



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

*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*August 2023*

*Volume 5 Issue 8*

## President's Message



Brothers,

Thank you again for the honor of serving as your State President. First, I would like to express my condolences to the families and the Divisions of the Brothers that we lost in the past month.

Brothers Kevin McCluskey, Michael McMahon and Past State President John O'Connor all passed in July. Eternal rest grant to them O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they Rest in Peace.

It has been a little over a month since our Convention and it's been very busy time. In addition to appointing chairmen to our different committees, I have been working with the top four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) to set a course for the next two years. In the coming weeks, I will be sending out emails to all the Division Presidents with our plans for communicating with you. It is my sincere belief that when we have a strong State Board that listens and communicates, we all will succeed more on the Division level.

One of the things as State President that I am honored to do, is represent the State Board at different functions around the State. This past month brought me to two different Division functions.

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## Chaplain's Comments



I was recently surprised when the state president Dennis Parks called and asked if I would be interested in serving our organization as the state chaplain. As you are reading this, you can guess what I said. I am humbled to be asked to serve as the spiritual director for AOH in Ohio, and I am pleased to help out as best I can. With our member's assistance and prayers, I am sure things will go smoothly.

Officially, I still need to receive permission and be assigned by my ordinary, Bishop Malesic, but I will serve the organization at the state level until there is a time that I am no longer needed. I do believe the position should be held by a priest and I have shared this with Mr. Parks and Bishop Malesic, but as the priests are fewer in numbers and with their workload remaining the same, they are stretched pretty thin. It should be no surprise that I recognize the need to step up and help out as I was called, similarly to the original seven men who were called to step up and serve the Church as deacons.

Another story of surprise involves St. Lawrence, who was one of those seven deacons that served the Church in Rome. They were martyred in the persecution of Christians that Emperor Valerian ordered in 258. The emperor knew the Church had amassed wealth to distribute among the needy, and demanded Lawrence to turn over to him the

*Continued on Page 4*

### President's Message, Cont.



In Summit County, the Brothers of the Mark Heffernan Division in Akron dedicated a new memorial stone in honor of all Irish Veterans who have served the United States. The memorial stone is located at the Ohio Veteran's Memorial Park in



Clinton, OH. National President Danny O'Connell and LAOH State President Nicky Parks-Norris joined the Brothers in dedicating the memorial. The Heffernan Division Honor Guard led a procession to the monument where it was unveiled and dedicated by the Division Chaplain.



In Washington County, the Brothers of the Monsignor Donal O'Carroll Division in Marietta held a 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon at the Lafayette Hotel. Mass preceded the event at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. The event took place 45 years to the day of the Division founding. (See also Page 8).

In Motto,  
Denny Parks

**2023 - 2025 Officers**

<b>Chaplain</b>	Deacon Bruce Dobbins brunomusarra@yahoo.com
<b>President</b>	Dennis Parks <a href="mailto:dparks121@yahoo.com">dparks121@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Greg Brown <a href="mailto:Gbrownshamrock@yahoo.com">Gbrownshamrock@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Director</b>	John Myers <a href="mailto:johnmyers216@gmail.com">johnmyers216@gmail.com</a>
<b>Director</b>	Chris Schulte <a href="mailto:crpschulte@gmail.com">crpschulte@gmail.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Bob Harper <a href="mailto:harper.bg@pg.com">harper.bg@pg.com</a>
<b>National President</b>	Daniel J. O'Connell djoconnell@ysu.edu
<b>National Catholic Action</b>	Patrick J. Lally lally8404@hotmail.com
<b>National Project St. Patrick</b>	Ron Hagan rhagan@hagancpa.com
<b>National Deputy Organizer</b>	Joseph M. Casey qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com
<b>National Oversight Committee</b>	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com

