



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

January 2024

Volume 6, Issue 1

President's Message



Brothers,

Happy New Year! I want to wish you and your families all the best for 2024. I am excited for what the new year will bring to the AOH in Ohio. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers. As you start your term of office, please do not hesitate to contact me for any issue. I am looking forward to working with you and helping your Divisions grow. Please remember to send in your updated Form-9's to the National and State Secretaries.

On February 15, assessments are due to the National and State Boards. Please have your assessments in on time to take advantage of the \$4.00 per member discount for National dues. Along with your Division assessments, your Division Missions and Charity Forms are due the same date to the National Missions and Charity Chairman. The forms can be found at aoh.com under the forms section. Please make every effort to report the good works that your Division did in 2023.

The annual Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal is still underway. The funds generated by this appeal allows the AOH to provide financial help to groups that assist in our goal of achieving complete and absolute independence, peace and unity for all of Ireland. Please let them know that the "Voice of Irish America" stands with them. No donation is too small.

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Chaplain's Comments



Brothers, we look around and see in nature how the winter season brings about an end to life. We witness the leaves as they lose their vitality, turn brown and fall to the ground to decay and be absorbed into the earth. We look around and we do not see lush bushes and colorful flowers, but we see the lifeless stick-shaped forms of bushes and flat, colorless leaves and stems, which are all that remains of the flowers. This cycle of death repeats itself every year, and it is no surprise, because it has been happening this way from the beginning of time.

This cycle of death is a reminder for us to of our mortality. We know that all things created by God, must die and return to whence they came. We are no different, but it is not the dying of our mortal bodies that I want to highlight this month, but our dying to self. For it is in dying to self, and living for God, that allows us the opportunity to return to Him.

As we are still celebrating the season of Christmas, we call to mind the gift of salvation that comes to us in the Incarnation. We are given this gift for one reason, to be able to return to God in heaven. Since it was the sin of man that allowed death to enter into the world, only man can atone for this sin. A man must make sacrifice for this sin, which is the original sin, but the sacrifice must be a pure sacrifice; one free from the stain of sin. Now, only God is without sin and only God can forgive sins. Therein lays the conundrum. How can a man be

Continued on Page 4

President's Message, cont.

As Bobby Sands stated, "Everyone, Republican or otherwise has their own particular part to play. No part is too great or too small, no one is too old or too young to do something."

You should have recently received a magnet and letter in the mail in support of Hibernian Charities. This is the single biggest way for a member to personally support our Charities. Every donation helps make a difference. Please urge your members to give generously to support our AOH motto of Christian Charity.

A quick thank you to the Brothers of the Trumbull, Medina and Franklin County Divisions for hosting me over the Christmas Season. I look forward to joining more Divisions at your meetings and events in 2024.

Happy New Year and God Bless,

Denny



State Organizer's Report

Happy New Year, brothers! I hope this finds you all in good health and spirits. As we begin 2024, let's think back on what we have done, as divisions to increase our membership and retain our current members. Have we included everyone in our planning, no matter how old or how young they are? We need those ideas of our past to help form our divisions for the future. In a like manner, we need new ideas that will appeal to the younger generation who will eventually take over the reins of leadership within our divisions and boards.

Let's start the new year with an open mind to change and to issues that might make us all better. Our green season will soon be upon us and we need a plan on how we are going to tackle the tasks of keeping our members involved and energized. If any of you have any ideas that might help other divisions, please get them to me so we can share and grow within the state. My email is qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com. Please send me your thoughts, ideas or plans that have already been implemented.

Thank you, and best wishes for the coming year.

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

2023 - 2025 Officers

Chaplain	Deacon Bruce Dobbins brunomusarra@yahoo.com
President	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com
Vice President	Bruce McPherson hilliardmcperson@gmail.com
Secretary	Pete Chrystal pvchrystal59@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Brown Gbrownshamrock@yahoo.com
Director	John Myers johnmyers216@gmail.com
Director	Chris Schulte crpschulte@gmail.com
Past President	Bob Harper harper.bg@pg.com
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National Catholic Action	Patrick J. Lally lally8404@hotmail.com
National Project St. Patrick	Ron Hagan rhagan@hagancpa.com
National Deputy Organizer	Joseph M. Casey qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com
National Oversight Committee	Dennis Parks dparks121@yahoo.com

