



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

January 2025

Volume 7 Issue 1

President's Message



Brothers,

Happy New Year's. I'm wishing all of you a happy and healthy 2025. Thank you for all of your hard work this past year. I'm looking forward to building on all of the progress we've made.

As all of you know, assessments from 2024 will be due on February 15, 2025. Please have your State and National per capita in by then. Remember, the amount due is based on division membership on December 31, 2024. If your assessments are in by February 15, you will get a \$4 per member discount on your National Board assessments. Instead of paying \$20.00 per member, the assessment is \$16.00 per member. Also due on February 15th are your Missions and Charities forms as well as the Hibernian Hunger award application. These two forms can be found at AOH.com under the forms section.

Mark your calendars for the Ohio 2025 State Convention. The Convention will be held June 26-28 in Summit County at the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls. We need participation from all divisions at the Convention. Please make sure to have a representative from your division at the convention. Division Presidents, your division should be helping you to defray the cost the Convention expense. We need all hands-on deck to make this a productive convention.

St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner. If you are having a parade or an event that you would

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Chaplain's Comments



We look around us and we see in nature how the winter season brings about an end to life. We witness the leaves as they lose their vitality, turn brown and fall to the ground to decay and be absorbed into the earth.

We look around and we do not see lush bushes and colorful flowers, but we see the lifeless stick-shaped forms of bushes and flat, colorless leaves and stems, which are all that remains of the flowers. This cycle of death repeats itself every year, and it is no surprise, because it has been happening this way from the beginning of time. This cycle of death is a reminder for us to of our mortality. We know that all things created by God, must die and return to whence they came. We are no different, but it is not the dying of our mortal bodies that I want to highlight this month, but our dying to self. For it is in dying to self, and living for God, that allows us the opportunity to return to Him.

As we are still celebrating the season of Christmas, we call to mind the gift of salvation that comes to us in the Incarnation. We are given this gift for one reason, to be able to return to God in heaven. Since it was the sin of man that allowed death to enter into the world, only man can atone for this sin. A man must make sacrifice for this sin, which is the original sin, but the sacrifice must be a pure sacrifice; one free from the stain of sin. Now, only God is without sin and only God can forgive sins. Therein lays the conundrum. How can a man be free from sin, so a perfect sacrifice could be made and at the same time be God who can forgive the sins of mankind? The Incarnation is the answer. The self-revelation of God, in the form of a man, Jesus, is at once fully human and fully divine.

Jesus is the answer. He was born to save the world. He came to be the perfect sacrifice for all mankind, so that reparation can be made for the original sin that allowed earth to enter the world, but at the same time, offer redemption to all mankind and the chance the enter into eternal life with God in heaven. It was through death

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President's Message

like to share, please send the information to webmaster Marc Wolnitzek and to newsletter chair Jim Casey to be included on our webpage and newsletter.

Brothers, thank you again for putting your confidence in me to be your State President. We made a lot of gains in 2024. I look forward to

building on our past accomplishments and making 2025 another successful year.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Denny



Chaplain's Comments, cont.

that eternal life is given. Jesus showed us in his death, that life is not over. In the Resurrection, mankind witnessed the reality of life after death. Jesus showed us how dying leads to life, but it was not just the death of his human form that shows us how to share in life everlasting, but his death to self.

Jesus, as a man, did not live his life following his own desires and living for himself. He lived for God and he followed God's desires and made them his own. In his humanity, Jesus demonstrated a life of emptying oneself of all human desires and living out God's desire to save humanity. Jesus lived, and died, for all others. This, my brothers, is what our existence is all about. We should be living a life of dying. We need to empty ourselves of all the human desires that we allow to have an influence on our lives. We need to allow God's desire to save all of mankind flow into our hearts and learn to embrace it and let it become our desire. This is one of the hardest things that mankind has ever tried to do, and this is why so few have been known to have done it. Some have, though. We know them as the saints.

