



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

July 2025

Volume 7 Issue 7

President's Message



Brothers,

Another successful AOH Ohio State Convention was held last month in Akron. Thank you again for putting your trust in me to serve another two year term as your Ohio AOH State President.

It is an honor and privilege that I do not take lightly. Listening to all the reports given by Committee Chairs and County/Division Presidents lets me know that we are moving the AOH forward in Ohio. We are doing so many good things for the less fortunate and our Holy Mother Church. Let's continue to do these good works.

On behalf of the State Board, I would like to extend our gratitude to the Summit County convention committee. This year's convention was a huge success. I know the amount of time that went into planning and executing this convention. Thank you for all of your hard work.

To all the brothers that were able to make the trip to Akron, thank you for coming. Your participation and engagement in the meetings was outstanding. Without you, we cannot share our successes and exchange ideas.

I'll be reaching out to all you in the next couple of weeks. I'm looking forward to visiting with you and helping expand the Order in Ohio.

Thanks again for your support.

Denny

Chaplain's Comments



We begin the month in the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary time. The Gospel for this weekend is from Luke 10:1-12, 17-20. It starts out with Jesus setting things into motion for His disciples to continue the mission of the Church after His departure. *At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."*

The seventy-two others are disciples whom He called specifically for this task. He called them to help announce of His coming to the towns and villages that He planned to visit during His ministry. He also encouraged them to pray to God, *the master of the harvest*, so that He would encourage others to listen to the call that they will receive to come and help those He appointed to reap the harvest, which is abundant. Jesus is letting the seventy-two know that there are others out there that are called to help and that it is part of their task to look for them and encourage them to listen to the call and follow Jesus.

As we recently celebrated Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles and they receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and are then sent out to teach and preach to the nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, this Gospel message is quite similar, except that it involves all God's people. Our

Continued on Page 2

Chaplain's Comments, cont.

trinitarian God ensured that He would always be present in the Church, through the Holy Spirit, in the Eucharist and in the living body of Christ, that is the baptized who have entered into the Church and have received a share in His divinity as He shared a part in our humanity. He ensured that those who have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation could use them to answer His call to be laborers in the world to announce His coming and to encourage others to answer the call as well.

We are the laborers, my brothers, who are called to use the gifts that God has blessed us with, the gifts of the Holy Spirit that each of us have received in Confirmation. God asks us to use these gifts to help others see how they too can help and see that together we can bring about the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

In the last weekend of June, we held the AOH Ohio State Convention. There I witnessed brothers coming together and talking about the work that they have been laboring on during the last year. We received the news of what our brothers were doing around the

state and it was encouraging. We heard of the ways in which our fellow Hibernians were using the gifts and talents that they have received from God to go out into the world to serve one another, serve their fellow man, and serve God. What we heard had an effect on everyone present. We heard different ways of living in Friendship, demonstrating our Unity, and serving others in Christian Charity.

This my brothers, is living the Gospel life. I encourage you all to look into your hearts, contemplate the gifts and talents that God has granted you, and discern how you will answer His call to go out into the world and announce the good news and encourage others to follow your example and be a laborer for the harvest.

God Bless,

Deacon Bruce

**Mark Your Calendars**

March for Life
January 23, 2026
Washington D.C.

2026 National Convention
July 16 - 19
Omaha NE

2027 State Convention
June 24 - 27
Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark OH

2023 - 2025 Officers

Chaplain	Deacon Bruce Dobbins brunomusarra@yahoo.com
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Historian	Mike Finn FCoolavin@aol.com
Veterans Affairs	Doug Gerrard dpgerrard@aol.com
Hibernian Hunger	Dave McLaughlin dmclaugh106@sbcglobal.net
Immigration	John Myers johnmyers216@gmail.com

Jim Casey's New Email Addressjjcasey973@icloud.com**Newsletter News**

Just a reminder. If you have information for our monthly newsletter, please send it as an attachment to an e-mail to Editor, Jim Casey at

jjcasey973@icloud.com

The **deadline** for articles is the **24th of the month**.

AOH-LAOH Ohio 2025 State Convention

AOH Newly Elected Officers:

President	Denny Parks
Vice President	Bruce McPherson
Secretary	Pete Chrystal
Treasurer	Greg Brown
Director	Chris Schulte
Director	Dale Norris



1st Row, L to R: Greg Brown, Bruce McPherson, Denny Parks, Pete Chrystal

2nd Row, L to R: Dale Norris, National President Sean Pender, Chris Schulte

Past & Current National Presidents



Patrick Pearse Div. # 1 Franklin Co. will host the 2027 State Convention on 6/24-6/27 at the Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark. It's a 2-story hotel; rooms at or below \$150 night.



AOH-LAOH Ohio, 2027 State Convention. The Thursday evening Summit Co. LAOH #1 Margaret Judge and Summit Co. AOH #2 Mark Heffernan Divisions special Welcome night at 200 Brown St.