OHIO DIVISIONS

County Division President

Clermont	Douglas Gerrard dpgerrard@aol.com
Cuyahoga Board	Ben Neylon BNeylon@yahoo.com
Cuyahoga #2	Charles O'Neill oduffy317@aol.com
Cuyahoga #3	Robert Mullin bobbymulls@yahoo.com
Franklin #1	Bruce McPherson hilliardmcperson@gmail.com
Hamilton #1	Christopher Schulte crpschulte@gmail.com
Lucas	Robert McMahon aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com
Mahoning #6	Ray Kelly IV aohrpk@gmail.com
Medina	Joe Gill wildirishjoe@icloud.com
Montgomery	Art Gannon artgannon@aol.com
Stark #1	Tom Fickes fic1424@aol.com
Summitt Board	Jim Meszaros meszi01@neo.rr.com
Summit #2	Dale Norris danorris64@gmail.com
Summit #3	Michael Namsick mpnamsick@gmail.com
Trumbull	Marty McQuaide emcqu@aol.com
Washington	James W. Farley jameswfarley04@gmail.com

Appointed Officers

Catholic Action	Patrick Lally	lally8404@hotmail.com
Pro Life	Dave Manley	ruthannanddavid@gmail.com
FFAI	Patrick Williams	karimcwilly@gmail.com
PEC	Mike Cosgrove	irish.mick213@gmail.com
Project St. Patrick	Chris Schulte	crpschulte@gmail.com
Missions & Charities	Chris Konik	chriskonik@mindspring.com
Organizer	Joe Casey	qualityjoecasey@yahoo.com
Historian	Mike Finn	FCoolavin@aol.com
Veterans Affairs	Doug Gerrard	dpgerrard@aol.com

Newsletter News

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

jjcasey973@gmail.com

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

Chaplain's Comments, cont.

free from sin, so a perfect sacrifice could be made and at the same time be God who can forgive the sins of mankind? The Incarnation is the answer. The self-revelation of God, in the form of a man, Jesus, is at once fully human and fully divine. Jesus is the answer. He was born to save the world. He came to be the perfect sacrifice for all mankind, so that reparation can be made for the original sin that allowed death to enter the world, but at the same time, offer redemption to all mankind and the chance to enter into eternal life with God in heaven. It was through death that eternal life is given. Jesus showed us in his death, that life is not over. In the Resurrection, mankind witnessed the reality of life after death. Jesus showed us how dying leads to life, but it was not just the death of his human form that shows us how to share in life everlasting, but his death to self.

Jesus, as a man, did not live his life following his own desires and living for himself. He lived for God and he followed God's desires and made them his own. In his humanity, Jesus demonstrated a life of emptying oneself of all human desires and living out God's desire to save humanity. Jesus lived, and died, for all others. This, my brothers, is what our existence is all about. We should be living a life of dying. We need to empty ourselves of all the human desires that we allow to have an influence on our lives.

We need to allow God's desire to save all of mankind flow into our hearts and learn to embrace it and let it become our desire. This is one of the hardest things that mankind has ever tried to do, and this is why so few have been known to have done it. Some have, though. We know them as the saints.

The saints, in their zeal to follow Jesus and live out the Gospel message, provide us with more examples of how to die to self and live for God. The saints followed the example of Christ and changed their lives accordingly. None of the saints were born saints. In fact, some of them were great sinners before they changed their lives around, but each of them did come around to live a life in Christ. It is the change that matters. The change is a conversion of self. Each saint had a conversion experience that led them along the right path.

We are all called to a life of conversion, and converting from following our desires to following God's desires is a big step. Yes, it is big, but it can be done. The saints have proved it. Each saint is

different, and each provides a different way for us to follow, because we are all different, and we have been given different gifts and talents to help us live our lives according to God's plan. It is not an easy path to follow, but it is the path we are all supposed to be walking. We are reminded of this all the time.

As the winter season brings death to things, we also see in the spring, things coming to life. The season of Christmas reminds us that God is among us and He has come to save the world. As we continue in the liturgical year, we will enter into the season of Lent. This is time when we can look into our hearts, see our desires, and move towards a life of conversion, as we seek to remove from our lives, those things that keep us away from God. We are looking to move from living a life following our human desires to a life closer to God, where we follow His desires. And in the season of Easter, we again are reminded of death. We know that Jesus died for our sins, but he was following the will of God. He knew that it was God's will to save the world and He knew his role in that plan. And of course, we know that it is through His death and resurrection that eternal life is offered to God's chosen ones.