The saints, in their zeal to follow Jesus and live out the Gospel message, provide us with more examples of how to die to self and live for God. The saints followed the example of Christ and changed their lives accordingly. None of the saints were born saints. In fact, some of them were great sinners before they changed their lives around, but each of them did come around to live a life in Christ. It is the change that matters. The change is a conversion of self. Each saint had a conversion experience that led them along the right path. We are all called to a life of conversion, and converting from following our desires to following God's desires is a big step. Yes, it is big, but it can be done. The saints have proved it. Each saint is different, and each provides a different way for us to follow, because we are all different, and we have been given different gifts and

talents to help us live our lives according to God's plan. It is not an easy path to follow, but it is the path we are all supposed to be walking. We are reminded of this all the time.

As the winter season brings death to things, we also see in the spring, things coming to life. The season of Christmas reminds us that God is among us and He has come to save the world. As we continue in the liturgical year, we will enter into the season of Lent. This is time when we can look into our hearts, see our desires, and move towards a life of conversion, as we seek to remove from our lives, those things that keep us away from God. We are looking to move from living a life following our human desires to a life closer to God, where we follow His desires. And in the season of Easter, we again are reminded of death. We know that Jesus died for our sins, but he was following the will of God. He knew that it was God's will to save the world and He knew his role in that plan. And of course, we know that it is through His death and resurrection that eternal life is offered to God's chosen ones. My brothers, to be chosen, we must choose God. We must die to self and embrace a life of God.

Continue the difficult journey of emptying oneself of all human desires and filling oneself with the desires of God. The journey may be rough, brothers, but know that you do not walk it alone; we are here to help each other along the way. Let us live our lives in the Gospel as we share ourselves with others in Unity, Friendship and Christian Charity. And remember we have the examples of the saints to assist us in recognizing the path that is right for us, and we also have the perfect example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have a blessed Christmas season and I look forward to serving others with you in this new year.

God bless,

Deacon Bruce

2023 - 2025 Officers

Chaplain	Deacon Bruce Dobbins brunomusarra@yahoo.com
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Director	John Myers johnmyers216@gmail.com
Director	Chris Schulte crpschulte@gmail.com
Past President	Bob Harper harper.bg@pg.com
National President	Sean Pender paddyspeed@yahoo.com
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Hibernian Hunger	Dave McLaughlin	dmclaugh106@sbcglobal.net

Jim Casey's New Email Address**jjcasey973@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**.

Pro Life Report

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! As we move into 2025, our work continues with changing hearts and minds so we can create a culture where life is cherished from conception to natural death. All of us individually and at the division level should look for ways to get more involved with the pro life cause. It could be donating time and resources to pregnancy resource centers, educating others about the sanctity of human life and the dangers of straying from a culture of life, and witnessing in public about the right to life, this could be in front of abortion facilities or attending one of the pro life marches. I will be attending the Summit County March for Life on Saturday January 18 in Cuyahoga Falls. If anyone is attending the national march in Washington DC, I would like to thank you very much. I look forward to working with you this year and if your division is doing anything special to help build a culture of life, feel free to let me know.

Have a blessed 2025,

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

State Organizer's Report

Happy New Year to all of my Hibernian brothers! I hope you all had a blessed Christmas season and are ready to begin the new year.

The National Organizer began his quarterly Organizer Zoom calls in December and we had a good turnout. He mentioned how the new application program is still on track for release by the end of the first quarter. He also stressed that we need to close out any open applications we might still have.

It was discussed during the meeting that we need to consider January 1st as the beginning of the Green Season and we should be actively looking for ways to increase our membership while retaining our current members. How do we do this? By **Time, Treasure, Talent and Technology**; putting the right people on the right jobs. We need to use our division Facebook pages and Instagram to advertise the AOH. Utilize the fillable flyers from the AOH website and post them in social media. If your parish allows, have them input a notice of the Hibernians, where they meet and who to contact about joining. Reach out to members who are not attending the monthly meetings or those who have fallen away.

I would like to see each division set a goal of 10% increase in membership during 2025. We can talk about this at our Board meetings, but it needs to begin at the division level. I notice that we only have seven divisions that have named an Organizer. This is a very important post that needs to be filled. New division presidents, please appoint your Organizer and send me an email with his name and contact information. My email is qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your cooperation and let's make this a great year for the Ohio AOH.

