



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
IRISH • CATHOLIC • AMERICAN

Ohio State Board

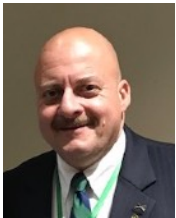
Newsletter

June 2022

Volume 4 Issue 6

President's Message

Brothers All,



It's June, the start of summer, and hopefully we're past the cold wet weather we've been "blessed" with (at least here in Cincinnati).

Thanks to all who were able to attend the May State Board meeting. We accomplished a lot and made great progress. Lots of good discussions, especially about the upcoming convention, retention and recruiting, and the happenings at our local Divisions. Again, thank you all!

The website for the Pittsburgh National Convention is up and running. The opportunities for hotel and convention registration, and program ad purchase, are now live. Website link and info are right here in this newsletter. Act now! Don't delay!

This Pittsburgh Convention is a great opportunity for Ohio Brothers to experience a national convention, since it's so close to us. I hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Recruiting and Retention: *What have you done this month to help your Division reach that 5% target, and maybe win one of those bottles of Redbreast 12, for your Division or yourself?*

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Chaplain's Comments



On Sunday, June 19, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ—popularly known as Corpus Christi. In doing so, we are reminded that the Eucharist in which we share is not mere bread and wine but the actual Body and Blood of the Risen Lord. We celebrate the great gift God gives us in feeding and nourishing us with his very self in order that we might continue our journey through this world, allowing us to have not just a spiritual but also a physical encounter with Him. One of the traditions associated with Corpus Christi is a Eucharistic procession. We will conclude our noon Mass with a procession with the Holy Eucharist around parish grounds, culminating in a short period of adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. In the case of rain, we will still have our procession around the perimeter of the Church. Please plan to join us as we honor the real and lasting presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

It is especially for us, the descendants of generations of Catholics in Ireland who were denied access to the Eucharist to appreciate the enormity of the gift God gives us in allowing us to share in the Body and Blood of Christ--especially since so many of our faithful were denied access to the sacraments, once again, in the closing of Churches which took place during the great Covid lockdown of 2020.

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President's Message, cont.

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

As always, thank you for your commitment, passion, and leadership. God Bless you all, God Bless Ireland, and God Bless our great Nation.

Slan, Bob



Chaplain's's Comments, cont.

In writing to his son Michael, who was recuperating from wounds sustained in the Second World War, the great English Catholic writer, J.R.R. Tolkien, wrote: "Out of the darkness of my life, so much frustrated, I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament. . . . There you will find romance, glory, honour, fidelity, and the true way of all your loves on earth, and more than that: Death: by the divine paradox, that which ends life, and demands the surrender of all, and yet by the taste—or foretaste—of which alone can what you seek in your earthly relationships (love, faithfulness, joy) be maintained, or take on that complexion of reality, of eternal endurance, which every man's heart desires."

If we have grown lukewarm in our devotion to and love for the Holy Eucharist, Corpus Christi is the perfect opportunity for all of us to grow in our devotion to the Body and Blood of Christ. It is the perfect opportunity for us to remember that it is

precisely in the celebration of the Eucharist that we find our identity as Christians, for whom Christ allowed his body to be broken and his blood poured out. It is precisely in the celebration of the Eucharist that we become who we are called to be—the living presence of Christ in the world through the prayer of the Church, the Bride of Christ. It is precisely in the celebration of the Eucharist that we find the source and summit of who we are as the people of God.

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



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Newsletter News

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

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

Ohio AOH Veterans Affairs

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

Brothers – As of 5/24/2022, the VA in Ohio has completed vaccinations for 154,101 individuals.

