



Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

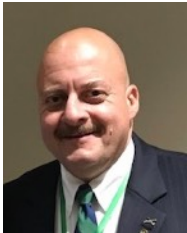
*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*September 2020*

*Volume 2 Issue 9*

## President's Message



Brothers All,

September greetings to you all, as we wind down the summer and roll into fall! Hope you've had a great summer, and I hope that you and yours are healthy and well.

The new National Board, led by our own, Worthy President Danny O'Connell, has hit the ground running, with many new ideas and initiatives already. Our National Board Director Liaison is Director Ed Halligan from Pennsylvania. He's very pleased with the opportunity to work with Ohio, and we're very pleased to welcome him as well.

We've updated and revised and improved our Ohio AOH website, which badly needed a makeover. We've updated information, and added tabs for "Our Local Divisions", "Contact Us", and "Join Us", with contact info for those who visit the website (who are probably there to seek information!). This will be another useful tool in our toolbox, especially for recruiting and outreach. The website link is <https://ohioaoh.com/>. There's still more work to do, especially with past president info, local Division contact & website info, and links, but we've come a long way already.

**For now, I'm serving as the webmaster, but would gladly relinquish those duties to someone with the skillset and passion to lead the charge in this important area.**

Don't forget our next upcoming virtual State Board meeting, which we'll hold on Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> via Zoom (See Page 7 of this issue for more information). Remember, all members are welcome to join, and your Division Presidents hopefully shared the Zoom link with you all so you can sit in and listen. We have a lot to talk about, so I look forward to seeing you all there.

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## Chaplain's's Comments



Our Lady of Knock

As I write this on this eve of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known affectionately in the English speaking world as Our Lady's Day in August, and just a week from the Feast of Our Lady of Knock on August 21, our attention as Catholics of Irish descent naturally turns toward our Blessed Mother and her role in this history of our salvation.

I first visited Knock in April of 2013 with my cousin Christine. We were in Ireland for the first time and used a bed and breakfast in Knock as our base of operations while combing the countryside doing family history research. As I was sitting in little church in Knock praying before morning Mass, it slowly dawned on me that my own family members, namely my Great great grandmother and her children and grandchildren who had not yet emigrated to the United States, living in nearby Claremorris in 1879, would surely have heard rumors of the apparitions and would most likely have visited. I took great comfort in the probability that the Shrine at Knock and the devotion of pilgrims over the last one hundred forty one years was a clear link with my own family history and with the faith which my ancestors passed on to me.

One aspect of the Apparitions at Knock which I find so endearing is the fact of Mary's silence—a silence which continues to speak volumes even today. While most apparitions of the Blessed Mother include a clear and distinct message from her to the world, at Knock she said no words. Rather, she simply lifted her prayers to heaven, reminding us of her role as intercessor to her Son, who appeared as the Lamb upon the Altar of Sacrifice. In doing so, she reminded us of the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives, the centrality of the Pascal Mystery as the salvific event in human history. I spent several hours during those three days spent in Knock praying and visiting the various chapels and the Basilica. And in doing so, I felt very close to our Blessed Mother and very close, therefore, to her Son.

*Continued on Page 2*

### President's Message, cont.

Also, as circumstances allow, we're planning for an in-person State Board meeting in late October or November, and again, circumstances permitting, we'd like to also host Exemplification of the Major Degrees that day. This should make for a fun and informative Hibernian weekend.

As always, thank you for your commitment, passion, and leadership. God Bless you all, God Bless Ireland, and God Bless our great Nation.

Slan, Bob

### Chaplain's's Comments, cont.

One question I have pondered often over the last three decades is whether a place of pilgrimage is holy because of the events that have taken place there or because of the prayers of the pilgrims who go there in search of healing, in search of answers to the ultimate questions of life and death, or mortality and immortality, in search of a renewal of faith and hope. The Shrine at Knock, I believe, is holy because of both. It is holy because our Blessed Mother Mary, along with Saint Joseph and Saint John the Evangelist chose to appear there in the presence of the Lamb of God. It is holy because of the faith of those men, women and children who stood for hours in the rain to gaze upon the wonder which they beheld with the eyes of faith on that evening of August 21, 1879. But it remains holy because of our prayers—because of the faith which continues to bring so many to Knock—because of the yearning for eternity in the presence of the Living God which is so much a part of our Catholic Christian faith which is made manifest to us the celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of who we are.