My brothers, to be chosen, we must choose God. We must die to self and embrace a life of God. Continue the difficult journey of emptying oneself of all human desires and filling oneself with the desires of God. The journey may be rough, brothers, but know that you do not walk it alone; we are here to help each other along the way. We walk together in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. And remember we have the examples of the saints to assist us in recognizing the path that is right for us, and we also have the perfect example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God Bless,

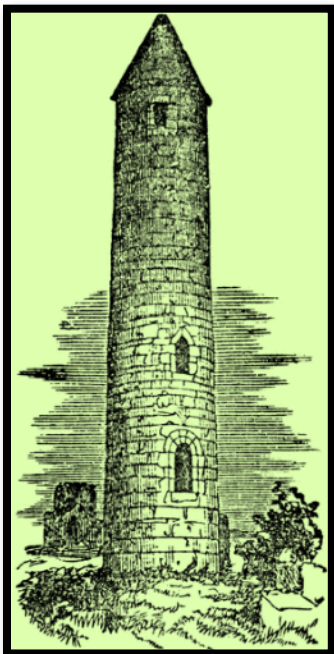
Deacon Bruce



State Historian's Report

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

The Round Towers of Ireland



There are many symbols that represent Ireland. While we are most familiar with the shamrock, the Celtic cross, the harp and the Irish wolfhound, probably the most mysterious is the round tower. The round towers can be found in all areas of Ireland from Antrim in the north to Killarney in the south.

It is difficult to locate consistent numbers on the actual number of round towers in Ireland. One source provides the following numbers, "... there are sixty-five of these slender and tapering round towers in various degrees of survival. They range from thirteen towers which are complete, and almost as new looking as they were 1,000 years ago, to eight others that are merely stumps not more than 9 feet high. There are also about twenty-five sites where towers are known to have stood once." The number of round towers in Ireland may have once been as high as 120.

The towers were always connected with monasteries. The fact that 13 of the towers remain almost fully intact is a proud testament to the skill and abilities the builders. This becomes evident when you consider that the oldest of the towers was built sometime around the last quarter of the 9th Century while the more recent towers were built in the 12th Century. That means that these monuments to our heritage have been standing for anywhere from 900 to more than 1,100 years.

They were built to a standard design. Given their height (60 to 130 feet high) they are remarkable as most had a foundation that was only 1.5 feet below ground. The width of the towers at the base and the thickness of the circular wall varied little from tower

to tower. Doors and windows were also designed according to a standard plan. The similarity of these design elements may suggest that many of the towers were constructed by teams of builders that traveled the country specifically to erect towers.

What was their purpose? Oddly enough, looking for the answer to this question produces a wide variety of explanations and theories. Some of the more outlandish explanations suggest the towers predate Christianity and were used by pagan druids. One of the strangest of these theories suggests that the towers were brought to Ireland by Buddhist immigrants from India who allegedly colonized Ireland in pre-Christian times (really?). However, these pipedreams have been discounted by most rational historians and archeologists. The best answer, in my opinion, comes from an expert on round tower history, Lennox Barrow. He wrote, "As to why the towers were built there is ultimately only one answer. They were raised to the greater glory of God as symbols reaching up towards heaven to mark in unmistakable fashion the strongholds of the new (Christian) faith, the new centers of Irish civilization."

Most agree their chief purpose was to house the nearby monastery's most valuable treasure, its founder's bell. Ringing the founder's bell from the top of the tower called the monks and other faithful to services. This use as a belfry seems to be reflected in the ancient name, in Irish, for a round tower, *cloigtheach*, which literally translated means "bell house."

The practical defensive purpose of the towers as a watch-tower also cannot be overlooked. Viking raiders targeted monasteries due to the large quantity of precious metals that were used by the monks. The standard Viking attack was to kill or capture the monks, burn their books, and pillage the valuables. These raids were attacks on the symbols of Christianity as much as they were meant to economically benefit the Vikings. The defenseless monks needed a way to gain some advance warning of the Norse attacks, as well as, a way to protect their valuable possessions from plunder. The location and the architecture of the round towers seem to have suited both of these purposes.