VA-Tracked Cumulative Cases in Ohio: 26,713; 947 Deaths; Active Cases: 307

2) Ohio Governor's Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony, May 27, 2022:

For the first time since 2019, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine hosted the annual Ohio Governor's Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony for the public at the Veterans Plaza of the Ohio Statehouse on May 27th. The Governor invited Gold Star Families, veterans, servicemembers, families, and the public to attend this moving and poignant event and your Veterans Affairs Chairman was honored to act as Master of Ceremonies. Jim Tate, Gold Star Father of USMC Corporal Jacob A. Tate (KIA 1/2/11, Afghanistan) shared keynote remarks and the ceremony honored three families of US servicemembers who have been killed in action since 2019. Those servicemembers are Army Sergeant Joseph P. Collette of Lancaster (KIA 3/21/19, Afghanistan), Army Private First Class Brandon J. Kreisher of Stryker (KIA 7/29/19, Afghanistan), and Navy Hospitalman Third Class & Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak of Westerville (KIA 8/26/21, Afghanistan). Also participating in the program were honor guards from all branches of the Armed Forces, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

3) Revamped US Department of Veterans Affairs Website, www.va.gov:

The VA has revamped the format of their main website at va.gov that has created an easily navigated platform that directs veterans and their families to the key services they may need the most. The new site places VA facility operations and coronavirus status up front and center with key links to VA healthcare and disability services "above the fold". Scrolling down, veterans can find featured services related to education and access to military/veteran records. Additional links right on the homepage include specific pathways to 11 areas of service to veterans and families along with information on how to access state and local veteran services information. It is a tremendous resource for veterans just starting their efforts to connect to benefits and services as well as for those veterans who are looking for additional services.

National VA Committee meetings are held online every third Tuesday of each month at 7pm ET. Please contact me if you are interested in participating. Also, be sure to visit the Ohio Department of Veterans Services at www.ohiovets.gov to learn more about veterans benefits as well as the National AOH site at www.aoh.com/veterans-affairs for information about services around the country.

Danny Eakins

Veterans Affairs Chair

614-893-8833 | dannyeakins@hotmail.com

State Historian's Report

J. Michael Finn, State Historian

Chaplains and the U.S. Military



The early U.S. Military adopted the custom of having military chaplains. This custom, however, meant Protestant chaplains only. Members of the Catholic faith in the Continental Army were often forced to rely on French military chaplains. Although there were very few Catholic priests available in America, their absence from the Continental forces was due more to anti-Catholic discrimination than availability of priests.

The surviving records from the War of 1812 indicate that there were 12 regular army chaplains during this war and that none of them were Catholic.

The man most often with being the first Catholic priest commissioned as a chaplain and officer in the armed forces of the United States was Father Adam Marshall, S.J. He served aboard the USS North Carolina from December 22, 1824 until his death on board ship, September 20, 1825.

In 1846 the United States declared war on Mexico. The number of Catholics in the military had dramatically increased due to increases in Irish and German immigration to the U.S. With few exceptions, the vast majority of the U.S. officer corps remained Protestant. These Protestant officers had little use for their Catholic soldiers and singled them out for cruel and often unjust punishments. As a result hundreds, possibly thousands, of Irish and German soldiers deserted to Mexico where they formed the San Patricio or St. Patrick's Battalion in the Mexican Army. Catholic bishops formally complained to President James K. Polk about Protestant officers forcing Catholic soldiers to attend Protestant services and about the generally cruel and unusual punishments applied to Catholic troops.

In Washington, President Polk was concerned about the increasing number of Catholic desertions and he was also concerned that the war was being perceived in Mexico as an anti-Catholic crusade. Polk secretly contacted New York Bishop John Joseph Hughes and requested a meeting. Secrecy was necessary because if Polk's political allies had discovered that he was meeting with a Catholic bishop, Polk would surely have been driven from office.

Polk requested that Bishop Hughes assign Catholic priests to the Army. As a result, two Jesuit priests were assigned to General Zachary Taylor's army. They were, Father John McElroy, S.J. and Father Anthony Rey, S.J. Their duties were to minister to the Catholic Irish and German soldiers. Father Rey was killed in Mexico during the war. The records are unclear whether his death was due to military action or if he was killed by Mexican rancheros that often espoused hatred for Jesuits. Father McElroy served one year with the Army then returned east where in 1863 he founded Boston College.

In the years prior to the Civil War, records indicate that Catholic chaplains served in remote forts of the western territories of the United States. Father Ignacio Ramirez, Father Michael Sheehan and Father Peter DeSmet, S.J. were three priests who served with distinction at these remote forts as military chaplains.

