



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

October 2024

Volume 6, Issue 10

President's Message



Greetings brothers. One of the first things that I want to touch on is your Division roster. **Please make sure you have addresses and contact information updated for all of the members on your roster by November 1st!** Last year, there was a

problem with getting our membership cards by the first of the year. To alleviate this, the National Board is sending the membership rosters to the printer on November 1. This will allow for the cards to be delivered on time. Please provide at minimum an address for each member. If a member does not have an address on file with the National Board, they are not getting the Hibernian Digest or the magnet/mailling labels program sent to them.

At the AOH National Convention, a new constitutional amendment was added that made the position of Hibernian Hunger chair a constitutional appointment instead of a presidential appointment. This amendment also stated that there should be a Hibernian Hunger Chair at every level (National, State, County, Division) of the Order. The new State Board Chair for Hibernian Hunger Chair for the State Board is Dave McLaughlin from the Cuyahoga County Bluestone Division. Presidents (County and Division) please appoint a chair for this position. When the updated version of the AOH constitution is sent out with a job description, I will forward to you.

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Chaplain's Comments



Today I had a discussion with my kids about our obligations to the Church. The discussion started out with one of my daughters saying, "We get the whole church thing, but we don't like being pressured to go. We don't like it when you give us a hard time if we miss and say we have to go to confession before we can go to communion". To which I replied, "Well, obviously you don't get it, or you wouldn't be crying about it now. It is my job as a parent to help you make the right decisions even if you don't understand why I am doing it. Hopefully, one day you will understand, and you won't need me to be there giving you hard time. Look at your brother, he gets it. I don't have to say anything to him. He goes to Church on his own and if he does miss, he goes to confession before he receives communion. He understands his obligations to the Church and what he needs to do to stay in a right relationship with God".

This discussion left me thinking about other people besides my kids. I am not naive; I know that every Catholic on the roles does not attend mass regularly, but it is my obligation as a cleric to instruct the faithful in the importance of celebrating the Liturgy, understanding the role of the Liturgy and realizing the Liturgy is supposed to be the center of our lives. Each time we celebrate it, we are given the graces to carry the Gospel out into the world and share it with others, as we are sent forth from the Mass and carry on the mission of the Church. That is to save the souls of each and every one of our brothers and sisters in the world.

Put in those terms, who in their right mind would not want to participate? Well, I think we can think of many people who choose not to go to Mass. I see it in my parish, and I see it in my friends and family. Sadly, I think we all do. This is the world in which we live. People get caught up in their daily lives, and forget what is really important. God does not care how many hours we put in at work, or how much money we can make. He is not concerned with how many friends we have, or how effective we are at networking and building

Continued on Page 2

President's Message, cont.

The Ohio's Right to Life March is October 4th in Columbus. If you would like to attend or are attending, please contact State Right to Life Chair Jacob Durda at jacob.durda@gmail.com. Several brothers will be marching.

The State Board meeting will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at Tara Hall in Columbus. Please have your reports to State Secretary Pete Chrystal by November, 26, 2024. Please make sure to have a member of your Division present. Presidents, if you cannot make it, send another officer. Every Division should have representation and a report.

An exemplification of Major Degrees will take place on Saturday, November 9, 2024 in Toledo. If anyone in your Division has not gotten their Major Degrees, now would be a good time. Please contact Lucas County President Robert McMahon at aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com for more information.

In the Motto

Denny

Chaplain's Comments, cont.

business relationships. He does care about how many hours we share our lives with those among us who need help. He does care about how we use the money we make with the gifts and talents He has given us to take care of those less fortunate. He is concerned with how many people we come to know in Christ, and he is very concerned about our relationship with Him, as well as, with and one another. These are simple things that we can do, and the Liturgy can help us to do them.

The Liturgy prepared us to do these things well. We are not only bolstered spiritually for the mission at hand, but we are provided with information, knowledge and examples of how to perfect our mission in the words of the Scriptures, the message in the Gospels and the help of the holily to make sense of our lives and understand how we can live our faith in the world. Not only do we receive these special gifts in the celebration of the Liturgy, but we are called to share in the most special gift; the most Holy Eucharist. For it is what we receive that we are called to share and take out into the world. It is the life of Christ we are called to live and recognize in others. It is the suffering of Christ we are called to understand, so we can understand our suffering and the suffering of others. It is Christ's death that we are called to share in, so we realize that this life does not last forever and that it is what we do with the precious little time we have that matters. It is in Christ's resurrection that we are called to recognize there is life after death and if we live a life in Christ, we believe we shall also live in his after life, which is eternal with God in heaven.

These things come to us in the Liturgy of the Mass. This is why it is important to attend Mass and celebrate the Liturgy as often as needed, not just on the days of obligation. This is why it is important to share this information with others, especially our friends and family who have fallen away from the Church. You know the ones who say, "Well I'm more spiritual than religious".