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State Historian's Report, cont.

Most of the towers had seven floors, with only a small window on each of the middle floors. The top floor usually had four windows each facing in a different direction. These windows may have served as look-outs, from which the approach of any potential attacker could be detected in sufficient time to provide early warning so as to secure the monastery's treasures.

A unique design feature of each tower was the door. They had only one door which was usually about 9 feet off the ground. You entered the door using a rope ladder which could be drawn up by the occupants in event of danger. This made the tower an almost impregnable repository for such valuables as chalices, reliquaries and books. The Vikings were primarily raiders and pillagers; masters of the hit-and-run attack. They were not equipped for any type of long term siege. If the fortress was hard to get to or would take time to conquer, they often left it alone in favor of easier targets.

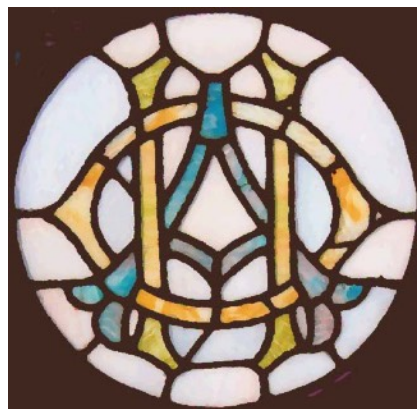
But the tower defenses were not foolproof. Fire was often a hazard. Even though the tower walls and roof were made of stone, the floors and ladders inside the tower were wooden. If the interior caught fire, the stone walls acted like a chimney sending choking smoke upward through the structure. Escape would be impossible for those trapped inside. The windows, designed to prevent entry from outside, also kept the occupants from escaping in case of fire. Sometimes the fortress against attack became a death trap for those inside. It should be noted that some experts still disagree that the towers were defensive in nature.

One of the most famous intact round towers in Ireland is the one located at Glendalough, in the mountains of County Wicklow. The Glendalough valley was carved out by glaciers during the Ice Age and the two lakes, from which Glendalough gets its name, were formed when the ice eventually thawed. The valley is home to one of Ireland's most impressive monastic sites founded by St. Kevin in the 6th Century.

The round tower stands 103 feet above the ground. It was built of mica schist stone almost 1,000 years ago by the monks of St. Kevin's monastery. In 1876 the roof of the tower was struck by lightning, splitting the stone roof cone down the center. It was replaced using the original stones that were found inside the tower. In addition, a lightning conductor was fitted in the roof to avoid any further damage.

The door to the tower is about 11 feet from the ground. The doorway was constructed with large stones. The arch above the door was carved from a single stone. The tower is divided internally into 6 wooden floors each connected by a ladder. The four floors above the entrance level are lit by a small window and, consistent with other Irish towers, the top floor has four windows facing in four directions. Certainly, it is a stunning example of the Irish round tower.

Amazingly, the debate regarding the origin, use and purpose of the round towers continues to this day showing little signs of diminishing. The more the towers are studied and examined the more theories are generated. Whatever their historical origin, the towers are unique architectural marvels that represent the permanence of the Irish Christian heritage. With continued care and restoration they will be around for us to enjoy for another 1,000 years.



Ohio AOH Missions & Charities

Chris Konik, Ohio AOH Missions & Charities Chair December 2023

2024 Catholic Men's Conference

The 2024 Catholic Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, February 24th, 2024 in Kasich Hall at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus, Ohio. Join your fellow Hibernians and Knights of Columbus brothers for a day full of faith, food and fellowship.

Patrick Pearse Div #1 will have a booth at the conference to spread the word about our Order and often provides a boost to our membership recruitment. As is our tradition, we will sponsor exhibit space for the Dead Theologians Society.

Check the Catholic Men's Ministry website for updates and registration info:

www.catholicmensministry.com

Division Event Forms

Reminder that each division should complete the Single Event Form and Annual Event Report Form listed below by February 15th. (Just happens to be the same date division per capita is due to National)

Missions & Charities Single Event Form

<https://aoh.com/gobansaer/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Charities-Single-Event-form-1.pdf>

Missions & Charities Annual Event Report Form

<https://aoh.com/gobansaer/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Charities-Annual-Event-form-1.pdf>

\$31.80 is considered the value of volunteer time per hour 10 volunteers working for 2 hours = \$636.00

The forms are very straightforward, but please feel to reach out to me directly at chriskonik@mindspring.com with any questions.

