holy Redeemer Jesus Christ.

Blessed was the life of Mary. Holy is Mary! In memory of her beloved Son our Lord, Jesus Christ, we celebrate the Season of Advent. Mary waited in expectation of the Christ Child. Like Mary, in fact in imitation of Mary, we wait...we wait throughout the Season of Advent for the expected coming of our Savior. Mary waited...patiently...with trust in God. Alas, the Christ Child entered into our world. On that holy, sacred and ancient night, it was Mary, in the company of Joseph, who welcomed into our real fragile and broken human nature our Savior.

We look back in history and realize that the Christ Child became a teacher and preacher, a miracle worker and a Savior. He died on that ancient Cross and rose from the dead in fulfillment of the ancient prophets. In Advent, we learn from Mary as we draw closer to our Lord. We wait in expectation and silently we ponder about that ancient night when the Christ Child through Mary entered into human history. It was then, on that ancient night when the Divine and human renewed their ancient covenant. Oh! What a Holy Night!

Like Mary, we wait and tremble at the infinite love of God, who so loved the world that He sent His only Begotten Son. WHY? Because God Himself looked into human hearts and knew that all humanity needed forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, grace, redemption and eternal salvation. Mary realize her baby boy would grow to become the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace and the Savior of the World. Mary waited in expectation and knew what the baby before her was to become. So strong was her faith.

Mary reminds us that Advent brings us to that time of year for us to slow down, to be still and in that stillness to pray and wonder about God and His infinite love. And to recall and give thanks and gratitude for Mary's Christ Child whose death on that ancient Cross and resurrection from the dead have transformed human empires, human history and countless hearts, minds and lives. Mary discovered that when you wonder, you will find wisdom. When you pray, you will see God. Advent brings us startling news! The Lord is among us! Make haste!

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \*

Dear Mother Mary:

He came into your presence with a soft spoken message from God. Mary, you were chosen by God to bring forth into our broken and imperfect world His only begotten Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Holy is your name dear beloved Mother Mary. You must have been shocked to see and hear as the Archangel Gabriel spoke to you. It was then, at that ancient hour when God chose to announce His news...that indeed the Divine was to come among His people. Mary, you must have been taken aback! You asked, "Who am I to be a handmaid of our Lord?" Taken aback you humbly ceded to the will of God. In this ancient moment you opened up a gate of heaven, a pathway leading to the union of the Divine and human. You freely chose to nurture and foster and deliver the Holy Child. Without this great birth at this historical moment, humanity could not have hoped for forgiveness, redemption or eternal life. But! Mary, you made this possible.

Mother Mary, in our modern world we find ourselves and our loved ones living in ways of the fast pace. We go from here to there, always in search of people to see, places to go and things to do. O Mary, when we look to you we discover a holy mother whose heart was attuned to the ways of your holy Son. You lived your life in ways that followed in the footsteps of your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Mary, remind us to slow down, to walk humbly in the company of your Son and to live life as the pathway too eternal life. Teach us Mary. You are full of grace and blessed with wisdom.

Mary, I cannot express my deepest desire to imitate you. I wish I could have what you have but that will never be. Mary, watch over me. Guide me. Lead me in ways everlasting. You are always there when I need you. O Blessed Mary, always continue to walk in my company, to teach me in ways everlasting. May our Father continue to work through you O Holy Mary, Mother of God. AMEN.

\* \* \*

**THE NATIVITY of OUR LADY -  
September 2015**

Birth is the beginning of life. It is holy, sacred and precious. It is precisely because all human life is created by God out of Divine Love in His image and likeness. Mary the Blessed Virgin is the clearest example of pure human life ... a life created by God in order to prepare for and achieve the birth of our Savior and the salvation and eternal life only He could achieve. Mary was a young and humble woman when Gabriel came before her. Was she afraid? Did Mary fear not knowing everything in advance? Was Mary ready to enter into human history? Mary was full of grace, blessed with a deep and passionate love for God and a woman whose heart was all God's!

The birth of Mary helped to bring to fulfillment the ancient words of the prophets. Her life shows us and especially women that each human life is made for God. Do I ask our Lord what is His will? Or, do I tell our Lord my will? Which is it? Mary was chased by the Divine. And, when the angel of God came before her, Mary surrendered her will, her life, her whole being to follow the will of God. Do I do this? Is Mary my example to learn from, imitate and follow? Mary conceived without sin is our common guide to imitate.

When Mary was born, human history was changed for an eternity! She was the beginning of the ancient fulfillment long awaited by believers. People of faith met Mary and saw in her a little girl, a young adult woman, a suffering mother and as our Lady of Sorrows. People turned and saw Mary and in her they discovered a woman full of grace. Indeed, many realized the Lord was with her. God often works great events, miracles and historical factors through the lives of those who were often considered to be simple people.

Mary brings us closer to the Divine. She shows us her great faith, her human condition and her steadfast trust in our Lord. Never did Mary turn away from God. Never did she turn away from her Son. Never did Mary ignore God's will. Though perfect in her human condition, Mary still felt, suffered, cried and had to wonder the great question, "WHY must my Son go through this"? She had to ask ... especially after the Crucifixion. In her spirit of total surrender to God, Mary trusted in God and on the third day after Christ's Crucifixion, Mary discovered her Son had indeed risen from the dead. Holy is Mary! Blessed is the Holy Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. All we ask is that she pray for us sinners. Holy is Mary ... now and forever!

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

August 15, 2015

We celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of our Holy Mother Mary into the heavens. Mary gives us a life of faith and pure service unto God. She was born from the love of God and lived every day in faith & in love with God our Father. Mary, the Mother of God was like you and me in her humanity, her suffering with her Son & in her faith. Mary knew from her young adulthood that God's first and most important command was that she love God with all her heart, mind & soul. She did so by loving God's children. Mary lived a holy life. She prayed daily. She learned to listen to God. She heard His call & bequeathed upon this earth, the Son of God, our Holy redeemer Jesus Christ.

Indeed Mary was holy! In our own ways & to one degree or another, so too are you and I holy people. You & I are created in the image & likeness of God. In our humanity we have our own imperfections and brokenness. But! We also have prayer. At times in our lives things happen which reach down into the very fibers of our soul. We turn to God and we pray. Sometimes we pray in sadness. Sometimes we pray in anger. Sometimes we pray with sheer joy & thanksgiving. Truly, you are—to one degree or another—a holy person. You are here today because of your faith, your love for God and your desire to hear the Good News & to receive the Sacraments. Just as Mary lived a life in faith, so too do you & I attend Mass with the very gift of faith which God has given to us.

St Elizabeth, the cousin of Mary said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women." St Elizabeth's words echo in the chambers of our prayerful hearts. We know that the Virgin Mary sets before us a life worthy of God's praise. Do you realize that you in your own ways live life worthy of God's grace, praise and love? Today, the Lord is with you! Our Lord has blessed us. Our Lord strengthens us. God loves us for the people we are today. God loves us for the better people we can be. In the Gospels, Mother Mary was happy, faithful & filled with God's grace. But, Mary also accepted her Son's agony, suffering &

ultimate death. With Jesus, Mary too suffered. When Jesus died, a part of Mary's heart must have died. Still, Mary placed her faith, her trust & her love in God.

The Feast of The Assumption can often turn the world upside down. Those who doubt more than they believe stand in shock at the idea of Mary being assumed into heaven. If that is the case, then Christ's Resurrection is probably another stumbling block for those who have doubts. For Mary, Christ's Resurrection is the high point of God's gift of Almighty Love, God's many blessings and God's graces. Mother Mary saw her own beloved Son even before the apostles. From the beginning, our Holy Mother Mary has given us the example of a life worth living. She was loved by God & in return sought to love God & those around her. You & I are called to love God & also those around us, even strangers or those in need. Mary's Assumption is a sign to us that God has for us the blessing of eternal life, eternal love and eternal glory.

