



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

September 2025

Volume 7 Issue 9

President's Message



September is filling up with events around the State. Many Divisions have events planned for halfway to St. Patrick's Day. Please make sure you have marked your calendars for September 27. Irish activist and National Freedom for All Ireland Chair Martin Galvin will be coming to Columbus to screen the documentary "NorAid, Irish America and the IRA." The event will be held at the Shamrock Club of Columbus. The price of admission for the event is \$30. Please plan on attending. It is an honor for Martin to pick Ohio as one of his screening locations. Many states have requested that he screen in their state and Martin chose Ohio. Please, let's have a good crowd and make Ohio proud. All net proceeds will benefit the Ohio State Board Freedom for All Ireland Christmas appeal. (See Page 12 for more information)

The end of the year is fast approaching. Please contact any and all members who have not paid their assessments for the year. As all of you know, the dues you pay this year are due in February of 2025. Last year, we lost over 1000 members across the nation from members being removed from the rolls of their division for non-payment of dues. Does your division have a plan for contacting members that are late on dues? We work so hard to recruit members only to remove them from our rosters without even contacting them. Presidents, please make sure to do your part in contacting members who are late on dues. Sometimes, it only takes a call.

As always, please call or contact me with any concerns. I look forward to seeing you on September 27th in Columbus.

Denny

Chaplain's Comments



With all the graduation parties and weddings scheduled in the summer months, I have had the opportunity to see many friends and family members that I haven't seen in a while. No matter who it was that I was talking to, the conversation always leads to the fact that we haven't seen each other for so long, that we only see one another at funerals, graduation parties or weddings and that we all miss the times when our families would get together and spend time with one another.

Before my ordination I had the opportunity to sit down with Bishop Lennon for a one-on-one conversation. It was a mandatory meeting, as he wanted to meet with all the candidates for ordination before he called us to Holy Orders, but what we talked about was not scripted, prompted, or coerced; we could talk about anything. Most candidates were probably nervous and didn't talk much or ask questions, but since I had run ranges and led briefings in the military with many high-ranking officials in the past, I was fairly comfortable (even though it was Bishop Lennon!) That is probably why my meeting with him lasted so long. Most of my classmates were finished in a half-an-hour. We talked for nearly an hour and a half!

We both were relaxed and spoke openly about many things; from his first assignment where the rectory was as old sea captain's lodgings that was donated to the Church and converted to a rectory, to my experience in the Iraq War, and of course the call to Holy Orders and service to the Church.

Towards the end of our time together, he asked me if I had any other questions. I thought for a moment and asked him what was the one thing he missing doing, which he used to do when he was younger, before he was ordained. He thought for only a few

Continued on Page 2

Chaplain's Comments, cont.

seconds and he smiled and answered that he missed when his family would get together on the weekends; either sharing a meal, spending the afternoon together, or taking a small one-day trip. I told him how Sunday was spaghetti day at grandma's house for my Italian side of the family after Mass every week for the first sixteen years of my life, and how I missed that most of all. We talked for the last twenty minutes of our meeting sharing stories of what each of our families used to do when they got together.

I think that is something most of us have in common; we miss the things that our families used to do. My message for this month is a simple one.

Take some of the time we have left this summer to get together with your families and friends. Make a concerted effort to reach out to those individuals whom you have lost touch with over the years. Reconnect, get together and start making new memories for the future.

We can sit around and reminisce about what it used to be like, and how we enjoyed it so much, but why can't we use that time instead to actually do something about it.

The next time we get together brothers to share in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, let us share with one another stories of how enjoyable the recent time we spent with our friends and families was and how we are looking forward to the next time we planned to get together with them.