Well, it's time we reached out to them and have that discussion I had with my kids. Please, make a concerted effort to reach out to your friends and family who do not regularly attend Mass. Talk to them about the wonderful graces God bestows on those who celebrate the Liturgy. Share with them some personal stories and examples of how God is active in your life and how you have experienced God's presence in the Liturgy, in the Eucharist, and how He is present in your life. Share with them the effect that celebrating the Liturgy has had on your life.

Doing these things, my brothers, will allow others to share in your personal experience with your God. They will recognize the genuine love you have for them and the anxiety that feel over them missing out on one of the most precious relationships they could ever experience in life. Hopefully, they will understand what they are missing out on, and ask you when the next time you are going to Mass and hopefully, they will ask if they can join you.

God Bless You,

Deacon Bruce

2023 - 2025 Officers

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chaplain | Deacon Bruce Dobbins brunomusarra@yahoo.com |
| President | Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com |
| Vice President | Bruce McPherson hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Pete Chrystal pvchrystal59@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Greg Brown Gbrownshamrock@yahoo.com |
| 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 |
| National Oversight Committee Chairman | Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com |

OHIO DIVISIONS

County Division Presidents

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clermont | Douglas Gerrard dpgerrard@aol.com |
| Cuyahoga Board | Ben Neylon BNeylon@yahoo.com |
| Cuyahoga #2 | Charles O'Neill oduffy317@aol.com |
| Cuyahoga #3 | Robert Mullin bobbymulls@yahoo.com |
| Franklin #1 | Bruce McPherson hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com |
| Hamilton #1 | Tim Oliver toliver33@live.com |
| Lucas | Robert McMahon aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com |
| Mahoning #6 | Ray Kelly IV aohrpk@gmail.com |
| Medina | Scott Manley scott.manley@assuredpartners.com |
| Montgomery | Art Gannon artgannon@aol.com |
| Stark #1 | Tom Wolf tomwolfcpa@msn.com |
| Summit Board | Jim Meszaros meszi01@neo.rr.com |
| Summit #2 | Dale Norris danorris64@gmail.com |
| Summit #3 | Michael Namsick mpnamsick@gmail.com |
| Trumbull | Marty McQuaide emcqu@aol.com |
| Washington | James W. Farley jameswfarley04@gmail.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 | Chris Schulte crpschulte@gmail.com |
| Missions & Charities | Chris Konik chriskonik@mindspring.com |
| Organizer | Joe Casey qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com |
| Historian | Mike Finn FCoolavin@aol.com |
| Veterans Affairs | Doug Gerrard dpgerrard@aol.com |
| Hibernian Hunger | Dave McLaughlin dmclaugh106@sbcglobal.net |

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@gmail.com

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

FROM NATIONAL SECRETARY RAY LYNCH

First and foremost I send my heartfelt thank to all of you who have supported me in my run for National Secretary. Thank you for your confidence, I will do my best to provide the services the Office demands.

I would like to give everyone a "Head up" that you could be receiving emails from the National President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer asking you to provide "gift cards" or some sort of donation. Know that it is not generated from any of us. No one from the National Board will solicit you by email asking for donations. To prove that it is a faulty email, scroll over the name of the sender, it will be a bogus email (not the one the Board member uses).

A good way to help control this problem is when you are sending an email to multiple members, use the bcc method as not to expose all of the emails you are sending the communication to. If you need a little guidance on how to do that please send me an email or call me at (772) 289-2244 and I'll assist you with how to go about "hiding" the email addresses you are sending a communication to.

I also wanted to send everyone the updated address for the National Secretary's Office as we moved from PA to FL this past week. **The new address for all mailings (per capita, merchandise order forms, payments, etc.) to the Secretary is:**

AOH National Secretary

PO Box 1742

Jensen Beach, FL 34958-1742

Ray Lynch, National Secretary irishyankeenut@gmail.com (772) 289-2244

Exemplification of Major Degrees

The Lucas County Div. #1 is hosting an exemplification of Major Degrees on **Saturday November 9th in Toledo, Ohio**. The degree will be held at 12pm in the Bavarian Sports Club 2102 Lagrange Toledo OH 43608. They have graciously allowed us the use of their entire facility to host our event so long as we purchase a few German beers from the bar. The facility has a large hall upstairs and a well appointed clubhouse downstairs. The degree will be followed by social and hospitality.

It will be the first time since the 2019 State Convention that the Major Degrees has been offered in Northwest Ohio and we invite anyone who would like to attend to please RSVP so that we can prepare for anyone who has not taken the Major Degree and to order food for lunch. The cost to any brother who wishes to take the degree is \$20 which includes pin and lunch. The cost to any brother who is only attending the degree is 10\$ which includes lunch. Cash Bar will be available. Special thanks to **Pat Visel and Sons of Milesius AOH MDT** for coordinating this effort.