And so, in the words of a song I have often heard, *if you ever get the chance to go to Ireland, go to Knock*. And take with you your prayers, your hopes, your dreams, your fears, and lay them at the Altar of the Lamb. Join with Mary, our Mother and the Mother of God, in giving praise for the wonderful things God has done for us.



*Modern High Cross marking the Spot where St. John Paul II Celebrated Mass when visiting Knock in 1979.*

*Mural and main altar in the main chapel of the Shrine, elevated to the status of Basilica by St. John Paul II during his 1979 visit.*

Fr. John Keehner, State Chaplain

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**Newsletter News**

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

[jjcasey973@gmail.com](mailto:jjcasey973@gmail.com)

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



## 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.

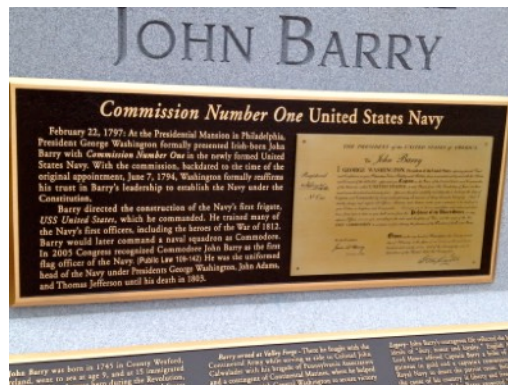
On March 10, 1783, Barry, aboard the “Alliance” won the last sea battle of the American Revolution when, while escorting a shipment of funds vital to the new nation, he engaged and avoided capture by the British ship “Sybille”.

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 and on May 10, 2014, the Barry Gate and the Barry Monument were dedicated at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.



## State Historian's Report

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

### The Grand State Convention at Lima, Ohio, August 1908

The Thirteenth Biennial State Convention of the A. O. H. in Ohio was held in the city of Lima, Ohio on August 11, 12 and 13, 1908. It was perhaps the most representative convention of the organization ever held in the State. The sessions of the Ladies AOH were held on the same dates, and in addition to the delegates, many visitors were present.

The city was handsomely decorated in honor of the visitors, a striking feature being a beautiful Irish harp in electric lights erected in the public square, which was turned into a court of honor. The city of Lima worked in conjunction with the Convention Committee in decorating the city in a befitting manner. The delegates to the Convention and visitors attended High Mass on Tuesday morning at St. Rose Church, the celebrant being the Rev. A. J. Manning, assistant pastor. Rev. John I. Moran, pastor of Sacred Heart church, Youngstown, State Chaplain, delivered a stirring sermon, the keynote of which was devotion to the principles of faith and nationality.

At the opening session Tuesday morning, addresses were made by Committee Chairman, Thomas Phelan; County President, Dr. E. C. Weedock, of Lima, and an address of welcome by Mayor Fred Becker. Responses were made by State President John F. Cantwell of Youngstown for the A. O. H., and by State President Mrs. Frances H. Heynes, for the Ladies AOH.

Tuesday afternoon was given up to a grand parade (pictured) through the town square, which was pronounced to be one of the finest ever seen in Lima. The First Regiment, Hibernian Rifles of Ohio, made a fine appearance in new uniforms, and turned out two hundred strong. A squadron of police, Company C., St. John Cadets, the Second Regiment ONG (Ohio National Guard), the Merchant's Band, and numerous delegates and visitors made up a long line of marchers, followed by appropriately decorated carriages containing the State Officers, clergy and the Ladies AOH delegates. A public reception and concert was held on Tuesday evening.



### Gerry Quinn Irish Radio Show

Newly-elected AOH National President Danny O'Connell appeared on the Gerry Quinn Irish Radio Show in Cleveland. He is shown here with show co-host JC Sullivan, a past National Board Press Officer.

