

Ancient Order of HIBERNIANS Ohio State Board Newsletter February 2023 Volume 5 Issue 2

President's Message



Happy February, Brothers! A short but full month, as February is a time of celebration and preparation – celebrating our Founding Fathers and past national leaders on Presidents Day, celebrating our loved ones on Valentine's Day, the start of the Lenten Season of preparation and penance, and

preparations for the March activities that honor our Patron Saint, St. Patrick.

We've submitted another request to the Governor, asking for his **second Ohio Irish-American Heritage Month Proclamation**. I encourage all of you to reach out to your local officials and ask them to join our Governor in recognizing our community by issuing a similar proclamation.

It's **STILL report and dues submittal season, and** the due date is February 15th. Brothers, you know what you must do. <u>Timely report submission is a</u> <u>critical administrative and leadership task</u>. Your Division leaders should take this responsibility seriously. To help with the work, we've already sent the End-Of-Year Checklist to all Divisions. As a follow-up, I'll be making phone calls to ensure completion. There should be no excuses, no reasons for failure, to act in a correct, timely fashion. Just get it done. This includes:

- Form 9, which should be submitted soon after new officers are elected and installed.
- Form 11 and dues assessment checks.
- Your IRS reporting.

Recruiting and Retention: Remember our base 5% net growth expectation of all Divisions (with a 10% stretch goal!). What have you done lately to help your Division reach that goal?

Brothers, where and when you deem appropriate, I'll be glad and grateful to attend your meetings and events.

Continued on Page 2

Chaplain's Comments



<u>As We Prepare to Enter the Season of</u> <u>Lent</u>

The season of Lent begins on February 22nd. this year with the observance of Ash Wednesday, a day of abstinence from meat for all Catholics and a day of fasting for all Catholics between the ages of 18 and

59 except for those who are exempt for reasons of health.

But do we really understand what it means to fast and to abstain? While the letter of the law is very clear, the spirit of the law is often misconstrued. For example, eating lobster on a Friday during Lent certainly fulfills the letter of the law. But I would suggest that it violates the spirit of the law. Rather, we can learn from the prophet Isaiah, who offered the following reflection on what it means to offer a fast that is acceptable to the Lord:

Is this the manner of fasting I would choose, a day to afflict oneself?

To bow one's head like a reed, and lie upon sackcloth and ashes?

Is this what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose:

releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke;

Setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke?

Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house;

Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own flesh?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall be quickly healed;

Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. (Isaiah 58:5-8)

Continued on Page 2

Page 2

President's Message, cont.

Please feel free to send invites, and you can bet I'll attend if at all possible.

Ohio State Board Meeting, via Zoom, at 7pm on Monday February 13th. Zoom link, agenda, and other details to come soon via separate email.

As we embark on these celebrations and preparations, always remember: We're called to be Christ to all we meet, and we can make that come alive, both individually and as an organization, by living every day by our Motto of "Friendship, Unity, and True Christian Charity".

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.

In other words, when we fast or practice abstinence, we should not be trying to get around the law by lavishing ourselves with luxuries. Nor should we go about punishing ourselves, as if to say, "God, look at how good I am". True fasting is not about us at all. It is about learning to put ourselves in the shoes of those who are less fortunate. That is why true fasting always goes hand in hand with the giving of alms. My fasting and abstinence should allow me to share what I have with those who are in need—the poor, the hungry, the homeless, those who are afflicted.

But just as important as the act of sharing in their need is the attitude with which I do it. St. Basil once wrote: "Let us fast an acceptable and very pleasing fast to the Lord. True fast is the estrangement from evil, temperance of tongue, abstinence from anger, separation from desires, slander, falsehood and perjury. Privation of these is true fasting." Perhaps fasting might mean for any one of us giving up whatever idol keeps us from knowing, loving and serving God—whatever idol prevents us from seeing Christ in those around us. For some of us, that idol is sugar. For others, it might be alcohol, or caffeine, or something more subtle, such as gossip, or prestige, or pride. For all of us, it means recognizing who we are and who God has created us to be in true humility.

