



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

August 2024

Volume 6, Issue 8

President's Message



Brothers,

I hope you are having a great summer. During this first week of August, the AOH National Convention will be taking place in Orlando, FL. During the convention, we will be electing a new AOH National President. As

you know, the outgoing President is Ohio's own Danny O. I would like to take this time to thank Danny O for his service not only to Ohio, but to the Nation. Danny O has been an elected member of the National Board for the past 16 years. He has dedicated a good portion of his life to making the AOH the premier Irish-American organization that it is. Thank you Danny O from all of your Ohio brothers for your hard work and leadership.

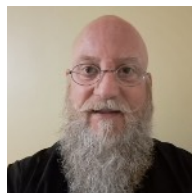
For those of you attending the National Convention, the Ohio AOH will be sharing a hospitality suite with several states including, the Ohio LAOH, Massachussetts, Rhode Island, Montana and Louisiana, and Connecticut, I look forward to seeing you in Florida.

Brothers, if you are traveling in Ohio, please make sure to check out our Ohio AOH webpage before you go. You will find listed all of our Divisions meeting dates and times along with a list of event happenings around the state. If you are ever in the Akron area, you are always welcome at our hall.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

In the Motto,
Denny

Chaplain's Comments



J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis were authors who were born at the end of the 19th century. They lived in England during the great Wars; WWI and WWII, and this experience had an effect on their work. They were both Christian and they incorporated their faith into their works. C.S.

Lewis was a Christian apologist; one who defends the doctrine of the faith from a reasoned, theological position. They were contemporaries, as well as friends. They would get together to discuss the state of society and what they could do to make things better. They were witness to the evils of war and what effect war had on society in general. Each one saw society as fallen; but not forsaken. They decided to use their literary talents and share their Christian beliefs with a world that they felt desperately needed help. J.R.R. Tolkien wrote *The Hobbit/Lord of the Rings* and C.S. Lewis wrote *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

The main characters in each of their great works; Bilbo and Frodo Baggins from the *Hobbit/Lord of the Rings* are diminutive, child-like creatures who pretty much keep to themselves and like thing the way they are, and from the *Chronicles of Narnia*: Peter, Edmund, Susan and Lucy Pevensie; a group of normal siblings going through the normal stages of adolescence.

In *The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings*, Bilbo and Frodo have an advocate and guide, Gandalf the Grey, a powerful and knowledgeable wizard who advises them on the right path to take. However, in the end, each has to go alone into the realm of their enemy; Bilbo into a dragon's cave, and Frodo into the depths of the earth. They each battled with the great evil for days and then emerge victorious over evil as they saved the world. Just as Jesus, *Descended into hell and on the third day he rose again* after defeating death and sin.

In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the Pevensie children enter a fantasy world where they must assume leadership roles to fight the evil forces threatening the land. Their mentor and guide is Aslan, a lion who is a god-like

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Chaplain's Comments, cont.

figure and the champion of Good. The children each have personal encounters with Aslan as they are prepared for battle. Towards the end of the war, Aslan calls a truce and makes a covenant for the all the creatures of the land. He agrees to, and is offered as a sacrifice for the whole kingdom on a stone altar. Each one of the children has to make a choice, shaped by their personal encounters with Aslan, that will determine the outcome of the war. They chose rightly, and Aslan rises from the dead to rule over the kingdom.

The common factors in each story are the main characters are not your classic hero/heroine. Each character believes himself/herself to be nobody special; small and insignificant. They feel as if they have not been prepared for the task at hand. They each struggle against the forces of evil they encounter every step of journey. They each have an advocate and guide to help form their conscience to make right decisions. They each use their particular talents and gifts to ensure good defeats evil. With perseverance and doing what they know is right; they succeeded.