God Bless,

Deacon Bruce



Pro Life Report

Greetings brothers, I hope you have a nice Labor Day and beginning of fall. The Ohio March for Life will be Friday October 3 in Columbus. Just recently, Pope Leo called on those who hold public office to live as Christians and follow the gospel even when doing so in a secular environment. He stated that "Christianity cannot be reduced to a mere private devotion". For some public officials, they sometimes say that they believe one way but ignore their conscience while drafting legislation. He called on them to defend the natural law which is something people of all faiths can recognize. As Christians, we are called to show charity to all and live in ways that would bring about the common good of all. I encourage you to talk with your public officials about the importance of defending life in all stages, and if they're Christian, to remind them of Pope Leo's message about living their faith out at all times.

Contact me at jacob.durda@gmail.com for information about the Ohio March for Life.

God bless,

Jacob Durda

2025 - 2027 Officers

Chaplain	Deacon Bruce Dobbins brunomusarra@yahoo.com
President	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com
Vice President	Bruce McPherson hilliardmcperson@gmail.com
Secretary	Pete Chrystal pvchrystal59@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Brown Gbrownsamrock@yahoo.com
Director	Dale Norris danorris64@gmail.com
Director	Chris Schulte crpschulte@gmail.com
Past President	Bob Harper harper.bg@pg.com
National President	Sean Pender paddyspeed@yahoo.com
National Oversight Committee Chairman	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com

Appointed Officers

Catholic Action	Patrick Lally	lally8404@hotmail.com
Pro Life	Jacob Durda	jacob.durda@gmail.com
FFAI	Patrick Williams	karimcwilly@gmail.com
PEC	Mike Cosgrove	irish.mick213@gmail.com
Project St. Patrick	Nick Jacobs	njacobs@clashmore.com
Missions & Charities	Chris Konik	chriskonik@mindspring.com
Organizer	Joe Casey	qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com
Historian		
Veterans Affairs	Joe McCormick	macman23.jm@gmail.com
Hibernian Hunger	Dave McLaughlin	dmclaug106@sbcglobal.net
Immigration		

Jim Casey's New Email Addressjjcasey973@icloud.com**OHIO DIVISIONS****County/Division Presidents**

Clermont	Douglas Gerrard dpgerrard@aol.com
Cuyahoga Board	Tom Ginley tgbigbass@gmail.com
Cuyahoga #2	Jim Kilbane jjk5755@hotmail.com
Cuyahoga #3	Robert Mullin bobbymulls@yahoo.co
Franklin #1	Gerard Tracy Gbtracyjr@sbcglobal.net
Hamilton #1	Tim Oliver toliver33@live.com
Lucas	Robert McMahon aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com
Mahoning #6	Joe McCormick macman23.jm@gmail.com
Medina	Jacob Durda jacob.durda@gmail.com
Montgomery	Art Gannon artgannon@aol.com
Stark #1	Tom Wolf tomwolfcpa@msn.com
Summit Board	Jim Meszaros meszi01@neo.rr.com
Summit #2	Ed Morrison edwardcmorrison@outlook.com
Summit #3	Michael Namsick mpnamsick@gmail.com
Trumbull	Marty McQuaide emcqu@aol.com
Washington	Patrick Kelly pkelly03@sprynet.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**.

Mark Your Calendars

**Commodore John Barry Day
September 13th
National Holiday of the Order**

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

**Ohio March for Life
October 3, 2025
Columbus OH**

**2026 National Convention
July 16 - 19
Omaha NE**

**Ohio AOH Fall State Board Meeting
October 25, 2025
Tara Hall
Columbus OH**

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

LAOH Annual History Contest

The Irish and the American Revolution

How the Irish affected the outcome of the American Revolution

2025-2026 National Irish History Contest

for Grades 6 - 12

Scholarship Opportunity

Submissions due to local Division contact by

October 30, 2025

For more information including guidelines and details, visit here

<https://ladiesaoh.com/contest/>

Colleen Griffin, colleengwhite01@gmail.com



State Organizer Report

In mid-August we had a Zoom meeting with the National Board, including our Organizer who covered the open applications, nationally and also the basics of the new application program kicking off in September. There will be a Beta-test back east to begin with, before attempting to go nation-wide. Like I mentioned in the past, division presidents will get the applications directly and not from me. The presidents (or their designates) will start the process of contacting the applicants immediately. It is suggested to send an email, letting the applicant know that he will soon receive a phone call. Telephoning the applicant is much more personal than merely an email. If nothing is done, the applications will be bumped up to the county or state.