Let us learn, then, from St. Basil and from the prophet Isaiah what it means to fast according to the spirit of the law, so that we focus not on ourselves, not on our needs or desires, but on the good of those around us. It is only then, Isaiah tells us, that our vindication will go before us and the glory of the Lord shall be our rear guard.

As we prepare to enter into the season of Lent in the next few weeks, may the Lord be with you and bless you, that you might know what it means to know him, to love him, and to serve him.

Fr. John Keehner Chaplain for the State of Ohio and National Chaplain



Volume 5 Issue 2

Officers	OHIO DIVISIONS
Chaplein Er John Keehner	County Division President
Chaplain Fr. John Keehner jkeehner@youngstowndiocese.org	Clermont Douglas Gerrard dpgerrard@aol.com
President Bob Harper harper.bg@pg.com	Cuyahoga Board Jim Kilbane JJK5756@hotmail.com
Vice President Dennis Parks	Cuyahoga #2 Charles O'Neil oduffy317@aol.com
dparks121@yahoo.com	Cuyahoga #3 Robert Mullin bobbymulls@yahoo.com
Secretary Pete Chrystal pvchrystal59@gmail.com	Franklin Bruce McPherson <u>hilliardmcpherson@gmail.com</u>
Treasurer Liam Lehn	Hamilton Christopher Schulte crpschulte@gmail.com
liamlehn@gmail.com	Lucas Robert McMahon aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com
Director John Myers johnmyers216@gmail.com	Mahoning Ray Kelly IV aohrpk@gmail.com
Director Patrick Williams	Medina Joe Gill wildirishjoe@icloud.com
karimcwilly@gmail.comPast PresidentRonHagan	Montgomery Art Gannon artgannon@aol.com
rhagan@hagancpa.com	Stark #1 Tom Fickes
	Summit Board Chuck Allen

٦

Г

Appointed Officers

Catholic Action	Patrick Lally <u>lally8404@hotmail.com</u>	
Pro Life	Dave Manley	ruthannanddavid@gmail.com
FFAI	Patrick Williar	ms <u>karimcwilly@gmail.com</u>
PEC	Scott Partika	<u>spartika11@gmail.com</u>
Missions & Charities	Chris Konik	chriskonik@mindspring.com
Organizer	Joe Casey	qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com
Historian	Mike Finn <u>FCoolavin@aol.com</u>	
Veterans Affairs	Danny Eakins <u>dannyeakins@hotmail.com</u>	
Immigration	John Myers johnmyers216@gmail.com	

VISIONS

Summit Board Chuck Allen Charles4684@att.net

Summit #2 Dale Norris danorris64@gmail.com

Summit #3 Michael Namsick mpnamsick@gmail.com

Trumbull Marty McQuaide emcqu@aol.com

Washington Will Rathbone Willrathbone@gmail.com

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

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



The state of Ohio Hibernian convention is right around the corner, June 23 to 24 and we've been working hard to make this convention a very successful and fun event....<u>The Place</u> to Be in '23!!!

The 2023 convention is being hosted by the Cincinnati St. Patrick's Division #1 and the State of Ohio LAOH. The venue is the Holiday Inn, Eastgate. (4501 Eastgate Blvd. Cincinnati, Ohio 45245). Please see the accompanying hotel information to reserve your room online or by calling Holiday Inn.

Registration is now open and we encourage you to sign up as soon a possible.

Friday night "ice breaker" will have a Polynesian theme. Bring out your luau shirts and hula skirts for a fun evening.

Saturday night will have Mass at 4:30 and dinner at 6pm.

Please see the registration form for details. All information is located at ohioaoh.com/stateconvention.