You are familiar with the Gospel about the mustard seed. The characters in the stories are like mustard seeds. They are the least likely characters to defeat the greatest evil. With their talents, the help of their friends, and the presence of their advocate and guide, they did just that. And this, my brothers, is what Jesus meant in the parable of the mustard seed. We are mustard seeds. In us, as we nurture our faith and grow in relationship with God and each other, we are furthering the growth of the Kingdom of Heaven. We may think we do not have anything to offer God in building the kingdom, but the opposite is true; we have all to offer God. We were all created as individuals with individual characteristics that are particular only to us, and we are all graced by God with individual gifts and talents. We each have a particular role to play in God's plan of salvation. Like the characters in the stories, we need to work together to help each other nurture our talents, use our gifts and grow together in relationship to God and one another to build the Kingdom of Heaven and show society it is present here on earth.

The gospel says, "With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them." This is how we hear many of the instructions from Jesus in the Gospel story. The Gospel finishes," but to his own disciples he explained everything in private." Jesus continues to guide us through the Holy Spirit. This is how we will have things explained to us in private; through reading, praying and sharing the scripture messages with others.

We also receive instruction through our personal prayer. In prayer we have a personal conversation with God and the Spirit directs our thoughts and actions based upon this personal experience. Our conscience is the Holy Spirit working in us on the most personal level. Our conscience guides us on our life journey and determines what choices we make. These choices affect our lives and the lives of those around us. This is how we share in the fight against evil. We are given the gifts and talents necessary for the Kingdom of Heaven to be built and present on Earth. J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis used their gifts of writing and creating stories that captured the imagination of thousands to share the message of Jesus and assist in building the Kingdom of Heaven.

The characters in *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia* looked into themselves and found what gifts and talents they had to offer in their struggle against the evil of the world. We too, must look into ourselves and see what we have to offer. We struggle together to defeat the evil that assails us, and it is only together that we can win.

Many of us are older and may think there is not much we can do. I tell you that it is many of our older brothers that are out there representing the Hibernians and showing our younger members what it is to be a Hibernian. It is never too late to get started. It took J.R.R. Tolkien over twenty years to put his stories together!

Our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity brings us together as brothers in Christ. This is how we can help bring light into the world. This is how we show the presence of Christ in the world as we work together as brothers and help defeat evil in the world.

Reflect on our motto, and reflect and pray about how you can contribute to your division. You have talents and gifts that are unique to you and only you, but they need to be shared with others for our organization to be successful and be an organization that others would become a part of. Our divisions are getting smaller over time due to attrition and lack of new members. Remember the mustard seed grows to become one of the biggest bushes if it flourishes. Let us flourish brothers as we use our gifts and talents to spread our branches in the world through Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity so others may see the good that we do and find comfort and safety in our branches amid the violence and evil in the world today, and hopefully, your division will grow to be one of the biggest in the country.

God Bless,

Deacon Bruce

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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

jicasey973@gmail.com

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

Veteran Affairs Report

1. The website military.com has a good summary of veteran benefits in Ohio. You have to sign up to website to have access .

A few listed benefits are:

-‘Veterans are entitled to 20% added credit on Ohio civil service exam...’

-‘.....eliminated fees for educator licenses for any initial, or a renewal of an, educator license, permit or certificate for veterans or current active duty...’

-10% discount on camping / lodging at Ohio State Parks.

2. Ohio War Orphan and Severely Disabled Veterans’ Children Scholarship Program

<https://highered.ohio.gov/educators/financial-aid/sgs/wos/wos>

‘...awards tuition assistance to the children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict.’

(I, along with most of my siblings , are grateful recipients of the benefits of this program)

3. In addition to your DD form 214, a Veteran ID card or a Veteran Benefit Summary Letter (Known as VA award letter) may be needed for certain benefits:

Veteran ID Card: <https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic/>

Veteran Benefits Summary Letter: <https://www.va.gov/records/download-va-letters/>

-Ohio Military License Plate information:

<https://www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-geninfo.aspx#collapseG>

From Ohio BMV: drivers license with ‘Armed Forces Designation’

‘Any veteran , active duty, or reserve member of the United States armed may have an ‘Armed Forces’ emblem added to the bottom right hand corner of their Ohio driver license or identification card’

(DD 214, active or retired military ID, Veteran ID card, OR copy of current orders required at any Deputy Registrar license agency)

