



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

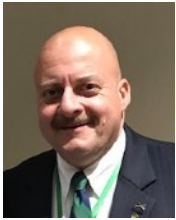
Ohio State Board

Newsletter

January 2023

Volume 5 Issue 1

President's Message



Happy New Year, my Brothers! I hope your Christmas season was a joyous time of reflection, hope, and good times with family and friends. We have lots to talk about, and a lot going on, so let's have it:

• It's **report and dues submittal season**. Brothers, you know what you must do. Timely report submission is a critical administrative and leadership task. 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!). Brothers, we **NEED** your support for our **FFAI Christmas Appeal**. Our support means so much to those who still struggle in the North; the monetary assistance is important, but just as important is the fact that they feel that support. Please consider a generous contribution!
- **Missions & Charities and Hibernian Hunger Project:** PLEASE share your good news with all of us.
- **Hibernian Charity:** I know most of you all have already received a mailer with some nice AOH stickers, and a request for financial support. Nationally, if I remember correctly, we're **STILL** at less than 10% response. Let's

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Chaplain's Comments



As a child, I obsessively needed a nightlight, so afraid was I of the dark. My brothers and I, who shared a bedroom, would often argue over that nightlight. They claimed not to be able to sleep with it on. I was convinced I couldn't sleep with it off. Of course, we were all wrong. What was it about that light that so comforted me? What was it about a tiny light, twinkling like a star in the midst of a darkened night that still gives me comfort as an adult?

Matthew tells us in his Gospel that Magi from the east saw the star at its rising in the darkened night sky. They followed it to Jerusalem, where they went to Herod, asking to see the newborn king of the Jews. But Herod knew nothing of this king. He knew nothing of this star. And the news the Magi brought of a newborn king filled him not with the same joy with which they sought the child but with murderous rage. Herod knew nothing of this star because he was blind to its light. He was unable to recognize the light which this newborn king would bring to the world. Rather, he could see only the darkness of his own desires and the fear that this king would be his undoing. He was blind to the star because he was blind to the power of God's love. He lived his life guided not by light and love but by his desire for power. He lived his life guided by darkness and fear.

The feast of Epiphany is the high point of the Christmas season. Celebrated this year on January 8, it is our celebration of the revelation of God's light to the nations. It is our celebration of our belief that salvation is not meant for a mere chosen few but for the whole world. God's light is revealed to all who are eager to open their eyes to see that light for what it is. God's love is revealed to all who are willing to open their hearts by a star shining in the darkened sky. God's power is revealed in the person of a tiny, defenseless infant, whom Herod and the other rulers of this world would seek to destroy. God's mercy is revealed in the act of total, self-giving love, in which nothing is asked in return. And that mercy is still revealed to us today

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President's Message, cont.

- show the rest of the nation what Ohio can do by leading the way.

On a lighter note, in December I was able to attend a few events, including:

- **The Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati's Green Tie Affair**, a black tie event that serves as their major fundraiser. I was asked to deliver a few remarks and did so, and most importantly presented Maureen and Kent (a Hamilton County St. Patrick Division Brother) with copies of the Governor's Proclamation, in recognition of their leadership and vision in stewardship of Irish and Irish-American heritage and culture. I was also able to spend time with the Vice Consul from New York, as Consul responsibilities for Ohio have shifted there from Chicago.

- **Medina County's Christmas Party** was a great evening of fun and conversation **Thanks again to Medina County for the invite and for your kind and gracious hospitality, you certainly made it worth the drive up I-71!**

Brothers, where and when you deem appropriate, **I'll be glad and grateful to attend your meetings and events.** Please feel free to send invites, and you can bet I'll attend if at all possible.

As we look forward to the New Year, 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 Comments, cont.

every time we give of ourselves for others—every time we show mercy to those around us—every time we lift the cross for those who are unable to carry the cross on their own—every time we are willing to see in another person the presence of the living God.

But in celebrating Epiphany—in celebrating God's manifestation to the nations, we are not celebrating a light that has come and gone, like a flash in the night. We are not looking back with nostalgia to a better day that can never return. When our first reading on Christmas Eve told us that a people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, it wasn't just referring to a people who lived two or three thousand years ago. We are that people who walked in darkness. At times, we are blinded, like Herod, by our disordered desires for power, pleasure, or prestige. We are people who at times give in to rage because we have forgotten who we are and who God has created us to be.