Mother Mary's devotion and your steadfast faith can bring to us a liberty of spirit—the freedom of the children of God—a gift to those who faithfully practice & live out the greatest commandment: to love one-another. In return our loving Savior, Jesus Christ opens our hearts & fills them with holy confidence in God. In faith, we grow to understand God as our Father. He inspires us through prayer, sometimes by sitting still, by being quiet & simply listening as God comes close to the heart. Then, He no longer whispers. Rather, He sings. God inspires us with a generous and gentle love.

Our Holy Virgin Mother Mary discovered the Way opened by her beloved Son, Jesus. Like Mary, we in our faith cannot go wrong in following Jesus. Our daily lives in faith are gifted with the fullness of God's grace & the daily guidance of the Holy Spirit. On our faith-filled

Journey, we do not weaken or turn back. In faith, we discover a reliable and direct way leading us straight to Jesus & eternal life. Mother Mary lived out this kind of daily life. Let us then take this road & travel along day & night until we arrive at the eternal age of Jesus Christ. Our loving Mother Mary & the Feast of the Assumption bring forth the brightness of faith, the eternal Hope of God's glory & the perfect Love of our Savior Jesus Christ. Mary reminds us that we are called to live out God's immense love.

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Saturday, September 12 Sodality Union Moderator



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### Sodality Union Events

**Sodality Union "serve[s] as a voice of the Sodalities [throughout the Archdiocese] so that they may speak and act as a unit in Christian values." Members from all parish Sodalities are invited to join us on our monthly "pilgrimage" to host parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Come learn about and share in the spiritual and apostolic works of Sodality Union.**

\* \* \*

#### **June 4 Installation of Officers for the 2016-2018 Term and Biennial Luncheon**

St. Bernardine of Siena  
 Rosary at 8:30 am, followed by Mass at 9:00 am  
 Most Rev. Martin D. Bishop Holley, Homilist  
 2400 Brooks Dr.  
 Suitland, MD 20746

#### **May 7 General Meeting**

**Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian Catholic Church**  
 Rosary at 9:00 am, followed by Mass at 9:30 am  
 1357 E. Capitol St., SE  
 Washington, DC 20003

Thank you to Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian for welcoming us to their lovely parish this month. Let us keep in mind the three themes Msgr. Pope addressed in his beautiful homily in relation to Saturday's readings and our Blessed Mother: movement, maturity and mystery--all centered in Jesus Christ.

Congratulations and God Bless Our Newly Elected Officers for 2016-2018!!!!

*Shelia Parker, President*  
*Margaret Johnson, Vice President*  
*Robin Pilkerton, Recording Secretary*  
*Cecilia Flores, Treasurer*

Thank you to all prefects for submitting your parish Sodality reports. Please contact us if you have yet to submit your report.

\* \* \*

#### **President's Letter - May 26, 2016**

Dear Sodalists and Moderators:

Thanks to our lovely host parish this month of Mary, we were blessed with a beautiful Marian celebration, starting with the graceful crowning of our Blessed Mother by Ms. Jada Fields, Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian's May queen. We also thank Ms. Ruby for the gift of her voice at Mass and all HCSC Sodalists for the delightful Marian setting at the meeting. And of course, we thank Msgr. Pope for his Marian homily. Monsignor weaved the travels of St. Paul and Apollos, the depth of our Lord's return to the Father and Mary's journey into three seemingly palpable themes of movement, maturity and mystery. The journeys chronicled in the reading and gospel drew us to reflect on Mary's travels and spiritual blossoming. Mary was always "on the move" but remained centered in Christ—prompting us to ask, are we? In Mary we also see movement to a purpose of greater maturity. She did not always understand, but like Mary, we are to grow in our understanding. We are called to imitate her way. As Sodalists, we are called to full maturity in Jesus and consequently called to be "leaders" in our own part of the world. Then there is the mystery of the Holy Spirit. Jesus returned to the Father, but we see Him in the sacraments, in the Church. In prayer, Jesus speaks directly to our hearts—the workings of the Holy Spirit—to deepen our knowledge. As in Mary's example when she pondered "things in her heart," she accepted the Holy Spirit in her life, as we must too. **Monsignor concluded telling us to remain faithful to our promises of Sodality.**

In keeping faithful to our promises of Sodality, we look to Sodality's future and mission in the Archdiocese with our incoming officers for 2016-2018: **Shelia Parker**, President; **Margaret Johnson**, Vice President; **Robin Pilkerton**, Recording Secretary; and **Cecilia Flores**, Treasurer. May they each be guided "under the auspices and inspirations of the Blessed Virgin Mary," remaining centered in Christ.

On June 4 we will gather for the **Rosary at 8:30 am** and the installation of our incoming officers at **9:00 am Mass at St. Bernardine of Siena Catholic Church, 2500 Brooks Dr., Suitland, MD 20746**. You are invited to wear white. In advance we thank our host parish Sodality, Katie Jackson, Prefect, and Doris Patterson and her Hospitality Committee for their diligent efforts to make the upcoming Mass and luncheon special for attendees. We look forward to welcoming the Most Rev. Bishop Holley, with Fr. Michael Briese, Moderator, Fr. Francisco Tovar, pastor of St. Bernardine, and Fr. Pawel Sass, concelebrating at the Mass. And, we have several announcements for you at the luncheon before our summer recess.

As this term draws to an end, I reflect on our journey over the past two years and the abundant blessings of serving as your Sodality Union President, together with an Executive Council that must be celebrated for their spirit of joy and their faithfulness to the promises of Sodality. I started by placing all my trust in Jesus, continued to give myself "entirely to Jesus through Mary," and will continue to place all the good works of all Sodalists in His trust.

Let us continue to pray for peace and reconciliation in the world, and always for each other, our Moderators, all priests, religious and seminarians.

In prayer with you to Jesus through Mary.

#### TIMELINE FOR THE SODALIST JUNE 2016 ISSUE

**March Meeting** - Past issues of *The Sodalists* available for review

**April Meeting** - Request to all Prefects for parish Sodality report for inclusion in June 2016 issue

**May Meeting** - Prefects submit 200 number of copies (to be announced at April meeting and dependent of expected number of attendees at June Luncheon) for delivery to the president

**June Meeting** - All Luncheon attendees receive a copy of *The Sodalist*

**Door of Mercy Pilgrimage--JOIN US APRIL 30 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception  
400 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20017**

1:00 PM Confessions in the St. Anthony of Claret Chapel

2:00 PM Mass in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel celebrated by Fr. Michael Briese, Sodality Union Moderator

2:45 PM Procession through the Holy Door of Mercy

Click on Link below to view event flyer

[2016-04-30\\_SU\\_Pilgrimage-Holy\\_Door\\_w\\_2\\_PM\\_Mass.pdf](#)

305.9 KB

Click below to read about the Holy Door of Mercy pilgrimage

on this YEAR of MERCY

[ADW - Holy\\_doors\\_pilgrimage.pdf](#)

1.0 MB

\* \* \*

Thank you St. Thomas the Apostle for hosting us and to all for your support for THE  
ARCHDIOCESE TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND  
Contact us to contribute to the Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Fund!

**ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND**

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
AND COUNTLESS GENEROUS DONORS THROUGHOUT THE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

**YOUR IMPACT**

- We encourage you to support Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Washington and serve a major role in ensuring our schools are an affordable option to families in need.
- We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting the Catholic Education Fundraising Program with a gift as generous as your means will allow.
- Your contribution will impact the lives of many of our community's most in-need children and their families. Your gift will:
  - Make Catholic education a reality for the District and Maryland's next generation of leaders.
  - Provide financial support to low- and middle-income families who would otherwise not be able to afford a quality education.
  - Enable families to choose the Catholic school that best fits the needs of their children.
  - Offer an opportunity for students to learn in a safe environment, where they can focus on their studies without the stress caused by other economic and social factors.
  - Educate promising students with an accredited faith-based education that prepares them for success in college and in life.
  - Give children an education that leads to employment, thus providing them a chance to develop into contributing members of society; and
  - Strengthen the Archdiocese's education mission by ensuring that Catholic education is accessible and affordable to all families regardless of their socio-economic background.