State Organizer's Report

I hope those who were able to attend the State Convention in Cuyahoga Falls had a good time. I know I did. I am staying on as Organizer for the next two years, so you all will have to put up with me for a while longer!

We got a lot accomplished during our business meetings and heard from most of the divisions during the committee reports. The divisions present gave their reports, talking about golf outings, picnics, division Masses, helping out their local food pantries and working with other organizations in their area in the name of our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. It was good to hear the excitement as they spoke of their accomplishments and also the challenges they face. Recruitment is a big issue and I applaud those divisions who have increased their membership.

It looks like our new application program will go live in September. They know there will be a learning curve in getting it going and ask for everyone's patience. Basically, the division presidents will receive the applications directly. They need to start the process of contacting the applicants immediately. If nothing has been reported in 10 days, it will be bumped up to the county level and/or the state. This streamlined approach should eliminate any lag time with having the President or Organizer contacting the divisions. Every division must make sure their Form 9s are up to date so the applications can be routed correctly. More information will follow as it becomes available.

Remember, if your division has a website, a Facebook page or other social media outlets, make sure you keep them up to date and giving the right information so potential applicants would be able to contact you. Social media has proven to be a helpful tool with recruitment, something we should all be thinking about. I did mention at the convention that the key is keeping your social media page up to date. Nothing will turn a prospective applicant off more than seeing no action for extended lengths of time.

Joe Casey, State Organizer, qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com

Pro Life Report

This is the letter Bishop Thomas of Toledo released.

June 24, 2025, marks the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade* and ended nearly fifty years of virtually unlimited, nationwide abortion. Hope had never been lost in God's power to right that wrong and accomplish what the world believed to be impossible. During this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are called to reflect more deeply on the enduring hope that has been won for us through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The *Dobbs* decision not only gave states the freedom to protect preborn children but also paved the way for pro-life victories nationally. The federal government is now closer than ever to defunding Planned Parenthood and other organizations whose abortion profiteering harms women and babies. At the same time, we know that several states have enacted extreme pro-abortion policies, overriding existing pro-life safeguards, with some states leaving children vulnerable to abortion even up to birth. Despite the good that *Dobbs* decision accomplished, the battle for life is far from over. I urge all Catholics to engage their elected officials on all issues that threaten the gift of human life, in particular the threat of abortion. As we confront the challenges of our time, let us find hope anew in this Jubilee Year and be strengthened in our resolve to serve the cause of life. May our Catholic parishes continue to welcome, embrace, and accompany women facing unexpected pregnancies through initiatives like Walking with Moms in Need. And may we never tire of sharing Christ's message of mercy with all who are suffering in the aftermath of an abortion through ministries like Project Rachel. Even amidst the increasing attacks on human life, we know that the "storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death."¹ As we move forward in hope, may we be united in our efforts to protect God's gift of life, in every stage and circumstance.

Just a couple of days ago, the Supreme Court ruled that states can bar Medicaid payments to planned parenthood. This would allow other states to direct funds away from planned parenthood and other abortion providers.

Jacob Durda, State Pro Life, jacob.durda@gmail.com

State Historian's Report

J. Michael Finn, State Historian

The Meaning of “O'Donnell Abú”

One of Ireland's most historically significant songs is “O'Donnell Abú.” Unfortunately, for both singers and listeners, it is one of the most obscure in meaning. It was originally known as “Clan Connell's War Song” when it was written in 1843 by Michael Joseph McCann. It was originally published in the nationalist newspaper *The Nation*. The song deals with the struggle of Red Hugh O'Donnell and Hugh O'Neill against the forces of Queen Elizabeth I, who sought to destroy the influence of the Irish earls. “O'Donnell Abú” means “O'Donnell Forward” and was the war cry of Hugh O'Donnell's clan.

The struggle began in February 1595 and would continue until the spring of 1597. Red Hugh O'Donnell united his forces with those of Hugh O'Neill and prepared to fight the English for the first time on an all-Ireland national level. The song begins with a call-to-arms for the O'Donnell clan.

Proudly the note of the trumpet is sounding
 Loudly the war cries arise on the gale,
 Swiftly the steed by Lough Swilly is bounding
 To join the thick squadrons on Samier's Green Vale.
 On, every Mountaineer, strangers to flight and fear;
 Rush to the standard of dauntless Red Hugh.
 Bonnaught and Gallowglass, throng from each mountain pass;
 On for old Erin, O'Donnell Abú!

O'Donnell's lieutenants are sounding the trumpets to call upon all of his troops, advising them that a united force is gathering near Lough Swilly. They should assemble on “Samier's Green Vale.” Samier is Irish for Morning Star and is the ancient name of the River Erne that flows through the counties of Fermanagh and Donegal. Those living in the mountains are urged onward and any strangers (the English) in the area are encouraged to flee and be afraid as the forces gather under Red Hugh's banner. Bonnaughts were Irish mercenary soldiers and the Gallowglass were Scottish mercenary soldiers. Both groups were in the employ of O'Donnell and were used to guard the mountain passes. They are urged to leave the passes and advance to join O'Donnell's force.

