



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

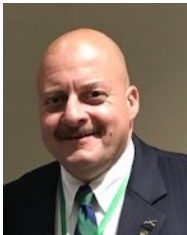
*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*January 2020*

*Volume 2 Issue 1*

## President's Message



Brothers All,

Welcome to a new year and a new decade! As the New Year begins, we'll have lots to do, because Irish Heritage Month and its celebrations, pageantry, and solemn remembrances are

just around the corner.

Please remember the March festivities in a way befitting of, and duly honoring, our Patron Saint. A great way to get an early start is to approach your municipal, county, and state elected officials NOW, and ask them to issue a proclamation that establishes and/or recognizes Irish Heritage Month. If you'd like to make this push, but are unsure of how, let us know – we have great resources, and especially one of the best Political Education Chairs in the Order.

While we're on the subject of challenging ourselves to do more, I ask that every Division achieves a base growth goal of 5% this year, with a stretch goal of 10%. A 5% target means that if only 1 out of 20 dues-paying members recruits a new member, or about 1 out of 10 truly active members recruits a new member, your Division will hit that 5% base goal.

Yep, if only 1 out of 20 dues-paying members successfully recruit, we'll hit our 5% base, and if only 1 out of 10 dues-paying members successfully recruit, we can hit our stretch 10% goal! I'll be discussing this opportunity with each of the Division Presidents, as I make calls to them over the next few weeks.

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## Former National AOH President and Irish American Leader Joe Roche dead at 84



Philadelphia, December 29, Joe Roche, born in Lawrenceville, PA twice elected National President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (1984-1988), served as a President of the Irish American Unity Conference (IAUC) and President of the Council of Presidents of Irish

American Organizations in a time of heightened conflict in Ireland has died in Bel-Air, MD. He was 84.

Mike Cummings, Secretary of the American Brexit Committee of which Roche was a member noted: "Joe was a natural leader whose decades of service to the nation's oldest and largest Irish American organization saw him testifying before dozens of State legislatures and Congress in support of using the MacBride Fair Employment Principles laws to combat anti-Catholic bigotry and discrimination in Northern Ireland."

"Joe's quiet counsel was much sought after for many Hibernian initiatives including support of the lawsuit the AOH joined which challenged the U. S. ban on granting a visa to Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams", stated former National AOH President Nick Murphy who launched the lawsuit.

Said former AOH National President Brendan Moore: "Joe was a tireless organizer of new Divisions including the first in Alaska and

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**President’s Message (cont.)**

Those phone calls will also discuss available and convenient timings for me to attend a Division meeting at each Division this year. I’m looking forward to learning from all of you, and carrying those learnings to other Divisions throughout the state.

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

When ever you are out and about



**Joe Roche (cont.)**

encouraged the Order to establish the Dr Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award in recognition of the 1974 Irish Nobel Peace Laureate.” Ned McGinley praised Roche for his pushing the Order to increase support for Green Cross/An Cuman Cabhrach Prisoners charity at a time when British Diplock Courts and internment were flooding British prisons with Catholic/Nationalists.

Seamus Boyle, also a former AOH National President, who worked with Joe on fundraising memorial projects like the restoration of the Great Hunger ship the Jeannie Johnston, the Commodore Barry Gate at Annapolis and recognizing Irish Medal of Honor recipients at the Freedom Foundation Medal of Honor grove at Valley Forge remembered him for a very current concern for many in Ireland. “Although in declining health, Joe asked former National Presidents from Pennsylvania Ned McGinley and myself to join him in an Open Letter addressed to Pennsylvania Hibernians warning of the economic hardships and threats to peace Brexit could bring to Ireland.”

A prayer service for Joe will be held Monday at the Schimunek Funeral Home in Bel-Air, MD with interment later at the convenience of the family.

Michael J. Cummings  
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Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania 19118  
267-766-5028  
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*Fr. Keehner’s Column will continue next month.*

### Officers

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<b>Past President</b>	Ron Hagan <a href="mailto:rhagan@hagancpa.com">rhagan@hagancpa.com</a>

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<b>Trumbull</b>	Marty McQuaide <a href="mailto:emcqu@aol.com">emcqu@aol.com</a>
<b>Washington</b>	Thomas Binegar <a href="mailto:binegarth@gmail.com">binegarth@gmail.com</a>

### Appointed Officers

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<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 a Word attachment to an e-mail to Editor, Jim Casey at

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

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

## Division News

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

We authorized up to \$100 be donated to offset transportation costs for a person traveling to Washington DC for the January 24, 2020 Right To Life March. Inquiries are being made with parishes in Medina County.