The good news for Ohio is that we have no open applications on the National spreadsheet. Those of you who had reported back that they have not heard back from the applicants, may want to get back with them in the future, but the applications themselves have been closed. Thank you all for assisting in this project by getting back with me.

More information will be available as time goes on.

I hope you all have a very good Labor Day, spent with family and friends.

Joe Casey

Ohio State Organizer



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Application for AOH National Life Membership

The State Board vote to forward Joe Casey's application for National Life Membership on to the National Board has passed. Thank you. We will now have two Ohio Past State President's in Ron Hagan and Joe Casey up for National Life Membership at the meeting of the National Board at National President Sean Pender's Testimonial dinner in October.

Thank you, Ron and Joe, for your leadership!!

In Motto,

Denny

Commodore John Barry



Article XXIII of the AOH National Constitution states, in part, that **Commodore John Barry Day, September 13th is a National Holiday of the Order** and it shall be celebrated in an appropriate manner. The John Barry Medal is presented by Hibernians throughout the United States to commemorate outstanding academic, cultural and civic achievement.

John Barry was born in Tachumshain, County Wexford, Ireland in 1745 and immigrated to Philadelphia at the age of fifteen. Barry found employment with a shipping firm where he prospered and became Master of several merchant vessels.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, Barry was made Captain of the ship "Lexington" by the Continental Congress and on April 7, 1776, captured the British sloop "Edward", the first war prize taken by the Americans. On December 24, 1776, his ragtag fleet unable to reach open water, Barry left his ships, recruited a company of volunteers, rushed to the aid of General Washington on the banks of the Delaware River and participated in the Trenton and Princeton victories.

In the fall of 1777, with Philadelphia in the grip of the enemy and American hopes at their lowest, the British General, Lord Howe, tried to entice Barry to desert General Washington. Barry replied, "Not the value and command of the whole British fleet can lure me from the cause of my country." During the course of the American Revolution, Barry boldly and skillfully engaged and captured many British vessels and was wounded.

In 1781, the Catholic citizens of France sent to the American patriots the sum of six million dollars. The safe transport of that vital gift was entrusted to John Barry aboard his ship "Resolute". That money, clothing and munitions enabled General Washington to sustain his army and assemble his forces at Yorktown where, with the aid of the French fleet, he defeated Cornwallis.

On March 10, 1783, Barry, aboard the "Alliance" won the last sea battle of the American Revolution when, while escorting a shipment of funds vital to the new nation, he engaged and avoided capture by the British ship "Sybille".

When recalcitrant members of the Pennsylvania Assembly shirked their duty to consider and vote on adoption of the Constitution, Barry led a group, called "the Compellers", who dragged the delegates to the State House and thrust them into the Chambers as the assembled citizenry cheered.

On June 14, 1794, President Washington appointed John Barry Commanding Officer of the United States Navy with Commission Number One.

On September 13, 1803, at his home on Strawberry Hill, Philadelphia, Barry died after a long illness. He is buried at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Philadelphia. By Joint Resolution, approved August 20, 1981, the U.S. Congress designated September 13, the anniversary of his death, "Commodore John Barry Day" as a tribute to the "father of the United States Navy". By Joint Resolution, approved in December 2005, Commodore John Barry has been recognized as the first flag officer of the United States Navy.

Monuments honoring John Barry have been raised in Philadelphia, Washington D.C., New York, Boston, County Wexford, Ireland. On May 10, 2014, due to the efforts of the AOH, the Barry Gate and the Barry Monument were dedicated at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD



Catholic Action

The month of September is still part of Ordinary Time, with green being the liturgical vestment color. This month we honor two beloved saints of modern times: Mother Teresa (Sept. 5) and Padre Pio (Sept. 23).