Princely O'Neill to our aid is advancing
 With many a chieftain and warrior clan.
 A thousand proud steeds in his vanguard are prancing,
 'Neath the Borderers brave from the banks of the Bann.
 Many a heart shall quail under its coat of mail;
 Deeply the merciless foeman will rue,
 When on his ear shall ring, borne on the breeze's wing,
 Tyrconnell's dread war cry, O'Donnell Abú!

Hugh O'Neill, the Earl of Tyrone, is advancing with his clansmen to join forces with O'Donnell. He is following the course of the River Bann that runs through Antrim, Derry and Armagh – which the O'Donnell clan knew in their day to be O'Neill land. The English, who wore coats of chain mail, will be afraid and they will deeply rue hearing the war cry of the O'Donnell's. Tyrconnell was the original name of County Donegal, the homeland of the O'Donnell Clan.

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State Historian's Report, cont.

Wildly o're Desmond, the war-wolf is howling,
Fearless the eagle sweeps over the plain,
The fox in the streets of the city are prowling,
All who would scare them are banished or slain.
Grasp, every stalwart hand, hackbut and battlebrand,
Pay them all back the deep debt long due.
Norreys and Clifford well, can of Tyrconnell tell,
Onward to glory, O'Donnell Abú!

This verse recalls the terrific slaughter of men, women and children carried out by Queen Elizabeth's soldiers across the length and breadth of Munster, where the Desmonds once held power. The O'Donnell lieutenants are reminding them that the slaughter in Munster was so complete that the eagle and fox were boldly prowling the plains and the streets of the city because no one was there to scare them away. The song calls upon all "stalwart hands" to grasp the hackbut (a type of musket) and battlebrand (an Irish sword) to pay the English back for the numerous atrocities they had committed in Desmond territory.

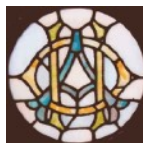
Queen Elizabeth, anticipating a tough war in Ireland appointed Sir John Norreys to the post of commander-in-chief of all her troops in Ireland. O'Donnell and O'Neill won most of their battles against Norreys and his experienced troops. Another of Elizabeth's commanders, Sir Conyers Clifford, was in charge of Connaught Province. O'Neill and his clansmen soundly defeated Clifford. Clifford was killed by O'Donnell at the Battle of the Curlew Mountains in County Sligo. Both Norreys and Clifford could very well tell of the bravery of the Irish soldiers and O'Donnell urges his men to go forward with further victories over the English.

Sacred the cause that clan Connell's defending,
The altars we kneel at, the homes of our sires,
Ruthless the ruin the foe is extending
Midnight is red with the plunderer's fires.
On, with O'Donnell then, fight the old fight again,
Sons of Tyrconnell, all valiant and true.
Make the false Saxon feel Erin's avenging steel,
Strike for your country, O'Donnell Abú!

O'Donnell's lieutenants are reminding all of the clans that their cause is indeed a sacred and holy one and the safety and security of their homes and religion is at stake. The Saxon enemy will be ruthless, as the burning of Munster is again recalled. But, now is the time to "fight the old fight again." This is the time to set aside any clan loyalties and strike as a unit for the country of Ireland.

O'Donnell and O'Neill ultimately lost their fight with the English. Red Hugh O'Donnell went to Spain in 1602 to seek Spanish help, but died there under mysterious circumstances. Hugh O'Neill and the other Irish Earls were forced to flee the country in 1607 in what was called "The Flight of the Earls." This flight resulted in the end of Gaelic Ireland, confiscation of the clan lands in the north of Ireland, and ushered in centuries of English rule.

J. Michael Finn, fcoolavin@aol.com



Catholic Action

The month of July is comprised of Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar, the vestments being green. The calendar includes two great saints of the Americas, Junipero Serra and Kateri Tekakwitha. The St. Bridget commemorated on July 23 is Bridget of Sweden, not Bridget of Ireland.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF JULY

Junipero Serra, Priest		July 1
Thomas the Apostle	Feast	July 3
Benedict, Abbot	Memorial	July 11
Kateri Tekakwitha		July 14
Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor	Memorial	July 15
Mary Magdalene	Feast	July 22
James the Apostle	Feast	July 25
Joachim and Ann, Parents of Mary	Memorial	July 26
Martha, Mary, and Lazarus	Memorial	July 29
Ignatius Loyola, Priest	Memorial	July 31

THE COUNCIL OF NICEA (AD 325)

As noted previously, this year we celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, regarded as the Church's first ecumenical--that is, world-wide--council. The primary records of its proceedings have been lost, but scholars believe that it was in session in May and June, exactly 1700 years ago. The Council condemned the Arian heresy and sought to end a schism in Egypt. Perhaps most significant for us, it formulated a creed which, having undergone some later revisions, especially at the Council of Constantinople (381), became the creed which we profess at Sunday Mass.

