***Catholic Art Guild***

**November 5, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Kathleen Carr, President of the Catholic Art Guild, called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm on Nov. 5th 2016, in the Canonry Building at St. John Cantius.

**Roll Call**

The following were present:

* Board members: Kathleen Carr, Fr. Joshua Caswell
* Prospective Catholic Art Guild Members who RSVPed and/or Attended Meeting: Janean Utley, Ruth-Margaret Durkin, Susanna Tellschow Wagner, Yeinier Gonzalez, Dawid Patryk Szmigielski, Tiffany Vassilatos, Jean Ryan, John-Paul Pizzica, Mary Susan, Katie Rauwolf, Evelyn Wlwerding, Brianna Palmore, Jed Gibbons, Bob Ellison, Nell Andrzejewsk, Kevin Manning.

**Opening Prayer -** Fr. Joshua

**Introduction -** Kathleen Carr

Kathleen opened the meeting with a brief history of how the Catholic Art Guild came to be incorporated. Kathleen shared that she was invited to have a booth at the Catholic Marketing Network (CMN) annual trade show, held in Schaumburg, IL in 2014. She had her original oil paintings as well as prints on display in an effort to sell and distribute them. Prior to coming to the trade show, the President of the Catholic Marketing Network encouraged Kathleen to found an organization for Catholic artists, much like the independent organization called the Catholic Writers Guild which the CMN supports by giving them a booth and space to meet, as well as access to the largest trade show for Catholics (at a reduced rate). Kathleen was asked to write her vision for a Catholic art organization, which included connecting it to a classically beautiful church with a beautiful, reverent and sacred liturgy. As providence would have it, Biretta Books was also invited to attend the CMN trade show and it was there that Kathleen met Fr. Joshua Caswell of the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius. Fr. Joshua told Kathleen about their community’s charism, and to view the video of “Restoring the Sacred” on their parish website. Kathleen was so moved by the story, accomplishments and liturgy at SJC she reached out to Fr. Phillps and asked if he’d be willing to allow The Catholic Art Guild’s spiritual home to be at St. John Cantius. She shared her vision statement for the Catholic Art Guild and Fr. Phillips requested we all say a novena to the Holy Spirit and then make a decision to move forward or not. Fr. Phillips agreed to lend support to the Guild and 501c3 incorporation shortly followed. As providence would have it the official documents we signed and filed on Oct. 20 2014, the Feast of St. John Cantius!

Kathleen then led those present in an open discussion of the role of artists, the role of art and beauty, and practical approaches for how the guild can help educate and form artists. Many ideas and suggestions were offered, including hosting speakers for educational purposes, workshops around Icon making, gilding, and the possibility of approaching the two local atelier's for a group rate if enough members are interested in taking classes. Networking and community building will happen at the Catholic Marketing Network tradeshow and organically through all events which will include a social time after the speaking events, etc. so the group can get to know one another better.

**Key Discussion Points**

* “Eyes of the Body” Kathleen: "We [artists] are the eyes,” referring to 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Emphasis that Evangelization is a key and necessary role of art and artists in the Church and a major part of the CAG’s mission.
  + We are interested in how to develop as “Custodians of Beauty” within the New Evangelization. Education, philosophy and practical support of the members are necessary ways to meet these goals hence the plan to invite distinguish scholars, philosphers, art historians, artists and architects, etc. to speak and/or demonstate at Guild events.
  + A short discussion arose about the utilitarian culture in which we live that places no value on artist gifts. Artists gifts are valuable and they matter, God created us with this desire for beauty and to create beauty for a reason. The Church needs artists, and artists need the Church.
* “Beginning/Faith is essential” Fr. Joshua: "This is the beginning of something really large scale for the community and for the nation...we are here to be apart of something bigger than ourselves…”
  + “Art flows to and from the Mass.” - Fr Joshua
  + 2000 year-old faith with abundant teaching on art.
  + Serious need for prayer to counter the moral relativism - Kathleen
* Community Building Kathleen: Networking, evangelizing from the home base of a classical, beautiful church. Will need to start small but the possibilities include:
  + Juried competitions and shows
  + Yearly conference event with guest speakers and workshops and a High Mass
    - Guest speaker suggestions - Roger Scruton, Dr. Denis McNamara, Anthony Visco, & Duncan Stroik
  + Monthly events based around community building, skill building, educational activities or visits to galleries or museums or other “sacred art” sites locally
    - Guest speaker suggestions - Joseph Pearce, Denis McNamara of Mundelein.
    - Ravenswood Atelier (Group rate discount? Guided tour and visit?)
    - Attend a free or discounted drawing class as a group
    - Other discount opportunities in this vein?
    - Studio visits (of members, or of other professional artists)
    - Community critiques
  + Utilize social media, the website, create a visual online presence.
    - List upcoming events on the website
* Guild Goals/Tenets
  + To be a place where pastors and churches can come to find excellent sacred art.
  + Showcase excellent work, not mediocre kitsch Catholic art.
  + Anyone can join the guild including noncatholics...but it is necessary to be respectful of the Catholic faith to be a member.
  + All members to help contribute to ideas and brainstorming ways to begin as a guild
  + $40 yearly membership fee to join, to help bolster the treasury and requires members to commit. Events will cost money to stage so we need to dues and will charge for some events to help defray costs and replenish funds. We will work to keep costs as low as possible.
* Membership Benefits
  + Catholic Art Guild Mass Association at St. John Cantius Parish in Chicago
  + Invitation to the annual mass for the Catholic Art Guild at St. John Cantius
  + Eligibility and discounts on events and entering the competitions we host
  + Members can attend the Catholic Marketing Network Trade Show at a reduced rate
  + Members will notified first of events before non-members. Some events are sure to sell out like our conference so this is a good reason to join
* Questions
  + Will we be open to cross-pollinating with other art forms?
  + Will we be open to cross-pollinating with other art - contemporary art - “non-Catholic” art?
  + The guild does not want to tell artists what to create and to the extent that we can, we’d like to ‘cross-pollinate” as a means of evangelization and as long as the work we support meets the goals of the guild mission.
* Other Suggestions
  + Host a variety of themed shows - some general art, some sacred art
* Resources
  + Pope Benedict and JPII writings

**Closing Benediction -** Fr. Joshua

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm

Submitted Signed

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Katie Rauwolf & Brianna Palmore Kathleen Carr

Catholic Art Guild Members President, Board of Directors