For registration questions contact: Bob Eveleigh at eveleighbob@aol.com

For program ad information contact Tim Oliver at toliver33@live.com

For hospitality rooms contact Gary Schlegel at <u>gsschlegel@gmail.com</u>.

			Po	\[June 23-2	4th. 2023		
1			T I				- F	loliday Inn	-	e	
		7				45	01 Eastgate		-		245
l		7									
				//			Н	osted & Sp	onsored b	v :	
· · · ·		-		/			St. Patrick			•	/
	Ci	INCINN	ATI 🌽					hio LAOH	-		
		2023									
											1
				REG	STRA	FION F	ORM				
Name:											
Address:											
City:					State:			Zip:			
Tel:					Email:						
	AOH			LAOH			GUEST				
CURRENT	OFFICE:						(NAME:)				
DIVISION:							COUNTY:				
DIVISION.											
REGISTRA	TION AND	VOTING:	ALL A	OH/LAOI	H MEMBER	S MUST SEI	.ECT,		\$25	.00	
			UNLE	ESS SIGNI	NG UP FOF	R FULL PACE	(AGE				
SOCIAL EV	ENTS:										
ICE BREAK	ER FRID	AY, JUNE 2	3rd		Includes	s 2 Drink Tickets \$70.00					
						Pot Stickers	, Sweet Thai	Chicken Me	atballs, Ve	ggie Platter	·
	Shrimp Co	ocktail Sho	oters, Capro	ese Salad	Skewers						
SATURDA		JUNE 24t	h		Includes	2 Drink Tick	ets		\$110	0.00	
	Entertain	ment to be	announce	d at a late	r date						
Choice of	Entrée:		Sliced Roa		J.	pped Mashe	d Potatoes,	Seasonal Ve	getable Me	dley	
			Stuffed He				Potatoes, G	ilazed Baby	Carrots & E	Broccoli	
			Dietary Re	striction	please adv	vise)					
	All Entree	s include ł	Iouse Salad	i w/ Ranc	n or Balsan	nic Vinaigre	tte, Chees	ecake w/ B	erry Sauce	e or Choco	late Cake
FULL PACI	(AGE (INC	LUDES REG	ISTRATION	AND ALL	EVENTS):						
							GU	ST:	\$175	5.00	
								тот	AL:		
	1		R	EGISTRAT	ION DEAD	LINE JUN	E 16th, 202	3			
		Pl				2023 Ohio			on		
			Complet	-							

2023 OHIO AOH/LAOH STATE CONVENTION ROOM INFORMATION



Online reservations may be made at ohioaoh.com/state-convention

Rooms may also be reserved by calling 513-752-4400 or 1-800-HOLIDAY and referencing block code HIB.

Rooms are subject to availability and must be reserved by June 1, 2023, or they will be released.

Rooms may be reserved for 6/22, 6/23, & 6/24 for the group rate.

\$130 a night – 1 King Bed Standard or 1 King Bed w/ Sofa Bed or 2 Double Bed \$155 a night – 1 King Bed Suite w/ Sofa Bed \$190 a night – 1 King 2 Bedroom Suite w/ Sofa Bed \$210 a night – 1 King 2 Bedroom Large Suite

(plus applicable taxes, all rooms include breakfast)

Volume 5 Issue	2		Page 7
	Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernia	ans	
	2023 Convention Program Book Re	quest	
Name			_
Address			-
City	State	Zip	
Ad Size Desired	Amount Paid		

Word or PDF files are required. If files are e-mailed, please state the name of the buyer within your correspondence and submission form MUST be included with your ad, either mailed or e-mailed (electronic).