Dead Theologians Society in Australia!

The addition of a DTS chapter at St. Paul's in New South Wales, Australia, marks another great DTS milestone.

14 new chapters in the following states: New York, Ohio, Indiana, Louisiana, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, Virginia, Wisconsin, Texas and California. St. Vincent de Paul (Mt. Vernon, Ohio) is in the Diocese of Columbus.

Email eddie@deadtheologianssociety.com to get personal updates and answer questions More information at www.deadtheologianssociety.com

Statewide Division Missions & Charities Work

As promised, the next report will include statewide division updates on successful efforts and future events. Together we can elevate our great work as Hibernians.

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Ohio AOH Missions & Charities, cont.

Aid to Ukraine: UNICEF IRELAND

Join the fundraising campaign through Hibernian Charities, a 501c3 organization owned and operated by the AOH. Make your division check out to **Hibernian Charity**, with **UNICEF Ireland** in the memo section. Mail payment to: Hibernian Charity, P.O. Box 694, Austin, TX 78767

Project St. Patrick

Click link for PSP forms [Project St Patrick Forms](#) Click link to make [Individual Donations](#) Please send all correspondence to: **National Project St Patrick Chairman Ron Hagan**

7326 State Route 19, Unit 0512, Mt Gilead, OH 43338-9336

PSP has provided assistance to seminarians nationwide and recent support of Ireland's remaining seminary.

Consider a division or individual donation. Each division is encouraged to raise at least \$500 toward a scholarship gift, in the name of clergy, honored members or in someone's memory.

Please send all correspondence to: **National Project St Patrick Chairman Ron Hagan**

7326 State Route 19, Unit 0512, Mt Gilead, OH 43338-9336

2024 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL, August 7 - 11, 2024

For additional information, See

<https://orlandoirish2024.com/home-1>

Veteran's Affairs

Brothers,

Brother Doug Gerrard of Clermont County Division #1 has accepted the position of the Ohio State Board Veteran's Affairs Chair. Brother Gerrard is a Marine Corps veteran and has a passion for both our Veterans and the AOH. Brother Gerrard is currently the President of the Clermont County as well. I am attaching a new State Board roster. Please update your email or mailing list to reflect this change.

In the motto,

Denny



Catholic Action

To All Hibernians:

In the early part of January, we are still within the Christmas season. At the Baptism of the Lord (January 8) , 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 22 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	Memorial
January 3	Most Holy Name of Jesus	
January 4	Elizabeth Ann Seton	Memorial
January 5	John Neumann, Bishop	Memorial
January 7	Epiphany of the Lord	Solemnity
January 8	Baptism of the Lord	Feast
January 13	Hilary, Bishop and Doctor	
January 17	Anthony, Abbot	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 31	John Bosco, Priest	

FRANCIS DE SALES

Francis de Sales (1567-1622), whom we venerate this month, has an important message for all of us. In his writings and sermons, Francis always emphasized that there is a pathway to holiness which fits every walk in life. From his *Introduction to the Devout Life*: “It is therefore an error and even a heresy to wish to exclude the exercise of devotion from military divisions, from the artisans’ shops, from the courts of princes, from family households.”

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Catholic Action, cont.**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.

Furseay (d.c. 648)**January 16**

Furseay 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.

Continued on Page 11

Catholic Action, cont.**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.

Adamnan of Coldingham (d.c. 680)

January 31

Not to be confused with the better known Adamnan, who was abbot of Iona, this Adamnan was an Irish monk of Coldingham, off the southeast coast of Scotland. He was known for his austerity and his gift of prophecy.

LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER ISSUES

Among the matters which our American bishops dealt with at their annual fall gathering was the election of new chairmen for six standing committees, since the incumbents are approaching the end of their three-year term of office. The new head of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities is Daniel Thomas, Bishop of Toledo. The new committee heads do not actually take office until after the fall session of 2024.

The National March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C., January 19, 2024. Hibernians are encouraged to participate or to check for local observances.