R/S

Doug Gerrard Veteran’s Affair Chair, 513-615-7469, Dpgerrard@aol.com

Rupert the Owl

For those of you who are wondering, Rupert the Owl is healing wonderfully. He is flying around and eating prey. They are still working on his hunting skills and helping to increase his vision. Hopefully within the next month he will be able to be returned to the wild. If anyone is interested in donating to the Medina Raptor Center, please visit their website at www.medinaraptorcenter.org/donate. Make sure you mention “Rupert, the barred owl who flew into a car in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park”, and your donation will go directly to his care. If you do not mention him, your donation will go to the many other birds they are taking care of. Thank you all for your prayers and support. Peace be with you.

Deacon Bruce

State Historian's Report

There Will Be Oil

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian



The 2007 Academy Award winning movie *There Will Be Blood* is based on the 1927 book *Oil!* by author Upton Sinclair. The book was based on the life of Irish-American oil baron Edward L. Doheny. In the real story there is oil, blood and plenty of scandal.

Edward Laurence Doheny was born in Fon du Lac, Wisconsin August 10, 1856. His father, Patrick Doheny, escaped County Tipperary during Ireland's Great Hunger, only one step ahead of starvation. Edward graduated high school in 1872. His mother hoped that Edward would become a priest, but he took a surveying job and headed west.

Doheny tried his hand at mining gold in the Black Hills. When the Army chased him out, he moved to the New Mexico territory. There, Doheny and a partner, Charles Canfield, worked several silver mines. They made a small income but never quite hit the "big strike."

In 1883 Doheny married Carrie Wilkins and eked out a small income in Kingston, New Mexico and later in Silver City. Canfield stuck it rich on his own silver claim, sold his holdings and moved to Los Angeles, California. Doheny joined him there in 1891.

In California, Canfield lost the fortune he had earned and Doheny also had financial woes. One day, a penniless Doheny was standing on a street corner in Los Angeles hoping to find a job to feed his family. He noticed a wagon hauling barrels of black oily tar and asked the driver about the contents. The driver explained that the black tar oozed out of the ground in the center of Los Angeles. Doheny recognized this as an opportunity.

Borrowing \$400 Doheny and Canfield leased a parcel of land in the middle of Los Angeles. The entire parcel was a swamp bubbling over with the tar-like substance. They dug their first well and on November 4, 1892 they struck oil. The well produced 40 barrels a day that they sold for \$2 a barrel. Doheny wrote, "I had found gold and I had found silver and I had found lead, but this ugly looking substance was the key to something more valuable than any or all of these metals." He was right.

Selling crude oil and buying and selling leases to drill more wells made the partners millionaires. By 1900 California was producing 4 million barrels of oil a day and Doheny was reaping profits from most of it.

Everywhere Doheny and Canfield drilled they struck oil. They formed the Pan American Oil and Transportation Company. Soon they were drilling for oil in Mexico, where their first gusher shot 402,000 barrels in the air before being brought under control.

Feeling abandoned, Doheny's wife left him in 1900 and filed for divorce. Six months after the divorce was final, Doheny married his second wife, a company employee, also named Carrie. Then tragedy struck. His first wife committed suicide by drinking battery acid.

Doheny became involved in politics in 1912. An old friend from his New Mexico days, Albert B. Fall was elected US Senator for New Mexico. Fall had become friendly with Ohio Senator Warren G. Harding. The two senators shared mutual interests in poker and alcohol. Warren G. Harding was elected President of the United States in 1920 and he appointed Albert B. Fall as Secretary of the Interior.

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State Historian's Report, cont.

The US Navy was in charge of huge oil reserves under Teapot Dome in Wyoming and Elk Hills in California. At Doheny's urging, Fall proposed that leases be given to private companies to extract the oil reserves and store it for the Navy in storage tanks to be built at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

A complicated lease, construction and royalty scheme was drawn up with Doheny's company getting the lease on Elk Hills, as well as, the tank construction contract. Harry F. Sinclair's oil company received the lease for Teapot Dome. For his part in the deal Albert Fall received "personal loans" and other gifts from the two companies amounting to over \$404,000. The loans were bribes. A loan of \$100,000 came from Doheny. Doheny's son Ned and his friend and secretary, Hugh Plunkett, personally delivered a black bag of cash to Fall in Washington. Fall became one of the most corrupt members of the corrupt Harding Administration.

