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HIBERNIANS
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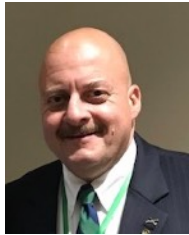
Ohio State Board

Newsletter

January 2021

Volume 3 Issue 1

President's Message



Brothers All,

Happy New Year to you all! For this month, I only have one thing to discuss – Recruiting.

At the start of 2020, I challenged our Division Presidents and all of you, with a net growth target of 5% and a stretch goal of 10%. Several

Divisions met that target; others did well even if they didn't. Thanks!

As discussed during the December State Board meeting, for 2021, that net growth target still stands,

but now there's a tangible incentive: a bottle of Redbreast 12. In the attached photo, you'll see three bottles, all bought from my own funds, not from your dues money. Here's how it's going to work:



- One bottle goes to the Division that recruits the highest number of new members.
- One bottle goes to the Division that recruits the highest number of new members relative to their Division size.
- One bottle goes to the Member who recruits the highest number of new members.

For the purposes of counting results, we will only count new members who have been actually recruited by the Division or member, NOT new members who have been sent to us from National. For the individual award, we will rely on Division Presidents to submit member names, and their recruiting numbers, to determine the winner(s). 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



The Feast of Epiphany—New Year and New Beginnings

Today is December 26, the Second Day of Christmas and the Feast of Saint Stephen. As I write this article for the January newsletter, it is a frigid 14 degrees. The snow, which began falling around 4:00 PM on Christmas

eve, was still coming down when I went to bed last night. It drifted over night, blown about by a strong, cold wind. My fear, up until the last few days before Christmas, was that so many of the faithful would show up for our Christmas Masses that we would not be able to welcome them safely with the pandemic protocols in place. That fear was replaced early on Christmas Eve with the realization that the bad weather would prevent many from being able to come to Church at all.

If the events of the past few days remind me of anything, it is that God is always willing to surprise us. What a surprise to so many, for example, who view God as a cold and distant figure, that God would choose to come into the world as a powerless infant? What a surprise it must have been to the Magi to have found the newborn King of the Jews not in a palace but in the poverty of a stable? What a surprise to those who view God as merciless that God would choose to take the sins of the world upon his shoulder and to die for the salvation of His people on a cross? What a surprise to those who saw death as the final end that Jesus would rise from the dead and that he would promise that same resurrection to all who are willing to place their faith in him?

Next Sunday, January 3, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the high point of the Christmas Season. And while in the west we automatically associate this feast with the arrival of the Magi at the stable to pay homage to the infant Jesus, the feast has a much broader meaning than we usually consider. The word *Epiphany* literally means manifestation or revelation. And so we understand the feast of Epiphany as the manifestation of God's glory to the nations, symbolized by the presence of the Magi, "astrologers from the East", who represent

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Chaplain's's Comments, cont.

the nations of the world. Historically, however, the celebration of the feast was also associated with two other revelatory events—the Baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River and the miracle at Cana in which Jesus changes water into wine, the first of the signs in John's Gospel that the Kingdom of God is at hand. While we now celebrate the Baptism of the Lord as a separate feast which officially ends the Christmas season, it is still celebrated as the Epiphany event in the Eastern Churches, called the Theophany, literally the revelation of God to the world.

As we celebrate Epiphany this year, let us consider what it means that God has revealed himself to us in so many ways—in the adoration of the Magi; in the Baptism of the Lord, in which God the Father says, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"; in the miracle of the transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana, in which Jesus' mother, Mary, said to those serving the wine, "Do whatever he tells you."

And let us ponder what surprises God may have in store for us in this new year of 2021. How will God reveal himself to us and to the world? What surprises does God have in store for us as a world? As a Church? As members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians? What surprises does God have in store for our families and for ourselves as individuals? May we be open to believe and to understand whatever manner God chooses to reveal himself to us. May we be open to recognize the revelation of his Beloved Son, in whom He is well pleased, in whatever way He chooses to manifest himself. And may we consciously take to heart the advice of Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God, to do whatever Jesus tells us to do, that we might give glory to God the Father in all that we say and do.

May God bless each and every one of you in this New Year.