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS

Sept. 3	Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor	Memorial
Sept. 5	Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)	
Sept. 8	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Feast
Sept. 9	Peter Claver	Memorial
Sept. 13	John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor	Memorial
Sept. 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Solemnity
Sept. 16	Cornelius, Pope & Martyr; Cyprian, Bishop & Martyr	Memorial
Sept. 17	Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor; Hildegard of Bingen	
Sept. 20	Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang, & Companions, Martyrs	Memorial
Sept. 23	Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)	Memorial
Sept. 27	Vincent de Paul, Priest	Memorial
Sept. 29	Archangels Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael	Feast
Sept. 30	Jerome, Priest & Doctor	Memorial

IRISH SAINTS OF SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1 Fiacre (d.c. 670)

Fiacre was an Irishman who went to France in search of a place of solitude. The bishop of Meaux gave him a tract of land at Breuil, where he lived as a solitary for a time. Eventually, he built a hospice for travelers there, attracted many disciples, ministered to the poor, and dealt out spiritual advice. A number of cures are attributed to his intercession, including some on behalf of the royal family of France. He is the patron saint of Paris cabbies (fiacres). Fiacre is also the patron saint of gardeners.

Sept. 3 Macinisius, Bishop (d.514)

Macinisius (or Aengus MacNisse) was, according to legend, baptized by St. Patrick, and later consecrated bishop by him as well. He may have journeyed to the Holy Land and spent time at Rome. He founded a church and monastery at Kells--later considered the first bishopric of Connor. Stories of very extravagant miracles surround him.

Sept. 4 Ultan, Bishop (d.657)

Probably bishop of Ardraccan, he was a learned evangelizer, also known for his ministrations to the poor, sick, and orphaned. Reputedly, he collected the writings of St. Brigid and wrote the life of Brigid known as "the third life," and supplied St. Tirechan with his materials for his annotations on the life of St. Patrick found in the Book of Armagh. The existence of more than one saintly Ultan has resulted in confusion.

Sept. 6 Bega, Virgin (7th century)

Also known as Bee or Begh and reportedly of Irish royalty, she fled to Cumberland to avoid a marriage to a Norwegian prince. She lived as a hermitess for a while, but on the advice of St. Oswald, king of Northumbria, took religious vows from St. Aidan and founded a monastery at Copeland. St. Bee's Head in Northumbria is named after her.

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Catholic Action, cont.**Sept. 7 Grimonía, Virgin and Martyr (4th century)**

Grimonía was the daughter of a pagan Irish chief. As a teenager, she converted to Christianity and took a vow of virginity. She fled to the Continent to escape being forced into marriage and lived as a hermitess in the forests of Picardy. The cause of her death is uncertain. She may have been slain defending her chastity against marauders, or her father's retainers who had discovered her refuge may have killed her for refusing to return. The town of La Capelle in Picardy derives its name from a chapel built there in her honor.

Sept. 8 Disibod (d.c. 674)

Disibod is said to have been a bishop in Ireland. Though a zealous preacher, he became discouraged with his lack of success at home, and decamped for the Continent, where he evangelized the Germanic peoples around Bingen. There he founded a monastery. In the 12th century, a community of Benedictine nuns located nearby; their abbess was the famous mystic, St. Hildegard of Bingen, who is honored on Sept. 17. Hildegard wrote a life of Disibod. However, it consists mostly of disquisitions on morals and Scripture. In fact, we know very little about Disibod.

Sept. 9 Ciaran, Abbot (d.c. 556)

One of a number of sainted Ciarans, this man is known as Ciaran the Younger. His name is also spelled "Kieran." Many fanciful stories are told of him. We do know that he studied at St. Finnian's school at Clonard, and tutored the daughter of King Cuala. He is one of the so-called Twelve Apostles of Ireland. After some wanderings, he founded the famous abbey at Clonmacnois on the Shannon in County Offaly, a renowned center of Irish learning.

