



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

*Ohio State Board*

*Newsletter*

*July 2023*

*Volume 5 Issue 7*

## President's Message



Brothers,

Thank you so much for entrusting me with guiding the Ohio AOH State Board for the next two years. I am looking forward to working with each of you to move the Order forward in Ohio. I would like to give a big thanks to the Cincinnati convention committee for a great event. Thank you for all of your hard

work. I am currently in the process of making my constitutional appointments to the State Board. Once I have these positions filled, I will send out an email with all of the appointments and their contact information. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. In Friendship. Unity and Christian Charity,

Dennis

## Chaplain's Comments

Fr. Keehner has provided a monthly column for our Newsletter since *Volume 1 Issue 1*. I am sorry to report that due to his increased duties with his parishes he has had to relinquish his position as State Chaplain. He will be greatly missed as his columns were always informative, thoughtful and much read. Thank you Fr. Keehner, we will never forget all you have done for us.

Jim Casey



**Friends of Sinn Féin USA**

"There would have been no Good Friday Agreement without the US. There would be no US involvement, without the work of Irish America. That is the truth of it. You can make a difference. You have made a difference. Individual actions, meetings with elected officials, letters of support, and discussions with friends and family create an unstoppable wave of change." [Rose Conway-Walsh](#)

Rose Conway Walsh delivered the keynote address to the 2023 Ohio State AOH/LAOH Convention. After meetings with their Freedom For All Ireland Committees, as well as conversations with local and state chapter Presidents, it was clear that Irish America's support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and planning for a United Ireland for all is stronger than ever. The convention was united in its opposition to the British Government's legacy legislation. It was great to connect with so many supporters and engaged activists doing such excellent work. [State of Ohio.AOH Ancient Order of Hibernians in America](#)



**2023 - 2025 State Officers**



L to R: President Dennis Parks, Vice President Bruce McPherson, Secretary Pete Chrystal, Treasurer Greg Brown, Director Chris Schulte, Director John Myers not present.



**AOH State President Dennis Parks LAOH State President Nicky Parks-Norris**  
(The first same year brother and sister combination)

**Officers**

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<b>President</b>	Dennis Parks <a href="mailto:dparks121@yahoo.com">dparks121@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Bruce McPherson <a href="mailto:hiliardmcpherson@gmail.com">hiliardmcpherson@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Past President</b>	Bob Harper <a href="mailto:harper.bg@pg.com">harper.bg@pg.com</a>

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Cuyahoga Board	Ben Neylon <a href="mailto:BNeylon@yahoo.com">BNeylon@yahoo.com</a>
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Franklin #1	Bruce McPherson <a href="mailto:hiliardmcpherson@gmail.com">hiliardmcpherson@gmail.com</a>
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Lucas	Robert McMahon <a href="mailto:aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com">aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com</a>
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Washington	Will Rathbone <a href="mailto:Willrathbone@gmail.com">Willrathbone@gmail.com</a>

**Appointed Officers**

<b>Catholic Action</b>	Patrick Lally	<a href="mailto:lally8404@hotmail.com">lally8404@hotmail.com</a>
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<b>Veterans Affairs</b>	Danny Eakins	<a href="mailto:dannyeakins@hotmail.com">dannyeakins@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Immigration</b>	John Myers	<a href="mailto:johnmyers216@gmail.com">johnmyers216@gmail.com</a>

**Newsletter News**

Just a reminder. If you have information for our monthly newsletter, please send it as an attachment to an e-mail to Editor, Jim Casey at [jjcasey973@gmail.com](mailto:jjcasey973@gmail.com)

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

## State Historian's Report

### The Sad Exile of Hugh O'Neill

By: J. Michael Finn



In Irish history it's called the *Flight of the Earls*. Thomas Cardinal O'Fiach once proposed changing the name to the more correct title *Strategic Retreat of the Earls*.

The Irish earls and their supporters didn't actually flee Ireland. They had every intention of returning with a continental army. Their going was a sad affair; it marked the demise of Gaelic Ireland. Sad to tell, as well, is their fate in exile.