E-MAIL ALL FILES TO: Tim Oliver at toliver33@live.com or Chris Konik at chriskonik@mindspring.com

1/4 Page 3-3/4 X 2-1/4	Deadline for Submission June 9, 2023 AD Rates Premium Add Space
Circle Vertical or Horizontal	Back Cover\$250.00Inside Front Cover\$200.00Inside Back Cover\$200.00Full Page\$120.001/2 Page\$65.00
FULL PAGE	1/4 Page\$\$45.0One Line Patron Ad\$20.00Name only Ad\$5.00Make checks payable to:
1/2 page 3-3/4 X 4-1/2	AOH State Convention Mail Ad Requests to: AOH State Convention PO Box 871 Milford, OH 45150

Division News

St. Colmcille Div. #1, Stark Co.

St. Colmcille Div. #1, Stark Co. is hosting a "Can't Wait for Saint Patrick's Day" Party on Saturday, February 11th at Saint Paul Parish Social Hall, 241 South Main Street, North Canton, Ohio 44720. The party will feature music offered by the band County Mayo. Admission is \$5. Food and beverages will be available for an additional cost. For tickets or further information, call Tom at 330-328-5253 or email Fr. John Keehner at jekeehner@yahoo.com. Proceeds will benefit Project Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Hunger project.

JFK Div. #1, Montgomery Co.

The AOH JFK Div. #1 of Dayton has launched its new website at <u>www.aohdayton.com</u>, and has revamped its social media presence at <u>facebook.com/aohdayton</u>. We would very much appreciate your support in terms of "likes," "follows," "shares," "comments," and other engagement with our posts as we continue to grow our online presence."

Mark Heffernan Div. #2, Summit Co.



2023 Officers installed on January 3, 2023. Dale Norris - President, Jim Butke – Vice President, Jim Meszaros – Recording Secretary, Tom Harvey – Financial Secretary, Nicholas Gardner – Treasurer

Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.

THIRD ANNUAL PATRICK PEARSE DIVISION 1 FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND ROAD BOWLING FUNDRAISER 29 APRIL 2023 REGISTRATION 10:00AM EVENT STARTS 11:00AM DEER CREEK STATE PARK BEACH ROAD \$40.00 PER TEAM 4 PLAYES PER TEAM LIMIT OF 35 TEARS \$10.00 DEPOSIT ON CANNONBALLS

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND AND OTHER CHARITIES

CONTACT MIKE COSGROVE @ PEARSEFFAL@GMAIL.COM INFORMATION Brothers, mark your calendars for April 29th.

After you've rested up from St. Patrick's Day and Irish American Heritage Month, we'd like to see you on the beach road for a good time and a good cause. All proceeds to Freedom for All Ireland. Sponsorships are available and appreciated.

More to follow as the date approaches.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

Contact Mike Cosgrove at pearseffai@gmail.com

Catholic Action

After spending most of February in Ordinary Time, we move on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22) to the Lenten season. The liturgical color changes from green to violet. Lent is a time of penance leading up to the great feast of Easter. Check with your parish or diocesan sources for Lenten regulations on fast and abstinence.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF FEBRUARY

The Presentation of the Lord	February 2	Feast
Blaise, Bishop and Martyr	February 3	
Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs	February 6	Memorial
Scholastica, Virgin	February 10	Memorial
Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop	February 14	Memorial

IRISH SAINTS OF FEBRUARY

Brigid, Abbess (c. 450-525)

Brigid's name is also spelled Bridget and Bride. She was born near Dundalk, Louth. By legend, her father was Dubhthach, a chieftain of Leinster, and her mother Brocca, a slave. Her parents were baptized by St. Patrick. Even as a child, Brigid aspired to the consecrated life. Besides Patrick himself, with whom she always held a close friendship, Brigid was mentored in her early religious life by St. Macaille of Croghan and St. Mel of Armagh. After earlier establishments under the mentorship of the latter two saints, she founded a double monastery at Kildare about 470, the first in Ireland, and was abbess of the female convent. This foundation developed a reputation for scholarship and sanctity and was the kernel of the cathedral city of Kildare. Brigid's learning and sanctity are reflected in the numerous legends that have grown up around her. She was the inspiration of the many consecrated virgins of the Irish Church. The "Mary of the Gael," her tomb is at Downpatrick, with Sts. Columba and Patrick, with the latter of whom she shares the title of patron of Ireland.