Fr. John Keehner

State Chaplain for Ohio

National Chaplain



2021 Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award

In accordance with Article XXVII of the National Constitution of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, we are sending this letter to all eligible members to request nominees for the 2021 Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award. This award will be conferred to memorialize the human rights contributions made by Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Sean MacBride, and to recognize the efforts of others who make similar contributions in the cause of peace, justice and the economic wellbeing of the Irish people. This award will be conferred without regard to the nominee's race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. We require (1) that the nominator provide a typed biography of the nominee, **not to exceed 500 words**, and (2) that the nominator also ascertain that, if elected, the nominee will accept the award at a time and place designated by the National Boards. In addition, each nominator will certify above his/her signature that his/her nominee does not stand in opposition to any moral principle espoused by the AOH/LAOH.

To be accepted, all nominations must be returned to Sean Pender, AOH National Vice President, 13 Scullin Dr. Yardville, NJ 08620, (paddyspeed@yahoo.com), and postmarked no later than January 15, 2021. We request that all nominations be submitted as a word document as well so we may insert all nominations into the nominee letter that will go out with the ballots.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Sean Pender, AOH National Vice President

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Newsletter News

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

jjcasey973@gmail.com

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

Division News

Irish Brigade Div. #1 Medina Co.

The **\$65.00 ticket window** is now closed and 13 people took advantage of the early purchase discount. Tickets are **now \$70.00 each** and will increase to **\$75.00 on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.**

PLEASE REMEMBER that should we be unable to keep the Saturday, March 20, 2121 date for any reason you will receive a 100% refund.

It is worth noting that all of the micro breweries we have contracted with are large enough to accommodate our group of 50 and be in full compliance with the directions of Governor DeWine, USCCD and the World Health Organization.

You can send your check, payable to Medina County AOH, to Dave Manley at 2485 Bethany Lane, Hinckley, OH 44233.

Div. #2 Summit Co.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of our brother Rich Masterson. Rich was a division president, state president, and a life member of the AOH. He was a pivotal member of our organization and will be deeply missed. We are waiting to hear announcements from the family and will keep everyone posted once they are released.

Also, Deacon Smith has been admitted to Akron General with COVID-19. He is in ICU on a ventilator and his condition is very poor. We are requesting prayers for Deacon Dennis, his wife Ginny Smith, and his family.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

Chris Quinlan, Immediate Past President Summit Co. #2

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

New Year's Blessings to each of you and your families

As we embark on a New Year, we need to look forward to the 2nd half of the year when we hope to be past the pandemic. We look forward to again meet in-person at Moran Construction. We have already established our annual AOH Memorial Mass for November 14, 2021 at the Basilica of St Mary of the Assumption, 10:00 am Mass. It is on the calendar! I also plan to reserve the Lafayette Hotel for a Grand Christmas AOH Dinner.

I would like to extend my wish to each of you and your families a Blessed Healthy and Safe New Year.

Thomas Binegar, President

Mahoning Co. Div. #6

Hibernians of Joseph Nalley Sr., Division 6, Youngstown, are selling front license plates featuring the AOH logo. See page 7 for more information

Send your Division information to Editor Jim Casey

jjcasey973@gmail.com

State Historian's Report

John H. Conway, State Delegate

(1892-1896)

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

John H. Conway was born November 16, 1856 in Montgomery County, Ohio. He came to Dayton from his birthplace in Harrison Township, Ohio where he taught school for many years.



He was in political life for a number of years, holding several public offices. In 1890 he served as deputy in the County Treasurer's office in the court house for 12 years until 1902. He then served as Deputy Chief Auditor in the office of the City Treasurer, John C. Ely for many years.

Conway joined the AOH in Dayton in September 1886 and was elected Vice President of Division #2 the same year. Afterward he was elected as President of Division #2 and the following year he was elected as County Delegate for Montgomery County.

At the State Convention in Cleveland in 1892 he was first elected as State Delegate for a two year term. He was then re-elected as State Delegate at the 1894 State Convention held in Columbus, Ohio, and would serve until 1896.

Conway was the last elected officer in Ohio to hold the title of State Delegate. He was also the first State Delegate elected from Dayton, Ohio.