In 1601 the native Irish were doing well in their war against the British. The armies of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone and Red Hugh O'Donnell, Earl of Tirconnell had scored several major victories against the British in their nine-year battle with the English Queen Elizabeth I.

Hugh O'Neil had proven to be a brilliant strategist and together with O'Donnell they controlled the north of Ireland. With the promised help of King Phillip III of Spain they were in a good position to defeat the English and return Ireland to the Irish.

On September 21, 1601 an under-manned Spanish force lands at the worst possible place at Kinsale in southern Ireland and captures the city. The British commander, Lord Mountjoy, besieges Kinsale on October 26. The Spanish put up a good defense, but they are trapped within the city by English artillery fire.

The army of O'Neill and Red Hugh march 300 miles south in winter in an effort to hook up with the Spanish invaders. The Irish army arrives late and tired. Mountjoy attacks the Irish on December 24, 1601. For reasons that are still not very clear, the Irish army folds like a lawn chair. The Irish are defeated. Mountjoy begins chasing O'Neill and O'Donnell back to Ulster. The Spanish surrender Kinsale on January 2, 1602 and are allowed to return to Spain.

The anticipated day of final victory ends in defeat for the Irish. Red Hugh O'Donnell remains convinced that adequate military and financial aid from Spain could defeat the British. On December 27, 1601 Red Hugh sails for Spain to meet personally with King Philip III to convince him to send more help. O'Neill withdraws his forces to Ulster. Tragically, Red Hugh O'Donnell ingests poison at Simancas, Spain and dies on August 31, 1602. A British government agent, William Blake, is suspected of being the murderer. Rory O'Donnell, brother of Red Hugh, becomes his successor.

Queen Elizabeth I died on March 24, 1603. O'Neill, unable to put together the remnants of his broken army, surrenders to the British at Mellifont Abbey on March 30, 1603 and is pardoned. The subsequent Treaty of Mellifont ends the Nine Years War. O'Neill continued to communicate with Philip III requesting military and financial aid to defeat the British.

Pressures began to mount on O'Neill and Rory O'Donnell. The Crown has been slowly confiscating their lands and their lives had been threatened. In August 1607 O'Neill is summoned to appear before King James. Friends on the English Privy Council warn O'Neill that the King intends to have him arrested for treason and then executed. O'Neill becomes more convinced that his best course is to leave Ireland.

*Continued on Page 5*

### State Historian's Report, cont.

O'Neill's reason for leaving was not motivated solely by the threat of execution. He decided to leave for Spain and complete the mission of Red Hugh. As O'Neill wrote to King Phillip, "*... in order to save our lives, there was no other remedy but to take up arms or to escape from the Kingdom. We chose to escape rather than stir the whole Kingdom to rebellion without first being assured of the help and assistance of Your Majesty.*" O'Neill's planned strategic retreat would allow him time to convince Philip III of the advantages, both religious and political, of a renewed military expedition to break English power in Ireland.

On September 4, 1607 from the Irish fishing village of Rathmullen a small ship leaves the harbor for Spain. On board are 99 passengers, led by Hugh O'Neill, Rory O'Donnell, Cathbarr O'Donnell (Rory's brother) and Cuchonnacht Maguire. The party is made up of families, supporters, scholars and priests. The sunset of Gaelic Ireland had begun.

Bad weather blocks their passage to Spain and forces them to land in France at the mouth of the River Seine. This begins a long overland journey through France to Spanish Flanders, where they are welcomed as visiting royalty, despite English urging that they be treated as a band of barbarous gypsies.

King Phillip is anxious for the exiles to keep moving. Phillip is more concerned about maintaining a treaty just signed with the Dutch who were allies with the English. Spain could not afford another war with the English. Phillip calls upon Pope Pius V to offer the Irish Earls his protection in Rome and the Pope agrees.