Warren Harding died in August 1923 just as the infamous Teapot Dome Scandal hit the papers. The US Senate began an investigation into the affair in 1923. Doheny admitted loaning Fall \$100,000, but his defense was that it was not a bribe because that amount was, to him, as small as \$20 or \$25 to others. Fall claimed that Harding had approved the leasing deals.

On June 30, 1924 a Washington grand jury indicted Albert Fall, Harry F. Sinclair, Edward L. Doheny and Ned Doheny. Thus began a series of trials that would last for seven years. The courts voided the agreements and ordered the oil companies to repay the government (Doheny repaid \$47 million). Fall and Sinclair were found guilty and sentenced to prison terms. Incredibly, Doheny was found innocent of all bribery charges, not once, but twice.

While the trials were in progress, family tragedy struck again. On February 16, 1929 Doheny's son, Ned, was found shot dead along with his secretary Hugh Plunkett. The question of just who-shot-who and why remains a mystery to this day. Evidence at the crime scene had been moved. Allegedly, powder burns were found on Ned's hand, but the gun was found in Hugh's. Speculation was that Ned and Hugh had argued about the bribery trial. Ned's wife Lucy claims that Hugh shot Ned and then committed suicide. Hugh had a history of emotional problems.

Despite his ethical shortcomings, Doheny was a philanthropist, mostly to Catholic and Irish causes. Doheny served as director of several Irish-American organizations and worked for Irish independence. He underwrote a \$4 million fund for Irish relief. Doheny provided funding for the construction of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Los Angeles. The *Edward L. Doheny, Jr. Memorial Library* at USC was built in 1932 with a gift of \$1.1 million. The Doheny mansion was deeded to the Catholic Church and is now the Doheny campus of Mount St. Mary's College.

Doheny died on September 8, 1935 of old age at the age of 79. At his peak Doheny was worth over \$100 million and was the richest man in America. "There is nothing extraordinary about me," Doheny once said, "I am just an ordinary, old-time, impulsive, irresponsible, improvident, sort of a prospector."

Division News

Irish Brigade Div. #1, Medina Co.

Our division will sponsor the a Blood Drive drive on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at Our Lady of Grace church at 1088 Ridge Road in Hinckley. The blood drive will take place between noon and 6:00 pm. This is our normal meeting day, but we won't be gathering later as the National Convention is the week prior.

Scott Manley, President, Irish Brigade Division

Blustone Div. #3, Cuyahoga Co

Most of you are gearing up for Orlando and Bluestone wishes you safe travels and a great convention. There are a couple events we would like to share to provide the opportunity to "save the date."

- 1) Halfway to St. Patrick's Day. 9/17 Guardians game @ 6:40pm. Paul Davis Pennant District is the top level in right field and is a great space (large area) to enjoy the game. Bluestone will have a pregame at the Flat Iron, upstairs, in the Flats. Irish Buffett with bangers, shepherds pie and salmon- mash/veggies/salad/wash for \$25. Flat Iron has a complementary shuttle to and from the game. Parking is \$3.
- 2) Hibernian Mass @ the Seminary. 9/22. Mass is @ 10am and brunch will follow at 11am in their dining hall. It is always impressive to spend time with the seminarians, the parish leaders of tomorrow. <https://www.borromeoseminary.org/>
- 3) Irish Game Day. 10/12 @ John Carroll University. Irish Cultural Tailgate @10am. Inaugural Shamrock Game @ 1:30p. National anthems by Hibernian Mary Agnes Kennedy and coin toss by Mark Owens- Bluestone Hibernian, Honorary Irish Consul in Ohio and JCU grad. Irish organizations will be recognized throughout the game. All Hibernians will be acknowledged at the end of the 3rd quarter, and we would love to have our Ohio Brothers on the field with the Cleveland Hibernians. This is a great opportunity to support the university, network with its students and venerate the legacy of John Carroll. Notre Dame plays at 3:30pm and Ohio State is at Oregon, time is tbd but it will be a later game. We will be at Black Forest for the after party and the ND game. It is on Mayfield Road, a few minutes from the game.