Joe Casey

Mark Your Calendars

2025 State Convention

Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls, June 26 - 29

2026 National Convention

Omaha

Division News

Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.



State President Denny Parks traveled to Columbus to preside over our Officer Installation on December 7th; many thanks, Denny.

After the Installation, we presented a check for \$2,500 to Southside Community Ministries Food Pantry, as part of our Hibernian Hunger Project efforts. Brother Stuart Hensel also secured 420 pounds of venison from Thurns Market that was delivered to the Pantry by Division Chaplain Deacon Roger Minner. The following day, several Brothers packed 700 Christmas break food bags for Feed the Kids Columbus.

Our Division Hunger Project has been busy this Christmas Season.



L to R: Mary Kelley Minner Southside Community Ministries, Scott Robinson Hibernian Hunger Project Chair, Jerry Tracy incoming Patrick Pearse President, Bruce McPherson outgoing Patrick Pearse President Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise, Brothers. Michael Cosgrove irish.mick213@gmail.com

AOH Major Degrees

The Sons of Milesius AOH Major Degree Team will be exemplifying the AOH Advanced degrees at the East Side Irish American Club on Saturday January 25th. The Degrees are sponsored by the AOH Bluestone Division. The Club is at 22770 Lake Shore Blvd, Euclid, OH 44123.

Contact: Bluestone Division Dave McLaughlin dmclaugh106@sbcglobal.net

Contact Sons of Milesius : Pat Visel, ddanaan@gmail.com

Jim Casey's New Email Address

jjcasey973@icloud.com

Ohio AOH Missions & Charities

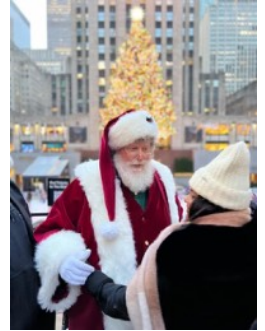
Chris Konik, Ohio AOH Missions & Charities Chair

Update: Ohio Hibernian as Santa Claus at Rockefeller Center in NYC



Founder of the Dead Theologians Society and Patrick Pearse Division #1 member Eddie Cotter served as Santa Claus at the Rockefeller Center in New York City December 22nd and 23rd.

His son Rory, also a Hibernian brother, is seated next to the DTS legend.



February Deadline: Division Event Forms

State President Denny Parks' priority for all Ohio divisions

Reminder that all divisions are required to complete the Single Event Form and Annual Event Report Form listed below by February 15th.

Missions & Charities Single Event Form

<https://aoh.com/gobansaer/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Charities-Single-Event-form-1.pdf>

Missions & Charities Annual Event Report Form

<https://aoh.com/gobansaer/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Charities-Annual-Event-form-1.pdf>

\$31.80 is considered the value of volunteer time per hour

10 volunteers working for 2 hours = \$636.00

The forms are very straightforward, but please feel to reach out to me directly at chriskonik@mindspring.com with any questions.

2025 Catholic Men's Conference

The 2025 Catholic Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, 2025 in Kasich Hall at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus, Ohio. Join your fellow Hibernians and Knights of Columbus brothers for a day full of faith, food and fellowship.

Patrick Pearse Division #1 will again have a booth at the conference to spread the word about our Order and often provides a boost to our membership recruitment. As is our tradition, we will sponsor exhibit space for the Dead Theologians Society. www.deadtheologianssociety.com Check the Catholic Men's Ministry website for updates and registration info: www.catholicmensministry.com

Aid to Ukraine: UNICEF IRELAND

Join the fundraising campaign through Hibernian Charities, a 501c3 organization owned and operated by the AOH. Make your division check out to **Hibernian Charity**, with **UNICEF Ireland** in the memo section. Mail payment to: Hibernian Charity, P.O. Box 694, Austin, TX 78767

Project St. Patrick

PSP has provided assistance to seminarians nationwide and recent support of Ireland's remaining seminary. Consider a division or individual donation. Each division is encouraged to raise at least \$500 toward a scholarship gift, in the name of clergy, honored members or in someone's memory. Click link for PSP forms [Project St Patrick Forms](#)

Click link to make [Individual Donations](#)

Please send all correspondence to: **National Project St Patrick Chairman Ron Hagan**
7326 State Route 19, Unit 0512, Mt Gilead, OH 43338-9336

State Historian's Report

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

The Battle of Coulson Avenue



The British Monarch has visited Ireland four times in history. Although the demonstrations against them were minimal, that has not always been the case.