The Irish party departs for Rome. While crossing the mountains on St. Patrick's Day, 1608 a horse carrying a large amount of O'Neill's money falls into a river. The money is lost. In May 1608 O'Neill and his party arrives in Rome where the Pope provides them with modest accommodations at the Salviati Palace.

Rory O'Donnell and his brother Cathbarr die the year of their arrival of malaria. O'Neill's oldest son Hugh, Baron of Dungannon, is also stricken with fever and dies in 1609. O'Neill's hope for help from Spain evaporates.

Hugh O'Neill died in Rome on July 20, 1616, an aged and blind Irish exile, having never completed his mission to free Ireland. In 1617 English agents murder O'Neill's youngest son, Brian, in Brussels.

The O'Neill's and O'Donnell's are buried in the Franciscan chapel of San Pietro de Montorio in Rome. Marble grave stones in the floor in front of the main altar mark their passing with grand Latin inscriptions. Hugh O'Neill's grave was lost during a remodeling of the chapel in 1848 and a newer stone now marks its assumed location.

A tourist, who wishes to view the graves today, must contact a church maintenance man to roll back carpeting that has been placed over the graves. It is hardly fitting for these giants of Irish history to be concealed beneath blue carpeting, but such is often the outcome of history.

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian

### State Convention

#### Rose Conway-Walsh

Teachta Dála of Ireland



Rose Conway-Walsh is an Irish Sinn Féin politician who has been a Teachta Dála for the Mayo constituency since the 2020 general election. She previously served as a Leader of Sinn Féin in the Seanad and a Senat... [Wikipedia](#)



State Convention, cont.



## Veterans Affairs Report

### Veterans Affairs Report

#### **1) Team RWB and Adaptive Sports Connection Boundless Freedom Event, July 14-16**

Team Red, White, and Blue (Team RWB) is partnering with the Adaptive Sports Connection for a veteran recreation event in Central Ohio that will include opportunities to connect with organizations that provide services to veterans, servicemembers, and their families. Below is the jam-packed agenda that includes the date, time, location, and registration for the different activities.

#### **Friday, July 14**

**Location:** National Veterans Memorial and Museum, 300 W Broad Street, Columbus, OH;

**Events:** 6:00pm-9:00pm; Welcome, museum tour, dinner, and inspiring speakers

#### **Saturday, July 15**

**Location:** Adaptive Sports Connection, 6000 Harriott Drive, Powell, OH

**Events:** 7:00am: Fishing  
 8:30am - 10:00am: Registration and breakfast  
 9:00am – Noon: Adventures Session 1: Kayaking, Sailing, Waterskiing, Mountain Biking, Yard games, Horse riding for kids  
 Noon - 1:00 pm: Lunch provide by Team Red White & Blue, Program and special guests  
 1:00pm - 4:00pm: Adventures Session 2: Kayaking, Sailing, Waterskiing, Mountain Biking, Yard games, Horse riding for kids  
 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm: Live Entertainment, Games, Cook-out

#### **Sunday, July 16**

**Location:** Adaptive Sports Connection, 6000 Harriott Drive, Powell, OH

**Events:** 9:00am - 10:00am: Registration and breakfast  
 10:00am: Bus leaves for [Lower.com](https://www.lower.com) Stadium  
 10:30am - 1:00pm: Paddle to Scioto Audubon Metro Park  
 1:00 pm: Closing Ceremony Celebration

**Registration and other information** can be found on the Adaptive Sports Connection website:

<https://adaptivesportsconnection.org/boundless-freedom-2023/>

Visit the Ohio Department of Veterans Services at [www.ohiovets.gov](http://www.ohiovets.gov) to learn more about veterans benefits as well as the National AOH site at [www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs](http://www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs) for information about services around the country.

Danny Eakins

Veterans Affairs Chair

614-893-8833 | [dannyeakins@hotmail.com](mailto:dannyeakins@hotmail.com)



## Catholic Action

The month of July is comprised of Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar, the vestments being green. The calendar includes two saints of the Americas, Junipero Serra and Kateri Tekakwitha.

### MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF JULY

Junipero Serra, Priest		July 1
Thomas the Apostle	Feast	July 3
Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr		July 6
Benedict, Abbot	Memorial	July 11
Kateri Tekakwitha	Memorial	July 14
Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor	Memorial	July 15
Mary Magdalene	Feast	July 22
James the Apostle	Feast	July 25
Joachim and Ann, Parents of Mary	Memorial	July 26
Martha, Mary, and Lazarus	Memorial	July 29
Ignatius Loyola, Priest	Memorial	July 31

### IRISH SAINTS OF JULY

**Serf, Bishop** (6th century) July 1

The life of St. Serf, or Servanus, is rather murky, due to the number of legends and reworkings of old folk tales which have found their way into it. He may have owed his consecration to Palladius. Some think him the apostle of the Orkneys, though evidence that he labored there is slight. It is likely that he evangelized the Scots around Culross, Fifeshire, where he is buried.

**Rumold, Martyr** (d.c. 775) July 3

The best surmise about this saint, also known as Rombaut, is that he hailed from Britain, though he is venerated in Ireland as a native of that land. He sojourned on the Continent, evangelizing in the area later known as Brabant. He may have been consecrated bishop by the pope. He was slain and tossed into a river by two men whom he had sought to dissuade from their evil deeds.

**Palladius, Bishop** (d. 432) July 7

Palladius probably came from Roman Gaul or Britain. Having served as a deacon for some years, Palladius was consecrated bishop by Pope Celestine, in 431, and sent to be the first bishop of the Irish. After a year of little progress against stiff pagan resistance, Palladius departed for the land of the Picts, and was perhaps headed ultimately back to Rome, but he died among the Picts.

**Kilian and Companions, Martyrs** (d.c. 689) July 8

Kilian was an Irish monk who went with eleven companions to Franconia in Germany, with a papal mandate to evangelize the area. At some point he was consecrated bishop. Kilian rebuked a local feudatory named Gosbert, a recent convert, for his irregular marriage. This brought about the slaying of Kilian and his companions, though accounts differ as to whether Gosbert was involved in this.

*Continued on Page 10*

## Catholic Action, cont.

### **Sunniva and Companions**

(10th century)

July 8

Considerable doubt exists about most of the story of this group. Supposedly fleeing some sort of trouble, they were shipwrecked on an island off the Norwegian coast, where they eventually perished. Their remains were discovered by King Olaf Tryggvason, c. 995, who was at the time engaged in Christianizing his kingdom. Sunniva's body was said to be incorruptible, and a cultus developed around her and her companions during the Middle Ages.

### **Drostan, Abbot of Deer**

(d.c. 610)

July 11

Drostan was one of many Irish monks who crossed the sea to evangelize the Scots. He was the first abbot of Deer, in Aberdeenshire. He is also said to have lived as a hermit in Angus, noted for his holiness and kindness to the poor.

### **Oliver Plunket, Archbishop and Martyr (1629-81)**

July 11

Oliver was born in County Meath, connected on his father's side to the earls of Fingall, and on his mother's (a Dillon), the earls of Roscommon. During the turbulent time of the rebellion in the British Isles against Charles I and the radical Protestant ascendancy which followed his execution, Oliver began studies for the priesthood at the Benedictine Abbey of St. Mary's, Dublin, under his kinsman, Patrick Plunket. In 1645, he was sent to Rome for further study, earning a scholarly reputation at the new Irish College. After further studies in canon and civil law, he was ordained in 1654. There followed a busy life in Rome for twelve years, during which Plunket taught theology and served as a counselor to the Index and procurator at Rome for the Irish bishops.

In March, 1669, the archbishop of Armagh, Edward O'Reilly, died in exile. Pope Clement IX chose Plunket to succeed him and thought the time seemed opportune to return the Primate of All Ireland to Ireland. After consecration at Ghent, Plunket journeyed to London, where he was in contact with Charles II's Catholic queen before travelling on to Dublin.