IRISH SAINTS OF JULY

Serf, Bishop (6th century) July 1

The life of St. Serf, or Servanus, is rather murky, due to the number of legends and reworkings of old folk tales which have found their way into it. He may have owed his consecration to Palladius. Some think him the apostle of the Orkneys, though evidence that he labored there is slight. It is likely that he evangelized the Scots around Culross, Fifeshire, where he is buried.

Rumold, Martyr (d.c. 775) July 3

The best surmise about this saint, also known as Rombaut, is that he hailed from Britain, though he is venerated in Ireland as a native of that land. He sojourned on the Continent, evangelizing in the area later known as Brabant. He may have been consecrated bishop by the pope. He was slain and tossed into a river by two men whom he had sought to dissuade from their evil deeds.

Kilian and Companions, Martyrs (d.c. 689) July 8

Kilian was an Irish monk who went with eleven companions to Franconia in Germany, with a papal mandate to evangelize the area. At some point he was consecrated bishop. Kilian rebuked a local feudatory named Gosbert, a recent convert, for his irregular marriage. This brought about the slaying of Kilian and his companions, though accounts differ as to whether Gosbert was involved in this.

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Catholic Action, cont.

Oliver Plunket, Archbishop and Martyr (1629-81)

July 11

Oliver was born in County Meath, connected on his father's side to the earls of Fingall, and on his mother's (a Dillon), the earls of Roscommon. During the turbulent time of the rebellion in the British Isles against Charles I and the radical Protestant ascendancy which followed his execution, Oliver began studies for the priesthood at the Benedictine Abbey of St. Mary's, Dublin, under his kinsman, Patrick Plunket. In 1645, he was sent to Rome for further study, earning a scholarly reputation at the new Irish College. After further studies in canon and civil law, he was ordained in 1654. There followed a busy life in Rome for twelve years, during which Plunket taught theology and served as a counselor to the Index and procurator at Rome for the Irish bishops.

In March, 1669, the archbishop of Armagh, Edward O'Reilly, died in exile. Pope Clement IX chose Plunket to succeed him and thought the time seemed opportune to return the Primate of All Ireland to Ireland. After consecration at Ghent, Plunket journeyed to London, where he was in contact with Charles II's Catholic queen before travelling on to Dublin.

The Irish church was in sad shape, due to the penal laws and the Protestant ascendancy, but due also to ignorance, neglect, rivalry, timidity, and the presence of schismatic and disorderly elements within the church. Fortunately, due to various causes at that time, among them the Catholic leanings of the British monarch, Charles II (married to a Portuguese Catholic princess), there was a lessening of pressure upon Catholics in Ireland, and indeed throughout the British Isles. The Protestant viceroy of Ireland, Lord Berkeley of Stratton, was a fair and moderate man. Plunket also enjoyed cordial relations with the Protestant clergy in Ireland. The archbishop always had to be wary that his efforts did not open him to prosecution under the still-enforceable laws, but during this window of a few years, Plunket worked diligently to improve the state of his flock and put things in order.

In 1673, there was a fresh outbreak of persecution. Some of the Irish hierarchy fled or were banished; Plunket and some others operated from hiding. Things got worse after the Oates Plot of 1678. Archbishop Plunket was apprehended and imprisoned in Dublin Castle, and later in London's Newgate, charged with supporting armed insurrection. The winding trail of Plunket's prosecution is too much to follow in detail here; but the prosecution could not get an Irish grand jury to indict, no

reliable witnesses were found, measures of questionable legality were forwarded. Most shameful of all, it was the perjured testimony of renegade Irish Catholics which brought about Plunket's condemnation. He was sentenced to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. Plunket suffered martyrdom at Tyburn, the last Catholic martyr to die there. On the scaffold, Plunket proclaimed his innocence of fomenting armed insurrection and his loyalty to the king, and prayed for the king and for the people who had brought about his condemnation. The Archbishop's remains have done some travelling; his body is now at Downside Abbey, while his head is at St. Peter's, Drogheda. Plunket was canonized in 1975.

REEK SUNDAY

In Ireland, the last Sunday of July--July 27 this year--is "Reek Sunday." It marks the annual pilgrimage to the summit of Croagh Patrick, St. Patrick's holy mountain, in County Mayo overlooking Clew Bay. The word "reek" denotes a hill or mountain. St. Patrick is said to have spent Lent of the year 441 fasting and praying on the mountain. For details, check the local diocesan website: www.westportparish.ie.

NEWS OF INTEREST

On June 5, the U.S. Supreme Court tossed the State of Wisconsin's attempt to revoke the tax exempt status of Catholic Charities in Wisconsin. The Court ruled that the state was violating First Amendment freedom of religion and was discriminating against a religious organization. What is most striking about the decision is that it was unanimous, a rarity in today's usually divided court.