And yet, despite of all that blinds us, our eyes have been opened. Our eyes have been opened by God's grace, which allows us to see, which allows us to believe. We are that people who have seen a great light, upon whom the glory of the Lord shines even today. We are that people to whom Christ manifests himself, revealing his love to us in unexpected ways. We are that people who are called to search not the darkened skies but our hearts for a sign of God's love revealed to the nations—of God's love revealed to us—that God is still alive and active in our world, giving of himself to us, emptying himself of everything so that we might be filled.

If we can see God's light revealed in the symbol of a star in the sky, set to guide us and lead us to salvation, then

we can certainly see God's light revealed even in a world darkened by sin and suffering, by poverty, by cynicism, by sickness. If we can see God's power revealed in a defenseless infant born into the poverty of a stable, then we can certainly recognize God's power revealed in our weakness, in our sorrow, in our suffering. If we can believe that God emptied himself two thousand years ago to be born into the world as one of us, then we must believe that God continues to reveal himself even today. We see God's image in the face of friend and stranger. We see God's hand in acts of kindness, in selfless acts of love. We recognize God's abiding presence in ourselves—in you and in me and in every human being—in all who, through the waters of baptism, are called to bear Christ's image to the world and to share his love by giving of themselves, by allowing themselves to be poured out so that there will be no more hunger, no more poverty, no more war, no more hatred, so that the kingdom of God can be established not in some mythological time gone by or some dreamed of day in the future, but today—in our world—in our very midst. You and I—we must reflect the light of Christ shining on a darkened world. We must reflect the light of Christ shining on a world that is cynical, to be a sign of love to those who have never known love. We must rise up in splendor, to give witness to the great light which has overwhelmed the darkness of our world and shows us the glory of a God who loves us so much that he became one of us, in order that we might even one breath at a time, one heartbeat at a time, become ever more and more like him, in order that we might no longer be afraid.

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

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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.**

Veterans Affairs Report

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

As of 12/17/2022: VA-Tracked Cumulative Cases in Ohio: 32,155; 980 Deaths; Active Cases: 370

2) National Defense Authorization Act Includes Funds to Reduce Veteran Records Backlog

The U.S. House and Senate agreed to a compromise bill for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), still pending signature by the President, that will include \$60 million to help the National Archives cope with the backlog of requests for veterans records. As reported in a Hibernian Digest article a couple years ago, records are the basis of pretty much any and all claims made to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other organizations for various benefits and services. During the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, the backlog of records requests reached a record high 600,000 requests as the Archives, like everyone else, struggled with the effects of staffing shortages and transitioning to hybrid work models. The backlog has been reduced but is still estimated to around 400,000 records requests. With the PACT Act taking effect and the number of veterans records requests tied to PACT claims projected to increase significantly, the Archives have made eliminating the backlog, and instituting new procedures to reduce records waiting times to no more than 20 days, a major priority. AOH brothers or their families who are looking for information on obtaining veteran records have a couple of options available them. The AOH Veteran Affairs website at www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs includes the following two links that can assist individuals looking to access those records systems:

- National Archives (Records/Lost Medals): <https://www.archives.gov/veterans>
- Defense Personnel Record Information System (DPRIS): <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/public/faq/Documentation-DPRIS>

Veterans who have served since about the mid-1990's can avoid the Archives backlog by checking to see if their military records are available through the DPRIS system linked above. Requesting your record through DPRIS can often be completed within a matter of hours rather than days. Here in Ohio, those requests can be made through the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) or, in many cases, through the local County Veterans Services Office (CVSO):

- ODVS Records Request Site: <https://dvs.ohio.gov/resources-for-veterans/more-resources/military-records-and-honors>
- CVSO Contact Information: <https://dvs.ohio.gov/resources-for-veterans/find-a-cvso>

3) Veterans & Gold Star Families Eligible for Free Lifetime Passes to National Parks & Public Lands

On Veterans Day 2022 the National Park Service unveiled a new program providing free lifetime passes to Veterans and Gold Star families to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites nationwide. More details in this article: <https://news.va.gov/110751/free-lifetime-pass-to-national-parks/>

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 www.ohiovets.gov to learn more about veterans benefits as well as the National AOH site at www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs for information about services around the country.