The Civil War – With the beginning of the Civil War the number of Catholic immigrants in this country had quadrupled. Irish and German units were common in the Federal and the Confederate armies. About 40 Catholic priests served the Union Army and about 28 served the Confederacy. Many chaplains, particularly in

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State Historian's Report, cont.

the Confederacy, served without any official recognition or pay. As many volunteer units were formed from Catholic parishes, the parish priest often joined the unit. Catholic chaplains most often served at the front lines, exposing themselves to enemy fire in order to provide both medical and sacramental care for the troops.

Noteworthy Union Army chaplains were: Father William Corby, chaplain of the Union Irish Brigade. Father Corby is noted for administering absolution to Catholic troops at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was later served as president of Notre Dame University. Father John Ireland was chaplain of the Fifth Minnesota Regiment and later was Archbishop of St. Paul.

Noteworthy Confederate Army chaplains were: Father John Bannon who was chaplain to the Missouri Irish Brigade and later in the war served as Jefferson Davis' emissary to the Vatican. Father Abram J. Ryan served as chaplain and later became known as the Poet-Priest of the Confederacy.

World War I – At the beginning of World War I there were only sixteen priests serving as chaplains in the Regular Army, eight in the Navy and another ten in the National Guard. This was not enough to meet the anticipated number of Catholics in service. The U.S. bishops formed the National Catholic War Council and appealed to all dioceses and religious communities to contribute what religious personnel they could. Many responded.

Records compiled by the Military Archdiocese report that by the end of the war a total of 1,026 priests (762 diocesan and 264 from religious orders) were serving with the armed forces. There were also 165 priests serving without commission as civilians paid directly by the Knights of Columbus. About 30% of all chaplains in World War I were Catholic priests. Seventeen priests died in service during the war. While most of these deaths were due to military action, several died as a result of tending to sick soldiers during the 1918 flu pandemic. The most famous Catholic chaplain of the war was "Fighting" Father Francis P. Duffy (pictured) of the 69th New York and Rainbow Division. Father Duffy was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal and the Croix de Guerre. There is a statue of Father Duffy in New York City near Times Square.

Given that this war saw the largest number of Catholic chaplains in any U.S. military operation, it was natural that questions and conflicts of authority arose. Did the chaplains report to their own bishop or to the bishop where they were stationed? This vast military congregation, officially, had no head. On November 24, 1917 the Pope appointed Bishop Patrick Hayes, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, to be "Ordinary of all Catholics who fight in the Army and the Navy during the present war..." All Catholic chaplains now had Bishop Hayes as their Ordinary for the duration of their military career and the organization was run from New York. This organization was called the Military Vicariate. In 1985 the vicariate was made a separate archdiocese and the headquarters moved to Washington, D.C. Archbishop Joseph Ryan was the first Ordinary of the vicariate. In 1987 the title of the vicariate was officially adopted as The Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.

Of course, chaplains continued to serve nobly and bravely in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, as well as in Iraq and Afghanistan.

J. Michael Finn

2022 AOH-LAOH JFK Memorial Medal

The In accordance with Article XXVI of the National Constitution of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, nominations were requested for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal for 2022. There were five nominations received from LAOH and AOH qualified nominators. The names submitted were certainly some of the worthiest candidates since the inception of this award. The purpose of the award is to recognize a Catholic of Irish birth or descent outstanding in his or her field of endeavor. On behalf of myself and vice-chair LAOH Vice President Marilyn Madigan we are proud to announce that the 2022 AOH-LAOH JFK Memorial Medal recipient is Rocky Bleier. Bleier is best known in his role as running back for 1966 National Championship Notre Dame football team and a four-time Super Bowl Champion with the Pittsburgh Steelers. While those accomplishments in themselves would merit consideration for this prestigious award, it is his work off the field in his role as soldier and longtime veteran advocate where his continued level of excellence has set him apart from so many others. LAOH Vice President Marilyn Madigan adds “President Kennedy challenged us in his Inaugural Address and in his Administration with the Peace Corps to give service to others as Americans. Rocky Bleier accepted that challenge with his Military Service during the Vietnam War where he was a Profile in Courage. His work helping other Veterans and his community involvement demonstrate his commitment to the JFK’s quote “Ask not what America can do for you ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world ask not what America will do for you but what we can do for the freedom of man”

Rocky Bleier will receive the prestigious award at the closing banquet of the 2022 AOH- LAOH National Convention in his beloved Pittsburgh on Saturday July 16th.