When he left the Deputy County Treasurer's office in August 1902 the newspaper said of him: "John H. Conway will be one who will be missed from his old haunts. He has worked in the courthouse for fully 12 years and is an expert at his work."

John H. Conway's death occurred at his residence, 1243 Riverview Avenue, in Dayton on Monday, September 12, 1921 at the age of 64. He had been in poor health for the previous six years. He was survived by his wife, Martha E. Conway and one son, Charles M. Conway. A second son, Harry W. Conway passed away in 1909.

The funeral services for John H. Conway were held at his residence, and also at St. Agnes church in Dayton. Father John M. Sailer celebrated the requiem Mass. John H. Conway is buried at Calvary Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio.

Through sharing stories of our history we can remember those brother and sister Hibernians who came before us and on whose shoulders we stand today.

J. Michael Finn, fcoolavin@aol.com

Ohio AOH Veterans Affairs – January 2021

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

Brothers – In the first bit of good news in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccines are now entering into distribution across the country. The US Department of Veterans Affairs has initiated systemwide vaccinations focusing first on their healthcare personnel and those veterans living in their long-term care facilities. The State of Ohio has also initiated vaccinations for veteran residents of the Ohio Veterans Homes in Sandusky and Georgetown. The VA has published detailed plans for further distribution of COVID-19 vaccines as they become available. Summaries of those plans can be found at the following website: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>

This current peak of the pandemic is the most serious the VA has faced to date. The impact on the Cleveland has been tragic, where the Stokes VA Medical Center currently reports the second highest number of VA-tracked active cases and veteran deaths in the country. VA continues to advise that all veterans contact their local facility prior to any appointments or visits. I urge you to continue to check on the operational status for your local VA facility at the links provided below.

Cases detected in the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system in Ohio (as of 12/23/2020): <https://www.accesstocare.va.gov/Healthcare/COVID19NationalSummary>

VA-Tracked* Cumulative Cases in Ohio: 6,145; 209 Deaths; *Active Cases: 758 (down 396 from last report)*

Chillicothe: <https://www.chillicothe.va.gov/CHILLICOTHE/emergency/index.asp> Active: 50

Cincinnati: <https://www.cincinnati.va.gov/emergency/> Active: 129

Cleveland: <https://www.cleveland.va.gov/emergency/> Active: 392

Columbus: <https://www.columbus.va.gov/emergency/index.asp> Active: 71

Dayton: <https://www.dayton.va.gov/emergency/index.asp> Active: 129

VA Medical Centers not in Ohio that support Ohio Veterans (totals not included in above statistics):

Ann Arbor: <https://www.annarbor.va.gov/emergency/index.asp> Active: 106

Erie: <https://www.erie.va.gov/emergency/index.asp> Active: 84

Huntington: <https://www.huntington.va.gov/emergency/index.asp> Active: 33

Pittsburgh, PA: <https://www.va.gov/pittsburgh-health-care/operating-status/> Active: 134

**Cases diagnosed by the VA*

2) National Board Veterans Affairs Committee Meetings:

All Brothers, especially veterans, are invited to participate in the monthly National VA Committee meetings. All meetings are every third Tuesday of the month at 7pm ET. The next meeting will be on January 19. If you would like to participate, please contact me for the online Zoom details.

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

Danny Eakins

Veterans Affairs Chair

614-893-8833 | dannyeakins@hotmail.com

Mark Your Calendars

2021 State Convention

June 24 - June 25

Double Tree Hilton

West Lake, OH

2022 AOH National Convention

Pittsburgh PA

2024 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL

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John O'Brien, Jr., our Hibernian brother and editor of Ohio Irish American News has put together a podcast. Check this out.