Faternally,

Patrick J. Lally, lally8404@hotmail.com 330-792-7135

Ohio AOH Missions & Charities

Lots to cover, as Missions & Charities efforts expand statewide and nationally. Keep doing the excellent work with your divisions and counties, locally, statewide and beyond.

New National Charity

National will be adding St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families in Hyattsville, Maryland, to the list of designated charities. www.stanns.org

St. Ann's Center helps mothers and children overcome crisis and achieve lasting independence and stability by providing a safe and supportive home, child care, education and employment assistance, and clinical social work services within a Catholic community that welcomes all.

Relief Efforts of AOH

There have been a number of natural disasters this year. Do you know of any Hibernian brothers or sister that were severely impacted? They may qualify for a stipend, as the AOH has provided in Florida and the Carolinas. Contact John Tarpey directly at tarpey49@verizon.net for information.

Getting the Word Out About Project St Patrick

National Project St Patrick Chair Kevin Delany and Ohio AOH Project St Patrick Chair Chris Schulte are adding new energy in getting the word out. There is also an effort to expand how PSP funds are dispersed. More in Chris Schulte's PSP convention report.

As always, make sure you fill out the form that goes to your Bishop's Office, establishing a division PSP representative. The often overlooked form is the Vocational Grant Application, link listed below.

All divisions and counties, please continue your annual \$500 donations to Project St. Patrick

Donation Form

[2025_Project_St_Patrick_Donation_Form.pdf](#)

Division Diocese Form

[2025_Division_Diocese_Form.pdf](#)

Vocational Grant Application Form

[2025_PSP_Application](#)

Hibernian Charity Appeal

The Hibernian Charity Appeal is the primary National AOH vehicle for individual members to contribute to charity programs. These programs include— **Saint Patrick Centre Young Ambassador Program; Project Saint Patrick; Project Saint Patrick Ireland;**

Hibernian Hunger Projects; Hibernian Disaster Relief; and Study Abroad scholarships.

Please make all checks payable to "Hibernian Charity" or visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/hibcha> to make a secure online donation today. If you wish, gifts more than \$50 may be directed to a specific charity program of your choosing.

Hibernian Charity

C/O Tim Quinn

2000 Lancashire Avenue #202

Louisville KY 40205

Some Divisions Without Missions & Charities Chairs

One of the great things for those attending this convention is inspiration that you take back to your home division. Please feel free to pull me aside this weekend, so I can assist if there are any obstacles to establishing a M&C chair. Reporting what you have done and continue to do will help inspire others.

Pontifical College Josephinum News

The Pontifical College Josephinum will host a Men's Day of Reflection, for men of all ages and vocations, on Saturday, August 2, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Facilitator Father Thomas Blau, OP, STL, Josephinum adjunct professor and friar at Saint Patrick Parish, will speak on "Catholic Seminaries: The Antidote for What Ails Society."

More information at www.pcj.edu/mensdayofreflection

Dead Theologians Society

Hibernian Brother Eddie Cotter and DTS continue to reach youth through the lessons of the saints. This youth apostolate encompasses parishes in the United States, Ireland and beyond.

More information at www.deadtheologianssociety.com (they have some really cool DTS swag for sale)

Holy Family Mission (Ireland)

Patrick Pearse Division #1 Hibernian member Irish Bishop Alphonsus "Phonsie" Cullinan helped found this place of formation for Irish youth. In their 9th year of operation, they have produced 104 missionaries. The AOH played a role in the HFM formation, including funds raised during the 2018 AOH/LAOH National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, by steady support of Ohio AOH/LAOH divisions and a significant event in Delaware, Ohio that same year.

More information at www.holyfamilymission.ie

Chris Konik chriskonik@mindspring.com

FFAI

As many of you have heard the Irish national television network RTE will broadcast a 2 part documentary on how Irish America overcame the opposition of the British, Irish and American governments, to provide crucial political support and publicity for the IRA and money for the families of Irish political prisoners during the Troubles.

The broadcasts will be on July 9th and 16th at 4:35 pm Eastern time. It may be "geoblocked" meaning it may be blocked in America on RTE or RTE Player but am told people who get RTE and know computers can overcome the block.

Several restaurants who will be showing it live in Manhattan and the Bronx and leave it to people in places like Albany, Rockland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Cleveland etc who were big areas of support to see if they can arrange live showings.

The show makes a historic breakthrough in Irish American history, where our role in events like 1916 or the Troubles is never properly told.

The title could have been slightly different. During what we hope will be the last time Irish Republicans are driven to fight against British rule, Irish Northern Aid was central but we were strong only because so many Irish leaders and organizations stood with Noraid to support the IRA.

The AOH was crucial. You see former AOH Presidents like Joe Roche, Jack Connolly and Mike Coogan in archival film and photos.