New Orleans AOH member John Fitzmorris prepared the following biography for Bleier’s nomination:

Robert Patrick Bleier Jr. was born in Appleton, Wisconsin, the oldest of four children to Robert “Bob” and Ellen Bleier, a solid Catholic Irish-German family; and Rocky’s maternal grandmother was a member of the McGuire family. He attended St. Joseph’s Parochial School and Xavier High School in Appleton where he excelled at both football and basketball. With neither great speed nor agility, his simple desire to succeed translated into running harder and playing smarter to stand out on the field and led him to a scholarship to Notre Dame to play for legendary coach Ara Parseghian. He played on the 1966 National Championship Team for the Fighting Irish and in the famous 10-10 tie against Michigan State in 1966.

Bleier lasted until the 16th round when he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers. Football often is compared to war by the overly-dramatic, but Rocky Bleier knows the difference because another draft awaited him. His induction notice to the U.S. Armed Forces joined him with the thousands of young men fighting in the fields and jungles of Vietnam. Reluctantly but with a sense of duty, Rocky put aside his professional career to serve his country—and with the same tenacity with which he played football. He was assigned as a squad grenadier in Company C, 4th Battalion (Light), 31st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade. On August 20, 1969, while on patrol in Hiep Duc, Bleier was wounded in the left thigh by an enemy rifle bullet when his platoon was ambushed in a rice paddy. While he was down, an enemy grenade landed nearby after bouncing off a fellow soldier, sending shrapnel into his lower right leg and tearing off a part of his right foot. He was later awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Rocky began a painful rehabilitation that took two years, but he defied the odds, rejoined the Steelers, and became part of what is arguably the greatest football dynasty in the history of professional football, winning four Super Bowl rings, and finishing his career with 3,855 yards rushing.

A fixture in the Pittsburgh community, Rocky lends his name and presence to numerous charitable causes like helping his fellow Veterans. He has established The Veterans Benefit Institute, an organization that is dedicated to helping our country’s veterans receive the benefits that they deserve.

Few individuals can say that they served their country in the military and then have played in the NFL. Even fewer have been wounded in combat only to return and play for a significant period in professional football. Only Rocky Bleier can say that he survived the hell and the heartbreak of combat wounds to fight back, help win four Super Bowls, and then turn his experiences into blessings that he can share with the greater community.

Robert Patrick “Rocky” Bleier has embodied in his life and his example the highest ideals of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity, and he embodies the spirit of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal.

Ohio AOH license plate

Brothers, I am working on a project to possibility have an AOH license plate in Ohio but to do that I need to get 100 licensed drivers to sign the attached petition to be considered. By signing the petition does not commit you to get the plate but hopefully if it is successful, you would get the plate.

What we are asking is that each of you to get 7 people to sign the petition and if possible, scan and email it to me.

Liam Lehn, 134 Maple Leaf Drive, Austintown, OH 44515

liamlehn@gmail.com 330.518.9917



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES

PETITION TO ESTABLISH ORGANIZATIONAL LICENSE PLATE

We the undersigned do intend to support the production of specialty license plates designated to the _____ by purchasing the _____

Specialty License Plates from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. We understand there will be an additional cost to the standard license plate fee and also understand a portion of the proceeds will go to the designated fund.

Please do not sign this petition unless it is your present intention to purchase this plate if and when it is issued.

PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION (Duplicate this form as necessary)

(PRINT or TYPE)

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	MI	PHONE (include area code)
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CURRENT LICENSE PLATE #	OHIO DL OR ID CARD #	SIGNATURE X	
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS PETITION, PLEASE CONTACT			
CIRCULATOR OF PETITION INFORMATION		TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES	
NAME		PHONE	
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR PETITION DRIVE

State Organizer's Report

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.