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Catholic Action

In the early part of January, we are still within the Christmas season. The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (Jan. 1) is a holy day of obligation, at least in normal times. At the Baptism of the Lord (January 10), we pass from the Christmas season to a segment of Ordinary Time prior to the Lenten season, from the liturgical color white to green. In the month of January, two American saints are commemorated, Elizabeth Ann Seton (January 4) and John Neumann (January 5). In the United States, January 22 is a day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, in recognition of the *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF JANUARY

January 1	Mary, the Mother of God	Solemnity
January 2	Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,	Memorial
January 3	Epiphany of the Lord	Solemnity
January 4	Elizabeth Ann Seton	Memorial
January 5	John Neumann, Bishop	Memorial
January 10	Baptism of the Lord	Feast
January 13	Hilary, Bishop and Doctor	
January 21	Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	Memorial
January 25	Conversion of Paul, Apostle	Feast
January 26	Timothy and Titus, Bishops	Memorial
January 28	Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor	Memorial

ST. JOHN NEUMANN IN OHIO

An immigrant from Bohemia, St. John spent some time ministering to Catholic settlers in Ohio prior to his appointment as bishop of Philadelphia (1852). Among other things, St. John was instrumental in ameliorating serious dissensions that had arisen in the Catholic flocks of Peru, Huron County, and of Randolph, Portage County.

SOME IRISH SAINTS OF JANUARY

Ita (d.c. 570)

January 15

Ita was supposedly of royal lineage and was born in one of the baronies of Decies, Waterford, Ireland. After refusing to marry, she secured her father's permission to embrace perpetual virginity. At Killeedy, Limerick, she founded a religious community of women and also a school for boys, among the graduates of which may have been St. Brendan. Many extravagant miracles are attributed to her. She is also known as Deirdre, Ida, or Mida.

Fursey (d.c. 648)

January 16

Fursey stands out among early Irish saints in having biographical details fairly abundant and in reliable sources. He was probably born on Inisquin in Lough Corri, of an aristocratic family. He built a monastery, probably at Killursa, to which many disciples came. Fursey often fell into trance-like or ecstatic states, in which he experienced terrifying visions of demonic influences upon sinful men. After about twelve years of preaching throughout Ireland, he travelled to East Anglia in Britain with his brothers Foillan and Ultan. There, they founded a monastery at Burgh Castle near Yarmouth, under the patronage of King Sigebert. Fursey later sojourned in Neustria on the continent, where he was welcomed by King Clovis II, founded a monastery at Lagny, and died shortly thereafter.

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Catholic Action, cont.

Albert of Cashel (7th or 8th century)

January 19

A great deal of confusion surrounds the life of this saint. Albert was a priest from among the Angles, who sojourned in Ireland and in Bavaria on the continent. He has been associated with the see of Cashel, but the story that he was its bishop cannot be true, since the bishopric did not exist at the time of his alleged reign there. The story of his friendship with St. Erhard is also problematic, since they may not have been contemporaries. He is said to have died in Regensberg, Germany, on his way home from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Fillan, Abbot (8th century)

January 19

Fillan, also known as Foelan, was the son of Feriach and St. Kentigerna. He took monastic vows at a young age. He accompanied his royal Leinster mother to Scotland, living as a hermit near St. Andrew's for years, before being elected abbot. Later, he resigned the abbacy and resumed his eremitic life in Perthshire. Extravagant miracles are attributed to him. One story relates that after a wolf had killed an ox he was using to haul materials to his church, his prayers induced the wolf to take the place of the ox.

Aidan, Bishop (d. 626)

January 31

Unreliable legends cloud our knowledge of this saint, also known as Maedoc. He was born in Connaught. After a stay in Leinster, he travelled to St. David's in Wales, where he studied Scripture. He is said to have miraculously repelled several Saxon attacks there. Later he returned to Ireland, founded a monastery at Ferns, Wexford, and eventually was consecrated bishop there. He was known as a man of great kindness to man and animal alike. He is represented in art as a stag; this stems from a story that he once rendered a stag invisible to save it from hounds.

LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER ISSUES

--On December 3, the Unborn Child Dignity Act passed through the Ohio House of Representatives, having already passed the Senate. Governor DeWine is expected to sign the measure, which requires the State Department of Health to establish rules for the proper burial or cremation of children who lose their lives due to abortion.

--The National March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C., January 29. Hibernians are encouraged to check for local observances.