The 4th Annual Irish Brigade Charity Beer Tour is scheduled for March 28, 2020. Tickets are now on sale for \$65. Contact Dave Manley at 330-273-3118 or Ray Schulte at 216-318-6896.

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

*Friday, January 3rd | Tara Hall Presents: Pitch 'n Swing*

Doors at 7pm, Show at 8pm!

*Friday, January 10th | January Traditional Night w/General Guinness & Friends*

Doors at 7pm, Musicians gear up at 8pm!

*Friday, January 17th | January Birthday Night w/The Hooligans & Friends*

Potluck at 7pm, bring a side or snack to share! Show at 8pm!

*Friday, January 24th | Tara Hall Presents: Whinestopper*

Doors at 7pm, Show at 8pm!

*Friday, January 31st | Tara Hall Presents: Bob Ford*

Doors at 7pm, Show at 8pm!

### Msgr Donal O'Carroll Div. #1 Washington Co.

The New Year holds a clear vision (20/20) for the future of the Msgr. Donal O'Carroll Division. We, as a Division are well positioned and well grounded to move forward into the New Year. The group dynamic will be focusing on:

**Recruitment** – with an eye to expanding our membership.

**Expanding our image** – in Southeast Ohio with outreach programs such as parades, community participation and religious involvement.

**Developing a Division Social Agenda** – providing more opportunities for the Division Membership, families and the general public to participate in Division group activities.

**Expanding Divisional Media Resources** – the implementation of The Turf and the Slean has been a good first step along with regularizing our contributions to The Hibernian Digest and establishing contacts with the local news media.

Needless to say it takes all of our brothers to establish these goals and to fulfill these missions for the future. Take a part and be a part of the Brothers In Arms of the Msgr. Donal O'Carroll Division.

Thomas Binegar, President Msgr. Donal O'Carroll Division

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

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

## Mark Your Calendars

### Annual Right to Life March

Washington DC

January 24, 2020

(See Page 6 for Details)

### 2020 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL

July 22-25

### 2022 AOH National Convention

Pittsburgh PA

## National History Day

National History Day (NHD) is an annual program for elementary and secondary school students across the United States and participating international affiliates. Hundreds of thousands of entries in the form of exhibits, websites, essays, slide presentations, video documentaries and performances are created each year by individuals or groups in grades six through twelve. The AOH and LAOH are proud sponsors of NHD and annually present a First and Second Place award to the best entries on a topic related to Irish or Irish American history that fits the annual theme set by NHD each year. The First Prize, awarded by the AOH, consists of a Certificate, a Gold 'Order of the Bard' medallion and two round-trip tickets to Ireland valued at \$2,000. The LAOH Award consists of a certificate, a Silver 'Order of the Bard' medallion and a \$1,500. Scholarship Assist.

Each year, more than half a million students participate in the NHD competition beginning at the local school level; they move to a regional competition, then a State competition and ultimately to the National Finals at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. The National finals will be held June 14-18, 2020. Adjudicators are teaching professionals and historians and, in addition to the Irish Awards sponsored by the AOH/LAOH, there are awards sponsored by many other organizations and it is possible to win more than one. Those wishing to participate can find rules, regulations and contacts on the NHD Website: <https://www.nhd.org>. This year's theme is Breaking Barriers in History and the following topics are suggested as entries for the Irish Awards:

Daniel O'Connell – How did he begin to break the barriers established by the Penal Laws?

Wolfe Tone – how did he break the barriers against segregation and unite Catholics and Protestants in a unity that became the nationalist theme of all future revolutions?

Mike McCormick, National Historian, [aohbard@optonline.net](mailto:aohbard@optonline.net)

# January 24, 2020 – Annual Right to Life March in Washington DC

December 6, 2019 By [John Patrick Walsh](#)



Please keep Friday, January 24, 2020 circled on your calendars for the annual Right to Life March in Washington DC.

