



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

Newsletter

July 2024

Volume 6, Issue 7

President's Message



Brothers,

Happy Independence Day. As we celebrate the 248th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, please take a moment to thank God for the blessing of living in these United States. We can freely practice our

Catholic faith and belong to this brotherhood. One of the main tenets of this AOH brotherhood is number three of the Preamble of the AOH National Constitution:

To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace and unity for all of Ireland.

It is my sincere hope that one day very soon, we will be able to celebrate an independent and united Ireland with liberty and justice for all!

If you have not signed up for the AOH National Convention in Orlando, there is still time. Go to AOH.com to sign up. We will be sharing a hospitality room with several other states. More information will follow. Come join us and meet Hibernian brothers from around the country. You will not regret it.

I know a lot of local AOH events will be happening this summer and into fall. Please send your events to our webmaster Marc Wolnitzek so he can add them to our Ohio AOH web page.

Brothers, have a great summer.

In Motto,

Denny

Chaplain's Comments



I left work the other day and decided to take a different route home than I usually do. I travel through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park to get to and from work. I have been at my current employer for almost two years, so once I found an agreeable route to work, I stuck with it. I am a creature of habit and follow the same routine day after day. I hadn't gone this particular way home in over a year, but at the very moment when I could have turned left and went the usual way, I chose to go the way I first tried when I started my job.

If you haven't driven through a valley, the roads wind around the hills and there are many blind bends where you cannot see what is there until you are around the bend. When I came around one of these bends, there was a young girl standing in the road crying, and there was an animal in the middle of the road. I could see a few cars on the other side of the road waiting and inching forward, and I could see the young girl car up ahead pulled off to the side. My van now obscured any view the other cars might have had around the corner, so they stopped moving.

At that moment, my military training kicked in, and I performed a SITREP. That is a situation report that contains the necessary details for leaders to make decisions. I had a decision to make; stop and help, or drive on so I could get home on time. I knew this was a bad situation and something had to be quickly. I chose to stop, and as I got out of the van. From the details of the situation at hand, I accessed the situation, developed a plan of action, and executed said plan.

I saw the animal was a bird about a foot and half tall, but it was slumped down on the ground but I could not see what kind of bird it was. The girl was crying and all she kept saying was, "He flew right into my car".

Site safety was my first concern. I told the girl to stand back as I directed the cars through the area at a

Continued on Page 2

Chaplain's Comments, cont.

safe distance from the bird. I asked the girl if she was okay; she nodded yes, and continued to tell me the bird flew into her car.

Next, I needed to access the victim. It turned out to be a Barred Owl. He was unresponsive, his head was rolled down on to his chest, and his eyes were closed. I could see the owl was breathing and was probably in shock. I knew we needed to clear the area quickly to avoid an accident. I told the girl that I was going to look in my van for something to pick the owl up and get him out of the road. I was going to see if I had a pair of gloves or a towel to pick him up. When I opened up the back of my van, there was a live trap cage in the back. In that moment, I knew what the next course of action was going to be. A change in plans.

In the past, I had worked with a local non-profit group that rehabilitates and cares for wild birds, the Medina Raptor Rescue, so I knew I had somewhere to take the owl and they could take care of his medical needs. I brought the cage over and placed it behind the owl. I gently lifted him up and in the cage. On my way home, I called the Raptor Center, but they had just closed five minutes earlier. I left a detailed message and went home

with the owl in tow. I looked on the Raptor Center's website as to what to do and not do with a wild creature until I can get it to them. During the evening, Rupert, as my children decided to call him, had opened his eyes and was sitting up, and responded to our voices. He looked very confused, but was safe. By the morning, he was on



his feet and looking around. I took him to the Raptor Center first thing and they were glad to see how well he was doing. That was a few weeks ago.

Rupert is doing better, he has head trauma, is blind in his left eye and has a broken clavicle. At first, he was fed intravenously, but is now eating on his own. I not sure when he will fly again, but he is healing well. I hope as time goes on and his head trauma heals, he will regain sight in his left eye. One of the most important things for Rupert will be the ability to hunt. The Center has an enclosed area where the birds can fly and his progress will be monitored.