Sept. 10 Finnian of Moville, Bishop (d.c. 579)

An Ulsterman possibly of royal blood, he studied at several monastic schools before crossing to the land of the Scots and becoming a monk at Whitern in Strathclyde. It would be interesting to know more about one of the stories told of him: that he was forced to leave Whitern, due to the fallout from a prank which he played on a Pictish princess who was enamored of him. He went to Rome and was ordained there. Upon returning to Ireland, he founded a monastery at Moville, where St. Columba was one of his disciples. There is a story that the two fell into a dispute about a copy which Columba made of a manuscript of St. Jerome's psalter. The dispute received royal mediation, resulting in a victory for Finnian. Finnian is credited with founding, at some point, the monastery at Holywood in Scotland.

Sept. 15 Mirin, Abbot (7th century)

A disciple of St. Comgall, Mirin undertook missions to Scotland. He was for a time abbot of Bangor. At one time a number of churches in Scotland bore his name.

Sept. 23 Adamnan, Abbot (c. 624-704)

Adamnan was born in Donegal, becoming a monk there and later lived at Iona, where he became the ninth abbot in 679. Adamnan had close ties to the royal family of Northumbria, having sheltered the heir to the throne from a usurper. He later used this connection to secure the ransom of Irish prisoners of war. The English monastic writer Bede recalled that as a teenager he met Adamnan during a visit Adamnan made to Wearmouth and Jarrow. Adamnan was instrumental in bringing about the agreement of the Irish church to adopt the Easter calendar usage of the Roman church, bringing it into line with most of Europe, though his own community of Iona resisted. Bede noted Adamnan's reputation as a brilliant scholar of Scripture. He was an advocate of the protection of women and children from the ravages of war, wrote an important biography of Columba, and also composed a travelogue of the East, based upon the account of a Frankish bishop who was shipwrecked near Iona on his way home from Jerusalem.

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Catholic Action, cont.

Sept. 25 **Finbar, Bishop (d.c. 633)**

Reputedly the illegitimate son of a Connaught master smith and a royal female and baptized Lochan, he was sent to Kilkenny to be educated. It was from the monks there that he received the name by which he is known, Finbar (Fionnbharr), Whithead, due to his fair hair. He made at least two trips to Rome, on one of which he visited St. David in Wales on his way home. He may have preached in Scotland, as well as southern Ireland, lived as a hermit for several years, and ultimately founded a monastery which grew into the city of Cork. He was its first bishop.

Sept. 26 **Colman of Lann Elo, Abbot (c. 555-611)**

There are a number of sainted Colmans. This Colman was a native of Tyrone, a nephew and protege of St. Columba. About 590, he built a monastery in Offaly called Lann Elo (Lynally).

NEWS OF INTEREST

Ohio's March for Life is in Columbus Friday, October 3. Are you planning to attend?

The travails of the Little Sisters of the Poor in striving to practice their Catholic faith in their healthcare ministry continue. Despite the fact that the Supreme Court has twice in their cases upheld federal rules implemented during the first Trump Administration to safeguard the consciences of religious believers, the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey have continued their campaign to force the Little Sisters to provide abortion and contraception in their healthcare plan. On August 13, a federal district judge issued a nationwide ruling against the Sisters' position. Besides appearing to scorn two decisions by the Supreme Court, this jurist would also seem to be ignoring the Court's recent ruling against many types of nationwide injunctions by district courts. The Sisters plan to appeal to the Third Circuit.

Do you have news of your division to report? Please send for inclusion in this report.

Fraternally,

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

Major Degrees

St. Patrick's Division to host the Sons of Milesius degree team for all divisions in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana or beyond.