RSVP to

Robert McMahon

President, **John P Kelly Div. #1, Lucas Co.**

419-902-6559

aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com

Ohio State Board Information

We have some new additions to the State Board that I would like to share with you. Brother Jacob Durda, a member of the Medina County Division will be taking over as our new Pro Life Chair. Some of you may recall receiving the Pro Life emails that Jacob has sent out in the past. Jacob will be attending the Ohio Right to Life march on October 4th with Catholic Action Chair Pat Lally and FFAI Chair Pat Williams. **If you plan on attending, please contact one of these brothers to join them.** I would be remiss if I didn't mention that Jacob is taking over the Right to Life chairmanship from Dave Manley. Dave has served as our Ohio Right to Life chair for many years. Thank you Dave for all of your years of hard work, dedication and fight for Right to Life.

At the National Convention this summer, the position of Hibernian Hunger was elevated to a constitutional appointment at every level of the Order. This means Division and County Presidents, you need to appoint a Hibernian Hunger Chair. The duties of the chair will be released with the new constitution. I will send that out as soon as I receive it. With that being said, I have appointed Brother Dave McLaughlin as the new Ohio State Board Hibernian Hunger Chair. Dave is a member of the Cuyahoga County Bluestone Division.

Welcome aboard to both of these brothers.

An Ohio State Board meeting will be held on November 2, 2024 at Tara Hall (274 E. Innis Ave., Columbus, OH 43207) in Columbus starting at 12pm. Please have your reports into State Secretary Pete Chrystal by Saturday, October 26, 2024. Brothers, we only have in person State Board meetings twice a year. It is imperative that we meet to not only discuss the best practices for recruiting and fundraising but, to discuss our successes. Please share this information with your Division members. Presidents, bring a Division member with you that has never attended a State Board meeting. If you as Division President cannot attend, send your Vice-President in your place. All Divisions should be represented. The more people we have involved, the more successful we will be.

Thank you brothers for all of your hard work. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

In Motto,

Denny

AOH OH State President

(330) 414-1963

dparks121@yahoo.com

www.ohioaoh.com

Mark Your Calendars

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024 for our next State Board meeting. The meeting will be held at Tara Hall in Columbus. More information to follow.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024: Exemplification of Major Degrees will be held at 12pm in the Bavarian Sports Club 2102 Lagrange, Toledo OH 43608. See Page 4 for more information.

AOH National Director Ed Dougherty

Greetings Worthy State Presidents and State Officers,

As we begin the new AOH year, I want to thank all of you for attending our National Convention in Orlando and hopefully you supported me as one of your six National Directors. I look forward to working together on your behalf with all members of the National Board over the next two years as a cohesive team to see that our noble Order continues to move in a strong positive direction to build upon the accomplishments of the past and become a vibrant and stronger organization of the future.

I have attended two meetings so far, one with the top four officers and one with my fellow National Directors. I have also worked on a report for our Worthy National President...busy times for me. I have not been given access to any states rostering system except Pennsylvania, which I already had previously. I do need assistance with cleaning up addresses in the rostering system and I will share that information with you.

If you need to contact me, my **email address is eddoc215@verizon.net** and my **cell # 267-879-6107**. If you need to call me, please call me in the afternoon, busy morning work schedule.

I look forward to an exciting year and working with all of you. Please keep me informed of any activities that I maybe able to attend.

In our motto,
Ed Dougherty, AOH National Director, AOH Life Member

State Organizers Report

The State of Ohio has a new Director who will coordinate with us over (at least) the next two years. He is Ed Dougherty from Pennsylvania. We welcome Ed and we ask that every division give him the utmost support which will eventually benefit us all. We also want to thank Dan Devinney, who coordinated our efforts the past four years. He has now “moved up” to National Treasurer. Thanks to Dan for his hard work and we hope only the best for you in your new position.

Ed has already reached out, via an email, asking that we all check our rosters to make sure they are correct and updated. Are all of your members who are veterans so noted on the Form 40? Are all emails up-to-date? Make sure your rosters are in good order before the end of the year.

As a state, we have not done well in recruitment and retention this year. There are several ways for us to improve. Look to your members to see if they have friends or relatives who would like to join. What about your sons or grandsons? If we are to survive, we desperately need to get younger men into our Order. One good way would be to place a small notice in your parish bulletins. Let them know who you are and what you do. Some of the parishes let us set up tables after masses with information about joining. Maybe we can have some discussions at the State Board Meeting on November 2nd.

Division Presidents, please let me know your Organizer’s name and contact information so we can start discussions on ideas for growth. As we’ve said before, “Everyone is responsible for recruitment”.

As always, if anyone knows of an area that might be prime for a new division, please get with Denny Parks and/or myself and we can follow up.

Thank you and God bless.