You can hear a podcast of the show at [www.whkradio.com](http://www.whkradio.com).



### John J. Hoswell, Past State President Dies

By: J. Michael Finn



John J. Hoswell, 87, passed away April 17, 2020. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, and resided in the Dayton/Clayton, Ohio area since 1964. John served as AOH State President from 1981 until 1983, being elected at the State Convention held at the Olgebay Resort in Wheeling, West Virginia.

John also served two terms as National Director of the AOH from 1972 until 1976. In addition, he held several officer positions in the Dayton division. He was a founding member and past Chairman of the Dayton Area Feis Society, and a soccer coach at Northmont High School and St. Anthony School for many years. He was a retired Dayton

Daily News electrician. He is survived by his children John, Theresa, Malcolm and Kelly and his brothers Dennis, Paddy and Billy. He had thirteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

His obituary said that John was full of jokes, stories and song and an occasional nip of good Irish whiskey. He loved stray dogs and horse races, played accordion and soccer, and was kept on the dance floor for many a waltz with any lovely lady wishing to give it a go. May he rest in peace.

## State Board Meeting

Please mark your calendars for our next virtual state board meeting at 7pm on Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lots to talk about. Zoom meeting info is below. If you have items to add to the agenda, please let us know at your early convenience. As a reminder, especially to County and Division Presidents, your presence (or that of a representative) is expected and required.

Thanks to Director Lehn for setting this up, and thanks to you all, for all you do.

Slan, Bob

You are invited to a Zoom meeting. When: Sep 2, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkfuygrz0rE9yfmTmPnWkerJgYmvW3cZts>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



## Irish American News

One of the positives of COVID is that although we are unable to print the OhioIANews, we have used the off time to build new extensive new infrastructure, including a major expansion, ready to go when we return to a print edition. These will include 85 select Giant Eagle, Marcs, Drug Mart and CVS distribution locations from Cleveland to Columbus. Additional distribution points in Cincinnati and Dayton will be introduced once the bugs are worked out in the first phase in Northern Ohio

The online interactive issue continues unabated ([www.OhioIANews.com](http://www.OhioIANews.com))

If you are not and would like to receive the monthly print issue of the OhioIANews, please let me know (Division Name, how many copies, to what address). There is no charge. Copies are delivered near the first Wednesday of each month, by Icon Distribution. We will no longer mail out copies each month, other than subscription orders, of course.

If you have contacts at the LAOH that would also like to receive the paper each month for their divisions, please send those contacts on to me and I will confirm and arrange **distribution**.

We are TRYING to extend the same offer to Ohio and surrounding states dance schools, and other Irish organizations across Ohio and border states, with very limited COVID influenced response, but will continue to attempt to do so. Please share as appropriate.

As always, please send any news, pics, events to us. Please encourage your work place, friends and orgs to advertise with us, so we may continue to reach the Ohio and 5 surrounding states, as we continue to grow.

My brothers, thank you for your time and endless support.

John O'Brien, Jr., Irish Brigade Div. #1 Medina Co.  
Publisher / Editor  
Ohio Irish American News



## Veterans Affairs Report

### **1) CoronaVirus (COVID-19) and Veterans:** [www.va.gov/coronavirus](http://www.va.gov/coronavirus)

Reporting of cases detected in the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system in Ohio (as of 8/10/2020): <https://www.accesstocare.va.gov/Healthcare/COVID19NationalSummary>

**Ohio Total: 1,158 cumulative cases; 75 deaths; 119 active cases**

*\*Most VA facilities have resumed normal operations. You should still check your local VA's operational status before your appointments:* <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>

### **2) VA Caregivers Assistance – Stipend Expansion:**

On July 31, the VA announced new regulations creating an expanded stipend program to cover more veteran caregivers of severely injured and disabled veterans from all eras of service. The new program will provide enhanced financial assistance to caregivers who are the primary support for veterans of any service era with service-connected disability ratings of 70% or higher. Stipends may be provided to eligible families as early as October 1, 2020. Find more details regarding the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers here: <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers/>