**OHIO DIVISIONS**

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<b>Franklin #1</b>	Bruce McPherson <a href="mailto:hilliardmcperson@gmail.com">hilliardmcperson@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hamilton #1</b>	Christopher Schulte <a href="mailto:crpschulte@gmail.com">crpschulte@gmail.com</a>
<b>Lucas</b>	Robert McMahon <a href="mailto:aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com">aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mahoning #6</b>	Ray Kelly IV <a href="mailto:aohrpk@gmail.com">aohrpk@gmail.com</a>
<b>Medina</b>	Joe Gill <a href="mailto:wildirishjoe@icloud.com">wildirishjoe@icloud.com</a>
<b>Montgomery</b>	Art Gannon artgannon@aol.com
<b>Stark #1</b>	Tom Fickes <a href="mailto:fic1424@aol.com">fic1424@aol.com</a>
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<b>Trumbull</b>	Marty McQuaide <a href="mailto:emcqu@aol.com">emcqu@aol.com</a>
<b>Washington</b>	Will Rathbone <a href="mailto:Willrathbone@gmail.com">Willrathbone@gmail.com</a>

**Appointed Officers**

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<b>Pro Life</b>	Dave Manley	<a href="mailto:ruthannanddavid@gmail.com">ruthannanddavid@gmail.com</a>
<b>FFAI</b>	Patrick Williams	<a href="mailto:karimcwilly@gmail.com">karimcwilly@gmail.com</a>
<b>PEC</b>	Mike Cosgrove	<a href="mailto:spartika11@gmail.com">spartika11@gmail.com</a>
<b>Project St. Patrick</b>	Chris Schulte	<a href="mailto:crpschulte@gmail.com">crpschulte@gmail.com</a>
<b>Missions &amp; Charities</b>	Chris Konik	<a href="mailto:chriskonik@mindspring.com">chriskonik@mindspring.com</a>
<b>Organizer</b>	Joe Casey	<a href="mailto:qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com">qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Mike Finn	<a href="mailto:FCoolavin@aol.com">FCoolavin@aol.com</a>
<b>Veterans Affairs</b>	Vacant	
<b>Immigration</b>	John Myers	<a href="mailto:johnmyers216@gmail.com">johnmyers216@gmail.com</a>

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

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

### Chaplain's Comments, cont.

treasures of the Church. Lawrence surprised the emperor when he showed up with all the poor, the lame, the sick, the widows, and consecrated virgins of the Church that he could gather. The emperor was not pleasantly surprised but was enraged and called for Lawrence to suffer slow and agonizing torture and painful death. He was placed upon a gridiron rack above a bed of hot coals to be slowly cooked to death.

With the protection of the Holy Spirit, Lawrence was saved from the agonizing pain and once again surprised the emperor after a long time on the rack, he is reported to have said, "I am well done on this side. Turn me over!" Is should be no surprise then that St. Lawrence is the patron saint of cooks, chefs, and comedians!

Brothers, one way we experience God is in surprises. He comes to us when we least expect it. He surprises us when we experience his presence in our lives. We are surprised when we encounter God through others that we do not associate as being someone who is Christ-like. We are also surprised when we recognize God in those who may not be Christians or religious at all. God catches us off guard when He comes to us when we are not expecting it, and pleasantly surprises us. This should

make us stop and think; how many other times has God come to us when we didn't expect it and did not recognize Him?

It is something that should make us pause and ponder. We certainly do not wish to miss God when He comes to us, but sadly, this happens more often than not. We are distracted by what is happening around us. We are distracted by our own efforts to make our life work out the way we want it to and when God comes into our life, we miss His presence because we are not paying attention to what is happening right in front of us.

Brothers, let us be attentive to the presence of God and not miss His presence when He does come to us. Let us be pleasantly surprised when we encounter God in the people we meet. We must allow ourselves to be open to be surprised. We must be open to recognizing God in those to whom we do not expect to see Him. We need to be open to seeing God in the regular day-to-day encounters of our lives, especially when we are sharing our time, our gifts, and our talents as we share the Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity that defines our mission as Hibernians.

God Bless,

Deacon Bruce

### State Organizer's Report

We are nearing the end of the festival season and quickly approaching "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day". It's time to think about ways to increase your membership and possibly bring back some brothers who may not have been as active as they once were. If you're not planning on a big party, maybe try to hold an event within your division and specifically invite those "not seen" members to come out for some fun and comradery. This can be as simple as a picnic with hot dogs and some fun games like corn hole or Irish Road Bowling.

On these same lines, remember I spoke at the convention in June about us coming up with a "**Strategic Plan for Growth**". This can be a combination of all divisions' input of items that work for them. When you come up with some ideas, please forward them to me ([qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com](mailto:qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com)) and I can put together a list to bring to the next State Board meeting. Try to think of how to recruit (and retain) those in the various age groups of 18-30, 31-50 & 50+. Each division in the state has different strategies that work for them and now is the time to share their ideas to help the Order and Ohio in particular.