The Irish church was in sad shape, due to the penal laws and the Protestant ascendancy, but due also to ignorance, neglect, rivalry, timidity, and the presence of schismatic and disorderly elements within the church. Fortunately, due to various causes at that time, among them the Catholic leanings of the British monarch, Charles II (married to a Portuguese Catholic princess), there was a lessening of pressure upon Catholics in Ireland, and indeed throughout the British Isles. The Protestant viceroy of Ireland, Lord Berkeley of Stratton, was a fair and moderate man. Plunket also enjoyed cordial relations with the Protestant clergy in Ireland. The archbishop always had to be wary that his efforts did not open him to prosecution under the still-enforceable laws, but during this window of a few years, Plunket worked diligently to improve the state of his flock and put things in order.

In 1673, there was a fresh outbreak of persecution. Some of the Irish hierarchy fled or were banished; Plunket and some others operated from hiding. Things got worse after the Oates Plot of 1678. Archbishop Plunket was apprehended and imprisoned in Dublin Castle, and later in London's Newgate, charged with supporting armed insurrection. The winding trail of Plunket's prosecution is too much to follow in detail here; but the prosecution could not get an Irish grand jury to indict, no reliable witnesses were found, measures of questionable legality were forwarded. Most shameful of all, it was the perjured testimony of renegade Irish Catholics which brought about Plunket's condemnation. He was sentenced to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. Plunket suffered martyrdom at Tyburn, the last Catholic martyr to die there. On the scaffold, Plunket proclaimed his innocence of fomenting armed insurrection and his loyalty to the king, and prayed for the king and for the people who had brought about his condemnation. The Archbishop's remains have done some travelling; his body is now at Downside Abbey, while his head is at St. Peter's, Drogheda. Plunket was canonized in 1975.

*Continued on Page 11*

### Catholic Action, cont.

#### REEK SUNDAY

In Ireland, the last Sunday of July--July 30 this year--is "Reek Sunday." It marks the annual pilgrimage to the summit of Croagh Patrick, St. Patrick's holy mountain, in County Mayo overlooking Clew Bay. The word "reek" denotes a hill or mountain. St. Patrick is said to have spent Lent of the year 441 fasting and praying on the mountain. For details, check the local diocesan website: [www.westportparish.ie](http://www.westportparish.ie).

#### NEWS OF INTEREST

As always, I enjoyed the opportunity of the state convention to renew acquaintance with some and meet some brothers for the first time. I hope all Hibernians will keep in mind the issues at stake in the August and November elections and will reserve time to be in Columbus October 6 for the State March for Life.

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

Fraternally,

Pat Lally, [lally8404@hotmail.com](mailto:lally8404@hotmail.com) , 330-792-7135

### AOH Red Cross Blood Donor App

Did you know that the American Red Cross has a Blood Donor App?!?! It does and is very easy to use. One can set the nearby location to donate, the date and the time!!! Then just show up and donate. Just that easy. One more item for this is WE have a team playing for the better health of all!!! To date there are six (6) members.including our Past State President!!! Wonder what the other officers are doing? Oh well, we have impacted over four-hundred (+400) lives. Including one who has donated over ten (10) gallons!!! To join the team, download and join the app, then go to the My Team tag and join!!! The name of our team is: **Ohio Ancient Order of Hibernians**

It took a lot to come up with this team name but, we did it!!! All are welcome!!!

Another app is Hallow, the number one Catholic app in the app world!!! If one can't find a way to pray with this app.....Hallow is found in your friendly neighborhood app store. Use the QRC code provided and receive ninety (90) days free, that's what they told me. Good praying to all!!!

Joe Gill, President Irish Brigade Div. #1, Medina Co.

[wildirishjoe@icloud.com](mailto:wildirishjoe@icloud.com)



## State Organizer's Report

As stated previously, the State Organizer.....encourages existing divisions and assists in providing needed material and information for recruitment and retention of members in the divisions across our state. He also assists in helping form new divisions when the occasions arise.