EXISTING DIVISIONS:

Since our last Board meeting in January, I have received 8 applications from the National Secretary's office. I've sent them to the various division presidents (Cuyahoga #2, Lucas, Mahoning & Stark) to have them reach out to the prospective applicants. I have also asked that they get back with me when they make contact so I can keep my list updated.

NEW DIVISIONS:

Jefferson County

Our attempt to get a division started in the Steubenville area has hit a snag as one of the potential members has graduated and the other is busy with his duties as a coach. We will continue to work the area, but at this time it doesn't look hopeful.

Scioto County

Our worthy president has visited this area and feels we might be able to get some interest going in the Portsmouth area; I will work with him to see if that can happen in the near future.

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.

We are entering the season where there are a lot of festivals, whether they be Irish or community. We should try to be part of these local events as it shows everyone that we are part of the larger picture in the area. See if you can set up a recruitment table at these events and make sure you have someone always present to explain who we are and what we do.



My division just recently hosted a pancake breakfast and, although it wasn't a festival, it helped bring us into the forefront to show to the parishioners that we exist and we care about what goes on. We had a special table set up for recruitment and even if people didn't sign up, they know we exist and are part of the parish community.

Enjoy the summer and be sure to be good Ambassadors of our Order. Good luck and get with me if you have any questions or concerns.

Joe Casey, Deputy National Organizer, State of Ohio Organizer

2022 AOH National Convention

July 13-17, 2022

Pittsburgh PA

<https://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com/>

The 2022 Pittsburgh National Convention is fast approaching – July is just around the corner. Here’s a link to the Convention website, where you’ll find all the details you need for hotel reservations, convention event registration, program ad info, and more:

Please forward to your division email distributions ASAP. This is a great opportunity for Ohio brothers to attend a national convention, probably the best opportunity since the 2010 Cincinnati convention. Please talk this up at your Division and County Board meetings, and encourage your members to register and attend. They’ll learn so much about our Order, and have a great time, too! Slan, Bob

See you all in Pittsburgh in July!



Charter Bus Planned for the Convention

John O’Brien is coordinating a bus to transport attendees to and from the National Convention in Pittsburgh. The cost is \$100 for the round trip. It will leave on Wednesday, July 13th and return on Sunday the 17th. The take-off point is still being worked on. Reservations are needed and will be taken until the bus is sold out. John is the contact person and you can email him at jobrien@ilrish.us to reserve your seat or if you have any questions.

Mark Your Calendars

2022 AOH National Convention

July 13-17, 2022

Pittsburgh PA

**Convention registration and hotel information can be found on the convention web page link:
<http://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com>**

2024 AOH National Convention

Orlando FL

Cuyahoga Falls Riverfront Irish Festival

June 10, 11, 12, 2022



We, the **St. Brendan Division #3, Summit Co.**, are very excited to bring our festival to the banks of the Cuyahoga again this year. We are bringing back musical favorites Mary's Lane, Dulahan, Brigid's Cross and more. The full schedule will be on our website soon.

As always, we are a free admission festival with plenty of free parking close to the stages. Come visit our commercial vendors in the pavilion and outside near our stages.

Come join our family at the Riverfront Irish Festival. Everybody is Irish at the RIF!

We are located at Broad Street & Front Street in Cuyahoga Falls.

For more information, please access our website at: www.riverfrontirishfest.org

The Druids in concert with special educational talk

Thursday, June 9, 2022

2990 Tremainsville Road, Toledo, 43613

The award winning Irish Band, The Druids, performing for the first time in Toledo, OH!

The Toledo Irish American Club and Lucas County Hibernians are delighted to host for the first time in Toledo, Ohio, Irish Band, The Druids. Formed in 2008, The Druids have steadily gained notoriety and momentum. In 2017 they won the best live act award at the Irish Folk Music Awards and are now in high demand often playing to sold out audiences all over the world. Aside from being fabulous musicians, the popularity of the band has lent to the lads bringing their own special style and passion to some of Ireland's greatest folk songs and stories.