A special presentation prepared for

**The ADW  
Sodality  
Union**

14

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR****See below for events celebrating this Jubilee Year of Mercy!****January**

- 1 *Mary, Mother of God and World Day of Peace!*  
 9 **Nominating Committee Formation Meeting** at 10 AM for all Sodality Prefects and/or representative to be held at  
 St. Gabriel, 26 Grant Circle NW, Washington, DC 20011  
 20 **Deadline for Junior Sodality Essay/Drawing Contest submissions:** What can I offer in sacrifice to help the poor and help save the earth?  
 22 March for Life--Pray for the Gift of Life!  
 28 Join the Sunday TV Mass congregation at the Basilica of the National Shrine Crypt Church:  
 7:30 pm - 8:45 pm  
 — Continue to request tickets for the **annual Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Fund**. Many thanks for your support to our area youth!

**February**

- 10 *Ash Wednesday*  
 11 Join us on feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes for Marian Tour at Franciscan Monastery (meet at 1 pm)  
 4 & 18 Join the Sunday TV Mass congregation at the Basilica of the National Shrine Crypt Church: 7:30 pm - 8:45 pm. And thank you to all who support Sodality Union's sponsorship of the TV Masses!  
 27 ADW Women's Conference: Divine Mercy in Prayer and Action--God bless and thank you to all who attended the fulfilling day of prayer, fellowship, learning and sharing at the Annual Conference and special thank to all who visited our display!

**March**

- 10-18 St. Joseph Novena  
 11-13 Sodality Union Lenten Retreat at Washington Retreat House  
 — **Jubilee Year of Mercy** pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Door plenary indulgence)  
 25 *Good Friday (Divine Mercy Novena March 25 - April 2)*  
 27 **Easter: Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen!**  
 — Continue to return your donations for the **annual Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Tuition Assistance Fund**. Many thanks for your generous support!

**Contact the Washington Retreat House to register for**



The Archdiocese of Washington Sodality Union  
Annual Lenten Retreat Weekend



**March 11-13, 2016**

**Retreat Master & Spiritual Director: Rev. Pawal Sass**

*Washington Retreat House, 4000 Harewood Rd., NE, Washington, DC 20017*

**Friday Liturgy** - "Totus Tuus" I am all your Mary!

**Saturday morning conference** - The Love and Mercy of Two Hearts: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

**Saturday afternoon conference** - Most Merciful Mother - Apparition of Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Movie night** - Guadalupe (2006)

**Sunday conference** - Encounter the Mercy of God in the merciless times - The Year of Mercy: The only response to the hurting world

**April**

2 Join us at the General Meeting for Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Fund Raffle and return unsold June Luncheon tickets

3 *Divine Mercy Sunday and Consecration to Divine Mercy--33 Days to Merciful Love*

4 *Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

29 Mother's Day Novena (April 29 - May 7)

30 Holy Door Pilgrimage at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Thank you to all who joined us for Mass at 2 pm celebrated by Rev. Fr. Michael Briese, Moderator

**May - MONTH OF MARY**

7 At May General Meeting collect reports for The Sodalist (from Parish Sodality Prefects) and Biennial Report (from Executive Committee)

13 Our Lady of Fatima

31 Visitation of Our Lady

\* \* \*

See link below for details about February 11 pilgrimage

2016-02\_SU\_Marian\_pilgrimage.pdf  
183.4 KB

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO JOINED US ON OUR MARIAN TOUR at the FRANCISCAN MONASTERY.

We encourage parish Sodalities to plan a Marian tour with your parish!



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See link below for details about taping of TV Masses

[2016-02\\_TV-Mass-Flyer-OCT2015-FEB2016.pdf](#)  
4.1 MB

CONTACT US TO HELP SUPPORT THE TAPING OF TV MASSES

COME JOIN THE SUNDAY TV MASS CONGREGATION!  
7:30 - 8:45 P.M. IN THE CRYPT CHURCH  
(Enter through the front lower doors by the gift shop | free parking)

*Come for one Mass or stay for both!*

*Your presence is a wonderful way to bring the Mass to those who are homebound.*

TELL YOUR HOMEBOUND FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO PRAY WITH YOU ON  
Sponsored by the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Archdiocese of Washington, the Knights of Columbus and the Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington

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Thank you and God bless St. Hugh of Grenoble Sodality and Rev. Fr. Walter Tappe for hosting a wonderful General Meeting this month! Let us "make progress this Lent."

\*\*\*\*

*We were blessed to have **remembered all Sodalists the month of December.***

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Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington

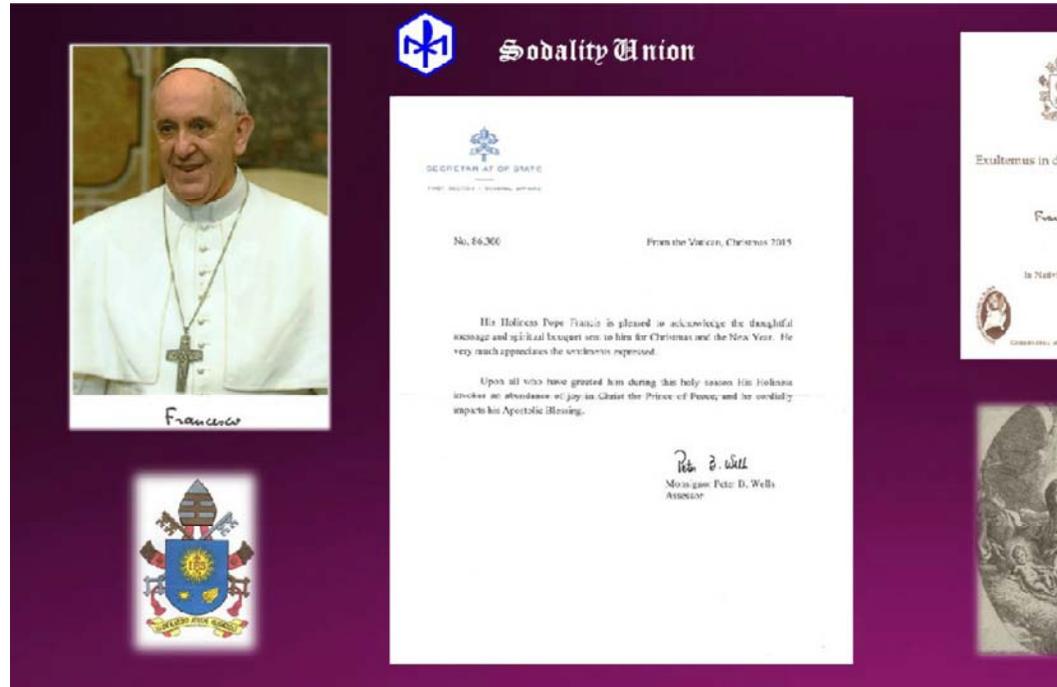
***Was delighted to welcome Pope Francis to Washington  
with prayers on behalf of***

***Fr. Michael Briese, Moderator, and affiliated parish Sodalities.***

*Assumption (DC), Church of the Incarnation (DC), Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian (DC), Holy Family (Hillcrest, MD), Holy Redeemer (MD), Jesus the Divine Word (MD), Mount Calvary (MD), Nativity (DC), Our Lady of Fatima (MD), Our Lady of Mercy (MD), Our Lady of Perpetual Help (DC), Our Lady Queen of Peace (MD), Our Lady of the Wayside (MD), Shrine of Sacred Heart (DC), Sacred Heart (La Plata, MD), St. Anthony of Padua (DC), St. Augustine (DC), St. Benedict the Moor (DC), St. Bernadette (MD), St. Bernadine of Siena (MD), St. Bernard of Clairvaux (MD), St. Columba (MD), St. Dominic (MD), St. Elizabeth (MD), St. Francis de Sales (MD), St. Francis Xavier (DC), St. Gabriel (DC), St. Hugh of Grenoble (MD), St. Jane Frances de Chantal (MD), St. John the Baptist (MD), St. John Baptist de la Salle (MD), St. Joseph (Largo, MD), St. Luke (DC), St. Margaret of Scotland (MD), St. Martin of Tours (DC), St. Mary (Bryantown, MD), St. Mary (Landover Hills, MD), St. Mary of Piscataway (MD), St. Michael the Archangel (Silver Spring, MD), St. Philip the Apostle (MD), St. Raphael (MD), St. Thomas the Apostle (DC), St. Thomas More (DC), St. Teresa of Avila (DC)*