Robert Mullin, President, Bluestone Division

St. Brendan Div. #3, Summit Co.

The 2024 Riverfront Irish Festival was another success. We have had record breaking festivals four years in a row. This is due in no small part to the hours of work put in by the festival committee. I am so grateful for all the hard work and would like to give the committee recognition for their hard work. Without such a dedicated group of people, the festival would no longer be possible. Now we begin planning for our 30th year. Thank you all!

This year we invited our Brothers and Sisters from the Mark Heffernan and Margaret Judge Divisions to assist in the planning and execution of the festival in a planned preparation for the festival becoming a joint county event next year. The response was overwhelming and they were subjected to a very short learning curve in why our festival is so successful. We asked them and they responded within our motto of Friendship and Unity to help provide Christian Charity to our community.

Michael Namsick, President St. Brendan Division

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. The apparition of Our Lady of Knock, originally celebrated on the date of its first occurrence—August 21—has been moved to August 17, to make way for Pope St. Pius X. The feast day of one of the greatest of the Church Fathers, St. Augustine, follows that of his mother, St. Monica, whose prayers were instrumental in bringing him into the faith.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF AUGUST

Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop and Doctor	Memorial	August 1
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
Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr	Memorial	August 14
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Solemnity	August 15
Our Lady of Knock		August 17
Bernard		August 20
Pope Pius X	Memorial	August 21
Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Memorial	August 22
Bartholomew, Apostle	Feast	August 24
Monica		August 27
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 monastery 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.**Blaan, Bishop (d.c. 590?)**

August 11

Blaan, also known as Blane, was a Scot, but spent seven years in Ireland under the tutelage of Sts. Comgall and Canice. He then returned to his native land, where he became a bishop.

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 travelers 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.

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.

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Catholic Action, cont.

NEWS OF INTEREST

June 29: Bon Secours Mercy Health, which operates a number of hospitals in Ohio, has issued a clarification of its practices, after some secular media outlets reported that the Catholic chain was performing “medically necessary abortions.” The statement insists that the hospitals are not performing abortions, but may, in emergency circumstances, perform procedures to treat a pregnant woman that may indirectly result in the death of the fetus. The hospital system pointed to the “Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services” of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), which states that no direct killing may be done, no matter what the reason, and that direct abortion is never medically necessary. Operations, treatments, and medications, having as their direct purpose the cure of a proportionately serious condition, are permitted when they cannot be safely postponed till after the unborn child is viable. This may include removal of a fallopian tube in an ectopic pregnancy. In the treatment of a miscarriage, the child is already deceased.

Last month we mentioned that Ohio’s Safe Act, which would ban transgender medical procedures on minors and prevent biological males from competing in sports with and sharing locker space with girls has been enjoined by a Franklin County court and relief from the injunction denied by the State Supreme Court. As this is being written in late July, the case is being argued in court.

In the company of our National Pro-Life Chairman, Larry Squires, I recently attended the National Eucharistic Congress. For a fuller report on this truly inspiring event, see my upcoming contribution to the *Hibernian Digest*.

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

Pat Lally, lally8404@hotmail.com , 330-792-7135

Ohio AOH Missions & Charities

Chris Konik, Ohio AOH Missions & Charities Chair

Bishop Phonsie Honored at AOH/LAOH National Convention with Fr. Flanagan Award

Bishop Alphonsus “Phonsie” Cullinan (Diocese of Waterford and Linsmore, Ireland) has been selected as the inaugural Father Edward J. Flanagan Human Dignity Award recipient. The award will be presented on Friday, August 9, 2024, during the Irish Night banquet at the 2024 AOH/LAOH National Convention in Florida. It is conferred to an individual or group outstanding in the defense of the unborn or in advocating for those who suffer from injustice, poverty, homelessness, abandonment or other forms of societal neglect.