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

## **AOH Ohio Pro-life Bulletin**

### **ABORTION ON THE BALLOT**

After spending millions of dollars, Planned Parenthood and their fellow abortion groups have qualified to place on Ohio's November ballot an amendment to the Ohio Constitution, a proposal to make abortion legal at any stage of fetal development without any government or parental interference. Similar laws have passed in at least 3 states with 52% to 53,2% approval. There will be much more information about the proposed Ohio Constitutional amendment in the near future. For the moment we all must concentrate on the August 8<sup>th</sup> issue #1 election.

### **THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**

Brother AOH members you may recall part of your past Catholic instruction. There are 7 Spiritual Works of Mercy. I am only to concentrate on the first 2. Number 1.) "Admonish the sinner" and (2.) "Instruct the ignorant"

We do not condemn the sinner we condemn the sin. As a Catholic in good standing with Mother Church, you should point out to friends, neighbors and even family when they maybe ignorant about an action that may very well be sinful. This admonishment should be gentle and with respect. Your purpose should be to shed the moral light of what our Church teaches and preaches. And, as the Gospel teaches, should your listener not want to hear your information, "shake the sand from your sandals and move on".

### **AUGUST ELECTION TALKING POINTS**

The passage of Issue 1 would require a 60% majority to amend the Ohio Constitution and/or By-laws. As currently written Ohio's Constitution only requires 1 vote over 50% to be amended. For over 200 years this has not been an issue but with the electronic age and millions of dollars any single issue could be on the ballot and pass by any 1 vote! Pick your issue, no more hand guns, full taxation of Churches and non public schools, no public display of religious symbols, no state tax breaks for farmers, the list is endless.

Our Founding Fathers wrote in the US Constitution, a requirement of 2/3majority vote of the House and Senate plus ¼ of states, to be amended. Of note the US Constitution has been amended 27 times in in over 234 years while Ohio's Constitution has been amended 172 times in 200 years. Also the majority of states have a 2/3 requirement or better to amend their, constitution,or by-laws. Our own AOH Constitution and By-laws requires a 2/3 majority!

The passage of Issue 1 simply raises the threshold from 1 vote to 60%. This will ensure that all future amendments will have widespread and limit future single interest groups with a specific agenda from amending our constitution.

Further, beginning in 2024, will require a certain percentage of voters from each county to sign the amendment petition. It will eliminate the dominance of a single county having disproportional influence to ballot access.

Issue 1 will not end citizen driven Constitutional amendments or limit the ability to amend Ohio's By-Laws or Revised Code.

### **HYPOCRISY ABOUNDS**

The opponents against Issue 1, including ACLU, Planned Parenthood, League of Women Voters, NAACP, and several Ohio Teachers' Union at the very least 60% and in some organizations 75% majority to modify or amend their constitution and/ or by-laws. It is more of the same this is good for you but not for us!

Respectfully Submitted: David Manley AOH Ohio State Pro Life Chair

## State Historian's Report

### The Donegal Corridor

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian



**Sunderland Flying Boat**

As Taoiseach of Éire, Eamon de Valera maintained a curious kind of neutrality during World War II. Publicly and politically Ireland was neutral, but de Valera conducted neutrality on his own terms. He secretly aided the Allies whenever possible. He turned over captured enemy spies to Britain. He interned enemy airmen that crashed in Ireland for the duration of the war but returned Allied airmen who crashed. Ireland even supplied weather forecasts to the Allies that assisted in setting the date for D-Day. Most of the aid was significant to the war effort, but it was kept low-key and even secret.

Even as de Valera and Ireland were getting battered and bruised by the lies that Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill were telling about “disloyal” Ireland, De Valera never mentioned the many back-channel efforts and concessions he was making to help the Allies. To this day, many Americans still believe the lie that Ireland was refueling German U-Boats during the war.

One of the most secret concessions De Valera made was the agreement that established the *Donegal Corridor*. This was a four mile flight path that allowed British Catalina and Sunderland flying boats from their RAF base on Lough Erne to fly a route directly west, crossing over Irish territory and then on to the Atlantic (the Catalina flying boats were made in America and was also known as a PBY).