*Thank you to His Holiness for his apostolic blessing to Sodalists in response to our annual spiritual bouquet!*



#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MESSAGE

The officers, our Moderator and all members of the Executive Council express their prayerful gratitude to all parish Sodalities represented at this past July's **Strategic Planning meeting** led by Past President Cindy Perry. Your participation and contributions to enhance Sodality Union's vitality (pursuant to the Indicators of Vitality—Worship, Education, Community Life, Service and Administration) were given careful consideration, especially as plans for the year were discussed at the first Executive Council meeting for the 2015-2016 year. In summary, you asked that we (1) educate further on the meaning of "to Jesus through Mary"; (2) emphasize the Rosary as a devotion to our Blessed Mother; (3) incorporate a Marian theme for each meeting and have more interactive meeting; (4) bring greater focus on how to live a Marian life; and (5) reach out to inactive Sodalities and individual Sodalists.

In response to the Strategic Planning meeting suggestions, at the September 2015 Orientation at St. Joseph Catholic Church (Largo, MD), the Executive Council's presentations focused on *practical ways to live a "more" Marian life*, primarily drawing from the Sodality Union Manual (the Sodality "how to" manual). **The theme for Orientation was "The Presence of Christ in the Sodalists' Everyday Life."**

Sign-up sheets were available for Sodalists' active/interactive participation in the year's spiritual and apostolic events, including but not limited to (1) the February Junior Sodality Essay and Drawing Contest, (2) the annual Day of Commitment in October, (3) the Lenten Weekend Retreat, (4) leading the closing prayer at monthly General Meetings, (5) the December and June luncheons, (6) the annual Cardinal Hickey's Scholarship (Archdiocese's educational fund), (7) attendance at the National Shrine's taping of TV Masses for the homebound, (8) the monthly invitation of the "traveling Madonna" to your home, (9) Sodality Union plans for area pilgrimages, (9) the Archdiocese Women's Conference to be held February 27, 2016, and (9) Marian Consecration and other participation in events during the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (see Vatican web site for "Bull of Indication of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy).

Prefects from each parish will be invited to submit a parish Sodality report for **The Sodalists 2014-2016** that will be available to attendees at the June luncheon.

\* \* \* \* \*

What is "to Jesus through Mary" Consecration?  
How will Marian Consecration help **me** grow as a Sodalist?

We learn from St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Mother Teresa, St. John Paul II the attitude of consecration by (1) "relying on Mary's powerful intercession, experiencing her tender care, speaking to her from our hearts, letting ourselves be led by her, having recourse to her in all things and trusting her completely"; (2) "allowing Mary to bring us to the Cross of Jesus"; (3) "bringing Mary into everything that makes up one's

inner life." St. Kolbe teaches us that "the proper attitude of those who are consecrated to Mary flows not so much from reason or emotions but from the will."

Thank you and God bless all who participated in the beautiful **Sodality Union Marian Consecration** Mass on December 12, 2015 (feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe) at St. Philip, Camp Spring, MD.

We pray that reading *33 Days to Morning Glory* continues to prepare fellow Sodalists for Marian Consecration, a beautiful Marian devotion, and that it brings a greater understanding of "to Jesus through Mary" in terms of worship, service and community. God Bless the Sodalists from various parishes who continue to come together to prepare for this "true devotion to Mary, a spirituality of total Consecration to Jesus through Mary."

If you are interested in organizing a Consecration preparation in your parish or to place bulk orders of the *33 Days to Morning Glory Consecration*, please contact us for information.

Enjoy reading beautiful reflections prepared by a fellow Sodalists during our 2015 preparation for Consecration.

[2015\\_Consecration\\_Articles.pdf](#)  
289.6 KB

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Read Committee Reports page for details about this year's **Junior Sodality Essay and Drawing Contest**, the annual **Lenten Retreat**, the annual **Cardinal Hickey Scholarship fundraising event** and more.

[2015-09\\_SU\\_Orientation\\_flyer.pdf](#)  
164.1 KB

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[Past year's events]

**May-June 2015** many joined in prayer for the Eucharistic Adoration offered for the men of the Archdiocese being ordained to the priesthood on June 20, 2015.

**March 13-15, 2015 ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT AT THE WASHINGTON RETREAT HOUSE**  
Spiritual Moderator: Fr. Paul Colloton

Presentations

Friday: *Mary, pondering in her heart*

Saturday: *Jesus meets his grieving Mother & Jesus speaks to the women*

Sunday: *Behold your Mother, Mother behold your Son*

**April 11, 2015** **CARDINAL HICKEY** Scholarship Fund event at St. Luke Catholic Church, Washington, DC

[2015\\_James\\_Cardinal\\_Hickey\\_Scholarship\\_Fund\\_Raffle-Informational\\_Sheet.pdf](#)  
92.8 KB



The Goal of our life is to live with God Forever.  
God, who loves us, gave us life.  
Our own response of love allows God's life to flow into us without limit.  
All the things in this world are gifts of God ....



# Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington

*"Come Holy Spirit! Help us to give ourselves entirely to  
Jesus through Mary."*

[ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org](mailto:ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org)

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## History of Sodality



About midway of the sixteenth century [1563], a young Jesuit priest named Father John Leontius (Van de Leeuw) was teaching a small class in the Jesuit College in Rome when one day, around a little altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he gathered what seem to have been his prized pupils. He sketched out a single program that appeared to fit instinctively into precisely the needs of that time when the Church was being persecuted. These young students bound themselves in faith, hope and love to Christ Jesus.

As active, militant Catholics, they were to be recognized as followers of Christ by their military zeal, charity and service. They found in Mary the great inspiration to give themselves to the service of Christ. They loved her for what she was and did for the Lord, and showed her special veneration, placing their groups in her loving protection. This was the beginning of the first structured Sodality.

Later in the century [1584] Pope Gregory XIII acknowledged the Sodality in the Roman College, and grant it a list of special indulgences. This Sodality was made the Mother Sodality for the world, and was given the title "Prima Primaria."

The Sodalities spread quickly throughout Europe and later came to America. About two hundred years later women and girls were finally admitted to the Society by Pope Benedict XXIV [1751].

The Sodality came to North America in 1739 when Clement XII issued a Papal Bull approving the Sodality founded in 1730 at the Ursuline School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Georgetown University was the site of the first Sodality in the newly formed United State of America. It had been established and functioning since shortly after the founding of the college in 1789, although it was not affiliated with Rome until 1833.

Early in this century the Sodality was used as a basic organization for men and women who met separately, both stressing corporate Mass and Communion. While regular meetings were held, they proved insufficient to instill the common Rule of Sodality, resulting in revision of the Rule in 1910.

Again the Jesuits were commissioned to begin promulgating the Rule, this time through the instrument of a magazine, THE QUEEN'S WORK, Editor F. Garasche, S.J. fulfilled this purpose for many years and succeeded in bringing about a Diocesan Union of Sodalities in 1918. Three still exist: New York, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. Father Daniel

a Lord, S.J. succeeded Father Garasche, both as editor of QUEEN'S WORK and promoter of Sodality. From 1929 to the National Diocesan Directors Conference [1954], much credit could be traced to him. "Catholic Action" was the key work in 1931 when Summer Schools for Catholic Action for the training of Sodality leaders were organized. By 1963, 250,000 had participated in the program.