Danny Eakins

Veterans Affairs Chair

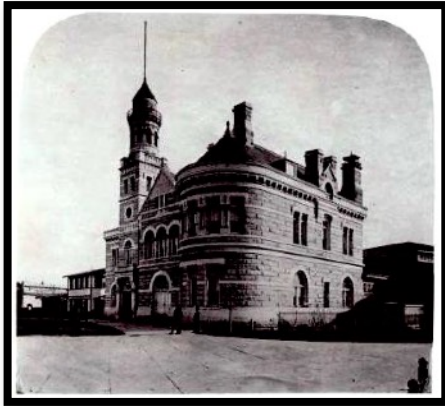
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State Historian's Report

J. Michael Finn, State Historian

Arriving at the Port of New York

Many people think that if their Irish ancestors arrived through New York City that they were processed through Ellis Island. While many thousands were processed through Ellis Island, it was not the only place where they could have entered the city. In fact, Ellis Island was only one of three immigrant-processing stations for the port of New York. Where your Irish ancestors were processed depends upon their date of arrival.



Neither the state of New York, nor the Federal Government, performed any immigrant processing prior to 1855. In those days, the arriving immigrant merely got off the boat at the dock and then walked directly into the city. After epidemics of typhoid and small pox swept the city, the state of New York decided that immigrants should be screened for diseases. The state also wanted to protect the immigrants from criminals who were preying on them as soon as they arrived.

In 1855 the state of New York opened an immigrant processing station at Castle Garden. This location was an old 1812 military fort known as Castle Clinton. It sat at the southwest tip of Manhattan Island in an area known as Battery Park. It had been built to protect the harbor, but it was vacated by the army in 1821 and given to the city. In 1824 the city renamed it Castle Garden and it was an entertainment center, beer garden and opera house until 1854. In 1855 the state took over the facility for use as the processing center for all arriving immigrants. It was used from *August 8, 1855 until April 18, 1890*. During those 35 years an estimated 8 million immigrants were processed through Castle Garden.

On August 3, 1882 congress passed the first comprehensive national immigration law. The law gave the federal government authority over the regulation and processing of immigrants. Initially, the federal government went into partnership with the state of New York and allowed the state to continue processing at Castle Garden, as long as they met the new federal processing requirements. In 1890, due to alleged corruption and incompetence at Castle Garden, the federal government cancelled its contract with the state and took over the processing duties. A dispute with the state regarding the continued use of Castle Garden resulted in the closure of that facility.

The federal government moved the processing operation to a building known as the Barge Office (pictured above). The Barge Office was a much smaller building also in Battery Park. It was located just to the east of Castle Garden on the southeast tip of Manhattan at the foot of Whitehall Street. The Barge Office was not designed or equipped to handle the growing wave of immigrants. The building was also plagued with roof leaks.

An article in the Brooklyn Eagle stated that in its first eight days of operation the office processed 15,209 immigrants. The Barge Office served as a processing station from *April 19, 1890 until December 31, 1891*. During that short time an estimated 525,000 immigrants were processed through the Barge Office.

While the immigrants were being herded through the Barge Office, the federal government was constructing a new processing facility on Ellis Island. Since they were unable to get New York to provide one of its islands for this purpose, the federal government made a deal with the state of New Jersey for the use of Ellis Island. The 24.2 acres of Ellis Island are actually in New Jersey and only 3.3 acres of the island are located in New York.

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State Historian's Report, cont.

On *January 1, 1892*, Ellis Island officially opened for the processing of immigrants. Annie Moore, from County Cork, was the very first immigrant to be processed through the buildings of Ellis Island. Immigration officials gave Annie a \$10 gold piece to commemorate the event. The story goes that a Polish immigrant stepped aside to allow Annie and her brothers to go first.

Five years later, on *June 14, 1897* a fire swept through the wooden buildings of Ellis Island. The buildings burned rapidly and were destroyed. Sadly, the fire also burned some of the immigration records from Castle Garden and the Barge Office that were being stored there. Fortunately, the ship's passenger records for those sites were kept in a separate location and remained unharmed.