Joe Casey

Veteran Affairs Report

1. Visit AH National website for fairly comprehensive list of links:
<https://aoh.com/veterans-affairs/>
2. Ohio Department of Veteran Services announces end of bonus for service in Afghanistan:
<https://dvs.ohio.gov/what-we-do/news-and-events/news/odvs-announces-sunset-of-ohio-veterans-bonus>
3. State of Ohio work, college and apprenticeship resources for Ohio Veterans and active duty military personnel.
<https://dvs.ohio.gov/jobs-and-education/state-approving-agency/resources-for-va-beneficiaries>
4. Ohio GI Promise Program gives all eligible Veterans ,and their dependents, in-state tuition rates, by passing 1 year residency requirements
<https://higher.ohio.gov/initiatives/campus-initiatives/education-for-veterans/ohio-gi-promise>
5. Work study opportunities available to students via Veteran Administration :
<https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/work-study/>
6. Site to input MOS, and receive information on availability employment opportunities
<https://mst.military.com/mst/ohiomeansjobs/mos-translator>
7. Ohio Department of Veteran Services on Facebook . Daily tributes to fallen warriors from Ohio
<https://www.facebook.com/ohiodepartmentofveteransservices/>
8. Any suggestions on good information to pass in this section of the Newsletter would be appreciated.

Doug Gerrard
Veteran Affairs Chair
513-615-7469, Dpgerrard@aol.com

JC Sullivan

A great Hibernian and a great expert on local history. I can only quote his obituary: "JC was a man of warmth, humor, and unwavering dedication to his country and family, leaving behind a legacy of love and kindness." He will be missed by all who knew him.

May he rest in peace.

Mike Finn, State Historian

Obituary

John Charles (JC) Sullivan, age 81, a cherished patriarch of his family, passed away peacefully on September 22, 2024. JC was a man of warmth, humor, and unwavering dedication to his country and family, leaving behind a legacy of love and kindness.

JC was the devoted husband to his late wife, Karen, with whom he shared over 50 years of memories and love. He was a guiding force in the lives of his children, Erin and Fran Lally, Catherine (Kitty), and he held a special place in his heart for his late daughter, Mary. Brother of Mary Jo, Margaret, Jean, Edward and the late Marilyn, Rodger, Rita and Rosemary. His role as a grandfather was one he cherished profoundly, doting on his grandchildren Francis, Mary, Colleen, Liam, and Cormac Lally, Maeve and Kieran Andang, with an endless supply of tricks, stories, wisdom, and laughter.

JC was a proud veteran of the US Army serving in the Second Armored Division. He is a past Commander of the American Legion Post 196 and Post 801. J.C. (John) Sullivan has been a very devoted and active alumni of Benedictine High School class of 1960. He was deeply rooted in his Irish heritage and history. He served as co-host of The Gerry Quinn Irish Radio Program on Sunday mornings.

Perhaps JC's greatest passion was writing. He authored numerous articles and was published in the Irish Echo, Nordonia Hills, and DD214 newspapers. His Cleveland stories also appeared in the Mayo News (Ireland).

Martin Gavin, National FFAI

Former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has pledged he will be relentlessly focused on Irish reunification when he resigns from the Dail. The fact that a leading figure within Fine Gael wants to make Irish reunification an objective rather than an aspiration is welcome. We need all party support in the 26 counties to get the British to give us the Referendum which can unite Ireland!

Martin Gavin FFAI

CATHERINE McGINTY c.mcginty@irishnews.com. Leo Varadkar has urged all parties contesting the Republic's forthcoming general election to make unification "not just an aspiration but an objective". The former taoiseach was speaking at a New Ireland Commission schools engagement event in Derry on Thursday. The TD, who is not seeking re-election, said he would like to see all parties dedicate a section of their election manifestos to the issue. Mr Varadkar said this would include "strengthening the Shared Island unit".

"It also means increasing the Shared Island Fund and it means things like a New Ireland Commission, involving anyone who is willing to take part in it from politics and civil society," he added.

"The principle is simply there in the Good Friday Agreement that a simple majority is enough, and I don't think, if there was a simple majority that you could say that that's not good enough.

"But of course it wouldn't be ideal and the kind of thing we should aim for is as big a yes vote as possible, both south and north of the border.

"So, 50 plus one is enough but it not what we want and that's why I think we need, as much as possible, to co-design what that New Ireland looks like, people north and south and then people from the British unionist community as well," said Mr Varadkar.

The Dublin West TD said under the Good Friday Agreement principle, people can be "British, Irish, both and should be accepted as such" should be "taken forward into a United Ireland".

He suggested the Dail could sit at Stormont in Belfast for parts of the year in the event of unification.

He also proposed that the unified state could have a president and vice-president, one of whom would be from the unionist/British tradition.

"One thing that could be considered is the use of Stormont for parliamentary sessions at certain times in the year like South Africa does with Cape Town and Pretoria, the same could be done for the higher courts," he added.

"We could reform the presidency to create a vice-presidency running on a ticket with at least one being a British citizen."

Mr Varadkar also posited reform of Seanad Éireann to give "guaranteed representation to the minority for a period or permanently". "In addition, we should consider how a 32 county Ireland with massive seas and airspace can defend itself from 21st century threats, which might mean a defence agreement with Great Britain and a closer relationship with Nato," he said.