Due to the rapid growth of Sodalities and the need for unity among Sodalities internationally, other higher governing bodies were established, such as, the World Federation of Sodalities and the National Federation of Sodalities. The Second Vatican Council in 1965 heralded significant changes in Sodalities. New "General Principles" replaced the Common Rule of 1910. At the World Federation of Sodalities in Rome in 1970, it was voted to change the Name of Sodality to "Christian Life Communities". After an experimental period of three years, Pope Paul VI gave final approval to the general principles and statues of Christian Life and both The National and World Federation of Christian life Communities. The General Principles are Spiritual, Communal and Mission Centered. The purpose of Christian Life Communities is to foster a deeper spirituality with everyday life.

The World Federation of Christian Life Communities is based in Rome. The national office for the United States is located in St. Louis, Missouri. Groups exist today in states from coast to coast and internationally groups are to be found in 64 countries. In Washington, when the concept of Christian Life Communities was introduced in the early seventies, there were many meetings and workshops to explain its direction to the Parish Sodalities and to invite membership.

For four years Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington retained both names and in its title. The Executive Council of the Sodality Union voted in 1983 to drop Christian Life Communities. The two factors that contributed to each organization remaining as it

was, were the lack of Jesuit support for the Christian Live Communities here, and the decision of the Sodality Union membership to remain Sodality. Parish Sodalities in the Archdiocese of Washington are free to join the National Federation of Christian Life Communities if they wish.

Where does the Parish Sodality stand today? Sodality has no central organization, since the former World Federation of Sodalities no longer exists. Each Sodality is considered autonomous. Fortunately, for the Sodalities in the Archdiocese of Washington, there is the Sodality Union, a medium supported by the leadership of the Archdiocese of Washington by which affiliated parishes can come together to celebrate, share ideas, information and concerns and to give and receive assistance.

The Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington looks forward to celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2018!

## ***PRAY THE ROSARY!***



## **GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR**

**2015-2016\_SUCalendar\_of\_Events\_as\_of\_2016\_May.pdf**  
347.7 KB



# Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington

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## Committee Reports

### *Spiritual Life Mission*

**The Spiritual Life of Sodality is to live the Way of Life which recognizes the presence of Christ in the sodalist's everyday life. ... This Way of Life builds Faith which makes all things possible, and Hope which gives courage. These two virtues, in turn, lead to Charity which reflects the love of God and mankind. These Theological Virtues exemplify the life of Mary, Our Holy Mother, whom sodalists venerate and seek to emulate. The spiritual life of sodalists is the primary function of Sodality. It is the driving force of God's gifts which lead sodalist to goodness and social action.**

### *Apostolic Life Mission*

**The Apostolic Life Mission of the Sodality reflects spirituality in the Way of Life of a sodalist. The mission channels spirituality to service in the family, in the Church, and in the community. Sodalists respond to the roles of religious life as a spouse, parent, careerist to**

**papal encyclicals which call for social action through service in areas that challenge and demand their involvement as Christians.**

\* \* \*

## *WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE*

Many thanks for all your support in our Sodality Union fundraising efforts during 2014-2015 and for all the recommendations you made throughout the year and in the survey.

We pray for your continued support and participation in the upcoming **James Cardinal Hickey Scholarship Fund, with the raffle to be held April 2 at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Washington, DC.** Pray with us that Sodality achieves its goal to send the Archdiocese's a donation able to assist more and more area youth!

- **Gift Baskets:** We plan to raffle baskets throughout the year (Dec, Feb, May) with various themes. The first raffle will be at the upcoming Orientation and the basket will have a Marian Theme. Each drawing takes place the same day.
- **The Planning for the Raffle Draw and ticket sales is on target.** Tickets are being issued at General meeting through March 2016.
- **Contact us to participate in this year's annual efforts to support the Archdiocese's educational fund.**
- **Please take a moment to read the presentation below about how your donations benefit children in the Archdiocese.**

[2015-2016\\_ADW\\_-\\_CEF\\_Tuition\\_Assistance\\_Fun\\_Presentation.pdf](#)  
1.2 MB

\* \* \*

## *JUNIOR SODALITY COMMITTEE*

The Committee of Junior Sodality of the Sodality Union is delighted to present again this year an Essay and Drawing Contest.

Thank you and God bless all area youth who submitted essays and drawings in response to the following question:

*What can I offer in sacrifice to help the Poor and help save the Earth?*

The question relates very well to the pledge many of us in the Archdiocese of Washington have taken to “Walk with Pope Francis” in service to our greater community. This year’s topic also relates well to Climate Control, as reflected in item 4 from the excerpt below printed in the *Catholic Standard* on July 16, 2015 from the recent Encyclical of Pope Francis on ***Care For Our Common Home***:

(1) “The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains, everything is, as it were, a caress from God.” (Paragraph 84)

(2) “... ‘[L]ess is more.’ A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment.” (Paragraph 222)

(3) “Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change.” (Paragraph 202)

(4) “Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us.” (Paragraph 160)

The Guidelines that follow contain the age breakdown and the information that a separate panel of judges will judge all Drawings. The Drawings will be limited to ages 8 to 10. Those 8 to 10 years old may submit Essays if they choose. The Contest Winners will be recognized on February 6, 2016, at the Sodality Union General Meeting at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, 321 21st St., NE, Washington, DC 20002. Should you need more information, please contact us at [ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org](mailto:ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org).

*“Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world.”*

From Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si’ of the Holy Father Francis on Care for Our Common Home*

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SODALITY UNION ESSAY GUIDELINES FOR THE  
FEBRUARY 2016  
ESSAY AND DRAWING CONTEST



THANK YOU for participating in the Sodality Union Essay and Drawing event for 2016. We are asking youth from your parish or organization to take part. The question for 2016 is related, once again, this year to the future of our earth, as well as the poor.

THE QUESTION IS: ***What can I offer in sacrifice to help the Poor and help save the Earth?***

The following guidelines are for their use.

1. Please type or print one page only--not fewer than 100 words.
2. Send your name, address, school, church, organization and age.
3. Please include a contact number for your parents or guardians.
4. We request consent to publish from all youth and their parents/guardians regarding their Essays and Drawings. See [SodalityUnionADW.org](http://SodalityUnionADW.org) for Consent Form.
5. **Drawings** will be accepted from ages 8 to 10 only!

Youth ages 8 to 10 are encouraged to submit an Essay.

6. Recognition will be given to those selected for first and second place entries from the following age groups: 8 to 10, 11 to 12, 13 to 15, and 16 to 18.

7. E-mail your Essays to the attention of Margaret Johnson at [ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org](mailto:ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org).

8. For consideration, all entries must be sent by January 20, 2016!

CONSENT FORM

[SU-Consent\\_to\\_Publish-2015\\_rev.pdf](#)  
128.7 KB

[2016\\_Junior\\_Sodality\\_Essay-Drawing\\_Guidelines\\_-\\_Sodality\\_Union.pdf](#)

814.5 KB

Enjoy Reading Excerpts from the 2015 Essay Participants!

[2015\\_Junior\\_Sodality\\_report.pdf](#)  
308.8 KB

\* \* \* \* \*  
\*

*A Christian prayer in union with creation*

\* \* \*           \* \* \*

God of love, show us our place in this world

as channels of your love

for all the creatures of this earth,

for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money

that they may avoid the sin of indifference,

that they may love the common good, advance the weak,

and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light,

help us to protect all life,

to prepare for a better future,

for the coming of your Kingdom

of justice, peace, love and beauty.