Due to the fire, immigrant processing was sent back to the Barge Office. Conditions at the Barge Office had not improved and it was expected to process even more immigrants than it had before. Because of the overcrowded conditions, immigrants were often treated roughly and rudely by the processors.

It took three years for the federal government to complete the reconstruction of a new and expanded Ellis Island complex. This time, it was built to be fireproof. On *December 16, 1900*, the rebuilt Ellis Island reopened for business. It served the countless immigrants who passed through it until 1954. Although the island station officially closed its doors *November 12, 1954*, the bulk of immigrant processing was ended by 1924 when new federal legislation severely restricted foreign immigration into the US. In total Ellis Island processed over 12 million immigrants.

To review the dates: If your ancestors arrived between *August 1, 1855 and April 18, 1890* they were processed through Castle Garden; if they arrived between *April 19, 1890 and December 31, 1891* they were processed through the Barge Office; if they arrived between *January 1, 1892 and June 13, 1897* they were processed through Ellis Island; if they arrived between *June 14, 1897 and December 16, 1900* they were processed through the Barge Office; and if they arrived between *December 17, 1900 and November 12, 1954* they were processed through Ellis Island.

If your ancestors were processed through Ellis Island or the Barge Office after 1892 you can find copies of ships logs on the Ellis Island website at www.ellisland.org. For those who were processed through Castle Garden, the records have been digitized and are available on the website www.castlegarden.org. Today, you can visit Castle Garden. It has been renamed the Castle Clinton National Monument. The Barge Office no longer exists. The area where it once stood is near the Staten Island Ferry at the base of Whitehall Street.

Mark Your Calendars

2023 State Convention

June 23 - 24
Cincinnati OH

2024 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL

State Organizer's Report

I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas season and the new year's celebration.

Now, we need to look forward and get 2023 off to a good start. We need to get our books in order to close-out the past year and start working on preparing our paperwork to send in our National & State assessments.

First of all, we need to fill out our Form 9s, whether or not we had elections. To do that, go to www.aoh.com. Under the column header of "Forms", go to Official AOH Forms and follow the directions closely to download and fill out the Form 9. Make sure you forward your Form 9 to the National Secretary & National President AND also to Pete Chrystal, our State Secretary.

Division Presidents, also please 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 recruiting and retention.

Let's have a great 2023 as we head toward our State Convention in Cincinnati in June.

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

Northern Ireland Envoy

Per the announcement today that President Biden has appointed former Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III as the U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland, National President Daniel J. O'Connell has issued the following statement on behalf of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the largest Irish American organization in the United States. The statement reads:

"The Ancient Order of Hibernians, the largest Irish American organization in the United States, welcomes the appointment of Joseph P. Kennedy III to the role of U.S. special envoy to Northern Ireland. In selecting a former U.S. Congressman who is the son of a congressman, grandson of a U.S. Senator, and great nephew of a U.S. President, the President has clearly shown the importance that the administration places on the role of the U.S. Special Envoy, sending a clear message of the on-going U.S. commitment to the peace and prosperity of the community of Northern Ireland. We note that it was the Congressman's father, Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II, who introduced H.Con.Res.49 in 1993 calling for the establishment of a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. We thank President Biden for appointing a highly qualified candidate and sending a clear message on U.S. interest in Northern Ireland and its continuing progress to lasting peace with justice.

As we welcome the appointment of Congressman Kennedy, we cannot help but also note with sad amusement the attempts by the media, specifically the British Government-controlled BBC and U.S. media sources that uncritically parrot them, to ring-fence his role as special envoy. These reports take great pains to note that Congressman Kennedy will be appointed as an "economic envoy" and conclude that this confines the focus of the position to "economic development and closer ties, and not political issues such as Brexit or the Northern Ireland Protocol." This appears to be a transparent and disingenuous attempt by the British government-sponsored BBC to create a no-go zone of discussion that should trouble anyone who values diplomacy's power to solve complex issues. We would remind the BBC, and those that uncritically quote them, that the original title of Senator Mitchell, the first special envoy who helped facilitate the landmark Good Friday Agreement, was "Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Economic Initiatives in Ireland."