SDLP leader and Foyle MP Colum Eastwood said he was going to be "relentlessly focussed" on working to achieve a New Ireland, when he stepped down as leader next month. "I want to be building the case for Irish unity, building the case for change, which would be a reconciled New Ireland that lifts people out of poverty and gives people opportunity. "For me, that is the most exciting thing you could be doing in politics. That is the next decade of opportunity that we have."

Mr Eastwood's designated successor, Belfast South and Mid Down MP, Claire Hanna who also attended the event described the Commission as "bound by principles around reconciliation, and embedding diversity, and looking to the future and being both hopeful and honest with people.

Opening the New Ireland Commission schools engagement event, Belfast City councillor Paul Doherty said it was "fantastic to see so many young people gathered to discuss the future of this island, which each and everyone of us calls home". "This work has been ongoing for a number of years now. It began with quiet conversations, working hard to bring people from all traditions and backgrounds together."

State Historian's Report

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

The Election of 1918



The 1996 Good Friday agreement spells out the format for unification of the 6 counties in the north of Ireland with the 26 counties of the Irish Republic; but only if voted by the majority of the North's citizens.

First, we should be talking about the RE-unification of Ireland. It's a historical point that Ireland was unified (at least territorially) before its illegal partitioning. Thus, it would require *re-unification*. Second, in 1918 the island voted on the concept of territorial separation and separation lost. Those on the British side who now demand self-determination in the north should recognize the results of the 1918 election.

At the end of the Easter Rebellion in May 1916 hundreds of Irish were imprisoned by the British. The jails in England became communities for Irish political education. Those more involved in the Rising taught the others Irish history and the Irish language. In December of 1916, due to pressure from Irish-America, most of the imprisoned Republicans were granted amnesty and sent back to Ireland.

The republican political structures in Ireland after the Rising were in disarray. Nearly all of the leaders of the rebellion had been executed by the British and the republican political and military organizations were declared illegal and disbanded.

The only viable political organization at the time was Sinn Féin. The political party, founded by Arthur Griffith, had not played a role in the rebellion because Griffith opposed physical force as a solution to Ireland's problems. English history books still mistakenly refer to the Easter Rebellion as the *Sinn Féin Rebellion* (the British have never been very good at Irish history).

The returning prisoners, newly educated in republican principles, were dedicated to the concept of achieving an independent republic and they began to join Sinn Féin. Many, including Eamon de Valera, Michael Collins, Harry Boland, Cathal Brugha and Countess Constance de Markievicz, took leadership positions in the party turning it to republicanism. Meanwhile, Michael Collins reorganized the secret Irish Republican Brotherhood and reconstituted the armed Irish Volunteers, who now became known as the Irish Republican Army. Soon Sinn Féin became the visible moral force political division of republicanism while the IRA became the physical force division.

In 1917 Eamon de Valera was elected president of Sinn Féin with Arthur Griffith serving as vice president. De Valera set the agenda when he said, "Sinn Féin aims at securing the international recognition of Ireland as an independent Irish republic. Having achieved that status, the Irish people may, by referendum, freely choose their own form of government." De Valera began planning for the 1918 general elections assigning Sinn Féin members as candidates, usually to their home counties.

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State Historian's Report, cont.

The structure of the British government in Ireland allowed the 32 county island to have 105 seats in the British House of Commons. The dominant Irish nationalist party was the Irish Parliamentary Party led by John Dillon. The party had succeeded in gaining passage of the Home Rule Act in 1914, but the British postponed its implementation. The British knew that implementation of Home Rule for Ireland meant a civil war pitting the unwilling British army against a well armed Protestant community in the north. The Protestants had pledged to resist Home Rule at all costs.

The majority of Irish people were angry about the British handling of the executions of the Easter Rising leaders. Travel had been restricted during the World War due to safety concerns, so a lot of educated young people who would have left Ireland were still in the country and eligible to vote. Women would also be voting for the first time in Irish elections.

All of the Sinn Féin candidates campaigned on two key issues: A) If elected, they would not take their seats in the British House of Commons and would form an independent Irish government; and 2) Sinn Féin was opposed to any partitioning of the island. Full or partial partitioning of Ulster had been floated by the British as an alternative to implementing Home Rule in the north.

Sinn Féin candidate Harry Boland, speaking in his constituency of South Roscommon said, "Partition! Is Ulster, our Ulster, to be handed over? Ulster, our Ulster, of the Gaelic tongue, of Patrick and Bridget and O'Neill. Never! Never!" Irish voters knew that voting for Sinn Féin meant opposition to partition and independence for Ireland.

The all-Ireland election was held December 14, 1918. When the votes were counted Sinn Féin had won 73 of the 105 seats in Parliament (Sinn Féin 73; Irish Party 6; and Unionist 26). In this election, Countess Constance de Markievicz became the first woman elected to the British Parliament.