**Praise be to you! Amen.**

**From Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* of the Holy Father Francis on  
Care for Our Common Home**

\* \* \* \* \*

## *SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE*

***Thank you to all who joined us for our annual Sodality  
Union Commitment Day: October 3, 2015 at the  
Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.***

***Seeking a way to do that "little more" for the "greater honor and  
glory of God," and realizing I can be aided in this effort by  
sharing with others, I, (my name) re-dedicate myself as a Sodalist  
in the total mission of my local parish and joined with our Union  
in the Archdiocese of Washington.***

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**Annual Weekend Lenten Retreat**

**March 11-13, 2016**

**Retreat Master & Spiritual Director: Fr. Pawel  
Sass**

***Washington Retreat House, 4000 Harewood Rd., NE,  
Washington, DC 20017***

**Please join us and sign up by completing the form below:**

[2016\\_SU\\_lenten\\_retreat.pdf](#)  
137.7 KB

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*We remember the all Sodalists at the December General Meeting, please provide a current roster of your parish Sodalists to Lisa Williams, Spiritual Life Chair.*

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*Thank you to all who participated in this year's CHRISTMAS SPIRITUAL BOUQUET FOR HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS*

[SU\\_Spiritual\\_bouquet\\_SBM\\_Sodality\\_2016.pdf](#)  
96.8 KB

### *APOSTOLIC LIFE COMMITTEE*

In keeping with our apostolic way of life, your generosity during the months of November and December allowed us to **collect socks for adults and children and many other gifts for a charitable organization.** May God reward and bless you and your families.

We have **initiated “The Traveling Virgin” devotion at the September Orientation.** The statute of Our Lady of Fatima will be available for loan to Sodalities who wish to conduct a special adoration during the month. The statute can also be loaned intra-Sodality during the month.

### *HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE*

Again this year, Prefects, Moderators and Pastors participated in the annual Christmas luncheon held at Andrews Air Force on **December 12, 2015.** All had a wonderful time and thank you for sharing in this lovely gathering!

The Committee is now busy planning the June

Luncheon at St. Bernardine of Siena. Tickets will be available at the next General Meeting. The Committee requests that any unsold tickets be returned by the April General Meeting, allowing other parish Sodalities to obtain additional tickets. All donations for the tickets are due by the May General meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the JUNE LUNCHEON!

## PRAY THE ROSARY

[2015\\_Rosary\\_Booklet.pdf](#)  
363.4 KB

## GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

[2015-2016\\_SUCalendar\\_of\\_Events\\_as\\_of\\_2016\\_May.pdf](#)  
347.7 KB





# Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington

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## Membership

### ***Sodality is a Door to Spirituality and a Channel to Service***

Sodality Union "unite[s] the Sodalities of the Archdiocese in a fourfold bond of Community: (a) a common Commitment; (b) a common way of life; (c) a deep concern for all; and, (d) a filial love for Mary." (Sodality Union Manual)

## **SODALITY UNION AFFILIATED PARISHES**

The Sodality Union Executive Council thanks all Sodality members and remains in prayer to Jesus through Mary with the 2014-2016 affiliated parish Sodalities:

Assumption (DC), Church of the Incarnation (DC), Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian (DC), Holy Family (Hillcrest, MD), Holy Redeemer (MD), Jesus the Divine Word (MD), Mount

Calvary (MD), Nativity (DC), Our Lady of Fatima (Riverdale Park, MD), Our Lady of Mercy (MD), Our Lady of Perpetual Help (DC), Our Lady Queen of Peace (MD), Our Lady of the Wayside (MD), Sacred Heart (Washington, DC), Sacred Heart (La Plata, MD), St. Anthony of Padua (DC), St. Augustine (DC), St. Benedict the Moor (MD), St. Bernadette (MD), St. Bernadine of Siena (MD), St. Bernard of Clairvaux (MD), St. Columba (MD), St. Dominic (MD), St. Elizabeth (MD), St. Francis de Sales (MD), St. Francis Xavier (DC), St. Gabriel (DC), St. Hugh of Grenoble (MD), St. Jane Frances de Chantal (MD), St. John Baptist de la Salle (MD), St. Joseph (Largo, MD), St. Luke (DC), St. Margaret of Scotland (MD), St. Martin of Tours (DC), St. Mary (Bryantown, MD), St. Mary (Clinton, MD), St. Mary (Piscataway, MD), St. Michael the Archangel (Silver Spring, MD), St. Philip (Camp Springs, MD), St. Raphael (MD), St. Thomas the Apostle (DC), St. Thomas More (DC), St. Teresa of Avila (DC), St. Catherine Laboure (MD)

*Sodality Union “serve[s] as a voice of the Sodalities [throughout the Archdiocese] so that they may speak and act as a unit in Christian values.”*

## **Sodality Union Membership and Governance**

“Each Sodality duly authorized by the Ordinary within the Archdiocese of Washington shall be eligible for membership. ... The *General Body* shall include individual members of all affiliated parish Sodalities.” “Dues shall be paid annually by each affiliated parish Sodality on or before September 30 of each year.” (In response to requests about dues, we ask that you send your annual dues directly to Shelia Parker, Treasurer. For Ms. Park’s contact information, please see the president’s monthly letter sent to all Prefects via email or contact us at [ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org](mailto:ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org).)

## **Sodality Union Nominations and Elections**

This important **Election Year** a Nominating Committee consisting of parish Sodality Prefects or designated alternate from each affiliated parish Sodality will seek and nominate qualified candidates from parish Sodalities and invite those Sodalists to

pray about running for **Sodality Union officers for the 2016-2018 term.**

**TIMELINE—NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR  
2016 to 2018 OFFICERS NOMINATIONS**

**January**

- 9 Nominating Committee Formation Meeting  
 \_\_\_ Chairperson sends each Prefect a written  
 request for nominee

**February**

- 6 General Meeting—Explain election process and  
 eligibility rules for nominees  
 \_\_\_ Accept written nominations from Prefects and  
 members  
 \_\_\_ Obtain any missing documents  
 \_\_\_ Convene a meeting of Nominating Committee to  
 assess progress, plan appropriate follow up actions and  
 prepare progress report for March

**March**

- 5 General Meeting—Provide update on progress  
 and explain voter eligibility  
 \_\_\_ Receive list of eligible voters from Membership  
 Committee  
 \_\_\_ Seek and accept additional nominations  
 \_\_\_ Convene a meeting of Nominating Committee to  
 select a slate of nominees

**April**

- 2 General Meeting—Present slate of nominees  
 \_\_\_ Mail out numbered envelopes containing ballots  
 to all eligible voters  
 \_\_\_ Establish deadline for return of ballots  
 \_\_\_ Convene a meeting of Nominating Committee to  
 tally ballot result

**May**

- 7 General Meeting—Announce Election Results

Submit any recommendations regarding the Bylaws applicable to elections to the Executive Committee for consideration

### June

4 General Meeting—Archbishop inducts new officers

## **Nominations and Elections (Sodality Union Manual)**

### Section 1. - Nominations

a. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Prefect or designated alternate from each affiliated parish sodality, one of whom shall be appointed as Chair by said Committee, with the approval of the Moderator at a special January meeting. The slate of nominees for Sodality Union officers shall be presented at the March general meeting.

b. Each affiliated parish sodality may nominate a candidate for office from its own parish or from another affiliated parish sodality in response to a written request which shall be sent to each Prefect by the Nominating Committee Chair. The guidelines for nomination are as follow:

(1) Each nominee:

a) shall have served as officer for at least one term in a parish sodality; or, shall have served as a committee chair within said parish sodality for at least one term; or

b) shall have served at least one term as an officer or as a committee chair with the Sodality Union Executive Council.

(2) The consent of the nominee shall be obtained in writing before the name is submitted;

(3) A written statement of his/her qualifications must be submitted by the nominee;

(4) A letter of endorsement from the nominee's Parish Pastor must be submitted stating that the candidate is a current member of the parish in good standing.