On January 21, 1941 a meeting took place between Eamon de Valera and Sir John Maffey, the British ambassador to Ireland. There seems to be no doubt that Churchill was aware of this meeting. The result was a secret agreement that granted permission for aircraft from Lough Erne to fly across Irish territory from Belleek on the border of County Fermanagh over Ballyshannon in County Donegal then out over Donegal Bay to the Atlantic.

The agreement specified some terms: The planes were not permitted to fly over the Irish Army Camp at Finner; the planes were expected to fly at a specified altitude; and, in order to preserve a semblance of neutrality, the purpose of the flights were to be for air-sea rescue exercises only. In actual practice, however, these rules were routinely ignored with the full knowledge of the Irish government.

In addition, there was also a rule that the agreement be kept secret. This was the only rule that seems to have been followed. In fact, the agreement was so secret that it was not until the following month that Irish Army officers responsible for military intelligence found out about it following a crash on Irish territory involving a Catalina flying boat from Lough Erne. De Valera had not even told his own military of the agreement.

The agreement was good news for the British. The flying boats were based at the RAF Castle Archdale, a British base located on the shore of Lough Erne in Northern Ireland. The aircraft were primarily assigned as U-Boat hunters, but were also used for air-sea rescue. Prior to the agreement the flying boats had to fly north then turn west and go around the Donegal coast to get to the Atlantic. Use of the corridor shaved 100 miles off the trip which meant a savings in fuel and it allowed the flying boats to stay out longer.

The longer the planes could stay over the Atlantic, the more effective they were. There was an unprotected area of the Atlantic known to the supply convoys as the “Black Gap” where U-Boats operated free from detection. The gap was the space between the maximum range of protecting Canadian aircraft flying east and the maximum range of British aircraft flying west. The use of the corridor shortened the “Black Gap” meaning that more U-Boats were detected, damaged or sunk. This meant that more supply ships were protected from attack.

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### **State Historian's Report, cont.**

The first flight over the corridor occurred on February 21, 1941. Using the corridor, the flying boats were able to go on missions to the mid-Atlantic, to the west coast of France and to Iceland to protect convoys from U-Boat attack. This was a turning point in the Battle of the Atlantic as the U-Boats became more vulnerable to detection. Some 9 U-boats were confirmed as having been sunk by the Lough Erne Sunderland and Catalina flying boats and many others so badly damaged that they had to return to their base in France.

One of the earliest and most notable successes of flying boats utilizing the Donegal Corridor was the location, chase and sinking of the German battleship Bismarck. The Bismarck was a German dreadnaught battleship and one of the most famous warships of the Second World War. The lead ship of her class named after the 19th century German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, it displaced more than 50,000 tons fully loaded and was the largest warship then commissioned.

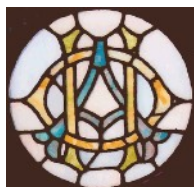
The Bismarck had sunk the pride of the British fleet, HMS Hood and had managed to escape. The ship was on the run, although she had been damaged. The Royal Navy was seeking the Bismarck before the ship could make it back to a safe port in France.

The British had some luck on May 26. In mid-morning an RAF Catalina flying boat from 209 Squadron, Castle Archdale, piloted by American Leonard "Tuck" Smith detected the Bismarck and reported her position to the Royal Navy. From then on, the German ship's position was known to the British. RAF bi-plane torpedo bombers attacked and eventually sank the huge battleship.

To be honest some of the credit for sinking the Bismarck should rightly go to Eamon de Valera. Without his cooperation with the Allies it may have not happened.

Flying the corridor was not always the safest route. There were approximately 1,000 wartime crashes and forced landings in Northern Ireland and 162 in southern Ireland during the war years. One of the first crashes, in March 1941, was a Catalina flying boat from the 240 Squadron, Castle Archdale. It crashed into a mountain near Glenade, County Leitrim. Nine bodies were recovered from wreckage that was strewn all over the mountainside. There were no survivors. In December 1943 a US B-24 bomber crashed into the side of Truskmore Mountain in nearby Ballinrillock, Co. Sligo. Three men died on impact. Local citizens and the Irish rescue service carried seven injured survivors down the mountain to safety. A total of 320 men died in 41 missions involving the Lough Erne flying boats.