All of the newly elected Sinn Féin MPs declined to take their seats in the House of Commons. On January 2, 1919 invitations were sent from Sinn Féin headquarters to all elected MPs (Unionist, Nationalist, Irish Party or Sinn Féin) to attend a private meeting at the Mansion House in Dublin on Tuesday, January 7. At that meeting it was decided to form an all-Ireland assembly. The first meeting of *Dáil Éireann* would be January 21, 1919. It was decided that all elected MPs would also be invited to join the assembly.

When the first Dáil convened on January 21st thirty-four of its members were in British prisons, having been arrested for violating the Defense of the Realm Act (DORA) for having "acted or being about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and the defense of the realm." At the roll call of the first Dáil they were recorded as "Fe glas ag Gallaibh" (imprisoned by the foreigner). Someone answered the roll as present for two members who were not there. Michael Collins and Harry Boland were on a boat headed to England to plan a prison break that would free Eamon de Valera from Lincoln Jail. Ireland had its first independent assembly as voted by the majority of its citizens.

The historical result of an all-Ireland British run election in 1918 was that a majority of Irish citizens voted in favor of establishing a 32-county independent state. The British have continued, to this day, to ignore the results of that election, while at the same time acting as champions of democracy. It's a strange world when it comes to Irish history.

Catholic Action

The month of October still remains within Ordinary Time, the liturgical color being green. On October 19, we commemorate some of the Jesuit martyrs of the American frontier. The month of October contains the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, and perhaps for this reason, the month is considered by many Catholics as especially dedicated to Mary.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Oct. 1 | Therese of the Child Jesus (Therese of Lisieux), Virgin | Memorial |
| Oct. 2 | Guardian Angels | Memorial |
| Oct. 4 | Francis of Assisi | Memorial |
| Oct. 5 | Faustina Kowalska | |
| Oct. 7 | Our Lady of the Rosary | Memorial |
| Oct. 15 | Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor | Memorial |
| Oct. 17 | Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr | Memorial |
| Oct. 18 | Luke, Evangelist | Feast |
| Oct. 19 | John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions, Martyrs | Memorial |
| Oct. 28 | Simon and Jude, Apostles | Feast |

IRISH SAINTS OF OCTOBER

Oct. 11 Canice, Abbot (c. 515-99)

According to some sources, Canice, also known as Kenneth, was born at Glengiven, and became a monk and priest in Wales under St. Cadoc, at Llancarfan. He traveled to Rome, studied under St. Finian at Clonard, and evangelized in Ireland and Scotland. He was a close friend of Columba, whom he accompanied on a mission to the Picts. Canice may be the founder of monasteries at Aghaboe and Kilkenny in Ireland, and he also left a number of traces in place-names in Scotland.

Oct. 11 Loman of Trim (d.c.450)

Loman, a Briton like St. Patrick, and according to some accounts, his uncle, is said to have accompanied Patrick on his return to Ireland. The party arrived at the mouth of the Boyne River, where Patrick left Loman to watch the boat. Having waited many days in vain, Loman rowed up the river to the ford at Trim, where a chieftain named Fedelmid had a castle. In quick succession, Loman converted Fedelmid's son, Fortchern, Fedelmid's wife, then Fedelmid himself with his household. Fedelmid granted land for a church nearby, and Loman became the first bishop established by Patrick in Ireland.

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Catholic Action, cont.**Oct. 13 Comgan, Abbot (8th century)**

Son of a prince of Leinster, he succeeded his father, but was forced to flee to Scotland, where he settled near Skye, built a monastery, and lived an austere life there. He was buried on Iona by his nephew, St. Fillan.

Oct. 16 Gall (d. c. 635)

Gall distinguished himself as a scholar of grammar, poetry, and Holy Scripture under Saints Comgall and Columban at Bangor and was ordained a priest. He was one of twelve disciples who accompanied Columban to the Continent, first evangelizing in France and later in what is now Switzerland. Gall did not accompany Columban when the latter departed for Italy. Some legends have it that this resulted in a falling out between the two that was only healed at the death of Columban, but this may simply be a story to explain their separation. Gall became a hermit, and eventually the famous monastery of St. Gall came to occupy the site of his hermitage. Several stories would seem to indicate that the saint was an avid fisherman. He turned down offers of bishoprics and abbacies to remain a hermit. St. Gall is considered the apostle of Switzerland.

Oct. 21 Fintan, Abbot (d.c.635)

Also known as Munnu, Fintan was a monk of Cluain Inis, spent some time at Iona, and upon returning to Ireland founded a monastery at Taghmon, Wexford, serving as its abbot. He was a firm supporter of the Celtic liturgical practices. He reportedly contracted leprosy late in life.

Oct. 27 Otteran, Abbot (d. 563)

Also known as Odhran, this saint may have been a Briton. He was an abbot in Meath before he left Ireland among the twelve companions who accompanied Columba to Iona. There are some very odd stories about Otteran, perhaps incorporating elements of pagan mythology. Interestingly, the Viking settlers of Waterford chose him as their patron.