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

Fraternally,

Pat Lally

lally8404@hotmail.com

330-792-7135

2023 Assessments

Brothers,

The 2023 assessments will be due by on or before February 15, 2024, per the Ohio State Bylaws see below. Please have your Financial Secretary complete the attached Ohio AOH Worksheet and mail with the assessment check.

Attached is the corrected 2023 Form 11 that needs to be completed when submitting National and State assessments.

The Financial Secretary needs to update the AOH Membership roster whenever there is a change of officers. Form 9 needs to be printed and sent to me. Please review and update as needed the online roster.

Each Division is required to file the IRS 990N postcard by May 15, follow the link below for instructions.

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-notice-form-990-n-for-small-organizations-faqs-how-to-file>

Please reach out to me with any questions.

ARTICLE VIII ASSESSMENTS

Section 8.1 The Board shall levy an annual assessment on all Divisions of six dollars (\$6.00) per year for each member in good standing as of December 31. Two dollars (\$2.00) of this assessment amount shall be earmarked to offset expenses for the hospitality room at the National Convention. The assessment shall be submitted with the Division’s annual report and corrected membership roster, on or before February 15.

Section 8.2 Annual reports received later than February 15 shall include an additional ten percent (10%) levy not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00.)

Section 8.3 During their first year of their existence, newly organized Divisions shall pay assessments of twenty-five (\$.25) per each month the Division has been in existence, not to exceed three dollars (\$3.00) per member, per year.

Section 8.4 Annual reports and assessments shall be sent to the Secretary by Certified Mail.

Pete Chrystal
Ohio AOH State Secretary
440.722.8053
[Pvchrystal59@gmail.com](mailto:pvchrystal59@gmail.com)

Ancient Order of Hibernians
Ohio State Board

Division Financial & Membership Report

- Step 1 Complete Form 11 (Division Financial & Membership Report)
Step 2 Enter the number of Members Initiated this past year (Line 2)
Step 3 Enter the number of Members Reinstated this past year (Line 3)
Step 4 Enter the number of Members Subject to the Per Capita Tax (Line 16)

Ohio State Board Assessment Worksheet

Table with 5 columns: Line number, blank line, asterisk, dollar amount, blank line, description. Rows include LINE 2 (\$3.00), LINE 3 (\$3.00), and LINE 16 (\$6.00).

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:
Late Assessment (after 2/15)
TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED TO OHIO:
(LATE ASSESSMENT)
Only One Check

The check (payable to AOH-Ohio State Board), along with Form 11 & Form 9 needs to be mailed to the State Board Secretary.

Send to:

Pete Chrystal
7370 Fayette Blvd
Chippewa Lake, OH 44215

2024 John F Kennedy Memorial Medal Nominations

To: All Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, all Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America State Boards, and all Divisions in meetings assembled.

From: Sean Pender, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America National Vice President/John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal Nominations Chair

Re: John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal Nominations

In accordance with Article XXVI 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 2024 John F. Kennedy Award. This award will be conferred to a Catholic of Irish birth or descent outstanding in his or her field of endeavor. 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 on Saturday August 10, 2024 at the 2024 AOH-LAOH National Convention at the Rosen Centre in Orlando Florida. Nomination shall explain how the individual is outstanding in his or her field of endeavor.

To be accepted, all nominations must be returned to Sean Pender, AOH National Vice President

(1) Via Mail 13 Scullin Dr. Yardville, NJ 08620, and postmarked no later than January 15, 2024, or (2) Via email to Sean at paddyspeed@yahoo.com no later than January 15, 2024.

2024 Father Edward J Flanagan Human Dignity Award Nominations

To: All officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, all officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America State Boards, and all Division in meetings assembled.

From: Sean Pender, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America National Vice President/ Father Edward J Flanagan Human Dignity Award Nominations Chair

Re: Father Edward J Flanagan Human Dignity Award Nominations

In accordance with Article XXVIII 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 inaugural 2024 Father Edward J Flanagan Human Dignity Award. This award will be conferred to an individual or group outstanding in the defense of the unborn or in advocating for those who suffer from injustice, poverty, homelessness, abandonment, or other forms of societal neglect.

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 on Friday August 9, 2024 at the 2024 AOH-LAOH National Convention at the Rosen Centre in Orlando Florida. Nomination shall explain how the individual demonstrates their defense of the unborn or in advocating for those who suffer from injustice, poverty, homelessness, abandonment, or other forms of societal neglect.