In memory of the men from several countries who flew the corridor a special ceremony was held on April 18, 2007. Granite memorial plaques were erected in Ballyshannon, Co Donegal, and across the border four miles away in Belleek, Co Fermanagh, to publicly acknowledge for the first time the passage of flying boats along the Donegal Corridor to the Atlantic.



**AS IMMIGRANTS WE CAME (REVISED)**

It was An Gorta Mór  
That brought millions of us to this shore.  
We fled the hunger, the fever and the pox,  
The oppressive British chains and locks.  
We sought a better life for all  
But when we came, we hit a wall.  
They called us “Mick,” or “Paddy,” or much worse  
To them our religion was a curse.  
We were shot and mocked and killed  
And denied the freedom that was billed.  
N.I.N.A. was their hue and cry,  
And food and shelter they did deny.  
Into many ghettos we were kettled,  
Denied any land that could be settled.  
We were undaunted and we pressed ahead  
And made our gains and earned our bread.  
We’ve made our peace and proudly stand,  
As immigrants who are American.  
The A.O.H., Washington Division,  
Is a continuance of that great vision.  
For forty years we’ve been the voice,  
For Irish families who made that choice.

Chip Rogers, July 23, 2023, Washington County Division #1 AOH 45th Anniversary Celebration.



Msgr. Donal O'Carroll  
Washington County, Ohio  
Division #1



**State Board Update**

Two of the items that I am currently focusing on are communication and getting our State Directors more involved. We need to share more information about what each Division is doing around the State and collaborate on ideas of recruiting, fundraising and what we are doing for Missions and Charities. I believe we can accomplish this by having our Directors John Myers and Chris Schulte be your conduit to the State board. Accordingly, I have split up the Divisions in the State between the two Directors. The Directors will be contacting you Division Presidents on a monthly/bimonthly basis. Please share with them what your Division events are, your recruiting ideas, your concerns or anything else you think is pertinent. This does not mean that you cannot contact me directly. Please feel free to contact me or any of the top four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) at any time with questions or concerns. As a former Division President, I understand that sometimes it is daunting to reach out to the State Board. My hope is that having a designated Director will alleviate any contact issues. As State President my job is to bring Ohio closer together and move us forward. With this collaboration, I believe we can do it.

In trying to split up the Divisions equally between our two Directors, geography dictates that this is not possible. NE Ohio is home to eight of our Divisions so Director John Myers who is from Cleveland will cover all the Divisions in NE Ohio. Director Chris Schulte from Cincinnati will cover the rest of the State.

Regarding communication, a suggestion was made that we put each Division's meeting date, time and location on the State's webpage. Please send your Division's meeting date, time and location to our State Webmaster Marc Wolnitzek at [marc.wolnitzek@gmail.com](mailto:marc.wolnitzek@gmail.com) <<mailto:marc.wolnitzek@gmail.com>> for inclusion. Also, we are trying to encourage members to participate in other Divisions events if possible. If you have an event such as a golf outing, picnic, road bowling tournament or a fundraising event that you would like to publicize, please forward the information to Marc. He will be able to post it to our State of Ohio AOH Facebook page.

As we move closer to fall, I will be sending out information on a Fall State Board meeting. I will try to send the date out as far in advance as possible. We need participation in these meeting to move the AOH forward in Ohio. Please make all attempts to try and attend or send a representative from your Division.

Brothers, thank you for your efforts and I look forward to the next two years.

In Motto,  
Denny Parks

**Mark Your Calendars**

**2024 AOH National Convention**

**Orlando FL**

**August 7 - 11**

**For additional information, See**

**<https://orlandoirish2024.com/home-1>**

## Veterans Affairs Report

### Veterans Affairs Report

#### **1) State of Ohio Veterans Art Exhibition – Call for Submissions**

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS), through its ongoing partnership with the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), is presenting the 2023 Ohio Veterans Art Exhibition, which will be on display in downtown Columbus later this year.

Ohio's active duty and veteran artists are invited to showcase their artistic talents for this wide-ranging and public event, which will be viewable in the first-floor lobby of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts. While space is limited for this exhibition, ODVS welcomes all suitable mediums, including 3-dimensional pieces. They also welcome entries from veteran artists of varying backgrounds and levels of expertise. Keep in mind the artwork does not necessarily need to depict aspects of military service. An expert panel of jurors will review all submissions and give them careful consideration. Selected works will be displayed from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to December 8<sup>th</sup> in the lobby area outside the OAC Riffe Gallery, located in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts at 77 S. High Street in Downtown Columbus.