Consider the visit in 1903 to Ireland of King Edward VII, the son of Queen Victoria and the great grandfather of Elizabeth II. Edward was likeable, sociable and outgoing but he became known as a playboy interested in horse racing, shooting, eating, drinking, and other men's wives. An event in protest marked the preparation for his visit that has become known as the Battle of Coulson Avenue. As Irish battles are concerned it was only a small dust-up on a Dublin Streets. The key instigator of the fracas was Maud Gonne.

Maude Gonne was born Edith Maud Gonne, the daughter of a British Army colonel. She was born in England on December 20, 1865. After her mother's untimely death she was sent to school in Paris. In 1886 her father passed away leaving her independently wealthy.

Maud became interested in the Irish struggle for freedom. She joined Michael Davitt's Land League where she worked to house the homeliss people who had been evicted, often spending her own money for supplies to build Land League huts. She wrote, "It was the time of the evictions and I used to see people standing in front of their unroofed cottages from which the police held them back and weeping bitterly, I thought to myself, when I grow up I'm going to change all that."

She provided money to Arthur Griffith, the founder of Sinn Fein, to assist in the publication of his newspaper United Irishman. In 1902 she helped found the Celtic Literary Society where she was Vice President and William Butler Yeats was President. Yeats became infatuated with Maud, writing the play *Cathleen Ní Houlihan* for her on the condition that she would perform the lead role. She did, and her performance became legendary in Irish theater history. Although Yeats, the Nobel Prize winning poet, was infatuated with Maud, she did not feel the same toward him. Maud, however, was the inspiration for many of his poems.

In 1900 Maud founded Inghinidhe na hÉireann (Daughters of Erin) whose goal it was to counter English influence in Ireland and to support the Irish Language. The Inghinidhe's first public demonstration was a Patriotic Children's Party held in Phoenix Park to protest the visit of Queen Victoria to Dublin 1900.

In 1903 Maud married Major John MacBride, who had fought with the Irish Brigade on the side of the Boers against the British during the Boer War. John would later play a role in the 1916 Easter Rising, being executed for his participation. Their son Sean MacBride would become the founder of Amnesty International win the Nobel Peace Prize

For King Edward's 1903 visit Maud enlisted the work of the Inghinidhe on several fronts. She was personally responsible for the decision of the Dublin Corporation not to present a formal address to the King. Her presence at a meeting held in the Rotunda before the visit started a near riot which insured the matter was not approved and no formal recognition of the visit was presented to the King by the city.

In preparation for the King Edward's visit, Dublin was literally covered in Union Jacks. Lamp posts, shops and homes were decorated with the flag. Maud and the Inghinidhe, in an effort to enflame Dublin sentiment against the visit had posters made up detailing the King of England's coronation oath and its repudiation of the basic doctrines of the Catholic Church.

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State Historian's Report, cont.

On July 20, 1903, just prior to the King's visit, Pope Leo XIII died. There could be no official mourning of the Pope because of the preparations for the royal visit. One evening, Maud returned to her home on Coulson Avenue after a tiring day of putting up posters. She was thinking about there being no official mourning for the Pope and noticed the profusion of Union Jacks in her predominantly Unionist neighborhood.

After arriving at her home Maud took a broom handle and tied one of her black petticoats to it and hung it out of her second floor window. The next morning, her neighbors awoke to the black "flag" of mourning hanging among the Union Jacks.