I shared this story with you, because the readings for the Fourteenth week in ordinary time are all about being chosen and using the gifts and talents that God had given you and following God's will.

In the first reading, Amos was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. God has better plans for him. He chose him to be a prophet. God called Amos and made sure he was **where** he wanted him, and **when** he wanted him to be, so he could use his free will to choose to do what God needed him to do at the particular place and at the particular moment in time God needed him to be there. God needed him to be there to talk to Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, so he could be sent to Judah and prophesy to the people of Israel.

In the Gospel, Jesus calls the Apostles and tells them to go out into the world and preach repentance, and administer healing by driving out demons and curing the sick. They were sent out in pairs, each pair to a specific place that God needed them to be in at that particular moment.

My brothers, we are not going to have the luxury of having God tell us directly where he wants us to go and what he wants us to do like the Apostles. It will be more subtle as it was with the prophets of old. Like my encounter with Rupert the owl, God will make sure you are in the right place at the right time.

It is going to be these moments brothers, that God makes sure we encounter that will allow us to use the gift of free will to do what it is that God wants us to do. Make no mistake, they are only moments in time, and if we do not notice them or chose to ignore them, we are letting the best opportunities we have to glorify the Lord by our lives slip away. They are only moments. They come, and then they are gone. If you are not paying attention, you will miss it.

One way to make sure we don't miss them is to make sure we look for God in the world around us. If we are looking for God in our lives, we will have a better chance to identify those moments that He presents to us, and chose to see His will working in our lives through what we do and what we say.

Let's be attentive to our surroundings. Let's not ignore the presence of God in all created things. Let's make sure that when we are listening for the call from God. For when he calls, let's make sure we recognize His voice and be ready to do what it is God wants us to do. Be ready my brothers to use the gifts and talents that God has given you to make His presence, and the presence of His kingdom, known in the world today as we share our lives with those around us in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

God Bless, Deacon Bruce

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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.**

State Chairman's FFAI Report

THE ICRIR: MORE EMPTY PROMISES?

In a May 13th article in The Irish News, Declan Morgan, Chief Commissioner of the **Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Report**, reflected on his first year in the role. Morgan acknowledges the inadequacy of past efforts to shed light on the crown's role in The Troubles, undermining the "trust" and "confidence" of victims and their families. He stops short of acknowledging that decades of delays and roadblocks set forth by the British government were entirely intentional. There have never been any true attempts to uncover the truth about the Troubles; certainly none credible enough to invoke Ireland's trust or confidence in the crown. Any inquests or "teams" that proved too effective, have been immediately shut down. While vaguely purporting that this commission will be more successful, Morgan does little to outline how.

The lackluster article prompted a response from Martin Galvin, also published in The Irish News. Martin states, in no uncertain terms, that failures to address British legacy have been a deliberate effort to conceal the collusion and double standards that any true inquests would uncover. Any such mechanisms put forth by Britain under the guise of "justice," are not inadequate or ineffective by mistake. In fact, the lack of clarity and blatant incompetence of these attempts have been calculated and by design. The passage of the NI Legacy and Reconciliation Act has made that abundantly clear. The British government has all but exonerated itself of the crimes and murders committed during the Troubles, as well as the anguish it's imposed on the families of its victims.

As the British government deems itself judge and jury (lest we uncover their role as executioner,) the work of Relatives For Justice has never been more important. RFJ work tirelessly to provide emotional, social, and legal support to victims and survivors of The Troubles violence. The group facilitates true action on behalf of those affected by the conflicts in a concerted effort to bring some semblance of justice and peace to survivors. Find out more about Relatives For Justice at www.relativesforjustice.com. Donations are much needed and appreciated.