(5) The nominations shall be sent to the Nominating Committee Chair between the February meeting of the Sodality Union and the meeting of the Nominating Committee.

c. The meeting of the Nominating Committee for selecting a slate of nominees will be held between the March and April meetings of the Sodality Union. Nominations from the floor may be made at the April general meeting at the discretion of the Moderator and provided conditions: (1), (2), -- written consent of the nominee, and (3) -- written

statement of the nominee's qualifications, and (4) letter of endorsement from the nominee's Parish Pastor are met as set forth in Section 1.b. above. The written consent and statement of qualifications as well as the endorsement from the Parish Pastor, must be submitted at that time.

## **Governance of Parish Sodalities**

“It is recommended that the structure of the affiliated Parish Sodality correspond to that of *Sodality Union*.”

Membership application

[2015-2016\\_Parish\\_Sodality\\_Application.pdf](#)  
64.3 KB

## **FORMATION for Individual Parish Sodalists**

It should be stressed to the candidates that being a member is not just a series of activities; it is a **Way of Life**. It is not just a club one joins, but a life one leads. It is not a hobby for one's spare time, but a vocation. It will affect one's whole day; one's whole life. To live this Way of Life one must have a goal, a program, a model, and a dedication. To know what we want is our goal, to know what to do is our program, to know how to act, we must have a model- and that model is Mary, our Mother; to know how to give oneself without reservation is our dedication. The candidate also sees that God has an urgent need of our help. He/she realizes, too, that God is extending a special invitation to devote oneself, in a special way, to help Him do His magnificent work here on earth. Belonging to a Sodality also gives a Sodalist an opportunity to work in a Church-approved organization for the flourishing of God's Plan.

### ***MODERATOR'S Response at parish Sodality officers' installation:***

*“I pray that the Lord will guide you always and that, modeling your lives on that of Mary, you will draw even closer to her Son, Jesus. You may count on me always to cooperate with you to the best of my ability.”*

*The Sodality Union Executive Council and all affiliate parish Sodalities thank our Sodality Union Moderator, Rev. Fr. Michael Briese and all parish Sodality Moderators for your prayers and encouraging support of Sodality events.*

\* \* \* \* \*

***Sodality Union “provide[s] a source through which Sodalists may exchange ideas, develop meaningful apostolate and implement their programs” and “promote[s] various types of services that will enable Sodalities to be more effective in the Church and Community.”***

\* \* \* \* \*

## **CALENDAR OF PARISH SODALITIES AND OTHER AREA RETREATS/DAYS OF REFLECTION**

### **February**

**7 From Africa to America - Bridging our History at 1:15 pm; Carroll Gibbs, speaker at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 2020 St. Joseph Drive, Largo, MD 20744**

**8 U.S.C.C.B. invites all to an International Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking at 6 pm at St. Gabriel Church, 26 Grant Circle, Washington, DC**

**13 Blessed Mother Teresa Vocation Society Day of Reflection at Annunciation Catholic Church in Washington, DC, with Fr. Carter Griffin, Celebrant and Presenter (many Sodalists devoted to praying for priests are members of the Blessed Mother Teresa Vocation Society)**

**27 Fourth Annual Archdiocesan Women’s Conference at Mother Seton High School, Bladensburg, MD: *Divine Mercy in Prayer and Action* (to register see**

<http://adw.org/womensconference/>)

27 Oracle Religious Association Women's Day of Reflection at Incarnation Catholic Church in Washington, DC: *Women at the Well—Spiritual Journey with Jesus Christ! The well is deep with "life-giving water"!* (Sodalists involved in the Association)

### March

11-13 Sodality Union Lenten Retreat (see Committee Reports page)

### April

30 Sodality Union Holy Door of Mercy Pilgrimage (see Sodality Events page)

### May

21 Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women Mass at National Shrine (details TBA)

28 St. Michael the Archangel Annual Day of Recollection at the Washington Retreat House in Washington, DC: *The Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Mercy* this month of Mary and this Jubilee Year of Mercy, with *Fr. Peter Ryan, S.J.*, Spiritual Director, along with Janis Clarke, Catholic singer/songwriter (organized by St. Michael's Sodality)

Click on link below to view event's flyer

[2016-05\\_St\\_M\\_annual\\_day\\_of\\_recollection.pdf](#)  
134.2 KB

**Sodalists interested in sharing information about their events may submit a Sodality Union web site Consent Form to [ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org](mailto:ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org) containing the following information.**

1. Name of Sodalist
2. Name of Sodality and Parish
3. Is your activity related to Sodality Union? \*  
\_\_ Yes \_\_ No

4. If yes, how is the information/announcement about the event related to Sodality Union?

5. Briefly describe the event, including time, location, registration requirements, etc. (Please attach any documentation.\*\*)

6. Do you consent to including any contact information on the web site?

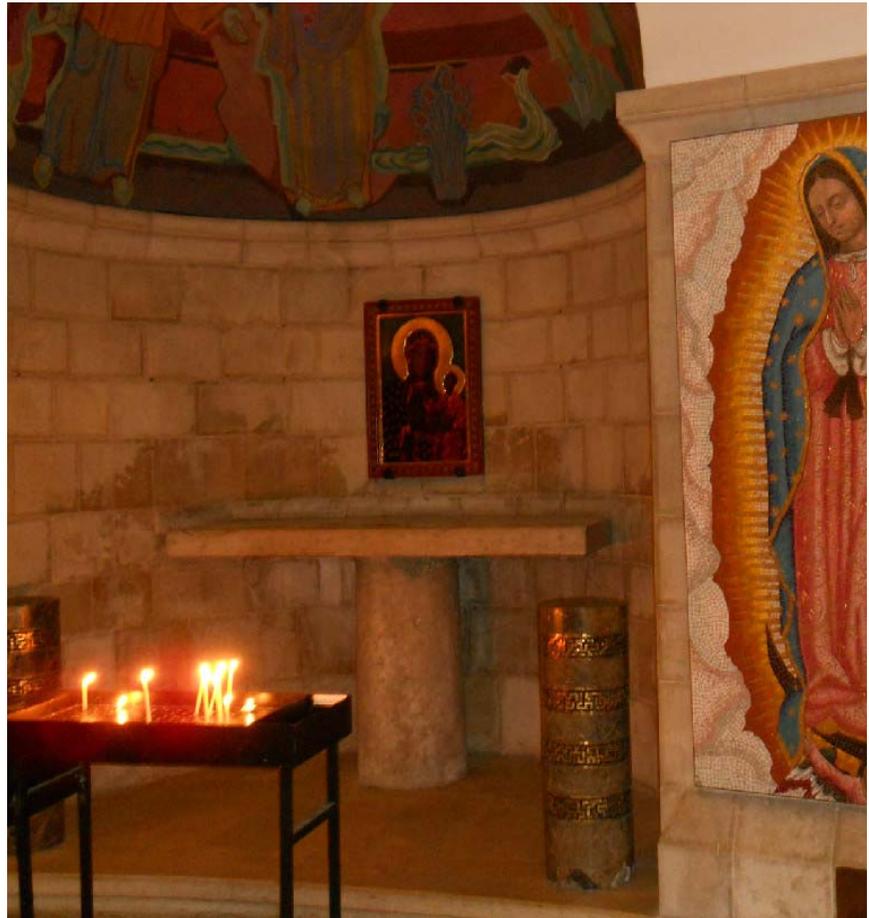
Yes  No

7. Signature (electronic signature acceptable) and date.

\* All information and announcements “foster growth and depth in the spiritual life” of Sodalists and their parish communities.

\*\* The content may be edited at the discretion of the web site editors.

*PRAY THE ROSARY!*





# Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington

*"Come Holy Spirit! Help us to give ourselves entirely to  
Jesus through Mary."*

[ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org](mailto:ExecCouncil@SodalityUnionADW.org)

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## Pray With Us

### ***Sodality Prayer "To Jesus through Mary"***

O Mother Mary, may you continue to bless our lives as we journey in faith, hope, and love. Be our model and guide as we live in the grace won by your Son Jesus, in His suffering and resurrection. May your motherly intercession for us bring healing, strength and renewal. O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners.

Help us to bring all people to your Son, especially those in most need of His mercy. May our Sodality help us grow in your image as disciples of Jesus. We pray this in His name.