To be accepted, all nominations must be returned to Sean Pender, AOH National Vice President

(1) Via Mail 13 Scullin Dr. Yardville, NJ 08620, and postmarked no later than January 15, 2024, or (2) Via email to Sean at paddyspeed@yahoo.com no later than January 15, 2024.

2024 AOH/LAOH National Convention August 7 - 11, 2024

You are invited to Orlando, Florida



For online **ROOM RESERVATION** (\$125 + taxes) and **EVENTS REGISTRATION** please go to <https://orlandoirish2024.com>

Events Registration through the Mail:
 This Form is for Convention events only. **Please print neatly.**
 (Does not include Hotel Registration.)



Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I am a member of the AOH / LAOH (circle either AOH or LAOH)

Membership # _____ Division # _____ County _____ State _____

Guest Registration: Name _____ Email _____

Full Events Package: **\$215** if reserved by June 15, 2024.

Full Events Reservation made after June 15, 2024 and thereafter: **\$235. Options:**

- **Full Package** encompasses **all of the following choices below**. Includes \$25 Registration Fee.
- **Icebreaker** (Wednesday, August 7th) **\$60**: Casual Attire, Buffet, complimentary draft beer and signature drink. Served 7pm - 9pm. Includes \$25 Registration Fee.
- **Irish Night** (Friday, August 9th) **\$85**: Business Casual Attire, Choice of one entrée - A combo of Chicken & Sliced Pork Loin / Vegetarian. Served 6pm - 10pm. Includes \$25 Registration Fee.
- **Final Banquet** (Saturday, August 10th) **\$90**: Formal Black Tie Optional, Choice of one entrée - Pan Seared Salmon / Sliced Sirloin of Beef / Vegan. Served 6pm - 10pm. Includes \$25 Registration Fee.
- **Registration Only: \$25**
 * Please consider making all reservations and payment online to streamline the process.
- ** If registering through the mail, please remit this form and payment to:
AOH National Secretary, PO Box 1742, Jensen Beach FL 34958-1742.
 ** If paying event registration by check, make payment payable to: "The AOH/LAOH National Convention"

Division News

Irish Brigade Div. #1, Medina Co.



Our annual Christmas party was held on December 14th and we welcomed our National President, Danny O’Connell and our State President Denny Parks. A good time was had by all.

Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.



Patrick Pearse Division #1 held their annual Officer Installation December 9th. Worthy State President Denny Parks installed the officers. Hibernian Hunger Project Chairman Scott Robinson presented a \$1500 check to the Southside Ministries Foodbank. A celebration was held for Hibernian of the Year Scott Robinson and Commodore Barry award recipients John Homan and Kurt Wolf.



Freedom For All Ireland

Brothers.

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas. Just another reminder that 2024 Christmas Appeals donations need to be in by the end of January.

The FFAI delegation will be heading to Northern Ireland in Feb. to hand out the grants. The needs of the groups we support are greater than ever. I want to remind you that no amount is too small. I ask all Divisions that have not participated yet to do so. See the message from Martin Galvin below

In motto

Patrick Williams State Chair. FFAI

The headline in the prominent Belfast paper the Andersontown News says it all-***IRISH AMERICAN SUPPORT PIVOTAL*** in getting historic move by the Irish government to take Britain to the European Courts, on behalf of Irish victims 'relatives and fight Briain's gambit to shut down any chances to get the truth about the murders of their loved ones.

We are being contacted by family members who have been fighting Britain to get justice, and being told that this action by the Irish government is the best Christmas gift they could wish for, and are deeply grateful to the AOH for playing a major role in making it happen.

We are also being contacted by the groups asking for AOH Christmas Appeal support.

They say that because of disastrous Tory economic policies which make everything more expensive, it is hard for them just to keep up the work for Freedom for all Ireland that they have been doing for years.

They say the British government seems quite happy to see them be hamstrung or go down altogether.

They are counting on us.

The AOH is hoping to give out these grants in mid-February which means we need your contributions in by the end of January.

Don't let them down!

Be a champion for Freedom for all Ireland by being the member who ensures your Division, County or State Board contributes to the Christmas Appeal for groups supporting Freedom for all Ireland.

Martin Galvin, National FFAI Chairman