

# Sodality Blessed News

*Saint Mary's Catholic Church of Piscataway*

October 2023

## **Welcome Back!!**

It is with a warm heart and joyful mind that I welcome you back to Sodality Sundays and the BLESSED NEWS! Your continued participation in our Sodality is a blessing, and I look forward to praying, celebrating, and coming together as a caring community to love and serve Jesus through Mary.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our new elected officers who have taken office for the September 2023 to June 2025 term: Norma Samuels, Prefect; Geri Davis, Vice Prefect; Shirley Lord-Cooper, Secretary; and Kathy Giannetti, Treasurer. Thank you, Norma, Geri, Shirley, and Kathy! Your service is an outward sign of your commitment both to our Blessed Mother Mary and our church family.

As the warmth of summer fades and the leaves start to turn, fall brings a renewed sense of community and connection. I am thrilled that once again we come together as a loving community of women who celebrate our Catholic faith and create cherished memories. I eagerly await the moment when we once again step into our church hall for meetings and events, and to be enveloped in the warmth of friendship and the excitement of reuniting with familiar faces after the summer break. I encourage you to take a moment to look around and see what you can do to help support the celebration of the Mass, for example as a gift bearer, a lector, a choir member.

My gratitude to our authors for your articles - keep them coming! We value input from our readers, and we also invite church members to write articles for editorial review.

Finally, I pray that the Lord will guide us always and that, modeling our lives on that of Mary, we will draw ever closer to her Son Jesus, and embrace the sense of belonging that our church community offers.

Blessings to you my sisters, my friends! It's good to be back!

*Karen Voglezon, Chair  
Public Relations and Communication Committee  
Sodality of Our Lady of Perpetual Help*



## **WOMEN OF GRACE RETREAT**

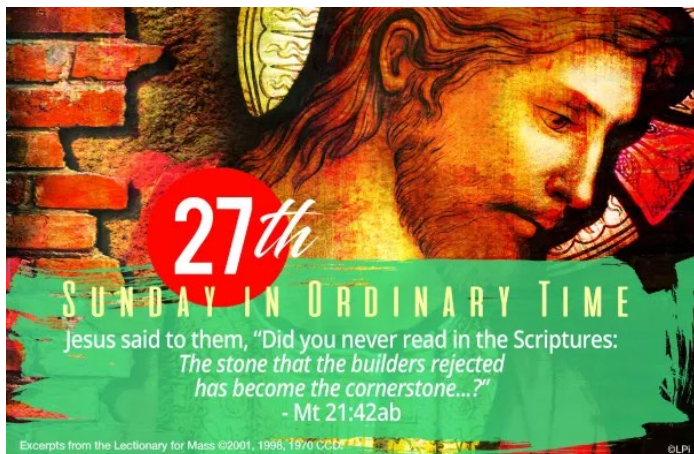
On the weekend of July 21-23, Nancy Wooster, Chris Bowman, and Michele Fulk joined 297 other women from around the country attending “Healing the Wounds of the Heart” Retreat in Malvern, Pennsylvania.

They attended six talks, three Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, a Healing Service, and five family-style meals. There was also time allotted to walk the grounds where there are four different Stations of the Cross as well as beautiful Shrines and Statues on the rolling acres of their property. And there were two gift shops where you could buy Women of Grace and Malvern Retreat House articles.

*Submitted by: Michele Fulk  
Spiritual & Apostolic Life  
Committee*

## SODALITY PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

I ask you Lord, help us always keep before our eyes, the example of Mary, who accepted the death of her son as a great mystery of salvation. Help us to act with our gaze fixed on the good of others. And die in the hope of the resurrection, conscious that we are never alone or abandoned by God or Mary, the loving mother ever concerned for her children. *Christ above in torment hangs.* She beneath beholds the pangs of her dying glorious Son. Amen.



### JUNIOR SODALISTS

2023 has been a year of celebrations with the graduation of several of our members from High School to College and from middle school to High School. Congratulations to Victoria Williams and Emily Hammack who started college, and to Lauren Sweda who is now in High School. We wish them continued success in their academic endeavors.

This coming year, we plan to have a recruitment campaign to reach out and encourage more young ladies from our church and Parish School to join the Junior Sodality, to learn more about our programs, and to meet our current members.

We continue to involve Junior Sodalists in our Parish programs and events as well as offering special topics on spirituality that further their understanding of our Catholic faith. In addition, we are scheduling a few social gatherings enabling us to enjoy time together learning crafts taught by our very own Senior Sodalists.