Bronx AOH Member Assemblyman John Dearie is seen at a rally in 1982 announcing a proposal for a US Special Envoy, which ultimately led to the appointment of George Mitchell and Dearie also organized the crucial 1992 Presidential Forum where Clinton promises a visa for Gerry Adams and Kennedy -Moynihan O'Neill etc who denounced Sinn Fein and American supporters each year on St. Patrick's Day changed their positions.

Frankie Beirne, the father of soon to be New York State President is seen marching with Michael Flannery as Grand Marshal of the 1983 St. Patrick's Day Parade, one of the most important parades in history and probably the largest.

You see Congressmen like Biaggi, Gilman, King and Manton, Labor Leaders like Mickey Maye, Civil Rights Lawyers like Paul O'Dwyer, County and GAA Leaders.

Although it is not shown here, one of the most historic AOH Conventions took place in 1980 in Florida where a former H-Block prisoner Joe Maguire was smuggled in to address the AOH and after hearing him the AOH agreed to have bodies and banners at all H-Block protests-guaranteeing vital support.

Below is review from Belfast Telegraph.

Patrick Williams, State FFAI chairman
karimcwilly@gmail.com

AHEAD OF A NEW RTE DOCUMENTARY, SUZANNE BREEN of the Belfast Telegraph. LOOKS AT THE ROLE PLAYED BY IRISH AMERICANS DURING THE TROUBLES

For almost two decades, he was the public face of the IRA in the US. New York lawyer Martin Galvin was regarded as so dangerous by the authorities here that he was prohibited from entering the UK.

In August 1984 he defied the ban to appear at an anti-internment rally in west Belfast.

"I was brought across the Donegal-Derry border by republicans," he says. "We walked miles through woodland. It was summer, but it was a cold, rainy night."

Galvin never got to address the thousands gathered outside Connolly House in Andersonstown.

Gerry Adams introduced him on stage. As the lawyer took the microphone, the RUC moved forward, firing plastic bullets, in an attempt to arrest him. Twenty-two-year-old Sean Downes was killed. Galvin jumped off the platform.

As the RUC entered Connolly House, he was able to escape. "I'd a black coat on underneath the white one I was wearing. I put on a cap and glasses that were in my pockets," he recalls.

"A young woman grabbed my hand and took me to a nearby house. It was only when in the attic there that I'd time to be afraid."

Galvin is speaking to the Belfast Telegraph ahead of a two-part RTE documentary, Noraid: Irish America and the IRA. It tells the story of the US citizens who raised millions of dollars for the republican movement.

The lawyer, who was Noraid's publicity director, knew he'd have to escape after addressing the rally, but nobody had anticipated the RUC would forcefully storm the crowd, he says.

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Review from Belfast Telegraph, cont.

He claims that just one republican present didn't seem surprised at the turn of events. "The only person who didn't look stunned was Denis Donaldson," Galvin says. "He was chief steward at the rally. He was present for discussions leading up to my appearance. I'm convinced he'd told his handlers everything."

In 2005 Donaldson admitted to being a British agent since the 1980s. A few years after the anti-internment rally the republican movement sent him to work in New York. He hated Galvin. "I'd clear evidence he was a traitor," the lawyer says.

The RTE documentary interviews Noraid members in their homes and workplaces. They give their account of involvement in an organisation which was loathed by the British and Irish governments, and the White House.

In his yellow cab, taxi driver John McDonagh says: "New York City has always been the cockpit of Irish republicanism, and it was a great honour when they read the Proclamation at the GPO. It said 'the exiled children in America' — and you're looking at them."

"Irish Americans have been part of the conflict from the 1800s. With the split of 1969, New York went with the Provisionals."

Galvin says Sinn Féin knew Noraid members were "their friends in America — the people they could count on".

Millions of dollars went to Ireland. Every American visitor could legally take over up to \$10,000. The money would be brought to the Dublin office of IRA prisoners' support group An Cumann Cabrach.

Noraid held fundraisers across the US. Limerick-born priest Fr Patrick Moloney, who worked with underprivileged youth in New York, sold raffle tickets at dinner dances.

In the documentary he jokes about wearing a big sleeved robe. If someone bought two tickets and handed him \$50, he'd say "I won't insult you by giving change". A painting of the Last Supper by republican prisoners in Portlaoise hangs in his home.

During the 1981 hunger strike Noraid held daily protests in New York. Children banged bin lids on the streets, and effigies of Margaret Thatcher were burned.

Michael Shanley grew up at protests: "There was never a card-carrying membership. You showed up, you went to meetings, you participated."

He sold pro-IRA bumper stickers, posters and badges. "We couldn't sell that stuff fast enough," he explains.

Noraid's Irish People newspaper, which Galvin edited, had subscriptions "in every state of the Union with the exception of Hawaii", Shanley recalls. Brigid Brannigan says activists "changed careers to be sure they'd enough time to give to the cause".

Galvin, whose grandfather came from Co Offaly, visited Ireland as a law student. He joined Noraid in 1976.

"Queen Elizabeth visited as the US celebrated 200 years of independence. I saw the hypocrisy of that as Ireland was denied freedom," he says.