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Living in Ohio
- A current military member or veteran

For more guidelines, and to submit your artwork, visit <https://ohioveteransartexhibition2023.artcall.org/> contact Ali Yogmour at 614-752-8941 or [Ali.Yogmour@dvs.ohio.gov](mailto:Ali.Yogmour@dvs.ohio.gov) or 614-752-8941.

#### **2) U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Internet Connectivity Program**

If you receive a qualifying VA pension for economically disadvantaged veterans, VA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are making it easier for you to get connected to the internet. Qualifying VA pension recipients will now be able to more easily confirm their eligibility to participate in two FCC benefit programs (Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program), often without needing to submit paperwork to the FCC. The Lifeline program gives eligible households a discount for internet and phone services. The Affordable Connectivity Program provides eligible households with a monthly discount toward internet service. They offer a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from a participating provider if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price of the device. Veterans can sign up for the programs through the FCC National Verifier or by contacting a participating internet service company. Veterans who want assistance signing up for the FCC's programs can get help from their VA care team through a Digital Divide consult. To see if you qualify, visit the Lifeline or Affordable Connectivity Program websites:

<https://www.lifelinesupport.org/do-i-qualify/>

<https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/do-i-qualify/>

Visit the Ohio Department of Veterans Services at [www.ohiovets.gov](http://www.ohiovets.gov) to learn more about veterans benefits as well as the National AOH site at [www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs](http://www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs) for information about services around the country.

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

**Catholic Action**

The month of August falls entirely within the cycle of Ordinary Time. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated August 15, and is traditionally a holy day of obligation, but some U.S. dioceses do not celebrate it as such.

**MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF AUGUST**

Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop and Doctor	Memorial	August 1
John Vianney, Priest	Memorial	August 4
Transfiguration of the Lord	Feast	August 6
Dominic, Priest	Memorial	August 8
Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)		August 9
Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr	Feast	August 10
Clare, Virgin	Memorial	August 11
Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr	Memorial	August 14
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity	August 15
Our Lady of Knock		August 17
Pope Pius X	Memorial	August 21
Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Memorial	August 22
Bartholomew, Apostle	Feast	August 24
Augustine, Bishop and Doctor	Memorial	August 28
Passion of John the Baptist	Memorial	August 29

**IRISH SAINTS OF AUGUST**

**Molua, Abbot** (d. 608) August 4

Also known as Lughaidh or Lugaid, this saint was a boy of Limerick herding livestock who earned a reputation for sanctity and was sent to the monasterey at Bangor, where he was under the tutelage of St. Comgall. After ordination to the priesthood, he was tasked by his abbot with making other monastic foundations, the most important being what came to be called Kyle, in the Slievebloom Mountains. Molua may have made a trip to Rome, where he submitted the monastic rule which he had drawn up to Pope Gregory the Great. Some of the things said about him may result from confusion with another man.

**Abel of Reims, Bishop and Abbot** (d.c. 751) August 5

Abel appears to have been one of the many Irish missionaries who aided St. Boniface in evangelizing the Germanic peoples of continental Europe. He was appointed bishop of Reims by Boniface, but was never able to claim the see due to its occupation by a rival claimant. He ended his days as abbot of Lobbes, in modern-day Belgium.

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**Catholic Action, cont.****Attracta, Virgin**

(6th century?)

August 11

The chronology of this saint is uncertain, but if dates assigning her to the 6th century are trustworthy, then she could not have been associated with St. Patrick, as some sources suggest. Attracta, or Araght, was of noble birth. When her father refused to allow her to consecrate her life to God, she fled from home. She founded a hospice for travellers on Lough Gara, which was in operation till 1539. There are many fanciful stories about her, at least one suggesting that she was not always able to conquer an urge to hold grudges. She is the patroness of the diocese of Achonry.

**Murtagh, Bishop**

(6th century?)

August 12

Also known as Muredach, this is another saint who is not likely to have been a companion of St. Patrick, as some accounts allege. He is reputed to have been the first bishop of Killala.