Friends of the Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk – Sept 28

FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPHINUM again present their 4-Miler Run/Walk at the Pontifical College Josephinum, in Columbus, Ohio. The event features a new, one-loop four mile course this year that will take runners and walkers on a tour of the campus and surrounding neighborhoods.

The event will start at 9:00 a.m. Proceeds are used for scholarships and the financial needs of seminarians at the PCJ. More information and registration can be found here: <https://m3ssports.com/events/josephinum-4-miler-run-walk>

Statewide Eucharistic Pilgrimage – Join Bishops Thomas, Fernandes, Malesic and Woost

To mark this year of going out on mission during the National Eucharistic Revival, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio invite all the faithful to make a pilgrimage to the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

Come celebrate the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Visit www.ohiocathconf.org/pilgrimage for details.

Sinn Féin Largest Political Party In the North

Judge Michael C. Mentel*

The July 4th election in the United Kingdom saw a seismic political change in Britain and the north. Not only did the Labour Party have a landslide victory over its rival, the “Tory” Conservatives, Sinn Féin became the largest party in the House of Commons from the north for the first time. Sinn Féin coasted to victory, handily defending its seven seats in the Commons, and celebrated the victory of new Sinn Féin candidate Pat Cullen, the former Chief of the U.K. nursing union who appeared on the ballot for the first time. Cullen won the Fermanagh-South Tyrone constituency that was once held by Provisional IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands MP as he was dying on hunger strike in 1981. Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald and First Minister Michelle O’Neill celebrated Cullen’s victory as one of the Party’s newest high-profile recruits. Cullen’s margin of victory in the constituency was 4,500 votes, a victory described in some media outlets as a “romp”. As a matter of policy, Sinn Féin MP’s refuse to take their Parliamentary seats due to the requirement to give an oath of allegiance to the Crown.

Another surprise from the parliamentary elections in the north were the losses suffered by the Democratic Unionist Party (the DUP). The DUP first gained power in the north 54 years ago under the leadership of the Reverend Ian Paisley, a hard core unionist who later would become friends with his arch enemy, Martin McGuinness. The DUP and other unionist parties were able to maintain political control in the north through “gerrymandering” certain unionist constituencies. Paisley’s son, Ian Paisley Jr., was elected to his father’s seat in North Antrim, keeping it in the family for 54 years until this election. Paisley Jr. lost to Jim Allister, a former member of the DUP who is now a member of the Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV), a party which he founded in

2007 that rejects the Good Friday Agreement and the peace process in the north.

Juxtaposed against other parties in the north, Sinn Féin is gaining momentum in the growing Catholic communities. Brian Feeney, a political analyst who focuses on the politics of the north, attributes Sinn Féin’s support in the north’s Catholic constituencies to those 30 years old and under. “The under-30’s in the nationalist community overwhelmingly support Sinn Féin. They look to Sinn Féin and want to vote for change....” With this momentum and growth comes the possibility of a border poll on Irish unification. The new British Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, sees the prospect of a border poll being called during the Labour government’s five year term as unlikely. Notwithstanding, the Good Friday Agreement compels a border poll when the political climate in the north indicates that unification is desired. It also compels the Prime Minister to be impartial in his decision to call for a border poll. Starmer recently stated that a border poll “...is provided in the Good Friday Agreement. Today is a recommitment to that and the approach and role of the UK government in that [process] as an honest broker.”

With Labour’s victory comes the obligation that it fulfill its campaign promises. During its campaign, Labour made a commitment to repeal the Legacy Act passed by Parliament, becoming law in September of last year. The Act provides immunity to British troops and anyone who committed unlawful acts during the troubles. Immunity is granted on the condition that a perpetrator confesses his or her crime to a new inquiry commission set up under the Act. The Act was designed to protect British troops and the RUC who committed unlawful acts during the troubles. Victims and victims’ families are barred under the Act from bringing any legal action against anyone given immunity and anyone granted immunity cannot be criminally prosecuted. The Legacy Act is being challenged by the Irish

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Sinn Féin Largest Political Party In the North, cont.

government before the European Court of Human Rights and is also being appealed by the British government in a separate action to the Court of appeals, Belfast, following a lower court decision finding the Act to be unlawful.