Oct. 29 Colman of Kilmacduagh, Bishop (d.c. 632)

Son of a chieftain, reportedly consecrated a bishop unwillingly, he lived as a hermit in the Burren. He built a monastery at Kilmacduagh and is considered the first bishop of that see. Like many Irish saints, there are many fanciful stories about him. Colman is said to have been aided in his devotions by a rooster, a mouse, and a fly: the first woke him up for the night office, the second kept him from falling asleep again, while the third served as a bookmark.

Oct. 31 Foillan, Abbot (d.c. 655)

With his two sainted brothers, Fursey and Ultan, he left Ireland for England c. 630, built a monastery at Burgh Castle, near Yarmouth, and evangelized the East Anglians. When his monastery was destroyed by the pagan Mercians under Penda, Foillan and his brother Ultan decided to follow their brother Fursey to Gaul, where they were welcomed by the Neustrian king, Clovis II. Foillan was founder and first abbot of a monastery at Fosses and converted many of the locals. He was murdered by outlaws.

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Catholic Action, cont.**OHIO NEWS OF INTEREST**

HB214 was signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine in July. The new law requires public schools to reasonably accommodate sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of students. The law also allows K-12 students to be absent for up to three days per year for religious expression, to celebrate major religious holidays that are not school holidays, without the days counting against the attendance record.

A Hamilton County Common Pleas judge has issued a preliminary injunction against an Ohio law limiting medication abortion, including a provision which prohibits non-doctors from prescribing the drug and another requiring prescription in accordance with FDA labeling.

Ohio Attorney General David Yost has sent a cease and desist order and a threat of a state law suit to Columbus School District, directing the District to resume bussing charter and private school students. State law requires public schools to transport nonpublic students living in the district and no more than 30 minutes from their assigned public school, something the District has ceased doing.

The State March for Life is October 4 in Columbus. Hibernians will be there. Will you join us?

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Freedom for All Ireland Report 09/12/2024

Sinn Féin has been hosting People's Assemblies for the Commission on the Future of Ireland over the past year in an effort to gain input from citizens of Ireland on the future of their island. Now, the Friends of Sinn Féin are bringing representatives to the United States, and holding People's Assemblies to gain the input of the Irish diaspora. An Assembly will be held this October 10th, at the Shamrock Club of Columbus. This is an opportunity to learn, and to let your thoughts be known. Registration is required.

<https://www.theshamrockclubofcolumbus.com/sinnfein>

Keir Starmer, the new Labour British PM, believes a reset of relations with Ireland is in the cards. He's made the first official visit to the Republic since 2019. The reset "has to cover the Good Friday agreement and I take very seriously our joint role in relation to that." The Northern Ireland secretary, Hilary Benn, also stated "that he was committed to implementing the Brexit protocols for Northern Ireland in full." After many contentious years, a softening of relations appears on the horizon.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/sep/07/keir-starmer-optimistic-for-deep-reset-of-relations-with-ireland#webview=1> (09/07/2024)

On the Legacy front, while promises have been made to repeal or substantially modify the bill, investigations are beginning under the new legacy body into atrocities committed during the Troubles.

Unfortunately, the first of these is focused on not British and Unionist actions, but on the Guilford pub bombings in 1974 by the IRA. One can hope that this is followed by looking at the skeletons in their own closet, and investigating Unionist and the British government's complicity in attacks upon the Nationalist community.

<https://www.rte.ie/news/ulster/2024/0909/1469026-troubles-cases-enquiry/> (09/09/2024)

In the North, seven months after Stormont was restored, at long last the devolved government has issued a draft Program for Government. It outlines nine immediate priorities, and provides an eight week public consultation period. As usual, these are very broad and somewhat non-specific priorities.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5y8ndx10e6o> (09/09/2024)

Shake ups in the North's political party leadership have also occurred over the past month, with resignations of leaders from the Unionist UUP and Nationalist SDLP taking place. Both of these parties are small in comparison to the DUP and Sinn Féin, presently the two largest parties in the North. But they've also been joined by the resignation of Steven Farry, the deputy leader of the Alliance party and the North's third largest party.

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A November General Election in Ireland? Maybe.

Judge Michael C. Mentel*

If you asked observers of Irish politics several months ago if a General Election in Ireland would be called this November, they would have said no. Today, they may not be so quick to answer.

In mid-September of this year, Fine Gael held a “think in” to discuss and evaluate its policies and governing path forward. Taoiseach Simon Harris, leader of Fine Gael, when asked at the think in if he would call a General Election in November, would not directly answer a question. The Taoiseach responded by saying that he has not been “definitive” on when he will call a General Election. Tánaiste Micheál Martin, leader of Fianna Fáil, when asked the same question days later, responded by saying that the Government will run its full term, meaning that a General Election would not be held until the spring of next year. In response to Tánaiste Martin’s comments, the Taoiseach stated, the “constitutional prerogative to seek dissolution of the Dáil is mine as Taoiseach.” A dissolution of the Dáil is necessary before a General Election can be called. The Taoiseach added that he does not “intend to provide a running commentary on ‘what about this week, what about this month’. That’s not how we do politics.” The current Dáil functions as a coalition government made up of Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil, and the Green Party.