It was then that the "Battle of Coulson Avenue" began. One of Maud's neighbors called the police to complain about the display. Two policemen and three detectives were dispatched to Coulson Avenue. They ripped down the Maud's flag, despite her protests. With the help of her friend Maire Quinn and Maud's formidable housekeeper Mrs. Fitz, Maud replaced the flag with another black petticoat as the three women defended the house against further attempts by the police and neighbors to take down the flag.

Legend has it that Maire Quinn tossed an empty glass bottle at a neighbor who was perched on Maud's roof. He tumbled off the roof bumping his head and reportedly breaking his arm. This seems to be the only reported causality.

All of this activity began to draw a crowd that soon divided into two camps. Some were cheering the efforts of the police to remove the flag and some were applauding the women's efforts to keep the flag flying. Maud was yelling at the police from her window that no good Catholic Irishman would want her to take down the flag while the Pope lay in state in Rome. This seemed to have no impact on the police who continued their efforts to remove the flag.

Meanwhile Dudley Digges, Maire Quinn's fiancé, had left a note on the door of the Inghinidhe office advising all members to report to Coulson Avenue. As the word spread scores of members and other interested parties arrived to help defend Maud's petticoat. Some of the men brought hurly sticks with them as more police arrived and formed a cordon of officers across Coulson Avenue.

A few foreign news correspondents, looking for news of the King's visit, got wind of the turmoil around Maud's house and they rushed to the scene insuring that the skirmish was reported in several foreign papers. Either as a result of the appearance of the press or the determination of the women, the police finally decided they were outnumbered and withdrew. A garrison of Maud's supporters spent the night on Coulson Avenue in case of further attack. The flag stayed. The King's visit went on without a serious disturbance, but Maud's black flag continued to fly on Coulson Avenue.

Maud Gonne was a tireless worker for Irish nationalism serving Ireland from the time of the Land League until her death in 1953. She is often referred to as "Ireland's Joan of Arc."

It was written about her at her death, "She realized that only by freeing Ireland from English rule could the lot of the Irish people be improved and she devoted the remainder of her life to the Irish people." You can read more about her life of triumph, imprisonment and her many personal tragedies in the book *Maud Gonne* by Nancy Cardozo (New Amsterdam Press, 1978).

Catholic Action

In the early part of January, we are still within the Christmas season. At the Baptism of the Lord (January 12), we pass from the Christmas season to a segment of Ordinary Time prior to the Lenten season, from the liturgical color white to green. In the month of January, we commemorate a great American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton (January 4). We also celebrate Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursuline Order of sisters, who taught several generations of Catholics, especially in northeastern Ohio. Our bishops have designated January 22 as a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF JANUARY

January 1	Mary, the Mother of God	Solemnity
January 2	Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors	Memorial
January 3	Most Holy Name of Jesus	
January 4	Elizabeth Ann Seton	Memorial
January 5	Epiphany of the Lord	Solemnity
January 12	Baptism of the Lord	Feast
January 13	Hilary, Bishop and Doctor	
January 17	Anthony, Abbot	Memorial
January 20	Fabian, Pope and Martyr, and Sebastian, Martyr	
January 21	Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	Memorial
January 24	Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor	Memorial
January 25	Conversion of Paul, Apostle	Feast
January 27	Angela Merici, Virgin	
January 28	Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor	Memorial
January 31	John Bosco, Priest	Memorial

IRISH SAINTS OF JANUARY

Ita (d.c. 570)

January 15

Ita was supposedly of royal lineage and was born in one of the baronies of Decies, Waterford, Ireland. After refusing to marry, she secured her father's permission to embrace perpetual virginity. At Killeedy, Limerick, she founded a religious community of women and also a school for boys, among the graduates of which may have been St. Brendan. Many extravagant miracles are attributed to her. She is also known as Deirdre, Ida, or Mida.

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Catholic Action, cont.**Fursey (d.c. 648)**

January 16

Fursey stands out among early Irish saints in having biographical details fairly abundant and in reliable sources. He was probably born on Inisquin in Lough Corri, of an aristocratic family. He built a monastery, probably at Killursa, to which many disciples came. Fursey often fell into trance-like or ecstatic states, in which he experienced terrifying visions of demonic influences upon sinful men. After about twelve years of preaching throughout Ireland, he travelled to East Anglia in Britain with his brothers Foillan and Ultan. There, they founded a monastery at Burgh Castle near Yarmouth, under the patronage of King Sigebert. Fursey later sojourned in Neustria on the continent, where he was welcomed by King Clovis II, founded a monastery at Lagny, and died shortly thereafter.