Mel and Melchu, Bishops (5th century)

An unreliable legend makes these two brothers nephews of St. Patrick who accompanied him on his return to Ireland. The two were said to be bishops, though of what sees is not certain. Mel was cleared by St. Patrick of a rumored scandalous relationship with an aunt, though Patrick ordered them to live apart.

Alto, Abbot (d.c. 760)

Alto was probably an Irishman. He took up the life of a hermit near Augsburg, in Germany, in about 743. Impressed by his holiness, the local Germanic king gave him a parcel of land near Altomunster, Bavaria, where he constructed a monastery.

Marianus Scotus (d. 1088)

Marianus, or Muiredach mac Robartaigh, seems to have been born in Donegal. After assuming monastic garb and being ordained a priest, he and some companions departed for the Continent, apparently intending a pilgrimage to Rome. What started as a temporary stop in the diocese of Regensburg ended up being a lifelong commitment, when this band of Irish pilgrims took up residency in a double monastic community there. Marianus came into his own there as a skilled copyist and calligrapher, and a poet and theologian as well.

Continued on Page 10

February 9

February 9

February 1

February 6

Ludan (d. 1202?)

Catholic Action, cont.

February 12

Ludan was either a Scot or an Irishman. He used an ample inheritance to construct a hostel for travelers and the infirm, and then set out on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. On his way home, passing through Alsace, he received an intimation of his imminent death, which was itself heralded by miraculous events. His relics were venerated in the area till they were evidently destroyed during the Thirty Years War.

Modomnoc (6th century)

Modomnoc was an Irish monk who went to Wales, where he studied under St. David and also served as beekeeper for the saint's monastic community. According to legend, he introduced bees to Ireland, when a swarm followed him there upon his return. He settled at Tibraghny, Kilkenny, and reportedly was later bishop of Ossory.

Tanco, Abbot and Bishop (d. 808)

Also known as Tatto, this man was an Irish monk who went to Amalbarich Abbey in Saxony, where he eventually became the abbot. He evangelized in Cleves and Flanders and was eventually a bishop in Saxony. Tanco was martyred, though accounts differ as to the circumstances of his martyrdom.

Fintan, Abbot (d. 603)

One of a number of sainted Fintans, this man was a monk trained by St. Columba. He led an eremetical life at Cloneenagh, eventually becoming abbot of the community which grew up around him. He was known for his gifts of prophecy and clairvoyance and had many miracles attributed to him.

Finan, Bishop (d. 661)

Finan was an Irish monk of Iona. He succeeded St. Aidan as second bishop of Lindisfarne, a diocese which at the time encompassed all of Northumbria, Durham, and York. Finan opposed the adoption of Roman liturgical practices to replace the Celtic usages. He was a friend of King Oswy of Northumbria, and did much to evangelize the kingdoms which lay to the south as well.

Colman, Bishop (d. 676)

There are a number of sainted Colmans, but this one was an Irishman and the third bishop of Lindisfarne. He reigned only three years, but his reign was a momentous one, since during it the controversy between the Celtic and Roman usages, especially over the date of Easter, came to a head in the British Isles. Reportedly, King Oswy of Northumbria sought a solution when he found, to his consternation, that members of the royal household did not agree on when to celebrate Easter. The English monastic historian Bede relates the debates at the ensuing Synod of Whitby (663), the winning argument being that the pope, as successor of Peter, had received the power of the keys, whereas the followers of St. Columba had not. Colman found that he could not accept the Roman usage, resigned his bishopric, and returned to Ireland, where he founded a monastery on Inishbofin. Rome chose not to press the issue of Easter with many of the Irish congregations, reasoning (correctly) that time would bring a resolution.

ISSUES AND NEWS

Your Catholic Action chairman was in Washington January 20, 2022 for the National March for Life, along with many of our national officers and members of DC-area divisions.