Ohio veterans seeking to apply for initial or upgraded service-connected disability benefits can find assistance through their local County Veterans Services Office: <https://dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/what-we-do/find-a-cvso/find-a-cvso>

### **3) National Veterans Memorial & Museum – Online Certificate Program in Public or Non-Profit Leadership:**

The NVMM is collaborating with The Ohio State University to present an online education certificate program available to veterans, transitioning servicemembers, and people who work with veterans. The certificate is an official educational credential that can help inform their professional qualifications as they work in either the public or non-profit sector in support of the veteran and military community. The deadline for applications to the program is September 2 and there is a registration fee that is eligible for payment through federal GI Bill benefits. More information can be found at the OSU John Glenn College of Public Affairs: <http://glenn.osu.edu/veterans/>

### **4) AOH National Board – Veterans Affairs Committee:**

I am proud to report that I have accepted the appointment as Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee for the AOH National Board, offered me by our new National President Danny O'Connell, following our recent National Convention. I look forward to working with the Committee to continue communicating veteran benefits and services to Brothers across the country. I thank my friend and predecessor (and Father of the Veterans Affairs Committee), Jim "Seamus" Green of Pennsylvania for his leadership, mentorship, and commitment to staying on the Committee as Vice-Chair. We will continue to benefit from his knowledge and experience. I also thank President O'Connell for his support of our veteran community and confidence in me to represent my comrades-at-arms on the National Board.

Please visit the Ohio Department of Veterans Services at [www.ohiovets.gov](http://www.ohiovets.gov) to learn more about veterans benefits at the federal, state, and local level in Ohio. Also, please visit the National AOH site at [www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs](http://www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs) for information about benefits and other services around the country.

Danny Eakins  
Veterans Affairs Chair  
614-893-8833 | [dannyeakins@hotmail.com](mailto:dannyeakins@hotmail.com)





## Mark Your Calendars

### Virtual State Board Meeting

7:00 PM, September 2, 2020

(See more on page 7)

### 2021 State Convention

Cleveland OH

### 2022 AOH National Convention

Pittsburgh PA

### 2024 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL

## Missions and Charities

### Irish Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan and the Dead Theologians Society

by Chris Konik, Ohio AOH Missions and Charities Chair

Irish Bishop Alphonsus “Phonsie” Cullinan, of Waterford and Lismore Diocese, spoke of Holy Family Mission (HFM) and the Dead Theologians Society (DTS) during the 2020 National AOH Convention. This article will provide background on how DTS has become an international apostolate. Next month will feature Holy Family Mission.

The Dead Theologians Society has been active in Ireland for the past 9 years. Bishop Phonsie serves as Spiritual Director of DTS in Ireland.

Inspired by the lives of the Saints, the Dead Theologians Society began in 1997 by founder Eddie Cotter, Jr., at St. Francis de Sales Church in Newark, Ohio, as a parish program for high school teenagers. In a prayerful and intriguing atmosphere, teens regularly packed the church to discover the treasures of their Catholic faith

As news of this effective teen program spread, representatives from surrounding parishes visited St. Francis de Sales Church and began chapters of their own. Appearances on the Eternal Word Television’s teen show, Life on the Rock, as well as numerous articles in Catholic and secular publications, catapulted the Dead Theologians Society onto the international scene and highlighted the society as a faithful and effective response to Pope John Paul II’s call for “a new evangelization for the third millennium.” As news about DTS spreads, new chapters continue to form.

DTS has reached as far as Africa in recent years. The AOH Patrick Pearse Division 1 in Columbus continue support of DTS with annual giving and sharing information with Hibernian divisions nationwide. Ohio AOH and LAOH divisions statewide continue their support as well.

More information about the Dead Theologians Society:

<http://www.deadtheologianssociety.com>    [eddie@deadtheologianssociety.com](mailto:eddie@deadtheologianssociety.com)

## Division News

### Irish Brigade Div. #1 Medina Co.

Ray Schulte & Dave Manley are all ready planning the AOH 5th Annual Charitable Beer Run. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2021. We plan to visit 5 Micro Breweries here in Medina County. At this point we believe the cost will be around \$70 PP. More details to come.