The evening will consist of two parts. Druids Member, Mick O'Brien, will do a half hour educational talk discussing Irish Songs as Historical Artifacts. The doors for this portion will open at 6pm and Mick will start at 6:15pm. The ticket price for both this and the concert will be \$25 in advance(or \$30 at the door).

For those that wish to attend the Show Only, doors to enter will be 7pm.

The advance ticket price will be \$20 in advance(or \$25 at the door).

Catholic Action

After the three Sundays of Pentecost, Holy Trinity, and Corpus Christ (the 5th, 12th, and 19th of the month), we pass out of the Easter season back into a segment of ordinary time on the 26th, the Thirteenth Sunday in ordinary time. Liturgical vestments are green during ordinary time.

MAJOR SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS OF JUNE

Justin, Martyr	Memorial	June 1
Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs	Memorial	June 3
Barnabas, Apostle	Memorial	June 11
Anthony of Padua	Memorial	June 13
Aloysius Gonzaga	Memorial	June 21
John Fisher and Thomas More, Bishops and Martyrs		June 22
Nativity of John the Baptist	Solemnity	June 23
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	Solemnity	June 24
Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr	Memorial	June 28
Peter and Paul, Apostles	Solemnity	June 29

IRISH SAINTS OF JUNE

Kevin, Abbot of Glendalough (d.c. 618) June 3

Though Kevin, also known as Coemgen, is one of Ireland's most popular saints, it is difficult to disentangle his real story from the mass of legends which have grown up around him. He may have been of royal blood, was born in Leinster, and was baptized by St. Cronan. He was an oblate to a community of monks at a young age, and after his ordination sought out a solitary life, finding what he desired in Glendalough. As was so often the case, the holy hermit attracted disciples to his location, and eventually Kevin established a community, which grew into the abbey of Glendalough, of which he was the abbot. Many stories about Kevin testify to his close affinity to the natural world around him and are reminiscent of stories about Francis of Assisi. St. Kevin is one of the patrons of Dublin.

Jarlath, Bishop of Tuam (d.c. 550) June 6

St. Jarlath is not to be confused with an earlier namesake who was a disciple of St. Patrick. Jarlath was said to come from a prominent Galway family. Like many early Irish holy men, he was sent at an early age to be trained by monastic mentors. After ordination, Jarlath founded a monastic community near Tuam and became its abbot and bishop. He was the first bishop of Tuam. Among his pupils were supposedly Sts. Brendan of Clonfert and Colman, son of Lenine.

Colman of Dromore, Bishop (fl. 6th century) June 7

There are more than 200 Celtic holy men named Dromore, so it is no wonder that their life stories have become confused. This man was supposedly a Scot, born in Argyllshire. One of his mentors supposedly assigned him the mission of establishing a monastic community on the Coba plain in Ireland, and he did, at Dromore, in County Down. Colman has been venerated in Scotland and Ireland.

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Catholic Action, cont.

Columba, Abbot of Iona (c. 521-597)

June 9

Columba, one of the greatest of Irish saints, came of royalty from both parents. His father was a great-grandson of Niall of the Nine Hostages, and his mother traced descent from both the kings of Leinster and the Scottish Dalriada. He was also known as Colmcille, a name etymologically derived from the fact that he established many religious cells or foundations. At an early age, he was sent to St. Finnian's school at Moville, where he was ordained a deacon. From there he went to Leinster to study the bardic arts. Still later, he went to the school of another St. Finnian, that of Clonard. Columba was one of the so-called Twelve Apostles of Ireland who emerged from that school. At some point, Columba was ordained a priest. He was associated for a time with another famous monastic school, that of St. Mobhi at Glasnevin, which was dispersed by an outbreak of the plague in 543. For about fifteen years, Columba went about Ireland preaching and making monastic foundations, the best known being Derry, Durrow, and Kells. Columba must have made a striking presentation to his contemporaries; he was said to be very tall and athletic, with a great speaking voice which carried quite a distance.