Amen.

(Thank you and God bless Fr. Michael Briese and Fr. Frank DeSiano for our Sodality prayer.)

\* \* \* \*

"In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited.... In the spiritual works of mercy -- counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer -- we touch more directly our own sinfulness." Pope Francis



\* \* \* \*

Sodality Union "foster[s] spiritual formation on the specific source of our spirituality: The Exercises of St. Ignatius."

The following text from the 2014 Sodality Union **Spiritual Journal** booklet draws from the Spiritual Exercises.

## How can a journal lead me closer to God?

The Goal of our life is to live with God forever.

God, who loves us, gave us life.

Our own response of love allows God's life  
to flow into us without limit.

All the things in this world are gifts from God . . .

(from St. Ignatius *Spiritual Exercises*)

## ***How to begin a spiritual journal—***

Sit quietly ... Listen to the whisper of the Holy Spirit ... Breathe deeply and pray that God be with you ... Begin with a personal prayer:

***“Come Holy Spirit! Help me to give myself entirely to Jesus through Mary.”***

\* \* \*

Write down your prayer intentions . . . List all who have asked for prayers.

Write down any distractions (grocery list, etc.) in a corner at the bottom of the page.

Jot down a few words from the daily readings, from Father’s homily . . . What Is God telling me? Am I living the Sodality Way of Life? . . . ***Become aware of God’s presence.***

Who brought me joy? Who made me laugh? Made me smile? What pleasure did I see in my family while we shared time at breakfast, in prayer, while taking a walk around the garden? Do I have restored health? Did I bring the “joy of the Gospel” to at least one person today? . . . ***Review your day with gratitude.***

What is in my heart? In my mind? In my memory? What am I feeling? Do not be afraid to write down your fears, your doubts? Was I an example of Marian spirituality to all who crossed my path?

. . . ***Pay attention to your emotions.***

What did I accomplish during my busy day at the office, in my visit to my sick neighbor, as I listened to my daughter’s dreams and goals for school, for her family.

. . . ***Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.***

Was I aware of God’s presence in the smallest blessings, in the frustrations of the day, in every aspect of my spiritual and physical surroundings? How can I continue to surrender to His will? “The New Evangelization offers hope” . . . Was I a living witness of God’s truth today? ***Look toward tomorrow.***

**Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,  
my memory, my understanding, and my entire will.**

**All I have and call my own.**

**Whatever I have or hold, you have given me.**

**I restore it all to you and surrender it wholly  
to be governed by your will.**

**Give me only your love and grace**

**and I am rich enough and ask for nothing more.**



## Prayer For The Deceased Sodalist

(All)

Most merciful Heart of Jesus, by the memory of your bitter passion and death, and of the sorrows of your Holy Mother, we ask you to have mercy on Souls of all departed Sodalists, especially on the souls of \_\_\_\_\_ who *once were members of this Sodality. May you too have pity on them Merciful Mother, deliver them speedily from Purgatory, offer up to God the great treasure of your merits, and those of your Divine Son, and of all His Saints, so that those who faithfully honored and served you in the Sodality during the time of their mortal life, may speedily hasten to enjoy with you forever the life without end in Heaven. AMEN.*

(Prefect)

*Lord Jesus, Lovingly welcome into your presence our Brother/Sister \_\_\_\_\_ who have completed their journey on this earth, and have gone their rest in the hope of rejoicing with You forever in heaven. Source of all life and love, in Your infinite mercy, look favorably upon their goodness, and forgive any sins they may have committed, so they may enjoy for all eternity the great rewards You have promised to those who believed in you. AMEN.*

## Litany of Humility

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, **Hear me.**  
From the desire of being esteemed, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being loved...  
From the desire of being extolled ...  
From the desire of being honored ...  
From the desire of being praised ...  
From the desire of being preferred to others...  
From the desire of being consulted ...

From the desire of being approved ...  
 From the fear of being humiliated ...  
 From the fear of being despised...  
 From the fear of suffering rebukes ...  
 From the fear of being calumniated ...  
 From the fear of being forgotten ...  
 From the fear of being ridiculed ...  
 From the fear of being wronged ...  
 From the fear of being suspected ...

That others may be loved more than I, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may be esteemed more than I ...  
 That, in the opinion of the world,  
 others may increase and I may decrease ...  
 That others may be chosen and I set aside ...  
 That others may be praised and I unnoticed ...  
 That others may be preferred to me in everything...  
 That others may become holier than I, provided that I may  
 become as holy as I should...

*Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val (1865-1930), Secretary of State for Pope Saint Pius X*

## COMMITTEE PRAYER

Dear Lord,

In the process of gathering our thoughts as we begin this meeting:

May we treat each other's ideas with reverence and respect.

May we hear each one's Truth and Wisdom, that in the variety of viewpoints, out of the rich differences among us will come the balance of the Kingdom.

May we discover how to reject ideas without rejecting people.

May we discover how to share visions though we do not share the same means for reaching our desired goals.

May this meeting, then be for each of us a prayer, a lesson and an opportunity to be servants to those whom we represent.

We ask these things in you, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***We invite each parish Sodality to submit its favorite prayer to include on this "Pray With Us" page.***

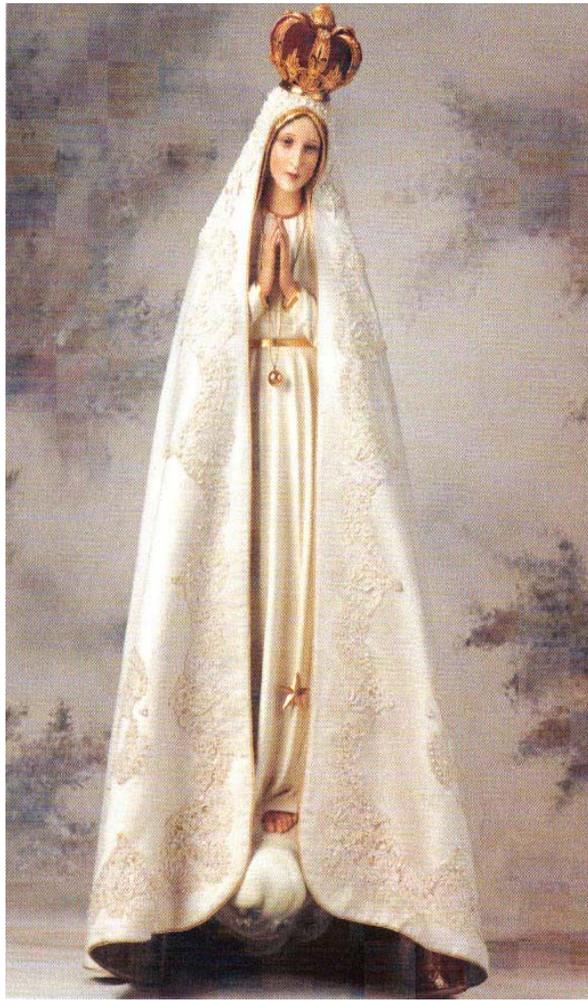
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***YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE--  
November 30, 2015 through February 2,  
2016***

This Year of Consecrated Life you are invited to offer your monthly Sodality Union Mass and the Rosary for a priest or religious order in the Archdiocese. A basket with the name of an individual priest or a religious order for you to adopt as **“your” Spiritual Adoptee** will be available before Masses. Offering the Rosary we pray is a special way to share in our devotion to the Rosary and grow in our prayer life. If you are unable to attend Orientation, but are interested in participating in this spiritual adoption, please contact us. —  
**Mary, Mother of Mercy, pray for our priests.**

**Pray for Vocations**

\*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*



## *PRAY THE ROSARY!*

[2015\\_Rosary\\_Booklet.pdf](#)  
363.4 KB

## GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

[2015-2016\\_SUCalendar\\_of\\_Events\\_as\\_of\\_2016\\_May.pdf](#)  
347.7 KB