With a lot of the action on the abortion issue moving to the states, many state pro-life groups have been organizing state right to life marches. Ohio's march in 2022 was unfortunately not well publicized, but we already have a date for the march this year--October 6, 2023 in Columbus. It would be great to have a big AOH presence at this.

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

Fraternally, Patrick J. Lally lally8404@hotmail.com

February 15

February 13

February 17

February 18

February 17

Veterans Affairs Report

Veterans Affairs Report

1) Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Veterans: <u>www.va.gov/coronavirus</u>

As of 1/23/2023: VA-Tracked Cumulative Cases in Ohio: 32,821; 987 Deaths; Active Cases: 181

2) New Veterans Affairs Life Insurance program (VALife)

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has unveiled a new low-cost life insurance program for veterans with service-connected disabilities call VALife. The program offers up to \$40,000 in whole life insurance coverage and is a guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance, meaning if you meet the eligibility requirements your application for coverage is automatically approved. There are no additional health care examinations. Coverage begins two years after an application as premiums are built up, but survivors would receive the full amount of any premiums paid, with interest, if the veteran dies before the two year waiting period is over. Premium cost is based on age at the time of application and the level of coverage elected, but the premium rate is then locked in for the life of the policy. All veterans age 80 and younger need only demonstrate their status as a service-connected disabled veteran, even if your disability rating is 0%. Veterans 81 and older can qualify under certain circumstances based on when they applied for their disability compensation and within 2 years of notification of their disability rating. More information about this new program can be found here: www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/valife/

3) Navy Secretary Names New Destroyer for Irish-American Medal of Honor Recipient

The future U.S.S. Thomas G. Kelley will honor retired Captain Thomas G. Kelley, a Medal of Honor recipient. The name selection follows the tradition of naming destroyers after U.S. naval leaders and heroes. Kelley was born to an Irish-Catholic family in 1939 and grew up in Boston. He graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1960 and was commissioned in the Navy. He volunteered to serve in Vietnam as a lieutenant commanding River Assault Division 152. On June 15, 1969, Kelley led river assault craft boats when they fell under attack. While severely wounded, Kelley continued to protect and lead his men to safety. For this gallant effort, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He retired from naval service as a Captain. After his military service, Kelley became the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services commissioner. He is close with the Medal of Honor Society, previously serving as president, Holy Cross' O'Callahan Society, Arlington National Cemetery, the Homebase Program which treats veterans and active military with the hidden wounds of war, in partnership with the Boston Redsox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital. He also serves on the board of directors of the USS Constitution Museum. https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/Press-Releases/Article/3266488/secnav-names-future-arleigh-burke-class-destroyer-after-moh-recipient-captain-t/

National VA Committee meetings are typically held online every third Tuesday of the month at 7pm ET. Please contact me if you are interested in participating. Also, be sure to visit the Ohio Department of Veterans Services at <u>www.ohiovets.gov</u> to learn more about veterans benefits as well as the National AOH site at <u>www.aoh.com/veterans-</u>

affairs for information about services around the country.

Danny Eakins

Veterans Affairs Chair

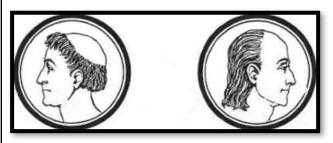
614-893-8833 | dannyeakins@hotmail.com



State Historian's Report

J. Michael Finn, State Historian

The Celtic Tonsure Controversy



A tonsure was the act of shaving part of the head as a preliminary to being ordained a priest or a member of a monastic order. During the early middle ages, there were two different forms used that resulted in some controversy between the clerics of Ireland, Scotland and Britain and those in Europe.

Most European monks preferred the Roman Tonsure (pictured above left side) and would shave a round patch on the top of their heads and cut their remaining hair all around. For obvious

reasons, this was also known as the Crown of Thorns Tonsure. It was claimed by supporters to have originated with St. Peter.