Because of the election speculation afloat in Leinster House, several parties have begun preparing for a General Election in November. Some members of the Dáil have already ordered campaign banners and paraphernalia to ready themselves if an election is called. The ambiguity offered by the Taoiseach on whether a General Election will be called, coupled with members of Fine Gael speculating on an election being called either November 8th or 15th, is fueling the uncertainty at this point. The Ceann Comhairle (Speaker) of the Dáil, Seán Ó Feargháil, has stated unequivocally that speculation on whether

a General Election will be called is “doing serious damage” to the process and “undermining credibility in leadership.” The Ceann Comhairle opined further that, “[a] multiplicity of other politicians serving and retired have talked about November. These people who talk about that are doing serious damage to the body politic”.

Regardless of the uncertainty, several political parties believe that a General Election will be called in November. Labour Party leader Ivana Bacik said that the “reality is that all of us in politics and people around the country believe that the election will be held this November”. Bacik added that, “[n]o matter what the Taoiseach is saying about running full term [holding the election in the spring], I think now is the time for the Taoiseach to put an end to this speculation. It is utterly time wasting.” Sinn Féin’s President Mary Lou McDonald voiced similar concerns. “Our expectation remains November, yeah, we’ve been working to that, and I think, in fairness, so is everybody else in truth.” she said. President McDonald added that “[a]ll of the political parties are preparing now for an election, for an autumn election, we would prefer that it happens sooner rather than later.” She also made clear that Sinn Féin is ready for the election to be called. “I think the time is right now to go to the people. We will set forward our plans, the plan for an alternative. We will come forward with plans and not simply soundbites, it’s time for change now. So, bring it on”, she said. People Before Profit party member Richard Boyd Barrett TD iterated the same frustrations expressed by Ivana Bacik and Mary Lou McDonald. Mr. Barrett urged the Taoiseach to “stop playing games with the public and torturing everybody about the date”. He voiced his exasperation over the continued election banter over when or if an election will be called. Barrett believes that the quicker an election is called the better.

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A November General Election in Ireland? Maybe.

As the election speculation swirls about, the undercurrent of political opportunity may be the tell on whether an election is called. In the local elections held earlier this summer, Sinn Féin had a poor showing at the polls. While Sinn Féin has learned from the outcome of that election so has Fine Gael. Following that election, Fine Gael watched Sinn Féin fall into second place in the national polls as it has risen several points in its popularity. Sensing Sinn Féin's vulnerability, calling a General election now would increase Fine Gael's chances to maintain its majority in the Dáil along with its coalition partners. If a General Election is held in the spring of 2025, as cautiously anticipated by some, it would give Sinn Féin time to strengthen its support and close the gap in the national polls with Fine Gael. From a Fine Gaels perspective, calling a General Election now limits the opportunity for Sinn Féin to strengthen its support and close the gap in its polling numbers to overtake Fine Gael. Tactically, should Fine Gael call for an election, it will give itself the ideal political scenario to continue its control in the Dáil. A member of Fianna Fáil who remained anonymous said it all,

“[w]e'd be fools to drag this [the election] out to March, when Sinn Féin would be able to argue we're afraid of the voters and clinging to power.”

So, the question remains; will a General Election be called in November? Maybe.

The planning process for a United Ireland is now upon us. **The Commission on the Future of Ireland and the Friends of Sinn Féin is hosting a People's Assembly on Thursday October 10, 2024 at the Shamrock Club of Columbus.** Registration is required. **You may register by going to www.theshamrockclubofcolumbus.com.**

The momentum for unification in Ireland is growing, making a border poll on the question inevitable. The Commission on the Future of Ireland is giving the Irish diaspora in the United States the opportunity to participate in the discussion and planning for a United Ireland. **Columbus is one of two cities in the United States to hold this event.** Cleveland is the other. Each of us should take this opportunity to participate in the People's Assembly and provide our perspectives for the future of Ireland.

**Judge Michael C. Mentel is the Presiding Judge on the Ohio Court of Appeals Tenth District and a member of Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.*

Ohio Pro Life



Greetings fellow Hibernians, my name is Jacob Durda and I am honored to be your new state pro life chairman. I have been involved with the Ancient Order of Hibernians for almost 4 years and currently serve as the Vice President for the Medina County Irish Brigade Division #1. I have been involved with the pro life movement since college, having attended the national March for Life a number of times, volunteering with local right to life groups and have been through sidewalk advocacy training. This will be my second time attending the state March for Life and I encourage you to attend this Friday in Columbus. I look forward to working

with you all to make Ohio a pro life state and help protect the lives of all from Conception through natural death.

God Bless,
Jacob Durda