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Patrick Williams , Ancient Order of Hibernians Freedom For All Ireland State Chairman

Mark Your Calendars

2024 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL, August 7 - 11, 2024

For additional information, See <https://orlandoirish2024.com/home-1>

State Historian's Report

The Massacre at the Fort of Gold

By: J. Michael Finn, State Historian



The tragic event that occurred at Dun an Óir (Fort of Gold) near Smerwick Harbor in County Kerry was one of the largest massacres ever to occur in Ireland. It occurred during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I when Ireland was in the midst of the Second Desmond Rebellion. The facts behind the massacre remain controversial.

The Second Desmond Rebellion was the more widespread and bloody of the two rebellions occurring in Munster. The Fitzgerald family that had acquired the title Earls of Desmond led both rebellions. The rebellions were in opposition to the intrusion of English rule into the domain of the Earls.

The Fitzgeralds had become “more Irish than the Irish” by adopting the Irish culture and language. They found themselves in conflict with Elizabeth who had different plans for the province of Munster.

This second rebellion began in July 1579 when the exiled James Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald, returned to Ireland with a force of Papal troops. Why was Fitzmaurice leading a Papal army? Pope Gregory XIII was interested in establishing a Catholic monarchy in Ireland that he hoped would depose Queen Elizabeth I. She had confiscated church lands in both England and Ireland; martyred Catholic bishops and priests; and established herself as head of the English church. Catholic King Phillip II of Spain was also a player, although he was somewhat reluctant to be identified as a contributor.

The first Papal expeditionary force of Irish, Italian and Spanish troops set sail aboard Spanish ships for Ireland in June 1579, from Corunna in Galicia, Spain. On July 18th they landed in Smerwick harbor on the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry, where they established a garrison at an Iron Age fort. Fitzmaurice gave it the Spanish name Fort Del Oro, or The Golden Fort. In Irish, it was called Dun an Óir.

Fitzmaurice proclaimed a Holy War sanctioned by letters from Pope Gregory. The force was joined on July 25 by two galleys carrying additional Spanish troops. On August 1 John Fitzgerald arrived in Kerry with about 3,000 Irish troops. The combined force spread out into Munster, Connacht and Leinster. They met with some early military successes against the unprepared English garrisons.

In August 1580, Queen Elizabeth appointed a new Lord Deputy for Ireland, Lord Arthur Grey. He was sent from England with over 6000 English troops. Grey's immediate priority was to put down the rebellion and restore order. Grey was a ruthless Puritan commander; being described as, "A bloody man, who regarded not the life of subjects more than dogs." His scorched-earth drive across Desmond lands laid waste to the land killed its inhabitants and destroyed crops and livestock. The devastation is described in the song O'Donnell Abú:

Wildly over Desmond, the war-wolf is howling,
Fearless the eagle sweeps over the plain,
The fox in the streets of the city are prowling,
All who would scare them are banished or slain.

On September 10, 1580, six hundred additional Papal troops commanded by the Italian Sebastiano di San Guisseppi, landed in Smerwick harbor, the same place where Fitzmaurice had landed the previous year. Pope Gregory had sent the Irish, Italian, and Spanish (actually, they were Basque) troops to further aid the rebellion against Grey's forces.

Continued on Page 6

State Historian's Report, cont.

In November 1580, Lord Grey with 4000 English troops arrived at Smerwick and laid siege to the fort. The Desmond forces made an effort to link up with the force at Smerwick but only got as far as Tralee. The invasion force was isolated on the tip of the Dingle Peninsula. Sir Richard Bingham's naval forces had cut off any escape by sea and had delivered some heavy artillery pieces to Grey. San Guisseppi had no option but to fortify his position within Dún an Óir and prepare for a siege. Grey's forces promptly attacked the fortifications and after a three-day siege commander San Guisseppi surrendered the fort on November 10, 1580.

It was after the surrender that the killing began. Lord Grey ordered the massacre of the invasion force, sparing only the foreign commanders. Irish women who were in the fort were taken out first and immediately hanged. Three Irishmen, William Walsh, Oliver Plunkett, and Father Lawrence Moore were taken in chains to the local blacksmith's forge where their legs and arms were broken. The next morning they were hanged, drawn and quartered.