Thanks to our Pastor, Fr. Sam, and all the Senior Sodalists who support our Junior Sodalists in faith, hope, and love. Please continue to pray for our youth.

We look forward to a great year of continued spiritual growth, member expansion and fun! Blessings to all!

*Minerva Blanco, Chair Junior Sodality*

### PREFECT'S CORNER

*"To Jesus Through Mary"* – Our Lady's love for us and our love for her is all about God. Pope Francis said that having a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary isn't just something that is nice or good to do but is an obligation in the life of a Christian. *"Devotion to Mary is not spiritual etiquette; it is a requirement of the Christian life."*

October is the month dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary, a perfect opportunity for us to share this beautiful prayer with our families and others. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary celebrated on October 7<sup>th</sup>, honors the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. Through the Holy Rosary, we meditate on God's Word. The Gospel becomes embedded in our hearts, and Mary holds our hand to Jesus Christ

Let's reach for those beads and pray: All to Jesus through Mary, all to Mary for Jesus.

Peace and blessings to you and your family.

### HAPPENINGS IN ROME

This October, the Catholic Church will gather in Rome for the Synod on Synodality (Oct. 4 to 29, 2023). This is a wonderful time for us to unite with the Universal Church in prayer and to ask Our Lord and his Blessed Mother to guide the Church. (Remember, no matter in what nation we live, we are all Catholic and share in the power of prayer.) As you pray individually or with your family, please pray for the bishops and all those gathered in Rome with Our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

### PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

*Norma Samuel, Prefect  
Sodality of Our Lady of Perpetual Help*

## MOTHER'S DAY MAY 2023

On Mother's Day, the Junior Sodalists presented mothers of the parish with handmade cards following the 9:30 am Mass. The cards featured a yellow or red fabric rose and beautiful sentiments and drawings created by our very talented young ladies. We are blessed to have these talented artists and writers and we thank them for making many moms feel so special.



## FATHER'S DAY JUNE 2023

On Father's Day, at the suggestion of a Junior Sodalist, we presented the fathers of the parish with a small bag of cookies. Nine ladies of Sodality made and packaged about 160 bags of cookies which were handed out at all the Masses. Both Senior and Junior Sodalists received many smiles as they presented dads with cookies and happy Father's Day wishes.

*Submitted by: Kathy Giannetti  
Treasurer, and Chair Hospitality Committee*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

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Marion Maxwell, Shirley Lord Cooper, Jean Brown, Virginia Merritt, Leticia Calata, Royston Voglezon, Lorraine Weaver, Enid King,

*Sincere thanks to our editor Kay Whittington for her hard work, valuable comments, and constructive feedback.*

## SODALITY UNION CORNER

Sodality Union President Letter

October 2023

Dear Prefects, fellow Sodalists and Moderators,

The Executive Council of the RCADW Sodality Union is pleased to share good news that **the first Proposed Annual Budget** was finalized and will be presented at the November General Business Meeting on November 4, 2023.

Parish Sodalities will have the opportunity to make a **donation** to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for their televised weekly Mass for the Sick and Shut-Ins when we meet for our special day at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. **Sodality Union Commitment Day** will take place in the Crypt Church on **Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 10 A.M. with the Rosary following.** Our Moderator, Fr. Wakefield will celebrate our Mass. All are welcome. and invited to wear your white attire.

Peace and blessings to you and your families,

*Marti Galvin, President  
Sodality Union, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of  
Washington, DC*

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Excerpt from Past Moderator's Marian Reflection

God was, is now, and forever shall be the Creator of all that has ever been. He so loved the world that God sent His only begotten Son to preach and teach, to suffer, die and resurrect in fulfillment of the ancient Scriptures.

Time and again, Jesus faithfully went out into the lives of people who were among the least in society. They were the weak, powerless, vulnerable, sick and disabled, even the dying. Jesus did so in order to bring fulfillment to the ancient prophets. Jesus healed the blind, the deaf, the crippled, people who suffered from mental illness, epilepsy, pride and so many other thorns in the flesh. Jesus healed as an external sign of an internal truth: The Lord is with us now and until the hour of death. Jesus brought peace among old enemies and forgiveness unto others, even those who trespassed against Him. He forgave His enemies, even Judas His betrayer.

*Fr. Michael Briese  
Past Moderator, FCADW Sodality Union*