### Patrick Pearse Div. #1 Franklin Co.

274 E. Innis, Columbus, OH 43207

**AOH Annual Golf Outing**, Will take place on Saturday, September 12th starting at 9am at Split Rock! **[To sign up your foursome or participate as a hole sponsor, please see the attached flyer by clicking here!](#)**

Both our leadership team and the Team at Split Rock are absolutely committed to ensure a safe, socially distanced, fun outing for everyone - Plenty of precautions are in place. Please contact chairman Chris Konik at [chriskonik@mindspring.com](mailto:chriskonik@mindspring.com) with any questions or if you would like to help out!

### Mark Heffernan Div. #2 Summit Co.

Michael P. O'Connor of Akron passed away unexpectedly August 8, 2020. He was born to the late William E. (Bucky) and Charlotte F., on September 26, 1946. He grew up in Cuyahoga Falls and lived his life in northeast Ohio. He was a graduate of Borromeo College followed by a career in Catholic education. Michael loved his family, his Irish ancestry and his music. He was an active member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He was past President of the Mark Heffernan Division and AOH Summit County Board.



A self-taught musician, his love of Irish music was reflected in the music groups "Mike O'Connor & Friends," "Irene and the Irishmen," and the last 14 years with "Callahan and O'Connor."

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Tim (Buck) and infant Joseph. He is survived by his brother Kevin (Colleen), sisters Kathleen Factor, Maureen (Ed) Brown, Peggy (Terry) McDonald, sister in law Shelly O'Connor and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, August 13, 2020 at St. Vincent Church in Akron.

**Send your Division information to Editor Jim Casey**

[jjcasey973@gmail.com](mailto:jjcasey973@gmail.com)

## Commodore Barry Medal

The AOH Ohio State Board is pleased to offer the Commodore John Barry medal to AOH Divisions for \$25. This medal is intended to be awarded to members for outstanding service or achievement. Each medal comes individually packaged in an attractive display case with a printed history of Commodore Barry.

Yours in our Motto,

*Mike McKenzie, Ohio State Board*

Mike McKenzie at: (330) 329 2652, [tmmckenzie31@gmail.com](mailto:tmmckenzie31@gmail.com)



## Catholic Action

The month of September is still part of Ordinary Time, with green being the liturgical vestment color.

### MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS

Sept. 3	Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor, Memorial
Sept. 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast
Sept. 16	Cornelius, Pope and Martyr; Cyprian, Bishop and Martyr, Memorial
Sept. 21	Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, Feast
Sept. 23	Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Memorial
Sept. 29	Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels, Feast
Sept. 30	Jerome, Priest and 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. If you are living or traveling in the Youngstown, Ohio, area, look for the statue of St. Fiacre in Fellows Garden, Mill Creek Park.

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.

Sept. 7 Grimonia, Virgin and Martyr

Grimonia 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.

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. Hildegard wrote a life of Disibod. However, it consists mostly of disquisitions on morals and Scripture. In fact, we know very little about Disibod.

## Catholic Action, cont.

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

Adamnan was born in Donegal, becoming a monk there and later 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.

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).

### SKELLIG MICHAEL

This month we celebrate the feast of Michael and the other archangels. Devotion to Michael was strong in medieval times in Ireland and throughout the British Isles. Skellig Michael, an island about 8 miles west of the Iveragh Peninsula, County Kerry, is the site of monastic ruins of great antiquity. Images of Skellig Michael may look familiar to moviegoers, since scenes from Star Wars VII, "The Force Awakens," were filmed there.

### NEWS OF INTEREST

--August 8: Dr. Ashley Fernandes, a member of the board of Ohio Right to Life, has been appointed to the National Institutes of Health Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board. President Trump set up the Board in February to provide ethical advice on this issue.

--Ohio Right to Life has posted its endorsements for the November election. Check out [www.ohiovotesforlife.org](http://www.ohiovotesforlife.org).

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

Fraternally Yours,

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