"I was an assistant district attorney. I was doing really well. I won a lot of cases. At some point I was hoping to become a criminal court judge. Becoming involved in Irish Northern Aid put a halt to that."

Galvin flew to Ireland regularly to discuss political and media strategies with Adams and other senior republicans.

In 1983 McDonagh rented illuminated billboards in Times Square to send Christmas messages to IRA prisoners, which flashed across the screens every 12 minutes.

He tells the documentary he'd said he was a member of an Irish Catholic charity when booking the advertising. "They never asked me what type of charity," he recalls. "I said I wanted to send season's greetings to the Irish people. They never asked what type of Irish people. I didn't offer what type."

The messages ended with UTP — Up The Provos. The company had thought it meant Up The Pope.

Hours after Bobby Sands died on hunger strike in 1981, Noraid had organised a march with demonstrators carrying a coffin from the British consulate to UN headquarters. Weeks later a protest was held at the Metropolitan Opera House as Prince Charles attended a gala performance of the Royal Ballet's *Sleeping Beauty*.

Four hunger strikers' families addressed the rally. New York Mayor Ed Koch batted off complaints about the protest.

Complaints about NYPD officers' support for republicans similarly fell on deaf ears. Chris Byrne joined the force in 1983 and played in its pipe band, which visited Ireland the following year.

When playing at the Rose of Tralee contest in Kerry, the band decided to also join a Sinn Féin hunger strike commemoration in Bundoran. Byrne recalls his bosses and Mayor Koch paying no heed to gardai complaints.

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Review from Belfast Telegraph, cont.

The band's participation challenged the negative stereotype of US-born Irish republican supporters, he argues. "Next thing you have a contingent of Kojaks coming down the road, it was very hard to write that off," he says.

Noraid always rejected claims the money it raised really went to the IRA. Former Provisionals interviewed in the documentary support that denial. Gabriel Megahey was jailed for arms smuggling. "The FBI said I was the officer commanding US and Canada," he says.

"We didn't need Irish Northern Aid money. There were people here, contractors. If I needed money I'd go to them and get it."

Megahey discloses how IRA members took weapons over on the QE2. "You'd be walking out the dock gate and the next thing the seams of your trousers would be busted (with) the barrels sticking out. How we got away with it," he adds.

John Crawley, a US Marine from Chicago who joined the IRA, says going near Noraid would have been "suicide" as its open membership meant undercover FBI agents could join.

Yet some members of the organisation were involved in gun smuggling. Its founder, 79-year-old Michael Flannery, was charged with arms offences with four other men in 1982. They were found not guilty.

Byrne recalls the acquittal celebrations that night at a Woodside ballroom. "A couple of jurors came up on the stage and were saluted by the crowd. They were pumping their fists in the air, and we were all together," he says.

From 1983 Noraid organised "fact-finding" tours to Northern Ireland. People were "billeted" with local families. Kathleen Savage was on one trip. She was delighted to have her picture taken with Adams.

The documentary shows footage of Sinn Fein's Tom Hartley warning the visitors the RUC could arrest and hold them for up to seven days.

"If they ask you for the name of a solicitor, you must ask for Pat Finucane," he says. "Having suitably frightened you all, I'll tell you about the torture too!" Hartley quips.

A masked IRA man can be seen boarding one of the Noraid buses to cheers. Savage recalls that at Derry's Rossville Flats "the lads were in full gear. I asked them could I take a photo. They said: 'Oh sure, snap away'".

Former Sinn Fein national publicity director Danny Morrison describes the Noraid visitors as "more

principled about what was happening (here) than successive Irish governments".

He argues that Irish America generally played a significant role. "They were the sons and daughters, or grandsons and granddaughters, of people who had suffered as a result of British policy in Ireland," he says.

Before the 1992 New York Democratic presidential primary, Galvin quizzed Bill Clinton about a visa for Adams. Clinton pledged to support granting one — which he did when president — and Adams flew over in 1994.

The party's direct access to the US spelt the beginning of the end for Noraid. Friends of Sinn Fein was set up in Washington with "business people and human rights lawyers" brought in who had no connection with the past struggle.

Galvin says: "I was told I had the wrong image. They saw me as too closely associated with support for the IRA. They wanted to change their image. They wanted to leave Irish Northern Aid behind. I had to just accept it and stand aside."

Megahey tells the documentary: "I always stayed friends with Martin. Martin defended me many times. He was always there. He was always at my back. I think he was treated disgracefully."

Morrison believes Noraid had "a fundamentalist point of view", and Sinn Fein was moving into a "pragmatic phase" which "not everybody was suited to... not everybody agreed with". He adds: "It can't be a position of the tail wagging the dog."

McDonagh says there was "no big bang moment", the organisation "just fizzled out... we moved on with our lives".

Galvin remains active in Irish American politics. He is now Freedom for All-Ireland chair in the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

But how does he feel about his Noraid past and the group's decommissioning? He says: "I'm an Irish republican hardliner, I'm proud of that. I've no regrets, except that we haven't achieved a united Ireland."