The Labour government committed during its campaign to repeal and replace the Legacy Act. The question is to what end and to what degree is the Labour government committed to repeal? Is it going to repeal the act in full or only in part? Will victims and their families be allowed to pursue vindication in the courts under a new bill? Will suspended inquests and investigations be allowed to continue following a repeal?

During a visit to the north Prime Minister Starmer met with several northern political parties to discuss a host of issues. Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald stated after her meeting with the Prime Minister that she and her party had “a very

constructive, very friendly” meeting on “...issues around the legacy legislation...We very much welcome commitment to repeal [the Act].”

The unprecedented political changes occurring in the north and the United Kingdom cannot be ignored. The people of the north have spoken. Sinn Féin is now the largest political party in the north. It is the largest delegation to Westminster from the north, it holds the largest membership in the Stormont Assembly, and is the largest political party in local government. It is now time for us, the Irish diaspora in the United States, to speak. We must contact our elected U.S. Senators and Representatives insisting that they impart to the British government the repeal of the Legacy Act and to pledge their backing of U.S. economic support to Ireland when the time for unification comes.

**Judge Michael C. Mentel is the Presiding Judge on the Ohio Court of Appeals Tenth District.*



State Organizer's Report

Some of us will be attending the National Convention this month. Unfortunately, because of prior commitments I am not able to be there. If anyone does see information on recruiting and retaining members, be sure to pick up a copy. They could have new or different ideas not thought of in the past. Have fun at the convention, sit in on the business meetings and enjoy the company of Hibernians from across the nation.

I was able to attend the National Organizer's two break-out sessions on Zoom in mid-July. We discussed both recruitment and retention. One of the key items mentioned was that “Everyone is responsible for recruitment”. There are several ways to recruit new members and what works at one division may not work at others. The National Organizer had us view a PowerPoint Presentation on ways to recruit and retain members and also for growth of the order in new areas. He will be sending out an updated version in the near future and I will take the key items and relate them to everyone in the upcoming articles.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of your summer with family and friends.

Joe Casey, State Organizer

Rich Masterson AOH/LAOH Irish Open

This golf outing will help raise funds for the **2025 Ohio State AOH/LAOH Convention** being held right here in Summit County!

**RICH MASTERSON
AOH/LAOH
IRISH OPEN**

**GOLF
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HELP FUND THE 2025
OHIO STATE CONVENTION
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**\$60
PER
PERSON** **PAR 3
COURSE**

**40 PLAYER SCRAMBLE
2 GROUPS**
1st Group 9:00 a.m.
2nd Group 1:00 p.m.

Includes:
-Cart
-Lunch
-Prizes

FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER CALL or TEXT: 330-326-3686

See Page 15 for more info and to sign up!

Masterson Golf Outing

Scramble format will be used during this nine-hole tournament. You may register as a twosome, an individual, and/or consider a sponsorship. There will be 2 shotgun starts at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each time slot.

ENTRY FEE

\$60 per person includes driving range, green fees, cart, lunch and prizes.

REGISTRATION/SPONSORSHIP

Please email cjmckenzie2002@yahoo.com or call/text: 330-328-2684.

If you would like to donate a raffle basket prior to event, please email cjmckenzie2002@yahoo.com

Name/Logo/text for sign can be emailed to cjmckenzie2002@yahoo.com. Please include Name/Organization/Company, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone and email.

REGISTRATION

Challenge Golf Course 1596 Flickinger Road Akron, Ohio 44312

\$60 PER GOLFER – Tee Times: ____ 9:00 a.m. (lunch around 11:30 a.m. ____ 1:00 p.m. (lunch around 3:30 p.m.)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER AUGUST 18, 2024

Player No. 1 Name _____

Address City State Zip _____

Phone _____

Player No. 2 Name _____

Address City State Zip _____

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Hole Sponsorship \$50

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Name/logo inclusion on
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