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

Fraternally,

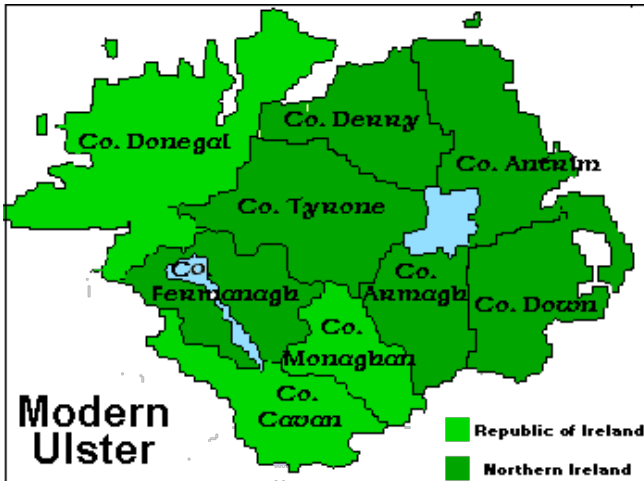
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Irish History Reading

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

The Plantation of Ulster

To look for a beginning to the on-going problems in the occupied six counties of Ireland, we must look at how and when these counties became occupied.



In 1607, following the Flight of the Earls, King James I of England saw an opportunity to gain land for profit in the Province of Ulster. The Flight of the Earls provided a welcome excuse for the wholesale robbing of the Irish clans. It was a very simple matter for James to find that all of the Ulster Irish Chiefs had been conspiring to rebel against England. Hence, they were all guilty of high treason against England and, naturally, their estates were forfeit and available for distribution among James' greedy followers.

The fact that the clan-lands did not then, or ever, belong to the head of the clan was of little consequence to the English.

Under Irish law, land ownership, if you could call it that, resided with the clan community, not with the individual leader.

The English Lord Lieutenant, Sir Arthur Chichester and the Attorney General, Sir John Davies were the principal designers of the plan to confiscate the clan-lands. This grand scheme was known as the Ulster Plantation.

The Crown confiscated the lands of six Ulster counties (Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Cavan and Armagh), almost four million acres. The lands of the remaining three counties of Ulster were confiscated at a later time. The true owners of the land, the native Irish, were driven like wild animals from the rich and fertile valleys of Ulster. This land had been their home and the home of their ancestors for thousands of years. The native Irish were driven west to the bogs, moors and rocks of Connaught. It was hoped by the English that there they might starve and perish.

English and Scottish Servitors of the Crown scrambled for the fertile lands that were given to them in parcels. The county of Derry was divided up among the London trade guilds that had financed the plantation scheme (they changed the name to Londonderry). Catholic Church lands were bestowed upon the Protestant bishops.

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Irish History Reading, cont.

The English had previously tried a similar plantation scheme in the Province of Munster. There, the English planters inter-married with the Irish and adopted Irish customs and style of dress (they became, as the old saying goes, “more Irish than the Irish”). Worst of all, to the English, these planters had often converted to Catholicism.

Unlike their previous effort, this scheme came with conditions that specifically bound the Ulster planters to repress and abhor the native Irish. They were bound by written contract never to sell their land to Irish; never to adopt Irish customs; never to inter-marry with the Irish; never to permit any Irish, other than servants, to exist on or near their lands.

The planters were also bound to build castles with high walls and to keep many armed British retainers (the Army). Armed British retainers constituted a permanent British garrison that would help to tame, if not exterminate, the native Irish. Over 400+ years later those walls, both real and imagined, between the people still exist. The armed British garrison has departed, but the north of Ireland remains under British control.

The character of the planters who were given lands has often been called into question. They were described by two of their fellow planters as follows: John Reid wrote, “Among those who divine providence did send to Ireland ... the most part were such as either poverty or scandalous lives had forced hither.” Robert Stewart wrote, “From Scotland came many, and from England not a few, yet all of them generally the scum of both nations, who from debt, or breaking, or fleeing justice, or seeking shelter, came hither hoping to be without fear of man’s justice.”

And what became of the native Irish who were driven off their land to starve or perish? That part of the plan was also effective from the English point of view. Thousands of Irish died of starvation, exposure and disease in the rocky west of Ireland. Many thousands more fled to Europe. It was said that the lot of those who lived and remained was far worse than those who went into exile or death.

In order for us to fully understand the present situation in the north of Ireland, we must be familiar with its history. It was King James I and his Plantation of Ulster that helped set the stage for the many troubles that have been inflicted upon the north of Ireland and its people.

J. Michael Finn, fcoolavin@aol.com