Noraid: Irish America and the IRA, RTE One, July 9 and 16 at 9.35pm

Division News

Bluestone Div. #3 Cuyahoga Co.



On May 4, 2025 a Hibernian Mass was celebrated at St John's Cathedral, downtown Cleveland and attended by Cleveland area Hibernians, especially the Bluestone Division in Cleveland. The Hibernian Mass and post-mass brunch as well as this article was researched and coordinated by our late brother, Francis McGarry who was the 2025 Cleveland Hibernian of the Year, Division Vice President, and founder of the Bluestone Division #3, Cuyahoga County in 2013.

The mass provided an opportunity to worship in the same "splendid sanctuary" that our early Cleveland Irish brethren worshipped in. It is also an amazing place to hear Michael Crowley play his bagpipes celebrating and honoring our Cleveland Irish forebearers.

Father Peter McLaughlin, born in Derry Ireland in 1805, was Cleveland's third resident priest. He organized Cleveland's first St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1842. McLaughlin also purchased four lots at Superior

and Erie streets from Thomas May on January 22, 1845. Erie Street, today's East 9th, was the edge of Cleveland's development at the time. Some of his parishioners at St. Mary, the only Catholic church in Cleveland at the time, were not pleased with his purchase "in the country." That being said, he was spot on with the land purchase. In 1848, the Diocese purchased an additional five lots from Thomas May, adjacent to the initial land purchase. The cornerstone of the Cathedral was laid on October 22, 1848.

The Cathedral was an Irish parish, with parishioners transferring from St. Mary on the Flats, that was soon assigned to the Germans. Cleveland Irish Catholics supported five parishes in the 1850s: St. John's Cathedral (1848), St. Patrick's Westpark (1848), St. Patrick's on Bridge (1853), Holy Name (1854), and St. Bridget's on East 22nd (1857).

The Cathedral was consecrated on November 7, 1852. The Cleveland Herald reported the services were witnessed by "a very large audience" Lake Erie storms prevented the participation of the Bishops of Boston, Buffalo and Detroit. The Cathedral was consecrated by the Most Rev. Archbishop Purcell of Cincinnati. Bishop M. J. Spalding of Louisville delivered a brief discourse, and High Mass was celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Rappe, of Cleveland, followed by Vespers in the afternoon and a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Luhr of Canton.

In the evening, Archbishop Purcell gave a talk on the progress of the Catholic Church, particularly in the United States and in Ohio. He referred to all the meeting locations and the dedication of the early Cleveland Catholics. The Bishop mentioned the donation, by Cleveland non-Catholics, of the site for St. Mary on the Flats. He noted that it was the progress of the city's first Catholic church that led to the building of this "splendid sanctuary."

The prelate paid tribute to the self-sacrificing labors of Bishop Rappe; to his devotion in leaving his pleasant home in sunny France. That is also where the carved oak altar and statues were made. The slate roof was imported from Wales.

In 1878, the front of the Cathedral was remodeled, and sandstone features were incorporated into the design. A year later, the spire was added, which some called the "handsomest spire in the city." In 1884, the Cathedral was renovated, and the interior was painted. The front of the church was renovated again in 2024.

Submitted by David McLaughlin, dmclaug106@sbcglobal.net

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Division News, cont.

Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.

After making the final payment, Patrick Pearse Division and Tara Hall held a “Burn the Mortgage” celebration on June the 7th, 2025.

“If you Build It They Will Come”... we did and they just keep coming!!!



Fifteen years ago, Brother Jim Fath discovered an abandoned home on Innis Avenue, with a colorful history. It was pretty much a disaster, after being a residence, corner store, bar and brothel. Squatters needed to be evicted from the upper floors. It needed a bit of work, to say the least. But an impressive transformation took place. Now, it's the home of our Division, and a gathering place for the Irish in Columbus.



The City of Columbus provided a fire truck and crew for the occasion (probably to ensure we didn't burn the whole place down). Ed Norris presented a PowerPoint of photos of the before and after, and the mortgage was consigned to the fire pit by Jim Wade, President at the time of acquisition. Food, libations and music followed, and a good time was had by all.

Boland/Berry Div. #2, Cuyahoga Co.

Summer 2025 Division News

Boland/Berry Family Day Lake Erie Crushers Game. Tuesday, July 8, 7:05 pm,

Tickets only \$14. For tickets contact Duffy O'Neill at 440-666-7022.

The Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival is July 18, 19, 20 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds.

Join us as we celebrate our Irish Heritage. There will be music, food, an Irish history museum and many vendors.

Boland/Berry Annual Golf Outing, Friday, August 22. We will tee off at the Bob -O- Links golf course at 4141 Center Rd, Avon, Ohio 44011. Tickets are \$95, Hole sponsors are \$100. Contact Ray McGann at 440-887-0216.