Inside the fort and in the adjacent field the disarmed six hundred soldiers were murdered by English troops. The bodies were beheaded and thrown over a cliff to the beach below where they were buried in mass graves. Lord Grey personally counted the corpses.

The killing spree went on for two days with English troops decapitating and mutilating the victims. Some of the corpses were used for target practice. The English reportedly used some of the severed heads as soccer balls before burying them in the field. The field of execution is known as *Gort a Ghearradh* (Field of Cutting). The field where the heads were buried was named *Gort na gCeann* (Field of Heads).

Among the English who took part in the massacre was the adventurer Captain Walter Raleigh (later known as Sir Walter Raleigh); Richard Bingham, future English commander of Connacht; and English poet laureate Edmund Spenser, Lord Grey's secretary.

Controversy surrounds the massacre as to whether Lord Grey had offered terms of surrender. Offering terms to a besieged enemy was a common military practice. Lord Grey justified his actions by claiming that no terms had been offered. Survivors from the other side claim that terms were offered and Lord Grey reneged on the terms by summarily massacring the garrison as soon as they had been disarmed.

English historians tend to justify Grey's actions; Irish historians take the opposing view that it was outright murder. To this day, the Irish speak of the Faith of Grey referring to any false or treacherous promise. In the summer of 1582, Elizabeth, who supported Grey's decision to massacre the garrison, removed Grey from the office of Lord Deputy for excessive brutality.

After the massacre at Smerwick, the tide turned against the rebels. The war dragged on for two more years of bitter guerrilla fighting. By mid 1582, it was reported that around 30,000 people had died of famine and disease in County Cork alone, due to Grey's relentless destruction of crops and livestock. The ruins of the old fort can still be seen; however, most of the original fortifications have been lost to erosion. In 1980 the Irish government placed a monument at the site commemorating those who died. The stone monument (pictured) is covered with carved heads. For a good history of the Desmond wars in Ireland you can read *The Twilight Lords* by Richard Berleth (1978).

Division News

Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin Co.

Division Brothers were privileged to place flags at the graves of Veterans in a large section of St Joseph Cemetery in Columbus on the Saturday before Memorial Day.



Hibernian Golf Classic was held June 22nd. Proceeds benefit our Project St Patrick donation fund.

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

This quote, from Alice Malsenor Walker, seems to sum up my time and tenure in office, "Time moves slowly, but passes quickly." How we got from January to July thorough, the passage of time leaves me scratching my head.

In addition to our monthly meetings, we've achieved some memorable milestones. Our progress has been slow, but steady. The reintroduction of the Annual Irish Gathering was a success, in March and plans for the March 2025 Gathering are underway. There is no prospective Hibernian in Southeast Ohio who is immune from a firm handshake and a warm welcome in our recruitment efforts. In the midst of the rising Ohio River, last Spring, Brother Will Rathbone rescued our gear from Moran Construction. If only I could report that "he swam upstream, against the current, for the rescue." Close enough! As you can see, we've had a bit drama in the Division.

Still in the works, from this midpoint on, begins with the 46th Anniversary of the Division's formation, July 23. The August Division meeting is usually held in Athens. Exploration has already begun for a possible location for the event. Labor Day Weekend is the Washington County Fair Parade, in which the Division participates. Early Fall is the Division Family Picnic. Then we begin to move into the Holiday Season. It is traditional to hold an annual memorial mass for our Deceased Brothers, and at the same time to celebrate Advent. There is an Irish proverb that seems to suit our Division best. "A little fire that warms, is better than a big fire that burns." While our progress is marked by "the little fires that warm," we are steadfastly avoiding the "big fire that burns." Progress is our goal, but it is the working together that makes our Division Grand!