The main concerns of a State Organizer would then be existing divisions, new divisions & communication.

### EXISTING DIVISIONS:

- I continue to distribute applications to the Division Presidents when I receive them from the National Organizer. Since our last convention in June of 2022, I've sent out 28 applications; 15 are still outstanding.

### NEW DIVISIONS:

- We were able to form one new division since the last convention; Stark County #1.

### COMMUNICATIONS:

- Monthly Newsletter – I continue to submit articles to the monthly newsletter covering different subjects, such as recruitment and retention of members and keeping membership information up to date.

### NEW BUSINESS:

A request has been made by our National Organizer that each state come up with a “*strategic plan for growth*”. This will layout a framework as to how we can grow as a state over the next two years.

Each division in Ohio has had ideas that work well for them and we'd like to use these ideas when working on our plan.

My suggestion is that, since this will involve the next two years, the incoming State President and his appointed Organizer will need to discuss retention strategies to be used for the existing membership and for new members. The President may want to form a committee to discuss these items. This strategic plan can then be laid out to the membership in one of the first State Board meetings in the upcoming months.

### Below are the key elements needed for the Strategic Plan for Growth:

*Discuss the recruitment strategies to be used in attracting new membership within the following demographics:*

- 18-30 years old
- 31-50 years old
- 50+ years old

*Establish a target for the net membership change (e.g. a 10% increase) based on the working knowledge of Divisions within the State.*

*Identify specific opportunities to establish new Divisions (and potentially re-establish former Divisions) within our State.*

*Identify what additional resources (marketing collateral, technology, etc.) would assist Ohio in executing against its plan.*

*Please remember that the plan submitted should be both aggressive and achievable. Where appropriate, specific officers within the State Boards, County Boards, and Divisions should be identified for leadership and responsibility.*

If Ohio can come up with a workable plan and follow through on it, our state can again be on the road to long-term growth.

I want to thank President Harper for appointing me as Organizer during his two terms in office.

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

## Ohio AOH Missions & Charities Report

### Charity and Mission Work

One of the pillars of our Order is Charity, which goes hand-in-hand with Mission work

#### MISSION WORK

**Dead Theologians Society** has recently added a chapter in AUSTRALIA, expanding their youth apostolate beyond the United States, Ireland and Europe. Founder Eddie Cotter sincerely appreciates all that his fellow Hibernian brothers and sisters have done over the years to support DTS.

**Holy Family Mission** started five years ago with the idea of a place of formation where young people could come, not just for information but a real living experience of Christ. Irish Bishop Alphonsus “Phonsie” Cullinan has expressed his gratitude for Hibernian support during its initial formation and our continuing assistance.

**Catholic Conferences and Retreats** should be on your radar. Participating as a vendor, sponsor or attendee gets the AOH message out and has immense potential for recruitment.

#### CHARITY WORK

**Military Organizations** (local/statewide and national) should also be on your radar. Whether it is support for VA outreach programs, local AMVETS/American Legion/Vietnam Veterans of America chapters or local ceremonies...fundraising for or assisting with event logistics can go a long way to aid these organizations in a meaningful way.

**Project St. Patrick** has provided assistance to seminarians nationwide and recent support of Ireland’s remaining seminary. Look for PSP casting out its net to aid additional mission efforts in the future.

**Seminaries and Basilicas** near each division and county should be considered to support in a meaningful and sustainable way. Coordinating a visit or tour for your fellow Hibernians to these sites could inspire these efforts. Sites such as the Pontifical College Josephinum and Our Lady of Consolation are just two of many statewide.

**Food Pantries and Youth Outreach Programs** are something Hibernians statewide continue to support. Take a serious assessment of how you can enhance your division contributions.

Our Order as a great track record of Missions & Charities work...thank you all for steadfast and consistent dedication toward vocations and those in need.

**Chris Konik**, Ohio AOH Missions & Charities Chair