Date: Saturday, November 8th

Location: Irish Heritage Center

3905 Eastern Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45226

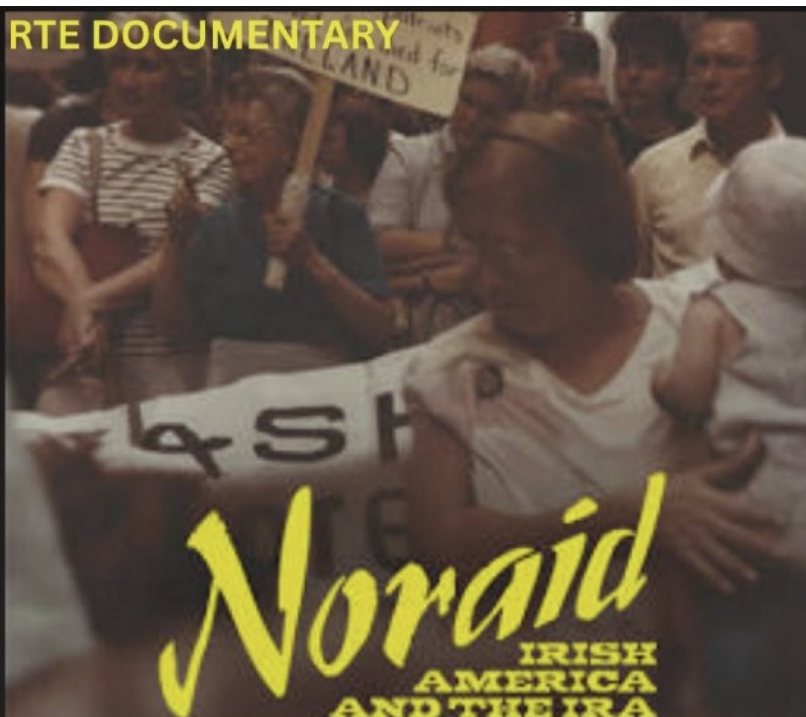
Registration will open at noon, with degrees to begin at 1pm. Pub Room will be open all day with college football on the tv's and live Irish music More details to come.

Contact Director Chris Schulte for more information crpschulte@gmail.com



FFAI Report

FFAI Christmas Appeals Fundraiser



Join us for a compelling evening as renowned Irish-American activist Martin Galvin - Chairman, AOH National Freedom for All Ireland, speaks before the screening of the gripping documentary "NorAid: Irish America and the IRA.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 5:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

SHAMROCK CLUB OF COLUMBUS
60 W. CASTLE ROAD
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43207

DONATION \$30 - BUFFET INCLUDED - CASH BAR
RSVP: PATRICK WILLIAMS 330-802-0526
PAY AT THE DOOR OR

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND CHRISTMAS APPEAL

USE THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



Patrick Williams, State FFAI chairman
karimcwilly@gmail.com

Division News

Patrick Pearse Div. #1 Franklin Co.



HIBERNIAN GOLF CLASSIC
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

BY THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
Patrick Pearse, Div. 1 | Franklin County, Ohio

THE PLAYERS CLUB AT FOXFIRE
 389 CANTERBURY ROAD • COMMERCIAL POINT, OHIO 43116

Player Scramble \$90 per Player \$360 per Group	Check-In @ 7:00 AM Shotgun Start @ 8:00 AM Skins, Proxy Hole Awards, 50/50, and More! Post-Outing Meal and Award Ceremony
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Information & Registration at
patrickpearse.com

Monday, Sept. 15th, 2025

The Players Club at Foxfire

389 Canterbury Road, Commercial Point, Ohio 43116

<https://theplayersclubatfoxfire.com/> 614-224-3694

Check-in at 7:00 A.M.

Shotgun Start at 8:00 AM

Pre-registration at the website or by mailing in the form below.