Blessings on you, your hearth and your home,

James Farley, President

Ohio AOH Missions & Charities

Chris Konik, Ohio AOH Missions & Charities Chair



Bishop Alphonsus “Phonsie” Cullinan (Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, Ireland) has been selected as the inaugural Father Edward J. Flanagan Human Dignity Award recipient. The award will be presented on Friday, August 9, 2024, during the Irish Night banquet at the 2024 AOH/LAOH National Convention in Florida. It is 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.

“I first met the AOH in Columbus, Ohio, in July 2018 when my good friend Eddie Cotter (founder of The Dead Theologians Society) invited me to Tara Hall in Columbus. I was delighted to be in the company of so many Americans of Irish heritage who exemplified the best of that tradition of faith, friendship and concern. I felt very much at home”, said Bishop Cullinan.

“I will endeavor to be in some way less unworthy to accept this Award by trying to live up to the standard of humanity set by Father Flanagan and hope the Ancient Order of Hibernians will continue to be inspired by him to uphold all that is good and true and Irish”, he very humbly stated.

He also expresses his thanks for the AOH’s continued support of the national seminary of St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth.

Holy Family Mission (Ireland)

HFM continues to reach the youth of Ireland as they seek a deeper understanding of themselves and their faith. Holy Family Mission trains competent, equipped and well-formed young people to serve as youth ministers in schools and a parishes. More information at: www.holyfamilymission.ie

State Organizer’s Report

Happy July, the month of our country’s independence from Britain! Surely there will be patriotic parades, fireworks and celebrations. Since our Hibernian logo includes the American flag, be sure to wear you AOH shirts or polos to any event you may attend. This logo may be a good conversation-starter and might end up getting you a new member. Once we get new members installed, be sure to ask about their father, sons, cousins, etc. That one new member could result in several more.

As I mentioned last month, festival season is upon us. Be sure to wear your Hibernian shirts when attending them as they are great places to find new members.

There will be some changes occurring soon, concerning applications, membership updating and general business of the Order. More of our business will be on-line and the changes will be explained further at the National Convention in August.

Speaking of applications, we still appear to be in good shape on our open applications. Let me know if you need any assistance contacting candidates who have submitted applications.

Thank you and enjoy your Independence Day with family and friends.

Joe Casey, State Organizer

Catholic Action

To All Hibernians:

The month of July is comprised of Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar, the vestments being green. The calendar includes a great saint of the Americas, Junipero Serra. The St. Bridget commemorated on July 23 is Bridget of Sweden, not Bridget of Ireland.

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
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

FROM THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT

Whenever you begin any good work you should first of all make a most pressing appeal to Christ our Lord to bring it to perfection; that he, who has honored us by counting us among his children, may never be grieved by our evil deeds.

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.

Catholic Action, cont.

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.

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.

NEWS OF INTEREST

May 22: The State Supreme Court denied an emergency motion by State Attorney General David Yost seeking to overturn the decision of a Franklin County judge which has blocked enforcement of the recently enacted Safe Act (HB68). The Safe Act would prohibit transgender medical procedures on minors and protect girls from being forced to compete and share locker room with boys. Only Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy voted to grant Yost's motion.

The Center for Christian Virtue, a Christian public policy group active in Ohio, has issued its analysis of the election results from November 2023, which enshrined abortion as a constitutional right in Ohio. Thirty percent of Christians who believe that life begins at conception nevertheless voted for the measure. One in three self-identified Catholic and Evangelical Protestants who attend services at least weekly voted in favor of the measure. Shocking as these figures are, this observer at least believes that at least part of this was a result of confusion about what the issue was, a confusion deliberately sown by its backers.

The prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for the Causes of Saints has hinted that the canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati may occur this coming year (2025). Cardinal Marcello Semeraro was speaking at a Catholic Action national assembly in Italy April 26. Frassati, a native of Turin, was a lay Dominican, an active and athletic young man heavily involved in Catholic Action in Italy. He died at the age of 24 in 1925.

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

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Congratulations



Congratulations Jeannine and Dennis Parks