**Fachanan, Bishop**

(6th century)

August 14

Fachanan is the patron of the diocese of Ross, of which he was the first bishop. He was born at Tulachteann, was a pupil of St. Ita, and founded the monastery of Molana on the Blackwater River. Most significant of all, he founded what came to be the famous monastic school of Rosscarbery in Cork.

**Mochta, Abbot**

(d.c. 535)

August 19

Mochta is mentioned in the lives of St. Patrick, whose disciple he was. Like Patrick, he was a Briton by birth, though his coming to Ireland was under different circumstances, Mochta's parents having brought him there as a child. An interesting story has him being rebuked by St. Patrick for questioning the literal truth of the ages of the patriarchs as recorded in the Old Testament.

**Eoghan, Bishop**

(6th century)

August 23

This saint's name is often Anglicized as "Eugene," though "Owen" is more correct. His life relates that he was one of three boys carried off from their home in Ireland, first to Britain, then to Brittany, where they were enslaved to work at grinding grain. When their master returned one day to find the three reading while angels worked the mill, he ordered their release. They found their way back to Ireland, and Eoghan became a monk with St. Kevin at Kilnamanach in Wicklow. Later, he aided St. Tigernach in the founding of the monastery at Clones, and finally settled with some followers at Ardstraw in Tyrone, where he became the first bishop.

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### **Catholic Action, cont.**

**Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne** (d. 651)

August 31

Aidan's birthplace was Ireland, though we know virtually nothing of his early life there. We are fortunate in having some account of his later life from the English monk, Bede, who was a careful historian. Aidan was a monk of Iona when one of his brethren returned from an unsuccessful mission to the kingdom of Northumbria in northern England. Northumbria had been Christianized earlier from the south, but the interlude of a hostile pagan dynasty had virtually wiped the Faith out there. The sainted King Oswald had requested a monk of Iona to re-evangelize his people, but the chosen monk's extremely rigorist approach bore little fruit. When Aidan suggested that a different approach was needed, his brothers responded by appointing him to the mission. Oswald established him as bishop on the isle of Lindisfarne, and Aidan also established a monastery there, under the rule of St. Columcille. This grew to be one of the greatest monastic establishments in the British Isles. Aidan and his disciples meanwhile succeeded in bringing Northumbria back into the Christian fold. Bede describes him as a man who, though a leader of his society, always remained humble and compassionate. He devoted considerable time to the plight of slaves and unfortunate children.

#### **OUR LADY OF KNOCK**

On the evening of August 21, 1879, in the village of Knock, County Mayo, the housekeeper of the local parish church saw the south outside wall of the church bathed in a light of unknown origin. Going to fetch a friend, she and her companion came back to witness an apparition of the Virgin Mary, with two others figures, who were understood to be St. Joseph and John the Evangelist. In addition, there was an altar, with a cross and a lamb on it. Others gathered and likewise saw the figures. A notable feature of this Marian apparition is that Mary was silent. Acceptance of authenticity was slow--some local ecclesiastical authorities suspected a hoax by the local Protestant constable! Today Knock is the site of a large basilica and a dedicated place of pilgrimage. Once celebrated on August 21 in the Roman calendar, the feast has been moved to August 17 to make way for Pope St. Pius X.

#### **NEWS OF INTEREST**

The coming special election on August 8 will feature just one issue, a measure making it more difficult to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio. It will require those collecting signatures to place a constitutional initiative on the ballot to obtain signatures from 5% of the voters in each of Ohio's 88 counties (current requirement is 44) and will require a super-majority of 60% on election day, rather than the current simple majority, to adopt a constitutional amendment by this means. The measure was introduced to head off a pro-abortion amendment which will almost certainly be on the ballot in November, by requiring it to attain a higher margin of votes in order to succeed. The proposal headed for a vote in November would likely wipe out all restrictions on abortion in Ohio and would also endanger parental control over such things as gender identity and transition in minors. A coalition of pro-life groups is urging a "yes" vote in August and a "no" vote in November. Also urging a "yes" in August are, among others, the Ohio Farm Bureau and the Buckeye Firearms Association. These groups are concerned because radical groups from outside of Ohio have hit on the ease of amending Ohio's Constitution as a means to bring about radical change in Ohio.

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

Fraternally,

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