The District of Columbia State Board looks forward to hosting Hibernians at their annual Pro-Life Breakfast at the Irish Channel Restaurant from 9-11am (\$25/pp). This year our invited speaker is none other than Rep. Chris Smith (NJ-4), a long time friend to the AOH and renowned defender of life. A Pro-Life mass will be held across the street at St. Mary Mother of God Church following the breakfast. We will then meet as a group along the parade route in time for the 1pm march kickoff. I look forward to another record setting year of Hibernian attendance.

While we are unable to secure a room block for visiting brothers and sisters, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or local members for recommendations on accommodations and travel arrangements. The DC State Board is also planning an evening of fellowship at a local Irish establishment for Thursday evening. More information to follow.

In the Motto,

John Patrick Walsh

National Pro-Life Chairman

Ancient Order of Hibernians

732-673-0762

## Can Catholics be Freemasons?

The Catholic Times, December 8, 2019

By Fr. Adam Streitenberger

Diocese of Columbus

Diocesan Coordinator for Evangelization

Many people have asked recently if Catholics can be members of the Freemasons (or their associated groups like the Shriners and Eastern Star). The answer is NO. It is a mortal sin and has the added penalty of automatic excommunication.

Before 1974, this was not even a question. In 1974, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome contacted the bishops' conferences throughout the world about Freemasonry. Because of this, there was some confusion on the part of a few bishops and priests about whether the Church's judgment had changed.

The same congregation clarified in 1981 that membership in Masonry continued to be a grave sin and a cause for automatic excommunication. Moreover, the CDF reiterated that local bishops do not have the authority to determine whether local Masonic groups were exempt for this judgment.

Further confusion was added after the 1983 Code of Canon Law (or law book of the Church) did not explicitly mention Masonry. In November 1983, the CDF, headed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (the future Pope Benedict XVI), stated, "Therefore the Church's negative judgment in regard to Masonic association remains unchanged since their principles have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church and therefore membership in them remains forbidden. The faithful who enroll in Masonic association are in a state of grave sin and may not receive Holy Communion."

Why can't Catholics belong to the Freemasons? The answer to this question also explains why Masonry was not mentioned explicitly in the 1983 code. Freemasonry is a separate religion. It may claim to be a non-religious fraternal organization, but it has its own doctrines and rituals. An organization with its own doctrine, morality, and liturgy is the textbook definition of a religion.

Even more, the doctrines held by Freemasonry are contrary to our Catholic faith.

Masons believe in a god who created the world. But this god merely started the process and is not personally involved in our lives. Masons believe that every religion is equally true and that one cannot know doctrinal truths for certain. Masons are relativists, meaning they do not believe in absolute truth. Finally, higher degrees of Masonry also espouse the divisive and destructive nature of organized religion.

In the 1983 code, heresy, apostasy, and schism are mentioned as acts that cause automatic excommunication. Heresy is the holding of truths contrary to divine revelation. Apostasy is when a Catholic joins another religion. Membership in the Masons is an act of both heresy and apostasy and therefore fits the definition of those acts that cause automatic excommunication.

What about a Freemason who converted to Catholicism? Most people who join the Freemasons do so to progress in the business or political world. Formal renunciation of Freemasonry can cause serious difficulties in one's professional life. If a Mason converts to Catholicism, all that is required is that he cease practicing Freemasonry.

If possible, formal and public renunciation is preferable; however, a private renunciation and ending of involvement is sufficient. It is the same when a Muslim or a Protestant converts to Catholicism. We do not require them to go to their former community and renounce their previous religion, but we also expect them to stop their involvement in that religion.

One cannot hold to two religions simultaneously, nor can he or she hold to two contradictory truths. We are either Catholics or we are Masons. We cannot be both.

### Commodore Barry Medal

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

Please see the order form below.

Yours in our Motto,

*Mike McKenzie*

Mike McKenzie Ohio State Board



## Ancient Order of Hibernians in America Ohio State Board Order Form for John Barry Medal

### Division/County/State Information:

Division #: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mailing Address to Send the Medal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Medals requested \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to: **(Ohio State Board of AOH)**

**Please Send Checks to: Mike McKenzie 1190 South Ave Barberton, OH 44203**

If you have additional questions, please contact  
Mike McKenzie at: (330) 329 2652, tmmckenzie31@gmail.com