Columba became involved in a legal dispute with his mentor, Finnian of Clonard. Finnian was in possession of a copy of Jerome's Psalter, the first one to reach Ireland. Columba borrowed it and made a copy. Finnian heard of this and demanded that the copy be surrendered to him. Columba refused. The case made its way to King Diarmaid, overlord of Ireland, who ruled in favor of Finnian. Soon after, Columba found himself in greater difficulty. He provided sanctuary to a man who had fatally injured a follower of Diarmaid in a hurling match. Diarmaid's followers violated sanctuary and killed the man, touching off a war between Columba's clan and Diarmaid's followers, a war in which many men were slain. Columba felt some responsibility for this and there were others who agreed, even asserting that Columba had instigated the war. A local synod censured him, and he only escaped excommunication due to the intervention of St. Brendan. Columba vowed to exile himself from Ireland and seek to win at least as many men for Christ as had perished in the feud. In 563, Columba left Ireland in a coracle, with twelve relatives. His wandering brought him to Iona, where he founded a monastery on land given to him by his mother's kinsmen. Iona was to be one of the most renowned and influential monastic foundations of early medieval Europe. From Iona, Columba and his disciples evangelized the Picts and Scots, and later the English as well as continental Europeans. Columba, always noted for saintly habits, certainly progressed in those over time, with many of the rough edges seen in his earlier life being transformed. He and his disciples became identified, even after his death, with many of the unique practices of the Celtic Church. The monastic rule which he composed for his followers was used throughout Europe, until it was largely replaced by that of St. Benedict.

NEWS OF INTEREST

Catholic Conference of Ohio Executive Director Jerry Freewalt has testified (May 23) in support of HB 598, The Human Life Protection Act. The act, sponsored by Jean Schmidt (R-65) would if passed take effect in the event that *Roe v. Wade* is overturned and would ban all abortions in Ohio except those necessary to save the life of the mother.

The Catholic Conference of Ohio has also applauded (April 6) the unanimous passage in the State House of Representatives of HB 504, The Sacred Space Act, which would increase the penalties for disrupting services in places of worship. The bill awaits action in the Senate.

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

Fraternally,

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Ohio AOH Missions & Charities

Chris Konik, Ohio AOH Missions & Charities Chair

Aid to Ukraine: UNICEF IRELAND

Donations will be used to directly support the children of Ukraine through UNICEF USA and UNICEF IRELAND. The AOH National Board will make a supporting donation as well.

This support is taking shape with a fundraising campaign through Hibernian Charities, a 501c3 organization owned and operated by the AOH. Details on how to assist can be found at www.aoh.com.

EASTER APPEAL: Project St Patrick

A message from Ohio AOH State President Bob Harper:

Our Catholic Faith is such an important part of who we are, both personally and as an Order. A great way to live that, and make it come alive in a real fashion, is with support of our Easter Appeal for Project St. Patrick.

Therefore, we ask your support as follows:

Today we ask that every Division and Board raise one \$500 PSP Scholarship and for our larger Divisions to raise two. What better way to show our support for the clergy, our founding charge, than to support those called to serve the Lord today.

Project St. Patrick Forms and PSP Division Representative

All divisions must have a Project St Patrick representative and division information filed with your diocese. This allows the Bishop's Office to see how the AOH supports local seminarians and those pursuing vocations. Please update your forms. Name recognition scholarships can be made to honor clergy, fellow Hibernians or someone who has passed. PSP forms are posted online at: <https://aoh.com/project-st-patrick>

Local, Statewide, National and International Charities

Thank you all for your continued charitable efforts, as you continue to support local soup kitchens, community assistance programs and organizations that cast an even wider net.

Holy Family Mission (County Tipperary, Ireland) www.holyfamilymission.ie

Dead Theologians Society www.deadtheologiansociety.com

Catholic Relief Services <https://support.crs.org>

Division Missions & Charities News Statewide

Email news of your division's Missions & Charities work to chriskonik@mindspring.com

Please feel free to include photos and a few paragraphs, or just a caption will do. A great way to showcase your efforts and inspire your brother Hibernians.