Sadly, some in Britain appear not to have learned the lessons of Brexit and the problems it has spawned of the folly in believing that economics can exist independently of history, political science, and social justice.

We again thank President Biden for reconfirming America's commitment to peace, justice, and prosperity in Northern Ireland and wish Congressman Kennedy success in finding fruitful engagement amongst all members of the Northern Ireland community.

As we approach the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, we hope Special Envoy Kennedy can help complete the historic work begun by Senator Mitchell."

National President Daniel J. O'Connell

Division News

Patrick Pearse, Div. #1, Franklin County

AOH Patrick Pearse Division #1 held Officer Installation on December 3rd. The Division attended Mass at St Mary's German Village and returned to Tara Hall for the Ceremony



Row #1: VP Bryan Horn, President Bruce McPherson
Row #2: Financial Secretary Dan Fitzpatrick, Marshall Jerry Tracy, Recording Secretary Kurt Wolf, Sentinel Mike Cosgrove, Treasurer Greg Brown, Standing Committee Chair Rich Finn



The Division presented a check for \$1000.00 to the St Ladislas St Vincent DePaul Society to support their charitable works. The Division also donated \$1600.00 to the National AOH Freedom For All Ireland Fund.

From the Desk of President O'Connell

Beannachtaí na Nollag duit!

"May the Blessings of Christmas be with you,
May the Christ Child light your way,
May God's holy angels guide you,
And keep you safe each day."

Our blessings are many and include National Secretary Ed Halligan's return home yesterday, December 23rd. Ed will be continuing therapy at home and then an outpatient program a few times a week. He has made tremendous progress and we are asking for continued prayers.

Ed Halligan's address is: 7 Ronald Circle, Oreland, PA 19075. I'm sure he will enjoy hearing from our Brothers around the country.

Danny O'Connell, President, The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

Catholic Action

In the early part of January, we are still within the Christmas season. At the Baptism of the Lord (January 9) , 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), the latter of whom spent some time in Ohio. January 23 is a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF JANUARY

January 1	Mary, the Mother of God	Solemnity
January 2	Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors	
January 3	Most Holy Name of Jesus	
January 4	Elizabeth Ann Seton	Memorial
January 5	John Neumann, Bishop	Memorial
January 8	Epiphany of the Lord	Solemnity
January 9	Baptism of the Lord	Feast
January 13	Hilary, Bishop and Doctor	
January 17	Anthony, Abbot	Memorial
January 20	Fabian, Pope and Martyr	
January 20	Sebastian, Martyr	
January 21	Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	Memorial
January 24	Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor	Memorial
January 25	Conversion of Paul, Apostle	Feast
January 26	Timothy and Titus, Bishops	Memorial
January 28	Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor	Memorial
January 31	John Bosco, Priest	

FROM ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Perseverance is a great grace. To go on gaining and advancing every day, we must be resolute, and bear and suffer as our blessed forerunners did. Which of them gained heaven without a struggle?

IRISH SAINTS OF JANUARY

Munchin (7th century)

January 2

Munchin, called The Wise, is the patron saint of Limerick, and probably came from County Clare. He is also known as Maincin (Little Monk). Tradition avers that he was a bishop, but scholars doubt this.

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.

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Catholic Action, cont.

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.

Deicolus (c. 530-c. 625)

January 18

Deicolus, also known as Desle, may have been the elder brother of St. Gall, born in Leinster, and was one of the twelve disciples of Columban who accompanied him to Gaul in 576. He worked with Columban in Austrasia and Burgundy. Age prevented him from accompanying Columban when he was expelled in 610. Deicolus founded a monastery at Lure and lived as a hermit in his later years. Columban is supposed to have asked Deicolus once why he was always smiling, receiving the reply: "Because no one can take God from me."

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 Regensburg, 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.

Fechin, Abbot (d.665)

January 20

Fechin was probably born at Luighne (Leyney), Connaught. He was the founding abbot of Fobhar (Fore), Westmeath, and perished during a plague which swept Ireland in 665.

Miambod (d.c. 880)

January 23

Also known as Mainboeuf, he was an Irish missionary on the continent, slain in Alsace by hostile pagans.

LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER ISSUES

As of December 16, the injunction placed against Ohio's Heartbeat Law remains in effect, after the First District Court of Appeals in Cincinnati rejected the State's request to appeal the injunction, placed by a Hamilton County judge. Litigation will evidently continue in Hamilton County. The Heartbeat Law would ban abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detectable.

The National March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C., January 20., 2023. Hibernians are encouraged to participate or to check for local observances.

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

Fraternally, Patrick J. Lally lally8404@hotmail.com

AOH Ohio Pro Life Bulletin

The following is from Larry Squires article in the Nov.-Dec. Issue of the Hibernian Bulletin.

“Pro life issues are the most controversial and divisive topics today. Several factors feed the controversy, such as disagreement between Church leaders on abortion; strong party loyalty among brothers; or strong beliefs about how you, or a loved one, would or did respond to abortion. Discussions about these topics frequently result in enflamed conversation and membership terminations, from both sides of the controversy. The Pro Life position requires a man who is well formed in true Catholic teaching, has good understanding of Holy Scripture, and a burning desire to spend eternity in heaven with his brother Hibernians.”

PLEASE INCOMING OHIO DIVISION PRESIDENTS, APPOINT A PRO LIFE CHAIR.

The Ohio Physicians for Reproductive and Ohioans for Reproductive Freedomnction (which includes Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, Pro-Choice Ohio, Preterm Cleveland, Abortion Fund of Ohio, Ohio Women's Alliance and a few more pro abortion groups have announced they are working to get a constitutional amendments passed to include “abortion rights” .In 2022, 6 states had similar constitutional amendments on the ballot.....ALL PASSED. Language has not been published as yet. Should this pass, it would mean abortion is a constitutional right at point of development up to birth. OHIO AOH divisions all need a Pro life Chair so that we can fight this evil killing of the next generation. We must help our Church defend the right of the unborn. If Right to Life is not Christian Charity...What is?

OHIO DEPT. OF HEALTH 2021 INDUCED ABORTION REPORT

The number of abortions in Ohio increased from 20,605 in 2020 to 21,813 in 2021. The biggest increases were in Montgomery and Summit counties. Montgomery County increased by almost 25% with Summit County increased by 22% over the year 2020. According to the report about 80% of women obtaining abortions were never married, divorced or widowed. More than half of all 2020 induced abortions were to women who had prior induced abortion. Has abortion now become a birth control tool? The report shows that nearly 47% of all induced abortions in 2020 were non-surgical. The majority of the non-surgical abortions done using mifepristone or misoprostol. The dangerous RU486 protocol is a combination of the 2 drugs. Despite claims as its ease and safety, the RU486 abortion method comes with a long list of potential risks. As the Ohio Department of Health released abortion figures for 2020, Planned Parenthood released their 2020-21 annual report. The report states that PP performed 383,460 abortions an increase of 28,600 more abortions than the previous year. A deeper review of the report states that “abortions made up 96.6% of PP's pregnancy resolution services, while prenatal services, miscarriage services and adoption and referrals accounted for only 2.2%, 0.7% and 0.5% respectively.”

MORE OHIO NEWS

Currently, abortion is legal up to 22 weeks. The Heartbeat Bill which would have made abortion illegal after 6 weeks except if the mother's health was at risk is on hold. On October 7, 2022 Hamilton County Judge Christian Jenkins issued a permanent injunction that is being taken to court on appeal. Judge Jenkins would not acknowledge the State's argument that no where in the Ohio Constitution is abortion guaranteed or even mentioned. The Judge further declared that a right doesn't need to be listed to be guaranteed. It appears the Judge is returning to language used by the US Supreme Court in 1973 and rebuked earlier this year.

IN CONCLUSION

Brothers each of us and our divisions must stop giving lip service to Pro Life! Currently the emphasis is on abortion, but as we move ahead, next will be assisted suicide (death with dignity) with or without a persons approval, only the OK of next of kin, the court, or legal guardian. Please contact a local clinic that provides care for poor and expectant, singlen or abused women and offer your time, and treasury. If you are not familiar with such a group in your area please contact me at ruthannanddavid@gmail.com as I have a list of what I believe to be all such organizations in Ohio that do not refer or provide abortions.

David Manley Ohio AOH State Pro Life Chair