Deicolus (c. 530-c. 625)

January 18

Deicolus, also known as Desle, may have been the elder brother of St. Gall, born in Leinster, and was one of the twelve disciples of Columban who accompanied him to Gaul in 576. He worked with Columban in Austrasia and Burgundy. Age prevented him from accompanying Columban when he was expelled in 610. Deicolus founded a monastery at Lure and lived as a hermit in his later years. Columban is supposed to have asked Deicolus once why he was always smiling, receiving the reply: "Because no one can take God from me."

Albert of Cashel (7th or 8th century)

January 19

A great deal of confusion surrounds the life of this saint. Albert was a priest from among the Angles, who sojourned in Ireland and in Bavaria on the continent. He has been associated with the see of Cashel, but the story that he was its bishop cannot be true, since the bishopric did not exist at the time of his alleged reign there. The story of his friendship with St. Erhard is also problematic, since they may not have been contemporaries. He is said to have died in Regensburg, Germany, on his way home from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Fillan, Abbot (8th century)

January 19

Fillan, also known as Foelan, was the son of Feriach and St. Kentigerna. He took monastic vows at a young age. He accompanied his royal Leinster mother to Scotland, living as a hermit near St. Andrew's for years, before being elected abbot. Later, he resigned the abbacy and resumed his eremitic life in Perthshire. Extravagant miracles are attributed to him. One story relates that after a wolf had killed an ox he was using to haul materials to his church, his prayers induced the wolf to take the place of the ox.

Fechin, Abbot (d.665)

January 20

Fechin was probably born at Luighne (Leyney), Connaught. He was the founding abbot of Fobhar (Fore), Westmeath, and perished during a plague which swept Ireland in 665.

Miambod (d.c. 880)

January 23

Also known as Mainboeuf, he was an Irish missionary on the continent, slain in Alsace by hostile pagans.

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Catholic Action, cont.**Aidan, Bishop (d. 626)**

January 31

Unreliable legends cloud our knowledge of this saint, also known as Maedoc. He was born in Connaught. After a stay in Leinster, he travelled to St. David's in Wales, where he studied Scripture. He is said to have miraculously repelled several Saxon attacks there. Later he returned to Ireland, founded a monastery at Ferns, Wexford, and eventually was consecrated bishop there. He was known as a man of great kindness to man and animal alike. He is represented in art as a stag; this stems from a story that he once rendered a stag invisible to save it from hounds.

Adamnan of Coldingham (d.c. 680)

January 31

Not to be confused with the better known Adamnan, who was abbot of Iona, this Adamnan was an Irish monk of Coldingham, off the southeast coast of Scotland. He was known for his austerity and his gift of prophecy.

LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER ISSUES

In the waning days of the legislative session, HB8 passed through the State House and Senate and was signed by Governor DeWine. The measure recognizes the fundamental right of parents to raise and educate their children, requires public schools to notify parents of material with sexual content and freedom to opt out, forbids schools to encourage "gender transition" without parental knowledge, requires schools to notify parents if a child is requesting such, and implements measures to carry out a previous law's mandate to allow time off for religious observances.

A Massillon public school teacher, aided by the Alliance Defending Freedom, has reached a \$450,000 settlement with the school district. The district had fired her after she refused, as a practicing Christian, to address a student in the student's pronouns of choice, which conflicted with the student's biological sex.

The U.S. State Department has designated January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month. It is unfortunately true that Ohio is very much at the center of this modern form of slavery, whether as a destination for trafficked victims or as a transit area.

The National March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C., January 24. Hibernians are encouraged to participate or to check for local observances.

Do you have local news? Please send for inclusion in this report.

Fraternally,

Patrick J. Lally

lally8404@hotmail.com

330-792-7135