In Ireland, Scotland and parts of northern Britain, the tonsure was quite different. Priests and monks would shave their heads from the top forward (pictured above right side) and then leave the rest of the hair long. This was known as the Celtic Tonsure. This style was claimed to have begun with St. John the Evangelist and was continued through St. Columba as he converted Scotland. Representations of these tonsures can be seen in some of the Irish illuminated manuscripts.

The controversy over practices of the Celtic Church and the Roman Church was evident in the method of tonsure, as well as, the calculations connected with the method of dating the celebration of Easter. The Celtic practice still observed an 84-year Easter cycle (as had earlier been the rule in Gaul and in Rome), whereas the newer tradition which was kept in Rome by this time was a 19-year cycle which had been adopted from the church of Alexandria. Calculating the proper date was a complex process, and different calculation tables developed which resulted in different dates for the celebration of Easter.

King Oswiu of Northumbria (northern Britain) was a devoted Christian, promoting the faith among his subjects and establishing a number of monasteries. He was raised in the Celtic Church tradition, rather than the Roman tradition practiced by the southern Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. The historian St. Venerable Bede writes that Oswiu was fluent in the Old Irish language and he was Irish in his faith. His wife Queen Eanflaed was raised in the Roman tradition, which caused some conflict as they each celebrated Easter on a different day.

In 664, King Oswiu assembled the leading bishops and nobles on both sides of the issues. A meeting was held called the Synod of Whitby held at Whitby Abbey in northern Britain. The two cornerstone issues debated at the Synod of Whitby were the method of tonsure and the date of the celebration of Easter.

After much debate, King Oswiu decided that Northumbria was going to orient itself more toward Rome, so that the influence of Celtic Christianity in Britian was diminished. King Oswiu felt he was ruling on the side of St. Peter: "I dare not longer contradict the decrees of him who keeps the doors of the Kingdom of Heaven lest he should refuse me admission."

The Synod of Whitby established the Roman practice as the norm in Northumbria, and thus "brought the Northumbrian church into the mainstream of Roman culture" although some aspects of church practice remained distinctive for many centuries thereafter.

Today, in accordance with Pope Paul VI's motu proprio *Ministeria quaedam* of August 15, 1972, "first tonsure is no longer conferred."

State Organizer's Report

We will soon be entering "Green Season" and we should all think of ways we can increase our membership and maybe bring back those brothers who have faded away. An idea might be to go back in your records and see what projects they helped with in the past and give them a call to see if they're available to help again. We've all joined the Hibernians for different reasons, but we all want to feel like we're part of the group.

Keep in mind you can obtain recruitment material on the National website, under "About the AOH", then "Organizer Resources". You can customize them and have them printed at your local print-shops.

Division Presidents, don't forget to forward to me, the contact information for your Organizer. I would like to establish a working relationship and idea-sharing system with them, in order to help us all with our recruiting and retention plans.

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

Mark Your Calendars

Ohio State Board Meeting

February 13, 7:00 pm Zoom link, agenda, and other details to come

2023 State Convention

June 23 - 24 Cincinnati OH

2024 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL

Advanced Degrees

The Sons of Milesius AOH Major Degree Team will be exemplifying the Advanced Degrees at Tara Hall in Columbus, 1:00 on February 11th 2023. As you are aware, AOH members need to have their Advanced Degrees to serve as Division Officers. However the Advanced Degrees are a necessary part of our growth as Hibernians even if you are not an officer.

Please contact Patrick Visel (<u>ddanaan@gmail.com</u>) if you want to go through the Advanced Degrees so we can plan for a count. Try to get here by 12:30 so we can get the paperwork taken care of. We also welcome any degreed member that wishes to observe the Advanced Degrees to attend. We especially encourage any member who has sponsored a candidate for Advanced Degrees, to attend to support their candidate. Please contact Pat Visel also if you wish to observe.