\$360 per foursome

Includes hot dog at the turn, greens fees and cart, post-outing meal

Skins, mulligans, and 50/50 Raffle

Dinner and awards in the course banquet room
 Designated charity is **Project St. Patrick**

FOURSOME and SPONSOR FORM

Registration Deadline: Sept. 1st

Complete this form and mail it to: *AOH Golf, 274 East Innis Avenue, Columbus, OH 43207*

Make checks out to: AOH

Questions, please contact John Homan jhoman4260@gmail.com 440-655-4813

FOURSOME REGISTRATION

Team Captain Captain email

Others in foursome

SPONSOR REGISTRATION

\$100 Hole Sign

HOLE SIGN MESSAGE (3 lines up to 30 characters)

Ohio AOH Missions & Charities

Dublin Irish Festival Gaelic Mass: Hibernian Tradition and Fundraiser



Irish Language (Gaelic) Mass at Dublin Irish Festival, celebrated on Sunday, August 3rd, is an AOH & LAOH Hibernian function and proud tradition. Roughly \$10,000 is collected on this day from the 2 Masses and 3 Services on the festival grounds, to benefit the local food pantry. Many thanks to Patrick Pearse President Jerry Tracy, who coordinates all 5 events.

Ushers included Ohio AOH State President Denny Parks, Ohio AOH Vice President Bruce McPherson, Ohio LAOH State Historian Colleen Griffin, Past AOH National Director Gerry Curran and Past Ohio AOH President Ron Hagan. Fellow Hibernian Father Stephen D. Hayes is truly an Irish treasure, serving many decades as celebrant and delivers an inspiring homily every time!

Getting the Word Out About Project St Patrick

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

Chris Konik, Ohio AOH Missions & Charities Chair



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
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**National Board message to address recent act of hate at
 Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis**

The Ancient Order of Hibernians condemns in the strongest possible terms the horrific act of hate that took the lives of two innocent children and left many others wounded during Mass at Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis. No American should ever face violence while practicing their faith. Our first thoughts and prayers are with the families who have suffered the unthinkable loss of their children, and with the parish community of Annunciation, whose sanctuary was violated and desecrated in the very act of worship. This must never happen again.

We note with concern that much of the media coverage continues to stress that the ‘motive remains unclear.’ While law enforcement is bound to pursue evidence before concluding motive, that should not dissuade anyone from naming this horrific act for what it is: a clear and unambiguous attack targeting Catholics gathered at Mass. To hesitate in saying so directly minimizes both the crime and the community that has suffered. There may be unanswered questions as to the “Why?” it happened, there should be no ambiguity in acknowledging “What” happened.

Tragically, this atrocity is not an isolated event but part of a silent epidemic. Since May 2020, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has documented hundreds of attacks against Catholic churches: arson, desecration of the Eucharist, vandalism of sacred images, and assaults during worship, with over 40 already in 2025. These attacks span 43 states and the District of Columbia, with New York City, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Denver, and Boston among the hardest hit.

Yet, unlike the immediate condemnations we rightly hear when other faith communities are targeted, too often attacks against Catholics are dismissed as individual acts of “vandalism,” “petty theft,” or the actions of a “disturbed individual.” The last is particularly ironic: isn’t anyone who would attack a house of faith by definition “disturbed”?

The media bears its share of responsibility. Too often, Catholics are portrayed through tired, defamatory tropes, their beliefs and sacraments subjected to ridicule and mockery that would never be applied to any other faith community. This casual bias fuels an environment where violence and desecration are downplayed, if not tacitly excused. Accountability by the media is not optional; words shape perception, and perception enables prejudice.

It should not be forgotten that America has a long and sorrowful history of anti-Catholicism—from the days of Colonial Penal Laws, the Know-Nothings, and the Ku Klux Klan to the prejudices of our own time. It was to defend Catholic immigrants and their descendants from such hatred that the Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded over 180 years ago. That mission remains as urgent today.

Attacks against Catholic churches can be a silent epidemic no longer; they must be denounced and confronted by federal, state, and local governments with the same vigor with which they pursue antisemitism and Islamophobia. Religious liberty is not a privilege to be selectively defended; it is a fundamental right for all Americans.

The AOH stands with the victims, families, and parish community of Annunciation in Minneapolis. We mourn with them, we pray with them, and we will continue to raise our voices until they—and all people of faith—can worship in peace and safety.

Sean Pender National President, Liam McNabb National Vice President, Ray Lynch National Secretary, Dan Devinney National Treasurer